

175. MEMORIALE WALTERI DE COVENTRIA. { I. 11
T. James 101

Codex membranaceus in folio, seculo xiv exaratus, cui titulus manu neoterica inscriptus *Chronica Walteri Coventrensis*; in eo autem continentur,

1. Tituli cardinalium cum brevi descriptione eorum officii.
2. Historia Britonum per compendium, fol. 1.

Huic historiæ prefixæ sunt *Angliæ emensuratio et recensio septem regnorum Heptarchiæ*, illa Gallice, hæc Latine.

Ipsa historia incipit "Britannia insularum optima inter Galliam," et ex Galfredo Monumetensi satis inscite et jejunitè compilata videtur: mores enim sui seculi ad pristinum hoc tempus transtulit autor imperitus, et loquitur de parlamento, baronibus, comitibus, et homagio feudali apud Britonas.

3. Nomina regum Angliæ et chronica Saxonum.

In hoc chronico deducitur historia Angliæ usque ad Edwardum I. sed ita raptim ut binis saltem constet foliis.

Incipit, "Adelstanus fuit primus rex de Saxonibus in Anglia qui regnavit post Chadwalladum ultimum regem Britonum; ipse vero Eymundernesse quam a paganis emerat in perpetuam elemosinam ecclesiæ S. Petri Ebor. dedit."

Vellum, 11 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 7 $\frac{3}{8}$, ff. 169, double columns of 41 and 45 lines. Cent. xiii late, in a good hand approaching the charter hand. 2 fo. post rumo.

Collation: 1⁹ 2¹²-14¹² 15 (five): old foliation incorrect.

Contents:

- f. 1 is blank.
On f. 2 a, in a hand of xiii-xiv:
1. Quia primo summo pontifici i. Christo in triumphali ecclesia tres Ierarchie Angelorum obsequuntur.
List of Cardinals, ending:
Sancte Agathe.
S. Lucie in capite suburre.
S. Kirici.
Et sic sunt li cardinales (not in Stubbs).
On 2 b an extract from Bale (p. 264) on Walter of Coventry. The main hand of the book begins here:
 2. f. 3. *Anglia*. La lungure de engleterre cuntent viii^e lues ceo est a sauer de escosce deskes a toteneys en cornwalle. E. en leur ccc lues ceo est a sauer de meneueye la uyle seynt dauid deskes a doure etc. f. 1 (3)
Length of Ireland.
Kingdoms of the Heptarchy in Latin (Stubbs, App. to Preface vol. 1).
 3. Inc. historia britonum per compendium 1 (3)
Britannia insularum optima inter galliæ (*sic*).
Ends in 1291 with verses on Edward I.
Eduardus quartus modo regnat filius huius etc. (Stubbs 1 3-19) 4 b (6 b)
Col. 1 on f. 5 a is blank.

4. Privilegium ecclesiæ S. Petri Ebor. sive epistola Gregorii papæ ad Augustinum de ordinatione episcopi Ebor. qui habeat pallium et jus metropolit.

5. Chronica regum Northumbriæ et archiepiscoporum Ebor. fol. 5.

Continet historiam ecclesiasticam istius provinciæ a Paulino ad Thurstanum compendiose in uno folio scriptam.

6. Quædam de conquestu Hybernæ et jure regis Angliæ in Scotos, fol. 6.

7. Prophetiæ Sybillæ et Merlini.

Precedentia hæc chronica non Gualtero Coventrensi (si ipse demum subsequentium autor sit habendus) sed potius anonymo cuidam monacho fani S. Petri apud Eboracenses adscribenda videntur, uti satis liquet ex donatione cujus fit mentio in initio chronici Anglo-Saxonum, chartaque et historiis quæ illud excipiunt. Nec vero absimile videtur hosce quaterniones codici fuisse postea insertos, nam etsi caractere reliquis simili exarentur, magna tamen cernitur literarum initialium varietas, quæ in illis simplici forma sine ornamento rubro atramento delineantur, in reliquo autem codice multo sunt ornatiores et diversis coloribus pictæ.

8. Annales Angliæ per Waltherum Coventrensem.

4. Privilege of York. Reuerentiss. et sanctiss. Patri fratri Augustino (Bede *H. E.* I 29) f. 5
—custodiat reuerentissime frater (Stubbs I 19).
5. Inc. Beatus siquidem Gregorius papa ubi gentem anglorum
—monachus factus obdormiuit in domino sub rege stephano.
The greater part of a column blank (Stubbs I 20) 6
6. Nota quod ybernia habet octingenta miliaria in longitudine—
alienoram uxorem leuwelini ultimi ex alienora sorore henr.
quarti patris Eaduardi illustris regis anglie (Stubbs I 24).
Blank, part of column 6 b.
On English rights in Scotland :
(Sciendum? Item?) quia in carta Regis Edgari scocie Dunelmensi continetur quod idem rex cognoscit se possidere etc. 6 b
Papa Honorius 3^{us}.
Gregorius papa scribit regi Scocie.
Clemens papa scribens regi angl. (Stubbs I 24).
7. Prophecia sibille et merlini uatis de Albania et Angl. et eorum euentibus 6 b
Regnum scocorum fuit inter cetera regna
...
Historie ueteris Gildas luculentus arator
Hec retulit paruo carmine plura notans (Stubbs I 25).
Sibilla De euentibus regnorum et eorum regum ante finem mundi 6 b
Gallorum leuitas germanos iustificabit.
The last seven lines in a different hand, ending
Papa cito moritur Cesar regnabit ubique
Sub quo tunc vana cessabit gloria cleri (Stubbs I 26).
8. The Annals begin. At the bottom of f. 7 in a very large black hand (xiv early) is
Memoriale fratris Walteri de Couentr.

Titulus hic neotericus ex inscriptione ad imum hujus paginæ desumptus videtur, quæ ita se habet "Memoriale fratris Walteri de Coventr" et quæ "manu diversa et recentiori scripta" ut placuit Cl. Tannero "innuit hoc potius donum fuisse Gualteri quam scriptum." De hac controversia aliorum sit judicium, inscriptio ipsa reliquo codici haud multo recentior mihi videtur; et opus hoc Waltero olim fuisse adscriptum probat titulus deformi manu (seculo xv, si conjecturis uti liceat) in folio rejectitio ad finem codicis exaratus.

In annalibus ad finem anni 1154 "Explicit chronica Mariani," et similiter ad finem anni 1201 "Expliciunt chronica Rogeri Hovedene." Incipiunt "Romanorum nonagesimus tertius" et continent historiam Angliæ ab anno 1066 ad annum 1225.

From the position and script of this I should be inclined to call it a Library mark. See further below.

Text: Romanorum nonagesimus III^{us} Henr. regnauit annis xxii (Stubbs I 27).

Text ends: literis domini pape acceptis repatriauit. Verso blank.

On last leaf some references to the text (xvi).

On verso scribbles:

1 (xv-xvi). ? Mongy.

2 (xiv). Cronica Walteri de Conuentren.

Anno dⁿⁱ m^o c^o lxx^o vj^o Rex filius matildis imperatricis fecit fund(itus) destrui Castellum *Leycester* et menia urbis et Castellum de groby similiter.

This seems to show an interest in Leicester on the part of the scribbler.

The edition by Stubbs in the Rolls Series contains practically the whole of the text of this volume. In the Introduction to vol. I he gives the history of the manuscript. It was discovered by Leland between 1538 and 1544, seen by Bale in Leland's possession (*Index Scriptorum*, ed. Poole and Bateson) and acquired by Parker "before 1572, in which year the *Antiquitates* were printed" (see 110. 7).

Stubbs then discusses the authorship at length and on pp. xx, xxi comes to the conclusion that Walter of Coventry is probably to be regarded as the author.

On p. xxii he says that "what little there is of local indication in the book, and it is very little, points to York rather than Coventry" (as the home of the writer), "possibly the city, but almost certainly to the diocese of York."

On p. xxv: "Nasmith's inference that the writer was a monk of S. Peter's York, is of course erroneous: there were no monks at S. Peter's; but if he were a monk at all, there was no lack of monasteries in Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. The great abbey of S. Mary's, York, was governed at the very time at which the MS. was written, by Simon of Warwick, who was Abbot from 1258 to 1296: and amongst the names of the monks then under vows there are those of William of Derby prior of S. Bees and afterwards of S. Mary's, and Walter of Leicester a great scholar and most

excellent preacher (MS. Bodley 39). If the statement of Pits had any value that Walter was a native of Warwick, we might safely set him down as a follower of Abbot Simon: but anyhow the collocation of names is suggestive."

Tanner thought that the inscription *Memoriale fratris W. de C.* meant that the book was "potius donum Gualteri quam scriptum." Stubbs disagrees with him (p. xx) and cites the *Memoriale presbyterorum* and the *Memoriale* of Prior Henry of Eastry and of Henry Spenser Bp of Norwich as instances of the use of the word to mean a collection of facts which the writer desires to be remembered.

He does not cite instances which (coupled with the large script, and position of the words) incline me to believe that Tanner is in the right, and that the inscription means that Walter of Coventry presented the book to the library of his monastery and was not the author of it.

Instances of such inscriptions are :

University Library.

Ee. 5. 11. Astronomical Tables etc.

Memoriale J. Wilton.

Ff. 4. 31. Hieronymus in Matthaëum.

Memoriale fr. Walteri Hunt doctoris conuentus Carmelitarum oxonie.

Gg. 2. 18. Legenda Aurea.

Memoriale fr. Joh. de Drayton monachi cuius anime propicietur deus.

Lambeth MS. 160. Polychronica.

Memoriale fr. Willelmi broscumbe magistri. K. ij.

Ib. 215. Athanasius de trinitate.

Memoriale de Lanthonia.

The third of these examples, oddly enough, Tanner was inclined to interpret as an ascription of authorship. He had not seen that the work was the well-known Golden Legend of Jacobus de Voragine.

The list might readily be enlarged, but I have thought the examples cited sufficient to show that the formula is an accustomed one for expressing a donation on the part of the person named.

176.

{ K. 7
 { T. James *vac.*¹

Codex typis impressus in folio, in quo continentur,

1. Ælfredi regis res gestæ, autore Asserio Menevensi; *typis Saxoniciis.*
2. Historia brevis Thomæ Walsingham, Londini 1574.
3. Ejusdem Ypodigma Neustriæ, Londini 1574.

-
1. Printed by John Day (1574). Sayle, *Catalogue*, no. 870. B. M. 32.
 2. Printed by Henry Bynneman, 1574. Sayle, no. 1479. B. M. 1566.
 3. Printed by John Day, 1574. Sayle, no. 844. B. M. 1566.

¹ Nasmith identifies the book with 112 in T. James (and *Cat. MSS. Angl.*), but James does not include any printed books in his list. His 112 is almost certainly Nasmith's 240.