

**183. London, British Library, Cotton Claudius D iii**  
Martyrology, bilingual “Regula S. Benedicti,” Calendar  
[(Ker p. xix, Gneuss –)]

**HISTORY:** An early 13c copy of the bilingual “Regula S. Benedicti” with chapters of the Latin alternating with the chapters of the OE translation of RSB by Bishop Æthelwold (ca. 970), bracketed by the “Martyrology of Usuard” and a Calendar with obits. The manuscript was owned by the Cistercian nunnery of Wintney in Hampshire throughout the Middle Ages. Wintney (or Winteneý) was said to be founded by Richard Holte and his wife before 1200 and was always small and poor (and this is its only known book), so it is unlikely that this well-produced and rather deluxe volume was made there (see Knowles and Hadcock 1977: 277). An entry added in a hand later than the main one on the Calendar for 18 Oct. (f. 156v) ‘Anno ab incarnatione d(omi)ni millesimo Duce(n)tesimo | Tricesimo quarto. Dedicata est eccl(es)ia de Wi(n)teneia,’ a reference to the stone church founded at Wintney in 1234, indicates the *terminus ante quem* for the presence of the book there. As the English is Kentish or Southeastern, Gretsich supposes that the book (and its exemplar) could have been produced at the Cistercian house of Waverley in Surrey or the Benedictine monastery of Reading: members of both houses are mentioned as benefactors in the obits in this manuscript (Gretsich 1978: 346–47) and a French poem on f. 3v, contemporary with the main script, asks for Christ’s blessing on Wintney and Waverley (see item 1b), while the Symon mentioned there may be the Simon, abbot of Reading, whose obit is 12 Feb. (f. 143r) (other Simons: on 143v [18 Feb.] ‘Simon sac(er)dos’, on 149r [14 May] “Simon sac(er)dos hui(us) ecc(lesi)e”). The OE language has been slightly modernized but is very conservative for the date of the manuscript and retains the essential syntactical, grammatical, and lexical character of Æthelwold’s text, even in passages that have been revised or retranslated, of which there are several (cf. Gretsich’s examples of revision, 1978: 314–21, discussion of language 338–46). Many of the retranslations stem from the “Cistercian”-type Latin text that accompanies this English version (Gretsich 1978: 332–38). The texts, both Latin and OE,

have been integrally altered (through the change of pronouns, etc., and the complete rewriting of ch. 62) in the planning of the text for the use of nuns, unlike the text of RSB in Cotton Faustina A. x [193], which was a male text modified for female use by replacements over erasures (on language and revisions see Jayatilaka 2003: 158–66). It is not known how or when the book got from Wintney (dissolved in 1536) into the Cotton collection though the signature ‘Ro.: Cotton Bruceus’ bottom of f. 3r (old ‘1’) is the form used from 1603 when he was knighted. Siglum “W”.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** 19c leather B.M. binding with Cotton arms stamped on cover. Three heavy paper front flyleaves, 19c. Two parchment (prob. vellum) flyleaves 17c, bifolium, hair outside [ff. 1–2]; similar 17c vellum bifolium forming two back flyleaves [ff. 163–64], plus three heavy paper 19c back flyleaves. The first and last 19c flyleaves have black backing on the outsides to match inner sides of the covers, which are framed in overlapped gold-tooled leather. ‘Ro.: Cotton Bruceus’ signature at bottom of f. 3r. Current ff. ‘1–2’ are not counted in an older arabic foliation that beg. ‘1’ on current f. ‘3’. Official foliation (1868) ‘1–164’ is written in pencil in upper and lower right corners of each recto (the lower is more conspicuous on the film) and includes the 17c vellum flyleaves. Older foliation (arabic, ink) begins on f. 3 and runs two behind official foliation. The “Regula Sancti Benedicti” and Calendar sections were paginated on rectos in pencil (pp. 1–221/[222]) but these numerals have been cancelled, presumably by the official foliator.

Quires are arranged HFHF(H). Membrane is smooth, matte, and limp, yellowish with low contrast between H/F, especially so in the Calendar section, ff. 140–162. The book has a similar overall layout but sections differ in detail. Page size 338 × 238 mm.

Ff. 3r, 4rv seems to contain a false start to the martyrology, after which it was done according to a different plan. On these pages the writing area is pricked on outside and inside of page and ruled in drypoint (f. 3), plummet (f. 4) for 25 lines in two columns, double bounding lines outside of each column, triple bounding in between, writing grid 232 × 163 mm., column width 65 mm. The vertical bounding lines are also pricked, 2/3/2 at top and bottom. The column area extends vertically 310 mm. but the ruled and written portions are 232 mm. F. 4 was unevenly torn away with loss of text in top half of outer edges both sides, the greatest extent of loss being at the top, about 80 mm., about 75 mm. at bottom; this was subsequently repaired with a parchment inlay, which does not share the wormholes of ff. 2 and 4. The repair apparently postdates the earlier foliation where the old cancelled

'2' is written well into the page on the original membrane. These texts are written in a black ink probably by the same hand as the main martyrology. F. 3v was left blank and a French poem was written into the prepared spaces in a contemporary hand. Column b is 15 lines of 14/15c writing, 2 lines to the rule. Fol. 5 is pricked for 25 lines, same as f. 3–4, but it has been ruled (or blindruled) for 35 lines of smaller writing in plummet probably having been left blank and then at a slightly later time French calendarial notes having been added. Text area 230 × 165 mm., columns 71/72 mm. wide, columns extend vertically 290 mm. but written just to 230 mm. The French texts r/v are written in dark brown ink with red initials and numerals.

The Martyrology pages (ff. 6–51) are in ruled frames about 307 high and 210 wide; written area within this area is pricked and ruled by plummet for 25 long lines, with rulings extended across to edges at lines 1–3, 12–14, 23–25, but the actual writing area is 235 × 162 mm. with double bounding lines. The calendarial lines are extended irregularly beyond the writing area and subdivided by ink rules into separate 2-line areas. Writing is black *textualis quadrata* with numerals in red, and initials alternating blue and red.

The "Regula" (ff. 52r–140r) has been prepared for writing in a way similar to that of the first attempt at the "Martyrology", that is, a large frame is drawn, 300 × 215 mm., and this is divided into columns with vertical lines 2/3/2 demarcated by prickings top and bottom. The writing in two-column format occupies the upper three-fourths of the page, writing area 235 × 155 mm., columns ca. 70 mm. wide, but with a more generous allocation of space, 23 lines against 25, all ruled in plummet. This seems to be the same hand continuing, the ink slightly browner, and writing both the Latin and OE, the latter being stylized into a slightly narrower, taller and more relaxed ductus to give a different effect, but not an "insular" one (the minimum essential insular letters are of course used).

The set-up for the Calendar (f. 140v–162v) is similar in dimensions to the preceding parts of the book, but without the overall frame. Pricks at top and bottom guide a structure that provides a left margin on each page, then two double bounded columns to the right and one to the left, that is, seven verticals in all. Pricked and ruled in plummet for 31 lines. Overall writing area size is 230 × 215 mm. The main ink is black, the 'KL' heading each month is blue, the month name and day-numbers red. Obits, mostly by the original calendar hand, with a few additions.

**COLLATION:** iii (paper 19c), ii (membrane bifolium 17c) + 1–164 + ii (membrane bifolium), iii (paper). I<sup>8</sup> wants 1 (ff. 3–9), II–V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 10–41), VI<sup>10</sup>

(ff. 42–51), VII–XVII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 52–139), XVIII–XIX<sup>10</sup> (ff. 140–159), XX<sup>6</sup> 4–6 cancelled (ff. 160–162).

Signature 'i' (with catchword 'mauri') on f. 9v, catchwords 'ap corinthū' on f. 17v, 'cū digna et eum' on f. 33v, 'nicasii epi' on f. 41v, on 59v erroneous catchword 'huilc sceal' correspondent of which is on same page, 'onlociað' (trimmed) on f. 75v, trace of trimmed catchword on f. 83v, 'creditis' (trimmed) on f. 91v, 'p qm̄' (trimmed trace) on f. 123v.

### CONTENTS:

[**Note:** The old foliation, which is in ink and more conspicuous, is two behind the "official" B.L. pencil foliation. A description of the contents is given by Gretsch 1978: 313–14.]

f. 1r blank

f. 1v–2v, 163r–164r 17c alphabetical index ('A-H'/'G-V') of contents on added bifolia.

f. 2r, top, 17c Cotton library list of contents.

1. ff. 3r–51v Martyrology section:

a. f. 3r, 4rv (double columns) from the "Martyrology of Usuard" (Usuard of St. Germain-des-Pres, d. ca. 875) for 8–23 Jan.: f. 3r '[N]eapoli campane. | natale s(an)c(t)i seuerini | ep(iscop)i . . . s(an)c(t)oru(m) | confessoru(m) petri. seueri. lucii [ . . . ]'; f. 4r (16 Jan., Marcellus) '[illu]stris fuit . . . (breaks off at 23 Jan, Severianus) . . . lapi|data est. Geneocesarea. [ . . . ]' (as Dubois 1965: 156–67, PL 123.627–84).

[**Note:** The initial preparation (pricking) is the same for the two-column leaves as for the rest of the (single-column) martyrology, and the hand is the same as begins the "Martyrology" on f. 6r. Initials were not filled in. Since the quire seems to be intact (less sheet 1) and the layout is consistent with the rest of the book, this group would seem to have been a false or experimental start that was not excised, the martyrology beginning again and sustained from f. 6r on.]

b. f. 3va/1–24 in French, a poem mentioning Winteneý and Waverley: 'Uus ke lisez cest escrit. | Oez que frere Symon dit. | Je(s)u crist que unc ne menti | Gard le Cuuent de Winteni. | 7 le Cuuent de Wawerle'; ends: 'Kar en uus ai grant affiance.' (ed. Kölbing 1892: 152–53; cf. Gretsch 1978: 313).

[**Note:** The hand seems to be contemporary with that of the "Martyrology," the side having been erased and rewritten; several Simons are mentioned in the Calendar (see "History").]

c. f. 3vb/1–15 inventorial notes for the refectory by the celleraria 'Alic(e) Preston' 1420 (cf. Gretsch 1978: 313).

- d. f. 5r/1a–5v/32a French calendar treatise (two columns, in a hand different from but contemporary with the hand of the “Martyrology”): ‘Sachez uus ke lire deuez en capit(u)le | ke ausi cum la lune curt . . . Ex tricesima xxx. trente.’ | **Issi deuez p(ro)nuncier la | lune el martir(o)loge.**
- e. ff. 6r–51v “Martyrology of Usuard,” lacking the prologue addressed to Charles the Bald and the second prologue “Festivitates sanctorum,” each entry headed by a calendarial notation extending across the line: **LVNA** [etc.] | **KL IANV(ARII)** ‘Circumcisio domini nostri ie(s)u ch(rist)i. Rome natale s(an)c(t)i almachii martiris’; ends: ‘Ite(m) | ierosolimis. s(an)c(t)e melanie deo sacrate.’ **III KL. IAN. L(VNA).** (as Dubois 1965: 152–364, 145–50, PL 123. 599–992, 124. 9–860; cf. Quentin 1908: 676).

[Note: On f. 51v, the date for St. Thomas Becket has been cancelled, but not the entry itself; on this entry see PL 124. 850.]

2. ff. 52r–140r “Regula St. Benedicti” in Latin and Old English: (Latin beg.) **[I]N nomine s(an)c(t)e t(ri)nitatis incipi(t)|unt regule prologus sancti|monialium eximii pat(ri)s be|atissimi benedicti abb(at)is** | ‘Asculta o filia pre|cepta magistri. & | inclina aurem cordis tui’; (OE beg., f. 54r/11a) **Her onsynð ures halies | fæder regolan s(an)c(tu)s Benedict(us) [sic]** | ‘Se hur ðu min bearn | beboda þines lareowes | 7 onhyld þinre hurte eare’; Latin ends (f.139v/11a): ‘& | tunc demum ad maiora | que supra co(m)memorauimus doct(ri)ne (added: ‘uirtutu(m) q(ue)’ ) cul|mina d(e)o p(ro)tegente p(re)ueni|es’; OE ends (f. 140r/18a): ‘Ece lif | to leane. 7 wunu(n)g mid go|de. ealle þam þe þisse rego|le blyðelice fyliað’ (Latin and OE ed. Schröer 1888; standard ed. of RSB Hanslik 1960) [f. 140r, rest of col. a and col. b, blank].

[Note: Ch. 62, on priests entering a monastery, has been entirely rewritten in the Latin to apply to a nunnery, and this is the Latin that is translated. The source of the Latin ch. is a rule for canonesses, *Institutio sanctimonialium Aquis granensis*, ch. 27 (by Amalarius of Metz?), ed. Werminghoff 1906: 421–56, no. 39B; see Jayatilaka 2003: 164–66.]

3. ff. 140v–162v Calendar, each month occupying four pages: **KL Ian(uarii)** ‘CircumcisioD(o)m(ini) | O(biunt) Matheus sac(er)doshui(us) ecc(lesi)e. 7 Philipp(us) de Wintonia’; ends imperf. (8 Dec.): ‘O(biit) d(omi)ne ioh(anni)s p(ri)or de nouo loco. b(e)n(e)f(iciu)m’ (ed. Hearne 1729: 384–93).

[Note: The calendar was written with one or two obits on a single line by the hand of the calendar. Very few additions have been subsequently made, but see f. 157r where additions in at least four hands are evident.]

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