

## 264b. London, British Library, Harley 526

Bede, "Vita S. Cuthberti" (verse); "Vita Edwardi regis," etc.

[Ker 230, Gneuss 419]

**HISTORY:** The manuscript is a composite. Part 1, ff. 1–27, contains Bede's verse Life of St. Cuthbert, and these folios Ker would date to "s. x." Lapidge (1995: 156), however, dates the manuscript to the second half, "probably" the last quarter of the 9c and locates the copying to NE Francia. This portion of the manuscript was written in the same scriptorium as was Oxford, Bodleian Library Rawlinson C. 697 [405], and was in England by the middle of the 10c, when the glosses to the verse Life of Cuthbert were added. Part 2 (ff. 28–37) is a 12c "Vita Bedae"; Part 3 (ff. 38–77) is the "Vita Sancti Eadwardi" whose hand Barlow (1992: lxxix) dates to ca. 1100. Part 4 (ff. \*8–67) in a 17c paper wrapper (f. 58 + \*67) is a "Report of the Papal Commission on the Canonization of Hugh of Lincoln," whose hand Farmer (1956: 87) dates to the early 13c (St. Hugh of Lincoln died 16 November 1200 and was canonized in 1220); Part 5 (ff. 68–77, separately mounted) is a fragment of the "Vita Ade et Eue" in a 14c hand. According to Wright (1972: 323), Robert Talbot (1505–1558) owned Harley 526, ff. 1–27, and the inscription on f. 1r may be his autograph. The manuscript was in the collection of Sir Simonds D'Ewes (1602–1650), who made annotations on ff. 1, 27v, 28, and 37v as well as elsewhere (see below). Watson (1966: 130) also indicates that the title-page on f. 58 was of D'Ewes' design. Robert Harley received the collection from D'Ewes. Eight folios missing between ff. 71 and 72 are now BL, Harley 495 [264a], ff. 100–107 (Watson 1966: 130).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** [v] + 57 [1] 10 [1] 10 + [iv] = 77 ff., 79 leaves (i.e., there are 77 parchment leaves + 2 modern paper = 79 leaves). Ff. \*58 and \*67 are parchment leaves foliated after paper inserts, numbered 58 and 67. The manuscript's binding is leather, with the Harley insignia stamped in gold. The size of pages varies across the different parts of the manuscript: ff. 1–27 measure 208–215 x 153–158 mm. The other contents are mounted on guards to approximate these dimensions. The measurements of ff. 28–37 are approximately 195–210 x 138–140 mm.; ff. 38–57 are 185–188 x 125–127 mm;

ff. 58\*–67 are 210–215 x 160 mm.; ff. 68–77 are 186–198 x 112–120 mm. The written space of ff. 1–27 measures 142–155 x 102–115 mm. Ff. 28–37 measure 155 x 102 mm.; ff. 38–57 measure 143 x 95 mm.; ff. 58–67 measure 143 x 97 mm.; ff. 68–77 measure 140 x 85 mm.

The rulings for ff. 1–27 were done on the hair side, with the sheets ruled before folding. The arrangement of sheets is continental, HFHF. Prick marks are visible on left and right outer margins. Prick marks (in two sets of twos) are usually visible on the lower margins and outside upper margins (although the inside upper margins have been torn and repaired). There are 21 lines per page on ff. 1–16; 20 lines per page on ff. 17–27. On f. 13r there is a *signe de renvoi* ‘ð ð’. The ink is dark brown. Chapter headings are in red; initial capitals and capitals for chapter openings are in oxidized red. The script of Part 1 is continental Caroline minuscule.

Part 2: Quire V (ff. 28–37) was ruled in dry point and pencil, with 26 lines per page for ff. 28–30 and 27 lines per page for ff. 31–57. The arrangement of sheets is inconsistent. The hand is 12c.

Parts 3–5: The twenty leaves of ff. 38–57 are mounted separately, and without signatures collation is impossible to guess at. There are probable losses of folios between ff. 40–41 and 54–55 (Barlow 1992: lxxix). Capitals are colored in red, red/orange, and green. The sheets are arranged HF throughout, suggesting that the probable losses of folios between ff. 41–42 and 54–55 would in both cases be even numbered, probably 2 (see Barlow 1962: xxxvii and n.1; in 1992 edition, p. lxxix, he believes that it has lost “probably the two centre folios of both the first and last gatherings”). The arrangement of ff. 58\*–67 between the paper wrappers (f. 58 and f. \*67) is HF as well; they are ruled for 23 lines. Ff. 68–73r are ruled for 19 lines, ff. 73v–76r for 20 lines, f. 76v for 24 lines, f. 77r for 20 lines. F. 27 is blank with pen trials on the verso. F. 37r is blank. A note on f. 27v, probably in Sir Simonds D’Ewes’ hand: ‘edit(a) per Henricum Canisium in Antiquis | Lectionibus; sed uetustissimum hoc exemplar et optimi usus.’ Cf. hand on f. 37v and f. 67\*. The note on f. 37v, ‘Rarissimum exemplar ms.’, is probably in the same hand as the note on f. 27v. F. 58 is a paper leaf blank except for a title, written in a post-medieval hand, incorrectly ascribing the life of St. Hugh to Giraldus Cambrensis; Watson (1966: 130) attributes the title to Sir Simonds D’Ewes. F. 58 is misplaced before the present f. 58\*. F. 67\*r contains an explanatory note by D’Ewes: ‘Quaedam alia sequebantur miracula . . .’.

**OE GLOSSES:** Fifteen 10c OE glosses added to Bede's verse *Life of Cuthbert* (pr. Meritt 1945: 21, item 11; pr. Zupitza 1889: 237–38).

**COLLATION:** I–III<sup>a</sup> (ff. 1–24), IV<sup>3</sup> singleton + bifolium (ff. 25–27); V<sup>10</sup> (ff. 28–37); [VI] ff. 38–57 = 20 leaves mounted separately, with probable losses of folios between ff. 40 and 41 and between 54 and 55; VII<sup>10</sup> includes f. \*58 and paper wrapper (f. 58 + f. \*67) (ff. 58–\*67); ff. 68–77 = 10 leaves mounted separately. Eight folios missing between ff. 71 and 72 are now BL, Harley 495, ff. 100–107.

## CONTENTS:

### Part 1:

1. ff. 1–27r Bede, verse “*Vita S. Cuthberti*” (ed. Jaeger 1935 [Ms. H<sup>1</sup>]):
- f. 1r/1–1v/1 Preface: ‘D(OMI)NO IN DOMINO DOMINORUM DILECTISSIMO IOHANNI | presbitero bēda famulus chr(ist)i salutem.’ Ends ‘p(ro) me int(er)cedere memineris’.
- f. 1v/2–27r/19 **INCIPIT ‘liBeR’ DE M(I)RACULIS S(AN)C(T)I CUTHBERTI EP(ISCOP)I** | ‘Multa suis d(omi)n(u)s fulgescere lumina saeculis.’
- f. 27v Blank except for scribbles and note by D’Ewes.

### Part 2:

2. ff. 28r/1–36v/17: *Life of Venerable Bede* (ed. PL 90: 41C–54A):
- f. 28r/1–28v/22 Preface: **Incipit p(re)fatío in Vita(m) Venerabil(is) Bedę.**  
| ‘INter catholicos sacrę script(ur)ę expositores q(ui) s(e)c(un)do p(ost) ap(osto)los loco refulserunt mundi luminaria’.
- ff. 28v/22–36v/17 “*Life*”: **Incip(it) Vita | Venerabil(is) Bedę pr(es)b(ite)ri ac Monachi.** | ‘HVMANę salutis auctore chr(ist)o i(es)u in messe(m) credi | turę multitudinis mittente op(er)arios s(an)c(t)ę p(rae)dica | tionis’; ends: ‘que(m) cu(m) patre & sp(irit)u | s(an)c(t)o uiuente(m) & regnante(m) p(er) s(e)c(u)la. o(mn)is sp(irit)us laudat & adorat d(omi)n(um)’.
- f. 37r/v Blank except for note by D’Ewes on verso.

### Part 3:

3. ff. 38r/1–57r/7 “*Vita Edwardi regis*”: **vita Æduuardi regis qui apud westmonasteriu(m) requiescit** | (verse) ‘Surgens musa tuis comitata decenter alu(m)pnis’; (prose begins f. 38v/17) ‘Uirga equitatis dei ubi q(uo)d sibi displicuerat in populo det(er)sit’; ends: ‘& p(ro) fide

cui(us)q(ue) deu(m) inuocantis insignia pietatis suę rex regu(m) | deus operatur' (ed. Barlow 1992).

f. 57v Blank

**Part 4:**

f. 58 (paper) recto: 17c title page 'Vita Hugonis Episcopi Lincolnensis' incorrectly ascribing item 5 to Giraldus Cambrensis; verso blank [forms wrapper with f. \*67].

4. f. \*58r/1–17 Aelred of Rievaulx, "Vita S. Edwardi regis" (conclusion): 'q(ua)m magna inquit multitudo potentie ei(us) frat(er) k(arissi)me | q(ua)m ego peccator in memetip(s)o exp(er)tus audeo dicere. q(ua) | quicq(ui)d volu(er)it a d(om)ino d(e)o suo facile impet(ra)bit.' Ends: **Explicit uita S(an)c(t)i edwardi Regis & confessoris.** [16 lines in a hand almost identical to that in BL, Stowe 104 (308), fol. 149v] (ed. PL 195: 789–90).

5. ff. \*58v–67v/23 "Report of the Papal Commission for the Canonization of Hugh of Lincoln" (the first three lines on the page after 'S' have been erased; the text now begins, on line 4): '... [nobil]itate g(e)n(er)is sa[tis] [cl]arus & origine(m) ducens a pa|rentib(us) ordinis militaris. Qui ab annis ten(er)is stu|dio addictus'; ends imperfect: 'Ante q(ua)m du(m) oraret. int(er) ip(s)a missaru(m) | solle(m)pnia oc(u)los q(uo)s p(ri)us ap(er)ire non pot(er)at. ap(er)uit 7 gra(tia)s' (coll. Dimock 1877; ed. Farmer 1956).

f. \*67 blank paper wrapper with note on recto in D'Ewes' hand: 'quaedam alia sequebantur ... obstrictum autumo. Simonds D'Ewes.'

**Part 5:**

6. ff. 68r/1–77r/20 "Vita Ade et Eue" (14c hand): **Incipit Vita prothoplasti nostri | Ade 7 Eue uxoris sue.** | 'Factum est cum expulsi essent | Adam 7 uxor eius Eua de para|diso exeuntes abierunt ad occi|dentem 7 fecerunt sibi tabernaculum | 7 ibi fuerunt sex dieb(us)'; ends: 'Sic vocetur nomen eius' (ed. Mozley 1929).

[Note: Eight folios missing between ff. 71 and 72 are now BL Harley 495 (264a), ff. 100–107.]

7. f. 77v: Augustine, "In Iohannis evangelium tractatus CXXIV," Tractatus 119 (15c; the first line is faded and unreadable in the manuscript): '... Stabant iu' x'(ta) cruce(m) i(es)u m(ater) e(ius)'; ends '... accipiet in hoc saeculo centies' (ed. Willems 1954: 658–59).

**PHOTO NOTES:** Bleed-through makes rubrics and initial capitals unreadable on ff. 2v, 3r, 4r, 5r. Rubrics are badly faded and illegible on f. 11r; partly legible

on ff. 12v, 14r, 16r, 18v. On f. 58v the first three lines are unreadable due to erasure.

The fiches duplicate images of ff. 1r, 27v–28r, 37v–38r, 57v–58r, 59v–60r, 68r.

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