308. London, British Library, Stowe 104
Bede, "Historia ecclesiastica"; Cuthbert,
"De obitu Bedae"; "Bede's Death Song," etc.
[Ker 273, Gneuss —]

HISTORY: Ker dates the writing of this copy of "Bede's Death Song" to "s. xii²." The early history of this manuscript is unknown. The Stowe manuscripts were owned by George Temple Nugent-Grenville, Marquis of Buckingham, and the majority of his collection came by bequest/purchase in 1804 from Thomas Astle, Keeper of Records in the Tower, d. 1803. The Stowe collection (so-called from the name of the Buckingham estate) was purchased by Bertram, fourth Earl of Ashburnham (1797–1878) in 1849 and acquired by purchase by the British Museum from the Ashburnham estate in 1883 (see *DLB* 184.15–16).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: [ii] + 149 + [ii]. The last leaf is badly torn. The leather binding is modern. The manuscript is foliated in pencil at upper right and lower right corners of rectos. Upper right foliation is the official one, done in 1890. The arrangement of sheets is continental (HFHF). Prick marks are visible at tops, sides, and bottoms. Parts of catchwords are visible at lower right verso of final leaf of many quires, but most have been trimmed away. Pages measure 255–260 x 175 mm. The written area measures 165–174 x 108–110 mm., ruled for 32 lines per page. Ruling was done with a rather greasy and very dark pencil. A strip of parchment approximately 150 mm. wide x 52 mm. high has been cut away from f. 117.

The ink is dark brown throughout. The incipits and explicits of the "Historia ecclesiastica" are in red. There are large ornamental initials in red, blue, mauve, and green at ff. 1r, 22r, 62v, 88r, 112v, 119r, 120r. Capital initials are in red and blue. The word 'papa' has been erased throughout the manuscript. There are a number of late fifteenth-century notations in black ink and some early modern notations.

COLLATION: I–IX⁸ (ff. 1–72), X⁸⁺¹ f. 73 is a singleton whose stub is pasted to f. 81 (ff. 73–81), XI–XII⁸ (ff. 82–97), XIII⁸⁺¹ singleton (f. 102) added after

4 (ff. 98–106), **XIV⁸** (ff. 107–14), **XV⁴** (ff. 115–18), **XVI–XVIII⁸** (ff. 119–42), **XIX⁸** lacks 1.

[Note: Quire X: f. 73 is a singleton whose stub is pasted to the verso of f. 81; Quire XIII: f. 102, after sheet 4, is a singleton whose stub is pasted to f. 101v, central sewing running through stub; Quire XIX: f. 143 is pasted to f. 142, but no stub is visible; no text is missing between f. 142v and f. 143r. The pencilled quiring of Stowe 104 gives f. 143 as quire 19 and makes the last six leaves quire 20, but the sewing of the quire is clearly between ff. 145 and 146.]

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1–112r Bede, "Historia ecclesiastica"; lacking preface and capitula to Book 1 (ed. Colgrave and Mynors 1969):

ff. 1r/1–21v/9 Book 1: **Incipit liber prim⟨us⟩ eccl⟨es⟩iastice hystorie gentis anglor⟨um⟩ vene|rabilis Bede pr⟨es⟩b⟨iter⟩i ad regem Celwlfum.** | 'BRITTANNIA occeani insula cui quonda⟨m⟩ |albion nomen fuit'. [Rubric lined through in blue ink.]

ff. 21v/9–22r/6 Book 2, list of chapters: **Incipiunt capitula libri | secundi. Capitulu⟨m⟩ primu⟨m⟩** 'De obitu beati (pape) Gregorii'. [Rubric lined through in blue ink.]

ff. 22r/6–39r/12 Book 2: **Incipit liber Secundus.** | 'HIS temporib⟨us⟩ id est anno d⟨omi⟩nice incarnationis. d°c.v°'.

ff. 39r/12–39v/23 Book 3, list of chapters: **Incipiunt capitula libri .iii. Capitu|lu⟨m⟩ primum.** | 'VT PRIMU⟨M⟩ successores Edwini regis & fidem sue gentis p⟨ro⟩dideri⟨n⟩t | & regnu⟨m⟩'.

ff. 39v/23–62v/20 Book 3: **Incipit liber te[r]tius. .i.** | 'AT int⟨er⟩fecto in pugna Eadwino. suscepit p⟨ro⟩ illo regnu⟨m⟩ Deiro|ru⟨m⟩'.

ff. 62v/21–63r/30 Book 4, list of chapters: **Incipiunt capitula libri q⟨ua⟩rti. Cap⟨itulum⟩ primum.** | 'UT defuncto deusdedit Vuigheard⟨us⟩ ad suscipie⟨n⟩du⟨m⟩ ep⟨iscop⟩a|tum roma⟨m⟩ sit missus.' [chapters 14 and 15 are omitted from capitula].

ff. 63r/30–87v/18 Book 4: **Incipit liber .iiii⟨us⟩. Cap⟨itu⟩l⟨u⟩m primu⟨m⟩.** 'IN ANNO memorato prefate eclypsis 7 mox seq⟨ue⟩ntis pestilentie'.

ff. 87v/18–88r/22 Book 5, list of chapters: **Incipiunt cap⟨itu⟩la | libri qvinti. Cap⟨itu⟩l⟨u⟩m. .i.** 'Vt ediluald⟨us⟩ successor cuthb⟨er⟩ti | in anachoretica uita laboratib⟨us⟩ in mari fr⟨atr⟩ib⟨us⟩ tempesta|tem orando sedauerit'.

ff. 88r/22–110r/1 Book 5: **Incipit liber QVINTVS;** | 'SVccessit aute⟨m⟩ uiro do⟨mi⟩ni cuthb⟨er⟩to in exercenda uita soli|taria'; ends: **Explicit historia anglo⟨rum⟩ Ven⟨er⟩abilis Bede presbiteri.**

ff. 110r/2–112r/24 **Breuis Recapitulatio libri huius.** [= HE 5.24 with additions for 733 and 734. The last paragraph of the prologue is inserted following 'ante faciem tuam' on f. 112r/13–14]: 'Ueru⟨m⟩ ea que temporum distinctione lati⟨us⟩ digesta s⟨un⟩t'; ends: **Explicit liber quint⟨us⟩ eccl⟨es⟩iastice historie gentis angloru⟨m⟩ | quam Venerabilis Beda presbit⟨er⟩ natus ex eadem gente | edidit.** [explicit lined through in the same blue ink used for decorating capital letters].

2. ff. 112v/1–113v/19 "Epistola Cuthberti de obitu Bedae" with "Bede's Death Song": **Incip⟨it⟩ epilogiu⟨m⟩ de t⟨ra⟩nsitu Ven⟨er⟩abil⟨is⟩ Bede pr⟨es⟩b⟨iter⟩i .vii°. | kł Iunii. q⟨ui⟩ Girwensis monast⟨er⟩ii pr⟨es⟩b⟨ite⟩r fuit. & doctor p⟨rae⟩ci | puu⟨s⟩.** 'Dilectissimo i⟨n⟩ chr⟨ist⟩o lectori Cuthwino. cuthbertus | condiscip⟨u⟩l⟨u⟩s. in deo et⟨er⟩nam salutem. Mun⟨us⟩culu⟨m⟩ | quod misisti multum libent⟨er⟩ accepi. multumq⟨ue⟩ | gratanter litteras tue deuote eruditionis legi'; ends: 'breuitate⟨m⟩ sermonis ineruditio lingue facit'; f. 112v/24–27 "Bede's Death Song": 'forþan nedfere næni | wyrþaw [*recte* wyrþeþ] ... heonon demeþ weorþe' (ed. Colgrave and Mynors, 1969; "Death Song" ed. Dobbie 1937: 78–79).

3. ff. 113v/20–114r/3 Latin hexameters on the archbishops of Canterbury from Augustine through Nothelm and Jaenberht [spelled 'iamb⟨er⟩te']: 'Dvx Augustin⟨us⟩ p⟨rae⟩cellit in ordine prim⟨us⟩' (also found in Oxford, Bodleian Library, Tanner 348; see Colgrave and Mynors 1969: liii).

4. ff. 114r/4–115v/5 Bede, "Historia ecclesiastica," 5.3–5, on St. John of Beverly [omitted between ff. 88v and 89r]: 'dicenda illi p⟨ro⟩pon⟨er⟩e & cu⟨m⟩ in o⟨mn⟩ib⟨us⟩ conseq⟨ue⟩nt⟨er⟩ respond⟨er⟩et'; ends: 'ab his qui p⟨ræ⟩sentes fuere s⟨ib⟩i perhibet e⟨ss⟩e relatum' (see Colgrave and Mynors 1969: 458.16–464, ch. 5).

5. ff. 115v/6–117r/19 Folcard, excerpts from "Vita S. Ioannis Beverlacensis," chs. 9–11: 'Magnificauit d⟨omi⟩n⟨u⟩s illum i⟨n⟩ conspectu regu⟨m⟩. & i⟨n⟩ conuentu | principum ostendit illius gl⟨or⟩iam'; ends: 'q⟨ui⟩ tante claritatis compos factus `sit´ coram homini | bus in terris; Tu aute⟨m⟩. domine. m⟨iserere⟩. nostri' (ed. Raine 1879: 254–59; also PL 147.1172–73 [secs. 16–17], 1175–76 [secs. 23–24], 1173–74 [secs. 18–19]).

f. 117v blank.

6. ff. 118r/1–149v/9 Aelred of Rievaulx, "Vita Sancti Edwardi regis Anglorum" (ed. PL 195.737–90):

f. 118r/1–118v/31 List of chapters: **Incipiunt capit⟨u⟩la in uita⟨m⟩ s⟨an⟩c⟨t⟩i edwardi regis. cap⟨itu⟩l⟨u⟩m p⟨ri⟩mu⟨m⟩.** | 'De Regis

edwardi gen⟨er⟩osa p⟨ro⟩sapia. & a quib⟨us⟩ | regib⟨us⟩ origine⟨m⟩ duxerit'; ends 'Quo | m⟨od⟩o senior q⟨ui⟩da⟨m⟩ in westmon⟨aster⟩io p⟨er⟩ beati edwardi suffragiu⟨m⟩ a t⟨ri⟩plici | dolore sit solutus'.

f. 119r/1–119v/9 Prologue: **Incipit ep⟨isto⟩la Ven⟨er⟩abil⟨is⟩ uiri adelredi Rieuall⟨ensis⟩ abb⟨at⟩is. in uita⟨m⟩ Gl⟨ori⟩osi Edvvardi regis anglo | ru⟨m⟩. ad rege⟨m⟩ henricu⟨m⟩ | destinata.** | 'Multis ueteror(um) ['um' expunctuated] studio fuisse didi(s)cimus ['s' expunctuated] illustrium uiror⟨um⟩ | qui suis floruere temporibus. actus uitamq⟨ue⟩ describere'; ends 'ut et⟨er⟩nam cum eo | optineas felicitatem'.

f. 119v/9–120r/6 Preface: **Item ep⟨isto⟩la ei⟨us⟩de⟨m⟩ ad laurentiu⟨m⟩ abb⟨at⟩em Wes[t]monast⟨er⟩ii** 'Dilecto ac diligendo & intimis uiscerib⟨us⟩ amplectendo uene | rabili d⟨omi⟩no & p⟨at⟩ri laurentio uues(ti)monast⟨er⟩ii abb⟨at⟩i'; ends 'pretiosi confessoris | opitulatione donetur'.

ff. 120r/6–149v/9 "Life": **Incip⟨it⟩ Vita S⟨an⟩c⟨t⟩i Edwardi Regis anglor⟨um⟩. Cap⟨itu⟩l⟨u⟩m .I.** | 'GLORIOSI ac deo dilecti regis eadwardi uitam | litteris trad`it´uri ex uerb⟨is⟩ beatissimi petri ap⟨osto⟩lor⟨um⟩ | p⟨ri⟩ncipis sumam⟨us⟩ exordiu⟨m⟩'; ends: '& expressius | extollendu⟨m⟩ tanti meriti patronu⟨m⟩ om⟨n⟩ium corda commouit.' | **Explicit uita gloriosi | Regis eadwardi.**

7. f. 149v/10–14 Four hexameters to the Trinity: 'Gloria su⟨m⟩ma deo qui solus iure triu⟨m⟩phat'.

8. Hugh (?of St. Victor) [fragment], "De beatae Mariae virginitate libellus epistolaris" (ed. PL 176.857):

f. 149v/14–21 Prologue: **INcipit p⟨ro⟩logus mag⟨is⟩t⟨ri⟩ hugonis ad Walterum pontificem de | uirginitate s⟨an⟩c⟨t⟩e MARIE** | '[S]⟨an⟩c⟨t⟩o pontifici .G. hugo seruus u⟨est⟩re beatitudinis. Narrastis m⟨ih⟩i | de beate Marie u⟨ir⟩ginitate'.

f. 149v/21–32 Text: **Incip⟨it⟩ t⟨ra⟩ctat⟨us⟩ de u⟨ir⟩gin[i] | tate s⟨an⟩c⟨t⟩e.** '[D]e incorrvpta u⟨ir⟩ginitate matris d⟨omi⟩ni. h⟨oc⟩ fides pie. 7 pietas fi | delit⟨er⟩ confitet⟨ur⟩'; ends imperfect 'q⟨uo⟩d tam impudica 7 nugaci loq⟨ua⟩citate. . . .' [leaf is torn diagonally, with a loss of up to 7 mm. a line].

PHOTO NOTES: The rubrics in the right margin of f. 3r are mostly illegible on the fiche, as are most folio numbers. Repeated images: ff. 16v–17r, 62v–63r, 72v–73r, 73v–74r, 91v–92r, 100v–101r, 120v–121r, 132v–133r, 134v–135r, 140v–141r, 149v.

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