

Analecta Hymnica 2 no. 97 st. 4, 1: Caeduntur gladiis more bidentium

The Vespers Hymn of the Common of Many Martyrs (*Sanctorum meritis*)¹ had been the cause of one of the controversies between Hincmar and Gottschalk. There the passage at issue was the opening line of the hymn's final stanza: *te, trina deitas unaque, poscimus* (st. 6, 1). Since to Hincmar the phrase *trina deitas* smacked of tritheism, he had incurred Gottschalk's displeasure by substituting for it the words *summa deitas*². The present article on the other hand is concerned with the opening line of the antepenultimate stanza of the same hymn: *caeduntur gladiis more bidentium* (st. 4, 1). Whereas the theological dispute over the wording of the sixth stanza had belonged to the mid-ninth century, the aim of the present investigation is to trace the literary fortune of this exordium to stanza 4 throughout the twelfth century.

Hugh Primas composed Oxford Poem 16 at the start of the 1150's³. There the poet takes the opportunity to speak of the kindness shown him by two young men on the occasion of his visit to Sens: *nec erant pilosi more bidentium, / nec murmur resonans contradicentium* (ll. 93f.)⁴. No allusion here to the

1 Edd. G. M. Dreves and C. Blume, *Analecta Hymnica Medii Aevi* 2, Leipzig 1888, 75 (n. 97). The same hymn is also found *ibid.*, 50, Leipzig 1907, 204 (n. 153).

2 Cf. H. Schrörs, *Hinkmar, Erzbischof von Reims: Sein Leben und seine Schriften*, Freiburg/B. 1884, 152-3.

3 So C. J. McDonough, «Hugh Primas and the Bishop of Beauvais», *Mediaeval Studies* 45 (1983) 399-409.

4 Ed. C. J. McDonough, *The Oxford Poems of Hugh Primas and the Arundel Lyrics*, Toronto 1984 (*Tor. Med. Lat. Texts* 15) 57.