

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

*by*

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Esther, Tobit, Judith, all glossed

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: stout and relatively even toned. Arranged HF, FH. Strips (presumably blank) have been cut from the entire length of the outer margins of fols. 15 and 27. Fols. i (modern paper) + 36 + i (modern paper, foliated '37'). Modern pencil foliation.

Size: 300 × 200 mm. Written area: (biblical text and gloss together) c. 210 × 140 mm. Lines: 42 horizontal rulings (biblical text written every other line, starting on line 2). Space, 5+ mm. Height of minims: biblical text, 3+ mm; gloss, 2 mm. Pricking: awl. Prickings were supplied for the outermost pairs of verticals (i.e. those flanking the text-block as a whole) but not for those defining columns within it (whose position changes from one page to the next). Pricked in both side margins for the horizontals. Ruling: ink. First, third, last, and antepenultimate horizontals extended. The layout changes page by page according to the needs of integrating text and gloss, the former always written on alternate lines, the latter on every line—the biblical text is always central, the gloss appearing to one or both sides of it, and sometimes in thin double columns, as necessary.

Collation: I-II<sup>8</sup>; III<sup>7</sup> (= 8 lacks leaf 3 [after fol. 18]); IV<sup>7</sup> (= 8 with leaf 7 [between fols. 29 and 30] cancelled or lost); [a whole quire lost between fols. 30 and 31]; V<sup>6</sup> (= 8 lacks leaf 4 [between fols. 33 and 34] and leaf 8 [after fol. 36]). Signatures: numbers (of uncertain date) in lead on final verso, lower margin right: ii (8<sup>v</sup>), iii (16<sup>v</sup>), iiiii (23<sup>v</sup>), v (30<sup>v</sup>)—indicating the loss of the original quire i, preceding the present first quire. Contemporary catchwords fols. 16<sup>v</sup> and (severely cropped) 23<sup>v</sup>.

2<sup>o</sup> folio: original lost. Of book in its current form: Vasti quoque regina

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; red fore- and lower edge (causing stains on the last page); 308 × 208 × 22 mm.

CONTENTS

[Lost original first quire; likely to have ended with one or more preface(s) to Esther.]

(a) Fols. 1<sup>r</sup>–14<sup>r</sup>. Esther, glossed. Fol. 1<sup>r</sup>. In diebus assueri qui regnavit ... ad pacem seminis sui pertinerent. Que habentur in hebreo, plena fide expressi. Hec autem que secuntur, scripta repperi in editione uulgata, que grecorum lingua et litteris continentur, et in tantum post finem libri hoc capitulum ferebatur, quod iuxta consuetudinem nostram obelo .i. uero prenotauimus. [Esther 1: 1–10: 3 only, concluding with the rubric for the deuterocanonical section, which was not included.] First marginal gloss: Assuerus qui nomine christum ostendit et dignitate interpretatur atrium meum, uel hostium. Christus autem dicit, Ego sum ostium ouium etc. First interlinear gloss (for 'fecit grande conuiuium'; 1.3): Homo quidam fecit cenam magnam. Unde. Simile est regnum celorum homini regi qui fecit nuptias filio suo. Last marginal gloss (for Rex uero assuerus, 10: 1): Rex assuerus id est christus qui excisus de monte sine manibus, creuit in montem magnum, et impleuit totum mundum. Historialiter enim, non omnem terram tributariam fecit, quia nec habuit. [S 11799.3.] Last interlinear gloss (over 'prenotauimus', 10: 3, rubric): non sufficientes delere omnino. ?Lecture/liturgical note added in an informal s. xii<sup>2</sup> hand to the upper margin of 4<sup>r</sup>: ¶cotidie, assidue. Vnus apostolus.

(b) Fols. 14<sup>v</sup>–29<sup>v</sup>. Tobit glossed, with Preface.

1. Fol. 14<sup>v</sup>. [C]hromatico et heliodoro episcopis hieronimus presbiter in domino salutem. Mirari non desino exactionis uestre instantiam. Exigitis enim ut librum caldeo sermone conscriptum ... quod

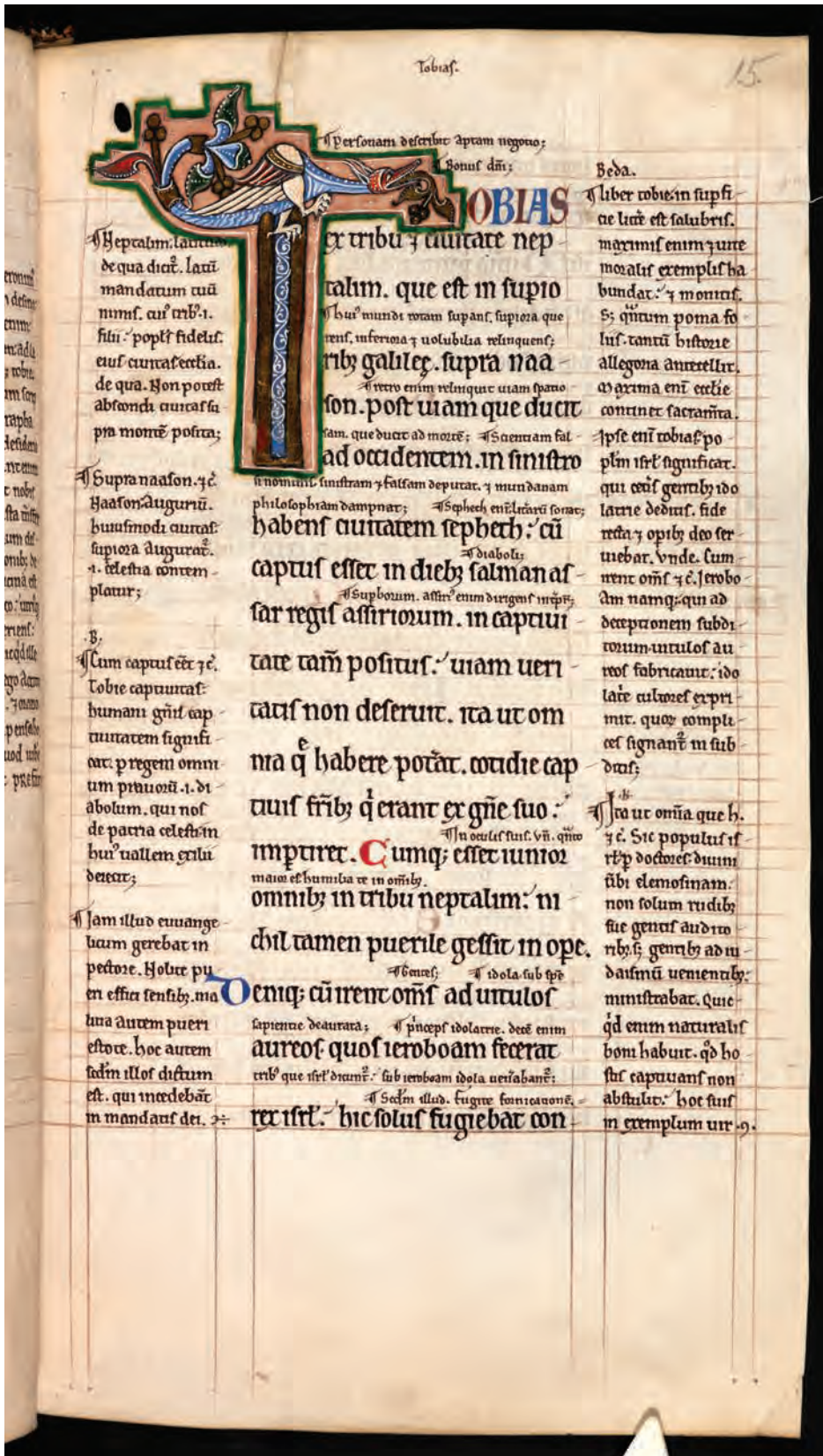


Fig. 54. MS. 45, fol. 15<sup>r</sup> (reproduced at 70%).

iubere estis dignati, comlesse. *Explicit prefatio Ieronimi in libro Tobie.*

Jerome's Preface: S 332; *The Book of Tobit: Texts from the Principal Ancient and Medieval Traditions*, ed. S. Weeks, S. Gathercole, and L. Stuckenbruck (Berlin and New York, 2004), p. 28.

2. Fols. 15<sup>r</sup>–29<sup>v</sup>. Tobias ex tribu et ciuitate neptalim ... et cunctis habitantibus terram. [Tobit, lacking 3: 6–4: 15 owing to loss of leaf between fols. 18/19. Standard 'Paris' chapter numbers subsequently (?s. xiii–xiv) added in lead in the margins (this is not a feature of items (a) and (c)).] First marginal gloss: Beda. Liber tobie in superficie littere est salubris, maximis enim et uite moralis exemplis habundat, et monitus ... [S 11797.2.] First interlinear gloss (on 'Tobit'): Personam describit aptam negotio; Bonus domini. [S 11797.3.] Last marginal glosses: Sepelierunt ... sepultura tobie ... pro meritorum diuersitate [sic] collocantibus [S 11797.3]; Et cunctis, id est angelis, quorum numero sumus sociandi, et in perpetuum fraterna societate copulandi. Last interlinear gloss (on 'cunctis', 14: 14): beati mites, quoniam ... in terra uiuentium. [S 11797.3.]

(c) Fols. 30<sup>r</sup>–36<sup>v</sup>. Judith, glossed

1. Fol. 30<sup>r</sup>. // Chaldeo tamen sermo ne conscriptus, inter historias computatur ... et insuperabilem superaret  
Jerome's Preface: S 335, end—acephalous owing to lost leaf between fols. 29 and 30.
2. Fols. 30<sup>r</sup>–36<sup>v</sup>. Arphaxat itaque rex medorum ... ad populum israel, et omnis successio // [Judith, lacunose and imperfect, lacking 1: 10–8: 10 (owing to lost quire between fols. 30 and 31), and 10: 17–11: 21 (owing to lost leaf between fols. 33 and 34), and breaking off at 14: 6.] First marginal gloss: Mistice, per arphaxat, superbi exprimuntur ... omnes filios superbie, unde sequitur, tunc exaltatum est regnum nabogodnosor. [S 11798.2, extended.] First interlinear gloss (on 'Arphaxat'): Quo tempore historia iudith fuerit, prenotatur. [S 11798.4.]

#### SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

All text (biblical plus marginal and interlinear gloss) by a single hand, writing a transitional Protogothic-Textualis, larger or smaller according to context. A less formal version of the script was used for some of the interlinear glosses; a still less formal version for the guide words for rubrics (1<sup>r</sup>, 15<sup>r</sup>, 30<sup>r</sup>) and the catchwords. + Further glosses added informally in vacant margins, especially the lower, by early (?s. xii–xiii) hand or hands. A ?s. xv–xvi ink pointing hand on 9<sup>v</sup>.

#### DECORATION

A decorated initial marks the incipit of each biblical text. Fol. 1<sup>r</sup> (item (a)), 'T' (34 lines high): formed from a dragon with a long tail that sprouts foliate sprigs, its mouth spewing another sprig, mainly rendered in gold leaf, with details in red, white, and green, all set against a blue panel. Fol. 15<sup>r</sup> (item (b)), 'T' (13 lines high): a dragon with its tail turning into foliate sprigs and spewing another foliate sprig, done in blue with white, green, and red details, forms the cross-bar of the letter, a column of two gold bars with a central strip of blue patterned in white being the stem, all set against a dull red-ochre panel outlined in green. Fol. 30<sup>r</sup> (item (c)), 'A' (13 lines high), the form embellished with spiralling tendrils and foliate curls, all done in gold, set against an ochre ground within a blue panel. Jerome's Preface to item (b), 14<sup>v</sup>, headed by a 3-line high embellished red initial 'T'. (Properly a 'C', a 'T' was presumably supplied owing to confusion with the start of Tobit itself.) Sentence capitals throughout the biblical texts are alternately red and blue, 1 line high.

#### PROVENANCE

(1) Thomas Unton (d. 1693) (no. 4 on the list of his MSS: see Appendix II). Whence to (2) Trinity College in 1694. Bernard, p. 65, no. 1994 (as MS. 57). College shelfmarks: paper title slip (corresponding to entry in Bernard), marked with pencil '57', pasted to fol. 1<sup>r</sup>. Pencil '57' and ink '45' written on 1<sup>r</sup> lower margin centre. (Nothing on the [very slender] fore-edge.)