

## MS. 318

### Origen, *Commentary on Romans*, in the Latin translation of Rufinus France; s. xii<sup>2</sup> or med.

#### Text

(fols. 1r–128v) Origen, *Commentary on St. Paul's letter to the Romans*, ending imperfect in 9.26 due to the loss of at least one quire: '[Guide to rubricator, or near-contemporary addition:] Incipit prefatio Rufini presbiteri Ad eraclivm in expositione origenis in epistolam pauli ad Romanos ab ipso. | Rufino de greco in latinvm translata. [Preface:] Volentem me paruo subuectum nauigo horam tranquilli litoris stringere. ... [Text:] Quod ceteris apostoli pauli epistolis difficilior putatur ad intelligendum haec ... Ita ergo & potestas diuinis a deo da-||' (Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 6221; edited by Caroline P. Hammond Bammel, *Der Römerbriefkommentar des Origenes: kritische Ausgabe der Übersetzung Rufins*, *Vetus Latina: aus der Geschichte der lateinischen Bibel*, 16, 33, 34 (Freiburg, 1990–98), the text of the present manuscript ending at vol. III, p. 749 of the edition; see also Caroline P. Hammond Bammel, *Der Römerbrieftext des Rufin und seine Origenes-Übersetzung* (Freiburg, 1985), p. 122, and C. P. Hammond, 'Notes on the manuscripts and editions of Origen's Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans in the Latin translation of Rufinus', *Journal of Theological Studies*, n.s. 16 (1965), pp. 338–57 at pp. 339, 349); this manuscript is particularly closely related textually to Cambridge, University Library, MS. Ff.3.13 (s. xiv), and both are probably descended from Copenhagen, KB, GKS 1338 4<sup>o</sup> (s. ix in.). [\[Image\]](#)

#### Decoration

Very fine initials with scrolling foliage, slightly modelled in pale brown, on a red, blue, and pale brown ground (fols. 1r, 11v, 12r, 12v, 31v, 44v, 48r, 92v, 122r), sometimes with interlaced stems to the initials (fols. 2v, 60r, 109r); three- to six-line initials in red, blue, or pale brown, with pale brown ornament (fols. 3v, 5v, 6r, etc.); a few more elaborate three- or four-line arabesque initials in red with blue arabesques, or vice versa (fols. 4r, 4v, 7v); one two-line initial in plain red (fol. 1r). [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

#### Physical description

Parchment, c.285 x c.215 mm., of above average quality; the lower margin of fol. 63 cut away.

ff. 128, foliated in modern pencil.

Quires of eight leaves: 1–16<sup>8</sup> (fols. 1–128), [one? further quire missing]; catchwords or traces of them survive sporadically (quires 1, 7, 11); no leaf or quire signatures.

Ruled in brown leadpoint, with 36 horizontal lines, the top two and bottom two extending the full width of the page, in two columns with single inner and double outer vertical bounding lines ruled the full height of the page; the ruled space c.200 x c.135–40 mm.; prickings usually survive in the upper and lower margins, and also in the inner margin of quires 10–14 (fols. 73–112); and occasionally also in the fore-edge margin.

Written with 36 lines per page, above top line, in two columns, in a good medium grade bookhand [\[Image\]](#); fol. 46v entirely erased, re-ruled, and re-written in a smaller more regular script, in two columns of 42 lines.

Secundo folio: 'eadem mentis'.

### **Binding**

Original binding [\[Image\]](#). Sewn on four wide slit tawed straps, entering the thick oak(?) boards through their thickness, and passing first along long channels in the outer face of the boards, before passing to the inner face where they are pegged [\[Image\]](#); the top and bottom straps at the very top and bottom of the spine, holding pieces of white leather in place, integral to the sewing, the upper one extended as a tab, the lower tab cut away [\[Image\]](#); the edges of the boards cut square, flush with the leaves; the fore-edge of the front board with a recess for a strap, a corresponding pin is in the back board; remains of a chain-staple at the lower fore-edge of the back board [\[Image\]](#); with a medieval(?) fabric bookmark (found after fol. 89).

### **Provenance**

1. Written in France, perhaps the north-west (ex info. Michael Gullick).
2. Inscribed, possibly by Langbaine (?): 'Rufinus in Origenis expositione super Epistolam Pauli ad Romanos.' (upper pastedown). [\[Image\]](#)
3. Queen's College: included in Langbaine's mid 17th-century catalogue under the shelfmark Arch. B. 3. 2.; former shelfmarks, crossed through: 'Arch: B.3.2.', 'S.14', and 'D.4.', all on the front pastedown [\[Image\]](#); paper labels printed '14' at the top of the spine and on the fore-edge of the front board. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

### **Bibliography**

Bernard, *CLM*, p. 29 no. 933 (MS. 9).

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 76.

Alexander & Temple, *College libraries*, no. 651.

Status: Draft