

Tabula to Aristotle

fols. i–ii. Flyleaves, the first three pages blank, the last carrying an alphabetical subject-index in five columns keyed to the medieval foliation; the foliation and index are by the same mid 15th-century hand, using a grey-brown ink. Alphabetical sections are headed by simple lombards with outline in the same ink.

1 (fols. 1r–168v) Abstractum est in genere. et est hoc aliquid | concretum uero non | ut iusticia est in genere | iustus uero non. aristotel' | topic'. 3. — ¶ Verecondia non est simpliciter studiosa; sed | est studiosa ex suppositione quia si operatus est quis turpia. tunc verecondatur | studiose et laudabiliter. virtutes | autem sunt secundum se studiose non aliquo | supposito ibidem. || ¶ Explicit tabula bona et fructuosa et compendiosa supra veterem | logicam et nouam et etiam supra Phisicam | aristotelis. et librum de generacione. et corrupcione. et de celo | et mundo. et metheorum. et de anima. et de | omnibus aliis paruis libris naturalibus. | et de causis uegetabilibus et plantis. et etiam | supra methaphisicam aristotelis. et etiam supra libros ethicorum. | Ita quod omnia bona que determinantur in illis libris hic comprehenduntur | bene compendiose. et hoc secundum ordinem | alphabeti.

An anonymous alphabetical subject-index to select works of Aristotle, in this, its unique copy.

fols. 169r–172v are blank but for some caution notes on fols. 171v and 172r.

Construction: Parchment. ii + 172. Medieval foliation in arabic numerals added centred at the top of page, by the hand of the alphabetical subject-index on the flyleaf, using the same grey-brown ink; apparently done over time as the ink is sometimes blacker and different pencuts were used. Also added above the numeral, part of the same campaign, is the letter of the alphabetical section concerned. *Dimensions:* 276 × 170 mm, written space 220–25 × 123–5 mm. *Collation:* 1⁴ (flyleaves, the first pastedown, 3 cancelled) 2–15¹² (fols. 1–168) 16⁴ (fols. 169–172). Quire signatures are an arabic numeral, centred at the foot of the first recto. Catchwords were given given in lower right-hand position, to the left of the vertical bounding line, but have been lost to ploughing apart from remnants on fols. 36v, 60v. Parchment is ivory coloured, but with a distinction between hair- and flesh-sides, hair-sides sometimes very yellow; somewhat cockled but a smooth knap. Front pastedown and first flyleaf speckled with mould. Quires arranged hair to hair, flesh to flesh, flesh-side uppermost. *Layout:* Two columns of 53 lines, ruled in pencil, the outer single bounding rules at edges of each column going to the edges of the page. A space of 13mm between columns. Prickings were made at the outer edges of the page to guide the bounding lines; they are visible at the foot of most pages. Some minor water damage affecting the top line of writing in quires 14 to 16.

Script and decoration: One hand throughout, writing a textura rotunda of squat, round aspect; the ink is brown. Punctuation is by medial point and paraph. There is an opening initial of blue with white modelling, internally two blue birds within a vine on a gold ground, externally to the spandrels of the box a rose-coloured ground with white geometric patterning; scrolling terminals to the initial produce border bars to three sides, rose and blue with white modelling and scrolling foliate terminals with trefoiled leaves of orange and blue. Other initials are blue lombards flourished in red; paraphs are red or blue.

Annotations: Apart from the added table at the front and the foliation with letter-mark for the alphabetical section concerned (mentioned above), the manuscript is more or less clean of annotations.

Binding: Normal New College binding of reversed calf over pasteboard, s. xvii. Three-line blind fillets to the edges crossing at the corners; otherwise plain. Four raised bands at the spine. Remains of cord fastenings in two stations on the fore-edge of front and back covers; a considerable length at the upper

station on the front board. The edges of the leaves have been powdered red, much less clumsy than usual. Inside, marks of three former chain-staplings: two at the front, one of these centred at the head, a small clip of iron to judge by the rust pattern; the second centred at the foot, a clip of brass or copper about 12mm wide, which has carried its verdigris mark through five leaves; the mark on the back corresponds to a large brass staple about 75mm wide, off-centred to the spine-side, at least two nails. The edges seem to have been rather heavily cut back during ploughing.

Labels and marks: Parchment fore-edge ticket in usual position, 'Tractatus Aristotelis Logica et Phisicorum 283'. Printed spine-label, 'MS. New Coll. D. 283'. The number 283 in red crayon on inside board, surrounded by New College stamp.

History: Probably made in Oxford. An erased inscription on fol. 168v: 'Liber []' (s. xv^{ex}); there is the scribble 'Collegii' on fol. 170v. Pledged several times in the fifteenth century, according to erased cautions on fols. 171v and 172r; the date 1420 is legible.

Secundo folio: cionem ad ipsum

Bibliography: Coxe, p. 99; Alexander & Temple, no. 305.

Status: first draft