

MANUSCRIPT 3

Averroës, 1126-1198

Notabilia dicta [fols. 19-63]. Incomplete portions of commentaries on Aristotle's De Anima and Metaphysics, and of the medical tract Al-Kulliyat, known as "Colliget." Caption title of first part: "Incipit quaedam subtilia notabilia dictam a commentōz Avēroz super primo de anima." Bound with three unrelated treatises: Albertus Magnus (1193?-1280), Tractatus proportionum (fols. 1-4); Anonymous, Latitudines formarum (fols. 4-6); and Robertus Anglicus (fl. 1272), Compilatio super tractatu de sphaera (fols. 7-18), his commentary on the Sphaerae mundi by Joannes de Sacro Bosco (fl. 1230).

MS 3

Italy (in Latin)

Ca. 1430-1450

E. J. Goodspeed, Descriptive catalogue, pp. 4-5, enters this codex under a multiple-author heading and a made-up title, as follows: "Albertus Theotonicus (Teutonicus?), Robertus Anglicus, et al., Tractatus mathematici et philosophici." De Ricci, Census, I, 554, enters it under the author and title of the first extract, as follows: "Albertus Teutonicus. Tractatus proportionum." The reader should be aware, however, that there are only 13 columns of materials derived from Albertus Teutonicus (or Albertus Magnus, as he is usually called), which is considerably less than one-tenth of the materials (159 columns) derived from Averroës. Rather than make a fetish of the order in which these unrelated materials were bound (which seems to have been accidental), it would be wiser to tie the codex to the name Averroës, the author of the most voluminous, most significant, and most interesting of these treatises. (Goodspeed and De Ricci supply a wealth of technical information about the codex;

the present short description does not repeat all of that information).

All of the Averroës materials were written on one type of paper (fols. 19-67), a paper with a clear, well defined watermark of a very common kind (three "mounts" and a cross); if a relationship can be established between this watermark and the nearly identical watermark No. 11726 in Vol. III of Briquet's Filigraanes, then it seems possible to affirm that the paper was manufactured in Northern Italy during the period 1428-1440. Calligraphic evidence, which points to a 15th-century Italian origin, helps to corroborate this conjecture.

The other materials were written on different kinds of paper and in different hands, and may be of a later date. The most significant item among them is the Robertus Anglicus commentary (48 columns), which contributed to medieval scientific studies (see The Sphere of Sacrobosco and its commentators, ed. and trans. Lynn Thorndike [University of Chicago Press, 1949], for the full Latin text with an English translation). Note: Both Goodspeed and De Ricci speculate that the commentary was actually the work of Robert Grosseteste (1175?-1253), bishop of Lincoln, author of the Sphaerae compendium, but they appear to be mistaken.

Folio, 29x22cm.

67 leaves (6 are blank).

University of Chicago blue cloth binding.

Fair copies in three unidentified hands. With a few marginal notes. The Averroës materials were carefully written, in double columns, and rubricated; space was left for decorative

initials, but they have not been filled in. The other materials were more roughly written, in black ink in double columns, with only two capitals in red. A later hand has scribbled a few Latin quotations at the end of the codex. No index or table of contents. Foliated several times; many leaves missing. Correct foliation for the codex as currently arranged can be seen in red crayon at the bottom right-hand corner of each leaf.

Part of the Berlin Collection.

14 September 1967  
T. Bentley Duncan