

490. Worcester, Cathedral Library F. 174

Ælfric's "Grammar and Glossary", "Worcester Fragments"

[Ker 398, Gneuss --]

HISTORY: Written at Worcester in the late 12c or early 13c by the famous "tremulous hand," with ME linguistic features; Franzen (1991: 11–15) sees this manuscript as among the earlier work in the "tremulous hand," and it is the only manuscript entirely written by this scribe, who has been discerned as adding glosses in about 20 manuscripts (listed and discussed Franzen 1991: 28–83); "His work consists mainly of interlinear and marginal glosses to OE texts. . . . Some of the glosses are ME, but the vast majority are Latin" (Franzen 1991: 1); the variety of his glossing and interpretive activity suggests he was a master and not merely a copyist (Collier 2000: 197). The manuscript was discovered in the Worcester Cathedral Library in 1838 "in the cover of an old book" by Sir Thomas Phillipps, the leaves used as padding. This version of Ælfric's "Grammar" is Zupitza's "W".

[**Note:** Phillipps explained: "The Fragments having been found in the cover of an old book (of which they with some other fragments constituted the sole stiffening) had been so much smeared with a brown paste to make them adhere together that it required much washing to make some of them in the least degree legible" (Phillipps 1838: errata page). He printed the pages he had made legible at the time of publication, ff. 59rv, 60rv, 61rv, 62rv, 63rv, 64rv, 65rv, 66rv, as pages 1–16 (see Floyer and Hamilton 1906: 100).]

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: 66 cut-down and separated leaves, rebound in 19c, interleaved with paper. The correct order is ff. 1, 10, 2–9, 11–66. The first quire is now in 10 but includes the original second quire in 8 enclosed in the outer bifolium of the remains of the original first quire. Foliated in pencil both on the parchment (upper right recto) and the corresponding interleaves by the same 19c hand. The first quire (now f. 1 + f. 10) is wanting the six inside leaves. The rest of the book is structurally intact, though considerable amounts of text are lost from individual leaves because of trimming. The book seems originally to have been made up of irregularly-sized and offcast pieces of parchment which were further careless-

ly trimmed for binding purposes. The parchment is reasonably uniform, though very poor quality, irregular from the outset, full of holes, etc., rather limp and crisp, brownish-yellow, flesh usually lighter than hair; many pages show offsets running crossway to the original text and there are glue stains and smears on many leaves. Fol. 1r is very faint, as if it was the outside leaf in an unbound bundle for some time. The preparation of the book is very informal, with page size, lineation, and ruling (in pencil) differing from leaf to leaf and so are here given individually:

Quire I

- f. 1 214/210 × 172 mm.; 24 lines, writing area 200 mm. high; H/F [old repair with thin transparent vellum applied to verso; small burnt (?) area in outer lower corner with some loss of letters]
- f. 10 216 × 103 mm.; 24 lines, writing area 200 mm. high F/H [natural holes]

Quire II

- f. 2 185 × 163 mm.; 22 lines [22nd cut off], writing area 141 mm. wide H/F
- f. 3 220/190 × ca. 155 mm.; 23 lines, writing area 205 × c. 145 [the writing follows the irregularities of the sheet] F/H
- f. 4 c. 225 × 160 mm.; 23 lines, writing area 215 × 150+ mm. [three tears repaired with sewing] H/F
- f. 5 222 × c. 147 mm.; 23 lines, writing area 212 × 137 mm. F/H
- f. 6 222 × 124 mm.; 23 lines, writing area 210 high, trimmed at edge H/F (conjugate with 5)
- f. 7 226 × 124 mm.; 27 lines recto, 26 verso, writing area 218 high, trimmed at edge [four small tears repaired with sewing] F/H (conjugate with f. 4)
- f. 8 220/212 × c. 160 mm.; 24 lines recto, 26 verso, writing area 209 × c. 155 mm. H/F (conjugate with f. 3)
- f. 9 188 × 148 mm.; 22 lines recto, 20 verso, writing area 178 × 140 F/H (conjugate with f. 2) [outer and bottom edge of text trimmed]

Quire III [bottom inner part of quire of three inner sheets torn away when it was removed from its book]

- f. 11 190 × c. 188 mm.; 20 lines recto (trimmed), 21 verso (trimmed), writing area c. 180 mm. wide H/F
- f. 12 275 × c. 175 mm.; 31 lines recto, 32 verso, text follows irregularities of outer edge F/H
- f. 13 two scraps, upper 116 × c. 165 mm., lower 140 × 163 mm.; 12/16 lines left recto, 14/17 left verso H/F [outer edges irregularly trimmed, bottom inner edge torn, writing follows edge along bottom outer edge]

- f. 14 c. 230 × 178/149 mm.; 26 lines, ruled, writing area 215 high, text follows outer edge F/H
- f. 15 c. 235 × 144/151 mm.; 27 lines, ruled, (trimmed at top and outer edge) H/F (conjugate with 14)
- f. 16 two scraps, upper 115 × 180 mm., lower 129 × c. 114; 12/15 lines r/v, lower scrap trimmed at outer edge F/H (conjugate with 13)
- f. 17 276 × c. 168 mm.; 27 lines recto 32 verso, pencil ruling on verso, writing area 265 × c. 163 mm. H/F (conjugate with 12)
- f. 18 190 × c. 143/180 mm.; 22 lines recto, 21 verso pencil rulings each side, F/H (conjugate with 11)

Quire IV

- f. 19 212 × 198 mm.; 23 lines (+ 1 added on verso), pencil ruling each side H/F
- f. 20 226 × c. 191 mm.; 25 lines (+ 1 added on verso), pencil rulings, recto F/H
- f. 21 227 × 143 mm.; 26 lines, pencil rulings, recto H/F
- f. 22 220 × 143 mm.; 26 lines recto, 25 verso, pencil rulings, recto [outer edge trimmed, damage on lower outer repaired with thin vellum applied to verso, lower tear stitched, stitching removed from repair on tear in middle (lines 13/14)] H/F
- f. 23 227 × 151 mm.; 25 lines recto, 24 verso, pencil rulings each side [outer edge trimmed] F/H (conjugate with 22)
- f. 24 230 × 159 mm.; 24 lines, pencil rulings each side [outer edge trimmed] H/F (conjugate with 21)
- f. 25 c. 205 × c. 196 mm.; 22 lines, lightly scored, recto, writing follows edges H/F (conjugate with 20)
- f. 26 c. 205 × 198 mm.; 22 lines, light ruling, verso [signature (?) 'iii' on bottom of verso left] F/H (conjugate with 19)

Quire V

- f. 27 205 × 203 mm.; 22 lines F/H
- f. 28 two scraps, upper 95/82 × c. 182 mm., lower 103/114 × 182 mm.; 11/12 lines recto 11/13 verso [outer edge trimmed] H/F
- f. 29 190/185 × 203 mm.; 23 lines, ruled in pencil on verso [trimmed at bottom] F/H
- f. 30 172 × 188 mm.; 21 lines recto, 22 verso, pencil ruling verso [trimmed at top and bottom] F/H
- f. 31 172 × 183 mm. 21 lines, pencil ruling, verso H/F (conjugate with 30)
- f. 32 187 × 199 mm.; 23 lines, pencil ruling, verso H/F (conjugate with 29)

f. 33 two scraps, upper 96×95 mm., lower c. 100×94 mm.; 11/13 recto, 12/12 verso [trimmed on outer and bottom edges] F/H (conjugate with 28)

f. 34 c. 205×180 mm.; 25 lines [trimmed on top and outer edge] H/F (conjugate with 27)

Quire VI

f. 35 $235/222 \times 132$ mm.; 27 lines, pencil ruling each side [trimmed on outer edge] F/H

f. 36 $232/228 \times 200$ mm.; 27 lines, pencil ruling each side H/F

f. 37 $198/179 \times 200$ mm.; 23 lines, pencil ruling each side, writing follows edge of parchment at bottom F/H

f. 38 201×198 mm.; 25 lines, pencil ruling on verso [top trimmed] H/F

f. 39 205×187 mm.; 25 lines (24 written on verso), pencil ruling each side, writing follows parchment on bottom outside corner F/H (conjugate with f. 38)

f. 40 185×198 mm.; 23 lines [top trimmed] pencil ruling recto H/F (conjugate with f. 37)

f. 41 $230/220 \times 195$ mm.; 25 lines recto, 26 verso, pencil ruling verso F/H (conjugate with f. 36)

f. 42 $235/228 \times 140$ mm.; 27 lines, pencil ruling recto, sewing repair diagonally across top half [trimmed on outer edge] H/F (conjugate with f. 35)

Quire VII [bottom corner of quire torn away when it was removed from its book]

f. 43 223×170 mm.; 25 lines [trimmed at top and edge and torn at inner bottom edge] F/H

f. 44 two scraps upper 132×205 mm., lower 67×201 mm.; 17/9 lines [trimmed at top] H/F

f. 45 $228 \times$ c. 175 mm.; 28 lines [trimmed at top, torn at bottom inner edge] F/H

f. 46 $257 \times$ c. 195 mm.; 31 lines recto, 32 verso [trimmed at top and edge] H/F

f. 47 256×205 mm.; 32 recto, 31 lines verso [torn at inner edge] F/H (conjugate with f. 46)

f. 48 221×206 mm.; 27 lines, ruled in pencil each side, writing follows edge of parchment [torn at inner edge] H/F (conjugate with f. 45)

f. 49 two scraps, upper $137 \times$ c. 186 mm., lower c. 60×202 mm.; 17/8 lines recto, 17/7 verso [trimmed at top and edge (upper)] F/H (conjugate with f. 44)

f. 50 c. 190 × 110 mm.; 23 lines recto, 24 verso, light ruling recto [trimmed top and edge and torn at inner bottom edge] H/F (conjugate with f. 43)

Quire VIII

f. 51 227 × c. 166 mm.; 25 lines recto, 27 verso, pencil rulings verso [trimmed at edge and bottom; threads removed from two repairs at top center] F/H

f. 52 213 × 155 mm.; 26 lines, pencil rulings verso [trimmed at edge] H/F

f. 53 245/240 × c. 166 mm.; 28 lines recto, 27 verso, light pencil rulings each side [trimmed at edge] F/H

f. 54 222 × 145 mm.; 26 lines, pencil rulings verso [trimmed edge and bottom] F/H

f. 55 225 × 130 mm.; 26 lines recto, 27 verso, lightly ruled each side [trimmed at edge] H/F (conjugate with 54)

f. 56 c. 245 × 105 mm.; 29 lines recto, 28 verso, light pencil ruling verso [trimmed at edge, threads removed from three repairs] H/F (conjugate with f. 53)

f. 57 212 × 175 mm.; 24 lines recto, 22 verso, light ruling recto [trimmed at top] F/H (conjugate with f. 52)

f. 58 c. 224 × 178 mm.; 25 lines recto, 28 verso, marks for scores made with ink in outer margins and a few drypoint scores visible on each side [trimmed at bottom; threads removed from repair (at lines 13–14 recto)] H/F (conjugate with f. 51)

Quire IX [bottom corner of quire torn away when it was removed from its book]

f. 59 231 × c. 206 mm.; 30 lines [trimmed at top and edge; torn at inner edge] F/H

f. 60 235 × 210 mm.; 30 lines recto, 31 verso, slight ruling recto [trimmed top and edge; torn at inner edge] H/F

f. 61 241 × c/ 186 mm.; 31 lines recto, 30 lines verso [trimmed top and edge; torn at inner edge] F/H

f. 62 222 × 185 mm.; 28 lines [trimmed at top and edge; torn at inner edge] H/F

f. 63 220 × c. 202 mm.; 28 lines recto, 27 verso, pencil rulings recto [trimmed at edge, torn at inner edge, sheet cockled] F/H (conjugate with f. 62)

f. 64 240 × 200 mm.; 30 lines, light ruling verso [trimmed at top and edge, torn at inner edge, sheet cockled] H/F (conjugate with f. 61)

f. 65 235 × 205 mm.; 30 lines recto, 29 verso, lightly ruled each side [trimmed top and edge, torn at inner edge] F/H (conjugate with f. 60)

f. 66 233 × 205 mm.; 28 lines recto, 30 verso, lightly ruled recto [trimmed at top and edge, torn at inner edge] H/F (conjugate with f. 59).

Ker identifies the hand as the “tremulous” Worcester hand, the same hand adding several glosses, on ff. 7r, 9v, 12r/v, 48v/20. Reddish brown text-ink throughout. English is not distinguished from Latin; caroline minuscule forms, except insular *g* for palatals/spirants, always *þ* rather than *ð* in the “Grammar,” plus “wynn”. Red rubric *tercia declinat(i)o* on f. 10r/21, otherwise they are not provided (there are spaces, perhaps for titles on f. 23r/8 and f. 27v/5; cf. blank line on f. 63r before the “Worcester Fragment”), but in general there are few reading or indexing signposts. A 19c hand (Phillips) has added in pencil throughout titles with references to Somner’s edition of the “Grammar”. See also the description by Moffat (1987: 1–3).

19c binding of cardboard covered with red morocco, kept in a specially-made case.

[Note: Kept with the manuscript in its case are five small paper packets each containing four or five small parchment fragments (the largest ranging between 30 to 80 mm. on their widest side), probably salvaged from the binding material. Many of the fragments have offsets of OE text, in the same hand as the main text, doubtless from glued-down leaves of the present manuscript. Samples of these are included on the fiche.]

COLLATION: I² bifolium, wants 2–7 (ff. 1, 10); II⁸ inserted in I falsely as sheets 2–9 (ff. 2–9); III–IX⁸ (ff. 11–66)

CONTENTS:

1. ff. 1r/1–60r/12 Ælfric’s “Grammar”: f. 1r/1–1v/24 (beg. imperfect) ‘so muchel so on þere hercunnges is . . . alle þing *⟨ue⟩*l sunderliche i*⟨d⟩* est sing*⟨u⟩*larit(er) *⟨ue⟩*l imeneliche’ (= Zupitza 1880: 4/6–8/10); f. 10r/1–10v/25 ‘endeþ on um [beoþ neutri generis] hoc te*⟨m⟩*p*⟨lum⟩* . . . [titi]o brand. 7 c&. communis. G*⟨eneris⟩* h`i`*⟨c⟩* 7 hec’ (= Zupitza 30/15–35/12); ff. 2r/1–9v/20 ‘ambo. begen. ambo loquunt*⟨ur⟩* begen heo spe|keþ . . . [h]oc sons. sontis. sculdi. *⟨ue⟩*l sceapi. also of þen iue|*⟨ied⟩* i*⟨n⟩*sons. i*⟨n⟩*sontis. vnsculdi. 7 c&[. . .]’ (= Zupitza 35/13–63/16); ff. 11r/1–60r/12 ‘on grigcis nome. f*⟨eminini⟩* G*⟨eneris⟩* h*⟨ec⟩* tirins. tirinthis. . . . 7 us derne weren. beo þeos boc þus her iended.’ (= Zupitza 64/1–296/12) (ed. from this manuscript Butler 1981: 93–312; Zupitza 1880: 1–296).

[Note: Prefaces were never included; text between f. 1 and f. 10 (6 leaves) wanting, as well as other bits of text because of trimming of leaves. There is no distinction between the end of the “Grammar” and the beginning of the “Glossary”; the coda “On ledenspræce” (Zupitza 296/13–16) is omitted.]

2. ff. 60r/12–63/12 Ælfric's "Glossary": (beg. imperfect) 'vertex. nol. cer[ue]x | necca' [edge severely trimmed]; ends: 'struma. hofer. meretrix. <ue>| scorta. miltestre. pelex. cifes. 7 cet(er)a.' [many items deliberately omitted, as is colophon (Zupitza 322/3–4)] (ed. from this manuscript Butler 1981: 313–333; Zupitza 1880: 297–322).
3. f. 63r/13–27 "First Worcester Fragment," early ME verses on state of learning in England: '[S]⟨an⟩c⟨tu⟩s Beda was iboren her on breotene mid us'; ends imperf.: 'þ(et) we sceolen fæier feþ' (ed. Hall 1920: 1.1, 2.223–28, Dickins and Wilson 1951: 1–2, 151–52).
- [Note: The form of the text is usually characterized as "prose," or "rhythmic prose," but Brehe (1990) succeeded in showing its essentially verse character, similar to the verse of Layamon's "Brut"]
4. f. 63v–66v "The Soul's Address to the Body," late OE/early ME verse (seven fragmentary sides of a continuous text): '[. . .] en earde. 7 alle þeo isceattan'; ends imperf.: 'þet beoð þeos bearn so so bec mænep. filii tui sicut nouel[. . .]' (ed. Moffat 1987; Buchholz 1890: 1–10; partial ed. Hall 1920: 1.1–2, 2.228–40).

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