

THE MEDIEVAL
MANUSCRIPTS OF TRINITY
COLLEGE, OXFORD:
A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

by

RICHARD GAMESON

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also drew and rubricated: pairs of diamond crosses and pointing hands to help guide the reader through the major textual disjunctions on fols. 19^r–20^v; a little face in the margin of 56^v (beside l. 4421—associated with a slight hiccup in the text and its remedy); and a pentangle-cum-cross, resembling a notary's sign, on 103^v.

PROVENANCE

(1) S. xv/xvi, John Leche II (b. by 1460, d. by 1498) or John Leche III (b. c.1480, d. before 1553) of Nantwich, Cheshire (inscription, fol. 116^v: Liber Johannis Leche—this version of the signature has points in common

with that in MS. 13, but is more distant from the version found in both MS. 14 and MS. 49; discussed by Bale, 'Book-Owners'. (2) Thomas Unton (d. 1693) (as he owned all three of the other Leche books that came to Trinity, it is highly likely that this MS, too, was his; and since it does not feature the title of the text in Latin, it can be identified as no. 12 on the list of his MSS: see Appendix II; and cf. MS. 16B). Whence to (3) Trinity College in 1694. Bernard, p. 66, no. 2014 (as MS. 77). College shelfmarks: fol. i verso: '78 [crossed out] / 16a' (in ink); fol. 1^r, '77' (pencil), crossed out, '16' (ink); added beside them in ink: 'Bis occupit Y 15'.

I6B

Prick of Conscience

England; s. XIV/XV

Pl. XXVI(a)
Fig. 32

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: poor quality, variable in tone and texture; holes and imperfections. The rough texture has sometimes affected the quality of the script; the scribe had to write around holes on 112. Generally arranged FH, HF, except in Q. II (where HF, FH, FH, HF). Fols. i (modern) + ii (fols. '1–2', medieval flyleaves) + 114 + i (modern, foliated '115'). Modern pencil foliation (pre-dates present binding—occasional number cropped).

Size: 244 × 158 mm (except Q. VI, where 238 × 158 mm). Text-block: 183 × 93 mm. Lines: 34 or 35 (space, 5–6 mm; height of minims, 2 mm). Pricking: trimmed off, except in Q. VI, where knife and awl. Ruling: lead or crayon. Single vertical bounding lines; first and last horizontals extended; all horizontals irregularly overrun the verticals. (NB: the extra vertical rulings running through parts of the text block on, for instance, fols. 8, 10, and much of Q. XII, suggest that certain sheets were initially prepared for a different context, and re-used here.)

Collation: former pastedown and flyleaf, fols. 1–2, a cut-down bifolium; I–VI⁸; VII⁵ (= 8 lacking leaves 2, 3, and 4 [with loss of ll. 3684–3909]); VIII⁷ (= 8 lacking leaf 6 [with loss of ll. 4658–4743]); IX–X⁸; [lost quire]; XI⁵ (= 8 lacking leaves 1–3 [with loss of ll. 6142–7008]);

XII–XIV⁸; XV⁷ (= 8 with 4 cancelled). First leaves: 3, 11, 19, 27, 35, 43, 51, 56, 63, 71, 79, 84, 92, 100, 108. Original catchwords.

2^o folio (fol. 4^r): Siben þe creatures

BINDING

Calf, s. xix, by Hering (stamp on the verso of the front parchment endleaf); gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers; gold-tooled turn-ins; title of contents in gilt on spine; upper and lower edges gilded; parchment pastedowns and endleaves, from rebinding; 257 × 173 × 37 mm. Fol. 1^r bears faint traces of channels (V-shaped, at inner corners) and of turnovers from an earlier binding.

CONTENTS

(a) Fols. 1–2 (former flyleaves): bifolium from a missal, s. xiv^{ex}–xvⁱⁿ. Fol. 1^{r–v} contains *Feria vi, Dominica ii*, and start of *Feria iiiii* (in *i/ii Hebd. Aduentus*) [cf. SM, pp. 16–17]. Fol. 2^{r–v} contains *Dominica iiiii* [*Aduentus domini*] to *In uigilia natalis domini* [cf. SM, pp. 24–5, but the lections here for Vigilia are Luke 7: 17 ff. and Mark 8: 15 ff.].

Cut down. Text-block: 212 × 132 mm; two columns (width: 60 mm); lines, 41; space between lines, 6

mm; height of minims, 2 mm. Script: Textualis, modest quality; fol. 1 rubricated but no initials supplied; fol. 2 has neither initials nor rubric. Probably the outer sheet of a quire; perhaps reject leaves.

- (b) Fols. 3^r–114^r. *Prick of Conscience*. Here bygynneþ þe soþe to say / a noble book wiþout nay / þe which is cald of conscience prycke ... þat wene falle yn þe deuelys den / God hit us graunte serþ alle. Amen [Preface]. Byfore þat any þyng was wrouzt / or any bygynnyng was of ouzt ... Fol. 114^r ... To ye whiche place he us alle brynge / þat for oure hele on rode gon hynge Amen. / Explicit tractatus qui uocatur / Stimulus consciencie. Deo gracias.

Main Version. Lacks ll. 3684–3909, 4658–4743, and 6142–7008 owing to lost leaves. Printed: Morris, *Prick*, ed. Hanna and Wood (2013). Lewis and McIntosh, *Guide*, MV 89: Group IV, Lichfield/Staffordshire subgroup; Lichfield dialect. Title (in English) within the text to Book II. Colophon (in English) to Book VI, its wording similar to that in Holkham Hall 668 (*ibid.*, MV 23)—except ‘uocatur’ for ‘dicitur’ and no scribal name. The distribution of the text, page by page, corresponds exactly to that in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Douce 156 (*ibid.*, MV 68; parts misbound), as discovered by A. I. Doyle: TCO 16B fols. 3^r–5^v = D pp. 1–6; then D lacks a leaf; T, 7^r–8^r = D, pp. 7–9 (where D has two extra lines); T, 8^v–10^v = D pp. 10–14; T, 11^r–18^v = D, pp. 15–30; T, 19^r–39^v = D, pp. 31–72; T, 40^r–51^v = D, 73–96; T 52^r–60^v = D, pp. 103–20 (T, 55^r scribe omitted top line through eye-skip and had to add it in margin); T, 61^r–78^v = D, pp. 123–58. Thereafter T has a lacuna, and D breaks off imperfect before T resumes. Fol. 114^v, blank bar s. xvi² jottings (for which see Provenance).

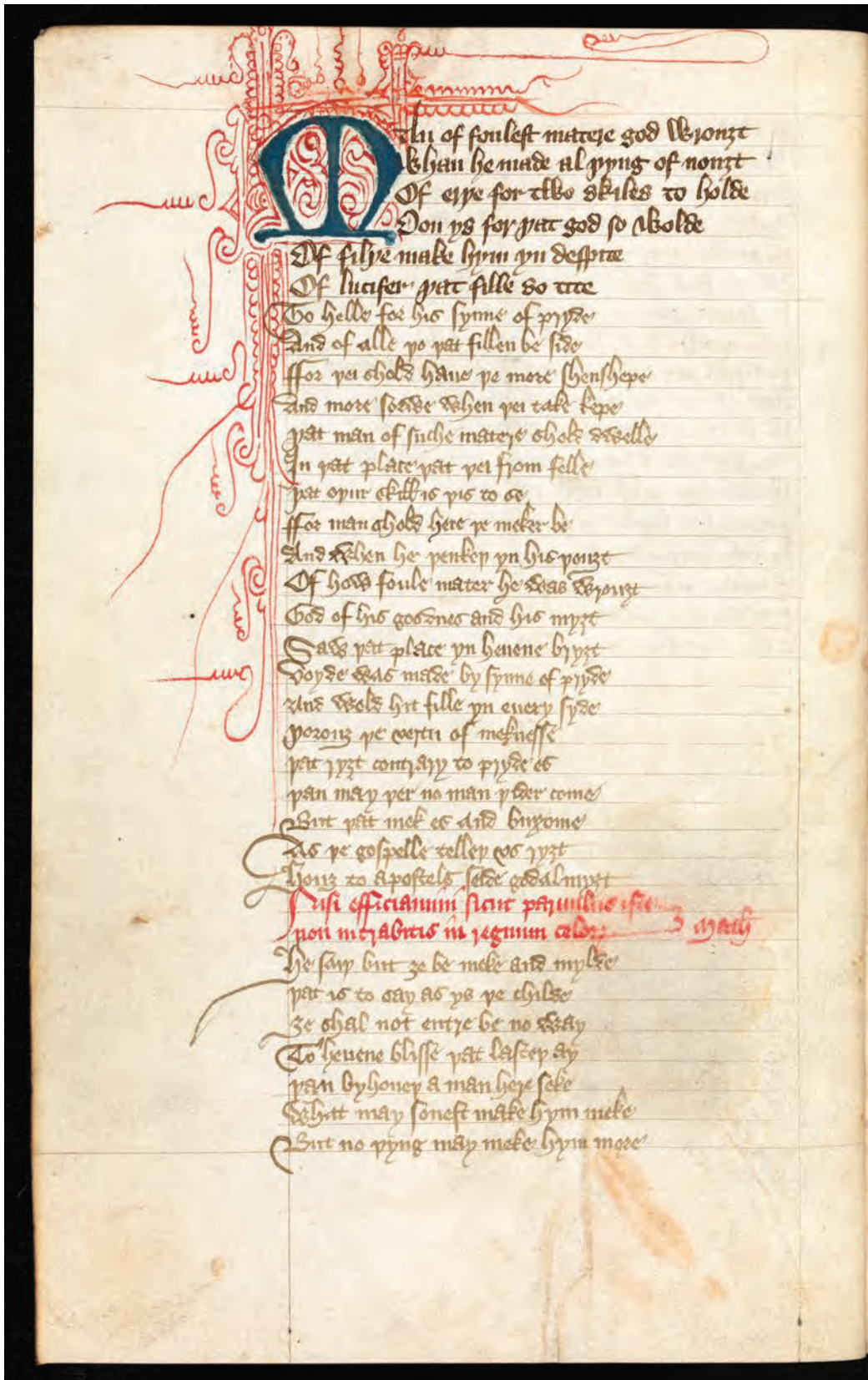
Annotation: a few scattered notes, in various hands (mainly s. xvi–xvii), sometimes showing engagement with the text. Hand A, the earliest, noted beside the account of purgatory (fol. 40^v, ll. 2786–2805): ‘a place of purgatory where deade born -?- be damned perpetually’; every line of the comment has been carefully crossed through. Hand B (italic, brown ink): fol. 5^r, copying extract from the text in margin, ‘And ever doth to mankind. This should men have ever in m[ind]. Amen’. But on fol. 39^r comments, ‘Tis pity this paper not better spent’, ‘O Lord preserve our gracious kinge and send him longe [?to—cropped] reigne. ?From 3 years. Onto 3 years and and [sic] so

to three agayne. Amen’. Hand C (?that of George Spilding), fol. 67^r, at right-angles to main text: ‘When as wee satt in Babylon bye riuers round about and in remembrance of sion my teares forgresse / burst owte we sange’ (Ps. 136). Hand D, fol. 8^r, ‘error’—alongside mention of purgatory in text. Hand E added two notes on purgatory (the first both crossed through and erased) under Hand A’s comment on the same passage (40^v; ll. 2786–2805): ‘purgatory next unto hell where soles are cliensed/chenged’; ‘Ded born children are damned perpetually. In a place that is betwix purgatorie and hell’. Hand E (later than the rest, black ink), fol. 7^v, ‘Diuisio uel distributio operis’.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

Written in Anglicana formata by two hands, the first larger and more flowing, the second smaller and more angular. (1) Fols. 3^r–8^v/line 6; ?30^v/line 20–31^r bottom; 53^r/line 28–78^v bottom; 84^r–84^v/line 24; 111^v–114^r. The scribe did his own rubrics and also those in scribe 2’s stints from fol. 19^r onwards. The hand has been identified (Lewis and McIntosh, *Guide*, p. 121; *The Vernon Manuscript: a facsimile of Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS. Eng. Poet. a. 1*, ed. A. I. Doyle (Cambridge, 1987), pp. 12–13; S. Horobin, ‘The Scribes of the Vernon Manuscript’, in W. Scase (ed.), *The Making of the Vernon Manuscript* (Turnhout, 2013), pp. 27–47) with that of Scribe A of the Vernon Manuscript, and with Scribe 1 of Holkham Hall, 668 (*Prick of Conscience*)—the partially legible colophon of which names its writer as John—and with the original scribe of the Chronicle and Cartulary of Stoneleigh Abbey, Warks (Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, DR 18/31/1). (2) Fols. 8^v/line 7–30^v/line 19; 31^v–53^r/line 27; 79^r–83^v, 84^v/line 25–111^r; the rubrics from 8^v–18^v, but not elsewhere. This hand has been plausibly though not conclusively identified (Horobin, ‘Scribes of the Vernon Manuscript’) with scribe 2 of Holkham Hall 668 and with the single scribe of Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Douce 156—with the first of which volumes our MS. shares a type of colophon, and with the second of which it shares the distribution of text, page by page.

Latin citations are in a Textualis-Anglicana Formata hybrid; generally in red, but sometimes (e.g. 79^r) in ordinary ink ringed or bracketed in purple, occasionally not highlighted at all (e.g. one on 66^r, all on 67^r–69^r, one on 70^r, all on 70^v, all on 79^v–82^v—the difference

Fig. 32. MS. 16B, fol. 8^v (reproduced at 86%).

in spacing, scribal hand, script, and ink tone indicate that, though in black ink, these were still inserted as a separate phase of work). On every page several verse initials were given more florid treatment than the rest (the examples on 30^v and 79^v include simple human faces).

DECORATION

Blue initials, flourished in red, 3+ lines high, very modest quality: for Prologue (3^r), for each surviving Part incipit (8^v, 16^r, 26^r, 39^v, 52^v, [Part VI lost], 86^v), and for a few further subdivisions (11^r = l. 552, 14^v = l. 806, 17^r = l. 986, 17^v = l. 1030, 74^v = l. 5814; yet others planned but not supplied—e.g. on 91^r, 112^r). NB: not all the subdivisions marked by initials in Douce 156 are similarly highlighted here.

PROVENANCE

(1) S. xvi², circle of a Robert Cresswell, grocer of 'Bucklersbury' (?Bucklebury, Berks, or Butler's Merry near Cheapside, London) (jottings on 114^v; two fluid, informal cursive hands: 'Memorandum. Payde to ?ursenes wyfe ffor bred ye 10 of June A[nn]o Elizabeth octavo [i.e. c.1566] - /12 / 11'; 'Mr Robert Cresswell grocor at

the ?Harrowe in bucklersburye'. (2) S. xvii^{med}, circle of a George Spilding, a William Fielding, and a Joseph Cooke (jottings, including: fol. 58^r—at right angles to main text—'William Ffylding, amen'; also 63^r, sketch of pentangle; 64^r, 'consiliatum et deliberatum in presenti-[cropped] quo? nominatur super -?-'; 64^r, George Spylidinge, amen, amen -?-; 65^r 'amen george spylding' [same hand as the preceding note, as also of the annotation of 67^r, for which see Contents]; 75^r, 'Joseph Cooke is a Roundhead'; 82^r, 'Joseph Cooke is a very knave god wott'; 77^r (upside down in relation to main text), doodled face; 83^r, faces; 88^r, doodled human figure; 84^r, 'William Fylding'). (3) Thomas Unton (d. 1693). As this is the only one of Trinity's three copies of the text that prominently includes the title 'Stimulus consciencie' (in the explicit on fol. 114^r), it is highly likely to be the copy that is so named on the list of Unton's MSS: no. 13—see Appendix II. Whence to (4) Trinity College in 1694. Bernard, p. 66, no. 2015 (as MS. 78—'sub titulo Stimulus conscientiae'). College shelfmarks: fol. 3^r, pencil '77 / 17', changed in ink to '78 / 16'; on flyleaf (so after xix^{1/3}) re-designated, '78b / 16b'.

Fig. 33

I7

A. Boethius, *De consolazione philosophiae*; B. Boethius, *De arte arithmetica*; C. Arator, *Historia apostolica*;
D. Anon., *De physiognomonia liber*

(A) England or France; s. XII^{2-ex}; (B) England or France; s. XII¹;

(C) northern France / Flanders; s. XII¹; (D) northern France or England; s. XIII^{1/3}

GENERAL

Fols. i (modern) + ii (medieval flyleaves numbered 'ii', 'iii'; modern joint: differences in tone do not suggest a bifolium) + 155 (numbered '1-114', '116-156': i.e. '115' omitted in the current foliation) + ii (modern). Modern pencil foliation.

Size throughout: 180 × 130 mm. Composed of four discrete parts: (A) fols. 1-42 and 90-8; (B) fols. 43-89;

(C) fols. 99-142; (D) fols. 143-56. The date of, and the individual *ex libris* on, part D suggest that that was still a separate unit in s. xiii. The same is implied for Part A by the circumstance that the extensive Grossetestian annotations are confined to it alone. As it is recorded that Grosseteste bequeathed his books to the convent of the Friars Minor in Oxford, and as this was seemingly the s. xiii provenance of D, the four