

IN DIVINIS SCRIPTURIS LEGITUR

Monastic Ideals and the
Use of the Bible in the
Gesta Sanctorum Rotonensium

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De olifant draaide zich om, begon te lezen, en viel toen met donderend lawaai naar beneden. Toen hij zijn ogen opsloeg zag hij de eekhoorn hoog boven zich in de top van de beuk zitten.

‘Heb je het niet gelezen?’ riep de eekhoorn.

‘Ik had het nog niet uit’, zei de olifant. ‘Wat stond er na NIET?’

‘VALLEN!’ riep de eekhoorn

‘Vallen?’ vroeg de olifant. ‘Waar slaat dát op?’

- Toon Tellegen, *Toen Niemand Iets Te Doen Had*

‘I quite agree with you,’ said the Duchess; ‘and the moral of that is – “Be what you would seem to be” – or if you'd like it put more simply – “Never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than what it might appear to others that what you were or might have been was not otherwise than what you had been would have appeared to them to be otherwise.”’

‘I think I should understand that better,’ Alice said very politely, ‘if I had it written down: but I can't quite follow it as you say it.’

‘That's nothing to what I could say if I chose,’ the Duchess replied, in a pleased tone.

- Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Mutato nomine de te fabula narratur – Change the name and the story is about you

- Horace, *Satire I*

To Grandma
Who taught me to read
and enjoy it.

'Ziezo!'

CONTENTS

Prologue		
1	Introduction: Redon's ideals and realities	1
	1.2 The <i>GSR</i> : A short introduction	4
	1.3 The <i>GSR</i> : An inside story	6
2	Small world, big issues: the disputed foundation of Redon	13
	2.1 A state of complicated affairs: the Carolingians and the Bretons	13
	2.2 A Carolingian conduit? Redon between province and empire	16
	2.3 A culture worth emulating: the Carolingian renaissance	19
	2.4 The making of a monastery	23
	2.5 An abbey on the edge	28
	2.6 The local aristocracy	29
	2.7 A grey area	32
	2.8 The formation of the <i>GSR</i>	35
	2.9 A word about influences	41
3	'A most correct rule of human life': the Bible in the Carolingian Age	46
	3.1 The Bible in the Carolingian Age	46
	3.2 A stylistic element?	51
	3.3 Signalling the audience	54
	3.4 A receptive audience	56
	3.5 The use of the Bible in the <i>GSR</i>	59
4	Redon and the world, Redon in the World: the many faces of <i>iustitia</i>	64
	4.1 Doing the right thing: early medieval justice	65
	4.1.1 The Law	65
	4.1.2 Righteousness	68
	4.1.3 <i>Iustitia</i>	71
	4.2 Poetic justice? The sad case of Risweten and Tredoc	75
	4.2.1 'Thievery on a large scale'?	77
	4.2.2 <i>Persecutionem patiuntur propter iustitiam</i> : 2 Tim 3:12	79
	4.2.3 <i>Ego vici mundum</i> : Joh 15:20 and 16:30	83
	4.2.4 <i>Lorica</i> : The breastplate of justice	85
	4.2.5 <i>Qui foveam fodit...</i> : Sir 27:29	87
	4.3 Redon and the world: some general remarks	89
5	Too close to see? Monastic virtues and the <i>GSR</i> as a mirror for monks	96
	5.1 Christian virtues: the basics	97
	5.2 <i>Sine me nihil potestis facere</i> : humility through obedience	102
	5.3 <i>Secundum fidem vestram fiat vobis</i> : Conwoion cures a blind man	107
	5.3.1 <i>Qui ingrediuntur lumen videant</i> : Mat 5:15 and Luke 11:33	111
	5.3.2 <i>Lucerna corporis tui</i> : Luke 11:34 and Mat 6:22-23	113
	5.3.3 <i>Mirabilis Deus in sanctis suis</i> : Ps 4:3-4 and 67:36	114
	5.3.4 <i>Ego facio et ipsi facient</i> : John 14:12	116
6	Conclusion: 'As we read in the Holy Scriptures': Redon's ideals as realities	119
	Bibliography	123

Appendix I: Biblical quotations in the <i>GSR</i>	139
Appendix II: <i>GSR</i> 1.7: ‘The Slaying of Risweten and Tredoc’	144
Appendix III: <i>GSR</i> 2.1: ‘The blind man restored to sight by the lord abbot Conwoion named Goislenus’	148
Appendix IV: The abridged life of St. Benedict of Macerac	151

PROLOGUE

I have spent hours musing over what I should be writing now, to finally bring closure to this thesis, but none of the ideas I have had seem to fit now. However much I have learnt from this experience, however much wisdom these ninth-century Breton monks have been able to impart on me while I was studying them, at this point the only thing left to say is a heartfelt “Thank you”.

To my parents, one of whom understood what I have been doing without knowing it, while the other knew what I was doing without understanding it and whose moral – and financial – support have kept me afloat during my life as a student;

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And here it is. The culmination of five years of papercuts, sitting behind a desk on hot, sunny days, and every other frustration imaginable in the life of a student. I loved every minute of it.

