

Two Metrical Proverbs in Royal 2 B. v

Introduction

The bulk of Royal 2 B. v is filled with the Roman Psalter and Psalter Canticles in Latin, both accompanied by a continuous interlinear Old English gloss. However, the remainder of the volume contains a delightful range of encyclopaedic content. On fol. 6r, a scribe has made use of a few lines left empty following a series of prayers to record four proverbs in Latin and Old English. The first two are also among the Durham Proverbs; the latter two are in alliterative verse and printed here.

Manuscript

London, British Library, Royal 2 B. v fol. 6r

Texts

1. Hat acolað, hwit asolað,
leof alaþað, leoht aþeostrað.

(*Ardor refrigerescit,¹ nitor squalescit,²
amor abolescit, lux obtenebrescit.*)

2. Æghwæt ealdað þæs þe ece ne byð.

(*Senescunt que eterna non sunt.*)

¹MS refriescit.

²MS qualescit.