

MANUSCRIPT 28

Isidorus, Saint, bp. of Seville, d. 636

Contra Iudaeos.

Colophon: "Explicit liber Ysidori Toletani[[sic]
ēpi contra iudeos. Amen. 1453. die 22^o Junii."

MS 28

Italy (in Latin)

1453

The codex is one of a very large number of medieval copies of this highly popular work by Isidorus, the last of the Western Latin fathers of the church. The De fide catholica ex Veteri et Novo Testamento contra Iudaeos is not, despite its title, an attack on the Jews, but is rather an exposition of the place of Christ in Christian theology, with remarks on the theological significance of Christ for both Jews and Christians. The text of the Chicago codex, in Goodspeed's words, "is not of the best." The designation of Isidorus, in the colophon, as "Toletani ēpi [episcopi]," bishop of Toledo, is a serious although not uncommon error. The handwriting has the look of 15th-century Lombardic minuscule, still in the medieval Gothic tradition, and the end of the text is exactly dated 22 June 1453 (the date given in Goodspeed, "1543," is either a misprint or a misreading). With the coming of printing, the Contra Iudaeos was printed many times, beginning with a Rome edition of about 1485. The best modern version of the works of Isidorus is the Opera omnia, ed. Faustino Arévalo (7 vols.; Rome, 1797-1803), which was reprinted in Patrologiae cursus completus,

ed. Jacques Paul Migne (221 vols.; Paris, 1844-64). Contra Judaeos can be found in Vol. LXXXIII, cols. 449-538, of the Migne edition.

4^o, 22x16 cm.

55 leaves, foliated every tenth leaf.

Modern boards, University of Chicago binding.

Fair copy in a single unidentified hand, with a few marginal notes in the same hand. With table of contents. Rubricated. Water damage in a few leaves.

See Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 27-8; and De Ricci, I, 558. Purchased before 1910.

20 December 1967
T. Bentley Duncan