

### 304. London, British Library, Royal 15 C. vii

#### “Libellus S. Swithuni”

[Ker 270, Gneuss 496]

**HISTORY:** A beautifully-written volume composed entirely of works concerning St. Swithun (d. 863). The *terminus post quem* of the copy is the date referred to in Lantfred's "Translatio," twenty-five years after that event in 971 or 995/996, and Lapidge thinks it likely that the book was written in that year, which coincided with the translation of St. Aethelwold, the founder of the cult of Swithun (Lapidge 2003: 740); at any rate it is dated on paleographic grounds to ca. 1000; from the Old Minster, Winchester. Shortly after it was written it was marked by another hand into lections for the night office. This copy was probably used by the compiler of the "Liber monasterii Hyda" (15c), who cited ch. 10 of the "Translatio" verbatim (in ch. 12, ed. Edwards 1866: 23–25, cf. Lapidge 2003: 242). Belonged in 1566 to the priest Thomas Dackomb, a canon of Winchester cathedral in the early 1540s, and before and after this rector of St. Mary Colebrook, Winchester (name on f 1\*r, f. 2r, f. 95r); other names appearing are John Stephynson, who may have owned it before Dackomb (mid-16c hand, perhaps the same as the one who received his Oxford M.A. in 1515) (f. 2r), Humphrey Lloyd (d. 1568), brother-in-law of Lumley, who may have acquired it in the short time between Dackomb's signature and his death (f. 2\*v); subsequently owned by Lord Lumley (d. 1609) (f. 2r) from whose collection came many Royal manuscripts (on ownership see Watson 1963). Notes on slip on back fly that f. 1 was re-attached to the volume and that the endpapers were re-attached at back of volume (both items dated 11 Nov. 2006).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** B.M. binding of 19c. paper flyleaf (19c), vellum bifolium for flyleaves (ff. 1\*-2\*, Dackomb's signature on f. 1\*r), medieval vellum flyleaf (f. 1) + 126 (ff. 2–127) + ii (old vellum bifolium as flyleaves) + i (19c paper flyleaf). Book is in pristine condition.

Page size 285 × 213 mm. Parchment very bright, light buff color, thick and stiff, somewhat rough or suede-like to touch, very little H/F contrast.

Arranged HFHF, f. 48, an added singleton has hair recto. Writing area 197 × 127 mm. Pricked and ruled across open sheets before folding with drypoint from top and bottom hair sides for 24 lines. Written almost entirely in a single good anglo-caroline hand in black ink; another later hand finishes f. 82/15. The text on f. 124v is by another, black ink, bright red and green initials, in a late 11c mannered anglo-caroline script; on f. 135rv by another of late 11c, black ink, red title, initials oxidized to gray; and on ff. 125v–126v by yet another, of early 12c, dark brown ink, green major initial (Gneuss says s. xi<sup>ex</sup>). Title on f. 2r in alternating green and red letters (now oxidized to silver); the large initial 'D' is green. Similar treatment on other pages with titles, the large opening lines of the text being in black. A few notes of various dates (11c, 13c, 16c), notae on f. 26r in the form of a bleeding heart and weeping eyes. A few OE glosses, as well as a few Latin glosses by the same gloss hand. Notes in sidebars on f. 50r have red titles. Initials of poetic lines are in alternating green and red.

**COLLATION:** bifolium (ff. 1\*-2\*), flyleaf (f. 1), I<sup>8</sup> wants 1 (ff. 2–8), II<sup>8</sup> (ff. 9–16, 'a'), III<sup>8</sup> (ff. 17–24, 'b'), IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 25–32, 'c'), V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 33–40, 'd'), VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 41–48, 'e'), VII<sup>8+1</sup> added singleton after 1 (ff. 49–57, 'f'), VIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 58–65 'h' [sic]), IX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 66–73, 'i'), X<sup>8</sup> (ff. 74–81, 'k'), XI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 82–89, 'l'), XII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 90–97, 'm'), XIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 98–105, 'n'), XIV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 106–113, 'o'), XV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 114–121, 'p'), XVI<sup>8</sup> wants 6, 7 (ff. 122–127, 'q').

[Note: The signatures are later than the writing and in greasy gray crayon; they appear on the first four rectos of each quire as 'a i, a ii, a iii, a iiiii', etc. There is no signature on the added leaf in quire VII. The scribe was apparently working on the Lantfred and Wulfstan texts simultaneously and had to add a folio to quire VII to accommodate the end of the Lantfred (see Lapidge 2003: 240, n. 147).]

### CONTENTS:

- f. 1\*r 'Dakcomb' signature, verso blank.
- f. 2\*r blank, verso, 'Humfredus Lloyd' signature.
- f. 1, original flyleaf, recto blank, verso used for accounts (16c?).
- 1. ff. 2r–49v Lantfred, "Translatio et Miracula S. Swithuni" (= BHL 7944; ed. and tr. Lapidge 2003: 252–333; cf. Gretsche 2005: 174–92):
  - a. ff. 2r/1–3r/15 Epistle: INCIPIT EPISTOLA DOCTORIS EXIMII | LANTFREDI UENERANDE S(ANCT)ITATIS | PRESBITERI ET MONACHI. DE MIRA|CULIS S(AN)C(T)I SUUIÐHUNI EPISCOPI. | 'DILECTISSIMIS | FRATRIBUS. UUINTONIEꝛ COMMO|rantibus. in s(an)c(t)i PE-TRI coenobio . . . (prose ends) magistram uirtutum. | (dedicatory poem beg.): PANDIT HIC EX MULTIS . . . CORPORE SACRO';

[Note: Ownership marks on f. 2r: (top) ‘Liber d(omi)ni Thomas dakomb 1566’; (top margin) ‘John Stephy(n)so(n)’; (bottom) ‘Lumley’.]

- b. ff. 3r/16–6r/10 Preface: ‘NOTUM EST FR<ATRIBU>S | FIDELIBUS UBIQ<UE> GENTIUM | degentibus . . . uspiam utriusq<ue> sospitatis uite dinoscitur reddidisse.’ | **EXPLICIT PRĒFATIO.** [mark for night office, ‘Tu autem’ in marg. f. 6r];
- c. ff. 6r/10–49v/7 Text: (ch. 1) **INCIPIT NAR|RATIO DE UISISIONE [sic] FABRI.** | ‘TRIENNIO IGITVR | antequam s<(an)c<(t)ae egregii ac uenerabiles | presulis exuuiae’ [chs. 2–39 have titles as in the ed.]; ends (ch. 40, or conclusion, no title): ‘qui nos purg& ab omni | crimine. & perducatur ad cęlica tempe.’ **FINIT LIBELLUS DE MIRACULIS S<(AN)<(T)>I | SUUITHUNI EP<(SCOP)>I.**
2. ff. 49v/8–50v/24 “An Epanaleptic Hymn for St. Swithun’s Deposition”: **INCIPIT HYMNUS | IN HONORE IPSIUS P<(ER) ALPHABETU<(M) CO<(M)POSITUS | AUREA LUX PĀTRIE . UUENTĀNA SPLENDET IN URBE . | Suuithun s<(an)c<(tu)s adest . Aurea lux patriae . . . Stént & in angélico . Nómina nostra chóro.’ | **FINIT HYMNUS IN HONORE S<(AN)<(T)>I ET | BEATI PATRIS SUUITHUNI . . . SOLLEMPNITER RECITATUS.** (ed. Lapidge 2003: 784–86).**
3. Wulfstan, Precentor of Winchester (fl. 900 × 1000), “Narratio Metrica de S. Swithuno” (= BHL 7947; ed. and tr. Lapidge 2003: 373–551, also ed. Campbell 1950: 66–177):
- a. ff. 51r/1–58r/1 Dedicatory letter to Archbishop Ælfheah: **INCIPIT AD DOMNUM SPECIALIS | EPISTOLA PATREM ÆLFEGUM . . . QUI LĪMEN OLIMPI.** | ‘Domno pontifici. uuentānam príncipe chr<(ist)o’ [divided into sections by marginal titles: (f. 52r) **De dedicatione | magnę eccl<(esi)ę** ‘Sic constructa micat . . .’; (f. 53r) **De orientali | porticu** ‘His super antistes . . .’; (f. 53v) **De criptis.** ‘U<(es)tra cui statim . . .’; (54r/2, in text) **De organis.** | ‘Talia & auxistis . . .’; (54v) **De turris | aedificio.** ‘Insuper excelsum . . .’; (f. 55r) **De eius | dedicatione** ‘Cuius nuper erant . . .’; ends: ‘Unus ubique potens In trinitate d<(eu)s. AMEN’ | **EXPLICIT AD DOMNUM. SPECIALIS | EPISTOLA PATREM. ÆLFEGUM || UUENTAM QUI REGIT ECCLESIAM.**
- b. ff. 58r/2–59r/19 “General Dedicatory Letter to the Monks of the Old Minster” [versified version of Lantfred, “Epistola” as in 1a above]: **INCIPIT AD CUNCTOS GENERALIS | EPISTOLA FRATRES. QUI BAIOLANT | INIBI. SUAUE IUGUM D<(OMI)NI.** | ‘Fratribus aeternae crescant augmenta salutis’; ends: ‘sól& altum scándere caelum.’ | **EXPLICIT AD CUNCTOS GENERALIS | EPISTOLA FRATRES. QUI D<(OMI)NO UUENTA | FAMULANTUR IN URBE UENUSTA.**

- c. ff. 59r/20–63r/23 “Preface” [versified version of Lantfred, “Preface,” as in 1b above]: INCIPIT EXIGUI PRAEFATIO | STRICTA LIBELLI. PARUA CANENS . . . ET EUM. FUT UNDE EXPULSUS IN ORTUM. | ‘Omnibus est notum quadri per climata mundi’; ends: ‘Reddere corpóream. totiens animêq(ue) salutem.’ | EXPLICIT EXIGUI PRAEFATIO . . . QUI SANGUINE MUNDUM.
- d. ff. 63r/23–64r/2 Bk. 1, Capitula: INCIPIUNT | TITULI. DE SIGNIS PRESULIS ALMI. || INCIPIUNT CAPITULA DE MIRACULIS | S(AN)C(T)I SUUIÐHUNI EP(ISCOP)I ET CONFESSORIS. | ‘I De uisione fabri . . . xxii De quattuor aegris utriusque sexus.’ | EXPLICIUNT CAPITULA PRIORIS | LIBELLI.
- e. ff. 64r/2–98v/22 Bk. 1 of “Translatio et Miracula” [versified version of Lantfred, chs. 1–19; Wulfstan’s chs. 4–6 are not in Lantfred], 19 chs., with titles; INCIPIT UERA NARRATIO. | QUOMODO S(AN)C(TU)S ANTIISTES SUUIITHUNUS. | ANTEQUAM S(AN)C(T)AE RELIQUIAE ILLIUS | SUBLATAE ESSENT DE MONUMENTO. | CUIDAM FABRO PER UISUM APPARUIT. | ET EUM UT SUAM LEGATIONEM CUIDA(M) | EADZINO [*sic*] CANONICO MANDARET AMMONUIT. | ‘PRIMA D(E)I NVTV | PATUIT HAEC UISIO. TERNIS | Solibus. ante sâcri quam cum caelestibus hymnis’; ends: ‘Cui man& imperium. nunc & sine fine per euum. | EXPLICIT EXICUI. PRIOR | AEGRA CAMENA LIBELLI.
- f. f. 98V/23–99v/1 Bk. 2, INCIPIT EIUSDEM. PERUILE | POEMA SECUNDUM. Capitula: INCIPIUNT CAPITULA SEQUENTIS | LIBELLI DE MIRACULIS S(AN)C(T)I SWIÐH(UNI) EP(ISCOP)I | ‘I De fabrica arcae. & de eius translatione . . . xxii De seruo compedibus uincto.’ | EXPLICIUNT CAPITULA.
- g. ff. 99v/1–124v/10 Bk. 2 of “Translatio et Miracula” [= Lantfred, chs. 20–40, but Wulfstan’s first ch., describing the shrine, is not in Lantfred]: INCIPIT | DE FABRICA ARCAE ET DE S(ECUN)DA | S(AN)C(T)I UIRI TRANSLATIONE. QUÊ | FACTA EST DIE. UIII. IDUS OCTOBR(IS) | REGE EADGARO IMPERANTE. | ‘HAS INTER VIRTVTIS | OPES. REX INCLITUS EADGAR. | Promissum complêuit opus’; ends: (ch. 40, untitled, f. 124v/4) ‘Qua propter fratres . . . Cúm(ue) suis s(an)c(t)is sublim& in arce polorum. AM(EN).’
4. f. 124v/12–22 (in a different hand of late 11c) “Titulus on a Bridge built by St. Swithun”: ‘Hanc porta(m) presens cernis q(ui)cum(ue) uiator . . . Tunc erat & uertens indictio septima cursu(m)’ (ed. and tr. Lapidge 2003: 782).
5. ff. 125r/1–125v/13 (in yet another late 11c hand) “A Rhythmical Poem on St. Swithun’s Miracle with the Eggs”: VNV(M) BEATI SVVITHVNI

MIRACVLVM | 'INTER SIGNA GLORIOSI SVVITHUNI ANTISTITIS. | Quę per eum rex cęlestis . . . Et ad sui cultum corda excitant fidelia' (ed. and tr. Lapidge 2003: 795).

6. f. 125v/15–126v/6 (added in an early 12c hand): "Breviate 'Vita et Miracula Swithuni'" (Royal-Digby Epitome): 'Anno igitur centesimo decimo post t(r)ansitu(m) beatis|simi antistitis SWITHVNI . . . honor & gl(ori)a in s(e)c(u)la s(e)c(u)lor(um). AMEN.' (ed. Lapidge 2003: 700)

OE Content: Glosses to item 3e above, f. 109r/1 'heapslege' ('plectro'), f. 111r/13 all on one line, in red ink 'kyrpte' ('Plecter&'), 'sweordes' ('gladii'), 'mid ecge' ('mucrone'), 'abrodenes' ('recti') (ed. Meritt 1945: 42, no. 32; the same glosses, less 'sweordes', occur in the copy of Wulfstan's poem in Bodleian Auct. 5. 2. 14 (2657) [344], f. 39r, 40v). The same gloss hand enters some Latin glosses in Royal, e.g., f. 106r to line 6.

PHOTO NOTES: Ink foliation runs only to f. 3. The subsequent B.L. pencil foliation is not visible on the fiche, but the signatures, which count up the four on-folios, are (cf. "Collation").]

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