

219. London, British Library, Cotton Otho C. i, vol. 2
Gregory (Wærferth), "Dialogues," "Vitae Patrum"

[Ker 182, Gneuss 359]

HISTORY: Ff. 1-61 (A below), containing the metrical preface, introductory lines, and Books 1 and 2 of Gregory's "Dialogues," were probably copied early in the 11c from what was most likely a 9c manuscript from Sherbourne. The metrical preface and introductory lines to the translation of Gregory's "Dialogues" survive only in this manuscript. Sisam (1953: 202) first noticed that in the metrical preface the *-tan* of *Wulfstan* (f. 1r/8) in 'Me awritan het Wulfstan bisceop' was written over an erasure and in a later hand, probably second half of the 11c, when apparently someone altered the name to make it appear that it was written for St. Wulfstan of Worcester. His suggestion that the original reading was Wulfsige, bishop of Sherbourne in the time of Alfred, is generally accepted. Ff. 62-148 (B and C), containing Books 3 and 4 (incomplete) of Gregory's "Dialogues," translations from the "Vitae Patrum," the letter of Boniface, and "Evil Tongues," were written about forty years after Part A in two hands in a script which Ker (*Cat.*) believes is characteristic of Worcester manuscripts of the same date. It is not known why Books 3 and 4 were added much later; it is possible that they replaced original ones which were somehow lost. Sisam (1953: 203 and n. 2) notes that Book 2 ends as if something follows. The remainder of the manuscript, ff. 149-155 (D), containing Ælfrician material but missing leaves at the beginning and end, is believed by Sisam not to have been part of the rest of the volume originally. He notes that many letters were unskillfully freshened up in this section in a hand which substituted a Caroline 'g' for an Insular one; a 12c reader's hand is also found here but nowhere else in the volume. Running titles in a script and format characteristic of known Worcester manuscripts are visible on a number of folios throughout the manuscript as it now stands (see "Additions" below), suggesting that the entire volume was in Worcester by 1060 x 1080. Glosses throughout in the tremulous hand confirm it was still there in the first half of the 13c.

The volume had left the Worcester library by 1593. An inscription in the bottom margin of f. 31r reads 'Michael Lapworthus medicus Novemb. 1593' (apparently a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, in 1562). Atkins and Ker (1944: 12) note that the Lapworth family was from Sowe in Warwickshire. It was acquired by Cotton and bound together with volume 1 before 1621, as noted in the catalogue of the Cotton library made in 1621 (now Harley 6018). The Cotton fire of 1731 damaged the manuscript but no leaves were lost.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Ff. 155, foliated: 1-49, 51, 50, 52-155. The last leaves are misbound and should be 152, 154, 153, 155. The manuscript was damaged in the Cotton fire of 1731; the leaves are now mounted separately. Most of the margins have gone, and most leaves have suffered shrinkage. The best preserved leaves measure ca. 260 x 165 mm.; written space measures ca. 250 x 150 mm.

The manuscript was written by four hands, the last three of whom were nearly contemporary according to Ker:

A (ff. 1-61): Ruled in pencil for 27 lines; double bounding lines are occasionally visible in the inner margins. Headings and large initials are metallic red on ff. 1-43r, except for f. 31r where the initial 'H' is in green and red, the first line is in red, the second in green, and the third filled with red. From f. 43v initials are filled with red or blue, and green also from f. 46r. From f. 7v, the initial letters of the speakers, Petrus and Gregorius, are in red, also green from f. 47v, and also blue from f. 52v; on ff. 2v-3r, 30r their entire names are filled with red; and on ff. 4v-5v the initial only is filled with red. The first letter of a sentence is filled with red or blue; the comma in the 'semicolon' mark was usually added using the same color as the following initial. Sometimes the metallic color has burned through the leaf, e.g., on ff. 48 and 51. Insertions and corrections are sometimes in red, e.g., on ff. 7v/22, 8r/22, 22r/10, and the entire bottom line of f. 7r. Text hand is ca. 1000 x 1020, according to Ker "late type of square Anglo-Saxon miniscule, looks about 40 years older than the rest of the manuscript."

B (ff. 62-139v/5): Ruled in pencil for 30 lines; double bounding lines are visible in the inner margin. The text is in paragraphs by speaker, with the large initials 'P' and 'G' in red or green (once blue: f. 79v). The rustic capitals of the first line on f. 62r are filled with green; the large initial 'H' on f. 100r is red. From f. 137v the headings in Latin and large

capitals are metallic red. The green is sometimes burned through. Hand is mid 11c.

C (ff. 139v/5–148v): Ruled in pencil for 30 lines; double bounding lines in outer margins and occasionally visible in inner margins. The large initial on f. 143v is red. Hand is mid 11c.

D (ff. 149r–155v): Ruled in pencil for 31 lines; double bounding lines. No colors. Hand is mid 11c. Sisam thinks this section was originally not part of this volume. Material is missing at the beginning and end of the section.

Additions: Traces of marginal notes in rustic capitals, apparently chapter titles or summaries, can be seen on several folios, e.g., ff. 113r, 113v, 115r, 122r, 131r, 132v (see Yerkes 1984).

The running titles, 1060 x 1080, which can be seen at least partly on some folios, e.g., ff. 5–7, 30, 63–70, 90, 94, 103–108, and 149–155, appear to be in the same hand and format as in Oxford, Bodleian Library, Hatton 113 [384a] and 114 [384b].

Corrections were made to Gregory's "Dialogues" and "Vitae Patrum" in late 11c and 1160 x 1180 by comparison with a better text (see McIntyre 1978: 56).

Tremulous hand (first half of the 13c): Some glosses in the margins have clearly been lost, e.g., f. 131r; notes as well may have been. Ff. 1–137, containing Gregory's "Dialogues," are comparatively heavily glossed. Almost all of the glosses were cribbed from the Latin source, most likely the Worcester manuscript, Cambridge, Clare College 30. Nine word pairs drawn from the glosses appear on an alphabetical worksheet in the tremulous hand on a flyleaf of Oxford, Bodleian Library, Junius 121 [391] (discussed Franzen 1991: 119–24). There are some marks altering vowels and consonants, and some marks of word division and punctuation. Ff. 137v–155v are much less heavily glossed and have more glosses in a later version of his hand.

A booklist on f. 149r was transcribed and described by Ker (*Cat.*, 237): "A now damaged list of six or more books in the lower margin of f. 149, s. xiii: 'Libri dialogorum gre[...] Vitas patrum. Item Beda de gestis anglorum / Item vita et m[...] synonymia ysydori. Item Boecius / De consola [...]' (the rest of the margin has gone). At the side, opposite line 2, is the word 'Anglic' in the same hand."

COLLATION: Because of the damage in the fire of 1731, the leaves are

now mounted separately and the collation is difficult to reconstruct. Ker suggests that ff. 62–148 probably consisted of 11 quires of 8 leaves, before and after which are breaks. There is one leaf missing after f. 97.

CONTENTS:

1. Wærferth's translation of Gregory's "Dialogues" (incomplete):
 - f. 1r/1–16 Metrical preface: **INCIPIIT LIBER P[R]IMUS DIALOGORUM** [S]E ÐE ME RÆDAN [] | ÐANCE. HE IN ME FINDAN MÆ[G] [gloss: 'þeo þe me reddan | [] he in me finden mai' (ed. Hecht 1900: 2/1–17).
 - f. 1r/17–20 Introductory lines: 'Her ongynneð se æresðþa stream' [gloss: 'p(ri)m(us) reus' (ed. Hecht, 2/18–21).
 - ff. 1r/20–30v/9 Book 1: 'For|þon nu' (coll. Hecht 1900: 2–92 under MS C) [rest of f. 30v blank].
 - ff. 31r/1–61v/25 Book 2: **INCIPIIT LIBER SECU[] | 'HER .YRNET. VPP. SE ÆFT[]'** [gloss: 'her eorneð vp se []' (coll. Hecht 1900: 94–178) [one or two blank lines at the bottom of f. 61v].
 - ff. 62r/1–100r/11 Book 3: '[H]ER ONGINNEÐ SE ÐRIDDA FLO[D]' (coll. Hecht 1900: 179–259).
 - ff. 100r/12–137r/10 Book 4: 'HER ASPRINGEÐ SEO FEORÐE YÐ [gloss: 'uða?']'. Ends imperfectly: 'mid heora seolfra riht[]' (coll. Hecht 1900: 260–336/1) [f. 137r/11–30 blank].
 2. Translations from the "Vitae Patrum":
 - ff. 137v/1–138v/5 '[]e willað nu ærest writan' (ed. Assmann 1889: no. 18, ll. 1–65).
 - ff. 138v/6–139v/4 '**FINIT PRIMA SENT(ENTIA) INCIPIIT (SECUNDA) | FRATER QUIDAM INPUGNABATUR A FORNICATIONE**' (ed. Assmann 1889: no. 18, ll. 66–123).
 - ff. 139v/5–143v/6 '[Q]ui nauali p(re)lio demicaturi sunt []' (ed. Assmann 1889: no. 18, ll. 124–424).
 3. ff. 143v/7–146r/21 Translation of a letter from Boniface (Wynfrith) to Eadburga ca. 717: 'Her sagað on þissum bocum' (ed. Sisam 1953: 212–23).
 4. ff. 146r/22–148v "Evil tongues": 'D(omi)ne libera anima(m) mea(m) a labiis iniquis ... | Geherað nu men þa leofestan hu se godes lareow wæs sprecende.' (Frank and Cameron 1973: B 3.5.4) [most of f. 148v blank; ff. 147–148 particularly badly burned].
- Ælfrician material:
5. ff. 149r/1–151v/26 "De creatore et creatura" (begins imperfectly): '[]

| wyrcean...’ (Frank and Cameron 1973: B 3.5.4) [first line and much of second illegible].

6. ff. 151v/27–152v/31, 154r–v/13 “De sex etatibus huius seculi”: ‘[Adam] þa leofode on geswince ... syþþan a to worulde AMEN’ (Frank and Cameron 1973: B 1.6.4).
7. ff. 154v/15, 153rv, 155rv “De populo israhel quando uolueris”: ‘[We habbeð] nu gesæd swa we scortlicost mihton’. Ends imperfectly: ‘7 þare æt[eowde]’ (coll. Pope 1967–1968: no. 20, 641–53/268).

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