

MANUSCRIPT 79

[Catholic devotional book, containing thirty-four exhortations for the salvation of the soul, the Lord's Prayer, and other prayers. In German; dated 1493.]
MS 79

Germany

1493

The main body of this book of devotions consists of thirty-four "vigilgen und vermanungen" ("vigils and exhortations") for the salvation of the soul. The form of all the exhortations is essentially the same: one sentence (such as "Got ist worden dez menschen sun daz der mensch wurd gotes sun"--"God has become the son of man so that man may become the son of God") followed by a prayer beginning "I thank you, dear Lord Jesus Christ, and I offer to you...." Following the exhortations the scribe has copied down an expanded version of the Lord's Prayer, and the date, 1493 (fol. 18r). The remaining pages contain various prayers, including several to the Virgin and one for souls in purgatory.

The first fol. of the MS is in Latin, but the rest is almost entirely in German, with only a few interspersed Latin phrases. The language does not appear to contain enough forms peculiar to a particular dialect to be of help in determining the place of origin of the manuscript; the most striking feature of the language

is probably the consistent use of p for initial b (p~~ar~~mherzig, du pist). There is no indication within the manuscript of its author or place of origin. The main body of the book appears to be all in one hand, although the last leaves are somewhat more cramped; the first and last leaves of the manuscript, however, are of parchment and apparently written by a different hand. They do not appear to be related to the main text, but may have been used as endpapers. Besides rubrication and some ornate red initials, there is no ornamentation in the book. In several places words have been crossed out and corrections written in in the margin by the same hand.

Affixed to the inside back cover is a clipping from an American newspaper from 1863. Entitled "An old Relic--A curiosity for the Study of the Modern Wise-Acres," the article states that "this most wonderful ancient relic was forwarded to Mr. P. C. Ranninger of this city by a friend in Germany." The identity of the newspaper has not been established, and nothing else is known about the provenance of the manuscript.

80--15 cm. x 10 cm.

26 fols. - fully foliated.

Cover of soft, red leather; perhaps original.

Rubricated. Medieval hand, quite legible.

Purchased 1964.