

MANUSCRIPT 42

Seneca, Lucius Annaeus. Spurious and doubtful works.  
De quatuor virtutibus (fols. 1-7). De remediis  
infortuniorum [i.e., fortuitorum] (fols. 7-12).  
Ex epistolis Senecae (fols. 12-16).  
MS 42

Italy (in Latin)

Ca. 1450?

The men of the Middle Ages were fond of extracting moral precepts, to which they gave a Christian emphasis, from the writings of Seneca, and fonder still of speculating on the connections between the Stoic philosopher and the early Christians. Much of this speculation centers around the supposed exchange of correspondence between Seneca and St. Paul--the Epistolae ad Paulum--a work that specialists regard as an obvious forgery, although a very ancient forgery. The first work in this short codex, De quatuor virtutibus is often entitled Formulae vitae honestae (see the texts in Latin and English, ed. Ralph Graham Palmer; Chicago, 1953). The De remediis fortuitorum is also a spurious work; but the short piece Ex epistolis Senecae seems to be a genuine extract from some portion of Seneca's writings.

There are two hands in the codex, both of which wrote the traditional Lombardic minuscule script. The paper is Italian of the 15th century, but has no watermarks. The codex is difficult to date, but would seem to have originated before the avalanche of printed editions of Seneca, which

began about 1471. For further information, see the remarks in Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 43-4.

4<sup>o</sup>, 21 x 15 cm.

16 leaves (fully foliated).

University of Chicago binding, modern boards.

Fair copies in two hands, the first running to fol. 7r., and the second beginning on the overleaf of fol. 7 and running to the end. There are corrections and additions in black ink, by a later hand. Rubricated. Repairs have been made in places where the leaves have been damaged. Some insect holes, and a few water stains. No table of contents or index.

See De Ricci, Census, I, 561. Part of the Berlin Collection.

20 January 1968  
T. Bentley Duncan