

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04681-7 - *Johannis de Trokelowe et Henrici de Blaneforde Chronica et Annales*:
A.D. 1259–1296, 1307–1324, 1392–1406
Edited by Henry Thomas Riley
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Johannis de Trokelowe et Henrici de Blaneforde Chronica et Annales

Between 1863 and 1876, the Rolls Series published several works from or about the abbey of St Albans, edited by Henry Thomas Riley (1816–78) under the rubric 'Chronica Monasterii S. Albani'. This volume of source material for the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, some of it unique, appeared in 1866. It contains texts from several important manuscripts, recording state and church affairs, warfare and diplomacy, and benefactions to the abbey. Recent research suggests that the author of the 1307–23 annals, attributed to John de Trokelowe, was William Rishanger (who appears elsewhere in the Rolls Series); Trokelowe was probably a scribe, while Henry de Blaneforde is named as the continuator. Evidence also exists that the anonymous account of the period 1392–1406 in this volume is in fact part of Thomas Walsingham's *Chronica majora*, other sections of which were edited separately by Riley. The Latin texts are accompanied by English side-notes.

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et Henrici de Blaneforde
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RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI
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OR

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THE CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY, UNDER
THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

ON the 26th of January 1857, the Master of the Rolls submitted to the Treasury a proposal for the publication of materials for the History of this Country from the Invasion of the Romans to the Reign of Henry VIII.

The Master of the Rolls suggested that these materials should be selected for publication under competent editors without reference to periodical or chronological arrangement, without mutilation or abridgment, preference being given, in the first instance, to such materials as were most scarce and valuable.

He proposed that each chronicle or historical document to be edited should be treated in the same way as if the editor were engaged on an *Editio Princeps*; and for this purpose the most correct text should be formed from an accurate collation of the best MSS.

To render the work more generally useful, the Master of the Rolls suggested that the editor should give an account of the MSS. employed by him, of their age and their peculiarities; that he should add to the work a brief account of the life and times of the author, and any remarks necessary to explain the chronology; but no other note or comment was to be allowed, except what might be necessary to establish the correctness of the text.

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The works to be published in octavo, separately, as they were finished ; the whole responsibility of the task resting upon the editors, who were to be chosen by the Master of the Rolls with the sanction of the Treasury.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, after a careful consideration of the subject, expressed their opinion in a Treasury Minute, dated February 9, 1857, that the plan recommended by the Master of the Rolls "was well calculated for the accomplishment of this important national object, in an effectual and satisfactory manner, within a reasonable time, and provided proper attention be paid to economy, in making the detailed arrangements, without unnecessary expense."

They expressed their approbation of the proposal that each chronicle and historical document should be edited in such a manner as to represent with all possible correctness the text of each writer, derived from a collation of the best MSS., and that no notes should be added, except such as were illustrative of the various readings. They suggested, however, that the preface to each work should contain, in addition to the particulars proposed by the Master of the Rolls, a biographical account of the author, so far as authentic materials existed for that purpose, and an estimate of his historical credibility and value.

*Rolls House,
December 1857.*

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JOHANNIS DE TROKELOWE,

ET

HENRICI DE BLANEFORDE,

MONACHORUM S. ALBANI,

NECNON QUORUNDAM ANONYMORUM,

CHRONICA ET ANNALES,

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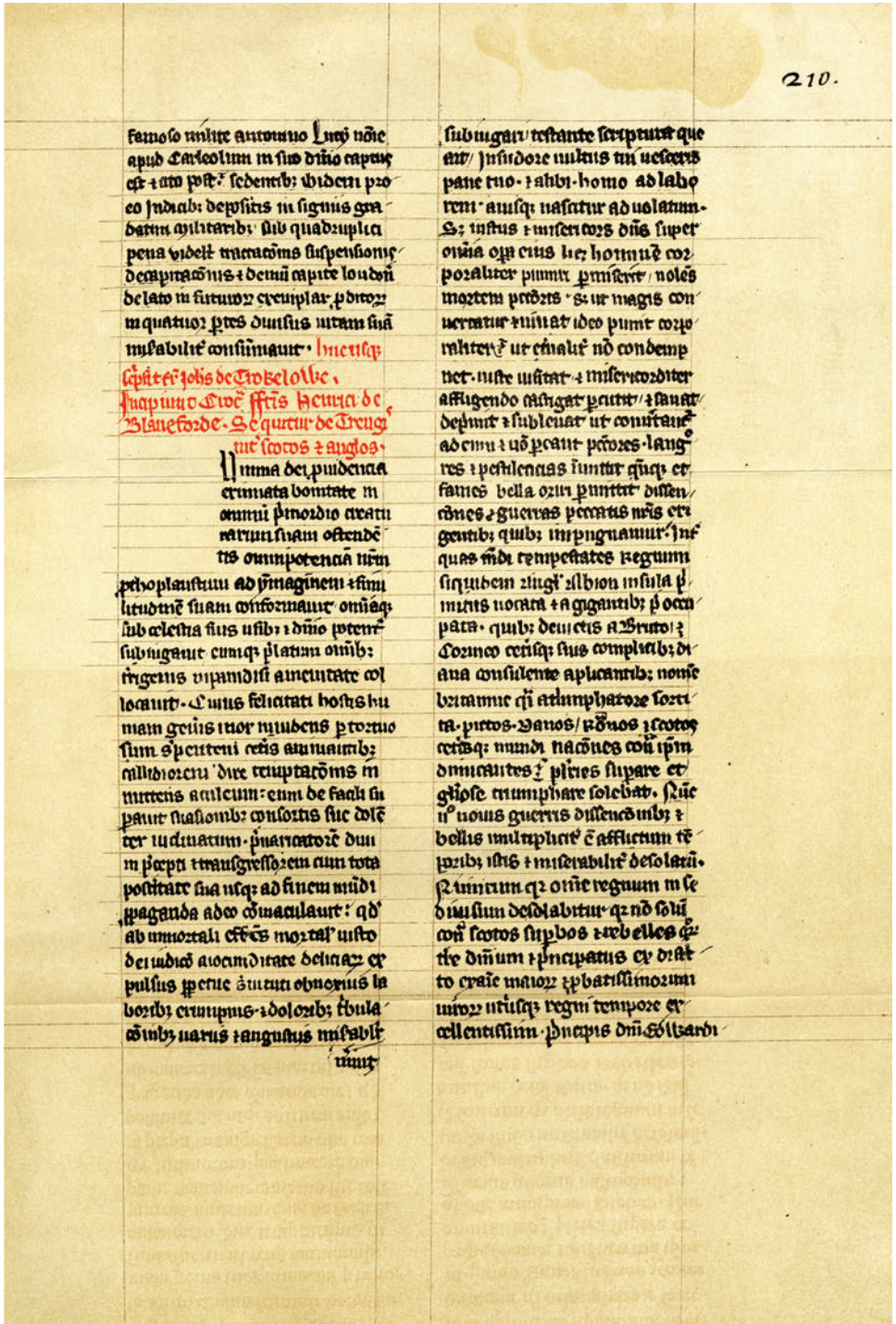
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See pp. 127, 131, 132.

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CHRONICA MONASTERII S. ALBANI.

JOHANNIS DE TROKELOWE,

ET

HENRICI DE BLANEFORDE,

MONACHORUM S. ALBANI,

NECNON

QUORUNDAM ANONYMORUM,

CHRONICA ET ANNALES,

REGNANTIBUS HENRICO TERTIO, EDUARDO PRIMO,
EDUARDO SECUNDO, RICARDO SECUNDO,
ET HENRICO QUARTO.

EDITED

BY

HENRY THOMAS RILEY, M.A.,

OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE ;

AND OF THE INNER TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE first of the historical works contained in the present Volume, the *Opus Chronicorum*, is copied from the Cottonian MS. Cladius D. vi., described in the preceding Volume (Rishanger, etc.) of the *Chronica Monasterii S. Albani*, and belonging to the earlier half of the fourteenth century. The *Opus Chronicorum* is the first in order of the seven works ¹ attributed by Bale to William Rishanger, monk of St. Alban's.

Upon examination, however, the difference of style, and the nature of its contents, would alone sufficiently prove that the *Opus* could not possibly have been written by the same person who compiled the ² Chronicle, which, whether really written by Rishanger or not, now goes under his name. That the writer of the latter work employed the *Opus Chronicorum* in the formation of his own Chronicle, does not admit of a doubt; but beyond that, and the fact that they both were compiled at the Abbey of St. Alban's, there is no connexion whatever between them. So far indeed from their having proceeded from the same pen, not only does the compiler of Rishanger's Chronicle ³ correct errors committed by the writer of the *Opus*, but whereas Rishanger's Chronicle, or at least the latter

¹ As the "*Chronicorum Opus*:" see the quotation from Bale in the Volume containing Rishanger's Chronicle, pp. x., xi.

² See pp. 3–230 of the preceding

Volume (Rishanger, etc.) of the *Chron. Mon. S. Albani*.

³ See page xiii. in this Introduction, for example.

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part of it, was written ¹ after the death of Edward II. (A.D. 1327), the *Opus* professes (p. 4) to have been compiled at the desire of John, Abbot of St. Alban's, who can only be identified with John Maryns, Abbot of that place from the close of A.D. 1301 to March 1308; seeing that a murrain is mentioned in the *Opus* (pp. 37, 38) as having commenced in England A.D. 1274 and lasted for eight-and-twenty years after that date, or, in other words, down to A.D. 1302. The end of the life, too, of Edward I. (July 1307) is almost undoubtedly alluded to in the passage of the *Opus* (page 50),—“*Dominus Rex . . . omnibus diebus vite sue eam plangebat,*” — the King mourned for Queen Alianor all the days of his life; a fact which additionally proves that Maryns must have been the Abbot alluded to, Abbot John de Berkhamsted having died in November 1301, and no Abbot named “John” having succeeded till the election of John Moot (or De la Mote) as Abbot in 1396. The dates also of the various events mentioned in the *Opus*, as the reader will observe on reference to the Notes and the outer margins, are repeatedly erroneous; whereas in the so-called Rishanger's Chronicle, though the facts of the *Opus* have to a considerable extent been made use of, the dates are in general corrected throughout.

The result then is, that the *Opus* and Rishanger's Chronicle cannot have been written by the same hand, and indeed the ²probabilities appear to be that Rishanger was the writer of neither of them; while, on the other hand, it seems by no means improbable that the *Gesta Edwardi Primi* (printed in pp. 411–424 of the preceding Volume), commencing in A.D. 1297, the year succeeding that in which the narrative

See pages xx. and 119 of the preceding Volume of the *Chron. Mon. S. Albani*.

² See the Introduction to the preceding Volume of the *Chron. Mon. S. Albani* (Rishanger, etc.), p. xxv.

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of the *Opus* ends, and to which Rishanger has annexed his name as the writer (p. 411), was intended by him as a Continuation of, or companion to, the *Opus Chronicorum*.

Probable purpose of Rishanger's *Gesta Edwardi Primi*. General character of the contents of the *Opus Chronicorum*.

The monastic writer of the *Opus*, in his *Proœmium*—which looks somewhat like a faint, very faint, imitation of the opening passages of Sallust's *Bellum Catilinarium*—makes somewhat large promises (in a very ¹confused kind of Latin), though his results unfortunately are comparatively small; and, what is even more vexatious, whereas he says (p. 4) that of much of his later matter he himself has been an eye-witness—"de recentioribus ætatibus . . . vel ipse vidi, vel a "fidedignis viris audivi," his history becomes more and more meagre in its details as it approaches his own times, and ultimately fades away into a few disjointed memoranda for the later years, carelessly thrown together.

After cursorily reviewing the primary causes of the dissensions between Henry III. and the Barons (pp. 4, 5), and touching upon the Provisions of Oxford (p. 5), the writer passes on (pp. 6–9), though under incorrect dates, to the transactions of A.D. 1261, 2; the matter of which has been pretty closely adhered to in Rishanger's Chronicle (pp. 8–10). The context then passes on, almost immediately, to A.D. 1264, the Battle of Lewes; the account of which is wholly abandoned in Rishanger's Chronicle for more copious and more valuable ²materials. The description, however, in the *Opus*, of the miseries inflicted on the country by the civil war, and of the injunctions of De Montfort against pillage (p. 12), appears in the pages of the Chronicle; the same, too (pp. 32, 33), with the account

Collation of the contents of the *Opus Chronicorum* with the text of Rishanger's Chronicle.

¹ "Voluntati fuit interrupta temporum seriem resarcire," page 4.

² Probably, either the *Wars of the*

Barons, undoubtedly written by Rishanger, or the sources from which that Chronicle was derived.

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Collation of the intended Tournament at Dunstaple, A.D. 1265, and the anger of the Earl of Gloucester consequent on its prohibition (*Opus*, pp. 14, 15). The description of the treatment of the body of De Montfort, as given in the *Opus* (p. 18), the cutting off of the head, and but one foot, is corrected in the ¹account given in Rishanger's *Chronicle* (p. 7); though even there not to the real extent of its revolting details, as given in the *Liber de Antiquis Legibus*.

of the contents of the *Opus Chronicon* with the text of Rishanger's *Chronicle*.

In page 20 of the *Opus*, the town of St. Alban's is mentioned as having been strongly fortified during the Wars of the Barons; an account which is duly transferred to Rishanger's *Chronicle*, though it omits to add, as stated in the *Opus*, that the town thence gained the name of "Little London" (*Minor Londonia*) throughout all England: a name which, we learn from other sources, it still retained for at least ²forty years afterwards.

The act of fatal folly committed by Gregory de Stokes, Constable of Hertford (p. 21), is closely copied in Rishanger's *Chronicle* (pp. 38, 39); the same, too, with the account (p. 22) of the miraculous punishment of the despoilers of the Cell of St. Giles (*Chron.*, p. 40). The rather questionable compliment paid to Edward the First (p. 26), by way of illustration of his martial prowess, in comparing him to Ishmael,—“His hand being against every man, and every man's hand against him,” is, rather singularly, repeated in the *Annales Angliæ et Scotiæ* (p. 378), printed in the preceding Volume of the *Chron. Monast. S. Albani*, whoever the writer of that narrative may have been. Rishanger's *Chronicle* (p. 64) mentions by anticipation, from a like mention in the

¹ The same account is given in Rishanger's *Wars of the Barons*.

² In a letter (an authentic copy of which is still preserved in the Public Record Office) written by Ed-

ward II., when Prince of Wales (A.D. 1304), to his bailiff at Langley, he speaks of certain persons of his retinue as then residing at "Little London" (*Petite Lundres*).

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Opus (p. 26), the marriage of the Princess Joanna of Acre to Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester; but omits the additional account, given in the *Opus*, of her ultimate marriage (A.D. 1297) to a man of inferior rank (Ralph de Monthermer); together with her illogical answer (p. 27) to her father, Edward I., when taken to task by him or his advisers for so demeaning herself.

Collation of the contents of the *Opus Chroniconum* with the text of Rishanger's Chronicle.

The narrative of the destruction of Norwich Cathedral by fire (A.D. 1272), as given in Rishanger's Chronicle (pp. 73, 74), appears to have been partly borrowed from the *Opus* (p. 28); with an addition, however, as to the employment of Sir Thomas Trivet, as Justiciar, in the work of punishing those accused of the crime; information derived either from the *Annales* of Nicholas Trivet, the Dominican, who was a son of the Justiciar, or from his sources. But whereas the text of the *Opus* informs us (p. 28) that some of those convicted were hanged, while some were condemned to be drawn by horses, and others to be burnt, these horrible details are corrected, and somewhat modified, in the text of the Chronicle, which merely states that many were condemned to be drawn at horses' tails and hanged. So, too, the text in page 29 of the *Opus*, where we are somewhat grandiloquently informed that Charles I., King of Sicily, with ¹*all* his army, was lost at sea on his return from Tunis, is corrected in the Chronicle (p. 67):—"The sea swallowed up nearly all his army, and his treasure brought from Tunis, together with all his baggage."

Prince Edward's resolution, on hearing of these disasters (p. 29), to enter Acre, even if accompanied solely by Fowin, his palfreyman, is closely copied in the

¹"*Ecce! miraculum divinum: mox mare aperuit os suum, et deglutivit eum, cum toto exercitu suo, etc.*" This passage strongly tends to prove that the *Opus* (like, perhaps, most of the early mediæval Chronicles) was

compiled from contemporary notes put together while events were still in progress, and before the whole truth was fully known: the statements thus coming down to future hands in an uncorrected state.

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Collation
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of Rish-
anger's
Chronicle.

Chronicle (pp. 67, 68). The same, too, with the account of Edward being wounded at Acre by an assassin (Chron. pp. 69, 70); though we learn from the Chronicle the additional fact, that, in wresting the knife from his antagonist, Edward was wounded in the forehead and in the hand; while again, no mention is made in the Chronicle of the mode adopted of stanching the flow of blood, by the application of precious stones, as alleged in the *Opus* (p. 30). The somewhat full account (p. 31) of Edward's reasons for not taking vengeance on the Saracens is abridged in the Chronicle (pp. 70, 71). The account of the death of Henry III., and particulars as to his wife and children, as given in the *Opus*, are transferred to Rishanger's Chronicle, and have thence found their way (through MS. Reg. 13 E. ix.) to the pages of Walsingham. The ¹same, too, as to the character of Henry depicted in the *Opus* (pp. 35, 36); a character, marked by an attention to religious formalities, which might have been an indication of really conscientious feeling in a good man, but which could have been nothing but a debased superstition in a person so utterly destitute of principle as he repeatedly proved himself to be. The account, again, of Henry's last moments and death (p. 36) is closely copied in Rishanger's Chronicle (pp. 73, 74), and from thence (through MS. Reg. 13 E. ix., previously mentioned,) into the pages of Walsingham; but, whereas the *Opus* says (p. 36) that Henry received the Eucharist in both kinds—" *corpus et sanguinem devote suscepit*,"—the compiler of the Chronicle, in a spirit perhaps of more rigid orthodoxy, has omitted all mention of the latter,—"*deinde devote suscepit corpus Christi*" (p. 74) being the words of his text.

The account (pp. 37, 38) of the disease among sheep, introduced A.D. 1274, and which lasted for eight-and-twenty years, appears in the pages of the Chronicle

¹ See Rish. *Chron.* pp. 74, 75.

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(p. 84); and so too with the account (p. 40) of King Edward's capture of Anglesey, and the losses of the English army in Wales (Rish. p. 103). The details of the grief manifested by Edward for the death of his Queen, Alianor, the solemn reception of her remains at St. Alban's, and the honours generally paid to her memory, are also transferred to Rishanger's text (pp. 120, 121). The account (pp. 50, 51) of the origin of the dissensions between England and France, A.D. 1292, is also borrowed in Rishanger's Chronicle (pp. 130, 131); and the closing lines of the *Opus* (p. 59), a narrative of the disturbances between the scholars and burgesses of Oxford, are also closely followed in the pages of that work (p. 167).

Collation of the contents of the *Opus Chronicorum* with the text of Rishanger's Chronicle.

It only remains to add, in reference to the *Opus Chronicorum*, that, like the other works from MS. Cotton. Claudius D. vi. printed in the preceding Volume of the *Chronica Monasterii S. Albani*, it is now published for the first time.

Johannis de Trokelowe ¹ *Annales*, A.D. 1307–1323 —the second work in the present Volume, is also transcribed from the Cotton. MS. Claudius D. vi., the St. Alban's book so often mentioned, and the only manuscript, it is believed, of the work known to exist. The *Annales* were edited, with the Chronicle of Henry de Blaneforde, in 1729 (Oxford) by Thomas Hearne, with about the average amount of his usual ² accuracy: owing to the limited number of copies ori-

The *Annales* of John de Trokelowe.

¹ It seems not improbable that William Rishanger himself originally contemplated writing these *Annales*; but that, through death, or some other cogent cause, the compilation of them fell into the hands of other inmates of the House. However this may have been, in his *Gesta Edwardi Primi*, p. 421, Rish-

anger refers to his intended narration of a fact which occurred after the death of Edward I.,—"sicut *postea declarabitur*;" and to the accession of Edward II. (p. 424), in the words—"prout apparet *inferius*."

² About fifty errors of his will be found pointed out in the Notes.

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ginally printed, his volume is to be reckoned among our book rarities at the present day.

Nothing known of the writer.

Of the writer himself of these *Annales*, beyond his name, mentioned in folio 210 a. of the ¹MS., no information whatever has survived. The work, though limited to the reign of Edward II., was evidently compiled after the death of that sovereign, and at a date at least as late in the reign of Edward III. as the year 1330; for in page 111 it will be found that the writer clearly ²alludes to the end of both the Roger Mortimers, the Elder and the Younger, the latter of whom was executed on the 29th of November in that year. It deserves remark also, that when the writer penned the above passage, it could not have been other than his intention to continue his history at least down to that date. Why he stopped short in the year 1323, the narrative being there taken up by his successor, Blanforde, we are not informed.

Probable date of the compilation of the work.

Want of chronological accuracy in the *Annales*; and general value and character of the work.

Trokelowe's *Annales*, from the occasional want of chronological accuracy which is easily to be ³detected in them, bear strong marks of having been compiled from a mass of notes, probably accumulated from time to time, and destitute to a considerable extent of any chronological details. In other respects, his history is of considerable value as an authority for the reign of Edward II.: it has been extensively employed as material by the compiler of MS. Reg. 13 E. ix., and through him has become the basis, in a great measure, of Walsingham's History of that reign, down to the year 1323. Trokelowe's style and Latinity, though

¹ See page 127 *post*,—" *Hucusque scripsit Frater Johannes de Trokelowe;*" and the facsimile at the beginning of this Volume.

² "—*quorum vitam quam duxerant, et quam finem fecerant, diligens in sequentibus reperiet indagator.*"

³ By reference to the figures, as printed in the outer margins. In his chronological information about Piers de Gaveston, he is singularly inaccurate; see, for example, pp. 66–68, margins.

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far from classical, are in general superior to that of the works in the ¹ same volume that have been attributed to Rishanger. His language is inflated and grandiloquent at times, and is generally somewhat altered (perhaps not always for the better) by the compiler of MS. Reg. 13 E. ix.; consequently appearing in the pages of ² Walsingham in the same altered form.

It has been ³ already shown, that with Bale and his copyists there certainly has been a tendency to attribute to Rishanger's pen more than is justly its due. Somewhat singularly, a similar tendency had been manifested by the compiler of MS. Reg. 13 E. ix. (Walsingham's basis) more than a century and a half before. While copying from Trokelowe's pages, he evidently supposed himself to be indebted to a compilation made by Rishanger; for, on one occasion, when referring his readers to his sources for further information, he uses these words:—⁴“*Cætera quæ voluerit videre plenius, in Chronicis Willelmi Rysangre, apud Sanctum Albanum, plenius poterit reperire; ubi Recordatum Regis habetur de omnibus memoratis,*” — a reference which points, beyond all question, to the contents of Trokelowe's *Annales*, as given in pp. 112-124 of the present Volume. The suggestion made by Mr. T. Duffus Hardy, the present Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, in page 30 of his General Introduction to the *Monumenta Hist. Brit.*, solves the error, in all probability:—“Walsingham”—[or rather, MS.

This work attributed in Walsingham's History to Rishanger.

Probable solution of the error.

¹ MS. Cotton. Claudius D. vi.

² See the inner margins of Vol. I. of Walsingham's *Hist. Angl.* pp. 119-169.

³ See the Introduction to the preceding Volume of the *Chronica Mon. S. Albani*; also pages 9 and 10 *ante*.

⁴ See Walsingham's *Historia Angl.* I. pp. 165 and xvi. The passage alluded to, bears reference to the execution of numerous English nobles on the charge of conspiring with Thomas, Earl of Lancaster; the record and process of judgment against the Earl being also given.

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Reg. 13 E. ix., Walsingham's basis]—"seems to have
 " been misled by observing at the head of the MS.
 " ¹ No. 4 in the same volume as these *Annals* (Cott.
 " Claud. D. vi. 9) these words,—*Incip. Cron. fratris*
 " *W. de Rishanger*; and the subsequent articles [down]
 " to Blaneford having no titles at the beginning, he
 " supposed that the whole was written by Rishanger,
 " overlooking Trokelowe's name at the end of ² No. 9."

The *Chronica* of
 Henry de
 Blane-
 forde.

Henrici de Blaneforde Chronica, A.D. 1323, 1324—
 the third work in the present Volume, follows the
Annales of Trokelowe in folio 210 a. of MS. Cotton.
 Claudius D. vi., ³ without any interval, and has rubrics
 in apparently the same hand as Trokelowe throughout.
 The Proemium is of a lengthy and somewhat ambitious
 nature, commencing in a religious vein, and then
 passing on to the early inhabitants of Albion, and the
 victories gained over its giant population by Brut and
 Corinæus; though the work itself has all the appear-
 ance of having been originally intended merely as a
 Continuation of Trokelowe's *Annales*. For though the
 writer (in page 132) would appear, from the nature
 of his language, to have been compiling almost at the
 moment of the conclusion of the truce with Scotland
 A.D. 1323, (and consequently before the ⁴date which
 has been assigned to the compilation of Trokelowe's
Annales), yet his Chronicle enters upon the year
 1324, and in one instance (p. 147), it alludes to an
 event, the death of the elder Mortimer in prison, which
 took place in 1326. It has been already noticed that
 Trokelowe's *Annales* were probably compiled after A.D.

Probable
 date of its

¹ *The Wars of the Barons*, MS. Claudius D. vi., folio 97 a.

² Page 127 of this Volume. See also the facsimile at the beginning of this Volume.

³ See the facsimile at the beginning of this Volume.

⁴ After A.D. 1330; see p. xvi. *ante*.

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1330; and if so, supposing Blaneforde's Chronicle was originally intended as a Continuation of it, it must also have been written after that date.

Of Henry de Blaneforde, monk of St. Alban's, the writer of this brief and mutilated Chronicle, nothing beyond the name, given at the beginning of his work, appears to be known. The Chronicle is mentioned in ¹ Walsingham (from MS. Reg. 13 E. ix.) as that of Henry "Blankforde," while by others, again, of the old writers, he is called "Blancfront." In the *Liber Benefactorum* (p. 448 of this Volume), a Walter Blancfront is mentioned, as having given (at some unrecorded date) the church of Potesgrave to the Abbey of St. Alban's. The place now known as "Blanquefort," near Bordeaux, is called "Blankeforde" in the *Annales de Waverleia* (p. 404), edited by Mr. Luard in this Series, and it seems not improbable that Henry de Blaneforde was a native of, or through his family derived his origin from, that place, which then belonged to the English crown. It is impossible to say or surmise to what date Blaneforde's Chronicle originally extended, as it is now nothing more than a fragment, and ends abruptly in A.D. 1324, the part which originally followed folio 215 b. (p. 152) being lost, and no other copy of it known to exist. In style and general merits it assimilates to Trokelowe's *Annales*, with which it has been printed by Hearne, and (through MS. Reg. 13 E. ix.) the greater part of its matter has been transferred to the pages of ² Walsingham's History.

Annales Ricardi Secundi et Henrici Quarti, Regum Angliæ, A.D. 1392–1406.—It has been already noticed in the Introduction (p. vii.) to the Second Volume of Wal-

Annales Ricardi Secundi et Henrici Quarti.

¹ *Hist. Angl.* I. p. 170,—“*quos qui videre desiderat, respiciat Chronica cas fratris Henrici Blankforde,*

“*Monachi Sancti Albani, que habentur in Monasterio memorato.*”

² *Hist. Angl.* I. pp. 170–176.

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singham's History, that MS. No. vii., Coll. Corp. Christi Cambridge (or rather, the collection of MSS. bound up in one volume, and so numbered), has been incorrectly described in Nasmith's Catalogue (1777) as containing no less than *five* distinct MS. Histories, in the following terms;—" 1. *Historia Angliæ ab anno 1377 ad annum* " 1400. 2. *Historia Angliæ ab anno 1404 ad annum* " 1409. 3. —*ab anno 1393 ad annum 1403.* 4. —*ab* " *anno 1400 ad annum 1406.* 5. —*ab anno 1393 ad* " *annum 1422;*" whereas, correctly speaking, it contains but *three* such Histories. Since the above was written, thanks to the courtesy of the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, always so readily accorded in the cause of literary research, the Editor has been enabled to examine every page of these historical materials for the reigns of Richard II. and his two immediate successors, with the following results.—The volume contains three distinct historical works in reference to the above-mentioned reigns, and no more. The *first* of these MSS. (A.D. 1377–1405) embraces (taking them in their¹ correct order) pages 1–28 of the volume, 43, 44, 31, 32, 71, 72, 101–104, 89, 90, 41, 42, 29, 30, 45–48, being imperfect at the end. The *second* MS. (A.D. 1392–1406) is a Continuation of the Manuscript in the Royal Library at the British Museum, 13 E. ix. (fols. 177–326); and embraces pp. 49–70, 73–88, 91–100, 33–40, 105–136, of the Corpus volume in its present state. The *third* of the MSS. (A.D. 1392–1422) begins at page 137, and ends at page 182, the earlier part of the History, previous to A.D. 1392, being lost.

MS. Corp. Christ. Cambr. contains three historical works only, and not five, as stated in Nasmith's Catalogue.

General description of those three works.

The compiler of Walsingham's History, after ending

Now the compiler of the so-called Walsingham's History (MS. Arundel. Coll. Arm. No. vii.), on coming to the end of his materials in the St. Alban's volume, now known as MS. Reg. 13 E. ix., and proceeding with

¹ The Histories were thrown together in this confused state, as early at least as the middle of the fifteenth century. See page xxi.

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materials drawn from the Corpus Christi volume, No. vii., with MS. Reg. 13 E. ix., has seems to have overlooked the fact that MS. (2) in that volume, the first folio (pp. 49, 50) of which is in the same handwriting as his previous source, MS. Reg. 13 E. ix., with MS. was undoubtedly the legitimate Continuation of that (2) in the History down to A.D. 1406; the other MSS. (1) and (3), Christi volume No. vii., its being little more than condensations of, or abstracts from, legitimate Continuation, and it between the dates A.D. 1392–1406. It was owing to this oversight, in all probability, that he adopted the text of No. (3), and consequently of much of that of No. (1), (from which No. (3) was immediately compiled); (down to 1405) of taking no notice whatever of No. (2), the original of MSS. (1) and (3). them both, and, as being the most circumstantial in its narrative, by far the most valuable of the three.

At the foot of the first page of the Corpus Christi volume, No. vii., as already remarked in the Introduction in page 1 to the Second Volume of Walsingham's History (p. viii.), of the Corpus Christi volume, in large characters, there is written the following Note:—

“ *Hunc librum cronicalem tam gestorum regum quam*
 “ *abbatum, post mortem Dompni Willelmi Wyntershylle*
 “ *in quaternis derelictum, connecti fecit Dompnus*
 “ *Robertus Ware; et licet diversæ materie diversæ*
 “ *sunt, propter defectus quaternorum, non consonantia,*
 “ *studeat tamen lector flores mellifluos et coloribus*
 “ *amaricatos, prout tempora fuerunt, degustare, timere,*
 “ *et refutare.*” From this Note we may perhaps be enabled to gain some idea, if not as to the authorship of the whole of these three historical pieces, of the circumstances attending the compilation of one of them, at least.

From MS. Cotton. Claudius E. iv., a St. Alban's volume, Contemporary particulars from we learn that William Wyntershylle, monk of St. Alban's, other MSS. was present at the election of Abbot John Moot, in the

¹ The two Abbots whose lives are treated of at considerable length in a narrative bound up in the latter part of the volume, are Thomas de la Mare, who died A.D. 1396, and John Moot, who died in 1401.

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of William Wyntershyllle. year 1396. Holding no abbey office at ¹ that time, we may judge approximately of his age by his then standing in the list of monks who voted. In this list of monks, sixty in number, he is the thirtieth, and consequently may have then been, in all probability, from forty to forty-five years of age. In a description of the state of the Abbey Church of St. Alban's, during the early part of the abbacy of John Whethamstede, A.D. ² 1429, the Harleian MS. 3775 (evidently a compilation made at St. Alban's) mentions the fact that (translated),—³ “ In the nave of the church, opposite “ the iron gate that closes the Chapel of the Blessed “ Virgin, near to the pillar, lies the body of ⁴ Sir “ William Wyntyrshulle, formerly almoner of this “ church, chaplain to four abbots, and cross-bearer ; a “ man of great learning, and who, with the aid “ of Sir Robert Ware, the Bursar, decorated the altar “ of the ⁵ Reclining Cross and of St. Laurence with “ pictures, books, and ornaments. And he furnished “ the same Chapel of St. Mary with books, vestments, “ and other requisites for the altar, in various ways “ according to the requirements of the festivals.” In another ⁶ place the same authority says,—“ There is also “ another altar, consecrated in the north aisle by “ brother William Wyntyrshulle, in honour of our Sa- “ viour, the Holy Virgin, St. Laurence, and St. Blaise ;” and ⁷ again,—“ There is an altar there before the image “ of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in the south aisle), “ erected by the care and at the expense of our bro-

¹ From MS. Lansdowne 375 we learn that he was almoner A.D. 1381, 2.

² This date is ascertained from fol. 137 a.; where A.D. 1429 is mentioned as the current year, in reference to an inventory of articles that had been given by Wyntershyllle to the altar of St. Laurence.

³ Fol. 134 a.

⁴ *Dominus*;—the “ Dan ” of Chaucer and the early poets.

⁵ *Crucis Inclinatoria*; meaning probably the instrument of martyrdom of St. Laurence.

⁶ Fol. 136 a.

⁷ Fol. 136 b.