
A Newtonian Proverb

Introduction

Cotton Faustina A. x contains three works that saw an especially wide dissemination in early medieval England: Ælfric's *Grammar* and *Glossary* (used as textbooks, and thus mostly in monastic schools) and the Benedictine Rule (the guidelines for the monastic order that dominated pre-Conquest England from the second half of the tenth century). The manuscript also contains some rarer materials, however: medical recipes; an index of monasteries established by King Edgar; and here, in some blank space left at the end of Ælfric's *Glossary*, three Latin proverbs accompanied by Old English translations. The first of the three is printed below.

Manuscript

London, British Library, Cotton Faustina A. x, fol. 100v.

Text

Se æppel næfre þæs feorr ne trenddeð; he cyð hwanon he com.

(*Pomum licet ab arbore igitur unde reuoluitur tamen prodit¹ unde nascitur.*)

Notes

þæs feorr The gsn form of the demonstrative pronoun (“þæs”) is here used adverbially; the phrase *þæs feorr* then means “so far.”

trenddeð Though *trendan* was rare in Old English and meant “roll,” it actually developed into the MnE verb *trend*, which in turn gave rise to the very frequent noun. The double (**geminated**) *d* is unexpected and may have its explanation in the fact that it occurs across a line break.

¹MS prouidit.