

MS. 322

Peter of Poitiers, *Distinctiones super psalterium*; Gloss on the Psalms England (Gloucester?); s. xiii in.

Text

[Item 1 occupies quire 1 and the inserted first leaf of quire 2]

1. (fols. ii^r–vii^v) Added alphabetical index of item 2 below, mostly with folio references: ‘Abel principium ecclesie. f. 27^r. Item 45^r | ... | Zona. 84^r. | Zizania.’ (folio references with a single dot above refer to a recto, those with a double dot refer to a verso) [\[Image\]](#); additions to the index have been made, by at least two hands, in spaces left for this purpose [\[Image\]](#); with a heading in faint leadpoint, apparently: ‘Distinctiones super psalterium’ (fol. ii^r).

[Items 2–4 occupy quires 2–11]

2. (fols. 1r–106r) Peter of Poitiers, *Distinctiones super psalterium*: ‘[Prologue, fol. 1r–v] FACIES mihi tentorium in introitu tabernaculi [cf. Exodus 26:36] iii^{or} pretiosis coloribus contextum. ... [\[Image\]](#) [Text, fols. 1v–106r:] Beatus vir qui non. [margin:] Quot modis homines deformati sunt [Distinctiones:] Quantum ad corpus ut cines es & in cinerem reuerteris ... quoniam mortalis perfecte deum laudare non potest ... omnia predicamenta’ [\[Image\]](#) (Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 6783, citing the present manuscript; Glorieux, *Théologie*, no. 100c; see also Philip S. Moore, *The works of Peter of Poitiers, master in theology and chancellor of Paris (1193–1205)* (Washington, 1936), pp. 78–96, listing the present manuscript at p. 85 among 13th-century copies of the ‘continuous’ version of the text); the psalms numbered in upper-case roman numerals as far as XCIX (fol. 77r); with rubrics referring to Augustine, Cassiodorus, etc.; with frequent marginal annotations and additions, including notes on time, and reptiles: ‘Annus. Lunaribus habens .cc.liiiij. dies | ...’, and ‘Reptilium .3. sunt genera. ...’ (fol. 48v); on virgins and virginity, with a reference to Berengar on the Apocalypse (fols. 50v–51r); on doves (fol. 50v); and on the four births of Christ (fol. 62v); among others.
3. (fol. 106r–v) Added, 13th century, lists of the: ‘.vij. petitiones’; ‘vij. dona spiritus sancti’; ‘vij. vicia’; ‘.vij. uirtutes’; and ‘.vii. Beatitudines’. [\[Image\]](#)
4. (fol. 106v) Added by a somewhat later hand, a verse summary of Hugo of Folieto’s *Tractatus de 12 abusiones claustrum* (i.e. his *De claustrum anime* 2.11–22), in the form of twelve numbered ‘Abusiones claustrum’, each with a verse: ‘.1.^a Prelatus negligens. Forma gregis factus; proprios qui despicit actus. | .2. ...’; and twelve numbered ‘Abusiones seculi’, each in verse: ‘.1. Rex ratione carens & iniquis estibus arens | .2. ...’; both sets of verses are also found in Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS. 481, pp. 419–20 (see M. R. James, *CCCC cat.*, p. 427). [\[Image\]](#)

[Item 5 occupies quires 12–17]

5. (fols. 107r–160v) Anonymous Gloss on the Psalms: ‘[Lemma:] Beatus vir. [Gloss:] Est regio similitudinis in qua fuit adam ante peccatum ... sicut magnitudo; sine fine ita & laus.’ (Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 10075, citing only the present manuscript and

Bodleian, MS. Bodl. 44, an early 13th-century Reading Abbey book); breaking off abruptly in the first column of fol. 107v, and leaving the remainder of that page, and fol. 108r blank; fols. 161r to the end blank except for a few early inscriptions in faint leadpoint and ink. [\[Image\]](#)

Decoration

The Distinctions section with initials alternately in blue with red penwork, or vice versa; the eight-part divisions of the Psalter with the most elaborate ones (fols. 1r, 18v, 28v, 37v, 52v, 65v, 76r, 85r [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)) that on fol. 1r extending into border penwork decoration in red and blue, including an animal head; similar border decoration on the first recto of two other quires (fols. 53r, 63r) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#); other initials alternately plain red or blue.

The Gloss section similarly decorated, including one red initial on a blue ground at the start (fol. 107r) [\[Image\]](#); and enlarged initials at a few of the ten-part divisions of the Psalter (fols. 119r, 177v), with frequent extensions of penwork into the margin (e.g. fols. 109r, 116r, etc.), and a marginal drawing in red ink of a hybrid dragon (fol. 136r).

Physical description

Parchment; *c.*250 x *c.*180 mm; with some natural flaws and uneven edges.

ff. 166; the first and last were formerly pastedowns, the main text leaves foliated in the middle of the upper margin, in 13th-century Arabic numerals [\[Image\]](#), 1–160, changing hand at fol. 107 (the start of the Gloss section) and omitting 121 [\[Image\]](#); the preceding and following leaves foliated in modern pencil: i–vi, and 161–163; fol. v and 162 foliated ‘5^x’ and ‘162’ in 19th-century ink.

Quires mostly of ten leaves each: 1⁴ (fols. i–iv); 2¹⁰⁺¹ (1st leaf inserted) (fols. v, 1–10), 3¹⁰ (fols. 11–20), 4¹² (fols. 21–32), 5–7¹⁰ (fols. 33–62), 8¹² (fols. 63–74), 9–10¹⁰ (fols. 75–94), 11¹² (fols. 95–106); 12–16¹⁰ (fols. 107–157), 17⁸⁻² (5th & 6th leaves cancelled) (fols. 158–163); arranged with a hair-side outermost; catchwords survive sporadically (e.g. fols. 32v, 157v); quire numbers survive in most quires, in ink roman numerals ‘i.’–‘xvj.’, ignoring the added quire 1, and starting with ‘i qu(a)t(ernus?)’ in quire 2 (fol. 10v); leaf signatures in leadpoint occur occasionally: those in quires 2, 7, and 8 consist of letters and signs (e.g. ‘ao’–‘eo’; ‘a+’–‘f+’); quire 16 has an ‘a’ on rectos as well as an ‘a’ with a catchword on versos. [\[Image\]](#)

The Index ruled in leadpoint for three columns of 50–64 lines, written below top line; the Distinctions section ruled in leadpoint for 41 (but occasionally 40) lines of text per page, written above top line, in one column, usually with the first and third, and last and antepenultimate horizontal lines extending the full width of the page, between single vertical bounding lines, and with a pair of vertical lines in the left margin to guide the coloured first letters of each Distinction; the space ruled for the main column of text *c.*150–5 x *c.*100–5 mm. [\[Image\]](#); the Gloss on the Psalms section ruled for 40 lines of text above top line in two columns, usually with the top two and bottom two horizontal lines ruled the full width of the page; with three vertical inter-columnar lines and a pair of vertical lines guiding the outer edge of each column, and with a further vertical line in each side margin, the space ruled for the main columns of text *c.*145–5 x *c.*105 mm.; prickings frequently survive in all four margins throughout the volume.

Written in gothic script; by several scribes: one responsible for item 1; another for fol. 1r to fol. 8r line 15; a third for fol. 8r line 16 to fol. 106r line 26; a fourth, using some documentary features, for the Gloss section; and others for various additions.

Secundo folio: 'Desperatio' (fol. iiii); 'quidam cum' (fol. 2r).

Binding

Original blind-stamped binding (illustrated and described in detail by Michael Gullick, 'A Romanesque blind-stamped binding at The Queen's College, Oxford', in David Pearson, ed., *For the love of the binding': studies in bookbinding history presented to Mirjam Foot* (London and New Castle, 2000), pp. 1–8). Sewn on three slit alum-tawed straps laced into oak boards through their thickness, and pegged into horizontal channels in the outer face of the boards with wood wedges; the lower edge of the spine with a semi-circular pink-stained tab of skin; the back board with the substantial remains of a 'Romanesque' blind-stamped leather cover, employing a large round stamp with the Agnus Dei, a lozenge stamp with a lioness(?), and smaller oval and circular stamps with a rosette, circlets, etc.; the front board with a recess at the middle of the fore-edge for a clasp-fitting; the back board with a corresponding brass catch-plate; the back board with traces of a chain-staple at the lower fore-edge. [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#)

Provenance

1. Written in England in the early 13th century (item 1 is written below top line, and is thus perhaps a little later than the rest of the volume; it includes a reference to Text item 3 which appears to be a contemporary addition) [\[Image\]](#); inscribed in an early 13th-century hand 'Distinctiones super psalterium; R. de Scotte.' (fol. iir) [\[Image\]](#) by a hand that Michael Gullick (*op. cit.*, p. 7) has identified as that of a scribe who added lists of contents to Hereford Cathedral Library, MSS P. i. 1 and P. ii. 4, both Gloucester books (see R. A. B. Mynors, Rodney M. Thomson, and Michael Gullick, *Catalogue of the manuscripts of Hereford Cathedral Library* (Cambridge, 1993), pls. 38a–b), and who wrote two Gloucester Abbey charters datable to 1165–1207 (see Robert B. Patterson, *Original Acta of St. Peter's Abbey, Gloucester, c. 1122–1263*, Gloucestershire Record Series, 11 (1998), nos. 254 and 255, Patterson's scribe 28 for whom see p. xli and pl. XXII. Patterson nos. 84 and 105 can be attributed to the same scribe (ex info. Michael Gullick), datable 1179–1205 and 1197, respectively. At the end of this inscription has been added in the 13th/14th century '& psalterium glosatum'. The Gloss text is recorded in only one other manuscript, from Reading abbey. The present manuscript is included by Montague Rhodes James, *The ancient libraries of Canterbury and Dover ...* (Cambridge, 1903), p. 533, presumably on the possibility that 'R. de Scott' could be the St. Augustine's donor Radulphus Scot; but St. Augustine's ownership is rejected by Bruce Barker-Benfield (CBMLC, forthcoming).
2. Unidentified house: inscribed, 13th/14th-century 'prior' Willelmo' (fol. i verso). [\[Image\]](#)
3. Inscribed, 16th century, later defaced: 'L[iber?] P[salterium?] B[...?]', and 'p(er)(?) Jo(h)an(ne)s(?) cottyrshal(?)' (fol. i verso) [\[Image\]](#); and '93'? (fol. ii verso, bottom margin). [\[Image\]](#)

4. Queen's College: included in Langbaine's mid 17th-century catalogue, and under 'S' for Ric. (sic) de Scotte in the 1689 catalogue in MS. 555; inscribed with the former shelfmarks 'Arch: B. 4. 2.' and 'S. 18', both crossed through (fol. i verso); and in pencil '322' (fol. ir; and on the College bookplate, fol. i verso). [\[Image\]](#)

Bibliography

Bernard, *CLM*, p. 30 no. 939 (MS. 15).

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 77.

Michael Landgraf, *Einführung in die Geschichte der theologischen Literatur der Neuscholastik* (Regensburg, 1948), p. 106.

Alexander & Temple, *College libraries*, no. 156.

Status: Draft