

272. London, British Library, Harley 3013  
Aldhelm, "De laude virginitatis"

[Ker 238, Gneuss —]

**HISTORY:** Dated to the 12c. A note (12/13c) on f. 1v associates the codex with the Cistercian abbey of New Minster (near Morpeth): "Li-  
b(er) s(an)c(t)e marie noui monast(er)ii." The manuscript was once  
in the collection of Lord William Howard (1563–1640) (Wright 1972:  
199). Acquired by Robert Harley (1661–1724) from John Warburton  
(1682–1759) and recorded in the diary of Humfrey Wanley (1672–1726)  
for 16 July 1720 (Wright and Wright 1966: 59).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** [ii] + 97 + [i] leaves, foliated 1–  
97. Leaves measure 223 x 150 mm., with a writing grid of 166 x 87 mm.  
Ruled in brown ink for twenty-two lines. Pricking in outer margins;  
single bounding lines. Initials are nearly all in green or red ink. The  
large initials heading the prologue (f. 3r) and the beginning of the text  
proper (f. 11r) are in green and red ink, as are the initials on f. 30v and  
66r. The initial on f. 13r is in blue ink. Chapter numbers are in red ink.  
The bottom margin of f. 58 has been trimmed. Holes (some natural,  
others occurring probably during the preparation of the vellum) are  
found at ff. 25, 26, 42, 44 (once sewn), 45, 49, 50, 53 (once sewn), 57  
(once sewn), 62 (once sewn prior to text being written), 70, 78, 89, and  
90. Two paper flyleaves at the beginning and end of the codex, with the  
date "16 July 1720" on the recto of the first leaf.

**COLLATION:** I<sup>8+2</sup> (ff. 1–10) (ff. 1–2 comprise a bifolium added to the  
beginning of the quire), II<sup>8</sup> (ff. 11–18), III<sup>8</sup> (ff. 19–26), IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 27–34), V<sup>8</sup>  
(ff. 35–42), VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 43–50), VII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 51–58), VIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 59–66), IX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 67–  
74), X<sup>8</sup> (ff. 75–82), XI<sup>8+1</sup> (ff. 83–91), XII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 92–97).

**CONTENTS:**

f. 1r Hymn to the Virgin Mary: 'Cleme(n)s 7 benigna iugi laude digna

- maria' [with staved musical notation].
- f. 1v Note: 'Lib(er) s(an)c(t)e marie noui monast(er)ii'.
- f. 2r **Visio cui(us)da(m) abb(at)is ordinis cist(erciensis) | 'Ang(e)lus. Flecte caput fili quia dicunt gl(ori)a patri. | ... Monacus. Ante caput p(er)dam. q(u)am denuo lumina claudam'** [six lines] (ed. *Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts*, 725).
- f. 2r **Epitaphiu(m) magist(r)i pet(r)i manivr. | 'Petr(us) era(m) que(m) petra tegit. d(i)c(tu)sq(ue) comestor | ... Q(uo)d sum(us) iste fuit. erim(us) q(ua)n(do)q(ue) q(uo)d hic est'** [five lines] (ed. *Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts*, 725).
- f. 2v Theological verses of two lines each on the following topics: [D]e baptismo chr(ist)i, [D]e passione, [D]e resurrectione, [D]e ascensione, [D]e aduentu sp(iritus) s(an)c(t)i, [D]e iudicio chr(ist)i, [D]e oblatione, [D]e partu ui(r)gineo.
- ff. 3r-7r Aldhelm, "Epistola 3": **Incipit epistola aldelmi ep(iscop)i. | 'D(OMI)NO UENERA | BILI preconio efferen|do et s(an)c(t)orum meritis | magnopere honorando | hecfrido aldelmvs exiguu(s) | in d(omi)no eternam salutem...** Explicit ep(isto)la aldelmi episcopi' (PL 89: 92-95) [scattered interlinear glosses and marginal scholia].
- ff. 7r-10r Table of contents for chaps. 1-60 of "De laude virginitatis": **Incipiunt capitula libri sequentis | de laudibus S(an)c(t)arum Virginum.**
- ff. 11r-96r "De laude virginitatis" (prose version): 'REUERENTIS-SI|mis chr(ist)i uirginibvs omniq(ue) | deuote germanitatis affectu | uenerandis' (PL 89: 103-62; Ehwald 1919). Chap. 30 begins 'AMOS PRIMVS N[I]TRIE | famosus accola... celorum orbibus conspexit'; The opening ('Amos ... refragabatur') is actually the beginning of chap. 37 (PL col. 158; see Ehwald 1919: 268, note s). Contains six OE glosses contemporary with the Latin text: tiliæ : lind (f. 13v), uiminis : uirge . oser (f. 14r), glumula : scale (f. 30r), naptarum : 7 tūdar (f. 33r), occa : felg (f. 43v), antes : tanas (f. 65v) (ed. Napier 1900: no. 10).
- f. 96r Verse in the same hand as main text: 'Tres digiti scribunt. totum corpusq(ue) laborat. | Scribere qui nescit. nullum putet esse laborem. | Dum digiti scribunt uix cet(er)a memb(ra) quiescunt' [see also 288].
- ff. 96v-97r **A(lexander) p(a)p(a) iii r(ogero) eborac(ensi) archiep(isco)po. 'Fraternitatem tuam scire uolum(us) firmit(er) | 7 ten(e-**

r)e' [*tuam* written after *firmiter*, but signaled to be moved to after *Fraternitatem*].

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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