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MS 828

Germany, s. XIII¹

William of St. Thierry

1. ff. 1r-26v Fratribus de Monte Dei orientale lumen et antiquum illum in religione Egypcium fervorem, tenebris occiduis et Gallicanis frigoribus inferentibus, vite scilicet solitarie exemplar et celestis formam conversationis ... bona sua non ponere in ore hominum, sed celare in cella et recondere in consciencia, ut hunc quasi titulum et in fronte consciencie et in fronte celle semper habeat: "Secretum meum michi, secretum meum michi" [Is. 24:16].

Guillelmus de Sancto Theoderico (William of St. Thierry, c. 1080-1148), *Epistola ad fratres de Monte Dei (De vita solitaria)*, without the Preface. Bloomfield 1742. P. Verdeyen, ed., CCCM, v. 88 (2003), pp. 228-289. More details about this text, the manuscripts, editions, etc., also in *Repertorium Fontium Historiae Medii Aevi*, v. 5 (1984), pp. 322-323. Book 2 begins f. 17v, chapter 31. The letter is addressed to the monks of the Charterhouse of Montdieu in the diocese of Reims.

2. f. 27r-v Index capitulorum huius tractatus. f. 28 blank

Index of the chapters of art. 1, referring to the folio numbers ("a" = recto, "b" = verso), added by a s. XVII hand on blank pages.

Parchment, ff. I + 28 + I, 220 x 150 mm. The outer side of the quires is flesh side. Original foliation in Roman numerals in the middle of the upper margins of the recto pages. The lower edges of ff. 2, 7 and 11 are irregular; the lower outer corners of ff. 18, 23 and 24 are defective.

I⁸ (ff. 1-8), II¹² (ff. 9-20), III⁸ (ff. 21-28). Quire mark in the middle of the lower margin of the last page of quire I only ("I⁹"). Horizontal catchwords at right at the end of quires I and II, in quire I preceded by a paragraph mark.

Ruled with lead for one column of 29 lines above top line; there are two prickings for tracing the bounding lines both in the upper and lower margins, but the prickings in the outer margins for the horizontal lines differ from quire to quire: in quire I there are 31 prickings, of which the two bottom ones are not used; in quire II there are 29 prickings; in quire III there are 8 prickings at equal distances, which seems to indicate that this quire presents an early example of rake ruling (which anyway needs to be verified). Ruling type 11, c. 156 x c. 106 mm.

Copied by two scribes writing a heavily abbreviated early Gothica Textualis Libraria with simplified letter forms: hand A (ff. 1r-10r, line 5) is rather bold and uses single-compartment *a*

and straight *s* in all positions; hand B (ff. 10r, line 6-26v) is slightly less careful, there is more variety in the shape of *a*, and final *s* is either round or straight.

Red heightening of the majuscules, but layout and decoration lack uniformity. (1) Up to f. 12r inclusively the chapters start in the middle of a line and are preceded by a red paragraph mark; the corresponding chapter number is written by another hand at the same height in one of the side margins, and the chapter heading is added by the same hand in one of the margins and connected to the beginning of the chapter by a reference mark or by a connecting line. (2) From f. 12v up to at least f. 22v the chapters open at the left margin with a 1- or 2-line red plain initial and the corresponding heading and chapter number are copied in red by a contemporary hand in the open space on the preceding line; instructions for these are provided by the scribe (B) in small handwriting alongside the upper or lower edges. (3) Starting f. 23v for the final chapters 40-42 we see the type of layout and decoration as described under (1). On f. 1r a large and narrow “shaped inset” littera duplex in red and green initial *F* in red and green (8/16 ll.) with extremely developed penwork in the same colours and green extensions in the left margin.

The former cover consists of a document s. XVII on parchment, c. 270 x c. 345 mm, with text on the inner side, largely illegible due to the remnants of paste on its surface, issued by “Frater Bruno [d’Affringues, 1600-1631], ... totius ordinis Cartusiensis generalis minister”. The former binding contained also three fragments of a manuscript on parchment s. XIII, containing liturgical directions: “*De suffragiis vel commemor[ationibus]*. Commemorationem de sancto Iohanne B[aptista] quam per totum Adventum facimus ... *Quibus ad missam su[]*. Heꝛe dꝛe orationes: “Omnipotens sempi[terne Deus]tor pacis” post ceteras oration[es] dici solent ...”; etc. (kept apart with the former cover and a former parchment flyleaf). The present binding is s. XX: yellow velvet over rounded wooden boards.

The genesis of this small manuscript (perhaps the first section of a larger whole) is complicated and not easy to understand, given the changes in ruling, layout, handwriting and decoration occurring at different places. The spelling “wlt” (for “vult”) may point to Germany as the country where the codex was produced, despite the s. XIX note on the former flyleaf: “Frühes 13. Jahrh. Englisch”. Throughout the manuscript (up to f. 23r) significant words in the text are repeated in the margins, generally in a rectangular frame; numerous simplified *Nota* marks and vertical wavy lines draw attention to specific passages. The contemporary marginal notes referring the reader to other chapters of the same treatise appear to have been erased. There are corrections and contemporary additional notes, e.g. on ff. 3r, 3v (with reference to Petrus Cantor [d. 1197], *Verbum abbreviatum*), 9r (a long note on *exercitium* and *exercitatio*, ending: “Si vis videre diffusius de ista materia, require in fine sexti libri de proprietatibus rerum” i.e. the work by Bartholomaeus Anglicus [d. 1250], 11v (“Seneca: Cum multa percurrens in die, unum tibi elige quod illa die excoquas” [Seneca, *Epistolae morales ad Lucilium*, 2.4, Otto Hense, ed. (Teubner, 1914), p.4] ; “Quorum enim velox est stilus, labilis est memoria”), 19v. On the front pastedown, printed paper label with inscription “Handschriften-Sammlung Freiherr. A.W. v. Westenholz, Hamburg”, with the handwritten number “1250”. On the blank f. 28r, the note in pencil “152/1984/1”. Purchased from Antiquariat Dr. Jörg Günther on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

Albert Derolez