

124. Durham, University Library, Cosin V. II. 6

Symeon of Durham, "Libellus de exordio," etc.

[Ker 110*, Gneuss—]

HISTORY: The principal item in this manuscript (item 7) is a copy of Symeon of Durham's "Libellus de exordio atque procursu istius hoc est Dunhelmensis ecclesie," formerly known as the *Historia Dunelmensis ecclesie*, an account of the foundation of the church of Lindisfarne, the removal of that church to Chester-le-Street in the late 9c, its final relocation at Durham in 995, and the history of the church of Durham down to the death of Bishop William of St. Calais in 1096. The work is now definitely attributed to Symeon of Durham and was written after 1104 and probably by 1107, certainly by 1115. The text in this manuscript is very closely related to that in London, BL Cotton Faustina A.v [191]. Paleographical evidence shows that it was produced at Durham very soon after the composition of the main text, and was corrected by the author, Symeon of Durham. Item 5 was added in the second quarter of the 12c, item 9 in the third quarter. The evidence of medieval Durham library catalogues shows that the manuscript was in Durham in the later Middle Ages. The words on f. 12r/1, ' & qua(m) maxime', correspond to the *secundo folio* reference in the 1421 catalogue, as does the shelf-mark 'O' (gutter) on f. 11r (B[otfield] 1838: 124). F. 11r has a 15c rubric which incorporates a Durham ex-libris. Item 8 (ff. 88r–98r) and the headings on ff. 1v and 6r were added by William Claxton of Wynyard (d. 1597), who was associated with other Durham books, including two copies of the "Libellus de exordio," Oxford, Bodleian Library, Fairfax MS 6, and Laud misc. MS 700 (cf. Doyle 1997). The manuscript was in the library of Bishop John Cosin before 1668, when he founded the Episcopal Library, entrusted to the University of Durham in 1937. Eight paper leaves were added in the 18c. Quires I–XI constitute the original manuscript, with XII added in 16c. Quires XIII–XIV are later 12c additions.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The leaves now measure 292 mm. × 185 mm. Hair and flesh sides are not distinguishable, quires of 8 and 10

alternating. The 12c quires (i.e., all except XII) have a written space of 195 × 105 mm. or 190 × 105 mm. (quire I has “somewhat shorter and narrower leaves” and is ruled “in grey lead with one fewer line” (cf. Doyle 1998: 121). Ruling is double-frame with drypoint and very similar to the scheme of *Faustina A.v.*, except in quires XII and XIII–XIV, where it is in pencil. Pricking is in the outer margins of all the 12c quires, except XIII–XIV where it is in the inner and outer margins. The added 16c quire (XII) has a written space of c. 240 × 140 mm. The endleaves and ff. i–viii are 18c paper.

“*Libellus de exordio*,” item 7, was written in late caroline minuscule by a single expert scribe, who as part of the text wrote “*Bede’s Death Song*” in a skilful imitation of insular minuscule (ff. 29r/26–30v/4), and whose hand was similar but not identical to that of the scribe of the main text of the “*Libellus de exordio*,” including the “*Death Song*,” in *Faustina A.v.* (f. 42r). Item 7 was very soon after its completion subjected to a remarkable series of alterations and erasures (see Rollason in Rollason 1998). The original scribe substituted new text over an erasure on f. 39v/25–40r/10 (‘*Nam in domo . . . sufficient*’). On f. 6r/2–15 the preface was rewritten by the hand identified with that of Symeon (Gullick 1994: 108–9 and 1998: 112–15), which also made other alterations over an erasure on: f. 12r/5 (‘*studiu(m)*’), f. 51r/11 (‘*xiii*’) f. 63v/22 (‘*iubente Will(elm)o rege p(ro)curator e(st) fact(us)*’), f. 65v/20–1 (‘*re|conciliata solennit(er) eccl(esi)a uiiii*’), f. 77v/14 (‘*de clero*’), f. 81r/18–19 (‘*. . . ib(us) northymbrię comitibus*’), and f. 84v/25 (‘*Boso*’). Symeon also added a number of words above the line: ‘*ad*’ on f. 20r/7, ‘*decimo*’ on f. 21r/3, ‘*fili(us) Westou*’ on f. 56v/26, ‘*p(ro)uincie*’ / ‘*plagam*’ on f. 63v/20 / 21. In addition, several erasures were made without new text being supplied: f. 6r/20, f. 35r/2–19, f. 45v/21–22, f. 60v/6–7, f. 72v/14–18, f. 79v/16–17, and f. 80r/13–f.80v/7. Other additions by later scribes were made to the list of bishops (f. 6vb), eventually taking it down to the time of Bishop John Cosin (1660–1672), and the list of monks after ‘*Edmundus*’ (f. 7v/1c) was continued until the later 12c.

The decoration of item 7 (ff. 6r–98r), which is very similar to that of *Faustina A.v.*, consists of the use of alternating red and blue or red and green initials in item 7b, the list of bishops (the first word on f. 6r and the heading and first words on f. 11r) and item 7c (the list of monks), and the use of minor and major initials throughout item 7. The former are in red or blue, often with finials and penwork decoration in the other color; the latter comprise the following initials: f. 6r ‘*E*’ inhabited by a quadruped in pale green with blue-grey wings and a red head, on a blue ground; f. 7r ‘*H*’ inhabited by a standing white lion on a blue ground; f. 11r, an initial ‘*G*’ formed by a tailed biped in pale blue patterned with white circles and red, with blue-

grey wings, on a blue ground with red, white, and blue leaves; and f. 77v, 'T' inhabited by a human figure, in red and light blue shaded with white, on a red and blue ground with blue-grey, red, and green leaves. The major initials may be by the same artist as those of Oxford, University College 165 (s. xiiiⁱⁿ, Durham, Bede's "Prose Life of St. Cuthbert").

Chapter numbers relating to the system of chapters found in other Durham manuscripts of the work, of which the earliest is Oxford, Bodleian Library, Holkham misc. 21, were added in the 14c in parts of item 7, as was a marginal note on f. 40r ('def(icit) capitulum', which refers to chapter 8 of the early-12c text *De miraculis et translationibus sancti Cuthberti* (ed. Arnold 1882–1885: 2.333–35), which was inserted at this point in some later manuscripts of the "Libellus de exordio" (e.g., Oxford, Bodleian Library, Fairfax 6).

Item 5 (ff. 1v–4v) was added on a separate quire shortly after the second quarter of the 12c. Decoration consists of a large red 'R' for 'Regnante' on f. 1v/1 with green embellishment. Item 9 (ff. 98v–113r (continuation of the "Libellus") was added in the latter half of the 12c, with the second half of the text (after the words 'sigillo confirmauit restituta' on f. 102r/15) somewhat later than the first. F. 109 is a 16c replacement leaf. Decoration consists of: a red 'T' with blue, green, and yellow embellishment for 'TRIBVS' on f. 98v/1 with that and the subsequent word in blue, red, and green capitals; and a large initial 'A' with similar embellishment for 'Anno' on f. 102r/23 and f. 106v/23.

Item 8 (ff. 88r–98r), which is written in an archaizing hand in a quire of 10 added inside the original quire XI, is a late-16c insertion by William Claxton of the "De iniusta uexacione Willelmi episcopi primi" (William of St. Calais) into the main body of the "Libellus de exordio"; this operation involved the erasure of part of the original text on f. 98r ('acrius. . . .deportauerunt') and its rewriting on f. 88r/1–7 to make space on f. 98r/1–9/10 for the completion of the insertion (cf. Offler 1997: 70–71). Item 6 was added in the late 16c, items 1, 2, 3 (except for the 14c rubric), and item 10 in the 18c.

Marginal notes of various periods draw attention to aspects of the text. Headings, running headings, and book and chapter numbers corresponding to those in the copy in Cambridge, University Library Ff. 1. 27 [94] were added in the 18c, as was the ink pagination (beginning on f. 1v, running '1–225') which is now superseded by a pencil foliation. Material from other manuscripts was supplied to fill erasures in the text in the early modern period, principally: the name 'Rannulfum' in the margin by f. 6r/20; the words 'Weor et Tine' on f. 45v/21–2 in very faint pencil; on f.60v/6–7, the

words ‘reddere noluit, unde’ from Faustina A. v; on f. 72v, from the same manuscript, the words ‘Ipse est q(u)i in locu(m) magistri uideli|cet Aldwini succedens, hodie in | hac, id est Dunelmensi Eccl(es)ia | dudu(m) sibi traditum a Willelmo | E(pisco)po Prioratum tenet’; and f. 80v, the words ‘iþ [recte ‘propter’] q(u)d dicitur q(u)od prebe[n]de de Auk(e)land, | darlington, norton, Ekington factę | fuer(un)t tantu(m) p(ro) illis ca(n)o(nic)is ex p(ro)uisio(n)e d(omi)ni | p(a)pe ut haber(en)t unde uiuerent suo | perpetuo’, are added in a late 16c archaicizing hand, apparently from this section of the “*Libellus de exordio*” in Fairfax 6.

Bound in a mid-19c binding, by Tucketts of London? (cf. Doyle 1998: 120]).

COLLATION: Foll. i–viii + 1–113. Eight 18c paper leaves (ff. i–viii). I⁶ wants 5 and 6 after f. 4 (ff. 1–4); II⁶ probably originally a quire of 8, wanting a leaf after f. 6 and after f. 9 (ff. 5–10); III–IV¹⁸ (ff. 11–30); V–VI⁸ (ff. 31–46); VII–VIII¹⁰ (ff. 47–66); IX–X⁸ (ff. 67–82); XI⁸ (ff. 83–87 / 98–100 + inserted XII¹⁰ after f. 87 (ff. 88–97); XIII⁸ (ff. 101–108); XIV⁶ wants 1, f. 109 a 16c replacement (ff. 109–113). One signature (trimmed) remaining at end of quire VIII (f. 66v) (for the earlier arrangement of the manuscript, see Doyle 1998 and Gullick 1998: 106–8).

CONTENTS:

f. i recto blank.

1. f. i verso Letter from Thomas Rud to Bishop William Talbot (1721–1730), dedicating item 2: ‘Reverendo in Christo Patri | WILLELMO’ (pr. B[otfield] 1838: 150).

2. ff. ii recto–vii verso Thomas Rud, Tract on the authorship of the “*Libellus de exordio*”: *Disquisitio | de uero Auctore | huius Historiae Dunelmensis Ecclesiae . . .* ‘Quæritur uter Historiam hanc scripserit, Symeon Monasterij Dunelmensis | Monachus et Præcentor’; ends: ‘et innocens inter plagiarios numerari debet’ (ed. Bedford 1732: i–xxxv).

f. viii recto blank.

3 f. viii verso Note on the printing of the manuscript in Bedford 1732: ‘This manuscript was correctly printed.’

4 f. 1r (second line) On an originally blank page, a Rubric (14c): *Libellus de Exordio atq(ue) p(ro)cessu Dunelm(ensis) ecc(lesi)e*; followed by miscellaneous modern notes, including (ll. 8–20) notes on authorship: ‘Simeo Dunelmensis aut potius Turgoti Libellus . . .’

5. ff. 1v–4v/9 A summary of the “*Libellus de exordio*”; *Breue Su(m)marium seu descriptio stat(us) Ecclesie | Lindisferne(n)sis et dunelm(ensis)*

- a tempore Aidani | Vsq(ue) ad Will(elmu)m Karilephe.** [this rubric added end of 16c in pink]; ‘REGNANTE APUD NORTHANYMBROS | chri(sti)anissimo rege et postea martyre | Oswaldo’; ends: ‘sed anti|quum d(e)o renouante RESTITUIT’ (ed. Arnold 1882–1885: 1.7–11; ed. and trans. Rollason 2000: Appendix A) [rest of f. 4v blank].
6. f. 5r/1–5v/20 A 16c compilation derived from Bede’s “Historia ecclesiastica” and from the “Libellus de exordio”: **Lindisfernensis insulæ discriptio** [in violet]: ‘Lindisfernensis Insula vocatur a fluuio Lindis . . . siue gesta hic infra per ordine(m) | describuntur’ (unpublished; cf. Rollason 2000: xviii) [rest of f. 5v blank].
7. f. 6r–98r Symeon of Durham, “Libellus de exordio atque procursu istius hoc est Dunhelmensis ecclesie” (ed. Arnold 1882–1885; ed. and trans. Rollason 2000):
- a. f. 6r/1–23 **Incipit libellus de statu Lindisfarnensis | idem Dunelm(ensis) Ecclesie s(ecundu)m Ven(er)abile(m) | Bedam presb(ite)r(um), Et postmodu(m) de | gestis Episcoporu(m) Dunelmensiu(m)** [rubric, end of 16c], preface: ‘EXORDIUM | huius hoc est dunelmensis | eccl(esi)e describere . . . apponere n(on) negligat’; f. 6r/24–6v/37b List of bishops of Lindisfarne, Chester-le-Street, and Durham, in the original hand from Aidan to Ranulf Flambard (1099–1128) [col. a] ‘AIDANUS’; with additions in later hands to John Cosin (1660–1672); ff. 7r–8v/26b Introduction and list of 230 monks of Durham: ‘HIC SCRIPTA | continentur nomina | monachoru(m) . . . Theobald(us) | Girardus’ [15c shelf-mark ‘R’ altered from ‘Q’ at top of f. 7r];
- ff. 9r–10v blank;
- b. ff. 11r/1–88r/7, 98r/10–28 Main text: **Cronica de exordio 7 p(ro)gressu eccl(es)ie Dunelm(ensis) | De registro siue officio Cancellariatus eccl(es)ie Dunelm(ensis)** [this rubric early 15c, with shelf-mark ‘O’ (in gutter)]; **INCIPIT. LIBELLVS | DE EXORDIO. ATQUE | PROCURSU. IS|TIUS. HOC. EST. DUNHELMENSIS | ECCLESIE** [this rubric in hand of text scribe] | ‘GLORIOSI | QUONDAM | REGIS | northanhymbro(r)u(m) | & preciosi marty|ris OSWALDI | feruentissima in | chr(ist)o fide’; ends on f. 98r: ‘fuerant | monachi annus agebatur’;
- [Note: There are no chapter numbers or headings, but divisions are marked by major and minor initials as in Faustina A.v [191]. The “Books,” marked originally only in CUL MS Ff. 1. 27 [94], are: Book 1, f. 11r, Book 2, f. 31r/10, Book 3, f. 51r/4, Book 4, f. 78v/1 (the modern book and chapter divisions have been marked by an 18c hand). There is an erasure on f. 35v, the text now completely lost. The insertion of a later quire bearing another text between f. 87 and 98 has caused the ending of the text to be separated from the main body (see “Codicological Description”). At

- f. 29r/26–29v/4 is “Bede’s Death Song” in OE: ‘For þam neodfere | nenig wyrþeð’ (W-S version, ed. Dobbie 1942: 108). The text belongs to Dobbie’s “Symeon” group (Dobbie 1937: 83–87), facsimile in Robinson and Stanley 1991: pl. 3.]
8. ff. 88r/8–98r/10 [written in the late 16c on an inserted quire of 10] “De iniusta vexacione Willelmi episcopi primi per Willelmm regem filium Willelmi magni regis”: ‘Anno ab i(n)carnac(i)o(n)e d(omi)ni m^o 80^o. i(n)t(er)fecto a suis | p(er)occianis Walc(h)ero ep(iscop)o’; ends: ‘est traditum in capitulo mo(na)c(h)or(um) | et cet(era)’ (ed. Arnold 1882–1885: 1.170–95; Offler 1997).
- [Note: The writing at the top of f. 88r, lines 1–7, ‘ille acri(us) dolore . . . s(an)c(t)i mic(h)æaelis [sic] deportauerunt’, is the section of “De exordio” 4.10 missing between f. 87v and 98r (Arnold 1882–1885: 1.134). That on f. 98r/10–28 is the interrupted ending of Item 7.]
9. ff. 98v/1–113r/19 A continuation of the “Libellus de exordio”: ‘TRIB-VS DEHINC | annis eccl(es)ia uacante pastore’; ends: ‘in sede sua ep(iscopu)s sollempnit(er) susceptus est’ [f. 99 is a 16c replacement leaf] (ed. Arnold 1882–1885: 1.135–60; ed. and trans. Rollason 2000: Appendix B).
10. f. 113v (18c) An historical extract from Durham, Cathedral Library, MS B.II.35, f. 277: *Additamentum ex ueteri Libro MS. ecclesie Dunelmensis* ‘Anno ab Incarnatione Domini MCLIII, in die Sancti | Vincentii Laurentius Prior et Clerus Dunelmensis Ecclesie . . . apud Karlel IX Kal. Junii obiit.’ (copied from Bedford 1732: 293–94 by George Allen [d. 1800]).

PHOTO NOTES: The pencil foliation is sometimes faint on the photographs. The following italicised letters on the versos near the gutter are not visible in the photographs: f. 46v/2 seruant(ur); f. 46v/4 sum(us); f. 66v/14 uestimentis. Item 9 is barely legible in the photographs because of pale ink (f. 109r–v).

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