

89. Cambridge, Trinity College, O.2.31 (1135)

Prosper, "Epigrammata"; "Disticha Catonis";
Bede, "De die iudicii"; Prudentius, "Dittochaeon"
[Ker 95, Gneuss 190]

HISTORY: Written in Anglo-Caroline minuscule of the 10c. James (1900–1904: 3.129) finds two hands: Bishop and Keynes (1992:26) identify the scribe of the "Disticha Catonis" with Bishop's Christ Church scribe (iv), and the Bede with Bishop's scribe (vii). The Prosper is identified as having been written by several hands. Most of these, along with Bishop's (iv) and (vii), also appear in Cambridge, Trinity College, B.4.27, and two in B.14.3 [78]. The initials are also stylistically closely related to those in B.14.3. For these reasons, the book is presumed to have been written at Christ Church, Canterbury. James (1903: x, cf. p. 11), in an addendum, tentatively calls attention to an item in a Christ Church catalogue in CUL Ii.3.12 (ca. 1170), no. 158: "Cato. Prosper. Sedulius. Prudentius. Arator. in uno uolumine." Some of the Latin glosses in the Prosper and "Disticha Catonis" are syntactic, suggesting that the book may have been used for teaching Latin (Wieland 1985:163–64). There are numerous OE glosses, including 13 scratched glosses.

Across the top of ff. 42v, 41r (as originally ordered), a chant in honor of St Æthelthryth of Ely has been written in a hand of 11c, with French neumes. This may suggest that the manuscript went to Ely.

The manuscript was given to Trinity College by Roger Gale in 1738.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Ff. [ii] + 49 + [i]. Foliated at top right rectos in modern pencil 1–49, including f. 45, a paper supply leaf, in the present order. There is also a pencil pagination, top center rectos, 3–97, including the supply and following the present order. Quire signatures are marked at bottom right rectos of first leaf of quire '2-8', consistent with James' collation ("8" on f. 46r).

Where arrangement can be determined, it is mostly hair outside all sheets, but quire IV seems to be FHFF. F. 1r shows darkening, and light rubbing, consistent with having been an outside leaf; there is significant darkening in a rectangle in top right hand corner.

Page size ca. 213 x ca. 133 mm. (slightly irregular shape). Writing area ruled 165 x 98 mm., pricked and ruled in drypoint for 25 long lines per page. The main ink is deep brown to brownish black, variation probably due to fading. Normal color for headings and initial capitals is red, now orange-tinged, which has suffered silvering, esp. ff. 1v–8r. Also used for initials at section breaks are scarlet and green. Green is used in headings and first lines of individual works, and in ornamental initials. These initials are: (1) f. 1r/5 'H': interlaced bird and beast heads, lines in heads in pink, outlines normal text ink; (2) f. 34v/3 'C', described by James (1903: 129) as "resembling enamel work," consisting of bird and beast heads, some with pink lines as item (1), but interlace mostly filled with scarlet, green and light brown (giving suggestion of gold); (3) f. 35r/2: interlace with pink lines, as item (1); (4) f. 43r/3: interlace with pink lines, as item (1).

A Trinity College paper bookplate on inside front cover. On f. [1]r the following class marks: top left hand corner '77 | B. 11 (cancelled) | O. 2. 31'; top right hand corner 'B. 11'; top margin of f. [1]r, in 17c hand: 'Prosper. Beda. | Cato. Prudentius.'; top of f. 34r, 17c: 'Cato Rob. GRostesti'; f. 43r/20: the original hand writes only 'Sed mestam'; 12c hand in pale brown completes line, 'falsis facie(m) p(er) fu' n' dite guttis', and adds in the margin 'Et reserate nefas | ch(rist)o cu(m) uoce | gementi'.

Binding blue-grey board with plain skin spine.

COLLATION:

I⁸ 1 gone (ff. 1–7); II–III⁸ (ff. 8–23); IV⁸ ff. 24–31; V² (ff. 32–33); VI⁶⁺¹ leaf added after 6 (34–40); VII⁴ (ff. 41–43, disordered, should be 43, 42, 41); VIII⁶ 1 gone + a paper supply leaf (f. 45), displaced, f. 44 should follow f. 49 (ff. 44–49).

[Note: James' collation is: "1⁸ (wants 1), 5² (two left), 6⁸ (wants 1), 7⁷ (four left), 8⁶ (wants 1, 6)." F. 31 has been glued to f. 32 at the gutter; no sewing is visible between ff. 32 and 33; f. 33 is glued to a stub between ff. 33 and 34. The original collation is uncertain. The book has suffered damage and folios have been disordered and quires rearranged in repair. The disordering of the book seems to have occurred in something like the following manner: Quire VII initially contained the contents of the current f. 45 (paper supply) on 1; this was removed, and 6 became a singleton, which was then erroneously bound at the beginning of the quire, and the supply to replace the missing 1 was inserted after it; the sequence of the last two events cannot be determined.]

CONTENTS:

Old English Glosses:

The OE glosses are published by Meritt 1945: 13 (Distichs) and 24 (Prosper), and further discussed by Page 1981: 107–09. The scratched glosses with their lemmata are as follows:

f.5v/11	suauior	wynsumre
f.6r/1	nisi	butan
f.6r/1	retribuier&	agelde
f.6r/2	retribuieret	agelde
f.11v/21	concili&	sibsumap
f.11v/23	quod serimus	þ(æ)t we sawað
f.11v/23	m&imus	þ(æ)t we repað
f.11v/23	quod damus	þ(æ)t we [] þ(æ)t (Page)
f.15r/9	sequitur	fyliað (Page)
f.15r/10	multum curandum	Swyðe to reccanne (Page)
f.15r/16	porta	geat (Page)
f.15r/17	absumentur	[.]numene (Page)
f.34r/14-15	mu tuum	wryxle

[Note: Some of the scratched glosses, especially those detected by Page, are at the very limit of visibility. The ink glosses are as printed by Meritt, with the minor correction that f.11v/21 is 'sibsumað'.]

- ff. 1r–31v/11 Prosper Aquitanus, “Epigrammatum ex sententiis s. Augustini”: (f. 1r/1-7 invocation:) IN NO|MINE | DEI S|UMMI | (f. 1r/7-16 prefatory epigram:) **HAEC AGVS|TINI EX SACRIS | EPIGRAMMATA DICTIS.** | ‘Dvlicsono 4hrethor componens carmine prosper ... Sidereum c[a]eli cupiunt qui scandere regnum’ (on the glossing of these lines see Lapidge 1982: 105–77); (f. 1r/17-1v/4 Preface:) ‘Dvm sacris mentem placet exercere loquelis ... Vener`i`t hoc promat carmine laeta fides’; (ff. 2v/5-31v/11 “Epigrammatum”:) **DE VERA INNOCENTIA** ‘Innocentia uera est. quae nec sibi nec alteri noc&’; ends: ‘Crescere non cupiens perdit adepta tepens’ (ed. PL 51. 497-532).
- ff. 31v/12-33v Prosper Aquitanus, “Poema Coniugis ad uxorem”: **VERSVS PROSPERI AD CONIVGEM SVAM** | ‘Age iam precor mearum. comes inremota reru(m)’; ends: ‘Vt caro non eadem tantu(m) sed mens quoq(ue) nobis.’ [an early modern hand has added the final line in italic: ‘Una sit atq(ue) duos spiritus unus alat | finis huius libri’] (ed. PL 51. 611-16).

3. ff. 34r–40v “Disticha Catonis” (ed. Baehrens 1881: 3.205-42; Boas and Botschuyver 1952):

f. 34r **INCIPIT PREFATIO | LIBRI SEQVENTIS | ‘CVM ANIM|ADVERTEREM | quam plurimos grauiter in uia morum er|rare’** [notes on Cato added by 16c hand at bottom of f. 34v];

f. 35r **LIBER PRIMVS | ‘SI D(EU)S EST ANI|MUS NOBIS VT CARMINA DICVNT’;**

f. 36v/10-38r/8 **LIBER SECVNDVS |** (preface:) ‘Telluris si forte uelis cognoscere cultus’; f. (36v/21, Book 2): ‘Si potes ignotis & iam prodesse memento’;

ff. 38r/8-39r/11 **LIBER TERTIVS |** (preface:) ‘Hoc q(u)icumq(ue) uelis carmen cognoscere / lector | Cum p(rae)cepta ferat [altered to ‘feras’] q(uae) sunt gratissima uitae’ | f. 38r/11 (Book 3): ‘Instrue doctrinis animu(m) ne discere cesses’

[Note: on f. 39r, top, 12c/13c hand has added two distichs not in the main tradition (III, 21a,b, Boas/Botschuyver 1952: 180-81)];

f. 39r/11-40v **LIBER QVARTVUS** (preface:) ‘Securam quicumque cupis p(er)ducere uitam’ (f. 39r/16, Book 4): ‘Despice diuitias si uis animo. e(ss)e beatus’; ends imperfectly: ‘Suspect(us) caueas ne sis miser omnib(us) horis’.

[Note: the 10c text is followed by a continuation mark; the remaining 12 lines of the text were written below in a hand of 12c/13c in two prepared columns; the lower edge of the leaf is trimmed, so that three poetic lines are lost in the left column: ‘Na(m) timidis 7 suspectis aptissima mors est... Hoc breuitas fecit sens(us) <con>iung(er)e binos[.]’].

4. ff. 43rv, f.42rv, f. 41 rv **VERSVS BEDAE PRESBITERI | DE DIE IUDICII. | ‘INTER FLORIGERAS FECVN|DI CESPITIS HERBAS | Flamine uentoru(m) resonantibus undiq(ue) ramis’;** ends imperfectly: ‘Candida uirgineo simul inter et agnina flore’ [a 16c hand adds most of the rest, lines 148-153 (f. 41r), lines 154, 156-159, 163, 161 (f.45r)] (ed. Fraipont 1955: 439-44).

5. ff. 42v, 41r, along the top of what were originally facing pages, an unidentified hymn in honor of St. Aethelthryth has been added in an 11c hand, with French neumes: (f. 42v) ‘In sanctitate fulgida & plena felicitate compleuit dies suos | gaudia. Pulcra facie || (f. 41r) alma uirgo æpeldryða. hac que die plena suscepit celestia’.

6. ff. 46r–49v, f. 44r Prudentius, “Tituli historiarum”: begins imperfectly, ‘Risit sarra casa sobolis sibi gaudia sera’; ends (f. 44r/22-23), ‘Et septem

potuit signacula pandere solus; | **EXPLICIVNT TITVLI
HISTORIARVM** [the beginning of the work is in hand of 16c on
paper supply leaf, f. 45v] (ed. Cunningham 1966: 390-400; Pillinger
1980: 26-115).

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