

Annotation of the *Etymologiae* of Isidore of Seville in Its Early Medieval Context

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ABSTRACT. — This article provides an overview of the annotated pre-1200 manuscripts of the *Etymologiae* of Isidore of Seville and discusses the nature and character of the annotation of this work. It shows that the *Etymologiae* was annotated principally in the early Middle Ages. The glossing took place in three contexts: in the insular world, perhaps in the aftermath of the arrival of Isidore's encyclopaedia in Ireland; in Carolingian northern France as a result of the introduction of *Etym. I (De grammatica)* into schools; and by scholarly readers in pre-Carolingian, Carolingian and Ottonian northern Italy. To a lesser extent, the *Etymologiae* was also annotated in the German area and northern Spain. The three main strains of annotation can be discerned because of their interest in different sections of the *Etymologiae* and because of distinct patterns of glossing they left behind. The intermixing of the three strains was exceptionally limited. The only region where it is attested is Brittany. The differences between regions and the limited circulation of glosses beyond their region of origin suggest that there existed several distinct reception frameworks for the *Etymologiae* in the early Middle Ages. The article is accompanied by a list of 45 most important annotated pre-1200 manuscripts of the *Etymologiae*.

RÉSUMÉ. — Cet article propose un inventaire des manuscrits annotés des *Etymologies* d'Isidore de Séville antérieurs à 1200. Il commente la nature et le contenu des annotations, en montrant que les *Etymologies* ont été surtout annotées pendant la période du haut Moyen Âge. On distingue trois contextes d'annotation différents: le monde insulaire, peut-être dans le sillage de l'introduction de cette encyclopédie d'Isidore en Irlande; la France du Nord carolingienne, après l'introduction dans les écoles du *De grammatica (Etymologies I)*; et les érudits d'Italie du Nord pré-carolingienne et carolingienne. Dans une moindre mesure, les *Etymologies* furent aussi annotées dans l'espace germanique et l'Espagne septentrionale. Les trois principaux contextes d'annotation se distinguent les uns des autres par leur intérêt pour des sections différentes des *Etymologies* et par des manières d'annoter différentes. Les interconnexions entre ces trois courants d'annotations sont très limitées. La seule région où un réel mélange se produit est la Bretagne. Les différences régionales et la circulation limitée des gloses hors de leur région d'origine laissent penser qu'il existait plusieurs formes de réception différentes

des *Etymologies* au haut Moyen Âge. Cet article comporte une liste des 45 manuscrits annotés des *Etymologies* antérieurs à 1200 les plus importants.

The *Etymologiae* compiled by Isidore of Seville at the beginning of the 7th century was the most important medieval Latin encyclopaedic work¹. When Isidore died in 636, before the publication of his *magnum opus*, he could not

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The literature on this seminal medieval knowledge work is too extensive to provide an exhaustive overview here. Some of the most important studies of the text of the *Etymologiae* include Jacques FONTAINE, *Isidore de Séville et la culture classique dans l'Espagne wisigothique*, 2nd éd., Paris, 1983; Mark E. AMSLER, *Etymology and Grammatical Discourse in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, Amsterdam, 1989; John HENDERSON, *The Medieval World of Isidore of Seville: Truth from Words*, Cambridge, 2007; and Jacques ELFASSI, «Isidore of Seville and the *Etymologies*», in Andrew FEAR, Jamie WOOD (ed.), *A Companion to Isidore of Seville*, Leiden - Boston, 2020 (*Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition*, 87), p. 245-278. The most important studies dealing with the reception and transmission of the *Etymologiae* include Charles Henry BEESON, *Isidor-Studien*, Munich, 1913 (*Quellen und Untersuchungen zur lateinischen Philologie des Mittelalters*, 4.2); August Eduard ANSPACH, «Das Fortleben Isidors im VII. bis IX. Jahrhundert», in *Miscellanea Isidoriana*, Rome, 1936, p. 322-356; Walter PORZIG, «Die Rezensionen der *Etymologiae* des Isidorus von Sevilla. Vorbemerkung», *Hermes*, 72/2, 1937, p. 129-170; Bernhard BISCHOFF, «Die europäische Verbreitung der Werke Isidors von Sevilla», in Manuel Cecilio DÍAZ Y DÍAZ (ed.), *Isidoriana. Colección de estudios sobre Isidoro de Sevilla*, León, 1961, p. 317-344; reprinted in *Mittelalterliche Studien*, vol. 1, Stuttgart, 1966, p. 171-194; Marc REYDELLET, «La diffusion des *Origines* d'Isidore de Séville au Haut Moyen âge», *Mélanges d'archéologie et d'histoire*, 78/2, 1966, p. 383-437; Manuel Cecilio DÍAZ Y DÍAZ, *Los capítulos sobre los metales en las Etimologías de Isidoro de Sevilla*, León, 1970 (*La minería hispana a iberoamericana*, 7); Ulrich SCHINDEL, «Zur frühen Überlieferungsgeschichte der *Etymologiae* Isidors von Sevilla», *Studi medievali*, 29/2, 1988, p. 587-605; Carmen CODOÑER MERINO, «Isidorus Hispalensis ep. - *Etymologiae*», in Paolo CHIESA, Lucia CASTALDI (ed.), *La trasmissione dei testi latini del Medioevo / Medieval Texts and Their Transmission*, vol. 2, Florence, 2005, p. 274-417; Baudouin VAN DEN ABEELE, «La tradition manuscrite des *Étymologies* d'Isidore de Séville», *Cahiers de recherches médiévales et humanistes*, 16, 2008, p. 195-205; Carmen CODOÑER MERINO, «Transmisión y recepción de las "Etimologías"», in José MARTÍNEZ GÁZQUEZ, Óscar de la CRUZ PALMA, Cándida FERRERO HERNÁNDEZ (ed.), *Estudios de latín medieval hispánico. Actas del V Congreso Internacional de Latín Medieval Hispánico*, Florence, 2011, p. 5-26; and Carmen CARDELLE DE HARTMANN, «Uso y recepción de las *Etymologiae* de Isidoro», in Carmen CODOÑER MERINO, Paulo FARMHOUSE ALBERTO (ed.), *Wisigothica. After M. C. Díaz y Díaz*, Florence, 2014 (*mediEVI*, 3), p. 477-502. The most recent complete edition of the text remains Wallace M. LINDSAY, *Etymologiarum sive Originum libri XX*, 2 vol., Oxford, 1911. A volume-by-volume edition *cum* translation is being published by Belles Lettres since the 1970s. It was translated into English as Stephen A. BARNEY, *Etymologiae*, Cambridge, 2006; and more recently as Priscilla THROOP, *Isidore of Seville's Etymologies: the complete English translation of Isidori Hispalensis Episcopi Etymologiarum sive Originum Libri XX*, Charlotte, VT, 2013.