

235. London, British Library, Cotton Titus A. iv
Bilingual “Regula S. Benedicti”
[Ker 200, Gneuss 379]

HISTORY: A mid-11c “textus receptus” version of the Latin Rule with the OE translation by Æthelwold (bishop of Winchester 963–984), made 965 × 975 (Gneuss in Schröer/Gneuss 1964: 272–73) under the patronage of King Edgar, for the instruction of the king and for the use of males uninstructed in Latin, both lay and monastic (cf. Gretsch 1992: 146). The OE version is intercalated into the Latin chapter by chapter (on the introduction and development of the RSB in A-S England see Gretsch 1999: 226–60). This copy, of those extant, is probably closest in form to that produced by Æthelwold (see Jayatilaka 2003: 150–51, 185). Gretsch (1974: 134) noted textual affinities between the Latin text and manuscripts of the “Winchester-Worcester” tradition as well as with that of B.M. Harley 5431, a St. Augustine’s production (on this manuscript’s extensive connections with the latter manuscript, see note below). Owned by Thomas Allen of Oxford (1540–1632).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: 19c leather binding, stamped with Cotton arms; f. ii with Latin inscription and Cottonian table of contents; on 1r; ‘34’ above refers to Thomas Allen’s ownership, this being no. 34 in his catalogue (Bodleian MS Wood F. 26 [8488], f. 2r, no ‘34’), his signature on f. 2r.

[iii] (19c paper flyleaves) + [ii] (medieval parchment bifolium, [iii], ‘1’) + 121 (ff. 2–123) + (medieval parchment bifolium) + [ii] (19c paper flyleaves). Parchment is thick, not stiff, buff-color, mostly smooth surfaces, with low H/F contrast, arranged in quires of 8, HFHF. Page size 191 × 120 mm., trimmed along the prick lines; ff. 2–117 writing area ca. 145 × 78 mm., very lightly ruled in drypoint with double bounding lines for 28 lines; ff. 118r–120r, writing area 150 × 80 mm., ruled in plummet with double bounding lines for 15 lines; ff. 121r–123v, writing area 150 × 80 mm., ruled in drypoint with double bounding lines for 14 lines (f. 118, 15 lines written). On ff. 2–117 two scribes of the mid-11c write a similar, round

hand in black ink, each writing both the Latin in anglo-caroline minuscule and the OE in insular minuscule; Ker says the change of hand happens at the top of f. 51v at 'firmet(ur) in éo caritas' but it is difficult to see a difference until f. 52r. Red titles and chapter numbers; sections are introduced by large initials in various contrasting colors, usually red and aquamarine, but additional colors are used on pages where more than two initials occur. Ker notes that the titles are written in a darker red in the stint of the second scribe. Ff. 118r–120r (Latin) are written in quadrata textualis of the late 12c, and ff. 121r–123v (French) are in a similar script but slightly later hand. Apart from these added leaves, medieval arabic numbering of the chapter list, and some medieval notes on ff. 1r, 1v, 3r there are no signs of subsequent use.

COLLATION: i + 1 medieval flyleaves; I⁸ (ff. 2–9), II⁸ (ff. 10–17), III⁸ (ff. 18–25), IV⁸ (ff. 26–33), V⁸ (ff. 34–41), VI⁸ (ff. 42–49), VII⁸ (ff. 50–57), VIII⁸ (ff. 58–65), IX⁸ (ff. 66–73), X⁸ (ff. 74–81), XI⁸ (ff. 82–89), XII⁸ (90–97), XIII⁸ (ff. 98–105), XIV⁸ (ff. 106–113), XV⁸ 2, 3 half-sheets, 6, 7 cancelled, 5, 8 blank (ff. 114–117 + 2 unnumbered blanks) || XVI⁴⁺⁴ two split bifolia (ff. 121–[124]) inserted after 3, stubs projecting before f.119 (ff. 118–[125]).

CONTENTS:

[**Note:** Ker noticed the coincidence of contents with Harley 5431 (Gneuss 440), which is a tall, narrow so-called “pocket book” 228 × 84 mm., 270 ff., a compilation of monastic texts in two parts, the first of the late 10c/early 11c (St. Augustine’s; cf. Emms 1999: 180) containing computus material (ff. 4r–5v), Latin “Regula S. Benedicti” (ff. 6v–106v), 20 long lines, in an elegant insular hand (decorated with style II zoomorphic initials, cf. Gameson 1992: 127 and pl. XIVc), “Capitula of Aachen” (ff. 107r–114r) in a similar contemporary but tighter ductus, probably the same hand, in same layout and similar decoration, **MEMORIALE QVALITER | IN MONASTERIO CON|VERSARE DEBEMVS** (ff. 114r–126v) in hand and ductus of RSB, same layout and decoration; **LVDOVVICVS IMPERA[TOR DE FESTIVITATIBVS ANNI]** (f. 117v), in same style but the text (less first part of title) has been erased to end of page (in Titus the text runs **LUDOUVICUS IMPERA DE FESTIUI|TATIBUS ANNI**). The second component, ff. 127–270, comprises an early 13c compilation of mostly 12c monastic texts.]

f. i blank except for “Titus. A. 4” | ‘VII A’ in early modern hands on the verso;

f. 1r notes (15c) and below, the Cottonian notation of the contents;

f. 1v notes in same 15c hand as on recto.

1. ff. 2r–107r “Regula S. Benedicti” in Latin with the OE translation of Æthelwold intercalated after each chapter (Latin ed. Hanslik 1960, this

manuscript collated as “j”; OE ed. Schröder/ Gneuss 1964, this manuscript collated as “T”):

ff. 2r–3r *Capitula* to RSB: **INCIPIUNT. CAPITULA.** | ‘DE GENERIBVS MONACHORV(M) V(e)l uita. | Qualis debeat esse abba. . . . De eo quod non omnis iustitiae obserua|tio in hác. sit regula constituta.’ [chapters have been numbered in arabic in a 14c/15c hand; titles to chs. 63–65 were skipped and are added at the bottom of f. 3r in a later hand];

ff. 3v/1–5v/21 Prologue (Latin): **IN NOMINE SANCTAE TRINITATIS | INCIPIT REGULĚ PROLOGUS MONA|CHORUM. EXIMII PATRIS BEATIS|SIMI BENEDICTI. ABBATIS.** | ‘A/US/CULTA \O FILI PRECEPTA MAGISTRI ET INCLINA | aure(m) cordis tui’; ends: ‘& regni eius | mereamur esse consortes. amen.’ ff. 5v/23–8v/21 Prologue (OE): ‘Gehyr þu min bearn beboda þines | lareowes. 7 anhyld þinre heorta | eare’; ends: ‘7 gefean mid him ágan moten’;

ff. 8v/22–107r/2 “Reguli S. Benedicti” in 73 chs.: (Latin, ch. 1 beg.) **DE GENERIBUS MONACHORU(M) UEL VITA.** | ‘MONACHORUM QVATTVOR ESSE GE|nera manifestu(m) est’; f. 9v/7 (OE, ch. 1 beg.): ‘Feower synd munuca cynn’ [chapters are normally numbered by the scribe; titles precede the Latin, no titles to OE; within ch. 7, the OE alternates with the Latin in listing the “Twelve Steps of Humility”]; ends with ch. 73: (Latin, no title, ff. 105v/17–106r/17): ‘REGULAM AUTEM HANC DESCRIPSIM(US) | ut hanc obseruantes . . . culmina deo protegente | peruenies. amen.’; (OE, f. 106r/18–107r/1 ‘Þisne regul þ(æt) is lyfes rihtunge we | awritan . . . 7 mid | wunung mid gode eallum þam þe | ðysum regule fyliað.’ || **EXPLICIT REGULA S(AN)C(T) I BENEDICTI | Δ CŪ Γ PA Θ IAC AMEN**

2. ff. 107r/3–111r/16 [Louis the Pious], *Capitula* of Aachen (817), chapters on the regulation of monastic life, often appended to RSB: **ANNO AB INCARNATIONE D(OMI)NI | n(ost)ri ie(s)u chr(ist)i nongentesimo septimo | decimo. imp(er)ii uero gloriosissimi lodo|uici quarto [anno]. sexta id(us) iulii. Cum i(n) domo | a(.)quisgr[a]ni palatii . . .’;** (cap. 1) ‘VT ABBATES MOX UT AD MONASTERIA | sua remeauerint . . .’; ends (cap. 78): ‘Vt uolatilia i(n) nat(a)l(e) d(omini) & in pasche . . . si aute(m) | abbas aut monachi uoluerint abstinere. | in ipsoru(m) maneat arbitrio’ (coll. Boretius 1883: 1.344–48).

3. ff. 111r/17–117v/1 “Memoriale Qualiter”: **MEMORIALE QUALITER IN MONA|STERIO CONUERSARE DEBEMUS.** | ‘NOCTURNISHORIS CU(M) AD OPUS DI|uinu(m) de lectulo surrexerit [corr. to surrexit] fr(ater)’; ends: ‘sic req(ui)escens rog& | ponere ori suo custodia(m).’ Hi

affect(us) in || unu(m) collecti. `citiu(s)' ad memoria(m) reducuntur [*corr. from* – cantur]. (coll. Morgand and Wandrille 1963: 229–61; cf. Mattingly 2009, who also provides a translation).

[Note: According to Mattingly (2009: 62–66), “Memoriale Qualiter” is not by Benedict of Aniane, as commonly thought, but is Gallican, end of 8c, providing a customary for the ritual details of the monastic day.]

4. ff. 117v/2–19 “Ansegisi Capitularium,” Bk. 2, ch. 33 (Ansegisus, Abbot of Fontenelle, d. ca. 834): LUDOUUICUS IMPERA[TOR] DE FESTIUI|TATIBUS ANNI. | ‘FESTOS DIES IN ANNO CAELEBRARE | sanxim(us). hoc est die(m) d(omin)icu(m) pasche. cu(m) | omni honore & sobrietate uenerari . . . quaque parrochia s(an)c-(t)a corpora | requiescunt’ (as Boretius 1883: 422; cf. Cross 1992) [rest of f. 117v blank].

Two blank leaves (unnumbered).

5. (on leaves of later 12c) fragments of a bilingual Latin/French verse RSB:

- a. ff. 118r/1–120r/13 rejected leaves from a Latin copy of “Regula S. Benedicti”: ch. 49: ‘[L]icet omni tempore uita . . . deputabitur & uana || gl(ori)a non mercedi.’ Followed at f. 119r/1 by the title to ch. 50: **Ergo cum uolun|tate abbatis. omnia agenda su(n)t** and then immediately on line 3, the second half of ch. 48, ‘In quadragesime uero diebus’ (Hanslik 117 §14); ending with the chapter (§ 25) ‘Quoru(m) imbecillitas ab abbate consideran|da est’ (as Hanslik 1960: 119–22, 117–19) [rest of f. 120r and all of f. 120v blank].

[Note: The Latin text is on two bifolia = ff. 118, 119 / 120 [125]; the French is on two split bifolia inserted after 120, stubs projecting before f. 119 = ff. 121, 122, 123, [124]. The writing of the Latin and French is by different hands but the style and layout is the same.]

- b. ff. 121r/1–123v/11 an Anglo-Norman version of the same as 5a, from chs. 49, 48: ‘Ja seit iceo ke vie de moine | en tuz tens deüe auer obser|vance de g(ua)ralme . . . la uo|lente del abbe.’ (ch. 48= §14) ‘As iurs de | q(ua)resme del matin iesq(ue) hau|te tierce’; ends: ‘La ma|ladie des quels. del abbe est | agarder’ (for a cognate Norman version, see Dean and Legge 1964: 67–70, cf. 102) [rest of f. 123v blank].

ff. [124–125] blank.

PHOTO NOTE: Enhanced images of ff. i verso 1r, 1v–2r, 42rv, 83rv are presented on a supplementary fiche.

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