

**401. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Laud Misc. 636 (1003)**  
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (E-text) ("Peterborough Chronicle")  
[Ker 346, Gneuss —]

**HISTORY:** The "Peterborough Chronicle" (the E-text of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle to 1154) was copied at Peterborough Abbey in the 12c. Ker dates the copying to "s. xii<sup>1</sup>, xii med." On ff. 86v–90v a short prose chronicle of England in Anglo-Norman, "Le Livre de Reis De Brittanie," to the accession of Edward I was added in the margins. Dean (1999) would date the copying of this chronicle to "XIII<sup>4/4</sup>." There are a few Latin notations of the 13c–14c. In the 16c the manuscript was owned by William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520–1598). Laurence Nowell (d. 1576) made a transcript of the Peterborough Chronicle (now London, BL MS Add. 43704) in 1565 while he was in residence at Cecil's house. A number of "Parkerian" underlinings, scorings in the margin, or pointing fingers agree closely with the citations of the Chronicle in the Parkerian "A Defence of Priestes Mariages" (1566/67, STC 17519; see Whitelock 1954: 23). While the manuscript was in Parker's household, John Joscelyn (1529–1603) used the manuscript and made extracts from it. The manuscript was owned by William Lisle (1569?–1637), from whose estate Archbishop William Laud acquired it in 1638 (Laudian inscription, f. 1r, bottom). Lisle collated this manuscript against "Benet" (= "The Parker Chronicle," Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 173 [34]) and a "liber Cottonianus" (= London, British Library Otho B. xi [217], now badly damaged), and he made numerous annotations on the interleaved pages and in some margins. He made transcripts of excerpts from CCCC 173 on the quire of paper leaves that follows the parchment manuscript; other 17c hands added tables of contents directly from homiliaries once owned by Parker and by then in Cambridge. The Bodleian Library received the manuscript from Laud in 1639. Former shelfmark was Laud E. 80.

[Note: A paper quire of 14 has been appended to the original manuscript. It is foliated consecutively '92–103' on the top right rectos and is separately foliated '1–14' on the bottom right. Contents: ff. 92r–97r contain transcripts by Lisle from the A-S Chronicle A, "The Parker Chronicle" (CCCC 173, ed. Bately 1986): Annal '814' [recte 893], '895–900' [894–899], '913–924' [912–920] (for the annals 925–936 another hand has

added a reference to 'peterburgensis' and 'Cot.', = Chronicle E, and London, BL, Cotton Otho B. xi), '937', '941' [942], '973' '975'; f. 98r 'The pedegree of WODEN', excerpts from Chronicle A 855. The rest of the quire, in various hands, contains 17c tables of contents of nine Parkerian homiliaries and miscellaneous notes.]

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Foliated 1–91 in red pencil, interleaved with and preceded and followed by 17c paper leaves much larger than the older parchment which have been used for occasional annotations on interleaves and extensive annotations at the end. The binding is 17c (see the reproduction of the front cover in Whitelock 1954: n.p.). The arrangement of sheets is HFHF. The manuscript has suffered much from trimming: the cut folios measure 208 x 141–144 mm., but full pages (ff. 86–90) measure 240 x 165–168 mm. The paper pages measure 310 x 200 mm. The written space is 168–174 x 100 mm. The Chronicle is ruled for long lines except for ff. 2–7, which were ruled for two columns to accommodate writing the barren annal years. Quire I is ruled in hard point; the other quires in pencil. There are 30 lines per page with the following exceptions: on f. 23r a single unruled line added for correction; on f. 51r three lines were ruled from left margin across and through right margin; on f. 56r four further lines are ruled at bottom. Here the writing extends from the left margin across the page through the right margin and now off the page owing to the clipped edge. Ff. 89r, 90v, and 91rv were ruled for 29 lines, f. 89v ruled for 30 lines written and one overhang, f. 90r ruled for 30 lines. The color of ink ranges from brown to black. The annal years are written in red, as are the capital initials for entries beginning s.a. 1124. The ornamental initial capital 'B' (f. 1r) in green with red highlights is in the same style as the initial 'G' (f. 1r) in Oxford, Bodleian Library Bodley 163 [353]. The green has eaten through the parchment. The last folio of the manuscript is badly rubbed and crumpled. Whitelock (1954: 13) transcribes the last seven lines of f. 91v, numbering them ll. "24–30" (= ll. 23–29) and gives conjectural readings where necessary.

There are two hands in the E-text of the Chronicle. The main hand is responsible for ff. 1r–81r/10. This hand continues, though with some change of aspect, through annal 1121. After this point, the aspect of the writing shifts rapidly, though both Ker and Whitelock assign these annals to scribe 1. There are six points where the aspect of the writing and the color of the ink show clear changes: ff. 81r/11–81v/5 (= a. 1122); ff. 81v/6–83r/14 (= a. 1123); ff. 83r/14–84r/15 (= a. 1124); ff. 84r/15–85r/7 (= a. 1125–26); ff. 85r/7–86v/2 (= a. 1126–27); ff. 86v/2–88v/9 (= a. 1128–31). Scribe 2 begins at f. 88v/10

and continues through the end of the E-text. The margins of ff. 86v–90v were used in the late 13c for an Anglo-Norman Chronicle.

**COLLATION:** I–VII<sup>10</sup> (ff. 1–70), VIII<sup>10 + 1</sup> f. 81 added at end of quire (ff. 71–81), IX<sup>10</sup> (ff. 82–91), [X<sup>14</sup>] appended 17c paper quire. The 91 parchment folios are interleaved with early-17c paper.

### CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r–91v: “Peterborough Chronicle” (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, E-text): ‘Brittene igland is ehta hund mila lang’; ends: ‘7 nu is abbot. 7 fair haued begunnon. Xrist hi⟨m⟩ unne þ⟨us⟩ enden’ (ed. Plummer 1892, 1899 and Clark 1970; facs. Whitelock 1954).
2. ff. 86v–90v (written in margins on left, top, and right of OE text) a short, prose Anglo-Norman chronicle “Le Livere de Reis De Brittanie”: ‘Devant la Natiuite nostre sein⟨our⟩ mil 7 .cc. an 7 vint brut⟨us⟩ le fiz silui⟨us⟩ en engle | tere’; ends: ‘Apré ly fu `rei´ eaduard | sun `fiz´ beau bacheler | pruz e uailant’ (coll. Glover 1865; ed. Foltys 1962: 1–114).

### PHOTO NOTES:

Ff. 4rv, 45r, 91rv affected by brown stains, but text readable; f. 31 bleed-through makes reading the fiche difficult; f. 34r/21 two lines of early modern writing erased; f. 37 an old sewing through tear; f. 89r/18 light blot over ‘hung`r`les’, ill-formed ‘r’ inserted by correction; 90v badly rubbed but readable, hole in parchment at lines 23–25.

[Editor’s Note: Final paper quire [X] of 14: film shows first 12 sheets and recto of 13th. Before this final paper quire is a blank paper quire of 12 + 1 and there is another blank paper quire of 10 between the front flyleaf and quire I; neither is included on the film. These blank paper quires share watermarks with the interleaves, while the paper of quire X is from a different source. A.N.D.]

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