

335. Oxford, All Souls College 38

Ælfric, "Grammar" fragments (flyleaves);

Ps.-Thomas of Elmham, "Vita Henrici Quinti"

(with 299 London, British Library, Royal 12 G. xii)

[Ker 265, Gneuss 480]

HISTORY: Bequeathed to All Souls by James Goldwell, bishop of Norwich (d. 1499, his *ex libris* on f. 2r, bottom); he was a fellow of All Souls 1441–1452 and bequeathed a number of books to All Souls, nine of which survive (Ker 1971: 107). Mid-11c Ælfric "Grammar" leaves form flyleaves to the mid-15c paper volume, a copy of the "Vita Henrici Quinti," which was attributed to Thomas of Elmham by Thomas Hearne, its 18c editor. The Ælfric leaves are from the same volume as supplied flyleaves in BL Royal 12 G. xii [299] (q.v.). Pressmarks on the pastedown on the inside front cover 'VV.7.2'; 'W.3.7' refer to the several places in the wire presses it occupied in the old Codrington (All Souls) library in the 19c (Watson 1997: xix).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:

The main manuscript: foll. 1–90 (an older foliation begins after the A-S leaves with '7'): paper, watermark like Briquet 11845–50 (Watson 1997: 75), perhaps closest to 11848 (dated 1453, but the series runs through 1440s and 1450s). Page size 388 × 277 mm. writing area 248 × 165 mm.; pricked for 26 lines of writing but usually only the writing frame is ruled, with hard point, pencil, or crayon. Writing, bastard secretary, in brownish ink, with titles in black. Last remaining paper leaf is a cut-down strip.

The A-S leaves: There remain twenty leaves in all including the BL Royal 12 G. xii leaves, the correct order of leaves of both ensembles being Royal 7, 8, All Souls III(9), IV(10), I(7), II(8), i–vi(1–6), V(11), VI(12), Royal 2–6, 9. The 12 All Souls leaves form vellum flies, six in back and six in front (arranged in artificial quires of 6).

[Note: There are four foliations: a: 1 6 7 8 9 10 | 3 4 5 2 11 12; b: 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 91 92 93 94 95 96 (used by Zupitza); c: 1 2 3 4 5 6 | 7 8 9 10 11 12 (used by Ker); d: i ii iii

iv v vi | I II III IV V VI (current, used by Watson). The description uses the current foliation followed by the foliation used by Ker in brackets.]

Fols. I(7), II(8) and V(11), VI(12) are the outer two sheets of a quire of 10 and i-vi(1-6) are the inner 3 sheets of the same quire; ff. III-IV(9-10) comprise the central bifolium of a preceding quire. Vellum thin and stiff, light yellowish dull tone, flesh lighter. Arranged now HFHF, which was also the original arrangement. Page size 375 × 280 mm., considerably trimmed down from the size of the (also trimmed) Royal leaves, so some text is lost from outer margins. Column height 340 mm., breadth of inside column about 110 mm., with writing on outside columns on rectos extending further. Double bounding lines on inner margins of inside column, single on middle rules, both columns and probably double on outside columns, though mostly these are trimmed. Ink blackish, capitals and titles in a brownish red when colored, otherwise in the text ink. Ker says that only one of the scribes (his first) wrote the All Souls fragments, but Watson correctly notes that the second scribe wrote conjugate leaves ff. III-IV(9-10).

The old binding of indeterminate date is typical of many books in the All Souls library (see Watson 1997: xvii, 76); five spine bands, heavy oak boards with cushion bevel covered with leather, vellum pastedowns, front and back, sewing reinforced with old paper inserted under pastedowns (modern?); rebacked (in 1951?); remains of two leather strap and pin fastenings are on front cover, one with five nails and one with four; corresponding brass catches on back cover; on back cover are six holes for a chain-plate but no corresponding holes in wooden cover, suggesting that leather of cover has been reused. Nevertheless the "sixnail" mark indicates to Ker that the book "was presumably chained in the library before 1597-98" (Ker 1971: 105). Another set of, probably functional, chain-plate marks on back cover. 'Repaired by Maltby in May 1951' (inside front cover).

COLLATION:

A-S membrane leaves now flyleaves arranged as two artificial quires in 6 (one front and one back), followed by a membrane flyleaf pasted on a sewn-in strip. Originally 2 leaves (central bifolium, ff. III-IV(9-10)); a quire of 10 (I-II(7-8), i-vi(1-6), V-VI(11-12)); "Vita Henrici Quinti" (15c): paper, I²⁴ (ff. 1-24) II²² (ff. 25-46); III²⁴ (ff. 47-71); IV²⁴ wants 21-24 (ff. 72-90), 20 (f. 90) is a cut-down leaf, leaving a slip at the top, 95 mm. high.

CONTENTS:

1a. front flyleaves, ff. i–vi(1–6) Fragments of Ælfric, “Grammar”: in disturbed order, beg. ‘Sunt igitur persone uerboru(m) . . . and ending ‘docueram ic tæhte gefyrn’ (ed. Zupitza 1880, coll. as “A”).

[Note: The correct order of the Ælfric material in All Souls is ff. IIIr–IVv(9r–10v) ‘ab illo capite fram þam heafde . . . tue ancille filius ðinre’ (= Zupitza 97/14–105/7); Ir–IIv(7r–8v) + ir–vi v(1r–6v) + Vr–VIv(11r–12v) ‘þæt sind dædlice word . . . dæl nimende cumað of ðam’ (= Zupitza 120/3–152/8). Royal leaves 7–8 contain preceding material (= Zupitza 48/11–58/2) and Royal leaves 2–6, 9 contain following material (= Zupitza 194/1–201/13, 217/17–226/3, 236/12–240/3, and (fragments) 246/4 . . . 247/12.]

2. ff. 1r/1–90r/5 Pseudo-Thomas of Elmham, “Vita Henrici Quinti”: (preface) ‘Lucerna posita sub modio coruscacionis sue radios effundere p(re)pedita’; text beg. f. 2v/11, (ch. 1): ¶ Op(in)io Wa l’licorum de Rege quantu(m) ad pacificam possessionem Regni Anglie et | p(ar)t(iu)m eidem a[d]iacenciu(m) per quandam p(ro)phetiam ut asseruerunt & de loco Na[ti]uitatis Regis | ‘Wallenses cuiusdam p(ro)pheticie sententia constant(er) opinari solebant’; ends imperf. at f. 90/5, in ch. 91 (= Hearne 1727: 264/19): ‘. . . non solum in officiis verum eciam in aliis ministeris tam nobiles q(ua)m | alii erunt’ [writing stops and rest of leaf trimmed off] (ed. from this manuscript, Hearne 1727).

f. 90v blank.

1b. back flyleaves, ff. I–VI Ælfric “Grammar” fragments: in disturbed order [see note to 1a], beg. ‘þæt sind dædlice word’ . . . and ending ‘dæl nimende cumað of ðam’.

Membrane flyleaf, blank except for modern table of contents on recto.

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