

## MS. 369

### New Testament, in the earlier Wycliffite version England; s. xv in.

#### Text

1. (fols. 1r–137v) Gospels, with prologues: ‘*Here bigynnythe the prologe of Mathew Mathew of jewerye born as he is putte first in ordre. so first he wroot þe goospel in iewis. langage whas clepyng to god was from publicanys dedys ...* [\[Image\]](#) [fol. 1v:] *Ierom in his prologe of Mathew seiþe þis here bigynnyþ first chapitell of Mathew* The book of generacion of ihesu crist. þe sone of dauid. þe sone of abraham. Abraham gendryd or bygate ysaac ... [Matthew, with prologue (fols. 1r–46v); Mark, with prologue (fols. 46v–70r) [\[Image\]](#); Luke, with prologue (fols. 70r–108r) [\[Image\]](#); John, with prologue (fols. 108r–137v)] ... take þe bokis þat ben to be wryten. *Here eendip þe gospel of ioon. & also here is þe eendynge of alle þe gspellis as þei stonden in þe bible: by þe seiynge of þe foure ewangelistis mathew marke luke & Ioon*’ (edited by Forshall & Madden, IV, pp. 1–297). [\[Image\]](#)
2. (fols. 137v–198v) Pauline Epistles, with prologues, ending imperfect at I Timothy 2:12: ‘*Here bygynnyþ þe prolog to fore þe epistlis to romayns & bygynneþ þus:* [F]irste undirstonde us by houep to whomopir whi þe apostle poul wryteþ his epistlis. ... [\[Image\]](#) [Romans, with prologue (fols. 137v–152r); I Corinthians, with prologue (fols. 152r–166v); II Corinthians, with prologue (fols. 166v–176r); Galatians, with prologue (fols. 176r–181r); Ephesians, with prologue (fols. 181r–186r); Philippians, with prologue (fols. 186r–189v); Colossians, with prologue (fols. 189v–193r); I Thessalonians, with prologue (fols. 193r–196r); II Thessalonians, with prologue (fols. 196r–197v); I Timothy, with prologue (fols. 197v–198v)] ... neiþir for to haue lordschipe into þe man or *housbonde* but for to be in scilence; forsoþe [catchword:] adam ||’ (ed. Forshall & Madden, IV, pp. 298–456). [\[Image\]](#)

#### Decoration

Two-line initials in plain red at the start of prologues and books.

#### Physical description

Parchment, c.175 x c.120 mm., of mediocre quality.

ff. iii (paper) + 198 + iii (paper), foliated in modern pencil: i–iii, 1–201; filling the gaps in a very sporadic 19th-century ink foliation.

Quires mostly of eight leaves: 1–11<sup>8</sup> (fols. 1–88), 12<sup>6</sup> (fols. 89–94), 13–25<sup>8</sup> (fols. 95–198); catchwords throughout, within simple frames; leaf signatures apparently in two series, one starting with [‘a’] in quire 1 and reaching ‘r’–‘t’ in quires 17–19; another series starting in quire 15 with ‘a’, continuing in the next quire with ‘b’, then skipping to quires 20–22 with ‘d’–‘f’.

Each column frame-ruled in brown ink, the top and bottom horizontal lines extending the full width of the page, each column between single vertical bounding lines extending the

full height of the page; the ruled space *c.* 125–30 x *c.* 75–80 mm.; prickings frequently survive in the upper and lower margins.

Written with 36–38 lines per page in an anglicana script.

Secundo folio: ‘salmon. salmon’.

### **Binding**

Sewn on three cords and bound in 19th-century English reddish brown leather, the spine lettered in gilt capitals ‘Newe | Testament || M S.’; marbled endpapers. [\[Image\]](#)

### **Provenance**

1. Inscribed, 16th century, ‘Henry Stephens’ (fol. 135v) [\[Image\]](#); with other early inscriptions, not including names.
2. Inscribed, 17th(?) century ‘RG’ in large letters (fol. 98v, cf. ‘R’ on fol. 144v). [\[Image\]](#)
3. Queen’s College: inscribed ‘Bibliotheca | Coll. Reg. | Oxon’ in ink, and later in pencil (fol. ii<sup>v</sup>); also inscribed ‘W.7.’, crossed through, next to which ‘(v. Cat. p 86.’ (referring to Coxe, *Catalogus*) is inscribed. [\[Image\]](#)

### **Bibliography**

Forshall & Madden, I, p. liii no. 102.

Coxe, *Catalogus*, pp. 86–7.

Conrad Lindberg, ‘The manuscripts and versions of the Wycliffite Bible: a preliminary survey’, *Studia Neophilologica*, 42 no. 2 (1970), pp. 333–47, cited at p. 335.

Ogilvie-Thomson, IMEP, pp. xviii, 83.

Conrad Lindberg, ed., *The earlier version of the Wycliffite Bible*, vol. 7: *The Gospels edited from MS Christ Church 145* (1994), *passim*; and vol. 8: *The epistles etc. edited from MS Christ Church 145*, Acta Universitatis Stockholmiensis, Stockholm Studies in English, 87 (Stockholm, 1997), at p. 374, siglum ‘Qu’.

Status: Draft