

MS. 315

Anselm, Boethius England; s. xiii–xiv

Text

[Items 1–12 occupy quires 1–17]

Works of St. Anselm of Canterbury, ed. Franciscus Salesius Schmitt, *S. Anselmi Cantuariensis archiepiscopi opera omnia* (6 vols., Edinburgh, 1946–61):

1. (fols. 1r–10r) ‘[Running title:] De veritate. [Preface, fol. 1r:] Tres tractatus pertinentes ad studium sacre scripture ... uolo ordinari [Chapter list, fol. 1v:] .1. Quod ueritas non habeat principium uel finem.13. Quod una sit ueritas in omnibus rebus uel ueris. [Text, fols. 1v–10r:] \Discipulus./ Quoniam deum ueritatem credimus esse ... tunc eius dicitur ueritas uel rectitudo.’ (Schmitt, I, pp. 173–99). [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)
2. (fols. 10r–18r) ‘[Running title:] De libero arbitrio. [Chapter-list:] .1. Quod potestas peccandi non pertine[a]t ad libertatem arbitrii.14. Diuisio eiusdem libertatis. [Text:] \Discipulus./ Quoniam liberum arbitrium uidetur repugnare gratie ... quod necesse habeam de illis interrogare.’ (Schmitt, I, pp. 205–26). [\[Image\]](#)
3. (fols. 18r–35r) ‘[Running title:] De casu diaboli. [Chapter list, fol. 18r–v:] .1. Quod eciam ad angelos dicatur quid habes quod non accepisti.28. Quod potestas uolendi quod non debuit; ... [Guide to rubricator:] Expliciunt capitula. Incipit tractatus anselmi cantuariensis archiepiscopi de casu diaboli [Text, fols. 18v–35r:] \Discipulus/ Illud apostoli; Quid habes quod non accepisti; ... & uti potestate loquendi.’ (Schmitt, I, pp. 231–76). [\[Image\]](#)
4. (fols. 35r–50r) ‘[Running title:] De conceptu uirginali. & de originali peccato. [Chapter-list, fols. 35r–36r:] .1. Que sit originalis. & que personalis29. Quomodo impotencia habendi iusticiam excuset eos post baptisma. [Text, fols. 36r–50r:] Cum in omnibus religiose tue uoluntati uelim ... si uera probari poterit.’ (Schmitt, II, pp. 137–73). [\[Image\]](#)
5. (fols. 50v–89r) ‘[Running title:] Cur deus homo. [Prologue:] Opus subditum propter quosdam qui antequam perfectum ... si quid in toto corpore sit quod non despiciat. [Chapter-list for both books, fols. 50v–52r:] .1. Quaestio de qua totum opus pendet.22. Quod in hiis que dicta sunt; ... [Text; Book I fols. 52r–73r, Book II fols. 73r–89r:] Sepe & studiosissime a multis rogatus sum & uerbis. ... deo non nobis attribuire debemus qui est benedictus in secula amen.’ (Schmitt, II, pp. 42–133). [\[Image\]](#)
6. (fols. 89r–102r) ‘[Running title:] De incarnatione uerbi. [Text:] Domino & patri uniuerse ecclesie in terra peregrinantis summo pontifici urbano; ... in eodem libello aperte inueniet.’ (Schmitt, II, pp. 1–35). [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)
7. (fols. 102r–111r) ‘[Running title:] Prosologion [Text:] Eia nunc homuncio. fuge paululum occupaciones tuas. ... donec intrem in gaudium domini mei. Qui est trinus & unus deus benedictus in secula. Amen. [guide to the rubricator:] Explicit prosologion anselmi archiepiscopi. Incipit liber anselmi de processione spiritus sancti’ (ed. Schmitt, I, pp. 97–122). [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

8. (fols. 111r–132v) ‘[Running title:] De processione spiritus sancti. [Text:] Negatur a grecis quod spiritus sanctus de filio procedat; ... non sensui latinitatis.’ (Schmitt, II, pp. 177–219). [\[Image\]](#)
9. (fols. 132v–136r) ‘[Running title:] De sacrificio azimi & fermentati. [Text:] Anselmus seruus ecclesie cantuariensis; Walleranno nuenburgi episcopo. Scienti breuiter loquor. si certus essem prudenciam uestram ... absque dubio repudiandum iudicatur.’ (Schmitt, II, pp. 221–32). [\[Image\]](#)
10. (fols. 136r–137v) ‘[Running title:] De sacramentis ecclesie. [Text:] Domino & amico Walleranno gratia dei neuenburgensi uenerabili episcopo; anselmus seruus ecclesie cantuariensis salutem. ... Gaudeo & gratias ago deo quia sicut scribitis glorificat eum in uobis catholica ecclesia. ... De hiis qui sacrificant de fermentato misi uobis olim quandam epistolam.’ (ed. Schmitt, II, pp. 239–42). [\[Image\]](#)
11. (fols. 137v–155r) ‘[Running titles vary:] De presciencie & predestinacione [or:] De concordia presciencie dei. Cum libero arbitrio. [or:] De concordia gratie. Cum libero arbitrio. [Text:] De tribus illis questionibus in quibus dei presciencie atque predestinationi nec non & gratie liberum arbitrium repugnare uidetur; ... gratis uolui petentibus impendere. Deo gratias.’ (ed. Schmitt, II, pp. 245–88).
12. (fols. 155v–188v) ‘[Running title:] Monologion [Letter to Lanfranc, fols. 155v–156r:] Reuerendo & amando suo domino & patri & doctori cantuarie archiepiscopo anglorum primati ... Quoniam agenda sunt omnia consilio sicut scriptum est. ... aut correcta uolentibus prebeat. [Prologue, fol. 156r–v:] Quidam fratres sepe me studioseque precati sunt; ... si quid contra suam opinionem suam prolatum inuenerit. [Chapter list, skipping ‘22’ in the numbering, fols. 156v–158r:] .1. Quod sit quidam optimum & maximum & summum omnium que sunt.81. Quod ipsa dominetur omnibus & regat omnia & sit solus deus. [Text, fols. 158r–188v:] Si quis unam naturam summam omni que sunt solam sibi in eterna sua beatudine sufficientem ... Set solus deus ineffabiliter trinus & unus. Expliciunt Libelli Anselmi.’ (Schmitt, I, pp. 5–87). [\[Image\]](#)
[\[Image\]](#)

[Items 13–15 occupy quires 18–19]

Works by, or attributed to, Boethius:

13. (fols. 189r–192r) *Fidei confessio* [*De fide catholica*], in 3 sections: ‘Christianam fidem. noui. ac ueteris testamenti pandit auctoritas. ... De celestibus autem naturis. que uniuersaliter uocatur angelica; ... ibi erit gaudium sempiternum. delectacio cibus. laus opus. perpetua creatoris.’ (ed. H. F. Stewart and E. K. Rand, *Boethius: the theological tractates, with an English translation* (London, 1973), pp. 52–71). [\[Image\]](#)
14. (fols. 192r–204v) Ps.-Boethius, *De disciplina scholarium*: ‘Uestra nouit intentio. de scolarium disciplina; compendiosum postulare tractatum ... vltima vero alterius saporis. inquinamenta. Amici [*recte* Anicii] boetii seuerini ex consulis patricii. liber de disciplina scolarium. Explicit.’ (ed. Wiejers, 1976, pp. 93–134). [\[Image\]](#)
15. (fols. 204v–212v) *De consolatione philosophiae*, ending imperfect in Bk. II, 3, 6: ‘Carmina qui quondam studio florente peregi. ... cum coniugis pudore; Cum [catchword: mascule.] ||’ (ed. L. Bieler, *CCSL*, 94 (1957), pp. 1–21).

Decoration

Parted initials in red and brown with red and brown penwork flourishing, incorporating simple leaf-shaped designs (fols. 1v, 10r, 36r, 50v, etc.); lesser initials three lines high, in red with red and brown flourishing; similar two-line initials; paraphs in plain red. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

Physical description

Parchment, *c.*295 x *c.*190 mm.; many leaves with margins sliced or excised, sometimes causing the loss of text (e.g. fols. 45–46).

ff. 212 (no flyleaves), foliated in modern pencil: 1–212; replacing a sporadic 19th-century foliation in pencil which had skipped one leaf by fol. 89, and two leaves by fol. 136.

Quires mostly of 12 leaves each, each arranged with a flesh-side outermost: 1–4⁸ (fols. 1–32), 5–17¹² (fols. 33–188); 18–19¹² (fols. 189–212); catchwords are present throughout, except where the lower margin has been excised (fols. 128, 152), and at the end of the first main textual section (fol. 188v); leaf signatures occur through most of the volume, apparently an erratic ad hoc system (cf. Ker, *MMLB*, I, p. x), using leadpoint or red ink, with letters of the alphabet out of sequence or running backwards, not always in the lower fore-edge corner, etc.

Ruled in leadpoint for a single column of 31 lines of text per page below the top ruled line, and for a running title in the top margin; the horizontal lines usually not extending much beyond the two pairs of vertical bounding lines which extend the full height of the page; the ruled text space *c.*215 x 105–15 mm. (Anselm) or *c.*195 x *c.*115 mm. (Boethius); running titles supplied throughout the Anselm texts only; textual sections numbered in the margins in Arabic numerals; prickings usually survive in the upper and lower margins.

Written in gothic script with documentary features, notably ‘r’ descending below the line; fairly heavily abbreviated, using point, tick-and-point, oblique stroke, and punctus interrogativus punctuation, and a paraph shaped somewhat like an ‘F’ without the lower horizontal bar; the scribe frequently adds human faces or heads in profile to capital letters: one distinctive type looks as if he has a cigarette in his mouth; the script varies, but is perhaps all by a single main scribe.

Secundo folio: ‘potest ueritas’.

Binding

Original binding. Sewn on five slit thongs, laced into oak boards with cushioned edges through the outer face and horizontal channels in the inner face, and secured with wood pegs (several now loose or missing); the boards covered with red-stained leather (originally sewn to the head- and tail-bands, now fully detachable; rather worn and damaged); the top of the back cover inscribed in a 14th-century hand ‘Anselmus de ueritate’, the bottom of the spine similarly inscribed vertically upwards ‘Anselmus | de ueritate’; remains of two strap-and-pin fastenings at the fore-edge (straps missing; one pin still present in the back cover); remains of a chain-staple at the middle of the bottom edge of the back board. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

Provenance

1. Written in England in the late 13th or early 14th century; with medieval annotations in leadpoint and ink, heavily annotated in some places (but much less so in the Boethius texts), including 'Nota' symbols and a distinctive symbol somewhat like a bird's head (consisting of a long triangle for the beak, a circle with a dot in it for the head and an eye) sometimes not unlike the 'ice-cream cone' symbol found in manuscripts from Christ Church, Canterbury (which was itself perhaps intended as a simple sketch of an eye). [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)
2. 'John Sottwell', 15th century (fol. 73r, inscribed vertically down the fore-edge margin).
3. Queen's College: inscribed 'S.11' on the inner face of the front board, and '315' in pencil on fol. 1r; the top of the spine spine with paper label printed '11', and a blue-edged label inscribed '315' below it.

Bibliography

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 75.

Olga Wiejers, *De disciplina scholarium*, Studien und Texte zur Geistesgeschichte des Mittelalters, 12 (Leiden, 1976), pp. 58–9 and *passim*, siglum 'Q'.

Margaret T. Gibson and Lesley Smith, eds., *Codices Boethiani: a conspectus of manuscripts of the works of Boethius*, vol. 1: *Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland*, Warburg Institute surveys and texts, 25 (London, 1995), pp. 240–1 no. 23.

Status: Draft