

447. St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, cod.254
Josephus Scottus, "Commentarius in Isaiaam,"
"Epistola Cuthberti de obitu Bedae" including "Bede's
Death Song," "Epitaphium Bedani"
[Ker App. 25; Gneuss ---]

HISTORY: This Carolingian manuscript, containing the earliest extant copy of the "Epistola Cuthberti de Obitu Bedae" and of "Bede's Death Song", mainly comprises a commentary on Isaiah by Josephus Scottus (i.e. the Irishman, fl. 780s; cf. Manitius 1911–31: 1.547–9), written in several hands and bound in the 9c at St Gallen. Bischoff 1998 dated pp. 2–252a/8 to the second half of the 9c, and pp. 252a/9–256a/20 (Scribe 13) to the first half of the 10c, but the disposition of quire XVIII (pp. 249–56) indicates that Scribe 13 continued where Scribe 12 left off. The manuscript is apparently mentioned in the mid-9c catalogue of St. Gallen, MS 728, p. 6 (pr. Lehmann 1918: 73): "Item Hieronimi in Esaiaam libri XVIII [*recte* XVIII] in uoluminibus tribus," and perhaps catalogued before it was bound. It is also mentioned in the 1461 catalogue of St Gallen, where it is ascribed to Bede: S7 at Lehmann 1918:108. It has apparently never left the library there. There is a 13c inscription 'lib(er) s(an)c(t)i galli' on p. 1, and on p. 2a/21 'Beda' was added in the 15c, probably in connection with the St. Gallen catalogue of 1461.

On p. 1 there occur two numbers 'D.n.201.' and in red '254'. The St. Gallen library stamp (presumably 19c) also occurs on this page and on p. 256, col.b. Previous descriptive notices in [Scherer] 1875: 95–6, Bruckner 1938: 87, and in Duft and Meyer 1954: 60. A complete digital facsimile has recently been published "e-codices", <http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/description/csg/0254/>.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios 128, paginated in modern pencil, 1–256. Membrane, measuring 286 × 224 mm., set out in double columns, written area 206 × 189/172 mm., the two width measurements being (1) the distance between the outer frame lines, and (2) the distance between

the inner frame lines; each column is 79 mm. wide. For the height 4 mm. should be added to include the top line of writing.

Pricking for the vertical frame lines is visible on the top and bottom lines of writing, two for the inner and outer frame-lines, and three for the central margins. Prick-marks for the 25 horizontal lines are sometimes visible on the outer edge of leaves, e.g., pp. 1/2, 121/122.

The ruling is by drypoint from the front, sometimes scored so hard that the leaf is cut right through in places, e.g., p. 217 (the first leaf of quire XVI). There are double vertical lines on either side of each page to provide outer margins for the columns of written space. In the center there are triple vertical lines to provide a margin for both the left-hand and the right-hand columns. The horizontal rules appear only in the columns, not in the margins or outer space. In quires I-IX, XVI, there is no extension of the ruled lines beyond the corners of the frame, but in quires X-XV, XVII-XVIII, there is some small extension of the rules beyond the outer edges of the frame. The arrangement of the quires varies: quires I, III, VII, X, XIV, XVII are HFHF; quire VIII is HHFF; quire XI is HFFH; quire XVI is HHHF; quires II, VI are HFHFH; quire V is HFFFH; quire XV is HFH; quire XII is HHH; quires IX, XIII are FHF; quire XVIII is FF; quire IV is H.

The manuscript was written by up to thirteen scribes, and there are at least eighteen changes of hand, all writing in a late caroline minuscule. Scribe 1 is responsible for ff. 1-22, 35-54; Scribe 2 for pp. 23-34, 88b-90, 104b/11-106; Scribe 3 for pp. 55-72; Scribe 4 for pp. 73-88a, 91-92b/2, 102-104b/11, Scribe 5 for pp. 92b/2-101a/12, Scribe 6 for pp. 101a/12-101b/18; Scribe 7 for pp. 101b/19-25; Scribe 8 for pp. 107-134; Scribe 9 for pp. 135-164; Scribe 10 for pp. 165-188; Scribe 11 for pp. 189-216; Scribe 12 for pp. 217-252a/8; Scribe 13 for pp. 252a/9-256a/20 (end). Evidently the manuscript was copied by these scribes to a pre-arranged plan: at the end of quire IX on p.134, col.b, the writing is stretched out, presumably to meet the pre-arranged text point at the end of the quire; at the end of quire XI on p.164, col.b, the text is squashed in with some overflow in the margin, presumably for the same reason of having to reach a pre-arranged point in the text at the end of the quire. Scribe 7 writes very untidily, and his stint is the shortest. The text has been divided into sections by a later hand using roman numerals to designate them. Coloured thumb-strips of membrane have been attached to the outer edge of some relevant leaves (many now lost), surviving at pp.127/8 (Bk. IX), 167/8 (\$xlvi, *margin*), 183/4 (Bk. XIII), 205/6 (Bk. XV), 233/4 (Bk. XVII).

Color: Initials are in red throughout. Green shading of initials and numbers occurs on pp. 50-51, the last page of quire III and the first of

quire IV. Red is used for the incipits/explicits of books (and similar but lesser divisions) on pp. 2a/22–3, 13a/14–15 (end of Bk. I), 23a/24–5 (Bk. II), 36b/5–6 (Bk. III), 67b/17–18 (Bk. VI), 101b/17–20 (Bk. VII), 114a/18 (Bk. VIII), 128b/17–18 (Bk. IX), 140b/19–20 (Bk. X), 154a/21–2 (Bk. XI), 168b/6–9 (Bk. XII), 183a/15–18 (Bk. XIII), 195b/2–3 (Bk. XIV), 205b/9–10 (Bk. XV), 219a/6–7 (Bk. XVI), 234a/15–16 (Bk. XVII), 252a/6–8 ('Octavo decimo sit terminus iste libello'). The explicit of Bk. IV on p. 46a/11–12 is in brown ink.

The 9c binding of brown calf on oak boards shows a later strengthening of the spine and two leather straps with ring clasps (probably replacements). There are relics of an inscription along the spine with the following letters still legible '... SAI . . .', and also of an inscription on the front: 'ISA . . .'. The sewing in cord is on four bands, which are equidistant from the top and base and from each other, attached to gulleys made in the boards, visible because the membrane pastedown to the rear board is lifted (on Carolingian bindings at St. Gall see Szirmai 1995, esp. 159).

COLLATION: I⁸ (pp. 1–16), II¹⁰ wants 4 (pp. 17–34), III⁸ (pp. 35–50), IV² (pp. 51–4), V¹⁰ wants 3, (pp. 55–72), VI¹⁰ wants 5 (pp. 73–90), VII⁸ (pp. 91–106), VIII⁸ (pp. 107–22), IX⁶ (pp. 123–34), X⁸ (pp. 135–50), XI⁸ wants 2 (pp. 151–64), XII⁶ (pp. 165–76), XIII⁶ (pp. 177–88), XIV⁸ (pp. 189–204), XV⁶ (pp. 205–16), XVI⁸ (pp. 217–32), XVII⁸ (pp. 233–48), XVIII⁴ (pp. 249–56).

Quire signatures occur at the bottom of the last verso page in all quires, 'i.' on p. 16, 'ii.' on p. 34, 'iii' on p. 50, 'iiii' on p. 54, 'v' on p. 72, 'vi' on p. 90, 'vii' on p. 106, 'viii' on p. 122, 'viii' on p. 134, 'x' (originally 'xi' but the 'i' was erased) on p. 150, 'xi.' on p. 164, 'xii.' on p. 176, 'xiii' on p. 188, 'xiii' on p. 204, 'xv' on p. 216, 'xvi' on p. 232, 'xvii.' on p. 248, 'xviii.' on p. 256.

[Note: There are membrane pastedowns front and back, now lifted. At the front an added paper slip contains modern handwriting attributing the commentary on Isaiah to Bede. At the back an added paper sheet contains what looks like a 19c handwritten draft catalogue entry.]

CONTENTS:

p.1 blank, except for 13c inscription 'lib(er) s(an)c(t)i galli', plus (in a ?15c hand) 'Quam clari appates ZoZpertus & Ymmo operantes' and two shelf marks at upper right corner, 'D.n.201' in black ink and '254' in red.

1. pp. 2a/1–252a/8 Josephus Scottus (the Irishman) (fl. 790s), "Excerpta Josephi Scotti ex Commentario Hieronymi in Isaiam", in 18 parts, ab-

breviated from Jerome at the behest of Alcuin; lacks prefatory letter; verse dedication to Alcuin: 'ISAI AE BREUIB(US) LECTOR | mysteria uerbis. . . Ange|llus qui loquebatur in me' [added on line 21, 15c? 'Beda'] (SK 8389, as Dümmler 1881: 151); main text begins with part i at p. 2a/22: UISIO ISAI AE FILII | AMOS. USQ(UE) REGU(M) IUDA [Is. 1:1] | 'Ergo isaias principalit(er) | de duabus loquitur tribubus iuda'; f. 13a/14 (in red) HIERONI|M(I) PRIMU(S) CLAUSIT `h`AC PARTE LIBELLU(S) | [part ii begins] 'Ecce enim dominator. usq(ue) aq(ue). [Is. 3:1] Hęc | sec(un)d(u)m iudeos de babylo[n]ia'; p. 23a/24 (in red) TERMINAT HIE|RONIM[I] [*abbr. for* "-us"] DEINDE LIBELLU(S) SECUNDU(S) || [part iii begins] 'IN ANNO QVO MORTVUS EST OZIAS [Is. 6:1] sub p[re]cedentia dicta sunt hoc est | mortuo leproso rege'; p. 36b/7 (in red) TERTIUS HYERONIMI CLAUSIT. | HIC UERBA LIBELLUS | 'VERBUM MISIT D(OMI)N(U)S IN IA|COB usq(ue) exercituu(m) d(omi)n(u)m non inq[ui]sierunt' [Is. 9:8–13] | [part iv begins] 'Ad id quod coeperat reuer|titur'; p. 46a/11 EXPLICIT INDE LIBER CON|SCRIPTVS IN ORDINE QVARTVS | [part v begins] 'ONVS BABILONIS. USQ(UE) IN GLO|ria mea. [Is. 13:1–3] Vbicumq(ue) onus sic ponitur'; [end of part v and beginning of part vi not signalled]; p. 67b/17 (in red) MISTICVS ECCE LIBER FINI|TUR IN ORDINES SEXTUS [pt vii begins] 'ONUS DAMASCI USQ(UE) DICIT D(OMI)N(U)S EX|ercituum. [Is. 17:1–3] 'Post babylon & philistu(m) | & moab'; p. 101b/17 (in red) SEPTIMVS ET QVIN|TVS FINEM DVCVNTVR IN VNV(M) [part viii begins] (in red) 'Ecce d(omi)n(u)s dissipauit terra(m). usq(ue) | d(omi)n(u)s locutus est uerbu(m) hoc. [Is. 24:1–3] 'Post singularu(m) gentiu(m) correptionem'; p. 114a/18 (in red) HAC OCTAVVS ITE(M) FINIT(UR) PARTE LIBELL(US) [part ix begins] 'Ve corone sup(er)bie. usq(ue) in manu tenuerit | deorabit illud. [Is. 28:1–4] | A dextremu(m) aduersus | dece(m) trib(us) loquit(ur)'; p. 128b/17 (in red) HIC QVOQ(UE) SIT NONO | NVNC TERMINVS ISTE LIBELLO [part x begins] 'Ecce nomen d(omi)ni uenit de longe usq(ue) | in montem d(omi)ni ad forte(m) isr(ae)l. [Is. 30:27–9] Igitur | quia supra `i`[n] bonis & oboedientib(us)'; p. 140b/19 (in red) HVNC FINEM DECIMUS CONTRA|XIT SORTE LIBELLUS. [part xi begins] 'ET FACTUM E(ST) IN QUARTODECIMO AN|no regis ezechiae usq(ue) ascende super | terram istam & disperse eam. [Is. 36:1–10] Clara est historia & plenius'; p. 154a/21 (in red) VNDECIMUS TALI | CLAUDIT(UR) FINE LIBELLUS. [pt xii begins] 'Quare dicis iacob & loqueris isr(ae)l ab|scondita e(st) uia mea a d(omi)no. usq(ue) am|bulab(it) [*recte*

-unt] & n(on) deficient. [Is. 40:27–31] Cum omnipoten||tis d(e)i tanta sit magnitudo'; p. 168b/6 (in red) ALTER AB VNDECIMO | FINIT SE 'h'AC PARTE LIBELLVS. [part xiii begins] (in red) 'RORATE CAELI DESVPER. usq(ue) | simul ego d(omi)n(u)s creauit eum. [Is. 45:8] (in brown ink) Quidam hunc locum cu(m) superioribus iungunt'; p. 183a/15 (in red) TERTIVS AC DECIMVS HIC | EXPLICIT ISTE LIBELLVS. [part xiv begins] (in red) 'D(omi)n(u)s dedit mihi linguam eruditam | usq(ue) & scio quoniam n(on) confundar. [Is. 50:4–7] (in brown ink) Iudaei hoc capitulum ad personam isaię | referunt.'; p. 195b/2 (in red) QUARTUS IN | ESAIA(M) DECIMUS LIBER EXPLICIT(IT) ISTE. [part xv begins] 'LAUDA STERILIS QUE NON PARIS. | Vsq(ue) dicit d(omi)n(u)s. [Is. 54:1] Post natiuitate(m) I(ES)U & ordine(m) uirtutu(m)'; p. 205b/9 (in red) QUINTUS ET HIC DECIMVS | FINITVR IN ORDINE CODEX. [pt xvi begins] 'VOS ACCEDITE HUC FILII AUGUR'I'A|trices [recte -is] usq(ue) & eiecistis linguam. [Is. 57:3–4] Sublato iusto uos accedite & audit'; p. 219a/6 (in red) FINIT IN ESAIA(M) | VIDEIMVSQ(UE) LIBER [part xvii begins] 'Surge inluminare hir(usa)l(e)m quia ue|nit lum(en) tuum. usq(ue) splendore(m) [recte splendore] ortus tui. [Is. 60:1–3] Iudęi & 'n(ost)ri' semi[erasure] iudęi ad aurea(m) hie|rusale(m) mille annoru(m) referunt.'; p. 234a/15 (in red) SEPTIM(US) AC DECIM(US) | TENET HIC CLAVSTRA LIBELL(US) [pt xviii begins] 'Quesierunt me qui ante me non interroga|bant usq(ue) non uocabat nom(en) tuu(m). [Is. 65:1] Adoratio|nem populi mixtam quęrimonus in qua dixit'; ends: 'credimus &(e)rna sup|plicia sic peccatoru(m) & tamen || christianoru(m) quorum(m) opera in igne | purganda sunt moderata(m) arbi|tratur & mixtam clementie | sententiam iudicis p(re)ferendam.' | OCTAVO DECIMO SIT TER|MINVS ISTE LIBELLO. (Unprinted; edition reported to be in progress by Gianni Vacchelli (Milan). Stegmüller 5146; Lapidge and Sharpe 1985: 171, no. 649; Sharpe 1997: 356, no. 996; "faithful abbreviation" of Jerome's commentary [PL 24.17–678], Kelly 1980: 180).

2. pp. 252a/9–255b/1 Cuthbert, "Epistola Cuthberti de obitu Bedae" (continental version): INCIPIT DE UALITUDINE ET | OBITU VENERABILIS BEDA [sic] PR(ESBYTER)I | 'Munusculum quod misisti multu(m) | libent(er) accepi'; ends: 'que oculis uidi & aurib(us) audiui finit de obitu || bedam pr(es)b(ite)r'i' (coll. as "Sg" by Dobbie 1937: (even numbered pages) 118–26; as Plummer 1896: I.clx–clxiv, Colgrave and Mynors 1969: 580–86).

OE Content: p. 254a/6–11 “Bede’s Death Song” in a continental version derived from Northumbria, in the hand of the surrounding text: ‘Fore thè neid faerae na|enig uuiurthit . . . doemid uueorth`a`e’ (ed. Smith 1933: 42; ed. Dobbie 1937: 51–4 and Dobbie 1942: 107).

[**Note:** On the form of ‘thè’ in the opening, see Ker 1939: 78–9. The word-division shows ignorance of OE, and there are no A-S letter-forms: the letter ‘ash’ is divided over a line-end in ‘na|enig’, and half-merged with the next letter in ‘a&h tha’ (= “opþe”, ‘or’); in Latin text the scribe uses ‘e’, not an ae-ligature. There is no punctuation, but some six spaces between word(-element)s seem larger than others, those between (1) ‘uuiurthit thonc’, (2) ‘thonc snot’, (3) ‘sie to’, (4) ‘ymbhycggan|nae aer’, (5) ‘hin iong\|a/e’, (6) ‘hin iong`a`e huaet’; of these (1), (3), (4) and (6) correspond to verse-divisions.]

3. p. 255b/2–23 EPITAPHIU(M) BEATI BEDANI PR(ESBITER)I |‘Hoc chr(ist)i famuli bedani membra sepulchro . . . Versus & miser(um) me s(anc)t(e) tuere magister’. (SK 6934; as Mabillon 1723: 381; cp. Colgrave and Mynors 1969: lxxiii–lxiv).

4. pp. 255b/24–256a/19 YMNUS ‘Ardens amoris mentio utcu(m)q(ue) paucos carmine \ Versus || bone memorię . . . Uni ac trino d(e)o sit summa semp(er) gloria’ (SK 1001; 1st six lines as Mabillon 1723: 381; Chevalier 1892: 79, no.1300).

p. 256a/20 (inscription) VI ID(US) MAI(I) NAT(US) S(AN)C(T)I BEDEꝰ PR(ES)B(ITER)I

p. 256b blank.

There are a few annotations (Latin glosses) in a later hand on p. 197.

IMAGE NOTES: Because the 9c binding allows the book to open flat all the openings are shown undistorted by curvature into the gutter. A fair proportion of page numbers are legible, so it is quite easy to find one’s place. Some shadow on pp.182–3 makes some words difficult to read. The last opening is shown twice with different lighting so that later scholarly notes on the manuscript and “Bede’s Death Song” are legible. A complete digital facsimile is available at “e-codices”, <http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/description/csg/0254/>.

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