

Computational Analysis for Authorship Attribution: A Study of The ‘*Passio et miracula S. Edwardi regis et martyris*’

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Abstract: The anonymous *Passio et miracula sancti Edwardi regis et martyris*, an eleventh-century account of the life and miracles of St. Edward the Martyr (d. 978/9), has been attributed by most scholars to Goscelin of St. Bertin, one of the most prolific hagiographers writing in England in the decades following the Norman Conquest. Combining traditional philological, literary, and historical analysis with computer-based stylometric methods (including a newer, unsupervised neural networks method using transformer-based embeddings, applied for the first time to researching the attribution of a medieval Latin text), our study disproves Goscelin authorship for the *Passio*, argues that the text may have been written by Eadmer of Canterbury around the turn of the twelfth century, and provides historical context for an Eadmer attribution.

Keywords: authorship, Anglo-Saxon saints, stylometry