

## 81a. Cambridge, Trinity College R.7.3 (741)

Bede "Ecclesiastical History,"

"Epistoli Cuthberti" (with Bede's "Death Song" in OE)

[RS: 3.19; Ker: --; Gneuss: --]

**HISTORY:** Written in the early 14c. The text of Bede's "Ecclesiastical History" is that of the second variety of the "common text of southern England in the later Middle Ages" (Colgrave and Mynors 1991: lv), containing "after Bede's *History* and Cuthbert's letter on his death ... a Latin version of the well-known anonymous Old English tract of the Resting-places of the English saints. This was translated, according to F. Liebermann ... at St Augustine's, Canterbury, between 1033 and 1085" (lvii; cf. Liebermann 1889: xvii). Compare Ker, *Cat.*, 104.

The edges bear traces of markings in red, green and black. These are described by Colgrave and Mynors 1991 as "perhaps a coat of arms, *Gules three chevrons argent*, on a vine-leaf background," on the foreedge, "whilst the lower edge is half *Checky argent and sable*, half *Checky argent and gules*"; the upper edge bears this pattern more distinctly. They remark that *Argent three chevrons gules* is attributed to John Langton (bishop of Chichester and chancellor of England) d. 1337, on unknown authority (lviii).

An inscription on the pasted-down endpaper records its donation to Trinity College: 'Dono dedit Guil. Ayloff L.L.D. | Hujus Collegii socius | et | Academiae Cantabrigiensis | Orator Publicus'. William Ayloff was Public Orator from 1698 to 1726. The class mark 'B. 8. 25' has been crossed out, and 'R. 7. 3' written beneath it.

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** [ii] + 170 + [i] (flyleaves paper, with rulings in red), foliated 1-170. Pages size 235 x 159 mm. Quires of 12 arranged HFHFHF. Writing area 170 x 105 mm., divided into two columns with 8 mm. separation. Ruled 29 lines, and an area of 25 mm. at the bottom of each column, within the writing area, is used only for the ornament of capitals and occasional chapter headings. The leaves are pricked for the outer edges of the writing area, and the space between columns, but the prickings have been trimmed from many sheets: the lower-edge prickings survive most

consistently. A marginal annotation on f. 149v has lost some letters at the beginning, showing that the trimming is post-medieval.

The hand is a fine one of the early 14c, writing in brown ink (quires VI and VII, ff. 61r–84v, are in a notably paler ink). Chapter headings are in red, and capitals marking the beginning of sections are in blue, more or less elaborately ornamented with fine red lines. The initial letters of books are splendidly made in blue, red, white, green and plum inks, and gold. On f. 1r/3a the sadly rubbed initial shows a figure at a writing desk, doubtless Bede. The writing area of f. 1r has a border, including at the top edge a female head in a medallion. The left-hand edge has birds, a vine pattern, and another head in a medallion. The right-hand edge has birds, aviform grotesques with human or ape heads, and a female fiddler, apparently seated on a disembodied male head. The bottom margin has two groups; in the left column, a man stoops and points to his bared buttocks; a hound turns away and cowers (or perhaps retaliates—the facial expression is hard to interpret, though the tail is between the dog’s legs); a man on horseback gestures at the mooner; a hare sits and watches. The human figures are identified by James (1900–1904: 2.218) as Marcolph and Solomon, respectively; the reference is doubtless to the story of Marcolph’s revenge on Solomon for dismissing him from the court (for the general form of the story, see Duff 1892: 31–32). Under the right-hand column, a man (identified by James [1900–1904: 2.218] as Samson) and a lion wrestle. On f. 2v/6b, an elaborate initial with grotesque winged busts at the bottom marks the beginning of Book 1; f. 34r/8b, Book 2 begins with an initial containing the bust of an old man; the head is hooded and also has a scarf, with the knot in a zoomorphic shape resembling hell-mouth; there is no tonsure so the head cannot represent Pope Gregory the Great, and presumably represents the Old Adam, if it has any thematic relationship with the text; this initial is also decorated by a dragon on its top. Books 3 and 4 begin with initials decorated with the full range of inks and gold (f. 61v/11a and f. 95v/12b, the latter containing a grotesque with the face and dress of a woman, including a hood, but the neck and legs of a crane or heron). On f. 133v/10a the initial ‘S’ beginning Book 5 has a figure of a young man in blue who is holding up the continuation of the text of the heading of Book 5, which was omitted in its proper place and is completed in the left hand margin. At f. 167r/4a, “Cuthbert’s Letter” begins with an initial decorated with the full range of inks and gold.

There are assembly annotations at the bottom right hand corner of the following folios: f. 1r (‘foliu(m) i p(ri)mi q(ua)t(er)ni’), f. 34r (‘foliu(m) x terii

q(ua)t(er)ni”), f. 61r (‘foliu(m) i sexti q(ua)t(er)ni’), f. 95v (‘foliu(m) xi octau q(ua)t(er)ni’) and f. 167r (‘foliu(m) xi q(ua)rtodecimi q(ua)t(er)ni’). These are all folios containing illustrations (the illustration on f. 61 is on the verso). The other folios with major illustrations are f. 133v, on which there is a trace of writing which could have been a similar annotation, but which has been cut away, and f. 2, which has been misplaced in the binding. The presumption is that the annotations mark sheets that have been separated from the rest of the book for the making of the illustrations.

Foliated in pencil, reflecting the present state of the manuscript. The first quire is foliated in the bottom center of the rectos in a medieval hand, indicating the order in which the folios should be read.

A number of folios have damage: some tears which existed before writing, and some holes which have been carefully repaired with gauze, at some cost to legibility. Ff. 167–70 have been damaged by damp. The damage to the outer edges of f. 170v is consistent with direct contact with the rear binding, before a rebinding with the paper flyleaf.

Binding plain brown leather, perhaps early 18c; a clasp has been removed. Inside the front cover is pasted a Trinity College paper bookplate.

**COLLATION:** I<sup>12</sup> bifolia 2/11 and 3/10 transposed (ff. 1–12); II–XIII<sup>12</sup> (ff. 13–156); XIV<sup>14</sup> (ff. 157–170). Original quire signatures are located at bottom center of the the first page of each quire, and catchwords at bottom right hand corner of the last page.

[**Note:** The second and third sheets of the first quire (ff. 2/11 and 3/10) have been transposed in binding. This transposition was made in the Middle Ages, perhaps in the original binding of the book, as shown by medieval annotations in the manuscript. In red ink and an elaborate 14c hand, the instruction to the reader, f. 2v, bottom right hand corner, ‘Salta foliu(m)’. Catchwords: f. 1v, bottom right hand corner, ‘porro i(n) p(ro)ui(n)cia’ (untidily written) and the instruction ‘p(oster)o i’ (?), pointing to f. 3r/1a; f. 2v, bottom right hand corner (untidily) ‘nu(n)c corrupte’, pointing to f. 4r/1a; (the following catchwords are all written extremely faintly, in an informal but quite neat hand; they are not visible in the photographs) f. 9v, bottom right hand corner ‘ma(n)suctudi(ni)s’, pointing to f. 11r/1a; f. 11v, bottom right hand corner ‘mag(i)s rei’, pointing to f. 10r/1a; f. 10v, bottom right hand corner, ‘romanc p(ro)ui(n)cie’, pointing to f. 12r/1a. The first quire is also foliated, in a medieval hand and a mixture of arabic and roman numerals, to indicate the correct order: (blank), 3, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, xi, 10, 12.]

## CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r-166v Bede's "Ecclesiastical History" (ed. Colgrave and Mynors 1969):  
 ff. 1r/1a-f.1v/29b, f. 3r/1a-29b "Preface": **Incipit prefac(i)o ven(er)abilis  
 | bede p(re)sb(ite)r(i) in libro eccl(es)iastice | historie gentis  
 anglorum | 'Gl(ori)osissi(m)o | regi Ceol[f?]olfo'.**
- f. 3v/1a-29b, f. 2r/1a-f. 2v/29a "Book 1, Capitula": 'De situ britannie v(e)l  
 hib(er)nie'.
- f. 2v/1b-29b, ff. 4r/1a-33r/24b (first half of line) "Book 1":  
**Incipit lib(er) primus ven(er)abi|lis bede p(re)sbit(er)i in historiam  
 | anglorum. De situ b(ri)|tannie vel Hibernie 7 | priscis earum  
 incolis.** | 'Britannia | oceani | insula'; ends 'venire | audebat'.
- ff. 33r/24b (second half of line)-34r/29a "Book 2, Capitula":  
**Cap(itu)la s(e)c(un)di libri in | eandem hystoria(m) gentis  
 an|glo(rum) secundum bedam p(re)s|biterum** 'De ortu ac uite |  
 procurso sim(u)l 7 obitu b(eat)i | Gregorii p(a)p(e)'.
- ff. 34r/1b-60r/5b "Book 2": **De ortu ac uite p(ro)cessu sim(u)l | 7 obitu  
 b(eat)i G(regori)i p(a)p(e) et de c(au)s(a) | quam admonitus est  
 id(e)m | beatus papa Augustinum | ad predicandum genti |  
 anglorum destinaret.** | 'Hiis tempo|rib(us) i(d est) an|no d(o)m(in)ice  
 | Incarna|c[i]o(n)is. dc<sup>o</sup>. v<sup>o</sup>'.
- ff. 60r/7b-61r/27b (first half of line) "Book 3, Capitula": **Capitula libri  
 tercii.** | 'Q(uo)d primi successores ead|wini regis'; ends: 'erro|re correcti'.
- ff. 61r/27b-94v/17a "Book 3": **Q(uo)d primi suc|cessores eadwini regis  
 et | fidem sue gentis p(ro)dideru(n)t | | 7 regnum q(uo)d oswaldus  
 ch(ri)st(i)|anissimus utrumq(ue) restau|rauerit. ...** ↑ (line 11) 'Interfecto  
 ig(itur) in pugna ut supra | diximus'; ends: 'rediere letantes'.
- ff. 94v/18a-95v/28a "Book 4, Capitula": **Capitula libri quarti | secundum  
 eundem bedam** | 'Qvod deusdedit defu(n)cto | Wigard'.
- ff. 95v/1b-132v/28a "Book 4": **Quod deusdedit defunc|to wighard ad  
 suscipien|dum episcopatum roma(m) | sit missus sed illo ibidem  
 | defuncto theodorus archi|ep(iscopu)s ordinatus 7 cum adri|ano  
 abbate sit britannia(m) missus.** | 'In anno memorato | prefate eclipsis'.
- ff. 132v/3b-133v/7a "Book 5, Capitula": 'Ut edelwald successor | cudb(er)ti';  
 ends: '7 de p(er)sona auctori(s)' [f. 132v/1b-2b blank, as though for a red  
 title which has been omitted].
- ff. 133v/8a-166v/30b "Book 5". **Q(uod) edelwaldo successor cuthb(er)ti  
 | anachoretica uita labora(n)tib(us)—[sic] dash, truncated heading,  
 completed in margin: in mari fr(atr)ib(us) | te(m)pestatem o|rando**

**sedau(er)it** | ‘Svccessit a(utem) uiro d(om)i(n)o cuthb(er)to’; ends: ‘ap(u)d o(mne)s fructu(m) pie i(n)t(er)cessio(n)is | i(n)uenia(m). Am(en)’.

[**Note:** Book 5 ends with the list of Bede’s works (ff. 166r/28a–166v/14b), and, as a *c* version, concludes with the last paragraph of the “Preface”: ‘P(re)t(er)ea o(mne)s ad quos h(ec) ead(em) ystor(ia) ... ap(u)d o(mne)s fructu(m) pie i(n)t(er)cessio(n)is | i(n)uenia(m). Am(en)’ (f. 166v/19b–30b).]

2. ff. 167r/1a–168r/3b “Cuthbert’s Letter on the Death of Bede”.

(In red) **De uita 7 fine uenerabil(is) | bede presbiteri 7 de dilige(n)tia | sc(ri)bendi 7 dicta(n)di us(que) ad fine(m) | ‘Dilectissi(m)o in chr(ist)o lecto|ri Cuthwino’**; ends: ‘li(n)gue facit’ (ed. Colgrave and Mynors 1969: 580–86; Dobbie 1937: 119–27 rectos, Insular Version, “Digby Group”; manuscript tradition discussed 75–83, this manuscript at 78).

[**Note on OE Text:** The English text of Bede’s “Death Song” occurs at f. 167r/12b–17b: ‘for þa(m) nedfere neniwir| þeh þances snotera þone | him þearf sytoge hic ge(n)ne | ær his gaste godes oþþe y|uolys æfter deaye [*sic* “y”, clearly a mistake for “þ”] henon | demed weorþe’. The scribe does not effectively distinguish “wynn” from “þ,” and only distinguishes “þ” from “y” by a dot, which is here misplaced once. It is by no means certain that the scribe intended to write “wynn” in those places where we know it must have occurred in the exemplar.]

3. ff. 168r/4b–170v/20a [in red] **De corporib(us) sanctor(um) que i(n) | anglia requiescunt. qui fu|erunt 7 in quib(us) locis eor(um) | corpora sepelliuntur in se | quentibus dicetur | ‘In no(m)i(n)e do(min)i n(ost)ri i(es)u chr(ist)i b(eatu)s aug(us)tin(us)’**; ends: ‘sa(n)ct(a) merewenna abba|tissa in loco q(ui) d(i)c(it)ur rume-|sige p(ro)pe amnem taerstan req|uiescit’ (ed. Liebermann 1889).

[**Note:** ‘merewenna’ spelled with a “wynn”; f. 169r/28–29a blank; f. 169v/1a larger than usual initial “S” for ‘S(an)c(tu)s alban(us) p(ro)thom(a)rtyr an|glorum’.]

**PHOTO NOTES:** A supplementary fiche shows new photos of ff. 1r and 167r.

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