

documentary and archaeological evidence for the methods used. A writer of c. 1591 whose father and uncle witnessed the Suppression¹ relates that at Roche Abbey, 'when the lead was torn off and cast down into the church the . . . persons that cast the lead into foddors plucked up all the seats in the choir, wherein the monks sat when they said service . . . and burned them, and melted the lead therewithall'.

In the course of the excavations at Fountains Abbey² it was noted that the stalls, screens, and other fittings had apparently been used as fuel to make fires for melting the lead, for here and there were found heaps of ashes, and in the nave part of the furnace where the operation had been conducted. More detailed evidence was obtained in the excavations at Monk Bretton Priory,³ relating to the disposal of the windows. Nearly all the window glass was at a spot outside the north wall of the infirmary kitchen. The pieces of glass were so numerous as to suggest that they had been dumped there. Fragments of window lead were also found mixed with the glass, and these together formed a layer several inches thick. Probably the bulk of this glass was brought from the church by those who were dismantling it at the time of the dissolution of the priory. Evidence of how the lead was separated from the glass is shown by the discovery at the east end of the infirmary of pieces of glass-slag, composed of innumerable pieces of white and coloured glass fused together, suggesting that the glass and leads were thrown into the furnace together, and that when sufficiently heated the lead run off and cast into pigs, and the glass-slag thrown away.

Attention may here be drawn to the facts recorded by Mr. J. A. Knowles⁴ that at the Dissolution, contrary to the generally accepted belief, the windows of monasteries were not destroyed but the glass was carefully collected and sold. At Rievaulx strict orders were given that the stained glass was 'to be layed up under lok and key and out of danger of wastyng and stelyng'. All the window glass was to be graded into three sorts, and only the third quality of plain quarry glass was to be 'taken out of the lede and the lede molten'.

The last discovery to be noted here was at Muchelney Abbey, Somerset,⁵ where the excavations in 1873 exposed the fire-place for melting down the lead. Outside the 'bubble' chapel at the east end of the main apse of the abbey-church the ground had been disturbed to a considerable depth, and the fire-place was in this hollow. It was roughly square, about 1ft. 6in. by 2ft. inside, and built of broken coping-stones taken from the abbey; around the fire-place was much lead which had run into the loose earth.

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A Dunstable Tournament, 1308-9.—Mr. F. B. Stitt contributes the following:—Several copies, made at various dates, of a roll of arms for a tournament held at Dunstable during the second year of Edward II's reign have survived, but when one of these was edited last century by C. E. Long he decided, on the grounds that no tournament was known to have been held there that year, that the original roll must have been incorrectly headed; and that the scribe ought to have written not Dunstable but Stepney, where a notorious political tournament took place about this date: Mr. Wagner, however, has recently considered this substitution gratuitous.⁶ Evidence is available to confirm his suspicions and its source could hardly be more apposite. One of the most

¹ Sir Henry Ellis, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3rd Ser., iii, 34 (1846).

² *Memorials of Fountains*, ii, 146 (Surtees Soc. lxxvii, 1876).

³ J. W. Walker, 'The Priory of St. Mary Magdalene of Monk Bretton', *Yorks. Arch. Soc.*, extra

vol. v (1926), p. 103.

⁴ A. Knowles, *The York School of Glass-Painting* (1936), p. 46.

⁵ *Proc. Somerset Arch. Soc.* xix, 125, with plan.

⁶ For lists of rolls of arms see *A Catalogue of English Mediaeval Rolls of Arms*, pp. 39-40, by

illustrious of jousters at the beginning of the fourteenth century was Sir Giles Argentein, and it is the outlay on fodder for his horse, borne by the reeve of one of the manors of his family, which reveals that a Dunstable tournament took place between Michaelmas 1308 and Midsummer 1309—the account closed about 11th June.¹

The reeve of the manor of Wymondley claims first for oats provided for the horses of Sir John Argentein, his lord, and of Sir Giles, apparently on their way to the tournament, and then for a second issue while they were at Dunstable. Evidence is insufficient to date it precisely with any confidence, but there are indications that it took place about Easter. The reeve of Wymondley, a manor in northern Hertfordshire some 15 miles from Dunstable, had provided grain for the lord and his household while resident on the manor from September 1308 to 19th March 1308/9, that is until about ten days before the Easter feasts. The entries in the reeve's accounts do not state that the journey to Dunstable started from somewhere other than Wymondley, nor that after the tournament the lord returned to that manor. Therefore, as no other starting-point was indicated, it is likely, but no more than likely, that Sir John set out from there: then again, although it may well be that the oats supplied at Dunstable while the tournament was in progress were sufficient to feed the horses during the journey back to Wymondley, the lord in fact may well have journeyed on to some other place. If so, then the most likely date for the journey to Dunstable would be shortly after the 19th March, the last day on which the lord's household drew supplies at Wymondley, and this would have brought the party to Dunstable about the beginning of Easter Week. The rolls of arms reveal that those present at the tournament were the allies of the Earl of Lancaster and that Sir John Argentein was one of the earl's retainers,² so that the tournament whenever it was held seems to have been connected with the baronial opposition to Edward II. In this case an Eastertide tournament in 1309 would have been a prelude to the April Parliament of that year. Perhaps, however, this proves too much: for although tournaments were prohibited 'at Stamford and elsewhere' during Lent, no such order was made about an intended meeting at Dunstable.³ However, the Stamford writ was issued early in February, suggesting that the meeting was anticipated at the beginning of Lent. Thus the date when a tournament was proposed at Stamford does not clash with one held at Dunstable about Easter, and the absence of any attempt on the king's part to prohibit it is in no way proof that the meeting was not intended. If the Dunstable tournament did not obtain sufficient notoriety for mention by a chronicler, which as it was the prelude to a Parliament might have been expected, it should be remembered that the Annals of Dunstable Priory virtually conclude a few years before this date.

Though the indications are therefore (nothing stronger can be postulated) that this hitherto mysterious Dunstable tournament could have been a curtain-raiser to the April Parliament of 1309, it certainly took place between the previous Michaelmas and mid-June of that year.

Extract from reeve's account, manor of Wymondley, 1308-9; issues of oats: 'Item in prebendo dextrariis et aliis equis domini et equo Egidii de Argentem versus Dunstapel ad Tourneamentum de Dunstapelle 6 bus. per 1 talliam. . . . Item liberatum apud Dunstapelle ad tourneamentum 1 qu. per 1 talliam cum prebendo dextrariis.'

A. R. Wagner, 1950; for transcript of one of these by C. E. Long see *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. iv, pp. 61-72 (1837).

¹ Hertfordshire County Record Office 57523.

² Long, *loc. cit.*

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1307-13*, p. 99.