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Two Lives of Charlemagne

Einhard and Notker the Stammerer · *c. 830–887 · A. J. Grant, 1905*

Having made up my mind to write an account of the life and conversation, and to a large extent of the actions of my lord and patron King Charles, of great and deservedly glorious memory: Einhard's life, in A. J. Grant's English, is here joined to the later anecdotes of the Monk of St Gall.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of king do two very different rememberers make of Charles, and how should a reader hold a courtier's careful life together with a monk's later stories?

"Having made up my mind to write an account of the life and conversation, and to a large extent of the actions of my lord and patron King Charles,"

Einhard's life, the author's opening

The translation is A. J. Grant (1905), PG #48870, covering Einhard (Eginhard in this text) and the Monk of St Gall (Notker). Both lives are in the site text and EPUB. Map the volume as two lives; keep them distinct. Walafrid's prologue to Einhard is in the file; quote the lives themselves, and flag the prologue. A complete short pair of medieval lives, for a wide older band, of a Christian emperor as a courtier and a later monk remembered him—not a modern biography, and not a children's pageant only.

KEY CHARACTERS

Charles, the Great
The king and emperor both lives remember, in different kinds of memory.

Einhard (Eginhard)
The courtier who writes the first life, and who was present at nearly all he describes.

the Monk of St Gall (Notker)
The later rememberer of the second life, whose anecdotes are another kind of portrait.

Walafrid
The writer of the prologue to Einhard's life, which is in this file.

A LIFE AND CONVERSATION

> *"Having made up my mind to write an account of the life and conversation, and to a large extent of the actions of my lord and patron King Charles,"*
>
> Einhard's opening

Grades 9–12

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Courtier Makes Up His Mind

EINHARD'S OPENING

Having made up his mind to write the life, conversation, and actions of his lord and patron King Charles, of great and deservedly glorious memory, Einhard begins. The first life is a careful portrait by a man who was there.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses.
- This text's name for the author is often Eginhard.
- Walafrid's prologue precedes the life; flag it, and quote the life.

> *"Having made up my mind to write an account of the life and conversation, and to a large extent of the actions of my lord and patron King Charles,"*
>
> Einhard's opening

02

Wars, Laws, and a Court

EINHARD'S LIFE, THE DEEDS

The campaigns, the care for learning, the church, and the household of a king. The first life is short and ordered.

- Keep Einhard's order; do not blend in Notker's later anecdotes yet.
- The Christian emperorship is on the page.
- Cite Grant's wording.

03

A Person Described

EINHARD'S LATER CHAPTERS

The body, the habits, the death. This text even measures him by the length of his own feet. The first life has a complete close.

- 'seven times the length of his own feet' is in both witnesses, in the personal description.
- The death and the will belong to Einhard, not to the later monk.
- A short complete life.

04

The Monk of St Gall

THE SECOND LIFE

Notker's later anecdotes are a different kind of remembering: stories of the great Charles, told in a monastery. They are not a second copy of Einhard.

- Keep the two lives distinct.
- The monk's tone is later and more legendary; teach the difference.
- Both are in this volume, complete.

05

Two Lives, One Volume

THE HOSTED FILE

Grant 1905, PG #48870, Einhard and the Monk of St Gall. Map the volume as two lives; flag Walafrid's prologue; quote stretches that appear in both witnesses.

- A complete short pair of medieval lives, for a wide older band.
- Not a modern biography.
- Do not blend the two rememberers into one voice.

Two Rememberers | A Christian Emperor | A Courtier's Care | Learning at Court | Later Stories

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The translation is A. J. Grant (1905), Project Gutenberg #48870, covering Einhard (Eginhard in this text) and the Monk of St Gall (Notker). Both lives are in the site text and EPUB. Map the volume as two lives; keep them distinct. Walafrid's prologue to Einhard is in the file; flag it, and quote the lives themselves.
2. Einhard's opening is exact: "Having made up my mind to write an account of the life and conversation, and to a large extent of the actions of my lord and patron King Charles," A complete short pair of medieval lives, for a wide older band, not a modern biography.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the A. J. Grant, 1905, Project Gutenberg #48870, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/two-lives-of-charlemagne/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.