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France (Burgundy), s. XV<sup>2</sup>

**Jacques Legrand, *Livre de bonnes meurs; Les peines d'enfer***

1. ff. 1r-2r Jhesus. Maria. § Cy commence la table de la premiere partie du premier [this word added above the line] livre de bonnes meurs, lequel est partie en VII parties. La premiere partie parle du remede qui est contre les VII pechiez mortelz ... La quinte partie parle de la mort et du Jugement. La seconde partie. Le premier chappitre parle comme orguel desplaia a Dieus. Folio primo. Le second chappitre parle [this word added above the line] comme orguel avuigle l'entendement. II<sup>o</sup> ... [f. 2r:] La VI<sup>me</sup> partie. Le premier chappitre parle comme la vie de ce monde est de briefve et de petite duree. F. XXIX<sup>o</sup> ... Le VIII<sup>e</sup> parle [this word added above the line] comme nulz ne doit estre curieulx de sa sepulture. F. XXXIII<sup>o</sup>.

Table of Contents of art. 2, referring to the original foliation.

2. ff. 2r-35r Le premier chappitre. Tous orgueilleux se vuillent a Dieu comparer en tant que se glorifient en eulx mesmes et es biens qu'ilz ont, desquelles choses la gloire est due principalement a Dieu ... et n'est mie doute que, se tu meur en malvais estat en icelle tu seras condampné; et se tu meur en grace en icelle heure tu seras saulvé ou en voye de saulvement. Pour quoy il appert que pou vault l'esperance de ceulx [this word added above the line] quilz dient que le monde dura moult longuement. Cy fine le livre de bonnes meurs.

Jacques Legrand (c. 1360-1415/1418), *Livre de bonnes meurs*. E. Beltran, ed., *Bibliothèque du XV<sup>e</sup> siècle*, 49 (Paris, 1986), pp. 305-399. There are numerous marginal annotations in Latin in red ink by a contemporary reader: "Nota", "Nota bene", "Nota valde bene".

3. ff. 35r-36v S'ensuivent les peignes d'enfer. Or escoutés, Crestins, que dame Dieu ames / Qui les peignes d'enfert et les d\*\*\* trames, / Je vous feray entendre, se oyr me voulés, / Comme pecheur homs est en enffer dampnez ... Mecte nous en la gloire ou li bon seront lié / En perdurable vie en son hautesme cié. / Amen. Ce soit sans faille qu'il ben praingne pitié. Amen.

*Les peines d'enfer*. Treatise in verse on the torments of Hell. The rapidity of the handwriting makes reading difficult. There is one note in the margin by the same reader as in art. 2.

Paper, ff. I + 36 + I, 305 x 220 mm. In-folio folding. Parchment stays in the center of the quires. Original foliation, from "I<sup>o</sup>" (f. 2) to "XXXV" (f. 36), in the outer upper corner of the recto pages. Brittle and defective edges due to moist.

I-II<sup>14</sup> (ff. 1-28), III<sup>8</sup> (ff. 29-36). Signatures of the “interrupted foliation” type in the lower outer corner of the recto pages in the first half of each quire: “I-VII”, “VIII-XIII”, “XV-XVIII”.

Vague frame ruling, by means of four folds in the paper, for one column of text, c. 220 x c. 130 mm. (these are the distances between the prickings, respectively in the outer and in the lower margins), 40-55 lines. Art. 3 is written in two columns, c. 60 lines.

Probably copied by two hands, both writing a small Gothica Cursiva Currens: A copied artt. 1-2, B copied art. 3 in even smaller script.

Red stroking of majuscules (art. 1); red stroking of the punctuation and red underlining (art. 2). 2-line plain initials, alternately red and blue, with guide letters.

Unbound.

On the rear flyleaf v the contemporary ownership inscription, faded: “Ce present livre est du grand Hostel Dieu de Beaune”. The manuscript belonged to the library of the Hôtel Dieu of Beaune, founded in 1443 by Nicolas Rolin, Chancellor of Burgundy. It is not mentioned in the inventory of the goods of that hospital, dated 1501 and edited by abbé Boudrot: “Inventaire de l’Hôtel-Dieu de Beaune (1501)”, *Mémoires de la Société d’Histoire, d’Archéologie et de Littérature de l’Arrondissement de Beaune*, 1874, pp. 117-204. On the front flyleaf r, in an unexperienced contemporary hand writing Gothica Cursiva Currens, a note probably by a nun belonging to the hospital: “Marie Chuson, vostre jusque au besan (?), vostre en tous bien et honneur et vostre humble servente et petite Orateresse. Je le dit pour bien, prenés le en bien. Vostre je suis”. On the rear flyleaf v contemporary hands have written the following notes: (1) “In cenectute omnia vicia cenescunt, / Sola autem avaricia iuvenescit” (Ps.-Augustinus [s. XII], *Sermones ad fratres in eremo commorantes*, PL 40.1330 [“Omnia in homine senescunt vitia, ...”]); (2) “Mors iusti subbita, quem [l. quam] precesserit bona vita, / Non affert merita si moriatur ita” (Walther, *Sprichwörter*, v. 2, p. 934, no. 15169 [has the more logical reading “Non minuit merita”]). Between ff. 21 and 22 a slip of paper is loosely inserted containing fragments of the first draft of a letter in French written in Gothica Cursiva Currens and containing extensive cancelled passages; it begins: “Ihesus. Maria. Treshonnoré oncle, tant et sy humblement comme je puis avec bonne grace me recommande mes scept de l’antiers de mon cur, sans voulloir oblier ma tres chiere vostre famme et aussi mon treshonnoré oncle ...”. Sotheby’s, 1 Dec. 1998, lot 77. Ms. 208 in the collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley, California. Purchased from him.

#### *Bibliography:*

R.G. Babcock, T.N. Thomas, D.M. Kibbey, E.P. Archibald, *A Book of Her Own. An Exhibition of Manuscripts and Printed Books in the Yale University Library that were Owned by Women before 1700* (New Haven, 2005), p. 66.

R.11.01.12

Albert Derolez