

Old English Bede

Beda's Historia Saxonice

Codicology: Vellum, mm 340 x 205, (13.7 x 8.5 in.), ff. 244 + 2, 25 lines to a page (27 in quires K-N). Cent. xi, in two principal hands of which one is remarkably large. Both are clear and black.

Collation: 1 modern flyleaf, 1⁸ 2⁶ 3⁸-12⁸ 13¹⁰ (4 canc.) 14⁸-30⁸ 31⁶ (wants 6), 1 flyleaf modern. The first quire with an old mark is F (6); this marking goes to M or perhaps N (13): 14 is marked A; this marking runs to R(30): 31 has no mark.

Provenance: The volume was one of those given by Leofric[¶] to Exeter[¶]. On 244v, [488] is his inscription in good round minuscules, in Latin and Anglo-Saxon (Cameron B16.10.5^[Cameron 1973]):

“Hunc librum dat leofricus[¶] episcopus ecclesie sancti petri apostoli in exonia[¶] ubi sedes episcopalis est ad utilitatem successorum suorum. Si quis illum abstulerit inde, subiaceat maledictioni. FIAT. FIAT. FIAT.

Das boc gef Leofric[¶]. b. into sce petres mynstre on exancestre þær se bisceopstol is for (his) sapple alisednysse 7 gif hig hpa ut æt brede god hine fordo on þære e ...”

It is not entered in the list of Leofric[¶]'s gifts contained in the Bodleian MS. Auct. D. 2. 16^[OBL719] and printed by Dugdale^[Dugdale et al 1846a], Wanley^[Wanley 1705], Warren (*Leofric Missal*) etc.^[Warren 1883]

Research: This MS. was used by Abraham Whelock for his edition of 1644^[Whelock 1643]. Various notes on flyleaves and margins are in his hand. The last editions are that by Dr T. Miller, 1891 etc. (E. E. T. S.)^[Miller 1890] (who gives an account of it in his introduction (§I p. xvii and §II), and a full collation of its text), and that by J. Schipper (*Bibliothek der Angelsächsischen Prosa* IV 1899)^[Schipper 1899].

The date assigned by Schipper^[Schipper 1899] is the middle of cent. xi, and that assigned by Dr G. F. Warner[¶] is 1030-1040.

Additions: The ornamentation of this book is interesting. It consists chiefly of decorative initials which are irregularly inserted. They are in outline: a faint wash of red has been applied in some cases. In many instances the pencil sketch (afterwards executed in ink) is visible.

Research: It seems to me very likely that the volume was written in two main portions (quires 1-13 and 14-31) which were begun simultaneously. This view is suggested by the lettering of the quires, and I think the indications afforded by the initials and hands do not disagree with it. Dr Miller^[Miller 1891a] distinguishes four sections and a plurality of scribes. Schipper^[Schipper 1899] once held a similar view, but withdrew it in deference to the scribe's own assertion (in the verses on pp. 483, 484) that he wrote the book “with his two hands.”

Additions: The margins have been utilized for the transcription of a good many interesting texts. Some of these (especially the *Salomon and Saturn*) are well known. I do not think that a complete list has been given, and I attempt one here. Wanley (*Cat.* p. 114)^[Wanley 1705] takes account of the Anglo-Saxon passages only.

Foliation: ff. a-b + i + pp. 1-490 + ff. c-d.

Language: Old English and Latin.

Contents:

1.

1-488 *Old English Bede[¶] with marginal additions**The History of Bede[¶] in the Anglo-Saxon version*Cameron B9.6^[Cameron 1973]

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Begins with Capitula |
| 1 | (0) <i>Rubric:</i> ÐIS / IS / SEO / GESETNES ÐISSE / BRYTENE OÐ HIBERNIA / etc. in capitals which gradually diminish in size |
| 1 | There is a large initial: no more occur till p. 62, [61] |
| 2 | <i>Marginalia:</i> “bletsung to candelun. Domine Iesu Christe creator celi”, etc. Text in Latin, ending p. 7, with Collect: “Deus omnipotens tua nos protectione custodi”, etc. “his peractis cantetur” Ant. “Haue gratia plena. Sancti Simeonis collecta. Erudi quesumus domine” |
| 8 | <i>Marginalia:</i> Masses for Sexagesima and Quinquagesima, continued on following pages (p. 13 Feria iii infra quinquag., p. 14 Sabbatum) |
| 16 | <i>Marginalia:</i> Dom. in(i)tium xl (1st Sun. in Lent). Masses, continued up to Good Friday (p. 36 and 38-39) |
| 18 | Preface of Bede [¶] . Initial and first words not inserted |
| 22 | Text begins. Initial and first words not inserted |
| 45 | <i>Marginalia:</i> Mass for St Benedict [¶] |
| 46 | <i>Marginalia:</i> Office for Easter Eve |
| 60 | <i>Marginalia:</i> SS. Philip [¶] and James [¶] . Invention of the Cross |
| 61 | <i>Marginalia:</i> 61 sqq. Antiphons, etc. for Advent |
| 66 | Liber II. Initial not inserted |
| 75 | (74) <i>Marginalia:</i> For the Christmas season |
| | There is no more marginal writing until p. 122 |
| 122 | <i>Marginalia:</i> “On þone forman deeg on geara þæt is on þone ærestan geohel dæg”. (Of Christmas Day and the marvels accompanying the Nativity) |
| 124 | Liber III. Initial not inserted |
| 124 | A bit of ornament in the margin. Nothing more till p. 161 where is an initial in fine outline |

- with a human figure hanging by the neck. The next is at p. 175
- 124 **Marginalia:** “On pone ilcan dæg cristes acennednesse godes circean arporðiað sanctam anastasiam”
- 125 **Marginalia:** “(O)n ðone forman dæg bið sancta eufemian[¶] tid”
- 128 **Marginalia:** Similar notice of St Stephen[¶]
- 130 **Marginalia:** (l. 4). St John Evangelist[¶]
- 131 **Marginalia:** The Innocents
- 132 **Marginalia:** St Silvester[¶]. A blank follows
For the above matter (from p. 122) see *Old English Martyrology* (E. E. T. S.) ed. Herzfeld^[Herzfeld 1900]
- 134 **Marginalia:** pp. 134-139. Latin text. Offices for Advent
- 158 **Marginalia:** Mis(sa) quam sacerdos pro se debet
- 182 **Marginalia:** Latin prayer: “Pietatem tuam quesumus domine nostrorum absolue uincula delictorum”
- 182 () **Marginalia:** Anglo-Saxon follows: pið ymbe nim eorþan ofer peorþ mid þinre spiþran handa under þinum spiþran fet 7 cpet fo ic under fot funde ic hit hpæt eorðe mæg, etc. (Cockayne, *Saxon Leechdoms*, Rolls Series I 384^[Cockayne 1864])
Cameron A43.8^[Cameron 1973]
- 192 **Marginalia:** pp. 192-194. Offices for the Eve and Feast of All Saints
- 196 **Marginalia:** pp. 196-198. Fragment of *Salomon and Saturn*, used by Kemble^[Kemble 1845-48] and other editors. It supplements the only other known MS. (MS 422^[CCC422] in this collection)
Cameron A13^[Cameron 1973]
- 196 () **Incipit:** Saturnus cpæð hpæt ic iglanda
- 198 () **Explicit**ofer mægene 7 hine eac ofslehð. T. (l. 189 Kemble^[Kemble 1845-48])
- 206 initial in pencil
On p. 207 sqq., initials in plain black
- 206 **Marginalia:** pp. 206, 207, 208. Charms partly printed by Cockayne, *Leechdoms* I 394, 398^[Cockayne 1864]
Cameron A43.9, A43.10, B23.1.1^[Cameron 1973]
- 206 () **Marginalia:** “Ne forstolen ne forholen etc.
Gif feoh sy undernumen etc.
... Petur[¶] pol[¶] patric[¶] pilip[¶] marie[¶] brigitt[¶] felic[¶] in nomine dei 7 chiric[¶] <<Cyriacus[¶] is coupled with Patrick[¶] in the hymn *Rogo patrem* in Harl. 7653^[L.B.L.H53] and the *Leabhar Brecc*^[DRA230]>> qui queri(t) inuenit”
What follows has not been printed
- 207 **Marginalia:** “Christus illum siue (= sibi) elegit in terris ficarium qui de gemino captiuos liberet seruitio plerosque / de seruitute quos redemet hominum innumeros de sabuli obsoluit dominio ymnos / cum apocalipsi salmosque cantat dei cousque et edificandum dei tractat pupulum quem legem / in trinitate sacre credent nominis tribusque personis unam · Sona domine (zona domini) precintus diebus ac noc / tibus (sine) intermissione deum oret dominum cuius ingentes laboris pcepturis pcepturis (sic) premium / cum apostoli(s) regnauit scs super israel. Audite omnes amantes deum sancta merita uiri in Christo / beati patricii episcopi · quomodo bonum ab actum simulatur angelis perfectum - que est propter uitam / equatur apostolis patricii laudes semper dicamus ut nos cum illo defendat deus. / Crux Christi reducat Crux Christi perriit et inuenta est habraeham tibi uias montes / p. 208 / silua(s) semitas fluminas andronas cludat Isaac tibi tenebras inducat Crux iacob te / ad iudicium ligatum perducatur iudei christum crucifixerunt persimum (!) sibimet ipsum perpetraverunt / opus celauerunt quod non potuerunt celare sic nec hoc furtum celatur nec celare (-ri) possit / per dominum nostrum”. Space follows. Cf. Cockayne loc. cit. 60, 286^[Cockayne 1864]
- 208 () **Marginalia:** Receipt: “pið eah pærce”, etc. Cockayne I 382^[Cockayne 1864]
Cameron B21.5.1^[Cameron 1973]
The lines from “Christus illum” to “defendat deus” are the last stanzas, very corruptly written, of the Hymn of SS. Sechnall[¶] or Secundinus[¶] on St Patrick[¶], of which only four complete copies are known. This fragment has not been noticed. Special efficacy was attached to the stanzas here quoted. See Bernard and Atkinson (*The Irish Liber Hymnorum*)^[Bernard and Atkinson 1898]
- 224 Liber IV. Initial
- 224 (Liber IV) initial in outline, the first of a numerous and very pretty series
- 224 **Marginalia:** pp. 224-225. Office for the Invention of the Cross
- 254 **Marginalia:** pp. 254-280. Homily. “Men þa leofestan ic eop bidde 7 eaðmodlice lære”, *Archiv*, XCI 379 (latter part)^[unknown 1893]. Copied for Professor Napier[¶]: also in Vercelli MS.^[VCL117]
Cameron B3.4.9^[Cameron 1973]
- 272 **Marginalia:** Interrupted at p. 272 by a prayer in Latin:
“pið ealra feoda grimnessum. Dextera domini fecit uirtutem, dextera domini exaltauit me” (Cockayne I 386^[Cockayne 1864])
Cameron B23.1.2^[Cameron 1973]
- 280 **Marginalia:** pp. 280-287. Homily. “Her sagað ymbe þa halgan marian usser dryh(t)nes modor” (on the Assumption).
Copied for Professor Napier[¶]: apparently only in this MS.
Cameron B3.3.21^[Cameron 1973]
- 287 **Marginalia:** pp. 287-295. Homily (on Last Judgment, Heaven, Hell, etc.). “Repleatur os meum laude ut possim cantare. Men þa leofestan tpa ceastra pæron from fruman porode”.

- Copied for Professor Napier¹: apparently only here
- 295 **Marginalia**: pp. 295-301. Homily (on Ascension Day, Last Judgment, etc.). “Hec est dies quam fecit dominus exultemus et letemur in ea. Men þa leofestan Her sagað an þissum bocum ym ða miclan gepird”.
- Copied for Professor Napier¹: also in MS 303, p. 72^[CCC303]
Cameron B3.2.29 and B8.5.3^[Cameron 1973]
- 322 () **Caedmon's hymn, West Saxon version, Cameron A32.2**^[Cameron 1973]
- 326 **Marginalia**: Charm. “pið sarum eagum. Domine sancte pater omnipotens aeterne deus sana oculos hominis istius N etc.” (Cockayne I 387^[Cockayne 1864])
Cameron B23.1.3^[Cameron 1973]
- 326 () **Marginalia**: “pið sarum earum” (Cockayne I 387^[Cockayne 1864])
- 326 () **Marginalia**: “Rex glorie Christe [raphaelem angelum] exclude fandoro[a]hel auribus famulo dei illi mox recede ab aurium torquenti sed in raphaele angelo sanitatem auditui componas. Per. pið magan segcnesse”. (Cockayne I 387^[Cockayne 1864])
- 326 () **Marginalia**: “Adiuua nos deus salutaris noster exclude angelum sanielem angelum malum qui stomachum dolorem stomachi facit sed in dormiolo sancto angelo tuo sanitatem serui tui in tuo sancto nomine sanatione(m) ad ad tribuere. per”
- 327 a black initial, and then some omitted
- 329 **Marginalia**: “Creator et sanctificator pater et filius et spiritus sanctus ut sit benedictio tua super omnia dona ista. per.
+ · sator · arepo · tenet · opera · rotas.
Deus qui ab initio fecisti hominem et dedisti ei in adiutorium similem sibi ut crescere [vel nt] et multiplicare [vel nt] da super terram huic famulam tuam N ut prospere et sine dolore parturit”
- 350 **Marginalia**: pp. 350-353. Charm. (Wanley, p. 115^[Wanley 1705]; Cockayne I 388^[Cockayne 1864])
“Ic me on þisse gyrd beluce”
Cameron A43.11^[Cameron 1973]
- 352 initial
- 365 initial
- 368 Liber V. No initial
- 370 **Marginalia**: pp. 370-373. Masses for Common of Saints and Pro rege. Rubrics in red capitals
- 394 (399) initial (very rough)
- 400 initial
- 402 **Marginalia**: pp. 402-417. Homily on **St Michael**¹.
“Men ða leofestan us is to porðianne 7 to mærsianne seo gemind þæs halgan heah engles sancte Michael¹” (hand changes on p. 408).
Copied for Professor Napier¹: apparently only here
Cameron B3.3.24^[Cameron 1973]
- 410 a very pretty **initial**, with a small figure of Christ, beardless, on the Cross, the Divine Hand above (within the Cross)
- 433 a sketch of a man with two rings confining his legs
On f. 436 and 448 are scribbles in runes **Cameron B25.4.1**^[Cameron 1973]
- 436
- 448
- 474 a bit of ornament in pencil
- 475 **Marginalia**: pp. 475-477. Responses from Job, and “de Tobī”, “de Iudith”, “Dom. I mensis October usque in Dom. i mensis November”, “de minoribus prophetis (written pphens) a[d] dom. I mens. nou. usque medium aduentu domini”.
- 478 **Marginalia**: Responses etc. for **S. Martin**¹
- 482 **Marginalia**: Responses etc. for **John Baptist**¹ and **Peter**¹ and **Paul**¹
- 483 **Marginalia**: “For þone cyng 7 for þone byscep 7 for eall cris(tene...edge of leaf gone)”
- Marginalia**: A Mass (a paganorum nos defende periculis)
- 484 **Old English Bede** ends
- 484 **Explicit**oð his daga ende drihten herigan. Amen
- 484 () [Added: “gepeorþe þæt”] This is the end of the scribe's prayer which is given in full by Wanley^[Wanley 1705], by Miller^[Miller 1890] and by Schipper^[Schipper 1899]
- 484 surrounded and partly written over by later text, is part of a fine figure of Christ crucified: it lacks the left arm. The head is bearded, the Cross not drawn
- 484 **Marginalia**: pp. 484-488. Following the end of the text. Homily giving the story of the Passion.
“Men ðe gehirað nu hu (space) drihten pæs sprecende on þas tid to his geferum”.
- Copied for Professor Napier¹: apparently only here
Cameron B3.2.19^[Cameron 1973]
- 485 On the next page is a small nude figure (also written over) standing on rocky ground and holding up his hands, spread out on a level with his shoulders
- 488 **Marginalia**: Unimportant scribbles. Above the **Leofric**¹-inscription is: “Atte le”

- markupCheck: checked by BA, CF
- msCheck: RJR 10/10/2008
- remarks: