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

Contra Judaeos.

Colophon: "Explicit liber Ysidori Toletani[[sic]]
eπi contra iudeos. Amen. 1453. die 22 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 Judaeos 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 eπi [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 Judaeos 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 Arevalo (7 vols.; Rome, 1797-1803), which was reprinted in Patrologiae cursus completus,

4°, 22 x 16 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.


20 December 1967
T. Bentley Duncan