

SOME DOCUMENTS CONCERNING A BERKSHIRE FAMILY AND MONK SHERBORNE PRIORY, HAMPSHIRE

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EIGHT charters¹ of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries have been recently discovered, which provide new information for the early history of Monk Sherborne Priory,² an obscure Benedictine community, and the Achard family of Berkshire. These documents are printed in the appendix to this paper³ and one of the earliest, dated between about 1153 and 1161, describes William Achard I's grant of Aldermaston church to the priory. The charters confirming this gift issued by Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, and Jocelin, bishop of Salisbury, are included in the discovery, and the remaining documents record the Achard family's relations with the priory until the mid-thirteenth century. This evidence, supplemented by other material, will be used in the following discussion to examine some aspects of the Achards' importance as landowners in Berkshire and patrons of Monk Sherborne.

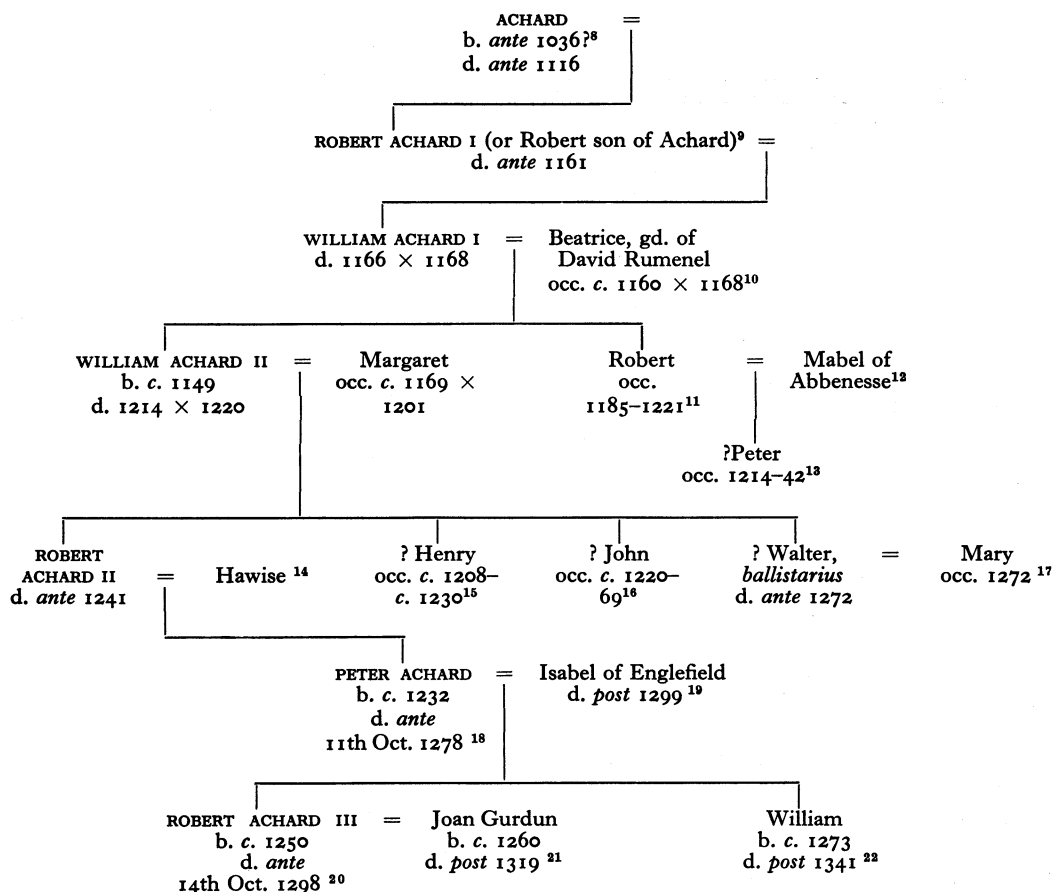
Before discussing the family in detail, a few comments should be made on the provenance of the charters mentioned above. They belonged to Monk Sherborne until the house was granted to Eton College by Henry VI in 1446, and the priory's deeds were removed by College officials. In 1462 Edward IV reversed this grant in favour of the Hospital of St. Julian in Southampton, the property of Queen's College, and Monk Sherborne's records were probably sent to Oxford. Eton College regained possession of the priory in 1473, but the house was returned to the Hospital of St. Julian two years later, and its muniments were safely deposited in the Queen's College archives.⁴ Most of them remain there today,⁵ but between 1752 and 1775 Ralph Congreve purchased the advowson of Aldermaston church from the College and

the relevant title deeds were transferred to him. At a later date these documents were moved to a solicitors' office in Basingstoke where they were found in 1966.⁶

With the help of these charters and other sources, an Achard family tree can be constructed as shown overleaf.⁷

Robert Achard I, probably the first member of the family to settle in Berkshire, was granted, between 1107 and 1116, the manors of Aldermaston, Challow, Colthrop, Finchampstead, and Sparsholt by Henry I for one knight's service.²³ Robert's descendants held these five manors until Robert Achard III died in 1298, when most of the property passed from the family to Robert de Coleshill and his heirs by a settlement made in 1294.²⁴ Joan Gurdun, Robert Achard III's widow, received lands in Aldermaston and Sparsholt for her *maritagium*, but William, Robert's brother and heir, was excluded from his inheritance, and he became the tenant of a small estate in Woodcote, near Goring.²⁵ Thus, by the close of the thirteenth century the Achards had lost their position as tenants-in-chief of the crown, but before this date they were important landowners in Berkshire. The main centres for their estates were Aldermaston and Sparsholt, the latter being about two miles south-west of Challow and including the vill of Westcot.²⁶ The larger manor of Aldermaston, with its park and manor-house,²⁷ was the *caput* of the Achard fee. This manor was nearly twenty miles south-east of Sparsholt and its lands, extending from Woolhampton and the river Kennet to the northern boundary of the royal forest at Pamber,²⁸ formed a nucleus for the family's estates at Colthrop and Finchampstead.

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The evidence is insufficient for a detailed tenurial and economic survey of these manors, but some important features can be noted. The Bannister, Britinoll, and Revel families held respectively Finchampstead, Colthrop, and Woolhampton *in tenancia* from the early twelfth century,²⁹ and they cultivated these lands for their own profit, whereas parts of Aldermaston and Sparsholt were demesne estates, which the Achards cultivated themselves with the labour services owed by their tenants. Aldredus the bailiff managed Sparsholt's demesne in c. 1160 × 1168, and, although an inquest of 1299 shows that the lands in this manor were the most valuable,³⁰ the economy of the two demesne units seems to have been

largely self-supporting. Both possessed a free warren and a mill for grinding corn;³¹ Aldermaston, valued at over £40 *per annum* in 1241, had orchards, fisheries, and forests; the surplus timber being occasionally sold at Cuxham (Oxon.), and at least fifty-two cattle were pastured in the manor during 1234.³² Stock rearing, with soap and cheese making, was also important at Sparsholt, where, according to *Domesday Book*, there was a dairy in 1086.³³ The same source records that a market was held in Aldermaston every Saturday, but this event was not officially recognised by the crown until 1292.³⁴

These estates gave the Achards a significant local status and some members of the family

obtained additional property in Worting (Hants.), Bristol, Burleigh, Dene, Rodborough, and Rookwood (Gloucs.).³⁵ The majority of their acquisitions were, however, in Berkshire, for William Achard II held lands in Reading, which he granted to Reading Abbey before c. 1220; Robert, his brother, was the tenant of Buscot, c. 1185-c. 1221,³⁶ and Henry Achard, probably Robert's nephew, held property in St. Peter's parish, Wallingford, in c. 1230; Walter Achard owned an estate *iure hereditario* in Newbury until c. 1272, and Peter Achard, who held lands from Patrick de Chaworth after c. 1260, was also the tenant of Ralph Musard in Eastmanton and Upper Lambourn.³⁷ Robert Achard III continued to hold Peter's estates and in September 1292 he was granted a free warren in Eastmanton and Sulhampstead Bannister, a manor which had probably belonged to the Achards from the late twelfth century.³⁸

The Achards had lost most of this property by 1298, but before this date their additional holdings increased the social prominence that they had from the fief granted in 1107×1116. Their importance was further enhanced by their connection with the crown, for, although the original charter from Henry I to Robert Achard I has not been found, Robert is styled king's *magister* in copies given in the original of Edward II's *inspeximus* and its enrolment.³⁹ The editors of *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum* concluded that Robert was Henry I's tutor,⁴⁰ but the meaning of *magister* is not very clear, and as both documents were written as late as 1317 it might be unwise to make definite statements on the nature of his office. But Robert's standing with the king is indicated by the extensive privileges he was granted. He was allowed to exercise the rights of toll, team, sake, soke, and infangenetheof in his manors; the estates were also exempt from royal pleas, Danegeld, murder fines, and duty of attendance at the shire and hundred courts.⁴¹ The king usually reserved such comprehensive franchises for religious houses and they were only granted to a layman for exceptional service to the crown.⁴²

Many of Robert's descendants entered crown service, although most of them had unimportant careers as temporary royal agents in Berkshire. For example, William Achard II tallaged escheats and wardships in 1197; his son, Robert Achard II, held several *ad hoc* commissions as a local justice from 1225 to 1232, inspected rights of prise in 1234, and Peter, his son, investigated general misdemeanours in 1258.⁴³ The family's activity was not, however, limited to these aspects of local government, for Walter Achard was a king's crossbowman and serjeant-at-arms until c. 1272,⁴⁴ whereas Robert Achard III had a varied and interesting career during the reign of Edward I. In 1289 he brought prisoners to the king's court and before 1298 he carried royal letters to John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey.⁴⁵ Robert also travelled abroad on the king's business and in November 1295 he was sent to Bayonne with £20,000 to finance the English expeditionary force, which had sailed for Gascony on 9 October.⁴⁶ Robert had previously travelled overseas in 1290, when Edward I gave him letters of protection dated at Winchester on 20 April.⁴⁷ The purpose of his mission was not specified, but he probably carried messages to Brabant concerning the forthcoming marriage of the king's daughter, Margaret, to John of Brabant. The marriage had been discussed before the royal court left Amesbury (Wilts.) on 18 April⁴⁸ and it would possibly have been convenient to contact a local knight for a mission of this nature. He received the king's protection again on 12 January 1297 in order to conduct Margaret to Brabant.⁴⁹ Members of the escorting party included Humphrey de Bohun, William de Carleton, Master John Lovel, and other men noted for their diplomatic activity.⁵⁰ Perhaps, therefore, Robert and his companions had additional instructions to negotiate with the governments of Brabant and Flanders, for diplomatic exchanges between England and these countries were very intense in the early months of 1297.⁵¹

Few Berkshire families had this tradition of royal service.⁵² The Achards' activity on behalf

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of the crown increased the social importance they had from their feudal holdings and members of the family were in a position to play a leading part in the affairs of their district. They served as jurors in many local disputes⁵³ and took an interest in the private business of landowners, who enjoyed a similar social prominence. In particular, Robert Achard II was frequently in the company of Fulk de Coudray, the tenant of five manors in Berkshire Buckinghamshire, and Hampshire,⁵⁴ while on at least two occasions the Achards married into families of their own social background. William Achard I's wife was the granddaughter of David Rumenel, a Buckinghamshire notable of Henry I's reign,⁵⁵ and after *c.* 1250 Peter Achard married a daughter of William of Englefield, who owned modest estates in six counties.⁵⁶ The Achards were also associated with representatives of a superior landowning class, such as members of the Port and Hose families,⁵⁷ and Robert Achard III made a 'good marriage' into a prosperous Hampshire family. His wife, Joan, was the daughter and heiress of Adam Gurdun, lord of extensive holdings at Alton, East Tisted, East Worldham, Foley, Nutley, Selborne, and Woolmer Forest.⁵⁸ The family was a generous benefactor of Selborne Priory⁵⁹ and Joan herself was connected with this house after she inherited her father's lands in *c.* 1305. For example, in 1308 she granted the priory all the property she held in Selborne from the monks and Thomas Mackerel in exchange for £200; all the goods and chattels in these lands for £294, and other estates in Selborne for 100 marks.⁶⁰ The Gurduns were, therefore, a wealthy family, and Robert's marriage to Joan testifies to the important position the Achards enjoyed in local social circles before they lost their lands at the close of the thirteenth century.

The economic and social standing of the Achards thus put them in a class from which religious houses could expect to derive support, and, although they were fairly substantial patrons of Cirencester Abbey, Reading Abbey, and the Templars,⁶¹ it is clear that their greatest favours were reserved for Monk Sherborne

Priory. Walter Achard conferred on the house a rent of one shilling in Newbury (*c.* 1220 × 1272),⁶² but most of the family's grants conveyed property from the demesne manor of Aldermaston, where by the mid-thirteenth century the monks held the church and chapel, two crofts, part of 'Wodegaston' croft, about one hundred and twenty acres of land, and property beside Roger Foliot's estates.⁶³ The family probably wished to encourage close personal and social relations with Monk Sherborne, for these grants directly involved the community with the *caput* of the Achard fee. The chaplains provided by the monks for Aldermaston chapel were entertained in the family's manor-house, and William Achard I almost certainly increased links of friendship when he became a *confrater* of the priory in *c.* 1153 × 1161.⁶⁴

The Achards' interest in Monk Sherborne was possibly due to their knowledge of the priory's mother house, the Benedictine Abbey of Cerisy-la-Forêt⁶⁵ (canton St-Clair, arr. St-Lô, dép. Manche). Robert Achard I, or his father, probably came to England in *c.* 1066 × 1116 from Bourg-Achard⁶⁶ (canton Routot, arr. Pont-Audemer, dép. Eure), and, although this village is about eighty miles east of the abbey, Cerisy owned property after 1032 in Rouen, which is less than thirteen miles from Bourg-Achard.⁶⁷ Men with the Achard name also appeared before the abbey's court as late as 1315-46,⁶⁸ and such evidence may suggest that the Achards' Norman connections caused their attraction for Cerisy's Hampshire dependency. It is a strong presumption, however, that a further and probably more important incentive to endow the priory was provided by the example and influence of the Ports, a Hampshire family of baronial status, who had founded Monk Sherborne in *c.* 1120 × 1130.⁶⁹ They made extensive grants to the house⁷⁰ and their generosity was remembered in 1475, when the Hospital of St. Julian was obliged to observe a 'yerely obite with a solempne dirige 1 Jan., with 5 masses to be said 2 Jan.' in memory of the family.⁷¹ The Ports also encouraged their own tenants to patronise Monk Sherborne.

For example, Baldwin of Portsea granted one virgate of land and two men at Fratton in Portsea to the monks *nutu et assensu domini mei, Johannis de Port* (c. 1153 × 1167).⁷² There is other evidence of this nature⁷³ and it is most probable that the Achards were similarly encouraged to endow the priory, for the Ports held estates near to Aldermaston⁷⁴ and Henry de Port, the founder of Monk Sherborne, witnessed Henry I's charter to Robert Achard I.⁷⁵ Thus, the two families were possibly acquainted from the time that Robert obtained his five Berkshire manors. This social contact probably gave the Ports an opportunity to interest the Achards in their priory and they were closely involved in the Achards' endowment of Monk Sherborne. John de Port, Henry's son, witnessed the two gifts to the house from William Achard I (c. 1153 × 1162),⁷⁶ and all but one of the Achards' grants to the monks were attested by Port tenants. These included Hugh de Brayboef, lord of Basingstoke and patron of Monk Sherborne, a tenant of the Ports at Eastrop;⁷⁷ and Alexander de Montfichet, a descendant of William de Montfichet, the grantor of the islands of St. Marcouf to Cerisy Abbey (1066 × 1093).⁷⁸ Alexander held property in the Ports' manor of Sherborne St. John⁷⁹ and several Achard gifts were also witnessed by William fitz Adam, Fulk de Coudray, and members of the French and Wastehouse families, who were tenants in the same manor.⁸⁰

This evidence strongly suggests that the Ports were largely responsible for encouraging the Achards to patronise Monk Sherborne. Similarly, the Achards' grants set an example which was followed by some of their own tenants. William Revel, who held lands from the Achards at Woolhampton, endowed the priory with half an acre of meadow in the late twelfth century,⁸¹ and John Bannister, another tenant of the family, granted the monks Sulhampstead Bannister Church and half a virgate of land *consilio et concessione domini Willelmi Achard* (c. 1169 × 1202).⁸² The Achards were also associated with grants to the priory from other local families,⁸³ and they, like

the Ports, became a powerful force in increasing the house's patronage. Their support was especially important in the early thirteenth century when the Ports had lost interest in their priory and the stream of endowments tended to dwindle. At the same time, Monk Sherborne faced the additional burden of paying £80 *per annum* to the crown and, although the Achards' assistance did not completely solve the financial difficulties of the house,⁸⁴ they were able to delay the priory's decline and eventual impoverishment.

REFERENCES

- ¹ I would like to thank Miss A. Green, the Berkshire County Archivist, and Professors G. W. S. Barrow and C. R. Cheney for their help in the preparation of this article. I am also grateful to the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, for a generous grant, which has made possible the publication of the plates accompanying this paper. The following abbreviations are used in the notes: *A.Q.C.*, *Archives of the Queen's College*, ed. N. Denholm-Young; *B.F.*, *The Book of Fees*, ed. H. C. Maxwell Lyte; *B.R.O.*, Berkshire Record Office; *C.Ch.R.*, *Calendar of the Charter Rolls*; *C.I.P.M.*, *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*; *C.P.R.*, *Calendar of the Patent Rolls*; *C.R.R.*, *Curia Regis Rolls*; *O.C.*, *Facsimiles of Early Charters in Oxford Muniment Rooms*, ed. H. E. Salter; *O.H.S.*, Oxford Historical Society; *O.R.S.*, Oxfordshire Record Society; *P.P.H.F.C.*, *Papers and Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*; *P.R.*, *Pipe Roll*; *V.C.H.*, *Victoria County Histories*. Reference to the documents printed on pp. 10–19 is made by citing the number assigned to each text.
- ² This material corrects some statements made by J. C. Cox, 'The Priory of Monk Sherborne', *V.C.H., Hants.*, ii, pp. 226–8; F. Davidson, 'The History of the Benedictine Priory of Monk Sherborne', *P.P.H. F.C.*, vii, pp. 101–9, and C. E. Keyser, 'An Architectural Account of West Sherborne (Pamber) Priory Church, Hampshire', *ibid.*, viii, pp. 171–90.
- ³ The charters are now deposited in the B.R.O., D/EWp. The discovery includes an original *inspeximus* of Edward II, dated 30th July 1317, which recites Henry I's grant of lands to Robert Achard I. The document also mentions, but does not quote, a charter to the family from Henry II, and it gives a copy of Henry III's charter confirming Robert Achard II in possession of his estates in 1229 (cf. *C.Ch.R.*, 1226–57, p. 91).
- ⁴ J. R. Magrath, *The Queen's College*, i, pp. 147–50; *C.P.R.*, 1461–7, p. 116; *ibid.*, 1467–77, p. 394.
- ⁵ A large part of the archives of Queen's College, including Monk Sherborne's muniments, is now on loan to the Bodleian Library. For a description of the priory's documents, see *A.Q.C.* and a short

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- inventory by H. T. Riley, Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Reports*, iv, pp. 451-5.
- ⁶ W. Money, 'Notes on Aldermaston', *Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club*, iv, pp. 129-30; *18th Annual Report of the Berkshire County Archivist*, p. 3.
- ⁷ Where no authority has been cited, reference should be made to Nos. 1, 4-6.
- ⁸ L. Passy, 'Notice sur le cartulaire du Prieuré de Bourg-Achard', *Bibliothèque de l'école des Chartes*, 1861, i, p. 345.
- ⁹ *Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, p. 308.
- ¹⁰ A. M. Leys, *The Sandford Cartulary*, O.R.S., 1941, ii, nos. 316-7; C.R.R., ix, p. 14.
- ¹¹ *ibid.*, x, p. 54; P.R. 32 *Henry II*, p. 47; P.R. 34 *Henry II*, p. 112; P.R. 7 *Richard I*, pp. 175, 181; P.R. 1 *John*, p. 22; C. D. Ross, *The Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey, Gloucestershire*, i, nos. 36, 272-3, 276; ii, nos. 515, 541, 666, 711.
- ¹² *ibid.*, ii, no. 666.
- ¹³ *ibid.*, nos. 388-91; *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londinensi Asservati*, i, p. 161b; C. E. Watson, 'The Spillman Cartulary', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, lxi, pp. 69-72.
- ¹⁴ V.C.H. *Berks.*, iii, p. 388.
- ¹⁵ B.F., i, p. 47; B.R.O., W/TCaI.
- ¹⁶ S. R. Wigram, *The Cartulary of the monastery of St. Frideswide at Oxford*, O.H.S., 1895, i, p. 274.
- ¹⁷ *Calendar of the Liberate Rolls, 1267-72*, no. 1974.
- ¹⁸ *Calendar of the Fine Rolls, 1272-1307*, p. 100.
- ¹⁹ B.F., ii, pp. 1382-3; C.I.P.M., iii, no. 494.
- ²⁰ *Calendarium Genealogicum*, i, p. 262; *Calendar of the Fine Rolls, 1272-1307*, p. 404.
- ²¹ V.C.H. *Hants.*, ii, p. 519; W. D. Macray, *Calendar of charters and documents relating to Selborne and its priory*, Hampshire Record Society, 1891, pp. 84, 87.
- ²² V.C.H. *Berks.*, iii, p. 388; C.I.P.M., iii, no. 494; H. E. Salter, *The Boarstall Cartulary*, O.H.S., 1930, nos. 60, 62, 67.
- ²³ *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, 1066-1154*, ii, no. 1134; C.Ch.R., 1300-26, p. 360.
- ²⁴ *Calendar of the Close Rolls, 1296-1302*, pp. 244-5; *Calendar of the Fine Rolls, 1272-1307*, p. 410; C.I.P.M., iii, no. 494. For the Coleshills' relations with the Achards before 1294, see C.P.R., 1281-92, p. 352; *Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*, iii, no. C.3756. Robert de Coleshill, styled *nepos* of Robert Achard III, eventually adopted the Achard name (C.P.R., 1292-1301, p. 76; V.C.H. *Berks.*, iii, p. 388), but it is unlikely that he was Robert's blood relation. The meaning of *nepos* is ambiguous (A. Morey and C. N. L. Brooke, *Gilbert Foliot and his Letters*, p. 32 and n.), and he was probably a kinsman of Joan Gurdun.
- ²⁵ C.I.P.M., iii, no. 494; *Calendar of the Close Rolls, 1296-1302*, p. 231; H. E. Salter, *op. cit.*, no. 60.
- ²⁶ C.R.R., xiii, p. 165; A. M. Leys, *op. cit.*, ii, nos. 316-7; see also C.Ch.R., 1257-1300, p. 424.
- ²⁷ B.F., i, p. 294; P.R. 4 *John*, p. 82; Nos. 4, 5.
- ²⁸ V.C.H. *Berks.*, iii, p. 445; B.F., ii, p. 849; *Calendar of the Close Rolls, 1296-1302*, p. 154. Robert Achard III granted lands beside the river Kennet to John of Aldermaston in 1278 × 1284 (B.R.O., D/ERW T I).
- ²⁹ *Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, p. 308; V.C.H. *Berks.*, iii, pp. 318, 431, 445; B.F., ii, pp. 846, 849; B.R.O., D/EX26 T4.
- ³⁰ A. M. Leys, *op. cit.*, ii, no. 318; *Calendar of the Close Rolls, 1296-1302*, p. 231.
- ³¹ C.Ch.R., 1257-1300, p. 424; V.C.H. *Berks.*, i, pp. 334, 341.
- ³² B.F., ii, p. 1383; Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6; V.C.H. *Berks.*, i, p. 334; P. D. A. Harvey, *A Medieval Oxfordshire Village, Cuxham, 1240-1400*, Map 1; F. W. Maitland, *Bracton's Note Book*, ii, p. 650.
- ³³ V.C.H. *Berks.*, i, p. 332; for Herlewinus *savonarius* of Westcot, see A. M. Leys, *op. cit.*, ii, nos. 317-8, and for Sparsholt's common pasture, see C.R.R., xiii, pp. 420, 515.
- ³⁴ V.C.H. *Berks.*, i, p. 326; C.Ch.R., 1257-1300, p. 424. The right to hold an annual fair was granted at the same time (*ibid.*). Aldermaston was a nodal point and perhaps this explains its early importance as a market centre. For example, the cattle track from south Wales to London and the *via regia* from Reading to Kingsclere passed through the manor (W. Money, *op. cit.*, pp. 137-8, and a charter from Robert Achard III to John Heruy in 1278 × 1298, B.R.O., D/ERW TI).
- ³⁵ B.F., i, p. 47; C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, ii, no. 666; *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londinensi Asservati*, i, p. 161b; C. E. Watson, *op. cit.*, pp. 69-72.
- ³⁶ British Museum, MS. Cott. Vespasian E xxv, fo. 178v; B.M., MS. Egerton 3031, fo. 108; C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, ii, no. 515.
- ³⁷ B.R.O., W/TCaI; Bodleian Library, MS. Queen's College muniments, box xi, no. 6; B.F., ii, p. 728; V.C.H. *Berks.*, iv, p. 313; C.I.P.M., ii, nos. 255, 811.
- ³⁸ C.Ch.R., 1257-1300, p. 424. For example, John Bannister sought William Achard II's consent before granting property at Sulhampstead Bannister to Monk Sherborne Priory, c. 1169 × 1202 (Bodleian Library, MS. Queen's College muniments, box xi, no. 38; see also B.F., ii, pp. 849, 855).
- ³⁹ For the original *inspeximus*, see above, p. 27 n.3. Part of the enrolment is calendared in *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, 1066-1154*, ii, no. 1134 (see also C.Ch.R., 1300-26, p. 360).
- ⁴⁰ *op. cit.*, ii, p. xvii.
- ⁴¹ *ibid.*, no. 1134; for these franchises, see F. M. Stenton, *The First Century of English Feudalism, 1066-1166*, pp. 99-111, especially p. 101 and n., where litigation involving Peter Achard in 1260 is used to discuss *infangenetheof*. For murder fine exemptions, see P.R. 16 *Henry II*, pp. 71-2; P.R. 32 *Henry II*, pp. 46-7; P.R. 1 *Richard I*, pp. 100, 183; P.R. 3 & 4 *Richard I*, p. 278. In 1234 the abbot of Reading claimed that Aldermaston owed suit to his hundred court, but he lost his case when Henry I's charter was produced (F. W. Maitland, *Bracton's Note Book*, ii, pp. 650-1; see also British Museum, MS. Harley 1708, fo. 171).
- ⁴² *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum, 1066-1154*, ii, p. xx. They were confirmed to Robert Achard II in 1229 (C.Ch.R., 1226-57, p. 91).

- ⁴³ *P.R.* 9 *Richard I*, p. 184; *C.P.R.*, 1216-25, p. 568; *C.P.R.*, 1225-32, pp. 161, 443, 449, 513, 524; *Close Rolls of the reign of Henry III*, 1231-34, 158, 575; *C.P.R.*, 1247-58, p. 647.
- ⁴⁴ *Calendar of the Liberate Rolls*, 1245-51, p. 67; *ibid.*, 1260-67, pp. 1, 106, 150; *ibid.*, 1267-72, p. 57; *C.P.R.*, 1266-72, pp. 15, 318, 510.
- ⁴⁵ *ibid.*, 1281-92, p. 332; *Calendar of the Close Rolls*, 1296-1302, p. 199; see also *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 42; E. B. Fryde, *Book of Prests of the King's Wardrobe for 1294-5*, p. 48.
- ⁴⁶ E. B. Fryde, *op. cit.*, pp. 71, 114; M. Powicke, *The Thirteenth Century*, 1216-1307, p. 649.
- ⁴⁷ *C.P.R.*, 1281-92, p. 352.
- ⁴⁸ *ibid.*, pp. 348-53; M. Powicke, *op. cit.*, p. 512.
- ⁴⁹ *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 227. Margaret, who married John of Brabant on 8th July 1290 (J. de Sturler, *Les Relations politiques et les Echanges commerciaux entre le duché de Brabant et l'Angleterre au moyen âge*, p. 144 and notes), had probably attended the marriage of her sister, Margaret, to John, Count of Holland, at Ipswich on 7th January 1297 (M. Powicke, *op. cit.*, p. 665 and n. 5).
- ⁵⁰ *C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, pp. 226-8.
- ⁵¹ M. Powicke, *op. cit.*, pp. 662-9; H. Rothwell, 'The Confirmation of the Charters, 1297', *The English Historical Review*, lx, p. 19 and n. 3; J. de Sturler, *op. cit.*, p. 150-1.
- ⁵² Achard tenants were also recruited by the crown. For example, Alan Bannister, who held lands in Finchampstead, was the sheriff of Oxfordshire from 1169 to 1175 (*Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, p. 308; *P.R.* 16 *Henry II*, p. 65; *P.R.* 21 *Henry II*, p. 10; see also *P.R.* 22 *Henry II*, p. 29), and Henry de Bluntesdon, Edward I's chaplain, was a tenant at Challow (*C.P.R.*, 1292-1301, p. 78).
- ⁵³ *C.R.R.*, ii, p. 48; *C.R.R.*, v, p. 175; *C.R.R.*, vi, pp. 116, 194; *Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds*, iii, nos. A.5425, C.3756, D.3067; C. D. Ross, *The Cartulary of Cirencester Abbey, Gloucestershire*, i, no. 36.
- ⁵⁴ No. 6; H. E. Salter, *The Boarstall Cartulary*, O.H.S., 1930, nos. 182-3, 202. Fulk held Padworth (Berks.), Lifford (Bucks.), Herriard, Sherborne St. John, and Southrope (Hants.) until he died in 1251; see *C.I.P.M.*, i, no. 230; T. R. Gambier-Parry, *A Collection of charters relating to Goring, Streatley, and the neighbourhood*, 1181-1546, O.R.S., 1931, i, pp. xxxvii-ix; H. E. Salter, *op. cit.*, pp. 55, 59, no. 18; *V.C.H. Berks.*, iii, p. 413; *V.C.H. Hants.*, iv, p. 160.
- ⁵⁵ *V.C.H. Bucks.*, ii, p. 275.
- ⁵⁶ Berks., Bucks., Middlesex, Oxon., Staffs., and Sussex (*B.F.*, ii, pp. 691, 829, 881, 897, 968; *V.C.H. Berks.*, iii, p. 406).
- ⁵⁷ See below, pp. 8-9, 17, n. 3, 18.
- ⁵⁸ *V.C.H. Hants.*, ii, pp. 493-4; *ibid.*, iii, pp. 7, 16, 370; J. Bain, 'Sir Adam Gurdun of Selborne', and 'Supplementary notes on Sir Adam Gurdun . . .', *Genealogist*, new series, iv, pp. 2, 106. Adam also held lands in Surrey (*ibid.*, p. 106).
- ⁵⁹ *V.C.H. Hants.*, iii, p. 7; W. D. Macray, *Calendar of charters and documents relating to Selborne and its priory*, Hampshire Record Society, 1891, pp. 48, 60, 64.
- ⁶⁰ *ibid.*, pp. 83-4.
- ⁶¹ C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, ii, no. 515; British Museum, MS. Egerton 3031, fo. 108; B.M., MS. Harley 1708, fo. 48; A. M. Leys, *The Sandford Cartulary*, O.R.S., 1941, ii, nos. 316-8; B. A. Lees, *The records of the Templars in England in the Twelfth Century*, p. 202 and n.
- ⁶² Bodleian Library, MS. Queen's College muniments, box xi, no. 6.
- ⁶³ Nos. 1-7.
- ⁶⁴ Nos. 1, 4-6.
- ⁶⁵ For brief notes and bibliographical information, see L. H. Cottineau, *Répertoire Topo-bibliographique des Abbayes et Prieurés*, i, p. 656; J. M. Besse, 'Province ecclésiastique de Rouen', *Archives de la France Monastique*, 1914, pp. 123-4. Little is known of Cerisy's relations with Monk Sherborne, for most of the abbey's muniments were destroyed by the Huguenots in 1562 (G. Dupont, *Histoire de Cotentin et de ses Iles*, iii, p. 379) and others were lost at St-Lô in June 1944 (D. Matthew, *The Norman Monasteries and their English Possessions*, pp. 10, 11, 13).
- ⁶⁶ L. Passy, 'Notice sur le cartulaire du Prieuré de Bourg-Achard', *Bibliothèque de l'école des Chartes*, 1861, i, pp. 344-6. The Achards of Berkshire were, however, unknown to Passy.
- ⁶⁷ M. Faroux, 'Recueil des actes des Ducs de Normandie de 911 à 1066', *Mémoires de la Société des Antiquaires de Normandie*, 1961, no. 64.
- ⁶⁸ G. Dupont, 'Le Registre de l'Officialité de Cerisy, 1314-1457', *ibid.*, 1880, nos. 43 (a), 123 (k), 185 (a, c, g, i), 226 (b), 229.
- ⁶⁹ D. Knowles and R. N. Hadcock, *Medieval Religious Houses: England and Wales*, p. 87.
- ⁷⁰ *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 41, 70, 177, 228; W. Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, new edition, vi, pp. 1013-4; *O.C.*, nos. 14, 16; J. H. Round, 'The Ports of Basing and their Priory', *Genealogist*, new series, xviii, pp. 137-9.
- ⁷¹ J. R. Magrath, *The Queen's College*, i, p. 150.
- ⁷² *O.C.*, no. 20.
- ⁷³ *ibid.*, nos. 15, 17; *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 2, 73, 98, 170, 175, 257.
- ⁷⁴ The family held Basing as the *caput* of over fifty manors in Hampshire, with other property in Berks. and Kent (W. Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, iii, pp. 57-8; J. H. Round, 'The families of St. John and of Port', *Genealogist*, new series, xvi, p. 1 *et seq.*; I. J. Sanders, *English Baronies, A Study of their Origin and Descent*, 1086-1327, pp. 9, 105; *V.C.H. Hants.*, i, p. 479b).
- ⁷⁵ *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, 1066-1154, ii, no. 1134.
- ⁷⁶ Nos. 1, 4.
- ⁷⁷ No. 4; *A.Q.C.*, i, no. 171; *Calendarium Genealogicum*, i, p. 342; W. Farrer, *op. cit.*, ii, p. 185; *Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, pp. 207-8.
- ⁷⁸ Nos. 1, 4, 5; G. Dupont, *Histoire du Cotentin et de ses Iles*, ii, p. 136.
- ⁷⁹ *A.Q.C.*, i, no. 175.
- ⁸⁰ Nos. 1, 4-6; *Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, p. 209; *O.C.*, notes to no. 17; *C.I.P.M.*, i, no. 230; Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Reports*, iv, p. 455; *O.C.*, nos. 14, 16.

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⁸¹ *V.C.H. Berks.*, iii, p. 445; No. 8. This document belongs to the Basingstoke discovery (B.R.O., D/EWp.).

⁸² Bodleian Library, MS. Queen's College muniments, box xi, no. 38.

⁸³ *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 7, 54, 94, 98; *O.C.*, no. 24.

⁸⁴ *V.C.H. Hants.*, ii, p. 227. In 1350 the Bishop of Winchester informed the Abbot of Cerisy that the

monks were in great poverty (F. Davidson, 'The History of the Benedictine Priory of Monk Sherborne', *P.P.H.F.C.*, vii, p. 104), but at this time Cerisy was experiencing similar economic hardship (G. Dupont, 'Le Registre de l'Officialité de Cerisy, 1314-1457', *Mémoires de la Société des Antiquaires de Normandie*, 1880, pp. 227-8).

APPENDIX

Wherever possible, the abbreviations and suspensions in the following documents have been extended, and the extension is given in italics only if it is doubtful. No attempt has been made to repeat capital letters as they appear in the original texts, but the punctuation has been given as closely as possible and the spelling of words and proper names is retained. The use of the variant forms of *i*, *j*, and *u*, *v*, has been observed. Ampersands are also reproduced and they are represented by the signs 7, or &. The 'tagged' *e* has not been used but can be seen in the photographs.

(1) *William Achard [I] grants in free alms to God and the monks of [Monk] Sherborne [Priory] the church of Aldermaston, with all its appurtenances, one virgate of land in the vill of Aldermaston, fifteen acres of land in 'Cotstowe',¹ the orchard [which belonged to]² Horn, and another orchard joining it on the western side (c. 1153 × 18 April 1161; possibly c. 1153 × c. 1159).*

Sciunt tam presentes quam posteri quod ego . Willelmus Achardvs in fraternitatem monachorum Sirebvrnie receptus . 7 monacus^a ibidem ad succurrendum futurus³ . consilio amicorum meorum . 7 pro salute anime mee . 7 pro animabus parentum meorum . dedi in puram 7 perpetuam elemosinam Deo 7 predictis monachis ecclesiam de Aldermannestona . uacantem 7 ab omni calumpnia liberam . cum omnibus que illi adiacent libere possidendam . et unam uirgatam terre in eadem uilla . quam tenuit Ælwinus . 7 Wadel . 7 . xv . acras in Cotstowe^b . 7 ortum . Horn . 7 alium ortulum in occidentali parte ei contiguum . Et ut hec mea donatio firma sit . sigillo meo confirmaui . 7 super altare Sancte Marie Sireburnie . predictam ecclesiam 7 me ipsum obtuli . Hi

sunt testes . Johannes de Port . Vrricus . Godefridus . capellanus⁴ . Alexander de Montefichet⁵ . Cloet⁶ . Robertus Francigena .⁷

Endorsed

- (i) Donatio Willelmi Achard de ecclesia 7 de capella (xiii cent.).
- (ii) . . . de Aldr' . . . Ricardus Middelton⁸: (xiii cent.).
- (iii) Apparently another line in a (?) xiii-cent. hand, but the writing is much rubbed and barely legible.

Description

5·8 in. × 4·1 in. (14·8 cm. × 12·4 cm.). Foot folded to a depth of about ·8 in. (2 cm.) for seal *sur double queue*; seal-tag remains, seal missing.

Date

The charter cannot have been issued later than Archbishop Theobald's confirmation (No. 2). The earliest date-limit is set by the witnesses, for although John de Port occurs before 1130 (*O.C.*, no. 14), the other witnesses, most of whom were tenants, or associates, of John and his heirs, are not mentioned until after he inherited his estates in c. 1153 (I. J. Sanders, *op. cit.*, p. 9; for Alexander de Montfichet, see the references above, p. 29, n. 79, p. 36, n. 5; and A. M. Leys, *op. cit.*, ii, No. 331: for Urricus and Godfrey, see above p. 10, n. 4; for Cloeth, see *ibid.*, n. 6; and for Robert Francigena, see *ibid.*, n. 7; Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Reports*, iv, p. 455).

Notes

^a sic. ^b*Chortou* (No. 5); *Cotthou* (No. 6).

(2) *Theobald, archbishop of Canterbury, confirms to the monks of the monastery of Cerisy [-la-Forêt] and [Monk] Sherborne Priory the gift made in free alms by William Achard [I] of Aldermaston church, with all its appurtenances, as it was confirmed to them by Jocelin, bishop of Salisbury (c. 1153 × 18 April 1161; possibly c. 1153 × c. 1159).*

. *Teobaldus* . Dei gratia Cantuariensis archiepiscopus . Anglorum primas . vniuersis sancte ecclesie Dei fidelibus . salutem Que a fratribus nostris coepiscopis canonice fieri noscuntur . ea nostre auctoritatis munimine roborari . 7 stabiliri merentur . Inde est quod Ceresiensis monasterio . 7 Sirebornensi cenobio 7 monachis ibidem regulariter uiuentibus . ecclesiam de Aldermannestona cum omnibus ad eam pertinentibus . quam Willelmus Achardus eis in perpetuam dedit elemosinam . sicut venerabilis . frater noster *Jocelinus* . Saresberiensis episcopus eis illam concessit 7 per cartam confirmauit . nos quoque auctoritate presentis scripti nostri confirmamus . 7 perpetuo quiete possidendam corroboramus . salua in omnibus . diocesani pontificis dignitate 7 obedientia . Prohibemus igitur sub anathemate . ne quis eos inquietat nec aliquam molestiam eis inferat . Valete .

Endorsed

- (i) Confirmacio *Teobaldi Cantuariensis* archiepiscopi de ecclesia de Alremanston' cum pertinenciis (late xii cent.).
- (ii) Confirmacio donatione de Aldremast . . . per episcopum *Cantuariensis* (xiii cent.).
- (iii) J. Aumberley (xiv cent.).

Description

6 in. × 5·7 in. (15·3 cm. × 14·5 cm). Remnant of broad strip for seal *sur simple queue*; fragments of seal survive.

For the style of the charter, see A. Saltman, *Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury*, pp. 190–214.

This document is written by the hand which Mr. T. A. M. Bishop identifies as belonging to Peter the Scribe (*Scriptores Regis*, pl. xvii and notes). Peter entered Theobald's household

in c. 1144, and he was responsible for about twenty-one of the archbishop's *acta*. He also wrote charters for Henry I, Stephen, Empress Matilda, and Henry II (*ibid.*, for facsimiles of his work, see also J. Boussard, 'Influences Insulaires', *Scriptorium*, v, pl. xxviii; C. T. Clay, *Early Yorkshire Charters*, viii, pl. xiii; C. W. Foster, *The Registrum Antiquissimum of the Cathedral Church of Lincoln*, i, pl. xxiii; T. Madox, *Formulare Anglicanum*, pl. iv; O.C., nos. 62, 68).

Date

Although the absence of *apostolice sedis legatus* from Theobald's style often suggests a date before Dec. 1150 (A. Morey and C. N. L. Brooke, *The letters and charters of Gilbert Foliot*, p. 506; C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, ii, No. 577), this document cannot be earlier than No. I, and, therefore, it must be later than c. 1153 (cf. A. Saltman, *op. cit.*, p. 191). Theobald died on 18 April 1161 (*ibid.*, p. 54), but the latest date of the confirmation is possibly c. 1159, for no charter in Peter the Scribe's hand appears to have been issued after this date (T. A. M. Bishop, *op. et loc. cit.*).

(3) *Jocelin, bishop of Salisbury, confirms to Abbot Hugh and the brothers of the monastery of Cerisy [-la-Forêt] and the monks of [Monk] Sherborne [Priory] the gifts made by William Achard [I]; viz. the church of Aldermaston, with all its appurtenances, one virgate of land in Aldermaston, fifteen acres of land situated in front of the monks' gate, the orchard which belonged to Horn, and another orchard joining it on the western side (c. 1153 × 18 April 1161; possibly c. 1153 × c. 1159).*

Jocelinus Dei gratia *Saresberiensis* episcopus dilectis in Christo fratribus Hugoni abbati ceterisque fratribus *Ceresiensis* monasterii . in Domino salutem . Officii nostri nos hortatur auctoritas ut ea que sacris locis 7 Deo seruientium usibus conferuntur sub nostra debeamus protectione suscipere 7 ne prauorum hominum rapacitate auferri uel minui ualeant . episcopali auctoritate eadem confirmare . Ea propter dilecte in Domino frater Hugo abbas tuis

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iustis postulationibus annuentes 7 tue tuorum-
que indemnitati in posterum prouidentes .
confirmamus monachis Scireburne 7 per eos
Cerasiensī monasterio ecclesiam de Aldor-
mannestona cum omnibus eidem ecclesie
pertinentibus salua in omnibus Saresberiensis
episcopi obedientia 7 reuerentia . Confirma-
mus nichilominus tam monachis quam monas-
terio predicto crementum quod Willelmus
Acardus eis dedit . unam scilicet uirgatum
terre in eadem Aldormannestona 7 xv . acras
que iacent ante ianuam monachorum . ortum
quoque qui fuit Horn 7 alium ortulum in
occidentali parte ei contiguum . Si quis igitur
hanc nostre confirmationis cartam sciens
contra eam temere uenire temptauerit .
nouerit se in extremo examine rationem
redditurum . Conseruantibus autem 7 pre-
dictorum monachorum paci 7 indemnitati
prouidentibus . sit pax a Deo 7 Domino Nostro
Iesu Christo qui cum Patre 7 Spiritu Sancto
uiuīt 7 regnat in seculorum secula . Amen .

Endorsed

. Ricardus Middelton¹⁰: (xiii cent.).

Description

6.9 in. × 4.1 in. (17.6 cm. × 10.4 cm.).
Remnant of broad strip for seal *sur simple*
queue and narrow strip below; seal missing.

The style of this confirmation is strongly
influenced by papal chancery practice. It is
addressed to the beneficiaries; the *arenga* is
elaborate (cf. W. Dugdale, *op. cit.*, iii, p. 280;
W. H. R. Jones, *The Register of St. Osmund*,
Rolls Series, 1883, i, pp. 218, 220; C. D. Ross,
op. cit., ii, no. 555); *confirmamus* is the operative
word; *eapropter* introduces the dispositive
clause; spiritual sanctions are threatened (cf.
W. H. R. Jones, *op. cit.*, pp. 218–20), followed
by a benediction, and 'Amen' is the final
apprecatio. In these respects, the document
resembles a papal letter of grace or privilege
(C. R. Cheney, *English Bishops' Chanceries*,
1100–1250, pp. 56–81), and in fact the scribe
has partly copied the style and vocabulary of a
bull from Eugene III confirming the privileges
of Salisbury in Dec. 1146 (W. D. Macray,
Charters and Documents . . . of Salisbury, Rolls

Series, 1891, pp. 12–3). The majority of Bishop
Jocelin's surviving *acta* are, however, far less
closely modelled on papal formulas. For exam-
ple, those dated towards the end of his long
pontificate (1142–84) generally prefer a short
preamble, or use none at all, and they frequently
employ the corroboration clause (*ibid.*, pp. 18–9,
28–31, 37–40, 43–4; W. H. Hart, *Historia et*
Cartularium . . . Gloucestriae, Rolls Series,
1863, i, pp. 208–9; W. H. R. Jones, *op. cit.*,
i, pp. 216, 221–2, 224, 226–7, 244, 248–50, 252,
302, 337, 339–40; J. G. Milne, 'The Muni-
ments of Holy Trinity Priory, Wallingford',
Oxoniensia, 1940, p. 56; *O.C.*, no. 25, notes to
no. 24; C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, ii, nos. 479–80).

Date

This charter cannot be earlier than No. 1, or
later than No. 2, which mentions Bishop
Jocelin's confirmation.

(4) *William Achard [I] grants in free alms to*
God and the monks of [Monk] Sherborne
[Priory] the chapel [of Aldermaston]¹¹, with all
its appurtenances, and the monks agree to provide
William with an able chaplain, who is to receive
sustenance for himself, his man, and his palfrey
in William's house (c. 1153 × Michaelmas 1162 ;
possibly c. 1153 × c. 1159).

Sciāt tam presentes quam posteri . quod ego
Willelmus . Achardvs in fraternitatem mona-
chorum Sirebvrnie receptus . 7 monachus
ibidem ad succurrendum futurus . consilio
amicorum meorum . 7 pro salute anime mee .
7 pro animabus parentum meorum . dedi in
puram . 7 perpetuam elemosinam Deo . 7
predictis monachis capellam meam uacantem .
7 ab omni calumpnia liberam . cum omnibus
que illi adiacent libere 7 quiete possidendam .
Eo tamen pacto . quod predicti monachi debent
mihi capellanum aptum inuenire . 7 ego ei . 7
palefrido suo . 7 homini suo . in domo mea
honeste uictum inuenire debeo . Et ut hec mea
donatio firma sit . sigillo meo hoc confirmaui .
7 super altare Sancte Marie Sirebvrnie pre-
dictam capellam . 7 me ipsum optuli . huius
donationis 7 confirmationis . Hii . sunt testes .
Johannes de Portu . Willelmus filius Ade¹² .

Vrricus capellanus . Godefridus sacerdos . Alexander de Montefichet . Gervasius Waste-huse¹³ . Cloet . Rodbertus Francigena .

Endorsed

Willelmus Achard pro capella (xiii cent.).

Description

6 in. × 2.9 in. (15.3 cm. × 7.5 cm.). Foot folded to a depth of about .5 in. (1.3 cm.) for seal *sur double queue*; seal-tag remains, seal missing.

Date

The charter was confirmed by Bishop Jocelin of Salisbury before Michaelmas 1162 (*O.C.*, notes to no. 24), and it was probably issued at about the same time as No. 1. Both documents are written by the same scribe, and all the witnesses of No. 1 attest No. 4.

(5) *William Achard [II] confirms all the gifts his father made in free alms to God, St. Mary, and the monks of [Monk] Sherborne [Priory], with the exception of the orchard which belonged to Horn and another orchard [joining it on the western side],¹⁴ viz. the church of Aldermaston, with all its appurtenances, the chapel [of Aldermaston],¹⁵ with all its appurtenances, viz. one hide of land; one virgate of land, and fifteen acres of land in 'Chortou'. Moreover, the monks are to provide him with an able chaplain, who is to receive sustenance for himself, his man, and his palfrey in William's house (c. 1169 × 1201).*

Sciant tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Willelmus Achart filius Willelmi Achart concessi & confirmaui hac mea presenti carta totam donationem quam Willelmus Achart pater meus in elemosinam dedit Deo & Sancte Marie & monachis de Sireburnia . excepto quodam ortulo . qui fuit Horn . & quodam alio . consilio amicorum meorum pro salute anime mee . & pro animabus parentum meorum . Scilicet ecclesiam de Andremanestun . cum omnibus pertinentiis suis . & capellam meam cum omnibus pertinentiis suis . scilicet unam hidam terre . & unam uirgatam terre . quam tenuit Alwinus Wadel . & quindecim acras terre in Chortou . Preterea predicti monachi

debent michi^a capellanum aptum inuenire . & ego ei & palefrido suo . & homini suo in domo mea honeste uictum inuenire debeo . Et ut hec mea donatio & concessio inconcussa permaneat . sigillo meo confirmaui . & super altare Sancte Marie Sireburnie predictam donationem obtuli . Hi sunt testes . Margarita uxor Willelmi Achart . Henricus de Grancort¹⁶ . Rotbertus Achart¹⁷ . Willelmus Reuel . Walterius de Caisne . Ricardus Cheuro¹⁸ . Balduinus filius Christiani . Thomas Rufus¹⁹ . Guillelmus clericus filius Godefridi . Hugo de Braibo²⁰ . Magister Osmundus²¹ . Radulfus de Dunmel . Henricus filius eius . Phillippus de Cledesden²² . Alexander de Montfichet . Radulfus Waste-hosa . Godefridus sacerdos . Adam sacerdos . Osmundus sacerdos . Thomas sacerdos²³ . & multi alii .

Endorsed

- (i) Confirmatio Willelmi Achard de ecclesia 7 de capella (xiii cent.).
- (ii) . . . de Aldr' . . . Ricardus Middelton²⁴: (xiii cent.).

Description

10.3 in. × 4.2 in. (26.2 cm. × 12.5 cm.). Foot folded to a depth of about .8 in. (2 cm.) for seal *sur double queue*. Four holes through foot and fold for seal cords of a green woven material carrying a circular seal in black varnish; equestrian figure to sinister holding a shield and sword; legend illegible: diameter 2.6 in. (6.6 cm.).

The document is almost certainly the work of a scribe, who also wrote charters from Matthew de Scures and Baldwin of Portsea to Monk Sherborne Priory, c. 1153 × 1167 (for facsimiles, see *O.C.*, nos. 15, 20).

Date

William Achard I died in 1166 × 1168, leaving his son a minor, and the crown held the Achard estates in wardship until William Achard II came of age in c. 1169 × 1170 (*Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, p. 308; *P.R. 14 Henry II*, p. 203; *P.R. 16 Henry II*, pp. 71-2). The latest date is set by the death of Hugh de Brayboef in, or before, 1201 (*C.R.R.*, ii, p. 55).

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Note

^a Probably correct, but vellum damaged.

(6) *Robert Achard [II] confirms, free from all services, the gifts which his father and grandfather made in free alms to God and the monks of [Monk] Sherborne [Priory], with the exception of the orchard which belonged to Horn and another orchard joining it on the western side; viz. the church of Aldermaston, with all its appurtenances, the chapel of Aldermaston, with all its appurtenances, viz. one hide of land; one virgate of land, and fifteen acres of land in 'Cotthou', as described in his predecessors' charters;²⁵ but Robert grants the monks 'Rubea' croft in Aldermaston in exchange for the aforesaid fifteen acres, and states that he and his heirs are able to present a suitable chaplain for celebrating divine services on their behalf to the monks, who are obliged to accept him by the terms of a charter that they have from Robert²⁶ (c. 1220 × 1241).*

Sciunt presentes 7 futuri quod ego Robertus Achardi dedi 7 concessi 7 hac presenti carta mea confirmaui donationem quam Willelmus Achardi pater meus 7 Willelmus Achardi auus meus dederunt Deo 7 monachis de Sireburnia in puram 7 perpetuam elemosinam pro salute anime mee . 7 antecessorum 7 successorum meorum . Videlicet ecclesiam de Aldremanestona cum omnibus pertinentiis suis . et capellam meam de Aldremanestona cum omnibus pertinentiis suis . videlicet unam hydram terre 7 vnam uirgatam terre quam tenuit Alwynus Wadel 7 quindecim acras terre in Cotthou excepto quodam ortulo qui fuit Horn . 7 quodam alio ortulo in occidentali parte ei contiguo . et in excambio predictarum quindecim acrarum receperunt dicti monachi croftam unam que uocatur Rubea crofta . quam Hugo Nobilis tenuit in Aldremanestona . sicut continetur in cartis predecessorum meorum quas habent predicti monachi de dicta donatione excepto excambio predictarum quindecim acrarum . Ita tamen quod ego 7 heredes mei cum uoluerimus nobiscum habere capellanum celebrantem diuina pro nobis 7 antecessoribus 7 successoribus

bus nostris presentabimus eis capellanum idoneum 7 ipsi eum recipient secundum quod continetur in carta eorum super hoc michi 7 heredibus meis confecta . Ego uero 7 heredes mei dictos monachos ab omni seruicio regali^a. 7 exactione seculari de dicto feodo . aquietabimus nec per nos nec per aliquem de nostris eos grauabimus uel aliquam molestiam fieri permittemus^b Et ut hec mea donatio 7 concessio 7 carte mee confirmatio perpetuam firmitatem optineat presentem cartam sigilli mei appositione roborauimus Hiis testibus Galfrido de Insula²⁷ Fulcone de Codrey 7 Galfrido de Fontibus^c Willelmo de Insula .²⁸ Ada de Grantcurt Johanne de Hosa²⁹. Jophes Wastehose Willelmo Kttehu³⁰ 7 multis aliis

Endorsed

- (i) Aldremeston' (xiii cent.).
- (ii) Tercia (xiv cent.).
- (iii) Aldremanstone (xiv cent.).

Description

8.2 in. × 4.4 in. (20.8 cm. × 11.4 cm.). Foot folded to a depth of about 1 in. (2.6 cm.) for seal *sur double queue*; seal-tag remains carrying a badly damaged seal, similar to that of No. 7 (see below, p. 18).

Date

William Achard II was still alive in 1217 × 1218, but Robert was in possession of his father's estates by 1220, and he died in, or before, 1241 (*P.R.16 John*, p. 52; *B.F.*, i, p. 294; ii, p. 855).

Notes

^a*seruicio* and *regali* are underlined. ^bVellum damaged; *permitteremus* supplied conjecturally. ^cVellum damaged, but probably *de Fontibus* (see A. M. Leys, *The Sandford Cartulary*, O.R.S., 1938, i, nos. 115-7; 1941, ii, no. 317).

(7) *Robert Achard [II] grants in free alms to the monks of the church of St. Mary and St. John the Baptist of [Monk] Sherborne part of 'Wodegaston' croft in Aldermaston, and another croft in Aldermaston called 'Wiscardes Pinthuc', with lands between this croft and Roger Foliot's estates (c. 1220 × 1241).*

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus Achardi dedi 7 concessi 7 hac presenti carta mea confirmaui ecclesie Sancte Marie Sanctique Johannis Baptiste de Sireburnia . et monachis ibidem Deo seruientibus pro salute anime mee 7 omnium antecessorum 7 successorum meorum . in villa mea de Aldremanestona quamdam partem cuiusdam crofte que appellatur Wodegaston' . videlicet illam partem quam Margareta vidua Willelmi sermocinarii tenuit . Preterea dedi 7 concessi predictae ecclesie 7 monachis ibidem Deo seruientibus in predicta villa mea de Aldremanestona . vnam croftam que appellatur Wiscardes Pinthuc . cum quodam incremento . quod protenditur lineariter ab australi corneria predicti Wiscardi Pinthuc . uersus orientem usque ad corneriam occidentalem terre Rogeri Foliot³¹. saluo comuni camino . Tenendum 7 habendum de me 7 heredibus meis . in puram 7 perpetuam elemosinam . libere quiete 7 pacifice ab omni seruicio 7 exactione . Et ut hec mea donatio rata 7 inconcussa permaneat presentem cartam sigilli mei munimine confirmaui Hiis testibus . Adam Achardi rectore ecclesie de Sparsolt Egidio Reuel³². Johanne Achardi Adam de Grantcurt . Johanne . de Hosa . Rogero de Grantcurt . Willelmo Burel³³ et multis aliis .

Endorsed

Donatio medie crofte que appellatur Wodegastone et alterius crofte que dicitur Wisandez Pinthuc in Aldrimestone (late xiii cent.).

Description

8.3 in. × 2.4 in. (21.3 cm. × 6.2 cm.). Foot folded to a depth of about 1 in. (2.6 cm.) for seal *sur double queue*; seal-tag remains carrying a circular seal in light-green varnish; equestrian figure to sinister holding a bridle in one hand and a falcon in the other, with the sun in the top left-hand corner; legend: + SIGILLUM ROBERTI ACHARD (sequence clockwise): diameter 1.5 in. (3.9 cm.).

Date

The date-limits are set by the information provided for No. 6. The two documents were probably issued at about the same time, for the

scribe of No. 6 also wrote No. 7, and both charters are witnessed by Adam de Grantcurt and John Hose.

(8) *William Revel and his wife, Hadewisa, grant in free alms to God and the monks of St. Mary of [Monk] Sherborne half an acre of meadow in 'Horsiet', near Aldermaston (late xii cent.).*

Sciunt presentes 7 futuri quod ego Willelmus Reuel 7 Haduis uxor mea consilio 7 assensu filiorum nostrorum 7 amicorum . pro salute animarum nostrarum . 7 pro animabus patrum 7 matrum nostrorum^a. 7 antecessorum . dedimus 7 concessimus Deo 7 Sancte Marie Sireburnie 7 monachis ibidem Deo seruientibus apud Aldremaneston dimidiam acram prati in Horsiet³⁴. in perpetuam 7 puram elemosinam. liberam 7 quietam tenendam ab omni seruicio . 7 ab omni exactione . Et ut hec nostra donatio in posterum . rata 7 inconcussa permaneat . sigilli nostri munimine . 7 proborum hominum testimonio eam roborauimus . Testibus . Henrico de Grandi Curia . Radulfo Wastehousa . 7 Willelmo fratre ejus . Walterio Treche-ful³⁵. Cloeth . Jacobo . Hugone Francigena . Roberto preposito³⁶. Willelmo pistore Cerasii . Ailliart . Hugone de Hida³⁷. Nigello . Cerasiensis^b.

Endorsed

- (i) Carta dimidie acre prati in Aldrimestr' (xiii cent.).
- (ii) Carta Willelmi . Reuel (xiii cent.).
- (iii) Aldremaston' (xiv cent.).

Description

7.5 in. × 3.5 in. (19.2 cm. × 8.8 cm.). Foot folded to a depth of about .8 in. (2 cm.) for seal *sur double queue*; seal-tag remains, seal missing.

Date

No definite date-limits can be given, but William Revel, Ralph Wastehouse, and Henry de Grantcurt witnessed No. 5 (c. 1169 × 1201); Cloeth attested Nos. 1 and 4 (c. 1153 × 1162), and the charter almost certainly belongs to the second half of the twelfth century.

SOME DOCUMENTS CONCERNING A BERKSHIRE FAMILY

Notes

^a Sic. ^b cer' in text; taken as *Cer[asiensis]* (MS. has William *pistor*? of Cerisy), but *cer[visiario]* is an alternative reading.

REFERENCES

- ¹ *ante ianuam monachorum* (no. 3).
- ² *ibid.*
- ³ This part of the text explains that William was a *confrater* of the priory and it is repeated in his second grant to Monk Sherborne (no. 4). Confraternity enabled him to share in the spiritual benefits of the monks and the phrase *ad succurrendum* indicates that he was allowed to take the monastic habit shortly before his death (D. Knowles, *The Monastic Order in England*, pp. 473-9; S. M. Wood, *English Monasteries and their Patrons in the Thirteenth Century*, chapter vii).
- ⁴ Urricus is styled chaplain in no. 4, and Godfrey the priest (nos. 4, 5) is probably the same man as Godfrey the chaplain. Both were possibly members of the Monk Sherborne community.
- ⁵ Alexander was a frequent witness of grants to the priory, c. 1153 × 1220 (nos. 4, 5; *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 176-7, 257; *O.C.*, nos. 16, 20, 24).
- ⁶ For Cloeth, see *ibid.*, no. 24; no. 8.
- ⁷ Many members of this family attested grants to Monk Sherborne (nos. 4, 8; *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 2, 17, 177, 241, 257; W. Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, new edition, vi, p. 1014; *O.C.*, no. 20).
- ⁸ See below, n. 10.
- ⁹ In this and the following descriptions of the charters, the first measurement is the breadth of the document, the second is its length.
- ¹⁰ Possibly Richard of Middleton, chaplain to Robert of Bingham, bishop of Salisbury (1229-46), and a royal justice (C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, ii, nos. 500, 554, 608).
- ¹¹ No. 6.
- ¹² William witnessed other grants to Monk Sherborne, c. 1153 × 1167 (*A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 70, 170; *O.C.*, nos. 16-7, 24).
- ¹³ Members of this family were employed as custodians of lands escheated to the crown (*Calendar of the Liberate Rolls*, 1240-5, pp. 206, 292; *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum in Turri Londinensi Asservati*, i, pp. 45, 47, 101, 523), and they also witnessed many grants to Monk Sherborne (Nos. 5, 6, 8; *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 2, 5, 7, 8, 17, 54, 72-3, 93, 171, 176-7, 194-6; W. Dugdale, *op. cit.*, vi, p. 1014; *O.C.* nos. 14, 24).
- ¹⁴ Nos. 1, 3.
- ¹⁵ No. 6.
- ¹⁶ Members of Henry's family attested several grants to Monk Sherborne (Nos. 6-8; *A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 7, 38; *O.C.*, no. 24).
- ¹⁷ Probably Robert Achard II, or his younger brother.
- ¹⁸ Richard possibly took his name from Great Cheverell, Wilts.
- ¹⁹ Thomas, who held lands both in and near Devizes, Wilts., after 1203 (*Rotuli Chartarum in Turri Londinensi Asservati*, i, p. 107; *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum, etc.*, i, p. 474), was mainly responsible for the repairs and alterations to Winchester castle from 1193 to 1206 (*P.R.* 5 Ric. I, p. 133; *P.R.* 6 Ric. I, p. 212; *P.R.* 9 Ric. I, p. 117; *P.R.* 10 Ric. I, p. 18; *P.R.* 2 John, p. 191; *P.R.* 8 John, p. 149).
- ²⁰ Members of Hugh's family witnessed several grants to Monk Sherborne (*A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 176, 184, 228; *O.C.*, nos. 14, 16, 24). Hugh's grandson, Henry de Brayboef II, was the sheriff of Hampshire in 1278-80 (*Calendar of the Fine Rolls*, i, pp. 103, 111, 127), and he attested a charter from Robert Achard III to John of Aldermaston, 1278 × 1284 (B.R.O., D/ERW TI).
- ²¹ Mr. Osmund was probably a member of the Monk Sherborne community, for he witnessed a number of grants to the priory, c. 1153 × 1202 (*A.Q.C.*, i, no. 38; *O.C.*, nos. 16, 20, 24).
- ²² Cliddesden, about two miles south of Basingstoke.
- ²³ The last four witnesses were probably monks from the priory.
- ²⁴ See above, n. 10.
- ²⁵ Presumably nos. 1, 4, 5.
- ²⁶ Now lost?
- ²⁷ Geoffrey, who held lands in Wooton and Mansbridge, Hants., was the sheriff of this county in 1239-40, and in 1235 he was the custodian of Winchester and Porchester castles (*Calendar of Inquisitions Miscellaneous*, 1219-1307, no. 79; *Calendar of the Liberate Rolls*, 1226-40, pp. 359, 441; *C.I.P.M.*, i, no. 233; *Close Rolls of the reign of Henry III*, 1237-42, p. 79; *V.C.H. Hants.*, iii, p. 204; J. L. Whitehead, 'References to Genealogical and other Notes relating to the de Insula Family', *P.P.H.F.C.*, vi, pp. 111-39).
- ²⁸ Probably Geoffrey de Insula's son, who succeeded as lord of Wooton in 1251 × 1252 and acquired property in West Hendred, Berks. (*ibid.*, pp. 128-9; *C.I.P.M.*, i, no. 233; *V.C.H. Berks.*, iv, p. 304).
- ²⁹ Members of John's family were prosperous landowners with estates in Berks., Bucks., Hants., Kent, Notts., Somerset, Sussex, and Wilts. (C. T. Clay, *Early Yorkshire Charters*, xii, pp. 7, 19, 132, 139; *B.F.*, ii, p. 845; W. Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees*, iii, pp. 83-6; *O.C.*, nos. 22-3; H. G. Richardson and G. O. Sayles, 'The earliest known official use of the term "Parliament"', *The English Historical Review*, 1967, pp. 747-50). John's descendants married into the Bannister family (see above, pp. 24, 27) before 1299, which in 1306 gave them control of parts of Finchampstead (W. Lyon, *Chronicles of Finchampstead*, pp. 88, 92, 146; *C.I.P.M.*, iv, no. 426).
- ³⁰ Usually spelt Cattehou, or Catehou. William and his son, Ralph, frequently witnessed grants to Monk Sherborne (*A.Q.C.*, i, nos. 7, 74, 77, 177, 194-6, 201, 241, 254), and the family endowed the priory with rents from property near Pamber before 1272 (*ibid.*, no. 97).
- ³¹ Roger was possibly a descendant of Gilbert Foliot, bishop of Hereford (1148-63) and London (1163-87), see A. Morey and C. N. L. Brooke, *Gilbert Foliot and his Letters*, pp. 42, 261. He held property in Berks., Oxon., and Wilts. (W. Farrer, *op. cit.*, iii, p. 235; H. E. Salter, *The Boarstall Cartulary*, O.H.S., 1930, p. 313, and *The Feet of Fines for Oxfordshire*, 1195-1291, O.R.S., 1930,

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pp. 43-4; F. W. Weaver, *A Feodary of Glastonbury Abbey*, Somerset Record Society, 1910, pp. 3, 10; S. R. Wigram, *The Cartulary of the Monastery of St. Frideswide at Oxford*, O.H.S., 1896, ii, pp. 223-4, 359).

³² Possibly the son of William Revel (nos. 5, 8), who also witnessed a charter from William *venator* of Newbury to Monk Sherborne, 1240 × 1250 (*A.Q.C.*, i, no. 7).

³³ For William, see H. C. Maxwell Lyte and others, *Two cartularies of the Augustinian Priory of Burton*

and the Cluniac Priory of Montacute in the county of Somerset, Somerset Record Society, 1894, p. 152.

³⁴ Horse-gate?

³⁵ For this family, see *A.Q.C.*, i, no. 73; C. D. Ross, *op. cit.*, i, no. 273.

³⁶ Robert witnessed a grant to Monk Sherborne from Robert fitz Fulcred before 1162 (*O.C.*, no. 24).

³⁷ William, prior of Monk Sherborne, granted Hugh's son, John, two acres of land in Sherborne St. John before 1254 (*A.Q.C.*, i, no. 188).