

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES
IN
MEDIEVAL LIFE AND THOUGHT

Edited by G. G. COULTON, M.A.
Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge
and University Lecturer in English

ENGLISH
MONASTIC FINANCES
IN THE
LATER MIDDLE AGES

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ENGLISH
MONASTIC FINANCES
IN THE
LATER MIDDLE AGES

BY

R. H. SNAPE, M.A.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1926

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages
R. H. Snape
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107455542

© Cambridge University Press 1926

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1926

First paperback edition 2014

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-45554-2 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

GENERAL PREFACE

THERE is only too much truth in the frequent complaint that history, as compared with the physical sciences, is neglected by the modern public. But historians have the remedy in their own hands; choosing problems of equal importance to those of the scientist, and treating them with equal accuracy, they will command equal attention. Those who insist that the proportion of accurately ascertainable facts is smaller in history, and therefore the room for speculation wider, do not thereby establish any essential distinction between truth-seeking in history and truth-seeking in chemistry. The historian, whatever be his subject, is as definitely bound as the chemist "to proclaim certainties as certain, falsehoods as false, and uncertainties as dubious." Those are the words, not of a modern scientist, but of the seventeenth century monk, Jean Mabillon; they sum up his literary profession of faith. Men will follow us in history as implicitly as they follow the chemist, if only we will form the chemist's habit of marking clearly where our facts end and our inferences begin. Then the public, so far from discouraging our speculations, will most heartily encourage them; for the most positive man of science is always grateful to anyone who, by putting forward a working theory, stimulates further discussion.

The present series, therefore, appeals directly to that craving for clearer facts which has been bred in these times of storm and stress. No care can save us altogether from error; but, for our own sake and the public's we have elected to adopt a safeguard dictated by ordinary business common-sense. Whatever errors of fact are pointed out by reviewers or correspondents shall be publicly corrected with the least possible delay. After a year of publication, all copies shall be provided with such an erratum-slip without waiting for the chance of a second edition; and each fresh volume in this series shall contain a full list of the errata noted in its immediate predecessor. After the lapse of a year from the first publication of any volume, and at any

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

GENERAL PREFACE

time during the ensuing twelve months, any possessor of that volume who will send a stamped and addressed envelope to the Cambridge University Press, Fetter Lane, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4, shall receive, in due course, a free copy of the *errata* in that volume. Thus, with the help of our critics, we may reasonably hope to put forward these monographs as roughly representing the most accurate information obtainable under present conditions. Our facts being thus secured, the reader will judge our inferences on their own merits; and something will have been done to dissipate that cloud of suspicion which hangs over too many important chapters in the social and religious history of the Middle Ages.

G. G. C.

October, 1922.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

THE following essay was awarded the Prince Consort Prize in 1912. Its publication has been delayed mainly in the hope that it might be possible to remedy, in part at least, its manifest incompleteness, especially by an examination of the methods of monastic estate management, the economic position of the nunneries, the position of the monasteries as regards taxation, and the authority of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* as a complete statement of the financial position of the monasteries at the Dissolution. This would have involved, *inter alia*, a rehandling of the monastic accounts already printed, and some inspection of the great number still unpublished, and it has proved impossible to carry out the investigations necessary. The essay is therefore printed in the hope that the collection of information which it contains may, so far as it goes, prove of some interest to other students of monastic history. A few passages have been rewritten, and reference has been made in a few cases to material published since 1912, but the essay remains substantially as originally written.

The main authorities consulted are as follows:

- Bond, Sir E. A. *Chronica Monasterii de Melsa*. 3 vols. (Rolls Series.)
 Burton, John. *Monasticon Eboracense*.
 Capes, W. W. *The English Church in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries*.
 ——— *Registrum Ricardi de Swinfield, Episcopi Herefordensis*. (Canterbury and York Society Publications.)
 Chapman, F. R. *Sacrist Rolls of Ely*.
 Clark, J. W. *The Observances in use at the Augustinian Priory of S. Giles and S. Andrew at Barnwell*.
 Coulton, G. G. *Medieval Studies*.
 Delisle, L. *Calendar of Papal Letters*. Vols. I–V.
 ——— *La Fortune de l'Ordre de St-Benoît*.
 Duckett, Sir G. F. *Visitations of English Cluniac Foundations*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

PREFACE

- Dugdale, Sir W. *Monasticon Anglicanum*. Ed. Caley, Ellis and Bandinel.
- Ely Registers. Summary published in *Ely Diocesan Remembrancer*.
- Fowler, J. T. *Extracts from the Account Rolls of the Abbey of Durham*. 3 vols. (Surtees Society.)
- *Rites of Durham*.
- *Cistercian Statutes 1256–7*.
- Gasquet, F. A. *English Monastic Life*.
- Griffiths, Rev. R. G. *Registrum Thome de Cantilupo, Episcopi Herefordensis*.
- Heales, A. *The Records of Merton Priory* (Surrey).
- Hingeston-Randolph, Rev. F. C. Episcopal Registers. Diocese of Exeter.
- Jessopp, A. *Visitations of the Diocese of Norwich*. (Camden Society.)
- Kitchin, G. W. *Compotus Rolls of the Obedientiaries of St Swithun's Priory, Winchester*.
- Labbé, Philippe. *Sacrosancta Concilia*.
- Macray, W. D. *Chronicon Abbatiae de Evesham, ad annum 1418*.
- Matthew Paris. *Chronica Majora*. (Rolls Series.)
- Pirenne, H. *Polyptyque et comptes de l'Abbaye de Saint-Trond*.
- Rackham, R. B. *The Nave of Westminster*.
- Raine, J. *The Inventories and Account Rolls of the Benedictine Houses or cells of Jarrow and Monk-Wearmouth*. (Surtees Society.)
- *The charters, etc., of the Priory of Finchale, 1837*. (Surtees Society.)
- Reynerus, C. *Apostolatus Benedictinorum in Anglia* (1626).
- Rigaudus, Odo. *Regestrum Visitationum Archiepiscopi Rothomagensis*.
- Rokewode, J. G. *Jocelinus de Brakelonda*. (Camden Society.)
- Salter, Rev. H. E. *Eynsham Cartulary*. (Oxford Historical Society.)
- Savine, A. N. *English Monasteries on the eve of the Dissolution*.
- Stevenson, J. *De Obedientiariis Abbatiae Abbendoniensis* (Chronicle of Abingdon, Rolls Series, Vol. II, Appendix IV).
- Stewart, D. J. *Liber Eliensis*.
Victoria County Histories.
- Whitaker, T. D. *The history and antiquities of the Deanery of Craven, in the County of York*.
- *An history of the original Parish of Whalley, and Honor of Clitheroe, in the Counties of Lancaster and York*.
- Wilkins, D. *Concilia Magnae Britanniae et Hiberniae*.
Worcester Account Rolls, edited by J. M. Wilson, C. Gordon, and S. G. Hamilton.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

ix

I am under a heavy debt of gratitude to Mr G. G. Coulton both for the suggestion of the subject of this essay, for continual advice as to reading and help in the solution of difficulties, for the use of much material otherwise difficult of consultation (notably the Register of Odo Rigaldi) as well as for the general information on the subject of monasticism given in his various publications, and in the Birkbeck Lectures of 1911. How heavy my debt has been will be readily apparent from the following pages.

I have to thank my colleague, Mr E. T. S. Wheeler, for his assistance in reading the essay in proof.

R. H. S.

October, 1925.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-45554-2 - English Monastic Finances in the Later Middle Ages

R. H. Snape

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	I
CHAPTER I. <i>The Monastic Population</i>	6
CHAPTER II. <i>The Monastic Organisation</i>	23
CHAPTER III. <i>The Monastic Revenues</i>	71
CHAPTER IV. <i>Aspects of Monastic Expenditure</i>	95
CHAPTER V. <i>Monastic Debt</i>	119
CHAPTER VI. <i>The Material Comfort of Monastic Life</i>	153
APPENDIX A. <i>The Cluniac Houses, 1262–1279</i>	176
APPENDIX B. <i>The Province of Rouen, 1248–1269.</i>	178
APPENDIX C. <i>The Bursary</i>	182
INDEX	183