

456. St. Petersburg, National Library of Russia

O. v. XVI. 1

Priscian, "Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo"

[Ker, Supp. 415; Gneuss 844]

HISTORY: An early 10c A-S booklet consisting of two quires of 8, 16 leaves, containing a grammatical text of Priscian, plus an unattached and unrelated bifolium. Scribbles and pen-trials (some in OE) in 10c insular script have been added to f. 15r.

[Note: Ker (Supp. 415) dated the main script as "x in" and the A-S scribbles on f. 15r as "x¹". Dumville (1987: 177), on the basis of a photograph of f. 15r uncertainly identified the script as "phase II A-S square minuscule" (second half of 10c), but it is not clear if he means the OE writing as well as the main script. The OE writing is unpracticed and variable, but of the same type as the main script, and it is by definition written after that of the main script.]

The two A-S quires apparently soon migrated to the continent as ff. 15v-16rv have texts added in the 10c and 11c in continental carolingian minuscule. This booklet then became part of a compilation of manuscripts connected with Corbie, the compiled manuscript being listed in the Corbie catalogue of 1621. According to a codicological analysis and the old foliation, the compilation seems to have consisted of Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale lat. 14088 (ff. 1-98, 137-157, old foliation), St. Petersburg, National Library of Russia Lat. O. v. XIV.1 (ff. 99-120, old foliation) and our Lat. O.v.XVI.1 (ff. 121-136, old foliation) (cf. Kilpiö and Kahlas-Tarkka 2001: 56-57). The older (17c) foliation in arabic numerals '121-136' is written immediately below the not-much-later arabic foliation of the present configuration '1-16'.

[Note: Paris, BN lat. 14088 is from Fleury, 9c, containing (old ff. 1-98) grammars attributed to Bede or Alcuin, creeds, computus, Bede, "De natura rerum," "Liber de temporibus et horis et momentis," theologica, "De hereticis," "De philosophis," "De poetis Esidori," and (old ff. 137-57) "Fragmentum ordinis Romani" (cf. Delisle 1868: 127, Beeson 1947: 78-81, Holtz 1981: 378); St. Petersburg NLR Lat. O.v.XIV.1 [Gneuss 843] is A-S, late 10c written at Christ Church, Canterbury by several scribes, containing Frigidodus Cantuariensis, "Brevilogquium vitae sancti Wilfridi"

(detailed description, Kilpiö and Kahlas-Tarkka 2001: 57–58); on the compilation see also Jeudy 1984: 148.]

By 1638 the compiled manuscript was at St.-Germain-des-Prés, but was broken up before the 1677 catalogue was made as there only part of the compilation is listed (“lat. 1464”, now Paris, BN lat. 14088).

The other two parts were acquired by Pierre Dubrowsky (1756–1816) who was attaché and later secretary at the Russian Embassy in Paris 1780–1792; during this time, but mostly in 1791–1792, he acquired over 1000 manuscripts, the majority of which came from St.-Germain-des-Prés, by theft, before the Revolution, and acquired on the black market by Dubrowsky; an acquaintance, N. M. Karamzin, reported in 1790 that Dubrowsky “knows all local librarians and buys rarities at virtually no cost” (cited by M. Logutova in Kilpiö and Kahlas-Tarkka 2001: 94) – the details of his acquisitions are obscure. When he was forced to leave Paris in August 1792 he left the bulk of his collection in the care of d’Ormesson de Noiseau, the Royal Librarian, who was arrested in 1793 and executed the following year. As a result, most of Dubrowsky’s collection was sold off at auction and dispersed, but “eight boxes” of manuscripts (with about 170 medieval manuscripts), through the good offices of the Danish ambassador to Paris, Baron Dreyer, made it to Hamburg and eventually to St. Petersburg in 1804. Dubrowsky transferred them to the Imperial Public Library in 1805. In that year Alexander I, probably at the suggestion of Dubrowsky, established a Manuscript Department in the Imperial Library of which Dubrowsky was named curator; he retired in 1812 (Voronova 1978). Inscriptions of late 18c on f. 1r, f. 15r ‘Ex Museo Petri Dubrowsky’. On the complicated and somewhat obscure history of Dubrowsky’s collecting see Thompson 1984.

Kept loose in the book as bound is an unrelated 12c bifolium (fol. ‘17–18’) containing a fragment of Priscian’s “Institutiones” (Kilpiö/Tsvinaria 2012). The manuscript is described by Jeudy (1984).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios 1–16 (formerly 121–136), 17–18. Page size 238/231 × 155 mm., tops being unevenly trimmed leaf-by-leaf by as much as 7 mm. Quire I (ff. 1–8) is roughly prepared, with hair stubble visible on all hair sides, very stiff and leather-like, brittle; arranged HFHF; single bounding lines, scores made with a hard point, are very heavy on f. 1, hardly perceptible on ff. 2–4, the outside scoring on f. 7 slashes right through the membrane for 87 mm.; the width of scored area varies widely from folio to folio and writing disregards it on right margin; scored and written for 24 lines, except f. 5 is written with 22 lines recto and verso (bottom two scores faintly visible). F. 8 has been torn off, lower outer

quadrant from about 80 mm. from top to bottom inner corner. Quire II (ff. 9–16) is better prepared, surfaces smoother and brighter, hair sides not so obvious; arranged HHHH; ff. 9–14 prepared and written for 25 lines with single bounding lines, scored with a dry point from outside of leaf, the on-side individually, the offside very lightly. Writing area is consistent at 173 × 110 mm. ff. 15v-16rv, originally left blank and with added texts, have double bounding lines and irregularly spaced lines, f. 15v ruled for 23, 16rv for 18. In quire II remains of a sewing, stitch groups at about 30, 64 and 175, 227 mm. up from bottom. The lower stitching of quire II is decayed and partially lost, but still attached to the spine, which is 18c/19c. The upper outer corner of ff. 11–14 has suffered damage (damp?) and the outer corner is entirely gone on ff. 15–16. Quire [III], is a detached bifolium not an integral part of this ensemble, with a smaller page size of 217 × 137 mm. and cockled surfaces.

The main text is written in brownish ink of varying shades. The hand is “square” A-S minuscule of early 10c. Large decorated initials are written in text-ink: ‘O’ (f. 1r/1), ‘P’ (f. 7r/18), ‘O’ (f. 8v/5), ‘P’ (f. 12r/21), ‘P’ (f. 12v/26). The added texts (Latin and OE) on f. 15r are in black ink, in two 10c A-S hands. On the lower portion of the originally blank f. 15r are 11 lines of Latin writing, erased, but leaving an orange tinge.

Quires I and II are in a late 18c / early 19c binding in red morocco leather with gold tooling, modern paper flyleaves front and back. Quire [III], an unrelated bifolium.

COLLATION: I⁸ (ff. 1–8), II⁸ 4 and 5 half-sheets (ff. 9–16); [III]² loose 12c bifolium (ff. 17–18)].

[Note: At the time this manuscript was visited by the describer (May, 2002), quire III was loose. It has apparently since been bound together with O.V.XVI.1, at least as far as may be inferred from the words of Kilpiö/Tsvinaria 2012.]

CONTENTS:

- ff. 1r/1–15r/9 Priscian, “Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo” (title added at top, 18c: ‘Gram(m)aticalía’): ‘Om(ni)a no(min)a quib(u)s latina utitur eloq(ue)ntia | quinq(ue) declinationib(u)s flectuntur’; ends: ‘quos de u(er)bo scripsimus lati]us deserendum e(ss)e. inuenies.’ (coll. Passalacqua 1992; as Hertz in Keil 1857–1880: 2.443–56).
f. 15r/10 inscription: ‘Ex Museo Petri Dubrowsky’.
- f. 15r/11–19 scribbles and pen trials (first half of 10c, two hands in A-S insular minuscule):

- a. lines 11–13 sentences from first anonymous “*Passio sanctorum martyrum Dionisii Rustici et Eleutherii*,” 3.1: ‘A[ntiphon] S(an)c(tu)s di-onisius qui tradente beato clemente petri ap(osto)li | successore uer-bi diuini semina gentibus eroganda susceperat [...] | A[ntiphon] Quo amplius gentilit[.]tas fe[r]uare cogno[uiii] (. . .) er[r]ore(m) illuc [. . .] (trimmed)’ (as Krusch 1885: 103/11–13; cf. *BHL* 2171, *CPL* 1051, Whatley 2001: 171–72);
- b. lines 14–19 (line 15 blank) two lines of OE gnomic verse, repeated, with garbled OE and Latin phrases: ‘a scæl gelæred smið swa hæ[?] ge lieost [sic] be bisne wyrcan buta[...] (trimmed) | [line blank] | a scæl gelæred smið swa he gelicost mæg be bisne wyrcan | butan he bet cunne. a scæl gelæær abcdefgh [rest of line blank] | ær dominabit`u`r amarius qe aut mare et at`u`lmine | a scæl gelæær’ [rest of f. 15r blank] (a digital image of this page in Kilpiö/Tsvinaria 2012; cf. Ker, Supp.; Blockley 1982; Hollis and Wright 1992: 36, 47).
- c. lines 20–30 erased text concerning Gregory the Great (cf. Kilpiö/ Kahlas-Tarkka 2001: 21–22, and Kilpiö/Tsvinaria 2012 for a tentative description and transcription).
3. f. 15v/1–23 added in late 10c continental carolingian minuscule, liturgical texts (see Kilpiö/Tsvinaria 2012):
 - a. ‘Iubilemus d(e)o n(ost)ro fr(atr)es dilectissim [sic] uoto . . . laude grati-arum actio’;
 - b. ‘Gaude dei genetrix . . . p(er)petua interuentrix’;
 - c. ‘Ecce ia<m> cora<m> te . . . meruisti ideo | precamur’.
4. added in 11c continental carolingian minuscule, Sequences:
 - a. f. 16r/1–13 Wipo (fl. 1030s): ‘Victime paschali laudes immolent . . . tu | nobis uictor rex miserere’ (as Bresslau 1915: 65);
 - b. f. 16r/14-v/5 ‘Mundi etate | octaua floreunt duplici palma beatoru(m) almina . . . all(eluia) uox est quam signa sequentia | pura uoce canenda’ (cf. Dreves 1886–1922: 8.93 [no. 113]; Chevalier no. 11755, SK 9879); at top of f. 16v ‘All(eluia) hec est’;
 - c. f. 16v/5–16 ‘Veni sp(iritu)s elector(um) | Alme . . . Sic duce te preuio ua-leamus | scandere ad ethera conuexa. [a]lleluia’ [followed by the letter ‘H’] (Chevalier no. 21239, SK 17050).

IMAGE NOTES: Quire [III], the loose bifolium, is not included on the film.

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