

342. Oxford, Bodleian Library
MS Auct. D. 5. 3 (27688)
Breton Pocket Gospels with OE Glosses
[Ker 293, Gneuss 532]

HISTORY: Small private or pocket Gospels, with prefaces, imperfect at beginning and end. Written in Brittany (Pächt and Alexander 1966), perhaps at the monastery of Landévennec, in late 9c/early 10c. Might have come to England in same movement of Landévennec manuscripts following the destruction of the monastery by the Vikings in early 10c that brought the "Harkness Gospels" (New York Public Library MS 115) and Breton Gospels in Bodleian Auct. D. 2. 16 [340] to south-west England during the reign of Æthelstan. The former manuscript was probably at Winchester (at Como by 18c), the latter definitely at Exeter in time of Leofric and perhaps a foundation gift from Æthelstan (see Deuffic 1985: 266, 268, 270; Hartzell 1981). OE glosses added in early 10c, a few written in ink and many others scratched in dry point. Belonged to N[athaniel] Crynes (inscription, f. 1r, bottom) and given by him to the Bodleian in 1736.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: (i) + (1*) + 104 + (i), foliated 1–104 (f. 1* is torn out except for a small lower corner). 18c paper front flyleaf and back flyleaf. Page size, 125 x 96 mm. Writing area 109/113 x 70 mm. depending on the number of lines. HFHF. Pricked and scored on hair sides, four open sheets at a time, the horizontal scoring not running across the whole sheet and not done carefully. Double bounding verticals on both sides of writing area. Scored and written for 21 lines in Quires I, II, III, for 22 in Quires IV, VII, XII, for 23 in Quires V, VI, IX, X, XI, XIII, XIV, for 24 in Quire VIII. Contemporary signatures (Roman numerals within a dotted cross, 'i' on f. 6v) at bottoms of last verso of quires. A practiced continental Carolingian minuscule using black ink for all capitals, etc. The Eusebian canon references are in a different brown ink in an English hand, perhaps by the same hand as some of the OE glosses (cf. e.g., f. 23r). The OE glosses seem to be by several hands (cf. f. 23r/4). The scratched glosses are crude and often consist of only

parts of words. Note in early modern hand (Crynes?) at bottom of f. 54v. Neumed response on f. 43v, to a text added in an English hand.

Decorated initials in "Franco-Saxon" style: on recto of torn leaf before f. 1 (the corner of an 'L' [beginning of Matthew]), on f. 44r (beginning of Mark), on f. 68r (beginning of Luke). The crude interlace/animal figure designs are drawn in ink and then filled in with blue and green vegetable colors and a brown metallic color (Mark); or blue-green with other areas lightly washed in same color (Luke).

Resewn. Present binding 18c. The condition of last leaf suggests that the last quires were lost early and that the book was without a cover for some time.

COLLATION: Signatures in main hand at bottom of last verso of each quire; modern signatures on lower right of first recto of each quire. I⁸ 1 gone, 2 is tag of torn-out folio (ff. 1–6); II–III⁸ (ff. 7–22); IV⁸ 2, 3, 6, and 7 half-sheets (ff. 23–30); V⁸ (ff. 31–38); VI⁸ 3 & 6 half-sheets (ff. 39–46); VII–XI⁸ (ff. 47–86); XII⁸ 2 & 7 half-sheets (ff. 87–94); XIII⁸ (ff. 95–102); XIV⁸ 3–8 gone (ff. 103–104).

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–43r/6 Gospel of Matthew (beginning imperfectly, starting with Matt. 1:13): 'eliacim.- Eliacim aut⟨em⟩ genuit azor' (fragments of preceding text on verso of tag remaining before f. 1r).
2. ff. 43r/7–43v/13 Preface to Mark: **INCIPIT PROLOGUS S⟨e⟩-c⟨un⟩d⟨u⟩m MARCUM.** | 'Marcus euangelista d⟨e⟩i & p&tri i⟨n⟩ baptisate fili⟨us⟩ atq⟨ue⟩' (f. 43v/14–15, versicles and responses: 'R̄. Nobilissimus . V̄. Digna . digni. R̄. Corde & anima [neumed] V̄. Ualde nam. R̄. Nata V̄. corde.').
3. ff. 44r–67r Gospel of Mark: 'INITIUM EVANGELII IE⟨S⟩U | chr⟨ist⟩i filii d⟨e⟩i: sic⟨ut⟩ scriptu⟨m⟩ e⟨st⟩ i⟨n⟩ esaia p⟨ro⟩pheta'.
4. ff. 67v–68r/11 Preface to Luke: **INCIPIT PROLOGVS S⟨e⟩c⟨un⟩d⟨u⟩m LVCAM** | 'Lucas syrus anthiocensis arte medicus discipulus ap⟨osto⟩lor⟨um⟩'.
5. ff. 68r/12–104v Gospel of Luke: **incipit euangelium eiusdem** | 'Q⟨uo⟩nia⟨m⟩ q⟨u⟩ide⟨m⟩ multi conati s⟨unt⟩ ordinare narratione⟨m⟩' (ending imperfectly, text breaking off at 'latronibus blasphemat' [Luke 24:39]).

SCRATCHED GLOSSES: There are about 90 OE scratched glosses and words. Most of these, along with the inked glosses, have been edited by Meritt

1945: 53–55. Most of the scratched words are very difficult to see in the manuscript, and extremely crudely formed, certainly not the hand(s) of the inked glosses. Not all of those reported by Meritt could be confirmed by a collation of the manuscript. The following should be added to what Meritt reports: f. 17v/4 (left margin) 'q(u)omodo' : '[h]wīlc'; f. 53v/3 (top margin) 'p(ro)fuert' : 'helpeþ'; f. 53v/17 (left margin) 'Adult(er)ia' : '[w]uhge'; f. 60r/16 (right margin, no lemma) 'freop'; f. 62 (bottom margin, no lemma) 'þem ealdor'.

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