

Assessment Two – Bibliographical Exercise

Domesday Book

Methodology

The Domesday Book is a detailed survey of landed property in England, commissioned by William the Conqueror and undertaken in 1086. As one of the best known, most widely researched manuscripts from English history, wide access to it is important for both academic and popular study, prompting a range of transcriptions, translations, facsimiles and databases. This bibliography was largely compiled by searching the National Archive and British Library catalogues, internet searches and helpful pages from the National Archive website relating to Domesday Research.¹

1. ***Domesday-book, seu, Liber censualis Wilhelmi primi Regis Angliæ, inter archivos regni in domo capitulari Westmonasterii asservatus : jubente rege augustissimo Georgio Tertio prælo mandatus typis.*, ed. by Abraham Farley, Henry Ellis (London: , 1783)**

This was the first printed edition of the Domesday Book. Farley was a Keeper of the Records in Westminster Abbey Chapter House and was commissioned by the government to produce a transcription of Domesday Book, which was printed in two volumes in 1783, using a font similar to that used in the original.²

This book is quite widely available as a reference book in libraries such as the British Library and in museums such as the Sir John Soane's Museum in London. Although it is important because many more recent editions were based on this work, it is of limited value to modern scholars as there are many more accessible resources available both in print and online today.

2. **Sir Henry James, *Domesday Book: or, the great Survey of England of William the Conqueror, A.D. MLXXXVI. Fac-simile ... Photo-zincographed by Her Majesty's command*, (Southampton: Ordnance Survey, 1861-63)**

This edition by Sir Henry James was the first facsimile of Domesday Book to be published. It used a new technique called 'photo-zincography' to reproduce the pages of Domesday in black and red. By 1864 the facsimile of the entirety of Domesday was published in 32 county volumes.³

¹ The National Archives, *How to look for records of Domesday Book* () <<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/domesday-book/>> [accessed 28 October 2020].

² British Library, () <[http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/display.do?frbrVersion=16&tabs=moreTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=BLL01004157214&indx=1&reclds=BLL01004157214&recldxs=0&elementId=0&renderMode=poppedOut&displayMode=full&frbrVersion=16&frbg=&&dsent=0&vl\(2084770704UI0\)=any&scp.scps=scope%3A%28BLC%29&tb=t&vid=BLVU1&mode=Basic&srt=rank&tab=local_tab&dum=true&vl\(freeText0\)=abraham%20farley%20domesday%20book&dstmp=1603897234996](http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/display.do?frbrVersion=16&tabs=moreTab&ct=display&fn=search&doc=BLL01004157214&indx=1&reclds=BLL01004157214&recldxs=0&elementId=0&renderMode=poppedOut&displayMode=full&frbrVersion=16&frbg=&&dsent=0&vl(2084770704UI0)=any&scp.scps=scope%3A%28BLC%29&tb=t&vid=BLVU1&mode=Basic&srt=rank&tab=local_tab&dum=true&vl(freeText0)=abraham%20farley%20domesday%20book&dstmp=1603897234996)> [accessed 28 October 2020].

³ *Photozincography of the Domesday Book* () <<https://enacademic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/9929821>> [accessed 28 October 2020].

This book is available from the British Library and some county sections are online at www.archive.org and published by Facsimile Publisher (2015). However, it is now of little value to Domesday scholars as the photographing of Domesday in 1985 produced much higher resolution images.

3. The Phillimore Editions

The Domesday Book: Hampshire (Domesday Books (Phillimore)): History From the Sources , ed. by John Morris, trans. by John Morris, edn (Chichester: Phillimore, 1982)

The Phillimore editions (Chichester 1975 – 1992) are in separate volumes by county and have a transcript of the original on the left page, facing a translation on the right ⁴ The book given as an example above is the volume for Hampshire.

These editions are readily available, not expensive and of interest to a broad range of people curious to look at entries for their local area. The use of indexes at the back makes it easy for researchers to find an entry. For scholarly research the transcription may be useful, though the division of editions by modern county boundaries may be unhelpful.

4. The Editions Alecto

- a) ***Domesday Book - Millennium Edition, Alecto Historical Editions edn (London: Alecto, 2000)*** Editions Alecto produced a photographed facsimile of Domesday, which was published as the 'Millennium Edition' It includes a translation and Ordnance Survey maps with overlaid Domesday sites. In theory it could be a useful resource for research but in practice is a hugely expensive collectors' item, which is not even available in the British Library!

- b) ***Great Domesday, Alecto Historical Editions edn (London: Alecto, 1986-1992)***
In 1985 conservation work on the Domesday Book allowed for photographing of its pages. These were used to produce this high quality facsimile reference library edition which is available at The National Archives and British Library.

Domesday and Little Domesday are in two separate volumes with no translation. For researchers wishing to examine the original text, this is a useful resource. The indexes in both the Phillimore and Alecto translations (see below) give the folio number in the facsimile, so navigation is not difficult. For a fee, folios from the facsimile edition can be downloaded from the National archives catalogue.

- c) ***Digital Domesday - <https://addisonpublications.com/portfolio/the-domesday-book-digital-domesday/>***
Digital Domesday brings together on four CD-ROMS all the material previously published in the Alecto Historical Editions, with supplementary indexes, translation, bibliography and glossary. This is aimed at genealogists and the interested public. Access is now limited as it is expensive and the technology is outdated.

⁴ The National Archives, *How to look for records of Domesday Book* ()
<<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/domesday-book/>> [accessed 28 October 2020].

- d) **Alecto County Editions *Great Domesday Book: Dorset: County Edition* , ed. by Laurence Keen, Alecto Historical Editions edn (London: Alecto, 1991)**

The Alecto county editions are limited edition facsimile editions. They are extremely expensive collectors' items.

- e) ***Domesday Book - A complete Translation*, ed. by Ann Williams and G.H. Martin, Alecto Historical Editions edn (London: Penguin , 2002)**

This translation brings together Great and Little Domesday in one book. Whilst it would be useful to scholars, it also has wide popular appeal as it indexes place names clearly, includes a glossary and is affordable. The brief Introduction by Prof. G.H. Martin is aimed at the interested general public. Its distinguished editorial board supplies academic credibility to the translation.

5. **Open Domesday** www.opendomesday.org

This is a free online database created by Anna Powell, Professor J.J.N. Palmer and a team from the University of Hull. It enables quantitative exploration of Domesday England from the closest local level to the widest national level. Searches for people and places are easy and present information in an itemised and statistical format. It contains high resolution manuscript images of both Great and Little Domesday and interactive mapping of people, places and resources. This website does not offer direct translation of the text but references the Phillimore edition where the translation can be found.

Open Domesday was the product of an AHRC funded project in the 1990s. Professor J.J.N. Palmer and a team from the University of Hull, using the Phillimore translation, geocoded and standardised every entry in Domesday to create the Domesday Explorer CD – ROM. Anna Powell Smith used this data and produced maps to create the Open Domesday website. It is of use to both popular and scholarly research.

6. **The Prosopography of Anglo Saxon England (PASE)** www.pase.ac.uk

This is an online database and associated website which aims to bring together everything written in contemporary records about any individual living in Anglo Saxon England up to 1087, drawn from a wide range of written sources from the period. The Domesday dataset facilitates the identification and mapping of English property and landowners in Domesday and refers to the Phillimore editions for translations of the manuscript ⁵

A review by Dr. Levi Roach in "Reviews in History" claimed that the PASE was rather "intimidating" at first sight and "not particularly user-friendly".⁶ This is certainly true in that data is not presented in a way that makes navigation intuitive. However, this is a database intended for scholarly research which contains a vast amount of information.

⁵ King's College London, *Prosopography of Anglo Saxon England* ()
<<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/history/research/proj/pase>> [accessed 29 October 2020]

⁶ Dr Levi Roach, review of *Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England*, (review no. 1244)
<https://reviews.history.ac.uk/review/1244> [accessed 29 October 2020]