

Jerome the Scribe

by Sheila Thomas

Characteristics: Int +2, Per +1, Pre 0, Com +2, Str 0, Sta 0, Dex +1, Qik -1

Size: 0

Age: 28 (28)

Decrepitude: 0

Warping Score: 0

Confidence Score: 1 (3)

Virtues and Flaws: Clerk, Puissant Ability: Scribe, Educated, Sharp ears; Infamous (heretic), Temperate, Weakness for fine books

Personality Traits: Conscientious +2, Pious +2, Aesthetic +1

Reputations: Heretic 4 (ecclesiastical)

Combat: *Fist:* Init -1, Attack +1, Defense -1, Damage +0

Soak: +0

Fatigue levels: OK, 0, -1, -3, -5, Unconscious

Wounds: -1 (1-5), -3 (6-10), -5 (11-15), Incapacitated (16-20)

Abilities: Area lore – his original home 1 (family), Area lore - his monastery 3 (personalities), Area lore-market town 2 (merchants), Area lore - covenant 2 (magi), Artes Liberales 3 (grammar), Athletics 1 (climbing), Awareness 3 (books), Bargain 2 (favors), Charm 2 (making excuses), Civil and canon Law 1 (canon law), Etiquette 2 (clergy), Folk ken 3 (monastery inhabitants), Guile 2 (excuses), Latin 4 (ecclesiastical usage), Local language 5 (debate), Organisational lore – Benedictines 3 (routine), Philosophiae 2 (aesthetics), Profession – scribe 5 (layout), Stealth 3 (indoors), Teaching 1 (Latin), Theology 1 (history)

Appearance: Jerome is of middling height and build, clean-shaven, with tidy, short, fair hair and blue eyes. He dresses neatly, but very plainly. He has a monkish air.

Jerome was born to a peasant family who sent him at the age of seven to live in a Benedictine monastery where he received a reasonable basic education. He picked things up fairly easily, showing particular aptitude with a quill. He had little difficulty accepting the restricted life amongst the brothers, but occasionally he would sneak down to the kitchens to find something extra to eat; he was caught and punished far less often than he deserved.

It was expected that Jerome would take the vows and become a monk himself, but he put it off.

At about the age of 20, he got hold of Honorius' 'De rebus ecclesiasticis' and absorbed some of the ideas on predestination, but got it garbled. Unfortunately, his head was full of this one day when the Prior engaged him in discussion, and Jerome's views displeased the Prior so much that he was ordered to leave, lest he mislead others.

Having little knowledge of the world outside the monastery, Jerome found it difficult to settle. He maintained a temperate life-style and found some of what he encountered amongst ordinary people quite scandalous. Eventually, while working as a scribe for hire in a small town, he met someone from the covenant who, after seeing his writing and talking to him for a while, invited him to visit the covenant with the possibility of being given work there.

Jerome's training and skills make him a useful scribe. He is a quick and accurate worker with a neat hand and a good aesthetic sense for layout. He is also suitable for the role of librarian, if such an important role may be entrusted to a mundane. It might be a little inconvenient that he sometimes takes a liking to a particularly beautifully-produced volume and makes it difficult for anyone to remove it from his sight.