

## HENRY DE CICESTRIA'S MISSAL.

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**T**HROUGH the kindness of Mr. Guppy, the Librarian, I have been enabled to prove the *provenance* of MS. No. 24 in the John Rylands Library, and as it is too late to insert the information in the forthcoming Catalogue of Western MSS. I have put together a few notes on the subject as likely to be of interest to other bibliophiles and perhaps useful to students.

I have long been searching for books that were formerly in the library of Exeter Cathedral, and a reference in the Rev. J. Wickham Legge's volume on *The Sarum Missal* led me to investigate the history of a copy of a missal mentioned by him on page vi.

It appeared that this had been in the possession of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres; that there was an inscription on the fly-leaf (fol. i.) reading "Memoriale Henrici de Ciscestria canonici Exon. prec. lx<sup>1</sup>"; and that one of that name had resigned the precentorship of the Collegiate Church of Crediton in 1264.

I was led to believe that this, with other MSS. had passed from the Earl's collection to the John Rylands Library and this proved to be the case. On inquiry I found that the first word on the "secundo folio" of this *Sarum Missal* was "induantr" and turning to the inventory of Exeter Cathedral treasures, made on September 6, 1506,<sup>1</sup> we find among divers things "que novo scaccario continentur," the first entry, under the heading "Missalia cum aliis libris":

"1 Missale, secundo folio, Induantr."

Now that there was no doubt about the identity of the two it was easy enough to follow up the clue obtained.

In a list of gifts that has been made in or before 1277 to the Cathedral there is this entry:—

"De dono Henrici de Cicestre: Una capa baudek cum scutis.

<sup>1</sup> Oliver's *Lives of the Bishops of Exeter*, p. 350.

Unum missale. Una cuppa deaurata pendens ultra majus altare cum corpore Dominico. Ista cuppa furata fuit et loco suo dedit Episcopus Johannes de Grandissono aliam."<sup>1</sup>

No fuller proof is required to identify the MSS. with Henry de Cicestria's gift, and we may not be far wrong if we assumed that it was also the same as the seventh Missal in the inventory of 1327 thus described:—

“Bonum notatum cum tropariis cum multis ymaginibus subtilibus de auro in canone, lx<sup>s</sup>.”<sup>2</sup>

for this agrees with the value entered on the fly-leaf.

To the note concerning the donor a little further information can be added. He may, with some degree of certainty, be identified with—

“Henrico, Thesaurario Criditonie et Canonico Exonie,”

the second on the list of those present on December 3, 1242, when Bishop William Briwere granted his right in land called “Mons Jocelini” in his manor of Crediton to the Recluserium he had founded near the Chapel of St. Lawrence there.<sup>3</sup> The Treasurer might easily have become—like his confrères at Exeter—the Precentor in later years.

Our next glimpse of him is in 1249 when the Prior of St. James by Exeter quit-claimed to Henry de “Cirencestre,” canon of Exeter, a tenement in St. Martin's Lane, the bounds of which are set out<sup>4</sup> and this, by other evidence obtainable, was on the west side of the lane, next to the tenement of the Vicars of Crediton and not far from the High Street. It was no doubt this same tenement that he gave to the Vicars Choral of Exeter for the support of his obit, subject to an annual charge of 16d. to the Chapeter and another of 9s. to the Hospital of St. John by the East Gate. His ordinance, or as he styles it “carta mea,” is recorded in a volume belonging to the Vicars Choral, and from this we learn that each Canon present at his anniversary was to receive 2d. and each Vicar [Choral] 1d.<sup>5</sup> Although

<sup>1</sup> Oliver's *Lives of the Bishops of Exeter*, p. 300.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 305, as corrected by comparison with the Dean and Chapter MS. No. 3720.

<sup>3</sup> See Hingeston-Randolph's *Transcript of Bishop Bronescombe's Register*, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Oliver's *Monasticon Exoniensis*, p. 195.

<sup>5</sup> Dean and Chapter MS., No. 3675.

not dated it is evident from the names of the witnesses that it was made in 1264: we find in the calendar that his obit was celebrated on June 16. Although I have found no evidence to support it, Dr. M. R. James' suggestion that he was the Henry de Cicestria who was Chancellor of Lincoln from about 1260 to 1268 may be correct, though the date of his charter falling between those two years and containing no reference to that dignity rather militates against it.

As to the MS. itself we might hazard a guess that at some period it was in use at the altar of St. Edmund the Confessor in Exeter Cathedral as the offices for that saint, and for his translation, have been added to the missal by a fifteenth century hand. If so, this is particularly interesting as Edmund Rich, the archbishop, died in 1242 and his remains were translated in 1247. He was afterwards canonized and known as St. Edmund the Confessor. It is, therefore, quite possible that Henry de Cicestria knew him in the flesh, and it is more than probable that he was present at the dedication of the altar in what was afterwards known as St. Edmund's Chapel at the north-west corner of Exeter Cathedral, and which had been practically rebuilt by Bishop Marshall about the year 1200. We know that there was an altar so dedicated before 1283. Should this surmise be correct this Sarum missal may have been removed to the New Treasury about the middle of the fifteenth century as in 1506 the missal in St. Edmund's Chapel was one *printed on vellum*, the gift of John Major who died in 1447.

The point that is rather puzzling is that a missal of the Sarum Use, which differed from the Use of Exeter, should be entered without comment in both the library inventory and in that of the gifts, especially as we find that in 1391 Bishop Brantyngham presented an *Ordinal* of the Sarum Use to the Dean and Chapter desiring that the Cathedral services should conform thereto, but the Canons would accept it only in so far as it did not differ in the special offices for saints' days and the customs and observances which they had sworn to maintain, so the Dean presented a lengthy list of reservations.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps it was to make it conform to these requirements that the additions were made to our missal in the fifteenth century hand.

There can be little doubt that in the magnificent full-page illumina-

<sup>1</sup> See *Hist. MSS. Commission Report*, IV, p. 39.

tion on \*14 the figure in ecclesiastical vestments kneeling on the right and presenting a scroll to the Divine Child is intended to be a portrait of the donor.

That he was a person of wealth and position<sup>1</sup> seems indubitable as the value of such an elaborately illuminated missal must, at that period, have been great, and because his gilded "cuppa" was allowed to hang in such a prominent position in the Cathedral.

In conclusion I ought to mention that the spelling of his name varies, even on the same page of the MS. of the Vicars Choral, but it is most frequently that which I have adopted. There can be no question of the identity of the persons differently named, but we have no means of deciding whether he came from Chichester or Cirencester.

<sup>1</sup> He even appears as "Henry the Canon" in Exeter Corporation Document No. 656, dated February 2, 1253-4, as if he were important enough to be recognized by that designation alone.