

MANUSCRIPT 34

Pietro da Verona (Petrus Veronensis), fl. 1519

Super 4^o et 5^o decretalium.

A commentary on Books IV and V of the decretals of Pope Gregory IX. Approved by the ecclesiastical censor Giovanni Francesco Comb[esi?] at Naples, 30 June 1519.

MS 34

Italy (in Latin)

1519

The codex is in its original pigskin, soft vellum binding, and the ancient inscription on the spine--"D. Petrus Veron. C.R." (i.e., Dominus Petrus Veronensis, Clericus Regularis)--seems to be the sole authority for the author's name. The name Pietro da Verona, or Petrus Veronensis, does not appear in any form that can be connected with the codex. The codex itself seems to have been the author's own copy, in his own hand, with the essential ecclesiastical license at the end. Gregory IX's decretals, it seems, were delicate subjects on which to write commentaries--particularly since the elaborate glosses on the same subjects by Bernardo Bottoni (d. 1266) were considered highly authoritative--and it may be that the obscure Italian cleric, Pietro da Verona, never intended his work to be published. Indeed, it seems highly likely that the materials in this codex have never been printed.

Gregory IX (pope during 1227-1241) commissioned the Catalan Dominican canonist Raimundo de Peñafort (ca. 1175-1275) to produce a compilation of all known papal decretals.

Raimundo's work, finished in 1234 but not given a title, received the annotations of Bottoni, and became the heart of what was later called the Corpus juris canonici, which until the 20th century was the final authoritative statement on canon law. The Gregorian decretals are divided into five books: Book IV (De sponsalibus et matrimoniis-- on betrothal and marriage) contains 21 "titles," each divided into several "chapters" or paragraphs; and Book V (De accusationibus, inquisitionibus, & denuntiationibus-- on canon-law "criminal" procedure) contains 41 "titles" with their various "chapters." The codex, which is extremely lengthy (644 leaves), furnishes commentary on all the "titles" and "chapters," apparently without any omissions. Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 34-5, furnishes a complete list of the "titles" (or "rubrics," as he calls them) treated in the codex.

4^o, 23 x 16 cm.

649 leaves (including 4 blank leaves), fully foliated.

Original soft-vellum pigskin binding.

The author's own roughly written copy, with some erasures and corrections. What were originally fols. 1 and 2 have been glued together, to form a single sheet, after the author made a false start. The last sections of the codex contain many underlinings and marginal annotations, in the author's hand, written in what is now very faded red ink. An index to the "titles" precedes the text. One of the preliminary leaves

has the name "Vincentius Paganus" (owner?)
heavily crossed out.

See Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 33-6;
and De Ricci, I, 559. Part of the Berlin
Collection.

Bibliographical note.

There are many editions of the Corpus juris canonici.
See pp. 836-1148 of the Decretales Gregorii Noni (Venice,
1572), an early and authoritative text (in our Rare Book
Collection).

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