

110. **Canterbury Cathedral Library, Additional 25**  
Wærferth's translation of Gregory the Great,  
"Dialogues" (fragment)  
[Ker 96, Gneuss 207]

**HISTORY:** Late 10c fragment of Gregory's "Dialogues" of which other copies are found in Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 322 [52], Oxford, Bodleian Library, Hatton 76 [382], and London, British Library, Cotton Otho C. i, Vol. 2 [219]. For the textual relations of the versions, see Yerkes 1977: 130-35. Ker identifies the item as the remains of "Dialogus beati Gregorii" among "Libri anglici" in the early 14c catalogue of Christ Church, Canterbury, compiled for Henry Eastry, Prior from 1284-1331 (James 1903: xxvi and 51, no. 306). "19" in red ink on f. 1r refers to an old shelfmark: "Formerly numbered xix among 'Fragments of Treatises'" (note kept with manuscript). Used as wrappers and discovered in the library of Canterbury Cathedral by William Urry in the 1940s (see Ker, *Cat.*, vii).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Fragments of two adjacent bifolia, badly damaged by fire so that outer and upper part of each leaf gone. The second bifolium is the more severely damaged, 303 mm. at its highest extent. Bifolia originally about 318 mm. high x 386 mm. wide. Original page size about 318 x 191 mm. Ruled and scored on hair side for 31 lines, with double bounding verticles. Writing area 245 x 143 mm. Missing text suggests that two bifolia are wanting, the present sheets probably being 2 and 3 in the quire. Hand of late 10c (Ker). Large capital *P*'s partially visible on ff. 3v/14 and 4v/23. Black ink, capitals touched with metallic red. On the second bifolium, water staining on flesh side with damage from the action of the metallic color. A large orangish stain (paint spill?) in middle of fol. 3r over the letters. The sewing holes have been worn away into elongated slits, but showing two sets of two along the fold at about 37 mm., 74 mm., 225 mm., and 270 mm. from top of leaf. Creases show that Sheet 1 was once folded in towards the flesh side

vertically 30 mm. from the outside edge, and once horizontally towards the flesh side, about 146 mm. from top of sheet. Sheet 2 was folded horizontally about 105 mm. down from the top, towards the flesh side. Hair sides of both folios have a shiny paste-like film that has peeled away in many places. Both sheets have been skillfully laid into modern vellum on the flesh sides and secured with silk gauze.

**COLLATION:** Two bifolia, hair outside both sheets, foliated 1–4. Probably the second and third sheets (ff. 2, 3 and 6, 7) of the quire.

[**Note:** Bifolia are photographed flat: order in photos is Sheet 1 outside (ff. 4v, 1r) [image 1], Sheet 2 outside (ff. 3v, 2r) [image 2], Sheet 2 inside (ff. 2v, 3r) [image 3], Sheet 1 inside (ff. 1v, 4r) [image 4].]

**CONTENTS:** Wærferth's translation of Gregory the Great, "Dialogues." From Book 4 (complete transcription of item in Yerkes 1977: 123–30):

- f. 1r From chap. 32 "Death of Reparatus" (image 1, right): 'he gelæded . gemyccloed ⁊ féded' (ed. Hecht 307/16–308/6; the name appears as 'separatus', lines 12, 14, 24).
- f. 1v From chaps. 32–33 "Death of Sinner Whose Grave Burned" (image 4, left) '[þe he geseah þone ad getimb]rodne | [þ(æt) þa þe hit gehyrdon leornodon] ⁊ ongeton ... ac hwæðere he ðær ong[a]n swyðe byfi' (ed. Hecht 308/7–309/1).
- f. 2r/6–31 From chap. 33 (image 2, right; 6 lines gone at top) 'swyðe blið[e eode ⁊ eft þam oðrum dæge he com to cy]|ricean gen[oh sorh-leas] ... (f. 2r/31) sceawunga . hwæt seo sawul ðrowað' (ed. Hecht 309/5–20).
- f. 2v/6–31 From chaps. 33–34 "Gregory's Explanation of the Preceding Story" (image 3, left; 6 lines gone at top) '[ ... oþþe þa yflan men ma]ggen on|[cnawa þa yflan in helle wite.] (chap. 34, f. 2v/8) [Gregorius him andswarode se cwíde i]s gecy|[þed] ... (f. 2v/31) þ(æt) he bedyppe þ(æt) ytemyste lyð hys' (ed. Hecht 309/23–310/13).
- f. 3r From chap. 36 "Death of Ursus, Deaths of Eumorphius and Stephan" (image 3, right) '[⁊ hi þa oncneowon þ(æt) he forðferde] of lic[homan on þa ylcan tid | þe he ær] cíged wæs [þurh iohannem þone godes wer, s]ę wæs mid hy[m forðfered] ... (f. 3r/31) ⁊ ferde swá hys hlaford hyne het . [⁊] ða' (ed. Hecht 313/20–314/11; cf. Yerkes 1977: 132).

- f. 3v (Image 2, left) ‘[7 þa þa he wæs on midwege hi]m com [oþer | weg-ferend ongæn se h]lyne axsode [hwider | he gan sceolde þa 7s]warode he h[im 7 cwæð] ... (f. 3v/31) þ(æt) on siciliaéá lande ofer ealle oðru land.’ (ed. Hecht 314/11–315/2).
- f. 4r (Image 4, right) ‘gyniað þa se[aðas þara tintregena upp weal]|lend-um fýr[e þa seaðas þæs þe þe secgað þe ] | hit witon w[eaxað] ... (f. 4r/31) þ(æt) ys án eadignys þ(æt) hi ðær onfóð 7 gelíc missen’ (ed. Hecht 315/2–24).
- f. 4v (Image 1, left) ‘[licnes þæs edleanes forþon] ... ða eadig[|nesse begytaþ þurh missen]licu worc-and | [gyt eac swylce seo soðfæstnes] butan tweon | ... (f. 4v/31) heo|ra lichoman 7 heora gehwylc sægð þ(æt) he’ (ed. Hecht 315/25–316/16; cf. Yerkes 1977: 133).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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