

The following PDF is a scan from Mark L. Sosower [with descriptions of bindings by Jane Eagan], *A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek Manuscripts at St. John's College, Oxford* (Oxford: St John's College Research Centre, 2007). This pdf has been made searchable using Nuance Power PDF. To search the text, press **control + F**. Please be aware that there may be errors in optical character recognition, and that not all text may have been captured in this process.

CODEX SJC 55

EUCLID, CATOPTRICA, OPTICS, PHAENOMENA

Circa 1530–1540 Paper i,25,ii' 298 × 205 mm

Fol. i: A nineteenth-century hand wrote "M.S.S. 55." –

Fol. iv. has the ex libris of St. John's College with the college seal and "Collegium Sancti Johannis Baptistae in Academia Oxon." written at the bottom.

DIVISIONS OF CODES: One part.

CONTENTS

1. (Fols. 1–6v) [Euclid, *Catoptrica*]. Incipit: [Ἦσιν εἶναι εὐθείαν ὑποκείσθω ἧς τὰ μέσα πάντα τοῖς ἄκροις ἐπιπροσθῆ ... des. προσπίπτουσαι πρὸς τὸ ἔνοπτρον καὶ ἴσα ἀπολαμ] (sec. 30, line 15); *Euclidis opera omnia*, vol. 7, *Euclidis optica, opti corum recensio Theonis, catoptrica cum scholiis antiqui*, ed. J. L. Heiberg (Leipzig: Teubner, 1895), 286–342.

2. (Fols. 7–22) [Euclid, *Opti corum recensio Theonis*], *Euclidis opera omnia*, vol. 7, *Euclidis optica, opti corum recensio Theonis, catoptrica cum scholiis antiqui*, ed. J. L. Heiberg (Leipzig: Teubner, 1895), 144–246. – (Fol. 22) Below the conclusion of the text the scribe wrote: τέλος τῶν ὀπτικῶν τοῦ Εὐκλείδου. – (Fol. 22v) blank.

3a. (Fols. 23–24v line 4) Euclid, *Phaenomena* (Ms. τοῦ Εὐκλείδου Φαινόμενα). Incipit: Ἐπειδὴ ὁράται τὰ ἀπλανῆ ἄστρα ἐκ τοῦ αὐτοῦ τόπου ἀνατέλλοντα ... des. καὶ ὁ ὀρίζω ἄρα τῶν μεγίστων ἐστὶ κύκλων (beginning of the preface to line 95).

3b. (Fol. 24v line 5) Φαινόμενον α'. ἡ γῆ ἐν μέσῳ τῷ κόσμῳ ... des. ἐπέχει πρὸς τὸν κόσμον (section 1 to section 2, line 25), *Euclidis opera omnia*, vol. 8, *Euclidis Phaenomena et scripta musica*, ed. H. Menge (Leipzig: Teubner, 1916), 2–104.

4. (Fol. 25) [Euclid, *Catoptrica*] [ἀπολαμ] βάνουσαι εἰς τὸ αὐτο ... des. στύπιον τεθὲν ἐξαφῆσεται (sec. 30, line 15 to the conclusion of the text.)

PAGINATION

The upper and lower endleaves were foliated in pencil in one series (i–iii), and arabic numbers were written in pencil on the top right corner of the recto of each folio. Foliation was done on 19 October 1990 (note written on the inside of the lower board of the binding).

QUIRES

The codex has been rebound, and clearly fol. 25 originally was located after fol. 6. The construction of the quires is probably 1⁶ 2⁸(-1) 3⁸ 4⁴(-1) 5¹

QUIRE NUMBERS AND CATCHWORDS

There are no quire numbers visible. A catchword was written on fol. 13v in the bottom margin below the inner margin of the text.

WATERMARKS

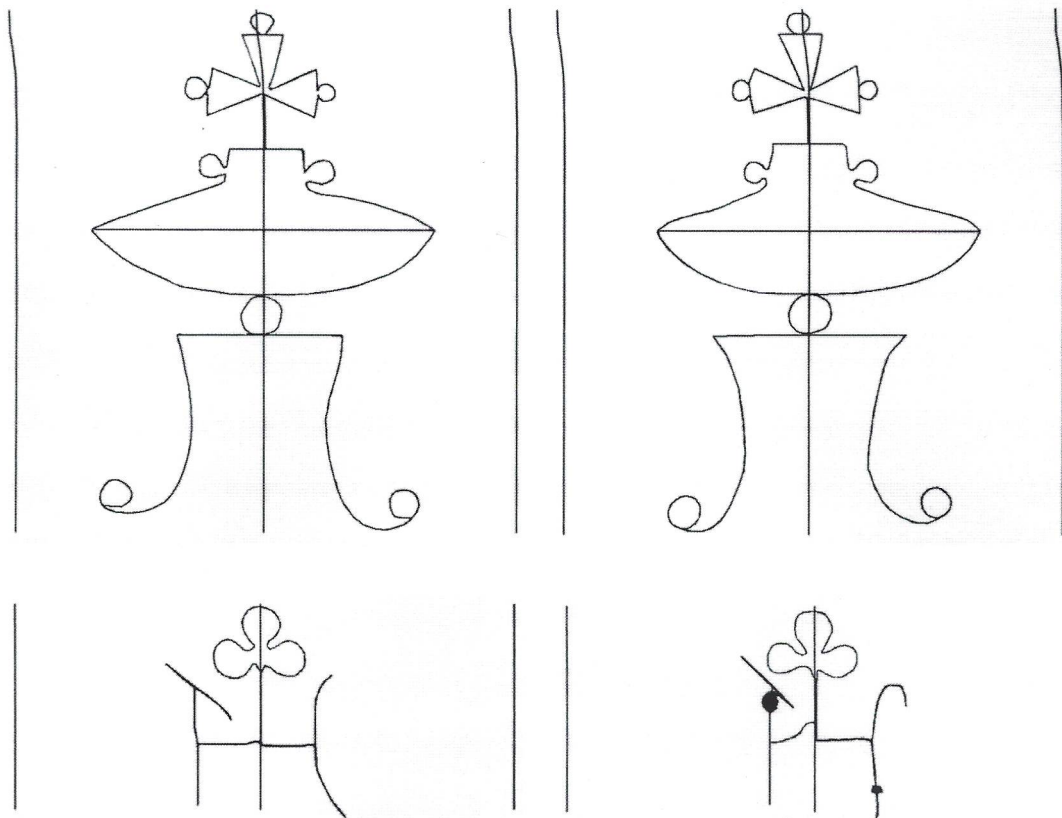
Fols. i,25,ii: Hat with countermark "TC" with a trefoil, similar to Sosower Chapeau 37 (Venice, ca. 1546). The upper pastedown has a Lily watermark. Lower pastedown has no visible watermark.

SCRIBES

One scribe wrote the entire manuscript in brown ink.

PROVENANCE

The codex probably was written in Venice, since collation of the text of Euclid's *Phaenomena* indicates that the exemplar (Monac. 361a), was in the Grimani Library at the monastery of S. Antonio di Castello in Venice during the sixteenth century. In the seventeenth century, this codex belonged to William Laud, whose ex libris is written on fol. 1: "Collegii St. Joannis Bapt(ist)ae Oxon(iensis). Ex Dono / Reverendissimi in Christo Patris Gulielmi Laud / Archbiscope Cantuariensis. Anno 1642." To the right of the ex libris is written "C 43." This is the seventeenth-century



SJC 55, f. 4

Chapeau (Hat)

Circa 1530-40 <Venice> Scribe: <anonymous>
(SJC 55, folios: 4, 5, 7, 9)

Watermark dimensions: 68 × 44 mm; 67 × 42 mm
 Countermark dimensions: 26 × 22 mm; 27 × 24 mm
 Chain-lines around watermarks: 32 mm, 33 mm
 Chain-lines around countermarks: 32 mm, 33 mm
 Chain-lines in blank portion of paper: 32 mm, 33 mm
 Laid-lines in 20 mm: 21 lines

shelf number, which corresponds to the item as it is listed in SJC Muniments FN V A.9.F.3.7 (*olim* Reg. III, 2). (See the Introduction for a more detailed discussion of the provenance.)

WRITING STYLE

26–41 lines. Writing dimensions: 183–206 × 115 mm.

ILLUMINATIONS

The scribe drew diagrams in the margin in brown ink.

BINDING

This is an inboard binding with raised supports, measuring 308 × 213 × 10mm (h × w × t). The binding appears to be English, dating to the seventeenth century and not contemporary with the text. Evidence of an earlier stitched binding was seen in a set of stab holes in the text-block.

Endleaves

The endleaves have been disturbed during repairs to the binding. The current upper endleaf construction is a sewn single fold of plain white laid paper with both leaves adhered to the board (as a pastedown). Originally only the first leaf of the fold would have been pasted down; the second was pasted down after repairs to the upper and lower headcaps to conceal the turn ins of the repair leather. The lower endleaf construction is similar to the upper, both leaves of a sewn single fold of plain white laid paper have been pasted to the board.

Sewing

The text-block is sewn on five thin raised single cords. The text-block (including fols. i–iii) has been overcast through 14 holes approximately 20mm apart, running close to the spine edge. The text-block has been sewn all along to the sewing supports in two openings, between fols. 6–7 and fols. 17–18, with a sewing thread of medium thickness, S twist and natural coloured.

Six stab holes made from left (upper) to right (lower) are visible in the text-block and flyleaves fols. i–iii, but not the pastedowns which indicate that the current binding was preceded by a stitched binding. There is no thread in the stab holes.

Edges

The edges are plain cut and undecorated, with minimal trimming.

Endbands

No endbands are present and there is no evidence that they were ever provided.

Spine/linings

The spine is slightly rounded. No spine linings were seen.

Boards/lacing

In pulpboards, measuring 3mm in thickness with squares measuring 2–3mm all around. All slips are laced into the boards in a two-hole lacing pattern.

Covering

This is a tight-back binding covered in full light brown tanned goatskin sprinkled with black ink/pigment. The turn ins are untrimmed and irregular in size/shape.

Shelfmarks/decoration

There is a manuscript shelfmark, '55', in black ink in the centre of the upper board. The shelfmark '55' has been gold tooled in the first panel of the spine over the repair to the headcap. The volume has been decorated in 'Cambridge panel' style, with three rectangular concentric panels formed by blind-tooled double fillets with external fleurons at the corners and a foliate blind roll around the inner compartment. The outer and inner panels have been decorated with a fine dense black sprinkle. The second panel is undecorated. The board edges have been tooled in blind with a geometric roll. There is a blind double-fillet line along the quarter line. The spine is undecorated. Tying up marks are visible around the raised supports.

Condition/repairs

In good general condition. The upper outer joint is cracking. The upper and lower headcaps have been repaired by pasting a thin piece of leather over the damaged area onto the board sides and over the board edges. This repair leather is visible over the original pastedown and directly beneath the current (second) pastedown. The repair patches have been roughly sprinkled to match the covering and blind tooled with a single fillet to imitate the original tooling.

REFERENCES

Bernard, *Catalogi*, 60.

Coxe, *MSS. Collegii S. Johannis Baptistae*, 16.

Euclidis opera omnia, vol. 7, *Euclidis optica, optitorum recensio Theonis, catoptrica cum scholiis antiqui*, ed. J. L. Heiberg (Leipzig: Teubner, 1895), xvii (codex no. 16 in the list of manuscripts).

Euclidis opera omnia, vol. 8, *Euclidis Phaenomena et scripta musica*, ed. H. Menge (Leipzig: Teubner, 1916), xxvi, xxix–xxxi (codex no. 33 in the list of manuscripts).