

258. London, British Library, Cotton Vitellius E. xviii
 "Vitellius Psalter"

[Ker 224, Gneuss 407]

HISTORY: Probably written at Winchester mid-11c. The calendar, dated by Wormald (1934) to ca. 1060, is most likely from New Minster, but as Ker (*Cat.*) notes the added litanies "suggest the cathedral priory rather than New Minster." Bishop (1908) and Wildhagen (1921) favor the scriptorium of Winchester Cathedral as the place where the manuscript was written. Belonged to Robert Boyer in 1590 according to a note in a transcript of portions of the manuscript by Francis Tate (British Library, Cotton Julius C. ii, f. 68v: "ii Junij 1590. ex libro n(ost)ri R. Boyeij ante psalmos dauides. Saxonice & Latine c(on)scripto").

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Ff. [ii] + 146 + [ii]. Modern paper endleaves. At the front of the codex are two inserted paper leaves, the first detailing the rearrangement of ff. 1-17 when the codex was rebound in 1954:

New	Old
1-7	1-7
(several leaves lost)	
8	8
9a	9b
9b	9a
10-12	10-12
13	15
14	14
15	13
16	16
17a	17b
17b	17a

The second insert contains notes made by Rosier in August 1959 on the arrangement of misplaced patches in the manuscript. Leaves measure

210 x 126 mm. Leaves are ruled for 26 lines, but not ruled for a gloss. The litany is in two columns ruled for 26 lines each; the prayers following the litany are also ruled for 26 lines. Ff. 144v–145r are in two columns ruled for 36 lines; ff. 145v–146v are ruled for 34 lines. The litany and prayers were added in the 12c, the list of confraternities (f. 9r) and the invocations to the Virgin Mary (f. 17r/20a–17v) 13/14c. Initial letters are in red, blue, and green ink, with psalm titles in red. The front matter and calendar show green, red, and blue ink. F. 18r shows a large initial *B* in green, blue, red, and brown. No major psalm divisions are indicated. The manuscript was burned in the Cotton fire of 1731; the leaves have generally lost left and right margins (thus resulting in substantial loss of the psalm introductions to Pss. 1–50), and shrinkage is evident in the upper margins. Leaves have suffered severe splitting. Staining is evident on f. 104 and following. Leaves are mounted in separate paper frames numbered 1–146. The main texts (psalms and canticles) are glossed in two hands, the first from ff. 18r–138r, the second from the *Magnificat* on f. 138r until f. 140v.

COLLATION: Collation is indeterminable, since the leaves are mounted separately in paper frames.

CONTENTS:

1. Prefatory matter:

f. 1r Blank, except for manuscript shelfmark (f. 1r).

ff. 2r–7v Calendar (ed. Wildhagen 1921: 68–118, Wormald 1934: 156–67).

f. 8r Verses on limits of Easter: ‘Nonus aprilis Norunt quintos... Quindene c(on)stant Tribus adeptis’.

f. 8r Calculation of Advent: ‘[Q]uicumqu(ue) aduentum d(omi)ni celebrare’.

f. 8r Feast limits: ‘[V]bicumque inueneris .x. lunam... [Et] sic sine errore inuenies’.

f. 8v Easter table.

f. 9r/1–6 Rules for finding Septuagesima: ‘[G]if þu witan mid gesceade þ(æt) gemære termen septuagessimalis’ (ed. Henel 1934: 44; see Tate’s copy, *loc. cit.*).

f. 9r/7–17 ‘[Gif þ]u wille witan hu eald se mona beo nu todæg on twelf monþu(m)’ (ed. Henel 1934: 55; see Tate’s copy, *loc. cit.*).

f. 9r/17–26 De diebus malis cuiusque mensis ‘[T]weigen dagas syndon

- on æghwilcu(m) monðe' (ed. Förster 1929: 262–64).
- f. 9r/27–30 Charm: p(ro) febr(e) carmen 'In nomine pat(r)is et filii et spirit(us) sancti. am(en)' (12/13c) [added in the lower margin].
- f. 9r/31–34 Late note (13/14c) listing "houses in confraternity with the church to which the manuscript belonged" (Ker *Cat.*) [added in the lower margin].
- ff. 9v–12r Easter tables.
- ff. 12r–13r/15 Embolismalic years (lower register, f. 12r): *Incipit embolismus* | '[I]n primo igit(ur) anno emb(olismi) in ogd(oade) .iiii.... In k̅t sept(embris) non .iiii. s(e)c(un)d(u)m comptum . sed .v. p(ro)pt(er) saltum' (cf. PL 90: 822: "Manfredi embolismorum ratio").
- f. 13r/16–21 Note on concurrents and epacts: 'Gif þu nite hwilc concurrent beo on geare. Sec georne hwilce dæg' (coll. Henel 1934: 51).
- f. 13r/22–27 Rules for finding Septuagesima, Lent, and Easter: 'In [i]anuarius ofer .xvi. k̅t februarii' (coll. Henel 1934: 40–42).
- f. 13r/28–38 Prohibition of blood-letting in the dog days: 'Eahtatina nihtu(m) ær hlafmæssan ganged se styrra up' (ed. Henel 1934–1935: 331).
- f. 13v Lunar table.
- f. 14r Easter table.
- f. 14v Explanations of the "Spera Pythagorae" and diagram; beginning imperfect: []ERE '[Ratio spere pitagore p]hilosophi qua(m) appologius descripsit' (see Förster 1912: 47).
- f. 15r/1–5 Three lucky days for childbirth: '[P]ry dagas syndon on twelf monðum' (ed. Henel 1934–1935: 346–47; cf. Förster 1929: 260; see Tate's copy *loc. cit.*).
- f. 15r/6–15 Three unlucky days for blood-letting: 'Find eft þry dagas on twelf monðum' (ed. Förster 1929: 273–74; see Tate's copy *loc. cit.*).
- f. 15r/16–15v/5 Unlucky days for blood-letting: 'þa ealdan læcas gesettan on ledenbocum' (ed. Förster 1929: 266–69; coll. Henel 1934–1935: 336–37).
- f. 15v/6–8 A means to protect bees against theft; beginning imperfect: '[]e mæder cið on þinre hyfe' (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 397).
- f. 15v/8–12 Directions for writing St. Columbkil's circle, with diagram: *Þis is s(an)c(t)e columcille circul* | 'Writ þysne circul mid þines cnifes orde on anum mealan stane' (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 395; Förster 1912: 48; Storms 1948: 309).
- f. 15v/13–18 Directions for writing a charm to discover theft, with diagram: 'þonne þe ma[n] hwæt forstele awrit þis' (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 396; Storms 1948: 311).

- f. 15v/19–23 A medicine for cattle with lung disease; beginning imperfect: '[Gif] hryperu beon on lungen coðon' (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 388).
- f. 15v/22–25 A medicine for sheep: 'Gi[f] | sceap si on yl[o]n...[Genu]m lytel niwes ealoð' (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 388).
- f. 15v/25–26 A charm to protect cattle: **Þis is þinan yrfe to bote** | '[] ymb þin yrfe ælce æfen him to helpe. AGIOS. AGIOS. AGIOS.' (ed. Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 386/1–3; Storms 1948: 50/1–3; both eds. take this text and the OE of the following as a single charm).
- ff. 15v/27–16r/8 A charm for crops (Latin and OE): '[] lange sticcan feðeregede. 7 writ on ægðerne sticcan' (ed. Ker 1957: 300; Cockayne 1864–1866, vol. 1: 386/3–7, vol. 3: 234, 239; Storms 1948: 287/4–7 [f. 15v/27–30 only]).
- f. 16r/8–15 Directions for "Spera Apulei," with diagram: [De] uita uel de morte | 'Spera apulei platonici de uita uel de morte uel de om(n)ibus negotiis | & quicquid inquirere uolueris' (ed. Förster 1912: 46).
- f. 16r/16–18 [below diagram] Three lines, partly glossed in OE, pertaining to the "Spera Apulei": '[S]i dominicus dies fuerit adde .xii.' (ed. Förster 1912: 47).
- f. 16v/1–5 Riddle: 'Nys þks frfgfn syllkc þknc to rædfnfn | Þu þe færst on þone weg' (ed. Förster 1905: 392; see also Förster 1906 and 1916).
- f. 16v/6–25 Explanations of secret writing (Latin and OE): 'Þis is quin-q(ue) uocales. mid þysum fif stafum man mæg writan swa hwæt | swa he wile' (ed. Wanley 1705: 223).
- f. 17r/1a–19a Prayer: 'Svs[ci]p(er)e digneris d(omi)ne d(eu)s'.
- f. 17r/20a–17v Series of petitions addressed to the Virgin Mary: '[kyrieles]son. chr(ist)eleyso(n). kyri(e)leyson audi nos'.

2. Psalms:

- ff. 18r–131r Gallican version of the psalms glossed in OE (ed. Rosier 1962).
- f. 131r/15–131v/9 Psalm 151: hic salm(us) d(au)id | propie script(us) extra numeru(m) cu(m) pugnauit | cu(m) Goliad. hic psal(mus) in eþreis codicib(us) non habet(ur) | sed k̄x̄c̄ int(er)pretib(us) edit(us) e(st) et idcirco repudeadnus 'Pusillus eram inter fratres meos' (ed. Rosier 1962: 364).
3. f. 131v/10–17 Prayer: 'Om(n)ip(oten)s & misericors d(eu)s clemencia(m) tua(m)' (ed. Rosier 1962: 364).

4. Canticles (ed. Rosier 1962: 365–96):

- ff. 131v/18–end *Incipiunt cantici. in primis canticum | aesaiae prophetae* | ‘Confitebor tibi d(omi)ne’ [gloss:] ‘ic andette þe drihten’ [on the paper frame is written the note “A leaf has been lost after f. 131...”].
- ff. 132r–132v/6 [‘Euaginabo gladium] meu(m)’ (Cant. 4.9–end) [beginning imperfect due to loss of two leaves].
- ff. 132v/7–133v/16 *canticum abbacuc prophetae* | [‘D(omi)ne audiui auditionem tua(m)’ [gloss:] ‘drihten ic gehyrde þine stefne’.
- ff. 133v/16–136r/12 *canticu(m) | moysi. ad filios israhel.* | ‘Audite celi que loquor’ [gloss:] ‘begym ðu heofenas þ(æt) ic sprece’.
- ff. 136r/12–137r/1 *hymnus | quem s(an)c(tu)s ambrosius et s(an)c(tu)s agustin(us) inuice(m) con|dider(unt)* | ‘T[e d]eum laudamus’ [gloss:] ‘þe god heriað’.
- ff. 137r/1–137v/10 *hymnus triu(m) puer(or)um* | [‘B]enedicite omnia op(er)a d(omi)ni’ [gloss:] ‘bletsiað ealle weorc driht(en)’.
- ff. 137v/11–138r/9 *canticu(m) zacharię propheteę ad matutinas* | ‘Benedictus d(omi)n(u)s d(eu)s’ [gloss:] ‘gebletsod drihten god’.
- f. 138r/9–25 *canticum s(an)c(t)e Mariae ad uesper(um).* ‘Magnificat anima mea ad d(omi)n(u)m’ [gloss:] ‘gemiclað saule minre to drihtene’.
- f. 138r/26–138v/4 *canticu(m) simeonis ad co(m)[pletorem]* [‘Nun]c dimitte seruum tu(um) d(omi)ne’ [gloss:] [‘nu for]læt þeow þine drih(ten)’.
- f. 138v/4–12 *Oratio dominica [se]c(un)d(u)m matheum* ‘Pater n(oste)r qui es in celis’ [gloss:] ‘fæder ure þu eart on heofonum’.
- ff. 138v/12–139r/1 *incipit symbo(lum) | ap[ostolorum]* | ‘Credo in d(eu)m patre(m)’ [gloss:] ‘ic gelyfe on god fæder’.
- f. 139r/1–14 *hymnus ad missam [G]loria in excelsis deo*’ [gloss:] ‘wuldor on heannessum gode’.
- ff. 139r/14–140v/16 *Incipit fides catholica | athanasii episcopi alexandrini* | [‘Q]uicu(m)que uult’ [gloss:] ‘swa hwa wile’.
5. ff. 140v/17–141r/12 *Prayer: ‘Om(n)ip(oten)s d(eu)s pat(er) eterne’* (ed. Rosier 1967: 396).
6. ff. 141r/13–143r/6 *Litany* [in two columns of 26 lines each].
7. *Prayers* [in 26 long lines per leaf]:
- f. 143r/6–10 *Invitatory: ‘Pater n(oste)r. Et ne nos’*.
- f. 143r/11–14 *‘D(eu)s cui p(ro)p(ri)um est misereri semp(er)’*.

- f. 143r/15–20 ‘Om(ni)p(oten)s sempit(er)ne d(eu)s qui facis mirabilia’.
- f. 143r/21–23 ‘A domo tua q(uesumu)s domine sp(irit)uales’.
- f. 143r/24–143v/1 ‘Vre igne [s](an)c(t)i sp(iritu)s renes n(ost)ros’.
- f. 143v/2–4 ‘Pretende q(uesumu)s d(omi)ne famulis & famulab(us)’.
- f. 143v/5–10 ‘Devs a quo s(an)c(t)a desideria recta | consilia’.
- f. 143v/11–14 ‘Propiciare q(uesumu)s d(omi)ne nob(is) famulus tuis’.
- f. 143v/15–17 ‘Absolve d(omi)ne animas famulor(um) tuor(um)’.
- f. 143v/18–24 ‘D(eu)s q(u)i és s(an)c(t)or(um) tuor(um) splendor’. [Incomplete; note on f. 144r: “one leaf lost before f. 144.”]
- f. 144r/1–5 ‘...metebor uicinius accedere atq(ue) int(er)esse’ [wanting beginning].
- f. 144r/6–19 ‘S(um)me [singu]laris uirgo sum(m)a & p(er)petua uirgo sola mater’.
8. Lectons [in two columns of 36 lines each]:
- f. 144v/1a–9a ‘Dirige d(omi)ne d(eu)s m(eu)s’.
- f. 144v/10a–34a L(e)c(t)i)o .i. | ‘Parce m(ih)i d(omi)ne’.
- f. 144v/35a–26b [L(e)c(t)i)o .ii. ‘Tedet animam meam uite meę’...aduersum me eloqui(u)m’]. [Beginning lost from column a; responses follow in a smaller hand.]
- ff. 144v/26b–145r/17a L(e)c(t)i)o .iii. | ‘Manvs tuę fecerunt | me & plasmauerunt’.
- f. 145r/17a–5b L(ectio) .iiii. ‘Qvantas [ha]beo iniquitates | & peccata’.
- f. 145r/5b–30b L(ectio) .v. | ‘Homo natus de muliere | breui uiuens tempore’.
- f. 145r/30b–145v/13 L(ectio) [.vi.] | ‘Qvis m(ih)i hoc t(ri)buat | ut in inferno p(ro)teg[as me]’. [Ff. 145v–146r are in long lines.]
- f. 145v/13–28 L(e)c(t)i)o .vii. | ‘Spiritus meus attenuabitur. dies mei’.
- ff. 145v/28–146r/11 [P]elli mee consumptis carnib(us) adhesit os meum’.
- f. 146r/11–32 L(e)c(t)i)o .ix. | [Q]uare de uulua eduxisti me’.
- f. 146v Drawing of an archway, miscellaneous late verses and notes, e.g.: ‘wel wer hym þ(a)t wyste | þe way he mytte tryste | þet wer hym þ(a)t knewe | þe false from þe trewe’; parts of the quatrain are repeated various times, e.g.: ‘wyste | he mytte tryste | wer(e) hym þat knewe | þe false fram þe trewe’.

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