

438a. Paris, private collection, Musée des lettres et manuscrits

Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis"
(“Yale Aldhelm Fragments,” bifolium)
(with 92, 172, 173b, 330, 372, 395, 438b)
[Ker 12 & Supp., Gneuss 857]

HISTORY: A bifolium from Aldhelm, “De laudibus virginitatis,” the “Yale” fragments, early 9c with later 10c A-S glosses (see 330). The manuscript was in a Brighton bookshop, being dismantled for wrappers, until 1827. This leaf has had a hard time settling down: its first known owner was James Tregaskis, London, until 1921; then owned by Wilfred Merton, Slindon, in the Merton collection as MS 41 until 1958; then purchased by Peter Ludwig, Aachen, through the dealer H. P. Kraus in 1961, and in the Ludwig Collection as MS XI 5 until 1983; it was purchased with the entire Ludwig collection by the Getty trust in 1983; these leaves sold to Martin Schøyen of Oslo in 1988 and kept at Bernard Quaritch Booksellers, London, as Schøyen Collection, MS 197; sold at Sotheby’s sale “The History of Western Script: Sixty Important Manuscript Leaves from the Schøyen Collection” (10 July 2012) to an anonymous buyer in France (p.c. Alex Day for Bernard Quaritch; p.c. Camilla Previtè for Sotheby’s; p.c. Cathie Reami for Astrophil lettres et manuscrits, Paris).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A single bifolium 175 × 264 mm., page size 175 × 132 mm. It was 3/6 in a quire of 8 (see “Collation reconstructed” in 330). Text area 141 × 111 mm. Pricked both margins, double bounding rules, ruled separately after folding with dry-point for 22 lines; double ruling for each line, two lines about 2 mm. apart to bound the body of the letter. Hair outside. Parchment stiff, yellow, well-prepared. Main script early 9c, A-S glosses second half of 10c. Ink black, capitals touched in red lead now oxidized to silver which has left offsets. Capital on fol. 2r is black, with silver infill and red dots. Erasure and correction in a later hand f. 1r/20. Several other later corrections and a contemporary one (brown ink) at f. 1v/20. Seventeen OE glosses, including one unique word, 2r/13

'clangor (clangetug)'. The apparent differences in the A-S gloss hands may be due to the parchment. Glosses on hair sides are darker and less fluent but hand is basically the same throughout.

CONTENTS: Aldhelm, prose "De laudibus virginitatis" (text and glosses coll. Gwara 2001, glosses ed. Meritt 1952; cited by ch. and Gwara line no., plus pages):

- f. 1rv ch. 47/30–61 (Gwara 647–53): '[. . .] et truculentus parricida . . . Cum purpuris totidem rosis [. . .]';
 f. 2r/1–18 ch. 49/32–44: '[. . .] meminit enim Inquit . . . In sponsi obuiam subuolans / etcetera.' ~
 f. 2r/18–2v/22 ch. 50/1–20: 'GLORiosas itidem passiones . . . torquendae traduntur' [. . .] (Gwara: 663–69).

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- 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: Weidmann, 1919, 2d ed. 1961]
- [Kraus] *Fifty Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts*. H. P. Kraus catalogue 88, no. 5 (1958), [11–13]
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- Meritt, H. D. "Old English Aldhelm Glosses." *Modern Language Notes* 67 (1952): 553–54.
- The Schøyen Collection: Checklist of Manuscripts*, <http://www.schoyencollection.com/index.html>

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