

## 9. Basel, Öffentliche Bibliothek des Universitäts F.III.15a

Isidore, “De rerum natura” (with quire of computus diagrams); Ps.-Isidore, “Differentiae,” Jerome, Ep. 60

[Ker App. 2; Gneuss —; Lowe 7.842/843]

**HISTORY:** A compilation of two contemporary manuscripts of slightly different format, the first quire of the first part wanting. Written in a continental center with an A-S tradition, most likely Fulda, using “pointed” A-S minuscule scripts of 8c/9c, one hand on ff. 1v–23v and two others on ff. 24v–32v (Bergmann and Stricker 2005: 1.180). Other near-contemporary hands have added medical recipes, charms, etc. The warrant for inclusion of this manuscript in the series is an OHG charm on f. 17r which is thought to derive directly from an OE one. The manuscript was at Fulda by the 15c as shown by its Fulda shelfmark ‘vii or. 7’ and its likely earlier presence there is indicated by the name ‘RATGAR’ (or ‘RATGART’ or ‘RATCART’; see Lehmann 1925: 13–14) incised on the ancient cover, probably a reference to the abbot of Fulda of that name (802–817). According to Lowe, Basel OBU F.III.15f (Lowe 7.848, Gneuss no. 786), the earliest English witness to Isidore’s “De rerum natura,” of the 8c, which is of certain early Fulda provenance, was the source of astronomical notes in F.III.15a (see also Corradini 2003: 306–7 and Christ 1933: 166). The oldest Fulda booklist is on ff. 17–18. This manuscript (as well as F.III.15f) was acquired ca. 1630 by the Basel professor Remigius Faesch (d. 1667), who, Fontaine (1960: 310) supposes, is responsible for the early modern notes and chapter numbers in item 1. Repaired by W. Bitz in 1950.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Cover of thick vellum over wood boards. Cover has ink inscription at top: ‘liber Isidori. de ordine c(re)-atura<rum> 7 | id est Rotar(um) uij’; beneath this the name ‘RAT(G)AR(T)’ appears. Basel book stamp ‘BIBL PUBL BASILEENSIS’ appears on fol. 1r. Pencil note at top of 1v: ‘Isidori | De natura rerum.’ Manuscript has been boxed, box including a paper copy of ultraviolet photograph (of poor quality) of fol. 17r.

[Note: The binding has been altered, the cover being limp. Van Regemorter (1992: 147–48) describes it thus: “The skin of the binding is dry, with the title written on the first side and also on the spine; the latter is almost illegible. Restored in 1950, the original sewing was not retained. Small holes forming two little lines, one 46 mm. from the head, the other 44 mm. from the tail, are traces of the way in which the book was attached to its covering. This is a proof of a primitive sewing with two separate threads.”]

Leaves arranged HHHH and in quires I–III measure approximately 249 × 192 mm.; nearly all of them have been trimmed. Writing area 200 × 146 mm., for 26–27 lines, with slits in both margins to guide rulings, no bounding lines. Quire IV has pricking on both sides and at top and bottom, producing a writing area of 190 × 150 mm.; prickings and rulings are heavier in this quire than in the preceding three. Text in dark brown ink, rubrics in red. Illuminated initials in red and yellow. The hand of at least one collator has added rubrics at f. 4v (‘De positione VII. stellaru(m) | Errantium .C.XXIII.’), f. 5r (‘de lumine astrorum C.XXIV.’), f. 5v (‘C.XXVI.’ has been added to the rubric). The bottom of f. 17r has been ruled for two columns of 6 lines of OHG with a writing area 145 mm. wide (column one 80 mm. wide, column two 62 mm.). Nineteen lines of OHG have been erased from f. 17v; the text of charms, one an OHG charm derived from OE, have been added on the lower part of the page. Quire III (fols. 18–23) consists of colored charts: f. 18r filled in with red and yellow; f. 18v faded red, yellow, and green; f. 19r (mismarked ‘20’) red, green, yellow, and black, the face (of “Sol”) at the top painted red; f. 19v deep red, faded green, and yellow; f. 20r yellow, deep red, orange; f. 20v chart is unpainted; f. 21r faded yellow and orange; f. 21v rings in green, yellow, and orange, face in red, torso in yellow; f. 22r a faded red ring around central text; f. 22v is unpainted.

The last quire, IV, ff. 24–32, which is a separate booklet, is 245 × 192 mm., and has a writing area of 195 × 148 mm. with heavy vertical prickings either side of grid; vellum sheets ruled for 26 lines, single bounding lines, ink greyish-brown. The script is A-S pointed minuscule by several scribes (Lowe), probably two. F. 27r has suffered some water damage and staining. The originally blank f. 31v had added OHG writing that has been subsequently scraped off.

The fold and slice in the vellum at f. 9r is original since the text has been accommodated to the defect; so too at f. 29r (with a break in vellum at top left) and ff. 30–31 (which have holes in the vellum), where text has been written around defects. Crack in vellum at f. 4r is covered with glassine.

**COLLATION:** I<sup>8+1</sup> leaf added before f. 2 (ff. 1–9), II<sup>10</sup> 3 and 7 half-sheets (ff. 10–17), III<sup>6</sup> (ff. 18–23), IV<sup>10</sup> wants 6 after f. 29, ff. 26 and 30 half-sheets (ff. 24–32).

[**Note:** One quire at beginning is wanting. Signatures at bottom of first recto, quire I 'b', quire II 'c'; quire III composed of illustrations (figures), its outside sheet (ff. 18/23) of thinner vellum; quire IV a separate booklet.]

## CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r/1–16v/1 Isidore of Seville, “De natura rerum” [chapter numbers and notes on lacunae added in early modern hand, which also adds the titles on ff. 10v, 12r, 13v, 14v, 15r]: (beg. imperf. in ch. 15) ‘Scriptum est. uobis autem qui creditis orietur sol iustitiae . . . aeterni ignis calore torquebit.’ | **de quantitate solis (c. xvi)** | ‘RUrsus in eadem [sic] opere doctor idem testatur’; ends: ‘Totius autem terrae || mensuram geometrici lxx stadiorum aestimauerunt. | Finit.’ (ed. and tr. Fontaine 1960: 228–327, this is his text “F”). Figures in the text: f. 5r, circular diagram of the periods of the planets (ch. 23, cf. Fontaine 1960: 260 bis), f. 11r, *rota uentorum* (ch. 37; cf. Fontaine 1960: 296 bis; cf. Obrist 2001:5).

[**Note:** At f. 3v/16, in ch. 19, the exemplar had a leaf or more missing, as the text jumps in mid-sentence to the middle of ch. 22 “De cursu stellarum”: ‘detrimentisq(ue) ~ inter se distantium circularu(m)’ (Fontaine 1960: 247/13 ~ 255/11). There is an early modern note of explanation at the bottom of f. 3v with a *signe de renvoi* at the appropriate point in the text.]

2. f. 16v/6–16 Isidorean Mappa Mundi, with inscription: ‘TAUrus ad occidentem | respicit . . . Caspricornus [sic] | ad occidentem respicit’ (facs. Kamāl 1926/53/1987: 3. pl. 511a; cf. McCready 1996: 118).

3. f. 16v/18–17r/2 [set over to right, as if remainder of page is set up for two columns, which f. 17r is] A list of months, with Latin name, sign of zodiac, number of days, and Greek name of zodiacal sign: ‘Kł [ia]nuã aquarius xxxi ydrocos . . . decēm capricorn xxxi euoceros’ (cf. Obrist 2001: 5).

4. f. 17ra/3–8 ‘iii dies ianū ii dies feb . . . iii dies iul̄ xiii dies au’; a second table of correspondences, with numbers of days and months (cf. Obrist 2001: 5).

[**Note:** at line 9a is a heading by the main scribe TITULUS SEPULCHRI PAULÆ, the rest of the page originally left blank.]

f. 17r, mostly originally blank, has additions by three scribes:

5. f. 17ra/7-b/1–25 (added) Recipe “against fever” in Latin, then OHG (ed. Steinmeyer 1916: 39; facs. of this page Enneccerus 1897: pl. 17, Eis 1949:

pl. 6; item b belongs with the “German-A-S” type of hand,” Bischoff 1981: 87):

- a. f. 17ra/7–14 (upright, neat A-S-type hand) Latin charm against fever: ‘.ii. putdiglas iii si plus necessarium est murrū. | sulffor. piperus. plantagines tuos . . . iii. nocte stet’ (pr. Eis 1949: 26, plate of f. 17r at 27);
- b. f. 17ra/15-b/1–25 (in a different insular hand influenced by continental ductus) OHG, interpreting the Latin of the preceding and adding instructions for performance: ‘murra seuina uuiroh daz rota’ peffur, uuiroh daz ueeihha . . . ipu iz noh | danne fahe. danne diu nah gitrun | can si. gigare man de antra flas|gun folla’ (ed. Steinmeyer 1916: 39).
6. f. 17r/26–30 added OHG Charm (in a different hand from the preceding, having a marked A-S appearance, in long lines beneath the preceding): **uuidhar cancur.** ‘braenni. salz. endi saiffun. endi rhoz aostorscalala . . . Dęz uuzsae. aende. hounog.’ rhene. lachina. mid diu daez. dolg’ (ed. Steinmeyer 1916: 39–40, Eis 1949: 26; cf. Heffner 1947, Nedoma 1997).

[Note: The consensus is that this is an OHG transcription of an OE original, cf. Steinmeyer (1916: 41–42); no. 6 uses OE ‘þ’ (2x) beside ‘th’ and OE ‘ð’ once. All three hands are of A-S minuscule type. Heffner (1947: 248, 253) thought the hand copying the OHG was insular and employed “insular peculiarities of orthography,” though he had thought the third Basel charm “points to an original in High German, not Old English.” Seebold (2001: 23), in a dialectal analysis, has more recently observed the same but also notes that “[d]as Feber-Rezept (etwa 156 Wörter) scheint fränkisch (*peffur* ist eindeutig mitteldeutsch) mit bairischem Substrat zu sein; das Krebsrezept (etwa 78 Wörter) hat stärker nördliche Formen und ist wohl durch Altenglisch beeinflusst.”]

7. ff. 17v/1–19, 18r/1–2 Fulda booklist of 8c/9c (text on f. 17v erased, text transcribed and reconstructed by Lehmann 1925: 48–52, photo after p. 52; reported text on f. 17v is taken entirely from Lehmann): [‘Isti n(ost)ri g(re)gis libri | U(..) de u(. . . . .) euangelii s(cid)ul(a) s(an)c(tu)s lucas . . . in unum librum (. . . . .) || liber uita s(an)c(t)orum dormientium in effeso ‘qui’ dormierunt & in ilum | librum s(un)t chronih 7 s(an)c(t)i furseus lib(er) sententialis liber. liber alexantri’ (also ed. Schrimpf 1992: 5–11, Lapidge 2006: 151–3).
8. Two prayers for relief from emission of blood (in the same hand as no. 6):
  - a. f. 17v/21–25 addressed to St. Veronica: ‘beronice beronice beronice libera me de sanguinibus . . . fluenta sanguinis’ (pr. Lehmann 1925: 47; a variant version in Royal 2. A. xx [283], f. 49rv, pr. Howlett 1998: 64–5; see Kuypers 1902: 223);

b. ff. 17v/26–29, 18r/1–3 up, A charm against bleeding (?), addressed to Christ: ‘+a+e+n+o+l+a+s+e+n+o+l+a+ g+l+u+a+ d(omi)ne ie(su)s chr(istu)s qui In | patibulum crucis . . . s(an)c(tu)s s(an)c(tu)s s(an)c(tu)s cirieleyson cirieleyson || cirioleiso + ribus [sc. riuos] cruoris dorridi [sc. torridi] contacta uestis obstruit | fletu rogantes [sc. rigantes] suplices arrent fluenta sanguinis libera me | de sanguinibus’ (pr. Lehman 1925: 47–48).

[Note: This charm, also occurring in BL, Royal 2.A.xx [283], was termed by Warren (1895: 2.100, see also Walpole 1922, no. 156) “a charm against bleeding”; this and the preceding include in their fomulae Ps. 50.16, “libera me de sanguinibus Deus Deus salutis meae” (see Sims-Williams 1990: 299–300, Jolly 2006: 62 and n. 12) and lines from Sedulius’ hymn on St. Veronica “A solis ortus cardine” (Schaller and Könsgen 1977: no. 33.)

9. ff. 18r–23v Figures (comprising quire III):

a. f. 18r ‘P(er) hanc | Formula(e) | lunae cursus | in duob(us) sol|stittiis desig|natur’ (cf. Isidore, *Etym.* 5.34, “De solstittiis et aequinoctiis” [PL 82.220] and *De nat. rer.* 6.2, “De annis” [PL 83.971]);

b. f. 18v ‘circulus equinoctialis’, ‘circulus temperatus et solstitialis’, etc.; [Note: One of a pair of charts representing the vault of heaven (*vertex caeli*), the other at f. 20r, which, according to Obrist (2001: 7) represent “deux inclinaisons différentes de la sphère mobile”; the first chart corresponds to Isidore, *De nat. rer.* 10.1 (“De quinque circulis”; compare also Bede, *De temp. rat.* 34). The outer top left and center of the sphere is marked ‘vertex caeli’, the outside bottom edge of the sphere is marked ‘cardo’ at end of diameter line.]

c. f. 19r [foliated ‘20’] ‘hic est solis | et lunae cursus | per xii menses et | quanto tardior sit. | luna qua(m) sol et item | sol quantum se sub|trahat caelo per | singulos men|ses’ (the figure of the sun with curled hair representing its rays is reminiscent of classical and late classical figurations of *sol inuictus*);

d. f. 19v chart of course of solstices and equinoxes (cf. Obrist 2001:8): ‘hoc modo solis | cursus hiemalis | et aequinoctialis | et aestius designa|tur’ (cf. Isidore, *Etym.* 5.34);

e. f. 20r second figure of celestial vault (see 9b above, and Obrist 2001: 7): ‘hic est uertix | caeli septemtrio|nalis in quo arctur|rus rotatur qui sig|niferum errans | premit et ele|uat’;

f. f. 20v Tropics dividing the earth into habitable and inhabitable climatic zones (see Obrist 2001: 8, McCready 1996: 109–13);

[Note: An almost identical chart with very similar rubrics occurs in Köln, Dombibliothek 83 (II), dated to 798 × 805; Köln preserves a number of items in common with Basel F.III.15a, as well as scholia to Aratus’s *Phaenomena*, and also shares much of its contents with Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 309 (the “Sirmond

manuscript”), a copy of an Irish computus employed by Bede in compiling *De temp. rat.* (cf. Wallis 1999: lxxii; Jones 1937: 204–5).]

g. f. 21r Periods of the moon in relation to annual course of sun, ‘hic solem inuenit luna’;

h. f. 21v Chart of the hours of moonlight (see Bede, *De temp. rat.* 24);

[Note: The ‘dionisius’ inside the second concentric layer (counting from the outside) is likely Dionysius Exiguus whose computistical method Bede drew on. Similar material appears in the somewhat later *De rer. nat.* (= *De universo*) of Hrabanus Maurus (PL 111.285). The material here on “saltus lunae” may derive from or at least be related to the *De saltu lunae* of pseudo-Alcuin (cf. Springsfeld 2002: 291–3).]

i. f. 22r Above, pyramidal figure of length of days through year and calculation of days, hours, and moments in a year; below, “Kosmos-mundus” circular diagram of directions and winds, with Latin and Greek names;

[Note: The text in the pyramidal figure is ‘xii | menses | ebdomadae lii | et unus dies dies ccclxu. | momenta cccl.dclx. horae uiiii. dcclx’ (pr. Springsfeld 2002 under rubric “LXIII De quattuor temporibus in anno”: this copy is out of order, with ‘momenta’ before ‘horae’). It bears relation to Dionysius Exiguus, *Lib. de paschate* among the “arumenta paschalia” (e.g., Argumentum XVI, PL 67.506; cf. Krusch 1938: 195–205). Obrist sees the lower figure as a rare example of a Vegetian wind diagram preserved outside its textual context; the wind diagram is found in a palimpsest copy of Vegetius *Epitoma rei militaris* in Vatican, Bibl. Apost. Vat. Reg. lat. 2077 (ca. 700, corresponding figure at f. 99r); a central medallion in the circular diagram is inscribed with Greco-Latin ‘koc|moc + mun|dus’ in cross-pattern, Latin names of cardinal directions marked out by segments (cf. Obrist 1997: 46–8 and fig. 8; also Obrist 2001: 8). Köln, Dombibl. 83 (II), mentioned in note to 9f. above, has a similar diagram at f. 141r. Eastwood traces the tradition of the schematic of the cardinal winds and *rotae* diagrams as found here and in Isidore and Bede back to Pliny, transmitted perhaps via Irish monks (cf. Orchard 1994: 212–3) and to the continent by English monks ca. 800.]

j. f. 22v Three circular diagrams: (i) ‘spera samson id (est) solis et forma’, with *sol inuictus* style portrait of the sun and giving the position of the sun in the twelve signs of the zodiac and corresponding month, and four cardinal points; (ii) ‘spera lunę. et forma’, with portrait of moon and giving similar information; (iii). ‘ordo lunę | et cursus’, concerning the lunar months (cf. Obrist 2001: 8 and fig. 6);

k. f. 23r Zodiac;

[Note: Obrist (2001: 5–12, figs. 8–11 at 10) notes the close pictorial resemblance between these computistical and astronomical materials and other carolingian zodiacs in the Ratisbon codex, Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek clm. 14456 (f. 73r) and the St. Arsacius, Ilmenmünster codex, Bibl. Apost. Vat., Vat. lat. 3101 (f. 34v); these are more elaborate in their representation than but clearly modelled

on the tradition of the Basel codex. She traces the textual history of the tables of correspondence and lists in the astronomical and zodiacal material to an 8c A-S model from Bede to Aelberht (archb. of York 767–782) and Alcuin; she notes not just classical influence, such as the influence of the Roman iconography of *Sol invictus* upon the *sol* central medallion (f. 22v), but also sees a resemblance between the Basel portraits of the Gemini and the figural representation of the Franks Casket (see 21–22, fig. 6 at 8).]

- l. f. 23v Portable sundial, with schematic representation of sun: ‘OROLOGIUM UIATORUM’ (cf. Ps.-Bede, *De mensura horologii*, PL 90. 953; Obrist 2000, at fig. 4; Obrist 2001: 8).
10. f. 24r/1–29v/17 Ps.-Isidore, “Differentiae sive De proprietate sermo- num,” unalphabetized (cf. Isidore, “Differentiarum,” PL 83.9–70): ‘Inter polliceri et p(ro)mittere hoc interest q(uo)d promitt(im)us rogati. Inter polli|cemus [sic] ultro’; 1 leaf wanting after f. 28; ends: ‘Int(er) monumentu(m) et monumentu(m) hoc inter(est) q(uo)d monumentu(m) | memoriae monimentu(m) sepulturae dicim(u)s. finit.’
11. f. 29v/18–31r, 32r/1–11 epitome of Jerome, Ep. 60 “Ad Heliodorum”: ‘Grandes materias ingenia parua n(on) suffer(an)t. et in ipso conatu ultra | uires cassa [*recte* ausa, *var.* causa] subcumbunt’; ends: ‘lucrum | facimus q(uo)d chr(ist)i seruitute consumimus. Dificile (est) stare in loco petri aut cathe|dra(m) pauli tenere c(um) chr(ist)o regnantu(m) finit’ (cf. the edition of Hilberg 1910–18: 1.548–75, also PL 22.589). F. 31v has been scraped off; some writing in a carolingian script that appears later than that of the main hands is vaguely visible but illegible. [Note: Jerome’s epistle is much reduced and revised: the discourse is generalized and made more pertinent to a medieval monastic audience and almost all pagan literary and secular historical references have been avoided. Chs. 10 and 11, the most overtly monastic chapters, are the most fully represented, but all 19 chapters are sketched. A “florilegium containing only portions of the text, generally in paraphrase,” exists in Lyons, Bibl. de la Ville 600 (517), 7c/8c (Scourfield 1993: 34), and to judge from Hilberg’s apparatus (p. 548), it is similar to this one in its selections. Although the text skips f. 31v, it has no gap: it goes from f. 31r to 32r thus: ‘Moyses contra | amalech non gladio || sed oratione pugnavit’, which happens to be exactly the same as Hilberg’s text (1.572/14–15). Apparently the verso was left blank because the scribe had already found it difficult to write on the recto, given its many holes. The scraping must have aimed to remove a later added text, now illegible.]
12. f. f. 32r/12–13 Colophon to Servius (Marius Servius Honoratus), “De centum metris”: ‘habes lector in co[m]penda discendi manuale(m) libellu(m) qua(m) magis p(ro)babis si tibi ussus | scribendi p(re)tiu(m) uoluntas exsoluat’ (see Keil 1864/1961: 4.467)

13. ff. 32r/14–32v/ list of “Five Universal Synods”: ‘De quinq(ue) sinodis uniuersalibus. s(an)c(t)a sinodus prima in tempore constantini | regis .ccc.x et uiii. . . . Uigilius | pap(a) rom(ae) euthichius constantinop(olitanus) do(m)inus anticensus.’

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