

Add. 8275

Late 15th cent.

Aristotiles

Spanish (Castilian)

Paper (chainlines and laidlines but apparently no watermark), 285 x 200 mm, iii + 139 + iii ff., numbered i-ii, 1 + 2-140 + iii-v. The pastedowns and conjoint endleaves of 18th/19th cent. paper, marbled on the inside only, numbered i-ii at front and iv-v at end (both pastedowns have been lifted). Single column, 27-30 lines to a page in art.1, 26-7 in art. 2, ruled in brown crayon. The ink has corroded through the paper in some sections, and has been repaired by lamination.

3 endleaves (ff. i-ii, 1) + 1-10¹² (ff. 2-121) 11^{five} (ff. 122-126) 12¹⁴ (ff. 127-140) + 3 endleaves (ff. iii-v).

Catchwords.

Written in a hybrid script. On 2^r is a large six-line initial in red, with decorative penwork in purple, extending down the inner margin and across the foot of the page. On 127^r is a four-line lombard initial in blue. Three-, four- or five-line plain lombard initials in red or blue at the beginning of the first chapter of each book in art. 1. Two-line initials in the same style at the beginning of chapters and other sections. Headings and paragraph marks in red.

2° fo. *muchas maneras*

1. 2^r-126^v **Aristotiles**, Las Ethicas

A qui comiencan las ethicas de Aristotiles las quales son partidas en diez libros y trasladolas el famoso orador Leonardo de Aresçio dela lengua griega en el latin en muy elevado estilo segund su traslaçion nueva. E despues las traslado del latin en nuestro vulgar castellano el muy reverendo señor don Alonso de santa Maria Obispo de Burgos. Comença el prologo.

Prologo. Toda sçiencia tiene subjecto y materia de qua tracta. E por ladivision de los subjectos se toma la division de las sçiencias ... prologue ending 3^v Pues conseguida a questa sçiencia canda uno consigue el fin por quien son todos los trabajos y las obras humanas finalmente.

Acabase el prologo do las ethicas comiença la tabla de los diez libros de las ethicas cada uno por syen Relaçion de la traslaçion nueva de Lleonardo.

Summaries of the contents of books follow on 3^v-5^v (details for books 8 and 9 are run together on 5^r), beginning *Primero libro. El primero libro tracta de a queste fin en general moral en figurativamente quasi de clarando la filicidad politica ... ending 5^v de como proscede de aquella la fabrica y hordinaçio ymundial dial esta finalmente la felicidad*

demandada et cetera. A qui se acaban las Relaciones de los diez libros de aristotiles cada uno por si segunt la traslacion nueva del Leonardo de Areçio.

Then follow lists of chapters for the ten books, beginning *Comienca la tabla de los capitulos de las ethicas. Primero libro. El libro primero es partido en prohemia y tractado en el prohemia ay dos capitulos. Capitulo primo. Tracta de como todas las cosas tienden en algunt bien final ... ending 11^r A qui se acaban los capitulos de los diez libros de las ethicas de Aristotiles segunt la traslacion nueva de Leonardo de Areçio. Comienca el primero libro*

Book 1 opens on 11^v, beginning *Aqui comienza el primero libro de los diez libros de las ethicas de Aristotiles segunt la traslacion nueva de Leonardo de Areçio. El libro primero es partido en prohemia y tractado en el qual prohemia ay dos capitulos en el primero tracta de como todas las cosas tienden en algunt bien final y de la diversidad delos fines y de la horden y comparacio de aquellos. Liber primus. En el capitulo primero ay quatro conclusiones. La primera es dela tendencia o discursos delas cosas en algunt bien final ... ending 126^r E asy ayamos dicho universalmente y prohemia y introduçion de la poletica et cetera. Deo gratias.*

126^v ruled but otherwise blank.

On 1^r (an endleaf) is an early xix cent. account in Spanish headed *De la libreria de d. Manuel de Acevedo* containing a discussion of Aretino's translation of Aristotle, and manuscripts of Spanish translations of the Ethics in the library of Isabella the Catholic, as recorded by Diego Clemencin, *Elógió de la reina Católica Doña Isabel* (Madrid, 1821), pp. 473-4. The note continues in another apparently slightly later hand with references to the volume printed at Seville in 1493; see below.

In the above transcriptions, the ampersand has been rendered 'y'.

Book 2 begins on 25^r, Book 3 on 31^v, Book 4 on 42^r, Book 5 on 50^r, Book 6 on 59^v, Book 7 on 69^v, Book 8 on 83^v, Book 9 on 96^r, Book 10 on 108^v.

The work is a compendium of Aristotles' *Nichomachean Ethics*. Throughout the text, the translation into Spanish is ascribed to Alonso de Cartagena (1364-1456), Bishop of Burgos, based on a Latin version ascribed to Leonardo Bruni Aretino (c. 1370-1444). This MS, the Norton MS (see below), is discussed by P.E. Russell and A.R.D. Pagden, 'Nueva luz sobre una version Española cuatrocentistas de la Etica a Nicomaco: Bodleian Library MS Span.D.1' in *Homenaje a Guillermo Guastavino: Miscelánea de studios en el año de su jubilación como Director de la Biblioteca Nacional* (Madrid, 1974), pp. 7-11. They point out that our text is largely identical with that of Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Span. D. 1 (SC 32742), which has a Prohemium (not present in our MS) dated 1467 containing a dedication to Juan de Guzman, Señor de la Algaba, who is stated to have commissioned the work, which uses a version of Aristotle's *Ethics* which was not that of Bruni. Given that Cartagena criticised Bruni's translation, they argue that a more likely candidate for authorship is the humanist Nuño de Guzman, for whom see Mario Schiff, *La Bibliothèque du Marquis de Santillane*, Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études: sciences historiques et philologiques, 153 (Paris, 1905), pp. 449-459. The text is almost identical to that printed in Seville, Meinardo Ungut y Estanislao Polono, 5 June 1493 (GW 023893), available online from Madrid, Universidad Complutense, on

<http://alfama.sim.ucm.es/dioscorides/consulta_libro.asp?ref=B19080803>, although there is no ascription in the print to any author (but see Russell and Pagden, p. 4).

2. 127^r-140^r [**Pseudo-**] **Aristotelis**, Yconomica

Aqui comença la trasladaçion nueva de la yconomica de Aristotiles que es del regimento dela casa trasladada de griego en latin por Leonardo de Areçio. Prefacio de Leonardo a Cosma de Medicis a qui en la trasladaçion latina a fue enbiada.

Segund valor son de algunas veces las cosas de chico ... ending 128^r agora vengamos al texto de Aristotiles. Acabase el proemio de Leonardo de Areçio

Book 1 opens on 128^v, beginning *Comença el libro primero de Aristotiles de la cosa familiar. [L]a cosa familiar y la cosa publica ... ending 140^r* (misnumbered 139 bis by a different hand to that responsible for the rest of the foliation) *ala muger y fijos y alos padres. Acabase el libro segundo de la yconomica de Aristotiles y dela nueva trasladaçion. Deo gratias*

Book 2 begins 133^v, and corresponds to Book 3 of Pseudo-Aristotle, *Oeconomica* as in the translation ascribed to Leonardo Bruni Aretino.

Binding: late 18th cent. tree calf.

Origin: written in Spain.

Provenance:

(1) Ferdinand VII (1784-1833), King of Spain 1808 and 1813-1833: of the endleaves, i^r and ii^v, iv^r and v^v (the latter pair upside down in relation to the text) are each stamped '+ Quarenta Maravedis Sello quarto quarenta maravedis ano de mil ochocientos diez y seis'. To the left is a circular stamp, with coat of arms of 'Ferdin. VII D.G. Hisp. et Ind. rex'.

(2) Maggs Brothers, *The Art of Writing* (catalogue no. 542, 1930), no. 152, priced £52 10s.

This is recorded in the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts

<<https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/>> as SDBM_10835.

(3) Returned by Maggs for sale at auction, according to a draft of a letter from F.J. Norton (see below) to Paul Kristeller (now Cambridge, University Library, MS Add. 10304/22). Sold at Sotheby's, 27 March 1933, lot 763, for £3 to H.R. Creswick (1902-1988), Cambridge University Librarian 1949-67, apparently acting on behalf of:

(4) F.J. Norton M.A. (1904-1986), Under-Librarian and sometime Deputy Librarian of Cambridge University Library, and Knight Grand Cross of Alfonso X the Wise. His name written in pencil on iv^r, upside down (not necessarily by his hand). Presented to Cambridge University Library, 26 January 1981.

JSR 16 December 2011

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