

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

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.

A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic

This Old Norse text and English translation, prepared by the librarian and scholar Eiríkr Magnússon (1833–1913) and published in two volumes between 1875 and 1883, remains the standard edition of the 'Saga of Archbishop Thomas'. Composed in Iceland in the early fourteenth century, it narrates the life, death and miracles of Thomas Becket, based on earlier Latin and Old French traditions. Embedded in the saga is a lost Latin life by Robert of Cricklade, written soon after Becket's murder in 1170, which contains some unique details: for example, that he had a stammer. The saga is valuable not only as evidence for Becket's life, but as an insight into the development of his saintly cult in Iceland. Volume 1 contains the account of Thomas's childhood, his life as chancellor and archbishop, his conflict with the king and his murder at Canterbury.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

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

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic

VOLUME 1

EDITED BY EIRÍKR MAGNÚSSON



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

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/9781108049214

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1875

This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04921-4 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

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND

DURING

THE MIDDLE AGES.

32165.

3

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

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.

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

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THÓMAS SAGA ERKIBYSKUPS.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THÓMAS SAGA ERKIBYSKUPS.

A LIFE

OF

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS BECKET,
IN ICELANDIC,

WITH

ENGLISH TRANSLATION, NOTES AND GLOSSARY.

EDITED

BY

EIRÍKR MAGNÚSSON,

SUB-LIBRARIAN OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE.

VOLUME I.

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., PATERNOSTER ROW; TRÜBNER & Co., LUDGATE HILL:

ALSO BY PARKER & Co., OXFORD;

MACMILLAN & Co., CAMBRIDGE;

A. & C. BLACK, EDINBURGH; AND A. THOM, DUBLIN.

1875.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

~~~~~  
**C O N T E N T S.**  
~~~~~

b

Y F I R L I T,

	Blaðsíða
Prologus	2
KAP. I.	
Hér byrjar sögu Thómas erkibyskups	4
KAP. II.	
Anselmus varð erkibyskup í Cancia	10
KAP. III.	
Thómas fæddr	12
KAP. IV.	
Af Thómasi	16
KAP. V.	
Sanctus Thómas fór í skóla	18
KAP. VI.	
Er Stephanus varð konungr í Englandi ok af páfatölu	26
KAP. VII.	
Guðs maðr Thómas kemr heim af skóla	28
KAP. VIII.	
Er Thómas fëll í ána	30
KAP. IX.	
Thomas varð erkidjárn	34
KAP. X.	
Hversu Sancte Gregorius skipaði fyrst kristni í Eng- landi	40

CONTENTS.

	Page
Prologue	3
CHAP. I.	
Here beginneth the story of archbishop Thomas	5
CHAP. II.	
How Anselm became archbishop of Canterbury	- 11
CHAP. III.	
The birth of Thomas	13
CHAP. IV.	
Of Thomas	- 17
CHAP. V.	
St. Thomas goeth to school	19
CHAP. VI.	
How Stephen became king of England, and of the tale of the popes	- 27
CHAP. VII.	
How God's man, Thomas, cometh home from school	29
CHAP. VIII.	
How Thomas fell into the river	- - 31
CHAP. IX.	
How Thomas was made archdeacon	- - 35
CHAP. X.	
How St. Gregory first set up Christian law in England	- 41
	b 2

viii	YFIRLIT:		
	KAP. XI.		Blaðsíða
Er Heinrekr varð konungr yfir Englandi	-	-	42
	KAP. XII.		
Er Thómas varð canceler	-		44
	KAP. XIII.		
Af háttum hins heilaga Thómas erkibyskups	-		50
	KAP. XIV.		
Er Heinrekr konungr kjöri Thómas	-	-	60
	KAP. XV.		
Thómas kjörinn erkibyskup í Cancia	-		70
	KAP. XVI.		
Thómas kvittaðr af krúnunni	-	-	76
	KAP. XVII.		
Thómas vígðr múnkr			84
	KAP. XVIII.		
Thómas vígðr byskup	-	-	88
	KAP. XIX.		
Hversu Thómas erkibyskup háttar dagliga sínum hag			94
	KAP. XX.		
Atferði Thóme	-	-	100
	KAP. XXI.		
Af setningi Thóme	-	-	106
	KAP. XXII.		
Af röksemd Thóme erkibyskups			110
	KAP. XXIII.		
Af umvandan heilags herra Thóme erkibyskups	-	-	116
	KAP. XXIV.		
Af Thómasi erkibyskupi	-	-	122

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.	ix
CHAP. XI.	
How Henry became king of England -	Page 43
CHAP. XII.	
How Thomas became chancellor - -	45
CHAP. XIII.	
Concerning the habits of St. Thomas - -	51
CHAP. XIV.	
How king Henry elected Thomas - - -	61
CHAP. XV.	
How Thomas was elected archbishop of Canterbury -	71
CHAP. XVI.	
How Thomas was absolved by the crown -	77
CHAP. XVII.	
Thomas ordained monk - - -	85
CHAP. XVIII.	
How Thomas was consecrated bishop - -	89
CHAP. XIX.	
How archbishop Thomas fareth in his daily manner of life - - - -	95
CHAP. XX.	
The habits of Thomas - - -	101
CHAP. XXI.	
Concerning the household rules of Thomas -	107
CHAP. XXII.	
Of the zeal of archbishop Thomas	111
CHAP. XXIII.	
Of the reproofs of the holy lord Thomas archbishop	117
CHAP. XXIV.	
Of archbishop Thomas	123

x	YFIRLIT.	
	KAP. XXV	Blaðsíða
	Thómas vígði byskupa ok tók or jörðu líkam Eðvarðar	134
	KAP. XXVI.	
	Hèr ríss misþykt milli byskups ok konungs	136
	KAP. XXVII.	
	Deila konungs ok byskups -	146
	KAP. XXVIII.	
	Af Thómasi ok byskupum	156
	KAP. XXIX.	
	Er Thómas, samþykkir konungs vana	162
	KAP. XXX.	
	Hversu klerkr ávítaði Thóman - - - -	168
	KAP. XXXI.	
	Ágánger Heinreks -	176
	KAP. XXXII.	
	Af fundi í Norðantún ok ákæru	184
	KAP. XXXIII.	
	Af því Thómas sýkist - -	200
	KAP. XXXIV.	
	Hèr snúast byskupar í móti sancti Thómasi	206
	KAP. XXXV.	
	Guðs maðr Thómas ríðr af fundi	216
	KAP. XXXVI.	
	Er Thómas ferr brott, ok af bustigli merking	228
	KAP. XXXVII.	
	Utskýring af drauminum -	232

CONTENTS.		xi
CHAP. XXV.		Page
How Thomas consecrated bishops and translated the body of Edward		135
CHAP. XXVI.		
Here ariseth dissension between the bishop and the king - - -		137
CHAP. XXVII.		
Quarrel between the king and the bishop		147
CHAP. XXVIII.		
Of Thomas and the bishops		157
CHAP. XXIX.		
How Thomas consenteth to the king's customs		163
CHAP. XXX.		
How a clerk chid Thomas		169
CHAP. XXXI.		
The masterful ways of Henry - - -		177
CHAP. XXXII.		
The meeting of Northampton. Accusations	-	185
CHAP. XXXIII.		
How Thomas falleth ill	-	201
CHAP. XXXIV.		
Here the bishops turn against Saint Thomas		207
CHAP. XXXV.		
God's man Thomas rideth away from the meeting		217
CHAP. XXXVI.		
How Thomas fareth away		229
CHAP. XXXVII.		
The dream areded	-	233

xii	YFIRLIT.		
	KAP. XXXVIII.		Blaðsíða
Hér byrjar flóttu Thóme erkibyskups	-	-	240
	KAP. XXXIX.		
Áf ferð Thóme	-	-	254
	KAP. XL.		
Er konungr sendi til Róms	-	-	260
	KAP. XLI.		
Af sendimönnum Thóme	-	-	270
	KAP. XLII.		
Thómas kom í curia	-	-	288
	KAP. XLIII.		
Er Thómas less sakir	-	-	292
	KAP. XLIV.		
Er Thómas yfirvann kardinales	-	-	298
	KAP. XLV.		
Afdæmdir vanar Heinreks konungs		-	302
	KAP. XLVI.		
Er Thómas resigneraði	-	-	304
	KAP. XLVII.		
Ër vorr Herra vitraðist hinum heilaga Thómasi		-	312
	KAP. XLVIII.		
Af harðleik Heinreks konungs			318
	KAP. XLIX.		
Er Thómas erkibyskup ok Heinrekr konungr senda til páfans		-	326
	KAP. L.		
Er Heinrekr konungr snýst í mót páfanum			330

CONTENTS.	xiii
CHAP. XXXVIII.	
Here beginneth the flight of archbishop Thomas	Page - 241
CHAP. XXXIX.	
Of the travelling of Thomas	- 255
CHAP. XL.	
How the king sent to Rome	- 261
CHAP. XLI.	
Of the messengers of Thomas	- - 271
CHAP. XLII.	
How Thomas cometh to the pope's court	- 289
CHAP. XLIII.	
How Thomas readeth out the charges	- - 293
CHAP. XLIV.	
How Thomas overcame the cardinals	- - 299
CHAP. XLV.	
The customs of king Henry condemned	- - 303
CHAP. XLVI.	
How Thomas resigned	- - 305
CHAP. XLVII.	
How our Lord revealed Himself in a vision to the holy Thomas	- 313
CHAP. XLVIII.	
Of the hardness of king Henry	- 319
CHAP. XLIX.	
How archbishop Thomas and king Henry send to the pope	- - 327
CHAP. L.	
How king Henry turneth against the pope	331

xiv	YFIRLIT.		
	KAP. LI.		Blaðsíða
Bréf páfans til Heinreks konungs			332
	KAP. LII.		
Konungr blíðkast ekki			336
	KAP. LIII.		
Thómas skifar bréf til Heinreks konungs			340
	KAP. LIV.		
Útlægðir frændr Thóme			346
	KAP. LV.		
Páfi fór heim í Róm, enn Thómas var eftir	-	-	352
	KAP. LVI.		
Er hinn heilagi Thómas fór or Pontis	-	-	368
	KAP. LVII.		
Er páfinn skrifar til Englands	-	-	376
	KAP. LVIII.		
Er Lundúna byskup skrifar	-	-	380
	KAP. LIX.		
Af vitran	-	-	388
	KAP. LX.		
Bréf byskupa til Thóman	-	-	394
	KAP. LXI.		
Bréf Thómas erkibyskups til byskupa	-	-	398
	KAP. LXII.		
Af sendiboðum páfans	-	-	410
	KAP. LXIII.		
Hér bannar konungr at biðja fyrir Thómasi	-	-	416
	KAP. LXIV.		
Af Thómasi erkibyskupi ok Heinreki konungi			424

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.	xv
CHAP. LI.	
The pope's letter to king Henry	Page 333
CHAP. LII.	
The king softeneth not -	337
CHAP. LIII.	
Thomas writeth a letter to king Henry	341
CHAP. LIV.	
The kin of Thomas are banished	347
CHAP. LV.	
The pope goeth to Rome, but Thomas abideth behind	353
CHAP. LVI.	
How the holy Thomas went away from Pontigny -	369
CHAP. LVII.	
How the pope writeth to England - - -	377
CHAP. LVIII.	
How the bishop of London writeth - - -	381
CHAP. LIX.	
Concerning a vision - - -	389
CHAP. LX.	
Letter from the bishops to Thomas	395
CHAP. LXI.	
The letter of archbishop Thomas to the bishops -	399
CHAP. LXII.	
Concerning the messengers of the pope -	411
CHAP. LXIII.	
Here the king forbiddeth to pray for Thomas -	417
CHAP. LXIV.	
Concerning archbishop Thomas and king Henry -	425

xvi	YFIRLIT.		
	KAP. LXXV.		Blaðsíða
Af skilnaði konunga	-	-	- 432
	KAP. LXXVI.		
Af fundi Thómas erkibyskups ok konunga	-		440
	KAP. LXXVII.		
Af vígslu Heinreks unga til konungs	-		448
	KAP. LXXVIII.		
Af boðskap ok forboði páfáns			454
	KAP. LXXIX.		
Af sætt erkibyskups ok konungs			460
	KAP. LXXX.		
Af erkibyskupi ok konungi			468
	KAP. LXXXI.		
Er sancte Thómas bað Fracka konung um stein	-		474
	KAP. LXXXII.		
Er þeir byrja upp steyt móti sancte Thómasi	-		480
	KAP. LXXXIII.		
Er sancte Thómas kom til Englands ok heim í Cancía	-		488
	KAP. LXXXIV.		
Er byskupar fóru á fund Heinreks konungs at rægja	-		496
	KAP. LXXXV.		
Er Thómas erkibyskup ætlar til unga konungs	-		504
	KAP. LXXXVI.		
Af iiij. riddorum Guðs óvinum	-		508

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.		xvii
CHAP. LXXV.		
Of the parting of the kings	- - -	Page 433
CHAP. LXXVI.		
Of the meeting of archbishop Thomas and the kings	-	441
CHAP. LXXVII.		
Concerning the coronation of the young Henry	-	449
CHAP. LXXVIII.		
Of the pope's message and interdict	-	455
CHAP. LXXIX.		
Concerning the peace between the archbishop and the king	-	461
CHAP. LXX.		
Of the archbishop and the king		469
CHAP. LXXI.		
How Saint Thomas asked the king of the French for a stone	-	475
CHAP. LXXII.		
How they commence strife against Saint Thomas	-	481
CHAP. LXXIII.		
How Saint Thomas returneth to England and home to Canterbury	-	489
CHAP. LXXIV.		
How the bishops went to meet king Henry with slanderous reports	- - -	497
CHAP. LXXV.		
How archbishop Thomas was minded to go to the young king	- - -	505
CHAP. LXXVI.		
Concerning four knights, the enemies of God	-	509

xviii

YFIRLIT.

KAP. LXXVII.

Blaðsíða

Af hinum heilaga Thómasi erkibyskupi, er hann sagði
fyrir sína písl - 516

KAP. LXXVIII.

Hversu Guðs óvinir meinmæltu hinn heilaga Thomam
erkibyskup 522

KAP. LXXIX.

Er riddarar koma til sinnar fylgdar - 532

KAP. LXXX.

Líflát Thóme erkibyskups - 542

KAP. LXXXI.

Hversu góðir menn hörmuðu eftir fráfall hins heilaga
Thómas erkibyskups - 550

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04921-4 - A Life of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Icelandic: Volume 1

Edited by Eiríkr Magnússon

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.		xix
CHAP. LXXVII.		
Concerning the holy Thomas, how he prophesied about his martyrdom	- - -	Page 517
CHAP. LXXVIII.		
How the enemies of God spoke evil against the holy arch- bishop Thomas	-	523
CHAP. LXXIX.		
How the knights came back to their followers		533
CHAP. LXXX.		
The death of archbishop Thomas	-	543
CHAP. LXXXI.		
How good men grieved after the death of the holy arch- bishop Thomas	- - -	551
