

The Reichenau Glosses

The Reichenau glosses to the Vulgate Bible of St. Jerome are called so because they formerly belonged to the abbey of Reichenau, on an island in Lake Constance, Germany. It is supposed that they are compiled in the 8th century.

The vocabulary of the Reichenau glosses appears to be French in flavour (e.g., arenam sand glossed by sabulo, French sable; vespertiliones bats, by calvas sorices, French chauvesouris), and some words of Frankish origin appear (e.g., scabrones beetles is glossed by wapces wasps, respectant they look about by rewardant).

The glosses provide some evidence of morphological simplification (e.g., *saniore* healthier is glossed by *plus sano* more healthy and *cecinit* he sang by *cantavit*), but for the most part only lexical items are regarded as meriting comment.

I. Manuscript of Karlsruhe 115

A. List of Words that are to replace the corresponding Classic Latin words in French:

- onustus **pro** carcatus (carricatus, *OF* chargé)
- binas **pro** duas et duas (*F* deux et deux, deux à deux)
- profertus **pro** alatus factus
- transgredere **pro** ultra alare
- opilio **pro** custos ovium vel berbicarius
- aper **pro** salvaticus porcus
- fusiles **pro** fundutas (*F* fondues)
- gecor (jecur) **pro** ficato (ficatum; *OF* feie, foie)
- offendas **pro** abatas (*OF* abates af)
- oves **pro** berbices (verveces; *OF* berbis, *F* brebis sheep)
- mares **pro** masculi (*F* mâles)
- oppidis **pro** castellis vel civitatibus (*F* châteaux, cités)
- hiems **pro** hibernus (*F* hiver)
- forum **pro** mercatum (*F* marché)
- emit **pro** comparavit (*OF* comparer to buy)
- mercator **pro** comparator
- femur **pro** coxa (*F* cuisse)
- arena **pro** sabulo (*F* sable)
- cecinit **pro** cantavit (*F* chanta)
- canere **pro** cantare (*F* chanter)
- si vis **pro** si voles (*F* si [tu] veux)
- pallium **pro** drappum (*F* drap, of Gaulish origin)
- lamento **pro** ploro (*F* pleurer)
- liberos **pro** infantes (*F* enfants)
- ictus **pro** colpus (*F* coup, of Gk origin)
- ensis **pro** gladius (*F* glaive)
- uvas **pro** racemos (*F* raisins)
- sortilegus **pro** sorcerus (*F* sorcier)
- tedet **pro** anoget (inodiat, *F* ennuie)
- viscera **pro** intralia (*F* entrailles)
- vespertiliones calvas sorices (*F* chauves-souris bat)
- coturnix **pro** quaccola (caille quail)

B. Words implying a series of analogies:

- singulariter **pro** solamente (*F* seulement): *-mente* is already used as an adverbial suffix
- optimos **pro** meliores (*F* meilleurs)
- saniore **pro** plus sano
- transmeare **pro** transnotare (transnatare): *the developping substitution of â by o* is observed (as *L* natale > *F* Noël)

C. Germanic loan-words:

- pignus **pro** wadius (*F* gage)
- respectant **pro** rewardant (*F* regardent)
- Italia **pro** Longobardia
- Gallia **pro** Francia
- turmas **pro** fulcos (*F* foule mob)
- caemrentariis **pro** mationibus (*F* maçons)
- non pepercit **pro** non sparniavit (*F* épargner to spare)
- galea **pro** helme (*F* heaume helm)

D. Words with new meanings:

- ager **pro** campus
- cenacula **pro** mansiuncula (*F* maison)
- caseum **pro** formaticum
- castro **pro** heribergo
- contemeliā **pro** verēcundiam (*F* vergogne)
- cuncti **pro** omnes
- destestare **pro** plaspemare
- fatigatus **pro** lassus
- ferus **pro** durus
- flare **pro** suflare
- gehenna **pro** duplex pena
- gratis **pro** sine mercede
- Italia **pro** Langobardia
- in ore **pro** in bucca (*F* bouche mouth)
- rostrum **pro** beccus (*F* bec beak)
- isset **pro** ambulasset (*F* aller (?) to go)
- ita **pro** sic
- jus legem **pro** vel potestatem
- liberos **pro** infantes
- milites **pro** servientes (*F* serjants)
- nonnulli **pro** multi
- pronus **pro** qui ad dentes iacet
- prumptus **pro** paratus
- pulcra **pro** bella (*F* belle)
- rerum **pro** causarum
- ruga **pro** fruncetura (ruga means already street)
- scurris **pro** ioculator
- saga **pro** cortina
- sagma **pro** soma vel sella
- semel **pro** una vice (fois)
- sopor **pro** sumpnus

- umo **pro** terra (*F* terre)
- vegetat **pro** portat
- vitiosior **pro** callidior (*vitium takes the meaning of* trick, guile, *as in the Modern French expression* avoir du vice = être rusé)
- vectum (<vectem) **pro** tinel (tinalum) (*in order to be distinguished from the new meaning of* vit)

II. Manuscript of Karlsruhe 86 (84 glosses only)

- cartallum **pro** fiscellum paner (*F* panier)
- clivium **pro** montania (*F* montagne)
- coccinus **pro** rubeus (*F* rouge)
- colera **pro** nausia (*F* noise)
- corcodrillus **pro** bestia in flumine similis lacerte
- furvus (fulvus) **pro** brunus (*F* brun, *of Gmc origin*)
- lebes **pro** chaldaria (*F* chaudière)
- necetur **pro** occidetur (*OF* occire to kill)
- noverca **pro** matrasta (*F* marâtre)
- pingues **pro** grassi (*form of* crassi)
- problesma **pro** parabula (*F* parole)
- sarcinulas **pro** saomas
- stratoria **pro** lectaria (*F* litière)
- subtilissima **pro** perpititta (*F* petit (?) small. little)
- ungues **pro** unguas (*F* ongles)
- vausia **pro** vomitus
- vim **pro** fortiam

III. A diploma of the 8th century: *Formulæ Andecavenses*

- ablata **pro** blada (*F* moisson) (n°22)
- curare **pro** soniare (n°58)
- ducta **pro** menata (*F* menée) (n°24)
- vestis **pro** rauba (*F* robe) (n°29)

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