

MS. 308

Heptateuch, with prologues, in Latin

England; s. xiv^{3/4}

Text

Heptateuch, with the usual prologues, preceded by eight lines of verse in red (see under Provenance):

General prologues: Stegmüller, *RB*, nos. 284 (fols. 1r–9r) [\[Image\]](#) and 285 [\[Image\]](#) (fols. 9r–10v); Genesis (fols. 10v–70r) [\[Image\]](#); Exodus, lacking Exodus 37:17–38:15 (from ‘... ac lilia [catchword: procedebant]’ to ‘columpne tres ...’) due to the loss of a leaf before fol. 115 (fols. 70r–117v) [\[Image\]](#); Leviticus (fols. 117v–150r); Numbers (fols. 150r–196v); Deuteronomy (fols. 197r–236v); prologue to Joshua: Stegmüller, no. 311, the rubric omitted and added in small cursive script in the lower margin of fol. 236v (fols. 236v–237v), Joshua (fols. 237v–264v) [\[Image\]](#); Judges (fols. 264v–293v); fols. 294r–297v are blank; there is no colophon or obvious evidence of the existence of companion volume(s).

Decoration

Three fine historiated illuminated (partly defaced) initials:

1. (fol. 1r) Initial ‘F’(ater): Jerome, wearing a cardinal’s hat but not nimbed, sits before a bookcase with two open and two closed books, a lock and key clearly visible; one open book inscribed ‘ambrosius doctor ...’, the other ‘monumentum uera enim illa’; behind him a cleric kneels in a grey habit, with a thrice-knotted cord about his waist, presumably John Hinbury, presenting/receiving a book to/from Jerome. [\[Image\]](#)
2. (fol. 9r) Initial ‘D’(esiderii): A cleric in a purplish-grey habit with knotted cord, presumably John Hinbury, kneels while presenting/receiving a book to/from a seated figure Desiderius(?). [\[Image\]](#)
3. (fol. 10v) Genesis. Initial ‘I’(n), divided by foliate scrolls into three sections: from top to bottom (i) the Fall: busts of Adam and Eve, either side of the Tree with the serpent [\[Image\]](#); (ii) Moses stands holding a book and looks upward [\[Image\]](#); (iii) John Hinbury kneels, dressed as on fol. 9r, and holds a scroll inscribed in blue ‘Frater Ioh(ann)is de hamburi me fecit.’ (sic) [\[Image\]](#) (Alexander & Temple, pl. XXIII). [\[Image\]](#)

The start of books with three-, four-, or five-line foliate initials in blue, white, and shades of red and brown, on a gold ground, with foliate extensions running the height of the text and into the upper and lower margins (fols. 70r [\[Image\]](#), 117v, 150r, 197r, 237v [\[Image\]](#), 264v); chapters, etc., with two-line initials in blue with fine penwork in red, the penwork often with a finely-drawn human head; running titles and chapter numbers in characters alternately red or blue.

Good mid-15th century marginal sketches for borders, and other doodles and designs (fols. 102r, 103r, 104r, 119r, 142r, 294v); a few of the initials are pricked, as if for pouncing (fols. 107v, 253r).

Physical description

Parchment, *c.*375 x *c.*290 mm., of variable quality, rather thick and stiff, and with a number of uneven edges, holes, and other flaws; some holes in the text area with scarfed repairs (e.g. fol. 279); the volume has apparently been struck forcibly creating holes/tears in fols. 82–114, 162–180, and 173–193.

ff. 300; the first three and last four are original flyleaves, foliated in modern pencil, i–iii, 1–297; 19th-century ink foliations on fols. 197 ('195'), 265 ('262'), and 293 ('289').

Quires mostly of twelve leaves each, arranged with a flesh-side outermost: 1⁴⁻¹ (4th leaf excised) (fols. i–iii) | 2–6¹² (fols. 1–60), 7–9⁶ (fols. 61–78), 10–12¹² (fols. 79–114), 13¹²⁻¹ (first leaf missing) (fols. 115–125), 14–27¹² (fols. 126–293) | 28⁴ (fols. 294–297); catchwords occur throughout, within simple cartouche; leaf signatures occur throughout, ad hoc, using shapes and lower-case roman numerals ('oi'–'ovi', 'î'–'vî', '—i'–'—vi', etc.) in red and brown inks.

Ruled in brown ink, in two columns with 27 horizontal lines, between single vertical bounding lines; with further framing single and double lines in the margins; the ruled space *c.* 260–5 x 185 mm.; prickings survive in the outer margins.

Written with 26 lines per page, in two columns, in a rounded gothic bookhand, using 'tick-and-point' and punctus punctuation, and hyphens at line-ends.

Secundo folio: 'loquar de'.

Binding

Contemporary binding. Sewn on eight slit straps (broken or weakened at the front joint), and bound in oak boards with gently rounded edges, the straps entering the boards through their thickness, and travelling in channels in the outer face before coming into shorter channels in the inner face, and secured with wood pegs; the channels with traces of red sealing-wax(?); recesses cut for two strap-and-pin clasps at the fore-edge, the back board with the remains of the two metal pins. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

Provenance

1. Written in England, apparently by John Hinbury/Hambury at his own expense at a Franciscan house: the text has frequent stress marks and some corrections in red to aid reading aloud, and is preceded by an eight-line rhyming rubric: 'Qui legis in mensa per quos hec biblia pensa. | Fratibus impensa iacet hic foliis bene densa. | Sumptibus immensis hanc qua legitur modo mensis. | Fecerat expensis que iohannes hinburiensis. | Hunc duo iuuerunt alii dum carne fuerunt. | Qui decesserunt ad uitam quam pecierunt. | Pro tribus orare predictis tu memorare. | Luce coronare uelit hos deus atque beare.' (fol. 1r) [\[Image\]](#); inscribed 'Frater Johannis de hamburi me fecit.' (sic) in the Genesis initial (fol. 10v). [\[Image\]](#)
2. Numerous corrections, 'nota' marks, and other 14th- and 15th-century marginal comments throughout, and the maledictions in Deuteronomy 27:15–26 are numbered in leadpoint '1'–'10', 'XI', '12' (fol. 226v).
3. Inscribed, 15th century, with various names(?) and phrases, including: 'Joabal q' helys' (??) in florid formal script in sketchy leadpoint (fol. 283r); 'hywe hylle

nol..ys'(??) and 'pyttyngton' (fol. 290v); also inscribed on the inner face of the front board.

4. Inscribed, 16th century, smudged and abraded, but apparently with a name and a price, perhaps: 'Edward est possessor p(retium) xxvs' (fol. ir top right). [\[Image\]](#)
5. ? John Theyer (1597–1673) (on whom see *DNB*), with his monogram followed by the number '8' (fol. ir, top right corner, below the preceding inscription; cf. BL, Royal MS 1 B.xii, in which his monogram is followed by the number '33'); many of his manuscripts passed to his grandson Charles, and thence to the Royal collection and the British Library, but others are now scattered (c.f. Dutschke, *Cat. MSS. Huntington*, under HM 112, and McKendrick, *Cat. Greek MSS. BL*, I, under Burney MS. 276 fol. 20); this one appears not to be listed neither in *CMA* nor the manuscript sale catalogue prepared in 1678 (BL, Royal MS. Appendix 70).
6. Inscribed, 17/18th century 'Petrus Head' [\[Image\]](#) and, by a different hand, with a list of contents (fol. ir). [\[Image\]](#)
7. Erased two-line ownership(?) inscription (fol. iiv).
8. Queen's College; acquired presumably after the compilation of Langbaine's mid 17th-century catalogue (from which it is absent), and before the early 18th-century shelflist in MS. 557, where it is present; inscribed with the former shelfmark 'S. 4.' (fol. iiv).

Bibliography

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 73.

Alexander & Temple, *College libraries*, no. 328, pl. XXIII (fol.10v, detail).

Status: Draft