

277. London, British Library, Harley 5915, folios 8–9
Ælfric, “Grammar” (fragments)
(with Bloomington, Indiana, Lilly Library Additional 1000 [14])
[Ker 242, Gneuss 441]

HISTORY: Harley 5915 assembles unconnected fragments from manuscripts and printed books (the latter removed to the Library’s Department of Printed Books) from the collection of John Bagford (1650–1716), on whom see Johnson 1970, Gatch 1985, and Birrell 1988: 29–32. The bifolium numbered ff. 8–9 is in the same hand (d, g, ð are particularly distinctive) as Bloomington, Indiana University, Lilly Library, Add. 1000 [14] (formerly Sigmaringen, Ker, *Cat.* 384 & Supp.; Collins 1964, and 1976: no. 4) and they are likely fragments from the same codex. The Harley fragment was written in the first half of the 11c, but subsequently used as a binding pastedown, the inner side, ff.8v/9r, showing the offset of a (?leather) board-cover, especially at the bottom. The edges and top have been trimmed, the top so severely that text is lost. The outer side, ff. 8r/9v, has 16c(?) scribbles ‘Thoma’, ‘d’, ‘g’, ‘h’, etc.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A bifolium trimmed so that it now measures 238/245 × 165 mm., written area 195/198 × 125 mm., the width being the full measurement of the written area. No prick-marks are visible, but the hardpoint ruling for a single frame with 25 long lines, with the bottom line ruled across to the hinge, is faintly visible. Twenty-four lines of text survive plus the bottom sector of part of the line above on f. 9; one line above that is completely trimmed; on f. 8 two lines must be missing.

CONTENTS: Two fragmentary sections of text from Ælfric’s “Grammar,” from “De uerbo passiuo”:

f. 8r/1–24 (top line trimmed) ‘amati essemus . . . fulfremedlice gelufod’ (as Zupitza 1880: 141/16–142/17);

[Note: Missing between recto and verso is “cum amatis sis uel fueris þa ða ðu wære gelufod cum amatus sit uel fuerit þa þa he wæs gelufod.”]

“Grammar,” from “De secunda coniugatione”:

f. 8v/1–24 ‘& pl(uralite)r cum amatisimus . . . Ic secge nu ge’ (as Zupitza 1880: 142/19–144/2).

f. 9r/1–24 (top lines trimmed) ‘& pl(uralite)r doceamus tæce we . . . þonne hi tæcað.’ (as Zupitza 1880: 148/12–149/14);

f. 9v/1–24 (partly visible line of text above line 1): ‘tæhtest. c(u)m docer&. . . docuisse. tæcan.’ (as Zupitza 1880: 149/16–150–14).

PHOTO NOTE: The fiche shows ff. 1r–21r. This fragment occurs in frames 19–22, the folio number 8 discernable just to the right of the third line of writing.

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