

MS. 298

Filippo Alberici, *De homine condito* England; s. xvi in., probably c.1506–9

Text

1. (fols. 1r–12v) '[Heading:] [Eivsdem - crossed through] .F.Philippi Alb: Mant. de homine | condito. ad evndem reversendiss: dominum. | Ricardvm episcopum Wincto: | liber vnicus [Text:] Iam nova phaebeis lvstrabant | lvmina terras | Ex alto demissa rotis: & monstra sub undis | ... | Posse mori & tetricas vita superare sorores, | Huius in arbitrio est soluantur ut omnia uotis | Finis'; fol. 83r–v ruled, otherwise blank. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

Decoration

One four-line initial in colours and gold, with foliate decoration, on a predominantly purple square ground; incorporating a crown at the mid-point of the initial 'I'. [\[Image\]](#)

Physical description

Parchment, c.270 x c.190 mm., of good quality, somewhat water-stained and cockled.

ff. 12, foliated in 20th-century pencil, except the last leaf, foliated in the 19th century; and foliated 72–83 in 17th(?) -century ink.

Two quires of six leaves: 1–2⁶ (fols. 1–12, formerly 72–83); no catchwords or leaf signatures visible.

Ruled in red ink, the top and bottom horizontal line extending the full width of the page, between single vertical bounding lines extending the full height of the page; the ruled space c.170 x c.115 mm.

Written with 21 lines of text per page, 'below top line', in a neat formal humanistic script, using abbreviations infrequently; punctuation includes commas, colons, parentheses, question marks, and full points. [\[Image\]](#) The heading and first two lines in capitals. [\[Image\]](#)

Secundo folio: 'Dum cadis'.

Binding

Stab-stitched, within a marbled paper wrapper; the back cover inscribed '14.'; the spine with part of a paper label printed '3[5?]''. [\[Image\]](#)

Provenance

The provenance of the manuscript has been unravelled by David Rundle, 'Richard Fox, Wilton House and a previously unidentified work by the little-known Humanist, Filippo Alberici' (*Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, forthcoming).¹

¹ I am grateful to David Rundle for sharing his work with me prior to its publication.

1. Filippo Alberici, a Servite friar of Mantua (on whom see Sharpe's supplement to his *Handlist*), was in England during 1506–7 seeking local patronage from, among others, Richard Fox (1448?–1528) (on whom see *DNB*) bishop of Winchester (1501–28), to whom the present work is dedicated; by May 1509 he seems to have returned home to Italy, having given up such ideas. Anthony à Wood, *Historia et antiquitates universitatis Oxoniensis* (Oxford, 1674), II, p. 229, reports a dedicatory epistle from Alberici to Fox in a work entitled *De casu animi*, of which no copy is known to survive (see David R. Carlson, *English humanist books: writers and patrons, manuscripts and print, 1475–1525* (Toronto, 1993), p. 189 n. 3); it is possible that the present manuscript is part of that lost work.
2. Edward Phillips (1630–1696?) (on whom see *DNB*), nephew of Milton, by whom he was educated and whose papers he inherited, and author of a number of works including the *Theatrum poetarum* (1675): inscribed 'Reverendissimo D^o & patri in Deo | Thomæ Episcopo Lincolnensi | Hunc M.S. codicillum Wiltoniensem | D. D. D. | Eduardus Philippus' (inside front cover) [another book given to Barlow by Phillips is now in the Bodleian, see *DNB*]. [[Image](#)]
3. Thomas Barlow (1607–1691) (on whom see *DNB*; Magrath, *Queen's*, II, pp. 32–5), provost of Queen's College, later bishop of Lincoln; given by Phillips.
4. Queen's College: acquired with Barlow's bequest in 1691; the inside front cover with the College bookplate and inscribed with the shelfmark 'R. 35.'. [[Image](#)]

Bibliography

CMA, I, pars altera, p. 79.

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 70.

Alexander & Temple, *College libraries*, no. 791 ('South France (?)').

Status: Draft