

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

by

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generally red (accompanied by bold red rubrics), but red, purple, or green on fols. 34^v–36^r and 37^r (a section where no rubric was supplied). The embellished initial on fol. 45^r (a red 'B', 8 lines high, for the start of Bk. VII), though still fairly simple, is particularly neat—this is the first leaf of the part made by 'team 2' (see Scribes and Script). Diagrams within the text: 22^{r-v}, geometrical figures (Bk. III. 7, 12); 26^r, sun and moon (Bk. III. 51, 53); 69^r–70^r, three tables of affinity—table for De predictis adfinitatibus, then Stemmata I–II, but no Stemma III (Bk. IX. 6); 99^v, T-map of world (Bk. XIV. 1)—noted by M. Destombes, *Mappemondes AD 1200–1500* (Amsterdam, 1964), p. 34, no. 5.23.

PROVENANCE

(1) King Henry VIII, ?Westminster library (s. xviⁱ content inscription on 1^r, upper margin ['Libri Isidori hispal' epi' ad Braulionem CVLMEN uocat' lib' ist'']; title label from former cover now attached to 1^r, lower margin ['Isidori liber ad Braulionem qui culme[n] dicit[ur]']; both written in Italic, akin to the work of the 'Westminster cataloguer'); cf. Carley, *Libraries*, p. lxxv and n. 144. (2) Sir Thomas Pope (c.1507–59) (signatures, 1^r and 150^r); whence to (3) Trinity College. Bernard, p. 64, no. 1955 (as MS. 18). College shelfmarks: fore-edge, 'Isidorus Culme 21'; 1^r, pencil '18' crossed out, ink '55'.

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Fig. 65

Psalter with magna glossatura (Peter Lombard)

England or France; s. XIII^{2/2}

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: generally stout and even toned, with occasional original flaws that were sewn up before writing (e.g. fols. 5, 15, 121, 138). Generally arranged HF, FH (though HF, HF in Q. VI). Many leaves at the end and, above all, the beginning (to fol. 42) are badly affected by damp, with damage to, and mottling of the surfaces (most persistently in the inner margin) and erosion at the upper edges. Fol. 160 tattered and generally fragile, with further loss from ?wax damage in the lower margin. Worm holes in first leaves. Fols. i (modern paper) + 162 + i (modern paper, foliated '162'). Modern pencil foliation runs: '1'–'16', unnumbered leaf, then '17'–'162'.

Size: 350 × 255 mm (fold-in preserved on fol. 17 adds extra 10 mm to height, that on fol. 16 an extra 12 mm to width, attesting to: 360 × 267 mm). Written area: 256 × 170 mm (gloss written above, psalter text below, the top ruled line). Two columns (width: 80–85 mm). Lines (of commentary): 60 (space, 4 mm; height of commentary minims, 2+ mm; height of psalter text minims, 4 mm for scribe 1, 5 mm for scribe 2). Pricking: knife (prickings survive in inner and lower margins). Ruling: crayon/ink. Both columns are bounded by triple verticals (triple also in the intercolumnar space)

and are divided vertically into two equal parts by double verticals running down their centre; the first three and last three horizontals extended.

Collation: I–V⁸; [lost quire]; VI–IX⁸; [lost quire]; X⁸; [lost quire]; XI⁸; [lost quires]; XII–XIV⁸; XV⁷ (= 8 lacks leaf 6, between fols. 116/117); XVI–XVIII⁸; last three quires uncertain, probably: XIX⁴ (= 8 lacks 5–8); XX⁸; XXI⁷ (= 8 with leaf 8 cancelled). First leaves: 1, 9, unnumbered leaf between 16 and 17, 24, 32, [lost], 40, 48, 56, 64, [lost], 72, [lost], 80, [lost], 88, 96, 104, 112, 119, 127, 135, 143, 147, 155. Parts of original signatures and catchwords in black ink survive on 8^v, 95^v, 103^v, 111^v, 126^v. Quire letter + leaf numbering in red or blue survives in Qq. III ('b'), VI ('d'), VII ('e'), X–XII, XIV. NB: the system of lettering implies that counting for this system started in Q. II—the beginning of Scribe 2's stint—and post-dated the loss of a quire between the current Qq. V and VI.

2^o folio: pestilentie non sedit

BINDING

Panelled style, s. xviii, probably by Sedgley; blind-tooled mottled and plain calf, a fleuron at each corner of the inner compartment, and one decorative roll repeated; gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College

on both covers; MS. number in gilt on spine; 362 × 263 × 50 mm. Rust stain on 1^r (lower margin, slightly left of centre) from metal (?chain staple fixture) associated with an earlier binding.

CONTENTS

- (a) Fols. 1^r–161^v. Peter Lombard, *Glossa super psalterium*. Fol. 1^r. Cum omnes prophetas spiritus sancti reuelatione constet esse locutos ... His uero consideratis intueri restat quis sit titulus que materia que intentio quis modus tractandi. Est itaque titulus talis. *Incipit liber hymnorum uel soliloquiorum prophete*. Liber dicit et non libri contra illos qui dicebant plures libros esse ... Fol. 1^v ... Ac si dicat, primus homo infelix qui abiit, stetit, sed secundus est. BEATUS UIR QUI NON ABIIT ... Beatus cui omnia optata succedunt. Uir scilicet contra prospera et aduersa firmus ... Fol. 161^v ... Vite eterne uox est, omnis spiritus laudet dominum. Finito christus rex libro sit benedictus.

S 6636, not listing this copy. Lacking text and commentary for Pss. 30: 17–34: 19, Pss. 58: 17–66: 7; Pss. 70: 13–74: 10, Pss. 78: 3–90: 2, Pss. 111: 1–112: 4, and Pss. 133: 4–137: 6, owing to the loss of a quire from between the current Qq. V and VI, from between Qq. IX and X, and from between Qq. X and XI, the loss of quires from between the current Qq. XI and XII, the loss of a leaf between fols. 116 and 117, and the loss of leaves between fols. 146 and 147.

A presentation typical for the work: the psalm text is written on every other line and only ever occupies portions of the left-hand half of a column—embedded within the commentary, which is written on every line, above, beside and below the psalm verses. Lemmata within the commentaries are underlined in red. The names of authorities are given (in abbreviated form) in red in the margins, accompanied by sigla of dots and dashes that reappear within the commentary to signal start of matter culled from the author in question (which, in the case of long extracts, is further flagged by a red line running down the side of the passage in question).

Some corrections (e.g. 34^v) by main text scribes; one contemporary correction (26^r) by a third hand. Light informal glossing (in lead or ink, both now faint) s. xiii, in many lower margins (e.g. 24^r, 29^v, 52^v, 63^v, 64^r, 94^v).

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

Psalm text written in Textualis formata, the commentary in Textualis libraria, the degree of formality differing from one scribe to the other (see below). Where psalm text appears at the top of the page, it is written below the top ruled line; commentary is always written above the top line (an arrangement that produces the most regular uppermost written line across the page as a whole). Two scribes, each responsible for both psalm and commentary texts in his section. (1) Fols. 1^r–8^v (i.e. Q. I). (2) Fols. 9^r–161^v. The Textualis that Scribe 1 uses for the psalter text is slightly smaller (no more than the space between two horizontal rulings) and less formal (with many downstrokes ending in a turn to the right—Semi-quadrata) than that of Scribe 2. Scribe 2's psalter Textualis is grand in scale (slightly exceeding the space between two horizontal rulings) and conceived at a very high grade (many downstrokes ending 'flat' or with a line- or wedge serif—virtually 'Precissa'), though its actual realization is variable. There is no significant distinction of grade between the commentary scripts of the two scribes (semi-quadrata). + Occasional late medieval (?s. xv) annotation in a crude cursive, e.g. 96^r, 122^r.

DECORATION

Two-colour initials (red and blue), 8+ lines high, flourished in red with touches of blue and purple, mark the psalms of the liturgical divisions: 1 (1^v), 26 (33^r), 38 (45^v), 51 (63^r), 52 (64^r), 68 (75^v), [80 lacking], 97 (95^r), 101 (98^r), 109 (115^r). Most other psalms (and the subdivisions in Ps. 118) are headed by a blue initial, 5+ lines high, with simple flourishing in red, crudely realized (exceptions include Pss. 99, 120, 121, and 145–8: fols. 96^v, 138^v, 139^r, and 156^v, 157^v, 158^v, and 159^v) which are marked only by a small plain red initial). Plain initials, 1–2 lines high, red then blue in alternation, introduce each psalm verse. The start of each psalm commentary is marked by a blue initial, 2 lines high, flourished in red (exceptionally, that for the commentary on Ps. 10, fol. 14^v is red and blue, flourished in red). One-line-high plain initials, alternately red then blue, for subdivisions. The paint for the main body of all the initials was thickly applied, has a slightly granular texture, and, in the case of the blue, stands proud of the surface of the page.

PROVENANCE

(1) Edward Villiers of Hothorpe, Northamptonshire (inscription written in a bold and inky cursive on an imperfect paper slip—?salvaged from earlier end-leaf lost through damp—pasted to fol. 1^r: ‘Trinitatis Oxon’ ex dono Eduardi Villiers de Hothrope in com’ North’mpton’). This must be Edward Villiers I (c.1574–

1626), whose widow became the second wife of Ralph Kettell (d. 1643), the first president of Trinity College to be married. (2) Trinity College by gift of Villiers. Bernard, p. 64, no. 1953 (as MS. 16). College shelfmarks: fore-edge, originally ?‘10’, changed to ‘14’ and/or ‘19’; 1^r, outer margin, ink ‘16’, lower margin (partly now under the Villiers paper slip) ink ‘56’.

Fig. 66

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South English Legendary; *Canticum de Creatione*; *Romance of Robert of Sicily*; *Lamentacio Marie et Bernardi* (all in English)

England (South); s. XIV^{4/4} (after 1375)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: low quality, yellow, mottled; many holes, flaws, and imperfections. Arranged FH, HF. Wax stain on 115^r. Fols. i (modern paper, foliated ‘i’) + 169 + i (modern paper, foliated ‘170’). Modern pencil foliation.

Size: 291 × 190–4 mm. Text-block: 230 × 134 mm. Long lines (except item (c), which is in 2 columns, and items (a) 43 and (b) which approximate thereto, owing to their verse form). Lines: 48–54 (space, 4–5 mm; height of minims, 2 mm). Pricking: awl (holes generally survive in upper and lower margins, occasionally in outer margin also). Ruling: lead. Framed with single vertical bounding lines, and double horizontals at both top and bottom.

Collation: I^r (probably 8 lacks leaves 1–7); II–XXII⁸. Contemporary catchwords (surviving in Qq. II–IV, VI, XIII, XVI, XVII, XXII); leaf numbering in the first half of quires (surviving in Qq. II–VI, and XVI–XVIII). The text lacking at the start of item (a) suggests that around eight quaternia may be lost from the beginning of the volume. About five pages would be required after fol. 169 to complete item (d); whether this was the end of the MS. in its original state is unknowable.

2^o folio: — (acephalous)

BINDING

Panelled style, s. xviii, probably by Sedgley; blind-tooled mottled and plain calf, a fleuron at each corner of the

inner compartment, and one decorative roll repeated; gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers (front board nearly detached); MS. number in gilt on spine; 301 × 204 × 53 mm. Fol. i, top centre, bears rust-ringed hole and green stain from a ?chain staple on an earlier binding.

CONTENTS

(a) Fols. 1^r–157^v. *South English Legendary*.

Imperfect at start. EETS os 235–6, ed. C. D’Evelyn and A. J. Mill (1956–9); this MS. siglum O; classified as an H-redaction copy. C. Brown, *A Register of Middle English Religious and Didactic Verse*, i: *List of Manuscripts* (Oxford, 1916), pp. 151–6. Believed by M. Gorlach (*The Textual Tradition of the South English Legendary* (Leeds, 1974), p. 94) to be a ‘twin’ to, and to share a common ancestor with, Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Laud misc. 463. Gorlach observes that the ‘scribe was given to supplying emergency lines where his source was defective’. On dialect and orthography he comments: ‘some inconsistencies are due to a south-western exemplar copied by a south-eastern scribe: the manuscript was probably written in East Sussex next to the Kentish border’.

I. Fols. 1–2^v. // For withoute schedynge of blod, ne worþ neuere þe senne y do / Of þe lond folk of Engelond, þat no gult haueþ þerto ... [Begins acephalus in Edward the Elder: NIMEV 2889; EETS 235, no. 24, starting at p. 113, line 4.]