

YALE UNIVERSITY
BEINECKE RARE BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY
MEDIÆVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS

MS 640

England, s. XV¹

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla in Psalmos et Prophetas*

1. ff. 1ra-95rb [Prologue:] Propheta magnus surrexit in nobis. Luc. 7 cap. [Lk. 7:16]. Quamvis liber Psalmorum apud Hebreos inter agyographa computetur, tamen inter Latinos inter libros propheticos reputatur ... et opere impleatur, in presenti gratia et gloria habetur in futuro, quod nobis concedat etc. [f. 1rb:] Ad evidenciam huius libri et aliorum librorum prophetalium ... ad quartum principale, quod est de comparacione David ad alios prophetas, circa quod sciendum // [leaves missing; f. 2ra:] // nos in die qua vocaverimus te ... ut sic oratio ecclesie pro exercitu procedenti ad bellum contra inimicos fidei vel iusticie pro defensione regni cetera patent, etc. Domine in virtute tua, etc. [Ps. 20]. Huic psalmo preponitur talis titulus in Ebreo: Ad victoriam Psalmus David. Est in translatione *** iuxta Hebraicus victori canticum David ... in secula seculorum laudabunt te. Ad quam laudem nos perducatur qui cum Patre et Spiritu Sancto vivet [*sic*] et regnat Deus per omnia secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla super Psalterium edita a fratre Nicholao de Lyra de ordine Minorum, sacre theologie doctore, et cetera. f. 95v blank

Nicolaus de Lyra (c. 1270-1349), *Postilla super Psalmos*. Stegmüller 5853. Part of the Prologue and the commentary to Ps. 1-2 is missing. The first quire is misbound; the right order of the leaves is 1, 3-11, 2. F. 40 is an inserted leaf containing on its recto (f. 40ra) the end of the *Postilla super Exodum* (Stegmüller 5830): “// 3° De tunica iacinctina ibi: quoque fecerunt tunicam [Exod. 39:20] ... in memoria que de hiis superius sunt expressa. Explicit postilla edita super librum Exodi”. The right-hand column and the verso contain pictures to this text.

2. f. 96r-v Figures to *Postilla super Regum III* (Stegmüller 5839) and *Postilla super Isaiam* (Stegmüller 5872).
3. ff. 97ra-143vb Prologus super Ysaïam. Ierusalem evangelistam dabo. Ysaïas 41 [Is. 41:27]. Secundum quod dicit beatus Ieronimus in epistola ad Paulinum de omnibus Sacre Scripture libris Ysaïas non videtur prophetiam sed magis evangelium texere ... nunc per speculum in enigmate et postea in futuro lucide videbimus et aperte, quod nobis concedat etc. [f. 97rb, text:] Visio Ysaïe. Hic accedendum est ad formam tractatus, qui [*sic*] est divisio libri ... et sic totum cedit in gloriam electorum et ipsius, cui est honor et gloria in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla super librum Ysaïe.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Isaiam*. Stegmüller 5872.

4. ff. 143vb-174rb Prophetam in gentibus dedi te [Jer. 1:5]. Verbum propositum scribitur Jeremie primo capitulo. Et dictum fuit sibi a Domino ... quia tibi proprium est misereri et parcere, qui vivis et regnas Deus in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla fratris Nicholai de Lyra, sacre theologie venerabilis doctoris, super Ieremiam. Hic autem librum Baruch et epistolam Ieremie omitto, quia non sunt de canone.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Ieremiam*. Stegmüller 5874-5875.

5. ff. 174rb-210vb Aperti sunt celi et vidi visiones Dei. Ezechielis primo [Ezek. 1:1]. In verbo proposito ab Ezechiele dicto possunt notari quatuor cause ... designatur quod ministri ecclesie non debent de rapina vel alio illicito //

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Ezechielem*. Stegmüller 5877. Ends incomplete.

6. ff. 211ra-236vb // convenienciam cum lentisco [?], nunc autem ita est quod scindere quod accepit Daniel ... timeant blasphemare habitantes universam terram yperbole est ad //

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Danielem*. Stegmüller 5879 or 5880. Beginning and end missing.

7. ff. 237ra-243rb // que pullulat de terra. Unde de magna multitudine populi conveniente ad invicem ... ad gloriam Dei cedet et electorum, qui cum eo regnabunt in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita a fratre Nicholao de Lyra super librum Osee.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Osee*. Stegmüller 5882. Beginning missing.

8. ff. 243rb-245va Incipit postilla edita super librum Ioelis, etc. Verbum Domini. Hic in principio Ioelis prophete duo sunt premittenda ... habebitur ad fruendum, ad quam fruicionem nos perducatur qui cum Patre et Spiritu Sancto vivit et regnat in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita super librum Ioelis.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Ioel*. Stegmüller 5883.

9. ff. 245va-249vb Incipit postilla super librum Amos. Verba Amos. Hec propheta, que 3^o loco ponitur, dividitur in duas partes ... consecutio meriti in presenti et premii in futuro, quod nobis concedat et cetera. Explicit postilla super librum Amos.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Amos*. Stegmüller 5884.

10. ff. 249vb-250va Incipit postilla super librum Abdie. Visio Abdie. Secundum doctores Hebraicos et Latinos iste Abdias fuit dispensator domus Achab ... quia tunc perfecte omnia subicientur Domino nostro Ihesu Christo, cui est honor et gloria in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita super Abdiam.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Abdiam*. Stegmüller 5885.

11. ff. 250va-251vb Postilla edita super Ionam etc. Et factum est. Hic incipit Ionas propheta, et dividitur in duas partes ... et ideo propter tantorum innocenciam rationabile est temperare iusticie mee rigorem. Explicit postilla edita super Ionam prophetam.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Ionam*. Stegmüller 5886.

12. ff. 251vb-254vb Incipit postilla edita super Micheam prophetam. Verbum Domini. Hic incipit propheta Michee, que in duas partes dividitur ... que tunc implende erant et nunc implete sunt in Domino Ihesu Christo, cui est honor et gloria, etc. Explicit postilla super Micheam prophetam.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Micheam*. Stegmüller 5887.

13. ff. 254vb-256ra Incipit postilla super Naum prophetam. Onus Ninive. Prophecia Naum in duas partes dividitur ... in hoc eciam applaudentes iusticie Dei, qui est benedictus in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita super Naum prophetam.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Nahum*. Stegmüller 5888.

14. ff. 256ra-257vb Incipit postilla edita super Abacuch. Onus quod vidit Abacuch. Hic incipit ipsius Abacuch propheta, et dividitur in duas partes ... beati qui habitant in domo tua, Domine, in secula seculorum laudabunt te [Ps. 83:5]; ad quam nos perducatur, etc. Explicit postilla edita super librum Abacuch.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Habacuc*. Stegmüller 5889.

15. ff. 257vb-259rb Incipit postilla edita super librum Sophonie. Verbum Domini, etc. Prophecia Sophonie in duas partes dividitur ... ut patet ex gestis multorum martirum. Hec dicit Dominus, qui est ipsa veritas et vivit et regnat in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita super librum Sophonie.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Sophoniam*. Stegmüller 5890.

16. ff. 259rb-260va Incipit postilla edita super librum Aggei, etc. In anno secundo. Hic incipit propheta Aggei, que dividitur in 2 partes ... redempcionis humane, dicit Dominus exercituum, qui est ipsa veritas et vivit et regnat in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita super librum Aggei.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Aggeum*. Stegmüller 5891.

17. ff. 260va-267ra Incipit postilla super librum Zacharie. In mense octavo, etc. Hic incipit propheta Zacharie, et dividitur in 2 partes ... dilatata ecclesia super istas tres partes magis consonat littere istarum parcium et ecclesia pre cunctis. Explicit postilla edita super librum Zacharie.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Zachariam*. Stegmüller 5892.

18. ff. 267ra-268va Incipit postilla edita super librum Malachie, etc. Onus verbi Domini. Hic incipit propheta Malachie, et dividitur in duas partes ... sed qui sunt electi adherebunt Deo sempiterna fruicione, quam nobis concedat, etc. Explicit postilla edita super librum Malachie.

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Malachiam*. Stegmüller 5893.

19. ff. 268va-272rb Incipit postilla super librum Baruch, etc. Et hec verba. Post librum Tobie secundum ordinem temporis sequitur liber Baruch immediate ... honorabilis coram Deo et angelis, qui in trinitate perfecta vivit et regnat in secula seculorum. Amen. Explicit postilla edita super librum Baruch.
f. 272v blank

Nicolaus de Lyra, *Postilla super Baruch*. Stegmüller 5876.

Parchment, ff. II (paper) + 272 + II (paper), 505 x 355 mm. The first and last leaves are damaged by moist.

I¹² (-2, ff. 1-11), II-III¹² (ff. 12-35), IV¹² (+ a singleton, f. 40; ff. 36-48), V-VII¹² (ff. 49-84), VIII² (ff. 85-96), IX-XIX¹² (ff. 97-226), XX² (ff. 227-237), XXI-XXII¹² (ff. 238-261), XXIII¹² (-12, ff. 262-272). Horizontal catchwords at right; they are framed in red in quires II-VII, inscribed in a scroll in brown ink in quires IX-XXII. Signatures are often seen in the lower outer corner of the recto pages in the first half of the quires, of the type “aI aII aIII aIIII aV aVI¹²”; they are in two series: in red in quires II-VIII, the letter being mostly “a”; in black in quires IX-XXIII, the letters in their normal order, starting from “a” (f. 97r).

Pricked and ruled with brown ink for two columns of 69/70 lines (ff. 1r-95r) or 66 lines (ff. 97r-272r) below top line. Ruling type 43, with single bounding lines and one horizontal through line at the top and at the bottom. There are double vertical marginal lines in the inner and outer margins, and double horizontal marginal lines in the upper and lower margin; those in the upper margin are the only ones to have been used (for the running headlines).

Mainly copied by two scribes: hand A copied ff. 1r-95r (with the exception of f. 40) in Gothica Cursiva Antiquior Libraria; hand B copied ff. 97r-272r in the same type of script, but closer to Anglicana. The text on the inserted leaf f. 40ra is copied by a hand close to A.

Headings and explicit formulas in black Gothica Textualis or a larger form of Gothica Cursiva Antiquior. Alternately red and blue paragraph marks. The lower decoration is different in the two main sections of the manuscript: on ff. 1r-95r red underlining and flourished initials (3-7 lines) alternately in gold with purple penwork and in blue with red penwork (type A). On ff. 97r-272r brown underlining and 4-line blue flourished initials with red penwork (type B). The penwork is quite developed and extends into the left margin or into the intercolumnar space. The higher decoration is very rich and is also different in the two sections, although following the same pattern: foliate initials and four-margins floral borders augmented with a staff in the intercolumnium on ff. 1r (opening of art. 1), 14r (Ps. 26), 22r (Ps. 38), 31r (Ps. 52), 39v (Ps. 68), 51v (Ps. 80), 62v (Ps. 97), 71v (Ps. 109), 97r (art. 3), 143v (art. 4), 174r (art. 5). All the following Books open with a foliate initial and a single floral border in the left margin or in the intercolumnar space; these borders have floral extensions in the upper as well as in the lower margin. The initials on ff. 1r-71v are larger (11-13 lines) than those on ff. 97r-259r (6-7 lines), and their decoration is more

developed and shows more variety than the latter ones; in the latter grotesques are sometimes seen. A 4-line dentelle initial appears on f. 97r at the opening of the Prologue of art. 3.

Pictures and diagrams in bright colours are seen on the following pages: the inserted leaf 40, taken from another volume in the same series of *Postillae* (see art. 1): f. 40rb illustrations to Exod. 25 (two versions of the Candlestick) and 26 (two versions of the Curtains of Linen); f. 40v illustrations to Exod. 27 (two versions of the Altar of the Holocaust), 28 (Aaron the high priest), 30 (the Brazen Sea), 32 (the Tables of the Law) and 40 (plan of the Temple); the inserted leaf 96, from a similar manuscript, but whose original place is difficult to assess (leaf from a model book according to Scott); f. 96r contains illustrations to 1 Kings (*liber III Regum*) 6-7 (plans of the Temple of Solomon, Solomon's house, the Brass Pillars, the Brazen Sea); f. 96v illustrations to 1 Kings 7 (the Base of Brass on wheels), 2 Kings (*liber IV Regum*) 20 (two diagrams of the Sun-Dial) and Isaiah 6 (the Vision of Isaiah) and 38 (two diagrams of the Sun-Dial); the *Postillae super Isaiam* begin indeed on the next page; all the remaining pictures are unlabelled text illustrations to Ezekiel and appear on ff. 175v-176r, 179v, 196r-v, 198v-200v, 204r, 205r-206r, 207v.

S. XIX binding: parchment over pasteboard. Each cover decorated with a frame tooled in blue and a central lozenge-shaped motif in the same colour, and between the two a large interlocking lozenge and rectangle, the edges of which, red and black respectively, are gold-tooled. On the gold-tooled spine two red morocco title-labels with gold-tooled inscriptions: "EXPLICATIONES / PROPHETARUM" and "NICHOLAS DE HIRA / ILLUMINATED MS." Red edges.

On the front pastedown a paper label with printed inscription "E. Parry, Bookseller & Stationer, Bridge Street Row, Chester"; and the handwritten pressmarks in ink: "Ms. Number 3" and "Number 8 old catalogue". On the rear pastedown printed blue paper bookmark (pasted upside down) of "Gloddaeth Library." The manuscript belonged for centuries to the Mostyn family in Gloddaeth Hall (Wales). Offered for sale by Christie's 24 Oct. 1974, lot 1482, and again 8 Dec. 1982, lot 144. Acquired by Laurence Witten; his catalogue no. 18 (1983). Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

Bibliography:

B. Shailor, "A New manuscript of Nicolaus de Lyra", *Yale University Library Gazette*, 58 (1983), pp. 9-16.
K.L. Scott, *Tradition and Innovation in Later Medieval English Manuscripts* (London, 2007), pp. 25-28, 153n, Appendix C.

In the following table ff. 40 and 96 have not been taken into consideration

QUIRES	CATCHW.	SIGN.	LINES	SCRIBES	DECOR.	CONTENT
I-VIII	red	red	69/70	A	type A	art. 1
IX-XXIII	black	black	66	B	type B	artt. 3-19