

## 67.06 Selected transcriptions, Henry II, 1154–89<sup>1</sup>

### c 1155 Extent of the Manor of Leighton, Henry II (7)

'Jurors of Leighton

Harding, Albri', Ordwi, Almar', Herbert, Osbertus, Willemus, Ailmer, Hugo

The stock of this Manor. Thirty-six oxen, each of 2s; and two farm-horses each of 3s; and seven beasts not for draught, each of 12d; and two hundred and sixty-five sheep each of 4d; and thirteen swine each of 12d; and twenty-three swine each of 8d; of all this stock the Constable found only six oxen when he received the shire. Sum: £9 9s 8d [*rectius* £11 17s 8d]

On the manor there should be two granges; one of them should be eighty-five feet in length and twenty-four in width including the aisles, and eighteen feet in height to the ridge. The greater part of this grange should be filled with corn and white wheat, and the lesser with barley and oats, but so that the whole be filled. There should be a second grange of fifty-two feet in length, and twenty feet in width including the aisles, and of nineteen feet to the ridge, the larger part of it filled with corn and the smaller with oats. There ought to be a building twenty-five feet in length and sixteen in width and fifteen feet in height to the ridge, for threshing the corn, half of it full of corn for sowing and half empty. There should be a building twenty-four feet in length with a single aisle, and a small building to the value of 12d. There [should be] two cow-houses each twenty-four feet in length, and one shippon [*cow-house or shed*] a hundred feet in length. There should be two wagons of 4s. To install these buildings requires £7 14s, together with the custom which they have of right upon neighbouring woods.

Two hundred and forty-three acres ought to be sown there on the winter sowing, and for sowing them there should be four score and seventeen soams [c 2.5 bushels per acre], each soam 20d. And of three-month grain one hundred and sixteen acres [should be sown] for which are needed fifty-eight soams [c 2 bushels per acre], each of 8d; and after sowing there should remain in the granges twelve pounds' worth of grain to make up the farm. Of all this grain the Constable found there only ten shillings' worth.

Sum of the seed-corn: £9 10s 4d [*rectius* £10 0s 4d]

Richmond, R, 1924. *Three Records of the Alien Priory of Grove and the Manor of Leighton Buzzard*, BHRS 8

[Stock: of 346 animals, only 6 or 1.7% remained. Buildings: only agricultural buildings are listed as needing to be installed; 8 buildings and presumably 2 wagons needed; the woods would be King's Wood or possibly Billington where later there was an assart. Grain: in terms of cash value, only 2.3% remained; winter sowing took more grain than the spring sowing.]

<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: some duplication was found in this section. There is some confusion in some of the texts reproduced.

1155/56 Pipe Rolls, Henry I

[Evidently the manor was restocked and the buildings repaired or rebuilt very rapidly; the moot question is whether both sets (old, new or both the same) were on the La Grava site or elsewhere. There is no other known site on the ground or in documents. Richmond says:

The Pipe Roll of 1155/56 does not disclose whether Henry of Essex or another was sheriff in the previous year, but it tallies well with this Extent, for it records the large sum of £69 12s 8d expended by him in that year for restocking the royal manors of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire, and the 'waste of the granges at the time of the war' between Stephen and Matilda. When these entries are compared with the form and contents of the Extent, there can be little doubt that the document was prepared for Henry of Essex in his duty as sheriff to repair the depreciation of the royal manors due to the civil war. This is confirmed by the rest of the Roll. It begins with the list of 'Jurors of Luton' which was printed in BHRS, ii, 268; below their names a long space was left, evidently for an Extent of Luton (and perhaps Houghton Regis). Then follows the Extent of Leighton now printed, and similar Extents of the royal manors of Aylesbury and Brill. They were all obviously prepared for the sheriff's use, and all in the same contemporary hand. But a later scribe has availed himself of the unfilled space since for Luton to enrol there a charter of Richard I to Vassall his minstrel which was printed with the list of Luton jurors.

This Extent (Rentals and Surveys Roll 74) is of quite extraordinary interest from its early date, and is certainly one of the earliest Extents at the PRO. It seems to have been overlooked by the writer of the VCH (probably from its being indexed in 'Lists and Indexes' under Buckinghamshire.)

[Richmond 1928, 13](#)

1164

[Notification to the barons of the Exchequer of the King's award of £60 of land, namely £56 of land in the King's manor of Leighton (Buzzard) in Bedfordshire, together with the land of Walter Pullanus worth thirty-two shillings which the King has granted the nuns in exchange for the mill which he gave to the monks of Woburn in Leighton. £15 of this new assignment of £60 is to be regarded as alms of William the King's brother, and £45 to be accounted against the £80 which the nuns had each year at the Exchequer as alms of King Henry I, allowing for the continued payment of the remaining £35 of these alms at Michaelmas each year.

Westminster [1154 x March 1166, ?March/April 1164]

A<sup>1</sup> = Angers AD Maine-et-Loire ms 242H1 no 11. Endorsed: *carta Henr' reg' balliuis cacarii de Lestona* (s.xii); *carta Henrici regis Angl' balliuii cacarii de Lestona* (s.xiii); *iiii* (s.xiv); *l(iasse) 1 no 39* (s.xviii). Approx. 159 x 174 + 22mm.

Sealed *sur triple queue*, 3 slits, tag and seal impression missing. A<sup>2</sup> = *ibid.* 242H1 no 12. Duplicate original. Endorsed: *carta de Lestene* (s.xii); *carta de Lestone* (s.xii/xiii); *iiii* (s.xiv); *l(iasse) 1 no 21* (s.xviii). Approx 191 x 102mm. Sealed *sur simple queue*, single slit, tag and seal impression missing. B = PRO C52/31 (Cartae Antiquae Roll GG) no 8, s.xii/xiii. C = BN ms Latin 5480 part 1 p.260, copy from A<sup>1</sup> by Gaignières noting a white wax seal impression on a parchment tag, s.xvii/xviii. D = Angers AD Maine-et-Loire 242H1 no 11, copy from A<sup>1</sup>A<sup>2</sup>, s.xix.

980. Fontevraud Abbey (380H)

Pd (from A<sup>1</sup>A<sup>2</sup>BC with facsimile from A<sup>1</sup>) Delisle *Recueil* no 238 and *Atlas* plate xiii, with a further photographic copy in BL ms Facs. Suppl. 1b; (calendar from A) Vincent *Handlist* 74–5 no 63; (calendar from C, misidentified) Round *Calendar* nos 1065; (from B) Dugdale ii (1661) 975, whence *Monasticon* vi 1085, whence (calendar) Eyton *Itinerary* 60 (March 1163); (from B) R Richmond, ‘Three Records of the Alien Priory of Grove and Leighton Buzzard’, *Bedfordshire Historical Record Society* viii (1924) 43, and cf *Three Rolls of the King’s Court*, 39.

Date: before the death of Nigel Bishop of Ely (d. 30 May 1169), and hence before the king’s departure for France in March 1166. The nuns’ interest at Leighton Buzzard is first mentioned in the Pipe Roll account at Michaelmas 1164, when they received an allowance of £24 4s as half a year’s payment from Leighton and a further 40s from Radnage (Buckinghamshire) for the same half year (*PR 10 Henry II*, 30). The assignment appears to have followed the restoration of Leighton to the king upon the death of William his brother (d. 30 January 1164), suggesting a date for the present award of c. April 1164. Thereafter, the nuns received land accounted as £48 8s each year in Leighton, £4 in Radnage, and, from Michaelmas 1165–66, a further 32s in Brickhill (Buckinghamshire) (*PR 11 Henry II*, 22; *12 Henry II*, 11, and compare *PR 5 Henry III*, 194). For the mill referred to here, held by the monks of Woburn since at least 1155, see *PR 2–4 Henry II*, 21, 139 For the previous pensions granted by kings Henry and Stephen to the nuns, see *Regesta* ii nos 1580–1, 1687, iii nos 327–8.

H(enricus) rex Angl(orum) et dux Norm(annorum) et Aquit(anorum) et comes And(egauorum) baronibus suis de scaccar(io)<sup>a</sup> salutem. Sciatis me dedisse monialibus de Fonte Ebraldi in perpetuam elemosinam lx. libratas terre, videlicet in Bedefortsira<sup>b</sup> manerium meum de Lectona pro lvi. li(bris) cum terra que fuit Walteri Pullani que valet xxxii. sol(idos) quam eis dedi in excambio molend(ini) quod dedi monachis de Woburna in eodem manerio, scilicet xv. libratas terre pro elemosina Willelmi fratris mei et xlv. libratas de quater xx. li(bris) quas habebant annuatim ad scaccarium<sup>a</sup> ad festum sancti Michaelis de elemosina reg(is) H(enrici) aui mei et mea, et precipio vobis quod de predicta elemosina H(enrici) reg(is) aui mei et mea faciatis eisdem monialibus habere annuatim ad festum sancti Michael(is) ad scacchar(ium)<sup>a</sup> xxxv. libr(as) que eis retro sunt de predicta elemosina. T(estibus) Nigello episcopo El<sup>c</sup>, Roberto comite Legr’, Ric(ardo) de Luci apud Westmonast<sup>d</sup>.

a scacc’ A<sup>2</sup> b Bedefsir’ A<sup>2</sup> c Eliens’ A<sup>2</sup> d Westm’ A<sup>2</sup>

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(380H)

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a scacc' A<sup>2</sup> b Bedefsir' A<sup>2</sup> c Eliens' A<sup>2</sup> d Westm' A<sup>2</sup>

981. Fontevraud Abbey

(1619H)

*Grant of £60 in Leighton (Buzzard) (Bedfordshire) and £4 at Radnage (Buckinghamshire)*

Westminster [1154 x March 1166, ?March/April 1164]

B = BN ms Latin 5480 part i p.270, abbreviated copy by Gaignières, from a lost original lacking its seal, s.xviii/xviii.

Pd (from B) Delisle *Recueil* no 239; (calendar from B) Round *Calendar* no 1064, and cf *Rot.Hund.* i 22b.

Date: as above no 980, almost certainly issued on the same occasion, but in this instance with more witnesses and specific reference to the land at Radnage.

H(enricus) rex Angl(ororum) et dux Norm(annorum) et Aquit(anorum) et comes Andeg(aurorum)<sup>a</sup>. Sciatis me dedisse<sup>a</sup> lx. libratas terre in Hudefortsir' manerium meum de Lectona<sup>a</sup>, in Buchingehamsir' 4 li(bratas) in manerio de Radenai<sup>a</sup>.

Testibus Nigello episcopo Eliensi<sup>a</sup>, Rob(erto) com(ite) Legr', com(ite) Gaufr(ido), Rich(ardo) de Luci, Hugone de Gundeuill', Hug(one) de Lu(n)c Camp, Sim(one) filio Petri, Alano de Neuuill', Iohanne Mald', Petro de la Mara apud Westm'.

<sup>a</sup> dash in B signifying words omitted

982. Fontevraud Abbey  
(62H)

*Mandate to the sheriffs and other ministers of England, to protect the nuns' lands in England from any aid taken for the present army sent against Wales, allowing them to carry their goods to mill or wherever they chose.*

Oswestry [July 1157 x August 1165, ?] June x August 1165]

A = BL ms. Additional Charter 47391. Endorsed: *h(ec) est carta H. regis Anglie* (s.xii). Approx. 134 x 60mm. Sealed *sur simple queue*, tongue and step for wrapping tie, fragment of central portion of seal impression in natural wax on tongue.

Pd (from A) Delisle *Recueil* no 244; (calendar from A) *BEC* lxviii (1907) 281 no 26; Holt and Mortimer 81 no 120.

Date: before the introduction of the *Dei gratia* clause, and clearly associated with one or other of the king's Welsh expeditions of July/August 1157, April x July 1163, or June x August 1165. In 1165 the king was undoubtedly at Oswestry, whilst the phrase *huius exercitu* implies that this was not the first of Henry's expeditions to Wales.

H(enricus) rex Angl(ororum) et dux Norm(annorum) et Aquit(anorum) et comes And(egauorum) iustic(iis), vic(ecomitibus) et omnibus ministris suis totius Angl(ie) salutem. Precipio quod tota terra sanctimonialium de Fonte Ebraudi sit in bona pace et nichil exigatur ab eis pro auxilio huius exercitus Gualie, et permittatis ut caretagio possint dedecure victum suum ad molend(inos) et quo voluerint ad opus suum proprium, et prohibeo ne ipse inde disturbentur propter defensionem factam pro hoc exercitu Gualie. T(este) Ric(ardo) de Hasting' apud Album Monast'.

Sicily, Joan queen of

3727E

A = Angers AD Maine-et-Loire 101H55 piece non coté, forming the conclusion to a copy of the will of Queen Joan, originally sealed by Eleanor. B = Paris BN ms nouc. acq. Latin 1245 fo.141r, copy of A, s.xix.

Pd (calendar from A) Round *Calendar* no 1105.

Alienor Dei gratia illustris regina Anglie ducissa Normannie et Aquitanie comitissa Andegavie omnibus ad quos presens scriptum peruenerit salutem. Uniuersitati vestre facimus notum nos in Gasconiam iter arripuisse et cartam in qua continetur testamentum karissime filie nostre regine Iohanne nobiscum detulisse ut ea visa propter testimonium vi. sigillorum in ea pendentium comes de Sancto Egidio quod ad eum pertinet de elemosina faciat assignari. Vobis igitur complaceat quatinus testamentum prefate regine sicut in carta continetur cuius transcriptum vobis transmittimus coram domino Willelmo priore Fontisebraldi et fratribus cum eo in Anglia hac de causa applicatis pro amore Dei et nostro ad honorem Dei et anime eius utilitatem assignari faciatis.

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Testibus Nigello episcopo Eliensi<sup>a</sup>, Rob(erto) com(ite) Legr', com(ite) Gaufr(ido), Rich(ardo) de Luci, Hugone de Gundeuill', Hug(one) de Lu(n)c Camp, Sim(one) filio Petri, Alano de Neuuill', Iohanne Mald', Petro de la Mara apud Westm'.

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Mandate to the sheriffs and other ministers of England, to protect the nuns' lands in England from any aid taken for the present army sent against Wales, allowing them to carry their goods to mill or wherever they chose.

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**1164 Charter, Henry II, (10)**

*[Original grant of Leighton manor to Fontevrault Abbey. Giving 60 librates of land: in Hudeforsire (sic) [rectius Bedefortsire], his manor of Lectona; in Buckinghamshire £4 from the manor of Radenai. This was a bare 7 to 8 years after considerable sums were spent on restocking the royal manors, which were therefore likely to be in good order. Fontevrault probably got a good deal.]*

Carta Regis Henrici Secundi, de Manerio de Lecton in Comitatu Bedfordiae.

H. rex Angliae, dux Norm et Aquit. Et comes Andeg., baronibus suis de scaccario, salutem. Sciatis me dedisse monialibus de Fonte Ebraldi in perpetuam elemosynam LX librates terrae; videlicet in Bedefordscire manerium meum de Lecton pro lvi. Cum terra qual fuit Walteri Pullani, quae valet xxxiis. Quam eis dedi in escambio molendini quod dedit monachis de Woburna in eodem manerio; scilicet, xv liberates terrae pro elemosyna Williemi fratris mei, et xlv libratas de quarter viginti libratas, quas habebant annuatim ad scaccarium ad festum S. Michaelis de elemosyna Regis H. avi mei et mea. Et praecipio vobis, quod de praedicta elemosyna Henrici Regis, avi mei, et mea, faciatis eisdem monialibus habere annuatim ad festum S. Michaelis ad scaccarium xxxv. Quae eis retro sunt de praedicta elemosyna.

[Dugdale, W, 1846. Monasticon Anglicanum, Vol 6 pt II, 1085](#)

**1163-64 Pipe Rolls, Henry II (11)**

*[Payments to the Exchequer by Fontevrault includes £5 12s 8d spent rebuilding/restoring/restocking the manor of Leighton; clearly the mother house lost no time in spending cash on its new acquisition to fit it for its new role, just 7 to 8 years after its restocking by the Crown.]*

Et Monialil de fonte Evraldi t. xxiiii. Li 7 & .iiiiis in Lehton. De dim anno. Et Eist. xLs in Radenhech de demid' anno. Et in restaur Manu de Lehton. C 7. xiis 7. viii. D. p br px. Et in suo suppl de firma nu. xxx. S

[Pipe Roll 10 Henry II, Pipe Roll Society, 1886, Vol VII, 30](#)

**Also 1163-64, 1164-65, 1165-66, 1166-67, 1167-68, 1168-69, 1169-70, 1170-71, 1171-72, 1172-73, 1173-74**

*Payments to the Exchequer for Lehton etc; payments are consistent throughout the period: £48 8s for Leighton.*

[Pipe Roll Society Vols VII to XXXVIII](#)

**1171-77? Charter, Henry II (20)**

[Actually the son of Henry II and brother of Richard I.]

'Charter of Henry king of the English, duke of the Normans and count of the Angevins, son of King Henry, giving to the nuns of Fontevrault £60. Bedeford(shire) from his manor of Lecton, given them by the king, his lord and father, and in Bocingehamsire £4 from his manor of Radenai, namely 15 librates of the endowment of King Henry, his father's grandfather.'

Round, J H (ed), 1899. *Calendar of Documents Preserved in France Vol 1, 918-1206, 377*

**1176 Papal Bull of Alexander III, Henry II (25)**

[Addressed to the abbess and sisters of Fontevrault, telling them that they are to take over the English house of Amesbury; this occurred in 1177. Henry II paid the huge sum of £881 for the rebuilding of Amesbury and the nuns were installed in 1186.]

'15 September

Understanding from ... Henry the illustrious king of the English that he desires to institute their order in the monastery of the sisters of Amesbury, asserting that he will so increase the endowment in substance and possession that a greater convent of nuns may find honourable and competent sustenance, he (the Pope) finds the king's wish and desire worthy of commendation. He has therefore enjoined on his worshipful brothers, the archbishop of Canterbury, legate of the Apostolic see, and the bishops of London, Exeter and Worcester, to go to that monastery and give careful warning that their order is to be admitted; and if any of the sisters cannot be induced (to consent) they are to cause them, by the Pope's authority, to be received into other monasteries, by the favour and intervention of the said king, and to be kindly treated; and then they are to introduce into that monastery the order of Fontevrault.'

Round, J H (ed), 1899. *Calendar of Documents Preserved in France Vol 1, 918-1206, 378-9*

[In 1176 there had been evil reports about this abbey, and Henry II obtained the pope's consent to re-found it as a priory in the order of Fontevrault.]

**1177**

[In 1177 the abbess was pensioned and her 30 nuns were apparently expelled to other houses; 21 or 24 nuns under a prioress arrived from Fontevrault, and they were joined by a few nuns from Westwood. Some brethren of the order were probably sent also.]

Knowles, D and Hadcock, N, 1971. *Medieval Religious Houses England and Wales, 104*