

Casley 1734 David Casley, A catalogue of the manuscripts of the King's Library (London, 1734).

A  
CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
MANUSCRIPTS  
OF THE  
KING'S LIBRARY:

An APPENDIX to the CATALOGUE of the  
Cottonian Library;  
Together with an Account of BOOKS burnt or damaged by a late Fire:

One Hundred and Fifty SPECIMENS of the Manner of Writing in  
different Ages, from the Third to the Fifteenth Century, in  
Cooper-Plate:

And some Observations upon MSS, in a PREFACE:

By DAVID CASLEY, Deputy Librarian.

LONDON:

Printed for the Author, and sold by him at the said Libraries, now  
in the old Dormitory of Westminster School; and also by Robert  
Gosling, at the Mitre and Crown in Fleet-street; and John  
Brindley, at the King's-Arms in New Bond-street. M.DCC.XXXIV.

.....

An Account of the Copper-Plates. <Casley 1734:346–50>

Here follow Specimens of 150 several Hand-writings, very exactly drawn and ingraven by Mr. John Tinney of Canon-street, London, on sixteen Copper Plates, in a Chronological Order, down to the Conclusion of the fifteenth Century after Christ's Nativity: whereby the curious Reader will be made acquainted with the variety of Hands of different times, and also of the same time; and may learn to guess at their Age. The first ten Plates are taken from Charters and single Parchments, that happen to have a Date, or a King's Name, by which the Age may be known: the rest from Books, which still are put in the order of time, as near as may be. And the Places from which the Ages are proved, are commonly made the Specimens: and but a few Words of a Sentence, it being foreign to the present design to have any regard to the Sense of the MS. And the very Faults are ingraven, as they are found in the Originals.

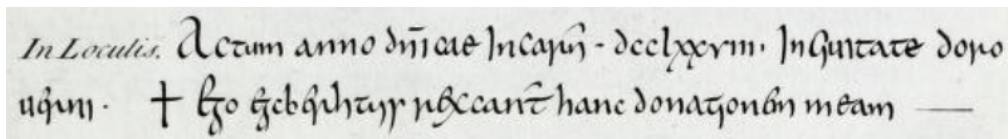
Having already in the Preface given some Observations upon MSS, it would be needless here to add any more, if, upon shewing Specimens of the Plates, it had not been objected, that a great many Purchasers would not be able to read them. And indeed it is not my design here

to teach how to read MSS, that being better learned by Practice than Precept. However, to satisfy such Objecters, so far as concerns those Plates, they are here reprinted with common Types, and in Words at length; and also some further Account of the Specimens is given, where it seems necessary.

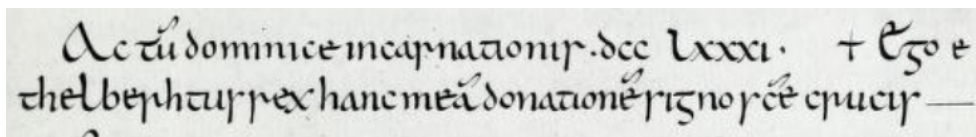
The first Specimen . . . . .

<plate III>

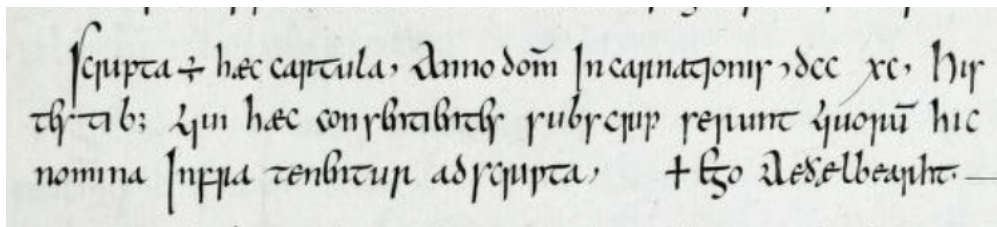
The Charters, of which the three following are Specimens, are in the Drawers.



Actum anno Dominicae Incarnationis 778, in civitate Dorouerni. + Ego Egberhtus Rex Cant. hanc donationem meam --- <viii 34>



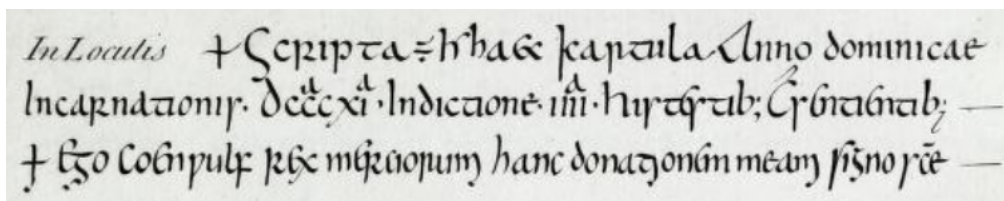
Actum Dominice incarnationis 781. + Ego Ethelberhtus Rex hanc meam donationem signo sancte crucis --- <vi 4>



Scripta est haec cartula, anno Dominicae Incarnationis, 790, His testibus, qui haec consentientes subscripserunt, quorum hic nomina infra tenentur adscripta. + Ego Aethelbearht --- <viii 29>

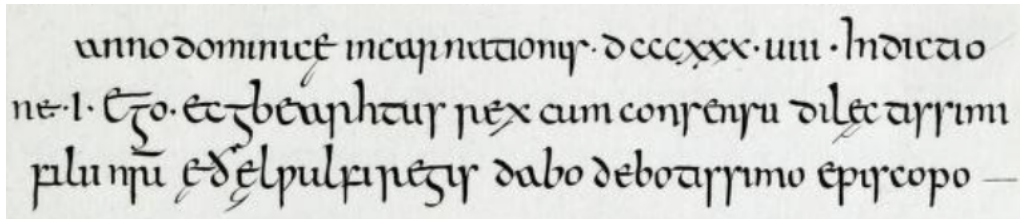
<plate IV>

The five following are in the Drawers. <three from Rochester>



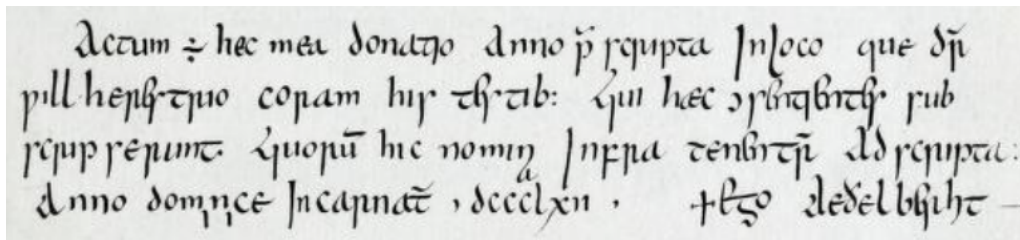
Scripta est autem haec Cartula anno Dominicae Incarnationis 811, Indictione 4, His testibus

consentientibus. + Ego Coenwulf Rex Merciorum hanc donatio-  
nem meam signo sancte --- <viii 31>



anno dominice incarnationis. dcccxxx.iiii. Indictio  
ne. 1. Ego Ecgbearhtus rex cum consensu dilectissimi  
filii mei Aethelwulfi Regis dabo debotissimo episcopo ---

Anno Dominicae Incarnationis 838, Indictione 1. Ego Ecgbearhtus Rex, cum consensu dilectissimi filii mei Aethaelwulfi Regis, dabo debotissimo episcopo --- <viii 30>

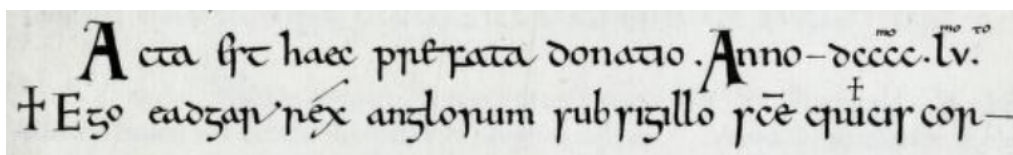


Actum est hec mea donatio Anno prescripta in loco que dicitur  
Will herestrio coram his testibus: qui hec consentientes sub  
scripserunt. Quorum hic nomina infra tenentur adscripta.  
Anno dominice incarnationis, dcccclxii. + Ego Aethelberht ---

Actum est hec mea donatio anno prescripta in loco que dicitur  
Will herestrio, coram his testibus, qui hæc consentientes subscripse-  
runt, quorum hic nomina infra tenentur adscripta. Anno Dominice  
Incarnat. 862. + Ego Aethelberht --- <viii 32>

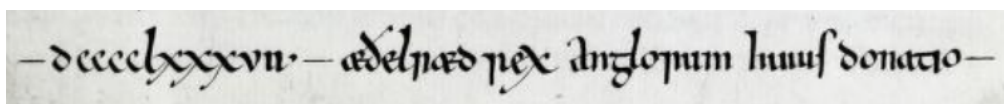
<plate V>

The seven following are in the Drawers. <two from Rochester>



Acta est haec prefata donatio Anno - dcccclv.  
+ Ego Eadgar rex anglorum sub sigillo sancte crucis cor-

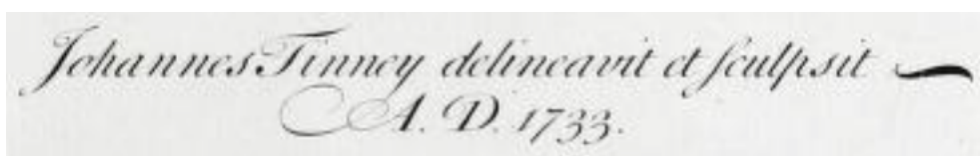
Acta est haec prefata donatio Anno --- 955. + Ego Eadgar Rex  
Anglorum sub sigillo sancte crucis + cor --- <viii 33>



- dcccclxxvii. - Aethelred rex anglorum hujus donatio -

--- 987 --- Aethelred Rex Anglorum hujus donatio --- <viii 14>

<plate XVI>



Johannes Finney delineavit et sculpsit  
A. D. 1733.

<The plates commissioned for Casley's book were drawn and engraved by John Tinney (d 1761). Of the specimens of Anglo-Saxon handwriting in plates I–VI, some were copied from the charters bound up in Cotton Augustus ii, some from the collection of loose charters kept at the time in the drawers of an unnamed press, "in no certain order" (Casley 1734:316). Eight of the charters represented came from Rochester, all of them "in the drawers", "in loculis". Until the 1870s, these were the only facsimiles of them available.>