Article:


Permanent URL:
https://ludos.leeds.ac.uk:443/R/-?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=134407&siro_library=GEN01
THE DATE OF THE 'TREMULOUS' WORCESTER HAND.

The backward-sloping old man's hand which has annotated a dozen Old English manuscripts from Worcester\(^1\) is seen in marginal glosses and in the word _dedicatio\(^2\)_ in this facsimile of part of f. 10 recto of Bodleian MS. Hatton 114. The glosses have no connexion with the Old English text on f. 10\(^8\) and seem from their position, to have been written at a later date than the table of contents which occupies the upper part of the side margin. There can be no doubt that at least the word _dedicatio_ was written after the table of contents since it is not a casual scribble but a correction to the last entry in the table. Here _De vno confessore_. _Uigilate ergo_ is copied from the heading on f. 230 to a homily which ends imperfect on f. 235v, and _Item alia_ is copied from the heading to a homily on the dedication of a church\(^4\) which begins on f. 242v and follows another homily on the same subject.\(^5\) The latter, headless at an early date owing to the loss of two leaves between ff. 235 and 236, was omitted from the table on f. 10 because the compiler failed to notice the change of subject at f. 236. To remedy matters the 'tremulous scribe' entered _dedicatio_ at the end of the table, _deficit\(^6_\) at the bottom of f. 235v, and _De dedicatione_ at the head of f. 236.

It is of some importance to be able to decide this question of priority because an approximate date can be assigned to the set hand of the table of contents but not to the 'tremulous'

---

\(^1\) See S. J. Crawford in _Anglia_ 52 (1928), 1ff., for references and a facsimile.

\(^2\) _dedicatio_, although more firmly written than the glosses, is in the same type of script and certainly by the same hand. A variation in the degree of shakiness is to be found throughout the work of the 'tremulous' scribe in this and other manuscripts.

\(^3\) _vinpancwurdlisce_ is taken from f. 109v and _praung_ from f. 123v. On these pages the glosses _ingratanter_ and _argumentum_ have been entered in tremulous script.

\(^4\) Unprinted. The last line = A. S. Napier, _Wulfstan_, 1883, 281\(^22\)-282\(^21\).

\(^5\) = R. Brotanek, _Texte und Untersuchungen_, 1913, 4\(^6\)-15.

\(^6\) He wrote _deficit_ also in Hatton 76, f. 14v, and Corpus, Cambridge, 198, f. 247v, to mark the loss of leaves.
nepe Abraham hymname elenabam.
acgo gethe hymman mun
bcthme abraham hymmangia
dam hgeogeth bcthme gette
nowoever Sapon perkaraf
be min talpo. acgo yte het
realpo shemangie sypephie
looggeyd. acgo plite
repodingetna talpo gelypropa
meechhit gapanget abnaha:
nonogong sephande himcito
aha himcito comhacom hit mid
spunge hitryunge buphhi
elohame ctym payble pyddar
sprccogamento tailipahela
ambtenmamaz adde

Part of Bodleian MS. Hatton 114, f. 10r.

(To face LSE. vi, 28).
hand. The former belongs, probably, to the second quarter of the thirteenth century; it can hardly be earlier than 1225 and may not be much, if at all, earlier than 1250. The 'tremulous' writer has been assigned, commonly, to the late twelfth century, and it is likely enough that the duct of his script was formed at this time. But there can be no doubt from the evidence of f. 10 of Hatton 114 that he was at work at a much later period.

N. R. Ker.

Oxford.

NOTE.
The editors are for once departing from their rule and printing a paper by one who has no connexion with their University. This number of LSE. owes much to Mr. Ker's help, and its editors are glad to print his paper, adding the facsimile which is essential to his argument. A further inducement to me was the fact that it supplements work published by my friend Dr. Crawford, a fine scholar who never in his lifetime met with the recognition he had earned.

Bruce Dickins.

7 Mr. N. Denholm Young kindly permits me to quote his opinion that the hand is of the middle of the thirteenth century.