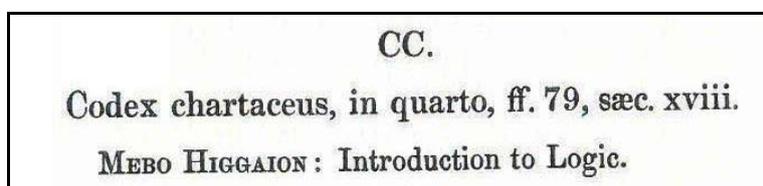
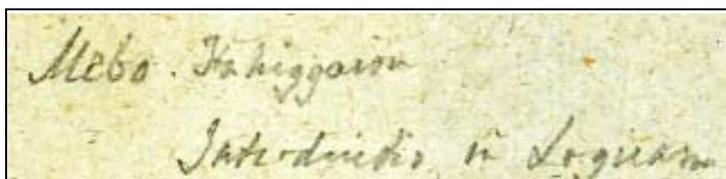


Christ Church Library MS 200

A brief note by Jeremy I. Pfeffer

Paper (ff. 79), in quarto: Neubauer OX 2451; IMHM Film No. F 15589.

The faint inscription on the front endpaper reads: *Mebo Hahiggaion; Introductis in Logicam*. The entry in Kitchin's catalogue reads "Mebo Higgsaion: Introduction to Logic;" *Mebo Hahiggaion* is a transliteration of the Hebrew מבוה ההגיון. The entry wrongly ascribes the work to the 18th century; it is actually 15th century.



The text is a supercommentary attributed to Eli Ḥabillo (עלי בן יוסף חביליו)¹ "on Averroes' *Middle Commentary* on Porphyry's *Isagoge* and Aristotle's *Categories*, *De Interpretatione* and *Prior Analytics*, according to Jacob Anatoli's² medieval Hebrew translation." There is no colophon in this codex. There is a second copy of this work in the Bodleian Library (Neubauer 1364; IMHM Film No. F 22389); it too has no colophon but has been dated to 1467-1469.³

Partials of at least five different watermarks can be made out in the folios of codex 200. However, the full form of only two could be determined with any degree of certainty: (i) a balance and (ii) an ox head.

The former was revealed by placing the partial watermarks from two adjacent folios one above the other (Fig 200.1). This showed they were the top and bottom of a balance inscribed in a circle similar to Briquet 2446. The online Briquet catalogue has five examples of similar watermarks dating from 1441 to 1485.

An ox head is the most common motif in 15th, 16th and 17th century watermarks; Briquet's catalogue has more than a thousand variants of this basic form. Unambiguous identifications can usually only be made where there is some additional feature such as a cross, flower, star etc. A match for the partial ox head watermark in this codex could not be found. Briquet 14179 (Arkel, Holland 1434) is one of the closest examples (Fig. 200.2).

¹ The translator of the Library's codex 187.

² Jacob ben Abba Mari ben Simson Anatoli (c.1194–1256). A translator of Arabic texts into Hebrew and a relative by marriage of Moses ibn Tibbon, the translator of the treatise by al-Hassar in codex 189.

³ Zonta, Mauro, *Hebrew Scholasticism in the Fifteenth Century*, Springer, Dordrecht, (2006) p. 170.

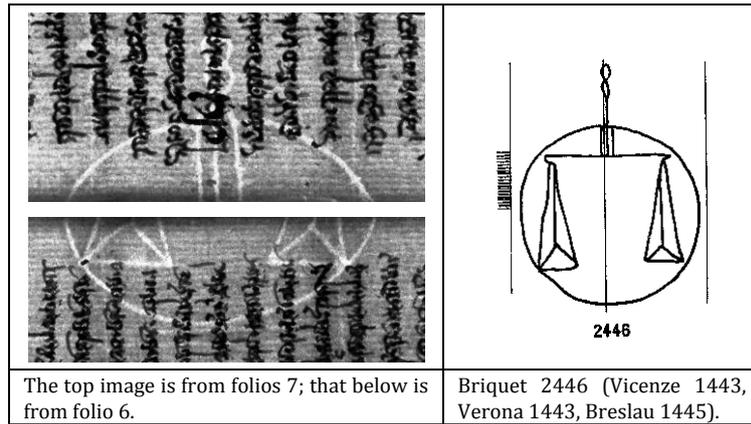


Fig. 200.1: The watermark in the shape of a balance obtained by joining the partial marks in folios 6 and 7.

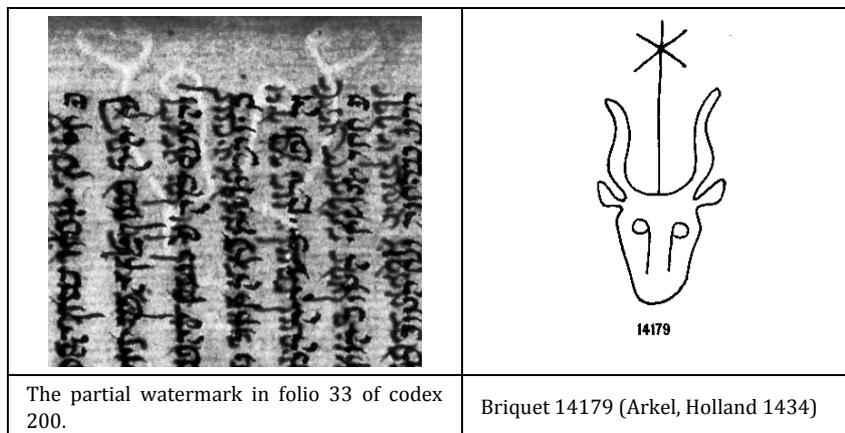


Fig.200.2: The ox head watermark in codex 200.

Folios 60 and 61 are both blank and the back endpaper has a 17th century Dutch watermark; it was presumably added when the codex was bound at that time into its present covers (Fig. 200.3).

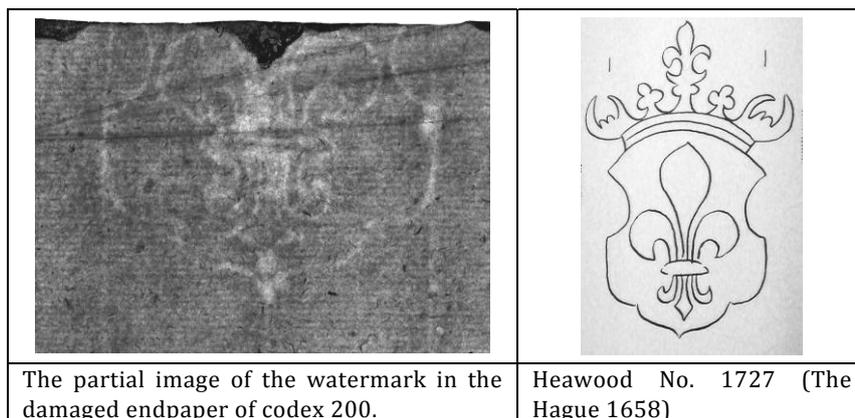


Fig. 200.3: The watermark in the back endpaper of codex 200.