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MS 914

Northern Italy, c. 1460

Pope Pius II, *Responsio ad oratores regis Francorum*

ff. 1r-20v *Responsio Pii ad oratores regis Francorum*. Responsuri verbis vestris, insignes oratores, que superioribus diebus ad nos habita, longe plura continuerunt quam scripta nobis postmodum reddita, non audemus cum [*this word added above the line*] Salvatore nostro dicere: Quis vestrum de peccato nos arguet [Jn. 8:46]? Sumus enim peccatores ... Quod si rex vester opera vestra fecerint [*sic*], et vos mercedem [*sic*] prophete recipietis a Domino, et ipse par suis progenitoribus ac maior per omnes orbis ecclesias, et in Romana potissimum, iure merito et erit et vocabitur Christianissimus. Explicit.

Pius II papa (Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, pope 1458-1464), *Responsio ad oratores regis Francorum*. J.D. Mansi, ed., *Pii II Senensis orationes* (Lucca, 1757), v. 2, pp. 40- [not seen]; *Sacrorum conciliorum nova et amplissima collectio*, v. 32 (Paris, 1901), 230-251; C. Corvisieri, ed., *Fonti per la Storia d'Italia. Scrittori*, v. 7 (1890), pp. 233-264 (falsely dated 1462).

Paper, ff. 20, 240 x 170 mm., ... folding. Watermark Scissors, var. Briquet 3698?? Upper margins waterstained.

I⁸ (ff. 1-8), II-III⁶ (ff. 9-20). Vertical catchwords written in the wrong direction (upwards).

Rake ruling for one column of 30 lines below top line, the vertical lines traced in lead, the horizontal ones in pale brown ink. Ruling type 11.

Copied by a single hand writing a small Gothica Hybrida Libraria/Currens under Humanistic influence.

Heading in pale brown ink. Opening word in capitals and marginal captions in pale red ink. 3-line pale red initial on f. 1r.

Binding s. XX: plain parchment over pasteboard.

The present manuscript was probably copied soon after the oration was held at the council of Mantua in 1459. The Pope had requested the help of the Christian rulers for a crusade against the Turks. The King of France Charles VII refused his support unless the Pope would favour the candidature of René of Anjou to the throne of Naples and Sicily against the pretensions of Ferdinand I of Aragon. In the present oration, the Pope explains why he regrets to deny René's claim and supports Ferdinand. On the front pastedown "MS 219" in a circle, in pencil. Catalogue Sotheby's London, 6 July 2000, lot 64. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.