

Cotton Ch VIII 16

Date

931-939

Title

Grant of King Æthelstan of England (r. 924–939) to Wulfgar, minister; Will of Wulfgar

Content

Two originally separate parchment leaves, the second labelled 'Cott. Ch. viii. 16. b.' (a) King Æthelstan grants nine hides (cassatae) at Ham, Wiltshire, to Wulfgar, minister; dated 12 November 931, Lifton, Devon, in Latin with English bounds (Sawyer, no. 416). Endorsed in a contemporary hand, 'þis is þæs landes boc æt hamme'; in a 12th-century hand, 'Donum hamme latine et anglice', in a 14th-century hand, 'Adelstani regis'; and in a 16th-century hand, 'this is the landes booke of hame in the Saxon Charater' and 'Wolstan Rex'. (b) Will of Wulfgar, including bequests of land at Collingbourne Kingston, Wiltshire, to his wife Æffe, for life, with reversion to New Minster, Winchester; at Inkpen, Berkshire, to Æffe, for life, with reversion to the church at Kintbury, Berkshire; at Cræft to Wynsige and Ælfsige; at Denford, Berkshire, to Æthelstan and Cynestan; two hides at Buttermere, Wiltshire, to Brihtsige and one of Ceolstan's sons; at Æscmere (cf. Ashmanworth, Hampshire) 'to such of my young kinsmen as obey me best'; and at Ham, Wiltshire, to Æffe, for life, with reversion to Old Minster, Winchester; 931 x 939, probably 933 x 939, in English (Sawyer, no. 1533). Endorsed in an early 11th-century hand, 'Her sputelap þæt pulfgar geuþe hamme into ealdan mynstre æfter æffan dæge hys pifes.'

Languages

English, Old
Latin

Physical Description

- **Dimensions:** (a) 483 × 290 mm; (b) 335 × 95 mm.
- **Script:** Anglo-Saxon square minuscule; English vernacular minuscule.

Ownership

Origin: England. Provenance: Old Minster, Winchester, Hampshire. 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

- Keynes, Simon, and others, The Electronic Sawyer <http://esawyer.org.uk/manuscript/357.html> [accessed 1 November 2016; bibliography].
- Sawyer, P.H., Anglo-Saxon Charters: An Annotated List and Bibliography, Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks, 8 (London: Royal Historical Society, 1968), nos. 416, 1533.