

MS. 319

Cassiodorus, Isidore, Hugh of St.-Victor
England; s. xii^{2/4} or med.

Text

[Section I, items 1–6, occupy quires 1–6]

1. (fol. iir) Chapter-list, starting imperfect at ‘*xii Diuisio scripturae diuinae ...*’ due to the loss of the first leaf. [\[Image\]](#)
2. (fols. iir–16r) Cassiodorus, *De institutionibus diuinarum litterarum*: ‘[Preface:] Cum studia secularium litterarum ... breuiter intimatum [Text:] *De Octotheuco .i. Primus scripturarum ... pio domino supplicemus*’ (Dekkers, *CPL*, no. 906; edited by R. A. B. Mynors, *Cassiodori senatoris institutiones* (Oxford, 1937; 2nd edn. 1963), p. xliii, and *passim* with the siglum ‘O²’). [\[Image\]](#)
3. (fols. 16r–23r) Isidore of Seville, *In libros veteris ac novi testamenti: ‘Liber Ysidori. De librorum noui ac ueteris testamenti plenitudine ... postulata sequentia prenotabo.’* (Dekkers, *CPL*, no. 1192; pr. Migne, *PL*, LXXXIII, cols. 155C–750B; also found in BL, Royal MS 5 B.viii). [\[Image\]](#)
4. (fols. 23r–31r) Isidore of Seville: ‘*Incipit liber Ysidori de ortu et obitu patrum. Quorundam sanctorum nobilissimorumque uirorum ortus vel gesta. ... et in pace sepultus est.*’ (pr. Migne, *PL*, LXXXIII, cols. 129–56; Manuel C. Diaz y Diaz, *Index scriptorum Latinorum Medii Aevi Hispanorum*, Acta Salamanticensia, Filosofia y letras, 13, nos. 1–2 (2 vols., Salamanca, 1958–9), I, no. 103; Dekkers, *CPL*, no. 1190). [\[Image\]](#)
5. (fols. 31r–38v) Isidore of Seville, *Allegoriae sacre scripturae ad Orosium*: ‘[Letter:] *Orosio suo Ysidorus salutes. Quedam notissima nomina legis ... corrigenda iudicio. [Text:] Adam figuram christi gestauit ... refectione saturabuntur. Explicit liber Ysidori Spalensis episcopi de significationibus quorundam uirorum sanctorum.*’ (pr. Migne, *PL*, LXXXIII, cols. 97–130; Diaz y Diaz, *op. cit.*, no. 109; Dekkers, *CPL*, no. 1190). [\[Image\]](#)
6. (fols. 38v–42r) Isidore of Seville: ‘*Incipit liber eiusdem de catalogo uirorum illustrium. Osius Cordubensis ciuitatis episcopus scripsit ad sororem de laude uirginitatis epistolam ... quae necdum legi.*’ (pr. Migne, *PL*, CLXXII, cols. 221B–228; ed. Carmen Codoñer Merino, *El ‘De uiris illustribus’ de Isidoro de Sevilla: estudio y edicion critica*, Theses et studia philologica salmanticensia, 12 (Salamanca, 1964), the present manuscript with the siglum ‘Q’, described at p. 100); most of fol. 42r and 42v originally unwritten. [\[Image\]](#)
7. (fol. 42r) Added 13th-century notes written in documentary hands: ‘*Dicit Aristotiles quod Omnis causa precedit suum causatum, sed festum est causa uigile, ergo festum debet precedere uigiliam suam, quod festum est.*’, and ‘*Cum tibi copia cum sapientia formaque detur | Inquinat omnia sola superbia si comidetur*’ (usually with ‘sit’ instead of ‘cum’: Walther, *Sprichwörter*, no. 29238). [\[Image\]](#)
8. (fol. 42v) Extensive added 13th-century notes written in faint leadpoint. [\[Image\]](#)

[Section II, item 9, occupies quires 7–17]

9. (fols. 43r–128v) Hugh of St.-Victor, *De sacramentis*, the 12-part Book I, preceded by a preface and chapter-list, ending imperfect in part 12, ch. 2: ‘*Incipit prologus libri de sacramentis ab initio usque in finem. in unam seriem dispositis.* [Preface:] *Librum de sacramentis christianae fidei studio quorundam scribere compulsus sum ... ordinauimus. in hunc modum. In distictione prologi capitula haec sunt* [the capitula ending in part 12, chapter 10, on fol. 46v, much of which is blank] [fol. 47r, Text:] *Cum igitur de prima eruditione sacri eloquii ... propter quod necessaria fuit ||’* (pr. Migne, *PL*, CLXXVI, cols. 173–618, this MS. ending in col. 350A; cf. Rudolf Goy, *Die Überlieferung der Werke Hugos von St. Viktor*, Monografien zur Geschichte des Mittelalters, 14 (Stuttgart, 1976), no. 2.2.3.9, citing the present manuscript at p. 157).
[Image] [Image]

Decoration

The start of the main text of Hugh of St.-Victor with a fine initial ‘C’ composed of acanthus, with green, red, and brown modelling, on a blue ground; the first four lines of text in display capitals highlighted in green (fol. 47r) (Alexander & Temple, pl. III) [Image]; other texts with four- to seven-line initials, sometimes parted, in red, green, ochre, or combinations of these colours [Image] [Image] [Image] [Image]; two-line initials in the same colours, alternating [Image]; one fine lion-head run-over symbol (fol. 20r). [Image]

Physical description

Parchment; *c.*280 x *c.*185 mm.

ff. i (parchment, conjoint with pastedown; fol. i) + 131 (fols. ii–128), foliated sporadically in 19th-century pencil, apparently having missed three of the first leaves (thus with ‘16’ on the 19th leaf, etc.); the remaining leaves foliated in modern pencil preserving this numbering: i–iv, 1–128.

Written in late caroline script, without ‘biting’ of letters.

Section I:

Parchment of good quality.

1⁸⁻² (the outer bifolium missing) (fols. ii–iv, 1–3), 2–5⁸ (fols. 4–35), 6⁸⁻¹ (the last leaf cancelled) (fols. 36–42); no catchwords or quire signatures.

Ruled in drypoint for two columns of 37 lines of text, written above top line; the 1st and 3rd horizontal lines extending the full width of the page; the double vertical bounding and triple inter-columnar lines extending the full height of the page; the ruled space *c.*195 x *c.*135 mm., each column *c.*60 mm. wide; the text usually also occupying the right-hand bounding lines, and the coloured initials indented but extending into the left-hand bounding lines; some pricking for vertical rulings survive.

Secundo folio: ‘patrio sermone’.

Section II:

Parchment of mediocre quality, sometimes thick, with holes, etc.

7⁶ (fols. 43–48), 8–17⁸ (fols. 49–128) [further quire(s) missing]; quires signed ‘.I.’–‘.XI.’ (with ‘III’ not ‘IV’ [\[Image\]](#), but ‘IX’ not ‘VIII’).

Ruled in drypoint for a single column of 33 lines of text written above top line, with double bounding lines to each side; varying patterns of horizontal lines are ruled the full width of the page: sometimes just the top line, or the 1st and 3rd from the top and 1st and 4th from the bottom, etc.; the ruled text space, including bounding lines, *c.*205–10 x *c.*130–35 mm., the written space *c.*205 x *c.*125 mm; coloured initials less indented than in Section I.

Secundo folio: ‘quod diuine’ (fol. 44r), ‘hac vero’ (fol. 45r).

Binding

‘Henry VIII’ binding. Sewn on two medieval (original?) slit thongs, the joints broken and the sewing disintegrating; with (original?) oak boards, covered with red velvet; with five shallow metal bosses and four corner-pieces on each cover; five nails remaining from the title-piece on the front cover; formerly with two clasps at the fore-edge, the back one intact, the upper one missing. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

Provenance

1. Written in England towards the middle of the 12th century; the scribe of part I may be from the West Country (ex info. Michael Gullick).
2. Henry VIII, on the evidence of the binding (cf. Carley, *The libraries of King Henry VIII*, p. lxxv).
3. Queen’s College; with the Old Library shelfmark ‘84.6’ on fol. i verso and the back pastedown [\[Image\]](#); included in Langbaine’s mid 17th-century catalogue, p. 414, mentioning the binding, with the shelfmark Arch. B. 2. 4; also listed with this shelfmark three times (under Cassiodorus, Hugo, and Isidore) in the 1689 catalogue in MS. 555; inscribed with the shelfmark ‘Arch. B. 2. 4’, altered to ‘Arch. B. 3. 3’; subsequently ‘S. 15’, crossed through. [\[Image\]](#)

Bibliography

Bernard, *CLM*, p. 29 no. 931 (MS. 7).

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 76.

Alexander & Temple, *College libraries*, no. 26, pl. III (fol. 47, detail).

Status: Draft