

198. London, British Library Cotton Julius A. ii

Bede, "Chronicon"; Ælfric, "Grammar and Glossary";

"Adrian and Ritheus," etc.

[Ker 158/159, Gneuss 336]

HISTORY: Remains of three separate codices, all damaged by fire and repaired by vellum inlays; associated, if not always bound together, since at least the time of the Cotton table of contents (early 17c). The first part, ff. 2–9 (Bede), is 12c. The second part, ff. 10–135, a copy, imperfect at the beginning, of Ælfric's "Grammar and Glossary" (Ker 158), is mid-11c, the text collated by Zupitza as "J"; the third part, "Adrian and Ritheus" and other short texts (Ker 159), is early or mid-12c. The present contents of the three parts appear in the ca. 1638 catalogue-list in BL Add. 36683, f. 14r, the contents of the third part added in the hand of Sir Thomas Cotton, owner of the collection from 1631 (Tite 1994; fig. 14). "There is a loans record, probably of this ms, to Henry Spelman in about 1615 (BL, Harley 6018, fol. 159r: 'Grammatica Ælfrici in latine and Saxon in 4to unbound' which indicates that the volume was not bound up at that time" (Colin Tite, p.c.; Tite elsewhere [1994: 105–6] has noted that at the time of their acquisition, many of Cotton's manuscripts were unbound). Richard James' characteristic table of contents, following the Add. 36683 wording, appears on f. 1r. A penciled note by Wanley opposite Julius A. ii in the volume photographed for the 1984 reprint of Smith's 1696 Catalogue of the Cotton manuscripts says "Cod. membran. in 4to constans foliis 149. quorum plura lacerata cernuntur." In view of all this, and given the patterns of fire- and water-damage, there is a possibility that the book was "in some way unbound" in 1731 (Tite, p.c.). Inscription (late 12c), 'thorn of hamton' on f. 135v. According to a note-slip in the volume, the historical annotations on ff. 4r–6r are in the hand of Patrick Young (1584–1652). Pressmark on f. 1* is of the 1820s. In the mid-17c Franciscus Junius, in Junius MS. 72 (5183), made a transcript of "Adrian and Ritheus," "Distichs of Cato," and the subsequent "Notes" in Oxford, Bodleian Junius 45 (5157), pp. 1–8, before the fire damage to this part; he also made a transcript of Ælfric's "Glossary," collated with the copy

in Harley 107 [261]. On inside of front cover in Junius's hand: 'gl Ælfrici, est glossarium in Cottonianæ bibliothecæ manuscripta Ælfrici grammatica ipsi grammaticæ sic adnexum, ut cuius liquere possit ipsum præsullem Ælfricum has glossas huic suæ adjecisse grammticæ'; his note on f. 1, upper right: 'Quædam hujus Glossarii loca contulimus cum fragmento D'ewsiano' (i.e., Harley 107).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: 19c paper flyleaves, 3 front, 2 back. 19c British Museum binding in brown leather, stamped with Cotton arms, rebaked 1950; edges gilded. Two medieval vellum singletons (HH), about 5mm. smaller in both directions than the pages of the book that follows, form original flyleaves; both have been inlaid in vellum.

Official (1867) foliation (pencil) [i-iv], 1*-1, 2-144 (unnumbered leaf after 135), [+ 145-46]; this foliation begins from the second old vellum flyleaf and from f. 136 coincides with an older ink foliation of Planta's time (late 18c) and does not renumber 136 and above. After f. 135 is a blank leaf uncounted in the official foliation and numbered '135' in the old foliation. The older foliation(s) are complex: the first part has an old ink foliation written on the upper right of the pages (not the inlays) beginning on (official) f. 2 as '1-7'; f. 9 has '8' written in a shaky hand in black lead at the top of the burnt leaf, while a more modern-looking hand has pencilled an '8' left of line 6 on what is actually a separate fragment of the page; this same hand has also pencilled '8' on the inlay in the upper right. The official foliator, beginning on the second fly, has cancelled these upper-left numbers and written one number higher. The second, Ælfric "Grammar," part continues this pattern, but also shows traces of an old pagination, '5' on f. 12r, '7' on f. 13r, the tail of '9' on f. 14r; on f. 17r is a trace of what should be '15' but does not appear to be. This series has otherwise been trimmed off and must date from before the combination of the parts and the fire. On every tenth verso the foliator for the 1703 commissioners' report writes the folio number: this series goes off one at f. 52v and off two at f. 103v: it extends through the second and third parts. In the third part the older ink foliation coincides with the official one and is let stand.

Trim size of present pages throughout the combined volume (intact leaves and inlaid leaves) is 224 × 151 mm. The pages of the first part were about this size originally, or a little larger, allowing for loss and shrinkage. The original size of the second part was somewhat larger and it has been severely trimmed, especially at top and bottom edges; the third part was smaller, about 197 × 137 mm., keeping in mind some variation with shrinkage.

First part: Bede, “Chronicon,” 12c. Vellum dullish tan, matte, marked hair/flesh contrast. Consists of 2 isolated singletons (ff. 2, 3, both flesh outside) and the three inside sheets of a quire of 8 (ff. 4–9). At the bottoms of the rectos of the quire an early modern hand has marked these leaves ‘a–f’. Page size approximately 220 × 142 mm. (after loss and shrinkage), writing area 198 × 100 mm. F. 9 is two fragments, a line lost between them. This part is scored for 36 lines from hair side, double bounding lines both margins. Ink is darkish brown, varying from brown to black; chapter initials and headings in red. 17c annotations indicating events in English history on ff. 4r–5r, 6r.

Second part: Ælfric’s “Grammar,” mid-11c. The least damaged leaves are a bright-surfaced vellum, stiff and smooth, rather thick, hair sides yellowish, flesh greyish. Arranged HFHF. First leaf and a leaf after f. 15 lost. Undamaged pages are trimmed to size of book, 224 × 151 mm.; writing area 227 × 110 mm. Scored from hair side for 23 lines, double bounding lines both margins. Upright insular minuscule with vertically exaggerated capitals, caroline s; script is lavish of between-line space and does not distinguish OE and Latin. Titles in tall, willowy rustic capitals. Large initials in red, tending to be slightly elaborated. Small initials and many in-text capitals filled in with metallic browns and oranges. An early modern italic hand has added signatures on the first rectos of quires. Many are trimmed, and the first that may be seen is ‘G’ on f. 24r, continuing to ‘V’, quire XVI, on f. 128r. ‘G’ marks the beginning of quire III; this implies that the first quire was ‘E’ and 4 quires preceded the “Grammar”; whether these would have been quires of the first part or from the A-S book cannot be told (only three folios are required at the beginning for the lost part of the “Grammar”). The orderly early modern signatures are interrupted in the last quire (sequentially ordered ‘V’ on first recto), made up of mounted singletons, by ‘W’ at bottom of f. 132r which is 5 of quire XVI; and ‘X’ at f. 134, which is 7 of quire XVI. The last three leaves of this quire are labeled in an early modern hand ‘B, c, D’. There are no visible quire marks in the third part.

Third part: “Adrian and Ritheus,” mid-12c. Parchment grey but bright on undamaged areas, very smooth, thin and stiff, little hair/flesh contrast. Largest, least damaged leaves about 203 × 140 mm., but all have been distorted by fire, with a tendency of outer edges to shrink in. Writing area is about 166 × 113 mm., but distorted from original size and shape. There is a sewing between ff. 136 and 137 but the original disposition of these separately mounted leaves (arranged HFHF) was probably a quire of 8, the facing hair sides 139v–140r probably being the center opening. Scored, without a rule, with a very sharp plummet, several leaves at a time, for 22 lines,

double outer boundary, no inner boundary. Formally, this is insular minuscule but with a pointed, early proto-gothic aspect; black ink for script, large slightly elaborated capitals begin new sentences and sayings in various colors, red, purple, pink, blue; tints have metallic quality: the greens have eaten through the vellum. Decorative spacers and runover markers, in combination with the florid, anachronistic script, give the pages a playful appearance.

Fire Damage: The 17c table of contents comprises the items in all three parts. The extent and pattern of fire damage differs in the three parts, suggesting that they were not burnt while joined together. In 1847, Madden reports in his work diary (Add. 62028, f. 21v, cf. Prescott 1997: 417, n. 217), that Charles Tuckett repaired the damaged leaves; this was done by the use of vellum inlays around the burnt edges. These have been trimmed and gilded along with the more-or-less intact leaves. On f. 134v a small vellum repair (apparently not part of the inlay work) that partially covered a line of writing later than the main text has been peeled back.

The second front vellum fly was burnt, the first apparently not. On the verso of the second (f. 1v), in the center, is the square British Museum stamp of the 1820s.

In the first part (ff. 2–9), the burning is on all four edges, but the damage does not extend to the writing areas except for the last leaf, which is severely (about 50%) burnt away from the outer edge. The mid-17c annotations on ff. 4–6 are partly burnt away, and the 1850s oval BM stamps on f. 2r and on the more badly burnt f. 9v have been partially consumed, seeming to put a terminus to the fire that affected this part. Water damage extends over the entire surface of almost all these leaves, which have been separately remounted (ff. 1–9, including the flies) in vellum inlays.

In the second part (ff. 10–135), which remains mostly structurally intact, the first leaves of the “Grammar” have been lost (and perhaps further initial quires); this loss most probably has nothing to do with a fire that has slightly damaged the remaining leaves: the first two remaining leaves (ff. 10–11) show damage on all three outer sides; though the oval 1850s BM stamp on f. 10r is not affected, it is placed up in the outer margin rather than in its usual place in the bottom margin, suggesting that the damage antedated the stamp (similarly with the stamps on ff. 77v, 78r); the 1850s stamp on f. 135r is in the bottom margin, but overlaying the descender of ‘sint’ and curtailed at its bottom, suggesting it has been squeezed onto the already trimmed leaf; on f. 79v is the square stamp of the 1820s up in the margin and another in its normal position in the center of the blank space on the last verso, f. 135v; ff. 12–125, 128–132 have no evident fire dam-

age, but there is water damage on the upper third of the surfaces, and these leaves are severely trimmed top and bottom: old (18c) foliation marks at tops of ff. 12, 12–14, 17 have been partially trimmed; probably the not-too-badly burnt edges were simply trimmed away; the trimmed-away medieval notes on f. 96r show that the outer edge was also trimmed, but not so severely as the tops and bottoms; ff. 126–27 and 133–35 show damage around top edges and f. 135, which would have been last if its volume was separate from the others at the time of the fire, is more severely burnt all around: the burnt-away areas of these damaged leaves have been extended out to trim size with vellum inlays.

In the third part (ff. ["old" 135] + 136–144), the fire damage is evident on all edges of every leaf, the pages shrinking in towards the outer edge. Fire damage is worst on the last two leaves (ff. 143–144) and is worst on their inside edges. The water damage proceeds from the inside edges, as if the burning book had been doused from the spine side. The blank leaf (now official unnumbered, old f. 135) appears to belong with the third part, judging by the quality of parchment and signs of damage (much less than on facing folio, from which it has an offset of water damage); also the inlay work is similar to that in other parts, though it should be noted that on all leaves pasted-on strips and patches of paper tissue are used to reinforce the inlay in the top inner parts, a technique not in evidence elsewhere in the book. The oval 1850s BM stamp appears in the bottom margin of f. 136r and may be shriveled in with the burnt membrane; the similar stamp on f. 144v does not appear deformed.

[Note: The fire damage presents a puzzle. The pattern of BM stamps and varying fire damage suggest that the three parts, though associated since the mid-17c, were not always, since then, bound together. The binding is the typical full leather binding of Madden's time. The evidence dictates that the first part was burnt after the 1850s BM stamps were added, perhaps as it lay disbound in the 10 July 1865 BM bindery fire; in the second part, the placement of the oval stamps indicates that it was trimmed and restored in the mid-19c (as is known it was, in 1847, see above) *before* the bindery fire; the third part is traditionally (and doubtless correctly) associated with the 1731 fire. Wanley (who died in 1726) had noted in the copy of Smith's *Catalogue* reproduced by Tite, that many leaves of the book were "lacerata" (Smith/Tite 1984: p. 1 of Smith's *Catalogus*). This might refer to the fragmentary state of the first and/or second parts, or possibly to already existing fire damage in part two. In his *Catalogus* (Hickes/Wanley 1705: 2.183), Wanley notes that the last five pages of the "Glossary," that is the anonymous grammatical treatise (item 4), were transposed to after the "Prayer" in part three (item 5); in this place he does not mention any fire damage. On first back fly is the note 'Exd. W.W. 19th June 1867'. According to Prescott (1997: 411), Madden on 13 Dec. 1838 reported to the

trustees that Julius A. ii was among the first class of manuscripts (those with some damage) that needed repairing, presumably the reference being to the third part. Concerning the manuscripts destroyed and damaged in the 10 July 1865 bindery fire, the relevant entries in the Madden Records, both dated 12 July 1865, do not mention Julius A. ii as among them (BL Add. 62016 f. 68rv; Add. MS 62041, f. 37rv), nor does his diary entry of 11 July 1865 (Diary of Sir F. Madden, Jan. 1865–1865, Facs X1012/40, pp. 211–215), which lists essentially the same manuscripts. More information about this manuscript might be found in Madden's summaries in Add. 62576 (cf. Prescott 1997: 437–40).]

COLLATION:

Part 1, all sheets separated by fire damage and remounted, ff. 4–9 as a quire: two singletons (ff. 2, 3) probably sheets 2 and 8 of a quire, of 8?; wants two quires, of 8?; [III⁸] wants 1 and 8 (ff. 4–9). Fols. 4–9 have been foliated 'a, b, c, d, e (cancelled), F'

Part 2: [missing quire or leaves]; I⁸ wants 1 and 8 before f. 10 and f. 16 (ff. 10–15); II–XV⁸ (ff. 16–127); [XVI⁸] all sheets remounted as bifolia (ff. 128–135).

[Note: Signature 'G' at foot of f.24r (in italic hand), 'M' at foot of 64r, 'N' at 72r, 'O' at f. 80, 'P' at 88r, 'R' at 104r, 'S' at f. 112r, 'T' at f. 120r, 'V' at f. 128r, 'X' at f. 134r. 'W' appears at bottom of f.132r which is 5 of quire XVI; 'X' at f. 134, which is 7 of XVI. Other intervening sequential quire marks are cut off partially or completely, top of 'E' visible at foot of f. 16r.]

Third part: 9 fols., mounted separately. one blank leaf ["old" '135', cancelled]; ff. 136–143 are HFHF, apparently a quire of 8 (ff. 136–144). F. 144 has hair outside.

CONTENTS:

Part 1:

f. 1r Table of Contents in hand of Richard James.

f. 1v blank.

1. ff. 2r–9r Fragments of Bede, "Chronicon siue de sex hujus sæculi ætati-bus," chs. 66–71 of "De temporum ratione":

a. f. 2rv from First and Second Ages (Enoch to Cham) '[. . .] q(uia) ciui-tas electoru(m) . . . Cham u(er)o s(e)c(un)d(u)s fili(us) noe. a rino-coruris usq(ue) gadira [. . .]' (ed. PL 90.523B/26–526A/4, Jones 1977: 2.466/109–469/195);

[about 2 leaves missing]

b. f. 3rv from Fifth Age (Artaxerxes to Ptolemy Philopator) '[. . .] & parisa-tidis fili(us) ann(is) xl. . . lacedemonioru(m) rex arius. legatos mit[tit.

ī]ñdclxxiiii' (ed. PL 90.539C/3–542A/13, Jones 1977: 2.487/745–490/838);

[about 9 leaves missing]

c. ff. 4r–9v Conclusion of Sixth Age and chs. 67–71 (Constans II to the Seventh and Eighth Ages) '[...] constantini. ann(or)um xxviii. Hic decept(us) a paulo . . . obseruanda tenebris s(ed) solis uere [. . .]' (ed. PL 90.567A–578A/1, Jones 1977: 2.526/1850–543/55).

[Note: From the beginning of the “Chronicon” to where a. begins is 109 lines in Jones’ edition, perhaps 2 leaves if the title were elaborate or another text intruded; probably 6 leaves are missing between items a. and b. (549 lines in Jones); probably 17 leaves are missing between b. and c. (1518 lines in Jones); text on f. 9rv is fragmentary because of burning; to complete the text (43 lines in Jones) would require one side. Ff. 4–9 are the 3 inside sheets of a quire arranged HFHF (see collation).]

Part 2 (Ker 158):

2. ff. 10r–120v/15 Ælfric, “Grammar”: (beg. imperfect) '[. . .] of þam stæfe e. 7 geendaþ on him sylfu(m)' (= Zupitza 6/4; wants leaf after f. 15, = Zupitza 18/11–20/18); ends: 'and us dyr|ne wæron. Si þeos boc þus her geendod', followed by the usual coda: 'On leden spræce synd mænigfealde getel . . . 7 þrittig pænega ænne mancus' (ed. Zupitza 1880: 6/4–296).

[Note: Ker (*Cat.*, p. 201) says one leaf is lost at the beginning, but in this copy a leaf carries about 35–40 lines of writing (as printed by Zupitza) and the missing text is equivalent to 108 lines of Zupitza’s text or 3 leaves. Section titles as they appear in Zupitza are not employed after f. 16r, except for the variants UIS QUINQUE DECLINATIONUM HIC OSTENDIT<UR> (f. 16r/3 = Zupitza 21/1) and FINIUNT PARTES ANGLICE (f. 115r/12 = Zupitza 280/15); rather, the sections are marked by a large colored capital and a word or two in rustic capitals, sometimes with lines brought to the left and/or skipped; the following (Zupitza) sections are not conspicuously marked: “De Modis” f. 58v/15, “De Specie” f. 91v/1, “De Numero” f. 105r/23, “De Figura” f. 105v/4, “De Figura” f. 110r/5.]

3. ff. 120r/17–130v/22 Ælfric, “Glossary”: (Preface) 'D(EU)S OM(NI)P(OTEN)S. þ(æt) is god ælmihtig . . . Sexus. werhad. oððe wifhad'; (text, f. 121r/3) 'MEMBRUM. an lim. Membra. ma lima'; ends: 'Meretrix. (ue)l scorta. myltestre. Pelex.cyfes. We ne magon. | swa þeah. ealle naman awritanne furþor gepencan' (ed. Zupitza 1880: 297–322).

[Note: There are no titles, either at the head or to batches, but (Zupitza) sections are marked as in the “Grammar,” except the section “Nomina Domorum” (127r/22).]

4. ff. 131r/1–135v/5 Grammatical treatise (Latin): 'Sum uerbum substantiuum e(st) nulli(us) coniugationis'; ends: '[. . .] ceptu. Participium. ceptus. non ampli [. . .].'

[Note: F. 135 is badly burnt and shriveled at the top, obscuring the text. The rest of the page is blank except for the line: 'K(arissi)mo d(omi)no suo & amico thorn of hamton'; several lines of various contemporary scribbles repeat bits of this.]

Part 3 (Ker 159):

"old" f. 135rv blank.

5. ff. 136r/1–137r/14 OE verse "Prayer": '[Æ]la drihten leof. æla dema god . . . herian heofonas god. haligu(m) reor|de. á butan ende. amen' (ed. Dobbie 1942: 94–96) [rest of 137r blank].

[Note: Also in the "Lambeth Psalter," London, Lambeth Palace 427 [316], f. 183v].

6. ff. 137v/1–140r/20 OE questions-and-answers dialogue "Adrian and Ritheus": 'ADRIANVS cwæð to Ritheus. | Saga me hu lange wæs Adam on neorxnawange'; ends: '7 bið ge|witen þrim dagum' (ed. and trans. Kemble 1848: 198–211 [cf. Förster 1897: 431–33]; ed. Cross and Hill 1982: 35–40, 127–60).

7. f. 140v Notes (pr. Napier 1889: 5–6, Förster 1897: 433–34):

a. lines 1–4 The names of the two thieves: 'Her sagað embe þa twegen sceðan . . . 7 dism(us) ne gelifde';

b. lines 5–21 Measure and number: Noe's ark, St. Peter's basilica, Solomon's temple, Size of the world, Bones and veins, Days and months: '[N]oes arc wæs .iii. hundfeðma lang . . . ; S(an)c(t)e petres cyrice is þreo hund fota lang . . . ; Salemannes templ wæs sixti fæðma lang . . . ; Iscorius [*i.e.*, Historius] sæde. þæt þyses middangeardes lenge wære .xii. þusend mila . . . Man hafað bana twa hundred 7 nigontine . . . þrit|ti þusend daga 7 six hundred'.

8. 141r/1–144v/22 OE "Distichs of Cato": '[N]e beo þu to slapor'; ends imperf.: 'Gyf ðu wylt habbe æt monigu(m) men þæt ðe lycað' (ed. Müller 1835: 28–48, even-numbered pages; ed. and trans. Kemble 1848: 258–69 [as "Anglo-Saxon Apothegms"], Cox 1972).

[Note: Müller's edition is still of use because the damage to the manuscript was much less extensive in his time, allowing him to make out many letters now lost. A version of this text occurs along with Ælfric's "Grammar" in Cambridge, Trinity College R. 9. 17 [83], ff. 45r–48v (cf. Förster 1901: 342); a third copy is in BL Cotton Vespasian D. xiv [245], ff. 7r–11v.]

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