[illegible]

[illegible] mac Domnaill [illegible]

[illegible] mac [illegible] Colmain mac Domnaill [illegible]

[illegible] mac [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] mac Domnaill [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] .ii.

[illegible] .ii. [illegible]

[illegible] .ii. [illegible]

[illegible] .ii.

[illegible] .ii. [illegible]

[illegible] cenel Eoghain .ii. Cenel Moain

[illegible] .ii. [illegible]

[illegible] .ii.

[illegible] .ii. [illegible]

[illegible] .ii. [illegible]

[illegible]

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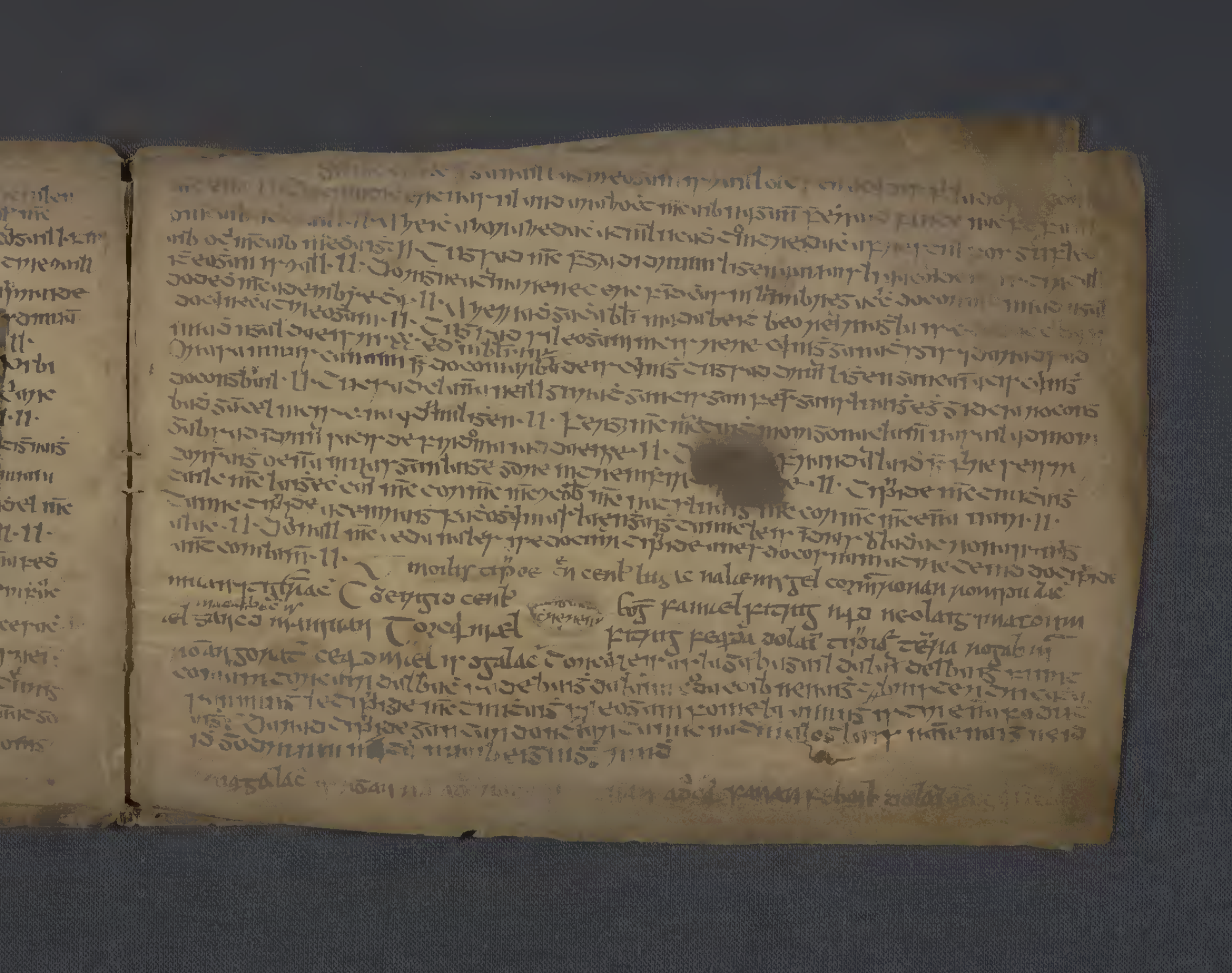
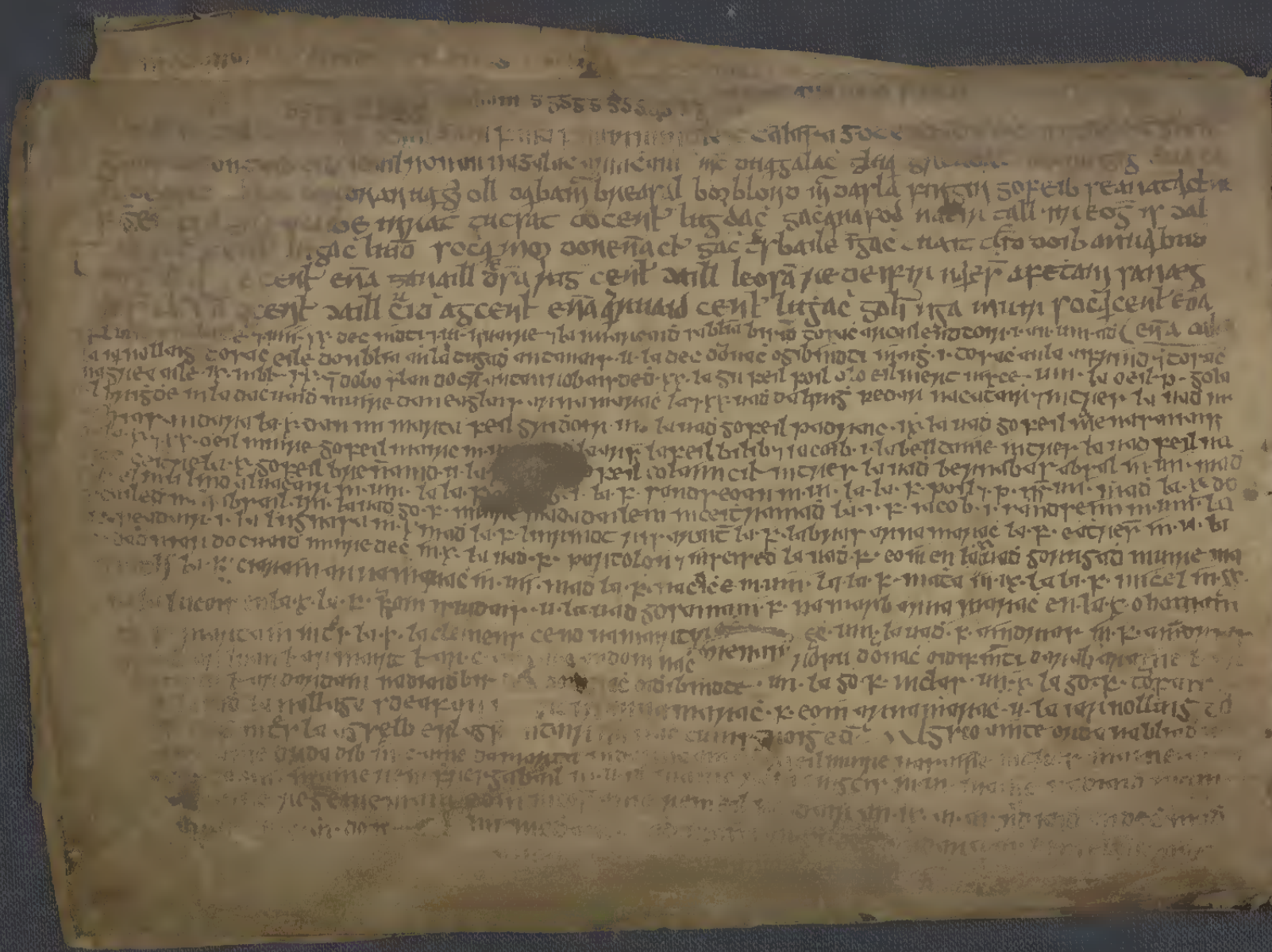
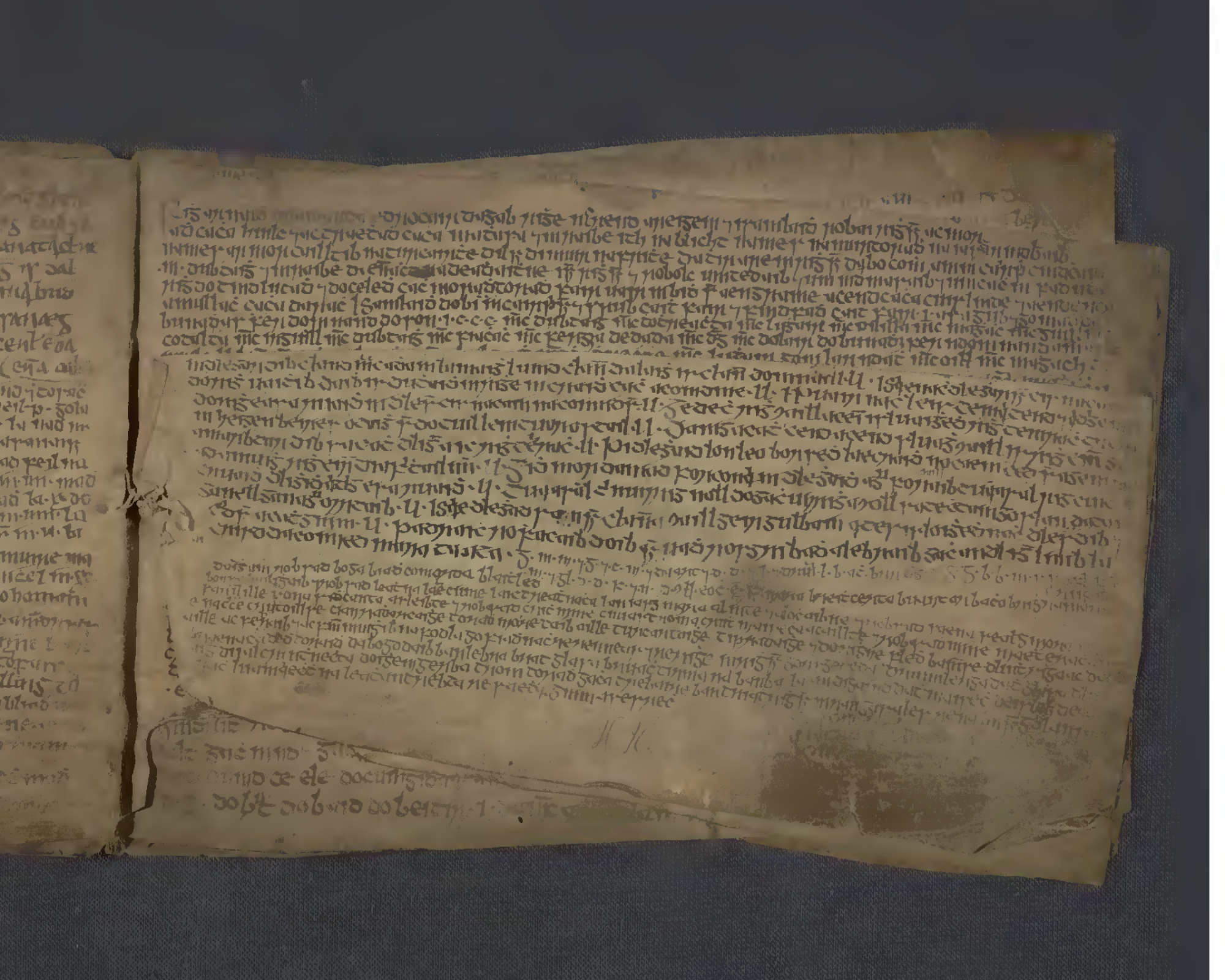
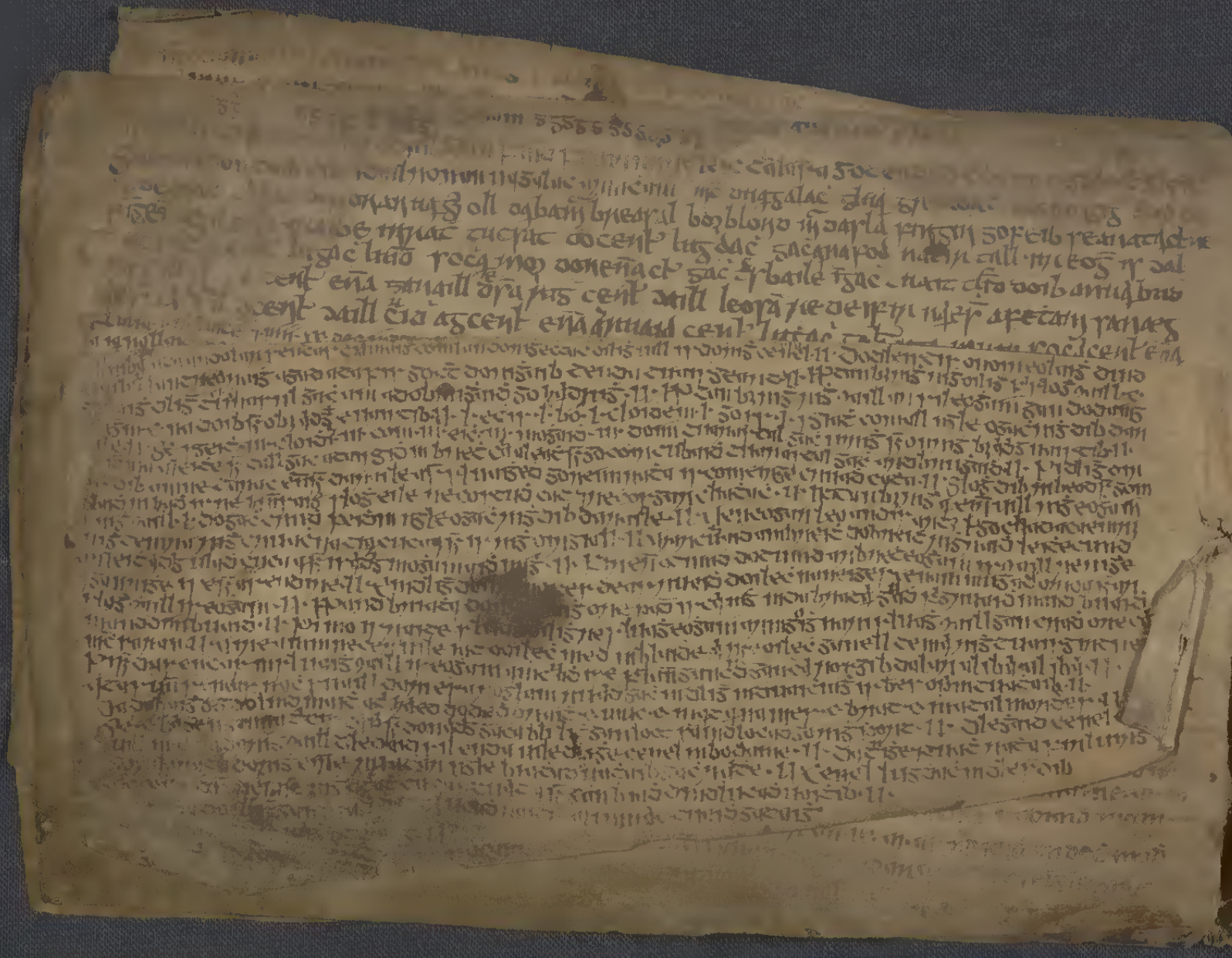
[illegible]

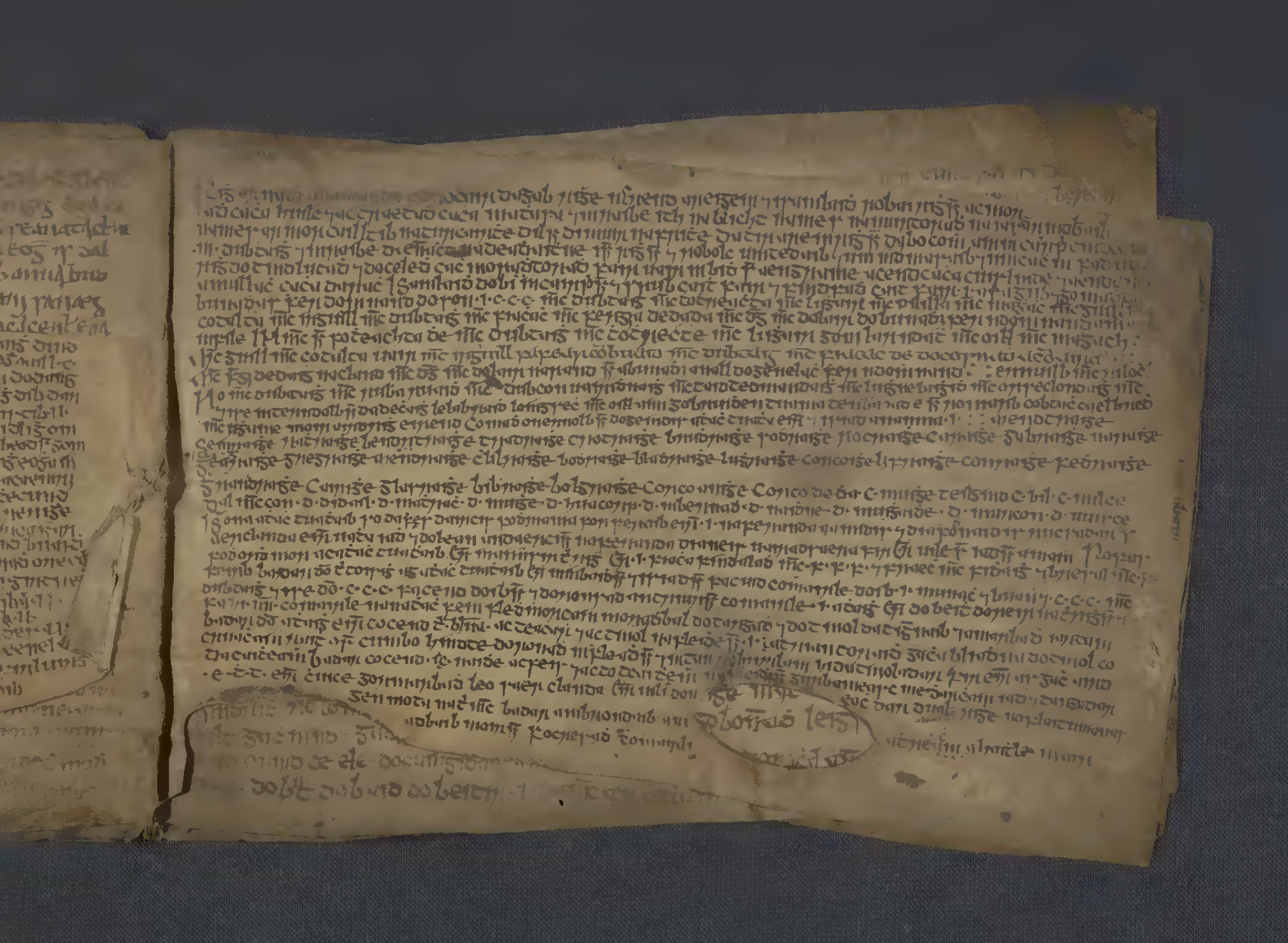
[illegible]











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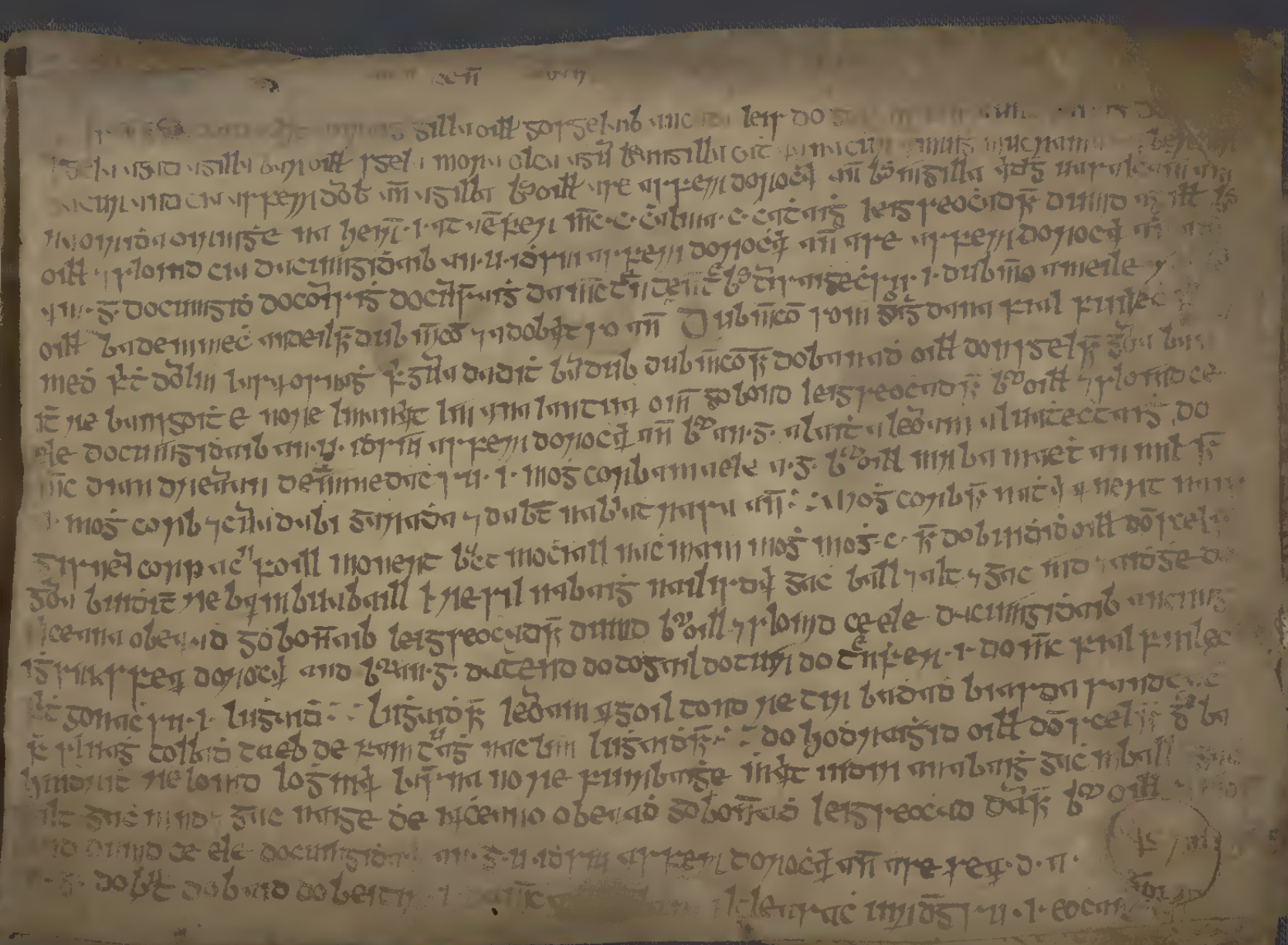

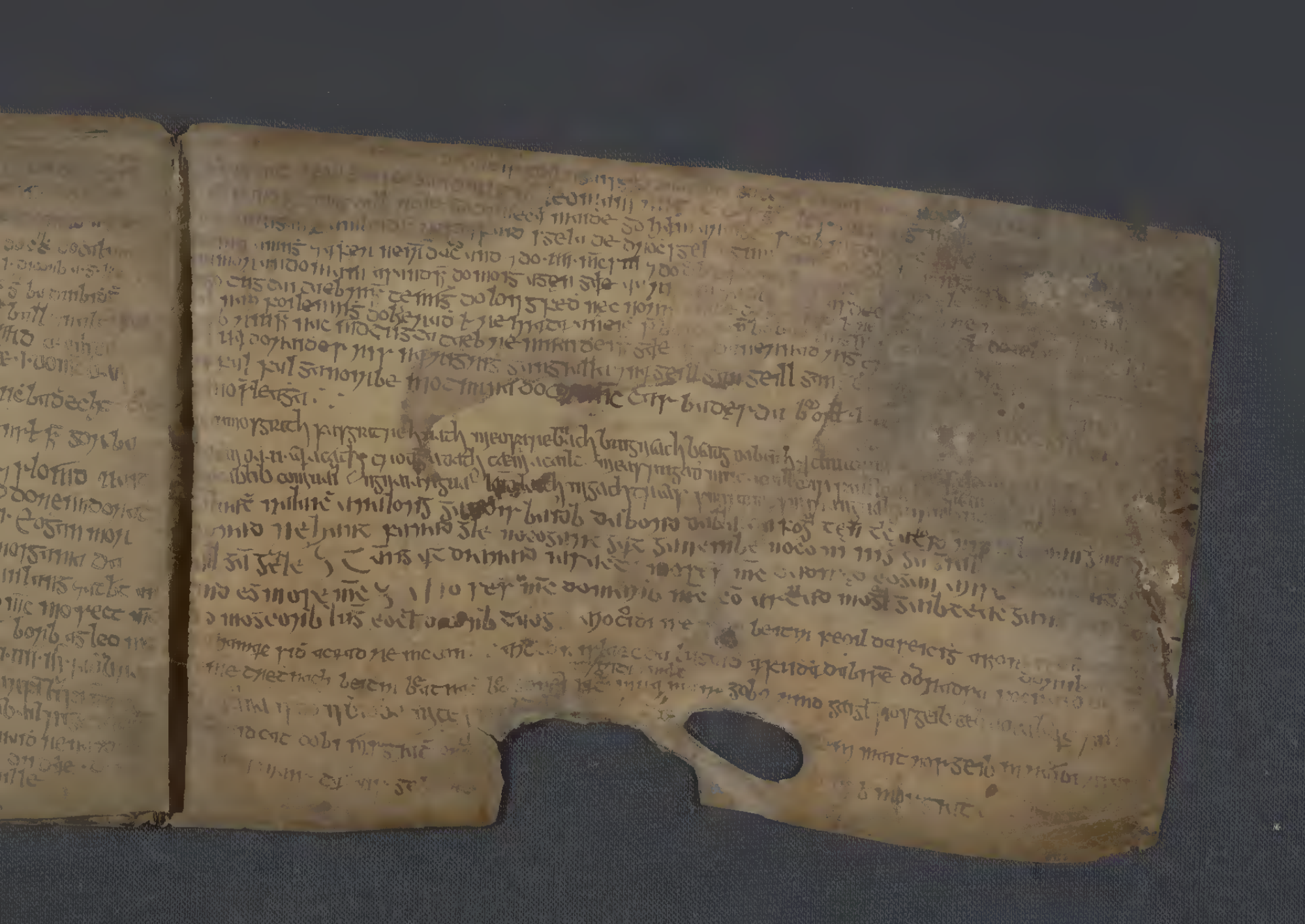

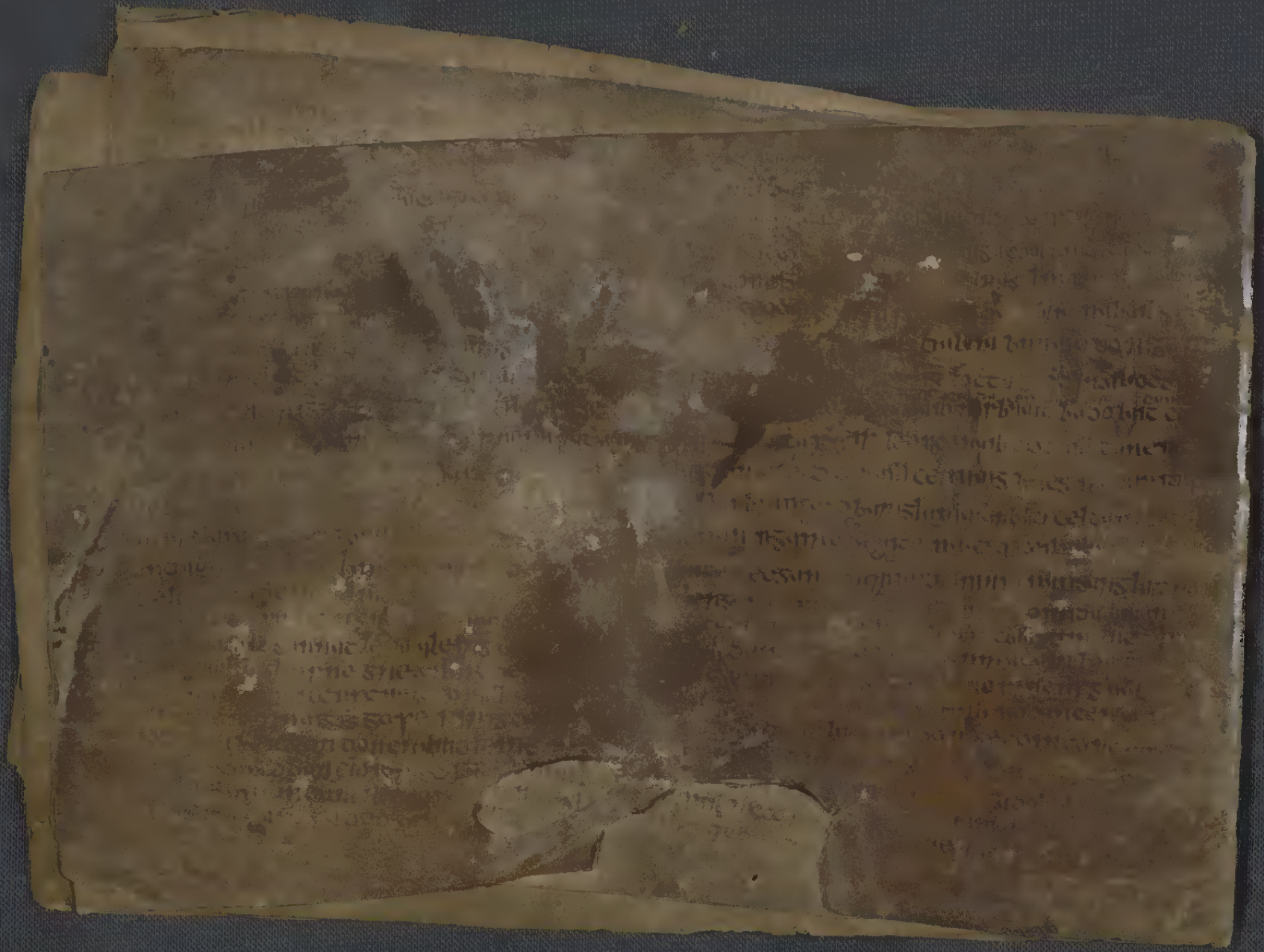

Some 30 yrs ago the late Rev Dr McLauchlan of Edinburgh borrowed from Mr Hackett the then librarian, Gaelic Ms: xxviii of Kilbride 24.j. Dr McLauchlan at the time taught a Gaelic Class in the New College, one afternoon in the Spring of 1864 he put this Ms in his pocket for the purpose of showing it to his Students. When he reached the Class room he found that the Ms. had disappeared. Every search was made for it & advertisement otherwise, but in vain. In the yr 1888 an old man to whom he had been able to ~~show~~ do some kindness, brought to the Rev Dr Campbell of Dunoon a Ms: which he said belonged to his son, a Schoolmaster, who was dead. The man wished to show his gratitude & as this was the only thing he possessed which Dr Campbell was likely to value he requested him to accept of it. Beyond the fact that it was old & written in the old Gaelic hand Dr C. knew nothing

of the history & contents of the Ms: Among those to whom he showed the document was Mr. W. A. Craigie B.A. Oxon., at present Assistant to the Professor of Humanity in St Andrews. Mr. Craigie, a Scottish Student of Celtic, & moreover, recognising the value of the Ms: made a transcript of the whole of it. ~~In the Summer of~~ Mr. Craigie knew nothing about the lost ~~the~~ Edinburgh Ms.; but as he & Prof: Mackinnon were looking over ~~these Mss.~~ the Celtic Mss in the Library last year he observed ~~the~~ a signature & number on a 'Kilbride' & asked what they meant; "because" Mr. Craigie added, "the same signature in the same hand, ~~with~~ ~~the~~ is on Dr. Campbell's Mss, with the number ~~is~~ 24". ~~Kilbride on the Cover of Kilbride &~~ It was explained that the 'Kilbrides' were numbered separately & signed by the gentleman through whose agency this ~~was~~ ~~copy~~ collection of Mss: was deposited in the

Library. Cover No 24 Hilbrie was shown to Mr. Craigie & it contained nothing except a letter from Dr. McLauchlan stating how the Ms. was lost, & a transcript of a portion of it made for him. Skene's Catalogue was then produced, & Mr. Craigie at once stated that the description of the Ms: & of its contents given by Skene applied in every particular to Dr. Campbell's Ms. Both he & Mr. Mackinnon were convinced that the identification was complete & that the Ms: given to Dr. Campbell in Dunoon in 1888 was none other than that lost by Dr. McLauchlan in the streets of Edinburgh in 1864. Dr. Campbell was afterwards communicated with, & he, satisfied that the Ms: in his possession was the missing Edinburgh Hilbrie, generously handed it over to the Library.

Ms: xxviii (Kilbride 24) thus happily recovered is a small parchment of considerable age & value. The following ~~given~~ is a somewhat fuller account of its contents than that given in the Catalogue prepared by Mr. Skene. The Ms. consists of seven small leaves which, as written upon, are broader than they are long. The first & last pages are only in part legible. The fourth leaf is stitched inside out, so that pages 7 & 8 change places. ~~The~~ The first section from p. 1 to p. 4 line 6 contains a version of the Synchronisms of Flann of Bute which was printed by Mr. Skene in the Chronicle of the Picts & Scots (pp. 18-22) as the fourth oldest historical document now existing. There follow three historical poems one of which is attributed to the same scholar, Flann, in the poem itself; the other two are also sometimes claimed for him; but, according to O'Curry,

without punctuation. At the foot of p. 6 is a list of festivals of Saints, & at the foot of p. 7 a detached paragraph. Folio 5 (pp. 9-10) gives a legend of which there are versions in the Books of Ballymote, ~~(p. 296)~~ Lismore, & Fermoy. The subject is the slaughter of the nobles of Ireland by the Aithig-tuatha or vassals, & the election of Cairpre Cindchait, or 'Cathead', one of the leaders of the insurrection as king. The two last leaves are taken up with the lamentations of Oilill 'Bare-ear' for his seven sons, slain at the Battle of Mag Mucrime. ~~Another~~ Other versions of the lamentations are in the Bodleian (Laud 610) & in the Scottish Collections (Adv. Lib. XXXIII), but this Ms. it would appear contains the oldest text. The tale of the battle of Mag Mucrime is different. It is found in the Book of Leinster & has been published by Whitley Stokes (Rev. Celt. XIII. p. 426) & Mr. Standish H. O'Grady (Silva Gadelica XXII).

A still more valuable facsimile MS: ~~than even~~ of the Scottish Chronicle than even XXVIII has been missing since 1841, long before these documents came to be deposited in the Library. At that date MS. XXXII was in the hands of Thomas Thomson Esq. Deputy Clerk Register, & it has not since been heard of. May we not hope that after this happy recovery of MS: XXVIII, MS. XXXII may possibly turn up some day?

University of Edinburgh

Nov: 29: 1893

Dear Mr. Clark,

Referring to your letter of the 15th inst regarding MS 28 (Kilbride 24) I am happy to say that I have read & examined the MS: in question; & that, though I did not see the MS. before it was lost in 1864, I have no hesitation whatever in saying that this is the identical MS: lost by Dr. McLachlan under the circumstances stated by him in his letter to the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates in 1876, & now happily recovered.

The description given of the MS: by Mr. Skene

in the Catalogue; the Cover & fastenings; the impression of the slip of paper at one time pasted on the outside of the front cover; the Signature 'H. Kerr 24' on the first page, & the initials 'H. K.' here & there ~~etc~~ in the undoubted handwriting of that Gentleman, — are of themselves perfect proof even to a person who is unable to read the document that this is Kilbride No 24, so long missing.

I may add that I have compared the portion of the MS: transcribed by Dr McLauchlan with the original & that, errors of transcription apart, the original & copy agree verbatim.

Both Dr McLauchlan & Mr Skene read

the historical portion of the MS: carefully; the remaining portion both Scholars merely looked over, & their account of this part of the MS. is very imperfect.

Mr. W. A. Craigie made a transcript of the whole MS: some years ago, & he has sent me from memory a note of the contents. This I have found to be quite accurate.

(I append on the other side a detailed index)

I am yours faithfully

Don: Mackinnon

J. T. Clarke Esq

Ms: 28 (Kilbride 24): 7 leaves written across the page – 14 pages. The fourth leaf is wrongly reversed so that page 8 comes before p. 7:

Pages 1 to 4 (line 6) Synchronisms of Flann of Bute. Page 1 not very legible. Page 2 to p. 4 (line 6) transcribed by Dr. McLauchlan. The Dalriadic portion of these synchronisms was printed by Skene (Chron: of Picts + Scots pp. 16–22).

" 4 (l. 6) .... 6 (l. 7) A poem attributed to O'Curry (Manns: & Cust. II. 164) to Mac Cormishe: Sruth Dalta Cairbre Crimaidh &c

.... 6 (l. 7) .... foot of 6. A Gaelic Calendar in prose.

..... 7 ..... 7 (l. 17) A poem by Flann author of Synchronisms: A bhfuar ata an do la, &c.

..... 7 (l. 17) .... 8 (l. 10) A poem attributed to Same author (O'Curry II. 160) Ata sunn seancus nach suaile &c.

..... 8 (l. 10) .. foot of page A paragraph in prose, subject – a panegyric on Ireland, its prosperity during a certain reign.

..... 9 (l. 1) ... foot of p. 10 The revolt of the Attacotti against the reign of Cairpri Cathead. [An account of the same transactions but very different from this version is in Book of Ballymote 205 a 7 +; where the passage is said to be extracted from the lost book of Glendalough]

..... 11 to end of gilla: The so-called Lamentations of Dubh Chum. A version is in the Book (Laud 610), & in the Stowe Collection (Ad. Lib. xxxviii); but Graigie thinks this is the original text & this nowhere else.