

**406. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Rawlinson G. 57 (14788)
+ MS. Rawlinson G. 111 (14836)**

“Disticha Catonis,” Baebius Italicus, “Ilias Latina,” “Cato Nouus”;
Avianus, “Fabulae,” Romulus Nilantius [Aesopus Latinus], “Fabulae”
[Ker 350, Gneuss 664]

HISTORY: A collection of Latin poetry dated by Gneuss “s. xi ex or s. xi/xii”; Ker (*Cat.*) dates the glosses to “s. xi ex (?)”. Originally parts of the same codex, the two manuscripts were separately bound by Thomas Rawlinson. They were subsequently purchased by Richard Rawlinson in the Thomas Rawlinson sale of March 1733/4 as lots 5 (G. 57) and 12 (G. 111), and acquired by the Bodleian in 1756.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The two segments are separately described.

Rawl., G. 57: Leaves measure 200 × 118 mm., with a writing area of 149 × 88 mm. Leaves are arranged HFHF. They are ruled for 25 lines, with pricking in outer margins and double bounding verticals. Text is in black ink with occasional stints of brown; corrections in the text hand; large initials and titles are in red (but not the incipit on f. 33v). In the Cato, each distich begins with a red capital for the first line, a black capital for the second; each book begins with a line of red (generally illegible owing to oxidation) and ends with a dot between the bounding verticals. In the “Ilias Latina,” lines begin with alternating red and black capitals. Interlinear and marginal glosses occur throughout, except for the last item, ff. 27v to end. There are 113 OE glosses to “Disticha Catonis,” ff. 1r–5v, and 8 to the “Ilias Latina” ff. 6r–27r (all ed. Förster and Napier 1906). Occasional long marginal glosses, e.g., f. 10v. Two leaves are missing before f. 1 (stubs showing with writing visible). F. 1r is darkened and worn, with some damage to the lower corner, and shows a large stain that has bled through to f. 4; f. 51 of Rawlinson G. 111 is likewise much darkened and showing holes produced by wear (all indications that the codex was for some time without a cover after the initial leaves had been removed). Leaves have been trimmed (cf., e. g., f. 10v).

Sewing on ff. 4, 7, and 32. Worm holes in lower gutters of ff. 15–21; three small holes on f. 6 and one on f. 3. Ff. 17 and 18 have been cut through at one point by the ruling. A blank space on f. 33v contained some later writing, now erased. There is a drawing of a bird in the bottom margin of f. 15r and scribbles in an antiquarian hand throughout. Cover in brown gold-tooled leather (Thomas Rawlinson's binding [S.C.]).

Rawl, G. 111: Leaves measure 196/204 × 116 mm., with a writing area of 148 × 78/95 mm. Leaves are arranged HFHF. Ff. 1–8 trimmed at bottom (ff. 5–7 more severely than rest), with the shortest leaf measuring ca. 169 mm. in length; f. 51 measures 184 mm. in length. Ff. 1–16 is ruled for 24 lines, ff. 17–32 for 25 lines, ff. 33–42 for 24 lines, ff. 43–45 for 23 lines, and ff. 45–51 for 24 lines. F. 51v is severely worn and darkened from the application of a reagent. Throughout, some script, especially glossing, has abraded owing to heavy use. Pricking in outer margins; double bounding verticals. Text is in brown ink, with titles in red until f. 16r, thereafter brown. Initial letters of each line are in red to f. 16r/16, after which only larger initials are in red. From f. 16r/17 onward titles are added in a 13c hand; titles on ff. 23r–44v are added in another hand, often written over by the 13c hand. There are two main hands, the first writing the Avianus material, the second Aesop. The Aesop is corrected by the text hand. Thirty-three OE glosses to Avianus are ed. Napier (1900, no. 28). On f. 29r appears the name 'Joha(nne)s de fenton' (14c). Late crude drawings all by the same hand are entered into the margins of f. 28 (figure, in same hand as earlier set of titles), f. 35v (face in profile), f. 39v (cross?), f. 45r (initial 'A' and face in profile). Binding of blue leather with gold tooling. Written on the spine is 'FESTI | AVIENI | FABULAE | ÆSOPÆ | FABULAE | METRICE | MS. | IN | PERGAM'.

COLLATION: Rawl. G. 57: v + 33 + vi leaves, foliated ii–vi, 1–39; ff. ii–vi and 34–39 are modern paper. I⁸ 1 and 2 wanting (ff. 1–6), II⁸ (ff. 7–14), II⁶⁺² 1 and 8 added; stub of 1 shows after 7, stub of 8 shows before 1 (ff. 15–22), IV⁸ (ff. 23–30), V³ all half sheets (ff. 31–33).

Rawl. G. 111: iv + 51 + iv leaves, foliated i–iv, 1–55; ff. i–iv and 52–55 are modern paper. I–II⁸ (ff. 1–16), III¹⁰ wanting 3 and 7; stubs showing after 2 and 7 (ff. 17–24), IV¹⁰ wanting 4 and 7; stubs showing after 3 and 8 (ff. 25–32), V⁸ (ff. 33–44), VI⁶ (ff. 41–46), VII⁴⁺¹ f. 51 tipped in (ff. 47–51).

CONTENTS:

Rawl.G.57:

1. ff. 1r–5v/21 “Disticha Catonis,” with marginal commentary by Remigius of Auxerre; beg. imperf. at Book 1.35: ‘Ne dubites eu(m) magna petas’; ends: ‘hoc breuitas fecit sensus (gl: ‘mentis’) coniungere binos. (marg. comm: ‘binos senus dicit / maxime / [duos composuit uersus (?)] / q(u)ia ostendit / q(u)id agendum / sit (ue)l q(u)id cauē/du(m)’) / (as Boas and Botschuyver 1952: 77–263, noting the Remigian glosses at the end of each section; OE glosses ed. Förster and Napier 1906: 24–27).
 2. ff. 5v/22–25 tag on Homer (in another hand), = Ovid, *Amores* 3.7.34–35 and *Ars amatoria* 2.279–80: ‘Ingeniu(m) quondam fuerat pretiosius auro | Sed m(od)o barbaries grandis’ habere nihil | Ipse licet uenias in musis comitat(us) omere | Si nihil attuleris ibis omere foras’ (as Werner 1889: 423; SK 8093, Walthers 14116).
 3. ff. 6r/1–27r/11 Baebius Italicus “Ilias Latina”: (superscription) ‘Pindar(us) ut secu(m) transpontu(m) uexit omeru(m) | Scilicet ex greca dedit e(ss)e poema latinu(m).’ | HIC INCIPIT LIBER OMERI | ‘Iram pande michi pelide diua sup(er)bi. (“pelide” marg. comm. at ‘A’: ‘Poeta inuocat / ni(m)pha(m) i(d est) dea(m) aq(u)aru(m). / gentiles eni(m) crede/bant ab aqua scien(tia(m) ascend(er)e ad cor / ho(min)is p(er) noue(m) musas. / q(u)asi p(er) fistulas. ex / q(u)ib(us) e(st) una calliope / que p(re)est poetrię.’); text ends: ‘Tuq(ue) faue cursu uatis ia(m) phebe p(er)acto’ (coll. Scaffai 1997; as Baehrens 1879–1883: 3.7–59; OE glosses ed. Förster and Napier 1906: 27–28).
- [Note: This copy is closely related to that in Oxford, Bodl. Lib. Auct. F. 2. 14 [344] (Scaffai 1997: 37). This is the earliest copy attributing the poem to “Pindarus,” a conceit that became common in the later Middle Ages (cf. Scaffai 1979, and 17c notes to this item in Bodl. Lib. Auct. F. 2. 14).]
4. f. 27r/12–21 Pompilius “De Hectore” (added in another hand): ‘Defensor patrię iuuenu(m) fortissim(us) hector . . . Condidit. & merens hac tumula`ui`it humo;’ (as Baehrens 1879–1883: 4.149; also Reise 1894–1906: no. 631; Bertalot 1921: 18, no. 42).
 5. ff. 27v–33v Martin (of Laon?, 819–875), “Cato Novus” (four books of leonine verses): EI Q(U)ICUNQ(U)E LEGIT MARTINI MUSA \ QUOD EGIT. / SICUBI DELIQUIT. UITIUM SANARE RELIQUIT | ‘LINGUA PATERNA SONAT. Q(U)O(D) DEI SAPIENTIA DONAT. | Exaudi fili. Mentisq(ue) repone cubili;.’ Ends: ‘Mens paup(er)tina. coniunx(it) carmina bina.’ | EXPLICIT CATO PER EQUIPOLLENTIA. (ed. Zarncke 1863: 24–48; see also Manitius 1973: 713–14) [rest of f. 33v blank].

[Note: The text is divided into four books by numbered titles in red ink.]

Rawl. G. 111:

6. f. 1r/1–6r/6 Avianus, “Fabulae” (ed. Herrmann 1968):

f. 1r/1–26 letter of Avianus to Theodosius: EP(ISTO)LA AUIENI AD THEODOSIU(M) IMP(ER)ATORE(M) | ‘DVBITANTI MIHI Theodosi optime (gl: ‘sol’) quona(m) (gl: ‘ue)l q(u)onia(m) [. . .] | litteraru(m) titulo (gl: ‘luce’) nostri nominis memoria(m) | mandarem(us) (gl: ‘i(d est) co(m)m(an)darem(us)’) . . . fecim(us). ut p(ro) singulor(um) necessitatib(us) (ue)l ab ipsis animis | sententia p(ro)ferat(ur);

f. 1v/1–9 preface, prose, arranged as if verse: **prefatio sequentis opusculi.** | ‘Lector non fabulas spectes. sed tende magis quid | Rure morans q(u)id aga(m) . . . Prandeo. potō. cano. ludo. lauo. ceno. quiesco’ (coll. Ellis 1887/1966: 2);

[Note: This piece occurs only here and in Oxford, Bodl. Lib. Auct. F. 2. 14 [344], f. 58v (cf. Ellis, *loc. cit.*)]

ff. 1v/10–16r/16 Avianus, “Fabulae”: **Fabula auieni poeṭę. De rustica [altered from rustico] & lupi fraudato.** | ‘Rustica deflentī paruo iurauerat olim’; ends: ‘Expedit insigne(m) promeruisse necem’ | **EXPLICUNT FABULE AUIANI poeṭę** | [E]GREGII.

[Note: The text is divided by rubricated titles. The Fables are arranged as in the editions, but contain the occasional beginnings and endings generally considered spurious. See the note to 344, item 6, in this volume.]

7. ff. 16r/17–51v Romulus Nilantius [Aesopus Latinus], “Fabulae” (ed. from this manuscript Hervieux 1883–1899: 2.653–712):

f. 16r/17–16v/16 Preface: (**Incipit Esopus** title added in a hand of 12c/13c) | ‘Magn(us) romane regnator romul(us) urb(is) . . . doctiferaq(ue) simul scrutantis metere carus’;

f. 16v/17–19 ‘FABVLA qua(m) scripsit. dictis hec p(r)ima decoris . . . Illis q(u)i spernunt aliud (ue)l munere dignum’;

ff. 16v/20–51v text: (13c title ‘De grillo & gemma’) | ‘Ecce fer(un)t q(u)onda(m) nob(is) n(un)c dicta uetusta’; the last legible side (f. 51r) beg. at line 22: ‘Pacificos optant sontes ac led(er)e mites. | (13c title: ‘de cornice 7 oue’) | R[.]diger ast dictis dep(ro)mit sermo uetustis’ . . . ; most of f. 51v is illegible, ends imperf. line 22: ‘Publice [. . .] omine [. . .]’.

[Note: Because the last leaf has been severely damaged from wear and the nineteenth-century use of a reagent, the explicit is taken from Hervieux’s edition. The text is divided by titles entered in a later (13c) hand. Erasures of original titles are sometimes visible.]

PHOTO NOTE:

A supplementary fiche shows improved images of G. 57, ff. 1rv, 2r.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Baehrens, Aemilius, ed. *Poetae Latini Minores*. 5 vols. Leipzig: Teubner, 1879–1883; repr. New York: Garland, 1979.
- Bertalot, Ludwig. “Die älteste gedruckte lateinische Epitaphiensammlung.” In *Collectanea Variarum Doctrinae*, ed. Leo S. Olschki, 1–28. Munich: Jacques Rosenthal, 1921.
- Boas, Marcus, and H. J. Botschuyver, eds. *Disticha Catonis*. Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Co., 1952.
- Ellis, Robinson, ed. *The Fables of Avianus*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1887.
- Ehwald, R. *Ovid: Amores, Medicamina faciei femineae, Ars amatoria, Remedia amoris*. Leipzig: Teubner, 1916.
- Förster, Max, and Arthur Napier. “Englische Cato- und Ilias-Glossen des 12. Jahrhunderts.” *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen* 107 (1906): 17–28.
- Herrmann, Léon, ed. *Avianus, Œuvres*. Collection Latomus, 96. Brussels: Latomus, Revue d’Études Latines, 1968.
- Hervieux, Léopold. *Les Fabulistes Latins*. 5 vols. Paris: Firmin-Didot, 1893–1899. repr. New York: Burt Franklin, 1964.
- McKeown, J. C., ed. *Ovid: Amores: Text, Prolegomenon and Commentary*. 4 vols. ARCA Classical and Medieval Texts, Papers and Monographs 20. Liverpool: Francis Cairns, 1987.
- Manitius, Max. *Geschichte der Lateinischen Literatur des Mittelalters: Von Justinian bis zur Mitte des zehnten Jahrhunderts*. 3 vols. Munich: C. H. Beck, 1973.
- Riese, A. *Anthologia Latina*. 2 vols. Leipzig: Teubner, 1894–1906.
- Scaffai, Marco, ed. *Baebii Italici Ilias Latina: Introduzione, Edizione critica, Traduzione italiana e commento*. 2d ed. Bologna: Pàtron Editore, 1997.
- . “Pindarus seu Homerus: Un’ipotesi sul titolo dell’*Ilias Latina*.” *Latomus* 38 (1979): 932–39.
- SK = Dieter Schaller and Ewald Könsgen. *Initia carminum Latinorum saeculo undecimo antiquiorum*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1977.
- Walther, Hans. *Initia carminum ac versuum Medii Aevi posterioris Latinorum*. 2d ed. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1969.

- Werner, J. "Mittelalterliches Klagedicht über die Missachtung und den Verfall der Dichtkunst." *Neues Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde* 14 (1889): 421-23.
- Zarncke, F. "Beiträge zur mittellateinischen Spruchpoesie I.1. *Cato Novus*." *Berichte über die Verhandlungen der Königlichen Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig, philologisch-historische Classe* 15 (1863): 23-78.

D. W. P. / †P. P.