

TWO SINCLAIR ITEMS NOW UNLOCATABLE

Two items inspected by K.V. Sinclair in 1958 and 1966 and described as numbers 184 and 185 in his *Descriptive Catalogue of Mediaeval and Renaissance Western Manuscripts in Australia* (Sydney: S.U.P., 1969) can not now be located. The manuscripts, a thirteenth century *Biblia vulgata* (*Proverbia-Apocalypsis*) with Remigius Altissiodorensis *Interpretationes Nominum Hebraicorum*, and a fifteenth century *Brut* (incomplete) in English, were part of a collection of graphic materials donated to Geelong Church of England Grammar School in 1938 by C.A.S. Hawker. The collection was restored and remounted in 1974 at which time the two manuscripts were already missing, though this was not realised until March of this year when a Monash University research student, C.R. Elmore, visited the school in order to verify Sinclair's description of the *Brut* manuscript.

A copy of a report of an investigation into the loss by Mrs. Claire Hanley the head of the school's art department was forwarded to the editor by the headmaster, Mr. C.R. Fisher. This indicates that a very complete search and enquiry has been made at the school, so far without result. (It should perhaps be mentioned that the loss took place before either Mr. Fisher or Mrs. Hanley arrived at the school.)

The two missing manuscripts are not the only Sinclair items in vulnerable and insecure collections. It is to be hoped that members of the society who know of such collections should bring the school's experience to the attention of those who are in charge of them. In the meantime the school would no doubt welcome suggestions for the further lines of enquiry. Manuscripts of this importance can hardly remain unnoticed for long.

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