G.35 GIOVANNI BOCCACCIO, Cas des nobles hommes et femmes malheureux, translated from the Latin by Laurent de Premierfait. France, probably Tours, ca. 1480.

Vellum, 366 leaves (383 x 276 mm.). 2 cols., 43 lines (278 x 84-19-86 mm.). Script: bastardas. 9 large miniatures, full illuminated borders on miniature pages, partial illuminated borders on pages with large illuminated initials, numerous illuminated initials. Binding: gold-tooled green morocco with silk doublures by Derôme le Jeune.

Miniatures: Adam and Eve before Boccaccio, God Joining Adam and Eve, Fall of Man, Expulsion from Paradise, Adam Tilling and Eve Nursing, Adam and Eve Bewailing Slain Abel, Lamech Slaying Cain (Book I, 1); Saul Led by a Child to Samuel, Samuel Anointing Saul, David Harping before Saul, Saul Falling On His Sword (Book II, 41v); Fortune and Glad Poverty Meeting at Crossroads, Glad Poverty Wrestling Fortune to the Ground, Fortune Binding Unhappy Adventure to a Stake, Hostilius (or Boccaccio?) Reclining on His Bed, Lucinio (?) Slain with an Axe, Death of Lucretia, Five Princes of Persia About to Ride Out, Unidentified Scene (Book III, 79v); Death of Marcus Manlius (Book IV, 126); Battle between and Deaths of Seleucus Callicinus and Antiochus Hierax (Book V, 168); Boccaccio Writing, Fortune and her Wheel, Magulsa About to be Devoured by an Elephant, Scipio Hanged, Merula Slain (Book VI, 205); Julia Exiled, Galbus Tortured, Deaths of Cassius of Parma, Antony, Caesarius, and Galbus (Book VII, 247v); Petrarch Appearing to Boccaccio, John on Patmos, Domitian Slain, Commodus Strangled by his Concubine, Sapor Stepping on Valerian's Back to Mount His Horse (Book VIII, 279v); Phocas Ordering Murder of Maurice and his Family, Mohammed Preaching, Death of Brunilde, Constantine Ordering Destruction of Idols, Phillippicus' Eyes Torn Out, Arnulph Eaten by Lice and Worms, Pope John XII Ordering Nose of Cardinal Cut Off, Romilda Impaled (?) (Book IX, 307v).

Provenance: Duc de la Vallière (?); Justin, Comte de MacCarthy-Reagh; De Bure Frères, Paris; Robert Lang, London; his sale, London, Sotheby's, 17 November 1828, lot 212; Sir Thomas Phillipps (Ms. 3669); Katharine Fenwick; Thomas FitzRoy Fenwick; Alan George Fenwick; D.M. Colman; purchased in August 1955 from Charles Stonehill, Inc., New Haven.

Bibliography: Paris, De Bure Frères, Catalogue des livres rares et précieux de la bibliothèque de feu M. le Comte de Mac-Carthy Reagh, 2,
G.35: shortlist of miniatures

f. 1 Adam and Eve before Boccaccio, Scenes from Genesis
f. 41v Scenes from the Life of Saul
f. 79v Struggle of Fortune and Poverty, and other Scenes
f. 126 Death of Marcus Manlius
f. 168 Seleucus Callicinus & Antiochus Hierax
f. 205 Boccaccio Viewing Fortune and Her Wheel, other Scenes
f. 247v Fates of Various Imperial Romans
f. 279v Petrarch Appearing to Boccaccio, John on Patmos, other Scenes
f. 307v Death of Brunhilda, other Scenes

Morgan MS. No. G.35

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

New York, Research Center for Musical Iconography.
Inventory of Musical Iconography 3: The Pierpont
Morgan Library, New York, Medieval and Renaissance
Manuscripts, comp. Terence Ford and Andrew Green,
New York, 1988,
no. 372, [fol. 41v].
no. 373, [fol 168].

Victoria Kirkham, "A Preliminary List of Boccaccio
Portraits from the 14th to the mid-16th Centuries,"
Studi sul Boccaccio, 15, 1985-86, 179.

Vittore Branca, "Un primo elenco di codici illustrati
di opere del Boccaccio," Studi sul Boccaccio, 15,
Giovanni Boccaccio, Cas des nobles hommes et femmes malheureux, translated from the Latin by Laurent de Premierfait. France, probably Tours, ca. 1480.

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