

372. Oxford, Bodleian [pr.] Arch. A f.131
Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis"
("Yale Aldhelm Fragments," bifolium)
(with 92, 172, 173b, 330, 395, 438a, 438b)
[Ker 12 & Supp.; Gneuss 857]

HISTORY: Formerly Don. f. 458. A bifolium of the 9c "Yale" Aldhelm (see 330) that forms the wrapper of a printed book, *Satans Sophistrie Answered by our Sauuour Christ, and in diuers sermons further manifested by that worthy man Maister William Perkins*, London: Richard Field for E.E., 1604. This item was not known to Ker in 1957, but included in his "Supplement" of 1976.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The inner bifolium of a quire of 6 (see "Collation reconstructed" in 330). Twenty-two lines of writing still visible on front cover, recto and verso; twenty-one visible on back cover verso, and recto, with a trace of a twenty-second at the top; the current outside is the flesh, with hair inside, and it was ruled from the hair side. Text shows that the bifolium is folded in reverse. Present printed book 15 mm. thick (188 pages of fairly thin paper in the small 8° volume). Cover is 95 mm. wide, so total width of bifolium would be about 205 mm., but the outer edges have been drastically trimmed. Height of book is 144 mm. and the edges of the cover (our bifolium) are flush with the pages of the book. The dry-point rulings, inside prickings, and inside double vertical bounding lines are clearly visible in raking light. A couple of Latin glosses. The outside is very grimy and worn, the insides are in good condition, parchment there having a yellowish-gray tinge. The original sewing holes and central crease are clearly visible down the center of the spine of the book. Several Latin glosses on inside back.

CONTENTS:

- f. 1rv (= front cover, heavily trimmed, [], and some words darkened, {}, to illegibility) ch. 37/19–50 (Gwara 2001: 537–47): (recto) ‘[. . .] s(an)c(t)ae conversationis proposito [cum virtutum] | incrementis usquequaque prosp[erabantur] | sub quorum magisterio ad fidem chr(ist) i [et contemptum] | mundi numerosa utriusque se[xus cat]l[er]va confluit . . . dolium se uiro dei delaturos sponponderunt [e quibus] | alter dum pollicita fefellisset [obeuntem] || (verso) [gibbum] {ami}sit camelum | [alius pro]missa complens, asello sospite | [perfru]itur . . . manipulo astriferis Inferri | [caelorum ag]minibus Conspexit.’
- f. 2rv (= back cover, trimmed, including top line, some darkening) ch. 36/108–37/19 (Gwara 2001: 527–37): (recto) ‘[.] | (line 2) roderentur. sic stolidi praesi{dis} [praecordia] | d(e)oque Invisa spes pascebat Inanis {dum} [furibunda] | ferarum rabies . . .’ (f. 2r/18[19], ch. 37 beg.) ‘Amos primus Nitriae famosis ac[cola] | qui . . . pudicitiae palma pri{uar}|| (verso) [.] | (line 2) [.] ceni contagia uel uenena{tum}’; breaks off: ‘[. . .] pariter In castimonia d(e)o tan[tum tes]|te uixisse {ferunt}ur et in rigido [. . .].’

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Gwara, Scott, ed. *Aldhelmi Malmesbiriensis prosa de virginitate 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]
- Ker, N. R. “A Supplement to *Catalogue of Manuscripts containing Anglo-Saxon*.” *Anglo-Saxon England* 5 (1976): 121–31.

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