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MS 790

North-Eastern Italy, s. XIV

Lucan, *De bello civili*

ff. 1r-99v L. Aenei Lucani poema [modern title in upper margin] ... // Impulerit
populum quid pacem excusserit orbi. / Invida fatorum series summisque negatum ... Ad
campos, Epidane, tuos, ubi solus apertis / Obscedit [*sic*] muris calcantem menia Magnum.
In nomine Yhesu Christi explicit liber decimus Lucani. Deo gracias. Amen.

Marcus Annaeus Lucanus (39-65), *De bello civili (Pharsalia)*. D.R. Shackleton Bailey, ed. (Teubner, 1988). A series of illuminated leaves have been cut out, causing the loss of the following text parts: before f. 1: 1.1-68; between ff. 17 and 18: 2.704-3.43; between ff. 26 and 27: 3.729-4.42; between ff. 45 and 46: 5.697-6.31; between ff. 55 and 56: 6.794-7.39. Verses skipped by the scribe have in the fifteenth century been supplied in the margins in Gothico-Humanistica or Humanistica Cursiva: 2.287 on f. 12v; 2.411 on f. 14r; 5.94-127 on f. 38v; 6.403 on f. 50v; 8.101-102 on f. 68r; 8.537-538 on f. 73v; 8.665 and 8.669 on f. 75v; 10.227 on f. 95v; 10.296 on f. 96v. There are variants, corrections and glosses by various hands. The most important annotations are: f. 3v, concerning 1.296: "Mille tenet caneus [?], ter centum continet alla [*l. ala*], / Sexaginta sex legio et sex milia sex quoque centum, / Trigintaque turma, quingentos retinet cohorts, / Viginti quinque manipulus continet"; f. 5r, concerning 1.408: "Sunt Subsolanus venti Vulturnus et Eurus; / Est Subso(lanus) primus, dexter Vult(urnus), Eu(rus)que sinister. / Atque die medio Nothus et Hauster [*sic*] et Affricus exit; / Est Hauster primus, dexter Nothus, Aff(ricus)que sinister ... Est Aquilo primus, Chorus dexter, Boreasque sinister" [8 verses about the 12 winds; cfr. Isidore of Seville, *Etymologiae*, 13.11.3]. The glosses are very unevenly spread; see e.g. ff. 37v ("narratio", "confirmatio", "declarat exemplo", "confutatio", "conclusio"); they are numerous f. 38r (interlinear and marginal); here too and on the following pages up to f. 45v (end of quire VI) subdivisions of the text of Book 5 are entered in the margins: "cap. 2" (5.64), "cap. 3" (5.237), "cap. 4" (5.374), "cap. 5" (5.403), "cap. 6" (5.461), "cap. 7" (5.476), "cap. 8" (5.680); f. 72v, concerning 8.423-426: "Que omnes urbes conviane [*l. conviciane?*] erant, sed diversis nominibus dicebantur, videlicet modo Babilon, modo Susis, modo Bacthra"; several glosses on ff. 77r and 85v, a few grammatical notes on f. 77v, etc.

Parchment, ff. I (parchment) + 99, 270 x 195 mm. Goatskin; the outer side of the quires is flesh side.

Originally composed of quaternios, except the last quire. Collation after mutilation of the codex: I⁸ (-1, ff. 1-7), II⁸ (ff. 8-15), III⁸ (-3, ff. 16-22), IV⁸ (-5, ff. 23-29), V-VI⁸ (ff. 30-45), VII⁸ (-1, -2, ff. 46-51), VIII⁸ (-5, ff. 52-58), IX-XII⁸ (ff. 59-90), XIII¹⁰ (-10, ff. 91-99). Horizontal catchwords in the middle, between four flourishes.

Rake ruling for one column of 39 lines below top line, the bounding lines in lead, the horizontal lines in pale brown ink. Ruling type 21, 197 x 100 mm. 4 prickings are visible both in the upper and in the lower margins.

Copied by one hand writing Southern Gothica Semitextualis Libraria/Formata, using the two forms of *d*. The opening majuscule of each verse is placed in a separate column. The scribe sometimes adds hairline extensions in the upper margin to letters on the top line; the loops of these occasionally contain a sketchy human face (ff. 67r-v, 72r, 74r, 86r, 87v).

Due to the mutilation only the initials at the opening of Books 2 (f. 8v), 5 (f. 37r), 8 (f. 66v), 9 (f. 78r) and 10 (f. 92v) are preserved (7-8 ll., but smaller when they are located close to the lower margin, as on ff. 8v and 66v). The initials are in Lombard style, pink letters on a blue square background, both decorated with white penwork, and have acanthus extensions of green, orange and yellow in the margin. The decoration is different in each initial; the one on f. 8v contains four yellow flowers. There is no space for a heading at the opening of Books 2 and 5; one line is left free for headings at the opening of Books 8-10, but headings have not been entered.

Italian binding s. XV: blind-tooled brown leather (worn) over slightly rounded beech boards, part of the front cover and the entire spine missing. Worm holes, especially in the rear board. Sewn on three split leather thongs. On the covers a triple frame of four double fillets; the space between the middle and the inner frame filled with interlace design; the four corners of the central panel are decorated with quarter circles of fillets filled with the same design; in the middle an oblong cartouche; on the front board part of the damaged original cover has been replaced by brown leather blind-tooled with a different interlace design. Marks of four clasps attached to the front board; two lily-shaped brass catches remain, fixed by means of three nails to the outer side of the rear board. On the blank wood of the front board there is a fragmentary inscription in ink and large script (upside down, s. XVI?): “bonat ... diipar* ... omeli” (doubtful reading).

A few s. XV stray notes on the front pastedown and flyleaf r: “Malacia”, “Deoquo (?)”, “qui”, “pira, roguis, combustum *****”; on flyleaf v: “Malachia -chie”; “la boneza”; a banderole with inscription: “Ioannes Franciscus Palladius” (s. XVI); and, of a later date: “Alexandri Palladii de Olivis”. The manuscript s. XVI-XVII successively belonged to two members of the Palladio degli Olivi family: Giovanni Francesco and Alessandro. A Giovanni Francesco Palladio is the author of *Historie della provincia del Friuli*, published in Udine in 1660; a person of the same name is recorded at Portogruaro (Friuli – Venezia Giulia) in 1575 and died there in 1590; see D. Bertolini, *Il Monte di Pietà di Portogruaro* (not seen), pp. 1-2. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R 15.04.10

Albert Derolez