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978-1-108-05340-2 - Chronicon Henrici Knighton, vel Cnittho, Monachi Leycestrensis: Volume 1

Edited by Joseph Rawson Lumby

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### Chronicon Henrici Knighton, vel Cnittho, Monachi Leycestrensis

This two-volume work was published as part of the Rolls Series between 1889 and 1895. A history of England, it deals principally with the period from 1066 until the death of author Henry Knighton around 1396. An introductory section of material largely drawn from Ranulf Higden adds what Knighton describes as necessary context to the recounting of the Norman Conquest. Volume 1 covers the period up to 1336, just before the start of the Hundred Years' War. It begins with the last century of Anglo-Saxon rule – an age of murders, treachery and 'evil times' – and covers the Norman period and the Plantagenets, culminating in the murder of Edward II. As editor, Joseph Rawson Lumby (1831–95) has been criticised for oversights, errors and omissions. Nevertheless, his detailed contents and marginalia make the Latin text more accessible to the modern reader.

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Chronicon  
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VOLUME 1

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RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI  
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND IRELAND

DURING

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**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.

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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He proposed that each chronicle or historical document to be edited should be treated in the same way as if the editor were engaged on an *Editio Princeps*; and for this purpose the most correct text should be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.*

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CHRONICON HENRICI KNIGHTON.

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HENRICI KNIGHTON,  
VEL  
CNITTHON,  
MONACHI LEYCESTRENSIS.

EDITED

BY

JOSEPH RAWSON LUMBY, D.D.

NORRISIAN PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE,  
FELLOW OF ST. CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, AND FORMERLY  
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## INTRODUCTION.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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As a full notice of this Chronicle, and of the sources from which it is edited, will be given at the completion of the text, in the next volume, it is only needful now to specify the Manuscripts which have been used. There are but two known, both of which are in the British Museum among the treasures of the Cotton collection. They are distinguished in the notes as MS. and A. respectively. The former, the class mark of which is Claudius E. III., has been principally used, not because of its superior merit, but because the other had been seriously injured in the fire which did so much damage to the Cottonian Library. It is contained in a volume of which it forms the third portion, and in the list of contents it is styled *Historia eventuum in regno Anglice et ejus confinibus per Henricum Knighton Lecestrensem a Willelmo conquestore ad Richardum 2.*

The other manuscript (A.) is classed as Tiberius C. VII., and it will be at once seen from a comparison of the various readings that from this Twysden's text was printed. Though far from being a good text, it is much freer from errors than the other, and had it been uninjured would, of course, have been used. All that is readable of it has been collated, and Twysden's edition has helped to make sure of some words which otherwise it would have been impossible to decipher. Tiberius C. VII. is a MS. of 240 folios and contains nothing but Knighton's Chronicle.

J. RAWSON LUMBY.

Cambridge, July 4, 1889.

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