

EARLY MAYORS OF LANCASTER

THE following imperfect list of the early bailiffs and mayors of Lancaster is inserted by permission of Mr. Farrer of Hall Garth, from whose collections it has been gathered.

Date.	Mayor.	Bailiffs.
1246	Roger son of Fulk, "reeve." ¹
Later	Lambert Dispenser. ²
Later	John le Gentil, William son of Julian, Robert son of Oliver, William son of Lawrence, Lambert son of Thomas, and Lambert Dispenser. Perhaps only the two Lamberts were bailiffs.
Later	Robert Dispenser, Robert de Catherton.
1306 (May)	Robert de Catherton, William de Slene. ³
1310 (April)	(? Robert de Catherton), John le Keu (Cook), John de Heysham. ⁴
1310-11 (Jan.)	...	John de Heysham, John le Keu. ⁵
1313 (April)	Robert de Catherton, Roger le Mason. ⁶
1313 (28 Oct.) }	...	John (or Julian) le Keu,
1314 (May) . }	...	Robert de Skerton. ⁷
1316-17	Richard (? Robert) de Catherton, ⁸ Adam son of Simon.
1317 (June, Aug.)	...	Robert de Catherton, Adam son of Simon. ⁹
1319 (July)	Robert de Catherton, Adam son of Simon. ¹⁰

¹ Assize Roll, 404.

² Kuerden's folio MS. (Chetham Library), 246; *Placita de quo Warranto*, 384.

³ Towneley's MS. HH (Mr. Farrer), 492.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 400. ⁵ *Ibid.*, 355; Kuerden, 313. ⁶ HH, 363.

⁷ Towneley's MS. C, 8.13 (Chetham Library), L 266.

⁸ Kuerden, 73. ⁹ HH, 254. ¹⁰ C, 8.13, L 270.

Date.	Mayor.	Bailiffs.
1323 (April)	Robert de Catherton, Adam son of Simon. ¹
1338 (Nov.) .	Robert de Bolron.	William son of Adam son of Simon, ² John de Ludlow.
1341 (May) .	John le Keu.	William son of Adam, John the Frereson. ³
1342 (Aug.) .	Robert de Bolron.	...
1343 (May)	William son of Adam son of Simon, ⁴ John de Catherton.
1345 (Mar.) .	Robert de Bolron.	John le Mercer, senior, ⁵ John Lawrence.
1346 (Mar.) .	Robert de Bolron.	John Lawrence, Lawrence (?) son of Adam.
1347 (Mar., May)	Robert de Bolron.	John Lawrence, William son of Adam. ⁶
1349 (July) .	Robert de Bolron.	Robert Keu, John Lawrence. ⁷
1350	John de Catherton. ⁸	...
1362-63 (Mar.)	John de Skerton.	William son of Adam, John de Catherton. ⁹
1371 (Sept.) .	John de Skerton.	William de Caton, Adam son of Hugh. ¹⁰
1372	John de Skerton.	...
1373 (July) .	John de Catherton. ¹¹	...
1381	John de Catherton. ¹²	...
1382	Edmund Frere. ¹³	...
1386 (Mar.) .	John de Elslak.	John Barry, John de Barton.
1391	John de Elslak. ¹⁴	...
1391 (Nov.) .	John de Elslak the elder. ¹⁵	...
1403 (May) .	John Stanlow.	...
1407 (? 1420) .	Richard Elslak.	...
1416	Richard Elslak.	...
1425	Edmund Frere. ¹⁶	...
1440 (Dec.) .	Edmund Hornby. ¹⁷	...
1442 (July) .	John Stodagh. ¹⁸	...
1446	Edmund Hornby. ¹⁹	...
1459 (June) .	Robert Lawrence. ²⁰	...

¹ Towneley's MS. DD (Mr. Farrer), 2203. ² HH, 375.
³ DD, 2194. ⁴ De Banco Roll 346, m. 331.
⁵ Kuerden, 256; HH, 387.
⁶ Duchy of Lancaster Deeds (Record Office), L, 692; C, 8.13, S 215.
⁷ Duchy of Lancaster Deeds, L, 665.
⁸ Moore Deeds (Liverpool), 776.
⁹ Duchy of Lancaster Deeds, L, 1069, 1092.
¹⁰ Additional MS., 32104 (British Museum), 403.
¹¹ C, 8.13, S 230. ¹² Moore Deeds, 777.
¹³ Duchy of Lancaster Deeds, L, 1095. ¹⁴ Kuerden, 385.
¹⁵ C, 8.13, S 231. ¹⁶ Deeds of Mr. W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes.
¹⁷ C, 8.13, W 214. ¹⁸ HH, 414.
¹⁹ Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes' Deeds. ²⁰ DD, 2225.

Date.	Mayor.	Bailiffs.
1463 (4 Oct.)	Robert Ramso.	Thomas Backhouse, Nicholas Parson. ¹
1467 (June)	John Gardyner.	William Baxenden, Richard Lee. ²
1472 (May)	Robert Lee.	William Sande, Thomas Crone. ³
1474-75 (Feb.)	John Curwen.	Robert Kendal, Roger Shepherd. ⁴
1478	Simon Tomlinson. ⁵	...
1483	John Hobersty. ⁶	...
1488	John Walton. ⁷	...
1490 (Aug.)	...	Robert White, Robert Lee. ⁸
1495 (Nov.)	Lawrence Starkie.	Thomas Kendal, Robert Lee, Jun. ⁹
1498 (Aug.)	Richard Gardyner. ¹⁰	...
1500 (May)	Thomas Edmondson.	Gilbert White, Richard Bott. ¹¹
1500-1 (Mar.)	Richard Nelson.	...
1504 (June)	Robert Hirdeman.	William Greves, John Curwen.
1508 (June)	Gilbert White.	John Standish, Thomas Dugdale. ¹²

The election of a mayor probably began with the charter of 1337, allowing the borough the privileges of a gild merchant. This charter has been lost; it may have been destroyed in the burning of the town by Lord Derby in 1643, though some earlier ones have been preserved. The most remarkable document among the Lancaster muniments is one which has been exhibited at a meeting of the Historic Society, namely, a reply from the burgesses of Northampton in the reign of King John to an inquiry as to the liberties of that town. The seal bears a crowned lion (?) passant, with the legend—

† SIGILL' PREPOSITOR' DE NORHAMTON.

Lancaster itself had a common seal in the time of Henry III.;¹³ no example of it is known, but draw-

¹ C, 8.13, B 450.

² *Ibid.*, R 166.

³ *Ibid.*, S 224.

⁴ HH, 360.

⁵ Duchy of Lancaster Deeds, L, 1108.

⁶ *Ibid.*, L, 1089.

⁷ Mr. Fitzherbert-Brockholes' Deeds.

⁸ HH, 458.

⁹ HH, 323.

¹⁰ Duchy of Lancaster Deeds, L, 1085.

¹¹ Additional MS., 32104, No. 436.

¹² C, 8.13, C 237.

¹³ W. O. Roper, *Lancaster Church* (Chetham Society, n.s.), 346.

ings by Kuerden, appended to Lancaster deeds attested in 1311 by the bailiffs and later by the mayor and bailiffs, probably represent the borough seal of that time. Though extremely rude, the drawings show clearly what the design was.¹ No inscription is recorded.



1311



1345 (?)

The ancient seal still occasionally used for some purposes by the mayor may come from the time of Henry VI. In 1432 the privileges of the statute merchant were allowed; a clerk appointed by the Crown, not the borough, was to join with the mayor in attesting the recognisances of debt, and that mentioned seems to be his seal. Its device is a three-towered castle with lion and fleur-de-lys at the base; and the legend is royal, not civic—

† S. HENR. DE G. RE. ANGLE & FRANCE & DNS HIBE.

The engraving is rude, and there is an error in the legend.

¹ Kuerden's folio MS., 313, 256. The latter deed bears the year 9 E. 3, or 1335; as this is two years before the charter of gild merchant it is perhaps a mistake for 19 E. 3.