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MS 886

Germany, s. XV^{med}

Proprietates rerum moralizatae

1. ff. 1r-3v *Tabula in Proprietates rerum*. Abies, 29. Absinthium, 31. Abstinencia, require Iuniperus, 27 et Caprea, 35 [this entry added by the same hand]. Accipiter, 21, Adamas, 24 ... Wlpis, 19. Wltur, 3. Christi [= Xpi] Ihesu humilitas, require Rosarius, 28. Christi incarnacio, require Mangnes [l. Magnes], 30. Christus, require Rynocerus, 36. *Explicit tabula in Proprietates rerum, etc. etc etc.*

Complete alphabetical index of subjects to art. 3, referring to the contemporary folio numbers (understood as the recto and the facing verso).

2. ff. 4r-5v *Animal*. Allec, 26. Allectarius, 31 [this entry cancelled]. Agnus, 17. Anguilla, 26. Aper, 37 ... Pulegium, 33. Ruta, 24. Sinapis, 16. Viola, 21. Urtica, 34.

Partial alphabetical indexes to art. 3 by another hand, subdivided into the following categories: "Animal", "Avis", "Piscis", "Lapis", "Arbor", "Herba". Reference is made to the folio numbers, as in art. 1.

3. ff. 6r-42v *Incipiunt Proprietates rerum moralizate*. Rana. Advocati in iudicio contencioso assimilantur ranis. Rana, ut dicit Ysidrus libro 12^o capitulo 3^o de piscibus [Isidorus Hispalensis, *Etymologiae*, 12.6.58], habet vocem garrolosam et sonus [l. sonos] vocis inportinis [l. importunis] clammoribus reddit et in paludibus generatur. Sic advocati sophiste et garruli voces causant clammosas, sed tamen in paludibus generantur, quia intencione inmundi propter viles vocaciones sepe vendunt veritatem. Unde figura legitur Exod. 8 quod una de decem plagarum fuit quod ascenderunt rane et operuerunt terram Egypti ... [Exod. 8:1-5] ... [f. 42v:] Talpa. § Duodecima et ultima bestia est talpa, de qua Ysidorus libro 12^o dicit [*Etymologiae*, 12.3.5] quod est bestiola ad similitudinem muris magni cecitate da<m>pnata; in tenebris est et absque oculis ... § Hec bestia designat peccatorem cecum nec salutem suam volentem considerare, aut hominem terrenis sollicitudinibus inherentem, quia nec potest videre solem verum, etc. Et sic est finis.

Proprietates rerum moralizatae. Moral encyclopaedic treatise (not related to the work of Bartholomaeus Anglicus, *De proprietatibus rerum*), arranged alphabetically from "Advocatus" to "Viridarium". Each of the more than 70 subjects ("Advocati", "Adulatores", "Amor mundanus", "Amatores mundi", "Anima contemplativa", etc.) is connected with one or more subjects of natural history: animals, plants, stones, rivers, sources, elements, planets, stars, phenomena, etc. Some "moral" subjects refer to a whole series of related subjects from natural history, such as "Doctores" (the planets), "Prelati" (the signs of the Zodiac), "Piscina utilis" (fish), "Silva nemerosa" (good trees), "Silva dyaboli" (bad trees); in a similar way the two final

moral subjects are subdivided into two categories, either pertaining to Christ or to the Devil and each englobing a series of good or bad creatures: “Thesaurizarium” (stones) and “Viridarium”, the latter repeated three times and successively dealing with herbs, birds, and quadrupeds. Isidore of Seville, Pliny, Aristotle and a great number of other authors, heathen and Christian, are quoted in the description of the physical and moral qualities of natural creatures and their relationship or similarities with human moral behaviour or theological concepts. The terms from natural history dealt with in the text are repeated in the margin. There are numerous cross-references.

Parchment and paper, ff. II (paper) + 42 + II (paper), 280 x 205 mm. In-folio folding. There is a modern foliation at the bottom of the pages and another, incorrect one in the upper corners. The former is followed here. Contemporary foliation of art. 3 in the center of the upper margins, from “1” to “37”, corresponding to ff. 6 to 42. The lower corner of f. 1 is very defective (without loss of text). Parchment folios: 1, 2, 15, 25, 34.

Collation is difficult due to the tight binding and the fact that the fold of ff. 2-5 has been repaired by means of strips of paper. There is a horizontal catchword at right on f. 24v. It is noteworthy that the parchment ff. 15 and 34 are both singletons with a stub (visible between ff. 14 and 15 and 33 and 34 respectively), through which the sewing cord passes. Probable extent of the quires: I (ff. 1-5), II (ff. 6-24), III (ff. 25-42).

Frame ruling in lead, c. 208 x c.138 mm., intercol. space c. 11 mm.: for two columns in artt. 1 and 2, for one column in art. 3, c. 40-46 lines, except in art. 2, where there are c. 33 lines.

Artt. 1 and 3 are copied by one hand, writing *Gothica Cursiva Libraria*. Art. 2 is by another hand writing a larger and more coarse *Gothica Semihybrida Libraria*.

Red stroking of the majuscules and red paragraph marks; red headings, in *Hybrida* in artt. 1 and 3, in *Textualis* in art. 2. Red plain 2-3-line initials.

Binding s. XX by P. Dusel (1993): dark blue morocco over cardboard, the edges of the boards decorated with a gold-tooled fillet ending on small lilies. On the flat spine the gold-tooled title “PROPRIETATES RERUM”.

Written in Germany as appears from the handwriting, the spelling (“wlt” for “vult”) and the shape of the initials. MS 129 in the collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley, California. Purchased from him on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

R.11.01.12

Albert Derolez