

ITAL. FOL. 174

Binding:

Binding made of brown leather, from the end of the 15th century (the manuscript predates the binding), with blind embossings. The binding was renovated in the 19th/20th century in Germany.

History:

This is a parchment binding, which was probably made in Bologna, in the first half of the 14th century. Dating and the place of origin are established on the basis of the type of writing and the style of the ornaments. The first owner cannot be established with certainty, but there are many signs indicating connections with the Dominican environment. On the text, there are comments from the period of origin of the text and slightly subsequent comments, whereas there are no notes from much further periods, which indicates that the manuscript had not been used at least since the 16th century. Its further history is known only from the 20th century. In the 1920's it was in possession of Hiersemann, an antiquarian from Leipzig, and was offered to Königliche Bibliothek as a work of Alberto della Piagentina. It was purchased in 1924.

Content:

1r^o-92r^o NICHOLAS TREVET: ITALIAN COMMENTARY ON DE CONSOLATIONE PHILOSOPHIAE OF BOETHIUS. It contains a Tuscan translation of Nicolas Trevet's commentary on Boethius' work *De consolatione philosophiae*. It was made in the Dominican environment and its purpose was to help the monks to achieve a better understanding of the work of Boethius, who was one of the most popular authors studied in the Middle Ages, especially among the Dominicans. The text is quite a precise translation of Trevet's commentary; also astronomical illustrations were taken from it. Towards the end, the translation becomes more like a summary. The text was not published. The code and the text were discussed by O. Löhmann, "Boethius und sein

Kommentator Nicolaus Trevet in der italienischen Literatur des 14. Jahrhunderts”, in Peter Schweigler, Gustav Hofmann, Preben Kirkegaard, Helena Więckowska (a cura di), “Bibliothekswelt und Kulturgeschichte: Eine internationale Festgabe für Joachim Wieder zum 65. Geburtstag dargebracht von seinen Freunden”, Munich 1977, pp. 28-48.

The manuscript is in folio, richly ornamented, with an old, 15th-century binding, it is one of the most interesting codes of the Italian collection.