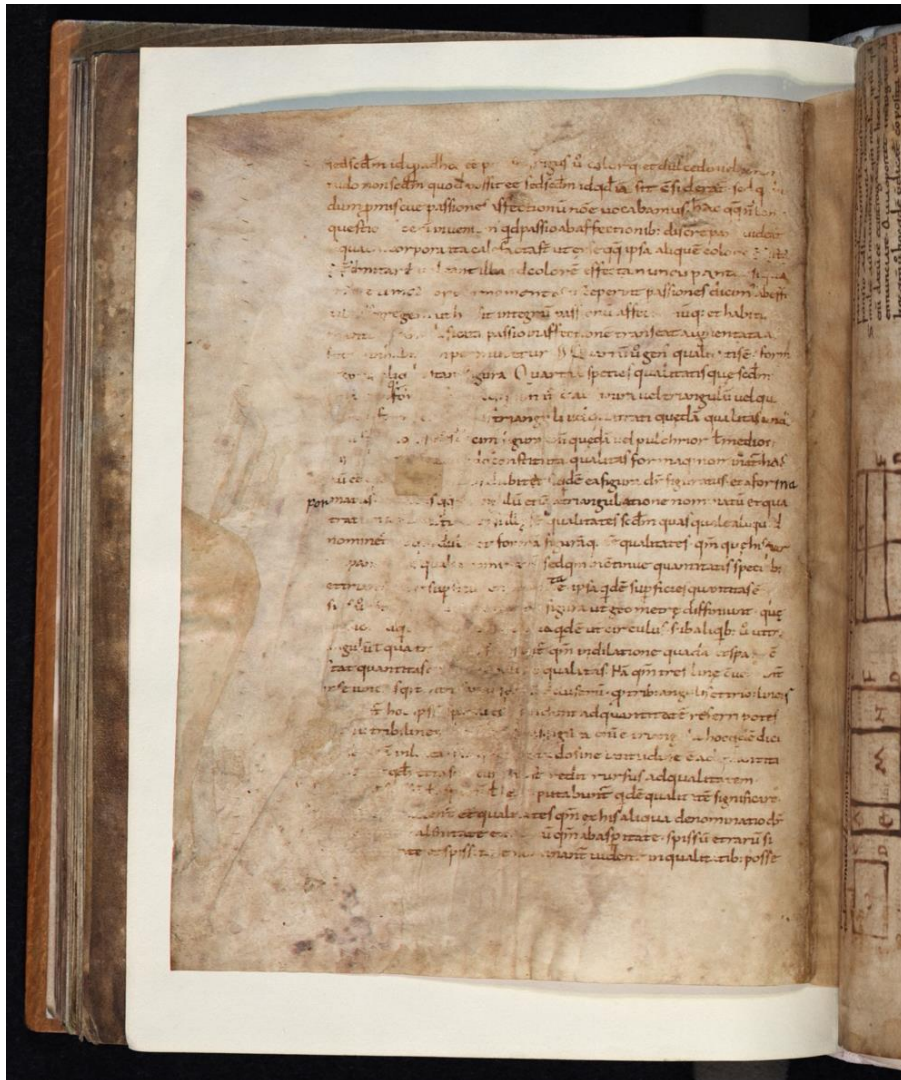


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Description and Transcription V
Lichfield, Cathedral Library MS 1a (Boethius in the Lichfield
Gospels)
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Lichfield Cathedral, MS 1a, fol. 3v © Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral (2010).

This section of text (folio 3v, MS lines 1-20) is an extract from the third book of Boethius' commentary on Aristotle's *Categories*. It is the only pre-Conquest witness to this logical treatise in an English collection and indicates very early medieval engagement with Aristotelian philosophy. This tenth-century manuscript fragment survives because it was bound as one of the flyleaves to the magnificent eighth-century gospel book, known as the St. Chad Gospels (Lichfield MS 1). The scholarship on this manuscript fragment,

as with the other flyleaves, has been confined to brief bibliographical comment and classification.¹

The script is Carolingian minuscule and possibly of French provenance. It has been conjectured that the Boethian flyleaves, which are not Insular, may have been incorporated into the Lichfield Gospels (MS 1) in a binding of the twelfth century or later.²

The quality of the vellum is poor and this is particularly evident on the recto side of the folio, where dark hair follicles are visible on the membrane. The ruling of the lines is marked by pricking in the margin. A significant portion of the text has been lost due to ink discolouration.

The first (and main) scribe writes using an informal hand and the text is heavily abbreviated. There is very limited spacing between words and occasional use of the *punctus* (MS l.2, l.3, l.10, l.15, l.16, l.17, l.19, l.21). Likewise, majuscule script is used only sporadically, 'E' (MS l.6) and 'Q' (MS l.10, l.11). There are a couple of corrections by a second scribe, writing in a darker ink (MS l.5-6, ll.12-3, l.22). The main scribe uses the earlier uncial form of an 'a', with a bowl to the left of a curved line that descends from left to right. In contrast, the second scribe uses a later form of 'a' where the line does not curve from above the bowl of the letter. For the 'f' form, the second scribe has an additional curved stroke to that used by the hand of the main scribe.

It seems likely that this folio is a fragment of a classroom or practice exercise; 'calorem' is misspelled 'colorem' twice (MS l.5, l.6) and there is an instance of dittography where the scribe repeats 'emitare' (MS l.5, l.6). The first scribe appears to note this mistake by marking a hooked ascender on the first and last letter of the second 'emitare' (MS l.6). Further, the second scribe encloses the first instance of 'emitare' within a dotted text box, also drawing attention to the error.

¹ Helmut Gneuss and Michael Lapidge, *Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: A Bibliographical Handlist of Manuscripts and Manuscript Fragments Written or Owned in England up To 1100*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014), no. 269.1, pp. 211-2.

² Margaret Gibson, Lesley Smith and Joseph Ziegler, eds., *Codices Boethiani: A Conspectus of Manuscripts of the Works of Boethius, vol.1, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland* (London: Warburg Institute, 1995), p.107.

Transcription

sed s(e)c(un)d(u)m id q(uod) ad hoc e(ss)e) p[ote]st frigus
u(ero) calorq(ue) et

dulcedo uel amari

-tudo non sec(un)d(u)m quod possit e(ss)e sed s(e)c(un)d(u)m
id q(uo)d ia(m) sit

c(on)siderat(ur). sed q(uod) du

-dum p(ro)miscue passiones affectionu(m) no(min)e
uocabamus. hac q(uo)q(ue)
n(on) longa

questio [si]c eni(m) inueniem(us) q(uo)d passio ab
affectionib(us) discrepar[e]

uideat(ur)

5 Si qua eni(m) corpora ita calefacta s(in)t ut ex se q(uo)q(ue)
ipsa aliq(ue)m

colore(m) emita-

[r]e emitare ualeant illa ad colore(m) effecta nuncupant[ur] si
qua

u(ero) [tan]tum ca[l]lorem momento susceperint passiones
dicim(us) ab eff[e]

cti[bus] segregem(us) ut h[ic] sit integru(m) passionu(m)
affect[io]nu(m)q(ue) et

habitu[s aug]

-mentu[m] [ut] am[p]lificata passio in affectione(m) transeat
au/g\mentata a[f]

10 -fect[io] inhabit(um) permutetur. Quartu(m) u(ero) gen(us)
qualit[at]is e(st)

form[a]

[e]t circa aliq(ui)d [con]stans figura Quarta e(st) species
qualitatis qu(a)e

s(e)c(un)d(u)m

[unamquam] \q(ue)/ for[mam figuram]q(ue) p(er)spicit(ur) e(st)
au(tem) figura uel

triangulu(m) uel qua

[-dratum] fo[rma autem ipsiu]s trianguli uel quatrati
qu(a)eda(m) qualitas unde

[eti]a(m) f[ormos]o[s homine]s dicim(us) figura eni(m)
queda(m) uel pulchrior (ue)l

medioc[ris]

15 [uel alio quodammo]do constituta. qualitas formaq(ue)
nominat(ur). Has

au(tem) e(ss)e q[ualitates nullu]s dubitet siq(ui)de(m) ea
figura d(icitu)r figuratus. et

a forma

\for//matas. [ampliu]s q(uo)q(ue) [tria]ngulu(m) etia(m) a
triangulatione

nominatu(m) et qua

-tratum a [quadr]atu[ra] si ill(a)e s(un)t qualitates
s(e)c(un)d(u)m quas quale aliquid

nominet(ur) [non est] q[ui] dub[it]et forma(m) figura(m)q(ue)
e(ss)e qualitates.

q(uonia)m qu(a)e his par

20 [tici]pan[t ex ipsi]s qualia nominat(ur) sed q(uonia)m in
c(on)tinue quantitatis

speci[e]b(us)

Key:

() parentheses: expanded abbreviations

[] square brackets: portion of text lost through
physical damage to the manuscript

/ \ slashes: scribal insertion on the line or
below the line

\ / slashes: scribal insertion above the line

\\ // double slashes: scribal insertion in the margin

Bibliography

Gibson, Margaret, Lesley Smith and Joseph Ziegler, eds., *Codices Boethiani: A Conspectus of Manuscripts of the Works of Boethius, vol. 1, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland* (London: Warburg Institute, 1995)

Gneuss, Helmut, and Michael Lapidge, *Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: A Bibliographical Handlist of Manuscripts and Manuscript Fragments Written or Owned in England up To 1100* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014)