

GASTON PHOEBUS—continued

in spite of several applications, to obtain any information whatever, sharing in this respect the fate of M. Lavallée, who complains of it bitterly.

XXV. MS. HUNTERIAN MUSEUM, GLASGOW, 2 I. 30. Vellum, fol. min. (*vide* Hanel, *Catalogi Sp.* 787). In spite of two urgent applications I could obtain no information about this probably valuable MS., except that it was not in its place on the shelves.

XXVI. MS. CHELTENHAM (Sir Thomas Phillipp's heirs), Nr. 10,298, ff. 127, fol. (15½ by 11½ inches), middle of 15th century. Vellum. Counting the coat of arms and Gaston praying in his chapel, there are eighty-eight illuminations. As few students have seen this exquisite MS., and, excepting Sir Henry Dryden's account of it in his rare little pamphlet (*see* Bibliography), it figures in no work of reference, I was most anxious to examine it, and after some year's delay I was at last given a chance by its owner or owners to see it at Thirlestane House, Cheltenham, where I spent an interesting day in examining it.

Next to MS. 616 in the Bibliothèque Nationale, it is the finest Gaston Phoebus I know, and I think I have seen all the best ones in Europe. According to the catalogue of the sale, kindly shown me by Mr. T. FitzRoy Fenwick, Sir Thomas Phillipp's grandson and heir, it was bought on February 5, 1825, at a three-days sale at Mr. Southgate's rooms, 22 Fleet Street, where it bore the number 297 in the sale catalogue. It is described in this paper as "a magnificent MS. of the *fourteenth* century, on vellum, large folio, executed for Gaston Phoebus himself by one of the first artists of the time." To begin with the illuminations. The first thing that strikes one is their great resemblance to those in the MS. 616, but without having the latter at its side it is difficult to form any decided opinion or make comparisons, except in so far as actual differences in the representation of the scenes are concerned. As I had all the eighty-eight photographs of the Paris miniatures with me, I am enabled to make a few remarks upon the latter variations. But for these differences one might almost be tempted to say that the Cheltenham MS. miniatures were exact copies of the Paris ones, but in any case it is certain that, if not executed by the same hand, great skill was shown by the artist who copied them, for that they are copies and the Paris miniatures the originals seems fairly certain, not only because the text of the latter MS. shows distinct differences that prove its slightly superior age, but also the pictures themselves do not show on the whole the same brilliancy of finish.

On the first leaf is emblazoned a finely executed coat of arms, consisting of an eagle displayed supporting in front a shield, quarterly; 1st and 4th, Castile quartering Leon; 2nd and 3rd, Arragon impaling Sicily; surmounted by an imperial crown. There are, as supporters at the sides, two saints in flowing robes; and at the base and sides of shield the following sentences: "Nimis honorati sunt amici tui Deus Confortatus est principatus eorum confortatorum—Lux in tenebris lucet et tenebrae eam non comprehendunt." The arms appear to

be those of Ferdinand, the Catholic King of Spain, and his wife Isabella, although not marshalled according to the English laws of heraldry. His successors added other coats to the four above mentioned. The style of illumination of this shield and of the rich border which surrounds it, differs considerably from that of the illustrations in the body of the volume; and it has evidently been added to the original volume. At the foot of the first page of the prologue is a shield of ermine, surmounted by a crown set with jewels, and heightened with three *fleur de lis* and three trefoils alternately. This was the coat of the Dukes of Brittany, and it is not improbable that Gaston Phoebus's own MS. may have come, with his estates, into the possession of Charles VI., and that this MS. volume is the copy made from it for John VI., Duke of Brittany, who married Joan, daughter of Charles VI., and died in 1443. How it came into the hands of Ferdinand the Catholic does not appear.

The title-picture is a beautifully executed miniature, very like the first one in the Paris MS., differing from it only in the colouring of some of the head-dresses, and the gold cognisance on the robe of Phoebus. In the Paris MS. the emblem is a peacock; here it is unmistakably a sun. In the picture of the assembly a man is standing near the king playing a flute, and instead of the fumets being displayed on the tablecloth, one of the huntsmen is holding them in his hands. Both these details are different from the picture reproduced on Plate xxxiv. in the present volume. In the picture representing the breaking up of the wild boar, two men are standing near the sack with potatoes and another is cutting up loaves of bread, which is not quite the same as in Plate viii. In the fox-hunting picture the leading man has a sword on his *right* side. In the picture of the hunter shooting with a cross-bow wild boars in a pool, his spear is sticking in the ground reversed, which is not the case in the Paris picture. The mounted men throughout this MS. are often represented wearing ostrich plumes, red, white, and blue, in their caps, which we find only in a single illumination in the Paris MS. The hunting-horns are also rather longer than in the latter, both being indications that the Cheltenham illuminations were made at a somewhat later date, possibly by the same hand.

The text resembles exceedingly the original; it is written in much the same beautiful hand, in double columns, but it is not an absolutely true copy, the spelling being more modern; *e.g.*, in *montaignes, tesson, fait, assez lui, forests*, etc.

Sir Henry Dryden wrote a scarce little treatise on this Phillipp's MS., published in 1844, of which more particulars will be found on p. 238. He states therein that the MS. is said to have belonged to the late Duke of Marlborough's library at White Knights, but I was unable to find any trace of such a record. On the fly-leaf are written the words: "Thomas Phillipp, Middle Hill, 1828."

XXVII. MS. SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS, Nr. 11,592, 16th century. Incomplete.

XXVIII. MS. ASHBURNHAM LIBRARY. *Catal. II.* Barrois MS. 42. 15th century. Paper, ff. 134, min.

GASTON PHOEBUS—continued

XXIX. MS. BAILLIE-GROHMAN (bought May 1, 1899, at Ashburnham sale), *Ashburnham Cat.*, App. M. 179. Early 15th century, 4to. Paper (Werth incorrectly says it is parchment), ff. 125, (numbered 1-136). Fine initials, spaces left blank for illuminations; leaves xiii, xlv, cvij, and vjiiij-vjx missing. Last six leaves treatise on falcons and birds (incomplete). This treatise on birds differs entirely from the one in the Barrois MS. 42 (here MS. XXVIII.), and, so far as I have been able to find out, it is the only one of its kind extant (Werth, pp. 70 and 104).

XXX. MS. ROME, Vatican, *Bib. Reg. Sueciae*, 2105, Art. 1. *Vide* Montfaucon, *Bibl. i.* p. 61.

XXXI. MS. ROME, Vatican, 2111. *Vide* Montfaucon as above.

XXXII. MS. ROME, Vatican, *Bib. Alexandri Petavii*, 530. *Vide* Montfaucon as above, p. 91.

XXXIII. MS. ROME, Vatican, MS. 467. *Vide* Montfaucon as above.

XXXIV. MS. ROME, Vatican, MS. 1216. *Vide* Montfaucon as above.

XXXV. MS. GENEVA, MS. 169, fol. 15th century. Vellum, with miniatures. It belonged once to Louis de Bruges, Seigneur de la Gruthuyse. *Vide* Vanpraet, pp. 152-3.

XXXVI. MS. HAGUE, Count Bentinck's Library. *Vide* Marchand, *Dict. Hist. t. i.* p. 260.

XXXVII. MS. STOCKHOLM, Royal Library. *Vide* Lavallée (p. xlviii.).

XXXVIII. MS. CARLSRUHE, Markgrave of Baden's Library.

XXXIX. MS. STUTTGART, Royal Hand-library (now joined to the Royal Public Library). Vellum, fol., with fine miniatures.

XL. MS. DRESDEN, Royal Library, MS. O. 61, fol., beginning of 15th century. Vellum. This is a very fine and for some reasons interesting MS., respecting which a few descriptive comments may be welcome. It consists of eighty-two leaves, 14 by 10 inches. The frontispiece miniature differs materially from others. On the borders trees are painted, the miniature in the centre represents eight men on horseback and three men on foot, the front one leads six and two hounds, the next five, and the last two and two hounds. At the bottom of the page are illuminated the arms of the Dauphin of France, probably the subsequent Louis XI. He could not have possessed this precious Codex very long, for there is ample evidence that from the year 1467 it remained for very many years in possession of the Dukes of Burgundy, as it appears in that year in the *Inventaire de la librairie qui est en la maison de Bruges*. In 1485 it is enumerated among the treasures in the *Chambre des Joyaux* at Ghent. In 1639 we find it forming part of the library at Brussels of Prince Ferdinand, the Regent of the Low Countries, and in 1641 the MS., registered under the number 464, is among the *codices ducum Burgundiae in palatio Bruxellensi*, but when Francken's catalogue of the Burgundian Library is made in 1731 it is no longer there; hence its disappearance from this treasure-house occurred between the years 1641 and 1731. The next we

hear of it is that a Leipzig civic judge, Stieglitz by name, offers it to the Royal Library at Dresden in exchange for duplicates worth 40 ducats, and by such ludicrously cheap means the Dresden authorities obtained what is to-day one of the principal treasures of the library.

The Codex contains three treatises: (1) *The Livre de la chace que fist le conte Febz de foiz seigneur de beart*; (2) *Le gieu de eschez . . . par frer Jehan de Vigney*; (3) *Liure de lorde de chevalerie fait par un tres vaillant cheualier*. The treatise on chess contains a picture of a 15th-century chess-board, interesting because containing but twenty squares, five one way and four the other.

The text of this Gaston Phoebus differs in no important detail from those of MS. I. The miniatures, while inferior to those of MS. I., are very fine, the background is almost invariably of the diaper pattern, heightened with gold. The costumes resemble those in other contemporary MSS., and the same love of bright and variegated colours and neglect of the author's instructions about wearing green or grey coloured dress is shown, as in most of the other MSS.

XLI. MS. (?). According to Werth, whose labours in furnishing the student with the first systematic list of hunting MSS. I have already acknowledged. There exists another MS. of Gaston Phoebus, at the time of his writing (1889), in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire. Werth says it is on vellum, fol., ff. 252, with eighty-eight beautiful miniatures, and he refers one to Dibdin's *Decameron*, vol. iii. p. 478, where it is described as follows:

"Among the miscellaneous MSS. described at the latter end of the first day, I omitted to insert the following: relating to hunting—which was sold by the late Mr. Lochée in the spring of 1815, and for which I sent a bidding on my own account to the amount of £160. The present Duke of Marlborough obtained it at one bidding beyond. The ensuing description from the catalogue is not over charged. *Livre de Chasse*, folio. This inestimable MS. contains 252 pages of the finest vellum, writ in Gothic characters, and eighty-eight most curious paintings, representing the mode of hunting, destroying, breeding, taming, &c., almost every description of quadruped upon the continent of Europe, besides various very rich ornaments; at the beginning of the chapter on the second page, we find that this matchless work was commenced on the 1st May, 1347" (*sic*).

Werth does not mention how or when the Duke of Devonshire acquired this MS., and being curious to examine this much praised Codex myself, I took considerable pains to trace it, but could get no further than that it was not in the libraries of either the Duke of Marlborough or the Duke of Devonshire, and that it does not seem to have formed part of the library sold at the Blenheim sale. Like so many other MSS. in private or in public libraries in this country, it seems to have disappeared without leaving a trace. The only possible explanation one can suggest, namely, that this MS. is identical with MS. 10,298 of the Phillipp's Library, which figures as MS. XXVI. in the present list, is shown to be illusory by the fact that the *number of leaves do not tally*.