

Bernard André, *Annal* for 1515

fol. 1r, beneath a pencil sketch of a winged horse: 'Iste equus non est equus | Nam vtraque parte Decus'.

1 (fols. 2r–13v) Pro anno Millesimo quin | gentesimo decimoquinto, Inuictissimi | Anglie Regis Henrici Octauī | felicissime Regnacionis Anno | Septimo. || Bernardi Andree auspi | catissimi noui anni munu | sculum. (fol. 2r, inc. text:) Cum preclarissimas | ingenii tui corpo | ris et fortune | dotes mecum | animo considero — tua sacro sancta | maiestas peruenire valeat | nunc et tucuum triumphatura || Amen.

Bernard André, *Annal* for 1515: unpr.; D. R. Carlson, *English Humanist Books. Writers and Patrons, Manuscripts and Print, 1475–1525* (Toronto 1993), 63–4; Sharpe, *Latin Writers*, 78. One in a series of annual prose orations for King Henry VIII and presented as a New Year gift to the king. This is the unique copy; three manuscripts transmitting *Annales* for other years are BL MSS Cotton Julius A. IV (AD 1505/6), Julius A. III (AD 1508/9), and Hatfield House, Cecil Papers, MS 277/2 (AD 1519/20). André made the promise of a yearly literary offering first to King Henry VII, in the *dedicatio* of the *Vita regis Henrici septimi* (ed. J. Gairdner, *Memorials of King Henry VII*, RS 10 (1858), 4).

Carlson suggests that André, who by this time was blind, was not as attentive to the physical appearance of his manuscripts as were some of his contemporaries, such as Alberici or Carmeliano, whose presentation copies are more carefully designed; that opinion carries weight but might take too little account of the excellencies of the script.

fols. 14r–20v are blank.

Construction: Paper, no visible watermarks. ii + 18 + iv, foliated as [iii] + 20; the front bifolium and fols. 18–21 were added later, the back leaf is pastedown (fol. 17 was formerly pastedown). Fol. i is torn where it once became stuck to the fore-edge ticket. *Dimensions*: 177 × 130 mm, written space 115 × 77 mm. *Collation*: 1² 2⁶ (fols. iii–5) 3–5⁴ (fols. 6–17) 6⁴ (fols. 18–20 + pastedown). *Layout*: 8 long lines, fine ruling in pale red ink.

Script: Written throughout in an expert, upright secretary mixed with some italic, with notably sharpened, tapering graphs to the descenders and open, trailing hooks to the right of ascenders. Perhaps a French scribe. He fitted around thirty-five words to a page using a black ink; the dedicatory page, fol. 2r, is written in red. Punctuation is by virgule and medial point.

Decoration: Four-line illuminated initial at start of text (fol. 2v), a shell-gold letter *C* on a pale red ground boxed by a gold-edged frame, with white and blue filigree work in the spandrels, the interior of the initial filled with a Tudor rose of established type in white and red, gold crown above, the rose on a green stem sprouting from the bottom left-hand corner of the frame, gold vine-stems surrounding. On the dedicatory page (fol. 2r), two one-line initials of rather more modest conception and execution, gold lombards on red ground with internal gold filigree work to the first.

Binding: The original binding, which presumably was fine, has been lost. The replacement is a limp parchment binding of the later sixteenth century, tacketed with white cord at three stations along the spine. Sewing stations of the earlier binding are visible. The parchment is given hair-side out, strengthened inside by plain, contemporary paper pastedowns with glued turn-ins. Fore-edge originally brushed with gold.

Labels and marks: Parchment fore-edge ticket rubbed and now illegible but for '287'. Printed spine-label 'MS New Coll. E. 287', not on the too-narrow spine but stuck vertically in the left-hand corner of

the front cover. On fol. 1v is '287' in red crayon. New College library stamp on recto of front flyleaf and in the top right-hand corner of the rectos of fols. 2–6.

History: Presumably a royal presentation copy made for Bernard André and destined for the library of King Henry VIII; four presentation copies of other writings by André are visible in the inventory of the royal library at Westminster palace drawn up in 1542 (J. P. Carley, *The Libraries of King Henry VIII*, Corpus of British Medieval Library Catalogues 7 (London 2000), H2. 108, 109, 294, 1177). Nothing is known about how this manuscript came to leave the royal library or how it arrived at the College, but it presumably came by the same route as another royal escapee, MS 136.

Secundo folio: tui celestia (or) nemini cedat.

Bibliography: Coxe, p. 102.

Status: first draft