

TWO RECORDS OF PLATE AND VESTMENTS REMOVED FROM
BEAULIEU ABBEY IN 1399.

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From 1397 to 1399 there were rival abbots of Beaulieu, Richard Middleton who had been elected by the monks and confirmed by Pope Boniface IX in 1394, and John of Gloucester who had been nominated by the abbot of Beaulieu, acting under the authority of the general chapter of the Cistercian Order in England during the schism in the papacy.¹ The difficulties arose out of the schism, and the struggle was very disastrous to the monastery. A commission of seven abbots was sent by the Cistercian general chapter in England to visit Beaulieu. They found that Abbot Richard Middleton and the monks had deserted the monastery, and they drew up a report of losses and destruction, including a list of missing plate and vestments, which had probably been removed for safety to one of the granges in the Forest by Abbot Richard and the monks. The commission reported to Richard II that John of Gloucester was the rightful abbot, and on 20th May, 1397, the king issued an order to the monks and tenants to obey him. John of Gloucester ruled at Beaulieu until 1399, when the monks imprisoned him and restored Richard Middleton. Richard Titchfield and John Petersfield, on behalf of all their fellow monks, drew up for the information of the Crown a series of charges against John of Gloucester, who had kept himself in power by making presents to lay lords and the foresters of the New Forest. Under dilapidations they made a list of plate and vestments, which they said that he had removed from the monastery and the granges, with an estimate of their value.

The two lists do not tally, and it is probable that, taken together, they represent the greater part of an inventory before the struggle began in 1397. Cistercian

¹ R. Graham, "The papal schism of 1378 and the English Cistercian monasteries," *English Historical Review*, vol. xliv, July, 1929.

inventories are rare, and it is interesting to compare these lists with the inventory of the plate and vestments of the Cistercian monastery of Meaux in Yorkshire, which was compiled in 1396.¹ Both show that the early Institutes of the General Chapter of Cîteaux against the possession of costly altar frontals, chasubles and gold chalices² were no longer regarded as binding in the late fourteenth century.

I

Memoranda quod hec sunt vestimenta monasterii Belli loci Regis ad laudem dei deservientia que per Ricardum Myddelyngton se abbatem dicti monasterii pretendentem necnon per quosdam alios sibi adherentes sunt ablata falso modo et nequiter amota,³ videlicet.

Una secta vestimentorum alba auro pulverizata.

Item alia secta de Felewet ichekeryt que prefate ecclesie sunt optime secte deservientes et ditissime.

Item alia blodia secta auro pulverizata.

Item unus baculus pastoralis argenteus et deauratus.

Item due viole argentee.

Item unus tuellus cum bono magno frontello.

Item turribulum argenteum et deauratum cum conca argentea.

Item sex pallia auro pulverizata et valde ditissima.

Item una crux argentea et deaurata in qua pars lingni (*sic*) crucis Christi infigitur.

Item brachium sancti Bartholomei positum in cista argentea.

Item scrinium aureum factum de corona regis Johannis fundatoris monasterii Belli loci regis.

Item una corona argentea deaurata et lapidibus preciosis infixata que solebat esse super caput beate Marie Virginis ad magnum altare.

Item una calix de auro cum patena aurea.

Item xvij calices argentee et deaurate.

Item sigillum conventuale.

CAMERA ABBATIS.

Item unus lectus de Tapeswork cum celura plena et cum tribus cortinis et quatuor costeres.

Item duo lecti rubri embroded cum wodewoses et griffins et cum diini celuris et cum cortinis.

Item duodecim testres et keverledes diversorum colorum.

¹ *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*, ed. E. A. Bond, vol. iii, pp. lxxvii-lxxxii (Rolls Series).

² P. Guignard, *Monuments primitifs de la règle Cistercienne*, p. 252, cap. x, 'Quid liceat vel non liceat nobis habere de auro argento gemmis et serico'—'Altarium lintheamina ministrorum indumenta sine serico sint preter stolam et manipulum. Casula

vero non nisi unicolor habeatur. Omnia monasterii ornamenta vasa utensilia sine auro et argento et gemmis preter calicem et fistulam, que quidem duo sola argentea et deaurata, sed aurea nequaquam habere permittimur.'

³ MS. Cotton, Cleopatra E. ii, f. 223, British Museum.

- Item quinque quyltes cum tribus kanemass.
 Item undecim paria lynthiaminum lecto competentes cum uno lynthiamine.
 Item octo pulvinaria.
 Item quatuor bankers cum quinque quysshones.
 Item sex paria blankettarum.

PROMPTUARIUM.

- Due cupe argentee deaurate cum coopertoriis argenteis et deauratis.
 Item unum magnum bolle argenteum cum duobus coopertoriis argenteis quod habuit unum bonum pedem argenteum.
 Item sex pecie argentee.
 Item triginta novem cocliaria argentea.
 Item unum salarium argenteum.
 Item unum ewerum argenteum.
 Item novem mappe mensales de diapris optimis.
 Item duo ciphi murei cum pedibus argenteis et deauratis necnon cum coopertorio mureo, et alio de lingno (*sic*) pineo.
 Item unum note cum argento ligatum et cum coopertorio argenteo deaurato.
 Item quatuor ciphi lati murei cum argento ligati.

II

Informacio . . . super intrusione et dilapidacione per fratrem Johannem Gloucerre nuper abbatem monasterii de Hayles facta in dicto monasterio Belli loci, quam quidem informacionem dant et faciunt fratres Ricardus Tichefeld et Johannes Petrusfeld confratres et commonachi dicti monasterii per totum conventum informati et instructi, necnon ex certis scientiis corundem Ricardi et Johannis.¹

- Item spoliavit dictum monasterium de uno calice auri precii xl librarum.
 Item de uno alio calice argenti deaurati precii xx marcarum.
 Item de vj aliis calcibus cum (*sic*) diversis grangiis monasterii antedicti precii xx librarum.
 Item de duabus cupis cum coopertoriis argenti deaurati magne quantitatatis precii xx marcarum.
 Item de duabus aliis cupis argenti precii x librarum.
 Item de vj siphis argenti precii vj librarum.
 Item de xii pannis auri precii $\frac{xx}{iii}$ librarum.
 Item de diversis vestimentis magni precii de quo quidem precio certitudinaliter nescimus deponere.
 Item de lectis quasi omnibus et singulis tam dicti monasterii quam aliorum maneriorum et grangiarum ipsius monasterii.
 Item destruxit dictum monasterium quamplures ruinas domorum quam ipsius monasterii quam grangiarum et maneriorum ejusdem et presertim in ruina aule regis dicti monasterii que ducentis libris non poterit reparari.

¹ Exchequer K. R. Ecclesiastical Documents Bundle 2/5, and a duplicate, Chancery Misc. 20/1/10, Public Record Office. My

thanks are due to Mr. R. C. Fowler, F.S.A. for calling my attention to these two documents.

A BRIEF GLOSSARY.

Baculus pastoralis, a pastoral staff, crozier.

Bankers, hangers or carpets for covering benches.¹

Blodia, a bright blue.²

Celura, a canopy; *celura plena*, covering the whole top of the bed; *dimi celura*, covering half or part only of the top.

Ciphus mureus, a mazer, i.e. a shallow bowl used as a drinking cup, usually made of spotted or bird's-eye maple; they are without handles, and commonly have round the rim an ornamental silver, often gilt, band almost always with an inscription, a low or high metal foot and a meta boss, usually engraved with a figure, known as the print.³

Coeliar, a spoon.

Conca, a vessel for incense.

Coopertorium, a cover.

Cortina, a curtain.

Costeres, side curtains.

Deauratus, gilt.

Diaper, 'a textile fabric woven with a pattern formed by the different directions of threads of one colour, and so exhibiting different directions of light from its surface.'²

Ewerum, a ewer, jug.

Felewet ichekeryt, velvet in chequers or squares.

Keverled, coverlet.

Kanemass, canvas, coverings, bedspreads.

Lignum pineum, pine wood.

Lintheamen, linen stuff, a sheet.

Mappa mensalis, a table cloth.

Note, a nut, 'a cup fashioned out of a cocoa-nut and mounted in silver.'¹

Pannus aurei, cloth of gold.

Pecia, a cup.⁴

Pulverizata, powdered, 'sprinkled over with a device.'¹

Pulvinaria, bolsters or pillows.

Quyssbones, cushions.

Salarium, a salt cellar.

Secta vestimentorum, a suit of vestments, i.e. a chasuble, stole, maniple, and often the amice and albe with their apparels and a girdle, 'and sometimes other things as well.'⁵

Scrinium, a shrine.

Syphus, *ciphus*, a cup.

Tapeswork, tapestry.

¹ *Inventories of Christchurch, Canterbury*, ed. J. Wickham Legg and W. H. St. John Hope: Glossary.

² W. H. St. John Hope and E. G. C. F. Atchley, *English Liturgical Colours*: Glossary.

³ *New English Dictionary*; W. H. St. John Hope, 'On the English medieval drinking

bowls called Mazers,' *Archaeologia* 1, pp. 129-193; *Guide to Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum*.

⁴ *Promptorium Parvulorum*, ed. A. Way, Camden Society (1865); W. W. Watts, *Old English Silver*.

⁵ Hope and Atchley, *op. cit.* p. 5 and Appendix II.

Testre, tester, the vertical part at the head of the bed which ascends to and sometimes supports the canopy.

Tuellus, 'a towel or linen cloth to lay upon the altar.'¹

Turribulum, a censer, 'the vessel in which incense was burnt and with which persons and things were censured.'²

Viole, phials, 'the small flasks or bottles, usually found in pairs, to contain the wine and the water at mass.'²

Wodeose, a wild man of the woods.³

¹ W. H. St. John Hope and E. G. C. F. Atchley, *English Liturgical Colours: Glossary*.

² *Inventories of Christchurch, Canterbury*, ed. J. Wickham Legg and W. H. St. John Hope: Glossary.

³ *Promptorium Parvulorum*.