

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Assignment

Assignment

Create a critical edition of one or more entries of your choosing in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, approx. one manuscript page in length, with a critical apparatus for two close variants. You will not have to register minor orthographical variation; instead focus on differences in diction as well as grammatical inflection. Take notes on any difficulties you encounter (ideally in XML comment form).

Getting Started

You may want to start by identifying a series of entries in a modern translation of the *Chronicle*, such as that at <http://mcclibrary.org/Anglo/>. You will ideally want to pick a passage between the years 60 BCE and 900 CE, as this ensures the entries across the various witnesses derive from the same archetype and were not independently composed, as many chronicles were continued independently after they were first copied out.

Chronicle Manuscripts With Online Facsimiles

Online facsimiles exist of the following versions of the *Chronicle*. Please use A (the Parker Chronicle) for your base text, because it stands closest to the archetype; then identify two variants that have almost identical entries for corresponding years (the actual *number* for the entry may be a couple years off).

Table 1: Witnesses to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* with online facsimiles

Siglum	Manuscript (short ref)	Known as	Year Range	Starting fol.
A	CCCC 173	Parker	60 BCE–1070	iv
B	Cotton Tiberius A. vi	Abingdon I	60 BCE–977	ir
C	Cotton Tiberius B. i	Abingdon II	60 BCE–1066	155v
D	Cotton Tiberius B. iv	Worcester	60 BCE–261, 409–633, 693–1079, 1080	3r
F	Cotton Domitian A. viii	Peterborough/Laud	1–1058	32r

The individual versions of the *Chronicle* are known as the Parker Chronicle, the Abingdon Chronicle and so on, but in your TEI header you will want to encode the full call number, which you may find on the website hosting the images (most of them are in London, British Library; the Parker Chronicle is at Cambridge, Corpus Christi College).

Working With Dates

The *Chronicle* manuscripts typically indicate each entry's year in the margin with an abbreviation like AN for “anno” (“in the year”) followed by a Roman numeral, or just with a bare Roman numeral. Roman numerals at this time work somewhat like the following:

Table 2: Selective examples of numerals in early medieval manuscripts

Roman	Arabic
i	1
ij	2
iiij	3
iiiiij	4
v	5
vj	6
vij	7
viiij	8
viiiij	9
x	10
xl	40
lij	52
cxxviiiij	129
cccxc	390
dcc	700
dccccxcviiiij	999
m	1000

Please observe:

- In classical times, Roman numerals were “additive,” meaning nine was written by taking five (v) and adding four (iiii), hence viiii; but the final minim was often given the shape j to indicate that the numeral ends here (so no one could modify it after the fact).
- In the course of the early Middle Ages this system was combined with a “subtractive” system, so nine became ten (x) minus one (i), hence ix; likewise xl for forty, xc for ninety, cm for 900. In early medieval English documents, we find scribes typically used xl for forty and xc for ninety, but in many cases not the other subtractive notations; thus they continued to rely on forms like iiiij and dcccc.

There is more than one way to encode all this in XML. Perhaps the most practical is if we number our paragraphs in accordance with the year given in the Parker Chronicle, and don't *transcribe* the numeral in its Roman form; thus `<p n="62">Her iacobus frater domini ... </p>`. Years BCE may be recorded as `<p n="-60">`. If some of our witnesses use a different year for the same entry, we may note this in `<witDetail>`.

Some of the numerals in the manuscripts are hard to read because they have faded, are smudged, or were cut off when the parchment was trimmed to size. Compare the Modern English translation at <http://mcclibrary.org/Anglo/> and use its numbering where necessary.

XML Standard

Your edition should be in TEI-compliant XML based on our template for critical editions, with a critical apparatus environment using parallel segmentation wherever variation occurs. If you run into abbreviations, try to encode them using the `<abbr>` system described in the course handbook. You likely won't know what abbreviations expand to; please make use of the forum to see whether someone else has an idea. In Old English, most abbreviations just omit an *n* or *m*, and the same is true for Latin forms like *regē* for *regem*. If you can't figure it out at all, just make a guess or transcribe what you see.

Give the full manuscript call numbers and the folio ranges of the passage of your choosing for all witnesses in the TEI header, and indicate the range of years encoded (e.g. 63 CE–137) in the document title. Upload the XML source to Stud.IP's homework folder, along with a PDF compiled using the transformation tool at <https://langeslag.uni-goettingen.de/editing>. (Use `chronicle_yourfirstname.xml` and `.pdf` as the filenames.) If transformation fails upload the XML only, but include a comment element containing your analysis of the problem.