

## An Additional Incunabulum in Westminster Abbey Library

Christopher D. Cook and Mirjam M. Foot

Since the publication of the authors' catalogue *Incunabula in the Westminster Abbey and Westminster School Libraries*<sup>1</sup> in June 2013 another fifteenth-century book in the abbey's collection has come to light. The omission was discovered by John Goldfinch of the British Library, confirmed by Tony Trowles, Librarian of Westminster Abbey, and relayed to the authors. The following description<sup>2</sup> is provided as an addendum to the catalogue:

Silvester de Prierio. *Compendium in Johannem Capreolum cum additionibus*. Cremona: Carolus de Darleriis, 15 and 28 April 1497.

Collation: Median quarto:  $\pi^4$  a–n<sup>8</sup> aa–kk<sup>8</sup> ll–mm<sup>4</sup> A–C<sup>8</sup> D<sup>6</sup> E<sup>4</sup> AA–DD<sup>8</sup> EE–GG<sup>6</sup> HH<sup>4</sup> 1–9<sup>4</sup>; 320 leaves. 230 × 170 mm; bound: 236 × 175 × 60 mm.

References: BMC VII, p. 959; Goff S-519; GW M42160; ISTC is00519000.

Notes: Initial spaces, unrubricated.

Binding: English early seventeenth-century brown calf over pasteboards, tooled in blind with three lines along the edges of the covers. Edges of boards and turn-ins: blind-tooled line. Edges: plain. Sewn on four split alum-tawed supports, laced in; spine leather missing, apart from a fragment on the second compartment: blind tooled line. Endbands: missing. Endleaves: parchment stub conjugate with a narrower stub around two free conjugate white paper leaves at both ends.

Provenance and Signs of Use: Scattered late fifteenth-century or early sixteenth-century marginalia. Late sixteenth-century or seventeenth-century inscription on  $\pi 1^r$ : 'Sperante[m] In D[omi]no, misericordia Cir[cum]dabit.'. Westminster Abbey Library bookplate on the inside of the upper board.

Shelfmark: CB.81a (formerly Gal.H.69; Gal.H.3.20).

The authors would like to take this opportunity to publish an addendum — kindly brought to their attention by Hugh Pagan — to catalogue item no. 66, Westminster School's copy of Walter Hylton, *Scala perfectionis* [English] *Ladder of Perfection*; *Vita mixta* [English] *Mixed Life* ([Westminster]: Wynkyn de Worde, 1494).<sup>3</sup> In the November 1883 issue of *The Elizabethan*,

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<sup>1</sup> Christopher D. Cook and Mirjam M. Foot, *Incunabula in the Westminster Abbey and Westminster School Libraries* (London: Bibliographical Society, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> This description follows the methods outlined in Cook and Foot, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 23–25.

<sup>3</sup> Cook and Foot, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 118–119.

Westminster School's periodical publication, there is a description of this volume, reprinted below:

Another work of great interest from its antiquity is a copy of an English version of one Walter Hilton's "Scala Perfectionis," printed by Wynkyn de Worde, '*in William Caxton's hows, so fyll the case. God rest his soule in joy there mot is stynt.*' The book is dedicated to the illustrious Lady Margaret, the mother of King Henry VII, and a great patroness of learning, famous as the foundress of the Lady Margaret Professorships at Oxford and Cambridge, as well as of several colleges and schools; 'the kyngi's moder of excellent bounte,' as she is here quaintly called. At the end of the book is the well-known mark of William Caxton. On the wide margins are red lines, apparently ruled by some later possessor of the book, who has contributed several notes and references, and the beginning of an index. There are also several annotations in pencil by a more modern hand.<sup>4</sup>

This information supersedes the catalogue's 'Acquired before 1889' which now should be read as 'Acquired before November 1883.'

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<sup>4</sup> 'The Library in College', *The Elizabethan*, 4 (1883), p. 76.

Westminster Abbey "As Viewed From London Eye. Photo Credit: © London & Partners. 3. The official name for Westminster Abbey is the Collegiate Church of St Peter at Westminster. However, the abbey doesn't operate like a regular church reporting to the hierarchy within the Church of England. Around 1560, the abbey was designated with a special "Royal Peculiar" which is a church responsible directly to the Sovereign. 4. Westminster Abbey has been the coronation church for the British Monarch since 1066. In fact, 39 coronations have taken place at Westminster Abbey with the most recent on 2 The Library is the journal of the Bibliographical Society. For more than a hundred years it has been the pre-eminent scholarly journal for the history of books, both manuscript and printed, and the role of books in history. All aspects of descriptive and historical bibliography come within its scope, including the general and economic history of the production and distribution of books, paper, printing types, illustration, and binding, as well as the transmission of texts and their authenticity. Each issue of The Library normally contains 100-115 pages, illustrated where necessary. An Additional Incunabulum in Westminster Abbey Library. Christopher D. Cook, Mirjam M. Foot. pp. 185-186. Meantime, our own Abbey Choir leads our twice-weekly services in Westminster Abbey, and this is also where we hold our candle-lit Christmas Carol Service a very special occasion for the whole School community. "It's incredible to play alongside so many others who love music like I do." 32. A dedicated IT suite, film-making facilities and a well-stocked library are set alongside many additional architecturally interesting work areas that enhance creativity. In addition to digital photography facilities there is a large darkroom with equipment for black and white processing and printing.