

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

by
RICHARD GAMESON

OXFORD
THE OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
2018

A. Hrabanus Maurus, *De natura rerum*; Honorius Augustodunensis,
Imago mundi. B. Isidore, *Etymologiae*

England; (A) s. XIII^{med}; (B) s. XIII^{3/4}

GENERAL

A composite volume of two near-contemporary but physically distinct parts: A) Qq. I–IV, VI–XV (fols. ii, 1–49, 62–179); B) Qq. XVI, V, XVII (fols. 180–91, 50–61, 192–201). It is unclear when they were joined together; however, the circumstance that they were recorded independently on a list, probably written in the late 1620s, of books that Thomas Pope gave to Trinity College (Appendix I, List 3, entries 34 and 35), suggests that they were still separate then. They are similar but not identical in preparation and layout and do not share scribal hands; both parts have their own Gloucester *ex libris*. The misplacing of Q. V would seem to have happened after Coxe examined the book, s. xix^{med}, as he makes no mention of it. Fols.: i (paper) + 202 + i (paper, foliated '202'). The first and last parchment leaves ('ii' and '201 [202]') are fragments mounted on modern paper. Modern pencil foliation of medieval leaves: 'ii', '1'–'199', '200' [also marked '201'], '201' [also marked '202'].

Size: 378 × 272 mm.

BINDING

Blind-tooled calf, s. xviii, re-backed, decorated with a fleuron at each corner of the inner rectangle, and with a decorative roll; gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers; MS. number in gilt on spine; 393 × 292 × 60 mm.

Part A (fols. ii, 1–49, 62–179).
Hrabanus Maurus. s. XIII^{med}

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: probably once stout and even (see e.g. Q. XIII) but now degraded and rendered fragile through damp damage, with loss of margins plus some text areas from leaves at start (restored with modern parchment and paper, with some occlusion of text). Seemingly arranged FH, HF. Fols. 168.

Text-block: 320 × 200 mm (to 75^v), 310 × 198 mm thereafter. Two columns (width: 95 mm). Written below top line. Lines: 52 (to fol. 75^v); 50 (fol. 76); 49 (fols. 77–end). NB all the changes in the number of lines occur within Q. VI. (Space between lines, 6 mm; height of minims 3 mm). Pricking: awl. Pricked in both side margins for the horizontal rulings (NB: there are sometimes two sets of prickings in the inner margin). Ruling: lead/crayon. Double verticals at outer edge of text block, triple in intercolumnar space; 1st, 3rd, 24th, 26th, last, and antepenultimate horizontals extended.

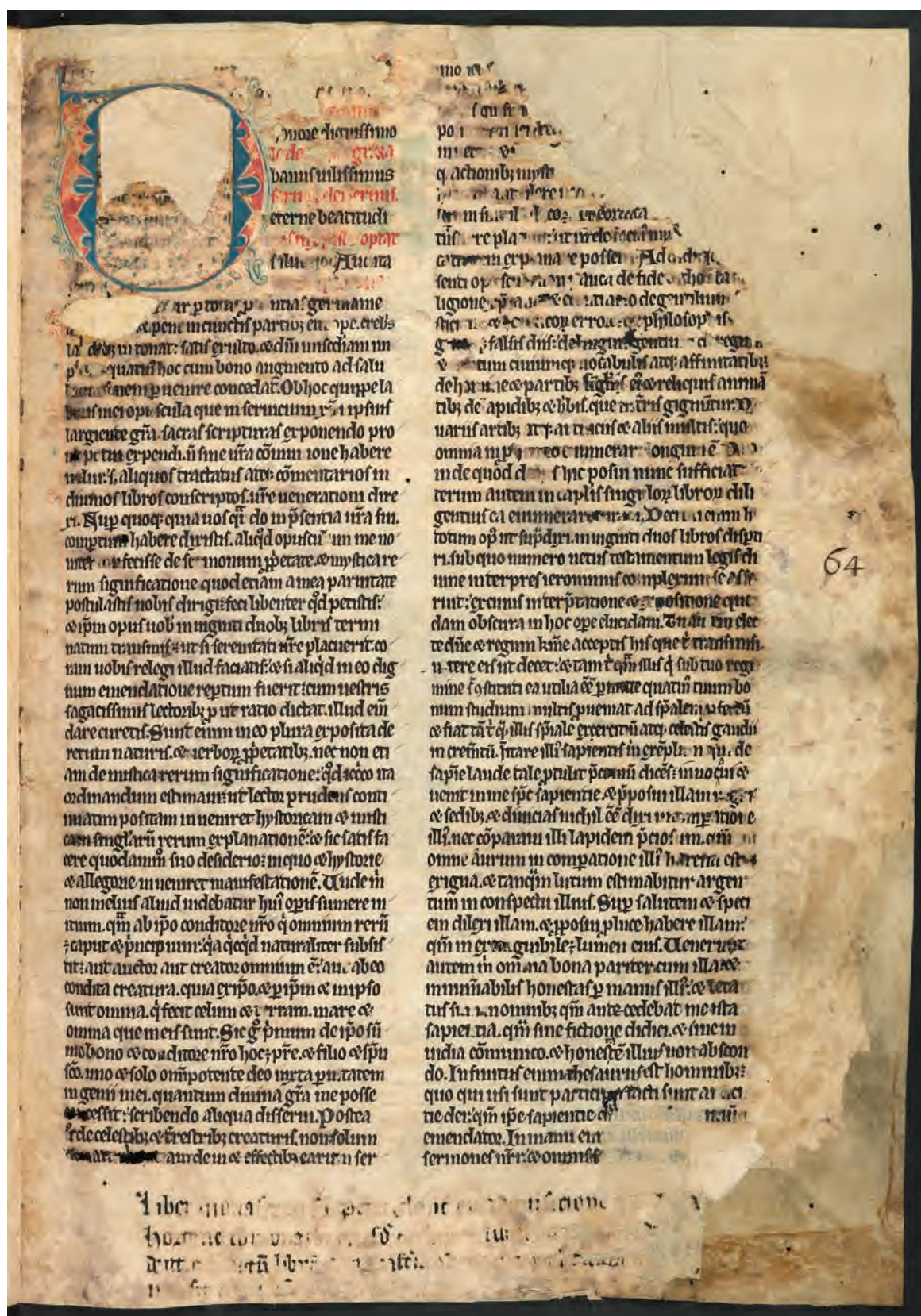
Collation (numbering the quires according to their current place in the volume): I¹⁴ (entirely remade in restoration); II–IV¹², VI–XIII¹²; XV¹⁰. First leaves: ii, 14, 26, 38; [NB the current Q. V (fols. 50–61) is misplaced and belongs in Part B—it should stand between fols. 191 and 192]; 62, 74, 86, 98, 110, 122, 134, 146, 158, 170. Original signatures preserved on 25^v (seemingly 'I' for 'II') and 37^v ('III'); original catchwords on 49^v and 73^v.

2^o folio: haren[a est exigua—area of page lost]

CONTENTS

(a) Fols. ii, 1–49, 62–166^v. Hrabanus Maurus, *De natura rerum* / *De universo*.

1. Fol. ii^v. Remains of general capitula list: entries for Books 14–22, damaged and imperfect. 2. Fol. 1^{r–v}. D[omino excellentissimo et omni honore] dignissimo Ludouico regi rabanus uilissimus seruorum dei seruus eterne beatitudi[nis] ... in finem Ma[iestas—then illegible: Preface I, *PL* cxi, cols. 9–12, with parts lost or rendered illegible by damp damage]. 3. Fols. 1^{v–2^r}. Domino reuerendissimo ... *Explicit epistola* [Preface II, to 'Haymonem episcopum', with parts—including the start and end—rendered more or less illegible by damp damage]. 4. Fols. 2^{r–166^v}. *Incipit capitula libri primi. De deo. De filio dei* ... [Capitula to Bk. I, damaged].

Fig. 71. MS. 64, fol. 1^r (reproduced at 56%).

In nomine domini incipit magistri rabani liber primus de [-lost-]. Primum apud [hebraeos] dei nomen heli ... quia sancte trinitatis unum uelle, una potestas una cooperatio est. Explicit liber xxii magistri Rabani. [PL cxi, cols. 13–614. The incipit is damaged and large areas of the text are lost or imperfect. Owing to the intrusion from Part B of the current Q. V, the text runs: 1^r–49^v, 62^r–166^v.]

- (b) Fols. 166^v–179^v. Honorius Augustodunensis, *Imago mundi*. Fol. 166^v. *Incipit Epistola henrici ad henricum*. Henrico septiformi spiritu in trina fide illustrato ... penitus ignorare. *Rescriptum henrici*. Sapientie alumpno abdita diligenter scrutanti ... Fol. 167^r ... nisi quod maiorum commendat traditio. *Incipit liber henrici qui dicitur ymago mundi, omnem corpoream describens creaturam. Liber I*. Mundus dicitur quasi undique motus. Est enim in perpetuo motu ... Fol. 179^v ... Hic uero quinto anno regni sui accepit mathildem filiam henrici regis anglie in coniugium, anno ab incarnatione domini millesimo c decimo.

PL clxxii, cols. 119–86; ed. V. Flint in *Archives d'histoire doctrinale et littéraire du moyen âge*, 49 (1982), pp. 7–153. List of MSS (including the present one): Flint, *Honorius*, pp. 165–7 (71–3). The running headings have largely been removed by trimming.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

Two scribes. (1) Fols. ii^v, 1^r–49^v, 62^r–76^r, col. i. Textualis semi-quadrata, formal in conception yet irregular in detail. (2) Fols. 76^r, col. ii–179^v; also corrections in both his own (e.g. 79^v) and scribe 1's stint (e.g. 12^r, 25^r, 29^v, 41^v, 42^v). Textualis, bold, almost quadrata, with greater regularity than that of scribe 1. + Added marginal headings and nota marks (fols. 64^v–65^v, 67^r, 71^r–v). Semi-cursive, sometimes large and bold, s. xiii. + informal nota marks and marginal jotting (75^v), s. xiii.

DECORATION

Bicolour flourished initials, up to 20 lines high, workmanlike in quality, head each book and both prefaces. Until fol. 133^r (the end of Q. XI) they are red and blue, flourished in the same; thereafter (from Q. XII) they are green and red flourished in red and blue (except that on fol. 153^r, which is undecorated plain red). Chapters up to 133^r (Q. XI) marked by initials, 2–5 line high, red flourished in blue, and vice versa in alternation; thereafter (Q. XII onwards) by green letters flourished

in red, alternating with unflourished red. The green (presumably copper-based/verdigris) has penetrated, sometimes eroded the parchment.

PROVENANCE

(1) St Peter's, Gloucester (*ex libris*, fol. 1^r, lower margin, boldly written in Textualis, s. xiii–xiv, now badly eroded by damp and partly covered by paper and adhesive: 'Liber monasterii sci Petri Glouc ex adquisicione fr[at]ris B-? -?- hortone comonachi eiusdem -?- -?- librum ...', concluding with an anathema '... qui istum librum a monasterio alienaverit vel -?-...'). Noted MLGB, pp. 92, 265. Perhaps the copy of 'Rabanus de naturis rerum' reported by John Leland c.1536–40: CBMLC 4, no. B49.8. (2) Sir Thomas Pope (c.1507–59) (signature fol. 201^r—i.e. Part B) whence to (3) Trinity College, Bernard, p. 64, no. 1959 (as MS. 22). College shelfmarks: title plus '10' or '16' on fore-edge; pencil 22, ink 64 on 1^r, outer margin.

Part B (fols. 180–191, 56–61, 192–201).

Isidore. s. XIII^{3/4}

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: probably once stout and even but now mottled and degraded through damp damage, with loss of margins from 190 onwards, and of some text areas from 192 onwards (restored with modern paper). Fols. 34.

Text-block: 328 × 204 mm. Written below top line. Two columns (width: 94 mm). Lines: 50 (space, 6 mm; height of minims, 3 mm). Pricking (awl); pricked in both side margins for the horizontals. Ruling: lead/crayon. Double verticals at outer edges, triple in inter-columnar space; horizontals at top unclear, at bottom the last three extended.

Collation: should be I–II¹², III¹⁰—but note that what was originally Q. II is currently misplaced within Part A and forms the fifth quire in the volume as a whole. First leaves: 180, 56, 192. Original catchword on 61^v.

2^o folio: Ut ualeas que requires (fol. 181^r)

CONTENTS

- (a) Fols. 180^r–191^v, 50^r–61^v, 192^v–200^v. Isidore, *Etymologiae*, I–V. Fol. 180^r. *Ysidori epistola ad braulionem*. Domino meo et dei seruo braulioni episcopo ysidorus. Quia te ... Solet repleti ... Fol. 181^r. Ut ualeas que requiris cito in hoc corpore inuenire ...

[O]mni desiderio desiderau[n] nunc ... O pie domine et uirorum prestantissime ... Fol. 181^v ... [T]ue sanctitatis ... En tibi sicut ... *Incipit capitula grammaticae artis ysidori*. I. De disciplina et arte ... *Incipit liber primus ethimologiarum sancti ysidori archiepiscopi hispalensis isciplina* [sic] *et arte*. Disciplina a discendo nomen accepit. Inde [sic] et scientia dici potest. Nam scire dictum ... Fol. 200^v ... in yspania christiani efficiuntur. Residuum sexte etatis tempus ab exordio mundi usque in presentem gloriosissimi recessinthin, principis annum .x. qui est aera dclxvi. vmdccclvi. *Explicit liber quintus*.

CPL 1186. Isidore, ed. Lindsay. The preliminaries here run: Epp. III, IV; Summary of Books; Epp. I (with slightly garbled incipit), II, V, VI; Capitula to Bk. I; Bk. I. Owing to the misplacement into Part A (= Q. V of volume as a whole) of what should be the second of the three quires here, the text now runs 180^r–191^v, 50^r–61^v, 192^r–200^v. Book II starts on 191^r; III on 56^r, IV on 192^v, and V on 195^r. This copy does not include the *Expositio figurarum* at III. xiv (58^r). The addition of the Gloucester *ex libris* on 200^v, immediately after the explicit to Book V, and the late medieval notes on what remains of fol. 201^r suggest that it has ended thus since at least s. xv.

(b) Fol. 201^r (a very damaged and degraded fragment mounted on modern paper). All that remains are the traces of a few lines of writing, ?s. xv, plus Thomas Pope's signature.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

Textualis semi-quadrata, not very regular. One scribe.

DECORATION

The start of each book, as also of the first and third prefatory letters as ordered here (i.e. Epp. III and I), is marked by a red and green initial, 6–9 lines high, flourished in red and blue, fairly crude quality. The other prefaces and the chapters are headed by 2- to 4-line-high initials, alternately plain red then green flourished in red. The green (evidently copper-based) has penetrated, sometimes eroding the parchment.

PROVENANCE

(1) St Peter's, Gloucester (fol. 200^v, *ex libris*, added immediately after explicit to Book V in informal cursive, s. xv: 'Liber monasterii s[an]c[t]i Petri Glouc'—done by the hand that added the same *ex libris* to MS. 66). (2) Sir Thomas Pope (c.1507–59) (signature fol. 201^r) whence to (3) Trinity College (see Part A).

Fig. 72

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Stephen Langton, *Postille super Pentateuchum*

England; s. XIII^{1/3}

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: moderate to low quality (H sides yellow and follicle marked; scars and edge-cuts throughout). Arranged HF, FH. Damp damage to lower margins, especially at start and end of volume. Fols. i (modern parchment) + 293 + i (modern parchment, foliated '293'). Modern pencil foliation: '1'–'215¹', '215²'–'292'.

Size: 313 × 230 mm. Written area: 243 × 161 mm. 2 columns (width: 72 mm). Written above top line. Lines: 45 (space, 6 mm; height of minims, 2 mm). Pricking (awl): that for the horizontal rulings is in the

outer margins only in Qq. I–VII, XXIV, and XXIX–XXX (i.e. mainly the stint of scribe 1); but in both inner and outer margins in Qq. VII–XXIII, XXV–XXVII, ?XXVIII, and XXXI–XXXVII. Ruling: three patterns. 1 (Qq. I–VII; done in ink/crayon): single verticals flanking text-block, triple intercolumnar verticals; first two and last two horizontals extended. 2 (Qq. VII–XVIII, XXXII–XXXVII; done in lead): single verticals flanking text-block, triple intercolumnar verticals, plus an extra pair in outer margin, and a single vertical within inner margin; first three, middle three, and last three