

78. Cambridge, Trinity College, B.14.3 (289)
Arator, “De actibus apostolorum”; Dunstan Acrostic
[Ker 85, Gneuss 175]

HISTORY: A copy of Arator’s 6c poem “De Actibus Apostolorum” (McKinlay’s “C” in Class I of the “codicum meliorum” [1951: xlii]), written in English Caroline minuscule by several scribes s. x/xi (Keynes 1992: 27). The origin is Christ Church, Canterbury, as shown by the scribe who wrote ff. 22v/5-23r/4 (Bishop’s xv; see 1963: 114–16), whose hand appears elsewhere in London, British Library, Royal 6. A. VI [288] (Aldhelm; Gneuss 464), in the marginal gloss in Oxford, Bodleian Library, Auct. F. I. 15 [343], pt. i (Boethius; Gneuss 533), and in King Æthelred’s charter for Muchelney Abbey (Sawyer 1968: 884). The mark “FF” (above a later shelf-mark, ‘Distinctio ii, Gradus xiii’) on f. 5r (Keynes 1992: Plate XVI) locates the book at Christ Church in the 12c, James (1903: 506, 25) identifying it as no. 79 in the list of Prior Eastry (1284–1331), “Arator de Actibus apostolorum Petri et Pauli, libri ii.” There is an interlinear gloss running throughout the text, and a marginal gloss. In ff. 1–25 a system of syntactical glosses using patterns of dots and letters above words suggests the manuscript may have been used for teaching Latin.

The manuscript was given to Trinity College by George Willmer, ca. 1610; his arms are stamped on the binding. On the inside front cover is a cancelled class mark ‘R.10.4’, current class mark ‘B.XIV.3’ and a Trinity College bookplate. On first paper flyleaf is, ‘B.14.3 | Arator de Acti(bus) | Ap(os)to(lorum) Petri | & | Pauli’ in a 19c hand.

On the verso of a parchment slip at the beginning of the manuscript, ruled as though for a music stave, is the following, scarcely legible, as transcribed by James: “Ericus Benzelius Suevus contuli hunc librum MS praestantissimum cum impressis. 1700. m. Junio.” The annotator “was Bishop of Linkjöpning, and chief Librarian of Uppsala. His projected edition of Arator never appeared” (James 1900–1904: 1.405).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: [ii] + 66 + [i]. Vellum flyleaves foliated 1–4 in pencil; f. 5, the first folio of the main manuscript, is foliated ‘1’ in modern pencil in top right hand corner, and ‘5’ in modern pencil in bottom

right hand corner; f. 6 foliated (top right hand corner) in pencil and cancelled, refoliated '2'; ink '7' (crossed 7) cancelled in pencil, '3' in pencil lightly cancelled. Then foliated '8-66' in ink, with crossed 7s and some 1s of continental form.

Page size 241 x 172 mm. The first four leaves (ff. 1-4), two bifolia (HF), are original front flyleaves, pages taken from a 9c manuscript, written at Nonantola in northern Italy (Bischoff 1983: 114-16), containing a work by Ambrose. Leaves of main manuscript arranged hair outside. Writing area of ff. 1-4 is 230 x 150 mm. in two columns, 15 mm. between columns, hand perhaps changing at f. 2r/1b, or perhaps just getting smaller. Main manuscript, ff. 5-66, pricked and ruled in drypoint for 23 lines, ruled written area 182 x 91 mm., with outer guidelines 8 mm. outside each vertical ruling. The paper flyleaf [ii] has watermark of pitcher surmounted by five balls. At the end of the manuscript, between the final paper flyleaf and the cover, there is a binding stub, written in two columns, the first legible line being: 'rescripto tibi concedi temere | tesiteras. | vim potestate pri(u)s agunt'.

Main text ink is black. Also used in initials are an orange-tinged red, scarlet, green and blue pigments. First letter of each line is in scarlet, but new sections are marked with initials of other colors. Decorated initials: f. 5r/2, dragons and a raptor make "Q": 'QUI ME|RI|TI FLOREM MATVRIS'; f. 5v/17 interlaced beasts make "M": 'MOENIBVS VNO|SIS BELLORV(M) INCEN|DIA'; f. 7r/4 interlaced beasts make "V": 'VT SCELERIS IV|DEA SVI POL|LVTA'; f. 34v/4 (first three lines are blank) three intertwined beasts, one bird, two probably mammalian, make "S": 'SP(IRITV)S ACCENSAM | VERBO RADIANTE LVCERNAM'. Headings are rustic capitals.

Interlinear and marginal glosses throughout, mostly written by Bishop's scribe (xxii), a hand also in Boulogne, Bibliothèque Municipale 189 [17] (Prudentius; Gneuss 805) and in the main gloss in BL Cotton Domitian ix [190], ff. 2r-7r (Aldhelm; Gneuss 329) (Keynes 1992: 28). Construe glosses appearing on ff. 1-25 suggest this manuscript was used as a classbook. There is an OE gloss on f. 23r/9 in right hand margin, in a poor hand (as Ker, *Cat.*, says).

[**Note:** this gloss is read by Ker as "ferlipon," against line: 'Purgati uallante freto, Tam(en) exulat un(us)'. The word is not found in Bosworth-Toller, or Campbell 1972, and the gloss might better be read as "ferlipæn," probably related to *forliden* "shipwrecked."]

COLLATION: I⁴ (original flyleaves, ff. 1–4); II–IV⁸ (ff. 5–28); V⁸ 3 and 6 half-sheets (ff. 29–36); VI–VII⁸ (ff. 37–52); VIII⁸ 2 and 7 half-sheets (ff. 53–60); IX⁸ 7, 8 gone (ff. 61–66). Original quire signatures at bottom center of last page of each quire from III ('B', f. 20 v) to VIII ('G', f. 60v). A modern hand has entered quire signatures lightly in pencil in the bottom right hand corner of the first recto of each quire: '2', '3', 'D–H'.

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r-4v (flyleaves, 9c, Nonantola), two fragments from Ambrose, "Expositio psalmi CXVIII" (ed. Petschenig/Zelzer 1999: 119/7-122/27; 131/10-135/1):

ff. 1r/1a–2v/27b (from ch. 6, "Lettera Uau," beginning imperfect at end of sec. 21 and running almost to end of sec. 28): 'hic ergo uenit ad laq(u)e|os sed uoluntarius. ... & iudicio d(e)i damnàn|da committat. Is enim qui in iu[diciis];

ff. 3r/1a–4v/27b (from ch. 7, "Lettera Zain," beginning imperfect at end of section 7 and running to beginning of section 13): 'nobis alloquia d(e)i. & congre|g'ramus [corrected to 'conger-'] in principale nos|trum. . . . sed hoc ille | ait. qui poterat dicere'.

2. Arator, "De actibus apostolorum" (ed. McKinlay 1951):

f. 5r/1–5v/13 "Epistola ad Florianum": **ARATOR DE ACTIB(US) AP(OSTOL)OR(UM) PETRI & PAULI** | 'QVI ME|RI|TI FLOREM MATVRIS | SENSIBUS ORTUM' [the end of the first line and the third and fourth lines are in red, hardly visible on film] (on the glosses see Lapidge 1982: 116-20).

ff. 5v/14–6v/5 "Epistola ad Vigilium": **DOMINO S(AN)C(T)O BEATISSIMO ATQUE APOSTOLICO | ET IN TO'T(O) ORBE PRIMO OMNIVM SACERDOTVM | PAPA E VIGILIO ARATOR SUBDIACONUS. | 'MOENIBUS UNDO|SIS BELLORU(M) INCEN|DIA CERNENS'.**

f. 6v/5–23b Capitula to Book 1 [in two columns; ch. numbers in col. b are in red, faded]: **INCIPIUNT CAPITULA** | 'I De allocutione s(an)c(t)i petri. & ma|thia duodecimo relato'.

[Note: Title of ch. 1, "De ascensione Domini," is omitted and all ch. numbers one less than in McKinlay's edition.]

ff. 7r/1–33r/14 **LIBER .I. INCIP(I)T HIS(TORIAE) APOSTO|LICAE ARATORIS SUBDIACONI ROMANE AEC|CLESIAE. LIBER PRIMUS. | 'VT SCELERIS IU|DEA SUI POL|LUTA**

CRUORE' [prose chapter summaries written in large rustic capitals; most of the text is heavily glossed within the line and in the margin; cf. Wieland 1985: 158-59].

- f. 33r/19–33v/23 Capitula to Book 2: 'I De eo ubi saulus qui & paulus ap(ud) p(ro)consulem paulu(m) | p(re)dicaui in papho'; ends: 'Claudit iter bellis, qui portam pandit in astris'.

[Note: The titles of the last three chs., 41-43, are missing, presumably intended for the blank page, f. 34r.]

f. 34r blank.

ff.34v/4–64v/15 **LIBER .II.** 'SP(IRITU)S ACCENSAM | VERBO RADIANTE LUCERNAM'; ends 'Et tenet ęternam socialis gratia palmam.' | **FINIT LIBER SECUNDUS ARATORIS SUB|DIACONI S(AN)C(T)Ę ÆCCL(ESI)AE ROMANĘ HISTO|RIAE D(E)O GRATIAS.**

3. ff. 64v/16–65r/14 Scholium on Arator: 'Beato d(omi)no petro adiuuante oblat(us) est huius | cemoni codex'; ends 'Tertio p(ost)consule basilio. v(iro) c(larissimo). Indictione septima' (pr., from Vatican Pal. Lat. 1716, f. 1r [s. x], McKinlay 1951: xxviii).

4. f. 65v/1–22 Acrostic addressed to St Dunstan: '[O] PATER OMNIPOTENS DIGNERIS FERRE DONANT[II]'; ends '[R]egmina qui trinu(m) retin& mihi mistica nume[N]' [The initial and terminal capitals were left blank. A modern hand has pencilled in the first letter of each line, except 17 (writes 'T' for initial of 22), and the following terminals: 2 'N', 4 'T', 6 'N', 9 'A', 13 'T', 18 'N', 22 'N'] (ed. from the more complete copy in TCC O.1.18 J86] by Lapidge 1975: 108–11; cf. Clayton 1990: 104–05).

f. 66r blank.

- f. 66v Greek alphabet; line 2, 'stomen kalos. Stomen meta fou' (the latter in Latin minuscules dated 11c by James [1900-04: 1.406]).

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