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MS 781

Italy (Naples?), s. XV¹ (1432?)

Cicero, *De amicitia*

ff. 1r-16v [text:] [Q]uintus Mutius augur Scevola multa narrare de Gaio Lelio socero suo memoriter et iocunde solebat ... Vos autem hortor ut ita virtutem locetis, sine qua amicitia esse non potest, ut ea excepta nichil amicitia prestantius putetis. Hic finiunt precepta amicitie Tullii. 32 [?] [this colophon in large narrow letters placed in a frame decorated with penwork].

[gloss:] Acticus quidam nobilis Romanus fuit Ciceronis [], cuius hortatu et cui hunc librum de amicitia scribit. Intentio est homines in veram amicitiam confirmare ... Quatuor modis dividitur amicitia, scilicet alia naturalis et vera, alia naturalis et non vera, alia vera et non naturalis, alia neutrum ...

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.), *Laelius de amicitia*. K. Simbeck, ed. (Teubner, 1917), pp. 46-86. With marginal corrections by the scribal hand and interlinear and marginal glosses and variants by various contemporary hands; they are rare after the first two folios. Numerous pointing hands.

Parchment (goatskin, outer side of the quires is flesh side), ff. I (paper) + 16 + I (paper), 250 x 180 mm.

I-II⁸. Horizontal catchword in the middle, in thin handwriting and in a hexagonal decorated frame.

Prickings in the upper and lower margins for the bounding lines and lead ruling for one column of 32 or 33 lines above top line. Ruling type 16, 150-160 x 88-90 mm.

Copied by one hand in Gothico-Humanistica Libraria.

The decoration is missing, but there are guideletters and spaces for 1-line initials (for the interlocuting personages) and 2-line initials (f. 1v); the latter are in the passage “[C]ecilius Fannius et Q. Mutius ad socerum veniunt post mortem Affricani. Ab his sermo oritur . [R]espondit Lelius cuius tota disputatio est de amicitia, quam legens tu ipse cognosces. Fanius respondit: Sunt ista vera, Leli ...” (ed., p. 47). At the opening of the text space for a 7-line initial.

Binding s. XIX: greyish brown paper over cardboard. On the spine a black leather label with the gold-tooled title “CICERO DE AMICITIE. – MS.”

Handwriting, quire-structure and ruling could point to Naples as the place where our codex was written. If the figures at the end of the colophon (f. 16v) are indeed to be read “32”, the manuscript could be dated 1432.

Bought by Henry Munster (1823-1894) in Paris in 1847 (note on the front fly-leaf recto). On the front pastedown a cutting from a printed sale catalogue in which under the number 531 our manuscript is recorded as “beautifully written on vellum, neatly bound, saec. XIV”; a s. XIX note in English beginning “from the Allen Classical MSS” (collection of Henry Allen; see Samuel Allen sale, London, Sotheby, 30 Jan. 1920; **not seen**); and a printed bookplate “Heirloom in the family of Francis Edward Norris” (1885-1966), with the handwritten shelfmark “M.9”. At the top of this pastedown a small paper label with the handwritten number “59.” (s. XX)MS 35 in the collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal. Purchased from him on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund in honor of Herman W. Liebert, Yale 1933.

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