

375. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Eng. hist. e. 49 (30481)

Old English Orosius (fragment)

[Ker 323, Gneuss/Lapidge 622]

HISTORY: Eng. Hist. e. 49 comprises two complete leaves of the Old English translation of Orosius, "Historiae aduersus paganos." According to Bately (1980), these leaves were used as the wrapper of an octavo book. Its history is unknown. Scragg (2012: no. 889) dates the script to the first half of the 11c. Stokes finds the features of the script "not sufficiently diagnostic" to permit an identification, but finds it "closer to . . . Wulfstanian products" than to manuscripts of other scriptoria (Stokes 2014: 112).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: The volume measures 234 × 168 mm. with a written space of 178 × 130 mm, and 29 long lines. The ink is a very dark brown. There is no ornament. Arrangements of the sheets is HF, and they were probably conjoint. On f. 2r there are holes at ll. 17 and 24. The binding is late 19c black leather. There is a considerably rubbed notation in what Ker (*Cat.*) identifies as a 16c hand on f. 1r/9, giving the title of the volume for which these leaves were a wrapper "Compotus [.] et ciuil[.] in Com. [. . . r.]." Ker (*Cat.*) dates the hand, a form of Vernacular Minuscule, to 's. xi!'

COLLATION: iii + 2 + xi [three paper flyleaves foliated in pencil i, ii, iii, two parchment leaves of text, numbered 1, 2, + ten paper leaves, numbered, 3, 4, 5, the rest unnumbered except for the leaf numbered '10']. The eleven flyleaves are modern paper. There are four leaves missing between ff. 1 and 2, probably once a bifolium, second sheet in a quire of 8. Rulings are on ff. 1v and 2r.

CONTENTS:

"Old English Orosius" (pr. Napier 1913; coll. Bately 1980).

- f. 1rv Book III.iii-v: '[hie] hæfst on þinum bocum sweotole gesæd . . . 7 hie letan heora hrægl on dune to' (coll. Bately 1980: 57/14–59/11; Napier 1913: 59/1–61/29).
- f. 2rv Book III.vii-ix: 'eower romana brocu þe ge ðær ellnig drifan . . . þa hie sealdan demostanase þæ[m] philosop[he]' (coll. Bately 1980: 66/5–67/27; Napier 1913: 62/1–63/28).

PHOTO NOTES: Openings 1 and 4 unreadable on fiche. Opening 3 readable only in part. Unsatisfactory photography.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Bately, Janet, ed. *The Old English Orosius*. EETS ss 6. London: Oxford University Press, 1980.
- Napier, A. S. ed. "Two Fragments of Alfred's 'Orosius.'" *Modern Language Review* 8 (1913): 59–63.
- Scragg, D. G. *A Conspectus of Scribal Hands Writing English, 960–1100*. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2012.
- Stokes, Peter A. *English Vernacular Minuscule from Æthelred to Cnut c. 990–c. 1035*. Publications of the Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies 14. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2014.