

350. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Bodley 109 (1962)

Bede, "Vita S. Cuthberti" (prose and verse)

[Ker 301, Gneuss/Lapidge 546]

HISTORY: A late 10c or early 11c copy of Bede's metrical "Vita S. Cuthberti" and partial text of the prose "Vita" (Ker, *Cat.*; Gneuss/Lapidge: no. 546) to which "substantial addition" to ff. 60v–78 was made between 1100 and 1130 (Gameson 1999: no. 632). The text of the metrical "Vita" represents a redaction, made in Canterbury in the 10c, of Bede's later 'vulgate' recension (Lapidge 2008: 113–14, 116–17; Lapidge 1995: 143–46; see also Wright 2005: 151–52 and Lapidge 1996: 346–47). The incomplete prose life is from the later but better B family of the text (Colgrave 1940: 45–48). Ker (*Cat.*) dates the hands of quires I–III (= ff. 1–23), written in Anglo-Caroline minuscule, to "s. x/xi" and of quire IV (ff. 24–27) to "xi" (see also Laistner and King 1943: 88, 90). The script of the first three quires of the metrical "Vita" is in Style II, practiced at St. Augustine's, Canterbury around the year 1000 (Lapidge 1995: 143. On Style II see Dumville 1993: 2–4). The two OE glosses (ff. 2v and 6r) are dated to the first half of the 11c (Ker, *Cat.* and Scragg 2012: no 837). The prose on ff. 28–77 is in other, later hands. Gneuss/Lapidge (546) gives the provenance as St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and dates it to 10c/11c and the first half of the 11c (see also Barker-Benfield 2008: 3.1816). On f. 1r a caption in a post-medieval hand identifies the contents as 'vita s(anc)ti Cuthberti per Beda(m)'. The manuscript was given to the Bodleian Library by Sir Henry Savile in 1620. The manuscript's previous shelfmark was NE.B.1.20.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The fragile binding of the volume is leather over stiffened cardboard. The sewings are very tight, and the front cover is coming loose. The leaves are foliated at the top right recto corners. The leaves measure 202–208 × 125–133 mm. The vertical measurement of the written area in Part I is 140 mm. (but 135–139 mm. after f. 39); the space between the outer, horizontal bounding lines is 97 mm. and 83 mm. between the inner bounding lines. In Part II the space between the outer bounding

lines is 92–94 mm and 78–80 mm between the inner bounding lines. The ruling is done in dry-point on the hair side for 21 lines per page. Occasionally rulings in lead appear on both sides. Some sheets in Part II were ruled twice. Prick marks are visible in both parts in outer margins; there are prick marks at top and bottom for two capital columns per page. There are quire signatures: ‘a’ on f. 33v and ‘b’ on f. 41v. The arrangement of sheets in the first nine quires is insular. In quires 10 and 11 the arrangement is continental. The text is written in black and brown inks. Most of the capitals have been left blank. Of these, some capitals were traced for painting later, but not colored in. The text of the verse “Vita” begins with a large capital M, crudely drawn in metallic red and ochre. The letters ‘VL SVIS DNS FVI’ were traced but never colored. A post-medieval hand has filled in a run of capitals. Initial capitals for the verses on f. 2r were colored, but the rest of the capitals in the verse were entered crudely in brown by a later hand through f. 6r. Initial capitals thereafter are lacking until f. 16, where initial red capitals are once again entered by the artist. Between ff. 16v and 17r colored capitals in blue, red, and green are entered for the beginnings of verse paragraphs only. Capitals were colored in on ff. 2r, 16r–17v. The range of colors includes blue, red, green, orange, and mauve. There are pen trials on ff. 77v and 78r.

The text of the metrical “Vita S. Cuthberti” is sporadically glossed, and there are some construe marks on ff. 1–2 (Robinson 1973: 461, 464 n. 62). Ker (*Cat.*, 357) prints two OE glosses: f. 2v: ‘efen’ for ‘consors’ (also appears in London, BL, Harley 1117, pr. Meritt 1945: item 7) and f. 6r: ‘s. sæ’ for ‘pon`t`us’ (with ‘d’ expunctuated).

COLLATION: Foliation: i, ii, 1–78, 79, 80 (ff. i–ii and 79–80 are modern paper flyleaves). Part I: I⁸ wants 1 (ff. 1–7); II–III⁸ IV⁴ (ff. 24–27); Part II: V⁶ (ff. 28–33); VI⁸ (ff. 34–41); VII⁶ (ff. 42–47); VIII⁸ (ff. 48–55); IX¹⁰ wants 6–10 (ff. 56–60); X¹⁰ (ff. 61–70); XI⁸ (ff. 71–78). Part I is ff. 1–27; Part II is ff. 28 to end. Between ff. 47v and 48r a portion of chap. 10 is missing: f. 47v ends ‘synaxeos domum re’ (Colgrave 1940: 188) and f. 48r begins ‘maiestatis ostendens’ (Colgrave 1940: 190).

CONTENTS:

Ff. i–ii Paper flyleaves blank but for modern ink shelfmarks.

1. Bede, “Vita S. Cuthberti” (metrical) (ed. Jaeger 1935).

a. f. 1r/10–1v/18 [f. 1r/1–9 blank] Prefatory epistle beg. imperf.: ‘Iohanni pr(es)b(yster)o. Bēda famulus <Christ>i salute(m).’ | ‘Dici non potest dilectissime in <Christ>o domine. | quantum tua caritate afficiar . . . p(ro) me | intercedere memineris.’ EXPLICIT (ed. Jaeger 1935: 56–57).

[Note: A post-medieval hand has added 'vita s(anc)ti Cuthberti per Beda(m)' at the top of f. 1r.]

- b. ff. 2r/1–27v/10 Metrical “Vita”: ‘MVL|[ta] | SVIS D(OMI)N(U)S FVL|GESCERE LUMINA SECLIS’; ends: ‘Vita manens castis lumenq(ue) salusq(ue) p(er) e(u)m’ (ed. Jaeger 1935: 58–133). Rubricated part of first line not visible on film. Remainder of f. 27v blank.
2. Bede, “Vita S. Cuthberti” (prose) (ed. Colgrave 1940).
- a. ff. 28r/4–30r/16 Prologue beg. imperf. (with space left for ornamented capitals): ‘[Domino] S(AN)C(T)O AC BEATISSI|mo patri eadfrido episcopo. | sed et omni congregationi fratrum’; ends: ‘Orante ergo | me p(ro) uobis beatitudine(m) u(est)ram d(omi)n(u)s om(ni)p(oten)s | custodire dignetur incolumem. dilectissimi |fratres et d(omi)ni mei’ (ed. Colgrave 1940: 142–46). Remainder of f. 30r blank;
- b. ff. 30v/1–32v/19 List of chapters, unnumbered: ‘QVOMODO puer d(e)i cudberhtus p(er) infante(m) | sit p(re)dicto episcopatu(m) admonitus’; ends: ‘Qualiter anachorita felgildus op(er)im(en)to | parietis ei(us) sit a uultu tumore mundat(ur)’ | E[x]pliciunt capitula (with final ‘a’ corrected from ‘e’ in a later ink) (ed. Colgrave 1940: 146–54);
- c. ff. 33r/1–77r/12 Prose “Vita”: Incipit Vita S(an)c(t)i Cudberhti ep(iscop)i. (incipit added in a later hand) | ‘PRINCIPIVM nobis scribendi | de uita beati cudberhti hieremias p(ro)pheta consecrat’; ends imperf. in chap. 28 at: ‘Mem(en)to | fr(ater) herebercte ut modo’ (ed. Colgrave 1940: 154–250). Remainder of f. 77r blank; ff. 77v and 78r have later medieval scribbles and trials at large initials; f. 78v blank;
- d. ff. 79–80 Modern paper flyleaves, blank.

PHOTO NOTES: Ff. 51, 73 and 77 show holes in parchment. Some colored initials and rubrics are very faint or invisible on the film.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Barker-Benfield, Bruce C., ed. *St. Augustine’s Abbey, Canterbury*. Corpus of British Medieval Library Catalogues 13. 3 vols. London: British Library, 2008.
- Colgrave, Bertram, ed. and trans. *Two Lives of Saint Cuthbert: A Life by an Anonymous Monk of Lindisfarne and Bede’s Prose Life*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985. [reprint of 1940 ed.]
- Dumville, David N. *English Caroline Script and Monastic History: Studies in Benedictinism, A.D. 950–1030*. Cambridge: Boydell Press, 1993.

- Gameson, Richard. *The Manuscripts of Early Norman England (c. 1066–1130)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Jaager, Werner. *Bedas metrische Vita sancti Cuthberti*. Palaestra 198. Leipzig: Mayer and Müller, 1935.
- Laistner, M. L. W. and H. H. King. *A Handlist of Bede Manuscripts*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1943.
- Lapidge, Michael. “Beda Venerabilis.” In *La trasmissione dei testi latini del Medioevo / Medieval Latin Texts and Their Transmission*, vol. 3, ed. Paolo Chiesa and Lucia Castaldi, 44–137. Florence: SISMEL Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2008.
- . “Bede’s Metrical Vita S. Cuthberti.” In his *Anglo-Latin Literature, 600–899*. London and Rio Grande, OH: The Hambledon Press, 1996. 339–55 and 509.
- . “Prolegomena to an Edition of Bede’s Metrical ‘Vita S. Cuthberti.’” *Filologia Mediolatina* 2 (1995): 127–63.
- Meritt, Herbert Dean. *Old English Glosses: A Collection*. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1945.
- Robinson, Fred C. “Syntactical Glosses in Latin Manuscripts of Anglo-Saxon Provenance.” *Speculum* 48 (1973): 443–75.
- Scragg, D. G. *A Conspectus of Scribal Hands Writing English, 960–1100*. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2012.
- Wright, Neil. “The Metrical Art(s) of Bede.” In *Latin Learning and English Lore: Studies in Anglo-Saxon Literature for Michael Lapidge*, ed. Katherine O’Brien O’Keeffe and Andy Orchard, 1.150–70. 2 vols. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005.