THE EPISTLES OF ST. PAUL OF THE CONVENT OF SAN DOMENICO  
(BOLOGNA, BIBLIOTECA UNIVERSITARIA, MS 1545)

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Bologna, Biblioteca Universitaria, MS 1545 is a modest, glossed manuscript of the Pauline Epistles, which has been completely unknown to the scholarly world; it was probably written in Italy in the early thirteenth century and belonged to the convent of San Domenico in Bologna. The layout consists of a central text column with two lateral columns intended to receive the Gloss. The interlinear spaces of the central text column are

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1 The Psalms and the Pauline Epistles were the most popular texts among medieval biblical commentators; the reasons for this, at least until the first half of the twelfth century, are discussed by Beryl Smalley, *The Gospel in the Schools, c. 1100-c.1280* (London-Ronceverte, 1985), pp. 1–35 (especially pp. 1–2). Perhaps because of the abundance of material (some of which is still unpublished), we do not yet have a history of exegesis of the Pauline Epistles. Nonetheless, studies published in the first half of the last century allow us, in part, to reconstruct this history. Heinrich Denifle, in his *Luther und Luthertum. Ergänzungsband I: Quellenbelege: Die abenländischen Schriftausleger bis Luther über Justitia Dei (Röm. 1,17) und Iustificatio, Quellenbelege zu Denifle’s Luther und Luthertum, 2 Aufl. Bd. 1, 2. Abteilung, Beitrag zur Geschichte der Exegese, der Literatur und des Dogmas im Mittelalter* (Mainz, 1905) collected a long series of commentaries on Rom. 1.17 (*Justitia Dei*) and reported, in addition to published works, unpublished works with lists of manuscripts and in many cases an indication of the date of composition and sometimes the author. Werner Affeldt, in “Verzeichnis der Römerbrief-kommentare der lateinischen Kirche bis zu Nikolaus von Lyra”, *Traditio*, 13 (1957), 369–406, described around fifty commentaries on the Pauline Epistles, listing many manuscripts and editions; this study did not list works by their incipit and explicit (the essential tools that make an identification of a medieval scholastic text possible), however, they can be deduced from the descriptions in Stegmüller (at http://www.repbib.uni-trier.de/cgi-bin/rebiIndex.tcl, consulted 06 July 2012). A list of commentaries on the Pauline Epistles is also available at http://www.appstate.edu/~bondhl/romans.htm (consulted 06 July 2012). The texts in the Bologna manuscript are not related to any of the texts described in these previous studies.


3 This is the “simple” model presumably based on the Carolingian glossed books, see Lesley Smith, *The ’Glossa Ordinaria’: The Making of a Medieval Bible Commentary*, Commentaria 3 (Leiden and Boston, 2009), pp. 94–95.
The Bologna manuscript begins with the Epistle to the Romans, introduced by the initial P (38 × 20 mm), enclosing a bust-length portrait of St. Paul with a sword; the Second Epistle to the Corinthians (fol. 64v) is also introduced by a depiction of St. Paul, but without sword, book, or any other symbol. The remaining Epistles have only foliate initials, and even without a detailed art-historical analysis, the initials were evidently by different hands, and probably date from different periods. Biblical chapters are marked twice, both in the outer margin, the first one in brown ink, the second in red.

The Epistles of St. Paul also include the pseudepigraphal Epistle to the Laodiceans. All the Epistles, apart from the Epistles to the Hebrews and to the Laodiceans, are introduced by prologues. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians has two different prologues. The Pauline Epistles and the

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4 More information is found in the Appendix.


6 The first begins: “§ Hec epistula dividitur in .iii. partes. In prima ponit salutatio, in secunda benivolencie ceptatio...”