

182. London, British Library Cotton Claudius B. iv  
Illustrated Old English Hexateuch  
[Ker 142, Gneuss 315]

**HISTORY:** Large format, extensively illustrated vernacular Hexateuch, including Ælfric's abbreviated version of Joshua (on authorship and text, see 399, "History"). First half of 11c; Ker says "s. xi<sup>1</sup>," Wormald says second quarter of 11c (Wormald 1952: 67, basing date on illustrations). Owned by St. Augustine's in late 15c (catalogue in Dublin, Trinity College 360 [Bernard 285]), f. 3 [as published by James]: "Genesis Anglie' 2<sup>o</sup> fo. and sylðus d.1.G.1"; the inscription must have been on the now lost first leaf and the OE words correspond to the first words on what was then the second folio, now f. 1r, '7 sylð us', the St. Augustine's, Canterbury method of keeping track of particular books, followed by the shelfmark, also presumably inscribed on a lost front leaf (see James 1903: lxxxiv and 201, no. 95). In all likelihood the manuscript was produced at Canterbury (Dodwell and Clemoes 1974: 16). A late 12c annotator added late OE (Kentish) notes (ff. 4r-v, 5v, 7v, 8v, 9r-v, 10r-v, 11r-v, 12r-v, 14r, 15v, 16v, 17r, 19v, 34v, 40v, 44r, 51r-v, 155v; ed. Crawford 1922: 419-22); plus another not noted by Crawford on f. 8r, 'Efter fyftene wintra; 7 is súster chalmana'. Two similar late 12c hands have added on nearly every page, in available spaces in top and/or bottom margins and/or in picture frames, notes mostly consisting of excerpts from Peter Comestor's "Historia Scholastica" (PL 198.1049-1722; composed between 1169 and 1173) and from Jerome's "De situ et nominibus locorum Hebraicorum" (PL 23.859-928) and "Quaestiones Hebraicae in Genesim" (PL 23.935-1010).

Robert Talbot (1505?-1558) (heading in his hand at top of f. 53r [Dodwell and Clemoes 1974: 13]) was probably the first private owner of the manuscript after the dissolution of St. Augustine's, Canterbury in 1538 and made a transcript of some material, including two-thirds of the first leaf, in his commonplace book (Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 379, 10r-12v, as well as, on f. 13r-v, a word-list drawn from the OE of Genesis 37-38; cf. Graham 2000: 271-83 and figs. 25-26). Cotton probably acquired Claudius after 1603, when he began to style himself "Bruceus" (f. 1r; cf. Tite 1994: 6); its location

shows that by then the manuscript had lost its first leaf. William Lisle borrowed this manuscript from Cotton and had it out in April 1623 (BL Harley 6018, f. 148v, 'Genesis Sax(onic)e in picturis bound in lether and clasps Foll— M<sup>r</sup> Lyll of Cambridg'; cf. Graham 2000: 288), and he wrote into Claudius alternative readings from Bodleian Laud Misc. 509 [399]), at that time a Cotton book which Lisle was also borrowing as he worked on *A Saxon Treatise concerning the Old and New Testament* (1623) (see the "History" of 399). Richard James, Cotton's librarian from about 1625, transcribed several passages from Claudius into a notebook, now Oxford Bodleian Library, James 18, p. 2 (Graham 2000: 284–86).

Present binding done by Charles Tuckett, Sr., between 1825 and 1865. After this time, and after or in conjunction with the 1884 refoliation, old f. '154' (new '152') was moved to its present position before old '153' as can be told by the fact that '152' of the continuous-series 1884 foliation has been cancelled and rewritten as '153' to match the present order of leaves.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** 156 folios, pasteboard inner cover, two modern vellum flyleaves, 17c paper fly with shelfmark, five final flyleaves (foliated 157–61), followed by pasteboard inner cover. Two foliations: the older, 16c/17c in ink, done after the loss of the original first leaf, omits [32] (ff. 1–31, 33–157); later foliation (1884) in pencil corrects this by renumbering old '33' as '32' and cancelling old foliation from '33' on (ff. 1–156 [157–61]); thus the new foliation is one lower than the old, from (new) f. 32 on. The newer pencil foliation is followed here, but the old numbers are more reliably visible in the images.

Page size 325 x 215 mm. Writing area 260 x 160 mm. Pricked on left and right of writing area, each leaf, and ruled on hair side for 38 lines. Sometimes reruled on reverse. Double bounding lines. Arranged HFHF. Illustrations are drawn over the rules, with frames and borders (always square) following the preexisting rules and verticals as guides. Two hands, both writing large, square, not particularly regular or elegant Insular minuscule. First hand wrote ff. 1–20v, 56v–155v (less the inserted leaves 74, 147, 156); second wrote ff. 22r–55r. Barnhouse (1994: 13–14) suggests that first hand better accommodates the illustrations and may have worked more closely with the artist. Another hand (same that labeled illustrations?) has completed text in a few places (e.g., f. 11r/8). Ink of main texts is very dark brown. Most pages have water damage at top edge. Lisle has inserted many corrections and alternative readings to OE

text from the Laud text in an imitation of Insular minuscule (e.g., ff. 3r/5, 7r/17, 16/26, 37r/11, 93v/12, 130v/33, f. 132r/18, f. 136r/9, etc.).

Text-initials done in many colors, green, blue, orange, turquoise, apparently consciously striving for variety and non-repetition of color on each opening. Initials were painted before pictures and frames, which avoid overlapping them (e.g., on 2v the 'G' is metallic orange, the border a pinkish-violet wash that goes around it). Some pictures are labeled. Rubrics and text-titles are in rustic capitals influenced by Insular letter forms.

Contains 394 colored illustrations in the "First Winchester Style" (Wormald 1952: 26–29), almost every page being illustrated or provided with illustration space. The text illustrated always precedes the picture. There seems to have been one artist, working quire-by-quire (see the detailed breakdown in Barnhouse 1994: 239–49), although later hands of various dates and quality have touched up many of the pictures (e.g., ff. 66r, 70v, 118r, 128r). Wide palette, e.g., f. 2r upper register in pinks, blues, browns, with drapery folds and many details incised in page touched with white, lower register dominated by whitish flesh tones and browns, serpent in garish orange, border in alternate blue/pink. Many pictures after f. 21v appear to be more or less unfinished, though no frame is entirely empty (Barnhouse 1994: 32). However, the intention was apparently to color fully only the more important figures and merely to outline lesser ones (Dodwell and Clemons 1974: 59). The process, as shown by pictures in various incomplete states, was to trace a picture in almost imperceptible drypoint, then mark out frames tentatively; the text was then written in; the pictures were completed by filling in color areas and outlining the figures and details in dark ink; finally, the frames were completed and colored (Dodwell and Clemons 1974: 61–63; Barnhouse 1994: 35–38 et passim; Johnson 2000). The pictures follow the segment of text they illustrate, as visual recapitulations, according to Withers (1994, 1999: 116).

Throughout, on most text- and illustration-pages and extended into three inserted leaves (ff. 74, 174, 156) are extensive notes in Latin in two 12c hands, one late 12c hand writing in brown ink in a mixed Insular and Caroline minuscule (which also adds the OE notes) and the other late 12c hand in proto-gothic using darker ink. The annotators attribute the commentaries to Josephus, Methodius, and 'Normannus', among others (see Barnhouse 1994: 15–16), but they are in fact practically all directly from Peter Comestor or Jerome (see above, "History"). Notes in ink by Lisle added in several places (e.g., ff. 3r/5, 6v/18). Running heads (pencil) on rectos in modern hand.

**COLLATION:** I<sup>8</sup> 1 gone (ff. 1–7); II<sup>8</sup> (ff. 8–15); III<sup>4+1</sup> 2 added (ff. 16–20); IV–IX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 21–68); X<sup>6+1</sup> f. 74 an unrelated insertion after 5 (ff. 69–76); XI–XIV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 77–108); XV<sup>9</sup> 5 added (ff. 109–117); XVI–XVIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 118–141); XIX<sup>8+1</sup> f. 147 an unrelated insertion after 5 (ff. 142–152); XX<sup>8+1</sup> sheets 6–8 gone, unrelated sheet inserted after f. 155 (ff. 153–156).

[**Note:** Ff. 74, 147, 156 are 12c insertions. Ff. 152 and 153 were reversed before first foliation was done and were correctly reordered in 19c (f. 152 [old 154] and f. 152 [old 153] have cancelled 19c pencil '153' and '152' respectively, requiring that the present order was done in conjunction with the 1884 refoliation and not at the time of Tuckett's rebinding in the earlier 19c; 16c note on f. 153: 'read this leafe after the next'. Ink inscription (19c?) notes, top of f. 155v (old 156): 'Cons. fol. 156. fol. 32 Omitted.')

**CONTENTS:** (OE text ed. Crawford 1922; complete facsimile, Dodwell and Clemoes 1974; the pictures are described in detail, *ibid.*, 17–42; Latin notes and commentary written on most pages containing the OE main text):

1. ff. 1r–v/34 Ælfric, "Preface to Genesis" (Letter to Æthelwærd): (imperfect at beginning) '... 7 sylð us synna forgyfnysse ærest ðurh wæter on ðam | fulluhte' (ed. from *Laud misc.* 509 [399] Wilcox 1994: 116–19) [1 leaf missing before f. 1].
2. ff. 1v/35–72v/13 Genesis: 'On angynne gesceop god héofonan. 7 eorðan. se eórðe soðlice | wæs idel. 7 ámti'. Rubrics: f. 21r/1–2 **Her swutelað þæs ælmihtigan godes mildheortnyss 7 hys | wundra hu he abraham geceas 7 hys bletsunga hi⟨m⟩ sealde | 7 hys ofspringe**; f. 53v: **HER CYDDE GOD ÆLMIHTIG HYS MILDHEORTNYSSE ÞE HE ABRA|HAME BEHET ON IOSEPE ABRAHAMES OFSPRINCGE** (cf. Withers 1999: 116–18) [ff. 2r, 19r, 43v, 49r, 54r, 66r, 67v contain full page illustrations; text divided by large colored initials].
3. ff. 72v/13–73v, 75r–105r Exodus: 'Ðis sind israhela beárna náman. þe mid iacobe foron on- | egypta land' [Exodus begins in mid-line, with large initial, but with no indication of a new book beginning; initials to mark divisions].
- 4a. f. 74r [inserted leaf] Genealogical Lists: excerpts from (lines 1–35) Ps.-Jerome, "Quaestiones Hebraicae in libros Regum et Paralipomenon" (PL 23.1368C–73A); (lines 35–37) derived from Matthew 1:3–5; (lines 38–39) excerpt from "De situ et nominibus locorum Hebraicorum" (PL 23.922D) [written in two late 12c hands].

- 4b. f. 74v Peter Comestor, excerpt from "Historia Scholastica," pertaining to life of Moses (PL 198.1143D–44D) [large semi-quadrata hand].
5. ff. 105v–110v Leviticus: **HER ONGYND SEO ÐRID | DE BOC ÐE IS GENEMNED | ON EBREIS UAIECRA. 7 LE | UITICUS ON GRECISC. | 7 MINISTERIALIS ON | LEDEN. ÐÆT IS ÐENUNG | BOC. ON ENGLIS FOR | ðaN ÐE ÐÆRA SACER | DA ÐENUNGA SYND ðÆR | ON AWRITENE. |** 'Drihten clypode to moyse on þære halgan wurþungstowe. | 7 ðus cwæð' [initials to mark divisions].
6. ff. 111r–128r Numbers: **HER ONGYND SEO BOC ðE IS GENEMNED ON EBREISC. UALE | DABER ÐÆT IS ON LEDEN NUMERUS. AND ON ENGLISC. | GETEL. FOR ÐAN ÐE ISRAHELA BEARN WÆRON | ON ÐÆRE GETEALDE.** '[D]rihten spræc witodlice to moyse on sinai dune. on- | ðære halgan stowe' [initials to mark divisions].
7. ff. 128v–139r Deuteronomy: **HER ONGYND SEO BOC ðE IS GENEMNED ON EBREISC HELLE | ADABARIM AND ON GRECISC DEUTERONOMIUM. 7 ON LEDEN | SECUNDA LEX. 7 ON ENGLISC SEO ÆFTRE æ. |** 'ðis synd ða wórd ðe moyses spræc to eallum israhela fólce. begeóndan iordane on ðam féld wes | tene' [full text pages, no illustrations, ff. 128v–138r, 139r; no OE text, ff. 139v–140r, which have full page illustrations and Latin commentary].
8. ff. 140v–146v, 148r–155v/7 Joshua: 'Hít wæs geworden æfter moyses forðside drihtnes ðeowan | ðæt drihten spræc to iosue nunes súna'. Ends imperfectly '... 7 hit wæs gehlótan to iosopes beárna | lánde...' to which OE gloss hand adds 'forðam ðe jacob hit salde Josepe is súne æt is fórsyðe' [Laud has a further verse, = Joshua 34.33; the Claudius text may have been completed on a now missing leaf, see Dodwell and Clemoes 1974: 15, n. 8; full page illustrations, ff. 143r, 151r; f. 152 was formerly misbound after f. 153, which bears the 16c note: 'read this leafe after the next'].
- 4b. f. 146 [inserted leaf] continuing the Latin notes: f. 146v/25–147r/7, geographical extracts from Hieronymian sources; f. 147v/9–26 excerpts from Gilbertus Aurillacensis, "De geometria" (PL 139.121); f. 146r–27–146v, geographical notes drawn from Hieronymian sources.
- 4c. f. 156rv [inserted leaf] continuing the Latin notes: f. 156r, excerpts from Peter Comestor, "Historia Scholastica" (PL 198.1282–3, 1293–95); f.

156v/1–23, excerpts from “Historia Scholastica” (PL 198.1322); f. 156v/24–31, excerpt from Bede, “De ratione temporum” (PL 90.521) [about half the leaf has been torn off; what remains has been inlaid in vellum].

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