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C
Liberi da Premariacco, Fiore de. c.1350-1420.

M
383 Fior di battaglia.

Manuscript on vellum written in the Venetian dialect and illuminated by North Italian artists at the beginning of the XVth century.

108 pen drawings throughout the text, 1 decorative title-page; several unfinished sketches.

20 leaves (10-7/8 x 7-5/8 inches) 2 cols. 39-40 lines.
1², 2⁶, 3⁴, 4⁶, 5². Old foliation in lower margin 241-260.

4°. Red mor. by J. Clark (by whom it was lettered "Trattato della scherma").

From the libraries of Senator Jacopo Soranzo, Abbate Matteo Canonici; Rev. Walter Sneyd and C. Fairfax Murray.

Contents: Incomplete in comparison with the MS. published by F. Novati, *Flos Duellatorum - Il Fior di Battaglia di Maestro Fiore dei Liberi da Premariacco*. Bergamo, 1902.

- f.1-2 Introduction.
2v-4 Combats on horseback with lances. Novati, pp.175-177.
4v-5v Combats on horseback with sword. ^{lance against} Novati, pp.178-179.
5v-7 Combats on horseback with swords. Novati 180-183.
7v-8 Wrestling on horseback. Novati, 184.
8-8v Pedestrian defending himself against mounted opponents, (one or several). Novati 185.
9-9v Lance combat. Novati 148-149.
10-10v Positions of defense.
10v-11v Sword combat.
12-13 Positions of defense with two-handed sword. Novati, p.153-155; ~~Novati, p.156-158.~~
f.13v-17 Two-handed sword combat. Novati, p.156-158.
17v Three against one. Novati, p.143.
18 Staffs, dagger and swords. Novati, p.150.
18v Dagger against sword.
19 Thrust for armed soldiers.

Text: Second, condensed version. (Cf. Novati, p.39). The dialect is Venetian and the form poetic. In the introduction, the author gives an autobiographical sketch, mentions other famous swordsmen of various countries, the prowess of his pupils and the need for an illustrated text book of the art, which he Fiore, being able to read, write and draw has composed. The instructions over the drawings are usually in rhyme. Cf. ff.6v, 7v, 9 etc.

Script: Small humanistic writing in pale brown ink.

Decoration: The illustrations to the text are very delicate pen drawings and unfinished sketches by two North Italian, possibly Venetian or Veronese artists. As the author states in his introduction (f.2) in order to differentiate between masters, pupils and opposing masters, the masters wear a crown, their pupils a garter under the knee, and the opposing masters wear a crown and a garter. The artists have indicated the crowns and garters by burnished gold, the swords and daggers by silver which has tarnished.

History: According to research of Francesco Novati, op.cit. p.39-41, this manuscript is the lost codex MCCLXI of the Biblioteca Soranzo at Venice. When it was in the aforesaid library, the historian Bernardo Maria De Rubeis described it as being contained in a volume entitled "Arte di armeggiare a piedi ed acavallo" of which it comprised ff.241-259. These numbers correspond to the old foliation in the lower margins of M.383.

The library of Jacopo Soranzo, Venetian senator, was sold in 1780. From that collection the MS. entered the library of Matteo Luigi Canonici (1727-1805-6). In 1835 it was sold to Rev. Walter Sneyd of Bagington Rectory, Coventry. Purchased from De Marinis in 1909. A similar MS. was in the Phillips collection, no.4204.

Binding: Red morocco by J. Clarke.

Bibliography: *Canonici sale*
~~Rev. Walter Sneyd sale~~, London, 25 June 1836, no.40; South Kensington Museum exhib., 1862, no.6364; Notes and Queries, 5th Series IV, Nov.20, 1875; F. Novati, Flos duellatorum. Il Fior dei Liberi da Premariacco, Bergamo, 1902, pp.39-41, 97; Rev. Walter Sneyd sale, London, 1903, no.720 to Ellis; T. De Marinis, Cat. VIII (1908) no.31, pl.IX. Catalogue de l'Exposition du Livre Italien ... Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale. Mai-Juin, 1926. No.228.

The Novati edition has been reviewed by M. Maindrone, Il Fiore di Battaglia, in Rev. de l'art anc. et mod., XIV (1903) pp.258-262; C. Foligno, Un Maestro d'armi trecentista in Emporium, XVII (1903), pp.142-152; [R]. R(enier), Giornale storico della lett. ital. XLI (1903), pp.431-434; X... Arch.stor. lombardo, XIX (1903), pp.201-202; B. Croce, A proposito di duelli, Il Fior di Battaglia, in Corriere di Napoli, XXXII, no.33 (reprinted in La Perseveranza XLIV, no.155610); C. Giacosa, Il Fior di Battaglia, una nuova collezione e un vecchio libro, in La Lettura, III, 3; A. Galletti, Flor duellatorum, in Il Torrazzo, V, 3. For notes on the Soranzo and Canonici libraries see Carlo Frati: Dizionario Bio-bibliografico dei bibliotecari e bibliofili Italiani, Firenze, Olschki, 1933, pp.521 and 134 resp.

Cards:

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|------|--|
| i. | MSS.-Illum.-Italian-Venice - XV cent. |
| ii. | MSS.-Illum.-Italian: Verona(?) - XV cent. |
| iii. | Provenance - Soranzo, Jacopo. fl.XVIII cent. |
| iv. | " Canonici, Matteo Luigi, 1727-1805-6. |
| v. | " Sneyd, Rev. Walter |
| vi. | " Murray, C. Fairfax |

- vi. Title: Flos duellatorum.
- vii. Title: Fior di battaglia.
- 1. Duelling
- 2. Italian language - Dialects: Venice.
- 3. Italian poetry - XV cent.
- 4. Iconography - Duelling.

Sports and games: Wrestling. f.7v-8.
 Combat. ff.8-19.
 Combat, Equestrian. ff.2v-8v.
 Animals - Horses. ff.2v-8v.

Binding (title ref).

Trattato della scherma

see

Liberi da Premariacco, Fiore de
 Fior di battaglia.

Morgan MS. No. M.383.

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

called Altichiero.

G. L. Mellini, "Disegni di Altichiero, 2",
Critica d'arte IX (1962), 9-19.

Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Konstens Venedig.
 Nationalmusei Utställningskataloger Nr.269.
 (Stockholm, 20 okt.1962-10 feb 1963), p. 37.
 no. 20.

Rodolfo Palluchini, "Lo sviluppo della
 miniatura in terraferma," La Pittura Vene-
ziana del trecento. (Italy, 1964), p. 157.

Morgan MS. No. M.383

M 383

p. 4

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:

A.N.L. Munby, Connoisseurs and Medieval
Miniatures 1750-1850. (Oxford, 1972).
p.111.

Anton von Ew and Joachim M. Plotzek, Die
Handschriften der Sammlung Ludwig, 4, Cologne, 1985,
120, 284, 286-7.

New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, Italian Manuscript
Painting 1300-1550, exh. cat., New York, 1984,
no. 31.