

READING RECORDS

GENERAL EDITOR: C. F. SLADE

This third instalment of Reading Records consists of a collection of documents concerning relations between town and abbey c. 1500 (no. 4), the Cofferers' Account for 1420-1 (no. 5), and a page previously missing from the Corporation Diary, 1442 (no. 6). No. 5 has been edited by Mr. W. J. Smith, County Archivist for Berkshire. Work is in hand on deeds before 1539, mainly those belonging to the Corporation, and on Abbey deeds that concern the town. The general editor would appreciate editorial assistance especially in connexion with more modern records.

READING RECORDS (4)

C. F. SLADE

DOCUMENTS CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN TOWN AND ABBEY
C. 1500 A.D.

INTRODUCTION

The documents printed here form part¹ of British Museum Additional Manuscript no. 6214 and are concerned with the disputes, between the Gild Merchant (the ruling body of the town) and the Abbey, that came to a head soon after 1500. They are written in hands of c. 1500 and probably represent part of the documentary accumulation made by one of the parties to the dispute. The documents, which can unless otherwise stated be dated to c. 1500, are:

(a) an agreement between Town and Abbey concerning the passage of boats on the river Kennet: 1405 (fo. 2).

(b) a series of complaints made by the Town against the Abbot concerning neglect of properties etc. in Reading. The initial complaint was made 1479-80 (fo. 22).

(c) a document by the Gild Merchant setting out to prove that Reading was an ancient and corporate borough (fo. 7, other copies fols. 8, 9, 21).

(d) the reply of the Abbot to (c) (fo. 4, other copies fols. 10, 20).

(e) a document seeking to prove that the mayor and burgesses had corporate possession of certain properties, especially the Out Butchery (fo. 16).

(f) the Abbot's reply to a bill of complaint made against him by the so-called town authorities. He petitions that the matters should be determined by court of common law not by the king's council (fo. 18).

(g) a short reply by the mayor and burgesses to (f), stating that they are quite content with the existing judges (fo. 18).

(h) the answer by the Abbot to a complaint by the Town concerning the election of officials and lack of rule in the town (fo. 19).

(i) the 'replication' made by the Town to (h) (fo. 6).

(j) a letter from the King to the sheriff of Berkshire detailing the Abbot's complaints against certain named individuals concerning the election of officials in the town (fo. 14).

(k) the reply by Richard Cleche, one of the individuals named in (j), refuting the Abbot's claim that he acted out of grudge and malice towards the Abbey (fo. 5).

¹The rest is an eighteenth-century survey of west country hill forts.

There are two obvious losses among the documents in the complaints to which (f) and (h) were replies. Another, presumed, loss is any document dealing with settlement of the dispute, for the terms of an interim settlement dated 1507 are copied into the Corporation Diary (Guilding, *Records of the Borough of Reading*, Vol. I, pp. 105-9). Two of the documents of the collection are not printed here. One of these is an English version of a fourteenth-century corporation lease in French, which was obviously included, like (a) above, to show the corporate nature of the borough; the original deed survives (Corporation deed no. 44), and will in due course be printed in this series of Reading Records. The other, an agreement in 1510 before the King's Council for the making of burgesses and for the making of a keeper of the gild 'for this time only', is copied into the Corporation Diary (Guilding, *op. cit.*, pp. 117-8). The spelling of the documents now printed is as in the originals, but a little editorial work has been done on the punctuation. A selection of these documents was printed, with modernized spelling, in Trenholme's *English Monastic Boroughs* (University of Missouri Studies, Vol. II, no. 3, 1927, Appendix). Unfortunately it was a posthumous publication, and there are certain major errors that would never have escaped the author had he lived to see his work through the press. Short extracts appear in *Victoria County History, Berks., III*, but the present edition is the first where they have been printed in full.

These documents are very important in the history of the relations between town and abbey, and come at a time when most monastic boroughs were no longer in active conflict with their abbeys. This is not the place to write the history of relations between abbey and town in Reading, but it should be noted that there was no question of popular rising against the abbey. The town was represented by a very select body of the leading burgesses who, the cynic might think, were more concerned with their prestige than with the fortunes of the town, which certainly did not suffer from monastic oppression. To such men violence would be as distasteful as to the abbot, and the whole episode has a legal, even legalistic, flavour.

(a)

This indenture made the ij^{de} day of Junii yere of the raigne of kyng Henry the iiijth after the conquest the vjth between Richard abbot of Redyng and the convent of the same place on thone partie and the warden of the gilde merchaunte of the towne of Redyng and the communalte of the same towne on thother partie witnessith that the said abbot and convent for the profit ease and encrease that myght on this behalf come to people of the said towne and to good honeste men neighbours nigh the same towne dwelling have grauntid for them and for their successours by theis presents to the said warden and communalte and to their heirs and successors burgesses of the same towne that they and any of them and also eny straunger may have passage with there botes and other vessels callid showtes reasonably chargid with merchaundise or vitaille of there and that between son rysing and the son going downe and not otherwise from the greate Ryver callid Thames thorowe the severall waters of the said abbot and convent callid Kennett which enclosith thone parte of the said abbay unto the High Bridge in the said towne of Redyng and also ther repassage frome the same Bridge with such botes and vessels betwene son rysing

and son going down and not otherwise thorowe the said severall waters unto the said ryver of Thamys. Ensuryng that at what hour any such vessel or bote shall come between the sonnys aforesaid to a certayn place in the said severall waters callid Brokenburghlok the same vessel and bote shall tary there as well comyng as retornyng without grevaunce or damage to be done by the meyne of the said abbot and convent of the said place untill a man of any such vessel or bote be sent to the places within the said abbay callid Blankport Conventkothyr and Westhey att one of the which places shall be founde a person that shall be deputid there by thabbot that shall be for the tyme without frawde or yll entryn to entend and to opyn the lok at the said place of Brokenburghlok within ij^o howris or in shorter space if it may well be after that he was warnid to open the same lok and to suffer the same vessels and botes to enter and passe in the forme aforesaid and as underneth is said and also that the said warden and burgesses and ther heres and successors shall maunde and send forth ij^o or iij^o honeste persons or mo if nede be to convey from tyme to tyme all the said vessels and botes as well at there entre as at ther passage for whom they wyll answere to face and kepe the said abbot and convent of the said place for the tyme being withoute losse and damage paying to the same abbot and convent and to there successors uppon the entre of the same showte and bote att the said place callid Brokenburghlok for any such showte issuing chargid or unchargid that is or shall be to the Burgesses aforesaid or to there heirs or successors abovesaid or to any of them jd and for any bote issuing charged or unchargid 5d. And for every suche showte that is any straungers issuing chargid or unchargid that is to say lade or unlade ijd. And for every bote chargid and unchargid 5d. and for every foreyn showte chargid or not chargid resonably with the goodes of the said Burgesses or any of them jd. And also customes and penyes dewe to the said abbot and convent and to ther successors of goodes and merchaundise laid on there grownd withyn the precinct of there lordshippe of Redyng in uncharging or charging any such vessell or bote as well for the wharfage as els otherwise. Provided that at no day nor tyme it be lawfull to any person with showte or bote withyn the said severall waters to make any play riott or noyse that myght turne to the prejudice damage or disease of the said abbot and convent and of there successours or of ther ministers officers or servaunts or of any of them. And onto that provided that if any hurt or damage be done to thabbot and convent of the said place by any showte or bote in thentre or passage of them thorow the said severall waters sufficyaunt amonde be made to the said abbot and convent for the same hurt and damage by the said myssdoers and trespassours by the help of the said burgesses before that the same showte or vessell passe the same lok and to all ther articles and covenants above written and to any of them well and lawfully to be holden kept and performid in all points as well by the said abbot and convent and ther successours as by the said warden Burgesses and commonalte and ther heirs and successors aforesaid the parties abovesaid that is to say the said abbot and convent to thone partie of this indenture being with the said warden and commonalte and the same warden and commonalte to thother partie of the same indentur remayng with the forsaid abbot and convent have putte ther commune seal. Gevyn at Redyng the year and day abovesaid.

(b)

One tyme as Kyng Edward the iiijth came thorowgh Redyng toward Woodstoke in the xixth yere of his regne complaynts were made unto hym by the towne and the countrey uppon thabbot and the convent of Redyng¹ of certeyne weyst brydgys chapells and howsys of almes not kepte nor maynteynyd accordyng to ryght and conscience and as they have ben wonte of old tyme to the whyche as hyt ys seyde they have bothe londs and lyvelods suffycient. As fyrst a parte of Caversham brydge with a chapell ther upon of the holy gost. Also the hygh brydge and other brydges thorowgh the towne. Also a chapell at the west end of the Towne of Seynt Edmund the Kyng and martyr, wherin lyeth the bonys of many christen people and now yt ys made a barne and also ther was without thabbey gate a place callyd Seynt Jonys howse wher in were founde and kepte certeyn relygyous women wydowse in chaste lyyng in goddes service praying nyght and day for the Kynges state and for the soules of ther founders and benefactors wherin was a feyr chapell of Seynt John Baptyst for the seyde women to sey their prayers in certeyn seasons of the day and nyght and wher also massys were seyde many tymes in the yere and other devyne service also whyche women went to have out of thabbey eny weke a certeyne of bred and ale and also money and as yt ys seyde oons in the yere a certeyne clothynge and this was ordeynyd for such women as had ben onest mennys wyvys that had borne offyce in the towne before and in age were fall in povertie or that proposed no more to marye et cetera. And now ther ys nother goddes service nor prayers nor creature a lyve to kepe hyt. But thabbott take the the profyett ther of and dothe no suche almes nor good dedes ther wyth. More over an other Chapell ther was in the est syde of the towne callyd Mary Magdelyn chapell and lyvelod therto for to releve therein syke folkes as lazars and an howse for them to dwell in besyde with feyr londs perteynyng therto, wherof thabbott takethe the profytt and hath taken downe the seyde chapell and all the howse therto apperteynyng. And so ther be no poer people relevyd thereby as now et cetera nother were not many days whyche complaynt made as is above rehersed. The seyde Kyng Edward the iiijth commanded my lord Rychard Beuchaumpe then beyng Byshopp of Salysburye in ryght streyt wyse to see the reformation of all thes thyngs shortely to be had. And that every thyngs were dysposed accordyng to the foundation and fyrst ordenaunce and nevertheles thus hyt happned after the Kyng had gevyn this commaundment the seyde Bysshopp came to the place in hys ordenary vysytacion and to thentent to have take due examinacion and better knowlege and so due dyreccon of thes matters he contynowyng hys vysytacion tyll a certayne day departed from the place full ylle content not only for this but as yt ys seyde for many other thyngs mysordred within the place in lyke wyse by the wylfulness of the seyde abbot and his accesorys. And within few days after he dyssecyd¹ by goddes vysytacion and so all thes matters stondyth styll hyderto unreformed. Notwithstanding my lord of Salysbury that last dyssecyd seyde that whoso ever ys bysshopp of Salysbury ys one of the founders of the howse of Seynt Johnns as he had evydence to shew. And entendyd yet God had lent hym lyfe yt shuld have ben retourned ayen to the ese of systeris as yt was of old accordyng to the fyrst fundacion whych place as now thabbott hath transposed to the forme of a fre scol seyng unto hys neyghbores

¹4 November 1481.

that he hath so provydyd that a scole master shuld have of hym yerly x marks and an usshar v marks to teche there gramer free et cetera saying moreover that master Robert Shorborne now dene of pollys¹ had gevyn hym to the same entent xl li nevertheles there ys as yet nother scole nor man woman ne chylde relevyd ther. But the place hath the prophytts there of thys xxxv yers and more et cetera.

(c)

This is the compleynt of the Gardeyn and
Burges of the Gilde Merchaunt of
Redyng¹

The seid Gardeyn and Burges sayn that the Town of Redyng is an auncient Burgh and that they have been and be corporat by the name of Gardeyn and Burges of the Gilde merchaunt of Redyng befor tyme that no mynde is. And that they be all the same tyme were seaid of Stalles and Shoppis called the oute Bochery or the oute flesshammells in the seide town of Radyng in their demeane as in fee as in the right of the seide gilde merchaunte Unto that they were by Thomas Hendlay abbot their, predeceser to the abbot that now [is], deceasid. The which wrongs the seide abbot that now is conteiguith.

Memorandum that the Gardeyn and Burges of Redyng sayn that the same Burogh is corporat for as moch as thabbot Richard predecessour to thabbot of Reading now amovid the markett of the gilde merchaunt there fro the place of the olde tyme accustomed and many other iniuries and wronges did to the seide Burgh of Redyng for the which the Burges in the name of the hole body of the seide Burgh theym compleynynd to the Kings courte at Westm'. Aganst which compleynthe action and suete the seid abbot Richard made answer as to persones corporat as in a fyne of Record bytwene the same abbot and Burges made more at large as sheweth and apperth.

These been the articles to appere and
ratifie the Corporation of the Burgh of
Reding'

In primis the mayer of the Burgh of Reding and Burges of the same their antecessours and predecessours by fore tyme that no mynde is were seaid in their demeane as of fee as in the right of their Guylde there of and in a Gildhalle with Stablys Gardeyns and other edificions with their appurtenans to the yerely value of iiij li xix s and vid.²

Item the seid mayer ut supra be fore date of rendre have been seaid of xij messuages with appurtenances to gadere with a mede callid Portmannebroke in their demeane as of fee as in the right &c to the yerely valew of v marc' and more.

Item the seide mayer ut supra hath been seaid of a wharf and a tenement joyned and assigned to the same with the common beme and weights to the value of viij s. iiij d. and better

Item of an In callid the Shamnbles of Fysh which atteignith to the yerely value of xxxij s. xd.

¹St. Pauls.

²Other copies have "vj marcs and more" instead of the sum given here.

Item the seide mayer and Burges have been seasid of the fleshammells callid the oute Bochery but now of late tyme that they wrongefully and withoute cause resonable have been disseasid which was to the yerely value of xxvj s. viij d.¹

Item the seid mayer ut supra have tyme oute of mynde had thaduoson nomination and patronage of a Chauntry there sum tyme grauntid to the foreseide mayer and his successours there by oone Sir John off Colley Knyght and morteysied by the Kings letteres patentes.

Item the seid mayer and burges have alweyes been chargid and founde ij Burges of the parliament as ofte as the parliament is holde.

Item where the Kyng our sovereigne lordes nobill progenitoars hath graunted ratified and confermyd by theirre letteres patentes under theirre grete seale unto the Burges of the seide Gylde of Reding and to theirre successors for ever to be tolle free thorough all Ingland and also to be quytte and discharged from all Shyrys and hundrethes.

Item the seide Burges have hadde of tyme oute of mynde a comon seale within theirre Gildhalle and it have peceably hadde and occupied and there with have ensealid as often as hath requyryd withoute intereption &c.

Item the mayor and Burges hath the charge of the reperacion of the stokes as often tymes as nede requirith within the seid Burgh.

Item the seid Gardeyn and Burges ut supra seyne that they and theirre auncestres Burges of the seid Burgh were seasid of the premises as in the right of theirre Gilde merchaunt by the service of one peny then due to the Kyng longe by fore or the monastery of Rading was founded and edified for prooffe wherof they seyne that if the seide Gilde merchaunt meses stables and gardines with other edifications and theirre appertenances hadde been in the hondes of the Kynge in the tyme of the mortisement of the monastery the same Kyng their founder of the same monastery wolde have geven graunted and enmorteised all the forseid Town of Radyng with his appartenaus which Gilde Merchaunte meses gardines and stables and other premisses with theirre appartenaus the forseide gardeyn and Burges and theirre auncestors peseably have hadde holde occupied and enjoyed by the service abovesaide with oute claym chalenge intereption or demaunde unto the day and tyme of the making of the fine foreseide whiche by the fors termys and effecte of the same fine was thenne alteredde torned and chaungid to the somme of vjs viijd as in the same fyne more at large it sheweth and apperith.

(d)

This is thaunswere of the complaynte of the
pretensid Gardeyn & Burges of the Gylde merchaunt
of Radyng.

Firste where the gardeyn and Burges pretendith them self to be corporate by the names of Warden & burges of the Gylde of Radyng byfore tyme that no mynde is

¹Fos. 8 and 21 have "xxxvjs. viijd."

thereto this is thanswere, that there is no matier of record nor other thyng sufficient in lawe to approve them in such wise to be corporat. And where the said Gardeyn and burges have surmytted a fyne to be leveyid in approvyng their said corporations the same fyne shewith them in no suche manner to be corporat at the tyme therof lyveing nor at eny tyme before. And furthermore for answer ther is no matier of record wherby it may appere that the said abbot Richard predecessour affermyd the said wardeyn and Burges to be corporat as by their tyle is surmytted.

Also the fyne as it apperith was leveyd bytween the steward and the burges of Redyng pleynante and the abbot deforciant at which tyme the towne was not corporatt by the name of wardeyn and Burges for if it so were the same fyne is voyd in so moche as the said warden is not party to the said fyne. Also by the said fyne leveid the graunt is supposid to the burges and their heirs and not unto their successors wherfor thes burges by succession may no thinge clayme.

Item the wordes in the said fyne which shuld make the said warden and burges to be corporat is by the guante of the said Burges and not by the graunte of the predecessors of the said abbot of eny wordes spoken or written by them.

And also where the mair of the burgh of Redyng and burges of the same pretend them and their anncesturs and predecessures byfore tyme that no mynde is to be seasid in fe in the ryght of their Gyld of and in a Guyld halle with stables wardonis and other edificacions with appurtenaunces to the yerly valu of vj marcs and more and also of xij mesuages and a mede called Portmanbroke therto this is thanswer, that the corporations in their tyle byfore pretensid and this clayme by the name in this article surmitted accord nott, and so both insuffycient. And furthermor for the declaration of trowoth the said Burges hath had and occupied by longe tyme the said Guyld hall and also the other premisses in this article specified unto this day by suffraunce of the said abbot and his predecessours withoute any other such sufficient tyle in the lawe that the said mair and burges have unto the said premisses as by them is surmytted.

Item as to the said wharf and tenements the said mair and burges have not ben therof lauffully seasid but have held and occupied the same withoute lawfull tyle.

Item as to the fissh shamels they ben and are sett upon the soyle and frehold of the said abbot and so of ryght to hym and his predecessoures atteyne the said Shamelle and profits therof. Howbehit he and his predecessours have suffred of ther goodwill the Burges to take the profites therof.

Item as to the flesshshambles called the oute bochery they were and ben sett upon the soyle and frehold of the said abbott and so by hym and his predecessours have ben repaired made and susteynid and the said mair and Burges therof had never possession but by suffraunce of the said abbot and they wer therof never by his predecessours never disseasid.

Item as to the advouson nominacion and patronage of the same chauntry was foundid long sith tyme of mynde wherby it apperith that the said maire and burges therof had never possession but by suffraunce of the said abbot as they have surmitted.

Item as to the fyndynge of ij burges unto the parlyament that is no sufficient matier to prove them to be corporat for dyvers burghes and townes in England so

done which have no corporations as Dowton¹ in Suth' and Ludyarsale² and dyvers others.

Item as for that the said Burges have a comon seale that is no prove of any corpora-
tion for dyvers other townes nott corporat so hathe.

Item as far as the said Burges allegge them self to be discharged of suyte to shyer
and hundredes by reason of lettres patente &c therto the said abbot sayth that longe
byfore these lettres patente the Kynges progenitours graunted to his predecessours
the said hundred with all thinge therto belongyng.

(e)

The title of the Garden and burges of the free Gylde Marchaunte off Redyng unto
certain Stalles and Shoppes callyd the outebochery orderwise called the flesshe
Shambles sette in the said Burghe off Redyng.

The said Garden and Burges sayen that where in the tyme off Kinge Harry the
thirde the xxxviij^{te} yere of his reigne ther was a fyne levied beffore the kings justices
at Westminster betwene oone Richard then abbott of the monastery of our ladie off
Reding predicesor of the seid now abbot playnaunt and one Henry Wall and
Danyell Woluesey then being wardens off the said free Gilde marchaunt and the
Burges of the same deforciant of certain meases with thappertenaunces and other free
libertees and customes then in demaunde and which the said Garden and Burges on
the right of their said Gylde marchaunt off long tyme beffore the said fyne were
possessed and used to have in the right of the same Gilde marchaunt uppon plee
and demaunde off which fyne the said abbott predecessor off the said now abbott
knowledged and in the said courte among other libertees and customes for hym his
churche of Reding and successors of the same for ever that they said Garden and
Burges and there successors for ever shuld peasebly have and enjoye to them and
there successors for ever more amonge other libertees and free customes the said
xij measses with thappurtenaunces and them in the same courte to the said Garden
and Burges yeld paying yerely at the feste of Seinte Peter ad Vincula to the said
abbott and his successores for the said measses and customes one penny for all maner
off Sutes and customes dew to the said later abbott and his successours for the same
as in the same fyne more playnly appereth by vertue of which fyne and covaunte
uppon the same the said Garden and Burges and their predicesors sethyn the tyme
of the seid fyne levied have byn peseably possessed and seassed of the said xij measses
with thappurtenaunces amonge other their libertees and customes afforeseid accord-
ing to the pouer and effecte of the said fyne. And the said now Garden and Burges
off the said free Gylde sayen that the said Stalles and Shoppes called the oute bochery
ys parcell of the said xij measses comprehended in the said fyne and appurtenaunte to
the same and that their predicesors Garden and Burges of the said Gilde have byn
peseably possessed off the same and taken the rents issues and profetts theroff in the
right of ther said Gylde and by vertew of the said fyne untill there late predicesor
in the time of Kinge Henry the vjth were ther-off by one Thomas Hendley pre-
dicesor of the said now abbott by his grett myght and power wrongfully putte oute

¹Probably Downton, Wiltshire.

²"In Wiltes" added in fos. 10 and 20.

which wrong and onlawfull possession the said now abbott by his grett myght and power wrongfully contynueth and yet kepeth for proff of contynuaunce off possession theroff in the said Garden and Burges the said Garden and Burges sayen that in the tyme of king Edward the furst which was immediatly after the said fyne levied their prediccors Garden and Burges of the said Gild merchaunt were possessed and paied lxijd. of rent off and for certen meases parcell of the said measses with thappurtenaunces wheroff the said flesshe shambles ys parcell and there appereth in a boke of accounte made in the xxx^{ti} yere of the said King Edward which is redy to be shewed. And the said Garden and Burges sayen for more playn declaracion that the said measses with thappurtenaunces be nowe of more valewe then thei were att the tyme of the said fyne levied or off longe tyme after by reason that their prediccors Gardens and Burges of the said Gild in tymes passed have newly edified bylded and repared them to their grett coste and expence of the said Gild which ys gretly to be considered.

Item it appereth by diverse letters and bokes of accounte in the first, ij, iij, iiijth, vth, vjth, vijth, viijth, ix yere of Kinge Henry the Vth that the Garden and Burges of the said Gyld have yerely taken and paied the rente and profette by the handes of there officers of the said fleshe shambles or owte bochery by the name of the shoppes of foren Bochers there which is the same fleshshambles and oute bochery and none other, which boke of accounte be redy to be shewed by diverse of the said boks.

Item it appereth in dyverse bokes of accounte made in dyverse yers of Kinge Henry the vjth viz anno primo, secundo, tercio, iiij^{to}, v^{to}, vj^{to}, vij, viij, ix, x, xj, xij, xiiij, xvij, xxj, xxiiij, xxv, xxvij that the said Garden and Burges hadde and receyved the rents and profetts of the said fleshshambles or oute bochery by the name of foren bochery without interupcion of the prediccors of the said abbot untill by the said Thomas Hendley prediccors to the said nowe abbot they were wrongfully theroff dissesed and put out and the said Garden and Burges sayen that it appereth by diverse of the said bokes of accounte that the said shoppis or oute bochery was newly bylded and repayed by the prediccors of the said Garden and Burges and called in the said bokes of accounte novus redditus novorum macellorum wech bokes be redy to be shewed.

Item the said Garden and Burges sayen that it appereth on an old boke belonging to the said Gyld in which boke be entred mony and diverse of their constitucions and ordinacions wech be their recorded in the yere of Kinge Henry the vjth in the presence of William Huntynghford then being Garden of the said Gild otherwise called mayrs and by the hole assent of the said Garden and Burges amonge other it was fully condescended and agreed that the mayre there for the tyme beyng shuld yerely have and receyve the rents and profetts of the said fleshshambles or bochery to the mayntenynng of his expences and charges wech he shuld have in exercuting the said office paing yerely to the officers of the said Garden called Cofferers ijs. for the reparacion and mayntenaunce of the said flesshe shambles or outebochery which boke is redy to be shewed and they sayen that tyme ther was never accounte made to them of the rents and profetts of the same for somoch as the mayres there for the tyme being toke the profetts of the same by reason of the said graunte untill the said Thomas Hendley wrongfully entred and put them oute of possession.

(f)

Thanswer of thabbot of Redyng to the bill of complaynt put agenst him by certen persons namyng them self mair burges and comoners of the borugh town of Reding where they ben not by that name no by any name corporate.

The said abbot sayth that for as moch as there were diuerse warrants and debatis depending between the said abbot and the said pretensid mayr Burges commonalte and for other considerations the Kynges grace moving yt was commanded by the Kyng a frendly consultacion to be had betwene the same parties of all maner of warrants betwene them depending in debate and acording thernto a consultacion was had and by the aggrement of the said parties and of both there counsels they [agreed] to abyde the award and determinacion of the premisses of Sir William Hussy and William Fey []¹ knights in the said bill specified and in thende of the terme of Easter last past the said Jugges takyng uppon them right gret payne and labour imense and mony tymes calling both parties before them heryng the titles of eithyr of the said parties with a gret deliberacion made monitons to the counsell of the said abbot willing the same counsell to know the mynde of the same abbot whethyr he wolde be aggreable to suffer the said pretensid mayor to have possession of certen fyssh stalles and other thyngys in Reding and also saing that yf the corporacion shuld be gretly determyned thabbot must suffer an accion in the name of the same pretensid mair to be sued agenst the said abbot and because the said abbot was not thynne in London the said Jugges willed his counsell to make answer therof this present terme of Trinity and the said abbot intendyng to have had further consultacion before the same Jugges therin came to London this present terme and before that eny day were prepayred by the same Jugges of any further consultacion had therin the said pretensid mair hath sued the said bill of complaynt and so refusid the said maters depending in warrante betwene the said parties to be further tetryd or examined before the same Jugges without that the said abbot brake eny direccion taken by the Kinges grace or that the justices made any such avertisment or advisment or that the said abbot refused ther advisement and advertisment in the maner and fourme as by the said bill of complaynt it is supposed and the said abbot trusteth that yf the said Jugges be called in this mater they will report the same and for somoche as the same corporacion and the other maters contayned in the said bill by maters determinable by the court of the comen lawe and not in this court. The said abbot playneth to be dismissed out of this court with his resonable costis for his wrongful vexacion.

(g)

This is the replicacion off the maire and Burgesses and comyners of the Towne off Redyng to the answer off the abbot off Redyng.

The seid meyre Burgesses and communyers seith that here seid byll is true yn every poynt in the maner and forme as it is supposed by the same and for as mucche as the entent off the seid byll is to have the seid corporacion off the towne of Redyng

¹ MS damaged: 1 word missing.

to be determined by the Kinges Justices after the wyse of the comyn lawe without any demaundyng off the seid abbot off the ple therof to be had. And to the which the seid abbot seith in his answere that he was agreable to have a further comunicacion before the seid Jugyes yn the same. They praye that the seid Jugyes may have yn likewise a further examinacion there to and the same to be direct by the same Jugyes as by theym was is or shalbe advised for a finall peas bitwene the seid parties.

(h)

Thaunswere of thabbot of Reding to the bille of complaint of certain persones calling
theim burgeses &c.

The said abbot saith that he and his predecessors of tyme that no mynd is to the contrary—is and hath been lord next under the King of the said Towne of Reding and by alle the said tyme the said now abbot and his predecessors have used every yere by their discretion to name and take oon of thinhabitants within the same town to be named and taken and as keper of the gyld within the same town which persone soe named alway hath be sworn to observe and kepe alle suche things as belongeth to the said Gyld and shall yerely be remouved and an other persone elected and chosen in his place and shalbe sworn to see in maner and forme aforesaid. And over that the said abbot saith that he and his predecessors by all the tyme aforesaid have had alway day within the same town and for the keping of the Kings peace and for the good rule of the said town [he] and his predecessors and there stywards have made suche persones as to him or to his predecessors or to there stywards have be thought to them most expedient to be constables and have made also alle wardens of the wards and alle other officers in the said town and the same persones soo made have by alle the same tyme used to be sworn before the styward of the said abbot. And by all the same tyme the said abbot and his predecessors and other stywards or officers have used to remove the same persones fro their offices of constableness wardens and other officers at any tyme for cause resonnable and in their place make and put other by their discretion as the caas did require without the said Town of Reding is incorporat by the name of Burgeses and commonalte of the Borowe and Town of Reding or otherwise and without that there hath been within the same Town a maior out of tyme of mynd or that eny suche mayor hath had any suche punysshement of the brekers of the peas vagabonds or of other mysruled persons within the same Town and without that the Burgeses of the said Town of tyme that no mynd is to the contrary hath used to name or of right aught to name three of the said Burgeses suche as been thought most convenient to occupie the said office of mairaltie or that the said abbot shuld name or is bound to name any of the same iij persons tooccupie the said office of mairalte; and without the said Burgeses have used out of tyme of mynd at the great lete of the said abbot yerely to electe and name ij of the said Burgeses or any other to be connstables of the said Town and without that the said abbot hath named or made any persons to be constables which were not able tooccupie the same office and without that the said wardens of the said Towne have been used to be chosen or named by the said mair or Burges in their said gyld hall and without

that the same wardens have used to be made alway of the Burgeses of the said Towne or that the said abbot or his officers have made any wardeyns or other officers or persones unable or that the good rule of the said towne decaieth or mysruled persons increase by any suche occasion as is submytted in the said bille alle which maters the said abbot is redy to prove as the cort woll award &c.

(i)

This is the replicacion to the answer made by thabbot of Redyng ageynst the burgees of Redyng.

Wher the seid abbot sayth that he and his prediceors have used every yere by ther discretion to take one of the inhabitants within the seid towne to be named and be takyn as keper of the gyld the seid burges say that the seid abbot owe not now such officer to make under that forme for it appereth in the fyne of recorde that he shuld take a burges of the seid Gyld wech we shuld be content withall and yf the forseid Burges be not content with hym the seid abbot to take a nother and so for the tyll the seid burges be content who then it was concederet be the seid abbot and the seid burges for disabellyng of the seid burges that then iij of the most abull burges are electe and chosen by the foreseid burges the fryday next befor michellmasday in ther gyld hall and on the mychellemasday to be presentyd be the seid burges to the abbot in his monastery of Redyng and he to name one of the seid iij to occupie the seid office for the yer foloyng and that day twellmoneth a nother to be so chosen and charget and the old to be discharget. And wher the foe-seid abbot sayth in his answer that he and his officers have had the rulle and kepyng of the kyngs peas in the seid towne the seid burges seth that the mayre and constabull with ye wardens that belongeth to the v wards within the boro hath hade ever mor the rule of all mysdoers and punesment of the same as in the stokys the wech stokys belongeth to ther hall and at theyr propur cost made and repared and as oftyen tymes as it shalbe nedeful and the foreseid abbot to have nothyng to do withall nor his stuard nor bayleff for he nor his predecissors were never chargid not the value of one penny reparacion and yf any such mysdoer be fond by thym that they shuld deliver thym to the constabull or wardens of the seid borou and so to be punesed by the mayr and constabulls after thayr dyscrestion

And wher the seid abbot sayth that his Stuard shuld discharge officers and make officers at his plesur they say not so and without the assent of the seid burges, and so presentyd by thym to the seid stuard and he to charge thym accordyng to his office and now to beyr one of these offices on lese then he be sworne to the maister of the gyld.

(j)

The Kyng to the shereff of Berkshir' sendeth gretyng. Yf John abbot of the monasterii of oure Lady of Redyng and lorde of the Towne of Redyng in right of his

seid monasterii put the in suertie to persue his accion then put in suertie by plegg' Richard Clech, Cristine Nicholas, John Baxter, William Linacre, Thomas Bye, Richard Lech, Thomas Carpenter, William Lendall and William Baker that they be in the kings bench on the xv day of the nativite of Sent John Baptist to answer that where as the seid abbot in right of his monasterii aforeseid amonge other privileges and liberties of his seid monasterii to the same abbot and to his prediccursors graunted shulde make and have used to make bothe he and his prediccours abbots of the monastery aforeseid have used yerely tyme out of myende to make a Burgess of the seid Towne to be warden or keper of the merchaunte Gilde in the same towne which warden without the assent and concent of the seid abbot and his prediccursors from the seid office ought not to be removed nor have not byn amoved and where as the seid abbot accordyng [to] the libertees and privileges aforesaid the forseid Cristin warden or keper of the Gilde aforeseid by a yere at Redyng aforeseid didde make and ordene and the same Cristin the seid office oppon hym toke and in reall possession of the same by a hole yere therin stode; and nevertheless the forseid Richard Clech, Cristin, William, Thomas, Richard, Thomas, William and William with John Baxter immediatly after that yere at Redyng aforeseid warden of the Gilde afore seid by space of a hole yere next foloyng wrangfully did chose and the forseid John Baxter the seid office uppon him toke and there hit exersised ageynst the will of the seid abbot and ageynst the libertees and privileges aforeseid by the which the seid John Baxter the seid office uppon hym usurpyng there toke and the seid office by the same usurpacion by longe tyme excersised and occupied ageynst the will of the seid abbot and contrary the libertees and privileges aforeseid unto the damage of the seid abbot of xl li. et cetera

An other accion sued by the seid abbot ageynst Richard Clech Cristine Nycholas John Norfolk Thomas Bye William Lendall Thomas Carpenter and William Baker for that that where as the same abbot in right of his monasteri aforeseid amonge other libertees and privileges of his seid monastery to the same abbot and his prediccursors graunted shulde make and have used to make tyme out of myende at there will and when hit hath pleased them by all the seid tyme baillifs wardeens of vij wards cunstabulls and all other officers in the same towne for goode pees and governaunce tranquillite and goode state of the seid towne to be keped and continued accordyng to the libertees and privileges of the monasteri aforeseid by all the seid tyme in the seid towne used and approved where as baillifs wardens and constabulls of the seid Towne by the seid abbot and his prediccursors in forme aforeseid made and ordered al maner attachements of all and singler brekers of the pees theves vacabunds and other evyldoers offendyng in the seid towne and also have hadde and used to have the custodie and kepyng of the same misdoers and also the same abbot and his prediccursors the punushment and correction of the same in right of the seid monastery by all that tyme have hadde and used to have and all maner fynes raunnsons and amerciaments of all and singler such perturbations pety theves vacabunds and misdoers by all the seid tyme have hadde and receyved in right of his seid monastery accordyng to the libertees and privileges afore seid tyme out of myend used and where as the seid abbot accordyng to the liberties and privileges aforeseid certen persons that is to witte Robert Benett and John Baker [*sic*] constabulls of the

Towne afore seid¹ at Redyng aforeseid dide make and the same Robert and John in corporall possession of the seid office stode notwithstanding the seid Richard Clech, Cristine Nicolas John Northfolke Thomas Bye William Lendall Thomas Carpenter and William Baker the forseid Robert and John Baker found that office ageynst there will and ageynst the will of the seid abbott and ageynest the libertees and privileges aforeseid wrongfully amoved and expulsed and the for seid Thomas Carpenter and William Netter by procurement of the forseid Richard Cristine John Northfolke Thomas Bye and William Lendall the office of constabulship of the seid Towne uppon them take and the seid officē by long tyme usurpyng there exersised and wrongfully occupied unto the damage of the seid abbott of xl. li. etc.

An other accion is sued by the abbot ageynst Richard Clech Thomas Carpenter and William Baker to answer that where as the seid abbott in right of his monastery aforeseid among other libertees and privileges of his seid monastery tyme of of maynde usen have made and cede not and there will aftten tymes as it will hath plesed them []² clerk of the markett and all other ofacers and minnisters of the same Towne for conservation of weghts and mesures and for kepyng correccion and punishment of vitallers in the same towne and such other thyngs to the same office of clerke of the market belongyng accordyng to the libertees accordyng to and privileges of the seid monasteri and used and whereas the seid abbot accordyng to the seid libertees and privileges certen persons that is to witte Watur Barton and John Cokkes clerks of the markett in the seid towne to the seid office and to all things that to the seid office of clerke of the market shulde perteine and belonge at Redyng aforeseid did make and ordene that not withstondyng the same Water and John Cokkes the seid office toke oppon them and in corporall possession of the seid office so stode and hit by longe tyme excersised and notwithstanding the same Richard Clech Thomas Carpenter and William Barker the same Walter and John from the seid office ageynst the will of the seid Walter and John Cokkes and ageynst the will of the seid abbott and contrary to the libertees and privileges aforeseid wrongfully expulsed and amoved and the seid office of clerke of the market and all thyngs that to the seid office there belonged ageynst the will of the seid abbot and ageynst the libertees and privileges aforeseid in the same towne by longe tyme usurpyng did excersise wrongfully occupied to the damage of the seid abbot of xl li.

(k)

[The answer of] Richard Clech³ to [the complaint] of thabbott of Redyng.⁴

. . . and contrie for wher as the said abbott surmitteth in his bill of [complaint that the] said Richard Clech hath of longe tyme boren gruge and malice to the said abbot and his monastery [the said] Richard witnesseth that he never labored ageynst the libertees and fraunchesez of the seid monastery but to his . . . hath ben as gladde of the goode report therof as any tenant that the said abbot hath and wheras the seid

¹In December 1499 Robert Bennett and John Tornour, constables, were discharged by Richard Cleche, mayor (*Diary* p. 98).

²Supply "to appoint the".

³Richard Cleche acted as master of the Gild from September 1499 to September 1500.

⁴The top of the MS. is slightly damaged.

abbot complayneth hym that the seid Richard Clech of late tyme assemblyng to hym certen persons of your lords towne of Redyng and ther toke appon hym to be mayr of the seid towne discharging the constabull of the said towne as weere made by the seid abbott and his officers and appoyntyng other of his adherents to occupye the seid office of constabull contrary to the liberties of the seid monastery . . . of the . . . towne. Thereto the seid Richard seith that there hath byn used tyme out of mynd in the seid towne to be hadde an officier called the maister of the Gilde oderwise called the mayre which hath byn used to be hadde for the goode rule and gouernaunce of the seid towne off which officer called maister of the gilde or mayre of the seid towne hath byn destituted by the space of iij or iiij yers last passed in defeaute of the Lord abbot to the grete hurte and damages of the inhabitants there dwellyng for the which cause accordyng to the costome of the seid towne there used tyme of mynde, the burgesez there the fryday next before the fest of sent Michell the arcangell last past in ther Gilde hall elected and named the seid Richard Clech to occupye the seid office by reson wher of the seid Richard then so naimed toke upon hym to occupie the seid office accordyng to the seid costome and for as much as before the tyme of Cristmas late passed mysruled peple dayly encresed and contynued as carders disers hasardars vacabunds and many other onlawfull gamys in the seid towne were used as well by nyght as by day and constable off the seid towne which tyme out off mynd were used to be presented by the meire for the tyme beyng and the burgesez of the said towne coude not be amitted to the seid office of constablewyke by cause the seid abbott toke oppon hym contrary to the seid costone to admitt simple and periured persons to the seid office of constablewyke which in no thyng regarded the goode rule of the seid towne wherefore the seid Richard Clech and other burgeez of the seid towne desired certen persons of the seid burgeez that is to say Thomas Carpenter and William Netter to helpe to se suche mysruled peple punysshed duryng the seid tyme of cristenaus and forther to such tyme as there weere a better directon and ende hadde by twene the seid abbott and the seid burgeez without that the seid Richard take upon hym to discharge eny such constabull by the same abbott made or that the seid Richard made off his autoryte any other constabull otherwise then is above rehersed and where as the seid [abbot] surmitteth that the seid Richard Clech with certen of his adherents there riotusly brake the stokks of the same towne and made new keys therto and delivered the seid keys to such constabulls by hym so appoynted. Therto the seid Richard Clech seith that the burgeez of the seid towne on there propre cost caused the seid stokks to be made and ever more have used to reperell them at such tyme as was nedefull and for as much as the seid stokks and also such fastenes as lokks and other thyngs were not sufficiently made the seid Richard and other of the seid burgesez senden to such persons as were appoynted to kepe the seid keys by the seid abbot desiryng them to brynge or send them the seid keys which to do at that tyme they refused and therfore the seid Richard and other burgeesez of the same towne toke away such insufficient lokks and bolts and made other more of surenes and also keys therto as it was lawfull for them to do without that the seid Richard riotusly brake the seid stokks as is surmised by the seid byll all which maters etcetera.

READING RECORDS (5)

W. J. SMITH

COFFERERS' ACCOUNT, 1420-21

INTRODUCTION

Two of Reading's medieval borough account rolls, those of the years 1364-5 and 1373-4, have already been printed in this series (Vol. 59, (1961) 46-50). This account belongs to the next surviving series, a group of the reign of Henry V. The earlier ones were mayors' accounts. But by now the finances of the town are in the hands of two annual officers called cofferers. The dominant role which the gild merchant was playing, even long before the reign of Edward III, in the management of borough affairs was barely evident in the two accounts of that reign; it betrayed itself only through the fact that the rent of the gildhall was the first charge upon the revenues. Now the situation is very different. The cofferers are the officers of the gild; the fines that new burgesses pay are for entry into the liberty of the gild; it is with the gild that the 'foreign' traders strike their bargains, and it is to the gild that they pay their rents.

While the nature and variety of the entries in the expenses section of the account show little change, the receipts section now looks vastly different. In the 1360's and 1370's the sole source of revenue was the entry fines from new burgesses. Now this particular income is of small importance, the major part of the town's revenue coming from a number of quite new sources. And it will be observed that nearly half the total income in this year is derived from the rents and trading fines of men who are, and remain, non-burgesses.

The basic form of the account remains the same, but each of the main divisions, the receipts and the expenses, is noticeably more complex. There are several obscurities which call for explanation. The entry against the rubric 'Arrears', at the beginning of the account, signifies that there is no surplus outstanding (i.e., 'in arrears') from last year's account, since it was overspent. Towards the end of the account, following the statement of the sum total of all expenses and payments, is a section beginning *Unde* . . . ('From which . . .'). This contains the cofferers' claim for allowance in respect of four sums already included in the receipts but not in fact collected. This procedure, at first sight puzzling, is necessitated by the fact that in early accounts the receipts section is not primarily a statement of money actually received, but a statement of the 'charge' or burden placed upon the persons accounting (the duty to collect all sums due, or explain why they have not done so)—this section of the account is, in fact, often called 'the charge', the expenses being termed 'the discharge'. In this account these items are introduced by the word *Unde* because they are to be deducted. But it is not from what immediately precedes them, the sum total of expenses, that they must be subtracted, for that would have the opposite effect to what is intended—it would reduce the amount for which the cofferers can

claim allowance. It is from the whole account, as it stands at that moment, that these sums are to be deducted. As balanced at that stage the account shows a surplus of 9s. 6d. due from the cofferers (111s. 11d. total receipts less 102s. 5d. total expenses). These allowances now claimed amount to 3s., thus reducing the balance to 6s. 6d., and this sum is thereupon written in as the amount owing by the two cofferers. But then, right at the end, they claim for additional expenditure, on William Vachell and on other things, amounting to 1s. 6d. This further reduces the balance due from them to a final figure of 5s. Instead of a new statement of balance being entered, the somewhat slipshod device is adopted of deleting the figure of 6s. 6d., higher up, and substituting 5s. for it.

Among the eleven cofferers' rolls of the reign of Henry V several are duplicate copies. This duplication presents the possibility of putting together a virtually complete text of one year's account. No single roll can provide this, for they are individually all to a greater or lesser degree defective through decay. The account printed below has been made up from such a pair of duplicate rolls, the one an almost exact copy of the other. Until recently all the rolls for this reign were stitched together, in quite haphazard order, into one composite file. These two rolls for the year 1420-21 were numbered '2' and '5' in that file, and marked accordingly. This numbering is used here to distinguish them. The text printed below is primarily that of 'roll 2'. Words or letters which have been supplied from 'roll 5' are placed in square brackets. Except in the case of hypothetical Latin terminations to place names and personal names and to the occasional English word, and except also in the case of the familiar 's' and 'd' (*solidi* and *denarii*) in expressions of sums of money, letters omitted from the original text and represented there by suspension and contraction signs have been supplied.

TEXT

..... g Compotum Ricardi Syward alias Tournour et Thome Hawe
Chaundeler Cistariorum gilde mercatorie ibidem a festo sancti
Michaelis Arcangeli anno domini Millesimo CCCCMo xxmo et
regni Regis henrici quinti octavo usque ad idem festum Anno dicti
Regis nono Videlicet per unum annum integrum Roberto Morys
tunc maiore

Arraria Arraria nulla quia in excessu

..... Idem respondent de xxj s' vij d' de toto redditu pertinente ad
gildam aulam isto anno absque macellis extraneorum carnificum
veniencium ad mercatum videlicet v s' de redditu Johannis Barton'
pro tenementum quod tenet de aula ad duos terminos videlicet
Michaelis et Annunciatio dominice Et/v s' de redditu nuper colles-
hull' nunc Ricardi Syward eisdem terminis / vj s' redditus Ricardi
Cross eisdem terminis / vj d' de redditu Johannis Meram de redditu
assiso pro tenemento suo versus gildhalla / iiij d' de Johanne Ide
ffisher pro macello / iiij d' de Juliana Crouche pro macello / xvj d'

de macellis que tenuit Willelmus Botiller / iiij d' de Willelmo Smyth
ffissher / I d' de Simone Kent pro consimili / viij d' de Johanne
Barton' pro novo macello cum extraneis carnificibus / viij d' de
Johanne Clerk Boucher pro consimili / viij d' de Johanne Barret
pro consimili et / viij d' de Roberto Robyns pro consimili

Summa xxi s' vij d'

..... Et de x s' receptis de finibus trium Burgensium isto anno ad libtatem
gilde admissorum videlicet Thome Clerk Boucheri Willielmus
Lealhomme gold[smyth] et Ricardi atte were glover pro quoliceit
ipsorum iij s' iiij d' sine Jantaculo quia pecunias pro Jantaculo
maior habuit isto anno

Summa x s'

..... Et de xix s' iiij d' de finibus virorum forinsecorum conveniencium
cum gilda per annum videlicet / viij d' de Thome Raynold Baker /
xij d' de Willelmo Goolde Webbe / viij d' de Roberto atte Rithe /
vj d' de Thome loder / xij d' de relictis Johannis Tame / xij d' de
Willelmo Godfray / iiij d' de Johanne Drynk Water / xij d' de
Thome Gere Webbe / xvj d' de Johanne Colleshulle Boucher /
viij d' de Ricardo Barton' Boucher / viij d' de Thome vox Baker /
viij d' de Willelmo hosier Draper / xij d' de Willelmo Ostiler / iiij d'
de Johanne Gardyner / viij d' de Ricardo Pollard / xij d' de Johanne
Braye Webbe / viij d' de Johanne Beenham / xvj d' de Johanne
Bernard Sadeler / xij d' de Ricardo Couper / xij d' de David ked-
welly / xij d' de Willelmo Milam / vj d' de Willelmo Pekkam / iiij d'
de Bartholomeo Sadeler / vj d' de Willelmo Raccheford / et / vj d' de
Ricardo Spisour

Summa xix s' iiij d'

[E. . novorum macellorum] Et de xxix s' viij d' pro locacione novorum macellorum de diversis
macecrariis extraneis venientibus ad mercata infra tempus compoti

Summa xxix s' viij d'

[E. . collect'] Et de ix s' viij d' receptis de diversis hominibus pro porcis suis
porcorum transeuntibus infra Burgum contra Statutum (*deleted*) ordinacionem
contra inde factum videlicet / viij d' de Johanne Clerk Webbe pro duobus
ordinacionem porcis inventis infra Burgum contra ordinacionem / iiij d' de Johanne
.. urgi trans- Hastyng pro J porco / iiij d' de Thome hanslep' pro consimili / iiij d'
euncium de Johanne Cheseman pro consimili / viij d' de Johanne Jweyn pro
ij porcis / xij d' de Sidenhale pro iij porcis / iiij d' de Cristina Cacches
pro j porco / iiij d' de J sue inventa in novo vico unde Thoma
Chaundeler fuit plege / iiij d' pro J porco Johannis Page / iiij d' pro
J porco Willelmi Couper / xij d' pro iij porcis Thome Clerk Boucher
/ xij d' de iij porcis Michaeli luffecomb / iiij d' de J porco Johannis

hunte / iiij d' de J porco Thome Clerk Boucher alia vice / xvj d' de
 iiij porcis Roberti keynes Dyer / iiij d' de J sue de abbatia et / viij d'
 de ij porcis Johannis Page

Summa ix s' viij d'

..... Et de xx s' receptis de Johanne Clerk Boucher pro transgressione
 contra aulam facta per ipsum erga gildam aulam

Summa xx s'

[. . h]arff Et de xx d' receptis de custumis de la Warff hoc anno videlicet unum
 dolium de Wood et diversis barell' adhuc ibidem existentibus non
 solutis

Summa xx d'

Summa totalis recepte Cxj s' xj d'

[Expe]nsis
 [neccess-
 ariis]

De quibus soluti in expensis nececariis circa Latrinam comunem.
 In primis pro duobus carpentariis emendantibus dictam latrinam
 per tres dies et dimidium pro Salariis suis xxj d' Et in ij laboratoribus
 cum eisdem pro salariis vj d' Et in cibariis ipsorum cum ceteri
 auxiliantibus in toto ij s' iiij d' / Et pro meremio empto ad idem de
 Ricardo Croos xv d' Et pro caragio eiusdem ad gildhallam iij d'
 Et pro bordnaill' emptis ad idem iij d' Et pro factura tristallorum
 vj d' obolus Et pro meremio empto de Johanne Bladier pro Port-
 manbrook viij d' Et in emendacionem clausure de Portmanbrook
 cum clavis emptis ad idem iiij d' Et in meremio empto pro le
 grondsils gilde aule et in factura eorundem una cum latthis lathnaill'
 tilers et omnibus aliis ultra xlj d' soluti per Robertum Dyer ad
 quem medietas pertinebat iij s' v d' Et pro J equo conducto pro
 famulo maioris equitante ad Walyngford' iiij d' Et pro proclama-
 cionibus factis per omnes vicos Burgi ad publicandam ordinacionem
 de porcis isto anno editam famulo Ballivi iiij d' Et in inundacione
 fori bladi xvj d' Et in caragio antiqui fimi ibidem vj d' Et in expensis
 factis diversis vicibus pro auxilio habendo ad imparcando porcos
 captos contra ordinacionem aule vj d'

Summa xiiij s' iij d' obolus

[. . irca
 Jacobum
 . . ynde] . . .
 cum
 Ab
 . . .

Et in expensis factis circa Clericum mercati venientem per villam in
 continenti post festum Michaelis in vino sibi dato una cum utribus
 suis impletis xvij d' Et in expensis ejusdem alii tempore quando
 sedebat in aula pro officio suo xj s' x d' Et in denariis datis sibi vj s'
 viij d' Et in donatione clerico suo ij s' Et in datione famulo suo viij d'
 Et pro pergameno eidem tradito iiij d' Et in expensis factis circa
 Jacobum Lynde quando primo venit a partibus transmarinis pro
 prandeo suo et ceterorum tam gildanorum aule quam servientum

suorum in toto vj s' vj d' Et in cena tunc sequente cum sibi adherentibus vj s' v d' Et in expensis factis circa Robertum delamare quando solvit pecunias mutuatas domino Regi iiij s' Et in pane vino et cervisia datis Justiciariis domini Regis tempore cessionis in gilda aula xij d' obolus Et in pane et cervisia datis Senascallo apud le laweday ij d' Et in expensis factis apud Walyngford' quando maior et Comburgenses sui fuerunt ibidem causa presti domino Regi faciendi viij s' iiij d'

Summa xlix s' vj d' obolus

Et in solucione redditus aule vj s' viij d' Et solucio Clerico communi aule vj s' viij d' Et solucio famulo maioris vj s' viij d' Et solucio pro custodia horelogij sive clocce v s' Et pro conductione loci ubi dicta clocca solebat stare xij d' Et in librata data communi ffistulatori et famulo sui in toto x s' vj d' Et Clerico scribenti compotum xx d' Et pro pergamento ad idem iiij d'

Summa xxxviij s' vij d'

Summa totalis omnium expensorum et solucionum Cij s' v d'

Unde super Robertum Keynes Dy[er pro tribus porcis] captis et imparcatis in gilda aula qui[a transiverunt infra] burgum contra ordinacionem factam xij [d' Et super Th . . .] Gere forinseco pro fine suo pro eo quod laborat cum [domino Rege in guerris sui]s in partibus transmarinis xij d' Et super Johannem [Clerk Boucher] pro [novo m]acello suo nec vult solver[e] sine compul[sione] maioris [viij d' Et] super [Ricardum] Barton ultra iiij d' [quos] solvit [pro fine facto cum aula iiij d']

Et sic debent dicti computantes vj s' vj d' (*deleted*) v s'

[Quos sol] verunt super compotum [et dimissi sunt]

[Item] petunt allocacionem ut in donis Willelmo [Vachell et] uxori sue quando venit primo tempore nupciarum in pane vino et servisia xv d' [Item pro emendacione] sere de portmanbrok ij d' Item pro ij staple[s et j ha]pse ad portam de la [Warf j d']

On dorse: [Compotus Ricardi Tournour et Thome Chaundeler Cistariorum gilde de Redyng]

[. Anno viij h V]

TRANSLATION

[Readin]g The account of Richard Syward alias Tournour and Thomas Hawe, chandler, cofferers of the gild merchant there, from the feast of St. Michael the Archangel in the year of Our Lord 1420 and the eighth of the reign of King Henry V up to the same feast in the ninth year of the said king, viz, for one whole year, in the mayoralty of Robert Morys.

Arrears No arrears, being in excess.

..... They answer as to 21s. 7d., being the whole of the rent belonging to the gild hall for this year except from the meat-stalls of the 'foreign' butchers coming to the market, viz: 5s. the rent of John Barton for the tenement which he holds of the hall at the two terms, viz, Michaelmas and the Annunciation of Our Lady; and 5s. the rent lately of Colleshull, now of Richard Syward, at the same terms; 6s. the rent of Richard Cross at the same terms; 6d. the rent of John Meram, being rent of assize, for his tenement opposite the gild hall; 4d. from John Ide, fisher, for a meat-stall; 4d. from Juliana Crouche for a meat-stall; 16d. from the meat-stalls that William Botiller held; 4d. from William Smyth, fisher; 1d. from Simon Kent for the like; 8d. from John Barton for a new meat-stall among the 'foreign' butchers; 8d. from John Clerk, butcher, for the like; 8d. from John Barret for the like; and 8d. from Robert Robyns for the like.
Sum, 21s. 7d.

..... And as to 10s. received from the fines of three burgesses admitted this year to the liberty of the gild, viz: Thomas Clerk, butcher; William Lealhomme, goldsmith; and Richard atte Were, glover—for each of them 3s. 4d., without a breakfast because the mayor has had the moneys for a breakfast this year.
Sum, 10s.

..... And as to 19s. 4d. from the fines of 'foreigners' agreeing with the gild by the year, viz: 8d. from Thomas Raynold, baker; 12d. from William Goolde, 'web'; 8d. from Robert atte Rithe; 6d. from Thomas Loder; 12d. from John Tame's relict; 12d. from William Godfray; 4d. from John Drynk Water; 12d. from Thomas Gere, 'web'; 16d. from John Colleshulle, butcher; 8d. from Richard Barton, butcher; 8d. from Thomas Vox, baker; 8d. from William Hosier, draper; 12d. from William Ostiler; 4d. from John Gardyner; 8d. from Richard Pollard; 12d. from John Braye, 'web'; 8d. from John Beenham; 16d. from John Bernard, saddler; 12d. from Richard Couper; 12d. from David Kedwelly; 12d. from William Milam; 6d. from William Pekkam; 4d. from Bartholomew Sadeler; 6d. from

William Raccheford; and 6d. from Richard Spisour.

Sum, 19s. 4d.

..... of And as to 29s. 8d. for the leasing of the new meat-stalls of divers
the new 'foreign' butchers coming to the market within the time of the
meat-stalls account.

Sum, 29s. 8d.

..... col- And as to 9s. 8d. received from divers men on account of their pigs
lection . . . passing within the borough contrary to the ordinance in that behalf
..... of pigs made, viz: 8d. from John Clerk, 'web', on account of two pigs
passing con- found within the borough contrary to the ordinance; 4d. from John
trary to the Hastyng on account of 1 pig; 4d. from Thomas Hanslep on account
town ordin- of the same; 4d. from John Cheseman on account of the same; 8d.
ance from John Iweyn on account of 2 pigs; 12d. from Sidenhale on
account of 3 pigs; 4d. from Christina Cacches on account of 1 pig;
4d. from 1 sow found in the new street, whence Thomas Chaundeler
was the pledge; 4d. on account of 1 pig of John Page's; 4d. on
account of 1 pig of William Couper's; 12d. on account of 3 pigs of
Thomas Clerk, butcher; 12d. from 3 pigs of Michael Luffecomb's;
4d. from 1 pig of John Hunte's; 4d. from 1 pig of Thomas Clerk,
butcher, on another occasion; 16d. from 4 pigs of Robert Keynes,
dyer; 4d. from 1 sow belonging to the abbey; and 8d. from 2 pigs
of John Page's.

Sum, 9s. 8d.

..... And as to 20s. received from John Clerk, butcher, on account of a
against the transgression committed by him against the gild hall.
hall

Sum, 20s.

[W]harf And as to 20d. received from the customs of the wharf this year, viz,
one wooden tun and divers barrels hitherto remaining there unpaid.

Sum, 20d.

Sum total of the receipt, 111s. 11d.

Necessary
expenses

From which was paid in necessary expenses in connexion with the
communal lavatory: Firstly, for two carpenters altering the said
lavatory, for their wages for three days and a half, 21d.; and for 2
labourers with them, for their wages, 6d.; and in their food allow-
ances, as also for the others helping them, in all 2s. 4d.; and for
timber bought for the same from Richard Croos, 15d.; and for
carriage of the same to the gild hall, 3d.; and for board-nails bought
for the same, 3d.; and for the making of trestles, 6½d.; and for
timber bought from John Bladier for Portmanbrook, 8d.; and in
mending the fencing of Portmanbrook, and the nails bought for the
same, 4d.; and in timber bought for the groundsels of the gild hall,

READING RECORDS

and for the making of them, together with laths, lath-nails, tilers, and all the other things, viz, 41d., paid by Robert Dyer, to whom the half was due, 3s. 5d.; and for 1 horse hired for the mayor's servant riding to Wallingford, 4d.; and for proclamations made by the bailiff's servant through all the streets of the borough for publishing the ordinance issued this year concerning pigs, 4d.; and in the flooding of the corn-market, 16d.; and in the carriage of the old dung there, 6d.; and in expenses incurred on divers occasions in hiring help in impounding pigs seized as contrary to the hall's ordinance, 6d.

Sum, 14s. 3½d.

Concerning
James
[L]ynde . . .
.....

And in expenses incurred on the occasion of the clerk of the market's coming through the town suddenly after Michaelmas, in wine given to him, and his bottles filled, 18d.; and in his expenses another time when he sat in the hall in execution of his office, 11s. 10d.; and in money given to him, 6s. 8d.; and in a gift to his clerk, 2s.; and in a tip to his servant, 8d.; and for parchment supplied to him, 4d.; and in expenses incurred on James Lynde's first coming from overseas, for breakfast for him and the others, both the members of the gild hall and their servants, in all 6s. 6d.; and for the dinner following, including his followers, 6s. 5d.; and in the expenses of Robert Delamare when he paid the money that was lent to the lord king, 4s.; and in bread, wine, and beer given to the justices of the lord king at the time of the sessions in the gild hall, 13½d.; and in bread and beer given to the steward upon the law-day, 2d.; and in expenses incurred at Wallingford when the mayor and his fellow-burgesses were there to make an advance of money to the lord king, 8s. 4d.

Sum, 49s. 6½d.

And in payment of the rent of the hall, 6s. 8d.; and payment to the common clerk of the hall, 6s. 8d.; and payment to the mayor's servant, 6s. 8d.; and payment for looking after the 'horloge' or clock, 5s.; and for hiring the place where the said clock stands, 12d.; and in allowances given to the common piper and his servant, in all 10s. 7d.; and to the clerk writing the account, 20d.; and for parchment for the same, 4d.

Sum, 38s. 7d.

Sum total of all expenses and payments, 102s. 5d.

From which on account of Robert Keynes, dyer, for three pigs seized and impounded in the gild hall because they passed within the borough contrary to the ordinance made, 12d.; and on account

of Th. . . . Gere, a 'foreigner', for his fine, because he is serving with the lord king in his wars overseas, 12d.; and on account of John Clerk, butcher, for his new meat-stall, he refusing to pay without compulsion from the mayor, 8d.; and on account of Richard Barton beyond the 4d. which he paid for his fine contracted with the hall, 4d.

And thus the said accountants owe 6s. 6d. (*deleted*) 5s.

Which they have paid upon the account, and are discharged.

Also they ask allowance for gifts to William Vachell and his wife when he came first at the time of his marriage, in bread, wine, and beer, 15d.; also for mending the cross-bar of Portmanbrook, 2d.; and for 2 staples and 1 hasp for the gate of the Wharf, 1d.

On dorse: Account of Richard Tournor and Thomas Chaundler, cofferers of the gild of Reading. Anno 8 H. V.

READING RECORDS (6)

C. F. SLADE

A PAGE FROM THE CORPORATION DIARY (1442)

INTRODUCTION

The page here printed comes from the earliest surviving volume of the Corporation Diary. It was missing when Rev. J. M. Guilding published his edition of that volume in 1892 (*Records of the Borough of Reading, Vol. I*), and has only recently come to light among a miscellaneous group of Corporation documents. Its place in the printed volume is the middle of page 15 at the existing end of the record of the mayoralty of Simon Porter (September 1441–September 1442), which it completes. The form in which it is printed here corresponds with that of the rest of the Diary, and, like the rest of the printed Diary, is not accompanied by a translation.

TEXT

Anno regni regis Henrici sexti xx⁰

Simon Porter maior primus

Custodes artificiorum

Thomas Goldore	}	custodes textorum
Johannes Heryng		

Ricardus Savage	}	custodes fullorum
Johannes Brown		

Henricus Hertland	}	custodes sutariorum
Johannes Mopull		

Robertus Robys bocher	}	custodes carnificiorum
Willelmus More		

Tempore Simonis Porter tunc maior ville de Redyng anno regni regis Henrici sexti etcetera vicesimo

Ad congregacionem ibidem die veneris xij die mensis Januarii anno predicto Thomas Lavyngton et Robertus Morys electi sunt burgenses parlamenti.

¹Ad hunc diem venit Johannes Chaumberleyn et cepit de maiore et tocus comunitatis (*sic*) unum macellum piscinarum inter macella Willelmi Stapper et Johannis Calman habendum sibi et assignatis suis ad terminum xl annorum reddendo inde annuatim prefato maiori et successoribus suis xl denarios sterlingorum ad festum sancti Michaelis Archangli [et dimidium beate Marie²] et fecit finem xxd.

Tempore Simonis Porter tunc maioris ville de Redyng die veneris proximo ante festum Ramyspalmarum anno regni regis predicti.

Ad congregacionem ibidem electi sunt ad supervidendum reparacionem Gilde haulle et ad faciendum convencionem cum carpentar' pro fabricacione orrei et finis

¹In r.h. margin is written 'Finis pro macello'.

²The phrase in brackets is interlined.

Gilde haulte videlicet Simon Porter maior Willelmus Brusseley Willelmus Hunt Willelmus Selham et Edwardus Dyer.

Ad istam diem venit Rogerus Cooke et dat de fine ad intrandum Gildam mercatoriam ibidem xvj s. viijd. et pro jantaculo xl d. Et habet diem in festo apostolorum Philippi et Jacobi et ad festum Sancti Jacobi apostolici. Plegii de fine Johannes Veyre et Thomas Clerk draper.

Memorandum quod indenture facte de nominibus mutuacione pecuniis pro domino Rege de quibus una pars dimissa in communi cista et altera pars in custodia Simonis Porter tunc maioris ibidem.

Tempore Simonis Porter tunc maioris ville de Redyng die veneris proximo ante festum Pentecosten anno regis Henrici sexti post conquestum vicesimo.

Johannes Veyre	}	de Alto Vico	}	electi sunt ad taxandum [viij partem ²] xv ^a domini Regis
Willelmus Stapper				
Willelmus Hunt de Novo Vico				
Thomas Goldore de Vico London				
Johannes West de Vico Castello				
Johannes Bannebery de Veteri Vico				

Robertus Budd	}	electi sunt ad colligendum [viij partem ²] taxam domini Regis
Thomas Laurence		