The Customary of the Shrine of St. Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral

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Customary manuscript was purchased by his friend and fellow Roxburghe Club member Richard Heber (1773–1833) for £3 6s. Following Heber’s death the manuscript was purchased at auction by Thomas Phillipps (1792–1872), “the greatest collector of manuscripts ever,” and catalogued in his library as MS 8113.  

**Note on Text and Translation**

The Latin text has a number of later medieval characteristics, many of them common including the rendering of -ae as -e and the interchangeability of “t” and “c.” The scribe writes the enclitic conjunctive -que (and) as a separate word, sometimes abbreviated and at other times written out. At some points in the text this makes it difficult to distinguish from the pronoun quae, which the scribe also renders either as que or with the same abbreviated form as used for -que. I have distinguished between these by attaching -que enclitics to their preceding words in the text. Otherwise, throughout I have rendered the Latin as it appears in the manuscript, retaining original spellings and offering corrections to errors in footnotes. Deleted and damaged text has been restored within square brackets where it has been possible to reconstruct the original text, or with ellipses in square brackets where this has not been possible. Punctuation and capitalization are retained as closely as possible. Marginal headings from the manuscript are placed within the Latin text as closely as possible to their positions, and indicated in bold italic font, but paragraph spacing has been retained. In the translation each side heading forms the start of a new section.

Given the official and technical nature of the document, and in order that the text and translation might be compared for accuracy, I have attempted as closely literal a translation as possible. Some of the larger sentences have been broken up for the purposes of readability in the translation. Individual technical terms relating to the liturgy or monastic life are glossed in footnotes, while for more complex concepts or practices readers are pointed to relevant sections of the introduction.

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