

408. Oxford, Bodleian Library, Tanner 10 (SC 9830)

“Old English Bede”

[Ker 351; Gneuss/Lapidge 668]

HISTORY: The earliest manuscript of the OE translation of the Bede’s “*Historia ecclesiastica*” (incomplete). Gneuss/Lapidge dates the main text of the manuscript to the beginning or first half of the 10c. Dumville (1994: 134) dates the script to the “transitional phase” of Anglo-Saxon Square Minuscule, c. 890×930. Parkes (1976: 156–63) attributes Tanner 10 to Winchester, but Gameson (“*Fabric*” 1992: 176) believes its medieval origins should be considered unknown. Rowley reviews the questions of origin and dating (Rowley 2011: 16–17; 20). Missing text from Book 4 was supplied in the second half of the 10c and inserted into quire XIV following f. 104v (= ff. 105–114; see collation below). Ker (*Cat.*) notes that the manuscript was at Thorney in the 14c. On provenance, see further Bateley (1992: 16–17; 34–36). The manuscript was owned by Thomas Tanner (1674–1735), bishop of St. Asaph, who, upon his arrival in Oxford kept the books at Christ Church College, Oxford (Gameson 1992: 177). Rowley notes “various drawings and doodles probably of the twelfth-, thirteenth-to fourteenth-, and sixteenth- or seventeenth-century date” (Rowley 2011: 186). Rowley also offers a detailed study of the significance of the 14c Thorney glosses (Rowley 2011: 186–94). For further discussion of the glosses see Lemke (2015: 90–93) and on codicology, scripts, and decoration see most recently Lemke (2015: 63–69). The Bodleian Library acquired the manuscript with Bishop Tanner’s collection in 1736.

CODICOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION: 139 leaves, foliated 1–139; six modern, unfoliated flyleaves. An older foliation did not count the fragmentary f. 2 and originally blank f. 67. The manuscript is also paginated. The volume measures 250 × 167 mm. and the writing space is 175 × 110 mm. There are two sets of quire signatures— one in Caroline minuscule the other in roman numerals— each at the foot of the page and described in full by Gameson (“*Fabric*” 1992: 176 and nn. 7–8) indicates that both are likely to

post-date the writing of the text. F. 2 has been almost completely excised. There remains a triangular piece of parchment 60 x 38 mm. The new white leather binding is dated to July 2006. Former medieval flyleaves (from the mortuary roll of Abbot William of Thorney) are boxed separately as Tanner 10*. These were removed in 1898 and are described and reproduced by Janet Bately (1992: 15).

The manuscript has damp stains throughout. The number of lines per page varies from 26 to 28 lines ruled in dry point after folding. Gameson ("Fabric" 1992: 179) infers the use of a frame or set-square. Gameson ("Fabric" 1992) describes in full detail the physical make-up of the manuscript. The arrangement of sheets is insular in part I of the manuscript = quires 1–13. (For detail see Gameson 1992: 177–79.) Part II (quires 14a–17 = ff. 100–2; 115–39) shows inconsistent preparation: the parchment of quire 16 is an assortment of oddments. In this quire only the arrangement of sheets is HHFF. On the implication of this arrangement for the importation of continental practices see Gameson ("Fabric" 1992: 195 and 199–200). In Part III (quire 14b = ff. 105–14) the arrangement of the sheets is insular, though inconsistent.

The color of ink is brown/black. There are five contemporary hands at work in the manuscript. Bately (1992: 17–18; cf. Gameson, "Decoration," 1992: 128–29; Dumville 1994: 134–35) divides the stints as follows: Hand 1: ff. 1–102v; 104r/8–104v; 116r/13 ('of his deagolnis')–116r/17; 116v/1–116v/12. Hand 2: ff. 103r–104r/5; 115v–116r/13 ('æðelwald'); 116r/18–29; 116v/15–117v/13 ('meahte'); and "probably" display script of f. 116v/14. Hand 3: leaves inserted in quire 14, ff. 105r–114v (with the possible exception of '7 hine' on f. 110v/1; "and for rewritten material on fol. 115r." Hand 4: ff. f. 117v/13 ('swa swa')–126r; 132r to 139v. Hand 5: ff. 126v–131v. Dumville (1994: 134) describes the script of scribes 2 and 4 as "Square minuscule of Phase I," and the script of scribe 1 as "one of the antecedent or transitional styles of reformed Anglo-Saxon minuscule." Robertson (2005: 56 and pl. 10) discusses the features of the main hand.

There are a number of post-Anglo-Saxon glosses and annotations. Gameson ("Fabric" 1992: 176) notes "various drawings and doodles probably of twelfth-, thirteenth-, to fourteenth, and sixteenth- or seventeenth-century date." In addition to 14c running titles and marginal annotations, Rowley (2011: 187) counts "118 interlinear Latin glosses . . . as well as ten marginal notes and running titles." These glosses are printed in her Appendix III (pp. 215–23) See also Rowley 2009, Appendices I and II, n.p.).

Chapters begin with decorated initials colored and washed with color. The palette includes yellow, brown, green, and red. This coloring extends

through f. 80v. Dumville (1987: 168) regards the decoration as “Winchester School’ style.” He would set the “outer limits of date” to “c. 890 × c. 930 (s. ix/x)” and observes “if the art-historical evidence should compel a late date for the Tanner Bede, we must then remark the continuance into the 920s of a style of writing seen in the 890s and the existence of another Insular script alongside Square minuscule of Phase I” (169). Gameson (“Decoration” 1992: 130) judges the main decoration of the manuscript in Type I initial style (“birds, beasts, tubes, foliate sprigs and [very occasionally] human figures) to be the work of one hand.

COLLATION: [iii] 139 [iii] [= three parchment flyleaves, 139 parchment leaves, three parchment flyleaves] iii; I^a wants 6 (ff. 1–7), II^a (ff. 8–15), III^a wants 6 (ff. 16–22), IV^a wants 3 and 6 (ff. 23–28), V–VII^a (ff. 29–52), VIII^a 4 and 7 singletons (ff. 53–60), IX–XI^a (ff. 61–84), XII^a wants 3 (ff. 85–91), XIII^a (ff. 92–99), XIV^{a+10} a quire of ten inserted after 5 in quire of 8; 7 and 9 singletons (ff. 100–17; see Gameson “Fabric” 1992: 192 for a diagram), XV^a wants 6 and 8 (ff. 118–23), XVI^a 1 and 6 singletons (ff. 124–31), XVII^a (ff. 132–39); iii.

CONTENTS:

“Old English Bede” (ed. Miller 1890–98; all references to this edition given as ‘ed. Miller’).

Book 1

- a. f. 1r/1–1v/26 fragment beg. imperf.: ‘Sume for hungre heora feondum on hand eodon 7 ecne | þeowdom geheton.’ [=I.xii]; ends imperf.: ‘7 þæt | heo ne fyrhte. [gl.: ‘i(d est) t(er)rere] þæt gewiin þæs siðfætes. ne wyrge weodulra.’ (ed. Miller 54/2–56/14);
- b. f. 2r/1–2v fragments beg.: ‘monna tungan.’; ends: ‘... [h]eard’ (=I.xiii and xiv, ed. Miller 56/14–22 and 58/8–17);
- c. ff. 3r/1–5v/25 fragment: ‘lærdon. þa ondswarede’; ends: ‘ac he hwæðre oferswiðed. mid feawum. on’ (=I.xiv–I.xviii; ed. Miller 60/1–64/5 and 88/28–92/17).

Book 2

- a. ff. 6r/1–24v/26 fragment beg. imperf.: ‘cwomon to bicgenne þa ðing.’; ends imperf.: ‘7 he ða hæfde oðþæt he on his.’ (leaf missing after 19v = portions of chs. 9–10; ed. Miller 96/8–150/20).

Book 3

- a. ff. 25r/1–26v/25 fragment: ‘ac hwæðre mid rihte wrace heo kwealde.’; ends: ‘monige cwoman dæghwamlice.’ (=Book III.i–III.ii, ed. Miller 152/22–158/23);

- b. ff. 27r/1–42v/4 fragment: ‘heo þurh eall ger buton fiftig neahta’; ends: ‘7 monigra un|trymnessa. læcedomas onfengon.’ (=Book III.iii to III.xiv, ed. Miller 162/10–204/33);
- c. ff. 42v/6–58r/10 fragment: ‘ÞISSUM TIDVM EASTENG|la rice æft(er) eorpwalde’; ends: ‘7 heora lareowas gefeonde 7 blissigende ham hwurfon.’ (=Book III.xiv to end III.xxii; ed. Miller 208/5–252/3).
- d. ff. 58r/10–66v/16 Old English translation of ‘*Libellus responsionum*’ (displaced from book 1): **Interrogationes s(an)c(t)i | agustini. archiepisc(opi). et respons(i)o(nes). s(an)c(t)i gregorii | papæ urbis romanorum. | ÆREST. BI. BISCOPV(M). | hu hy. mid heora geferum drohtnian [gl.: ‘i(d est) co(n)uersent(ur)’];** ends: ‘þis seondon ondsware. þæs eadigan papan s(an)c(tu)s gregori|us. togeþeahunge 7 to frignesse þæs arwyððan| biscopes agutinus.’ [*sic*] | **explicit liber tertius.** (=HE I.xxvii, ed. Miller 64/6–88/27).
- f. 67 originally blank. Now doodles of human figures on f. 67r; f. 67v blank.
Book 4
- ff. 68r/1–115r/21 **INcipit liber. quartus `h`isto(ria) gentis anglor(um).** | ‘þy ge|myndgadan gere. þære foresprecenan sun|an.’; ends: ‘swa him næfre ænig swyle opþe | unwlitegnes ne | æteaude.’ Missing material between ff. 86v and 87r (=Book IV.i–IV.xvii and Book IV.xviii–end; ed. Miller 252/4–304/7 and 306/19–384/4).
- Book 5
- ff. 115v/1–139v/24 ‘ÞA Æ|FTERFYL|de ðæm dryhtnes were.’; ends: imperf.: ‘in helle duru unwillsum|lice.’ (= Book V.i–V.xv; ed. Miller 384/5–442/23).

PHOTO NOTES: Although f. 2v is photographed separately, f. 2r is photographed against f. 3r. F. 2r is unreadable both by position in the photography and owing to damp stain. It is clearly readable in Bately 1992. Many leaves darkened by water stains are difficult to read on film. Color digital images of a number of pages are available at the Digital Bodleian site: <<http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/inquire/p/8fb7abbc-bea5-494b-8ed5-34d11c8ce942>>

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