

349. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodley 97 (1928)

Aldhelm: "De laudibus virginitatis"

[Ker 300, Gneuss 545]

HISTORY: Dated to the late 10c by Gwara (2001: 1.180), to the early 11c by Ker (*Cat.*). At Christ Church, Canterbury; on f. i recto is written the Christ Church shelfmark 'D[istinctio] ii^a G[radius] v^{us}', which M. R. James notes as demonstrating that the codex was at least until the 1330s still at Christ Church (no. 48 in Prior Henry Eastry's catalogue of 1337; James 1903: xlv, 21, 506). Another (late 15c) inscription indicates it was later transferred to St. Augustine's: 'de librario Sancti Augustini | Extra Cantuar[iam]'. On the same page an inscription shows it was owned by William Darell (d. 1580) in 1565: '1565 / A(anno) E. R. 7' and to the right 'W Darell possessor hui(us) libri', both boxed in ink, the latter somewhat embellished. Above, 'Aldelmus de laude uirginitas (late 13c). The shelfmark 'MS. Bodl. 97' is written below in pencil. Presented to the Bodleian in 1602 by Sir Walter Cope (d. 1614).

[Note: Ff. ii recto-iv verso are blank except for folio numbers in pencil at upper right and shelfmarks on f. ii recto. At the top margin of f. 1r is written 's x.' (see James 1903: 506) and to the right the old ('NE A. 6. 7') and new shelfmarks. "NE," often seen in ligature, indicated "New End" as located in the Bodleian; manuscripts were kept in cases marked "A-F" and were arranged by case-letter, shelf number, and number of the order on the shelf. "NE" was prefixed in the 17c and continued until the mid-18c (see Hunt 1953: xii-xiii). Barker-Benfield (2008: 2.1376) notes that James (1903: 521) erroneously identifies Bodley 97 as no. 1431 of the 15c St. Augustine's catalogue (second fol. does not match).]

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: iv + 75 + iii leaves, foliated i-iv + 1-77 + [78]. Ff. i-iv, 76, 77, and [78] are modern vellum. Five leaves are missing from the end of the codex. Leaves measure 213 × 145 mm., with a writing grid of 165 × 94 mm. Ruled in dry-point for 23 lines. Pricking in outer margins; double bounding lines. Leaves are generally suede-like, and seem to be arranged HFHF. Shelfmarks on f. i recto (see "History"). The edges of the leaves were dipped in yellow ink, a practice adopted (and

abandoned) by the library to color-code large donations, such as this manuscript from Cope (see Watson 1987: 270–71).

The scattered Latin and OE glosses (OE ed. Napier 1900: no. 6, Latin and English ed. Gwara 2001), most in the hand of the Latin text, are usually in lighter ink. Long marginal glosses are keyed to the text with *signes de renvoi*, e.g., f. 22v. Four 12c glosses occur on ff. 4v–5r (Ker *Cat.*). Corrections to “De laud. virg.” have been made in the ink and the hand of the text. Punctuation is principally by simple *punctus*, with occasional use of *punctus elevatus* (=inverted semi-colon), and *punctus versus* (=semi-colon). The table of capitula (ff. 1r–3v/18) shows alternating chapter initials in red and green ink. The table mistakenly has ‘xx’ and ‘xxi’ for number “xxx” “xxxi”, and numbers ‘xxxii’ through ‘xxxiiii’ originally lacked an initial ‘x’, which has been added in red. Chapter numbers in red ink, incipits usually red, occasionally green (e.g., ff. 3v/20, 5v/19, 12r/1) or black (e.g., ff. 9v/14, 13v/20, 14v/18). A capital ‘Q’ at f. 15v/20 is formed as an oak leaf with outlining in green and veining in red. A capital ‘T’ at f. 24v/1 is in blue. After f. 66v, places for initials are left blank. At f. 70r, a simple initial in brown is given, and ‘LVT’ scratched into the leaf in dry-point as a guide to the rubricator. Chapters are generally untitled. The added endleaves are blank. F. 35v has a parchment patch in the center of the upper margin.

The binding is vellum, dated ca. 12c, over A-S boards (see Pollard 1975). The back board has several worm holes, and there is a worm hole from f. 68 through the back cover. Vellum is worn away front and back. Binding thongs in channels are visible, as well as empty channels from the original binding.

[Note: X-rays of the boards were made in November 1974 at the Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art on behalf of H. Graham Pollard. In his interpretation, the x-rays showed that the boards were turned around (same side) and reattached in the Norman period, that the original spine side was now the leading edge, and that the original outside surface was now the inside. Re-examining the x-ray data, Christopher Clarkson (1996) took issue with Pollard, maintaining that the front and back boards were simply exchanged in the rebinding of the Norman period.]

From the inside of the front board the pastedown has been removed, but glue and some adhering vellum are visible. There is a mirror image of ca. 12c writing at the top of f. i recto (see below) as well as another mirror image of a line at the bottom; the latter most likely from the pastedown, removed before the writing at the top of f. i was added. “There is a pair of rivet holes 22mm down the present fore-edge of the upper [front] cover, and also impressions in the covering skin of a chain clip. This is the chain-

ing position used by Thomas Bodley in Duke Humfrey's Library in the 17th century" (Clarkson 1996: 180).

COLLATION: iv + I⁸ (ff. 1–8), II⁸ stub preceding quire belongs to one of the added flyleaves (ff. 9–16), III⁸ (ff. 17–24), IV⁸ (ff. 25–32), V⁸ (ff. 33–40), VI⁸ (ff. 41–48), VII⁸ (ff. 49–56), VIII⁸ (ff. 57–64), IX⁸ (ff. 65–72), X⁸ 4–8 wanting, five stubs showing after f. 75, the first of which shows remnants of text and which is clearly the center of the quire (ff. 73–75); ff. 76–77 and [78] are modern vellum, the first pasted in, and ff. 77 and [78] a bifolium; + iii.

CONTENTS: Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis" with Latin and English glosses (ed. Ehwald 1919: 211–323, collated as C2; rev. Gwara 2001: 2.19–761 (collated as C2) on odd-numbered pages; thirty OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: no. 6; Latin and OE glossed ed. Gwara 2001: 2.26–760, on even-numbered pages facing the text):

- ff. 1r–3v/18 List of chapters, numbered 1–60: **INCIPIUNT CAPITULA LIBRI DE LAVDE VIRGINITATIS.** | 'i. SALUTATIO ET PROLOGI PREFATIO . . . LX Quod uirginitatis preconium sicut in presenti | opusculo rethoricis relatibus digestum e(st) ita in | futuro op(er) metricis carminibus expolietur';
- ff. 3v/19–4r/10 Dedication: 'i. | REUERENTISSIMIS CHR(IST)I UIRGINI|bus omniq(ue) deuotę germanitatis . . . Aldhel|mus segnīs chr(ist)i crucicola & supplex ę(c)cl(esi)ę uerna|culus optabilem (gl: 's(iue) mitto') perpetuę prosp(er)itatis salutem';
- ff. 4r–75v text: 'ii. | IAMDUDUM AD PONTIFICALE PROFICI|scens concī li'abulum fraternis sodalium cater|uis comitatus'; ends imperf. at ch. 60 (Gwara: 2001: 2.759.41): 'Ut qui p(ro)pria | meritorum qualitate & fidei fragilitate. trem'e 'bundus' [. . . .].'

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