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Gloucestershire Peace Rolls: Introduction

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Rolls of the Gloucestershire Sessions of the Peace 1361-1398

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PREFACE

In printing these fourteenth-century peace rolls the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society is joining in a movement started by Professor B. H. Putnam, which has already led to the publication by local societies of similar rolls for Kent, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. Rolls for Cambridgeshire are in the press; rolls for Essex and a second set for Lincolnshire will, it is hoped, appear at some future date. While all these records of sessions of the peace are fundamentally alike, because they belong to different counties and different dates, no two sets duplicate each other in form or content. Together with the rolls for twelve counties printed in whole or in part by Professor Putnam in her recent (1938) *Proceedings before the Justices of the Peace in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries, Edward III to Richard III*, they constitute a mine of information for the study of the work of the justices of the peace in the medieval period. Individually, each group affords a valuable source for the history of the county concerned. While the Gloucestershire rolls have in them less social and economic material than some of the others, nevertheless, in addition to affording important information on the functioning of the justices of the peace, they contain much that is of local significance.

It being impossible at present to see material in the Public Record Office the references to manuscripts in its custody have not been finally verified. When such verification is possible a list of *errata* will be printed and sent to all members of the Society.

My gratitude to Professor Putnam, who has been more than generous with her time and her extensive knowledge of the justices of the peace, is very great. Mr Roland Austin, F.S.A., editor of the 'Transactions' of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society has been most helpful. I am also indebted to the officials of the Public Record Office in London, and to the staff of the Mount Holyoke College Library for their assistance, and to Mr James Mathias for the opportunity to use the Yale University camera in the Public Record Office.

E.G.K.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- BGAS* Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire
Archaeological Society
- CCR* Calendar of Close Rolls
- CFR* Calendar of Fine Rolls
- CPR* Calendar of Patent Rolls
- DNB* Dictionary of National Biography
- EHR* English Historical Review
- GDR* Gaol Delivery Roll
- KB* King's Bench Roll
- Foss, *A Biographical Dictionary of the Judges of England*
(London 1870) by E. Foss
- Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* (3rd edition,
rewritten London, 1922-1926) by W. S. Holdsworth
- Kimball, *WS, Rolls of the Warwickshire and Coventry*
Sessions of the Peace, 1377-1399, edited by E. G.
Kimball
- Putnam, *Proceedings, Proceedings before the Justices of*
the Peace in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries,
edited by B. H. Putnam. (London, 1938)
- Putnam, *YS, Yorkshire Sessions of the Peace, 1361-1364*,
edited by B. H. Putnam (Yorkshire Archaeo-
logical Society: Record Series, vol. c, 1939)
- Sillem, *LS, Records of some Sessions of the Peace in*
Lincolnshire, 1360-1375, edited by R. Sillem
- In exigend, *KB* In exigend in the King's Bench
- To be produced *KB* To be produced before the King's
Bench
- Tried *KB, Gloucester (or Bristol)* Tried before the King's
Bench at Gloucester (or at Bristol)