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MORE THOUGHTS ON THE SCHOLIA VETUSTIORA OF JUVENAL

Earlier today I discussed the appearance of the word “gladiatrix” in the oldest scholia on Juvenal. I had hoped to find the passage in an online manuscript, but I didn’t have any good source for the manuscripts of the scholia.

Soon afterwards a kind gentleman then sent me a copy of Wessner’s 1931 edition of the *Scholia in Iuvenalem Vetustiora*. Before I looked at the manuscripts, I started to read the ancient biography of Juvenal at the front. Then at the start of the first scholion, on the very first words of Satire 1, I noted the use of “eo quod”, so familiar in the Vulgate for “because”:

Semper ego... Iuvenalem aliqui Gallum propter corporis magnitudinem, aliqui Aquinatem dicunt. ea tempora Domitiani tyranni, quibus etiam ipse vixit, eo quod in aula ipsius plus histriones quam bonae vitae homines possent, graviter carpsit.

Some say that Juvenal was a Gaul, on account of the size of his body, others a native of Aquino. In the time of the tyrant Domitian, in which also he lived, he was a violent satirist, because in his palace actors were of more influence than men of good life.^[1]

No wonder the scholia have been attributed to the same period as the Vulgate!

Then I looked at the table of manuscripts.

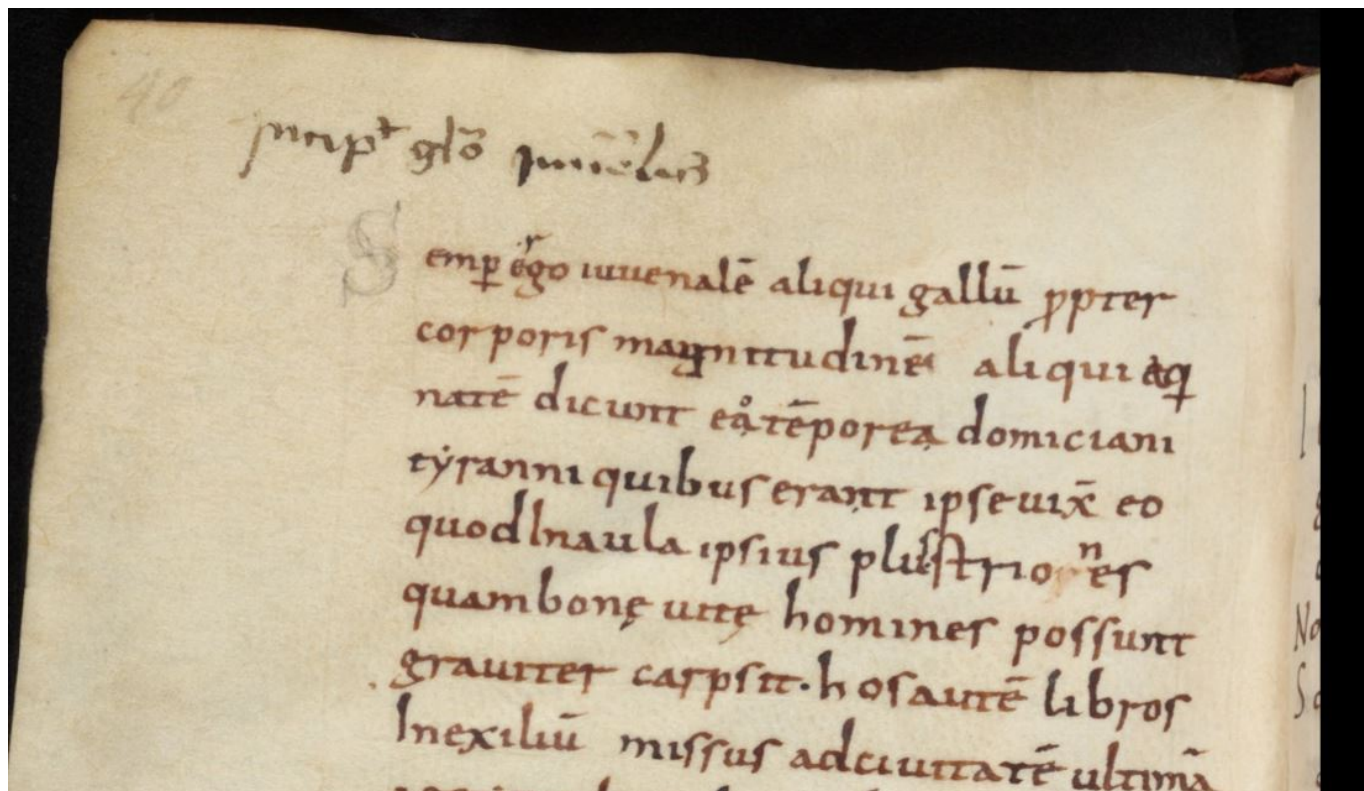
Wessner indicates various sources in the manuscripts for the scholia. One of these he simply describes, uselessly, as:

Fragmenta Aroviensia (Q), quae nunc in archio urbis Aroviae (‘Aarau’) asservantur, olim pertinebant ad codicem Iuvenalis s. X scriptum....

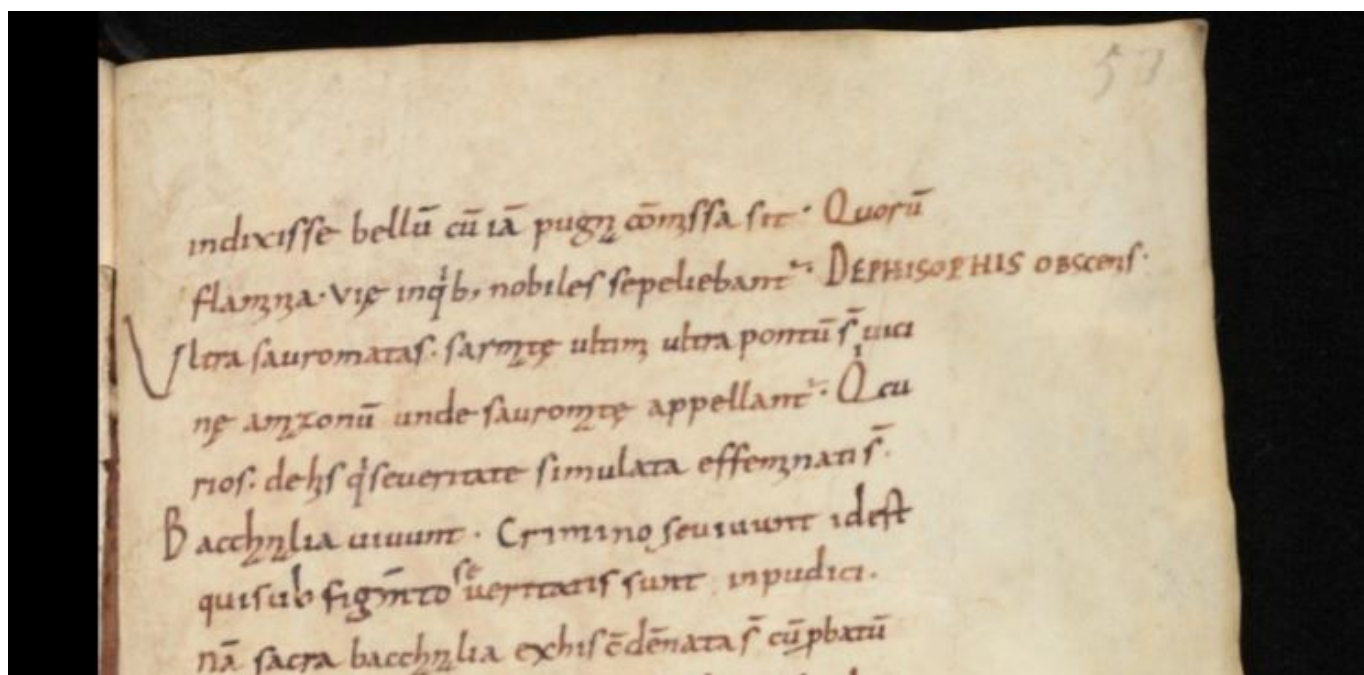
Q is in fact his main source for the portion of the scholia which mentions “gladiatrix”. I wondered if it was online. Wessner’s description is not helpful. But Aarau turns out to be a German-speaking Swiss town. In Braund &c, *A Companion to Persius and Juvenal*, [here](#), we find a list of principal manuscripts of Juvenal. “Arou. (Q in Wessner) is the library given as “Aarau, Stadtarchiv I, Nr. 0”. It is described as “Fragmenta Aroviensia” and consists of 5 leaves reused for bindings, one of which happens to be a section of the 6th Satire.

But sadly it does not appear to be online. Nor was the Montpellier manuscript, once the property of Pierre Pithou, and originally from Lorsch, which also is important.

However the St Gall, Sangallensis 870, is indeed online [here at the magnificent e-Codices site](#). The scholia start on “page 40”, [here](#), with the very words we discussed above.



Nice to know that we are in the right place! On page 53, we see the heading of satire 2, *De philosophis obscenis*, *On foul philosophers*.



Our reference to "gladiatrix" is to be found on [page 134](#), on line 6:

meretrices nudatis corporib; p uarias
 artes ludendi discurrunt. nā a flora
 meretrice instituta ē in honore flore
 deꝝ condita quibus florib; præē ludi
 sūt in pudici. Pectore plus agit & nā
 uere uult ēē gladiatrix quę meretrix.
 Galea pudore. idest nudo uultu pu
 dorē n̄ capit cooperta quando erubes
 cat. Quę fugit a sexu. quę deserit sexū
 muliebrē. Quantula nr̄a uoluptas. idest
 una uentia ē libidinis in masculis &
 undecim in feminis. Auctio fit. fit nā
 & priuatū auctio. Balteus & manice.
 reciari scilicet si perso nā aut officiū
 suscepit. Diuersa mouebit. Recia
 manice & gladiatorū strumēta. Proelia
 tu felix. Illius scilicet quę studiosa pug
 nandi est si in autione uxoris uenient
 arma gladiatoria. ПО ТА ПН ас хнмос

Also interesting to see the Greek transcribed at the end!

Some may ask how I located the passage in the manuscript. What I did was to have Wessner's edition open, in a searchable PDF. I then picked a random page, looked for a word that wasn't "est" or something trivial, and searched for it in the PDF. A few clicks soon indicated where in the text I was. The word itself would not be unique; but looking at the word after would help. Once I knew where I was, I could move forward or back in the online manuscript, as seemed desirable; and repeat. I ended up aiming for halfway through - Satire 6 is about halfway through - and then moving back.

Nice to see "gladiatrix" in a manuscript written in the 900s AD!

1. ^[1]Reading "carpsit" as "he was a satirist", because of the sense of tearing at reputation; and "multum/plus posse", "to have much/more influence". ↩
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