

Colonna, Ascanio, cardinal, d. 1608

Judicium in Caesarem Baronium de monarchia Siciliae.

Colonna's criticisms of remarks made by Cardinal Cesare Baronio (1538-1607), in his Annales ecclesiastici (12 vols.; Mainz, 1588-1607), concerning Spanish control of the Sicilian crown. With Baronio's reply (fols. 5-26), and his letter to Philip III of Spain (fols. 27-9) dated "Tusculano [Frascati?], Idibus Junis [13 June] 1605."

Caption title: "Ascanis Cardinalis Columnae, eorum, quae Caesar Card^{lis} Baronius de Monarchia Siciliae scriptis iudicium."

MS 13

Italy (in Latin)

Ca. 1640?

A copy, probably made directly from printed sources, of three short pieces that have been published several times. See, most recently, the facsimile edition (Turin, 1958) of the Tractatus de monarchia Siciliae -- Accessit Ascanii Columnae Cardinalis de eodem tractatu iudicium; cum ejusdem Cardinalis Baronii responsione apologetica adversus Cardinalem Columnam -- Nec non epistola ad Philippum III, originally published at Leyden in 1723, but itself a late version of materials that appeared in print in 1609. See also Vol. III of Joannes Georgius Graevius, Thesaurus antiquitatum et historiarum Siciliae (15 vols.; 1704-25).

The dispute between Colonna and Baronio concerning Spanish rights and claims in Sicily is a fairly well-known incident. The anti-Spanish tendencies of Baronio are said to have cost him the papal tiara in the two papal elections

of 1605. In this codex, Colonna's critique of Baronio runs to only 8 pages, but Baronio's reply, which is divided into 32 sections, runs to 42 pages. The dating of the codex is somewhat difficult. A small but distinctive watermark--a paschal lamb with flag, within a double circle, surmounted by the letter "A"--has not been precisely identified, but appears to be similar to watermarks in paper used by some Roman printers of the mid-17th century; yet there is a possibility that the codex may have originated as early as 1620. The question of Spanish influence and control in the Italian states remained a matter of keen political controversy throughout the 17th century and into the 18th--and the views of Colonna and Baronio on this subject were of continuing interest.

Folio, 27 x 20 cm.

31 leaves.

University of Chicago binding, boards.

A fair copy in a single unidentified hand, with marginal annotations in the same hand. No titlepage, index, or table of contents. Fully foliated.

See Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 12-3; and De Ricci, Census, I, 555. Part of the Berlin Collection.

25 November 1967
T. Bentley Duncan