

# THE FIFTH-CENTURY CHRONICLERS

**Prosper, Hydatius,  
and the Gallic Chronicler of 452**

**STEVEN MUHLBERGER**

**X** FRANCIS CAIRNS

# CONTENTS

|            |   |          |
|------------|---|----------|
|            | Abbreviations   | ix       |
|            | Acknowledgements  | xi       |
| <b>I</b>   | <b>Introduction</b>   | <b>1</b> |
| <b>II</b>  | <b>The Historiographical Background of the Fifth-Century Chronicles</b> |          |
|            | 1 Two Influences on the Form of the Chronicles                          | 8        |
|            | 2 Jerome and the Greek Chronicle Tradition                              | 10       |
|            | 3 The Consular Annals   | 23       |
|            | 4 The Choice of a Model   | 46       |
| <b>III</b> | <b>Prosper</b>  |          |
|            | 1 The Author  | 48       |
|            | 2 The Structure of the Chronicle  | 55       |
|            | 3 Prosper's Epitome of Jerome   | 60       |
|            | 4 Prosper's Continuation — General Characteristics                      | 73       |
|            | 5 The Edition of 433  | 78       |
|            | 6 The Edition of 445  | 102      |
|            | 7 The Edition of 451  | 115      |
|            | 8 The Edition of 455  | 121      |
|            | 9 Prosper's Moral Critique of Recent History                            | 127      |
| <b>IV</b>  | <b>The Gallic Chronicler of 452</b>                                     |          |
|            | 1 An Anonymous Chronicler   | 136      |
|            | 2 The Manuscript Tradition  | 137      |
|            | 3 Chronological Aspects of the Chronicle                                | 146      |
|            | 4 The Sources   | 152      |
|            | 5 The Chronicler as an Observer of the Church in his Day                | 160      |
|            | 6 Reading through the Chronicle   | 165      |
|            | 7 The Chronicler and the Crisis of Empire                               | 175      |
|            | 8 Prosper and the Gallic Chronicler                                     | 191      |
| <b>V</b>   | <b>Hydatius</b>   |          |
|            | 1 Introduction  | 193      |
|            | 2 The Author  | 195      |
|            | 3 The Manuscript Tradition and Chronology                               | 200      |
|            | 4 The Sources   | 204      |
|            | 5 General Characteristics of the Chronicle                              | 212      |
|            | 6 The Empire Beset with Difficulties                                    |          |
|            | I: From Theodosius to the End of his Dynasty                            | 217      |

|           |   |     |
|-----------|---|-----|
| 7         | The Empire Beset with Difficulties  |     |
|           | II: From Avitus to the End of the Chronicle                               | 224 |
| 8         | Treachery and Order in the World of Hydatius                              | 227 |
| 9         | The State of the Church   | 234 |
| 10        | Resistance and Accommodation in Hydatius's Gallaecia                      | 245 |
| 11        | The Apocalypticism of Hydatius  | 260 |
| 12        | The Last of the Romans  | 264 |
| <b>VI</b> | <b>Conclusion</b>   |     |
| 1         | The Fifth Century Chroniclers as Observers of their Time                  | 267 |
| 2         | The Fifth Century Chroniclers as Practitioners of the<br>Historical Art   | 271 |
| 3         | Readers and Continuators of the Fifth Century Chroniclers                 | 275 |
|           | <b>Appendix: The Chronology of Hydatius</b>                               |     |
| 1         | Hydatius's Chronology and the Manuscript Tradition                        | 279 |
| 2         | Errors and Uncertainties in Hydatius's Chronology                         | 279 |
| 3         | Courtois's Interpretation of the Chronology                               | 285 |
| 4         | Courtois's Critique Reconsidered  | 291 |
| 5         | The Chronology of Hydatius: An Interpretation                             | 299 |
|           | Addendum  | 312 |
|           | <b>Bibliography</b>   | 313 |
|           | <b>Index</b>  | 325 |
|           | <b>Maps</b>   |     |
|           | Places and Regions Mentioned by Prosper to 433 <i>facing p. 78</i>        |     |
|           | Places and Regions Mentioned by Prosper 434-455 <i>facing p. 102</i>      |     |
|           | Places and Regions Mentioned in the Chronicle of 452 <i>facing p. 166</i> |     |
|           | Places and Regions Mentioned by Hydatius <i>facing p. 218</i>             |     |
|           | Places in Spain and Portugal Mentioned by Hydatius <i>facing p. 246</i>   |     |