

ROBERTSBRIDGE CODEX - [Robertsbridge fragment]

this frequently cited source (London, British Library Add. MS 28850) consists of two folios that were found in an old register of Robertsbridge Abbey. Despite his captive status, King Jean II maintained a personal retinue, including musicians and organs (Burgundian School; John the Orgoner).

Although the *RC* has been dated as early as c1320, its use of French terms suggests that it may have been brought to England with Jean's musical court or written there while he was held prisoner between 1359-62. Further indications that the *RC* dates from the second half of the 14thc are the use of the minim and a fully chromatic keyboard compass.

Although only two folios have survived from the original compilation, the six preserved pieces require every chromatic note in the treble, from c-e². When these factors are considered, a dating shortly a1359 seems most plausible. The *RC* is the earliest music known to be written in old German organ tablature. It contains two complete estampies and the end of another, arrangements of two motets (intabulation) by Philippe de Vitry from the *Roman de Fauvel* and an incomplete setting of *Flos vernalis*.