

## 4. Numerals

### 1. Cardinal numbers

1. The independent form of the numeral 'one' is /onan/. The adjectival form is /unn/.<sup>1</sup> For the mutations caused by these forms, see II.2(1, 4 and 15).

Examples of /onan/ are: <vnan dek> 'a pretty one' CE.7; <na-g|onon> 'not one' P.25b, 187c; <pub onan ol(l)> 'every one' P.43b, 199a; <onon 3o3o a bub tu> 'one on each side of him' P.163b; <a onan a|th asow> 'from one of your ribs' O.99; <ffesont onan fat ha da> 'a pheasant, one fat and goodly' O.1192; <tommans onan dour war tan> 'let one heat water on a fire' D.833; <gans onan a|y thyskyblon> 'with one of his disciples' D.1146;

Occurrences of /unn/, always written <vn>, are: <vn pres y|n geyth> 'one moment in the day' P.20c; <vn pols golyas> '(for) one moment watch' P.55d; <vn ger> 'one word' P.96d, 129c, 247c; <gvra vn dra> 'do one thing' O.76; <vn dev> 'one God' O.110, 1771; <yn vn golmen> 'in one knot' (i.e. 'tied together') D.177; <guel yv vn den the verwel ages ol an bobyl lel the vos keyllys> 'it is better for one man to die than for all the faithful people to be lost' D.446-47;

The form /unn/ may also be used with the meaning 'only', as in: <ha theworth vrry re thuk y vn wrekk dauid> 'and from Uriah you have taken his only wife, David' O.2244-45; <cryst y vn vaaw><sup>2</sup> 'Christ, his only son' O.2662; <ihu crist the vn vap ker> 'Jesus Christ, your dear only son' D.160; <vn vap dev a nef> 'the only son of the God of heaven' D.1577;

2. The numeral 'two' has different forms for masculine and feminine: masc. /dew/, fem. /diw/. For the mutation of the numeral 'two' after the article, see II.2(3); for the mutation caused by this numeral, II.2(4). In CE this numeral does not occur at all, in P only the masculine form is found:

/dew/: <Dew 3en>, <dew then> 'two men' P.42a, O.333; <Dew lader drevs> 'two arrant thieves' P.163a; <veyll an tempell a squardyas yn-tre dew> 'the veil of the temple was rent in two' P.209c; <a bub eghen best (...) gor genes dew annethe> 'of every kind of animal (...) take two of them with you' O.977-78; <a thevv adla> 'O two outlaws' O.1499; <ens dev a|m dyscbyllyon> 'let two of my disciples go' D.173; <dev kendoner> 'two debtors' D.502;

/diw/: <ha|n mor a pup tu (...) ow seuel avel dyw fos> 'and the sea on each side (...) standing like two walls' O.1689-90; <dyv grous aral>, <en thyv grous erel> '(the) two other crosses' D.2576, 2820; <an thyv yn-mes a|y thywle> 'the two [spikes] out of his hands' D.3153;

3. The numeral 'three' has two forms also: masc. /tri/, fem. /teyr/. For the mutation

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<sup>1</sup> The – presumably older – form /unan/ appears once in CE.7; cf. B *unan*. A satisfactory explanation for the vowel-change has so far not been given. The orthographies occurring in P are <onan> and <onon>, and in ORD and BM <onen> occurs as well. It seems that the rhyme was the sole criterion for the choice which vowel-grapheme was used in the second syllable.

<sup>2</sup> Harris reads <vaabe> here.

caused by the masculine form of this numeral, see II.3.

/tri/: <the-rag an try may-3|esa annas pylat ha cayphas> ‘when he was in the presence of the three, Annas, Pilate and Caiaphas’ P.112b; <dagrennow try> ‘three drops’ P.225a;<sup>3</sup> <Onan ha try>, <onen ha try> ‘one and three’ O.3, 57; <an try person y|n drynsys> ‘the three persons in the Trinity’ O.1734, 2660; <an try a reys mones gynef> ‘the three who must go with me’ D.1015-16; <the|n mernans ol an try a> ‘to death all the three shall go’ D.2490;

/teyr/: <tyr marya>, <tyr marea>, <an tyr marya> ‘(the) three Marys’ P.230d, 252b, 253a; <tyr gvethen> ‘three trees’ O.828; <tyyr guelen>, <an thyr guelen>, <an dyr guelen>, <tyr guelen>, <an thyyr guelen> ‘(the) three rods’ O.1729, 1732, 1763, etc.; <vs teyr spik vras> ‘there are three large spikes’ D.2670;

In compounds a special prefix form /try-/ is found: <tredden> ‘three men’ P.237b; <try|ddyth>, <try|dyth>, <tri|ddyth>, <tri-dyth>, <trey-dyth>, <try-deth>, <try-deyth>, <try-dyth>, <try-geth> ‘three days’ O.829, 845, D.347, 352, 366, etc.; <an try-spus> ‘the three seeds’ O.870;<sup>4</sup>

4. Four is the highest of the numerals with different masculine and feminine forms: masc. /peswar/, fem. /peder/.

/peswar/: <peswar marreg a brys> ‘four soldiers of repute’ P.190b; <peswar marrek> ‘four soldiers’ P.241d;

/peder/: <pedar ran guris a-ne3e> ‘four shares were made of them’ P.190a; <pedyr streyth vras> ‘four great springs’ O.772;

5. /pypm/: <pypm myll> ‘five thousand’ P.227b; <pypm cans> ‘five hundred’ D.505;

6. /hwe(gh)/: <in whed dyth myns yw formyys> ‘in six days the [whole] amount is created’ O.142; <dew-vgens blythen ha whe> ‘forty years and six’ D.351;

7. /seyth/: <seyth kemmys> ‘seven [times] as much’ O.599;

8. The numeral eight is not attested in Middle Cornish. Where it occurs it is written ‘viii’.

9. /naw/: <an naw ran> ‘the nine parts’ O.493;

10. /deg/: <dek-warn-ugans>, <dek-warn-ugens> ‘thirty’ (lit. ‘ten-upon-twenty’) O.960, D.593; <dek can-quyth> ‘ten hundred times’ D.574;

12. /dewdheg/: <3e|n dow3ek> ‘to the twelve’ P.47a, 61a; <dew3ek lygyon>, <dev-thek> ‘twelve legions’ P.72c, D.1164; <dewthek mys> ‘twelve months’ O.1060; <dewthek lel> ‘a faithful twelve’ D.228;

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<sup>3</sup> The numeral is in apposition here, in which case the rule of concordance seems not to apply.

<sup>4</sup> From the orthography it cannot be ensured here whether this is the independent numeral /try/ or the prefixed form /tre-/. Since, however, /spus/ apparently is feminine (cf. <tyyr spus> O.823) the latter interpretation is more likely.

15. /pymtheg/: <pym3ek> P.227c, 228a;

20. /ugens/: <dek-warn-ugans>, <dek-warn-ugens> ‘thirty’ O.960, D.593, 1554;  
<dew-vgens> ‘fourty’ O.1027;

30. /dek-warn-ugens/: <yn vhelder (...) dek-warn-ugans> ‘in height (...) thirty’ O.959-60;  
<dek-warn-ugens a mone> ‘thirty [pieces] of money’ D.593; <me a|s guerth (...) a  
thek-warn-ugans sterlyn> ‘I will sell it (...) for thirty pieces of sterling’ D.1553-54;

40. /dew-ugens/: <devguans dyth>,<sup>5</sup> <dew-vgens dyth> ‘forty days’ P.10c, O.1027;  
<dev-vgens nos> ‘forty nights’ D.45; <dew-vgens blythen> ‘forty years’ D.351;

46. /dew-ugens ha hwe/: <dew-vgens blythen ha whe> ‘forty-six years’ D.351;

50. /hanter kans/: <hanter cans keuelyn (...) y les> ‘fifty cubits (...) its breadth’ O.957-58;  
<hanter cans> D.506;

60. /tri-ugens/: <tryvgons moy> ‘sixty more’ P.227c;

100. /kans/: <pedergwyth cans> ‘four times hundred’ P.227b; <dew-cans a  
vlethynnow> ‘two hundred years’ O.657; <cans dauas> ‘a hundred sheep’ O.2230;  
<pypm cans> ‘five hundred’ D.505; <lyes cans> ‘many hundreds’ D.1995;

200. /dew kans/: <dew-cans a vlethynnow> ‘two hundred years’ O.657;

300. /tryghans/: <trehans dynar a vone> ‘three hundred pence in money’ P.36a;  
<tryhans keuelyn (...) a hys> ‘three hundred cubits (...) in length’ O.955-56; <trey-hans  
harpes> ‘threehundred harpists’ O.1996; <try cans dyner ha moy> ‘three hundred pence  
or more’ D.536;

500. /pypm kans/: <pypm cans dyner monyys> ‘five hundred pence in money’ D.505;

1000. /mil/: <leas myll> ‘many thousands’ P.165c, 226c; <yn-tre myll darn> ‘in a  
thousand pieces’ P.166c; <myl vap mam> ‘a thousand mothers’ sons’ O.324; <myl pvns  
(...) a our da> ‘a thousand pounds (...) of good gold’ D.212; <myl wel vye> ‘a thousand  
times better would it be’ D.751, 2847;

A construction /deg kans/ ‘ten hundreds’ is found in <dek can-quyth> ‘ten hundred  
times’ D.574;

5000. /pypm mil/: <pypm myll> P.227b;

100.000. /kans-vil/: <moy ys cans-vyl yn nomber> ‘more than a hundred thousand in  
number’ O.1615;

**Note.** In many instances in the manuscripts, numerals are represented not in words but in Roman numerals. Especially P.39d is a good example of this, showing that the numeral was read out in full and fitted in the metre: <xxx a vone> /deg-warnugens a vone/ ‘30 (pieces) of money’ P.39d. Other instances

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<sup>5</sup> Probably a scribal error for \*<dev-ugans>.

are: <hag ena ij a|n scorgyas (...) gans ij scorgye> ‘and then 2 scourged him (...) with 2 scourges’ P.130c; <gura iij kenter 3ynny> ‘make 3 nails for us’ P.154d; <ij venyn len> ‘2 loyal women’ P.167a;<sup>6</sup>

## 2. Ordinals

1. /kynsa/: <yn kynsa dyth> ‘on the first day’ O.20; <my a vyth an kynso> ‘I will be the first’ O.2162; <an kynse benfys> ‘the first benefice’ O.2613; <nep a theppro kensa> ‘he who eats first’ D.795; <ha|n kenso galow> ‘with the first call’ D.2051;

2. /second/: <yn secund dyth> ‘on the second day’ O.17;

3. /trysse/: <tresse gwyth> ‘a third time’ P.57c; <yn tressa dyth>, <yn tresse dyth> ‘on the third day’ P.91c, 238d, 240b, etc., O.25; <tresse treveth> ‘a third time’ O.799; <trysse> ‘a third’ O.1130;

4. /peswere/: <An peswore [marrak]> ‘the fourth soldier’ P.247a; <yn peswere> ‘on the fourth [day]’ O.33; <ha henna yv pyswere> ‘and that is a fourth’ D.2851;

5. /pympes/: <yn pympes dyth> ‘on the fifth day’ O.41;

6. /hwefes/:<sup>7</sup> <an whefes dyth> ‘the sixth day’ O.49;

7. /seythves/: <may fe seythves dyth hynwys> ‘that the seventh day may be hallowed’ O.144;

10. /degves/: <an degves ran> ‘the tenth part’ O.426;

## 3. Multiplicatives

These are formed by placing the feminine noun /gweyth/ ‘time, turn’ behind the cardinal number, mostly unlenited in a close compound.

1. /unnweyth/: <vnwyth na ylly plynchye> ‘he could not flinch once’ (i.e. ‘not at all’) P.130b; <a quellen vn-wyth an termyn the thewethe> ‘if I might once see the time of the end’ O.685-86; <drefen vn-wyth the henwel lythys of> ‘because of once calling you I am slain’ O.2724-25; <whet unwyth y examnye> ‘to examine him once again’ D.1467; <vn-wyth mar pyth den marow> ‘if once a man be dead’ D.1748;

2. /diwweyth/: <guask (...) dywyth an men> ‘strike the stone twice’ O.1844; <my re wruk y vusure (...) dewyth> ‘I have measured it (...) twice’ O.2568-69; <aban res an vrus vnwyth ny fynnaf y ry dywyth> ‘since I have given the sentence once, I will not give it twice’ D.2495-96;

3. /tergweyth/: <tergweyth y fe convyctijs> ‘thrice he was overcome’ P.18b; <te a|m nagh tergweyth> ‘you shall deny me thrice’ P.49c; <pan of fythys thyworto ter-gwyth hythew> ‘since I am beaten off from him thrice today’ D.146-47; <hythyw ter-gwyth yn

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<sup>6</sup> Written in full this would have been /diw venen len/, with the only instance of the feminine form of the numeral ‘two’ in P.

<sup>7</sup> This form must be the result of an earlier \*/hweghves/.

certain> 'this day three times indeed' D.155;

4. /pedergweyth/: <pedergwyth cans> 'four times hundred' P.227b;

1000. /milweyth/: <wolcom myl-wyth> 'a thousand times welcome' D.937; <me re|n  
cusullyes mylwyth> 'I have advised him a thousand times' D.1811;

But also: /deg kankweyth/: <dek can-quyth> 'ten hundred times' D.574;

**Note.** Once in O a multiplicative is formed with /pleg/ 'fold': <myl blek guel> 'a thousand-fold better'  
O.523.

#### 4. Fractions

Of the fractions only /hanter/ 'half' is found: <yn prys hanter nos> 'at the time of  
midnight' P.76c; <bys hanter dyth> 'until mid-day' P.201a; <Nang|o hanter dyth> 'it was  
now mid-day' P.209a; <hanter cans> 'half a hundred' (i.e. 'fifty') O.957, D.506; <hanter  
den ha hanter dev> 'half man and half god' D.1741;

#### 5. Syntax of numerals