

Travel Bursary Report (2019)

I am currently preparing an article on ‘Geoffrey of Monmouth and Universal History, which will assess how scribes, manuscript compilers, and readers of the *Historia* attempted to assimilate Geoffrey’s secular model of British history into a wider Christian framework. In June 2019, with assistance from the SSMLL, I was able to travel to various libraries and archives – including the British Library, Lambeth Palace Library, St John’s College, Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin – to conduct research for this project.

I originally scheduled three days in London and two days in Cambridge, but before my trip I discovered that two manuscripts at Trinity College had been recently digitised, so I decided to spend an extra day at the British Library and just a single day in Cambridge. I had planned to consult five manuscripts at the British Library; however, with more time than I had initially expected, I was able to consult three other manuscripts, including: Royal MS 13 D II; Cotton Cleopatra D viii; and Cotton MS Titus xvii. Two of these additional manuscripts include several *incidentia* that draw attention to the biblical and classical synchronisms in the text.

London, Lambeth Palace, MS 454 was one of the most interesting manuscripts that I consulted on my trip. This manuscript contains two copies of the *Historia regum Britanniae*; it is also bound with various calendars, tables, and diagrams, including a volvelle. According to Julia Crick’s work on the circulation and reception of the *Historia*, the rubrics and the synchronisms in this manuscript are similar to Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Fairfax 28. I hope to be able to visit the Bodleian in November to consult this manuscript, as well as Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Jesus College 2, which is heavily interpolated with comparative historical material.

On Friday in Cambridge, I examined a single manuscript at St John’s College, Cambridge (MS G.16), which is heavily rubricated and includes a *capitula* list of the different chapters in the *Historia*. I then flew out to Dublin on Sunday to consult two manuscripts at Trinity College (MSS 515 and 496), which include various rubrics and annotations and are also bound with a selection of works relating to universal history. I also had time to examine two other manuscripts in Dublin, which are heavily annotated throughout (MSS 174 and 494).

Except for a few manuscripts at the British Library, I managed to photograph most of the manuscripts I on my research trip. I will use these photographs, along with the digitized manuscripts at Cambridge, to cross-reference how the synchronisms are marked across a selection of manuscripts.

I would like to thank the staff in London, Cambridge, and Dublin for their assistance on my trip, and I am grateful to the SSMLL for supporting my research. I will acknowledge the Society in my forthcoming article, which I expect to submit in November 2019 once I have consulted the final two manuscripts in the Bodleian Library.

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List of Manuscripts Consulted

British Library

- ADDITIONAL MS 35295
Fols 137r-228v [*HRB*]
- COTTON CLEOPATRA D VIII
Fols 8r-94r [*HRB*]
- COTTON MS TITUS XVII
Fols 9r-87r [*HRB*]
- COTTON MS VESPASIAN E X
Fols 272r-355v; 356r-369v [*HRB*]
- LANSDOWNE MS 732
Fols 1r-68v [*HRB*]
- ROYAL MS 13 D I
Fols 9ra/b [*Ages of the World*]
Fols 10ra-172rb [*Polychronicon*]
Fols 175r-21va [*HRB*]
Fols 225rb-236vb [*Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs*]
- ROYAL MS 13 D II
Fols 124r-173v [*HRB*]
- SLOANE MS 289
3v-14v [*Chronicle of the World from Adam to 1220*]
Fols 120r-183r [*HRB*]

Lambeth Palace Library

- MS 454
fols 28r-123r [*HRB*]
fols 124r-204r [*HRB*]

St John's College, Cambridge

- MS G.16 (184)
Fols 43ra-44rb [*Capitula to HRB*]
Fols 44rb-103rb [*HRB*]
Fols 280(299)rb-285(304)rb [*List of Old Testament Kings and high priests, of the early patriarchs of Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch, and bishops of Byzantium*]
Fols 328(347)rb-346(365)vb [*Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs*]

Trinity College, Dublin

- MS 172 (B.2.7)
pp. 84-194 [*HRB*]
- MS 494 (E.5.7)
Fols 1r-76v [*HRB*]
- MS 496 (E.6.2)
Fols 7v-8v [*Six Ages of the World*]
Fols 9r-123v [*HRB*]

MS 515 (E.5.12)

Fols 10r/vb [genealogy from Adam to Brutus]

Fols 10vb/11ra [genealogy of the Trojans]

Fols 21rb-65va [*HRB*]