

THE WINCHESTER BIBLE
and the
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

CATALOGUE
With Introduction

THE WINCHESTER BIBLE

On 2 reels of 35mm colour positive roll microfilm, with Introduction and 'Catalogue of the Initials' (printed separately) by SIR WALTER OAKESHOTT.

THE WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

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Catalogue of Manuscripts, with an Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Some manuscripts in the Library of Winchester Cathedral,
formerly the church of the Benedictine Priory St. Swithun

The texts described briefly in this short note are manuscripts in the present library of Winchester Cathedral, with the addition of one item from the archives, a cartulary of St. Swithun's Priory. Only a few books made in Winchester survive in the city from the monastic period. Of these the Winchester Bible is by far the most famous, but the earliest text is a copy of Bede's Ecclesiastical History which was written before the Normans rebuilt the Saxon Oldminster. The Cathedral's Bede (Ms. 1) could be a Winchester copied book, and could have been in the city before 1066. If Dean Kirchin was right, and this manuscript originated in Glastonbury, perhaps it was brought to Winchester by Henry de Blois, whose generosity and wealth helped to bring about what has been called the Romanesque Revival of the twelfth century. St. Swithun's Priory then gained some splendid books. The great Vulgate Bible (Ms. XVII), the commentary on the Psalms by Cassiodorus Senator (Ms. IV), a copy of St. Augustine on St. John's Gospel (Ms. II) and a Jerome (Ms. V) remain as vivid reminders of a period of intellectual exercised by Cassiodorus in his monastery in Southern Italy could influence the life of an English monastery, and his great library at Vivarioum had not been forgotten. Other Winchester books of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries survive in other libraries. Locally, a copy of Paschasius Radbertus (the lamentations of Jeremiah) (Winchester College Ms. 5, Fellows' Library) is written in a twelfth century "Winchester" hand, and some of its initials use the purple colour to be found in the Cathedral's St. Augustine, undoubtedly a Priory book. Some of the twelfth century books had characteristic bindings, stamped (on leather) with designs of birds and beasts, and particularly associated with Henry de Blois. A generous gift from Mr. C.W. Dyson Perrins, the Hegeisippus (Ms. XX), has this splendid kind of binding, which is found also on the Winchester Psalter (now in the British Library), almost certainly written for Henry de Blois, and the small book generally but mistakenly known as the Winchester Domesday, which consists of two twelfth century surveys of the city, and is now in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of London. The first recorded owner of the Domesday was Dean John Young (d. 1654) but it is not on the list of Cathedral Manuscripts made by his brother Patrick, James I's Librarian.

The evidence of the Dean's diary suggests that this list could have been compiled on one of Patrick's Christmas visits to Winchester. The Domesday may have been "collected" by Patrick Young or perhaps it was amongst the archives of St. Cross Hospital, founded by de Blos, and where the Dean's father, Sir Peter Young (d. 1628) was the nominal and absentee master. There was a library at St. Cross, and the earliest surviving library lists in Winchester are those of an "ancient" library there and of the additions to that library made by Master John de Campeden, (d.1410), William of Wykeham's friend.

Some of the Cathedral manuscripts may have originated in other religious houses, and there is also evidence of the movement of manuscripts between Winchester College and the Cathedral. The so-called Liber Smaragdi (Ms.XIV) is a thirteenth century book which has been in two parts for many years and still continues so, as well as being in the joint ownership of the College and the Cathedral. William of Wykeham directed that this book should be read in his School: it was frequently used thus in monastic refectories because of its suitable content. Both parts are now in the Cathedral Library through the generous action of the Warden and Fellow of Winchester College, who remain the owners of Part One, a book which they deposited in the Cathedral in 1977. The early 14th century manuscript called the Register of Statutes and Writs (Ms. XVIII) presented to the Dean and Chapter in 1921 is a rare example in Winchester of the illuminated books of that period, though it was not made in Winchester and is a working book of reference for lawyers.

There was certainly a distinction in late monastic times between books in the private ownership of monks and books which belonged to the Library. Mr. N.R. Ker has pointed out the gift of two books by a Winchester monk in 1424, and there was clearly a period of revival in St. Swithun's in the mid fifteenth century. The great Concordance of Conrad de Alemannia (Ms. XVI) is a late 14th or early 15th century book, in the Library of 1652 and indicative perhaps of that academic revival associated with the work of the historian Thomas Rudborne (d.c. 1458) a monk in the Priory, whose histories are no longer in Winchester, but who may have been the Cathedral's Librarian. The fifteenth century copy of Trivetts' account of the Plantagenets (Ms. XII) also belongs to Rudborne's time, as does the Book of Homilies which contains the Golden Legend (Ms.XI), (there were other copies of the Legend in Winchester) and the life of Godefrey the Hermit (Ms.X) the last quarter of the 15th century the then Prior, Thomas Silkstead, probably bought the paper book containing inter alia the earliest English-Latin dictionary, Promptorium Parvulorum (Ms.XV), though the mere fact of Silkstead's name in it does not prove him the purchaser. When the last Prior (who was also the first Dean), William Kingsmill, died in 1548 "his books" at Silkstead, the Priory's summer retreat, were only valued at 35/8, less than the pewter vessels in his household, but there were twenty "bored" books in his lodgings in the Tabard at Southwark, as well as five parchment-covered books kept in his private

chapel there. These twenty five books were not given any separate valuation nor are their titles revealed. Significantly perhaps the man chiefly responsible for the Dean's inventory was William Lawrence, a distinguished Winchester lawyer who still kept to the old beliefs. The Cathedral Library had in fact almost reached the point when it was politically unwise, even dangerous, to possess the 'wrong' books.

In the detailed account roll apparently drawn up immediately after the surrender of the Priory, and before Dean Kingsmill's temporary appointment as Custos, there is nothing about this library or its books. In May 1562 Bishop Robert Horne ordered the Dean and Chapter to make a Library 'in a convenient and decent place and to furnish (it) with such books as should be from time to time appointed'. By November of that year, the 'new' library was finished; and in 1571 Horne repeated his injunctions that five marks a year was to be spent on books, but there is nothing to suggest that any particular care was taken for the manuscripts, though the archives of the Dean and Chapter were kept in a separate nuptial room. This Post-Reformation-Pre Civil War-Library was probably where the Morley Library is today. It too had a 'wickette' gate, and its fittings were apparently modelled on those of the Grey Friars Library at Southampton. It was presumably from this library that George Ryves, in 1601, took the great Bible still in the Bodleian Library.

The contents of the library at St. Cross in the late mediaeval period were mainly musical, but there is evidence that in Peter Young's time as Master and in John Young's time as Dean, there was some movement of archives between the Cathedral and the Hospital. The Library in St. Cross, used presumably by its large clerical staff, and by the Hospital's small school and its schoolmaster, survived the Reformation, and seems to have been intermittently maintained by the Dean and Chapter; on the death of Bishop Morley in 1684 the capitular body deemed it necessary to send down to the Hospital and sort out the Bishop's books from the other books there. The Cathedral is fortunate that before the Civil War its manuscripts were listed by Patrick Young and that two early 17th century Canons gave valuable texts to the collection. Three mediaeval manuscripts were given to the Library by Doctor John Bridges (d.1618) Canon of Winchester and Bishop of Oxford, best known for his part in the Marprelate controversy. The life of St. Nicholas of Myra by John the Deacon, a thirteenth century book, has local interest since it also contains some elegiac verse on the death of Henry de Blois (Ms. III). A second book, from the same donor, is the so called Harmony of the Gospels, Zacharias Chysopolitanus, (Ms. VIII), in a Winchester hand, made in Winchester. Bridges also gave the 14th century Legend of the Holy Cross (Ms. IX) whose first owner was perhaps a Canon of Southwell. A near contemporary of Bridges, Doctor John Ebdon (d.1614) presented the Library with an (anonymous) 13th century compendium of Theology (Ms. VI). These gifts, from two Cathedral canons, came at an interesting time when church libraries were being revived and reinforced for their increasingly important role in the theological controversy of the day, and when Archbishop George Abbot, a former Dean, died in 1633, he left the Cathedral a number of printed books. After the execution of Charles I, and the abolition of the Dean and Chapter, the contents of the Cathedral's library were sent to London, listed in 1652, and eventually presented to Winchester College in accordance with the terms of a resolution of the House of Commons. In 1660, the College returned the great majority of the manuscripts, but there were losses and the

Cathedral's copy of Bede's Martyrology (though recorded in 1697 and 1935) and Alcuin's letters seem to have disappeared for ever. Other manuscripts have been mutilated, including the great Bible and Bede's History. Dean Rennell (d.1840) had the Bible rebound, in three volumes, covered in olive green morocco, and had its leaf-edges regilded. In the second half of the nineteenth century, the Cathedral librarian, Canon Madge, who served the library for some fifty years, was able to begin the work of Cataloguing with the help and advice of Charles Plummer and G.F. Warner. In recent years, the Cathedral Library and all those who work in it have been immeasurably indebted to Sir Walter Oakeshott, the Honorary Librarian from 1947 till 1954, and for his continued loving care of the Library and for his study of its great Bible.

The Winchester Cathedral Manuscript Collection

LIST OF CONTENTS OF REELS

Ms. No. & Title/Description

REEL ONE

- Ms I Bede: Historia Ecclesiasticam Gentis Anglorum
Latin, vellum, ff. 107 Dr. W.F. Oakeshott has pointed out that the binding dates from c.1600, and still has an iron holder for a chain: i.e. it dates from the short period when the Cathedral had a chained library. The text of the history is complete, but the manuscript ends with the Prologue to a poem De Abbatis, by Ethelwulf. The poem itself, and the remaining leaves of this book are bound up at the end of B.L. Ms. Cott. Tit. D. iv, (formerly ff. 309-318, now ff. 158-66). This Cotton manuscript was badly damaged in the great fire of 1731; but the date of the removal of the poem is not known. The History is a late 10th century copy in several English hands, perhaps from an Irish exemplar: f.45(6), a note in a later hand suggests that it was in Winchester by 14th century. The book was first described by G F Warner, and his notes formed the basis of its full description in Charles Plummer's edition of Bede's works. The Cathedral had a copy of Bede's Martyrology, but that has not been seen since the end of the 17th century, and the reference in Eyre's list of 1697 suggests that the history and the martyrology were in one volume, bound together. The Historia is the only book to survive in Winchester from the days of the Saxon Oldminster, before the Normans rebuilt the Cathedral.
- Ms II Augustine, Tractates on St. John's Gospel Latin vellum, ff.274.
A beautiful early twelfth-century manuscript written in a Winchester hand, and containing the Anathema, the curse on any one who takes the book away from the Church of St. Swithun in Winchester. f.261, Life of St. Augustine by St. Possidius. The first tract has a colophon, explicit tractatus, but in other rubrics, the words tractatus, sermo and homelia are used indiscriminately. Small notes on fly leaves at end in various 13th century hands.

- Ms III John the Deacon; De vita et miraculis Santi Nicolai, and, f.98(v), Osbonus, de Vita et martyrio Santi Alphegi: ff 123-4, sixty four lines in elgaic verse on the death of Henry de Blois. Latin, vellum ff.126. 13th century, with large illuminated capitals. Given to the Cathedral Library by Dr. John Bridges (d.1618) Canon of Winchester and Bishop of Oxford.

REEL TWO

- Ms IV Cassiodorus Senator: Commentary on the Psalms Latin, vellum, ff. 417: original binding, vellum over boards: two duplicate pages used as lining to covers front and back. Written in the Cathedral Priory in the early twelfth century, contemporary with the writing of the text of the Winchester Bible. Splendidly illuminated with the characteristic feather spiral decoration which appears in Volume II of the Winchester Bible and to which Dr W.^r. Oakeshott has recently drawn attention in The Two Winchester Bibles. He has also shown that the hands of the first part of this Cassiodorus must belong to the same scriptorium as those of the Winchester Bible. This Commentary by Cassiodorus forms the fourth part of the author's major work, the Institute. It was a well known text as a separate volume.
- Ms V Hieronymus: St. Jerome's Commentary on Isaiah, Latin, vellum, ff 305, 12th century binding, white leather on boards with late bronze clip for chain on front cover. A Winchester book, illuminated by a hand found in part of the Priory Cartulary B.L. Add Ms. 29436. Migne, P.L. 21 17 ff. W.F.O. Oakeshott, "Winchester College Library before 1750" in Transactions of the Bibliographical society, The Library, (March 1954).

REEL THREE

- Ms VI Compendium of Theology (anonymous): Small folio, vellum ff.283, four books. 13th century, with original, damaged, covers. Given to the Cathedral Library by Dr. John Ebdon in 1611. Ebdon died 16 November 1614, aged ninety eight and was buried in the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene's Hospital in Winchester where he was Master, "a pious doctor in divinity, a learned prebendary of the Cathedral church of Winchester".
- Ms VII 'Theological and other Treatises' Latin, vellum ff.110. 13th century differing hands, originally 2 volumes, various authors. Includes Marbodius of Rennes' De Gemnis (Migne, P.L. 171. 1738 ff). a moralized bestiary, an abridgement of Remigius of Auxerre, de Celebratione Misse and Gregory, de Conflictis vitorum (Migne, P.L. 83, 1131 ff).

- Ms VIII Zacharias Chrysopolitanus of Besançon on the Concordance of the New Testament; vellum, ff. 197 a 12th century book illuminated blue and red initials known as Unum Ex Quattuor, the Harmony of the Gospels. This 'Harmony', as the title suggests, is an attempt to compile a life of Jesus from the Gospels arranged in a simple sequence. Zachary of Besançon's work is almost unknown in English Libraries. It is a Vulgate harmony, with the Lucan prologue and then the first five verses of St. John. Its author has been described as 'a reformer before the Reformation...his quotations betray him'. A careful late copy with many corrections, the text preceded by an index. Dr. W.F. Oakeshott has recently attributed some of its illuminations to a late hand in the Winchester Bible. If therefore, it was a Winchester book, its return to the Cathedral by Dr. John Bridges in 1611 suggests some interesting speculation as to what happened to it after (and when) it left the Priory Library.

REEL FOUR

- Ms IX Legend of the Holy Cross (modern title) including a collection of various historical and romantic works. Vellum, Latin ff. 220, 14th century. First owner perhaps Helie de Coutona, Canon of Southwell (1293-1329); includes Chronicle of the Popes and emperors: f3, Revelation of S. Wilfred at Meaux, inspiring him to found the church of St. Mary at Southwell: f.4 Legend of the Holy Cross: f.7 Martin von Troppau f.102 Dares Phrygius, (the Trojan War). f.118 Geoffrey of Monmouth. Folio 3 'Ex Dono Jo. Bridges'. Given to the Cathedral by Doctor John Bridges in c.1611. On Young's list as Martiori Polonu Chronicon et Histor' Brit Galfrid. Monm: appears in 1652 as Wilfridi Revelationes.
- Ms X Godricum Heremitum by Geoffrey, a monk of Finchale. Vellum, latin, ff.36. Early 15th century. The life of St. Godric (c.1069-1178) the famous northern saint particularly venerated in Durham; author of the earliest surviving Middle English verse which he set to his own music, including a Hymn to St. Nicholad, which perhaps explains the book's presence in Winchester before 1652. Sixteenth century iron clip for chain on front cover.
- Ms XI Sermones de Tempore, alias Januensis Homelias Dominicalis; with Legenda Aurea. Vellum, latin, ff. 354 modern binding. Anonymous, no title, in various early 15th century English hands; Homelies on the Gospels from the First Sunday in Advent to the twenty-fourth after Trinity. The Prologue to the Golden Legend begins on f.139. The Lives are written in two columns. Each life begins with a small but richly illuminated initial in blue and red with gold leaf. The last two

Ms XI pages have been cut out, and preparations were apparently made to cut out at least one other leaf. More than one hundred and sixty lives are complete, including some twenty seven saints to whom local Winchester churches were dedicat ed. The Legend was probably composed between 1255 and 1262 by the probable author of the sermons, Dominican Friar Jacobus de Voragine, later Archbishop of Genoa, (d.c. 1298) and was one of the most famous and widely copied of all mediaeval texts. The provenance of this copy is unknown: there was at least one copy of the Legend at St. Cross by 1410, another was in St. John's House in Winchester, and the city also had a Dominican Friary; it is not however on Patrick Young's list, and this may suggest that it came from St. Cross (after 1660?).

REEL FIVE

- Ms XII Nicolas Trivett: Annales Sex Regnum Anglie An account of five Plantagenet kings and Geoffrey of Anjou. Latin, Paper ff.43; with a near contemporary index (f1-8(v)) at the front, forming a separate section to the book. The Annales proper have been backed with fragments of an account roll; contemporary foliation in arabic numerals, the whole contained in a worn parchment cover. Rubricated headings, obits, and a face drawn in edge of the left hand margin of (f.36); ends abruptly, f.43, (v) with the arrival of Papal Legate (Ottobon) and the Council of Northampton. Some interesting water marks. f.42(margin) Nota Cometa Apparuit. On Young's list as Annales Nicolai Triveti.
- Ms XIII Revelationes Sci. Elizabethae. Latin, vellum ff. 91, quarto, double columns or JJ lines, in an English or northern French script. 17th century binding, the covers tied with tapes. The visions and discourses of Elizabeth, a Benedictine nun of Schonau in the diocese of Trier who died on 18 June 1165, with an introductory letter from Frater Roger Custum to Baldwin, Abbot of Forde (later Archbishop of Canterbury). Roger seems to have obtained the book from an Abbot of Sauvigny, but he must have been the copier, not the author. Elizabeth's brother, Eckbert, Abbot of St. Florin in Schonau wrote the Revelations: f. 48v, a poem, in rhyming elagais, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, preceeded by another letter from Roger to Bishop Baldwin; f.50, the life of Edward the Confessor, by Ailred, Abbot of Rievaulx: f.80, the story of Edward's vision of the devil sitting on bags of money in the royal treasury: f.82, the life of St. Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury. Recently listed as 'Lives of Saints', called Revelationes Sci Elizabeth ac vita S. Edward Regis vita S. Thomas Canterbury in Young's list; Revelationes sci Elizabethae in list of 1652, though Elizabeth in fact has never been canonized.
- Ms XIV Liber Smaragdi "The book which is called of Smaragdus"; vellum, latin, 13th century, pp. 404, written throughout in two columns. The works of Smaragdus, Abbot of the monastery of St. Michael ad Mosan (d.822). A manuscript which has been in two parts and two ownerships for many years. Part one belongs to Winchester College, (Fellows Library Ms 18 as Vitae Petrum), and has been generously placed on deposit in the Cathedral Library since 1977 where it rejoins Part 11.
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Ms XIV
(Contd) sometimes known as Paschasii Collatio. Part I ends abruptly in the middle of a sentence which is continued at the beginning of Part II. William of Wykeham directed that the book should be read in Winchester College, it was frequently thus used in monastic refectories, and the marks in Part I suggest that this may have been case with this manuscript. Part I was rebound in 1882; p.111 "Explicit Liber Diadema Monachorum"; (172) Life of St Anthony the Hermit, (194) Lives of the Holy Fathers. Text in Migne, P.L. 102-103.

Ms XV Promptorium Parvulorum, the earliest English-Latin dictionary, with other items. Paper, ff.229, with original oak board cover which has clasps; bears the Anathema, and apparently once the property of Prior Thomas Sylkestede, who appears to have paid 13/4 for this copy. Perhaps written in Winchester, dated 1485 on end paper: f.113 'N.W. Grene'. The Promptorium begins on f.114: it is preceded by a collection of Treatises, Liber Catonis (f.1) Liber Equivocorum Johannis de Garlandia (f.16 (v)) Liber Theodoli, (f.79) and Liber Arriani Fabulae f.100. Sometimes called 'Liber T. Silkstede'. The Promptorium was edited for the Early English Text Society in 1908 by A.L. Mayhew. Appears on Young's lists as Lexicon Anglie Latinum.

REEL SIX

Ms XVI Concordantia Moralis; by Conrad de Alemannia: Latin, vellum, ff.351, late 14th century. The concordance of the Vulgate, which begins with the words "Cuilibet volenti requirere concordantias in hoc libro unum est primitus attendum"; the Ms. ends with a brief colophon; 'Qui Scripsit Librum Jon Lutton Est Sibi Nomen'. Good illuminated capitals, in blue, red and gold, with attractive sprays of foliage on some pages. Sometimes described as the work of Conrad von Halberstadt. There is an (inferior) copy in New College. On Young's list as Concordiance Bibliorem; in 1652 described as Concordantes Lat; described on its present modern binding as Concordantiae Magna.

Ms XVIII "Register of Statutes, etc". Vellum, Latin French, ff.272. Early 14th century hands, a handsome book, many illuminated initials. Includes re-issues of Magna Carta, Forest Charters, and texts of civil laws. Presented to the Cathedral Library by Miss A. Bowker in 1921: the Bowker family were Chapter Clerks at Winchester for many years. Inscribed on front fly-leaf 'Witts Hasseford Est Possessor Istius Libri' in 15th century hand. First displayed in the Cathedral Library in 1922, and described as a formulary, ff.95, Henry III's re-issue of Magna Carta, here dated 6 Nov 2HIII, the date of the first Forest Charter.

REEL SEVEN

- Ms. XXV Cassiodorus: One parchment leaf of the Historia Tripartita Ecclesiastica, Book VII, pts. of Chapters 32 and 33. 9th century minuscule hand; formerly part of the strengthening of the cover of the first Brockenhurst parish register of 1593. Presented to the Dean and Chapter by that parish in 1974. Provenance uncertain; perhaps from the library of one of the neighbouring religious houses very unusual text, apparently not a part of any known fragment.
- Ms XXVI Cartulary of St. Swithun's Priory: parchment, chiefly latin, (Archives) ff. 263, at least six differing hands, three volumes previously four in 1847, with a mediaeval index which summarizes the contents as forty three quires: twenty quires have been lost, apparently at the time of the rebuilding. Edited (as English Calendar) by A.W. Goodman, Chartulary of Winchester Cathedral, (Wykeham Press 1927). Quire IX concerns the church of Ottery S. Mary, printed in full in The Collegiate Church of Ottery St. Mary (C.U.P. 1917). Listed as Cathedral Ms No. XVI, this cartulary is the only survivor of its kind still in its proper home, the archives of the Cathedral. It does not, of course, appear on either Patrick Young's list nor was it sent to Winchester College by Parliament in 1652. The Dean and Chapter sold their earliest cartulary to the British Museum in 1844 (Kemble's Codex Wintonionensis, B.L. Add Mss 15350) and that library also bought a second Winchester Cartulary at Sotheby's in 1873 (B.L. Add Mss. 294-36). There is some overlapping, but Ms XVI is valuable not only for its Priory documents but also because it contains much information about the mediaeval diocese of Winchester. It also contains an example of the activity of a monastic forger (Item: 41).
- Ms XXVII Epistolae S. Pauli: Vellum, Latin, ff.242. The Epistles of St. Paul, ascribed by Dr N.S. Ker to Haimo of Halberstadt in Saxony. An inscription on the first folio suggested that this book once belonged to the Franciscans of Ingolstadt on the Danube in Upper Bavaria. Haimo (d.c.884) was a pupil of Alcuin, and a benedictine who became the third bishop of Halberstadt, where his library perished in the great fire of 1179. He wrote commentaries on the psalms, Isaiah, Homilies, and the Epistles of St. Paul. Migne, P.L. 116-118; presented to the Dean and Chapter in 1974 by Edward C. Evans, Esq.
