

FIRST MENTION OF A LIVERPOOL MAYOR.

IN deed No. 1080 in *A Calendar of the Norris Deeds (Lancashire) 12th to 15th century*, by J. H. Lumby, M.A. (Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, Vol. 93, 1939) reference is made to "the Mayor and Commonalty of Liverpool." This deed is dated 1 February, 1351/2. It constitutes, therefore, the earliest-known reference to a Mayor of Liverpool, being nine weeks anterior to the previously earliest-known mention, which is that contained in a deed dated 4 April, 1352 (British Museum Additional MSS. 32105/219) in which William fil Adam "tunc maiore de Lyverpull" is named as a witness.

In bringing this latter deed to the notice of this Society in 1902 (*Transactions*, Vol. 54, p. 122), the late John Elton said: "There seems little doubt that in this deed we may possess the name and date of the first actual mayor of the town." It will be noticed that the Norris deed referred to above and the deed quoted by Mr. Elton were executed in the same mayoral year.¹ The earlier mention of a Mayor of Liverpool in the Norris deed, therefore, does not impugn Mr. Elton's suggestion that William fil Adam was the first occupant of the Liverpool Mayoral chair.

An abstract of this Norris deed is printed in Volume 72 of these *Transactions* (1920), p. 82, but the significance of its date in relation to the Liverpool Mayoralty does not appear to have been noticed.

S. A. HARRIS.

1. There is no reason to believe that the ancient Liverpool mayoral year (noon on 18 October to noon on the following 18 October) was not in operation from the earliest times. It was abolished under the terms of the Municipal Reform Act of 1835.