

### 293. London, British Library, Royal 7 D. xxiv

Guitmundus of Aversa, "De corpore et sanguine Domini";  
Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis" "Epistola ad Heahfridum"

[Ker 259, Gneuss 473]

**HISTORY:** A composite manuscript comprising a 12c copy of a tract on the eucharist, "De corporis et sanguinis Domini veritate," by Guitmundus, bishop of Aversa (Campania, r. 1088–91) and a copy of Aldhelm's prose "De laudibus virginitatis" and "Epistola ad Heahfridum." An early modern transcript of the "Epistola" is bound with part 2. Consensus dates the text of the Aldhelmian part to the early 10c (s. x<sup>2/4</sup> according to Ker, *Cat.*, probably the 930s, according to Gwara [2001: 1.122\*, 130\*], "x<sup>1</sup>" according to Gneuss' *Handlist*). Gwara (2001: 1.125\*–30\*) sees the "Yale Fragment" (= Ker 12 [330]), the oldest extant copy of the prose "De laud. virg.," as the "irrefutable progenitor" of this relatively early copy. The Royal glosses are dated to mid-10c (Gneuss, *Handlist*; Gwara 2001: 1.132 ff.). Gwara distinguishes nine glossing hands in various strata (2001: 1.132\*–36\*). The manuscript is perhaps to be associated with Winchester, though both origin and provenance are a matter of debate. Later provenance was almost certainly Canterbury (Gwara 2001: 1.140\*–46\*). An origin at Glastonbury in the time of the Reformers Dunstan and Æthelwold seems probable to several scholars (Dumville 1987: 177; Gretsche 1999: 362; Gwara 2001: 1.130\*). Gretsche (1999: 362–67) associates the manuscript with Æthelwold and believes its scholia influenced subsequent Aldhelm studies at the Winchester school (1999: 362). The small size and multiple layers of glossing indicate a personal copy, and in Gwara's view (2001: 1.123\*, 140\*), the manuscript plausibly belonged to Dunstan and traveled to Canterbury with him when he became archbishop. Rusche (2005: 445–46) sees the manuscript originating in Canterbury and remaining there. Royal 7 D. xxiv strongly influenced later Aldhelmian studies, its glossing and interpolated text being copied into several manuscripts at Canterbury (Gwara 2001: 1.132\*, also Rusche 2005). It is this role as exemplar that proves Canterbury provenance by the

later 10c. The copy of the “*Epistola ad Heahfridum*” is the best extant version of that text (Gretsch 1999: 363). The already-combined manuscript belonged at one time to John Lumley (1534?–1609). Rebound 1983.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** The codex contains two different works bound together. Part 1, Guitmundus of Aversa’s “*De corporis et sanguinis Domini veritate*,” ends incompletely at f. 81v. Part 2, ff. 82r–168 (see below for ff. 163–165), containing works by Aldhelm, dates to the early 10c. After f. 162 are inserted three 17c paper leaves (ff. 163–165) containing Patrick Young’s transcript of the “*Epistola ad Heahfridum*,” followed by two vellum leaves (ff. 166–167) containing the remainder of the original letter, after which come three blank 17c leaves (the conjugates of the inserted leaves of the transcript), and the final vellum leaf (f. 168). Binding of 1983.

**Part 1** (ff. 1–81): Leaves measure 168 × 120 mm., with a writing area of 199 × 88 mm. Heavily trimmed at the top. Leaves are clean and unblemished, arranged HFHF. Ruled for 15 lines, with double bounding verticals and pricking in the outer margins. The initial ‘A’ of the incipit is in red ink; otherwise brown is used throughout. Quires are numbered with Roman numerals i–x on the first rectos (in the main hand of the text).

**Part 2** (ff. 82–168): Leaves measure 168 × 120 mm., with a writing area of 137 × 95 mm. Ruled for 26 lines with pricking in the outer margins. Flesh on outsides. F.1 is bound upside-down and is worn in places. F. 168v is very worn, having suffered exposure; traces of a title are visible, along with some illegible writing. Leaves have been trimmed, with some loss of text at the margins. Stains occur on ff. 83 and 132. Small holes appear in ff. 97 and 126. Modern repairs on ff. 82 and 97. Dumville (1987: 174) sees main hand as phase II square minuscule with archaic features.

Except for Young’s transcript, leaves in Part 2 are paginated on the verso in red pencil (e.g., f. 82v = 1, f. 83v = 3, f. 84v = 5, etc.). F. 85v contains an incomplete drawing of Aldhelm at a writing table. A faint wash (dull red tint) has been used to outline the entire drawing. When completed, the drawing would have shown a frame, a writing table (of which only the left and top side have been drawn in dark ink), a figure (incomplete) standing behind the writing table (the folds of the garment can be seen below and to the right in outline), Aldhelm’s foot and seat (incomplete), and the top of his head. A blessing hand appears in ink to the far left, cut off by the margin. Large initials marking chapters use a variety of colors (green, red, purple, yellow, orange, blue), and can be associated with the “Winchester” style. Small initials are filled with color; most chapter numbers are tinted with red. Mostly Latin interlinear glosses appear densely throughout, writ-

ten in a number of hands; marginal glosses are few. Forty-four OE glosses are printed by Napier (1900: no. 5). All glosses, Latin and English, appear in Gwara's edition of the gloss corpus to Aldhelm's prose treatise (on pages facing the text [2001: 2.26–761]). Syntactical underdotting in places, most frequently in earlier folios. The name of John, Lord Lumley appears at the bottom of f. 2; at the top is written 'claruit sub H<sup>o</sup> Imp. 3<sup>o</sup>. 1060' [Emperor Henry III, r. 1046–1056].

**COLLATION:** iii + 165 + iii + 1 + iii, foliated 1–168. The three leaves at beginning and end are modern paper. Part 1: I<sup>8+1</sup> 1 added (ff. 1–9), II–X<sup>8</sup> (ff. 10–81); Part 2: I<sup>4+2</sup> 5 and 6 tipped in; stubs visible before f. 82 (ff. 82–87), II–IX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 88–151), X<sup>8+2</sup> 9 and 10 tipped in, with stubs visible before f. 152 (ff. 152–161), XI<sup>4+161</sup> (ff. 162 [163–165 + 1] 166–168).

[Note: Part 2 is paginated on versos, beg. f. 82v as '1'; quire XI consists of parchment and [paper] leaves; the blank paper leaf after f. 166 is unnumbered, as are the three blank paper leaves after f. 168.]

## CONTENTS:

### Part 1:

1. f. 1r Fragment of an ecclesiastical writ, dated to 1540 [bound upside-down, f. 1v blank].
2. ff. 2r–81v Guitmundus of Aversa, "De corpore et sanguine Domini":  
**INCIPIT LIBER GUIDMVNDI DE COR|PORE. ET SANGVINE DOMINI.** | 'Ad rem his tempori⟨bus⟩ | necessaria⟨m⟩ q⟨u⟩idem'; ends imperfectly in Book 2: 'in hoc | mundo carnalis conuersatio.' (as PL 149.1427–58C) [17c 'desunt' note on f. 81v].

### Part 2:

3. ff. 82r–162r Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis" glossed in Latin and OE (ed. Ehwald 1919: 211–323, collated as R2; rev. coll. Gwara 2001:  
 ff. 82r–85r list of capitula (12c title: 'Liber de uirginitate'): **INCIPIVNT CAPITVLA LIBRI SEQVEN|TIS DE VIRGINITATE.** | 'I Salutatio & prologi pr(ef)atio . . . XL [*recte* LX] Quod uirginitatis preconium sicut | in presenti opusculo rethoricis rela|tibus digestum est ita in futuro opere | metricis carminibus expolietur' (coll. Gwara 2001: 2.19–25);  
 f. 85v portrait of Aldhelm (unfinished);  
 f. 86r/1–15 Prologue (17c note: 'Adelmi [*sic*] ep⟨iscopu⟩s claruit sub Iustiniano minore. 680'): 'REVERENTISSIMIS CHR(IST)I (gl: 'i⟨d est⟩ dignissimis (ue)l uenerabili⟨ssimis⟩') | uirginibus omniq⟨ue⟩ deuote

germanitatis (gl: 'frat(er)nitatis') affec|tu uenerandis . . . optabilem perpetuae (gl: 'i(d est) æterne') | p(ro)speritatis (gl: '[. . .]sitis') salutem'; ff. 86r/16–162r text: ORDITVR LIBELLVS DE VIRGINITATE | SACRIS VIRGINIBVS EDITVS | 'IAMdudum (gl: 'olim') ad pontificale proficiens (gl: 'i(d est) pergens') con|ciliabulum'; ends: 'Valete (gl: 'saluete') o flores ecclesie soro|res monasticę (gl: 'monasteriales') alumnę (gl: 'i(d est) filie') | scolasticę chr(ist)i marga|rite paradisi (gl: 'i(dest) cęli') gem|me & cęlestis pa|trię parti|cipes (gl: 'i(d est) consor|tes').'

OE Content: Forty-three OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: no. 5; Latin and OE glosses ed. Gwara 2001, 2.26–760 [on even-numbered pages facing the text]. "Epistola ad Heahfridum" is lightly glossed, in Latin only.

4a. ff. 162v, 164r–168r Aldhelm, "Epistola ad Heahfridum" (10c) (17c note: 'An(no) D(o)m(ini) / 709 / morte de / Aldhelm' plus bibliographical reference) [incipit in purple]: **Incipit æpistolę aldhelmi ep(iscop)i** | 'DOMino uenerabili preconio efferendo | & s(an)c(t)orum meritis'; ends imperf.: 'affabiliter texere nostrorum (. . .) [. . .]' [168v is blank except for 12c inscription **liber de uirginitate** and illegible text] (ed. Ehwald 1919: 486–94, collated as *D*; text and glosses ed. Gwara 1996, lines 1–103, collated as *R2*).

4b. ff. 163r–165v an ensemble of three 17c paper bifolia (with 10c leaves ff. 162, 164–168 tipped in) with Patrick Young's transcription of first half of "Epistola ad Heahfridum" (running heads 'Aldelmus epūs ad Elifridum [*sic*]'): **Aldelmus ep(istoli)s ad Ehfridum**. | 'Domino uenerabili præconio efferendo'; ends imperf. at Gwara ed. 1996: line 71: 'quæ trapęzitarum numerosis [. . .]' [the three offside paper leaves are blank].

PHOTO NOTES: There are two shots of ff. 3v–4r, 4v–5r, 55v–56r, 57v–58r, 70v–71r, 81v–82r, 82v–83r, 87v–88r, 162v–163r, [unnumbered blank]-166r.

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