

- (5) Remigius of Auxerre, Commentary on
Martianus Capella, from gloss 80.5 to 81.10
(end of Book II and beginning of Book III)
(s.IX/X)
inc. Nunc ergo infiunt id est locuntur et
dicunt**

expl. prioris libri titulus hic pro fine ponitur et venit

Parchment, 252 x 178 mm (241 x 157 mm), 32 long lines (verso invisible); ruling with a hard point, lines 7 mm apart

Script A small somewhat cramped insular square minuscule or 'reformed' minuscule, characteristic, according to Dr Parkes, of the Winchester scriptoria of s.IX/X. On the other hand there are some distinct resemblances with insular script of the continental type of s.IXⁱⁿ such as that from Würzburg, Würzburg Cathedral Library, M.p.th. f.144. The script has the characteristic pointed *a* of insular minuscule, though with the occasional use of the *oc* form of *a*. It is written with a slanted pen, the pen lifted between minims, and there is a slight thickening of the stroke at the foot of each minim. *r* is long and deep-shouldered with the shaft well below the line, as is that of the caroline long *s* and the *f*. The back of the round *d* is bent almost horizontal over the bowl. The bowl of *p* does not touch the shaft but finishes with an outward flourish. *Et*, *ex* and *ec* ligatures, in which *e* is a tall letter. In the *or* ligature, *r* takes the 2-form.

Abbreviations \bar{g} for *ergo*, \bar{t} for *tur*, \bar{p} for *pro*, \bar{p} for *per*, \bar{p} for *prae*, \bar{u} for *vero*, \bar{e} for *est*, *i.* for *id est* etc. Use of abbreviations is limited and there is nothing remarkably insular about them.

Punctuation A punctus in the middle position for a short pause, a punctus versus for a longer pause and $\cdot\cdot$ for the main pause. Dr Parkes has noted that a later hand, using a different ink, has converted the original scribe's punctuation from a punctus to a punctus versus. The lemmata from Martianus's text are set off from the commentary by means of punctuation.

Decoration Heading *De Grammatica* (line 15) in faded red rustic capitals. Line 16, at the beginning of *De Grammatica*, a large 4½-line initial *R*, well-drawn, with a flourish on both feet

Provenance According to Dr Parkes, the fragment was written at one of the other two Winchester centres (that is, the Old Minster and the New Minster) at the time of Edward the Elder by a scribe 'who was strongly influenced by the reforms in scribal practice which were taking place in the Nunnaminster'. Wanley had dated the fragment to the reign of King Alfred and called the letters 'Saxon' (after Mabillon). If written at Winchester, the fragment represents 'the earliest surviving evidence that Martianus Capella was known in Winchester' (Parkes).

Bibliography C. E. Lutz (ed.), *Remigii autissiodorensis commentum in Martianum Capellam* (Leiden, 2 vols, 1962) I,

**pp. 209–10; Jennifer Morrish, op. cit.,
pp.182–3; M. B. Parkes, 'A fragment of an
early tenth-century Anglo-Saxon manu-
script and its significance', *Anglo-Saxon
England* 12 (1983) pp.129–40; B. Bischoff
and J. Hofmann, *Libri Sancti Kyliani*
(Würzburg, 1952) Abb.3**