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MS 792

Spain (?), s. XV²

Ps.-Phalaris, Ps.-Brutus, Ps.-Crates, *Epistulae*, in Latin

1. ff. 1r-40r *Francisci Aretini Phalaridis Agrigentini in epistolis ad illustrem principem Malatestam Novellum de Malatestis prohemium incipit*. Vellem, Malatesta Novelle princeps illustrissime, tantam mihi dicendi facultatem dari, ut vel prestantie tue, vel Phalaridis nostri epistolis (quas nuper de greco in latinum traductas et nomini tuo, ut pollicitus sum, dicatas mitto) mea responderet oratio ... Sed iam Phalarim audiamus. [f. 3v, text:] *Phalaris Alciboo*. Policletus Messenius, quem prodicionis nomine apud cives tuos insimulas, morbo me incurabili liberavit ... Quamobrem ad alios quoque homines ea mittenda curetis diligenter, non ignari longe maiorem que talem virum tulerit civitatem quam qui miserit laudem consecuturam. Explicit.

Ps.-Phalaris, *Epistulae*, tr. Franciscus Aretinus (Francesco Griffolini, 1420-after 1465).

2. ff. 40v-51v [prologue:] Sanctissimo domino nostro Nicolao pape quinto Raimitius [*sic*] cum devotione reverentie votum. Solent, beatissime pater, qui invigilant alicui operi, quod ad mores hominum spectet vel rerum notionem seu vite decorem, illud principibus seu diis in terris sacrare ... tamen gravitati, si tua sanctitas paulo diligentius aures prestabit, nimirum et procul dubio caras habebit. [f. 41v, text:] *Mitridatis collegio epistolarum Bruti*. *Mitridates Mitridati* [corr. from *Mitridate*] *salutem*. Bruti epistolas iterum et sepius sum admiratus, non vi dumtaxat et brevitatis gratia, sed ceu cuiusdam imperatorie dignitatis caracterem habentes ... Sed qui indigent quod exhibere nequeunt, id eos denegare necesse est. Finis.

Ps.-Brutus, *Epistulae*, tr. Rinucius Aretinus (Rinuccio d'Arezzo, c. 1395- after 1450).

3. f. 52r Depigramma [*sic*] in catalogum epistolarum Cratis Cinici, Dyogenis discipuli. He [*corr. from Hec*] tibi virtutum stimulos et semina laudum / Atque exempla dabunt Cinice, o lector benevole ... Discere sed quantum paupertas sobria possit.

Prologue (7 verses) to art. 4.

4. ff. 52r-59r § Atanasius Constantinopolitanus Archiensis [*this word added above the line*] abbas ad divum principem Karolum Aragonum primogenitum. Cum in superioribus diebus me, illustrissime princeps, Panhormum cum tuis litteris commendaticiiis ad excellentissimum Sicilie proregem pro mei capiendi monasterii possessione contulisset, possessionem quidem haud habere potui ... Quod si facies, ut spero, et tua opera, humanissime princeps, monasteriolum meum assecutus fuero, animo quieto complura greca latina efficiam. [f. 52v, text:] § Crates sociis felicitatem. Fugite non solum fines malorum, iniusticiam et intemperantiam, sed etiam voluptates eorum fomenta ... Hec enim, viri Atthenienses, imperitorum hominum sunt, eorum autem qui moderati habentur nemini huiusmodi cogitatio est. § Finis Cynicarum Cratis. ff. 59v-61v ruled but blank

Ps.-Crates, *Epistulae*, tr. Athanasius Constantinopolitanus.

Artt. 1-4: this combination of texts was printed in Paris, c. 1472 (BMC, v. 8, p. 4), but our manuscript does not appear to be copied after that edition: in art. 1 the word “nomine” in the beginning of the first letter is missing in the edition and the explicit formula is totally different; in art. 2 the heading of the Prologue, which is found in the edition, is missing in the manuscript, and the heading of the text, corrupt in our manuscript, is correct in the edition: “Mitridatis in catalogum M. Bruti epistolarum ad Mitridatem nepotem prohemium incipit. Mitridates Mitridati nepoti salutem”; and the explicit formula is different; in art. 3 the edition has “lector studiose” instead of “lector benevole”. There are marginal corrections, a few variant readings and, for art. 1, marginal captions indicating the purport of the letters.

Paper and parchment (goatskin), ff. I (parchment) + 61 + I (parchment, former pastedown), 205 x 120 mm. The outer and inner bifolium of each quire are parchment. Watermark letter P, similar to Briquet 8658 (1471-1480)???. Several lower margins of parchment leaves have been repaired before writing by means of a strip of parchment pasted on the defective edges. A long tear in the parchment of f. 56 has been sewn before writing.

I-IV¹² (ff. 1-48), V¹⁴ (ff. 49-61 + rear pastedown). Signatures of the type “.A. .I.-.A. .VI. (or .A. .VII.)”, from “A” to “E”, are written close to the lower edge, the letter between the double outer bounding-lines, the numeral in the outer margin. Horizontal catchwords at right, close to the lower edge.

Pricked and ruled with red ink for one column of 30 lines below top line. Four prickings in the upper and in the lower margins, 31 prickings in the outer margin, the bottom one of which is double; the prickings are split-shaped. Ruling type 35, 128 x 63 mm.

Copied by two hands in bold *Gothica Semitextualis* *Libraria* with Southern features and under Humanistic influence, visible in the majuscules; hand A copied ff. 1r-51v (artt. 1-2); hand B, marked by the use of an *a* closer to *Textualis* and a preference for straight *s* in final position, copied ff. 52r-59r (artt. 3-4).

Paragraph marks alternately in red and blue (in artt. 3-4 only). Headings in red (in artt. 1-2 only, with sometimes instructions in small script in the margins). Gothic 2-line plain initials alternately in red and blue, with guide letters (mostly in red ink) written in the outer margin close to the outer edge of the leaves. 3-line *littera duplex* with delicate blue and red penwork extending into the margin f. 41v (text art. 2); 4-line *littera duplex* with the same decoration ff. 40v (prologue art. 2) and 52r (art. 5); 6-line *littera duplex* with the same decoration f. 1r (art. 1).

Repaired binding s. XV/XVI: blind-tooled brown leather over bevelled wooden boards; sewn on three leather thongs; the original covers are pasted over the light brown new leather, itself blind-tooled with fillets and a roll; the original covers decorated with fillets, vertical rows of rolls, and at the top and bottom one horizontal row of the same. Remnants of two clasps attached to the rear cover, with two brass catches on the front cover, fixed with three nails and engraved with the inscription “nom” (?) in Northern *Gothica Textualis Formata*. Gilt edges.

In this narrow book (page proportion 0.59) there is a codicological break between artt. 2 and 3 (ff. 51 and 52). On the basis of script and decoration a Southern French or Spanish origin is likely. A Spanish provenance is attested by the s. XVII/XVIII inscription on the front pastedown “Al muy mag(nifico) señor”, repeated in more complete form on f. 61v: “Alo muy magnifico señor mosen Juam Martin”; and by the s. XIX note at the end of the text (f. 59r): “59 ojas”.

There is more text, very effaced, on the now detached rear pastedown. On the rear flyleaf (pastedown) recto the number "6594" in pencil (s. XIX). Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R 13.04.10

Albert Derolez