This is the first of two volumes, now covering the heads of religious houses in England and Wales from the tenth-century reform to the death of Edward III, 940–1377. The first volume, by the great master of monastic history, Dom David Knowles, aided by Christopher Brooke and Vera London, was published first in 1972 and was quickly recognised as a major work of reference, noted for its mastery of accurate detail. It has now been brought up to date with substantial addenda and corrigenda by Christopher Brooke.

The 1972 volume covers the period 940–1216, and comprises fully documented, critical lists of monastic superiors, with succinct biographical details. It is an essential foundation for all prosopographical study of the religious history of the period; and the precise chronology which it underpins is invaluable for dating innumerable undated documents. As such, the book is a fundamental tool of medieval research.

The late Dom David Knowles was Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Cambridge, and Fellow of Peterhouse.

C. N. L. Brooke is Dixie Professor Emeritus of Ecclesiastical History, University of Cambridge, and Fellow of Gonville and Caius College.

THE
HEADS OF RELIGIOUS HOUSES
ENGLAND AND WALES
I
940–1216
Second edition

Edited by
DAVID KNOWLES
C. N. L. BROOKE
VERA C. M. LONDON

With new material by
C. N. L. BROOKE
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PREFACE (2001)

The first edition of this book was published in 1972, and rather rapidly went out of print. The publication of David Smith and Vera London’s companion volume II, 1216–1377, makes this an ideal time to bring it back into the light, and I am exceedingly grateful to William Davies and his colleagues in the Cambridge University Press for arranging a reprint. This also provides the opportunity to note the changes and improvements of the past quarter of a century; and I have explained on p. 239 the lay-out and rationale of the Corrigenda and Addenda. Above all, I have listed the many kind friends and colleagues who have helped me. Two names must be repeated here: Vera London, whose work and friendship links the two volumes; and David Smith, who has not only given generous guidance as I contemplated what lay in and beyond 1216 – but helped in many difficulties throughout. To them and to all my helpers I offer my warmest thanks.

Pp. 1–238 are an exact reprint of the edition of 1972, with only some very minor corrections except that the asterisks refer to the Corrigenda, where page numbers to the original text are given before each entry. The reader is warned that minor changes have occurred at page ends in the process of reprinting, in a few cases affecting references in the recent literature.

For all that relates to pre-Conquest nuns and abbesses, see now Sarah Foot, Veiled Women, 2 vols. (Basingstoke, 2000).

C.N.L.B.
PREFACE (1972)

This book has been long in the making. When one of the authors (M. D. K.) first began to study English monastic records in 1929 he adopted the practice, for his own interest and information, of noting any contemporary reference to an abbot or prior. He took for his limiting dates 1066 and 1216. In the event, the opening date has been pushed back to 940, the refoundation of Glastonbury which heralded the great revival. The entries were made in a series of large notebooks, divided among the orders with a page for each house. When, about 1931, the names had already accumulated in some strength, the compiler, on a visit to Cambridge, called upon Dr (later Professor) Z. N. Brooke in his house in Milton Road to tell him of this and other projects which were under way. Dr Brooke was, as always, courteous and helpful, but did not appear to take any special interest in the lists. In due course, however, when correspondence passed, he began to send notes of abbots he had come across in his own reading. At last in May, 1942, a formal suggestion of collaboration was made by M. D. K. and accepted by Dr Brooke. This was followed by a meeting in London, which was attended by C. N. L. B., still a schoolboy, but already interested in problems of chronology. The Brookes carried off the notebooks to transcribe them, and C. N. L. B. left them on the top of a bus. Fortunately, a swift pursuit on foot led to their recovery; and the pursuit has continued ever since, though rarely at the original pace or with the same hazard. Transcripts of the notebooks were made by Z. N. Brooke with his son's help, and the lists continued to grow until Dr Brooke's death in October 1946. After 1946, M. D. K. (now resident at Peterhouse, Cambridge) and C. N. L. B. (from 1950 to 1956 a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge) continued the collection, and a beginning was made in the pillaging of manuscript material.

So far, there had been no thought of proximate publication, if only because the time spent in checking references and examining the many sources still untapped was more than two academic historians, fairly busy with other work, could afford. In 1956 C. N. L. B. moved to Liverpool, and in due course the Secretaries in the School of History there (and later, in Westfield College, University of London) gave valuable help in typing lists and notes. The event, however, which made publication possible was the entry into the collaboration of Vera London in 1962. It has been her contribution to introduce system into the plan, to put the lists first into something approaching final shape, and then, after further revision by all three editors, to prepare for the printer and type the large majority of them; also to complete the sifting of documentary areas only partly covered, especially public records and printed and unprinted fines. In early days...
M. D. K. worked alone: in the later years a greater part of the task has fallen on C. N. L. B. and V. L.; but the collaboration has been very close throughout, and information has been thrown into the pool by all three when it came to hand. The pre-Conquest sections of the lists have been mainly the work of C. N. L. B.; otherwise our shares cannot now be distinguished. Thus gradually the work, from being desultory and occasional, became more thorough and methodical; but we are all aware, even so, that without unstinting help from many others this book could never have been effectively completed.

At the base of our enterprise lies a collection of notes originally made entirely from primary sources. In the sequel, we have made full use of the work of innumerable predecessors in this work as well as of the generous collaborators listed below. This we gladly and fully acknowledge (see pp. ix–x); the value of the book, such as it may have, depends on the very extensive collaborative effort over many centuries which lies behind it. Yet it also depends in a great measure on the accuracy and completeness of its reference to essential primary sources (see p. 19). Even where we have depended most on others’ work, we have always tried to cite the original source, so as to make clear the foundation of all the lists, and to save needless recourse to secondary literature – though we have also tried to make clear when the secondary literature is especially useful and necessary. The ultimate responsibility for all the references is ours; we are only too fully aware that this book will prove to have many shortcomings – omissions and errors, and even the continued existence of some ‘ghost’ heads of whom it has been our task to eliminate as many as possible. We have neither sought nor desired perfection; we have tried to lay out for the use of other scholars the best lists that we could provide, without further, and possibly indefinite, delay.

First among our fellow-workers must be named the late Professor Z. N. Brooke, partner in the first collaboration, whose work in the early years added considerably to the value of many lists, and whose inspiration has been with us throughout the enterprise. Next, Sir Charles Clay, who has already published lists for many Yorkshire houses, and who added to an already considerable weight of debt by providing draft lists of almost all the others, checking various versions of our own lists and answering numerous queries. We have had a similar collaboration with Dr Diana Greenway, who has prepared lists of the Cathedral priors for the new edition of Le Neve; with Dr Marjorie Chibnall, with whom we exchanged drafts when she was preparing lists for the Victoria History of Shropshire; and with Mrs Vivien Brown and Dr Christopher Holdsworth, who are editing the cartulary of Eye priory and the charters of Rufford abbey. Our list for Tavistock is based on Professor H. P. R. Finberg’s. These names must be singled out, since although we contributed much to these lists independently, these scholars provided the basis for the lists of these houses printed here (see p. 17); and with them Professor Dorothy Whitelock, who generously undertook to read the pre-Conquest
sections, and provided us with invaluable notes and advice. Yet scarcely less is the debt we owe to Professor R. B. Pugh, Editor of the Victoria County Histories, since he and his colleagues readily arranged exchange of information for lists under way for volumes of the VCH Middlesex and Staffordshire (since published); for help with the Staffordshire houses we owe our thanks too to Mr W. Greenslade, Mr C. R. Elrington, and Dr Chibnall, and the Reverend J. C. Dickinson, also our helper in many other ways. For all Premonstratensian houses, we had a basis in Mr H. M. Colvin’s White Canons in England. For Burscough, Buckfast, Quarr and St Mary’s York we have had the benefit of help from Mr A. N. Webb, Dom John Stephan, Dom S. F. Hockey, and Dom Alberic Stacpoole. Mrs G. Keir and Dr David Smith have devoted much time to providing notes and checking references for us; they have given us new evidence and saved us from many errors; and Dr Smith and Professor Kathleen Major have been generous in providing notes for Lincolnshire houses and Lincoln Cathedral dignitaries. Professor Francis Wormald gave us much help in pursuit of calendars and the like. Generous help and advice have come too from Mr H. N. Blakiston, Dr Rosalind Brooke, Professor C. R. Cheney, Mrs M. G. Cheney, Dr G. R. C. Davis, Miss J. Foster, Dr B. R. Kemp, Dr J. Lally, Dr D. J. A. Matthew, Dom Adrian Morey, Mr R. G. Parker, Mrs U. Rees, Dr M. Richter, Mr John Saltmarsh, Professor P. H. Sawyer, Miss M. Screech, Miss B. SoRelle, Dom Aelred Watkin, and, in sorting and arranging the lists, from C. N. L. B.’s youngest son, Patrick Brooke. To the staff of the Cambridge University Press we are greatly indebted for their skill and help. Dr R. N. Hadcock has collaborated with M. D. K. over many years in successive editions of Medieval Religious Houses, England and Wales: in innumerable ways his ready help has been given to this book too. Dr D. Oschinsky and Dr Greenway have most generously helped with the proofs.

Finally, many Librarians and Archivists have helped us in crucial ways: among these particular mention should be made of Mrs Cotterill (formerly of the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester), Miss Penelope Morgan (Hereford Cathedral), Mrs Dorothy Owen (Ely Diocesan Records), Mrs Joan Varley (formerly of the Lincolnshire Archives Office), Mrs M. E. Welch (Nottingham University), M. I. Cloulas (Archives Départementales, Eure), Dr F. G. Emmison (former County Archivist of Essex), Mr Peter Gwynn (Winchester College), Mr B. C. Jones (Cumberland, Westmorland and Carlisle Record Office), Mr M. F. Messenger (Shrewsbury Borough Library), Mr David Michelmore (Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds), Miss A. Oakley (formerly Kent Record Office, now Canterbury Cathedral), Dr L. A. Parker (Leicestershire Record Office), Dr F. Taylor (John Rylands Library); and Dr W. Urry (formerly Canterbury Cathedral).

January 1972

M. D. K.  C. N. L. B.  V. L.
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This list omits MSS used only for Anglo-Saxon chts. in Appendix iii.

Aberdeen University Library, MS 137: Gregory the Great, etc., from London, St Paul’s.
Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, MS 7851D: Ctl. Shrewsbury, Davis, no. 895.
Peniarth MS 396: Ctl. Burton, Davis, no. 93.
Berkeley Castle Muniments, Trustees of the Berkeley Estates, Ctl. Bristol (Microfilm in Bodleian Library), Davis, no. 77.
   391: Worcester Cathedral Psalter.
Cambridge, King’s College Muniments 2. W/2, 6, 7, 11, 15–18.
   B. 9.
Cambridge, St John’s College, MS 236: Council of 1075.
Cambridge, Sidney Sussex College, MS 93: Miracles of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Cambridge University Library (CUL) MSS Dd. iii. 87, art. 20: Ctl. Owston, Davis, no. 738.
   Dd. viii. 2: Calendar of Kington St Michael.
   Ee. iii. 60: Ctl. Bury St Edmunds, Davis, no. 119.
   Gg. iii. 21: Missal and calendar of Tewkesbury.
   Kk. i. 22: Martyrology of Abingdon.
   Mm. ii. 20: Ctl. Bromholm, Davis, no. 79.
   Mm. iv. 19: Ctl. Bury St Edmunds, Davis, no. 118.
   Add. MSS 3020–1: Ctl. Thorney (Red Book), Davis, no. 984.
   4220: Ctl. Bury St Edmunds, Davis, no. 110.
Canterbury Cathedral, Dean and Chapter Muniments, Chartae Antiquae, M. 20, R. 50. Eastry Correspondence, Group III, no. 25.
Reg. E, Davis, no. 168.
Carlisle Cathedral, Dean and Chapter Library: 17th cent. transcript of Ctl. Lanercost, Davis, no. 526.
   T/B3: Ctl. Tilty, cf. Davis, no. 971.
Dublin, Trinity College Library, MS E. 5. 15: Ctl. Torre, Davis, no. 978.

1 Photostats in Peterborough Cathedral Library (Mellows Collection).

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Durham Cathedral, Dean and Chapter Muniments, 1. 1. Arch. 8; 2. 2. 4. Ebor. 57–61, 63; 2. 4. Ebor. 41; 3. 1. Pont. iii; 3. 2. 4. Ebor. 45; 4. 2. 4. Ebor. 4; 4. 1. Pont. 5.
Cartularium ii, iii, Davis, nos. 328–30.
Reg. n. iii.
Durham Cathedral Library, MSS B. ii. 35: Ch. Durham.
B. iv. 24: Martyrology of Durham.
Ely, see Cambridge University Library.
Eton College Muniments, see Modbury, p. 105.
Eure, Archives Départementales, ii. F. 2463: Ctl. Wootton Wawen.
Exeter Cathedral Library, MS 3518: Exeter Martyrology.
Exeter City Archives, Muniment Book 531A: Ctl. Exeter, St John’s, Davis, no. 393.
Forde Abbey, MS of G. D. Roper, Esq.: Ctl. Forde, Davis, no. 409.
Gloucester Cathedral Library, Reg. A, Davis, no. 455.
Seals and Documents, v. 1.
Hereford Cathedral, Dean and Chapter Archives, no. 1834.
Leeds, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, MS 542; Ctl. Hexham, Davis, no. 485.
Lexington, Kentucky, MS 091-M. 313 (photostat in Ipswich Borough Reference Library): Ctl. Ipswich, St Peter and St Paul, Davis, no. 500.
Lincoln Cathedral, Dean and Chapter Muniments, Dij/74/1/1.
Lincolnshire Archives Office, 2 Anc. 1/1/7; 2 Anc. 1/1/100; 3 Anc. 2/1; 5 Anc. 1/1/3.
 Transcript of Ctl. Newhouse (earl of Yarborough), Davis, no. 690.
And see Spalding.
London, British Museum (BM) [now British Library]
Additional Charters: 6104; 6109; 10,594; 15,185; 15,470; 15,694; 20,512; 21,205; 21,278; 22,380; 22,563; 28,231; 28,333–4; 28,360; 28,362; 28,364; 28,396; 28,398; 47,483–4; 47,601; 47,629; 47,631; 47,633; 47,634; 47,640; 47,645–6; 47,834; 47,934; 47,958; 48,145; 48,490;
49,068; 49,117–18; 74,470.
4934: Peck transcripts, esp. part of Collectanea Anglo-Praemonstratensia (ed. Gasquet).
5804: Cole transcript, Cole MS 3.
5948: Ctl. Langley, Davis, no. 528.
6118: Collections of Gervase Holles (17th cent.), esp. Thornton list.
6671: One of A. Wolley’s collections for Derbyshire (18th and 19th cent.).
8172: Collections for History of Suffolk, presented by Hudson Gurney (1830).
15,314: Ctl. St Denys, Southampton, Davis, no. 906.
15,320: Ctl. Winchester, Davis, no. 1042.
18,461: Ctl. Newent, Davis, no. 689.
19,690: Collections for the History of Suffolk of D. E. Davy.
29,436: Ctl. Winchester Cathedral, Davis, no. 1043 (with fragment of calendar).
33,354: 18th cent. transcript of Ctl. Haughmond.
35,295: Collection of historical works etc., by a canon of Kenilworth (12th cent.).
36,872: Ctl. Felley, Davis, no. 402.
40,000: Liber Vitae of Thorney, including Ann.
40,725: Ctl. Blythburgh, Davis, no. 60.
46,362 (T): Ctl. Royston, Davis, no. 826.
47,784: Ctl. Coxford, Davis, no. 281.
68: Martyrology of Canterbury Cathedral, Davis, no. 187.
135: Calendar of Canterbury Cathedral.
Campbell Charters, x, 7, xv, 2.
Cotton Charters, v, 6 (2); viii, 10; xi, 10; xxi, 5; xiv, 65.
Rolls, iv, 57; xiii, 6, 26.
Cotton MSS: Appendix xxi: Ctl. Stoke by Clare, Davis, no. 933.
Augustus ii, 6, 136 (charters).
Calig. A. viii: Calendar and obituary of Beauchief.
Calig. A. xii: Ctl. Pipewell, Davis, no. 776.
Claud. B. iii: Ctl. York Minster, Davis, no. 1086.
Claud. B. iv: Ch. Durham.
Claud. C. vi: Fragment of Canterbury obituary
Claud. D. iii: Obituary of Wintney.
Claud. D. xii: Ctl. Binham, Davis, no. 36.
Cleop. C. iii: Collections of F. Thynne, Ann. Little Dunmow.
Cleop. C. viii: Ctl. and list Merton, Davis, no. 662.
Domit. A. iii: Ctl. Leominster, Davis, no. 552.
Faust. A. ii: Compotus etc., with historical notes from Sherborne.
Galba E. ii: Ctl. Hulme, Davis, no. 497.
Julius A. i: Ctl. Chatteris, Davis, no. 221.
Julius A. x: Miracula S. Oswini.
Julius D. ii: Ctl. and list Canterbury, St Augustine, Davis, no. 102.
Julius D. iii: Ctl. St Albans, Davis, no. 837.
Julius D. vii: Collection from St Albans (John of Wallingford, etc.).
Julius D. x: Ch. Llanthony.
**MANUSCRIPTS REFERRED TO**

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<td>Vespasian E. ii: Ctl. Ramsey, Davis, no. 787.</td>
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<td>Vespasian E. v: Calendar Reading.</td>
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<td>Vespasian E. xvii: Ctl. Northampton, St Andrew, Davis, no. 700.</td>
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<td>Vespasian E. xxii: Reg. Peterborough, Davis, no. 766.</td>
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<td>Vitellius A. i: Ctl. Combe, Davis, no. 274.</td>
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<td>Vitellius A. x: De abbatibus, Malmesbury.</td>
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<td>Vitellius A. xi: Ctl. Bradenstoke, Davis, no. 66.</td>
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<td>Vitellius C. xii: Martyrology of Canterbury, St Augustine’s.</td>
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<td>Vitellius D. ix: Ctl. (and list) Exeter, St Nicholas, Davis, no. 392.</td>
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<td>Vitellius F. xvii: Ctl. Leicester (with list), Davis, no. 549.</td>
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<td>2823: Ctl. Byland, Davis, no. 142.</td>
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<td>2849: Mortuary roll of Lucy, prioress of Castle Hedingham.</td>
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3031: Ctl. Reading, Davis, no. 801.
3126: Ctl. Stanlow, Davis, no. 1028.
3137: Ctl. Blackborough, Davis, no. 57.
3140: Calendar and Ctl. Eye, Davis, no. 398.
3316: Ctl. Stanlow, Davis, no. 213.
3317: Ctl. Blackborough, Davis, no. 57.
3667: Ctl. Wombridge, Davis, no. 398.
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3137: Ctl. Blackborough, Davis, no. 57.
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3316: Ctl. Stanlow, Davis, no. 213.
3112: Calendar and Ctl. Eye, Davis, no. 398.
3140: Calendar and Ctl. Eye, Davis, no. 398.
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London, British Museum, Royal MSS (cont.)
Sloane Roll xxxi. 4: Ctl. Basset of Weldon, Davis, no. 1188A.
Stowe Charter 504.
Stowe MSS: 882: Ctl. of John Blaunchard, Davis, no. 1196.
925: Ctl. Bradenstoke, Davis, no. 67.
937: Ctl. Pipewell, Davis, no. 773.
941: Ctl. St Neots, Davis, no. 860.
Topham Charter 13.
Wolley Charter i. 43.
42: MS of Florence (John of Worcester), from Abingdon.
196a: Custumal and calendar, Peterborough.
584: Henry Wharton’s transcripts (17th cent.): list and Ann. Merton; list, Dover.
719: Ctl. Launceston, Davis, no. 542.
1131: Ctl. Harbledown, Davis, no. 470.
1212: Ctl. see of Canterbury, Davis, no. 159.
London, Public Record Office (PRO)
Assize Rolls, (JI)
31/9/16: Ch. Sempringham, in Transcripts from Rome.
C33/81: Charter roll, 23 Edward I.
A9: K1/6679 (Davis, no. 530).
CP5(1)/203/File 2, 30.
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DL. 27/3 (Deed).
E 40 (Anc. Deeds, Series A, Exchequer, T.R.)/217, 241, 2383, 2389, 2907, 3013, 3316, 3357,
3529, 3706, 5273, 5785, 8897, 13,850(6), 14,021, 14,208.
E 164/20: Ctl. Godstow, Davis, no. 462.
E 164/20: Ctl. Langdon, Davis, no. 527.
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