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Epistola[1] *Willelmi viri religiosi, canonici de Novoburgo, præfationalis operis sequentis et apologetica ad Abbatem Rievallis.*[2]

Reverendo[3] patri et domino Ernaldo,[4] abbati Rievallis,[5] suus Willelmus,[6] servorum Christi minimus cum apparuerit Princeps pastorum immarcescibilem percipere gloriæ coronam. Literas sanctitatis vestræ suscepi, quibus mihi studium et operam rerum memorabilium, quæ nostris temporibus copiosius provenerunt,[7] ad[8] notitiam cautelamque posterorum conscribendarum dignatur ingerere; cum ex illo venerabili filiorum vestrorum collegio plures vobis suppetant, qui hoc opus commodius valeant atque elegantius adimplere. Sed, ut video, pia prudentia vestra propriis filiis, circa observantiam militiæ regularis sudantibus, in hac parte ducens parcendum, indultum misericorditer infirmitati meæ otium non patitur esse otiosum. Et quidem vestræ circa me dignationi tanta sum devotione astrictus, ut, etiam si fortiora jubeatis, non audeam

Prefatory letter addressed to Ernald, abbot of Rievaulx.

[1] *Epistola, &c.*, as above, L.S.; *Epistola Willelmi viri religiosi, canonici Noviburgi, ad Edelredum Abbatem Rievallis*, C.; om. B.

[2] *Rievallis*, C.S.; *Rievvallis*, L.

[3] *Reverendo*, C.L.S.; *reverentissimo*, B.

[4] *Ernaldo*, L.S.; *Edelredo*, C.; *E.*, B.G.R. Ernald, abbot of Melrose, became abbot of Rievaulx March 2, 1189, and resigned in 1199. Abbot Ailred (*Ethelredus* or *Ealredus*) died on the 12th of January, 1166.

[5] *Rievallis*, C.S.; *Rievvallis*, L.; *Ryevallis*, B.

[6] *Willelmus*, L.S.; *W.*, A.B.C.R.

[7] *provenerunt*, B.C.S.; *pervenerunt ?* L.

[8] *ad*, B.C.L.S.; *et ad*, R.

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contraire. Nunc autem cum cauta discretio vestra, non altis scrutandis, mysticisque rimandis insistere, sed in narrationibus historicis præcipiat spatiari ad tempus, tanquam pro quadam ex facilitate operis recreatione ingenii, multo[1] magis excusandi mihi occasio tollitur. Itaque in[2] adjutorio Dei et Domini nostri, in cujus manu[3] sunt et nos et sermones nostri, fretus orationibus vestris, et sanctorum filiorum vestrorum, qui præcepto sanctitatis vestræ suas non contemnendas preces dignati sunt sociare, opus injunctum aggrediar; pauca sane, quæ ad rem pertinent, ante historiæ ingressum prælibans.

EXPLICIT EPISTOLA.[4]

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[1] *multo*, B.C.L.S.; *tanto*, R.
[2] *in*, C.L.S.; erased from B.; om. A.
[3] *manu*, B.L.S.; *manus*, C.
[4] *Explicit Epistola*, L.S.; om. A.B.C.

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LIBER PRIMUS.

A.D. 1066–1154.

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Cap. 4. Quomodo Stephanus contra jusjurandum invasit regnum Anglorum - p. 31

Cap. 5. Quod Stephanus fausta habuerit regni principia - - p. 33

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Cap. 10. Quomodo imperatrix fugit de Oxenefordia,[9] et de concilio Lundoniensi p. 42

[1] *Incipiunt . . . libri,* L.S.; om. C.; these words and the entire elenchus are omitted by A.B.R.

[2] *Prooemium . . . historiæ,* L.S.; om. C.

[3] *Rufo,* L.S.; *Ruffo,* C.

[4] *quibusdam,* L.S., *quibusdam aliis,* C.

[5] *Salesbiriensi,* C.S.; *Salesbriensi,* L.

[6] *Stephanus,* L.S.; *rex Stephanus,* C.

[7] *amiserit,* L.S.; *amisit,* C.

[8] *est apud,* L.S.; *est in bello apud,* C.

[9] *Oxenefordia,* L.S.; *Oxneford,*C.

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[1] *Thurstino*, L.S.; *Turstino*, C.
[2] *Rievallis*, C.S.; *Rievvallis*, L.
[3] *Bellelandæ*, L.S.; *Bellandiæ*, C.
[4] *Gilleberto Sempingamensi*, S.; *Gilberto Sempringamensi*, L.; *Gilberto Sempingamensi*, C.
[5] *instituit*, L.S.; *constituit*, C.
[6] *successerit*, C.; *successit*, L.S.
[7] *Lodovicus*, S.; *Lodowicus̄*, C.L.
[8] *de*, L.S.; om. C.
[9] *Malcolmo*, L.S.; *Malcolono*, C.

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Expliciunt capitula.[3]

[1] *et . . . ejus*, L.S.; om. C.
[2] *secundi*, L.S.; *secundi in Anglia*, C.
[3] C. omits these words.

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