

66. Cambridge, Magdalene College, Pepys 2981, no. 16

Ælfric, Catholic Homilies (First Series),
Homily “De fide catholica” (fragments)
(with London, BL Harley 5915, f. 13 [277a])
[Ker 243(1), Gneuss 442]

HISTORY: Pepys 2981 is Volume I of the “Calligraphical Collection” of Samuel Pepys the diarist (1633–1703), who possessed it certainly by 1700, probably by purchase from John Bagford (Gatch 1985: 96–7). No.16 is in the same early 11c hand and in the same format as British Library, Harley 5915, folio 13 [277a]. Ker, *Cat.*, compares the script with Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 340 [358]. It is pasted on to p. 9, so that the verso side can hardly be seen. The inscription around the fragment is written by Paul Lorrain, Pepys’s library clerk, taken from Humphrey Wanley’s notes (McKitterick [and Whalley] 1989: 4. iv, 6).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A single membrane leaf, cut across about half-way down, now measuring 134 × 163 mm., written area 130 × 163 mm., the width being the full measurement of the written area. No prick-marks survive, but there is ruling for the surviving 15 long lines of the original leaf in a single frame in hardpoint. From the amount of text lacking between the recto side and the verso side (as reported by Ker), it would appear that the leaf was originally ruled for 30 long lines, but it is not clear whether what survives is the top half or the bottom half of the original leaf.

CONTENTS: Two fragmentary sections of text from Ælfric’s homily “Feria IIII De fide catholica,” ÆCHom I, 20:

recto side/1–15 ‘þ(æt) þ(æt) lator bið . þ(æt) hæfð angin . . . Is hwæðere se sunu ana geflæscha[mod]’ (as Thorpe 1844–6: 1: 284/6–22; coll. Clemoes 1997: 339/127–340/139);

verso side/1–15 [from Ker, no image] ‘[seo] beorhtnys 7 . . . þa gesceafta . . . ’ (as Thorpe 1844–6: 1: 286/2–16; coll. Clemoes 1997: 340/152–341/165).

[**Note:** There is a script facsimile in London, BL, Stowe 1061, a collection of hand-made facsimiles and manuscript leaves by the palaeographer and antiquarian Thomas Astle (1735–1803), who became FSA in 1763. F. 70r contains a script facsimile of Pepys 2981, no.16, recto side only.]

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