

## Anglo-Saxon Illustrated Prudentius. Orosius

## Prudentius. Orosius

**Codicology:** Vellum, mm 365 x 290, (14.4 x 11.4 in.), ff. 2 + 104 + 55.

**Multivolume:**

**Volume I:** 30 lines to a full page, ff. 104 + 2, cent. **xi** (x-xi Bradshaw<sup>¶</sup>).

**Volume II:** double columns of 47 lines, ff. 55, cent. **xii**.

**Collation:**

**Volume I:** a<sup>2</sup> 1<sup>8</sup>-13<sup>8</sup>.

**Volume II:** a<sup>8</sup>-c<sup>8</sup> (8 canc.) d<sup>8</sup>-g<sup>8</sup> (1 and 8 bound after 7)

**2 fo.:** “accipiat”.

**Additions:** f. ir-iv is blank but for a note:

“Idem etiam manu exaratus reperitur in bibliotheca Cottoniana [Cleopatra C. VIII is meant]<sup>[LBlCC8]</sup> B. B. ... (name obliterated).”

On f. iir in a frame, in red and black capitals:

“Gennadii<sup>¶</sup> Presbyteri.

Testimonium de historia inlustrium uirorum clviii.

Prudentius<sup>¶</sup> vir secularis

- agnoscitur palatinus miles fuisse.”

A good many corrections have been inserted in small red capitals. In lower margin a **xvith cent.** copy of Gennadius<sup>¶</sup> note.

**Provenance:** On f. iiv in square black capitals:

“Hunc quicumque librum Aedhelmo depresseris<sup>¶</sup> almo <<I suspect the scribe ought to have written Aldhelmo dempseris<sup>¶</sup>.>>

Damnatus semper maneat cum sorte malorum

Sit pietate dei sine qui vel portet ab isto

Coenobio librum Aedhelmi<sup>¶</sup> <<Altered I think from Aldhelmi<sup>¶</sup>.>> hunc vel vendere temptet

Qui legis inscriptos versus rogitare memento

Christum ac in requie semper die vivat Aðelperd<sup>¶</sup>

Qui dedit hunc thomum Aedhelmo<sup>¶</sup> <<Re-written on erasure.>> pro quo sibi Christus

Munera larga ferat largitor crimina laxans.”

This fixes the provenance to Malmesbury Abbey<sup>¶</sup> with which Aldhelm<sup>¶</sup> was specially connected. There were two abbots Athelwerd<sup>¶</sup>, one about **982**, the other **1040-1050**. The latter is probably the giver of the book.

**Additions:** On f. 1r, a piece of vellum is pasted: on it is a distich (**xii**):

“Tres tria dant celo lapis ignis et unda fuerunt.

S. lapis undaque C. beat L. focus, his duce christo.”

(S = Stephanus<sup>¶</sup>, L = Laurentius<sup>¶</sup>, C = Clement<sup>¶</sup>.) Also a **xvith cent.** copy of the four last lines of the dedicatory inscription. Also an erased inscription which I cannot decipher, and a pencil sketch of half-length figure in helmet and cloak.

**Additions:** Initials of lines are in red throughout. The Psychomachia is illustrated with a famous series of 89 drawings made by an English artist after originals which go back to the **fifth century**. Illustrated copies of the Psychomachia are numerous. An exhaustive study of them has been made by Richard Stettiner *Die illustrierten Prudentiushandschriften*, Berlin, Preuss 1895<sup>[Stettiner 1895]</sup>. The manuscript before us is described at pp. 17-22 and the illustrations in the third part of the work pp. 218-400.

**Additions:** The pictures have descriptive titles in red capitals, and the first 47 of them have titles in Anglo-Saxon added at the end of **cent. xi**. Professor Zupitza has published these and one or two other fragmentary A.-S. inscriptions (on ff. 24v, 29r, 33v) in *Zeitsch. f. Deutsch. Altert.* 1876, pp. 36-45<sup>[Zupitza 1876]</sup>.

**Research:** Reproductions in Westwood, *Miniatures and Ornaments* 108<sup>[Westwood 1868]</sup>, *Camb. Ant. Soc. Comm.*, vol. VII<sup>[Proceedings 1893]</sup>, Strutt, *Horda Angel-cynnan*<sup>[Strutt 1776]</sup> etc.

**Additions:** There are marginal and interlinear glosses to the Psychomachia and, in less number, to the other poems. Some of these are later than the text (but still of **cent. xi**) but most are contemporary.

**Foliation:** ff. a-b + i-ii + 1-159 + c-d.

**Language:** Latin.

**Contents:****Volume I**

1.

**1v-40v Prudentius<sup>¶</sup>, Psychomachia**

Psychomachia Prudentii<sup>¶</sup> (without title)

On f. 1v a frame meant to contain two drawings: only the lower one has been executed; in the upper space are marks of erasure

2r () Fine initial in black and red with dragon's heads and interlaced work

2r () First line in large green capitals and small red ones

2r () *Incipit:* Senex fidelis prima credendi uia [est]

Ends

40v () *Explicit* Aeternum solio diues sapientia regnet

## 2.

### 41r-60r *Prudentius*<sup>¶</sup>, *Peristephanon, carmen 10*

41r *Rubric*: Incipit *Prudentii Clementis*<sup>¶</sup> c LucyM (or αα) de sco Romano martire is DE Roman<sup>2</sup>  
contra gentiles

41r () *Incipit*: Romane Christi fortis adsertor dei

41r () Title and first line in red capitals. The hand is different, rounder and better. It changes perhaps at f. 57r  
Ends

60r *Explicit* induatur uellere

60r () *Rubric*: Finit Romanus *Aurelii Prudentii clementis*<sup>¶</sup>, viri consularis

## 3.1.

### 60r-104r *Prudentius*<sup>¶</sup>, *Peristephanon, carmina 1-9, 11-14*

60r *Rubric*: Incipit liber per iste fan on (Peristephanon): Hymnus in honore sanctorum martiru(m)  
*Emetrii*<sup>¶</sup> et *cheledonii*<sup>¶</sup> cala gurritanorum

60r (red capitals)

60r () *Incipit*: Scripta sunt celo duorum martirum uocabula

62r *Passio Laurentii*<sup>¶</sup>

65r The first hand resumes

71v *Passio Eulaliae*<sup>¶</sup>

75v Decem et octo martirum Cesaraugustanorum

78v *Passio Vincentii*<sup>¶</sup>

88v *Hymnus Fructuosi*<sup>¶</sup>

91r *Hymnus Quirini*<sup>¶</sup>

92v De loco in quo martires passi sunt nunc babtistserium est callagurri

93r *Passio Cassiani*<sup>¶</sup>

95r *Passio Hippolyti*<sup>¶</sup>

99r *Passio Petri*<sup>¶</sup> et *Pauli*<sup>¶</sup>

100r *Passio Cypriani*<sup>¶</sup>

102r *Passio Agnaetis*<sup>¶</sup>

Ends

104r () *Explicit* Dignaris almo uel pede tangere

## 3.2.

### 104r-104r *Constantia*<sup>¶</sup>, *Epigram for the basilica of St Agnes*

104r *Rubric*: Ver(s)us Cons(t)antine Constantini filiae<sup>¶</sup> scripti in absida Basilicae quam condidit in  
honore sanctae *Agnes*<sup>¶</sup>

104r () *Incipit*: Constantina deum uenerans

## 3.3.

### 104r-104r *Damasus*<sup>¶</sup>, *Epigram for the basilica of St Agnes*

104r *Rubric*: Versus *Damasi episcopi*<sup>¶</sup> de eadem re (Ihm. 84<sup>[Ihm 1895]</sup>)

104r () *Incipit*: Fama refert sanctos

## 4.

### 104v-104v *Prudentius*<sup>¶</sup>, *Contra Symmachum (incomplete)*

104v *Rubric*: Incipit liber primus contra simmachum

104v () *Incipit*: *Paulus*<sup>¶</sup> praeco dei qui fera gentium

Ends imperfectly l. 29

104v () *Explicit* uulnere mordicus

Paper has been pasted over this page (now lifted)

## Volume II

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## 5.

### 105r-159v *Orosius*<sup>¶</sup>, *Historia aduersus paganos*

105r (1r) *Rubric*: Incipit Prefatio in *Orosium*<sup>¶</sup>

105r () *Incipit*: *Orosius*<sup>¶</sup> presbiter Hispanus genere

105r () *Explicit* honorio imperium tenente

105r () *Rubric*: Item Prefatiuncula in *Orosium*<sup>¶</sup>

- 105r () *Incipit:* Orosius<sup>1</sup> presbiter terraconensis  
105r () *Explicit:* stephani<sup>1</sup> detulit ad occidentals plagas reliquias  
105r () *Rubric:* Incipit liber Sancti Orosii<sup>1</sup> de Ormesta Mundi  
105r () (red and green capitals)  
105r () *Incipit:* Preceptis tuis parui  
105r () The initial P has a panelled stalk. The other initials are mostly in plain colours  
The hand strongly resembles that of Christ Church, Canterbury<sup>1</sup>  
111v (7v) Liber II  
117r (13r) Liber III  
120v (16v) Liber IV  
121r (17r) Hand changes to a smaller one  
128r (24r) First hand resumes  
130r (26r) Liber V  
136r (32r) Another hand  
137v (33v) Liber VI  
144r (40r) First hand (?)  
146r (42r) Liber VII  
Ends  
159v (55v) *Explicit:* iudicata si deleas  
159v (55v) *Rubric:* Finit Orosii<sup>1</sup> liber septimus

CCC: space available for notes on the current status of the encoding

- text: copied from James.txt BA
- markup: BA
- markupCheck: checked by BA, CF
- msCheck: RJR 20/08/08
- remarks: Piece of vellum pasted to f. 1r no longer seems to be present.