

SOME RULINGS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

1157 [19]

It is not allowed to anyone to sell tanned hides, either those which we or other people produce, nor wool which we have bought.

1181 [5]

If a father abbot finds that a daughter house to be bound by very great debts he is – unless he knows there to be good cause – to punish the abbot of that place and his officials very severely and by any means to prevent them from increasing their debts.

1181 [10]

If it is necessary, wool may be sold in advance, but no more than one year in advance.

1182 [9]

It is known that through excess debt not only danger but also ruin threatens many of our monasteries. For this reason we lay down that those who owe more than the sum of 50 marks shall not buy lands, nor erect new buildings, unless there is urgent need and then with the assent of the father abbots.

1188 [10]

It is known that not only danger but also ruin threatens many of our monasteries through excess debt. For this reason we lay down that as long as an abbot shall owe more than the sum of 50 marks he shall refrain from buying lands, and erecting buildings, unless by chance the building can be carried out or purchase made through alms given especially for this purpose without damage to the house, or through the sale of lands.

1188 [14]

It is known that through excess debt not only danger but also ruin threatens many of the monasteries of our order. For this reason we lay down that whoever is in debt to the tune of more than 50 marks shall from now on refrain from the purchase of lands and from constructing buildings, unless by chance alms have been given to them for these uses, or if another possession has been sold so that the purchase or building can be completed.

1191 [42]

In order to temper cupidity in our order and the reputation for always acquiring things – by which we ought to be repelled – we propose firmly that we should completely abstain from now on from any purchase of lands, possessions and moveable goods.

1208 [5]

Concerning land that shall be less useful or so remote that they cannot usefully be cultivated, the General Chapter thus declares that it is allowed to those that have such lands to lease them or otherwise deal with them as they can.

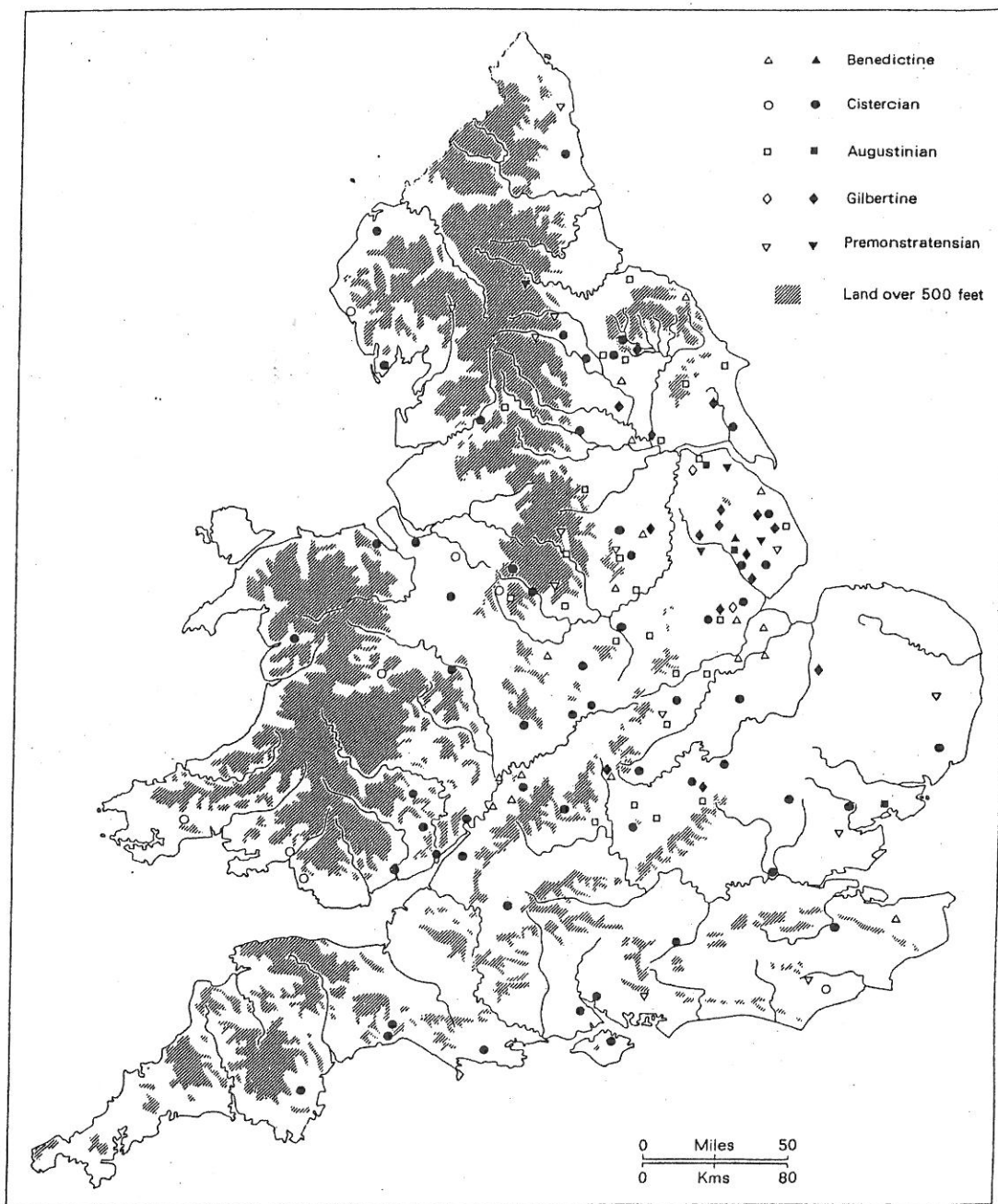


FIG. 12

Religious houses with wool for sale according to F. B. Pegolotti (ca. 1300).
 The solid symbols represent houses marketing wool in the usual three grades
 and with quotations for at least two.

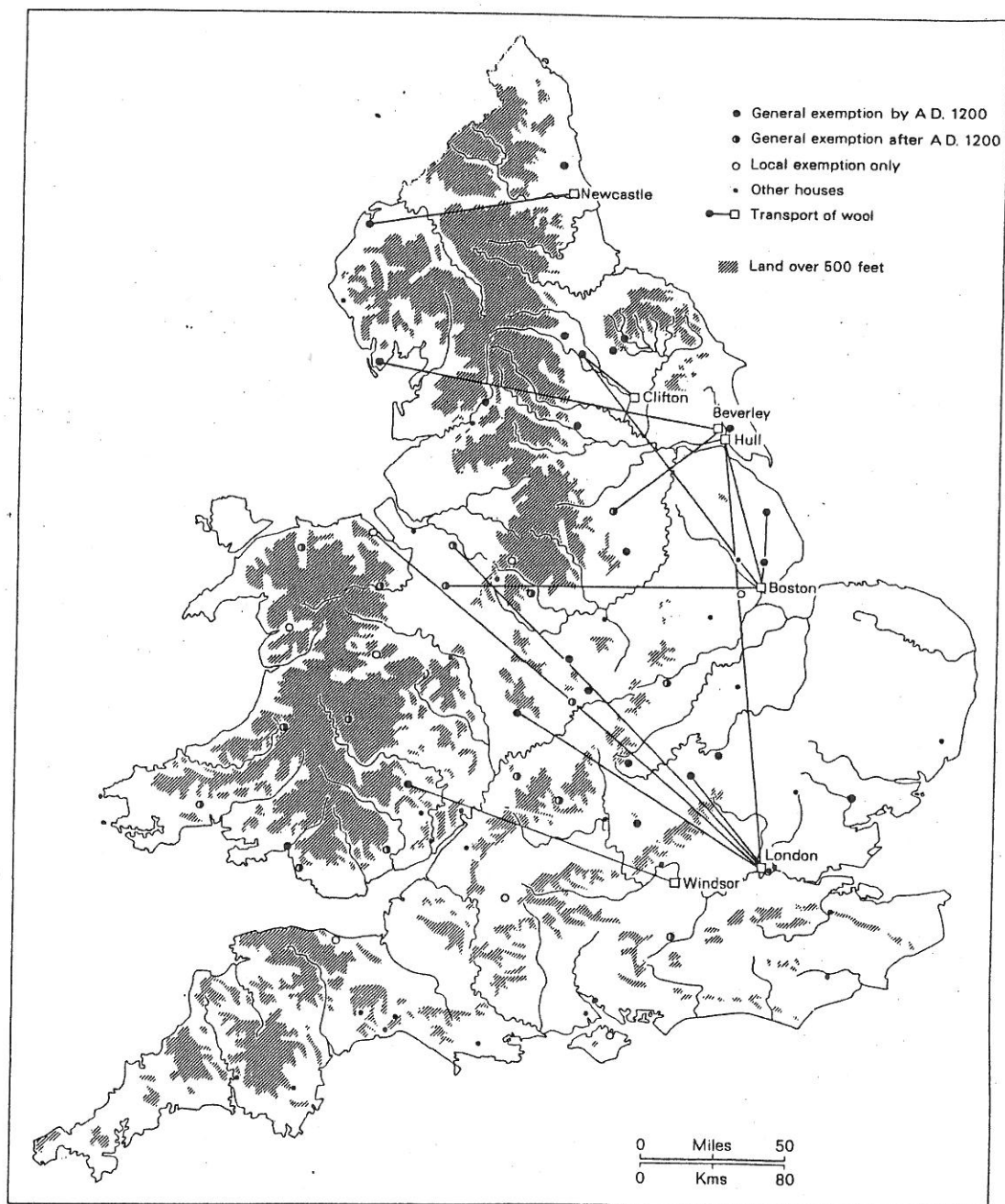


FIG. 17

Cistercian houses with toll exemptions and/or transporting wool (Appendices 6 and 7).

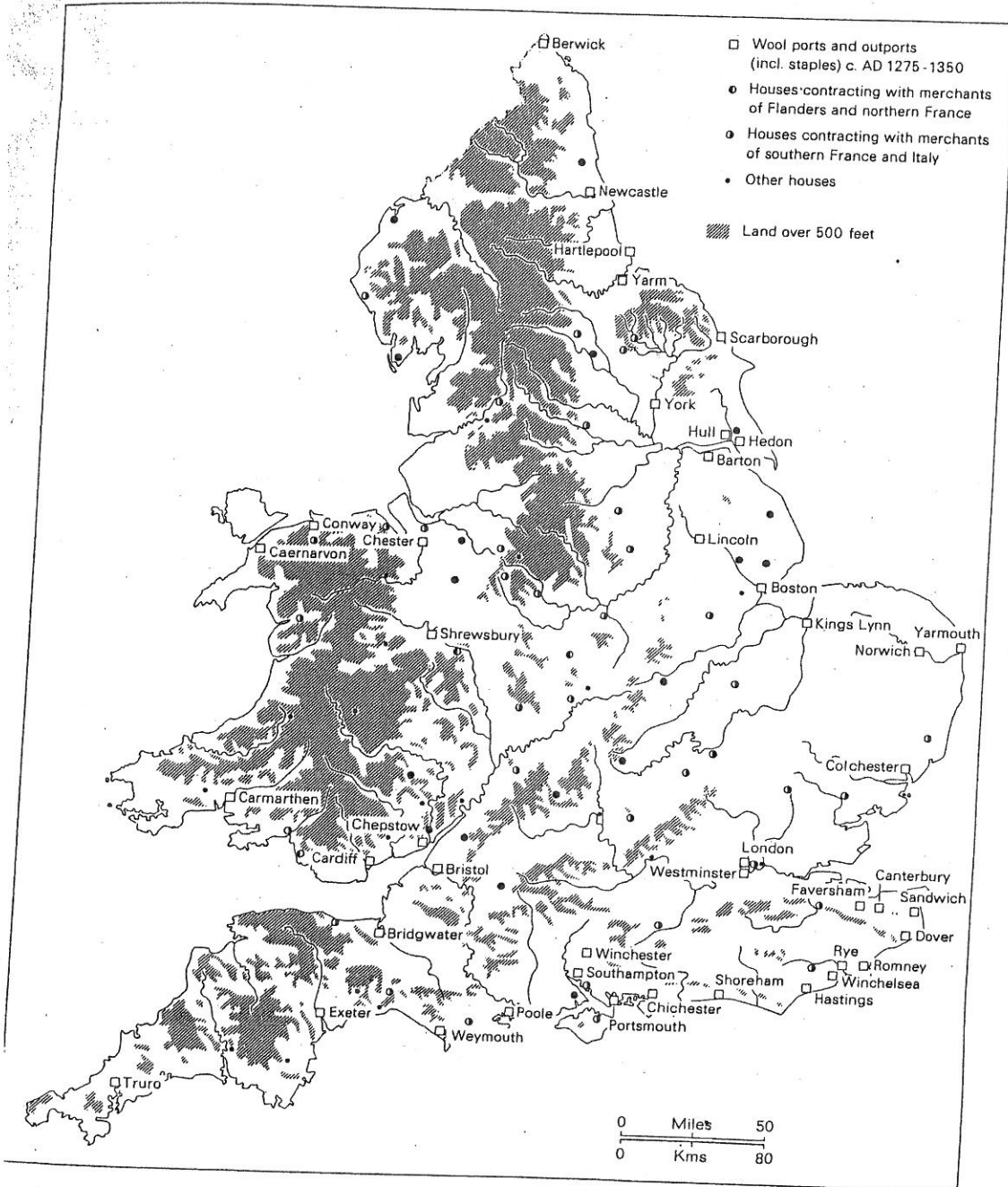


FIG. 19

Cistercian houses contracting with foreign wool merchants (Appendix 10) and the distribution of the chief wool-exporting ports.

SOME RULINGS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER ON ART AND ARCHITECTURE

(1158 [9])

Whoever wishes to do so may colour the doors or gates of their monastery white or black.

1158 [13]

Stone bell towers shall not be constructed.

1159 [9]

Windows of coloured glass made before the prohibition are to be removed within three years.

1181 [11]

Painted windows are to be corrected within two years. Otherwise the abbot and prior and cellarer are to be on bread and water on Fridays until they are corrected.

1182

Painted glass shall be corrected within two years. Otherwise the abbot, prior and cellarer shall fast for six days on bread and water until they are corrected.

1192 [23]

The dormitory at Longpont shall be reduced to the form of the order within three years, notwithstanding the regulation concerning buildings and debts. The abbot of Longpont who constructed this building against the form of the order shall be 40 days outside his stall and shall be on light penance for six days, one of them on bread and water. If by chance this cannot be done within three years no-one shall sleep in it after that and the abbot shall seek penance at the following chapter.

The lord abbot of Clairvaux who, being appointed to visit Vaucelles, did not there correct certain excesses and especially the building of the church, which is too sumptuous and a cause of scandal to many, shall be three days on light penance. The abbots of Foigny and Ourscamp are nominated to go to the place and make amendments concerning the building, which has been constructed incorrectly and against the simplicity of the order. Let those who hear this sentence not presume to do anything similar.