

## Add. 8584

1453

### Ausonius

Latin

Paper (watermark similar to Briquet no. 11854), 280 x 185 mm, ii + 8 + vi ff., numbered i-ii + 1-8 + iii-viii. (An older sequence of numbering, noted by Erik von Scherling (see below) as being '144-151', is no longer visible under natural light). Single column, 36-37 lines to a page, ruled in brown ink.

2 endleaves (ff. i-ii) + 1<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1-8) + 6 endleaves (ff. iii-viii). Written in a humanistic script, with headings in pale red (now very faded). Plain initials in pale red on 5<sup>v</sup>, 8<sup>r</sup> and 8<sup>v</sup>, and one- or two-line initials in the ink used for the text on 4<sup>r</sup>, 6<sup>v</sup>-7<sup>v</sup>. On 1<sup>r</sup> space for an initial not filled in.

2<sup>o</sup> fo. *Omnia que*

#### 1. 1<sup>r</sup>-3<sup>r</sup> **Ausonius**, Epigrammata

*Hec sunt Carmina que reperiuntur de omni opere [E - crossed through] Ausonii Theonii. Ad fontem Danuuji jussu Valentiniani Augusti. [!]Iliricis regnator aquis tibi Nile secundus ... ending Sal / oleum / panis / mel / piper / herba / nouem.*

Epigrammata nos 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 45; Fasti 1; Epigrammata nos 10, 11, 13, 14, 20, 21, 43, 57, 59, 73 + 74, 75, 86, 89, 23, 90, 91, 92, 96.

Except for *Ignota eterne*, text edited by R.P.H. Green, *The Works of Ausonius* (Oxford, 1991), pp. 66-90 (Epigrammata), 160 (Fasti)

#### 2. 3<sup>r</sup>-3<sup>v</sup> **Ausonius**, Invitatio ad Paulum

*Ausonius ad Paulum. Si qua fides falsis numquam est adhibenda poetis ... ending Non pena sed greca fide.*

Ibid., pp. 195-197.

#### 3. 4<sup>r</sup>-5<sup>v</sup> **Ausonius**, Cupido cruciatus

*Incipit Eusonius (sic) Eglogarum ad Gregorium filium suum. Enunquam vidisti nebulam pictam ... ending Evolat ad superos portaque evadit eburna.*

Ibid., pp. 139-143.

#### 4. 5<sup>v</sup> **Ausonius**, Bissula

*Ad pictores de Bissule ymagine. Bissula nec ceris nec fucco imitabilis ullo ... ending Emula citropias ars in mitetur apes.*

Nos 5, 6.

Ibid., p. 132.

#### 5. 5<sup>v</sup>-8<sup>v</sup> **Ausonius**, Cento Nuptialis

*Incipit Cento Nuptialis Ausonii. V. C. Ausonius Paulo salutem. Perlege hoc etiam si opere est frivolum ... ending sacra non constant.*

Ibid., pp. 132-139.

Greek is transliterated into Latin.

Professor M.D. Reeve advises that the same selection of poems occurs in two manuscripts at Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek: Guelf. Gud. Lat. 145 [= j] and Guelf 10. 9. Aug 4<sup>o</sup> [=g], of which the former, made in Jadra, Dalmatia (modern-day Zadar, Croatia) in 1445, has the same titles as this. For a facsimile, see: <http://diglib.hab.de/?db=mss&list=ms&id=145-gud-lat>

See also M.D. Reeve, 'The Tilianus of Ausonius', *Rheinisches Museum für Philologie*, Neue Folge, 121 (1978), pp. 350-366.

Binding: 19th/20th century, cream paper over cardboard sides, the spine reinforced with pigskin.

Origin: written in Italy, at Tarvisio (in Friuli Venezia Giulia), and completed on 28 July 1453, according to the scribal colophon on 8<sup>v</sup>: *Deo gratias amen. Tarvisio per me Jacobum 28 (sic) Kalend' Julii 1453.*

The colophon, written in the same pale and faded red ink as the rubrics, is now no longer visible under natural light. A hand of the 19th century has copied the inscription below, and it was also written out in pencil on the facing leaf (iii<sup>r</sup>) by F.J. Norton.

Provenance:

(1) 'N' (or '2'?) underlined: 1<sup>r</sup>, upper margin.

(2) Wilfrid Voynich, *Short catalogue of old and rare books* (January 1907), no. 234, priced £1 1s.

This is recorded in the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts  
<<https://sdbm.library.upenn.edu/>> as SDBM\_258944.

(3) Erik von Scherling (1907-1956), bookseller in Leiden: manuscript offered for sale in his catalogue *Rotulus: A quarterly bulletin for manuscript collectors* on four occasions, as follows: no. 1.2 (April 1931), no. 1131 (45 florins); no. 2.1 (March 1932), no. 1315 (45 florins); no. 3.2 (June 1933), no. 1315 (36 florins).

Recorded in SDBM individually as SDBM\_151452, SDBM\_151604 and SDBM\_151923, and grouped together with the Voynich listing as SDBM\_MS\_25839.

(For other manuscripts advertised for sale by von Scherling that later entered F.J. Norton's possession, see MSS Add. 8582 and 8583).

(4) Sold at Sotheby's, 11 November 1935, lot 158 for £1 to Quaritch (sent back for sale by von Scherling?).

(5) F.J. Norton M.A. (1904-1986), Under-Librarian and sometime Deputy Librarian of Cambridge University Library, and Knight Grand Cross of Alfonso X the Wise. Transcriptions of rubrics written by his hand on ii<sup>v</sup> and iii<sup>r</sup>. Acquired from Mr Norton's estate by Cambridge University Library, 30 May 1986.

(Prices £4 6s 0d and £2 10s 0d written on i<sup>r</sup>).

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JSR 23 February 2016

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