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Excerpt

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POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN
MONACHI CESTRENSIS.

VOL. IV.

A

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POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN
MONACHI CESTRENSIS.

LIBER TERTIUS.

CAP. XXX.

[*Alexandri mors.*]

Ab urbe.
423.
A transmi-
gracione.
263.

POST hæc dum Alexander orientalem oceanum peragraret, xi. circiter anno regni sui,¹ occurrit ei antistes arborum solis et lunæ pellibus ferinis indutus, dicens quod si a coitu essent impolluti locum intrarent depositis vestibibus et ornamentis. Et cum essent arbores illæ centum pedibus altæ, affirmabat Alexander eas frequentibus imbribus tantum crevisse. E contra sacerdos predictus asseruit ibi nunquam pluviam descendisse, nec feram nec avem ibi venisse, sed in eclipsi solis aut lunæ eas flevisse.² *Petrus*,³ *centesimo nonagesimo septimo*. De pomis istarum arborum

¹ *xi*^o . . . *sui*] om. C.D.

² Varied and slightly abbreviated in C.D.

³ *capitulo*, added in C.

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TREVISA'S TRANSLATION.

*Capitulum tricesimum.*¹

AFTER pis Alisaundre, aboute þe enlevenþe ȝere of his kyngdom, passede by þe Est ocean; and þe bisshop of þe treen² of þe sonne and of þe mone come aȝenst³ hym. Þe bisshop was i-closed⁴ in wylde bestes skynnes, and seide þat þey schulde entre into þe place ȝif þey were clene and nouȝt polute⁵ in likynge by wommen; but þey schulde of⁶ do⁷ her cloþes and hire array. And for þilke⁸ trees were an hondred foot high,⁹ Alisaundre seide þat it roon¹⁰ ofte in þat place. "Nay", quop the preost, and seide þat þere come nevere reyn, noþer bridde, noþer wilde¹¹ beest; but the trees hadde i-wope¹² in þe eclipses of þe sonne and of þe moone. *Petrus*, 197. Preostes took¹³ þe apples of þese¹⁴ trees, and

TREVISA.

ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

Capitulum tricesimum.

Ab urbe. ALEXANDER after that compassenge abowte the Este ocean, MS. HARL. 2261. in the xjth yere of his reigne, ȝafe metenge to the bischoppe of the trees of þe sonne and of the moone, clothede with skynnes of wilde bestes. To whom the bischoppe seide that thei scholde entre and see the trees of þe sonne and off the moone if thei were clene from the synne of lechery, theire clothes putte aweye; whiche trees hade an c. foote in altitude; whiche trees were seide to wepe in þe eclipses of the sonne. *Petrus*, *capitulum centesimo nonagesimo septimo*. Prestes eit

A transmi-
gracione.

¹ *Capitulum* 31, β. and Cx.
² *treen*, β. et infra; *trees*, Cx.
³ *aȝenes*, β.
⁴ *i-cloped*, α.; *clothed*, Cx.
⁵ *not pollute*, Cx.
⁶ *doo of*, Cx.
⁷ of added in α.

⁸ *þilke*, γ.
⁹ *heiz*, β.; *foote highe*, Cx.
¹⁰ *roon*, β. and Cx.
¹¹ *ne byrd ne wylde*, Cx.
¹² *wepte*, Cx.
¹³ *toke of*, Cx.
¹⁴ *þeose*, γ.

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sumentes sacerdotes per quingentos annos vivebant. Et quando radius solaris arborem solis, aut radius lunaris arborem lunæ tangebatur, statim tota¹ tremebatur, et responsa circumstantibus dabatur. *Vincentius*.² Ad quas dum Alexander sacrificare vellet, respondit sacerdos nec ibi licere thus igne uri aut animal mactari. Unde provolutus Alexander ad truncos arborum cum osculo, audivit in ortu solis ab arbore solis loquente Indice,³ et vespere oriente luna audivit a luna⁴ loquente Græce quod unus⁵ foret dominus orbis terræ, et quod in patriam suam non foret rediturus. Unde et consuluerunt ei ut⁶ declinaret accedere ad Babylonem. Alioquin in ea,⁷ non ferro sed veneno, anno sequenti⁸ deficeret. Audivit etiam quod mater sua⁹ miserabiliter occumberet, et quod sorores suæ diu feliciter viverent.¹⁰ *Petrus, centesimo nonagesimo vii*^o. Ista et cætera

¹ *tota*] om. B.² *Trogus, libro 12*^o, C.D. The complete reference is *Vincentius*, lib. xiii. cap. 43.³ *in die*, B.⁴ *a luna*] ab arbore lunæ, C.D.⁵ *unus*] om. C.D.⁶ *quod*, A.⁷ *eo*, B.⁸ *anno sequenti* before *non*, B.⁹ *mater sua*] inter suos, C., not D.¹⁰ Transposed and varied in C.D.

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lyvede fyve hundred zere; and whan þe beme¹ of þe sonne touchede þe tree of þe sonne, oþer þe beme¹ of þe mone touchede þe tree² of þe mone, þan anon þe tre wolde schake,³ and zere answer to hem þat stood aboute. *Vincentius*. Alisaundre wolde⁴ doo sacrefice to þe trees, and þe preost seide, "It is nouzt lefeful⁵ to sette ensens⁶ on fire in þis " place, noþer⁷ to slee bestes." Þan Alisaundre fel doun and clipped and kissed⁸ þe stokkes of þe trees, and herde in þe sonne risynge of þe tree of þe sonne spekyng in þe longage of Ynde, and at eve⁹ in þe mone risynge he herde [of the tree of]¹⁰ þe mone spekyng in þe longage of Grees, þat oon schulde be lorde of al þe worlde aboute, and þat he schulde nevere come home in to his owne contray¹¹; and perfore he counsailede hym þat he schulde nouzt come at Babiloyne, for 3if he dede¹² he schulde be slawe¹³ pere, nouzt wip egge tool¹⁴ but wip venym, þe secounde zere after. Also he herde þat his moder schulde wrechchedly deie, and his sustres lyve longe tyme in grete welpe. *Petrus*, 197. Alisaundre warnede

TREVISA.

Ab urbe. enge of the apples of these trees lyvede by v^c. yere; and alle MS. HARL. 2261. touchede hit, and safe answeres to peple beenge abowte hit. *Vincentius*. Alexander commenge to theyme wolde haue doon sacrifice; to whom the bischoppe seide that hit was not lawefulle to do eny sacrifice to þeim. Wherefore Alexander fallenge downe to the rote of the tre with kyssenge, herde at the risenge of þe sonne of the tree of the sonne in the langage of Ynde, and in the eve of the tree of the moone spekenge in Grewe, þat a man scholde be lorde of the worlde, and that he scholde not comme ageyne in to the propre place of his natiuitie. Wherefore thei counsellede hym that he scholde not go to Babilon; for if he come to Babilon he scholde be sleyne by poyson, and not by batelle, in the yere folowenge. Also he herde that his moder scholde die miserably, and that his susters scholde reioyce longe in lyfe. *Petrus, capitulo centesimo nonagesimo septimo*. Alexander schewede the mer-

A transmigratione.

¹ beame, Cx.² tree, γ.³ shake, Cx.⁴ wold have, Cx.⁵ leeful, α.; leful, Cx.⁶ afuyre, β.; encense afire, Cx.⁷ ne, Cx.⁸ kuste, γ; clypped and kysshed, Cx.⁹ even, Cx.¹⁰ From Cx. (not in γ.)¹¹ countrey, Cx.¹² dide, β.; yf he cam there, Cx.¹³ slayne, Cx.¹⁴ tole, Cx.

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Indiæ¹ mirabilia notificavit Alexander suo præceptor Aristoteli. *Ranulphus*. Ferunt historiæ nonnullæ quod dum satellites Alexandri abdita Indiæ loca perlustrassent, affuit quidam ambitionem Alexandri vehementer redarguens, qui lapidem pusillum² oculatum illis³ tradidit, Alexandro perferendum, asserens proculdubio dominum illorum Alexandrum illi⁴ lapidi per omnia fore simillimum.⁵ Relato lapide hæsitatum est diu quorsum congrueret similitudo prælibata.⁶ Tandem lapis ille in statera positus tam diu omnia applicita⁷ pondere suo elevavit quousque modica argilla⁸ obvolutus levi libramine resultaret. *Eutropius*.⁹ Eo anno Lucius Papirius dictator Romanorum, qui adeo bellicosus fuerat ut ipse contra impetum Alexandri sufferendum¹⁰ si Italiam ascendisset inter omnes Romanos eligeretur, Samnitas jam¹¹ per quadraginta novem annos Romanis rebelles ita splendide devicit, ut ruinas

¹ *Inde*, A.E.² *modicum*, C.D.³ *ulis*, A.⁴ *ibi*, B.⁵ Varied in C.D.⁶ *prætaxata*, D.⁷ *applicata*, B.⁸ *modica argilla*, from B. ; *modico argillo*, MS.⁹ Full reference is lib. ii. ch. 8–9.¹⁰ *sufferendum*, from A.C.D. ; *sufferent*, MS.¹¹ *jam*] om. B.

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MONACHI CESTRENSIS, LIB. III.

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his maister Aristotle of pis doynge, and of oper wondres of Ynde. **R.** Meny¹ stories telleþ² þat whanne Alisaundre his knyȝtes wente aboute þe prive³ places of Inde, þere was oon þat blamed greteliche⁴ Alisaundre his covetise, and sent hym a litel stone wip yene⁵ by his knyȝtes, and seide þat here lorde wip oute dowte was liche to here⁶ stoon in alle manere poyntes; and whanne þe⁷ stoon was i-brouȝt me wondrede longe tyme in whiche⁸ side of þe stoon þat liknesse schulde be. At þe laste þe stoon was leide⁹ in a balaunce,¹⁰ and he weieþ¹¹ up al þat me myȝte leie aȝenst hym in þe oper¹² side forto me leide¹³ a litel cley aȝenst þe stoon in þe balaunce in þe opere side, but þat wey¹⁴ up þe stoon liȝtliche i-now.¹⁵ *Eutropius.* Þat ȝere Lucius Papirus, dictator of Rome, þat was so noble a werriour,¹⁶ was i-chose¹⁷ among alle þe Romayns to wipstonde Alisaundre, and to putte hym of, ȝif he wolde come ynto Italy. He overcome þe Sampnites so worchipfulliche þat he bent¹⁸ so down þe citees so þat þeyȝ me

TREVISA.

Ab urbe. vellous thynges of Ynde to Aristotille his maister and mony other moo. **R.** Mony storyes reherse that a man come to the knyȝhtes of kynge Alexander serchenge the hidde places of Ynde, reprovonge gretely the ambicion of their kynge, takenge to theyme a stonne to be brouȝhte to their lorde, seyenge that he was lyke to that ston in alle thynges. That ston brouȝhte to Alexander, mony men hade meruayle wherein the similitude scholde be: at the laste that ston put in a balaunce weiede alle thynges downe, vn to the tyme that theke ston was lappede in cleye, and þen hit was but of a litelle weiȝhte. *Eutropius.* Lucius Papirius, a dictator of Rome, was so fortunate in batelles that he wolde haue ȝiffen batelle to kynge Alexander if that he hade entrede the cuntre of Ytaly, whiche hade victory of the Sampnites by xlth yere, and destroyede their cites, that the cite callede

MS. HARL.
2261.A transmi-
gracione.¹ Many, Cx.² tellen, Cx.³ pryuy, Cx.⁴ gretely, Cx.⁵ eizen, β.; yen, γ.; eyen, Cx.⁶ þ, a.; that, Cx.⁷ that, Cx.⁸ whuch, γ.⁹ laid, Cx.¹⁰ a balas, γ.¹¹ weygh, a.; weyȝ, β.; wayȝ, γ.; weyed, Cx.¹² myghte be layde ther agayns on that other, Cx.¹³ till they layde, Cx.¹⁴ weyȝ, β.; wayȝ, γ.; and it weyed, Cx.¹⁵ lyghtly ynowe, Cx.¹⁶ þat repeated after werriour, in γ.; wereiour, Cx.¹⁷ chosen, Cx.¹⁸ beet, Cx.

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urbium diruens:¹ hodie Samnium in ipso Samnio² requiratur et³ non reperiatur.³ *Petrus, centesimo nonagesimo septimo.*

Ab urbe.
424.
A transmi-
gracione.
264.

Cum Alexander totum Orientem subjugasset, in redeundo versus patriam propriam legati Occidentis, scilicet Africae, Hispaniae,⁵ Italiae, venerunt Babyloniam, ut ejus ditioni se subjicerent. Ille autem sperans ex hoc monarcham orbis se futurum, praenimio gaudio oblitus responsi arborum solis et lunae, Babyloniam intravit praedictis nunciis locuturus.⁶ *Trogus, libro duodecimo.*⁷ Ibi quoque⁸ praefectos quos ad custodiam provinciarum dimiserat sibi occurrentes, sed acriter accusatos a comprovincialibus, in conspectu legatorum praedictorum suspendi fecit; filiam Darii in matrimonium sumpsit, nobiles patriae⁹ puellas Macedonibus¹⁰ suis maritavit; veteranos dimisit, juvenibus adhæsit. Litteras quoque a matre sua suscepit¹¹ de simultatibus Antipatri præ-

¹ *ut*, added in B.

² *Samnia*, B.

³ *et* om. B.

⁴ Much varied in C.D.

⁵ *et*] added in B.

⁶ Varied and transposed in C.D.

⁷ C. omits reference. D. has *Justinus* in the margin.

⁸ *Ibi quoque*] ubi, D.

⁹ *patriæ*] om. C.D.

¹⁰ *Macedoniis*, B.

¹¹ *suscepit*] om. B.; *accepit*, A.

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souȝt þe¹ Sampnium in þat place Sampnium, it myȝt nouȝt be founde. *Petrus*, 197^o. TREVISIA.

Whanne Alisaundre hadde i-wonne² alle þe est londes, and wente toward his owne contray, þe messangers³ of þe west londes,⁴ of Affrica, of Spayne, and of Italy, come in to Babilon to ȝilde⁵ hem to his lordschipe and mageste.⁶ Nopeles he hopede þerby to be kyng holiche⁷ of al þe worlde, and for grete likyng and ioie he forȝat þe answere of þe trees of the sonne and of þe mone, and wente in to Babilon to speke wiþ pese⁸ messangers. *Trogus, libro* 12^o. Also þe stewardes⁹ þat he hadde i-made wardeynes and kepers of provinces and of londes¹⁰ [met wiþ hym þere, and were grevousliche accused of men of provinces and londes],¹¹ and heet hong hem¹² þere in siȝt of þe messangers þat were i-come¹³ out of þe west londes. Alisaundre took Darius douȝter to wyve, and mariede noble maydons of þe contray¹⁴ to men of Macedonia. He lefte olde men, and took [to him]¹¹ ȝongelynges. Also he fong¹⁵ his moder lettres of þe fraude and tresoun of Anti-

Ab urbe. Sampnium is requirede of peple beenge in hit. *Petrus, MS. HARL. capitulo nonagesimo septimo.* Alexander subduenge to hym 2261. the este partes of the worlde, returnede towarde his cuntre; to whom the legates of the weste cuntre, as of Affrike, Ytaly, of Speyne, come to do hym reuerence, and to make theyme subiecte to hym, and tariede for hym at Babilon. Then Alexander, supposenge hym to haue the monarchye of the worlde, forgate for ioie the answere of the trees of the sonne and of the moone, and entrede in to Babilon to speke with the seide messyngers. *Trogus, libro duodecimo.* Alexander commaundede mony gouernoures, whom he hade lefte to gouerne the cuntre in his absence, to be hongede, for cause of theirre accusacion of the comprovincialles in the presence of the seide legates, takenge the doȝhter of Darius to matrimony, and mariede the noble maides of that cuntre to men off Macedony. Wherefore Alexander levede olde men, and drawede to yonge men, receyvenge letters sende from his moder of the

A transmi-
gracione.

¹ þe] om. β.
² wonne, Cx.
³ messagers, Cx., et infra.
⁴ landes, Cx.
⁵ yelde, Cx.
⁶ majeste, γ.
⁷ holliche, β.; hollych, γ.; holly, Cx.

⁸ peos, γ.
⁹ stiwardes, β., et infra.
¹⁰ of landes and of provynces, Cx.
¹¹ Added from α., β., γ., and Cx.
¹² hete hem hange hem, Cx.
¹³ comen, Cx.
¹⁴ countrey, Cx.
¹⁵ receyved, Cx.

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fecti Macedoniae,¹ qui videns suos a rege interfectos, seque pro immensis laboribus irremuneratum, deterioraque timens, filium suum Cassandrum ad praeoccupandum² regem per venenum³ subornat. Cujus veneni tanta⁴ vis fuit ut non ære, non ferro, non denique quovis metallo, sed ungula dumtaxat equina contineri posset. Igitur ad cenam Thessali medici inter epulas Alexander intoxicatus, velut gladio confossus ingemuit, tactus hominum tanquam vulnera abhorruit, ferrum in remedium doloris deposcit, amicis autem ejus causam morbi intemperantiam cenæ⁵ arbitrantibus.⁶ *Petrus, centesimo nonagesimo septimo.* Igitur amisso usu linguæ, extremam voluntatem scripto expressit, et noluit

¹ D. adds : “ evocavit Alexander Antipatrum de Macedonia.”

² *occupandum*, A.B.C.D.

³ *veneno*, B.

⁴ *causata*, A.

⁵ *cibi*, C.D.

⁶ Varied in C.D.