Transcription of M.R. James’s unpublished description
Cambridge, University Library, MS II.2.6

Title: Tobit Esther Maccab. XII Prophetae glosati

Secundo folio: deci]mas suas

Language: Latin

Material: vellum

Measurements: 13¾ x 9½ ins.

Collation: 112-1412 (wants 7-12) 1512-2312 2410 2510

Number of leaves: 289

Columns: one to three

Lines to a page: 25

Date: XIII

Handwriting: uniform with Ii.2.2 (& Kk.4.3)

Binding: black leather

James 187 ‘Rotheram 171’ K.β.2 14

Contents:

From Norwich Priory. On f.1 at top the mark G.XXXIIIi cf. Ii.2.2 & Kk.4.3 which have adjacent marks
Tobias glosatus 1
Decorative initial Judith gl. 17b
Decorative initial Hester gl. 36
2 decorative initials 1. Maccabeorum gl. decorative initial 50
2. Macc gl. decorative initial 121b
Ends 161. 161b blank, blank leaves cut out after it XII Prophetae gl. 162
Osee. Initial cut out Joel. 2 decorative initials 188b
Amos. prol. decorative. text. a man pierces the head of Amos. Gold ground: The legendary martyrdom of the prophet Abdias. Prol. decorative. text. Two men with square shields fighting: one has a sort of pick perhaps illustrates v.7 Consurgamus aduersus eum in praelium Jonas. prol. decorative. Text: Jonah swallowed by the fish in green water 218
Micheas. prol. decorative. Text. A man by a caldron in which four people are seen, he holds an infant over it by the arm. Another blows the fire with bellows 221
Naum prol decorative. Text. A nude longhaired woman spotted with blood holding up her hands, stands 226b
between two men with scourges
Abacuc. prol. decorative. text. The child in the manger
Ox and ass seen above
with sword sits cross legged in a chair. On R., before
him, a dark devil with a pink loincloth holds up
his R. claw and lays his L. on the heads of two
nude supplicant children (Manasseh offering
children to Moloch)
Aggeus. prol. decorative. Text. single figure standing
on an owl & pouring silver & red objects into a red
cylindrical bag: they fall out at the bottom
Zacharias. prol. decorative. Text. Single figure standing on
the back of a nude woman
Malachias. prol. decorative. Text. The prophet with book
addresses a Jew who is holding up a lamb over an altar
on R. & turns to look at him
Gloss ends: qui faciunt opera terrena
Expl. XII prophete
A list of the kings of Judah & Israel 289, verso blank

The initials are very notable for subject & execution. Some of
the decorative ones are in gold on grounds of white &
green foliage set on pink (e.g. 282 b).
The picture for Micah illustrates Mic. III.3 conciderunt
(populum meum) sicut in lebete. For Nahum probably Nah.
III.5 ostendam gentibus nuditatem tuam etc. That for
Habakkuk is traditional; for Zephaniah probably an allusion to
Zeph. I.5 qui jurant in Melchom (the gloss alludes to
Manasseh[]). The Haggai picture represents I.6 qui
mercedes congregauit, misit eas in sacculum pertusum.

This elaborate treatment of the minor prophets recalls
the Amiens series of sculptures, & confirms my
idea that the work is French.

L.F.-V. 2002-05-25