

## 420. Oxford, St. John's College 154

Ælfric, "Grammar," "Glossary," and "Colloquy,"

Ælfric Bata, Colloquies

[Ker 362, Gneuss 686]

**HISTORY:** An English manuscript of the late 10c/early 11c, containing language-teaching texts, including the earliest and most complete extant copy of Ælfric's "Grammar" and "Glossary"; Ælfric's "Colloquy" as revised by Ælfric Bata, and three Colloquy collections unique to this manuscript that were most probably compiled by Bata (cf. Lendinara 1983; Porter in Gwara and Porter 1997: 4–7). Ælfric Bata, a pupil of the more famous Ælfric the homilist, was probably a monk of Canterbury, who may have survived into the time of Lanfranc and certainly was still remembered unfavorably after the Conquest (Gwara 1997: 239, n. 2; Porter 1996: 656). This copy of Ælfric's "Grammar" and "Glossary" is Zupitza's "A" and forms his base text. The manuscript was owned by Durham Cathedral in the Middle Ages: 'lib(er) s(an)c(t)i Cuthb(er)ti d(e) Dun(e)lmo' (f. 1r, 12c), with a later inscription (in red), '7 de armario pre[cen]toris q(ui) alienauerit ab eo. anathema si[t]' and above this (in brown) 'donat(u)s a(n)glico . . .' [the rest illegible]. Shelfmarks '2<sup>a</sup>7/N' and (earlier) 'E', the latter corresponding to the shelfmark of the "Donatus anglicè" in the "grammar" section given in the Durham catalogues of 1391 and 1416, their second folio reading, "i. de'or hoc milite" (B[otfield] 1838: 33, 111; cf. Ker 1964: 75, Watson 1987: 32), being a misreading of 'ðeos boc mihte' (f. 2v/1). What appears to be an earlier defaced *ex libris* (11c) is at the top of f. 222v. The donation to St. John's is recorded on f. 2r: 'Liber Collegij Stj Johannis Baptista Oxon. ex dono | Christophorj Coles Artium Bacchalaurej, Ejusdem Coll[eg]i conuictoris | 1611<sup>o</sup>. A St. John's *ex libris* is on f. 220v and paper bookplate of the college is pasted on f. 5r. Early modern shelfmark 'Abac: ij – N<sup>o</sup>. 2' on f. 1r (bottom) and cancelled on f. 1v (top).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Page size 200–205 × 155–160 mm. Membrane is generally medium to thin and crisp, bright, with little contrast

between hair and flesh. The membrane of the first quire (ff. 1–6) is thinner and darker than that of the others and these leaves have been trimmed in on all edges several mm. more than those of other quires. Mostly quires of eight, HFHF, but quire I is FHF + added leaf (f. 7) with its flesh side facing flesh of f. 6v. Quire XXVI is irregularly constructed: the outer 3 sheets are HHE, the center leaves (ff. 210–211) are half sheets, f. 210 (flesh outside) being wrapped around f. 211, which has hair outside and whose meagre stub is just visible alongside the sewing. Sheets are individually pricked and scored from the hair sides, but in the irregular quire XXVI all sheets are scored on the outsides. Single bounding lines in a grid 163 × 121 mm., ruled for 22 lines. Pages have been trimmed, on most pages the pricking visible and providing the boundary for the trimming of the fore-edge.

Written in a brownish-black ink by two hands in insular minuscule, the second hand taking over on f. 116v/4 (Ker, *Cat.*). The second hand switches to anglo-caroline from f. 160v, when Latin texts begin. Titles and rubrics in red rustic capitals; after f. 73 the rubrics written in a different type of red which has oxidized to blackish silver, and from f. 83r they are simply written in the text-ink. Initial letters were in a metallic red which has oxidized to various hues of grey or silver; from f. 85r they also are written in the text-ink. On ff. 160v–167r initials are in well-preserved metallic red, also on ff. 198r, 203v onward with red infill of capitals on ff. 163v–166r, 181v–182r, 189v–190r, 204v–205r. On ff. 221v–222r, in a much smaller script, are added in reddish-brown ink excerpts from Abbo of St. Germain's "Bella Parisiaca urbis" in Latin with an interlinear OE gloss.

Binding is modern but in bad repair, the front cover almost detached; six binding strips run from old book to newer spine; red tooled leather over wooden boards; marble pastedowns with flyleaves, front and back. Modern marble flyleaves attached to pastedowns front and back plus single modern paper flyleaves front and back (marked 'i–ii' and 'iii–iv').

**COLLATION:** I<sup>6+</sup> f. 7 added (ff. 1–7), II–III<sup>8</sup> (ff. 8–23), IV<sup>8</sup> 3 and 6 half-sheets (ff. 24–31), V<sup>8</sup> (ff. 32–39), VI<sup>8</sup> 3 and 6 half-sheets (ff. 40–47), VII–XIII<sup>8</sup> (ff. 48–103), XIV<sup>6</sup> (ff. 104–109), XV<sup>8</sup> 3 and 6 half-sheets (ff. 110–117), XVI–XXV<sup>8</sup> (ff. 118–206), XXVI<sup>8</sup> 4 and 5 half-sheets (ff. 207–214), XXVI<sup>8</sup> (ff. 215–222). Original or near original signatures were on tops of first rectos of quires, mostly trimmed, but still visible are 'b' (f. 8r), 'e' (f. 32r), 'g' (f. 48r), 'h' (f. 56r), 'k' (f. 72r), 'p' (f. 110r, bottom).

#### CONTENTS:

1, Ælfric, "Grammar" (ed. Zupitza 1880):

- a. f. 1r/1–1v/16 Preface (Latin): **INCIPIT PRAEFATIO HUIUS LIBRI.** | ‘Ego ælfricu(s) ut min(us) sapiens . . . quia nec d(eu)s arti gra(m)matice sub|jiciendus est. **VALETE O PUERULI IN D(OMI)NO.**
- b. ff. 1v/17–2v/21 Preface (OE): ‘Ic ælfric wolde þas lytlan bók awendan . . . gyf he nele his woh ge|rihtan.’
- c. ff. 3r/1–146r/19 “Grammar”: ‘Secundum donátu(m). Omnis uox aut articu|lata. est aut confúsa . . . (line 4) Stemn is geslagen lyft gefrendlic on hylfte’; headings within text: f. 3r/17 **DE LITTERA**; f. 4v/6 **DE SILLA|BA**; f. 4v/16 **DE DIPTONGIS**; f. 5v/1 **P(RE)F(ATIO) DE PARTIBUS ORATIONIS**; f. 11v/1 **DE GENERIBUS**; f. 12v/21 **INCIPIUNT QUINQ(UE) DECLINATIONES NOM[I]NU(M)**; f. 16r/5 (added) ‘Secunda declinatio’; f. 17v/22 **TREOWA NAMAN**; f. 19v/1 **DE TERTIA DECLINATIONE**; f. 39r/7 **DE PLURALI. GENITIUIO**; f. 40r/3 **DE QUARTA | DECLINATIONE**; f. 41v/15 **QUINTA DECLINATIONE**; f. 42v/5 **DE NUMERO**; heading to “DE FIGURA” omitted, f. 44v/3 ‘figura is híw’; f. 46v/11 **I(N)CIPIT P(RO)NOMEN**; f. 48v/20 **SEO OÐER DECLINUNG**; f. 54v/6 **DE FIGURA**; f. 56r/16 **DE NUMERO**; heading to “DE CASU” omitted f. 57v/3, the text beginning ‘A pronomina’ and a correcting ‘ð’ inserted before ‘A’; f. 62r/8 **INCIPIT DE UERBO**; f. 64v/2–3 (written smaller between lines 2–3) **DE TEMPORE**; f. 65r/5 **DE MODIS**; f. 66r/21 **DE P(ER)SONIS**; f. 67v/6 **DE NU|MERO**; f. 67v/12 **DE CONIUGATI|ONIBUS**; f. 73r/7 **DE UERBO PASSIUO**; f. 77r/16 **DE .II. C(ON)IUNCTIONE**; f. 83r/10 [within line in text ink, as are all the titles from here on] **DE UERB[O] PASSIUO** (‘passiuus’ added in margin); f. 85r/15 **DE TERTIA. CONIUGATIONE**; f. 94r/16 heading to “DE [VERBO] PASSIVO” effaced; f. 96v/11 **DE QUARTA CONIUGATIO|NE**; f. 100v/3 **DE VERBO PASSIVO**; f. 103r/8 **DE UERBIS. ANOMALIS. oðð [sic] INE|QUALIBUS**; f. 104v/13 **DE UERBIS. DEFECTIVIS**; f. 108r/1 **DE SPECIE**; f. 108r/14 **DE INCHO|ATIVIS**; f. 108v **DE UERBIS. FREQVEN.TATIVIS**; f. 110v/4 **DE FIGURA**; f. 112v/1 **INCIPIT. ADUERBIUM**; f. 120v/11 **DE PARTICIPIO**; f. 121v/9 **DE CASIBVS**; f. 121v/12 **DE TEMPORIBUS**; f. 125v/10 **DE NUMERO**; f. 125v/15 **DE FIGURA**; f. 127v/13 **DE CONIUNCTIONE**; f. 131v/15 **DE FIGURA**; f. 132r/4 **DE ORDINE**; f. 132r/17 **INCIPIT. PREPOSITIO**; f. 137r/10 **INCIPIT INTERIECTIO**; f. 138v/12 **FINIUNT | PARTES. ANG.(.)LICE; DE NOMINIBUS. NUME|RORUM**; f. 143r/2 **TRIGINTA. DIUISIONES. GRAMMATICÆ. ARTIS**; f. 146r/14 **SY ÆEOS BOC ÐUS HER GEENDOD**; ends with final section: ‘On leden spræce. synd

menigfealde getel . . . 7 þrittig penega ænne mancus' [f. 5r/3–22 blank, no text missing] (ed. Zupitza 1880: 1–296).

[Note: Sporadic corrections and glosses in contemporary hands; f. 13r (bottom) 11c gloss 'potens mihti'; f. 86v (top), 104r (top) 107r (bottom) liturgical scribbles (12c); f. 119v (top) neumes.]

- d. ff. 146r/20–160r/21 Ælfric's "Glossary": INCIPI UN T. NOMINA MULTARUM RERUM:- | ANGLICE NOMINA. | 'D(EU)s om(ni)p(oten)s. þæt is god ælmihtig se wæs || æfre unbegunnen'; headings within text: f. 146v/10 NOMINA MEMBRORU(M); f. 152r/14 NOMINA AUIUM; f. 152v/13 NOMINA. PISCIUM; f. 153r/1 NOMINA FE(RARU(M)) | RARV(M) (letters erased and written again on next line); f. 153v/21 NOMINA HERBARUM; f. 154v/12 NOMINA ARBORUM; heading to "NOMINA DOMORVM" omitted, 'Domus. hus' f. 155v/1; ends: 'we ne magan swa | þeah. ealle naman awritan. ne forþan | geþencan' (ed. Zupitza 1880: 297–322) [f. 154v/lower margin 11c addition: 'núcleus. cyrnel'; early 12c additions: f. 157r/8 'uestiarius. regel þegen'; f. 159v (bottom) 'uinculu(m) (ue)l lignu(m). bend'].
2. ff. 160v/1–198r/1 Ælfric Bata, "Colloquies": 'Dénique composuit pueris hoc stilu(m) rite | diuersum'; ends: 'honor. & uirtus. potestas & impe|riu(m) una cum patre & sp(irit)u s(an)c(t)o in s(e)c(u)la s(e)c(u)lor(um) am(en). | Explicit hic sermo latinus calce quiescens || A bata ælfrico dispositu[s] monacho' (ed. Stevenson 1929: 27–66; Gwara 1996: 39–91; ed. Gwara, tr. Porter 1997: 80–177). Sporadic glosses in Latin and OE (many of the OE are scratched and/or merographs), and some construe glosses (ed. Napier 1900: 222–23 [nos. 1–72], Stevenson *ibid.*, Latin and OE ed. Gwara 1996: 115–18).
3. ff. 198r/1–204r/16 Ælfric Bata, "More Difficult Colloquies": ADHUC | EGO BATA DIFFICILIOR(EM) SENTE'nti'AM ADDO. | 'O grate puer. sterne meu(m) gausape'; ends 'qui uig& | & dominator (gl.: 'ri' [for "riceter"?, cf. Gwara 1996:124] p(er) inmortalia saecula' (ed. Stevenson 1929: 67–74; Gwara 1996: 92–99; ed. Gwara and tr. Porter 1997: 178–97). Sporadic glosses in Latin and OE (many merographs), with some construe glosses, more heavily glossed than the preceding item (OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: 223–28 [nos. 73–338], Stevenson, *ibid.*, Latin and OE glosses ed. Gwara 1996: 118–24).
4. ff. 204r/17–215r/13 Ælfric, "Colloquy" (Latin), as supplemented by Ælfric Bata: HANC SENTENTIA(M) LATINI SERMONIS | OLI(M) ælfricus ABBAS CO(M)POSUIT Q(U)I M(EU)S fuit | MAGISTER sed tam(en) ego ælfric bata multas | POSTEA huic ADDIDI APPENDICES. | 'NOS PUERI ROGAMUS TE MAGISTER (gl.: 's.o.) OB-

NIXE | ut doceas nos loqui lataliter recte'; ends: 'Nec nobis nomina eor(um) scita sunt'; sporadic Latin and OE glosses, the vocabulary lists on ff. 212rv, 213r being completely glossed in OE. (text and glosses ed. from this manuscript, Stevenson 1929: 75–101; OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: 228–30 [nos. 339–435]).

[Note: This version of the “Colloquy” has been extensively supplemented by Ælfric Bata, as the manuscript title indicates, the additional vocabulary lists stemming from Ælfric’s “Glossary.” Stevenson’s edition makes the extent of Bata’s additions clear, and they are diagrammed by Lendinara (1983: 225–49). The version of the “Colloquy” in the so-called “Antwerp/London Glossary,” Antwerp, Plantin–Moretus Museum MS 16.2 (47 [32]; Salle iii. 68) [4], ff. 18r–19v + London, BL Add. 32246 [164], ff. 16v–17r, is labeled ‘Ælfrici abbatis colloquia ab Ælfrico Bata aucta’ and probably represents an earlier expansion of Ælfric’s text by Ælfric Bata. The supposedly most original version of Ælfric’s work is found in BL Cotton Tiberius A. iii [223], ff. 60v–64v. Porter shows that there was a now-lost version intermediate between the Antwerp/London version and St. John’s, perhaps in the book mentioned by Prior Eastry in the 14c Christ Church catalogue as “Batte secundus,” containing “Locutio latina glosata Anglice ad instruendos pueros” (Porter 1996: 651; James 1903: 50, no. 297: the previous item is “Batte super Regulam beati Benedicti,” identified by James and Ker as Tiberius A. iii [Ker, *Cat.*, 241]). Tiberius, the shortest version, though still apparently containing some additions by Bata (the name ‘Æluricus bate’ appears on the original first page, now f. 117r), has been given a complete interlinear OE gloss, perhaps by Bata (Porter 1996: 643). Garmonsway’s easily available edition is based on Tiberius with the Latin text reduced to status of interlinear gloss; it corresponds only very roughly to the text in St. John’s and only as far as f. 212r/16 ‘senu(m) & sapientiu(m)’ (= Garmonsway 1991: p. 47, line 302). On the relationships of the texts and manuscripts, see Porter 1996.]

5. ff. 215r/14–221v/14 Ælfric Bata? “Colloquies extracted from a book of rare conversations” (“Colloquia e libro de raris fabulis retractata”): ‘Surge amice de tuo lectulo’; ends: ‘& hic sermos sufficiat nob(is) am(en)’ (ed. from this manuscript Stevenson 1929: 21–26, Gwara 1996: 30–38).

[Note: This work is a slight revision of “De raris fabulis,” probably a work of Cornish or Welsh origin found in the 10c manuscript Bodley 572 [362], ff. 41v–47r, ed. Stevenson 1929: 1–11; cf. Gwara 1996: 2–4, Porter in Gwara and Porter 1996: 21–23).]

6. ff. 221v/15–222r Abbo of St. Germain-des-Prés, from “De Bellis Parisiacae urbis,” Book 3, transcribed into Latin prose with OE interlinear gloss: ‘O Clerice. ne de(m)pseris umqua(m) dipticas. láteri’ (gl.: ‘eala þu cler. ne wana þu. æfre. wexbreda fra(m) sidan’); ends imperfect (Book 3.53): ‘esto. memor. tui. gallonis’ (gl: ‘beo þu gemyndig þines mædgildan’) (coll. Stevenson 1929: 102–8; cf. Lendinara 1986) [writ-

ten in original blank space, the Latin following the regular lineation in half-size letters, the OE written continuously above it in the same grade of script].

f. 222v blank (scribbles by several later hands).

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