A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.796, Peter of Poitiers' Historical genealogy of Christ
Title: Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi

Published by: The Walters Art Museum
600 N. Charles Street Baltimore, MD 21201
http://www.thewalters.org/

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Shelf mark</strong></th>
<th>Walters Art Museum Ms. W.796</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Descriptive Title</strong></td>
<td>Peter of Poitiers' Historical genealogy of Christ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Text title</strong></td>
<td>Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>Authority name: Peter, of Poitiers, ca. 1130-1205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>This English manuscript was created in the early thirteenth century soon after the death of its author, Peter of Poitiers, theologian and Chancellor of the University of Paris from 1193 to 1205. It is an early copy of his text, the Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi. Intended as a teaching aid, the work provides a visual genealogy of Christ comprised of portraits in roundels, accompanied by a text discussing the historical background of Christ's lineage. It also includes episodes from biblical history, including Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, the Nativity, the Virgin and Child, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. Early manuscripts like this tend to be in the form of a book, and other examples can be found in London, British Library Cotton MS Faustina B VII, and Cambridge, Corpus Christi College MS 83. Later manuscripts of this text are often presented in roll form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>Early 13th century CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origin</strong></td>
<td>England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Form</strong></td>
<td>Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Genre</strong></td>
<td>Theological</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>The primary language in this manuscript is Latin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Support material</strong></td>
<td>Parchment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heavy, cream-colored parchment with edges darkened from use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>Foliation: ii+4+ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Modern paper flyleaves; modern pencil foliation in upper right corners of rectos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collation</strong></td>
<td>Formula: i, 1(4), i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catchwords: None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generated: 2013-09-23 13:33 -04:00
Signatures: None
Comments:

**Dimensions**
24.5 cm wide by 34.4 cm high

**Written surface**
18.5 cm wide by 26.9 cm high

**Layout**
Columns: 2-3
Ruled lines: 58-61
Written surface size varies by page, some text extends outside of ruled area

**Contents**
*fols. 1r - 4r:*

*Title:* Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi  
*Incipit:* Considerans historie sacre prolxitatem  
*Text note:* Complete text of Peter of Poitiers' teaching manual on the genealogy of Christ  
*Hand note:* Written in Gothic bookhand  
*Decoration note:* Genealogical trees laid out over seven pages, with six small scenes (4-8 lines) and 289 portrait roundels (3-5 lines); blue, red, and green plain lines or decorative bands delineating branches of genealogy; enlarged initials throughout (1-5 lines) in red and blue, some with penwork accents; rubrics in red; text in black ink

**Decoration**
*foll. 1r:*

*Title:* Genealogy of Christ from Adam to Thare, with Adam and Eve as well as Noah's Ark  
*Form:* Small miniatures, 7-8 lines; roundels, 3 lines

*foll. 1v:*

*Title:* Genealogy of Christ from Thare to Zaram  
*Form:* Roundels, 3-6 lines

*foll. 2r:*

*Title:* Genealogy of Christ from Jesse to Salomon  
*Form:* Roundels, 3-5 lines

*foll. 2v:*

*Title:* Genealogy of Christ from Achmas to Ioram  
*Form:* Roundels, 3 lines
fol. 3r:
Title: Genealogy of Christ from Ioiada to Sargon
Form: Roundels, 3 lines

fol. 3v:
Title: Genealogy of Christ from Iosedec to Xerses
Form: Roundels, 3 lines

fol. 4r:
Title: Genealogy of Christ from Herodes to Tiberius Cesar, with Nativity, Virgin and Child, Crucifixion, and Resurrection
Form: Roundels, 3-5 lines

Binding
The binding is not original.
Nineteenth-century; cream-colored parchment binding by Robert Rivière; spine inscribed in gold with "STEMMA JESU CHRISTI"

Provenance
Made in England, early thirteenth century
William Salloch, Ossining, New York; purchased by the Walters Art Museum from his sale in 1981, catalog 375, no. 43

Acquisition
Museum purchase, 1981

Contributors
Principal catalogers: Herbert, Lynley; Noel, William; Smith, Kathryn
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