

CAIUS EXPLORE

Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic

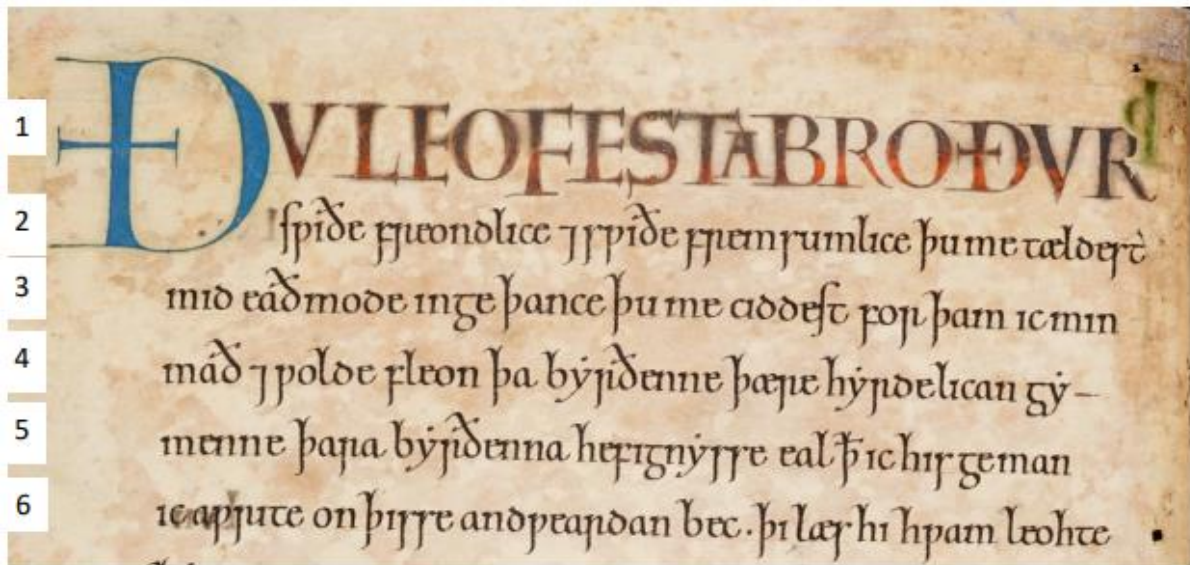


Image 1: Cambridge, University Library Ii.2.4, 10v (detail).

Transcription

- 1 DU LEOFESTA BROÐUR
- 2 swiðe freondlice [ond] swiðe fremsumlice þu me tældest
- 3 mid eaðmode ingeþance þu me ciddest for þam ic min
- 4 mað [ond] wolde fleon þa byrðenne þære hyrdelican gy-
- 5 menne þara byrðenna hefignyse eal þæt ic his geman
- 6 ic awrite on þisse andweardan bec. þilæs hi hwam leohte

Translation

You, dearest brother, reproached in a most friendly and most helpful way, and admonished me in a humble spirit, because I hid myself and wanted to escape the burden of pastoral care. In this present book, I will write of the heaviness of that burden, or of all that I can remember of it, so that it might not seem light ...

Task 1

The image above is from a manuscript copied at Exeter in the eleventh century. It is a copy of an older text: a translation into Old English of a book by Pope Gregory the Great (CE 540–604) called *Pastoral Care*, about the duties of a Christian priest to his congregation. It was translated from Latin into English under the direction of King Alfred the Great (reigned 871–99). Manuscripts are similar to printed books in many ways, but different in some. Look at the image and transcription above and answer the following questions:

- What letters are there in the manuscript that we don't have in modern English?
- Which letters look different from modern letters? Which letters look the same?
- Can you tell that the image is from a handwritten manuscript, not a printed book? If so, how?

Task 2

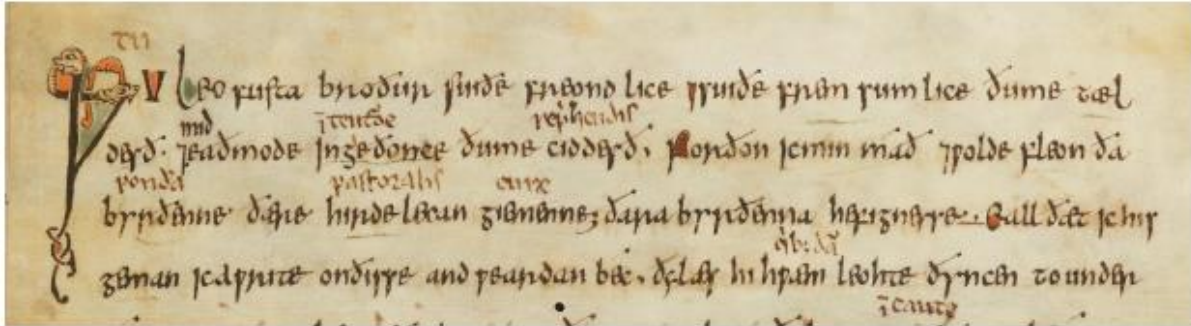


Image 2: Oxford, Bodleian Library Hatton 20, 6r (detail).

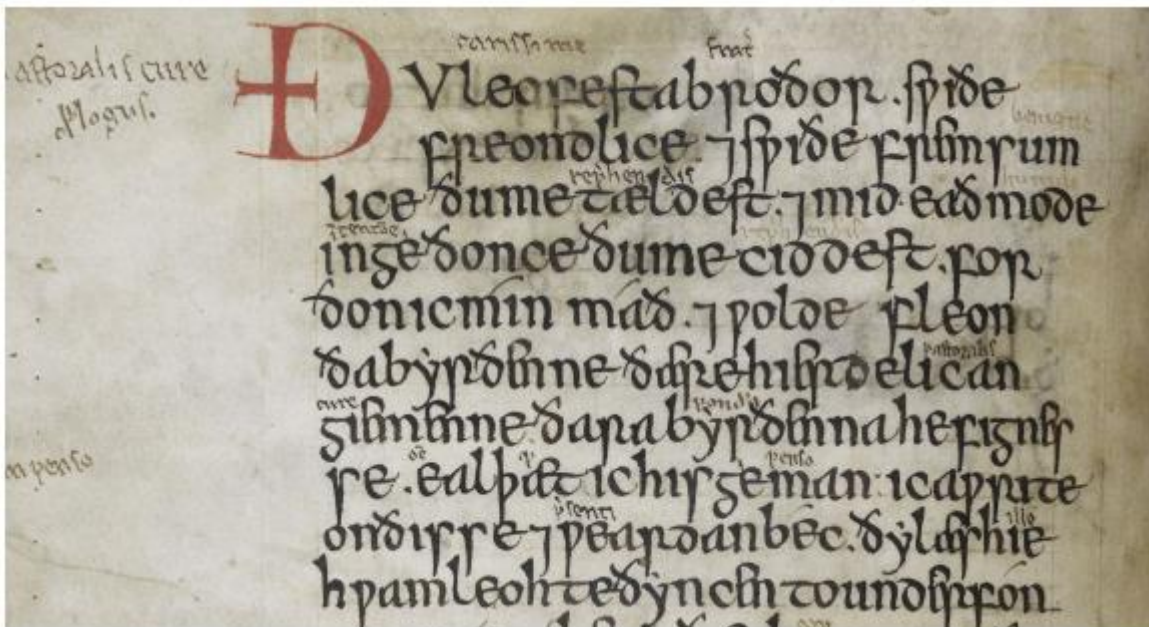


Image 3: Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 12, 8v (detail).

The images above are from two earlier manuscripts of the same text, the Old English translation of Gregory the Great's Pastoral Care. Image 2 is from the earliest surviving manuscript, copied in King Alfred the Great's lifetime, at some point between 890 and 897, perhaps at Winchester, although we can't be certain. Image 3 is from a tenth-century manuscript, perhaps from Worcester. Look at the images and answer the following questions:

- How are these images different from Image 1 on the previous page? How are they different from one another?
- In both of these images, a later scribe has translated some words back into Latin and written these translations above the Old English words. This scribe was active in the thirteenth century and annotated lots of manuscripts. He is known as the 'tremulous hand of Worcester'. Why would someone translate some of the Old English back into Latin?

Task 3

For your final task, explore the online scans of the three manuscripts that we have looked at. Write a short description (around 200 words) of each manuscript. Make use of the information that you can find on the websites of the different libraries, following the links below.

- Manuscript 1 (Cambridge, University Library Ii.2.4)
<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-II-00002-00004/1>
- Manuscript 2 (Oxford, Bodleian Library Hatton 20)
https://medieval.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/catalog/manuscript_6052
- Manuscript 3 (Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 12)
<https://parker.stanford.edu/parker/catalog/wd443nz9456>

Further Resources

We are lucky that many of the manuscripts that we study in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic are in Cambridge, and we can look at them in person. But online scans are also very important. You can look at some of the most well-known manuscripts from the ASNC world here:

- The Codex Amiatinus:
<http://mss.bmlonline.it/s.aspx?Id=AWOS3h2-I1A4r7GxMdaR&c=Biblia%20Sacra#/book>
- The Lindisfarne Gospels:
https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=cotton_ms_nero_d_iv_fs001r.
- The Book of Kells:
<https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/collections/ks65hc20t>.
- The Book of Armagh:
<https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/3j333696h?locale=en>
- The Parker Chronicle:
<https://parker.stanford.edu/parker/catalog/wp146tq7625>
- The Cambridge Juvenius:
<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-FF-00004-00042/1>
- The Beowulf Manuscript:
https://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Cotton_MS_Vitellius_A_XV
- The Book of Leinster:
https://www.isos.dias.ie/TCD/TCD_MS_1339.html
- The Codex Regius (Poetic Edda):
<https://handrit.is/manuscript/view/is/GKS04-2365>
- The Red Book of Hergest:
<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/9bf187bf-f862-4453-bc4f-851f6d3948af/surfaces/b704febf-c9c4-4f23-8312-cb7cd67ef6c6/>

For a guide to online resources relevant to manuscript and the study of medieval handwriting put together by the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent, see <https://www.memslib.co.uk/manuscript-palaeography-codicology>.

The British Library has a dedicated website to Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, based on the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms exhibition from 2018–19: <https://www.bl.uk/anglo-saxons>.