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MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 848

Northern Italy, s. XVIⁱⁿ and s. XVI/XVII

Jacopo Malvezzi, *Chronicle of Brescia*, in Latin

1. unfoliated f. r Incipit cronica urbis Brixiae composita per spectabilem et eximium artium et medicinae doctorem, dominum magistrum Iacobum de Malvetiis, civem Brixie, phisicum. Clara sub coma iam nuntiabat lumina [sub Eoo iam nuntia luminis *Muratori*] orbe / Titanis celeres luce preibat equos. / Umbrarum tenuisse satis contendere nocti / Ceperat ipse dies, qui nova facta parat ... Hinc ego Brixia contremui tanto stupefacta nephario, / In matrem posse bella pudenda dare. / Intereaque Phebi campos lustraverat axis; / Tunc dulces somnos liquerat illa meos. verso blank

Prologue (30 verses) to art. 2, copied by the hand who wrote the headings in art. 2. Ed. as *Prooemium auctoris* by Muratori, p. 776.

2. ff. 1r-143v Exordium huius libri. Capitulum primum [prologue:] Cum anno eterni Regis ab ortu 1432 [1412 *Muratori*] mortifere pestis contagiosa clades urbem invasisset, placidis me Benagi oris optima tunc aeris salubritate repositis, ad commorandum dies aliquot transtuli; at urbane societatis solatio destitutus, negotiorumque multorum, quibus persepe in urbe ad grata exercicia inducebar, solertia scemotus ... At si quid in eo erratum apparuerit, inculpandus sum minime, siquidem in veterum gestis plerumque dissensio invenitur: antiquitas enim ipsa creavit errorem. Porro et historicorum opera scribentium imperitia depravantur. [f. 3r, text:]. Capitulum 2. Qualiter urbs Brixie edificata fuit primo per Herculem, et ideo vocabatur civitas Herculea, et mira structura constructum fuit castrum, et ducti fuerunt fontes de Monpiano in ipsam. Longe ante Romam conditam multos in Italia legimus habitasse. Postquam enim Nembrot, filius Chus filii Noe, turrim confusionis linguarum construxerat ... Porro Guelfi demum victoriam capientes, Gibelinos et regis stipendiarios fugam petere compulerunt. Qui in castro confugium facientes, castro munito eadem die abierunt 1332, die Lune XV mensis Iunii. Finis.

Iacobus de Malvetiis (Jacopo Malvezzi, d. after 1432), *Chronicon Brixianum*. L.A. Muratori, ed., *Rerum Italicarum Scriptores*, v. 14 (1729), 777-1004. History of Brescia from its mythical foundation by Hercules up to 15 June 1332. See *Repertorium Fontium Historiae Medii Aevi*, v. 7 (1997), pp. 419-420, which records two manuscripts of this text: Phillipps 953 (s. XVIII) and Paris, BNF, MS lat. 5883 (s. XVI). The Muratori ed. was based on a now untraced manuscript dated 11 April 1461. In contrast with the ed. the text in our manuscript is subdivided into 499 chapters. Up to chapter 15 inclusive (f. 9r), there are chapter headings in small script by the main scribe; thereafter, only the chapter numbers are by the main scribe, the headings being copied by the second hand in the space between two chapters; some headings written by the main scribe have been copied again by the second scribe. In the margins captions, corrections, annotations and pointing hands s. XVI-XVII. The text ends abruptly f. 143v. Although it is followed by the word "Finis" and the edition stops at the same place, the fifty blank folios which follow seem to

indicate that there was an intention (or at least the possibility was considered) to continue the relation. It should be noted that according to the ed. the writing of the Chronicle started 1412, according to our manuscript 1432. The chapter headings in the ed. are totally different from those in our manuscript.

3. f. 144r Post vero, videlicet anno 1335, Brixiae civitas ad dominationem Vicecomitum devenit, qui in civitate Mediolani imperabant. Primus enim fuit dominus Azo Vicecomes [d. 1339], qui duravit annis tribus; postmodum dominus Luchinus Vicecomes et duravit annis sex [d. 1349]; demum dominus archiepiscopus Ioannes Vicecomes [d. 1354].
f. 144v and all following leaves (ruled) blank

Note by a contemporary hand stating that Brescia came in 1335 under the rule of the Visconti, an event which in reality occurred in 1421.

Paper, ff. II + 6 (unfoliated) + 144 + 50 (unfoliated) + II, 280 x 200 mm. 4° folding.
Contemporary foliation “1”-“144”.

I-XVIII⁸. Horizontal catchwords at right, close to the written area. The first six unfoliated leaves are a ternio; the quire structure of the final 50 unfoliated leaves is not obvious.

Frame ruling in lead for one column of script, 24-28 lines, c. 215 x c. 138 mm. In art. 1 full ruling in crayon for one column of 32 lines above top line, same dimensions.

Art. 2 is copied by one hand writing Humanistica Cursiva Currens (Libraria on the first pages), s. XVI^m. Art. 3 is by another hand writing the same type of script (Currens). Art. 1 is written in Humanistica Cursiva Libraria s. XVI/XVII, most headings in art. 2 by the same hand in less careful script.

Guide letters and spaces for 2-line initials (for a 3-line initial on f. 1r and in some other places) have been provided in art. 2; no initials were executed.

Binding s. XVIII: undecorated yellow parchment over pasteboard. On the spine dark red leather gold-tooled title label with inscription: “CRON. URB. BRIX. / PER MAG. JAC. / DE / MALVET. BRIX. / MS.” Below this label traces of an oval label. Endleaves in decorated paper printed with floral ornament in pink and gold.

Apparently the earliest surviving manuscript containing this text. Throughout the manuscript a later owner has added in the margins in arabic numerals the years mentioned in the text (see also MS 847, with the same provenance). On the first regular blank leaf r a contemporary very cursive note difficult to decipher “De *risione sanctorum Faustini et Iovite ... in f. 48”, referring to a miracle performed by the relics of saints Faustinus and Iovita, recorded on ff. 47v-48r. On the last folio verso the contemporary very cursive ownership inscription (?): “Laurentius Parusius legis (?) lator Brixienis (?) M.” In the lower margin of f. 1r three impressions in black ink of an oval stamp containing the coat of arms of a cardinal. On the front pastedown armorial bookplate of Frederick North, fifth Earl of Guilford (1766-1827; see Seymour de Ricci, *English*

Collectors, pp. 94-95), with the device “La vertue est la seule noblesse”. Paper label on the spine with the printed number “5842” in the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872, purchased 1830 at the Guilford sale); small engraved bookplate of Giannalisa Feltrinelli on the first flyleaf r. Christie’s ?? catalogue 1997, no. 173. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund. In content and provenance MSS 847 and 848 are very close to each other.

R.24.03.11

Albert Derolez