

**HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS
COMMISSION. REPORT ON
THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE
CORPORATION OF BEVERLEY**

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Historical Manuscripts Commission. Report on the Manuscripts of the Corporation of Beverley
by Various

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Bot. Brit. HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

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REPORT
ON THE
MANUSCRIPTS
OF
THE CORPORATION OF
BEVERLEY.

Presented to Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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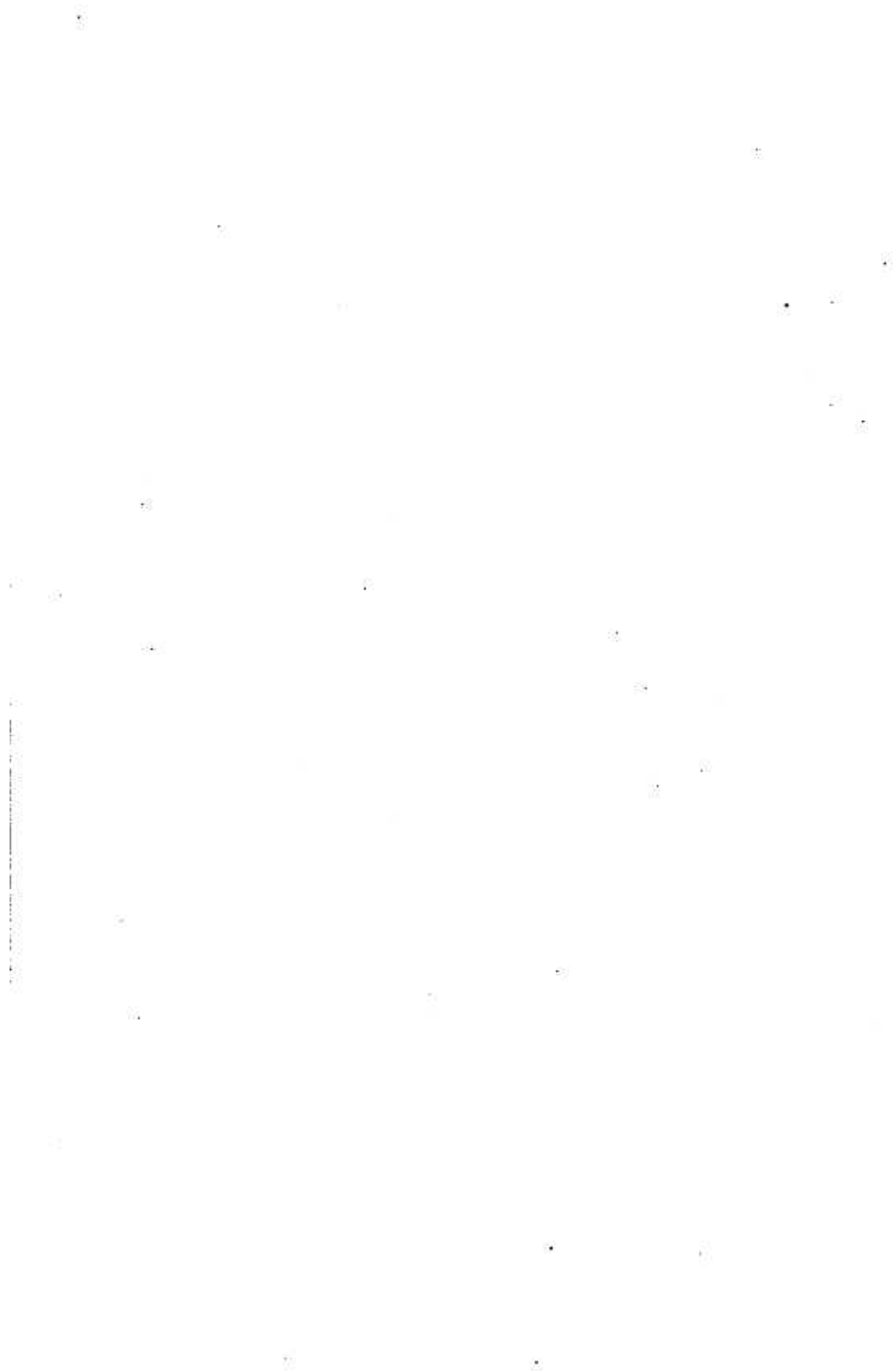
Rec. Mar. 9, 1904.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 3, line 13, for "was the sum actually paid" read "is the sum specified in Archbishop William's charter."

Page 13, line 17, for "accepted" read "excepted."

- " 55, ,, 28, for "1674" read "1572."
- " 60, ,, 17, for "occurs" read "seems."
- " 80, ,, 20, for "gaiters" read "hose."
- " 80, ,, 21, for "Shenmen's" read "Tailors."
- " 89, ,, 35, for "de Celane" read "of Colane [Cologne]."
- " 105, ,, 16, for "gaiters" read "hose."
- " 105, ,, 26, for "Pariaggi" read "Paviaggi."
- " 112, ,, 18, for "Apudie" read "Apud lo."
- " 112, ,, 20, for "capitale" read "Capituli."
- " 121, ,, 3, for "nlegiam" read "plegium."
- " 121, ,, 22, for "Biale" read "Riols."
- " 125, ,, 31
- " 131, ,, 2
- " 135, ,, 33
- " 136, ,, 37
- } for "Conton" read "Couton."
- " 128, ,, 31, for "Baune" read "Bawne."
- " 130, ,, 14, for "carnibus" read "canibus."
- " 130, ,, 39, for "Newebygyng" read "Newebygyng."
- " 132, lines 13, 22, for "Ronthspitell" read "Routhspitell."
- " 133, line 3, for "Vsaconia" read "Vasconia."
- " 135, ,, 36 for "dimidii" read "dimidia."
- " 136, last line, for "Gov." read "Governors."
- " 138, line 27, for "Laugate" read "Lairgate."
- " 141, ,, 26, for "Aldermanus" read "Aldermanno."
- " 143, ,, 14, for "Bogeus" read "Rogerus."
- " 161, last line, for "Feyang" read "Fegang."
- " 169, line 2, for "Henyson's" read "Heryson's."
- " 174, ,, 27, for "or trumpeter?" read "or juggler."



THE RECORDS

OF THE

BOROUGH OF BEVERLEY.

THE records are kept in an upper room in the Town Hall next to and approached from the Council Chamber, through a heavy strong-room door, the key of which is in the custody of the Town Clerk. On the Council Chamber side it is reasonably fireproof, the wall being extremely thick, and probably on the two outer sides, but on one side it is enclosed by a wall only one brick thick; the floor is of stone, and the room below, used by the Police, is not much frequented.

The Charters are in drawers in a press made for the purpose. Documents belonging to charities (which have not been examined) are in similar drawers. The Account Rolls are kept in wooden boxes. The valuable Town Books, together with the miscellaneous documents described below, were, when found, somewhat in disorder.

The extant Records are only a scanty remnant of the magnificent series that once existed, and many were, like the valuable Book of the Provost of Beverley now restored to the Minster, only recovered a few years ago from the executors of a local antiquary, Mr. Gilliatt Sumner.

The Records consist of:—

1. The Charters. A list of these is given in the "History and Antiquities of the Town and Minster of Beverley" by George Oliver, Vicar of Clee, published at Beverley, 1829, at p. 377. It begins with the celebrated Charter of Archbishop Thurstan of York, which has been printed, from Rymer's *Fœdera*, in Bishop Stubbs's *Select Charters* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1870). Most of these Charters have been given with some fulness either in Oliver's History or in the more elaborate "Beverlae, or the Antiquities and History of the Town of Beverley and of the Provostry and Collegiate Establishment of St. John's," by George Poulson, 1829, 2 vols.; or will appear in the Calendars of Patent Rolls or Papal Bulls. They are, therefore, only noticed here so far as they appear in the Town Books. The Corporation possess an elaborate transcript of all these charters in two volumes, with translations on the opposite page, made by W. Illingworth, formerly Deputy Keeper of H.M. Records in the Tower of London, in pursuance of a resolution of the Corporation 5th March, 1810.

The copy of Thurstan's Charter printed by Bishop Stubbs has, however, a good many errors, and the copy of the same Charter given in the Town Chartulary has also errors. As this is (excluding London) one of the oldest Town Charters extant, a corrected copy is now given. It will be found to differ in some particulars from Mr. Illingworth's transcript, especially in the very important particular of the rent charge payable to the Archbishop for the Toll of the Town. It appears that he must have read the Charter wrong through his prepossession by the copy in Rymer's *Fœdera*. The rent is not xviii but viii marks a year. The words unfortunately occur in a much rubbed crease of the charter where it has been, and is, folded; but the reading seems to be not x and viii but v and iii. There is certainly not room before the iii for both v and x.

The Charter is as follows:—

“T. Dei gratiâ Eboracensis Archiepiscopus cunctis Christi fidelibus tara presentibus quam futuris salutem⁽¹⁾, Dei benedictionem et suam.

Notum sit vobis me dedisse et concessisse, et consilio capituli Eboracensis et Beverlacensis et consilio meorum Baronum, mea carta confirmasse hominibus de Beverlaco omnes libertates eisdem legibus quibus illi de Eboraco habent in sua civitate.

Preterea non lateat vos quod dominus H. Rex noster nobis concessit potestatem faciendi h[ec]⁽²⁾ de bona voluntate sua, et sua carta confirmavit statuta nostra et leges nostras juxta formam legum burgensium de Eboraco, salva dignitate et honore Dei et S. Johannis et nostri et canonicorum; ut ita s[cilicet] honorem elemosinarum predecessorum suorum exaltaret et promoveret. Cum omnibus his liberis consuetudinibus, volo ut Burgenses mei de Beverlaco habeant suam Hanshus, quam eis do et concedo ut ibi sua statuta pertractent ad honorem Dei et S. Johannis et Canonicorum, et ad totius villatus emendacionem, eadem libertatis⁽³⁾ lege sicut illi de Eboraco habent in sua Hanshus.

Concedo et⁽⁴⁾ eis teloneum⁽⁵⁾ in perpetuum pro v⁽⁶⁾ et iij^{ss} σ marchis annuatim, preterquam in tribus⁽⁷⁾ festis in quibus teloneum⁽⁸⁾ ad nos et ad Canonicos spectat, in festo s[cilicet] S. Johannis Confessoris in Maio et in festo translacionis S. Johannis et in nativitate S. Johannis Baptiste: in his vero tribus festis omnes Burgenses de Beverlaco ab omni teloneo liberos et quietos dimisi.

Hujus eciam carte testimonio eisdem Burgensibus liberos introitus et exitus concessi, s[cilicet] in villa et extra villam, in plano et bosco et maresio⁽⁹⁾, in viis et in semitis et ceteris convenienciis, exceptis⁽¹¹⁾ pratis et bladis, sicut unquam melius, liberius, et largius aliquis possit concedere et confirmare. Et sciatis quod sunt liberi et quieti ab omni teloneo⁽¹²⁾ per totam schiram Eboraci sicut illi de Eboraco.

Et volo ut quicumque h[ec]⁽¹³⁾ [disfecerit]⁽¹⁴⁾ anathema sit, sicut ipsius ecclesie S. Johannis asserit consuetudo, et sicut statutum est in ecclesia S. Johannis.

Hii sunt testes, Gaufridus⁽¹⁵⁾ Murdoc⁽¹⁶⁾, Nigellus Fossard, [Alanus de]⁽¹⁷⁾ Perci, Walterus Spec⁽¹⁸⁾, Eustachius filius Johannis, Tomas Prepositus, Turstinus Archidiaconus, Herbertus⁽¹⁹⁾ Can[onicus]⁽²⁰⁾ Willelmus filius Tole, Willelmus de⁽²¹⁾ Baius⁽²²⁾, coram tota familia Archiepiscopi clericis et laicis in Eboraco."

The variants printed in Bishop Stubbs' edition are as numbered.

- (1) *et is inserted.*
- (2) *hoc* (the original has only *h'*).
- (3) *liberatam.*
- (4) *etiam.*
- (5) *thelonium.*
- (6) } XVIII. Illingworth has X et VIII. The Town Chartu-
- (7) } lary has VIII, and that was the sum actually paid.
- (8) *iis.*
- (9) *theloneum.*
- (10) *marisco.*
- (11) *excepto in*
- (12) *telonio.*
- (13) *hoc.*
- (14) The word is absolutely illegible here. Illingworth has "discenoit." It may have been plainer 80 years ago.
- (15) { Galfridus Murdae.
- (16) }
- (17) There is no word here now at all. In the copy in the Town Chartulary it is given Abbas de. Illingworth has Alanus de.
- (18) *Es-pec.*
- (19) Herebertus Camerarius. The original is quite clearly
- (20) *can*, not *cam*.
- (21) } Baiocensis. Of course the meaning is the same.
- (22) }

2. Account Rolls of the Keepers or Governors of the Town of Beverley to the time of the formal Incorporation of the Town and the creation of a Mayor by Charter of Queen Elizabeth in 1573. The years for which the accounts are extant are:—

1344	1502
1366	1519
1386	1520
1405	1523
1407	1541
1409	1545
1416	1556
1423	1557
1433	1558
1445	1559
1449	1562
1450	1570
1460	1572
1494	1573
	1574