

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

*by*  
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(item (f), neatly flourished); 151<sup>v</sup>, 'M' (item (h); flourished); throughout the texts of (h) initials are alternately green then red, the former flourished, the latter not; 155<sup>r</sup>, 'C' (item (i); red and green, neatly flourished). The chapters of item (i) and some of the verses within (b) are headed by plain initials, 2–3 lines high, alternately green then red. Red flourishing to isolate overruns at bottom of columns, sometimes including crudely drawn animal (35<sup>v</sup>, 47<sup>v</sup>) or bird heads (58<sup>r</sup>); similar motifs increasingly applied to the main quire signatures, that on 170<sup>v</sup> ('XXI') featuring a jejune rampant lion inscribed 'leo fortissimus'! Red lines and cross-hatching outline holes in parchment.

## PROVENANCE

(1) St Mary, Kingswood, Gloucester (Cistercian) (early *ex libris* in red display capitals, fol. 2<sup>v</sup>: 'Liber Monachorum Sancte Marie / De Kingeswde'); noted *MLGB*, p. 106. (2) Dr Matthew Skinner (1624–98), son of Robert Skinner (the donor of MSS 22, 24, and 59), matric. Trinity 1639, BA 1642, fellow 1643, MA 1645–6, D.Med. 1660 (inscription fol. 1<sup>r</sup>, 'Liber Coll': Trin: Oxon': E dono uiri dignissimi Domini Matthei Skinner M.D. et ejusdem Coll': olim socii. I'). (3) Trinity College by gift of Skinner. Bernard, p. 64, no. 1946 (as MS. 9). College shelfmarks ('41' on fore-edge; '9/34' in ink on 3<sup>r</sup>).

Fig. 46

## 35

Thomas Ringstead, *Commentarium super Parabolas*

England; s. XIV<sup>3/3</sup>

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: poor quality, numerous flaws, Hs very yellow; arranged FH, HF. Fire damage, resulting in burn hole and/or staining, to area at the top of the first seven leaves. Fols. i (modern paper flyleaf, now loose, foliated 'i') + 1 (medieval part-leaf from binding, unfoliated) + 2 (former medieval pastedown and flyleaf, foliated '1'–'2') + 222 (foliated '3'–'224') + 1 (medieval endleaf, foliated '225') + medieval leaf stub from binding (foliated '226'). Modern pencil foliation. Humidity/mould damage to final leaves.

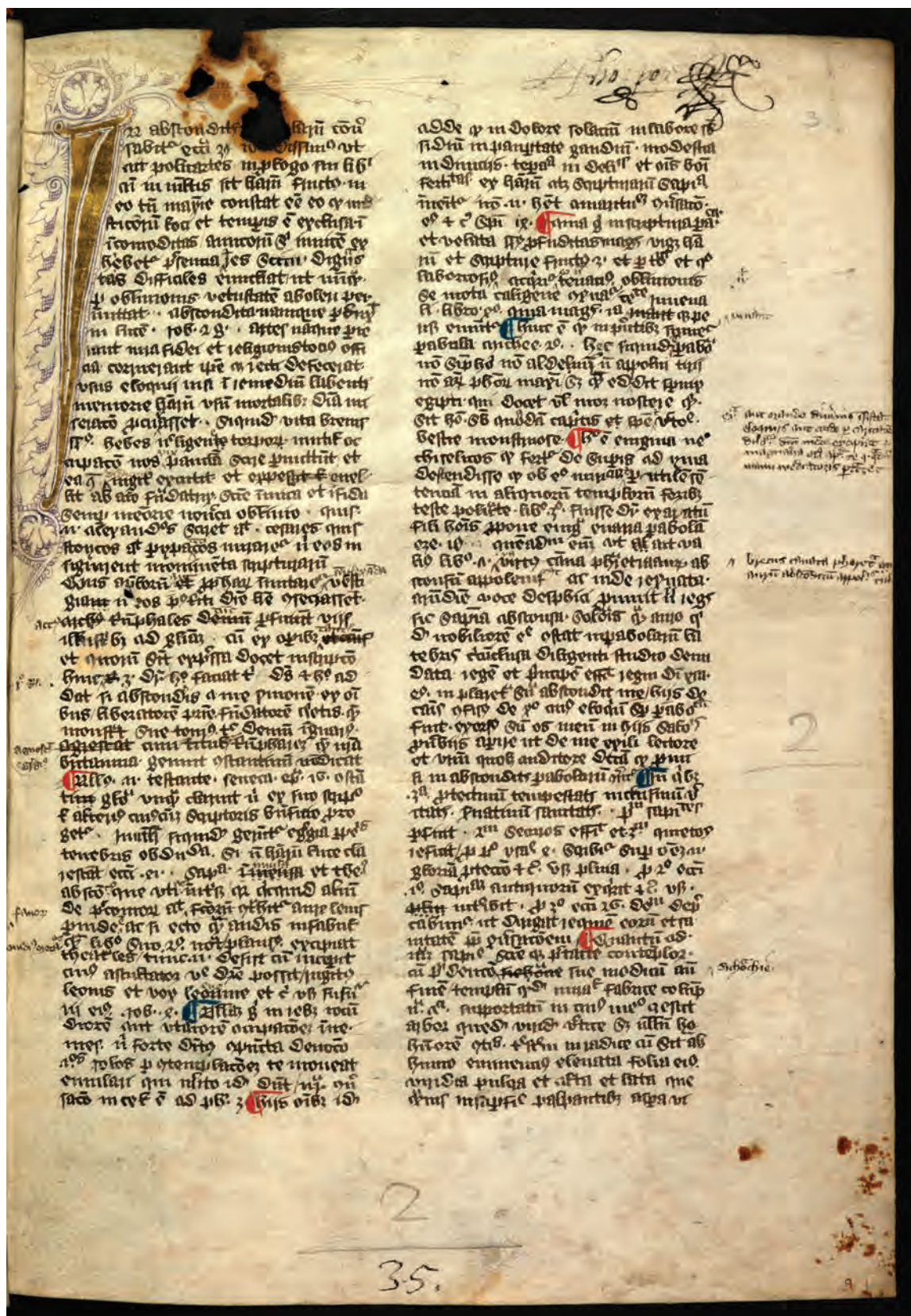
Size: 300 × 212 mm. Text-block: 227 × 150 mm. Two columns (65–70 mm). Lines: 53–5 (space, 4 mm; height of minims, 1.5 mm). Pricking: awl; only prickings for the verticals and the horizontal bounding lines preserved. (The main block of horizontal rulings was either guided by separate prickings, further 'out' and now entirely lost, or was not guided by individual prickings at all.) Ruling: ink. Single verticals to either side of each column; single extended line at top and bottom (these guided by prickings). On some pages (e.g. 201<sup>r</sup>–209<sup>v</sup>) the set of horizontals continues right down to the very bottom of the page as preserved, though only the first 53 of them have been used.

Collation: frontleaves (i, 1–2 [a bifolium]). I–XIV<sup>12</sup>; XV<sup>7</sup> (= 6+1 [fol. 177, a part-leaf, its whole outer column having been excised]); XVII–XIX<sup>12</sup>; XX<sup>11</sup> (= 12 with leaf 12 cancelled). Endleaves: two singletons (fols. 225, 226). First leaves: 3, 15, 27, 39, 51, 63, 75, 81, 99, 111, 123, 135, 147, 159, 171, 178, 190, 202, 214. Contemporary catchwords (the last, 213<sup>v</sup>, including two human faces). Leaf lettering-numbering in the first half of quires. The systems of leaf lettering-numbering fall into four groups corresponding broadly to scribal hand: 1. Qq. I–VIII (scribe 1)—a red letter, sometimes repeated (a, b, c, c, –, c, no letter just numbers, d) plus number; 2. Q. IX (scribe 2)—a blue cross plus number; 3. Qq. X–XV (scribe 2)—a red a, b, f, g, h, I, plus number; 4. Qq. XVI–XIX (scribe 3)—a red b, c, –, cross, plus number.

2<sup>o</sup> folio: clementia ianitoris

## 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 [different from those on MSS with lower numbers]; gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers;

Fig. 46. MS. 35, fol. 3<sup>r</sup> (reproduced at 70%).



MS. number in gilt on spine; 314 × 222 × 63 mm. Offsets from a former binding structure on the front part-leaf and on 226<sup>v</sup>: three v-shaped channels 'feeding' six sewing stations (which appear to have been reused for the present binding). Stains from metal fitting (?staple) at lower fore-edge of fols. i and 2; and from metal ?clasps at upper and lower fore-edge of fol. 225.

## CONTENTS

Preliminaries. Fol. 1. Former pastedown; blank bar one column of text on the recto (?by scribe 1 of the main book, writing to a slightly smaller gauge)—apparently a reject leaf. Fol. 2. Blank bar two added inscriptions: recto, 'Ryngstede super librum paraboliarum' (s. xiv–xv); verso (partly lost through fire damage), 'Postilla Thome de Ryngstede [—]ensis episcopi sacre theologie doctoris super [—] capitula paraboliarum' (s. xv–xvi).

(a) Fols. 3<sup>r</sup>–214<sup>v</sup>. Thomas Ringstead, *Commentarium super Parabolas*. Fol. 3<sup>r</sup>. In absconditis [parabo]larum conuersabitur eccl. 39 [iocund]issimus ut ait polycrates in prologo sui libri cum in multis sit litterarum fructus in eo tamen maxime constat esse eo quod omnium interstitiorum ... Fol. 5<sup>r</sup> ... Parabole Salomonis filii Dauid regis Israel. Istud capitulum primum in duas partes diuiditur. In prima parte sapiens per se ipsum nos ad sapientiam inuitat. ... Fol. 214<sup>v</sup> ... Qui postea ex tempore natus filios dei dispersos congregavit in unum. Cui est honor et gloria in secula seculorum. Amen. *Explicit postilla thome de Ryngstede ecclesie bangoriensis episcopi sacre theologie doctoris super 29 capitula paraboliarum etc. amen*

S 8172; Kaeppli 3845, noting this MS. Printed: Paris 1510. Divided according to the 29 chapters of the Book of Proverbs, and into 181 *lectiones*, both systems numbered in arabic numerals (the *lectiones* from no. 177, fol. 208<sup>r</sup>, onwards are labelled 'capitulum' rather than 'lectio'). Lemmata (whether heading *lectiones* or within the body of the text) are generally underlined in ordinary text ink. No annotation.

(b) Fols. 215<sup>v</sup>–224<sup>v</sup>. Index, alphabetical. Fol. 215<sup>v</sup>. Abominatio sunt duo labia, precipue item caro et sanguis reddunt hominem abhominabilem in uita presenti .6. ... Abstinencia ... Abscondita ... Accu-

sacio ... Acetum ... Acquisicio ... Addiscere ... Adiuuat ... Aduersitas ... Fol. 224<sup>v</sup> ... Ypocrita ... Zelus ... Explicit tabula.

Reference via lection numbers. Not the same incipit as that for the 'Liber doctoris Thomae Ryngstede super Parabolas Salamonis abbreviatus per modum alphabeti' that is found in Lincoln Cathedral, 40; London, British Library, MS. Royal 2 F. vii; and Worcester Cathedral, F.80. Fols. 225 and 226 (the stub) are blank.

## SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

(1) Fols. 3<sup>r</sup>–95<sup>r</sup>. Anglicana formata, almost a 'university text-book' hand; slightly enlarged for the start of chapters. (2) Fols. 95<sup>v</sup>–177<sup>v</sup>. Anglicana; becomes gradually more cursive and less carefully controlled, especially from 148. Ascenders regularly extended into upper margin. Textualis generally used for first line or two at the start of chapters (until 142<sup>v</sup>). The stint ends with a singleton part-leaf (its entire outer column excised) presumably to 'smooth' the join with the next stint. This, plus the individual systems of leaf numbering, may imply that the scribes were working simultaneously. (3) Fols. 178<sup>r</sup>–225<sup>v</sup>. A 'university text-book'-Anglicana hybrid, becoming more fluid as the stint progresses. A larger version, sometimes upgraded to a fere-Textualis, was used for the first lines of chapters. + Minor corrections throughout in contemporary, more cursive hand(s).

## DECORATION

The first chapter (3<sup>r</sup>) is distinguished by an initial 'I' with a gold-leaf body, 25 lines high, flourished in purple (the flourishing including a profile beast-head). Each capitulum/lectio (and each new letter in the Index) is headed by a blue initial, 4–5 lines high, modestly flourished in red. Paraphs, alternately red then blue, subdivide the text, and mark individual entries in the Index.

## PROVENANCE

(1) Sir Thomas Pope (c.1507–59) (signatures 3<sup>r</sup> and 224<sup>v</sup>). (2) Trinity College, by gift of Pope. Bernard, p. 64, no. 1939 (as MS. 2). College shelfmarks: fore-edge, ?'18' + ?title; 3<sup>r</sup>, pencil '2' in side margin, pencil '2', ink '35' in lower margin.