Versiō Orīginālis

Salvātor mundī, postquam dē Virgine nāscī[1]

Dignātus, nostrī sē corporis induit artūs,

Ēvolvit septingentōs rota temporis annōs

Et deciēs septem, sed et ūnus pēne[2] perāctus

Īnsuper annus erat, cum iūre monarchia rēgnī

Francōrum Carolō dīvīnitus[3] est data Magnō.

Nam Carolōmannus frāter dēcesserat[4] eius

Presentis iam suprēmīs prope partibus annī.

[1]*The Savior of the world, after having deigned to be born of the Virgin, dressed himself in the bodily nature of our flesh; the wheel of time turned 700 years.* This refers to Jesus Christ being born of the Virgin Mary. *Dignātus* is an active participle because it comes from the deponent verb *dīgnor*. This first phrase acts as a nominative absolute, a construction found in Medieval Latin that is similar to an ablative absolute. The wheel of time is a poetic construction used to convey the passing of time since the Incarnation; see next footnote.

[2]*And ten time seven, and one year almost carried out.* The date thus given is, using a date of 1 AD for the birth of Christ, late 771 AD.

[3]*Furthermore, it was the year when, by divine right, the monarchy of the kingdom of the Franks was given to Charles the Great.* An English-like order might be *cum, dīvīnitus iūre, monarchia rēgnī Francōrum data est Carolō Magnō*. *dīvĪnitus* is an adverb, so it would be literally *by right divinely*. I chose to capitalize *Magnō* since it is a common epithet for Charlemagne.

[4]*For Carloman his brother had died now, near the late parts of the present year.* Carloman died on December 4, 771.

Et Carolus vīllam, quae Carbōnāta vocātur,

Adveniēns, summōs procerēs omnēsque potentēs

Frāternae quondam[1] partīs suscēperat illīc,

Haud retractantēs[2] dominō sē subdere tālī;

Exceptīs tantum paucīs, quōs[3] forte priōris

Magnus amor dominī cum coniuge fēcerat eius

Et nātīs remanēre, quibus comitāta petīvit

Ītaliam, spērāns sē dēgere posse quiētam

Sub rēgis Dēsīderiī mūnīmine vītam.

[1]*And Charlemagne, coming to the villa called Carbōnāta, had received there all the noblemen and powerful (men) formerly of his brother's party.* After Carloman died, Charlemagne met with Carloman's nobles to bring them to his side; however, a few with Carloman's wife and daughters fled to Italy under King Desiderius, the final Lombard King.

[2]For metrical reasons, the first syllable of *retractantēs* must be long.

[3]*Except only a few, to whom perchance a great love of their prior lord had made them to remain with his wife and children, she (Carloman's wife) accompanied with them sought Italy. comitāta* must be in the nominative; putting it in the ablative would result in the loss of the dactyl necessary for the meter.

Rēx autem Carolus celebrāvit in Attiniācō

Nātālem Dominī, nec nōn Paschālia fēsta.

Paulō[1] Rōmānē dēfūnctō praesule sēdis,

Suscēpit post hunc Adriānus pontificātum.

Et rēx Wormatiam Carolus collēgit in urbem

Francōrum procerēs ad concilium generāle;

Cum quibus ut bellō Saxonēs aggrederētur[2]

Dēcrēvit; quoniam Saxōnum proxima Francīs

Adiacet ad boream tellūs, vix līmite certō

Dīvīsī gentis fīnēs[3] utriusque cohaerent.

Que[4] tum vīcīnae quō plūs regiōne fuēre,

Tantō sēiūnctās animīs discordia fēcit.

Fīnitimōs sed enim per agrōs utrimque solēbant[5]

Assiduē fierī cēdēs, incendia, praede.

Saxonum nātūra ferōx et pectora dūra,

Ferre iugum Chrīstī necdum dīgnāta[6] suāve,

Dēmonicō nimium fuerant errōre subācta.

[1]*Paul the Roman president of the seat (i.e. the Pope) having died, Adrian after him undertook the pontificate.* Pope Paul I was Pope from May 29th 757 to June 28th 767, then Pope Stephen III (who isn't mentioned in this line) was Pope from August 7th 768 to January 24th 772, then Pope Adrian I was Pope from February 1st 772 to December 25th 795. Mommsen includes the following footnote on *Paulō: immo Stephano IV*; by this Mommsen is referring to Pope Stephen III, since when Mommsen wrote his work Pope-elect Stephen (died March 25th 752 before taking Papal office) was considered an official Pope, but after 1961 was no longer deemed to have been a Pope, leading to a disparity in the numbering of Stephens.

[2]*With whom he decided they would attack the Saxons in war.*

[3]*With barely a certain border the divided boundaries of either people stood closely together.*

[4]*And thereupon when the neighbors went further out of the region, discord made their souls to be so separated.* The proximity of the peoples led to conflict.

[5]*And both sides were accustomed to slaughter, fire, and prey to constantly occur through the neighboring fields.*

[6]*Nor had they (the Saxons) deigned to bear the gentle yoke of Christ, but had been subjugated too much in demonic error.* This is reminiscent of Matthew 11:30 "My yoke is easy and my burden is light".

Chrīsticolae[1] vērō iam longō tempore Francī

Catholicam tenuēre fidem, multīsque per orbem

Iam dominābantur populīs, quibus undique fultī,

Precipuē virtūte Deī, quem rīte colēbant,

Hanc ūnam poterant nīmīrum vincere gentem.

Que nec rēge fuit saltem[2] sociāta sub ūnō,

Ut sē mīlitiae pariter dēfenderet ūsū,

Sed variīs dīvīsa modīs plēbs omnis, habēbat

Quot[3] pāgōs tot paene ducēs, velut ūnius artūs

Corporis in dīversa forent hinc inde revulsī.

Sed generālis habet populōs dīvīsio ternōs,

Īnsignīta[4] quibus Saxōnia flōruit ōlim.

Nōmina nunc remanent[5], virtūs antīqua recessit:

[1]*The Frankish Christ-worshippers, now for a long time, held the Catholic faith, and now were dominating many peoples throughout the world, whom (i.e. the Christians) were upheld on all sides, especially by the power of God, whom they worshipped with due observances, certainly was able to conquer this one people (the Saxons).* Note that the Poet here expresses a positive view of the relationship between rightly worshipping God and gaining political power.

[2]*And they were not, anyhow, associated under one king, that their militaries might defend themselves together in time of need.*

[3]*They had almost as many districts as dukes, as if the limbs of one body were wrenched away from here and from there.* Here the Poet remarks that the Saxons lack of political unification left them weak. forent is in the subjunctive to express the hypothetical or illustrative nature of this clause.

[4]*But generally the division has three peoples, by which the distinguished Saxons flourished once upon a time.* The three divisions of the Saxons mentioned are Westphalia, Engria, and Eastphalia, see the next page.

[5]*The names now remain, but the ancient virtue departed.* This is an excellent line.

Dēnique Westfalos vocitant in parte manentēs

Occiduā, quōrum nōn longē terminus amne

Ā Rhēnō distat; regiōnem sōlis ad ortum

Inhabitābant Osterliudī, quōs nōmine quīdam

Ostvalos aliō vocitant, cōnfīnia[2] quōrum

Īnfestant coniūncta suīs gēns perfida Sclāvī.

Inter praedictōs mediā regiōne morantur

Angariī, populus Saxonum tertius; hōrum

Patria Francōrum terrīs sotiātur ab austrō,

Ōceanōque[3] eadem coniungitur ex aquilōne.

[1]*Thereupon they call (them) Westphalians in the part remaining to the west, whose border lies not far from the Rhine river.*

[2]*Whose boundaries the Slavs, a perfidious people joined to them, makes dangerous.*

[3]For scansion: elision occurs here, so *que* + *ea* becomes one long syllable.

Hanc igitur Carolus statuit sibi subdere gentem.

Nec mora, cum tōtīs Francōrum vīribus ipsam

Aggressus[1], lātē ferrō vastāvit et ignī.

Castellum nātūrālī mūnīmine forte

Valde[2], manū quoque firmātum, quod barbara lingua

Nōminat Ērēsburg, validō cum rōbore cēpit.

Gēns eadem coluit simulācrum[3], quod vocitābant

Irminsul, cuius similis factūra columne

Nōn operis parvī fuerat pariterque decōris.

Hoc rēx ēvertēns, mānsit tribus ipse diēbus

In castrīs iuxtā positīs[4], tum continuātō

Aestātis fervōre diū, caelōque serēnō

Ārdēbant agrī, nec in ipsīs fontibus hūmor

Ūllus erat, multō squālēbant pulvere rīvī.

[1]*Without delay, with all the strength of the Franks he attacked it (the gentem, which refers to the Saxon people, see previous line), he destroyed widely with sword and fire. Aggressus*, being from a deponent verb, would normally be written *aggressus est* for *he attacked*, but the *est* is omitted for metrical reasons.

[2]*A very strong castle, with natural fortification, which the barbarian tongue names Eresburg, he seized strongly with strength and also with a firm hand.* Alternatively, *validō cum rōbore* could mean *with a strong stronghold* or *with strong oakenworks*, referring to the *castellum*; *rōbore* is ambiguous in this way. For metrical reasons, the macron over the *e* in *valde* should be omitted during scansion.

[3]*The same people worships an idol, which they call the Irminsul, whose manufacture is similar to a column, it was not a small work and likewise (was) of beauty.*

[4]*The king (Charlemagne) overturning this (the Irminsul), he himself remained three days in camp next to the posititon.* In this part of the narrative, Charlemagne has not yet captured Eresburg but is camped out next to it, having torn down the idol that was located outside the fort, perhaps in a sacred grove.

Iamque fatīgābat graviter rēgālia castra

Aucta[1] calōre sitis, sed vīs dedit omnipotentis,

Cui placuit fānī subversiō[2] iūsta profānī,

or elide ō

Ut mediante diē subitō per concava siccī

Cuiusdam torrentis, erat quī proximus illīs,

Sufficiēns exercituī prōrumperet unda.

Hīs gestīs cum rēx Wisuram[3] vēnisset ad amnem,

Obsidibus bis sex ipsā dē gente receptīs,

Ad patriam rediit magnā cum prōsperitāte.

[1]*And now the increased thirst from the heat was fatiguing the royal encampment (Charlemagne's troops), but (God) gave of his omnipotent strength.*

[2]*Whom the just subversion of the profane temple pleased.*

[3]*With these things having been done, the king came to the river Weser.* The subjunctive *vēnisset* is used as part of a circumstantial clause. It appears that the story relates how Charlemagne's campaign was threatened by a drought, but that his troops miraculously received water, allowing them to prevail.

Annō 773

Missīs lēgātīs, Adriānus pāpa sacrātus

Auxilium Carolī studuit dēposcere magnī

Adversus Langōbardōs, quōrum[1] fuit illō

Tempore rēx Dēsīderius; nam valde premēbat

Improba[2] Rōmānōs hujus violentia gentis.

Et quia tunc illī pars maxima subdita[3] rēgnō

Ītaliae tōtīus erat, terrāsque per illās,

Scīlicet[4] hostīlēs, nōn quemquam mittere tūtē

Rōmānus praesul potuit, quī trāmite rēctō

Francōrum terrās peteret, cōnscendere nāvem

Fēcit apud Rōmam lēgātum nōmine Petrum

Ut mare circuitū longō flūctūsque pererrāns

Suspectum vītāret iter: sīc sēpe[5] vidētur

Tutior ōceanī fervor pelagīque procella,

Quam mentēs hominum, quās turbida commovet īra.

[1]*Whose king at that time was Desidarius.*

[2]*For the evil violence of this people (the Lombards) greatly oppressed the Romans (the Papal states).*

[3]*And becausue the greatest part of all Italy was controlled by that kingdom.*

[4]*Really enemies, the Roman president (the Pope) couldn't safely send anyone who sought Frankish lands through a straight path.*

[5]*Thus often the fervor of the ocean and the storms of the sea appear safer than the minds of men, which turbid anger moves.*

Hīc igitur Petrus Rōmā dīrēctus[1] ab urbe,

Per mare Massiliam petiit, longumque deinde

Per terrēnum[2] iter, in vīllā Theodōne vocātā

elision

Īnsignis Carolī pietātem rēgis adīvit,

Ōrāns dēvōtē satis, ut dēfendere vellet[3]

Ecclēsiam Petrī, summus quī clāviger[4] aulae

Illī celēstis dare praemia maxima posset;

long, like ae

Nec non pontificis succurreret ānxietātī,

Rōmānīque simul populī mala plūrima passī[5],

Cui lībertātis iam spēs, vītaeque tenendae

Ūnica[6] post Dominum, tantum restāret in illō.

Tālibus audītis, causam rēx prōtinus omnem

Sollicitō volvēns animō, satis affore iūstum

Perpendit, grātumque Deō, dēfēnsor ut ipse

Sēdīs apostolicae tōtīs prō vīribus esset.

[1]*Here, therefore, Peter having been directed from the city of Rome, sought Marseille through the sea.*

[2]*And thereafter a long trip over land.* The -um in terrēnum elides for scansion.

[3]*Pleading devoutly enough that he (Charlemagne) might defend the Church of Peter.*

[4]*Who, highest key-bearer in the caelestial court, could give to him (Charlemagne) the greatest reward.* Here Peter, the Papal legate, promises Charlemagne spiritual rewards for his military support of the Papal States against the Lombards.

[5]*And also that he might aid the anxiety of the Pope and the many evils suffered by the Roman people.*

[6]*To whom now liberty, hope, and the keeping of (their) lives, alone after the Lord (God), lay only in him.*

Atque suō statim rēgnō collēgit ab omnī

Rōboris inmēnsī variīs ex gentibus agmen.

Quod sēcum dūcēns, Genuam pervēnit in urbem,

Quam[1] rapidō cursū Rhodanus praeterfluit amnis;

Tum geminō[2] Langōbardōs invādere bellō

Dēcrēvit, populumque suum dīvīsit, et ūnam

Cum duce Bernhardō partem praecēperat īre

Per montem Iovis—id nōmen vetus indidit[3] error—

At reliquam per Cīnisium rēx dūxerat ipse.

Trānscēnsīs igitur horrendīs Alpibus, īnstar[4]

Turbinis Ausoniae duplex exercitus arva

Irruerat, lātē rēgnum vastāns opulentum.

[1]*Which the Rhone river flows past with rapid course.*

[2]*Then he decided to invade the Lombards with two-fold war.* Charlemagne split his troops into two parts.

[3]*With Bernard (son of Charles Martel and uncle of Charlemagne) he had commanded (one) party to go through Mount Jove -- an ancient error bestowed that name.* Bernard likely went through the Great St. Bernard Pass in the Alps. Perhaps the "ancient error" mentioned was the pagan belief in Jupiter/Jove. The Bernard mentioned is not the same Bernard as Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, who lived 1090-1153.

[4]*Like a whirlwind of Ausonia the double army had rushed into the fields, widely ravaging the opulent kingdom.* Ausonia is a poetic name for Italy.

Iamque metus cūnctōs Francōrum perculit ingēns.

Nam Dēsīderium, prīmō quī bella parābat,

Sē frūstrā Carolō spērāns[2] obsistere posse,

Congressū necdum factō, terrōre fugāvit,

Et clausum Ticinō, cui nunc est Pāpia nōmen,

Rēgius admōtīs exercitus[3] undique castrīs

Obsēdit, variīsque modīs per plūrima temptāns

Temporis hībernī spatiō mōlīmina tōtō,

Nōn urbis poterat mūrōs irrumpere ferrō.

[1]*And now a great fear of the Franks struck everyone.*

[2]*Vainly himself hoping to be able to oppose Charlemagne, before a meeting (in battle between Charlemagne and Desiderius) having occurred, he (Charlemagne) routed (Desidarius) in terror and (Desiderius) having been shut up in Ticinum.* Here *clausum* is a past passive participle in the accusative which matches *Dēsīderium,* also in the accusative. *Dēsīderium* is the object of fugāvit. *Ticinō* is in the ablative of location.

[3]*The regal army (of the Franks) having moved up camps everywhere beseiged (Ticinum/Pavia) and with various methods through many exertions trying (to breach the city wall) through the total space of the time of winter, was not able to break the walls of the city with iron.* However, in June 774 Desiderius succumbed to the seige and surrendered.

Annō 774.

Tālēs Ītalicīs dum rēs agerentur in hōrīs[1],

Saxonēs sibi contiguōs invādere fīnēs

Ausī[2] Francōrum, pāgum quī dīcitur Hassī

Praedantur, flammīsque simul populantur et armīs.

Quōs animāvit ad hoc longinqua profectio[3] rēgis,

Crēdentēs ulciscendī sībī tunc fore[4] tempus

Damna, prius per eum que maxima sustinuēre.

Quī tamen usque locum quī Frīdēshlar vocitātur

Prōgressī, quandam cupiērunt trādere flammīs

Ecclesiam, quam sacrāvit Bonifācius[5] illīc

Martir et antistes Chrīstō dīlēctus in aevum.

Hoc frūstrā nīsōs[6] facinus complēre nefandum,

Invāsit subitō terror dīvīnitus ingēns,

Atque fugā turpī trepidōs repedāre coēgit

Ad patriam, quōs nōn hostēs, nōn arma fugārunt.

[1]*While such things were being done in Italy in those times.*

[2]*The Saxons dared to invade the boundaries of the Franks neighboring themselves. Ausī* would usually be *ausī sunt* for *they dared;* in a poetic context it is permitted to omit the *sunt* for metrical purposes.

[3]*Whom the long departure of the king inspired to this. Profectiō* typically has a macron over the *o*, but it must be short here to fit the meter.

[4]*Then believing the time to be of avenging themselves the very great damages, previously that they had sustained through him (Charlemagne). Maxima* modifies *damna, fore* is the future infinitive of *esse*, and *sustinuēre* is not an infinitive but rather an alternate way to spell *sustinuērunt.*

[5]*Which Boniface, martyr and overseer ever-beloved by Christ, consecrated there*. Saint Boniface (AD 675-754) famously chopped down Donar's Oak in Fritzlar.

[6]*They vainly advanced to complete this wicked act, suddenly a massive terror from heaven assailed (them) and forced the trembling ones (the Saxons) to retreat in turpid flight to their fatherland, whom were routed not by enemies, nor by weapons (but by the supernatural intervention of God).*

At rēx, dispositīs legiōnibus ad Ticinēnsum

Obsidiōne[1] iūgī populum bellōque premendum,

Ōrandī[2] causā Rōmae loca sāncta petīvit.

Illīc supplicibus vōtīs ex corde perāctīs,

Ad Ticinum rediit, que iam certāmine longō

Fessa[3] repugnandī vīrēs āmīserat omnēs.

Dēdita[4] tum Francīs haec urbs clārissima, cūnctīs

Exemplō fuerat reliquīs; nam prōtinus[5] omnēs

Trādiderant Carolō sēsē concorditer urbēs

Eiusdem rēgnī, quod iam[6] sībī iūre subāctum

Disposuit, quantum[7] potuit prō tempore tālī

Ad sēdēs etenim[8] cupiēns remeāre paternās,

Accelerābat iter, sēcum dūcēns memorātum[9]

Ītaliae rēgem, noviter quem coeperat[10] armīs.

Hīc hūmānārum[11] videās lūdibria rērum,

Quam variō cursū vītae rota volvitur huius.

[1]*And to press the people (of Pavia/Ticinum) with constant seige and war.* An English-like word order would be *(ad) premendum populum (cum) iūgī obsidiōne (et) bellō.*

[2]*For the reason of prayer he sought the holy places of Rome. Ōrandī* is a genitive gerund.

[3]*He returned to Pavia/Ticinium, which, now tired by long battle, had lost all strength of fighting. Repugnandī* is a genitive gerund.

[4]*This most famous (city) having then been given to the Franks, it was an example to all the rest (of the cities of Lombardy).*

[5]*Because immediately all cities of the same kingdom (Lombardy) gave themselves over to Charlemagne amicably.*

[6]*Which he now arranged having subjected them rightly to himself.*

[7]*As much as he could in such time.*

[8]*Because, desiring to return to his paternal habitations (the land of the Franks).*

[9]*Leading with him the aforementioned king of Italy (Desiderius).*

[10]*Whom recently he had seized with weapons.*

[11]*Here you see the mockeries of human affairs, how by various courses the wheel of this life is turned.*

Hesternō Dēsīderiūs diadēmate rēgnī

Flōruit, ēn hodiē[1] est pauper, captīvus et exul.

Fīlius illīus, cognōmine dictus Adalgīs,

Cum Langōbardīs in eō spēs ampla manēret,

Diffīdēns rēbus patriae, sē contulit inde

Ad Cōnstantīnum, Grēcōrum scēptra regentem[2];

Ā quō patricius[3] praeclārō mūnere factus,

Hoc in honōre suae permānsit ad ultima vītae.

Rēx autem Carolus veniēns, dum[4] cognitus eius

Vēlōx adventus nec dum Saxōnibus esset,

Fēcerat, ut triplex exercitus in regiōnēs

Illōrum missus, multīs afflīgeret ipsōs

Cēdibus ac praedīs, loca dēnique plūrima vastāns

Hinc est cum spoliīs victor regressus opīmīs.

[1]*Yesterday Desiderius flourished in the crown of his kingdom, behold today he is a pauper, captive, and exile.* The *ē* in *hodiē* elides, giving a scansion of DDSSDT.

[2]*To Constantine, reigning the scepters of the Greeks.* Constantine V was the Emporer of the Eastern Roman/ Byzantine Empire from 741 to 775 and gave shelter to Adalgis, the son of Desiderius, who fled to Constantinople.

[3]*By whom he (Adalgis) was made (a) patrician with remarkable employment/office.*

[4]*When his switft advance was not yet known to the Saxons.*

Annō 775.

Rēx hiemis tempus dūcēns[1] in Cārisiācō,

Nōmine quō quēdam rēgālis vīlla vocātur,

Illūc Francōrum procerēs tōtumque senātum

Convocat, ac multum tractāns[2] dē rēbus agendīs,

Et variīs[3], quibus indiguit rēs pūblica, cūrīs,

Inprīmīs hoc cōnsilium perhibētur inīsse,

Ut iūgiter bellum Saxonibus ingererētur[4],

Quōs expertus[5] erat fideī vel foederis omnis

Immemorēs, nunquam sub pāce quiēscere velle.

Hinc statuit, requiēs[6] illīs ut nūlla darētur,

Dōnec gentīlī[7] rītū cultūque relictō,

Christicolae fierent, aut dēlērentur in aevum.

Ō pietās benedicta Deī, quae vult genus omne

Hūmānum fierī salvum, quia nōverat huius

Nōn aliter[8] gentīs mollīrī pectora posse,

Disceret ut cervīx reflectere dūra rigōrem

Ingenitum, mītique iugō sē subdere Chrīstī.

[1]*The king, leading/spending the time of winter in Carisiacus.*

[2]*And treating much of the things to be done.*

[3]*And with various cares, which the state needed.*

[4]*That continuosly war with the Saxons might be waged.* The subjunctive is used because this is a purpose clause; the imperfect tense of *ingererētur* doesn't really matter for translation.

[5]*(Charlegmagne) had experienced them (the Saxons) (to be) unmindful of faith or every treaty.*

[6]*That no rest be given to them.*

[7]*Until, heathen ritual and cult having been left, they might have become Christian, or have been destroyed forever.*

[8]*Who knew the chests/hearts of this people (the Saxons) could not otherwise be softened, that (their) stiff neck might learn to turn back their innate stiffness, and subdue itself to the gentle yoke of Christ.* Note the Saxon Poet's expressed thankfulness to the forced conversion of his people.

Ob[1] hōc doctōrem tālem fideīque magistrum,

Scīlicet īnsignem Carolum dōnāvit eīsdem,

Quī bellō premeret[2], quōs nōn ratiōne domāret,

Sīcque vel invītōs salvārī[3] cōgeret ipsōs.

Hoc īnspīrātum cordī dīvīnitus eius

Ūtile[4] cōnsilium comitantur strēnua facta.

Quippe ducēs omnisque simul dēlēcta iuventūs

Ad Duriam vīcum properant: nam rēge iubente

Illīc conventus populī generālis habētur.

Atque dehinc grandī trānsmissō flūmine Rhēnō,

Saxōnum Carolus fīnēs hostīliter intrat

Ac prīmō Sigiburg castellum coepit, et inde

Ērēsburg petiit, quam captam dīximus[5] urbem.

Sed nē[6] praesidiō Francīs fore posset, eandem

Indigenē dēstrūxērunt: hanc dēnique rūrsus

Mūnīvit, posuitque suās illīc legiōnēs;

Inde gradū celerī Wisuram pervēnit ad amnem.

[1]*From this (reason) (God) gave such a learned man and captain of the faith, indeed the distinguished Charlegmange, to the same (people, the Saxons).*

[2]*Who would press by war those he (could) not subdue by reason.*

[3]*And thus the unwilling he would force to be saved themselves.*

[4]*This beneficial plan, having been divinely inspired to his heart, strenuous deeds accompany (it).*

[5]*Which we said was the captured city.* See page 12 for the initial captue of Eresburg.

[6]*But so that it might not be for the protection of the Franks, the indigenous (people, the Saxons), had destroyed (the fortifications of Eresburg).*

Cui iuxtā montem quī Brūnesberg vocitātur,

Obvia[1] magna fuit cupiēns obsistere turba,

Nē fluvium trānsīret, et hōc cōnāmine cassō.

Fugit enim prīmō statim certāmine pulsā,

Innumerōsque diē ferrum prōstrāverat illō.

Inde movēns Carolus regiōnēs vēnit ad illās,

Quās Osterliudī retinent, sēditque locātīs

Ad fluvium castrīs, quī nunc Ōvaccra vocātur.

Tunc illī quīdam[2], quī dē prīmōribus eius

Gentis erat, supplex occurrit nōmine Hessī;

Partis et illīus pariter plēbs obvia tōta

Vēnerat, obsidibusque datīs quōs[3] iusserat ipse,

Sē servāre fidem rēgī per maxima spondent

Iūrāmenta. Quibus[4] cūnctīs hōc ōrdine gestīs,

In pāgum rediit, quem dīcunt nōmine Bukkī.

Illīc occurrēre ducēs simul Angariōrum

Cum populō, similīque modō rēgālibus omnēs

Dum pārent[5] iussīs, iūrāmentīsque fidēlēs

Sē fore cōnfirmant, reditum parat īlico victor.

[1]*In the way was a large crowd desirous of resisting, that he might not cross over the river, and, in vain battle, it fled having immediatey with the first blow of battle, and countless on that day the sword had laid low in that (place).*

[2]*Then there a certain (man) named Hessi, who was of the prominent men of his people, ran (up to Charlemagne as a) supplicant.*

[3]*And the hostages having been given which he (Charlemagne) himself had ordered.*

[4]*With all these things having been set in this order.*

[5]*And in a similar way while all obeyed the royal commands, and with oaths confirmed to him to be faithful, the victor (Charlemagne) immediately prepared to return (to his homeland). parent* takes the dative instead of the accusative, which is why *iussīs rēgālibus* is in the dative.

Intereā iuxtā Wisuram dīmissa[1] manēbat

Pars exercituum rēgis, locus ipse vocātur

Hlidbeki, quō castrīs īdem sēdēre locātīs.

Sed male[2] sēcūrōs rēs prōspera fēcerat illōs,

Quā rēx ūsus erat, cum cūnctīs hostibus esset

Terrōrī, iam tunc audente resistere nūllō.

Hinc[3] erat in castrīs cautēla remissior illīs,

Ut possent nimiā Saxonum fraude nocērī.

Sōl summō coelī prōnus vergēbat[4] ab axe,

Et vespertīnās iam tendere coepit ad hōrās;

[1] *Meanwhile, a part of the king's armies, having been left, remained by the Weser River.*

[2] *But badly careless the prosperous time had made them, from which the king had experienced, with all the enemies being terrified, now then no one dared to resist.* Because of Charlemagne's military success, some of his soldiers became careless.

[3] *Because of this caution was more relaxed in their camp, so that they could be harmed by the excessive fraud of the Saxons.*

[4] *The sun lay prone from the axis of the highest sky.* This means that it was past noon.

Tunc ut equīs quīdam[1] dēferrent pābula longē,

elide

Dē castrīs prius[2] ēgressī pariter rediērunt.

Hīs sē Saxonum quoddam[3] permiscuit agmen,

Fingentum[4] sēmet sociōs animōque fidēlēs.

Tum sē quisque[5] novō blandē sociābat amīcō,

Hostis quō saevus latuit sub nōmine tēctus.

Adhibitumque fidem verbīs fallācibus auget

Obsequium; cūnctī simul in commūne labōrant,

Pars[6] subvectat onus viridis simul utraque foenī.

[1]*Then so that certain (men) might carry fodder from afar for the horses.*

[2]*Having gone out previously from camp, they returned together.*

[3]*A certain Saxon band joined itself with these.*

[4]*Feigning to be friends and faithful in spirit.*

[5]*While each one talked to his 'friend' with new flatteries, in which the savage enemy lay concealed under (a false) name.*

[6]*And having been invited their obsequiousness increased (the) faith (that the Franks had in the Saxons) with lying words.*

[7]*Everyone together labored in common, and together each part shouldered the green burden of hay.*

Sīc introgressī Francōrum castra dolōsī,

Quod vī nōn poterant, ēgērunt arte; sed ōlim

Est dictum 'Dolus an virtūs, quis in hoste requīrat?'[1]

Dēpressōs somnō Francōs īnstanter adortī[2]

Saxonēs, caedem nimiam fēcēre ferōcēs,

Dōnec discussō[3] tandem torpōre sopōris,

Quīdam[4] correptīs obstāre virīliter armīs

Coepērunt, pugnāque dehinc[5] utcunque remōtā,

Scīlicet ex pactō, quod tunc angustia tālis

Dictābat, hostēs celerī redīre recursū.

Hīs rēx audītīs illūc properāre satēgīt[6],

Atque satis vēlōx fugientum terga secūtus,

Prōstrāvit multōs auctōrēs crīminis huius.

Hinc ad Westfalhōs vēnit, statimque receptīs

Obsidibus, quōs trādiderant, abscesserat inde.

Ac suscēpit ovāns[7] redeuntem Francia rēgem.

[1]*Trickery or virtue, who would ask (regarding these) in an enemy?* This is a quote for Virgil's Aeneid, Book 2, line 390. This question is asked rhetorically by Coroebus, a Trojan, during the sack of Troy when he suggests that he and a small band of other Trojans defending Troy (including Aeneas) disguise themselves as Greek soldiers.

[2]*The Saxons instantly attacked the Franks, suppressed with sleep and the ferocious (Saxons) made a very great slaughter.*

[3]*Until the numbness of sleep was finally dissipated.*

[4]*Certain (Frankish soldiers), having manfully taken hold of weapons, began to oppose (the Saxons).*

[5]*And with the battle somehow withdrawn, really by agreement, that then such a tight situation dictated, the (Saxon) enemies returned (to their villages) with rapid return.* It appears that after the Franks woke up and started fighting back that the Saxons had to flee. Perhaps the Franks and Saxons made a truce; however I think it likelier that *scīlicet ex pactō* refers to the Saxon attacker noticing their now-dire situation and deciding together to flee rather than continue fighting.

[6]*Having heard these (things), the king hastened to hurry and the sufficiently fast (king) followed the backs of the fleeing (Saxons), and struck down many perpetrators of this crime.*

[7]*And the rejoicing Franks received their returning king.*

Annō 776

Cumque domum rediēns prīnceps iter accelerāret,

Comperit[1] Ausoniīs in partibus esse tirannum,

Nōmine Hrodgaudum, nova quī mōlīmina[2] temptāns,

Nec, quem[3] rēx illī dederat, contentus honōre,

Ītaliae lātum voluit sibi subdere rēgnum.

Quippe[4] ducem comitemque Forōiulēnsibus ipsum

Cōnstituit Carolus, prīmō cum clāra[5] triumphō

Dē Langōbardīs victor vēxilla[6] revēxit.

[1]*He discovered, in parts of Ausonia/Italy, (there) to be a tyrant, named Hrodgaudum.*

[2]*Who, trying new endeavours.* The new endeavours were military operations Hrodgaudum undertook to try to conquer more of Italy.

[3]*Neither content with the honor which the king (Charlemagne) had given him.*

[4]*Indeed, Charlemagne had made he himself (Hrodgaudum) duke and count of the Friulian.*

[5]At first glance, *clāra* appears to modify *triumphō*. However, *clāra* cannot be in the ablative since its last syllable must be short to fit the meter. Also, *triumphō* is masculine. Therefore, *clāra* must be plural neuter accusative and modify *vēxilla* in the next line.

[6]*He (Charlemagne), the victor, carried back the flags of the Lombards.*

Huic nimis ingrātus[1] dōnō male sollicitābat

Urbibus ex multīs populōs, ac fēcit ut ad sē

Dēficerent, iūstō Carolī sprētō dominātū.

Hōs ut comprimeret[2] mōtūs, nīl ipse morātus,

Strēnua quam celerī raptim vocat agmina iussū.

Cum quibus Ītaliam properāns, meritōque[3] tyrannum

Interitū plectēns, urbēs servāre[4] receptās

Francōrum comitēs, quōs ipse locābat in illīs,

Iussit, et ut vēnit, vēlōx sīc[5] inde recessit.

Vix Alpīnārum nivium iuga proxima caelō

Illī trānsgressō trīstis fuit obvia fāma[6],

Ērēsburg referēns urbem, quam coeperat ōlim

Mīlitibusque suīs mandāverat ipse tuendam,

Saxonēs expugnātam coepisse[7], suumque

Expulsum fore praesidium violenter ab illīs.

[1]*(Hrodgaud), overly ungrateful to this gift, was wickedly stirring up the peoples out of many cities, and made them defect (from Charlemagne) to him, spurning the just dominion of Charlemagne.*

[2]*So that he might squash this rebellion, he (Charlemagne) himself delayed not at all, (and) very speedily called strong armies with quick command.*

[3]*And punishing the tyrant (Hrodgaud) with merited death.*

[4]*He ordered the counts of the Franks to guard the recovered cities. servāre* goes with *iussit* two lines down.

[5]*And in the manner he came, thus he quickly returned from there.*

[6]*Sad news was in the way to (meet) him.* As soon as Charlemagne had crossed the Alps, a messenger met him with the bad news about the Saxon rebellion.

[7]*(The messenger related) the Saxons to have begun fighting and their garrison to be expelled violently by them.*

Tum Sigiburg[1] aliud multō cōnāmine castrum

Oppugnāre quidem studuit, nec vincere quīvit

Gēns eadem, cupiēns ab eā rēgis legiōnēs

Pellere; sed pugnae populus Saxōnicus īnstāns,

Ā tergō circumventus[2] fuit atque fugātus,

Interius positīs[3] simul ērumpentibus, atque

Incautōs[4] plāgā facile sternentibus amplā.

Hic rūmor Carolī cum prīmum vēnit ad aurēs,

Conventum procerum fierī praecoepit in urbe

Wormaciā, statuitque morās innectere[5] nūllās,

Quīn[6] lueret tantī sceleris gēns perfida poenās.

Ergo suīs exercitibus rēx undique lectīs,

Cōnātūs[7] celer hostīlēs praevertitur omnēs,

Temptāvēre quibus prīmō dēfendere sēsē.

[1]*Then the same people (the Saxons) hastened to attack another castle, Sigiburg (Castle), with a great attempt, but were not able to prevail.*

[2]*They (the Saxon people) were surrounded from behind and put to flight.*

[3]*Those (Frankish soldiers) placed (within Sigiburg castle) at the same time sallied forth (from the castle to attack the fleeing Saxons).*

[4]*Striking down easily the unguarded (Saxons who were fleeing) with a great blow.*

[5]*He decided to contrive no delays.*

[6]*So that the treacherous people (the Saxons) might pay the penalties for such a crime.*

[7]*Therefore the swift king, with his chosen armies from all around, pre-empted the hostile enemy attacks, with which they had tried at first to defend themselves.*

Nam fontēs adiēns, ubi Lyppia nāscitur amnis,

Repperit ex ipsā numerōsās gente catervās

Illīc collēctās, humilēs veniamque precantēs,

Quod nōn servāssent[1] annō prōmissa priōrī.

Cum vērō Carolus clēmēns ignōsceret[2] illīs,

Complūrēs[3], Dominō sē Chrīstō crēdere velle

Spondentēs simulācrōrumque relinquere cultūs,

Pūrgārī[4] iussit sacrī baptismatis undā,

Servandaeque[5] iterum fideī prōmissa recēpit

Obsidibus firmāta datīs, quibus ipse volēbat.

Ēresburg iterum firmat mūnīmine fortī,

Et iuxtā fluvium quem Lyppia dīximus ante

Castellum condēns[6] aliud, complēvit utrumque

Mīlitibus lectīs; tum Gallica rūrsus ad arva

Regrediēns, hiemis tempus trānsēgit in aulā,

Nōmen[7] Heristallī dederat cui barbara lingua.

[1]*Because they hadn't kept the promises of the prior year.* After Charlemagne put down some of the Saxon rebellions, a group of Saxons gathered to ask for clemency, which Charlemagne granted.

[2]*When clement Charlemagne forgave them. Ignōscere* takes the dative instead of the accusative (hence *illīs*); the subjunctive is used because it is in a *cum* circumstantial clause.

[3]*Many (persons), promising themselves to want to believe in the Lord Christ and to relinguish the cult/worship of idols.*

[4]*He (Charlemagne) ordered to be purged/cleansed by the wave/waters of sacred baptism.*

[5]*He received promises of keeping faith again, confirmed with hostages being given, which he (Charlemagne) himself had wanted.* In Jaffé's critical text *servandeque*, not *servandaeque*, is given. The dictionaries I consulted all listed *servande* as being in the vocative, which doesn't fit the context. Additionally, the third syllable must be long for to fit the meter, thus leaving three possibilities: (1) *servandeque* represents an uncommon spelling or convention of which I am unaware, (2) it should read *servandōque*, making it an ablative gerund, or (3) the *a* was dropped due to a misprint.

[6]*And next to the river, which we above called Lyppia, building another castle, he filled both with chosen soldiers.*

[7]*To which the barbarian tongue had given the name Herstal.*

Annō 777

Aspīrante[1] novī placidō cum tempore vēris

Horrida iam trānsīsset hiems, rēx Nōviomāgum[2]

Adveniēns, celebrāvit ibī sollempnia Paschae.

Tum quia Saxonēs suspectōs semper habēbat,

Haud dubitāns, illōs prō lībertāte tenenda[3]

Artibus āctūrōs variīs quodcumque valērent,

Et nisi continuī premerentur[4] pondere bellī,

Foedera ruptūrōs[5], sēcum condicta frequenter,

Rūrsus in illōrum patriam fortissima dūcit

Agmina; conventum placitī generālis habēre

Cum ducibus sē velle suīs dēnunciat illīc.

[1]*When the calm season of new spring breathing.* A more idiomatic, though less strict, English translation might be: *With the new season breathing the pleasant springtime breezes.*

[2]*The king (Charlemagne) arriving at Nōviomāgus.*

[3]*Not doubting, them for the holding of liberty to act with various arts, whatever they could.*

[4]*And unless pressed down by the weight of continuous war.*

[5]*Would break treaties.*

Tantō conciliō locus est ēlēctus[1] agendō,

Quem Pāthalbrunnon[2] vocitant, quō nōn habet ipsa

Gēns alium nātūrālī plūs nōbilitāte

Īnsignem, quī praecipuae redimītus abundat

Fontibus et nitidīs et plūribus, et trahit inde

Barbaricae nōmen linguae sermōne vetustum.

Tunc ibi vīlla fuit tantum, nunc pontificālis

Ecclesiae[4] cōnstrūcta nitet clārissima sēdēs[5].

[1]*A place was chosen for conducting such a council.*

[2]*Which they call Pathalbrunnon, in which the people themselves have another remarkable (place) of greater natural nobility (than other places in that area), which having been especially crowned abounds with springs, shimmering and plentiful.* Pathalbrunnon is Aachen, a city in modern-day North Rhine-Westphalia. It is known for having many hot springs. The name Pathalbrunnon, which the narrator relates is from the barbaric (German) tongue, appears to come from *athal*, meaning noble, and *brunno*, meaning well.

[3]The Aachen Cathedral was constructed between 796-798 AD. At the time of its completion it was the largest cathedral north of the Alps.

[4]Normally spelled *Ecclēsiae*, but the *e* must be short to fit the meter. If poetic license was not taken, then that word could never be used, since long-long-short-long can never fit in dactylic hexameter.

[5]*Now a pontifical seat (a cathedral) of the church, having been constructed, shines brightly (meaning it is a renowned building).*

Quō Carolus veniēns, collēctōs repperit omnēs

Paene ducēs, populumque simul, tōtumque senātum

Saxonum, nisi quod quīdam Widokindus[1] abinde

Aufūgit, rēgem veritus; nam cōnscius īdem[2]

Audācis sibimet factī multīque reātūs,

Sīfrīdum petiit Dānōrum scēptra regentem.

Porro ducēs illīc aliī cum plēbe gregātī

Suppliciter cūnctī veniam pācemque petentēs,

Pāruerant rēgī sub tālī conditiōne,

Ut cūnctā scelerum dīmissā mōle[3] priōrum,

Sī post audērent ejus violāre statūta,

Lībertāte simul prīscā patriāque carērent.

Quōrum[4] tum Chrīstō sē crēdere velle professa

Magna salūtiferum suscēpit turba lavācrum.

Sed simulāta[5] fidēs versūtō prōdiit ōre,

Quod nōtum multīs fēcēre sequentia gesta.

[1]*Except that a certain Widokindus fled from there, having feared the king.*

[2]*For the same one (Widokindus) conscious of his audacious deed and many criminal charges, sought (refuge in the court of) Sifridus, reigning over the Danes. sibimet* functions as an intensifier, emphasizing that the audacious deed was his own. We are not told what the deed was.

[3]*That all having been freed from the weight of their prior crimes.*

[4]*Of those, then, a great crowd, having professed themselves to want to believe in Christ, undertook the health-bringing bath (i.e. baptism).*

[5]*But a feigned faith sprung forth from crafty mouth, which (their) subsequent acts made known to many.*

Tunc Sarrācēnūs[1] quīdam peryēnerat illūc,

Nōmine quī patriō dictus fuit Ībinalarbī[2].

Hic cum nōn paucīs sociīs ac cīvibus, ipsum

Quī comitābantur[3], fīnēs regiōnis Hibērae

Linquentem, Carolō sē dēdidit, ac simul urbēs,

Rēx Sarrācēnūs quibus hunc praefēcerat ōlim.

Ob hōc Saxonum tandem regiōne relictā,

Gallica rēgna petit[4]; post haec Aquitānia[5] rēgem

Īnsignem Carolum tenet ad paschālia fēsta.

[1]*Then a certain Saracen arrived there. Saracen* here means *muslim*.

[2]*Who was called with his ancestral name Ībinalarbī*. This is Sulayman ibn Yaqzan al-Kalbi al-Arabi, a muslim governor of Barcelona and Girona. Sulayman felt threatened by the Umayyad's and sought an alliance with Charlemagne, wich led to Charlegmagne's march across the Pyrenees the following year.

[3]*This (man, the Saracene governor), with not a few of his allies and cities, who (plural) were allying with him, leaving the borders of the region of Spain, gave up to Charlemagne, and together the cities, which the Saracene king had formerly given to this one (the Saracene governor).*

[4]*On account of this finally having left the Saxon region, he sought for the Gallic land. After this Aquintania holds the distinguished King Charlemange for the Paschal (Easter) Feast.* Charlemagne needed to head west out of Saxony into Gallia in order to prepare for a march into Hispania.

[5]Typically spelled *Aquītānia* (with a macron over the first *i*); I've omitted that macron so that it can fit the meter by being short-short-long-short-short.

Hortātū Sarrācēnī cum sē memorātī[1]

Hispānās urbēs quāsdam sibi subdere posse

Haud frūstrā spērāret, eō sua maxima coepit

Agmina per celsōs Wascōnum dūcere montēs.

Quī cum prīmā Pyreneī iuga iam superāsset,

Ad Pompēlōnem, quod fertur nōbile castrum

Esse Navarrōrum, veniēns id coeperat armīs;

Trāiciēnsque vadō fāmōsum flūmen Hibērum,

Caesāris[2] Augustī quandam dē nōmine dictam

Urbem praecipuam terrīs penetrāvit in illīs.

Acceptīs tamen obsidibus, quōs Ībinalarbī

Iam dictus pariterque[3] suā dē gente fidēlēs

Illūstrēsque virī dederant, sīc inde recessit.

Ac Pompēlōnem rediēns, dēiēcerat[4] eius

Ad terram mūrōs, fieret nē forte rebellis.

[1]*With the exhortation of the aforesaid Saracen, he hoped not in vain to be able to subdue to himself certain Spanish cities.*

[2]*He entered in those lands a certain city named after Caesar Augustus.* The city is modern-day Zaragoza, which was called Caesaraugusta prior to the muslim invasion. The name Zaragoza derives from the second and following syllabes of Caesaraugusta. In the critical text the word is spelled *Cesaris*. Zaragoza lies by the Ebro river. The scansion on this line is difficult; my best solution is that *Caesāris* be scanned as a dactyl, which makes everything else fall into place.

[3]*However having received hostages, which the already mentioned Sulayman, together with faithful and illustrious (men) from his own people, had given.*

[4]*And returning to Pamplona, he had thrown to the ground its walls, that there might not be rebellion.* The *i* in *dēiēcerat* is consonantal, so its syllables are long-long-short-short.

Cumque[1] Pyrenēī regressus ad intima saltūs,

Mīlite cum lassō[2] callēs trānscenderet artōs

Īnsidiās eius summō sub vertice montis

Tendere Wascōnēs ausī, nova praelia temptant.

Dēnique postrēmōs populī rēgālis adortī,

Missilibus prīmō sternunt ex collibus altīs,

Et Francōs, quamvīs[3] armīs animīsque priōrēs,

Impār fēcit et angustus locus īnferiōrēs.

Rēx iam praecessit, tardumque remānserat agmen,

Cūra vehendārum[4] quod rērum praepediēbat.

Fit[5] pavor hinc exercitibus, subitōque tumultū

Turbantur, victrīx latrōnum turba nefanda

Ingentem rapuit praedam, plūrēsque necāvit.

[1]It appears that the scansion of this line is SDSDDS.

[2]*(When) with his weary soldier(s) he (Charlemagne) crossed the narrow path, the Basques dared to stage an ambush under the highest peak of the mountain, trying to wage new battles. mīlites* is best translated as a collective singular: witih weary soldiers.

[3]*And the Franks who were below, although they were better (than the Basques) in arms and spirit, the narrow place made unequal (to the Basques).*

[4]*Already the king had proceeded (through the mountain pass) and the slow army had remained, which the care of carrying the things had delayed.* The Basques attacked the baggage train at the rear of Charlemagne's army.

[5]*From here there was a fear amongst the army, and they were thrown into confusion by the sudden tumult, and the victorious nefarious band of robbers seized great plunder and killed many.*

Namque palātīnī quīdam[1] cecidēre ministrī,

Commendāta quibus rēgālis cōpia gāzae,

Praedōnēs[2] illōs spoliīs dītāvit opīmīs.

Hīs gestīs, hostēs vastī per dēvia saltūs

Fūgērunt, celeranter; erant quibus ardua montis

Abdita[3] silvārum vallis loca nōta profundē

Quōs fuga dīlāpsōs[4] investīgābilis et nox

Īnstāns ēripuit, sequerētur ut ultio[5] nūlla.

Ac facinus tantum quoniam permānsit inultum,

Trīstia[6] rēgālī subdūxit nūbila mentī,

Prōspera quam fēcēre prius complūra serēnam.

[1]*And certain palace ministers fell (in death), to whom the supplies of the royal treasuries had been committed.*

[2]This is spelled *predones* in the critical text.

[3]*These things being done, the vast host (army of the Basques) fled through devious (places) of the mountain pass quickly, to whom were deeply-known (nōta profundē) steep hidden places (ardua loca abdita) of the forests of the mountain valley.*

[4]*Whom, having slipped away by fleeing, the oncoming unsearchable night snatched away (from the Franks being able to find and pursue them).* It appears that fugā ought to be in the ablative, yet to fit the meter it must have two short syllables.

[5]*So that no vengeance followed. ultiō* is often spelled with a macron, but cannot be here due to the meter. The line scans as SDDDDS.

[6]*It drew sad clouds to the regal mind (of Charlemagne), which many properous (things) had previously made serene.*

Aptum praetereā sē tempus habēre putantēs

Saxonēs ulcīscendī[1] quam plūrima dampna

Ā Francīs illāta sibī, quia rēx erat absēns,

Īnfēstō[2] Rhēnī petiērunt agmine lītus.

Quem[3] trānsīre tamen nūllā ratiōne valentēs,

Francōrum terrās in eādem parte iacentēs[4]

Quā vēnēre nimis vastāre ferōciter ausī,

Ā mūrīs urbis, quae dicta Diūtia nunc est,

Dōnec perveniās ubi Rhēnus cōnfluit īdem,

Lītoribusque ferēns fontēs Mūsella Liēī.

[1]*And then the Saxons thinking to themselves (sē putantēs) the time to be apt to have revenge for the many damages brought to them by the Franks.*

[2]*With hostile army they sought the shore of the Rhine.*

[3]*Which, however, they were not able to cross by any way.*

[4]*They dared to excessively and ferociously ravage the lands of the Franks lying on the same part (of the Rhine) to which they had come.*

Cūnctās quās poterant vīllās invādere, flammīs

Trādiderant. Ipsīs etiam nōn īra pepercit

Ecclesiīs[1], nec erat hominum caedis modus ūllus.

Nōn aliquod sexūs, aetātis, condiciōnis

Ūllīus furor immītis[2] discrīmen agēbat;

Omnia sed ferrum vel edāx cōnsūmpserat[3] ignis.

Hinc nōn praedandī studiō[4], sed ut ultio[5] quaedam

In Francōs fieret, hoc eōs gessisse probātur.

[1]Spelled *Aecclesiis* in the critical text. The second syllable is short for it to fit the meter; the line scans as DDDSDS.

[2]*The cruel furor made no distinction, not of sex or age or any other condition.*

[3]*But the sword or greedy fire had consumed all.*

[4]*Hence not out of eagerness of plundering, but in order that a certain vengeance might occur against the Franks, it is proved that they had done this.*

[5]Normally spelled *ultiō*; the Saxon poet appears to use it with a short final syllable.

Hoc rēx Hispānīs didicit[1] regressus ab hōrīs.

Tunc orientālēs[2] Francōs nec nōn Alamannōs

Obvia ferre iubet statim Saxonibus arma.

Quōs cum iam patriam redeuntēs īnsequerentur,

In Baddanfeldun—sīc est locus ille vocātus—

Ādernam iuxtā fluvium cōnstanter in ipsōs

Irruerant, nūtūque[3] Deī quem crīmina tanta

In populō commissa suō dampnāre decēbat,

Saxonēs tantā cecidērunt strāge perēmptī,

Ut dē praegrandī superessent agmine paucī.

[1]*The king learned this, having returned from the time with the Spaniards.*

[2]*Then he ordered the eastern Franks, and also the Alamanni, to immediately bear the available weapons against the Saxons.*

[3]*And by the will of God it was fitting for such crimes, having been committed amongst his people, to be punished.*

Annō 779

Vēre[1] novō Carolus causā poscente peragrāns
Gallōrum quondam terrās, ad Wirciniācum
Accessit vīcum. Quō tunc occurrit eīdem
Dux Spōlētānus[2], Hildībrandus vocitātus.
Quī pretiōsa[3] ferēns īnsignī mūnera rēgī,
Ad sua[4] cum magnō satis est dīmissus honōre.
At rēx intentē meditāns invādere terrās
Saxōnum, citius Rhēnum trāiēcerat[5] amnem.
Cui[6] sē spē vānā gēns ipsa resistere posse
Cōnfidēns, pariter sūmptīs occurrerat armīs,
In quōdam collēcta locō Bōcholt vocitātō.

[1]*With the new spring, Charlemagne, as circumstances demanded, traveling the lands, formerly of the Gauls, came to the town of Verzenay.*

[2]Hildeprand was the Duke of Spoleto from 774 to 789. The Duchy of Spoleto is located in Italy. There had been a dispute between Pope Hadrian I and Charlemagne over who had suzerainty over that duchy; this was likely the motivating factor for Hildeprand to go to France with treasure to meet with Charlemagne.

[3]Spelled *preciōsa* in the critical text.

[4]*To his (lands, places) he was dismissed with great honor.* Here *sua* must be plural neuter accusative: it cannot be ablative based on the meter, and must be accusative since it is the object of *ad*. What it refers to is implied; *loca* (places) a reasonable option.

5The *i* in *trāiēcerat* is consonantal, so its syllables are long-long-short-short.

[6]*To whom, confident in themselves with vain hope to be able to resist, the people themselves, likewise having taken up arms, had run, collected into a certain place called Bocholt.*

Sed cum coepissent[1] aciē cōnflīgere, statim

Terga dedit, numerō Francōrum territa grandī.

Accēpit tunc Westfālōs in dēditiōnem.

Prōgressusque dehinc, Wisuram pervēnit ad amnem,

Atque diēs aliquot mānsit statiōne[2] locāta.

Angariōs sed et Ostfālhōs ad sē venientēs

Prōmissam firmāre fidem, quā sēmet eīdem

Subiectōs[3] fore spondēbant, animōque fidēlēs,

Obsidibusque datīs sacrāmentīsque coēgit.

Hīs gestīs rēx Wormaciam remeāvit ad urbem.

[1]*But, having had started to fight in a battle line, suddenly they (the Saxon people, refers to gens on the previous page) turned their backs, having been terrified by the great number of Franks.*

[2]Spelled *stacione* in the critical text.

[3]*Subiectōs* has a consonantal *i* and consists of three long syllables.

Annō 780

Inde movēns ōportūnō[1] sua tempore castra,

Saxōnum rūrsus properāverat in regiōnem.

Ēresburg prīmō petiit, post haec ubi fontēs

Lyppia flūmen habet, perplūrima[2] dispositūrus

In castrīs aliquot fertur[3] mānsisse diēbus.

Hinc orientis[4] iter sūmēns, ad flūmen Ovaccrum

Vēnit, et eiusdem gentis quam maxima turba

Illūc praeceptō pārēns occurrerat, atque

Crēdere sē Chrīstō simulāns baptisma recēpit.

[1]*From there moving his camp at an opportune time.*

[2]*Planning to arrange many things.*

[3]*It is said he remained in the camp for many days.*

[4]*From here taking a trip eastward.*

Indeque[1] festīnus pergēns, ibi castra locāvit,

Albia quā grandis fluvius miscētur et Ōra.

Nam rēs Saxōnum voluit compōnere, nec nōn

Sclāvōrum, medius quōs Albia dīvidit amnis.

Citrā[3] Saxonēs dēgunt, in lītore vērō

Sclāvōrum pāgāna manet gēns ulteriōrī.

Dispositīs sānē rēbus prō tempore cūnctīs[4],

Ad sēdēs tandem studuit remeāre paternās.

[1]*And from there continuing on quickly, he stationed a camp there, in the place where the grand river Elbe is mixed with the* Ohre river (alternatively, the shore).

[2]*For he wanted to arrange the things of the Saxons, and also of the Slavs, whom divides in the middle with the River Elbe.*

[3]*On this side the Saxons live, and on beyond the shore dwell the pagan Slavs.*

[4]*Having arranged everything well for (that) time.*

Tum quia praecipuō semper flagrābat amōre

Petrī[1], quī summe praeclārus apostolus exstat,

Ipsīus Rōmae dēcrēvit līmina sāncta

Quaerere[2] vōta precēsque Deō persolvere[3] cūrāns.

Atque citus properāns, assūmptā coniuge[4] sēcum

Et nātīs, urbem pervēnerat ad Ticinēnsem,

In quā nātālis Dominī fēstum celebrāvit.

Hīc igitur statuī prīmae cum fine decādis

Annōrum Carolī, postquam rēx coeperat esse

Francōrum sōlus, prīmum finīre libellum,

Vīribus[5] ut parvīs requiēs sōlātia praestet.

[1]*Then because he always burned with special love for Peter, the famous apostle who was most prominent.* The spelling of *exstat* is *extat* in the critical edition.

[2]The critical text spells this *querere*. However, *querere* is the singular imperative of *querī* (to complain or grumble) which fits neither grammatically nor contextually. Therefore I have corrected it to *quaerere*.

[3]*Taking care to perform vows and prayers to God.*

[4]*Coniuge* has a consonantal *i* and its syllables are long-short-short.

[5]*So that rest might lend solace to my little strength.*