ENGLISH BINDINGS

1 A late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century binding from Fountains Abbey.

'Liber Ezechialis'. MS. on vellum (Latin), written at Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire, in the latter part of the twelfth century; ruled.

297 × 197 × 57 mm. (M. 49)

White whitewad skin over wooden boards. A brass clasp on a long leather thong fastens almost in the centre of the lower cover. The flat spine has at head and tail semi-circular tabs whipped round with blue silk. Vellum paste-downs.

PROVENANCE: Fountains Abbey; Sir W. H. Ingilby (sold: Sotheby's, 21.X.1920, 50); Wilfred Merton (book-plate); Breslauer (sold: 19. II.1958).


2 A Canterbury binding by John Kemsyn, c. 1470.
‘Biblia Sacra’. Illuminated MS. on vellum (Latin), thirteenth century; ruled.

212 × 135 × 68 mm. (M. 39)

Brown calf over wooden boards, tooled in blind with various small stamps to a different design on each cover. Modern clasps. The spine has seven double and two single bands and ten blind-tooled compartments. Vellum ms. paste-down and vellum end-leaves.

PROVENANCE: W. Barrett (sold: 13 XI. 1608); M[?H] Dampier, 1809; John Lucius Dampier (bookplate); F. K. J. Coleridge; Sotheby's, 22 V. 1950, 1232 a (pl.).


3 A London binding by the Scales Binder, c. 1475.
Charlier de Gerson, Jean, De passionibus animae [and other works], [Cologne]: Ulrich Zell [and others], n.d. [c. 1470–75].

225 × 150 × 52 mm. (P. 1415)

Rebound with the original brown leather covers onlaid. Tooled in blind to a different design on each cover, with on the lower cover the initials rs, possibly those of the original owner, cut in the leather.

PROVENANCE: [?R.S.]; ms. notes; Thomas Forman; Anthony Higgin, dean of Ripon; Ripon Cathedral Library (sold: Sotheby's, 31 V. 1960, 7).


Note: The Scales Binder worked probably from the early 1450s to at least 1481.