

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

*by*

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THE OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

2018

with which it starts is legible under UV), conceivably the man of that name (d. 1599) who became president of the English College of Douai (whither several of Trinity's early fellows retreated, s. xvi<sup>2/2</sup>). (3) John Shawe, s. xvi–xvii (inscriptions 1<sup>r</sup>, 2<sup>v</sup> [‘John Shawe is the owner hereof’], and 212<sup>v</sup>, the first two in an informal Secretary, the third in Italic). (4) Robert Skinner (1591–1670), matric. Trinity 1607, fellow 1613–23, bishop of Bristol 1637–41, of Oxford 1641–63, of

Worcester 1663–70. (5) Trinity College in 1640, by gift of Skinner (inscription, fol. ii<sup>v</sup>: ‘Liber collegii s’ctae et indiuiduae trin’oxon’ ex dono Reuerendi in Xto patris Roberti Skinner episcopi Bristolensis et eiusdem collegii olim socii A.D. 1640’—same hand and formula as in MS. 22). Bernard, p. 64, no. 1963 (as MS. 26). College shelfmarks: ink ‘7’ (fore-edge); pencil ‘26’ over ink ‘24’ (1<sup>r</sup>, lower margin).

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Fig. 40

Eusebius of Vercelli, *De Trinitate*;  
Vigilius Thapsensis, *Contra Arianos*; etc.

England; s. XII<sup>2/4</sup>

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: modest, occasionally poor quality with some leaves scarred; hair sides very yellow; noticeable contrast in tone H/F. Arranged HF, FH. The original flyleaf (fol. 1) is bisected by a large flaw (proceeding from an original hole) which evidently tore and was sewn up at an uncertain date. Fols. i (modern paper) + 156 + i (former pastedown: medieval leaf, foliated ‘157’) + i (modern paper, foliated ‘158’). Modern pencil foliation. Two coeval fascicules of nearly identical size (10 quires) and matching presentation, brought together almost immediately (*teste* rubric on 78<sup>r</sup>): A) fols. 2–77 = Qq. I–X; B) fols. 78–157 = Qq. XI–XX.

Size: 245 × 162 mm. Written area: 176 × 93 mm. Lines: 28 (space, 6–7 mm; height of minims, 3 mm). Pricking: awl; holes generally survive in all three outer margins; two sets of prickings for horizontal lines in Qq. IV, V, and (with only one of the sets completed) VIII. Ruling: hard point (except Q. X, where lead was used). Double verticals on both sides of the text-block throughout; the horizontals which were extended differ from quire to quire: (a) first, third, last, and antepenultimate extended (thus in Qq. I–X, XIII–XV, XVIII–XX); (b) first two and last two (Qq. XI–XII); (c) first and last (Qq. XVI–XVII); and (d) none extended (Q. X).

Collation: fol. 1 (preliminary leaf: a singleton). Part A: I–IX<sup>8</sup>; X<sup>4</sup>. Part B: XI–XX<sup>8</sup>. The final leaf of Q. XX (157) consists of the conjoint stub of fol. 150, to which part of a leaf from a larger s. xiii<sup>1</sup> book (see below) has been glued; this assemblage evidently served as the rear pastedown for part of the book’s history, as its sections bear contiguous paste stains. Original alphabetical signatures survive at the centre of the lower margin of the final leaf of Qq. I (‘a’), II (‘b’), III (‘c’), V (‘e’), VI (‘f’), XI (‘k’), XII (‘l’), XIII (‘m’), XVI (‘p’), and XX (‘t’); erasures appear in the corresponding place in most other quires. Roman numerals in lead, probably of an early date, on the lower margins of the first rectos of Qq. XII–XVII (‘iii’–‘viii’).

2<sup>o</sup> folio: tue tranquillissime trinitatis

## BINDING

Panelled style, s. xviii, probably by Sedgley; blind-tooled mottled and plain calf, a fleuron at each corner of the inner compartment, and two decorative rolls; gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers; MS. number in gilt on spine; 258 × 176 × 44 mm. Traces from lost earlier binding on fol. 157. Impression of turnovers. Holes (stained green) caused by the pins that secured the metal furniture: a triangle of three such holes (from studs) appears towards each

of the four corners; a pair (from a catch or stud) in the very centre; and two pairs (from clasp fixtures) towards the fore-edge—a lot of metal for a small book. Flyleaf (former pastedown), fol. 157. Peter Comestor, *Historia Scholastica*; s. xiii<sup>1</sup>. Fragment cut down to 131 × 225 mm and turned sideways. Width of text-block: 130 mm. Two columns of 58 mm (space, 5 mm; height of minims, 2 mm). Nine complete lines of text, and part of a tenth, remain visible on the recto, three and bit on the verso. Ruling: lead. Wide margins (inner as preserved, 37 mm; outer, 60 mm; lower, 82 mm). Text: hair side of leaf has parts of *Historia scholastica*, chs. 63–7 (imperfect): *PL* cxviii, cols. 1688–90, including rubrics, *De morte herodis* and *De Agrippa filio herodis*. Script: Textualis rotunda, uncompressed. Section initials: green or red, 2+ lines high.

## CONTENTS

[NB: explicit and incipit rubrics—here separated to accord with the itemization of the tracts—are often contiguous.]

- (a) Fol. 1<sup>v</sup>. List of Contents. Hic Codex hec continet. Beati Athanasii De Trinitate Libros .viii. Eiusdem symbolum fidei ... a beato ieronimo editum.  
Contemporary with the rest of the book, this itemizes everything that is in it.

## Part A

- (b) Fols. 2<sup>r</sup>–52<sup>v</sup>. Eusebius of Vercelli, *De Trinitate*. \Athanasius de S. Trinitate./ Unus deus pater et unigenitus deus filius qui unam deitatem nobis declarasti ... Sed pater in filio, et filius in patre, spiritus autem sanctus coniunctio, deitatis, uirtus, et unitas Trinitatis. *Explicit liber viii<sup>us</sup> fidei patris et filii et spiritus sancti. Hos libellos octo transcripsi qui multa addita et inmutata continent.*

Eight-book version: *CPL* 105; *PL* lxii, cols. 237–88; *CCSL* 9, 3–118. The title was added s. xvi<sup>1</sup>.

- (c) Fols. 52<sup>v</sup>–53<sup>v</sup>. ?Gregorius Illiberitanus, *Libellus fidei / De fide Nicaena*. *Incipit libellus fidei patris et filii et spiritus sancti athanasii episcopi. cum legeris. per hanc fidem [fol. 53<sup>r</sup>] moneo ut mei memores in orationibus tuis, ne forsitan quisquam hoc obtrectator contingat quia scriptum est ne proiciatis margaritas uestras ante porcos. Credo in deum patrem omnipotentem et unigenitum ... aut sententiam pro peccatis eternam hoc placuit. amen. Explicit Fidei Catholice.*

*CPL* 552; *CCSL* 9, 129–31.

- (d) Fols. 53<sup>v</sup>–77<sup>v</sup>. Ps.-Athanasius (?Eusebius of Vercelli), 'Liber duodecimus de Trinitate et de Spiritu Sancto'. *Incipit eiusdem de trinitate et de spiritu sancto*. His qui filium dei creatum esse profitentur nequaquam de spiritu sancto dabimus responsium ... heredes regni celorum effici poterimus. amen. [Lower half of 77<sup>v</sup> blank; all the rubric is at the top of 78<sup>r</sup>.] *Explicit de trinitate et de spiritu sancto*.

Cf. *CPL* 105; *PL* lxii, cols. 307–34; *CCSL* 9, 165–205.

## Part B

- (e) Fols. 78<sup>r</sup>–141<sup>v</sup>. Vigilius Thapsensis, *Contra Arianos, Sabellianos, Photinianos dialogus*. 1. Fol. 78<sup>r</sup>. *Incipit prologus in altercatione sancti athanasii episcopi et confessoris contra arrium, Sabellium, vei [sic] fotinum haereticos. Cum in manus strenui lectoris beatissime papa matere liber iste ... Fol. 78<sup>v</sup> ... Explicit prologus. Incipit qualiter res a principio gesta est. Cum apud niceam urbem a trecentis decem et octo episcopis ... Fol. 133<sup>v</sup> ... ad uictorie palmam athanasius purae fidei assertor ualeat peruenire. Explicit altercatio.* 2. *Incipit sententia iudicis probi. Probus. Amore ueritatis et fidei inter sectatores ... Fol. 141<sup>v</sup> ... premium indubitata sorte capessant. Explicit sententia iudicis probi. Inter athanasium episcopum catholicum et arrium et eotinum et sabellium hereticos.*

1. *PL* lxii, cols. 155–79, with preface printed at 179–80.

2. Bk. III: *PL* lxii, cols. 229–38.

- (f) Fols. 141<sup>v</sup>–143<sup>v</sup>. Potamius of Lisbon, *Epistola to Athanasius*. Fol. 141<sup>v</sup>. *Incipit epistola potamii ad athanasium, ab arrianis postquam in concilio arriminensi subscripserunt. Domino fratri gloriosissimo ac beatissimo Athanasio episcopo Potamius. Tanti carceris fossa crudam inluuiem damnabilis officinae coaceruatam ... Fol. 143<sup>v</sup> ... cuius laude plena est a nunc et in eterna semper secula seculorum. Beatificet pater, et filius, et spiritus sanctus. Explicit epistola potamii ad athanasium.*

*CPL* 542; *CCSL* 69A, 151–63.

- (g) Fols. 143<sup>v</sup>–145<sup>v</sup>. Ps.-Athanasius, *Epistola to Lucifer of Calaris*. Fol. 143<sup>v</sup>. *Incipit epistola athanasii ad luciferum episcopum. Domino beatissimo ac merito gloriosissimo sancto episcopo lucifero, athanasius. Etsi credo peruenisse etiam ad sanctitatem tuam de persecutione ... 145<sup>v</sup> ... magister ueritatis et in omnibus desideratissime. Explicit epistola sancti athanasii ad sanctum luciferum episcopum.*

*PL* lxii, cols. 515–17; *CCSL* 8, 307–10.



Fig. 40. MS. 25, fols. 1<sup>v</sup>–2<sup>r</sup> (reproduced at 53%).

(h) Fols. 145<sup>v</sup>–155<sup>f</sup>. Ps.-Vigilius (?Lucifer of Cagliari), *Solutiones obiectionum Arianorum*. Fol. 145<sup>v</sup>. *Incipiunt solutiones obiectionum arrianarum*. Prima enim obiectione est. qua dicunt impossibile esse deum patrem ... nusquam poterunt creatum ostendere. *Expliciunt solutiones obiectionum*.

CPL 812; PL lxii, cols. 469–72.

(i) Fol. 155<sup>r-v</sup>. Ps.-Jerome (?Gregory Illiberitanus / of Elvira), *Fides I*. Fol. 155<sup>r</sup>. *Incipit de fide sancti ieronimi presbiteri*. Credo in unum deum patrem omnipotentem, uisibilem et inuisibilem, factorem ... ad uitam eternam amen.

CPL 553; Lambert, no. 511; CCSL 69, 273–5.

(j) Fols. 155<sup>v</sup>–156<sup>v</sup>. Ps.-Jerome (?Gregory Illiberitanus), *De fide catholica*. Fol. 155<sup>v</sup>. *Item eiusdem De fide apud*

*Bethleem*. Credimus in unum deum patrem omnipotentem et in unum dominum iesum christum filium dei ... a christo domino et uitam consequeris et premia.

CPL 554; Lambert, no. 315; CCSL 69, 269–72.

#### SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

(1) Fol. 1<sup>v</sup> (contents list (a)). English Romanesque book-hand, neat; more angular and less rectilinear than (2), s. xii<sup>med</sup>. (2) Fols. 2<sup>r</sup>–156<sup>v</sup>. Main text ((b)–(j)) entirely by one scribe common to both parts A and B: Romanesque book-hand still indebted to Late Standard Anglo-Caroline Minuscule, with a rectilinear matrix, neat and spacious; akin to some hands associated with the West Midlands and the South West. Included



occasional superscript 'a's and 'b's as construe marks (e.g. 44<sup>v</sup>, 54<sup>v</sup>, 61<sup>r</sup>, 85<sup>v</sup>, 102<sup>r</sup>, 114<sup>f</sup>, 116<sup>r</sup>, 117<sup>v</sup>, 147<sup>v</sup>) seemingly as part of the initial writing process. Supplied many of the rubrics in the same script (others are done in Rustic Capitals; lead guide-notes for rubrics are regularly visible from 90<sup>r</sup>). Also did occasional corrections (e.g. 120<sup>v</sup>). (3) Corrections done *in rasura* (e.g. 13<sup>r</sup>, 14<sup>r-v</sup>). Similar hand to 2 but uses much higher-backed 'a'. The corrections to be effected were evidently first noted in the margin in much smaller script (possibly by a different hand again), these cues generally being erased once the alteration had been made to the main text; however, traces—occasionally whole words—sometimes remain (on 17<sup>v</sup> the cue was supplied, the original text erased, but the formal rewriting was never done). (4) Corrections *in rasura* (e.g. 56<sup>v</sup>, 63<sup>v</sup>, 91<sup>r</sup>): another hand of similar type. + Nota marks. Early (s. xii) example on fol. 32<sup>v</sup>. Late medieval hand(s) added many faint Nota marks and flagged sections of text with looping lines, above all between fols. 9<sup>v</sup> and 53<sup>v</sup>, but also on 58<sup>f</sup>, 78<sup>r</sup>, 81<sup>v</sup>, 85<sup>r</sup>, 88<sup>r</sup>, and 98<sup>v</sup>.

## DECORATION

Tracts headed by plain or slightly embellished coloured capitals (red, green, or purple), 6 to 11 lines high. Guide letters (lead or ink) and colour notes (lead or crayon)

for the initials sometimes survive (both sorts readily visible on 15<sup>v</sup> and 78<sup>f</sup>–85<sup>v</sup>); the latter were generally but not invariably followed—'V' or 'g' was used for green (these 'g's were generally of Insular flat-topped form), 'p' for purple, and 'r' for red. Lead design sketches are visible below the 'D's on 141<sup>v</sup> and 143<sup>v</sup>. Whereas most initials were added after the text (and run over it), the 'P' on 40<sup>v</sup> is under—and so preceded—both rubric and text. Subsections headed by coloured capitals (red, green, or purple), plain or slightly embellished, 2–6 lines high. The green (presumably copper-based) of that on fol. 155<sup>v</sup> has perforated the parchment.

## PROVENANCE

(1) King Henry VIII, ?Westminster Library (2<sup>r</sup>, title in italic, 'Atanasius de S. trinitate', akin to the work of the 'Westminster cataloguer'): see Carley, *Libraries*, p. lxxv with n. 144. (2) Sir Thomas Pope (c.1507–59) (signatures 2<sup>r</sup> and 156<sup>v</sup>). (3) Trinity College by gift of Pope. College *ex libris* (fol. 1<sup>r</sup>: 'Col: Trin: Oxon.', ?s. xvii). Bernard, p. 64, no. 1952 (as MS. 15). Shelfmarks: 'Athanasius/ obliterated/ 22' (on fore-edge); 'B.2.12' (fols. 156<sup>v</sup> and 157<sup>r</sup>); pencil '15' over ink '25' (fol. 2<sup>r</sup>, lower margin).

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## Collection of Sermons and Tracts

England; s. XII<sup>3/4</sup>

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: quite stout; some holes and edge-cuts; a noticeable but not glaring contrast between H and F sides; arranged HF, FH. The top outer corner of fol. 1 was neatly excised at some point after s. xvi<sup>f</sup>. Fols. i (modern paper) + 84 + i (modern paper, foliated '85'). Modern pencil foliation.

Size: 220 × 140 mm (preserved, folded-over flap of fol. 18 adds 2 mm to both height and width). Written area: 160 × 83–4 mm. Lines: 29 (space, 5–6 mm; height of minims, 2 mm). Pricking: awl; holes survive in outer and lower margins. Ruling: ink. Single verticals

flank the text block; the first two and the last two horizontals were generally extended (except on 72<sup>f</sup>–73<sup>f</sup>, where at the bottom the last and the antepenultimate are extended; and 80<sup>v</sup>, 81<sup>v</sup>, and 82<sup>r</sup>, where at the bottom the last three are all extended). The horizontal rulings irregularly overlap the vertical bounding lines.

Collation: I–VI<sup>8</sup>; VII<sup>6</sup>; VIII–IX<sup>8</sup>; X<sup>10</sup>; XI<sup>4</sup>. Original catchwords survive in whole or part at the end of Qq. V and VII–IX (40<sup>v</sup>, 54<sup>v</sup>, 62<sup>v</sup>, 70<sup>v</sup>, 80<sup>v</sup>).

2<sup>o</sup> folio: septies uindicabitur