

# **Medieval Literary and Historical Manuscripts in the Cotton Collection, British Library London.**

## **PART TWO: Cotton Caligula - Cotton Claudius**



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An Imprint of PRIMARY SOURCE *Media*

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IN THE COTTON COLLECTION FROM THE  
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Part Two: Cotton Caligula - Cotton Claudius

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Harvester Microform are proud and privileged to publish one of the great literary and historical treasures of the British nation - the Cotton Collection of Manuscripts.

Few other collections are so consistently rich and almost every volume is of prime importance - many crucial to our knowledge of past history and literature.

This first series from the Cotton Collection includes all manuscripts that are primary sources for English literature and British history from the middle of the twelfth century to the end of the fifteenth century.

The selection has been undertaken by Professor Paul Harvey, University of Durham, and a former member of the British Library Manuscript Department. Volumes have been omitted only where they are outside the period, where they are not primarily concerned with British history or literature, or where they contain principally cartularies, which are covered by the Harvester Cartularies programme.

Some medical recipes, works of natural philosophy, genealogy and heraldry, law reports and theological tracts or sermons are also excluded - but exclusion of volumes falling into these categories is not automatic and a judgement has been made about how far reproduction of any volume is likely to be useful to literary or historical research.

Notable manuscripts in this part are: Caligula A.ii (a collection of Old English poems including several by Lydgate, 'Ypotis - a religious legend' and 'Emare - an old romance' which Chaucer used for his Man of Lawes Tale); Caligula A.xi (a 'Piers Plowman' text, and an historical poem by Robert of Gloucester written in Old English in the fourteenth century); Claudius A.viii (a chronicle of the reign of Henry V and a collection of State Papers); Claudius A.xi (a valuable collection of correspondence by Lanfranc); Claudius D.vi (one of the beautiful St. Albans manuscripts featuring autograph work of Matthew Paris); and Claudius D.viii (the constitution of the University of Oxford and writings of John Wickliff).

As an aid to the reader a Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Cottonian Library deposited in the British Museum (1802) has been reproduced on the first reel of the first part.

The 1802 catalogue is still extremely useful, although the foliation of some items has changed and later scholarly work has altered some attributions. A summary hard-copy finding aid providing brief descriptions of all items in the first three parts of this series will be provided with the third part.

Film Order to the British Library for the filming of the Cotton Collection, Part Two at the British Library, London.

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