

GONÇALES DE VEGA, Gonçalo [Notario de Avila]

In Spanish and Latin, illuminated manuscript on parchment

[Spain, Avila, dated August 1415]

94 folios, complete (flyleaf + i-ii12, iii6, iv10, v10, vi-viii12, ix6, x4), written in brown ink in a cursive chancery bookhand, on 29 to 32 long lines (justification 180 x 105 mm), text copied in a frame ruled in plummet, old foliation in upper corner, quire signatures, public notary's initials [paraph] at the bottom of every folio, some later marginal annotations ("Juez Nicolas Perez," "Cavalleros," "Vecinos," "Poder de la Tierra," some pen flourishing and decorated initials at start of Latin texts, five 2-line high initials in red with purple penwork (f. 31), TWO 4-LINE HIGH INITIAL IN GOLD LEAF with elaborate purple penwork extending into the margin (f. 1 ; f. 89v). Bound in CONTEMPORARY GREEN SHEEPSKIN over pasteboards, with penned date "1372" and "Notario de Avila" on upper board, date repeated on spine "1372," traces of ties (binding slightly worn, some worm holes on spine, never affecting interior). Dimensions 260 x 180 mm.

An interesting historical document, intact, in its original attractive green-dyed binding, and of relatively luxurious composition, with gold leaf illumination. Recording in extensive detail a land dispute and penned by a royal secretary, the codex has considerable linguistic interest (the language is Castilian Spanish) and legal import for the region of Avila under the reign of King Ferdinand I.

PROVENANCE

1. Avila, historically one of the most important and flourishing cities in the medieval and modern history of Spain.
2. Leonhard Sutter (Switzerland): his bookplate pasted on upper pastedown.

TEXT

ff. 1-30, "En la ciubdat de Avila, domingo veynte y uno dias del mes de enero, ano del nacimiento del nuestro Salvador Jhesu Christo, de mill y quatrociento y catorse anos, estando en la iglesia de santo Johano ayuntado el conçelo y alcalde y alguagil y cavalleros y escuderos y rregidores [sic] [...]. Segunt [?] que lo han de uso y de costumbre, estando en el dicho conçelo Gil Gomes y Alfonso Gonçales y Gil Gonçales y Sancho Sanches [...] y estando ayi con ellos en el dicho concelo Niculas Peres bachiller alcalde en la ciubdat de Segovia y en presencia de n. [?] Gonçalo Gonçales de Vega escrivano de nuestro Senor el Rey, notario publico en la su corte y en todos los sus reynos";

f. 31, "Sepan todos quantos este libro vieren y oyeren como nos Don Alfonso por la gracia de Dios Rey de Castilla, de Toledo, de Leon, de Galizia, de Sevilla, de Cordova [...] por muchos servicios que los cavalleros y el conçelo de Avila haciendo [...]";

ff. 31-49v, "In nomine sancte et individue trinitatis quod a fidelibus in unitate collitur et adoratur officium est regie magestatis populos... ;"

ff. 50-63, "Conoçada cosa sea a todos los omes que esta carta viejen [?] como nos Don Alfonso

por la gratia de Dios rey de Castilla, de Toledo, de Leon, de Gallizia, de Sevilla, de Cordova [...]";

ff. 63-89v, "Sepan quantos esta carta ...";

ff. 89v-94v, "Fallo que ausi por los dichos ..."; explicit : "Despues esto en la dicha ciubdat de Avila, miercoles catorse dias del mes de agosto ano del nascimiento del nuestro Senor Jhesus Christo de mill quatrocientos y quinze [...] yo Goncalo Concales de Vega [-] de nuestro senor el rey, notario publico en la su corte y en todos los sus regnos [...] en la mana que dicha escripta por me [-] en noventa y quarto fojas d'este libro de pergamino de cuerpo de quatro fojas en el pliego consta en que va mi signo [...]."

Scribal copy of an inquiry which began under Judge Nicolás Pérez, baccalaureus and major of Segovia at Avila, on Sunday 21 January and written down by Gonçalo Gonçales de Vega, scribe to King Fernando I "El Justo" [The Righteous], king of Aragon and Sicily and count of Barcelona (1412-1416). The subject of the lawsuit was a conflict between Gil Gomes and the city of Avila with its neighboring villages about boundary lines, pasture-land, stone-pine woods, and mountain-estates.

The text is of both juristic and linguistic value. It includes various declarations in Castilian and Latin and cites earlier documents thus offering an interesting collection of documents on Avila and the other places involved.

LITERATURE

Ariz, Luis. *Historia de las grandezas de la ciudad de Avila, por el Padre Fray Luiz Ariz*, Alcala de Henares, por L. Martinez Grande, 1607.

Giry, A. *Manuel de Diplomatique*, Paris, Librairie Hachette et Cie, 1894.

Michot, J. *Origines du notariat, ou Histoire de la forme des conventions et actes privés depuis les temps les plus reculés*, Paris, Marchal, Billard et Cie, 1878.

ONLINE RESOURCES

A Database of Catalan, Galician, Portuguese, and Spanish Manuscripts

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/PhiloBiblon/phsea.html>

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