



NEWS REVIEW

Lincoln Record Society



THE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS WOULD LIKE TO

welcome you to the sixteenth edition of the News Review!

The records produced by the Lincoln Record Society that appeal to me most are those which are all too easy to dismiss as 'dull'. I'm thinking of those documents related to the 'boring' day-to-day administration of an organisation or an individual that have probably survived only because they once had legal value – like tax returns, and property deeds – not because they were considered interesting or a window into someone's life. Sometimes, by accident, they might tell an interesting story, but mostly editing and printing these records can look like a rather worthy pursuit, just as filing them away was at the start. But that's to look at the records without really concentrating on them. Medieval records – particularly those that look anything but obviously attractive – are records we need to have a conversation with. Editing those records – and making use of a good edition – is a way of having that conversation. It is a chance to ask the questions: 'What are you? Why and how were you created? What did the people who created you really use you for? And what were your creators thinking when they wrote you?'. It is when we start asking these questions that we find out the most.

In the process of editing the rolls of Bishop Grosseteste for the Society (Kathleen Major Series of Medieval Records, Volume I), I was able to ask those questions of the document myself. These rolls should have been well produced, carefully kept, accurately completed, just like the rolls of Hugh of Wells, Grosseteste's predecessor, which are also published by LRS. But when we start to scrutinise Grosseteste's rolls more closely, we learn something else. These were scribes with, frankly, a poor work ethic. They did not have the information to hand, they left things out, and they ignored their duties for years and then wrote things up in a hurry. They deprioritised the importance of accurate record keeping. And the only reason that they would be likely to do that was because their boss, the bishop, did so as well. We learn a lot about the way the diocese was run by looking at those individual scribes, setting the rolls aside because it was not on their 'to do' list.

The episcopal rolls are not the only type of record where we can gain additional information from examining the way in which the document was produced. What, for example, about the petitions to royal government? Alison McHardy and Gwilym Dodd recently edited a selection of petitions from Lincolnshire for LRS volume 108. These documents



tell fascinating stories in themselves and we can learn much from them about the process of seeking justice and also about the really outstanding record-keeping of royal government – although not about their fantastic records management system. But they can also tell us something else, if we ask them the question: 'Why did you provide exactly the information that you did?'. A good example actually comes from outside the diocese, though examining the recently published Lincolnshire petitions in greater detail will no doubt provide similar examples. In c.1330 the abbot and monks of Bindon were desperate. Their seal had been stolen and the thieves were using it as a credit card to pay their way around the country – by sealing false charters granting corrodies and pensions which the abbey was then asked to cash in. The monks begged the king to grant someone to defend them.

It looks at first glance as though the monks also needed a better record-keeping system. Surely they should have been able to prove that these documents were false? But that was not the issue here and the abbey's claims make that clear. A misused seal was a bone of contention in fourteenth- →



century England. Bracton's commentary on English law had made it clear – if a seal was lost or carelessly misplaced then it did not matter if the owner knew nothing about the documents it had been attached to, those documents were still valid. So the men and women arriving with their claims to pensions might have known very well that the abbot had not granted them willingly, but would still have thought that they had a right to have their claims met. So the abbey had to point out that the seal had been stolen: other religious houses did so as well when they wanted to object to similar acts involving the misuse of seals, sometimes for good measure adding a group of men who returned to the abbey at night and broke into a well-kept strong room. A stolen seal was something else – it had not been carelessly kept and documents which were sealed with it were certainly invalid. If the king sent help, he was acknowledging that as fact.

Asking these questions of the documents is only possible with full, careful editions which allow us not just to see the lesser-known people mentioned in the documents, but also the lesser-known people who are behind their phrasing and their writing. We are delighted that this edition of the *News Review* includes an account from Michael Burger extolling the virtues of Rosalind Hill's editions of Bishop Oliver Sutton's Rolls and Register. Our Honorary General Editor, Nicholas Bennett, has transcribed a letter from Lincoln Cathedral Library written by Mary Ann Boole, and in his article he explores her life and Lincolnshire connections. And Daniella Gonzalez introduces us to a fantastic resource for researchers devised by some postgraduate students during lockdown, the MEMS lockdown library. We hope that you enjoy it!

Philippa Hoskin



MARY ANN BOOLE AND HER LINCOLNSHIRE CONNECTIONS

In 1990 Mrs Stephanie Binnall donated to Lincoln Cathedral Library a small collection of manuscripts. Among these was a bundle of letters acquired by her late husband, Canon Peter Binnall, during the time he was Rector of East Barkwith, from 1945 to 1961. These letters were written mainly to Mrs Ellen Fanny Monkhouse, wife of Henry Clarke Monkhouse (Rector of East Barkwith from 1871 until his death in 1902). Fanny was born in 1824 and raised in Market Deeping, the daughter of William Holland, surgeon.

The letter printed here was recently identified as having been written by Mary Ann Boole, sister of George Boole the celebrated mathematician and one of Lincoln's most distinguished sons. Mary Ann was baptised at her parish church of St Swithin, Lincoln, in 1817 (not 1818 as is sometimes stated). The census returns for 1841 show her living at 3 Pottergate with her parents and two brothers, helping to run the school which George had established there the previous year. After her father's death in 1848, she remained with her mother, moving to a house on Lindum Road (then New Road) where they were living at the time of the 1851 census. When George moved to Ireland in 1849 to take up the post of Professor of Mathematics at Queen's College, Cork, Mary Ann started a school of her own in Lincoln.

The letter provides new details of the changes wrought in the lives of both George Boole and his sister by the death of their mother in August 1854. The house in Lincoln was given up and Mary Ann joined her brother at his lodgings in Strawberry Hill, just outside the city of Cork. She writes enthusiastically about the healthy situation, their pretty garden and the local society in Cork ('in this respect I have very greatly the advantage over a residence

in Lincoln'). This period of sibling togetherness was a brief one, however. In September of the following year, George married Mary Everest, daughter of a clergyman and niece of Sir George Everest, after whom the mountain was named.

After her brother's marriage, Mary Ann made an extended visit to Germany, after which she returned to Cork. Here, towards the end of 1859, she took up the post of governess to the six children of Rt Revd William Fitzgerald, Bishop of Cork and Ross, whose wife had recently died. George wrote to a friend that his sister was 'very happy with her position'. One of the children she taught, George Francis Fitzgerald, went on to become a distinguished physicist, whose 'contraction hypothesis' was to form an important part of Einstein's theory of relativity.

More research is needed to establish how Ellen Fanny Holland first came into contact with George Boole and his sister but one link was through the Larken family who were friends of both parties. Whatever the connection, it was strong enough to ensure that the young Miss Holland became a pupil at one of George's schools. It would seem likely that this was the Waddington Academy, which George took over in 1838 and which offered facilities for boarding. Miss Holland would have been aged between 13 and 15 at this stage. The later school in Pottergate was for boys only and in any case, Miss Holland was back in Market Deeping by the time of the 1841 census. It is clear from this letter, however, that the contact established through schooling between Ellen Fanny Holland and Mary Ann Boole was to mature into a lasting friendship.

Nicholas Bennett



Image: Image showing envelope containing letter from Mary Ann Boole to Ellen Fanny Holland at Market Deeping: Lincoln Cathedral Library, Binnall Papers.

The letter is here printed by kind permission of Lincoln Cathedral Library.

**Autograph letter, signed: Mary Ann Boole
to Miss E. F. Holland at Market Deeping**

My dear Miss Holland

I imagine you will by this time have reached your Lincolnshire home so I shall not be very far wrong in directing this epistle there. Yours arrived duly and was very welcome – there is indeed a great change in our affairs and prospects since I last wrote to you. My dear Mother's departure was then quite unlooked for and was indeed a sudden shock to us all; up to the beginning of July she appeared in very good health but with hot weather came swelling of the legs and feet (always a fatal symptom) and in little more than a month she was taken from us. I am however most thankful to say that to all outward appearance her sufferings were nothing and her mind was as peaceful and tranquil as her body. She seemed to sleep her life away and her death was full of hope. It was a great comfort to me that my Brother was at home to share my trial. After all was over we went for change of air and scene to visit one of his Colleagues in Scotland where we saw a great deal to interest us, especially in Edinburgh which realized my idea of all that

is beautiful in a city. We returned just in time to wind up our affairs in Lincoln and prepare for the sale of our effects which took place after our departure and came here in the middle of October. We are in the same lodgings that George has occupied for some time and are very comfortable. I wish you could see the view from our windows. I can imagine nothing finer. We are nearly on the top of a very high hill overlooking the whole valley of the Lee and the city of Cork, the College immediately opposite and below us. We are quite out of the smoke and bustle of the city and the air we breathe is exceedingly pure and sweet. A very pretty garden slopes down the hill immediately before our windows, which even now is gay with flowers; three or four fine myrtles are now in full bloom.

George seems very happy to have me with him and is congratulated by all our friends on his improved looks and his increased cheerfulness. He was not formed to live alone and it is a great happiness to me that I am able to contribute to his happiness. We brought away a good many of the dear old household goods and with these I have endeavoured to give our pleasant sitting room as English a look as possible, for with all due respect for the accomplishments of Irish ladies, they certainly have not the notions of comfort and elegance that we English may be proud to possess. They are not good housekeepers as you would see at a glance in most houses, especially if you were so unfortunate as to →

penetrate into their kitchens which seem to have capabilities for anything rather than cookery or cleanliness. You have heard me speak of the society of Cork and in this respect I have very greatly the advantage over a residence in Lincoln. It is very delightful to be brought continually in contact with intellectual and cultivated persons and this I have daily opportunities of doing. We have great facilities too by railways and steamers for visiting the beautiful localities and I have already had several such excursions. On Saturday I went with one of the Professors and his sister (my best friend here) to Queenstown down the lovely Cork river much to the edification of both mind and body.

We are thinking of some day taking a house here and then I hope we may induce some of our English friends to come and judge for themselves the place and the people, there is much in both to deplore and condemn but there is much also to admire and like. We have delicious weather now, fine weather here is fine, the air has a luxurious softness that is quite new and delightful to me. I hope I may not have occasion to complain of the damp before the winter is over.

But enough of self, let me now congratulate you on the marriage of your Brother and your friend. You are fortunate in having two such dear friends drawn together by such close ties. I sincerely wish them every happiness that marriage state is capable of affording, will you say so to your new sister. I once met her at the Rectory.

I wish you could see Milly's little darling, it is a perfect beauty and such a good little thing, and are they not proud of it?

My Brother has not forgotten his old pupil and begs me to offer his kindest remembrances to you, and with love and thanks for the kind interest you manifest in my beings and doings, believe me my dear Miss Holland,

Yours very sincerely

Mary Ann Boole

Miss Knolles, Strawberry Hill, 6 November 1854.

With envelope, postmarked Cork, 6 November 1854.



MY FAVOURITE LRS VOLUME

I first read the register of Bishop Oliver Sutton under the California sun. It was the 1980s and I was a postgraduate student in Santa Barbara, a town of beaches and palm trees, far from Lincoln. Rosalind Hill made this possible, of course, with her editions of the rolls and register, published by the Lincoln Record Society: *The Rolls and Register of Bishop Oliver Sutton 1280-1299* (vols. 39, 43, 52, 60, 64, 69, 76). I had already been reading the rolls published for the previous bishops and had some experience with other sees, but Sutton's register, put together by his registrar, John de Schalby (who would later bequeath to posterity the *Registrum Antiquissimum*, another of the LRS's monuments), was a revelation. Moving from those earlier Lincoln rolls to the register was like switching on a powerful light in a partly lit room. Suddenly, page after page, came the onslaught of business that fell upon a thirteenth-century bishop.

I'd explain how, but Robert Brentano has done so far better than I can, so I'll let him do it:

Look at Sutton through Schalby's register and you must see a mind about to burst, a conscience almost swamped. The months June 1292 through December 1293 were not extraordinary months for Sutton; but, like many others, they could have convinced him that no man's mind or conscience could bear the multiplicity of the bishop's job. Thomas Chapel, the bishop of Bletchingham, was wandering about the diocese (or beyond it) out of his mind, and had to be found and cared for (as did Bletchingham have to be

cared for). The dean of Rothwell had to be asked to sequester the goods of the late Master Michael, rector of a mediety of Isham, until the rector's executors made good the defects he had left in church and manse. The royal government had to be asked to arrest a number of men forty days excommunicate and still obdurate. The abbot and convent of Bardney had to be protected from a hostile party that kept them from collecting their tithes. . . . [Brentano goes on for the better of two pages in this vein until concluding] But Sutton's mind, although details extended it, did not burst.

(Taken from Robert Brentano, *Two Churches: England and Italy in the Thirteenth Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1968), reprt. (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1988), 178-79).

Now at the time, that revelation did not lead me very far. I was obsessed not with Sutton's 'memoranda'—from which Brentano drew the account above—but with his institutions to benefices (that is, Sutton's grants of 'title' to churches to the clergy who received them). That material, preceded by nearly 70 years' worth of institutions in Lincoln diocese, is much less likely to set the young historian's heart aflutter. But it can be squeezed, or so I thought then and think now, to uncover how a bishop, or at least his clerks, thought about the exercise of power over distance. The key was information that Rosalind Hill did not include in her edition: the instruction that the bishop gave to induct a clerk (that is, put him in physical

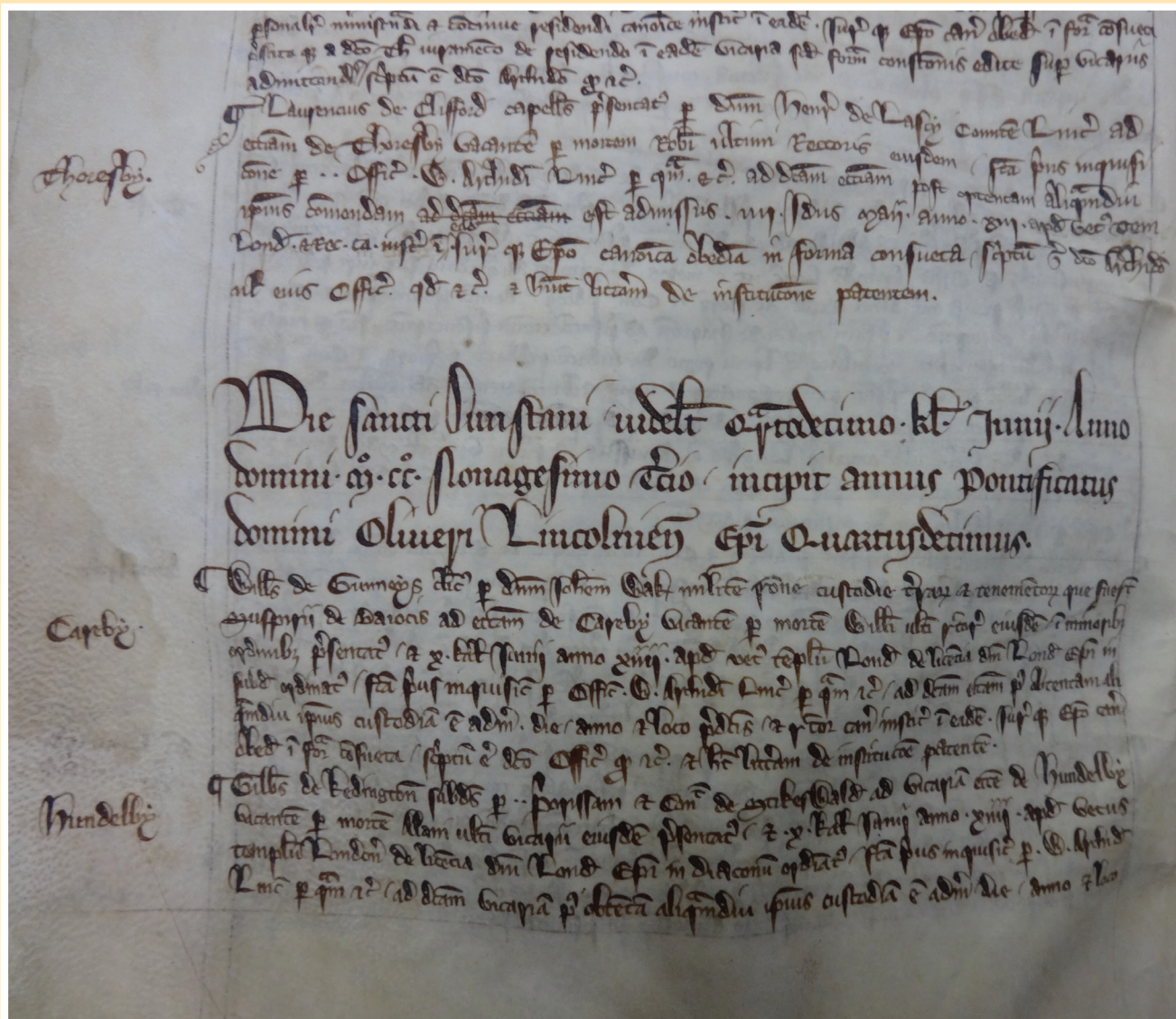


Image from Bishop Sutton's institutions (Lincoln archdeaconry section), showing the institution of William de Gunneys clerk to the church of Careby: LAO DIOC/REG/1, 221v.

possession) of the church to which had received title. For the institutions to benefices in the LRS are largely calendared and Hill, like most editors of bishops' registers, found these humble bits of information too humble to include. (Even the otherwise full-on Latin edition of Grosseteste's rolls dropped that information, but I'm happy to say that Philippa Hoskin remedied this lacuna in her marvellous new edition of those rolls, recently published by LRS.)

But Sutton's memoranda have kept coming up, perhaps in part because even the entries only calendared by Hill are rendered with more detail than in other editions. On hearing a lovely paper by Holly Hager Gilbert contrasting Bishop Sutton's and his predecessor's confirmations of male with female heads of religious houses, I realized that it was the memoranda that helped explain why Gilbert was finding the differences she found. In my own work, the memoranda helped identify Bishop Sutton's clerks for a book on bishops' use of reward and punishment when dealing with their own administrative subordinates—and illuminated what punishments he imposed, and more

importantly, did not impose, on those subordinates. Philippa Hoskin has used the memoranda's place/dates—and those of the institutions—to uncover the workings of Sutton's chancery. And the memoranda are critical to Andrew Miller's stimulating reconstruction of Bishop Sutton's struggle with a king's clerk over the prebend of Thame, which I hope we will see in print soon. As Brentano's account suggests, Sutton's memoranda offer a wonderful cross-section of a bishop's business. And in Hill they, and the rest of Sutton's register and rolls, got the editor they deserved—meticulous and dedicated: how else to explain a massive edition that took nearly four decades to complete!

A visit to Lincoln itself in 1989, which resulted in my joining the LRS, prompted my purchase of the set—excluding volume IV, which had to wait for the Society's reprint programme. No more library copies after that. Hill's work—and John de Schalby's—has been a constant companion ever since: my favorite edition of a bishop's register.

Michael Burger



MEMSLib

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*An initiative of the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern
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RESOURCES



MANUSCRIPT STUDIES: PALAEOGRAPHY & CODICOLOGY

Find the help & guidance you need to decipher that Latin text you've been working on. We've compiled the ultimate resource list.



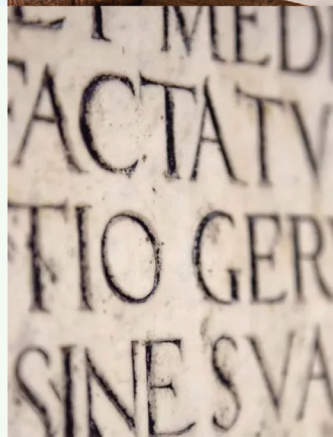
HISTORY OF THE BOOK

Navigating the developments of the book can be tricky, but do not fear for we've compiled a list that will help you learn more about the History of the Book.



EARLY MEDIEVAL HISTORY

The Early Medieval period was a dynamic period of history, beginning c. 410-1066. We've created a resource list that will help you whether you're interested in early medieval cultural and political identities, historical writing and more.



MEDIEVAL LANGUAGES

We've brought together a wealth of resources for different medieval languages such as French, German and Latin.



MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF ART

Whether you're interested in French Gothic architecture or Insular manuscripts, check out our resource page for all things History of Art.



THE ISLAMIC WORLD

From the beginnings of Islam, to the flourishing of the Islamic culture from the ninth to twelfth centuries, to the advancements in natural philosophy, we've created a list with all the best resources to help you with your research about Medieval Islam.



MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

Medieval literature is such a wide ranging subject, including secular and sacred works. Whether you're interested in Beowulf or Chaucer, our page links you to some of the best resources out there.



LATE MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Love all things late medieval? Then you're in the right place! Listed here are resources that will guide you through Parliament Rolls to Post-Mortem Inquisitions.



MEMSLIB: THE NEW WAY TO RESEARCH IN AN ONLINE-ONLY WORLD

Carrying out research during the Covid-19 pandemic has been a challenge and many of us have needed to adapt to new ways of conducting research from home. Researching from home, however, is not without its difficulties, and not being able to have easy access to libraries and archives has meant that several of us have come up against a wall when trying to research.

It is for this reason that myself and colleagues in the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) at the University of Kent – Róisín Astell, Anna Hegland, Emma-Louise Hill and Anna-Nadine Pike – created the medieval and early modern studies lockdown library: MEMSLib. This is a freely available online library, bringing together a range of links to digital resources, all in one place. Resources range from online dictionaries and databases to manuscript collections and funded projects. The website also includes miscellanea such as blogs and productions of early modern plays.

Initially produced to assist researchers within the centre of medieval and early modern studies within the university, MEMSLib has expanded beyond what we imagined – we've had subscribers and large numbers of members sign up from across the world! This project has also made its way into the archive, records management and library sector and we've had a vast number of professionals from these sectors join – MEMSLib even made it on to the archives listserv and was a topic of discussion!

Collaboration has also been a key element in the development of this project and enhanced the quality of the website. We are especially grateful to Dr David Rundle from MEMS, who has guided us throughout the project, always listening and offering helpful insights into what direction we could take MEMSLib. Dr Alison Ray, Assistant Archivist at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library has also played an instrumental role in shaping MEMSLib, compiling, alongside Dr Rundle, an excellent list of online resources for those interested in Manuscript Studies. Our neighbours down the hill, Dr Diane Heath and Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh, at the Centre for Kent's History & Heritage at Canterbury Christ Church University have also amassed an extensive list of materials for individuals researching Canterbury and Kent's medieval and early modern history. We have had guest contributors from the CHASE-funded project Booksapes. Lincoln Record Society's very own Dr Paul Dryburgh also contributed suggestions for our Late Medieval History page.

It is because of these varied contributions that the website has flourished and holds a vast array of online materials. A plethora of academic projects and databases can be found over several of the resource pages. Projects that you can find include: 'England's Immigrants, 1330-1550', 'The Holinshed Project', 'The Medieval Bestiary Project', 'Medieval Londoners', 'The Northern Way', 'People of 1381', 'The Power of Petitioning in Seventeenth Century

England' and 'Private Libraries in Renaissance England'. The team have also collated a variety of materials that offer digitised images of medieval and early modern records – archival documents and manuscripts included – ranging from the 'Anglo-American Legal Tradition' and 'Auchinleck Manuscript Online' to the 'Newton Project' and 'Irish Script on Screen'.

Resources for the study of Art History are also available. The site has a resource page dedicated to Medieval Art History that is divided into sections, such as 'Artists, Sculptors & Architects', 'Stained Glass' and 'Wall Paintings', which holds bibliographies, databases, online library catalogues, projects, and surveys that are dedicated to the study of art history across medieval Europe. You can also find materials relating to art history on the Early Modern History page, including, but not limited to, 'Compositor', a database of eighteenth-century printers' ornaments, and 'CODART', an international guide to Dutch and Flemish Art in museums worldwide.

Access to sourcebooks is also provided, including the 'Global Medieval Sourcebook' (created by Stanford University), the Internet Medieval Sourcebook (created by Fordham University) and 'The Online Books Page'. Resources such as 'British History Online' and 'Archive.org' also feature on the website.

Across our pages, researchers can also find resources relating to Europe's wider medieval and early modern past. The Early Medieval History page is a fantastic place to start! Here we have had contributions from Dr Ed Roberts and Dr Robert Gallagher of the University of Kent, who have worked collaboratively to include resources such as 'The Making of Charlemagne's Europe', a database of charters issued in the Frankish realm, and the 'Chartae Latinae Antiquiores Datenbank', which provides facsimile and textual editions of all original charters in European archives up to the year 900. On the Early Modern History page, resources such as 'VD 16' and 'VD 17' provide access to early modern printed German works. The history of early modern Scotland can also be found here, where you'll find the 'Records of the Parliaments of Scotland up to 1707', 'Survey of Scottish Witchcraft' and 'Staging and Representing the Scottish Renaissance Court', as well as 'Scottish Handwriting' that offers online tuition for scholars working on Scottish records. Materials relating to the Reformation and Counter-Reformation across Europe have also been a key consideration and these can be found on the Medieval and Early Modern Theology page.

A variety of interesting blogs, recordings and readings on MEMSLib also form part of the rich body of material on MEMSLib. Our Early Modern Drama page, especially, offers various materials from the 'Globe Player', which has free and paywalled full-length productions from Shakespeare's Globe, and the American Shakespeare Centre, where those visiting the site can even have a virtual tour of their →



Blackfriars indoor playhouse. You can even find the podcast ‘#SuchStuff’, that discusses Shakespeare’s transformative impact on the world we live in. Our Medieval Literature page is also a great place to find blogs and media of interest. Here you can find online resources such as the ‘Women’s Literary Culture’ and the ‘Medieval Canon’ blog at the University of Surrey, and ‘Medievalists of Color’, a professional organisation, blog, teaching resource and community of People of Colour within medieval studies.

We are constantly adding new resources and pages. We have just launched our Islamic Studies page, for example, which contains a very rich body of online resources to help anyone studying the medieval and early modern Islamic World. On this page you’ll find materials like the ‘Qatar Digital Library’, the ‘Islamic Manuscript Studies’ research guide made by the University of Michigan, and the AHRC-funded project ‘Medieval and Early Modern Orients’ which furthers understanding of the early interactions between England and the Islamic worlds.

Although there is Lincolnshire-related content across the site, it is worth pointing you towards some particular resources that are rich in Lincolnshire references. For example, TNA’s ‘E 179 database’, holds records relating to lay and clerical taxation, is located on the Late Medieval

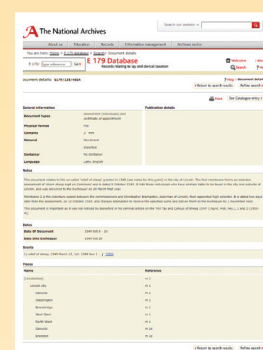
History page and within this you can find references to Lincoln.

The database is easy to use and will provide researchers with the catalogue reference, what kind of document the information is found within, the date that the document was created and details about what type of grant is being given but not the names of individual taxpayers, which means that you cannot search

by ‘person name’. ‘Churches Conservation Trust’, found on our History of Art page, details the history of 341 historic churches. Some of these can be found within the county of Lincolnshire and include sites like All Hallows’ Church in Clixby, St Botolph’s Church in Skidbrooke and St Peter’s Church in Kingerby.

If you’d like to follow MEMSLib you can find us on Twitter @MEMSLibUKC and do please subscribe to our website: www.memslib.co.uk. Access to the resource pages is free and you can join the forum here: <https://www.memslib.co.uk/forum>.

Daniella Gonzalez



DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Lincoln Record Society AGM is going online this year!

Please put a placeholder in your diary for 2pm on the 14th November 2020.

Numbers are limited so members wishing to attend are requested to contact secretary@lincoln-record-society.org.uk by 6th November 2020 to receive the zoom link.

The AGM will be followed by a lecture from Dr David Crook at 2.30 on ‘The Earliest Recorded English Agricultural Workers’ Union? The revolt of the famuli at Barton upon Humber, Lincolnshire, 1302’. In 1302 eighty agricultural labourers, working on the main estate in the extensive fields of Barton upon Humber, refused to work for less pay than a penny a day plus food. They appointed their own officials, and created their own prison and stocks to enforce their wishes on anyone who refused to comply. This illustrated lecture will set this remarkable event in its contemporary context and consider its significance.

We look forward to seeing you there (virtually)!

