Berchoriana
Giraldus Valete, O.Min., Source of the Repertorium morale

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IN 1359 Peter Berchorius added to his Repertorium morale an epilogue – the so-called Collacio pro fine operis, discovered by Ch. Samaran1 and edited by Maria S. van der Bijl2 – in which the author explains that he has rewritten the first version of his Repertorium with the help of the Magne Concordancie of frater Giraldus Valete de ordine fratrum minorum3.

What are those Magne Concordancie, and who was Giraldus Valete? Indeed, Samaran was quite true in observing that neither the work nor its writer have as yet been identified4.

While correcting proofsheets of our Bibliographia Franciscana, I happened to come across the name of a certain Geraldus de Buxo, Friar Minor, in connection with a work Lumina vel promptuarium sive concordancie5. This work had been registered in the catalogue of the Papal Library of Avignon from the year 1416. But the book was in that Library at least forty years earlier, for it can also be found in the catalogue of Urban V from the year 1369, however without the author’s name6. It must be the same work that is known elsewhere under the name Correctiones (Bibliae), of which not a too good 14th century copy survives in MS Toulouse 61. Henry Omont dedicated a few pages to this work and to its rather enigmatic author of whom is known only that he was a Friar Minor and belonged to the Custody of Avignon7.

Could it be that these coincidences surrounding Geraldus, writer

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2 Vivarium 3 (1965) 149-170.
3 Ibid. 156-157.
5 Bibliographia Franciscana XII, n. 136.
of a Concordance and having connections with the Avignon environment where Berchorius lived for so many years, justify the supposition that we have laid hands on Berchorius' source?

More light can be thrown on the name of Giraldus (Gerardus, Guiraudus, Guyraudus, Ghiraudus) Valete (Vallete, Villete). We know of a Friar of that name who played an important part in the disputes on poverty which so unfortunately divided the Franciscan Order into the Spirituals and those of the Community, and provided matter for discussion at the Council of Vienne in 1311-1312. His name occurs a few times in the famous and momentous studies which Fr. Ehrle published on this problem in the _Archiv für Litteratur- und Kirchengeschichte des Mittelalters_, which unfortunately lacks a name index. I summarize the particulars I found on Giraldus Valete in the following points:

1. Among those who in 1311 were called by Clement V to the Council of Vienne we find also the provincial Superior of Provence 'Ghiraudus provincie Provincie'. He is in the company of 14 other Friars Minor, partly theologians partly provincial Superiors, who are set to defend the interests of the Community against the Spirituals. As a provincial Superior of Provence our Giraudus is an important person, for under him fall the Custodies (which are a subdivision of a province) of Narbonne, Montpellier, Alais, Nîmes, Avignon, Arles, Marseille and Sisteron, with a total of 58 convents.

2. This group of scholars, in controversy with the group of Spirituals who are guided by the wellknown Hubertine of Casale, issues during the Council no less than eleven memoirs.

3. To make it easier for the Spirituals and those of the Community to live together in Provence, where the Spirituals were exceptionally strong and active, Clement V directed a bull 'Cum nos', dated 23 July 1312, to the provincial Superior of Provence, namely our Giraudus Valete. He is, together with 15 local Superiors or guardians who had behaved with excessive severity against the Spirituals, deposed from his office 'pro bono pacis', according to Cardinal Vitalis de Furno who, on behalf of the pope, executes the deposition.

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2 See the "series Generalis Capituli Neapolitani 1316" in G. Golubovich, _Biblioteca bio-bibliografica della Terra Santa e dell'Oriente francese_, II, Quaracchi presso Firenze 1913, 249.
3 See the summary of the collection of documents of Raymond of Fronsac in ALKG III, Berlin 1887, 22-24, chapter XXV-XXVI, XXX-XXXVIII.
4 _Bullarium Franciscanum_, V, Romae 1898, 89, n. 203.
5 Cf. _Arch. Franc. Hist._ 16 (1923) 341; see also _ibid._ 351, note 4, and ALKG IV, Berlin 1888,