

which English lawyers and statesmen provided for the authentication and preservation of private charters. No profound research would have been necessary for descriptions of the final concord, the recovery, the *insperimus*, and the system of chancery enrolments. He might have reminded his readers that the printed materials for the study of English private charters are remarkably copious; and that the typical forms are well illustrated in Round's *Ancient Charters* and in the *Formulare Anglicanum* of Thomas Madox. And it is curious that he should omit to mention Domesday Book in describing the *Polyptycha* (p. 12) and the *Lehenbücher* (p. 160) of continental Europe.

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Palaeographia Iberica, Fac-Similés de Manuscrits Espagnols et Portugais (ix^e-xv^e siècles) avec Notices et Transcriptions. Par JOHN M. BURNAM, Professeur à l'Université de Cincinnati. 1^{er} Fasc. (Paris: Champion, 1912.)

THE two most eminent palaeographers of the past century, Delisle and Traube, have made it clear that future progress in our knowledge of palaeography must come from the investigation of individual schools of writing, as well as from minute studies of special problems (such, for instance, as abbreviations) common to all the schools. Apart from Delisle's study of the Tours school, Ewald and Loewe's *Exempla Scripturae Visigothicae*, and Professor Lindsay's monographs on the early Irish and Welsh scripts, we have no works treating of particular types of Latin writing. It is as a contribution to this class of regional palaeography that we are to consider Professor Burnam's *Palaeographia Iberica*. The present part, which contains twenty plates of collotype facsimiles, excellently produced, is only the first instalment of a publication which is to comprise about 300 plates. There is no introduction; and we have only the publisher's announcement to tell us that the work is to be a collection of facsimiles from Spanish and Portuguese manuscripts written in Latin or in the Romanic dialects of the two countries and ranging over a period from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries, the majority of the specimens being taken from manuscripts written in Romanic. The undertaking is justified on the ground that we have no important work on Spanish palaeography, and none whatever on Portuguese palaeography. But Professor Burnam's method of selection and arrangement is not clear. The collection begins with a facsimile from a manuscript written in the year 828. The next specimen is dated 1155. Plate 3 is also of the twelfth century, but plate 4 is of the fourteenth. Plates 5-10 are of the twelfth century. Eight out of the first ten plates are devoted to illustrating writing during one generation, from A.D. 1155 to 1189. Plates 11-15 are taken from three manuscripts, dated A.D. 1210. The following three are of the fourteenth century, the last two of the fifteenth. There are no facsimiles from manuscripts of the tenth or eleventh centuries. Of the twenty plates, one is taken from a Spanish manuscript, and nineteen from manuscripts which belonged to the Portuguese monasteries of Alcobaça and Lorvão, and are now preserved at Lisbon. Only two plates illustrate Visigothic handwriting, the remaining eighteen being examples of ordinary Caroline

minuscule in its different phases of transformation from the twelfth to the fifteenth century. Palaeographically interesting, besides the Visigothic specimens (plates 1 and 5), are plate 2, which, though in ordinary minuscule, shows old Visigothic elements, plate 18 for the different hands it contains, and plate 19 for the curious type of writing.

The manuscripts reproduced contain, as was to be expected, chiefly works of patristic or ecclesiastical interest, e.g. Augustine, Gregory, Beatus, Petrus Cellariensis, Johannes de Paredes, lives of saints, monastic rules, and theological tracts. Historically interesting are plate 1 (*Lex Romana Visigothorum*), plate 2 (cartulary of Santa Cruz at Coimbra), and plate 18 (annals of the same church). The last plate is in Portuguese, as well as plates 4 and 19 (translations of St. Benedict's rule) and plate 20 (rules of the Cistercian order). Plates 14 and 15 offer interesting facsimiles illustrating the sign language.

If the first instalment, with its small proportion of Visigothic manuscripts, may be regarded as representative of Professor Burnam's design, it is evident that his work will not supplant the publication of Ewald and Loewe, to which we still owe nearly all we know of Visigothic writing. And if the following parts of the work are to contain the same proportion as this of relatively recent Portuguese manuscripts, it would seem doubtful whether the gain to palaeography can be such as to justify so extensive a collection. The main object of the work, as stated in the announcement, is to give as many facsimiles as possible of Spanish and Portuguese manuscripts written in the vernacular. If this is true, its importance lies rather in the field of modern philology than of palaeography. The present fasciculus, however, containing as it does only dated facsimiles, all but one of them new, is a welcome contribution to our palaeographical material.

Professor Burnam gives a transcription of each plate and a description of the manuscript, with a bibliography and some palaeographical remarks on the writing, abbreviations, punctuation, and other small points. On the whole, this part of the publication is disappointing. The most important facts about a manuscript are those relating to its date and origin. For these facts Professor Burnam seems to rely wholly on older authorities, whom he cites in their language, usually without comment. Dates are assigned to plates 5, 6, 11, and 12 without any reason or justification being given in the description. When one recalls the well-known instances of impossible dates traditionally assigned to Spanish manuscripts—and Portuguese manuscripts are palaeographically inseparable from Spanish—one realizes how incumbent it is upon the modern editor to deal with his evidence in a severely critical spirit. Professor Burnam should not have passed over without comment and elucidation the dated subscriptions of the Alcobaça manuscripts, when an authority like Paul Ewald had warned scholars against too easy trust in these subscriptions. 'Dazu bemerke ich,' says Ewald, 'dass auf die Schreiber-*notizen* der Hss. von Alcobaça wenig Gewicht zu legen sei. G. Loewe glaubt, eine systematische Fälschung dieser Eintragungen nachweisen zu können.' Ewald also reminds us, on the authority of Bonaventura, that not all the Alcobaça manuscripts are necessarily of Portuguese

origin, since many of them, presented to the monastery by Alphonse I of Portugal, came from Clairvaux in France.¹

Professor Burnam's method of citing authorities is slipshod. The oldest catalogue of Alcobaça manuscripts was published in Lisbon in 1775, under the title *Index Codicum Bibliothecae Alcobatiae*, &c. This is cited simply as the Index of 1775. Paul Ewald's important account of Spanish manuscripts, entitled 'Reise nach Spanien im Winter 1878 auf 1879', published in the *Neues Archiv*, vi. (1880) 219-398, appears as 'Ewald's Reisebericht'—a reference which is sure to puzzle many readers. The title of Bonaventura's history of the monastery of Alcobaça is never cited in full, and the same unfortunate brevity deprives other references of their usefulness. The transcriptions are fairly correct, to judge by the first ten plates examined. Some errors have, however, crept in. The gravest occurs on pl. 1, l. 1, Visigothic *t* being misread for *et*; on the same line, consistency demands *Illius* with *i-longa*; *pares* should be *parem* (p. 2, last line of section *Ecriture*). The following corrections may be noted: pl. 2, l. 19, *prophetam*; pl. 3, l. 14, *martyris*, l. 19, *octobris* (*ris* at the end of l. 19 goes with *confesso* at the end of l. 18), l. 20, *cletiano*; pl. 4, l. 3, *iesu*; pl. 5, l. 1, *iesu*, l. 12, *abyssi*; pl. 6, l. 19, *tuum*; pl. 7, l. 1, *dominus*, l. 9^a, *gratias*, l. 17^a, *Scr'i'ptus*; pl. 9, l. 13, *monasterii*. Misprints in the other descriptions are not wanting. The abbreviations have not been collected as carefully as they deserve. My notes on the Paris MS. Lat. 4667 (pl. 1) show some abbreviations which should have been included: *idt*=*idest*, *†*=*in*, *nō*=*non*, *nŕe*=*noŕe*, *oŕs*=*omnes*, *pŕr*=*propter*, *ut*=*vel*. Of the Portuguese manuscripts I cannot speak, not having examined them. The long lists of *liaisons* which are given in full do not seem to serve any purpose. The titles of plates 2 and 8 should have been in Latin. Plate 3 should be headed 'Martyrologium' not 'Kalendarium'. Attention has been called to these errors and faults of method because the success of Professor Burnam's undertaking will depend upon the elimination of similar defects from the parts which are still to appear.

E. A. LOEW.

Inventaires des Archives de la Belgique; Chartes et Cartulaires des Duchés de Brabant et de Limbourg et des Pays d'Outre-Meuse. Première partie. Tomes i-v. (Brussels: Hayez, 1910-13.)

THE method adopted in this publication of the Belgian archives is chronological, the series of documents extending from 1154 to 1374 and numbering 3,800. The editor, M. Alphonse Verkooren, has begun with the loose documents, reserving the analysis of the cartularies for the second part. The work will be completed by a preface in which the cartularies will be described, and abstracts given of all deeds now lost, which can be proved by ancient inventories or otherwise to have existed formerly in the archives of the realm, and a key is to be provided showing the collections from which they are derived and the relation between their ancient and their present arrangement. This ought always to be done, but is unhappily by no means a universal practice. The first section, now before us, presents a series of abstracts, in strict chronological order, of all

¹ *Neues Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde*, vi. (1880) 393.