

Transcription of M.R. James's unpublished description
Cambridge, University Library, MS Ll.4.14

Title	Piers Plowman etc.
Secundo folio	2f. Of ffalsed
Language	English and Latin
Material	paper
Measurements	11 ¾ x 9 ins.
Collation	[flyleaves] ² a ¹⁴ – i ¹⁴ (wants 8 – 13 blank) A ¹⁶ B ¹⁰ (wants 7 – 10) C ⁸ (wants 8) D ¹² (wants 8, 12) E (two)
Number of leaves	174
Columns	single
Lines to a page	33 to 40
Date	XV
Handwriting	in two parts: the first hand very neat and small.
Binding	paper boards

Moore bookplate: no number [? where (1958) – HLP]

Contents

	On the flyleaves:	
	a) Verses (7) XV	i
	Salve sancta parens enixa puerpera regens	
	-- placuisti femina christo	
	b) XVI Man [M ^d] that on knape is fermer of Whitchurche in the countie of Oxon and hath viij yiris to come and hath by leace (of?) the Court the proffettes [proffette] of the sam w ^l all comodites [comodite] etc.	ii
I.1	The Vision of Piers Plowman	1
	In a somer sesoun	
	This is Skeat's no. XIX (II. lxiv), a B-text of group C. Denoted by C.2	
	Apparently copied from Oriel Coll. MS. 79 when it was perfect; very serviceable for filling up the gaps in that MS (4 leaves).	
	It contains the <u>unique</u> ¹ copy of Richard the Redeless (text in Skeat I. 603). This begins on 107 ^b of this MS: And as I passid in my preiere and ends 119 ^b : and do well forsoke [ffor soke]. The rest of the page is blank, and after it six (blank?) leaves are gone, ff. 120-125: 126 is blank.	
II.2	In a very similar hand to the last.	
	A tract on algorism or the art of numbering.	127
	Al maner of thynges that prosedeth ffro the ffrist begynnynge thoru reson of now(m)bre þei where fformed and ryth as þei ar so to be knowyn.	
	The text is continued to 147 ^b ending:	
	and begyn to werk at þe rith hend [hond]	
	148 ^a blank, on 148 ^b is a ready reckoner.	
	Four leaves 149-152 are gone.	
3	Here bigynneth the wyse boke of philosophie and astronomye conteyned and	153

¹ [Until the discovery of a second fragmentary copy in 1930: now B.M. Add.]

- made of the wyseste philosophre and astromyer þ^t euer was sythe þe world ffrist
 bygan þ^t is ffor to say of þe lond of greece ffor in þ^t lond was an Englissh man
 ffull wyse ... and compylid þis boke out of grew graciou(s)ly in to Englissh.
 Friste þis boke tellith how many heuenes þer beth
 -- blake cloþinge he loueth moste.
 Here bygynneth þe tretis of þe booke of phisonomye a nobile knowinge of 156^b
 nature etc.
 The fforge of manys body
 ending imperfect in the signification of the Ear.
 f. 160 is gone
- III.4 In a larger, very neat hand. 161
 Hec sunt psalmodum sacra carmina dauiticorum
 followed by a series of rhyming distichs on Pss. 1-98 unfinished
 Primus enim uite lignum dicit fore uite } Beatus uir
 De quo uescentur uita quicunq; fruuntur }
 163^b blank
- 5 Another hand. 164
 A collection of moral sayings in Latin with renderings in English verse.
 Agustinus. quisquis metu cuiuscumque potestatis etc.
 Who so for eny drede the truth [trithe] encloseth
 ending
 ysodoris: lacrimae penitentium apud deum pro baptismo refutantur [reputantur]
 The teres of þe penitent man
 ffor swete baptisme of god arn tan
 Carleton Browne 2625. No other copy cited.
 167^b blank, 168 gone, 169 blank.
- 6 Another hand. 170
 A page of a glossary to Piers Plowman (XVI?)
 170^b blank, 171-2 gone.
- 7 Two leaves in double columns in a larger and good hand. 173
 A doctrine of ffisshing and foulyng (Piers of Fulham)
 (A) man þat loueþ fisshing and fowlyng boþe
 Often tymes þ^t lif shal hym lothe

 Struy no stewes stele no plays
 Expl. res disputandi
 Hartshorne, Anc. Metr. Tales 117 from the Trinity College MS. (Nn. 8. 97)
- A quotation in another hand. 174^b
 Jhesu Crist of na□ereþ
 þat deiid on cros w^t woundis wyde
 w^t þi passion and þi deep
 be myn defens on euery syde