

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

by

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OXFORD
THE OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
2018

Cartulary of Montacute Priory

England (Montacute Priory); s. XIVⁱⁿ (1305×16), with numerous additions

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Parchment: generally low quality; some faces very yellow. Arranged FH, HF. Fols. ii (modern paper fly-leaves) + 104 + ii (modern paper endleaves). Modern foliation in ink. An early parchment flyleaf is foliated 'iii'. First and last leaves damaged, ending imperfect. The core of the book comprises fols. 18–96. An early foliation on these leaves in roman numerals attests to extensive alterations and losses, running: 'i' (on fol. 18^r)–'xiii' (fol. 29), 'xviii' (32)–'xxvi' (38) [the leaves inserted at this point bear their own foliation, 'i' (39)–'viii' (46)], 'xxvii' (50)–'xxxiv' (57), 'xxxvi' (58), 'xlvii' (59)–'lxi' (73), 'lxii' (75)–'lxxi' (84), 'lxxiii' (86)–'lxxx' (92), 'cvi' (93)–'cvii' (94), 'cx' (95)–'cxi' (96). This core is preceded by a contemporary table of contents (fols. 14–16, now acephalous). It was supplemented at front and back—the present fols. 1–12 and 97–103 (the original work on fols. 97–9 seemingly approximately coeval with the main core of the book); most of these leaves lack an early foliation (a 'cxv' // is partially preserved on 103). Fols. 13, 17, 47, and 85 bear modern notes only and may be inserts.

Size. Fols. 1–12: 240 × 155 mm (text-block c.192 × 125 mm). Fols. 18–96: 255 × 170 mm (text-block c.196 × 115 mm). Fols. 101–3, uncertain (all leaves imperfect and renovated). Lines. Fols. 18–96: typically 33 (space, 5–6 mm; height of minims, 2.5+ mm). Pricking: knife — survives in outer margin of fols. 1–12. Ruling: pencil or ink. Common pattern on fols. 14–96: single vertical bounding lines; first horizontal extended. An extra pair of verticals in the outer margin; sometimes an extra horizontal in the upper margin, and a pair of horizontals in the lower margin.

Collation: not attempted, but clearly highly irregular with numerous additions and losses. Some early leaf numbering. Catchwords on 29^v, 67^v, 71^v, and 88^v.

BINDING

Blind-tooled calf (on each cover triple fillets forming two interlocking frames, within the inner rectangle a repeated ornamental roll) over wooden boards, with

marbled pastedowns and endleaves, s. xix; re-backed; circular gold-tooled armorial book-stamp of Trinity College on both covers (as on e.g. our MS. 75); 268 × 184 × 35 mm.

CONTENTS

Cartulary of Montacute Priory, Somerset (Cluniac) compiled for Stephen Raulin, prior 1297–1316: fol. 18^r is headed *Liber stephani Raulini prioris de monte acuto* (written by the hand responsible for the original entries and rubrics). Numerous additions throughout, made by medieval hands of different dates.

Davis, *Cartularies*, no. 679: 'Arranged topographically by counties, with copies of the foundation and royal charters at the beginning, fols. 18–38.' These include (28^r–32^v) Magna Carta (imperfect, the original breaking off on 29^r at *Recogniciones de nova disseisina et de morte antecessoris* [erasure] // in §12, followed by lacuna; fols. 30–1 a s. xv–xvi restoration, itself partly retraced, which leads correctly into the surviving end of the original which recommences on 32^r with // -dent nobis sicut prius fecerunt ...). Calendered in H. C. Maxwell Lyte et al., *Two Cartularies of the Augustinian Priory of Bruton and the Cluniac Priory of Montacute, Somerset*, Somerset Record Society, 8 (London, 1894), pp. 119–251. Editions of individual items include: W. Holtzmann, *Papsturkunden in England*, 3 vols. (Berlin and Göttingen, 1930–52), iii, pp. 44–5, printing fol. 16^v; H. A. Cronne and R. H. C. Davis, *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum 1066–1154*, iii (Oxford, 1968), pp. 216–18 and 74–5, printing fols. 21^r–22^v; R. C. van Caenegem, *English Lawsuits from William I to Richard I*, ii, Selden Society (London, 1991), printing fol. 58^v; *Twelfth-Century English Archidiaconal and Vice-Archidiaconal Acta*, ed. B. R. Kemp, Canterbury and York Society, 92 (Woodbridge, 2001), no. 233, printing 70^r / 58^r; R. B. Patterson, *Earldom of Gloucester Charters* (Oxford, 1973), pp. 146–7 (nos. 156–7), printing fols. 86^v–87^r; F. Ramsey, *English Episcopal Acta X: Bath and Wells 1061–1205* (Oxford, 1995), nos. 40, 142, 236, printing 93^{r-v} and 57^v; and F. Barlow, *English Episcopal*

Acta XII: Exeter 1046–1184 (Oxford, 1996), nos. 281–2, printing 92^v and 96^{r-v}. A. G. Watson, *Dated*, i, no. 875; ii, pl. 148, reproduces fol. 56^r (detail).

Extensive antiquarian annotation, s. xviii–xix, highlighting locations and people, introducing dates, references, and cross-references, and even inserting passages from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, e.g. fols. 17^v, 20^r, and 85^r. Also retraced passages of text. On 14^{r-v}, the medieval contents list has been annotated to note what is missing; and missing leaves are flagged through the course of the book. Below the incipit of Magna Carta a s. xix hand has noted: ‘N.B. This copy agrees with the Cotton MS’ [presumably Cotton Augustus ii. 106 rather than the damaged Cotton Charter xiii. 31a]; on 101^r the same hand notes (correctly) that 99^v–101^r were written by the hand that restored the text of Magna Carta. On 12^v is jotted ‘This transcript of Prior Raulin is probably the same noticed briefly by Tanner, Notitia tomus xxxiii’. Historical note in French on 13^r. A preliminary note (ii^r) on the content and date by ‘[John] Wilson 1849’, scholar of Trinity 1807, fellow 1816, president 1850–66. ‘Papa’ (fol. 16^v) has been expunged and restored. Fol. 102^r, a list of the priors of Montecute along with other historical jottings.

SCRIBES AND SCRIPT

The original core written in Textualis semi-quadrata, apparently by a single scribe. Supplemented on 1^r–

12^v, 30^r–31^v, 39^r–49^v, 72^r–74^v, 77^{r-v}, 92^{r-v}, 96^r–101^r, s. xiv–xvi. + Numerous early modern and modern annotating hands.

DECORATION

Individual entries within the original core are introduced by a 2-line-high red initial (exceptionally on 21^r and 86^r, red and blue); the rubric which precedes each is headed by a blue initial, 1 line high. Running headings (indicating the county) highlighted by a red paraph. Penwork face added above marginal heading on 84^r. The entries in the early supplement on 96^r–99^r are generally headed by a red initial, 2 lines high (not supplied on 99^r). No initials or rubrication in subsequent supplements. Antiquarian additions include a large urn-like frame for added text on 35^r, imperfectly erased.

PROVENANCE

(1) Montacute Priory. (2) ?S. xix^{1/4} John Richards Roberts of Barnstaple (matric. Trinity 1794; rector of Hornblotton, Somerset, from 1805, of Rotherfield Greys (Oxon) from 1824; d. 1843). (3) Trinity College by gift of Roberts in 1822 (inscription fol. 12^v) or conceivably earlier (the record of the volume that was added to the library catalogue of c.1700 [see Appendix III] looks s. xvii rather than s. xix). College bookplate stuck to 12^v; *ex libris* and shelfmark in blue crayon on i^v.

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Pastoral Manual for priest/confessor: compilation of texts in English and Latin

England; s. XV/XVI–XVIⁱⁿ (one part dated 1506)

GENERAL

Fols. ii (modern paper) + i (medieval parchment flyleaf, foliated ‘iii’) + 90 (foliated ‘iv’, ‘v’, ‘1’–‘50’, ‘50*’–‘62’, ‘62*’–‘86’) + iv (medieval parchment endleaves, foliated ‘87’–‘90’) + ii (modern paper endleaf). Post-medieval ink foliation. Also a separate modern pencil pagination ‘1’–‘42’ on fols. 29^r–49^v.

Size: 196 × 140 mm.

An assemblage of at least five separable but contemporary and broadly matching parts, themselves

in some cases accretive: (A) fols. iv–v and 1–29; (B) fols. 30–41; (C) fols. 42–50; (D) fols. 50*–54; (E) fols. 55–86. Their original independence is suggested by the blanks at, and additions to, the ends of all but E. That parts A, C, and D were intimately associated with each other is indicated by the reappearance of the same principal scribe, part B being tied to them by the likelihood that its main hand contributed to the end of A, part E by the possibility that one of its scribes made an addition at the end of D.

Pl. XXXV
Fig. 89