

361. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Bodl. 441 (2382)

"West-Saxon Gospels"

[Ker 312, Gneuss 577]

HISTORY: Produced in the first quarter of the 11c; place of origin unknown. The text is very closely related to that of London, British Library, Cotton Otho C. i (vol. 1) (218), for which a Malmesbury provenance is likely, and Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 140 (30), from Bath. In the 12c, Bodl. 441 served as the exemplar for London, British Library, Royal 1 A. xiv (280), a Canterbury manuscript. Used by Robert Talbot (1505?-1558) and Archbishop Matthew Parker (1504-1575). Acquired by the Bodleian Library in 1601.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: ii + 56 + vii + 27 + i + 40 + i + 18 + i + 41 + v leaves, foliated i, (ii), 1-51, 51a, 52-195 (196). Ff. i-ii and 196 are paper flyleaves; f. 195 is a parchment flyleaf. Leaves measure 296 x 190 mm.; written space 245 x 120 mm. Ruled in drypoint for 25 long lines, with double vertical bounding lines. Leaves are arranged HHHH throughout. The text is in one hand; some corrections are in the hand of the main scribe, others in a contemporary hand. Latin headings in Caroline minuscule, some badly written, are not much later than the main hand; these are added at the beginning of some paragraphs in margins or between lines. A 13c hand has added on f. 128r the heading 'Erat autem adpropinquantes ad iesum publicani et peccatores' to Lk 15:1.

The manuscript was heavily altered in the 16c, apparently while in the possession of Archbishop Parker and in preparation for Foxe's edition of 1571, for which this was the base text. Late additions and alterations include titles to the Gospels, chapter and verse numbers, the supplying of missing text and leaves (copied from CCCC 140), a collation of folios and chapter numbers (f. i recto), some corrections and normalizations of spelling, vertical lines to mark word divisions, Latin glosses (mostly in Luke, in Talbot's hand), some initials, most hyphens, and all OE rubrics (copied from Cambridge, University Library Ii. 2. 11 [100]). A number of erasures have been made to marginal material in Matthew; these occur

at ff. 1v (Mt 1:18), 2r (Mt 2:1), 4r (Mt 3:13), 4v (Mt 4:1), 5v twice (Mt 4:18, 5:1), 9v (Mt 6:24), 10r (Mt 7:1), 11r (Mt 7:15), 28v (Mt 16:13), 29r (Mt 16:20), 29v (Mt 16:24), 46r (Mt 25:14), 46v (Mt 25:31), and 47v (Mt 26:2). The location of erasures is analogous to the placement of Latin headings elsewhere in the manuscript; where traces of letters can be seen, these appear to be in the hand of the Latin headings; the erasures correspond to Latin headings in Royal 1 A. xiv. It may thus be assumed that the erased passages were also Latin headings. These must have been erased after the mid 12c when the Royal manuscript was copied from this manuscript and should probably be attributed to Parker's use of the codex. Binding of the 16/17c.

COLLATION: I⁸ (ff. 1–8), II⁸ (ff. 9–16), III⁸ (ff. 17–24), IV⁸ (ff. 25–32), V⁸ (ff. 33–40), VI⁸ (ff. 41–48), VII⁸ (f. 55v is blank) (ff. 49–51, 51a, 52–55), VIII⁶⁺¹ (added in the 16c, supplying a lost quire containing Mark 1:1–4:37 *þæt scip þæt*; f. 56rv is blank) (ff. 56–62), IX⁸ (ff. 63–70), X⁸ (ff. 71–78), XI⁸ (ff. 79–86), XII⁶⁺¹ (wants 4–6 after f. 89; 5 and 6 were probably blank; f. 90 is a leaf added in the 16c to supply a missing leaf containing Mk 16:14 *nehstan* to end) (ff. 87–90), XIII⁸ (the first leaf of the quire, probably blank, is lost before f. 91) (ff. 91–97), XIV⁸ (ff. 98–105), XV⁸ (ff. 106–113), XVI⁸ (ff. 114–121), XVII⁸ (ff. 122–129), XVIII⁸⁺¹ (wants 2 after f. 130; f. 131 added in the 16c to supply a missing leaf containing Lk 16:14 *ealle þa* to 17:1 *leorningcnihtum*) (ff. 130–137), XIX¹⁰ (ff. 138–147), XX⁴⁺¹ (wants 3 and 4 after f. 149; 4 was probably blank; f. 150 added in the 16c to supply a missing leaf containing Lk 24:51 *þa he bletsude* to end) (ff. 148–150), XXI⁸ (one leaf, probably blank, missing before f. 151) (ff. 151–157), XXII⁸ (ff. 158–165), XXIII⁸ (ff. 166–173), XXIV⁸ (ff. 174–181), XXV⁸ (ff. 182–189), XXVI²⁺³ (number of leaves originally in quire uncertain; ff. 192–194 added in the 16c to supply lost leaves containing Jn 20:9 *wrat* to end) (ff. 190–194).

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–55r Gospel of Matthew: `INITIUM S(AN)C(T)I EUA(N)-
|GEL(II) S(E)C(UN)D(U)M MATH(EU)M` | 'Efter matheus
gerecednysse. her is | on cneorisse boc' [title and initial *E* added in
16c; ff. 55v–56v blank].
2. ff. 57r–90r Gospel of Mark: INCIPIT EUANGELIUM SECUN-
DUM MARCUM Cap. 1 'Her ys godspellys angyn hælyndes cristes

- godes suna . . . þ(æt) scyp þ(æt) hit' (Mk 4:37) [Quire added in 16c to supply lost leaves. Original text, ff. 62r–89v, begins imperfectly 'hit wæs gefylled' (Mk 4:37), ends imperfectly 'Ða æt' (Mk 16:14). F. 90r 'Ða æt nehstan he ætywde him twelfum' (Mk 16:14–end) added in 16c to supply lost leaf; f. 90v blank.]
3. ff. 91r–150r Gospel of Luke: **INCIPIT EUANGELIUM SECUNDUM | LUCAM** 'Lucas Boc Ðæs Halgan Godspelleres. forþa(m) ðe witodlice manega | þohton þara þinga race geendbyrdan'. Ends imperfectly (f. 149v) 'and hit wæs geworden' (Lk 24:51). [Title added in 16c. F. 150r 'geworden þa he bletsude' (Lk 24:51–end) added in 16c to supply lost leaf; f. 150v blank.]
4. ff. 151r–194v Gospel of John: **In principio erat uerbu(m) &c. Euangel(ium) s(e)c(un)d(u)m Ioh(ann)em.** | "ON FRUMAN: wæs' [added in 16c] | word'. Ends imperfectly 'Witodlice þa gyt hi ne cuðon hali ge' (Jn 20:9). [Ff. 192–194v 'halige writ þ(æt) hit gebyrede' (Jn 20:9–end) added in 16c to supply lost leaves; f. 195rv blank, except for note on f. 195r "Really 196 for 51st is double."]

SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND CHARACTERISTICS: The deterioration of the manuscript must have been well underway by the mid-12c, when it served as the exemplar for Royal 1 A. xiv; the scribe of the latter manuscript omitted text lost from Luke, the lost endings of Mark and Luke, and the end of John from 21:25 *awritene*, apparently the last leaf of John in the manuscript. The loss of leaves from the ends of Mark, Luke, and John suggests that the four Gospel texts may have spent some time as unbound booklets, and were not collected into a permanent binding until some time after they were produced.

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