

MANUSCRIPT 103-Vault

Roger of Waltham, d. 1336.

Compendium morale.

Bound with a few leaves (ff. 2-6) of other, late 15th century, materials.
B765.R6308 14--. MS 103-V.

England (in Latin).

Ca. 1400.

One of the seven or eight known copies of Roger of Waltham's treatise on the rights and duties of princes, which has never been published apart from a few excerpts. An account of this important illuminated medieval codex can be found in William Park Hotchkiss, An introduction to the Compendium morale of Roger of Waltham (University of Chicago Ph.D. dissertation 1935; Chicago: University Library, 1935). Hotchkiss gave the University Library a complete transcript of the codex, with his own notes - see MS ¹⁰³⁶360. See also: John M. Manly, "The Roger of Waltham Manuscript," The University of Chicago Magazine, XV (1923), 296 & 298; "Events: past and future," The University Record, New Ser., IX (Chicago, 1923), 282-3; De Ricci, Census, I, 565; and Charles Plummer's notes to Sir John Fortescue, The Governance of England (Oxford, 1885).

The first few leaves (ff. 2-6) contain the Constitutiones of George Neville, archbishop of York 1464-76, at the synod of the ecclesiastical province of York held on 26 April 1466, and also the Constitutiones of an earlier time, deriving from John Kemp (ca. 1380-1454), who was archbishop of York during 1426-1452, and also cardinal-priest of Santa Balbina, then cardinal-bishop of Santa Rufina, and archbishop of Canterbury. See Concilia Magnae Britanniae et Hiberniae, ed. David Wilkins (4 vols.; London, 1737), III, 599-605.

Vellum leaves, 30 x 21 cm.

222 leaves.

English calfskin binding, ca. 1820.

The miscellaneous notes on the frontpapers contain many 16th and 17th century names. A John Yonger owned the MS (possibly ca. ¹⁶⁰⁰1500).

There is a short record about ~~the ownership of lands~~, dated 1579 and payments made at Lammastide,

1580, with the names William A---- [?], James R[anson?], John Gwatkins, Phillip Gwatkins, and William G---- [?]. There is also a note that Elizabeth Gwatkins was baptized on 5 August 1580. Another note says that Richard Higgins was married on 6 February 1601 and sold some property a few days previously. Finally there is an expression of good wishes addressed to Francis Baskerville (ca. 1700?) and signed "John" [Baskerville?]. This Francis Baskerville may possibly have been one of the 16 sons of Hannibal Baskerville (1597-1668) the antiquary.

The codex was owned by Sir William Betham (1779-1853), the deputy keeper of the records in "The Tower" of Dublin Castle, and acquired, after his death, by Bertram Ashburnham (1840-1913) the 5th earl of Ashburnham. It was purchased by the bookseller James Tregaskis in 1899, passed through the hands of the bookseller Percy John Dobell-- Dobell cat. 15 (1922), No. 288 - and was bought by Wilfrid Michael Voynich (1865-1930), from whom it was acquired by the alumni of the University of Chicago and donated to the University on the occasion of the 128th convocation, 20 March 1923.

T. B. Duncan
June 1967