

341. Oxford, Bodleian, Ashmole 1431 (7523)

“Herbarius of Pseudo-Apuleius”

[Ker 288, Gneuss 526]

HISTORY: Written in late 11c (early 12c, Ker, *Cat.*; 1070 x 1100, Dodwell 1954: 22; last quarter of 11c, Kauffmann 1975: 57), with “fifty-seven added 12c” (Ker, *Cat.*) OE interlinear and marginal glosses indicating names of plants and diseases. Pseudo-Apuleius is related in its rich illustration cycle and somewhat inferior text to the large South-Italian-derived group β , and is closely related to Bodleian Ashmole 1462 and more distantly to Bodleian Bodley 130 [354] (Howald and Sigerist 1927: v–xiii; Grape-Albers 1977: 2–3, 164–65). Probably produced at and belonged to St. Augustine’s, Canterbury; later to Elias Ashmole (1617–1692), who bequeathed his collections to the Ashmolean Museum at his death (Ovenell 1986: 71–73). Ashmole 1431 passed with the other Ashmolean books and manuscripts to the Bodleian in 1860 (Ovenell 1986: 217).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: [ij] + ff. 1–43. 8 paper front flyleaves, 6 paper back flyleaves. Early ink foliation. First quire consists of two bifolia (hair outside both sheets). The first is a thick and stiff parchment bifolium wrapped around ff. 1–2 (which comprises a bifolium taken from a breviary) with its second sheet cut off, the tag projecting between ff. 2 and 3 and the first sheet forming a flyleaf; the second bifolium (the breviary leaves) is suede-like vellum. Title on verso of fly, ‘Herboraliu(m) Apuleii platonis,’ and ex libris of St. Augustine’s, Canterbury (late 15c; no. 1264 in catalogue No. VIII [James 1903: 520]) ‘de librario s(anc)ti Aug(ustin)i Cantuar(iensis).’ and pressmark (in later hand) ‘D. 14. G^a. 2^o’. The main hand is a St. Augustine’s type (Dodwell 1954: 26, see below). Ff. 1–2 are from a 14c English breviary (blue initials, red rubrics and penwork, ruled in pencil in two columns for 38 lines, 16c English inscriptions at top of f. 2r., breviary leaves irregularly trimmed to about 230 x 150 mm., writing area 150 x 110 mm., columns about 45 mm. wide). Ff. 3–43 (containing the main texts): leaves 235 x 150 mm., writing area 174 x 110 mm.; pricked and ruled with drypoint before folding (pricking trimmed from many leaves), with single left and right bounding

verticals. HFHF. Ff. 3–32 ruled for 32 (= Item 1 and first 3 pages of Item 2); ff. 33–42 ruled for 41; f. 43 unruled. Ff. 10 and 11 are nearly severed by the knife that cut out the two folios that followed. A strip 45–50 mm. high has been trimmed from bottom of f. 43.

Writing of main texts in small but clear pointed Caroline minuscule of the Norman-derived type called by Ker "Christ Church script" (Ker 1960: 25–30); ink dark brown with faded orangish-red rubrics. OE glosses are in a square anglo-caroline with insular forms of OE letters, in a lighter brown ink. Colored illustrations of plants (predominantly blue and green for stems and leaves, red and brown for roots) accompany each section in spaces that are carefully planned for specific shapes (cf. e.g., ff. 22v–23r); human male (f. 31r) and female (f. 34r) figures are in pink with red and white highlighting of flesh. Illustrations have been labeled by various hands of different dates, including, for many, a set of late ME labels; the labels taper off as the text proceeds. Illustrations break off after top of 36v (color reproduction of f. 27r in Blunt and Raphael 1979: 31; Kauffmann 1975 has black and white reproductions of ff. 31r, 34r, 19r, 20r [pls. 22–25]). Binding is 17c/18c (post-1692) leather library binding.

COLLATION: Ff. [i] + ff. 1–43. (I*⁴ 4 gone; parchment fly + ff. 1–2); I⁸ (ff. 3–10); II⁸ 2 & 3 cut out (ff. 11–17); III⁶ (ff. 18–23); IV¹⁰ (ff. 24–33); V⁸ (ff. 34–41); VI two half-sheets.

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1–2 Leaves from a 14c Sarum Breviary (in two columns).

a. From Offices for the Feast of the Circumcision:

f. 1r/1–12a from Second Nocturn (beginning imperfectly): '[mun]di toll(er)et s(i)n(e) pec(cat)o ue(n)it in | mundu(m) . . . ' (cf. Procter and White 1882: cclxxxvi); **R.** 'Confirmatu(m) e(st) cor | uirginis in q(u)o diuina misteria a(n)|g(e)lo(rum) narra(n)te' (ed. Procter and Wordsworth 1882: cclxxxix).

f. 1r/13a–32b Third Nocturn: **Ant.** 'Exultabu(n)t om(n)ia | ligna siluar(um)' (Procter and Wordsworth 1882: cclxxxix–ccxcii).

f. 1r/33b–1v/4b Daily Offices (Lauds to Vespers): **Ant.** 'O admirabile co(m)erci|u(m)' (Procter and Wordsworth 1882: ccxcii–ccxciv).

b. Octave of St. Stephen:

f. 1v/4b–38b I(n) | Oct(ava) s(an)c(t)i steph(an)i (ending imperfectly, with the Octaves of St. John and Holy Innocents missing) ' . . . i(n)-

credulita | tem ille martyri oste⟨n⟩de[retur] . . . ' (ed. Procter and Wordsworth 1882: ccxcv–ccxcvi) [inside sheet, 2 leaves, missing].

c. Vigil of Epiphany (some lessons omitted):

f. 2r/1–5a Tierce (beginning imperfectly) '[**cor**]da n⟨ost⟩ra . . . ' (Procter and Wordsworth 1882: cccxiii) [English scribbles at top of f. 2r].

f. 2r/5a–2v/17a Matins 'In | uit⟨atorium⟩ a duob⟨us⟩ rectorib⟨us⟩'; lesson for Octave of St. Thomas of Canterbury at f. 2r/14b–2v/5a. (Procter and Wordsworth 1882: cccxiii–cccxvii).

f. 2v/17a–31b Lauds, Prime, Vespers, Compline [**Ant.**] 'O admirabile | [**Ps.**] D⟨omi⟩n⟨u⟩s regn⟨avi⟩t' (Procter and Wordsworth 1882: cccxvii–cccxx).

d. Epiphany, First Nocturn:

f. 2v/35b–38b 'In die ad mat⟨utinas⟩ Inu | ⟨i⟩t⟨atorium⟩ n⟨on⟩ d⟨icitu⟩r n⟨ec⟩ y⟨mnus⟩ s⟨ed⟩ statim p⟨ost⟩ | D⟨o⟩mi⟨n⟩e labia. & D⟨EU⟩S in adiutoriu⟨m⟩' (ends imperfectly) (Procter and Wordsworth 1882: cccxix).

2. "Herbarius"

a. f. 3r/1–25 **IN NOMINE D⟨OMI⟩NI INCIPIT HERBORALIV⟨M⟩ APULEII PLATONIS | Q⟨VO⟩D ACCEPIT ASCOLAPIO & CHIRONE CENTAVRO MAGISTRO | LEGE FELICITER.**

'PRECANTATIO omniu⟨m⟩ herbaru⟨m⟩ ad sin | gulas curas ⟨ue⟩l remedia posuim⟨us⟩ que⟨m⟩ admodu⟨m⟩ debeant legi'.

b. f. 3r/25–3v/18 Preface to "Antonii Musae de herba vettonica liber" **INCIPIT EP⟨ISTU⟩LA ANTONII MVSE | AD AGRIPPA⟨M⟩ DE HERBA BETONICA. QVANTAS VIRTUTES HABEAT. | [A]N-TONI⟨VS⟩ musa. marco agrippe sal⟨utem⟩. CESARI AVG⟨VS⟩TO p⟨re⟩stantissimo | o⟨mn⟩iu⟨m⟩ s⟨ed⟩ & iudicib⟨us⟩ ipsi⟨us⟩. Scito te p⟨ro⟩ximu⟨m⟩ auxiliu⟨m⟩' (ed. Howald and Sigerist 1927: 3–4).**

c. f. 3v/18–4r/2 "Nomina herbae": **incipit uirt⟨utes⟩ u⟨e⟩l curatio herbe betonice | que hab& medicamina nu⟨mer⟩o q⟨u⟩adraginta & septem. | 'A g⟨re⟩cis d⟨icitu⟩r briontes. Alii cestros . . . plurimus ade⟨ss⟩e . etc.'** (ed. Howald and Sigerist 1927: 10–11).

d. ff. 4r/2–5r/13 "De herba Betonice" (under 47 headings) 'i ad fractura⟨m⟩ capitis 'Herba betonica c⟨on⟩tusa ⁊ capiti | i⟨n⟩posita' (ed. Howald and Sigerist 1927: 4–10).

Pseudo-Apuleius:

e. f. 5r/13–25 Pseudo-Apuleius Platonicus, "Herbarius": **incipit aliud herborariu⟨m⟩ apuleii platonis. | Ep⟨istu⟩la ei⟨us⟩de⟨m⟩ ad c⟨on⟩-**

ciues suos de herba plantagine q(u)antas uirtutes | habeat . & que medicamina corporib(us) humanis p(re)ste(t). | (preface) 'Apulei(us) plato ad c(on)ciues suos. Ex plurib(us) paucas uires herbaru(m) 7 cura|tiones corpor(um)' (ed. Howald and Sigerist 1927: 15).

- f. ff. 5r/23–31v "Herbarius" [the entries, beginning with "Herba plantago," are arranged with the "Nomina herbae" first, when present, and then the symptoms/cures] **nom(ina) herb(arum) | arnoglosse.** 'A g(re)cis d(icitu)r arnoglossa. | Alii hermion. Alii p(ro)batio . . . (f. 5v/2) **ad capitis dolore(m)** .i. Herbę plantaginis radix. collo suspensa' [Many glosses in Latin and English from various periods from 12c to 16c. OE glosses in margin (partly cut off) and in text, to supplement Latin plant-names (e.g., f. 5r/32, 'i(d est) wægbrada' glossing 'plantago'; f. 6r/6 'i(d est) fyfleau' glossing 'q(uin)q(ue)foliu(m)'.] (ed. Howald and Sigerist 1927: 22–225, in which ed. the "Nomina herbae," when present, follow the cures).

[Note: Plants in the manuscript are as in Howald and Sigerist (with some variant names) except that their nos. 25–35 are omitted between "Herba Chamelea" and "Herba Prosopis" ("Personacia") at f. 12r/2, and no. 105 between "Herba Portulaca" and "Herba Sisimbrium", at f. 27r/5.]

3. ff. 31v–43r **INCIPIT LIBER DIOSCORIDIS EX HERBIS | FEMINIS. NOM(EN) HERBĘ SEPHRAM.** | 'Nascit(ur) i(n) montuosis & lapidosis locis. & arenosis' (ed. Kästner 1896: 590–636; cf. Riddle 1981: 44, 73–81).

f. 43v blank, pentrials and concentric circles.

PHOTO NOTES: f. 14v/7 up (lemma) 'ad luxu(m)' (gloss) 'i. flewsan'; f. 14v/1 up (lemma) 'g(r)ias' (gloss) 'i.mæder'; f. 19v/1–3 text erased; f. 32v/25 'caligine(m) det(er)git'.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Black, William Henry. *A Descriptive, Analytical, and Critical Catalogue of the Manuscripts Bequeathed unto the University of Oxford by Elias Ashmole . . .* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1845.
- Blunt, Wilfrid, and Sandra Raphael. *The Illustrated Herbal*. London and New York: Thames and Hudson in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1979.
- Dodwell, C. R. *The Canterbury School of Illumination, 1066-1200*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1954.

- Grape-Albers, Heide. *Spätantike Bilder aus der Welt des Arztes: Medizinische Bilderhandschriften der Spätantike und ihre mittelalterliche Überlieferung*. Wiesbaden: Guido Pressler, 1977.
- Howald, Ernestus, and Henricus E. Sigerist. *Antonii Musae de herba uettonica liber. Pseudoapulei herbarius. Anonymi de taxone liber. Sexti Placiti liber medicinae ex animalibus, etc.* Corpus Medicorum Latinorum, 4. Leipzig and Berlin: Teubner, 1927.
- James, M. R. *The Ancient Libraries of Canterbury and Dover*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1903.
- Kästner, H. F. "Pseudo-Dioscoridis de Herbis femininis." *Hermes* 31 (1896): 578–636 ["Addenda." *ibid.* 32 (1897): 160].
- Kauffmann, C. M. *Romanesque Manuscripts, 1066–1190*. A Survey of Manuscripts Illuminated in the British Isles, 3. London: Harvey Miller, 1975. [No. 10, plates 22–25].
- Ker, N. R. *English Manuscripts in the Century after the Norman Conquest*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1960.
- Ovenell, R. F. *The Ashmolean Museum, 1683–1894*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986.
- Procter, Francis, and Christopher Wordsworth. *Breviarium ad usum insignis Ecclesiae Sarum. Fasc. 1: Kalendarium et Ordo Temporalis siue Proprium de Tempore totius anni*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1882; repr. Farnborough, Hants: Gregg, 1970.
- Riddle, John M. "Pseudo-Dioscorides' *Ex herbis femininis* and Early Medieval Medical Botany." *Journal of the History of Biology* 14 (1981): 43–81.
- Singer, Charles. "The Herbal in Antiquity and its Transmission to Later Ages." *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 47 (1927): 1–52 [see pp. 35–49].

A.N.D.