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MS 918

Northern France, s. XIII

French prose romance (fragm.)

ff. 1r-4v //veir. Lors commanda li roys a chercher totes les reubes a femmes qu'il avoient occises. Si troverent desous les reubes II testes de serpent; si les comanda li roys a ardoir ... Ilh respondirent qu'ilh estoient Juif, la gens Dieu, qu'il estoient issus de sa terre au tens Seneke le roy d'Assur. Li messagé [f. 2r:] retournerent et le dissent au roy. Et li roys en ot grant joie. Si envoya Manesier l'escrivent por parler a els et pour demander s'il et toute sa gent passeroient par leur terre ... Li roys respondi: Ja parce ne demeure. Je sui circoncis, je irai parler a els. Li roys ala parler aus Juis. Si les trova qu'il demoroient [f. 3r:] dedens les pavillons, ki estoient taint de toutes manieres de colours. Si vint au pavillon ou ilh trova I viel home, ki se seioit devant son pavillon et tenoit son livre en sa main ... Que faites-vous tous les jours de la samaine? Et li preudons li responds: Nous ne faisons fors lire e aprendre toute [f. 4r:] la samaine la loy. Et quant se vint a samedi, si mengons des melleurs viandes que nous poons avoir et nous aisons tout le jour dusques a none ... Si vint I hons a li qui bien avoit XII annes de louch, et li dist: Porcoi te merveilles-tu tant de ceste manne? Li roy li respondi: Porce que je en sui trop mala//

Fragment of an unidentified prose romance in French about a king (Alexander?) travelling with his army in the East and meeting with Jewish culture.

Parchment, ff. 4, 220 x 135 mm. Damaged by moist and a hole in the inner column of ff. 2 and 4, causing the loss of some text.

Binio. In the lower margin of f. 1r, mark consisting of three parallel strokes in lead. If this is a quire mark on the opening page of quire III, and the four leaves are indeed consecutive, this quire should from the outset have been a binio.

Pricking and crayon ruling for two columns of 21 lines above top line. There are six prickings in the upper as well as in the lower margin and the bounding lines are double at the outer side of the columns, single at their inner side. There are no through lines and the horizontal lines cross the intercolumn.

Copied by a single hand in Northern Gothica Textualis Formata.

Red paragraph marks and red heightening of the majuscules.

The leaves have been folded parallel to their short side to be used as a cover for an archival register, f. 3v being at the outer side as appears from the smudging around the fold and the s. XVII inscriptions in black ink written on what was the front cover, parallel to the long side of the

leaf: "Roidarum personarum bo*****" and, in large script "Fictus". MS 207 in the collection of Bernard M. Rosenthal, Berkeley (CA). Purchased from him.