

ut cu
odio
iudic
cussu
utilata
il ma
en ad
vicosi
memoria
exultu
fustu
sup nox
pflug
refice
tactu
dectis
fist ho
fustu
bact

Lua. Ecce nate femine maris
crebra accipiente ut hodie
nate in famulys. nec lib
trahz. Sz ita remaneant
separate sui. feceritqz si
ant ut sibi ficut unquam
malad. Rex la. Regia
Inoa. filys paritulum d
manasse qui fuit fiam
possessio qm filiar arch
i famer a tribu ar. H li
atqz iudicia q pcepto
moysi ad fano isrl. Ca
Jordanie
e
fuit iudu
i locutus
est moyses
caen isrl

holya. filia fil. cethym
ly dnm. d. n. f. m. e. l. a. n.
anaan. filys d d. n. f. l. a. b.
luta. f. u. g. i. n. a. f. l. a. b. u. t.
ly regina. salu. f. a. d. a. m.
memp. h. w. c. h. i. s. t. e. c. e. p. t.
o. f. e. r. a. m. u. o. g. e. n. i. t. u.
f. l. a. a. b. i. t. n. e. p. t. o. m. p. h. e. c.
l. u. m. d. e. q. u. e. b. e. e. g. r. e. s. s. i.
f. e. h. a. p. t. h. u. r. i. m. e. l. m. a. a. n.
n. e. m. p. m. o. g. e. n. i. t. u. f. u. i. t.
i. m. q. u. o. z. f. a. m. o. r. e. i. t. a. g.
q. z. f. a. a. b. e. n. u. f. m. e. u. r.
f. a. m. a. r. e. i. f. a. m. a. d. e. i. f. i.
f. a. l. u. r. a. r. p. h. a. x. a. t. h. f. l. u.
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o. c. h. a. r. p. h. a. x. a. t. h. a. u. g. e. n.
f. i. t. e. g. e. n. i. t. u. r. l. e. l. e. a. r. p. o. e.
f. i. r. d. u. o. f. i. l. i. u. m. n. o. m.

GWYSANEY
MANUSCRIPT
NUMBER FOUR

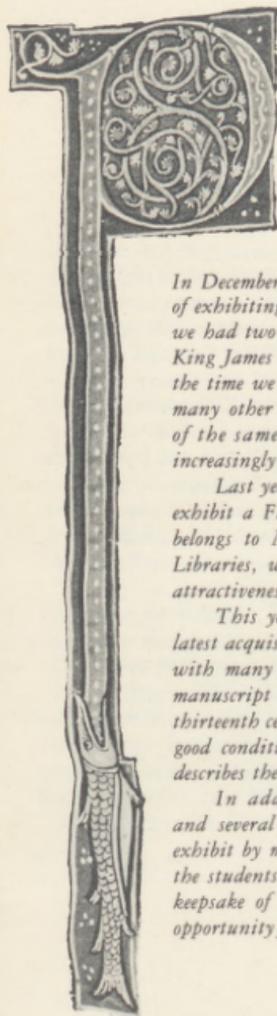


Fig. 2

FOREWORD

In December, 1966, the University of Houston Libraries began the practice of exhibiting its printed Bibles at the Christmas season. For that first year we had two choice facsimile editions: the Gutenberg Bible (1456) and the King James Bible (1611), both the gifts of the Rockwell Brothers Fund. At the time we scarcely dreamed that within a short three years we would add many other significant Bibles, including an original King James, the gift of the same generous donor. Thus we now have quite respectable and increasingly valuable treasures to share with our friends.

Last year we had the opportunity of presenting in our Christmas Bible exhibit a Flemish Book of Hours, dated circa 1450. This exquisite work belongs to Mr. Frell Albright, another generous donor to the University Libraries, whose assistance with our exhibits has added much to their attractiveness and completeness.

This year Mr. Albright has again delighted us with the loan of his latest acquisition: Gwysaney Manuscript number four, a small, thick Bible with many beautiful decorations and historiated initials. Although this manuscript was painstakingly copied by hand in some monastery in the thirteenth century, the succeeding years have been kind and it is in amazingly good condition. Mrs. Marian Orgain, our Curator of Special Collections describes the manuscript in greater detail for the benefit of our many friends.

In addition to loaning us Gwysaney Manuscript number four and several other notable items, Mr. Albright has further enhanced our exhibit by making possible the printing of this descriptive brochure so that the students, faculty, and friends of the University of Houston may have a keepsake of this splendid occasion. And he has also provided an excellent opportunity for us to extend season's greetings to each of you.

EDWARD G. HOLLEY
Director of Libraries
December, 1969

Fig. 1

Fig. 3



GWYSANEY MANUSCRIPT NUMBER FOUR

Gwysaney Manuscript Number Four is one of the small Bibles that came into vogue in the thirteenth century; . . . "by the adoption of very fine vellum and very small writing it was now found possible to compress the whole Bible into volumes of quite modest size."¹ Much credit for the description that follows must go to Sotheby and Company's "Sales Catalogue" of June, 1959, Bennett and Marshall's "Catalogue Number Six" (circa 1968), and Dr. Hywel D. Emanuel's article on the Gwysaney Collection. A careful examination of the manuscript shows it to be:

Bible. Latin. Old Testament and Apocrypha with last leaf bearing the Prologue to and the first fourteen words of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Manuscript on vellum, 378 leaves (imperfect), 48 lines to a page, double columns, written in black and red . . . "in a small Gothic hand . . . 34 historiated initials containing scenes appropriate to the book or Psalm they precede,"² with

57 fine large initials, some extending the full length of the page, with elaborate interlacing decoration frequently terminating in grotesque beasts, human heads etc . . . ALL DELICATELY PAINTED AND OF GOOD QUALITY. Numerous small initials in blue and red, . . .

Numerous notes in the margins, in a number of hands, including one early hand of incredible smallness and striking beauty.³

This Bible has had some headlines cropped, is missing some leaves, and has had some minor tears and repairs. It is bound in sixteenth century calf,

"blind-tooled oval stamp in the centre of both covers bearing the legend 'O Lord Inkres our Knoleyges', . . . ties missing, somewhat worn."⁴ Measuring 170 mm by 118 mm, the Bible is dated by Dr. Hywel Emanuel⁵ as being middle thirteenth century and is so listed by both Sotheby and Co.⁶ and Bennett and Marshall.⁷

The most recent facts known about the provenance of this manuscript are in brief that in 1942 Mr. Phillip Tatton Davies-Cooke deposited many family documents and papers in the National Library of Wales. In 1947 his son added another group. Together the collection has been called the Gwysaney manuscripts and remained as an entity until sold by Sotheby and Company of London in June, 1959. Mr. Richard Marshall acquired the book at that auction and the firm of Bennett and Marshall of Los Angeles sold the Bible to Mr. Frell Albright in 1969.

The history of the Gwysaney collection properly begins with Gruffydd ap Ieuan ap Llywelyn Vychan of Llannerch (circa 1485-1544), who was known to be a poet and man of letters and also the owner of a library.⁸ No one knows, however, whether he collected or inherited the library. It is possible to trace the passing down of the library from Gruffydd ap Ieuan to Robert Davies of Llannerch (circa 1658-1710), who inherited what had become the joint estates of Llannerch and Gwysaney.⁹ A collector of books and manuscripts, Robert Davies augmented considerably the library from now on called the "Gwysaney library". He possibly acquired Gwysaney number four, which has his signature written on the top of the first leaf.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

("The name 'M. Auclande' in an Elizabethan hand occurs at the foot of folio one, and the name 'Agnes Garland' in a sixteenth or seventeenth century hand on the second fly-leaf."¹⁰) There is no known catalog of the Gwysaney library made during the lifetime of Robert Davies. However, in 1740, a comprehensive list was made and in 1778, there was another compilation.¹¹ In both catalogs the manuscript here considered is listed as a thirteenth century Old Testament with Apocrypha although it is in the modern list that "Number Four" is its designation. In the 1740 catalog it is number thirty-six and in the 1778 one it is number seventy-one.¹²

The estates of Llannerch and Gwysaney along with the library remained in the possession of the Davies family until 1785 when it was inherited by two sisters and the library as well as land holdings were halved. The Gwysaney branch of the Davies family was united with the Cookes of Owston in the early nineteenth century. The Gwysaney library with its half of the Llannerch library was enriched by additions made to it during the nineteenth century and remained in the possession of the Davies-Cooke family until the Sotheby sale.

Among the most interesting features of the Bible, aside from the historiated initials and the exquisite tracteries of the penwork decorations, are the many marginal comments written by several hands, some of them in English. St. Jerome's Prologue, which begins on the first leaf, is the famous letter LIII written to Paulinus, bishop of Nola, in 394, urging him to make a careful study of the scriptures and reminding him of the "zeal for learning displayed not only by the wisest of the pagans but also by the Apostle Paul."¹⁴ Jerome then comments on the content of the books of the Bible and concludes with an appeal to Paulinus to give away his wealth and devote himself wholly to God.¹⁵ The same letter serves as a Prologue for the scholarly Vulgate version of the Bible published by the Vatican in 1926.¹⁶

Gwysaney Manuscript number four, then, is one of that group of manuscripts "ranking equally in importance with the Peniarth and other foremost collections in the National Library"¹⁷ (of Wales). We are indeed fortunate to have this opportunity of showing it to the University of Houston's students, faculty, and friends.

MARIAN M. ORGAIN
Curator, Special Collections
University of Houston

fuit per tribus familiaribus in
 diebus illis si erat rex iustus
 et si sibi rectum videtur in
 diebus unius in **Exple**
dicis. qui iudicatur perit. In
 terra est famel in terra. Abye
 et lo de lechleem nuda in
 uaretur in regione moab
 uxore sua ad duobus libris
 calatur elunclech et uxore
 emi et duo filii. ait maalon
 delion efflatet. de lechleem
 Ingressus in regione moab
 valentur ibi et mortuus
 melech maritus noemi
 super ipsa cum filiis. qui ad
 uxorem moab iudat. Si in
 calatur cepha. atque in
 seruuntur x. annis ibi. et
 tunc fuit maalon iudicet
 on remansitque mulier
 duobus libris ac marito. et
 ut in patriam peregrinaret
 in terra sua de regione moab
 Audierat enim q. respexit
 pulu suu et dicitur. ait est
 est itaq. de loco peregrina



et si viduata

Quis vix filij

Tophya. q. caquet

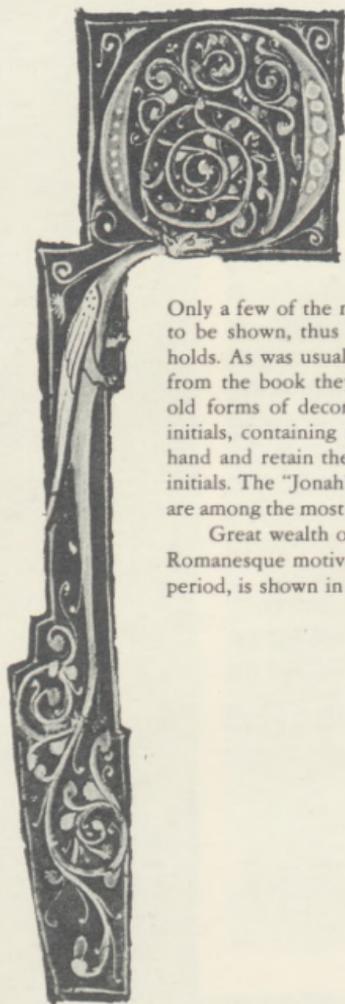


Fig. 7

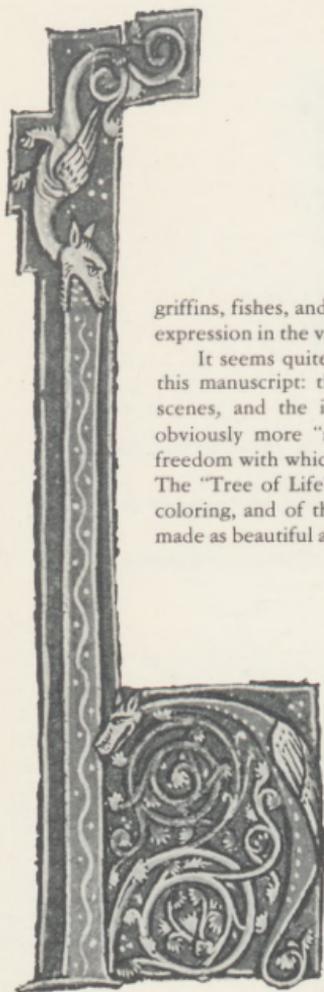
THE ILLUSTRATIONS

Only a few of the many delightful and fine illuminations could be selected to be shown, thus giving only a hint to the wealth this small manuscript holds. As was usual, the illuminators copied at least partly even the initials from the book they had before them; it is therefore understandable that old forms of decoration were retained over centuries. The "historiated" initials, containing scenes with human forms, seem to be all by the same hand and retain the very simple ornamentation to fill the thickness of the initials. The "Jonah" and the knights riding towards the castle (resp. town) are among the most enjoyable ones.

Great wealth of imagination, encompassing many older Irish as well as Romanesque motives, which are also found on capitals of churches of this period, is shown in the ornamented initials. The fabulous animals, dragons,



Fig. 8



griffins, fishes, and rabbits belong to that imaginary world which found its expression in the various Bestiaries of the middle ages.

It seems quite obvious that there were at least three men working on this manuscript: the writer of the text, the illuminator of the historiated scenes, and the illuminator of the ornamented initials. The latter was obviously more "modern", the elegantly elongated forms hinting at the freedom with which he has treated the earlier examples he had before him. The "Tree of Life" gives the viewer at least an idea of the beauty of the coloring, and of the great care and love with which these holy texts were made as beautiful as humanly possible for the greater glory of God:

AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM

PETER W. GUENTHER

*Chairman, Art Department
University of Houston*

Fig. 9



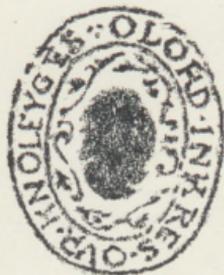
Fig. 10

Notes

1. Hastings, James. *Dictionary of the Bible*. Rev. ed., New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1963, pp. 1027-1028.
2. Sotheby, firm, auctioneers, London. *Sales Catalog* (June, 1959), p. 62.
3. Bennett and Marshall, bookdealers, Los Angeles. *Catalogue no. 6.*, Los Angeles, n.d. (circa 1968), pp. 8-9.
4. Sotheby, p. 62.
5. Emanuel, Hywel D., "The Gwysaney Manuscripts," *The National Library of Wales Journal*, VII, 4 (Winter, 1952), pp. 335-336.
6. Sotheby, p. 62.
7. Bennett and Marshall, p. 9.
8. Emanuel, p. 326.
9. Emanuel, p. 327.
10. Bennett and Marshall, p. 9.
11. Emanuel, p. 328.
12. Emanuel, p. 330.
13. Emanuel, p. 326.
14. *A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, edited by Philip Schaff. Second series. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1956. VI, p. 96.
15. *A Select Library* . . . , p. 96.
16. *Biblia Sacra iuxta latinam vulgatam versionem* . . . Rome, Typis Polyglottis Vaticanus, 1926. I, pp. 3-37.
17. Emanuel, p. 326.

The illustrations as reproduced in this brochure are approximately twice the size of the originals.

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Fig. 3 . . . folio 357, verso | Fig. 9 . . . folio 21, verso |
| Fig. 4 . . . folio 170, verso | Fig. 10 . . . folio 346, verso |
| Fig. 5 . . . folio 353, recto | |



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