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Italy, s. XV<sup>3/4</sup>

**Cicero, *De officiis***

1. ff. 1r-65r [Text:] *Marci T.C. de officiis liber primus incipit.* Quamquam te, Marce fili, iam annum audientem Cratippum (idque Athenis) abundare oportet preceptis institutisque philosophiæ propter summam doctoris auctoritatem ... [Gloss:] Scribens Cicero ad filium sibi cognomen premitens proemium reddit illum benivolum, docilem et attentum, ut patet in partibus exordii, cum nominat philosophiam aut officia ... [Text:] ... Vale ergo, mi Cicero, tibi que persuade te quidem esse mihi carissimum, sed multo fore cariorem, si talibus monimentis preceptisque letabere. AMHN. *Finis libri tertii et ultimi Ciceronis de officiis. Deo gratias. Feliciter finit.*

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.), *De officiis*. C. Atzert, ed. (Teubner, 1958). Interlinear and marginal glosses; the latter are extensive up to f. 39r. The same marginal gloss occurs in Subiaco, Biblioteca dell'Abbazia di S. Scolastica, MS 270 (s. XV), ff. 1r-37r; see P.O. Kristeller, *Iter Italicum*, v. 2 (Leiden, 3d ed. 1998), p. 173.

2. ff. 65v-67r Antonii Geminianensis oratio ad splendidum equitem Franciscum concivem coram populo et in foro habita feliciter. Nulla vos admiratio teneat, cives nobilissimi, cum in hoc magnifico collegio dominorum, in quo quidem gravissimi et eloquentissimi viri atque ad maximas quasque res gerendas aptissimi versantur ... Proinde nostra hæc arma ac signa nobilissima portato in omnem præturam sive alium magistratum, ac perpetuo constans iustitiam servato, ex qua, mihi crede, incredibilem gratiam et eternam gloriam consequere. Dixi.

Antonius Geminianensis (Antonio da San Gimignano), Latin oration in honour of Francesco Useppio appointed leader of the captains of the Guelf party in San Gimignano. The same oration occurs in Florence, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, MS Magl. XXXII, 39, f. 58r: P.O. Kristeller, *Iter Italicum*, v. 1 (London, 1965), p. 141 [the recipient is by Kristeller wrongly identified with Francesco Sforza].

3. f. 67r Disce ut semper victurus. / Vive ut cras moriturus. / Nobile vincendi genus est patientia. / Vincit qui patitur. / Si vis vincere disce pati.

Moral maxims.

Parchment, ff. II + 67 + II, 230 x 165 mm.

I-VI<sup>10</sup> (ff. 1-60), VII ..... Short horizontal catchwords in the inner margin.

The main text (art. 1) has rake ruling for one column of 31 lines above top line, the bounding lines traced in lead, the horizontal lines in pale brown ink. Ruling type 11 ..... Art. 2 has the same written area but a smaller number of lines (25-28).

The text of art. 1 is copied in Humanistica Textualis; the gloss in small Humanistica Cursiva Currens by two hands?? Art. 2 is written in Humanistica Cursiva Libraria s. XV/XVI. The short art. 3 is in Humanistica Cursiva s. XVI<sup>1</sup>.

Pink headings in Capitalis. The opening words of each Book after the initial are in alternately black and pink letters. Alternately red and blue 2-line plain initials (Capitalis). On ff. 29r (Book II) and 45r (Book III) 7-line white vinestem initials with partial left-margin border in the same style. On f. 1r 5-line white vinestem initial with border in the same style covering the upper and the inner margins; in the lower margin a coat of arms in a green wreath tied with fluttering grey-and-red ribbons; the coat of arms is azure, three bars argent.

French s. XIX/XX binding: blue morocco over pasteboard, the covers decorated with fillets in blind-tooling; spine with five raised bands and gold-tooled inscription "CICERO / DE / OFFICIIS".

The ruling as well as the style and colours of the decoration point to a center outside Florence. The manuscript belonged in the sixteenth century to a Quintilio Useppe or Useppio according to the inscription in Humanistica Cursiva on f. 67v: "Sylvia mi patria est, soboles Useppia fertur, / Nomine Quintilius doctor et ipse vocor". A member of the same family is honoured in art. 2. Collection of Ambroise Firmin-Didot (1790-1876; his small oval red leather gold-tooled ex-libris pasted on the front pastedown; his sale, Paris, June 1882, lot 36. Tenschert, *Leuchtendes Mittelalter*, VI (Katalog XXXI), 1993-1994, lot 69, pp. 360-364, 2 pls. A few s. XX/XXI notes in German on this manuscript, written in pencil on the flyleaves. Sotheby sale, 3 Dec. 2002, *Fifty Magnificent Illuminated Manuscripts*, lot 25. Purchased with the income of the Altschul Fund.