

**351. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodl. 130 (27609)**  
Pseudo-Apuleius "Herbarium,"  
Pseudo-Dioscorides, Placitus, etc.  
[Ker 302, Gneuss 549]

**HISTORY:** Bodley 130 contains botanical, medical, and zoological texts, all in Latin apart from a few plant names and glosses which are noted below. McLachlan (1986: 35-36, 332-33) dates the manuscript, apart from the indices on ff. 73-75, from the earliest years of the 12c in the scriptorium of Bury St. Edmunds. Its origin in Bury St. Edmunds is confirmed by the pressmark 'M. 44' and a very faint inscription of the 14c on f. 1r 'Herbarium Dioscorid de armario monachorum Sancti Edmundi.' A second inscription on the same folio in a 16c hand notes that the book was given to Augustine Styward by Thomas Knyvett. It later became the property of Dr. Edward Tyson, zoologist and anatomist at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, who gave it to the Bodleian in 1706, shortly before his death.

Most of the material in Bodley 130 is found in other manuscripts in texts which are generally called the enlarged "Herbarium" and "Medicina de quadrupedibus." Here the texts are imperfect, lacking many chapters and ordered differently, apparently deriving from a different tradition from the OE "Herbarium" as seen, for example, in London, British Library, Cotton Vitellius C. iii [253] (see Hollis and Wright 1992, esp. 325). Gunther (1925), in addition to his description and facsimile of most of the manuscript, gives charts of correspondences in Appendices I-IV between the chapters in Bodley 130 and those in some other manuscripts and printed editions. The OE versions are discussed and edited by de Vriend (1984).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Ff. vii + 95 + vi, foliated i-vii, 1-101. Leaves measure ca. 245 x 180-85 mm. Written space varies; ruled area ca. 200-5 x 140 mm. HFFH. Early 18c binding of speckled brown leather with inset bands of plain leather.

Ff. i-vii and 96-101 are paper flyleaves. F. 76 should precede f. 79 and

ff. 86–87 should precede f. 85. Leaves are missing after ff. 43, 60, 75, and 77. A gap in the numbering between chapters 113 and 119 may indicate a quire has dropped out or been removed after f. 56; the index on f. 75r also suggests that leaves must have been lost at the end. Gunther (1925: xxv) noted that two or three of the missing chapters describe plants such as the mandrake which are usually represented as a naked man and woman; the suggestiveness of the illustrations may have led to their removal.

Prickings are sometimes visible in outer margins; double bounding lines right and left. Ruled in hardpoint for 30 long lines. Quire XI (ff. 73–75), which contains the indices of the late 12c, differs from the rest of the quires: the leaves are of a thinner, smoother parchment, and the rulings, occasionally visible in very faint pencil, are for 27 or 28 lines in double columns. Quire XI also has Roman numerals and titles in red. What appears to be the same hand, late 12c, has added Roman numerals in red as chapter numbers throughout the rest of the manuscript.

McLachlan (1986: 332–33) described the script as an easy, square Caroline hand, like other Bury products of the late 11c or early 12c, with occasional additions in a later 12c hand. No titles are original. Many capitals are missing on ff. 1r–72v, 85rv, and 89r–95v, especially the ‘A’ of ‘Ad’, for example, on f. 1r/13, 15, and 17. Presumably these were to have been added in red and green as in the Placitus material on ff. 76r–84v and 86r–88v, where some capitals are also dotted or filled with red. Apart from the illustrations, no other color is used.

The manuscript is decorated with well-executed paintings and drawings: ff. 1–67 contain 135 paintings of plants, and serpents accompany the poisonous plants; f. 68r, a pen-and-wash drawing of a man and woman embracing; and ff. 76r–95v, 26 drawings with color washes of animals and birds. The illustrations were executed first, and the text then fitted in around them. Most commentators have agreed that, uniquely for the time, some of the illustrations (e.g., on ff. 4r, 4v, 5r, 26r, 33r, 48v, and 51r) were apparently done from real plants; Singer (1927: 42) describes the artist as “a plant-painter centuries ahead of his time.” Pächt (1950: 29), however, has some doubts: he claims the figures of the animals in the Placitus material are copies of an A-S archetype, and therefore at least part of the naturalistic elements of the plant paintings may also derive from an A-S model.

The only OE in the manuscript is names of herbs and glosses, nearly contemporary with the text, with some Insular letter forms. Plant names:

f. 1r 'Se mare curmelle'; f. 1v 'Se lesse curmelle'; f. 4v 'hoclef'; f. 44 'Foxes gloue'; 'megepe'; f. 44v 'Wulfescamb'; f. 45r 'Henep'; and f. 55r 'Ifig'. Glosses: f. 81v/13 'limo: sôt'; f. 84r/27 'Exta: gorr'; and f. 84r/30 'Interiora: gorr'. Other English names were added in the 13c.

**COLLATION:** Ff. 1-95. I<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1-8), II<sup>6</sup> + 2 leaves after 1 and 1 leaf after 3 (ff. 9-17), III-V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 18-41), VI<sup>8</sup> wants 3 (ff. 42-48), VII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 49-56), VIII<sup>6</sup> + 1 after 3 (ff. 57-63), IX<sup>4</sup> (ff. 64-67), X<sup>6</sup> wants 6 (ff. 68-72), XI<sup>4</sup> wants 3 (ff. 73-75), XII<sup>8</sup> + 1 after 7, wants 1 and 3 (ff. 76-82; f. 76 is misbound and should precede f. 79), XIII<sup>6</sup> (ff. 83-88; ff. 86 and 87 should precede f. 85), XIV<sup>6</sup> + 1 after 3 (ff. 89-95). Quire X, which lacks its last leaf, is apparently reinforced with a fragment of a late 13c Latin law book, of which a small stub is visible between ff. 67 and 68 and a larger one between ff. 72 and 73. As suggested above, a quire is probably missing after VII.

#### CONTENTS:

Flyleaves all blank apart from an inscription on f. i recto noting Rev.

Tyson's gift of the manuscript to the Bodleian in 1706.

1. ff. 1r-56r Pseudo-Apuleius, "Herbarium": 'Alii Maronion... Nascitur locis maritimis et montuosis' | [A]D EPARIS DOLOREM. 'Herba centauris | maior in uino decocta & potui data.' 'Se mare curmelle' added above the illustration. [Inscriptions and pressmark on f. 1r as noted above. Chapters are numbered in Roman numerals from 1-113; there are two 56's, but no 68, and 83 is missing after f. 43. Ff. 2v, 14v, 47v, and 56v are blank. See Howald and Sigerist (1927: 77), starting from chap. 34.]
2. ff. 57r-67v Pseudo-Dioscorides: '[B]uglossos ex eo dicta q(uo)d folia | asp(er)a i(n) modu(m) linguę bubule habeat.' Added in the top margin, 13c: '[f]oxes gloues'. [Chapters are numbered in Roman numerals from 119-141; there are two 141's, and 128 and 129 are missing after f. 60. Ff. 60r and 67v are blank. These 22 chapters correspond fairly well with Kästner (1896: 591-610), chaps. 2-31, with some omissions.]
3. ff. 68r-72v General medical recipes: 'Vrina pueror(um) puberatate(m) non habentiu(m) decocta' Ends: 'De lutio subter gustent. seq(ue)nt(ur).' [Numbered 'clii'; the only illustration in this section precedes the text on f. 68r and is of a man and woman embracing.]
4. ff. 73r-74v Index of material on ff. 1-67 listing some but not all of the chapters from 'i' to 'cxxxviii'. The inclusion of chaps. 83 and 117

indicates that leaves now lost after ff. 43 and 56 were still in place when the index was made. A leaf may be lost after f. 74.

5. f. 75r Index of the material on ff. 76r-95v with entries from 'i-xxx' [f. 75v blank].
6. ff. 76r-95v Sextus Placitus (attrib.), "Liber de virtutibus bestiarum in arte medicinae": 'Equi saliuam si biberit sanus efficietur.' [Chapters are numbered in Roman numerals from 1-26; but misbound and missing leaves give the sequence: 5, 2, 4, 6, 7, etc., to 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, etc., to 26. The index indicates that leaves are also missing at the end. See Howald and Sigerist (1927: 272), starting at chap. 16.]

PHOTO NOTES: Flyleaves not shown on fiche.

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