

**London: Lambeth Palace Library, MS. 354**

Del Monte, *De Vitiorum Differentia*; Albertanus Brixiensis, *Liber de Consolatione et Consilio* etc.

**England, 1470**

- I** Fairly thin parchment (skin–skin, hair–hair). 175×255mm. Fols: iii + 116, pencil foliation 1–115.
- II** i–vii<sup>8</sup>, viii<sup>8</sup> wants 6, ix–xiv<sup>8</sup>, xv<sup>8</sup> wants 5 & 8, 7 pastedown. Horizontal catchwords at centre bottom throughout, usually placed within a monochrome border depicting a long thin scroll. Quire signatures in red running through manuscript; another hand writes leaf signatures for fol.64–75 marking those pages as forming the first and second quires. This might suggest that a different construction of the codex was envisaged at first but soon discarded for the present make–up; it might also suggest that the order of writing was probably fol.64–115 followed by fol.1–60.
- III** 90 × 148mm. 33 long lines (except for in the second item, where there are 35 lines). Ruled throughout in black; occasional signs of full pricking.
- IV** One ‘clear gothic hand’ [James] throughout; black with red titles, blue initials (sometimes decorated). Most notable features of hand are the extravagant descenders and ascenders for letters on bottom and top line (eg fol.9, 11, 62).
- V** There are simple initials of blue on red at the start of each work and of each book of the first item.
- VI** Marginal notes by scribe; very little other marginalia, except a hand drawn, perhaps by a sixteenth century reader, at fol.89<sup>v</sup>.
- VII** Skin over wood boards; clasps gone. Tags at fol.64 & 78 to mark start of pieces.
- 2<sup>o</sup> fo.:** ~cere siquidem...

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- [1] fol.1–60: **Pietro del Monte**, *De Vitiorum inter se Differentia* (with preface)  
*tit.:* Ad illustrium et excellentissimum principem hum/fredum ducem  
Glowcestrie petri de monte / veneti sedis apostolice prothonotarii de viciorum /  
inter se differentia et comparacione. liber primus in/cipit feliciter. Proemium  
*pref.:* Tuas eximias laudes virtutesque ... [fol.2<sup>v</sup>] colloquentes ac disputantes  
audiamus. Explicit proemium.  
*dial.:* [Incipit liber primus. Cum petrus emilianus pontifex vincentissimus *[sic]* ...  
et osculata presulis dextera discesserunt. / Expliciunt tres libelli Petri de monte  
veneti sedis apostolice prothonotarii de viciorum inter differentia *[sic]* et  
comparacione Feliciter.

Preface alone edited, without reference to this copy, in Sammut, pp.151–3.

This copy, like **Cambridge: CCC, MS.472** does not include the errors found in the ‘Virtue and Vice’ manuscripts, on which see **Bod., MS.Auct. F.5.26**.

The three books are divided as follows: lib.i [fol.2<sup>v</sup>–21]; lib.ii [fol.21–40]; lib.iii [fol.40<sup>v</sup>–60].

fol.60<sup>v</sup>–63<sup>v</sup>: blank

- [2] fol.64–78: **anon.**, a tract on illicit love (part only)  
*sine titulo*  
*tract.:* [fol.64] Primum capitulum quarte partis quod amor fugiendus est quia  
contrarius est divino mandato./ Igitur que ad tue petitionis instanciam...[fol.78]  
voce testante nescimus diem neque horam. Explicit Iste liber.

Unidentified. It is not part of Albertanus' oeuvre.

This work, the eleventh chapter of which details 17 vices of women, is attributed erroneously on the spine of ms. to del Monte.

[3] fol.78–115: **Albertanus Brixiensis**, *de consolatione et consilio*

*tit.:* [fol.78] Incipiunt Rubrice libri consolacionis et con/silij Prima est de intentione Actoris.

*tract.:* [fol.78] Quoniam multi sunt qui in adversitatibus...[fol.115] utraque pars cum gaudio et leticia recessit. / Explicit liber consolacionis et consilij quem albertanus causidicus brixiensis de ora sancte agathe compilavit atque composuit Anno m<sup>o</sup>cc<sup>o</sup>xlvi<sup>o</sup> in mensibus Aprilis atque Maii.

Edited, without reference to this copy, by T.Sundby {Chaucer Society, viii} (London, 1873).

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This manuscript is interesting for the context in which it places del Monte's dialogue; the themes of the other works suggest that they were being brought together as a moral compilation.

The manuscript's compiler was not alone in thinking the works of Albertanus of Brescia could make a fitting complement to humanist works: see also **Dublin: Trinity College, MS.438**. There seems to have been a small vogue for works by Albertanus in fifteenth century England (as in Italy); for example, John Blodwell, who also owned a copy of Petrarch's *De Remediis*, owned the collection of Albertanus texts which is now BL, MS.Royal. 12.D.vii. In the early sixteenth century, Christopher Urswick, as well as humanist works, had a copy of Albertanus' *De Arte Dicendi* in his collection [J.B.Trapp in *Renaissance Studies*, i (1987) p.58].

The manuscript's first owner is revealed by a note following the last colophon (fol.115), written in a hand other than the scribe's: *Scriptus expensis Roberti Ayscogh legum / doctoris Anno do millesimo CCCC<sup>o</sup> lxx*. This can probably be identified with the Robert Ayscogh who was a student in Cambridge in the late 1440s and was a DCL (ie *doctor*

*legum*) by 1454; Emden notes that on his death (in 1482) he bequeathed books to King's Hall which were transported from London to Cambridge a couple of years later [BRUC]. However, if this volume was in a Cambridge college library, it soon left it. There are several other names recorded in the ms., most notably inscriptions relating to the Gale family. At fol.ii, it is written: *Thys is mayster gale hys boke Recorde of master denes*. At fol.4<sup>v</sup>, the name John Gale is written, while on the back board there is: *Gilberti gale est possessor huius libri*.

Other names recorded are Edward Taylor (early sixteenth century - fol.ii<sup>v</sup>), FR (monogram at fol.ii<sup>v</sup>), George Sepbeton[?] (erased ownership mark on back board), John m (back board).

Lambeth no.s: G.Θ.14; 4<sup>to</sup> vol. 126.

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M.R.James & C.Jenkins, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library of Lambeth Palace* (Cambridge, 1932) pp.472–3; *Iter*, iv, p.209.

On Albertanus generally, see J.M.Powell, *Albertanus of Brescia* (Philadelphia, 1992).