

395. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Lat. th. d.24 (30591)

Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis"

("Yale Aldhelm Fragments", 2 leaves)

(with 92, 172, 173b, 330, 334a, 372, 438)

[Ker 12; Gneuss 857]

**HISTORY:** Two detached leaves, part of the dispersed 9c "Yale" Aldhelm (see 330). Folio 1 was first referenced in the Bodleian in 1893: it was "Part of a series of unreferenced fragments etc. arranged as Palaeographical Specimens which was broken up in 1895" (S.C. 30479; originally catalogued as MS. Lat. th. f. 2 (P)). Folio 2 was given to the Bodleian by H. W. Garrod in 1942, at which time the two leaves were bound together (*Bodleian Library Record* 1942: 66).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Folio 1. Attached along length of left recto to a paper leaf (recto) by means of a paper hinge same height as fragment, with three half-moon shapes cut out to accommodate the large capitals. Parchment very bright, yellowish, matte, pliable but not limp, similar to Paris parchment [438a]. Recto is hair side. Trimmed to 150 × 123 mm.; writing area 140 × 105 mm. Dry-point double ruling for 22 lines from recto, double bounding lines. Pricking outside, some pricks visible inside (on verso). Probably an outside leaf, to go by scoring. Black ink, with some capitals touched with oxidized red lead.

Capital 'P' on verso is same ink as text. Shows no traces of glue, but was once a wrapper since there are two creases across middle (at about lines 11/12 and 14 but not exactly parallel to them); the verso seems to have been the outside of the wrapper, but it may have served as a kind of loose flyleaf to another outer wrapper since the sheet is not soiled or worn much (a little wear on verso, not much).

Folio 2. Attached to a paper leaf (recto) in same manner as leaf 1. Seems to be a complete or nearly complete leaf, 194 × 135 mm. Text area 141 × ca. 105 mm. 22 lines, leaf prepared in same manner as 1, pricking in-

side and outside, double bounding verticals, double dry-point ruling. Recto is hair and is ruled from hair side. Ink and decoration same as leaf one; two glosses on the verso, the one on line 13 over an erasure. Seems to be an inner leaf since ruling is less deep. Recto is darkened, while verso is bright buff color characteristic of other leaves remaining from this manuscript. Folds at lines 12 and 14 show this was a wrapper and that recto was the outside; two lines of 3 sets of double sewing holes along the creases. Was not the wrapper to the same volume as leaf 1 since the creases here show a spine 10 mm. wide and those of leaf 1 of one about 15 mm. wide. F. 2v/13 one Latin gloss (misplaced, belongs with 'ui|tam' one line down); f. 2v/3, an apparent OE gloss 'nec negandi (fest)' that does not make obvious sense.

**CONTENTS** (coll. Gwara 2001, cited by ch. and Gwara ed. line, plus page nos.):

Leaf 1rv ch. 31/19-ch. 32/9 (Gwara 393–401): '[. . . ] ludificare, et cun`c`ta uirtutum gener(a) . . . ut lichinis et lampadibus ecclesiae [. . .]';

Leaf 2rv: ch. 36/10–40 (Gwara 493–503): '[. . . ] ecclesiae liminibus ad herentem . . . O quanta caterua credentium In utroque [. . .]'.

#### **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]

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