

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

by

RICHARD GAMESON

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saluum me fac domine iesu christe qui solus salvare potes. Da michi posse, velle, operari ... amor et desiderium uite eterne et perseuerancia usque in finem, prestante iesu christe unito deo ac redemptore nostro qui cum patre ... Amen.

Cf. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Lyell 30, fols. 75^v–76^r: A. C. de la Mare, *Catalogue of the Collection of Medieval Manuscripts Bequeathed to the Bodleian Library, Oxford* by James P. R. Lyell (Oxford, 1971), p. 394, no. 349.

- (h) Fols. 166^v–167^v. Verse prayer in Anglo-Norman French, added s. xiii². *Oracio de sancto nicholao*. Seint Nicholas, serf Ihesu Crist / Ki par sa grace uus eslist ... Par ki je puse al departir / De ceste vie a li venir. *Amen*.

Dean, no. 938. Printed: *The Anglo-Norman Lyric, an Anthology*, ed. D. L. Jeffrey and B. J. Levy (Toronto, 1990), no. 7. Followed on 167^v by jotted phrases from prayers in Latin, lying over or under a further six or seven lines of another text, rubbed to illegibility.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

- (1) Fols. 1^r–6^v (item (a)); also ?correction on 131^r (supply of omitted verse: Ps. 118: 112). Textualis, diminutive. (2) 7^r–165^r (items (a) continued to (e)). Textualis, smaller and more compressed than (1); almost pearl script. (3) Corrections (e.g. 38^v, 41^r, 44^v) in Textualis, s. xiii¹. (4) Added tituli. Textualis, low grade, written with an inky pen, s. xiii. (5) Fols. 165^v–166^r (item (g)). Documentary hand, semi-cursive, neat, s. xiii². (6) Fols. 166^v–167^v (item (h)). Textualis libraria, relatively un-compressed given the small size, s. xiii².

DECORATION

Elaborate multicoloured flourished initials (red and blue body-form, embellished with pen-work foliage and flourishing that is tinted green and brown) mark Psalms 1, 26, 38, 51, 52, 68, 80, 97, 101 and 109 (fols.

13^r, 37^r, 51^r, 62^v, 63^v, 75^v, 91^r, 105^v, 107^r, 121^r), that for psalm 1 being the largest (14 lines high), the finest, and the only one accompanied by enlarged (4-line-high) coloured capitals, red or blue, flourished in the other colour. The other initials are 7 to 10 lines high. A blue initial, 7 lines high, flourished with red, marks the start of the Canticles (150^r). A red, blue, or green initial, 2–3 lines high, flourished in one of the other colours, heads every other psalm and canticle. A plain capital, alternately red and blue or red and green, heads each psalm verse or canticle verse, and each entry in the litany. KL monograms red in scribe 1's stint, red or blue in scribe 2's stint.

PROVENANCE

(1) The inclusion of Osyth in red in the calendar and her presence in the litany has offered grounds for a tentative link with the Augustinian Abbey of St Osyth, Essex (thus *MLGB*, p. 170). However, the fact that only the principal feast of Osyth is included in the calendar and not any of her translation feasts (27 April, 3 June, 2 October), along with the circumstance that the single added obit is for a subprioress, hardly support this, while the diminutive format would seem to favour initial private ownership. Potential areas could also include Canterbury and London as Canterbury Cathedral and St Paul's both claimed to possess relics of Osyth. (2) S. xiii, unidentifiable English nunnery (added obit for Juliana subprioress, fol. 8^v). (3) S. xviii, ?a certain Samuel (name inscribed in ink on 3^r, upside down in relation to the main text). (4) Trinity College, donor unknown, presumably after s. xvii^{ex} as the volume is not in Bernard (his entry no. 1981, 'MS. 44, Psalterium Davidis, Lat. Pulcherrime scriptum', refers to MS. 46). College shelfmarks: pencil '44' on 2^r and 13^r; '44' crossed out, '82' twice, ink *ex libris* and printed crest on front pastedown.

84

Cartulary of Maxstoke Priory

England (Maxstoke); s. XV^{2/4-ex}

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Paper. Various watermarks within part (1): fols. 5–31, trimount surmounted by cross (Briquet 11722/25 of

the period 1413–24); fol. 39, crown with trefoil (cf. Briquet 4636 and 4638 of 1423, and 1438); fol. 43, different crown with trefoil (cf. Briquet 4641 and 4645 of 1444,

and 1459–69); fols. 49, hillock with 3 mounds in a circle, surmounted by a cross (cf. Briquet 11878 of 1443–4); fols. 59–71, letter ‘A’ surmounted by cross with ball terminals (cf. Briquet 7903, 7904 of 1413, and 1417); fol. 109, letter ‘P’ surmounted by quatrefoil (cf. Briquet 8607, 8608 both of 1472); and 118, a smaller ‘P’ (cf. Briquet 8622 of 1481). None observable in (2). All that is visible in (3) is the top of a crown (on cclxxiii–cclxxiiii)—insufficient to identify. No observable pricking or ruling. A note on p. 5 by Thomas Warton (for whom see Provenance) records that ‘Some of the leaves towards the end were destroyed in the carriage to Oxford [1757]. It was then unbound.’ Composite volume, with leaves of three distinct sizes: (1) fols. 1–118 (up to 300 × 210 mm); (2) pp. ccxliii–ccliiv (up to 195 × 125); and (3) pp. cclv–ccxcii (156 × 108). All reduced by damp damage; the smaller leaves mounted within paper surrounds to match the size of the largest pages. Fols. ii (modern flyleaves) + i (modern leaf) + 146 + ii (modern endleaves). Preliminary leaves paginated in pencil in arabic numerals; medieval leaves bear modern foliation in ink (arabic numerals, top inner margin, continuously ‘1’–‘118’, only intermittently thereafter) and modern pagination (red roman numerals, top outer margin, continuous). The arabic foliation is here cited where possible, the roman pagination otherwise.

No (observable) pricking or ruling. Texts casually disposed across the pages.

Collation: not attempted.

BINDING

Blind-tooled calf (on each cover intersecting fillets forming interlocking frames, decorated with two ornamental rolls) over wooden boards, with marbled pastedowns and endleaves, s. xix; circular gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers (as on e.g. MS. 75); MS. number on the spine in gilt; 315 × 237 × 40 mm.

CONTENTS

Cartulary of Maxstoke Priory (Augustinian Canons). *Rentale de Maxtoke* [title on several folios]. Davis, *Cartularies*, no. 652: ‘Rough register of accompts,

rentals, recitals of court-rolls and other miscellaneous memoranda including a few notes of deeds, 1432–90’. Includes calculation diagrams on fols. 67^v (p. cxl) and 69^v (p. cxliii). Many entries in part (1) crossed through. ‘Nota’-hands beside many entries. Preceded (pp. 5–6) by note on provenance and summary of content by Thomas Warton.

Fol. 43^r bears title (‘*Rentale de Maxtoke*’), pen trials, and jottings, including: 1. ‘To my ryght reverent and fful worschipfull mayster / Sir plesith yt yow to witt that’. 2. ‘*Willielmus dei gratia Couentrei & Lich’ episcopus*’ [candidates of the right period for the script are William Heyworth, sedit 1420–7 and William Booth, 1447–52]. 3. Verses, here attributed to Pope Urban V (sedit 1362–70): *Balsamus et munda cum sera [sic] crismatis unda. / Conficiunt agnum cum do tibi munere magnum / Fonte velut natum per mistica sanctificatum / Fulgura desursum depellit et omne malignum / Pregnans servatur sine ve partus liberator / Dona confert dignis virtutes destruit ignis / Morte repentina salvat certe ?que ruina / Si quis orat eum retinet ab hoste triumphum / Pars valet hec nimia quantum valet integra tota.* [W 2058; Chev. 24055 (citing attribution to an unspecified Urban).]

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

Documentary scripts of differing degrees of formality by divers hands. The hand responsible for 43^r, items 1 and 2, is closely comparable to that which did the initial entries scattered across 34^r–35^v and which are ascribed to Anno Regis Henrici vi^{ti} xxxvi^{to} (1458).

DECORATION

Acanthus leaf jotting, fol. 43^r (p. lxxxvii). Knotwork doodle akin to notary mark, fol. 60^r (p. cxxv).

PROVENANCE

(1) Maxstoke Priory, Warwickshire. (2) William Dilke III of Maxstoke Castle, 1734–1801 (*teste* note by Thomas Warton on 5^r). (3) Thomas Warton (scholar at Trinity 1745, fellow 1752–90) by gift of Dilke on 23 October 1757 (same note). Whence to (4) Trinity College. College shelfmark p. 2, pencil: ‘MS. Trin. Coll. C.84’.