APPENDIX ONE

HANDLIST OF PROGNOSTICS IN ENGLISH MANUSCRIPTS
OF THE NINTH TO TWELFTH CENTURIES

This appendix presents information on the English manuscripts containing
the prognostic text corpus, and a detailed set of data for each individual
prognostic in these manuscripts. The handlist includes all Old Eng-
lish and glossed prognostics, many Latin ones, and some prognostics
now (partly) lost.

The lack of a thorough, descriptive catalogue by subject for Latin
texts in English manuscripts makes the contribution of Latin prognostics
to this list more haphazard than I would have wished.\(^1\) The number of
Latin prognostics would probably be more than doubled were a close in-
spection of all extant English manuscripts of the ninth to twelfth centu-
ries carried out. Nevertheless, the texts which I have collected have
proved useful as material to compare the vernacular texts against,
though in some cases the Old English texts are among the earliest witnes-
ses of a prognostic genre that we have. Many references to Latin prog-
nostics can be found in the articles of Förster and Henel, and Ker’s Cata-
logue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon.\(^2\) I located some Latin prog-
nostics in catalogues of manuscripts while researching other matters, e.g.
the texts on the three Egyptian Days and the three miraculous birthdays
in CCCC 422, p. 49; texts I would probably not have found if it were not
for James’s Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Library of Corpus Christi College
Cambridge.\(^3\) Prognostics are sometimes not introduced as such in descrip-
tions of the contents of manuscripts, which makes their discovery a mat-
ter of chance, as with the texts on the twenty-four Egyptian Days and the
unlucky days in Tiberius C. vi, fol. 114r, recently introduced as “two
notes”.\(^4\)

Each manuscript is introduced with the help of information provided
in descriptions of manuscripts in catalogues. The number of reference

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\(^1\) Mooney (1998: 123) observed that “the principal difficulty in editing astrological
and prognostic texts is finding them”.

\(^2\) Förster (1903, 1906, 1908a-c, 1910, 1911, 1912a-c, 1916, 1920, 1921, 1925, 1925-
26, 1929, 1936, 1944), Henel (1934-35), Ker (1957).

\(^3\) James (1912).

\(^4\) Pulsiano (1994b: 41 [233.2]).
works I have consulted is not exhaustive. As is often the case with catalogues of manuscripts, the more one consults them, the wider the range in dates and places of origin for a given manuscript. My choices in these matters are not definitive, but merely provide me with a working basis. I have relied most of all on the work of Ker, Pulsiano and Doane, Gameson and Gneuss. My main aim in the concise manuscript descriptions has been to discover where and when the prognostics were copied, and in which manuscript contexts they were incorporated. I refer the reader to the catalogues listed for each manuscript, should more information be desired.

The prognostics have not been numbered in order of appearance: each text has been assigned a unique number which codes for the prognostic genre and the specific text witness. Thus, the dream lunary in Tiburianus A. iii, fols 35v/36r is referenced as 9.2.4/5 (lunary [9], specific type [2], dreams [4], taking fifth place in the list of dream lunaries).

Entries in square brackets are excluded from the main text corpus and pertain to texts added at a later date in a language other than Latin or Old English, to non-insular prognostics attested in manuscripts which may also contain English prognostics, or to continental manuscripts which were transferred to England before the thirteenth century. These may be composite manuscripts (e.g. Sloane 475), or manuscripts brought to, and expanded in England (e.g. Digby 63). The ninth-century manuscript Harley 3017, which Liuzza advanced as a computus that may have been in England in Anglo-Saxon times is here excluded since there is no support for Liuzza’s supposition.

It has proved impossible for me continuously to integrate newly-found prognostics because this would entail continual revision throughout the book. Therefore, I have established a closed corpus of 174 prognostics. Prognostics found at a later date are described in the supplement. Unfortunately, this has led to the exclusion of several manuscripts containing interesting collections of prognostics.

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6 The lists of witnesses per genre are provided in the introductions in the text edition.