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MS 1039

Italy, s. XI

Gregory the Great, *Dialogus*

ff. 1r-178v // verbi indagacionem sotius. Qui gravi exquoqui cordis languore me intuens ait: Nunquidnam novi aliquid accidit, quod plus te solito meror tenet? Cui inquam: Meror, Petre, quem cotidie patior, et semper michi per usum vetus est, et per augmentum novus ... qui autem perfecte cor ab omni delectatione carnis excutiunt, constat nimirum quia eorum habitacula fetoris nebula non tanguntur. Et notandum quod isdem fetor esse et nebula visa sit, quia //

Gregorius Magnus (Gregory the Great, pope 590-604), *Dialogi*, I, 2 - IV, 38. CPL 1713. PL 77.149-389; A. de Vogüé, ed., *Sources chrétiennes*, v. 260 (1979), p. 10 - v. 265 (1980), p. 138. Book II begins ff. 63r (Capitula) and 64v (text), Book III ff. 110v (Capitula) and 111r (text), and Book IV ff. 149r (Capitula) and 150r (text). Two pages of text are missing between ff. 22 and 23. The text has been very intensely corrected on erasure or by writing text parts in the margins (e.g. ff. 78r, 80v, 89r, 89v, 154r; correction written in vertical sense ff. 109r, 135r), or by cutting a line of text away and rewriting the text (f. 89).

Parchment, ff. I (paper) + 178 + I (paper), 235 x 150 mm. Parchment of uneven quality; hairsides are often uncommonly dark; the lower corners of ff. 136 and 161 are defective.

I⁶ (ff. 1-6), II-III⁸ (ff. 7-22), IV⁸ (- 1, ff. 23-29), V-VI⁸ (ff. 30-45), VII⁶ (ff. 46-51), VIII-XXII⁸ (ff. 52-171), XXIII⁸ (- 8, ff. 172-178).

Very uneven layout. Pricking in upper, outer and lower margins and hard-point ruling for one column of script of a varying number of lines: on ff. 1-99 16-19 lines above top line; on ff. 100-178 27-33 lines. Double bounding lines.

Copied in late Carolingian handwriting by several often inexperienced and uneven hands, making many mistakes, that have been corrected by other hands.

The decoration lacks consistency. Indication of the interlocutors in Capitalis of various sizes, in red or black ink. 1-3 line initials in red or black, mostly plain; they may have some form of linear or vegetal decoration, sometimes quite developed, the red initials in the same colour, the black ones in red; typical is the partly red filling of black initials. Red chapter headings, from f. 154v onwards only.

S. XVIII limp parchment binding, sewn on three thongs. On the spine the handwritten inscription in typographic script "Vite di alcuni / S.S. / Anacoreti / in / Pergamena".

In the upper margin of f. 1r, in a s. XVII hand: "Vite d'alcuni SS. Anacoreti"; in the lower margin, by another hand of the same period: "Pertinet ad conventum sancti Francisci Sermonet." The manuscript at that time thus belonged to the Franciscan convent of Sermoneta (Lazio). On the front pastedown the s. XVII shelfmarks "R.II.20" (deleted) and "H.IV.9". On the spine a label with the s. XIX (?) number "9". Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

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