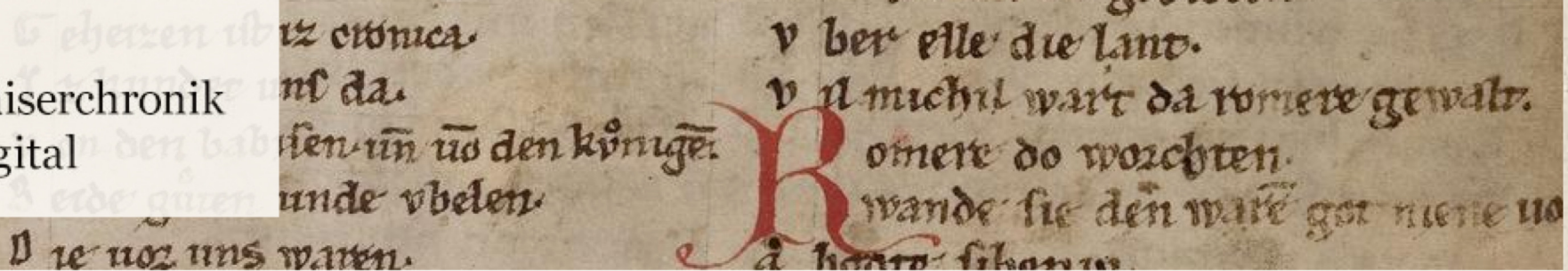


# *Kaiserchronik* connections

Mark Chinca, University of Cambridge



## Home

### Kaiserchronik

#### Digital Edition

- › Manuscripts
- › Episodes synoptic

#### Information

- › Notes for users
- › Editorial Principles
- › Functionality
- › Terms of Use
- › Research Literature

#### Project

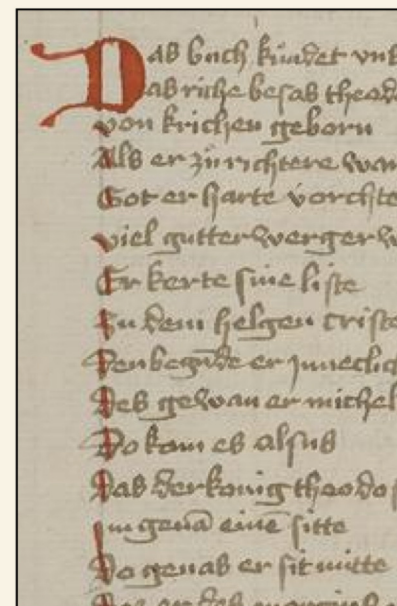
- › Project description
- › Project Team

## KAISERCHRONIK DIGITAL

The *Kaiserchronik*, completed c.1150, is a seminal work of European literature. It is both the first verse chronicle in any European vernacular language and - at some 17,000 lines - the longest work of early Middle High German literature. With 50 witnesses dating from the 12th until the 16th century, it is also its most widely transmitted in terms of geographical spread, temporal longevity, and number of extant manuscripts.

The *Kaiserchronik-digital* edition captures all of these known witnesses - both as digital facsimiles and as full searchable transcriptions. It allows easy comparison between the three recensions of the text (A, B, C) and as such fulfills the long-standing desideratum of medieval German scholarship to present and understand the work in its full and significant dimensions. It also provides an outstanding corpus for historical-linguistic analysis.

Two of the manuscripts ([Cod. Pal. germ 154](#), [Cod. Pal. germ 361](#)), which are both part of the tradition of recension A ("the old text"), belong to the Bibliotheca Palatina and are held in the Heidelberg University Library.



*Kaiserchronik*, ed. Edward  
Schröder, prologue, lines  
18–23

iz chundet uns dâ  
von den bâbesen unt von den chunigen,  
baidiu guoten unt ubelen,  
die vor uns wâren  
und Rômiscs riches phlâgen  
unze an disen hiutegen tac.

It informs us about the the popes and kings,  
both good and bad, who lived before us and  
ruled the Roman empire, down to this  
present day.

*Kaiserchronik*, lines  
14815–818

Karl der Pippînes sun,  
der sæligen Perhtun,  
der gwan den namen scône,  
daz er der êrste kaiser wart ze Rôme  
von Diutisken landen.

Charles, son of Pippin and blessed Bertha,  
rightly gained the title of having become the  
first emperor in Rome from German lands.

Vorau, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod.  
276

last quarter of 12th century, Austro-  
Bavarian

fol. 63v (Charlemagne)

dal er durch dal kint noch durch dal wip.  
besurme dal unriht. von den tage be  
hiet sich ugegelych gut. er uorhte  
ob man in warte. sinde oder scante.  
dal er sin warte uerlorn. in mer mal  
995 len om uer korn. **O**driht der kaiser  
leler. erst. dal in do duhte aller herst.  
umbe di biscopp. unt umbe di ewarten.  
ia was uergetlen harte. der pfahre con  
stantin. do rihte er dabi. umbe lehent  
unt umbe wideman. do behert er auer  
widore. diu sacra. do riht er auer sa.  
umbe der bdiute gewarte. dal machte  
996 der havel do stete. **V**y wu ich in sagen  
umbe den bdi man. wiler nach der pfä  
ht sohte antragen. il si swart. oder gra.  
nirt anders. redit er da. garen daen  
neben. dal gelimet sinem leber. sinen  
rinden in sich. da mit ist des genuch  
siben etne lehemede unt lebruch. ruy  
sin idch. ist der gote hin den o der uor.  
so hat er sin ewerth uerlorn. seht tage bi  
dem pfuge. unt ander arbat genuge.  
andem sintage sol er lek irthen gan.  
den gart in der hant tragen. wut dal  
swor da im uonden. man sol in uiden  
gebonden. ledem kyth lüne. da habe  
man den geburen. unt slabe im hut  
unt har abe. ober auer uuentchaft. magt.  
so wer sich mit der gabelen. dal reht  
997 silt in der chunuch karle. **K**arl der  
Pippin. sin. der saligen porsun.  
der gewin den namen seone. dal er der  
erste kaiser wart. leome. von unskon  
landen. romart un wol rekanen. von  
den tage rome mer. so wöhsen karle  
siner. swant er mit sinem swarte ub  
er wart. dal er romart bedwund.  
dal sigote wörsen under tan. uil ma  
998 nige seie er den neucl beuun. **O**der  
leome geucharte sine pfahrt. unt er  
ellw reht beuante. umbe angen unt  
umbe lehen. umbe man. unt umbe  
her ren. do kerter leappull. an udr  
ste was da. gehalten was er ddelhart.  
an gotes wider wart. durch des re-

hesnot. der udrste wart geböcort.  
di sine wdr den geuangen. der kai  
999 ser kerte dannen. **A**in stat ist da.  
gehalten so sinnia. der udrste hiel  
lesidenus. der berhte ellw sine huf.  
wider den ruche werhaft. do gew  
anc in des kaisers craft. dal er müse  
dingen mit siner tohter minnen.  
diu frde hiel dua. diu frden namer da.  
er udrte siladem nne. des frden sich  
1000 diu sine. **O**di westualen ir lant im  
erzaben diu frsen säten sich do har  
te wider ir uber mit gelach da ni  
dgt. diu säten newöten sin nirten  
pfahen. udrsten diu do da waren. di  
ubten ir ratten sate. dem kaiser uabten  
si mit. der kaiser wart sigglos. wite  
kunt des menegenol. Grot. an bet  
1001 gut. mit listen er in sit sluch. **O**ie  
säten säten sich do harte wider sine  
wöten den chunuch newerden in  
der tan. der kaiser bekante sine man.  
die udrsten in dem ruche. si kome in  
harte willediche. man uanellen  
man diu sachsen wörsen rellagen. Ge  
1002 roit dauor uab. diu udrsten uerlorn  
lekahsen alle ir craft. **A**n bistöm  
stfiter lebrene kante Willibote beker  
te do diu rone mit siner sullen lere. dan  
nen udr der kaiser her. er kerte in  
spaniam dal lirt bracht er gote ge  
horfan. do udr er lenauren. diu wol  
ten in gerte in den leware ich in dal  
sage. si uabten lüne lange tage. der  
kaiser beharte diu waltat. dal lirt wa  
1003 re harte scadehaft. **O**der besal auer der  
kaiser karle. aue burth halter. diu dalka  
er udr war. mer dem siben iar. si ha  
been in unwerde. dal waller under  
der erde. den win dar in ruck. si habe  
ten ebene genuch. dal under udr karle  
mit much den lusten. alle si diu burth  
nirt langer. nemahen gefülten. si  
wörsen diu burg gewor. si uabten da  
uor mit much elern gumme. sine b  
ten nehamer slabe gedunge. ir wart

ffo  
Euphrat

ffo  
Euphrat

ffo  
Saxae

ffo

ffo

# Vorau, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. 276

Fascicle I (fols. 1–135):

- *Kaiserchronik* recension A (fols. 1ra–73vb)
- *Vorauer Bücher Mosis* (fols. 74ra–96ra)
- *Die Wahrheit* (fols. 96ra–96vb)
- *Summa theologiae* (fols. 97ra–98va)
- *Das Lob Salomons* (fols. 98va–99va)
- *Die Ältere Judith / Die drei Jünglinge im Feuerofen* (fols. 99va–100va)
- *Die Jüngere Judith* (fols. 100va–108vb)
- Pfaffe Lambrecht: *Alexanderlied* (fols. 109ra–115va)
- Ava: *Leben Jesu und Sieben Gaben des Heiligen Geistes, Antichrist, Das Jüngste Gericht* (fols. 115va–125ra)
- *Vorauer Sündenklage* (fols. 125ra–128rb)
- *Ezzolied* (fols. 128rb–129vb)
- Priester Arnolt: *Von der Siebenzahl* (fols. 129vb–133vb)
- *Das Himmlische Jerusalem* (fols. 133vb–135va)
- *Gebet einer Frau* (fols. 135va–135vb)

Fascicle II (fols. 136–185):

- Otto of Freising: *Gesta Friderici I. imperatoris*

Vorau, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod.  
276

fol. 136v (Otto of Freising, *Gesta Friderici  
I. imperatoris*)

INCIPIT EP[ISTOLA]  
FRIDERICI IMPERATORIS AUGUSTI  
AD OTTONEM FRISINGENSEM EP[iscopum].

**R**ICCVS. DE LIRA. ROATA  
NORUM IMPERATOR & TEMP[or]e AUG-  
USTI. DILECTO PATRUI SUO OTTO-  
NI FRISINGENSI EPISCOPO GRACIA SUA & OMNE-  
BONU. Cronica que tua sapientia digessit. uel  
desuetudine in umbrata in luculentam erex-  
it consonantiam. ad dilectione tua nobis trans-  
missa. cum ingenti gaudio suscepimus. Et post bel-  
licos sudores inter diu in his delectari. & p[er]  
magnifica gesta imperatoris aduirtutes in-  
formari potuimus. Ea que ab ingressu reg-  
ni a nobis gesta sunt ad perceptione tua bre-  
uit[er] compilata noticie tue libent[er] comen-  
darem. n[on] quod ad similitudine prioru gestoru  
que ab excellentissimis uiris edna s. mag-  
is dici possunt umbra qua facta. Iuu tam  
qua p[er]claru ingeniu humilia extollere. &  
deparua materia multa scribere nouit  
plus ofisi tuis laudib[us] qua n[ost]ris meritis.  
tantillu hoc quod in romano orbe p[er] quatuor  
um fecim[us] pauca p[er]stringere curamus.

**P**ost prima unchione aqs grani & accep-  
ta corona teutonici regni genale cu-  
ria merseburh in pentecosten celebrau-  
mus. ubi rex danor. Petrus. ad curia n[ost]ram  
uocat uenit. & hominio ac fidelitate fac-  
ta nob[is] corona regni demanu n[ost]ra suscep-  
it. Deinde cicensem ep[iscopu]m Wichmannu.  
ad archiep[iscopatu]m. Magdeburgense tran-  
stulim[us]. & quaquam multe lites & contuer-  
sio int[er] nos & romanam ecclesiam inde fu-  
isse. aduicim[us] t[ame]n. quod a nobis laudabiliter  
factu fuit auctoritas aptica & firmam.  
Post hec expeditione romanam mouim[us].  
& in yaluda manu longobardia intra-  
uim[us]. hec qua p[ro]pt[er] longa absentia impa-  
toru ad insolentiam declinauerat. & suis  
ofisi uirib[us] aliquantiu rebellare cepat nos  
animo indignari. omnia fere castella &  
ex furore debito & iusto n[on] militu s[ed] ser-  
uentiu destruxim[us]. Mediolanenses  
uersuti & supbi uerba sine fide nobis  
dederunt. & ut n[ost]ra & cessione sup cumas

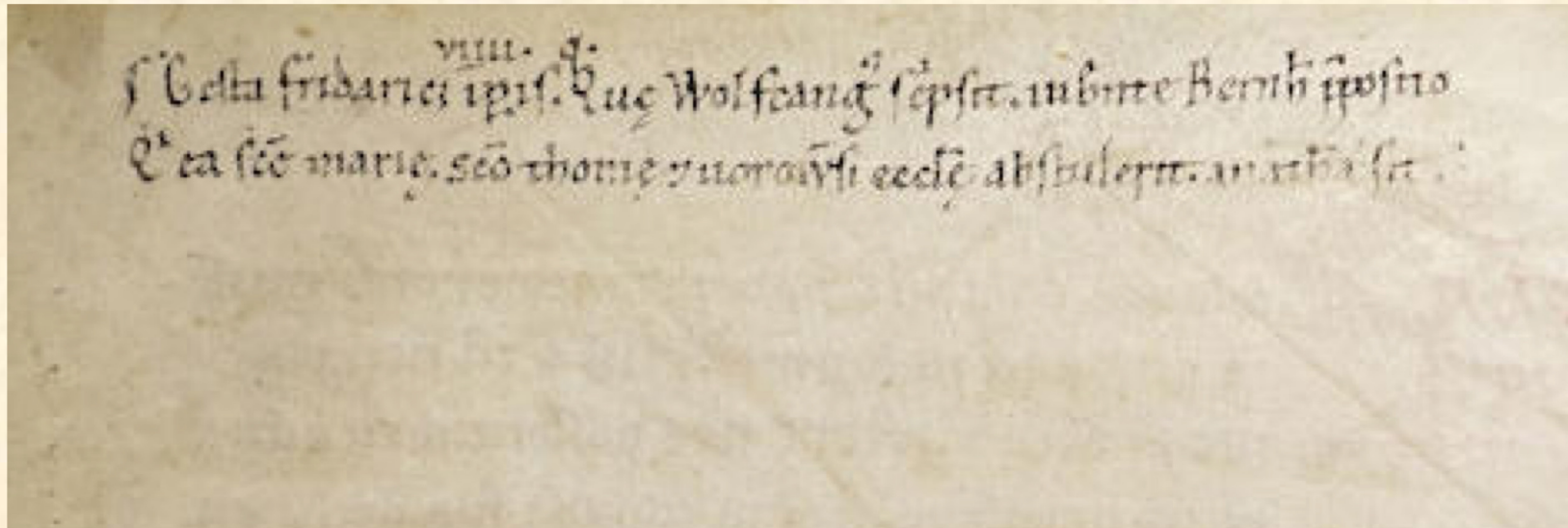
& lauda dominu habere mererent mul-  
ta pecunia nob[is] p[ro]miserunt. si ea nec p[ro]ce-  
nec precio flectere nos possent. & cum ad-  
ra eorum uenissent. a terra copiosa sua declinan-  
tes tres dies in solitudine nos duxerunt. quosq[ue]  
tandem contra uoluntate eorum p[ro]pe uicta me-  
diolanu. ad miliarie teutonice castra meta-  
ti essem[us]. ibiq[ue] diu ab eis mercatu querere  
mus quod quingentos milites armatos habe-  
bat capiet incendio destrui fecim[us]. ibi mili-  
tes n[ost]ri usq[ue] ad porta mediolanensiu iue-  
runt & multos uulsiauerunt. & multos ce-  
perunt. Hinc inde ortis inimicis int[er]  
nos & illos fluiu ticiu uertus nouari-  
am transientes pontes duos quos ipsi arma-  
uerant & meatu lauerant. uolent occupa-  
uim[us]. Quos post transitu totu exeret n[ost]ri  
destruxim[us]. In tria castra eorum fortissime  
mumma uidelicet galla. & trica destruxim[us].  
& natali d[omi]ni cum maxima iocunditate cele-  
brata. puercillas & tauu[m] euntes. pabu  
tissim[us] inde chera maxima. & munitissi-  
ma uilla destruxim[us]. ciuitate ista incendio  
uastauim[us]. Deinde terdonam ciuitate muni-  
tissimam nata & arte obfidim[us]. & post tres  
dies burgo capto ipsa arce cepissem[us]. n[on] nox  
& maxima t[em]pestas nos cohibuisse. Tandem  
p[ro] multos d[omi]nos. multas cedos & miserabi-  
te strage illor. & n[on] modicu n[ost]ror arce p[ro] de-  
dicionem occupauim[us] & quida p[ri]ncipe gre-  
goriu quod amarehione mala spina capt[us] erat  
libauim[us]. Destruuta Terdonam papienses ut  
gloriosu p[ro] uictoria triumphu nob[is] face-  
rent. ad ciuitate nos inuatauerunt. ibi in  
corona & maxima leticia. & ingenti ser-  
uicio ciuitatis tres dies deduxim[us]. Deinde  
directo tramite. plongobardia. romanam.  
am. tusciam euntes. & simul hospitates suti-  
um usq[ue] puenim[us]. ibi d[omi]nus papa cum tota eccl[esi]a  
romana gaudent nob[is] occurrunt. & & se-  
cracione nob[is] patne obtulit. sua q[ue] grauami-  
na quod a romano p[ro]p[ri]o passus erat nob[is] con-  
questus e[st]. Sic nos cortadie simul euntes  
& simul hospitates. dulcia q[ue] miscentes  
colloqua. roma usq[ue] puenim[us]. Romanos nun-  
cios suos ad nos miserunt. & maximam

47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100

capitulum

## Vorau, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. 276

fol. 136r: Wolfcangus copied the *Gesta Friderici* at the command of Provost Bernard





# Vorau, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. 276

Fascicle I (fols. 1–135):

- *Kaiserchronik* recension A (fols. 1ra–73vb)
- *Vorauer Bücher Mosis* (fols. 74ra–96ra)
- *Die Wahrheit* (fols. 96ra–96vb)
- *Summa theologiae* (fols. 97ra–98va)
- *Das Lob Salomons* (fols. 98va–99va)
- *Die Ältere Judith / Die drei Jünglinge im Feuerofen* (fols. 99va–100va)
- *Die Jüngere Judith* (fols. 100va–108vb)
- Pfaffe Lambrecht: *Alexanderlied* (fols. 109ra–115va)
- Ava: *Leben Jesu und Sieben Gaben des Heiligen Geistes, Antichrist, Das Jüngste Gericht* (fols. 115va–125ra)
- *Vorauer Sündenklage* (fols. 125ra–128rb)
- *Ezzolied* (fols. 128rb–129vb)
- Priester Arnolt: *Von der Siebenzahl* (fols. 129vb–133vb)
- *Das Himmlische Jerusalem* (fols. 133vb–135va)
- *Gebet einer Frau* (fols. 135va–135vb)

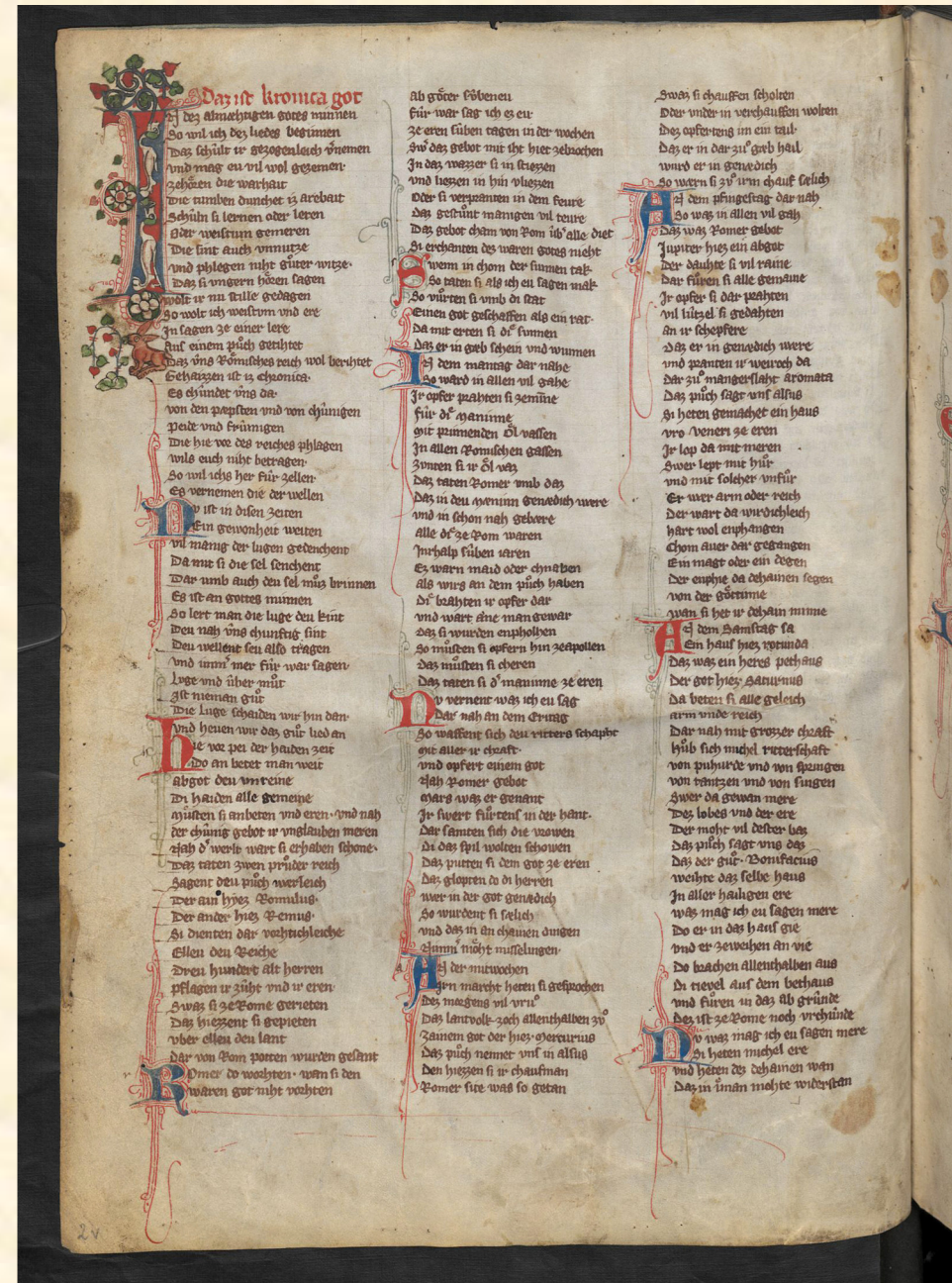
Fascicle II (fols. 136–185):

- Otto of Freising: *Gesta Friderici I. imperatoris*

# Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Cod. 2779

second quarter of 14th century, Austro-Bavarian (Lower Austria)

fol. 2v (Kaiserchronik B)



# Vienna, ÖNB, Cod. 2779

## Part I (fols. 1–90):

- Excerpts from *Passional* (fols. 1va–2ra)
- *Kaiserchronik B* (fols. 2va–46ra)
- Hartmann von Aue: *Iwein* (fols. 46ra–68rc)
- *Die Heidin* (fols. 68rc–71va)
- *Ortnit* (fols. 71va–85rc)
- ‘Seven Sleepers of Thebes’ from *Väterbuch* (fols. 85va–88va)
- ‘Holy Cross’ from *Buch der Märtyrer* (fols. 88va–89va)
- Stricker: *Der Sünder und der Einsiedler* (fols. 89va–89vc)
- Stricker: *Der wahre Freund* (fols. 89vc–90rb)
- Excerpts from *Passional* (fols. 90rb–90vc)

## Part II (fols. 91–130):

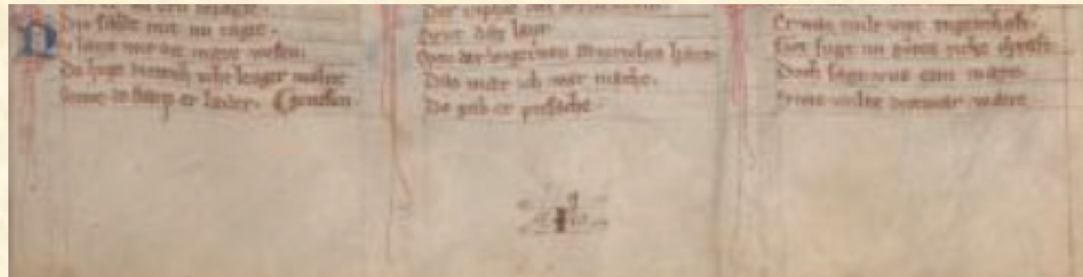
- *Dietrichs Flucht* (fols. 91ra–111vc)
- *Rabenschlacht* (fols. 112ra–130vc); colophon (fol. 130vc)

## Part III (fols. 131–70)

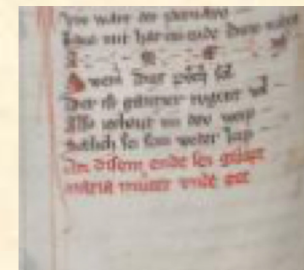
- Heinrich von dem Türlin: *Diu Crône* (fols. 131ra–170vc)

# Vienna, ÖNB, Cod. 2779

Quire signature on first page (fol. 91r) of Part II



Colophon at end of Part II (fol. 130v)



# Vienna, ÖNB, Cod. 2779

## Part I (fols. 1–90):

- Excerpts from *Passional* (fols. 1va–2ra)
- *Kaiserchronik B* (fols. 2va–46ra)
- Hartmann von Aue: *Iwein* (fols. 46ra–68rc)
- *Die Heidin* (fols. 68rc–71va)
- *Ortnit* (fols. 71va–85rc)
- ‘Seven Sleepers of Thebes’ from *Väterbuch* (fols. 85va–88va)
- ‘Holy Cross’ from *Buch der Märtyrer* (fols. 88va–89va)
- Stricker: *Der Sünder und der Einsiedler* (fols. 89va–89vc)
- Stricker: *Der wahre Freund* (fols. 89vc–90rb)
- Excerpts from *Passional* (fols. 90rb–90vc)

## Part II (fols. 91–130):

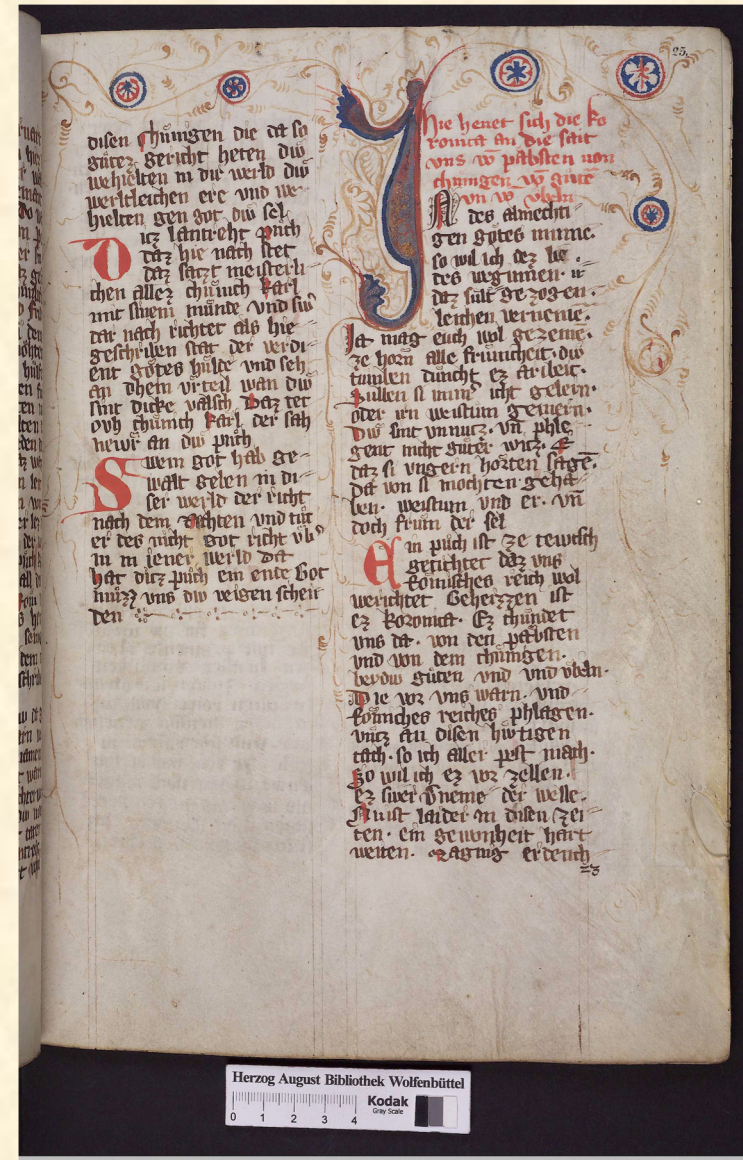
- *Dietrichs Flucht* (fols. 91ra–111vc)
- *Rabenschlacht* (fols. 112ra–130vc); colophon (fol. 130vc)

## Part III (fols. 131–70)

- Heinrich von dem Türlin: *Diu Crône* (fols. 131ra–170vc)

# Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Cod. 15.2 Aug. 2<sup>o</sup>

Middle of 14th century, Bavarian  
fol. 23r (*Kaiserchronik* mixed AC  
recension)



# Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Cod. 15.2 Aug. 2°

## Part I (fols. 1–95):

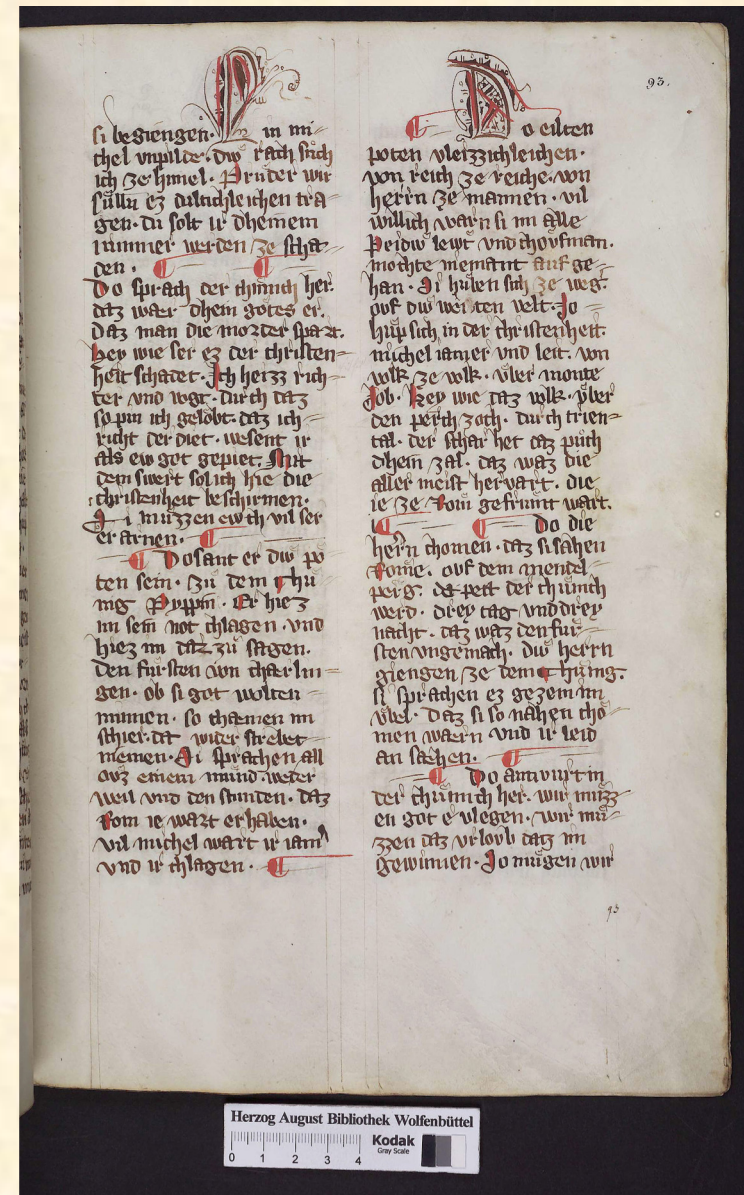
- Prose *Kaiserchronik* (fols. 1ra–23ra)
- Verse *Kaiserchronik* (mixed recension A + C) (fols. 23rb–95vb)
- A 1–1234 = Prologue-Faustinianus
- C1 (≈ A 1235–1441) = Faustinianus (cont.)
- A 1442–3672 = Faustinianus (cont.)
- A 3770–4082 = Faustinianus (concl.)
- A 7604–10147 = Constantius–Constantine and Sylvester
- C2 (≈ A 10148–11137) = Sylvester (concl.)–Julianus
- C3 (≈ A 11352–12812) = Narcissus / Crescentia
- A 12981–14911 = Justinian–Charlemagne (incomplete)
- 

## Part II (fols. 96–158):

- *Schwabenspiegel* (Landrecht only) (fols. 96ra–158va)
- Missing from *Schwabenspiegel*: Lehnrecht and *Buch der Könige alter und niuwer ê*

# Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Cod. 15.2 Aug. 2<sup>o</sup>

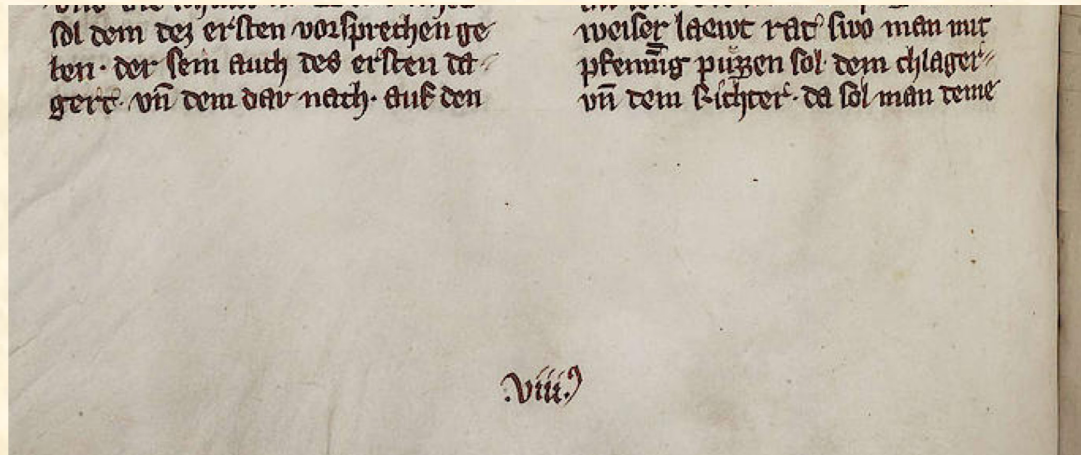
fol. 96r (Schwabenspiegel)



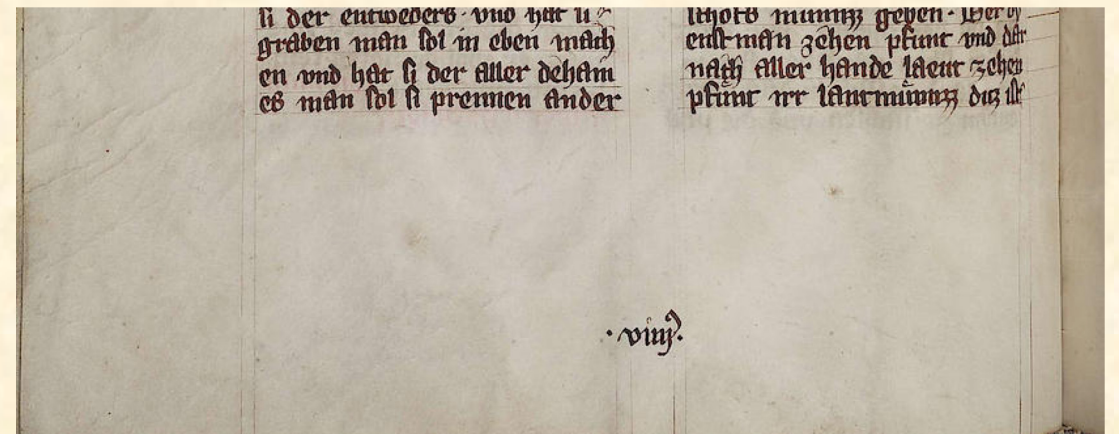


# Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Cod. 15.2 Aug. 2°

*Schwabenspiegel* (Landrecht), quire signature  
on fol. 102v



*Schwabenspiegel* (Landrecht), quire signature on  
fol. 110v



# Wolfenbüttel, Herzog August Bibliothek, Cod. 15.2 Aug. 2°

## Part I (fols. 1–95):

- Prose *Kaiserchronik* (fols. 1ra–23ra)
- Verse *Kaiserchronik* (mixed recension A + C) (fols. 23rb–95vb)
- A 1–1234 = Prologue-Faustinianus
- C1 (≈ A 1235–1441) = Faustinianus (cont.)
- A 1442–3672 = Faustinianus (cont.)
- A 3770–4082 = Faustinianus (concl.)
- A 7604–10147 = Constantius–Constantine and Sylvester
- C2 (≈ A 10148–11137) = Sylvester (concl.)–Julianus
- C3 (≈ A 11352–12812) = Narcissus / Crescentia
- A 12981–14911 = Justinian–Charlemagne (incomplete)
- 

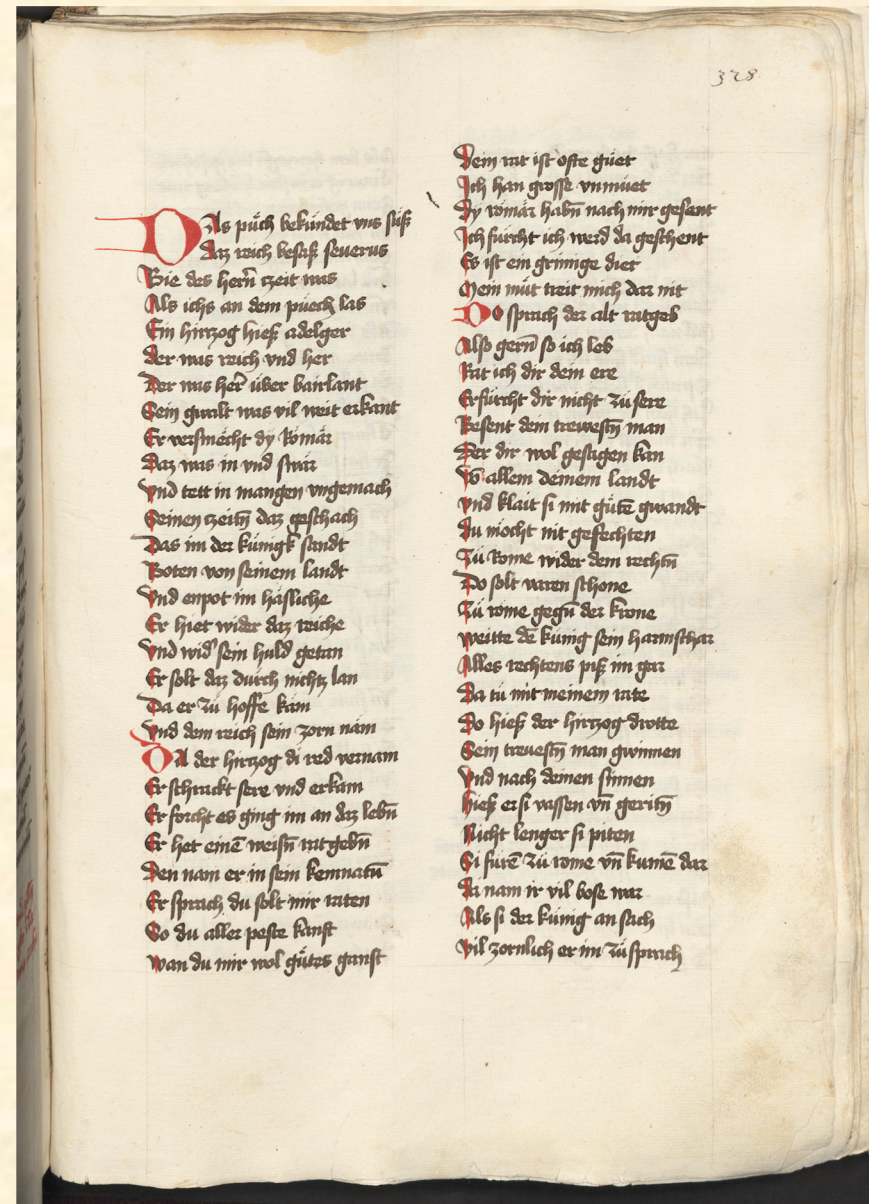
## Part II (fols. 96–158):

- *Schwabenspiegel* (Landrecht only) (fols. 96ra–158va)
- Missing from *Schwabenspiegel*: Lehnrecht and *Buch der Könige alter und niuwer ê*

# Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, clm 9503

Middle / second half of 15th century,  
Bavarian

fol. 328r (Severus, from *Kaiserchronik B*)



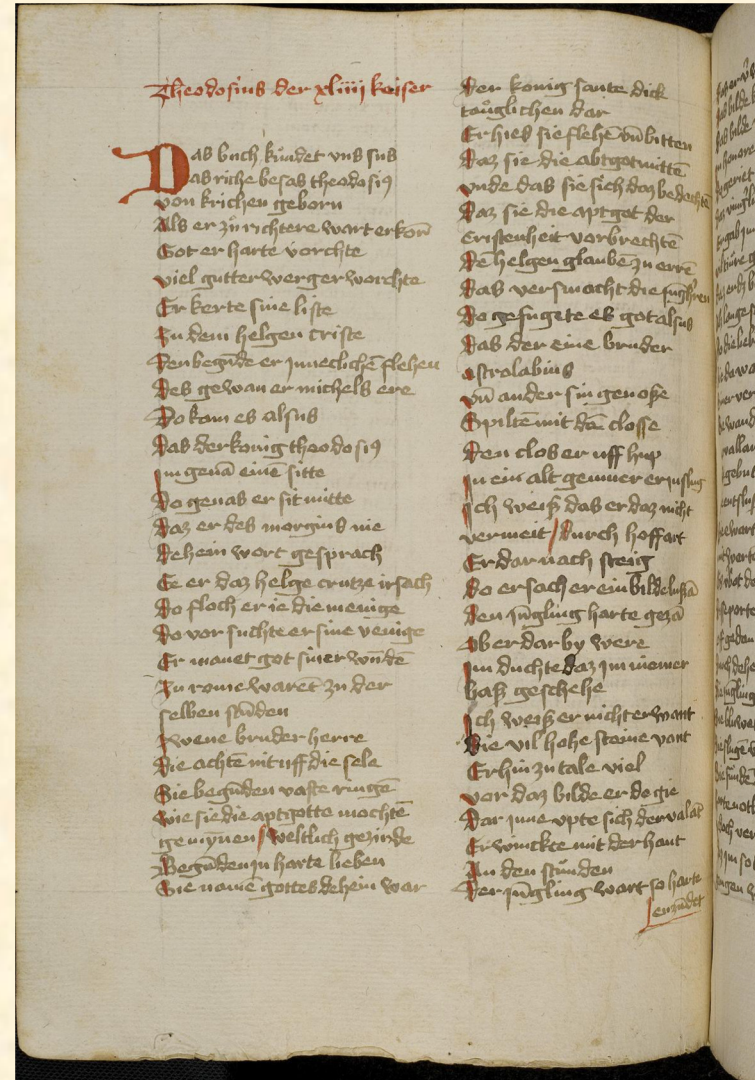
# Munich, BSB, clm 9503

- *Vita Alexandri Magni* (fols. 1–27)
- Andreas de Escobar: *De schismatibus* (fols. 28–30)
- Gottfried of Viterbo: *Pantheon* (fols. 31–229)
- Miscellany of chronicle notices relating to history of Empire (fols. 231–83)
- *Flores temporum* (fols. 284–318)
- *Historia presbyteri Johannis* (fols. 319–27)
- Severus episode from *Kaiserchronik* (B recension) (fols. 328–32)
- Excerpts from annals of Hermann of Niederaltaich (fols. 333–41)
- *Auszug von Teutschen Landen* (abridged) (fols. 342–46)
- Balthasar Mandelreiß: *Lied gegen die Türken* (fols. 348–49)

# Heidelberg, Universitätsbibliothek, cpg 154

1474, Central German

fol. 67v (Theodosius and Julianus, from  
Kaiserchronik A)



# Heidelberg, UB, cpg 154

- Martin of Opava (Troppau): *Chronicon pontificum et imperatorum*, German (fols. 1r–124r)
- Theodosius and Julianus episodes from *Kaiserchronik* (A recension) interpolated on fols. 67v–71v between the emperors and popes
- *Salomon und Markolf* (fols. 125r–136v)
- Johannes Hartlieb: *Alexander* (fols. 137r–279r)

## *Kaiserchronik*, lines 15–17, 27–41

A book has been composed in German that informs us fully about the Roman empire; it is called *cronica*. ... In this day and age sadly there is a widespread habit: many people invent lies and join them together with poetic words. Now I fear very much that their souls will burn for this if it is done without God's love: thus the lies will be taught to the young who come after us; they will preserve them as told and continue to pass them on as the truth. Lies and pride are no good for anyone. The wise wish to hear nothing of it.

Ein buoch ist ze diute getihtet,  
daz uns Rômiscs rîches wol berihtet,  
gehaizzen ist iz crônica.

...

Nu ist leider in disen zîten  
ein gewoneheit wîten:  
manege erdenchent in luge  
unt vuogent si zesamen  
mit scophelichen worten.  
nû vurht ich vil harte  
daz diu sêle dar umbe brinne  
ist iz ân gotes minne:  
sô leret man die luge diu chint  
die nâch uns chunftich sint.  
die wellent si alsô behaben  
unt wellent si immer fur wâr sagen.  
luge unde ubermuot  
ist niemen guot.  
die wîsen hôrent ungerne der von sagen.

# Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, cgm 37

Second quarter of 14<sup>th</sup> century, Bavarian

Contains *Kaiserchronik* (A recension)  
only

fol. 26r

