

MANUSCRIPT 36

Receptarium de medicinis communiter usitatis per medicos,
tam phisicos quam chirurgicos, que communiter reperiuntur
penes aromatarios, preparatae, et hoc secundum Mesue,
Nicolaum, Galienum, Rasim, Avicennam, et aliorum
auctorum dicta. Medical prescriptions in Latin, with
many later marginal additions of prescriptions in Italian.
MS 34

Italy (in Latin and Italian) Ca. 1500

The main text, which runs to 158 leaves, is arranged in double columns of short length and with short lines, and consists of a materia medica with many hundreds of remedies and prescriptions, attributed to such medical authorities as Mesuë (Abū Zakariyā Yūhannā ibn Māsawaih [776-857]), Nicolò Leonico (1428-1524), Galen (131-200), Averroës (Abū-1-Walīd Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad ibn Rusd [1126-1198]), and Avicenna (Abū 'Alī al-Ḥusain ibn 'Abdallāh ibn Sīnā [980-1037]). The columns of text stop well short of the bottom of the page, and leave ample white space at the tops, bottoms, and margins of the pages; the space has been used by some three or four successive Neapolitan pharmacists or physicians to enter in new prescriptions, but written in the vernacular tongue. The new prescriptions are highly miscellaneous in character, bear no particular relation to the main text of the pages on which they are written, and were probably entered into the codex during the first decades of the 16th century. The preliminary

sheets of the codex, and the last 30-odd leaves, have also been filled with added materials, all dealing with prescriptions and medicine, in many hands, mostly in Italian with some Latin.

Many of the prescriptions were supposed to cure a wide range of human ailments, and some of them are immensely complicated, with over one hundred ingredients (i.e., see fols. 35-6). Condiments and spices (pepper, ginger, cinnamon, mustard, oregano, cardamom, etc.) appear in most of the prescriptions, along with such favorites as camomile, mandrake, honey, sweet calamus, camphor, gum arabic, aloes, aniseed, etc. For further information, see Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, p. 37; and De Ricci, Census, I, 559.

4^o, 26 x 19 cm.

196 leaves (fully foliated).

Old vellum binding.

The main text is a fair copy in a single unidentified hand, written in brown ink, with extensive rubrications in red ink that has now faded to almost the same color as the brown. In the margins are hundreds of rough additions, in Italian, in various hands, with some erasures and many incidental scribbles. The preliminary leaves (fols. i-v) and the final section (fols. 158-191) also contain rough notes and materials, in various hands, scribbled in hurriedly.

Once belonged to the marquis of Taccone of Naples (late 18th century), treasurer to the kingdom of Naples. Part of the Berlin Collection.

31 January 1968
T. Bentley Duncan