Liberi da Premariacco, Fiore de. c.1350-1420.
M 383  Fior di battaglia.

Manuscript on vellum written in the Venetian dialect and illuminated by North Italian artists at the beginning of the XVth century.

108 pen drawings throughout the text, 1 decorative title-page; several unfinished sketches.

20 leaves (10-7/8 x 7-5/8 inches) 2 cols. 39-40 lines.
12, 26, 54, 46, 52. Old foliation in lower margin 241-260.

4°. Red mor. by J. Clark (by whom it was lettered "Trattato della scherma").

From the libraries of Senator Jacopo Soranzo, Abbate Matteo Canonici; Rev. Walter Sneyd and C. Fairfax Murray.


f.1-2  Introduction.
2v-4  Combats on horseback with lances. Novati, pp.175-177.
5v-7  Combats on horseback with swords. Novati 180-183.
7v-8  Wrestling on horseback. Novati, 184.
8-8v  Pedestrian defending himself against mounted opponents, (one or several). Novati 185.
9-9v  Lance combat. Novati 148-149.
10-10v  Positions of defense.
10v-11v  Sword combat.
13v-17  Two-handed sword combat. Novati, p.156-158.
17v  Three against one. Novati, p.145.
18  Staffs, dagger and swords. Novati, p.150.
18v  Dagger against sword.
19  Thrust for armed soldiers.

Text: Second, condensed version. (Cf. Novati, p.59). The dialect is Venetian and the form poetic. In the introduction, the author gives an autobiographical sketch, mentions other famous swordsmen of various countries, the prowess of his pupils and the need for an illustrated text book of the art, which he Fiore, being able to read, write and draw has composed. The instructions over the drawings are usually in rhyme. Cf. ff.6v, 7v, 9 etc.

Script: Small humanistic writing in pale brown ink.
Decoration: The illustrations to the text are very delicate pen drawings and unfinished sketches by two North Italian, possibly Venetian or Veronese artists. As the author states in his introduction (f.2) in order to differentiate between masters, pupils and opposing masters, the masters wear a crown, their pupils a garter under the knee, and the opposing masters wear a crown and a garter. The artists have indicated the crowns and garters by burnished gold, the swords and daggers by silver which has tarnished.

History: According to research of Francesco Novati, op.cit. p.39-41, this manuscript is the lost codex MCCXLI of the Biblioteca Soranzo at Venice. When it was in the aforesaid library, the historian Bernardo Maria de Rubeis described it as being contained in a volume entitled "Arte di arrengiare a piedi ed acavallo" of which it comprised ff.241-259. These numbers correspond to the old foliation in the lower margins of M.383.

The library of Jacopo Soranzo, Venetian senator, was sold in 1780. From that collection the MS. entered the library of Matteo Luigi Canonici (1727-1805-6). In 1835 it was sold to Rev. Walter Sneyd of Bagnoring Rectory, Coventry. Purchased from De Marinis in 1909. A similar MS. was in the Phillips collection, no.4204.

Binding: Red morocco by J. Clarke.


Cards:

i. MSS.-Illum.-Italian-Venice - XV cent.
ii. MSS.-Illum.-Italian: Verona(?) - XV cent.
iii. Provenance - Soranzo, Jacopo. fl.XVIII cent.
v. " Sneyd, Rev. Walter
vi. " Murray, C. Fairfax
Title: Flos duellatorum.
Title: Fior di battaglia.
1. Duelling
2. Italian language - Dialects: Venice.
3. Italian poetry - XV cent.
4. Iconography - Duelling.

Combat. ff.8-19.
Combat, Equestrian. ff.2v-3v.
Animals - Horses. ff.2v-8v.

Binding (title ref).
Trattato della scherma
see
Liberi da Premariacco, Fiore de
Fior di battaglia.

Morgan MS. No. M.553.

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:
Callim. Altichiero.

G. L. Mellini, "Disegni di Altichiero.2",
Critica d'arte IX (1962), 9-19.

Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Konstens Venedig.
Nationalmusei Utställningskataloger Nr.269.
no. 20.

Rodolfo Palluchini, "Lo sviluppo della
miniatura in terraferma." La Pittura Vene-
Morgan MS. No. m.383

For printed text or notices of this MS. see:


Anton von Euw and Joachim M. Plotzek, Die Handschriften der Sammlung Ludwig, 4, Cologne, 1985, 120, 284, 286-7.