7. CHRONICA ET REGISTRUM BENEFACtorUM MONASTERII S. ALBANI

Vellum, $17\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, ff. 132, double columns of 50–60 lines. In three main portions, A, B, C. Cent. xv, in several hands: a supplement to 5, 6.

The collation of the volume, at least of the earlier portion, is so confused as to be unprofitable. The order of the leaves has been thoroughly well ascertained by Mr H. T. Riley and is set forth below.

At the bottom of f. 1 this inscription:

Hinc (Hunc) librum cronicalem tam gestorum regum quam abbatum post mortem domini Willelmi Wyntwshyll in quaternis derelictum connect! fecit domnus Robertas Ware. Et licet diuerse materiei diuersa sunt propter defectus quaternorum non consonancia student tamen lector flores mellifluos et coloribus amaricatos prout tempora fuerunt degustare timere et refutare.

On the flyleaf is an account in pencil by Mr Riley of the contents of the book: “This volume contains three distinct Historical works (not five as Nasmith says) in addition to an account of Abbots de la Mare, Moote, and Heyworth, and a Register of the Benefactors of St Albans down to the early part of the 15th century, pp. 183–264, the leaves of the latter being intermixed.


“The third of the Historical MSS. (A.D. 1392–1422) begins at p. 137 and ends at p. 182, being mutilated at the commencement. It is the basis of Walsingham’s text.

“From the Note at the foot of page 1 we may conclude that the leaves of the three MSS. were thrown together in this confused state when they were still the property of the Abbey of St Albans. H. T. R.”

“(C). The second work (other than those mentioned above) in this volume is the ‘Liber de Benefactoribus Mon. S. Albani’ (now published in the Rolls Series, Chron. Mon. S. Albani, in the same volume with Trokelowe) occupying pp. 203–222.

“(B). The third work in the volume seems to be a continuation of the Gesta Abbatum Mon. S. Albani contained in the Cotton MS. Claudius E IV. It is imperfect and has been divided into three fragments in binding up this volume: the context running pp. 223–240, two leaves having been cut out before p. 223, and three leaves after p. 240: it then goes back to pp. 183–202, and is then continued at pp. 241–264, the last leaf being mutilated.” H. T. R. 30th May 1867.

See Mr Riley’s Introduction to Trokelowe’s Annals in the Rolls Series.
(A). Of these works No. I begins:

Anno gracie millesimo trecentesimo septuagesimo septimo qui est annus regni Regis Ricardi a conquestu secundi primus Ricardus de Burdegala filius Edwardi etc.

A square miniature on red ground of Richard II throned, beardless, holding sword and sceptre. He is in blue mantle over red with white collar.

The last page of this chronicle is 48, where it ends imperfectly, donec per quosdam regales prohibiti (a text which recurs on p. 155 of this MS. in the 3rd Chronicle).

An old note here says 'deficit hie quaternus.'

The passages of it which were omitted in the text of Tho. Walsingham's Hist. Anglicana are printed by Mr Riley in Walsingham, Rolls Series II 411-425.

No. II is printed from this MS. in J. de Trokelowe etc. Chronica (Rolls Series) pp. 155-420, by Mr Riley.

No. III is in two hands, the 2nd beginning at p. 153: it ends p. 182, eius disposicioni sunt commissa, where is a note (xvi) hiis istis verbis finitur historia thome de Walsingham (added qui ex hoc opere suam Historiam complauit). See Riley's Walsingham Hist. Angl., Rolls Series II, Pref.

At the foot of the page:

De Henrico rege sexto
Lactens regno. pater moritur. michi consule mater  
Rex sine re regnas regni tibi parua potestas  
Dum puer et rex stas regnum consumet egestas  
Ve regno regis pueri destruccio legis  
Grex superbibit tibi fraus gens inde peribit  
O rex si rex es rege te uel eris sine re Rex  
Si bene teque regis es dignus nomine Regis.

(B). The next portion which appears in the MS. (though Riley in the note copied above describes it last in order) is the continuation of the Gesta Abbatum. The true order of the pages, as noted above, is 223-240, 183-202, 241-264. Section C follows p. 202.

It is printed by Riley, Gesta Abbatum, Rolls Series III 375-535. About a quarter of the last leaf is torn off.

There is one picture in this portion at p. 241 representing Abbot John Moote in mitre with crosier seated under a blue canopy. On L. a monk holding a parchment, and two civilians; on R. four monks are holding a parchment: ground red with gold flowers. Small initial with Virgin and Child.

(C). The remaining portion is the Liber de Benefactoribus, printed by Riley in Trokelowe, Rolls Series, pp. 427-464. This has a good deal of pictured work.

On p. 204 is a sketch of a knight in armour with lance, on horseback.

On p. 205 a large miniature of Offa in scarlet over blue, crowned, seated, holding sword and model of Church with central tower and leaded spire. Purple ground with pattern.
Four other small miniatures, busts of bearded kings: purple ground.
On p. 206 nine similar busts.
On p. 207 two busts of ladies drawn in ink, cent. xvi.
p. 208 large. Almost black ground with white pattern. Queen Matilda seated
holding purse, and charter, which she gives to kneeling monk on R. Another bust
of a queen.
p. 209 large. Pope Adrian I in tall crowned mitre, chasuble with pall etc., throned
gives charter to Offa who kneels with his crown on his L. wrist, presented by another.
Orange and black ground.
Seven more busts of popes.
Seven busts of popes.
p. 211. Ethelric, Bp of Dorchester, in red robe and skull cap, kneels, with crosier, on
cushion at draped table, and hands a charter to a monk who stands behind the table:
behind him is an arched retable.
Nine busts of bishops.
p. 212. Three more.
p. 213. A knight in armour kneels holding a church and a sealed charter, at an altar.
Black ground with white pattern bordered by red with white pattern.
Eight heads of knights mostly in helmets.
p. 214. Twenty-three heads of men and women skilfully painted with considerable
variety of expression, and of headgear.
p. 215. Twenty-seven similar heads.
p. 216. Twenty-nine similar heads. On margin a faint sketch apparently of a patient
seated with a knife applied to his cheek or neck.
p. 217. Nineteen similar heads.
p. 218. Four more in col. 1. Col. 2, in a later hand, has three busts in pen and ink,
probably of cent. xvi. Spaces are left at first in the pages which follow.

8. VINCENTII SPECULUM HISTORIALE. LIBR. J Under B. 4
I-xiv.  f. 268+1, double columns of 61 lines. Cent. xiv
early, well written. Initials in red and blue filled with close pen-work
ornament. 2 fo. s. ignoramus.
Collation: 13 (3 mut. 11 a fragment) 213 313 (wants 7) 413 54 (wants 4) 612-
912 1012 1114 (ista pecia continet xiii fol.) 1212 1313 141 (five) 1512 1712 1818 1918-
2312 2412 2516 (wants 1, 2, 10), 1 flyleaf.
Several quires are marked Co4 = correctum or completum.
The flyleaf is interesting: it is the best part of two leaves of a music
book of cent. xiii with music on a five-line stave.
On the recto, L. at top, the number 558. The L. edge cut off. Ten
'staves of music, Latin words '...secit do' thrice and 'suauitatis.'
On R. the number 547. End of a song:
in lyde ioye and blisce bringet me to bride.