OLD BRETON IN BEDE*)

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In his *Dictionnaire des gloses en vieux Breton* (Paris 1964), L. Fleuriot lists and attempts to explain some glosses in Old Breton found in a ninth-century manuscript (Paris, BN, N.A. 1616):

1) *bed hoc dit...*, sur les mots en italique dans "cum ergo dicit unum minimum inleua digitum". Cette glose se trouve au début d'un passage où les verbes du texte latin passent à la 2\(^{e}\) pers. de l'impératif. Il semble que le glossateur dit "sera (ou "est") ceci (hoc) pour toi"; c'est une remarque sur le texte; ex. plus bas, même folio, "opportunius", glosé "quam nunc". Les gloses bilingues sont des plus fréquentes. Voir *bed "est"* (ou "sera"), et dit "pour toi". [P. 80]


I have recently had occasion, in a seminar I conducted on
palaeography and ecdotsics,\textsuperscript{1}) to examine the manuscript in question through photographs kindly provided by the Bibliothèque Nationale. The glosses quoted above come from an extract from Bede's treatise De temporum ratione (the extract is listed as No. 178 in the handlist of manuscripts provided by C. W. Jones in his recent critical edition: Bedae Venerabilis Opera 6.2 [Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina 123 B, 1977] 251 f.; the text it contains runs from pp. 269.25 to 273.107 in Jones' edition).

Study of this text has convinced me that of the three entries listed above, Nos. 1 and 3 should be deleted from Fleuriot's Dictionnaire and No. 2 should be considerably altered. With the exception of oith- in No. 2, the words involved are Latin, not Old Breton.

Taking first the item listed in No. 1, we should note that the words \textit{bed hoc dit} stand above the beginning of the extract: \textit{omnia ergo dicis unum...} (= p. 269.25 Jones). It is therefore reasonable to resolve them as \textit{Bed(a) hoc di(ci)t}. For the abbreviation \textit{dit} for \textit{dicit} see e.g. A. Cappelli, Dizionario di abbreviature latine ed italienne\textsuperscript{6} (Milan 1973) 102.

Nos. 2 and 3 both gloss \textit{cartilagini} and should be treated together. Over \textit{cartilagini}, which is divided between two lines, the scribe wrote \textit{id est}\textsuperscript{2} \textit{oithosmol/ id est ledr}; he then continued his gloss with \textit{sio(ut) auricule & narium & costarum extremitates}, which he placed above the words immediately following \textit{cartilagini}: \textit{medii pectoris inmittes\textsuperscript{7} unum} (= p. 271.59-60). His comments invite comparison with a marginal gloss to \textit{cartilagini} edited by Jones in the accompanying apparatus: \textit{cartilago dicitur illud os molle quod in pectore fit}; cf. also Isidore, Origines 11.1.88 cartilagines ossa mollia et sine medulla, quod genus auriculae et narium disorimem et costarum extremitates habent. These passages suggest that the gloss in the Paris manuscript should read: \textit{id est oith, <id est> os mol-/ (id est)le d(icitu)r, sio(ut) auricule & narium <discrimen> & costarum extremitates}. The scribe inadvertently added the second \textit{id est} at the beginning of the line; he should have placed it before \textit{os}. For the form of the gloss cf. that to \textit{dextera} (p. 270.51): \textit{id est dext(er)a dicit(ur) a dando}. For the abbreviation \textit{dr} = \textit{dicitur} see Cappelli 108. As for \textit{oith}, the
only word in the gloss which is not Latin, Fleuriot is probably right in suggesting that it is "un correspondant de l'irl. \textit{poitrine}' (cf. 'pectoris')."\textsuperscript{3)}

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NOTES

1) I am pleased to offer this article as a small token of the admiration I feel for Professor Turyn. Although it does not deal with things Greek, I hope that he will find its emphasis on diplomacy and methodology congenial.

2) I am grateful to the participants in the seminar, especially Miss Christine Shea, for their helpful comments and suggestions.

3) Some minor corrections should here be noted: for ὑμηλαυε̣ quoted in No. 1 read ὑμηλαε̣ (i.e. ὑμηλαε̣): see p. 269.25; and for ἔρεστ(το)̣ quoted in No. 2 the manuscript has ἔρεστα; cf. p. 271.59.