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RECENT DISCOVERIES IN THE ARCHIVES OF
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

BY W. P. BLORE.

In the Assisa Scaccarii or Annual Balance Sheet, which is copied into Register H. for the years 1252 to 1262, there is a separate department called *Carpentaria* under the charge of one of the Monks, who is referred to as *Carpentarius*. The following transcripts are of these sections for the three years 1252-54. In 1252 the monk in charge was William de Wincestr' from Michaelmas to Easter, and Henry, whose surname is not given, from Easter to the following Michaelmas.

Register H. fo.172r. Account of William de Wincestr'.

Recepta vi li. xii s.

Expensa

In aqueductu¹ et fossatis cum solidatis unius servientis xiii s. ob.

In petra et calce, tegula² cum solidatis tegulorum

xxxviii s. i d. ob.

In plumbo empto et stagno³ xxi s. x d. ob.

In meremio⁴ empto xxvii s. viii d. ob.

Opera et utensilia xxxviii s. iii d.

Ad lingna⁵ trahenda x d.

summa tocius expense vii li. iiiii d.

et debentur⁶ ei xii s. iiiii d.

Account of Henry

Recepta iiiii li. xvii s.

Expensa in aqueductu et fossatis et solidatis i servientis

vii s. iiiii d.

In calce, sablo et tegula cum solidatis tegulorum et cementar'

xxii s. iiiii d.

In meremio empto et solidatis carpentar' xx s. viii d.

In ferramento et cordis xv s. v d. ob.

In plumbo et solidatis plumbar' xxvi s. iii d.

Dona fratrum iiiii s.

¹ Probably water-main or conduit.

² Perhaps bricks rather than roof-tiles, though dubious at this date.

³ Tin (for solder).

⁴ Timber.

⁵ for *ligna*—timbers.

⁶ Balance owing to the accountant.

pro muro vii s.
 summa expens' Ciii s. ob.
 et debentur ei vi s. ob.
 Summa recepte utriusque xi li. ix s.
 Summa expense utriusque xii li. vii s. iii d. ob.
 et debentur eis xviii s. iii d. ob.

Register H. fo.175v. Assisa Scaccarii 1253.

Carpentaria Conpotus domini H. Sturei' de carpent' a festo Sci.
 Michaelis usque ad festum Omnium Sanctorum

Recepta de Thesaurariis xxvii s. ii d. ob.

Item conpotus domini R. Carpentarii a festo omn : Sanct : usque ad
 festum sci. Michaelis

Recepta de Thesaurariis ix li.

Summa recepte utriusque x li. vii s. ii d. ob.

Expense utriusque in aqueductu et fossatis et vivariis mundandis¹ et
 solidatis i servientis xxiii s. v d.

In petra, calce, sabulo cum solidatis tegulatorum xlviiii s. viii d.

In plumbo et stagno cum solidatis plumber' iii li. xvi s. ix d.

In meremio empto cum solidatis carpentar' xxxiii s. v d.

In utensilibus, ferramento et cordis xvi s. ix d. ob.

Ad ligna trahenda xii d.

Dona fratrum vi s. vi d.

Summa expense utriusque xi li. vi s. vi d. ob.

Et debentur domino R. xix s. iii d.

Register H. fo.177v. Assisa Scaccarii 1254.

Conpotus duorum Carpentariorum

Recepta de Thesaurar' iii li. xiii s.

De cinere blumbi (*sic*)² vi s. viii d.

Summa recepte iii li xix s. viii d.

Expensa. In aqueductu xxiii s. iii d.

In sablo et tegula cum solidatis tegulatorum xiii s. i d. ob.

In bord de Hybernia³ x s.

In meremio empto cum solidatis carpent' xiiii s. v d.

In utensilibus cum ferramento et cordis xxviii s. x d.

Ad ligna trahenda iii s. xi d. ob.

Dona fratrum iii s. vi d.

In a.....illo (? argillo,⁴ arcillo, arsillo) xix d.

In reparacione retis⁵ xviii d.

¹ Cleaning the fishponds.

² Evidently the lead waste, surplus after melting.

³ Boards from Ireland.

⁴ Probably "clay."

⁵ "The net" for fishing.

Item pro calce¹ viii s. vii d.

1340 liberat' I. Gildene Cementario pro opere ecclesie xv d.

1341 Item Iohanni Gildene et sociis suis pro diversis operibus
iii s. ii d.

Extensive alterations to the Cathedral, including the rebuilding of the nave, had been determined upon before 1377, and in that or the following year the foundations of the aisle walls were laid. It is usually held that the death of Archbishop Simon Sudbury at the hands of the rebels in 1381 was the principal cause of the stoppage of work between 1383 and the election of Prior Chillenden in 1391. Probably the immediate cause of the break was the occurrence of a severe earthquake shock on the 21st of May 1382, for the Treasurers' Accounts show extensive damage to the monastic buildings :—

Treasurers' Accounts, xv. 2.

1382/3 In expensis circa fabricam ecclesie per manus Iohannis Godnyston custodis novi operis lxxvi li x s.

In diversis expensis circa le malthalle hoc anno de novo faciendo (*sic*)
cxxxiii li. ii s. viii d. ob.

In plena solucione cariagii meremii per Thomam Longe per aquam
x li.

Opera infra curiam vii li. iii s. v d. et tantum causa terremotus.

1383/4 Et in reparacione molendini Berthone cum petris de Folkestone et Carpent' cum novis bordyis factis vii li. xvii s. v d.

Et in reparacione Capelle Infirmarie ex parte boreali per terremotum destructe xi li. xiiii s. vi d.

Et in reparacione lotorii² prioris et lotorii claustris et muri claustris ab ostio Capituli usque ostium dormitorii per terremotum destructi
vii li. xix s.

Et in novo tecto facto ultra martirium beati Thome cum plumbo empto in partem solucionis³ x li. x s. v d.

Et in nova clausura ferrea sub magnis organis⁴ per manus Iohannis Godenyston xxxi li. xx d.

During the building of the nave between 1391 and 1400 Master Henry Yevele, the King's Chief Mason, seems to have been retained by Prior Chillenden, and his name occurs in the only surviving Prior's account of this period :—

Prior's Account Roll, xvii.4.

1396/7 *Fabrica Ecclesie* In xx latomis et iii leggeres⁵ et iiii laborariis

¹ Lime.

² Lavatory.

³ In part payment.

⁴ Iron screen beneath the great organs.

⁵ Layers or setters of stone.

conductis per annum integrum deductis septimanis Natalis Domini
Pasche ac Pentecostes ac diebus festivis¹ clxvii li. viii d.

In CCC summis calcis ueste emptis vi li. In C. caretatis zabuli
fundendis² xvi s. viii d. pro caretata ii d. in instrumentis dictorum
latomorum acuendis³ et aliis necessariis emptis xl s.

Solut' Magistro Henrico Iuele pro plumbo et petra ab eo emptis

xx

iiii.x li. xvi. s.

From the opening of the fifteenth century the few remaining accounts of the Priors and a few miscellaneous documents provide additional detail to that contained in the Fabric Rolls:—

Prior's Account Roll, xvii.1.

1411 (List of payments to persons named, possibly tradesmen)

Thome Rudham	(amount faded)
Thome Melyour' pictori	xv li. xvi s. viii d.
Willelmo Lane	(faded)
Edwardo Crowe	xxv li. xiii s. iiiii d.
Petro Halle pro arreragiis anni precedentis	vi li. vi s. viii d.
Iohanni Bulstrode	xxi li.
Ricardo Cornevyle	xxxiii li.
Iohanni Kent	vi. li. xiii s. iiiii d.
Iohanni Barnet	viii li.
Simoni Salesbury	xviii li. xiii s. iiiii d.
Willelmo Maydestane	xlvi li. xiii s. iiiii d.
Simoni Carpentario London	xiii li. xix s. ix d.
Ricardo Cliderowe de antiquo debito domini T. Prioris	vii li.

Mr. Arthur Oswald informs me that several of these names occur in livery lists of the Prior contained in Bodleian Tanner MS. 165 — List of 1398 'Armigeri'

Henry Yvele; Stephen Lote (Yevele's successor as King's Mason); John Pyrye (surveyor and clerk of the cathedral works); Thomas Hoo; John Wulward (apparently first of the working masons and carpenters, respectively, or resident masters or wardens of the works); Simon Carpenter; John Bulstrode; John Kent.

List of 1412 'Armigeri'

Stephen Lote; John Kent; Simon Salisbury; William Maidstone.

¹ The workmen had unpaid holidays of a week each at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun, and on certain other feasts.

² Perhaps "unloading 100 cartloads of sand."

³ For the employer's responsibility for sharpening the masons' tools, see D. Knoop and G. P. Jones: *The Mediaeval Mason*, 1933, p. 62 ff.

Prior's Account Roll, xvii.7.

1436/7 Et pro Carpentar' et aliis operariis conductis circa facturam nove librarie et nove arterie¹ (sic) hoc anno xxiii li. iii s. iii d.

Box 62. No. 2.

An indenture of lease of 1446 fixes the position of the lodge or shed wherein the staff of masons worked :—

Indenture of Lease, dated 27 September, 1446, from Robert Colbroke, sacrist, to Henry Chesman of Canterbury, Mercer, includes Unum gardinum cum pertinenciis jacent' infra Cimiterium ecclesie Christi Cantuar (lately held by Thomas Smythe) inter tenementum dictorum Prioris et conventus versus south et gardinum ac domum Cementariorum vocat' le loygge versus North et east et tenementum pertinens officio sacristarie predicte versus west (for 16 years by rent of 12d. at Christmas).

Prior's Account Roll, xvii.9.

1453/4 Et solut' Iohanni Pyle vitriario pro vitriacione fenestrarum in aula Prioris xxiii s. iiii d. (Pyle occurs elsewhere glazing the *scaccarium* of the Prior.)

Et sol' diversis lathamis et operariis operantibus circa reparacionem hostrie infra curiam xxv s. xi d.

Et sol' Rogero Mayhew, Iohanni Coke et aliis laborariis operantibus circa reparacionem aule borialis xiiii s. viii d. ob. (Roger Mayhew 'mason' occurs in Mr. Oswald's extracts from Tanner MS. 165 in livery lists of the 'Valetti Prioris' for 1453, 1454, 1455 and 1456.)

Et sol' Iohanni Vowler carpentario pro diversis reparacionibus per ipsum factis in Officio Capellanie viii s. iii d.

Novum Opus Et solut' diversis lathamis operantibus circa novum opus Ecclesie hoc anno ut patet per librum domini Prioris²

xx

iiii.v li v s.

Prior's Account Roll, xvii.10.

1455/6 Et in expensis factis circa novam librariam in Collegio Oxon' ut patet per librum domini Prioris xxxvi s.

Et sol' Iohanni Mayhew et Roberto Harington pro emendacione horologii in Camera domini Prioris xv s. viii d.

Prior's Account Roll, xvii.11.

1467/8 Et sol' Willelmo Bonevyle de Corff' pro Petra marmorea pro Tumba Thome Goldstone nuper Prioris. iiii li. x (margin torn)

¹ Presumably a wooden water-main, unless "asteria," a word of uncertain meaning (perhaps a fireplace), is intended. Cf. B. S. Snell, "Some Ancient Building Terms," in *R. I. B. A. Journal*, December 18th, 1926.

² As appears by the lord Prior's book (of accounts).

Prior's Account Roll, xvii. 12. (William Selling, Prior).

1472/3 Et solut' Willelmo Bonevile pro lapide posito super sepulcrum domini Iohannis Oxne nuper Prioris lxxvii s. viii d.

. . . Et solut' Willelmo Bonevile marbeler in part' solucionis unius lapidis pro sarcofago¹ W. Petham (Prior) xx s.

Paper Book, D.E.31, page 2. (Accounts for Dec. 21-Jan. 9 of a year unknown, during Warham's archiepiscopate, 1504-32.)

Decemb' xxi. lathomi. Et deliberat' Dompno Ricardo Marchall supervisor² lathamorum vi s. viii d. (Richard Marchall was professed monk in 1470, and is mentioned in 1511.)

¹ Tomb.

² "Surveyor," "overseer"; in this case probably equivalent to a modern clerk of works.