348. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodley 49 (1946)
Aldhelm, "Carmen de virginitate",
"De octo uitiis principalibus"
[Ker 299, Gneuss 542]

HISTORY: Dated to the mid-10c. The inscriptions (see below) place the manuscript at the Old Minster, Winchester, from the 13c (Ker 1964: 201). Donated to the Bodleian Library in 1601 by Thomas Allen. Collated by J. A. Giles, 1844, for his edition (paste-down, front cover).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A copy of Aldhelm's "Carmen de virginitate" formatted with the closing section on the eight principal sins as a separate text. Fol. 76 + a half-leaf, foliated 1–77 (the half-leaf numbered in pencil). The numbering continues two off until f. 71; f. 72 is then skipped, and the numeration continues three off until ff. 76 (the half-leaf). Leaves are also foliated in late-medieval roman numerals, although two leaves are skipped after f. 12. The paste-down on the back cover (originally the last leaf of the last quire, over which the vellum cover is wrapped) is numbered 'lxxiij'. One leaf has been cut out before f. 1.

Leaves measure 190 × 145 mm., with a writing grid of 137 × 98 mm. They are ruled for 20 lines, with double vertical bounding lines. There is pricking in outer margins of the suede-like leaves, which are arranged HHHH. Text is in black ink throughout on clean, well-preserved leaves in a neat, regular hand. The script is A-S minuscule, with letters **f**, **s**, and **r** having descenders and the bowl of non-caroline **a** closed with a separate stroke at the top. Each line begins with a red or black initial. A few larger initials occur sporadically, some with floral or pictorial detail, e.g., f. 51r, 57v/8. Titles for the fifty unnumbered chapters in the "Carmen" and the eight in "De octo" are in red ink. F. 1r shows a display line in red, brown, and yellow ink. In the "Carmen de virginitate" the acrostic prefatory text (Ehwald 1919: 350/1–352/39) is arranged so that the first poetic line 'MET-RICA TIRONES NUNC PROMANT CARMINA CASTOS' is repeated three times: the first letter of each line is written as a majuscule in red ink

forming a vertical column spelling out the same phrase, and each line ends with a similar majuscule in the margin, forming a column that spells the phrase with the letters in reverse order, to be read from bottom to top. The final line, line 38, spells the same phrase backwards. Punctuation is mostly at ends of lines, the *punctus elevatus* (inverted semi-colon), indicating rising tone, and *punctus versus* (semi-colon), indicating falling tone. There are occasional construe marks indicating clausal elements, usually by pointing either above or below the word, e.g., f. 50r/5, 7, and 8. On f. 6r, lines 7 through 18 are numbered in the left margin with roman numerals i through xii (= Ehwald 1919: 359.7–360.173). Glosses, mostly interlinear, are in the text hand, several per page up to f. 21, after which they are markedly fewer (ten OE glosses ed. Napier 1900, nos. 15 and 20).

On f. 1 is written in now nearly illegible letters 'Hic est liber de Ecclesia [?] sancti . . . [Swithuni Wintoniensis?] Eccl⟨esi⟩e' (14c) (reconstruction from Hunt, *Summary Catalogue*). On the back paste-down is written 'Lib⟨er⟩ s⟨anct⟩a [*sic*?] Swith⟨un⟩is Wint⟨oniensis⟩ Eccl⟨esi⟩e' (13c), the last two words over two now-illegible words; 'Eccl⟨esi⟩e' seems to be written over the word '(liber)'.

On the front paste-down is written 'THo. Allen D[ono].D[edit]', who made a gift of the codex in 1601, and below this 'collated [as *W*] throughout for my new edition of Aldhelm's works. J. A. Giles. July — 1844.' The volume has a limp vellum cover of late 16c or early 17c. The front and back covers are worn through along the spine showing binding thongs, also near the leading edge back and front some holes (two front two back). On the spine is '49' in black, and further writing not now legible. One leaf is cut out before f. 1. The first quire has separated, and the binding cord is visible.

COLLATION: I⁸ wants 1, stub visible before f. 1; the stub after f. 7 is to the paste-down on the front cover (ff. 1–7), II⁸ (ff. 8–15), III⁸ (ff. 16–23), IV⁸ (ff. 24–31), V⁸ (ff. 32–39), VI⁸ (ff. 40–47), VII⁸ (ff. 48–55), VIII⁸ (ff. 56–63), IX⁸ (ff. 64–71), X⁸ 6 cut out after f. 76, 7 now a half-leaf, cut down vertically; 8 serves as the back paste-down (ff. 72–76 + one unnumbered) .

CONTENTS:
1. ff. 1r–64r/17 Aldhelm, "Carmen de virginitate" with Latin and English glosses (ed. Ehwald 1919: 350–452.2445, collated as *W*; six OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: no. 15):
ff. 1r–2r/2 Preface: **INCIPIT LIBER ALDHELMI EPISCOPI | DE UIR-GINITATE SEU LAUDE SANCTORUM. |** 'METRICA (gl: 'mensura-lia ⟨ue⟩l pedalia') TYRONES (gl: 'milites') | nunc promant (gl: 'i⟨d est⟩

pandunt') carmina castoS (gl: 'pudicos') | Et laudem capiat quadrato
cardine uirgO (gl: 'i⟨d est⟩ om⟨n⟩is seruator uirginitatis') . . . Omnia
cum nullus uerbis explanet apertE (gl: 'i⟨d est⟩ enarret ⟨ue⟩l elucidet')
| Sotsac animrac tnamorp cnun senorit acirteM' [i.e., 'Metrica tirones
nunc promant carmina castoS'] (coll. Ehwald 1919: 350.1–352.38); the
acrostic final letters on f. 1r spell the same as the initials, except back-
wards and equal the final line.

ff. 2r/3–4v/3 INUOCATIO AD D⟨EU⟩M DE LAUDIBUS | SANCTORUM
   UIRORUM | 'Omn⟨i⟩p⟨otens⟩ genitor mundum dicione (gl: 'i⟨d est⟩
   potestate') gubernans . . . Mundani luxus calcans ludibria falsa' (coll.
   Ehwald 1919: 352.1–357.99);

ff. 4v/4–64r/17 text: DE LAUDE UIRGINITATIS | 'Virginitas summo uir-
   tutum uertice floret (gl: 'i⟨d est⟩ pollet')'; ends: 'Plumabant (gl: 'orn-
   abant . ⟨ue⟩l conponebant') pariter macta uirtute corona⟨m⟩' | EXPLIC-
   IT LIBELLUS ALDHELMI EPIS|COPI . DE LAUDE SANCTORUM
   | PATRUM ATQUE VIRGINUM (Ehwald 1919: 357.100–452.2445) .

[Note on textual division: The main body of the text is divided into chapters, usually
on a particular saint or saints. The unnumbered chapter titles partially correspond
to those given in Ehwald (1919: 334–35).]

2. ff. 64r/18–76r Aldhelm, "De octo uitiis principalibus" (= "Carmen de vir-
   ginitate", ll. 2446–2904, as Ehwald 1919: 452–471, four English glosses
   ed. Napier 1900: no. 20): f.64r/18–76r/7 EIUSDEM DE OCTO VITIIS
   | PRINCIPALIBUS. || 'Digestis (gl.: 'ordinatis') igitur s⟨an⟩c⟨t⟩orum
   laudibus almis'; ends: 'Adduci merear chr⟨ist⟩o regnante per æthram'
   | EXPLICIT (marg. LIBER) ALDHELMI | EPISCOPI DE OCTO
   VITIIS | PRINCIPALIBUS.

[Note on textual division: Titles naming the individual sins divide the text: f. 65/3
De Ebrietate, f. 66v/20 De Luxuria, f. 67v/8 De Avaritia, f. 69r/2 De Ira, f. f. 69r/20
De Tristitia, f. 70r/3 De Accidia, f. 70r/16 De Cenodoxia, f. 71r/1 De Superbia.
None of these titles appear in the edition of Ehwald.]

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