

1309 – 1328 Court Book

Transcription and Translation of the 1309 – 1328 Court Book. This book along with 15 others has come into the possession of the Lyme Regis Museum, having been returned from the Dorset Record Office in late 2016. The books are green cloth bound, measuring 13 by 8 inches (33 by 21 cm) and type written. This book contains a full Latin text in the first part and the English translation in the second. Notations have been made in red ink to link passages to the reference section at the end, these are included as [#]. Page numbers are at the top right corner of each entry.

Richard Wells January 17th 2017.

PREFACE.

In the Preface of May 1930 to the Elizabethan Court Book of 1560-1574 it was stated that a very imperfect and mutilated Court Book of Edward II had been sworn to as belonging to the Corporation of Lyme Regis in 1784, but had since disappeared.

Three other items among Lyme's archives seemed then (in 1930) to have vanished in a similar manner, but have since been recovered and transcribed. These are all now in the Museum.

It was not till November 1934 that by a happy accident this extremely valuable document of the reign of Edward II was run to earth. It was then found to be one of the tens of thousands of Manuscripts owned by the British Museum, having been presented to that institution in 1880 by William Maskell, a well-known "medievalist". Consequently it is now no longer in Lyme's Town Hall or Museum, but is merely "British Museum; Additional MSS. 31223".

Neither Hutchins nor Roberts knew anything of this Court Book, which has never been transcribed before. The present transcription has been done at the Public Record Office, London, from a photostat, and the latter will be found in a companion volume to this transcription. As work proceeded, the transcription has been checked with the original.

Not only are 6 new Mayors of Lyme Regis added by this record to the lists of Mayors given by Hutchins and Roberts, but fresh particulars come to light of no less than 14 of Lyme's earliest representatives in the House of Commons. These names include those of the two first, viz., William de Tholuse and Geoffrey le Keu.. The note of the Transcriber (Mr. J. R. Crompton) on pp. 1-2 calls attention to the extreme value of the original as an example of the early use of paper in England instead of parchment for such documents. A transcription of the Latin original is given (pp. 4-31) as well as an English translation (pp. 32-58) of the Latin. The rest of the volume is taken up with the usual indexes and notes.

A figure in red ink set against any word in the text refers the reader to the corresponding figure against each item in the Glossary (pp. 65-75). (*see above: R.W.*)

The above remarks must be read in conjunction with the Transcriber's Note pp. 1-2.

C.W.

April, 1935.

NOTE BY TRANSCRIBER. (pages 1 & 2)

(Mr, J. R. Crompton, of the Public Record Office, London)

In the following pages will be found the original Latin text, together with a translation, of the Lyme Regis Hustings Book, temp. Edward II, which is preserved in the British Museum (Additional MSS. 31223).

Every student who is able to do so should in reading the translation compare it carefully with the text. He should do this chiefly for two reasons (1) a number of the pages in the original book have had a large piece torn off, so that the exact meaning of the text is often conjectural. (2) Many of the original Latin phrases can scarcely be adequately rendered in English.

Every missing word which has been supplied by Inference or conjecture has been inserted in brackets, thus; (Lym). Every word whose ending is not certain because the grammatical construction is not known or for

other reasons has an apostrophe after it thus: habend'. The dates, or probable dates, of each entry have been supplied where possible, from the regnal year feast, or name of mayor when given, and in some cases by assuming that the date of an entry is between the dates of the entry which precedes it and the entry which succeeds it. The book, as will be seen, does not always run in chronological order. Thus on p. 15 it goes back from 1318 to 1310, or appears to do so, since the last entry on the page is dated 4 Edward II, and although the others have no date they mention William de Toluse as mayor, who was mayor at that time.

It seems probable that the original arrangement of the pages of the book was different from what it is now, but as it has not been found possible to discover what the original arrangement was, the pages have been left as they are.

The book is remarkable as being one of the earliest known documents in England which were written on paper instead of parchment.

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TRANSLATION

(P.3)(1309 Feb.17)

Peter Busch came in full husting [28] held on Monday after the feast of St. Valentine [14] Edward II and acknowledged that he had granted to (Geoffrey Busch) and Wymark his sister daughter of the said Peter and their heirs one messuage with (a croft [14] adjoining) and all other appurtenances whatsoever which (he has in the borough) of Lym upon the highway which (is situated) between the tenement formerly of Geoffrey on the west and the tenement formerly of on the east, to have and to hold (to the said Geoffrey and Wymark) and the heirs of their bodies by the services thereout due and accustomed (quietly peacefully) and wholly by hereditary right for ever, (and if the said) Geoffrey and Wymark should die (without legitimate heirs) the said Peter wishes and grants that the said messuage with croft adjoining with all other appurtenances whatsoever as aforesaid of the said Geoffrey and Wymark or their assigns in fee [20]..... and because the said Geoffrey and Wymark by ordinance of the mayor before was an agreement concerning the said premises their appurtenances as aforesaid shall be of full age

(? 1309 or 1310 May 8.) Alice wife of Richard Pethon (came in full) husting held (on Monday after ?) the feast of the Ascension in the year and acknowledged that (meadow called ?)

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fordesmede [22] in Net [37] (to belong to) Edward Robe [47] by gift (and demise) of the said Richard Pethon to have (and to hold) the said meadow with its (appurtenances) to the said Edward and his heirs or assigns (for ever) and the said Alice (has renounced) all her right (in the said meadow).

(p.4) 1310 de Bridport came before Mayor of Lme and William ate of the said borough and other burgesses (on Monday after?) the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul 3 [59] Edward II and acknowledged that he is bound to (Robert) Kene in sixty-three for one tun and one (of wine by him bought?) payable to the said Robert before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [15] (next?) and he has found two pledges (namely) Simon de la Ston and John who are each bound to make payment.

(1310 Oct. 5) .(Memorandum that on Monday) after the feast of Michaelmas 4 Edward II (was proved the will) of John Byry in full (husting before the mayor) of Lyme the day and year abovesaid by Skynnere and William Plays laymen (who being examined) say on their oath (that the said John Byry left to Dionisia his wife all that tenement which he had and held in the borough of Lym, to have (and to hold of the chief) lords of the said borough (by the services thereout (due and accustomed, to her

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and (her

heirs) for ever.

(1311 Feb 1 ?).....C..kes came before William de (..... then mayor of)Lym and other bailiffs of the said (borough on Monday) after the Conversion Of St. Paul 4 Edward II and acknowledged that he had fifteen at Dertemouth in pledges, namely, Geoffrey the Smith mayor and bailiffs concerning the cocket [12].....

(p.5) c.1311 Feb.?) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast 4 Edward II came (Edith wife of Nigel?) Carie in full husting (held before) William de Tholuse [73] then mayor (of Lym and other) bailiffs and acknowledged that the tenement (which) and Agnes his wife had by gift (and demise) of the said Nigel and of herself is the rightful possession of the said and Agnes, to have and to hold to them and their heirs (or assigns) of the chief lords of that free for ever by the services thereout due (and accustomed) and the said Edith(has freely renounced) all right which she had or could have (in the said tenement).

(1311 Feb. 22 ?) Memorandum, that on Monday in (the feast of St. Peter in) Cathedra [67] in the said year came (Christian wife of) John Lok in full husting (held the same) day before William de Tholuse then (mayor) and other bailiffs and acknowledged (that the house which) Ralph le

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Tannere and Avice (his wife) had by gift and grant (of the said Christina and John) was the rightful possession of the said Ralph and Avice (to have and to hold) all the said house to them and their heirs (or assigns) of the chief lords of that fee (by the services thereout) due and accustomed by hereditary right (for ever). And thereupon the said Christina (all right or) claim which she had or in any way could have) (in the said house) in the future has freely renounced.

(1311 March 1?) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Matthias [55] the Apostle in the said year (in full husting) held the same day before (William de Tholuse) [73] then mayor, the coroner [13] and other bailiffs (of the said borough came) to wife of John Carye and acknowledged (that all that tenement?) which William Cary Chaplain [10] (had by gift and demise) of the said John and herself (was the rightful possession of the said) William, to have and to hold all (the said tenement) with all its appurtenances to him (his heirs or) assigns of the chief lords (of the fee [20] by the) services thereout due and accustomed for ever, whereupon the said all right (in the said tenement) which she had or in any way in the

future could have has freely renounced.

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(c.1311 March-July ?) Memorandum that on Monday in the feast in the said year was proved (the will of) before William de Tholuse [73] then (mayor and other) bailiffs in full husting (held on the said day by) Adam Lychur and Richard (..... laymen [30] who) being sworn and diligently examined

(p.6) (say on their oath that the said) bequeathed to Wymark in the borough of Lym between the land on the north and the land of William on the south, to have and to hold (to the said Wymark her heirs) or assigns of the chief (lords) of the borough by the services thereout due (and accustomed) quietly peacefully and wholly by (hereditary) right for ever, as is contained in the said will to which the common seal of the said borough is affixed.

(c.1311 March-July?) (Memorandum that on) Monday before the feast of St 4 Edward II (in full husting) held on the said day before William (de Tholuse) [73] then mayor, the coroner [13] and other bailiffs [5] (came Joan) wife of Adam Scherewol and acknowledged (that all that) tenement with its (appurtenances which) le Mercer [34] and Matilda (his wife?) had by grant and demise (of the said Adam and) Joan was the rightful possession of the said and Matilda, to have and to hold to them (and their heirs) or assigns of the chief (lords of that) fee [20] by the services thereout due (and accustomed)

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by hereditary right for ever. (And thereupon) the said Joan all right which (she had) or in any way in the future could have (in the said tenement has freely) renounced.

(1312 Aug. 7 ?) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Peter and Vincula [60] (5 Edward II ?) in full husting of the borough (held) the same day before Robert le Mercer [34] (then mayor of the said) borough, the coroner and other (bailiffs) (Joan) daughter of Geoffrey Wytlyng a certain piece of land lying and the tenement of William Wytlyng on the the said Geoffrey Wytlyng was seized in demesne ought by hereditary succession of land and in the hands of our lord the King it is found by the whole Court that the said has in the said piece of land with Therefore it is considered that (the said Joan) shall hold the said piece of land for ever, performing, etc. And because the said Joan is not of full age wardship of her is given to Wytlyng mother of the said Joan.

(p.7) (c.1312-1313 ?) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast..... of the blessed Virgin Edward II in full husting held (on the same day before) Robert le Mercer then mayor and John Ragon then bailiff (came of Geoffrey Wytlyng and of her (own free will) granted

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to William Wytlyng a certain..... with its appurtenances which she had (by hereditary right) by reason of the death of the said (Geoffrey) and which lies in the 'Burste' [8] of William Wytlyng on the to have and to hold to him and his heirs (or assigns) of the chief lords of the borough of (Lym by the services thereout) due and accustomed freely (peacefully and) wholly by hereditary right for ever.

(1313 Dec. 24) Memorandum that the will of Stephen Regneb.... was (proved) before the mayor and coroner (in full) husting held on Monday (after ?) the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle 7 Edward II by Edward B and Emery laymen who being sworn (and diligently examined) say that the said (Stephen bequeathed) to Christina his daughter one with appurtenances in the 'Cumbe' [15] (to have and to hold) to her and heirs for ever (as in the will) of the said Stephen is more fully contained.

(1314 Aug. 19 ?) Memorandum that the will of Simon a..... (was proved in) full husting held (on Monday after the feast ?) of the Assumption 8 (Edward II) before Robert Pope [43] (then mayor)le keu [29] Nigel Kyng Richard Bers, (p.8) 'trilling' and N..... (and other bailiffs and worthies (by the oaths of)... .Ragon and Ralph le

Tannere (laymen [30] who being sworn and diligently examined agree and say that the said (Simon) being of sound mind bequeathed to Alice (his wife for) life all that tenement with its (appurtenances lying) in the 'Cumbe' between the tenement of John (and) the tenement of Nicholas Tredegold, so that after (the death of the said) Alice the said tenement with its (appurtenances should remain to) Christina my (sic) daughter and her heirs (of her body) legitimately begotten for ever. And if the said Christina should die without heirs that then the said (tenement) shall descend to my (sic) next heirs. Also they say that the said (Simon bequeathed to Alice his wife with, its appurtenances which he had by gift and demise of Stephen Gostard market town of Lyme..... (to have and) to hold to her and her heirs or assigns for ever, as in the will of the said Simon, sealed with the common seal of the said borough, is more fully contained.

(1315 April 7) (Memorandum that on) Monday after the feast of St. Ambrose [45] in (full) husting held (on that day) came Watere by assent and consent (of the mayor and burgesses?) and acknowledged that he had

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given (and granted and by charter) confirmed (to)ange and Agnes his wife (and their heirs) or assigns all that tenement (of his with) its appurtenances in Lym for ever (to have and to hold) of the chief lords of the borough (by) the services thereout due and accustomed freely (peacefully and wholly) by hereditary right,

(p.9) (1315 ?) Memorandum that on Monday in the Eve of Edward II Peter Busch of Lym (came) before Robert Pope [43] then mayor (and other bailiffs) of the borough of Lym and acknowledged (that he had given and) granted to the said Robert Pope and the heirs or assigns of the said Robert (all that) tenement of his with all its (appurtenances which) is situated in the said borough between (the tenement of)Robe on the east and the tenement (of pehulle on the west, (to have and to hold) all the said tenement with all its (appurtenances) to the said Robert Pope and Agnes his wife the assigns of the said Robert of the chief lords (of the borough) by the rent and services thereout due (and accustomed) quietly well and peacefully by (hereditary right).

(1315 Aug. 25 ?) Memorandum that on Monday in the morrow of St. Bartholomew [49] Edward II came Bolti of Seton and Wymark his wife and acknowledged that they had given and granted (and by charter confirmed) for ever to Nicholas Crek' (and his heirs) or assigns all that burgage [7] with a curtilage [16] adjacent which they had

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and which la situated In the 'Burste' [8] (between the tenement) of Adam Peverel on the east (and the tenement of) Rede on the west, (to have and to hold the said) burgage and curtilage [16] to the said Nicholas and his heirs (of the chief) lords of the borough of Lyme (by the services thereout due) and accustomed freely quietly well and (peacefully) for ever, whereupon the said (Wymark all) her right which she had or might have in the said (burgage) [7] and all its appurtenances in the said full husting(before) then mayor and the other burgesses (freely renounced).

(p. 10) (1315 July ?) Memorandum that on Monday after (?) the Translation of St. Thomas [63] 9 (Edward II) came John (and) his (wife) and acknowledged that they had given (to) Thorne and Wymark (his) wife (a piece of land) lying upon Erslynche [19] (between the tenement of) Kim on the south and aurey on the north, to have (and to hold the said) piece of land with all Its appurtenances (to the said) and Wymark his wife and the heirs of the said of the chief lords of the borough of Lym (by the services thereout owed and) accustomed freely quietly well and peacefully for ever, whereupon the said Ju..... (all her right) which she had or in future might have in the said piece (of land) freely renounced (before) Robert

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Pope [43] then mayor and other (bailiffs in) the full husting of the borough of Lym (on the day) and year abovesaid.

(1316 Jan. 12) (Memorandum that on Monday) before the feast of St. Hilary [52] 9 Edward II came (Nigel) Kyngman of Lym in the husting court of Lym and acknowledged that by assent and consent of Sibyl his wife and (their children ?) he had given and granted for ever to Edward Kyngman his son all that tenement with all its appurtenances (lying in) the said borough between the tenement of Geoffrey (and the tenement) of Gilbert le Palmere (to have and to hold) to him and his heirs or assigns for ever (of the chief) lords of the said borough by the services (thereout) owed and accustomed, whereupon (came the said) Sibyl and all her right (which she had or could have) in the said tenement freely and altogether renounced her dower when it should happen (and also same) Henry son and heir (of the said Nigel and) Sibyl and all his right in the said (tenement) in similar manner renounced before mayor and the other burgesses on the day and year above said (And also came) the said Nigel and (acknowledged that he had given and) granted for ever a cellar

(p.11) which he had by gift of John de W.....kere.
Whereupon (came the said) Henry and all his right (in the said cellar freely renounced for ever in the form (abovesaid).

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(1316 - c.1317 ?) Memorandum that on Monday before the feast of the virgin Edward II came Alice Wyscard of and acknowledged that she had given granted and by her charter of feoffment [21] confirmed to Gilbert of Axemuth all that tenement of hers with and a curtilage [16] adjacent and all other appurtenances in the borough of Lym aforesaid which is situated next to the highway called 'Draghestret' between the tenement of Hom' carpenter on the east (and the tenement) of Geoffrey the smith on the west, to have and to hold all the said tenement with all its appurtenances as aforesaid to the said Gilbert and his heirs or assigns of the chief (lords) of the said borough by the services thereout due and accustomed for ever.

Witnesses William then mayor of Lym,

Adam Pope [43]

Edward Robe

Nicholas Rede and others (in full husting) held at Lym (the day and year abovesaid).

(1317 Sept. 19) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast (of the Exaltation) of the Holy Gross [18] 11 Edward II came Edith (mother of William) Waleys of Lym before then mayor and acknowledged that she of her own free will had given (and granted) and by her charter confirmed to the said William and Wymark his wife all that

(p. 12) tenement of hers with all Its appurtenances together with which Nicholas

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..... Robert de Chernemuth [11] of the said Edith mother of the said William Waleys, to have and to hold to the said William and Wymark all curtilage [16] with all appurtenances and performing to the chief lords (of the borough) the rent and services thereout due and accustomed, as in the charter of feoffment to them made more fully is contained.

Witnesses (Nicholas) Rede deputy mayor, John Gregori, Adam Vode, [76] Robert le Mercer, [34] Geoffrey the Smith, and others.

Dated in full husting the day and year abovesaid.

Memorandum that the day and year abovesaid came Matilda formerly wife of Henry Taverner and acknowledged that she had given granted and by her charter confirmed for herself and her heirs for ever to Simon Goggis of Lym and Agnes his wife all that tenement of hers which John Vele formerly held In the borough of Lym, to have and to hold to him and his heirs or assigns of the chief lords of the said borough by the services thereout due and accustomed, as in the charter of feoffment [21] to them made more fully appears.
Witnesses: Adam Vode then mayor of Lym, John Gregori, Robert Pope, [43] Robert le Mercer, William the smith, [68] and others.

(1318 Feb. 14) Memorandum that on Tuesday In the feast of St. Valentine [64] 11 Edward II came Geoffrey into the 'tolsey' [74] court of Lym before Edward Robe (then) mayor of Lym and acknowledged that

he was bound to le Mercer In 10 marks sterling (for) red herrings, payable to the said le Mercer or his assignee at the feast of St. without further delay. (The above entry is crossed out, presumably to indicate that payment was duly made).

(p.13)(1318 Feb. 14) Memorandum that on Tuesday in the feast of (St. Valentine ?) 11 Edward II came of Lym In the 'tolsey' [74] court of the borough of Lym (before Edward) Robe then mayor of Lym and (acknowledged that he was bound to) Geoffrey Artur [1] in 5 marks [32] sterling (for) red herrings sold to him, payable at the feast of Michaelmas next without further delay. (Cancelled, as above).

(1318 Feb.20) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Valentine 11 Edward II in full husting held on that day before Edward Robe [47] then mayor of Lym came Maurice de Swynesfeld and acknowledged that he had granted remitted and altogether quit – claimed [46] for himself and his heirs for ever all his right and claim without calumny [9] which he had or in any way could have in two burgages [7] with their appurtenances in the borough of Lym, to Adam le Mercer [33] and Agnes his wife and their heirs or assigns.

(1318 Feb.20) Memorandum that Maurice de Swynesfeld came in full husting held on Monday after the feast of St. Valentine [64] 11 Edward II before Edward Robe

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then mayor and acknowledged that he had granted remitted and altogether quit-claimed [46] for himself and his heirs or assigns for ever to Agnes de Swynesfeld his sister all his right and claim with out calumny which he had or in any way could have in two burgages [7] with their appurtenances in the borough of Lym which were formerly of John de Rihulle, situated In the 'Cumbe' between the tenement (of Richard) Wymund and the tenement formerly of William de Toluse, [73] to have and to hold of the chief lords of the said borough by the services thereout due and accustomed to the said Agnes and her heirs or assigns for ever, as In a certain writing of quitclaim to her made is more fully contained.

(p. 14) (1318 Feb. 20) (Maurice de ?) Swynesfeld came before Edward (Robe then mayor) in full husting held on Monday (after the feast of St.) Valentine [64] 11 Edward II and acknowledged that (he) had given granted and by charter of feoffment [21] confirmed to Adam le Mercer [33] of Lym and Agnes his wife (two burgages) [7] with all their appurtenances In the borough of Lym which were formerly of John de Ryhulle and situated in the 'Cumbe' [15] between the tenement of Richard Wymond on the south and the tenement formerly of William de Toulouse [73] on the north, to have and to hold the said burgages [7] with all their appurtenances to the said Adam and Agnes and their heirs or assigns, of the chief lords of the borough of Lym by the services thereout due and accustomed, freely

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quietly peacefully and wholly by hereditary right for ever, as in the charter of feoffment [21] to them made is more fully contained.

(1318 Feb. 27) Memorandum that Maurice de Swynesfeld came before Edward Robe [47] then mayor in full husting held on Monday after the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra [61] 11 Edward II and acknowledged that he had granted, remitted and altogether quitclaimed [46] for himself and his heirs for ever to Adam le Mercer [33] of Lym and Agnes his wife and their heirs or assigns all his right and claim without calumny [9] which he had or any way could have in two burgages [7] with their appurtenances which were formerly of John de Rihulle, situated in the 'Cumbe' [15] between the tenement of Richard Wymond on the south and the tenement formerly of William de Toluse [73] on the north, In such manner that neither the said Maurice his heirs or assigns can in future claim any right or claim in the said burgages [7].

And thereupon the said Maurice confesses on behalf of himself his heirs or assigns that he is bound to guarantee the said Adam [33] and Agnes, their heirs or assigns, in their possession of the said burgages [7] against all men, as in a certain writing of quit-claim [46] to them made is more fully contained.

(1318 Feb. 27) William Choker came before Edward Robe then mayor in full husting held the day and

year abovesaid and (acknowledged) that he had given

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and guaranteed to William the Smith [68] of Lym and Wymark his wife all that tenement of his with its appurtenances (in the borough) of Lym situated between the tenement formerly of William (This entry is incomplete, and the next page goes back to an earlier date. It therefore appears probable that part of the book is missing. From an examination of the book as it now exists, however, it does not seem possible to effect any re-arrangement which would restore an original arrangement in chronological order).

(p.15) (1310 ?) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St n the said year came John le Polet [42] in full husting held that day before William do Tolus' [73] then mayor and was received again into the freedom and sworn to the same, and he has found sureties for paying and performing, etc., viz., Stephen Renneb' and Nigel Pistor.' [41]

(1310 Nov. 16) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Martin [56] in the said year came John Seman in full husting held that day before William de Tolus' then mayor and was received into the freedom and sworn to the same, and he has found pledges for paying and performing, etc., vis., John Pellipar, [40] Richard Muller, Robert le Mercer, [34] and Peter Berd.

(1310 Dec 14 ?) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin [54] in the said year John le Skinnere and John le Polter [42] came in full Court held that day and stood surety for Robert de Rihulle for half a mark [32], for his satisfying the town of all arrears of tallages [72] and all debts he owes to the town for the defence of the liberty [23] for all time past.

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(1311 Jan. 11 ?) Memorandum that on Monday after Epiphany in the said year came William Barre [6] and acknowledged that he was bound to William de Tolus' [73] in fourteen pounds sterling, to be paid to the said William or his attorney on Palm Sunday [36] next.

(1311 Feb. 15) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Valentine [64] 4 Edward II came (William.....) and acknowledged that he was bound to acquit the mayor bailiffs and commonalty of the borough of Lym of 34 (shillings ?) and 10d. which were seized into the hands of the said William of the goods of the men of Hamton [27] for customs taken there of the burgesses of the said borough
(cancelled, to indicate payment).

(p.16) (1311 March 22) Memorandum that on Monday on the morrow of St. Benedict [50] 4 Edward II came Gregory Roys in full husting held that day and entered the freedom.

(1310 Oct. 27 ?) Memorandum that John Peny the steward's [69] collector of perquisites of Court in the town of Lym rendered his account before William de Pyllamide [45 & 9] and Robert le Mercer [34] on the eve of the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude [62] 47 Edward II for the whole time

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during which he remained the bailiff of lord Robert FitzPagan In the town of Lym. And he paid fully all moneys with which he was charged, so that he is quit and absolved of the said account.

In witness whereof the seal of William de Pillamide [45a] is appended to this schedule. Dated at Lym the day and year above said.

(1311 April 26) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Mark, [55] the Evangelist, 4 Edward II before Robert le Mercer then mayor of the borough of Lym In full husting held the same day came and was received into the freedom of the said borough and sworn to the same. And he has found pledges for his maintaining and observing the said freedom and paying and performing, etc., vis. John Partenant [39], William la Gate [24], Robert le Mercer [34], and Richard Kyngeman.

(The above entry is cancelled)

(1311 Sept. 13) Memorandum that on Monday before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [15] 5 Edward II In full husting held that day before Robert le Mercer then mayor came Nicholas son of Roger Attethorne and was received into the freedom and sworn to the same etc. and he has found pledges, viz for his giving and paying with the commonalty whenever he shall be taxed etc.

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(p. 17) (1311 Sept. 20) William Artur came before Robert le Mercer [34] then Mayor in full husting held on Monday before the feast of St. Mathew [57] the Apostle 5 Edward II and was received into the freedom and sworn to the same. And he has found pledges, viz. Geoffrey Artur [1] and Richard Atterewe, [4a] for his giving and paying with the commonalty as often as he is taxed etc.

(1312 Nov. 27) William Barre [6] came before Robert Kene then mayor in full husting held on Monday after the feast of St. Catherine the Virgin [51] 6 Edward II and withdrew his suit against Sibyl Bers of Ascertone [3] and Adam her son in a plea of land and acknowledged the right of the said Sibyl and Adam to a messuage [35] with appurtenances formerly held by William Bers, to have and to hold for ever.

(1313 Jan. 22) Maurice de Swynesfeld came before Robert Kene then mayor in full husting held on Monday on the feast of St. Vincent [65] the Martyr, 6 Edward II and acknowledged that he had given Agnes de Swynesfeld his sister and the heirs of her body legitimately begotten two burgages [7] of his which were formerly of John de Rihulle situated in the 'Comb' [15], to have and to hold to her and the heirs of her body legitimately begotten for ever of the

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chief lords of the borough by the services thereout due and accustomed, as in the charter to her made is more fully contained.

(1313 Jan. 22) Memorandum that on Monday in the feast of St. Vincent the Martyr 6 Edward II in full husting held the same day before Robert Kene then mayor came Henry the Clerk and by assent of the mayor and other burgesses was received into the liberty and sworn to the same and he has found pledges for his paying and giving with the others (of the community) viz. Robert Kene and William each of whom has mainperned [31] for the said Henry to perform etc.

(p.18) (1314 Jan. 21) Memorandum that on Monday before the feast of St. Vincent [65] 7 Edward II in full husting held on that day before Robert Pope [45] then mayor William de Byrton son and heir of John de Byrton, being of the age of twelve years, was admitted to the tenure of the tenement formerly of the said John, to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever. And because the said William is under age Cecilia his Mother was appointed his guardian, to perform to the lords of the fee [20] the services thereout due and accustomed, and to keep the said tenement without waste until the said William shall have come to full age etc.

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(1314 Jan. 21) Memorandum that the will of John la Blower the elder lately deceased was proved before the mayor and coroner [13] in full husting held on Monday before the feast Of St. Vincent [65] 7 Edward II by Henry Chenere and Nicholas Bakere laymen, [30] who being sworn and diligently examined say that tha said John bequeathed to John Pattyng all that tenement of his with appurtenances in the 'Cumbe', to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever, as in the will of the said John is more fully contained. And the said John Pattyng is admitted to the tenure of the said tenement and has made fealty therefor etc.

(1314 Jan. 14) Memorandum that on Monday after the feast of St. Hilary [52], 7 Edward II came John Ragoun in Court held on that day before the mayor and acknowledged that he was bound to Edward Robe in 13 pounds sterling, to be paid to the said Edward or his assign as follows, at the feast of the Purification 60 shillings, and 10 pounds at the feasts of

(p. 19) Whitsuntide and the Assumption [4] in equal portions; and for payment of the said 10 pounds he has found pledges, viz. John Seriaunt [66] and John Pyttel, of whom each as principal debtor confesses himself bound to the payment of the said 10 pounds etc.

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(1314 Feb. 18) Memorandum that on Monday before the feast of St. Peter in cathedra [61] 7 Edward II came William the 'portreve' in full Court held the same day and acknowledged that he was bound to Christina

Pertenaunt in 7 marks sterling, to be paid to the said Cristina or to her certain assign bearing her tally [71] sealed with her seal in the seven years next following, viz. one mark a year at Christmas and at the feast of the Assumption [4] by equal portions. And the said William submits himself his heirs and executors to the distrain of the mayor and bailiffs for the time being for the making of the said payments, to begin on the feast of the Assumption next.

(1314 July 22) Memorandum that on Monday before the feast of St. James the Apostle, 8 Edward II in full husting held that day before Robert Pope then mayor came William de Leyborne and by common consent of the whole community was admitted into the freedom and sworn to the same and for his giving paying and doing all things with the community as often etc. he has found pledges, viz. Adam Voude and Robert Kene, both of whom are altogether bound etc.

(p.20)(1314 Sept. 13) Memorandum that on Friday on the eve of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [18]

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8 Edward II, Dionisia who was formerly the wife of John Bury of Lym in her widow-hood came into the 'tolsey' [74] court before the bailiffs and other worthies and acknowledged that she had given and granted for life to John de Sydemuth all that tenement of hers with appurtenances in the borough of Lyme situated in the 'Cumbe'[15] between the tenement of William the Smith [68] on the east and the cartilage of Christina Coliford on the west, to have and to hold to him for life of the chief lords of the borough by the services thereout due and accustomed, as in the charter to him made is more fully contained.

(1314 Sept. 9) Memorandum that Henry de Rihulle and Julia his wife came into the Court on Monday after the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin [36], 8 Edward II and acknowledged that they had given granted and by their charter confirmed to William the Smith of Lym and Wymark his wife and the heirs or assigns of the said William all their burgage with appurtenances in the borough of Lym situated in the 'Combe' between the tenement of Richard le Lange on the north and the tenement formerly of Nicholas Bodeman on the south, to have and to hold the said burgage to the said William and Wymark and the heirs or assigns

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of the said William of the chief lords of the said borough by the services thereout due and accustomed for ever, as in the charter of feoffment [21] to them made is more fully contained. And nevertheless the said Julia has on oath freely renounced all her right and claim without calumny which she had or in any way could have in the future for herself her heirs or assigns in the said burgage with its appurtenances.

(? 1301 Jan. 23) Memorandum that the will of William upon the Bridge was proved in full husting held on Monday after the feast of St. Vincent, 29 Edward (I?), by the oath of Nigel Kyngman and William Kyng, laymen who being sworn and diligently examined

(p. 21) agree and say that the said William upon the Bridge in his last will bequeathed to Joan his wife all that tenement of his with its appurtenances in the borough of Lyme which is situated between the tenement formerly of William G..... on the west and the water running towards the sea on the south, to have and to hold to her and her heirs or assigns of the chief lords of the said borough by the services thereout due and accustomed for ever, as in the said will is more fully contained.

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(1327 Dec. 14) Memorandum that Geoffrey Busch son of Peter Busch came In full Court held on Monday after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin [54], 1 Edward III and acknowledged that he by assent and consent of Julia his mother had given and granted for himself his heirs or assigns for ever to Robert Colyn and Margery his wife and their heirs or assigns, a moiety of that croft [14] in 'Sleystrete' [67] in the borough of Lym which he had by gift of the said Peter his father, namely, that moiety which lies next the tenement formerly of Richard Cuthorn, which moiety contains, from the tenement aforesaid to the meadow formerly of William de Culiford, 26 perches in length and 2 in breadth, to have and to hold all the said moiety with its appurtenances to the said Robert and Margery and their heirs or assigns of the chief lords of the borough by the service of per annum freely quietly well and in peace by hereditary right for ever, as in the charter of feoffment [21] is more fully contained.

(p.22) (? 1323 July 11) Memorandum that Geoffrey Artur [1] came in full Court held on Monday after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas [63] the Martyr, 17 Edward II and acknowledged that he with the assent and consent of Christina his wife had given and granted for himself and

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his heirs or assigns for ever to

William Gylle of Lym and Sibyl his wife all that tenement of his with appurtenances in the borough of Lym which is situated between the tenement of Gregory Roys on the east and the tenement of Robert Lom on the west, to have and to hold to them and their heirs of the chief lords of the said borough by the services thereout due and accustomed freely quietly well and in peace by hereditary right for ever. Whereupon came the said Christina and on her oath freely renounced all her right which she had or in any way could have in the said tenement with appurtenances.

(1328 April 25) Memorandum that the will of John Payn senior was proved in full husting held on Monday in the feast of St. Mark [58], 2 Edward III by the oaths of Philip the bailiff of Chernemuth and John atte Mulle, who being sworn and diligently examined agree and say that the said John Payn in his last will bequeathed to Adam Payn his brother a moiety of a certain tenement which Henry le Lokere had and held in the 'Cumbe' [15] situated next the water of Lym, to have and to hold to him and his heirs or assigns of the chief lords of the borough by the services thereout due and accustomed for ever. They say also that the said John

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Payn in like manner bequeathed to Richard Payn his son a house situated between the house of John de Sutton [70] on the east and the house of John Seriaunt [66] on the west, to have and to hold to him and his heirs or assigns of the capital lords of the borough by the services thereout due and accustomed for ever.

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IV GLOSSARY AND NOTES

(Marginal numbers refer to corresponding numbers both In the Latin and in the English versions).

- (1) Artur, Geoffrey (pp. 45, 51, 57), who was surety for a Freeman in 1311 and assigned a freehold in 1323, represented Lyme Regis in the house of Commons in 1319 and 1340.
- (2) Ascension Day (32) would have been on May 8th in 1309 and May 28th in 1310.
- (3) Ascertone (51). Lysons' Devonshire gives Ascerton as a manor in the parish of Sidmouth.
- (4) Assumption of the B.V.M. (pp. 53, 54) This feast was on August 15th.
- (4a) Atterewe (p.51) 'Rewe' is an old Somerset word for 'lane' or 'row'.
- (5) Bailiff (36, etc. etc.) These oft-named officials (sometimes 'ballivi', at others pre-positi, in the Latin) were possibly executive officers to carry out the decisions of the Mayor.

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- (6) Barre, William (pp. 49, 51) whose name occurs on the pages cited, also represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1339.
- (7) Burgage (pp. 40, 41, 45-7, 51, 56) was a tenure whereby lands or houses were held on payment to the overlord of a certain annual rent. Later a freehold.
- (8) Burste, the (pp. 38, 41) cannot be identified but may be any weir, dam, mill-sluice, or water-shoot
- (9) Calumny (pp. 45, 47, 56). There is no suggestion of evil-speaking here. The Meaning is rather "indefeasably", i.e., without any reasonable chance that the title can be challenged or upset.
- (10) Chaplain (p. 35) Probably Chantry priest.
- (11) Chernemuth (pp. 44, 58) is the old name for Charmouth.
- (12) Cocket (p.34) the seal of the King's Custom House.
- (13) Coroner (pp. 35, 36, 53) was a very important official from the earliest times, with more widely extended functions than those which he enjoys to-day. In this book it will be noted that he is always associated

- (14) Croft (pp. 32, 57) is a piece of enclosed ground attached to a house.
- (15) Cumbe le / Combe (pp. 38, 39, 46, 47, 51, 53, 55, 58) was of course the combe, coomb, or chine down which the Lym ran for the last part of its course before entering the sea. Hence the Coombe Street of today. It must be remembered that Lyme Regis in these years was principally, if not wholly, on the East side of the river.
- (16) Curtilage (pp. 40, 41, 43, 44) was a small enclosed court, yard or piece of ground attached to a dwelling.
- (17) Draghestret (p.43). It is impossible to identify this with any street known in Lyme today. It may conceivably have been a street of such exceptional width that a sledge or cart could pass along it. See 'Sleystrete' below.

- (18) Exaltation of the Holy Cross (pp. 33, 43, 50, 54) The date of this feast was Sept. 14th.
- (19) Erslynche (p.41) is probably identical with 'Arselynche' (1496) In Portfolio II, folio 7, p.2 of Fugitive Pieces. See also 'Erislinch' (1588) in Vol. I, p.29 of Sundry Mayors' Accounts. The meaning is 'Ash Tree Ridge'. The Lynch was and is a well-known walk in Lyme and Roberts' (p. 193) explanation of it as named after Michael Lynch, who sat for Lyme in the House of Commons in 1341, is improbable, (and see Fugitive Pieces II, 7, 2.)
- (20) Fee (pp. 32, 33-, 35, 36, 52), in the expressions 'in fee' or 'lords of the fee', has reference to an estate or property held for the benefit of another by certain services or by payment of rent.
- (21) Feoffment (pp. 43-4, 46-7, 56-7) is the granting of a property to another 'in fee' (as above).
- (22) Fordesmede (p.33) There is no place-name in Lyme which gives any clue to the completion of this word.
- (23) 'for the defence of the liberty' (p.48) i.e., of all the rights conferred on the Borough by Charter.

- (24) Gate, William la (pp. 33, 50) This man on p.50 and William atte..... on p.33 may be identical with the William Atteyate, who represented Lyme Regis four times in the House of Commons between 1311 and 1313.
- (25) Gregory, John (p. 44) represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1321. He was a merchant engaged in the cloth trade and a ship-owner as well.
- (26) Guldandum (pp 20, 23, 24, 27.) The more usual form is geldandum.
- (27) Hamton (p. 49) probably = Southampton.
- (28) Husting (pp. 32, etc. etc.) i.e., house assembly, is a council or a place where such council is held.

- (29) Keu le (p.38) may probably be identified with Geoffrey le Keu who represented Lyme in the House of Commons in 1295 and 1311. He was also Mayor in 1297 (Cal. Chanc. Inq.) and a 'customer' for Lyme and district 1303/4.
- (30) Laymen (pp. 33 , 36 , 39 , 53) non-clerics. It will be noticed that, on every occasion when the word is used, the question of some will is before the Court.
- (31) Mainperned (p. 52) guaranteed, gone bail for.
- (32) Mark (pp. 45 , 48, etc. etc.) is a money of account which represented a mark weight of pure silver. In England its value was 13s./4d.
- (33) Mercer, Adam le (pp. 45-47) was not only a freeholder of Lyme Regis as shown in the passages cited but represented Lyme in the House of Commons in 1332 and 1344. In addition he was a ship-owner, a trader in woollen cloth, and 'Chief-Butler' for Lyme and Seaton.

- (34) Mercer, Robert le (pp. 36 , 37 , 44, 48 - 51) was not only Mayor of Lyme Regis as shown In the text, but represented Lyme in the House of Commons in 1318. He was also at other dates a collector of Customs and a searcher. The '..... le Mercer' of p. 36 is certainly Robert, because one of his wives was known to have been a Matilda.
- (35) Messuage (pp. 32, 51) is a dwelling-house with some land adjoining.
- (36) Nativity B.V.M. (pp. 37, 55) The date of this feast was September 8th.
- (37) Net..... (p.33) This may possibly be the first syllable of Netherlym, the former name for Lyme

Regis

- (38) Palm Sunday (p. 40) in 1311 would have been on April 4th.
(39) Partenant, John (p.60) This man represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1311.

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- (40) Pellpar (p. 48) . Pelliparius and is the Latin form of the English surname 'Skinner'
(41) Pistor (p. 48) Pistorius and is the Latin form of the English surname 'Baker'.
(42) Polet' / Polter (p. 48) are the same name, one being in the Latin (i.e., Poletarius) and the other in the English form (i.e. Po(u)lter(er))
(43) Pope, Robert (pp. 38, 40, 42-44, 52, 54). This man, besides serving as Mayor, represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1313.
(44) Portreve (p. 54) In this word the port = porta, not portus, i.e. it has not necessarily any connection with a harbour. The portreeve was an important official in Norman times, often identified with the Mayor.
(45) Purification of B.V.M. (p. 53) The date of this feast was February 2nd.
(45a) Pyllamide (pp.49,50). A suggestion that this may be an early version of Bellamy (well-known at Lyme in the 16th century and later) is untenable.
(46) quit claim / claimed (pp. 45-47) = released, or a release.

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- (47) Robe, Edward (pp. 33,45, 47) This man was not only Mayor, as shown in the text, but represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1318 and 1321.
(48) Saint Ambrose (p. 39) = April 4th.
(49) Saint Bartholomew (p. 40) = Aug. 24th.
(50) Saint Benedict (p. 49) = March 21st.
(51) Saint Catherine the Virgin (p. 51) = Nov.. 25th.
(52) Saint Hilary (pp. 42, 53) = Jan. 13th.
(53) Saint James (p. 54) = July 25th.
(54) Saint Lucy the Virgin (pp. 48, 57) = Dec. 13th.
(55) Saint Mark (pp. 50, 58) = April 25th.
(56) Saint Martin (p. 48) = Nov. 12th.

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- (57) Saint Matthew (p. 61) = Sept.21st .
(58) Saint Matthias (p. 35) = Feb. 24th .
(59) Saint Pater and Paul (p. 33) = June 29th .
(60) Saint Peter ad Vincula (p. 37) = Aug. 1st .
(61) Saint Peter in Cathedra (34, 47, 54.) = Feb. 22nd .
(62) Saint Simon and Jude (p. 49) = Oct. 28th .
(63) Saint Thomas (Translation) (pp. 41, 57) = July 3rd .
(64) Saint Valentine (pp. 32, 44-46, 49) = Feb. 14th .
(65) Saint Vincent (pp. 51-53, 56) = Jan. 22nd .
(66) Serjaunt (pp. 53, 59) = Serjaunt
(67) Slaystrete (p. 57) This street in old Lyme cannot be identified. Was it a street sufficiently wide for a sledge? See 'draghestret' above.
(68) Smyth, William le (pp. 44, 48, 55) also represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1313 and 1322.
(69) Steward (p. 49) i.e., of the Lord of the Manor.
(70) Sutton, John de (p.59) Represented Lyme Regis in the House of Commons on seven occasions between 1331 and 1348.

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- (71) Tally (p.64) = creditor's counterpart of debt, which would have been a notched (taille) stick split into two even halves.
(72) Tallages (p. 48) = municipal taxes.
(73) Tholuse, William de (pp. 34-36 , 46-49) Besides serving as Mayor, he was one of the two first representatives of Lyme Regis in the House of Commons. This was in 1295. He also sat for the Borough in 1311. Is described as a 'King's Merchant' and was often charged with the duty of buying war-horses for the King in France and Spain.

(74) Tolsey (pp. 44, 45, 55) or 'tolzey' is here the 'Town Hall', i.e., the place where tolls, duties or customs were received. A similar word, 'tolbooth' is familiar to the reader of Scott's novels.

(75) Trilling (p. 38) "Tythingman has been suggested, but the conundrum is unsolved.

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(76) Vode, Adam (p. 44) This man is no doubt identical with the Adam Fode who sat for Lyme Regis in the House of Commons in 1319 and 1322. He traded in woollen cloth and was a shipowner.

(77) Wit (p. 4) = Vult = he or she wishes or wills.

Richard Wells for Lyme Regis Museum January 2017

