

# **BRISTOL MEMORANDA**

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Bristol Memoranda by T. W. Williams

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**T. W. WILLIAMS**

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MEMORANDA**



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# BRISTOL MEMORANDA

Collected  
and arranged by  
T. W. WILLIAMS



J. W. Arrowsmith, Publisher, Bristol  
1908

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## Bristol Memoranda.

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IN working through the Historical MSS. Commission Reports and the Selden Society's volumes for another purpose a number of references to Bristol were met with; these have been extracted as likely to prove of use and interest to the student of the early history of the city.

The various subjects have been collocated and set out, as nearly as may be, in chronological order.

A rough summary of the contents is given:—

- A. References to the Jews in Bristol; disputes as to tolls; records of gifts to churches and other documents giving the names of old Bristol families and officials; local government; distinguished visitors to the wells.
- B. Regulations, &c., as to the forwarding of troops to Ireland; victualling them; details given of times taken by post to London.
- C. Armada—attacks at sea.
- D. Sir Wm. Sharington and the Bristol Mint.
- E. Conveyances, &c., of property.
- F. Clergy, conventicles, &c.
- G. Mercantile and shipping.
- H. The castle; siege of Bristol; local mining.
- K. Relief of poor.
- L. Chatterton.

[To avoid misapprehension, it should be observed that the references indented in blacker type in the left-hand side of the quotations are to the books from which the quotations themselves are respectively taken. The earlier volumes of the Historical MSS. Commission Reports are numbered; the Salisbury MSS. and volumes issued since 1899 are either under the names of the owners or some descriptive title.]





## BRISTOL.

**Selden Soc., XV.** In 1210 John caused the entire Jewish community throughout the kingdom to be arrested and collected at Bristol, where on All Saints' Day (1st Nov.) it was rated for talliage at 66,000 marks. A  
**Select Pleas of the Jewish Exchequer, p. xxiv.**

**Selden Soc., XV., 85.** In 1275 Edward I. caused the Jews of Gloucester to go to Bristol to dwell and abide there thereafter.

**Selden Soc., XV., 120.** In 1282 Aaron of Ireland, Jew, came to the shop of Robert of Arras, goldsmith, and offered him a plate of silver for sale before the eyes of many Xians who were present in the same place; in whose presence the said Robert received the sd plate from the said Jew, and when he had weighed it, charged the said Jew, that the said plate was fused from coin-chippings, and when the sd Jew heard this, he snatched the said plate from the hands of the said Robert, and ran off with it to the bridge over the water which is called Avon, and threw the said plate into the water, being followed by many Christians, who saw what he did; and by reason of the concourse and the general clamour the case came to the Constable's notice, and for that cause he arrested the Jew and detained him in prison, . . . Ultimately he made fine with our Lord the King for release of suit.

**H.M.C.R.** Memorandum that on Sunday before St. A  
**MSS. of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, L. 1. Liber Albus I.** Andrew 1250 William de Beaumont provost of Bristol gave back to H. subdean of Wells one halfpenny taken of Walter son of the late Simon de Heanton his man for toll for a fish sold there, and to John de Derham three farthings taken of three men for wheat &c. sold there; and this was done towards Avene bridge before the seld of William the

goldsmith in the presence of . . . clerk of the toll-house, who read the king's charter before the sd. W. de Beaumont in the street, by these tokens, that the said W. changed a penny with W. the goldsmith for four farthings whereof he handed three to the said John, and the bell was ringing for vespers. And, W. de Beaumont added, after hearing the charter read, that he knew the canon's men should be quit of toll, and if any had to pay it was for want of an oath that they were their villeins. Next day this was repeated in the toll-house by the sub-dean, and after by W. de Beaumont the clerk mayor of the town and several burgesses, and the charter read by Jordan the clerk; whereup the sub-dean and the said John by leave of the mayor &c., withdrew with their toll repaid.

[NOTE.—The names of mayor and provost do not agree with Ricart's Kalendar (*Camden Society*).]

18.

**H.M.C.R.**  
**L. 88.** Grant and bond of the Master and brethren of St. John's hospital Bristol, to maintain the chapel of the Holy Ghost in the churchyard of St. Mary of Radeclive, built by Master Henry Tessun formerly precentor of Wells, canon of Salisbury of the prebend of Bedmynstre, when archdeacon of Bath, who by will appointed that the office of the dead should be therein performed for ever. In recompense for which the executors of the said precentor have given them 63 marks to purchase a perpetual rent towards the repair of their house, the receipt whereof is acknowledged, and in accordance with his will have assigned to them a rent with the appurtenances by the churchyard of Radclive which he purchased of Peter son and heir of Peter the clerk of Bristol for 20 marks, and a rent which he purchased of John Thurbern near the said churchyard, saving the ancient rent of the rector and church of Radeclive from the said lands and messuages, and have rendered to them all charters &c. Three copies of this instrument, one remaining in the said hospital, a second in the treasury of Wells, and the third in the church of Bedminster. Sealed by brother Elyas, master of the said hospital, with his own and the common seal, and by the said archdeacon of Taunton, for the executors. Dated 1254. Sunday after the Epiphany.