

Dating Exercise

For (a) I used Cheney to look up the feast of the ascension of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was listed under *Maria, B.V. ascensio, assumptio*, as 15 August.¹ I then looked for Richard II in regnal years to find his regnal year 8, which gave it as 22 June 1384 - 21 June 1385. As the date of the feast of the Ascension of the Blessed Virgin Mary is 15 August, it must be in the year 1384. I then used the tables giving Easter Day in Cheney,² using the old style of calculating, which was the norm from AD400 - 1752, to look up the saint's day of 15 August, 1384. This fell on a Monday, so the following Thursday was 18 August.

For (b) I consulted Cheney³ for the date of the feast of Mary Magdalene, which is given as 22 July. I then looked for Bishops of St Asaph named Anian in British History Online⁴. There are two, so I checked to see where Bishops Renier, Abraham and Hugh came in the list of bishops of St Asaph. They immediately preceded Anian I. BHO⁵ records him as being consecrated in 1249; The Catholic Hierarchy website records him as being ordained in November 1249⁶. This would mean that the first year of his episcopate would be between sometime in November 1249 and sometime in November 1250. No other searches have produced a more specific date: I looked at the National Archives⁷ and the National Library of Wales⁸, BHO and the medieval genealogy website⁹ searching on Anian I and Einion ap Maredudd, his Welsh name, and I can find no relevant records which give a more exact date for his consecration. However, as the feast day of Mary Magdalene is in July, the exact date in November that Anian I was consecrated does not matter here. Therefore, if Anion I was consecrated in November 1249, the date must be the day after the feast of St Mary Magdalene in 1250, which would be 23 July 1250.

For (c) I looked up John de Ketene and John Ketton in British History Online.¹⁰ He was the Bishop of Ely, consecrated on 6 September 1310. This puts him in the reign of Edward II, (1307-1327). Cheney¹¹ gives the fourth year of Edward's reign as 08/07/1310 - 07/07/1311 and

¹C.R. Cheney, ed, revised by Michael Jones. 2000. *A Handbook of Dates* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

² Cheney, *Handbook of Dates*, p.178.

³ Ibid., p. 78

⁴ *British History Online* (Institute of Historical Research, University of London).

⁵ M.J. Pearson, ed, 2003. *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1066-1300: Volume 9, the Welsh Cathedrals (Bangor, Llandaff, St Asaph, St Davids)* (London: Institute of Historical Research, University of London), pp. 36-37. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/fasti-ecclesiae/1066-1300/vol9/pp36-37> [accessed 4 November 2020].

⁶ <https://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/banians.html> [accessed 4 November 2020]

⁷ <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> [accessed 4 November 2020].

⁸ <https://www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/archives> [accessed 4 November 2020]

⁹ <http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/> [accessed 4 November 2020].

¹⁰B.Jones (ed.) 'Bishops of Ely', in *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1300-1541: Volume 4, Monastic Cathedrals (Southern Province)*, (London, 1963), pp. 13-16. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/fasti-ecclesiae/1300-1541/vol4/pp13-16> [accessed 4 November 2020]

¹¹ Cheney, *Handbook of Dates*, p.34.

the first year of de Ketene's episcopate as 06/09/1310 - 05/09/1311, so the date must be in 1311 as Ash Wednesday - 40 days before Easter - is before the beginning of the episcopate of John de Ketene and the fourth regnal year of Edward II, both in 1310. Then I looked up the date of Easter in 1311, in Cheney, which is April 11 and it gave Ash Wednesday 1311 as Wed 24th, therefore the Thursday after this is 25th February.

(d) Apart from 'Henry, king of the English', I had no knowledge of any of the people in this document so I began with a search of some of the names, to see if this would give an indication of the date. I started by doing a British History Online search on Geva Ridel¹², as she is named in the charter as Robert Ridel's mother. This produced a lot of results but none that were relevant, so I did a Google search on her name which took me immediately to an article by Judith Greene¹³ in which she mentions the Basset marriage settlement and refers to the Basset Charters for dating this. The Basset Charters are to be found on the website of The Charters of William II and Henry I Project¹⁴. Scrolling through the heading The Charters will find an entry for Richard Basset; clicking on that link takes the reader to an article by David Carpenter.¹⁵ Here the date of the settlement is given as between early 1121 and 10 June 1123. In a subsequent article he gives the (apparent) date as January 1121 and 10 June 1123.¹⁶ Carpenter claims that the charter is a forgery whereas Greene takes the charter as legitimate and uses it to consider how flexible the Norman inheritance laws were. If it is a forgery, this might compromise her conclusions but it does not alter the dating of the charter. It does not, of course, tell us anything about the date of the forgery.

¹² British History Online, <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/search?query=Geva%20Ridel>. [Accessed 4 November 2020]

¹³ J. Greene, 2001. 'Women and Inheritance in Norman England: The Case of Geva Ridel', *Prosopon Newsletter*: 1-9

¹⁴ <https://actswilliam2henry1.wordpress.com/> [Accessed 4 November 2020]

¹⁵ D. Carpenter, 2018. *Richard Basset: Justice and tenant-in-chief of the honour of Great Weldon (Northants)* <https://actswilliam2henry1.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/h1-richard-basset-2018-1.pdf> [Accessed 4 November 2020]

¹⁶ D. Carpenter, 2018. 'The marriage of Richard Basset: an undetected forgery in the name of Henry I', *Institute of Historical Research*, 91: 399-406

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