

1. Geoffrey of Monmouth (Galfridus Monemutensis), *Historia regum Britanniae* (*De gestis Britonum*); *editio princeps*
2. Jodocus Badius Ascensius (Josse Bade); Asse (Assche)
3. Thomas Phillipps (1792–1872)
4. small quarto; octavo (eight folios per quire); signatures (AA, A, B, ... N)
5. *caput* (chapter)
6. *in lucem edere* (to publish); *impensum* (expense); *cura et studio*
7. Ivo Cavellatus (Ives Cavellat), *magister*; 'the editor Cavellatus' (Griscom, p. 11); 'prepared by Ivo Cavellatus' (Reeve and Wright, p. lxii)
8. Herveus Kaerquiffennus; Caer Gyffin = Conway, Caernarvonshire [Conwy, Gwynedd] (Griscom, p. 11)
9. Publius Vergilius Maro; *Pierides* = Musae
10. Alanus Aureus (Alain Doré); *Pictaensis* (Poitou)
11. Pendragon; *map*; *wacht heil*; *Wintonia* = *Guintonia*; *Nortwegia* = *Norguegia*

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The Front and Back Matter of the 1508 Edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia regum Britanniae*

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Meiji University Library acquired a new addition to its Special Collection in 2024, funded by the Library Promotion Funds: a fine copy of the 1508 edition of Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia regum Britanniae*. This first printed edition (*editio princeps*) was edited by Ivo Cavellatus and printed by Jodocus Badius Ascensius [Josse Bade] in Paris. It is titled *Britannie utriusque regum et principum origo et gesta insignia*. The Meiji copy once belonged to the famous library collection of Thomas Phillipps (1792–1872).¹

The copy is an octavo book, approximately 20 cm by 14 cm, consisting of fourteen quires with signatures AA, A, B, ... and N, followed by an unsigned quire of blank folios. Each quire contains eight folios, except for quire N, which consists of six. Quire AA contains the front matter; folios ii–iv are numbered at the bottom of a recto page with the signature. Quires A–N are numbered at the top of a recto page by folio numbers in Roman numerals from 'Fo. I.' (fol. 1) to 'Fo. CI.' (fol. 101). The second half of fol. 101v prints the back matter, the printer's letter to the reader, in twelve lines. Images of all the pages are available at Meiji University's Digital Archive.²

What follows presents the lightly edited texts of the Meiji copy's front and back matter. The *Tabula alphabetica* or index (fols iii–vi) is omitted. Abbreviations have been silently expanded, and paragraph divisions in longer pieces are editorial. The distinction between *u* and *v* follows modern usage. Ligatures *æ* and *œ* have been replaced by *ae* and *oe*, respectively. Letters not in the Meiji copy but supplied by the editor are enclosed in square brackets and noted immediately after each text.

Punctuation is modern. All translations are mine. Unidentified individuals have been assigned reasonably plausible modernized names in the translations.

Front Matter Book title

[i recto] *Britannie utriusque regum et principum origo et gesta insignia* ab Galfrido Monemutensi ex antiquissimis Britannici sermonis monumentis in Latinum sermonem traducta, et ab Ascensio cura et impendio magistri Ivonis Cavellati in lucem edita. Prostant in eiusdem aedibus.

Translation

The Distinguished Origin and Deeds of the Kings and Princes of Both Britains translated into Latin from the most ancient records in the British language by Geoffrey of Monmouth and published by Ascensius under the guardianship and sponsorship of Ivo Cavellatus.³ Now available in the same store.

Forewords

[i verso] Ivo Cavellatus Herveo Kaerquiffennu salutem dicit.

Quia a maioribus nostris saepius intellexeram, circumspecte vir, ipsos a Troianis originem habuisse, dirutaque Troia eorum partem Italiam petiisse, partemque captivam ad Graeciam sub Pandrasi^a Graecorum regis potestatem missam fuisse, Bruti tamen tandem stratagemate et virtute, qui Italiam petierat a qua exulans Graeciam adivit, liberatam, Graecorum servitutem exiisse, et ad Albion, quam postea Britanniam a Bruto et a seipsis Britonibus vocatam voluere, venisse, quam et Angliam ab Anglis sive Saxonibus eam nunc occupantibus dicunt, ab ipsa tamen aliquando, si Merlini prophetiis fides adhibenda est, exterminandis, tantum me invasit ardor atque sciscitandi aviditas: an videlicet ea quae vulgo praedicabantur vera forent. Dicebant etenim divum Gildam et venerabilem Bedam ipsorum praeclara gesta et facinora scripsisse, quod et Galfridus huius historiae author testatur.

Cum me quandoque in bibliothecam Collegii Corisopitensis Parrisiis siti nonnullorum librorum visendorum gratia contulisset, libellum quandam *Historiam regum Britanniae* nuncupatum, situ et pedore squalentem atque horridum, reperi

quod diu desideraveram continentem. Repertum—dii boni!—quanto animi affectu iterum atque iterum legi et perlegi! Quanta observantia habui nec ab re, cum ex illo mihi patuerit historia quae prius fabula videbatur, unum tamen molestem ferens quia tam praeclarus liber tot et tanta strenuissimorum^b principum gesta praeclara continens, pluribus sanctis et religiosis viris approbatus, tot mendis atque erratis contaminatus fuerit, ut vix ipsum quispiam intelligere quiverit.

Quapropter de huiusce historiae iactura atque deiectione condolens, huc et illuc per multas huius gymnasii Parrisiensis discurrens bibliothecas, tres alios commentarios superiori nomine nuncupatos inveni: duos videlicet in coenobio sancti Victoris Parrisiensis, alterum scilicet in eorum bibliotheca vetustissimis characteribus scriptum, alterum [ii recto] vero penes reverendum in Christo patrem et dominum, dominum abbatem dicti coenobii, quem pro seipso scribi fecerat magnoque observabat cultu; tertium autem apud Carmelitarum dictae urbis coenobium et in eorundem bibliotheca catena ferrea inter chronica affixum.

Hos simul inventos sibi invicem contuli; collatos utcumque castigavi; castigatos imprimendos curavi. Nihilominus cum tot et tanta in ipsis adhuc dissidia reperirem, tum quia a nemine hactenus castigati, tum quia propter auctoris antiquitatem scriptorum errore^c viciati essent, ipsum consummatum virum Iodocum Badium Ascensium in hac re consulere ipsumque oratum ire decrevi quia si aliqua scabra nimis atque inculta in dicta historia offendant, praesertim quae ad sententiam intelligendam difficultatem adderent, ut suos et quidem pios obeliscos in eam mittat nihil addendo nihilque abiiciendo quod sententiam variet aut pervertat; quod si quidem, ut credo facturum, fecerit, Britones omnes aequum amantes praesertim generosi qui se a tali sanguine autumant generatos ipsi in aevum sese esse obnoxios sciant et agnoscant cuius opera et accurate tam foecunda historia tam praeclara facinora ab eorum atavis gesta continens, in lucem veste recenti induta, solito clarior intellectuque facilius veniat. Quod ut ab ipso Ascensio copiosius impetrarem, ipsum hoc epigrammate comprecatorio duxi conveniendum.

Vale, vir dignissime, et studiis nostris fave!

Ex Collegio nostro Corisopitensi ad Idus Iulias anni salutiferi [M]DVIII^d

Notes to the text

- a Pandrasi] Pandrasi
b strenuissimorum] strenuissimorum

①

②

c errore] errore
d [M]DVIII] NDVIII

Translation

Ivo Cavellatus sends greetings to Hervey of Conwy.

I often learned these things from our elders, my dear learned friend. Our ancestors descended from the Trojans. After the fall of Troy, some Trojans moved to Italy, while others were brought to Greece under the dominion of King Pandrasus. They were eventually liberated by the cunning and courage of Brutus (who had gone to Italy and later came to Greece as an exile). They escaped from Greek servitude and arrived in Albion, later renamed Britain after Brutus, and themselves Britons. Albion is also called 'Anglia (England)' by its present inhabitants, the Angles or Saxons, who are destined to be expelled from there if Merlin's prophecies are to be trusted. An intense ardour gripped me, and I desired to find out whether the publicly known facts were actual, for it was said that Saint Gildas and the Venerable Bede had written about their outstanding deeds and acts, as Geoffrey, the author of this history, attests.

One day, when I went to the library of the Collège de Cornouailles in Paris to consult several books, I came across a little book titled *Historia regum Britanniae*, which contained what I had long wanted to see. However, it was dreadfully dirty, covered with mould and filth. Thanks be to the gods! With how much spiritual affection I read this newly discovered book over and over again, and how thoroughly I read it! How much reverence I held for it, not without reason! However, as the history, which had once seemed a mere story, became clear to me thanks to the book, I was annoyed by one aspect: such an outstanding work, which contained so many and so exceedingly outstanding deeds of industrious princes—a book approved by many holy and religious people—was nonetheless contaminated by so many lies and errors that one could barely understand it.

Therefore, lamenting the neglect and abandonment of this *Historia*, I searched through many libraries of the University of Paris and discovered three other commentaries bearing the title of this work: namely, two in the Abbey of Saint Victor, Paris—one of which was in their library, written in the most ancient script, the other in the possession of the reverend Father Abbot of the same abbey, who had it written for himself and preserved it with great reverence. The third was, however,

secured by an iron chain in the library of the Carmelite Abbey in Paris.

I compared these books that I discovered, one against another, and made corrections to the collation in various ways. I also took responsibility for the cost of printing the collation. However, I found so many and such significant discrepancies among the books—not having been corrected by anyone before and having been mistakenly corrupted due to the antiquity of the writer's handwriting—that I decided to consult the most learned man, Jodocus Badius Ascensius, on this matter. I asked him to insert his faithful obelisks into the *Historia* mentioned above, adding nothing and omitting nothing that could alter or distort the sense should he encounter anything exceedingly rough or unrefined in the book, particularly those words which might present difficulty in understanding the meaning. If he does so—I believe he will—let all Britons who love justice, especially the noble Britons who claim such lineage, know that they are indebted forever. Let them recognize through whose diligent labour this rich history book—containing such outstanding deeds committed by their forefathers—now emerges, adorned with a fresh covering and much more transparent and easier to understand. To entreat him more earnestly, I believed he would appreciate the following petitionary epigram.

Best wishes, most worthy gentleman, for our studies!

Collège de Cornouailles, 15 July 1508

③

Ivo Cavellatus Iodoco Badio Ascensio salutem dicit.

Hanc, pie, mitto tuas, Ascensi, pronus ad aedes

Historiam, veterem ponat ut illa situm.

Cumque diu lacera latuit iam squallida veste

Prodeat, atque tua vadat amicta manu.

Prodeat, et lucem spectet qua tempore longo

Orba nimis, tunica deficiente, fuit.

5

Translation

Ivo Cavellatus sends greetings to Jodocus Badius Ascensius.

I am eagerly sending this *Historia* to your office, dear Ascensius, so that it may cast off its old mould. Though it has long lurked in a torn and filthy garment, let it emerge, dressed by your hand, and proceed. Let it emerge and see the light from

which it has been deprived for too long, lacking a proper tunic.

④

[ii verso] Iodocus Badius Ascensius Ivoni Cavellato salutem dicit.

Ivo, lubens veterum legi monumenta virorum,

In quibus historiae est gloria prima fides.

Atque ea doctorum mittenda sub ora per orbem

5 Curavi praelo multiplicata meo

Sed maiore fide quam qui tersere Maronem

Ut quibus addidimus sustulimusque nihil.

Argumenta quidem tua sunt, stellisque notata,

Sed tamen i[u]diciu[m] dixeris esse meum.

10 Et quae Pieridum puer iste ad munera natus

Edidit antiquo carmina digna viro

Propterea tua sunt pueri quia pollice gnaro

Formasti in ludo caerea corda tuo.

Note to the text

e i[u]diciu[m]] indicium

Translation

Jodocus Badius Ascensius sends greetings to Ivo Cavellatus.

Dear Ivo, I willingly read the written monuments of the men of old, in which the first glory of history is truth. I took care to have this work, multiplied by my press, sent under the eyes of learned men worldwide, but with greater fidelity than those who refined Vergil so that we neither added to nor removed anything from it. The contents are yours, marked by stars, yet you may say that the judgement is mine. And the poems, worthy of an ancient man, that this boy, born for the tasks of the Muses, composed are therefore yours, for you formed waxen hearts with the boy's knowing thumb in your school.

⑤

Ivo Cavell[a]tus^f libellum in lucem prodeuntem affatur.

Quid piger ire times? Secure vade, libelle!

Iudicium vulgi quid nisi fumus iners?

Quid timeas? (inquam) Te nunc Ascensius illa

Fulsit lorica, quae invida tela quatit.

Ergo tutus iter dubitans nil sumere tutum

Iam potes et patriae mira referre tuae.

5

Note to the text

f Cavell[a]tus] Cavellatus

Translation

Ivo Cavellatus speaks to the little book about to be published.

Why do you, so sluggish, fear to go forth? Go forth confidently, little book! What is the judgement of the crowd but lifeless smoke? What do you fear? (I say) Now Ascensius has armed you with that cuirass which repels envious darts. Therefore, you, hesitant to undertake your journey, can now travel safely and bring back wonders to your homeland.

(The Alphabetical Index [*Tabula alphabetica*, fols iii–vi] omitted.)

⑥

[vii recto] Alani Aurei ad Alanum Bonnezgatum iurisperitum et canonicum Pictavensem carmen.

Exemplo si nosse cupis, dux impiger armis

Quid valet invictique animi sapientia, quid vis,

Quid probitas innata potest, fatalia passim

Acris perspicito Bruti discrimina, quotque

Vicerit in terris accessa pericla marique.

Quae bene si noscas, ex paucis omnia pensans

Brutum comperies cauto nil cedere Ulyssi,

Hincque tibi notum evadet, cur rura Britanna,

Quando et ut Argolico petierunt Troes ab orbe,

Albion et quare sit dicta Britannia, cur nos

Britones et, similis quae vox est pene, Britanni,

5

10

- Insuper attonitus cui territa terga dedisset
Caesar, et Armoricos quo sub duce subdare fontes
15 Fluminaque et saltus et amoeno gramine campos
Venissent. Si scire iuvat te, mutua fortis
Bella quot Angligenas contra gessere Britanni,
Si quae Merlinus cecinit praesagia vates
Hunc convolve librum qui dicit, si cupis ultra
20 Magnificas pompas regum et convivia, si post
Praefata dira virum et crudeles cernere pugnas,
Noscere te intra acies et caedibus undique septum
Magnanimum Arturum et totum lege denique librum
Qui tibi perlectus, quam longo stemmate ducta est
25 Gentis origo tibi, quando primordia sumpsit
Bonnezgata domus; quid demum est utile, quid non
Plenius et melius Chrysippo et Crantore dicit.
τελος

Translation

A poem by Alain Aureus addressed to Alain Bonnezgat, a lawyer and canon of Poitiers.

Should you desire to know what a diligent leader and the wisdom of his invincible mind can do, what strength and innate integrity can do, examine the critical moments fate brought the sharp-witted Brutus into throughout the pages of this book and how many dangers he challenged and overcame in lands. Once you understand these things and weigh everything based on a few, you will find that Brutus is not inferior to the ever-cautious Ulysses. But you might have forgotten a familiar fact: why, when and how the Trojans left the Hellenic world for British soil, Albion, and why it was named 'Britannia', why we were called 'Britons', and the similar appellation 'Britanni'. Additionally, our ancestors terrified Caesar and forced him into a frightened flight; under his command, they had come to conquer springs, rivers, forests and fields covered with pleasant grass in Armorica. Should you desire to know how many mutual wars the Britons waged against the Englishmen and what predictions Merlin the prophet sang, open this book; it will tell you. If you further want to know about kings' magnificent ceremonial processions and feasts, men's

dire battles and cruel fights, and the generous Arthur being entirely surrounded during a war and slaughter, read the whole book. When you read it thoroughly, the book will tell you how long a lineage your race's origin can be traced back when the Bonnezgat family marked the beginning. It will also tell you more thoroughly and efficiently than Crysippus and Crantor what is useful and what is not. The End.

- ⑦ [vii verso] Alanus Aureus Ivoni Cavellato praeceptoris suo salutem [dicit].

Multa concurrunt, praeceptor optime, quibus credam historiam hanc, si minus culte, veraciter tamen ab Galfrido traductam. Primum quia homo minus eruditus et Troianae et Romanae et barbarae gentis nomina tam belle protulit, ut non finxisse sed [r]aduxisse⁸ videatur. Deinde quia ut originem attestaretur Britannici sermonis nonnulla inseruit, ut Pendragon quod caput est draconis, 'map', id est, 'filius', et quaedam alia. Atque ut Saxonum gesta agnoscas, etiam verba eorum commiscuit ut 'wacht heil', id est, 'observa salutem' quod adhibentes dicunt. Quocirca in orthographia subinde discrepantia est. Nam quae Saxones et eorum sequaces per 'w' scribunt, Britones fere per 'gu' scriptitant. Unde nunc 'Wintoniam' nunc 10 'Guintoniam', nunc 'Nortwegiam', nunc 'Norguegiam' offendas.

Tum temporum calculus et supputatio diligentissime observata multum sibi fidei vendicant nisi quia prophanae etiam sacrae historiae miscet et antiquissimae recentiore. Nam si quo tempore res gestae sunt etiam scriptas putes, unde Petri et Marci et Augustini fiat mentio? Quae quia fit necesse est multo post rem gestam 15 historiam perscriptam aut a diversis adnotatam ab uno collectam et ab Galfrido tralatam, qui verius et fidelius de Lucio primo Christiano apud Britannos rege, deque Arturo disseruisse visus est quam quidam vir magni nominis in compendio de Francorum gestis. Utcumque est multa tibi debebunt nostrates principes in quibus verum et genus et nomen mansit Britannicum, quia tua opera tam fideliter opus hoc 20 in lucem prodeat.

Vale et me redama!

Note to the text

g [r]aduxisse [t]aduxisse

Translation

Alain Aureus sends greetings to his master, Ivo Cavellatus.

Many pieces match, most distinguished master, from which I believe Geoffrey translated this *Historia*, though not a refined work. First, though he was not a learned man, he gives the names of Trojan, Roman, and barbaric peoples so skilfully that he appears not to have invented them but to have translated them. Then, he inserted several words in the British language to prove origins, such as 'Pendragon that is a dragon's head', 'map, that is, "son"', and so forth. He also mixed their language to make the reader recognize Saxon customs, such as *wacht heil* 'stay healthy', which they say when they drink. Accordingly, there is inconsistency in spelling. For where the Saxons and their successors write with a w, the Britons almost always write with a gu; thus, you will notice both *Wintonia* and *Guintonia* ('Winchester') and both *Norwegia* and *Norguegia* ('Norway').

Then, the calculation and reckoning of times, most diligently observed, claim much credibility for themselves, except that it also mixes the sacred history with the profane and the most ancient with the more recent. For if you suppose that events were recorded at the very time they occurred, how is there mention of Peter, Mark, and Augustine? Because of this, it is necessary that the *Historia* was written down long after the events happened or that it was compiled by one person from annotations by different writers and translated by Geoffrey, who seems to have spoken more truly and faithfully about Lucius, the first Christian king among the Britons, and about Arthur than a certain man of great renown did in his abridged work on the deeds of the Franks. Whatever the case, our native princes will owe you much, in whose line the true British race and name have endured, because, through your efforts, this work comes to light so faithfully.

Farewell, and please reciprocate the love!

⑧

Eiusdem Alani Aurei ad Henricum Talecum virum undecumque conspicuum carmen.
Henrice, linque parum diversa negocia, grandes
Causas, et manibus quod tibi fertur habe.
Scilicet *Historiam* legito de gente Britanna,
Quae genus et mores gentis et arma refert.
Hinc tu forte feres aequalia commoda namque

Hic etiam quae sint noscere honesta potes.

τελος

Translation

A poem by Alain Aureus, addressed to Henri Talec, a man distinguished in every way.

Henri, put aside your various affairs for a while, although they may be weighty cases, and take up what has been sent to you. Namely, read this *Historia* about the British people, which covers the nation, its customs, and wars. You, too, will perhaps derive equal benefits from this book, and in this book, you can also learn about honourable things. The End.

- ⑨ [viii recto] Inclytissimo principi domino Roberto Claudiocestriae duci invictissimo, Galfridus Monemutensis cum omni veneratione salutem.

Cum mecum multa et de multis saepius animo oculisque revolvens in *Historiam regum Britanniae* inciderim, miratus sum non modicū^h quia in iis commentariis quos de eis Gildas et Beda luculenter conscripserant, nihil de regibus qui ante incarnationem Christi Britanniam inhabitaverant, nihil etiam de Arturoⁱ caeterisque compluribus qui post incarnationem successerant reperire, cum et gesta eorum digna aeternitatis laude constarent, et a multis populis quasi inscripta mentibus et iucunde et memo[r]it^j praedicarentur. Talia igitur mihi et de talibus multotiens cogitanti obtulit Galterus Oxonifordensis archidiaconus, vir in oratoria arte 10 atque in exoticis historiis insigniter eruditus, quendam Britannici sermonis librum vetustissimum qui a Bruto Britonum rege primo usque ad Cadvalladrū filium Cadvallonis gesta et annales omnium continue et ex ordine perpulchris orationibus nobis proponebat. Rogatu igitur illius ductus, tametsi intra alienos hortulos falerata verba non collegerim, agresti stilo propriisque calamis contentus, codicem illum in 15 Latinum sermonem transferre curavi. Nam si ampullosis dictionibus paginam illi[n]jsem,^k taedium legentibus ingessissem, dum magis in exponendis verbis quam in *Historia* intelligenda ipsos immorari oporteret. Opusculo igitur meo, Roberte dux Claudiocestriae, sic faveas ut te monitore teque preside sic corrigatur, ut non ex Galfridi Monemutensis fonticulo censeatur exortum, sed salae minervae tuae 20 conditum illius censeatur editio quem Henricus illustris rex Anglorum generavit,

quem philosophia liberalibus artibus erudit, quem innata probitas in militia militibus praefecit, unde Britannia tibi his temporibus nostris acsi alterum Henricum adepta esset interno congratulatur affectu. Vale.

Notes to the text

h modi[c]um] modinum
i Arturo] Arcturo
j memo[rit]er] memotrier
k illi[n]issem] illiuissem

Translation

To the most illustrious prince, Lord Robert, Earl of Gloucester, most unconquerable, Geoffrey of Monmouth sends greetings with all reverence.

As I pondered various matters concerning different people, I came across the *History of the Kings of Britain*. I was astonished to find nothing about the kings who lived in Britain before the Incarnation of Christ or about Arthur and many others who succeeded after the Incarnation in the commentaries Gildas and Bede wrote splendidly about kings, even though their acts were established to be worth eternal praise and spoken about in many nations delightfully and accurately as if inscribed in their minds. As I often thought those things about those people, Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, who is well-versed in oratory and histories of foreign nations, presented me with a very ancient book in the British language. The book contained the deeds and annals of all the kings, from the first British king Brutus to Cadwallader, the son of Cadwallon, continuously and in order, in an exquisite narrative. At his request, I took steps to translate that book. I did not collect festooned expressions cultivated in other people's gardens but trusted my simple pen. Had I sprinkled the page with flowery phrases, I would have put off readers as it would have distracted them and made them figure out the words rather than understand the history. Therefore, Robert, Earl of Gloucester, please see to it that under your supervision, it should be corrected so that it will not be deemed to have sprung from Geoffrey of Monmouth's little fount but to be a publication, seasoned with your wit, which the radiant King Henry of England created, the king philosophy taught in liberal arts, the king military valour put in command of soldiers. Britain congratulates you with natural affection as if she had begotten a second Henry in our time. Farewell.

⑩ [viii verso] Ivo Cavellatus lectori salutem [dicit].

Inclita Dardanidum si ste[m]mata noscere regum
Britonicumque genus quod venit inde petis,
Et si cur prisci gestarint sceptris requiris,
Cur insigne premat prisca corona vetus,
Ecce tibi verum poteris contingere callem,
Quo, duce Galfrido, verius orbe nihil.

Note to the text

l ste[m]mata] stemata

Translation

Ivo Cavellatus sends greetings to the reader.

If you seek to know the noble lineage of the Trojan kings and the British nation descended from them, if you ask why the men of old wielded sceptres, and if you ask why ancient crowns presses down as a symbol of old, then you will find the right path, where there is nothing truer in the world, guided by Geoffrey.

(*Historia regum Britanniae*, fols 1–101r)

Back Matter Afterword

⑪ [101v] Iodocus Badius Ascensius lectori salutem [dicit].

Habes itaque, lector bone, novem libros de origine et gestis regum utriusque Britanniae potius antiqua fide (quae prima virtus historiae est) quam verborum lepore suffultis, in quibus si diligenter legeris, agnosces aut meram antiquitatis integritatem, aut admirandam illius saeculi, cum in nominibus et rebus fingendis, tum vero in temporibus supputandis calliditatem. Utcumque censueris penes auctorem sit fides, nos ne rerum quicquam immutasse incusemur, verba subinde minus speciosa mutare noluimus. Boni igitur consule, et antiquissimam historiam e situ multo labore erutam precio suo redime ac vale!

Ex aedibus nostris, ad Idus Iulias anni MDVIII

Translation

Iodocus Badius Ascensius sends greetings to the reader.

So then, kind reader, you have here nine books about the origin and deeds of the kings of both Britains, supported more by the reliable truth of ancient sources (which is the first virtue of history) than by any elegance of words. If you read them carefully, you will recognize either the pure integrity of antiquity or the remarkable cleverness of that age in inventing names and events, as well as in calculating dates. However you judge it, let the trustworthiness rest with the author; we, for our part, have not wanted to change even the less refined words, lest we be accused of altering anything in the narrative. Therefore, consider it favourably and redeem this most ancient history, unearthed from obscurity with great labour, at its due value. Farewell!

From our house, on 15 July 1508

Notes

- 1 The Maruzen-Yushodo catalogue MY-3739 (Tokyo: Maruzen-Yushodo, 2021).
- 2 <<https://m-archives.meiji.jp/content/detail/L100001239>> accessed 9 September 2024.
- 3 Almost nothing is known about this editor/sponsor. Cf. Francesco Montorsi, 'Faut-il croire à Geoffroy de Monmouth? Notes sur la réception de l'*Historia regum britannie* au xvi^e siècle (1508–1579)', *Tirant (Bulletin informatif et bibliographique de littérature de cavalleries)*, 22 (2019), 259–76 (p. 262).

(いしぐろ・たろう 商学部専任教授)

配布資料の訂正と追加

1 February 2025

1. Geoffrey of Monmouth (Galfridus Monemutensis), *Historia regum Britanniae* (*De gestis Britonum*); *editio princeps*
2. Jodocus Badius Ascensius (Josse Bade); Asse (Assche)
3. Thomas Phillipps (1792–1872)
4. small quarto; octavo (eight folios per quire); signatures (AA, A, B, ... N)
5. *caput* (chapter)
6. *in lucem edere* (to publish); *impendium* (expense); *cura et studio*
7. Ivo Cavellatus (Ives Cavellat), *magister*; ‘the editor Cavellatus’ (Griscom, p. 11); ‘prepared by Ivo Cavellatus’ (Reeve and Wright, p. lxii)
8. Herveus Kaerquiffinennus; Caer Gyffin = Conway, Caernarvonshire [Conwy, Gwynedd] (Griscom, p. 11) **Quimper, Cornouaille (in Brittany); Cornouailles = Cornwall**
9. Publius Vergilius Maro; *Pierides* = Musae
10. Alanus Aureus (Alain Doré); *Pictauensis* (Poitou)
11. Pendragon; *map*; *wacht heil*; Wintonia = Guintonia; Nortwegia = Norguegia

References

Griscom, Acton, *The Historia Regum Britanniae of Geoffrey of Monmouth* (London: Longmans, 1929)

A Latin Dictionary, ed. by Charlton T. Lewis and Charles Short (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1879), s.v. *commentarius*, def. II

Montorsi, Francesco, ‘Faut-il croire à Geoffroy de Monmouth? Notes sur la réception de l’*Historia regum britannie* au XVI^e siècle (1508–1579)’, *Tirant (Butlletí informatiu i bibliogràfic de literatura de cavalleries)*, 22 (2019), pp. 259–76

Reeve, Michael D. (ed.), and Neil Wright (trans.), *Geoffrey of Monmouth: The History of the Kings of Britain, An Edition and Translation of De gestis Britonum*, Arthurian Studies, 69 (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2007)

Renouard, ~~Renouard~~, *Bibliographie des impressions et des œuvres des Josse Badius Ascensius, imprimeur et humaniste, 1462–1535*, 3 vols (Paris: E. Paul, 1908), II, pp. 460–62 **Philippe**

Britanie vtriusq;
regū & principū Ori
go & gesta insignia

ab Galfrido Monemutensi ex antiquissi
mis Britannici sermonis monumentis in
latinū sermonē traducta: & ab Ascensio cu
ra & impēdio magistri Iuonis Cauellati in
luce edita; pstant in eiusdem ædibus.



Uuo cauellatus herueo Kaerquiffineno. S.D.

Quia a maioribus nostris sapius intellexera circumspecte
vir ipsos a troianis originem habuisse: dirutaque troia eorum parte
italiam petiisse: partemque captiuam ad gratiam sub pandrafi graecorum
regis potestatem missam fuisse: bruti tamen tandem strata
gemate & virtute (qui italiam petierat a qua exulans graeciam
adiuit) liberatam: graecorum seruitutem exiisse: & ad al
bion quam postea britanniam a bruto & a seipsis britonibus vo
catam voluere: venisse: quam & anglia ab anglis siue saxo
nibus eam nunc occupantibus dicunt: ab ipsa tamen aliquando
merlini prophetis fides adhibenda est) exterminandis: tantus
me inuasit ardor: atque sciscitandi audivitas: an videlicet ea
qua vulgo predicabant vera forent (dicebant etenim diuini gil
dam & venerabilem bedam ipsorum praecleara gesta & facinora
scripsisse: quod & galfridus huius historiae author testatur)
cum me quicquid in bibliothecam collegii corisopitensis par
rhisiensis nonnullorum librorum visendorum gratia contulissent
libellum quendam historiam regum britanniae nuncupatum: situ &
pedore squalentem atque horridum repperi: quod diu desidera
ueram continentem: repletum (dii boni) quanto animi affectu
iterum atque iterum legi & perlegi: quanta observantia habui: nec
ab re cum ex illo mihi patuerit historia quae prius fabula vi
debatur: Vnum tamen moleste ferens quod tam praeclearus liber tot &
tanta strenuissimorum principum gesta praecleara continens:
pluribus sanctis & religiosis viris approbatus: tot mendis
atque erratis contaminatus fuerit: ut vix ipsum quispiam in
telligere quiverit. Quapropter de huiusce historiae latura
ra atque deiectione condolens: huc & illuc per multas huius
gymnasii parrhisiensis discurrens bibliothecas: tres alios com
mentarios superioris nominis nuncupatos inveni: duos videlicet in
coenobio sancti victoris parrhisiensis: alterum scilicet in eorum
bibliotheca vetustissimis characteribus scriptum: alterum

vero penes reuerendum in christo patrem & dominum: dominum abbatem
dicti coenobii: quem pro seipso scribi fecerat: magnosque ob
servabat cultu: tertium autem apud carmelitarum dictae vr
bis coenobii: & in eorundem bibliotheca catena ferrea inter
chronica affixum. Hos simul inuictos sibi inuicem contuli: colla
tos (utique) castigavi: castigatos imprimendos curavi. Ni
hilominus cum tot & tanta in ipsis adhuc dissidia reperi
rem: tum quod a nemine haecenus castigati: tum quod propter au
toris antiquitatem scriptorum errore viciati essent: ipsum
consummatum virum Iodocum Badiu Ascensiu in hac re
consultum: ipsumque oratum ire decreui: quod si aliqua scabra ni
mis atque inculta in dicta historia offendet (praesertim quae
ad sententiam intelligendam difficultatem adderent) ut suos
& quidem pios obeliscos in eam mittat nihil addendo nihilque
abiciendo quod sententiam variet aut peruertat. Quod
si quidem (ut credo facturum) fecerit: britones omnes aequum ama
tes praesertim generosi qui se a tali sanguine autumant ge
neratos ipsi in auum sese esse obnoxios sciant & agnoscat
cuius opera & accuratone tam saecula historia tam pra
ecleara facinora ab eorum atavis gesta continens: in lucem
veste recenti induta: solito clarior: intellectuque facilius: ve
niat. Quod ut ab ipso Ascensio copiosius impetrarem: ipsum
hoc epigramate coprecatorio duxi conueniendum. Vale
vir dignissime & studiis nostris faue. Ex collegio nostro co
risopitensi ad idus Iulias anni salutiferi. N.D. VIII.

Uuo cauellatus Iodoco Badio Ascensio. S.D.

Hanc pie mitto tuas ascensi prius ad ades
Historiam: veterem ponat ut illa situm.

Cumque diu lacera latuit iam squalida veste

Prodeat: atque tua vadat amicta manu.

Prodeat: & lucem spectet qua tempore longo

Orba nimis (tunica deficiente) fuit.

De Gestis regū Britānorum Finis.

Primus
anglorū
rex.

Perora-
tio au-
thoris.

Istes longius arcere nequiverant. Barbarie etiā irrepente iā
nō vocabant britones: sed gualenses: vocabulū siue a gua-
lone duce eorū siue a gualaes regina siue a barbarie trahē-
tes. At saxonēs sapientius agentes pacem & cōcordiā in-
ter se habētes: agros colentes: ciuitates & oppida reādifī-
cantes et sic abiecto britonū dominio iam totī loegriæ im-
perauerāt: duce adelfcano qui primus diadema inter eos
portauit. Degenerati autē a britānica nobilitate gualenses
nunq̃ postea monarchiam insulæ recuperauerunt: immo
nūc sibi interdū saxonibus ingrati cōsurgentes internas
atq; domesticas clades incessanter agebant.

REges autē illos qui ab illo tempore in gualis suc-
cesserunt: Karadoco laucarbanēsi cōtemperaneo
meo in hac materia scribendos permitto.

Reges vero saxonū guillermo maluesberienfi & hērico
hontendonensi. Quos de regibus britonū tacere iubeo cū
nō habeant illū librum britānici sermonis quem gualter⁹
oxenefordensis archidiaconus ex Britānia aduexit. quem
de historia eorū veraciter editum in honore prædictorum
principū hoc modo in latinū sermonē transferre curauī.

Finis

Io. Badius Ascensius Lectori Sa.

Habes itaq; lector bone: nouē libros de origine & gestis
regū vtriusq; britāniæ poti⁹ antiqua fide (q̃ primavirtus
historiæ est) q̃ verborū lepore suffultos: in qbus si diligen-
ter legeris: agnosces aut merā antiquitatis integritatem:
aut admirandā illius sæculi: cū in noībus: & rebus fingē-
dis: tū vero in temporibus supputandis calliditatem. Vt
cūq; censueris penes authorem sit fides: nos ne rerū quicq;
immutasse incusemur: verba subinde min⁹ speciosa mu-
tare noluimus. Boni igit cōsule: & antiquissimā historiā
e situ multo labore erutam p̃cio suo redime ac Vale.

Ex aedibus nostris Ad idus Iulias Anni MD VIII.

*表示価格は税込です。

*諸般の事情により価格が変更される場合もございます。

在庫

MY-3739 (2021.5.)

モンマスのジェフリ

「ブリテン列王史：アーサー王伝説」

初版

Geoffrey of Monmouth (Monemutensis, Galfridus)
Britânie utriusque regû & principû origo & gesta insignia.
[Paris: Josse Badius Ascensius, 15 July, 1508]

¥3,300,000 (税込)

Small 4to. First printed edition of the foundation of Arthurian legend: the History of Britain, by Geoffrey “Arturus” of Monmouth, the father of the Arthurian legend (ca. 1100-54), edited by Yves Cavellat. (8),101, (1) leaves. **The Phillipps' copy** with his shelf-mark. With large woodcut printer's device, large woodcut coat-of-arms of Yves Cavellat, fine large and small floriated woodcut initials, text within manuscript red -lined borders, and red and blue manuscript flourishes to the initials, on title, to all headings, and throughout the text. 18th Century blind tooled calf, front cover detached. (YSD-11912)

英文学史では中世のロマンスをフランス物、ローマ物、ブリタニー物の3系統に大別していますが、その中でケルト民族の民間伝承を源流とするブリタニー物は、アーサー王伝説を主体としています。アーサー王伝説は12世紀初頭にロマンスとして開花し始めますが、その源流をなすのがモンマスのジェフリ (Geoffrey of Monmouth) の「ブリテン列王史」です。これは「最古の時代からのブリトン族の歴史」と称す散文叙事詩であり、当時の資料や民間伝承に基づいて想像力を自由に駆使し、宮廷的な趣味に合致させるべく書かれた作品で、年代記というよりも、ロマンスと呼ぶべき作品です。アーサー王や魔法使いのマーリンなどのブリトン人の伝説、リア王やシンベリンの物語など多くの話を含んでおり、後世の文学に多大な影響を与えました。

おそらく18世紀末に茶革で装丁され表紙および背には空押模様が施されています。経年により表表紙が外れていますが、装丁当時の状態を残しています。





Iuo Cauellatus Lectori Salutem.

Inclita Dardanidum si stemmata noscere regum

Britonicumq; genus qd venit inde: petis:

Et si cur prisca g' estarint sceptris requiris:

Cur insigne premat prisca corona vetus:

Ecce tibi verum poteris contingere callem:

Quo (duce Galfrido) versis orbe nihil.

De origine & gestis Britanorum. Liber. I. Fo. I.

Britannia insulae longe clarissima situm: flumina
& populos: ipsam quoq; ois generis metallo abun-
dantem: & quid in longum latumue contineat: &
qui primi incolae eius fuerunt: declarat.

Caput. I.



Ritannia insularum optima: in occiden-
tali oceano inter galliam & hyberniam
sita: octingenta milia in longum: ducenta
in latum continens: quicquid mortaliu
vsi congruit in deficienti fertilitate mi-
nistrat. Omni etenim genere metalli fo-
cunda: campos late sparsos collesq; praepollenti culturae
aptos habet. In quibus frugum diuersitates vbertate glebae
temporibus suis proueniunt. Habet nemora diuersis fera-
rum generibus repleta: quae & pecudibus gramina: & ad-
uolantibus apibus flores colorum variorum & mella produ-
cunt. Habet & prata sub aeriis montibus amoeno situ vi-
rentia: in quibus fontes limpidi per nitidos riuos leui mur-
mure manantes pignus suavis soporis in ripis accubanti-
bus irritant. Lacubus quoq; & piscosis fluuiis irrigua: &
praeter meridianae plagae fretum quo ad gallias nauigatur
tria nobilia flumina tamen sem videlicet fabrinam necno &
humbrum velut tria brachia extendit: quibus transmarina
comercia ex vniuersis regionibus eidem nauigio defertun-
tur. Bis denis bisq; quaternis ciuitatibus olim decorata
erat: quarum quaedam dirutis moenibus in desertis locis
squalescunt: quaedam vero adhuc integrae templa san-
ctorum cum turribus perpulchra proceritate erecta con-
tinent. Quibus religiosi coetus virorum atq; mulierum
obsequium deo iuxta christianam traditionem praestant:
Postremo quinque inhabitatur populis: britonibus: saxonibus:
romanis: pictis: & scotis. Equibus britones olim ante
ceteros a mari vsq; ad mare infederunt: donec diuina

A

Iodocus Badius ascensius
luoni Cauellato S.D.

Iuo lubens veterum legi monumenta virorum:
In quibus historiae est gloria prima fides.
Arg ea doctorum mittenda sub ora per orbem.
Curavi prae lo multiplicata meo:
Sed maiore fide q̄ qui tersere Maronem
Vt quibus addidimus sustulimusq̄ nihil.
Argumenta quidem tua sunt: stellisq̄ notata:
Sed tamen indicium dixeris esse meū:
Et quae pieridum puer iste ad munera natus:
Edidit antiquo carmina digna viro:
Propterea tua sunt pueri q̄ pollice gnaro
Formasti in ludo caere: corda tuo.

Iuo Cauellus libellum in
lucem prodeuntem affatur.

Quid piger ire times: secure vade libelle:
Iudicium vulgi quid nisi fumus iners:
Quid timeas inquam: te nunc Ascensius illa:
Fulit lorica: quae inuida tela quatit.
Ergo tutus iter dubitans nil sumere tutum
Clampores: & patris mira referre tuæ.

Tabula Alphabética.

Sequētis operis de gestis & origi
ne regū vtriusq̄ Britāniæ rerum
p̄cipue a dnotandarū index scdm
litterarū ordinem.

Alba ab ascanio in italia.
cōdit. fo. i. facie secunda
Albiō a Bruto Britānia
vocat q̄ nūc āglia dicit folio & ca
pite. ix.

Androgei epistola ad Iuliu Cae
sarem Fo. xxviii.

Androgeus minoris britanniæ
rex præbet guttelino subsidium.
Fo. xliii.

Angliā vnde dicta sit fo. xcvi.
Anglorū prim⁹ rex. fo. Ci.

Anna arcturi soror nascit. lxxviii.
Antigoni fraus fo. liii.

Aquilæ de britonibus vaticiniū
ab authore suppressit fo. xlii.

Aquilarū natæ & nidificandi cō
suetudo fo. lxxii.

Aquitaniā intrat & oppugnat
cū Corineo Brut⁹. fo. vii. & .viii.

Aquitani rursus cū britonib⁹ bel
la gerūt & vincunt. fo. xl.

Archigallo a britonibus deponi
tur. fo. xxiii.

Arcturus nascit. fo. lxxvii. & .lxxix.

Arcturus regnare incipit. fo. lxxix.
regnatq̄ longo tpe mirabilia
gerens vt per multa folia sequen
tia narratur.

Arcturi pompa & magnificentia
maiestatis. fo. lxxvii.

Arcturus gigantē occidit & pri⁹
alterū occiderat. fo. lxxxii.

Arcturi pulchra ad suos oratio.
fo. lxxxviii.

Arcturi per vxorem adulterā mi
seranda infelicitas fo. xc.

Arcturi ab adultero cades cū mī
torū nobiliū interitu fo. xc.

Armorici q̄ nūc britones dicunt
arturo supperias ferūt fo. lxxi.

Vide plura sub hoelo rege.
Ascanius in italia regnās albam

longam cōdidit fo. i. partē. ii.

Arviragi cuius meinit Iuuenalis
cū vespasiāo ipatore pugna. xxxii.

Asclepiodot⁹ rex romanos in bel
lo vicit. fo. xxxv.

Insurgit aut in eū Coelcloestria
dux fo. xxxvi. cap. iiii.

Aurelii ambrosii i regnū erectio
seu electio fo. lvi.

Aurelii admirabilis in bellis gerē
di s virtus ibidem.

Aurelii cades fo. lxxiii.

Aurelii Augustini i angliā aduē
tus vide in proximo vocabulo

Augustini patris in angliā seu
britanniā maiorem ad fidem præ
dicandā missio a beato gregorio

facta recitat fo. xciii.

Augusteli maginanimitas lxxx.
A A iiii

and as "corrected" he had them printed. The manuscripts he used have so far not been identified; but his editorial changes, compared with available manuscript evidence, appear in most cases to be downright error, or bold attempts at Latinization, proving that the printer could make nothing of Geoffrey's Welsh names, but stumbled blindly into crude mistakes. The harm this has done to scholarship is greater than many realize, because each of the four subsequent editions appears to be based largely upon the Ascensius text of Cavellatus, and many of the editorial blunders of this pioneer survive in Giles's and San-Marte's texts.

The Ascensius edition of the *Historia* occupies one hundred and one numbered folio pages, and is divided into nine numbered books,¹ instead of the twelve of later editions, introduced by large woodcut initial letters; and into chapters, also numbered, introduced by small woodcut initials.²

- 1) Jodocus Badius Ascensius, *Britannie utriusque regum et principum origo et gesta insignia ab Galfrido Monemutensi* . . . Paris, 1508.
- 2) —; second edition, revised, 1517.
- 3) Jerome Commelin, *Historia Regum Britanniae*, in *Rerum Britannicarum, id est Angliæ, Scotiæ, vicinarumque insularum ac regionum Scriptores Vetustiores ac Præcipui*, Heidelberg,¹ 1587.
- 4) Rev. J. A. Giles, LL.D., *Galfridi Monumetensis Historia Britonum*, published in *Scriptores Monastici*, David Nutt, London, 1844.
- 5) San-Marte (A. Schulz), *Gottfried's von Monmouth Historia Regum Britanniae . . . und Brut Tysilio*, Halle, 1854.

to the end of Book VIII of Giles. Book VII, with vii chapters, and numerous additional paragraphs and captions, extends from line 8 of folio lxix^{vo} to line 13 of xci^{vo}, covering the whole of Books IX and X of Giles, and the first two chapters of Book XI — i.e., the strictly Arthurian material. Book VIII of Ascensius, with iii chapters, extends from the middle of folio xci^{vo} to folio xciii^{re}; — in Giles, to the end of Book XI. Book IX, with vi chapters, corresponds with Book XII, twenty chapters, in Giles. In addition, there are frequent introductory paragraphs, summarizing the chapters or Books that follow; but as there is no regularity of arrangement in these, they were probably the interpolations of the editor.

gh he quotes extensively
vided "in acht Büchern"
orked from a transcript;

l of folio xxxii^{vo}. — and
r with the first eighteen
cius, first British king to
m folio xxxiii^{re} to folio
s. Book III extends from
'Liber IIII.' to the last
1). This takes us exactly
in this third Book of the
Geoffrey's Prologus and
aphed. It extends from
I, all four chapters, and
e are verbal differences
small initials, which often
ening of Book VIII.
re. to folio lxiii^{re}, cor-
. xiv of Giles. Book VI,
7, which takes us exactly

(2) Josse Bade bro
in 1517, with a slightly
impressa." He reset
accents to the few Gr
to fol. iii^{re}, and reset
ences to the one volu
other. He also employ
uniformly for personal
and inconsistent in the
of names — not always
undoubtedly so intend
chapters, remain the sa
firm also, the marginal
tion, and which, like th
certainly editorial addi

These minor points
textual variations betw
may prove to be of ser
Cavellatus "edited."

(3) In the first coll
printed outside Great
called in print the *Hi*
place. Jerome Comm
Protestantism, was for
first to Geneva, in 1560
he died ten years later.
and de Thou for his ed
cannot today, as a rep
editing of this collectio
first year of his residen
Rerum Britannicarum,
larum ac regionum Sc
"Typographus Lectori"
by Ascensius of Paris
alique causa mutatum

VITÆ
SANCTI PAULI EREMITÆ,
S. HILARIONIS,
ET MALCHI, MONACHI CAPTIVI.

ACCEDUNT

EPITAPHIA

Blæsillæ, Paulinæ, Fabiolæ, Paulæ et Marcellæ,

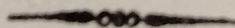
AUCTORE

S. HIERONYMO, STRIDONENSI PRESBYTERO.

QUÆ OMNIA DENUO PRODEUNT CURA ET STUDIO

J. B. MALOU,

CAN. BRUG. S. T. D. IN UNIV. CATH. LOVAN. S. THEOL.
PROF. ACAD. ROMAN. RELIG. CATHOL. SODAL. ET
BIBLIOTH. ACAD. LOVAN. PRÆFECT.



LOVANI,
EX TYPOGRAPHIA ICKX ET GEETS.
1847.

