

A MEDIEVAL CARTULARY OF ST ALBANS ABBEY

In the course of research into the landscape around St Albans, Hertfordshire, a reference to a cartulary¹ was found in a footnote in A. E. Levett's posthumously published book on the manorial organization of St Albans Abbey.² Subsequently, further references were found in V. H. Galbraith's book on the St Albans Chronicle,³ and in G. R. C. Davies's catalogue of Medieval cartularies.⁴ Apart from these references, the contents of the cartulary have not been adequately described or published; this article is intended to be a preliminary discussion of the Chatsworth document.

Its post-medieval history is obscure. It is possible that the cartulary may have been acquired by Sir William Cavendish when the manor of Childwick, formerly belonging to the abbey, was granted to him in 1540,⁵ although it is just as likely, as Mr Michael Pearman, the deputy librarian at Chatsworth, indicates, that the document may have been acquired by the sixth Duke of Devonshire in the 19th century, together with many other books and manuscripts.

The cartulary is in Latin, with occasional French deeds and one oath in English. It is 'written in double columns with rubrics, alternate red and blue initials filled with yellow, and other letters often touched with yellow'.⁶ The condition and legibility are on the whole very good. It is believed that the document was compiled in the late 14th/early 15th centuries. There is a second volume of this cartulary in the British Library, of which folios 200-201 represent the remains of a table for Volume 1, duplicating a similar one in Volume II.⁷ The Chatsworth cartulary contains a table for the British Library cartulary.

The cartulary begins with a synopsis of the charters: royal, ecclesiastical and Papal, followed by a list of properties in St Albans, London, Oxhey and Westwick.⁸ These abbreviated sections are then followed by the unabbreviated charters and deeds. The total numbers of pages for each of the sections are as follows: royal charters 51; ecclesiastical and Papal 59; St Albans 191; London 59; Westwick 26; Meryden 28; Oxhey 67. The following locations are mentioned in a mainly abbreviated form and like the preceding charters are not arranged in any chronological order: Burston, Munden, Snelleshale, Toternhoe, Watford, Cassio, Rickmansworth, Bachesworth, Pinnesfield, Langley, Parksholme, Tyttenhanger, North Mimms, Ayton, Caddington, Cuffley, Brantfield, Barnet, Winslow, Skipton, Horwood, Onyng, Caldecote, Codicote, Norton, Sandridge, Datchet, Welwyn, Harpsfield, Norton in the wood, Milton Keynes, Aldenham, Binham, Redbourn, Therfield, and Sarrat.

Apart from the unabbreviated 13th- and 14th-century charters and deeds of the Hertfordshire manors of Westwick, Oxhey and Meryden, there is important evidence of properties in London and St Albans. In London there are references to the following localities: Dongate or Doungate, Colmesdale, Raperstrate, Bartholomei strete or Frithlyng, Bredestrate, Wodewarfe, vico de Taunse, Woodstrete, Walbroc, Aldrugesgate and Bis chapel gate. The charters, of which there are about a hundred, date mainly from the late 13th/early 14th centuries. They include information as to their juxtaposition, extent, rental and other distinguishing characteristics such as cellars or shops.

For St Albans, there are over 300 charters or deeds of properties located mainly in the town. The majority date to around the mid 13th century, although they range in date from the reign of Henry II to Richard II. In terms of percentage the charters are as follows: Henry III, 43%; Edward I, 27%; Edward II, 10%; Edward III, 17%; there is just one charter of the reign of Richard II. This group of charters represents the largest single collection of deeds for medieval St Albans, representing over half the total number of surviving deeds for the town; that is approximately 600 altogether.

Among the charters for St Albans referring to tenements and messuages, there is mention of seven buildings with upper storeys; two barns and dovecots; 39 shops; twelve stalls; seven workshops; one forge; three tenements with hand mills; one malt mill; three properties with wells or springs; three stone houses; one bake house; one vineyard and three corn mills. For some of the shops and stalls there are references to the merchandise sold, such as wool, woollen garments, bread, corn, meat, fish and iron. In addition there is topographi-

cal information which will be invaluable for the understanding of the development of St Albans. For example, there are two references to a 'magnum fossatum' or Great ditch, one of which is dated 1245. These, with other references to the 'Tonnemandich' (also called Monkesdich), suggest that St Albans was continuously enclosed by defensive ditches from an early period; it also reinforces belief in the statement in the *Historia Angolorum*⁹ (quoted by Saunders and Havercroft)¹⁰ that the town was surrounded by ditches in 1142. Whether this can be shown to be the original date for the defences of St Albans must await further research and excavation.

While there is little doubt about the date and content of the cartulary, we can be less certain as to its administrative importance. There is mention of a book of charters or '*Libro de Chartis*' in the annals of the monastery,¹¹ concerning a Quitclaim of Richard de Childewik in 1260–90. It is conceivable that the Chatsworth cartulary represents a later copy of such a document, albeit in an incomplete state.

For the historian, the detail and quality of preservation of this cartulary provides a valuable source of information on the properties of St Albans Abbey. Only a fraction remains of the enormous quantity of documents formerly belonging to one of England's premier abbeys.¹² It is important that such unpublished documents as survive for St Albans are adequately published, so that they become available as source material for the specialist and non-specialist alike.¹³

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NOTES

¹ St Albans cartulary: Chatsworth Library, Derbyshire (Trustees of the Chartworth settlement).

² A. E. Levett, 'Studies in the manorial organisation of St Albans abbey', *Studies in Manorial History* (1938).

³ V. H. Galbraith, *The St Albans Chronicle 1406–20* (1937), xxxix.

⁴ G. R. C. Davies, *Medieval Cartularies of Great Britain* (1958), 94–95, no. 832.

⁵ *Victoria County History*, II, 398.

⁶ Davis, *op. cit.* in note 4, 94.

⁷ British Library Cotton MSS, Otho DIII.

⁸ This describes the cartulary in its present form; there is evidence to suggest that certain sections have been added at a subsequent date.

⁹ J. Madden (ed.), *Historia Angolorum* (1866), 270.

¹⁰ C. Saunders and A. Havercroft, *Hertfordshire Archaeol.*, 6 (1978), 38.

¹¹ *Gesta Abbatum*, I, p. 406.

¹² The other principal sources are in the British Library and Public Record Office.

¹³ I am grateful to the Colt Fund for assisting towards the cost of research; and to the librarians at Chatsworth and St Albans.

MEDIEVAL ENAMELLED GLASSES FROM LONDON

(Figs. 6 and 7; Pl. XII)

In advance of full publication this note is intended to draw attention to a large group of medieval glass of the 'Syro-Frankish' or 'Aldrevandin' type recently discovered during excavations in London.

During the spring of 1982 excavations were carried out by the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London on a small site at nos. 7–10 Foster Lane and Rose and Crown Court, N. of Cheapside in the City of London, prior to redevelopment.¹ When the contractors moved on to the site to continue clearance and begin construction work, involving excavation in areas and to a depth not previously available to the archaeological team, a watching-brief was instituted, led by Ian Blair, who had directed the earlier excavation. It was during this phase, in July 1982, that the contractors' machinery struck a chalk-lined cess-pit. With the permission of the developers' site-agent and the co-operation of the contractors it proved possible to excavate completely the contents of the pit.

A large quantity of pottery dated the use of the pit to the first half of the 14th century.² Crucible fragments, two with traces of silver,³ suggest that a goldsmith was working on or