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978-1-108-04860-6 - Le Livre De Reis De Brittanie, E, Le Livre De Reis De Engleterre

Peter of Ickham Edited by John Glover

Excerpt

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**LE LIVRE DE REIS DE BRITTANIE**

**E**

**LE LIVRE DE REIS DE ENGLETERE.**

**A**

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## ISCI COMENCE

### LE LIVRE DE REIS DE BRITTAINE.

DEVANT la nativite nostre Seignur mil e deus cenz ans, Brutus, le fiz Silvii, <sup>1</sup> ou Ynogen sa femme e ou ses treis fiz, <sup>2</sup>vint de la bataille de Troye en Engleterre, ki estoit dunkes sicum un desert.' Si fist la vile de Lundres e la pella Trinovant, e pus fu ele apelle 5 Troye Noene, e pus Karlud, et pus Lundin, e ore Lundene. [En cel tens fu Hely juges des fiz de Israel.] Cist Brutus a soun moriant fist sun eyne fiz, ki fu apelle Loctrinus, roi de Engleterre, e apella la terre Brittanie la Grande, a pres sun nun. 10

E Loctrinus, quant cil regna a pres sun pere, fist appeller la terre Leogria a pres sun nun de meine. Al secund fiz, ki out nun Camber, dona il la terre de Wales, e illa fist appeller Cambria, a pres soun nun. Al terz fiz dona il Escoce, ki fu apelle Albanatus, e 15 illa fist appeller Albania, a pres soun non. <sup>3</sup>E en cel tens regna li rois David en Jerusalem.'

Eboracus li sime rois a pres Brutus fist Euerewik, e Altlud, e le Chastel de Puceles, et le chastel de <sup>4</sup>Muntros. <sup>5</sup>Rudibraz, li fiz Eborac, fist Cantorbirie, e 20 Wyncestre, et Ceptone. Iloec parla un egle.

A pres ceo Bladut fist Ba. Si fist les chaux bains. <sup>6</sup>A pres ceo se fist eles e vola jekes a Lundres, ki dunc fu

<sup>1</sup> *vint en Engleterre.* <sup>2</sup> *om.* <sup>3</sup> *trans. to* <sup>5</sup>. <sup>4</sup> *Mount Dolerous.* <sup>5</sup> *En cel tens . . . David . . . Jerusalem, Rudhudibras.* <sup>6</sup> *om.*

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## THE GENEALOGY

OF

## THE KINGS OF BRITAIN.

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TWELVE hundred years before the birth of our Lord, The history of the line of Brutus. A. i. 16. Brutus, the son of Silvius, with his wife Ynogen and with his three sons, after the Trojan war came to England, which at that time was like a desert. He built the city of London and called it Trinovant. It was called afterwards New Troy; afterwards Karlud; afterwards Lundin, and now Lundene. At this time A. ii. Eli was judge of the children of Israel. This Brutus on his death made his eldest son, who was called Locrinus, king of England, and called the land Great Britain, after his name.

Locrinus, when he was king after his father, caused the land to be called Leogria, after his own name. To his second son, whose name was Camber, he gave the land of Wales, and he caused it to be called Cambria, after his name. To his third son, who was called Albanactus, he gave Scotland, and he caused it to be called Albania, after his name. And at this time king David reigned in Jerusalem.

Eboracus the sixth king after Brutus built York and Dumbarton and Maidens' Castle, and the castle of Montrose. Rudhudibras the son of Eboracus built Canterbury and Winchester and Shaftesbury. There an eagle used to speak.

After that Bladud built Bath. He also made the Hot Baths. Afterwards he made himself wings and

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apelle Trinovant, e i loec chei ke li col de brisa.' A  
 pres lui Leir fist Leicestre. <sup>1</sup>Si avoit treis beles filies.  
 Il a resona la primere filie, si lui demaunda cum bien  
 ele se amast. E ele respoundi: "Sire, sire, si dire le  
 "os, tant ws eim cum Deu del ciel." E pus a resona 5  
 la secunde en meime la manere. E ele dist: "Atant  
 "cum filie puest amer pere." E pus a resona la terce  
 filie, si lui demaunda: "Bele filie, cum bien me amet  
 "vus?" Ele respoundi:\*

10

"Beau pere, jeo eim tei  
 Come moun pere amer dei.  
 E de ceo te face certain,  
 Tant as, tant vaus, tant vus eim."

E li rois Leir se coruca oue cele filie, e jura sun  
 serment, ke par lui jammes ne averoit conseil. Si 15  
 maria les deus filies einez, le oune ou la meite de sun  
 reaume, le autre ou lautre meite. E la pusnee, pur sa  
 beaute e pur sa genterise, fu marie a un noble roi de  
 Fraunce. A pres ceo li rois Leir ne peust pas sustenir  
 la curt ki il tint devant, e de vint tut povere; si ke 20  
 il vint a sa primere filie si cum en pleniant; e ele lui  
 escundit e se escusa par sun seignur, ke ele ne lui  
 osa ne ne peust ren fere. Pus vint a lautre en meime la  
 manere, e ele dist, "Ren ne deit em fere a celui ki  
 "rien ne vout retenir a soun ofs." E il se maia trop, 25  
 e pensa de aler la utre a maunder a sa pusnee filie  
 coment ses deus filies lui aveiunt respoundu. E il  
 passa la meer tut povere, e maunda sun estat par let-  
 tre a sa filie ki fu reine de Fraunce. Ele ausi tost

<sup>1</sup> om. the history of Lear's daughters.

\* Compare Li Romans de Brut, 1787 :—

"Mes pere es et jo aim tant toi  
 Comme jo mon pere amer doi,  
 Et por toi faire plus certain  
 Tant as, tant vax e jo tant t'aim."

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flew as far as to London, then called Trinovant, and there he fell so that he broke his neck. After him Lear built Leicester. He had three beautiful daughters. He questioned the eldest daughter and asked her how much she loved him. And she answered, "My lord, my lord, I dare affirm I love you like the God of heaven." Then he questioned the second in like manner, and she said, "As much as a daughter can love a father." Then he questioned the third daughter and asked her, "Fair daughter, how much do you love me?" she answered, "Fair sire, I love thee as I ought to love my father, and assure thyself of this, as much as thou hast so much thou art worth, and so much I love thee."<sup>1</sup>

The story of Leir and his three daughters. A. ii. 11.

Then the king Lear was enraged against this daughter, and swore his oath<sup>2</sup> that he never more would take thought for her. And he gave his two elder daughters in marriage, the one with one half of his kingdom, the other with the other half. And the youngest, for her beauty and her nobleness, was married to a noble king of France. After this the king Lear could not maintain the court which he held before, and became quite poor; so that he came to his first daughter, making his complaint; but she hid herself from him, and made her husband her excuse, that she dared not, and could not do anything for him. Then he came to the second in like manner, and she said, "One ought not to do anything for a man that will not keep anything for his own behoof." Then was he dismayed exceedingly, and thought of going over to tell his youngest daughter how his two children had answered him. And he crossed the sea, quite poor, and told his state by letter to his daughter, who was queen of

<sup>1</sup> "Also muche so þou havest! þou art worþ y wis,  
"And also moche ich lovz; þe! þe endinge lo is þis."

*Robert of Gloucester.*

<sup>2</sup> "And þou schalt, for þine onkuinde, hede! beon al out of mi muinde."  
—*Id.*

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fist aparalier privement or e argent asset, e maunda a sun pere, ke il se turnast de genz e de chivauz, cum il soleit estre, e ke il se tenist tut coi de si ki ele lui maundast; e il si fist. E la royne tost a pres ceo fist asaver asoun seignur le roi de Fraunce, ke se peres 5 le roi de Engleterre fut arive en sa terre pur parler ou lui. E lui rois de Fraunce se joist mut de ceo, e comaunda ke tut lui barnages venist ou lui pur wel-comer le pere la roine. E eus si firunt: Pus tost a pres lui rois Leir cunta tut al roi par conseil la 10 roine coment ses deus filies lui aveiunt respoundu en Engleterre. E lui rois de Fraunce sen doleit trop de ceo; e par conseil sa femme la reine maunda grant ost hors de Fraunce pur aider lui roi Leir conquere sa terre. E il la conquist, si en jeta ses deus filies 15 ou lurs baruns a tut dis; e regna il memes treis ans a pres. A pres sa mort, Cordoille, sa pusne filie, rescut le reaume. E vindrunt ses deus nevouz, fiz de ses sors, si la guerrierunt, e la pristerunt, e la tindrunt en prisoun. Ele meimes se occist de doel. 20

A pres ceo li rois Belin, le fiz Donewal, apres ki Belingate est apelle, fist quatre reaus voies par mi Engleterre. <sup>1</sup>Le un fist il' de Toteneis jeke en Kateneis. Le autre fist il de Seint Davi en travers jeske al port <sup>2</sup>dAmer, e les autres deus voies en velif la terre. Scist 25 <sup>3</sup>Belins prist France, e Lunsbardie, e Rome.

A pres lui regna Cassibelian, si <sup>4</sup>jeta Julius Cesar hors de Engleterre deus fet. Mes au terz foiz fut Cassibelian vengu, si dona triu a Rome, <sup>5</sup>deus mil livers par an. Ceo fu devant la nativite nostre Seig- 30 nur xl. e deus ans.

En cel contemple nasquist nostre Sires.

<sup>1</sup> *une veize fist.*    <sup>2</sup> *de Hamptoun.*    <sup>3</sup> *ins. rei.*    <sup>4</sup> *juta.*  
<sup>5</sup> *treis mile lyvers de argent.*

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France. She immediately caused gold and silver sufficient to be got ready secretly, and sent word to her father that he should equip himself with men and horses, as he used to be, and that he should keep strict silence concerning what she wrote to him; and he did so. And soon after the queen informed her lord, the king of France, that her father, the king of England, was arrived in his kingdom to speak with him. And the king of France rejoiced greatly at this, and commanded that all his baronage should come with him to welcome the queen's father, and so they did. Soon after, the king Lear, by the advice of the queen, told the king of all, how his two daughters had answered him in England. And the king of France was sorely grieved at it, and by the advice of the queen, his wife, sent a great army forth from France to aid king Lear to conquer his kingdom; and he conquered it, and banished his two daughters with their husbands for ever, and reigned himself three years afterwards. Upon his death Cordelia, his youngest daughter, obtained the kingdom; and her two nephews, the sons of her sisters, came and made war upon her, and took and kept her in prison. She killed herself for grief.

After this the king Belin, the son of Donewal, from whom Billingsgate is named, made four royal roads through the midst of England. The first he made from Totness to Caithness. The second he made from St. David's across to Southampton, and the two other roads all round the kingdom. This Belin seized France and Lombardy and Rome.

After him Cassibelaunus was king, who twice expelled Julius Cesar from England; but the third time Cassibelaunus was conquered, and paid tribute to Rome two thousand pounds a year. This was forty-two years before the birth of our Lord.

About this time was our Lord born.

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A pres la passion nostre Seignurs <sup>1</sup>lx. e xxii. ans  
Theolesforus papa establi a chaunter "Gloria in ex-  
" celsis Deo."

Après ce Lucius le rei des Brutons <sup>2</sup> recut chris-  
tiente en Engleterre de lapostoile Eleutherio e tut <sup>5</sup>  
[Engleterre fu cristiene. E cely Lucius fit ii.  
erceveshes e xxiii. eveshes. Ceo] fust devant Seint  
Austin iiij. cent e xlvj. ans. Après ceo Dioclicianus  
fist grant persecusion <sup>3</sup> de la christenite. <sup>4</sup> En cel  
contemple' fust Seint Auban martirize. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> En cel tens le roy Vortigerne requili Horsus e  
Hengist en Engleterre. Après ceo vint Gormond le  
roy de Affrike en Engleterre, e destruyt pres tote la  
christenite e totes les <sup>6</sup> iglises. Idunc perdirent les  
Brutons la seignorize de Engleterre. Après ce fut Engle- <sup>15</sup>  
terre entredite mult grant tens.'

<sup>7</sup> Engleterre fust departe en cinc a cinc roys. Ly  
un aveit Kent. Lautre Westsex. Ly terce Marchene-  
riche. Li quarte Northumberlond. Li quinte aveit  
Estangle. <sup>20</sup>

Ly rey de Kent, <sup>8</sup> si regna seulement en Kent. <sup>9</sup> Si  
aveit en sa terre' li arceveske de Canturburi, e le  
eveske de Roucestre.

Li rey de Westsex <sup>10</sup> aveit Wilteschire, <sup>11</sup> Barrocschire,  
<sup>12</sup> Dorsetechire, Souþsex, Souþhamptechire, Souþpereize, <sup>25</sup>  
Somerset, Devenisschire, e Cornwaile. Si aveit en  
sa terre cinc eveskes; li eveske de Salusburi, que <sup>13</sup> dunc  
fut a Schireborne <sup>14</sup> e cele de <sup>15</sup> Selseize, qui ore  
est a Chichester;' e cele de Winchestre; e cele  
de Ba, <sup>15</sup> que dunkes fut a Welles;' e <sup>16</sup> cele de <sup>30</sup>  
Excestre qe dunke fust de parte en deus;' la une fust a  
Cridintone, le autre a Seint Germen <sup>17</sup> en Cornwaile.'

<sup>1</sup> lx is in the hand of a corrector, perhaps for c. <sup>2</sup> porte. <sup>3</sup> a.  
<sup>4</sup> e apres ceo tens. <sup>5</sup> om. <sup>6</sup> MS. Britons. <sup>7</sup> e apres ceo fu par  
grant tens Engleterre. <sup>8</sup> om. <sup>9</sup> la est. <sup>10</sup> ins. i. <sup>11</sup> om.  
<sup>12</sup> Dorsete. <sup>13</sup> jadis. <sup>14</sup> om. <sup>15</sup> MS. Lindeseize. <sup>16</sup> Devenesir  
e de Cornwaile ove deus avoit jadis. <sup>17</sup> om.



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Eighty-two years after our Lord's passion, Telesphorus, the pope, ordained the chanting of *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*. Gloria in excelsis. A.S. Chr. Cod. E.

After this, Lucius, the king of the Britons, received Christianity in England from the Pope Eleutherius, and all England became Christian. This Lucius also created two archbishopricks and twenty-three bishopricks: and this was four hundred and forty-six years before Saint Austine. After this, Diocletian caused great persecution of Christianity. About this time Saint Alban suffered martyrdom. Britain Christian, A. iv. 19.

At this time, king Vortigern invited Horsa and Hengist to England. After this, Gormund, the king of Africa, arrived in England, and destroyed nearly the whole of Christianity and all the churches. And then the Britons lost the sovereignty of England. After this was England for many years under an interdict. Arrival of Saxons, A. vi. 10. Gormond arrives, A. xi. 8.

England was divided among five kings in five parts. One had Kent, another Wessex, the third Mercia, the fourth Northumberland, the fifth had East Anglia. England divided, F. p. 695.

The king of Kent reigned only in Kent. He had in his territory the archbishopric of Canterbury and the bishopric of Rochester.

The king of Wessex had Wiltshire, Berkshire, Dorset, Sussex, Southamptonshire, Surrey, Somerset, Devonshire, and Cornwall. He had in his kingdom five sees: the bishopric of Salisbury, which was then at Shirborne; and that of Selsey, which now is at Chichester; and that of Winchester; and that of Bath, which was then at Wells; and that of Exeter, which then was divided into two parts; the one part was at Crediton, the other at Saint Germans in Cornwall.

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Li reis de Mercheneriche aveit Gloucestreschire, Wirecestreschire, Warewicschire, Chesterschire, Dorbischire, Staffordschire, Schropschire, Herefordschire, Huntindoneschire, demi Bedefordschire, Norhampteschire, [Oxonefordsire, Bokinghamsire,] Leicestrechire, <sup>5</sup> Lincolneschire, Notinghamschire. Si aveit quarte eveskes <sup>1</sup> en sa terre: Cele' de Nicole, de Cestre, de Hereforde, e de Wirecestre.

Ly reys de Estangle aveit Grantebreggechire, Nortfolc, Souþfolc, Estsex, e demi Bedefordeschire. <sup>2</sup> Si 10 aveit deus esveskes: cele de Hely e de Northwiche.

Ly reis de Northumberlond si aveit totes les terres outre Humbre, deskes en Escoce. Si aveit en sa terre le arceveske de Euerwyk, e le esveke de Durham. E issi fut Engleterre lungement de partize. 15

Après la venue des Angleis, si se entregwerrirunt ly reys mult sovent; les uns tolirent as autres mult sovent, li plusfort de li plus feble, deske a tens Egbrit, le fiz \*Edmund, prous homme mult en Deu, <sup>3</sup> e al cecle, [ne] e norri en Westsex, <sup>4</sup> e pus en France odle roy 20 Charles. Iceli fust li <sup>5</sup> primer rey, qui out Engleterre tot en semble. Icel Egbrit <sup>6</sup> comença estre pruz homme e wailant; si en out grant enviþe li reys Brictrich de Westsex. Si dutta en avant ke Egbrit li toli sun regne <sup>7</sup>; si <sup>8</sup> fust [mut] en tour por li' oscire mes: 25 Egbrit, si se aparceut, si senfua en France. La <sup>9</sup> espryt il hardiement, e corteisiþe e affeitement. <sup>10</sup> En cel tens regna Charlemaine le Grant; si regna xlvi. ans. Ileoc demorra Egbrizt, deske Brictrich morut.

Et pus les barons de Wessex enveizerent por Eg- 30

<sup>1</sup> om. <sup>2</sup> ins. e *Mitelsex*. <sup>3</sup> om. <sup>4</sup> om. <sup>5</sup> *primereyn*. <sup>6</sup> *le fiz Ailmund cel esteit nez e nuriz e*. <sup>7</sup> ins. *ou a sens*. <sup>8</sup> *Si le vint oscire*. <sup>9</sup> *pryst*. <sup>10</sup> *dunkes en iceu tens avoit Charlemayn le regne de France xliiii. anz e pus regna deus anz issi ke xlvi. anz par tut regna*.

\* Er. for *Ealmond* or *Almund*.