

278. London, British Library, Harley 6258B
"Herbarium Pseudo-Apulei,"
"Medicina de quadrupedibus," "Peri didaxeon," etc.
[No Ker or Gneuss numbers; cf. Ker *Cat.*, xix]

HISTORY: Not known.

DESCRIPTION: A fragmentary small-format late 12c copy in OE of the enlarged Pseudo-Apuleian "Herbarium" and "Medicina de quadrupedibus" (OE versions preserved also in Harley 585, Cotton Vitellius C. iii, and Bodleian Library, Hatton 76) and the "Peri didaxeon." The entire manuscript appears to be written by the same hand. Titles in red, most nearly illegible now. Titles (circled) and some glosses have been added in margins, probably by the original scribe. Initials in black minuscules in margins, probably by the original scribe; corresponding red capitals, probably added. Indexical letters run at the tops of pages and occasionally beside the text from "A" (f. 1) to "X" (f. 44), corresponding to the alphabetical arrangement of the "Herbarium" in this manuscript, of which many chapters are missing, omitted, or abbreviated (see de Vriend 1984: xxxiv-xxxvi). "Peri Didaxeon," of which Harley 6258B is the only known copy, is a translation of selected and rearranged parts of the *Practica* of Petrocellus, compiled about 1035 from earlier, pre-Salernitanian *materia medica*; since Talbot (1965) has shown that much of this same material was also used in British Library, Royal 12. D. xvii, "Bald's Leechbook" (mid 10c), doubt exists about the very late date (12c) traditionally ascribed to the composition of "Peri didaxeon" (see Voigts 1979: 250).

[**Note:** Ker excluded this manuscript because he considered it later than 1200 on the strength of the shape of "biting d" before *o* and *e* and the stroke through the *et*-nota, but mainly on the "small ill-formed" nature of the script, although he allowed that these features are found in pre-1200 manuscripts. But the language is clearly Late W-S, with some simplifications of *æ* to *a*, *eo* to *o*, etc., and leveling of inflections, such as would be expected of a late transcript of an OE text; but the OE forms predominate (see de Vriend 1984: lxxv-lxxviii; Bierbaumer 1976: xi-xii) and the texts are clearly transmitted from OE exemplars. Writing is late 12c pointed Insular minuscule with some Caroline features, possibly before 1200 (de Vriend 1984: xxx).]

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: [v] + 66 + [v] (fly- and endleaves modern paper). Entitled "A Saxon Herball" above the Harley pressmark on f. 1r. Old foliation runs from ff. 31–39, 54–98. Nine burnt fragments in paper frames "recovered" from the Cotton collection in the mid-19c (see Cockayne 1864–1866: 1.bxxxv) have been bound in as ff. 11–19 in the more recent foliation (the small fragment "f. 5" is actually part of f. 19, upper outer corner). The older foliation shows that thirty leaves are missing (the "Herbarium" is lacking the usual titles and capitula, but perhaps this alphabetical version never had them).

Average overall size is 185 x 143 mm., with a writing area of approximately 148 x 100 mm. Leaves are ruled (unpricked) in pencil on flesh side, with a range of 21 to 31 lines, many for 29 lines. Most leaves have double bounding verticals on outer and inner sides. Writing quality is poor and does not carefully follow the rulings. Quality of parchment is tough and smooth, but the individual sheets are generally of poor quality with many holes and irregularities (e.g., ff. 6, 34, 46). Much of the original book seems to have been made up of scraps of rejected parchment (cf. Meaney 1984: 253–54): many of the foliated leaves are in fact merely undersized slips written on only one side, pasted to parchment tags, specifically: f. 4 (132 x 76 mm.), f. 6 (lower corner irregular), f. 9 (120 x 60 mm. up to 94 mm.), f. 21 (130 x 60 mm.), f. 22 (114 x 27 mm.), f. 29 (bound in sheet with most of the leaf cut away, 55 mm. at greatest height), f. 30 (132 x 60–64 mm.), f. 33 (height 97 mm.), f. 35 (height 64 mm.), f. 41 (122 x 38 to 83 mm.). The burnt leaves ff. 16, 17, 18 were also apparently added slips. Each added slip contains a chapter or two of the text, apparently ones omitted in the original campaign and added (by the scribe) after the main manuscript had been copied. Quire III is cut down to 165 mm. or less. The whole book is irregularly trimmed. First and last leaves are darkened on outside as if book was unbound for some time.

COLLATION: Quires VI–VIII, XI–XII, XIV are FH, I–IV are HF. The folios have been remounted by being glued to parchment binding slips, so the following is a collation merely of the present, remounted, manuscript. I⁴⁺¹ (slip added after 3 [f. 4]) (ff. 1–5), II⁴⁺¹ (slip added after 3 [f. 9]) (ff. 6–10) [insertion: 9 paper frames holding burnt fragments (ff. 11–19)], III³ 3 singletons + 2 slips (two slips added after 1 [ff. 21–22]) (ff. 20–24), IV⁶⁺² (5 gone, 2 slips [ff. 29–30] added after 4 [f. 29] pasted to tag

of sheet 5]) (ff. 25–31), V² 2 singletons (ff. 32 and 34) + 2 slips (ff. 33 and 35), VI⁴⁺¹ (f. 2 an added halfsheet) (ff. 36–40), VII⁴⁺¹ (a slip bound in before this quire [f. 41]) (ff. 41–45), VIII⁴ (ff. 46–49), IX² bifolium (ff. 50–51), X² bifolium (ff. 52–53), XI–XII⁴ (ff. 54–61), XIII singleton (f. 62), XIV⁴ (ff. 63–66).

[Note: In quire III, sheets 1 and 3 seem to have been a bifolium; if so, then sheet 1 is gone. According to de Vriend (1984: xxxv), the correct disposition of the inserted burnt and framed leaves is: after f. 10, one folio missing, f. 11, two folios missing, f. 14, f. 13, f. 12, ff. 16–17 or ff. 17–16, f. 18, f. 19 (with f. 15 as a part of f. 19).]

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–44r (explicit on f. 44v) Pseudo-Apuleius, enlarged “Herbarium”: [W]ið innoðes sar. gením þa wirte. þe man artemesia(m) . . . ealne þane bíte þæs cancores heo afeormað’ (ed. Berberich 1901, following the order of the manuscript; this is supplemented but not replaced by de Vriend 1984: 31–233, *rectos*, who has rearranged text according to the order of Cotton Vitellius C. iii).

Note: Harley 6258B, unlike the other OE versions of the “Herbarium,” arranges the contents alphabetically by their Latin names (considering the first letter only), by folios as follows (from Berberich 1901 text, and de Vriend 1984: xxxvii–xxxviii; added slips are marked *):

- f. 1 arthemisia, astrologya, apollinaria, agrimonia
- f. 2 astularegia, astularegia, asterion, absinthium, anetum, action
- f. 3 abrotanus, aizos minor, aizos, acantaleace
- f. 4* acyllia
- f. 5 acanton, aini, ancura, aglafota, betonica
- f. 6* continuation of betonica
- f. 7 baration, hæwen hudela (Lat. bryttannica), buglosa
- f. 8 bulbus scilliticus, peristerion id est vervena (Lat. berbena), basilica, bulbus
- f. 9* buoptalmon
- f. 10 camemelon, chamedris, camelea, camepithis, chamedafne, centaurea maior
- (Ff. 11–19 are burnt and framed leaves separately bound into the manuscript.)
- [f. 11 celidonia, caput canis, cynoglosa, coliandrum, cerefolia, cardium siluaticum, cucumis
- f. 14 dracontea, dictanum, delfinion, eliotrophus, erusti
- f. 13 erinion, erifion, eliotropus, elleborum album, elleborum album
- f. 12 ecios, eringius, ebulum, eptafilem, feniculum
- f. 16* filix
- f. 17* fraga
- f. 18* gladiolus
- f. 15 + 19 gentiana, gallicrus, grias, glicirida, hieribulbum]
- f. 20 millefolium, mente, mandragora

- f. 21* mentastrum
 f. 22* apium (OE *merce*)
 f. 23 sion, melotis
 f. 24 nasturcium, narcisum, nymfete, nepta, orbicularis
 f. 25 ostriago, oenantes, oleastrum, ocimum, origanum, plantago
 f. 26 pentafilon
 f. 27 pes leonis, proserpina, personacia
 f. 28 prassion, politricum, pionia, peristerion, panastica, siluatica, perdiculus, pollegium
 f. 29* peristerio
 f. 30* peucedanum
 f. 31 psillios, philanthopos
 f. 32 porrum, vica pervica, cimino (quiminon), rosemarino, radiolum
 f. 33* ruta
 f. 34 ricinum, symphoniaca, sclerata, saturion
 f. 35* saxifragia
 f. 36 splenion, solago, scordeon, solate, senecion
 f. 37 sparagia, sauina, saxifragia, serpillum
 f. 38 sauina, sisimbrium, semperviua, spreritis, structium, samsuchon
 f. 39 stecas, scolimbos, scordios, stauisagria, temolum, saxifragia
 f. 40 titimallos calatites, petrosillinum, tribulus, tiapis
 f. 41* viola purpurea, viola
 f. 42 vermenaca, viperina
 f. 43 veneria, victorirole, verbascum, urtica
 f. 44r xifion, zima lentition
2. ff. 44v/2–51r/23 “*Medicina de quadrupedibus*” (ed. Delcourt 1914; de Vriend 1984: 235–73, *rectos*; on title, see de Vriend, lxii) consisting of three originally separate treatises:
- (a) ff. 44v/2–45v/16 “*De taxone liber*”: ‘*Ʒe egypta King þe idpartus wæs hatan . . . sona he byð gebeted*’.
- (b) ff. 45v/16–46r/20 “*On the Mulberry*”: ‘*Wid blodes flewsan . . . þan(n)e byð heo geclænsod*’. The incipit is marked by small paragraphs (¶) in both margins and in text.
- (c) ff. 46r/22–51r/23 Sextus Placitus, “*Liber medicinae ex animalibus*” (A-version): ‘*Wyð nædra(n) slite . . . swylas gedwæscþ*’. Divided into titled chapters.
3. f. 51r/24–25 OE herb cure: ‘*Wið eafod ece pollege . . . 7 smyre þ(æt) heafod mid*’ (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866: 1.380; Delcourt 1914: 24).
4. f. 51v/1–23 De Beta ‘*Wið ealda 7 singalu(m) heafod ece . . . 7 unga | nares . et statim sedabit(ur)*’. Several OE and three Latin herb cures; the OE texts are run together as a single text, the Latin set off with paragram marks (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866: 1.380–82; cf. Meaney 1984: 241–43).

5. ff. 51v/24–66v “Peri didaxeon”: Incipit lib(er) qui dicit(ur) p(er)i didaxeon [ends imperfectly with opening of a chapter: ‘... Gif þ(æt) blod of þan in(n)oþe cump. .vii.’] (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866: 3.82–144; Löweneck 1896).

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279. London, British Library, Harley 7653

Private prayer book

[Ker 244, Gneuss 443, Lowe 2.204]

HISTORY: A private prayer book, fragmentary at beginning and end, probably written by or for a woman, as pronomial forms and names in the litany suggest. It is comparable to British Library, Harley 2965 and Royal 2. A. xx in contents, style, and date (turn of 8–9c according to Morrish 1988) and has textual affinities with the “Antiphony of Bangor” written in Ireland 680–691 (Warren 1895: 92). Warren (87) had argued for Irish provenance but more recent commentators regard it as English, perhaps Mercian (Lowe 1935; Lapidge 1991: 75). Former pressmark was Additional 5004, when it was bound with former Additional 5002 (now Harley 7651).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: [v] + 7 + [vii]. 222 x 152 mm. Writing space 175 x 100/110 mm. Slashed rather than pricked and lightly ruled for 18 lines. Single vertical boundaries are visible on inner leaves. Flyleaves are 19c paper, except the last two, which are recent. The book appears to have been recently rebound, but the work is not dated. Older modern foliation, running from 25 to 31, and the cancelled note in the same hand on f. 7v “Const. fol. 31,” reflect its former association with Additional 5002. Outside leaves, front and back, are darker than the rest, suggesting that it was in its present imperfect state and unbound for a long period. The hand is Insular minuscule verging on majuscule. Capitals are decorated with red, yellow, or green paint. Titles are in colored minuscule. The hand is comparable to but not identical with that of Royal 2. A. xx; the order and quality of writing is inferior. Ker (*Cat.*, 315) calls attention to an unusual *nota* on f. 2v which resembles marks in the margins of ff. 42v–47v of Royal 2 A. xx; the single OE word (11c) in Harley 7653 (“nærf[r]e”) above “numqua⟨m⟩” [f. 1r/7]) resembles the main OE gloss hand of Royal, suggesting a shared provenance (Morrish 1988: 526), which may be Mercian (Lowe 1935). An inexpert hand has added “legas claritas” in Insular minuscule at the top of f. 1r. A note to insert

text at bottom of f. 2v, "n(on) in mare n(on) in flumine" refers to line 8, "d(e)i ðnon."

COLLATION: Single imperfect quire in eight (8 gone).

CONTENTS: (entire manuscript ed. Warren 1895: 83–86 [commentary, 87–93]; partially ed. Birch 1889: 114–19).

- 1a. f. 1r Litany (imperfect at beginning): '... es tu mihi sanitas. Cherubin es | tu mihi uirtus'; [explicit:] 'Uos deprecor custodite anima(m) | mea(m) & sp(iritu)m & cor & sensum & | omnem mea(m) carnem' (ed. Lapidge 1991: 210–11; invokes 21 early female saints, but no Insular saints).
- 1b. f. 2r–2v/15 Deprecations: 'Angeli archangeli p(ro)phetę apos(toli) | & beatissimi martyres nazare|ni coronata sine macula'; [explicit:] 'Libera me do(mi)ne libera me do(min)e | quia tibi est imperiu(m) & potestas | p(er) d(omi)n(u)m ie(su)m chr(iste)m cui gloria in | s(e)c-(u)l(a) s(e)c(u)l(oru)m'. [Birch 1889 and Warren 1895 take item 1b as part of 1a.]
2. ff. 2v/16–3v Lorica Prayer: 'Mecum esto sabaoth ma|ne cum surrexero intende ad me'; [explicit:] 'et iterum ad te leuauit | oculos meos qui habitas in celo' (see Birch 1889: 29–30; a version of this text in Royal 2 A. xx, f. 22r).
3. f. 4r–4v/8 Deprecations: 'Pater 7 filius 7 sp(iritu)s s(an)c(tu)s illa s(an)c(t)a | trinitas esto mihi adiutrix'; [explicit:] 'Omnes s(an)c(t)i ac | martyres orate pro me'.
4. ff. 4v/9–5v/11 incipit oratio | 'Sp(iritu)m mihi d(omi)ne tuę caritatis in|funde ut anima mea mise|rionu(m) tuaru(m) habundantia | semp(er) repleatur'; [explicit:] 'te solum d(eu)m integro affectu | uisceru(m) meorum concupisco'. [Also in Royal 2 A. xx, f. 20r.]
5. ff. 5v/12–6v/10 "Te Deum": in nomine d(e)i su(m)mi | 'Pater immense maiestatis p(er) | uenerandu(m) filiu(m) tuum ueru(m) uni|genitu(m)' [explicit:] 'quos pretiosa sanguine re|demisti eterna(m) fac cum s(an)c(t)is in | gloria(m) intrare' (see Warren 1895: 93–94).
6. ff. 6v/11–7r/10 Prayer: 'D(eu)s altissime d(eu)s misericordię | qui solus sine peccato es'; [explicit:] 'Quo(niam) tibi | debetur omnis adoratio & glo|ria per omnia s(e)c(u)la seculo(rum)'.
7. f. 7r/11–7v/14 (Metrical) Prayer and deprecations: oratio | 'IN pace chr(ist)i dormia(m) ut nullu(m) | malum uidea(m)'; [explicit:] 'Sed esse tecu(m) in celo in sempiter|no gaudio'.

8. f. 7v/14–18 “Oratio Sancti Iohannis” (f. 7v): [ora(t)io s(an)c(t)i iohan(nis)] ‘Aperi mihi pulsanti ianua(m) | uite . . . extranea’. [Breaks off after four lines; the title, now almost completely illegible, is from Warren (1895: 86), who reports, “the title is written partly (viz. ORATIO) on the left side of, partly (viz. SANCTI IOHANNIS) on the right side of, and in the same line with, the last four syllables of the previous prayer which are written exactly in the centre of the page, viz. ‘-no gaudio.’” The title is in minuscule.]

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