

136. The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek 133 D 22
Ælfric, "Catholic Homilies" I (fragments from three homilies)
with 150. Copenhagen, Kongelige Biblioteket Acc. 1996/12
152a. Copenhagen, Rigsarkivet Middelaldersamlingen
Aftagne Frag. Nr. 637–698
[Ker 118, Gneuss 830]

HISTORY: Nine strips of parchment cut from the leaves of an A-S manuscript dating from the first half of the 11c, containing Ælfric's "Catholic Homilies." The strips derive from three homilies which "only occur together elsewhere in the four complete copies of the first series" (Ker, *Cat.*, p. 155; cf. Ker nos. 15, 43, 220, 257). This copy is Clemoes' "f." On a paper wrapping it is written that Ph. L. van den Bergh, Archivist-General of the Netherlands, donated the strips to the Royal Library on 24 October 1861. Paleographical and codicological evidence has strongly favored the claim that a collection of 62 similar fragments from the Copenhagen State Archive, plus seven more recently noticed fragments from a single leaf now in the Royal Library, Copenhagen (Copenhagen, Rigsarkivet binding fragments 637–698 [152a], + Copenhagen, Kongelige Biblioteket Acc. 1996/12 [150], edited and published by Fausbøll 1986 + 1995), are from the same manuscript (Dumville 1989: 132–34). The Copenhagen Rigsarkiv fragments were taken from bindings of the collected papers of Peder Charisius, Danish resident minister in The Hague from 1651 to 1669. It is very likely that the Hague fragments were used by the same binder who bound the papers of Peder Charisius, presumably in 1657. The manuscript would therefore have been in The Hague in the 1650s. A few marginalia in the Copenhagen fragments, most likely dating from the 17c, indicate that before they were made into binding strips they had been in the possession of an antiquarian. For further information on these fragments and their context consult the descriptions of 150 and 152a.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The nine strips have presumably been cut from a quire of eight leaves, or four conjugate pairs: strips 1: 133 × 26 mm. and 2: 133 × 25 mm., cut horizontally from leaf I; strips 3: 125 × 27 mm., 4: 127 × 28 mm., and 5: 119 × 25 mm., cut vertically from leaf II; strips 6: 117 × 20 mm., 7: 119 × 23 mm., and 8: 103 × 24 mm., cut vertically from leaf VII, and strip 9: 126 × 26 mm, cut vertically from leaf VIII. Leaf I formed one conjugate pair with leaf VIII; leaf II formed one conjugate pair with leaf VII (reconstructions based on Clemoes [1997: 57]). The upper margin of the quire measures 20 mm. and the lower margin 35 mm. The left margin, visible on strips 1v, and 2v, measures 23 mm., and the right margin, visible on strips 1r, and 2r, 25–30 mm. The written space measured approximately 215 × 145 mm., so that the height of the leaves was about 270 mm. The leaves contained 29 lines. Ruling is visible on leaf II verso and leaf VII recto, from which it can be inferred that the order of the two outer sheets was HF (Clemoes 1997: 57). Ff. 1v and 2v have glue stains and are slightly damaged. Strips 1 and 2, 6 and 7 are now joined, and all are sealed in melinex wrappers.

CONTENTS:

Leaf I (strips 1–2). The greater part of 8 lines remains on each side:

Recto: from Homily 27 on the Nativity of St. Paul (*ÆCHom* I, 27): ‘[witeg] an cnapa giezi mid gytsunge undercropsen . . . Se witega hine befran’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 408/236–42, as Thorpe 1.400/16–23);

Verso: from Homily 28, the Gospel text for the eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (*ÆCHom* I, 28: ‘healf genyrwiað 7 to eorðan ‘ð[e]’ astreccað . . . sc`e`aðan (..) scræfe. Ð[a]’) (coll. Clemoes 1997: 410/9–15 [this section is not in Thorpe]).

Leaf II (strips 3–5) from Homily 28, “Dominica undecima post pentecosten” (*ÆCHom* I, 28); about half of each of 14 lines remains on each side:

Recto: (top half of first line trimmed) ‘cwearter[ne] 7 hi wurd[on þa u]tan | ybmse[ttē mid ro]maniscum [here sw]a lange . . . we on þy[sum halga]n godspelle [ealle þa] scam’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 411/41–50; as Thorpe 1.402/33–404/8);

Verso: (from the second line) ‘[for]þan þe þu ne o[ncneowe] . . . [on] woruld’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 412/60–70; as Thorpe 1.404/19–30) [see “Photo Notes,” below].

Leaf VII (strips 6–8). From Homily 29, “IIII Idus Augusti Passio Sancti Laurentii” (*ÆCHom* I, 29); a few letters remaining in each of 28 lines on both sides:

Recto (strips 6 and 7 which are adjacent, left edge of text): ‘ure fæde[r] . . . martis’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 418/10–419/20; as Thorpe 1.416/11–24); strip 8, ‘[mar]tig. . . gode’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 419/21–30; as Thorpe 1.416/22–418/2);

Verso (strips 6 and 7, right edge of text): ‘[fæde]r on me? . . . [er]ce diacon’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 419/31–42; as Thorpe 1.418/3–16); strip 8, ‘man[num] . . . geax[ode]’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 419/41–420/50; as Thorpe 1.418/14–25) ~

Leaf VIII (strip 9) from the homily on St. Laurence, the greater part of a line remains on each side of this leaf, which follows continuously from leaf VII verso:

Recto: ‘[. . .] þrowunge, mid gastlicre sibbe 7 mid fot[[ðweale]’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 420/51; as Thorpe 1.418/26);

Verso: ‘Sixtus þa soðlice underhnað swurdes e[cge . . .]’ (coll. Clemoes 1997: 420/72; as Thorpe 1.420/17).

PHOTO NOTES: The strips were kept loose in a folder. For the photograph, the nine strips were temporarily arranged on a single leaf: in the first shot (2×) appear all the rectos, in the second shot (2×) all the versos. The rectos are correctly aligned, but the verso of leaf II (strips 3–5) is misarranged in the photo and has been mislabeled by a library hand; 3v, 4v, 5v (as labeled), should be in the order 4, 3, 5, and 5 is set two lines too low; as it is confusing, a transcription of this part is given [entirely missing letters in italics], cf. Clemoes 1997: 412/60–70:

4	3	5
[top of line cut off]	‘. . .gelumpe.	ðā ðā he cwæð
forþan þe þu ne oncneowe	þone timan	þinre <i>geneo</i>
sunge. He geneosode þa	burhware.	ðurh <i>his</i>
mennisnyse. ac hi	næron his ge	myndige
naþor ne þurh lufe ne	þurh ege.	Be ðære
gymeleaste spræc <i>se witig[-]</i>	a mid ceo	rigend <i>re</i>
stemne þus cwepende.	storc 7 swea	lewe heol
don þone tyman heora	tocymes.	7 þis folc
ne oncneow godes dom.	Drihten cwæð	to ðære byr
ig gif ðu wistest hwæt	þe toward	is þonne
weope þu mid me. witod	lice on þysse	dæge þu
wunast on sybbe ac þa	towardan	wrace
sind nu bedyglod fram	þinu(m) eagum.	Seo burh
waru wære wuniende	on woruld	[rest of line blank].

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Clemons, Peter, ed. *Ælfric's Catholic Homilies. The First Series, Text*. Early English Text Society s.s. 17. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Dumville, David. Review of E. Fausbøll, *Fifty-Six Ælfric Fragments*. *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen* 226 (1989): 133–34.
- Fausbøll, Else, ed. *Fifty-Six Ælfric Fragments: The Newly-Found Copenhagen Fragments of Ælfric's Catholic Homilies; with Facsimiles*. Publications of the Department of English, University of Copenhagen 14. Copenhagen: Department of English, University of Copenhagen, 1986.
- . "More Ælfric Fragments." *English Studies* 76 (1995): 302–6.
- Godden, Malcolm. Review of E. Fausbøll, *Fifty-Six Ælfric Fragments*. *Review of English Studies* 39 (1988): 529–31.
- Thorpe, Benjamin. *The Homilies of the Anglo-Saxon Church: The First Part, Containing the Sermones Catholici or Homilies of Ælfric*. 2 vols. London: The Ælfric Society, 1844–1846.