

173b. London, British Library Additional 71687

Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis"
("Yale Aldhelm Fragments," bifolium)
(with 92, 172, 330, 372, 395, 438a, 438b)
(Ker 12; Gneuss 146)

HISTORY: Part of the 9c Aldhelm "Yale" complex (see 330). Found as the limp vellum binding of a copy of Jacobus Bornitius, *Emblemata ethico politica: Sylloge prima* (Mainz, 1669; BL 637.d.23 [part 1] in the Department of Printed Books). The *Emblemata* was owned by W. Bayntun of Gray's Inn during the 18c and was purchased by Lady Cayley, 1 July 1841. The transfer and acquisition of Add. 71687 is noted in the B.L. records for 1995 (British Library, unpublished Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts. New Series 1991–1995), available in British Library, Manuscripts Reading Room.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The outer bifolium of a quire of 8; large 'Q' at bottom of f. 2v may be a quire signature. Bifolium is 287 mm. across; page size 185 × 145 mm. Writing area 140 × 100 mm. Pricked on both edges of text and double ruled with dry-point for 22 lines, double bounding lines both margins. Scoring is from flesh (relatively illegible) side which is outside of quire. Large initial touched in red and yellow, with red infills to in-text capitals. Hair (legible) side is deep nutty tan color, shriveled at corners. Original sewing holes at 20, 65, 145, 165 mm. from top. Four thread-and-hole patterns from the later binding arrangement. An offset of f. 1v is visible on the outside of the front fly of the printed volume. The gluey matter on the crease of the reverse of the vellum, which formed the outside of the wrapper, suggests that there was a reinforcing strip over the spine. Page size of *Emblemata* 185 × 137 mm.

Recently mounted in modern vellum and set into double artist's mat-frame with hinged pasteboard covers front and back so both sides are visible but not manipulable.

- CONTENTS (by chapter and line in Gwara 2001, followed by page nos.):
 Fiche frame 1 (shows flesh side, f. 2v left, mostly illegible, and 1r right);
 Frame 2 (hair, f. 1v and 2r):
- f. 1r ch. 27/4–21 (Gwara 2001: 337–41): ‘ceteris incomparabiliter eruditus basilii in | filosoficis . . . huius neque uita aliquid probabilius’ ~
 - f. 1v ch. 27/21–36 (Gwara 2001: 341–45): ‘et sanctius. neque eloquentia clarius . . . in edito stantes popularibus [. . .]’;
 - f. 2r ch. 32/10–26 (Gwara 2001: 401–07): ‘pinguis olei liquor oportunus defuisset . . . ueraciter se fari tes/tabatur’ ~
 - f. 2v ch. 32 cont., should beg. [“alius ita ne virulenta regiae pestis” etc. (illegible)]; breaks off at: ‘concinnati facinorosi piaculum sera [. . .]’ (ch. 32/[26]–44 (Gwara 2001: 407–14); ‘Q’ at bottom of f. 2v.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Gwara, Scott, ed. *Aldhelmi Malmesbiriensis prosa de uirginitate 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.