

RULINGS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

DEBT

- Famine and flood
- Crown exactions
- Land acquisitions
- Building
- Advance sales of wool
- Borrowing for all the above
- Abbots who were poor administrators

Crown exactions

- 1193 for Richard I's ransom; churches to donate plate and jewels
- Cistercians to donate wool
- King John in debt to the French king in 1200 to the tune of 30,000 marks
- Levies general scutage
- Cistercians claim exemption

Cistercian excuse

- They have to ask the General Chapter for permission to pay tax
- John furious
- Withdraws royal protection for the Cistercians
- 1210 pulls much the same kind of stunt

Effect on individual houses

- Meaux in debt for 1000 marks
- Fountains: sheep and cattle seized for sale – loss of 1200 marks
- Louth Park alleges debts of 1680 marks
- Some abbeyes dispersed

The Money Market

- Aaron of Lincoln d. 1186; all unpaid debts revert to the crown
- 1189 Richard I recalls all debts
- 6400 marks (£4266) owed by 9 Cistercian houses, cancelled for immediate payment of 1000 marks (£330)
- Remember William Fossard and Meaux?

The nine abbeys

- Rievaulx
- Newminster
- Kirkstead
- Louth Park
- Revesby
- Rufford
- Kirkstall
- Roche
- Biddlesden