A NOTE ON ROLLS SERIES 8.

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TRINITY HALL, Cambridge, MS. 1, which contains an anonymous and unfinished account of St. Augustine’s Abbey, Canterbury, was edited in the Rolls Series (8) in 1858. From internal evidence Hardwick, the editor, suggested Thomas Elmham as the compiler and, as the work has no original title, named it Historia Monasterii S. Augustini.

The Historia is the earliest of Elmham’s three main works, the other two being the Gesta Henrici Quinti and the Liber Metricus de Henrico Quinto, in that order. He also composed

1 Hardwick, pp. xix-xxiii. Hardwick also noticed a “remarkable similarity of style and spirit” between the work he was editing and the Vita et Gesta Henrici Quinti (ed. Hearne, 1727), which, following Hearne, he ascribed to Elmham. It has since been shown that the Vita is not by Elmham.

2 For an account of the Cambridge MS., which is apparently the only contemporary copy extant, v. Hardwick, pp. xvii-xix, and James, Cat. of the MSS. in the Library of Trinity Hall (1907). It has been well known to later antiquaries (cf. Hardwick, p. xviii). Harley MS. 686 is a modern copy of it, omitting the chronological table, and there are extracts from it in, for example, Harl. MSS. 539 (by Stowe) and 1757, Sloane MS. 1301, Lansdowne MS. 229, Burney MS. 368, B.M. Add. MS. 4936, and Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, MS. 391. The chronological table was printed separately by Twysden (Decem Scriptores, pp. 2229 sqq.) and a shortened version by Agard is in Cotton MS. Vitell. E. XIV, ff. 177 sqq. Lambeth MS. 362, ff. 19-19v., contains two extracts in a 16th cent. hand ex annalibus monasterii S. Augustini Cantuariæ de fundatione ad Henrici Quinti 7um annum [1419/20] deductis. As the extracts agree verbatim with the first two paragraphs of Hardwick, p. 221, this is probably an error for 6 Hen. 5; the chronological table to the Historia has entries down to 1418.


4 Ed. C. A. Cole in Memorials of Henry the Fifth, 1858 (R.S.). Cole knew of seven copies. There are, however, two more extant, Hunterian (Glasgow) MSS., U. 5. 3 and V. 1. 16, both 15th cent. and both previously owned by Thomas Martin, the Norfolk antiquary. The former is the “Codex Martinianus” mentioned by Hearne in the Vita, p. 426.
a chronological work, the *Cronica Regum Nobilium Anglie*, which in date falls between the *Historia* and the *Gesta*. As this contains an interesting reference to the *Historia*, it is proposed to deal with it briefly here.

The *Cronica Regum Nobilium Anglie* is contained in Cotton MS. Claudius E. IV (ff. 1-32) and was compiled between 21 March and 31 December, 1416; that is, after Elmham had left St. Augustine’s for Lenton. It comprises a prologue of two folios, a section *De Quintuplici Statu Britonum*, and, after a blank of a page and a half, a chronological table which, as extant, extends from A.D. 1 to 1389. In the prologue Elmham states that he intends to divide the work into three books; the first to extend from the coming of Hengist to the coming of St. Augustine, the second from the coming of St. Augustine to the landing of the Conqueror and the third from the Conqueror *usque in presens* (f. 3). Whether he completed his intention is not known, but this statement, the collation and the fact that the chronological table ends at the foot of f. 32v. with the comparatively unimportant year 1389 (for which it has an entry), indicate that the Cotton MS. is incomplete. In the prologue Elmham also refers to the difficulties he has met with in his search for accurate information, both chronological and as regards the

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1 Referred to in earlier catalogues as *Annales Brittonum*. It is extant only in this copy. Elmham reveals his authorship in capitals spelling “Thomas Elmham Prior Lentonie” (f. 2). The remaining contents of the volume, listed by a later hand on f. 33, relate to St. Alban’s Abbey and are well known; they include, for example, the *Gesta Abbatum* (ed. H. T. Riley in R.S.). A second contents’ list, to include the *Cronica Regum*, was written later on f. lv and the pagination of the volume altered to include its 32 folios.

2 *A conquestu enim usque ad annum presentem, qui est annus domini m'ccccxvj, sunt anni CCCL, . . . et sic ab adventu Anglorum usque ad annum presentem, qui est annus quartus illustrissimi principis et domini, domini Henrici Regis Anglie post conquestum huius nomini quinti, sunt anni DCCCCLXVIJ*, f. 3.

3 ff. 2-3v., printed in part by Hearne in the *Vita*, pp. 377-81.

4 Tanner’s misreading of this led Hearne to think that Elmham was the author of a longer English History in three books. See the correspondence in *Hearne’s Collections* (ed. H. E. Salter, Oxf. Hist. Soc.), ix. 350, 360, 364.

5 It lacks, perhaps, another folio; that is, if the table was brought down to c. 1416 and ended there. This was missing in 1674, as the description in a class catalogue of that year shows (Harl. MS. 694, f. 288, *Thomae Elmham Annales Britonorum . . . usque ad tempora Ricardi II. Claud. E. IV*); also, of course, in 1696, when Smith’s Catalogue was published.
spelling of proper names, and in this respect contrasts the period before the coming of St. Augustine with that after. For that part of his work dealing with the former period he begs the reader's indulgence, for ob cronicatorum dissonanciam certum et absque ambiguitate directorium non invent. He continues, a fundazione tamen illius excellentis ac regalis monasterii Apostolorum Petri et Pauli Cantuarie [St. Augustine's] . . . certam annorum quotacionem, deo concedente, interserrere non omittam, quam plana directione bullarum summam pontificum nec non codicellorum et cartarum regalium didici, prout patet per tabulam cuiusdam tractatus que in pretacto regali monasterio diligentia studio compilavi, qui Speculum Augustinianum notatur, cuius libri tenorem huic operi intendam coniungere pro loco et tempore oportuni. Apart from the fact that there is no other known work of Elmham to which this could apply, there can be little doubt that it is a reference to the compilation which Hardwick named Historia Monasterii S. Augustini. The latter is a tractatus, preceded by a chronological table beginning in A.D. 597. It was compiled at St. Augustine's and discontinued about 1414, the year in which Elmham was appointed prior of Lenton. Both table and tractatus are full of the bulls, charters and other documents to which he refers. Various entries in the two works agree word for word and a number of small events are recorded in both. The statement about the value of the abbey muniments is also repeated and there is a similar complaint of the inaccuracy and credulity of cronicatores.

The following additions to our knowledge of Elmham for

1 Cotton Claud. E. IV, f. 3.
2 Ib., ff. 3-3v.
3 See its opening words, Hardwick, p. 77.
4 Augustinus venit in Angliam, Hardwick, p. 2.
5 V. Hardwick, pp. xix-xx.
6 E.g. Hardwick, pp. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9-15, 21, 28-40, 41-60, 65-71, for the table; pp. 109-15, 118-24, 129-31, 144-6, for the text, together with the collection of over one hundred and twenty charters and bulls at the end (pp. 347-479). The bad reputation of these charters and bulls does not, of course, affect the present argument.
7 Ib., pp. 309-10. They are similarly used to settle points of chronology, e.g. ib., pp. 137, 264, 326. See also the passage dealing with the corruption of proper names, ib. p. 338.
8 Ib., pp. 185-6, 260, 276, 279, 309, 324.
the period before 1414 may be noticed here.\(^1\) According to
the chronological table in his \textit{Cronica Regum} \(^2\) he was born on
8 April, 1364;\(^3\) that is, he was about fifty years of age when
he left St. Augustine's. Another entry in the same table records
that his mother Sabina was born in 1314.\(^4\) We do not know
definitely to which house he was first attached,\(^5\) but he was pro-
fessed in 1379.\(^6\) In a Comptus Roll of St. Augustine's for
1407-8 he occurs as a scholar at Oxford, together with John
Sturr and John Hawkherst.\(^7\) There is one other reference to
him in the same Roll, the record of a payment of twenty shillings
to \textit{magister} Dionysius Lopham for a deed made for him;\(^8\) the
character of the deed is not indicated. In his Will, dated 4
February 1413,\(^9\) Lopham is described as \textit{clericus}, of London.\(^10\)

\(^1\) The best single account of Elmham is by J. H. Wylie, \textit{The Reign of Henry the Fifth}, ii. 82-8. See also Rose Graham, \textit{English Ecclesiastical Studies}, pp. 67-72.

\(^2\) With this table and the one in Hardwick, pp. 2-73, should be compared Pepys MS. 2314, now at Magdalene College (\textit{Chronicle Roll of St. Augustine's Abbey}. c. 1450. See the full description in James, \textit{Bibliotheca Pepysiana}, iii. 84-5). The Pepys MS. is not independent of either, but many of the entries which it has in common with both it assigns to different years.

\(^3\) Cotton MS. Claud. E. IV, f. 32v.

\(^4\) \textit{Ib.}, f. 32. Both entries are faint and in a browner ink than the rest of the table.

\(^5\) Either Lenton or Bermondsey seems possible, but neither may be correct. Cf. Graham, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 67n.

\(^6\) \textit{Efficitur monachus}," Cotton MS. Claud. E. IV, f. 32v.

\(^7\) Harl. Roll Z 19, recto. It is hoped to deal more fully with this Roll in a
later note. In the incipit to his verses on the death of Henry IV (printed in
Wright, \textit{Political Poems and Songs} (R.S.), ii. 118 sqq.), Elmham is called S.T.P.
and in a reference of 1421 in \textit{theologia scolaris} (\textit{Chapters of the English Black

\(^8\) Harl. Roll, Z 19, recto. He is called \textit{frater Thomas Elmham}. Immediately
following is a payment of 20d. to Lopham's clerk.

\(^9\) Lopham's Will (not dated 1414, as printed Index) is in Harl. Chart. 55 H. 4.
Incidentally the villages of Lopham and North Elmham are both in Norfolk.
\textit{Cf.} Elmham's particular reference to North Elmham in Hardwick, p. 167, and the
evidence that he was a Norfolk man (\textit{ib.}, p. xxi).

\(^10\) The following (15th cent.) occurs on the flyleaf of a 13th century Bible
from St. Augustine's, now C.C.C.C. MS. 49: "\textit{Mem. quod dominus Thomas
Elnam [?I habet 4 (or x) s. viz. sed consummatum est. Hec scripta sunt in libro.
Ihesus exivit de templo et corroboravit templum}" (\textit{ib.}, James, \textit{Catalogue of the
Manuscripts in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge}, i. 98-100).