

Commentary on PETER LOMBARD'S *First Book of the Sentences*, related to PAULUS VENETUS, *Super primum sententiarum Johannis de Ripa Lecturae Abbreviatio*  
In Latin, decorated manuscript on paper and parchment  
Northern Italy, 1479 (?)

*i* (unnumbered paper) + 124 + *i* (unnumbered paper), quires 1-3 (through f. 24v) are all paper, thereafter, paper and parchment alternate, so that quires begin with parchment, and parchment is used for the middle bifolia, watermark, partial and obscured by text, possibly a bow, not in Piccard, incorrect modern foliation in pencil, top, outer corner, 1-123, with f. 10bis, the text suggests that the manuscript once included additional quires, no missing, at the beginning and end (collation, *i*<sup>10</sup> *ii*<sup>10</sup> [beginning f. 10bis] *iii*<sup>5</sup> [structure uncertain] *iv*<sup>6</sup> *v*<sup>10</sup> [-1, before f. 31, with loss of text] *vi-ix*<sup>10</sup> *x*<sup>10</sup> [-1, before f. 76, with loss of text] *xi-xiii*<sup>10</sup> *xiv*<sup>10</sup> [-10, following f. 123, with loss of text]), horizontal catchwords, middle, lower margin, decorated in quires 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13, see ff. 10v, 19, 45v, 75v, 104v, and 114v, no signatures, written below the top line, with the beginning of sections copied in a larger rounded southern gothic book hand, and the remainder of the commentary copied in a small, highly abbreviated cursive gothic script, in two columns of 35- to 31-lines (justification 115-112 x 95-90 mm.), frame ruled in lead, with the horizontal rules full across, and single full-length vertical bounding lines, no running titles, a few red rubrics, red paragraph marks delineate sections within the text, 6- to 4-line red initials, mostly undecorated, but with skillful violet pen decoration in quires 1-3, larger red initials, 15- to 12-line, at the beginning of major sections of the text, with decorative void spaces in the body of the initial, pen-infilling in black, ff. 25 and 46, in excellent, almost pristine condition, despite loss of the bottom margin on ff. 66 and 70, and the outer margin, f. 84 (no loss of text). Bound, seventeenth century (?), with vellum leaves from a printed book over pasteboard, hollow-back spine, spine with three slightly raised bands and head and tail bands, in excellent condition with slight cracking down the middle of the spine. Dimensions 160 x 128 mm.

This is an important manuscript, one that opens up complex textual issues warranting further study. The manuscript presents an abbreviated version of the lengthy commentary on the *Sentences* of Peter the Lombard by the fourteenth-century Franciscan theologian, Johannes de Ripa. In fact, our text corresponds most closely with the version of Ripa by Paul of Venice, written shortly before 1402 at Padua and known in a single manuscript, which was the basis of the modern edition.

## PROVENANCE

1. The script and decoration suggest that this manuscript was copied in northern Italy in the fifteenth century; an inscription on the front flyleaf states that the manuscript dates from 1479: "Commento sul libro delle Sentenze di Pietro Lombardo scritto l'anno 1479"; no evidence to support this assertion is now found in the manuscript, but it may have had some support at the beginning or end of the text, both now missing, and it is certainly not impossible.
2. Spine, shelf-mark (?), B (at top), and S C (at bottom); s. XVII (?).
3. Once owned by Fürsten Portia, according to the handwritten description in German, housed with the manuscript, dated 28 January 1937.

4. Front fly-leaf, f. i, in pencil: "2681."
5. Cutting from unidentified printed bookseller's catalogue in German, laid in.

#### TEXT

ff. 1-123v, "//huius dona infusa creata scilicet fidem et creatorem pro etiam . . . , f. 25, Circa primam distinctionem primi sententiarum in qua magister tractat de frui et uti primo enim videndum est de fructu beatifica creature, secunda de ipsa fructu . . . , Quero igitur primo istam questionem, Utrum sola trinitate incommutabili creatura rationalis beatifice possit frui . . . [f. 123] Circa 16 distinctionem quero talem questionem, Vtrum creatura rationalis prius sanctificetur . . . est tamen meritorius//"

This is a scholastic commentary on the First Book of *The Sentences* of Peter the Lombard. The text now begins imperfectly in the commentary on the prologue, and ends in the sixteenth distinction.

Together with the Bible, *The Sentences* of Peter Lombard (*Libri quatuor sententiarum*) was the fundamental textbook of the Theology Faculty of the medieval Universities from the twelfth century through the sixteenth century. Peter Lombard (c. 1100-1160), a canon at Notre Dame, and Bishop of Paris, composed the work around 1150. In a long series of questions, he systematically presented the whole body of theological teaching, based on the Bible and the teachings of the Fathers. His work is divided into four books, covering the Trinity, Creation, Christ and the Sacraments respectively.

Apart the Bible, there is no theological work more commented on than the *Sentences*. Every medieval theology student attended lectures on the *Sentences*, and most important medieval theologians left written commentaries on the text, ranging from Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas, to William of Ockham and even Martin Luther. The work continued to be used in the schools from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries. Colish (1994) and more recently Rosemann (2007) have exhaustively studied the impact of the *Sentences* on medieval theology over these centuries, but each new commentary takes its place in an important context, showing how the *Sentences* were interpreted differently after the scholastics within the schools and within the monastic tradition.

This manuscript presents a commentary on the First Book of the *Sentences*, which discusses God, the Trinity, God's attributes, Predestination and the problem of Evil. The commentary is an abbreviation of the Commentary on the *Sentences* by Johannes de Ripa, also known as Johannes de Marchia, a fourteenth-century Franciscan theologian, who studied at Paris, and taught at Paris c. 1360-80, and probably also at Amiens. His importance in medieval philosophy and epistemology is only emerging gradually, as modern scholars study his contributions. His importance to theologians during the later Middle Ages is witnessed by the fact that Paul of Venice prepared an abbreviated version of his commentary.

Paul of Venice, O.E.S.A., was born around 1369; he entered the Augustinian Order at an early age, and studied Philosophy and Theology at Oxford and at Padua, where he became a Doctor of Theology and Arts in 1405. He died at Padua in 1429. Paul of Venice is known for his

contributions to logic and epistemology; Alessandro Conti describes him as “the most important Italian thinker of his times, and one of the most prominent and interesting logicians of the Middle Ages.” His abbreviation of John of Ripa’s Commentary was composed around 1402 at Padua, and reflects an early stage of his education and philosophical interests.

Johannes de Ripa, a Franciscan theologian who taught in Paris c. 1360 (see Friedrich Stegmüller, *Repertorium commentariorum in Sententias Petri Lombardi*, Würzburg, 1947, no. 485, pp. 237-238), wrote a lengthy commentary on the *Sentences*. There is no complete modern edition of the Ripa commentary, but the prologue and one distinction from book one have been edited from the nine complete manuscripts, and the seven or eight additional manuscripts including part of the text (see Jean de Ripa, *Lectura super Primum Sententiarum Prologi, [Quaestiones I & II/Quaestiones Ultimae]*, ed. A. Combes & F. Ruello, 2 Vols., Textes Philosophiques du Moyen Age, VIII & XVI, Paris, J. Vrin, 1961 and 1970; and “Jean de Ripa, *In I Sent. Dist. XXXVII*,” ed. A. Combes & F. Ruello, *Traditio* 23 [1967], pp. 191-267). Our manuscript does not correspond with the Ripa commentary enough to be considered a full version of it.

The text in this manuscript generally agrees most closely with the abbreviated version of John of Ripa’s *Commentary* by Paul of Venice (see Paulus Venetus, *Super Primum Sententiarum Johannis de Ripa Lecturae. Abbreuiatio*, ed. F. Ruello, Corpus Philosophorum Medii Aevi, Testi e studi XV, SISMEL, Firenze: Edizione del Galluzzo, 1999). Paul of Venice was an Augustinian Hermit, who prepared his text shortly after 1402 at Padua. The modern edition is based on a single manuscript, Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS lat. theol. E. 34.

Paul of Venice’s abbreviation is not listed in Stegmüller, *Repertorium*. A different abbreviation of Johannes de Ripa’s text by the fifteenth-century Augustinian Hermit, Baltassar de Tolentino, OESA, Stegmüller no. 91, p. 48, which survives in one manuscript, an autograph, now Vatican City, Vat. Lat 1084, ff. 1-106 (described in Augustus Pelzer, *Codices vaticani latini*, vol. 2, pars prior, codices 79-1134, Bibliotheca Vaticana, 1931, pp. 646-647) differs from the text in the manuscript described here.

This is a working, well organized copy of the text, using a system of initials, two-sizes of script, and red paragraph marks to delineate its structure; arguments are numbered in the margin in a contemporary hand (many now cut-away), with two notes added by later readers, see ff. 102v, and 111.

## LITERATURE

Colish, Marcia. *Peter Lombard*, Leiden and New York, E.J. Brill, 1994.

Jean de Ripa. *Lectura super Primum Sententiarum Prologi, [Quaestiones I & II/Quaestiones Ultimae]*, ed. A. Combes & F. Ruello, 2 Vols., Textes Philosophiques du Moyen Age, VIII & XVI, Paris, J. Vrin, 1961 and 1970

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Stegmüller, Friedrich. *Repertorium commentariorum in Sententias Petri Lombardi*, Würzburg, 1947.

#### ONLINE RESOURCES

Conti, Alessandro, "Paul of Venice," in *The Stanford History of Philosophy*;  
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paul-venice/>

"The Internet Guide to Master Peter Lombard,"  
<http://www.franciscan-archive.org/lombardus/index.html>

Franciscan Authors, 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century: (Ioannes de Ripa; Ioannes de Marchia)  
<http://users.bart.nl/~roestb/franciscan/>

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