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France (Royaumont), s. XIII<sup>1</sup>

**Gregory the Great, Homilies on the Gospels**

1. f. 1r-v *Incipit epistola beati Gregorii pape urbis Rome ad Secundinum episcopum.*  
Reverentissimo et sanctissimo fratri Secundino coepiscopo Gregorius servus servorum Dei. Inter sacra missarum sollempnia ex his que diebus certis in hac ecclesia legi ex more solent ... hic inveniant unde in his que emendate sunt certiores fiant. *Explicit epistola beati Gregorii pape.*

Preface to art. 3. PL 76.1075-1078.

2. ff. 1v-2v *Incipiunt capitula libri sancti Gregorii omeliarum numero quadraginta.*  
*Dominica tertia ante Natale Domini. I.* Erunt signa in sole et luna ... XL. Misit Ihesus duodecim discipulos suos precipiens eis et dicens in viam gentium, *ad predicandum. Expliciunt capitula.*

Table of the chapters of art. 3.

3. ff. 2v-206v *In Christi nomine incipit liber quadraginta omeliarum de sancto evangelio a sancto Gregorio. Dominica III<sup>a</sup> ante Natale Domini. Secundum Lucam. I.* In illo tempore dixit Ihesus discipulis suis: Erunt signa in sole et luna et stellis [Lk. 21:25] ... *Omelia lectionis eiusdem beati Gregorii pape habita ad populum in basilica beati Petri apostoli.* Dominus ac redemptor noster paratos nos invenire desiderans ... [f. 204r:] *Lectio sancti evangelii secundum Matheum. XL.* In illo tempore misit Ihesus duodecim discipulos suos, precipiens eis et dicens: In viam gentium ne abieritis [Mt.10:5] ... *Omelia lectionis eiusdem beati Gregorii pape habita ad populum in basilica sancti Stephani.* Cum constet omnibus, fratres karissimi, quod redemptor noster pro redemptione venit ... ad videndum ergo citius iudicem nostrum, qui cum magna importunitate impellimur, ei bonis actibus cum festinatione [*sic*] preparemur, prestante Domino nostro Ihesu Christo, cui est honor et gloria in secula seculorum. Amen. *Explicit liber omeliarum sancti Gregorii pape urbis Rome.*

Gregorius Magnus (Gregory the Great, pope 590-604), *Homiliae XL in evangelia*. CPL 1711. PL 76. 1077-1312. The homilies are arranged for liturgical use throughout the ecclesiastical year in the following order (the numbers of the homilies in PL are given between parentheses): I, f. 2v (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Advent, 1), II, f. 6v (3<sup>d</sup> Sunday of the Advent, 6), III, f. 9v (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Advent, 7), IV, f. 13v (Ember Saturday before Christmas, 20), V, f. 22v (Christmas, 20), VI, f. 24r (Epiphany, 8), VII, f. 27v (Septuagesima, 19), VIII, f. 32v (Sexagesima, 15), IX, f. 36r (Quinquagesima, 2), X, f. 39v (Quadragesima, 16), XI, f. 43r (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, 18), XII, f. 46r (Easter, 21), XIII, f. 50r (Monday after Easter, 23), XIV, f. 52r (Wednesday after Easter, 24), XV, f. 56r (Thursday after Easter, 25), XVI, f. 63v (Friday after Easter, 22), XVII, f. 70r (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter, 26), XVIII, f. 76v (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter, 14), XIX, f. 79v (Ascension, 29), XX, f. 85v (Pentecost, 30), XXI, f. 92v (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 40),

XXII, f. 102v (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 36), XXIII, f. 111r (3<sup>d</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 34), XXIV, f. 122v (11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 39), XXV, f. 130r (Ember Friday in Sept., 33), XXVI, f. 136r (Ember Saturday in Sept., 31), XXVII, f. 140r (20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 38), XXVIII, f. 150v (21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 28), XXIX, f. 152v (All Saints, 1 Nov., 27), XXX, f. 157v (St Andrew, 30 Nov., 5), XXXI, f. 159v (St Silvester, 31 Dec., 9), XXXII, f. 163v (St Felix, 14 Jan., 13), XXXIII, f. 166v (St Mennas, 11 Nov., 35), XXXIV, f. 172v (Sts Processus and Martinianus, 2 July, 32), XXXV, f. 178r (St Stephen, 26 Dec., 37), XXXVI, f. 184r (St Felicitas, 23 Nov., 3), XXXVII, f. 186v (Virgins, 11), XXXVIII, 190r (Virgins, 12), XXXIX, f. 194v (*In adventu episcopi*, 17), XL, f. 204r (On the apostles, 4).

4. ff. 206v-207r Sex monasteria in Sicilia fabricans beatus Gregorius sufficientibus fratribus cumulavit ... quippe qui non solus dissocialiter, sed cum beato Andrea apostolo suo monasterio signis evidentibus prefuisse putabatur.

Iohannes Diaconus (c. 825-c. 882), *Vita beati Gregorii*, I, 5-10. PL 75.65-66.

5. ff. 207v- 208r Quodam itaque tempore beatus Gregorius iuxta consuetudinem suam precepit sacellario ut duodecim peregrinos ad prandium invitaret ... quanta putem restituet [*corrected from restituit*], si in preceptis eius totis viribus permanens plura studuero de pluribus erogare?  
f. 208v blank

Iohannes Diaconus, *Vita beati Gregorii*, II, 23. PL 75.96-97. A miracle from the life of St Gregory.

Artt. 1-5: faulty text; corrections by the scribes on erasure.

Parchment, ff. 208, 360 x 260 mm.

I-XXVI<sup>8</sup>. Short horizontal catchwords in the inner margin, close to the lower edge. Quire marks “I<sup>9</sup>” – “VI<sup>9</sup>” in the middle of the last page of quires I-VI (ff. 1-48), close to the lower edge.

Ruling in lead for two columns of 24 written lines below top line (where the ruling is double, there are 49 traced lines). Single bounding lines. The pricking system and the number of horizontal through lines differ from quire to quire.

Copied by several scribes in Northern Gothic Textualis Formata. A change of hands is visible between f. 120r and v.

Red stroking of majuscules. Red headings and explicit formulas. Alternately red and blue flourished initials or litterae duplices of various sizes, with penwork in the opposed colours or in both colours, sometimes very elaborate, extending into the margins or containing birds or fish.

English blue morocco binding over cardboard, by W.H. Smith and Son, Ltd., dated 1948. In the center of both covers a blind-tooled strapwork motif. Spine with raised bands; in the compartments the same strapwork motif, and the gold-tooled inscriptions “GREGORII / HOMILIAE” and “MS. / FROM ROYAU/MONT ABBEY / XIII CENT.” Two clasps.

Ownership inscription of the Cistercian abbey of Royaumont by a contemporary hand on f. 208r, in red: “Liber sancte Marie de Regali Monte”. Collections of Amans-Alexis Monteil (1769-1850); Thomas Phillipps (MS 1344, bookplate); Eric George Millar (bought from W.H. Robinson, 15 Nov. 1947,

bookplate); Sotheby sale 18 June 1962, lot 113; Brian S. Cron (1913-2002, MS 9), bought from Quaritch, 4 July 1962. Purchased on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

*Bibliography:*

M. Huglo, "La dispersion des manuscrits de Royaumont", *Revue bénédictine*, 113 (2003), pp. 365-406 (373).

R.A. Linenthal, "Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts. A Handlist of the Collection of B.S. Cron", *The Book Collector*, 54 (2005), pp. 553-563, Handlist 9.