Columella, Lucius Junius Moderatus (fl. ca. 50 A.D.)

De re rustica.

Manuscript on vellum, written by Henricus Roffinus de Murialdo (near Genoa) and illuminated in 1469 for a member of the Del Carretto family of Genoa.

Decoration: The decoration consists of borders and initials of white branch-work on blue, red and green grounds in which miniatures are inserted. Each book after the first, has, appropriate to the text, a circular miniature in the lower margin in a double cone of branch-work framed in gold. A similar double cone is at the top of the page.

Fol. 1 has a border containing 4 medallions of rural occupations in the angles, and the Del Carretto, counts of Savona, arms in the centre of the lower border. The first 16 lines of text are spaced to the left to give room for a beautiful miniature showing, in a landscape, Columella, seated in front of a pink building, speaking to a group of peasants. In foreground sits one by a stream, drinking. The miniature is framed to give the effect of a window with 2 rings of the curtain showing above. The illumination is of a very high order.

Text: The MS. begins with a Preface on fol. 1, having in gold capitals the title "L Iunii Moderati Columelli Rei Rui etstic Liber Primus Feliciter Incipit. R."

The Preface continues to fol. 5 and is followed by the rubrics for and text of Book I, chapter I. Thereupon follow the remaining XII Books, ending on fol. 184v with the colophon: "Henricus Roffinus de Murialdo scriptit in coco 118vii die X septembris". The script of the text is in a fine, even, slightly sloping Roman hand.

185 + 1 leaves (10 5/8 x 7 3/8 inches) 29 lines. 40

Binding: Italian, 16th century red morocco, with stamped arms of the Sandri, counts of Monbasilio, descendants of the Del Carretto family. In a maroon morocco case lettered: "Columella - De Re Rustica - (see next page)"
Libri XIII XV century Italian manuscript."

History: Written and finished 10. Sept. 1469 by Henricus Poffinus de Murialdo (near Genoa) for a member of the Del Carretto, counts of Savona, family. Later descended to a Sandri, count of Monbasilio, for whom it was placed in present binding in the 18th century. Duke of Hamilton's collection (Cat. 1882, no. 184; 1889 sale, no. 50; William Morris and Richard Bennett collections.

For full description see Morgan Cat. MSS. 1906, no. 109.

Add. Cards.

MSS.-Illum.-Italian-1469 XVcent.
  " " Dated - XVcent. 1469
  " " Scribes: Poffinus de Murialdo, Henricus

Provenance - Del Carretto of Savona, Del
  Sandri, count of Monbasilio
  Hamilton, William Alexander Louis Stephen Douglas-Hamilton,
  Morris, 3rd Earl, 1834-1896, 4th Duke, 1845-1895.

Agriculture

Title-card: (x)

MPH: 1833

MSS.-Illum.-Colophons
  Del Carretto - Coat-of-arms
  Sandri, count of Monbasilio - Coat-of-arms
  Columella, Lucius Junius Moderatus. fl. ca. 50 A.D. - Portraits

MSS.-Illum.-Windows
COLUMELLA. Vellum, 10 1/4 x 7 3/8, ff. 185; 29 lines to a page; cent. xv (1469); in a slightly sloping Roman hand; written in Italy. Has the bookplates of Mr. William Morris and Mr. Richard Bennett. Binding: old red morocco with arms in gold—quarterly i and 4 or 5, bends dexter gu., 2 and 3, barry of six or and gu., an inescutcheon party per fess or and gu.; crest, a winged lion’s head with peacock’s feathers in the ears. On the flyleaf is the pencil mark “HB. No. 81,” referring to the Hamilton sale in 1889. In the lower margin of f. 1 a shield corresponding with i and 4 of the above; crest, a demi-griffin (or eagle) crowned. The arms on the binding are those of the family of Sandri, Counts of Monbasilio. Those in the border of f. 1 are those of the family of Caretto, Counts of Salona and Millesimo (settled in North Italy and at Naples). The family of Sandri were heirs to one branch of the family of Caretto. (See the catalogue of the manuscripts formerly in the Hamilton collection sold by the Prussian government at Sotheby’s in May, 1889. This manuscript was Lot 50 in the sale; its number in the Hamilton collection was 184.)

Collation: i 12 (1 canc.), 2 12-11 12, 12 10, 13 10, 14 12, 15 12, 16 10.

CONTENTS

Title in gold capitals.

L. IVNII MODERATI COLUMELLE REI RUSTICE
LIBER PRIMVS FECITICER INCIPIT. Ἡ.

Sepen numero ciuitatis nostre principes.

Liber ii, f. 15; Lib. iii, f. 31 (or de arboribus);
Lib. iv, f. 406; Lib. v, f. 56; Lib. vi, f. 70; Lib. vii, f. 836; Lib. viii, f. 976; Lib. ix, f. 109; Lib. x, f. 122; Lib. xi, f. 133; Lib. xii, f. 141; Lib. xiii, f. 158. Ending, f. 1846: multa scisse dicuntur non omnia.

Henrietus Roffinus de Murialdo scripsit M. cccc lviii die x sepnembris.

On f. 1856 is a sixteenth-century note:
Cognoscenbat melius homines antiquitatis agriculturam picturam et multas denique pulcherrimas artes quae no amplius ad mentem nostram permanuere: praeterea bona fides amor populi, civium, imperatoris conservat virtutem et veritas triumphant suum spargebat In omnibus romanorum urbis antiquam cupiditatis imperium suum stabiluere. O tempora, O mores.

The decoration consists of borders and initials of the usual white branch-work on red and blue and green grounds minutely dotted with white. There are miniatures inserted in these. Each book after the first has a circular miniature in the lower margin in a double cone of branch-work, framed in gold. A similar double cone is at the top of the page.

1. f. 1. Preface. Full border, with medallions at the angles. A picture with classical columns at the sides and entablature above. In a landscape, Columella, in gold over blue, seated in front of a pink building, speaks to a group of peasants, one in pink sits by a stream drinking; on l. a well with bucket and counterpoise.

SECTOR BOOKS

[Nos. 109, 110]


In lower margin a car drawn by two lions containing the shield described above.

In border a lozenge-shaped medallion with a white rabbit.

2. Lib. i, f. 5. Lower margin. Young man richly dressed rides to r. on white horse; pink building on l.

3. Lib. ii, f. 15. Landscape with cultivated plain and slope. Trees on hill (heightened with gold); no figures.

4. Lib. iii, f. 31. Man in shirt and sleeves planting trees in landscape.


7. Lib. 6, f. 70. Wattled inclosure with conical fruit trees.

8. Lib. vii, f. 836. Yard with pink walls building on l.; a man tending a wound in the flank of a white horse held by the head on l.

9. Lib. viii, f. 976. In a wattled inclosure, a black and a white sheep, both horned.

10. Lib. ix, f. 109. A pigeon house, a square tower with openings round the top and a conical tiled roof, in a walled inclosure in landscape.

11. Lib. x, f. 122, etc. A broad shelf with four bee-hives on it; over it a sloping shelter supported on piles; on r. a shed.

12. Lib. xi, f. 133. A bearded man with scythe, clasping a log of wood (?); in an inclosure with trees.

13. Lib. xii, f. 141. Man with crook seated on tree-stump; another stump on r. with a green shoot; shed behind the man on l.

14. Lib. xiii, f. 159. Corn (?) and green wall on l.; fruit trees on r.
H.B. Ash: *Lucius Moderatus Columella*, Harvard University Press, 1941, p. v, xvi, xx1

Columella: On agriculture, ed by H.B.Ash, 1941, p.v, xvi, xx1

(L. Iuni Moderati Columellae Opera Quae Exstant recensuerunt Vilemus Lundström et Åke Josephson, fasc.5) p.XVIII, etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR MORGAN MS.139


For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


Lawrence, University of Kansas, Spencer Museum of Art. *Gardens of the Middle Ages*, comps. M. Stokstad and J. Stannard, Lawrence, 1983, pp. 162-64, no. 34, 1 fig.