

Historia Selebiensis Monasterii: The History of the Monastery of Selby (Oxford Medieval Texts)

Janet Burton



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The *Historia Selebiensis Monasterii* is an account of the origins of the earliest Norman abbey to be founded in the north of England following the Conquest of 1066, and of the history of the monastery in its first one hundred and six years. The history was written by a young monk of Selby in 1174, and the unique medieval manuscript in which it survives appears to have been sent from Selby to the French monastery of Auxerre, from where the author claimed the founder-monk of Selby came. Weaving together historical narrative and miracles associated with the relic held at Selby Abbey, the middle finger of St Germanus of Auxerre, the author produced a lively and entertaining account designed to record the history of his monastery and promote the cult of the relic around which it had grown up. At the same time he created a past, and a corporate memory of that past, for his community. This volume contains a critical edition of the *Historia*, with English translation, and textual notes and historical commentary. The Introduction explores the dynamics of the text - its purpose, composition, and use of sources - and its significance as a source for monastic history. It offers a reassessment of the origins of the first Norman abbey in northern England.

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