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Italy, s. XIV

Jacobus de Alexandria, Commentary on the Metaphysics

1. ff. 1r-45v // [Prologue:] Omne quod est in potencia ad aliquam perfectionem naturaliter appetit perfici per ipsum ... quicquid autem defectus mee impertitiae [l. imperitiae] deputetur. *Explicit prologus. Incipit tractatus.* Omnes homines natura scire desiderant, etc. Huius libri Methaphisice primo capitulo probat necessitatem sciencie ex naturali desiderio quod inest hominibus ad scire, declarans hoc desiderium ex dilectione notitie sensitive ... et sic destruitur ordo entium, quod est impossibile; entia enim non volunt male disponi, nec est bonorum pluralitas principatum: unus ergo princeps est in ordine universi. § Explicit compilatio Methaphisice distincta capitulis, edita a fratre Iacobo de Alexandria, ordinis Fratrum Minorum, ad postulationem serenissimi principis domini Roberti, Iherusalem et Sicilie regis [Robert of Anjou, king of Sicily, 1319-1343].

Jacobus de Blanchis de Alexandria OFM (Giacomo Bianchi, s. XIV¹), *Commentum in XII libros Metaphysicorum Aristotelis*. G.E. Mohan, *Initia operum Franciscalium (XIII-XV s.)*. Franciscan Studies, 37 (1977), p. 262; C.H. Lohr, "Medieval Latin Aristotle Commentaries", *Traditio*, 26 (1970), p. 137.

2. ff. 45v-47v § Primum capitulum probat necessitatem sciencie ex naturali desiderio quod inest hominibus ad scire ... § Nonum et ultimum quod in natura universi est duplex bonorum, scilicet ordinis et principis, qui principes [l. princeps] est principium primum, quod natura non patitur plurificari, sed requirit ipsum esse unum. § Deo gratias. Amen. § Laus tibi, Christe, quoniam liber explicit iste.
f. 48 ruled but blank

Table of contents of art. 1.

3. ff. 49r-65v § // [C]onclusiones Methaphisice Aristotelis, quas ipse in hoc libro probare ac determinare assertive intendit, prout potero breviter compilabo ... In primo libro Methaphisice philosophus manifestat dignitatem huius sciencie quoad duo ... [f. 65r:] entia vero non volunt. 2. infert eandem ibi: unus ergo principes [l. princeps]. Cinita [l. Finita] iam collectione conclusionum illarum Methaphisice, quas assignare curabam, que sunt in universo 380, nunc superest solutiones dubitationum, que in principio undecimi libri mote fuerunt, subiungere ... totius dominique princeps unicus universi. Et quoniam ex ipso et per ipsum et in ipso sunt omnia, ipsi honor et gloria in secula seculorum. Amen.

Gonsalvus de Vallebona OFM (Gonsalvus Hispanus, c. 1255-1313), *Conclusiones Metaphysicæ Aristotelis*. M.C. Diaz y Diaz, *Index scriptorum Latinorum medii aevi Hispanorum*, v. 2 (Madrid,

1959), 1727; C.H. Lohr, "Medieval Latin Aristotle Commentaries", *Traditio*, 24 (1968), p. 168. *Joannis Duns Scoti opera omnia*, v. 6 (Paris, 1892), pp. 601-667.

4. ff. 66r-68v Incipit liber Methaphisice Aristotelis de separatis a materia secundum esse et rationem. § Tractatus primus est quod circa causas maxime utiles versatur scientia, et de eminentia eius et fine. § Capitulum primum de dignitate scientie in communi, per hoc quod ab omnibus similiter desideratur, et de huius probatione ... § Capitulum 5 de investigatione qualiter primum movens sit bonum *****.

Table of Contents of Aristoteles, *Metaphysica*.

Parchment, ff. II + 68 II, 210 x 150 mm. Uneven lower edges. The first and last page are dampstained, with loss of some text.

I-V¹² (ff. 1-60), VI⁸ (ff. 61-68). Short horizontal catchwords in the center, close to the lower edge. Running headlines on recto pages in art. 1, mentioning in arabic numerals the number of the Book commented in the opening.

Ruled with lead for two columns of 39 lines below top line. Ruling type 46, the horizontal lines crossing the intercolumnar space, c. 145 x c.107 mm., intercol. space 8 mm.

Copied in a small, highly abbreviated Gothica Semitextualis Libraria with southern features.

Numerous alternately red and blue paragraph marks. Alternately red and blue 2-line flourished initials with penwork in the opposite colours; there are 3-line initials of the same type at the beginning of each book in art. 1 and at the opening of art. 4 (in the latter case a red letter with mauve penwork). A 4-line flourished initial in the same colours with developed penwork at the opening of art. 1, and space for a similar one has been reserved at the opening of art. 3. There is space and there are instructions for the rubricator in view of the adding of headings in art. 2, but these have not been executed. The headings of artt. 1 and 3 have been deleted or rubbed off.

Binding s. XIX/XX, "Bound by Birdsall, Northampton" (blind-stamped inscription on the inside front cover): blond-tooled brown morocco over cardboard, spine with four raised bands. Gold-tooled title on spine in Gothic script: "Jacobus / Alexan/driae / Com-/pilatio / Metrice [*sic*] / distincta / Capitu-/lorum / MS. / xiv Cent."

The handwriting and the style of the penwork point to Italy as country of origin of this manuscript. Presented in 1945 by Rev. Frank A. Seifert to the Rare Book Room, Marygrove College Library, Detroit, Michigan; a pencil note in English on the front flyleaf r mentions "no. 2010" and erroneously identifies the author with the Syrian author James, bishop of Edessa (d. 708). The entire collection was sold at auction in April 2000. MS 217 in the collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley, California. Purchased from him on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

Bibliography:

Faye and Bond, p. 298.

Dizionario biografico degli Italiani, v. 10 (1968), pp. 101-103 (102).

R.13.01.12

Albert Derolez