

Order of Saint Lazarus: Primary sources

Matthew Paris. *Flores Historiarum*. Chetham's Hospital and Library, Manchester, MS 6712.

- In: C.D. Yonge [translator]. *Flowers of History*, especially such as relate to the Affairs of Britain from the beginning of the world to the year 1307 collected by Matthew of Westminster. Vol. II from A.D. 1066 to A.D. 1307., H.G. Bohn, London, 1853, p.225-226, 313

1241-1252	Matthew Paris	Flores Historiarum
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Flores Historiarum. Chetham's Hospital and Library, Manchester, MS 6712. Only part of the text, covering 1241 to 1249, is in Paris's hand, though he is credited with the authorship of the whole text, which is an abridgement of the *Chronica* with additions from the annals of Reading and of Southwark. Additional interpolations to the text make it clear the volume was created for Westminster Abbey. It was apparently started there, copying another MS of Paris's text that went up to 1240. Later it was sent back to the author for him to update [circa 1251-2]. The illustrations are similar to Paris's style but not by him. Later additions took the chronicle up to 1327.

A. D. 1244.

DEATH OF GRIFFITH.

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About the same time, a most bloody engagement took place in the Holy Land between

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MATTHEW OF WESTMINSTER.

A. D. 1244.

the Saracens and those worst of all Saracens, the Chorosmines, and all the Christians who were able to bear arms, and a terrible slaughter, and one to be lamented throughout all ages, took place, and the masters of the Temple and the Hospital were both taken and led into captivity, and so were nearly all the Templars and Hospitallers, and other brethren of the different orders, so that the house of the Germans of Saint Lazarus, and nearly all the nobles of the Holy Land, either fell in battle, or were oppressed in captivity by the Saracens. For the soldan of Babylon, whom the Templars had attacked, having broken the treaty of truce which had been entered into by earl Richard, in revenge for such an injury, urged on the Chorosmines to their extermination. But the Tartars had previously repelled the aforesaid Chorosmines from their territories with the edge of the sword, and so the miserable Christians became, as their sins had well deserved, the prey of robbers and plunderers. This melancholy battle then, so ruinous and disgraceful to the church of Christ, took place under an unhappy star, between Ascalon and Gazara, on Saint Luke's day. And while the whole human race was thus in agitation and disorder in Syria, the divine power also raged against human affairs throughout England and its borders.