

**185. London, British Library,
Cotton Cleopatra B. xiii**

Homilies; "Vita S. Dunstani" by B; Chronicle to 1305
[Ker 144, Gneuss 322, 323]

HISTORY: Part 1 (ff. 1–58), containing OE homilies, was written by Exeter scribes associated with Bishop Leofric, who moved the see from Crediton to Exeter during his bishopric (1046–1072). Its Exeter provenance was known to Richard James in the first half of the 17c, perhaps reproducing a lost attribution by John Joscelyn (Ker, *Cat.*, 184–85). There is abundant evidence that this part of the manuscript was in the hands of Archbishop Matthew Parker in early modern times: the table of contents on f. 1v, covering only Part 1, is by one of his scribes; there is a note (now mostly lost through cropping) by his secretary, John Joscelyn, on f. 13r; the signature of his son, John Parker, is written in red pencil on f. 2r; while the "Lord's Prayer" and "Creed" on f. 58rv provide the text for his *A Testimonie of Antiquitie* (see Ker, *Cat.*, 183–84). Part 1 was still a separate unit in an inventory of the books of John Parker probably drawn up in the 1580s, where it is described as 'Homiliae Saxonice *post*' (see Strongman 1977–1980: 18).

Part 2 (ff. 59–90) contains the revised version of the "Vita S. Dunstani" by "B," copied in a hand of the first half of the 11c from St. Augustine's, Canterbury. William of Malmesbury records seeing a copy of the life there (see Stubbs 1874: xxix and the note by John Usher on f. 59r), and this manuscript was subsequently found at Canterbury, according to a note by John Joscelyn from August 1565 on f. 59r.

Part 3 (ff. 91–157) contains a chronicle attributed to Peter of Ickham, beginning with Bede and running to 1298 in the main hand, with a different hand continuing it to 1305, followed by further 13c annals in a different hand of the late 14c.

The most likely candidate for joining the three parts of the manuscript is Sir Robert Cotton, into whose catalogue of 1621 (London, British Library,

Harley 6018) it is entered as no. 70 (Ker, *Cat.*, 185). A 19c binding (of September 1875, according to a note on f. [158]r) was replaced by a new binding in 1970, recorded in a penciled note on the inside back cover dated 24 April 1970.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Leaves measure 184 x 124 mm. with cropping evident in the loss of marginal text in all three parts, especially in Part 3. The written space of Part 1 is 170 x 80 mm., ruled in drypoint for 19 lines per page (except for f. 57 with 23 lines and f. 58 with 28 lines), with double bounding lines on both sides scored to the edge of the page, as are the first two and last two lines. The quality of the parchment makes it hard to tell hair from flesh side, but the arrangement appears to be HFHF throughout Part 1. The written space of Part 2 is 145 x 75 mm., ruled in drypoint for 24 lines per page. The top and bottom lines extend across the page, as do the double vertical bounding lines. Pricking is clearly visible throughout Part 2. The parchment, generally stiffer and yellower than for Part 1, is arranged HFHF. The written area of Part 3 is 140 x 97 mm., with writing often spilling out of this space; ruled in light brown ink for 27 or 28 lines of text per page. The top and bottom two lines along with the single left and right bounding line extend across the page. There is extensive marginal comment in Part 3, both in the main and in other hands, much of which has been lost through cropping. The parchment, which is of poor quality, very yellowed and varied in size, is arranged HFHF.

Part 1 is paginated in red pencil on the rectos of ff. 2–58 (marked 1–115, now mostly lost through cropping) by John Parker, who signed his name at the top of f. 2r. Part 3 once carried an independent foliation, written in ink and underlined in red on the inner top margin of the rectos, marked ‘.fo.’ and followed by the folio number. This foliation runs from 2–67 on the present ff. 92–157. These foliations have been replaced by the present numbering in ink which runs through the whole manuscript but which omitted the blank folio after f. 55, now f. 55*. There are traces of quire signatures at the starts of quires in Part 1, now almost totally trimmed from the top margin, at ff. 26r, 34r, and 42r.

Most of the texts in Part 1 were written by four scribes (Ker, *Cat.*, 184): (1) ff. 2r/1–12r/19; (2) ff. 13r/1–31r/2; (3) ff. 31r/3–38r/3; (4) ff. 38r/4–55v/13. The shorter texts on ff. 56–58 were written by a further four hands: (5) ff. 56r/1–57r/17; (6) f. 57v/1–21, probably identical with hand 2; (7) f. 58r/2–11; (8) f. 58r/13–58v/11. Scribe 4 is the second scribe of London, British Library, Additional 28188, and also wrote parts of Cotton Vitellius A. vii [249], Harley 863 [266], and Harley 2961 [270]—all manuscripts associated with Exeter and Leofric (see Watson 1979: 101). Scribe 8 is “closely similar to and perhaps identical with” scribe 3 of London, Lambeth Palace 489 [318] (Ker, *Cat.*, 345).

The body of Part 2 is probably written in a single hand, which becomes somewhat smaller as it proceeds, with the additions on ff. 89r and 89v in different hands. Part 3, written in Gothic textualis script, may be by one main hand for the bulk of the chronicle, from the opening to f. 153v/17, with a different hand providing the conclusion at ff. 153v/18–154v/21, and with further additions in other hands in margins and at the end.

F. 1r provides a 17c table of contents of the whole manuscript in a similar hand to the folio numbers and using the present foliation. F. 1v provides a table of contents to Part 1 only in the hand of one of Parker's scribes, making use of the pagination by John Parker, and including cross references for two items to a 'liber niger', now Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 198 [41].

The decorative pattern of Part 1 involves rubrics written in red ink and enlarged initial letters written in green or red, with some other prominent initials also written in these colors. Capital letters are touched in red (fading to black) on a very inconsistent basis throughout Part 1: such touching begins at f. 34r (the start of a quire but not a new item of contents) and continues through f. 38r; it resumes on f. 41v and continues until f. 44r, after which the practice ceases until f. 57r. Extensive blank space has been left between the main items. The decorative scheme is a little different for the items on ff. 56r–58v, which are written in a smaller hand and where rubrics are not in colored ink. The initial 'S' of f. 57v/1 is written in red ink, while f. 58r leaves space for two enlarged colored initials ('H' and 'D') and one regular-sized colored initial ('P'), which were never entered. In Part 2, rubrics are in black and the initial letter is in a red/black color with a silver tinge. In Part 3, there is extensive use of bright red throughout the manuscript for rubrics, paragraph signs, some punctuation, underlining of key words, and the touching of capitals.

Part 1 is a thin collection on its own. Ker (*Cat.*, 182) sees it as evidently a fragment of a larger manuscript and perhaps once part of London, Lambeth Palace 489 [318], and this suggestion has been widely accepted. Ker adds that "[t]he script, the use of c-shaped accents, the format, and the number of lines to the page associate this manuscript with [Cambridge Corpus Christi College 421 (59)], and especially [Lambeth 489]" (*Cat.*, 184).

COLLATION: v + 157 + iv leaves, foliated [i–iv], 1–55, [55*], 56–157, [158–161]. Four paper flyleaves, a 16c parchment flyleaf (f. 1), four paper endleaves.

Part 1: I⁸⁺¹ (parchment flyleaf added at beginning) (ff. 1–9), II–VI⁸ (ff. 10–49), VII⁸ (wants one after f. 55; f. 56 is a singleton now bound with this quire) (ff. 50–55, 55*, 56), VIII² (two singletons now bound into the beginning of the next quire) (ff. 57–58).

[**Note:** The pagination by John Parker demonstrates that ff. 57 and 58 should belong with Part 1. In an earlier binding, Ker saw ff. 56, 57, and 58 as bound together as three singletons. Ker observed a wormhole on f. 56, larger on f. 57, which does not appear on f. 58, and concluded that f. 58 was not in its original position (*Cat.*, 184).]

Part 2: I–IV⁸ (ff. 59–90), with ff. 57 and 58 currently bound into this quire as described above.

Part 3: I–II¹² (ff. 91–114), **III–IV**¹⁶ (ff. 115–46), **V**¹² wants one at end (ff. 147–57).

CONTENTS:

Part 1 Homilies in OE:

f. 1r Table of contents (17c) of whole manuscript.

f. 1v Parkerian table of contents of Part 1.

1. ff. 2r/1–7v/9 **IN DIE IUDICII.** | ʅ(eofan men) UTAN DÓN SWA US DEARF IS | beon swiðe gemyndige' (ed. Napier 1883: 182–90, no. 40) [f. 7v/10–18 blank].
2. ff. 7v/19–12r/19 Ælfric, CHI.17: **D(O)M(INI)C(A). II. POST PASCHA.** || 'Dixit ie(sus) discipulis suis. Ego su(m) | pastor bonus . . . ðis godspell þe nú geræd wæs' (ed. Thorpe 1844: 238–44; Clemoes 1997: 313–16) [f. 12v blank].
3. ff. 13r/1–31r/2 Ælfric, CHI.1: **INCIPIT LIBER CATHOLICOR(UM) SERMO | NU(M) ANGLICE IN ANNO. PRIMUS | SERMO DE INITIO CREAT(UR)E. Q(UA)NDO UOL(UERIS).** | 'AN ANGIN IS EAL | ra þinga' (ed. Thorpe 1844: 8–28; Clemoes 1997: 178–89).
4. ff. 31r/3–38r/3 Wulfstan: **DE DEDICATIONE EC(C)LESIAE.** | 'Leofan men. ic wylle eow nu cyðan' (ed. Bethurum 1957: 246–50, no. 18).
5. ff. 38r/4–43r/17 Wulfstan: **LEC(TIO) S(E)C(UN)D(U)M LUCAM.** | 'Dixit ie(sus) discipulis suis; Ego mit|tam p(ro)missu(m) . . .'. At f. 38r/14 **BE BISCOPHADUM.** | ʅ(eofan men) Se halga godspellere lucas. | geswutelode on his godspelle' (partly ed. Bethurum 1957: 242–45, no. 17, ll. 1–74; fully ed. Napier 1883: 175–79, no. 37) [f. 43v blank].
6. ff. 44r/1–55v/13 **DOMINICA ANTE ROGATIONU(M).** | 'MEN ÐA LEOFESTAN US GEDAFENAD | ærest' (ed. Luiselli Fadda 1977: 71–99, no. 4; ed. based on other manuscripts: Bazire and Cross 1982: 6–24, no. 1; Scragg 1992: 315–26, no. 19) [f. 55*rv blank].
7. ff. 56r/1–56v/2 Coronation oath administered by Archbishop Dunstan at Kingston: **PROMISSIO REGIS.** | 'Dis gewrit is gewriten staef be staefe.

- | be þam gewrite þe dunstan arceb⟨iscop⟩ | sealde urum hlaforde æt cingestune' (ed. Liebermann 1903: 214–16).
8. ff. 56v/3–57r/17 Texts on royal duties: (a) ff. 56v/3–57r/2 'Se cristena cyng þe þas þing geheal | dedð'; (b) f. 57r/3–17 'Gehalgodes cynges riht is. þ⟨æt⟩ he nænig | ne man ne fordéme' (ed. Stubbs 1874: 356–57).
9. f. 57v/1–21 Excerpt from Ælfric: 'SUME MENN NITON GEWISS FOR HEORA | nytenysse'; ends 'to weorcum him þearfe' (ed. Pope 1967–1968: 357–58, no. 8, ll. 1–19).
10. f. 58r/1–11 Fragment of Wulfstan beginning imperfectly: '7 þurh mægslihtas. þurh hlafordswicas' (ed. Napier 1883: 130, no. 27, ll. 2–9). [Above this is a paste in, obscuring a preceding line of text, largely lost through cropping, with '7 þurh fæla mysdæda. Ðurh manslihtas' written in a 16c hand imitating Insular minuscule (ed. Napier 1883: 130, ll. 1–2)].
11. f. 58r/13–58v/11 Ælfric's translation of the "Paternoster" and "Creed": [H]er is se geleafa 7 gebéd. 7 bletsung | læwedum mannum þe þ⟨æt⟩ leden ne cunnon. [P]ater n⟨oste⟩r. on englisc. (a) f. 58r/13–23 '[Ð]u ure fæder þe eart on heofenum'; (b) f. 58r/24–58v/11 '[I]c gelyfe on god fæder ælmihtigne' (ed. Thorpe 1846: 596) [f. 58v/12–28 blank].

Part 2 Revised version of "Vita S. Dunstani" by "B":

- f. 59r Originally blank, now bearing notes by John Joscelyn and James Usher (printed Wanley 1705: 202) [f. 59v blank].
12. ff. 60r/1–88v/20 **INCIPIIT VITA SACRAE CO⟨M⟩MEMORATIONIS.** | **BEATI SCILICET DUNSTANI ARHCYP⟨RAE⟩SULIS.** | 'CVM multorum temporum á uero | cultu chr⟨ist⟩ianę religionis transissent'; ends **EXPLICIT UITA | S⟨AN⟩C⟨T⟩I DUNSTANI ARCHIEP⟨ISCOP⟩I Et confessoris** (ed. Stubbs 1874: 3–52; Winterbottom and Lapidge [forthcoming]; on the author, see Lapidge 1992) [f. 89r blank but for two lines of illegible writing].
13. ff. 89v/1–15 Hymn: **R⟨esponsorium⟩.** 'SANCTUS GREGORIUS 'papa' AUGUSTINI didascalus dum | per eum' [neumed; rest of leaf blank; f. 90rv blank but for 'noss&' written at top and 'a' at foot of f. 90r].

Part 3 Chronicle in Latin to 1305 attributed to Peter of Ickham (monk of Canterbury, fl. 1294):

14. ff. 91r/1–154v/21 **Compilat⟨i⟩o de regno et gestis Britonu⟨m⟩ et Angloru⟨m⟩.** **Prefacio in opis | culum sub | scriptu⟨m⟩.** | 'Non solu⟨m⟩ audiendis script⟨ur⟩e sacre u⟨er⟩b⟨is⟩ aure⟨m⟩ | sedulus auditor accomodare'. At f. 91v/9 **De situ brita⟨n⟩ie ⟨ue⟩l hyb⟨erni⟩e . . . uene⟨r⟩a⟨bi⟩le⟨m⟩ Beda⟨m⟩ de gest⟨is⟩ | angloru⟨m⟩ li°.j°.c°.j°.** Britan⟨n⟩ia oceani insula;

c⟨u⟩i q⟨u⟩onda⟨m⟩ Albion no|me⟨n⟩ fu⟨i⟩t' (described by Hardy 1871: 276–77; [‘P. de ycham’, top of f. 91r, attribution by ‘T[homas] Gale’ (1635?–1702)]).

15. ff. 154v/24–26 Rhyme of kings in 15c hand [f. 155r blank].

16. ff. 155v/1–157v/27 Annals from 1239–1249 (late 14c hand), headed **Policronicon**.

PHOTO NOTES: Part 1 is hard to read in the microfiche where the manuscript has received staining, but is generally legible. Much of Part 3 is difficult to read on the fiche due to staining and show-through in the manuscript.

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