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MS 846

Germany, s. XII²

Gregory the Great, *Regula pastoralis*

f. 1r blank except for notes

ff. 1v-93r Prologus. Pastoralis curę me pondera fugere delitescendo voluisse benigna, frater karissime, atque humillima intentione reprehendis; que, ne quibusdam levia esse videantur, presentis libri stilo exprimo de eorum gravedine omne quod penso, ut et hec qui vacat incaute non expetat, et qui incaute expetit [*corr. from expetiit*] adeptum se esse pertimescat ... a precipitationis sue ausibus in ipsa locutionis nostre ianua repellantur. [f. 2r, text:] *Incipit liber pastoralis Gregorii pape urbis Rome ne venire imperiti ad magisterium audeant*. Nulla ars doceri presumitur nisi intenta prius meditatione discatur ... Sed in huius queso vite naufragio orationis tue me tabula sustinet, ut, quia pondus proprium deprimit, tui me meriti manus levet. f. 93v blank except for notes.

Gregorius Magnus (Gregory the Great, pope 590-604), *Regula pastoralis*. CPL 1712. PL 77.13-128; F. Rommel, ed., *Sources Chrétiennes*, vv. 381-382 (Paris, 1992), pp. 124-540. Corrections of scribal errors in the text and in the margins, the latter partly trimmed; very extensive in the outer margins of ff. 44v, 67r, 78r.

Parchment, ff. III + 93 + II, 205 x 140 mm. The outer side of the quires is hair side. Holes and defective corners, many repaired; the lower margins of ff. 63 and 91-92 are repaired by means of a strip of parchment; the lower margin of f. 93 is cut off. The manuscript is heavily trimmed at the top. First and last pages very soiled.

I-XI⁸ (ff. 1-88), XII⁶ (-6, probably blank; ff. 89-93). Signatures "I"- "VIII" in the middle of the lower margin of the last page of quires I-IX; in quires I-V they are placed in a dotted circle or in a lozenge-shaped decorative frame (f. 32v); in the other quires they are undecorated.

Full pricking in the outer margins. Lead ruling (sometimes quite uneven) for one column of 32 lines above top line. Ruling type 13, c. 165 x c. 90 mm.

Copied by various scribes writing Prae Gothica, difficult to distinguish from each other because of the uneven level of execution of their hands. It appears that Hand A copied ff. 1v-16v (quires I-II); hand B probably ff. 17r-72v (quires III-IX); in the next quires there are more frequent changes of hands and the latter tend to become irregular and less careful.

Headings in red, missing from f. 12v onwards. 1-3-line plain initials in red of various shades. On f. 1v very large (c. 25 lines) decorated Romanesque initial "P" in red.

English s. XIX de luxe binding: gold-tooled green morocco over cardboard; each cover framed by rich gold-tooling imitating the decorated initial on f. 1v; turn-ins gold-tooled. Gold-tooled spine with repeated motif in the same style and title: "GREGORII / PASTORALIS / M.S.". Gilt edges.

On f. 1r various contemporary and later notes, mostly faded and hard to read: (1) in large Prae Gothica of the early thirteenth century: "Pastorale beati Gregorii pape (?) quod attentius est legendum"; "Bonum est confiteri Domino et psallere" [Ps. 91:2]; (2) in very small script: "ecclesie ***** Merseburgensis (?); (3) in script s. XIII: "Pastorale Gregorii pape etc." Belonged to the Benedictine abbey of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Merseburg (Saxony), founded in 1091, as especially appears from partially erased notes: on ff. 93v "Sancti [Petri in Merse]burg; "Iste liber ///// extra muros sancti [Petri in Mersebur]g ; on f.43v, in the lower margin, legible under ultraviolet light: "Sancto Petro Alexander monachus in Merseburg". On its library, see K. Manitius, "Die Bibliothek des Petersklosters in Merseburg", *Deutsches Archiv*, 20 (1964), pp. 190-209; 10 surviving manuscripts (not including the present manuscript) are listed in Krämer, *Handschriftenerbe*, pp. 572-573. The monk Alexander, who in the early thirteenth century donated this manuscript to his abbey, is also recorded in two other manuscripts, Dresden, Landesbibliothek, MSS A 167^a and Dc 171^a. In the collections of John Bryant of London (see the note on the second front flyleaf r: "of Bryant, London. 1830"); Guglielmo Libri (1803-1869; his sale at Sotheby's London, March-April 1859, no. 433 and pl. 26); Sir Thomas Phillipps (MS 14872; from Quaritch). Purchased from H.P. Kraus, New York, with the income of the Starling W. Childs Fund.

Bibliography:

R.G. Babcock, "Alexander Monachus and the Library of St. Peter's in Merseburg", *Scriptorium*, 64 (2010), pp. 275-280 and pls. 42-44.

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