

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

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William of Montague, *Liber exceptionum; Concordancia*England; s. XIV¹

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: modest to low quality, with strong H/F distinction, scarred, follicle pocked, often thick, occasionally papery. Arranged FH, HF throughout. Worm damage to first and last leaves. Fols. i (modern paper) + ii (medieval flyleaves, foliated 'ii', 'iii') + 179 + ii (medieval endleaves, foliated '176/181' and '177') + i (modern paper, foliated '178'). Modern pencil foliation runs: '1'–'85', unnumbered leaf, '86'–'104', '104' (again)–'125' (NB fol. '124' also bears a second number, '127'), unnumbered leaf, '126'–'134', unnumbered leaf, '135'–'178'.

Size: 287 × 188 mm. Text-block: 226 × 136 mm. Two columns (width: 61 mm). Lines: 57 (space, 4 mm; height of minims, 1.5 mm). Pricking: awl (both side margins; occasionally two sets of prickings in the outer margin). Ruling: lead. Single verticals bound text-block (two intercolumnar verticals); the first two horizontals and the final one extended. Other horizontals irregularly overrun the verticals.

Collation: the flyleaves ('ii' and 'iii') are two singletons; I–XIV¹²; XV¹¹ (= 12 lacks leaf 12). Contemporary catchwords; leaf numbering (very faint) in the first half of Qq. I, II, IV, and V.

2^o folio: mens inherens deo

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; 300 × 197 × 50 mm. Offset traces from an earlier binding on fols. ii^r and 177^v, featuring six straight channels for lacing, and stains from turnovers. Also two pairs of rust-stained holes from metal fixtures for clasps and catches near the fore-edge towards the top and bottom; green rectangular mark at the foot of fol. ii^r probably from the hasp for a chain.

CONTENTS

Preliminaries

Fol. ii^{r-v}. Blank. Fol. iii^r. Blank, bar s. xv note: 'In isto libro continentur Exceptiones xxiii auctorum et concordantie'. Fol. iii^v blank, to which has been pasted a parchment slip, bearing in Textualis semi-quadrata, s. xiv–xv, the title: 'In isto libro continentur Exceptiones xxiii auctorum et concordancium'. The wormholes in the slip, and the fact that they do not correspond to those of the leaf to which it is now pasted, suggest either that it comes from an otherwise lost flyleaf, or that it was attached to an earlier front cover, and that it was salvaged and placed here when the present binding was done.

- (a) Fols. 1^r–123^v. William of Montague, *Liber exceptionum*. Fol. 1^r. Non paruum in philosophia profectum puto cum in comparacione recti verique inueniendi contempnitur a disputante uictoria ... Unus est sapiens cuius omnia sunt. Meliorem facies ingratum ferrendo peiorem exprobando. *Expliciunt exceptiones xxiii auctorum*.

A substantial collection of excerpts mainly from patristic writers, presented in 44 distinctiones (identified throughout by bold running headings). Each distinctio has an alphabetical sequence of capital letters, alternately blue then red, running through its margins, defining subsections (which may or may not coincide with the start of a new text) for reference purposes. Further subdivisions via frequent paraphs, alternately red then blue. In outline, Distinctiones I–XX (fols. 1^r–53^v) consist of excerpts from Augustine (the first sentence from *Contra Academicos*: PL xxxii, col. 910); XXI–XXX (53^v–80^v) come from Gregory the Great; XXXI–XXXIII (80^v–87^r) from Jerome; XXXIII–XXXVI (87^r–96^v) from Ambrose and Hilary; XXXVII (96^v–100^r) from Isidore; XXXVIII (100^r–103^r) from Origen; XXXIX from Cassiodorus; XXXIX continued–XL (103^v–107^v) from John Chrysostom; XLI (108^r–111^r) from Basil, Gregory Nazianzenus, Cyprian, Leo, and

[illegible][illegible]

Ephraem; XLII (III^r–II5^r) from Caesarius of Arles, Fulgentius, Maximus, Bede (III^v), and Prosper (II4^r); XLIII (II5^r–II9^r) from Peter of Ravenna and John Cassian; and XLIII (II9^r–I23^v) from Boethius and Seneca (the final section from *De beneficiis*). Augustine, a very large number of whose works are represented, accounts for about half of the total content, Gregory, Jerome, and Ambrose collectively for well over a quarter. The excerpts follow the order in which they appear in the original works. The individual texts and excerpts are identified by rubrics; in addition, Augustine, Gregory, and Jerome have their own explicit/incipit: *Expliciunt auctoritates beati augustini*. *Incipiunt auctoritates beati gregorii* (53^v); *Expliciunt exceptiones ex libri beati gregorii*. *Incipiunt exceptiones ex libri beati J[er]o[ni]mi* (80^v). Unprinted. One of ten known copies of William's work: R. and M. Rouse, *Preachers, Florilegia and Sermons: Studies on the Manipulus Florum of Thomas of Ireland* (Toronto, 1979), pp. 139–44. No annotation.

- (b) Fols. 124^r–175^v. Concordance to *Liber Exceptionum*. Fol. 124^r. *Incipiunt Concordantie*. Abducere distinctione .xix.a. magni .xxxiii c. vini ebrietas ... Abicere ... , Abiecto ... , Abiectus ... , Abissus ... , Abluere ... Fol. 175^v ... Quod in comparatione passionum christi ... o. cogita xxi .b. ysachar xxiii .e. electi.

Alphabetization of entries is fairly consistent (generally to the third letter or more). To the main runs of entries for individual letters are sometimes appended supplementary entries where the relevant alphabetical word is introduced by 'De' or 'Quod' (e.g. for 'U': 'De vigiliis et psalmodia et laude dei' (172^r), and for X: 'Quod xps est deus et homo' (172^v)). The final alphabetical entry (173^r), 'Zelus' (the only entry for 'Z') is followed by five pages of more general 'Quod ...' and 'De ...' entries (e.g. 'Quod deus est omnia in omnibus', 'De gloria corporum', both 175^r).

Fol. 176^r. Blank bar added (?s. xv) title, 'Excepciones [xxx—erased] xxiii auctorum ac etiam concordantie'.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

Anglicana formata, often compact. The number of scribes is uncertain: there are modest changes in the size and aspect of the script, yet without any sudden disjunctions.

DECORATION

The start of (a) is marked by a 5-line-high 'N', done in red and blue and flourished in both colours; red and blue border extension down the inner margin, and red flourishing along the upper and lower ones. The start of (b) is marked by a 4-line-high 'A' done entirely in blue and flourished in red alone; red and blue border extensions down the inner margins and red flourishing along upper and lower ones. The flourishing here and elsewhere is fairly rudimentary. The start of *Distinctiones* and the first entry for each new letter in the Concordance are marked by blue initials, 4- to 5-lines high, flourished in red; the initial Concordance letters have, in addition, red and blue border extensions. Principal subdivisions within the *Exceptiones* (generally the start of a new source text) and all entries within the Concordance are marked by blue initials, 2 to 3 lines high, flourished in red. The remainder of each initial concordance word is underlined in red, as are scriptural, etc. quotations within the excerpts. Further divisions are signalled by paraps, red or blue, generally in alternation.

PROVENANCE

- (1) Sir Thomas Pope (c.1507–59) (signatures, 1^r upper margin, 175^v lower margin); whence to (2) Trinity College. Bernard, p. 64, no. 1965 (as MS. 28). College shelfmarks: fore-edge, 'S'; fol. iii verso pencil, '28'; fol. 1^r, pencil '28', ink '41'.