
Exemplum Corner

Re: Tutivillus

Potest autem vocalis oracio multipliciter dividi... Nona species [est] psalmodiatio, cum decantacione psalmodum. Debet autem fieri attente, distincte, devote, integre et subcincte... Contre illos qui inattente et indevote et indistincte psallunt, vel qui psalmodum detruncant versus, a suo intellectu eviscerant, dictiones sincopant, litteras obliterant et obliquant, qui non intelligibiliter, sed congregatim quasi milvi clamant alter ad alterum, ad hoc facit exemplum magistri Jacobi, dicentis quod cuidam sancto viro apparuit dyabolus portans saccum plenum, et, adjuratus quid ferret, dixit quod veniebat de quadam ecclesia secularium, ubi collegerat illum plenum saccum de sillabis et dictionibus detruncatis a psalmodiis, de quibus eos in iudicio accusaret. (Cf Jacques de Vitry) Item ad idem, audivi quod frater Gaudfridus de Blevez referebat quod in dyocesi Senonensi, cum quidam sacerdos mortuus deberet sepeliri, evocatus a morte surrexit, et, inter ea que dicebat terribilia se vidisse, ait quod occurrerat ei infinita multitudo sacerdotum et clericorum incredibiliter afflictorum et oppressorum sub maximis sarcinis quas portabant; et dictum est ei querenti quod portabant sillabas et dictiones et ea que omiserant dicere distincte de psalmis, pro quo gravissime punirentur.

BN lat. 15971, fol. 53

Quoted by M. Haureau in *Memoires de l'Institut* vol. 28, part 2, p. 250.

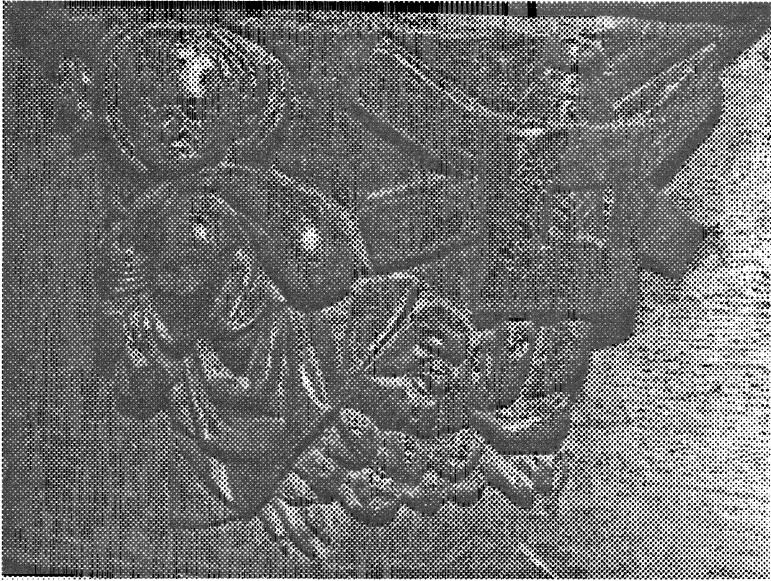
On Psalmody: Prayer that is spoken aloud can, moreover, be divided in many ways... The ninth kind is psalmody, with the repeating of the psalms. It should be done attentively, clearly, devoutly, wholly and completely... In reply to those who recite the psalms inattentively, without proper devotion, and unclearly, or who cut short verses of the psalms, rip them out of context, accentuate the words (wrongly), obliterate and distort the letters, those who unintelligibly, but like a

flock of blackbirds, shout one to the other; (these) should take heed of the exemplum of master Jacques (de Vitry), who spoke of a holy man to whom the devil appeared, carrying a sack and swearing at what he was carrying, said that he had come from a certain church of seculars where he filled the sack full of syllables and words that had been mutilated in the recitation of the psalms. From these (mutilated words) he brought an accusation against them (i.e., the priests) in a court of judgement. Likewise, along the same lines, I heard brother Gaufridus of Blevez tell the story that in the diocese of Sens, when a certain dead priest was about to be buried, he was summoned from the dead and he rose up and among the awesome and terrible things he said he had seen was his encounter with a large multitude of priests and clerics unbelievably afflicted and weighted down by the huge sacks which they carried, and it was said to anyone who asked, that they (the priests) were carrying the syllables and words and anything that they had omitted to say distinctly from the psalms, for which they were grievously punished.

translation by Phyllis Roberts

An analogous exemplum collected by Thomas Wright from English manuscripts and in the collection, by Bromyard under the title “*Ordis clericalis*” shows that the sacks in question are carried by a devil named Tityvillus, “*nom imitativ qui sent le bredouillement*”. See Latin Stories, no. 46.

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Is this Tutivillus?

Mortain Manche



Tutivillus

St Katherine's, London