

409. Oxford, Brasenose College, Latham M. 6. 15

Ælfric, Homily fragment

[Ker 352, Gneuss 670]

HISTORY: A binding strip written in a script of the first half of the 11c (Ker *Cat.*, 429) was used in a copy of Erasmus, *Lingua* (Cologne, 1530) (see below). The binding is identified by Ker as mid-16c English work (1957: 430). The date when Brasenose College acquired the book is not known. In Ker's time the fragment was still *in situ* inside the front cover. It was removed in the course of a rebinding in approximately 1991 (according to Richard Laver, the Assistant Librarian), when the book was rebound by Period Binders, Lower Bristol Road, Twerton, Bath, BA2 9ES, as recorded on the envelope currently containing the fragment.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The strip measures 146 × 36 mm. The written space takes the top 102 mm. with a lower margin of 44 mm. The fragment has hair on the recto. Lineation is scored from the verso; lines are 9 mm. apart. Eleven complete lines of text survive, with traces of a twelfth above. The text is written by a single scribe of the first half of 11c, who makes fairly extensive use of accents. There are no signs of decoration such as touching in red of capital letters, nor of glosses or corrections.

The fragment was cut from the lower middle part of a page. Clemoes (1997: 64) calculates that the page when complete consisted of 28 or 29 lines. This would make the original leaf approximately 360 mm. tall, assuming an upper margin of approximately the same dimensions as the existing lower margin. A matching piece of parchment, of similar size (148 × 34 mm.) and quality but entirely blank, remains in place at the end of the binding of the Erasmus.

The fragments are associated with a printed copy of Erasmus with the following title page: "LINGVA | PER DES. ERASMVM | Roterodamum. | Opus nouum, & hisce tempo-|ribus aptissimum. | Anno M. D. XXX." To the front of this has been inked a classmark 'O[?]. 1. 14' (cf. Adams 1967, #688). The paper leaves measure 148 × 93 mm. They have been bound with a pair

of paper flyleaves at either end cut from the top part of a large printed book in Latin with Latin and German printed annotations and a running head 'APOLOGIA COMPLANATIONES ISAIÆ,' with pp. 201–2 at the end and 203–4 at the beginning. The parchment flyleaves were placed outside this page, extending from the binding only part-way into the length of the page, as is evident by a scoring effect on inner and outer re-used paper flyleaf. Outside this is a blank (later?) paper flyleaf at either end, then a calf binding around boards, with an unidentified faded coat of arms, and with the Brasenose coat of arms pasted into the inside front cover.

CONTENTS:

[Note: Text of the binding strip given in roman; bracketed and italic context from Clemoes 1997. No attempt has been made to reconstruct the entire original page. The line breaks are conjectural.]

recto Ælfric, ÆCHom I,1 "De initio creaturae" (fragment):

[. . . 7 *god him*] gesette nam[*an adam. 7 he wæs þa sume hwile anstande*]nde. God þa [*hine gebrohte on neorxnawange. 7 hine þær gel*]ogode. 7 him t[*o cwæð. Ealra þæra þinga þe on neorxnawange*] syndon þu m[*ost brucan. 7 ealle hi beoð þe betæhte buton an*]um treowe þe [*stent onmiddan neorxnawange ne hrepa þu þ*]æses treowes wæ[*stm. for ðon þe ðu byst deadlic gif þu ðæs tr*]eowes wæstm [*geetst. Hwi wolde god swa lytles þinges him for*]wyrnan. þe h[*im swa micle oðre þincg betæhte. Gyse. hu mi*]hte adám to[*cnawan hwæt he wære. buton he wære gehyr*]sum on sumu[*m þincge his hlaforde. Swilce god cwæde to him. N*]ás ðú þæt ic e[*om þin hlaford . . .*]
(ed. Clemoes 1997: 181, lines 68–77).

verso Ælfric, ÆCHom I, 1 (fragment):

[. . . *Da sette adam eft hire oðerne naman. aeua. þæt is lif for ðan ðe heo is ealra*] lybbendra [*modor. Ealle gesceafta heofonas 7 en*]glas. sunnan [*7 monan. steorran 7 eorðan. ealle nytenu*] 7 fugelas. [*sæ. 7 ealle fixas. 7 ealle gesceafta god*] gescéop 7 ge[*worhte on six dagum. 7 on ðam seofodan dæg*]e he geéndod[*e his weorc. 7 geswac ða 7 gehalgode þone seof*]oðan dæg. fo[r *ðan ðe he on ðam dæge his weorc geendo*]de. 7 he beh[*eold þa ealle his weorc ðe he geworhte. 7 hi w*]æron ealle. sw[*iðe gode. Ealle ðing he ge worhte buton æl*]cum antimbr[*e. He cwæð. geweorðe leoht.*

7 ðærrihthe wæs] leoht gewór[den. He cwæð eft. geweorðe
heofen. 7 þærr]iht(e w)æs heof[en geworht. . . .] (Clemoes 1997: 182, lines
93–103).

PHOTO NOTES: The fragment has been photographed verso preceding
recto.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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1600, in Cambridge Libraries*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
1967.

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Text Society, s.s. 17. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

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