

**438b. Philadelphia, Free Library, John Frederick Lewis
Collection, ET 121**

Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis"
("Yale Aldhelm Fragments," 1 leaf)
(with 92, 172, 173b, 330, 372, 395, 438a)
[Ker 12 & Supp.; Gneuss 857]

HISTORY: One leaf from the 9c dispersed "Yale" Aldhelm codex (see 330). John Frederick Lewis (1860–1932) acquired the leaf in 1914 (inscription, upper right recto); at his death his widow gave it to the Philadelphia Free Library, along with his collection of Oriental and European manuscripts. Another inscription on upper right recto is 'Given me by M^r R. Cowtan [Conitan, Contan?] | Mar. 1855.'

[**Note:** The most likely candidate for the donor in the inscription is Robert Cowtan, who was appointed by Head Librarian Antonio Panizzi as Receiver of Copyright Publications at the British Museum in 1854; he later published a brief biography of Panizzi and a "Memoir" of the British Museum; Cowtan's father was a bookseller and printer in Canterbury and Cowtan himself had been loosely connected to the bookseller's trade through relations since his teenage years (see [Cowtan] 1866: 4–5, 26–27, 74, 198–99).]

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A single leaf of the dispersed Aldhelm complex, measuring 194 × 142 mm. Hair recto. Parchment matte, tan, thick and stiffish; the surface is lightly scraped on the hair/recto in several places along the right margin. Writing area 143 × 95 mm., ruled for 22 lines with dry-point from the hair side; double bounding lines, right and left, pricking present right and left. Ink very dark brown on the recto, slightly more brownish and weaker-appearing on the verso; there are several areas of erasure on the verso. Large initial 'Q' (recto/12) is surrounded with light brown dots. Minor initials ('Po' recto/5, 'Un' recto/9) have silver infills, oxidized from red lead; on the verso the minor initials are filled in with brown wash: 'Gu', 'Ead' (verso/4), 'Ap' (verso/20), 'G' (verso/10 & 15).

OE glosses (10c): recto/7 'ad (to)'; recto/8 'ceremonas (gemene)'; verso/5 'uehiculo (bære)'; verso/9 'tirocinium (gewin)'; verso/13–14 'cater|uis (were|du(m))'; verso/17 'fortuitas (færlicu)'; verso/18 'in casibus (gelimpu(m))'. Over the first word of recto/6 is a messy erasure that might have been a gloss.

The leaf was used as a wrapper of a small book, the crease (quite visible on the verso) running horizontally along lines 12/13, a set of four attachment holes present in each margin along this crease, plus two holes further in, on first *e* of 'perennis' and on *r* of 'floridæ' (recto/12–13).

CONTENTS:

"De laudibus virginitatis" chs. 43/42–44/23 (coll. Gwara 2001: 619–25):
 recto: '[. . .] et contritas corde. consulens ultro miserescit | flamman-
 tis foci potestatem . . . gloriam ut spurca ~ verso: `ster `quilinea (. . .)
 spreuit . . . et aruspibus uana falsitatis. deleramenta [. . .]'

PHOTO NOTE: Three shots of each side, with various exposures. The photos of the verso have better contrast and are more easily legible than the actual membrane itself, though it is entirely legible with effort.

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- Napier, Arthur. *Old English Glosses, Chiefly Unpublished*. Anecdota Oxoniensia 11. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1900; repr. New York: AMS Press, [1989]. [no. 11 [= 330], pp. xvi–xvii, xxxiii]