AUGUSTINE-FRAGMENTS FROM THE CAIRO GENIZAH.

Among the Taylor-Schechter MSS in the Cambridge University Library are three tattered vellum leaves and some smaller bits which once formed part of a handsome Codex of St Augustine’s works. The hand is not unlike that of the well-known Fulda MS (A.D. 546); I have no hesitation in assigning the fragments to the sixth century.

The fragments are now mounted between panes of glass and are numbered CUL Add. 4320 (a, b, c, d). Each leaf contained one column of writing, 30 lines to the page, the size of the page being about 11 1/2 x 8 inches. The extant text consists of the end of De Sermone Domini in Monte bk. ii, immediately followed by Sermon cxviii.

The contents of the several leaves are as follows:

4320 (c) De Serm. Dom. in Monte ii = Migne P. L. xxxiv 1300
recto
9 [et con]uersi dirumpant uos canes er[go]
10 [pro op]pug[n]atoribus ueritatis porcos
... ... ... ... ... ...
24 ... ... ... et stomachando non uideo.

verso
10 -go simplex et mundum cor ha[bere]
... ... ... ... ... ...

4320 (a) De Serm. in Monte ii = Migne xxxiv 1307 f.
recto
Apostolus (end of § 83)—visibilia illa (beg. of § 85)

verso
miracula—[dicit] apostolus· s[erum] (col. 1308, middle of § 86)

4320 (b) De Serm. in Monte ii = Migne xxxiv 1308, followed by Sermo cxviii = Migne xxxviii 671 f.
recto
... ... ... ... ... ...

[SCI QUAS ESAIAS PROPHETA
5 [COMMEN]ORAT SED SIUE ISTE ORDO IN
[HIS CONSIDER[A[N]DUM SIT SIUE ALIQUI sic]
[ALIUS] FACIENDA S[UN]T QUAE AUDIMU[s] sic
[A DUO SI U]OLUMUS AEDIFICARE SUP[ER]
[PETRAM] AMEN. >> >

... ... ... ... ... ... ...
I have not identified the passages on the smaller fragments, numbered 4320 (d). A good deal more could be read of (a) and (c).

As I have indicated, s is sometimes written in a more cursive manner at the ends of lines, as is generally the case in Latin uncials. I cannot quite make out the compendium for explicit: the vellum is much torn. The initial I of intelligite (l. 24) has a well-marked tail.

The leaves are palimpsest, the upper writing being a Hebrew Masoretic MS.

The chief interest of these fragments is their age and provenance. Latin MSS from Egypt are rare at all periods, but the Nitrian MS B.M. Add. 17182 (the older codex of Aphraates, partly written A.D. 512) has bound up with it a scrap from a sixth-century MS of the Vulgate Gospels. No doubt the Augustine leaves reached the Cairo Synagogue merely as waste vellum.

Sermon cxviii was first published by Sirmond in 1631 from a MS belonging to the monastery of St Victor at Paris, and the Benedictine editors adduce no other MS. When the Vienna Corpus reaches the De Sermone Domini in Monte it may be possible to determine to what branch of transmission the Cairo MS of St Augustine belonged.

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