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Composite Collection of Monastic Letters and Sermons,
including “Epistola Cuthberti de obitu Bedae,”
with “Bede’s Death Song”
[Ker, App. 12; Gneuss —]

HISTORY: A composite manuscript in four parts, written on the continent, various parts dating from 10c–12c. The manuscript contains a collection of letters by, amongst others, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Paulinus of Aquileia, and St. Cuthbert’s letter on the death of Bede, as well as two homilies and a distinctly English chronological treatise (Krusch 1880: 304). The heading to Cuthbert’s letter, addressed to ‘reuerentissime albine’, suggests that Alcuin was responsible for the transmission of this letter to the continent, although it may also be a product of the Anglo-Saxon mission in general (Ker 1939: 40). An erased inscription on f. 14v indicates that this part of the manuscript belonged to the abbey of Clairmarais (the order of Cistercians of Clairvaux) in the diocese of Thérouanne, in western Flanders, now north-western France (cf. Mews 1985: 76). The Royal Library acquired this manuscript in 1823 as part of the collection of the Brussels chevalier Joseph Désiré Lupus.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Membrane, containing i + 65 + i fols., measuring 205–207 × 135–144 mm. The manuscript is kept in a late 18c binding with black velvet on the outside. At the front, there is a flyleaf of used parchment pasted on to the board, with a list of the contents in an 18c hand. A stub of this flyleaf is visible after f. 14. A piece of paper pasted on the flyleaf contains shelf-marks ‘X.30 | (Th. 176.)’. At the back of the book, there is a similar flyleaf pasted on to the board.

Part 1 (ff. 1–14): 11c–12c, is written on a single quire of 7, 14 folios, arranged HFHFHFH, measuring 205 × 135 mm.; written space ruled in lead by single bounding lines for 172 × 115 mm., throughout the whole booklet. The rest of the ruling took place after the quire had been folded and bound.

Ff. 1v–5v are ruled for 31 lines in lead, continuing into the inner margins; ff. 6r–10v/19 ruled for 31 lines in ink, in the same color as the writing (not running into the inner margin); ff. 10v–11r unruled, containing 30 lines of varying height; f. 11v ruled for 32 lines in faded lead; f. 12r no visible ruling, 31 lines of text; f. 12v ruled for 29 lines; f. 13rv ruled for 27 and 28 lines, respectively; f. 14r ruled for 29 lines in lead; f. 14v ruled for 17 lines. No prickings are visible. Marginalia show that the booklet was trimmed. F. 14v shows an erasure, and a faded drawing of a cross in a circle. The text is written on top-line in late caroline minuscules, bordering on pre-gothic. At least three hands are visible; a change of hands can be seen in the last line of f. 5v; and item 2 on f. 10v starts in a new hand. The ink is stained on f. 12r/8–11, and there are some stitches in f. 14. On f. 1v the text begins with a green initial and the first two lines are in red.

Part 2 (ff. 15–25): 12c, written on 11 folios, measuring 205 × 144 mm., written space 178 × 117 mm. arranged HFHFHE. Ff. 18 and 23 are half-sheets, and f. 25 has been cut away below the last line of text so that only a strip measuring 33 mm. remains. Stubs are showing after ff. 17, 22, 25. There is no ruling visible. F. 15r contains 45 lines of unequal height. From f. 16r onwards, the booklet contains 33 lines of text on a page. F. 25 contains only four lines on the recto side. Ff. 18, 19, 20, 21, 23 show prickings in the outer margins to a greater or lesser extent. Presumably, they disappeared from the other pages because of trimming.

Part 3 (ff. 26–41): 10c, two quires of 8, 16 folios, measuring 207 × 140 mm., written space 175 × 105 mm., arranged HFHF. There are 27 lines of text on a page, and although no ruling is visible, the outer margins show prickings throughout. Ff. 26 and 27 have double prickings along the entire page; on f. 28 fifteen extra prickings; on ff. 29–32 five extra prickings; and on f. 33 double prickings throughout. F. 26r is blank, and very dirty, and presumably served as the first page in a manuscript. The text is written in caroline minuscules; a new hand begins on f. 26v/7, which wrote ‘probo’ in the lower margin of f. 33v. Another hand begins on f. 34r.

Part 4 (ff. 42–65): 10c, three quires of 8, 24 folios, measuring 207 × 140 mm., written space 149 × 106 mm., arranged HFHF. This part was ruled in drypoint for 24 lines, which do not continue into the inner margins. The frame is set off by single vertical bounding lines continuing into the margins. No prickings are visible. The text is written in continental caroline minuscules. The top right-hand corner of f. 65 has been cut away.

COLLATION: **Part 1:** I¹⁴ (ff. 1–14); **Part 2:** II¹² wants 1 after 11 (ff. 15–25); **Part 3:** III–IV⁸ (ff. 26–41); **Part 4:** V–VII⁸ (ff. 42–65).

CONTENTS:

Part I (11c–12c):

- f. *i v (pastedown, originally a flyleaf, stub after f. 14): 18c table of contents and a pasted-on slip with old shelfmarks.
- f. 1r blank, except for a stamp ‘70 H–7’ and in pencil in upper left ‘33 | 32, 33 34 35’; and in ink the note: ‘Voir à La marque 4. enhaut et au coin D’un Feuillet’ above a pasted-on register of modern users.
1. ff. 1v–10 Letters between St. Bernard of Clairvaux and Pope Innocent II concerning the errors of Peter Abelard:
 - a. ff. 1v/1–10r/1 Bernard to Innocent, Ep. 190: **Ep(isto)la dom[i]ni bernardi clarevallensis cęnobij ab|batis. ad innocentiu(m) papam.** | ‘AMAN-TIssimo patri & d(omi)no. INNOCENTIO. su(m)mo pon|tifici’; (line 5) ‘Oporet ad u(es)t(ru)m referri ap(osto)latu(m) p(er)ic(u)la queq(ue) . . . Collegi aliqua tam(en) & transmissi’; f. 9v/14 Capitula listing heresies imputed to Abelard: ‘Ad capitula tan|tu(m) m(od)o illa respondim(us) que signo tali * notata s(un)t . . . (f. 9v/31) Hec capitula partim in libro theologie. partim in libro sententiaru(m) || magist(r)i pet(r)i. partim in libro cui(us) titul(us) e(st). scito te ipsu(m). Rep[er]ta su(n)t’ (ed. Leclercq and Rochais 1955–1977: 8.17–40, in ed. of capitula this manuscript coll. as “G”); also ed. PL 182. 1053–1072; ed. and study of “Capitula,” Mews 1985);
 - b. ff. 10r/2–10v/15 Innocent II to Bernard, Henry bp. of Sens, Rainaldus archbp. of Rheims, and their suffragans, Ep. 497 (16 July 1140): ‘[I]Nnocenti(us) ep(iscopu)s seruus seruor(um) dei uenerabilib(us) fr(atr)ib(us) .H. Senonensi. S. [sic] Re|m(en)si archiepiscopor(u)m `eoru(m)q(ue)’ suffraganeis. 7 carissimo in chr(istu) filio .B. clareuall(ensi) abb(at)i sa|lute(m) 7 ap(osto)lica(m) benedictione(m). Testante ap(osto)lo sic(ut) un(us) d(omi)n(u)s. ita una fides. e(ss)e dinoscit(ur)’; ends: ‘7 exco(m)municationis uin|culo innodandos. e(ss)e sensem(us). Dat(um) lat(er)ani. xvii K(a)l(endas) augusti’ [added (17c?): ‘explicit ep(isto)la’] (ed. PL 179. 515–517).
 2. ff. 10v/17–14v/17, Sermon attributed to Gislebertus Crispinus (d. 1167), “Ad praelatos in concilio convocatos sermo”: ‘[O(m)nis nos astare oporet ante t(ri)bunal . . . No(n) p(ro) sapientia q(ue) in me | [est erased] sit s(ed) p(ro) umbra no(min)is’; ends: ‘7 scismaticoru(m) errores corrigere sua pietate dignet(ur) p(er) ie(su)m | chr(istu)m filiu(m) suu(m) d(omi)n(u)m n(ost)r(u)m c(um) q(u)o uiuit. 7 regnat in unitate sp(iritu)s s(an)c(t)i d(eu)s. p(er) o(mnia) s(ecula) | s(e)c(u)lo[rum] Amen’ (ed. PL 184.1095–1102). Rest of f. 14v blank.

[Note: Hand changes at f. 12v/10; f. 14v contains an erased inscription in the apparently blank space, mentioning the Cistercian house of Clairmarais, partly readable under UV light: 'liber de claro marisi h[] | qui ab[]erit anathema sit'.]

Part 2 (12c):

3. ff. 15r/1–25r St Bernard of Clairvaux, “Liber de Diligendo Deo”: VIRO illustri d(omi)no A. eccl(esi)ę romanę diacono cardinali 7 cancellaris. B. | abbas dictus de claravalle. d(omi)no uiuere 7 in d(omi)no mori. ‘Orationes a me 7 n(on) | questio(n)es posc(er)e solebatis’; ends ‘null(us) p(ro)fecto e(ss)e poterit. | miserationis affectvs.’ (ed. Leclercq and Rochais 1955–1977: 3.118–54). Ends with the four lines of writing on f. 25r, the rest of f. 25 cut off and verso blank; a folio cut out after f. 25.

Part 3 (10c):

f. 26r blank.

4. ff. 26v/1–41v/25 Paulinus of Aquileia (d. 802), “Liber Exhortationis,” chs. 1–39, breaking off at the beginning of ch. 40: INCIPIT LIBER DOMINI PAULINI AD QVENDA(M) AMICVM SVVM. | ‘O mi frat(er) si cupias scire’; ends imperfectly: ‘Semp(er) cor n(ost)r(u)m p(ro)missa cęlestia meditet(ur).’ with added prayer: ‘iuuante d(omi)no | n(ost)ro ie(s)u chr(isto). q(u)i’ (ed. PL 99. 197–243; also edited as an addendum to St. Augustine’s works, PL 40. 1047–1061). Hand changes at f. 34, beginning of Quire IV.

Part 4 (10c):

5. ff. 42r–45r/7 “Epistola Cuthberti de obitu Bedae”: Ecce in scriptura hac intellegi potes reue|rentissime albine quomodo p(re)dictus | beda presbit(er) bene suis om(ni)bus consu(m)ma|tis laborib(us) quib(us) in sacris scripturis p(ro) uti|litate animarum laborauerat lętus de hoc sę(cu)lo | ad d(eu)m migrauerit. sicut guthbert(us) diacon(us) | discipulus ei(us) qui tunc te(m)pore p(re)sens fuit ad | quenda(m) suo condiscipulo interroganti de | [into margin and trimmed] fine ui|te illius | descripsi(t) | dicens d[e] | obitu b[e]|ati pat[r]is | bedae. | (line 9) ‘Dilectissimo in chr(ist)o lectori cuthuino’ ends: ‘de eo scri|bere quę oculis uidi. & aurib(us) audiui.’ | Explicit ep(istu)la gutberti. de obitu uenerabilis bed[ę] | presbiteri.; “Bede’s Death Song” at ff. 42v/22–43r/1: ‘Fore đaém ned fere nenig piorđ . . . deađ dege doe med pivr đe’ (ed. from this manuscript, Ker 1939a: 41–44; Ep. and D.S. ed. without this manuscript Dobbie 1937, and with D.S. only, Dobbie 1942: c–ci,

cii, civ-cv, 108–09, 199; cf. Ker 1939b; Brotanek 1940: 161–70; facs. Robinson and Stanley 1991; nos. 3.6.1, 3.6.2).

[Note: The text stands apart as intermediate between the “continental” and “insular” traditions (Ker 1939a: 40, Ker 1939b: 77; Dobbie 1942: cii; Brotanek 1940: 166–68). The initial rubric in brown-red ink continues over in the right-hand margin down to line 14.]

6. ff. 45r/7–58r/18 “Epistola Bede ad Ecgbertum episcopum” (5 Nov. 734): **INCIPIT EP(ISTO)LA Exhortatoria | uenerabilis bedę bresbiteri [sic] ad gerbert(um) [sic] ebora | [into margin] cen|sis | ep(iscopu)m** (line 9) ‘Dilectissimo ac reuerendissimo antistiti | Gerberto. Beda famulus chr(ist)i salute(m) | Memini te hesterno dixisse anno cu(m) tecu(m) | aliquot dieb(us)’; ends: ‘pari ratione tractare uoluerimus. | ep(isto)lę mod(us) in immensu(m) extende(re)t(ur). Gra(tia) te summi | pastoris ad pastione(m) ouiu(m) suaru(m) salutifera(m) per|pe(.)tuo conseruet incolume(m) dilectissime in chr(ist)o | antistes. **EXPLICIT EP(ISTO)LA VENERABILIS BEDAE | PRESBITERI. SCRIPTA NON(AS) NOVEMBRIS INDICTI|ONE TERTIA.** (ed. Plummer 1896: 1.405–23; PL 94. 657–668).

[Note: The incipit, partly colored over and continuing into the right-hand margin with a frill, was supplied by a rubricator, as was the explicit.]

7. ff. 58r/20–59r/2 Alcuin, Letter to Offa of Mercia (790 × 793): **INCIPIT EP(ISTO)LA ALCHVINI. | ‘DOMINO PIO ET PRECLARO OL-FANNO REGI. | humilis leuita alchuin(us) salute(m). Beatę me|morię gregorius papa predicator n(oste)r’**; ends: ‘sicut mihi uiri romano|rum peritissimi tradiderunt’ (ed. Lehmann 1921: 33–34).

8. ff. 59r/4–60v/19 Caesarius of Arles, Homily 63, “De paenitentia ex dictis Sancti Augustini” [incipit and explicit lines not filled in]: **ADMONEO fr(atre)s in conspectu d(e)i timori u(est)ro timo|rem meu(m)’**; ends: ‘sed abeo in regnum cę|leste inducaris’ (ed. Morin 1953: 1.272–74; PL 67. 1082–1083).

9. ff. 60v/19–62v/8 Ps.-John Chrysostom, Sermon 2 on Psalm 50: **INCIPIT SERMO | S(AN)C(T)I IOHANNIS CONSTANTINOPOLITANENSIS. | ‘Rogat dauid ut multu(m) ab iniquitate sua | lauetur’** ends: ‘Et du(m) hęc facis. d(eu)s | dat remedium animę tuę’ (ed. Gelenius 1547–1548: 1.738–51; cf. PG 55.580–582).

10. ff. 62v/9–65r/24 Chronological treatise from the so-called accounts of the Council of Caesarea: **‘Cum OM(NI)S APOSTOLI EX HOC MUNDO | transissent’**; ends: ‘pascha nobis iussum est celebrare’ (ed. Krusch 1880: 306–10, who did not use this manuscript).

f. 65v is blank and dirty; the folio has been cut in four places.

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