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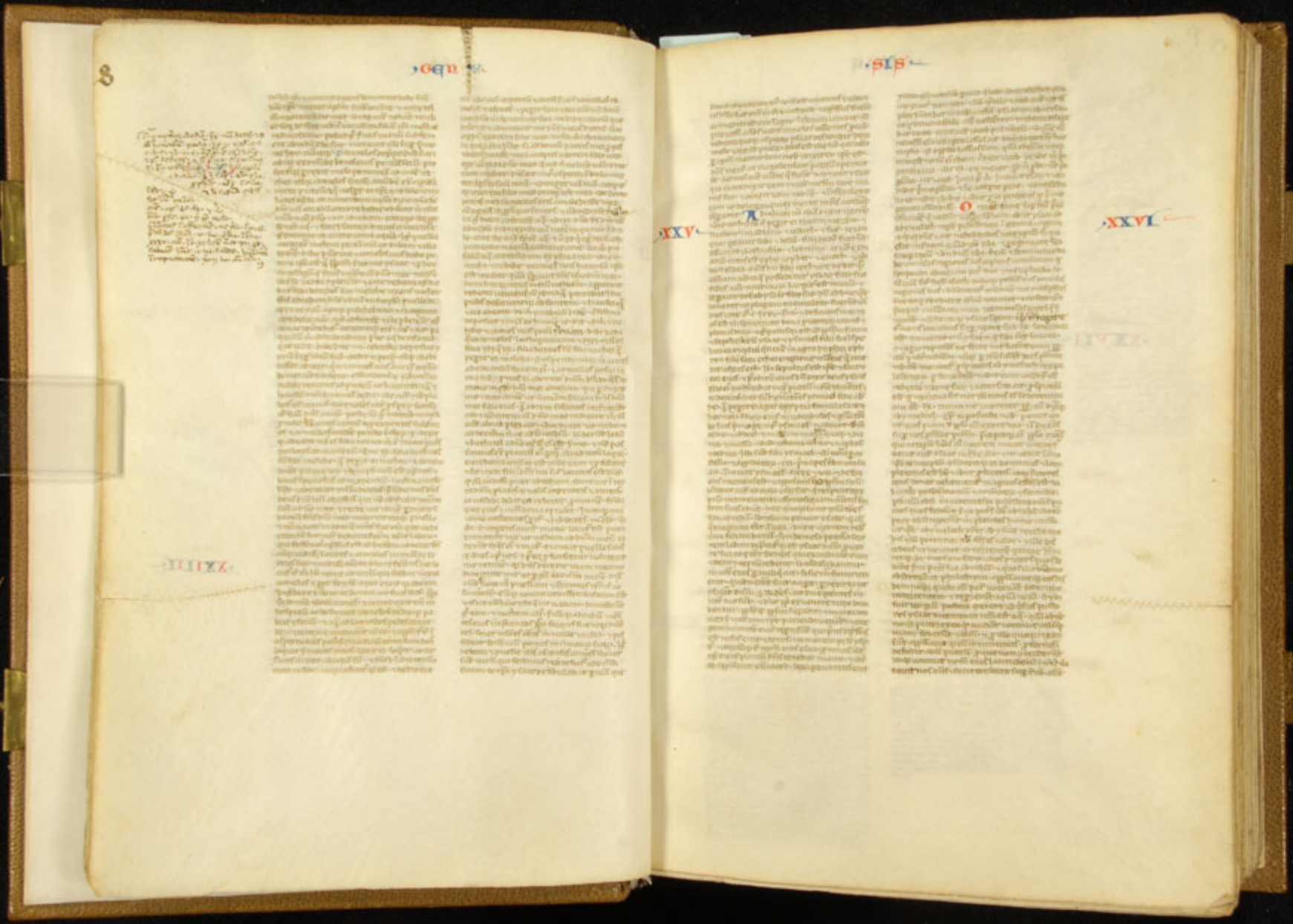

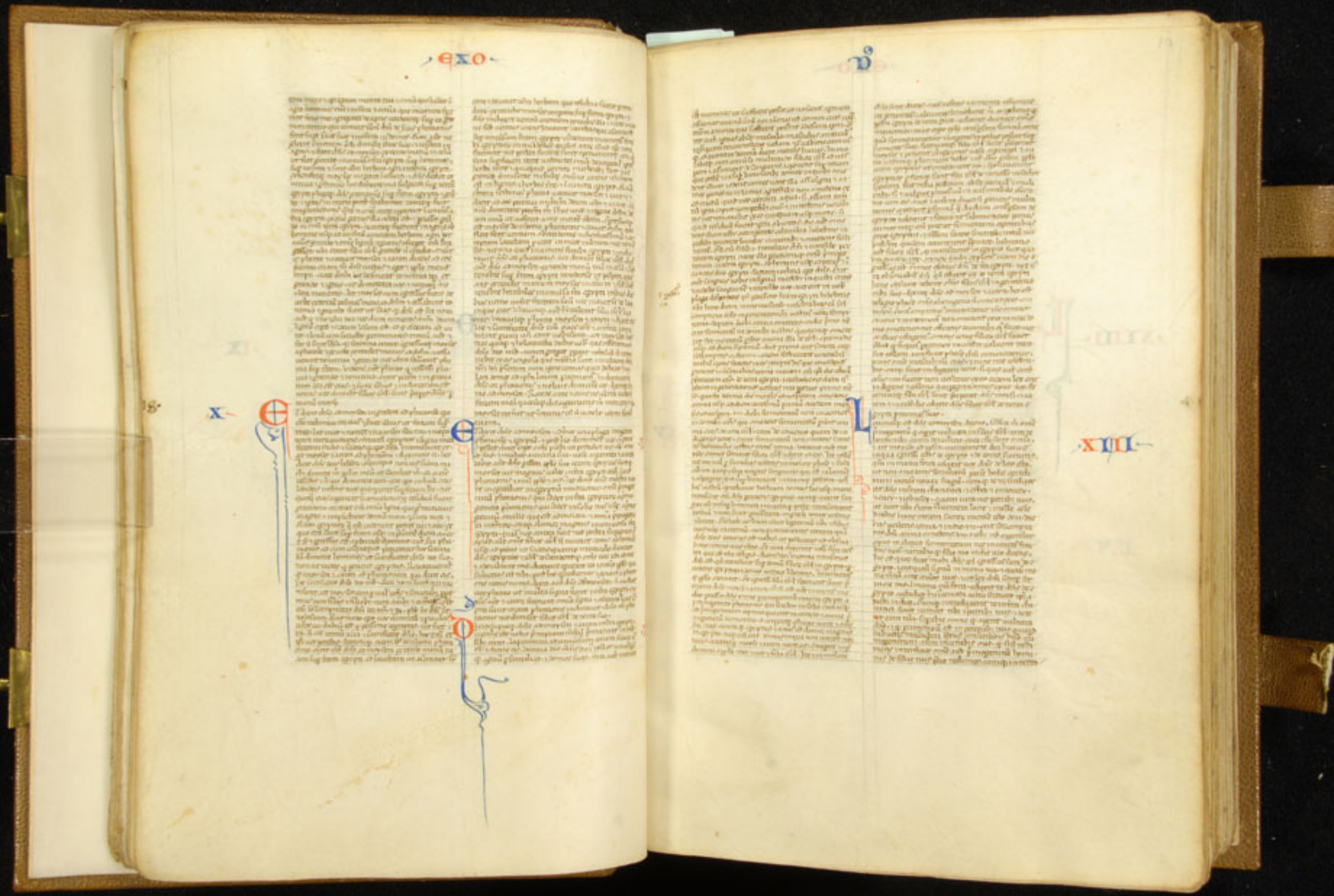

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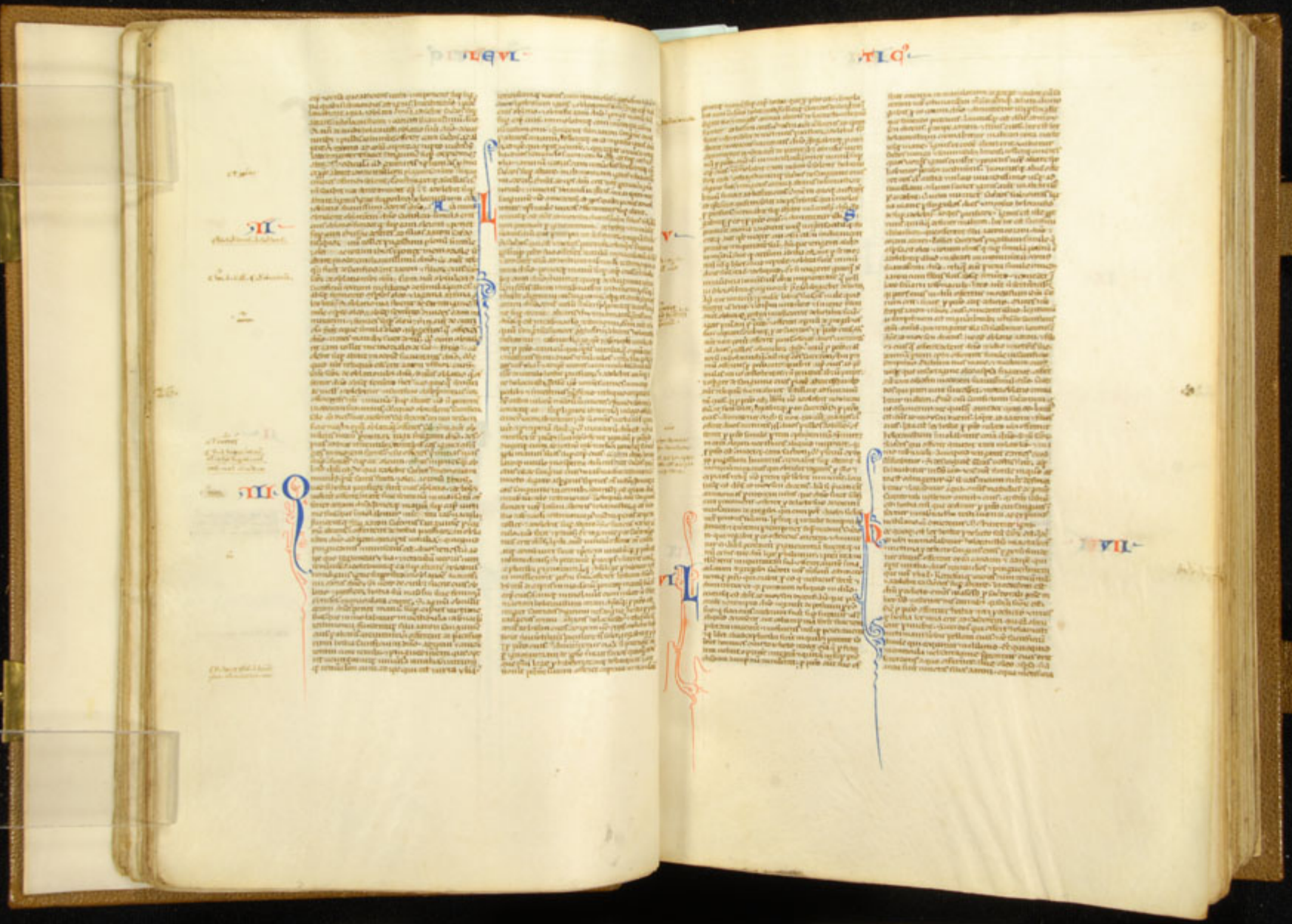

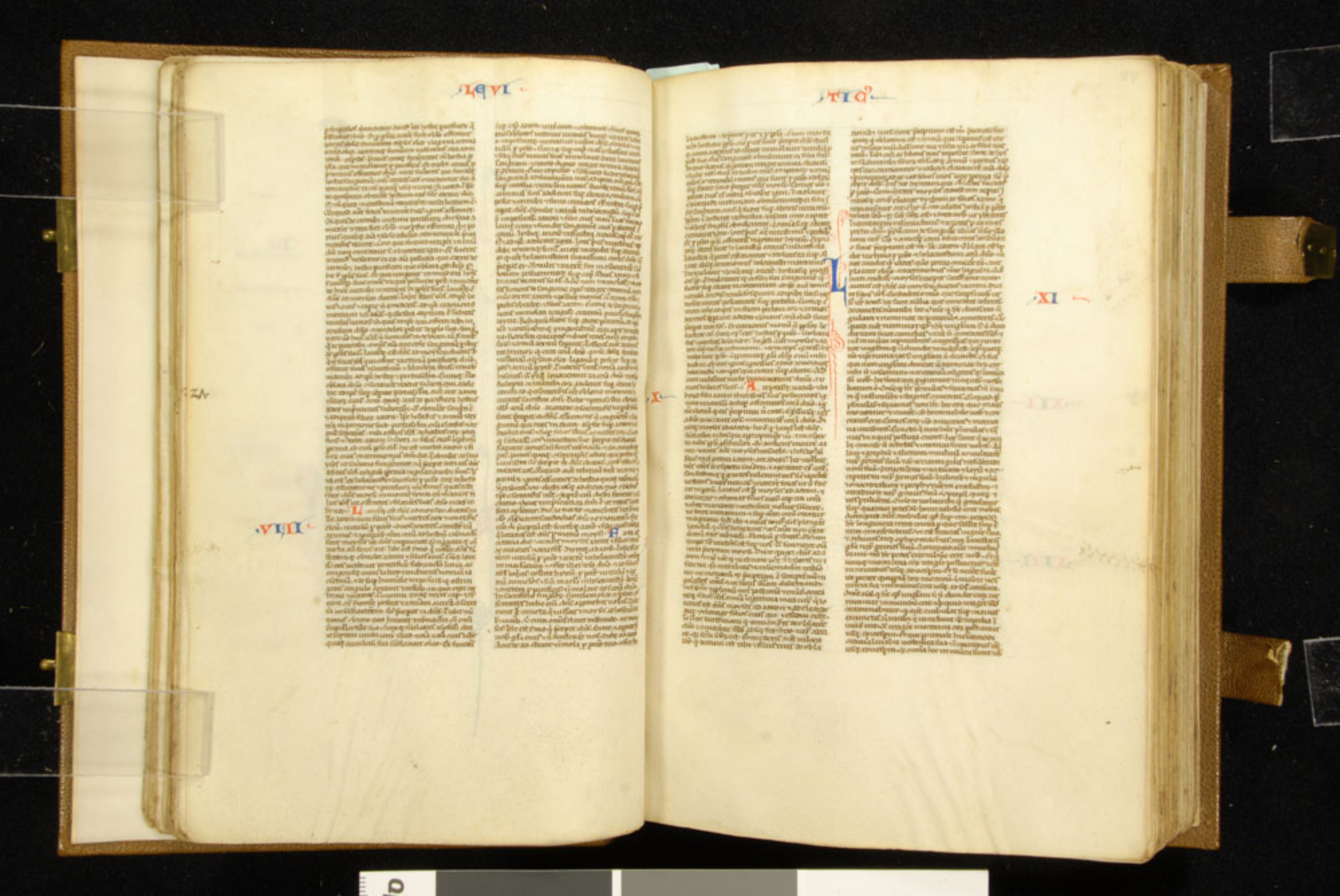

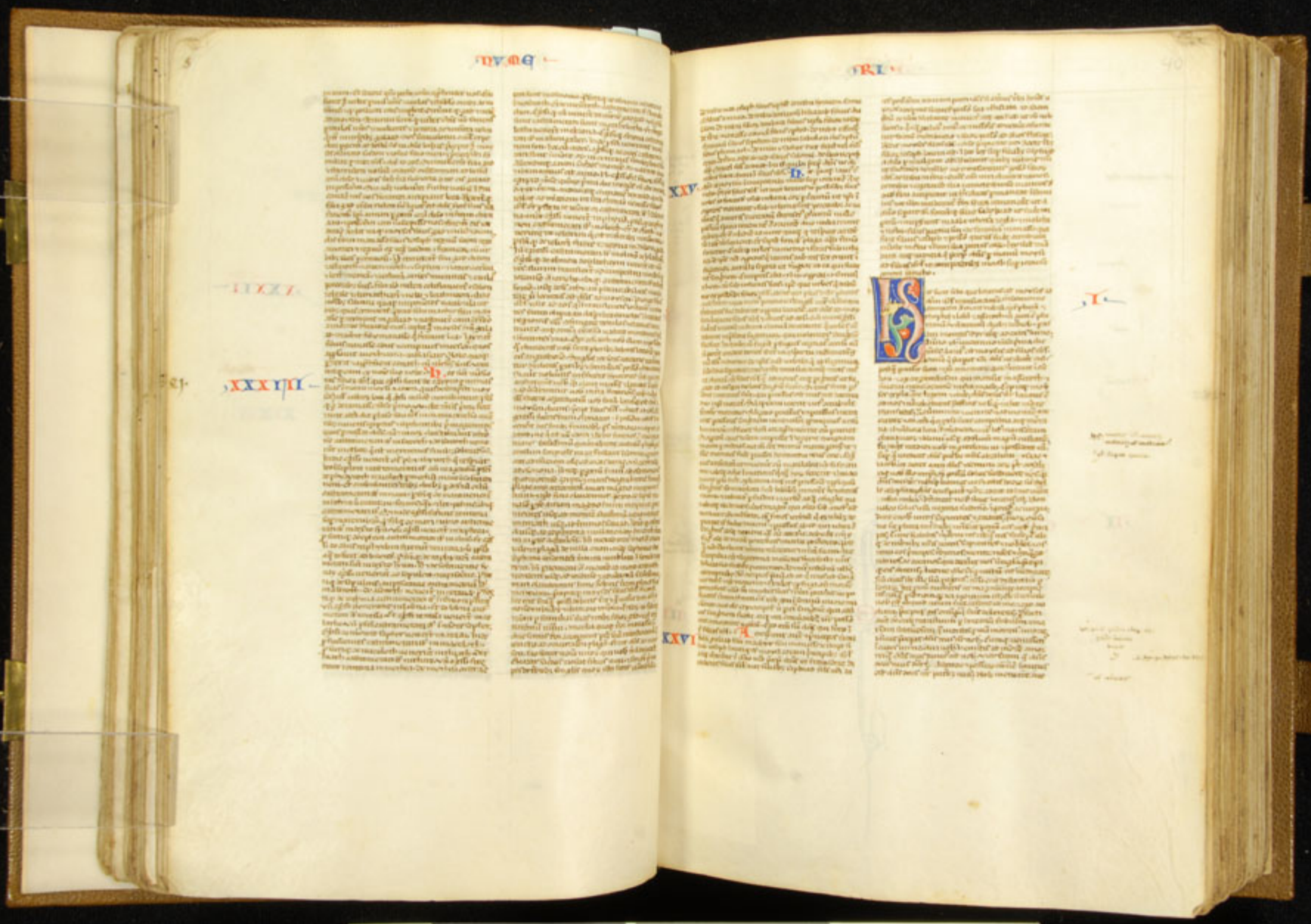

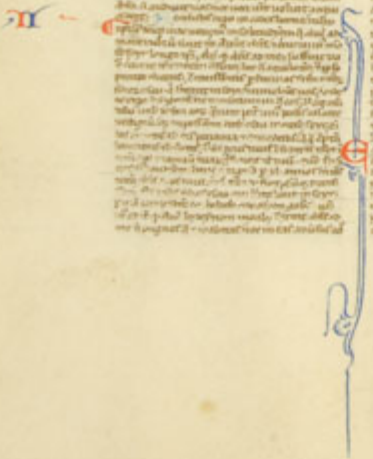

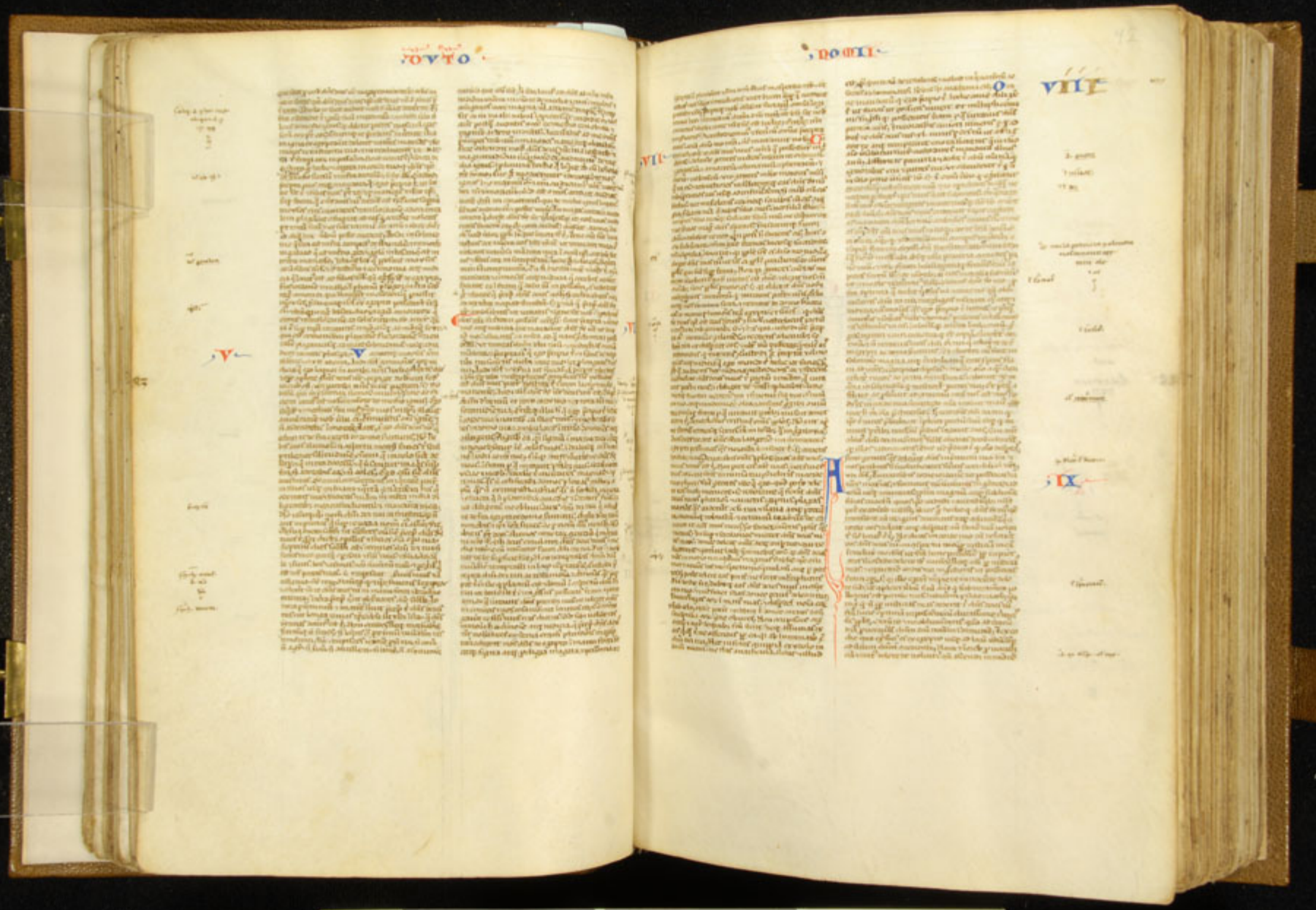

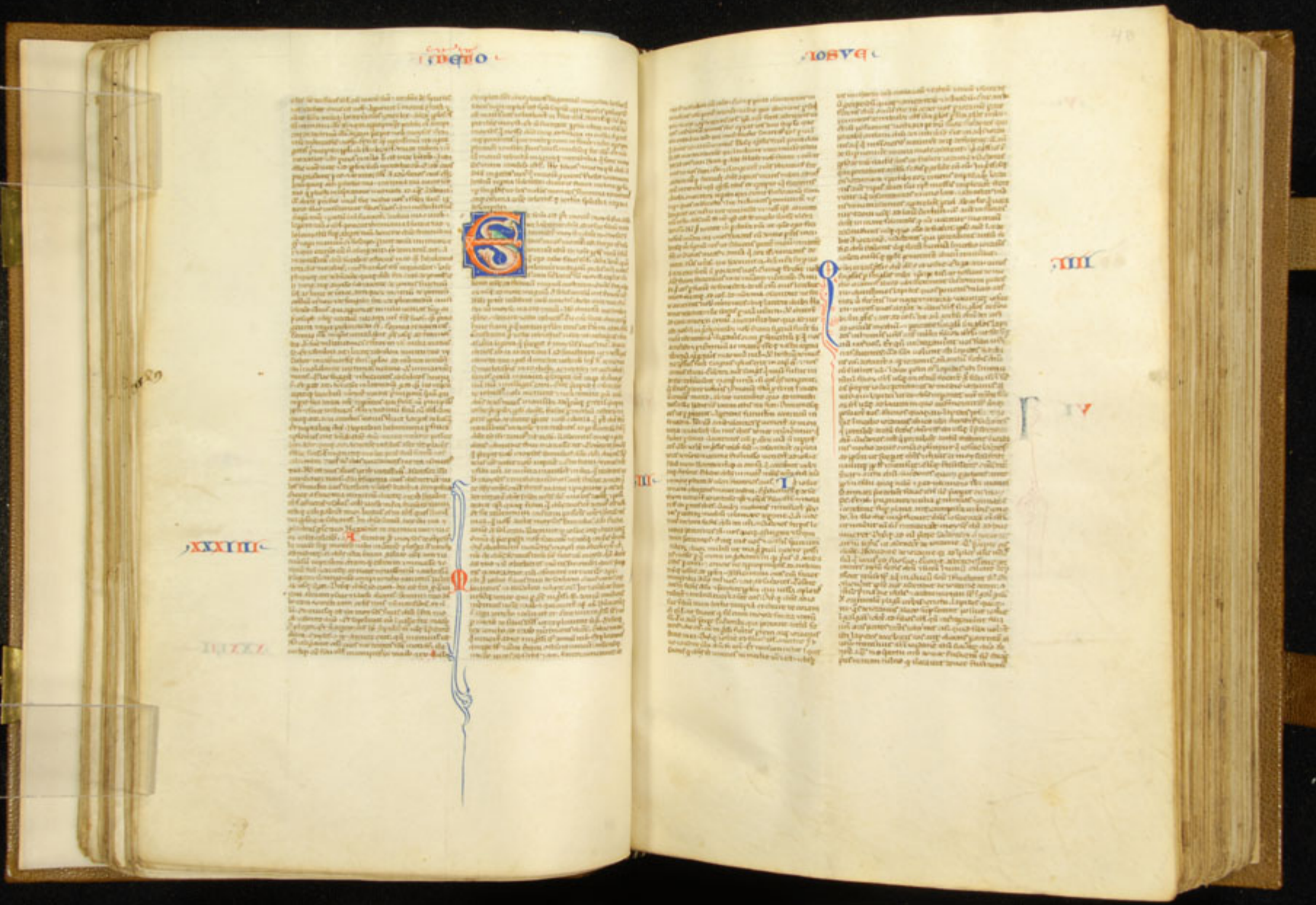

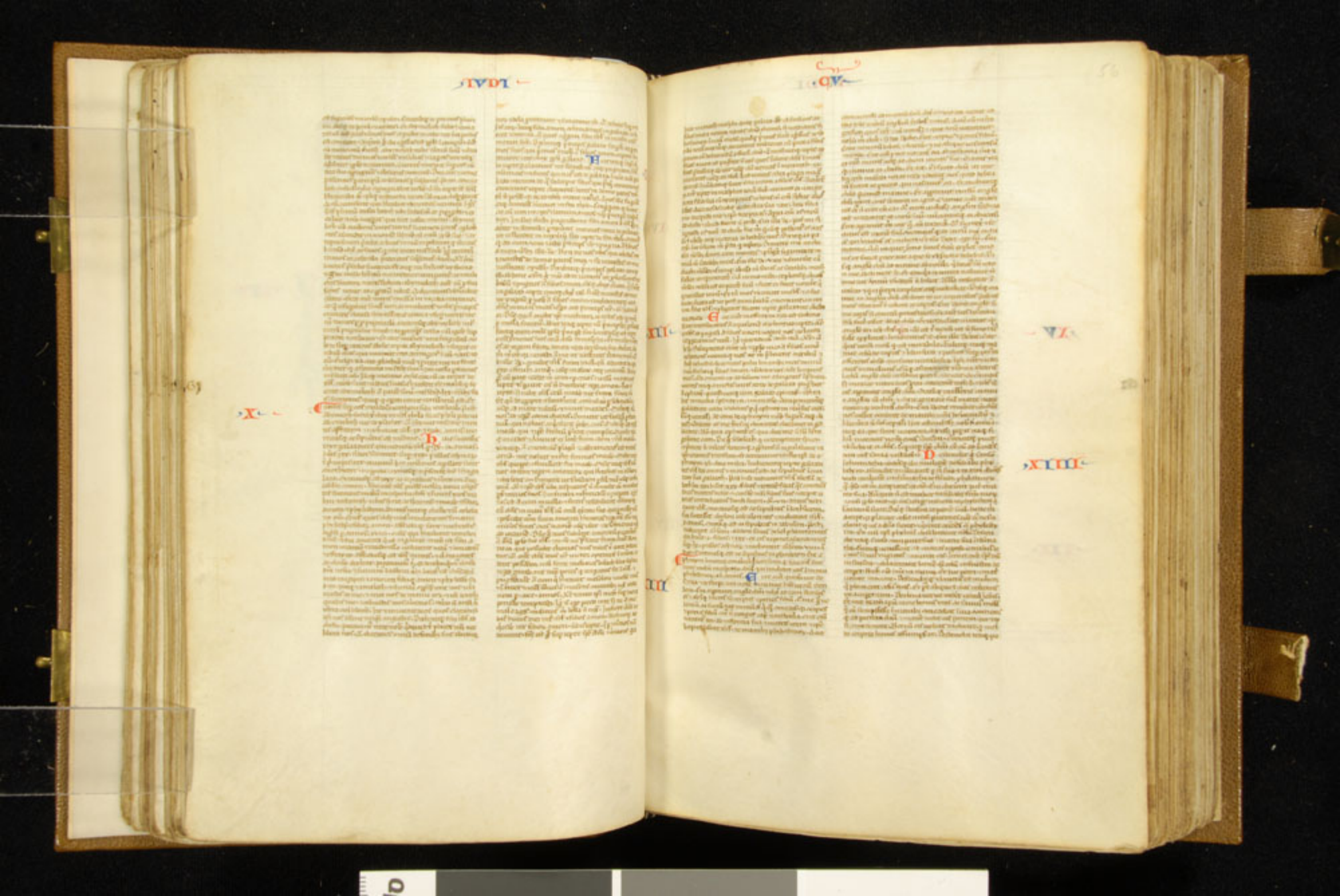

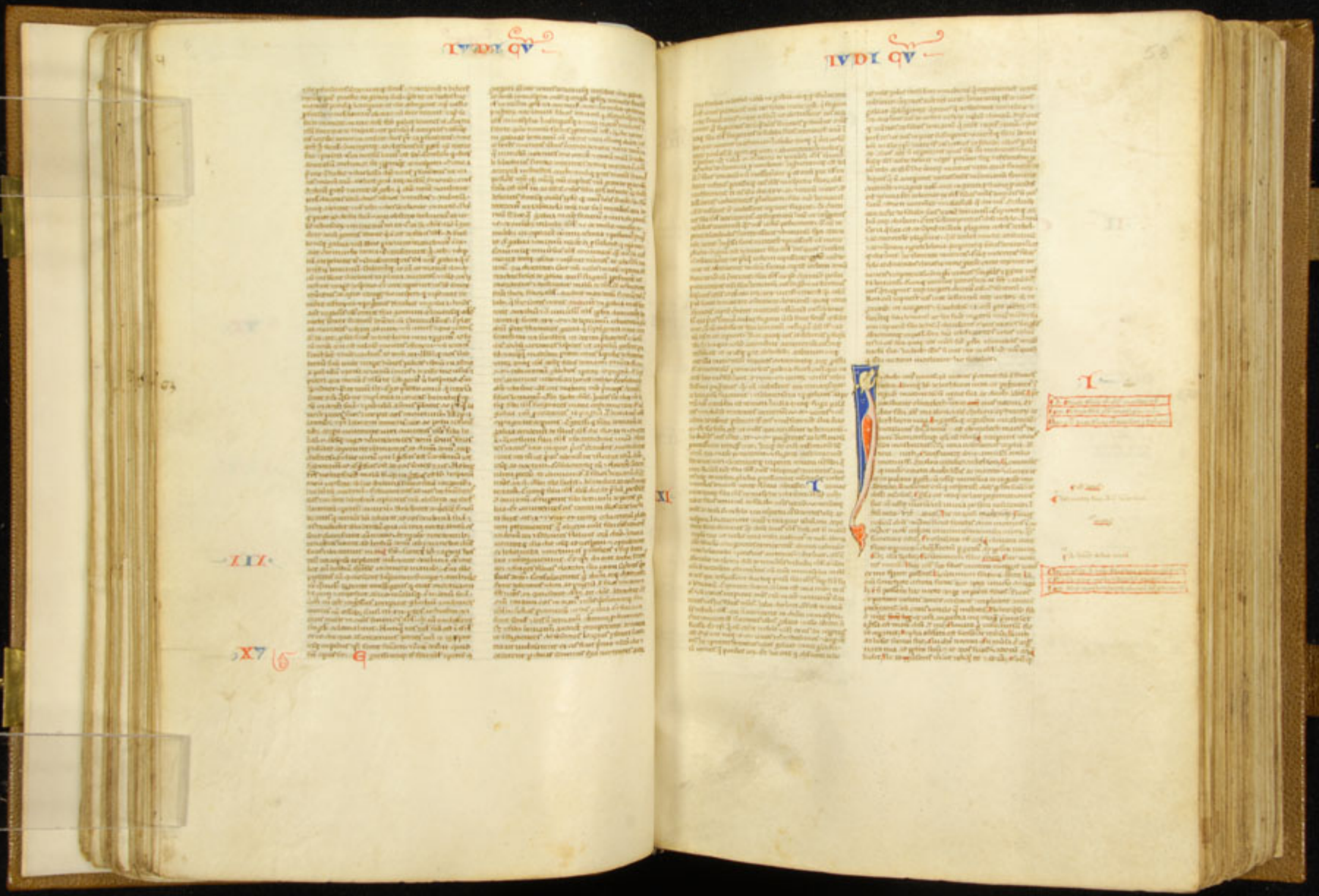

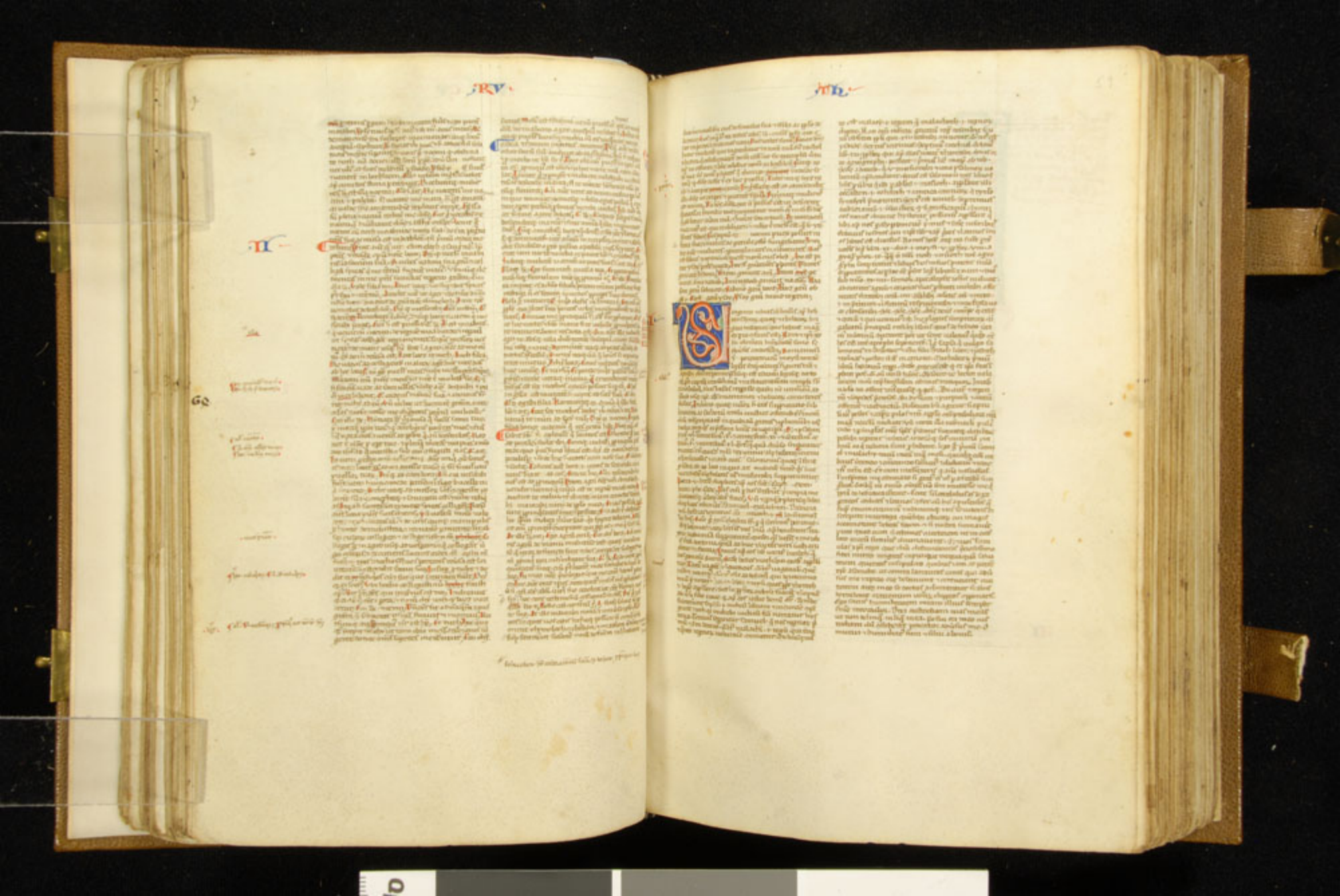

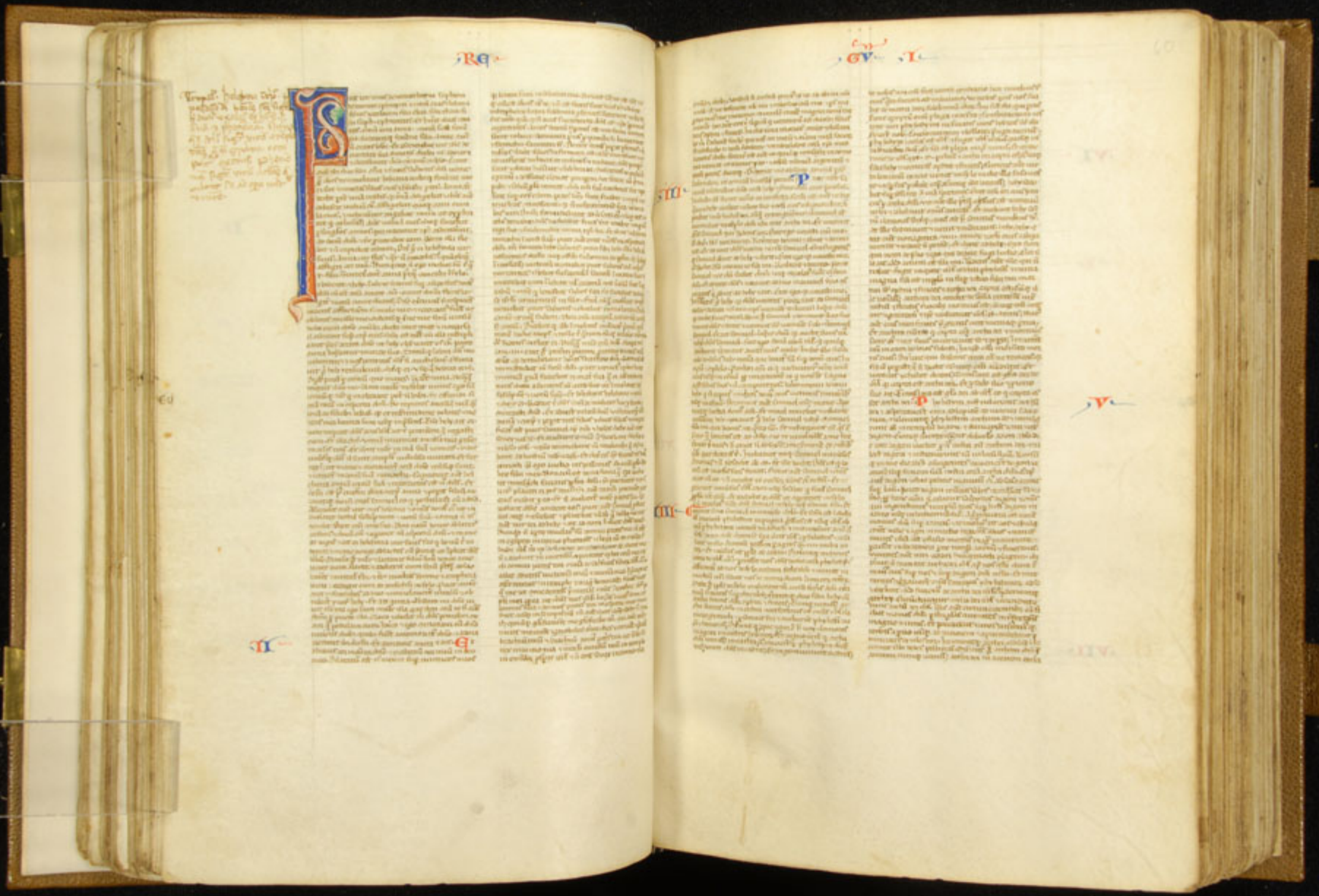

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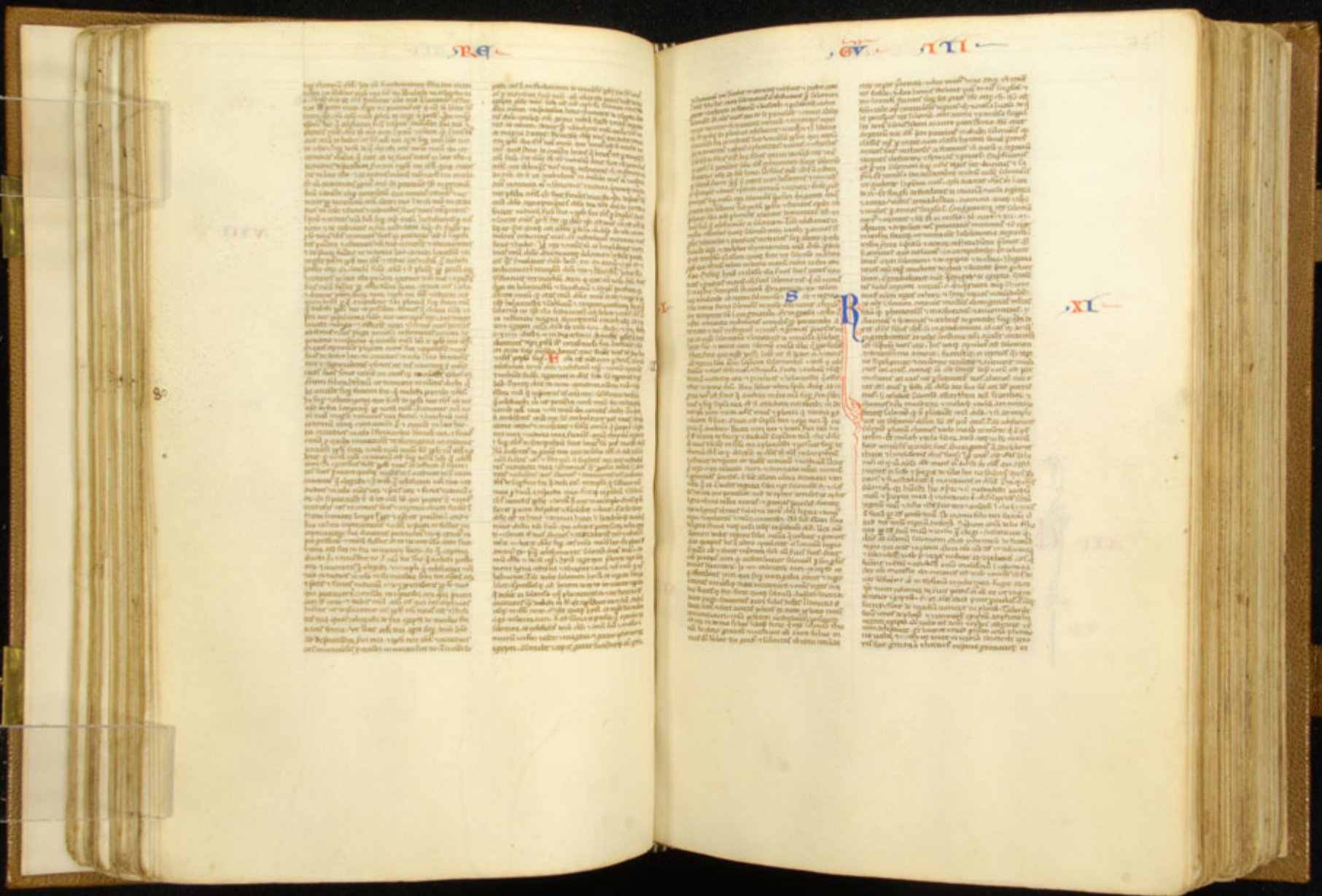

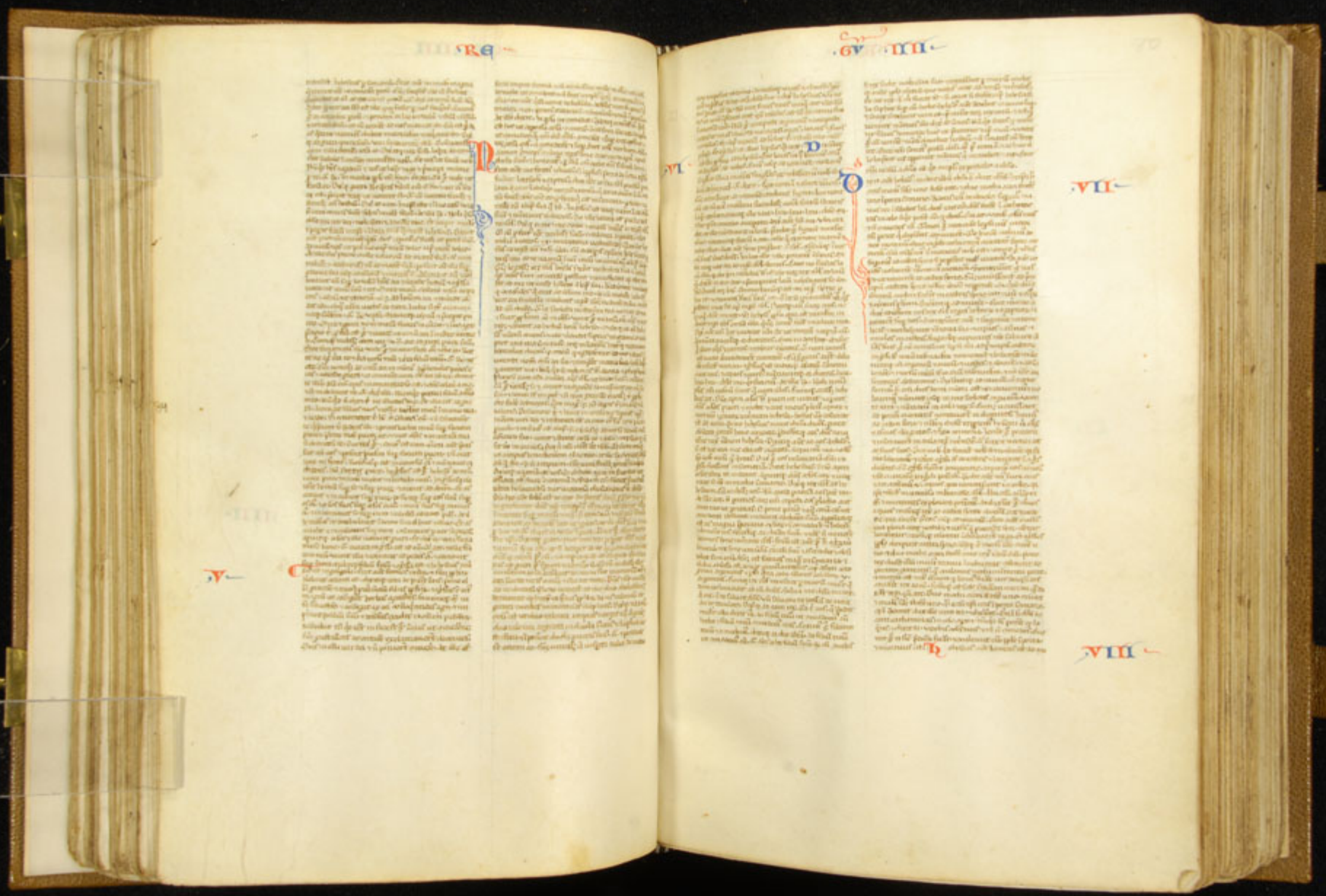

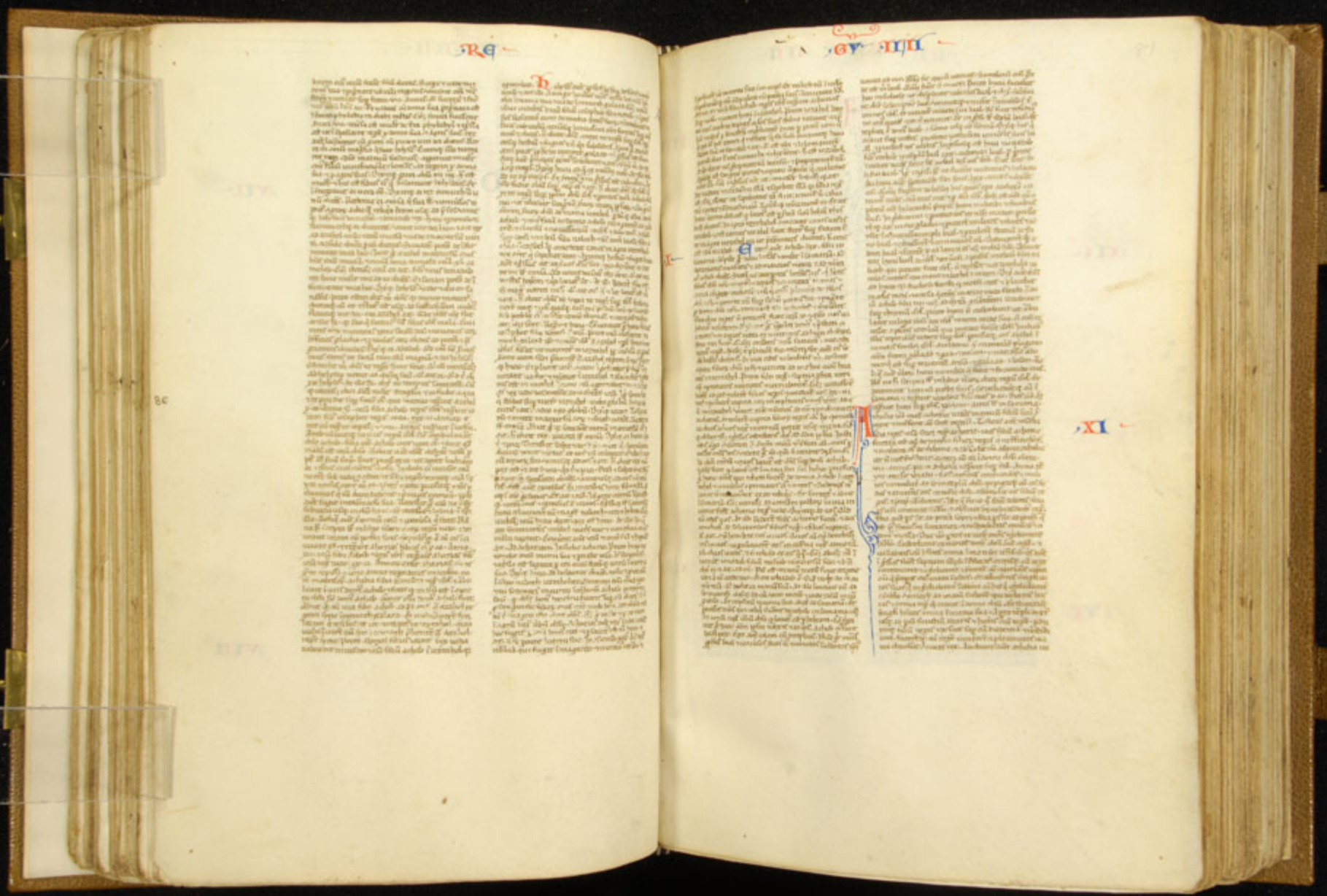

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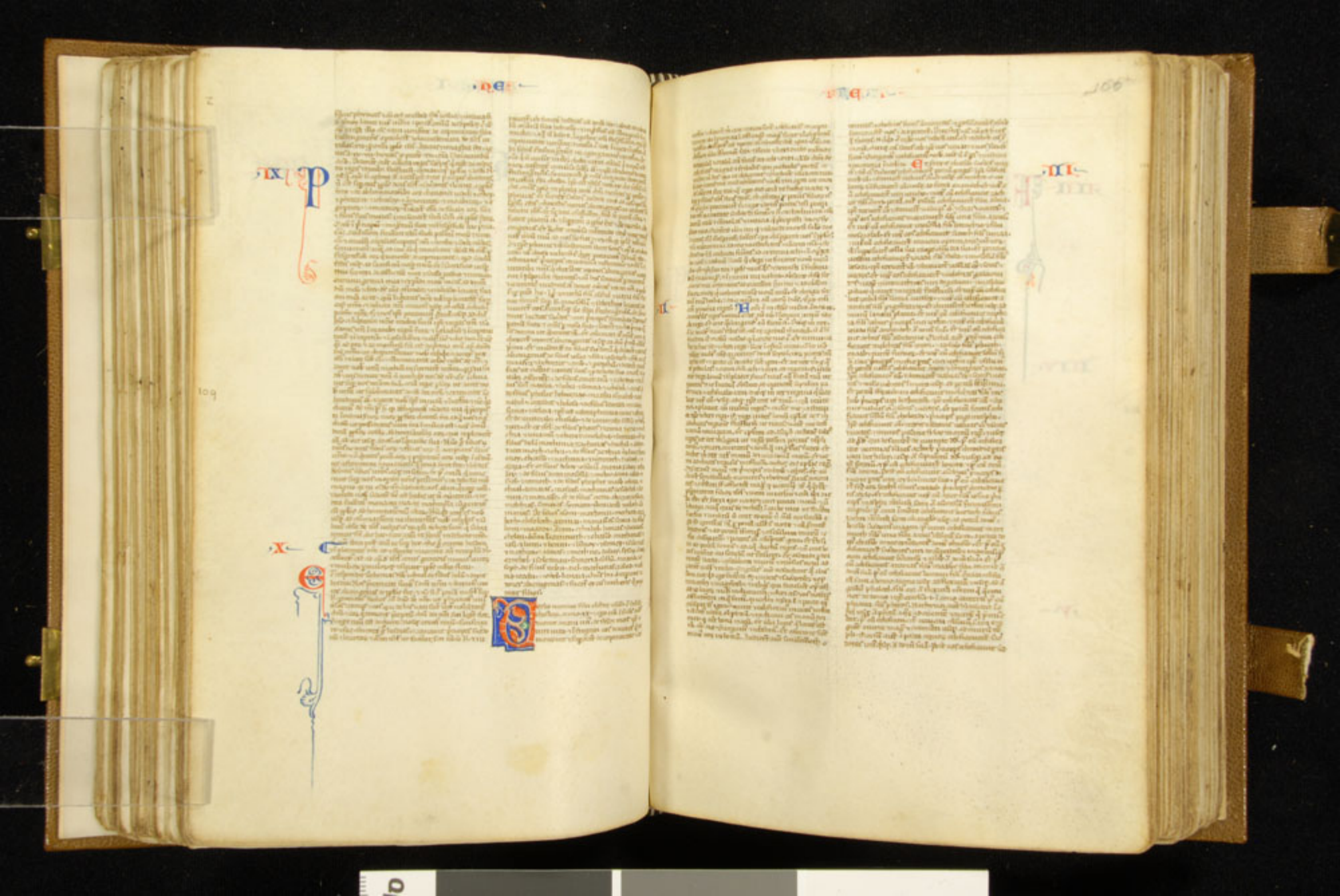

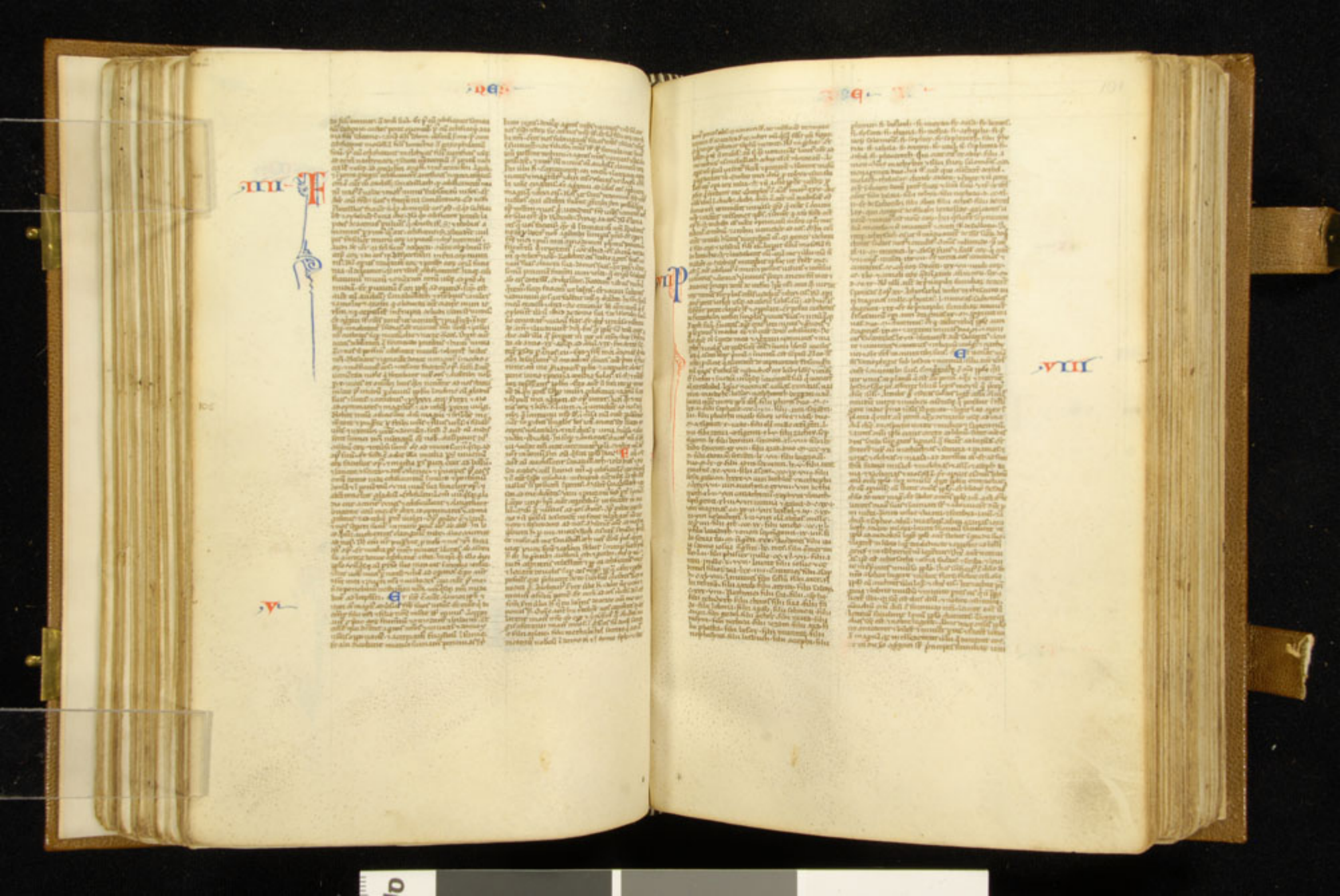

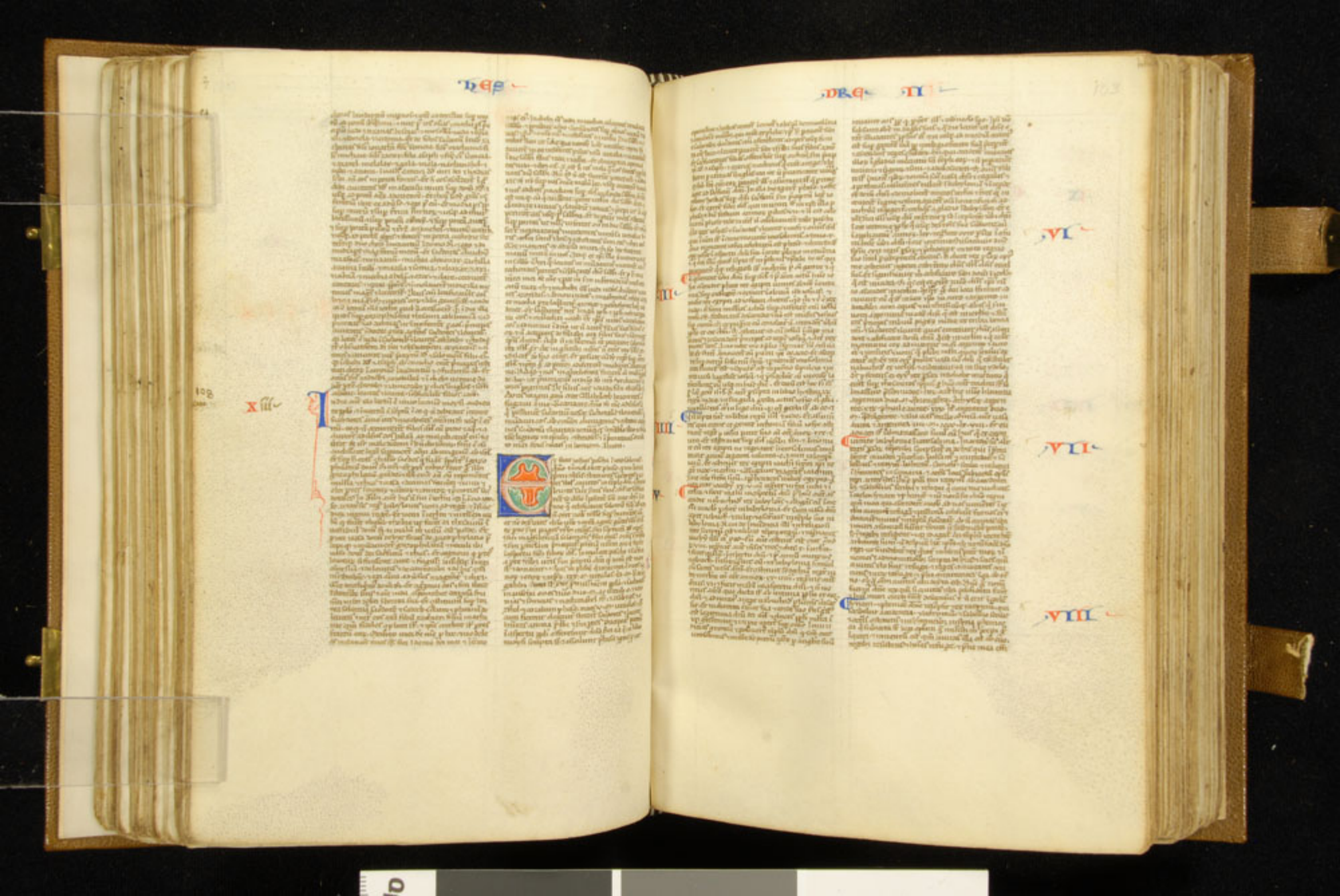

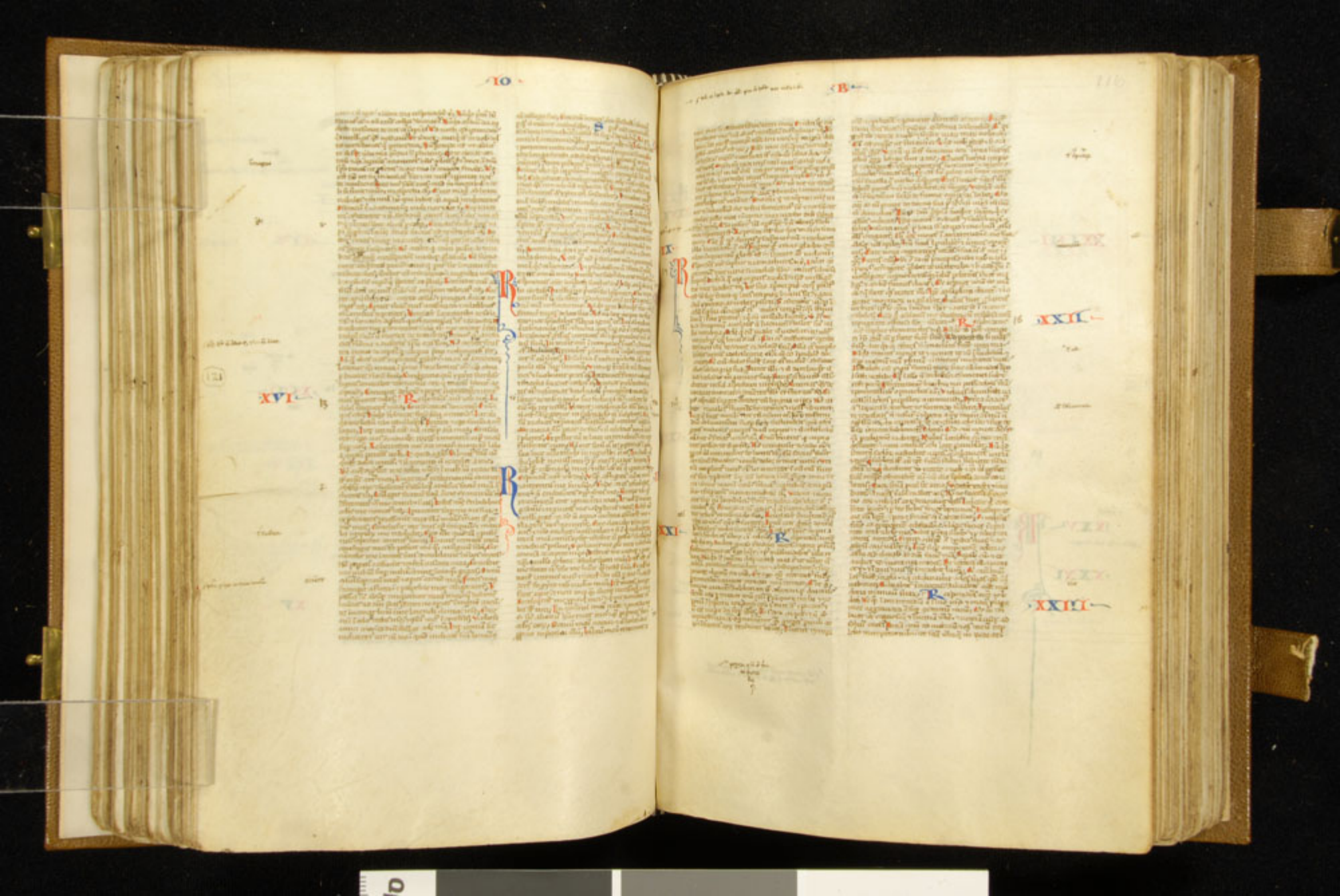

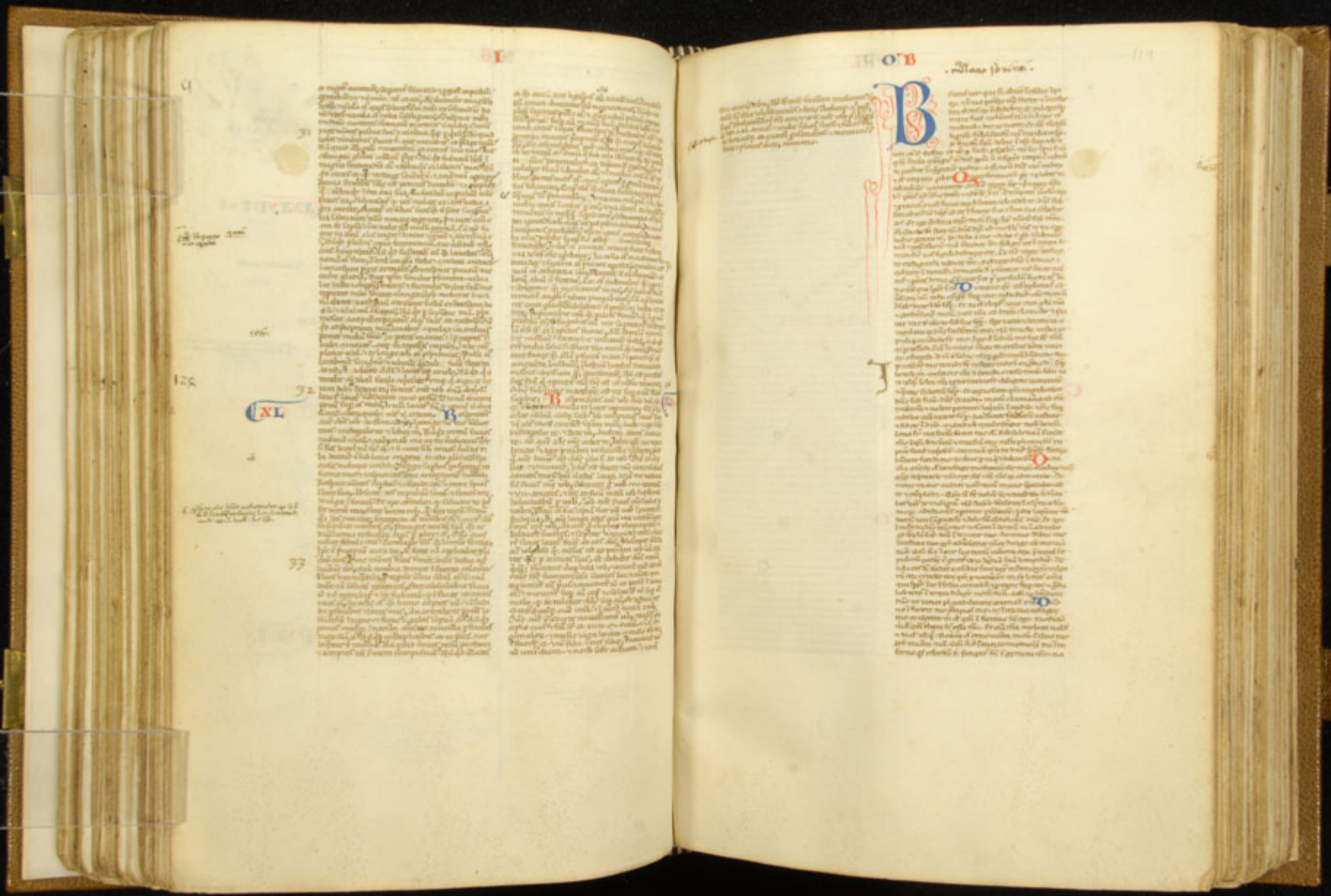

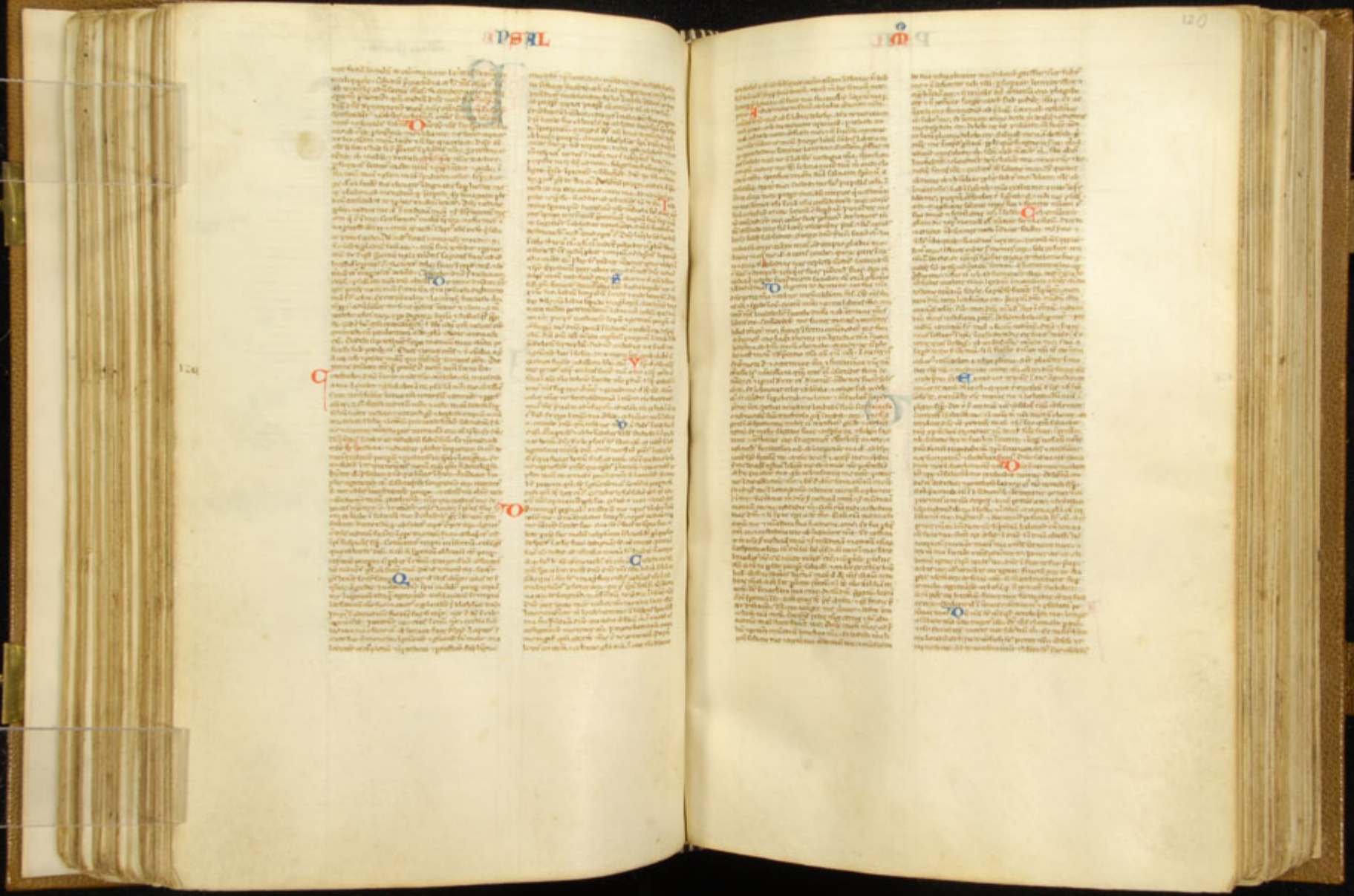

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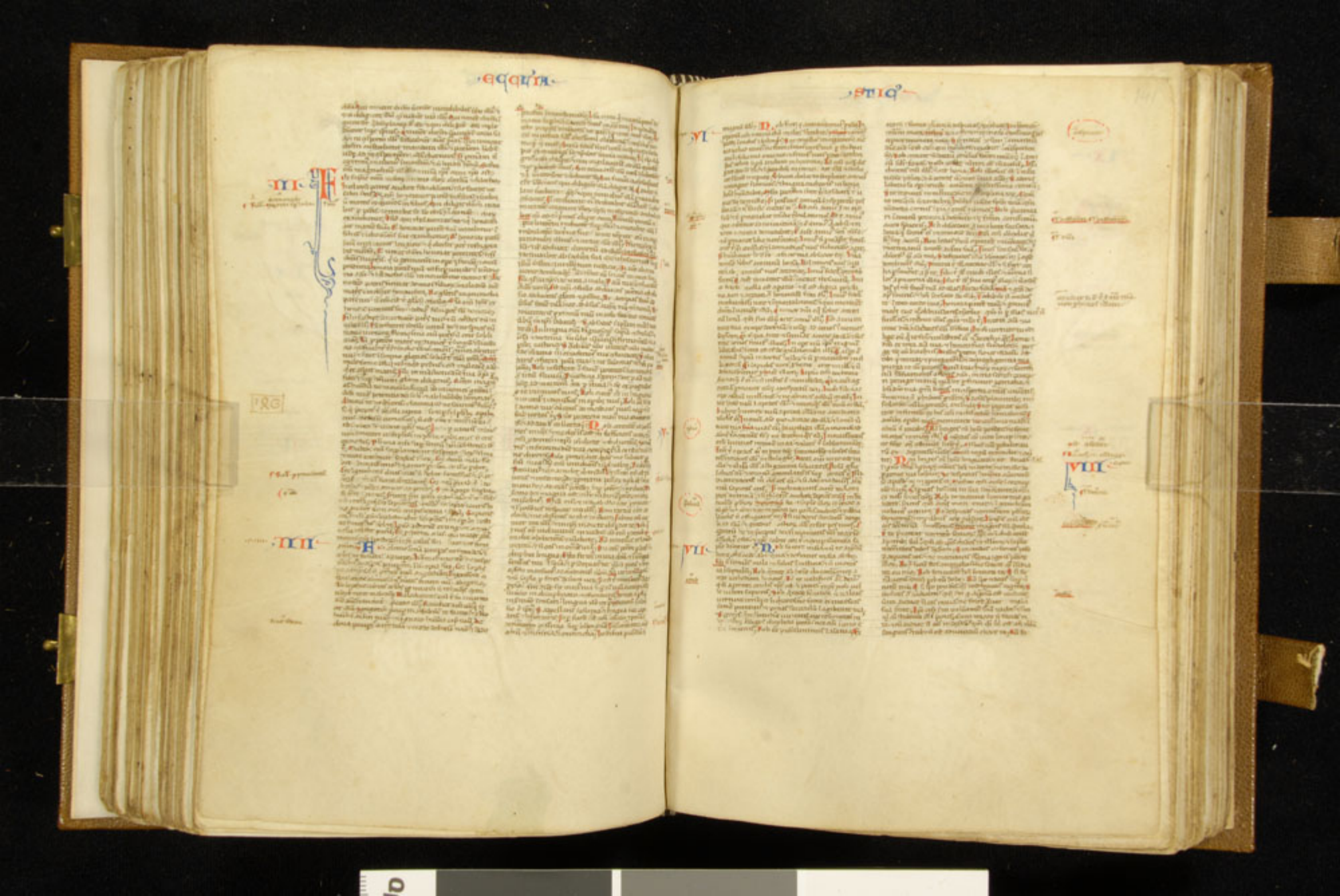

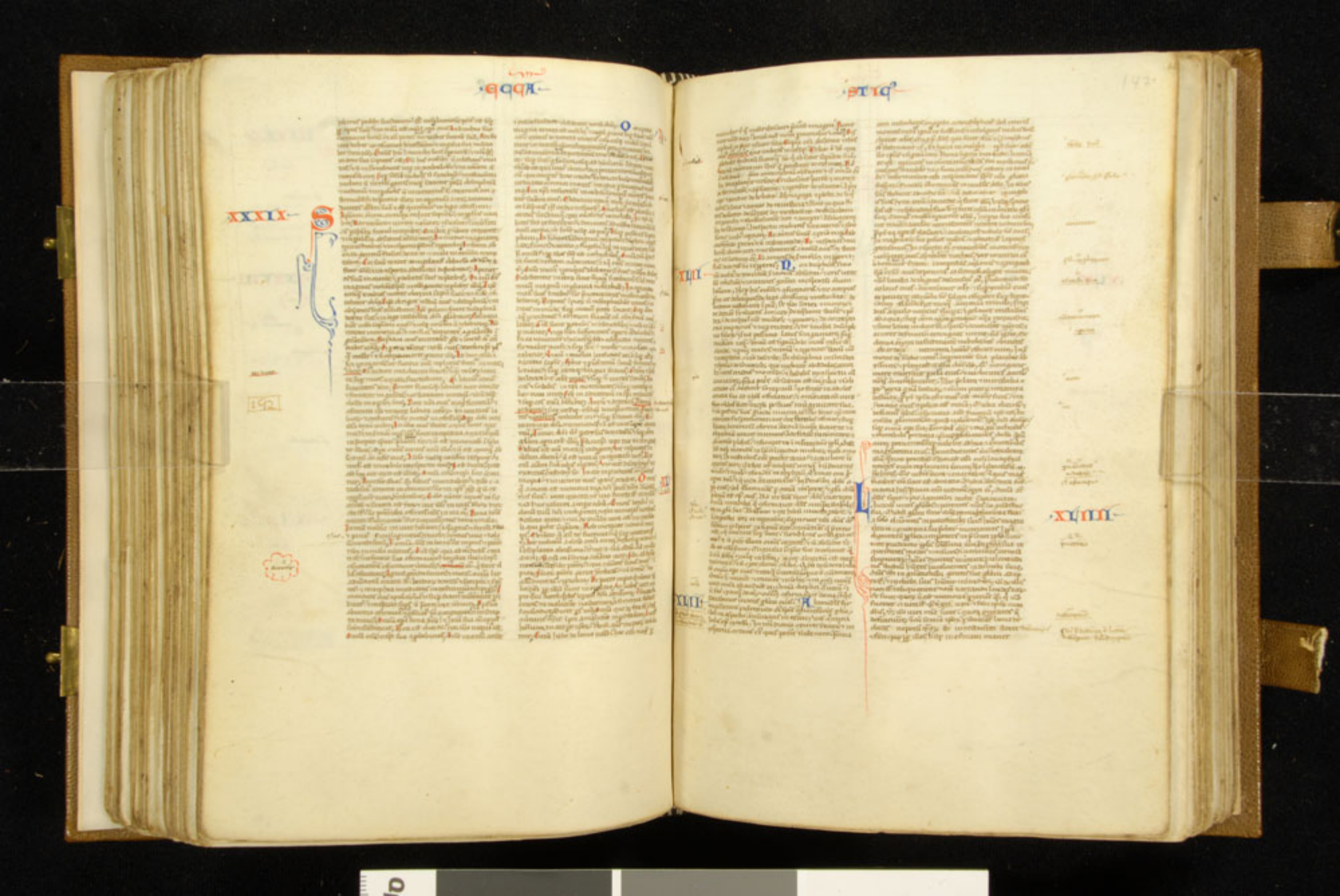

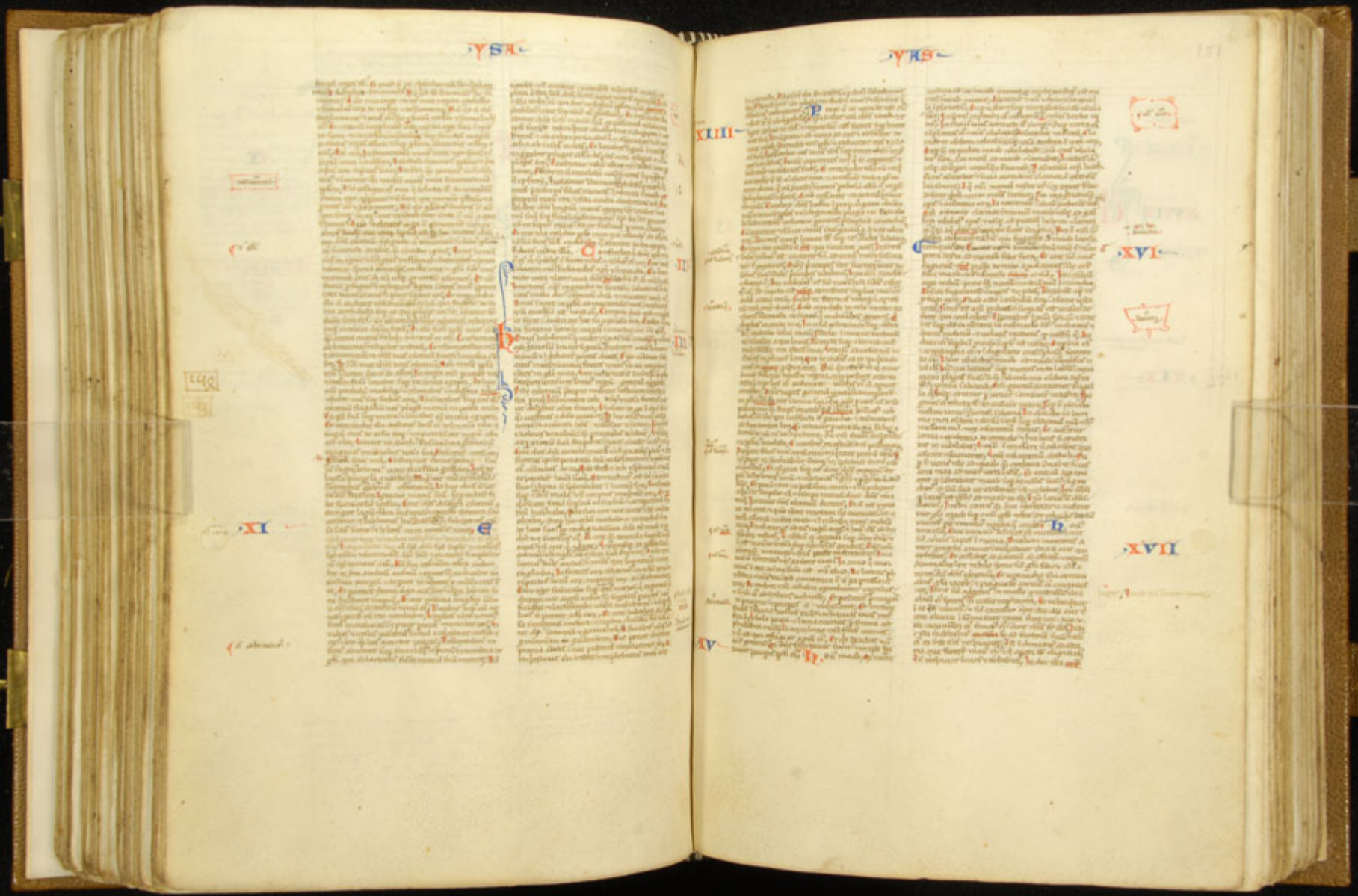

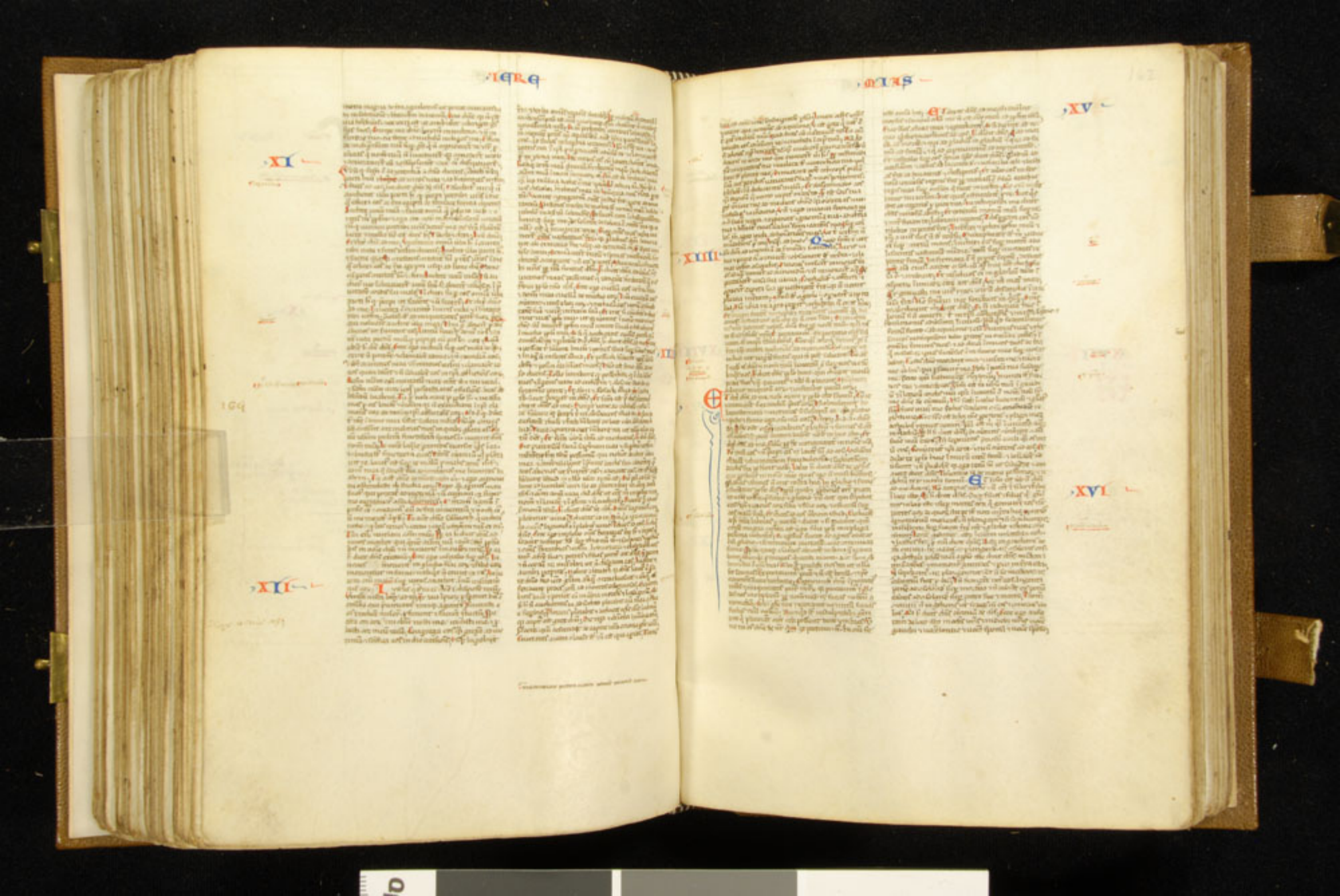

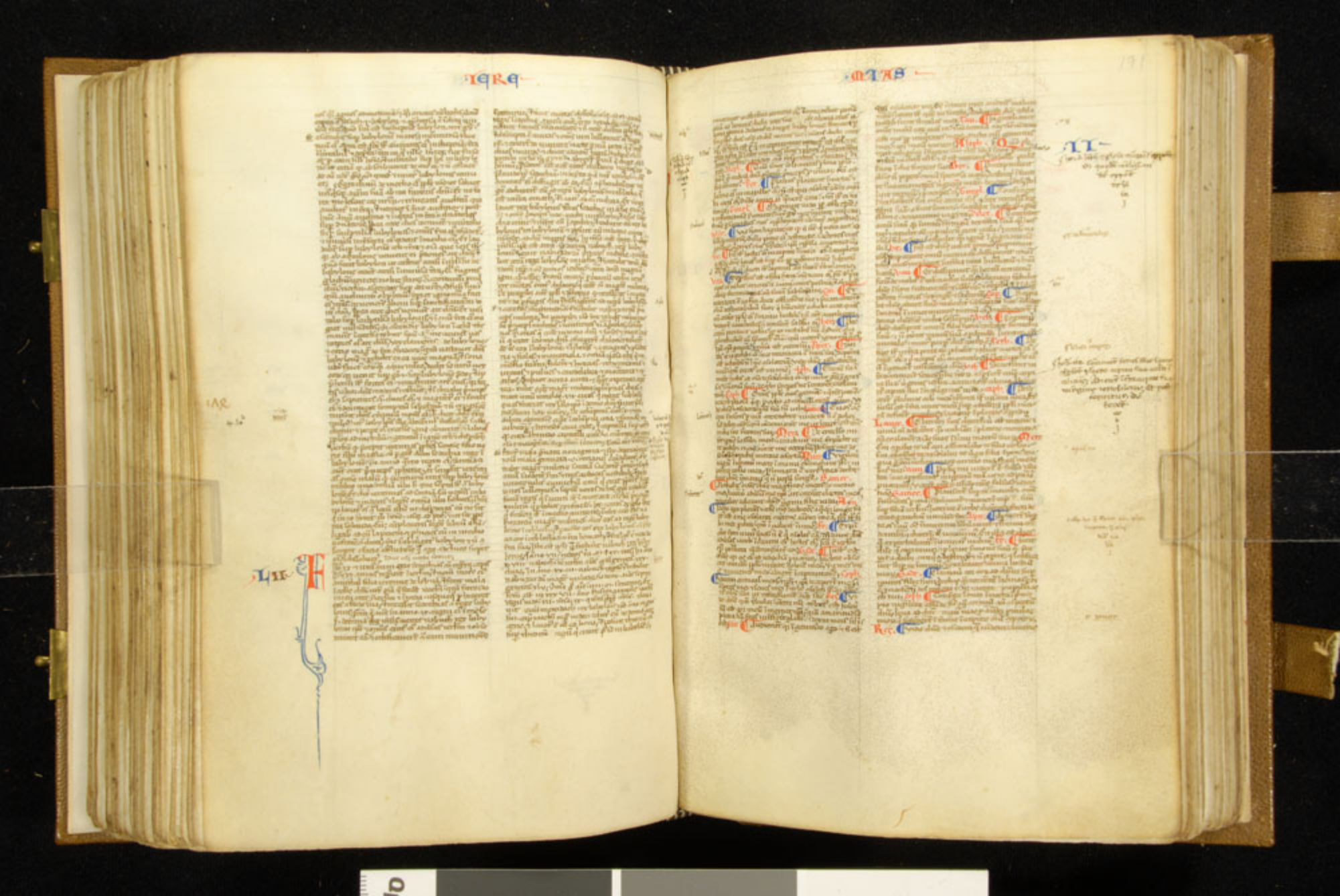

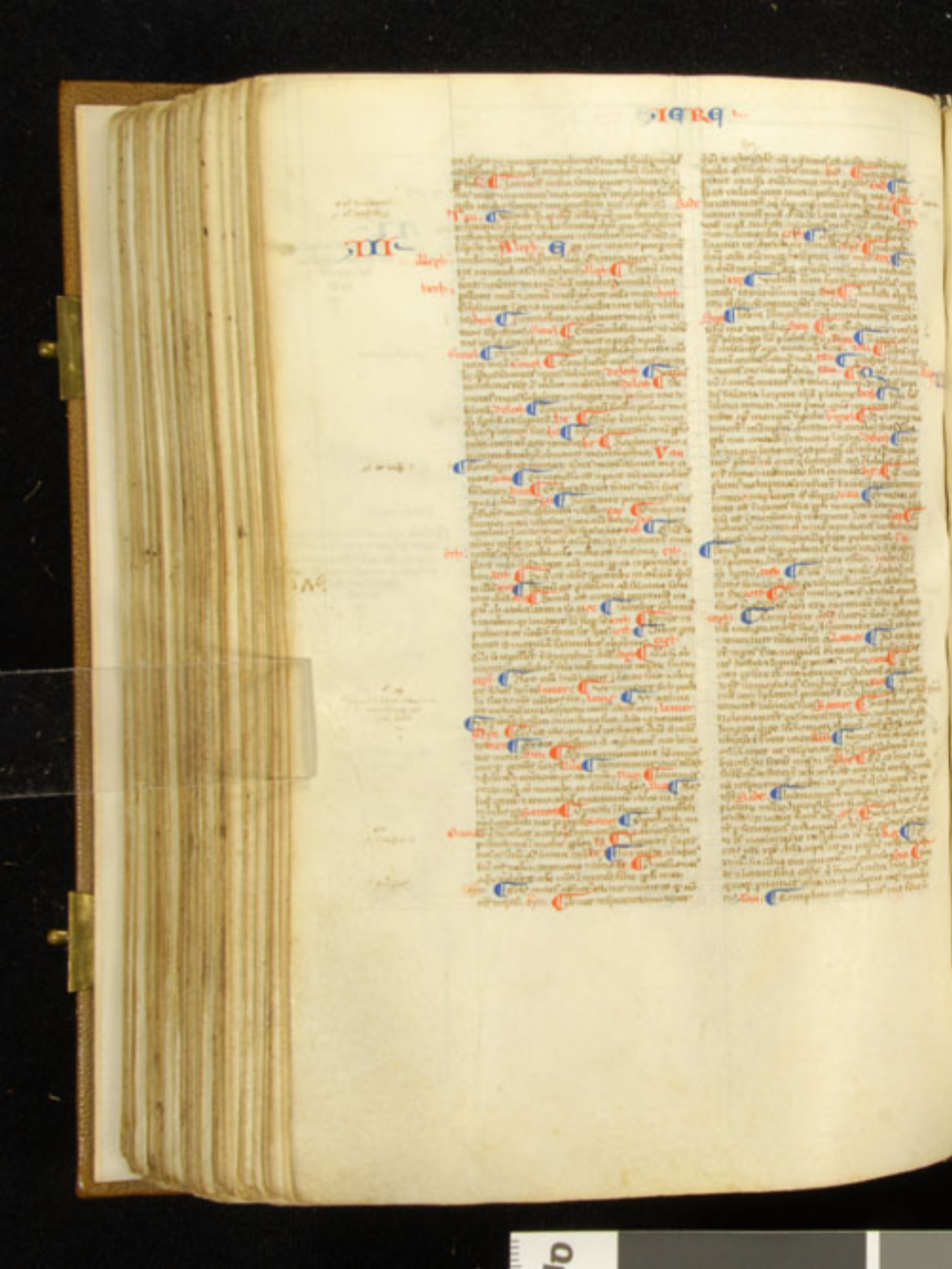

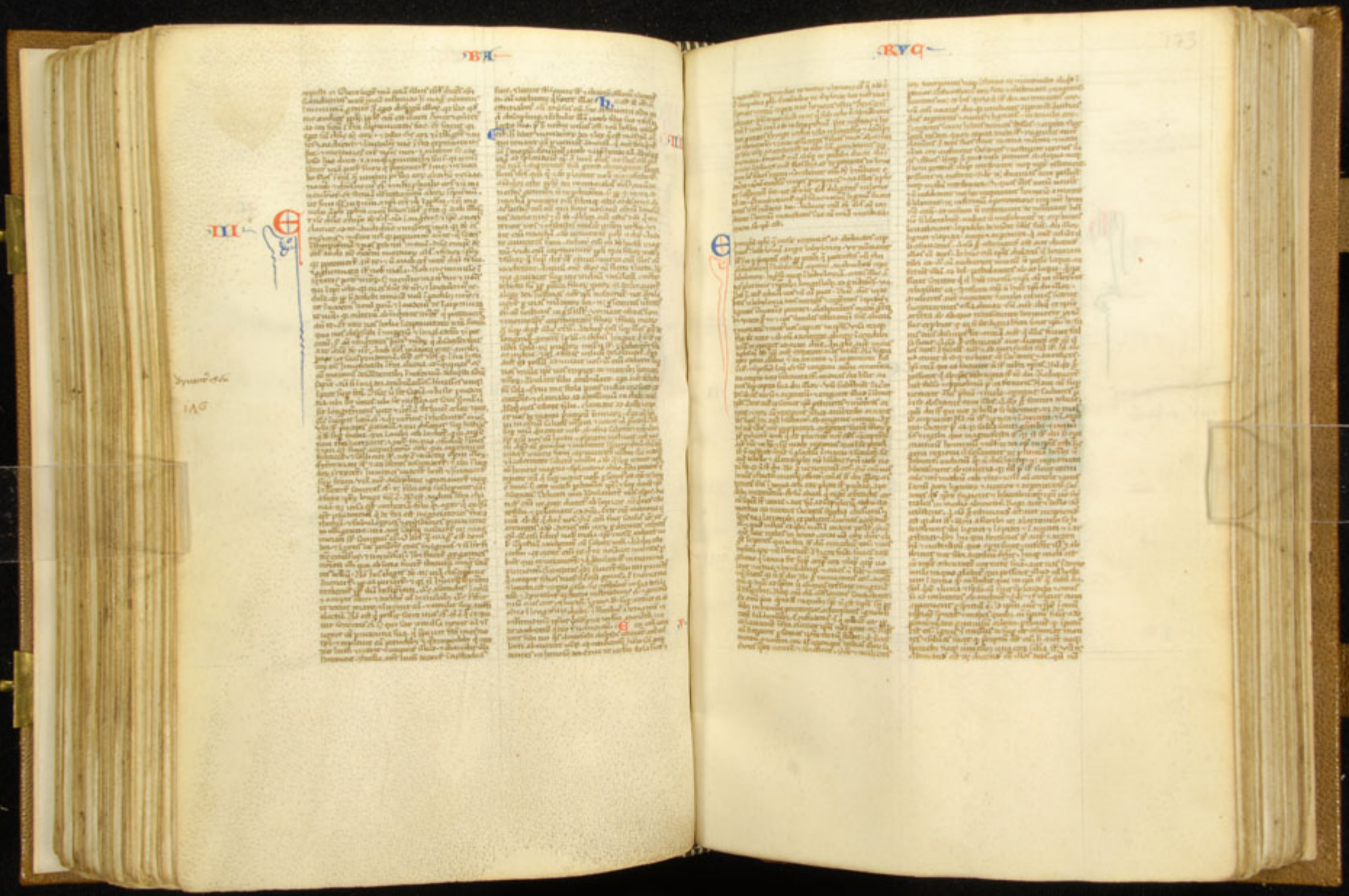

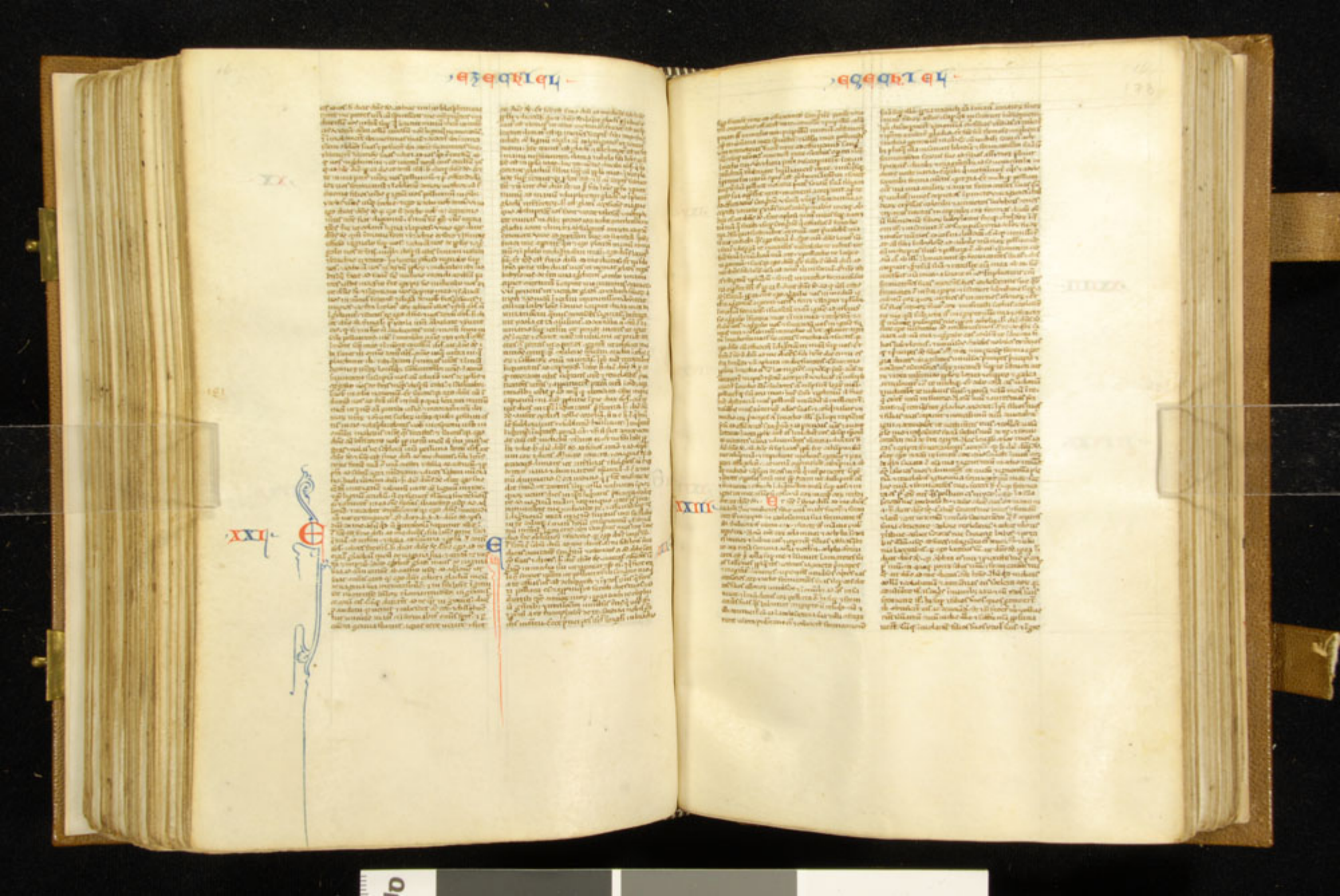

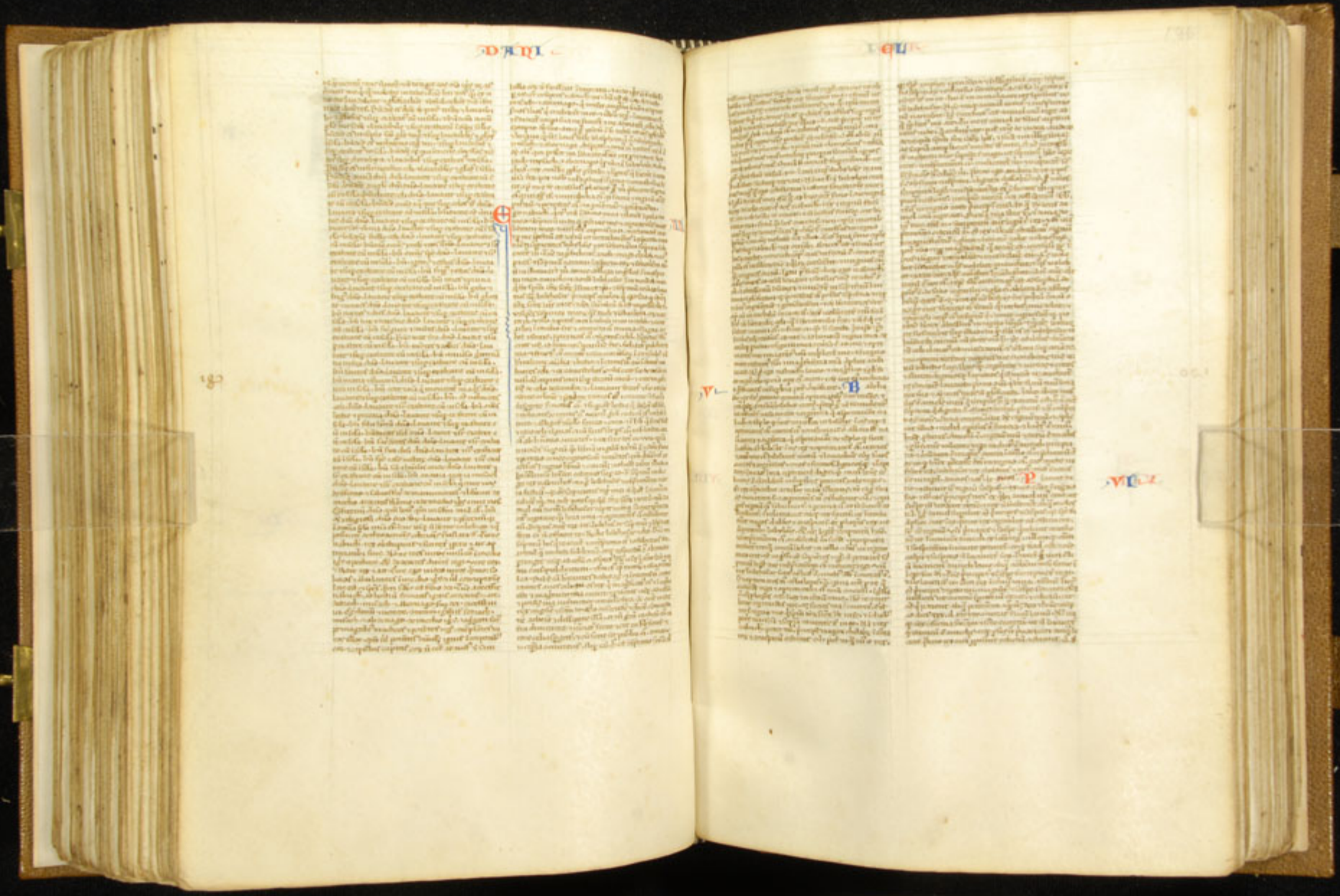

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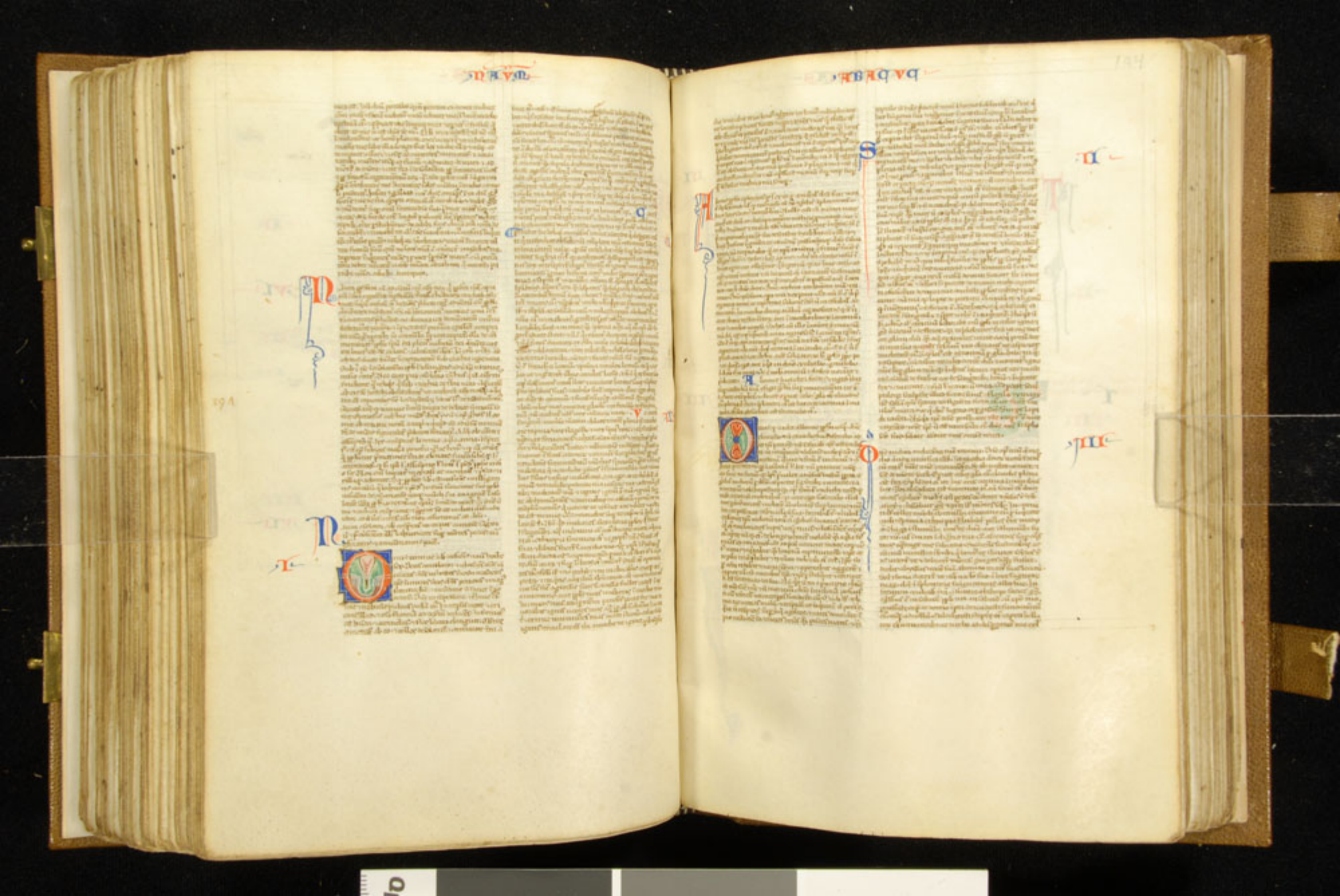

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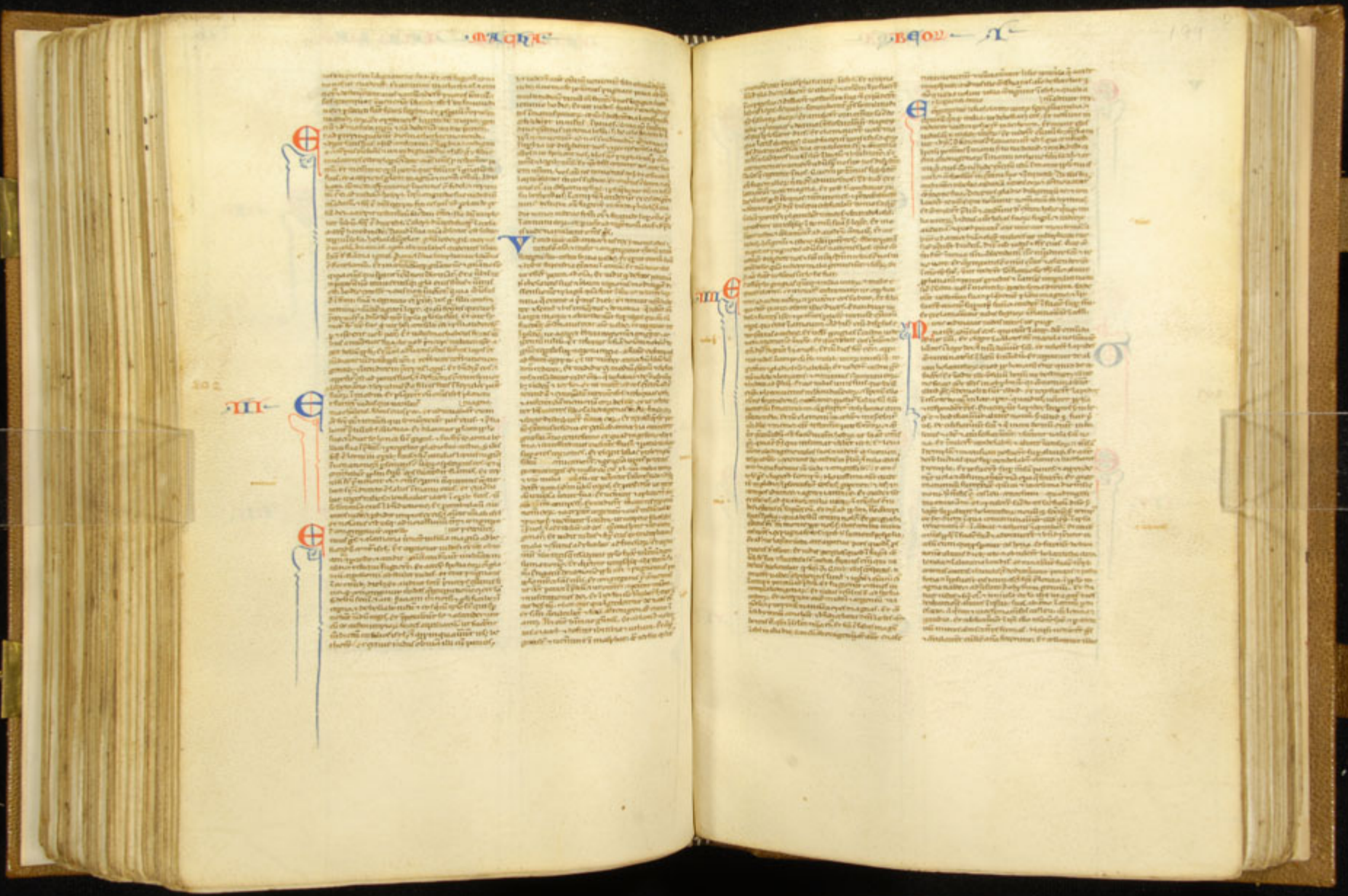

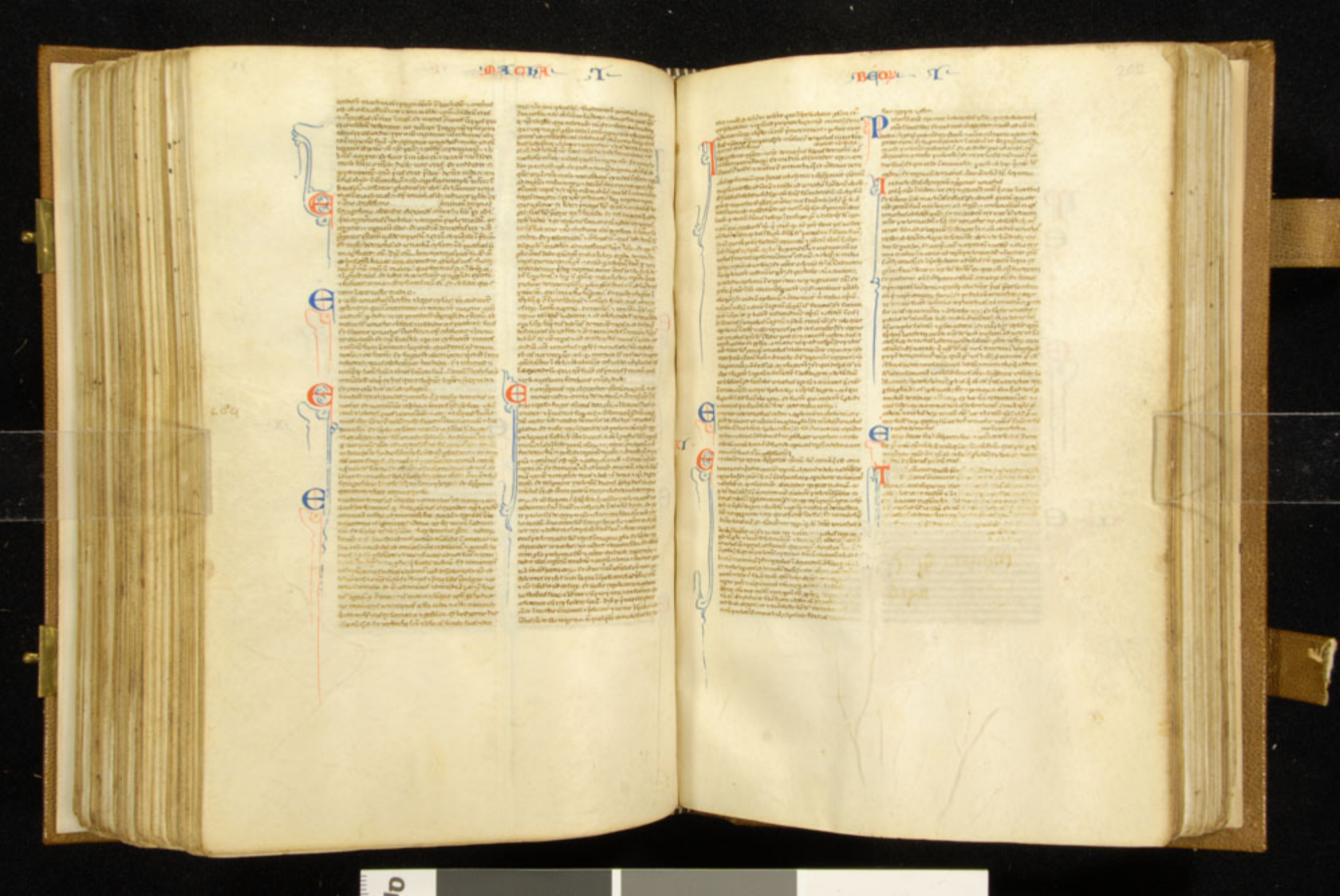

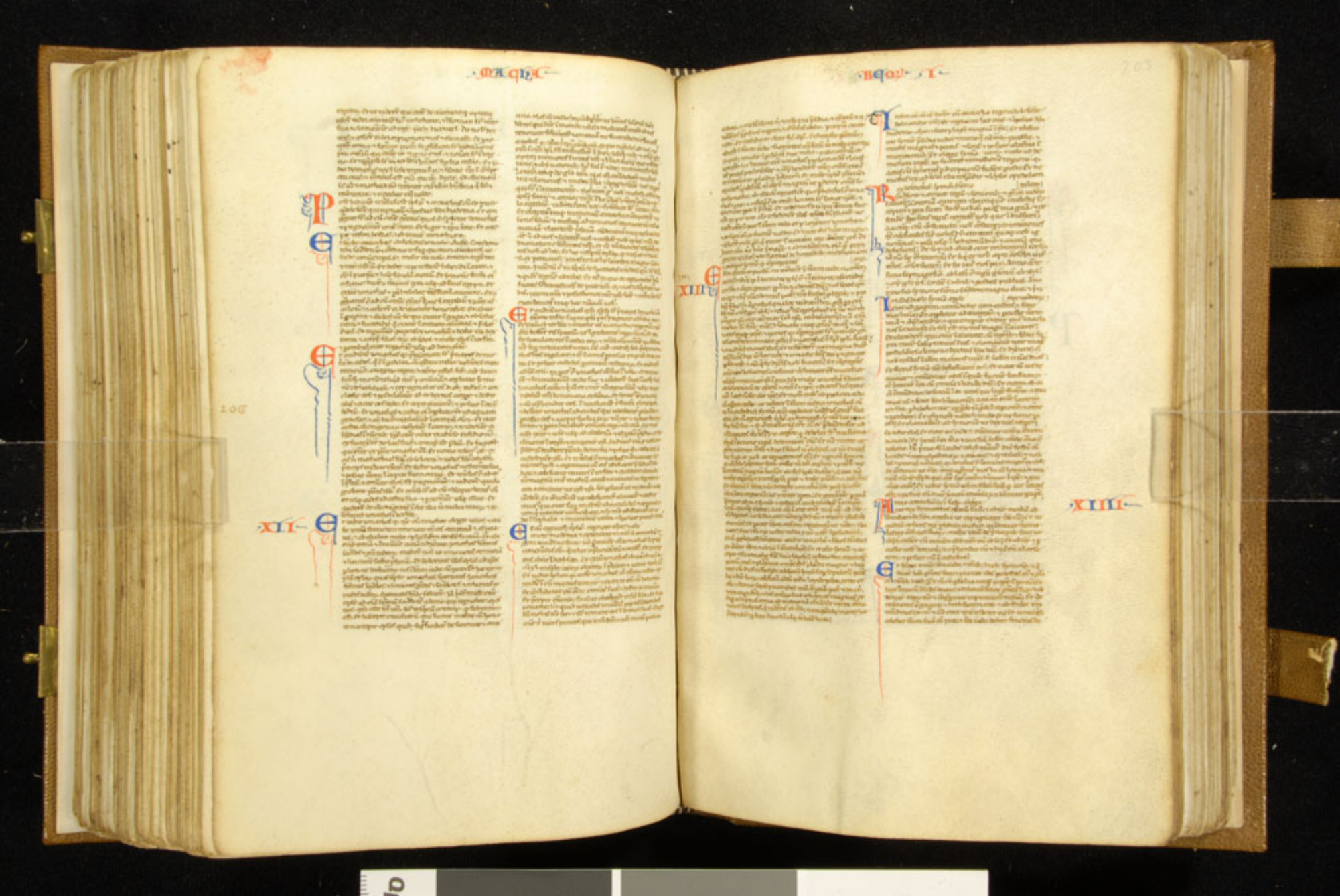

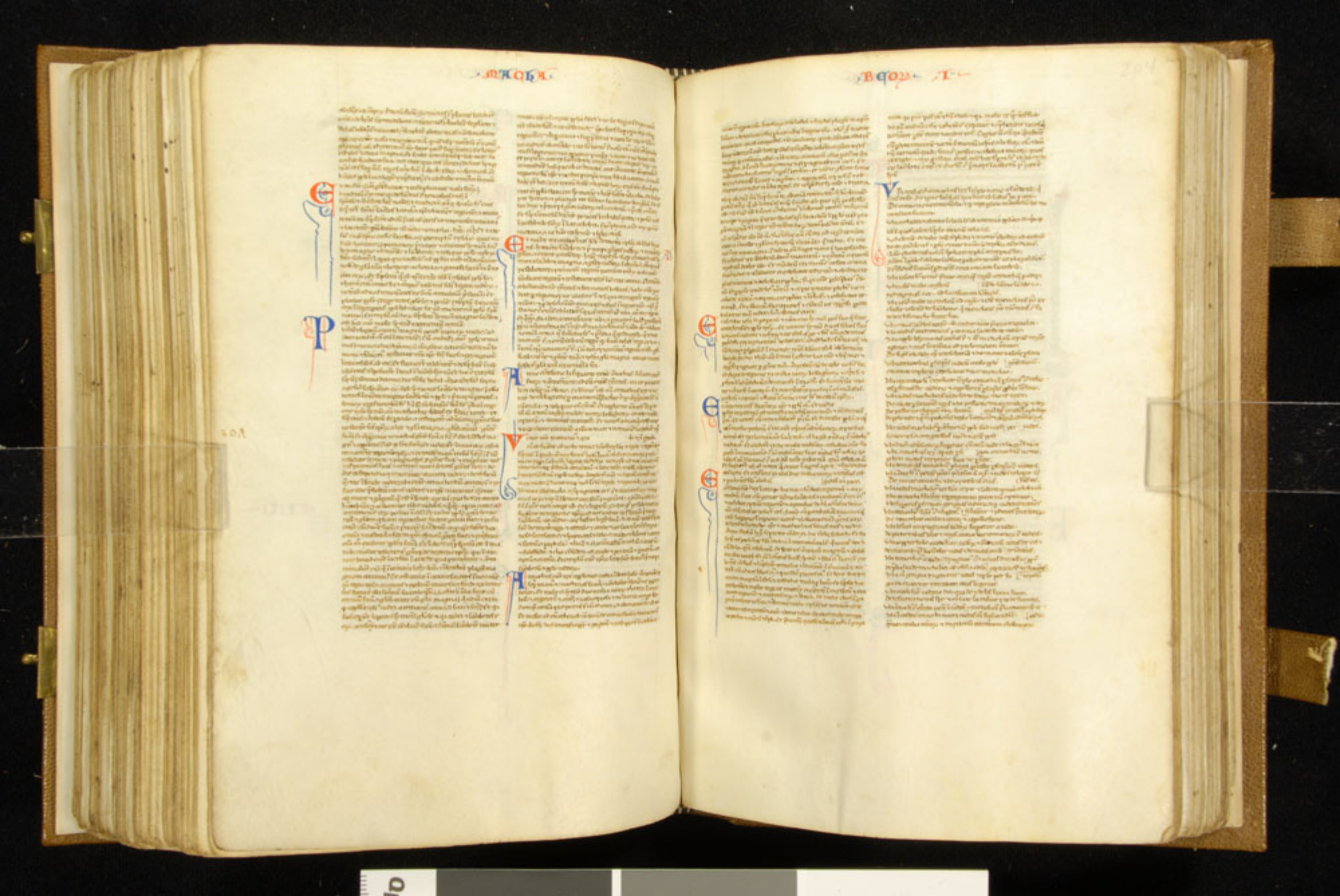

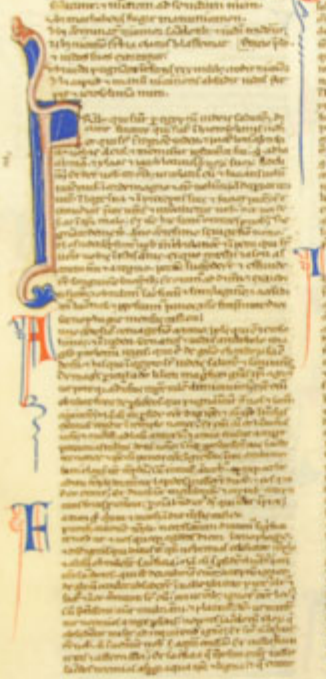

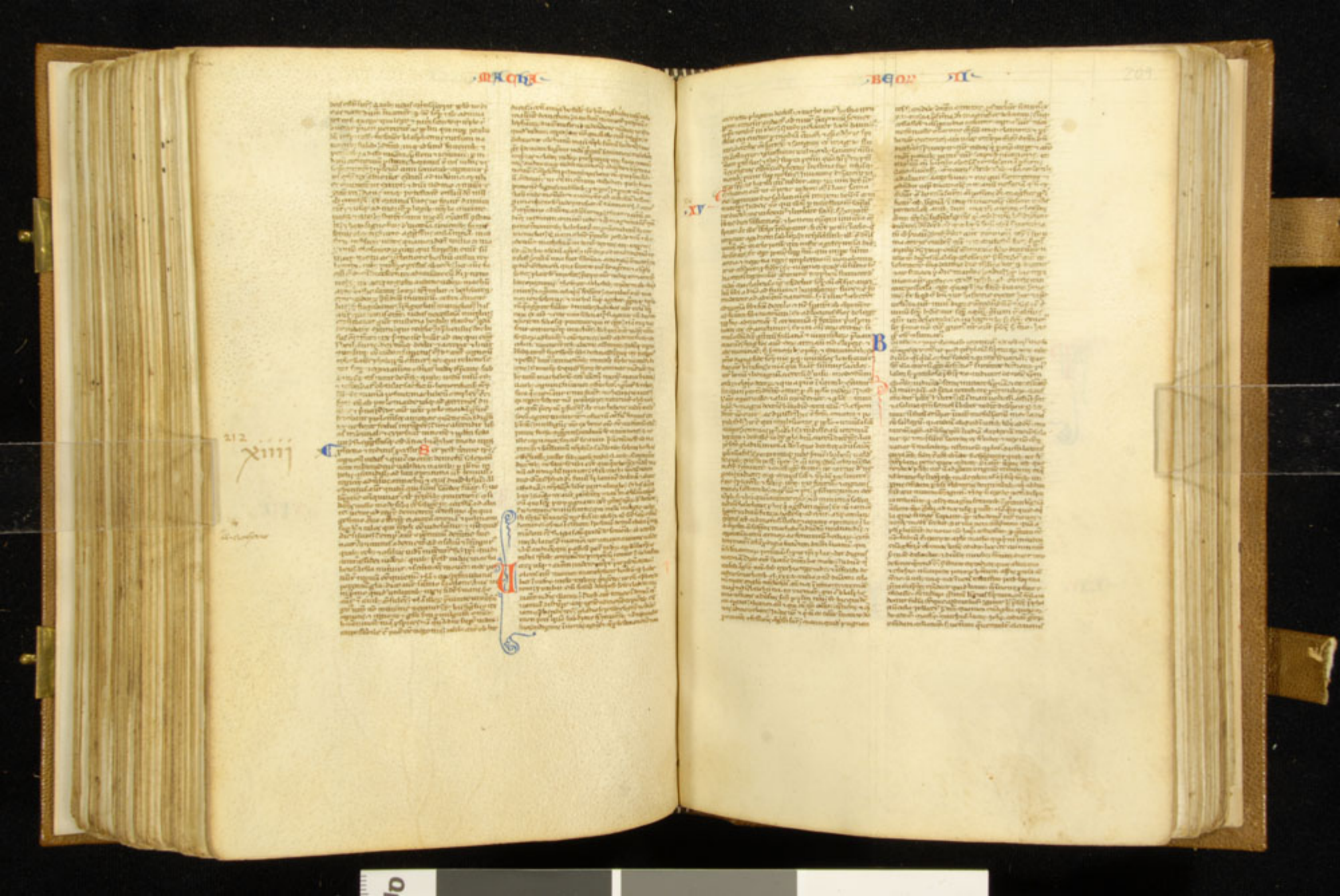

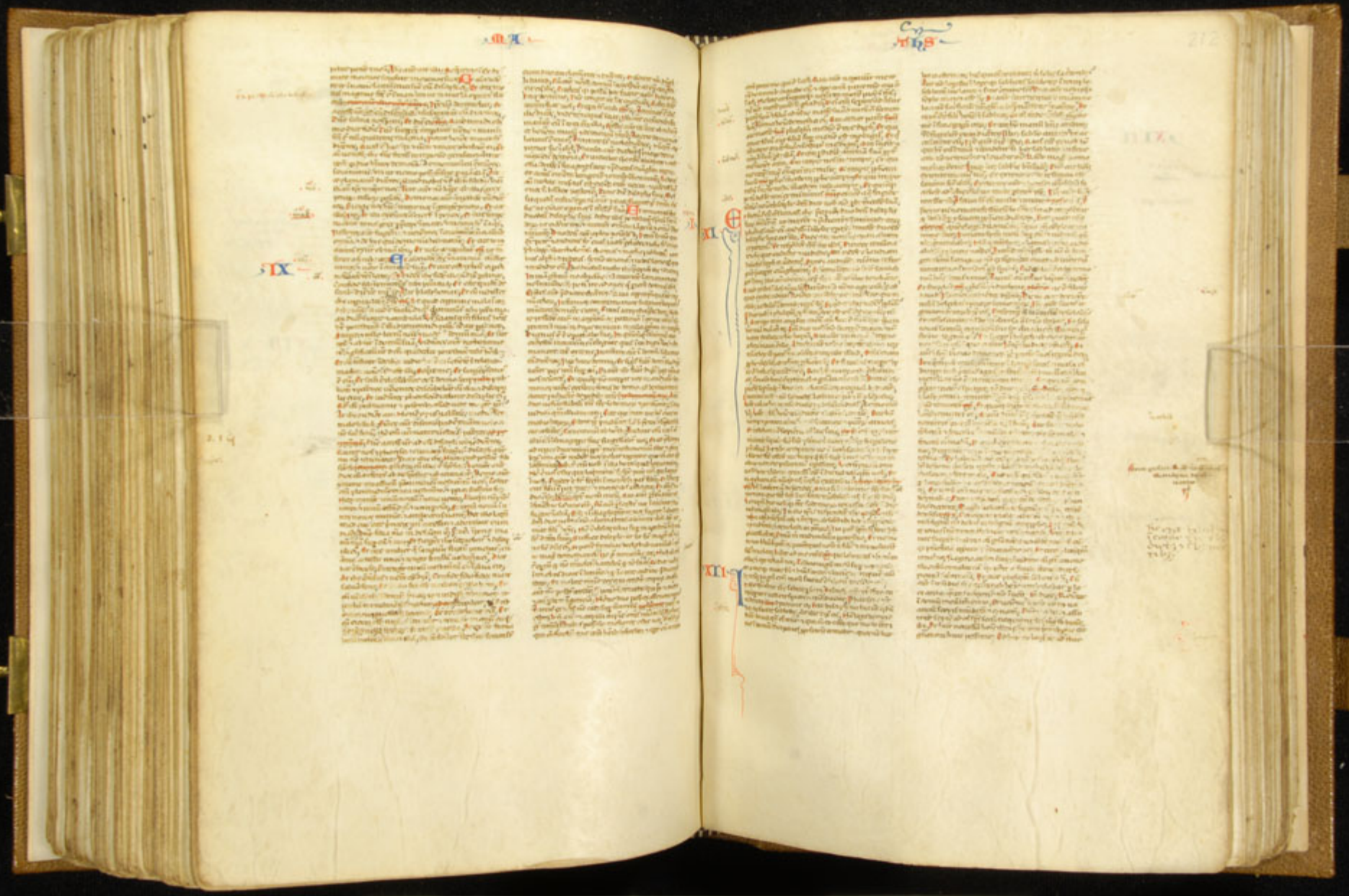

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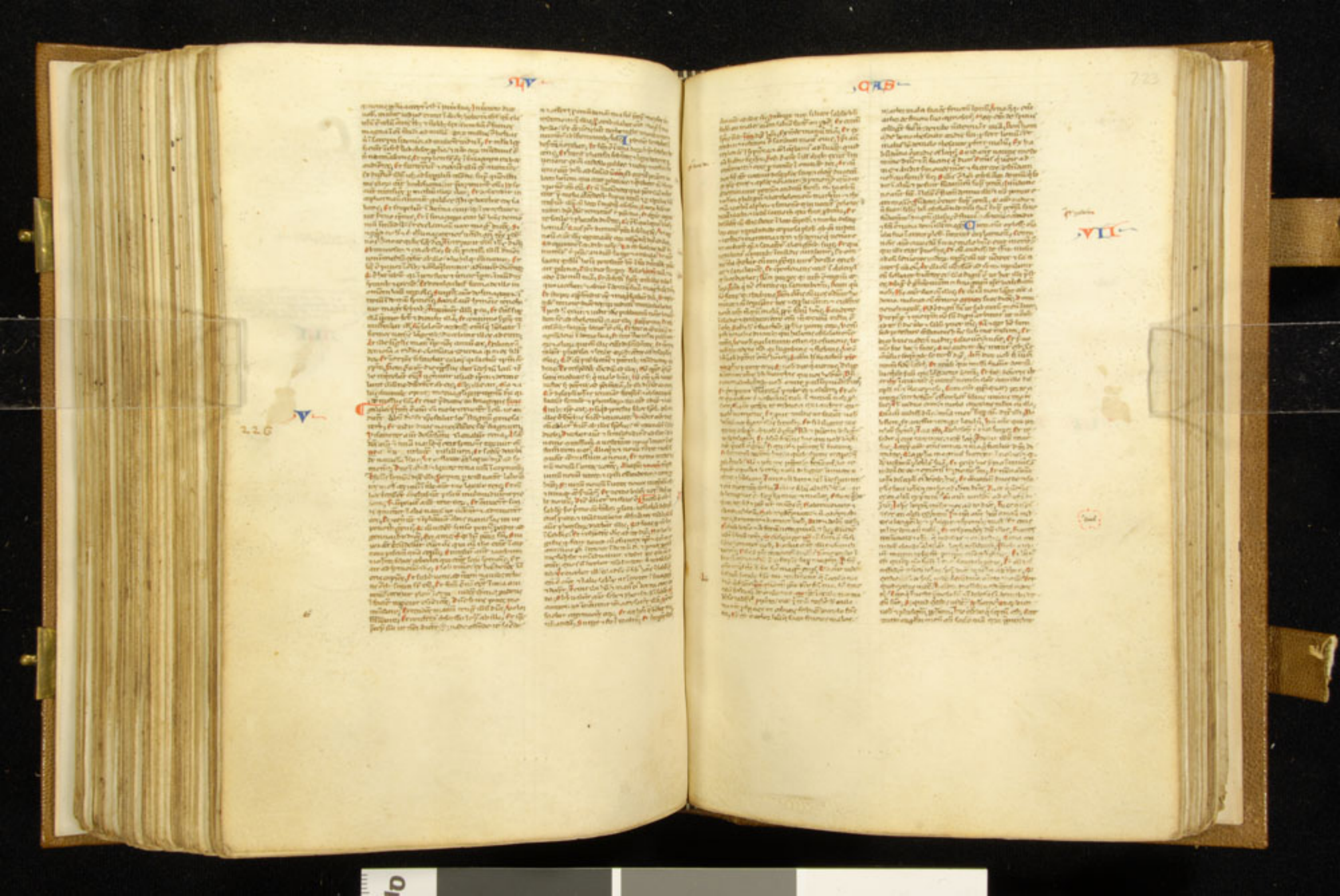

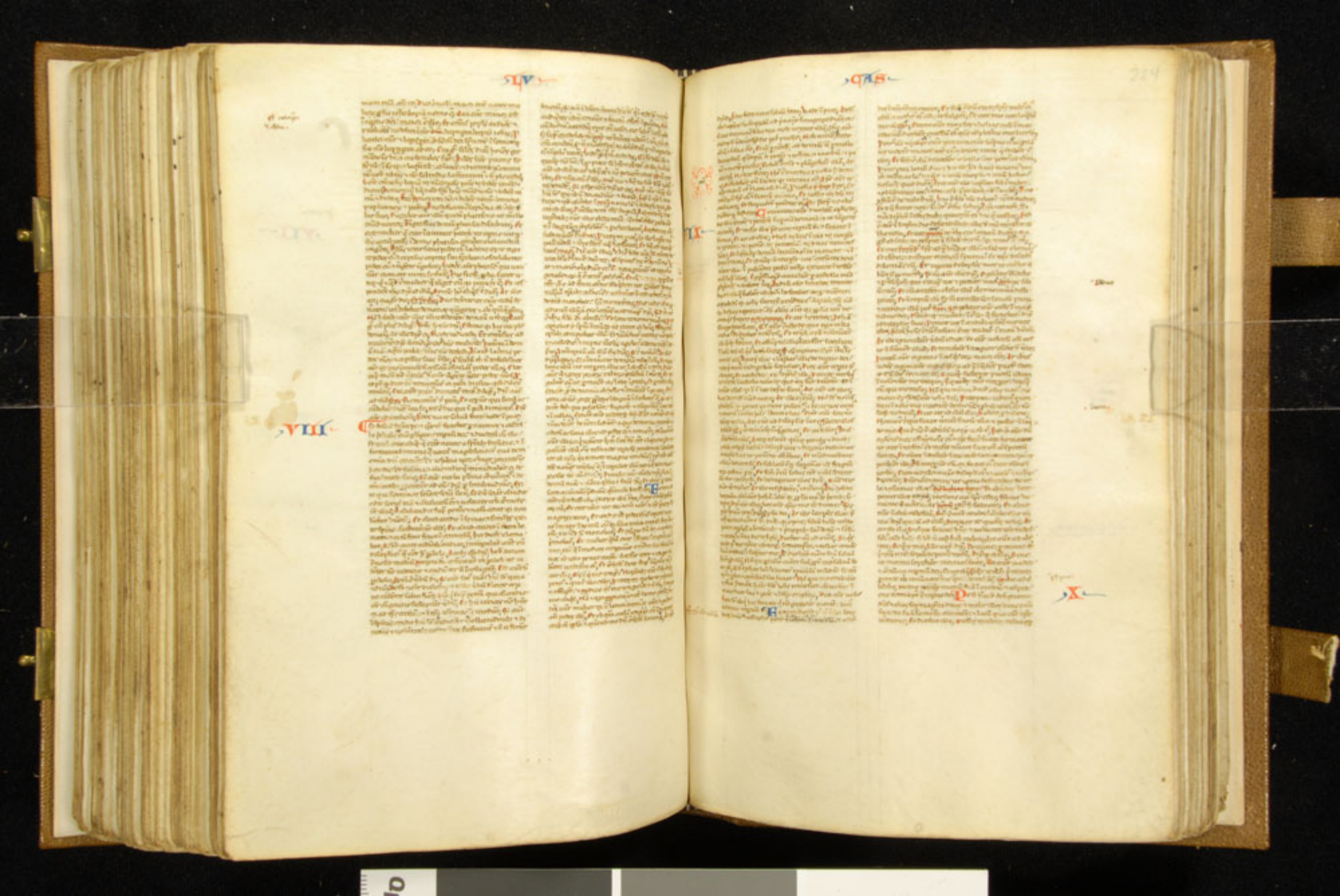

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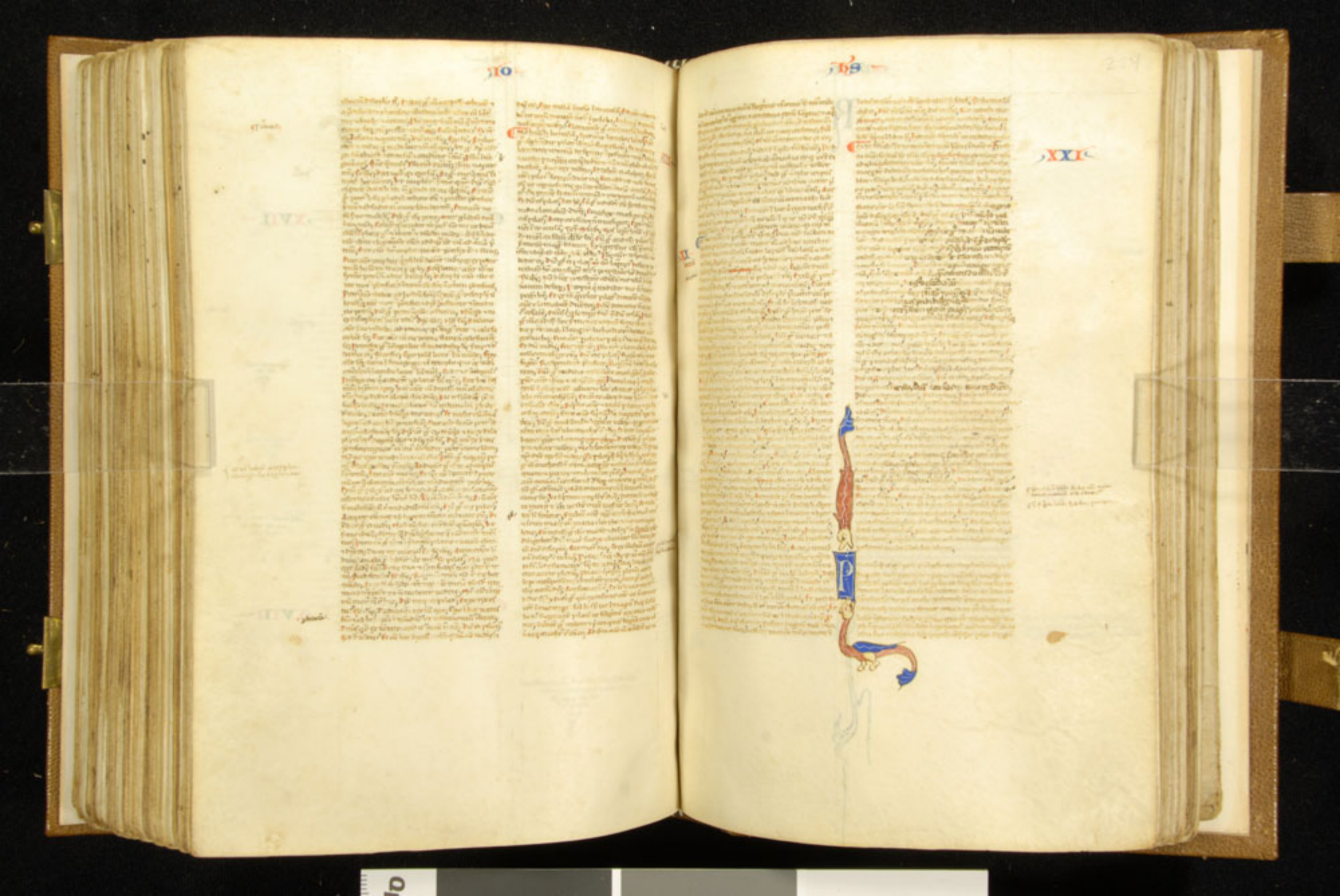

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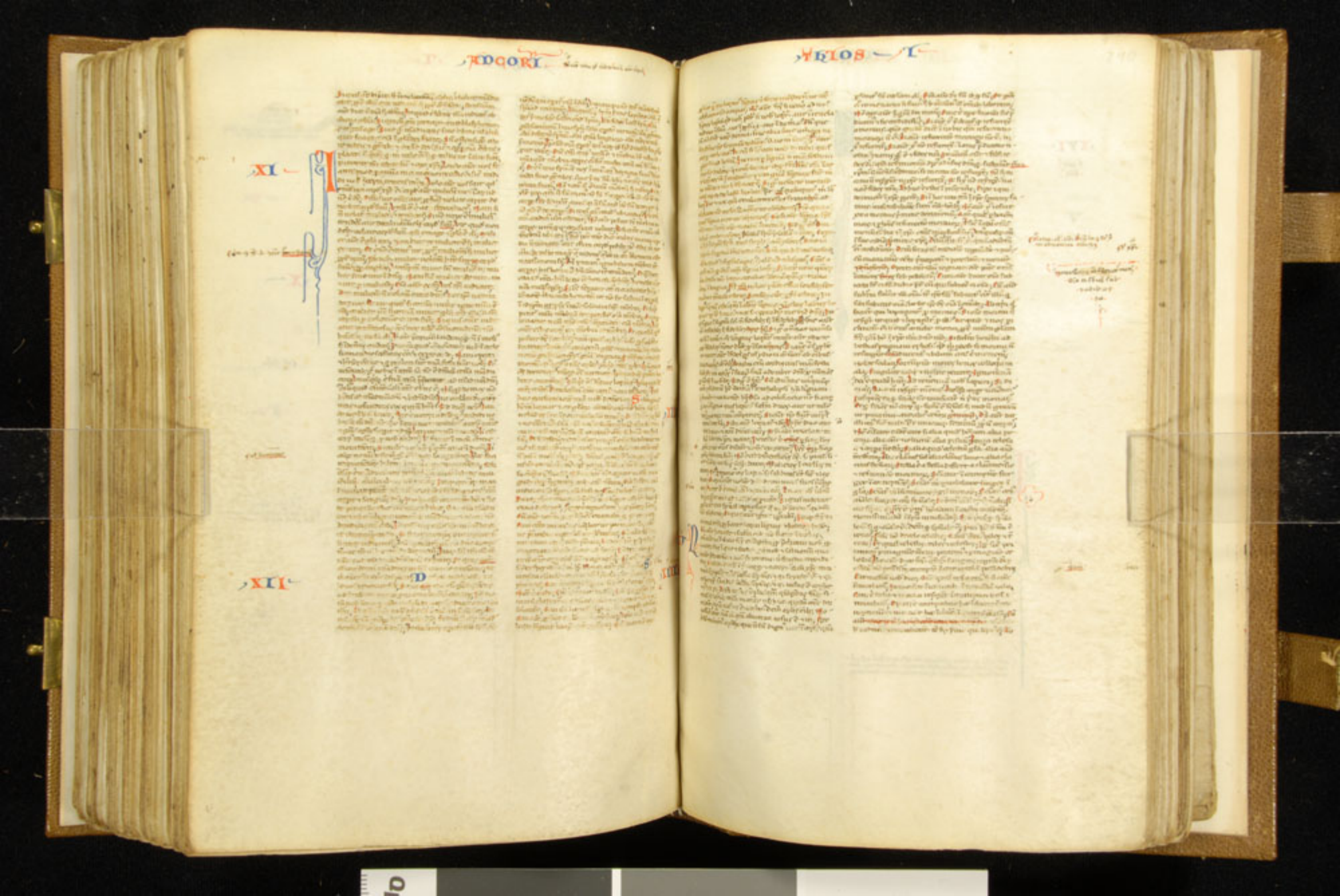

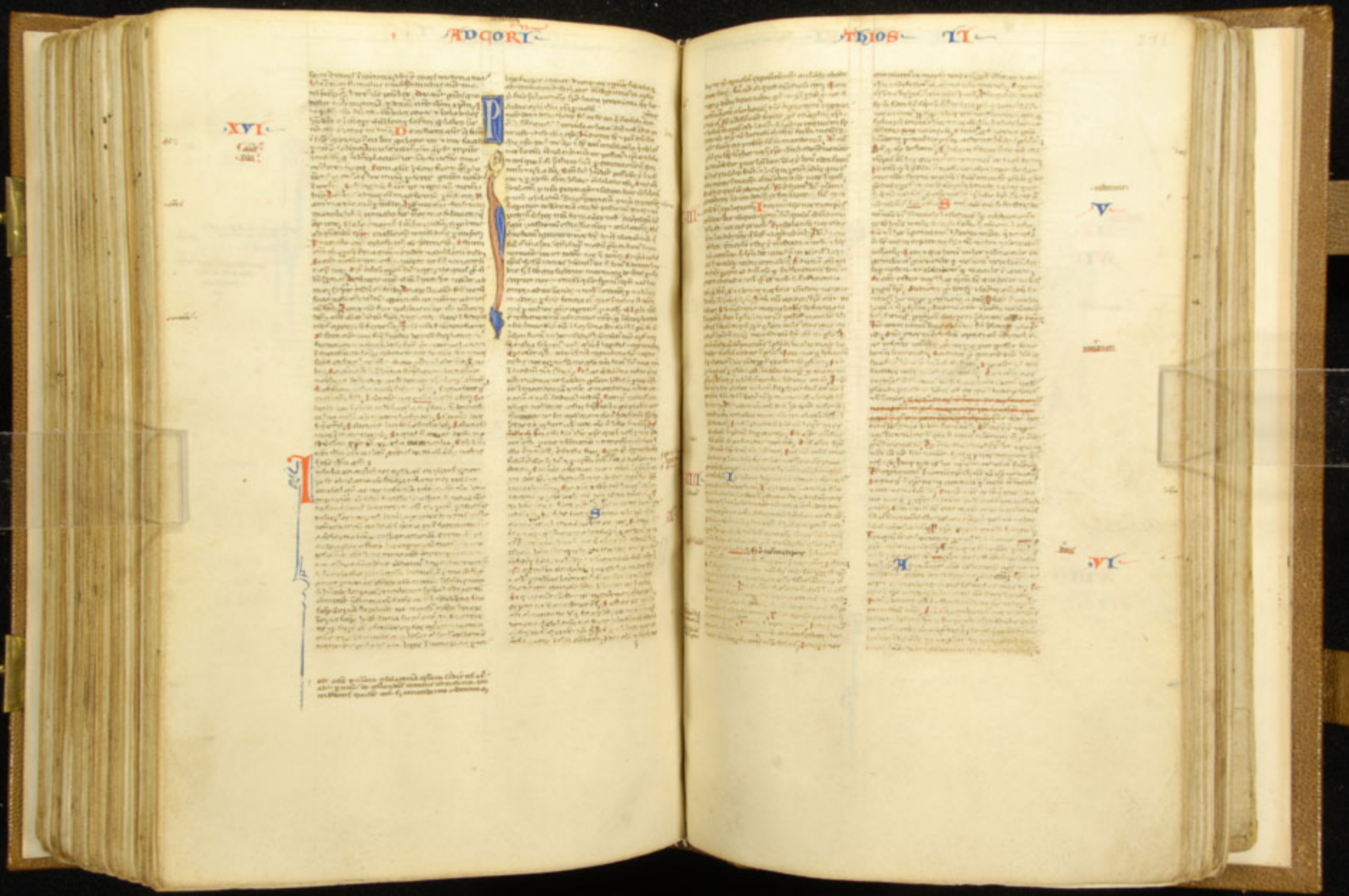

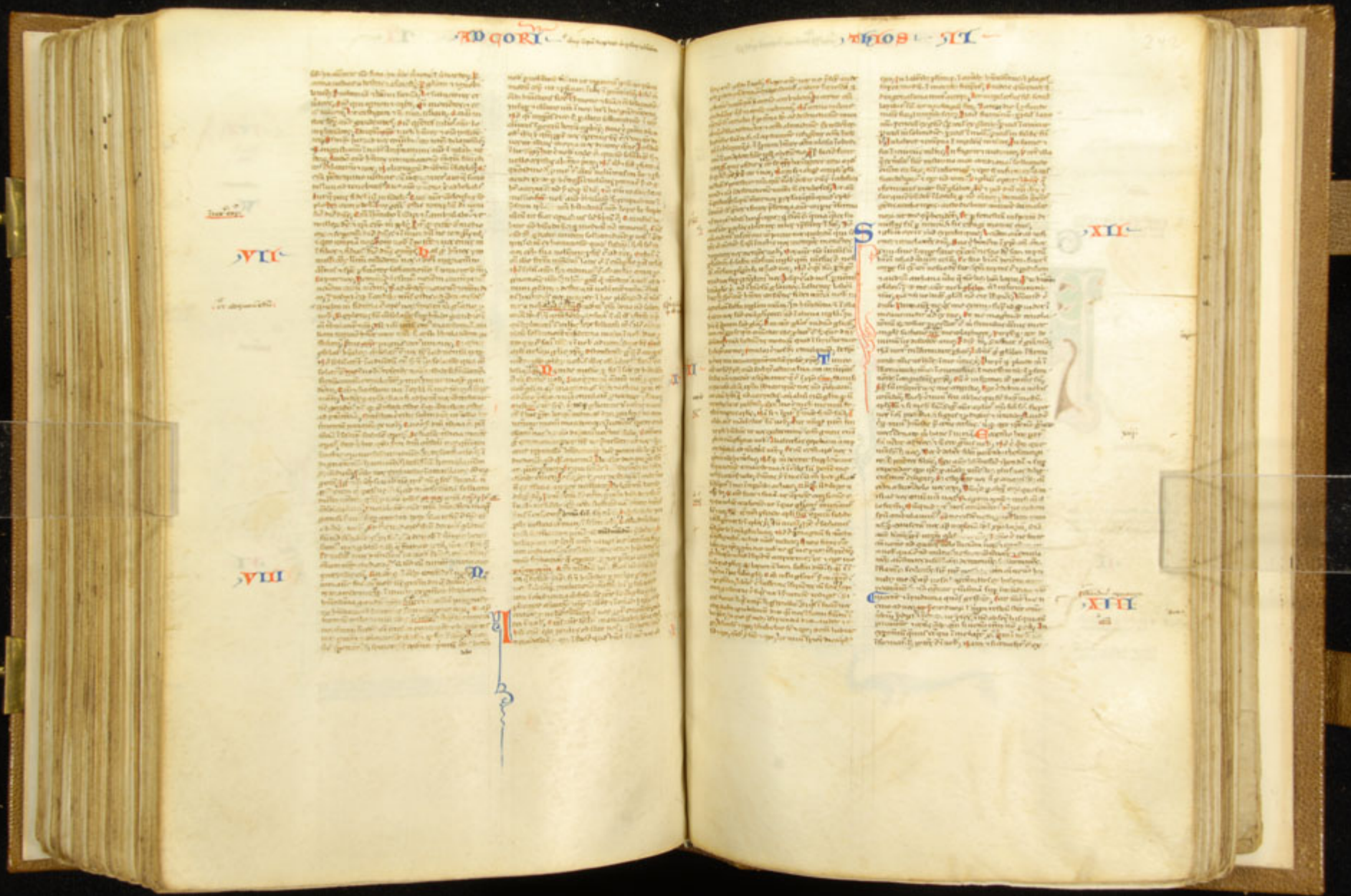

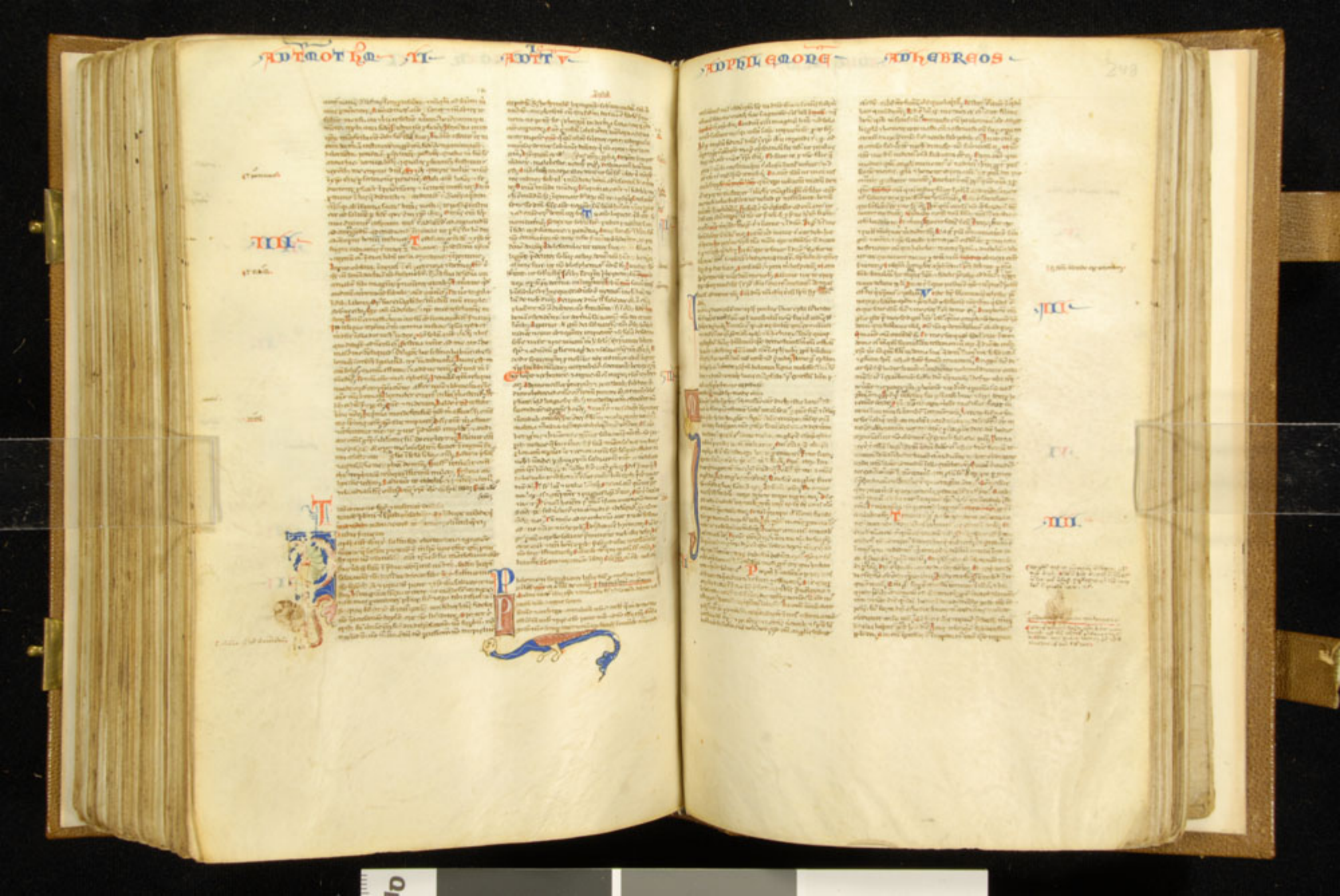

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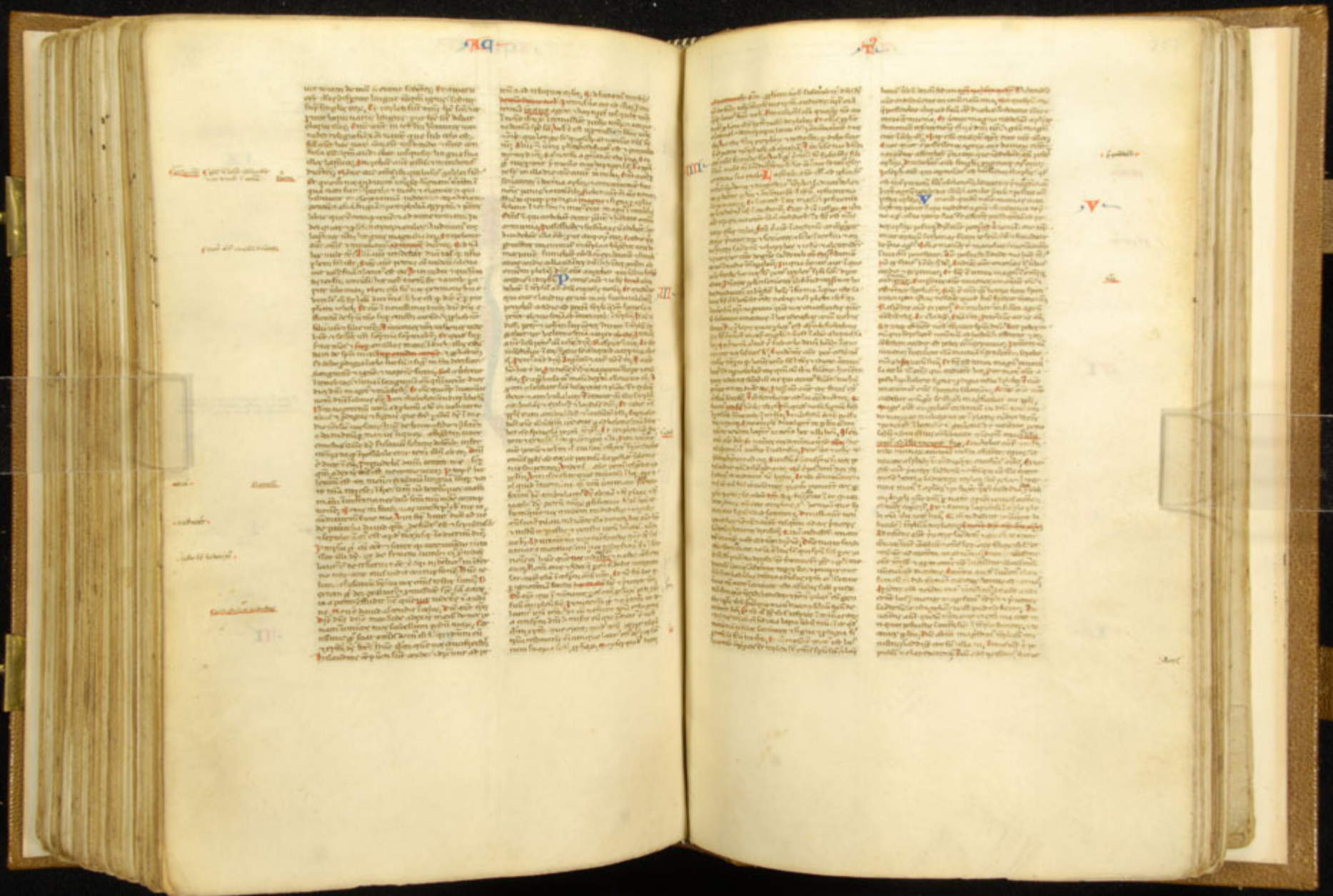

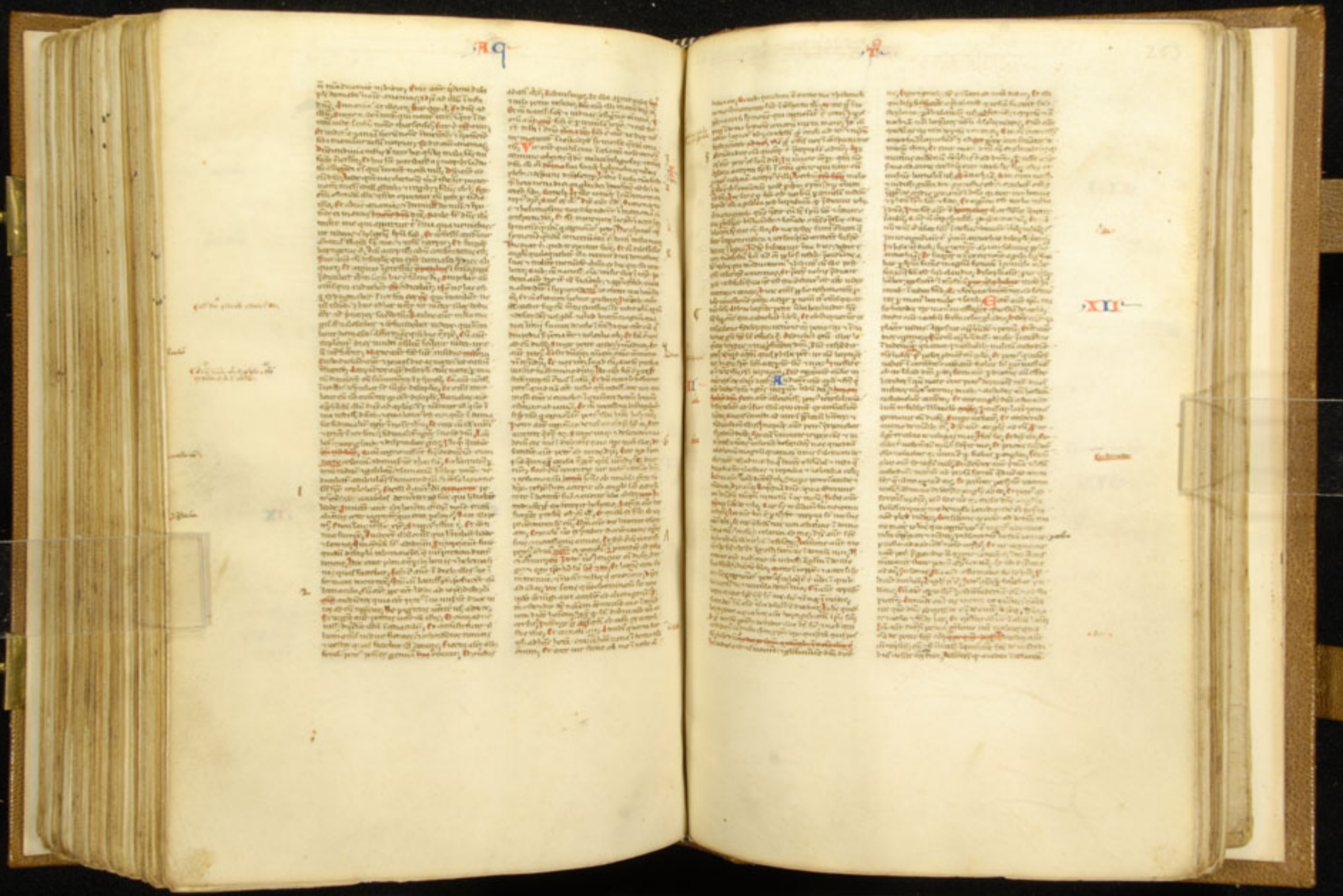

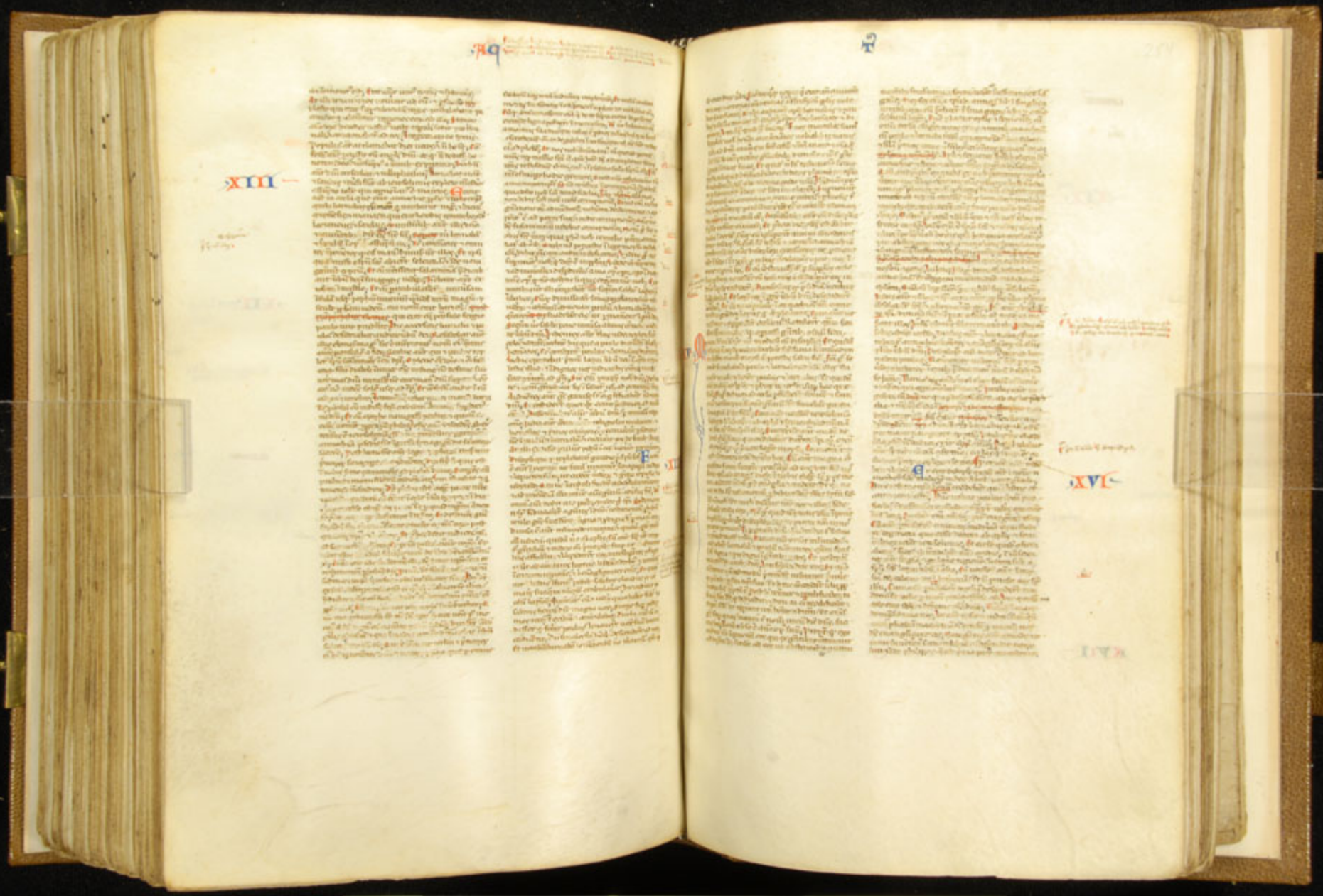

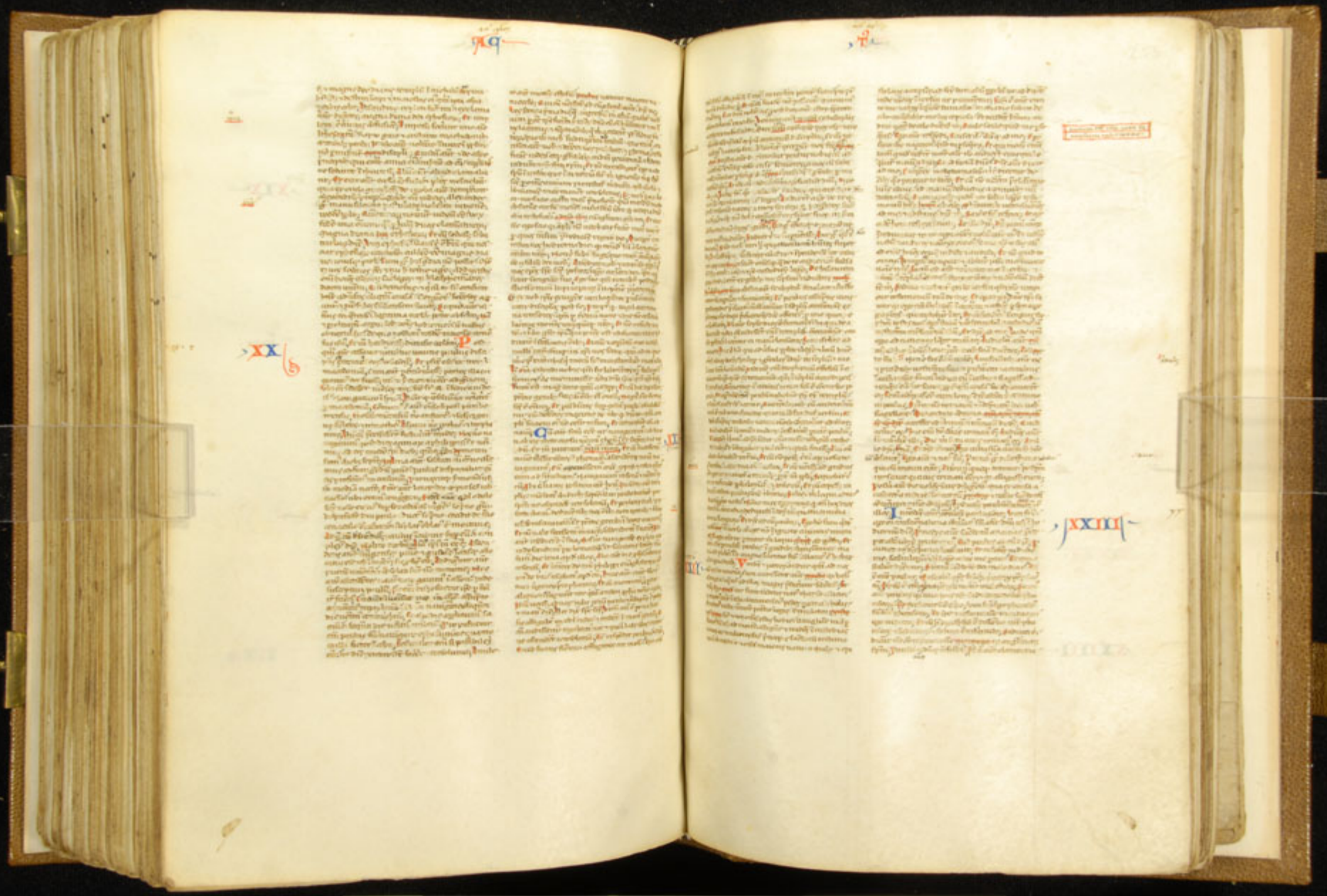

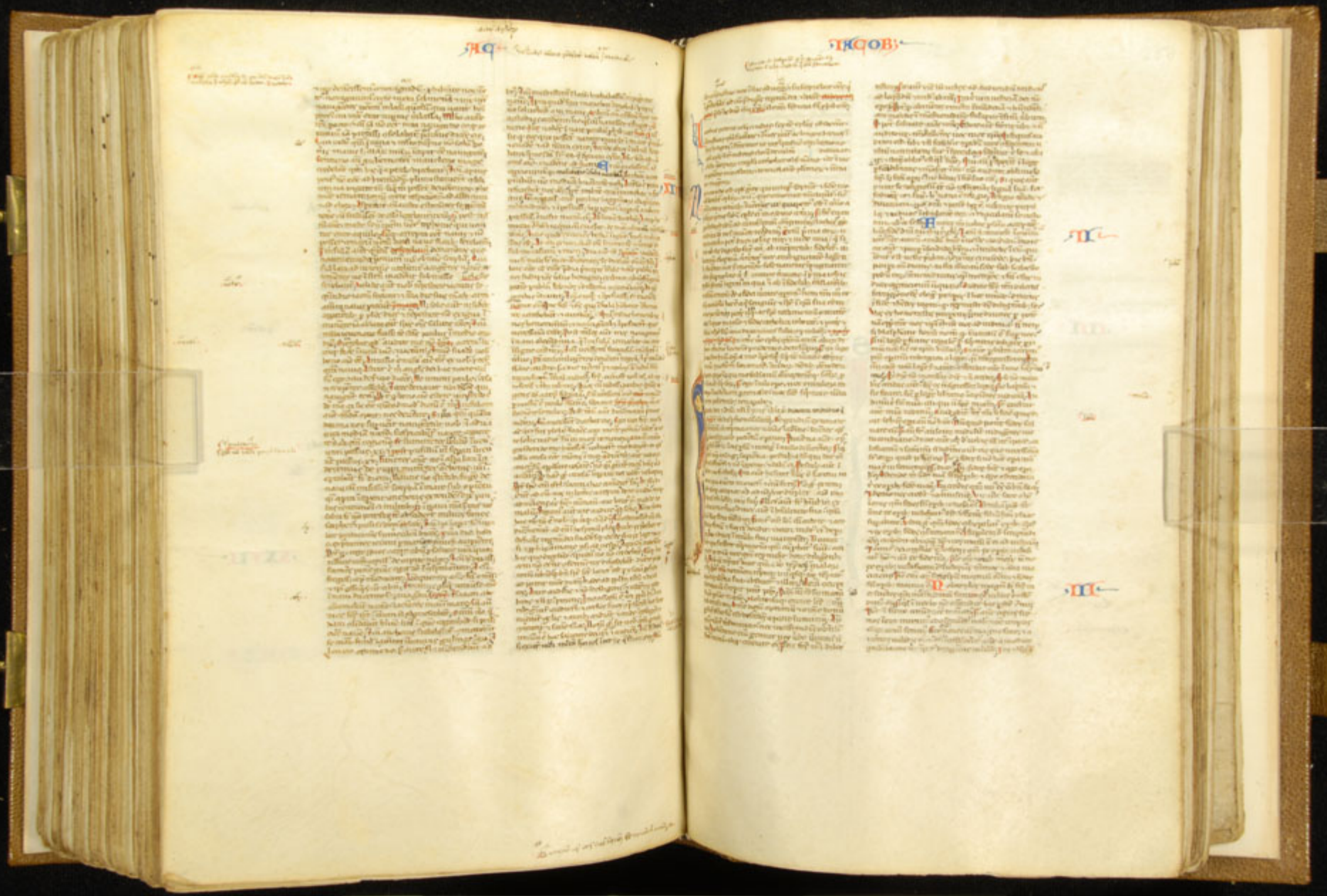

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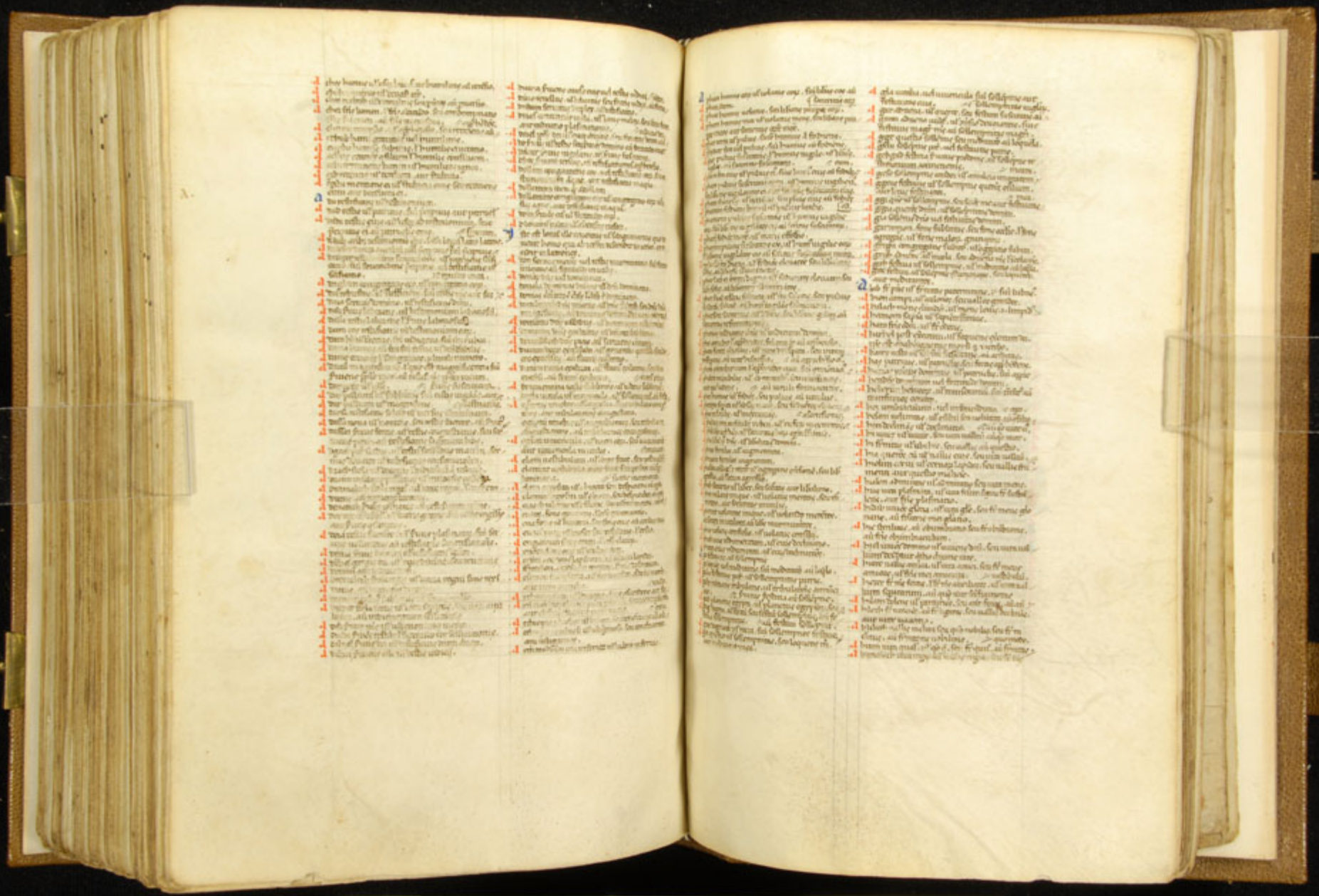

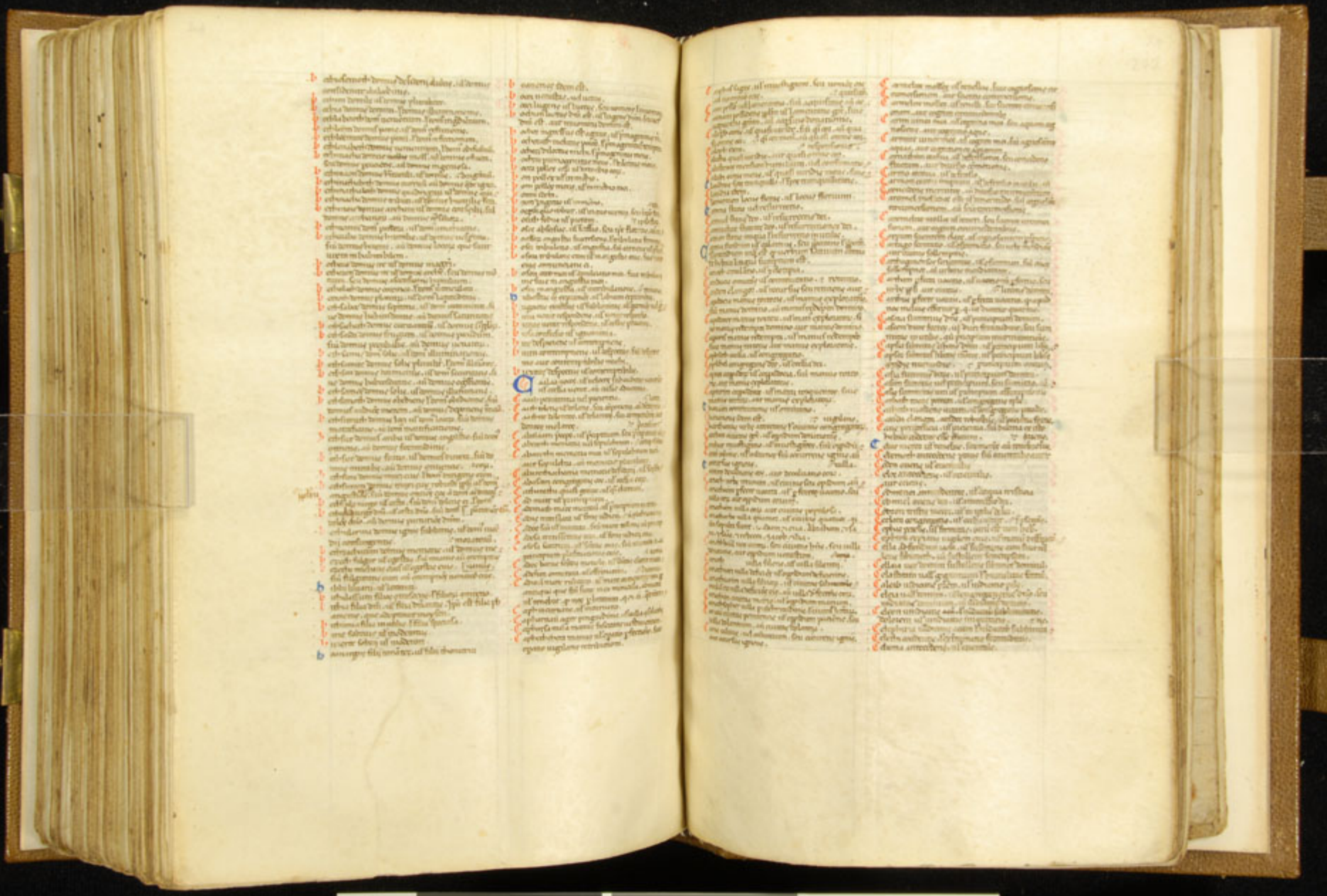

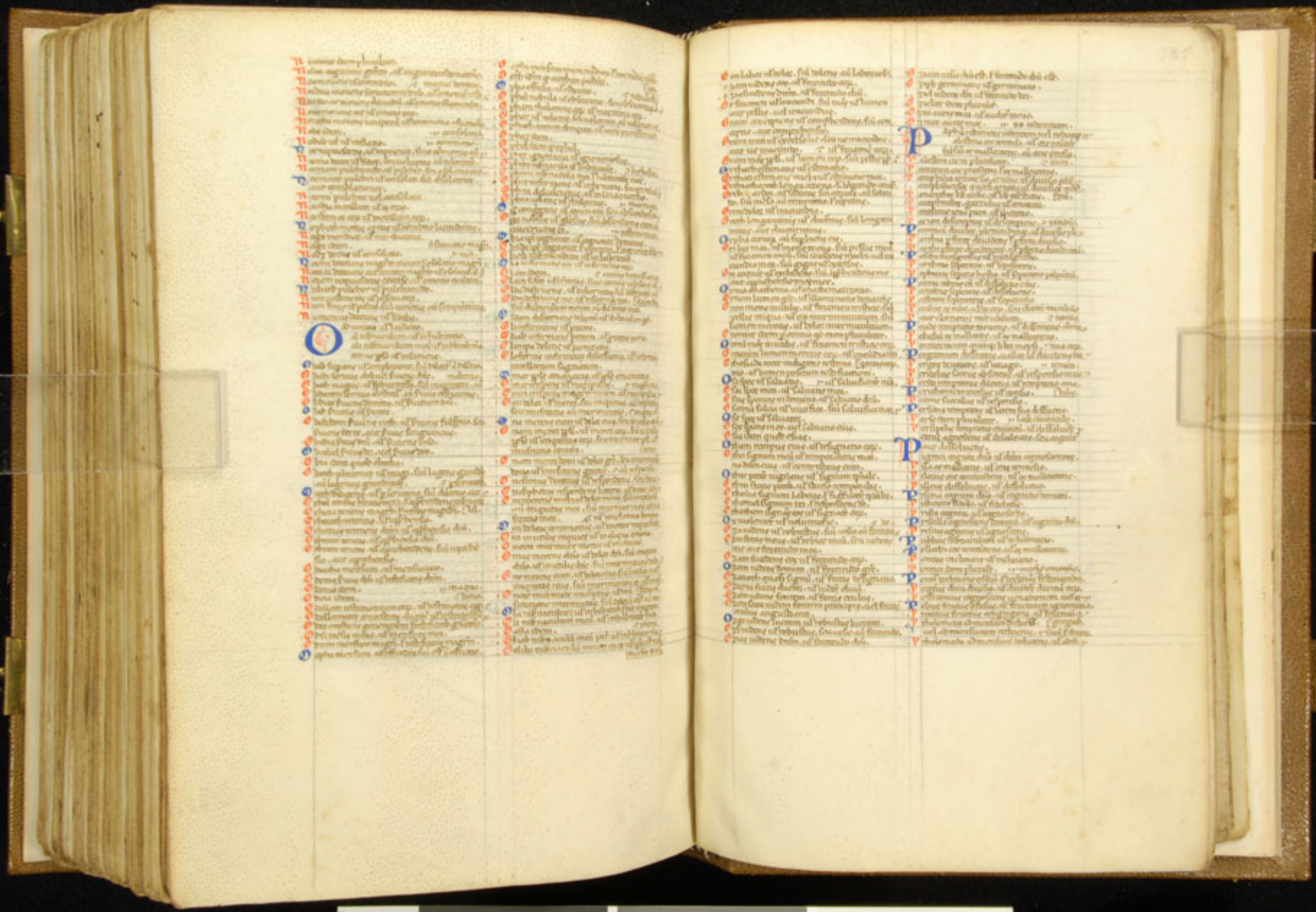

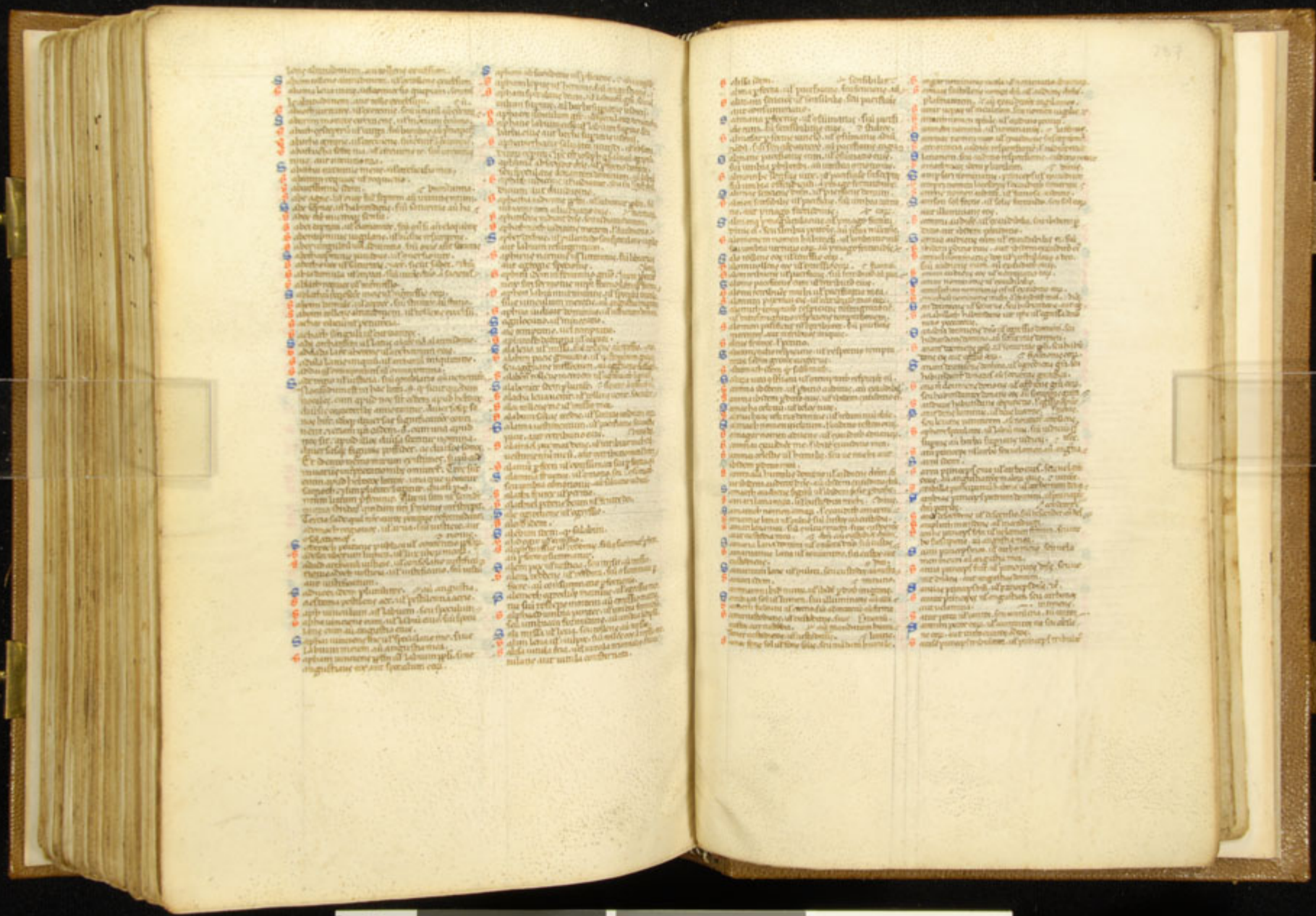

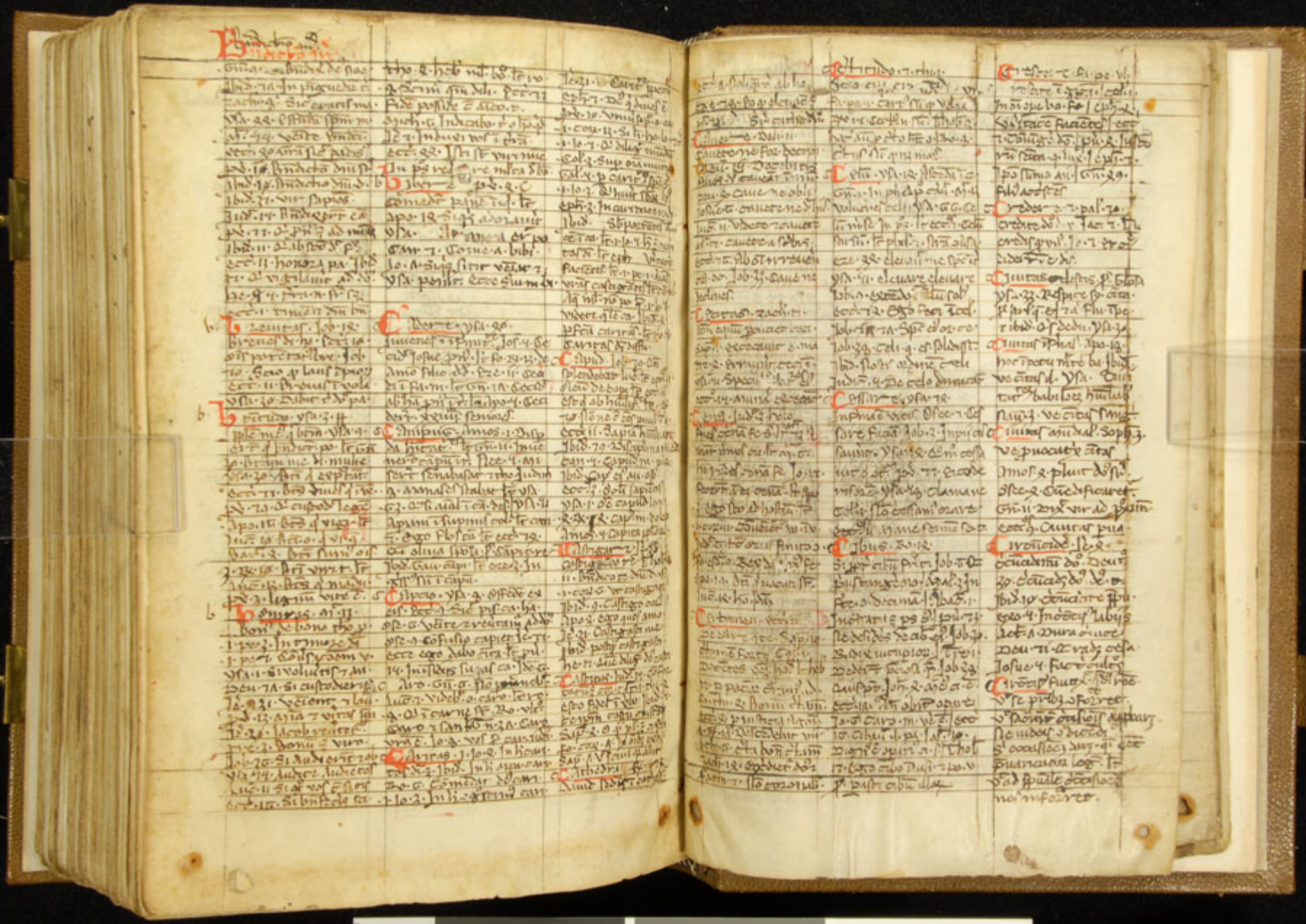

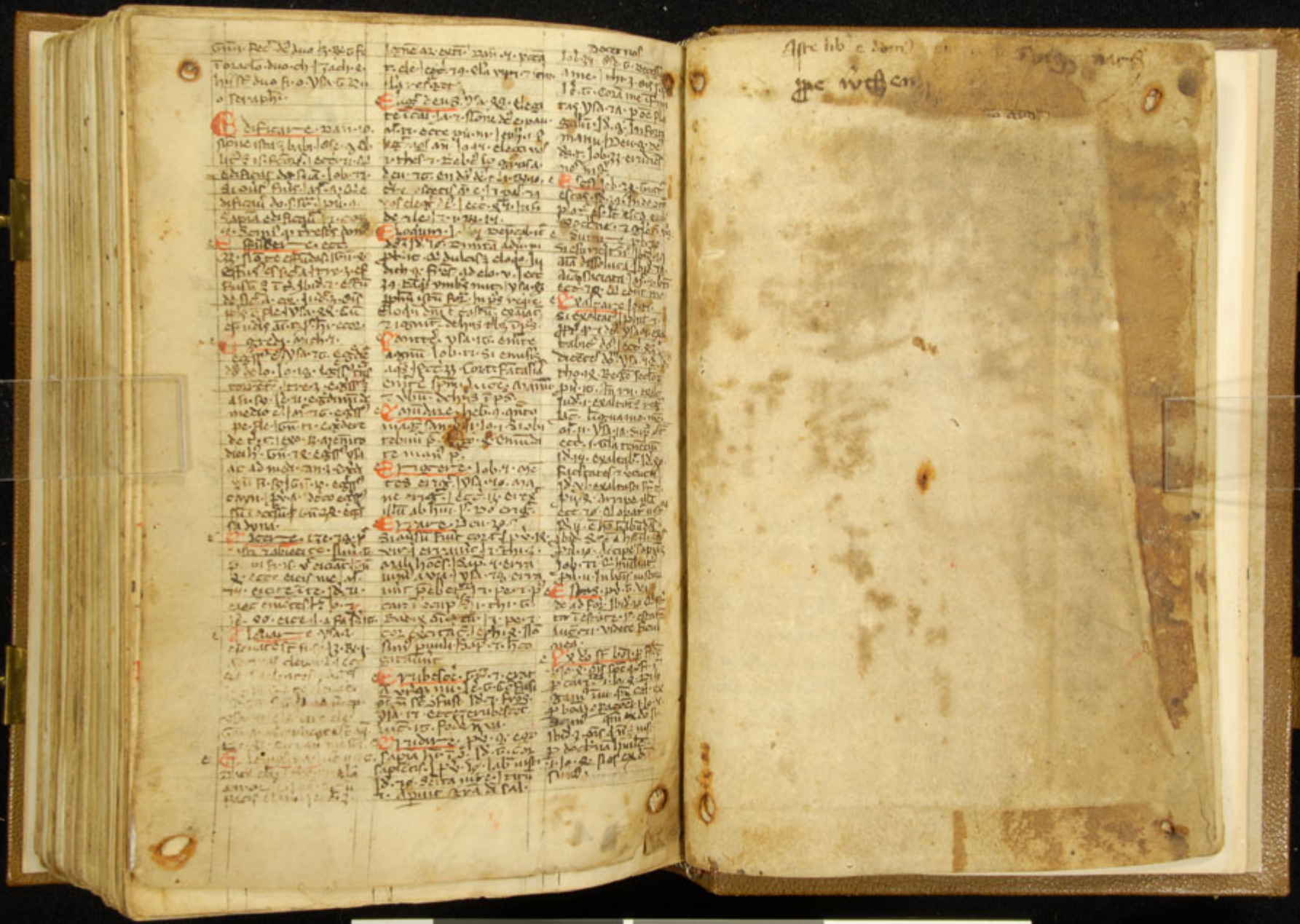

Moyses

Josue

Iudices

Ruth

Regum

Iosaphat

Iob

Iudith

Hester

Thobias

Machabeorum

Esdre

Ysaias

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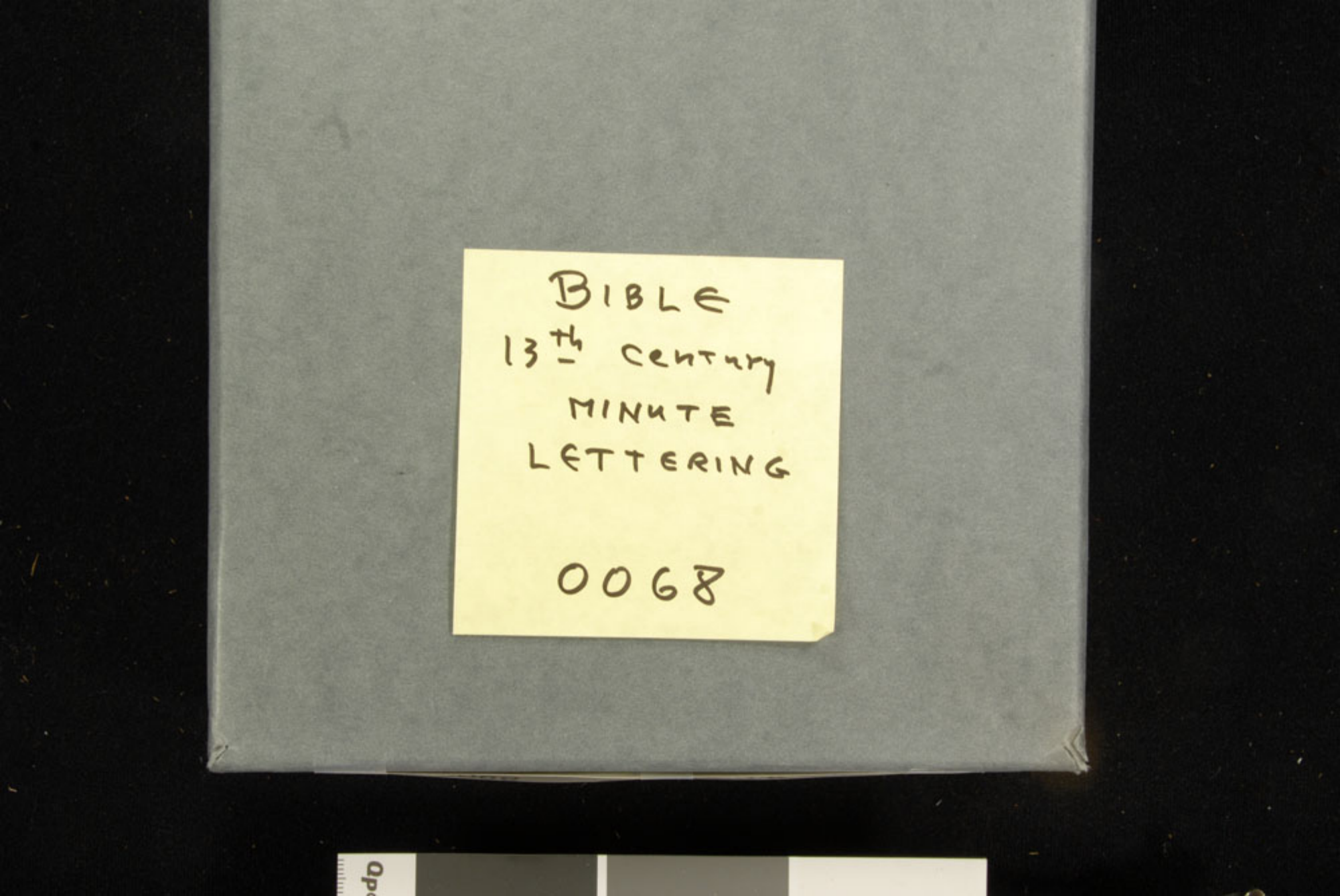

BIBLE
13th CENTURY
MINUTE
LETTERING
0068

3. Bible late 13th c. Italy

301 leaves (17.5 × 12.0 cm). Small square Gothic script. 61 lines in 2 columns. Gatherings mostly of 10. Text in Latin: Vulgate edition with St. Jerome's prologue. 5 historiated initials and many decorated in colors with animal grotesques along the borders. Binding: brown morocco over wooden boards with clasps, modern. In a folding case. Inset inside front board: panel from an early brown calf binding with stamped decoration, 15th–16th c.

Italian Gothic approaches to page design are readily distinguishable from the French. Where the Parisian Bible seeks an integration of text and decoration (Cat. 2), the Italian master blocks out his initials. Marginal grotesques and foliage meander along the borders with less regard for balancing the page. Despite their minute size, the initials assert themselves with a sculptural fullness brought forth by modeling in pale tones of color and white highlighting. Hooded and trumpet-like terminations of the vine forms are typical of Italian work from this period. Such features along with the script and figure style indicate a workshop in northern Italy. The historiated initials portray the "authors" of each text they precede: *St. Jerome*, translator of the Vulgate, before his prologue; *Christ as Creator* at the opening of Genesis; *Solomon; Ecclesiastes;* and *St. John the Evangelist*.

Provenance: Albert Natural (ex libris); Scribner's, N.Y.

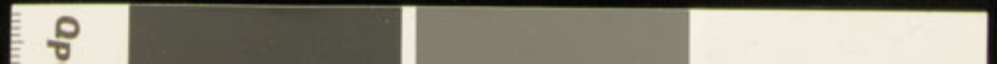
Mr. and Mrs. S. Eberly Thompson collection (Ms. 8).

Now, Dec 27, 1986 = MA MS 60

0068 Bible

1280

14 lines / inch



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a	1.	x	0005 ✓	Antiphon Ms. from convent	$ 1,000.
b	2.	x	~~0068~~ ✓	~~Bible with glosses~~ 1215	~~$ 35,000.~~
c	3.	x	0067 ✓	120 Book of Hours	$150,000.
d	4.	x	0065 ✓	Book of Hours with striped borders	$ 70,000.
e	5.	x	0031 ✓	Book of Hours with architectural borders	$ 35,000. ✓
f	6.	x	n/a ✓ (0078?)	Printed Book of Hours	$ 7,500.
g	7.	x	n/a ✓	1507 Gratian	$ 3,000.
h	8.	x	n/a ✓	Haklyt's Voyages 1587	$ 5,000.
i	9.	x	n/a ✓	Life of Catherine 1524	$ 2,500.
j	10.	x	n/a ✓	Institutiones Imperiale 1505	$ 2,500.

Ad annum 1520

MS0078