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Germany (?), s. XIV/XV

Jacobus de Cessolis, Giovanni del Virgilio, Walter Burley, etc.

1. ff. 1r-29r *Incipit liber de moribus hominum et officiis nobilium super ludo scacorum.* [Prologue:] Multorum fratrum ordinis nostri et diversorum scolarium precibus persuasus dudum nimium requisitum [*l. nimium requisitus*] negavi ... In tractatus autem tres opus ipsum lector noverit distinctum: Primus de causa invencionis ludi scacorum et sub quo rege hic ludus inventus est. Secundo quis ludum invenit. Tercius de causa triplici huius ludi. [text:] *Capitulum primum primi tractatus.* Inter omnia mala signa de homine unum est, quando quis non solum non timet Deum per culpam et negligit, sed correctorem affligit, quemadmodum de Nerone imperatore ... § Sine virtutibus enim vitam ducere non est hominis opus, sed belue. Igitur ad illum recorramus [*l. recurramus*] qui est virtus, a quo omnis virtus emanat et gracia, ut nobis et michi, qui [*l. cui*] donavit pro modulo aliquid ad honorem dicere nobilium, det gratiam in presenti, ut imperpetuum possumus cum ipso vivere et regnare.

Jacobus de Cessolis OP (d. after 1322), *Libellus de moribus hominum et officiis nobilium super ludo scaccorum*. Kaeppli 2066 (with extensive list of manuscripts); Bloomfield 3134. E. Köpke, ed., *Mittheilungen aus den Handschriften der Ritter-Akademie zu Brandenburg an der Havel*, II. *Jacobus de Cessolis*. Programm Nr. 59 beigegeben dem XXIII. Jahresbericht der Ritter-Akademie (Brandenburg an der Havel, 1879) [not seen]; F. Vetter, ed., *Das Schachzabelbuch Kunrats von Ammenhausen ... Nebst den Schachbüchern des Jakob von Cessole und des Jakob Mennel* (Frauenfeld, 1892). The text is subdivided into four *tractatus*.

2. ff. 29v-39r Obmissis regum et regnorum nominibus de solo uno narrare curavimus, scilicet de regno Lombardie et Romanorum, quod tempore destruccionis magne Babilonie exordium sumpsit. Sic Assiriorum regno destructo, quod duravit a tempore Nini regis usque ad tempora regis Prochas; sic a tempore Prochas [*sic*] usque ad tempore regis Procas fluxerunt anni mille II^c XL. Prochas rex Italye fuit, qui ex uxore duos filios habuit. Nomen primogeniti Numitor, qui post patris obitum regnare debebat. Nomen secundi filii Amulius malitia plenus ... Iste Carolus Martellus genuit imperatorem Lotterium. Hic venit ad Alamanniam et sic imperium translatum est ad Alamagnos. Tempore quo imperabat Lotterius Sarraceni obsederunt Romam. Veniens dictus Lotterius cum magno exercitu Sarracenos devicit, et sic Romam ab infidelium pressura liberavit.

Largely fabulous and incoherent history of the Roman empire up to the siege of Rome by the Moslems in 846. Follows without interruption after art. 1 and is by the writer of the running headlines titled as being Book IV of the Cessolis treatise. Divided into two sections; the first one comprises nine chapters. F. 34r begins the first chapter of the second section. Up to f. 35r there are chapter headings (or at least chapter numbers), the last one of the second section being “De origine Pisane civitatis capitulum tertium”.

3. ff. 39v-40v § Tabula super ludo scachorum reverendi magistri Dominici episcopi Sitiensis. ff. 41r-46r blank

Alphabetical index to artt. 1-2, referring to the number of the book as indicated by the running headlines, and the number of the chapter as indicated by numbers in the margin, by Dominicus de Dominicis OCarm, bishop of Sitia in Crete (1395-1399). Both numbers as well as the Table are by a later rapid hand and do not coincide with the subdivisions of the original text.

4. ff. 46v-47r § Tabula fabularum reverendi magistri D(ominici) episcopi Sitiensis. ff. 47v-48v blank

Alphabetical index to art. 5, referring to the number of the book and of the Metamorphose, by the same author as art. 3. Both numbers as well as the Table are by a later rapid hand.

5. ff. 49r-73v *Allegorie fabularum Ovidi magistri Iohannis Baptiste*. Quoniam uniuscuiusque poete finis est mentes hominum moribus informare, unde in primordio huius libri alibi dictum est quod ethyce, id est philosophie supponitur, ideo unaqueque transmutacio in hoc libro descripta merito ad mores est penitus reducenda ... et dixit ei tunc Sibilla: Vide, ille verus Deus et verus rex est. Tunc Augustus reversus est Romam et proh<ib>uit se precepit ne populus adoraret eum pro deo. Et sic est finis huius libri.

Iohannes de Virgilio (Giovanni del Virgilio, s. XIV¹), *Allegoriae librorum Ovidii Metamorphoseos*, the prose parts only; instead of the poetical parts, there are excerpts from the *Narrationes fabularum Ovidiarum* by Lactantius Placidus (dates unknown) and perhaps from other sources. F. Ghisalberti, ed., *Giovanni del Virgilio espositore delle Metamorfosi* (Florence, 1933; printed separately from *Giornale dantesco*, 34), pp. 43-107. About Giovanni del Virgilio, see *Dizionario biografico degli Italiani*, v. 38 (Rome, 1990), pp. 404-409. About the work: F.T. Coulson, "A Checklist of Newly Identified Manuscripts of the *Allegoriae* of Giovanni del Virgilio", *Studi Medievali*, 3d Ser., 37 (1996), pp. 443-453 (does not record our manuscript); M. Ferretti, "Per la *recensio* e la prima diffusione delle *Allegoriae* sulle *Metamorfosi* di Giovanni del Virgilio" (.....), pp. 1-16. Lactantius's *Narrationes* are ed. by H. Magnus, *Publii Ovidi Nasonis Metamorphoseon libri XV* (Berlin, 1914), pp. 625-721. There is a bad connection in Book 5 between quires V and VI (ff. 60v and 61r), where *Mutatio* 17 is followed on f. 61r by successively *Mutationes* 19 and 18; the error is corrected by means of the letters "b" and "a" added in the inner margin at the beginning of the latter two chapters.

6. ff. 74r-80v Incipit hystoria de septem sapientibus. Rome fuit imperator Dyoclecianus, cui erat unicus filius heres masculus, tunc septennarius. Ille imperator sentiens se senesciri [?] vocavit septem sapientes suos nominatim, quibus dixit, cui traderet filium suum erudendum. Cui antegenitus et ditior nomine Bacilies ... et imperatrix fuit conbusta quia publice confessa est hec se facere voluisse. Filius vero mortuo patre suo imperatore imperavit laudabiliter secundum Deum et mundum multis annis. Explicit hystoria septem sapiencium. ff. 81r-84v blank

Historia septem sapientum Romae. On this text, known in many different versions, see *Verfasserlexikon*, v. 8 (1992), 1174-1189. The incipit in our manuscript is similar to G. Blomquist, ed., *Schacktavelslek och Sju vise mästare* (Stockholm, 1941), pp. 265-292 [not seen]. At the bottom of f. 76r the words of the text are extremely widely spaced and followed by a note in the scribe's hand: "Sequitur in alia parte folii".

7. ff. 85r-117r [Prologue:] De vita et moribus philosophorum veterum tractaturus multa, que ab antiquis auctoribus in diversis libris de ipsorum gestis sparsim scripta reperitur [*l.* repperi], in unum colligere laborem [*l.* laboravi], plurima quoque eorum responsa notabilia et dicta elegancia huic [?] libello inserui, que ad legencium consolacionem et morum informacionem conferre valebunt. [Text:] Tales philosophus Assianus, ut ayt Layertinus [*l.* Laertius] in libro de vita philosophorum, patre Examio, matre Elleobolina [*l.* Cleobolina], ex calidibus [*l.* edilibus?], qui sunt felices nobilissimi, Actenis claruit ... [f. 115v, Dyogenes:] ... Alexander eciam cum Diogenem transiret, Dyogenes tamquam illum spernens non respexit eum. Cui dixit Alexander: Quid est, Dyogenes, quod me non respicis, quare [*l.* quasi] me non indigeas? Cui iste: Ad quid necesse habeo te, servum servorum meorum? Et Alexander inquit, etc. ff. 117v-120v blank

De vita et moribus philosophorum, generally ascribed to Gualterus Burlaeus (Walter Burley, 1275-after 1344). Bloomfield 1475; Sharpe, pp. 727-728. H. Knust, ed. (Tübingen, 1886). The text in our manuscript is very corrupt; it stops in the middle of chapter 50 (ed. Knust, pp. 2-204). More than 270 manuscripts of this work are listed by J. Prelog, "Die Handschriften und Drucke von Walter Burleys *Liber de vita et moribus philosophorum*", *Codices Manuscripti*, 9 (1983), pp. 1-18.

Paper, ff. 120, 305 x 230 mm. In-folio folding. There is early foliation from "f. 1" to "f. 32" in the center of the upper margin of ff. 85r-116r; the numbers are repeated on the verso and are to be understood in the modern sense, being valid for recto and subsequent verso. Many pages are blank.

I-X¹². In all the quires the 7th leaf bears the signature "+". Quires I and II have a small quire mark in the outer margin of their first page, below the bottom through line: "1⁹" on f. 1r, "2⁹" on f. 13r. Horizontal catchwords in the center or at right of the center in all quires containing text on their last page, except in quire VI (f. 72v)

Frame ruling in brown ink (ff. 1-48 = quires I-IV) or lead (all the other quires) for one column of text, 31-39 lines, c. 218 x c. 140 mm. The Indexes (artt. 3-4) are written in two columns.

Most of the text is apparently written by four different hands, all using *Gothica Cursiva Libraria*: hand A copied ff. 1r-39r, hand B ff. 49r-60v, hand C ff. 61r-80v, hand D ff. 85r-117r. The indexes (artt. 3-4), slovenly copied in *Gothica Cursiva Currens* on blank pages in quire IV, are younger than the text and difficult to decipher. The same hand seems to have written the running headlines in artt. 1 and 5 and the foliation in art. 7.

Simple decoration consisting of red headings and red paragraph marks. In artt. 1-2 2-line plain red initials (3-line at the opening, f. 1r); in artt. 5-7 2-line plain initials with rudimentary flourishing (often consisting of dots), all in red; the opening initials of artt. 5 and 7 are 3-line initials; a human face has been drawn in the initial on f. 51r. Guide letters. Red stroking of majuscules on ff. 49r-85r only.

S. XVIII (?) quarter binding: brownish parchment and uncovered heavy paper boards On the spine is written in ink "Tedesco".

The text quality is in general very bad in this manuscript, the origin of which is difficult to establish with certainty. On f. 1r there are four impressions and on f. 117r there is one impression of a circular owner's stamp (s. XIX), featuring intertwined initials in a wreath of laurels. In the top margin of the same page the ownership inscription s. XVIII/XIX: "L.G. Mantuani". On the facing inner cover the inscription "No. 10" and, in a circle, "MS 166" (the number in the collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal?).

The additional artt. 3 and 4 are not taken into account in the following table.

Quires	folios	quire marks	catchwords	fol.	scribes	content
I-II	1-24	x	x	-	A	art. 1
III-IV	25-48	-	x	-	A	artt. 1-2
V	49-60	-	x	-	B	art. 5
VI-VII	61-84	-	-	-	C	artt. 5-6
VIII-X	85-120	-	x	x	D	art. 7

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Albert Derolez