

290. London, British Library, Royal 7 C. iv
Defensor, "Liber scintillarum," with continuous OE gloss
[Ker 256, Gneuss 470]

HISTORY: A large-format deluxe book, beautifully designed and fully executed, containing the famous 7c florilegium of biblical and patristic quotations arranged topically in 81 numbered chapters. Continuous OE gloss is from an exemplar that had a slightly different Latin text (Verdonck 1976). Probably written at and certainly located at Christ Church, Canterbury; this manuscript went with Lord John Lumley's library probably as a gift to the Royal collection after his death in 1609 (Jayne and Johnson 1956: 14–15). An earlier owner is indicated by the *ex libris* on f. 19r: 'Johannis Apsley de Thakeham me possidit et per viginti annos possidebat. 1567'. Used by Franciscus Junius (his notes on ff. 93v, 96r, 99v).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: iv + 107 + iv. 3 paper flyleaves and 1 (original) parchment. Endleaves are paper. Page size 318 x 198 mm., writing area 228 x 120 mm. (with gloss, height is 253 mm.). Pricked and ruled for 26 long lines (ruling very light). Parchment is thin, finely and uniformly prepared throughout. The side and bottom margins of many pages have been trimmed away with loss of some letters, though the trimming seems in general to have been done carefully to preserve the text. Rebound in the 19c.

The main text is written in splendid large Caroline script with half-uncial titles. Large colored capitals, mostly red and reddish brown, some green. The OE running gloss that has been inserted later in the spaces between the lines is also expertly and carefully written. The main text is early 11c and the continuous gloss is mid-11c. The main text was untitled, but a hand of 15c has added the title on f. 1r in a formal inscription. Ker noticed that there are two layers of OE glosses, an earlier set of glosses to the chapter titles (up to f. 99r) together with a few isolated

glosses, and the later continuous gloss. There are a few Latin glosses. Chapter titles in red and black (occasionally green) uncial capitals.

Facing f. 1r is a 13c index-table marked A-G that may once have correlated the sections to a separate list of topics. Fol. 1r shows the *ex libris* of Christ Church, Canterbury: ‘De claustro ch(ri)sti Cantuarie’. ‘Lumley’ at bottom of f. 1r; on f. 40r Apsley makes a cross reference to f. 105, though the text referred to appears to be on f. 101v.

COLLATION: I⁸ (1 gone) (ff. 1–7), II–III⁸ (ff. 8–23), IV⁸ (proper order of folios is 28–30, 24, 31, 25–27) (ff. 24–31), V–VIII⁸ (ff. 32–63), IX⁸ (3–6 gone after f. 65) (ff. 64–67), X–XII⁸ (ff. 68–91), XIII⁸ (proper order of folios is 92, 93, 97, 94, 95, 98, 99, 96) (ff. 92–99), XIV⁸ (100–107).

[**Note:** After f. 65r, chapter numbers skip from xxxix to xliii, and a 13c hand has added a note of the chapter in upper left of f. 65v. Missing are parts of chaps. 3, 18, 21, 39, 42, 66, 75, and all of 19, 20, 40, 41, 67–64. Three notes by Junius on the misarranged leaves of Quire XIII (on ff. 93v, 96r, 99v).]

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–100v/16. Defensor of Ligugé (fl. first half of 7c), “Liber scintillarum”: ‘D(OMI)N(U)S DICIT | IN EVVANGELIO | maiorem caritatem NEMO | hab(et)’ [gloss:] ‘drihten segð | on godspelle | maran soþelufe nan mann | hæfþ’. Originally untitled, the title added in 15c. The preface, found in 32 of the 361 known manuscripts (Rochais 1957: vii–viii), is lacking. (Main text and gloss ed. Rhodes 1889: 1–222, and Getty 1969; Latin text ed. Rochais 1957 and, with French trans., 1961–1962).
2. ff. 100v/17–102r/18. Extracts from Ecclesiasticus, Chaps. 25–26: **Hic pauca incipiunt de vitiis et peccatis. Apóstrapha** [gloss: ‘edwit’] **de muliere nequam.** | ‘OMNIS PLAGA TRISTIA COR|DIS est’ [gloss:] ‘ælc wite unrotnyss heor|tan ys’. With continuous OE interlinear gloss. Chapter titles in silver rustic capitals (main text and gloss ed. Rhodes 1889: 223–26; cf. Marsden 1995: 314–20).
3. ff. 102r/19–106r. Extracts from Isidore, “Sententiae” (Book 2, chaps. 6, 17–21 = PL 83: 606, 619–23): **De Predestinatione** [gloss: ‘be forestihtinge’] **Electoru(m) et Reprobóru(m)** ‘Gemina est predestinatio . siue electorum’ [gloss:] ‘twyfeald ys forestihtung samþe gecorena’. With continuous OE interlinear gloss. Chapter titles in silver rustic capitals (main text and gloss ed. Rhodes 1889: 226–36).

[Note: Other A-S copies of "Liber Scintillarum" are Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 190 [38] (some OE interlinear glosses) and Cambridge, Clare College 30 (Kk. 5. 6) (unglossed). Texts 1-3 are found together in the later and mixed manuscripts London, British Library, Royal 6 D. v (12c, Rochester), British Library, Royal 8 A. xxi (13c, St. Peters, Gloucester), and Oxford, Bodleian Library, Rawlinson C. 23.]

4. ff. 106v-107v Scribbles and pen-trials of various ages, some in OE (ed. Meritt 1961: 449, Pulsiano 1984).

PHOTO NOTES: In the photos the present shapes of the cut-down leaves are sometimes obscured by backing sheets; cut-down leaves are 2-9, 16, 18, 20, 25, 28, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37-39, 41, 42, 44, 49, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 61, 66-69, 72, 75, 76, 82, 83, 85, 87-91, 93, 94, 96, 98, 101, 103. In the gutter: f. 23v/26 gewere/gad (lemma: *lassata*)

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A. N. D.