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Online

THE DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL LATIN FROM BRITISH SOURCES

The most comprehensive study ever
produced of Latin in medieval Britain
now available Online!



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Dictionary of Medieval Latin

DMLBS

from British Sources Online

The most comprehensive study ever produced of Latin in medieval Britain

The *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* (DMLBS), the first fascicle of which appeared in 1975 and the 17th and last in 2013, is “the most comprehensive dictionary of Medieval Latin to have been produced and the first ever to focus on British Medieval Latin”. Covering a particularly long period stretching from Gildas (*fl.* 540) to William Camden (1600), it is “wholly based on original research”, that is to say on the close reading of thousands of Medieval Latin texts. This has been carried out specifically for the purpose of recording their distinctive lexical characteristics, and, as far as possible, using the best available sources, whether original manuscripts or modern critical editions. It is also based on systematic searches within computer databases, including the *Library of Latin Texts* (LLT-A and LLT-B), where many of the texts can be found that make up the sources for the DMLBS.

The digitised version of the DMLBS, without at all taking away the usefulness of the printed version, presents a real asset in that it allows searching not only by **headwords, but also by Latin word-forms, non-Latin word-forms, references and the full text**, criteria that can be combined in a single search.

The online launch of the DMLBS on the Brepolis platform is the result of a collaboration between the British Academy and Brepols Publishers.

“British sources”

The “British sources” as defined here are mainly Latin texts written in Great Britain during the period mentioned above, either by British authors or by authors who lived in Britain (among them Anselm of Aosta or of Canterbury and Lanfranc). However, the DMLBS also includes British authors such as Alcuin or Wynfrith (*alias* Boniface), who have written abroad, as well as texts coming from territories under the administration of the English crown (such as Ireland, the Channel Islands, Normandy), and finally, letters and other documents in Latin sent to British authors and conserved among their writings.

Key Features - Online Version

- ▶ The complete printed version (©Oxford University Press) available Online
- ▶ Multilingual interface (English, French, German and Italian)
- ▶ Search by Latin dictionary headwords, Latin words, non-Latin words, textual references and full text
- ▶ Ability to use Wildcards and Operators
- ▶ The list of common abbreviations as well as the bibliographical information have been included in the Online version

Latin in Britain

Although in itself a foreign language in Britain, Latin has known in this country, mainly as a written language, a remarkable vitality in the Middle Ages. So we know the names of more than 2,000 authors writing in British medieval Latin, more than 500 of whom are regularly cited as sources in the DMLBS, without counting the many texts by anonymous authors, as well as private and public records.

Vocabulary

Like other dictionaries of “regional” medieval Latin, the DMLBS focuses primarily on the characteristics of the Latin of the reference context, be it new meanings of existing words or new words, which are not found elsewhere. These new words can have a completely Latin formation, such as we see in the verb *semidormitare* found in the *De excidio Britanniae* of Gildas, or they can be derived from a variety of languages, including Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Norman, Middle English, Norman, Old French, Arabic (with the discovery of philosophical and scientific texts), Old Norse, a series of Celtic and Germanic languages, as well as Greek, which remained an important influence.

Genres covered:

administrative and
legal documents;
stories and
chronicles; literary,
philosophical,
scientific and
religious texts;
translations;
glossaries ...

The screenshot shows the DMLBS Online interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'BREPOLIS', 'All Products', language options (EN, FR, DE, IT), and links for 'Home', 'Settings', 'Help', and 'Logout'. Below this is the main header 'DMLBS Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources' with a 'Last Update: 2015-07-23' timestamp. The search bar contains 'hundredsetenum' and shows 'Results 1 - 1 of 1'. The main content area displays the entry for 'hundredsetenum', including its definition, usage examples, and a list of 'Surrounding Headwords' such as 'hundredesich', 'hundrededum', 'hundredesida', 'hundredmannus', 'hundredscotum', 'hundredsetenum', 'hundredsetanus', 'hundredum', 'hundredum (hundredus...)', 'hundred-', and 'hundreds-'. There are also buttons for 'Export', 'Abbreviations', and 'Bibliography'.

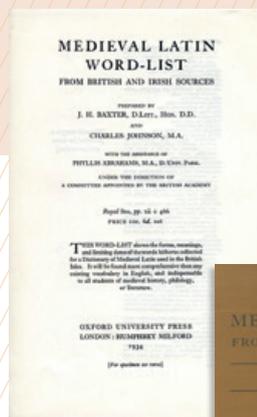
» Entry from the
DMLBS Online

The project: from Print to Online...

At the beginning of the 20th century, the project is initiated with the gathering of quotation evidence on slips.

1934

An interim report, the *Medieval Latin Word-List from British and Irish Sources*, is published by the British Academy.



1975

The first fascicle of the *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* is published.



2013

The 17th and last fascicle of the *Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources* is published.



2015

The DMLBS is launched Online.



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