

The **Parſe Chronicle** font is based on the hand of the first scribe of the oldest manuscript of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS 173, commonly called the “Parſe Chronicle” after Archbishop Matthew Parſe (1504–1575), its first modern owner. The scribe whose work this font imitates wrote the chronicle’s annals up to the year 892, during the reign of King Alfred the Great.

The font makes as few compromises as possible for the sake of legibility: the lower-case letters **i, j, q, r, s, w** and **z** have been either introduced or modernized together with a number of capitals and symbols. However, you can restore authentic medieval letter-shapes by turning on the OpenType “Historic Forms” feature or (in Microsoft Word) “Stylistic Set 16.”

In addition, you should always make sure that “Contextual Alternates” and “Standard Ligatures” are turned on when using this font. Working together, these features automatically vary the shapes of letters, producing an irregular, hand-made look. In Microsoft Word, these and other OpenType features are found on the “Advanced” tab of the “Font” dialog.

There’s not a lot more to it. There are a few “swash” letters, which you can access with either the “Swash” feature or “Stylistic Set 17”: **e þ l r / t h**. Use these to accent the end of a word or sentence. Some alternative letter-forms can be accessed with “Stylistic Alternates” or “Stylistic Set 18”: **d a c e o d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r r s s t t p p**. “Stylistic Set 19” changes the standard hyphen to a double-hyphen, and “Stylistic Set 20” turns on just the Capitals from the “Stylistic Alternates” set. These are especially suitable for use in text (normal capitals are better for titles and headings). A few ligatures, in addition to the standard ones, are available as “Historic Ligatures”: **h h or**, and, together with the “Swash” feature, **or**.

Parrett Chronicle can position any of its diacritics over any letters, including the components of ligatures. For example, an **e** with acute followed by an **n** should ligature correctly: **ēn**. Similarly, a **u** followed by an **a** with macron: **uā**. This feature does not work in all applications. In Adobe InDesign, for example, characters with diacritics will not form ligatures. But in the most widely used applications, including Microsoft Word, diacritics should be correctly positioned over ligatured characters.

SPECIMENS

her crnþulfe bēam riȝebryht hīr rice 7 ƿeſſeðend ƿrotan for un-
ryhtum dedū buton hamtūnscipe 7 he hæfde þa of he ofſloz þone
aldormon þe hī lænzgē punode 7 hiæne þa Crnþulfe on andred adraðde
7 hī þa punade of þæt hiæne ān ſpān offtanz æt ƿƿrfeðflodan 7 he
ƿræc þone aldormon cumbrian. 7 rmb .xxxī. ƿintra þa þe he rice
hæfde, he ƿolde adraðan anne eþeling ƿe ƿaſ crneheard haten, 7 ƿe
crneheard ƿa þa riȝebryht bƿoþur.

Britannia Oceani inſula, cui quondam Albion nomen fuit, interſpectā-
tionem 7 occidentem locata eſt, Eſſumaniae, Ealliae, hyppaniae, mæx-
imī Europae partibus, multo intervallo aduſſa. Quae ƿerū mil-
iaryuum .dccc. in Boream longa, latitudinis habet milia .cc.,
ſecſſar duntaxat ƿrolixioribus diuſſorum ƿromontoriorum
tractibus, quibus efficitur, ut circuitus eius quadragiſ octiſ
.lxxv. milia compleat.

Als Erſtor Samsa eines Morgens aus unruhigen Träumen erwachte,
ſand er ſich in ſeinem Bett zu einem ungeheuren Ungeziege ver-
wandelt. Er lag auf ſeinem panzerartig hartem Rücken und ſah,
wann er den Kopf ein wenig hob, ſeinen gewölbten, braunen, von

bozenförmigen Vösteifungen zteiltan Bauch, auf dessen höhe sich die Bettdecke, zum gänzlichan Niedergleitän bereit, kaum noch ghal-
tän konnte. Seine vielen, im Vözgleich zu seinem sonstigen Umfang
plötzlich dünnän Beine flimmgätän ihm hilflos vor den Augen.

Il y avait en Westphalie, dans le château de M. le baron de Thundg-
tän-tronckh, un jeune garçon à qui la nature avait donné les
mœurs les plus douces. Sa physionomie annonçait son âme. Il avait
le jugement assez droit, avec l'esprit le plus simple ; c'est, je crois,
pour cette raison qu'on le nommait Candide. Les anciens domestiques
de la maison soupçonnaient qu'il était fils de la soeur de monsieur
le baron et d'un bon et honnête gentilhomme du voisinage, que cette
demoiselle ne voulut jamais épouser parce qu'il n'avait pu prou-
ver que soixante et onze quartiers, et que le reste de son arbre
généalogique avait été perdu par l'injure du temps.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzæðþ
 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZÆÐÞ
 & h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z æ ð þ