163. London, British Library, Add. 23211
Fragments of Computistica, Saxon Regnal Lists,
and "OE Martyrology"
[Ker 127, Gneuss 282]

HISTORY: Two cut-down leaves (trimmed on bottom and both sides), probably from the same late 9c manuscript, used as binding materials, probably flyleaves, in an octavo printed book and removed about 1859. A note by Sir Frederick Madden in the small portfolio in which it is kept says it was received from the Department of Printed Books on 31 Dec. 1859 and another says it was examined in 1867 by 'W.L.' No other details are recorded. The "Martyrology" is a compilation from many sources of brief notices of saints and feast-days composed in the mid-9c in the Anglian dialect. The genealogy of West Saxon kings is down to Alfred, so presumably the date of writing is 871 × 899. Gneuss gives provenance of "Wessex." All the writing seems to be in the same pointed A-S minuscule hand, which Dumville (1992:92) characterizes as "poor West-Saxon book-hand of Alfred's reign." See description of BL Cotton Julius A. x [200] for further information on the "Martyrology."

[Note: Ker, *Cat.*, says they were "formerly pastedowns," but there is no evidence of paste and the creases that impinge on the text, with sewing holes along them, suggest they were front and back flyleaves in the same small volume.]

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Fol. 1: Cut down, height 151 mm., width 104 mm., membrane crisp and brownish Recto, flesh, 29 lines remaining, containing Latin computistical texts. About 10 mm. in from the right side it was folded in and several very worn holes along the line appear to be from sewing attaching it to the printed book. Another crease is about 30 mm. up from the bottom. Writing is brownish, with titles in darker brown. Verso, 28 lines remaining, Royal Genealogy fragment, ink is dark brown. The titles are in red. Decorated initial 'O' is orange wash, with brown dot in center and around, with black ink letter outline. 'S' is black ink with curves

filled in with orange and brown wash. Tironian notes, abbreviations, and accents and a large 'S' (line 4 up) are touched with reddish brown.
[Note: Kotzor, who gives a detailed description (1981: 1.43*-55*), has calculated that the original pages had 32 lines (1.47*). Therefore this leaf is probably reversed, the verso being the original recto, for as Dumville (1986: 4) observes, there was not sufficient room for the beginning of the West Saxon regnal list on the present recto. The roman numerals at the top of the present verso must therefore be added and not part of the computus texts overleaf and the title at the bottom of the recto must be to verses that were on a subsequent lost leaf. See Sisam 1953: 295–96.]

Fol. 2. Cut down, height 148 mm., width 102 mm., membrane similar in quality to f. 1, but browner and stiffer. Recto is hair, 27 lines remaining, beg. 'mid hiora fiðra flyht'; verso 26 lines remaining. Treatment is similar to f. 1, with an area to left (looking from hair side) of 9/7 mm. which was folded in towards the flesh side. Double sewing holes along the crease are at 5, 20, 65, 100, 125 mm. from the top. The writing is dark brown to black (darker, or more contrastive at any rate, on the verso). On the recto is a decorated initial with orange, green, and red inks. Ker calculated the original written space to have been ca. 160 × 97 mm. (on f. 2v) but what remains is several mm. wider than that on f. 1v.

Kept in a small late 19c purpose-made portfolio with half-calf covers and pasted between heavy paper pages (separated by one paper leaf) by their top edges on to bound-in tags.

CONTENTS:
1. Computus extracts
a. f. 1r/1–15 Mnemonic computus verses on dating of Easter: **uersus de lun⟨a⟩** | '[. . . .] [qu]erere si uellis bis quintam cynthiam quan[. . .]'; ends: '[. . . .] die phoebi sequenti pascham habeta.';
b. f. 1r/16–28 monthly list, "Argumentum ad inueniendum in quota hora luna accendatur": **de lun⟨a⟩ accend⟨enda⟩** | '[Luna] Ianu⟨arii⟩ accend⟨itur⟩ | [Luna] febr⟨uarii⟩ accend⟨itur⟩ Inter medium [sic] noctem et gallicinam'; ends: '[Luna] dece⟨m⟩b⟨ris⟩ accend⟨itur⟩ Inter mediam noctem et uesperam' (cf. Henel 1934: 56–58);
c. f. 1r/29 Title (the text was on a subsequent lost leaf): **versus de diebus:**
[Note: The beginning of each line is trimmed and the endings of the longer lines are lost in the crease. The folio is reversed.]
f. 1v/1–2 Added roman numerals '.i . . . xxviii. x[xviiii] [. . . .]';

2. Regnal Lists

a. f. 1v/3–15 West Saxon regnal list: (beg. imperf.) 'rice 7 heold. xxxviii. wint⟨ra⟩ 7 vii. monað'; ends: 'lond o[n] | walum geeodon' (coll. as "N", Dumville 1986: 24–25; cf. Dumville 1985);

b. f. 1v/16–21 East Saxon regnal list: **de regibu⟨s⟩ orientaliv⟨m⟩ seaxonum:** | 'OFFa sighering sighere sigberhting ... gesecg seaxneting';

c. f. 1v/22–25 Another: **Item de regibv⟨s⟩ orientaliv⟨m⟩ seaxonum.** | 'Swiðred sigemunding sigemund sigeharding ... saberht [or 'faberht'] sledding';

d. f. 1v/25–28 Another: `item de regib⟨us⟩ orientalium seox(o)[num]´ | 'Sigered sigericing ... sledding ðonan forð' (items 2a–d. ed. Sweet 1885: 179, items 2b-d ed. Dumville 1986: 31–32).

[Note: A few letters are trimmed from the end (right side) of the lines.]

3. fragments from the "OE Martyrology" (this fragment ed. Sweet 1885: 177–78 and as MS "A" Kotzor 1981: 2.55, 57, 59, 61, coll. Herzfeld 1900: 56–60), items are numbered as in Kotzor:

(64A) f. 2r/1–3 ending of 14 April, Sts. Valerian, Tiburtius, Maximus: '[. . . .] mid hiora fiðra flyhte ... noma wæs maximus.';

(65A) f. 2r/4–27 18 April, St. Eleutherius: 'ON ðone eahtategðan dæg'; ends imperf: 'se casere hio heht gemartyria[n] [. . . .]';

[Note: Several lines cut from the bottom edge contain the last line of "Eleutherius" and the beg. of "Aethelwald."]

(66A) f. 2v/1–8 from 21 April, St. Aethelwald: (beg. imperf.) [. . . .] 'ðon ðe he tuelf gear ... geheran | ge her spræcan.';

(67A) f. 2v/9–26 from 23 April, St. George: 'ON ðone ðr`i´o 7 twentegðan dæg'; ends imperf: 'oððe on siðfæte ðonne (g)e(fylg)e (s)e (ðin) |[. . . .]' [right side of line 26 partly trimmed off (lower portions of letters in round brackets trimmed)].

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