

400. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Laud. Misc. 567 (1507)
Presalernitan Medical Collection,
including the "Laud Herbal Glossry"
[Ker: 345, Gneuss: —]

HISTORY: A 12c book in contemporary binding and in remarkably original condition, containing a collection of medical and herbal texts, including one of the earliest copies of the famous "Viaticum" of Constantine the African, translated from Arabic, as well as a Latin-OE herbal glossary; most of the OE entries are also in the shorter herb glossary in Durham Cathedral Library, Hunter 100 [123]. Numerous Latin glosses have been interlined by the main hand. Inscribed on endleaf recto, 'In the name of Gregory Pryse', son of Sir John Prise (1502/3–1555), the Welsh bibliophile and decommissioner of monasteries (Ker 1955) (was Gregory selling off some of his father's books after his death? — "in the name of" might indicate something left on consignment). Belonged to Archbishop Laud in 1633 and was given to Bodleian 22 May 1635 (Coxe and Hunt 1973: xxxv). Laudian inscription at bottom of f. 1r. Other names on verso of front flyleaf, including 'Edmond North'.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: (i) + 73 ff. + (i) Early ink foliation. Present medieval front and back flyleaves were once glued to the inside of the covers; they have wormholes that match those in front and back covers. Three leaves cut out between front flyleaf and f. 1; two leaves cut out between endleaf and f. 73; traces of wormholes still just visible on f. 1r. Page size 281 x 185 mm. (partially trimmed-off marginalia by main hand, e.g., 9v, 11v, 38v etc.). Writing area 138 x 220 on ff. 1–66 and 158 x 220 mm. on ff. 67–73 (the latter prepared for triple columns, each 50 mm. wide). Extra ruling on f. 60(v), f. 62(r) for two columns. Pricked and scored before folding for 42 lines throughout. Parchment slightly rough, matt, limp, generally uniform, arranged HFHF. A single expert Anglo-caroline script of 12c for both Latin and OE (but retaining OE thorn, eth, wyn) throughout book, though many mistakes in transcriptions of OE suggest that scribe's language was French (Stracke 1974: 5). Dark brown ink with dark red rubrics and initials. A second hand (in black ink) has added a supplement to the text of the "Herbal" (an index?) on blank

spaces on f. 73rv. Another, 13c, has continued a list for five lines, with later hands below. Drypoint Latin notations throughout. Arabic numerals running at the top of the pages in Item 1 indicate the chapter.

Binding 12c, oak boards covered in whittawed leather wrapped and glued over the board. Leather now much cut and distressed. Board same size as pages (i.e., the binding does not overhang the pages; book probably trimmed with a plane after binding, since size of cover and page is about the same; or alternatively some time may have elapsed between writing and binding). Originally bound with three thongs drawn together over the spine into holes bored into narrow dimension of the front and back planks and pegged. Now only the leather covering appears to be holding the covers to the book since the thongs between the two covers and spine have broken. One leather strap/clasp, now gone but for the stub on front cover, which fastened to the rivet projecting through the back board. The inside of the rivet has driven a hole through the end-leaf and left a rust-spot at f. 73va/24 (see, in general, Pollard 1962).

COLLATION: (i) + 73ff + (1); I¹ (1 is flyleaf, 2,3,4 cut out); II¹⁺⁸ (projecting tag after f. 9 is pricked for 42, 1 a reversed half-sheet = f. 1, ff. 1–9); III–IX⁸ (ff. 10–65); X⁸ (sheets 2–7 prepared for 3 columns, ff. 66–73); XI³ (bifolium + half-sheet, 1 & 2 cut out).

CONTENTS:

Front flyleaf, verso, scribbles in English (reversed), some probably in hand of Gregory Prise, others in hand of 'Edmond North'.

1. Constantine the African, "Viaticum" (ed. [Turnini] 1515 as part of the falsely attributed *Opera Ysaaci*, Lyons 1515, part. ii, ff. 144r–171v; also, under title "De omnium morborum, qui homini accidere possunt, cognitione & curatione," Petrus 1536: 1–167).
 - a. f. 1rv Capitula: **Incipiunt capitula libri viatici p(r)imi** | (i) 'De alopecia. (ii) De pilis cadentib(us)'; capitula to Book 1 repeated 1v/19–43.
 - b. ff. 2r–51v/30 Constantine the African, "Viaticum," in seven books (adapted from Ibn al-Gazzār, "Zād al-Musāfir"; Sezgin 1970: 305-6) (Added incipit on upper register of three added scorings: 'Incipit viaticum a constantino in latinam linguam translatum') **INCIPIT P(RO)LOGUS VIATICI LIBRI**; 'Q(uonia)m quide(m) ut in rethoricis titulis. | om(n)e inq(u)it expetendu(m) . . . (line 20) Book 1: **Explicit p(ro)logus Incipit liber primvs** | **De Alopecia** 'Capillus ex fumo grosso & calido nascitur'.

- f. 9v/21 Book 2: **Incipit | liber .ii. de lippitudine occ(u)lorum** ‘SVP(ER)IOR partic(u)la capitis 7 cereb(ri) | infirmitates (con)tinēt’.
- f. 15r/3 Book 3: ‘IN DVOBVS libris p(re)cedentib(us) tantu(m) m(od)o dictis | in infirmitatib(us) capi(ti) 7 faciei attine(n)tib(us) m(od)o dicant(ur) m(or)bi m(em)bror(um) ministrantiu(m) cordi’.
- f. 21v/32 Book 4: ‘Q(VONIA)M IN TERCIO libro sup(er)iore m(or)bos 7 medicinam | dixim(us) m(em)bror(um) seruientiu(m) sp(irit)ui (con)seq(ue)ns ordo expetit t(r)actare de m(em)b(r)is attin(en)tib(us) | cybariis. 7 de eor(um) medicinis’.
- f. 29r/31 Book 5: ‘MVLTI in locis glo(r)issimi medici digestibile(m) ui(r)tute(m) | t(r)ia loca optine(re) dixer(unt) corp(or)is’.
- f. 37v/28 Book 6: ‘DEVS ad animalia | exist(e)nda c(re)auit m(em)b(r)a.’
- f. 42v/12 Book 7: ‘EXPLETIS in sup(er)iori partic(u)la | int(er)ior(um) m(em)bror(um) passionib(us)’.
2. f. 51r–51v/30 Constantine the African, “Liber de oblivione” (incipit space blank) ‘PERVENIT ad nos ep(isto)la tua. | manifestans q(u)od t(ib)i accid(er)it d(e) nimia oblivio(n)e’ (ed. Bos 1994: 226–32).
3. f. 51v/31–58r/27 Constantine the African, “De melancholia libri duo” with preface (translation of Ishāq ibn ‘Imrān, “Maqāla fī l-Māliḥūliyā”; Sezgin 1970: 266) (incipit spaces blank throughout): (Preface begins) ‘ETSI EGO CONSTANTINVS africanus | montis cassinensis q(ui)de(m) monac(hus) in multis hui(us) artis libris in q(u)ib(us) latine ling(u)e’; f. 51v/40 Book 1: ‘Est [melancholia] ig(itur) morb(us) que(m) corp(us) patit(ur) c(uius) accid(e)ntia atq(ue) nocum(en)ta comitat(ur) a(n)i(m)a hui(us) spe(cie)s una | q(ua)e uocat(ur) ypoc(on)driaca’; f. 55r/20 Book 2: ‘MEDICARI uolens omne(m) morbu(m) intende(re) debet in repugnanda | 7 expellenda mat(er)ia infirmitatu(m) . . . (ends) sciruppi rosati.’ (ed. without preface, Petrus 1536: 280–98; with preface, Garbers 1977).
4. ff. 58r/28–58v/6 Various prescriptions follow, as if part of previous text:
- a) f. 58r/28 ‘Ad dolorem capitis scirupp(us) in labual(is) q(u)i frigid(us) e(st)’.
- b) f. 58r/34 ‘Sal Sac(er)dotal(is) q(u)o utebant(ur) sac(er)dotes in dieb(us) helie p(ro)ph(et)e’.
- c) f. 58r/39 ‘Sal marcelli exp(er)tu(m) ad o(mne)s humores corp(or)is’.
- d) f. 58v/2 ‘Ad emorroidas radices’.
- e) f. 58v/3 ‘Ad emor(roida)s int(r)insec(us)’.
5. ff. 58v/6–60v/21 “Gynaecia Cleopatrae”: **Incipit Genitia Cleopatre | ad Theodotum** (preface) ‘DESIDERANTI tibi filia karissima 7 hab(er)e uolenti | co(m)m(en)tariu(m) curationis mulieru(m) fac(er)e laborau’;

(text begins, line 15) **Signa humorose matricis** | ‘Oculor(um) dolor(um) cap(ut) subcalidu(m)’ (preface only ed. [Wolf] 1566.1, new ed. Spach 1597: 27; cf. Thorndike and Kibre 1963: 403).

[Note: The same text appears in Cambridge, St. John's College D.4 (11/12c), ff. 171r–173r (Beccaria 1956: no. 71, item 4, p. 240; see also Green 1987: 302, n. 11). Except for the Preface, the text differs from that of Wolf 1566 and Spach 1597, theirs being offered as *Harmonia Gyneciorum* and attributed to [Theodorus] Priscian, Cleopatra, and Moschion, and it appears to differ from the texts with the same title/preface in other manuscripts listed by Beccaria 1956: no. 6, item 34, no. 8, item 2, and no. 88, item 6.]

6. ff. 60v/5–62r/11 Pseudo-Constantine, “De passionibus mulierum” (Version A), preceded by capitula in two columns: f. 60v/5a **Signa mote matricis & cura**; text begins, line 22: ‘DE passionibus mulierum 7 matricis utile p(re)uidi nob(is) scribere’ (ed. as Constantine, *De Mulierum Morbis*, Petrus 1536: 321–25; on the false attribution, see Green 1987: 301–3).

7. ff. 62r/11–66v Moschion, “De aegritudinibus mulierum”: **Ex genitia muscionis** with capitula in two columns on f. 62r; text begins at f. 62r/40b **Quę mulieres purgantur** ‘Non om(ne)s | qu(i)d nec eq(u)alit(er) purgant(ur)’ (unpublished; cf. Thorndike and Kibre 1963: 922).

8. f. 67r–73ra “The Laud Herbal Glossary” in alphabetical order, containing 1553 Latin plant names glossed in Latin, with about 216 OE glosses as part of the main text. The same hand has interlined many Latin glosses. ‘Absinthium i(d est) deremod . . . Zarnabum i(d est) carev’ (ed. Stracke 1974).

[Note: According to Stracke 1974: 8–15, the glossary is a conflation of three sources. It is closely related to the Durham Glossary in Durham Cathedral Library, Hunter 100 [123], and has more distant and complex relations with the Corpus [31] and Épinal-Erfurt glossaries [128, 129] (Pheifer 1974: xxxviii–xxxix).]

9. f. 73rb/va–b/4 Index (?) of Greek plant names.

f. 73v and back flyleaf Various added verses and scribbles, many of the later ones here (and on the recto of the back flyleaf) probably in the hand of Gregory Prise, cf. ‘In the name of Gregory Pryse’ under the smudge on the endleaf, recto.

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