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France (Paris?), s. XV<sup>ex</sup>

**Ascetic treatises in Latin**

1. ff. 1r-23v [Prologue:] Vera penitentia velut scala quedam est, qua homo peccator, qui secundum evangelicam parabolam descendit de Iherusalem in Iherico, rursum in Iherusalem, hoc est ad pacis visionem, ascendit ... licet non sit huius operis explanare, tamen quantum ad propositum pertinet satis ex sequentibus apparebit. [f. 2v, text:] *Meditatio devota super primo psalmo penitenciali*. Domine Ihesu Christe, future iudex seculi, qui bonos in celeste regnum tuum, malos vero in ignem eternum missurus es ... et feliciter ascendere et tecum habitare perhenniterque regnare tu misericorditer prestare digneris. Qui vivis et regnas in secula seculorum. Amen. f. 24 ruled but blank

Petrus de Alliaco (Pierre d'Ailly, 1350-1420), *Meditationes super septem Psalmos paenitentiales*. Stegmüller 6408, Bloomfield 1738. Printed in Iohannes Gerson, *Opera omnia*, v. 4 (Antwerp, 1706), 1-26.

2. f. 25r-v § *Primi libri incipiunt capitula*. De miserabili humane condicionis ingressu ... § *Tercii libri incipiunt capitula* ... De divino iudicio quod nichil proderit damnandis.

Table of Contents of art. 3.

3. ff. 26r-54v § *Incipit liber Lotarii levite et cardinalis de vilitate conditionis humane. Qui Lotarius postea Innocencius papa tercius dictus est*. [Prologue:] Domino patri karissimo pro Dei gracia Portuensi episcopo Lotarius indignus dyaconus, gratiam in presenti et gloriam in futuro ... quatinus ita per hoc humilietur elatus, ut per illud humilis exaltetur. [Text:] *Incipit primus liber de miserabili humane condicionis ingressu*. Quare de vulva matris egressus sum, ut viderem laborem et dolorem et consumerentur in confusione dies mei? [Jer. 20:18]. Si talia de se locutus est ille quem Deus sacrificavit in utero ... angustia et tristitia, oblivio et confusio, torciones et punctiones, amaritudines et terrores, fames et sitis, frigus, cauma, sulphur et ignis ardens in secula seculorum. § *Explicit liber Lotharii de vilitate condicionis humane*. f. 55 ruled but blank

Lotharius Count of Segni (1160-1216, 1198-1216 pope as Innocentius III), *De miseria humanae conditionis*. Bloomfield 1753. PL 217.701-746; M. Maccarone, ed. (Lugano, 1955) [not seen]. The word "surdescunt" ("aures surdescunt") is missing between ff. 28v and 29r.

4. ff. 56r-72v § *Incipiunt meditationes beati Bernardi primi abbatis Clarevallensis*. Multi multa sciunt et semetipsos nesciunt. Alios inspiciunt et semetipsos deserunt ... Videas etiam meridiem solem, scilicet iusticie, in quo sponsum cum sponsa perspicies, unum eundem, scilicet Dominum glorie. Qui vivit cum Deo Patre in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus per omnia secula seculorum. Amen.

Ps.-Bernardus Claraevallensis (Pseudo-Bernard of Clairvaux), *De interiori homine* (*Meditationes*). Bloomfield 3126. PL 184.485-508.

5. ff. 73r-101r § *Opusculum quod speculum anime peccatricis inscribitur incipit feliciter*. [Prologue:] Vanitas vanitatum, et omnia vanitas, dixit Ecclesiastes [Eccles. 1:2]. Quoniam, ut ait egregius doctor sanctus Gregorius, non est Deo acceptabilius sacrificium quam zelus, id est amor animarum ... Septimum et ultimum de gaudiis paradisi et penis inferni. [f. 73v, text:] *De vilitate et miseria hominis*. § *Capitulum primum*. Verba Ieremie prophete: Quare de vulva matris egressus sum ut viderem laborem et dolorem [Jer. 20:18] ... et ut ne audiam illam sententiam formidandam: Discedite a me, operarii iniquitatis: nescio te quis sis [Lk. 13:27]. Quod a nobis avertat Ihesus Christus Dominus noster, qui vivit et regnat per infinita secula seculorum. Amen. ff. 101v-103v ruled but blank

Iacobus de Gruytrode (c. 1400-1475), *Speculum aureum animae peccatricis*, also attributed to Iacobus de Iuterbog (1381-1465), Dionysius Carthusianus (Dionysius de Ryckel, 1402/1403-1471) and Gerardus de Schiedam (d. 1442). Bloomfield 6326. Printed as Dionysius Carthusianus, *Opera omnia*, v. 10 (Tournai, 1913), pp. 766-794. About the authorship, see K. Emery Jr., *Dionysius Cartusiensis. Opera selecta. Prolegomena, I B: Bibliotheca manuscripta. Studia bibliographica*. CCCM, v. 121 A (1991), pp. 445-459; description of the manuscripts of this treatise and of the four other ones which are often found assembled with it under the title *Specula omnis status humanae vitae*, *ibid.*, pp. 459-540 [our manuscript not included].

Parchment, I + 103 + I ff., 200 x 140 mm. Calfskin; the outer side of the quires is flesh side.

I-VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1-48), VII<sup>8</sup> (-7, blank; ff. 49-55), VIII-XIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 56-103). Horizontal catchwords in the same handwriting in the center and close to the lower edge of the leaves, preserved f. 8v (quire I) and partly preserved f. 71v (quire IX). Traces of signatures.

Ruled in red ink for one column of 32 lines below top line. Ruling type 13, c. 133 x c. 84 mm.

Copied by one hand in small Gothica Hybrida Formata (Bastarda), with a tendency towards lengthening and making loops to the ascenders on the top line.

Headings in red. The manuscript is richly decorated in a uniform style with paragraph marks, line fillers, 1-line versals and 2-5-line initials in liquid gold on a blue or red ground decorated with foliage in liquid gold. On f. 1r arch-topped half-page miniature in the style of Jean Bourdichon, as wide as the writing area, above 12 lines of text, showing King David praying in a landscape; his harp is before him, and God appears in the sky; in the distance Uriah is being killed in battle. Full paneled border, the panels alternately with uncoloured background and filled with acanthus, or with liquid gold background and filled with flowers or fruit; one "acanth" panel in the outer border and two similar panels in the lower one contain each a hybrid animal, one of these wearing a hat.

Binding s. XIX: red silk over thin wooden boards. Gilt edges.

Luxurious illuminated manuscripts like this one containing a series of ascetical texts are absolutely exceptional. On a flyleaf the initials "S.M." and the date "5/8/[18]64" [these data do not appear presently in the manuscript]; belonged in the nineteenth century to Charles Butler, of Warren Wood; lent by him to the National Exhibition of Works of Art, Leeds, 1868; presumably in one of his sales in Sotheby's, 1911-1914. Maggs, *The Art of Writing, 2800 B.C. to 1930 A.D.*, catalogue 542 (1930), no. 205. Sotheby catalogue, 27 April 1937, lot 246. Maggs. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

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Albert Derolez