

**285. London, British Library, Royal 4 A. xiv**

Missal, Pseudo-Hieronymus "In psalmos,"

Felix "Vita Guthlaci"

[Ker 250, 251, Gneuss 454, 455, 456]

**HISTORY:** Dated to the 10c, and, given that the scribe of ff. 1r-106v is the same as that of British Library, Royal 2 B. v (284), almost certainly written at Winchester, although this ascription has been questioned by Dumville (1991: 48), who also notes that Royal 4 A. xiv was at Worcester Cathedral from the 12c at the latest. The bifolium (ff. 107r-108v) containing the prologue and chapter headings to Felix's life of St. Guthlac is not part of the original manuscript, but dates to the 8/9c. The manuscript was at Worcester Cathedral in the 17c (see Young 1944: 18, 32, 63), and came into the possession of John Theyer between 1644 and 1646 (Warner and Gilson 1921: 81).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** [ii] + 110 + [i] leaves, foliated 1\*-2\*, 1-108. Leaves measure 276 x 181 mm., with a writing grid for the main text of 200 x 125 mm. Ruled for 24-25 lines, with double bounding lines; prickings in the outer margins. Arrangement of leaves is with hair on the outside. Quires ruled three and four leaves at once. The title on f. 1r is written in red, with red also used within initial letters on same folio; no other coloring appears in the manuscript after this point, except large initials on ff. 8v and 9r. Text in brown ink throughout. Quire signatures are entered in the bottom margins from xxvii-xxxviii (xxxv is wanting) on ff. 8v, 16v, 24v, 32v, 40v, 48v, 56v, 64v, 70v, 88v, and 96v. These seem to be written in the same hand as those appearing in the companion volume Royal 2 B. v, although these two manuscripts were not once part of the same codex. In view of the numbering of the quires, it is certain that this manuscript was once part of a larger work. This supposition would also seem to be supported by the fact that the Pseudo-Jerome "Breviarium in psalmos" begins with Ps. 109. Yet, given the incipit on f. 1r ("Incipit tractatus sancti ieronimi presbiteri in

libro psalmodum'), it is not certain what exactly may have preceded the commentary in the manuscript. The commentary departs in some instances from the version presented in PL 26:

- ff. 1r-8v Ps. 109, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 8v-9v Ps. 110, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 9v-12v Ps. 111, as in Pseudo-Jerome, but lacking PL 1241/22-1242/17 Pss. 112-113 wanting  
 ff. 12v-17v Ps. 114, as in Pseudo-Jerome Pss. 115-117 wanting  
 ff. 23r-36r Preface to Ps. 118 different from Pseudo-Jerome, but omits the commentary and offers instead a lengthy commentary on Ps. 119 that is not in Pseudo-Jerome  
 Pss. 120-126 wanting  
 ff. 36r-43r Ps. 127, different from Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 43r-45v Ps. 128, different from Pseudo-Jerome  
 Pss. 129-130 wanting  
 ff. 45v-48r Ps. 131, different from Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 48r-53v Ps. 132, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 54v-58v Ps. 133, as in Pseudo-Jerome but ending at PL 1298/30  
*tenemus*  
 Pss. 134-135 wanting  
 ff. 58v-60v Ps. 136, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 Ps. 137 wanting  
 ff. 60v-61v Ps. 138, as in Pseudo-Jerome, but ending at PL 1306/50  
*manus tuas* and adding a different ending  
 ff. 61v-62r Ps. 139, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 62r-67r Ps. 140, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 67r-68v Ps. 141, preface as in Pseudo-Jerome, but commentary different  
 ff. 68v-70v Ps. 142, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 70v-78r Ps. 143, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 Ps. 144 wanting  
 ff. 78r-83r Ps. 145, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 83r-88v Ps. 146, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 88v-94r Ps. 147, as in Pseudo-Jerome  
 ff. 94r-98v Ps. 148, as in Pseudo-Jerome, but ending differently after PL 1341/29  
 ff. 98v-102r Ps. 149, as in Pseudo-Jerome

ff. 102r-105r Ps. 150, but actually commentary on Ps. 136 different from that of Pseudo-Jerome

As the distribution of folios and sections shows, there are no gaps in the manuscript (see collation below), which suggests that the copyist either abbreviated the commentary or had an exemplar in which the abbreviation was already present.

Ff. 107-108 comprise a bifolium bound upside down in the manuscript. Written in two columns of 27-28 lines in A-S minuscule of late 8c or early 9c. Leaves have been trimmed and are darkened and show wear and flaking. F. 107v contains a gloss in a contemporary hand: *rumigerulo* : *foremere* (ed. Ker, *Cat.*, cf. Napier 1900: v, n. 3). Ff. 1\*-2\* are badly worn and in many places illegible. Written in brown ink, with initial letters tinted with yellow and headings in red. Contains 25-26 lines per leaf. Holes occur in ff. 19, 24, 31, 43, 50, with two slashes in the gutter of ff. 75 and 76 of ca. 120 mm. made by a single cut through two leaves. Marbled endleaves. Binding is of boards with vellum; the initials "M.B." are stamped on the front.

**COLLATION:** I<sup>6+2</sup> (stub to 3 shows after 6; that of 6 after 3) (ff. 1-8), II<sup>8</sup> (ff. 9-16), III<sup>6+2</sup> (stub to 18 shows after 23; that of 23 after 18) (ff. 17-24), IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 25-32), V<sup>6+2</sup> (stub to 35 shows after 37; that of 38 after 34) (ff. 33-40), VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 41-48), VI<sup>6+2</sup> (stub to 50 shows after 54; that of 55 after 49) (ff. 49-56), VII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 57-64), VIII<sup>6</sup> (ff. 65-70), X<sup>10</sup> (ff. 71-80), XI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 81-88), XII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 89-96), XIII<sup>10</sup> (ff. 97-106). Ff. 1\*-2\* and 107-108 are bifolia.

**CONTENTS:**

ff. 1\*-2\*v Section of a missal (11c).

ff. 1r-105r/12 Pseudo-Hieronymus "Breviarium in psalmos," Pss. 109-150 (see above for distribution): **Incip(it) tractat(us) s(an)c(t)i ieronimi pr(es)b(ite)r(i) in libro psal|mor(um)** 'DIXIT d(omi)n(u)s d(omi)no meo sede a dextris | meis' (cf. PL 26: 1233-1346).

ff. 105r/12-106v/9 Sermon on Numbers 20:10 attributed to Jerome: **ITEM S(AN)C(T)I HIERONIMI** | 'AVDITE ME INCREDVLI NVMQVID DE | petra ista producimus uob(is) aqua(m)'.

f. 106v/10-18 Metrical charm (12c): 'Wenne Wenne Wenchichenne her ne scealt þu timbrien' (ed. Birch 1878: 485-86; Storms 1948: no. 4;

Dobbie 1942: 128) [followed by two lines in a 12c hand: 'Si p(er) diuitias possemus morte carere | Tunc p(ro)desset eas indeficienter habere'].

- ff. 107r-108v Prologue and list of contents to Felix's life of St. Guthlac (ending midway through xxxv): 'Quomodo profetico sp(irit)u funes|tas ... in[terimere]' [bound upside-down; text runs from f. 108v to f. 107r] (ed. Colgrave 1956: 60-68).

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