

THE LIFE OF SAINT SEVERINUS

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The Life of Saint Severinus by Eugippius & George W. Robinson

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EUGIPPIUS & GEORGE W. ROBINSON

**THE LIFE OF
SAINT SEVERINUS**

HARVARD TRANSLATIONS

THE LIFE OF SAINT SEVERINUS

BY
EUGIPIUS *Africanus*

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH FOR THE FIRST TIME
WITH NOTES

BY
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SECRETARY OF THE HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
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"Severin: eine Persönlichkeit, zu der es keine Parallele giebt."
Hauck, *Kirchengeschichte Deutschlands*, vol. I, p. 330.

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1914

MANIBUS

GUILIELMI WATSON GOODWIN
ADAMS SHERMAN HILL
JACOBI BRADSTREET GREENOUGH
CLEMENTIS LAURENTII SMITH

TQN MAKAPITON
SACRUM

PREFACE

It has been said of the French, and might with equal truth be said of the Germans, that they make all excellent pieces of antiquity their own. That we are yet far from being in a position to make the same boast in behalf of our noble English tongue; that our deficiency is particularly great as respects the last centuries of ancient civilization, which have so immediate a relation to the mediaeval and modern worlds; and that in those centuries it would be difficult to find a writing more worthy of introduction to English readers than the work which Teuffel terms "the incomparable biography of Saint Severinus": these facts, I trust, may be considered in some measure to justify the present publication.

This translation of the Life of Severinus, the first, so far as appears, in our language,¹ is from the recension of the text by Theodor Mommsen, published at Berlin, in 1898, in the series of *Scriptores Rerum Ger-*

¹ Professor Carlton H. Hayes translates Chapters I, II, VII, XX, and XI, and parts of V, VIII, and XI, in *An Introduction to the Sources relating to the Germanic Invasions* (New York, 1909), pp. 128-133. His translation seems to be made, not from the Latin text, but from the German version of Rodenberg.

manicarum. In an Appendix, pp. 117-121 below, I have given a list of editions and translations. Mommsen's preface contains an account of the manuscripts of the *Life*, of the chronology of the time, so far as it casts direct light upon the careers of Severinus and Eugippius, and of the references to Eugippius and Severinus in later ecclesiastical writers.¹ One who desires a more general view of the period may obtain it by reading the pertinent chapters of Hodgkin, Dahn, or Gibbon, or Julius von Pflugk-Harttung's *The Great Migrations*, which, translated from the *Allgemeine Weltgeschichte*, forms the sixth volume in Wright's *History of All Nations*. Passages referring specifically to Severinus may be found in Pflugk-Harttung's volume, in the English translation, on pages 250 f., 269, and 296. Julius Jung, in his *Römer und Romanen in den Donauländern* (Innsbruck, 1877),² pages 133-141, 150-156, etc., discusses the *Life* with particular reference to the light which it sheds upon the ethnography and local history of Noricum and the adjacent provinces. I will also mention the paragraphs on

¹ Mommsen does not mention the passage in the biography of Willibald, the Saxon pilgrim, who visited Naples in 729. "Et ibi est prope castella [sic] ubi requiescit sanctus Severinus." *Vita Willibaldi*, 4, in *Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Scriptores*, xv, 1 (1887).

² In the second edition (Innsbruck, 1887) much of the material relative to the *Life* is omitted.

Eugippius in Teuffel and Schwabe's *History of Roman Literature* (Warr's translation, London, 1900), section 494, and in Adolf Ebert's *Geschichte der Christlich-lateinischen Literatur bis zum Zeitalter Karls des Grossen* (Leipsic, 1874), pp. 431 ff., and the somewhat longer passage in Albert Hauck's *Kirchengeschichte Deutschlands*, vol. i (Leipsic, 1887), pp. 328-331.

André Baudrillart's *Saint Séverin* (1908), in the series *Les Saints*, and *Die Lebensbeschreibung Severins als kulturgeschichtliche Quelle* (1903), by Theo Sommerlad, require no more than passing notice.

Matthaeus Rader's *Bavaria Sancta* contains spirited engravings by Raphael Sadeler, one of which represents the night scene where Severinus recalls the priest Silvinus from the dead.

Mention may be made of two popular accounts of Severinus for English readers: Alban Butler's in *The Lives of the Fathers, Martyrs, and other Principal Saints* (London, 1812-13), vol. i, pp. 113 ff; and Charles Kingsley's in *The Hermits* (London, 1869), pp. 224-239, with a translation of Chapter VIII. Sabine Baring-Gould, after excising all passages of Kingsley's essay that could offend the most credulous, reprints the remainder in *The Lives of the Saints* (London, 1872-77), vol. i, pp. 101-112.