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Italy, s. XV²

Peter of Blois

1. ff. 1r-18v *Incipit liber Cassiodori de amicitia vera.* [Q]uoniam diminute sunt veritates a filiis hominum [Ps. 11:2] et refrigescente karitate iustorum vix aliquis in alio integritatem fidei experitur, vix invenitur dilectio que non sit questuaria et venalis; communi malo condolui proponens michi ad Scripture secretiis [sic] ad doctrinam et exercitium diligendi ... veteris tamen amicitie vestigiis aliqua reverentia semper impendenda est, nisi eam enormitas reatus eliminet.

Petrus Blesensis (Peter of Blois, c. 1135-c. 1204), *De amicitia Christiana*. PL 207.871-896.

2. ff. 18v-57v *Incipit secundus liber Cassiodori de karitate et dilectione proximi.* [S]icud precedentia docuerant amicitia vera non est, nisi suum in Deo habeat fundamentum ... ut sit ipse [univer]sis dilig[entibus eum amor, gau]di[um], pax, vita, quies, claritas, s[ecuritas et iu]bilatio, satietas omnium dexideri[orum], eterna et consummata glorie plenitudo. Deo gratias. Explicit liber Cassiodori variarum, eiusdem de anima, *** eiusdem de amicitia vera et eiusdem de dilectione Dei et caritate proximi. Deo gratias. Amen. Sub annis Domini a nativitate millesimo CCCC^o XLII^o et [die] secunda Ianuarii [2 Jan. 1442], regnante domino Eugenio papa quarto. ff. 58-59 ruled but blank

Petrus Blesensis, *De caritate Dei et proximi*. PL 207.895-958.

3. front flyleaves [1, f. Ir-v:] Primo beatus Bernardus dicit quod [] missam, que tante bonitatis existit, ut, si homo totum [] interim pertransiret et omnia sua bona in elimosinam daret, plus ** prodest auditus unius misse. Unde beatus Ieronimus dicit : Anime, pro quibus tenemur orare, carent interim dum missam audis pena purgatorii ... Ergo sanctum et saluberimum est Christifidelibus missam libenter audire ac devote interesse. Octo sunt merita visionis corporis Christi facta secundum beatum Agustinum in duodecimo de Trinitate. Primum est quod necessaria vite attribuuntur homini ... Octavus est quod passus in eundo et redeundo ad ecclesiam passus per angelum numerantur, ne in die Iudicii renumerentur. [2, ff. Iv-IIr:] § Illumina oculos meos, ne unquam obdormiam in morte [Ps.12:4] ... § Dixi: confitebor adversum me iniusti<ti>as meas et remisisti impietatem peccati mei [Ps. 31:5]. [3, f. IIr:] Est pene, est prorsus, est utique profecto, est procul dubio: confessio sanat, confessio iustificat, confessio peccati veniam donat ... indulgentia datur per peniten[tiam pecca]ta omnia []guntur. [4, f. IIv:] Hom[]ndet. Heu, me miserum, [spe]m perdideram, fiduciam amiseram ... hoc facere decrevi, hoc statui defixum, hoc animo meo est, evelli hoc ab animo meo non potest.

Devotional texts apparently by the same hand. [1] On the value of attending Mass, quoting Bernard of Clairvaux, Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine (“Agustinus”), St. Paul, Luke, Matthew

("Mactheus"), Bede, Gregory the Great, etc. [2] 9 selected Psalm verses. [3] On the value of Confession. [4] On Christian hope.

Paper, ff. II + 60, 220 x 145 mm. 4° folding. Watermark Horn (var. Briquet 7965??.....). The top of the leaves badly water-stained, and the edges of the front flyleaves and quire I very defective, with loss of text. Parchment stays in the center of the quires.

I-V¹². Horizontal catchwords in the center, mostly framed in red.

Frame ruling in lead for one column of writing, 31-34 lines, c. 160 x c. 90 mm.

Copied by one hand writing a peculiar Gothica Semitextualis Libraria under Humanistic influence.

Headings and stroking of the majuscules in red (but some headings are missing). Spaces left blank for inset initials (2-5 lines); guide letters are sometimes visible. A few pointing hands. Art. 3 is not decorated.

Original quarter binding: undecorated white leather fixed with a strip of leather and engraved iron nails onto square-edged heavy oak boards; sewing on two split leather thongs. F. 60 is used as pastedown. Remnants of a leather strap attached to the rear board, with a hole of the pin in the front board.

The colophon mentioning the year 1442 in art. 2 appears to be copied from the exemplar of our manuscript, given the dates provided by the watermark. The *exemplar* obviously opened with two works by Cassiodorus Senator (Cassiodore, c. 485-c. 580), which seems to have induced the scribe to attribute the two treatises by Peter of Blois to the same author. The spelling is marked by numerous italianisms, especially in art. 3. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

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Albert Derolez