Two Notes on the Canterbury Biblical Commentaries

GERALD M. BROWNE

The works in question are published in B. Bischoff and M. Lapidge, *Biblical Commentaries from the Canterbury School of Theodore and Hadrian*, Cambridge Studies in Anglo-Saxon England 10 (Cambridge 1994); I use the editors’ sigla (PentI and EvII) to refer to them.

I

PentI 3 Cudere\(^1\) .i. manducare—"Cudere ['to forge']: that is, to devour." (298[Text]–299[Translation]; N.B. .i. = id est)

Edd.: "It is not clear why the Commentator should have glossed *cudere* with *manducare*, which is in no sense a synonym" (430). They note that in the Old Testament glosses in Karlsruhe, Badische Landesbibliothek, Aug. perg. 99, fols. 37–52,\(^2\) *cudere* is glossed with *condere uel scribere* (136).

Perhaps the Commentator, who sprinkles Old English words in his work (see the list on p. 588 of the edition), was here subconsciously associating *cudere* with Old English *cwudu* "cud."\(^3\) This association would explain his glossing the word with *manducare*.

II

EvII 18 Asse ueneunt\(^4\) .i. uenduntur. Asse graece .i. duo aerea minuta—"Sold for a farthing: that is, sold off. A farthing in Greek (\(\alpha\sigma\sigma\varphi\rho\iota\nu\)) is equivalent to two copper mites." (400[Text]–401[Translation])

I suspect that the transmitted text should be emended: . . . *Asse <, assario> graece .i. duo aerea minuta*—" . . . for an as, assarion in Greek, i.e. two copper mites." As the editors note, *assarius*, the archaic form of *as*, "was borrowed into Greek as \(\alpha\sigma\sigma\varphi\rho\iota\nu\), and is attested in this form in the

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\(^1\) From Jerome’s *Preface to the Pentateuch*; see, e.g., R. Weber et al., *Biblia Sacra iuxta Vulgatam versionem*, 4th ed. (Stuttgart 1994) 3. 5.


\(^3\) Cf., e.g., J. Bosworth and T. Northcote Toller, *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary* (Oxford 1898) 181.

\(^4\) I.e. Matt. 10. 29.
Greek text of Matt. X.29" (511). The word *assario* could have dropped out of the text through visual similarity to the preceding *asse* (homoiarchon). For the pattern of expression, cf. EvII 69 *Legio autem graece dicitur legion*—"Legion: the word in Greek is *legeon* (λέγει)" (408[Text]–409[Translation]).

*University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign*

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5 I.e. Mark 5. 9.