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MS 964

Alsace (Murbach abbey), s. VIII/IX

Flavius Iosephus, *Antiquitates Iudaicae* (fragm.)

f. 1r-v // semetipsos alterutrim contribuli non ignorant, sed sua studia sibi communicant. Hoc autem eis ex hac societate proveniet ... que passurus esset contra quem [tes]timonium dixit. Si homicidio fact[o in] aliqua urbe non inveniatur hic //

Flavius Iosephus (37-ca. 95), *Antiquitates Iudaicae*, 4.8.7-16. F. Blatt, ed., *The Latin Josephus*, v. 1. Acta Jutlandica, Humanities Series, 44 (Aarhus, Copenhagen, 1958), pp. 287.14-289.16.

Parchment, f. 1, 285 x 195 mm., trimmed. F. 1v is soiled and 6 lines in its central part have been erased. More text losses on this page were caused by the folding of the parchment when it was reused for a binding (see below).

Hard-point ruling on the hair side (i.e. f. 1v) for two columns of 31 lines above top line, with single bounding lines at the inner side of the columns, double bounding lines at their outer side.

Copied by one hand in German Praecarolina. A marginal note on f. 1r in small script. Running headlines "Liber" and "Quartus" are written in Capitalis.

Bernhard Bischoff ascribed the handwriting to the scriptorium of the abbey of Murbach. The s. IX^{med} library catalogue of this abbey lists a copy of Iosephus' *Antiquitates Iudaicae*, perhaps the codex of which our fragment was part: W. Milde, *Der Bibliothekskatalog des Klosters Murbach aus dem 9. Jahrhundert*. Beihefte zum Euphorion, 5 (Heidelberg, 1968), p. 47, no. 270. Two other fragments of the same manuscript are preserved in Freiburg and described in B. Bischoff, *Katalog der festländischen Handschriften des neunten Jahrhunderts (mit Ausnahme der wisigotischen)*, v. 1: *Aachen-Lambach* (Wiesbaden, 1998), p. 271, no. 1282.

The leaf has s. XVIIⁱⁿ been used as a limp parchment binding for an anti-Lutheran tract by Conradus Andreae (pseudonym of Conrad Vetter): *Der unschuldige, demütige, warhafftige ... beständige und saubere Luther* (Münster, 1606). F. 1v was the outer side and the six erased lines in its center, forming the spine, were used to write the abbreviated title of the printed tract.

Bibliography:

D.M. Kibbey, "An Early Fragment of Josephus' *Antiquitates Iudaicae* from Murbach Abbey", in R.G. Babcock (ed.), *New Studies on Yale Manuscripts from the Late Antique to the Early Modern Period*. The Yale University Library Gazette. Occasional Supplement 7 (New Haven, 2005), pp. 23-36 (text ed. pp. 31-35).