

The Twenty-Five barons of Magna Carta, 1215

Three lists of the Twenty-Five barons have been known since Blackstone's day:¹ one in the *Chronica Majora* of Matthew Paris,² one in his *Liber Additamentorum*,³ and one in a marginal annotation in a late thirteenth-century collection of law tracts and statutes.⁴ The first two are identical and are based on the same source. The third is the best of the three. It has *Rogerus de Mumbeson* correctly where Matthew Paris erred into the form *Rogerus de Munbrai*.

The Twenty-Five were Richard, earl of Clare, William de Fors, count of Aumale, Geoffrey de Mandeville, earl of Gloucester, Saer de Quincy, earl of Winchester, Henry de Bohun, earl of Hereford, Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk, Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, William Marshal junior, Robert fitz Walter, Gilbert de Clare, Eustace de Vescy, Hugh Bigod, William de Mowbray, the Mayor of London, William de Lanvallei, Robert de Ros, John de Lacy, constable of Chester, Richard de Percy, John fitz Robert, William Malet, Geoffrey de Say, Roger de Montbegon, William of Huntingfield, Richard de Munfichet and William d'Aubigné of Belvoir.

A fourth list which was discovered by Cheney (1968) in a Reading Abbey MS in Lambeth Palace Library can now be added. This is printed below. Like the St Albans versions this list names Roger de Mowbray in error for Roger de Montbegon. It also names the earl of Arundel mistakenly for the count of Aumale.

The list is unique evidence in that it includes quotas of knights against all Twenty-Five except the Mayor of London. These are not feudal quotas, although in a few cases they approximate to them or to the number of knights enfeoffed. It is more likely that they are estimates of the numbers each could bring to bear, if necessary, to enforce the Charter; and it should be borne in mind that in 1215 many knights of uncertain feudal dependence or loyalty are likely to have attached themselves to particular baronial leaders.

¹ See *Law Tracts*, II, xxxii. ² *Chron. Maj.* II, 605. ³ B.M., Cotton, Nero D I, fo. 123.

⁴ B.M., Harleian MS 746, fo. 64.

The memoranda at the head and foot of the list are discussed above, p. 290 and below, p. 406.

Yet another list of the Twenty-Five 'qui sunt iudices in terra Anglia' was copied by Robert Glover.⁵ This has *Rogerus de Montegomerico* for Roger de Montbegon.

Text

Lambeth Palace Library, MS 371, fol. 56^v

Hec sunt nomina baronum qui electi sunt ad observandum omnia que continentur in carta regis secundum demandam baronum.

[column 1] Comes de Clara cum septem⁶ viginti militibus.

Comes de Arundell' cum XL militibus.

Comes Gloucestrie cum CC militibus.

Comes Wintonie cum XL militibus.

Comes Herefordie cum XL militibus.

Comes Rogerus cum quaterviginti militibus.

[column 2] Comes Robertus cum XXX militibus.

Willelmus Marescallus cum CC militibus.

Robertus filius Walteri cum L militibus.

Gilbertus de Clara cum IIII^{xx} militibus.

Eustachius de Vescy cum XXX militibus.

Willelmus de Albeny cum X militibus.

Hugo Bigot cum XX militibus.

[fo. 57 r column 1] Willelmus de Munbray cum IIII^{xx} militibus.

Galfridus de Say cum XV militibus.

Rogerus de Munbray cum X militibus.

Willelmus de Huntingfeld' cum VII militibus.

Ricardus de Monte Fichetto cum XXX militibus.

Willelmus Malet cum X militibus.

[column 2] Robertus de Ros cum XX militibus.

Willelmus de Lanvally cum XV militibus.

Constabularius Cestrie cum XX militibus.

Ricardus de Percy cum X militibus.

Iohannes filius Roberti cum X militibus.

⁵ B.L., Lansdowne MS 229, fo. 96. ⁶ septem MS,? for septies.

Maior⁷ Londonie tradet civitatem Londonie baronibus si forte rex contra cartam suam venire voluerit. Omnes isti comites cum tot militibus et cum communa totius Anglie debent insurgere in regem si forte rex contra cartam suam venire voluerit. Summa militum M C III^{XX} et III.

Printed: *B.J.R.L.*, L, 1968, 307

⁷ The remainder is written across the page.