Note on References to the *Chronicles*

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With regard to referencing, few early-modern books can present as complex a challenge as the two sixteenth-century editions of Holinshed's *Chronicles*. Even setting aside the problems caused by simple misprints, or the graver vagaries of censorship, both the 1577 and 1587 versions are characterised by a number of inconsistencies between the physical composition of the volumes and their paratextual apparatus. Among the confused and confusing practices of those charged with the physical production of the books are the use of internal title pages, different methodologies of pagination, and multiple pagination sequences, halting or continuing within and across volumes according to no reliable logical pattern. Such inconsistencies have, in their turn, directly affected the two subsequent reproductions of the *Chronicles*: the 1807 reprint of the 1587 text and the current dual-text, online edition at the Holinshed Project. Each of these, taking cues from the original editions, splits the texts up across a number of volumes – physical for the former, virtual for the latter – which map onto the sixteenth-century editions in ways which can be extremely difficult to follow. Since, for the sake of accuracy and consistency, the practice of the current volume has been to refer directly to the sixteenth-century editions, it has been necessary

to construct a reference system taking into account all the material complexities of the books – allowing the reader to navigate their way back to the source texts with relative ease, either in their original or surrogate forms. Given the confusing material make-up of the books, however, the abbreviations used are far from self-explanatory. The brief notes and tables below are designed both to explain the referencing system for those with access to physical copies of the 1577 and 1587 editions, and to mark out the relationships between those editions and their modern counterparts. Readers seeking further bibliographical information should turn to the Short Title Catalogue or the Holinshed Project website: http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/Holinshed/.

1577

The 1577 edition of the *Chronicles* was printed in two volumes, the first containing the descriptions of Britain, Scotland and Ireland, along with the histories of Scotland and Ireland, and the history of England up to 1066, the second containing the chronicles of England from 1066 to 1576. In the first volume, each description and chronicle is given separate pagination, with the minor complication that in the descriptions of Britain, and Ireland only the rectos are paginated, without counting the unpaginated versos. The histories of England, Scotland and Ireland, and the description of Scotland

are paginated in the standard fashion. The second volume is also paginated normally, but starts at page 291, as if following on from the history of England in the first volume. Each sub-section is referred to as follows:

<table>
<tr><th>1577 printed text</th><th>Abbreviation</th><th>Online text</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">Vol.1
• Description of Britain (pp.1-126)
• History of England to 1066 (pp.1-289)

• Description of Scotland (pp.1-22)

• History of Scotland (pp.1-518)

• Description of Ireland (pp.1-28)

• History of Ireland (pp.1-115)</td><td>I. Desc.Brit.</td><td>Vol. 1</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Hist.Eng.</td><td rowspan="2">Vol. 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Hist.Scot.</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Desc.Ir.</td><td rowspan="2">Vol. 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Hist.Ir.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vol. 2

• History of England from 1066 (pp.291-1876)</td><td>II</td><td>Vol. 4</td></tr>
</table>

References to unnumbered versos in the descriptions of Britain and Ireland are given in relation to the preceding recto page. A certain amount of material – in the form of prefaces and dedicatory epistles – is inserted on unpaginated leaves between the paginated sections; all references to such materials are given by signatures.

1587

The 1587 printing of the expanded *Chronicles* is in three volumes, the first containing the description of Britain and history of England to1066, the second the descriptions and histories of Ireland and Scotland, the third the history of England from 1066 to 1586. The sections are separated and paginated as follows:

<table>
<tr><th>1587</th><th>Abbreviation</th><th>1807 ed.</th><th>Online text</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Vol.1
• Description of England (pp.1-250)
• History of England (pp.1-202)</td><td>I. Desc.</td><td rowspan="2">Vol. 1</td><td>Vol. 1</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Hist.</td><td>Vol. 2</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Vol. 2
• Description of Ireland (pp.9-45).
• Chronicles of Ireland (pp. 46-183)
• Description of Scotland (pp.9-23)
• History of Scotland (pp.29-464).
• Indexes to vols.1 and 2.</td><td>II. Ir.</td><td>Vol. 6</td><td>Vol. 3</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">II. Scot.</td><td rowspan="2">Vol. 5</td><td>Vol. 4</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vol. 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vol. 3
• Chronicles of England post-1066.</td><td>III</td><td>Vols. 2,3,4</td><td>Vol. 6</td></tr>
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