



Llibre
de Menescalia
de Morella
c. 1320/30 ~ 1340



Edició i estudis
a cura de
Lluís Gimeno Betí
Lluís Cifuentes i Comamala
Vicent Garcia Edo

Universitat Jaume I

RESSENYA A *LLIBRE DE MENESCALLA DE MORELLA C. 1320/30 – 1340*. EDICIÓ I ESTUDIS A CURA DE LLUÍS GIMENO BETÍ, LLUÍS CIFUENTES I COMAMALA, AND VICENT GARCIA EDO. CASTELLÓ DE LA PLANA: UNIVERSITAT JAUME I, FUNDACIÓ GERMÀ COLÓN DOMÈNECH, 2022, 241 pp., ISBN: 978-84-18951-40-4

REVIEW TO *LLIBRE DE MENESCALLA DE MORELLA C. 1320/30 – 1340*. EDICIÓ I ESTUDIS A CURA DE LLUÍS GIMENO BETÍ, LLUÍS CIFUENTES I COMAMALA, AND VICENT GARCIA EDO. CASTELLÓ DE LA PLANA: UNIVERSITAT JAUME I, FUNDACIÓ GERMÀ COLÓN DOMÈNECH, 2022, 241 pp., ISBN: 978-84-18951-40-4

ANTONIO CORTIJO OCAÑA
amcortijo@aim.com

University of California

The reader has with this book an impressive work of philology that recuperates a previously-unpublished treatise on (mostly horse) veterinary setting it within its larger European, Spanish, and Catalan cultural context. The manuscript containing this treatise originated in the Valencian city of Morella and belonged to a lawyer and later to a merchant, in addition to containing notations from other owners/copyists.

The biannual trade fairs granted to the city in the 14th c., as well as its weekly and daily markets in the 14th and 15th c., involved large numbers of horses, animals that were essential for trade, commerce and agricultural work. The need to properly care for them and tend to their possible diseases explains the relevance of works on veterinary (*albeyteria*, *menescalia*) devoted to horses or mostly to them.

This *Llibre de menescalia de Morella* as has been transmitted to us is a copy of a previous text now lost. The *Llibre* is divided into four parts that comprise a veterinary treatise proper, an addendum to this treatise that includes veterinary recipes (and some with application to humans), a list of ill-omened days, and some notations on business dealings and accounting. The *Llibre de menescalia* proper (fols. 2r-16v) is just the first of those four. Both the owner of the MS and the copyist of the first part are fully unknown. Because of a *probatio calami* (“G. ça Corbella”), the authors suspect that Guillem de Sacorbella, a major jurist in Morella, possessed the manuscript and added or had added the recipes of the second part. The third person to participate in enlarging the MS added a list of ill-omened and “Egyptian days”. The fourth was a merchant that owned the MS and wrote down the amounts for wool and cereals still owned to him, amounts for goods already paid, and amounts to be paid in installments.

The authors provide a detailed codicological description of the MS, as well as a comprehensive study of its content. There are four “hands” that participate in the writing of this Xàtiva paper MS (belonging to the Societat Castellonenca de Cultura ms1261). The fact that there was a scarcity of veterinaries explains that many of these treatises were owned by private owners. The first part belongs to what the authors call *menescalia* (*hipiatria vernacla*) that existed in parallel to medical and veterinary treatises of university milieu. It is anonymous, and we ignore the original author or his influences, although the editors seem to recognize an influence of Giorgano Ruffo’s *Liber de medicina equorum*. This section focuses on the therapeutic of diseases: “La cura dels cavalls no tan solament està en vitalles administradors, ans encara en ferradures als peus d’elles posadores, en malaties curadores e en sagnies faedores” (40). Sometimes some of the remedies included in the MS include magic elements. The recipes of the second section (entitled by the editors *Receptes de menescalia i medicina*) include the customary six parts: title, objective, composition and dosage, preparation, application and efficiency. These recipes are a symptom, as the authors explain, of the new European late-medieval society that paid more relevance to the health of humans and animals. The curious third section lists several *dies caniculars* and *egipcíacs*, a remnant of the Roman ill-omened, critical, canicular and Egyptian days --related to number symbolism and astrological traditions-- that determine the days in which several activities are not recommended. The last section, of a practical nature like the previous one, includes a calculation of mobile holidays or feast days (*Còmput de les festes mòbils*) and an accounting of debts (*Comptes de deutes de compravenda de llana i cereals*), related to the quotidian activities of the merchant owner of the MS.

After a detailed analysis of the writing characteristics in the MS (with a change from Old Catalan librarian script to a modern or documental script, due to the influence of the Royal Chancery ca. 1320-1330), the authors embark on an outstanding review of the vocabulary of *menescalia* in the anonymous work. From a lexicographic point of view, they say, this treatise is particularly relevant in that it offers many words not included in specialized dictionaries of the Catalan language and therefore never previously attested. First, they provide us with an index (67-75) of terms that includes names of diseases, instruments and tools, ingredients of recipes, therapeutic actions, etc. There follows a linguistic study of the language, which represents a stage in the evolution of Catalan from the 13th to the 14th c., still showing some Occitan influences (*poyrít, forch, fonoll*). Once again, and probably one of the most salient aspects of this section, they provide us with a list of words and grammatical forms not previously documented in Catalan (85) and a list of words whose presence in this MS brings their attestation further back than previously documented. There follows an exhaustive and comprehensive Analysis of Lexical Terms (89-182). In it, each entry includes the term form as it appears in the MS, its definition, etymology, Latin form as documented in Latin authors, its attestation in historical dictionaries, and its geographic distribution.

The Index of the *Llibre de menescalia de Morella* is as follows:

Receptes de menescalia i medicina

- 1.A béstia volguesen los uls eixir del cap.
- 2.A béstia que à gavarre.
- 3.A béstia o a hom qui fos fiblat de serp.

Còmput de les festes mòbils

4.Aquest hé lo compte de la luna e de totes les festes moviles, axí como de la septuegésyme e de carnestoltes e de totes les altres festes que movibles sien, e començaré a les letres dominicals, e tot aquest compte sí m té en la mà esquera.

Compendi (o Llibre) de menescalia (ff. 2r-16v)

- 5.A béstia espatlada.
- 6.A béstia que fos uberta.
- 7.A béstia qui à antiquor.
- 8.A béstia qui à mal de lupo, qui 's mostra e l ventre de la béstia, entre carn e cuyr, qui 's mostra poca e va crexén cascun dia.
- 9.A béstia qui agués l' estragola dejós les barres.

10. A béstia qui és refredada, e conex-o hom can gita aygua per los uyls e por lo nas.
11. A béstia qui és morvada.
12. A béstia qui fos sorda.
13. A béstia qui agués unglà en l' uyl.
14. A béstia qui à tela sobre l' uyl.
15. A béstia qui age càncer en la boca.
16. A béstia qui à peana en la lengua.
17. A béstia fort de boca.
18. A béstiaqui fos espaventosa.
19. A béstiaqui enrabiàs.
20. A béstia qui agués plasme.
21. A béstia qui à vives.
22. A béstia qui agués luerti.
23. A béstia qui agués corn en el gasalesch, qui fo enfistolat.
24. A béstia qui agués lo dos enfistolat.
25. A béstia qui agués polmoncel e l dos.
26. A béstia qui caen los cabels de la coa.
27. A béstia qui fos eslomada.
28. A béstia qui agués los colons inflats.
29. A béstia qui rabiegàs ho raseygàs.
30. A béstia qui fos descaüda ho desaunada per malaltia que agués e l ventre, dins lo cors, que menjàs bé e afeblís cascun dia.
31. A béstia qui agués vèrmens e l cor, e conex-o hom com los huyls halagayhosos.
32. A béstiaqui à vèrmens sobre el cor, a conex-o hom quan tremola e s plany e tresvia e crida.
33. A béstia qui agués dolor e inflàs, qui pren vent e no pot cagar ni pixar.

34. A béstia qui agués menjat trop ordi, masa, qui vol dir.
35. A béstia qui s gita fora lo budel e no l pogués tornar dintre.
36. A béstia qui pixàs sanch.
37. A béstia qui crebàs.
38. A béstia qui agués lo verme qui s'apela farsina.
39. Encara, pots fer al verme conjurament.
40. A béstia qui agués vorm.
41. A béstia qui fos ferida de colteyl ho de lança.
42. A béstia qui fos ferida de balesta o d'escona.
43. A béstia qui fos taylada ab espasa.
44. A béstia qui fos taylada e n qualque parte se fos nervi ho vena taylada.
45. A béstia qui fos ferida en cama e fos inflada.
46. A béstia qui agués presa spina o broca.
47. A béstia qui agués vexigues.
48. A béstia qui agués porrets.
49. A béstia qui premés lo cayl del ferre o agués pedra entre la fomenala.
50. A béstia qui agués crebaces e l travador.
51. A béstia exartilada.
52. A béstia qui agués mal veyl en l'uyll que no pogués garir.
53. A béstia qui sea entreseca o no pusqua engrexar.
54. A béstia qui agués sobreòs qui fos en juntura.
55. A sobreòs de junctira.
56. A béstia qui à vexigues en les falques.
57. A béstia qui agués lo peu estort.
58. A béstia qui fos emfonduda.

59. A béstia qui aga vexigues prop del travador.
 60. A nervi qui fos estort o conseguit.
 61. A béstia enclavada.
 62. A béstia sotsbatuda.
 63. A béstia desolada.
 64. A béstia qui agués fich sots lo peu.
- Receptes d'emplastres (f. 17r)
65. Empastre natural.
 66. Bon empastre provat a hom qui git sanch I sia ydròpich.
 67. Altre empastre a tota tayladura.
 68. Altre empastre provat.
- Receptes de menescalia i medicina (ff. 17v-20v)
69. Qui vol engrexar bésties.
 70. Qui vol engrexar bésties.
 71. A orinar, ha hom o a béstia.
 72. A glànolles.
 73. A traure osos cascats de nafra.
 74. A tota unfladura que sie feyta per colp.
 75. A tota nafra a sanar.
 76. A nafra que sia enfistolada.
 77. A béstia que ha vorm.
 78. A béstia que no pot femar.
 79. A béstia que no pot pixar.
 80. A béstia que ha seguela, que à lo peu fes desús.
 81. A béstia qui ague roya e ls peus entre l pèl e la unglà.

82. A béstia que ha fístola entre l pèl e la unglà o en altra part.

83. A béstia jove que à esparavayn.

84. Tothom que vol comprar béstia.

85. A béstia que à capvorm.

86. A béstia que ha lúpia.

87. A béstia que age fístoles e l dos.

88. A béstia que à roya e ls travadors, la qual roya s'apelle aristella.

89. A béstia que agués mengat rialgar, que fos sobreentrat.

Dies caniculars i egipcíacs (f. 21rv)

Aquestes són los dies exceptats en los quals en alguna manera, per alguna neccitat, als hòmens no és bo minvar e traure sanc.

Aquests són los diez no fels de tots los meses.

Comptes de deutes per compravenda de llana i cereals (ff. 27v-29v)

Comptes de dejutes de llana i estam.

Comptes. De deutes de cereals.

The *Llibre de menescalia de Morella* is an outstanding medieval work for several reasons, chief among which is the fact that it provides us with numerous previously unattested words in Old Catalan. The editors of this work are exemplary in the way they have edited and particularly studied this work, providing us with an excellent lexicographic study of the work's vocabulary and with a precise contextualization of this anonymous piece. A must-have for all those interested in medieval and in Catalan culture.