

Alfred the Great's Old English Translation of Gregory the Great, *De cura pastoralis*

Gregorius de Cura Pastoralis Saxonice

Codicology: Vellum, mm 410 x 260 (16.2 x 10.2 in.), ff. 225 + 2, 27 lines to a page. Cent. **xi?** in a very large bold black hand.

Collation: 1 flyleaf, i⁸ (wants 1) ii⁸-xxvii⁸ xxviii⁶ xxix⁴, 1 flyleaf. Quires marked in original hand on last leaf of each.

Provenance: From Worcester Priory¹, as will appear.

Additions: In last cover a note in Parkerian¹ hand: "Werferthus¹ Ep. Wigorn. viii^o Ixxii Qui erat unus magistrorum Ælfredi Regis¹ et iussu illius libros dialogorum beati Pape Gregorii¹ de latina in anglicam linguam transtulit. Ex annalibus ecclesie Wigorn.¹ et affirmatur a Rogero Houenden¹ et aliis".

At top of f. 1r (erased): "PASTORALIS". At bottom an erased inscription. The first word in red

line 1. Wer wærf...

line 2. libros

line 3. transtulit

The substance of this note must have been the same as that already quoted.

Two (or three) Latin glossators have been at work on the text. One hand, which goes all through it and is very copious, is a curious tremulous writing of cent **xii** (?). Of this more will be said. There is a firmer and smaller hand also perhaps of cent. **xii**, and there is also, I think only on f. 8r, a large book-hand of cent. **xiii** (?) which has written the Latin of the last six capitula in the margin.

There are, besides, some few notes of cent. **xvi**.

Research: The MS. was not used for the edition by Sweet (E.E.T.S.)^[Sweet 1871].

Provenance: As to the "tremulous" hand, Wolfgang Keller (*Die Litterarischen Bestrebungen von Worcester in Angel-Sächsischen Zeit: Quellen u. Forschungen* 84, 1900, p. 20^[Keller 1900]) gives a list of MSS. in which the same hand appears. They are Bodleian Junius 24^[OBL136], 121^[OBL232]; Hatton 76^[OBL125], 113^[OBL210], 114^[OBL134], 115^[OBL135]; C. C. C. 178^[CCC178], 391^[CCC391]; University Library Cambridge Kk. 3. 18^[CUL318]. To these I can add C. C. C. 12 (the MS. before us) and 198^[CCC198]; while I believe that Keller¹ is mistaken in thinking that the hand occurs in MS 265^[CCC265] (which he also cites). The glossator whose hand it is was probably, as Keller¹ points out, an old man who knew Anglo-Saxon, and added the glosses for the benefit of his brother-monks to whom it was unfamiliar. Several of the MSS. at Oxford¹ in which the hand is found are certainly from Worcester Priory¹; thus it is safe to predicate of any MS. which shows it, that this, too, is a Worcester¹ book; a remark which applies to the MS. no. 12.

Foliation: ff. a-b + i-ii + 1-225 + iii-iv + c-d.

Language: Old English and Latin.

Contents:

1.

1r-225v *Alfred the Great's Old English Translation of Gregory the Great, De cura pastoralis*

Prologue

1r *Incipit:* ÆLFRED¹ (in red) cyning hateð gretan

3v () *Explicit* toððe hpa oðre biþrite

3v *Incipit:* Ðis ærend geþrit agustinus¹

4r () *Explicit* ðaðe læden spræce læste cuðon
(Capitula lxxv)

4r *Incipit:* I Ðæt te unlærede etc.
(Prologue)

8v *Incipit:* Ðu leofesta broðor

9v () *Explicit* ðe hie nane geleornedon
(Text)

9v () *Incipit:* FOR ðon ðe nan cræft nis

A small blank (of 3 or 4 lines) is left at the beginnings of the subsequent chapters, for titles and initials which were no doubt meant to be inserted in red

Pars secunda begins f. 30r

Pars tertia begins f. 72r. Pars quarta begins f. 220v

Ends

225r *Explicit* toððe him liefes drync forloren þeorðe (erased)

f. 225v blank

A good many edges of leaves have been cut off and replaced in cent. **xvi** or later

