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A Tewkesbury Compotus

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A TEWKESBURY COMPOTUS

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THE compotus herewith transcribed (with extensions) is in the Bristol Museum. It is numbered 541 in Latimer's MS. calendar there, and is described as:—

1352. Compotus rendered to Tewkesbury Abbey by Brother William de Bristoll Chamberlain [of St. James's priory ?] for the year ending Michaelmas.

Round the parchment is a piece of cardboard with a transcription, written by Samuel Seyer the historian of Bristol, of the contemporary endorsement as follows:—

Tewkesbury || Compotus ffratris Willielmus de Bristoll', camerarii [. . .] ibidem a vigilia sancti Michelis anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum xxv^{to} usque idem festum proximum sequens per annum integrum. i.e. 1351.

The word Seyer failed to read is almost certainly 'Abbtie', i.e., 'Abbatie', 'of the Abbey', so that Latimer's suggestion is incorrect.

Nothing appears to be known about the chamberlain. A William de Bristol was abbot in 1439 (Dugdale's *Monasticon*, II, 56), but whether he was related to the chamberlain there is nothing to indicate.

The document consists of two pieces of parchment stitched together, the narrower one beneath the wider. The wider piece is about 7 by 9 inches and the narrower one, beginning at 'Recepte forinsece', about 4 by 19 inches. There are a few small holes, much discoloration and some rubbed surface. The two parts are throughout in the same unprofessional hand, except the item about the payments to the brethren and the final total, which are in a good literary hand. At the foot of the verso are three unintelligible words.

Two words of special interest appear in these brief accounts. 'Shrewe' seems to be used in a quite neutral sense; it and the preceding word are clearly written. 'Bonkyngcloth' comes in the midst of items concerning harvesting, and so probably means a cloth for covering a rick.

Some readings are uncertain, the scribe's principles in regard to signs of abbreviation not being clear in all details. 'Copi', for instance, is clearly written more than once, but its grammatical relation to 'petris' is not clear. A cresset is said in Parker's *Glossary* to be a candlestick or lamp to contain a light, and an instance is given of the use of the word in the inventory of the Priory of Finchale. The stones bought at Tewkesbury were apparently used to build a firm place for the fixed kitchen lights.

What befell the mass of Tewkesbury documents which passed into the charge of Sir John Whittington when the house was dissolved is not known. This compotus is an unique record of the economy of the house very soon after the Black Death, but no hint is given in it as to what loss the house sustained by that disaster. The brethren at Tewkesbury numbered about twenty in 1351. There were three at Cranborne and five or six at St. James's, Bristol.

RECEPTE

Idem recepta de xx.s. de redditu de Okeford¹ per
 [annum ad iiij^{or} terminos. Et de vj.s. viij.d.
 de redditu de ffayreford² per annum ad iiij. terminos.
 [Et de v.s. de sopemulle per annum

¹ There was an Oakford in Marshfield, and another in the hundred of Thornbury. *B.G.A.S.*, x, 292, xxiv, 15. This one is probably that on the Exe near Loxbear.

² For Fairford's relations with Tewkesbury Abbey, see *vch, Gloucestershire*, II.

etcetera. Et de xijli. iiij.s.jd. de redditu de Middellond³
 [[et Lose] bere⁴ per annum ad Ester
 et Natiuitatem sancti Johannis baptiste. Et de xxx.s.
 [de redditu Willelmi George de A[. . . ad]⁵
 festa sancti Aldelmi / Kenelmi et sancti Michelis equis
 [porcionibus. Et de lx.s. de collectura
 sperarum ad festum sancti Michelis. Et de xij.d. de j
 [placea in Walkereslona⁶ per annum. Et de
 lxx.s. viij.d. de redditu de Caumpedena⁷ per annum
 [ad iiij. terminos. Et de viij.s. de auxilio
 Custumario ad festum sancti Andree.
 Summa xxij.li.v.s.v.d.

PENSIONES

Idem recepta de vj.li. xiiij.s. iiij.d. de Prioribus
 Bristoll',⁸ et Cranebourna⁹ per annum. Et de xxx.s.
 de Priore de Okebourna¹⁰ de firma decimarum
 [ibidem
 [ad festum] sancti Michelis. Et de lxxvj.s. viij.d. de
 [pensione de Thornbury¹¹ ad
 [festa sancti] Michelis et Annunciacionis beate Marie.
 [Et de xxv.s. de pensione Rectorum
 de Estlech¹² ad festum sancti Kenelmi. Et de vj.s.
 [viij.d. de pensione de E

³ See D.M. II, 69 (num. 111). Like Loxbear, a Devonshire manor, and part of the honour of Gloucester.

⁴ Stained. At the dissolution the abbey received a reserved rent from these two manors of £1 5s 10½d. See D.M. II, 87.

⁵ Rubbed; only first letter legible.

⁶ Walker's Lane, Tewkesbury (1541 compotus at Tewkesbury).

⁷ Chipping Campden.

⁸ St. James's, Bristol.

⁹ Dorset: Abbot Gerald came thence to Tewkesbury with his monks in 1103.

¹⁰ Wilts, but nothing appears to be known of its relations with Tewkesbury.

¹¹ Thornbury was among the primitive donations to Tewkesbury. D.M. II. ¹² A few miles north of Lechlade, Glos.

desleÿe.¹³ Et de xxvj.s. viij.d. de pensione ecclesie de
 [Chitelhamptona¹⁴ hoc anno.
 Summa xiiij. li. viij.s. iiij.d.

PORCIONES DECIMARUM

Idem recepta de lx.s. de omnimodis decimis de
 [ffayrreford hoc anno
 venditis. Et de xiiij.s. iiij.d. de decima Willelmi George
 [hoc anno
 Summa lxxiiij.s. iiij.d.

EXITUS OFFICII

Idem recepta de xv.¹⁵ li. vj.s. viij.d. de omnibus
 [exitibus¹⁶ manerij de Marsfeld¹⁷
 hoc anno. Et de xxx.s. de feno vendito apud Teukes-
 [buriam Et de vj.s. viij.d. de exitibus
 unius virgate terre apud Caumpedena non occupate
 Summa xvij.¹⁸ li. iiij.s. iiij.d.

VENDITA ETCETERA

Idem recepta de xl.s. de j equo vendito. Et de vij.li.
 [xiiij.s. iiij.d. de cxv* multonibus
 venditis Roberto del ffreytour. precium capitis xvj.d.
 Summa ix.li. xiiij.s. iiij.d.

PERQUISITA CURIE

Idem recepta de vj.s. viij.d. de perquisitis curie de
 [Middellond¹⁹ et Losebere¹⁹
 Summa. vj.s. viij.d.

¹³ Iddesleigh, Devon. See Birch, *Margam Abbey*, s.n. It is the 'Eduslea' of D.M. II, 66 and Edwieslecha of D.M. II, 69.

¹⁴ See D.M. II, 69 (num. xxv) and 71 (num. xxxvii). Chetelhm̄pton, Bucks, D.M. II, 86, is a mistake carried over into vch Glos. II. Chetylhampton *in com. Devon'* appears in the 1541 computus at Tewkesbury.

¹⁵ Corrected from xvj.

¹⁶ Followed by eū., s.t.

¹⁷ Near Box, Wilts; not Marshfield, Mon.

¹⁸ Corrected from xvij.

* Corrected from cvij.

¹⁹ The income from these manors was expended on the clothing of the brethren. See D.M. II, 81 (num. LXXXVII).

ARRERAGIA

Idem recepta de xxxj.s. x.d. de arreragiis compoti
[precedentis.

Summa xxxj.s. x.d.

RECEPTE FORINSECE

Idem recepta de xxx.s. de Priore de
Okebourn de arreragiis firme sue. Et de xxvj.s.
viij.d. de pensione Ecclesie de Chetelhamptona
aretro existente

Summa lvj.s. viij.d.

Summa totius recepte cum arreragiis lxxj.²⁰ li.
[xviij.s. xj.d.

OCCASUS

In defectu pensionis (*w.a.*) de Edesle' e hoc anno vj.s.
[viij.d.

In defectu redditus de Sopemulle .v.s. In allocatione
perpeti de Middellond pro denariis domi deferendis
viij. s. In allocatione perpeti de Loseberu²¹ pro eodem
v.s. viij.d In defectu redditus de ffayreford
vj.s. viij.d In defectu redditus de Middellond
et Losebere hoc anno. lxxviij.s. In defectu redditus
de Caumpedena xiiij.s. In defectu auxiliij
ibidem xiiij.d.

Summa. vj.li. v.s. ij.d.

EXPENSE

In.²² ij. Robis pro. ij. garcionibus xiiij.s. iiij.d.

In stipendiis eorum vj.s. viij.d. In. ij. quarteriis furfuris
pro prebenda equorum .ij.s. viij.d In. ij. ffrenis emptis
ij.s. In clavis pro paliciis in sartoria. x d.

In .j. sepe facta in clausura sartorie et parietis plastrura²³
xviij.d In Cýrotectis ad idem .ij.d. In decimis

²⁰ Corrected from lxxij.

²¹ Or Losebern.

²² There is a dot over the first word of each item of the payments down to the 'Summa', indicating checking.

²³ The termination is uncertain.

solutis pro officio cum decimis Deuon' iiij.li. ij.s.
 x.d. Soluti Vicario in choro per annum . viij. s. In
 stipendiis .W. Colewelle et Willelmi sutoris in sartoria.
 per annum. xvj.s. In stipendio Lotricis. iij.s. In
 [oblationibus
 famulorum ad Natale. vij.d Item In potura eorum ad.
 idem festum. ij.s. In .x. petris copi emptis in²⁴ coquina²⁴
 [pro cresettis
 vj.s. viij.d. precium petre . viij.d. In. xvij. petris
 copi emptis ad idem in foro xv.s. ix.d precium
 petre xd ob — In c.xx. multonibus emptis
 apud Bromzard²⁵.x.li. v.s. In prebenda pro equis
 per vices. iiij.s. vij.d In. j. corda pro aqua hau-
 rienda de fonte in sartoria . v d In ij. paribus
 cingulorum xij .d In ij paribus (*w.a.*) surcengles. viij.d.
 In fornario²⁶ per annum iiij.s. In .j. equo empto de
 [feý]re²⁷ bristoll' xx.s In iiij. lb. candelarum
 pro sartoria .vjd. In filo pro sartoria uidelicet sutoria
 et cetera .vs. iijd.* In semino cannabo. empto. vij.d
 In stipendio senescalli de Deuon'. vj .s. viij.d. In caligis
 pro eodem xiiij.d. In caseo empto et misso
 usque Marsfeld pro autumpno. iiij.s. In stipendiis
 focke²⁸ coll' decimas et alterius shrewe. vj.s. Item
 Ricardo maltman pro eodem .ij.s. vj.d. soluti pro
 amerciamento ad curiam de Wýnkeleye²⁹ .iij.s. In prato
 [de
 Aueneham³⁰ falco et leuato .iij.s. In expensis. iij.

²⁴ Inserted above line, misplaced.

²⁵ Bromyard, Worcs.

²⁶ Termination uncertain.

²⁷ Hole.

* Corrected from vij.

²⁸ Uncertain, perhaps 'fock'. Fowke appears as a surname in the 1541 compotus at Tewkesbury.

²⁹ Devonshire. See D.M. II, 66 (Winchelea), 69 (Winkelega).

³⁰ See D.M. II, 84. It was on the bank of the Severn (1541 compotus).

hominum versus Marsfeld pro autumpno. xij.d In j.
 Bonkyngcloth .viiij.d Item trituratori versus
 Marsfeld .vj.d. In m^lm^lm^l clavis pro lath' emptis
³¹vij.s. vj.d In factura calcis qui remanet . lx.s.
 In meremio empto quod remanet xxx.s.
 Summa xxvj.li x.s.³²

SOLUCIO DENARIORUM

Soluti xxix ffratribus tam in Monasterio
 quam in Cellis hoc anno pro eorum necessariis computato
 domino Priore pro ij. ffratribus. xxxviiij. li xiiij.s. videlicet
 cuilibet eorum .xxvij.s. extra uno ffratre qui hoc anno
 [non ha-
 buit nisi .xviiij.s.

Summa xxxviiij.li. xiiij.s.

Summa omnium expensarum . cum denariis solutis .lxxj. li
 v.s. x.d.³³ Et debet ix.s. ix.d.³⁴

³¹ ' rem ' (=qui remanent) inserted in margin.

³² This total has been altered and is correct.

³³ This total should be £71 9s. 2d.

³⁴ Altered and correct.