

53. Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 326

Aldhelm, “De laude virginitatis” (prose) glossed;
“Aldhelm” (OE and Latin poem); Abbo of St. Germain-
des-Prés “Bella Parisicae Urbis” (extract); various short
scholarly texts and colophons
[Ker 61, Gneuss 93]

HISTORY: This copy of Aldhelm’s prose “De laude virginitatis,” came from Christ Church, Canterbury. The main text is written very clearly in an English caroline minuscule of the second half of the 10c (Ker, *Cat.*, 107; Gwara 1998: 140 and 2001: 109–11*; Scragg 2012: 14–15) or the turn of the millennium (Gretsch 1999: 144; Lapidge 2012: 27; Lapidge and Gneuss 2014: no. 93) in the Style II of the script associated with Canterbury (Bishop 1971: xviii–xxiii; Stokes 2014: 70 and 121). Christ Church origins are confirmed in a network of scribal connections (Bishop 1954–58: 187 and 1959–63: 423; on these see below). At the top of p. 140 there is an inscription in runic characters that is possibly an indication of the name of the scribe. It was read by James (1912: 143) as ‘-um uilframno s[c]ripsit amen’, but Derolez (1954: 421) thinks James’s reading ‘hardly possible’, and refers to Kemble’s 1846 reading of ‘Ædilflæd’, which James does not mention. There is another scribal inscription on p. 105 ‘V[i]V[e] V[a]L[e] F[e]L[ix] C[u]M CR[i]ST[o] [A]M[e]N’ with dots representing vowels (on both, see Gameson 2002: no. 19, 41). The text of Aldhelm’s prose “De laude virginitatis” is the so-called “Class III” (Gwara 2001: 1.109–13* and 187; Lapidge 2012: 29) glossed in both Latin and OE in various hands near the time of its making and later in the 11c; these glosses include syntactical glosses and OE in dry point. Gwara suggests one third of the OE glosses correspond with those found in Brussels, Bibliothèque Royale 1650 [18] and Oxford, Bodl. Lib. Digby 146 [370] (1997: 206–07). Miscellaneous scholarly and scribal texts were added in the 11c on blank leaves at end, including a bit of Book III of Abbo of St. Germain-des-Prés’ “Bella Parisicae Urbis,” a text often associated, along with Aldhelm, with the study of *recherché* vocabulary. The

extract of Abbo here is accompanied by the glosses that are always found with it (with one exception) (Lendinara 2010: 107–09 and 2011: 487 and 509). Christ Church, Canterbury provenance is indicated by the pressmark and title on f. ii recto, ‘D(istinctio) ii^a G(radus) iiii^{us} demo(nstratio) p(ri)-ma | Aldelmus de laude virginum’ with the word ‘nou(us)’ added. The 12c Christ Church pressmark ‘dc’ occurs on p. 1. Probably no. 47 in Prior Henry Eastry’s catalogue of 1327 (James 1903: 21). The manuscript continued to be read and marked up in the 13c through the 15c with scribbles, dots, and a manicule (Budny 1997: 1. 248). It came to Matthew Parker; Parkerian use is indicated by the initials in red crayon on f. ii recto ‘TW’, standing for John Twine or Thomas Wotton. ‘K 12’, also on f. ii recto, as in the Parkerian list of books bequeathed to Corpus Christi College, printed in 1575. John Josce-lynn made use of the manuscript while compiling word-lists of OE and Latin, as found in London, Lambeth Palace Library 692, f. 16v headed ‘verba hæc desumpta ex Aldelmo de virginitate’. Probably refurbished or rebound in the mid 18c, and the present binding (done at the British Museum?), with the leaves in paper guards, dates from c. 1952, but Budny attributed it to George Bolton and dated it to c. 1980 (Budny 1997: 1.249). Earlier descriptions by James 1912: 2.143–6, Budny 1997: 245–52, no. 21, and Gwara 2001: 1.109–13*).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios ii (unnumbered) + ii + 71 + iii, membrane except for the outer paper endleaves, which were added with the present binding. Paginated in the 20c at the top right-hand corner of recto leaves, to which reference is made. Two leaves were foliated rather than paginated, viz. f. 71 and f. 72; hence pp. 71/71b and 72/72b, the b-numbers occurring at the top left-hand corner of the relevant verso leaves, presumably added in correction. Leaves measure 231 × 158 mm., written area 179 × 108 mm. The membrane is of good quality, often somewhat thick, although there are holes in the margins of pp. 5/6, 75/76, 115/116, 137/138. Arranged variously in quires of eight. Original quire signatures occur towards the centre of the bottom margin of the verso side of the last leaf of each quire. No prick-marks are now visible for the simple frame rule, but prick-marks for the 24 horizontal lines of writing are visible on some leaves, as pp. 15/16, 31/32, 33–38, etc. Ruled in hardpoint, with the vertical lines of the simple frame rule visible to the outer edges of leaves, and the horizontal lines drawn in between the vertical bounding lines. Apparently done from the outside with the four bifolia of the quire laid open. But the last quire may have been done differently, as pp. 139/140 appear not to be ruled.

Main text written in clear nearly black anglo-caroline minuscule, Style II (on Style II, see Dumville 1993: 86–110 et passim). Scribe 1, who wrote quires I–IV (pp. 1–64) is Bishop’s Scribe xix, who also wrote Cambridge, Pembroke College 41, ff. 1r–32v (1954–58: 187 and 1959–63: 423). Bishop also notes that his scribe ‘xvi’ wrote Item 12, p. 138/4–24 as well as f. 5r/19–23 of Cambridge, Trinity College B.14.3 (289) [78]. Both Pembroke 41 and Trinity B.14.3 have links to Christ Church, Canterbury (Bishop 1959–63: 423 and Budny 1997: 1.247). Gwara (1997) says that the main text of this manuscript was written by 3 (or possibly 2) hands (2 and 3 being possibly the same) divided as follows: Scribe 1 quires I–IV (pp. 1–64); Scribe 2 quires V–VII (pp. 65–110), Scribe 3 quires VIII–IX (pp. 111–134), but the slight change from p. 110 to p. 111 appears to be another stint by the same scribe. Contemporary scribal corrections, which are frequent, are listed by Gwara (1997: 203 n.17). Glosses added in several hands, not always distinguishing Latin with anglo-caroline and OE with English vernacular minuscule; these glossing hands have mixed forms (on the glossing hands, see Gwara 2001: 111–13*). Dry point glosses stick mainly to insular letterforms for vernacular glosses.

Elaborate large initials with interlace vines and biting animal heads open the dedication (‘REVERENTISSIMIS’ on p. 6) and first section (‘IAMDVDUM’ on p. 7 in red and black), with a line of monumental capitals following. A line of monumental capitals in black opens the incipit to the list of capitula (on p. 1) with red ink—often oxidized to metallic—for the section numbers. A large red initial opens the macaronic poem on p. 5, and similar large red initials open each section, mostly simple but at times more elaborate, with vine-work or animal heads (as at pp. 36 and 54). Each section headed with a red roman numeral up to ‘XXV’ on p. 47, resuming at ‘LII’ on p. 112 and ceasing after ‘LVIII’ on p. 128. A line of red monumental capitals opens the short texts beginning on p. 133 and 135. First bifolium preceding quire I (ff. i–ii) is of slightly smaller size, probably an addition, though bearing the early Christ Church title, suggesting it was added in the 12c or 13c.

Bound in quarter yellow calfskin with buckram over millboards with three modern paper binding leaves at front and back, and modern paper pastedowns.

COLLATION: i³ modern paper binding leaves (ff. a–c); ii² medieval parchment bifolium (ff. i–ii); I⁸ HHFH signed ‘.i.’ on p. 16 (pp. 1–16); II⁸ HHHF signed ‘.ii.’ on p. 32 (pp. 17–32); III⁸ HHFH signed ‘.iii.’ on p. 48 (pp. 33–48); IV⁸ HFHF signed ‘.iiii.’ on p. 64 (pp. 49–64); V⁸ HFHF signed ‘.v.’ on p. 78

(pp. 65–71, 71b, 72, 72b–78); VI⁸ HHHF signed ‘vi.’ on p. 94 (pp. 79–94); VII⁸ HFHF signed ‘vii.’ on p. 110 (pp. 95–110); VIII⁸ HHHH signed ‘viii.’ on p. 126 (pp. 111–126); IX⁸ HFHF wants 8 after p. 140, 7 (pp. 139/40) conjugate with 2 (pp. 129/30), 1 (pp. 127/8) bound with quire VIII; iii³ modern paper binding leaves (ff. d–f).

CONTENTS:

ff. a–c modern paper leaves blank

ff. i–ii All blank but for f. ii recto, pressmark and title added in the 13/14c: ‘D<istinctio> ii^a G<radus> iiiij^{ms} demo<nstratio> p<ri>ma | Aldelmus de laude virginum’ with ‘nou<us>’ added; red Parkerian crayon ‘TW’ [= Thomas Wotton (?)] top center; ‘K.12’ Parkerian bequest mark top right corner.

1. Aldhelm, prose “De laude virginitatis”

a. pp. 1/1–5/17 Capitula: INCIPIT CAPITVLA LIBRI | DE LAUDE UIRGINITATIS. | ‘Saluatio & p<ro>logi praefatio’; ends: ‘xl. Quod uirginitatis praeconiu<m> sicut in praesenti opusculo ret<h>oricis relatibus digestu<m> ‘(est)’ ita in future opere meretrices | carminibus expolietur’ (coll. Ehwald 1919: 226–8; Gwara 2001: 19–26);

[Note: In upper right corner of p. 1, the 12c Christ Church pressmark: ‘dc.’; top center in early modern hand: ‘claruit an<no> 709.’]

b. pp. 5/18–6/5 OE and Latin macaronic poem “Aldhelm”: ‘Pus me gesette. s<an>c<tu>s et iustus. beorn boca gleaw’; ends apparently incomplete: ‘on eorðan fortis factor þ<æt> he forð simle’ (ed. Napier 1900: xiv–xv; Ehwald 1919: 219–20; Wanley 1705: 110; Dobbie 1942: 97–8. Robinson 1994: 184–6 suggests that the poem is complete; see also Robinson and Stanley 1991: no. 9, p. 5–6);

c. pp. 6/6–18 Prologue: ‘REVERENTISSI|MIS CHR<IST>I UIRGINIBUS | omni<ue> deuote germanitatis affectu ue<ner>andis’; ends: ‘optabile<m> p<er>petuae prosperitas saluteM’ (coll. Ehwald 1919: 228–29; Gwara 2001: 27–29). Remainder of p. 6 blank;

d. pp. 7/1–133/7 Aldhelm, “De laude virginitatis” (prose): ‘IAMDVDUM [gl.: ‘i<d est> olim’] AD PON<tificale> proficiscens conciliabulu<m>’; ends: ‘chr<ist>i margaritę paradisi gem<me> & caelestis patrię participes’ (coll. Ehwald 1919: 228–323; Gwara 2001: 29–761; as PL 89.103–62, Giles 1844: 1–82). P. 133/8–9 blank.

[Note: On p. 9, the first word of c. IV, ‘Eat tamen. . .’ is neumed; on the neumes, see Hartzell 2006: no. 37, p. 51. On p. 105, a cryptogram replacing vowels with dots: ‘V : V : V. L : F : L : C : M C R : S T : . . M : N’ which reads ‘VIVE VALE FELICOM

CRISTO AMEN' probably for 'Vive vale felix cum Christo Amen' (see Gameson 2002: no. 19, p. 51).]

Glosses to Aldhelm's text (in Latin and OE) in two or more hands (cf. Gwara 1997: 204–5). Coll. Gwara 2001: 19–761 using the Latin text of Ehwald 1919. OE glosses previously printed by Napier 1900: 151–2, no. 4, except 'wreda' glossing 'fasciarum' on p. 80 (ed. Giles 1844: 48/14, Ehwald 1919: 283/9, Gwara 2001: 517/80). All 389 OE glosses ed. Gwara 1997: 211–35.

[Note: Five scratched glosses in OE are noticed by Napier 1900: xxxii, and 29 more are printed by Meritt 1945: 1, no.1, and yet more by Page 1975: 483–9, who also makes some corrections to Meritt 1945, and notes that none of the glosses show the Kentish dialectal feature of *e* for OE *y*.]

2. p. 133/10–13 Scribal note (in same hand) on following text: '[C]ONPE-RIAS LECTOR LITTERAS TAM GRECAS [in red] | qua(m) latinis sup(er)positas quibusda(m) lineis istius codicelli | suas habere significationis. & sup(er) gręca nomina gręcas | quere signifi; thus ending apparently unfinished, last line in different hand (pr. James 1912: 144). P. 133/14–17 blank.

3. pp. 133/18–134/10 Abbo of St-Germain-des-Prés, "Bella Parisiaca Urbis" III.1–17, with glosses: 'CLericę dipticas lateri ne dempseris umqua(m). . . Effippiam diamant stragula(m) parit(er)q(ue) p(ro)-poma[m] [gl.: 'ornamentu(m) decor(um) ualdeamant. uestem pict(ur)a claram pontione(m) p(er) linteum']' (as Winterfeld 1899: 116–17, also Pertz 1829: 802; PL 132.753–4). P. 134/11 blank.

[Note: Each line has a point at the right-hand side of the written area to indicate the verses. Latin glosses added slightly later above the line. Glosses over some Grecisms marked with a Greek letter next to the Latin gloss, e.g. 'Machia' (p. 133/21) is glossed 'φ pugna.')

4. p. 134/12–16 Extract from a glossary, B- and C- words: 'Bassiu(m) est [quod] uxori datur. osculum filio. suauium scorti. . . ceco | igni. oculto amore. calorate ardent(er)' (cf. Goetz 1894: 170/33 and 1889: 488/45, 47, 12, 36 and 489/25 or 25/36, 25/65, 26/18 and 32/31).

[Note: This small collection of glosses, 10 in all, seem ultimately derived from either the "Affatim" or "Abstrusa" gloss compilations, perhaps via the "Liber glossarum" project.]

5. pp. 134/17–135/14 Various *sententiae* added in another hand (11c): "Ama d(eu)m. diligent te om(ne)s. D(eu)m iusto honore. uenera[re]. ab omnibus honorem habebis . . . Tres infelices leguntur in lege qui scit & non docet q(ui) docet | & non facit & qui nescit nec interrogat'.

6. pp. 135/15–136/24 "On Adam's Creation" added in another hand of the beginning of the 11c: DIC MIHI FRATER VNDE FUIT FACTVS

ADAM | 'EGo dico tibi de octo partibus [*recte* partibus] fuit fact(us). prima pars de | limo terre; ends: 'Et dixit ad uriel d(omi)n(u)s. | lege literas. et dixit uriel ADAM et dixit d(omi)n(u)s sic uoca|bitur nom(en) eius' (ed. Förster 1908: 479–81; see Stegmüller 1976: no. 75.22, p. 11).

[Note: Throughout, litterae notabiliores in red. Last half line of p. 136 blank. On photos, pp. 136–37 are out of order; see fiche 3 of 3.]

7. p. 137/1–6 Latin poem, perhaps by Alcuin: '[N]auta rudis pelagi ut seuis ereptus ab undis. . . [P]roque laboris agat iste sui requie' (ed. Dümmler 1881: 284; SK 10046). p. 137/7 blank.

[Note: Spaces left for colored or large initials at start of each poetic line, never filled in.]

8. p. 137/8–13 Smaragdus, "Expositio in Regulam Sancti Benedicti," extract from ch. 27: '[C]entu(m) oues uniuersitas e(st) ang(e)lorum & hominum. . . Qua inuen|ta fit gaudiu(m) sup(er) ea magis quam sup(er) nonaginta nouem q(ui) n(on) / errauerant' (ed. Spannagel and Engelbert 1974: c. 27; as PL 102.855A).

[Note: Space left for large initial, but never filled in.]

9. p. 137/14–21 Excerpt on "De ebrietate"; a memory-aid against alcoholism found also in the "Collectanea ps.-Bedae": 'Ebrietas autem e(st) tota inbecillitas. primu(m) abluit memo|ria(m). dissecat sensu(m). . . per | ebrietate(m) uenisse morte(m) usque presentem' (version β in Dorfbauer 2009: pp. 131, 135 and 144; cf. "Collectanea Pseudo-Bedae" ed. Lapidge and Bayless 1998: 154 and PL 94.548D. Cf. also 9c sermon as McCune 2013: no. 8, p. 87/51–57, on which see McClune 2013: 58–63; on the various versions of the text see Dorfbauer 2009).

10. pp. 137/22–138/2 extracts from Alcuin, "Disputatio Pippini": '[Q]uid est terra mat(er) crescentiu(m). nutrix uiuentiu(m). . . [Q]uid e(st) erba. uestis terre. . . [Q]uid e(st) miru(m). . . nuper uidi homi||ne(m) stante(m) mouente(m) ambulante(m) q(ui) nu(m)qua(m) fuit. quomodo pote|s|t e(ss)e | imago e(st) in aqua' (as from Suchier in Daly and Suchier 1939: 137–43; as PL 101.977B–978B). p. 138/3 blank.

[Note: Spaces left for large initials for each question not filled in.]

11. p. 138/4–24 Extract from an unidentified grammar added in an 11c hand: 'OMNES NOMINATIVI SINGVLARES CORRIPIVNTVR. NISI | quinte declinationis q(ui) semp(er) p(er)ducitur. . . terminantes | p(ro)ducunt(ur). tertiae p(ro)ducunt(ur) positione'.

p. 139 blank except for the isolated OE word jotting 'fotgewædu' written in the curved shine-through line of the rota from the subsequent page, and a large capital 'D' in near the fore-edge.

12. p. 140 A large rota/wheel poem in diagrammatic form with 8 spokes and 18 concentric circles, the hub and the end of each spoke showing a large 'O'. The wheel and spokes contain the words as inscriptions, as 'OMNIBUS IN TERRIS EGO SUM NOTISSIMA' (SK 11297; found also in London, Lambeth Palace 204 [313], f. 130).
- p. 140 a partially erased runic and cryptographic inscription, seemingly in runes, coded dots for vowels, and Latin majuscule; perhaps colophon-ic. Transcribed by James (1912: 143) and Gameson (2001: 41) as '...um Uilframno s[c]ripsit Amen', noting whom the scribe wrote the book for. cf. above, p. 153.
- ff. d recto-f verso modern paper binding leaves, blank.

PHOTO NOTES: Modern paper binding leaves at beginning and end (ff. a-c recto and d verso-f) not photographed. Several openings photographed multiple times with different exposures. The photos have the last leaves in a jumbled order, though all images are present: 134–35, 138–39, 140 and end leaf, 136–37. Digital facsimile available at *Parker Library on the Web* (http://parkerweb.stanford.edu/parker/actions/page_turner.do?ms_no=326).

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