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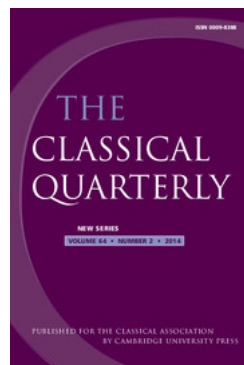
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## A Ninth-Century Commentary on Donatvs

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## A NINTH-CENTURY COMMENTARY ON DONATVS.

A MANUSCRIPT belonging to the Municipal Library at Tours (No. 843, formerly 416, fols. 75a-101a) of the beginning of the thirteenth century contains a portion of a Commentary on Donatus, compiled in the middle of the ninth century by Sedulius of Liège.<sup>1</sup> This copy was left unfinished by the scribe, and the Commentary comprises only about two-thirds of the *Ars Minor*. A brief note on the manuscript was contributed by Charles Thurot to the *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*<sup>2</sup> in 1870.

As Manitius<sup>3</sup> adds nothing to our knowledge of this work, it may be well to place on record here that the British Museum possesses a complete manuscript of the Commentary, comprising not only the *Ars Minor*, but also the *Ars Maior* with the *De Barbarismo*, etc. The following extracts will give an idea of this work, which, like the Commentaries of Remigius of Auxerre on Phocas and Martianus Capella, with which I have dealt elsewhere (*Didaskaleion, Studi filologici di letteratura antica*, iii. 173, 1914, Torino), is valuable for the history of the study of the texts and doctrines of the ancient grammarians in the early middle ages :

MS. *Arundel* 43, vellum, 80 numbered folios measuring 26.5 by 16 cms., single columns with from 37 to 53 lines to the page. Titles in red, and large capitals in red and blue or red and green, sometimes green only<sup>4</sup> or red only. Single hand of earlier part of saec. XIII., with many marginal notes in a hand of saec. XIV. or XV. This volume (with some fifty others in the same collection) belonged formerly to the Carthusians of Mainz<sup>5</sup> (at bottom of fol. 1a in a hand of saec. XV., *Iste liber est fratrum Carthusiensium prope Mogunciam*, and at bottom of fol. 80b in same hand, *Codex Carthusiensium*

<sup>1</sup> On this writer see Esposito (*Studies*, ii., 1913, pp. 505, 520), and Hohl (*Rhein. Mus.*, 69, 1914, p. 580).

<sup>2</sup> *Nouvelle Série*, vi., pp. 242-43. Thurot's note was reprinted in the *Revue Celtique*, i., 1870-72, pp. 264-65. The Tours MS. was more recently described by M. Collon (*Catal. gén. des MSS. des Bibl. Publ. de France, Départements* t. 37, 1900, pp. 615-16).

<sup>3</sup> *Gesch. der lat. Lit. des Mittelalters*, i., 1911, p. 319.

<sup>4</sup> According to M. Paul Meyer (*Romania*, 12,

1883, p. 150, and *Notices et Extraits*, 35, ii., 1897, p. 646), after the early years of the thirteenth century green capitals are no longer found in MSS. Professor Wilhelm Meyer of Göttingen, whose experience of mediaeval MSS. is probably unrivalled, tells me that, whereas this statement is substantially true of MSS. written in France, England, and Germany, it does not apply in the case of MSS. written in Italy.

<sup>5</sup> On MSS. formerly belonging to the Carthusians at Mainz, see F. W. Roth (*Romanische Forschungen*, 6, 1891, p. 430).

*Moguncie*), and afterwards to the Royal Society of London (stamp at bottom of fol. 1b, *Soc. Reg. Lond. ex dono Henr. Howard Norfolciensis*). [Henry Howard, sixth Duke of Norfolk.]

Fol. 1a (rubric): *Incipit Expositio Sedulii Scotti Super Primam Edicionem Donati*. [The *Ars Minor*, pp. 355-66, ed. Keil.]

In primis sciendum est quod hec institutio de uoce et de littera et de sillaba et de pedibus de tonis deque posituris prima ars, teste Prisciano, nominatur. Nam ipse Priscianus de nominibus tractans numerorum inter cetera sic ait:<sup>1</sup>

‘Donatus in prima arte, atque excepto amphibracho et epitrito, quorum alterum tripla diuisione partimur, alterum epitrita, uniuersorum pedum trina condicio repperitur. Trina dixit propter<sup>2</sup> tripertita.’

Altera uero institutio, que de octo partibus orationis est, secunda ars appellatur eodem testificante Prisciano, qui de preposicionibus disserens:<sup>3</sup>

‘Donatus,’ inquit, ‘in secunda arte, *separate preposiciones acuuntur, coniuncte casibus aut loquelis uim suam sepe committant*<sup>4</sup> *et graues fiunt*.’ Hac igitur tanti uiri auctoritate suffulti prius de uoce ceterisque, dehinc de octo partibus oracionis, ordine competenti, deo fauente, disseramus. . . .

Fol. 12a (rubric): *Incipit Commentum Sedulii Scotti In Maiorem Donatum Gra(m)maticum*.<sup>5</sup>

Pulchre diffiniuit Donatus ordinem sue<sup>6</sup> descripcionis; primum enim de uoce, deinde de littera, de sillaba, de pedibus, de partibus, ad ultimum de uiciis scripsit. *Incipit editio secunda de partibus orationis Donati grammatici urbis Romę*. Iste titulus in quibusdam codicibus uarie inuenitur.<sup>7</sup> *Incipit* conpositum est ut quidam uolunt ex *in* et *capio*, quasi *incapit*. Sed alii ex *in* et *coepi* defectiuo uerbo, quod uerius est. *Ars* ab artando dicitur, id est constringendo, quia re uera quid artius, quid uere strictius inueniri potest. . . .

Fol. 67a: Expositis octo partium oracionis regulis, consequenter de ipsarum partium oracionis uiciis atque uirtutibus Donatus excellentissimus auctor artis grammaticę edisserit.<sup>8</sup> Nam utrumque ad sollertiam artis grammaticę pertinet, ut explosis prius uiciis, deinde metaplasmaticis et scematicis<sup>9</sup> ac tropicis ornatibus, quasi quibusdam gemmis picta uenustetur loqucio. Quodque duo sunt principalia uiciorum genera, unum quod in singularum partium oracionis uiciosa prolacione accidere cognoscitur, quod barbarismi nomine uocitatur, alterum quod in contextu partium oracionis inesse deprehenditur, quod soloecismum uocant, primo de barbarismo, dehinc de soloecismo competenter exponit. Quid sit ergo barbarismus differentiali<sup>10</sup> diffinicionum

<sup>1</sup> Prisc. *De Fig. Num.* 25 (ed. Keil, *Gr. Lat.*, iii., 1860, p. 414) with some variants.

<sup>2</sup> *pro* Prisc. The MS. has *ff*.

<sup>3</sup> Prisc. *Inst. Gramm.* xiv. 6 (ed. Hertz, *Gr. Lat.*, iii., p. 27).

<sup>4</sup> *commutant* Prisc.

<sup>5</sup> The first *m* is effaced. Folios 12a-67a comprise that portion of Sedulius's *Commentary* dealing with Donatus, *Ars Gramm.*, I. 1-II. 17 (ed. Keil, *Gr. Lat.*, iv., 1864, pp. 367-392).

<sup>6</sup> The MS. generally has simply *e* for *ae*, but occasionally we find *ę* as above.

<sup>7</sup> This title is not found among Keil's variants (ed. p. 367).

<sup>8</sup> For the matter of fols. 67a-80a, see Donatus, *Ars* II. 18-III. 6 (ed. pp. 392-402).

<sup>9</sup> The adjectives *metaplasmaticus* and *schematicus* are not found in the lexicons (Forcellini, Georges, Du Cange).

<sup>10</sup> *Differentialis* is not in the lexicons.

specie quam greci *κατὰ Διαφορὰν*, hoc est secundum differentiam,<sup>1</sup> appellant, breuiter lucideque diffinit dicens:<sup>2</sup>

‘Incipit de barbarismo et ceteris uiciis. Barbarismus est una pars orationis uiciosa in communi sermone. In poemate metaplasmus.’

Attendendum quod Donatus strenuissime peritissimeque suam edidit artem. Primum enim componens minorem edicionem ad instruendos pueros in exordio uoluminis sui imposuit. . . .

Fol. 80a (the work ends): ‘Troianas<sup>3</sup> uexit ad urbes.’

In hoc quoque exemplo frigii, hoc est troiani, uiri Alexandri troianum Eneam deterret ne quid temere agat quo modo ille Alexander rapiendo Helenam fecit.

Explicit Expositio. Explicit Expositio<sup>4</sup> Sedulii Scotti Super Editionem Donati Grammatici.

Fol. 80b: A full-page portrait of Donatus writing his grammar, painted in red, green, and yellow, with inscriptions and a few insignificant verses in a hand of saec. XIV.

It is impossible at present to define the relationship of our MS. to the Tours copy, as Thurot has only given us a few very short extracts:

Fol. 75a: *Incipit tractatus Sedulii Scotti in Arte Donati de Octo Partibus Orationis*.<sup>5</sup> Septem<sup>6</sup> sunt species peristaseos,<sup>7</sup> id est circumstantie, sine quibus nulle questiones proponuntur . . . id est persona, res uel factum, causa, locus, tempus, modus, materia uel materies siue facultas. . . . Fol. 75b: Partes orationis quot sunt? hec oratiuncula peusis<sup>8</sup> est. . . . Fol. 101a: Varie dictiones per quas magistri tradunt ueteres Romanorum iurare (the rest was not copied, and the last words correspond with Donatus, *Ars Minor*, ed. Keil, *Gr. Lat.* IV., p. 362, l. 30). In addition he quotes two characteristic passages dealing with the pronoun, both on fol. 85b: Ideo *pene* dixit<sup>9</sup> quia substantiam tantum significat, non tamen qualitatem, quomodo nomen; and In quibusdam codicibus legitur<sup>10</sup> *personam interdum recipit*, tumque nulla generis inconsequentia apparet. Unde hic locus melius in greco legitur *Kai*

<sup>1</sup> This comes from Isidore, *Etymologiae*, ii. 29, 7, ed. Lindsay, 1911: Sexta species definitionis est, quam Graeci *κατὰ διαφορὰν*, nos per differentiam dicimus.

<sup>2</sup> Donatus, *Ars Gramm.* ii. 18 (ed. p. 392).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, iii. 6 (ed. p. 402).

<sup>4</sup> Repeated thus in the MS.

<sup>5</sup> In Keil's edition the *Ars Minor* covers pp. 355-366. The portion commented on in the Tours MS. comprises only pp. 355-362.

<sup>6</sup> This method of commencing an exposition was common in the Middle Ages. It is said by Traube (*Vorlesungen und Abhandlungen*, ii., 1911, p. 165) to go back to Boethius. For examples see Pseudo-Jerome, *Expos. Quatuor Evang.*, Prol. ap. Migne, *Patrol. Lat.* 30, 531; Manilius (*Gesch. der lat. Lit. des M.A.* i., pp. 491, 512); Christianus of Stablo, *Expos. in Matthaeum*, i., ap. Migne, *P.L.* 106, 1264; various commentaries of Remi-

gius of Auxerre ap. Mancini (*Rendiconti della R. Accad. dei Lincei, Classe di scienze morali*, serie V., vol. 11, 1902, p. 179), Manilius (*Münchener Museum für Philol. des M.A.*, ii., 1913, pp. 99, 101, 109), and Esposito (*Didaskaleion*, iii., 1914, p. 174).

<sup>7</sup> For *peristasis* see Petron. *Sat.* 48, 4; Quintil. *Inst. Orat.* v. 10, 104; and Cic. *Ad Att.* iv. 8a, 2.

<sup>8</sup> Neither Georges nor Du Cange give this word. It is, however, used both by Cassiodorus (*Expos. in Psalt.* iv. 6, *P. Lat.* 70, 51) and by Isidore (*Etymol.* ii. 21, 47, ed. Lindsay).

<sup>9</sup> Donatus, *Ars Minor*, ed. Keil, p. 357, 2 Thurot points out that Sedulius has adopted Priscian's theory of the pronoun, attributing it to Donatus, who really followed a quite different tradition.

<sup>10</sup> *Ars Minor*, p. 357, 3.

ΠΡΟCΩΝΕCΔΟ τε αΠΙΔΔεχεται, quod interpretatur *et personam interdum recipit* (i.e. Καὶ πρόσωπον ἐνίοτε ἀποδέχεται).

It is not correct to infer—as is done by Thurot—from the above extracts that Sedulius was acquainted with Greek. A number of writers in the early middle ages, mostly grammarians like Remigius of Auxerre, make a considerable show of Greek learning which has impressed writers even in modern times; but a close inspection of the Greek words and phrases—often hideously distorted—which they employ shows that many of them are hellenisms which had become acclimatized in ecclesiastical Latin as far back as Jerome's time, and the rest are taken directly from the pages of such authors as Cassiodorus, Isidore of Seville, and the Latin grammarians. Priscian, for instance, was a veritable mine of Greek quotations for those who wished to make parade of a would-be knowledge.

Before leaving the subject of Sedulius, it may be well to clear up a point which has been left obscure by Manitius. Sedulius was the author of a Commentary on Eutyches, which has been printed by Hagen from two MSS., the second of which was a transcript made by Cornelius Bock from a MS. the locality of which he was unable to remember, and which Hagen and Manitius<sup>1</sup> were unable to trace. This MS. is none other than Paris, lat. 7830, fols. 17a-50a.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Gesch. lat. Lit. des MA.* i., pp. 318, 319.

122-123; and Teuffel, *Gesch. röm. Lit.*, 6e Aufl., iii., 1913, p. 463.

<sup>2</sup> See Roger, *Rev. de Philologie*, xxx., 1906, pp.