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Cotton MS Domitian A I

Date	mid-10th century- mid-16th century
Title	Bede the Venerable, <i>De natura rerum</i> (excerpt); Isidore of Seville, <i>De natura rerum</i> ; a glossary to Abbo of Saint-Germain-des-Prés's <i>Bella Parisiace urbis</i> , book 3 followed by glosses on a commentary on Priscian's <i>Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo</i> ; Computistical tables; a commentary on Priscian's <i>Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo</i> ; Bede, <i>De die iudicii</i> ; a Latin colophon of three hexameters, a recipe in Old English and a list of books; Gerald of Wales, <i>Itinerarium Cambriae</i> ; Gerald of Wales <i>Descriptio Cambriae</i> ; Gerald of Wales, <i>Retractationes</i> ; Gerald of Wales <i>Catalogus brevior librorum suorum</i> ; <i>Annales Cambriae</i> ; a Life of David fitz Gerald (<i>Vita David secundi</i>); <i>Cognacio Brychan</i> .
Content	This manuscript contains: ff. 2r-55v: Bede the Venerable, <i>De natura rerum</i> (excerpt); Isidore of Seville, <i>De natura rerum</i> ; a glossary to Abbo of Saint-Germain-des-Prés's <i>Bella Parisiace urbis</i> , book 3 followed by glosses on a commentary on Priscian's <i>Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo</i> ; Computistical tables; a commentary on Priscian's <i>Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo</i> ; Bede, <i>De die iudicii</i> ; a Latin colophon of three hexameters, a recipe in Old English and a list of books, copied between the mid-10th century and the 1st quarter of the 12th century. ff. 56r-160v: Gerald of Wales, <i>Itinerarium Cambriae</i> ; Gerald of Wales <i>Descriptio Cambriae</i> ; Gerald of Wales, <i>Retractationes</i> ; Gerald of Wales <i>Catalogus brevior librorum suorum</i> ; <i>Annales Cambriae</i> ; a Life of David fitz Gerald (<i>Vita David secundi</i>); <i>Cognacio Brychan</i> , 4th quarter of the 13th century and the mid-16th century.

View: bindings



Cotton MS Domitian A I, ff 2–55

Bede the Venerable, *De natura rerum* (excerpt); Isidore of Seville, *De natura rerum*; a glossary to Abbo of Saint-Germain-des-Prés's *Bella Parisiace urbis*, book 3 followed by glosses on a commentary on Priscian's *Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo*; Computistical tables; a commentary on Priscian's *Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo*; Bede, *De die iudicii*; a Latin colophon of three hexameters, a recipe in Old English and a list of books.

Contents: f. 2r: at the top of the leaf the four disciplines of the quadrivium are enunciated in Latin with a translation in Old English above each one. They are followed by the enumeration of the four main sciences presented in Latin and in Old English in the same way. f. 2r: Bede the Venerable, *De natura rerum* (only chapter 2: *De mundi formation*). Incipit: 'In ipso quidem principio confectionis facta sunt caelum et terra, angeli, aer et aqua de nihilo'. Explicit: 'Sed a nove substantiae creatione'. f. 2v: a table of contents with additions of ownership marks. ff. 3r-v: Isidore of Seville, *De natura rerum*, Preface. Rubric: 'Incipit Liber Isidori Spalensis episcopi, de natura rerum'. Incipit: 'Domino et Filio sisebuto Isidorus salute. Dum te prestantem ingenio, facundiaque ac vario flore litterarum non nesciam'. Explicit'. ff. 3v-4r: a table of chapters. ff. 4r-36v: Isidore of Seville, *De natura rerum*. Incipit: 'Dies est solis orientis presentia, quousque ad occasum perveniat'. Explicit: 'Cuius terrae expositionem in medio ociano subiecta declarant formula. Finiunt expositiones numero xlviii. Explicit liber Isidori Psalensis episcopi, De natura rerum'. f. 37r: 'Trimoda sic mundus constat ratione divisus', followed by a diagram. ff. 37v-38r: a glossary to Abbo of Saint-Germain-des-Prés's *Bella Parisiace urbis*, book 3 followed by

glosses on a commentary on Priscian's *Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo*. Incipit: 'Incipiunt Glose diverse. Dypticas id est tabellas. Corculla id est princeps ludi'. Explicit: 'Articuli minora. Arcere repellere. Loqueatus strngulatus. Hinc lacus'. ff. 39r-v: computistical tables. On the recto: a nineteen-year cycle with only the lunar epacts for 12 months. At the bottom of the table: 'De ratione saltus Lune. Memento quod anno novissimo .xix. lunam novembri mensis .xxx. propter saltum qui eodem anno in se rendus enim computare debes'. The second table is dedicated to the lunar cycle, followed by an incomplete solar cycle. At the bottom of this table: 'In hoc prescripto circulo per .xxviii. annos solaris cursus singulorum mensium...'. On the verso: a large table for calculating the times of fast. ff. 40r-551: Commentary on Priscian's *Institutio de nomine, pronomine et verbo* written continuously and incorporating Priscian's text: 'Incipit id est inchoat vel initium sumit'. Explicit: 'enitimini id est elaborate. Finit liber'. ff. 51r-54v: Bede, *De die iudicii*. Rubric: 'Incipiunt versus Bedae presbiteri, De die iudicii'. Incipit: 'Inter florigeras fecundi cespitis herbas/ Flamine ventorum resonantibus undique ramis'. Explicit: 'Acca pater, trepidi et pavidi reminiscere verna/ Meque tuis Christo precibus commenda benignis/ Vive Deo felix et dic vale fratribus almis .7. amen'. f. 55v: Various entries: a Latin colophon of three hexameters, a recipe in Old English beginning 'þas wyrta sceolon to wensealfe' and a list of books. Decoration: Rustic and initial capitals highlighted in blue or red. Rubrics highlighted in blue or red. Some rubrics are in red. 14 circular diagrams in Isidore of Seville, *De natura rerum*. The subject of diagrams are: f. 8r: a wheel of months. f. 10v: a wheel of the year, where spring is damp and hot in the Levant, summer is hot and dry at Midday, autumn is dry and cold at Sunset, winter is damp and cold in the North. f. 12v: a wheel of the five circles of the world accompanied by a wheel of meridians. f. 13r: a circle of the elements: fire, air, earth, water. f. 14r: a circle divided between the world, human beings and the year. ff. 17r and 18r: two circles representing the sun. f. 20r: the seven forms of the moon: the different forms of the moon are drawn in margin. f. 23v: a circle of planets: the Earth at the centre, the Moon, Mercury, Lucifer (Venus), the Sun, Vesper (usually Venus), Phaeton (here Fofton, usually: Venus), Saturnus. f. 28v: a diagram representing the rainbow. f. 31r: a circular diagram showing the winds linked to the months. f. 37r: a circular diagram of the three continents: Asia, Africa, Europe.

Cotton MS Domitian A I, ff 56–160

Gerald of Wales, *Itinerarium Cambriae*; Gerald of Wales *Descriptio Cambriae*; Gerald of Wales *Retractationes*; Gerald of Wales *Catalogus brevior librorum suorum*; *Annales Cambriae*; *Life of David fitz Gerald (Vita David secundi)*; *Cognacio Brychan*.

Contents: ff. 56r-58r: Gerald of Wales, *Itinerarium Cambriae*, Preface. Rubric: 'Stephano Cantuariensi archiepiscopo in Odoporon Giralaldi prefatio prima'. Incipit: 'Sicut variis rerum motibus et mutacionibus tempora moventur'. ff. 58r-v: Gerald of Wales, *Itinerarium Cambriae*. Table of chapters. ff. 58v-111r: Gerald of Wales, *Itinerarium Cambriae*. Rubric: 'Incipit Itinerarium Giralaldi Kambrensis, et laboriosa cantuariensis archiepiscopi Baldwini per William legatio. Prefatio secunda'. Incipit: 'Quoniam eaque laudabili devotione gesta noscuntur'. Explicit: 'Ille qui solus via veritas est et vita, via sine offenculo, veritas sine ambiguo, vita sine fine. Amen. Explicit Itinerarium Giralaldi'. ff. 111v-112v: Gerald of Wales, *Descriptio Cambriae*. Preface. Rubric: 'Stephano Cantuariensi archiepiscopo. In Kambrie descriptione prefatio prima'. Incipit: 'Ille ego qui quondam Hybernica Topographiam cum abditis suis et nature secretis in tribus distinctionibus trienni labore digessi'. ff. 112v-113r: Gerald of Wales, *Descriptio Cambriae*, table of chapters. ff. 113r-135v: Gerald of Wales, *Descriptio Cambriae*. Rubric: 'Prefatio secunda ad eundem'. Incipit: 'Cum inter varia litterarum studia ad hystorias scribendas studiose mentis aciem applicuerim'. Explicit: 'quicquid de ampliori contingat pro hoc terrarum angulo respondebit'. ff. 135v-136v: Gerald of Wales, *Retractationes*. Rubric:



'Tractatum retractacionum et cathalogum librorum diligentia Giraldi compositorum in calce libelli de Kambrie descriptione digne diximus a diciendum'. Incipit: 'Quoniam itaque cunctorum habere noticiam'. Explicit: 'periculo et neccesitatis articulo non formidat'. ff. 136v-137v: Gerald of Wales, Catalogus brevior librorum suorum. Rubric: 'Sequitur de cathalogo et numero librorum a Giraldo compositorum'. Incipit: 'Ocurrit hic igitur in primis tempore tenerior Chronographia nostra et mundi Cosmographia'. Explicit: 'ad eterna felicitatem corona reposita et intercede servata. Explicit'. f. 138r: Addition by a later hand: 'Incipiunt cronica venerabilis Bede'. ff. 138r-155r: Annales Cambriae. Incipit: 'Prima die seculi nascentis fecit Deus lucem quam appelavit diem'. Explicit: 'ita quod quasi videbatur sol habere duo cornua sursum elevate, et duravit sic usque ad horam vesperearum'. ff. 155r-156v: Life of David fitz Gerald (Vita David secundi). Incipit: 'Cum circa dignitatem pallii ecclesie'. Explicit: 'ut tractarent de electione facienda'. f. 157r: Later addition of an epigram, perhaps by Gerald of Wales. Incipit: 'Mirum ! que Rome a modicos sententia pape Non movet, hic regum scepra movere potest'. Explicit: 'Cui male sublatu Rome non cederet hortu, Nititur ad nutum flectere regna suum'. Followed by another addition: the Metra de monachis carnalibus, twelve hexameters lines. Incipit: 'Qui nescit quam sit monachorum nobile vulgus?'. ff. 157v-160r: Cognacio Brychan, ruler of south Wales, and his progeny; copied by Sir John Prise (d. 1555) from a now lost manuscript that had perhaps been written in the 13th century. Rubric: 'Cognacio Brychan unde brecheynia...' Incipit: 'Teudric Rex in Garthmathrim venit usque ad Bryncoyn' Decoration: ff. 56-137: Numerous initials in red or blue with pen-flourishing in the other colour. Secondary letters in red or blue. Rubrics and headings in red. Paragraph signs in red and blue. ff. 138-155: Puzzle initial in red and brown (f. 138r). Secondary letters in red throughout. Rubrics in red. Numerous letters highlighted in red.

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Languages	Latin English, Old
Physical Description	Materials: parchment Dimensions: 215x160mm. Text block varies. Foliation: ff. 160 (+ 2 unfoliated parchment flyleaves at the beginning and 1 at the end and 2 unfoliated paper flyleaves at the beginning and 1 at the end). Binding: Post-1600.
Ownership	Provenance: John Dee (b. 1527, d. 1609), mathematician, astrologer and antiquary: many annotations in his hand. See John Dee's Library Catalogue, ed. by Julian Roberts and Andrew G. Watson (London: Bibliographical Society, 1990), p. 162, no. DM26. Sir Robert Bruce Cotton (b. 1571, d. 1631), 1st baronet, antiquary and politician. Cotton's collection was augmented by his son, Sir Thomas Cotton (b. 1594, d. 1662), 2nd baronet, and grandson, Sir John Cotton (b. 1621, d. 1702), 3rd baronet, who bequeathed the entire collection of books and manuscripts to trustees 'for Publick Use and Advantage', 12 and 13 William III, c. 7. Formed one of the foundation collections of the British Museum in 1753.

Bibliography

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