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Italy, s. XV^{med}

Sts Basil of Ancyra and John Chrysostom, in the Latin transl. of Ambrogio Traversari

1. pp. 1-2 Domino venerabili atque omni caritatis officio suscipiendo patri Gabrieli Ambrosius. Prolixum librum sancti Basilii Cesariensis episcopi, viri profecto gravissimi, de vera integritate virginitatis inscriptum ex Greco converti ... venerationem tuam Christus Deus noster omnipotens quietam ac tranquillam evo longiore tueatur, domine venerabilis ac desiderabilis pater.

Ambrosius Camaldulensis (Ambrogio Traversari, 1386-1439), Prologue to art. 2, addressed to Gabriel Condulmerius (Condulmer, Condolmiero, afterwards pope Eugenius IV, 1431-1447). Bertalot, *Initia (Prosa)* E. Martène, U. Durand, edd., *Veterum scriptorum ... amplissima collectio*, v. 3 (Paris, 1724), 700-701.

2. pp. 3-151 *Basilii de bono virginitatis*. Cum plurimi ex his, qui immortalem sponsum nostrum familiarius ambiunt quosque ad considerationem vere honestatis celestis vulneravit amor ... ut iuxta propositam virginitatis destinationem omni nequam ac turpi concupiscentia omnique voluptate superiores evadentes, per continentie sacra certamina proposito certantibus premio immortalitatisque corona digni inveniamur per Ihesum Christum, per quem est Patri gloria cum Sancto Spiritu in secula seculorum. Amen.
Explicit de vera integritate virginitatis sanctissimi viri Basilii Cesariensis episcopi liber ad Letoium Militensem episcopum feliciter.

Basilii Ancyranus (St Basil of Ancyra, d. after 360, Ps.-Basilii Caesariensis), *De vera integritate virginitatis*. *Clavis Patrum Graecorum* 2827. PG 30.669-810, in the Latin translation of Ambrosius Camaldulensis, composed 1423-1424.

3. pp. 152-155 Domino amantissimo ac merito venerabili patri Matheo Ambrosius. Exegisti a me iure tuo, senex optime atque suavissime, ut exercicii causa aliquid sacrarum litterarum ex Greco converterem ... ita tamen, ut pro isto qualicumque labore meo amplissimum semper orationum tuarum munus abs te reposci intelligas. *Explicit prefatio.*

Ambrosius Camaldulensis, Prologue to art. 4, addressed to Matthew, prior of the convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Florence. Bertalot, *Initia (Prosa)* 7127. E. Martène, U. Durand, edd., *Veterum scriptorum ... amplissima collectio*, v. 3 (Paris, 1724), 697-698.

4. pp. 155-236 *Ioannis Crisostomi summi atque sanctissimi viri adversus vituperatores vite monastice liber primus incipit*. Cum templum illud pervetustum et percelebre, quod Iherosolimis fuerat multis annis eversum atque solo adequatum, longissima ex captivitate redeuntes erigere atque instaurare Hebrei cuperent ... nec modo facta laudabis, verum ipse quoque, si te parum colligere volueris, citius ipsius emulus atque imitator eris, ducem et magistrum habens virtutis atque probitatis filium. *Explicit liber secundus ad infidelem patrem.*

Iohannes Chrysostomus (St John Chrysostom, c. 345-407), *Adversus oppugnatores vitae monasticae. Clavis Patrum Graecorum* 4307. PG 47.319-348, in the Latin translation of Ambrosius Camaldulensis, composed 1420.

Parchment (goatskin), ff. I + 118, 185 x 125 mm. Paginated in pencil 1-236.

I-XI¹⁰ (pp. 1-220), XII⁸ (pp. 221-236). Horizontal catchwords in the center, between two or four flourishes.

Rake ruling for one column of 25 lines above top line, the horizontal lines traced in grey-brown ink, the single bounding lines, mostly invisible, in lead, 115 x 69 mm. Above the top line, a horizontal through line has been added, traced in lead. Ruling type 12.

Copied by one scribe, writing a small Humanistica Semitextualis with Gothic (Uncial) *d* and a few other Gothic features.

Pale red rubrics. Text undecorated, with the following exceptions: plain 2-4-line initials (Capitalis) in red or blue on pp. 1, 152, 155, 188; on p. 3 5-line white vinestem initial integrated in a three-margins-left border in the same style; its lower section is free-standing and contains the coat of arms of the Barbo family crowned by a mitre. The initial and border have been attributed by Albinia C. de la Mare to Giovanni d'Antonio Varnucci (1416-1457).

S. XIX/XX binding in brown morocco over cardboard. Both covers are blind-tooled with frames of fillets and four different flower tools. Spine with five raised bands. Sprinkled edges.

Made for a bishop of the Barbo family. At the top of f. Ir the s. XV² inscription in Humanistic script "Basilius de bono virginitatis, littera D. V". On the parchment rear pastedown the s. XX pencil inscription "DXRRJJNA". Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

Bibliography:

R.G. Babcock, M. L. Sosower, *Learning from the Greeks: An Exhibition Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Founding of the Aldine Press* (New Haven, 1994), p. 29, no. 33.

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