

5. Antwerp, Plantin-Moretus Museum 16.8 (190; Salle iii, no. 55)

Boethius, “De consolatione philosophiae,” with commentary by
Remigius of Auxerre
[Ker 3, Gneuss 776]

HISTORY: The manuscript has been dated to the late 10c or early 11c on the basis of textual and paleographical evidence (Bishop 1971: xii; also stated by J. Wittig in a comment [1981/82] kept with the manuscript), and was written in England, almost certainly Abingdon (Ker, *Cat.*, p. 3). Ker deduces that this manuscript was certainly from the same scriptorium as Antwerp, Plantin-Moretus Museum 16.2 [4] (Priscian) and Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale 1650 [18] (Aldhelm) and probably originally part of the same manuscript; however, Gwara (1997) has shown connections of the “Abingdon group” with Canterbury (see the description of [18]). Most of the glosses are contemporary, or near contemporary, with the text of Boethius’s “De consolatione,” and contain a commentary ascribed to Remigius of Auxerre which is considered of a distinctly English type, containing variants found only in two other English manuscripts from the 11c (comment by J. Wittig kept with the manuscript). Occasionally, later glosses occur, dating from the 12c to the 14c. There are 15c notes referring to “Trivet” (f. 36r) and “Richard Swineshead” (f. 111v), showing that the manuscript was still in England at that time (Ker, *Cat.*, p. 3). At the bottom of the first folio, Balthasar Moretus (1574–1641) wrote ‘BOETHIUS | DE CONSOLAT.’ Several corrections dating from the 16c are presumably by Théodore Poelman, who probably used this manuscript for his Boethius edition entitled *Anicii Manlii Torquati Severini Boethii de consolatione philosophiae, lib. V*, printed at the Plantin presses in 1562. Poelman bequeathed the manuscript to Christopher Plantin in 1581 (Smith 2001: 108).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Membrane, consisting of i + 116 + i folios, 290 × 224 mm. Quires are arranged HFHF. The written space of main text is 190 × 108 mm.; f. 55 is an extra half sheet measuring 294 × 152 mm. added as if part of the project, with a written space 253 × 139 mm. The manuscript is ruled in drypoint for 18 lines with a lead-in of 10 to 12 mm. so that interlinear glosses could easily be added. The top and bottom lines continue into the margins. Prickings are visible in the margins for the ruling of the main text. Double vertical bounding lines run across the entire page. The impression of the ruling is always on the hair sides of the leaves. There are 18 lines of text, written from the top-line; the gutter between the bounding lines is left mostly blank. The inner and outer margins and sometimes the top and bottom margins have been used for glosses so that, effectively, almost the entire pages have been used as writing space. The wide outer margins were used as a second column, 55 mm. wide, and of varying height. They were ruled in drypoint for 42 lines, from the top-line of the main text downwards. The bottom line of the main text extending into the margin is not the bottom line of the glosses, which shows that the column was ruled after the main text. In the outer margin the column is set off by double vertical bounding lines, running across the entire page. The inner margins, measuring about 37 mm., were used as a third column for glosses 29 mm. wide. It was ruled in drypoint for a varying (40–50) number of lines; this ruling is not always visible.

The text is written in an anglo-caroline minuscule typical of the second half of the 10c; there are corrections by several scribes. One of the OE glosses, 'riclicum' (f. 36r/7), which is in the same hand as some Latin glosses and which Ker dates "s. x/xi," has an insular 'r'. There are red initials, occasionally enriched with blue and green, at the beginning of the books of "De Consolatione," and rubricated incipits and explicits. At the center of the top-margins from f. 12r onwards occur erratic headers of later medieval date indicating probably which prose or meter is on the page. The marginal commentary on f. 72r is mostly written in a later (14c/15c) hand. An early modern foliation in black ink appears in the top margins of the recto folios, ff. 1–61, at the very left of the margin, thereafter towards the middle of the folio. Presumably because the folio numbers in the left corners were considered too inconspicuous or had become invisible due to rigid (re)binding, a later foliation (18c/19c) was added on ff. 1–52 towards the upper right corners; a third one, cancelled and behind by one, can be seen at the right side of the top margin on ff. 59–67. Occasionally the leaves have natural holes, e.g. ff. 11–13. The top outside corners of the pages have been badly damaged by moisture or mice, which lessens towards the end of the manuscript,

resulting in the loss of some of the marginal glosses. The regular coloring of the edges of the folios, as a result of aging, does not show here, but has crumbled or been nibbled away, suggesting that this damage happened only in recent centuries.

The manuscript is bound in a thick cardboard cover with yellow vellum on the outside. The front board and the spine have come loose from the binding, which is altogether in total disrepair. French-language newspaper pasted on the spine of the block suggests that the manuscript was bound in the 19c or early 20c. At the beginning there is one paper flyleaf with an 18c sheet of paper pasted on the recto side containing a list of contents of another manuscript, and one modern piece of paper on the verso side, listing scholars who have inspected the manuscript since '1934/35.' There is one paper flyleaf at the back.

COLLATION: I⁸ (1 and 8 half-sheets, stubs showing after ff. 1 and 8) (ff. 1–8); II–VI⁸ (ff. 9–48); VII⁸⁺¹ half-sheet (f. 55) after 6, stub showing after f. 50 (ff. 49–57); VIII⁸ (ff. 58–65); IX⁸⁺¹ half-sheet after 2 (f. 68, stub showing after f. 72) (ff. 66–74); X–XI⁸ (ff. 75–91); XII⁴⁺¹ half-sheet after 2 (stub showing after f. 93) (ff. 91–95); XIII–XIV⁸ (ff. 96–111); XV³ three half-sheets bound together with stubs showing before f. 104 (ff. 112–114); XVI² (ff. 115–116).

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–116v Boethius, “De consolatione philosophiae” (ed. Bieler 1984), with interlinear glosses:
- ff. 1r/5–18r/2 Book 1 (no title): ‘CARMINA QUI QUON|DAM STUDIO FLORENTE PEREGI’ (interlinear gl.: ‘s. florida .s. ego .s. ia(m) ante | .i. ingenio .i. du(m) floreret studiu(m) meu(m) .i. co(m)posui’) [Four lines of commentary written on verso of start of f. 8 showing before f. 2];
- ff. 18r/3–37v/14 Book 2: INCIPIT EIUSDDEM LIBER SECUNDUS. | ‘POST HAEC PAULISPER OPTICUIT. ATQ(UE) | ubi attentione(m) meam’ (gl.: ‘uidelic& que sup(er)ius cecinit. .i. tacuit | po(st)qu(ua)m .i. dolore(m) meu(m) auiditate(m)’);
- ff. 37v/14–54v, 56r–67v, 69r–69v/8 Book 3: INCIPIT LIBER TERTIUS. | ‘IAM CANTUM (gl.: ‘.i. melodia(m) ista(m) de qua supra dixit’) ILLA FINIUERAT. CU(M) ME AUDI|endi auidu(m) stupente(m)qu(e)’ (gl.: ‘.i. carm(en) p(er)missu(m) quantu(m) illa []nquid fieri tantu(m) ego sustinere ualeo’);

ff. 69v/9–95v/17 Book 4: **INCIPIIT LIBER QUARTUS.** | ‘HAEC CUM PHILOSOPHIA DIGNITATE | uultus & oris grauitate seruata leni|ter suauiterq(ue) ceciniss&’ (gl.: ‘sup<ra>dictu<m> carm(en)h(oc) p(er)tin& bonitate. pulcritudine. | honorificentia custodita submississe io|cunde. delectabilit(er)’); ends ‘Sidera donat.’ **HIC FINIT.** [On f. 95v only 17 lines are written; the rest of the frame is not empty, as the side gloss continues into the bottom margin];

ff. 96r/1–5 (at bottom)–116v/5 Book 5: (no title; upper two-thirds of page blank) ‘DIXERAT ORATIONISQUE CURSU(M) | ad alia quędam tractanda’ (gl.: ‘s. philosophia. ordine<m> | narranda’); ends: ‘agitis iudicis cuncta cernentis’ (interlinear gl.: ‘.i. uiuitis. .i. intuentis’) [no explicit title to book 5; rest of page originally blank (see no. 5) except for some gloss running over from the previous page].

[Note: The interlinear gloss is keyed to the marginal gloss by a system of alphabetical sigla. Ker says OE glosses “in the same hand as some Latin glosses” but the OE is in a more pointed insular script which can be seen doing Latin glosses here and there, e.g., f. 96r. There are two OE words on f. 36r/7: to the line ‘Aequatq(ue) summis infima’ (Bk. 2, Met. 7), ‘summis’ is glossed ‘riclicu(m)’, and ‘infima’ is glossed ‘waclicu(m)’ (pr. Ker, *Cat.*, 3).]

2. ff. 1r–116v Commentary to Boethius’s “De consolatione” attributed to Remigius of Auxerre, beginning in the left margin of f. 1r and continuing in all margins throughout (writing becomes much lighter in Bk. 5): ‘Iste liber co<m>ponitur | ex quinq(ue) partib(us)’ (cf. Steward 1916; Silk 1935).

[Note: Smith (2001: 108): “Glosses in two or more contemporary and later hands derive from at least three traditions, that of the Remigius commentary, that found in MS Paris, BnF, lat. 6401A and that found in MS Cambridge, University Library, Kk.iii.2.” These sources were worked out by Bolton (1977: 56–57), who gives the details of how the commentary-elements are disposed in the manuscript. CUL Kk.3.2 is also from Abingdon (Bishop 1971: 13). The proper beginning of the gloss, on top of film, beg. ‘carmina’, is mostly gone or illegible due to damage to the membrane.]

3. f. 55 (a narrow added half-sheet) Notes on “De consolatione,” Bk. 3, Met. 9 (which is on facing f. 54v):

a. f. 55r/1–43 (in a hand writing the side gloss on the facing page) on Bk. 3, Met. 9, line 13: ‘Tu triplicis. Uis animę omne<m> mole<m> corporis regit. . . . Uitas u(er)o minores serit in t(er)ra<m>. quia animalia tantu<m> terris dedi|ta sunt. & cu<m> moriunt(ur) corpore. moriunt(ur) & anima’ (the place being commented on appears on the facing f. 54v/7);

b. f. 55r/43–55v/13 (in another of the gloss hands, seen e.g. on the lower part of f. 56r; this section has alphabetical keys to the side glosses) on Bk. 3, Met. 9, line 17: ‘EI. Simili in imagine formans formans. [sic] s. i.

ut | homo ad homine(m) hab& . . . Saturnus eo tardior ceteris planetis
quo & sup(er)ior incedit'.

f. 68r blank.

4. f. 68v (narrow added half-sheet, in the main hand) comment relating to Orpheus, in Bk. 3, Met. 12 (on f. 67v–69rv): 'Orpheus oagri filius & caliope muse insignis tracie citha|rista . . . lege impetrauit euridice(m). ita demu(m) sin(um) postergu(m)':
5. f. 116v/6 (31 lines of reddish writing in 3 columns, but beginning in the left margin) a table of chapters and incipits in an English cursive hand from the 13c/14c: 'Ph capitula potest <co>gnosci' [This hand is probably responsible for the running heads and a few side notes].

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