

102. Cambridge, University Library Kk. 1. 24
Fragmentary Gospel Book
(with B.L. Cotton Tiberius B. v, ff. 74, 76 [229] +
B. L. Sloane 1044 f.2 [305])
[Ker 22, Gneuss 21, Lowe 2. *138]

HISTORY: Fragmentary English Gospel Book of late 7c / early 8c written in insular majuscule, containing parts of Luke and John. Was almost certainly at Ely in the 10c, to judge by the added documents (see below). Lowe considered it a Northumbrian production, comparing the script on ff. 186v–187v to the Cassiodorus “Commentary on Psalms,” Durham, Cathedral Library B. II. 30, which he dates “s. viii med.” (Lowe 2.152); this script also resembles that of the second part of B.L. Egerton 1046, *Wisdom and Ecclesiasticus* (Lowe 2.194b, cf. Marsden 1995: 265–66), though both Durham and Egerton have more minuscule elements. “It is probably one of the manuscripts acquired for the University Library in 1584–5 and 1589 from, or through the good offices of, Andrew Perne, Master of Peterhouse and Dean of Ely” (Ker). The James number ‘119’ is at the top of f. 123r (T. James: 1600, no. 119), also at bottom left and painted on the fore-edge. One and perhaps two leaves from this manuscript were bound into British Library Cotton Tiberius B. v [229], f. 74 and f. 76, by 1621, when Cotton records ownership. The former is an originally blank leaf with documents from Ely and Bedfordshire of the second half of the 10c. Tiberius f. 76 was the last leaf of John’s Gospel in Kk.1.24, with, added on the verso, an 11c document relating to Hatfield, Hertfordshire, an estate belonging to Ely. The upper part of this leaf is British Library Sloane 1044 [305], which belonged to John Bagford (1650–1716).

[**Note:** The photos reflect the state of the book before the March 1998 rebinding. The description refers to the images and corrects information from the images that is no longer current.]

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Ff. [vi] + (2) + 113 + [v], first foliated 1–113 in pencil, then refoliated (in pencil, about the same time)

121–238 to account for missing leaves (ff. 121–122 are the two remaining tags before f. 123, to which full-size vellum leaves have been added in the 1998 rebinding). In the old binding there were flies in a detached 17c artificial quire comprising a parchment strip 286 x 37 mm., two paper strips 305 x 55 mm., and three paper flies, with the parchment and paper strips wrapped from the outside around the full-sized flies and glued; the first paper fly appearing to be considerably younger than the second and third; this ensemble has been removed from the rebound book; endleaves were an identical arrangement, but with only two full-size endleaves and still sewn into the book; all now replaced by new vellum endleaves, consisting of two bifolia in front and two in back.

Page size 306 x 230 mm.; writing area 225 x about 165 mm. Most quires ruled for 21 lines, II–IV have 22, pricking both sides of writing area, vertical boundaries drawn along the pricks. Ruling very light, irregularly from flesh or hair side, several sheets at a time before folding. Two extra verticals for the “genealogy” leaves in Luke, ff. 130–131. Quires variously arranged, hair or flesh outside, but hair always faces flesh. Parchment well-prepared, generally thick and somewhat stiff, but variable, generally bright, hair sides tending to grayish-yellow with suede-like texture, flesh sides light yellow and smooth. Ink black. Very elegant large insular majuscule; in the John preface and capitula, ff. 186r/19–187v, a more compressed script, possibly a different hand (this is the script which Lowe compares to the Durham Cassiodorus). Minimum decoration remains, consisting of in-text initials and capitals that have been adorned with reddish brown dots. Words of incipits and explicits written in alternating red and black (f. 186r) or red only (f. 187r). Passion narratives marked ‘C/L’ for readers (Luke ff. 177r–183v, John 232v–237r; an early 11c hand noting end of ‘passio’ in Luke, f. 183v/10). Notes for daily lections added intermittently to Luke in a contemporary minuscule, e.g., ff. 125v, 126v, 128r, 132r, 150r, 151r, 153r. Occasional contemporary corrections of the Latin and a few later ones. An insular hand somewhat later than the main one has added an alphabet along left margin, f. 235v. Neumed response and versicle (late 10c, does not look like an English hand), top of f. 129r, with 17c transcription. A title or evangelist page showing remnant of monochrome acanthus decoration was cut out after f. 189 (“perhaps traces of later A-S initial page meant as substitute for original initial page,” McGurk 1961: 26). Some pages have been trimmed along bottom (no text loss) for scraps of parchment. Early modern hand has added intermittent chapter/verse references.

At head of f. 123r, ‘119 | Euangeliu(m) Lucae et Johan(n)is Saxonice charact.’ (17c) (James?). ‘119’ is the James number, repeated in pencil at the

bottom left of 123r and painted on the fore-edge (James 1600: no. 119). Fol. 123r is darkened, as if, after it had lost its first half, it had been outside for a time before receiving a binding.

Previous binding was 17c, brown leather, tooled with triple lines of diagonals and rectangles, pasteboard glued to inside of thin wooden boards; four binding straps. Leather spine-cover appears to have been renewed in the 19c. Book was disbound, treated, repaired, resewn medieval-style (supported double cord, supported kettle-stitching) without gluing, with sewn endbands and rebound with new denim boards in full alum-tawed goat-skin (C.U.L., March 1998). The box made to fit the book in its new binding has a drawer which contains the old cover and end-leaves.

COLLATION: Ff. [vi] + (2) + 113 + [v] I¹⁰ sheets 1 & 2 gone, tags projecting extended to full page size by modern vellum (ff. [121–122] 123–130); II–III¹⁰ signatures ‘s–r’ (ff. 131–150); IV–VII⁸ signatures ‘u–z’ (ff. 151–182); VIII⁸ signature ‘zz’, sheets 6 & 8 gone, tags projecting (ff. 183–[188]–189–[190]); IX⁸ sheet 1 gone (ff. [191]–198); X⁸ no signature (ff. 199–206); XI⁸ no signature (ff. 207–214); XII⁶ contemporary signature, ‘iiii’ partly cut off, top left (ff. 215–222); XIII⁸ no signature (ff. 223–230); XIV⁸ contemporary signature ‘ui’ (ff. 231–238).

[**Note:** I has an (early) modern signature ‘r iii’ at the top of fol. 123, i.e., the original third sheet of the first remaining quire, and this hand appears to have added an almost effaced signature to the top of 192 (sheet 1 of IX gone). The other top signatures seem to be in a mixture of earlier and later medieval hands, with contemporary, i.e. earlier, ones, noted above; apart from this leaf there are never two medieval signatures on one leaf as Lowe’s note implies (“two sets of early signatures in the upper margin on the recto of the first leaf (*teste* N. R. Ker”). At bottom of f. 213r ‘xiiii’ of uncertain significance. A modern hand has added in bottom right corners of first rectos signatures and sheet counts. A note on f. 238v, top inside, says ‘ff. 239–242 gone’. The tag in the photo projecting after f. 238 is the wrap-around of the parchment endleaf, now removed. Ker says (*Cat.* p. 36) that “the last quire [XIV] lacks the last four leaves,” but he must be extrapolating this from the note on f. 238, since the quire is complete in 8, as the perfect match of the opposing sheets shows; there must have been another short quire added; Kk.1.24 breaks off at John 20.17; Sloane/Tiberius begins at John 21.16, implying the loss of one leaf before this one so Sloane + Tiberius is most likely sheet 2 of a quire of 4, or possibly of a bifolium. Sloane + Tiberius recto is hair side. See descriptions of [229], item 62 and [305].

Ker, pointing out the similarity of preparation and parchment, as well as the Ely connections of one of the documents, says that B.L. Tiberius B. v, f. 74, originally a blank, also is probably from this book; he says it might have come from after f. 187, but only one folio is missing there, which must have contained the rest of the capitula to John. Tib. f. 74 must rather have come from the end of the book, after Tib. f. 76 (as Ker alternatively suggests), if it came from this book at all.]

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 123r–186r/18 Gospel of St. Luke, imperfect, beginning at 1.15: ‘Erit enim magnus coram d(omi)no’.
2. ff. 186r/19–187r/7 **INCIPIT PROLOGUS SECUNDUM IOHANNEM** | | ‘JOhannis euangelista unus ex discipulis d(eu)m qui uirgo electus’.
3. ff. 187r/7–187v **INCIPIUNT CAPITULA** | ‘i. Pharisaeorum leuitae interrogant iohannem’ [imperfect. f. 188 wanting].
ff. 189r/v blank; ff. 190, 191 cut out, tags projecting.
[Note: F. 190 carried a decorated title page or evangelist portrait; a small area of acanthus decoration (monochrome drawing, red) is visible on the tag, recto, from about 35 to 55 mm. up from bottom. F. 191 had the beginning of John. “The outlines on f. 192 and presumably coming through from the lost page suggest an IN initial and confirm the evidence provided by the missing text” (McGurk 1961: 26).]
4. ff. 192r–238v Gospel of John, beginning imperfectly at 1.18: ‘D(eu)m nemo uidit umquam nisi unigenitus filius’; ending imperfectly at 20.17 ‘dicit ei i(esu)s noli | me tangere’.
[fol. missing, then B.L. Sloane 1044 + Tib. B. iv. f. 76 has John 21.16–to end; an OE document on verso; see [229] and [305].]

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