

Earl Thomas, who refused to attend ; they were not reconciled until August. The gathering at Northampton was to parley with the earl, but since a contemporary chronicler remarked that its size and strength suggested that it had come to do battle rather than to a parliament,<sup>35</sup> the earl's suspicions of it were probably well founded. Bolingbroke was really his wife's inheritance, and, as she had deserted him in 1317, possibly she was implicated in the threat to the castle that the earl foresaw. The document throws some light on the earl's otherwise puzzling behaviour.

To the student of the castle the order is of interest as showing how a castle at this date was put in a state of defence. The whole responsibility rested on the constable, who, if successful, was to be suitably rewarded by having his post made permanent. He had no resident garrison but had to choose a dozen or more tenants, upon whom he could best rely, to serve as a temporary garrison. No unauthorized person was to be allowed in, and the drawbridges were to be raised and gates closed by day and by night. The whole tenor of the order suggests that the danger that threatened was not an open assault but subversion, the quick seizure of the castle by a raiding party, aided perhaps by disloyal tenants. The earl may well have had some misgivings as to whether the tenants would be loyal to his wife or to himself.

The document reads :<sup>36</sup>

'Thomas, Counte de Lancastre et de Leicestre, Seneschal Dengleterre, a sire Geffroi de Villers, nostre conestable de Bolingbrok, salut. Nous vous mandons que vous pregniez de nos gentz de nostre segnurie de Bolingbrok cieus come vous fiez chescun mieus, une dozeine ou plus si mester soit de veiller en nostre Chastel pur la sauueite de meisme le Chastel. Et ne soffrez nul homme entrer le dit Chastel de Jour ne de nuyt fois que cieus dount vous fiez, et treer les pountz tourniciez et fermez les portes de iour et de nuyt. Et faites que nostre Chastel soit sauument garde sicome nous fioms de vous, tanque homme sache a quon fyn cest assemble de Northampton vodra trere. Et sachez que si nul mal avigne a nostre Chastel, que dieu defende, nous le renderoms a vous. Et voloms que les renables costages que vous mettrez entour la dite garde vous soien allouez sur vostre prochain accomte par tesmoignance de ceste letre. Done a nostre Chastel de Tutteburg'. le ix iour de Joygn. L'an du Regne nostre seigneur le Roy Edward, Fuitz a noble Roy Edward, unzime.'

M. W. THOMPSON

#### THE NORWEGIAN CONFERENCE, 1965

The eighth annual Conference of the Society was held in Norway from 9-15 September, 1965, and had as its theme 'Medieval Norway'. About seventy people attended. The Conference was organized by Mr. Martin Blindheim and Mr. Asbjörn Herteig ; the Society owes a great debt to them and their various helpers for making the Conference the success it undoubtedly was.

On 9 September, when the Conference opened in Bergen, three lectures were given : Professor Robert Kloster, 'Background to medieval art and archaeology in Norway'; Mr. G. Fischer, 'Introduction to medieval archaeology in Norway, with special reference to architecture'; and Mr. A. Herteig, 'The excavations at Bryggen, Bergen'. In the afternoon of the same day members visited the University Historical Museum and the open-air museum at Gamle Bergen. On the following day the Conference visited the excavations at Bryggen, the Rosenkrantz tower, Håkonshallen, and St. Mary's Church.

From 11-13 September members of the Conference visited various monuments on the route between Bergen and Oslo including the churches at Voss, Hopperstad, Urnes and Borgund, the Vang Stone and the Fagernes Folk Museum.

<sup>35</sup> N. Denholm Young (ed.), *Vita Edwardi Secundi* (London, 1957), p. 87.

<sup>36</sup> I have added some extra punctuation, and I am grateful to Mr. A. J. Taylor for checking my transcript.

At a reception at Universitetets Oldsaksamling on the night of their arrival in Oslo members were able to see the collections of that museum at their leisure. On the two following days, 14-15 September, members visited the Viking Ship Museum, the Norwegian Folk Museum and certain sites of archaeological interest in Oslo itself.

The Society must record its gratitude to the universities of Bergen and Oslo, to the town council of Bergen, to Universitetets Oldsaksamling and to the Norwegian Archaeological Society for receptions and meals offered with true Norwegian hospitality.

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