

261. London, British Library Harley 107

Ælfric's "Grammar and Glossary"

[Ker 227, Gneuss 414]

HISTORY: Mid 11c, perhaps Canterbury as suggested by Kentish spellings in the later part of the "Grammar and Glossary" and by the fact that text is related to that in Durham Cathedral B. III. 32 [120] (Ker, *Cat.*, p. 303), an Ælfric "Grammar" volume probably from St. Augustine's Canterbury. The text is Zupitza's "H." It was acquired by Harley from Simonds D'Ewes (undated letter of Wanley to Harley; D'Ewes "List B" no. 225, both cited Watson: 1966, 58, 304). Bound in as f. 73 is a deed of sale concerning Paul D'Ewes, Simonds' father, dated 1622 (line 3). The manuscript was damaged by fire, and this document forms an unburnt back flyleaf. Perhaps the fire in question was that which took place in 1621 in Paul D'Ewes' office (Watson 1966: 4). Foliation is in the hand of Simonds D'Ewes and has been left as the official foliation.

Collated by Junius (probably in 1648 or 1649 when he was staying with D'Ewes [Hetherington 1975:80]) when he transcribed BL, Cotton Julius A. ii [198] into Oxford, Bodleian Junius 72 (5183). Junius is doubtless responsible for the restorations (from Julius A.ii?) of missing words in the burnt lower corners up to f. 30 (see his note on f. 1r of Oxford, Bodleian Junius 45 (5157), a transcript of Cotton Julius A. ii, 'Quaedam hujus Glossarii loca contulimus cum fragmento D'ewiano'.)

DESCRIPTION: Front, 3 modern paper flyleaves, 2 parchment flyleaves formed of 13c bifolium. A 17c parchment back flyleaf not trimmed to the size of the volume, but the old paper flyleaf attached to it is trimmed (irregularly) to the same size + 2 modern paper flyleaves. Page size 270 × 180 mm., writing area 210 × 135 mm.; parchment bright, greyish-brown, thick and stiff but well prepared, with little contrast between flesh and hair, but it seems to be HFHF throughout. Pricked and ruled with a dry point for 28 lines of writing with double bounding lines both margins. Blind ruling on quires VII–IX (ff. 57–72). Titles and capitals written in a single color now

oxidized to a greyish-green. Main text written by several hands, 1) ff. 1r–7r, 8–33r/5, large calligraphic tall insular script that does not distinguish Latin from OE; f. 7v written by two other hands (f. 7v/1–16 in a hand very similar to Hand 1, lines 16–28 in a hand of a different character, tending to a caroline ductus but maintaining insular forms; neither distinguishes Latin from OE); 2) ff. 33r/5–49/2, similar to Hand 1 but distinguishes Latin from OE and has a generally finer ductus; Ker thinks this is the same as Hand 1, but in different ink; the text written by 2) lacks titles; 3) ff. 49/2–72v, a later rounder, Canterbury type, serifed and supplying fancier initials than the previous scribes; with this hand the Kentish spellings occur. The text skips two lengthy passages: f. 65v/11 ‘&iam.si.tamen. [skipping from Zupitza 264/2 to 282/12] Of pisum bioþ’; and f. 70r/23–24 ‘Subdiaconus underdiacon . | [skipping from Zupitza 299/11 to 318/7] parta . portget’; presumably each gap represents a quire missing in the exemplar. The manuscript breaks off at the beginning of a new glossary and is probably lacking at least a quire. When the book was trimmed, little detours were cut around glosses on f. 71v and f. 72r so as to preserve them and these extensions form tabs on the fore-edge; the one on f. 71 is folded in towards the verso.

The lower outer corner damaged by a burn that runs through the entire book, lower lost edge extends about 75 mm., outer lost edge about 60 mm. and inner (burnt) edge about 95 mm. measuring straight across; the front 13c flyleaf is also burnt, but not the back 17c one, a document of 1622 relating to Paul D’Ewes (see “History”). Early modern hand (Junius) has added in insular (both Latin and OE words) the (few) lost words of the text in the lower margins of most pages up to f. 30r. Fol. 18v was subjected to a torrent of spilt ink, with offsets on facing page. Very few added notations or other signs of use.

Quires mounted in modern guards and rebound in red half-leather with Harley arms, April 1970. The lower corner burnt area is fitted to size with a corresponding spacer attached to inside front cover to keep the covers from bending in.

COLLATION: 3 modern paper flyleaves + 2 parchment flyleaves formed of 13c bifolium, 1* [1**]; I–IX⁸ (ff. 1–72) [lacks a quire after f. 72?]; 1 parchment flyleaf (containing document dated 1622) sewn to pre-1875 paper flyleaf (stubs projecting inward) + 3 modern paper flyleaves.

CONTENTS:

f. 1*rv (flyleaf) unidentified ecclesiological text (13c).

[1**] attached unnumbered folio, recto and verso blank.

1a. ff. 1r–69v/3 Ælfric, “Grammar”: (Latin preface) ‘EGO ÆLFRICVS VT MINVS SAPI|ENS HAS EXCERPTIONES. DE PRISCIANO MINORE. VEL MAIORE | uobis puerulis tenellis’; f. 1/24 (OE Preface) ‘Ic ælfric wolde þas lytlan boc awendan to englisca(m) gereorde’; f. 1v/27 (text) [INCIPIVNT (blurred)] EXCERPTIONES DE ARTE GRAMMATICANGLICE | ‘Secundu(m) donatu(m). Om(n)is uox aut articulata est. aut confusa || Articulata est que litteris co(n)prehendi potest. confusa que scribi non potest. Stemn is geslagen lyft. gefredendlic on hlyfte’; ends ‘on ealdum da|gum 7 us dyrne wæron. SiG þeos boc þus Her GEÆNdod’ (ed. Zupitza 1880: 1–296);

[Note: Titles are basically as in Zupitza, except f. 9r/11 NOMINA ARBORUM gives Latin for OE (= Zupitza 29/16); all titles are omitted in section written by hand 2: “De Verbo Passivo” (f. 35v/8), “De Secunda Coniugatione” (f. 37v/7), “De Verbo Passivo” (f. 40v/1), “De Tertia Coniugatione” (f. 41r/20), “De Verbo Passivo” (f. 46r/5), “De Quarta Coniugatione” (f. 47r/15). The text skips at f. 65v/11 ‘&xiam. si.tamen. (gap = Zupitza 264/2–282/12) Of þisum bioþ.’]

1b. f. 69v/4–8 The usual coda to the “Grammar”: DE NUMERO. ‘On læden spræce siond mænig|fealde getæl . . . gema|ciap ænne mancus’ (ed. Zupitza 1880: 296).

2. ff. 69v/8–71v/4 Ælfric, “Glossary”: INCIPIUNT NOMINA MULTARU(M) | RERVM ANGLICE MOMINA [sic] ‘DEUS om(n)ip(oten)s. þæt is | god ælmihti. se wæs æfre unbegunnen’; ends: ‘We ne magon | swa þeah ealle naman awritan. ne furþon geþæncan’ (ed. Zupitza 1880: 297–322).

[Note: The text skips at f. 70r/23–24 ‘Subdiaconus underdiacon . | (gap = Zupitza 299/11–318/7) parta . portget.’]

3. ff. 71v/5–72v/3 Unidentified Grammatical dialogue: DE PRIMA DECLINATIONE. | ‘[PRI]MA declinatio. quot litteras termi`na`les hab& . . . & ablatius. in bus. correptam’ [titles in oxidized colors; beginning obscured by parchment repair].

[Note: As Ker notes, *Cat.* 303, etc., this text occurs also integrated into the “Grammar” in Durham Cathedral Library B.III.32 [120], ff. ff. 121v–122r, and as a separate item in BL Cotton Faustina A. x [193], f. 101rv, associated with Ælfric’s “Grammar and Glossary.”]

4. f. 72v/4–5 Latin-OE formulae: ‘[Christu]s regnat. Crist rixað . . . Crist casere. Impera[to]r. Casere’

5. f. 72v/5–28 Latin-OE glossary of birds and fish: De no|mina uolucris. ‘[Gr]ipus. iow. Aquila. earn’; at line 26 begins section DE NO|MINA

PISCINA 'Delfi. Mereswin', ending, presumably imperf. at 'Sulio styria'.

f. 73 bound in, deed of sale dated 1622 (see "History").

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hetherington, M. S. "Sir Simonds D'Ewes and Method in Old English Lexicography." *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 17 (1975): 75–92.

Watson, Andrew G. *The Library of Sir Simonds D'Ewes*. London: Trustees of the British Museum, 1966.

Zupitza, Julius. *Ælfric's Grammatik und Glossar*. Sammlung englischer Denkmäler in kritischen Ausgaben 1. Berlin: Weidmansche Buchhandlung, 1880; repr. ed. Helmut Gneuss, Hildesheim: Weidmann, 2003.