

**Oxford: New College, MS.288**Chaundler, *Collocutiones* etc.

Eng., 1461–5

**I** Parchment (rough, suede-like); 294 x 211mm; i + 73 + i fol.s. with final flyleaf a lifted pastedown. Modern pencil foliation: 1–75 (inc.s flyleaves). Pagination (s.xvii in?): 1–140 (from 109 written fitfully in modern pencil). **NB.: foliation excluding flyleaves used here.**

**II** i<sup>8</sup> (2 inserted after 1), ii–v<sup>8</sup> vi<sup>10</sup> vii<sup>2</sup> viii<sup>8</sup> ix<sup>6</sup> x<sup>8</sup> wanting 6-8 (after fol.73). Faint horizontal catchwords. Some signs of quire signatures at bottom centre (sometimes cropped by binding).

**III** 189 x 120mm throughout. 34 long lines. Ruled, with single border, in red with prick holes down side. In last quire, second and penultimate lines (as well as first and last) are ruled across full length of page.

**IV** *DH* & *EH* notes one scribe in this manuscript and identified him as John Farley. The evidence, however, is slightly more complicated. Farley is certainly the scribe of the bulk of the manuscript (fol.1–64), but the final pages (fol.64<sup>v</sup>–73<sup>v</sup>) are written in a different humanist script. Notable idiosyncracies of this second script are that it is written between rather than on the lines and that its ampersand has a descender to the line. It may be that these two scripts are both by Farley writing at different times; they certainly share a similar aspect, but many of the letters, for example the **d**, are formed quite differently; Farley's distinctive upright **g** has a long, straight neck, while in the second script this becomes consistently diagonal. This second scribe has some similarities to the hand of John Russell, but does not seem identifiable with him.. Both scribes write in black with red titles.

**V** At fol.2–3 there are four full page illustrations of Winchester College, New College, Wykeham and Wells Cathedral - these are fully described by James [pp.17–23]. There are also illuminated initials throughout the ms., all but two painted by the same illuminator. The first set of initials (fol.4, 6<sup>v</sup>, 10<sup>v</sup>, 13, 16, 18, 23, 31, 34, 37<sup>v</sup>, 45, 47, 52, 55, 55<sup>v</sup>, 58<sup>v</sup>, 62<sup>v</sup>) use green, pink and blue on gold with a leaf pattern in the initial and a border of small flowers which varies in length. A second illuminator painted the next initial and part-border at fol.64<sup>v</sup>, where the second script begins. The final initial, at fol.73<sup>v</sup> imitates the previous one but with a cruder, uglier effect. Both these illuminations have stippling on the gold and the initials include whole flowers.

**VII** Seventeenth century leather binding from Oxford, using Ker roll XX(1) [Oldham 873]. Pastedowns (Ker 718b) are from an early fifteenth century manuscript of Jerome's *epistulae*. 2<sup>o</sup> fo.: subridet amicus...

\* \* \*

fol.1<sup>v</sup>: contents list

Included in the list are the four drawings which follow and all items except the last two; the second of those (ie Pius II's letter to Bekynton) and all the folio numbers are added in a s.xix hand. Contents are preceded by notes at fol.1 in s.xvi hand.

fol.2–3<sup>v</sup>: illustrations

Reproduced and discussed by James, *Chaundler MSS*, pp.17-23.

[1] fol.4–31: **Thomas Chaundler, *Collocutiones***

*tit. pref.:* Ad insignem dominum & Litteratissimum Presule[m] / dominum Thomam de Bekyntona Wellensem & Bathoniensem pon/tificem in futuras collocuciones de Laudibus nobilis Antistitis / Willelmi de Wykeham ducentorum fundatoris clericorum prologus incipit feliciter.

*pref.:* CUM dudum beatissime presul eam ... [fol.6] ego illos curo. Finit prologus in futuras collocuciones de / laudibili vita & moribus Wintoniensis Antistitis Willelmi de / Wykeham duorum fundatoris Collegiorum Oxonie ac prope Wintoniam / ducentorum quoque clericorum in eisdem.

Extract from D. Rundle, 'Of Republics and Tyrants: aspects of quattrocento humanist writings and their reception in England, c. 1400 – c. 1460' (unpublished DPhil thesis, University of Oxford, 1997)

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*tit.*: [fol.6<sup>v</sup>] Collocutio prima de laudibus nobilis Antistitis domini Willelmi de / Wykeham ducentorum fundatoris clericorum. Colloquuntur philisophi duo / panescius qui dicitur omnia sciens et Ferrandus tardioris ac durioris intellectus.  
*dial.*: |Ferrandus| Peragratis montibus atque illis que luto ... [fol.31] aut optimum potest excogitari. / De moribus & vita Laudibili domini Willelmi de Wykeham / Wintoniensis episcopi duorum Fundatoris Collegiorum Oxonie ac prope Wintoniam / ducentorumque clericorum in eisdem inter philosophos finiunt collocuciones feliciter.

The whole of this work is edited by S.Bridges, "Thomas Chaundler" (unpublished B.Litt thesis, Oxford, 1949) ii, pp.96–202. Only sections are printed: the preface and parts of the first *collocutio* in *Bekynton Correspondence*, ii, pp.315–326; extracts of the last *collocutio* in James, pp.54–6.

The *collocuciones* divide: I (fol.6<sup>v</sup>–10<sup>v</sup>), II (fol.10<sup>v</sup>–13), III (fol.13–16); IV (fol.16–8); V (fol.18–23); VI (fol.23–4); VII (fol.24–31).

[2] fol.31–44<sup>v</sup>: **Thomas Chaundler**, *Allocuciones*

*tit. pref.*: Ad insignem dominum & litteratissimum presulem dominum / Thomam de bekyn-tona Wellensem pontificem in futuras allocuciones / referendas eidem Prologus incipit feliciter.

*pref.*: Quantum distat christianorum ac sacra theologie ... [fol.32] gloriosos oppugnare vado. Finit prologus.

*tit.*: Allocucio prima & tocius sermonis relacio ad insignem / dominum & litteratissimum presulem dominum Thomam de Bekyn/tona Wellensem pontificem ubi alcior attemptatur via ostendendi compositos / mores ac perfeccionem domini Willelmi nobilis fundatoris.

*tract.*: UTINAM a me semel visam ... [fol.44<sup>v</sup>] transvexit ad ethera virtus. Finiunt Allocuciones. / Ad insignem dominum & litteratissimum Presulem / dominum Thomam de Bekyntonam Wellensem & Bathoniensem / Pontificem de Laudibus & vita nobilis Antistitis Willelmi duorum Collegiorum Oxonie ac prope Wintoniam Funda/toris ducentorum quoque in eisdem clericorum finit opus feliciter.

Prologue only edited by Bridges, "Chaundler", ii, pp.203–6.

Books divide: I (fol.31–37<sup>v</sup>); II (37<sup>v</sup>–44<sup>v</sup>).

[3] fol.45–46<sup>v</sup>: brief life of Wykeham

*tit.*: Cronica brevis de ortu, vita ac gestis nobilibus Reverendi / domini Willelmi de Wykeham olim Episcopi Wintoniensis.

*bio.*: PRemissa meditatione interna pensante ... [fol.46<sup>v</sup>] virginis fieri ordinavit. / Finit cronica de ortu, vita &c.

Printed, from BL, MS. Cotton, Titus A.xxiv (and with additions) by W.Wharton, *Anglia sacra* (London: R. Chiswel, 1691), ii pp.355–6.

[4] fol.47–51<sup>v</sup>: **William of Wykeham**, will

*tit.*: Sagacissimi ac prudentissimi domini Willelmi de Wykeham / quondam Episcopi Wintoniensis testamentum quod dicitur ultima voluntas

*text.*: In nomine & honore summe ac individue Trinitatis Patris & Filij & spiritus sancti. Quia omne...[fol.51<sup>v</sup>]vocat specialiter & rogatis.

Edited (but not collated with this copy) by R.Lowth, *Life of Wykeham*, (Oxford., 1758), pp.xxxii–xl.iii.

[5] fol.52–54<sup>v</sup>: poem on William of Wykeham

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*tit.*: De ortu & obitu {domini} Willelmi de Wykeham quondam / Wintoniensis episcopi metrice

*poem*: Omnia cum nequeam Willelmi scribere gesta...

...[fol.54<sup>v</sup>] Et det ei requiem perpetuumque diem. /

de ortu vita & obitu domini Willelmi de Wykeham quondam / Wintoniensis Episcopi fundatoris ducentorum clericorum finiunt metra feliciter.

The source of this poem is discussed by Bridges, ii, p.vi.

Beneath this in the s.xvi hand which added notes to fol.1, there is an epitaph of eight lines on William.

[6] fol.55–64: **Pius II**, oratio (26 September 1458)

*tit.*: Oratio Pii {pape} secundi habita in Conventu Man/tuano sexto kalendas Octobris Anno domini Millesimo / quadringentesimo quinquagesimo octavo preambulium.

*orat.*: CUM bellum hodie adversus...[fol.64]sine fine regnat. xpc IHc. / Finit oratio summi pontificis Pii {pape} secundi Man/tue per eum recitata in conventu multorum principum / sexto kalendas octobris Anno domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo octavo de suscipiendo bello / contra Turcos, An iustum et quod inde premium / Et vale in magnam etatem ac dies letos optime & / dilectissime presul Thoma mei memor.

Bertalot, ii/1 3021.

[7] fol.64<sup>v</sup>–73: **Pius II**, epistle (22 October 1463)

*tit.*: Epistola Pij {pape} 2<sup>di</sup> Universo orbi christiano ad corripiendum arma contra / magnum Turchum pro defensione Religionis & fidei christiane cum indulgencijs maximis omnibus qui ad hoc conferunt concessis.

*ep.*: Pius Episcopus servus servorum dei Universis & singulis christi fidelibus Salutem & apostolicum benedictionem. Ezechielis prophete magni sententia est...[fol.73] nomini tuo psallat in secula seculorum AMEN. Datus Rome apud sanctum Petrum Anno Incarnacionis dominice Millesimo CCCCmo Sexagesimo tercio Undecimo KI Novembris Pontificatus nostri AMNO SEXTO.

Bertalot, ii/1 7342.

[8] fol.73<sup>v</sup>: **Pius II**, epistle to Bekynton (2 November 1463)

*tit.*: \Pius {pp} ii/ Epistola sive breve eiusdem sanctissimi patris directus venerabili / patri Thome de Bekyntona Bathoniensi & Wellensi Episcopo.

*epist.*: Venerabilis frater. Salutem & Apostolicam benedictionem. Ex litteris Apostolicis quas nuper...ipsa expostulat. Datus Rome apud sanctum Petrum sub anulo piscatoris die ija Novembris Mcccclxiij Pontificatus nostri Anno Sexto / G.d. Piccolominibus

Letter concerning preparations for a crusade.

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This is one of two manuscripts that Chaundler presented to Thomas Bekynton, the other being Cambridge: Trinity College, MS.R.14.5, which includes the *Libellus de laudibus duarum civitatum*. Both manuscripts are discussed by M.R.James but the reason for

including this manuscript here is the possibility that it provides evidence of humanist script being used outside Oxford.

This volume appears to be the presentation volume of Chaundler's *Collocutiones* given to Bekynton. At fol.1<sup>v</sup> there is a late fifteenth century inscription: *Ex dono Reverendi in christo patris domini Thome de Bekyntona / Bathoniensis et Wellensis Episcopi et labore Magistri Thome Chaundeler / huius ecclesie Cancellarij Oretis pro animabus utriusque*. The main part of the volume was written in Oxford by another Wykehamist, John Farley; he was certainly working after 15 May 1461, when Chaundler stopped being Oxford Chancellor (since his only title here is Chancellor of Wells), and before 14 January 1465, when Bekynton died. Bridges dates the *Collocutiones* to between the second half of 1461 and the first months of 1462 [ii pp.xviii–xix]. The quire collation of the manuscript would suggest that Farley wrote the items relating to Wykeham at one point and, then, as an afterthought, added the Mantuan speech by Pius II - perhaps the probable date for this addition is late 1462, since Pius wrote an open letter to the English on 30 August of that year reminding them of his intention to call a crusade [*CPL*, 1445–64 pp.675–6]. At the end of the Mantua speech, Farley signs off (fol.64) and adds the contents list at the beginning of the codex. At a still later point - after early November 1463 but most likely before Pius' death in 1464 - and surely after the volume had been given to Bekynton at Wells, someone, who clearly had access to Bekynton's official correspondence, took up his pen, writing 'ihs' at the top of fol.64<sup>v</sup> and added the final two letters from Pius. If the conjecture that the last pages were written at Wells is accepted, it means that it is unlikely to be by Farley; in other words, an hitherto unknown humanistic scribe may have been working in Wells in Bekynton's last years.

Why did Chaundler present this volume, largely devoted to praising Wykeham, to his

patron? It may simply have been out of respect to the founder of the colleges where both

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author and dedicatee were educated, but the dating of the ms. could suggest another explanation. Chaundler, as letters in Bekynton's correspondence shows, repeatedly asked the bishop for financial assistance for the Wykehamist foundations. Presenting works in praise of this educational patron might have been another way of begging for money. Moreover, Bekynton was already infirm in these years – the inclusion of Wykeham's will might have been a timely (if unsubtle) hint to Bekynton that he should remember his *almae matres* in his last testament.

The later history of the manuscript is slightly confused. Watson has noted the ambiguity in the inscription at fol.1<sup>v</sup> (*huius* could mean either 'this' or 'the latter') and wondered whether the ms. ever left New College. However, as it was presented to Bekynton, who was certainly in Wells in these years [*Register T.Bekynton...1443–1465, ed., H.C.Maxwell-Lyte & M.Dawes* {Somerset Record Soc. xlix} (sl., 1934) pp.405–427], and as a volume with these contents was sighted by Leland in that cathedral library, it is most probable that the ms. was in Wells from the 1460s until sometime in the later sixteenth century. The binding shows that it was in Oxford by the early seventeenth century.

Finally, a comment should be made about a related codex, BL, MS.Cotton Titus A.xxiv (pars I). It includes the first five pieces of the New College ms., although in a slightly different order (the *Collocutiones* and *Allocutiones* follow the other pieces) and with the loss of a quire which leaves both Chaundler's dialogues now incomplete. It has been suggested that this was a draft, in Chaundler's hand, of the New College manuscript [*DH&EH*]. However, there is not enough evidence of Chaundler's handwriting to decide this case [see also **Cambridge: Corpus, MS.472**]; the hand here, however, bears little similarity to Chaundler's hand in BL, MS.Harl. 43. The other possibility, of course,

is that this manuscript, like item [8] above is another example of an attempt at a humanist script by an unknown scribe.

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M.R.James, *Chaundler MSS* (London, 1916); A.Watson, *Catalogue of Dated and Datable Manuscripts in Oxford Libraries* (Oxford, 1984) no.856.5; *DH&EH*, no.36; K.Scott *Later Gothic Manuscripts* (London, 1996) *sub numero*.  
J.B.Oldham, *English blind-stamped bindings* (Cambridge, 1952) pl. li.