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MS 797

Northeastern Italy, s. XV²

Iohannes de Sacrobosco, *Tractatus de sphaera*

ff. 1r-34r [prologue:] Tractatum de spera quatuor capitulis distinguimus, dicentes primo capitulo quid sit spera, quid eius centrum, quid axis spere, quid polus et quot sunt spere et que sit forma mundi ... et de causa eclipsis solis et lune. [text:] Spera sic describitur ab Euclide: Spera est transitus circumferentię dimidii circuli, quotiens fixa dyametro quousque ad locum suum redeat, circumducitur ... Propter hoc legitur Dionisium Ariopagitam in eadem Domini nostri Ihesu Christi passione dixisse: Aut deus nature patitur, aut mundi machina destruetur. f. 34v blank

Iohannes de Sacrobosco (s. XIIIⁱⁿ), *Tractatus de sphaera*; Sharpe, p. 306. L. Thorndike, ed., *The Sphere of Sacrobosco and its Commentators* (Chicago, 1949), pp. 76-117. First printed Venice, not after 1472. There are a series of hiatuses in the text and the spelling is defective: "septen", "noven", "equinotialis", "stela" (for "stella"), etc. A contemporary hand writing a bold Humanistica Cursiva made a few corrections in the margins and added a few text parts which had been skipped. From f. 1r to f. 9r a s. XVIII hand has written captions in the margins. A few pointing hands.

Paper, ff. 34, 205 x 125 mm. 8° folding. Parchment stays in the middle of each quire. Watermark: two crossed arrows, similar to Briquet 6269-6275, especially to Briquet 6271 (attested 1462). The whole group and its variants are attested in Northeastern Italy 1448-1495.

I-III⁸ (ff. 1-24), IV¹⁰ (ff. 25-34).

Board ruling for one column of 22 lines above top line. Ruling type 36, 141 x 66 mm.

Copied by one hand in Humanistica Cursiva Libraria/Currens, widely spaced. The first letter after an initial is in Capitalis.

2-line plain initials alternately in red and blue at the beginning of the subdivisions of the text. They are placed almost entirely in the margin and are missing ff. 17v, 28r and 33r. Guide letters, written in the space reserved for the initials, are equally often missing. On f. 1r the Prologue opens with a 4-line foliate initial in red, green and blue with two flowers on a gold background and floral extensions in the inner margin, in Lombard style; in the lower margin of the same page a painted double-headed imperial eagle in black, its two heads with a golden crown and on its chest an oval shield with the coat of arms *or, three bends azure*.

Original Italian binding: undecorated blue-stained leather over beech boards. Sewn on three double leather thongs. Remnants of three clasps attached to the front board (one at the upper, one at the lower and one at the right-hand side); thin brass engraved catches on the rear cover, decorated with a floweret and the Gothic majuscule "S". The parchment pastedowns are now detached from the boards.

On the inner side of the front board the modern number "409". At the lower part of the spine a fragmentary label with a circular stamp "//IGNA VENEZI/" (now apparently lost), itself pasted over with a small fragmentary label with the handwritten number "51" (s. XIX). On the rear flyleaf r the number "143-815" and the cancelled number "34". Collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley (MS 149). Purchased from Rosenthal on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

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Albert Derolez