Research Group on Manuscript Evidence
THE PARKER LIBRARY
CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE
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An Integrated Approach to Manuscript Studies
Exhibition Catalogue

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The Integrated Approach to Manuscript Studies

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The Parker Library
Corpus Christi College
Cambridge University

This catalogue describes the exhibition board by board. It gives details of each photograph. The photographs may be located using the caption on each board which indicates their relative positions upon the board. The board-caption identifies the photograph in abbreviated form, using these abbreviations:

f. = folio(s)
p./pp. = page(s)
r = recto
v = verso
MS = manuscript
no. = number
J. = St John's College, Oxford
SKB = Stockholm, Kungliga Bibliotek

The abbreviations can be identified with reference to the catalogue descriptions. Except where stated, all manuscripts are at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

1. A Testament of Antiquity


Fol. 1r. Frontispiece image of an eagle, the symbol of the evangelist John.

Fol. 2r. The opening of the Gospel of John, chapter 1:1, laid out with elaborately decorated letters.


2. Latin and Old English Glossaries

MS 356, Part III: Latin Abba-Glossary

Fol. 1r. The opening of glossary with the A-group of lemmata and definitions.

Fol. 22v. The end of the N-group and beginning of the O-group.

MS 144: The Corpus Glossary

Fol. 32r. The GR-, GU-, GY- and HA-groups, with each group given a decorated initial.

Fol. 37r. The IU- and LA-groups.
3. **An Anglo-Saxon Schoolbook**

**MS 173, Part II: The Corpus Sedulius**

Fol. 57r/1r. Sedulius' Epistolary Preface to Macedonius for the *Paschale Carmen*, headed by the name “Friœstan Diaconus”, perhaps indicating an early owner.

Fol. 59r/3r. Sedulius’ *Paschale Carmen*, Preface and Book I, lines 1–25, with a decorated initial and some damaged and rewritten passages.

Fol. 74r/18r. Sedulius’ *Paschale Carmen*, Book IV, line 291 – Book V, line 22, with many drypoint glosses, including Old English glosses and syntactical glosses or construe marks.

Fol. 74r/18r, detail (column a, lines 4–8), with drypoint glosses.

4. **Writing and Rewriting History**

**MS 173, Part I: The Parker Chronicle and Laws**

Fol. 10r. Annals for 752–57, including the beginning of the account of *Cynewulf and Cyneheard*, photographed for a full-colour facsimile.

Fol. 10r, detail (lines 21–26), with pooled ink.

Fol. 10r, detail (upper right-hand corner), with surface damage and liquid stains.

Fol. 27r. Annals for 937–42, including the end of *The Battle of Brunanburh* and the text of *The Five Buroughs*.

Fol. 27r, detail (middle left). Alterations and additions to the annals for 938–42 through erasure and insertions by several hands.

5. **Old English Documentary Records**

**MS 286: The Gospels of St Augustine of Canterbury.**

Fols. 77v–78r. Record of agreement between Wulfric, Abbot of St Augustine’s Abbey, Canterbury, and Ealdred, son of Lifting, about land at Cliffe, Kent, entered on an originally blank page (fol. 77v), facing the opening of the Gospel of Mark (fol. 78r).

Fol. 74v. The will of Ealhburg, granting renders of land at Brabourne, Kent, to St Augustine’s Abbey, entered on an originally blank page facing the opening of the prologue to the Gospel of Mark.

Fols. 129v–130r. The frontispiece to the Gospel of Luke, with a portrait of the evangelist Luke accompanied by his symbol the bull (fol. 129v), facing the opening of his Gospel (fol. 130r).

**Stockholm, Kungliga Bibliotek. Cod. A. 135: The Codex Aureus.**

Fol. 11v. The Gospel of Matthew, 1:18, with the record of the gift of the book, after having been ransomed back from the Vikings, to Christ Church, Canterbury, in perpetuity by Ealdorman Ælfred and his wife Werburg, added in the margins of the page.

**MS 111: Displaced leaf from a copy of the “West-Saxon” Gospels from Bath Abbey (MS 140).**
6. Two Major Authors: Bede and Wulfstan

MS 41: The Corpus Old English Bede (Bede’s Ecclesiastical History of the English People).

P. 410. Ecclesiastical History, Book V, chapters 12–13, with a homily on St Michael added in the margin. The initial of chapter 13 contains an image of the Crucifixion.

P. 272, detail. Ecclesiastical History, Book IV, chapters 14–15, with a homily on the Last Judgment added in the margin. The initial of chapter 15 contains the figure of a lion.

P. 264, detail. Ecclesiastical History, Book IV, chapters 11–12, with a homily on the Last Judgment added in the margin. The initial contains the figure of a man with a sword. He might represent one of the men in Bede’s chapter: perhaps the principal among them. Cædwalla, first the youthful prince and then king of the Gewisse.

MS 201: Wulfstanian Ecclesiastical and Secular Handbook


P. 83, detail (lines 1–8). Erased passage.

7. Recording and Recovering Damaged Passages

MS 422, Parts I and II: The Red Book of Darley


Pp. 4–5. Poetic Dialogue of Solomon and Saturn I, lines 91–153, damaged by the rusted metal mounts of a former binding and by the application of reagent in an attempt to enhance legibility.

Pp. 52–3. The Preface of the Mass (p. 52), with musical notation in neumes, headed by a half-page image of Christ in Majesty accompanied by angels; and the opening of the Canon of the Mass, including an image of the Crucifixion in its initial (p. 53).


8. Canterbury Scribes and Artists at Work

Oxford, St John’s College, MS 28: the Regula Pastoralis of Gregory the Great

Fol. 2r. Frontispiece pastoral figure, partly overlain by secondary text with the Passiones of Sts Peter and Paul.


Fol. 8r. Gregory’s Regula Pastoralis, Part I, chapter 1.

Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 326: The Corpus Aldhelm

Pp. 6–7. End of the anonymous macaronic poem “Ealdhelm” in Old English, Latin and transliterated Greek in praise of the author Aldhelm (ending abruptly), followed by his preface to his Liber de Laude Virginis (p. 6); and the opening of its text, with chapters I–II (p. 7).
MS 389: Heremitical Saints' Lives, copied by the same scribe as St John's College, MS 28
Fol. 2r. detail (top). Beginning of Jerome's preface to his *Vita Sancti Pauli Primi Eremitae.*
Fol. 22v. Opening of Felix's *Vita Sancti Guthlacii.*
Fol. 1v. Added frontispiece showing the scribal author Jerome at work, inspired by a descending dove.

9. King Athelstan's Presentation Volume

MS 183: Bede's Life of St Cuthbert
Fol. 1v. Frontispiece illustration of the king holding an opened book before the saint in his shrine. The frame contains elaborate foliate ornament, inhabited by creatures.
Fols. 1v–2r. Frontispiece (fol. 1v) and the opening of Bede's preface to his *Vita Sancti Cuthberti* in the prose version (fol. 2r).
Fol. 61r. List of the Archbishops of Canterbury, with additions by Archbishop Matthew Parker and his son John, extending the list to Parker's time.
Fol. 49r. The Prose *Vita*, chapters XXXVIII–XXXIX.
Fol. 49r, detail (lines 8–14). The opening of chapter XXXIX, with a decorated initial A.
Fol. 49r, detail (upper margin and lines 1–3). Lines of text and the scraping marks made by a comb-like tool used in preparing the skin for use as a leaf in a book.

10. Matthew Parker and the Parker Library

MS 582: Parker's Presentation Copy of the College Statutes and Other Records for Corpus Christi College
Inside front cover. Painting of Queen Elizabeth enthroned between personified Virtues, with Matthew Parker preaching a sermon to a courtly audience below.
Inside back cover. Painting of Matthew Parker at the age of 70.
P. 13. Matthew Parker’s signature of 1574 accompanying his revised statutes of Corpus Christi College.

MS 113: Collection of Various Correspondence and Papers

MS 575: The Parker Register, containing the inventory of books presented by Parker to his College by his quadripartite indenture of 1 January 1575.
P. 23. List of printed books of various dates.

The Parker Library. Present location of the Parker Library, in a building completed in 1824 to the architect William Wilkins' Neo-Gothic designs. View of the interior taken during the Conservation Conference of 1988, showing the flat storage of manuscripts at the back of the room, beneath the portrait of Matthew Parker.