

## 493. Würzburg, Universitätsbibliothek M.p.th.f. 79

Isidore of Seville, "Synonyma"

[Ker 400, Gneuss 946; *CLA* 9.1246]

**HISTORY:** The manuscript is thought to have been written in the first half of the 8c in England, "probably in the South or Mercia" (*CLA* 9.1246; see also Lowe 1960: 17–18; Thurn 1984: 66; Bischoff and Hofmann 1952: 96–96; Mälzer 1988: 49–50; Bergmann and Stricker 2005: 4.1880–82; Elfassi 2009: xlili–xliv), though McKitterick (1989: 291) considers it possible that it was produced by A-S scribes on the Continent. The text script of ff. 1r–8v/10 is by two hands in A-S uncial showing Frankish influence. For comparable Frankish uncial manuscripts see Hussey 2005: 88–90; Hussey 2013: 23–29 and 32–33 draws special attention to two manuscripts from Jouarre: Paris, BnF lat. 152, fols. 1–8 (s. vii/viii; *CLA* 5.22) and BnF lat. 17654 (s. viii in.; *CLA* 5.670); he also (21–23) compares several English uncial manuscripts. Hussey 2013: 31 notes a brief lapse into half-uncial on f. 2r. At f. 8v/11–12 there are two changes of hand, at 'dimicant' and '(confo)deris' (1.33 = Elfassi 2009: 28/309), and the remainder of the text is by several A-S minuscule hands (occasionally becoming cursive at the end of a page), except at f. 24r/20–25, where there is a change to A-S cursive minuscule from 'sensum hebetudo' through 'natura consuetudine' (2.64 = Elfassi 2009: 115/644–116/693). Julian Brown (1993), who dates the manuscript to the first quarter of the 8c, has compared the uncial of Book 1 to the scripts of London, BL Cotton Augustus ii.3, the "Ismere" charter of Æthelbald, king of Mercia (S 89 <<http://www.esawyer.org.uk/charter/89.html>>) dated 736 with a subsequent endorsement before 747 (Engelbert 1969: 410–11; *ChLA* 3: no. 183; color facsimile on-line at the *Kemble* website (Charters on Single Sheets, no. 9) <<http://www.kemble.asnc.cam.ac.uk/node/32>>. Brown also compares the decorated initial 'A' on f. 1v to the initials of a manuscript of Worcester provenance and perhaps origin, Oxford, Bodleian Library Hatton 48 [381] (Gneuss no. 631; *CLA* 2.240, ca. 700; see Sims-Williams 1990: 202–3, citing Brown's unpublished Lyell lectures, and Brown 1993: 196). According to Bischoff (1966–81b: 333), it is not certain that the A-S

minuscule scripts that continue the text from f. 8v are contemporary with the uncial hands. (See also Hussey 2005: 91 for comparisons to two somewhat later A-S minuscule manuscripts.)

Interlinear and marginal corrections by various A-S uncial and minuscule hands occur sporadically throughout. In the left margin of f. 9r (next to line 21, 'Eu me homo . . .' [= Elfassi 2009: 33/367]) is written 'homo | respondit' and thereafter for the remainder of Book 1 various sections of the text are assigned in the margins (by more than one hand) either to 'homo' or 'ratio' (see Di Sciacca 2007: 112–113; 2008: 18 and 110). Marginal notations have sometimes been partly trimmed off.

OE drypoint glosses (most Mercian or Kentish, with West-Saxon features in two glosses) are entered by several hands, the earliest of which dates from the middle of the 8c (Hofmann 1963: 58–59; Di Sciacca 2008: 224, n. 17). According to Hussey (2005: 96–102 and 2008: 156–57) the character of the scripts, including the glossing hands, suggests that the manuscript was glossed in Southwest Mercia or Wessex.

Early 9c OHG glosses (East Frankish, to Book 1 only) suggest that by the last quarter of the 8c the manuscript had reached a scriptorium in the Rhine-Main region (perhaps Mainz; see Hofmann 1963: 58–59, who edits both OE and OHG glosses at 60–61). It was in the Würzburg cathedral library by the 13c, when the ex-libris 'LIBER S<an>c<t>i kyliani' was entered on f. 1r. It may have been the 'Liber synonomorum Ysidori' listed in the Würzburg library catalogue of about 1000 (ed. Knaus 1979: 987/252; Hoffmann 2009: 233–34, no. 198), though the entry might also refer to M.p.th.q. 28a. If, as Elfassi 2009: xlv suggests, it is the exemplar of M.p.th.f. 33 (see Thurn 1984: 26–27; facsimile at <<http://vb.uni-wuerzburg.de/ub/mpthf33/ueber.html>>), it must have been at Würzburg by the first half of the 9c. Its 15c shelfmark was 'Cvii' (f. 1r); the 18c shelfmark was 59 (on the shelfmarks and early catalogues of the cathedral library, see Bischoff and Hofmann 1952: 72, 74–75).

The manuscript was among those rediscovered in 1717 by Dean (later Prince-bishop) Franz Christoph von Hutten-Stolzenberg in the cathedral attic, and came to the Universtätsbibliothek in 1805 (see M.p.th.q. 2 [492] under "History"). On the manuscripts with vernacular glosses see Moulin 2009. M.p.th.f. 79 was described in the 18c catalogue of the Dombibliothek, M.ch.f. 644 (see Thurn 1981: 73–74), f. 61r (facsimile at <<http://vb.uni-wuerzburg.de/ub/mchf644/pages/mchf644/121.html>>) and by Oegg 1808: 445–47.

There is a digital facsimile of M.p.th.f. 79 at the "Libri Sancti Kyliani digital" website <<http://vb.uni-wuerzburg.de/ub/mpthf79/ueber.html>>.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** [i] + 28 + [i], vellum (i.e. calfskin) except for new paper flyleaves. Continuous modern foliation in pencil in the upper right corner of each recto (often not visible on fiche). Membrane is prepared in the Insular manner, with a suede-like finish minimizing or eliminating the difference between hair and flesh sides; but the flesh sides in M.p.th.f 79 tend to be smoother and sometimes greasy. Leaves measure 282 × 215 mm., written space 225–235 × 170 mm. (but sometimes as wide as 180 mm. in quire II). Ruled after folding for 21, 25, or 27 long lines, sometimes re-ruled; slits in both margins (ca. 11–12 mm. apart) guided the ruling. Single bounding lines. Ink dark brown, with additional punctuation in light brown ink through f. 22v. Hussey 2013: 17–19 notes several differences in the preparation of quire I (a quaternio) as compared to quires 2–3 (both quinios), characterizing quire I as an “experiment” in Continental methods of bookmaking.

Quire I: HHHH. F. 1r, top: 15c shelfmark ‘Cvii’; bottom: 13c ex-libris ‘LIBER S<an>c<t>i kyliani.’ 20 lines written. Initials ‘IN subs’ touched in yellow. Water stains. Lightly drawn design in left margin, next to line 10 (not visible in fiche; also in f. 3r, left margin); erasure next to line 13. F. 1v: initials beginning with ‘Anima’ through ‘Meus’ and small capitals thereafter through f. 2r are touched in yellow, gradually becoming lighter. Part of the flourish on the bar of ornamental ‘A’ of ‘Anima’ has been trimmed off by a binder. An old parchment binding strip without sewing slits lies in the gutters between ff. 1/2 and 7/8; a new repair strip lies between ff. 8/9. F. 2r: slits in both margins for 27 lines, but only 21 lines are written. Erasure on bottom margin (an older ex-libris?).

Quire II: HHHFH. Most pages have 27 lines (but there are only 25 on f. 15r where book 2 begins, and 26 on ff. 15v, 18rv). F. 9 is stitched at bottom. An old parchment binding strip lies in the gutters between ff. 9/10 and 17/18, and a modern binding strip lies between ff. 18/19. F. 10r, top: a later hand has transcribed ‘in aculari’. F. 11r, right margin: pen squiggles cut off; squiggles near gutter of f. 12r, top of f. 12v, cut off. F. 13r, top left: dry-point ‘X’; left margin, trace of design? F. 14r: stain, some bleed-through. F. 14v: erased ‘et’ in right margin. F. 15 r: initial ‘Q’ in yellow, no ink outline, ‘q’ repeated in text hand. F. 15v: erased ‘n’ or ‘m’, top left corner. F. 16v, left margin: design cut off. F. 17r: words cut off at top (‘oratio . . . submovit’) marked for insertion after ‘Ora’ (f. 17r/1); stain in middle of page, some offset from f. 16v. F. 18r greasy, f. 18v stained.

Quire III: FFHHH. Membrane of ff. 23–24 is very thick and greasy. F. 19 pricked and ruled for 25 long lines, but a word or part of a word is written on the 26th lines of ff. 19v, 20r, 20v, 21r, 26r, 27r. F. 19r has a small repair

strip, and a small design in the right margin next to line 7; an old binding strip lies between ff. 19v and 28r. Ff. 22v, 26r, 26v, and 28v have pen-trials, ff. 23v, 24r, 25v have writing on the bottom margin. Ff. 26–27, 27–28 are tightly bound; f. 28v is badly worn, with writing faded toward gutter, creases in parchment, and repairs on left margin and bottom of page. Writing in the gutter of f. 28r is partly covered by a binding strip, most of which has been torn away, revealing faded letters.

Typical 15c Dombibliothek binding of beech boards of 9 mm. thickness. Rebacked in 1960 (see note pasted on inside back cover) with new white leather quarter-binding, new binding strip, and two unnumbered paper endleaves; part of the old white leather quarter-binding was repasted over the new one. Sewing holes and slits from an earlier binding are visible. 15c title-piece reads 'Sinonima Ysidori.' Metal clasp on front cover has inscribed Gothic letters 'mar' and three studs. On the back cover is a metal clasp with two studs and remnant of a leather strap; there are two small holes 10 mm. behind the clasp on the outside, and a hole at the top for a chain, with impression of a metal ring and rust stains inside and outside. Rust marks on f. 28v suggest that the missing folio containing the conclusion of the text was already lost when the manuscript was given its 15c binding. Inside back cover: 'Mpth f 79' in pencil. The spine has three bands and two 18c (?) title-pieces: 'M. p. th. f. 79' (top); 'Isidori Synonym.' (bottom).

[Note: Fragments of a manuscript once used as binding strips and still visible in the reproduction in Bischoff and Hofmann 1952 (pl. 20) have been removed from the inside front cover, presumably in the 1960 restoration (the strips are not mentioned in the rebinding note or in Thurn's 1984 description of the manuscript, and could not be located in June 1995). Under the new binding strip the outline of four patches can be seen, but they are differently shaped and seem to have no writing. According to Hoffmann 1986: 357 and 360, these fragments are second half of the 10c, and the hand may be identical to Hand B of Cologny-Genève, Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, Cod. Bodmer 111; see also Hoffmann 2004: 346–47.]

**COLLATION:** I<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1–8), II–III<sup>10</sup> (ff. 9–28). At least one folio containing the missing conclusion of the text must have been lost after quire III. No quire signatures.

**CONTENTS:**

Isidore of Seville, "Synonyma de lamentatione animae peccatricis," Recension A (CPL no. 1203, cf. Bischoff 1966–81a; Elfassi 2006; Di Sciacca 2008: 68–72) with the "Prologus prior" attributed to Braulio but lacking the "Pro-

logus alter” of Isidore (coll. Elfassi 2009; the Würzburg manuscript is Elfassi’s “W”; on the transmission of this recension in A-S England, see Sims-Williams 1979: 4; Hussey 2005: 193–200). The Würzburg manuscript ends defectively but lacks only a few sentences.

- f. 1r/1–1v/7 Braulio, “Prologus prior” (“Synonyma” Bk. 1, chs. 1–2): ‘IN subsequenti hoc libro . . . qui cum patre et sp(irit)u s(anct)o equalis | uiuit et d<eu>s regnat in saeculo [sic] saeculorum amen’ (coll. Elfassi 2009: 3–4);
- ff. 1v8–15r/21–22 Isidore of Seville, “Synonyma” Bk. 1, chs. 3–78: ‘Anima mea in angustiis est . . . hic | saluus erit. FINIT AMEN. D<E>O GRATIAS’ (coll. Elfassi 2009: 6–62);
- ff. 15r/23–28v/25 “Synonyma” Bk. 2, chs. 1–102: ‘Queso te anima depraeor te’; ends imperf.: ‘bonorum magistra morum in[*dagatrix*]’ (coll. Elfassi 2009: 63–147/1101).

**OE Drypoint Glosses:** Twenty-seven OE drypoint glosses on “Synonyma” 1.12–2.14 occur on ff. 3v, 4r, 4v, 5r, 5v, 8v, 10v, 11r, 12r, 14v, 15v, and 17r (ed. Hofmann 1963: 60–61, nos. 55–81 = OccGl 78.3, see *DOE List* and *DOE Corpus*); these are not visible on the fiche or digital facsimile. According to Hofmann (1963: 58–60), there are at least three glossing hands, including one very old one.

**PHOTO NOTES:** Darkening obscures some letters on ff. 18rv, 23r, 24v, 27r, 28r, and towards the gutter of ff. 23v–24r, 24v, which are clearer in the digital facsimile. Some letters are hidden in the gutters of ff. 26–27, 27–28, but almost all can be seen in the digital facsimile. The outermost page, f. 28v, is damaged and the writing is faded.

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