

**THE RECORD INTERPRETER: A
COLLECTION OF ABBREVIATIONS,
LATIN WORDS AND NAMES USED
IN ENGLISH HISTORICAL
MANUSCRIPTS AND RECORDS**

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The Record Interpreter: A Collection of Abbreviations, Latin Words and Names Used in English Historical Manuscripts and Records by Charles Trice Martin

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CHARLES TRICE MARTIN

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A COLLECTION OF

ABBREVIATIONS, LATIN WORDS AND NAMES

USED IN

ENGLISH HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS
AND RECORDS.

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PREFACE.



THE present volume is really an amplification of the Appendix to the ninth edition of Wright's "Court Hand Restored," which I brought out in 1879, with the addition of a list of the abbreviated forms of Latin and French words used in English records and manuscripts.

Several such lists have been published at various times, the most used, perhaps, in England being Chassant's "Dictionnaire des Abréviations," and the list in the fourth volume of the "Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense," edited by the late Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy in the series of "Chronicles and Memorials."

This latter, however, being merely a portion of the preface of a historical book, is not so well known nor so convenient for use as if it occurred in a book devoted to information of this class.

I have endeavoured also to justify the printing of another such list by arranging the abbreviations in such a manner as to facilitate the finding the word wanted. In some lists this is not easy, unless one knows what the word is in full.

The principle acted on has been as follows:—Letters with marks of contraction attached to them, represented by a single type, are separated from the same letters printed in the ordinary

way. The order thus is—the letter followed by a letter; the letter followed by a sign; the letter with a sign attached.

For instance, in the vowels the order is as follows:—

e.g., E : ea, eb, ec, to ez ;

then—e_z, e_l, e², e_z ;*

then—ē, ě.

In the consonants, *e.g.*, N : na to nz ;

then—n_z, n_l, n², n_z ;

then—ū, ũ, ű.

In the letter C, c follows ċ.

In the letter P, the order of contracted forms is p, p̄, p̄̄, p̄̄̄.

In the letter Q : q, q̄, q̄̄.

Superior letters—that is, letters printed above the line—are considered in the arrangement as if printed on the line in the ordinary way.

In manuscripts such letters often have contraction marks added to them, but it is impossible to represent these in type, and an apostrophe has had to do duty instead, as prin', *principalis*. In a manuscript the *l* would be struck through.

According to the correct principles of writing, the mark of contraction in a word should be placed over a letter after which

* These marks of contraction, being separate types, are arranged before those which are attached to the letter, in order to keep such forms as cf²_z, deb_z, g², mo_z, p_z, sol_z, su², t_z distinct from cf²_z, deb_z, ġ², mō_z, p_z, sol_z, sū², ū_z. Unfortunately this was not apparent at the commencement of the work, so that a few words (*e.g.*, a²) are printed in their wrong places, but this is corrected at p. 341.

a letter is omitted, or over a letter before and after which letters are omitted, as $\tilde{p}r$, *pater*; $\tilde{d}na$, *domina*; $\tilde{f}ct$, *fecit*; but such forms as $p\tilde{r}$, $\tilde{d}na$, $\tilde{f}ct$, sometimes occur, perhaps from carelessness on the part of the scribe. Some of these false forms are inserted, but by no means all, so that if any word occurring in a manuscript is not at once found in the list, it should be looked for under some other form containing the same letters of the alphabet, but with different contractions.

The marks of contraction used in printing are intended to represent the typical forms of the contractions used in manuscripts, and necessarily appear more formal and uniform than those which may vary with the caprice or carelessness of a scribe.

Their signification is as follows:—

— means *m* or *n* following the letter thus marked; e.g. \tilde{i} =*in*,
 $\tilde{o}nis$ =*omnis*,

\sim either over a short letter or through a long letter means the omission of some single letter not *m* or *n*, or of more than one letter either after, or before and after, the letter thus marked.

e.g., \tilde{a} =*ac*, *apud*, $\tilde{a}s$ =*alias*.

$\tilde{d}nis$ =*dominus*, $\tilde{c}aria$ =*carmina*.

$\tilde{i}pe$ =*ipse*.

\int means *er*; e.g., $\int n\tilde{t}$, *inter*; $\int r\tilde{u}$, *ferrum*.

$\overset{\int}{p}$; e.g., $\overset{\int}{p}$, *præ*.

$\overset{\int}{i}$; e.g., $\overset{\int}{i}$, *serviæ*, *servire*.

ƒ means *is*; e.g., fore, foris.

° „ *us*; e.g., ipi°, ipsius.

os; e.g., p^otea, postea.

3 „ *us*; e.g., quibz, quibus.

et; e.g., licz, licet.

Added to **q** it means *quia*, and sometimes *que*, or *quæ*, though these words are more correctly written **q**.

Occasionally it stands for *que*, as absz, absque, and in some MSS. for *m* or almost any final letters; as bōz, bonitatem; err^oz, errorem.

z „ *rum*; e.g., aīaz, animarum; baoz, beatorum. It is sometimes used in the middle of a word, as cozpere, corrumpere.

ram; e.g., Alienoz, Alienoram.

raz; e.g., libz, libras.

res; e.g., Windesoz, Windesores.

ris; e.g., conquestoz, conquestoris; libz, libris.

9 „ *cum*, *com*, *con*, or *cog*; e.g., c, cum; cḡ, computat; c^a, contra; cḡovit, cognovit.

The marks attached to the letter **P** are as follows:—

p, *per*, *par*, *por*; e.g., pṣōa, persona; cḡet, comparet; pta, porta.

ṗ, *præ*, *pre*; e.g., ṗsūs, præsens; sup^ṗmus, supremus.

p, *pro*; e.g., pceres, proceres; ṗpp^e, improprie.

ṗ indicates the omission of almost any other letters than those mentioned above; e.g., ṗea, postea; ṗa, pœna; ṗeta, puncta; ṗpa, papa.

The marks attached to the letter Q are as follows:—

q, usually *quod*, but also used for *quæ*, *quam*, *que*, *quo*, and followed by other letters *qui*, as qd, *quid*; qbꝛ, *quibus*.

q̄, *quæ*, *que*, *quem*, and as part of a word it has very various meanings, as q̄ela, *querela*; q̄ntum, *quantum*; q̄one, *questione*; q̄ppe, *quippe*.

q̄ means *que*.

qꝛ ,, *quia*.

A superior letter indicates the omission of two or more letters of which this is one; e.g., q^os, *quos*; c^lo, *circulo*; capⁱ, *capituli*.

A point below a letter indicates that it should be deleted, and points under or inverted commas over two words indicate that they ought to be transposed.

Many words will be found in this list which do not conform to the principles here stated, but they have been found in MSS., and inserted accordingly.

As a rule the nominative case of nouns is given as the meaning, as ft, *filius*; and sometimes the case most frequently met with, as fr, *Francorum*; but this does not exclude other cases as well.

The glossary does not pretend, as no glossary can, to take the place of a dictionary, where the meanings of words are discussed, and quotations given to explain their use; but still it is hoped that it will be found useful, although the information contained in it is given in a rather abrupt form.

The list of Latin names of places in England contains most of the names which a student of history is likely to require, but of course it might be very much enlarged by adding the Latin names of a great many villages and hamlets which are merely formed from the English names.

It will be noticed that both among the place names and the surnames there are some which clearly have not derived their origin from the times when Latin was, as far as literature and law are concerned, a living language, but are the artificial formation of later times, often founded on very false and absurd etymologies, such as *Ventus Morbidus* for Windsor, and *de Corvo Spinae*, Crowthorn. Some of these have been inserted, though they may seem rather out of place, for they perhaps present as much difficulty as the more genuine Latin names.

In the list of Christian names there are several blanks in the second column. These are opposite to Latin names which I inserted in my list, hoping some day to find them in English, but that day has not yet come; so, confessing my ignorance, I leave the blanks for some more learned or more fortunate person than myself to fill up.

December, 1891.

C. T. M.