

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

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.

Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis

Ranulf Higden (*d.* 1364) was a monk at the abbey of St Werburgh in Chester. His most important literary work is this universal chronicle, which survives in over a hundred Latin manuscripts, testifying to its popularity. The earliest version of it dates from 1327, but Higden continued writing until his death, expanding and updating the text. It was also continued in other monastic houses, most importantly by John Malvern of Worcester. The English translation made by John Trevisa in the 1380s was also widely circulated and is included in this work, published in nine volumes for the Rolls Series between 1865 and 1886. The chronicle shows how fourteenth-century scholars understood world history and geography. Volume 4 contains the rest of Book 3, on the Hellenistic period up to the birth of Christ, and the start of Book 4, up to the end of the first century CE.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

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

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Polychronicon
Ranulphi Higden,
Monachi Cestrensis

*Together with the English Translations
of John Trevisa and of an Unknown
Writer of the Fifteenth Century*

VOLUME 4

EDITED BY JOSEPH RAWSON LUMBY



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

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

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108048538

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1872

This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04853-8 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

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND

DURING

THE MIDDLE AGES.

27354.

h

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

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

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

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

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN
MONACHI CESTRENSIS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF JOHN TREVISA
AND OF AN UNKNOWN WRITER OF
THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

EDITED

BY

REV. JOSEPH RAWSON LUMBY, M.A.,

LATE FELLOW OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

VOL. IV.

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

LONDON:
LONGMAN & Co., AND TRÜBNER & Co., PATERNOSTER ROW;
ALSO BY PARKER & Co., OXFORD;
MACMILLAN & Co., CAMBRIDGE;
A. & C. BLACK, EDINBURGH; AND A. THOM, DUBLIN.

1872.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
INTRODUCTION - - - - -	vii
SUMMARY OF CONTENTS - - - - -	xxxv
POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN, LIBER TERTIUS, CAP. xxx. - - - - -	2
— LIBER QUARTUS - - - - -	252
APPENDIX - - - - -	477

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

—
INTRODUCTION.
—

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

IN chapter xxx. of Book iii., Higden concludes the history of Alexander the Great. The authorities mentioned are Petrus, Vincentius, and Trogus; but the story is in substance that given by the Pseudo-Callisthenes, and which, in Higden's time formed the chief portion of the popular romance of *King Alysaunder*, and was received as veracious. The chapter narrates the great king's visit to the talking trees of the sun and moon.¹ The trees (not the Chaldæan priests, as in Arrian) foretell the king's approaching death, if he will enter the city of Babylon. However, in his joy at receiving proposals of submission from many nations of the West, whose ambassadors were awaiting his arrival, he enters the city, and there is poisoned at a banquet at the house of Thessalus,² the physician. According to Higden it is Antipater, who sends his son Cassander from Macedonia, for the purpose of poisoning Alexander. The description of the quality of the poison does not agree either with Arrian or the Pseudo-Callisthenes, but appears to be made up from the

Death of Alexander and division of his empire. Book iii. Cap. xxx.

¹ Pseudo - Callisthenes, iii. 17, gives the whole story in a letter which Alexander is supposed to have sent to Aristotle (to which circumstance Higden also alludes, p. 6), recounting this and many other marvels which had been seen by the King. The place near which the trees were is called ἡ Πρασιακή πόλις.

² Pseudo - Callisthenes, iii. 30,

agreeing with Arrian, represents Medius as the giver of the banquet, but gives the story of the poisoning, which Arrian only mentions to reject as without foundation. No doubt the occurrence of Thessalus as the name of the giver of the feast is owing to negligent quotation from Trogus, who has "Medius Thessalus" (xii. 13.)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

INTRODUCTION.

two.¹ The king, on drinking the poison, which was conveyed to Babylon in the hoof of a horse, groaned as though wounded with a knife,² and dies, leaving no arrangement for the succession. All that he was able to do was to mention that the most worthy man should succeed him, and to give his ring to Perdicas. The moralizing reflections at the end of the chapter (xxx.), are not in Trogius, but bear a considerable resemblance to some verses which are put by Pseudo-Callisthenes into the mouth of Alexander on his death bed. Of the successors of Alexander mention is made of Ptolemy in Egypt, Seleucus³ in Syria, Antigonus in Northern Asia, and Philip Aridæus in Macedonia. Of these the history follows first the fortunes of Ptolemy. The authority is Josephus (xii. 1.), and, as might be expected, we are told little more than of his seizure on Syria, and his capture of Jerusalem by attacking the Jews on the Sabbath day.

Egyptian
history.
Cap. xxxi.

The help which Ptolemy gave to Pyrrhus, afterwards the famous king of Epirus, towards the recovery of his kingdom, is also noticed. Of Ptolemy Philadelphus⁴ it is related, without any authority being given and contrary to all that we know from other sources, that he warred with and overcame his father. The account of

Cap.
xxxii.

¹ Arrian says (vii. 27) in alluding to accounts which he does not believe, *οἱ δὲ καὶ ὅτι ἐν ἡμίονου δὴ ἐκόμισε καὶ τοῦτο ἀνεγραψαν*. And Pseudo-Callisthenes (iii. 30.) *καὶ τοῦτο διαλογιζόμενος* (i.e. Antipater) *ἐσκένασε φάρμακον δηλητηρίον ὃ οὐκ ἔφερον ἀγγεῖον οὔτε χαλκοῦν οὔτε ὑάλινον, οὔτε κεράμιον, ἀλλ' εὐθέως ἐρρήγνυτο ἐν μολιβδίνῃ ὅν πυξίδι βαλὼν τὸ φάρμακον ὃ Ἀντίπατρος καὶ περικα-*

θάψας ἄλλη πυξίδι σιδηρᾷ ἔδω τῷ ἰδίῳ νίφ.

² Ps. Call. iii. 30. *ὡς τόξῳ πεπληγὸς διὰ τοῦ ἥπατος*. Here the poison is conveyed to the king by Iollas the cup-bearer, who is an accomplice in the plot.

³ All the MSS. agree in writing the name as Seleucus *Nicator* instead of *Nicator*, see p. 16.

⁴ The orthography is always *Philadelphius* in the MSS.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

ix

his kindness to the Jews, which is quoted from Petrus, is also confirmed by Josephus.¹ The mission to Eleazar the high priest, to obtain a copy of the Jewish scriptures for the Alexandrine Library, is mentioned though without details. The opinions of Augustine and Jerome are cited upon the manner and time in which the LXX. version was completed. While on the subject of Greek versions of the Scriptures, Higden mentions those of Aquila, Symmachus, Theodotion, and the *quinta*² *editio*, as well as the Latin version made by Jerome. The matrimonial alliance between Ptolemy and Antiochus Theos, king of Syria, which put an end to the long war between these kings is mentioned, and also its disastrous consequences both to king Antiochus and his son by Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy. The authority for the history of Egypt, except in cases where the contrary is stated, is always Petrus Comestor.

Ptolemy Euergetes, who is called in all the MSS., except those of the type to which C.D. belong,³ *frater* and not *filius* of Ptolemy Philadelphus, is narrated to have avenged the murder of his sister Berenice, and her husband and child, by invading Syria and extending his conquests over a great part of Asia, but to have been recalled by the news of a revolt among the princes of Egypt.⁴

Cap.
xxxiii.

¹ Josephus, B.J., xii. 2.

² So called from the position which it occupied among the Greek translations in the columns of Origen's comparative arrangement of the versions; for more information see Smith's Dictionary of the Bible, Articles, *Versions*, and *Septuagint*.

³ The labour bestowed in forming the new class-catalogues of MSS. in the British Museum has shown

that C.D. belong to the earliest type of the MSS. of Higden, and therefore we may often expect to find correctly in them what has been corrupted in the later types. The greater correctness of these MSS. had already been noticed more than once by Prof. Babington. See vol. i., p. 394.

⁴ The Prince of Syria, whom he is said to have attacked, is named by

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)Cap.
xxxiv.

He was succeeded by his son Ptolemy Philopator, whose luxury and debauchery are mentioned on the authority of Trogus. His vicious life¹ and crimes induced Antiochus the Great to attack him, but he was defeated with great loss. On his death, his infant son Ptolemy Epiphanes succeeded to the throne, and the kingdom of Egypt was placed under the protection of the Romans. This was done because of the threatened inroads of the Macedonians and Syrians. The brief success and ultimate failure of Ptolemy's general Scopas against Antiochus III. is mentioned, and also the marriage of Ptolemy² to Cleopatra the daughter of that king. From Josephus is drawn the account of the double tribute said to have been demanded of the Jews at this time, by Antiochus, and also by Ptolemy, the tribute of Syria being claimed by both monarchs.³ Onias the high priest, is said to have refused to pay the tribute to Egypt, and the ill consequences of such refusal were only prevented by the politic conduct of Joseph, the nephew of Onias. The mention of this Joseph leads to a digression (for which the authority is still Josephus) on the cleverness of Hyrcanus, Joseph's younger son, some portion of whose talent was displayed when he was sent by his father to congratulate the Egyptian king on the occasion of the birth of his son.

Higden, Antiochus Galericus; but the succeeding passage (p. 46), shows that the person meant is Seleucus Callinicus, the father of Seleucus III. and Antiochus the Great.

¹ The *meretrix* to whose fate, as well as that of some others, Higden alludes, was Agathoclea, the sister of Ptolemy's profligate minister Agathocles.

² The text of Higden (p. 74), which says that Antiochus married Ptolemy's daughter, must be wrong, though the versions follow the Latin as it stands. Ptolemy at this time was six years old. The only wife of Antiochus the Great was Laodice, daughter of Mithridates IV., king of Pontus.

³ Antiochus had promised it as part of his daughter's dower, but had not given it up.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xi

Of Ptolemy Philometor the only notices are that in his reign a Jew named Aristobulus wrote for him a commentary¹ on the law of Moses, and that Antiochus Epiphanes gave his sister in marriage to Ptolemy, with a view to gain possession of Egypt, but was disliked by the Egyptians, and a stop put to his schemes by the interference of the Romans,² whose embassy caused Antiochus to desist from the siege of Alexandria. Ptolemy's alternate support of Alexander Balas, and then of Demetrius Soter in Syria, and his ultimate conquest of Asia are mentioned on the authority of Petrus, but without details.³ The son of Ptolemy Philometor was proclaimed king after his father's death, under the title of Ptolemy Eupator, but this is unnoticed by Higden, who gives the name of *Eupator* as well as *Philopator* to the son⁴ of Euergetes I.

Cap.
xxxv.

Of Ptolemy Euergetes II. all that is mentioned is the length of his reign, and very little more notice is given to Ptolemy Soter II. We are merely informed of his banishment to Cyprus through the influence of his mother, who wished her younger son Ptolemy Alexander to have the sovereignty; and afterwards that when Alexander was driven from the throne for the murder of the mother who had placed him upon it, Soter II. was recalled and reigned eight years.

Cap.
xxxvii.
Cap.
xxxviii.Cap.
xxxix.

¹ This commentary, which is alluded to by Clemens Alexandrinus (Strom. i. pp. 305, *b*; 342, *b, v, p*; 595, *c, d*), and by Eusebius (Præp. Ev. vii. 13; viii. 9; ix. 6; xiii. 12) was designed to prove that most of the Gentile philosophy was derived from the law of Moses.

² The Marcus *Publius* of Higden's text (p. 110) is a confusion for C. *Popillius Lænas*, who was the spokesman of the Roman ambassadors. Cf. Liv. xlv. 12.

³ Alexander Balas pretended to be a son of Antiochus Epiphanes, and claimed the kingdom of Syria against Demetrius Soter. He was aided by Ptolemy Philometor, but repaid the aid by an attempt to murder his benefactor. This caused Ptolemy to use the army brought to help Alexander as a means of overthrowing him.

⁴ See p. 50.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

- Cap. XL. The next king of Egypt whom Higden mentions is Ptolemy Dionysus,¹ better known as Auletes; but he only states the length of his reign. Of his daughter, the famous Cleopatra, somewhat more is said. She is stated to have reigned two years before Cæsar, five under Cæsar, and fifteen under Augustus. She shared the kingdom with her elder brother Ptolemy, who during his minority was under the protection of Rome. Pompey, fleeing to Egypt after his defeat in Thessaly, is killed, according to Higden, by the stratagems of Ptolemy.² On Cæsar's arrival in Egypt, the people of Alexandria entreat his pardon for Ptolemy, who soon requites the grant by a rebellion, in the end of which he perishes,³ and Cæsar gives the kingdom to Cleopatra, by whose blandishments he is fascinated. This queen is next mentioned as taking the part of Antonius against Octavianus, a notice of which is repeated at the commencement of the next chapter, together with the story of their defeat and flight after the battle of Actium. A few sentences tell of the death of both Antony and Cleopatra, and the subjection of Egypt to the Romans.
- The kingdom of Syria. Cap. xxx. The kings of Syria are slightly noticed, mainly where their history touches upon that of the Jews. There is first given a list of these kings, from Seleucus Nicator to Antiochus Epiphanes. Of the first, the only mention made is of the colonies which he founded and called by the names of his father, his mother, and himself, and of the respect which he paid to the Jewish people. It was

¹ Called *Dionysius* in all the MSS. Of Ptolemy Alexander II., son of Ptolemy Alexander I., no notice is taken in the Chronicle.

² This rather appears to have been done by the contrivance of Pothinus an eunuch, in whose

hands the young Ptolemy was, and who caused Pompey to be killed, hoping thereby to secure the favour of Cæsar. See Lucan, viii. 484, &c.

³ He really was drowned in attempting to escape.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xiii

in his time that Simon the son of Onias was high-priest at Jerusalem, and was succeeded by his brother Eleazar.

Of Antiochus Soter nothing is mentioned but the name. The war of his son Antiochus Theos with Ptolemy Philadelphus has been noticed under the affairs of Egypt. He was succeeded by Seleucus Callinicus, called in Higden Antiochus Galericus, who left two sons, Seleucus and Antiochus. The former was murdered by Nicanor,¹ one of his own officers, and was succeeded by his brother Antiochus, who is known as "the Great." His design of invading Egypt has already been noticed. It was this king who entered into a confederacy with Philip, King of Macedonia, to invade Egypt during the minority of Ptolemy Epiphanes, and who also conquered Scopas, Ptolemy's general, but in the end betrothed² to that king his daughter Cleopatra. At the end of the chapter his murder in the temple Navee in Persia is recorded.³ Seleucus, the elder brother⁴ and predecessor in the kingdom of Antiochus Epiphanes, is mentioned in the story of Hyrcanus, the son of Joseph, already alluded to. And it was through fear of his successor that Hyrcanus committed suicide. In the same chapter it is told how Antiochus Epiphanes was given as a hostage to the Romans.⁵ The story of the mission of Heliodorus from Seleucus Philopator to plunder the temple at Jerusalem,

Cap.
xxxii.Cap.
xxxiii.Cap.
xxxiv.

¹ Higden does not notice that he reigned, or by whom he was slain, merely saying, "Antiochus, occiso fratre suo, regnavit."

² On p. 74, line 17, *duxit*, though in all the MSS., is a mistake. To be correct the sentence should run *regressus dedit ei Cleopatram filiam suam in uxorem*.

³ This is the event foretold in Daniel, xi. 18, 19, that he should be

overcome by the Romans, and die in "a fort of his own land."

⁴ He is here (p. 84) called in one MS. Seleucus Soter, and the same title is given to him in the text (p. 102), though other authorities call him Seleucus (IV.) *Philopator*. Josephus calls him *Soter* (A. J. xii. 4, ad fin.).

⁵ Repeated on p. 108.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

is told on the authority of Petrus; but the statement that Josephus explained the two men¹ who slew Heliodorus to have been two angels is without foundation, as Josephus does not mention the occurrence at all.

This was the time when the book of Jesus, the son of Sirach, was written.²

Cap.
xxxv.

Antiochus Epiphanes escaped from Rome,³ and reigned on his brother's death. He gave his sister to Ptolemy Epiphanes, with a view to the ultimate seizure of Egypt, but was prevented by the Romans from carrying his scheme into execution. It was on his return from this unsuccessful expedition into Egypt that he perpetrated such cruelties upon the Jews. During this period it was that Onias, the son of Simon, fled into Egypt, and being kindly received by Ptolemy, built Heliopolis.⁴ There is a confusion in Higden's account between two persons called Onias, father and son. The father was the high priest whose brothers, Jesus and Johannes, adopted Gentile names and habits⁵ to gain favour with Antiochus. The son was the builder of Heliopolis. We are told how Jesus and Johannes (called by the Greek names of Jason and Menelaus) trafficked in sacred things with Antiochus, and, on the authority of Petrus, that the holy fire was quenched at the time of their mercenary

¹ See 2 Maccab. iii.

² The name *Panarethon* given in Higden's text to this book was, according to Jerome (Præf. in Lib. Sol. ix. 1242, Migne) the name given to the volume made up of the Wisdom of Sirach, the Book of Proverbs, and the Wisdom of Solomon. The title was ἡ πανάρητος σοφία or ἡ πανάρητος. Cf. Routh's *Rel. Sacr.* i. 278.

³ The real fact was that Seleucus

Philopator gave his own son Demetrius as a hostage in the place of his brother Epiphanes.

⁴ On this Onias and the city which he built, see article *Onias* 5 in Smith's Dictionary of the Bible and the references there given. The builder of the city was Onias, son of Simon, not the son of Simon as Higden states.

⁵ See 2 Maccab. iv., Josephus, *Ant. Jud.* xii. 5.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xv

actions. The history proceeds with the profanations attempted and perpetrated by Antiochus in Jerusalem, and the resistance offered thereto by Mattathias and his sons. This history drawn from Petrus corresponds with the story of the books of the Maccabees, containing all the additional particulars, which are given in the second book concerning the death of Antiochus. The same chapter also notices that Antiochus Eupator, the son of Epiphanes, continued¹ the war against the Jews.

The next chapter commences with the return of Demetrius Soter² from Rome, and his occupation of the kingdom of Syria. The story tells that he had gone to Rome to accuse his uncle, and hearing of his death returned to claim the kingdom. Both Lysias and the young King Antiochus were put to death by him. Then is given the appeal of Alcimus to Demetrius, the death of Nicanor, Judas' treaty with the Romans, and then his death. Next follows the history of the war of Alexander³ against Demetrius Soter and his son, Demetrius Nicator, and the murder of Alexander in Arabia. Jonathan, brother of Judas Maccabæus, is at first a supporter of Nicator, but when Antiochus, the son of Alexander, is brought forward by Tryphon he favours his claim, and also forms a new league with the Romans and with the Spartans. Tryphon slays Jonathan (who is succeeded by his brother Simon), and then takes the kingdom, murdering the young Antiochus. Simon joins the party of Demetrius Nicator, who is killed by Arsaces, king of Persia, and succeeded

Cap.
xxxvi.

¹ As he was but a child it was Lysias who carried on the war. See Josephus, A. J., xii. 14, 15.

² Son of Seleucus Philopater, who had been sent to Rome as a hostage in the place of Antiochus Epiphanes.

³ Alexander Balas (Joseph. A. J., xiii. 4., Justin. xxxv. 1.). He is said by some to have been the natural son of Antiochus Epiphanes, by others, a mere pretender.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)Cap.
XXXVIII.

by his brother,¹ Antiochus VII. Sidetes, who at first was friendly with Simon, but afterwards sent Cendebeus to attack Judæa. Cendebeus is defeated, and Simon renews his friendship with the Romans and Spartans. Then is told how Simon and his two sons were treacherously slain by Ptolemy, prince of Jericho, Simon's son-in-law; and how John Hyrcanus, one of Simon's sons, besieged Ptolemy, but was obliged to withdraw from the siege. Antiochus Sidetes (called in the text Ponticus²) besieges Jerusalem, but is bought off by Hyrcanus with a portion of the treasure from David's tomb. Hyrcanus obtains the friendship of the Romans, and destroys Samaria, which was afterwards restored by Herod. Hyrcanus dies, after being duke for twenty-three years,³ Aristobulus, his eldest son, succeeding him. This latter imprisoned his mother and three younger brothers, and at first favoured his second brother, Antigonus, but soon after murdered him. The kingdom of Judæa may be considered as beginning from this Aristobulus. On his death without issue, his brothers are released from prison, and one of them, Alexander Jannæus, is made king. After a reign of great cruelty⁴ he dies, leaving two sons, Hyrcanus and Aristobulus, but committing the kingdom to his wife Alexandra, who was popular with the Jews. At this

¹ He is called son in the text, p. 132, but was the son of Demetrius Soter.

² I cannot discover the source from whence the name *Ponticus* comes, but as the name *Sidetes* is from Side in Pamphylia, where he was brought up, so the other name may for a similar reason be derived from some connection with Pontus.

³ There is much confusion about the duration of Hyrcanus' power. Josephus in one place makes it

thirty-one years, in another thirty-three; Eusebius puts it at twenty-six. Cf. Josephus, *Ant. Jud.* xiii. 10., *B. J.* i. 2., Euseb. *Chron.* p. 94.

⁴ A great part of the savage conduct of Jannæus seems to have been caused by the hostility between the Pharisees and Sadducees, with the former of which parties he was at first identified, but subsequently went over to their opponents. See Joseph. *A. J.* xiii. 12-15.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xvii

point the chronicle leaves the further history of the Seleucidæ, and confines itself to the more limited subject of the history of the Jews, merely intimating that the Syrian power was in the end overthrown by the Romans.¹

Alexandra reigned nine years, and was guided in her policy by the Pharisees, and on her death the contests of her sons, Hyrcanus and Aristobulus, gave the Romans an excuse for interfering in the affairs of Judæa. By Pompey² Hyrcanus was made prince and priest and Aristobulus imprisoned. Scaurus was left as Roman governor of Syria. Pompey's ill-success dates from the time when he permitted the Jewish temple to be desecrated and used as a stable. Cap. XL.

We are briefly told that Antipater the Idumean,³ the father of Herod the Great, was a friend of Hyrcanus, and from previous services had interest enough with Julius Cæsar to obtain the appointment of procurator of Judæa. He set Herod, his second son, over Galilee, and when the father was poisoned⁴ the son and his brother were promoted through the influence of Antonius. Herod was subsequently declared king of Judæa, but was not able to enter on the possession of his kingdom for four years, through the opposition of Antigonus, who represented the Asmonean dynasty. Herod married subsequently Mariamne, a niece of this Antigonus, and Cap. XLIII,

¹ Antiochus XIII. Asiaticus was the last king of Syria, and was dethroned by Pompey B.C. 65.

² The transaction was much more complicated than Higden records. At first Pompey sent M. Æmilius Scaurus from Damascus to settle the disputes of Hyrcanus and his brother. Scaurus put Aristobulus in possession of the throne, but Pompey, on coming in person, re-

versed this decision, for what reason we are not told. Cf. Joseph. Ant. Jud. xiv. 3-5.

³ For an account of Antipater see Joseph. Ant. Jud. xiv. 7. He had been made governor of Idumea by Alexander Jannæus.

⁴ Malichus, who compassed his death, had twice been saved by him from death. Joseph. A. J. xiv. 11.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii

INTRODUCTION.

conformed to the Jewish law. The chapter ends with an account of his wives and children, and the fate of some of them, his favour with the Romans, and his buildings to their honour. From this point such portion of the Jewish history as is given in Higden may be most fitly included with his details of the early Christians.

Isolated events.

Cap. xxxi.

It is noticed in chapter xxxi., about the time of the restoration of Pyrrhus king of Epirus through the aid of Ptolemy Lagus, that Agathocles¹ was ruling in Sicily, and that at the same time flourished Theophrastus and Menander. And in chapter xxxvii. we are told that about the time of John Hyrcanus, Africa suffered from a terrible plague of locusts; and about the same period an eruption of Mount Ætna took place, which so destroyed Catana and its neighbourhood that the Romans remitted their tribute for ten years.

Roman history.

Cap. xxx.

Cap. xxxi.

The events of Roman history which Higden notices in this volume extend from the dictatorship² of L. Papirius Cursor to the death of the Emperor Domitian.³ The authorities are Eutropius, Livy, Trogus, Suetonius, and Orosius. Papirius is said to have overthrown the Samnites so thoroughly that the site of their city could not be found. The insults of the Tarentines to the Romans are next mentioned, and the narrative is continued by the history of Pyrrhus in Italy, the account of which concludes with the mention of certain prodigies which appeared there at that time.

Cap. xxxii.

Then is noticed the first Punic war, for a portion of the account of which Augustine is cited in addition to the authorities above mentioned. The story confines

¹ From Strabo, vi. p. 280, we learn that he, like Pyrrhus, was applied to by the Tarentines for aid against the Romans, and landed

in Italy. See Arnold's *Rome*, c. xxxv.

² 325 B.C.

³ 96 A.D.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xix

itself to the defeat, embassy, and death of Regulus. Silver money was first coined in Rome at this period. Ennius is born at Tarentum,¹ and brought to Rome by Cato² the quæstor. In the account of the poet's thrifty habits, a mistake is made by the translator of the Harleian MS., which shows that the knowledge of Latin he possessed was hardly enough to qualify him for his task.³ A Gallic invasion of Italy under Britomarus is defeated.⁴ Now begins the second Punic war, in which Hannibal's progress towards Rome is related, and the low state to which the Romans were reduced. Occasion is here taken to mention the bringing of the statue of the Idæan mother, Cybele, from Pessinus⁵ to Rome, and the story is in substance that of Ovid's *Fasti*. Philip⁶ of Macedonia helped Hannibal at this time, and Sardinia revolted from the Romans. So that there were four Roman armies afield at one time, in Italy, Spain, Sardinia, and Macedonia.

Cap.
XXXIII.

Hannibal is forced to withdraw from Italy, and is defeated and almost taken prisoner in Africa. Plautus died at this period. Through poverty he at one time ground corn for a baker.⁷ The Roman arms are suc-

Cap.
XXXIV.

¹ He was really born at Rudiaë, near Brundisium.

² Cato found Ennius in Sardinia as he was coming home from the African war and brought him to Rome.

³ The text runs "habitavit (Ennius) in monte Aventino parco sumptu et unius ancillæ ministerio contentus," the latter part of which the translator renders: "He was of litelle meete content with the ministry of oon zoose."

⁴ This was not an invasion of Italy, but the murder of Roman

ambassadors by the Senonian Gauls under Britomaris. See Livy *Epit.* lib. xii.; Appian, *Samn.* v. 1, 2.

⁵ The MSS., without variation, call her "*Mater Pessinista*." The adjectives in use are *Pessinunticus* and *Pessinuntius*; but as neither of these forms comes near the MSS. I have put in the text *Pessinista*, thinking that might perhaps be the form intended.

⁶ Philip V.

⁷ The story is from Aul. Gellius (*iii.* 3), who quotes it from Varro, but no authority is given by Higden.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

cessful in Macedonia, and Antiochus the Great is attacked by the Romans for sheltering Hannibal. Philip of Macedonia helps them in this attack, and for so doing receives back his son Demetrius, who had been a hostage at Rome. Hannibal withdraws from the court of Antiochus and goes to Prusias, king of Bithynia, where he takes poison and kills himself. Scipio Africanus banished from Rome dies at Amiternum.¹ The mention of Scipio leads to an account of Scipio Nasica's² prohibition of a permanent theatre at Rome, and some notice of the character and purpose of early scenic performances. The revolt of Perseus from the Romans, and the consequent reduction of Macedonia to a Roman province is next mentioned. The victor Æmilius Paullus, is said, on the authority of Isidore, to have first brought Greek books to Rome; the mention of which circumstance leads to some remarks on the libraries of old time.

Cap.
xxxv.

Ennius died about this time and was buried in the tomb of Scipio.

Cap.
xxxvi.

The third Punic war begins, and is successfully carried on by the younger Scipio. The discussion at Rome whether Carthage should be destroyed, is carried against Scipio Nasica, who would have spared it, that the Romans might have a constant cause for watchfulness. Here the authority is Augustine once more. Carthage is rebuilt, after much loss to the Romans in Africa, in the twenty-second year after its destruction. About the same time a Gallic inroad over the Rhone into Roman territory is repulsed.

¹ This is a mistake for Liternum in Campania, near which place Scipio had an estate, see Seneca, *Ep.* 86, and Livy, xxxviii. 56.

² This was the son of the Nasica

who received the statue of Cybele on its arrival at Rome. The son had the distinguishing name of Corculum.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

INTRODUCTION.

xxi

The next chapter introduces Cicero, but tells us little about him, and confounds him in one story with Tullus Hostilius.¹ The authority for what is said of him is John of Salisbury. Later on in the chapter Marius' conquest of Jugurtha and his victories over the Cimbri are noticed, as is also the social war and its end. Sallust's birth is entered here, and the numerous prodigies which appeared in many parts of Italy, and by an error in chronology² the social disturbances about the agrarian law of the Gracchi are placed at this date. Many things are then mentioned in the lives of Marius and Sulla, much of the authority for which is St. Augustine. Sulla's triumph over Mithridates introduces a short account of the king of Pontus, whose death, and the appointment of Tigranes as king of Syria³ by Pompey, closes the chapter.

Cap.
XXXVIII.Cap.
XXXIX.

The next chapter is mainly occupied with Roman affairs. The success of Plautus as a writer of plays, and the death of Sulla are the first events noticed. Nicomedes,⁴ king of Bithynia, leaves his kingdom to the Romans. The Gladiatorial war comes next, and the victorious general, Marcus the Proconsul, is the afterwards famous Crassus. In brief sentences are mentioned the birth of Horace, Pompey's conquest of Jerusalem, and Catiline's rebellion with Sallust's history thereof. Then Livy's birth, Virgil's education at Cremona, and Julius Cæsar's consulship, after which, obtaining Gaul for his province he invades Britain. Bede is here added to the usual authorities, and the chapter closes with the murder of Crassus by the Parthians.⁵

Cap. XL.

¹ See p. 140.² Sallust's birth was B.C. 86; Tib. Gracchus' B.C. 166, and his proposed agrarian law, B.C. 133.³ Which here means Armenia.⁴ This was Nicomedes III. Philopator.⁵ The unfortunate end of Crassus is said by Higden, though he does not give his authority, to have been

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04853-8 - Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis: Together with the English Translations of John Trevisa and of an Unknown Writer of the Fifteenth Century:

Volume 4

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cap. xli. The Roman affairs comprised in the next chapter consist of the quarrel and war between Cæsar and Pompey and the death of the latter, with Cæsar's expedition into Egypt. Higden also knows of the Julian reform of the calendar. Cæsar's conquests in Asia and Africa lead to the mention of Cato's suicide, and this to an account of the most celebrated men¹ of that name. Cæsar's achievements are resumed, and the chapter ends with his death in the Capitol, pierced with twenty-three wounds.²

Cap. xlii. This chapter is also devoted to the history of Cæsar,³ and consists of anecdotes from Petrus, Pliny, Valerius, Suetonius, and John of Salisbury, and the mention of Catiline's conspiracy is introduced for the purpose of quoting the comparison from Sallust between Cæsar and Marcus Cato.

a punishment for plundering the temple at Jerusalem, from which he took two thousand talents, which Pompey, with all his sacrilegious enormities, had left untouched. The story of this pillage of the temple by Crassus is found in Josephus (Jud. Ant. xiv. 7; B. J. i. 8), but it is looked upon with suspicion, because, so far as we can learn from other authorities, Crassus' head-quarters were never less than 400 Roman miles from Jerusalem. The story is also mentioned in the Latin treatise "*De Bello Judaico*," which is an enlarged translation of Josephus, and is the work which Higden cites so frequently at this part of his chronicle under the name of *Hegesippus*. The story is given at full length in Frideaux's Connection, pt. 2. bk. vii.

¹ Mennius, which is the name as-

signed to one of the number by all the MSS. is seen from what is related of him, to have been M. Porcius Cato Licinianus. Cato the Censor was, according to Higden, the author of the school book *Ethica Catonis*, so well known to Chaucer, and which can be traced back to about the fourth century, A.D.

² With singular inconsistency Higden quotes from Eutropius (see p. 206) that Cæsar fell pierced with 23 wounds, and immediately afterwards (p. 208) says, without giving his authority, and in a passage where other mistakes are found "*nec vulnus in corpore ejus apparuit*."

³ The authority is not given, but the fatal day for Cæsar is made to be the kalends of July and not the ides of March.