

Lofgeorn



P. S. Langeslag

Beowulf

3180 Cwædon þæt hē wære wyruldcyninga
mannum mildust ond monðwærust,
lēodum liðost ond lofgeornost.

265 Se sefoða leahter is *iactantia* gecweden,
þæt is ydel gylp on ængliscre spræce,
ðonne se man bið **lofgeorn** and mid licetunge færð
and deð for gylpe, gif he hwæt dælan wile.

(Memory of Saints)

(Repeated in *De duodecim abusivis*.)

Æthelwold 1/2

Non velle dici sanctum, antequam sit, sed prius esse, quod verius dicatur.
(*Benedictine Rule* § 4.62)

Ne sy nan **lofgeorn**, ne wilnigende þæt his dæda halige gesæde sien ær hie halige weorðan; ac hicge þæt hit mid soðe gesæd beon mæge.

Æthelwold 2/2

Cellararius monasterii eligatur de congregatione [...] non elatus, non turbulentus, non iniuriosus, non tardus, non prodigus, sed timens deum. (Benedictine Rule § 31.1)

Se mynstres hordere si gecoren of þære gesamnunge [...] na oferettol, na drefend, ne teonful, ne lofgeorn, ac God ondrædende.

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Neque avaritiae studeat neque prodigus sit (Benedictine Rule § 31.12)

ne he uncysta na begange, na he lofgeorn ne sy.

Wulfstan

Se ðe wære **lofgeorn** [**eager for praise**] for idelan weorðscype, weorðe se carfull hu he swyþast mæge gecweman his Drihtne. (*Be cristendome* ll. 128–129)

Ðonne is hit yfel soð, þeh þæt ic secge: sume we synt gewunode, þæt we syn to liðie and to **lofgeorne** [**too quick to praise**]; and we willwyrdað mannum æfter freondscipe and þurh þæt olæcað oftost on unnyt (and) soþes geswygiað ealles to swyþe.
(*An Admonition to Bishops* § 1)

- ▶ Reads the *Admonition to Bishops* attestation as “too eager for praise”
- ▶ Feels called upon to explain the *Beowulf* occurrence as a broadening of the original sense “eager for praise” to mean “eager to practice praiseworthy giving,” which is needlessly complicated
- ▶ Could just have inferred the “objective” sense also found in *Admonition* (likewise alongside *līþ*, and the same sense perhaps cannot be ruled out in Ælfric): “liberal with praise”

Bibliography

Cronan, Dennis. “*Lofgeorn*: Generosity and Praise.” *Neuphilologische Mitteilungen* 92 (1991): 187–94.