

Bonaventura, *Breviloquium*

fols. 2–6 are blank but for some sixteenth-century tinted drawings in ink on fol. 1v. At the top of the page is written, in a later 15th-cent. Secretary hand, ‘Intelligencia dictorum ex circumstanciis dicendorum sumenda est’.

1 (fols. 7r–177r) *Incipit summa que dicitur | breuiarium pauperis.* | Flecto genua mea | ad patrem domini nostri | ihesu christi ex quo omnis | paternitas in celo | et in terra nominatur | vt det uobis secundum (Eph 3:14–19) | . . . Magnus doc | tor gencium et predicator veritatis | diuino repletus spiritu tanquam vas elec | tum et sanctificatum. in hoc verbo aperit | sacre scripturae que theologia dicitur. | ortum, progressum et statum; Insinuans | ortum scripture attendi secundum influen | ciam beatissime trinitatis, progressum | autem secundum [–iuge] exigenciam humanae | capacitatis . . . (fol. 20r/6, expl. prol.) ad faciliorem memoriam, et lucidi | orem contuitum dicendorum. que .7. partici | onibus et .7. 2 capitulis distinguntur. || Prima pars de trinitate | dei habet capitula .9. . . . (fol. 21v/24) de igne infernali ¶ 7^m | et vltimum de gloria paradisi. || (fol. 22r, inc. text) In principio intelligendum est quod sacra scriptura, scilicet the | ologia que principaliter agit de primo principio, scilicet de | deo trino et vno, de .7. agit in vni | uerso, scilicet primo de trinitate dei, de creatura | mundi, de corruptela peccati, de incar | natione verbi, de gracia spiritus sancti, de me | dicina sacramentali, et de statu finalis | iudicii. — (fol. 177r/8) Desideret tota substantia mea | donec intrem in gaudium dei | mei qui est trinus et vnus deus | benedictus in secula seculo | rum. Amen. || ¶ Explicit breuiloquium pauperis | in sacra scriptura compilatum | a fratre Boneuente de or | dine Minorum. Scriptum a [*two lines erased*] 1452^o, inceptum 6^o die Septembris | et finitum vltimo die eiusdem. || ¶ Deo gracias.

St Bonaventure, *Breuiloquium pauperis seu Compendium sacrae Scripturae*: *SBonO* 5. 201–291; Distelbrink 1; Glorieux *Rép.* 305k.

fols. 177v–182v are blank but for an ink drawing of the Sacred Heart on fol. 182r (dated 1533).

Parchment. i (a medieval stub, unfoliated, formerly pastedown) + vi (foliated 1–6) + 171 (foliated 7–177) + v (foliated 178–182) + i (a medieval stub, unfoliated). A former flyleaf, a paper page from the same copy of Aristotle’s *Ethics* that was used in other College bindings, is loose at the front of the volume. *Dimensions*: 145 × 100 mm; written space, 90–95 × 50–54 mm. *Collation*: a⁶ (fols. 1–6) 1–16¹⁰ (fols. 7–166) 17¹⁸ (fols. 167–[183], 1 is cancelled). Catchwords are given expressively on elaborate and skilfully drawn banderoles or garters at the foot of the page, each produced distinctively and decorated with fine grisaille work picked out in red; giving up after fol. 126v. Quire signatures, extending to the middle of each quire, are given in a tiny hand, in the lower outer corner on the rectos, in the normal alphanumeric form ‘a 1’, ‘a 2’, etc., each quire lettered sequentially apart from the first, which is numbered only. Parchment is firm and of good quality, ivory in colour and with a slightly chalky nap, arranged hair to hair, flesh to flesh, flesh-side uppermost. There is the brown stain on fol. 8v from some spilled liquid. *Layout*: Between 24 and 27 lines, on a written space simply ruled in lead, the single bounding lines each taken to the edges of the page where guide prickings are still visible.

Script: Written throughout by one scribe, probably a professional, who named himself at the end (colophon since erased). He used a cursive mixed hand: in its aspect, sharp and splayed, and choice of most letter-forms it is Secretary in style, but Anglicana forms are preferred for *d*, *g*, and final-*s*. Ink is dark brown. Punctuation is by virgule for minor pauses and low point for major. The same scribe supplied the rubrication for new chapters.

Decoration: On fol. 7r, a full bar-frame border and illuminated initial F on gold ground, superbly well executed with much use of gold; acanthus leaves in rose, green, red and blue, all with modelling in white; an aroid at mid-point on the eastern bar; spray-work of feathering with green-tinted lobes and gold balls. Champ initials, shell gold on plum and blue ground with sprigs and gold balls and trefoils, at the start of each book (fols. 22r, 36r, 56r, 74v, 96r, 121v, 153v). Initials at the start of chapters within books are blue two-line lombards with expert red penwork flourishing which extends the height of the page. On fol. 1v are some tinted ink drawings, probably 16th-century: a stylized acanthus leaf and, more naturalistically, columbine and a thistle head (illustrated by Alexander & Temple, pl. 32, but upside down). On fol. 182r is the pen sketch, by a different hand, of the Sacred Heart mounted on a Stepped Cross pierced by Instruments of the Passion (the spear and sponge, with three nails at the limbs); beneath is written 'S T O .1533.'; on the facing verso the same man wrote 'Magister ihesus 1533'.

Annotations: The copy is unannotated.

Binding: Normal New College binding of reversed calf over pasteboard. Three-line blind fillets to the edges crossing at the corners; otherwise plain. Five raised split bands at the spine. The book never had the cord fastenings at the fore-edge, nor are the edges sprinkled. The head of the spine is come away leaving the binding structure visible, and the foot is split; there is also worming here. Headbands of alternating bands of blue and beige thread. The back flyleaf shows the impress from the turn-ins of an earlier binding.

Labels and marks: Parchment fore-edge tag in usual position at top, illegible but for '291', reinked. Printed spine-label 'MS. New Coll. F. 291'. Inside the book, the number '291' in red crayon is written on the loose paper flyleaf; the number was repeated in modern pencil on the inside of the front board and on fol. 1r, where it is framed by New College Library stamp. The stamp is otherwise used on another flyleaf and only several other times throughout the book.

Provenance: The book seems to have been made as a commercial proposition in 1452. Nothing is known of its subsequent history before it was reported at the College under its present shelf-mark in 1698 for the *Catalogi manuscriptorum Angliae*.

Secundo folio: fide datur nobis

Bibliography: CMA no. 1255; Coxe, p. 105; Alexander & Temple, no. 570.

Status: first draft