

Matthew Paris OSB, Chronica maiora I**Matthaei Paris Chronica Maiora I**

Codicology: Vellum, mm 260 x 195 (14.2 x 9.6 in.), ff. 2 + 6 + 140 + 2 + 1, double columns of 56 lines. Cent. **xiii**.

Collation: a² | A⁶⁽⁹⁾ | I¹⁰ (+ 3 half-leaves after 7) II¹⁰ (+ 3 half-leaves after 8) III² IV¹⁰-VI¹⁰ VII¹² (2 canc.) VIII⁸ IX¹⁰ X⁸ XI¹⁰ (5 canc.) XII¹³ XIII¹⁴ (+ 2 leaves after 2, and 1 at the end) | B² | 1 flyleaf.

Provenance: Written at St Albans[¶], and presented to the convent by Matthew Paris[¶].

MS 26 contains the first part of the Chronica Maiora S. Albani of Matthew Paris[¶], from the Creation to the end of the year **1188**.

Research: The full text of the Chronica Maiora contained in volumes 26, 16I^[CCC016I] and 16II^[CCC016II] was edited in the Rolls Series by Dr H. R. Luard^[Luard 1872]. They are described by Sir F. Madden in the preface to *Matthew Paris Historia Anglorum* (Rolls pp. liv-lxi)^[Madden 1866], and by Sir T. Duffus Hardy *Catalogue of Materials* III 117-119^[Hardy 1871]. Madden was of opinion that the two volumes were largely in the autograph of Matthew Paris[¶]: Hardy[¶] in the introduction to vol. III of his Catalogue contests this opinion with success, and shows that only small portions of the nature of corrections and supplements can be safely assigned to the hand of Paris[¶] himself. His discussion is accompanied by facsimiles of the various manuscripts which have been supposed to be in Paris[¶]'s handwriting. The following are taken from our MSS.

pl. X, XI from MS 26. pl. XII-XVI from MS 16^[CCC16II].

Research: In what follows I summarize the descriptions of Madden^[Madden 1866] and Hardy^[Hardy 1871], and add a survey of the illustrations, chiefly marginal, which occur in the two volumes. Many of these have been reproduced, notably in the illustrated editions of Green's *Short History*^[Green 1892] and of *Social England*; but I do not know that any convenient list of them exists, though they are mentioned as they occur in the footnotes to Luard's edition^[Luard 1872]. <<The drawings of shields are described by Luard *Chronica Maiora* vi, App. I^[Luard 1872]. He also gives facsimiles of the writing in vols. I and II.>>

Research: The Cotton MS. Nero D. v^[LBNDS] contains a copy of the text of both volumes made at St Albans[¶] later in the **xiii**th century.

Provenance: It belonged to Edward Aglionby[¶] of Balsall Temple[¶], who lent it to Parker[¶].

Additions: There are two flyleaves at the beginning from a Canon Law MS. (**xiv**: double columns, closely written).

It begins with an unidentified computation reaching to the year **231** A.D. and continues with the text of Roger of Wendover[¶] corrected and supplemented by M. Paris[¶]. The supplements are either on the margins or on inserted leaves: these inserted leaves are now 15, |8r|-20, |10v|, 31, |16r|-32, |16v|, 37, |19r|-38, |19v|, 253, |127r|-256, |128v|.

Writing: The remainder of the volume is in two hands. The first writes 1, |1r|-14, |7r|, 21, |11r|-30, |15v|, 33, |17r|-36, |18v|, 39, |20r|-117, |59r|, 193, |97r|-252, |126v|, 257, |129r|-282, |141v|. The second, a somewhat rounder hand, appears to extend from 117, |59r| to 192, |76v|.

Additions: Marginal additions are few at first, but become more numerous after the year **1100**. At the end of the year **1188**, in the lower margin, is this note by a hand of cent. **xiv** (which also appears in MS 16II, on f. 37v^[CCC016II]): "Anno dominice incarnationis **MCLXXXIX** est uera continuacio historie Mathei Parisiensis[¶] in alio uolumine eiusdem manus". This refers to no. 16.

Foliation: ff. A-B + a-b + i-vi + 1-141 + vii-ix + C-D.

Language: Latin and Anglo-Norman.

Contents:

1.

ir-viv **Matthew Paris OSB[¶], Chronica maiora I (preliminary matter)**

The preliminary matter consists of

a. Itinerary from London[¶] to Jerusalem[¶] with a description in French, similar to one in the Royal MS. 14, C. vii^[LBR07] but containing some interesting variations. It occupies seven pages. The portion from London[¶] to Dover[¶] is engraved by Gough *Brit. Topogr.* pl. VII, fig. 2^[Gough 1780]. The text is printed by the Société de l'Orient Latin, *Itinéraires Français*, p. 125^[Michelang and Raynaud 1882]

ivv b. A brief genealogical chronicle "Cronica sub compendio abreuiata a fratre M. Parisiensis[¶]"
() *Incipit:* Considerans prolixitatem Cronicorum Anglie[¶]

It runs from Alfred[¶] to Edward the Elder[¶]; then a leaf has been cut out. This took place at an early period, for a copy of it of cent. **xiii** late in Tiberius E. vi (f. 5)^[LBLE6] terminates in the same manner. At the end of the volume on p. 285 it is resumed and continued to Henry II[¶]

vr c. Circular Paschal table

vv d. Table of Concurrentes etc. from **1116** to **1620**: a similar one is in Royal 14, C. vii^[LBR07]
Diagram of the winds with verses. Sunt subsolano socii
Attributed to M. Paris[¶] in Nero D. I, f. 184v^[LBNDS]

vir e. Kalendar. See below

The following are my own notes on illustrations, etc.

ir The itinerary from London[¶] to the Holy Land[¶], ff. ir-ivr, is illustrated with conventional cities, and with ships and figures of men every now and then

On f. ivv Genealogy: circular diagram with bust of Alfred[¶] in C.

On f. vr the circular Paschal table is made to revolve: head of metal pin in C. Spandrels of beautiful ornament

Another table or diagram formerly stuck to the lower part of the page is gone
On f. vv Table of Concurrentes. Diagram of winds etc. (French and English names).
On f. vir Kalendar, six months on page

January

- 3. Genouefe⁰ red
- 4. Oct. dedicac.
- 5. Dep. S. Aedwardi⁰ red. De S. Aedwardo⁰ comm.
- 7. Dep. S. Aedwardi⁰ reg. et c. hic fiet festum red
- 19. Dep. S. Wlstani⁰ red
- 27. Festum Reliquiarum in eccl. S. Albani⁰ blue

February

- 28. Osuualdi⁰ archiep.

March

- 2. Ceadde⁰ ep. C.
- 10. Inuencio S. Oswini⁰ Reg. M. red
- 25. Ermelandi⁰

April

- 11. Guthlaci⁰ C. Added, Ob. Michael⁰ de mentemor. Abb. (1349, date in lower margin)
- 19. Aelphegi⁰ archiep. M. red
- 24. Inuencio S. Yuonis⁰ Ep.
- 30. Erkenuualdi⁰ Ep. red

May

- 7. Johannis⁰ Archiep.

June

- 7. Transl. S. Wlstani⁰ Ep. red
- 14. Basili⁰ Archiep. red
- 17. Botulfi⁰ Abb. red
- 21. Leofredi⁰ Abb. (black). De S. Albano⁰ iii lect. red
- 22. Passio S. Albani⁰ Anglorum prothomartiris blue
- 23. Aetheldrede⁰ V.
- 25. Inuencio S. Amphibali⁰ sociorumque eius blue, with octave

July

- 2. Swithin⁰ red

August

- 2. Inuencio S. Albani⁰ blue and red, with octave
- 5. Oswaldi⁰ red
- 20. Oswini⁰ reg. m. red, with octave

September

- 4. Transl. S. Cuthberti⁰ red
- 17. Lamberti⁰ red

October

- 13. Transl. S. Ae(d)wardi⁰ Reg. C. green
- 17. Transl. S. Etheldride⁰ V.

November

- 17. Hugonis⁰ Ep. C. red
- 20. Aedmundi⁰ Reg. M. blue.

December

- 3. Birini⁰

2.

1r-ixv **Matthew Paris OSB⁰, *Chronica maiora I***

Illustrations

- 4r (7) Brutus⁰ worshipping Diana⁰, who has deer's horns and winged feet
- 6r (11) Lear⁰ and his three daughters: Cordeilla⁰ has scroll, tant as tant vauz tant te pris pere
- 12v (24) Alexander⁰ sits holding globe: feet on lion and dragon
- 14v (28) Cassibelanus?⁰ seated king
- 15v (30) The Virgin reclining: child in manger: ox and ass: curtain on rod
- 16v (32) The three kings on camels gallop to R.
- 18r (35) Crucifixion with Virgin and St John⁰: four nails
- 18v (36) A man stones Stephen⁰ kneeling
- 20r (39) A small figure of the Virgin
- 33v (66) Merlin⁰ half-length only partly inked in: below two dragons and boar, in pencil
- 44r (87) Machometus⁰: below his feet a red pig sus: he holds two scrolls. Poligamus esto. Scriptum est enim Crescite et multiplicamini. Presentes delicias pro futuris non spernite
- 53r (105) Bust: Offa⁰ in cowl, crown falls off showing tonsure: another of a woman in cowl and crown
- 58v (116) Alban⁰ beheaded. Executioner catches his (own) falling eyes in L. hand
- 59r (117) Offa⁰ directs two men, who dig up Alban⁰'s coffin
- 65r (129) Alfred⁰ half-length in medallion with scroll, Primus in anglia regnam solus
- 80v (160) Single combat on horseback between Aedmundus ferreum latus⁰ and Cnuto rex Dacie⁰. Angli⁰ and Daci⁰ in two towers R. and L.
- 83r (165) Mimekan nanus⁰ cuts off legs of Rodogan gigas⁰ (lightly inked in)

- 86v (172) Shield and crown of Harold^{II} (az. lion rampant or)
- 87v (174) The same reversed. Shield of William^I (gu. 3 leopards or)
- 90v (180) William^I's shield and crown reversed. William II^I's shield and crown (the same)
- 99r (197) Crosier (of Abbot Richard of St Albans^I)
- 106r (211) Hand holding taper (opposite description of the Holy places: and account of William^I's court in Westminster Hall^I)
- 106v (212) Shield and crown of William II^I reversed: bow and arrow below. Shield of Henry I^I
- 109v (218) Crosier and cross reversed (death of Anselm^I)
- 110v (220) Two Templars on one horse
- 110v () Hospital founded by Matilda^I in London^I
- 111v (222) Men fall out of ship (wreck of the White Ship)
- 112r (223) Bust of Alexander of Scotland?^I
- 113r (225) Shield and crown of Henry I^I reversed. Shield of Stephen^I
- 117v (234) Bust of David of Scotland^I
- 119v (238) Shield of Stephen^I reversed. Shield of Henry II^I
- 127v (254) Baptism of the Soldan of Yconium^I by the patriarch of Antioch: in a tub. A cleric holds box of chrism
- 131r (261) Shield of the young king Henry^I, party per pale gu. and sable to denote death. The crown above, not upright
- 132r (263) Murder of Becket^I: the four knights; Grim^I with cross interposing. Becket^I falls away from altar on R.
- 133r (265) Falling walls (Leicester^I)
- 134r (267) Bust of William of Scotland^I, crown falling off. Bust of a Scotchman with axe, weeping
- 135v (270) Robert Mercer^I of St Albans^I, and two men digging up S. Amphibalus^I
- 137v (274) Crown and shield of Philip of France^I (az. six fleurs-de-lys or 3, 2, 1). Reversed crown of Louis^I
- 138r (275) Crowned mitre of Prester John^I
- 138v (276) Crown and shield (half black) of the young Henry^I, reversed
- 140r (279) Battle. Salaadinus^I and Guido rex^I struggling for Crux Sancta
- viir () After the text, a full page with three splendid coloured drawings. Busts of crowned Virgin, and Child with cross-nimbus: border of clouds below
- viir () Below this on L. Head of the dying Christ. On R. Head of Christ full-face with jewelled collar of tunic
- viiv () Mappa mundi on verso, Gough Brit. Topogr. I 66, 86^[Gough 1780]. The map in Nero D. v^[LBN5] was copied from this. Genealogy of kings, one leaf
- ixr () On the last flyleaf are notes, viz.
- ixr () Title. "Cronica ab origine mundi usque ad a. d. millesimum ... simum videlicet usque ad mortem henrici (II)^I Regis anglie"
- ixr () "iiii marce auri dedit ... de ... pro pace"
- ixr () "vii marce dabantur comiti legr S. pro carta quam habuit a rege de custodia Wascon"
- ixr () S. Patrick^I prophesies greatness of the unborn S. David^I
- ixr () "Circa carleolum^I patria est dicta aluedele^I".
- ixr () "Hic. uersus austrum cocormue villa. patria. complem".
- ixr () "Aqua dorecte et currit (?) per cocormue"
- ixr () "Eduarde Aglionby^I of Balsall Temple^I" (xvi)
- ixr () "Ihesus^I maria^I Johnes^I" (xv)
- ixr () Note on dispersion of Apostles and division of the world
- ixr () List of Saxon kings, Egbert^I to Ethelred^I
Verso, covered with paper, apparently blank

CCC: space available for notes on the current status of the encoding

- text: copied from James.txt CF
- markup: CF
- markupCheck: checked by CF, CF 2nd
- msCheck: NJC + CF 16.5.2007
- remarks: