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MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 823

Germany, s. XII² and Italy, s. XV²

Macer Floridus

1. ff. 1r-22v *Macer de virtutibus herbarum. De artemisia.* Herbarum quasdam dicturus carmine vires, / Herbarum matrem dedit Artemisie nomen, / Cui Grecus sermo iustum puto ponere primo ... His de radicibus mixto coleria?? melle / Fiunt que vulve pellunt subiecta seras, / Inque locis cunctis hec fixa siringia curant // [catchword: Commixtus].

Macer Floridus (Odo of Meung, c. 1070), *De viribus herbarum*. Walther, *Initia* 7711. L. Choulant, ed. (Leipzig, 1832), pp. 28-123. On this work, see L. Thorndike, *A History of Magic and Experimental Science*, v. 1 (New York, 1947), pp. 612-615. The text in our manuscript is incomplete: an unknown number of verses is missing between the first section, which ends f. 10v (“De rosa”) “... Aufert suppositum pruritus interiorum / Et stericis variis solet hoc succurrere causis” and the second section beginning f. 11r (in the middle of the chapter “De betonica”) “Haustaque purgabit renes pellet[] / Uncia cum ciatis calide potata []”. At the end an undetermined number of verses is equally missing. The order of the chapters differs from the order in Choulant’s edition. For the annotations, see below.

2. endleaves: Fragments of a Missal.

front flyleaf r [Secundum Lu]cam. In illo tempore erat Yhesus eiciens demonium ... Offertorium. [Iustitie] Domini recte ... [Secreta.] Hec hostia, quesumus, Domine ... [Communio.] Passer invenit sibi dom[um] //...

Third Sunday of Lent. The verso is almost illegible due to the presence of paste.

rear flyleaf r [Epistola] ... // vos. Ipse autem Deus pacis [sanctifice]t nos ... [Tractus.] Laudate Dominum omnes gentes ... V. Quoniam confir[mata est] ... [Evangelium. In illo tempore]e assumpsit Yhesus Pe[trum] et Iacobum ... Offertorium. Domine Deus salutis ... [Secreta.] Presentibus sacrificiis, quesumus, Domine ... Communio. Domine Deus meus, in te speravi ... Postcommunio. Sanctificationibus tuis, omnipotens Deus ... Super populum. Fideles tuos, Deus, benedictio desiderata ... gratulare. Per.

Saturday after the first Sunday of Lent.

Rear flyleaf r-v Dominica secunda in Quadragesima. Statio ad Sanctam Mariam in Dompnicam. Introitus. Reminiscere // [miserationum tuarum] ... Postcommunio. Supplices te rogamus ...

Second Sunday of Lent. The text, almost entirely written on the verso, is badly obscured by paste.

There are two sections of different origins and ages, each consisting of one quire.

I (ff. 1-10). Parchment, ff. 10, 200 x 125 mm. In f. 12 a large hole and an irregular outer edge, both before copying.

I¹⁰.

Pricking in the outer margin and lead?? ruling for one column of 29 lines above top line. Wide right-hand margins.

Copied by one hand writing Prae Gothica with wide distance between the lines.

Red?? chapter headings in larger script written at the right of the text. Red paragraph marks. Red heightening of majuscules on ff. 1r and 10v only. 2-line (exceptionally 1- or 3-line) early flourished initials in red with red flourishing (red filling on f. 10r). 5-line red, blue and white initial with strapwork decoration on f. 1r.

II (ff. 11-22). Parchment, ff. 12, 175 x 125 mm. (inner bifolium ... x 125 mm.), adapted to the size of section I by pasting strips of parchment to the bottom of the bifolios. The five outer bifolios (ff. 11-15 and 18-22) are palimpsest: leaves from a manuscript in two columns, the text transversal to the textus rescriptus; the inner bifolium (ff. 16-17) is of bad quality; the upper corners of ff. 11 and 22 are missing with loss of text and have been repaired with blank parchment.

II¹².

Frame ruling in lead?? for one column of script, wide right-hand margins as in section I, 29-33 lines.

Copied by one hand in Gothico-Humanistica Libraria.

Chapter headings in red, centered. Red 2-line plain initials (Capitalis).

The endleaves (art. 2) are fragments of a parchment manuscript (Italy, s. XV) in two columns (width of ruling c. ...), copied in Southern Gothica Textualis Formata (Rotunda) and decorated with plain red initials. Rubrics in ...

Quarter binding s. XX: wooden boards and brown calf spine; it is very doubtful whether the endleaves are original (see below).

Annotations: in section I numerous annotations in the right-hand margin summarizing the use of each herb as described in the facing verse (e.g. “§ Contra colicam”, “§ Contra antiquam tussim”, “§ Contra tumorem ventris”). Up to f. 9r they are preceded by a paragraph mark and written by one hand s. XIV using a small Gothica Hybrida; on ff. 9v-10v there are no paragraph marks and

the notes are in Gothico-Humanistica Cursiva s. XV. There are no annotations in section II; f. 16v there is a marginal note in the scribe's hand (?) "Hoc capitulum est antepositum (?)" facing the chapter "De altea et malva". In section I a letter "F" (s. XIV) is written in the left-hand margin at the beginning of each chapter, at least up to f. 7r; similar unexplained majuscules are written in the lower margins close to the fold on ff. 4r ("F"), 4v ("G"), 5r ("H"). It appears that the two sections are fragments of two manuscripts produced independently from each other. The first one, probably written in Germany, was later brought to Italy, where the annotations were made. The second manuscript, of a lower level of execution, was written three centuries later in Italy. The joining of the two and the adaptation of the latter to the size of the former by means of strips of (modern??) parchment seems to have happened in recent times in order to obtain a less incomplete text of Macer's treatise; the endleaves, fragments of a s. XV Italian missal (art. 2), were probably added at the same time. Purchased 1996 from Bernard Quaritch, London, on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

Albert Derolez