APPENDIX FIVE

GROUP B NAVICULA MANUSCRIPTS

AD: MS ADDITIONAL 23002

This fifteenth-century parchment manuscript is probably a selection of texts copied from MS Egerton 2622 or from a source common to both. It is in a single, even, hand, and each quire is labelled “1 quaternus” and similar, indicating that the manuscript is complete. The contents are as follows:

1. [f. 3r] Chaucer’s Treatise on the Astrolabe
2. [f. 29r] on the construction of the navicula
3. [f. 32r] tractatus secundum Galfridum “super Palladium de plantacionibus et insercionibus arborum”
4. [f. 46r] Nicholas Bolard “de generatione, rectificatione et alteratione arborum”
5. [f. 50r] A natural philosophical work

On f. 2r there is a 1637 table of contents, which says that the navicula text was written by “incerto auctors,” lists the other texts in the manuscript, and states that in 1637 the volume belonged to John Cobbes, of Bury St Edmunds. The manuscript is next known to have been in the possession of Francis Palgrave in December 1842, and then acquired by the British Museum from the collection of M D Turner at auction on 8th June 1859.

EG: MS EGERTON 2622

This fifteenth-century collection is very closely related to manuscript AD, and its contents are as follows:

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1 British Museum, Catalogue of additions (1875), 813–4.
3 Eisner, A treatise on the astrolabe, 53 and 62–3, and Eagleton and Spencer “Copying and conflaction” on the relationship between these manuscripts.
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1 [f. 2r] Mnemonic verses on the calendar with explanations in prose
2 [f. 14r] Verse and prose treatise on arithmetic
3 [f. 32v] Sacrobosco on the sphere, last leaf damaged
4 [f. 50r] Chaucer’s Treatise on the Astrolabe
5 [f. 72r] On the construction of the navicula
6 [f. 74r] Treatise on plague
7 [f. 85r] An anonymous natural philosophical work
8 [f. 89r] A treatise on measuring, with diagrams showing the use of a shadow square and quadrant
9 [f. 99r] “tractatus secundum Galfridium [de Vino Salvo] super Palladium de plantacionibus et intersecionibus arborum”
10 [f. 113r] Nicholas Bolard “de generacionibus et modo generandi et plantandi”
11 [f. 117v] Albertus Magnus on Aristotle on comets
12 [f. 136r] Treatise on arithmetic, the prose section of (2) in English
13 [f. 166r] Rules and problems in arithmetic
14 [f. 169v] On the use of the astrolabe

On f. 1r is a table of contents (in a later hand) listing the texts, and there is evidence that in the sixteenth century this volume belonged to Robert Tomsun, Thomas Lowe, John Thackam and Hugh Ramsdon (who received it in partial settlement of a debt). The British Museum acquired it on 17th January 1885 from Captain A Southey.

PH1: MS RCP 358

See Appendix 1 for a description of this manuscript.

TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION

This text describes the construction of a single navicula (rather than the three templates described in group A texts). The transcription here is based on manuscript PH1, since it contains the only complete version of the work that is currently known; EG and AD stop at line 62, and the variants they witness are included here up to that point in the transcription. Contractions have been silently expanded.