

370. Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Digby 146 (1747)
Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitatis," "Epistola ad Heahfridum";
"Passio Sancti Eadwardi Regis et Martyris"
[Ker 320, Gneuss 613]

HISTORY: A late 10c manuscript descended from London, British Library, Royal 7 D.xxiv [293]; perhaps from Canterbury, to judge by the script (Gwara 2001: 1.147*-48*). The codex was at Abingdon in the mid-11c (inscription, f. 1r) where it received the bulk of its large corpus of over 5500 OE glosses, which "represents a critical manuscript in the Aldhelm gloss tradition, not only because of the density of its glosses but also because of its relationship to Royal 7 D. xxiv, Salisbury 38 [458], and other Canterbury manuscripts" (Gwara 2001: 1.150*), a relationship already discerned by Ehwald. It was probably at Abingdon that an abbreviated "Passio Sancti Eadwardi" was added in the 12c "as the lections to be read on St. Edward's day" (Fell 1971: vi). Owned by Thomas Allen (1542-1632) in 1622, and given to the Bodleian Library in 1634 by Sir Kenelm Digby (1603-1665).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: [iii] + 104 + [ii] leaves, foliated i-iii + 1-106. Ff. i-iii and 105-106 are modern vellum. Leaves measure 237 × 164 mm., with a writing grid of 175 × 90 mm. Ruled for 19 lines; ruling for marginal glossing as needed. Pricking in outer margins; double bounding lines. Leaves arranged HHHH. Before the cover and blank endleaves were added severe damage occurred in the lower margins where a rodent ate away the leaves from back to front of the codex.

Anglo-caroline script. Extensive interlinear and marginal glosses, the latter largely abandoned from ff. 68v-95r on. Glosses and text in brown ink. Initial letters generally in brown ink, occasionally red until f. 84v, after which all but one initial is in brown. Chapter numbers are in red, and capitals within chapters are tinted with red, all mostly oxidized and discolored. Construe marks occur sporadically, especially throughout the earlier folios. Ff. 101v-104r is a 12c addition, ruled for 27 lines, with pricking on the outside and double bounding lines.

The volume has a brown leather binding with gold stamped seal of Sir Kenelm Digby. Of the original two metal clasps one is now missing. Written at the top of f. 1r: 'THo: Allen 66 Aldelmus' and the name 'Kenelme Digby'. At the bottom of f. 1r is written 'lib(er) monast[er]ii Abendonie que(m) Ioh(ann)es Clyff fecit ligari A(nn)o []'. At f. 7r, 'libell(us) de v(ir)ginitate' is added in a late hand.

OE Glosses: According to Ker (*Cat.*), the OE glosses, which number over 5500, fall into three groups: (a) ca. 30 glosses added at roughly the same time the manuscript was written; (b) glosses on ff. 8r–15r added in the early 11c; (c) over 5400 glosses on ff. 8r–95r of the mid-11c. This latter group has been copied directly from Brussels, Royal Library 1650 (1520) [18]. According to Gwara, who edits all glosses English and Latin (2001, cf. Gwara 1998), a large group of all-Latin glosses was transmitted via a lost copy of this manuscript to Brussels, RL 1650 (1520) and to London, Royal 6 B.vii (1998: 156–68). Napier (1900: no. 1), Ker (*Cat.*), and Gwara (2001: 1.147–56) agree that there are three glossing hands, though their analysis differs. See the discussion in Gwara (*loc. cit.*). One gloss (f. 30v) dates to the 12c, and there are scratched glosses on f. 73v (see Napier's notes to no. 1, gl. 4449–50).

COLLATION: i–ii (blank); I⁵⁺¹ ff. 2 and 3 half-sheets (ff. iii, 1–5), II⁸ 3 and 6 half-sheets, two stubs show after 3 (ff. 6–13), III⁸ (ff. 14–21), IV⁸ (ff. 22–29), V⁸ (ff. 30–37), VI⁸ (ff. 38–45), VII⁸ (ff. 46–53), VIII⁸ (ff. 54–61), IX⁸ (ff. 62–69), X⁸ (ff. 70–77), XI⁸ (ff. 78–85), XII⁸ (ff. 86–93), XIII⁸ 8 wanting (ff. 94–100), XIV⁴⁺² ff. 102 and 103 singletons, with 3 showing after 1, ff. 105 and 106 a bifolium (ff. 101–106).

[Note: According to Gwara (2001: 1.148*), in quire II the first stub after sheet 3 is of 3 folded forwards.]

CONTENTS:

ff. i–iii blank except for 'Adhelmus' on f. i recto in a late hand and a few stray words and letters visible on f. iii recto.

1. ff. 1–95r Aldhelm, "De laudibus virginitate", with extensive interlinear and marginal glossing. (main text, ed. Ehwald 1919: 211–323; rev. ed. Gwara 2001: 2: 19–761, on odd numbered pages; OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: no. 1; Latin and OE glosses ed. Gwara 2001, 2.26–760, on even numbered pages facing the text):

ff. 1r/1–5v/9 list of capitula: **Incipiunt capi[tu]lla lib[ri] sequentis de uirginitate.** ¶ Salutatio & prologi p[re]fatio . . . xL [*sic, recte Lx*] Quod uirginitatis preconium sicut | in presenti opusculo r&horicis re|latibus diges-

tum est ita in futuro opere | m&ricis carminibus expolietur' (capitula ed. from this manuscript, Ehwald 1919: 226–28; collated as O, Gwara 2001: 2.19–25) [rest of f. 5v blank].

f. 6rv blank.

ff. 7r/1–14 Dedication (13c title at top: 'libell(us) s(anct)e u(ir)ginitate'): 'REVERENTISSIMI CHR(IST)I | uirginibus omniq(ue) deuote germanitatis (gl: 'i(d est) fraternitatis') affectu (gl: 'i(d est) dilectione') | uenerandis . . . prospe|ritatis salutem';

ff. 7r/14–95r/13 text: ORDITUR LIBELLUS DE UIRGINI|TATE SACRIS VIRGINIBUS EDITUS | 'IAMDUDUM AD PONTIFICALE (gl: 'i(d est) episcopale') PROFICISCENS (gl: 'i(d est) p(er)gens') CON|ciliabulu(m) frat(er)nis sodaliu(m) (gl: 'i(d est) socioru(m)') cateruis (gl: 'i(d est) agminib(us)') comitatus (gl: 'i(d est) sociatus'); ends, with explicit written as an inverted triangle, f. 95r/7–13: 'Valete o flores ecclesiae. soro|res m[o]nasticę. alumnae | scolasticę chr(ist)i margal|ritę paradisi gem|mę. & çelestis pa|trię parti|cipes' [rest of f. 95r blank].

[Note: Fifty-nine roman numerals without titles divide the text; correspondence to the capitula list on ff. 1r–5v is partial and inexact.]

2. ff. 95v/2–100r Aldhelm, 'Epistola ad Heahfrithum' with Latin and OE glosses: 'DOMINO UENERABILI (gl: 'i(d est) laude') PRECONIO EFFE|rendo'; explicit in five poetic lines, f. 100r/1–5, ending 'Nec tamen emendant titubantis gram(m)a poetæ' (coll. Ehwald 1919: 486–94, as A; ed., text and glosses, Gwara 1996: 112–34, as O, the base text; two OE glosses ed. Napier 1900: no. 13).

ff. 100v–101r blank.

3. ff. 101v–104r (12c) "Passio Sancti Eadwardi Regis et Martyris" (BHL 2418): '[M]ORTUO edgaro rege. filius eius senior | eadwardus ex uoluntate patris. á | s(an)c(t)o dunstano & quib(us)dam p(r)incipib(us)'; ends imperf., breaking off in mid-page at text corresponding to Fell 1971: 6/21: 'Quo in loco etia(m) postea a fidelib(us) || in testimonio miraculi ob ei(us) memoriam | eccl(esi)a fabricata est. que usq(ue) ad tempora | nostra p(er)durauit'; followed by John 12:24, an antiphon "sung in *vigilia unius martyris*" (Fell 1971: vi): '[N]isi granum frumenti.' (ed. Fell 1971: 2.15–6.21).

[Note: Textual divisions in the manuscript correspond only approximately to those in Fell's edition: f. 101v/1 ¶ 1 '[M]ORTUO edgaro' (= Fell 2/15–23); f. 101v/15 ¶ 2 '[S](AN)C(T)U)S EADWARDUS' (= Fell 3/1–14); f. 102r/8 [T]UNC anglor(um) pop(u)lo(rum)' (= Fell 3/17–4.1); 102r/26 ¶ 3 '[C]ONFIRMATO itaq(ue)' (= Fell 4/8–16); f. 102v/12 ¶ 4 '[E]RAT aute(m) iuxta' (= Fell 4/17–5.19); f. 103r/24

¶ 5 'ACTUM est hoc anno' (= Fell 5/20-6/11); f. 103v/17 ¶ 6 '[E]RAT aute(m) in eade(m) dominicula' (= Fell 6/12-21).]

PHOTO NOTE: The opening ff. iii verso-1r was skipped on the microfilm.

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