

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04285-7 - The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: According to the Several Original
Authorities: Volume 2: Translation
Edited and Translated by Benjamin Thorpe
Excerpt
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THE
ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE,
ACCORDING TO THE
SEVERAL ORIGINAL AUTHORITIES.

EDITED, WITH A TRANSLATION,
BY
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VOL. II.
TRANSLATION.

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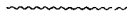
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ANNALES SAXONICI.



In the year that was past from the birth of Christ cccc.xciv., then Cerdic and Cynric his son landed at ‘Cerdices ora’ from v. ships. And Cerdic was the son of Elesa, Elesa of Esla, Esla of Giwis, Giwis of Wig, Wig of Freawine, Freawine of Frithugar, Frithugar of Brond, Brond of Bældæg, Bældæg of Woden. And vi. years after they landed they subdued the West Saxons’ kingdom; and they were the first kings who conquered the West Saxons’ land from the Welsh; and he had the kingdom xvi. years, and when he died, then his son Cynric succeeded to the kingdom, and held it xvii. winters. When he died, then Ceol succeeded to the kingdom, and held it vi. years. When he died, then Ceolwulf his brother succeeded, and he reigned xvii. years; and their kin reaches to Cerdic. Then Cynegils, Ceolwulf’s brother’s son, succeeded to the kingdom, and reigned xxxi. winters; and he first received baptism of the West Saxons’ kings; and then Cênwalh succeeded, and held it xxx. winters; and Cênwalh was the son of Cynegils; and then Seaxburg his queen held the kingdom one year after him. Then Æscwine succeeded to the kingdom, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it ii. years. Then Centwine, the son of Cynegils, succeeded to the West Saxons’ kingdom, and reigned vii. years. Then Ceadwalla succeeded to the kingdom, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it three years. Then Ine succeeded to the [West] Saxons’ kingdom, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it xxvii. winters. Then Æthelheard succeeded, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it xiv. winters. Then Cuthred succeeded, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it xvii. years. Then Sigebryht succeeded, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it i. year. Then Cynewulf succeeded to the kingdom, whose

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kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it xxxi. winters. Then Beorhtric succeeded to the kingdom, whose kin reaches to Cerdic, and held it xvi. years. Then Ecgbryht succeeded to the kingdom, and held it xxxvii. winters and vii. months ; and then Æthelwulf his son succeeded, and held it eighteen years and a half. Æthelwulf was the son of Ecgbryht, Ecgbryht of Ealhmund, Ealhmund of Eafa, Eafa of Eoppa, Eoppa of Ingild, Ingild of Cênred ; and Ine of Cênred, and Cuthburg [daughter] of Cênred, and Cwenburg [daughter] of Cênred ; and Cênred [son] of Ceolwald, Ceolwald of Cuthwulf, Cuthwulf of Cuthwine, Cuthwine of Celm, Celm of Cynric, Cynric of Cerdic. And then Æthelbald his son succeeded to the kingdom, and held it v. years. Then Æthelbryht his brother succeeded, and held it v. years. Then Æthered their brother succeeded to the kingdom, and held it v. years. Then Ælfred their brother succeeded to the kingdom ; and then were past of his age xxiii. winters ; and ccc.xcvi. winters since his kin first conquered the West Saxons' land from the Welsh.

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THE island of Britain is eight hundred miles long, and two hundred miles broad : and here are in the island five peoples : English, Brito-Welsh, Scottish, Pictish, and Book-Latin. The first inhabiting this land were Britons : they came from ²Armenia, and first settled southward in Britain. It then befel, that Picts came from the south from Scythia, with long ships, not many ; and they first landed in north Ireland, and there prayed the Scots that they there might dwell. But they would not allow them ; for they said that they could not all dwell together there. And then said the Scots : “ We can, nevertheless, give you counsel. We know another island here to the east, where ye may dwell if ye will ; and if any one withstand you, we will aid you, so that ye may subdue it.” Then the Picts went and conquered this land northward ; southward the Britons had it, as we before said. And the Picts obtained them wives from the Scots, on the condition that they should ever choose their royal race on the woman’s side, which they have held so long since. And it then befel, after a course of years, that some part of the Scots withdrew from Ireland into Britain, and subdued some part of the land. And their leader was called Reôða, from whom they are named Dalreôði.

13.

5.

¹ N.B.—The numerals in the side margin denote the pages of the Saxon text.

² An error for *Armorica*.—“*De tractu Armoricano advecti*,” are the words of Bede, H.E. i. 1.

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Sixty winters ere Christ was born, Caius Julius, emperor of the Romans, with eighty vessels, sought Britain. There he was at first embarrassed by a fierce fight, and lost a great part of his army. And he then left his army to abide with the Scots, and withdrew south into Gaul, and there gathered six hundred ships, with which he again went to Britain. And when they first rushed together, the emperor's tribune was slain; he was called ¹Labienus. Then the Welsh took great sharp stakes, and drove them into the ford of a river, within the water: the river was called Thames. When the Romans found that, they would not pass over the ford. The Britons then fled to the wood wastes, and the emperor conquered full many a chief burgh, with great labour; and again withdrew into Gaul.

6, 7.

²An. Dom. i. Octavianus reigned LVI. years, and in the XLII. (LII.) year of his reign Christ was born.

An. II. (III.) The three astrologers came from the east part, in order that they might worship Christ; and the children were slain in Bethlehem, in persecution of Christ, by Herod.

An. III. (IV.) In this year Herod died, stabbed by himself; and Archelaus his son succeeded to the kingdom. And the child Christ was borne back from Egypt.

An. IV., V. (VI.)

An. VI. (VII.) From the beginning of the world to this year, five thousand and two hundred winters were past.

4. Before the incarnation of Christ, LX. winters, Caius Julius the emperor, first of the Romans, sought the land of Britain; and crushed the Britons in fight, and overcame them; and yet might not there gain power.^a

¹ An error for Laberius.—“Eo die Q. Laberius Durus, tribunus militum, interficitur,” Cæsar, B.G., v. 15.

² The notices which occur between this and the year 449 are derived principally from Jerome's

translation of Eusebius' Chronicle and its continuations, and from Bede's Chronicle and Ecclesiastical History, to the latter of which the few incidents relating to Britain during that period are owing.—R.P.

^a MSS. A.B.C.

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An. VII. (VIII.)—X.

An. XI. In this year Herod, Antipater's son, received the government in Judea.

An. XII. Philip and Herod divided Lysia and Judea into four governments.

An. XIII. (XIV.)—XV.

An. XVI. (XV.) In this year Tiberius succeeded to the empire.

An. XVII. (XVI.)—XXVI. (XXV.)

An. XXVII. (XXV., XXVI.) In this year Pilate began to rule over the Jews. 8, 9.

An. XXVIII., XXIX. (XXVI.—XXVIII.)

An. XXX. (XXIX.) In this year Christ was baptized, and Peter and Andrew converted; and James and John, and the twelve apostles.

An. XXXI., XXXII.

An. XXXIII. In this year Christ was crucified; after five thousand two hundred and twenty-six years from the beginning of the world.

An. XXXIV. In this year St. Paul was converted, and St. Stephen stoned.

An. XXXV. In this year the blessed Peter the apostle filled an episcopal chair in the city of Antioch.

An. XXXVI., XXXVII.

An. XXXVIII. In this year Pilate slew himself with his own hand.

An. XXXIX. In this year Caius (Caligula) succeeded to the empire.

An. XL. Matthew in Judea began to write his gospel.

An. XLI.—XLIV. (XLIII.)

An. XLV. (XLIV.) In this year the blessed Peter the apostle filled an episcopal chair in Rome.

An. XLVI. (XLV.) In this year Herod died, who slew James one year before his own death. 10, 11.

An. XII. In this year Judea was divided into four tetrarchates.^a^a F.

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An. XLVII. (XLVI.) In this year Claudius, second of the Roman kings, sought the land of Britain, and took under his sway the greatest part of the island; and in like manner subjected the Orkney islands to the kingdom of the Romans. This was in the fourth year of his reign; and in this same year was the great famine in Syria, which Luke recounts, in the book of the Acts of the Apostles, through Agabus the prophet. Then Nero succeeded to the empire after Claudius, who almost lost Britain through his sloth. Mark the Evangelist begins to write the Gospel in Egypt.

An. XLVIII. (XLVII.) In this year there was a very severe famine.

An. XLIX. In this year Nero began to reign.

An. L. In this year Paul was sent bound to Rome.

An. LI.—LXI.

An. LXII. In this year James, the brother of the Lord, suffered (martyrdom).

An. LXIII. In this year Mark the Evangelist died.

An. LXIV.—LXVIII.

An. LXIX. (LXVIII.) In this year Peter and Paul suffered.

An. LXX. In this year Vespasian succeeded to the empire.

12, 13.

An. LXXI. In this year Titus, son of Vespasian, slew in Jerusalem c. XI. thousand Jews.

An. LXXII.—LXXX.

An. LXXXI. In this year Titus succeeded to the empire after Vespasian, who said that he lost the day on which he did no good.

An. LXXXII., LXXXIII. (LXXXII.)

An. LXXXIV. (LXXXIII.) In this year Domitian, Titus' brother, succeeded to the empire.

An. XLVI. In this year Claudius the emperor came to Britain, and subdued a great part of the island, and also added the island of Orkney to the Roman power.^a

An. XLVII. In this year Claudius, king of the Romans, went with an army into Britain, and reduced the island, and subjected all the Picts and Welsh to the dominion of the Romans.^b

An. LXIX. In this year Peter suffered on the cross, and Paul was slain (beheaded).^a

^a F.^b D. E.

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An. LXXXV. (LXXXIV.)—LXXXVI. (LXXXIII.) (LXXXIV.)

An. LXXXVII. (LXXXV. LXXXIV.) In this year John the Evangelist, in the island of Patmos, wrote the book Apocalypse.

An. LXXXVIII. (LXXXVI. LXXXV.)—XCVIII. (XCIX.)

An. XCIX. (C.) In this year Simon the apostle, the kinsman of Christ, was crucified; and John the Evangelist rested (died) on that day in Ephesus.

An. C.I. In this year pope Clement died.

An. C.II.—C.IX.

An. C.X. (C.IX.) In this year bishop Ignatius suffered (martyrdom).

An. C.XI.—C.XV.

An. C.XVI. In this year Adrian the emperor began to reign.

An. C.XVII.—C.XXXVI.

An. C.XXXVII. In this year Antoninus began to reign.

An. C.XXXVIII.—C.LIV. (C.LX.)

An. C.LXI. (C.LV.) In this year Marcus Antonius (Antoninus) 14, 15.
and Aurelius his brother succeeded to the empire.

An. C.LXII.—C.LXVI. (C.LVI.—C.LXVI.)

An. C.LXVII. In this year Eleutherius succeeded to the bishopric in Rome, and gloriously (worthily) held it for twelve winters. To him Lucius, king of Britain, sent letters, praying that he might be made a Christian: and he accomplished what he prayed for.

An. C.LXVIII.—C.LXXXVIII.

An. C.LXXXIX. (C.LXXXVIII.) In this year Severus succeeded to the empire, and reigned seventeen winters. He begirt Britain with a dike from sea to sea.

An. C.LXVII. In this year Eleutherus succeeded to the popedom, and held it for xv. years; and in this same year, Lucius, king of the Brito-Welsh, sent and prayed for baptism, and he forthwith sent to him; and he continued in the true faith till the time of Diocletian.^a

An. C.LXXXIX. In this year Severus succeeded to the empire, and went with an army to Britain, and by battle subdued a great part of the island; and then made a wall of turfs, and a broad wall thereupon, from sea to sea, for the protection of the

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An. C.XC. (C.LXXXIX.)—C.XCIX.

An. CC. In this year was found the holy rood.

An. CC.I.—CC.LXXXV.

16, 17. An. CC.LXXXVI. (CC.LXXXIII.) In this year St. Alban the martyr suffered.

An. CC.LXXXVII.—CCC.XLII.

An. CCC.XLIII. In this year St. Nicholas died.

An. CCC.XLIV.—CCC.LXXVIII.

An. CCC.LXXXIX. In this year Gratian succeeded to the empire.

An. CCC.LXXX.

An. CCC.LXXXI. In this year Maximus the emperor succeeded to the empire. He was born in Britain, and went thence into Gaul, and he there slew the emperor Gratian, and drove his brother from the country, who was called Valentinian. And Valentinian afterwards gathered an army, and slew Maximus, and succeeded to the empire. At that time the heresy of Pelagius arose throughout the world.

An. CCC.LXXXII.—CCCC.VIII. (CCCC.VII.)

An. CCCC.IX. (CCCC.VIII.) In this year the Goths took Rome by storm ; and never since have the Romans ruled in Britain. That was about XI. hundred and X. winters from the time that it was built. Altogether they ruled in Britain four hundred and seventy winters, from the time that Caius Julius first sought the land.

An. CCCC.X.—CCCC.XVII.

18, 19. An. CCCC.XVIII. In this year the Romans collected all the treasures that were in Britain, and hid some in the earth, that no man might afterwards find them ; and conveyed some with them into Gaul.

An. CCCC.XIX.—CCCC.XXII.

Brito-Welsh. He reigned seventeen years, and then ended (his days) at York. His son Bassianus succeeded to the empire. His other son was called Geta, who died.^a

An. C.LXXXVIII. In this year Severus built a wall of turf, after he had won the land by battle ; and a broad wall thereupon from sea to sea. And he reigned seventeen years, and then ended (his days) in York.^b

^a B. C.^b F.