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MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 910

Northeastern Italy (Vangadizza), s. XII²

Rule of St. Benedict; Obituary of the abbey of Vangadizza

1. ff. 1r-58v *Hec statuit sanctus precepta pater Benedictus. / Gaudia celorum confert servantibus horum.* [preface:] Ausculta, o fili, precepta magistri, et inclina aurem cordis tui ... passionibus Christi per patientiam participemur, ut regni eius mereamur esse consortes. *Explicit prologus.* [f. 3v:] *Incipiunt capitula et tituli.* De generibus vel vita monachorum. Qualis debeat esse abas. De adibendis ad consilium fratribus. Que sunt instrumenta bonorum operum. De obedientia discipulorum qualis sit [the titles of chapters 6-73 are missing]. [f. 4r:] *Incipit textus regule eximii Benedicti abatis. De generibus vel vita monachorum.* Monachorum quatuor esse genera manifestum est. Primum cenobitarum, hoc est monasteriale ... et tunc demum ad maiora, que supra commemoravimus, doctrine virtutumque culmina Deo protegente pervenies. Facientibus hec regna patebunt superna [*corr. from eterna*]. Amen.

Benedictus Casinensis (s. VI¹), *Regula*. CPL 1872. R. Hanslik, ed., CSEL 75 (1977). Numerous corrections, additions, some marginal notes.

2. f. 58v *Promissio novicii.* Ego ill. sacerdos vel diaconus vel conversus promitto stabilitatem meam ... in hoc monasterio quod constructum est ad honorem sancte Marie virginis vel alterius sancti, in presentia illius abbatis iamdicti cenobii.

Promise formula of the novice upon his entry in religion.

3. f. 59r-v (1) *Decretum Pascalis pape.* Ex concilio Romano Pascalis pape. Nullus abas, nullus archipresbiter, nullus prepositus ecclesie audeat possessiones ecclesie sue vendere ... alioquin ordinis sui periculum paciatur. – (2) Abatibus, presbiteris ceterisque ministris ecclesie de rebus ecclesiasticis vel sacro misterio deputatis locare, alienare ... et quod temere alienatum est revocetur. – (3) *Imperatoris Karoli lex.* Si quis abas vel prepositus ecclesie aut ministerialis aliquas res ecclesie, quas providere debet, aliquid scriptionis titulum concesserit ... cuiquam concesserit pro infidelitate computetur. – (4) *Imperator Lotarius.* De precariis quoque vel locationibus que a rectoribus ecclesiarum irrationabiliter fiunt ... ab eo ad eius ecclesiam retinendum revocetur. – (5) § Res siquidem ecclesie nisi in certis casibus alienari non possunt ... alio modo res ecclesie alienari non possunt.

Decrees of pope Pascal II (1099-1118) and emperors Charlemagne (? 800-814) and Lothar I (823-855) against alienating the goods of a church or monastery. (1) Mansi, v. 20, p. 1211; (2) M. Fornasari, *Initia canonum a primaevis collectionibus usque ad Decretum Gratiani*. Monumenta Italiae Ecclesiastica, Subsidia, 1, v. 1: A-G [only vol. published] (Rome, 1972), A 33; *Corpus Iuris Canonici*, 12.2.41; ed. Ae. Friedberg, v. 1 (1879), 701; (4) Fornasari, *Initia*, D

921; *Capitulare Olonnense ecclesiasticum primum* (825), c. 10; A. Boretius, ed., MGH, *Capitularia regum Francorum*, v. 1 (1883), p. 327.

4. f. 60r-v A[Ibericus], divino munere Ariminensis episcopus, R., Vagadiciensis priori cenobii, suisque fratribus universis salutem et dilectionem. Audito reverendi patris nostri et vestri Litaldi obitu, tanto vehementius dolere cepimus, quanto tenerius eum diligebamus ... enitentes pro viribus ut status vester non deterioretur, sed auxiliante Domino proficere semper de bono in melius inveniatur.

Alberic, bishop of Rimini (1158-1177), Letter to the prior and convent of Vangadizza, on the death of abbot Liutald.

5. ff. 60v-61v (1) *Regulares ad l(unam) inveniendam*. (2) Primus embolismus inscribitur III nonas Decembris ... Septimus enim III nonas Marcii. (3) *De tribus embolismorum annis in quibus epacte ab embolismis dissident. De octavo*. Octavo igitur cicli anno, habente epactas XVII, embolismalis luna pridie nonas Marcii incipit, finiturque pridie nonas Aprilis XXX, licet in Aprili finiatur. Sequitur N... *De nono decimo*... In kalendis autem Maii secundum epactas occurrit XXVIII, sed propter embolismum XXVIII computatur. Et sic finitur error trium annorum. (4) *Loca embolismorum. Loca communia*. (5) *Loca embolismorum*.

Computistical notes and tables. (1) Table of the *regulares lunae*; (2) dates of the seven *embolismi* of the Nineteen-Years Cycle; (3) discussion of the three years of the Cycle in which epacts and *embolismi* differ; (4) table of the seven *embolismi* for all the years of the Nineteen-Years Cycle; in the first column the epacts; (5) a short table summarizing the data of table (4).

6. ff. 62r-80r *In kal. Ianuarii aureus numerus incipit, quo luna annuatim prima invenitur. Mensis Ianuarii habet dies XXXI, luna XXX. III. A. Kal. Ianuarii. Circumcisio Domini nostri Ihesu Christi et sancte Martine. // et alii familiares et benefactores nostri. B. III non. Sancti Barbaciani confessoris. Obiit Opizo marchio ... [December] ... XIII. A. II. Obiit Phylipus conversus. Obiit Iohannes conversus. Obiit Aringerius conversus (nostri).*

Obituary of the abbey of Vangadizza. The computistical data are: the Golden Number, the Day Letter, the Roman Calendar, the length of the solar and of the lunar month. The feasts are recorded for each day up to Agnes (21 Jan., f. 63r); thereafter the principal feasts only are recorded. Among these are Primus and Felicianus (9 June, f. 70v), whose relics were in the abbey church. It is noticeable that feasts of the hermit St. Theobaldus (d. 1066), who had close links with the abbey of Vangadizza, is mentioned by a later hand (1 July and Translation 2 August, ff. 72r and 73v). The numerous obits of members and of benefactors of the community have been entered by various hands from the twelfth (these are the majority) to the sixteenth centuries. Among the earliest entries are those of Martinus, the first abbot (c. 961-993, 21 Oct., f. 76r), abbot Litaldus (27 Febr., f. 65r, see art. 4), marquess Amelricus and his wife Franca, first benefactors (7 June, f. 70v) and Hugo marquess of Tuscany, considered the real founder of the abbey, 998 (21 Dec., f. 79v). Dated entries are rare: 1174 (marquess Fulco, 15 Dec., f. 79r), 1184

(marquess Albert, 11 April, f. 67v), 1333 (abbot Guido, 22 March, f. 66v). Note the spellings: “Agustinus”, “Madius”. Two leaves are missing between ff. 73 and 74, containing 4 August – 8 Sept.

7. f. 80v *De anniversariorum observantia et noticia*. Anniversario domni Martini primi abatis huius monasterii post vespere regulares omnia signa *diu pulsantur, candelabra ante altare accenduntur*, conveniunt quidem omnes fratres in choro ... *Sciendum vero quod canonici, clerici et scolares* de plebe sancti Iohannis debent adesse vigiliis.

Liturgical instructions for observing the anniversary of Martin, first abbot of the monastery.

Parchment, ff. I (paper) + 80 + I (paper), 205 x 145 mm. The lower margin of f. 25 and the outer margin of f. 58 are replaced with modern parchment.

Tentative collation: I⁸ (+ a singleton, f. 3; ff. 1-9), II⁶ (ff. 10-15), III⁶ (+ a singleton, f. 20; ff. 16-22), IV⁶ (+ a singleton, f. 25; ff. 23-29), V⁶ (+ a singleton, f. 32; ff. 30-36), VI⁶ (ff. 37-42), VII⁶ (+ a singleton, f. 45; ff. 43-49), VIII-IX⁶ (ff. 50-61), X¹⁰ (ff. 62-71), XI⁶ (ff. 72-77), XII⁴ (-4, ff. 78-80). Quire marks “A”-“I” at right in the lower margins of the first page of quires I-IX; traces of horizontal catchwords at right in the same quires.

Most leaves appear to be pricked for onecolumn of 25 lines above top line (c. 140 x c. 95). In quires I-IX (artt. 1-5), however, the hard-point ruling does generally not take the prickings into account and varies between 16 and 27 lines. In the Obituary (art. 6) the Calendar generally features nine days per page, leaving ample space for adding the obits.

Copied by various hands, all writing Southern Prae Gothica. In art. 1 the changes of hands and layout often go together with the appearance of singletons, different layout and bad textual connection between successive pages and deserve a close analysis. In the Obituary (art. 6) the entries are added by many different, sometimes informal hands.

Headings in red. Plain initials in red of various sizes (mostly 2-3 lines), sometimes with penwork decoration in the same colour (on f. 29 r in an initial a human head is drawn). On f. 4r the text of art. 1 opens with a 6-line zoomorphic initial “M” with two birds on a rectangular background. On f. 1r its preface opens with a 10-line historiated initial “A”, depicting St. Benedict explaining his rule to a monk, on a rectangular background. Both initials are in liquid gold, red, ocre and blue, and are followed by large display script in red, blue and ocre.

Binding s. XIX (?): parchment over pasteboard. On the flat spine the handwritten s. XIX inscription: “Regulae S. Benedicti et Kalendarium antiquum M.S.

The manuscript was copied at the abbey of Saint Mary of Vangadizza (Sancta Maria de Vangaditia, at Badia Polesina, province of Adria). On this institution, see P.F. Kehr, *Italia Pontificia*, v. 5 (Berlin, 1911), pp. 193-195. The unusual circumstances in which the Rule of St. Benedict (art. 1) was copied need further investigation. An erased ownership inscription “Io.

Petr. Lellius” is said to occur on f. 1r. “Ex Bibliotheca Cassano” (s. XIX note on front pastedown and partly legible pressmark on spine). Collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps (MS 24784; olim MS 2770). Sold to William H. Robinson, London (bookplate). Bookplate of “W.A. Foyle, Beeleigh Abbey”; the manuscripts from the collection of William Foyle (1885-1963) were sold at Christie’s, London, on 11 July 2000, lot 4. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

<u>Quires</u>	<u>folios</u>	<u>quire-marks</u>	<u>contents</u>
I-IX	1-61	+	artt. 1-5
X-XII	62-80	-	artt. 6-7

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Albert Derolez