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Northern France, s. XV<sup>1</sup>

Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis, in French

f. 1 blank

ff. 2r-10v      § S'ensuit la reigle du Tiers Ordre instituee de monseigneur saint François, approuvee et confermee par Nicholas pape. [Prologue:] Nicholas evesque, serviteur des serviteurs de Dieu, a noz amez filz et filles en Jhesu Crist, les freres et seurs de l'Ordre de Penitence tant presens que a venir, salut et apostolique benediction. Sur la montaigne de la foy catholique, que la pure devotion des disciples de Jhesu Crist, enbrasee du feu de charité ... ad ce que eulx, alans saintement par le sentier d'icelle, deservissent, emprés la chartre de ceste presente vie, estre faiz possesseurs de l'eternelle beatitude. [f. 2v, text:] § Comment doyvent estre examiné ceulx et celles qui en cestuy Ordre voudront entrer pour estre receuz. Nouz doncques, parcevans cestuy Ordre de faveur convenable et entendans benignement a l'accroissement d'iceluy, establissons et ordonnons que tous ceulx et celles, qui en cestuy Ordre voudront entrer et ceste maniere de vivre garder, soient avant leur reception examinez [*this word copied twice*] de la foy catholique ... Ce fut fait et donné a Reate le quinzieme jour des Kalendes de Septembre ou second an de nostre pontificat [18 August 1289]. § Cy est finie la reigle du Tiers Ordre, ordonnee et instituee du glorieux monseigneur saint François, aprouvee du Saint Siege Apostolique comme dessus est contenu. § Deo gracias. Gaudia perpetuos pariunt mundana dolores [Walther, *Sprichwörter* v. 2, p. 224, no. 10224]. F.R.  
ff. 11-12 blank

Nicolaus IV papa (Pope Nicholas IV, 1288-1292), Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis, French translation. For the edition, see Bibliography.

Parchment, ff. II + 12 + II, 140 x 110 mm. The two inner flyleaves are together a bifolium.

I<sup>12</sup>.

Ruled in light brown ink for one column of 22 lines below top line. Ruling type 13, c. 98 x c. 70 mm.

Copied by one hand in Gothica Textualis Formata, careful but not without inconsistencies. A scribe with initials "F.R." is not attested.

Red underlining; paragraph marks alternately red and blue, and line fillers in the same colours. A few 1-line flourished versals, and 2-line flourished initials alternately in red and blue, with penwork in the contrasting colour, at the head of all chapters. A 3-line flourished initial in the same colours at the beginning of the Prologue, f. 2r.

Early binding: white deerskin over pasteboard, spine with four raised bands. Marks of two leather ties.

The Bull *Supra Montem*, of which our manuscript contains a French translation, was issued by Pope Nicholas IV on 17 August 1289. The present manuscript appears to be the only one containing the French version of this text. It is noticeable that in the present manuscript, like in some other ones and in printed editions, the date given is 18 August 1289. On the front pastedown the armorial bookplate of the historian Walter Seton of Abercorn (1882-1927), whose pencil annotations (i.a. the numbering of the chapters) are seen on many pages. It was item 685 in a Church Congress Exhibition (circular paper label pasted on the bookplate). On the rear flyleaf r Seton has written a description in English of the manuscript, ending with the note: "Exchanged for Voragine with Tugan\*\*\*, May 1911". Purchased from the Mrs. Lathrop Colgate Harper Fund in memory of Lathrop Colgate Harper, Litt. D.

*Bibliography:*

W.W. Seton, "A French Manuscript Version of the Rule of the Third Order", *Revue d'histoire franciscaine*, 3 (1926), pp. 258-273, with edition of the text.

R.22.03.11

Albert Derolez