Some symbols used and other miscellaneous information

SOME LETTER-FORMS AND SYMBOLS

p or ‘thorn’ is a runic letter, usually indicating th.
p or ‘wyn’ is a runic letter, usually indicating w.
ð or ‘eth’ is a modification of d and usually indicates th.
D is one way of giving prominence to ð.
æ or ‘ash’ is a digraph, in which a and e are made together.
ȝ or ‘yogh’ descends from ȝ, the insular form of g.
ȝ is the Tristanian sign, used in Latin for and in English to represent and(-).
& is the ampersand, in origin a ligature of Latin e and t.

SOME PUNCTUATION MARKS

/ is the virgule, like the . (a: point) a versatile marker of pause.
:\ is the punctus elevatus, the forerunner of the colon (the voice rises).
; is used for the punctus versus, marking a heavy pause (the voice falls).
|| is used for the capitulum sign, a marker of new or important material.
§ is used for the paragraphus, a symbol introduced in s. iii Alexandria to mark a new topic.
// marks omission. It is often used where a capitulum sign is to be inserted. In time it came also to be regarded as a paragraph marker. Its role, therefore, is ambiguous.

CONVENTIONS ADOPTED IN TRANSCRIPTIONS

A single vertical | indicates a new line.
The marks ' ' enclose letters written above the script line.
The marks / / enclose letters below the script line.
The marks " " enclose letters in the margin.
Round brackets ( ) surround the expansion of abbreviations.
Straight apostrophe ‘ used where no expansion is offered.
Square brackets [ ] enclose changes made by scribes.
– within square brackets signals some alteration in following letters.
Pointed brackets ( ) to indicate something that is not present in the page reproduced.
→ signals an overrun of text.
g following a line number signifies a gloss line.

MEASUREMENTS

Dimensions are given in millimetres, with vertical measurements preceding horizontals (e.g. 60 mm × 40 mm). Overall page measurements are followed by measurements of the written space, which observe the ruled frames where appropriate. Otherwise, the vertical measurement is taken from the base line for the first line of script to the base line for the last line of script, and the horizontal from the beginning of the text block at the left to what seems to be the general justification achieved at the righthand side. Where a page has a mixture of contents or is incomplete, no written-space measurements are given.

The measurements should serve as a constant reminder that plates are rarely actual size. Moreover, readers should remember that over the centuries many manuscripts have been trimmed, some savagely, and that margins may therefore be considerably less luxurious than originally planned. See, for example, the Peterborough Chronicle (pl. 23), where the added Anglo-Norman chronicle saved at least part of the marginal space in the final pages of the manuscript (look carefully, to see the lines that mark out where the sheets were to have been cut).
DATING

The dating conventions, essentially following those used by *Ker, Cat. 1957*, draw on a mixture of Roman and Arabic numerals, and may be accompanied by further information, some of it superscript:

s. = *saeoolo*. Thus s. viii stands for eighth century.

c. = *circa*. Thus c. 1000 stands for the turn of the tenth century.

‘in.’ = the first quarter of a century. Thus s. ix in. = 800-825.

‘med.’ = the two middle quarters of a century. Thus s. ix med. = 825-75.

‘ex.’ = the final quarter of a century. Thus s. ix ex. = 875-900.

‘1’ superscript = the first half of a century. Thus s. xiv¹ = 1300-1350.

‘2’ superscript = the second half of a century. Thus s. xiv² = 1350-1400.

c. 1000 can also be represented by s. x ex. – s. xi in.

ABBREVIATIONS

Add. MSS Cat. The volumes recording additions to the British Library manuscript collections may be found in major libraries, but are most easily accessible through the *Manuscripts On-line Catalogue* at www.bl.uk/catalogues/manuscripts/

As: Analogous text

b. born

bap. baptised


Coll. Collated in

d. died

Disc. Discussion by

ed. or eds an edited text or collections of papers

ed. editor or edited

eds editors

EEMF Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile

EETS Early English Text Society

E.s. Extra Series

f. folio (i.e. both sides of a leaf)

ft. folios

Facs. facsimile (volume)

fl. folio


N.S. New Series

O.S. Original Series


pl., pls place, plates

Pr. Printed in

pt part

r recto (front side of a folio)

rept. reprinted volume or paper


S.S. Supplementary Series

TH Trenulous Hand

trans. translation

v verso (back or turned-over side of a folio)

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