

4. Antwerp, Plantin-Moretus Museum MS 16.2

(47 [32]; Salle iii. 68)

“Excerptiones de Prisciano”; the Antwerp-London Glossary

[Ker 2, Gneuss 775]

(with London, British Library Additional 32246 [164])

HISTORY: A late 10c or early 11c manuscript containing a 10c compilation of Donatus’s “Ars maior” and Priscian’s “Institutiones grammaticae”, known as and entitled ‘Excerptiones de Prisciano’, existing in two other copies (Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale nouv. acq. lat. 586 [437] and Chartres, Bibliothèque municipale 56). It was compiled in the tradition of Carolingian adaptations of works of classical grammar (Law 1997: 201–2), presumably by Ælfric—either alone or together with others—whose method of cutting, pasting, and rearranging Latin source texts is clearly at the basis of this work (Porter 2002: 23–29). Ælfric used this adaptation as a basis for his OE “Grammar” (Law 1987; 1997: 203–6; Porter 2002: 31–33). Förster (1917) pointed out that the Plantin-Moretus copy could not have been Ælfric’s exemplar; nevertheless, the method of its compilation, the presence of Ælfric’s “Colloquy” in the margins, and a collection of OE glosses here that is also found in manuscripts of Ælfric’s “Grammar” suggest a connection between the latter work and this manuscript.

The manuscript (now divided between Antwerp and London [British Library, Add. 32246 (164)]) was, in all likelihood, written at Abingdon, although Gwara (1997) has recently shown connections of the “Abingdon group” with Canterbury. Ker (*Cat.*, p. 3) notes that it is certainly from the same scriptorium as Antwerp, Plantin-Moretus MS 16.8 (Boethius) [5] and Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale 1650 (1520) [18] (a glossed Aldhelm), and may well have formed part of a single 242-folio manuscript. Moreover, a ‘Wulfgar’ addressed on f. 2 of the original undivided manuscript (now BL Add. 32246, f. 1) can be identified with Wulfgar, abbot of Abingdon between 989 and 1016.

[Note: The link among the three manuscripts is the pointed forward-sloping hand which has added notes and commentary in the Boethius, the first layer of glosses in

the Aldhelm, and rubrics and glossarial lists in the Priscian (see Ker, *Cat.*, p. 6 and Porter 2002: 8–9).]

If the three formed one volume, marginal notes in the two latter manuscripts indicate that the volume was still in England in the 15c. Presumably, it was brought to the continent during the reign either of Mary Tudor or of Edward VI; the Boethius was used by Poelman in his 1562 Antwerp edition; in 1571 he was said to have an edition of Aldhelm “De virginitate” ready though it was never printed (Ladd 1960: 356–57). There is no evidence about the precise whereabouts of the Priscian manuscript until 1592, when it appeared in the catalogue of the Plantin house, at the time owned by Johannes Moretus (1543–1610) (Stein 1886: no. 5). His son Balthasar Moretus (1574–1641) presumably put the manuscript at the disposal of his friend, the famous Antwerp painter Peter Paul Rubens, for which reason it used to be known as “The Rubens Manuscript”. After Rubens’s death (1640), his son Albert (1614–1657) handed over the manuscript to Francis Junius, who copied the glossaries into what is now Oxford, Bodleian Library Junius 71 (5182). On account of a letter addressed to ‘Ælf’ (Plantin-Moretus 16.2 f. 48v–49r), the text and glosses were considered to be by Ælfric (at the time no distinction was made between Archbishop Ælfric and Ælfric of Eynsham), but Junius named it ‘Glossarium R’, on the one hand to commemorate Rubens, its former owner who had been a close friend of his, and on the other hand to distinguish it from another “Ælfric glossary” (now London, British Library Harley 107 [261]). Junius’s transcript in Junius 71 was printed by William Somner as an appendix to his *Dictionarium Saxonico-Latino-Anglicum* (1659). By 1650, the manuscript had been returned to the Plantin-Moretus collection, for it occurs in a catalogue of books belonging to Balthasar Moretus II (1615–1674), written around that year. Thereupon the manuscript vanished out of scholars’ sight. Thomas Wright (1857) and after him Richard Wülcker (1884) published the glossary, by then considered lost, from the Junius transcript. However, in 1884 the British Museum acquired 24 leaves of this manuscript from J. M. Sullivan (Ker, *Cat.* p. 3). By the time, in the 19c, the previous owner, Ludwig Nolte, described it on a sheet in the Antwerp manuscript (f. i), the London leaves were already gone from it (Dümmler 1884: 10, Ker, *ibid.*). Although E. M. Thompson (1885) and Friedrich Kluge (1887) recognized correspondences between the London leaves and Junius’s transcript (cf. Förster 1917: 95), it was not until three years later that Julius Zupitza (1887) established definitively that an Antwerp manuscript mentioned in 1875 by Ferdinand Vanderhaeghen and the London leaves together formed the exemplar of Junius 71 (Vanderhaeghen 1875: 6). It is not known how long after Junius’s work the 24 leaves

were removed from the manuscript, but it is evident that the presence of Latin-OE glosses (see contents nos. 4b and 5) on what are now the London leaves must have been the reason (for further details of the manuscript's history, see Ladd 1960).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The original manuscript (Antwerp and London): membrane, consisted of 74 folios, 290 × 220 mm.; written space 222 × 135 mm., ruled in drypoint for 36 lines. It is regularly in quires of 8, arranged HFHF. Plantin-Moretus f. 19b [f. 44 of the undivided manuscript] is a half sheet cut vertically, 290 × 108 mm. Several hands are recognizable in the manuscript (Ker, *Cat.*, 3), which are all basically anglo-caroline minuscules, with occasional insular characteristics typical of English hands in the 11c. No. 6 was written in a slightly later hand than the rest, with a thick brown ink.

The Plantin-Moretus manuscript as it is now is membrane, consisting of [i] + 49 + [i] folios, 290 × 220 mm., plus a half sheet (f. 19b) 290 × 108 mm. F. 1 is a singleton (hair outside); on the top half of the recto side it was ruled in drypoint for 12 lines, containing items 1 (c, d). F. 1v is blank; no ruling and no prickings. In the rest of the manuscript, the written space for the original text frame measured 264 × 133 mm., but in the exceptionally wide outer margin a second column was made after the first, measuring 264 × 49 mm.; the total written space of the columns thus measures 264 × 189 mm., with an inner margin of about 16–20 mm., a space between the columns of 7 mm., and an outer margin of 10 mm.

The original text frame was ruled in drypoint for 36 lines, the first and last of which run across the entire page. Double vertical bounding lines set off the text frame. Prickings for this first ruling are visible throughout the manuscript in the very outer margins of the leaves. The impression of this ruling is on the hair sides. On f. 2r, the text frame contains 35 lines of text because the scribe started writing below top-line; from f. 2v onwards he changed to on top-line which resulted in 36 lines of text. No ruling is visible on f. 19b. F. 27 has been trimmed. Ff. 48 and 49 are damaged and badly repaired.

The ruling for the column in the outer margins was done separately from the text frame, after the quires had been bound and in all likelihood after the manuscript had been put together. The impression for this second ruling, also in drypoint, is on the recto sides of the first and the fourth folio of the quires; it becomes very faint on the third and fourth folios of each half quire. There are no prickings for this ruling and the number of lines varies per ruling (e.g., per four pages). On f. 2r there are two lines at the top,

running horizontally across the page, 34 lines covering the width of the column and 5 lines running horizontally across the page, at the bottom. The column always includes the two bounding lines at the top and bottom of the text frame. Thus, the column was ruled for 43 lines on f. 2r; for 61 lines on f. 4r; for 58 lines on f. 8r; for 61 lines on f. 12r; for 58 lines on f. 16r; for 60 lines on f. 20r; for 60 lines on f. 24r; for 57 lines on f. 28r; for 54 lines on f. 32r; for 52 lines on f. 36r; for 52 lines on f. 40r; for 55 lines on f. 44r; for 53 lines on f. 47r. The “Excerptiones de Prisciano” is “written in a variety of hands” (Porter 2002: 3), anglo-caroline hands of similar character.

The Plantin-Moretus manuscript is bound in a 19c pasteboard cover; the front board is completely detached from the manuscript, and the whole is in a pitiful state. French-language newspaper pasted on the spine of the block suggests that the manuscript was rebound in the 19c or early 20c. At the front, there is one paper flyleaf with one smaller leaf pasted on the recto side containing late 18c or early 19c notes on the various parts of the manuscript; and one pasted on the verso side with names of scholars who have inspected the manuscript since 1981. On the spine is ‘Excerptiones de Prisciano’.

COLLATION: Plantin-Moretus 16.2: 49 folios (ff. 1–49) plus an extra half sheet (f. 19b): singleton (f. 1); I² (ff. 2–3), II–III⁸ (ff. 4–19a), IV⁸⁺¹ half sheet (f. 19b) before 1 (ff. 19b–27); V–VI⁸ (ff. 28–43), VII⁸ wants 1, 8 (ff. 44–49). [Note: The original manuscript consisted of 74 folios (ff. 1–74): L(ondon) 1 and P(lantin) 1 (now two half sheets, but presumably once a conjugate pair) are old flyleaves; I⁸ (ff. 3–10) P2 (a conjugate pair with P3), L2–7, P3; II⁸ L ff. 8–15 (ff. 11–18); III⁸ P ff. 4–11 (ff. 19–26); IV⁸ P ff. 12–19a (ff. 27–34); V⁸⁺¹ L ff. 16–24, a half-sheet after 8 (ff. 35–43); VI⁸⁺¹ P ff. 19b–27, a half-sheet before 1 (ff. 44–52); VII⁸ P ff. 28–35 (ff. 53–60); VIII⁸ P ff. 36–43 (ff. 61–68); IX⁸ P. ff. 44–49, wants 1, 8 (ff. 69–74). For the collation of the London part, see the description of British Library Additional 32246 (164). For a slightly different reconstruction see Porter 2002: 397.]

CONTENTS:

[Note: The contents are listed according as they likely appeared in the original single manuscript; the folios are first numbered in their actual present manuscript contexts and then their place in the original undivided book is given in square brackets. To locate the contents the user will have to consult the fiche of both P(lantin-)Moretus 16.2 (5) and L(ondon), BL Additional 32246 (164). Contents listed by Jendy (1977: 206–8).]

1. P f. 1 [1] added materials in four late 11c hands:
 - a. lines 1–2 Four hexameters in praise of the virgins Ætheldreda, Ælfgife, and Edith (very faded; cf. Förster 1917: 154);
 - b. lines 3–5 Six hexameters in praise of the martyrs King Edward, Eustace, and King Kenelm: ‘Altaris titulus p(re)susus [sic] crismate hui(us) . . . Istoru(m) pia prex cunctos uiu& huc uenientes’ (pr. Förster 1917: 154);
 - c. lines 6–13 Eight elegiac verses commemorating Archbishop Ælfric (995–1005): ‘Pręsulis hic redolent ælfrici lypsana summi . . . Assu(m)psit michahel seu dedit [. . .]hel’ (pr. Förster 1917: 154) [opposite this item are large uncial capitals (about 3 lines high): ‘S P AVCM’];
 - d. lines 14–15 Four lines of riddling verse describing a measure of beer: ‘Bis bine fiale caritatis nos vocitam(ur) . . . Non nos peiores similes tam(en) esse uidem(ur)’ (pr. Förster 1917: 155; ed. and tr. Porter 1996a, 1996b).

[Note: Porter (1996a) argues that the poem originated at Æthelwold’s Abingdon and (1996b) that the vocabulary items that are the keys to the double entendres of the poem are found in the glossary that is item 5 of this manuscript: “the glossary and the riddle are products of the same school, perhaps of the same individual” (1996b: 4).]

f. 1v blank.

L f. 1r blank.

2. L f. 1v [2v] Ninety-eight lines of verse (two lines of verse going across the page) addressed by a Frankish priest Herbert to Wulfgar: ‘Summo pastori miserandu(m) transfero carm(en). Nunc uulgare tibi qui pius es miseris . . . Sufficit hoc mihim& pastor te cernere semp(er). Sufficiat(ue) tibi regula coenobii’ (ed. Dümmler 1885: 351–53).

[Note: Lines a/47 and b/46 have been carefully removed by scraping.]

3. P ff. 2r–47v, L 2r–24v (70 leaves, = ff. [3r–72v] of original, the original order of leaves being: P f. 2, L ff. 2–7, P f. 3, L ff. 8–15, P ff. 4–19a, L ff. 16–24, P ff. 19b–47) “Excerptiones de Prisciano”: **INCIPIUNT EXCERPTIONES DE PRISCIANO. ‘DE UOCE INIT(IUM) (all red capitals) | PHILOSOPHI DEFINIUNT UOCE (gl.: ‘humanu(m) sonu(m)’) ESSE AERE(M) TENUISSIMU(M) (gl.: ‘subtilissimu(m)’)’; ends: ‘Historia est narratio. regi gestae. per quam | quae inpr&erito gesta sunt in presenti. dinoscuntur’ FINIT AMEN** (ed. Porter 2002; cf. Law 1987; 1997: 203–6).

[Note: The text consists of a collection of excerpts from Donatus’s “Ars maior” and Priscian’s “Institutiones grammaticae”. There are occasional Latin glosses in the margins as well as interlinear Latin glosses. P contains eight interlinear OE glosses

in the hand of the Latin glossator, at ff. 2r/14 [3r], 5r/21 [20r], 32v/25 [57v], 33r/4 [58r], 33v/21, 34r/3 [58r], 34r/6, 46r/13 [71r] (ed. Förster 1917: 99; better, Meritt 1945: no. 22). F. L22r bears some faded, illegible later words in the margin; there are *nota* signs on L23v, L24r, and the drawing of a head in the upper margin of L24v.]

4a. P ff. 2r–47v (outer margins) L ff. 2r–24v (outer margins) (= ff. [3r–72v], the original order as in item 3) An added (early 11c) Latin-Latin glossary in alphabetical A-order, running A–S, in the wide outer margins: ‘A. & ω. i⟨dest⟩. d(eu)s uoce pelasga. siue Argiua ⟨ue⟩l graia, mirmidona, ⟨ue⟩l danaa seu dora’ (ed. Kindschi 1955; cf. Förster 1917: 99–102; Ker’s article *b.*, *Cat.*, 1.).

[**Note:** This glossary is spread over the entire manuscript; the glossator started a new letter of the alphabet at the top of every fourth leaf, but none take up the whole available space, and most very little: f. P2r [3r] *A* [as above]; f. L5r [7r] *B* ‘Boetes i⟨dest⟩ grece’; L8r [11r] *C* ‘Congero i⟨dest⟩ coaduno’; f. L12r [15r] *D* ‘Designo i⟨dest⟩ statuo’; f. P4r [19r] *E* ‘Editus i⟨dest⟩ custos templi’; f. P8r [23r] *F* ‘Formicinu(m) i⟨dest⟩ tardu(m)’; f. P12r [27r] *G* ‘Gobio . genus (est) piscis. blæge’; f. P16r [31r] *H* ‘Horno i⟨dest⟩ hoc anno’; L16r [31r] *I* ‘Intestinu(m) i⟨dest⟩ secretu(m)’; f. P20r [45r] *L* ‘Lolligo i⟨dest⟩ piscis maritimi’; f. P24r [49r] *M* ‘Moenio i⟨dest⟩ muros edificio’; f. P28r [53r] *N* ‘Nuncubi i⟨dest⟩ ubina(m)’; f. P32r [57r] *O* ‘Oggannio i⟨dest⟩ irrideo’; f. P36r [61r] *P* ‘Parasitaster i⟨dest⟩ lurco’; f. P40r [65r] *Q* ‘Qualus i⟨dest⟩ corbis’; “*R*” wanting because of missing leaf; f. P47r [72r] *S* ‘Suppellectile i⟨dest⟩ substantia’. OE in this glossary has been located on f. P12r/1,40 [27r], f. P16r/4 [31r], f. P20r/1 [45r], f. P32r/18 [57r], f. P47v/39a,46a [72v] (pr. Förster 1917: 101–2). Kindschi’s edition (1955) gives the glossary forms as they appear page by page in the manuscript(s) so the different items (4a/b, 5) are mixed together as they occur and cannot be cited by page.]

4b. L ff. 3r, 5r, 9v, 12v, P f. 4v [5r, 7r, 12v, 15v, 19v] Added (early 11c) mostly Latin-OE alphabetic glossary in “ABC” order, containing 132 OE glosses, by the same hand as 4a and adhering to the alphabetic series but apparently from another source: (L3r/5–33) ‘Alfa i⟨dest⟩ initiu(m). angin . . .’; (L5r/26–40) ‘Baccaulios i⟨dest⟩ anaphos | Caucalias i⟨dest⟩ cuppas . . .’; (L9v/4–55) ‘Cardinarius (‘se yldesta’) i⟨dest⟩ primarius . . .’; (L12v/1–11) ‘Digladior i⟨dest⟩ pugno. ic feohte . . .’; (P4v/1–22) ‘Edisco i⟨dest⟩ memorit(um) retineo q⟨uo⟩d disco . . . Epitholamiu(m) i⟨dest⟩ carmen nulbentiu(m). gift leoð | Epedecen’ (Ker’s article *c.*, *Cat.*, p. 2; ed. Kindschi 1955; part of “E”-list pr. Förster 1917: 100–1, gl. 7–15; cf. Porter 1999: 177, who provides a list of references to Kindschi’s unpublished edition, per letter of entry).

[**Note:** Where the outer margins did not afford enough space, the inner margins were used.]

5. L ff. 2v–7v, P f. 3rv, L f. 8, 9–15, P f. 4r, L ff. 17v–21v [4v–19, 36v–40v] A Latin-OE class glossary (= Porter 1999, art. 6) added in first half of the

11c, arranged mainly under subject headings, and written in margins (only sections with titles are given; there are other apparent subject-divisions): L2v/1 [4v] DE INSTRUM(EN)TIS AGRICULARU(M). ‘Uomer. <ue>l uomis. scear ...’; L3v/2 [5v] (top) NO(M)I(N)A OMNIU(M) HOMINU(M) CO(M)MUNIT(ER). ‘Imp(er)ator. Cesar. <ue>l augustu(s). casere ...’; L5v/1 [7v] (top) NO(M)I(N)A FERARU(M). ‘Unicornis. <ue>l monocerus. <ue>l Rinocerus. anhyrne deor ...’; L6v/1 [8v] DE NOMINIBUS METALLORU(M). | ‘Chosdrus. <ue>l castros. beomoder ...’ [this is a list of insects]; L6v/47 NO(M)I(N)A UASORUM | ‘Cantarus. winsester ...’; L7v/19 [9v] DE GENERIB(US) POTIONUM | ‘Ceruisa. celea. eala ...’; P3r/20 [10r] NOMINA AUIUM. | ‘Cignus. & cicinus. ylfete ...’; P3v/4 [10v] NOMINA HERBARUM. | ‘Liliu(m). lilie ...’; L9r/31 [12r] NOMINA ARBORUM. | ‘Arbor. treow ...’; L10r/25 [13r] NOMINA ARMORUM | ‘Arma. wæpna ...’; L10v/1 [13v] NO(M)I(N)A XII. VENTORUM. | ‘Subsolanus. eastenwind ...’; L11r/34 [14r] OMNIA NO(M)I(N)A TRITICI SUNT. | ‘Triticu(m). far ...’; [space for this glossary is interrupted by the next item which must have been already written, P4v–17v [19v–32v] and resumes on L17v, right margin, line 8 up)] L19v/2 [38v] (top) NO(M)I(N)A PISCIUM ‘Ballena. hwæl ...’; L20r/2 [39r] (top) NO(M)I(N)A NAUIU(M) ET INSTRUMENTA FARUM | ‘Trieris. sceip ...’; ends at L21v, 4d up ‘Limes. <ue>l terminus | limen.’ (ed. Kindschi 1955; cf. Porter 1999: 182, who provides a list of references to Kindschi’s unpublished edition, per class of words; P edited Förster 1917: 104–46, gll. 23–274; Junius’s transcript of these glosses from Bodleian Junius 71 ed. Wright and Wülcker 1884: 104–91; parts coll. with L, Thompson 1885; corr. against P, Lübke 1891; the segments in P transcribed fully by Förster 1917: 104–46; Ker’s article *d.*, *Cat.*, 2).

[Note: This glossary is very disordered in the manuscript and added later than 4a/b; Junius’s version, as pr. by Wright-Wülcker under the title “Ælfric’s Glossary,” differs considerably in order and contents. The aspect of the script varies over the length of the glossary and it was written after the following item (6) had already been added. Presumably, it was for the sake of this item that the London leaves were removed.]

6. ff. P 4v/23–17v/48 [19v–32] (outer margins) Commentary to Donatus’ “Ars minor” by the Benedictine monk Remigius of Auxerre (d. 908): ‘INCIPIT EDITIO REMIGII | SUP(ER) DONATU(M) GRA(M)MAT<IC>U(M) | URBIS ROMĒ | ‘Iste titulus uarię inue|nitur in multis codicib(us)’; ends: ‘Et e(st) gre|ca int(er)iectia. diriuata | a nomine q(uod) <est> papa. i<dest> ad | mirabilis’ (ed. Fox 1901; cf. Jeudy 1977).

[Note: The text is interrupted by glosses to the main text (often set off by lines drawn around them) and on P8r, P12r [23r, 27r] by the Latin-Latin glossary (no. 4a). According to Ker, added during the first half of the 11c.]

7. ff. P 18r–19v, L 16v/22–17v/1–19, 38–44 [33r–36v] (outer margins), “Ælfrici abbatis colloquia ab Ælfrico Bata aucta”: P ‘NOs pueri rogamus te magister’; ends imperfectly: ‘discal|ciatus eccl(esi)am p(ro)p(er)ando | intraui’; L 16v/22 ‘Iupistor dic nob(is) pala(m) cui p(ro)dest arstua . . .’ (17v, two sections linked by ‘Eia’) ‘discal|ciatus eccl(es)iam p(ro)p(er)ando | intraui’ (coll. Stevenson 1929: 75–96; cf. Förster 1917: 147–52; Porter in Gwara and Porter 1997: 4–7, 60–68).

[Note: According to Ker, added during the first half of the 11c.]

8. f. P 43v [67v] (outer margin) a Latin glossary of 12 items (Porter 1999, art. 2), mainly parts of a Roman house: ‘Proaula. i(d est) posta prima ab | oriente’; ends: ‘addigestione(m) corpo|ris necessarius’ (ed. Porter 1997).

9. f. P 47v/24b,c–33b, 35c [72v] A table of weights: ‘Libra. uel as . . . qui minimus est ponderum’.

10. f. P 48r/1–48v/19 [73rv], (main writing area) a Latin glossary (Porter 1999, art. 3): ‘Feriae afando d(icu)n(tu)r . . . Sciolus i(dest) simulator scientię. & scienci cortrarius. [sic] Quorsu(m) i(dest) | quousq(ue)’.

[Note: According to Ker (1957: 2), this was added at the beginning of the 11c. It contains two integral OE glosses, f. 48v/15–17 (pr. Förster 1917: 152).]

11. ff. P 48v/20–49r/8 [73v–74r] Epistle in Latin, addressed to ‘Ælf.’ (Ælfric?): ‘Facundissimo sacerdotu(m) .Ælf. philosophice docum(en)to disciplinę men’t’e tenus | delibuto . . . & capient parit(er) bona p(er)petualia semp(er) si fratre(m)’ (ed. Förster 1917: 153–54) [rest of f. P 49r blank].

[Note: Förster identifies this hand with that of item 5.]

f. P 49v [74v] blank.

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