

172. London, British Library Additional 50483K

Aldhelm, Prose "De laudibus virginitatis"

("Yale Aldhelm Fragments," 1 leaf)

(with 92, 173b, 330, 372, 395, 438a, 438b)

[Ker 12 & Supp.; Gneuss 587]

HISTORY: Part of the dispersed 9c "Yale" Aldhelm complex (see 330). Formerly used as the cover of John Jones, *Our Saviours Journey to the Gadarens* (London: Nicholas Okes, 1615, printed book, BL C.123.a.29). Owned by Alfred Guy, 1885 (see Martin Breslauer, *Catalogue 90* (1958), item 3, and H. P. Kraus, *Catalogue 88* (1958), item 5). Transferred from the Department of Printed Books in 1960.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A leaf 190 × 130 mm., writing area 140 × 100 mm. More legible side is hair, rich nutty brown, flesh side similar tone but lighter and with a sheen. Double ruled with dry-point from flesh side, 22 lines (space between lines of writing 6 mm., body space slightly less than 2 mm.), prickings on outer margins, remains of prickings on inner; double vertical bounding lines both margins. Folded with hair side in and used as cover for small book which has page size of 130 × 87 mm., the flesh side (outside of cover) worn and in places illegible. Pricks running on crease between lines 10 and 11 show sewing holes where wrapper was attached to book. Mounted in modern vellum and set into double artist's matframe with hinged pasteboard covers front and back so both sides are visible but not manipulable. The leaf is mounted back to front.

[**Note:** Photo bound into back of *Our Saviours Journey* shows that top half of hair side ran vertically in relation to printed book and directly faced the title page.]

CONTENTS (coll. Gwara 2001; cited by chapter and line in Gwara, with page nos.):

Flesh (recto) ch. 28/16–27 (Gwara 353–57): 'Paulus Itidem inclitus et par-
trum celeberrimus . . . gratulabundus accepto | ferre promeruit.' ~

Hair (verso) ch. 29/1–16 (Gwara 357–61): ‘HILARion opinatissimus palestinae solitudinis . . . fame Conficiam. Quapropter [. . .].’

[Note: As mounted, recto and verso are reversed, but appear in correct order on the fiche.]

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Gwara, Scott, ed. *Aldhelmi Malmesbiriensis prosa de virginitate cum glosa Latina atque Anglosaxonica*. Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina 124 [Introduction], 124A [Text]. Turnhout: Brepols, 2001. [rev. and augmented ed. of R. Ehwald, *Aldhelmi Opera*. MGH A. A. 15. Berlin, 1919, 2d ed. 1961]

A. N. D.