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Gene 1968

PETRUS COMESTOR: "Historia Scholastica"  
Ms 686 frag. # 2

DESCRIPTION

Parchment. Double columns, 46 lines per column. Chapter headings in red ink. Wide spaces between lines, wide margins. No unusual abbreviations but, a fairly large number of them.

Used in reinforcing binding. On margin of f.1<sup>rb</sup> appears, XVI/XVII century hand capitals, as "sifted-through" title: DISPUTAT. IURIDICAE. f.1<sup>ra</sup>, and consequently f.1<sup>vb</sup>, has been impaired by trimming (readings of the damaged columns are given on page 2 of this report).

Contents: Liber Exodi, cap. VIII-XIV/XV. The columnar "incip." and "explic." is listed separately (page 1 of this report).

On the margin of f.1<sup>va</sup> appears what MPL calls "additio 1: versus de decem plagis" (page 8 of this report).

Dating and provenience: written in a late XII century hand probably in Southeastern Germany (Austria).

THE HANDWRITING

A very similar handwriting is given as specimen, by Kirchner, who says:

" In andern deutschen Ländern (i.e., nicht Westdeutsche), wo der französische Einfluss nicht so schnell eindrang, (ist) die Form der Buchstaben noch nicht völlig im Sinne der gotischen Minuskel umgestaltet.

Als Beispiel diene eine aus dem Kloster Lambach stammende Handschrift der zweiten Hälfte des 12. Jahrhunderts" (1)

The two letters which characterize this hand are the (d) and the (s).

The letter (d): There is made use of both, the minuscule (d) as well as the uncial (d), main forms of this letter. The uncial form, moreover, shows many variants both in degree and direction of curvature. This letter clearly seems to be in an unstable stage.

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(1) - Crou, E. and Kirchner, J. "Die Gotischen Schriftarten", Leipzig, (1928), p. 10 and Abb. 5

The letter (s): appears in both its long and round shape ; the latter form only at the end of a word unless when used as abbreviation. Also as final appears a form that can be called "semi-long" or "semi-round".

double (i): the short form is constant when this letter is doubled. The placing of lines above the doubled letter is also constant. At no other instance is the (i) lined.

The other letters present no outstanding features though mention ought to be made of the letter (z), used in the fragment, rather rare in Latin texts.

The marginal writing, ("versus de decem plagis", f.1<sup>va</sup>), although it presents characteristics not apparent in the writing of the main text, (this happening mainly with the lines of letters (b), (d), (l), (p) and long(s) which show extreme curvature or abrupt turnings <sup>yet it</sup> seems to be by the same hand.

#### THE TEXT

##### a) Critical edition (pages 3-7 of this report)

The following Manuscripts and editions have been used in establishing the "apparatus criticus" :

A = Ms # 120 (123 folios covering through "Liber III Regum, cap. XXX), XII century.

B = Ms # 121 (complete version. From the conventual library of Ochsenhausen), XIV century.

I = Incun. (Libri Ecclesiastica Historie...impressi in inclyta ciuitate Argentineñ...Anno...Millesimo Quingentesimo xiiij die Marcij) (XV/XVI century, 1500)

M = Migne Patrologia Latina, (vol. 198, col. 1053-1721) XIX century.

##### b) Commentary

1) a close examination of the "apparatus criticus" shows that fragment # 2 is closely related to manuscript B. This fact seems to underline the existence of a SE-germanic manuscript line.

2) A, the oldest text, seems to diverge most from fragment # 2. Since these two texts are closely contemporaneous, the dis-

crepant readings between them should be carefully noted.

These observations lead to the question of text-deliverance.

According to Manitius, "Die älteste bekannte Abschrift ist Paris. 16943, im Jahr 1183 in Corbie geschrieben und mit grösseren Scholien versehen...In alten Katalogen wird das Werk in der Frühzeit nicht häufig erwähnt, so s.XII in Tournai und teilweise in Limoges(?)." (2)

Neither text A nor fragment # 2 have any scholia. If to this fact be added the already commented discrepancy between these two manuscripts, is it not safe to assume that one, or possible even both texts, stem from a different copy than Paris.16943? In case this be so, how is such a proliferation of copies, and within the XII century, possible?

The existence of fragment # 2 and of Manuscript A, both XII century copies, is an immediate refutation to Manitius. What is important, therefore, is to try to establish the manuscript-delivery tradition as well as determine what manuscript ante-dates the year 1183. This will be the basic undertaking of any potential editor of Petrus Comestor and for this initial problem, fragment # 2 is of extreme importance.

As for textual variants, or choice of specific readings, this will only be possible after a respectable manuscript has been established. Fragment # 2 cannot have any direct value for that type of undertaking being but a very limited text of a voluminous work.

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(2).- Manitius, M, "Geschichte der Lateinischen Literatur des Mittelalters",  
(Dritter Teil), München MCMXXXI, p.158

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|                   |                                |      |       |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|-------|
| f.1 <sup>ra</sup> | ...nostro scio tamen quia...   | col. | 1146B |
|                   | ... iam Moyses non enim        | "    | 1147B |
| f.1 <sup>rb</sup> | credendum est his ...          | "    | 1147B |
|                   | ... pro eis et quod pro his    | "    | 1148A |
| f.1 <sup>va</sup> | condignam non acceperit...     | "    | 1148A |
|                   | ...Caath Amram et Ysuar filius | "    | 1148D |
| f.1 <sup>vb</sup> | Ysuar Chore filii Amram...     | "    | 1149A |
|                   | ... in Nilo aqua fuerit i(n)   | "    | 1149D |

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f.1<sup>ra</sup>

...nostro; scio tamen quia non dimittet  
 (uos nisi per manum ualidam) et percutiam Egyptum in mi-  
 (rabilibus meis. Nec e) xibitis uacui, sed postulabi  
 (tis ab Egyptiis et conce) llaneis uestris uasa preciosa  
 5) (et uestes, et spoliab) itis Egyptum. Dicunt Hebrei  
 (postulasse ut don) o darent, sed uerius est quod mutuo.  
 (Excusantur autem per prec) eptum Dei.

f.1<sup>vb</sup>

Ysuar, Chore; filii Amram (de Iocabed, Aaron,)  
 Moyses et Maria. Accepit a(utem Aaron uxorem)  
 Elisabeth filiam Aminadab, (sororem Naasson,)   
 que peperit Nadab et Abiud, (Eleazar et Ithamar.)  
 5) Eleazar accepit uxorem de (filiabus Phanuel que)  
 peperit ei Finees; iste est Moy(ses, et Aaron, quibus lo-)  
 cutus est Dominus in terra Egypti. (Hoc addidit Esdras,  
 ut quidam dicunt. Vel Moyses de (se, tamquam de alio locutus est.)

DE MUTATIONE UIRGARUM ( IN COLUBRUM)

.....

Egyptiis uero non solum colore, sed (etiam sapore ama-)  
 45) ro, cruorem prefererat. Unde p(otius uidetur, quod alibi)  
 quam in Nilo aqua fuerit i(n Egypto...)

Note.- Readings in parentheses supplied from text M.

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f.1<sup>rb</sup>

- Credendum est his qui dicunt alterum remansisse cum Ietro, cum supra ait liberos. Tulit ilico Sephora acutissimam petram, et circumcidit prepuccium filii sui, tetigitque pedes eius, et ait: sponsus sanguinum tu
- 5) mihi est; et dimisit eum postquam dixerat hoc. Ut ait Augustinus, locus iste obscurus est pro sui breuitate. Ubi ergo, ait, "tetigit pedes suis", sanguis tetigit pedes pueri, uel angeli. Unde irata uiro ait: Esne uir sanguinum, id est, an ex coniugio tuo tantum scelus teneor
- 10) agere, ut fundam sanguinem filii mei? et recessit ipsa ab eo uel angelus...

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- 1) est illis AIM, est hiis B
- 2) Iethro BIM; ait pueros et liberos tulit itaque Sephora A; illico M
- 3) preputium A, praepucium M
- 4) pedes et A
- 5) michi es AB; mihi es I; Augustinus ait B
- 6) locus ergo breuitate obscurus est A  
locus iste breuitate obscurus est B  
locus iste breuitate obscuratus est IM
- 7) pedes eius intelligendum est sanguis ABIM
- 8) ait uiro ABIM; esne michi AB, esne mihi IM
- 10) facere ut A
- 11) ab eo ipsa B

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f.1<sup>rb</sup>

coram eis, et crediderunt. Post hec cum senibus Israel ingre-  
si sunt ad Pharaonem, et dixerunt ad eum: Hec dicit Dominus  
Deus Israel: Dimitte populum meum ut sacrificet mihi in  
deserto. Et ille: Nescio Dominum et Israel non dimittam.

40) Et illi: Ibimus uiam trium dierum in solitudinem, ut  
sacrificemus Domino Deo nostro. In quo nec contrarietas nec  
duplicitas intelligenda est. Eo enim ordine populus  
educeretur, si Pharaon populum dimisisset.

Tunc Moyses, secundum Iosephum, commemorauit ei

45) quanta fecerat Egyptiis oppressis ab Ethiopibus,  
et laboribus et pericula que tulerat pro eis, et quod pro his

f.1<sup>va</sup>

condignam non acceperit...

\*\*\*\*\*

36) senioribus Israel ABIM

37) Domini M

38) (ut sacrificet...in solitudinem) not in M; michi AB

39) deserto nescio Dominum ait ille et B

41) immolemus Deo B, sacrificemus Deo IM; non contrarietas M

42) ordine forsitan AIM; forsitan ordine B

45) Egipciis B; Ethiopibus ABI, Æthiopibus M

46) et commemorauit labores et AIM

pro eis tulerat non condignam receperat A

pro eis tulerat et quod pro eis IM; quod pro hiis B

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f.1<sup>va</sup>

... retributionem, pariterque que sibi contigerant in Syna exposuit. Quem rex deridens, seruum suum fugitium uocauit, et pro seditione eum rediisse. Tunc ait rex seruis suis: Multus

5) est populus quanto maior si dederitis ei requiem ab operibus. Et precepit, ne ultra darentur eis palee ad conficiendos lateres, que comminute luto miscebantur, ut solidiores essent lateres, uel potius eis lateres coquebantur pro penuria lignorum in Egypto.

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- 1) retributionem B; contingebant IM
- 2) Sina I; signa M
- 3) fugitium eum A; uocauit eum B; sedicione B
- 5) quanto magis A; dederitis eis B
- 7) coficiendos B; cominute B
- 8) pro ut solidiores esse A; uel lateres potius coquebantur IM; potius A
- 9) lignorum penuria AIM; lignorum que est in B



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f.1<sup>va</sup>

10) DE AFFLICTIONE FILIORUM ISRAEL

Opprimebantur ergo operibus Hebrei, nocte colligendo paleas, et die lateres faciendo, et idem numerus laterum exigebatur ab eis, qui et prius. Flagellatique sunt magistratus de filiis Israel,

15) qui preerant fratribus suis operantibus a prefectis Pharaonis. Magistratus enim operum Hebrei erant; prefecti uero magistris, Egyptii. Ueneruntque prepositi filiorum Israel ad Pharaonem, et dixerunt: cur inique agis contra seruos tuos...

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- 11) Hebrei operibus AIM
- 12) paleas colligendo B; paleas die A; fatiendo A
- 13) (facien)do idem M; numerus lapidum B
- 14) sunt de filiis Israel magistratus A
- 15) operantibus noctes colligendo paleas a AIM
- 17) Egipcii B
- 19) iniqua M

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f.1<sup>va</sup>

- 35) ... inducam uos in terram super quam  
leuui manum meam, id est, iuravi, ut darem eam  
patribus uestris, ego Dominus. Quasi: ita uerum est hoc,  
sicut ego sum Dominus, et est iuramenti species. Nar-  
rauit Moyses omnia hec filiis Israel; nec acqui-
- 40) euerunt propter angustias spiritus. Connumerat autem hic  
hystoria principes domorum per familias suas,  
sed de tribus tamen, scilicet Ruben, Symeon, Leui; nobis  
autem de solo Leui dicere sufficiat. Filii Leui fuerunt  
Gerson, Caath et Merari ex quibus iii familie
- 45) Leuitarum deriuatae sunt: Gersonite, Caathite,  
Merathite. Filii Caath, Amram et Ysuar; filius

f.1<sup>vb</sup>

Ysuar, Chore; filii Amram...

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- 35) introducam uos AIM; terram supram B
- 36) manus meas A; iuravi quod darem B
- 37) patribus uestribus(?)A; quasi dicat IM, quasi uerum est A
- 38) narrauitque BIM
- 39) hec omnia AIM, filiis Israel hec omnia B; aquieuerunt A; acqvie-  
uerunt B
- 40) angustiam IM spiritus commemorat B
- 41) hystoria IM
- 42) de tribubus AI; tantum scilicet I; et Leui AIM; et Leuy B
- 43) ergo Leui fuerunt A; Leuy fuerunt B
- 44) Chaat A; e quibus M; tres ABIM
- 45) Cahatite A
- 46) Merarite ABIM; filii Chaath et Isuar filii Ysuar Chore A  
filii Caath Amram et Isuar Chore filii Amram I  
filii Caath Amram Isaar Hebron et Oziel filii Amram M

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38) sicut ego) repetition: deleted from text.

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f.1<sup>va</sup>(Margin)

Prima rubens rura  
Ranarum plaga secunda  
Inde culex tristis. Post  
Musca nociuior iste is  
5) Quinta pecus strauit  
Uesicas sexta creauit  
Pone subit grandibus. Post  
Brucus dente nefando.  
Nona tegit so le. Qp-(?)  
10) primam necat ultima prolem.

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ADDITIO 1. VERSUS DE DECEM PLAGIS M

- 1) rubens unda IM
- 4) istis IM
- 6) uesicam IM
- 7) postque subit I; post quqm grando subit post M
- 8) bruchus M
- 9) solem IM
- 10) primam IM

*4. Walther, Initia Cerminum Nr. 14595*