

Colonna, Egidio, 1247[?]-1316.

Le livre du gouvernement des rois et des princes.

A paraphrase-translation into French, by Henri de Gauchi (fl. 1296), of the Latin De regimine principum.

MS 533-Vault.

(PQ1453 .C4A632 .1310)

France.

Ca. 1310.

The initial caption rubric of the codex runs as follows:

"Ci commence le livre dou governemēt des rois et des princes le quel freres Giles de Ronme de lordre de Saint Augustin fist et compila a la requeste de tres excellenz prince

monseigneur Phelippe, noble roi de France, la quel frere

Giles est o~~f~~es arcevesques de Bourges." The colophon reads:

"Ce finist le livre dou governemēt des rois et des princes fer par frere Gile de Rome de lordre de Saint Augustin, le

quel livre maistre Henri de \_\_\_\_\_ [left blank; "Henri

de Gauchi" was intended] a translate de latin en francois

par comandement monseigneur Phelippe, noble roi de France."

The author, Egidio Colonna (also known as Gilles de Rome, Aegidius de Columna, and Aegidius Romanus), was a member of the powerful Colonna family of Rome, joined the Augustinian order, and studied under St. Thomas Aquinas, acquiring a reputation for scholarship that rivalled even that of his more celebrated master. Colonna's piety and learning induced king Philip III (1245-1285) of France to appoint him as tutor to the crown prince, Philippe le Bel (1268-1314), who became king Philip IV. For the instruction of the prince, Colonna composed the treatise De regimine

principum, a moral work in three parts which set forth, in succession, a prince's duties to himself, to his family, and to his subjects. Colonna believed that first a king must cultivate wisdom and goodness for himself, seeking his own improvement; then he must learn to manage his wife, children, and household with justice, prudence, and love; only after he had done these things would it be possible for him to become a sage and benevolent ruler over a whole nation.

Philip the Fair, when he became king in 1285 at the age of 17, honored his tutor by ordering the translation of De regimine principum into French. A certain "Magister Henricus de Gauchiaco," or Henri de Gauchi (also Gauchy, Ganchi, Goncchi, Gachi, or Gand), an obscure canon of the church of St. Martin at Liège, carried out the translation-- a translation so free that it can be called a paraphrased version, rather than a strict translation. A large number of copies of this translation, as well as copies of other French translations, circulated in MS during the late Middle Ages. As for Colonna, he went on to write many other books on philosophical and theological subjects, and was elected general of the Augustinian order in 1292, and became archbishop of Bourges in 1294. His mature years were troubled by a quarrel between his old pupil, Philip IV, and his benefactor, pope Boniface VIII; but he eventually died at Avignon in 1316, having outlived both Boniface VIII and Philip the Fair.

The Chicago MS of the Livre du gouvernement des rois is of considerable interest for several reasons. First, the Chicago MS seems to be an early copy. Hodgson's catalogue, in which the codex was listed for sale, dated it ca. 1350, but this seems to be too late. The references to Philip, "noble roi de France," at the beginning and end of the text seem to suggest that Philip IV was still alive at the time the MS was copied out; that is, that the copy was made before 1314. On the other hand, since Colonna was referred to as "arcevesques de Bourges" in the MS, the document must have been written after 1294. This suggests a date between 1294 and 1314. Similarly, the coats-of-arms drawn on one of the last leaves in the codex seem to belong, in one or two instances to persons who died about 1310, or to families which had become extinct at about that time (see the learned notes of Albert Van de Put, heraldist of the Victoria and Albert Museum, attached to the endpapers of the MS). Thus there are good reasons for dating the codex about 1310, before Colonna's death; and this argument has been sustained by the archivist Miss Edith Richert, and by Sydney C. Cockerell of Cambridge, a former owner of the codex.

Secondly, the Chicago codex has interest because of the distinction of its calligraphy and the beauty of its appearance. It is written on 126 leaves of vellum in a clear, precise, regular and legible hand. Ten leaves, at the head of each of the ten major parts, are decorated with illuminated capitals

and ornamental borders, and the capital letter of the first leaf encloses miniature figures; and there are smaller initials in gold on every page. There are about 180 capitals, at the heads of the chapters, in brilliant gold bordered with blue and brown. The codex is rubricated throughout, and much use has been made of blue and red ink for paragraph signs and for listing the chapters at the beginning of each of the ten parts.

Thirdly, the Chicago MS is interesting because of the curious drawings on the first and last leaves. At the end there is a drawing in color of an oak tree (unfinished) on which are hung six pairs of heraldic shields, and each shield has above it a helmet with the name of a distinguished family--Cleves, Blois, Des Barres, Florines, Strangort, Chauvegny, Pomponne, Montfort, Boulogne, Lessigniun, Mello, and Longuespee. At the top of the leaf are the royal arms of England and the word (divided) "engle terre." It has been surmised that this page may record some tournament between English and French knights early in the 14th century or before. On other pages a 14th-century owner has drawn his heraldic shield and the motto "Avisiowel"--which may, or may not, stand for "Advise you well" (i.e. beware) as written by a Frenchman or Anglo-Norman of about 1300. On a front leaf there is an elaborate illuminated heraldic device with the motto "NUL AUTRE ESPOIR"--and the drawing seems to be a variation of the coat-of-arms of Sir Thomas Garshall of Warwickshire, whose name appeared on one of the parliamentary

rolls during the reign of Edward II (reigned 1307-1327)--an additional proof of the antiquity of the codex. (But notice the deviation from the Garshall arms, which have been described as "bore, quarterly argent and sable on a bend gules three fleurs-de-lys of the first"--see Joseph Foster, Some feudal coats of arms from heraldic rolls 1298-1418 [London, 1902], p. 107--especially the substitution of azure [blue] for gules [red].)

The text of the Chicago codex, when compared with the text of the Kerr MS as published in Li livres du gouvernement des rois, ed. Samuel Paul Molenaer (New York, 1899), agrees with the Kerr MS at important points, but differs in a large number of details. Both the Kerr and the Chicago MSS contain the same divisions into 3 books, 10 parts, and 193 chapters (whereas the original Latin version was divided into 209 chapters); both omit the translation of Chapter 23 in Book III, Part ii (cf. Molenaer, p. xxix), which Henri de Gauchi considered too technical for successful translation into French; and both texts seem to be affected, to some degree, by certain linguistic characteristics peculiar to Picard dialects (see the discussion in Molenaer, pp. xxx-xxxiv). Nevertheless the differences in textual details between the two MSS are numerous and considerable, and affect word order, spelling, and the caption headings. The examples on the next page, from Book I, Part iv, Chapter 1 (using the same line lengths as in the MSS) illustrate these differences:

The Kerr MS

.I. Puis que nos avons dit en la prime-  
re partie de cest primer(e) livre  
en quoi les rois et les princes doivent  
mettre lour souverain bien que il puent  
avoir en ceste vie, et en la .II. partie de  
ce livre  
comment les rois et les princes et chascun  
du  
pueple doivent estre aornez des bones ver-  
tuz, et en la tierce partie, queux movemenz  
il doivent ensuivre et fuir, nos dirrons  
queles mours et queles maneres il doivent  
avoir et ensuivre.

The Chicago MS

Puis que nous avons  
dit en la premiere  
partie de cest livre,  
en quoi les rois et les  
princes doivent me-  
tre leur souverain bien que il puent a-  
voir en ceste mortel vie, et en la .IIe.  
partie mment les princes et chascuns  
dou pueple doivent estre ornez et or-  
denez a bones vertuz. Et en la .IIIe. ptie  
quieux mouemenz de corage il doivēt  
ensuivre et les quier fuir. Nous di-  
rons en ceste .IIIe. ptie quier muers  
et queles menieres il doivent ensui-  
re et avoir.

Large vellum leaves, 28 x 19 cm.

133 leaves, not numbered.

Vellum binding (not the original, probably Dutch 18th century).

Fair copy in a single, unidentified hand, with color of ink varying from light brown to deep black, with few erasures or corrections, although there are some careless mistakes (see for instance the omission of two chapter titles, chaps. 20 and 21, from the list of chapters at the beginning of Book II, Part i). Text arranged in double columns with 39 lines in each column. The scribe's guide lines on some pages have not been erased. No pagination or foliation; no title page or index or table of contents.

Sold by Hodgson (London, 1928) to Cockerell, the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, who signed his name on the flyleaf as follows, "Sydney C. Cockerell, Cambridge, 12 July 1928." Obtained from Cockerell in 1930 and donated to the University Library by Miss Shirley Farr. See De Ricci, Census, I. 589.

Bibliographical note:

MS copies of the De regimine principum, whether in Latin or in the vernacular, are very numerous and can be found in most of the great European libraries. French libraries have many copies, most of them 15th-century copies; 12 such codices are described in Felix Lajard, "Gilles de Rome--religieux, Augustin, théologien," Histoire littéraire de la France, XXX, 421-566--but there are, in addition, three French translations in MS in the British Museum. The Latin text was published at least five times between 1473 and 1607. The first French version was printed in Paris in 1517. There are also printed versions in Spanish (1494, 1480, 1498 and 1947), Italian (1858), and German (1929). Further bibliographical information can be found in Giuseppe Boffito, Saggio di bibliografia Egidiana (Florence, 1911) and Gerardo Bruni, Le opere de Egidio Romano: catalogo critico (Florence, 1936).

28 February 1969  
T. Bentley Duncan