Bonifacio di Calabria. fl.1266-1285.

735 Libro de la menescalca de li cavalli (Thesauro de cavalli). In Italian and Latin.

Manuscript on vellum, written and illustrated in Venice from a South Italian prototype, in the first quarter of the fifteenth century. (C. MD. from pame ructum in modum, Bibl. Estense, L. V. 3. 13 (414, 404).) 8 full-page colored drawings including a zodiacal horse and a blood-letting horse, 151 textual illustrations.

108 leaves (14 3/8 x 10 3/8 inches) 56 lines. 14(-1), 2-610, 78, 8-1110, 126(-6) = 108.

f°. Italian late XVth cent. ½ br., mor. in slip case.

From the library of Giovanni Maria dalla Salla, master of the stables of Alfonso I d'Este, Duke of Ferrara.

Contents:

f. 1v Ex-libris inscription of Giovanni Maria dalla Salla.
2-4v, 5v Miniatures.
6, 8v, 9v Prologue and Text.
43, 44v Table of Contents.
48v Receipts for ungualts.
49v Rules for bloodletting.
49v-53 Tractatus a quae vite (Cf. Thorndike & Kibre, Catalogue of Incipits, 720, where it is wrongly entered under Dominicus Bonifacius).

53v-55v Blank.
56-61v Calendar for the South Adriatic Coast of Italy, emphasizing S. Barsonofius of Siponto (Feb. 6 and Aug. 31) Easter on March 27.

62 Zodiacal horse.
62v-63v Blank.
64-107 Treatise of 153 chapters on horse diseases (rubric: Incipit liber alius tractatus de morbis... (Attributed to Hippocrates and Johannes Damascenus)

107v-108v Blank.

Text: The Italian of the text is in the Venetian dialect. It varies in wording and spelling from the Oratoriana (Naples) and B.M. MSS. In the prologue on f.6 Bonifacio mentions his contemporary veterinarian Messer Jordan, "Ruffo" who composed a book for Frederick Barbarossa
entitled *Hippiatria*. Bonifacio and Giordano's works both were written in Greek. The text treats first of the physical appearance and characteristics of horses. Then follows advice on breeding and rearing, symptoms and cures for 180 maladies or accidents. The chapters on medicinal and distilled waters are for the benefit of human patients and are in B.M. Add. 15097 on f. 104v. The section of M735 prescribing for sickness and accidents of horses (f. 64ff) is ascribed to Hippocrates and Joannes Damascenus by the rubricator. On f. 48v Mastro Jacobo Pisano, on f. 51 "Petrus Yspanus qui fuit Pape Johannes" are cited. The translator is Antonio da Pera Dominicoh, mentioned on f. 43. The peculiar arrangement of the text, i.e. the placing of the Kalendar in between the two treatises instead of at the beginning of the book; the insertion of the table of contents and of the colophon (f. 46-48) before the treatise on ungues, is apparently also in B.M. Add. 15097 (Cf. letter of E. Schofield in Folder of M735). It would indicate that the text is a compilation edited by the translator.

The S. Italian character of the prototype is substantiated by the Kalendar which among other South Italian saints contains the following: Feb. 6, Barsanuphius of Oria near Siponto; May 5, Proculus of Puzzuoli, May 10, Cataldus of Tarento, Aug. 31, Barsanuphius *transalato*. Easter is entered March 27; in the XVth century it fell on that date in 1407, 1418, 1429 and 1440.

**Script:** The writing is a small, legible Italian book-hand with a vertical ductus. A slight tendency to cursive is evident but in the main there is no pronounced fracture. It would fit well with the Easter date of 1418, when compared with the writing of 1414 in M371.

**Decoration:** In contrast to the Naples MS, the first part of the text has no illustrations. In M735 and in the B.M. Add. 15097 (which are both stylistically earlier than the Naples MS) they consist of wash drawings not miniatures, of a purely technical character graphically depicting the treatment of sick horses. The drawing on f. 6 is an exception which should be the frontispiece since it represents the author dictating his work. While the iconography undoubtedly is directly copied from an earlier S. Italian prototype, the figure style, technique and blond hair is Venetian and corresponds to M383, the "Fior di Battaglia" MS.

| f. 32v | Bloodletting horse.
| 3 | S. Apelles, the smith, tempted by the devil in the guise of a young girl, tweaks her nose with his tongs (Cf. M626, f. 48v).
| 3v-4 | Bonifacio di Calabria directs the treatment of a saddle-sore horse.
| 4v | A stall for ailing horses.
| 5v | Bonifacio di Calabria dictating to a secretary.
| 62 | Zodiacal horse.
| 64-106v | Horses.

**History:** Written and illustrated in Venice, c.1418, judging from the dialect, the script and the March 27 date for Easter in the Kalendar. Later owned by Giovanni Maria dalla Salla alias Messer Ponteghino master of the stables of Alfonso I d'Este Duke of Ferrara. The
Martini statement that this MS belonged to G. Valletta of Naples cannot be substantiated as the British Museum MS. may be the Valletta book; (so stated in D.W. Singer, Cat. of Lat. & Vernacular MSS in Gt. Brit. p.1030). Purchased from L. C. Harper in 1928.

**Binding:** Late XVth century 3/4 stamped brown morocco and boards. Clasps missing. In slip case.


S. C. Easton, The heritage of the past, (N.Y., 1957) p.305

**Additional cards:**

i. Pera, Antonio da. O.P., tr.
ii. Hippocrates, Tractatus de morbis. f.64
iii. Damascenus, Johannes. c.676-c.787.
iv. Thesauro de cavalli
v. MSS-Illum.-Italian-XV cent.
vi. " " " -Venice-XV cent.

1. Medicine-Veterinary.
2. Horses.
3. Bloodletting
4. Italian language-Venetian dialect.

Bloodletting horse. f.2,2v
Horses. Throughout
Appeles the blacksmith. f.3
Blacksmith. f.3
Bonifacio di Calabria, fl.1266-1285. f.3,5v
Horse-zodiacal. f.62
Profession-blacksmith. f.3
" -veterinarian. Throughout.

MH:AP
9/28/49

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


Domenico Tavio, Mario Salmi

[Ital. 464 = a.T. 3.13]
Ms. in related to pl.
Bern. facsimile text
