

Learning Lamentations:

A description, assessment and partial transcription of two medieval manuscripts.

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Medieval Studies 405

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Spring 2010

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In an effort to explore the nature of late medieval manuscripts and work with material available in the Knight Library's Rare Book Collection, I focused my efforts on two texts in the Burgess collection, Knight Library MS 31 and Knight Library MS 28. I have transcribed a small portion of each manuscript and have meticulously combed through them, finding differences between the texts and the two writing systems and attempting to reconcile the two as an exercise in creating a critical edition. I have also researched each manuscript's provenance, adding and expanding upon the scholarship that has already been done, but also challenging previous conclusions about their origins.

Knight Library MS 31 is the *Liber Prophetarum*, translated by Saint Jerome. *Liber Prophetarum* contains all of the books of the Vulgate from Isaiah to Malachai, including the apocryphal books of *Baruch*, the *Letter to Jeremiah*, the *Prayer of Azariah*, *Susanna* and *Bel and the Dragon*. Jerome's preface to each book is included. The manuscript contains 226 leaves of relatively thick and stout vellum. The text of the manuscript is presented in two columns, with 34 lines per column. Each leaf was ruled in light brown ink, which is still visible. Using ink to rule individual leaves became quite common in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (Clemens and Graham 17). Prickings, small holes in the margins of the leaves, are still visible on some pages; their round shape is indicative of the scribe using either an awl or compass to rule the page (Clemens and Graham 15).

MS 31 is written in a complex system of writing known as Gothic Script. This particular script, Textualis Quadrata, is regarded as a book script of "high grade and very good quality" (Brown 84). Textualis Quadrata is identified by the treatment of the bottoms of minims "which have consistently applied feet" (Brown 84). There are varying grades of

Gothic Textualis, with Prescissa, characterized by its horizontal minims, being the highest grade and Rotunda, with its rounded minims, being the lowest (Brown 88). The script of MS 31 has, for the most part, the precision and clarity of Textualis Prescissa, but there are too many exceptions in its minims to rate it as Prescissa. This is not meant as a swipe at the scribe; the text is remarkably clear, the spacing generous and its elegance calligraphic.

The script of MS 31 has a pronounced biting of bows, a feature which becomes increasingly important from the mid-thirteenth century onwards (Brown 84). Another feature of Textualis Quadrata, which becomes “standard, if not exclusive” (Brown 84), by the thirteenth century is the crossed tironian *et* symbol. Curiously, MS 31 has no such symbol, as *et* is always written out. Extensively used in MS 31 is the indication of a word break at the end of a line; if a word cannot be finished on one line, a symbol (=) is used to inform the reader that the word continues on the next line. This greatly helps the reader follow and understand the text.

The codex is bound in calfskin over pasteboards. This is not the original binding, as pasteboards were not in use until the second half of the fifteenth century (Diehl 63). The covers are also lacking the holes made by bookworms that are visible in the first folios of the manuscript. The bottom corners of both the front and back cover have been worn through, and individual leaves can be seen and material identified. The pasteboards for MS 31 were constructed with loose paper and covered in calfskin. The two pasteboards were bound together using six raised cords. These cords create seven panels on the spine, which have elegant decoration gilt tooled into them. The name of the manuscript, *Liber Prophetarum*, appears in gold in the second panel with a deep red background.

The front cover is no longer attached to the rest of the manuscript; the back cover is barely attached. It is unknown how long the binding has been in this state. The front and back cover of the manuscript have “the arms in gilt of a bishop” (Burgess 209.6.28), which appear to have been intentionally defaced. The vandalism, while undatable, has done irreparable damage to the cover, rendering the arms’ details indiscernible. However, an outline of a fleur-de-lis over some sort of crest can still be seen on the front and, to a lesser extent, rear cover {See figure 1}. Three letters, presumably of a name, have been spared destruction and are visible on the front cover’s coat of arms.

When the manuscript was rebound, three paper flyleaves were added, one in the front and two in the back. There are two watermarks on the flyleaves, one with G L on the front flyleaf and a fleur-de-lis and banner on the innermost rear flyleaf {fig. 2}, which bears a striking resemblance to the fleur-de-lis and banner that was defaced on the covers. The watermark can be identified as a specific type, Strasburg bend & lily, which has a fleur-de-lis on top of an ornate banner which is divided in half (Churchill 322). Some of the examples of the Strasburg bend and lily in Churchill’s *Watermarks in Paper* also have two initials, which could also explain the G L watermark on the front flyleaf. The edges of the manuscript’s leaves have been painted red, which is typical books bound in Germany (Diehl 169).

There is no colophon in MS 31, therefore it is unknown when exactly it was written. However, with the evidence listed above it is possible to estimate that it was written sometime between the mid-thirteenth century and the mid-fifteenth century. The mid-thirteenth century can be the earliest date of its creation due to the extensive biting of bows within the text and the lack of an exclusive crossed tironian *et* sign. Ruling in ink also became increasingly

common in the fourteenth century. The mid-fifteenth century is the most likely latest possible date of creation because of the cover of the manuscript. Remember that pasteboards were first used around 1450 and MS 31 has numerous holes made by bookworms. While it is impossible to know the rate at which bookworms consume parchment, because there are literally hundreds of different types of creatures known as “bookworms,” it does take several years to eat its way through the original binding and the first dozen folios. The replacement cover has no damage from bookworms, so it is logical to assume that some time had passed before it was placed in its current cover after 1450. The date written on the front cover of the book, 1380, is merely a guess and does not provide any proof to back up its assertion.

On the inside of the top cover there is a wealth of information regarding previous ownership and repairs. There are two bookplates and two autographs by I. Lee and H. Wilmot Buxton. The earliest of these is the armorial bookplate that contains the phrase “Ex Libris Amadei Svajer” along with his coat of arms *{fig. 3}*. Amadeo Svajer, 1727-1791, was an Italian merchant whose family emigrated from Nuremberg at the end of the sixteenth century. Little is known about his life but shortly after his death the contents of Amadeo’s library was purchased by The National Library of St. Mark’s in Venice, Italy (“Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana - Venezia”). One can only assume that MS 31 was a part of the massive collection of 340 manuscripts that found a new home in the Venetian library. It is unknown how long the manuscript was in St. Mark’s, as the next owner is from the nineteenth century and resided in England.

The next traceable owner of MS 31 is I. Lee, Doctor Commons. An inscription on the front cover reads, “I. Lee, Doctor Commons, repaired August 1835. No 12/93.” It was

originally thought that Lee simply repaired the manuscript for whoever owned it and returned the codex in August 1835 (Helmer). This, however, is not the case. The second bookplate {fig. 4}, unidentified by Helmer and other researchers, can now be identified with the Lee family of Hartwell, Northampton, England. The armorial bookplate does not have a name, like the bookplate for Amadeo Svajer, but does have the motto “Verum atque decens.” This motto, along with an exact description of the coat of arms, can be found on page 768 of Sir Bernard Burke’s massive “Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland:” “Quarterly: 1st and 4th, ax., two bars, a bend, chequy, of the last; 2nd and 3rd az., on a chevron, between three lozenges, or, an anchor,” and the crest, “1st, a bear, passant, muzzled, and chain reflexed over the back, arg., 2nd a demi-horse, arg., curbed, erect, charged on the shoulder with a fleur-de-lis”. Both the coat of arms and crest of the Lee’s of Hartwell can be found, as described by Burke, above the motto “Verum atque decens” on the bookplate in MS 31.

During my search for information on the Lee family motto, I found the same inscription and bookplate in another manuscript which is part of the Babson Collection at Babson College. The manuscript, *Arithmetica Universalis*, has the same armorial bookplate and an autograph that reads “I. Lee, Doctor Commons. Repaired September, 1836.” (“Carnegie Mellon University Library”). My discovery prompted the librarians at Babson College to correct their records in light of this new information. Nothing else is known about I. Lee. It is unclear what was repaired on MS 31 or the manuscript at Babson College; it is also unclear if the repairs were executed by Mr. Lee or another person under his direction.

The next traceable owner is H. Wilmot Buxton, c. 1818-1880, who left his autograph {fig. 5} on the rear of the top cover underneath the two bookplates. It is large and includes the date 1862, though it is unknown whether this is when he bought the book or when he signed it. H. Wilmot Buxton lived in Cambridge and London, England and was a barrister (“Annals of Science”). He was also the friend and biographer of Charles Babbage, who is credited with the invention of modern computing (“Museum of the History of Science, Oxford”). In the preface of the fourth edition of “A Course of English Reading or How and What to Study,” Buxton also receives the thanks of author James Pycroft. This edition was published in 1861 and addresses H. Wilmot Buxton by the title “Esq., of Lincoln’s Inn” (Pycroft vii). Lincoln’s Inn is “one of four Inns of Court in London to which barristers belong” (Hills) and has been in existence “for centuries” (Hills). It is unknown how, where or from whom H. Wilmot Buxton acquired the manuscript, nor is it known how the manuscript came to be in the possession of the next known owner, an American, Edward Perry Warren.

Warren, 1860-1928, bought the manuscript during his residency in Britain and is responsible for bringing MS 31 to America. When the manuscript was purchased is unknown, but Warren started collecting in 1892 and had ceased collecting by 1902 (Sox 50). During this period, dubbed “the marvelous quarter” by American historians (Sox 51), the United States trebled its wealth and halved its national debt (Sox 51), making it an ideal time to buy art in Europe. Indeed, both the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Art were incorporated during this marvelous quarter. Due to the distance between America and Europe, these museums relied on purchasing agents within Europe to collect pieces and transport them back to America (Sox 51).

Edward Perry Warren operated in such a manner, purchasing works throughout Europe and returning to America to sell them to various museums and collectors. Warren was exceptionally generous to the museums, offering to sell his collection for what he paid, plus twenty percent for expenses, “although this never managed to cover [his] ordinary expenses” (Sox 53). Many of Warren’s pieces were bought by museums in Boston, but Warren never did sell this particular manuscript, and so it went to the auction block sometime after his death in 1928. Edward Perry Warren’s name does not appear in the manuscript itself. Instead, his ownership is authenticated through Goodspeed’s Book Shop in Boston, Massachusetts (Burgess 209.6.28), who bought the majority of Warren’s collection. The manuscript was in the care of Goodspeed until its purchase by Julia Burgess in 1939 (Burgess 209.4.38).

Doctor Julia Burgess, 1870-1942, is the last individual to own MS 31. Dr. Burgess inherited the majority of her own rare book collection from her brother, Edward Sandford Burgess, upon his death in 1935 (Helmer). This manuscript was not part of the original collection, but Edward’s gift inspired her to add to the collection. In 1939, Julia Burgess bought MS 31 from Goodspeed’s Book Shop (Burgess 209.4.38). Before her death in 1942, Julia Burgess either sold or donated the entirety of her collection to the University of Oregon (Helmer), where she was a professor of English. This manuscript was donated as a gift in the memory of her father, Reverend Chalon Burgess (Burgess 209.6.14). Thanks to Dr. Burgess’ generosity, MS 31 has been in the possession of the University of Oregon ever since, and is now catalogued in the Burgess Manuscript collection.

Knight Library MS 28, the second manuscript that I worked with, contains the Latin Vulgate. It is written on 348 leaves of very thin uterine vellum. This type of vellum was made

from stillborn or young calves (“Vellum”) and was the most expensive type of parchment available. The text is split into two columns with 105 lines in each column. MS 28 was ruled in plummet, which replaced drypoint in the late eleventh century (Clemens and Graham 16), and was used almost exclusively until the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (Clemens and Graham 17). Plummet required the scribe to rule both sides of pages, making it impossible to rule more than one leaf at a time (Clemens and Graham 17). There are no prickings visible in the margins; they were probably cut off, along with a portion of the marginalia, when the book was rebound in the early nineteenth century.

This Vulgate MS contains both the Old and New Testaments, as well as thirteen of the fifteen Apocrypha (Helmer), excluding II Esdras and the Prayer of Manasseh. MS 28 also includes *Liber interpretationis Hebraicorum nominum*, the book of interpretation of Hebrew names. The final folio of the manuscript provides several clues to its creation and provenance. There is a small note written in a Carolingian miniscule script that has Gothic influence. The script is Carolingian but uses ligatures and abbreviations common to a Gothic script. This is most interesting because Gothic slowly replaced Carolingian miniscule until the middle of the twelfth century, when Gothic became predominant (Shailor 28).

Dating MS 28 is extremely difficult due to the lack of colophon. There is evidence that the manuscript could have been written at any time between the late eleventh century and 1356. Using plummet to rule the page became standard in the late eleventh century but eventually gave way to ruling in ink in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Carolingian script was largely disused after the mid-twelfth century, being replaced by the Gothic system of scripts. The date that fits the most evidence appears to be the late twelfth or early thirteenth

century. This date allows for the ruling of folios in plummet before ink became prevalent. The date also gives Gothic script time to become dominant while still allowing for the Carolingian script, perhaps written by an older scribe. Such a date coincides with usage of the uncrossed tironian *et* that became regularly crossed by the thirteenth century (Brown 84). The script which calculates the date of Easter after 1356 is written in another hand and in a darker, different ink; it is likely that the manuscript was already in existence for some time when these calculations were added, which would be consistent with a late twelfth century authorship.

In MS 28, there are several large historiated and plain initials. The two largest are in the prologue and in Genesis 1:1 *{fig. 6}*. Both of these initials run the length of the page. A plethora of smaller initials, mostly floral in decoration, run throughout the manuscript. In Lamentations, there are two large, painted initials, an *E* and *Q*, which take up three and twelve lines, respectively. The *E* is red, with the interior spaced painted blue and is surrounded by a green border. The *Q* is painted yellow or a faded orange, with blue, green and white filling the interior. It has a deep blue border with clusters of three white dots near the corners. These clusters are used throughout the Middle Ages as a symbol of Christianity and a representation of the trinity (Meehan 48).

MS 28 is written in a style of text known as *Littera Glossularis*, a glossing script in the Gothic family. *Littera Glossularis* is essentially “a smaller, modified version of the lower grade Gothic book scripts” (Brown 90). This script is reminiscent of a later Italian glossing script, *as-textualis*, but there are several important distinctions between the Italian script and the one found in MS 28. The round *s* found in MS 28 often trails slightly below the line at

word ends. The uncrossed tironian *et*, which looks like 7, is found extensively throughout MS 28. German scripts are known for their uncrossed tironian *et* prior to the mid-thirteenth century (Thompson 44). The semi-chancery *d* is usually made without lifting the pen, characteristic of German scribes (Thompson 62). The text is incredibly small; therefore it is no surprise that biting of bows, various ligatures and abbreviations are a regular occurrence.

MS 28 has also lost its original binding. It is now bound in deep blue morocco, having been bound by Clarke, “unquestionably the best binder of his day” (Stewart, Wheatley and Adlard *iv*) in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Clarke’s binding is exquisite, with leathern joints inside and sewn with silk, typical of Clarke’s style (“Historical Notes on Bookbinding” 306). Instead of flyleaves made of paper, Clarke used thick vellum; therefore, there are no watermarks. A crest is stamped in gilt on both covers, showing the initials T.W. in a small oval {fig. 7}, which was typical for all of the manuscripts Clarke rebound for Reverend Theodore Williams (“Forest Books”). When the manuscript was rebound, it was also gauffered, which is a type of decoration where the edges of the book are impressed with hot irons to leave a design over the edges (Landry). Gauffering is most commonly done in combination with gilding of the edges. Most of the books once in Rev. Williams’ collection have gilded edges and MS 28 is no exception. However, due to its heavy use, the thin layer of gold has been worn off for the most part {fig. 8}. The spine of the book is divided into gilded panels. Three of these panels have the work of the text in capitals, *S.S. Biblia Latina / Codex Antiquus / Supra Membranis* {fig. 9}.

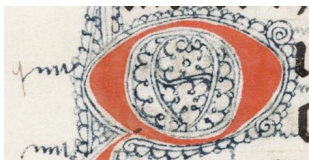
The provenance of MS 28 is largely unknown. Unlike MS 31, there are no armorial bookplates and very few physical amendments. The frustratingly small amount of information

regarding the provenance of MS 28 is exacerbated by the fact that no information can be found for I. N. Bagnall, a probable owner whose autograph is on the recto of the first flyleaf of the manuscript. The lack of information is due, in part, to the fact that the manuscript was rebound in the early eighteenth century, approximately three hundred years after MS 31 was rebound.

Nevertheless, a truncated history of ownership can be traced from the time of rebinding by Clarke onwards. Clarke rebound the manuscript at the request of Reverend Theodore Williams, d. 1826 (Sotheby's). Rev. Williams was an avid book collector and lived in London, England; at the time of his death he owned over 1900 manuscripts and early printed books (Stewart, Wheatley and Adlard 197), most of them on large or the largest folios. It is curious, then, that Rev. Williams purchased MS 28, a small book by any measure, with text so minute that a magnifying glass is needed for reading. Upon his death the collection was auctioned off for the contemporarily incredible sum of £10,213 ("Open Library").

The next traceable owner of MS 28 is Thomas Thorp, a London bookseller who sold the manuscript to Dr. Julia Burgess in 1940 (Burgess 209.4.31), she then brought the manuscript to America. Before her death in 1942, Dr. Burgess either sold or donated the entirety of her collection to the University of Oregon (Helmer), where she was a professor of English. This manuscript in particular was donated as a gift in the memory of her father, Reverend Chalon Burgess (Burgess 209.6.14). Thanks to Dr. Burgess' generosity, MS 28 has been in the possession of the University of Oregon ever since. MS 28 is catalogued in the Burgess Manuscript collection, where it remains in the careful hands of the University's Special Collections and Archives.

Guide for understanding key abbreviations, symbols and other textual oddities found
in MS 31



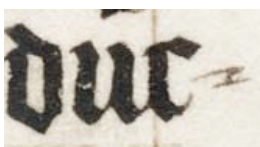
Detail of *Q*, verse one of Lamentations. Typical German penwork.



Completely rubricated letters are in red in both manuscripts.



Partially rubricated letters in MS 31 are noted in this color.



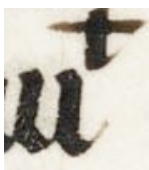
When a line ends and a word is finished on the next line, a symbol was used for demarcation. In the transcription, = is used.



Ligature of *d* and *o* in the word *sacerdotes*. Represented as *do* in the transcription.



The two types of *s* used in MS 31.



Sometimes, superscript was used to insert a letter when a line ended. *Ploravit*.



Propter, with rubrication.

Guide for understanding key abbreviations, symbols and other textual oddities found in

MS 28



Initial marking the beginning of Lamentations.



Common abbreviation for *et*, including period at the end of last word.



These rubricated letters in MS 28 are noted by this color.



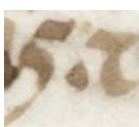
Completely rubricated letters are in red in both manuscripts.



Ligatures such as *pp* have been preserved thanks to Junicode, a special font made for medieval Latin transcription.



Ligatures for *de*, *do*, *bo*, etc are represented as *dē*, *dō*, and *bō*



The trailing *s*, with the uncrossed *et* sign, both typical of German scripts.



Con sign. The font, Junicode, allows for this to be transcribed.



Abbreviation for *-bus*. The font allows for this to be transcribed.



An example of the Carolingian miniscule script found in the back flyleaf of the manuscript.

MS 28

MS 31

Reconciled

Incipit lamé =
tatio iheremie prophete
qd" est in titulo cinoth cum
absolutóne lrarú hebicar'.

Incipit lam' tatiós /

Et factum é
p'quam iheremie pphé /
in captivitatem
redactus é isr'l .
j ierl'm / d'lrta é.
sedit iheremas flens .j planx /

lam'tatioém hanc. in ierl'm
j dí'x. **Aleph** /

ET factú est
p'qm po=
puplus i cap
tivutaté duc=
tus est. et ierlm destructa é.
fedit ih'emias flens : et pláx=

COLUMN ENDS
it lamentatónne hac in ier'=
l'm: et dixit. **Aleph**.

Et factum est,
postquam populus
in captivitatem
redactus est Israel,
et Jerusalem destructa est,
sedit Jeremias propheta flens, et planx

it lamentationem hanc in Jerusalem:
et dixit. **Aleph**.

Quomodo fedet fola

civitas ple / na populo.

fcá é qí vidua domina /

gentum. princeps pvinciarum /

fc'a é sub tributo.

Beth Plorms / ploravit

in nocte .j lacrimae eius in /

maxill' eiuf. né'qm

cofoletur eam ex om'ibz

cari^s / eiuf. ós amici

eiuf preverunt eam. 't ftí '

sei ini / mici. **Gimel**

Migravit iuda pp afflictioeí. j

ml' / titudinem

frvitutif. h'tavit int' gtf.

Quomodo fedet fola

civitas plena ppl'o:

facta est quasi vidua. Dña

genium princeps provin=

ciarum facta est sub tribu=

to. **Beth**. Plorans plorav^t

in nocte. et lacrimae eius in

maxillis eius. **Non** é qui

confoletur eam. ex om'ibus

caris eius. **Omnes** amici

eius spreverunt eam. et fac=

tu sunt ei inimici **Gymel**.

Migravit iuda propter af=

flictónem et mltitudinem

servitutis: h'tavit int' gé=

Quomodo sedet sola

civitas plena populo.

Facta est quasi vidua domina

gentium, princeps provin

ciarum facta est sub tributo.

Beth. Plorans ploravit

in nocte, et lacrimae eius in

maxillis eius. **Non** est qui

consoletur eam, ex omnibus

caris eius. **Omnes** amici

eius spreverunt eam, et fac

ti sunt ei inimici. **Gymel**.

Migravit Juda propter af

flictionem, et multitudinem

servitutis; habitavit inter gen

nec inve'it / requiem.

ós p'fecutores eiuf app'hendunt

eá int' / angustiaf.

D'leth -vie fyon

lugent eo ꝥñ fint q /

veniant ad follempnitaté.

o's porte eiuf d'fruc /

te. faédotes eiuf gementes.

virgines eiuf squala /

d' ꝓ ipá amaritudeine opp'ffa.

he fcí funt hoftes / eiuf

in capite inimici illiuf locupletati

funt qui^a / dominuf locutuf

é fup eam ꝥꝥ

tes. nec invenit requiem.

Omnes p'fecutores eius ap=

prehenderunt eam: int' an=

gustias. **Deleth**. Vie fy=

on lugent: eo ꝥnon fint

qui weniant ad follemni=

tatem. **O**mnés porte eiuf def=

tructe. facerdotes eiuf gemé=

tes. Virgines eiuf squalide

et ipfa oppreffa ama'itudie.

He. **F**acti funt hoftes eius

in capite. inimici eius locu=

pletati funt: qm̄ dñs locu=

tus eft fuper eam. **ꝥꝥ**ter

tes, nec invenit requiem,

omnes persecutores eius ap

prehenderunt eam inter an

gustias. **Deleth**. Vie Sy

on lugent, eo quod non sint

qui veniant ad solemn

tatem. Omnes porte eius des

tructe, sacerdotes eius gemen

tes. Virgines eiuf squalide,

et ipsa oppressa amaritudine.

He. Facti sunt hostes eius

in capite, inimici eius locu

pletati sunt: quia dominus locu

tus est super eam propter

multitudiné iniq / tatum
illiuf prvuli eiuf ducti
funt in captivitaté / añ faciem

tribulantif. **Vau** et eg'ffuf
é a filia fyon / oñf
d'cor eiuf. ftí funt principes
fus velud arietes / n'
invenientes pascua ꝓ abierunt
abfqꝓ fortitudi / ne añ faciem
subseqntif. **Zai** Et
recordata é ierl'm / dierum
afflictionis fue ꝓ puancatioís
omíum d'fi / d'rabilium

ml'titudinem iniquitatú
eius. parvuli eius ducti
funt in captiuitaté. a facie

PAGE ENDS

tribulantis. **Vau.** Et egref=
fus est a filia fyon omnis
decor eius: facti funt princi=
pes eius velunt arietes. non
inuenientes pascua: et abi
erunt absqꝓ fortitudine a fa=
cie subfequentis. **Zay.** Et
recordata est ierl'm dierú af=
flictónis fue. et 'prarvató=
nis: omniú desiderabiliú

multitudinem iniquitatum
eius. Parvuli eius ducti
sunt in captivitatem ante faciem

tribulantis. **Vau.** Et egres
sus est a filia Syon omnis
decor eius. Facti sunt princi
pes eius velut arietes non
invenientes pascua, et abi
erunt absque fortitudine ante fa
ciem subfequentis. **Zai.**
Recordata est Jerusalem dierum af
flictionis sue, et prevaricat
ionis, omnium desiderabilium

fuorum q' habuerat a
diebz antiquif. 7 / caderet
populuf eiuf in manu
hoftili. 7 ñ auxiliat /
or. Viderunt eam hostes.
7 deriferunt fabb'a
eiuf. / **heth** Peccatum
peccavit ierl'm ppea
instabil fcá é. ós /
qui gl'ficabunt eam f'pverunt
illam. qm vid'unt' /
ignominiam eiu f. ipá
autem gemens 7 9úfa
é re- / trorfum. **Teth** Sordes

fuorum que habuerat a
diebus antiquis : cum ca=
deret pplús eius in manu
hoftili. et non effet auxili=
ator. **Viderút** eam hof=
tes: et deriferunt fabbata
eius. **Heth**. Peccatum
peccavit ierl'm. propterea
inftabilis facta eft. o' ms
qui glorificabant eam fpre=
uerunt illam. qpviderunt
ignominiam eius: ipá
autem gemens et cóverfa
retorfum. **Teth**. Sordes

suorum, que habuerat a
diebus antiquis, cum ca
deret populus eius in manu
hostili, et non esset auxili
ator. Viderunt eam hos
tes, et deriserunt sabbata
eius. **Heth**. Peccatum
peccavit Jerusalem, propterea
instabilis facta est. Omnes
qui glorificabant eam spre
verunt illam, quia viderunt
ignominiam eius, ipsa
autem gemens conversa
est retrorsum. **Teth**. Sordes

eiuf in pedibz eiuf. nec recor /
data é finif fui. d'pofita
é veh'mt' n' hñf
gfolitoré / vid' domine
afflictioém meam
qm̄ erectuf é inim'cús /

COLUMN ENDS

Ioth Manum

fuam mifit hoftes adoía
d'siderabi / lia eiuf. quia vidit
gentes ingffaf fcúarum

fuum / d'quibz pceperaf

eius in pedibus eius. Nec re=
cordata est finis fui. depói=
ta est uehementer. non ha=
bens confolatorem. Vide do=
mine afflictónem meam:
qm̄ erectus est inimicus
meus.

Ioth. Manum /

fuam mifit hofis ad oía
defiderabilia eius. Quia vi=
dit gentes ingreffas fanc=
COLUMN ENDS

tuariú fuú: dequibus pre=

eius in pedibus eius, nec re=
cordata est finis sui. Deposi=
ta est uehementer, non ha=
bens consolatorem. Vide, do=
mine, afflictionem meam,
quoniam erectus est inimicus.

Ioth. Manum

suam misit hostis ad omnia
desiderabilia eius, quia vi=
dit gentes ingressas sanc

tuarium suum, de quibus pre

ne intrarent in eccliam

tuam **Caph** /

Om̄is populuf eiuf gemens

ᵓ q'renf panem

d'd'rt' / 'paofa 'qq3 pcibo

ad refocillandam animam.

Vid' dn̄e / ᵓ 9sidera qm̄

ftá funt vilif. **Lameth**

O vof ós qui trá / fitif

p' viam. attendite ᵓ videte

fi é dolor ficut dolor

m's / qm̄ vindemiavit

me ut locutus é dn̄s in

ire furori^s / fui

ceperas.ne intraent in ec=

clesiam tuam. **Caph.**

Omnis populus eius ge=

mens et querens panem:

dederút pretiosa queq̄ pro ci=

bo.ad refocillandam aiam.

Vide dn̄e et confidera: qm̄

facta fum vilif. **Lameth.**

O vos omés qui tranfiti^s

per viam. attendite et vi=

dete. fi est dolor ficut dolor

meus: qm̄ vindemiavit

me. ut locutus est dn̄s in

die ire furoris fui. **Mem.**

ceperas ne intrarent in ec

clesiam tuam. **Caph.**

Omnis populus eius ge

mens, et querens panem;

dederunt pretiosa queque pro ci

bo ad refocillandam animam.

Vide, domine, et considera quoniam

facta sum vilis. **Lameth.**

O vos omnes qui transitis

per viam, attendite, et vi

dete si est dolor sicut dolor

meus. Quoniam vindemiavit

me, ut locutus est Dominus in

die ire furoris sui. **Mem.**

D'excelso misit ignem in
offibus meis. et erudit me. **lame** -- /
expandit rete pedibus
meis. et convertit me retrorsum.
Posuit me desolatam,
tota die merore confectam.
num. / vigilavit iugum
iniquitatum mearum in manu
eius. convolute sunt et
imposite collo meo. Infirmata
est virtus mea. Dedit me
dominus in manu de qua non po-
tero surgere. **samech** abstulit
dominus omnes magnificos
meos. Dominus de medio mei, vo-

De excelso misit ignem in
offibus meis. et erudit
me. expandit rete pedibus
meis. convertit me retror-
sum: posuit me desolatam.
tota die. merore confectam.
Nun. Vigilavit iugum
iniquitatum mearum in ma-
nu eius: convolute sunt et
imposite collo meo. **Infi**rta
est virtus mea: dedit me
dominus in manu. de qua no po=
tero surgere. **Sameth.** Ab=
stulit omnes magnificos
meos dominus de medio mei. uo=

De excelso misit ignem in
ossibus meis, et erudit
me. Expandit rete pedibus
meis, convertit me retror
sum. Posuit me desolatam,
tota die merore confectam.
Nun. Vigilavit jugum
iniquitatum mearum in ma
nu eius convolute sunt et
imposite collo meo. Infirmata
est virtus mea. Dedit me
dominus in manu de qua non po
tero surgere. **Samech.** Ab
stulit omnes magnificos
meos dominus de medio mei, vo

ad 'vsum me tempus
ut g'teret / electos meos.
Torcular calcavit dominus virgini
fili / e iuda. **Aym** Id curo

ego plorans. ꝑ oculum meum
deducens aquam. quia longe
factus est a me consolator
convertens / animam meam.
Facti sunt filii mei perditii.
quoniam invaluit inimicus.
phe Expandit Syon manus
suas non est qui consolatur
eam. Mandavit dominus
adversus iacob in

cavit adversum me tempus:
ut contereret electos meos.
Torcular calcavit dominus virgini
filie iuda. **Ayn**. Idcirco

PAGE ENDS

ego plorans. et oculus meus
deducens aquam. quia longe
factus est a me consolator:
convertens animam meam.
Facti sunt filii mei perditii:
quoniam invaluit inimicus. -
Phe. Expandit Syon manus
suas: non est qui consolatur
eam. **M**andavit dominus
adversum iacob in

cavit adversum me tempus
ut contereret electos meos.
Torcular calcavit dominus virgini
filie iuda. **Ayn**. Idcirco

ego plorans, et oculus meus
deducens aquas, quia longe
factus est a me consolator,
convertens animam meam.
Facti sunt filii mei perditii,
quoniam invaluit inimicus.
Fe. Expandit Syon manus
suas non est qui consolatur
eam. Mandavit dominus
adversum iacob in

cir / cuitu eí hostes eiuf. ftá
é ierl'm qi polluta m'ftruif
it' / eos. sad' Iustuf
é dominuf. quia os eiuf ad
iraídiai / purocavi. audite
ob fecro univ'si populi.
ʒ videte ddo / rem meum.
virgines mee. ʒ iuvenes
mei abierunt / in captivitaté.
Coph Vocavi amicos meos.
ʒ ip'i de / ceperunt me.
facerdotes mei ʒ fenes mei
in urbe consu / pti sunt. quia
'qsierunt cibum sibi ut refocillarent /

circuitu hostes eius: facta
est ierl'm. quasi polluta mé=
ftruis inter eos. **Sade**. Iuf=
tus est dñs: quia os eius ad
iracundiá prouocavi. **Au**=
dite obferro uniuerfi popu=
li. et videte ddo rem meum:
virgines mee. et iuvenes
mei .abierunt í captítatem.
Coph. Vocavi aicos me=
os: et ip'i deceperunt me.
Sacerdotes mei. et fenes mei.
in urbe confúpti sunt. q'q=
fierút cibum sibi : ut refocil=

circuitu eius hostes eius. Facta
est Jerusalem quasi polluta men
struis inter eos. **Sade**. Jus
tus est dominus, quia os eius ad
iracundiam provocavi. Au
dite obsecro universi popu
li, et videte dolorem meum.
Virgines mee et iuvenes
mei abierunt in captivitatem.
Coph. Vocavi amicos me
os, et ipsi deceperunt me.
Sacerdotes mei et senes mei
in urbe consumpti sunt, quia que
sierunt cibum sibi ut refocil

animas suas. **Res.**

Vide domine quoniam tribulor. venter /

meus conturbatus est.

subversum est cor meum

in meipsum / quoniam amaritudine

re plena sum. Foris

interfecit gladius / et domi

ni mors similis est. **Sen.**

Audierunt quia ingemisco / misero

ego. et non est qui consoletur

me. omnes inimici mei au-

diunt malum meum. letati

sunt quoniam tu fecisti ad /

larent animam suam. **Res.**

Vide domine quoniam tribulor. venter

meus conturbatus est.

subversum est cor meum

in meipsum: quoniam amari-

tudine plena sum. Foris

interfecit gladius: et domi

ni mors similis est. **Sen.**

Audierunt quoniam ingemisco

ego: et non est qui consoletur

COLUMN ENDS

me. Omnes inimici mei au-

diunt malum meum: letati

sunt quoniam tu fecisti. Addux-

larent animam suam. **Res.**

Vide, domine, quoniam tribulor:

conturbatus est venter meus,

subversum est cor meum in

meipsum, quoniam amari-

tudine plena sum. Foris

interfecit gladius, et domi

ni mors similis est. **Sen.**

Audierunt quia ingemisco

ego, et non est qui consoletur

me; omnes inimici mei au-

diunt malum meum, letati

sunt quoniam tu fecisti.

duxifti diem 9folationis. 7

fient fimiles mí. **Thau** /

Ing'diatur ómalum

eoram coram te. 7 d'vindemia. /

eos ficut vindemafti

me ꝑꝑ iniquitates

meas. **MI'** / ti enim

gemituf mei. 7 cor meum

merens. **Aleph** /

ifti diem confolatónis: et

fient fimiles mei. **Tau.**

Ingrediatur omne malú

eorum coram te. et de vin=

demia eos ficut vindemi=

asti me: propter om̄s iniq'=

tates meas. **M**ulti enim

gemitus mei: et cor meú

merens. **Aleph.**

Adduxisti diem consolationis, et

fient similes mei. **Thau.**

Ingrediatur omne malum

eorum coram te. Et vin

demia eos, sicut vindemi

asti me propter omnes iniqui

tates meas: multi enim

gemitus mei, et cor meum

merens.

My original goal with this project was simply to learn more about manuscripts, their production and preservation. Instead, I found myself drawn to two Biblical manuscripts and set out to explore their intricacies, becoming intimately familiar with them and discovering information that has been forgotten or ignored for centuries. It was quite obvious that research on the provenance conducted in the past was cursory and perfunctory. With that said, the information regarding the manuscripts themselves was very thorough. In the case of MS 31, there was little to add regarding the script, contents and binding. However, with MS 28, my research leads me to disagree with previous scholarship, for I think that the codex was created in a different place and time altogether.

My priority during the beginning of this project was provenance. I concentrated on MS 31 because of its wealth of physical amendments, bookplates and signatures, many of which had either been misinterpreted or unidentified. I radically expanded upon the information that was already known, adding dates, places and biographical information for Amadeo Svajer and H. Wilmot Buxton, about whom nothing was known other than a date. I definitively attributed the second bookplate to I. Lee, proving his ownership where before it was supposed that he had merely repaired it for someone. Edward Perry Warren, who is a monumental figure in American art collecting, received a very brief mention in previous scholarship done on MS 31. I also identified one of the watermarks in the manuscript's flyleaves, narrowing down its geographical location to the area in or near Strasbourg.

With the other manuscript, MS 28, there was less evidence to help the provenance. I have, however, established that this manuscript was a part of the collection of Rev. Theodore Williams. Along with that, more information regarding J. Clarke, the book's binder, has been

unearthed by myself. It is here that more work could and should be done, as I. N. Bagnall remains unidentified. For this codex I have also argued for an earlier date, the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, and a different location, Germany. It had been thought that MS 28 was an Italian manuscript from the late fourteenth century. However, there are several problems with this, aside from the German characteristics of the script which were mentioned earlier. The German name “Frides” is written on the verso of the last folio as someone doing business at the time of the manuscript’s writing {fig. 10}. There are two locations in the manuscript where Easter day is calculated for 1356 onwards (“*Millio C.C.C. quinquæ sexio*”). It makes little sense to calculate something after the fact, when you would already know which day Easter was. The Carolingian miniscule script on the last folio of the manuscript is confusing, as the script was slowly replaced by the Gothic system by the mid-twelfth century. Glossing scripts first came about in the late twelfth century onwards (Brown 90). The manuscript could have easily been created before the fourteenth century, and it is my opinion that it was written earlier than the date once accepted. There are too many peculiarities to give it a date any time after the mid-fourteenth century, though coming to a definitive date will be extremely difficult.

I have come to appreciate that this is hard work. There are so many things to juggle when you are doing research on a manuscript. One manuscript’s writing style doesn’t look like anything you will find in a book about scripts, even when it is the same thing! The historical evolution of the *et* sign, crossed or uncrossed, one stroke or two, it all makes a colossal difference as to when and where it came from. Abbreviations of the Latin text also make reading difficult. Everything makes reading difficult, now that I think about it. But you become familiar with it; now, I can look at either manuscript and read it in my head with only

a little difficulty. Despite all the difficulties, roadblocks and frustrating scarcity of reliable information I am glad that I did this project. I have learned more doing this than I have in any other class I have taken at the University. I wish to thank the staff of the University of Oregon Archives and Special Collections who genuinely responded to my questions and initiated me into the world of manuscript etiquette.

Complete list of physical amendments, MS 31

Outer cover and spine:

Second box of spine – *Liber Prophetarum*, gilt tooled. Gold with red background.

Seventh box of spine – *MS / 5*, red ink on sticker, affixed in center of box.

Upper left of front cover – Sticker with blue border, bottom left peeled off. Indiscernible writing.

Inside top cover:

Upper left - *Presented by*, in cursive. Written in black ink.

- *1037 CGXX / MY G XX*, crossed out. Written in pencil.

- *31*, circled. In pencil.

Upper center - *I. Lee Doctor Commons. / repaired. August. 1835. No. 12|93.*; in cursive.

Written in black ink.

- Bookplate of Lee family.

- £, in pencil. More text has been erased.

- Below Lee bookplate, *H. Wilmot Buxton / 1862*, in cursive. Same hand as “*presented by.*” In black ink.

- Erased text in pencil. Three letters, possibly *fin* followed by several numbers, possibly *10-5*.

Center – Bookplate of Amadeus Svajer.

Lower center - *Biblia Liber Prophetarum / Iucc. XIV (1380 circa)*, in cursive. Written in pencil.

Lower left – *12*, written in pencil.

Top flyleaf recto:

Upper left – 19, written in brown ink.

- No. 109., written in black ink.

Upper right – *Burgess MS 31*, in pencil.

- 25, in very large numbers. Written in black ink.

Upper center – No. 4, in black ink.

Innermost rear flyleaf:

Recto, top center – *C M Jr*, in cursive. Written in black ink.

Inside back cover:

Upper left – 90069, written in pencil.

Upper right – 1, on white stamp with blue border. Border is different style than stamp on front cover.

- 1200/-, written in pencil.

- 950/-, written in pencil.

Complete list of physical amendments, MS 28

Inside top cover:

Upper left – White sticker with thin black border in ink. Writing scribbled out in black ink. Top right of sticker has unidentifiable pencil markings, perhaps a signature.

- 28, circled. In pencil.

Center – *This Beautiful MS is written in very / minute characters upon the most delicate / abortive vellum. The initials are / illuminated and embellished with / grotesque ornaments: It is a monument / of the skill + patience of this writer.* Cursive script in pencil.

Lower center – *Bound by J Clarke*, impressed into the vellum.

Lower right – 13, in pencil.

Recto, first flyleaf:

Upper right – *Burgess / MS.28*, in pencil.

Upper center – *IN Bagnall* -, in large cursive. Written in pencil.

Verso, first flyleaf:

Upper right – Unidentifiable writing in pencil.

Upper left - £60, in pencil.

Lower left – 220 / 213 / 193, in pencil.

Figures and illustrations, MSS 31 and 28



Figure 1. Top cover of MS 31, showing defaced coat of arms.

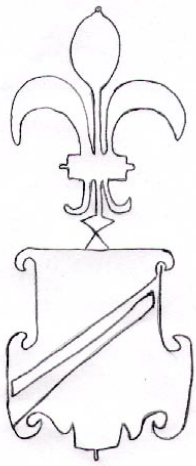


Figure 2. This watermark can be found on the rear flyleaf of MS 31.



Figure 3. Bookplate of Amadeo Svajer. MS 31.



Figure 4. Bookplate of I. Lee. MS 31.

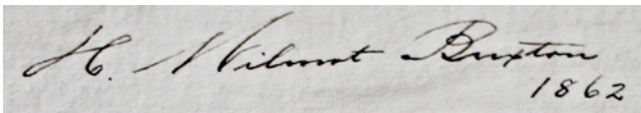


Figure 5. Autograph of H. Wilmot Buxton. MS 31.



Figure 6. Historiated initial marking the beginning of Genesis. MS 28.



Figure 7. Reverend Theodore Williams' crest on the top cover of MS 28.



Figure 8. Gauffered and gilded edges on the bottom of MS 28.



Figure 9. The name of the manuscript in gold along the spine of the book. MS 28.

Tantū sit pp̄. q̄m̄ lat̄. cyph̄. et̄ it̄.
Fides ē uoluntaria quēdā abtēn
vū certitudo sup̄ opinionē it̄ et̄
scientiā ostēdit̄. ut̄ f̄id̄ ē subā
mandari rex. 7c.

Figure 10. Carolingian script mentioning “Frides”. MS 28.

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