

315. London, Lambeth Palace Library MS 377
Isidore, “Liber sententiarum” (“De summo bono”)
[Ker 279, Gneuss 515]

HISTORY: A 9c manuscript of the “Liber sententiarum” by Isidore of Seville, often known under the title “De summo bono,” taken from its first words. The manuscript presumably originates from Tours (Bischoff 2004: 125; Gneuss, no. 515). It was corrected and annotated by an A-S scribe in the 10c, and, later on, belonged to the Augustinian priory of Lanthony Secunda in Gloucester, as is shown by entry 147 in their catalogue from 1355–1360, now London, British Library, MS Harley 460, in which it was classified as a ‘mediocris liber’ (Webber and Watson 1998: 53). The same catalogue also indicates that this book was one of five from the vicar of Cherington, a manor held by Lanthony Priory. James and Jenkins (1932: 519) noticed that at the top of f. Av there is the name ‘morganus canonicus de kermerd(en),’ now erased and largely illegible. This may indicate that the book came from the Augustinian priory of Carmarthen, which was placed under the custody of Lanthony by King Henry V in 1421 for a period of two years. Webber and Watson (1998: 34) note that at least ten books from Carmarthen remained behind at Lanthony, which is evident from the books bearing the name of Morgan, canon of Carmarthen. After the dissolution of the monasteries the books from Lanthony probably stayed with the last prior, Richard Hart (Webber and Watson 1998: 34, 36), from whose collection a substantial number were acquired in the early 17c by Archbishop Richard Bancroft (1544–1610), the founder of the Library of Lambeth Palace, as is shown by the catalogue of his manuscripts, compiled in 1612. An old press mark at the bottom of f. [A] recto, ‘E. 13,’ marks the place of the book in the pre-1647 library. James (1932: 519) lists the press mark given to the manuscript when it arrived in Cambridge in 1647: L. ε. 4’ (see the “History” of Lambeth Palace Library 173 [312], p. 90). In the modern critical edition of the *Sententiae* this manuscript is designated “Z” (Cazier 1998: lxx).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Membrane; ii + 170 + ii folios (after f. 135 one leaf is not foliated), measuring 239–231 × 181–182 mm., written space 177–180 × 117–120 mm., ruled in dry point for 19 and 21 long lines, with single vertical bounding lines, not continuing into the margins. The first and the last horizontal lines function as horizontal bounding lines and continue into the margins. Writing is on top-line. The change from 19 to 21 lines occurs from f. 57v to f. 58r and marks the transition from quires VIII to IX. The average line height for 19 lines is 9.6 mm.; for 21 lines it is 8.5 mm. There are no prickings visible. The imprint of the ruling is not entirely regular. In most of the quires the gutters of the imprint are best visible on the inside folios of the quire, but this is not always the case. After f. 39, there is an unnumbered strip of parchment bound in after quire V. It was ruled in dry point for 28 lines, imprint is from the verso to the recto; it contains 23 lines of text on the recto side; the verso side is blank. The quires of this manuscript were given signatures twice: once in ink with capital letters 'A' to 'Z,' at the center of the lower margins of the first folio of each quire, probably in the 17c, and the second time in pencil, in arabic numerals '1' to '24' (one quire more than the earlier count) at the right side of the lower margins of each first folio in a quire, probably in the 1950s when the present binding was restored. The arrangement of the quires is completely regular. Each quire begins with a hair side, after which flesh faces flesh and hair faces hair (HFHF).

The first 25 leaves are very brittle on the outer edges, but the quality improves in the rest of the manuscript. The recto side of the first unnumbered leaf [A] is very faint, and part of the text has completely faded away. The manuscript has been used as a quarry for strips of parchment, as a result of which many margins have been cut away from the bottom and sides of the pages. The outer margins have been cut away, without loss of text, from ff. 18, 19, 91, 107 (partly trimmed), 162, and 165. The lower margins have been cut away from ff. 22 (resulting in a cut in f. 21), 36, 53, 78, 79, 80, 111 (cut visible in 112), 115, 116 (cut visible in 117), 119 (f. 120 is slashed as a result), 134, 143, 145, 146, 148, and 160. From both ff. 96 and 149 the outer and lower margins are cut away; from f. 167 the lower margin and part of the upper margin is cut away; and f. 169 has been stripped of all its margins, which has resulted in the loss of the first two lines of text on the page. F. 32 is badly damaged and torn.

The hand is a caroline minuscule: ff. 1–52 are in one larger hand, and ff. 52–57 in a smaller hand, with the exception of f. 56, a slip which is written in a minuscule hand showing A-S characteristics. The remainder of the manuscript is written in a hand that is similar to that of ff. 1–52, but the

hand appears larger because of the reduced line height. On ff. 135–138 the size of the hand decreases somewhat, but it returns to its normal size after f. 138. Many of the glosses are in an A-S hand, dated by Ker (*Cat.*, p. 342) to the middle of the 10c. The manuscript does not show much decoration. Initials are simple and in red, and so are the headings of the chapters, which are in uncials, usually in red. Sometimes the color of the red has oxidized to the point of vanishing. There is a great variety of marginalia in this manuscript, in the form of text, underlinings, and sketches.

The manuscript is bound in “a lightish calf, plain except for a double fillet round the edges, and two double fillets vertically down each cover, a bit out from the spine” (Ker 1972: 7). The archiepiscopal coat of arms of Archbishop William Sancroft (1678, deprived 1690) is on the front and on the back covers; on the new spine it reads in gold lettering: ‘ISIDORUS DE SUMMO BONO’; and ‘COD. LAMBETH. 377.’ This binding is known as a Sancroft binding on account of the fact that Sancroft rebound a substantial number of books in the then-existing library. At the beginning and at the end of the book there are two paper flyleaves which date from the same time as the binding (17c). The first parchment leaf of the manuscript is unnumbered, but it is not an old flyleaf.

COLLATION: ii+170+ii: I–IV⁸ (ff. [A], 1–31); V⁸ + unnumbered slip after 8 (ff. 32–39); VI⁸ (ff. 40–47); VII⁴ (ff. 48–51); VIII⁸ 1, 2 canceled, stubs visible before f. 52 (ff. 52–57); IX–XIII⁸ (ff. 58–97); XIV–XV² ff. 98–99 a bifolium and ff. 100–101 two half sheets bound in with the previous bifolium, so that the stubs are visible before f. 98; the two were regarded as one quire in the 17c, but later seen as two quires on account of the break between two texts (ff. 98–101); XVI–XIX⁸ (ff. 102–133); XX⁶ (ff. 134–135, [135bis], 136–138); XXI–XXII⁸ (ff. 139–154); XXIII⁸ + 1 after 8, stub visible before f. 155 (ff. 155–163); XXIV⁸ 5, 6 canceled, stubs visible between ff. 167 and 168 (ff. 164–169).

[Note: Folio ‘135’ is followed by an unfoliated leaf. There are two sets of signatures: the quires are marked A–Z, and 1–24, respectively. The roman signature numerals are 17c, the arabic seem to be 19c.]

CONTENTS (as Cazier 1998, this manuscript noted but not collated; also as PL 83.437–738):

f. [A]r–v Table of contents, Bk. 1: INCIPIUNT CAPITULA | LIBRI PRIMI: | ‘Q[uo]d d[eu]s summus et incom[m]utabilis sit . . . XXXI De gloria s[an]c[t]orum’ | EXPLICIVNT CAPITVLA | LIBRI PRIMI (Cazier 1998:3);

[**Note:** At the top of f. [A]v is the name, ‘morganus canonicus de kermerd(en),’ now erased and largely illegible. Restrictions on the use of UV light have made it impossible to make further identifications. On [A]v there is also, barely visible, text and the sketch of a horse with rider.]

ff. 1–51v/12 Book 1 of Isidore’s “Liber sententiarum”: INC(I)P(IT) LIBER | PRIMVS S(AN)C(T)I | ISIDORI HIS|PANIENSIS | EPISCOPI. | QUOD D(EU)S SUMMUS ET INCO(M)|MUTABILIS SIT: | ‘Summum bonum d(eu)s e(st) quia incommu|tabilis e(st) et corrumpi omnino non po|test’; ends: ‘utique | ubi ipse ascendit. et nos ascensuri | sumus;’ | EXPLICIT LIBER . PRIMVS. (Cazier 1998:7–90) [rest of f. 51v blank];

[**Note:** At the top of f. 1r is the 15c title: ‘In isto vol(umine). continet(ur) ysidorus de sum(m)o bono.’ Marginal and interlinear corrections and additions occur mainly in two hands: one small caroline hand supplying mainly additions to the text, e.g. f. 2v/7 ‘eius `maius` et minima,’ and one line further down ‘in omnib(us)’; a 10c A-S hand, smaller than the first, and supplying mainly explanatory glosses, e.g. f. 25v/5 ‘corporaliter’: ‘[ei]us corpore.’ Both types of interlinearia and marginalia occur regularly. There are instances of erased text on f. 7r (lower margin) and ff. 15v and 16r.]

f. 39v/7–20 + 3 long lines at bottom, marginal supplement adding omitted text in an Anglo-Caroline script (10c?), beg. ‘Du(m) reru(m) p(re)teritar(um) | [c]ausæ futuris . . . séx dies etiam hæc patrata | uideant(ur),’ recopied on to a 12c slip inserted between ff. 39 and 40 (text is 1.19.17 = Cazier 1998:70/96–109);

ff. 52r/1–53r/7 Table of contents, Bk. 2: INC(I)P(IU)NT CAPIT(U) L(A) LIBRI SECUNDI | ‘I De sapientia . . . XLIII De abstinentia.’ EXPL(ICIU)NT CAP(ITU)L(A) LIBRI SECUNDI. (Cazier 4–5);

ff. 53r/9–99v/21 Book 2 of “Liber sententiarum”: INC(I)P(I)T LIB(ER) SECVNDVS: | .I. DE SAPIENTIA | ‘Omnis qui secundum d(eu)m sapiens est beatus’; ends: ‘sed etiam periculum exhibet;’ | EXPLICIT LIBER SECUNDUS. (Cazier 1998:91–193);

[**Note:** The title and first line are crudely washed in green. On f. 83r there is a nota sign comparable to the ones used in Lambeth Palace Library MS 237 [314]. On ff. 94v, 95rv, and 96r some letters are touched with red. Besides additions and corrections such as mentioned above, there are erasures and faintly visible text: on f. 58rv, three times, the beginning of the alphabet; f. 58r a gloss ‘.i. breui[.]’ referring presumably to ‘compendio’; and on f. 58v/7 a *signe de renvoi* after ‘utile’ which may have referred to the erased text in the margin.]

ff. 100r–101v Table of contents, Bk. 3: INC(I)P(IU)NT CAPIT(U)L(A) LIBRI TERTII | ‘I De flagellis d(e)i . . . LXVI De exitu.’ EXPLICIVNT

CAPIT(U)|LA LIBRI . TERTII S(AN)C(T)I | ISIDORI . SPANIENSIS
 . EP(ISCOP)I. (Cazier 1998:5–6);

ff. 102r/1–169r/3–18 (top and bottom trimmed) Book 3 of “Liber sententiarum”: INCIPIT LIBER TERTIUS: | .I. DE FLAGELLIS D(E)I | ‘Diuinae sapientiae subtilitas. sicut | interius ut testis scrutatur conscientias. | ita exterius irrogat p(.)enas;’ ends: ‘Non | quos (*added in marg.*) caelestis aula laetificandos includit;’ | EXPL(ICIT) LIB(ER) TERTIVS. S(AN)C(T)I ISIDORI. | SPANIENSIS EPISCOPI.; D(E)O GRATIAS (Cazier 1998:194–330; added (11c) above the bottom line: ‘tu aute(m) d(omi)ne misere’ re’ n(ost)ri,’ and two lines up in a 12c hand: ‘d(e)o gr(ati)as p(er),’ as well as ‘a/aa.’

[Note: On f. 103v, bottom, there are Greek letters as well as three or four runes, with letters from the Roman alphabet ‘a’ – ‘i’ above them. The runes appear to be the Thames runes, ‘s,’ ‘g,’ ‘a’ and ‘t,’ according to Elliott’s table (1989: 49). The same hand, up in the margin, has written ‘e, Altera qua uulnera[m]u’ r’ as a note to the text. On f. 120r there is a list of names in the margin, now almost completely erased, except for ‘berillus’ in the upper margin, and the last name ‘Balduine,’ which is followed by what seems to be Greek ‘ΛΕΓΟ.’ Above ‘berillus’ there is a trimmed line of what appears to be Greek. On f. 167v: ‘[D]aniel puer bonus,’ and the word ‘Dun’ in what seems an erasure.]

f. 169v Pen trials in the form of alphabets including A–S letters ‘þ ð æ ð,’ tags from psalms, and other scribbles, including the verse ‘Aequore congelido zephyrus fert xenia kymbe’ (cf. Walther 1969: no. 594a), containing all letters from the alphabet.

[Note: There are various sketches, sometimes barely recognizable. The head of what seems a dog can be discerned in the lower margin of f. 10r; similarly, there is a sketch of an animal in the lower margin of f. 11r; there is also a sketch at the end of the text on f. 51v: a man-like figure with a bearded face, and a nimbus, upside down. Furthermore, it is possible to recognize a sheep (f. 54v), a head and, faintly, a body (100v), a female head (f. 103v), a dragon (122v), a cross (132r), and another dragon or monstrous creature (142v).]

OE Content: OE glosses from the mid-10c, ff. 14r/6 (marg.), 18r/16 (interlined), 39v/2 (margin, trimmed) (ed. Meritt 1945: 24, no. 20); f. 87r OE scribble in the lower margin (11c), ‘þus scealan preostan’ (pr. Ker, *Cat.*, p. 342); above it, in a different hand, ‘p(ro)ba[t]io.’

PHOTO NOTES: The opening 3v–4r was omitted on the film and is presented on a supplementary fiche. The inscriptions on f. [A] recto mentioned above are not visible on the fiche, but slightly so on the film. The opening ff. 21v–22r is shown thrice, opening ff. 35v–36r thrice, opening 52v–53r thrice, opening 78v–79r thrice, opening 95v–96r thrice, opening ff. 135v–

136r twice, opening ff. 145v–146r thrice, opening ff. 155v–156r twice, f. 169v thrice. Intercalated into the regular train of images are enlarged images of ff. 4v, 11r (top cropped), 24v, 26r, 28r, 42r, 46r, 48v, 54v (2×), 56r, 58r, 62v, 81r (top cropped), 86r, 111v, 122v & 123v (top cropped on both), 126r, 131r, 135r (top cropped).

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