

67.07 Selected transcriptions, Richard I, 1189–99

1189 Confirmation Charter of Richard I (26)

'The nuns of Amesbury, some 30 in number, for the turpitude of their life, the dissolution of their order, and public scandal, were ... removed from their monastery and placed in other monasteries; and nuns of Fontevrault were introduced to serve God there. He grants, therefore, to the abbey of Fontevrault the gift of his father King Henry, for the weal, of his father, mother, and predecessors, namely the church of St Mary and St Melorus at Ambresberia, with all its appurtenances, ecclesiastical and secular, that the order of Fontevrault may be established there forever, and a much larger convent of nuns than had been the case, should there serve God, under a prioress according to the order of the abbey. He further confirms to the Abbey ... the gift, by his father King Henry, of £60 worth of land, namely his manor of Lecton in Bedefordsyra for £56, with the land of Walter Pullanus, which is worth 32 shillings (£1 12s), which King Henry his father gave them in exchange for the mill (*Grange Mill in Heath and Reach*) which he gave the monks of Woburn in the same manor.'

Round, J H (ed), 1899. *Calendar of Documents Preserved in France Vol 1, 918–1206*, 384

1190 Richard I grants £35 annually to Fontevrault (29)¹

1194

'Bedfordshire. Hugh the Reeve [*prepositus*]. John son of Roger, John of Stanbrig', William son of Eilm', Rein' his brother, Robert Blundus, Richard de Prato, Robert de Clifton', Ingilram *cum barba*, William Hernelis, Hardrig' son of Robert, Adam of Farselawe, sent by the soke of Lecton' to enquire what service William the clerk owes for his land which he holds from the nuns of Fonte Ebroffi.

They say for the soke that William the clerk owes for his land each year three plough-services, and three harvest services, one harvest service with one of his men without an allowance for food, a second with all his household which is to be fed by the lord, and he himself is bound to bring them and remain there, and the third with one man to be fed by the lord as are other sokemen of the same manor.

William the clerk came and said that when the lord King Henry gave those lands to the nuns of Fonte Ebroffi, which his predecessors and he himself had always held freely from the Lord King and that certain of the twelve jurors are customary tenants of the nuns and that he does not wish to place himself on their inquisition concerning his free tenancy as they are customary tenants and he says that he was not summoned to an inquisition to be heard by such people and he offered to the Lord King five marks to have an inquisition before the lawful men of the manors of Hocton and Lecton.'

Curia Regis Rolls, Rich. I, published Pipe Roll Soc. vol. XIV 18, 38–9

1194

'Bedfordshire. The Prior of Lecton' complained that Simon de Bello Campo the sheriff of Bedfordshire exacted suit of the county and of the hundred from those men contrary to the charter of the Lord King which they had concerning their tenements, and against the prohibition of the lord of Canterbury; for he

¹ Editor's note: some text may have been omitted here

had taken their beasts and held them against a bail and pledge etc. he had sent for the beasts [?] to be pledged by his men. The same Simon took his men who ought to pledge the beasts and imprisoned them until they had made a fine with him for suit which they did not do and he held their beasts thus [?] until he bore another writ which would show how he had vexed them against the prohibition of the Justices and that he should have the first writ

... Simon came and in defence said that he had received no other writ except the last which he said existed and the prior produced witnesses who testified that they had brought to him the writ of summons that Simon himself should be at Westminster on the morrow of Saint John. In replying Simon defended himself against them as against villeins and the same Prior said that they are his free men. Simon defended also the retention of the beasts and he said that he himself took the writ which the beasts of the free men of the lord prior and for the consideration of the court he took the beasts other things to consider for him. They had leave for an agreement in their own county *sine die*.'

[Rolls of the King's Court Ric. I, Pipe Roll Society, vol. XIV 18, 41](#)

[1194]

'Hugh the Reeve, John son of Roger, John of Stanbrigg and others to the number of 12 sent for the soc of Lecton to enquire what services William the clerk should perform for his land which he held of the nuns of Fonte Ebrolfi. They say on behalf of the soc that William the clerk owes for his land annually three plough services and three harvest services and one harvest service with one of his men without food, a second with all his household to be fed by the lord and he himself should take his men and be present, and a third service with one man to be fed by the lord as other sokemen of the same manor.

William the clerk came and said that when the lord King Henry gave that land to the nuns of Fonte Ebrolfi, his predecessors and he himself had always held that land freely from the lord King, and that certain of the jurors are customary tenants of the nuns and he does not wish to place himself on them, and asks for an inquisition by free tenants.'

[Placitorum Abbreviatio Richard I-Edward II, 1811, 97](#)

n.d. [Charter of Richard I \(28\)](#)

[He directs that]

'the nuns and lay brethren of the Abbey of Fontevrault, and their men, horses, and substance, shall be free of toll, etc and all dues in fairs and markets throughout his dominion and no one shall trouble them or theirs, but they shall be protected as being of his own demesne; nor shall they be impleaded except before himself or his chief justice.'

[Round, J H \(ed\), 1899. Calendar of Documents Preserved in France Vol 1, 918-1206, 385](#)

1194 Richard I

[The first Prebend is named as Theobald de Busello, possibly on 1 October c 1194 but more probably c 1189. He is said (in 1294) to have preceded John de Sancto Egido, and originated the name of Leighton Buzzard to distinguish it from other Leightons. This is likely to be the man who disputed La Grava's rights to conducting divine service, cemetery and burial in 1220. John de Sancto was transferred from the prebend of Banbury after 28 January 1234.]

[British History on Line: Prebendaries](#)

1194 Curia Regis Rolls, Richard I (30)

[Six disputes regarding services and land between William, Clerk of Leighton and others, and the Prior de Lecton'. It would seem that the monastic regime is trying to impose more than the more relaxed royal ownership.]

[Rolls of the King's Court, Ric.I, Pipe Roll Society, Vol XIV, 18, 38-9; also pp.134-6, 141](#)

[Also I John, Vol I, 1835, 4-5](#)

[Also Fines, Sive Pedesfinium, Vol I, 1835, 3](#)

[Also Placitorum Abbreviatio, Richard I-Edward II, 1811, 97](#)

1196 Feet of Fines, Richard I (36)

[This is one of six disputes with tenants over services that year.]

'The Abbess and Convent of Font'lewer' by Vitalis, Prior of Lecton, their attorney; against William clerk of Lecton. Customs and services of a hide in Lecton and of a virgate which had been of Saward in Lecton, and of half a virgate in Bilindon. The Abbess granted them to William and his heirs at a service of eighteen shillings a year. Besides, William and his heirs shall give yearly to the Abbess two shillings, instead of three ploughings and a bidripe which is called Hing' Bidripe due from him; save two bidripes which he shall do at the Abbess' food, the first with all the men of his hospice and land, a second with one man. Thereon the messuage which Walter brother of the said William held was quitclaimed to the Abbess and convent.'

[Fowler, G H, 1919. A Calendar of the Feet of Fines for Bedfordshire, Part 1, BHRS, Vol VI, 9](#)

1196 Pipe Rolls, Richard I (43)

'Michaelmas; new ameracements

Prior of Lecton, for disseisin.....2. 0. 0

To the said Prior and the Nuns of Fontevrault, pardon by liberty of royal charter for themselves and their men aforesaid.'

[Fowler, G H, and Hughes, M W, 1923. A Calendar of the Pipe Rolls of the Reign of Richard I for Bucks and Beds, 1189-99, BHRS, Vol VII, 110](#)

1198 Curia Regis Rolls, Richard I (44)

[Court case at Easter between Simon de Beauchamp and the Prior of Leighton regarding common pasture.]

'Simon de Bello campo versus abbatem de Waltham et priorem de Lecton' et moniales de Fonte Eborard' de placito (*commune*) pasture per Willelmum f. Roberti et Phillipum de Alno. Ad eundem terminum.'

Memoranda Roll – 10 John and Curia Regis Rolls, Pipe Roll Society, Vol NS XXXI, 1955, 117

1199 **Curia Regis Rolls, John**
[Dispute between the Prior de Lecton' and Simon]

Rotuli Curiae Regis Rolls and Records of the Court held before the King's
Judiciars or Justices. Richard I-John, Vol II, 1835, 12