

Bible

Biblia

Codicology: Vellum, mm 324 x 212, (12.7 x 8.3 in.), ff. 276 + 3, in double, triple and quadruple columns of 63 lines. Cent. **xii late**, in very beautiful small hands.

Collation: f^s-VI^s VII¹⁰-XXVIII¹⁰ (+1) XXIX¹⁰ (wants 8-10), a² (+1).

Provenance: The presence of the tract of Senatus Bravonius[¶] in this Bible has always suggested the probability that it is a Worcester[¶] book. I would point out that there is a very great similarity in size, arrangement of writing and contents, between this and a Bible at Eton College^[ET0026] (no. 26 in my catalogue^[James 1895d]). This latter book is written in triple columns of 62 lines. Its contents are arranged in much the same way, viz.:

Genesis - 2 Chron.

Isaiah[¶], Jeremiah[¶], Baruch[¶], Lamentation (Hebrew alphabet precedes in red, blue and green).

Ezekiel[¶] - Malachi[¶].

Job[¶].

Ezra[¶], Nehemiah[¶], Esther[¶], 1 Esdr.

Proverbs - Ecclesiastes, Oratio Salomonis[¶].

Tobit[¶], Judith[¶], 1, 2 Maccabees

Psalter (triple, with much prefatory matter).

Table of Epistles and Gospels.

Eusebian Canons.

Ev., Acts, Catholic Epistles, Apocalypse

Pauline Epistles (verses of Damasus[¶], and preface of Pelagius[¶]).

Laodicean follows Hebrew

The Eton book^[ET0026] was given to St Albans[¶] by Prior Mathias[¶]. This is recorded at the top of f. 1r and at the end of Proverbs. There was room for a like record at the top of f. 1r of the Corpus Bible, which has been removed. There is no direct proof that the Eton Bible^[ET0026] was written at St Albans[¶], but my belief is that it was a sister book to the Corpus Bible and that both belonged to St Albans[¶]. The Corpus book is far more finely decorated.

A third book closely connected with these two is a 2nd volume of a Bible at Trinity College, Dublin (A. 2. 2: no. 51 in Abbott's Catalogue^[Abbott 1900]^[DTC051]). This has the prologue of Senatus[¶]; the same prologues to the Pauline Epistles: the writing and ornament also agree (note specially the mottled marble shafts in the framework of the Gospel Canons). It belonged in the **xvth century** to Westdereham in Norfolk[¶].

Additions: In the cover (f. av) are pasted two slips, one of vellum with a carefully written extract from Leland[¶] on Senatus Bravonius[¶], the other of paper with notes of some various readings (**xvi**).

Additions: A slip has been cut from the top of f. 1r and replaced by blank vellum.

Additions: On the flyleaves at the end (**ir-ivv**). A piece of parchment pasted on (**iir**), with a list of the contents of this Bible (**xv**). Verses and note on the Tribes (**iiir**).

Classified list of the books (**ivr**) (**xvi early**).

Note to the effect that there are 258 leaves in the book from Gen. i (**ivr**).

Additions: *Decoration.* The initials in this book are exceedingly beautiful. I give a list of those which contain subjects or are otherwise remarkable (**included within contents below**).

Foliation: ff. a-b + 1-276 + i-iv + c-d.

Language: Latin.

Contents:

1.

1r-276v Bible

- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| 1r | () | In double columns |
| 1r | () | Prologue <u>Jerome</u> [¶] ad <u>Paulinum</u> [¶] |
| 1r | () | Prol. Initial in gold very delicately outlined in black |
| 2v | () | In triple columns |
| 2v | | Capitula of Genesis - Judges, 1 Regum - 2 Paralipomenom, Rest., <u>Tobit</u> [¶] , <u>Judith</u> [¶] , 1, 2 Maccabees |
| 7r | | Pref. b. <u>Ieronimi</u> [¶] presb. ad <u>Desiderium</u> [¶] |
| 7r | () | Prol. to Pentateuch, <u>Jerome</u> [¶] as black monk nimbed, writing, with knife and pen. In the tail of the letter a tonsured bust. Gold ground. |
| 7v | | Genesis begins |
| | | Stichometric notes are given in most cases |
| 7v | () | Genesis. Magnificent initial, the height of the page. The general scheme is ladderlike, with small white beasts: gold ground, edged with green. At top, quatrefoil: gold ground. Christ half-length with scroll across, blessing |
| 7v | () | Six medallions, red frames: |
| | | a. Angels. 3 heads seen on L., 3 on R., one half-length full-face in C. |

- b. Band of clouds above and blue lined water below. Globe in C. marked HILE (ὄλη).
- c. Red ground, clouds, earth with trees, water.
- d. Sun and moon with faces, red stars in blue sky, earth with trees, water.
- e. Bird in clouds, birds (swans, storks, etc.) on earth: whales in water.
- f. Beasts on L. Christ in C. creates Eve (on R.)
- 7v () Quatrefoil, gold ground. Christ half-length with scroll hands to Moses, nimbed, below, the Tables delicately mottled in various hues to represent marble. The subsequent initials as far as Job^l are decorative and are of the most exquisite delicacy and brightness. Perhaps that to Zechariah^l may be singled out as particularly marvellous for the fineness of its white pattern on deep blue. The initials are uniformly edged with green
- 47r () Jos. Prol.
- 47r () *Incipit*: Tandem finito
- 52r () Jud. Arg. (ex epistola beati Ieronimi^l ad Paulinum^l). Short extract
- 57r () Similarly for Ruth^l
- 58r () 1 Reg. Prol.
- 58r () *Incipit*: Viginti duas
- 84r () 1 Par. Proll.
- 84r () *Incipit*: Si septuaginta
- 84r () *Incipit*: Eusebius Ieron. Domnioni
- 84v () Argumentum ex epistola ad Paulinum^l
- 97r () 2 Par. is followed by the Prophets
- 119r () Baruch^l follows Jeremiah^l and precedes Lamentations
- 121r () Lamentations is headed by a fine table of the Hebrew alphabet. The Hebrew letters are well written in gold, and their names, in red and green capitals, are twice given in the columns on R. with two sets of interpretations. At top are turrets with shields hanging to them. Linen guards to initials survive in the case of some of the minor prophets (ff. 138r, 141v, 142r)
- 148r () After Malachi^l follow
- 149r () Job^l
- 149r () *Job*. Job^l's wife on L. Job^l on R. Scrolls inscribed in red: *Benedic deo et morere. Quasi una de stultis mulieribus locuta es*. Red ground
- 154v () Prov., Eccl., Cant, (with the speakers indicated in the margin on f. 160v)
- 160v () *Cant*. A crowned female seated, one hand to her face. A curious cleft is managed in the initial so that the text (Osculetur) is directly connected with her other hand. Esther^l. Of singularly fine execution
- 161r () Ezra^l, Nehemiah^l
- 166v () (Followed by extract. "Hic post incensam a chaldeis iudeam")
- 166v () Hester^l
- 167r () *Esther*. Of singularly fine execution
- 169v () Sap. (prol. Liber sapientie
Tres libros salomonis)
- 173r () Ecclus. Oratio Salomonis^l
- 173r () *Ecclus*. A crowned white-bearded man, half-length, facing R. A cleft in the initial (as above)
- 182v () Tobit^l
- 184r () Judith^l
- 184r () *Judith*^l. Birds with necks intertwined on a fine red ground
- 187r () 1, 2 Maccabees
- 199r Epistola Eusebii^l de canonibus euangeliorum
- 199r () *Incipit*: Eusebius Carpiano^l
- 199r () *Rubric*: Incipit tractatus magistri Senati Wigorniensis^l bibliothecarii de concordia et dispositione canonum euangeliorum
- 199r () *Incipit*: Dilecto amico suo et socio magistro Æluredo^l suus senatus wig(orniensis) ecclesie films salutem et si quid in obsequio potest. Inter preciosa maiorum munera
Ending
- 200r *Explicit* et omnia in quibus conuenientia cum aliis repperiri potest
The opening of this, with the interesting reference to the Bible presented to Worcester^l by king Offa^l, was printed by Martene and Durand, *Thes. Nov.* I 484^[Martene and Durand 1717a], from a manuscript then at Conches (in Normandy)^l
- 200r *Rubric*: Incipit epistola sancti ieronimi ad damasum
- 200v The Canons under arches
- 200v () The Canons under coloured arches with coloured shafts. A delicately mottled marble shaft (see on *Gen.*) is very striking
- 201v Distinctiones Canonum (beginnings of the sections)
- 203v Capitula of the four Gospels
- 204v () In quadruple columns
- 204v () Prol. Plures fuisse
- 204v () The Arguments (Matheus^l ex iudea etc.) in parallel columns
- 205v () The Text of the Four Gospels in parallel columns
- 205v () The initials to the Gospels (all on one page) contain the Evangelistic emblems and make a noble appearance
The breadth of the column varies with the length of the text, Mark^l being naturally the narrowest
- 233v () In triple columns

- 233v () Capitula to Acts, Cath. Epp., Apoc., Pauline Epp.
Followed by text of
- 236r () Acts, Cath. Epp., Apocalypse
Cath. Epp. have prologues
- 242v () Jacobus⁰ Petrus⁰ Iohannes⁰ Iudas⁰
- 242v () *Incipit*: Non ita est ordo
Jac.
- 243r () *Incipit*: Jacobum⁰ qui appellatur
- 243r () *Incipit*: Jacobus⁰ apostolus sanctum instruit clerum
- 243r () *James* and 1 *Peter* (f. 244r) contain half-length figures of the writers
1 *Pet.*
- 243v () *Incipit*: Simon petrus⁰ filius Iohannis⁰
- 243v () *Incipit*: Discipulos saluatoris inuicti
2 *Pet.*
- 244v () *Incipit*: Symon petrus⁰ per fidem
1 *Joh.*
- 245r () *Incipit*: Iohannes⁰ apostolus et euangelista quem Ihesus⁰ amauit
- 245r () *Incipit*: Racionem uerbi
2 *Joh.*
- 246r () *Incipit*: Usque adeo ad sanctam
3 *Joh.*
- 246r () *Incipit*: Gaium pietatis
Jud.
- 246r () *Incipit*: Judas⁰ frater iacobi
- 246r () *Incipit*: Judas⁰ apostolus fratres
- 246v () *Apoc.* Half-length figure of Christ with the sword (silver) across His mouth: holding book
After *Apoc.*
- 249v () *Rubric*: *Incipit* prefatio pelagii⁰ de corpore epistolarum beati pauli apostoli⁰
- 249v () *Incipit*: Primum queritur quare post euangelia
Alia prefatio Ieronimi
- 250r () *Incipit*: Omnis textus uel numerus
Argumentum in Rom.
- 250r () *Incipit*: Romani sunt qui
- 250v () *Incipit*: Romani sunt in partes
- 250v () *Rom.* Half-length of Paul⁰ with scroll
The usual arguments to the other Epistles
- 263v () *Philem.* A large blue nude man with red face and beard hangs from the initial
- 263v () Heb. is followed by
- 266r () *Rubric*: *Incipit* Epistola ad Laodicenses que non habetur in canone
A smaller rubric says
- 266r () *Rubric*: hec epistola non est emendata
After the text
- 266r () *Rubric*: Ex epistola ad Colosenses
- 266r () *Incipit*: Cum lecta fuerit etc.
- 266r () *Rubric*: Beatus Gregorius⁰ in ultimo moralium
- 266r () *Incipit*: Paulus⁰ apostolus quamuis epistolas quindecim etc.
- 266r () In the 2nd column another text of the Epistle, neatly written in **cent. xvi**
- 266r () In the 3rd column a copy of the Wycliffite version of the epistle written at the same time
- 267r () In quadruple columns
- 267r () Interpretationes nominum
- 267r () *Incipit*: Abel⁰ ciuitas uel filius adam qui interpretatur luctus etc.
Ends (Zorobabel⁰)
- 276r () *Explicit* Uel magister babylonis uel confusionis
The work maintains its excellence to the end

CCC: space available for notes on the current status of the encoding

- text: copied from James.txt BA
- markup: BA
- markupCheck: checked by BA, CF
- msCheck: NJM 20/08/08
- remarks: