

477. Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Reg. lat. 204
Bede's verse "Life of St. Cuthbert" with glosses, etc.
[Ker 389; Gneuss 913]

HISTORY: Written at St. Augustine's, Canterbury, at the beginning of the 11c (cf. Bishop 1963: 413, 417, but the attribution is queried by Barker-Benfield 2008: 3.1818; see also Sole 1998: 124–28, Lapidge 1995: 143, Stokes : 2014: 70). There are sixteen contemporary glosses in OE in the same hand as sporadic Latin glosses; all of these glosses except 'stif' also appear among the 47 glosses found in Harley 1117 [268] printed by Meritt 1945: no. 7. The office relating to Cuthbert on f. 1r was probably added by the glossator. Owned in the 14c by the abbey of Bonneval (nr. Chartres), France: 'Hic lib(er) est s(an)c(t)o(rum) florentini hil(arii) 7 m(art)i(ru)m. bonevall(is)' (f. 24v/14). Subsequently it was in the collections of the French antiquaries Paul Petau (1568–1614) and his son Alexandre (d. 1672), as Paul's class-mark 'Y.42' occurs at the top f.1r (and his handwriting on f.1r-v; see below), although Alexandre's class-mark (926) is no longer present. All the manuscripts in the Petau library were sold in 1650 (the sale catalogue being now Leiden University Library, Voss. lat. Q 76) to Queen Christina of Sweden, whose note of accession, '1651', occurs cropped on f. 1r, and crossed through on f. 2r; she died in Rome in 1689 and the manuscript went with the rest of her collection to the Vatican in 1690, where it received the stamp of Pope Alexander VIII (1689–91) on f. 1r (for the Petau's see Callmer 1977: 156, 170–1; for the transfer of Christina's library in Rome to the Vatican see Callmer 1977: 217–34; for the subsequent history of the manuscripts in the Vatican 1690–1814, see Callmer 1977: 220–22).

Binding of brown calf with gold tooling on the spine provided in the Vatican. Annotations at the top of ff. 1–2 cropped by the binder. Modern foliation in ink in the top right-hand corner of recto leaves.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios iii + 24 + ii, membrane of moderate quality, measuring 205 × 115 mm., showing a hole in the text area on f. 14 and a tear in the outer margin of f. 12. The endleaves were no

doubt added with the binding. The area prepared for writing measures 164 × 98 mm. in quire I, 153 × 84 mm. in quire II, and 147 × 84 mm. in quire III. The relics of the pricking have suffered from cropping by the binder. Prick-marks for the double vertical frame lines are visible about 5 mm. apart at the bottom of some leaves, e.g. ff. 7, 16, 17–22. The prick-marks for the horizontal long lines can be seen on ff. 7 (where they start at the top near the frame bounding line but then veer out towards the edge), and on ff. 16, and 24. There are 27 lines in quire I, 23 in quires II and III. The ruling is in hardpoint and the vertical frame-lines extend to the edges of the leaves, while the horizontal lines are drawn between the inner vertical frame-lines, except that the top and bottom lines can sometimes be seen to extend to the outer margins of the leaves, as on f. 20.

Color: The text of Bede's "Life of Cuthbert" on f. 2r begins with a blue capital 'M' followed by green capitals for the rest of the first line of writing, then red capitals for the next line of writing. Green capitals occur on ff. 2v, 4r (small), 4v, 5r (small), 5v, 8r, etc., alternating with red. Red is used for headings throughout.

COLLATION:

I⁸ leaves 3 and 6 attached by a strip visible in the gutter of 6 (ff. 1–8); II⁸ (ff.9–16); III⁸ 3 and 6 (ff.19/22) are singletons with 3 attached by a strip in the gutter) (ff.17–24. Hair side outside throughout except for the singleton f.19, which shows flesh side outside. On f.16v in the middle of the bottom margin close to the edge there is a faint quire signature 'Q ii'.

CONTENTS:

1. f.1r/1–19: Liturgical Office relating to Cuthbert with neumes written above, beg. imperf.: '[. . .] operibus et uerbis diuina sapientia uitam composuit. Proph(etie)' | IN M(ATITUTINIS) LAUD(IBUS) 'Cristi fortis hic adthleta ac uerus anachorita' . . . DE EUANG(ELIO) | 'Languor ad crescens . . .'; at line 16 the last response from Vespers: ALIA | 'O magne presul cuthberhte cui chr(istu)s fuit uiuere' [this is the same as that in Harley 1117 ed. Dreves 1892: 102]; ends: 'hoc rogamus pia prece | tu pro nobis intercedo' (coll. Sole 1998:142–4; see Hiley 1993: 407 and pl. 1).

[Note: For the musical notation cf. Bannister 1913: 1.10 8, no.291, who suggests that Harley 1117 [268] and Reg. lat. 204 had a common place of origin; Hartzell 2006: no. 314 says the "Breton" neumes are possibly by the same scribe who entered the neumes in Harley 1117, ff. 43r-44r.]

2. f. 1r/20–31 (originally blank) + f. 1v, 4 lines in top margin 16c scholarly bibliographical annotation by Paul Petau: ‘Non habetur hæc vita ‘Cuthb(er)ti ep(iscop)i’ vita versibus scripta in imprese | Bedæ voluminib(us) . . . ad implere satago’.
3. ff. 1v/1–24v/11 Bede, Latin verse “Life of St Cuthbert”: prologue beg: **INCIPIT EPISTOLA BEDAE PRESBITERI AD IO|HANNEM PRESBITERVM.** | ‘D(OMI)NO IN D(OMI)NO DOMINORVM DILECTISSIMO (gl: ‘i(d est) carissimo) IO||hanni pr(es)b(ite)r(o). beda famulus (gll: ‘i(d est) sacerdote’ ‘s(iue) mittit.’ ‘i(d est) seruus’) chr(ist)i salute(m). | Dici n(on) potest dilectissime in chr(ist)o domine . . . p(r)ime int(er)-cedere me|mineris’; text beg. (f. 2r/1): ‘MVLTA SVIS | D(OMI)N(U)S FVLGESCERE | LUMINA SAECLIS’; ends (with Bede’s prayer addressed to Father John): ‘Vita manens castis lumenq(ue) salusq(ue) p(er) eum’ (coll. Jaeger 1935: 56–133; as PL 94. 575–96; BHL 2020).
- OE glosses on ff. 4v/11, 5r/15, 8v/14, 8v/18 (2), 17r/16, 20r/12 (3), 20v/1, 20v/12, 21r/6, 21r/7, 24r/3 (2), added in a contemporary hand which has also entered sporadic Latin glosses (ed. Napier 1900: no. 32, except, as noted by Ker (*Cat.*), for the word ‘stif’ in the inner margin beside the line containing the Latin gloss ‘i. dura’ above the word ‘chalyps’ on f. 23r/2 = line 907 in ed. Jaeger 1935 (= PL 94, 594/28); previously ed. Stokes 1891: 145 (incomplete). The same glosses as are edited by Napier 1900 occur in Harley 1117 [268].
- f. 24v/12–23 originally blank except for later additions of the Bonneval ownership inscription on line 14.
4. f. 24v/16–19 an added note: **SEX AETATES HOMINIS SUNT.** | ‘Prima infantia . . . Seniu(m) que | nullot(em)pore finitur’ (cf. Isidore, *De Etymologiis*, 11.2.1–7, ed. Lindsay 1911: 2.21–2.)

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