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MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 805

Naples, 1467

**Cicero, *De senectute***

1. ff. 1r-48r // ad te scribere. Hoc enim onere, quod mihi commune tecum est, aut iam urgentis, aut certe adventantis senectutis et me et te ipsum levare volo ... [f. 47v:] Haec habui de senectute quae dicerem; ad quam utinam perveniatis, ut ea quae ex me audistis re experti probare possitis! *Finis*. [f. 48r:] *Ioannes Marcus Petri Strozae Florentini discipulus, Parmae oriundus, illustri Beatricae [sic] divi Ferdinandi regis filiae 1467 Neapoli tranquille transcripsit. Valeas qui legis.*

M. Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.), *Cato Maior de senectute*. K Simbeck, ed. (Teubner, 1917). Due to the loss of one leaf the beginning of the text (almost the full § 1) is missing. A few corrections and interlinear glosses (the latter unevenly spread, by the hand who copied art. 2).

2. f. 48v Notes by a contemporary hand: Septem fuerunt sapientes Graeciae: Tales Milesius, Solon Atheniensis, Chilon Lacedaemonius ... Periander Corynthius. [added slightly later:] Physiagra naturalis humor vel piscatio dicitur.

List of the Seven Wise Men of Greece, followed by the explanation of a rare word.

Parchment, ff. II + 48 + I, 165 x 120 mm. Goat parchment.

I<sup>8</sup> (-1, ff. 1-7), II-V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 8-39), VI<sup>8</sup> (+ 1 leaf, f. 48; ff. 40-48). Pink quire marks on the last page of the quires, between the double inner bounding lines, from "A" to "E" (quires I-V), the Capital placed between four dots and short tiny hairlines.

Prickings visible in the outer and lower margins and hard point ruling traced on the hair side of the parchment for one column of 18 lines below top line. Ruling type 36 (with variants), 107 x 59 mm.

The main text (art. 1) is copied by Giovanmarco Cinico from Parma in Humanistica Textualis Formata. This famous scribe was active in Naples from c. 1458 to c. 1498. See about him and the manuscripts copied by him *Colophons* 10440-10485 and Derolez, *Codicologie*, v. 1, pp. 145-146 (with further bibliography). About the "Florentine" greeting formula "Valeas qui legis" see Derolez, "Colophons", pp. 257-259. Art. 2 is written in an informal variant of Humanistica Cursiva.

Pink headings. The names of the interlocutors and the colophon on f. 48r (except the scribal greeting formula) are written in pink Capitals. The first line of the various sections following the dentelle initial is written in alternately pink and black Capitals, except on f. 2r, where it is written in gold Capitals. The illuminated opening folio before f. 1 has been cut out. The smaller sections open with a pink Capital placed between the double bounding lines. 2-line Renaissance dentelle initials in gold on a divided and indented red and blue background, decorated with silvery

penwork, at the beginning of the major subdivisions of the text: ff. 2r (S, § 4), 8v (A, § 15), 14r (N, § 27), 21r (S, § 39), 37r (Q, § 66).

Original Italian binding, repaired: brown leather over thin wooden boards, the covers blind-tooled and decorated with numerous small gold dots. Marks of two clasps; on the spine, now detached and kept separately, a gold-tooled reddish brown title label (s. XVII?) with the inscription "STR // DE // SEN". Gilded edges.

On the inner side of the front board, written in ink: "Cicero de senectute. Manca la 1<sup>a</sup> pagina" (s. XIX). The manuscript was written for the young Beatrice of Aragon (1457-1508), daughter of Ferrand of Aragon, King of Naples and future Queen of Hungary, about whom see *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, v. 7 (1965), pp. 347-349.

Purchased 1994 from Bernard Quaritch?? on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

*Bibliography:*

R.G. Babcock, T.N. Thomas, D.M. Kibbey, E.P. Archibald, *A Book of Her Own. An Exhibition of Manuscripts and Printed Books in the Yale University Library that were Owned by Women before 1700* (New Haven, 2005), p. 66.

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