

Assessment 3 – Dating Exercise

Date a)

To ascertain the date, I broke each section of text into which parts would help me find a date: Thursday - Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary - 8th year of King Richard II.

The Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary falls on the 15th August and Richard II's 8th regnal year ran from 22nd June 1384 until 21st June 1385. The date therefore is the first Thursday after 15th August 1384. Then I needed to know on which day of the week 15th August fell. I was able to find that Easter Day fell on 2nd April in 1384 so therefore the first Thursday after 15th August was 17th August 1385.

Date – Thursday 17th August 1384.

References:

Cheney, C.R. (2004) *A Handbook of Dates* New Edition, revised by Jones, M., Cambridge University Press.

Date b)

Here I needed to find a date for the first year of the pontificate of Bishop Anian of Asaph who had been preceded by Bishops Reiner, Abraham & Hugh. There were several Anian's but I assumed the first Anian, as he was the only one preceded by the other named bishops. Furthermore, as it was the charters for Shrewsbury Abbey being confirmed, it did not make sense for the later Anian's to be the Anian being referred to in the text. He was consecrated in November 1249 and St Mary Magdalen's day falls on 22nd July. Using the date of Easter in 1250, which was 27th March, I could then check the day of the week.

Date – Friday 23rd July 1250

References:

Cheney, C.R. *A Handbook of Dates*, New Edition, revised by Jones, M., Cambridge, Cambridge University Press (2004).

Fryde, E.B., Greenway, D.E., Porter, S. and Roy, I. *Handbook of British Chronology*, Third Edition, Bury St Edmund's, St Edmundsbury Press, Suffolk (1986).

Date c)

Again, I broke this text down into the important parts: Thursday after Ash Wednesday – 4th year of King Edward (?) reign – first year of John de Ketene's episcopate.

John Ketton's episcopate began with his consecration on 6th September 1310 – here assuming an alternative spelling for 'de Ketene' when he became Bishop of Ely. This means that the King Edward referred to was Edward II. As Easter Sunday in 1310 fell on 19th April, Ash Wednesday was 4th March.

Date - Thursday 5th March 1310

References:

Cheney, C.R. *A Handbook of Dates*, New Edition, revised by Jones, M., Cambridge, Cambridge University Press (2004).

Fryde, E.B., Greenway, D.E., Porter, S. and Roy, I. *Handbook of British Chronology*, Third Edition, Bury St Edmund's, St Edmundsbury Press, Suffolk (1986).

Date d)

This text mentioned two notable names, 'Henry the King of the English' and Geoffrey Ridel, and a search of the database of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and found that Geoffrey Ridel had perished on the White Ship, so it can be assumed that the Henry referred to in the document is Henry I. This also makes sense in that the document appears to be planning for the marriage of Geoffrey's daughter and the minority of his son Robert. As this would normally be the responsibility of Geoffrey himself, one can assume it is written in the time following the White Ship disaster and Geoffrey's death, so after November 1120. Henry I died on 1st December 1135 so there is an initial timeframe of fifteen years.

November 1120 – December 1135.

The names listed in this text could give an indication of when it was written, so I began by trying to find dates associated with each of those named. I continued to use the above database and also Wikipedia to find details about the individuals, and where possible confirmed my findings in reference books, beginning with the most prominent figures listed, their kin and associates.

- Richard Basset (died in or before 1144) son of Ralph Basset (died c.1129)
- Robert Basset, Osmund Basset and Thurstan Basset – nothing found
- William, constable of Earl Rannulf of Chester could possibly be William Basset (d. in or after 1185)
- Rannulf (Ranulph le Meschin, the younger) created 4th Earl of Chester c.1120-21 died c. 1129 or Ranulph 'de Gernon' 5th Earl of Chester d. 16th December 1153
- William - brother of one of above. As only the fourth Earl had a brother William, the Earl referred to in the text must be the Ranulph le Meschin, so the time frame reduces to between 1120 and 1129
- Geoffrey – Chancellor of Ranulph le Meschin – nothing found
- William – Rannulf's son – nothing found, not the 5th Earl as that is Ranulph 'de Gernon'
- Robert Ridel – unable to find any information, so possibly died before reaching his majority
- Geva – Robert's mother, widow of Geoffrey Ridel, died around 1145.
- Bishop of Lincoln (Robert Bloet) consecrated 22nd January 1094 – died 10th January 1123, also Chancellor from 1101 until his death.
- Simon, Dean of Lincoln – 1114 -1129, appointed by his father as Dean of Lincoln, died before 1133
- Thomas of St John – nothing found, insufficient detail – however, there was a St. John's Church at Woodstock, so their archives may provide further information
- Nigel d'Aubigny - died. 21 November 1129
- William d'Aubigny - died 1139
- Humphrey de Bohun - died c.1123
- Robert Musard - died 1146
- Ralph son of Norman – nothing found, insufficient detail
- Payn, son of John – nothing found, insufficient detail
- Hugh Maubanc – nothing found, insufficient detail
- Geoffery de Clinton – nothing found, insufficient detail

So, the date of the document would lie between November 1120 and the death of the Bishop of Lincoln (Robert Bloet) on 10th January 1123.

One could also assume that these matters would not be immediately arranged, so it would later than November 1120, more than likely into 1121. Further research into the dates of the creation of the 4th Earl of Chester, possibly at the Chester Archives, could narrow the time frame as could further information about the lives and deaths of those who were not fully identified. Access to other sources such as Katherine S.B Keats-Rohan's book, *Domesday People: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066-1166* from The Boydell Press, which is cited as a reference on the Wikipedia pages would also be useful and confirm the information found. Books by Judith Green, such as 'The Aristocracy of Norman England' and 'The Government of England Under Henry I', both Cambridge University Press would also help here. The archives at Woodstock would also be a further source of information, along with any other primary source material containing the names of those mentioned above, which could help narrow the time frame further.

References:

Fryde. E.B., Greenway, D.E., Porter, S. and Roy, I. *Handbook of British Chronology*, Third Edition, Bury St Edmund's, St Edmundsbury Press, Suffolk (1986).

Green, Judith A., *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, General Editor Professor Sir David Cannadine, Oxford, Oxford University Press, (2004).

White, G., *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, General Editor Professor Sir David Cannadine, Oxford, Oxford University Press, (2004).

Wikipedia, *Simon Bloet*, (2018) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Bloet > [accessed 03/11/20]

Wikipedia, *William Meschin*, (2020) < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Meschin> [accessed 03/11/20]

Wikitree, *Geva (Avranches) de Ridel (abt. 1078 - 1145)*, (2019) <<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Avranches-29>> [accessed 03/11/20]

Wikipedia, *Nigel D'Aubney*, (2020) < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigel_d%27Aubigny > [accessed 03/11/20]

Wikipedia, *William D'Aubney*, (2020) < [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_d%27Aubigny_\(died_1139\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_d%27Aubigny_(died_1139)) > [accessed 03/11/20]