

## 158. Leiden, Universiteitsbibliotheek,

### Vossianus Lat. Q. 106

Riddles of Symphosius and Aldhelm, the OE "Leiden Riddle"

[Ker, App. 19; Gneuss —]

**HISTORY:** A collection of riddles by Symphosius and Aldhelm, including the OE "Leiden Riddle." According to both Ker and Parkes (1972: 215) the manuscript dates from the earlier 9c, but de Meyier (1973: 235) says "s. ix/x". The manuscript was written in the monastery of St. Benedict at Fleury, by two scribes, in caroline minuscule [f. 1 originates from another, early 11c, manuscript, and used to be pasted on to what is now f. 2]. The manuscript remained in Fleury until 1562 when it passed into the hands of Pierre Daniel (1530–1603), bailiff of Fleury, who procured much of the abbey's library during a period of civil unrest. Daniel added occasional annotations from f. 12v onwards. In the early 17c, it belonged to the Paris scholar Paul Pétau, whose son Alexander sold his father's enormous library to Queen Christina of Sweden in 1650. The Dutch philologist Isaac Vossius, who had concluded this transaction for the Swedish queen, became the next owner of the book after he had received a selection of Christina's library by way of remuneration for her debts to him. After Vossius's death in 1689, the trustees of Leiden University purchased Vossius's library, by then in Windsor, and shipped it to its present location. In November 1864 the Leiden librarian W. G. Pluygers tried to improve the legibility of the "Leiden Riddle" on f. 25v by applying a reagent and rubbing, which caused considerable damage to the text.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Membrane, consisting of i + 1 + 24 + i folios. F. 1 did not form part of the original manuscript; it measures 198 × 150 mm. Written space on recto 190 × 135 mm., 38 lines, verso written space 190 × 140 mm., 43 lines; no ruling is visible. The inside margin of f. 1 is damaged. F. 2r was originally the blank side of the first leaf of the

manuscript. Ff. 2–25 measure 225 × 150 mm., written space 180/200 × 100 mm. They are ruled in drypoint for 25–28 lines, which continue into the inner margins (impressions on ff. 5v–6v, 11v–12r, 16r, 25v); the thickness of some of the parchment must have made the lines difficult to see, because the scribe did not always follow the ruling on some folios. Prickings (or rather punch marks) are in ff. 5–6, 11–12, 16. HFHF except for ff. 5v–6r (FF), 7v–8r (HH), 15v–16r (HH). The parchment is rather thick and stiff, and of uneven quality.

Two hands are recognizable in the manuscript, both caroline minuscule. The first hand wrote quires I and II, and the second hand wrote quire III (cf. Gerritsen 1969: 532–33 for a description of the hands). Parkes (1972: 216) argues that the Leiden Riddle was written by a third scribe in the 10c. The solutions to Symposius's riddles in quire I are in rubricated uncials. Rubrication of capitals occurs only in quire III. In quires I and II capitals are the same color as the text, decorated with infill and dots.

The manuscript was restored and rebound in 2000. The cover is red goat leather on parchment wrappers. Parchment flyleaves front and back. Pluyger's transcript of the "Leiden Riddle" is now inserted in the back wrapper.

[Note: The manuscript was originally kept in a wrapper consisting of a discarded parchment manuscript leaf, which was detached in 1886, and is now Leiden, University Library, Cod. Voss. Lat. Fol. 122. The leaf contained part of Macrobius' "Somnium Scipionis." In the lower right-hand margin of the verso, at one time the outside front cover of Voss. Lat. Q. 106, a 16c or 17c hand wrote 'Symposij Ænigmata', and subsequently 'sed et post folia VII. sequuntur pluribus illa *Aldhelmi*, et in medio interjacet folium quoddam quod pertinet ad Papas Romanos, et quot annis quisque illorum sederit'. This refers to the present f. 1, which used to be between what is now ff. 8 and 9 of Voss. F. 122. The images show the manuscript before its recent rebinding. See URL in note below]

**COLLATION:** Ff. 1–25: Singleton (f. 1) added to quire I; I<sup>o</sup> 2/6 and 3/4 conjugate, 1 and 5 are half-sheets (ff. 2–7); II<sup>o</sup> 9 a half-sheet (ff. 8–16), III<sup>o</sup> 1/9, 3/6 conjugate, the rest half-sheets (ff. 17–25).

[Note: During its extensive restoration in 2000, the manuscript was completely taken apart and put back together. Leaves which, until the restoration, seemed to be half-sheets because they had been broken at the spine and were later sewn in as separate leaves, have now been rejoined by tiny vellum strips. The restorers have also associated the half-sheets that is f. 16 with the second quire rather than the third, which has yielded what they term "an unorthodox or possibly incomplete" collation of quires counting seven, nine, and nine leaves, respectively. It is fair to disagree with their including the first leaf in quire I because it did not belong to the original manuscript. By adding f. 16 to quire II, one gets two quires of nine, rather

than one of eight and another of ten, which would be more plausible. Nevertheless, the above collation follows the restoration, since that is now the state of the manuscript. For the restoration report see [http://ub.leidenuniv.nl/bc/whs/nieuws/riddle\\_manuscript/object1.html](http://ub.leidenuniv.nl/bc/whs/nieuws/riddle_manuscript/object1.html).]

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1. f. 1rva fragment from the “Liber Pontificalis,” from Pope Lucius (d. 254) to Pope Symmachus (d. 514): ‘Lucius nacion(e) roman(us) sed(it) ann(os) iii . . . hic ordina[t] | ep(iscop)os cxvii. pr(es)b(yteros) xc. diac(ones) vi.’ (cf. Mommsen 1898: 32–125; 239–58).
  2. Two texts added to the originally blank recto:
    - a. f. 2r/1–13 The last part of the “Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed,” the Greek text transliterated in caroline minuscules (lines 1–3 neumed): ‘ek to`n´ ouranon. kae sarcotenta . . . p(ro)sdocho. anastasin. necron. | [ka]e zo.(n) tu. melontos. eonos. AMEN’ (Greek text in Hahn 1897: 162–65, also Kattenbusch 1894: 1.234–35);
    - b. f. 2r/14–16, The Sanctus, in transliterated Greek: ‘[A]gios agios agios kyrrios sabahoth . . . osanna. en tis. Ypsistis’ (another line of Greek text beyond this unidentified).
- [Note: On f. 2r, the right top, there is what seems to be a shelf number or a book number, ‘A.37.’]
3. ff. 2v–8v/18 Caelius Firmianus Symphosius, “Aenigmata”: **INCIPIUNT ENIGMATA SYMPHOSII** | (preface:) ‘Haec quoq(ue) symphosius de carmine | lusit inepto. . . . quod non sapit ebria musa’ | (Aenigma 1, f. 2v/19) **GRAFIUM** | ‘De summo planus sed non ego planus in imo’; ends with Aenigma 61, following 100: **ANCHOR** ‘Mucro mihi geminus ferro colungit(ur) [sic] uno. | Cu(m) uento luctor cu(m) iurgite pugno p(ro)fun-do. | Scrutor. aquas medias. ipsas quoq(ue) mordeo \ t(er)ra’ (coll. Glorie 1968: 620–721).
- [Note: Titles are written in capitals in margins. Aenigmata 51, 77, and 81.3–82.2 are missing; 11 follows 12, and 78 follows 79; 61 follows 100. Between 96 and 97 is Aenigma 4 from the pseudo-Symphosius (ed. Glorie 1968: 723). F. 2v has some glosses in the outer margins; marginalia on f. 6r have almost faded away. On f. 8v there is the beginning of an alphabet.]
4. ff. 8v/19–25v/19 Aldhelm, “Aenigmata” (ed. Ehwald 1919: 97–149; Glorie 1968: 377–539 [neither uses this manuscript; cf. Gerritsen 1969: 533]):
  - ff. 8v/19–10r/12b (in two informal columns) **Capitula: INCIP(IU)NT CAPITULI** (corr. by another hand to -‘a’) **DE ENIGMATIBUS. ALD. HELMI.** || ‘i. De terra . . . c. De creatura’;

- ff. 10v/1–11r/11 Verse Preface, with an acrostic reading ‘ALDHELMUS CECINIT MILLENIS UERSIBUS ODAS’ at both beginning and ending of the verses: INCIP(IU)NT ENIGMATA ALDHELMI | ‘ARbiter a&hereo iugiter qui regmine sceptra . . . Soluere iam scelerum noxas dignare nefanda’;
- ff. 11r/11–25v/15 Aenigmata: (no title, Aenigma 1 begins:) ‘Altrix cunctorum quas mundus gestat in orbe’ (in margin: ‘de t(er)ra’); ends (Aenigma 100): ‘Sciscitor inflatos fungar quo nomine sophos’ [the lower parts of most of the letters of the last line are illegible in the film because the writing sinks into the deep ruling] EXPLICIUNT ENIGMATA. FINIT. FINI[T].
- f. 25v/16–19 Four added verses: ‘Aurea dum exili chr(ist)o fila uirgo acu dedicata . . . Paup(er) poeta nescit antra musarum’ (ed. Ehwald 1919: 149; Glorie 1968: 540).

[Note: Aenigmata 22.4 (f. 12v/24), 46.5 (f. 15v/24), and 93.7 (f. 22v/14) are missing; 38.6 follows 39.1 (f. 15r/2). On ff. 11r–12v, there are solutions to the riddles in various medieval hands. From f. 12v until f. 24r solutions to the riddles were added by a 16c hand, identified by de Meyier as that of Pierre Daniel. On f. 9r there are three concentric circles with what seems a bird in the middle, and a standing figure below, both figures faded. On f. 9v ‘O. presul ‘chr(ist)i’ remigi’ can be read in the outer margin. Occasionally, there are neumes and pen trials in the margins, including a ‘ð’ on f. 25r.]

5. f. 10r/13–18b Six OE glosses on the kinds of elves: ‘Nimphae. aelfinni eadem & muse . . . Naides. sae. aelfinne’ (ed. Meritt 1945: 61; Gerritsen 1969: 532, n. 14).
6. f. 25v/20–28 The OE “Leiden Riddle” (a translation of Aldhelm no. 33, “Lorica”): ‘Mec seueta[ ] uong uundrumfreorig o[bhis] innaðae \ aer[e]st . . . [niu]dlicae obcocrum’ (ed. Smith 1978: 44–47; cf. Zandvoort 1954: 50; Gerritsen 1969: 529–44; Parkes 1972: 209; facsimile in Smith 1938, Zandvoort 1954, Parkes 1972, Robinson and Stanley 1991: no. 20.4; color facsimile in Gerritsen 1983).

[Note: The text is much damaged by rubbing and the reagent; its date of addition and physical state in relation to the textual readings has been intensively discussed and contested (cf. Zandvoort 1954; Gerritsen 1969, 1983; Parkes 1972). This page contains various neumes (including some over the first words of the OE text) and pen trials; Parkes (1972: 212–13) pretty certainly shows that they were on the page before the OE riddle was entered, though this was disputed by Gerritsen (1983); there are two names, ‘Otgerius’ (outer margin at line 20) and ‘Agl(e)sard(us)’ (bottom).]

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