

Palaeography

DIGITAL HUMANITIES FOR MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHICAL SOURCES

5. Textual gothic minuscule

conf. dr. Mihai MAGA

Babeş–Bolyai University, Cluj–Napoca
Master in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

2nd semester, 2023–2024
HME2415/05

<https://www.dhcluj.ro/dhm/>

1 Evolution

2 Characteristics

3 Punctuation

4 Example

Homework7

From the 11th–12th c. several changes took place in the intellectual milieu (increasing literacy, emergence of universities, higher books demand) which led to the transformation of writing.

- proto-gothic minuscule

qui i[n]stitutum[us] in s[ecundu]m p[ro]p[ri]etati sui sententiā diuinę legis apperuit.
q[uod] dictū ē. Il[s] suscep[t]is resiliit. humili[us] aū dat grām. Hoc ḡ qd'

- textual gothic minuscule

(*littera textualis prescissa/quadrata/rotunda*)

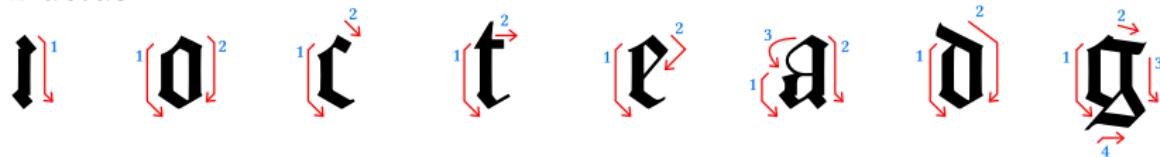
aq[ue] reptile animie uiuentis i uolantib[us] si terram:
sub firmamento celi. Circa uirtus d[omi]ni cete grandia et

- cursive gothic minuscule (*littera cursiva*)

D[omi]n[u]s c[on]tra v[er]bi ad uiam d[omi]ni q[uod] est p[re]dictus efficiū m[od]i se ce
m[od]i n[on]. Accedens ad n[on]am efficiū p[re]dictum uia p[ar]adisea d[omi]ni

- broken lines
- pronounced hooks
- uniform distances between legs

Ductus



Because of the similitudes of traces which make up the letter, some letters can be confused:

legs: **i m n u v** (i m n u v)

shoulders: **c e o r t** (c e o r t)
recto)

m m m m m u m u m (minimum vinum)

c o r r e c t o c e r t o r e c t o (correcto certo

The orthography changes according to Medieval Latin rules:

ae/oe ⇒ **e** (celus) **ti** ⇒ **ci** (tercio) **c** ⇒ **ch** (archa) **mn** ⇒ **mpn** (sompnus)

Medieval punctuation differs in some degree from the modern one.
Specific signs are used to delimit the text on multiple levels:

- *punctus* [•] delimits the smallest phrase units, equivalent to modern comma
- *punctus elevatus* [;] delimits units larger than *punctus*, e.g. sentences
- *virgula* [•] delimits syntactic units
- *virgula suspensiva* [/] delimits meaning units
- *punctus interrogativus* [?̄] delimits an interrogation or an exclamation
- *capitulum, paragraphus* [C] delimits paragraphs (¶)
- *litterae notabiliores* A [B] C [D] delimit large text units, e.g. chapters;
sometimes these too have multiple levels, e.g. simple enclosed initial for inferior level,
foliated enclosed initial for superior level

 The set of signs and their usage differs depending on period and context.

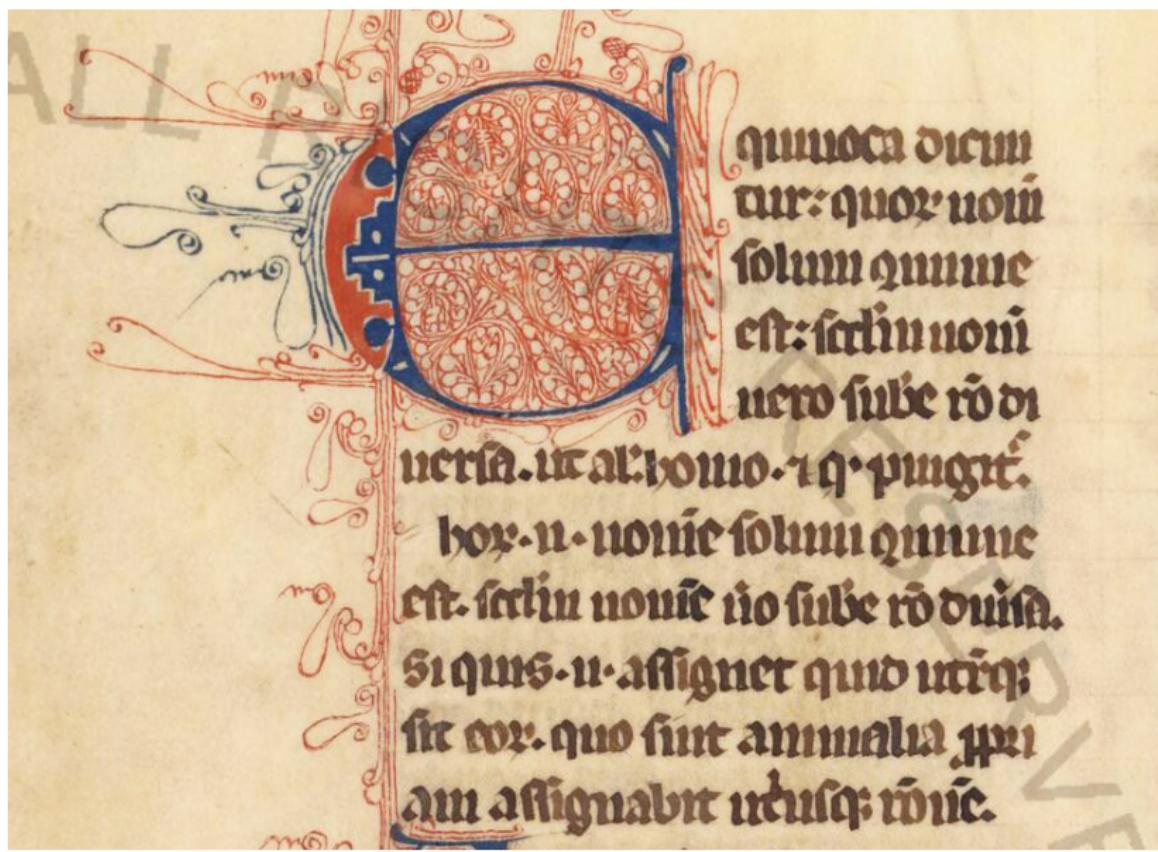
 Sometimes the punctuation has syntactic role, other times it has an analytic function, while sometimes



5. Textual gothic minuscule

conf. dr. Mihai MAGA

HME2415/05

Vatican, Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, Borgh. 9, f. 1r (beginning of 14th c.), PROPHYRII Isagoge