

150. Copenhagen, Kongelige Biblioteket Acc. 1996/12
Ælfric, "Catholic Homilies" (binding fragments)
with 136. The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek 133 D 22 and
152a. Copenhagen, Rigsarkivet, Middelaldersamlingen
Aftagne Frag. Nr. 637–698
[Ker –, Gneuss 811.5]

HISTORY: Parts of seven binding strips from an A-S manuscript of the early 11c, containing small fragments of two homilies by Ælfric from the enlarged first series of "Catholic homilies" (the order is the same as in Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 188 [37], pp. 211–233). They were found in the Arnamagnaeanske Institut by Morten Grønbech in the 1950s or 1960s, adhering to a discarded leather binding and restored and mounted by him (see The Arnamagæan Institute and Dictionary, *Bulletin* 20 [1996]: 14). This old binding of the 19c is a typical Kongelige Bibliotek binding of its time and bears its stamps. The book from which it came contained letters to the Danish diplomat Jonas Charisius (1571–1619). The significance of these fragments was realized when, in the 1980s, staff of the Rigsarkiv discovered fifty-six binding strips containing fragments of an Ælfric homiliary (now 152a as above) in the 17c bindings of numerous volumes of the collected diplomatic papers of Peder Charisius, Danish resident minister at The Hague, 1651–1659, and the son of the aforementioned Jonas; along with 136, similar fragments at The Hague, they are most likely from the same original A-S manuscript (Dumville 1989; Godden in Clemoes 1997: 59). The bits of the A-S manuscript received similar treatment in all three ensembles, reduced to oblong strips as spine-reinforcements, and all must have been utilized by the same Hague binder at about the same time (late 1650s). The Arnamagnaeanske Institut returned the fragments to the Kongelige Bibliotek in 1996. It is not known exactly how the binding and fragments that belonged to the Kongelige Bibliotek in the 19c came to be in the Arnamagnaean, but the volume was likely sent there for restoration in the mid-20c, as the rebound letters of J. Charisius are now in the KB.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The seven fragments are small and irregularly shaped, with some tears, simply the adhering tag ends of four larger strips that once ran across the spine of the bound volume and which were left inside the end papers of the discarded volume. Six of the fragments contain writing in black ink; the recto (H) is clearer than the verso. The fragments were cut from one leaf; there were apparently 29 lines to the page, as in 152a.

The fragments are kept in a mylar case, sewn to paper guards about 164 mm. × 50 mm. They are listed here as they occur in the images and as numbered below in the “Contents”:

Fragment 7, a blank fragment, cut from an inner lateral margin, hair recto, ca. 42 mm. × 17/23 mm., showing part of the central crease and seven prickmarks 6 mm. apart.

Fragment 6, hair recto, 10 mm. × 35 mm., six lines of writing in black ink, 6 mm. between lines.

Fragment 1, an irregular piece, hair recto, 32/25/14 × 35/38, top line blank, five lines of writing, the third containing a title in faded red, text in black ink. Writing on the verso is faint.

Fragment 2, the outer edge of fragment 1, 10 mm. × 30 mm., containing part of the top line on each side.

Fragments 3/4/5, constituting contiguous pieces that show most of three long lines, the three fragments together about 93 mm. wide, and 3/4/5 about 12 mm., 14 mm., 20 mm. high, respectively.

[Note: The original disposition of the strips is illustrated by a diagram at the end of the film.]

CONTENTS: Fragments of two sermons by Ælfric (fragments transcribed by Fausbøll 1995):

Recto (hair):

Fragments 1/2, parts of five lines: “In die sancto Pentecosten” (= conclusion of ÆCHom I, 22) ‘[æ]lmihtiga we(a)lde(n)d hym s[ende ða seofonfe]aldan gif[e his gastes.] se ðe leofað [7 rixað a butan ende. Amen.]’ (as Clemons 1997: no. 22, 364/254–56); followed immediately by “Sermo ad populum in octauis Pentecosten dicendus” (ÆHom 11) : [Sermo ad p]opulu(m) i(n) [octauis pentecosten dicendus] ‘[We wyllað e]ow secga[n sume swutelunge nu be þam halgum tidum ðe we h]ealdað’ (as Pope 1967 [no. 11]: 415, heading and lines 1–2)

Fragments 3/4/5, continuing, after a gap of five lines, most of three lines: ‘[of þam halgan mædene maria gehaten seo ðe ana is ægþer ge mæden

ge] modor. On ða twelftan dæge þ[ære] . . . þe criste lac brohton' (as Pope 1967: 416/10–14)

Fragment 6, continuing, after a gap of one line, parts of five lines: '[iordane] o[n ðam ylcan dæge] . . . [halige mæden his modor m]aria' (as Pope 1967: 416/16–22)

Verso (flesh):

Fragments 2/1, *ÆHom* 11 continuing, parts of 5 lines, after a gap of eight lines: 'lengtene o[n halgum rædingum þæs hæl]wendes þrowu[nge] . . . [on þam] e[asterdæge]' (as Pope 1967: 416/34–417/40)

[Note: Fausbøll 1995 reports that the "g" of 'lengtene' is illegible, but its top is clearly visible, next to the similarly shaped "t."]

Fragments 5/4/3 continuing, after a gap of five lines, most of three lines: '[ylcan lichaman ðe he of deaðe arærde ætforan] . . . [d]on on life. 7 we eac wurðiað wurð[lice] . . . [agen]u(m) upstige [. . .]' (as Pope 1967: 417/48–53)

Fragment 6, continuing, after a gap of one line, parts of 6 lines: [mid mæ]r-[licum] . . . [t]o ðær[e godspellican bodunge]' (as Pope 1967: 417/55–62).

PHOTO NOTES: The images show (1) front cover and spine of old binding; (2) inside of cover and spine; (3) back cover; (4) sketch of disposition of the fragments in the old binding; (5) general impression of fragments in situ as permanently mounted; (6) dismounted, from top, blank, 6 recto, 1 and 2 recto; (7) the same, verso; (8) 3/4/5 recto; (9) the same, verso.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Clemons, Peter, ed. *Ælfric's Catholic Homilies. The First Series, Text*. Early English Text Society s.s. 17. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. [introduction revised and completed by Malcom Godden]
- Dumville, David N. Review of Fausbøll 1986. *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen* 226 (1989): 123–34.
- Fausbøll, Else, ed. *Fifty-Six Ælfric Fragments: The Newly-Found Copenhagen Fragments of Ælfric's Catholic Homilies with Facsimiles*. Copenhagen: Department of English, University of Copenhagen, 1986.
- , ed. "More Ælfric Fragments." *English Studies* 76 (1995): 302–6.
- Pope, John C., ed. *Homilies of Ælfric: A Supplementary Collection*. 2 vols. Early English Text Society o.s. 259, 260. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967, 1968.