

378. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Hatton 38 (4090)

“West Saxon Gospels”

[Ker 325, Gneuss —]

**HISTORY:** This copy of the OE version of the Gospels dates from the 12/13c and is a direct copy of London, British Library Royal 1. A. xiv (280), a Canterbury manuscript; palaeographical evidence also suggests a Canterbury origin. Later medieval history is unknown. The manuscript belonged to John Parker (1548–1618), son of Archbishop Matthew Parker (his signature may be seen on the verso of f. i) and Christopher, Baron Hatton (1605?–1670), whose signature is on the recto of f. ii; used by Francis Junius (1589–1677) for his 1665 edition of the Gospels. Acquired by the Bodleian Library with other Hatton manuscripts in 1671.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** iii + 61 + i + 105 + iv leaves, foliated (i–iii), 1–171. Ff. i–iii, and 168–171 are blank parchment fly-leaves, probably medieval (the pattern of wormholes on these leaves corresponds to those on the first and last pages of the text). Leaves measure 236 x 158 mm.; written space 168 x 107 mm. Ruled for 25 long lines in lead on both sides of the folio; single bounding lines; the scribe is by no means regular about which horizontal lines extend across the page: generally the first and third, and last and antepenultimate, but often the first two and last two. The space between lines is approximately minim height, a proportion which is found in Latin manuscripts in the last quarter of the 12c and is characteristic of manuscripts from the 13c. Leaves are arranged HFHF throughout. Apart from some corrections, the manuscript is written in one hand, although the ink changes from black to brown and back again at several points. A later hand, probably 13c, has supplied an omission to Mt 25:34 (f. 119r): ‘þa sæde se kyng to þan þe on his swiðren waren’. Large decorated initials, in red, blue, and green, are of the 12/13c. Quire numbering in the modern order of the Gospels is probably of the 16c. Binding of the 18c.

COLLATION: I<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1–8), II<sup>8</sup> (ff. 9–16), III<sup>8</sup> (ff. 17–24), IV<sup>4</sup> (ff. 25–28), V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 29–36), VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 37–44), VII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 45–52), VIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 53–60), IX<sup>8+1</sup> (ff. 61–69), X<sup>8</sup> (f. 77v is blank) (ff. 70–77), XI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 78–85), XII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 86–93), XIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 94–101), XIV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 102–109), XV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 110–117), XVI<sup>10</sup> (f. 127rv is blank) (ff. 118–127), XVII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 128–135), XVIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 136–143), XIX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 144–151), XXI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 152–159), XXI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 160–167).

[Note: F. 62 is written in an imitative hand of the 16c, and added to an otherwise regular quire to fill a gap in the text on f. 61v where the scribe omitted Lk 16:14–17:1, which is also omitted from Royal 1 A. xiv, its exemplar, and lost from Bodl. 441, the exemplar of the Royal manuscript. The 16c completer has replaced the word 'þing' (Lk 16:14) on f. 61v/12 with a cross; f. 62r begins 'Das þyng ealle þa'. F. 62v ends with a catchword, 'unmihhtlic &c' (Lk 17:1), and the text resumes at that point on f. 61v.]

#### CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–28v Gospel of Mark: **Initium sancti euuangelii s(e)c(un)d(u)m marcu(m)**. 'Ecce mitto angelu(m) meu(m) ante faciem tua(m). qui preparabit uia(m) | tuam ante te. Her ys godspelles angin hælendes cristes | godes sune'.
2. ff. 29r–77r Gospel of Luke: 'Nu we willeð her eow areccan lucas boc þas | halgen godspelleres for þan þe witodlice manega þohte þare þinge race geendelberden' [f. 77v blank].
3. ff. 78r–126 Gospel of Matthew: **Liber generationis ie(s)u chr(ist)i filii dauid filii | abraham**. 'Soðliche wel is to understanden þæt | æfter matheus gerechednysse her is | on cneornysse boc' [f. 127v blank].
4. ff. 128r–167v Gospel of John: **In principio erat uerbum. Her onzinð þæt | godspell þe Iohannes se godspellere gewrat on | patmos þam eiglande**. | 'On anginne ærest wæs word' [ff. 168r–171v blank].

SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND CHARACTERISTICS: Caroline *g* is regular in Latin headings; both Insular and Caroline *g* are used in OE before f. 128 and after f. 133, the latter for the velar stop and affricate, the former for the palatal continuant and fricative. Caroline *h* is regular in Latin; within the OE text, the Caroline form appears in proper names and in the sequence *ch* (for the palatal affricate), while elsewhere insular *h* is used. This distinction is common but not regular.

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