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APPENDIX B

MINSTRELSY AT DURHAM PRIORY

The following is a calendar of entries relating to minstrels in the accounts transcribed in Fowler/*Durham*: page-references are given to Fowler's transcription. The account-rolls concerned include those of the Bursars (1278-1371), the Cellarers (1307-1535), the Feretrars (1375-1538), the Hostillers (1303-1529) and the Masters of the Infirmary (1352-1535). For convenience, I have rearranged entries in chronological order and used the letters (B), (C), (F), (H) and (I) respectively to indicate from which of the different types of account each entry came.

Entries concerning heralds and players are not included in this calendar; nor are entries dating from the sixteenth century.

No distinction is made between adjacent and non-adjacent entries. Words given here in the original Latin are underlined, with the exception of the contraction "Dns" already noted in Appendix A.¹

1278

p. 485 (B). 2.6d to a groom of Dns Wyschard and to another coming at Carlisle, and to a minstrel of the King of Scotland.

p. 486 (B). 2.0d to a minstrel of Newcastle.

1310-11

p. 508 (B). Gifts of the Prior: 2.0d to a certain harper.

1330-31

p. 516 (B). Gifts of the Prior: 12d to the harper of Dns R. de Ornecliff.

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p. 517 (B). 12d to the harper of Dns Robert de Hornecliff,² by command of the Prior.

¹ See p. 15, above.

1335-36

p. 528(B). Gifts of the Prior: 3.0d for a harp bought for Thomas Harpour.

c.1336

p. 531 (B). 2.0d to Edmund de Kendall, harper, of the Prior's gift at Easter.

2.0d to a certain Robert Fytheler, who captured otters (? - *qui cepit Otres*) at Wardley, by command of the Prior.³

p. 532 (B). 20.0d in gift to minstrels the same day (12 January).

1338-39

p. 535 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: gifts to minstrels, etc., as usual (not printed).

1339-40

p. 538 (B). Several payments to Thomas Harper and his four companions, carpenters, for various repairs to the Priory buildings.

1340-?41

p. 539 (B). Payment to Thomas Harper and his companions, carpenters, for making the Prior's hearse and for buying nails and sawing timber for the same.

1341-42

p. 541(B). Expenses for Robert Scot, going to Carlisle to plead (? - *querentis*) with the Sheriff of Durham on behalf of Thomas Harper, being imprisoned.

1355-56

See below, under date 1360-61.

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c.1357?

p. 559(B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 2.0d to William the blind harper at Christmas.

² Perhaps the above payment duplicated. In 7 Ed III, Robert de Horncliff was Constable of the castle of Berwick on Tweed.

³ The Prior had a moated manor-house at Wardley: his other manors were at Beaurepaire (now Bearpark), Pitlington, Bewley and Dalton.

3.4d to John, harper of Dns John de Stirling, and William, blind harper of Newcastle.

4.0d to two trumpeters of the Earl of Northampton at Wyvestow.

3.4d to a certain harper called Rygeaway.

c.1357

p. 560 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: gifts to harpers as before (not printed).

c.1360

p. 563 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Lord Prior: 3.4d to Peter Crouder at Pityngton.

4.6d for a quarter of an *ordium*⁴ given to the same Peter by the Prior.

1360–61

p. 562 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 8.4d to William Pyper and other minstrels at Christmas. (A similar entry for 1355–56 is not printed.)

3.4d to a certain Welsh harper of Dns William de Dalton.

1361–62

p. 127 (H). Gifts: 2.0d to a man who played on a lute and his wife who sang, at Beaurepaire.⁵

1362?

p. 565 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 5.0d to a certain minstrel harper of the Bishop of Norwich on the feast of the Translation of St Cuthbert.

3.4d to a certain minstrel *Jestour*, Jawdewyne, at Christmas.

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2.0d to William the *Kakeharpour*⁶ at the same feast.

A similar gift of 2.0d to Barry at the same feast.

2.0d to a certain French blind minstrel with a boy, his brother.

3.4d for a tunic bought for Barry, harper, at the command of the Prior.

1364

⁴ A measure of land.

⁵ Possibly at Christmas, 1361.

⁶ Fowler's glossary (*op cit.*, p. 927) treats William as a waferer, or seller of cakes, quoting the case of minstrels "cum Wafirs" in the accounts for 1402–03 (see below, p. 148). However, he is more likely to be William the blind harper (i.e., *cecus*) of Newcastle, who has already appeared in this calendar under date c.1357.

p. 44 (C). 8d to Thomas Harpour.

c.1364-65

p. 568 (B). Necessary Expenses: 10.0d to a certain doctor tending Thomas Harpour.⁷

c.1365-66

p. 568 (B). Christmas gifts to Barry Harper and others (not printed).

c.1366-68

p. 569 (B). Gifts and presents to minstrels and others (not printed).

1368-69

p. 574 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 5.0d to Robert, trumpeter, and William Fergos, minstrel, on St Cuthbert's Day.

Payments for repairs to *instrumentis*.

1373-74

p. 579 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Lord Prior: 3.4d to two minstrels with one Weyng.

1374

p. 581 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 20.8d in payments [146] to twelve minstrels at the feast of St Cuthbert, by command of the Prior.

1374-75

p. 180 (H). Gifts: 12d to William Harpour playing (*ad ludum*)⁸ at Beaurepaire.

1375-76

p. 582 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 13.4d to minstrels on St Cuthbert's Day in March.

18d to a certain minstrel playing before the lord Prior in his chamber.

6.8d to three minstrels of the Earl of March, playing before the lord Prior.

5.0d to a certain minstrel of the lord the king, coming with Dns de Nevill.

20.0d to twelve minstrels at the feast of St Cuthbert in September.⁹

⁷ "Cuidam medico sananti tibiam Thome Harpour": perhaps Thomas had broken his leg.

⁸ Or possibly for his services at a "ludus": see below, n. 13.

13.4d to four minstrels of the lord the prince on the feast of the Holy Cross.

20d to a certain minstrel on the feast of St Matthew.

13.4d to minstrels at the feast of St Cuthbert in March, A.D. 1375.

2.0d to two minstrels on Easter Day.

1376-77

p. 585 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 4.6d to William Fergos and Roger the blind harper at Christmas, by command of the Prior.

6.8d to minstrels of Dns de Percy the same week, by command of the same.¹⁰

1377

p. 46 (C). 7d to Thomas Harpour.

7d to Nicholas Harpour.

1380-81

p. 423 (F). Expenses: 6.8d to Thomas Harpour, of the gift of [147] the Prior.

p. 591 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Lord Prior: 6.8d in gift to John Momford, minstrel of the lord the king, at Pittington.

1381-82

p. 592 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: 3.4d to minstrels (or "a minstrel") of Dns de Nevill at Beaurepaire with the lady de Lomly.

6.8d to a minstrel of the lord Duke¹¹ with a dancer in the chamber of the lord Prior. (Also other minstrels, etc., not printed.)

1384-85

p. 594 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Lord Prior: 26.8d to minstrels of the lord the king.

1388-89

p. 596 (B). Wardrobe: 9.8d for cloth bought against the feast of Christmas for Nicholas Harpour, *heremita*.¹²

⁹ See above, i, p. 74, n. 52.

¹⁰ Lord Percy was present on this occasion.

¹¹ Presumably the Duke of Lancaster.

¹² Probably a hermit: perhaps the inmate of a hospital.

1394-95

p. 599 (B). Gifts and Presents of the Prior: gifts (not printed) to various minstrels on St Cuthbert's Day in March, viz., to minstrels of Henry Percy, of the Duke of Lancaster, of Lord Nevill, of the Duke of York, of Scotland and of the Earl of Kent.

A gift (not printed) to a minstrel of Hilton at Christmas.

A gift (not printed) to Richard Brome, minstrel, on St Cuthbert's Day in March.

6.8d to a trumpeter of the lord the king.

6.8d to a crowder (*rotour*) of Scotland.

1397-98

p. 446 (F). Gifts and Presents: 3.8d for gloves and silver given to a minstrel (erased) and ministers in the *ludi*¹³ of the lord Prior.

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1399

p. 602 (B). Gifts to minstrels and others (not printed).

1401-02

p. 604 (B). Gifts to minstrels and others (not printed).

1402-03

p. 604 (B). Gifts: 31.0d to various minstrels with wafers (*cum Wafirs*).

1412-13

p. 610 (B). Repairs: payment to Heliseus Harpour for making a doorway (? - *hostius* or *hostium*) beneath the Prior's chamber.

1416-17

p. 614 (B) Gifts to minstrels and others (not printed).

1421-22

p. 618 (B). Repairs: payment to Heliseus Harpour for making a table for the Prior's chamber.

¹³ A "ludus" was a holiday from normal monastic life.

1437-38

p. 625 (B). Gifts to minstrels and others (not printed).

1440-41

p. 627 (B). Gifts to minstrels and others (not printed).

1441-42

p. 628 (B). Gifts of the Prior: 3.4d to minstrels of the lord the king and of other lords who arrived.

1442-43

p. 275 (I). Expenses: 7.7d to William Harpur, labourer, working within the Infirmary.

1446-47

p. 631 (B). Gifts and Presents: 56.3d given to minstrels and [149] others (summary of gifts).

1449-50

p. 632 (B). Gifts to minstrels and others (not printed).