

MS. 317

Matthew and Mark, with prologues and Gloss England (Reading?); s. xii–xiii

Text

[Items 1–2 occupy quires 1–11]

1. (fols. 1r–3v) Prologues and other short pieces including Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 7496 (attributed doubtfully to Robert of Worcester) (fol. 1r); Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 6648 (attributed to Peter Lombard) (fols. 1r–2v); and one which begins ‘Mattheus qui & leui ex iuda sicut in ordine primo ponitur; ...’ and ends like Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 590 (fol. 2v). [\[Image\]](#)
2. (fols. 3v–90r) Gospel of Matthew, with marginal and interlinear *Glossa ordinaria*: ‘L[iber generationis] ihesu ...’, the first marginal gloss is Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 1827 (7); fol. 90v blank. [\[Image\]](#)

[Items 3–4 occupy quires 12–16]

3. (fol. 91r–92r) Six prologues: Stegmüller, *RB*, nos. 11828 (2), (3), (6), (12), (13), and (1); followed (fols. 91v–92r) by a seventh, Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 607, with interlinear and marginal gloss, of which the first marginal gloss is Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 11828 (5).
4. (fols. 92r–131r) Gospel of Mark: ‘Inicium euangelii ihesu christi filii dei ...’, with marginal and interlinear glosses; the first marginal gloss is Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 11828 (11); cf. H. H. Glunz, *History of the Vulgate in England from Alcuin to Roger Bacon: being an inquiry into the text of some English manuscripts of the Vulgate Gospels* (Cambridge, 1933), p. 264, stating that the text is very similar to that in Oxford, St. John’s College MS. 111; fol. 131v blank (not ruled).

[Item 5 occupies quire 17]

5. (fol. 132r–139r) John Scot, Homily on ‘In principio erat Verbum’ [John 1:1], here attributed to Origen: ‘*Origenes super in principio erat uerbum. In principio erat uerbum & uerbum erat apud deum & deus erat uerbum. Et reliqua. [Homily:] Uox spiritualis aquile auditum pulsat ecclesie. ... finis prophetalium uisonum. Cui gloria cum patre ... AMEN.*’ (Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 4959,1; ed. Édouard Jeauneau, *John Scot: Homélie sur le prologue de Jean*, Sources chrétiennes, 151 (Paris, 1969), pp. 99–100 and siglum ‘O⁴’); the lower part of fol. 139r only partially ruled, fol. 139v blank. [\[Image\]](#)

[Items 6–7 occupy quire 18]

6. (fols. 140r–142v) Added 13th-century leaves containing Stephen of Tournai, *Summa decretorum*, Distinctio 30 c.17 – 38 c.11: ‘Si quis presbyter propter publicam. Videtur I^a contra d. l. cap. Illud quoque Sed ibi agitur de penitencia sollempni ... Quidam dicunt errorem istum considerandum in scientiis non in rebus scitis’ (ed. Joh. Friedrich von Schulte, *Die Summa des Stephanus Tornacensis über das Decretum Gratiani* (Giessen, 1891), pp. 46–58; cf. Stephan Kuttner, *Traditio*, 11 (1955), pp. 259–379, at p. 441). [\[Image\]](#)

7. (fols. 142v–143v) Added notes in ink including mentions of Eleutherius, Hillarius, and Augustine *Super Mattheum* (fol. 142v) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#); further notes in faint cursive leadpoint (fol. 143r–v).

Decoration

One good historiated initial, on a gold ground, at the start of Matthew: an initial ‘L’ with four blue and white roundels, containing busts of Christ, King David(?), a bearded man, and a youth (fol. 3v) [\[Image\]](#); the start of Mark with a parted initial in red and blue, with simple blue flourishing (fol. 92r); the start of the volume with an initial in blue, with reserved design partly filled with red, and with red penwork flourishing (fol. 1r); good penwork initials, three- or four-lines high to prologues, two-lines high to chapters, in blue with red penwork flourishing, or vice versa [\[Image\]](#); one-line verse initials in plain red or blue.

Physical description

Parchment, *c.*285 x *c.*205 mm.; average quality; fols. 140–144 poorer quality than the rest.

ff. i (original flyleaf) + 144; foliated in modern pencil.

Quires mostly of 8 leaves each: 1–10⁸ (fols. 1–80), 11¹⁰ (fols. 81–90); 12–14⁸ (fols. 91–114), 15¹⁰ (fols. 115–124), 16⁸⁻¹ (fols. 125–131); 17⁸ (fols. 132–139) | 18⁶⁻¹ (5th leaf cancelled, after fol. 143) (fols. 140–144); catchwords present throughout except in the last quire of each main text (i.e. quires 11, 16–18); quire signatures in lower-case roman numerals, with separate series for each of the two main texts: ‘.i.⁹’–‘.x.⁹’ (quires 1–10) and [‘.i.⁹’]–‘.iiij.⁹’ (quires 12–15).

Ruled in leadpoint with 45 horizontal lines, the top three and bottom three (and up to fol. 90r the middle three also) extending the full width of the page, between pairs of vertical ruling lines extending the full height of the page, in varying patterns, arranged to accommodate up to six columns per page; the ruled space *c.*205–10 x *c.*140 mm.; prickings often survive in all four margins.

Written with up to 22 lines of biblical text, ‘below top line’, in a fine early gothic script, in a central column of variable width, and with up to 45 lines of gloss, ‘above top line’ in up to two more columns to each side of the biblical text (cf. de Hamel, *Glossed books*, p. 24, fig. 15, pl. 13) [\[Image\]](#). Text item 6, quire 17, ruled for and written with 34 lines per page, above top line; Text item 7, quire 18, ruled for and written with 45 lines, above top line, in 2 columns.

Secundo folio: ‘Natura quippe’.

Binding

‘Henry VIII’ binding [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#). Sewn on three straps (originally six) with fragments of a 13th(?)–century manuscript used as a spine-lining, and bound in wood (oak?) boards covered with 16th-century black velvet; each cover with five bosses (one missing from the centre of the back board), four corner-pieces; two clasps (straps missing); traces of a chain-staple at the bottom fore-edge of the back board; the front

board detached; the fore-edge of the front board with a paper label printed '13' (cf. under Provenance). The poorer quality parchment and the considerably larger ruled and written area of fols. 140–144 suggests that this quire may have been inserted later than the first binding, not necessarily during the 13th century.

Provenance

1. Probably written at the Benedictine abbey of the BVM, Reading, Berkshire, c. 1200, after the compilation of the booklist of c.1190–95, from which it is absent (BL, Egerton MS. 3031; see Watson, *Dated and datable, British Library*, no. 620); with the usual early 13th-century Reading anathema (cf. MS. 323): 'Hi(c) (est) lib(er) s(ancte) Marie de rading(is). Que(m) q(u)i celau(er)it (ue)l fraude(m) | de eo fec(er)it; anath(em)a sit.' (fol. ir) [\[Image\]](#) (Ker, *MLGB*, p. 157, 's. xiii in.'; J. R. L[iddell], 'Some Notes on the Library of Reading Abbey', *The Bodleian Quarterly Record* 8 no. 86 (1935), pp. 47–54, at p. 51; Alan Coates, *English medieval books: the Reading Abbey collections from foundation to dispersal* (Oxford, 1999), pp. 68, 117, 130, 131, and 159–60 no. 83).
2. Henry VIII, on the evidence of the binding (Carley, *The libraries of King Henry VIII*, pp. xxxvii, lxxv; cf. Bodleian, MSS. Bodl. 218, 458, and 862 (*Summary Catalogue*, nos. 2054, 2414, and 2730)).
3. Queen's College: inscribed with the Old Library shelfmark '84.7' on the front and back pastedowns (cf. MSS. 302, 303, etc.) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#); included in Langbaine's mid 17th-century catalogue (Bodleian Library, MS. Langbaine 7, p. 416), mentioning the binding; inscribed by him with the shelfmark 'Arch:B.3.3.', subsequently crossed-through (upper pastedown) and list of contents (fol. ir) [\[Image\]](#); in the 1689 catalogue in MS. 555 it is included under 'M' for Matthew, with the shelfmark '84. 7', and under 'O' for Origen (see Text item 5) with the shelfmark Arch B. 3. 3; the front pastedown also inscribed with other College shelfmarks 'S. 13' (cf. fore-edge of binding), and 'C.24.', crossed-through in pencil [\[Image\]](#). The suggestion that the book may have reached the College via Thomas Barlow (1607–91) (reported in Coates, *op. cit.*, p. 130 n. 30; cf. MS. 323) is unlikely to be correct, since Langbaine listed the manuscript about 50 years before the other Barlow books came to the College.

Bibliography

Bernard, *CLM*, pp. 29–30, no. 934 (MS. 10).

Montfaucon, *BBMN*, p. 664 no. 934.

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 76.

Alexander & Temple, *College libraries*, no. 153.

There is a microfilm at the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes, Paris.

Status: Draft