

303. London, British Library Royal 15 B. xxii

Ælfric's "Grammar"

[Ker 269, Gneuss 494]

HISTORY: Second half of 11c. Contains only the "Grammar," but as the original book is imperfect (the last leaf is a 17c replacement), the original may have included the "Glossary." Text is Zupitza's "R". A document (ff. 71v–72r) is bound in recording a process in the parish church of Chelmsford, Essex against William Latham of Sandon, Essex, 3 Dec. 1540 (Warner and Gilson 1921: 2.164) and this one-sheet document is folded as a bifolium, the last lines of the "Grammar" on f. 71r(67r) being a replacement for the last few missing lines of the "Grammar". Probably the document was merely one from Parker's chancellery wastebasket: there are Parkerian annotations in the manuscript and the 16c supply of the missing ending of the "Grammar" is from Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 449 [61], and conversely Royal supplied the missing parts of the text in CCCC 449, an operation of the Parkerian library (Warner and Gilson, *loc. cit.* and Ker). As Ker notes, all this suggests that Matthew Parker (1504–1575) once owned it. At a later time it belonged to Lord Lumley (1534?–1609) (f. 5r[1r], bottom), no. 1555 in his catalogue (Jayne and Johnson 1956: 187). Reference on f. 5r(1r) is to Casley's *Catalogue* (1734).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Ff. iii + vii + 66 + 2 + iii: Three 19c paper flyleaves, 7 vellum flyleaves arranged as singleton + quire of 6 (the latter group comprises sheets prepared in the manner of the manuscript; the singleton may be of other origin); 64 11c leaves in quires and two original singletons; a 15c vellum bifolium; three 19c paper flyleaves. Signatures of 11c on bottom of first rectos of first four quires: f. 5r(1r) 'i', f. 13r(9r) 'ii', f. 21r(17r) 'iii', f. 30r(25r) 'iiii'.

[**Note on foliation:** The "official" pencil foliation begins on the first vellum flyleaf, continues to 3, skips three vellum flyleaves, counts the last vellum flyleaf as 4 and the first leaf of the "Grammar" as 5, so the foliation of the "Grammar" is 5–71; the recto of the added document is f. 72r. This foliation is generally not visible on the film. The older ink foliation beginning on the first recto of the "Grammar," and

which is visible on the film, is 1–67. The old foliation is given in brackets after the new throughout this description.]

Vellum is bright, whitish beige, suede-like surface, thick but generally supple, hair sides darker tone. Arranged HFHF. Page size 365 × 175 mm., writing area 217 × 132 mm. Scored on hair sides for 26 lines, double bounding lines both margins. Main text in black ink, metallic dark red ink used for initials; similar and sometimes lighter red used in titles, which are in serifed rustic capitals. Latin in anglo-caroline minuscule, OE in insular minuscule. The OE interpretations of Latin words are entered by scribe as interlinear glosses, rather than being incorporated in text as usual (this arrangement is also found in Cambridge, Trinity College R. 9 17 [83]). Numerous conspicuous violet-hued (reader's) marks down most margins. Red crayon Parkerian notations, e.g., f. 1v (first vellum flyleaf, verso) 'hic liber scriptus ante conquest(um)'; f. 5r(1r) 'Cor. Coll.'; f. 31r(27r)/12 (marks); f. 71r(67r)/13 'finis'.

COLLATION: Three 19c paper flyleaves; seven vellum flyleaves comprising a medieval singleton + quire of 6 (three 11c sheets); I–VIII⁸ (ff. 5–68[1–64]); IX²⁺² 2 singletons (11c), remains of a quire (ff. 69–70[65–66]) + folded 16c vellum document (ff. 71–72[67–68]); 3 19c paper flyleaves. Quires I–IV marked (11c) 'i–iiii' on bottom rectos of first folio.

[**Note:** Quire IX and the 16c leaves are an ensemble: a strip the length of the binding and 20 mm. wide taken from the outer edge of f. 72 (right side of the 16c document, which is also trimmed top and bottom) has been used to connect the two 11c singletons along the spine edges to make an artificial bifolium: bits of the same 16c text on the strip are visible on inner edges of f. 69r(65r) and f. 70v(66v). The center fold of the document itself has not been bound into the spine, but a blank vellum vertical extender has been pasted to the dorse so that the center of the document remains flat and legible when opened. The outer edge of the left side of this document (when opened) has been folded towards the recto. The recto (f. 71r[67r]) has been prepared by ruling and bounding in red crayon and the remainder of the Grammar written as a facsimile, with large initial 'O' filled in with orange-brown.]

CONTENTS:

f. 1rv blank, Parkerian crayon inscription on verso: 'hic liber scriptum ante conquestu(m)'.
 f. 2r blank.

f. 2r blank.

ff. 2v–3r Table of Arabic/Greek numerals and Greek names of numbers (14c) and a Greek alphabet with names of letters.

[three blank and unnumbered vellum flyleaves, omitted from film.]

f. 4rv blank.

- ff. 5r–70v(1r–66v) Ælfric, “Grammar”: (Latin preface) **INCIPIT PREFATIO HUIUS LIBRI:-** | ‘**EGO ÆLFRICVS UT MINVS SAPIENS** | has excerptiones. de prisciano . . . subiciendus est.’ **UALETE O PVER**’ u’ **LI IN D(OMI)NO.** | f. 5v(1v)/3 (OE Preface) ‘Ic ælfric wolde þas lytlan bók awændan to engliscum geréorde . . . gif he nele his | woh gerihtan.’ | f. 6r(2r)/6 (text) **INCIPIVNT EXCERPTIONES | DE ARTE GRAMMATICA ANGLICE:-** | ‘Secundum donatum. Om(n)is uox aut articulata est . . . (line 10) Stemn is geslagen lyft’; titles as in Zupitza; ends imperf. (f. 70v(66v)/26 [= Zupitza 295/19]): ‘Ða gemetu gebyriaþ to ledenu(m) leoðcræfte.’ (17c catchword ‘Se cræfte.’ at f. 70v (66v)/27) (ed. Zupitza 1880).
- f. 71r(67)/1–12 17c supply leaf with remainder of text, including usual coda “On ledenspræce” (=Zupitza 295/19–296): ‘Se cræft is swa ameten . . . 7 xxx penega ænne mancs’ [*sic*] [rest of f. 71r blank].
- ff. 71v–72r(67v–68r) pasted-in and folded bifolium: Document.
- f. 72v(68v) blank.
- [Note: Ff. 71–72 comprises a folded single-sheet document (1540) serving as a bifolium, the dorse supplying the sheet used for the Ælfric supply text; its right half is foliated ‘72.’]

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