



"A GIFT NOT LACKING HONOUR"

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE, LAT. 6838B, FOLIO 4R

THE RUODLIEB

- Latin poem
- Composed c. 1050-1070
- Found in 19th century
- Survives as 12 fragments
- The author is unknown, but came from monastery of Tegernsee (Bavaria)

Farte mili misero sero que graum rale dico.
Si me no conteris am; manus mili solues.
Montiro ubi consum lanora denia; regum
Expansis Enzas qui recum prelizium.
Nomen haben genium munch [fill har
Anto vincumium Ambo pre perimenum. Edua ledrean herel-mone tola fugites. Regni turiuf heriburg pulcherima usigo. En ubi lucyanda fednon fine fangume magno. Ni qu'emfiliar ficial ego quando reforme. L'aduce am nano non occidendo l'el amo. Tocoro folussem una si confidere possem Simononfille amo fanul remeabil. Quando porene fueril mund nil post m diver Abilto uninthof umqua promanque bee fauf. Bon ra longent pune effertuf neg; farti, me uo fremo loquipur mil copile dolofo Penning; fide funt emprempera uno Honalin loquim nifi fiem corde unem-House ciboluly of edimus morbol generatives longial incolomes hore not dupablim As uof, Non mili diffidas ficiamilis get bene credas. Similis diffidas meaduny sir tan objes. Hanc uotat exampo que moz pecsepir illo Parmanmuf pulcher fed caure veffey; compra

The Ruodlieb, Munich, Bavarian State Library, MS Clm 19486, f. 34

FRAGMENT V THE PEACE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE 'GREATER' AND 'LESSER' KINGS:

• '...a lynx, the offspring of a fox and a wolf, not without value, because from its urine grows a bright gem, the brilliant lynx-stone (*ligurius*), like a precious carbuncle.'



FRAGMENT V – HOW TO EXTRACT THE URINE OF A LYNX

• 'Have made for yourself four spikes of iron and drive these into a wide vat in two places...Into it place the wild beast, though it may be unwilling and rebel, and take good care to tie its feet to the spikes. Around its neck hang a strong fetter...Give it enough to eat and drink but the wine it drinks should be strong and sweet to drink! Drunk as a result, it cannot hold its urine...If the lynx is unable to void it, it will cease living.'



URINE EXTRACTION AN ORDEAL?

Similar features to gestures of submission (e.g. *deditio*)

Aspects of description are christo-mimetic while others resemble procedure for rebels (e.g. rope around neck)

British Library, Royal MS 12 F XIII (Rochester Bestiary), folio 11r

HENRY IV AT CANOSSA, 1077

'There, on three successive days, standing before the castle gates, laying aside all royal insignia, barefoot and in coarse attire', the emperor did not cease with many tears 'to be seech the apostolic [that is, papal] help and comfort'.



THE LYNX AND EXPULSION

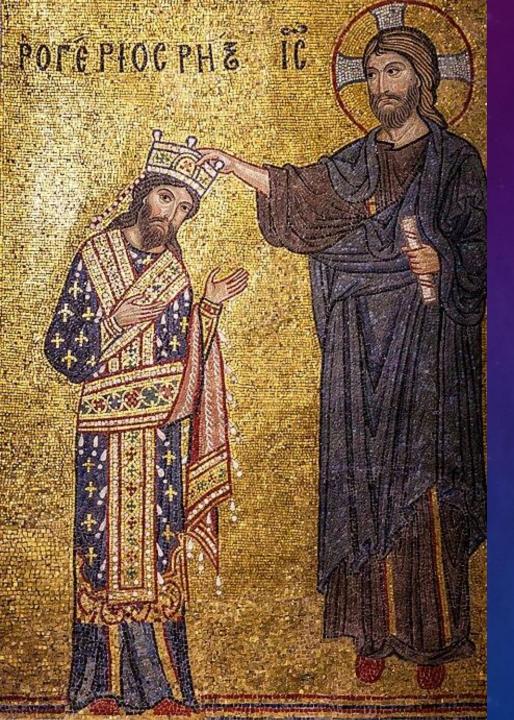


- Lynx = wolf (the outlaw/exile) + fox (the trickster/rebel)
- Expulsion of those who had committed 'unemendable' crimes (e.g. treason, murder, arson, flight from judicial process)
- Expelled individuals are the biggest security threat to 'international' peace across space and time

EXILES, RECONCILIATION AND RUODLIEB

- The main character of poem, Ruodlieb, was an exile
- He redeems himself by providing good service to his new lord
- Service includes dealing with other exiles, 'poacher turned gamekeeper'





RUODLIEB AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- The poem provides an example of ideal governance and lordship
- Assizes of King Roger II of Sicily, c. 1140: the king would "renew the paths of both justice and piety, when we see that these have become miserably crooked".



CONCLUSIONS

- Ruodlieb provides a significant commentary on peace, peacemaking and justice
- Literature demonstrate the richness of culture and intellectual thought in the Middle Ages



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