

## 187. London, British Library, Cotton Domitian i

Part 1: Isidore, Abbo, Priscian, Bede, etc. with  
Old English Glosses, Recipe, Book List;

Part 2: Geraldus Cambrensis, "Annales Cambriae," etc.

[Ker 146 (Part 1), Gneuss 326 (Part 1)]

**HISTORY:** A composite manuscript consisting of an 11c A-S Latin compilation of school-texts and a 13c Latin compilation of materials of Welsh origin and interest. The present book comprises four distinct parts: 1a, ff. 1-39; 1b, ff. 40-55; 2a, ff. 56-137; 2b ff. 138-160. Part 1a is second half of 10c, 1b is mid-10c (glosses of 10c and 11c); 2a and b are of the 13c. Part 1 is from St. Augustine's, Canterbury (no. 434 in its 15c catalogue, the pressmark, 'Dist(inctio) .v. G(radus). iiii', is on f. 2v [James 1903: lvii, 237, 517]). The inscription on f. 2r, 'K(ari)s(si)mo amico suo et d(omi)no .A. D(e)i gr(ati)a abb(at)i s(anc)ti Aug(ustini). Cant(uariensis)', most likely refers to Alexander, abbot of St. Augustine's, 1213-1220 (Dimock 1868: xvi). The contents list on f. 2v shows that 1a and 1b were joined by the 13c (Lendinara 1990: 135), but probably much earlier, if the book list of the late 10c or early 11c at the end of Part 1b (Item 9c) refers to the "De natura rerum" in Part 1a. The A-S owner of the book was one "Æpestan," a grammarian or teacher, to judge by the contents of the list. Part 2 is from St. David's, Pembrokeshire (Ker 1955: 10, 16), written in the mid- and late 13c. It was in the possession of Sir John Prise (d. 1555), one of Cromwell's visitors and a collector of manuscripts, by 1539 (dated note, f. 141r), who says it was taken from the treasury of St. David's cathedral by the Treasurer, John Lewis and sent to him (Roberts and Watson 1990: 120). John Dee owned Part 2, as shown by notes in his hand in "Annales Cambriae," and may have acquired it through Prise's eldest son Gregory, mayor of Hereford, in 1574, when he is known to have visited him, but it is not listed in his 1583 catalogue (Cambridge, Trinity College O.4.2). Dee also possessed Part 1, which has occasional annotations in his hand (e.g., f. 53r) and is identified by the "Canterbury" contents in his 1583 catalogue (Item M

94 in Roberts and Watson 1990; cf. also 120, 162). Both parts came to Cotton by sale along with other Dee manuscripts. Domitian i is mentioned in the 1621 Cotton catalogue (London, British Library, Harley 6018, f. 145v, no. 412).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** v + 159 (foliated 2–160) + ii. Repaired and rebound in 1962. Present state of flyleaves (they have been reordered since the film was made): first two 19c paper, second three parchment (16c?). The last flyleaf is foliated “1.” Endleaves are one parchment and one paper. First parchment fly, recto, has Cotton’s instructions to the binder, the Cotton pressmark, “Domitian A. 1” (*sic*) on the verso, the next fly, marked “1,” has Cottonian table of contents. The signatures “A-V” on the bottom of the recto of the first sheet of each quire were added in 16c after the present manuscript was assembled.

**Part 1a** (ff. 1–39): 140 x 214 mm., writing area 95 x 182 mm. Hair on outside of all sheets. Pricked on outside margin and ruled for 24 lines; single bounding lines, right and left. Main text has titles in rustic capitals colored in silver. Initials within text are touched with colors. Colored diagrams. Intermittent Latin glosses of 11c. The main text (Isidore) written in Anglo-Caroline minuscule, of “s. x<sup>2</sup>” according to Ker (*Cat.*); another hand takes over at f. 34r (to f. 37r), and also appears to be the hand that added the extracts from Isidore and Bede on f. 2r. The Abbo glossary and tables, written 30 lines to the page (ff. 37v–39v) are late additions to the manuscript, ca. 1100 (Lendinara 1990: 141).

**Part 1b** (ff. 40–55): 143 x 213 mm., writing area 100 x 180 mm. Hair outside of all sheets in quire VI, but quire VII is HFHF. Pricked on outside margins and ruled for 24 lines; less finely prepared than Part 1a. Written in Insular minuscule of “s. x med” (Ker, *Cat.*) with titles in rustic capitals. Some notes by John Dee to the Bede text.

**Part 2a** (ff. 56–137): 143 x 210 mm., writing area 95 x 158 mm. HFHF. Ruled in lead for 29 lines with right and left bounding lines. Dates from mid-13c. Pages written in double columns (e.g., ff. 58rv) have same horizontal preparation with extra bounding lines added. Initials, internal capitals, and titles/rubrics in red. Annotated heavily in various hands from 13c through 16c, including many notes by Prise (Ker 1955: 9–10).

**Part 2b** (ff. 138–160): 148 x 213 mm., writing area 112 x 178 mm; col.

a 53–55 x 178 mm.; col. b 50–55 x 178 mm. HFHF. The right column is typically narrower than the left. Ruled across the page for 39 or 40 lines, with four bounding lines for the double columns. The added sheets (ff. 142, 144, 146, 148, 150) are prepared as needed with partial rulings that line up with the main text and are written in long lines; they are written by the main hand, which dates soon after 1288. Many added notes, minor additions, underlinings, etc., in various hands from 13–16c, including numerous notes by Prise. Text on ff. 155v–156v added in 15c. Texts on ff. 157r–160r added in 16c by Prise. Parts 2a and 2b have an old foliation, probably by Prise: ff. 56–111 (“i–lv”); ff. 112–137 (“i–xxvi”); ff. 138–56 (“xlix, lx–lxxvj, lxvij”).

**COLLATION:** **Part 1a:** I<sup>8+2</sup> (1 and 2 [ff. 1, 2] are halvesheets wrapped over the normal gathering and projecting between ff. 10 and 11) (ff. 1–10), II<sup>6+1</sup> (2 is a halvesheet, 4 an added halvesheet) (ff. 11–17), III–IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 18–33), V<sup>6</sup> (ff. 34–[39, unnumbered]). **Part 1b:** VI–VII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 40–55). Tags of a cut-out gathering in 6 still sewn into book after f. 55. **Part 2a:** (parchment fly [unnumbered]) I<sup>8</sup> (ff. 56–63), II<sup>8</sup> 8 a halvesheet (ff. 64–71), III<sup>8</sup> (ff. 72–79) [signs of a quire cut out between II and III], IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 80–87), V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 88–95), VI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 96–103) [signs of a quire gone between VI and VII], VII–IX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 104–127), X<sup>10</sup> (ff. 128–137). **Part 2b:** I<sup>18</sup> (orig. 7 sheets with two added bifolia, ff. 142/150, ff. 144/148, and an added singleton, f. 146; 10 cut out before f. 147) (ff. 138–154), II<sup>4+3</sup> (3 halvesheets added after 2 [ff. 157–59], 4 gone) (ff. 155–160).

## CONTENTS:

### Part 1a:

1. f. 2r/1–2 Eight words or topics taken from Isidore “De differentiis verborum” (PL 82.94): “Arithmetica ... Mathematici,” with a corresponding OE gloss written above each ‘rimcræft ... ste`o`rwigleras’ (ed. Napier 1900: no. 55).
2. f. 2r/3–14 Bede, “De natura rerum,” chap. 2: ‘In ipso quidem principio conditionis facta sunt cælum | et terra’ (ed. Jones 1975: 192–93; see Lendinara 1990: 135).
3. f. 2v Table of contents (13c, St. Augustine’s) listing the contents of Parts 1a and 1b. A St. Augustine’s pressmark in another hand.
4. ff. 3r–37r Isidore, “De natura rerum”: **INCIPIT LIBER ISIDORI SPALENSIS | ÆPISCOPI DE NATVRA RERVM**; in 48 chapters

and including the "Epistula Sisebuti," capitula, and colored diagrams (ed. Fontaine 1960). OE glosses, f. 31v/10,11; f. 34v/2 (ed. Napier 1900: no. 41).

5. ff. 37v-38v/3 A Latin-Latin Glossary to Abbo "Bella Parisiaca Urbis," Book 3: **INCIPIVNT GLOSE DIVERSE**. 'Dypticās i(d est) tabellas. Corcula i(d est) p(r)inceps | ludi ... Doxa. gl(ori)a'. This glossary is followed without indication at f. 38v/3 by glosses on Priscian, "Institutio de nomine, pronomine et uerbo" [derived from Item 7, the first text in Part 1b]: 'Ir i(d est) medietas palme ... Hinc . lacus . fouea ubi aqu(a)' (ed. Lendinara 1990: 144-47).
6. f. 39r/v Computistical tables (see Lendinara 1990: 136).

[Note: Items 5 and 6 copied onto originally blank leaves by a single hand, distinct from the main hand (Item 4), about 1100. A blank unnumbered folio between Parts 1a and 1b.]

### Part 1b:

7. ff. 40r-51r/18 Remigius of Auxerre, "Commentary on Priscian, 'Institutio de nomine, pronomine, et uerbo'": "Incipit i(d est) inchoat (ue)l initium sumit ... se|q(u)imini enitimini i(d est) laborate. finit liber' (cf. extracts pr. by Huygens 1954, from Leiden, Rijksuniversiteit, B.P.L. 67, ff. 214-218).
8. ff. 51r/19-54v Bede, "De die iudicii": **INCIPIVNT VERSVS BEDAE PRESBITERI | DE DIE IVDICII**. 'Inter flori'g'eras. fecundi cespitis herbas.' [includes the epilogue to *Acca*] (ed. Fraipont 1955: 439-44). OE glosses, f. 53v/10, 21 (ed. Napier 1900: no. 33).
- 9a. f. 55v/1-3 Colophon: 'Hic que ymnos chr(ist)i tabulus defigere karpit'.
- 9b. f. 55v/4-6 Recipe in OE: 'þas wyrta sceolon to wen sealfē' (ed. Cockayne 1864-1866: 1.382).
- 9c. f. 55v/7-12 Booklist in OE: 'þis syndon ða bec þe æþestanes wæran' (ed. Lapidge 1985: 50-52).

[Note: Items 9a, b, c written on an originally blank endleaf in three distinct hands, the first Anglo-Caroline, the second Insular, and the third mixed. Lapidge dates Item 9c "s. x<sup>2</sup>." A blank unnumbered leaf between Parts 1 and 2.]

### Part 2a:

10. ff. 56v-111r Giraldus Cambrensis, "Itinerarium Cambriae" (third recension, about 1214) (ed. Dimock 1868: 3-152, see also xv-xvii).
11. ff. 111v-135v/3 Giraldus Cambrensis, "Descriptio Cambriae" (sec-

ond recension, about 1215) (ed. Dimock 1868: 155–227, see also xxvi–xxix).

12. ff. 135v/4–136v/12 Giraldus Cambrensis, “Retractionum et catalogum librorum” (ed. Brewer 1861: 425–27).
13. ff. 136v/14–137v Giraldus Cambrensis, “Catalogus brevior librorum suorum” (ed. Brewer 1861: 421–23).

### Part 2b:

14. ff. 138r–155r “Annales Cambriae” [“Annals of St. David’s”; “Annales ab orbe condito adusque A.D. 1288”]: *Incipiunt cronica ‘ven(er)ab(i)lis Bed[ae]’* (in double columns) (ff. 138r–139v/32 ed. Williams ab Ithel 1860: xxxvii–xl; the rest ed. Williams ab Ithel [1860: 3–310] from London, British Library Harley 3859 and Public Record Office *Breviate of Domesday*, Q. R. Misc. Books, vol. 1 [Williams ab Ithel 1860: xxv; Lloyd 1899–1900: 165], roughly collated with Domitian i; the portions of the text written in long lines are on added leaves and intercalate events concerning contemporary England from a Worcester source into the chronicle by means of a system of *notae* [Dumville 1977/78: 462]; the annals 1035–1093 ed. from the Public Record Office manuscript by Lloyd 1899–1900: 166–79). The erroneous attribution to Bede is added by a later hand. (On the compilation of the text see Hughes 1973 and Dumville 1977/78.)
15. ff. 155v–156v “De successione episcoporum et gestis eorum” (see Ker 1955: 10, 22).
16. f. 157r “Carmen satyricum, in monachos”: ‘Mirum que Rome modicos sententia pape | non monet hic regu(m) scepra monere parat’ (title from Planta 1802: 572).
- 17a. ff. 157v–158v *Cognació Brychan unde brecheynía|wc dict(a) est pars demetie .i(d) est. suth Wallie ‘Teudric rex in Garthmathrim venit vsq(ue) ad Bryncoyn iuxta Lanmaes’* (copied by Prise; ed. Wade-Evans 1906: 27–30).
- 17b. ff. 159r–160r/3 Excerpts from “De situ Brecheniauc.” Text begins at 159r/7 ‘Hec est genealogia s(anci)ti kynauc filii Brachan’ and continues to 160r/3 ‘Tydiuc s(anc)t(u)s fil(ius) corun fil(ii) keredic’; added at f. 159r/1–6 is an earlier excerpt, ‘Reg(re)ssus est ergo Anlach cu(m) Marchel Regi(n)a Inde ... d(icitu)r Din Drihan’ (copied by Prise [Ker 1955: 10], from Cotton Vespasian A. xiv [239], ff. 10v–11v; ed. Wade-Evans 1906: 24–27).

18. f. 160r/4–11 Note on St. Egwin: 'Hec est generac(i)o s(ancti) Egwini ep(iscop)i p(ate)r eius vocat(us) | Gundolaus rex' (probably copied by Prise).

PHOTO NOTES: f.3v/21b errantiu. f. 4v/19 offerebaN

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