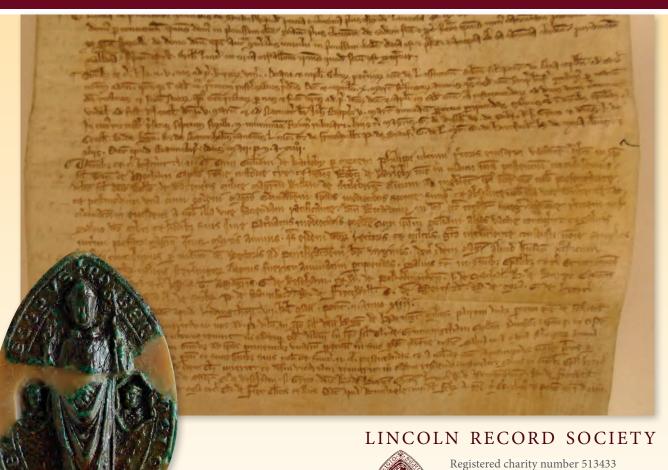


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### ROBERT GROSSETESTE AS BISHOP OF LINCOLN: THE EPISCOPAL ROLLS 1235-1253



#### The text

- A new edition of Grosseteste's important administrative rolls
- Provides new information about the content and structure of the records
- Extensive notes give context to people, events and concepts
- A detailed introduction includes the first detailed palaeographical analysis of the rolls
- A consideration of Grosseteste's pastoral care for clergy and laity in the context of current scholarship
- Full, detailed editorial method

#### **Appendices**

- New full itinerary of the bishop at home and abroad
- Detailed structural plan of the rolls

Robert Grosseteste, bishop of Lincoln 1235-1253, was one of the foremost theologians, philosophers and scientists of his age as well as a leading member of the thirteenth-century episcopate. Born into a poor family in Suffolk in about 1170, he was sponsored through university and worked for the bishop of Hereford. He was better known, however, for his ground-breaking scientific and philosophical texts until he turned his attention to the study of theology in the early 1220s. By the end of that decade he seems to have begun to lecture at the University of Oxford, and in the early 1230s he taught for the Franciscans there. He was probably already in his 60s when he became bishop of the extensive diocese of Lincoln in 1235. During his episcopate he challenged kings and popes and entered into an argument with his own chapter as he sought to provide for his proper care of the diocese's parishioners.

His central concern as bishop was with the Church's care and responsibility for ordinary men and women within his diocese and the eight surviving administrative rolls from his episcopate provide the best view of this work, giving insight into the provision of and removal of clergy, and his relationships with the laity. They are also amongst the earliest surviving rolls of this type in England.

This completely new edition of those rolls both corrects errors in their earlier 1914 publication and incorporates previously omitted material, including marginal notes. The edition provides extensive contextual notes putting individuals and events in the context of local and national events, and the bishop's actions in the context of contemporary law and theology.

The volume includes an extensive introduction, which discusses the rolls in relation to current scholarship on the development of administrative records. This context, with a detailed palaeographical analysis of the rolls, provides new information about administrative processes in the diocese under Grosseteste. The introduction also explores the practical work of this great scholar within his diocese, considering what the rolls can show us about his concern for education, his approach to pluralism and non-residence amongst the clergy in his diocese, and the ways in which he carried out his personal visitation and examination of the parishes in his diocese: parochial visitations for which he was famous but which also raised concern and controversy.

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