

397. Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Laud Misc. 413 (970)

Reginald of Durham, “Vita et Miracula Sancti Godrici”

[Ker 342, Gneuss –]

HISTORY: “The Life and Miracles of Saint Godric” (ca. 1070–1170), the founder of Finchale, by Reginald of Durham or Coldingham (fl. 1170), in a manuscript dating from the second half of the 12c (Ker, *Cat.*, 419). Prior Thomas of Durham (ca. 1158–1163) and the monk Ailræd of Rievaulx (d. 1166) commissioned the hagiographer Reginald to record the life of Saint Godric, a holy man who had settled down as a visionary at Finchale after a life of traveling. For the purpose of recording his life Reginald visited the saint himself. The text in this manuscript is the third, and fullest, recension, the first being found in British Library MS Harley 322 and the second in Harley 153, according to its editor, Stevenson (1847: ix–xi, xv–xi). Although Godric was reportedly almost illiterate (Tudor 2004), he composed three English hymns, one to the Virgin Mary, one to Christ and Mary, and one to St. Nicholas. The first two of these are recorded in MS Laud Misc. 413, and in British Library MSS Harley 153 and Royal 5 F viii; the first Godric hymn occurs in Cambridge University Library Mm. 4.28 [108] (Ker, *Catalogue*, 28); all three also occur in a French manuscript: Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale MS Mazarine 1716 (Barratt 1985: 440). These lyrics are among the earliest ME lyrics to have been preserved. The text is very lightly glossed in Latin, and there is an OE gloss on f. 52r which warrants the inclusion of this manuscript in the series.

An erased ex-libris of Durham Cathedral from the 14c on f. 1r of the manuscript shows that it was there at the time (Ker, *Cat.*, p. 419; Coxe/Hunt 1885/1973: 561). In the 17c it belonged to Anthony Maxton, prebendary at Durham from 1633 to 1641, who gave it to the Essex-born churchman and Durham prebendary Augustine Lindsell, bishop of Peterborough and, later, of Hereford (d. 1634). Lindsell firmly supported the policies of Archbishop Laud, to whom he also dedicated his edition of Theophylact’s commentaries on St. Paul’s Epistles. It is not unlikely, therefore, that he gave the book to Laud, to whom it belonged in 1633. Laud in turn donated it to the Bodleian Library in 1635. There is an old shelfmark ‘E.47’ on f. i verso.

In its medieval binding, the manuscript containing the “Vita” is preceded and followed by quires from a 13c manuscript containing, according to the Laudian Catalogue (Coxe/Hunt 1885/1973: 303), glosses on the Latin translation of *De urinis* by the 7c Byzantine scholar Theophilus Protospatharius. This theoretical exposition on uroscopy became popular in Western Europe in the 12c and was the basis of several commentaries (Wallis 2000).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Membrane; viii + 167 + viii. The folios of the 12c manuscript measure 244 × 157 mm. Quire II, beg. of 12c part, has been ruled in pencil for 33 long lines, with double vertical bounding lines extending into the margins, and double horizontal bounding lines in the form of extensions into the margins of lines 1, 3, 31, and 33. F. 1r has been ruled for 32 lines, while on ff. 3r and 6v an extra line has been drawn underneath. The written space is 177 × 105 mm. (f. 1 is 172 × 105 mm.); average line height is 5.4 mm. F. 8v is not ruled. The rest of the 12c Godric manuscript has written space of 174 × 98 mm., ruled in plummet for 33 lines (the sharp edge of the plummet sometimes creates the same impression as dry point ruling). There are single horizontal bounding lines continuing into the margins as far as the prickings and double horizontal bounding lines, being extensions of lines 1, 3, 31, and 33. Some folios have a varying number of additional lines ruled in the lower margins, e.g. ff. 32r, 34v, 36r, 39v. Prickings are visible, both in the inner margins and in the outer margins. From the imprint of the prickings (always on the recto side) it can be seen that the quires were first folded and then pricked, and ruled. The quires were marked, presumably in the Middle Ages, by Roman numerals at the center of the lower margin of the first leaf of each quire, with a catchword on the last verso of quires II–XII. The quire marked ‘I.’ is the one that now starts with f. 8. The preceding quire, containing Reginald’s letter, the argument, and the table of contents (now quire I, ff. 1–7) not being signed then, may indicate that this quire was added later. Although the arrangement is regular (HFHF[H]), the quires are of varying makeup, with quires of 10 predominating.

At the beginning and the end of the manuscript, a total of sixteen folios, two quires of eight from another manuscript, have been inserted as flyleaves and pastedowns, probably 13c. The first and the last folio of each of these two quires were originally pasted on to the wooden boards of the binding. They have been carefully removed from those boards so that now there are two complete quires. The folios have been variously trimmed, mostly at the top. The folios measure 242–247 × 152–155 mm., written space 198–214 ×

95 mm. They have been ruled for 56–58–76–78 lines, in two columns, leaving wide margins on the left and right and at the bottom, which have been used for additional glosses. There are vertical bounding lines continuing into the upper and lower margins as far as the prickings, which are both visible in some folios. Single horizontal bounding lines are visible only on f. 172r. The writing is in a very small hand; average line height varies between 2.9 and 3.4 mm. The regular arrangement of the quires, HFHF, suggests that these are original quires with consecutive blocks of text. The writing and layout are completely utilitarian, without any embellishments or capital letters in the two quires included. F. i recto and 174v are both badly stained from glue, and show damage, holes, and so on as a result of the contact with the boards and the subsequent detachment from the leaves. F. i recto is also damaged where the nail holes of the metal clasp have touched the parchment. F. vii has been cut at both corners. The whole is heavily glossed.

The main hand of the manuscript is a late caroline minuscule, which is also used for the EME; on f. 39v ‘þ,’ ‘ð,’ and ‘wynn’ are used to distinguish the English (Ker, *Cat.*, p. 419). Occasionally, passages occur in a different, smaller hand and in a lighter ink, mostly at the bottom of the pages, e.g. f. 34v/31 and following.

The decoration differs in the three parts of the manuscript. In quire II, there are initials in red and blue, while the titles of the chapters are in red. The minor initials of the list of contents are alternating red and blue, while in the text, many capital letters have been touched with red. In quires III to XIV there are no such touched capitals in the text. Initials are in red, blue, and green, sometimes in a combination of these colors, while some also show pen work. In quires XV to XIX the initials are more lively, and have the colors red, yellow, and green; occasionally there is some pen work. Marginal and interlinear rubrics are both in red. Pächt and Alexander (1973: 24) refer to Durham initials.

The manuscript is bound in a 13c binding consisting of two wooden boards with leather (now worn) pulled round it (Pächt and Alexander 1973: 24). The original binding is of whittawed leather which was colored with kermes, a substance made from a red parasite in oaks. This type of binding, described by Pollard (1962: 13–14), was most frequent between 1250 and 1350. The spine was reinforced with layers of natural-colored parchment, which has crumbled away to the extent that the reading has all but disappeared. No tabs are visible. The block is fastened to the binding with two rather thick split-leather cords and two endbands, which are all still functioning. They are raised on the spine. There are no modern flyleaves, only the two quires from the “Liber de urinis” mentioned above, the first and

the last leaf of which were once pasted on to the wooden boards. The binding could once be fastened with a single metal clasp, which has now disappeared. Only the rusty nails are still visible. On the back of the spine, 'Laud 413' is visible. The same has been written on the turn-ins of the leather cover on the inside of the board. There is also a stamp, reading 'S.C. 970.'

Damage to the manuscript is very slight. Some folios were not evenly cut, e.g. ff. 20, 21; and several small tears have been repaired by stitches.

COLLATION: viii + 167 + viii. A⁸ (i–viii) ||; I⁸ wants 8, stub visible after 7 (ff. 1–7); II–IX¹⁰ (ff. 8–87); X⁸ (ff. 88–95); XI¹⁰ (ff. 96–105); XII⁶ (ff. 106–111); XIII⁵ 1, 2 and 5 are half sheets, stubs visible after 1 and before 6 (ff. 112–116); XIV¹⁴ 13, 14 canceled, stubs visible after f. 128 (ff. 117–128); XV–XVII¹⁰ (ff. 129–157); XVIII¹⁰ (ff. 158–164, 164*–166) ||; B⁸ (ff. 167–174).

CONTENTS:

ff. i–viii 13c medical texts, containing, according to the Laudian Catalogue, "glosses on Theophilus Protospatharius, *De urinis*, etc.'" (Coxe/Hunt 1885/1973: 303).

Reginald of Durham, "Libellus de vita et miraculis S. Godrici, heremite de Finchale" (ed. from this ms. Stevenson 1847):

f. 1r/1–v/19 Reginald's letter to Bishop Hugh of Durham, headed in the upper margin: **Incipit ep(isto)la d(omi)no hug(one) dun(elmis) ep(iscop)o destinata.** | 'SACRI pontificatus honore p(re)dito . . . nunc & | in et(er)num diligende. Val(e).' **Explicit epistola.** (ed. Stevenson 1847: 1–2) [lines 20–34 originally blank];

[Note: In the upper margin of 1r: 'L. lib(er) s(an)cti Cuthberti de Dunel(mo) [.] quo (con)time(n)t(ur) vita 7 mirac(u)la | godrici heremite ad fine(m)' (14c) (Coxe/Hunt 1885/1973: 561), followed by the press mark 'I⁷ V'. In the outer margin (17c): 'Augustini | Lindsell | Ex dono ama(n)tissimi | Aubrii Maxton.' In the lower margin: 'Mortuus est Godricus a(nno) d(omi)ni 1170 | Hugonis de Pusiaco a(nno).17° | Eodem a(nno) q(uo) occisus est Thomas a Becket sub Henrico 2°. / a(nno) tuis 16°.' In the blank at the end of f. 1v, underneath the text, in a 17c calligraphic hand: 'Liber Guilielmi Laud Archiep(iscop)i Cantuar(ensis) | et Cancellarii Uniuersitatis Oxon(iensis). | 1633.']

f. 2r/1–16 **Incipit argum(en)tum.** 'Aulam eccl(es)ie qui incolim(us). auleas | in ea ansulis in nexas suspendam(us). . . . quicq(ui)d incontinente p(ro)con)tento | querendum fuit' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 3);

ff. 2r/16–7r/23 List of chapters: **Incipiunt Capitulum p(ri)mum. I.** | 'A quib(us) parentib(us) origine(m) dux(er)it . . . xxi. Qualit(er) seruu(m)

á uenatorib(us) eripuerit & q(ua)m domit(us) | & obnoxius ei postea effectus sit'; f. 7r/24–33 blank.

f. 7v blank

ff. 8r–9r/14 Proemium: **Incipit p(ro)hemium in uitam sancti Godrici.**

H(er)emite. | 'CVnctor(um) a(n)i(m)os nouitas aliqu(a) succendit ad stupore(m) . . . ac releuare satégit.' Explicit p(ro)hemiu(m). (ed. Stevenson 1847: 17–19);

f. 9r/14–101v/31 Reginald of Durham's "Life of St. Godric": **Incipit uita | uenerabil(is) uiri d(e)i Godrici h(er)emite de finchale . . .** (beg. l. 17) 'Tactu digiti sp(iritu)s s(an)c(t)i. dulcimore resonat'; ends with chap. 164: 'atq(ue) inmoderata necessitas se aliq(ua)nto te(m)p(er)antius haberet' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 21–312); chaps. 165–170 are omitted but are included in the chapter list.

ff. 102r/1–119r/10 "Addendum" to Reginald's "Life of St. Godric" (24 chaps.): **Cap. .i. De q(uo)dam ministro uiri d(e)i cui S(an)c(tu)s Ioh(anne)s baptista p(ri)ma fere hora dici | apparuit . . .** 'Quidam adolescens etate. sed t(ame)n maturus om(ni) moru(m) p(ro)bitate'; ff. 117r, 118/5–33 blank; ends: '7 de Eboraco uenientes plures hoc ueru(m) | fuisse sac(ra)m(en)tis affirmauer(un)t' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 333–70). The chapter list mentions only chaps. 1–21.

[Note: There are very few marginal and interlinear glosses; some examples are: f. 12v/20 'obsumu(m)'; f. 12v/24 '(con)cionate'; f. 68v/13 '(ue)l adopeitus.' A more substantial gloss occurs on f. 48r, where 11 short lines were ruled in the margin. On f. 33r, at the bottom, a scribe wrote 'p(ro)batio pennae.' Corrections are also rare: on f. 22r/17–18 a double writing of 'magnitudinis' is corrected. In the extreme margins, often before the prickings, the guide letters of the initials are visible. See below for OE glosses.]

f. 39v/32–33 First hymn of St. Godric in EME: 'Sainte Marie u(ir)gine. moder IE(S)U c(ri)stes nazrene. on fo . . . in godes riche' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 119; cf. Zupitza 1888: 423; Dobson and Harrison 1979: 103).

[Note: Ker (*Cat.*, p. 419) states that "the verses on f. 39 are incorporated into the text in a near-contemporary hand; the same hand which added a number of Latin passages not present in the recension of the life in MS. Harley 322"]

f. 47r/12–13 Second hymn of St. Godric in EME: 'Crist and Seinte Marie sio on scamel me iledde . . . bare fot itreide.' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 144; cf. Zupitza 1888: 429; Dobson and Harrison 1979: 103).

OE Content: f. 52r/24 OE gloss in the margin: 'Caracalla est uestis uillosa. | que anglice dicit(ur). bratt uel haket.' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 162). Two lines earlier 'spinteri' is glossed interlinearly as 'i(d est) broche.' The word 'spinteri' was also written in the margin in the same hand as that of the first mar-

ginal gloss, to which the translation 'i(d est) broche' was added once more. On f. 54r/20, in the outer margin, there is the name 'Will(elm)o.'

Reginald of Durham, "Miracula Sancti Godrici":

ff. 119r/10–119v/15 **Incipit PREFATIO.** | **In miraculis sancti GODRICI.** | 'Defuncto uiro d(omi)ni Godrico uirtutu(m) opera que uiuens . . . cuius sanctor(um) | meritis precipue depute(n)t(ur)' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 371–72);

ff. 119v/15–166v **Incipiunt miracula de sancto | GODRICO.** 'Instante. Vigilia s(an)c(t)i IOH(ANN)IS BAPTIST(E). p(re)c(ur)|soris d(omi)ni'; ends: '7 exulta(n)tes cu(m) amici(s) suis o(mn)ib(us) applaudentib(us) s(ibi) remeaba(n)t' (ed. Stevenson 1847: 372–481).

[Note: The subjects of the miracles have been added regularly in the form of marginal headings. Occasionally, such as on ff. 130r, 142v, 145v, 157v, remarks have been added in a smaller hand.]

ff. 167–174 Quire from the same 13c text as ff. i–viii, containing, according to the Laudian Catalogue, "glosses on Theophilus Protospatharius, *De urinis*, etc."

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