

Transcription of M.R. James's unpublished description
Cambridge, University Library, MS Dd.4.34

Title	Galfridi Monemutensis Historia Britonum
Secundo folio	erant ceteri
Language	Latin
Material	Vellum
Measurements	9 x 6 ¾ ins.
Collation	1 flyleaf 1 ¹² – 6 ¹² (wants all after 8)
Number of leaves	iii [i] + 68
Columns	Double
Lines to a page	39
Date	XIV not late
Handwriting	A pretty English hand; pale ink
Binding	Rough sheep rebacked

Moore 674

On i^b is an erased inscription (XV): Iste liber missus (a tear) ... end of l. 1
parochialem / de ffull stow ad ... end of l. 2
de gestis / Troianorum

Fulstow is in Lincolnshire.

Contents

Flyleaf blank.

Galfridi Monemutensis Historia Britonum

1

Eneas post troianum bellum (I. 2). MS Arundel 237 also begins at this point.

A pretty initial in blue and red with nice pen work. The columns are numbered, in old pencil, and there are old headlines. There is no division into books.

Lib. II of the ordinary editions begins on 6^b. III. 11 IV. 16 V. 21^b VI. 27 VII. (Prophecies of Merlin) 34^b VIII. 38^b IX. 46 X. 53^b XI. 60 XII. 63 ending 68^a: transferre curauit.

Expl. liber hystorie gentis Britonum.

These verses follow:

Dic cayphe mercede capud dampnatur alumpni
Celsa ruunt humili . pendet utrique gradus
Saluant et perdunt . a. a. a. que sunt Jeremie
Interit et perimit quod consonat euphonie
In scoriam ruit exitus egra potencia migrat
Montibus excedunt . onager . atque leo
Cornua ue(r)uecis mutilabunt cornua tauri
Sydere pollutis fraternum corrui [MS corruet] astrum
Una dies mortis deponet sexta duorum
Et babel archadie perfusa cruore rubebit

In ll. 1, 2 the initials of some words are probably numerals. In the rest some letters of the alphabet have to be picked out, but I cannot decipher the riddle.

On the verso in a small fine script: on L and R a column of verses. In C a large circle with two zones surrounding it; below, a distich.

L

Scepstriger arturus in bello stans quasi murus
Viuit uicturus et adhuc ferus ulle futurus
Fiet ei durus quibus extitit arbor ut urus
Ergo britania non alemannia regna domabit
Tunc galeatum brute probatum roma rogabit
Imperatorum iura suorum non celebrabit
Et modo perdita tunc sibi subdita scepra nouabit
Nam de conano non de nebulone prophano
Surget aper grandis rigidus uirtute nephandis
Vincet ruthenos tollet populos alienos.

R

Submet albanos non illos immo peanos
Et reget hispanos et uincet marte tigranos
Regnum saluabit et regna potens superabit
Insula restabit qua gente mala uacuabit
Nomine sub bruti cadet insula nec sciet uti
Legibus anglorum ueterum sed fiet auorum
Moribus astricta francorum fraude relicta
Voce ualens ficta ruet anglica gens maledicta.

I do not find these verses in any collection of prophecies.

C

Monstrum quod arturus uicit in hislandia . cui et eripuit caliburnium gladium bonum

Below:

Si non credatur quod mortua res oriatur
Sic didimum placa de puluere fit Meleuelata