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Eastern France, s. XIV¹

Nicolaus de Byard, *Distinctiones*

1. ff. 1ra-157ra Absconditur malum a diabolo sub delectacione sicut pedica sub folio. Iob XVI. Abscondita est in terra pedica eius [Job 18:10] ... Sapiencie V: Accipiet armaturam zelus illius et armabit creaturam ad ulcionem inimicorum suorum [Wisd. Sol. 5:18]. Et Ioelis II: Zelatus est Dominus terram suam, etc. [Joel 2:18]. § Expliciunt distinctiones fratris Nycholai de Byard. Deo gracias. § Finito libro sit laus et gloria Christo. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Nicolaus de Byard (s. XIII^{med}), *Distinctiones*: an alphabetical repertory in aid of preachers. Stegmüller 5693-5694; Bloomfield 103-104. Within each letter of the alphabet the chapters are numbered with Roman numerals. Between ff. 84v and 85r the final part of the letter *L*, starting chapter 36, the entire letter *M* and the first part of the letter *N*, up to chapter 17, are missing. On the author, see *Dictionnaire de théologie catholique*, v. 11 (Paris, 1931), 589-592.

2. ff. 157ra-165ra § Incipiunt capitula distinctionum fratris Nicholai de Byard. [f. 157rb:] Absconditur malum, I. Abscondit homo peccatum suum, II. Abscondere non debet homo ... Zelotipus Christus est, I. Zelus Domini multiplex, II. Expliciunt capitula distinctionum fratris Nicholai de Byard. Deo gracias [part of the last sentence repeated by other hand].
f. 165rb and 165v originally blank

Alphabetical index to the chapters of art. 1.

Parchment (sheepskin), ff. 165, 200 x 155 mm. The bottom of the last folio is damaged and has at an early period been repaired by means of several pieces of parchment.

I¹² (ff. 1-12), II-VII⁸ (ff. 13-60), VIII-XII¹² (ff. 61-120), XIII¹⁴ (ff. 121-134), XIV-XVI⁸ (ff. 135-158), XVII⁶ (ff. 159-164). At least one quire is missing between quires IX and X. Horizontal catchwords at right, most of them lost at the trimming of the codex.

Pricking in the upper, lower and outer margins for two columns of 38 lines below top line. Ruling traced in brown ink, with single bounding lines and double horizontal through lines at the top and at the bottom of the writing area. All the horizontal lines cross the intercolumnar space. In art. 2 a second vertical line is generally added within each column to delimit the space for the opening letter of each heading.

Copied by several similar hands in small, highly abbreviated Northern Gothica Textualis Libraria verging to Semitextualis.

Alternately red and blue paragraph marks. Alternately 2-line red and blue flourished initials with penwork in the contrasting colour extending into the margin or the intercolumnar space, at the opening of each chapter. At the opening of each letter a 3 (from *T* onwards up to 6)-line littera duplex, half inset, ending in a J-stave in the left margin or in the intercolumnar space. On f. 1r the littera duplex has a more developed penwork decoration and ends in a border of J-staves in the left as well as in the upper margin. Guide letters in the margins.

S. XIX English binding: blue leather with artificial cross grain over pasteboard. Gold-tooled inscriptions in the compartments of the spine: “LIBER DE / DISTINC. / DE BYARD”, “M.S.S.”, “ARE [AGE?] 1350”. The damaged state of the final leaf of the manuscript shows that the original binding probably was chained at a staple fixed to the lower edge of the rear board. The original rear pastedown was a leaf from a liturgical manuscript with music, as appears from the offset on f. 165v.

On f. 165rb, in s. XV Gothica Cursiva Libraria (Bastarda): “Expliciunt distinctiones fratris Biardi ordinis Fratrum Minorum, et pertinent //” [the name of friar Mathias of the Franciscan convent at Beaune has been read under UV-light]. Below, by another hand in the same script: “Waltherus episcopus Sedunensis acquisivit presentem librum a suprascripto fratre precio trium ducatorum”. Between the two inscriptions the unidentified modern monogram “GP”. The manuscript was acquired from a Franciscan at the convent of Beaune by Walter Supersaxo, bishop of Sion (Switzerland) 1457-1482. Collection of Henry B. Fernald, Upper Montclair, N.J. Acquired 1987 by Fred Schreiber (E.K. Schreiber Early Printed Books and Manuscripts, New York). Purchased from him the same year on The Library Associates Fund and Gift of George P. and Mary P. Milmine.