

Augustine, four works

2° f°: et sine talibus

Vellum (HSOS). Fols iii + 126 + iii (numbered fols iv-vi). The leaves have been pared unusually close at the tops; fol. 126 is the narrow top of the sheet (the last five lines of text and one of colophon), with the remainder cut away and this fragment mounted on a modern paper leaf. Overall 255 mm x 174 mm (writing area 188 mm x 120 mm). In long lines, 28 lines to the page. No prickings; bounded and ruled in lead. Written in protogothic bookhand. Punctuation by point, punctus elevatus, and punctus interrogativus; punctus versus at ends of chapters and texts.

CONTENTS

1. Fols 1-70: 'Incipit Proemium Sancti Augustini De Libro Retractationum In Libro De Doctrina cristiana Libros de doctrina cristiana cum imperfectos comperissem . . . Incipit Prologus Eiusdem De Doctrina Cristiana Svnt precepta quedam tractandarum scripturarum que studiosis . . . [fol. 3^v] avrelii Avgustini Egregij Doctoris Liber Primus Incipit De Doctrina cristiana Dve sunt res quibus ininitur omnis tractatio scripturarum modus inueniendi --- potui facultate disserui adiuuante domino qui uiuit [form ending] Explicit Liber Sancti Avgustini De Doctrina Cristiana'.

AUGUSTINE, De doctrina christiana (CPL 263), ed. Joseph Martin, CC 32 (1962), 1-167. Preceded by the discussion in Augustine's Retractationes 2.4, ed. Almut Mutzenbecher, CC 77 (1984), 92-93. The MS has been previously described, Ker MMBL 3:596-97.

2. Fols 70^v-103: 'Incipit Liber Sanctj Avgustini De Uera Religione Cvm omnis uite bone ac beate uia in uera religione sit constituta --- unum deum ex quo omnia per quem omnia in quo omnia ipsi gloria in secula seculorum amen Explicit Liber Sanctj Avgustini De Uera Religione'.

AUGUSTINE, 'De vera religione' (CPL 264), ed. K.-D. Daur, CC 32 (1962), 187-260.

3. Fols 103^v-15: 'Incipit Liber Sancti Avgvstini Episcopi De Cvra Pro mortuis Agenda Ad Paulinum Episocopum Diu sanctjtatj tue coepiscope uenerande Pauline rescriptor debitor fui ex quo michi scripsisti per homines filie nostre --- non sinerer obliuisci profecto interrogationi tue mea responsio defuisset Explicit Liber Ad Pavlinvm'.

AUGUSTINE, 'De cura...' (CPL 307), ed. Zycha, 621-59.

4. Fols 115^v-26: 'Avrelij Avgvstini De Decem Cordis Sermo Incipit Dominus et deus noster misericors et miserator longanimis et multum misericors et uerax --- Erit ergo illud sabbatum sabbatorum ut quod hic desideramus ibi inueniamus amen Explicit Sermo Sanctj Avgvstini De Decem Cordis'.

AUGUSTINE, Sermo 9 (cf. CPL 284), ed. PL 38:75-94.

COLLATION 1-15⁸ 16⁸ (-7, -8, blanks; the 6th leaf, fol. 126, is a fragment mounted on a modern paper leaf). No catchwords; each quire, except the last, signed on the final verso with the appropriate roman numeral.

TEXTUAL PRESENTATION AND DECORATION Headings in red. At the openings of the texts and the book divisions of item 1, four-line (six for the prologue to item 1) arabesque initials in red, blue, or green, with flourishing or floral patterns in the other colours. Similar two-line examples at the openings of the chapters of item 1 (usually without flourishing). The texts are divided by larger capitals in the text ink, by ochre-slashed capitals in texts 2 and 4.

BINDING Brown leather over millboards, late s. xvii, apparently rebaked. Sewn on five thongs. In the top spine compartment, in gilt on a brown leather label, 'S. Augustini De doctrina christiana etc.'. Pastedowns modern paper, with printed labels of the Allestree Library and the Regius Professor on both. At the front, two modern paper flyleaves and a medieval vellum flyleaf; at the rear, three modern paper flyleaves.

PROVENANCE There are two indications of early use: (a) An index of contents (fol. iii^v; bastard anglicana, s. xv ex.); (b) the signature 'Reginaldus Metcalfus', with notes at the foot on his reading through the book beginning 16 April 1598 (fol. iii^v). Fol. 126 apparently celebrates the conclusion of his reading 'per [for 'perlegi'?] 1598 Julij 7'. Metcalf does not appear in AO.

Thereafter, the MS provides no information until its donation by Allestree, printed labels of 'The Regius Professor of Divinity' and of the Library (as in the two preceding MSS) (the front and back pastedowns). In addition, an accurate s. xx typed description is pasted to fol. ii.