

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04683-1 - *Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani*: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349  
Edited by Henry Thomas Riley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### Rolls Series

*Rerum Britannicarum Medii Aevi Scriptores*, or *The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages*, usually referred to as the 'Rolls Series', was an ambitious project first proposed to the British Treasury in 1857 by Sir John Romilly, the Master of the Rolls, and quickly approved for public funding. Its purpose was to publish historical source material covering the period from the arrival of the Romans to the reign of Henry VIII, 'without mutilation or abridgement', starting with the 'most scarce and valuable' texts. A 'correct text' of each work would be established by collating 'the best manuscripts', and information was to be included in every case about the manuscripts used, the life and times of the author, and the work's 'historical credibility', but there would be no additional annotation. The first books were published in 1858, and by the time it was completed in 1896 the series contained 99 titles and 255 volumes. Although many of the works have since been re-edited by modern scholars, the enterprise as a whole stands as a testament to the Victorian revival of interest in the middle ages.

### *Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani*

Between 1863 and 1876, the Rolls Series published several works about the abbey of St Albans, edited by Henry Thomas Riley (1816–78) under the rubric 'Chronica monasterii S. Albani'. This account of the achievements of its abbots was compiled and enlarged by Thomas Walsingham (c.1340–c.1422), who supervised the scriptorium at St Albans until 1394, and wrote several other historical works. It appeared in three volumes between 1867 and 1869. The early part of the *Gesta* reworks earlier accounts including that by Matthew Paris (d. 1259), but the section covering 1308–93 was composed by Walsingham himself and is an important primary source for fourteenth-century English history. Volume 2, covering 1290–1349, records events that include a fire in the abbot's chamber and a visit to the papal court. The main text is in Latin, with English side-notes, but a rule for nuns appears in Anglo-Norman.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

# Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani

*A Thoma Walsingham, regnante  
Ricardo Secundo, compilata*

VOLUME 2: A.D. 1290–1349

EDITED BY HENRY THOMAS RILEY



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108046831](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108046831)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1867  
This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04683-1 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI  
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND

DURING

THE MIDDLE AGES.

17693

3

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**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.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

4

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.*

---



Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349  
Edited by Henry Thomas Riley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

GESTA ABBATUM MONASTERII SANCTI ALBANI,

A

THOMA WALSINGHAM,

REGNANTE RICARDO SECUNDO,

EJUSDEM ECCLESIAE PRÆCENTORE

COMPILATA.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349  
Edited by Henry Thomas Riley  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

CHRONICA MONASTERII S. ALBANI.

---

GESTA ABBATUM MONASTERII  
SANCTI ALBANI,

A

THOMA WALSINGHAM,  
REGNANTE RICARDO SECUNDO,  
EJUSDEM ECCLESIAE PRÆCENTORE,  
COMPILATA.

EDITED

BY

HENRY THOMAS RILEY, M.A.,  
OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;  
AND OF THE INNER TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

VOL. II.

---

A.D. 1290 — 1349.

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

LONDON:  
LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER.

---

1867.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Printed by  
**EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE**, Her Majesty's Printers,  
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290-1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| INTRODUCTION - - - - -   | ix   |
| GESTA ABBATUM MONASTERII SANCTI ALBANI. SECTIO<br>SECUNDA CONTINUATA - - - - - | 3    |
| GESTA ABBATUM MONASTERII SANCTI ALBANI. SECTIO<br>TERTIA - - - - -             | 113  |
| APPENDIX - - - - -   | 469  |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

---

INTRODUCTION.

---

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - *Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani*: A Thoma Walsingham, regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION.

THE present volume continues the History of the Abbots of St. Alban's, from the election and benediction (A.D. 1290–1) of John de Berkhamstede, twenty-fifth Abbot, to the earlier years of the rule of Thomas de la Mare, thirtieth Abbot, elected in 1349.

Contents of  
the present  
Volume.

In the Introduction to the preceding Volume (p. xvii), it has been remarked that, in reference to the Second Section of the *Gesta Abbatum* contained in MS. Cotton. Claudius E. iv. (pp. 327–485 of the preceding Volume, pp. 3–109 of this), there seems to be no possibility of saying by whom it was compiled; while at the same time, from the allusion to Abbot Thomas de la Mare in page 413 of that Volume, it was evident that it had received at least one interpolation from the hand of Thomas Walsingham, under whose auspices the MS. was written. Some clue, however, though perhaps but a very slight one, has since been met with by the Editor, which tends to shew by whom the materials of at least the latter part of this Section were originally prepared; if indeed the whole of the Section, (subjected to Walsingham's interpolations at a later date,) was not originally a compilation from his pen.

The compiler of the  
Second  
Section of  
the *Gesta  
Abbatum*  
hitherto  
unknown.

A possible  
clue to the  
compiler of  
at least  
some of its  
materials.

In the Introduction to the Volume of the *Chronica Mon. S. Albani* containing the Chronicle usually ascribed to William Rishanger, it has been remarked (p. ix., Note 3,) that in the *Acta Johannis Whethamstede, secunda vice*, No. III. of the Arundel MSS. in the College of Arms,

MS. reference  
professing  
to quote  
from the  
Chronicles  
of Rish-  
angre.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

there is a fly-leaf inserted (fol. 194) in a hand of the <sup>1</sup> latter part of the 14th century, in reference to the claim by King Edward the First of the advowson of the Priory of Tynemouth (A.D. 1293), against the Abbot of St. Alban's. On careful examination, this leaf has been found to contain a series of extracts from earlier writers in reference to the foundation of that Cell, and its early occupation by the monks of St. Alban's. After quoting some passages from the Chronicles of Matthew Paris and the *Gesta Abbatum* (which latter however are not to be found in the *Gesta* as they have come down to us,) in reference to the restoration of Tynemouth by Robert de Molbrai, Earl of Northumberland, and his death and burial at St. Alban's, the writer proceeds to give the following extract—" *Ex albo Libro et Chronicis Risangre* " :—

Words of  
the quota-  
tion.

" Expost Dominus Rex Edwardus . . . . quosdam  
" malivolos et infideles ; ut patet in placita habita apud  
" Novum Castrum super Tynam coram Hugone de Cres-  
" syngham, etc., anno ejusdem Regis vicesimo primo, ubi  
" dictus Rex per Willelmum de <sup>2</sup> I. . . . <sup>3</sup> [qui] querebatur  
" pro eo, petiit advocationem Prioratus de Tynemutha  
" sibi reddi, ut jus suum. Directum est breve Vicecomiti  
" ex parte Regis, in hæc verba :—' Edwardus, etc., Vice-  
" ' comiti Northumbriæ, etc. Præcipe Abbati de Sancto  
" ' Albano quod juste et sine dilatione reddat nobis ad-  
" ' vocationem de Tynemutha, etc. ; et nisi fecerit, sum-  
" ' mone per bonos summonitores prædictum Abbatem,  
" ' etc.' Abbas vero, diem præveniens, ad præ<sup>3</sup>[sentiam  
" Regis] in Scotiam accessit ; sciens se contra regiam  
" potentiam placitum sustinere non posse, viam placiti  
" totaliter reliquit, et Domini Regis gratiæ se submitit.  
" Quare Rex, pietate ductus, <sup>3</sup> [et procerum] suorum in-  
" stantia excitatus, concessit pro se et hæredibus suis,  
" quod dictus Abbas et successores sui habeant et tene-

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the close of the century.

<sup>2</sup> Probably, " *Inge*."

<sup>3</sup> The leaf is mutilated in these places.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham, regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION.

xi

“ ant de cætero prædictam advocacionem Prioratus de  
 “ Tynemutha, ut jus ecclesiæ <sup>1</sup> [suæ in perpe]tuum. Et  
 “ super hoc idem Rex prædicto Abbati chartam confir-  
 “ mationis dedit, in hæc verba.—Scribatur charta.”

Now upon careful search through every page of the works which have been hitherto attributed to Rishanger, a detailed description of which will be found in the Introduction to Rishanger's *Chronicle* before mentioned, no such passage as this, or anything resembling it, is to be found. But if the reader, on the other hand, will turn to the Second Section of the *Gesta Abbatum*, pages 19–20 of the present Volume, he will find the whole account after the words “*querebatur pro eo*,” given in full, and almost *verbatim*, from which the above passage, no doubt, was extracted. The opening words of the extract, it will be remarked, are not to be found in the present work; the Justiciar's name is not given, and those of the locality (Newcastle-on-Tyne) where the plaint was proffered, and of the King's advocate on the occasion, are omitted.

The words to be found in none of the works hitherto attributed to Rishanger.

But to be found for the most part, and almost *verbatim*, in the Second Section of the *Gesta Abbatum*.

On this, as almost every other matter connected with the name and writings of William Rishanger, it is impossible to speak with anything approaching absolute certainty; but taking all the circumstances into consideration, to the Editor the probability seems to be, that the *Chronica Risangre*, here spoken of, was the original work from which the matter of the Second Section, (other than the extracts from the *Additamenta* of Matthew Paris,) was selected for transcription into the pages of the *Liber Albus* of St. Alban's; which, not improbably, may have been the name originally given to the Cottonian MS., Claudius E. iv., still a goodly folio, and then a clean newly written volume, fully deserving, from its ample margins (and perhaps from its binding,) the name of the “White Book.” Upon this hypothesis, three-fourths of the quo-

The *Chronica Risangre* probably the source from which the Second Section was derived.

The “*Liber Albus*,” named in the quotation, perhaps identical with MS. Cotton. Claudius E. iv.

<sup>1</sup> The leaf is mutilated here.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - *Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani*: A Thoma Walsingham, regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

tation would be common to the two works named in it, the commencing portion being supplied only from the original work.

Another slight confirmation of the suggestion that the Second Section may have mainly proceeded from Rishanger's pen.

Another confirmation of the suggestion, that much of the Second Section of the *Gesta Abbatum* was originally from Rishanger's pen, though of no very great weight, it must be admitted, may be found in the following fact. In the Volume containing the Chronicle hitherto attributed to Rishanger, (but perhaps on no sufficiently satisfactory grounds,) there is a fragment printed (pp. 411–424) of the *Gesta Edwardi Primi*, from MSS. Bibl. Reg. 14, c. 1., and Cotton. Cladius D. vi.; which, with the exception of the “Wars of the Barons”—(*De Bellis Leues et Eusham*,)—is the only work that, with anything like absolute certainty, can be ascribed to Rishanger, as the compiler; the author disclosing himself in this instance as “*Frater Willelmus de Rissanger, Chronicator*” (p. 411). In the next page to this, reference is made to the liberation of Charles the Second, King of Naples, in the year 1287, from the hands of Alphonso the Third, King of Aragon, at the intercession of our Edward the First. The passage is, “*Item, Principem de La Mure de carcere Regis Aragonice, ibidem personaliter accedendo, liberavit.*” Now at page 29 in the present Volume, Section II. of the *Gesta Abbatum*, there is a very similar passage,—“*Dominus Edwardus Rex totam illam pecuniam recepit ad expeditionem suam, quando iuit in Arragoniam pro liberatione Principis de La Mure.*” The identity of the appellation given to Charles the Second of Naples in these two instances is at least striking. Before the death of his father, and his consequent assumption of the crown, he was known as “Prince of Achaia,” “Prince of <sup>1</sup>Salerno,” and “Prince

<sup>1</sup> He is so called in the *Annales de Winton.*, p. 406. In Oxenedes' Chronicle (p. 274), he is,—“*Princeps de la Muree,*” and in Bartholomew Cotton (p. 170),—“*Princeps de la Moree.*”

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION.

xiii

“ of the Morea.” In the other St. Alban’s Chronicles however, that ordinarily, but perhaps incorrectly, known as “ Rishanger’s *Chronicle*” and Walsingham’s *History*, he is always spoken of as “ Prince of Achaia,” and it is <sup>1</sup> only in the fragment which we know to have been compiled by Rishanger that he is called, as here in the Second Section, by the title of “ Prince of the Morea,” “ —*Princeps de la Mure.*”

Whoever the compiler of the Second Section,—or rather, the latter portion of it,—may have been, it seems that there can hardly be a doubt that the writer, while, in conformity with what was but too frequently the monastic usage, sedulously concealing his name, has given an account, not only of his own sentiments, but of his own conduct, on one great emergency ; the occasion being an extortionate demand made upon the Monastery, and persisted in, to satisfy the rapacity, caprice, and, to all appearance, absolute dishonesty, of Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, then Treasurer to Edward the First. The writer could not possibly have been ignorant of the name of the courageous monk—“ *quidam confrater,*”—who so unexpectedly entered the Chapter-House, and he surely would have given it had it been any other than his own. The <sup>2</sup> story is graphically told, and as seeming to bear reference to an incident in the life of its writer, no apology perhaps is necessary for placing it before the reader in a translated form.—

“ The venerable father, of distinguished authority and wisdom, powerful in deed and word before our lord the King and the people, by the grace of God, Bishop of the Churches of Lichfield and Coventry, and Treasurer of our lord the King, requested of the Abbot and Convent a yearly pension of thirty pounds, for the

The writer of the Second Section, though concealing his name, in all probability speaks of himself on one occasion.

Translation of the passage in which the writer appears to be so speaking of himself.

<sup>1</sup> In a fragment printed in the Volume of Rishanger, p. 482, Charles is called “ *Princeps de* | “ *Mureo;*” suggested, probably, by Rishanger’s “ *La Mure.*”

<sup>2</sup> See pp. 90–94 in this Volume.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

“ entire lives of three persons, namely, a certain knight,  
 “ his wife, and his son : whereupon, a certain brother,  
 “ unexpectedly entering the Chapter, after listening to  
 “ the discussion in silence, made answer in courteous  
 “ terms,—not in public, lest perhaps it might redound to  
 “ the disadvantage of the Abbot, or to the loss of the  
 “ church,—and began in form as follows ; in order that  
 “ possibly some remedy might result therefrom, but  
 “ there was no one to shew him such. However, it is  
 “ here inserted, that those who come after may be the  
 “ better able to be upon their guard, and to some extent  
 “ instructed.

“ ‘ Reverend <sup>1</sup> father, we render you thanks, so far as  
 “ ‘ we can, for all benefits so kindly bestowed upon us,  
 “ ‘ and still, if so it please you, to be bestowed. But, for  
 “ ‘ God’s pity do look to certain concealed perils, which  
 “ ‘ may arise by reason of <sup>2</sup> your request, if it be carried  
 “ ‘ into effect, as to a certain yearly pension which has  
 “ ‘ been mentioned. Indeed, to confess the truth, there  
 “ ‘ are straits on either side. For if we should do this,  
 “ ‘ it is death to us, that is to say, an everlasting con-  
 “ ‘ fusion to our church ; which on no account, as well for  
 “ ‘ the fear of God as for the sake of a good conscience,  
 “ ‘ ought your holy fathership to wish to allow of, as  
 “ ‘ may be seen under the heads <sup>3</sup> below written. For  
 “ ‘ in a similar manner, when this transaction came to  
 “ ‘ the knowledge of our lord the King, our patron, he  
 “ ‘ would perhaps not only demand a pension as large,  
 “ ‘ but, as being a greater personage, a still greater one,  
 “ ‘ there being many a one to suggest it. A similar  
 “ ‘ attempt the Prince, son of our lord the King, and  
 “ ‘ the Earls and other great men, would make ; per-  
 “ ‘ sons whose armed prayers we could not resist with

<sup>1</sup> John de Maryns, the Abbot, is the person thus addressed.

<sup>2</sup> The Abbot favouring the Bishop’s demand.

<sup>3</sup> This, no doubt, was the written copy of the speech, afterwards delivered to the Abbot.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION.

xv

“ ‘ any means of our own, without incurring the greatest  
 “ ‘ indignation and the everlasting undoing of our  
 “ ‘ church.

“ ‘ Further, in case our Cells should be charged with  
 “ ‘ payment of the said pension, so far as we ourselves are  
 “ ‘ concerned, perhaps the patrons thereof, rising in their  
 “ ‘ defence, would energetically oppose it, as being an un-  
 “ ‘ due and unusual payment, and to be looked upon as  
 “ ‘ so much dilapidation ; and so the payment of the said  
 “ ‘ pension would fall back upon those who before pro-  
 “ ‘ posed it, those namely who bound themselves thereto.

“ ‘ Further,—for in like circumstances we may draw  
 “ ‘ the like inference,—many Bishops who are patrons,  
 “ ‘ and men of rank, would be attempting a similar ex-  
 “ ‘ action and extortion upon our friends, and at least  
 “ ‘ those under subjection to them, to their prejudice  
 “ ‘ and ineffable injury ; and thus would our simplicity  
 “ ‘ (or rather, what deserves to be deemed our folly,) when  
 “ ‘ opposed to might, be fostering, to our disgrace, and  
 “ ‘ may it not be so,—a pernicious example to many  
 “ ‘ monasteries in the kingdom of England. And there-  
 “ ‘ fore we could not, on any account, even if we wished,  
 “ ‘ agree to the request before mentioned, seeing that it  
 “ ‘ would redound to the prejudice of all ; a case in which,  
 “ ‘ as I understand the rules of justice, a person could not  
 “ ‘ make a sacrifice himself, even should he wish to do so ;  
 “ ‘ though in other cases every one is at liberty to  
 “ ‘ renounce a right that is his own.

“ ‘ As everything that is possible may be hypothetical,  
 “ ‘ suppose that one of these persons, the son, say, should  
 “ ‘ live for forty years ; the amount paid as pension  
 “ ‘ would equal a sum of twelve hundred pounds, for a  
 “ ‘ debt that is but nine hundred, and then <sup>1</sup> only the

<sup>1</sup> This seems to be the meaning of the passage, which is obscurely expressed ; it being, apparently, the Bishop's proposal to respite pay-

ment of the 900*l.* due to him as Treasurer, in consideration of the grant of the pension for three lives.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

“ ‘payment thereof to be postponed. And thus would  
 “ ‘the capital expended exceed the original debt by  
 “ ‘three hundred pounds. Hence the result and conse-  
 “ ‘quence would be unavoidable usury, the vice of  
 “ ‘which would bring those guilty of it into peril of  
 “ ‘excommunication.’

“ ‘As this same lord Abbot, John de Maryns, had often  
 “ ‘touched upon this request, vexatious beyond measure,  
 “ ‘to members of the Convent, in order that he might en-  
 “ ‘sure the mutual assent of the brethren to the wishes of  
 “ ‘the said Bishop; he did not care to see or hear the afore-  
 “ ‘said advice, friendly and reasonable though it was, when  
 “ ‘<sup>1</sup> presented to him by one of the brethren, that he might  
 “ ‘humbly shew it to the lord Bishop; but striking the  
 “ ‘<sup>2</sup> *tabula*, he called the Convent together, upon which  
 “ ‘the before-named Bishop came unattended, and the  
 “ ‘Abbot at once explained the matter, in these words:—

“ ‘This our Lord Bishop, and Treasurer to our Lord  
 “ ‘the King, who has profited this church in many  
 “ ‘ways, and, by God’s will, will profit it, has asked for  
 “ ‘a yearly pension of thirty pounds (*as specified above*).  
 “ ‘We enjoin you, on your obedience to us, that you  
 “ ‘accede to his wishes.’

“ ‘But <sup>3</sup> Sir Robert Nortone, the then Prior of St. Al-  
 “ ‘ban’s, prudently and humbly resisting, made answer  
 “ ‘that this could not be done without manifest breach  
 “ ‘of justice and peril to souls; and, without leave of our  
 “ ‘lord the Pope, it would be an ineffable grievance to the  
 “ ‘Monastery. Some however, who murmured against  
 “ ‘such and so great a misfortune, sat in silence; while  
 “ ‘others spoke out with the Prior. And because by  
 “ ‘common consent the grant of a yearly pension of

<sup>1</sup> In a written form.

<sup>2</sup> The *tabula*, or *ferula*, was either a wooden mallet, or a clapper, used in Monasteries for giving a signal, in place of a bell.

<sup>3</sup> The title “*Dompnus*,” (in old English, the “Dan” of Chaucer and his contemporaries,) was applied more especially to the clergy.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION.

xvii

“ twenty pounds was suggested, and this was touched  
 “ upon to the lord Bishop, he said that it could just as  
 “ well be done without breach of justice to the extent  
 “ of the larger sum of money, as the smaller. And one  
 “ of the monks at once made answer that the Convent  
 “ gave no consent at all, either to the larger sum or the  
 “ smaller. Some sat in silence, taking to heart so great  
 “ a grievance; others again spoke resolutely against  
 “ the Bishop, and one in so many words appealed. But  
 “ there was too great reason to dread the extreme power  
 “ of the Bishop, the King’s chief councillor, at whose  
 “ suggestion many evils might have happened. But this  
 “ God averted.

“ The lord Bishop, then <sup>1</sup> sinking somewhat, said that  
 “ the Convent would not be aggrieved by this; for the  
 “ burden would fall upon the Abbot. To which the  
 “ Prior prudently and truthfully made answer, that  
 “ whenever the Abbot was burdened with heavy debts,  
 “ it was absolutely necessary for the Convent to give  
 “ him assistance. Others too said that this request did  
 “ not mean a pension, but rather the destruction and  
 “ irrecoverable confusion of the house. The matter was  
 “ therefore put off to the Feast of the Passion of St.  
 “ Alban [22 June] following, within the fortnight; in  
 “ order that it might be discussed before the Priors of  
 “ the Cells. Their counsel therefore being communi-  
 “ cated, the Priors were unwilling that the Cells should  
 “ be bound to pay the said pension: but the Bishop was  
 “ always doing his best that the Monastery of St. Al-  
 “ ban’s should be bound thereto by its common seal.

“ By the disposal therefore of Him of whom it is said,<sup>2</sup>—  
 “ ‘ There is no wisdom, there is no understanding, against  
 “ ‘ God,’ reports about this came to the knowledge of the  
 “ son of our Lord the King, the Prince of Wales, through  
 “ a member of his Court, who heard about this matter.

<sup>1</sup> “ *submergendo.*”| <sup>2</sup> *Proverbs*, xxi. 30.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii

## INTRODUCTION.

“ Whereupon, the Prince sent word by letter, that the  
 “ said pension was not to be granted: and thus was  
 “ this baneful demand set at rest. In the course of time,  
 “ within a month afterwards, our Lord the King went  
 “ the way of all flesh, and the Chief Treasurer before-  
 “ named was executor of his will; who, at once following  
 “ up his duties, administered to the deceased. But our  
 “ Lord the new King, who in the lifetime of the King his  
 “ father had conceived an aversion for him, caused the  
 “ Bishop to be seized at Waltham, for reasons which he  
 “ pretended, and taken to the Castle of Wallingford, in  
 “ custody; and also took away from him his temporal  
 “ possessions. And as our Lord the King was informed  
 “ of the large sum of money <sup>1</sup> owing to the same Bishop  
 “ on letters obligatory of the Chapter of the Monastery  
 “ of St. Alban’s, after all due allowances had been made,  
 “ the succeeding Abbot, the venerable father, namely,  
 “ Hugh de Eversdone, being compelled to do so, satisfied  
 “ our Lord the King for the same.”

Compara-  
 tive proba-  
 bility that  
 this person  
 was Wil-  
 liam Rish-  
 anger.

There seems a strong probability, as already stated, that the nameless monk—*quidam confrater*—who made this bold and most sensible speech in the Chapter of St. Alban’s, in, or shortly before, June 1307, was no other than the person who afterwards compiled the narrative. If that person was William Rishanger, whom we know to have been <sup>2</sup> then living, he would then be fifty-seven years of age; a time of life which would allow of him, though apparently holding no monastic office as an Obedientiary, offering a strong opinion, not only without impeachment of presumption, but not improbably with considerable weight as well. He gives the name of Robert Norton, the Prior, we see, as an opponent alike of the extortionate Bishop and the timorous Abbot, but studiously conceals his own.

<sup>1</sup> Probably due to the Bishop as Chief Treasurer, and so representing the crown.

<sup>2</sup> See the Volume containing Rishanger’s *Chronicle*, Introduction p. xii., as to his age in 1312.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - *Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani*: A Thoma Walsingham, regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## INTRODUCTION.

xix

The story is certainly told with more animation, and in greater detail, than we often find in the narratives of monastic writers; but its Latin is anything but elegant, or even correct, and at times, as elsewhere in the Second Section, the writer's meaning is involved in obscurity. In style and Latinity the language of this Section is probably much on a par with the fragment of the *Gesta Edwardi Primi*, acknowledged by Rishanger as <sup>1</sup>his own, to which allusion has previously been made.

The Third Section, commencing with the Abbacy of Hugh de Eversdone in 1308, is, according to the Rubric on <sup>2</sup>fol. 189a of the Manuscript, avowedly Thomas Walsingham's own compilation; gathered from many <sup>2</sup>books and documents, contemporary no doubt with the events which they describe, and then among the existing archives of the house. From the words of the Rubric it would seem to have been his intention to bring the narrative down to the death of Abbot Thomas de la Mare, in 1396. This however he has failed to do, (no part of the MS. apparently having been lost,) but stops some years short of that date. A Supplement, however, is in existence, which to some extent fills up the hiatus in the later years of that Abbacy, bound up in the volume now known as No. vii. of the Parker MSS., at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Though in a somewhat mutilated state, some of the leaves having been cut out, this Supplement continues the narrative, not only to the death of Abbot Thomas de la Mare, but to the election of William Heyworth, on the death of Abbot John Moot, De la Mare's successor, in 1401.

The Third Section, Walsingham's own compilation.

Apparently, never completed.

A Supplement, filling up the later years of the Abbacy of Thomas de la Mare, found in MS. Corp. Chr. Camb. No. vii.

The Appendix to this Volume, containing the Synodal Constitutions of Abbots Richard de Wallingford and Michael de Mentmore, the Constitutions of Abbot Michael

Nature of the Appendix to this Volume.

<sup>1</sup> Volume of Rishanger's *Chronicle*, pp. 411–424.

pp. x. xi.

<sup>3</sup> See pages 182, 186, 187, 191,

<sup>2</sup> See the Introduction to Vol. I., 195 of this Volume, and Notes.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,

regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349

Edited by Henry Thomas Riley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xx

INTRODUCTION.

for the regulation of the Lepers and other Brethren of the Hospital of St. Julian, near St. Alban's, and the Customs of the Nuns of St. Mary at Sopwell, as revised by the same Abbot, contain a large amount of material for the information of those who take an interest in the fourteenth century characteristics of conventual life and parochial rule. The same remark applies equally to the Constitutions issued by Abbot Thomas de la Mare ; in the last set of which (pp. 458–466) many particulars are to be found in reference to the Oxford studies and scholastic regulations of those times.

H. T. R.

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-04683-1 - Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani: A Thoma Walsingham,  
 regnante Ricardo Secundo, Compilata: Volume 2: A.D. 1290–1349  
 Edited by Henry Thomas Riley  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

C O R R I G E N D A.

---

- Page 182, note 2, for “Walingford” read “Wallingford.”**  
 „ 366, line 22, for “in vocationem” read “invocationem.”  
*and for “recipere” read “<sup>2</sup>recipere.”*  
 „ 406, „ 1, for “Cænobium” read “Cænobium.”  
 „ 419, side-note, for “Benedictines,” read “Cells dependent on  
 St. Alban’s.”

I N V O L. I.

- Page v., lines 5 and 7, for “SECTION” read “SECTIO.”**