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MS 1083

Northern France (?), s. XI

Berengaudus of Ferrières (?), Apocalypse commentary

1. ff. 1r-191v *Incipit tractatus beati Ambrosii episcopi super Apocalipsin.* Beatum Iohannem apostolum et evangelistam hunc librum Apocalipsin edidisse constat, quamvis exstiterint aliqui, qui non ab eo, sed ab alio dixerunt fuisse compositam ... Sit nobiscum gratia Domini nostri Iesu Christi, et det nobis arma virtutum, quibus muniti ipso duce atque signifero et ab interioribus et ab exterioribus hostibus defendemur ibi [*this word deleted*] ut vitę eterne participes esse mereamur, qui cum Patre et Spiritu Sancto vivit et regnat in secula seculorum. Amen.

Berengaudus of Ferrières (? s. IX²?), *Expositio super septem visiones libri Apocalypsis*, falsely attributed to St Ambrose. Stegmüller 1711. PL 17.765-969. While the name of the author Berengaudus is certain (see art. 2), the identity of this person and the date of the text is debated. See a list of Berengaudus manuscripts in D. Visser, *Apocalypse as Utopian Expectation (800-1500). The Apocalypse Commentary of Berengaudus of Ferrières and the Relationship between Exegesis, Liturgy and Iconography*. Studies in the History of Christian Thought, v. 73 (Leiden, New York, Cologne, 1996), pp. 200-213.

2. f. 191v Berengaudus. Quisquis nomen scriptoris scire desideras, litteras expositionum in capitibus septem visionum primas adtende. Numerus IIII vocalium que desunt, si Grecas posueris, est octoginta I. Ecce quanta potui brevitate hunc librum conscripsi ... Indignabuntur etiam contra me, cur ego idiota et nichil sciens presumpserim super tante obscuritatis librum volumen expositionis cudere. Quibus responde quia sicut // [terre sterili amplius proficit aspersio stercoreis ...]

Auctoris admonitio, PL 17.969; the major part of this text, which is a supplement to art. 1, is missing. The consonants of the author's name are given in a cryptogram based on the opening letters of the seven *Expositiones* (B R N G V D S); the Greek form of the vowels transposed into numbers is said to total up to 81 (E=5, E=5, A=1, O=70), which results in *Berengaudos*.

Parchment, ff. III + 191 + III, 180 x 125 mm. Many defective corners (repaired) and edges, sometimes with loss of text. A large hole f. 88.

I⁸ (ff. 1-8), II-III¹⁰ (ff. 9-28), IV-VIII⁸ (ff. 29-68), IX¹⁰ (ff. 69-78), X-XV⁸ (ff. 79-126), XVI⁴ (ff. 127-130), XVII-XX⁸ (ff. 131-162), XXI¹⁰ (ff. 163-172), XXII-XXIII⁸ (ff. 173-188), XXIV⁴ (- 4, ff. 189-191).

Pricking and hard-point ruling for one column of 27 lines above top line (quire I: 28 lines). There are double bounding lines and double horizontal through lines at the top and at the bottom (ruling type 36).

The main part of the codex (quires I-XXII) is copied by three hands in late Caroline handwriting: A copied ff. 1r-12r and 38r20-172v; B copied ff. 12v-38r19; C copied ff. 173r-180v. The two final quires are marked by irregular script and rapid changes of hands: between ff. 185r and 185v; between ff. 186r and 186v; f. 186v on line 15; f. 187r on line 6; f. 188r on line 18; f. 189r on line 6.

The decoration is extremely limited and applied inconsistently. Headings in red display script; 1-3-line plain red initials (4-line on f. 1r). Some majuscules stroked in red. There is green heightening of majuscules on ff. 102r and 139r.

Red morocco binding over pasteboard, dated 1904 and signed "K.A." [Katharine Adams at Broadway, Worcestershire]; spine with four raised bands and gold-tooled inscriptions "BERENGAUDI / EXPOSITIO / SUPER / APOCALYPSIN / IOANNIS" and "MS. SAEC. XI". The previous binding was s. XIX parchment over pasteboard.

There are running headlines, marginal captions, additions and corrections in a s. XIII hand using Gothic cursive script. In places faded text has been retraced by a later hand. There are also many annotations and Apocalypse chapter numbers added by a s. XVI hand using a very cursive script. In general, corrections are numerous and important: entire lines have been erased (6 consecutive ones on f. 184r), sometimes replaced by text written in Northern Gothica Textualis (f. 43r). Especially the corrections, the changes of hands and the irregularities in the layout (only 21 lines on f. 187v) in the final quires point to a complicated genesis and give this early manuscript an important place in the textual tradition of Berengaudus's work. On several pages there are s. XVII scribbles in English. Collection of Douglas Cockerell (1870-1945). Sold 21 Jan. 1903 to Sydney C. Cockerell (1867-1962), who commissioned the present binding; his notes on the front pastedown and flyleaf r. Given by him on 5 March 1955 to Brian S. Cron (1913-2002); his signature and date of acquisition on front flyleaf r. Sold by Bernard Quaritch Ltd in May 2002 to an English private collector. Purchased in Oct. 2004 on the Edwin J. Beinecke Fund.

Bibliography:

R.A. Linenthal, "Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts. A Handlist of the Collection of B.S. Cron", *The Book Collector*, 54 (2005), pp. 553-563, Handlist 2 (see folder MS 987)