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Cotton MS Otho C I/1

Date 1st half of the 11th century-Mid 11th century

Title Gospel-book; bull of Pope Sergius

Content This manuscript contains an imperfect Gospel-book, written in Old English (the so-called 'West Saxon' version of the Gospels). It was copied in the 1st half of the 11th century. In the mid-11th century, an Old English translation of a bull of Pope Sergius which benefitted Malmesbury Abbey was added between the Gospels of St Luke and St John (68r-69v). Decoration: Initials in red.

View: bindings



243 images available

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Languages English, Old

Physical Description

Condition: damaged by fire.

Material: parchment and ink.

Dimensions: binding 345 x 245 mm (after burning, maximum folio dimensions: approx. 260 x 150 mm; text dimensions: approx. 260 x 150 mm).

Foliation: ff. 110 (+ 4 unfoliated modern paper flyleaves at the beginning and 4 at the end).

Binding: BM/BL in-house, rebound in 1898.

Previously, it had formed 1 volume with Cotton MS Otho C I/2.

Ownership

Origin: England (Worcester or York? See Stokes, *English Vernacular* (2014), p. 108). Provenance: ? The Benedictine abbey of St Peter and Paul, Malmesbury: Old English translation of a bull of Pope Sergius in favour of Malmesbury added in the mid-11th century (ff. 68-69). One of the hands of this addition may also have corrected text in the Gospel-book (f. 87r; see Liuzza, *Old English Version* (1994), p. xxiv). 12th century: a few corrections and glosses added (f. 48r-v; see Liuzza, *Old English Version* (1994), p. xxiv). ? John Joscelyn (b. 1529, d. 1603), Old English scholar and Church of England clergyman: added text (ff. 68-69, 110). 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 his grandson, Sir John Cotton. Sir John Cotton (b. 1621, d. 1702), 3rd baronet: bequeathed the entire Cotton 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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