

52. Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 322

Werferth, Alfredian translation of

Pope Gregory's "Dialogues"

[Ker 60, Gneuss 92]

HISTORY: A relatively compact and neat copy of the translation of Gregory's "Dialogues" made by Werferth at the behest of Alfred, perhaps before 893 (Budny 1997: 1.624; see also Godden 1997). Written by a single scribe in the second half of the 11c. An early provenance in Worcester (as most clearly demonstrated by Yerkes 1978a), in conjunction with paleographical similarities with Worcester manuscripts, namely Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 391 [57] (see Budny 1997: 1.625 and Crick in Gameson 2012: 184n47), and the textual affiliations of the OE "Dialogues" with other copies connected to Worcester (Yerkes 1986) has suggested a Worcester origin (e.g. Gameson 1999: no. 77, p. 63 and Johnson in Discenza and Szarmach 2015: 372); although this is not universally accepted (on this see Franzen 1991: 75, Godden 1997: 41–42 and Treharne 2009: 35–37), Worcester origin for the manuscript remains a real possibility. There can be little doubt that Corpus 322 was present in Worcester by the 12c if not before, because some Latin glosses in a small rather pointed hand of the 12c occur on f. 20, which Yerkes (1978) noted, were copied from Cambridge, Clare College 30, containing a later 11c copy of Gregory's "Dialogues" in Latin, which if not written in Worcester, was certainly there by the 12c. The book continued to be used in the 13c, when the originally missed out incipits and explicits for Books I–IV were added in red. At the top of f. 1r there occurs the mark 'G 1', associated by James (1912: 2:138) with Bury St. Edmunds; later James considered the association 'open to grave doubt' (1926: 255). Since the letter G should stand for the author in Henry of Kirkstede's organization of the books there (Sharpe 1998: 207), the proposition is plausible (Gregory giving G), although the style of the 'G' does not match that of Henry of Kirkstede. The lists for Bury are printed in Sharpe et al. (1996: 43–98), and the only possibility would be no. 172 on p. 77, a copy of Gregory's "Dialogues" in Latin, a link that is so remote as to be discounted (so al-

ready Ker 1964: 22). The manuscript came into the possession of Matthew Parker, who probably had it rebound, adding a bifolium at the front with a 16c inscription on f. i verso that reads 'Werefrithus Ep(iscop)us Wigornensis | iussu Æluredi regis libros dialogor(um) | beati Gregory de latinitate in saxoni|cam linguam transtulit. | Roger: Houeden' (taken from Roger of Hoveden's (d. 1201) 12c chronicle, Stubbs 1868–70: 1.41), and below that in a different shade of ink is written 'S.10,' being the number of the book in the list of those bequeathed to Corpus by Archbishop Matthew Parker (1504–1575). A name written on f. ii verso in red crayon, possibly that of John Parker (1548–1619), the archbishop's son, has been erased (for discussion, see Budny 1997: 1.626). Came to the library of Corpus Christi College by Parker's bequest in 1575. The book may have been refurbished or rebound in 1748–50, and rebound in the 1950s (replacing a binding of the 18c) by John P. Gray, 1953–57. About the same time folio numbers were added in pencil in the top right-hand corner of recto leaves, together with quire numbers in the bottom right-hand corner on the first recto leaf of each quire.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: Folios ii (ff. a-b) + ii (ff. i-ii) + 157 + ii (ff. 158–59) + ii (ff. c-d); all membrane except for the modern paper endleaves added front and back with the present binding (ff. a-b, c-d); the inner endleaves are thicker membrane added probably in the 16c. Foliated in pencil at top right corner of rectos, a-b, i-ii, 1–159, c-d. Leaves measure 229 × 150 mm., written area 190 × 106/117 (inner/outer) mm. There are holes in the text area in ff. 46, 55, 87 and 117, while ff. 1, 14, 70, 88 (subsequently repaired), 119 and 126 show holes in the margin. Arranged in quires of eight, HFHF. No catchwords or quire signatures. Pricked for double vertical frame-rules top and bottom and for 30 horizontal lines (31 in Quire XX) for writing at the outer edges of the leaves is sometimes still visible when not cropped by a binder, as on f. 135 and in part elsewhere. Ruled one sheet at a time in dry point, the double vertical frame-lines usually extending to the top and bottom of the leaves, and the top and bottom two horizontal lines usually extending to the edges of the leaves, but other lines often go beyond the outer bounding line. The left-hand column between the vertical bounding lines is used for capitals. Written in a dark brown to black English vernacular minuscule with its own peculiarities (see Crick in Gameson 2012: 184 and Treharne 2009: 36–37). Sections and sayings are marked with a colored initial capital; generally capitals alternate between blue and red, especially for the sayings attributed to Gregorius and Petrus, from f. 14v up to f. 152r. The scribe may have used two different kinds of

red pigment or two different batches of red, as red oxidized to metallic occurs on ff. 2v-9r, 27v-28r, 33r, 34r, 45r, 80v, 100r and f.154v, where metallic alternates with blue. Elsewhere the red is unoxidized and bright with the two reds sometimes on the same leaf, as on f. 33r. There is occasional red shading of initials, as on f. 15v. The text is written out in sections with the remainders of pages left blank at the end of a book at ff. 33v, 67r, 110r. The breaks between books occur mid-quire, suggesting an ongoing project rather than booklet by booklet production. Into these spaces a 13c gothic hand has entered explicits and incipits in red ink, as well as above the first line of text on f. 1r and after the last line of text on f. 157v. At the front and back of the medieval block, a bifolium of membrane was added as binding leaves; these membranes are now quite stained and splotchy. No traces of the presumed 18c refurbishment or rebinding remain. The 20c binding is full leather over millboards with five bands showing on the spine and two modern paper endleaves added at front and back as well as modern paper pastedowns inside the covers.

COLLATION: i² two modern paper binding leaves, a bifolium (ff. a-b); ii² 16c added bifolium as binding leaves (ff. i-ii); I⁸ (ff. 1-8); II⁸ (ff. 9-16); III⁸ (ff. 17-24); IV⁸ (ff. 25-32); V⁸ (ff. 33-40); VI⁸ (ff. 41-48); VII⁸ (ff. 49-56); VIII⁸ (ff. 57-64); IX⁸ (ff. 65-72); X⁸ (ff. 73-80); XI⁸ (ff. 81-88); XII⁸ (ff. 89-96); XIII⁸ (ff. 97-104); XIV⁸ (ff. 105-112); XV⁸ (ff. 113-120); XVI⁸ (ff. 121-128); XVII⁸ (ff. 129-136); XVIII⁸ wants 7 after f. 142 (ff. 137-143); XIX⁸ (ff. 144-151); XX⁸ wants 7 and 8, probably originally blank (ff. 152-157); iii² 16c added bifolium sewn within the stubs of Quire XX (ff. 158-59); iv² two modern paper binding leaves, a bifolium (ff. c-d).

CONTENTS:

ff. a-b blank but for a modern stamp and shelfmark on f. a recto.

ff. i recto blank

f. i verso 16c inscription in elaborate display script: 'Werefriþus Ep(iscop)-us Wigornensis | iussu Æluredi regis libros dialogor(um) | beati Gregorij de latinitate in saxon|cam linguam transtulit. | Roger: Houeden' (heading as Roger of Hoveden's "Chronica magistri Rogeri de Hovedene" ed. Stubbs 1868-70: 1.41) and the mark 'S. 10', item number from Parker's bequest to Corpus.

f. ii recto blank

f. ii verso faded name in Parkerian crayon top center.

Werferth's Alfredian translation of Pope Gregory's "Dialogues" (Preface coll., text ed. Hecht 1900-07: 1.1-350; corrections supplied by Yerkes

- 1977: 167–72, and for the relationship of this manuscript to the others see Yerkes 1978b: 133, stemma ii.)
- a. ff. 1r/1–3r/29 Preface: ‘IC ÆLFRED geofendu(m) criste mid cynehades mærnysse | geweorðod’; ends: ‘þæt ic nu secge þæt’ (Hecht 1900–07: 1–9);
- [Note: Latin incipit added in the 16c in black ink, probably in the same hand (here smaller) as on f. i verso: ‘Incipit liber p(ri)m(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij pape’; in 13c red ‘Incipit liber p(ri)m(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij pape’; medieval ‘G 1’ top center.]
- b. ff. 3r/30–33v/9 Book I: ‘Hit gelamp geo in samni þære mægðe’; ends: ‘þæs æfæs|tan abbudes SANCTE BENEDICTES’ (ed. Hecht 1900–07: 11–92);
- [Note: Following OE text at ff. 33v/10, a 13c explicit in red: ‘Explicit liber p(ri)m(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij pape’; f. 33v/11–29 originally blank.]
- c. ff. 34r/1–67r/10 Book II: ‘HER yrneð up se æftra stream þære godcun|dan spræce’; ends: ‘mid heora twegra gespræce.’ (ed. Hecht 1900–07: 94–178);
- [Note: 13c incipit to Book II added in red at f. 33v/30: ‘Incipit liber s(e)c(un)d(u)s dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij pape’; 13c explicit in red on f. 67r/11: “Explicit liber s(e)c(un)d(u)s dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij p(a)p(e)’; f. 67r/11–29 originally blank.]
- d. ff. 67v/1–110r/18 Book III: ‘HER ONGINNEÐ SE ÞRIDDA FLÓD OF ðA(M) | neorxnawanglican wylle’; ends: ‘ongespræcu(n) þara ilcena witeNa’ (ed. Hecht 1900–07: 179–259);
- [Note: 13c incipit for Book III added in red at f. 67r/30: ‘Incipit liber terti(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij p(a)p(e)’; f. 110r/19–29 originally blank, but at f. 110r/19 13c explicit added in red ‘Explicit liber terti(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij p(a)p(e)’.]
- e. ff. 110v/1–157v/14 Book IV: ‘HER ASPRINGEÐ SEO FEORÐA YÐ ÐÆS HLVTTRAN | burnan’; ends: ‘gyf we sylfe beoð ær | urum deaðe gode gecweme lác 7 licwyrðe onsægdnes’ (ed. Hecht 1900–07: 260–350).
- [Note: 13c incipit for Book III added in red at f. 110r/30: ‘Incipit liber iiij(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij p(a)p(e)’; f. 157v/14–31 originally blank, but at f. 157v/15, 13c explicit added in red, now much faded: ‘Explicit liber iiij(us) dialogo(rum) beati Gregorij pape’. There is a textual lacuna due to the missing leaf after f. 142/30, which ends ‘nu ic eo(m) hi(m) g(e)seald to forswelganne’ (Hecht 1900–07: 1:325/1), the text resuming on f.143r/1 ‘þara fyrstmearca.’ (Hecht 1900–07: 1:326/20).]
- ff. 158–159 16c parchment binding leaves blank.
- ff. c-d modern paper binding leaves blank.

PHOTO NOTES: Foliation on fiche headers is incorrect: 1 of 5 should read “ff. 1r-35r”, 2 of 5 should read “ff. 35v-73r”. Not photographed: ff. a-b recto (modern paper binding leaves), ff. 158v-159rv (medieval parchment end leaves, blank), ff. c-d (modern paper binding leaves). Digital facsimile available at *Parker Library on the Web* (http://parkerweb.stanford.edu/parker/actions/page_turner.do?ms_no=322).

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