

MS. 312

Robert Grosseteste, etc.

England; s. xiv, after 1346

Text

As noted by Ker, *MMLB*, I, p. 12, items 1, 4, and 5 are found consecutively and in the same order in London, College of Arms, MS. Vincent 418, fols. 159r–175v (written in England, s. xv; on which see Louise Campbell, *et al.*, *A catalogue of manuscripts in the College of Arms: Collections, 1* (London, 1988), pp. 441–3); items 4 and 5 are otherwise unrecorded.

1. (fols. 1r–3r) Robert Grosseteste, letter to Adam Marsh concerning intelligence: *De forma prima omnium* and *De intelligenciis*, run together, with running-title ‘lyncoln’ [or] Robertus de intelligenciis’: ‘Dilecto sibi in christo magistro Ade rufo R grossetest’ ... Rogauit me dulciflua dileccio tua. quatinus (*sic*) scriberem tibi ... [fol 1v, column 2, line 27:] perfecte et ei ex omni parte sinile fingere. [line 28:] Voluisti insuper a me scire quid senciam ... inuenias [‘re’ erased?]scribendo errorem meum corrigas. | Explicit epistola. Amen.’ (ed. L. Baur, *Die philosophischen Werke des Robert Grosseteste, Bischofs von Lincoln*, Beiträge zur Geschichte der Philosophie des Mittelalters, 9 (1912), pp. 106–11 and 112–19, cf. pp. 96n*, 97*; Glorieux, *Arts*, pp. 325 and 329; S. Harrison Thomson, *The writings of Robert Grosseteste, bishop of Lincoln, 1235–1253* (Cambridge, 1940), pp. 98–9 and 104–5; Sharpe, *Handlist*, p. 541). [\[Image\]](#)
2. (fols. 3r–38r) Robert Grosseteste, *De cessatione legalium*: ‘Incipit liber domini Roberti Lincolniensi de cessatione legalium. Amen. Fuerunt plurimi in primitiua ecclesia ... ut humiliter recurratur ad gratiam quasi ad langoris & infirmitatis medicinam. | Explicit Robertus Lincolniensis de cessatione legalium. Amen &c.’ (ed. R. C. Dales and E. B. King, *De cessatione legalium*, Auctores Britannici Medii Aevi, 7 (London, 1986); Glorieux, *Arts*, p. 330; Thomson, *op. cit.*, pp. 121–2). [\[Image\]](#)
3. (fols. 38r–102v) Robert Grosseteste, *Hexameron*, without the prologue: ‘Omnis scientia et sapientia materiam habet ... moriuntur sic et in christo omnes iustificabuntur’ (ed. Dales and Gieben, 1982; fol. 38r–v edited from this manuscript by Phelan, 1934, pp. 176–9; part of fol. 48r–v edited from this manuscript by J. T. Muckle, ‘Robert Grosseteste’s use of Greek sources in his Hexameron’, *Medievalia et Humanistica*, 3 (1945), pp. 33–48, at 41–3; Thomson, *op. cit.*, pp. 100–1; Sharpe, *Handlist*, p. 542).
4. (fols. 102v–118v) Chronicle of England to the year 1346: ‘*Cronica de Anglia et rebus in ea gestis et de regibus eius*. Britannia que prius Albion vocabatur. secundum bedam de gestis Anglorum ... dominum Robertum de Artoys et dominum Thomam Huchred.’ (Little, *Initia*, p. 33; the text has the same title in MS. Vincent 418, fols. 160v–173r, but ends in the year 1340); marginalia by the original scribe and later hands refer to various archbishops of Canterbury, Peter of Pontefract, the capture of Berwick by king Edward, Peter Gaveston, the Templars, Thomas of Lancaster, the Rebel Barons, Byland Abbey, Edmund of Woodstock, etc. [\[Image\]](#)

5. (fol. 118v–122v) A treatise on the meaning of the years Anno Domini in computation of the calendar: ‘Hic Incipit Speculum Cronicorum: Cvm ciuitas illa egregia. viz. ierusalem iuxta vocem salvatoris ... et vtique verissima est ergo aliud est falsum.’ (Little, *Initia*, p. 51; it has the same title in MS. Vincent 418, fols. 173r–175v).
[Image]
6. (fol. 123) A typewritten letter from N. R. Ker to the Librarian of Queen’s College, concerning the present manuscript and MS. 302, dated 5 Dec. 1941; loosely inserted.
7. (fol. 124) A transcription in the hand of R. W. Hunt of the erased note on fol. 125v ‘Read under U.V. lamp, 1948’, with a reference to Ker, 1948, an offprint of which is stuck in at the front of the volume.

Decoration

The start of the volume with a four-line parted initial in red and blue with red and blue penwork extending around the text on three sides (fol. 1r); the start of each following text with three- to five-line initials in blue with red penwork; a few similar smaller initials at subdivisions (e.g. fols. 94r, 106v, 107r); paraphs alternately red or blue. [Image] [Image]
[Image] [Image]

Physical description

Parchment, *c.*295 x *c.*220 mm., of mediocre quality.

ff. i (original pastedown, now detached) + 123 + ii (modern paper inserts, fols. 123–124) + ii (original flyleaf and lifted pastedown), foliated sporadically in 19th-century pencil, more extensively in 20th pencil, and completed in modern pencil: i, 1–114, 115a–b, 116–126.

Quires mostly of 12 leaves each: 1–10¹² (fols. 1–119), 11¹²⁻⁷ (the 4th to 10th leaves cancelled; the 11th a flyleaf; the 12th a lifted pastedown; fols. 120–124); each quire arranged with a flesh-side outermost; catchwords survive throughout, below the right-hand column of text, encircled by a rough oval; leaf signatures survive throughout, usually in the form of combinations of horizontal and vertical strokes, occasionally (quires 7 and 11) letters of the alphabet.

The lines bounding each column are in brown ‘crayon’, the remainder in faint leadpoint, usually with 56 horizontal lines, the top one and bottom one extending the full width of the page, each column between single vertical bounding lines extending the full height of the page; the ruled space *c.*225 x *c.*150 mm.; prickings frequently survive in the upper and lower margins.

Written with 55 lines per page in two columns in anglicana script.

Secundo folio: ‘mole magna’.

Binding

Original binding. Sewn on six slit thongs, and bound in beech boards with rounded edges, the lacing patterns differing in the front and back boards (I V V I and V V V respectively [Image] [Image]), the boards covered with pink-stained suede, mostly faded to white/grey, and an undecorated leather chemise; red and yellow endbands; two clasps at

the fore-edge (the straps missing) [\[Image\]](#); the centre of the back board with the mark and nails from a large rectangular title-piece [\[Image\]](#); an original(?) blue thread place-marker is between fols. 102 and 103; traces of a chain-staple at the lower fore-edge of the front board, the four holes in an unusual configuration like a 'Y' on its side [\[Image\]](#), illustrated in R. M. Thomson and Michael Gullick, *A descriptive catalogue of the medieval manuscripts in Worcester cathedral library* (Woodbridge, 2001), p. xlv fig. 6; the spine inscribed 'G 115' (G for Grosseteste?), and 'E 116' (? : effaced, reading uncertain), and with a Queen's College paper label printed '8' [\[Image\]](#) (cf. under Provenance).

Provenance

1. Written in England, very possibly at Oxford (ex info. Michael Gullick), not earlier than 1346 (see Text item 4).
2. Brother John W[...], sold to Richard C[...], 1407/8: an erased three-line inscription was read with the aid of a UV lamp and mirror (by Ker, or by R. W. Hunt, in whose hand a transcription is inserted as fol. 124; see Ker, 1948, p. 212 n. 3) as: 'Liber Ricardi C[...]g' quem emit anno r.r. Henrici iiiij post conquestum 9^o pro ij marcis a fratre Johanne W[...] fratre ordinis Minorum et valet hic liber xlvj s. viij d.' (fol. 125v).
3. Thomas Allen (1542–1632) (on whom see *DNB*), many of whose manuscripts passed to Sir Kenelm Digby and are now in the Bodleian; included in the Allen catalogue compiled by Brian Twyne in 1622 (Bodleian, MS. Wood F.26), his folio MS. no. 9, inscribed '9' (fol. 1r) [\[Image\]](#), as pointed out by Ker in 1941 (fol. 123 is his letter providing this information; cf. N. R. Ker, 'Thomas Allen's manuscripts', *Bodleian Library Record*, 2 no. 27 (1948), pp. 211–5 at 212; Andrew G. Watson, 'Thomas Allen of Oxford and his manuscripts', in M. B. Parkes and Andrew G. Watson, eds., *Medieval scribes, manuscripts & libraries: essays presented to N. R. Ker*, (London, 1978), pp. 279–313, at pp. 299, 312); and R. W. Hunt & A. G. Watson, *Digby manuscripts; 1: a reproduction of the 1883 catalogue by W. D. Macray; 2: notes on Macray's descriptions of the manuscripts*, Bodleian Library Quarto catalogues IX (Oxford, 1999), Appendix ('Catalogue of Thomas Allen's manuscripts, 1622'), p. 162 no. 9).
4. Unidentified institutional library, 17th/18th century, to judge by the marks from a chain-staple and the shelfmarks on the binding.
5. 18th century: read by a 'learned annotator', possibly Samuel Pegge (1704–1796), biographer of Grosseteste, who knew the manuscript (see Dales & King, 1986, p. xxii)
6. Queen's College: the front pastedown (now lifted and detached) inscribed with the former shelfmark 'S. 8' (cf. spine).

Bibliography

Coxe, *Catalogus*, pp. 74–5.

Gerald B. Phelan, 'An unedited text of Robert Grosseteste on the subject-matter of theology', *Revue néoscholastique de philosophie* 36 (1934), pp. 172–9, at pp. 174–5 (description) and *passim*.

Richard C. Dales and Servus Gieben, 'The prooemium to Robert Grosseteste's *Hexameron*', *Speculum* 43 (1968), pp. 451–61, at p. 452.

Richard C. Dales, 'The influence of Grosseteste's *Hexameron* on the *Sentences* commentaries of Richard Fishacre, O.P. and of Richard Rufus of Cornwall, O.F.M', *Viator*, 2 (1971), pp. 271–300, at p. 296 and n. 38.

Edward B. King and Richard C. Dales, 'The manuscripts of Robert Grosseteste's *De cessatione legalium*', *Manuscripta*, 28 no. 1 (1984), pp. 3–15, at pp. 9–10 and *passim*, siglum 'Q'.

Richard C. Dales and Servus Gieben, eds., *Robert Grosseteste, Hexaëmeron, Auctores Britannici Medii Aevi*, 6 (Oxford, 1982; paperback edition, 1990), pp. xiv–xvi (siglum 'Q').

Status: Draft