

393. Oxford, Bodleian Library,
Lat. misc. d. 13 + Lat. misc. d. 30 (SC 30572 + 30584)
Unidentified Latin Chronicle of England:
“Cronica imperfecta”
[Ker 339]

HISTORY: These single leaf fragments from a 12c Latin chronicle were formerly pastedowns from Oxford bindings of around 1600 (Ker 1954: items 945, 959, 963, 964). According to Ker (*Cat.*), the presence of characteristic markings from Christ Church, Canterbury (on Lat. misc. d. 13, f. 5; on Lat. misc. d. 30, ff. 5v and 9) suggest that the fragments come from a ‘Cronica imperfecta’ listed in its medieval catalogue (James 1903: 49, no. 283). Ker (*Cat.*) dates the fragments to “XII¹” (see also Gameson 1999: no. 740. Gameson notes that an additional fragment is in a private collection in London). Webber dates the script to the first quarter of the 12c and groups it with “Christ Church manuscripts, which do not contain the Christ Church Style of script” (Webber 1995: 154 and n. 41; 158). De Hamel has identified a further fragment now in Japan, Keio University Library 170X@9@18/18. The strip, recovered from a binding, covers the years 54–58 CE (De Hamel 2004: 23 and Pl. 3–1). The period covered in Lat. misc. d. 13 is from around 70 BCE to 516 CE. The fragments of Lat. misc. d. 30 cover the beginning of time to the Jewish Captivity. Also included is a chronology of the Roman emperors from Augustus to Justinian. E. W. B. Nicholson records on the front pastedown of Lat. misc. d. 13: “These fragments were from S.1.3. Med and V.1.4&5 Med. and were found by me in the collection of fragments kept as ‘Palaeographical specimens.’” Subsequently he added “Others have since been found in A.2.2 Med. and added.” There is a further, unsigned note: “Fol. 24a,b was taken from the binding of Ms. Queen’s Coll. 299 and presented by the Provost and Fellows in December 1945. Fol. 1–2 were bought in 1953 with a collection of fragments from bindings, the rest of which is now Ms. Lat. misc. a. 3.” The Queen’s College fragments had been given to the college by Griffin Powell in 1599 (Ker 1954: 89, item 945). Lat. misc. d. 13 is recorded as items 945 (ff. 24a,b), 963 (ff. 19–22), 964 (ff. not given),

976 (ff. 4–7). On the Oxford binding of c. 1600 from which the Queen's College fragments were removed see <<https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/sites/www.queens.ox.ac.uk/files/299.pdf>>

Lat. misc. d. 30 has the following notice on its front pastedown: "Some of these fragments came from H.1.3. med. and C. 7. 16 art. E. W. B. N[icholson]." Lat. misc. d. 30 is recorded as items 959 (ff. 3, 4, 7 8), 969 (ff. 2, 5, 6, 9). Dumville regards the 'Cronica imperfecta' as "probably a production of the last years of the Anglo-Saxon period but now surviving only in fragments of a unique manuscript in Canterbury script of the early twelfth century" (Dumville 1974–76, repr. 1990: XII.106). In Dumville's opinion, the sources of the 'Cronica imperfecta' "correspond closely to those employed by the F-scribe" of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Dumville 1983: 48).

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION for MS. Lat. misc. d. 13: The present volumes comprise modern assemblages of fragments recovered from early-modern bindings, and as such, no reconstruction of the 12c manuscript is possible. From what remains, the following information may be given. The widest leaf measures approx. 252 × 185 mm. The written area was ruled in pencil on each side, approximately 204 × 128 mm. There were 29 lines a page originally. Prickmarks have not been preserved after aggressive cropping. Initial capital 'a' for 'anno' is colored variously in purple, red, and green as in Lat. misc. d. 30. The ink is brown. T. A. M. Bishop identifies the scribe of Lat. misc. d. 13 + Lat. misc. d. 30 as the "prolific Christ Church scribe [who] wrote the main portions" of Cambridge, CCC 19, Cambridge, Trinity College 170, and CUL Ff. 3. 29 as well as ff. 1–57 and 89–180 of Cambridge, Trinity College 83 (Bishop 1953: 437). Bishop regards this scribe as active "probably before c. 1130" (Bishop 1953: 437). Many folios have been severely cropped and significantly reduced in width.

COLLATION of Lat. misc. d. 13: i, ii + 48 [=24 parchment folios of a Latin chronicle; 22 modern paper leaves, of which 12 are flyleaves and 10 are modern lined paper interleaved with the parchment folios; and 4 are photographs of the offset of ff. 5v and 6 and 4 and 7v on the inside front cover of V.1.4 med.]. The manuscript is foliated i, ii, 1–46, but 24 comprises three leaves, 24, 24a, 24b. A note on paper leaf '46' observes "Really ii + 48 leaves, for 24 is triple."

Collation of the current bound volume: The fragments are bound in modern gatherings of eight. [I² + II⁶ attached as one gathering, III⁸ (only ff. 11 and 14 are parchment), IV⁸ (all parchment), V² (f. 24 a + b [apparently a bifolium now pasted to f. 25], Queen's College donation inserted here), VI⁸

(leaves 1, 3, 6, 8 are parchment); VII⁴ (ff. 33–36 are photographs of offsets of the inside front cover of V.1.4 med.). VIII¹⁰ (ff. 37–46 are paper numbered only on ff. 40, 45, 46).

Numbered flyleaves i, ii. 1+2 are conjoint. Ff. 3–8 are sewn as a gathering. Ff. 5 + 6 are conjoint and the center of that gathering, now of 6. Ff. 9 and 10 are modern paper. Ff. 9–16 are sewn as a gathering, of which ff. 11 and 14 are parchment and conjoint (i.e. leaves 3 and 6 of this quire); ff. 17–24 = IV⁸ (2 + 7, 3 + 6 and 4+5 are conjoint). Ff. 24a+b were added later as V² and are now pasted to f. 25. Ff. 25–32 (= VI⁸) are bound as a quire (at least 3 + 6 are conjoint), of which only ff. 25, 27, 30, and 32 are parchment.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION for MS. Lat. misc. d. 30: The dimensions of the largest leaf are 268 × 180 mm. Ff. 2, 3, 6 and 7 have been roughly cropped to half their original width. The fragments are ruled in pencil for 206 × 129 mm. No prickmarks are visible. The ink is brown. In quire 1, the capitals are in purple and red. There are some ornamental capitals: a large red capital ‘q’ on f. 18v/3; a red capital ‘a’ on f. 20r/1; the ‘a’s in ‘anno’ on f. 20 are variously purple, blue, and red, with some metallic highlights on f. 20v. The sheets appear to have been arranged in the continental manner.

COLLATION of Lat. misc. d. 30: 24 leaves, 14 parchment fragments. iv modern paper flyleaves (ff. i–iv); I¹⁰ (ff. 1–10) 1+10 (ff. 1 and 10) are modern paper standing for missing outer parchment bifolium, ff. 2–9 are 12c parchment, 5+6 (ff. 5–6) are conjoint, an inner bifolium; the remainder of the leaves are mounted on guards and their original structure cannot be recovered. II¹¹ f. 11 is paper, ff. 12+20 are 12c parchment and conjoint; ff. 13, 15, 17 and 18 are 12c parchment mounted individually; ff. 14, 16, and 19 are modern paper; ff. 21–24 modern paper. An annotation on f. 11 indicates that the following parchment leaves are the “remains of a single gathering.” A previous penciled foliation of the modern paper leaves has been crossed out. Ff. 22–24 are modern heavy paper flyleaves.

CONTENTS:

An unpublished 12c Latin chronicle, “Cronica imperfecta,” spanning creation to CE 516; the leaves and text are often discontinuous fragments:

Lat. misc. d. 13

f. 1r/1 begins: ‘donec respiciens paulo p(ost) imminente(m) atq(ue) insistente(m) c. . . .’

f. 32v ends: ‘[A]nno d(omi)nicę incarnationis q(ui)ngentesimo sexto decimo. Anastasii.’

Lat. misc. d. 30

f. 2r is blank

ff. 2v–9v begins, having been substantially cropped on the outer half of the leaf: '[I]GITUR ȚTATE S(E)C(U)LI NASCENTIS PRIAM HVIVS'; ends: 'Om(ne)s si q(ui)de(m) portę te(m)pli in terra fuerunt | excepta speciosa quę pendeat. quę ab hebreis porta uocal[*b*]at(ur) ioatham.'

ff. 12r–20v f. 12r/1 is mostly unreadable, f. 12r/2 begins: 'dis se(m)per uident d(eu)m. Ioseph annor(um) .c.x. mortuus est'; ends: 'Anno.d.xviii. Iustino successit. Iustinianus.'

OE GLOSS: A single gloss, 'eorðe' for 'solo' (Cameron no. C58) occurs in the inner margin of f. 23v/21 in Lat. misc. d. 13.

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