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BATTAGLIANI, Gotio (or Gozio) Cardinal, *Tractatus de Varys et Virtutibus*  
In Latin, decorated manuscript on parchment  
[Italy, Rimini, c. 1338, before 1348]

74 folios, complete, mostly in quires of 8 (collation: i3 [4-1]; ii8; iii8; iv8; v8; vi8; vii8; viii8; ix8; x6), numerous catchwords on almost each verso folios (some in red), written in brown ink in a tight Italian cursive hand, text on two columns (justification for each column: 145 x 50), copied on up to 33 lines, prickings still visible, light plummet ruling, catchwords, contemporary or near-contemporary Roman numeral foliation, capitals touched in red, rubrics in red, paragraph marks in alternating red or blue, 2-line high painted initials in alternating red or blue, with red or blue calligraphic penwork extending in the margin, larger 12-line high opening initial painted in red with gold and blue highlights and red and blue calligraphic penwork extending in the margin; arms of Cardinal Gozio Battagliani painted at the end of the text, reproduced in Tonini, 1880, IV, p. 510, and also found carved in a stone commemorating the foundation of the St.-Prisca chapel in Rimini (1340). Bound in modern limp vellum, smooth spine, title copied in ink on spine in blue and red ink, armorial stamp on upper and lower covers (arms of Comte Chandon de Briailles), green silk bookmark. Dimensions 196 x 140 mm.

Only surviving copy (possibly an autograph?) of a previously unknown treatise on the virtues, and other matters by Cardinal Gozio Battagliani in the presentation copy made for Galeotto Malatesta before 1348. The text was evidently never edited or printed, and no other works are recorded by him. The discovery of the present manuscript thus provides an important basis for further study of the career and the literary production of Battagliani and of his personal and political relationship with the Malatesta family during the years when the latter was forging new ties with the papal state.

### PROVENANCE

1. Composed by Cardinal Gotio (or Gozio) Battagliani (died 10 June 1348), whose arms are painted at the end of the manuscript (f. 74v) for the use of Galeotto [di Pandolfo I] Malatesta (1305-1385) in Rimini, according to the colophon (f. 74v), which reads as follows: "Explicit liber de varys et virtutibus compositus per me Gotium Card. Batagliani de Arimino ad usum Galeoti Malastestis vicary S (anctae) R(omanae)

E(cclesiae) Rimini." Gozio Battagliani (alternate spellings, Battaglia, or Batagliani, used in the manuscript) is recorded at the papal court of Avignon as early as 1309. He was appointed Patriarch of Constantinople in 1335 and later elected cardinal by Pope Benedict XII in 1338. These events allow us to date the present manuscript between 1338, since the colophon of the present manuscript refers to the author as "Cardinal," and 1348, the date of Battagliani's death. The present treatise is likely the author's presentation copy to Galeotto Malatesta. From 1334-1335 until their deaths, Galeotto and his brother Malatesta Antico, sons of Pandolfo I Malatesta, governed Rimini in concert, charged with different military missions. The Malatesta family figures in the poetry of Dante and in the annals of Renaissance history for more than two centuries. Known as the *Guastafamilia* ("destroyer of families"), they were considered the most powerful rulers of Italy. The colophon of the present manuscript refers to Rimini as a papal vicariate, a reference that underscores the struggle between the papal state and the secular magnates. Keen on recovering all the ecclesiastical estates occupied by the princes or tyrants, the pope regained control of nearly all the Malatesta's conquests in Romagna, although Galeotto maintained sovereignty over Rimini, Pesaro, Faro and Fossombrone. Could the present manuscript be considered a propagandistic gesture from the Cardinal to Galeotto, persuading him to a life of virtue in cooperation with the papal state?

2. Comte Chandon de Briailles, Champagne, France, his gilt armorial stamp on boards. This is probably Raoul Chandon de Briailles (1850-1908), historian and wine merchant (founder of the Chandon de Briailles mark of champagne), part of whose rich library was bequeathed to the Médiathèque at Épernay--20,000 items concerning the history of Epernay and wine, incunables, and books from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries--and part passed on through the family to his heirs Comtes Henri and François Chandon de Briailles.

## TEXT

ff. 1-74v, Gozio Battagliani, cardinal, *Tractatus de varys et virtutibus* [Treatise on Various Matters and the Virtues]; rubric, *Incipit tractatus de varys et virtutibus. [D]e elevatione*; incipit, "Quatuor solent homines levare spiritualiter. Solent pauperes levare vocem..."; explicit, "...anima mea tenui [omni modo [non ?] [ - - ] domino meo ducam eam etc.]"; f. 74v, colophon in red and light brown ink reads, *Laus Deus. Explicit liber de varys et virtutibus compositus per me Gotium Card. Batagliani de Arimino ad usum Galeoti Malatestis vicary S. M. E. Rimini.* [This text is unrecorded in Bloomfield; the only reference recorded gives a related title, but a very different incipit: "De variis virtutibus" (Bloomfield, no. 2494) known in a single copy: Cambridge, Trinity College, MS B. 15. 27 (364), f. 194].

Other rubrics, classified alphabetically in the manuscript, are: *De excommunicatione* (f. 2v); *De exaltatione* (f.3); *De facuitate* (f. 4); *De fidelitate* (f. 5v); *De fortitudine* (f. 6v); *De gaudio* (f. 7v); *De*

*gloria* (f. 9); *De gratia* (f. 11); *De gratis* [bis] (f. 12v); *De gladiis* (f. 13v); *De gula* (f. 15); *De humilitate* (f. 15v); *De jactantia* (f. 16v); *De igne purgatorii* (f. 16v); *De innocentia* (f. 17v); *De instabilitate* (f. 18); *De ira* (f. 18v); *De infirmitate spirituali* (f. 19); *De invidia* (f. 20); *De inferno* (f. 20v); *De inplectione* (f. 21v); *De iudicio generali* (f. 23v); *De iudicibus malis* (f. 26); *De iusticia* (f. 26); *De iura*[...] [?] (f. 28v); *Quomodo intratur in regnum celorum* (f. 29v); *De labore* (f. 31); *De lacrimis* (f. 32v); *De laude* (f. 33); *De locutione* (f. 34); *De lotione* (f. 35v); *De lumine* (f. 36v); *De lumine* (f. 36v); *De luxuria* (f. 38); *De mansuetudine* (f. 39); *De meditatio* (f. 39v); *De mirabilis* (f. 40); *De misericordia* (f. 40v); *De morte* (f. 42v); *De mortificatione carnis* (f. 45); *De munditia cordis* (f. 45v); *De* [?]; *De mundo relinquendo* (f. 47); *De negligentia* (f. 48); *De obedientia* (f. 48); *De occiositate* (f. 49v); *De odio* (f. 50); *De odio proximi* (f. 51); *De oratione* (f. 51v); *De opere bono* (f. 54); *De ornatu* (f. 55v); *De pace* (f. 56v); *De patientia* (f. 58v); *De impatientia* (f. 59); *De passione* (f. 59v); *De pauperitate* (f. 60v); *De pane* (f. 61v); *De peccato* (f. 62v); *De penitentia* (f. 64); *De predicatione* (f. 67); *De perseverentia* (f. 67v); *De presumptione* (f. 68v); *De pigritia* [sluggishness] (f. 68v); *De preparatione* (f. 69); *De probatione* (f. 70); *De purgatione* (f. 71); *De prudentia* (f. 71v); *De pulcritudine* (f. 73); *De querendo dominio* (f. 74).

This manuscript, entitled a Treatise on Various Things and the Virtues, must have been composed as a personal address on the part of Cardinal Gozio Battagliani to Galeatto Malatesta just at the beginning of the period when, facilitated by Battagliani's relationship with the papacy, there was a rapprochement between the Malatesta and the papal state. It is tempting to understand the treatise, which includes short passages on many topics other than the virtues strictly speaking (for example, excommunication, peace, oration), in the context of the Malatesta's efforts to make amends for their warring past or, alternatively, as part of Cardinal Battagliani's efforts to encourage them to do so.

No other works written by Cardinal Gozio Battagliani are known to survive. On his life and career, see especially Tonini, pp. 499-520 and Piromalli, p. 160, who notes that he came from a family of rich Riminese landowners, bankers, and merchants. Battagliani's personal library was willed to his nephews, Marco di Pietro (author of a *Cronica Marchia*, ed. *Rerum italicorum scriptorum*, XVI, 3) and Guido di Fuscio (see Battagliani, 1794, p. 218). Further research in Rimini, and particularly in the collections of the Biblioteca Gambalunghiana, could provide additional elements on Battagliani's career and literary contribution (see in particular manuscripts housed in Gambalunghiana referred to in G. Urbani, *Raccolta di scrittori e prelati riminesi* and Z. Gambetti, *Catalogo degli scrittori ed opere riminesi* [DBI, p. 207]). In addition to the many chronicles on the history of the Malatesta family, some of them unpublished, one other source looks promising, Sc-MS 190, *Genealogia di Casa Battagliani*.

The present manuscript constitutes interesting testimony of Trecento patronage of the Malatesta family in Rimini, preparing the way for the brilliant court animated by Galeotto's grandson, the infamous Sigismundus Pandolfo Malatesta (1417-1468) in the following century.

## LITERATURE

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

History of Rimini

<http://www.comune.rimini.it/cultura/passato/donne5.htm>

Biblioteca Gambalunghiana

<http://www.comune.rimini.it/cultura/biblioteca/gambalunga/mss3.htm>