

**240. London, British Library, Cotton Vespasian A. xxii**  
Chronicles; Homilies  
[Ker p. xix, Gneuss — ]

**HISTORY:** Vespasian A. xxii comprises various parts written in the 12–13c, mostly connected with Rochester. Watson comments that “[t]he whole book of 129 fols. is from Rochester” (1979: 108), and Richards describes the collection as “probably all copied at Rochester, in various hands, from the late 12th to the middle of the 13th century” (1978: 97). A 14c ownership inscription at the foot of the first page of the manuscript (f. 2r/22–23) places it in Rochester at that time: ‘Liber .ii. de <con>suetud<inibus> ecc<lesi>e Rof-f<e>n<sis> p<er> b<e>n<e>dictu<m> mo<na>chu<m> | que<m> q<u>i alien-au<er>it anathema sit. amen’, corresponding to a prominent ‘.II.’ written at the head of the leaf in a medieval hand.

A small collection of late OE homilies was inserted into this Latin miscellany at an unknown time. The dialect of the homilies is “South-Eastern strongly affected by Kentish” with a considerable survival of older spellings from a WS original (Hall 1920: 276), suggesting they were probably copied at Rochester. They are written in a hand of the beginning of the 13c and are in the transitional language of late OE or early ME. The theme of the collection “is the necessity of faith and obedience to God, spelled out in simple terms” (Richards 1979: 23–24).

The book passed through the hands of William Lambarde (d. 1601), who signed a note beneath the inscription on f. 2r ‘W L 1598’. Robert Cotton’s name, ‘Ro. Cotton Bruceus’, is written at the foot of f. 2r over an earlier name or monogram, now illegible, and the book is in a binding with Cotton’s coat of arms on the outside. An alternative classmark, ‘IX B’, is written at the head of f. 1r in a different hand from the heading ‘Vespasian A 22’.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Leaves measure approximately 225 x 125 mm., generally arranged HFHF. Further details of preparation and handwriting vary among the four parts.

**Part 1** (ff. 1–34\*) is ruled in ink for 31 lines per page. Ruling includes a double bounding line and a ruled space for annal numbers. The written grid including the space for annal numbers is 168 x 115 mm.; without the annal space, it is 168 x 91 mm. Opening initials are written in red, with the small guiding letters for these initials visible in the margin of ff. 7r–8v, and important capitals in the text are either written in red or touched in red. Item 1 is written in two hands: hand 1 writes ff. 2v/1–6r/31; hand 2 writes ff. 6v/1–8v/24. Hand 1 also writes most of item 2, as far as the annal for 1214 (ff. 9r/1–32v/20), suggesting 1214 for the date of writing of the annals (Watson 1979: 108). The annals are continued in the same hand in a different ink and in a number of different hands.

**Part 2** (ff. 35–51) is written on a grid ruled in ink for 29 lines per page, giving a written space of 181 x 104 mm. Pricking is clearly visible in the outer margins. Pages are ruled with single bounding lines and generally with the top and third and bottom and third from bottom lines ruled on into the margin. The text is written in probably a single hand almost throughout, until the script becomes suddenly much larger on f. 51rv. The text includes enlarged initials written in either red or blue. These have not been filled in towards the end of the item, with spaces for such missing letters from f. 49v onwards.

Part 2 is codicologically distinct but for the continuation onto f. 51. F. 51v ends with blank space and its conjoint leaf, f. 59\*, is all blank. Ff. 51 and 59\* are lined essentially in the manner of Part 2 (although f. 59\*r has received the double-columned format of Part 3). These could have been a bifolium at the end of Part 2 into which Part 3 has been inserted (for some reason), either in an early or in a subsequent binding.

**Part 3** (ff. 52–59) is the section containing OE homilies with added material and ending in blank space. Leaves are ruled in ink for two columns of text with 33–38 lines per page and a written space of 167 x 53 mm. (33 lines on f. 52r–v, 36 lines on ff. 53r–55v, 37 lines on f. 56r, 38 lines on f. 56v). There is a double bounding line on either side on the outside of the columns and the top two lines are generally continued out into the margin. Ff. 57v–59v have been reruled for subsequent material (at 29 lines per page in one column) but

contain traces of the double columned ruling for the OE. The text is written in a small, cramped early 13c hand. This is probably the same hand, even when the writing becomes bigger and less disciplined towards the end of item 4a (notably from f. 54ra/14 'Deofel : . . '). Item 4d begins with the bigger form of the script and switches to the smaller script at f. 57va/19. The initial letter of item 4a is enlarged and supplied in red. Such was presumably the intention for the other items—there is space for such a letter at the start of items 4b–d—but the illuminated letters were never supplied. Capital letters within the text that coincide with a line break are brought into the margin but not touched in color. The scribe provides corrections, inserted above the line (e.g., at ff. 54va/2, 54vb/23) or in the margin (f. 54va/28), and his own interlinear glosses (e.g., ff. 52rb/4, 52va/29).

**Part 4** (ff. 60–129, the Rochester register), is ruled in pencil for 24–32 lines per page. It is mostly in two main hands, with numerous additions. Incipits are written in red; opening initials are enlarged and written in red or blue. For the bulk of the cartulary, a heading in red is provided at the top of the page indexing the content: such a running head is visible on ff. 68v–85r and 92v–107v, although many have been partly lost through cropping and others may have been fully lost. Two slips are inserted occupying the width of the regular pages but very little of their height: f. 75 is 50 mm. tall and written only on the recto; f. 88 is 33 mm. tall and written on both sides. Quire XV (ff. 108–15) appears to be an addition: the parchment is especially soiled, while the text is in a later hand and lacks the running head of the surrounding material.

This Rochester register was evidently once part of a fuller book. Quires IX (ff. 60–67) and X (ff. 68–76) bear the medieval quire signatures 'XI.' and 'XII.:' prominently inked in the lower margin of the last verso of the quire. If the quire signatures were written once the present material was gathered together in a codex, these indicate that two quires have gone missing. Given the disparate formats of the present codex and the absence of earlier signatures, it is more likely that they are the remnants of a sequence running through an earlier Rochester compilation, of which Part 4 was the last component.

An early table of contents is written on f. 2r in the hand of scribe 1 of Part 1. This refers (without any page numbers) to the contents of Part 1 and Part 4. The Rochester *ex libris* (see above) is perhaps in the same hand. A much later hand has added a reference to the second chronicle, item 2, extending to 1360 and has inserted a reference to item 3: at this stage Part 2 must have been added. Later still, this page has received the signature of Cotton and the stamp of the British Museum.

After all four parts were united they were supplied with a table of contents in an early modern hand on f. 1r and were foliated in the upper right hand corner of each recto. The Rochester register is noted as 'fragmentum registri eccl(es)ie S. Andrej Roffensis' (f. 1r/12).

[**Note:** The table corresponds to the foliation, which is prominent in the microfilm but is not the most recent and is not used in this description. Instead, a later hand has written multiples of 10 on the verso of every tenth leaf. This more modern foliation is written on the lower right margin of most leaves, sometimes only faintly visible on the microfiche, and is the foliation followed here. Old foliation is given in parentheses.

A penciled '29. G' on the inside front cover has been struck through to be replaced with '18a', the pressmark also on stickers on the spine. F. i recto has 'COTTON MS. | VESPASIAN A.XXII.' stenciled in blue/black ink. F. ii recto has '2. 30 | COTTON' written in pencil at a slant in the corner. The last parchment leaf (f. 129v) has 'Cons. fol. 128. fol. 34. 35. 102. 103. 104 Wanting' written in ink in the margin and referring to the current state of the manuscript with reference to the older ink foliation. The paper endleaf, f. [130r], has '1 + 129 Folios. A.G. June 1871 | Total 130 4<sup>o</sup> in pencil; and in a later hand '129 folios + 34\* & 59\* CMJ [?]. July 1977' also in pencil. The inside back cover is stamped '28 SEP 1962'. The leather binding has Cotton's coat of arms, tooled in gold, on front and back. The spine has some decorative work and the attribution tooled in gold over black: 'CHRONICLES | ETC. || BRIT. MUS. || COTTON | MS. | VESPASIAN | A. XXII.']

**COLLATION:** The collation and constitution of parts is hard to establish as the manuscript is bound very tightly. Stitching is visible only at the center of Quires VIII–XI, while numerous blocks are visible of stubs which seem to be inserted by the binder. The following collation is tentative for all but the center quires. ii + 131 + ii, foliated [i–ii], 1–34, 34\*, 35–59, 59\*, 60–129, [130–31]. The first and last two folios are paper flyleaves. I–IV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 1–32), V<sup>3</sup> (ff. 33–34, 34\*) || VI–VII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 35–50) [first leaf of next quire closes out this section] || VIII<sup>10</sup> (ff. 51–59\*) || IX<sup>8</sup> (ff. 60–67), X<sup>8+1</sup> (ff. 68–76, f. 75 is an added slip), XI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 77–84), XII<sup>6+1</sup> (ff. 85–91, f. 88 is an added slip, ff. 85 and 86 are singletons with their stubs visible after f. 91), XIII<sup>6</sup> (ff. 92–97), XIV<sup>10</sup> (ff. 98–107), XV–XVI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 108–23), XVII<sup>6</sup> (ff. 124–29).

[**Note:** It appears from the old foliation that two leaves are missing between ff. 34 and 34\* (presumably blank) and that three leaves are missing between ff. 100 and 101. The outer bifolium of Quire VIII, ff. 51 and 59\*, is larger than the rest of this quire and appears to be independent of the inner eight. Quire XV may be an inserted quire of especially soiled parchment, as may the final two quires that follow it.]

**CONTENTS** (visible old foliation given in parentheses):

f. 1r Early modern table of contents to whole manuscript.

f. 1v 'Engeham 377' at the head, pen trials and scribbles on the page.

**Part 1:**

f. 2r 13c table of contents to Parts 1 and 4 with 17c additions.

1. ff. 2v/1–8v/24 (ff. 1r–7v) Chronicle from the beginning of the world to 743:

**Anni ab origine mundi** | 'i. Adam creat(us) est' (described Hardy 1862: 471).

2. ff. 9r/1–34r/27 (ff. 8r–33r) Chronicle from the birth of Christ to 1361: **Anni ab incarnatione d(omi)n(i).** | 'i. Anno .xlii. Augusti cesaris nat(us) est d(omi)n(u)s Iesus' (includes notice of the succession of the archbishops of Canterbury and bishops of Rochester) [ff. 34r/28–30, 34v, 34\*rv blank; ff. 34v, 34\*r not on film].

**Part 2:**

3. ff. 35r/1–51v/13 (ff. 37r–53v) Ralph de Diceto, "Series causae inter Henricum regem et Thomam archiepiscopum": **Viris religiosis com-  
(mem)orantib(us)** . . . ; (f. 35v/1) 'Thomas creatus archiepiscopus regis resignauit sigillu(m)' (ed. Stubbs 1876: 2.279–85) [heading only on f. 35r/1–9, rest blank; f. 51v/14–30 blank].

**Part 3:**

4. Vernacular homilies with additions:

a. ff. 52ra/2–54rb/24 (ff. 54r–56r) Adapted version of Ælfric, CH I.1: **.Ia.**

**Dom(inica)** .iii. | **p(ost) pent(ecosten)**. [rubric in right margin at f. 52rb/11–12] 'Vre hlaford almihtig god wile | 7 ús hót. þat we híne lufie' (ed. Morris 1867: 217–31, no. 24; Clemoes 1997: 178–89) [the introductory passage is not by Ælfric: see Clemoes 1997: 48].

b. ff. 54va/1–56ra/31 (ff. 56v–58r) '[H]it gelamp þ(at) an rice king wes. strang | 7 mihti' (ed. Morris 1867: 231–41, no. 25; Hall 1920: 12–17, no. 5) [ff. 56ra/32–37 and 56rb blank].

c. f. 56va/1–56vb/5 (f. 58v) '[U]r hlaford s(an)c(t)es paulus þe is þeoden lareaw. | us manedð 7 menegeð' (ed. Morris 1867: 241–43, no. 26).

d. ff. 56vb/9–57rb/30 (f. 58v–59r) Records of amounts for festival of St. Michael: 'Manus molendinar(us) Ioh(ann)es molend(inarus)'.

e. f. 57va/1–24 (f. 59v) Extract from Ælfric, CH I.24: '[E]rant appropinq(ua)ntes. 7 c(etera). þet hál god|spell ús seið. þat hí réfen' (ed. Morris 1867: 243–45, no. 27; Clemoes 1997: 371, lines 1–15).

f. f. 57vb/1–14 (f. 59v) Notice of accounts in later hand.

- g. ff. 57v/20–59r/12 [alternative lineation] (ff. 59v–61r) Notices of accounts in a different later hand: ‘De Will(iem)o de ssnapes .ij. s̄. iiii. d.’ [ff. 59r/13–27, 59v, 59\*r–59\*v blank; f. 59\* not on film].

**Part 4:**

5. ff. 60–129 A 13c Rochester register (described by Davis 1958: 93, no. 821):
- a. Four papal bulls: (1) ff. 60r/1–61r/9 (ff. 63r–64r) **pruilegium eugenii pape**. ‘Eugenius ep(is)c(opu)s | seruus seruor(um) d(e)i dilectis filiis Brieno p(r)io|ni’; (2) ff. 61r/9–64r/14 (ff. 64r–67r) **pruilegium adriani pape**. | ‘ADrian(us) ep(is)c(opu)s seruus seruor(um) d(e)i Dilecto filio Beni|aldo p(r)iori’; (3) f. 64r/14–64v/15 (f. 67rv) **pruilegium | Alexandri pape**. ‘Alexand(er) ep(is)c(opu)s seruus seruor(um) | d(e)i dilectis filiis Siluest(er) p(r)iori’; (4) ff. 64v/16–65r/16 (ff. 67v–68r) **p(r)uilegium celestini d(e) excambio | pape & lamhethie**. | ‘Celestin(us) ep(is)c(opu)s seruus | seruor(um) d(e)i uen(er)abi(i)li fr(atr)i Hub(er)to’ [transposition marks above ‘excambio celestini d(e)’].
- b. ff. 65r/16–115v/19 and 123r/1–126r/27 (ff. 68r–119v, 127r–130r) Cartularies associated with Rochester: **Hec s(un)t (con)suetudines de sutfliete**. ‘Tale | seruitiu(s) deb(e)nt tenentes de sutfliete’ [from a list of donations to St. Andrew’s Priory on ff. 86r/9–90v/14, a list of books donated is excerpted and ed. Rye 1860: 62–63].
- c. ff. 115v/25–117r/31 (ff. 120r–121r) Report of trial on Penenden Heath: (f. 115v/25–26) **Sequit(ur) de placito int(er) Lanfrancum archiepiscopu(m) et | Odonem baiocensem episcopu(m)**; (f. 116r/1–2) **De placito apud p(n)endena(m) inter Lanfrancum archiepiscopum. | et Odónem baiocensem episcopum** | ‘Tempore magni regis Will(elm)i q(u)i anglicu(m) regnu(m) armis conq(u)isiuit’ (ed. Le Patourel 1948).
- d. ff. 117v/1–119r/32 (ff. 121v–123r) **Quom(od)o Lanfranc(us) t(erro)ras extract(er)as eccle(es)ie s(an)c(t)i andree. & alias acquisitas | monachus contradidit & de Gundulfo episcopo** | ‘PReterea notandu(m) ac fidelib(us) om(n)ib(us)’.
- e. ff. 119v/1–122v/28 (ff. 123r–126v [120]) Reigns and names of kings and bishops of England: **De Regno cantie**. | ‘D(omi)nabantur reges cantuarioru(m) p(ro)pr(e) in cantia’.
- [item 5b resumes ff. 123r/1–126r/27]
- ff. 126v/1–129v/30 (ff. 130v–133v) Added material relevant to Rochester in various later hands (14/15c?).

**PHOTO NOTES:** The following spreads are included twice on the microfiche: ff. 5v–6r, 16v–17r, 33v–34r, 51v–52r, 79v–80r, 86v–87r, 104v–105r, 107v–108r, 109v–110r, 115v–116r, 123v–124r. There is no photograph of the opening ff. 34v–34\*r or 59\*, which are all blank.

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