

[0885] *Al ewens*: Reading and Interpretation of a Form in the Codex Unia version of Thet Autentica Riocht

Patrick V. Stiles

§1 One portion of the Old West Frisian text Thet Autentica Riocht, a treatise consisting of extracts from Roman and canon law, is headed – in the Codex Aysma version (see footnote 1) – *Tiaen teken sinter inda lichama onzes hera godes*. In Jelle Brouwer’s edition, the text of the ninth of these ten signs in the Host reads as follows (1941: 72, section 97p):

U. *That IX, thet god al swens mei in also manigha logum wassa.*
A. *Dyo nijoghende is dat god mej al yons wassa in alle logem.*¹

In his unpublished transcription of Codex Unia, Dirk Boutkan agreed with Brouwer in reading <swens> in U.²

Buma, Gerbenzon and Tragter-Schubert translate the Aysma text as: “Das neunte ist, dass Gott gleichzeitig an allen Orten sein kann.” (1993: 279). The focus of this note is the phrase rendered “gleichzeitig”: *al swens*, respectively *al yons*.

§2 Brouwer has a long discussion of U *al swens* in his commentary (1941: 213; largely following Buitenrust Hetteema 1888: 3-5). Brouwer starts from the Codex Aysma reading *al yons* and details the attestation of this phrase, also spelled *al jowns* and *al yens*. Formally, he notes the spread of spellings for “evening” in Old West Frisian as a parallel: these include *evend*, *ewend*, *iouwen*, *io(u)nd*, showing the sound-change seen in the Frisian place-name *Ljouwert* (compare the Dutch name of the city: *Leeuwarden*; for a

¹. U refers to the Codex Unia, folio 74b; while A denotes the Codex Aysma, page 119, since published in its entirety by Buma, Gerbenzon and Tragter-Schubert (1993: 278, section 390). Their transcription differs slightly from Brouwer’s at the beginning: *Dyo nyoghende is, dat God mey ...*).

². I am grateful to Anne Popkema for giving me access to the transcription of Boutkan. In the manuscript, there is a deletion between Brouwer’s *al* and *swens*. Boutkan’s footnote 1498 to his transcription *al swens* indicates that he thought the deleted words read *swes mei*.

discussion, cf. Dyk 2007) as well as the loss of *-w-* before a consonant.³ Brouwer also cites Middle Dutch *aleffens* “tegelijk (at the same time, simultaneously)”, which supplies the key to the meaning.⁴ Buma, Gerbenzon and Tragter-Schubert translate the other instances of the phrase in Aysma as “zugleich”: sections 44 and 113. Likewise, Overdiep and Tjessinga translate the form *allijons* (*al Lyons* in one manuscript) as “tegelijk” in their edition of *De rechtsomgang van Franekeradeel* (1950: 27, section 77; and 28, section 84).

Towards the end of his note, Brouwer wonders: ‘is al swens een verschrijving voor “al ewens”?’ (1941: 213). In similar vein, the dictionary of Old Frisian by Hofmann-Popkema, under the entry *alevenes* (2008: 10a) cites the spelling *alewens* followed by a question mark. Anne Popkema informs me that this refers to the locus in the Unia version of Thet Autentica Riocht and is put forward as an emendation of what Hofmann, following Brouwer’s edition, took to be *al swens*.⁵

§3 There is no need for emendation, however, as the Codex Unia reading actually is <al ewens>.⁶ I use angle brackets to indicate graphs.

The <e>-shape at the beginning of <ewens> on 74b is a minor variant in Junius’s Late Court hand (mixed *cursiva anglicana* and secretary) in this section of the manuscript, but a similar example nearby is the initial <e-> of <een> at end of line, two lines down. An even closer resemblance is provided by the <-e-> of <seck> at the beginning of Thet Autentica Riocht on folio 69a (second line of the text); presumably, no one would propose reading <ssck>? Compare also folio 71b line 10, the first <en>. See the illustrations.

³. Compare also the form *oniown*, found in the phrase *oniown tzyse* “reach a decision with an uneven number of participants” in the *Jurisprudentia Frisica* in Codex Roorda, which is findable in Hofmann-Popkema under the headword *uneven*, *unioun* (2008: 530b). I am grateful to Bram Jagersma, University of Leiden, for supplying the reading.

⁴. Compare also the Dutch adverb *tevens*, *teffens* (< *te even[s]*) “at the same time”. I am not aware of an equivalent to *aleffens* in (Middle) Low German.

⁵. The dictionary lacks the spellings *al yons* and *al yens* of Codex Aysma.

⁶. I think, too, that the first deleted word (cf. footnote 2) is <ewes>. Presumably, Junius crossed it through because it lacked the <n>, so he wrote it again. It would be gratifying to think that he did not choose to add an abbreviation mark to <ewes> because he was faithfully copying his exemplar...

fiaden mati - that is, that god al stude mati
fyodrus mati in also manighe logum waite.
That is, that that dead and wien wa and dilt
wilt in godis fleck and blost, and bliift in sun

MS. Junius 49, fol. 74b

ex, folio 107, a. Hier bighint that autenticatrichte retonifte
Thi fuder mol find found ondelbis am ego facta.
Thi arto foch is that hie is mit hutz hand onfinger habbe.

MS. Junius 49, fol. 69a

Bawer so en riocator and others on man in oner foch
fo, so wistande si fo fuldighere and groe thend

MS. Junius 49, fol. 71b

Sint hie was the vij juwe to gadre, so ne moten
hie in thera moethere flachte Britia. And is

MS. Junius 49, fol. 70a

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It is true that some word-initial <s>-forms are very like the initial character of <ewens> – for example, the one in <Sint> at beginning of the fourth line from the end of 70a – but these all are capital letters at the beginning of sentences.⁷

*Department of English
University College London*

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