

82. Cambridge, Trinity College R.7.28 (770)
“Annals of St. Neots” (with Bede’s “Death Song”);
Geoffrey of Monmouth, “*Historia Regum Britanniae*”;
episcopal documents
[Ker 88, Gneuss —]

HISTORY: Three booklets probably brought together for the first time in the 16c. Booklet A was written in Bury St Edmunds in the first half of the 12c (1120 × 1140 according to Dumville 1985: xiv) and was the copy seen and annotated by John Leland (1506?–52) at St Neots (1709: 152; 1770: 3. 214–9). How or when Booklet A went from Bury to St Neots remains a mystery (for discussion see Dumville 1985: xix–xxi). Part A contains the unique copy of the so-called “Annals of St. Neots,” a Latin chronicle (60 B.C.– A.D. 914) derived from the “A-S Chronicle,” A-S regnal lists, Asser and other hagiographical and continental historical materials. Booklet B, containing Geoffrey of Monmouth’s “*Historia Regum Britanniae*” is 12c/13c; Booklet C contains accumulated episcopal entries dated 14c–16c. The combined manuscript belonged to John Parker (1548–1618/9), son of the archbishop (who probably owned it before the son), and was given to Trinity College by Thomas Nevile (d.1615), whose brother Alexander was a member of the Parker household (Strongman 1977–80: 6–7, 10, no.7). It was used by Thomas Gale for his edition (1691). The volume is relatively small in size, having been heavily cropped by the binder. It probably suffered this fate on more than one occasion, since in the second half of the 16c the missing top line of p. 36 was supplied at the bottom of p.35, and the Parkerian pagination and marginal notes have also been trimmed (Stevenson 1904: 113; Hart 1981: 250, 271; Dumville 1985: xix).

Interest in the contents of Booklet A is shown by the transcripts made of it in the 16c or 16c/17c: Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Top.gen.c.2 (3118), pp. 190–94 (extracts by Leland, printed 1770: 3.214–19); Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 100, pp. 261–319 (written under the aegis of Matthew Parker, archbishop of Canterbury 1559–75); London, British Library, Cotton MS Vitellius E. xiv (extracts by Parker’s secretary, John Joscelyn

[1529–1603]); Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, MS lat. 6236 (written by William Lambarde [1536–1601]); and perhaps slightly later, 16c/17c, London, British Library, MS Harley 685, ff. 1–45r (cf. Dumville 1985: xxiii–xxvii).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios ii + 106 + i, 163 × 112 mm., membrane except for the paper endleaves. Written space varies, but in item 1 is generally 155 × 75 mm., including 4mm. for the height of the writing on the top line, but in quire I, sheets 2/9, 3/8, and 5/6, it is taller, 160 × 75 mm., and in quire II, sheet 3/6 it is slightly taller, 157 × 75 mm. Pagination in pencil excludes both front paper endleaves but includes the recto (p. 213) of the rear paper endleaf. A previous pagination in red ochre crayon (characteristic of Matthew Parker, archbishop of Canterbury, 1559–75, but also of John, his son) extends to p. 99. Catchwords occur in Booklet B at the end of quires VII–XII. Throughout, no pricking is visible; all ruling is in hardpoint.

The brown leather binding is of the 16c/17c with heraldic device of Neville on front and rear; subsequently re-backed in the 19c.

Booklet A (quires I–V, pp. 1–74): There is a double frame rule with 34 long lines, written space generally 155 × 75/83 mm. (inner/outer), but in quire II the outer width is 89 mm. at the top and 84 mm. at the bottom, and the top and bottom two lines are ruled across the whole surviving width of the leaf. Hair/Flesh as follows: I: FHFHF; II–IV: HFHF; V: HF. Booklet A is in two hands of the first half of the 12c, written at Bury St. Edmunds with change of hand in darker ink at beginning of quire II. Quire I (pp. 1–18) is by the same hand as wrote Cambridge, Pembroke College MS 15, New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, MSM.736 (dated c.1124 by Thomson 1971: pp.215–7), containing Abbo of Fleury, “Passio Sancti Eadmundi”, Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS e Mus. 112 (3578) (dated before 1125–6 by Thomson 1972: 629, n.72), and the first four quires of Cambridge, Pembroke College 12 (Bishop 1949–53: 432–3; Group A in McLachlan 1986: 21). The rest, quires II–V (pp. 19–74), is in another hand. Plain initials in blue (pp. 1, 3, 25, etc.), red (pp. 2, 4, 5, etc.), metallic red (pp. 1, 2, 3, etc.), purple (pp.4, 5), green (pp. 6, 11, 12, etc.); no color after p. 54.

[**Note:** The second hand, which also wrote CCCC 135, ff. 1–155, and others (Group B in McLachlan 1986: 21), was formerly thought to include a contribution to the Bury copy of John (*olim* “Florence”) of Worcester’s “Chronicon” (on which see Brett 1981) in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 297 (2468) [355], but this identification, doubted by Thomson 1972, is rejected by Darlington and McGurk (1995: lii, n.17). Dumville (1985: xvii–xviii) argues that Booklet A is quasi-authorial, showing evidence of compilation as it proceeds. For a summary of these arguments see Robinson 1988: no.351.]

Booklet B (quires VI–XIII, pp. 75–194): There is a double frame rule generally with 32 lines (34 on pp.130/31), written space 112 × 82/88 mm. (inner/outer); in quire VIII the top two lines are ruled across the whole surviving width of the leaf. Hair/flesh as follows: VI: FHFF; VII: HFH; VIII–XIII: HFHF. Booklet B is in a hand of the 12c/13c, and item 3, p. 87, is in a hand of similar date. Plain initials in green (pp. 78, 81, 84, etc.) and red (pp. 83, 86, 91, etc.).

Booklet C (quire XIV, pp. 195–213): On pp. 199–202 there is a double frame rule with 28 lines for 27 lines of writing, written space 143 × 86/89 mm. (inner/outer). On pp. 203–7 there is a frame rule double on the spine side and single on the outer side, written space 145 × 77/84 mm. (inner/outer). Other pages apparently not ruled. The quire is arranged HFHFH. Items (4)–(5a) are in a hand of the 14c; item (5b) is 14c/15c; item (5c) is of the second half of the 16c. Red shading of initials pp. 199–207. Red ink for headings pp. 201, 203. No color on pp. 208–10, nor on the sheet comprising pp. 195–6/211–2.

COLLATION:

Booklet A: I¹⁰ lacks 10 (pp. 1–18), II⁸ (pp. 19–34), III⁸ (pp. 35–50), IV⁸ (pp. 51–66), V⁴ (pp. 67–74); Booklet B: VI⁶⁺¹ singleton after 3 (pp. 75–88), VII⁶ (pp. 89–100), VIII⁸ (pp. 101–116), IX⁸ (pp. 117–132), X⁸ (pp. 133–48), XI⁸ (pp. 149–64), XII⁸ (pp. 165–80), XIII⁸ lacks 8 (pp. 181–94); Booklet C: XIV¹⁺⁶⁺² (pp. 195–212).

[Note: In quire XIV, the bifolium pp. 195/6 and 211/212 was wrapped around the core, pp. 197–208; later, pp. 209/10 was added for the continuation of item 5b. There are paper binding strips around Quires I, II, III, IV, VI, VIII, X, XI, XII, and XIV. Membrane binding strips have been used internally in Quires IV (helping to hold 1/8, 3/6 together), V (helping to hold 1/4 together, and strengthening 2/3), VI (helping to hold 1/6 together, and a large strip holding the central singleton in place), VII (helping to hold 1/6, 2/5, and 3/4 together), VIII (strengthening 1/8, 3/6, and 4/5), IX (helping to hold 1/8 together and strengthening 4/5), X (helping to hold 1/8, 3/6 together), XI (helping to hold 1/8 together and strengthening 2/7), XII (strengthening 1/8 and 4/5), XIII (strengthening 1 and 2/7), and XIV (helping to hold 2/7 + 8 together, and strengthening 4/5). These binding strips have apparently led Dumville (1985: xv) and Crick (1989: 63) to arrive at another collation for Quires IV and V, i.e. IV¹⁰ lacks 3, 7, V⁶ lacks 3, 5.]

CONTENTS:

Booklet A:

1. pp. 1/1–74/26 “Annals of St Neots”: ‘IGitur brittannia romanis usq(ue) ad gaiu(m) iulium cesarem. inaccessa atq(ue) incognita fuit’; ends: ‘Ann(o)

.dcccciiii. facta e(st) pax int(er) Karolu(m) rege(m) | franco(rum) & Rollone(m) duce(m) northmanno(rum)' [last sentence repeated at bottom of p. 74 in a different 12c hand] (ed. Gale 1691, Dumville 1985: 1–107; extracts ed. Stevenson 1904: 97–145). “Bede’s Death Song” (ed. Dobbie 1937: 90; cf. also Dobbie 1942: 108) occurs on p. 26/4–8 in the main hand in the course of Cuthbert’s letter “De obitu beati atq(ue) eximii doctoris Bede”: ‘Fortha(m) nedfere neni wyrtheth . . . after deathe heonon | demed weorthe’ (ed. Plummer 1896, I, clx–clxiv; Dobbie 1937, 117–27; Colgrave and Mynors 1969, pp. 580–86), which here forms part of the annal for the year 734. No Anglo-Saxon letter-forms, unless dotted *y* or *ę* for *æ* in ‘ær’ are allowed. No punctuation apart from a final point. The text is similar to that in Dobbie’s “Symeon group.”

[Note: A leaf cancelled between pp. 18 and 19, no text lost; scribe B begins at the top of p. 19. Annotations in the hand of John Leland throughout Booklet A. On pp. 50–51 an item relating to St Neots has been marked at beginning and end in red ochre. P. 1, margin (17c/18c): ‘Edidit cl(arissimus) Galaeus ad hoc ipsissimum exemplar Oxoniae A(nno) 1691’, a reference to Gale 1691.]

Booklet B:

2. pp. 75/1–194/20 Geoffrey of Monmouth, “*Historia Regum Britanniae*” (no book/chapter divisions): ‘Cum mecu(m) multa et de multis’ [very faint, the page much rubbed]; ends: ‘In honore p(re)d(i)c(t)o(rum) p(r)incipum h(oc) m(od)o in latinum sermonem trans|ferre curau(i). Finit *Historia Britonum*.’ (ed. Giles 1844, Griscom 1929, Wright 1984)

[Note: Crick (1991: 104, 184) reports that “text is lost between the end of §25 and beginning of §26”: “there is no physical explanation.” §25 ends ‘p(ro)ph(et)a regnauit i(n) iuda’ at the bottom of p. 85. §26 begins ‘I(n)signit(us) ig(itur) Maddan’ at the top of p. 86 (cf. Wright 1984: 17). The amount of text lost over the page division corresponds to one line of writing. Perhaps the MS was copied page by page from an exemplar? There are traces of writing in the bottom outside margin on p. 85, but most of it is lost from cropping by the binder.]

3. p. 87/19ff. (40 lines of smaller script inserted in a space left blank in the midst of the text of 2 [after §31 = Wright 1985: 19/[23]], first four in long lines, the rest as verse lines) “Verses on the Ancestors of Christ and the Meanings of their Names” in another hand of similar date: ‘P(ro) nob(is) <Christu(m) s(anct)o(rum) no(m)i(n)a patru(m). Signa(n)t de q(u)o(rum) . . . e(st) iosaphat iudex q(ua) chr(istu)s iudicat orbem | <con(t)ri>stans reprobos’ (Walther 1959: no. 14757; cf. James 1900–1902: 2.240). [P. 88 blank; text of item 2 continues on p. 89 without a textual break].

Booklet C:

p. 195 blank.

pp. 196 and 211 (a bifolium) an account of the second half of the 15c mounted upside down. pp. 197–198 blank.

4. pp. 199/1–202/14 Covenant for the enthronement of archbishops of Canterbury: 'Ffeodu(m) comit(um) Gloucestr(ie) <et> heredu(m) suo(rum) . . . Ite(m) lecti|st(er)nia ep(iscop)i peti deb(e)nt pro feod(o) camerar(ius) in troni 7 an|tis' [rest of p. 202 is blank].

5a. pp. 203/1–207/27 The succession of archbishops of Canterbury down to end of Robert of Winchelsey's reign (1294–1313) (hand datable 1313 or a little later): Q(ua)ntu(m) ar(chi)ep(iscop)i Cant(uarienses) i(n) ar(chi)ep(iscop)atu vixeri(n)t 7 in q(u)o g(ra)du | 7 dignitate prius erant. | ['A]ugustinus p(ri)mus ar(ch)ep(iscopu)s Cant(uariensis) 7 sedit a(n)nus | xui' ['A' filled in by a later hand].

5b. pp. 208/1–210/11 Continuation in hand of 15c, from Walter Reynolds (1313) to William Courtenay (1381–1396).

5c. p. 210/12–23 Continuation in hand of the second half of the 16c from Thomas Arundel (1396) to Matthew Parker (from 1559).

[Note: Throughout 5a–c a modern hand has added accession dates in the margins as well as initials.]

Pp. 211–212: see above, p. 196; p. 212 blank.

6. p. 213 (paper endleaf) imprint of printed injunction to county of Surrey, 16c.

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