

Dating Exercise

John Cooper-Hammond

Student No: 2022129



Postgraduate/Distance Learning Assignment coversheet & feedback form

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For completion by the student:

Student Name: John Cooper-Hammond

Module code: HPHI7016

Student ID number:

Educational
support needs:
No

Module title: Past Peoples, Present Societies:
Research Methods & Skills

2022129

Module tutor:
Alex Scott

Assignment due date: 14th November 2021

If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is.

1st 2nd 3rd ☒ 4th ☐ 5th ☐ 6th ☐ **Assessment 3: Dating Exercise**

I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism.

Signed ...John Cooper-Hammond...

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Assignment Mark

1 st Marker's Provisional mark	
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For completion by Marker 1 :

Comments:

Marker's signature:

Date:

For completion by Marker 2/Moderator:

Comments:

Marker's Signature:

Date:

External Examiner's comments (if relevant)

External Examiner's Signature:

Date:

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- (a) Memorandum that the Thursday after the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the 8th year of King Richard II the abbot of Byland was accused in the wapentake court held at Pickering.

Richard II reigned from 22 June 1377¹, therefore the eighth year of his rule was from 22 June 1384. The feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is 15th August, thus falling in 1384 [note: in the second video Dr Webster said it was 25th March/Lady Day, this is the Feast of the Annunciation, this would have fallen in 1385.] Using the internet to find the calendar for 1384², the 15th of August was a Sunday. Therefore, the following Thursday was **19th August 1384**

- (b) Confirmation by Bishop Anian of St Asaph of the charters for Shrewsbury Abbey issued by his predecessors Bishops Reiner, Abraham, and Hugh. Given at Shrewsbury the day after St Mary Magdalene in the first year of his pontificate.

From the list of bishops for the See of Saint Asaph it can be noted that there are two Bishop Anian/Einion. Given the list of previous incumbents in the text, they are three of the four bishops that immediately preceded Einion I (omitting Hywel ab Ednyfed his immediate predecessor). It is assumed that it is Einion I who is the bishop mentioned. He was bishop from 1249 – 1266. On the Y Bywgraffiadur Cymreig/Dictionary of Welsh Biography website³ it states that:

“... The Middle Country was at the time under the control of the Crown, and both Einion himself and his chapter formally conceded, on 15 September 1249, the right of the king to authorize an election and to approve the choice, as in the case of an English bishopric. Before 27 September, the bishop elect had done homage and had by royal mandate been put into possession of the lands of the see. Within two months he had been consecrated by Walter of Worcester, Richard of Bangor, and Richard of Meath...”

The first year of his pontificate ran from October/November 1249 – September/October 1250, the first Feast of Mary Magdalene, 22 July, fell in 1250. Therefore the confirmation was given on **23rd July 1250** to Shrewsbury Abbey

- (c) Downham: court held on Thursday the day after Ash Wednesday in the fourth year of the reign of King Edward and the first year of the episcopate of John de Ketene [Ketton]

¹ Handbook of British Chronology – extract supplied

² <https://savvytime.com/calendar/1384>

³ [Dictionary of Welsh Biography](#)

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John de Ketene was Benedictine monk who became Bishop of Ely in 1310⁴ until 1316, during his episcopate the king was Edward II. He became king on 8th July 1307; therefore the fourth year of his reign was from 8th July 1310 – 7th July 1311. Easter in that fourth year of his reign was 11th April 1311, Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter. Therefore the court was held at Downham on **25th February 1311**.

- (d) Henry, king of the English, greets the bishop of Lincoln and Earl David [and the earl⁵] of Leicester, and Earl Ranulf of Chester, and all the barons and lords of whom Geoffrey Ridel held lands, and all the sheriffs within whose jurisdiction he held them. Know that I have given to Richard Basset the daughter of Geoffrey Ridel to wife, and the custody of Geoffrey Ridel's land until Robert Ridel can be made a knight and marry the granddaughter of Ralph Basset, namely the daughter of one of his daughters. ... And this gift and compact have been made at the request and with the advice of Ranulf, earl of Chester, and William his brother, and Nigel d'Aubigny and Robert Ridel's other kin and Geva his mother, and Geoffrey the earl's chancellor, and Simon, dean of Lincoln, and William, son of Rannulf, and Thomas of St John and Geoffrey de Clinton, and Payn son of John, and William d'Aubigny and Humphrey de Bohun and Robert Musard and Robert Basset and Osmund Basset and Thurstan Basset and William, constable of Earl Rannulf of Chester, and Ralph, son of Norman, and Hugh Maubanc. At Woodstock.

This is a more challenging question, no fixed dates, such as regnal years, feast days etc. are given. This therefore becomes a task of detection, using any clues that can be found.

Facts:

- 🔍 The King is Henry I who reigned from 5th August 1100 – 1st December 1135. The event is during his reign.
- 🔍 During this time there were two Deans of Lincoln⁶ Steven Bloet and after 1133 Philip of Harcourt. The event was prior to 1133
- 🔍 There were two Earls of Chester called Ranulf (the 3rd earl 1120 -1129 & 4th earl 1129 -1153).
- 🔍 There were two Earls of Leicester both called Robert de Beaumont (1st earl 1107-1118 & 2nd earl 1118-1168).
- 🔍 Geoffrey de Clinton was Henry's chamberlain and treasurer; he fell out of favour after 1130 when he was accused and acquitted of treason. So this event probably took place before 1130.

⁴ [Bishops of Ely | British History Online \(british-history.ac.uk\)](#) Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300-1541: Volume 4, Monastic Cathedrals (Southern Province). Originally published by Institute of Historical Research, London, 1963.

⁵ In a version of the document – a roll of pleadings and charters [BL Sloane XXXI. 4] quoted in the 'Stray Notes, section of the Transactions of the Lancashire & Cheshire Historical Society Vol. 66 for 1914 – omits these words indicating that David is the Earl of Leicester, not as would appear on the assignment another Earl.

⁶ [Deans | British History Online \(british-history.ac.uk\)](#) Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1066-1300: Volume 3, Lincoln. Originally published by Institute of Historical Research, London, 1977.

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- 🔍 Earl David – Earl of Huntingdon, David of Scotland became the first earl in 1113 and King of Scotland in April/May 1124. As he is referred to as Earl David, and not King David, this indicates the event was before 1124.
- 🔍 Geoffrey Ridell/Ridel, deceased, died on the 'White Ship' along with William Adelin the heir to Henry I, on 25th November 1120. Ridell was a landholder and a royal justice, according to Henry of Huntingdon 'justice of all England'⁷. His daughter Matilda was his heiress, her marriage and the management of her holdings were undertaken by the king, due to the death of her father.
- 🔍 The agreed marriage took place between 1120-1123⁸

Professor Judith A. Green, writes of this text

"The text survives in the form of a royal notification addressed to three earls, David of Northampton and Huntingdon, not yet king of Scots, the earl of Leicester, Robert II de Beaumont, and Ranulf I earl of Chester, and the sheriffs of those counties in which Geoffrey Ridel had held land. The notification was twice copied into the thirteenth-century Basset cartulary in the British Library... The notification was witnessed by the chancellor of the earl of Chester, the dean of Lincoln, a clutch of royal familiars, three Bassets, perhaps Richard's brothers, and prominent members of Ranulf of Chester's entourage. The place of issue was Woodstock, one of the king's favourite residences, and the date of issue was between January 1121 and 10 June 1123 when the king left England for Normandy. Henry is known to have been at Woodstock in March 1121* and again in January 1123.** It is tempting to ascribe the text to the earlier date, when Henry took a series of crucial decisions about patronage in the aftermath of the wreck of the White Ship."

*Here she cites: J. Stevenson (ed.), *Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon*, Rolls Series, 2 vols (London, 1858), II, p. 162.

** and here: ASC (E) 1123.

Word count

Text: 1292

Addendum: 391

⁷ Green, Judith A., 1986. *The Government of England Under Henry I*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press p48

⁸ Keats-Rohan, K.S.B., 1999, *Domesday Descendants: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents, 1066–1166: Pipe Rolls to Cartae Baronum*. Ipswich: Boydell Press. p166

Addendum

At interesting twist on the dating of this particular text is the opinion put forward by a comment on this particular document is that Professor David Carpenter,⁹ who considers it considers it to be a forgery. He writes:

...By this writ, which is of apparent date January 1121 × 10 June 1123, King Henry gave an unnamed daughter of Geoffrey Ridel to Richard Basset, with custody of Geoffrey's lands, to hold until Robert Ridel was able to become a knight and marry... it is known from a single medieval source, the 'Basset of Weldon cartulary', compiled for Ralph Basset of Weldon. The cartulary's first scribe, working probably in 1236 × 1241, entered fifty-two documents including the writ for Richard Basset... An entry in the first surviving pipe roll shows that Richard Basset had the Ridel lands in his custody in 1130... We have, therefore, several reasons to mark this act as a forgery. Most importantly, it does not accord with the king's priorities in the early eleven-twenties; rather, it represents the needs of Richard Basset or his heirs at a later date. The provision for hypothetical future events is unparalleled, ... The list of those who gave counsel is implausible, and contains three errors: the inclusion of Nigel d'Aubigny, the two occurrences of the earl's brother William, and the placing of Geoffrey as chancellor of Earl Richard rather than the king. We must therefore conclude that the act was fabricated sometime after the death of Robert Ridel, to promote the claim of Richard Basset's wife Matilda Ridel to be the sole heir of her father Geoffrey Ridel. It may have been drawn up ... to assist in obtaining the empress's confirmation given in 1144. Alternatively it may have been produced soon after the accession of Henry II, or perhaps later, to defend against the claims of coheirs... The writ for Richard Basset reminds us that English deeds and charters apparently produced in the first half of the twelfth century must be approached with scepticism. Detailed analysis of palaeography, sigillography, diplomatic and prosopography are essential if forgery is to be detected, but we must also consider the simple questions 'is it plausible?' and 'cui bono?'

⁹ David X Carpenter, 2018, 'The marriage of Richard basset: an undetected forgery in the name of Henry I', *Historical Research*, Volume 91, Issue 252, May 2018 pp399-406