

277a. London, British Library, Harley 5915, f. 13

Ælfric, Catholic Homilies (First Series),

“Homily for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost” (fragments)

(with Cambridge, Magdalene College, Pepys 2981 (no. 16) [66])

[Ker 243, Gneuss 442]

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. Folio 13, in the same early 11c hand and in the same format as Cambridge, Magdalene College, Pepys 2981, no. 16 [66], is the lower part of a leaf subsequently used as a pastedown, pasted on the verso side; Ker compares the script with Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 340 [358]. At the bottom of the recto side of Harley 5915, f. 13 is the 16c inscription ‘Thomas Dayly vicari(us) de M(ar)cham p(ro)pe abe(n)doniam.’ Marcham is a village in Ock Hundred, Berkshire.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: A single membrane leaf, cut across about half-way down, now measuring 124 × 192 mm., written area 108 × 163 mm., the width being the full measurement of the written area. No prick-marks survive, but there is ruling for the surviving bottom 12 lines of the original leaf in a single frame in hardpoint. From the amount of text missing between ff.13r/12 and 13v/1 it may be calculated that the leaf was probably ruled for 30 lines originally. The only color is ‘Totus hic sermo meus’ written in red ink on the recto side above line 9.

CONTENTS: Two fragmentary sections of text from Ælfric’s homily “Dominica xi post Pentecosten” in the first series of “Catholic Homilies” (ÆCHom I, 28):

f. 13r/1–12 ‘lamp swiðost . þurh gyltas . . . seo gytsung þa(m) sacerdu(m).’
(as Thorpe 1844–46: 1: 406; coll. Clemoes 1997: 412/81–413/91);

f.13v/1–12 ‘sume gelicnysse to gehwilcu(m) þwerlicu(m) mannu(m) þe
| blissað . . . 7 mid wurðmyntu(m)’ (as Thorpe 1844–46: 1: 408; coll.
Clemoes 1997: 413/106–414/116).

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- Johnson, Alfred F. "John Bagford, Antiquary, 1650–1716." In idem, *Selected Essays on Books and Printing*, ed. Percy H. Muir, 378–80. Amsterdam: van Gendt, 1970.
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