

V.—A NOTE ON THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE
PRIORS, ARCHDEACONS AND SHERIFFS OF
DURHAM DURING THE EPISCOPATE OF
HUGH DU PUISET.

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The following abbreviations have been used in the notes :

AA—*Archæologia Aeliana*.

BM—British Museum.

Cart.—Cartulary.

DC—Dean and Chapter.

EYC—*Early Yorkshire Charters*, ed. W. Farrer and
C. T. Clay.

Monasticon—*Monasticon Anglicanum*, ed. Caley and Ellis.

NCH—*Northumberland County History*.

Reg.—Register.

RS—Rolls Series.

SS—*Surtees Society*.

Material for dating charter evidence of the twelfth century is notoriously scarce. It is therefore of the greatest importance that such data as is available should be handled with care. Unfortunately this is not true of the existing lists of ecclesiastical and secular officials of the diocese of Durham for this period,¹ and it is the purpose of this note to attempt a more critical chronology.²

Priors.

LAURENCE. Laurence was prior of Durham at the time of PuiSET's election to the see, but died in France during the return from Rome following the bishop's consecration.

¹ Le Neve, *Fasti* (ed. T. Duffus Hardy, 1854); SS, 139.

² This list is purely chronological. Biographical details will be given in my forthcoming book on Hugh du PuiSET.

i.e. after 21 December, 1153, and before 2 May, 1154, when Puiset was enthroned at Durham.³

ABSALON. Succeeded Laurence. According to one late Durham source he was elected in the first year of the episcopate, and died about 1158.⁴ Another Durham source of equal weight gives his dates as 1154-8,⁵ whilst according to the compilations of prior Wessington his obit was xv kal. April, 1159.⁶

THOMAS. Succeeded Absalon.⁷ According to Cartulary II, he died in 1162, though the figure has been altered from 1163.⁸ Wessington and Register II both give 1158-62, which fits what is known of the dates of his successor.⁹

GERMANUS. Succeeded Thomas after the latter had been driven from office by Puiset.¹⁰ This would seem to have been in 1162, for according to the Durham chronicle the hermit Godric died in 1170, the eighth year of Germanus' priorate.¹¹ The dates for Germanus are given as 1162-88 in Cartulary II,¹² and as 1162-89 in Register II and Wessington's history.¹³ Germanus was, however, still alive on 26 July, 1189.¹⁴

BERTRAM. Succeeded Germanus.¹⁵ His dates, according to Register II and Wessington, are 1189-1212.¹⁶ He is given as 1188-1212 in Cartulary II.¹⁷

The list therefore is: Laurence d. Spring 1154.

Absalon, c. 1154-8.

Thomas, c. 1158-62.

Germanus, c. 1162-89.

Bertram, c. 1189-1212.

³ SS, 9, p. 6; Symeon of Durham, *Opera*, ed. T. Arnold (RS, 1882-5), 1, p. 169.

⁴ DC Durham, Cart. II, fo. 1v.; Symeon, 1, p. xlix.

⁵ DC Durham, Reg. II, fo. 351.

⁶ BM. Cotton MS. Claudius D IV, fo. 80v.; SS, 13, p. 139.

⁷ SS, 9, pp. 7-8.

⁸ Cart. II, fo. 1v.

⁹ Claudius D IV, fo. 80v.; Reg. II, fo. 351.

¹⁰ SS, 9, p. 8.

¹¹ SS, 9, p. 9.

¹² Cart. II, fo. 1v.

¹³ Reg. II, fo. 351; Claudius D IV, fo. 80v.

¹⁴ SS, 95, p. 204.

¹⁵ SS, 9, p. 8.

¹⁶ Reg. II, fo. 351; Claudius D IV, fo. 80v.

¹⁷ Cart. II, fo. 1v.

Archdeacons.

(i) Durham.

WAZO was archdeacon of Durham at the time of Puiset's election.¹⁸ He had held this office since at least 1147.¹⁹ He makes a number of attestations during the priorate of Absalon, but not thereafter.²⁰ There appears to have been a vacancy following his death, during which time archdeacon John of Northumberland occurs alone.

BURCHARD DU PUISET, probably a son of the bishop, first appears as archdeacon of Durham in 1172, in a charter of count Henry the Liberal of Champagne, issued at Troyes.²¹ He makes a number of attestations thereafter both in the style of archdeacon of Durham, and Treasurer of York, which office he acquired in September, 1189. He died 6 December, 1196, having been an unsuccessful candidate for the sees of York and Durham alike.²²

(ii) Northumberland.

RANNULF was archdeacon of Northumberland at the time of Puiset's election,²³ having been in office since at least the time of bishop Geoffrey Rufus.²⁴ Despite his long tenure of the archdeaconry he was always preceded by Wazo in attestations. His last appearance in charter evidence is c. 1148-9²⁵ or 1150.²⁶

JOHN had succeeded Rannulf by 1155,²⁷ and makes a number of attestations with Wazo during the priorate of Absalon.²⁸ He occurs alone during the priorate of Thomas,²⁹ and on one occasion at about this date is

¹⁸ SS, 9, p. 4. Detailed reasons for this identification will be given in my *Hugh du Puiset*.

¹⁹ SS, 58, pp. lx-lxiii. ²⁰ Reg. I, fo. 11v.

²¹ *Collection des principaux cartulaires du diocèse de Troyes*, ed. C. Lalore (Paris, 1875-90), VII, no. 60; H. d'Arbois de Jubainville, *Histoire des ducs et des comtes de Champagne* (Paris, 1859-69), III, acta 204.

²² SS, 9, p. 18.

²³ Symeon, II, p. 328.

²⁴ F. Barlow, *Durham Jurisdictional Peculiars* (Oxford, 1950), pp. 155-6.

²⁵ EYC, III, no. 1472.

²⁶ SS, 137, pp. 9-10.

²⁸ DC Durham, 3. 1. Pont, no. 18.

²⁷ SS, 58, p. 121n.

²⁹ DC Durham, 2. 3. Sac., no. 5.

specifically described as archdeacon of Northumberland.³⁰ He occurs together with prior Germanus and Robert, abbot of St. Albans, in a document which may therefore be dated c. 1163-6, dealing with a dispute concerning the church of Edlingham.³¹ He makes a number of attestations in company with archdeacon Burchard, i.e. after c. 1172.³² His last appearance is in a document which may be assigned to the autumn of 1174.³³

WILLIAM DU PUISET³⁴ succeeded John as archdeacon of Northumberland. He first appears in charters relating to the settlement of the Durham-St. Albans disputes in November, 1174.³⁵ Thereafter he makes a large number of attestations both alone and in company with archdeacon Burchard.³⁶ He outlived the bishop.

The list therefore is:—

Durham:	Northumberland:
Wazo, d. c. 1158.	Rannulf, d. <i>ante</i> 1155.
Burchard, c. 1172-d. 1196.	John, c. 1155-74.
	William, c. 1174-

Sheriffs.

GILBERT, formerly sheriff, is mentioned in one Durham charter.³⁷ He may have been the successor of Osbert, nephew of bishop Flambard, who occurs during his uncle's episcopate as late as 1146 and 1148.³⁸

WILLIAM is mentioned as sheriff during the priorate of Absalon.³⁹

RADULF HAGET appears to have been his successor. He makes a number of attestations during the priorate of

³⁰ Cart. II, fo. 44v.

³¹ *NCH*, VII, p. 145.

³² *EYC*, II, no. 985; *NCH*, II, p. 272, n. 4.

³³ *NCH*, VIII, p. 66n.

³⁴ This identification will be explained more fully elsewhere.

³⁵ *NCH*, VIII, p. 63, n. 1.

³⁶ *SS*, 95, pp. 213-14; *EYC*, II, no. 987.

³⁷ DC Durham, Almoners' Cart., p. 223.

³⁸ Surtees, *Durham*, III, p. 385; DC Durham, Small Cart., fo. 83v.

³⁹ DC Durham, 3. 1. Pont., no. 18.

Germanus, none of which seem to be much earlier than c. 1170. He had been replaced by Philip, son of Hamo, by 1 November, 1180,⁴⁰ and some of his lands had escheated to the bishop by 1183.⁴¹

PHILIP, SON OF HAMO, was sheriff of Durham in November, 1180, and as such makes a large number of attestations. He appears to have outlived the bishop, and occurs as late as 1196.⁴² It is not certain how long he continued in office.

WALTER DE FERLINGTON is once mentioned as sheriff.⁴³ It is not known whether, or when he replaced Philip, son of Hamo. He may have done so c. 1194, for he is known to have been castellan of Durham in 1195.⁴⁴ He may, of course, have appeared as sheriff of Norham, though his office in Durham makes this unlikely. It is also possible that Puiset had his own sheriff of Northumberland during the period he held the earldom.

MALBERT, sheriff of Norham, is mentioned once during the episcopate.⁴⁵

The list therefore is:—

Durham:
 Gilbert, c. 1150.
 William, occ. 1154-58.
 Radulf, c. 1170-80.
 Philip, c. 1180-c. 1195.
 Walter, ? 1195.

Norham:
 Malbert, occ. 1172-4.

⁴⁰ DC Durham, 3. 6. Spec., no. 28.

⁴¹ SS, 25, p. 12.

⁴² *Chancellor's Roll 8 Richard I*, ed. D. M. Stenton (Pipe Roll Soc.), p. 258.

⁴³ AA, XVI (1939), pp. 45-6.

⁴⁴ Roger of Howden, *Chronica*, ed. W. Stubbs (RS, 1868-71), III, p. 285.

⁴⁵ SS, 58, p. 198n.