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Germany, s. XV¹

Vitae patrum

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1. f. 1v *I. Contra castrimargiam de vincendis etc. II. Contra philargiriam de perfecta abrenunciacione. III. Nichil dolendum monacho si quid perdidit ... LXXII. De optima conversacione sanctorum. LXXIII. De vita Abrahe heremite et conversacione sive penitencia Marie neptis eius. LXXIV. De vita Marie Egyptiace. Expliciunt capitula.*

Table of contents of artt. 2-12.

2. ff. 2r-19v *Incipit liber de vita patrum. Quid admiramini (I. Quidam frater) quemadmodum in cella propria degere deberet abbatem Sisoï requisivit. Cui respondit: Conmede, inquam, panem tuum et salem, et non sit tibi necessitas aliquid excoquendi ... Tunc coram astantibus commonuit fratrem accipere mercedem suam et dispensare eam sicut vellet. Ille vero ibat tristis et plorans.*

Excerpts from *Verba seniorum*, book 7. BHL 6531. PL 73.1025-1062. The chapters are numbered 1-52, but chapters 6 (“De vilitate vestium”), 20 (“De obediencia”), 25 (“De transitu perfectorum”), 30-36 (“De oracione”, “Quod omnibus virtutibus oracio maiorem laborem haberit [sic]”, “Quod ubique oracio premitenda sit propter insidias bis et concio”, “De iugitate orandi”, “Quia et manducando potest orare quis”, “De viducia perfectorum in oracione”, “Quod oracio viri perfecti eciam mortuis prosit”), 47 (“De quieta vita”) and 52 (“Non debere de cenobio in cenobium mutare”) are not found in the edition.

3. ff. 19v-22r *Interrogaciones vel responsiones Egypciorum patrum, quas de Greco in Latinum transtulit Martinus episcopus in monasterio Domensi. Abbas Iohannes dicebat ad discipulos suos: Patres manducantes panem tantum et salem fortes facti sunt in opere Dei ... cooperiendo delicta eorum et que audiebat vel videbat tamquam si non videns et non audiens.*

Excerpts from *Sententiae Aegyptiorum patrum*, in the Latin translation by Martinus Bracarenensis (Martin of Braga, s. VI²). BHL 6535; CPL 1079c. PL 74.381-392; C.W. Barlow, ed. *Martini episcopi Bracarenensis opera omnia* (New Haven, 1950), pp. 30-51. The text is divided into two chapters, numbered 53 and 54; the heading of the latter, “De ne loquendo de Scripturis si quis non interrogat”, does not well fit the contents.

4. f. 22r-v *Monachus quidam morabatur Egypcius in suburbano Constantinopolitane civitatis, et dum Theodosius imperator iunior transiret per viam illam, reliquit omnes ... tu autem in parvo tempore salvam fecisti in paciencia animam tuam. Et ex illo die factus est senex sobrius et probatus.*

Excerpts from *Verba seniorum*, book 5. BHL 6527. PL 73.965-973.

5. ff. 22v-23v *De Thasi peccatrice. Fuit quedam meretrix Thasis tante pulchritudinis, ut pene multi propter eam cum venditis substanciis suis ad ultimam venerunt paupertatem ... et cum eam inde eduxisset, quindecim dies supervixit tantum, et pausavit feliciter in pace.*

Vita sanctae Thaisis. BHL 8012. PL 73.661-662. The chapter is numbered 55.

6. ff. 23v-29r *In nomine Domini nostri Ihesu Christi incipiunt adhortaciones sanctorum patrum perfectorum monachorum, quas de Greco in Latinum transtulit beatus Ieronimus, sancte memorie presbiter. Interrogavit quidam frater abbatem Antonium, dicens: Quid custodiens placebo Domino? ... ideoque dico, frater, quod monachus numquam debet, quamvis suasus ab aliquo, egredi de cella sua, etc.*

Excerpts from *Verba seniorum*, book 5. BHL 6527. PL 73.855-900. The text more or less corresponds to seven headings in the Table of Contents (art. 1), numbered 56-62, but only the headings of chapters 56 (“De diversis exortacionibus sanctorum patrum”) and 59 (“De continencia. Incipiunt diverse relaciones sanctorum patrum pro cautela que adhibenda est contra insurgencia in nos bella fornicacionis”, f. 25v) are found in the text .

7. ff. 29r-30r *De Marina virgine*. Frater quidam erat secularis, habens unicam filiam parvulam. Ipse vero conversari cupiens commendavit eam cuidam parenti ... ingressi in oratorium ubi corpus eius requiescebat benedixerunt Dominum. Ubi usque modo Deus oracionibus sancte virginis multa facit mirabilia.

Vita sanctae Marinae virginis. BHL 5528. PL 73.691-694. The chapter is numbered 63.

8. ff. 30r-53r Frater quidam dixit abbati Arsenio: Quid facio, abba, quia affligit me cogitacio mea, dicens quia non potes ieiunare neque laborare ... in quem se merserit locum vel quo fine defecerit, ad nullius potuit noticiam pervenire.

Excerpts from *Verba seniorum*, book 5. BHL 6527. PL 73.900-985. Subdivided into 7 chapters, numbered 64-70.

9. ff. 53-59r Dixit quidam senex, quia duo fratres erant ei vicini, unus peregrinus, et alius incola ... quare usque in hodiernum diem non exquisisti eum, dum adhuc tibi splendor erat diei? Nunc autem in hac hora non est tibi porcio spei neque consolacionis.

Excerpts from *Verba seniorum*, book 6. BHL 6529. PL 73.994-1012. Chapters numbered 71-73.

10. ff. 59r-62v *Incipit prologus <in> vitam Onufrii*. Beati igitur Onufrii vitam inter Grecorum commenta scriptam nuper repperi ... celeste regnum districte vivendo sibimet hereditavit. *Explicit prologus Onufrii. Incipit vita sancti Onufrii heremite. Capitulum LXXIII*. Beate memorie Pafnucius quedam cogitacionum et actuum suorum secreta taliter reseravit, dicens: Quadam vero die, dum ego Pafnucius solus tacitusque sederem ... ibidem beneficia eius prestantur usque in presentem diem ad laudem et gloriam Domini nostri Ihesu Christi, cui est honor et potestas in secula seculorum. Amen.

Vita sancti Onuphrii. BHL 6336. PL 73.211-220. Not recorded in the Table of Contents (art. 1).

11. ff. 62v-69r *De vita Abrahe heremite et conversacione sive penitencia Marie neptis eius*. Fratres mei, cupio vobis enarrare conversacionem bonam perfecti atque admirabilis viri Abraham ... sincera institutione spiritaliter complevit, et ita migravit ad Dominum, cui est honor et virtus in secula seculorum. Amen.

Vita sancti Abrahae eremita. BHL 12. PL 73.281-292 + 651-658. Is chapter 73 in the Table of Contents (art. 1).

12. ff. 69r-75r *Incipit prologus in vitam sancte Marie Egyptiace*. Secretum regis celare hominem [*sic*] bonum est, opera vero Dei revelare et confiteri honorificum est ... tempus itaque est sacre narrationis perdere [*sic*] initium. *Explicit prologus. Incipit vita sancte Marie Egyptiace*. Fuit quidam senex in Palestine monasterio virtute et verbo decoratus, qui ex ipsis cunabilis [*sic*] monachicis nutritus est moribus ... et repletus desiderii sue voluntate de hoc seculo migravit ad Dominum, cui est laus et honor in secula seculorum. Amen. *Explicit de vita Marie Egyptiace*.

Vita sanctae Mariae Aegyptiaca. BHL 5417. *Florilegium Casinense*, v. 3 (Monte Cassino, 1877), pp. 226-235. Is chapter 74 in the Table of Contents (art. 1).

Artt. 1-12. Selected parts and sections of the hagiographical collection known as *Vitae patrum*, copied and numbered as one unit without interruptions. A manuscript with almost the same content is Augsburg, Staats- und Stadtbibliothek, MS 2° Cod 47. Marginal notes and pointing hands.

13. f. 75r Abbas quidam ut puto de ordine nigro, sicut ex relatione cuiusdam ordinis nostri didici, hospitalis erat valde et circa pauperes misericors multum ... portarius, cum esset laicus, nomina eadem retinuit, abbati et fratribus audita recitavit; resumpta est hospitalitas et cepit eis mox Dominus benedicere ut prius.
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Caesarius de Heisterbach O.Cist.(c. 1180-c. 1240), *Dialogus miraculorum*, 4.68 (except the final part). J. Strange, ed. (Cologne, Bonn, Brussels, 1851), pp. 236-237.

Paper, ff. 75, 300 x 220 mm. In-folio folding. Watermark: bull's head Parchment stays in the center of the quires.

I-VI¹² (ff. 1-72), VII⁴ (- 4, ff. 73-75).

Frame ruling in pale brown ink (bounding lines) and lead (horizontal lines) for two columns of c. 46 lines, c. 223 x c. 150 mm., intercolumnar space 16 mm.

Copied by one hand, writing Gothica Hybrida Libraria/Currens.

Red headings and stroking of majuscules. Red plain and some flourished initials, the latter with black penwork, of various sizes. At the head of art. 2, large littera duplex in red and black, with developed geometrical penwork in black ink, at the right and lower sides framed by the opening words in large Gothica Textualis Formata, written in vertical and horizontal sense.

Original binding: blind-tooled (fillets) white leather over bevelled wooden boards (the front board broken and repaired), sewn on three split leather thongs. On each board five small brass bosses. Marks of two leather straps fixed to the rear board with small decorated brass plates, and with pins in rectangular brass plates in the middle of the front board. At the top of the front cover rectangular parchment label with contemporary inscription "8 (in red). Vitas patrum" and another smaller label with the number "4". At the top of the spine a s. XVII (?) paper label with damaged handwritten title "Liber / de / Vitis / Patr."

At the top of the front pastedown there is a note s. XV on how Christians are responsible for the Passion of Christ by committing sins, beginning "***** sustinuit enim Dominus in humanitate passionem et mortem ab ipsis, ita adhuc sane [?] multi falsi Christiani *** patitur spiritualiter [?]. Quidam vendunt eum, scilicet qui corpus eius indigne sumunt. Quidam in faciem eius spumant, scilicet qui false iurant. Quidam flagellant eum ..."; other contemporary notes: "Utinam essem unus virorum contemplativorum istorum!" (another hand added: "sine labore"); "Utinam essem bonus clericus!"

At the top of f. 1r, in s. XV Gothica Hybrida Libraria: "Iste liber est Carthusiensium prope Memmingen Augustinensis dyocesis"; in the upper margin of f. 2r, in a s. XVII hand: "Cartusianorum in Buxheim", with an ownership mark consisting of a cross in a circle. The manuscript belonged to the convent of Buxheim near Memmingen, which became a charterhouse in 1402. See about the surviving manuscripts Krämer, *Handschriftenerbe*, pp. 131-143. The codex is probably the one recorded in the c. 1450 catalogue, ed. by Paul Ruf in *Mittelalterliche Bibliothekskataloge Deutschlands und der Schweiz*, v. 3 (1932), p. 98, with the pressmark H 8 (see the title label on the binding) and the title "Vitas patrum, volumen". After the suppression of the convent in 1803 the collection became successively the possession of Count von Ostein, his sister Countess von Hatzfeld (1809), Count Friedrich Karl Waldbott von Bassenheim (1810) and his descendants. Auctioned in Munich by Karl Förster, 20 Sept. 1883, lot 2800. Armorial bookplate of Victor von Klemperer (1876-1942), with printed inscription "Bücherei Nr." followed by "2149" in handwriting. On f. 1r a slip of paper has been pasted containing a short typewritten description of the manuscript in German. Sotheby sale 18 June 1991, lot 110. Bought by Quaritch. Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, J.R. Ritman (small oval bookplate on front pastedown and inscription in pencil "BPH 197" on rear pastedown. At the bottom of the front pastedown also the inscriptions "26481 MILW" (s. XIX) and "CLXX". Sotheby sale ..., lot 16. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

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