

#### 84. Cambridge, Trinity College, R.15.32 (945)

Computistica; Calendar; Hyginus, "Poeticon astronomicon";  
Helpericus, "Expositio compoti"; Cicero, "Aratea"; etc.  
[Ker 90, Gneuss 186]

**HISTORY:** The book is composed of two parts. Part 1, pp. 1–12 and 37–218, contains computistical and astrological texts, including work by Abbo of Fleury which was, according to van de Vyver (1935: 140–50), written in England. This part is written in Anglo-Caroline minuscule of the early 11c. Part 2, pp. 13–36, contains a calendar and computistical material, including an Easter Table for 1025–1086, with a rough drypoint cross against the year 1036; Robinson (1988: 99) states that it was customary to put such a cross against the year next after the one in which the calendar was made, i.e., the relevant pages were written in 1035. Keynes (1992: 31) suggests that both parts of the book originated at New Minster, Winchester, as hands of both parts can be located at that house and the calendar is of Winchester use; further, he suggests, the two parts were presumably brought together there, as pp. i, 37, 38, originally blank, have had further calendrical texts added. However, the book was soon moved to St Augustine's, Canterbury, since additions to the calendar suggest its presence there before the end of 11c. Listed by its second folio ("esse locatum") in the late 15c catalogue of St. Augustine's (no. 1157, James 1903: 329): "Astrologia abbonis monachi et in eodem libro | astrologia Nignn [Higini] philosophi | astrologia Marciani capelle | Compotus helperici doctissimi et | figuraciones signorum abbonis."

James (1900–1904: 2.364) notes 16c inscription on back fly verso 'Alexander Baker'. Given to Trinity College by George Willmer, ca. 1610 (inscription on inside front cover and arms stamped on binding).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Two parts. The calendar, pp. 13–36, as well as starting at 1025, has a rough drypoint cross against 1036.

Ff. [ii] + [I] + 111 + [ii]. Paginated in ink, in an early modern hand, '1-217', on rectos only. One leaf is unpaginated after pp. 71–[72]: a modern hand has corrected '71' to '71a', and has paginated [72]-[74] '71b, 72a-b'. There is also a cancelled pencil foliation, '1–111,' which starts at the first page of the

manuscript and includes the leaf omitted in the pagination. On pp. 3–11 there is another, cancelled, pencil foliation, ‘2–6’.

Inside front cover: Class mark ‘R. 10. 6’ (‘10. 6’ cancelled, replaced with ‘15. 32’). Pencil note: ‘Arms of George Willmer | on covers | Given by George Willmer’. A binding strip is part of a 15c document, perhaps a deed. First paper flyleaf has, in a 16c hand, references: ‘Descriptio Mundi | De Sphæra Cœlesti { Higini exemp. M̄s̄c } in Col. P[?] 54 | in Col. G. C. 58’. Pp. 217–218 left blank, p. 217 now has pen trials and scribbles, p. 218 scribbles and ‘misertus [?] enim eius est domin(us)’. In a 16c (?) hand ‘Alexander Baker’.

**Part 1** (pp. 1–[12] and 37–[218]): Leaves markedly irregular in shape, ca. 205 x ca. 150 mm. Most quires arranged HFHF, Quire I perhaps anomalous (see “Collation”). Writing area: ca. 170 x 120 mm. (considerable variation), mostly pricked and ruled for 25 lines; pp. [176]–[210] range from 26 to 34 lines, pp. 213–[216] two columns, 34 lines to the page. Main scribe of this part is presumed to have been at New Minster, as there is evidence the book was at Winchester later in 11c: “his text of Martianus Capella ended half way down p. 165, [p. 165/1–15] but was erased and rewritten in the second half of the 11c by a scribe [connected with New Minster]” (Keynes 1992: 31). Hand Anglo-Caroline minuscule, ink dark brown, a brownish red used for initials and headings, which are in ravishing rustic capitals. On pp. [204]–215 some reaction seems to have taken place, the red initials having developed a stained outline, and on p. [214]/7b–[226]b many of the red letters have developed a silvery appearance.

Illustrations: on p. 99 a rather crude scratched head and torso in space for a diagram; on p. [102] a rather endearing Pegasus; p. [104] a positively cute Taurus; p. 109 Pisces; p. [114] a fish (bottom, not in picture space above line 13) illustrating ‘Piscis qui Nothius dicitur’ (line 13).

**Part 2** (pp. 13–[36]): The writing area is 166 x 108 mm. P. 11, originally part of quire I, is apparently pricked for 25 lines, though not all the prickings are visible. Pp. 13–[28] are pricked for 33 horizontal lines; there are 14 prickings for vertical lines: 2 outer markers and 4 groups of 3 between them. Pp. 29–[36] are pricked for 33 horizontals; there are no visible prickings for verticals. Pp. 13, [16] are ruled in drypoint between all prickings. Pp. 17–[26] are ruled in drypoint for 33 horizontals and for the 6 leftmost verticals in each page. Pp. 27–[30], the tables are ruled in yellow ink. Pp. [32]–35 are ruled in drypoint for 33 rows and for 7, 8, 7, 6 columns respectively. Distinctive Anglo-Caroline minuscule sloping hand also responsible for parts of London, British Library, Cotton Titus D. xxvi–xxvii [237] and London, British Library,

Stowe 944 [309] (Ker, *Cat.*, 202, 274), identified as Ælsinus, monk of the New Minster (Keynes 1992: 31); the calendar is of Winchester usage. Main ink a slightly brownish black; also orange-red, pale blue, green and purple. Color is used functionally, to assist reference, in calendar, giving dates for each month, series of 'N's in blue, 'ID's green, 'kl's in purple. The numbers are in purple up to the ides, then red, as they are before the kalends of the next month (for January, 'N' is red, 'ID' blue, 'kl' purple). Tables have ornaments in blue, red and purple. Initial letters of lines on p. [36] are alternately red, purple and blue. The diagram on p. [38] was first drawn in drypoint: the subsequent inking does not quite coincide with the inscribed lines. Pp. I, 37–[38], originally left blank, have had calendrical texts added; it is suggested by Keynes (1992:31) that this was done at Winchester.

**COLLATION:** James's collation (1900–1904: 2.363) represents the present state of the book: **I**<sup>6</sup> (pp. i–[10]); **II**<sup>10</sup> 10 cancelled, stub projecting after p. [28] (pp. 11–[28]); **III**<sup>4</sup> (pp. 29–[36]); **IV–XIII**<sup>8</sup> (pp. 37–[194], leaf after p. [72] omitted from pagination); **XIV**<sup>4</sup> (pp. 195–[202]); **XV**<sup>8</sup> (pp. 203–[218]).

[**Note:** The original state of the first two quires is probably better represented as **I**<sup>8</sup> 1 gone (pp. i–[12]); **II**<sup>8</sup> (pp. 13–[28]). The arrangement of the vellum would be consistent with this: currently, I is FHF; if pp. 11–12 were originally part of that quire, then (before the cancellation of 1) it would have been HFHF, as would II. Part 1 is, in general, HFHF. At the bottom right hand corner of recto pages there are pencil quire signatures at the beginning of each quire: p. 11, '2'; p. 29, '3'; p. 37, '4' (very rubbed and faint); p. 53, '5'; p. 69, '6'; p. 83, '7' (unpaginated leaf after 72); p. 99, '8'; p. 115, '9'; p. 131, '10'; p. 147, '11'; p. 163, '12'; p. 179, '13'; p. 195, '14'; p. 203, '15'. The manuscript has been repaired with modern paper stubs separating the quires as now made up, so that it is impossible to reconstruct the precise process of amalgamation.]

## CONTENTS:

### Part 1:

1. p. [I]/1-20 Unfinished or rejected table: **DE CIRCULO DECENNOUENALI** | 'Prim(us) ann(us) ... Non(us) dec(imus) [annus]' [verso blank].  
p. [II]/1–7 Originally blank; added in a 15c hand: **Contenta libri** and a table of contents; a paper bookplate of Trinity College pasted below.
2. pp. 1/1–3/16 Anonymous (Carolingian?), "Excerptum de astrologia Arati": **IN NOMINE D(OMI)NI INCIPIT INUOLUTIO SPERAE**; | 'Duo sunt extremi uertices mundi. quos appellant polos';

ends: 'effusionem urnae aquarii quae ad ipsu(m) usq(ue) decurrit accipiens' (ed. Maass 1958: 309-12; cf. pp. xlv-vi).

3. pp. 3/17-[6]/7 Abbo of Fleury, "De solis ac lunae seu planetarum cursu": **SENTENTIA ABBONIS DE DIFFERENTIA CIRCULI ET SPERAE** | 'Studiosis astrologiae primo sciendu(m) est'; ends: 'Si uero nota (*recte* mota?) est. aliquis planetarum est' (unedited; see van de Vyver 1935: 140-50)

[Note: van de Vyver identifies items 3, 4, 5 and 10 as parts of a single treatise by Abbo of Fleury, occurring as attributed to the school of Fleury also in the English manuscripts BL Cotton Vitellius A. xii [250] (s. xi), ff. 8v-10v, 64rv; Durham Cathedral, Hunter 8<sup>o</sup>, 100 [123] (s. xi), ff. 85r-88r; Glasgow, Hunterian Museum, T.4.2 (s. xii<sup>m</sup>), ff. 95v-96r.]

4. pp. [6]/8-[10]/25 **DE CURSU .VII. PLANETARUM PER ZODIACU(M) CIRCULUM:** || 'Denique luna. totius Zodiaci signa'; ends: 'In quinto igit(ur) a scorpione signo. h(oc) (est) in piscib(us) marte(m) e(ss)e m(od)o credim(us); Similit(er) de reliquis' [includes diagrams in red, at p. 6/9 of position of planets in the sky through the year, headed **FIGURA AD SUPERIORA DICTA UTILIS** and of lunar phases at p. 8/14].
5. p. 11/1-27 **ABBO DE DUPLICI SIGNORU(M) ORTU UEL OCCASU** | 'De duplici ortu signoru(m) dubitantes'; ends: 'ad quas sol numquam accedit'.
- p. [12] Table to find position of moon in zodiac (heading in uncials) **CURSUS LUNAE PER .XII. SIGNA** (cf. McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983:17; Warren 1883: 41); below this a table of epacts by Roman and Egyptian reckonings and Bede's table of "lunar regulars" (cf. Wallis 1999: 295).

**Part 2** (pp. 13-[38]):

6. Computus and Kalendar:

- a. p. 13 Diagram for showing hours of daylight in different months: (heading:) **HORALOGI HORARUM IN CHOAT** (cf. PL 90.153-56; Warren 1883: 58).
- b. p. [14]/1-7. Memorandum about fasts: 'Ieiunia legitima .iiii<sup>or</sup>. Sunt. in. iii<sup>or</sup>. Anni Temporibus ... & sabbato .xii. lectiones' (cf. Warren 1883: 53).
- c. p. [14]/8-17 'De singulis mensibus. quibus post k(a)l(en)das nonis uel idibus' (cf. McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983: 16; Warren 1883: 22).
- d. p. [14]/18-30 Tables of ferial regulars, concurrents, lunar regulars and epacts (cf. McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983: 16; Warren 1883: 22).
- e. pp. 15/1-[26]/35 Kalendar (Winchester?): 'Principium iani sancit tropicus

Capricornus. | Mensis giuli. habet dies. xxxi. lun(as) .xxx.' (ed. Wormald 1934: 128-39).

- [**Note on OE Contents:** Each of the months is given its OE name as well as its names 'Hebraice', 'Grece' and 'Aegyptiace': pp. 15–[26] (line 2 each page); p. 15 January 'giuli', p. [16] February 'Soll monað', p. 17 March 'Hreod monað', p. [18] April 'Easter', p. 19 May 'Ðrymylce', p. [20] June 'Liða monað', p. 21 July 'Liða monað', p. [22] August 'Weod monað', p. 23 September 'Halig monað', p. [24] October 'Winter fylleð', p. 25 November 'Blod monað', p. [26] December 'Iul monað'. There are also St Augustine's, Canterbury, additions to the calendar; e.g., p. 21/15 'S(an)c(t)e mildrybe uirg(inis)' at iii ID Jul = 13th July, in insular script for OE name. Perhaps also from St Augustine's are the notes 'Dies mala,' pp. 21/15, 23 and 23/5, 23. At the tops of the pages of the calendars are notes about the names of the months 'Hebraice', 'Grece' and 'Aegyptiace'.]
- f. pp. 27/1-[28]/30 Tables for calculating the age of the moon (see Wallis 1999: 71-73; McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983: 16; Warren 1883: 35-36).
- g. p. [28]/31-2 "Litterae primae" (cf. Warren 1883: 40).
- h. p. 29 Table for age of moon on first day of each month in decennovenal cycle, labeled at bottom: 'Memento quod anno nouissimo decennouenalis lun(am) iulii | mensis. xxix. p(ro)pter saltum qui eo anno inferendus | est computare debebis' (cf. McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983: 16; Warren 1883: 37).
- i. p. [30]/1-28 "Pagina Regularis," for finding the position of the moon in the zodiac in the decennovenal cycle, followed by "Litterae primae" (cf. Wallis 1999: 64-68; McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983: 16-17; Warren 1883: 40).
- j. p. 31 Table to find lunar number in calendar: **HOC IN CYCLO | AETAS EST | LVNAE** (cf. McGurk in McGurk et al. 1983: 17).
- k. pp. [32]-35 Paschal cycles for years 1025-1087.
- l. p. [36]/1–11 Memorandum about selected terminals: **RATIO CERTA DE TERMINIS TENENDA .DE. LXX.** (cf. Warren 1883: 48).
- m. p. [36]/11–17 Memorandum about selected epacts and concurrents: **DE EPACTA ET DE CONCURRENTI RATIO.**
- [**Note:** Items l. and m. together form seven short paragraphs, each introduced by an initial colored in the repeated sequence red, plum, blue. An OE note is written in the left hand margin at p. 36/2–3: '7 ic bidde ðe þ(æt) þu me writ | þas vii. uers 7 send me'.]
- n. p. 37/1–12 Verses, added on originally blank side, on the "Egyptian Days": 'k̅l̅ Ian. Iani prima dies & septima fine tim(et)ur'... 'k̅l̅. DEC. Dat dvodena cohors septem inde decemq(ue) decembri'.
- o. p. [38]/1-9 Added table of movable feasts (cf. Warren 1883: 42).
- p. p. [38] (lower half) Added diagram of zodiac.

**Part 1 (cont.)**

7. pp. 39-135 Hyginus, "De astronomia" (ed. Viré 1992):

pp. 39-[42]/14 Preface: 'HIGINUS MAGISTER FABIO PLURIMA(M) SALUTEM. | ET SI TE STUDIO GRAM(M)ATICAЕ ARTIS INDUCTUM. ... & initium rerum demonstrabimus' (at p. 39/12 is the rubric **RECAPITULATIO SEQUENTIS LIBRI**).

pp. [42]/14-91 Books 1 and 2: **INCIPIT LIBER HIGINI**. | 'MUNDUS APPELLATUR IS. QUI CONSTAT EX SOLE | & luna & terra'.

[**Note:** The books are not marked; Book 1 ends at p. 49/14 'susplicamur'. Book 2 runs from p. 49/14 to p. 91 'Sed quonia(m)'; ends: 'Nos aute(m). omniu(m) corporum deformatione(m) dicere instituimus.' [sic] | **FINIT DE HYSTORIIS OMNIU(M) SIGNORUM**. Major topics are marked by rubrics, e.g. p. 43/24 **DE .V. CIRCULIS**; p. [44]/1 **DE ARTICO CIRCULO**, etc. An early modern hand has noted the beginnings of books on pp. 49, [92], 115. Early modern pencil underlinings and insertions of Greek words.]

pp. [92]-135 Books 3 and 4: **INCIPIT DE FIGURATIONE OMNIUM SIGNORUM**. | 'Igitur incipiemus a polo boreo protinus dicere'; ends 'Mensem autem. quamdiu luna Zodiacu(m) circum p(ro)ducat. | Annum uoluerunt e(ss)e. Cum sol ab aestiuo circulo descendens. | ccc<sup>tos</sup>. lx<sup>ta</sup>. v. dies suo cursu transigit.' **FINIT HIGINUS | DE** [sic].

[**Note:** Books not marked: Book 3 ends at p. 115/2 'Reliqua p(ro)tinus dicem(us)'; Book 4 begins 'Q(uonia)m In initio sperae'. Book 3 has the spaces left for the traditional illustrations but only those of 'Heniochus' crudely scratched in drypoint (p. 99); 'SIGNUM EQUI PEGASI' (p. [102]), 'SIGNUM TAURI' (p. [104]), 'SIGNU(M) PISCIIUM' (p. [108], picture p. 109), and 'Piscis Nothius' (p. [114]) have been filled in. The text of Hyginus has been imperfectly preserved in the tradition and breaks off at 'aestiuo circulo' (p. 135/22); the remaining words are a spurious ending found in the "delta" recension (cf. Viré 1992: lviii).]

8. pp. 136-165/15 Martianus Capella, "De nuptiis Philologiae et Mercurii," Book 8, "De astronomia": **MARTIANI. MINEI. FELICIS. CAPELLAE. AFRI. CARTAGINENSIS. | DE ASTROLOGIA LIBER INCIPIT IN NOMINE D(OMI)NI N(OST)RI IE(S)U CHR(IST)I**. | 'Quae du(m) geruntur (gl.: 's. sup(er)ius dicta aguntur & du(m)'). & deoru(m) sacer (gl.: 's(an)c(tu)s') senatus'; ends: 'aut in latitudine(m) declinare. aut retrogradari facit' (ed. Willis 1983: 302-37).

[**Note:** Extensive contemporary glossing. On p. 136, bottom margin, a 17c hand has written 'Marcianus Capella bis habetur m(anu)sc(ri)ptum in | Bibl(iotheca) hac Nost(ra). Tr. Coll'. This is probably the hand which did the foliation. The conclusion of the text

on p. 165 has been erased, neatly rubbed clean, and rewritten in a hand of 12c.]

9. pp. [166]–[200]/19 Helpericus (St. Gall, 10c), “Liber de Computo”: **INCIPIT EXPOSITIO COMPOTI**; Help(er)yci [added in a 13c(?) hand] | (Preface): ‘Cum quibusdam fratrib(us) n(ost)ris adolescentulis quaedam(m) calculatoriae’; (text: p. 167/16) **.i. UNDE CONFICIAT(UR) ANNUS SOLARIS ATQ(UE) BISSEXTUS.** | ‘ANNUS SOLARIS UT MAIORU(M) CONSTAT SOLLERTIA INQ(u)isitu(m) | ccc<sup>ss</sup> Lxv dieb(us) & quadrante conficit(ur)’; ends: ‘illa deinceps facilius assequantur’.  
| **FINIT EXCERPTIO UEL EXPOSITIO COMPOTI HERIRICI UIRI DOCTISSIMI** [another 13c(?) hand has written ‘helperici’ above **HERIRICI**] (ed. PL 137.19-48).

[Note: Four different early modern hands have written in the top margin of p. 166: [Hand 1] Helpericus de computo ecclesiastico, [2] citatur [3] ab Alexandro | Necha(m) [4 ? the paginator] in Marcianu(m) Capellam’.]

10. pp. [200]/20–[208] Abbo of Fleury, “De solis ac lunae seu planetarium cursu” [see no. 3, above] : **INCIP(IT) EXCERPTIO ABBONIS EX IGINO** (a later hand has written ‘h’ above ‘X I’) **DE FIGURATIONE SIGNORUM** | ‘DENIQUE ut dicit plinius int(er) om(ni)a sunt .lxxii. signa’; ends: ‘ad octaua(m) partem cancri redit’ (cf. van de Vyver 1935: 141).
11. pp. 209–[212] Unidentified astronomical compilation: (Preface): ‘D(OMI)NE d(eu)s om(ni)p(oten)s. S(an)c(t)a trinitas & indiuisa unitas’; p. 209/6 (text): **DE SOLE ET LUNA** | ‘S(an)c(t)a scriptura nob(is) a d(e)o p(er) beatu(m) moysen tradita’; ends: ‘Quae diabolicus error confirmauit. sed chr(istu)s d(omi)n(u)s saluator | \*mundi euertit’. (also in BL Harley 2506, ff. 34r–37r; cf. Thorndike and Kibre 1963: 462).
12. pp. 213–[216]/19b A fragment of Cicero, “Aratea” (lines 227-480): ‘Quinq(ue) solent stellae simili ratione notari’; ends: ‘Hanc aute(m) tota(m) p(ro)perant depellere pisces’ (ed. Buescu 1941/1966: 227-55; Soubiran 1972: 166–81) [rest of p. 216 blank].
- pp. 217–[218] originally blank flyleaf with 12c and later scribbles.

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