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Cartularium Saxonicum

Walter de Gray Birch (1842–1924) worked in the Department of Manuscripts at the British Museum from 1864 to 1902 and published extensively in Anglo-Saxon studies. He is best known for this collection of over 1300 charters, in Latin and Old English, originally published in thirty-two parts between 1883 and 1893 and now reissued in three volumes. The funding for Birch's project eventually ran out, and the work ends at 975 CE. However, for the period covered, Birch's edition, which drew extensively on recent Victorian scholarship, superseded John Mitchell Kemble's 1839–48 *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici* (also reissued in this series), which had been the first attempt to publish all the surviving Anglo-Saxon charter texts. Like Kemble, Birch organised his collection chronologically. Volume 3 focuses mainly on the tenth century. Together with grants of lands and privileges, it records several manumissions, and the regulations for the repair of a bridge.



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Cartularium Saxonicum

A Collection of Charters Relating to Anglo-Saxon History

VOLUME 3: A.D. 948-975

EDITED BY WALTER DE GRAY BIRCH





CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paolo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

 $www. cambridge. org \\ Information on this title: www. cambridge. org/9781108045094$

 $\ensuremath{^{\odot}}$ in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1893 This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04509-4 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.

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Cartularium Saxonicum.

VOL. III.







A

COLLECTION OF CHARTERS

RELATING TO

ANGLO-SAXON HISTORY.

ВY

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VOL. III.

A.D. 948-975.

APPENDIX.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR BY
CHARLES J. CLARK, 4, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.
1893.



PRINTED BY CHAS. J. CLARK, 4, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.



Preface to the Third Ilolume.

The completion of the third volume of the Cartularium Saxonicum, bringing the collection of Anglo-Saxon Charters down to the end of the reign of King Eadgar, has been delayed by many unforeseen circumstances, which have, however, at length been overcome. Still, it is with regret that the original intention of carrying the work in one unbroken series down to the Conquest of England by the Normans has to be abandoned, and the work divided into two Series, of which this present volume, and a supplementary volume (to be mentioned presently), complete the First. The Second Series, if it is carried out—a matter depending very much upon the support of subscribers—will continue the collection down to a somewhat later period than was originally intended, so as to include the early English charters of the Norman monarchs.

The supplementary volume, which is in course of preparation, will consist of a general introduction to the whole subject, tables of genuine and doubtful texts, fasti of royal and other personages; lists of contributory manuscripts; and full indices of persons, places, and subjects. This volume, being to a great extent introductory, will properly find its place at the beginning of the First Series, and serve as a manual to the study of the subject.

To me it is a genuine source of gratification that I have been enabled, by dint of examination of a large number of ancient manuscripts, and with assistance of many friends in different parts of England, to be the first to marshal into one work, in chronological array, the hitherto unparalleled number of no less than thirteen hundred and twenty-five texts which illustrate our history from early Saxon times to A.D. 975, many of which have been hitherto



VI PREFACE TO THE THIRD VOLUME.

unpublished, and all of which have been collated with the originals -with a very few exceptions indeed, where the originals were inaccessible—so that the student may consult them as they actually stand in their manuscripts, with whatever errors the scribes of these manuscripts have perpetuated; thereby inviting emendations from them, rather than attempting myself to emend what appears faulty or incorrect. It cannot be expected, nor is it desirable, that the collector of ancient texts should himself be the critical expositor of their contents; the man who fells a tree cannot assume (in civilised places) to carve its wood into beautiful forms; just so my task is completed when I lay before historians and theorists the materials—of as good a quality as may be—out of which they may construct a faithful representation of the Anglo-Saxon times which could not otherwise be achieved. I am not aware of the existence of any deeds which should fall into the somewhat comprehensive scope of this work that have been omitted, although it is quite possible that a few may have been overlooked; but, speaking generally, it may be taken that we have in these three volumes all available documentary evidence bearing upon our history—other than the work of historians and chroniclers—as far as the limit of years extends.



METRICAL, QUASI-METRICAL, OR ALLITERATIVE PIECES.

Nos. 876. 882. 883. 884. 890. 893. 896. 911. 932. 961. 962. 993. 1002. 1007. 1111. 1166. (1189), 1190. 1283. 1325. 1339. 1342.

ERRATA.

- P. 32, for No. 779, read 879.
- P. 89, No. 920, for Pathenesbergh in Mere, read Panborough in Wedmore. Dele note 3.
- P. 109, No. 933, add Kemble, Cod. Dipl., No. ccccxxxix, from [A.]
- P. 190, No. 995, for Lyme-Regis, co. Dorset, read Up-Lyme, co. Devon.
- P. 238, No. 1035. Perhaps Churn, co. Berks.
- P. 273, No. 1054. Probably Itchen-Stoke.
- P. 294, No. 1070, see Nos. 1271, 1272.
- P. 385, No. 1139, for Wic or Droitwich, read Powyke, near Grimley, co. Worcester.
- P. 418, No. 1165, for Ceasol, read Ceosol.
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