

## Durham Priory – Prior of Stamford’s Accounts

(performances are at Durham except where marked S; S+D indicates accounts that include performances at both Stamford and Durham; accounts probably relating to Lincolnshire performances are in green).

### Introduction

1364-1533, but there is no relevant material before 1383. Relevant complete rolls have one membrane each, length 447-639 mm., width 220-352 mm. Single-column, with undivided expenses and a separate line for each item. Some of these accounts are so badly damaged that determining exact terminal dates is not possible, but the Monday after Ascension is usual, except between 1429 and 1435, when the terminal date is Pentecost (but the opening date of the account for 1429-30 is uncertain, see Textual Note). The Stamford Priory accounts are much less well preserved than those from most other cells – only 55 rolls survive, and many of these are severely damaged, so the rather meagre number of recorded contributions to the Almonry Bishop of Durham and the single minstrel payment (see 1465-6) probably give a picture which is less than complete.

The Priory of St. Leonard outside Stamford was in existence by 1146; it may have been founded by Durham Priory out of a desire for a cell south of the Trent, to which its revenues in the southern province could be devoted. In the later Middle Ages, however, it suffered from the powerful competition of Durham College Oxford, and went into what might be described as a genteel decline.<sup>1</sup>

### Texts

**1383-4** (4<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May)

**Prior of Stamford’s Account**

DUL

Expense: . . .

Item .. Stipendiis barbitonsoris lotricis ac clerici Scribentis compotum cum pergamento & papiro & alijs expensis minutis ac cum curialitate facta Episcopo Elemosinarie & cum [aliis] elemosina data per tempus compoti xvij s. iij.d.

. . .

**1432-3** (8<sup>th</sup> June – ?31<sup>st</sup> May)

**Prior of Stamford’s Account**

DUL

Expense: . . .

Item Episcopo elemosinarie ij s.

. . .

**1440-1** (?9<sup>th</sup> May – ?29<sup>th</sup> May)

**Prior of Stamford’s Account**

DUL

. . .

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<sup>1</sup> Dobson, *Durham Priory* 315-16. There is no evidence of any connection between the priory at Stamford and the abortive attempt to found a university there in 1334, for which see Hastings Rashdall, *The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages*, ed. F.M. Powicke and A.B. Emden, Oxford, 1936, Vol. III, 89-90.

Item *Episcopo puerili*<sup>2</sup> ij s.  
...

**1465-6** (27<sup>th</sup> May – ?19<sup>th</sup> May) (S)  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

Expense: ...  
Et in donis datis ministrallis diuersorum dominorum per tempus compoti ...<sup>3</sup>  
...

**? ca. 1491**  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

...  
Et *Episcopo puerili* x<x>.\*

**1493-4** (20<sup>th</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

Expense: ...  
Et Cantoribus ad ludum suum & *Episcopo puerili* ij.s.

**1497-8** (ca. 8<sup>th</sup> May – ca. 28<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

Expense: ...  
Et *Episcopo Puerili* xx d.  
...

**1507-8** (17<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June)  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

Expense: ...  
Et *Episcopo puerili* xx d.  
...

**1510-1** (13<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June)  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

...  
Et *Episcopo puerili* xx.d.  
...

**1519-20** (6<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> May)  
**Prior of Stamford's Account** DUL

Expense: ...

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<sup>2</sup> The last three letters of 'puerili' are legible only under ultra-violet light.

<sup>3</sup> The sum for this item is lost.

Et *Episcopo* pu<erili>

xx d.

...

**1522-3** (2<sup>nd</sup> June – 18<sup>th</sup> May)

**Prior of Stamford's Account**

DUL

Expense: ...

Et *Episcopo* puerili

xx d.

...

**1532-3** (13<sup>th</sup> May – 26<sup>th</sup> May)

**Prior of Stamford's Account**

DUL

Expense: ...

Et *Episcopo* puerili – xx d. ...

...

### Textual Notes

- 1383-4: Heading lost but copied in the margin near the top of the surviving text.
- 1432-3: Heading damaged; opening date legible only as 'Pentecost ...', closing date only as '...143\*'. The list of arrears shows that this is John Wycliff's seventh account, while the account for 1430-1 can be seen from its balance to be his fifth; this must therefore be the account for 1432-3, and its closing date is probably also Pentecost.
- 1440-1: Heading lost, but the balance at the end of this account is taken up in the account which opens on the Monday after Ascension, 29<sup>th</sup> May 1441. The account covers a full year, the first of the priorate of Richard Barton, whose institution and induction expenses appear in it; the opening date is uncertain, but may also be the Monday after Ascension.
- 1465-6: *Heading lost, but this account includes expenses for Robert Knowte's transfer from Stamford on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1465 (Reg. Parv. III f. f. 127<sup>r</sup>), so the year is 1465-6. The opening date is assumed to be the closing date of the account for 1464-5, whose approximate balance is taken up at the beginning of this account. Closing date uncertain, but may also be Monday after Ascension, as usual.*
- ca. 1491: A badly damaged, headless fragment whose subsection headings are also lost. Arrears include four years for John Auckland as prior, followed by fifteen years for 'the accountant'; John Auckland's successor was William Yowdale, who held office for fifteen years (1475-90, see Lincoln Record Office Register 21, f. 10<sup>r</sup> and Register 22 f. 143<sup>v</sup>). There then follow arrears for 'this account', which suggests that this is the first account of Yowdale's successor Richard Tanfeld (i.e. 1490-1), but there are then further arrears of 'this account' and an entry for waste and decay, both of which are in another hand, so this document could be a rough draft for the following year (i.e. 1491-2). The Boy Bishop payment is faded but legible under ultra-violet light.
- 1497-8: Heading damaged; years visible, but terminal dates are legible only as 'A ..... festum Ascensionis domini' to 'the same feast'; as the preposition *a* 'from' takes the ablative case, whereas 'festum' is accusative, a day of the week must be lost – probably Monday, as usual in these accounts. 'The same feast' in the

closing date is probably the common shorthand for 'the same day after the same feast'.

1510-1: Subsection heading lost.

1519-20: The heading gives the year, nonsensically, as '1529-20', but 1519-20 is clearly intended, since the prior here is Henry Thaw, who resigned in 1525 (Reg. V, f. 208<sup>v</sup>).

**No End Notes**