



Postgraduate/Distance Learning Assignment coversheet & feedback form

**THIS SHEET MUST BE THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ASSIGNMENT YOU ARE
SUBMITTING (DO NOT SEND AS A SEPARATE FILE)**

For completion by the student:		
Student Name: Emma Bowey		
Module code: AHHI7016 Studying the Medieval: Records and Manuscripts	Student ID number: 1704037	Educational support needs: No
Module tutor: Janet Burton		
Assignment due date: 12.06.2020		
If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is. 1 st ☐ 2 nd ☐ 3 rd ☒ 4 th ☐ 5 th ☐ 6 th ☐		
I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism. Signed E. Bowey		
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Assignment Mark	
1 st Marker's Provisional mark	
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Final Mark	

NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the Final Examination Board.

For completion by Marker 1 :

Comments:

Marker's signature:	Date:
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For completion by Marker 2/Moderator:

Comments:

Marker's Signature:	Date:
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External Examiner's comments (if relevant)

External Examiner's Signature:	Date:
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Assignment 3: Commentaries

(B) Comment on the Significant Features of an Extract from a Documentary Source:

William, king of the English, count of the Normans, and of the men of Maine, to all the faithful of Christ of whatever race. The compassionate and pitiful lord, enduring and all-merciful, has among other precepts of his clemency, since all that a man may have can be said to be nothing by comparison with eternal beatitude, commanded us that we do not fail to lay up treasures from those things which we lawfully possess, saying, 'Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust do corrupt'. For love of which inspiring command I and my consort, Matilda, with the sagacious counsel of our magnates, for the salvation of our souls and those of all our children, have given the church of Deerhurst, situated in the territory and county of the city of Gloucester, with all its appurtenances, to St Denis, for whose apostolic precedence the people of Gaul give thanks, as our illustrious ancestor King Edward gave it for his own proper use to our faithful Baldwin, monk of St Denis, before he received from the same king the abbey of St Edmund over which he now presides and which we afterwards granted him when we had attained the kingdom. And let this church and all its known appurtenances be free from all secular burdens. We confirm also by this charter the grant which the aforesaid king, Edward, gave to the same saint, Denis, to obtain eternal reward, that is to say Taynton with all its appurtenances, establishing it as free as we ourselves have given, so that we and our issue by the prayers of the same saint and his companions Rusticus and Eleutherius, may merit success in this present life and the haven of perpetual peace. If moreover anyone of any power shall pillage this our gift, then by the authority of omnipotent God, he shall have the lot of Dathan and Abiron, unless he shall make amends and reparation to the saint and the brethren assigned to that place.

In the year of the Incarnation of our Lord 1069 and the third year of the reign of King William, in the second day of Easter, this charter was confirmed in the monastery of St Swithun in the city of Winchester during the celebration of Mass, these witnesses consenting:

I, William, the king, have strengthened this gift and confirmation by the sign of the cross †
I, Matilda, queen of the same king, have publicly professed my consent
I, Richard, son of the king, have freely assented to the gift of my father and mother
† I, Stigand, archbishop of the church of Canterbury, have confirmed
† I, Aldred, archbishop of the church of York, have confirmed
† I, William, bishop of London
† I, Aielic, bishop
† I, Herman, bishop
† I, Giso, bishop
† I, Leofric, bishop
I, Odo, bishop, brother of the king, have signed this with the cross
† I Geoffrey, bishop
† I, Baldwin, bishop of Evreux
† I, Ernald, bishop of Le Mans
† I, Robert, count, brother of the king, have consented with goodwill
† I, William son of Osbern, earl
† I, Robert, count of the castle of Eu
† I, Ralph, earl

† The sign of the queen † the sign of the king † the sign of Richard his son

The extract is a charter reaffirming the donation of Deerhurst in Gloucestershire and Taynton in Oxfordshire to the monastery of St. Denis. The land previously had been granted to St. Denis under the reign of Edward the Confessor (c.1042 to 1066). The charter is structured with the salutation of William I, asserting his right as king to disperse land accordingly: “we do not fail to lay up treasures for those things which we do not lawfully possess”. The charter is organised firstly, with a notification as a result of grievances from St. Denis over land donations. Secondly, the grant is given by William I who reigned from 25 December 1066 to September 1087. Thirdly, the aim of the grant was to act upon a previous arrangement that was not settled. The original grant rewarded to Abbot Baldwin of Bury St. Edmunds the church of Deerhurst for ‘his own proper use’. Fourthly the conditions of the grant were to ensure no maltreatment would come to the properties and if anyone should “pillage the gift”, then it is the responsibility of the culprit to seek reparation and amendment from St. Denis and the monks. Fifthly, the grant is witnessed by William's consort, Mathilda, and his magnates.

The Donation refers to the transfer of properties of Deerhurst and Taynton both held under the lordship of St. Denis. Taynton in 1059, which according to the Domesday Book comprised of ten hides of land, including a quarry¹. Deerhurst had passed to St. Denis in 1060, after the death of earl Odda in 1056, the land was divided between St Denis and the new foundation of St Peters at Westminster. The division of the land meant that Deerhurst was modified to a cell of St Denis, consequently losing its status. A sizeable portion of the land was granted to Westminster, amounting to five herds of land and the smaller one herd of land to St. Denis². The church would be managed as a cell, where a prior and the monks from St Denis received an annual sum from the revenue. According to the Domesday Survey, the possessions of St. Denis in Gloucestershire

¹ "XIII. The Land of Saint-Denis of Paris" in *The Complete Translation of the Domesday Book*, edited by A. Williams and G.H Martin (Penguin Publishers, 2002), p430

² Wareham, A.F., “Baldwin”, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (Oxford University Press, 2004), Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/1160> [Available at: 29 March 2020]

amounted to '64 hides, and included the Vills of Uckington, Staverton, Coln St. Dennis and Caldicot, Little Compton, Prestonon-Stour, and Welford, besides 30 burgess-tenements in Gloucester'³. Since Baldwin had been granted the position of Abbot at Bury, William is transferring the church of Deerhurst and Taynton to the monastery in France.

The dispute is initiated by the land grants given to St. Denis, with the church of Deerhurst granted to Abbot Baldwin by Edward. Baldwin who had been a Benedictine monk at St. Denis, came to England as a physician for Edward the Confessor. In 1065, he was appointed as Abbot of Bury St Edmunds as the successor of Leofstan (c.1044-1065). During the Norman occupation of England, Baldwin remained a vital asset to William I's administration in controlling the riotous Angles. Ordered by William to surrender to him land held by men who fought against and died in the resistance⁴. During the period of 1066 to 1071, there was clear baronial aggression towards founding Saxon saints, which was a 'prelude to seizing monastic houses of wealth', including the shrine of St Edmund⁵. Consequently, Baldwin travelled to Rome to ask for protection from the pope against this aggression. Baldwin would be succeeded by Robert, the son of Hugh d'Avranches, the earl of Chester in 1100. His ability to 'survive the political, military, and even ecclesiastical upheavals of the Norman Conquest, without losing his position and influence, was largely due to being close to those in power'.⁶

³ 'Alien houses: The priory of Deerhurst', in *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1907), pp. 103-105. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol2/pp103-105> [accessed 21 April 2020].

⁴ Wareham, A.F., "Baldwin", *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (Oxford University Press, 2004), Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/1160> [Available at: 29 March 2020]

⁵ Wareham, A.F., "Baldwin", *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (Oxford University Press, 2004), Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/1160> [Available at: 29 March 2020]

⁶ Banham, D., 'Medicine at Bury in the Time of Abbot Baldwin' in *Bury St. Edmunds and the Norman Conquest*, edited by Tom Licence, (Boydell, 2014), p226

The charter specifies both ecclesiastical and secular witnesses, the clergy were members of the Edwardian administration, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York. The Norman Conquest had witnessed changes in the management of the church, importantly the superiority of the Archbishop of Canterbury over York. At the time of the confirmation, Stigand was Archbishop of Canterbury whose estates were confiscated by William I. Stigand was an influential figure, and his wealth rivalled that of earls and even the king, making his disposal complicated. In 1066 when Sees were vacant, he transferred the income to his own. His embezzlement of monasteries in England heightened his wealth, aided William's case to dispose of him, and replace him with a more obedient cleric, Lanfranc in 1070. This fitted with Pope Alexander II who saw Lanfranc as the prime successor to the Archbishopric. The Archbishop of York in 1069 was Aldred. He consecrated William as king with Stigand assisting. Aldred died soon after the creation of the charter in 1069, allowing William to choose Thomas of Bayeux as his successor. Thomas was a royal chaplain to William when he was Duke of Normandy. Nevertheless, during his appointment as Archbishop, Canterbury demanded that the Archbishop of York be subservient to both the king and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas refused and would continue to clash over ecclesiastical matters, including which provinces would belong to York. He was succeeded by Gerard in 1100, having been a member of the clergy at Rouen before becoming a Royal clerk for William I.

Other members of the clergy included Herman, the Bishop of Ramsbury and Sherbourne, who oversaw the unification and translation of Old Sarum in 1075, which was in the process of being refortified as a castle. After the Norman Conquest, Herman was held in great esteem, having to assist Lanfranc's consecration as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1070. Herman was of Flemish origin and once the chaplain to Edward the Confessor. Leofric, the Bishop of Exeter, supported Edward the Confessor in exile, he did not suffer during the invasion, furthermore, he was succeeded by Osbern Fitzosbern. Fitzosbern was the brother of William, son of Osbern, who is specified as a witness to the charter, he acted as steward for William during his reign. Giso a member of Edward's

administration was chaplain while he was in exile, prior to his appointment as the Bishop of Wells, Giso died in 1088, and was succeeded by John of Tours in 1090, having worked as William's doctor.

The earls who witnessed the charter are identified as of Norman nobility, who had acquired new titles with the arrival of William. Odo, Earl of Kent is noted as the half-brother of the king, but also bishop of Bayeux. During William's absence in England, he was regent and leading royal rebellions against the king's administration, known as the "Revolt of the Earls". This was instigated by Ralph de Gauder, the earl of East Anglia in 1075 when William I refused to sanction a marriage to Emma, daughter of William Fitzosbern, the Earl of Hereford. Robert, Count of Mortain, 2nd Earl of Cornwall, became one of the wealthiest landowners under the Norman Conquest. He was the half-brother of William and brother of Odo of Bayeux. The charter names Robert, count of the castle of Eu as a witness who died in 1093. He was the illegitimate son of Richard Duke of Normandy and charged to support Robert count of Mortain.

The charter is dated 1069 saw changes in the political landscape of England. One of the problems the church faced during the Norman Conquest was the hostility of Norman lords towards founding saints. The north of England remained hostile to the Norman invasion, forcing William to subdue the rebellions known as the Harrying of the North between 1069 and 1070. The document is confirmed at the Minster of St. Swithun in Winchester, which was rebuilt in 1093 as a Norman Priory. The charter is written in a period of uncertainty as regions were still under an Anglo-Saxon administration, but also prior to the creation of the Domesday Book in 1086.

The charter generally poses numerous problems for the historian, providing a morsel of information in the context of the original charter. The charter is problematic as it was written under duress of William I, making the document subjective. There is a clear split between William's magnates from Normandy and those who were members of the Edwardian administration. The tone of the charter suggests a need to reinforce William's management of the land, leading towards the Domesday

Book. Although the charter does not suggest tensions directly, the replacing of Archbishop Stigand and Bishop Herman with Norman lords was of no coincidence; many were blood relatives who were obedient and loyal. William at this point was in a precarious position where there was a chance of rebellion from Edward supporters. The location of the charter is significant, revealing a crossover with Norman influence in England.

The document offers a researcher the opportunity to explore in-depth the nature of William's administration. The relationship between William I and Abbot Baldwin is noteworthy, whether he retained his position because of his past career with St Denis or his bond with the Pope is unknown. The charter reveals the stages from the Norman Conquest to the formation of a new kingdom under the Norman rule. The document sheds light on the nature of William's early reign, placing his administration during a challenging period in history. The naming of the witnesses explores this concern but poses possible research opportunities towards the early phase of William's reign in England.

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