

**OLD-LATIN BIBLICAL TEXTS: NO.  
IV. PORTIONS OF THE ACTS OF  
THE APOSTLES OF THE EPISTLE OF  
ST. JAMES AND OF THE FIRST  
EPISTLE OF ST. PETER**

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**HENRY J. WHITE**

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PORTIONS OF  
THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
OF  
THE EPISTLE OF ST. JAMES  
AND OF THE  
FIRST EPISTLE OF ST. PETER

FROM THE BOBBIO PALIMPSEST (a), NOW NUMBERED COD. 16 IN  
THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY AT VIENNA

*EDITED, WITH THE AID OF TISCHENDORF'S AND  
BELSHEIM'S PRINTED TEXTS*

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WITH A FACSIMILE

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## INTRODUCTION

### DESCRIPTIVE OF THE VIENNA PALIMPSEST (s)

§ 1. *Title, number, history of the MS., previous editions, &c.* In the Imperial Library (K.K. Hof-Bibliothek) at Vienna is a Latin MS. numbered 16. It is not however a Codex in the ordinary sense of the term, but consists of a collection of 160 leaves, 76 quarto, 84 small folio; and these are not bound up, but preserved loose in a box, though numbered continuously. They have been carefully and fully described in three successive Catalogues; that of Michael Denis<sup>1</sup>, that of S. Endlicher<sup>2</sup>, and that of the official Catalogue of the MSS. of the Library, published in 1864<sup>3</sup>; this last description we subjoin at length:—

16. [Rec. 85.] m. VIII. v. IX. et V. v. VI. 160. 4°. Codex rescriptus. Manu saeculi octavi vel noni scripta sunt: (1) 1<sup>a</sup>-11<sup>a</sup>. S. Hieronymus, De viris illustribus. (2) 11<sup>a</sup>-20<sup>a</sup>. Gennadius, De scriptoribus ecclesiasticis. (3) 20<sup>b</sup>. 'Hoc adjungendum est in fine sequentis libelli,' i. e. S. Augustini, De haeresibus, duo capitula nempe S. Augustino perperam attributa: De Nestorianis et Eutychiis. (4) 21<sup>a</sup>-22<sup>a</sup>. Quodvultdeus, diaconus Carthaginiensis, et S. Augustinus, De haeresibus inquirendis, Epistolae 4 alternae. (5) 22<sup>b</sup>-32<sup>a</sup>. S. Augustinus, De haeresibus. (6) 32<sup>b</sup>. Ordo librorum veteris et novi testamenti. (7) 32<sup>b</sup>-34<sup>a</sup>. Gelasius Papa, Canon biblicus. (8) 34<sup>b</sup>-35<sup>b</sup>. S. Augustinus, Epistola ad Simplicianum

<sup>1</sup> *Codices MSS. Theolog. Bibl. Palatinae Vindob. Latini, recensuit M. Denis*, Vindobonae 1799, vol. II. pars I. col. 618; here it is numbered cccx and has the press mark R. 85 placed against it in the margin.

<sup>2</sup> *Catalogus Codicum Philologicorum Lat. Bibl. Palat. Vindobonensis. Digessit Stephanus Endlicher*, Vindobonae 1836, pp. 215-224; Endlicher numbers the MS. cccxii and puts in the margin its old and new press marks  $\frac{16}{R. 85}$ .

<sup>3</sup> *Tabulae codd. MSS. praeter Graecos et Orientales in Bibl. Palat. Vindobonensi asseruoratorum. Editio Aedificia Coenaculi Vindobonensis*, Vindobonae 1864; vol. I. p. 2.

episcopum. (9) 35<sup>b</sup>-36<sup>a</sup>. S. Hieronymus, Epistola ad Evangelium presbyterum. (10) 36<sup>a</sup>-38<sup>a</sup>. Capitula sanctorum patrum de gratia et libero arbitrio. (11) 38<sup>a</sup>-42<sup>b</sup>. Gennadius, De dogmatibus ecclesiasticis. (12) 42<sup>b</sup>. S. Hieronymus, Epistola ad Domnionem. Explicit verbis: 'in utraque partem, hoc est.' (13) 42<sup>b</sup>. Servius Honoratus, Tractatus Prosodiacus. Fragmentum, capita 'de adverbio, de conjunctione et interiectione' continens. (14) 42<sup>b</sup>-44<sup>b</sup>. Sergius grammaticus, Commentarius in Donatum. (15) 44<sup>b</sup>-46<sup>a</sup>. Maximus Victorinus, Commentarius de ratione metrorum. (16) 46<sup>b</sup>-47<sup>b</sup>. Metrorius, De finalibus syllabis. (17) 47<sup>b</sup>. Metrorius, Tractatus de caesuris. (18) 47<sup>b</sup>. Additamenta quaedam, ab Endlichero ommissa, quae incipiunt: 'In omnibus orationis partibus syllabae primae vel mediae aequales sunt,' et expiunt: 'et anteposita r. reipublicam, pinsaci in mirrorium' (l. Metrorium?). (19) 48<sup>a</sup>-49<sup>a</sup>. Priscianus, De ponderibus et mensuris carmen. (20) 49<sup>b</sup>. De accentibus. (21) 49<sup>b</sup>-50<sup>a</sup>. De versibus. (22) 50<sup>a</sup>-52<sup>b</sup>. Priscianus, de laude Anastasii Imperatoris carmen. (23) 52<sup>b</sup>. Q. S. F. Tertullianus, Carmen de Jona propheta. (24) 53<sup>a</sup>. Nomina montium et aquaeductuum Romae. (25) 54<sup>a</sup>-55<sup>a</sup>. S. Hieronymus, Epistola ad Riparium presbyterum. (26) 55<sup>a</sup>-56<sup>b</sup>. Sergius, De arte grammatica. Fragmentum. (27) 55<sup>b</sup>-56<sup>a</sup>. Erotemata grammatica, excerpta e Maximo Victorino. (28) 56<sup>a</sup>. Palaemon de arte. Fragmentum 7 linearum. (29) 56<sup>a</sup>-56<sup>b</sup>. De septem miraculis mundi. (30) 57<sup>a</sup>-60<sup>b</sup>. Eutychius, De discernendis conjugationibus libri 2. (31) 60<sup>b</sup>-70<sup>b</sup>. Fragmenta grammatica. (32) 71<sup>a</sup>-73<sup>b</sup>. Faustus Regiensis, Sermo ad monachos de obedientia et humilitate. (33) 73<sup>b</sup>-75<sup>a</sup>. Idem, seu Eusebius Gallicanus, Sermo castigationis ad monachos. (34) 75<sup>a</sup>. S. Augustinus, Epistolae ad Hesychem Saloniianum et ad Hippomenes. Fragmenta. (35) 76<sup>a</sup>-93<sup>b</sup>. Tractatus de prosodia ad Coelestinum. (36) 93<sup>b</sup>-111<sup>b</sup>. Probus, Catholicae nominum et verborum. (37) 111<sup>b</sup>. Fragmentum de structura. (38) 112<sup>a</sup>-139<sup>a</sup>. Claudius Sacerdos, Artium grammaticarum libri duo. (39) 139<sup>a</sup>-141<sup>b</sup>. Servius Honoratus, De ratione ultimarum syllabarum. Manus recentior. (40) 141<sup>b</sup>-163<sup>b</sup>. Fragmenta grammatica. (41) 164<sup>a</sup>-166<sup>b</sup>. Excerpta grammatica. (42) 167<sup>a</sup>-168<sup>b</sup>. Macrobius Theodosius, De verborum graeci et latini differentis, vel De societatis Liber. Excerpta. (43) 169<sup>a</sup>-169<sup>b</sup>. Continuatio Excerptorum grammaticorum sub 41.

Scriptura saeculi quinti vel sexti, cujus septuaginta et sex folia librarius saeculi octavi vel noni perverso ordine usus est, sequentia exarata sunt: (1) Lucanus, Pharsalarum libri, et quidem libri quinti versus 31-91; 152-211; 272-310; et libri sexti versus 215-274 et 305-334. (2) Pelagonius, Hippia-tricorum caput 16, 28 et 29. (3) Fragmenta latina Actuum apostolorum et Epistolarum catholicarum. (4) Fragmenta graeca libri tertii cap. 92, 93, 96 et 97 Dioscoridis. Endlicher: CCCXXII. Denis II, CCCX.



The little that can be known about the history of the MS. is told us by Denis; it belonged to the famous Monastery of St. Columban at Bobbio, from which fact it is still known as a *Codex Bobbiensis*; then to the Convent of St. John de Carbonaria at Naples. Here Mabillon inspected it in October 1685, paying attention however only to the upper writing<sup>1</sup>. From Naples it was brought to Vienna in 1717, with other MSS., by Alexander Ricardi, the first Librarian of the Imperial Library.

Carefully as Denis described the leaves, he does not appear to have noticed that more than the first 42 of them were palimpsest: on f. 42, p. 2, he remarks 'Ceterum lectionem hactenus relatorum per se difficilem difficiliorem reddit conditio Codicis *rescripti*; continebant enim hae Membranæ splendidissimum olim, et Seculi, ut videtur, V. Exemplum *Pharsaliæ Lucani* litera quadrata luculenta exaratum, quod ita abrasit infelix ignorantia, ut e vestigiis crocei paene coloris lineas intercurrentibus fol. 17. p. 2. eruere potuerim v. 175. L. V. Hemistichium: FLAMMASQ. IN VISCERA MERGIS.'

It was the merit of J. von Eichenfeld, a later librarian at the Hof-Bibliothek, to call attention to the fact that not simply the leaves mentioned by Denis, but 72 leaves, i. e. nearly half of the MS., were palimpsest<sup>2</sup>. Von Eichenfeld described carefully the fragments of Lucan, giving a list of variant readings; described and published in full the leaves of the Latin Hippiatrica, and of the third book of Dioscorides; and drew attention to the earlier writing on foll. 57, 58, 59, 61, 66, 68, 69, which apparently contain portions of a Greek medical treatise.

What is more important for our purpose, he discovered that under the upper writing of foll. 42<sup>a</sup>-56, and 71-75 there lurked portions of an Old-Latin version of the Acts, and Epistles of James and 1 Peter, though the extreme difficulty of the palimpsest prevented him from giving more than a few lines from the easier pages; he remarks<sup>3</sup> 'Waren die früheren

<sup>1</sup> *Museum Italicum*, Paris 1687, P. 1. (i. e. *Iter Italicum*), p. 110. 'Ex latinis codex antiquissimus litteris Saxonice, in quo *Hieronymus de Scripturis ecclesiasticis* cum Genasio, eodem modo dispositis atque in nostro Corbeiensi, and p. 111 '*Priscianus de laude Anostazi Imperatoris*, quod notatè dignum etc.'; Mabillon however was not able to spend so much time in the Library as he wished; after a few days, the Librarian apparently became suspicious or jealous; and, alleging the illness of a near relative, left Naples and took the keys with him!

<sup>2</sup> In the *Wiener Jahrbücher d. Literatur* Bd. 26 (1824), Anzeige-Blatt, p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 24.

Blätter schon sehr schwer zu lesen, so sind es diese in einem noch viel höheren Grade. In diesen zwanzig Blättern finden sich wenige Buchstaben, an denen noch eine Spur von Tinte zu bemerken ist, bloss aus den zurückgebliebenen Eindrücken sind sie zu erkennen, und nur dann zu lesen, wenn man das Blatt schief gegen das Licht hält. Die eine Seite jedes Blattes ist meistens völlig abgerieben. Die Schrift ist eine schöne Halbuncial, von auffallender Aehnlichkeit mit der von Mabillon, p. 355, tab. vi. n. 6, mitgetheilten Schriftprobe aus dem Hilarius der eccl. Vatic., einer Handschrift, die in das vierte Jahrhundert, oder in den Anfang des funften gesetzt wird.<sup>1</sup> We shall see however that this is at least a century too early.

The next published notice of the MS. occurs in 1847<sup>1</sup>; Tischendorf's attention had been aroused by the report of von Eichenfeld; and, recognizing the importance of any additional evidence on the pre-Hieronymian text of the Acts and Catholic Epistles, he devoted some time in the autumn of 1843 to a study of the Palimpsest; he thus describes his work and its results:—

‘Meine Bemühungen blieben nicht ohne Erfolg. Mehrere Seiten gelang es mir ganz oder doch zum grössten Theile zu lesen. Leider aber wurde ich bei der Arbeit von einem sehr nachdrücklichen Augenübel überrascht (this certainly is not to be wondered at), das mich verhinderte alles zu entziffern, was nicht gänzlich verschwunden ist.’ He succeeded however in deciphering and transcribing not only some of the easier but also one or two of the hardest pages of the MS., and he published the following:—

part of Fol. 53 <i>b</i>	containing Acts xxiii.	18–23
Fol. 73 <i>b</i>	”	” xxvii. 17–24
part of Fol. 73 <i>a</i>	”	” 27–30
” ” 55 <i>a</i>	”	” 30–31
” ” 56 <i>b</i>	”	” xxviii. 22–28
” ” 72 <i>a</i>	”	James i. 1–5
Fol. 54 <i>a</i>	”	” iii. 13–iv. 2
” 74 <i>b</i>	”	” v. 19–1 Peter i. 4
” 75 <i>b</i>	”	1 Peter i. 4–12

<sup>1</sup> *Wiener Jahrbücher d. Literatur* Bd. 120 (1847), Anzeige-Blatt, p. 36.

that is, the greater part of nine pages. He hoped to be able to visit Vienna again and complete his transcription; but that hope was never realized.

Since Tischendorf, no one seems to have attempted to transcribe any of the MS. till 1884, when its last editor, the Norwegian scholar J. Belsheim, visited Vienna and examined it<sup>1</sup>.

Belsheim relates in his preface that he had been advised by an English scholar to set to work on the Palimpsest, though he does not say who the English scholar was. The first impression made on him by the leaves, was, he tells us, that it was quite hopeless to attempt deciphering more than Tischendorf had already done, and he left Vienna that year without further work on the MS. A second and longer study of it in the following year, however, enabled him to decipher ten more pages completely and three partially: these were:—

	Fol. 50 <i>a</i>	containing Acts xxv. 23-27
	part of Fol. 45 <i>a</i>	containing Acts xxvii. 22-29
	Fol. 45 <i>b</i>	" " " 29-xxvii. 4
	part of Fol. 47 <i>b</i>	" " " xxvii. 4-7
	Fol. 47 <i>a</i>	" " " 10-17
	" 44 <i>a</i>	" " " xxviii. 16-22
The latter part of Fol. 72 <i>a</i>	"	James i. 5-10
	Fol. 72 <i>b</i>	" " 10-17
	" 71 <i>b</i>	" " 18-25
	part of Fol. 42* <i>b</i>	" James ii. 14-16
	Fol. 42* <i>a</i>	" " 16-23
	" 43 <i>a</i>	" " ii. 24-iii. 5
	part of Fol. 75 <i>a</i>	" } Peter i. 12
	Fol. 46 <i>a</i>	" " ii. 4-10

(The first half of Fol. 72 *a* had been transcribed by Tischendorf.)

The deciphering of Palimpsests is usually a matter of gradual progress, where each successive student may gratefully acknowledge

<sup>1</sup> *Fragmenta Vindobonensia. Bruchstücke der Apostelgeschichte, des Briefs des Jakobus und des 1ten Briefs Petri, in wäherenymianischer Uebersetzung nach einem Palimpsest auf der kaiserlichen Hofbibliothek zu Wien. Theilweise zum ersten Mal herausgegeben von J. Belsheim. Christiania 1886.*