

THE COPENHAGEN CONTINUATION OF PROSPER: A TRANSLATION

Steven Muhlberger

This translation is based primarily on Mommsen's text of the *Continuatio Havniensis Prosperi*, which is included in his edition of the *Consularia Italica* in volume one of the *Chronica Minora (Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Auctores Antiquissimi, IX* [Berlin 1892] 249-339). Mommsen's emendations of the unique, often corrupt manuscript (Copenhagen Kongelige Bibliotek Ms. 454) have generally been adopted. Deviations from Mommsen's text are noted.

In his edition Mommsen dissected the Copenhagen Continuation and printed each fragment in a different part of volume one of the *Chronica Minora*. To aid the reader in locating the printed Latin text of a given passage, this translation includes a running concordance to the text. Each entry or series of entries is preceded by the page number at which it is in the edition. These page numbers are enclosed by square brackets: [p. 339]. The concordance also gives, where necessary, references to two major sources of the Copenhagen Continuation, Prosper's *Epitoma Chronicon* (also edited in *Chronica Minora*, vol. I, 341-499) and Isidore's *Chronica Maiora*, ed. Mommsen, in *Chronica Minora*, vol. 2 (*MGH, Auct. Antiq. XI* [Berlin 1896] 391-488).

The translation falls into two sections. The first (c. 1166-1375, according to the numbering of Mommsen's edition of Prosper) translates the most significant additions that the compiler made to Prosper's text. Where necessary, notices from Prosper are translated in whole or in part

to give a context to the additions, which are underlined. Where entire chapters were inserted by the compiler, their numbers are distinguished by the addition of letters; e.g. 1197a is a chapter taken from Isidore and used by the seventh-century writer to supplement Prosper's account.

The second section, beginning with c. 1377, is the Copenhagen Continuation proper. The numbering of Mommsen's Prosper is continued here. The arrangement of the translation follows that of the manuscript: The first description of the years 475-492, the "Ordo Prior," precedes the second, the "Ordo Posterior," while the marginal account for the years 474-480, the "Ordinis Posterioris Margo," is printed parallel to the Ordo Posterior. The chapters are numbered accordingly, with marginal entries being distinguished with a number ending in "m."

In both sections, those entries copied or in great part derived from Isidore are indicated thus: [Is.] or [Is. augmented]. The names of the annual consuls have been left untranslated and in the orthography of the edition.

=====ADDITIONS TO PROSPER=====

[p. 266] (A.D. 378)

1166 Thus far Jerome arranged the order of the preceding years; now to that which follows, which was added by the most religious and learned Prosper, there have been appended a few supplementary notices, the result of our own research.

. . . .

[pp. 298, 462] (388)

1191 The tyrant Maximus was halted by the emperors Valentinian and Theodosius at the third milestone from Aquileia, stripped of his royal array, and condemned to death. In the same year his son Victor was killed in Gaul by Count Arbogast who was of Frankish descent.

. . . .

[p. 268; MGH, AA 11:470] (392)

1197a In the same period the head of John the Baptist was brought to Constantinople and buried at the seventh milestone from the city. [Is.]

1197b At the same time the temples of the gentiles were overthrown throughout the whole world by the order of Theodosius: now they remain unharmed but neglected. [Is.]

....

[p. 299]

1208 Arcadio IIII et Honorio III] (396)

(in margin)

The Goths, with the flower of their whole army and led by Alaric, crossed the Julian Alps and attacked Italy on August 23. When they had devastated Italy for two years and were tarrying at Pollentia in Liguria, an army was assembled and an attack was made against them; but when a great slaughter of both armies had taken place, night brought an end to the battle.

....

[p. 299]

1227 Stilichone II and Anthemio (405)

1228 Under the leadership of Stilicho the army defeated and captured Radagaisus; thousands of Goths were killed in Tuscany on August 23 before the gates at Florence.

In the fifth year in the consulate of Stilicho and Artemius. After the entry of Alaric there followed another army of Goths and King Radagaisus entered and devastated Italy. In the next year Stilicho with an army consisting of the flower of the soldiers attacked them at Florence of the Tuscans and, battle being joined, Radagaisus was defeated and captured and was decapitated before the gates of the city.

1229 Arcadio VI and Probo

(406)

- 1230 The Vandals and the Alans, having Arcadio et Probo
crossed the Rhine, entered Gaul on consulibus.
December 31. The Vandals under King
Gunderic crossed the
Rhine and devastated Gaul
with cruel persecution;
in their company were the
Alans, a people of like
habits and ferocity, in
the year of Arcadius and
Probus on December 31, in
the 1162nd year of the
founding of the city.
-
- [pp. 299-300] (408)
- 1235a In the same year the earth bellowed for seven days in the Forum
of Peace at Rome, signifying a deadly captivity, from which
Rome was released after she had endured it for two years. Many
nobles were killed at Pavia. And at Ravenna Stilicho was
killed on August 22.
-
- [p. 300] (411)
- 1243 Constantine was defeated and captured at the town of Arles
by Honorius's generals Constantius and Ulphulas and afterwards
was moved to Italy and killed in the place where the river
Mincia arises. . . .
-
- [p. 300] (413)
- 1251 The brothers Jovinus and Sebastian, who had seized power in
Gaul, were killed and their heads were taken to Ravenna. And
likewise a brother of theirs named Sallustius was killed.
-
- [p. 268] (427)
- 1293a Also in this time a devil in the shape of Isidore
Moses appeared to the Jews in Crete. says
When he promised to lead them with dry feet over this.
the sea to the promised land, many sank in the

waves and were killed. The rest who were saved had recourse immediately to Christ's grace and were converted.

....

[pp. 301, 473]

(432)

1310 Boniface accepted the rank of master of soldiers and came from Africa to Italy by way of the city of Rome. When Aetius resisted, Boniface defeated him in battle, but after a few days Boniface was killed by disease. . . .

A battle was fought between Aetius and Boniface at the fifth milestone from Rimini.

....

[pp. 301-302, 481-482]

(451)

1364 Attila increased his might after the death of his murdered brother and collected together many thousands of the neighbouring peoples in a war which he announced he was going to wage on the Goths just as if he were the guardian of Roman friendship. But when he had crossed the Rhine and many Gallic cities had experienced his most savage attacks, it quickly was agreed both by us and by the Goths that the fury of the proud enemies should be opposed with allied armies. Thorismud then ruled the kingdom of the Goths. So great was the foresight of the patrician Aetius that he purposely called in reinforcement both the Goths, as we have said, and the Franks who then were acquiring the region by the Rhine. (For then the Frankish people did not have kings, but were content with dukes.)¹ And so with fighting men being quickly brought together from everywhere, a not unequal force on our part met the opposing multitude and the battle was fought at the fifth milestone from Troyes in the place called Maurica in Campania. In that conflict, although inestimable heaps of the dead were made with neither side yielding, nevertheless the Huns were defeated because the survivors lost confidence in their fighting and returned to their own country. And in that battle Theodoric king of the Goths died, in whose place Thorismud his eldest son was appointed. And it happened that Aetius in his cleverness

exhorted the Franks to return to their own country, lest Attila should occupy it while it was empty of its choice men; and he exhorted Thorismud that he should by returning to the seat of his kingdom confirm the glory and office he had taken up, lest his brothers should prevent him and he should lose the office; so Aetius remained alone with the flower of his soldiers and enriched his army with all the loot and spoil of the enemy.²

[Prosper's chapter 1365 is not present in the Copenhagen ms.]

[pp. 302, 482]

1366	Herculano v.c. consule et Sporacio	(452)
1367	Attila, having restored the forces which he had lost in Gaul, aimed at Italy through Pannonia. . . .	<u>Aquileia and Milan and some other cities were ruined by Attila</u>

....

[pp. 302, 483]

(453)

1370	After Attila died in his home country great conflict arose between his sons. . . .	<u>After the death of his father Thorismud subjugated the Alans in battle.</u>
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1371 Among the Goths in Gaul dissension arose between the sons of King Theodoric, of whom the oldest, Thorismud, had succeeded the father (and this was the third year of his reign). When the king attempted things contrary to Roman peace and Gothic tranquility, he was killed by his brothers for relentlessly pursuing harmful plans. Theodoric, the younger brother of Thorismud, was confirmed in his place.

....

[pp. 303, 483]

(454)

1373	. . . Aetius was cruelly killed by the hand of the emperor and those standing around <u>in the inner chambers of the palace at Rome on September 21.</u> . . .
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1374	Valentiniano VIII and Anthemio	(455)
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1374a In this consulate Ravenna burned.

[pp. 303, 483-484]

1375 The death of Valentinian followed the death of Aetius by no

long time, since the murderer of Aetius, so far from taking steps to avoid assassination, made associates of Aetius's friends and armorbearers. These, taking the opportunity for crime, secretly lay in wait; Accila, a bucellarius of Aetius, and Trasila, the son-in-law of Aetius, set upon the emperor at the same time and stabbed him with unwelcome and unexpected blows, while he was outside the gates in the Campus Martius in front of the general's platform at the sixth milestone at the two laurel trees, intent on the equestrian games . . . Maximus, twice consul and of patrician rank on the next day, March 19, assumed power. He was widely believed to be profiting by endangering the state, and he quickly showed what kind of mind he had: not only did he not punish Valentinian's murderers, but he even received them into his friendship. He prohibited the Augusta to mourn the loss of her husband, and after a very few days he forced her to become his wife. But he was not long able to exercise such lack of restraint.³ For after another month it was reported that King Geiseric was coming from Africa. Many of the nobility and the common people fled since he, wishing to retreat himself, gave everyone permission to leave; but he himself, on the seventy-seventh day of his taking power, was torn to pieces by the imperial slaves and was thrown into the Tiber, so that he lacked even a sepulchre. The occupation of Rome, worthy of many tears, followed the death of Maximus immediately, and Geiseric took the city, which was bereft of any protection on July 4. The holy Pope Leo ran to meet Geiseric outside of the gates and, with God's help, by his supplication so softened him that he abstained from fire, slaughter, and torture, on the condition that all power was given to him. . . .⁴

=====CONTINUATION=====

[p. 266]

1377 Thus far the holy Prosper continued the history, although we have combined with it, by our investigation of past ages, some things that he omitted; what follows our own research, as it well as it could, has produced with great effort.

[pp. 304-305]

- 1378 But [sic] the Burgundians spread through Gaul and drove back the Gepids.
- 1379 After the death of Maximus, Avitus assumed power at Arles in Gaul on July 9.
- 1380 And with his colleagues in the office which he had taken up he entered Italy on September 21.
- 1381 Johanne et Varane (456)
- 1382 Remistius the patrician was killed in Classe, dying on September 17.
- 1383 The Emperor Avitus entered Placentia with the forces of his allies. There the master of soldiers Ricimer caught up with him with a great part of the army. After battle had been joined and many of Avitus's men had fallen, Avitus fled, and Bishop Eusebius saved his life and changed him from an emperor into a bishop. Missianus, the patrician of Avitus, was killed in the battle on October 18.
- 1384 Constantino and Rufo (457)
- 1385 Theodoric, the king of the Goths, utterly humbled the Sueves, having defeated them in battle and killed their king Rechiarius.
- 1386 After the death of Rechiarius, Gundioc, king of the Burgundians, with his people and all his troops, and with the assent of Theodoric and the Goths, came into Gaul to settle, and entered into alliance and friendship with the Goths.

[p. 268]

- 1387 In that year Marcian, the emperor at Constantinople, died. In his place Leo the elder was made emperor in that same city with the consent of the army and the senate. [Is. augmented]
- (lacuna -- the years 458 to 473 are completely missing, as is the consulate of 474.)

ORDO PRIOR

[pp. 307-309]

- 1388 P.c. Leonis iunioris Ag. (475)
- 1389 While Nepos was residing in the city, the patrician Orestes was sent against him with the flower of the army. But Nepos, not daring to lead a hopeless cause by resisting, fled to

Dalmatia by boat. When Nepos had fled Italy and deserted the city, Orestes claimed the primacy and all authority, and made emperor his son Augustulus, who was at Ravenna; but he himself exercised all the administration of the external defenses.

1390 Augustulus was raised to the emperorship on October 31.

[p. 268]

1391 As Zeno Augustus was seeking to kill his son Leo, Leo's mother offered another of similar appearance in his place and secretly made Leo a cleric. In the clergy he lived down to the time of Justinian. [Is.]

[pp. 309-313]

- 1392 Basilio et Armato (476)
- 1393 The Goths under King Euric devastated many cities of Gaul, chief among them Arles, stripped them of wealth, and, removing them from Roman authority, subjected the cities to themselves.
- 1394 On August 23, the Heruli in Italy, who were under Roman jurisdiction, created a king named Odoacer, a man serious both in age and prudence, and one well-taught in military affairs.
- 1395 He overwhelmed and conquered the patrician Orestes, who was at Placentia, and killed Orestes's brother Paul, who was at Ravenna.
- 1396 From all directions evils rose up around the state: On all sides [the Romans] were oppressed by other peoples and they lost both their provinces and their supremacy.
- 1397 P.c. Basilisci et Armati (477)
- 1398 Odoacer killed a noble man named Brachila who was opposing his rule.
- 1399 Ello v.c. consule (478)
- 1400 Adaric, rebelling against Odoacer, was subdued and killed with his mother and brother on November 19.
- 1401 Zenone Aug. consule (479)
- 1402 Basilisco iuniore consule (480)
- 1403 When the emperor Nepos was ruling Dalmatia and was attempting to confirm the authority of the office he had taken up, he died, unsuspecting, on June 22, stabbed by the blows of his own people.

- 1404 Placidio v.c. consule (481)
- 1405 Severino iun. et Trecondite (482)
- 1406 King Odoacer set out for Dalmatia, and, when Ovida attempted to resist with an army, he was put down by Odoacer and died on December 9. Odoacer, having subdued and killed Ovida, extended his rule by battle and sword.
- 1407 Fausto v.c. consule (483)
- 1408 Venantio et Theudorico (484)
- 1409 Symacho iun. v.c. consule (485)
- [p. 270]
- 1410 After Simplicius, Felix was ordained bishop of the Roman church, and he reigned 17 years, 6 months, and 17 days.
- [p. 313]
- 1411 Decio et Longino (486)
- 1412 King Euric died in the city of Arles, which he himself had captured, and his son Alaric was confirmed in his place on December 28.
- 1413 Boetio v.c. consule (487)
- 1414 Fevva, king of the Rugi, undertook a war against Odoacer, king of the Heruli. Troops were collected from both armies, and a battle was fought beyond the river Danube. Many a heap of corpses from both armies was piled up by the slaughter. But, although both kings hoped to gain the doubtful victory, Fevva was defeated and captured alive and offered to King Odoacer, who spared his life and dragged him, defeated, into Italy. The battle with Fevva and the Rugi was fought beyond the Danube on December 18.
- 1415 Dinamio et Sifidio (488)
- 1416 Probino et Eusebio (489)
- ORDO POSTERIOR AND ORDINIS POSTERIORIS MARGO
- [p. 307] (474)
- 1417 Leo the younger was elevated⁵ and at Constantinople decreed for himself the imperial authority and the consular dignity in the same year, and made good his claim with the title of Augustus.
- 1418 In the consulate of Leo the younger, Leo the elder died on January 18 and Zeno was made emperor on January 29.

- [p. 268]
- 1419 Zeno, the 46th emperor of the Romans, ruled 16 years. [Is.]
[pp. 307-309]
- 1420 Glycerius was deposed by the patrician Nepos and was
ordained bishop at Portus.
- 1421 The patrician Nepos took up the imperial authority at Portus on
June 19.
- 1422 P.c. Leonis iunioris (475)
- 1423 When Nepos was being hotly pursued by the patrician
Orestes and the army, he
put to sea, fleeing all the
way to Dalmatia.
- 1423m Afterwards [sic] when
victories were strengthen-
ing him [Nepos] by suitable
and fortunate outcomes,
he was prevented by the
prick of vanity from
realizing that someone was
claiming the opportunity
for such a usurpation. And
in the following year,
after the consulate of Leo
the younger, Orestes, the
patrician, was sent with the
flower of the army against
Nepos at Rome. Nepos did
not dare to take up the
hopeless cause by
resisting and fled,
sailing to Dalmatia on
August 28. And there for a
five-year period he ruled
in Dalmatia, giving promise
and hope of recovery.
- 1424 After the flight of Nepos,
however, the patrician Ores-
tes made his son Augustulus
emperor at Ravenna on Octo-
ber 31.
- 1424m After his flight
Orestes, who, although
proud, did not dare to
increase the desires of
his damnable temerity,
made his son Augustul-

us emperor within the
city of Ravenna on
October 31.

[p. 268]

1425 As Zeno Augustus was seeking to kill his son Leo, Leo's mother offered another of similar appearance in his place, and secretly made Leo a cleric. In the clergy he lived down to the time of Justinian. [Is.]

[pp. 309-313]

1426	Basilisco II et Armato	(476)
1427	Odoacer was made king by his army on August 23.	1427m And during the evils and unexpected disasters of the state, when Roman troops slew each other on the inside, outside peoples, who in simulated friendship were subject to Roman rule, rose up against it. For the Heruli settled within Italy created a king named Odoacer, a man serious both in age and prudence, and well-taught in military affairs.
1428	The patrician Orestes was killed at Placentia and his brother Paul at Ravenna.	1428m With an army he overthrew and deposed the patrician Orestes at Placentia. Orestes's brother Paul, residing at Ravenna, was overthrown by the army of Odoacer and died in Pineta on August 31.
1429	P.c. Basilisci et Armati	(477)
1430	Under these consuls Brachila was killed at Ravenna by King Odoacer.	1430m Odoacer, coming to Ravenna the following year, that following the consulate of Basiliscus and Armatus,

- killed Brachila, who was
opposing his rule.
- 1431 Ello v.c. consule (478)
- 1432 Under this consul Adaric, 1432m And after the second
having been subdued by King following year he killed
Odoacer, was killed on Adaric, a noble man fight-
November 19. ing against him, and Ada-
ric's brother and mother
in the consulate of Hellus
v.c. on November 19.
- 1433 Zenone pp. Aug. cons. (479)
- 1434 Basilio iuniore v.c. cons. (480)
- 1435 The emperor Nepos, while he 1435m The emperor Nepos, while
was in Dalmatia attempting he was in Dalmatia attempt-
to confirm the authority of ing to confirm the author-
his rule, was killed by his ity of his rule, was
his own people on April 25. killed by his own people
under the consul Basilis-
cus the younger.
- 1436 Placido v.c. et consule (481)
- 1437 Severino iuniore et Trecondite (482)
- 1438 King Odoacer, fighting in Dalmatia, captured and killed Ovida.
- 1439 Fauto v.c. consule (483)
- 1440 Venantio et Theudorico (484)
- 1441 Simacho iuniore v.c. cons. (485)
- [p. 270]
- 1442 After Simplicius, Felix was ordained bishop of the Roman
church, and he sat 17 years, 11 months, and 17 days.
- [p. 313]
- 1443 Decio et Longino (486)
- 1444 Boetio v.c. consul (487)
- 1445 Euric the king of the Goths died, and Alaric was made king in
his place.
- 1446 Under these consuls [sic] Odoacer king of the Heruli, having
subdued Fevva king of the Rugi in battle beyond the Danube,
captured him and dragged him, defeated, with himself into Italy.
- 1447 Dinamio et Sifidio (488)

Pineta. The fight went on a long time and many troops from both armies fell, but Libila, the master of soldiers, was killed, and King Odoacer shut himself up again within Ravenna. Theodoric assembled his army and, unwilling to assault him until the opportunity of battle revealed itself, returned to Pavia on August 18.

[p. 268]

1453 Anastasius, the 48th emperor of the Romans, ruled 27 years. [Is.]

[p. 319]

1454 Anastasio pp. Ag. cons. et Rufo (492)

[p. 269]

1455 Within Africa Trasamund, the king of the Vandals, shut the Catholic churches and sent 120 bishops in exile to Sardinia. [Is.]

1456 Also Fulgentius was eminent in the confession of the faith and in learning. [Is.]

1457 At the same time in Carthage a certain Arian named Olympius, who was blaspheming in the baths against the Holy Trinity, was burned up in the sight of everyone by the discharge of a bolt of lightning. [Is.]

1458 Also Barbus, a certain bishop, was baptizing someone against the rule of faith; when he said: "Barbus baptizes you in the name of the Father through the Son and in the Holy Spirit"; the water which was there for the baptizing immediately disappeared and was nowhere to be found. Seeing this the one who was to be baptized left without delay for the Catholic church and received baptism according to the custom of the faith of Christ. [Is.]

[pp. 319-320]

1459 Albino v.c. consule (493)

1460 King Theodoric returned to Rimini and having set out from there in a fast cutter came to the fortification of Palatioli on August 29.

1461 In that year there was a battle between Friderigus and Tufa, the master of soldiers, between Trent and Verona; when many thousands of men from both sides had fallen, the death of Tufa

put an end to the battle.

- 1462 Odoacer, suing for peace from Theodoric, received it, and gave his son as a hostage. It was not kept for long.
- 1463 Theodoric, after making peace with Odoacer, entered Classe on February 26.
- 1464 And then he entered Ravenna.
- 1465 Under the pretence of peace he killed Odoacer and all of his colleagues who administered the defense of the kingdom.

[p. 331]

- 1466 Asterio et Praesidio (494)
- 1467 Victore v.c. cons. (495)
- 1468 P.c. Viatoris v.c. consulis (496)
- 1469 Alaric obtained Saintes in the twelfth year of his rule.
- 1470 Iterum p.c. Viatoris v.c. consulis (497)
- 1471 Paulino v.c. consule (498)
- 1472 In the fourteenth year of Alaric the Franks obtained Bordeaux, took it from the rule of the Goths and made it their own possession, after they had captured the Gothic general Suatrio.
- 1473 P.c. Paulino v.c. consule (499)
- 1474 Item tertio Paulino v.c. consule (500)
- 1475 Avieno v.c. consule (501)
- 1476 Avieno alio iun. v.c. consule (502)

[p. 270]

- 1477 After Bishop Felix of the Roman church died, Gelasius was ordained bishop in his place, and reigned 4 years, 8 months, and 18 days.

[p. 331]

- 1478 Volusiano v.c. consule (503)
- 1479 Ceteo v.c. consule (504)
- 1480 Under these consuls [sic], King Theodoric entered Rome and killed Count Odomus on March 4.
- 1481 Theodoro v.c. consule (505)
- 1482 Messala v.c. consule (506)
- 1483 Venantio v.c. consule (507)

[p. 270]

- 1484 After the death of Gelasius, the pope of the city of Rome, Anastasius was ordained bishop, and reigned one year, 11

months, and 24 days.

[p. 331]

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|------|----------------------------|-------|
| 1485 | Alio Venantio v.c. consule | (508) |
| 1486 | Importuno v.c. consule | (509) |

[p. 270]

- 1487 After the death of Anastasius, Symmachus was ordained bishop of the Roman church, and reigned for 15 years, 7 months, and 17 days.

[pp. 331-333]

- | | | |
|------|--|-------|
| 1488 | Boetio iun. v.c. consule | (510) |
| 1489 | Felice v.c. consule | (511) |
| 1490 | P.c. Felice v.c. consule | (512) |
| 1491 | Probo v.c. consule | (513) |
| 1492 | Senatore v.c. consule | (514) |
| 1493 | King Theodoric came to Milan and killed Count Petia on June 7. | |
| 1494 | Florentio v.c. cons. | (515) |
| 1495 | Petro v.c. cons. | (516) |
| 1496 | Agapito v.c. cons. | (517) |
| 1497 | P.c. Agapiti v.c. cons. | (518) |

[p. 269]

- 1498 Justin the elder, the 48th emperor of the Romans, ruled 8 years. [Is.]
- 1499 In Africa, after Trasamund, Hilderic, who had been born of a captive daughter of emperor Valentinian, received the royal power. As he was pledged under oath not to favour the Catholics in his rule, he ordered before receiving the royal power that the bishops should be returned from exile, and instructed them to restore the churches. [Is.]

[p. 333]

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1500 | Eutharico Celica v.c. cons. | (519) |
| 1501 | Rustico v.c. consule | (520) |
| 1502 | Simmacho et Boetio | (521) |
| 1503 | Maximo v.c. cons. | (522) |

[p. 337]

- 1504 When Theodoric, king of the Goths, was dead, Justinian put Asbad the master of soldiers in command in Italy. He conquered the Goths in battle and made many of their generals cross the Alps with their armies; and he restored many of the cities of Italy, and chiefly those in Liguria.

[p. 270]

1505 Then in the sixth year of Justin the elder, Symmachus, the bishop of the Roman church, died, and Hormisdas was ordained bishop in his place, and reigned 18 years and 7 days.

[p. 269]

1506 Justinian, the 49th emperor of the Romans, ruled 39 years. [Is.]

[p. 337]

1507 In whose second year Asbad, after he had protected Italy from the ferocity of the Gothic people, died in Pavia and was buried in the basilica of the blessed martyr Nazarius with these verses written above his tomb:

If it were not the irrevocable end of a mortal lifetime,
And if faith did not put a limit to tears,
The continuous ages would mourn your death,
You, Asbad, whom virtue extols, equal to the ancients,
An example to strong men both in mind and body;
The state, which sparkles illuminated with innumerable
Triumphs, which both east and west confer,
Should declare public mourning for you.
You commanded mighty throngs of horse and foot,
By the right of the noble rank of magister.
You, having expelled the tribes,
Gave the Gothic Alps to Latium to rule.
Through you, diverse cities with ruined walls
Rejoice to return to their original honor.
After you, one comfort remains to the mourners:
The glory that lingers and is not buried with you.

[p. 269]

1508 Belisarius the patrician, a man well-taught in military affairs, was sent by Justinian against the Persians, who were fighting against the state, and he subdued them to such an extent with his weapons that he both brought the state back to its original condition and left the enemy in terror. [Is. augmented]

1509 After he had brought low the Persian enemies and returned to his home, he was also sent to Africa and destroyed the Vandal people with their king, as we have said above. [Is. augmented]

1510 At the same time the body of St. Anthony, the monk, having been found by divine revelation, was escorted through Alexandria and buried in the church of St. John the baptist. [Is.]

[p. 270]

- 1511 After the death of Hormisdas, John was ordained bishop of the Roman church, and he reigned 2 years, 8 months, and 16 days, in the 18th year of Justinian.
- 1512 When he died, Felix was appointed in his place, and reigned 3 years, 2 months, and 14 days.
- 1513 After him was Boniface, who reigned 2 years and 26 days.
- 1514 After Boniface, John took up the pontificate, and reigned 2 years, 4 months, and 6 days.
- 1515 After he died, Agapitus was ordained bishop in his place and reigned 11 years and 18 days.

[p. 337]

- 1518 Then, after Asbad's death, the Goths seized Italy all over again. Justinian sent the patrician Narses against them, and after he in many battles had conquered the Goths with their King Totila, he returned Italy to Roman rule and restored demolished cities. Having expelled the Goths he brought the people of all Italy back to their original joy.

[p. 269]

- 1517 Justin the younger, the 50th emperor of the Romans, ruled 11 years. [Is.]

[p. 270]

- 1518 After Agapitus, Severus was ordained bishop of the Roman church, and reigned for one year, 5 months, and 11 days.
- 1519 After his death, Vigilius was ordained bishop in his place, and reigned 17 years, 5 months, and 11 days.

[pp. 337-338]

- 1520 When Narses, the patrician, had most prosperously administered Italy, and through twelve years had restored cities and walls to their original dignity, and cherished the people with justice and prudence, he was disturbed by the threats of the Augusta Sophia, the wife of Justin, and was upset by the abusive words of the idle woman, and so he invited Alboin, king of the Lombards, with all his army from Pannonia. This Alboin, after Cunemund, king of the Gepids (who then ruled at
- In the fifth year of Justin the Lombards entered Italy.

Sirmium), began a battle with him, because of the kindling⁶ of earlier quarrels, overcame him and married his daughter. Collecting the troops of his host he entered Italy with the whole Lombard people.

1521 After the battles, the Lombards settled quietly in Italy, and he ruled justly by royal right for 2 years and 10 months. But then he was killed by a trick at Verona by his wife Rosemund, the daughter of King Cunemund, who had the help of Elmegisil, with whom she was believed to have committed adultery. This was afterwards revealed when she tried to join him to herself in the place of her husband both in marriage and also in the kingship. But, when she realized that her deceitful usurpation by no means pleased the Lombards, she fled to Ravenna with the royal treasure and her husband. But they did not long get protection there and soon lost their lives.

1522 And so with Alboin dead, Cleph was in charge of the Lombards for one year and 6 months.

1523 When he died the Lombards were without a king for twelve years, only dukes were in charge. First among them was Zafan, the Duke of Pavia, who attempted to attack Gaul and disgracefully lost most of the strength of the Lombards at the Rhone river not far from the place of the martyrs of Agaunum (which the virtue of the martyr Maurice chiefly adorns), and fleeing with the few who survived by running away, headed back to Italy.

[p. 269]

1524 The Goths, having lost Italy, enjoyed the newly-acquired possession of Spain, where, following Totila, Leuvigild ruled, and reduced to the authority of his realm, by fighting and conquest, certain regions of Spain rebelling against him. [Is. augmented]

1525 Tiberius, the 51st emperor of the Romans ruled 7 years. [Is.]

[p. 270]

1526 After the death of Vigilus, Pelagius was ordained bishop of the Roman church, and reigned 4 years, 5 months, and 9 days.

1529 After him, John was ordained bishop, and reigned 12 years, 11 months, and 27 days.

[p. 269]

- 1530 Through Ermenegild, the son of King Leuwigild, the Goths were rent in twain and ravaged by mutual slaughter. [Is.]
[p. 270]
- 1531 After John, Benedict took up the pontificate of the Roman church, and reigned 4 years, 1 month, and 28 days.
[pp. 269-270]
- 1530 Maurice, the 52nd emperor of the Romans, ruled 11 years. [Is.]
- 1531 The Sueves, who inhabited districts within Spain, were taken by King Leuwigild and were subjected to the Goths. [Is.]
[p. 338]
- 1532 After the rule of the dukes, King Authari was put in charge of the Lombards in Italy and reigned 6 years and 6 months. He restored by his own ability and prudence the strength of the Lombards that had been shattered in Gaul and overcame the Franks who were wreaking devastation widely in Italy by killing their general Ollo at the fortress of Tiligona.
- 1533 He also, after having initiated friendship with the Franks, married a wife taken from the Bavarians, the most glorious queen Theudelinda, who nourished the Lombard people not so much by royal authority as by feelings of piety.
[p. 270]
- 1534 After Leuwigild, the Goths established Reccared in the royal office. He, by orthodoxly striving for the unity of the ecclesiastical faith, separated the whole Gothic people from the Arian impiety and united them to the Catholic church. [Is. augmented]
[p. 270]
- 1535 When Benedict died, Pelagius took up the pontificate of the Roman church and reigned 10 years, 2 months, and 10 days.
[p. 338]
- 1536 The Avars fought against the Romans and most infamously wore down the state. They were driven away not by battle but by gold and gifts. [Is. augmented]⁷
[p. 270]
- 1537 After the decease of Pelagius, Gregory, the glory of the whole church, a man as powerful in spiritual virtues and miracles as

he was in doctrine and knowledge, was ordained bishop. After he had most gloriously ruled the church for 13 years, 6 months, and 10 days, he returned his spirit to heaven. He did good not only to the people of the Roman church committed to him, but also to foreign peoples, converting to the faith the English, a people located in the farthest ocean.

[p. 338]

1538 When the Romans were enduring battles on all sides and saw grave conflicts and misfortunes to the state multiplying, and were unable to overcome external enemies, they were inflamed to start fighting each other. Battalions assembled from all directions and the soldiers made Focas their leader and rose up against Maurice, who was ruling them with just authority. When Focas had butchered him along with many nobles in a massacre, Focas himself then took up the imperial authority. In his time he inflicted on the state such things as we will describe below. [Is. greatly augmented]⁷

[p. 270]

1539 Focas, the 53rd emperor of the Romans, ruled 8 years.

[p. 338]

1540 The Green and Blue factions brought about a civil war in the Orient and Egypt, and ruined each other with mutual slaughter. [Is.]⁷

1541 While these things were being done within the state, on the outside the Persians were excited against it. They advanced with such very hostile fighting that they removed from Roman authority innumerable provinces next to their realm, including even Egypt and Judea, and made them tributary to themselves. [Is. augmented]⁷

[p. 339]

1542 After Authari, Agilulf, also known as Ago, ruled the Lombards for 25 years.

1543 Agilulf married the most glorious Queen Theudelinda.

1544 While the Romans were fighting each other, he conquered and ruined many cities that were under Roman protection. He captured the suburbs of Cremona, Brescello, and Mantua, and he demolished and levelled them.

1545 Last of all he proceeded to besiege the city of Rome. There he found the blessed Gregory, who then splendidly ruled the church, running out to meet him at the steps of the basilica of blessed Peter, the prince of the apostles. The king was softened by the prayers and deeply stirred by the wisdom and dignity of such a great man, and so he retired from the siege of the city. Yet those things which he had seized he kept, and returning he recovered Milan.

[p. 271]

1546 After the decease of the blessed Gregory, Savinian was ordained bishop of the Roman church, and reigned one year, 5 months, and 8 days.

1547 When he died, Boniface was ordained bishop in his place, and reigned 8 months and 22 days.

1548 After his death, another Boniface took up the episcopate, and reigned 6 years, 8 months, and 13 days.

[p. 339]

1549 Heraclius ruled as the 54th emperor of the Romans, and he now is in his 30th year. Heraclius made his son Heraclius Constantine his partner in royal power.

1550 The Persians, fighting against the state, reached as far as Chalcedon.

1551 Indeed from another direction the Huns, breaking through the Long Wall and advancing up to the city walls, talked with Heraclius, who was standing within the protection of the ramparts, and accepting payment from him they went away.

1552 Heraclius sent Eleutherius to watch over that part of Italy not yet occupied by the Lombards.

[p. 271]

1553 Boniface died and Deusdedit was made pontiff of the Roman church and he reigned 3 years and 20 days.

[p. 339]

1554 Eleutherius often engaged in battle against the Lombards and was often vanquished, particularly by the Lombard duke Sundrarius, who had been well taught in military affairs by Agilulf. When Eleutherius had lost heart and had often seen the ruin of his forces, he made peace with the Lombards, but

under this condition, that the Romans should pay five hundred pounds which they had formerly agreed to give the Lombards every year when King Agilulf had come to besiege Rome.

1555 When Eleutherius saw that the Lombard people were pacified towards him, he attempted to seize the imperial power. But when he had already put on the purple and demanded that a crown be given to him, he was encouraged by the intervention of the venerable John to go to Rome and there, where the seat of empire still remained, take up the crown. Approving this advice he gave effect to it. But in his audacity he did not long retain this rash usurpation. For when he had departed from Ravenna and proceeded to Rome, he was killed at the fort of Luciolis by a few of the soldiers already accompanying him on his journey.

1556 Agilulf died at Milan, and his son Adaloald took up the administration of the royal power with his mother Theudelinda and ruled with his mother for ten years.

University of Toronto

NOTES

¹ Cf. Gregory of Tours *Historia Francorum* 2.9 (MGH, *Script. rer. Merov.* 1, 1:72), where Gregory is quoting from the lost work of Sulpicius Alexander.

² Cf. Gregory of Tours *Hist. Franc.* 2.7 (MGH, *Script. rer. Merov.* 1, 1:70-71); also Jordanes *Getica* 41 (MGH, AA 5:113).

³ Cf. c. 1555: "But in his audacity [Eleutherius] did not long retain this rash usurpation."

⁴ Cf. c. 1545.

⁵ I have accepted Cessi's suggestion that this entry originally began "*Levatus est Leo iunior imperium. . . .*"

⁶ Reading *fomes* for *fomenta*.

⁷ Mommsen argues (p. 338, n. 3, 4, 6) that the resemblance of these four entries to Isidore *Chronica Maiora* 409, 411-413 (MGH, AA 11:478) is due not to the Copenhagen Continuator's use of Isidore, as in previous instances, but is the result of both Isidore and the Italian chronicler using a common Italian source for these events. Given the known use of Isidore by the Copenhagen Continuator, the latter's tendency to embroider his sources, and the hypothetical nature of the common source, Mommsen's argument is not convincing.