

**THE WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS IN
THE LIBRARY OF TRINITY
COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE: A
DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE, VOL.
IV**

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The Western Manuscripts in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge: A Descriptive Catalogue, Vol. IV by Montague Rhodes James

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WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS
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A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

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VOLUME IV
CONTAINING PLATES, ADDENDA, CORRIGENDA AND INDEX

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PREFACE.

I N sending out the fourth and concluding volume of my Catalogue of the Western Manuscripts in the Library of Trinity College, I am troubled with many misgivings as to the character of the whole work. The man who undertakes the task of describing a large and heterogeneous mass of books, ranging in date from the seventh or eighth century to the nineteenth, and not restricted to one language or to even three or four subjects, is necessarily giving many hostages to fortune. He is exposing himself to the onslaughts of every future specialist who has recourse to his laboriously compiled volumes. Absence of references to printed editions of texts, failures to detect the identity of a nameless treatise, omissions of what prove to be important details in the description of miniatures, ignorance of famous heraldic bearings, will all merit and perhaps meet with sharp reproof. If the cataloguer writes a bad hand and is, to say the least, an indifferent corrector of printed proofs, he has yet more to fear. To these errors and failings I plead guilty; but I have deliberately preferred risking mistakes and producing the best catalogue I could within five years, to consulting all the available experts and postponing publication until the ninth.

Misgivings are, therefore, justifiable in my case; yet it must be said that so far the experts have treated me with great kindness and forbearance. MM. Delisle and Paul Meyer and Dr Liebermann in particular have furnished me with information which I desire to

acknowledge with cordial thanks. Other scholars who may be kind enough to notify additions and corrections to the Librarian of the College will doubtless earn his gratitude.

In the present volume are contained a selection of facsimiles of characteristic scripts and interesting specimens of illuminations from blocks made by Mr Edwin Wilson of Mill Lane, Cambridge. Among those which illustrate writings are included some which show the hand which I believe that Lanfranc introduced at Christ Church, Canterbury. A list of the facsimiles follows this preface.

I have, furthermore, given a brief list of the Porson manuscripts in Class *C*, (not including the numerous printed books containing manuscript notes by him,) and also such corrections of and additions to the first three volumes of this Catalogue as I could collect. No one will suppose that I consider the list complete. A general reference only is given to M. Paul Meyer's invaluable tract on the old French manuscripts in the Library.

Last in order follows the Index, which is of my own making. Time will show whether it is good or bad. It was printed off before the rest of the volume was written, and consequently does not include any references to the Addenda or Corrigenda.

Having now accomplished what I could for the honour of the Trinity manuscripts, I would desire for them large and valuable accessions to their numbers, and a secure sojourn in their magnificent home for more centuries than the oldest of them has yet seen.

M. R. JAMES.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

PLATE I.

B. 10. 5. Specimen of writing traditionally attributed at Durham Priory to Bede.

i Cor. xiv. 4-6. Et qui loquitur lingua semet ipsum aedificat—nisi uobis loquar aut in reuelatione aut; with a few interlinear glosses.

O. 2. 30. Specimen of writing from the Rule of St Benedict.

The manuscript seems to have belonged to St Mary Overie's (= St Saviour's, Southwark).

B. 4. 27. Specimen of hand on f. 100.

Formerly in the Library of Christ Church, Canterbury.

PLATE II.

B. 14. 3. First page of the *Historia Apostolica* of Arator. From Christ Church, Canterbury. Two forms of press-marks of that Library occur on it. The first (RR) dates from cent. xii, the other (Distinctio ii^a gradus xiii^{is}) is of cent. xiii. See my *Ancient Libraries of Canterbury*.

PLATE III.

O. 2. 31. Initial and specimen of writing from the *Disticha Catois*, very probably from Christ Church, Canterbury. Compare the Arator (Pl. II).

B. 11. 2. Initial and specimen of writing from a copy of Amalarius *de ecclesiasticis officiis* presented by Leofric (1028) to the Church of Exeter.

PLATE IV.

B. 2. 3. Beda *super Lucam*. Written at Christ Church, Canterbury, in cent. xii, in the hand characteristic of Christ Church books of that period, which I conjecturally connect with the influence of Archbishop Lanfranc.

B. 2. 34. Initial and specimen of writing from Jerome *de distantis locorum*. From Christ Church, Canterbury, in the characteristic hand.