

Central and Eastern Europe in Norman and Anglo-Norman chronicles (ca.
1050-1150) – summary

The period from the 1140s to the mid-12th century was exceptionally important for the history of the Duchy of Normandy and the Kingdom of England due to rapid political, social and cultural changes. In the first of these countries, it began with the consolidation of power by William I the Conqueror, who in 1035, at the age of seven, inherited the throne. In the second, the turning point is the return to power in 1042, after more than two decades of Danish rule, of a representative of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty of Wessex - Edward the Confessor. The conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066 led to the creation of the Anglo-Norman state. After the monarch's death in 1087, Robert II took power in Normandy, and his younger brother William II in England. Finally, in 1106 – after the death of William II and the defeat of Robert II – Henry I, the youngest son of William the Conqueror, took power in the Anglo-Norman state. He held it until his death in 1135. The end of the period was marked by power struggles after the death of Henry I between his daughter, Empress Matilda, and her uncle Stephen of Blois. The conquest of Normandy by Matilda's second husband Godfrey V Plantagenet in 1144 and the death of Stephen of Blois and the accession of Henry II Plantagenet to the throne of England in 1154 ended the reign of the Norman dynasty.

During this period, the development of the state occurred, which was one of the centers of the so-called Renaissance of the 12th century. One of the signs of rapid intellectual development in Normandy, and then also in England, was the flourishing of historical writing. At that time, several extremely diverse chronicles were created, which accurately recorded the history of the Anglo-Norman state and noted many events from the rest of the world at that time. Central and Eastern Europe also appears regularly in the Norman and Anglo-Norman chronicles, the reception of which is the main subject of our considerations. The work was based on the works of eight Norman and Anglo-Norman chroniclers: William of Jumièges (author of *Gesta Normannorum Ducum*), William of Poitiers (author of *Gesta Guillelmi*),

Eadmer of Canterbury (author of *Historia Novorum in Anglia*), John of Worcester (author of *Chronicon ex chronicis*), Orderic Vitalis (author of the interpolations to *Gesta Normannorum Ducum* and *Historia Ecclesiastica*), William of Malmesbury (author of *Gesta Regum Anglorum*, *Gesta Pontificum Anglorum* and *Historia Novella*), Simeon of Durham (author of *Historia Regum*) and Henry of Huntingdon (author of *Historia Anglorum*).

The work has been divided into four chapters. The first discusses historiographical traditions and intellectual life in England and Normandy before 1050. Norman and Anglo-Norman chroniclers often referred to earlier authors – most often Bede the Venerable, Dudon of Saint-Quentin and the authors of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. The second presents the biographies of the discussed chroniclers – William of Jumièges, William of Poitiers, Eadmer of Canterbury, John of Worcester, Orderic Vitalis, William of Malmesbury, Simeon of Durham and Henry of Huntingdon – and their works. In the third chapter, we show the geographic horizons of the chroniclers based on information from their works. Of great importance in this part of the work is the presentation of the areas that were closest to the historiographers, and which appeared only sporadically. We have shown here that the chronicles placed England and Normandy in the center of the narrative, and none of the chroniclers, when describing his contemporaries, paid much attention to events outside the Anglo-Norman state. The fourth chapter is divided into five subchapters, in which we discuss the most important issues related to the reception of Central and Eastern Europe by Norman and Anglo-Norman chroniclers. In the first one, we discussed the historical memory related to the origin of the English and Normans, the second one was devoted to the presentation of the emperors Henry IV and Henry V, the third one focused on the knowledge of Scandinavia in the Anglo-Norman chronicles, the fourth one focused on the perception of the Slavs, and the fifth one on the accounts of the stay of the Anglo-Saxon prince Edward the Exile in Central and Eastern Europe.