



UNIVERSITÀ
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Dipartimento di Giurisprudenza

Palazzo Centrale Università di Catania



[Emperor Justinian, *Corpus Iuris Civilis, Digestum Vetus*] *Digestum Vetus. Pandectarum Iuris Civilis Tomus primus...* (Lugduni, Ioannes Ausultus, 1562)

Edition printed in Lyon of the *Digestum Vetus*, the first of five volumes in which Justinian's *Corpus Iuris Civilis* had been divided in the Middle Ages (*Digestum Vetus, Digestum Infortiatum, Digestum Novum, Codex, Volumen parvum*). The monumental compilation of Roman law made by Emperor Justinian († 565), in which the juridical wisdom of the Roman world was collected, had been rediscovered as a new subject of study in the twelfth century. The *Corpus* became the normative basis (the “legal text”) on which the culture of the *ius commune* was built. In the twelfth century the *Studium* of Bologna was the cradle of the new teaching, from which legal science rapidly spread in the Italian and European countries. Since the thirteenth century in the manuscript tradition, later, since the second half of the fifteenth century, in printed editions, the *Corpus Iuris Civilis* was accompanied by the ordinary gloss of Accursius († 1263), which in the edition shown here is located at the margins of the legal text placed on two columns in the center of the page.



[Gratian's *Decretum*] *Decretum Gratiani emendatum et notationibus illustratum una cum glossis, Gregorii XIII. Pont. Max. iussu editum* (Romae, in Aedibus Populi Romani, 1582)

The *Decretum Gratiani* is the first pillar of the *Corpus Iuris Canonici*, the normative body of the Catholic Church established during the XII-XV centuries. The author was the monk Gratian, perhaps born in Chiusi, whose life is still shrouded in mystery. Composed around 1140, the *Concordia discordantium canonum* (harmony of discordant canons, commonly known as

	<p><i>Decretum</i>) was a collection of legal texts of different origins (canons of the councils, decretals of the popes, fragments of secular legislations, etc.). The work was established as a book of authority on which the formation of the canonists (jurists expert in the law of the Church) was based. Together with the other later texts included in the <i>Corpus Iuris Canonici</i>, the <i>Decretum</i> was considered the current law of the Catholic Church until 1917, when the first <i>Codex Iuris Canonici</i> (<i>Code of Canon Law</i>) was promulgated. During the intermediate age (XII-XVIII centuries) the <i>Corpus Iuris Canonici</i> and the <i>Corpus Iuris Civilis</i> formed the basis of a unitary culture, spread through university teaching, in which we find the foundations of the common juridical heritage of Western civilization.</p>
	<p>Orazio Greco, <i>Il medico fiscale</i>, in Agnello De Sarno, <i>Novissima Praxis Criminalis et Civilis</i> (Napoli 1687)</p> <p>Orazio Greco's work, entitled <i>Il medico fiscale</i> (<i>The coroner</i>), is one of the first treatises in forensic medicine. The treatise is included in the <i>Novissima Praxis Criminalis et Civilis</i> by Agnello de Sarno, a work devoted to the exposition of criminal and civil procedural law. The fourth section of the treatise presents a description of the forms of judicial torture used in the Court of the <i>Vicaria</i> of Naples during the seventeenth century. Judicial torture was a procedural tool aimed at inducing the accused to confess his crime, since confession was considered "the queen of proofs". The section is accompanied by some engravings, which eloquently illustrate the different modes of tortures described by the author. The volume is here open at p. 488, with the image that represents the "torment of the bar".</p>
	<p>Doctoral degree <i>in utroque iure</i> (civil law and canon law, 1677). The graduate is Natale Grifo from Palermo. The title of <i>Doctor</i> is conferred by the bishop of Catania, Michelangelo Bonadies. According to the founding bull of the <i>Studium</i> of Catania (pope Eugene IV, 1444), the title of <i>Doctor</i> was conferred by the bishop as Grand Chancellor. In 1818 this competence was transferred to the President of the <i>Gran Corte Civile</i>.</p>
	<p>Doctoral degree in Philosophy and Medicine (1715). The graduate is the student Francesco Gagliano from Catania. The title of <i>Doctor</i> is conferred by the bishop of Catania, Andrea Riggio.</p>