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## DIGITISED MANUSCRIPTS

### Royal MS 12 C XXIII

**Date** Late 10th century-early 11th century

**Title** Julian of Toledo's *Prognosticon futuri saeculi*, with Latin glosses and an Old English gloss; riddles by various authors, including Aldhelm, Symphosius, Eusebius, and Tatwine, with Latin and Old English glosses; Pseudo-Smaragdus, *Opus monitorium* and monitory poems; *Versus cuiusdam Scotti de alphabeto*

**Content** This manuscript contains a collection of texts, especially riddles, all copied and decorated in Southern England (possibly at Christ Church, Canterbury) in the late 10th or early 11th century. It includes: f. 1r: blank apart from some library numbers and markings; ff. 1v-79v: Julian of Toledo's *Prognosticon futuri saeculi*, with Latin glosses and an Old English gloss. In between folio 1 and folio 2, there an unfoliated leaf has been inserted with a circular hole cut out in its lower corner to accomodate a circle of red wax which has been added to f. 2r; ff. 79v-103v: verse riddles by Aldhelm, with prose and verse prologues, with Latin and Old English glosses, some of which were written by the same scribe as the main text; ff. 104r-113v: verse riddles by Symphosius, with glosses; ff. 113v-121v: verse riddles by Eusebius, with glosses; ff. 121v- 127r: verse riddles by Tatwine, with glosses; ff. 127r-132r: Pseudo-Smaragdus's *Opus monitorium*; ff. 132r-137r: Pseudo-Smaragdus's monitory poems; ff. 137v-138: badly damaged verses entitled, '*Versus cuiusdam Scotti de alfabeto*'. Syntactic marks or glosses using a system of dots and dashes have been used. Decoration: text in red and green (ff. 2r, 6r-v, 23v, 49r, 83r, 84r); large initials with zoomorphic interlace with foliate details (ff. 2r, 6v, 23v, 29r, 83r, 84r); numbers in red (ff. 5v-6r, 22r-23v, 46v-48v); rubrics in red (throughout); initials in red and green (throughout). The answers to the riddles are usually given in red before each riddle.

#### View: bindings



299 images available

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**Languages** Latin  
English, Old

**Physical Description** **Materials:** Parchment and ink.  
**Measurements:** 260 x 190 mm (250 x 140 mm).  
**Foliation:** ff. 138 (+ 4 unfoliated modern paper flyleaves at the beginning and 4 at the end and 1 unfoliated modern paper leaf inserted between f. 1 and f. 2, with a hole cut out in the lower corner to protext the stamped was on f. 2r).  
**Binding:** BM/BL in-house.

**Ownership** Origin: ? Christ Church Canterbury, Canterbury: the manuscript's Anglo-Caroline Script has been associated with that produced at Christ Church, Canterbury (see Bishop, 'Notes' (1959-63), p. 42). Provenance: ? The Benedictine Abbey of St Mary, Glastonbury: possibly noted in the catalogue of Glastonbury abbey of 1247/48, no. 263 as 'Libri pronosticorum ii<sup>o</sup>. In altero sunt enigmata sancti Aldelmi vetusti' (see English Benedictine Libraries (1996), B39.263); noted by John Leland in his list of books in Glastonbury abbey, before 1533 (see Joannis Lelandi (1970), IV p. 154). Such an entry could also refer to the contents of Cambridge, University Library, Gg. 5. 35 (1567), or to a lost exemplar; however, the former manuscript seems to have been copied at St Augustine's Canterbury and to have remained there when Leland saw it in the sixteenth century (Carley, 'Two Pre-Conquest Manuscripts' (1987), pp. 202-03; Joannis Lelandi, ed. T. Hearne (1774) iv, pp. 7-8). Later medieval glosses throughout. Patrick Young (b. 1584, d. 1652), librarian and scholar: glossed throughout; collated with

Royal 15 A XVI (see note on Royal 15 A XVI, f. 59v). Thomas Howard, 14th earl of Arundel, 4th earl of Surrey, and 1st earl of Norfolk (b. 1585, d. 1646), art collector and politician: probably to be identified with a manuscript in his possession collated with Royal 15 A XVI, and mentioned in a note by Patrick Young, reading 'hunc librum / collatum esse ad ms / codicem co/mitis Arun/dell' (Royal 15 A XVI, f. 59v). An old number '109' (f. 1). The Old Royal Library (the English Royal Library): Royal seal of a ship, 17th century (f. 2); included in the 1698 catalogue of the library of St James's Palace (see [Bernard], *Catalogi librorum*, no. 8660). Presented to the British Museum by George II in 1757 as part of the Old Royal Library.

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