

THE ROYAL CHARTERS OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN

CHARTER OF KING HENRY II.

[1157.]

HENRICUS Rex Anglorum et Dux Normannorum et Aquitanorum et Comes Andegavorum Episcopo Lincolnensi Justiciariis Vicecomitibus Baronibus Ministris et omnibus fidelibus suis Francis et Anglis Lincolnscire ✓ Salutem.

Sciatis me concessisse Ciuibus meis Lincolie omnes libertates et consuetudines et leges suas quas habuerunt tempore Eduardi et Willelmi et Henrici Regum Anglie. et Gildam suam mercatoriam. de hominibus Ciuitatis et de aliis mercatoribus Comitatus ✓ sicut illam habuerunt tempore predictorum antecessorum meorum Regum Anglie melius et liberius. Et omnes homines qui infra quatuor diuisas Ciuitatis manent et mercatum deducunt ✓ sint ad Geldas et Consuetudines et Asisas Ciuitatis ✓ sicut melius fuerunt tempore Eduardi

HENRY King of the English and Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians and Count of the Angevins to the Bishop of Lincoln, to the justices, sheriffs, barons, ministers and all his faithful men of Lincolnshire French and English greeting.

Know ye that I have granted to my citizens of Lincoln all their liberties and customs and laws which they had in the time of Edward and William and Henry, Kings of England, and their merchant-guild of the men of the city and of other merchants of the county as they had it in the time of the aforesaid my ancestors Kings of England better and more freely. And let all men who dwell within the four wards of the city and frequent the market be subject to the gelds and customs and assises of the city as they best were

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et Willelmi et Henrici Regum Anglie. Concedo etiam eis quod si aliquis emerit aliquam terram infra Ciuitatem de Burgagio Lincolie et eam tenuerit per annum et unum diem sine Calumpnia. et ille qui eam emerit possit monstrare quod Calumpniator extiterit in Regione Anglie infra annum et non Calumpniatus est eam ✓ extunc in antea bene et in pace teneat eam et sine placito. Confirmo etiam eis quod si aliquis manserit in Ciuitate mea Lincolie per annum et unum diem sine Calumpnia alicujus Calumpniatoris, et dederit Consuetudines Ciuitatis, et Ciues poterint monstrare per leges et Consuetudines Ciuitatis quod Calumpniator ex[titer]it in Regione Anglie et non Calumpniatus est eum ✓ extunc in antea remaneat in pace in Ciuitate mea Lincolie sicut Ciuis meus sine placito.

Testibus, Philippo Episcopo Baiocensi, Ernulpho Episcopo Lexouensi, Toma Cancellario, Comite Reginaldo, Ricardo de Huñ Constabulario, H. de Essex Constabulario. Apud Notingeham.

in the time of Edward and William and Henry, Kings of England. I grant also to them that if any one shall have bought any land within the city of the Burgage of Lincoln and shall have held it for a year and a day without challenge, and he who shall have bought it be able to show that the challenger had been in the realm of England within a year and has not challenged it, then from that time forward let him hold it well and in peace and without plea. I confirm also to them that if any one shall have dwelt in my city of Lincoln for a year and a day without challenge of any challenger and shall have paid the customs of the city, and the citizens can have shown by the laws and customs of the city that the challenger was in the realm of England and had not challenged him, then from that time forward let him remain in peace in my city of Lincoln as my citizen without plea.

Witnesses: Philip, Bishop of Bayeux; Ernulph, Bishop of Lisieux; Thomas the Chancellor, Count Reginald, Richard de Humez, the Constable; H[enry] de Essex, the Constable. At Nottingham.

CHARTER OF KING RICHARD I.

[23 April, 5th year, 1194.]

Charta Regis Ricardi primi exemplificata in anno xj^o
 Regis Henrici tercij.

RICARDUS Dei gratia Rex Anglorum dux Normannorum et Aquitannorum Comes Andegavorum Archiepiscopis Episcopis Abbatibus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus Ministris et omnibus ballivis et fidelibus suis tam Francis quam Anglis salutem.

Sciatis nos concessisse civibus nostris Lincolnie quod nullus eorum placitet extra civitatem Lincolnie de aliquo placito preter placita de tenuris exterioribus exceptis monetariis et ministris nostris.

Concessimus etiam eis quietanciam murdri infra civitatem et in portsoca Et quod nullus eorum faciat duellum Et quod de placitis ad coronam pertinentibus se possint dirationare secundum consuetudinem civium civitatis Londonie Et quod infra civitatem illam nemo capiat hospicium per vim vel per liberacionem marescalli.

The Charter of King Richard the First exemplified in the eleventh year of King Henry the Third.

RICHARD by the grace of God King of the English, Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians, Count of the Angevins, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, ministers and to all his bailiffs and faithful men both French and English greeting.

Know ye that we have granted to our citizens of Lincoln that no one of them plead without the city of Lincoln concerning any plea except the pleas of outer tenures excepting our moneyers and ministers.

We have granted also to them quittance of murder within the city and in the Portsoken. And that no one of them make duel. And that concerning pleas appertaining to the crown they may justify themselves according to the custom of the citizens of the city of London And that within that city no one take hospice by force or by delivery of the marshal.

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Hoc etiam eis concessimus quod omnes cives Lincolnie sint quieti de theolonio et lastagio per totam Angliam et per portus maris Et quod nullus de misericordia pecunie iudicetur nisi secundum legem quam habent cives nostri Londonie Et quod in civitate illa in nullo placito sit mescanninga Et quod burwardmote semel tantum¹ in ebdomada teneatur Et quod terre et tenure et vadia sua et debita sua omnimoda juste habeant quicumque eis debeat Et de terris suis et tenuris que infra civitatem sunt rectum eis teneatur secundum consuetudinem civitatis Et de omnibus debitis suis que accommoda[ta] fuerint apud Lincolniam et de vadiis ibidem factis placita apud Lincolniam teneantur Et si quis in tota Anglia theolonium vel consuetudinem ab hominibus Lincolnie ceperit postquam ipse a recto defecerit prepositus Lincolnie namium apud Lincolniam capiat.

Insuper etiam ad emendacionem illius civitatis eis concessimus quod sint quieti de bridtoll et Cildwyte et de Giercegreve et Scotale ita quod prepositus nec alius ballivus scotalem faciat.

Has predictas consuetudines eis concessimus et omnes alias

This also we have granted to them that all the citizens of Lincoln be quit of toll and lastage throughout the whole of England and throughout the sea-ports. And that no one be adjudged liable to a fine of money unless in accordance with the law which our citizens of London have. And that in that city there be in no plea miscalting. And that the Burghwardmote be held only once weekly. And that their lands and tenures and wages and all manner of their debts be held justly whoever owes them anything. And that concerning their lands and tenures which are within the city right be accorded to them according to the custom of the city. And concerning all their debts which shall have been contracted at Lincoln and concerning wages there made pleas be held at Lincoln. And if any one in the whole of England shall have taken toll or custom from the men of Lincoln after that he shall have failed in the right the provost of Lincoln is to take the distress at Lincoln.

Moreover also for the improvement of that city we have granted to them that they be quit of bridtoll and childwite and year's-gift and scotale so that no provost or other bailiff levy scotale.

We have granted to them these aforesaid customs and all other the

¹ *tamen*, MS., but this is an error for *tantum*; see later charters wherein this one is recited.

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libertates et liberas consuetudines quas habuerunt vel habent cives nostri Londonie quando meliores vel liberiores habuerunt secundum libertates Londonie et leges civitatis Lincolnie.

Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus quod ipsi et heredes eorum hec omnia predicta habeant et teneant hereditarie de nobis et heredibus nostris.

Reddendo per annum novies viginti libras numero¹ de Lincolnia cum omnibus pertinentiis ad scaccarium nostrum duobus terminis ad Pascha videlicet et ad festum Sancti Michaelis per manum prepositi Lincolnie et cives Lincolnie faciant prepositum quem voluerint de se per annum qui sit idoneus nobis et eis.

Testibus hiis H. W. Archiepiscopo Willelmo Marescallo Galfrido filio Johannis Hugone Bardolf.

Data per manum W. Eliensis Episcopi Cancellarii nostri apud Wyntoniam xxij die Aprilis anno regni nostri quinto.

** This charter is copied from the Lincoln City Register Book No. 1, folio 150.

liberties and free customs which our citizens of London have had or have when they had them for the better and freer according to the liberties of London and the laws of the city of Lincoln.

Wherefore we will and firmly enjoin that they and their heirs have and hold all these things aforesaid hereditarily of us and our heirs.

Yielding yearly nine score pounds of Lincoln tale with all the appurtenances at our exchequer at the two terms that is to say at Easter and at the feast of Saint Michael by the hand of the provost of Lincoln. And the citizens of Lincoln may make a provost of whom they shall choose of themselves yearly who is to be suitable to us and to them.

These being witnesses: H[ubert] W[alter], Archbishop, William Marshal, Geoffrey son of John, Hugh Bardolf.

Dated by the hand of W[illiam de Longchamp] Bishop of Ely our Chancellor at Winchester on the twenty-third day of April in the fifth year of our reign.

¹ *nuño*, MS., but *numero* is indicated by later charters. Some ambiguity is present here, as there was a mint here at this date, whereas *numerus* de Lincolnia seems to be an unnecessary phrase.

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CHARTER OF KING JOHN.

[23 April, 1st year, 1200.]

JOHANNES Dei gracia rex Anglorum dominus Hibernie Dux Normannorum Aquitanorum et comes Andegavorum archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus et omnibus balliuis et fidelibus nostris salutem.

Sciatis nos concessisse [ciuibus nostris] Lincolnie quod nullus eorum placitet extra muros Ciuitatis Lincolnie de aliquo placito preter placita [de tenuris exterioribus exceptis] monetariis et ministris nostris. Concessimus etiam eis quietanciam murdri intra Ciuitatem et in Portsoc'. et quod nullus eorum faciat duellum. et quod de placitis ad coronam pertinentibus se possint disracionare secundum consuetudinem quam Ciues Ciuitatis Londonie habuerunt tempore Henrici regis patris nostri et quod infra muros Ciuitatis illius nemo capiat hospitium per vim vel per liberationem Marescallorum. Hoc etiam eis concessimus quod omnes ciues Lincolnie sint quieti de theloneo et lestagio per totam Angliam et per portus maris et quod nullus de misericordia pecunie iudicetur nisi secundum legem quam

JOHN by the grace of God King of the English, Lord of Ireland, Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians, and Count of the Angevins, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs and all our bailiffs and faithful men greeting.

Know ye that we have granted to our citizens of Lincoln that no one of them plead without the walls of the city of Lincoln concerning any plea except the pleas of outer tenures excepting our moneyers and ministers. We have granted also to them quittance of murder within the city and in the Portsoken. And that no one of them make duel. And that concerning pleas appertaining to the crown they may justify themselves according to the custom which the citizens of the city of London had in the time of King Henry our father. And that within the walls of that city no one take hospice by force or by delivery of the marshals.

This also we have granted to them that all the citizens of Lincoln be quit of toll and lastage throughout the whole of England and throughout the seaports. And that no one be adjudged liable to a fine of money unless in

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habuerunt ciues nostri Londonie tempore predicti Regis patris nostri et quod in Ciuitate illa in nullo placito sit [meskenninga] et quod Burewaremot semel tantum in ebdomada teneatur et quod terras et tenuras et vadia sua et debita sua omnia iuste habeant [quicumque eis debeat et] de terris suis et tenuris que infra Ciuitatem sunt rectum eis teneatur secundum consuetudinem ciuitatis et de omnibus debitis suis que accommodata fuerunt apud Lincolniam et de vadiis ibidem factis placitum apud Lincolniam teneatur. Prohibemus eciam ne quis [ab eis] teloneum vel consuetudinem capiat in Anglia de hiis que ad nos pertinent super forisfacturam decem librarum, saluis in omnibus libertatibus Ciuitatis Londonie. Insuper ad emendacionem illius ciuitatis concessimus quod sint quieti de Bridtoll et de Childewite et de Gyereseyeue et de Scotale ita quod prepositi nec alii balliui Scotalam faciant. Has predictas consuetudines eis concessimus et omnes alias libertates et liberas consuetudines secundum libertates Londonie et leges ciuitatis Lincolnie quas habuerunt ciues nostri Londonie quando meliores vel liberiores habuerunt tempore predicti Regis patris nostri. Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus quod ipsi et heredes eorum hec omnia predicta habeant et teneant hereditarie de nobis et heredibus nostris reddendo per annum nouies viginti libras

accordance with the law which our citizens of London had in the time of the aforesaid King our father. And that in that city there be miskenning in no plea. And that the Burghwardmote be held only once weekly and that they justly hold their lands and tenures and wages and all their debts whoever owes them anything. And that concerning their lands and tenures which are within the city right be accorded to them according to the custom of the city. And concerning all their debts which have been contracted at Lincoln and concerning wages there made plea be held at Lincoln. We forbid also that any one take from them toll or custom in England of those things which appertain to us under penalty of ten pounds, saving in all things the liberties of the city of London. Moreover for the improvement of that city we have granted that they be quit of bridtoll and of childwite and of year's gift and of scotale, so that no provost nor other bailiffs levy scotale. We have granted to them these aforesaid customs and all other the liberties and free customs according to the liberties of London and the laws of the city of Lincoln which our citizens of London had when they had them for the better or freer in the time of the aforesaid King our father.

Wherefore we will and firmly enjoin that they and their heirs have and hold all these things aforesaid hereditarily of us and our heirs. Yielding yearly

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numero de Lincolnia cum omnibus pertinentiis ad Scaccarium nostrum duobus terminis ad Pascha scilicet et ad festum Sancti Michaelis per manus prepositorum Lincolnie Preterea volumus et concedimus quod idem ciues Ciuitatis Lincolnie per commune consilium ciuitatis eligant duos de legalioribus et discretioribus ciuibus Lincolnie et presentent eos capitali Justiciario apud Westmonasterium qui bene et fideliter custodiant Preposituram Ciuitatis Lincolnie et [non amouentur quamdiu] in ballia sua se bene gesserint nisi per commune consilium ciuitatis sue. Volumus eciam quod in eadem ciuitate [Lincolnie per commune] consilium eligantur quatuor de legalioribus et discretioribus ciuitatis ad custodiendum placita corone et alia que ad nos et coronam nostram pertinent in eadem ciuitate et ad videndum quod prepositi illius Ciuitatis iuste et legitime tractent tam pauperes quam diuites.

Testibus W. Londoniensi episcopo. G. filio Petri comite Essex. Willelmo Mariscallo comite de Penbroc [Hub. filio Rogeri Houchard] W[illelmo Briwerf].

Data per manum S. Archidiaconi Wellensis et J. de Grei archidiaconi de Glocestre apud Awelton xxiiij die Aprilis et Regni nostri anno primo.

nine score pounds of Lincoln tale with all their appurtenances at our exchequer at the two terms to wit at Easter and at the feast of Saint Michael by the hands of the provosts of Lincoln.

Moreover we will and grant that the same citizens of the city of Lincoln by the common council of the city elect two of the more lawful and more discreet citizens of Lincoln and present them to the Chief Justice at Westminster, who are to well and faithfully keep the Provostship of the city of Lincoln and be not amoved so long as they shall have conducted themselves well in their bailiwick except by the common council of their city.

We will also that in the same city of Lincoln there be chosen by the common council four of the more lawful and more discreet men of the city to keep the pleas of the crown and other the things which appertain to us and our crown in the same city and to see that the provosts of that city justly and lawfully treat both the poor and the rich.

Witnesses: W[illiam of S. Mere L'Eglise] Bishop of London, G. son of Peter¹ Earl of Essex, William Marshal Earl of Pembroke, Hubert son of Roger Houchard, William Briwerf.

Dated by the hand of S[imon Fitz Robert] Archdeacon of Wells, and J[ohn] de Grei, Archdeacon of Gloucester, at Alton on the twenty-third day of April and in the first year of our reign.

¹ Geoffrey Fitz Piers, 4th Earl of Essex, *ob.* 1212.

CHARTER OF KING HENRY III.

[20 April, 11th year, 1227.]

HENRICUS Dei gratia Rex Anglie Dominus Hibernie Dux Normannorum Aquitanorum et Comes Andegavorum Archiepiscopis, Episcopis, Abbatibus, Prioribus, Comitibus, Baronibus, Justiciariis, [Forestariis,] Vicecomitibus, Prepositis, Ministris et omnibus Balliuis et fidelibus suis Salutem.

Sciatis nos concessisse Ciuibus nostris Lincolnie quod nullus eorum placitet extra Ciuitatem Lincolnie de aliquo placito preter placita de tenuris exterioribus exceptis monetariis et ministris nostris. Concessimus eciam eis quietanciam murdri infra Ciuitatem et in Portsoka, et quod nullus eorum faciat duellum, et quod de placitis ad coronam pertinentibus se possint disrationare secundum consuetudinem quam Ciues Londonie habuerunt tempore Henrici Regis Aui nostri Et quod infra Ciuitatem Lincolnie nemo capiat hospitium per vim vel per liberationem Marescalli. Hoc eciam eis concessimus quod omnes Ciues Lincolnie sint quieti de theloneo et lestagio per totam Angliam et per portus Maris, Et quod nullus de misericordia

HENRY by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of the Normans and Aquitanians and Count of the Angevins, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, justices, [foresters,] sheriffs, provosts, ministers and all his bailiffs and faithful men greeting.

Know ye that we have granted to our citizens of Lincoln that no one of them plead without the city of Lincoln concerning any plea except the pleas of outer tenures excepting our moneyers and ministers. We have granted also to them quittance of murder within the city and in the Portsoken. And that no one of them make duel. And that concerning pleas appertaining to the crown they may justify themselves according to the custom which the citizens of the city of London had in the time of King Henry our grandfather. And that within the city of Lincoln no one take hospice by force or by delivery of the marshal.

This also we have granted to them that all the citizens of Lincoln be quit of toll and lastage throughout the whole of England and throughout the

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pecunie iudicetur nisi secundum legem quam habuerunt Ciues nostri Londonie tempore predicti Henrici Regis Aui nostri, Et quod in ciuitate illa in nullo placito sit meskenninga, et quod Burewaremot semel tantum in ebdomada teneatur, et quod terras et tenuras et vadia sua et debita sua omnia iuste habeant quicumque eis debeat, et de terris suis et tenuris que infra ciuitatem sunt rectum eis teneatur secundum consuetudinem ciuitatis, et de omnibus debitis suis que accommodata fuerint apud Lincolniam et de vadiis ibidem factis placitum apud Lincolniam teneatur. Prohibemus eciam ne quis ab eis theloneum vel consuetudinem capiat in Anglia de hiis que ad nos pertinent super forisfacturam decem librarum salvis in omnibus libertatibus Ciuitatis Londonie. Et si quis in tota Anglia theloneum vel consuetudinem ab hominibus Lincolnie ceperit postquam ipse a recto defecerit prepositus Lincolnie namium capiat apud Lincolniam. Insuper eciam ad emendationem illius Ciuitatis eis concessimus quod sint quieti de Bridtol et de Childwite et de Yeresgiue et Scotala, ita quod prepositi nec alii Balliui scotalam faciant. Has predictas consuetudines eis concessimus et omnes alias libertates et liberas consuetudines secundum libertates Londonie et leges Ciuitatis

seaports. And that no one be adjudged liable to a fine of money unless in accordance with the law which our citizens of London had in the time of the aforesaid King Henry our grandfather. And that in that city there be miskenning in no plea. And that the Burghwardmote be held only once weekly and that they justly hold their lands and tenures and wages and all their debts whoever owes them anything. And that concerning their lands and tenures which are within the city right be held to them according to the custom of the city. And concerning all their debts which have been contracted at Lincoln and concerning wages made there plea be held at Lincoln.

We forbid also that any one take from them toll or custom in England of those things which appertain to us under penalty of ten pounds saving in all things the liberties of the city of London. And if any one in the whole of England shall have taken toll or custom from the men of Lincoln after that he shall have failed in upholding his right the provost of Lincoln is to take the distress at Lincoln.

Moreover also for the improvement of that city we have granted to them that they be free quit of bridtoll and of childwite and of year's gift and of scotale so that no provost or other the bailiffs levy scotale.

We have granted to them these aforesaid customs and all other the liberties and free customs according to the liberties of London and the laws