### Transcription of M.R. James’s unpublished description

**Cambridge, University Library, MS Gg.1.1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>French &amp; English Poems etc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secundo folio</strong></td>
<td>7 f Quant uous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Material</strong></td>
<td>vellum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measurements</strong></td>
<td>9 x 6(\frac{1}{2})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collation</strong></td>
<td>(Mr Bradshaw’s) <em>a</em>12-z12 a12-ff(t)2 gg10 hh12 –ss12 tr4 A12-K12 L14 M6 Nine leaves are wanting, viz <em>a</em>1, x6 mn11,i2, nn1,4 oo3 m6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of leaves</strong></td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Columns</strong></td>
<td>double and single</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lines to a page</strong></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>xiv early</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Handwriting</strong></td>
<td>very fine English: apparently all in one hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Binding</strong></td>
<td>usual: the foreedges have a painted pattern.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moore 272 In the cover (xvii) 'bought of Mr Washington.'

There seems to be no mark of older ownership. That the book is East Anglian I am persuaded.

### Contents

It is one of the largest & most formidable collections in existence; Comparable with such books as the Vernon MS. M. Paul Meyer devotes nearly sixty pages to the description of the French contents (MSS. Fr 283-340) and rightly says ‘Ce livre est à lui seul toute une bibliothèque.

His account will be of course extensively used in what follows.

In view of the large number of extracts which he gives, I shall confine myself to the cataloguing of the items & refer to his pages, & to those of Carleton Brown and others who have studied this MS. I shall also give particulars of the picture.

1. Table of chapters to the *Lumière* as lais (f. 21b)
   
   Ci commencent les chapitres que sunt continues en le Romanz qe est apelle la lumiere as lays etc.

2. Table of contents to this book (by no means complete)
   
   En iceste liure contienent tauntz de Romances cum ci apres sunt notez et escritz. Urbane curteis en romance
   
   De les. xxxij. folies queles il sunt. Explicit

3. Ici comence urbane curteise
   
   Meyer p 284

4. Proverbs in French. M p 284
   

   

   
   a. de utilitate visionis corporis Christi. Hec confert uisio.
   
   b. de utilitate uisionis corporis Christi. Hec confert uisio.
   
   c. Utilitates misse (5) Prima est quod quantum homo ambulat

7. Pierre de Peckham. La lumiere as lays
   
   M. p. 287
   
   Ceo est le oreison mestre peres de peccham auctour de ceste liure
Ici comence la lumiere as lais 21b
ends 111a
8. Ci commence de les. xv. signes deuant le iour de iuge
M. p 290
Later note : Aristotiles facit questionem in naturis 113b
Quo cito nutriatur in corpore conceptus etc
9. La plainte d’Amour M. p. 292 113b
10. Ici comence alcuns de les propheci es des merueilles qe Merlin dit etc. M p 295. In  p…e 120
Notes in Latin a de periurio. Qui iuuat super libr um tria facit … 121b

b. Prouerbia. Meliosa sunt uulnera corrigitentis quam oscula blandentis

11. The Northern Passion. Herknhith alle 122
Carleton Brown 1184. ed. Foster EETS. 145 & 147
12 Robert de Gretham. Euangiles de domées 133
[133]
One of the longest article, of about 20000 lines, on the Sunday Gospels, ending 261
13. Hic inc. vij psalmi penitenciales 261
M. p 305 single column
14 Aue Maria paraphrased M. p 306 264
15 De les cinc ioies nostre dame M. p 307 double columns 265
16. Ici comence del assumpcioun nostre dame seinte Marie (Herman de Valenciennes) 265
M. p 308 Single column
17. Ici commence le liure des les lamentaciu ns nostre dame seint Marie 272
M. p 309
18. Gautier de Bibbesworth 279b
De tretiz ke munseignur Gauter de Bitheswey fist a ma dame Dyonise de montechensi pur aprise de langage M p. 312
T. Wright Vocaularies 1857. Romania xiii 500
Double columns spaced to admit interlinear English glosses (in red)
19. William de Wadington 294v
Ici comence la manuel de pechez M p 312 294v
20 Pierre de Langtoft Vie d’Edouard I 328v
Ici commence le brut coment le bon rei Edward … Escotz e galis (. P 313 ).
List of chapters follows. Single columns. In French & English
Later note. Quod est celum? Celum habet octo gaudia celestia 345b
21 L’Image de Monde 346
Cist liures de clergie en Romance qi est apeliez ymage mounde contient partut. lv. Chapitres. e. xx. e viij figures saunz qi le liure ne purreit pas estre legerement entenduz, qi est deuises par tres parties.
The figures, in colour, begin on 388b [i.e. 358b] & are scattered through the poem after that. They are diagrams of the world etc. some containing human figures. The last on 390 is full page: Christ in a mando la at top: below, the 7 spheres with earth in centre, surrounded by green water full of fishes. In it a figure of a man digging, upside down.

22. Ici comence du bounte des femes. 390b
M. p 315
Latin notes a Diabolus quosdam mordet per suggestionem 392b
b. Mulier preferetur auro M. p 321
23 Credo in verse. M p 321 392b
Dominica oratio in verse p 322
24 Prognostics in verse M. 322 393
Latin notes a Quando puer nascitur M. p 325 393b
[a. etc. see M. Forster in Archiv. f. neuer Spr.110 355]
b. De etate hominis

c. De sanguinis minucione

d. De recepctione medicinarum for each month 394

e. De tonitruo experimentum 394b

f. Sentencie Danielis hec sunt. A dream book alphabetical

 arma in sompnio portare honorem significant

 Zonam perdere sed icionem

[ see M. Förster in Archiv. neuer Spr. 127. 53 (1911)]

g. Inc de sacramentis ecclesie. Quot sunt (question and answer)

 Effectus aque benedicte. Descent into Hell. Baptism.

 Crosses in the Canon of the Mass 398b

 Ending with verses. Pes cedrus stipesque sipressus

25. Ici commence les romances des seynte croye e de Adam

Nostre premiere piere. M p 326 399b

26. The fifteen Signs in Latin M p. 327 402b

Inuenit Jeronimus in annalibus iudeorum de xv diebus ante diem iudicii

27. Compendium historiarum Biblie

Uos qui concupistis statum uestrum scire

Aso in Ee. 6. 29 f 24b

De relicita repetit eius maledictus

28. Miraculum s. Marie urginis M p 327 404b

29 The apocalypse in French, with pictures. Single column 407

Seint Pol le apostle


[A leaf is wanting after 421 (c. xi. 2-xii. 10) and another after 423 (c. xv)]

The pictures here are. 1. Initial. St Paul

2. John addresses a seated group.

3. Vision of Christ among the candlesticks

4. Angel wakes John

5. John writing. Angel in cloud

6. John climbs ladder held by angel. Door of heaven open

7. Vision of God & the Elders

8. The elders adore

9. The Lamb, angels & Elders.

10. The first Rider In each, one of the four Beasts in the angle

11. The Second.

12 The Third

13 The fourth Hell mouth behind.

14 Fifth seal. Stoles given to shrouded souls. Altar in mandorla.


16. In quarters. Four angels hold four monstrous heads, the winds

17 Angel flying (Hurt not the earth)

18. God & the Saints. People with palms below

19 John & an elder.


21 1st Trumpet. flame & trees.

22 2nd Trumpet. Sinking ships in sea

23 3rd star falls

24 4th Eagle in sky. Sun moon stars

25. Star in sky, star fallen. 'Locust' crowned human head blue mantle over mail. Locusts (real) in air.

26. 6th trumpet. Angel holds rope attached to 4 prostrate angels in Euphrates. Altar with chalice & God, above.

27. Above the horsemen mounted on two-headed beasts. Below, people standing and fallen: two groups

28. Angel. Seven beasts’ heads-the Thunders.

29. Angel gives book to John

30. Angel gives rod to John. Temple & worshippers on R a leaf gone

31 Dragon casts out water into earth. Winged woman as R

32. Dragon & Beast.
33. Dragon & worshippers.
34. Angel with harps on sea
35. False prophet (four-legged) and group of men.
36. Lamb on Sion.
37. God throned. Angel proclaims woe to people below.
38. Angel in air, both hands on John’s shoulders. Falling city on R
39. God in cloud with sickle. Angel by building on R
40. Angel cuts grapes. Altar. 2 horses. Angel on R (no demons)
41. Frogs come from mouths of false prophet (human figure) & the two Beasts.
42. Vial poured on Babylon. Angel in Mandorla.
43. Angel takes John’s hand. Woman with cup on R
44. John. Red dragon plunges head down into earth. Angel on R (?misplaced; not a usual subject).
45. Two angels in air R & L Babylon falling. People come out of h… to R
46. Angel casts millstone into sea.
47. God in mandorla: four Beasts in spandrels. Two groups of crowned whiterobed saints.
48. Christ with quadruple crown on head, & sword in mouth to r. followed by three horsemen
49. God in mandorla. Nude people rise from tomb. John on 12
52. John & angel, who points to the Lamb in the gate
54. John addressed by angel book
55. John with long cross addresses seated group
The ground of these pictures are red, blue, murrey & green, varied and patterned in many ways.

The execution is not fine. The loss of leaves deprives us of some important pictures, particularly those of the two witnesses but the opening and closing pictures & that of John climbing the ladder into heaven link this with a number of East Anglian copies, also the absence of demons in no. 40. The book is no. 58 in my list of pictured apocalypses (The Apocalypse in Latin MS. Perrins 10) & The Apocalypse in Art. Schweich lectures 1927.

Ici finist la pocalypse en romance.

30. Ici commence le livre que est appeleee le set sages en romaunce. M p 330. double columns 440. Ward Cat. of Romances ii. 199
The text is followed by a list of the tales 464
31. De phisenemie M. p 331 464b
32 Prognostics about truth M. p 331 466b
La nature de lome par sa naissance prole (?) Explicit constellacionis
33. Ici commence xvij pointz que deuent entre en confession solum que sunt recapitatez M. p. 332
469
Ward, Cat. of Romances ii. 199
Latin : Inquisitiones generales in confessionibus
Si scit et perfecte credit 470
34 Incipit exposicio oracionis dominice scil.
Pater noster. Hec autem obscacicio -de celica uita quod ipse prestare etc 470b
35 De origine et pena pilati videlicet
Rex fuit Legenda aurea Graesse p 231 472b
36 Ici trouez qel uaut meuz a amer, gentil clerc ou chiualer M p 333 474
37 Ici commence le liure de hending
Ihesu crist al folk is rede
Ihesu crist al folk is rede
Carleton Brown 1009 Varu[...]? Anglia iv
38. Ces sunt les enfantesces nostre seigneur quant il esteit en tere od sa uie 479b
Part of the French Infancy Gospel M. p 334
Edition by Gast (Greifswald 1909)
39 Ici commence le brute dengleterre abrege 484b
M p 337 & rest. To the death of Edward I. Prose
40. Lament on the death of Edward I, in verse 489b
It is illustrated by a large drawing of a man’s head in blue, ... and red patterned ground, with the qualities marked in inscribed discs & scrolls.

41. Hic inc auctortates Job. Ignis gehennalis deuorabit tabernacula eorum qui etc. 491.

Sententiae from the Bible, the Fathers (Bernard especially) & Seneca.

42. Ceste liure de Sydrac le philosoph e est apele le liure de la fontaigne de toutes sciences. M p 339, 495.

See Ward, Cat. Of Rom. I. 903. & Langlois (Ch. v). La Connaissance de la Nature au Moyen Age 1911 p 180. This copy contains 610 questions.

43. Ici commencent le propioes de femmes en Romaunz (le Blâme des femmes) M. p 339

Ends with verses qui capit uxorom. M l.c.

44. Confessio in French prose M. p 340.

Absolution in Latin 628

Prayer to the Virgin with rubric. Sancta Maria regina celorum

45. Ici commencent le xxxii folies. 629

in p 340

46. Hic inc miracula b. virgini (Latin prose) 629

1. In almania in quadam abbattisa monialium miles seduxit domicillam


3. Mirac de quodam fratres qui de se ipsum in silua suspensit. Frater quidam in silua clarevallis

4. Mirac. De quodam clerico. . appears after death

5. De quodam puero qui uident matrem dei

Puer ardens in pedibus

6. de sacrista liberata a temptacione

7. qualiter mater dei fecit impleri officium monialis

8. De uirgin liberata per mariam

9. De quodam laico (cancer in tongue)

10. De puero liberato a periculo maris

11. De quodam usurario et de matrona pauperima

12. De monacho qui uident matrem dei (Cisterciensis)

13. De monacho qui diligebat puerum matris dei

14. De milite liberato de iniquo rege et a diabolo Miles secretarius regis anglie.

15. De milite liberato de iniquo amore

16. De quodam uirgin (in Ungaria)

17. Sacerdos ... in assumpcione beate matrie dei ... cecidit ymaginem eius ... suadentem (sudantem) copiose
18. De quodam cleric qui uidit ymaginem b. v. (male ornatum)
19. De filio militis qui nunquam b. u. neguit
20. De quodam fratre (vision of being scourged by our Lady’s order in Chapter)
21. De quodam monaco. Weaves a wreath for virgin delivered from robbers.
22. Miles … ordinem cisterc’ intrauit. Lily grows out of grave.
23. Drunken cleric drowned and saved- adiuvat suos in necessitate.

The last leaf of this volume is gone.
None of the miracles are of special interest.

Besides the pictures described above, there is a fair amount of decoration in the book. All the principal treatises have a handsome initial & something of a border & a few (e.g. f 6) have a figure. All this work is of good English style & I cannot doubt that the volume was written at some important monastic centre.
The foreedges are painted with a floral pattern which has been pretty.
It is conceivable that this is one of the Seyny books which monks read when they were in the infirmary for the periodical bleedings which they underwent.

JSR
27 July 2004