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A Comparative Study of Stephen Langton's Theological Questions
and the Commentary on the Letter to the Romans

Manuscript Cambridge, University Library, 1820 (II.IV.23)

The main objective of my research stay in Cambridge (2-13 February 2015) was to study and describe one of the most important manuscripts transmitting the Stephen Langton's Commentary on St Paul's Epistles, namely MS Cambridge, University Library, 1820 (II.IV.23). It is an early witness, dating from the 13th century. The catalogue description of the Manuscript (Ch. Hardwick, H.R. Luard, *A Catalogue of the Manuscripts Preserved in the Library of the University of Cambridge*, Cambridge 1856, vol. 3, p. 462) is insufficient for the purpose of a critical edition, that I am planning to prepare in a near future. For this reason, I have examined the codicological features of the manuscript and prepared a detailed description of its contents. Moreover, I have transcribed extensive portions of the Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, mostly dealing with the theological problem of predestination.

MS Cambridge, UL 1820 (II.IV.23) two collections of theological works: the Sermons by Augustine of Hippo and Langton's Commentary on St Paul's Epistles. The medieval numbering of the quires, the quality of parchment and the type of handwriting indicate that the MS is composed of two distinct sections, the first one containing the works of Augustine (fols 1-160v), and the second one containing the commentary by Stephen Langton (fols 161-253r). The two sections clearly have independent histories: they have been bound together in the 14th century at the earliest, but it has been established on paleographical bases that the second section was copied in the first half of the 13th century. It is therefore very probable that the second section have circulated separately for several decades.

The section two is remarkably homogenous. The main text was copied by a single hand from the first half of the 13th century. There are not many corrections in the text, therefore it seems that it has not been revised after being copied. There are several marginal notes inserted by three different hands from the 14th century. Two of them write short comments and explanatory notes, while the third one sometimes inserts short indications of content. However, most of questions contained by the commentary have no rubrics or marginal indications, and there is no index of the main subjects discussed within the commentary.

The manuscript transmits a Prologue by Stephen Langton and his commentary on Peter Lombard's Magna Glossatura Prologue, and Langton's commentary on Lombard's Gloss on the following Epistles: Romans, Corinthians (1-2), Galatians and Ephesians. I have examined thoroughly the contents of Langton's commentary on the Romans, which in reality comments on St Paul's Epistle through the Magna Glossatura of Peter Lombard. One of the main issues discussed within this commentary is the problem of predestination, to which Stephen Langton also devoted several Theological Questions (cf. his *Quaestiones Theologiae*, Book I, ed. R. Quinto-M. Bieniak, OUP, Oxford 2014). It has been possible to circumscribe within the commentary on the Romans several short questions dedicated to this problem. The major part of these questions has been transcribed and prepared for collating with other MSS containing the commentary. As the handwriting in the Cambridge manuscript is particularly readable and the text seems to be rather correct, the transcription will be used as a basic text for collating the manuscripts and editing portions of the commentary in order to obtain a *stemma codicum*.

Apart from studying MS UL 1820 (II.IV.23), during my stay in Cambridge I have also had the opportunity to examine MS Cambridge, St John's College C.7, containing the Theological Questions of Stephen Langton. It is a famous manuscript that has been used to prepare the recent critical edition of the Questions (Book I). I had known this manuscript very well from high-quality copies, but it was the first time that I saw it personally. Although it has already been done by other scholars before me, I have carefully studied the physical characteristics of the codex once again. By doing so, I have discovered that the division in sections offered by the earlier descriptions of the manuscript was inexact: the first two sections (Ca and Cb) containing Langton's Questions are not homogenous. Each of them is written by one main hand, and this main handwriting is interrupted in the middle of the last quire of each section. The rest of the last quire is filled in by other hands. This fact is meaningful for two reasons: first, it strongly corroborates the hypothesis that the sections Ca and Cb are copies of two pre-existing manuscripts; second, it shows that the questions copied at the end of the last quires have a different history than the questions copied by the main hands of Ca and Cb. These conclusions will be very important for the future reconstruction of the history of transmission of these *questiones*.

Finally, during my stay in Cambridge I have participated in the workshop "Stephen Langton's Theological Questions and MS Cambridge, St. John's College, C7 (57)" (6 February 2015), organized by Caterina Tarlazzi and Peter Linehan (St John's College), and sponsored by The Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature and St John's College. The title of my paper was "MS C.7: Work in Progress".

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