

330. New Haven, Yale University, Beinecke Library

MSS 401 and 401A

Aldhelm, “De laudibus virginitatis”

(“Yale Aldhelm Fragments”)

(with 92, 172, 173b, 372, 395, 438a, 438b)

[Ker 12 & Supp.; Gneuss 857]

HISTORY: A dispersed fragmentary early 9c copy of the prose “De laudibus virginitatis,” heavily glossed in OE in both ink and dry-point. Of the 40 leaves currently known to exist, the “Yale” fragments [330] make up 28 leaves, 26 in MS 401 and 2 in 401A. Napier (1900: xvi–xvii) discovered that the “Yale” fragments of MS 401 (then Phillipps 8071) and the leaf C.U.L. Additional 3330 [92] are from the same manuscript, and Lowe noticed that Bodleian Library Lat. th.d 24 [395], “Yale” 401A (then Phillipps 20688, ff. 9, 10), and former Merton 41 [334a] were also part of this same complex. Since then more leaves have turned up, most recently in 1995. It is not improbable that more will be found.

[Note: As the reconstruction below indicates, there remain parts of 10 of the original quires, from within which 35 leaves are lacking; beyond that probably two quires are lacking which contained the final chapters of “De laud. virg.” The other known items of this ensemble are: 92. Cambridge University Library Additional 3330, 2 leaves; 172. London, B.L., Additional 50483K, 1 leaf; 173b. London, B.L. Additional 71687, bifolium; 438a. formerly Oslo and London, collection of Martin Schøyen, MS 197, sold in 2012 to a private collector in Paris, 2 leaves; 372. Oxford, Bodleian Library [pr.] Arch.A f.131, bifolium; 395. Oxford, Bodleian Library Lat. th.d.24 (30591), 2 leaves; 438b. Philadelphia, Free Library, John Frederick Lewis Collection ET 121, 1 leaf.]

This is the earliest surviving copy of “De laudibus virginitatis” It is written by two cooperating scribes with similar but distinct handwriting (see description of hands, Gwara 2001: 91*). Dated “s. IX^m”, “probably in Canterbury or Worcester to judge by the script” (Shailor 1987: 282); Lowe thought the script difficult to read (unpredictable ligatures and word-division) and called it “Mercian” in origin, assigning a 9c date (Lowe 1927:

191–92); Morrish (1988: 527) dates the manuscript to first half of 9c on basis of “hybrid minuscule” script, comparing London B.L. Add. Charter 19790 (793 × 796) and Cotton Augustus II.79 (805 × 810). Glosses by several hands (both ink and dry-point) dated to the second half of 10c (*ibid.*) show Kentish dialect features (cf. Zupitza 1887, Napier 1900: xxxii, Williams 1905), suggesting the manuscript was located at Canterbury at latest by then and used in the classroom; Rusche shows that the dry-point glosses were added by a relative beginner in Latin (1994: 201). Gwara places it among the “Class I” manuscripts, but shows that a “Class II” manuscript, B.L. Royal 7 D.xxiv, Part ii [293], derives directly from it and that they both could have been Glastonbury productions (Gwara 2001: 125*–132*). General discussion of Aldhelm glosses, Goossens 1974: 16–21.

The “Yale” Fragments [330], catalogued as Beinecke MSS 401 and 401A:

MS 401: “The [Beinecke] fragments . . . were discovered by Samuel Weller Singer (1783–1858), Librarian of the Royal Institution, in a Brighton bookshop where the codex had been dismembered to provide wrappers for books. He presented one fragment (f. 22) to Sir Thomas Phillipps in 1827; inscription on f. 22v, in upper margin: ‘Preserved from the cover of a book by . . . Singer, Librarian to the Royal Institution, and by him presented to Sir Thos. Phillipps, Bart. 1827’. The remaining leaves of MS 401 were either given or sold by Singer to Richard Heber (1773–1833); his sale (10 Feb. 1836, no. 32; label on spine) to Payne [a bookseller] who acquired them for Phillipps (Phillipps no. 8071, [Phillipps’ inscription of f. 22r, bottom: ‘This leaf was given me by Mr. Singer. The others I bought at Heber’s sale, 1836’]; tag on spine, inscription inside front cover. In the Phillipps sale of 25 Nov. 1969 (Sotheby’s, New Series, *Medieval Manuscripts*, Part V) these leaves were joined together with two additional leaves from the same manuscript (Phillipps MS 20688, ff. 9, 10; presently Beinecke MS 401A) and sold as lot 442” (Shailor 1987: 283). They were sold to H. P. Kraus in the Phillipps sale and presented to Yale by Kraus in 1970 as the gift of Edwin J. Beinecke through his bequest of 1907 (Marston 1970).

MS 401A, two leaves, “belonged to Sir Thomas Phillipps (his no. 20688, ff. 9, 10) who acquired them from Guglielmo Libri (1802–69); his sale, Sotheby’s, 28 March–5 April 1859, no. 1111, f. 2r, illustrated in pl. xxv). In the Phillipps sale of 25 Nov. 1969 (Sotheby’s, New Series, *Medieval Manuscripts*, Part V) the leaves were joined together with the 26 leaves now comprising Beinecke MS 401 (Phillipps no. 8071) and sold as lot 442. Acquired from H. P. Kraus in 1970 as the gift of Edwin J. Beinecke [funds of 1907]” (Shailor 1987: 283–84). MSS 401 and 401A are catalogued and treated as

two separate items by the Beinecke. A full digital facsimile of 401 is available on the Beinecke Library website: <http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/pdf-gen/exportPDF.php?bibid=2015174&solrid=3527253>.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:

MS 401: Fragments from ten quires, now artificially arranged as seven, which have become unbound within their 19c cardboard covers; paper pastedowns and flys front and back; the arrangement was made by George Bretherton of Gloucester who worked for Phillips, 1848–51 (Shailor 1987: 282). On spine '32' (lot from Heber sale), and '8071' (2×), the Phillips number; on front pastedown '8071 Mss Ph', Beinecke *ex libris* on back pastedown.

Twenty-six leaves, of various sizes, but largest leaves ca. 193 × 144 mm. Collins (1976: 29) considers that the wide margins indicate that most leaves have not been trimmed. Writing area 138 × 110 mm. Vellum very stiff, generally smooth, yellowish gray. Foliated in 19c pencil. The chapters of the Aldhelm text, which do not regularly correspond with the obvious divisions in the manuscript, are indicated by large roman numerals in 19c pencil in outer margins (note at bottom of f. 17v refers to Giles' edition of "De laud. virg.," repr. in PL 89). Single pricked both sides of text on most pages, ruled with double dry-point (space within double writing rules for body of letters about 2 mm.), with double pricking on ff. 11–15 and f. 26, and written for 19 lines (quire I); pricked and ruled with double hard point for 22, written 22/21 (f. 6r/v), pricked for 22, ruled for 20, written 20/19 (f. 7) (quire II); pricked, ruled, written for 22 (quires IV, V, VI, VII). Single pricking for each line on both margins of each leaf (double pricking on ff. 11–15 and f. 26). Double bounding lines left and right. Main text written by two scribes in A-S minuscule, Scribe 1, ff. 1r–9v, Scribe 2 (more compressed), ff. 10r–26v. Ink of main writing very dark, almost black. Elegant script is decorated only by initials of sections and in-text capitals, usually with infills of brownish-red ink. Capitals at chapter headings are decorated with dots in same color. Latin glosses in several anglo-caroline hands, and 189 OE glosses in a square insular minuscule, in various shades of lighter brownish ink dating to the later 10c (ed. Napier 1900: no. 11); over 180 OE glosses in dry-point of similar date have been detected and published (Meritt 1961, Rusche 1994). Rusche (197) distinguishes six different hands contributing dry-point glosses. A dry-point hand has added strokes to indicate word divisions in areas which are also being glossed in dry-point (Rusche 200). Ff. 8–9 were trimmed drastically to make a wrapper; f. 22 (misplaced into quire VII), also a wrapper, was folded towards the verso parallel to the

writing (just below line 13) and there are two four-hole sets of sewing holes along this crease. Remaining binding threads are modern, corresponding to center openings in quires I–IV; quires V–VIII are still joined to one another by modern sewing. Water damage on ff. 19, 20, 26r.

PRESENT QUIRATION AND CONDITION:

(See the reconstruction of the original structure given below and note that sheet numbers differ occasionally from those of reconstructed quires):

Quire I: 5 leaves from a quire of 8 remain; outer bifolium and sheet 5 are wanting; tag of 5 projecting, with binding threads remaining in the center gutter (between 4 (f. 3) and tag of 5). At top of f. 1 is written in 19c pencil: 'Copy of this tract | in the Lambeth Library | in Saxon | ALDHHELM DE VIRGINITATE'. Fol. 1r somewhat stained and dirty as if outside for a long time; FFF, ruled before folding from hair sides (insides), ff. 4, 5 partially re-ruled on versos (flesh (out) sides).

Quire II: 1 outer bifolium of a quire of 8; Hair outside and ruled from hair side (outside).

Quire III: 1 outer bifolium of a quire of 8, the leaves trimmed in and up to 145 × 102 mm. to make a wrapper. The original order has been reversed by the sheet being refolded back against itself, so that present f. 9 should come first (the text on f. 9r follows directly on from f. 7v). Originally flesh outside and ruled on hair from inside (like quire I). Glosses in reddish-brown ink on f. 9v.

Quire IV: Quire of 8, 7 gone, FFFF. Outside sheet has single pricking in both margins, but three inside sheets (ff. 11–15) have double pricking on outside margins (for the double ruling). All sheets pricked, ruled (from the hair (inside)), and written for 22 lines.

Quire V: 3 leaves (1, 5, 6), from a quire of 6. The text (ch. 23) continues from f. 16v to f. 17r. The other two leaves (ff. 18–19) have continuous text (chs. 25–27 = Gwara: 317–337). The projecting tag on f. 18 (= leaf 5) has been folded backward. Arranged flesh outside, ruled from hair, 22 lines. 'Heber' written at top left of f. 17r.

Quire VI: a singleton, hair on recto, probably from second half of quire, as sheet 5 of a quire of 8. Ruled from hair for 22 lines.

Quire VII: (Shailor's quires 7 and 8) a quire of 8 with a singleton from a preceding, otherwise lost, quire inserted after the first leaf as f. 22. A note in ink at the top of f. 22v says 'Preserved from the cover of a book by . . . Singer | Librarian to the Royal Institution & by him presented | to Sir Thos Phillipps Bart. 1827'; at the bottom of the same leaf in pencil, 'This leaf only was given | by Mr Singer. The others being at Heber's Sale 1836'. This event

probably accounts for its being out of order. Fol. 22 hair verso and ruled from hair, probably the half of an outer bifolium. The prickings are more like gashes on this leaf. Order of quire VII is 1 (f. 21), [f. 22], 4–5 (ff. 23–24), 7–8 (ff. 25–26). The projecting tag of 7 is reversed. Quire (less f. 22) is arranged H?FH, rulings are rather faint, from outside on sheet 1, from inside on others (cf. quire II). Prickings are double along margin on leaf 8. All sheets (including f. 22) are prepared and written for 22 lines.

401A: A bifolium that contains portions of chs. 36 and 38; it was sheets 2 and 5 of a quire of 6 (*pace* Shailor 1987: 283; see below, reconstructed collation). Slightly trimmed on three outsides of folded sheet, reducing page size to 177 × 117 mm. Hair outside and ruled from outside with dry-point for 22 lines. Letters, as well as prickings, lost from outer margins. On inside margins are double pricks in a zig-zag that corresponds in alternate lines to the double rulings and to the width of the inner double boundary lines. Written by Scribe 2 with same features as MS 401; this leaf is however better preserved than most of the leaves of MS 401 and the vellum is softer and limper. Once used as a wrapper, with three sets of modern holes in the gutter; now kept loose in a cardboard mount with a mylar window (from which it can be removed). The following notes appear, top of f. 1r ‘B17’; top of f. 2r ‘19’; top of f. 2v ‘20’.

CONTENTS: Aldhelm, “De laudibus virginitatis” (text and glosses as Gwara 2001; 189 inked glosses to MS 401 ed. Napier 1900, no. 11; 26 dry-point glosses ed. Meritt (1961), 153 dry-point glosses or marks ed. Rusche (1994: 203–13); texts cited by ch. and line number as in Gwara ed., plus his page nos.):

Quire I:

ff. 1r–2v 2/26–4/18 (Gwara 39–53) ‘[. . .] unus tamen accipit brauium . . . cecinisse cum diceret [. . .]’;

(-25 lines) 1 leaf

ff. 3r–5v chs. 4/43–7/30 (Gwara 61–83): ‘[. . .] rite rimando . . . caelestis medicinae Antidotum uitaliter propi[naret . . .]’;

f. 6rv chs. 8/11–9/19 (Gwara 91–101): ‘[. . .] Ut est illud: non auferetur (gl: ‘p(æt)ed ne sy afered’) sceptrum . . . Licet luculentus (gl: ‘freat `o`rht’) limpidissimi solis splendor [. . .]’;

Quire II:

f. 7rv chs. 12/14–13/1 (Gwara 141–49): '[. . .] suppraema (gl: 'pa etemestan wæle') strage truciter . . . Ast uero si uestrae sagacitatis ~' (text continues on f. 9r);

Quire III (drastically trimmed on outside edge and bottom, with loss of text, and leaves reversed by refolding):

ff. 8rv chs. 16/25–17/8 (Gwara 191–99): '[. . .] uocibus quod sola carnalis . . . altera se maritalis lasci[viae . . .]' (text continues on f. 10r, less a few excised lines);

f. 9rv ch. 13/1–24 (Gwara 149–55): '~ pervigil sollicitudo solerter . . . et epithation vocatur | [trimmed] [.]entis affectu lugubriter componat';

Quire IV:

ff. 10r–15v chs. 17/10–22/8 (Gwara 199–257): '[. . .] Illa pulcherrimo fulgentis pudicitiae . . . catholicae fidei sectatoribus [. . .]';

f. 16rv ch. 23/4–39 (Gwara 269–79): '[. . .] complanans anfractus (gl: 'hilce`a`s') . . . confectio humanae ~';

Quire V:

f. 17rv chs. 23/39–24/9 (Gwara 279–91): '~ naturae nocitura habebatur . . . Atque quinquies quadra[genas . . .]';

ff. 18r–19v chs. 25/81–27/4 (Gwara 317–37): '[. . .] muros. Et hanc ueteranam ciuitatem . . . achademicae disputationis sophisma pollebat [. . .]';

Quire VI:

f. 20rv chs. 29/51–30/21 (Gwara 371–75, 379–83, see his note, 374): '[. . .] Ac demum quinquies bilustris temporum circulis . . . sacella et dissipatas fanaticae [. . .]';

[Note: The indentation apparent on the upper outer edge of f. 20 is caused by the text avoiding a large natural hole.]

Quire VII (plus f. 22, from another quire, otherwise lost):

f. 21rv chs. 45/29–46/20 (Gwara 637–41): 'exsoluit. Sed rursus ad potiorem d(e)i . . . Nam post rumigerule ['e' corr. from 'a'] uirginitatis';

f. 22rv ch. 32/44–77 (Gwara 413–21): '[. . .] sera penitentia cunctis auscultantibus . . . con|stantio augusto qui orientis imperii scepra [. . .]';

f. 23r–24v chs. 47/61–49/32 (Gwara 653–63): '[. . .] ad eundem theophilum . . . mutarit Et post pauca [. . .]';

f. 25r–26v ch. 50/20–51/15 (Gwara 669–81): ‘[. . .] Quarum formosam uultus uenustatem . . . et cerula flag’ R’orum uibice cruentat(a)’ [. . .];

MS 401A (an outer bifolium):

f. 1rv ch. 36/73–107 (Gwara 513–25): ‘[. . .] squaloris nausiam perpetitur . . . et apertis clatorum obstaculis [. . .]’;

f. 2rv ch. 38/1–30 (Gwara 547–55): ‘Tempore scelestissimi Iuliani . . . ut potissimum uiridibus herbaru(m) [. . .]’;

COLLATION (RECONSTRUCTED) OF THE COMPLETE EXTANT ENSEMBLE:

[For item numbers, here **bolded**, see the first note in “History”, above. In this collation 330A = Yale MS 401A. “Lines” refers to lines in Gwara’s 2001 edition, about 30 printed lines = contents of rv of 1 leaf; ~ indicates that text continues unbroken to next segment. This generally agrees with the collation given by Gwara, 88*–90*, but differs in detail as we estimate differently here and there the amount of text missing in the gaps. Differences are noted below.]

40 extant leaves; 35 lacking from extant quires; “De laud. virg.” could have begun with quire [L], but a short quire with prefatory material may have preceded (see Gwara 2001: 88*, n. 58); B.L. Royal 7 D.xxiv, Part II [293], deriving directly from “Yale”, includes capitula and an illustration occupying four leaves; to complete the work would require about 17 leaves or a quire of 8 and a quire of 10. What appears to be a quire signature ‘Q’ on last verso of that quire (= 173b f. 2v). No quire signatures visible on 330 f. 7v, 330 f. 8v [severely trimmed], 330 f. 16v, 395 f. 2v.

Quire [L]⁸: ?FFF (outer bifolium wanting, 2/7, 3/6 bifolia)

lacks 1 leaf (1) (the 35 preceding lines of text lacking, counting Prologue, would fit here)

(2–3) 330. ff. 1r–2v chs. 2/26–4/18

(–25 lines) *wants 1 leaf (4)*

(5–7) 330. ff. 3r–5v chs. 4/43–7/30

(–30 lines) *wants 1 leaf (8)*

Outer bifolium gone. 2/7 and 3/6 conjugate. Leaf after 3 is wanting, tag of 5 is wrapped back and projecting before f. 4 with sewing threads showing.

Quire [M]⁶: H outside (an outer bifolium)

(1) 330. f. 6rv chs. 8/11–9/19

(–128 lines) *wants 4 leaves (2–5)*

(6) 330. f. 7rv chs. 12/14–13/1~

[Note: Gwara says quire of 8, estimating six leaves are wanting, but there is not enough missing material for that many.]

Quire [N]⁶: FFF (1/6 a reverse folded bifolium)

(1) 330. f. 9rv ch. 13/1–24

(-94 lines) wants 3 leaves (2–4)

(5) 92. f. 1rv ch. 16/1–25~ recto H

(6) 330. f. 8rv chs. 16/25–17/8~

[Note: Gwara says of 8, estimating 5 leaves are wanting, which is too many.]

Quire [O]⁸: FFFF (1/8, 3/6, 4/5 bifolia)

(1–6) 330. ff. 10r-15v chs. 17/10–22/8

(-31 lines) wants 1 leaf (7)

(8) 330. f. 16rv ch. 23/4–39~

Quire [P]⁶: F?FF (1/6 a bifolium)

(1) 330. f. 17rv chs. 23/39–24/9

(-103 lines) wants 3 leaves (2–4)

(5–6) 330. ff. 18r-19v chs. 25/81–27/4~

Quire 'Q'⁸ FFFF

(1) 173b. f. 1rv ch. 27/4–36 outer bifolium, F outside

(-33 lines) wants 1 leaf (2 divisions with initials) (2)

(3) 172. recto ch. 28/16–27 [. . .] verso 29/1–16 recto F

(-34 lines) 1 leaf (4)

(5) 330. f. 20rv chs. 29/51–30/21 recto H

(-34 lines) wants 1 leaf (6)

(7) 395. f. 1rv chs. 31/19–32/10~ recto H

(8) 173b. f. 2rv ch. 32/10–44~ quire signature [?] 'Q' bottom of 173b. 2v

Quire [R]¹⁰ (outer bifolium, flesh outside)

(1) 330. f. 22rv ch. 32/44–77

(-235 lines) wants 8 leaves (2–9)

(10) 395. f. 2rv ch. 36/10–40 recto H

[Note: Gwara counts 330. f. 22 as the first of a bifolium, its match lost, and assigns 395. f. 2 to the next quire (hence of 8); the H/F allows either construction, but the line count requires 8 leaves. He counts the next three quires as of 8.]

Quire [S]⁶ ?HH the two inner bifolia remain

- (-33 lines) wants 1 leaf (1)
 (2) 330A. f. 1rv 36/73-107~ H outside
 (3) 372. f. 2rv chs. 36/108-37/19~ H outside (presently reversed)
 (4) 372. f. 1rv ch. 37/19-50~ H outside
 (5) 330A. f. 2rv ch. 38/1-30 H outside
 (-ca. 30 lines) wants 1 leaf (6)

Quire [T]¹⁰ ??H?H

- (-ca. 131 lines) wants 5 leaves (1-5)
 (6) 92. f.2rv chs. 42/22-43/9 recto F
 (-31 lines) 1 leaf (7)
 (8) 438b. rv chs. 43/42-44/23 recto H
 (-60 lines) wants 2 leaves (9-10)

[Note: The line count 131 indicates 4 or 5 leaves, but is uncomfortable for either.]

Quire [U]⁸ HFHF

- (1) 330. f. 21rv chs. 45/29-46/20
 (-32 lines) wants 1 leaf (2)
 (3) 438a. f. 1rv ch. 47/30-61~ (bifolium 3/6)
 (4-5) 330. f. 23r-24v chs. 47/61-49/32~
 (6) 438a. f. 2rv chs. 49/32-50/1-20~
 (7-8) 330. f. 25r-26v chs. 50/20-51/15
 About 540 lines of text are lacking = a quire of 8 and a quire of 10.

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