

152a. Copenhagen, Rigsarkivet,  
Middelaldersamlingen Aftagne Frag. Nr. 637–698  
Ælfric, “Catholic Homilies” (binding fragments)  
with 135. The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek 133 D 22 and  
150. Copenhagen, Kongelige Biblioteket Acc. 1996/12  
[Ker –, Gneuss 816.6; Blockley 424]

**HISTORY:** Binding strips cut from an early 11c OE homiliary, consisting of fragments from three separate quires of a manuscript containing homilies from Ælfric’s first series of “Catholic Homilies”. Item 4 is textually close to Oxford, Bodleian, Hatton 116 [386], s. xii<sup>1</sup>, prov. Worcester (Godden 1988: 530). The total of 62 fragments are neatly-cut oblong strips, some cut horizontally across the page, some cut vertically, used to reinforce the spines of volumes of papers of Peder Charisius, Danish resident minister at The Hague 1651–1659; these volumes “are believed to have been bound at The Hague (in about 1657)” (Fausbøll 1986: 9, but the latest papers are dated 1659) and therefore, despite Fausbøll’s doubts that they were from the same original manuscript, they are generally connected with the Hague Ælfric fragments [135]. Occasional marginal additions and corrections in an early modern hand, sometimes imitating insular letter-forms, suggest that the manuscript was in use by an antiquarian as late as the 17c; several fragments have 17c Dutch writing in blank spaces. The strips were discovered in 1980 by Michael H. Gelting of the Rigsarkiv staff (Keeper of Manuscripts 1981–1990) and published with facsimiles by Else Fausbøll in 1986. They are now boxed as a set of thirteen folders, corresponding to the volumes of Charisius’ papers from which they were abstracted, and arranged in slip-holders in each folder according to their former positions on the respective spines. These fragments are undoubtedly from the same original manuscript as scraps from a Hague binding subsequently found in the Arnamagnæan Institute (now Copenhagen, Kongelige Biblioteket Acc 1996/12 [150]).

**CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION:** Fifty-four of the binding strips contain fragments of texts of Ælfric's first series of "Catholic Homilies." An additional strip contains letter fragments and another contains marginal prickings; there are traces in the bindings of three additional strips, now lost. The 56 strips (Aftagne Fragmenter Nr. 637-698) form part of twelve leaves, some almost complete as reconstructed, from three quires of eight (see "Collation"). Leaves ruled on hair side for 29 lines; f. 1 may have been ruled for 26. Prickings at outer edges, with two pairs of pricks in the upper and lower margins, providing double bounding lines. Arranged HFHF. Leaves originally measured (estimated) 233/246 × 167 mm. (see the note on Folder 13 below, concerning the virtually complete leaf f. 12 with fragment of the originally conjugate leaf f. 6). Written space measures ca. 188/193 × 116/119 mm. Leaves and their corresponding pressmarks are as follows: f. 1: 661, 662, 660, 663; f. 2: 645; f. 3: 637, 642, 641, 638, 640; f. 4: 646, 643, 647; f. 5: 639; f. 6: 664, 670, 658, 669a, 669b, 659, 657; f. 7: 692, 690, 697, 680, 685, 653, 695, 696; f. 8: 684, 656, 679, 652, 682; f. 9: 688, 687, 681, 655, 651, 683; f. 10: 686, 654, 648, 649, 676; f. 11: 675, 678, 677; f. 12: 691, 694, 698, 689, 693, 674. The additional two strips are numbered 644 and 671. Fausbøll (1986: 33) identifies three hands among the fragments, which she dates to the early (or at least first half of) 11c. Scribe 1 wrote f. 1, scribe 2 f. 8v/1-2 and 11-24, and scribe 3 ff. 2-12. She notes further that f. 1 differs both in overall size and measurement of writing grid in addition to displaying differences in script and punctuation, and so suggests that it is "likely that it belongs to a different manuscript" (12-13). Godden (in introduction to Clemoes 1997: 59), however, maintains that, despite the differences exhibited by f. 1, "it seems sensible to treat it as part of the same manuscript" and Dumville (1989: 133-34, a review of Fausbøll 1986) decides that the Rigsarkiv and Hague fragments at least come from the same scriptorium and "in the circumstances it would be very surprising if they did not all come from the same copy of Ælfric's work." For photos of the reconstructed leaves (the fragments presented fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle) and transcriptions, see Fausbøll 1986.

[Note: The film/fiche images show the fragments as they are kept in folders in a box marked "Middelaldersamlingen Aftagne Fragmenter NR. 637-698." The individual items in each folder were taken from the spine of the volume as indicated below and given individual shelf-numbers (the accompanying diagrams [on the film] show the spine-positions). Photos of most of the old bindings before they were dismantled are kept in the box with the fragments and that of vol. 249 is reproduced as the frontispiece of Fausbøll's study. Given below for each item is the (manuscript) folio number of which it is a part as reconstructed by Fausbøll (blanks are indicated by a

dash), its shelf-number noting which side of the reconstructed leaf the shelf-number is on, its dimensions, and general comments. Height is given first, then width.]

**Folder 1** (= Charisius vol. 195, "Holland / P. Charisius / M. Raschs Relationer" 1651–1652):

f. 3rv	637(v)	31 mm. × 60/42 mm.	H recto, brown, stiff from glue, verso shiny, distance between lines 8 mm.; no signs of scoring; outer third of lines 1–5; a note in 16c hand beg. 'Hoc [...]' in margin of verso.
	642(v)	37 mm. × 78 mm.	lines 6–11, outer half;
	641(v)	20 mm. × 78 mm.	(rotated in photo) lines 12–14, outer half;
	638(v)	17/14 mm. × 84 mm.	lines 15–16, outer half;
	640 (r)	33 mm. × 70.81 mm.	lines 17–21, outer half.
f. 5rv	639 (r)	21 mm. × 79 mm.	H recto? (rotated in photo), inner third of 4 lines.

**Folder 2** (= Charisius vol. 196, "Holland / P. Charisius / M. Raschs Relationer" 1653–1654):

f. 2rv	645(v)	25/28 mm. × 105 mm.	F recto; stiff, both sides scraped, recto is lighter and shinier; most of 5 lines, outer edge gone.
f. 4rv	646(v)	96 mm. × 27 mm.	F recto; follicles visible on verso, no signs of scoring, inner edge of lines 1–12;
	643(r)	96 mm. × 30/27 mm.	lines 1–12, adjacent to 646;
	647(v)	21 mm. × 98 mm.	outer part of top line (rotated in photo).
—	644	93 mm. × 13/8 mm.	blank from a margin, shows similar follicles to those on f. 4v.

**Folder 3** (= Charisius vol. 204, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Berdninger Ara Haag" Sept. 1652–1659):

f. 10rv	648(r)	36/32 mm. × 150 mm.	F recto, low H/F contrast, prickings on outer margin, no visible ruling;
	649(r)	34 mm. × 149 mm.	648, 649 (rotated) = lines 9–18 of leaf; see Folders 4, 7, 12.
f. 8rv	650(v)	39/35 mm. × 150 mm.	F recto; lines 28–29 and outer margin; see Folders 4, 10, 11.
f. 9rv	651(r)	40 mm. × 142 mm.	F recto, scoring visible; lines 21–26; see Folders 4, 10, 11.

**Folder 4** (= Charisius vol. 225, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Hollandiske Relationer" 1654-1656, "fra Sverige" July 1654-1655, "fra Danmark" Sept. 1654-56):

- f. 8rv 652(v) 155 mm. × 140 mm. F recto, outer edge, lines 1-20, pricking visible; 16c/17c marginal notation 'Dionisius' on recto;
- 656(v) 151 mm. × 40 mm. inner-center part of lines 1-20; see Folders 3, 10, 11.
- f. 7rv 653(v) 120 mm. × 33 mm. inner-center, lines 17-29; bottom margin is 34 mm.; low H/F contrast; see Folders 10, 11, 12, 13.
- f. 10rv 654(v) 32 mm. × 150/144 mm. F recto; lines 3-7; 'ymbryn(e)' in 16c/17c hand added in margin of recto; see Folders 3, 9, 11.
- f. 9rv 655(r) 151 mm. × 39 mm. F recto; outer margin w/text of lines 1-20; pricking visible; top margin 22 mm.; see Folders 10, 11.

**Folder 5** (= Charisius vol. 228, "Holland"):

- f. 6rv 657(r) 33/35 mm. × 112 mm. H recto; stiff, veiny; outer three-quarters of lines 28-29; this leaf was contiguous with f. 12 (see note to Folder 13);
- 658(v) 37 mm. × 116 mm. (verso rotated in photo) lines 12-16, less inner edge; OE interlinear gloss 'halegan' on recto;
- 659(r) 36 mm. × 110 mm. outer three-quarters of lines 23-27; see Folders 6, 7, 8.

**Folder 6** (= Charisius vol. 229, "Holland"):

- f. 1rv 661(r) 24 mm. × 163 mm. (recto rotated in photo) F recto; low H/F contrast; line 1 of text, top margin 20 mm.; strips almost full width of page, pricking visible; this folio has a different hand from rest (Fausbøll 1986: 11); lines of writing 112 mm. across, 6 mm. between lines, letters about 2 mm. high;
- 662(v) 22 mm. × 166 mm. lines 2-4;
- 660(r) 42 mm. × 166 mm. lines 5-11; interl. corr. on recto: 'mid miclu(m) ofste'; on verso: 'ær þam';
- 663(v) 37 mm. × 163 mm. (rotated in photo) lines 12-17; interl. corr. on verso: 'min heafod adune 7 astreccað'.

**Folder 7** (= Charisius vol. 235, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Engliske" 1654 [Aug.–Dec.])

f. 6rv 664(v) 41 mm. × 152 mm. H recto; lines 1–4; burn damage at top;

f. 6rv 669a/b(v) 65/78 mm. × 39 mm.

60 mm. × 39 mm.

Lines 17–22; item 669 is burnt in the middle and is now two pieces (recto fragments are placed head-to-tail in photo). The fire damage to 664 and 669 occurred to the bound book, as the fragments of this folio from other Charisius volumes are unburnt; see Folders 5 and 8.

—— 665–668

Strips of similar size and membrane but blank, with 17c Dutch writing on both sides.

**Folder 8** (= Charisius vol. 236, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Engliske" Dec. 1654 [–1659?])

f. 6rv 670(r) 35/37 mm. × 150 mm. H recto; lines 5–10; see Folders 5 and 7.

—— 671 30 mm. × 145 mm.

Blank except for descenders of bottom line; bottom margin 28 mm.

—— 672–673

Strips of similar size and membrane but blank, with 17c Dutch writing on both sides.

f. 12rv 674(r) 157 mm. × 45 mm.

Shows outer margin (about 36 mm., 10 from pricks), lines 12–29 of text; see Folders 12 and 13.

**Folder 9** (= Charisius vol. 243, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Polske, Danzig-ske, Brandenburgske" 1654–1656)

f. 11rv 675(r) 40 mm. × 159 mm.

(rotated in photo) Thin and crisp, no H/F contrast, glue at outer edge; lines 1–3;

678(r) 40 mm. × 157 mm.

lines 4–10; H recto? early modern writing in greasy pencil, both margins, probably added after manuscript was cut down;

677(r) 45 mm. × 155 mm.

lines 17–24.

f. 10rv 676(v) 37 mm. × 151 mm.

Thick and stiff; lines 19–24; see Folders 3, 4, 11.

**Folder 10** (= Charisius vol. 246, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Berdninger fra div. hollandske / Agenter" 1654-1655 [Feb.])

- f. 8rv 679(r) 37/38 mm. × 145 mm. H recto; lines 1-20, center-outer part of text block, less edge;  
682(r) 148 mm. × 40/43 mm. (rotated in photo) lines 21-27; see Folders 3, 4, 11.
- f. 7rv 680(r) 121 mm. × 34 mm. Thin membrane, low H/F contrast; outer edge and margin with text of lines 1-16; marginal Latin gloss on recto, 'ego au(tem) i(n) iustitia t[. . .]'; of late 12c; see Folders 4, 11, 12, 13.
- f. 9rv 681(v) 144 mm. × 38 mm. F recto, verso rubbed; lines 1-20, center-outer part of text block;  
683(v) 39 mm. × 145 mm. lines 27-29, across page, text area width 112 mm., scoring visible; small burn on bottom margin; see Folders 3, 4, 11.

**Folder 11** (= Charisius vol. 247, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Berdninger fra div. hollandske / Agenter" 1655 [Jan.-Dec.])

- f. 8rv 684(r) 148 mm. × 37/41 mm. H recto; lines 1-20 inner portion of text block; skinning on lower margin of recto; see Folders 3, 4, 10.
- f. 7rv 685(r) 118 mm. × 34/35 mm. low H/F contrast; lines 17-29, inner portion of text block; see Folders 4, 12, 13.
- f. 10rv 686(r) 30 mm. × 150 mm. H recto; lines 1-2; see Folders 3, 4, 9.
- f. 9rv 687(v) 152 mm. × 40 mm. F recto; lines 1-20, inner-center part of text block;  
688(v) 149 mm. × 41/37 mm. lines 1-20, inner portion of text block; see Folders 3, 4, 10.

**Folder 12** (= Charisius vol. 248, "P. Charisius Acta Publica / Berdninger fra div. hollandske / Agenter" 1655 [Dec.]-1656)

- f. 7rv 690(v) 112 mm. × 40 mm. low H/F contrast; lines 1-16, inner-center of text block;  
692(v) 120 mm. × 46 mm. lines 1-16, inner edge of text block; original sewing-holes visible in crease; see Folders 11 and 13.
- f. 12rv 691(v) 39/44 × 132 mm. Conjugate to f. 6; F recto; lines 1-4, across text except outer edge;  
689(v) 47 mm. × 132 mm. lines 20-27 across text except outer edge;  
693(v) 50/54mm. × 126/132mm. lines 27-29 across text except outer edge; see Folders 8 and 13.

**Folder 13** (= Charisius vol. 249 “P. Charisius Acta Publica / Berdninger fra div. hollandiske / Agenter” 1656 [April–Oct.]

- |         |        |                     |   |
|---------|--------|---------------------|---|
| f. 7rv  | 697(v) | 122 mm. × 40/42 mm. | low H/F contrast; lines 1–16, central-outer part of text block;     |
|         | 695(v) | 122 mm. × 39/40 mm. | lines 17–29, central-outer part of text block;                      |
|         | 696(r) | 121 mm. × 43 mm.    | lines 17–29 of outer edge of text block; see Folders 4, 10, 11, 12. |
| f. 12rv | 694(v) | 46 mm. × 127 mm.    | F recto; lines 6–12 across text except outer edge;                  |
|         | 698(v) | 46/47 mm. × 133 mm. | lines 13–19 across text except outer edge;                          |

F. 12 (see also Folders 8 and 12) is a virtually complete folio, showing the original central crease of the bifolium and bits of words from the contiguous leaf, which is f. 6 (text on offside of crease at f. 12r/18 [item 698] is as Clemoes 1967: 493/4 ‘7 gede’[‘fe,’ cf. 6v/18 ‘7 gede’; at f. 12r/24 [item 689] it is as Clemoes 493/203–4 ‘rest 7 lif gecore’[‘nra,’ cf. 6v/24 ‘rest. 7’; at f. 12r/27 [item 693] it is as Clemoes 493/207 ‘beoð eadige. þe heor’[‘a,’ cf. 6v/24 ‘beoð eadi’); f. 12 shows the top and bottom margins and all of lines 1–29 less the outer edges, consisting, from top, of horizontal strips 691, 694, 698, 689, 693, the outer edges of lines 12–29 being preserved on the vertical strip 674, page size 240 mm. × 160, text area 190 × 105/110.

**COLLATION:** I four strips comprising one leaf, flesh recto (f. 1); II ten strips comprising parts of four leaves (ff. 2–5) probably sheets 2, 4, 6, and 8; III<sup>8</sup> 40 strips comprising seven leaves of a quire wanting sheet 3 (ff. 6–12); 1 and 8 (ff. 6/12) were conjugate, perhaps also 2 and 7; arranged HFHF, but f. 9 appears to have F recto suggesting it was a reversed half-sheet. Two other strips are blank or nearly so.

**CONTENTS** (transcription with facing facsimile Fausbøll 1986; coll. as “f” Clemoes 1997):

Ælfric: from “Catholic Homilies” (First Series):

- f. 1 fragment of “Passio apostolorum Petri et Pauli” (ÆCHom I, 26) [items 661, 662, 660, 663]: [‘Se casere] wearð ða ablycged mid þysu(m) wordu(m) . . . þ(æt) ic swa hangie swa mi’ n’ drihten. He astah [. . .]’ (Clemones no. 26: 396/226–39; 397/245–59).

2. ff. 2-3 fragments of "Dominica XXI post Pentecosten" (*ÆCHom I*, 35): [f. 2, item 645] '[Nero se wælhreowa ca]sere het aho[n] petrum . . . 7 swa gehwilce man[. . .]'; [f. 3, items 637, 642, 641, 638, 640] '[f]or swiðlicu(m) smice tyrað . . . He þa færlice hrymde þus cweðe[nde . . .]' (Clemoes no. 35: 479/100-4, 480/125-29 [f. 2]; 482/193-483/212, 483/219-36 [f. 3]).
3. ff. 4-7 fragments of "Natale omnium sanctorum" (*ÆCHom I*, 36): [f. 4, items 646, 643, 647] 'se godspellere on his gastlicu(m) gesihðe awrat . . . endlicre gyddunge bodedo[n . . .]'; [f. 5, item 639] '[. . .] haten uita patru(m) . . . þ(æt) we þurh þingrædene [. . .]'; [f. 6, items 664, 670, 658, 669, 659, 657] 'Eadige beoð þa þe sind ofhingro[de] . . . forgyfennesse ealra synna se is geha[ten]' || [f. 7, items 692, 690, 697, 680, 685, 653, 695, 696] 'paraclitus. þ(æt) is frefriend . . . 7 ælc yfel ongean eow sprecð. leogende for [. . .]' (Clemoes no. 36: 486/7-17, 487/34-44 [f. 4]; 489/111-13, 490/137-40 [f. 5]; 491/158-493/258 [ff. 6-7]).
4. ff. 8-12 more-or-less continuous fragments of "Natale Sancti Clementis Martiris" (*ÆCHom I*, 37) [f. 8, items 684, 656, 679, 652, 682, 650] '[. . .] mid hospe heora godas ne gebysmerode . . . þe mid langsumere geniðerunge to marnan [*recte* marman]' || [f. 9, items 688, 687, 681, 655, 651, 683] 'stán gedelfe gesette wæron þe his to cymes . . . 7 gemetto`n` niwe þruh of marman' || [f. 10, items 686, 654, 648, 649, 676] 'stane on circan wisan gesceapene . . . 7 swa wolde eac þone gelyfedan [. . .]'; [f. 11, items 675, 678, 677] 'ne mihton hi gescildan wið minne þrym . . . 7 neadunga þone witegan'; [f. 12, items 691, 694, 698, 689, 693, 674] 'þa co(m) hi(m) to godes engel . . . On twa wisan alyst god his gecorenan' (Clemoes no. 37: 497/17-502/155 [ff. 8-10], 502/162-200, 503/175-80, 503/185-94, 503/199-504/205 [f. 11], 504/211-505/261 [f. 12]).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Blockley, Mary E. "Addenda and Corrigenda to N. R. Ker's 'A Supplementary Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon.'" *Notes and Queries* 227 (1982): 1-3, repr. in *Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts: Basic Readings*, ed. Mary P. Richards, 79-86. New York and London: Routledge, 2001.
- Clemoes, 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): 132-34.



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.

Godden, Malcolm. Review of Fausbøll, 1986. *Review of English Studies* 39 (1988): 529–31.

†P.P./ A.N.D.