

## MS. 323

### Gospel of St. Luke, with *Glossa ordinaria* England (or France?); s. xii<sup>2/4</sup> or med.

#### Text

1. (fols. 1–113v) Gospel of St. Luke, preceded by prologues (Stegmüller, *RB*, nos. 614, 620), with *Glossa ordinaria* (pr. Migne, *PL*, CXIV, cols. 244–354; the first gloss is Stegmüller, *RB*, no. 11829 (15)) [[Image](#)] [[Image](#)]; cf. Worcester Cathedral, MS. Q. 82.
2. (lower pastedown) Distinctiones, linking nine phrases ‘Summum bonum | Magnum bonum | Quoddam bonum | ...’, on the left, to the words ‘Deus’, ‘Anima’, and ‘Corpus’, on the right. [[Image](#)]
3. (lower pastedown) A nine-line inscription quoting Jerome and Ambrose: ‘Iheronimus in xvii libro super ezechielem de extrema uisione eius que facta est ei. de edificio in monte constituto facit mentionem de salomone dicens; Quamuis peccasset tamen egit penitentiam ... hominem nutu diuino corruit’. [[Image](#)]

#### Decoration

Enlarged simple red initial with blue penwork, and vice versa (fol. 1r); other initials and paraphs in plain brown ink.

#### Physical description

Parchment; *c.*235 x *c.*155 mm.; damaged by water, causing several leaves to stick to one another.

ff. i (parchment, conjoint with the pastedown) + 113 (the last conjoint with the pastedown); foliated in modern pencil; fol. 113 with ‘114’, 19th-century.

Quires mostly of eight leaves each: 1–14<sup>8</sup> (fols. 1–112), 15<sup>2</sup> (fol. 113 and pastedown); quire signatures in lower-case roman numerals survive in most of the first eight quires.

The central column of biblical text ruled in drypoint with 17 lines, the top one and bottom one ruled the full width of the page, between pairs of vertical bounding lines, ruled the full height of the page, this ruled space *c.*150 x *c.*45 mm., with drypoint vertical ruling for the side columns, the overall ruled space *c.*150 x *c.*135 mm.; ad hoc horizontal rulings to either side in leadpoint or brown ‘crayon’, as required by the gloss; prickings survive in all four margins.

Written with 17 lines of the main biblical text, above top line, in a central column of fixed width, with up to 50 lines of gloss to each side, in two more columns of fixed width (cf. de Hamel, *Glossed books*, p. 15, pls. 1, 4); the main text in an elegant formal bookhand; the gloss in smaller less formal script. [[Image](#)]

Secundo folio: ‘in solo legis’.

#### Binding

‘Henry VIII’ black velvet binding [[Image](#)] [[Image](#)]. (Re-?)sewn on three bands (broken) laced into the original(?) oak boards; covered with black velvet (very worn); each board

with five bosses, clasps and catches (one clasp detached); both joints broken and both boards almost completely detached; with no sign of a title-piece of the usual type on either cover, but with the remains of a slip of parchment stuck to the front pastedown, projecting from the fore-edge of the front board, bearing the remains of an early inscription, perhaps ‘Ev[angelium | se[cundum | ... ]’; a trace of paste suggests that there was an equivalent slip pasted into MS. 317, from Reading and the royal collection; rust-stains and holes from a chain-staple at the lower fore-edge of the back board. Boxed.

### Provenance

1. Written perhaps in France, but in England at Reading Abbey by the time of the compilation of their *c.*1190–95 booklist; with their usual 13th-century *ex libris* inscription (cf. MS. 317): ‘Hic e(st) lib(er) s(ancte). Marie de Rading(is). Que(m) q(u)i celau(er)it u(el) fraude(m) de eo fec(er)it. anath(em)a sit.’ (fol. ir [\[Image\]](#)) (cf. 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; *MLGB*, p. 157; R. Sharpe, *et al.*, *English Benedictine libraries: the shorter catalogues*, CMBLC, 4 (1996), no. B71.142 or B71.184; Alan Coates, *English medieval books: the Reading Abbey collections from foundation to dispersal* (Oxford, 1999), pp. 33, 38, 57, 130, 131, and 151 no. 40).
2. Henry VIII, on the evidence of the binding (cf. Carley, *The libraries of King Henry VIII*, p. xxxvii).
3. Queen’s College: with the Old Library shelfmark ‘84.2’ (fol. ir [\[Image\]](#)) and back pastedown ([\[Image\]](#)); included in Langbaine’s mid 17th-century catalogue (Bodleian, MS. Langbaine 7, p. 418), describing the binding, and in the 1689 catalogue in MS. 555, under the shelfmark Arch. B. 3. 6.; former College shelfmarks ‘Arch:B.3.6. [*the 6 altered to*] 4’, ‘S.19’, both crossed-through, and ‘A.2.’, all on the front pastedown [\[Image\]](#); the College bookplate and fol. ir inscribed in pencil ‘323’. 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. 317) is unlikely, since the manuscript was listed by Langbaine about 50 years before the other Barlow books came to the College.

### Bibliography

Coxe, *Catalogus*, p. 77.

Status: Draft