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ANGLO-NORMAN STUDIES

XXXII

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BATTLE CONFERENCE

2009

Edited by C. P. Lewis

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CONTENTS

LIST OF MAPS AND TABLES	vi
EDITOR'S PREFACE	vii
ABBREVIATIONS	ix
The Peace of God and Bishops at War in the Gallic Lands from the Late Tenth to the Early Twelfth Century (<i>R. Allen Brown Memorial Lecture</i>) <i>Dominique Barthélemy</i> (translated by <i>Graham Robert Edwards</i>)	1
<i>Ad erudiendum tradidit</i> : The Upbringing of Angevin Comital Children <i>Kathryn Dutton</i>	24
Coming and Going: The Use of Outdoor Space in Norman and Anglo-Norman Chronicles <i>Leonie V. Hicks</i>	40
The Urban Transformation in England, 900-1100 <i>Richard Holt</i>	57
The Taming of the Laity: Writing Waltheof and Rebellion in the Twelfth Century <i>Joanna Huntington</i>	79
Close Relations? Some Examples of Trade Links between England and the Towns and Ports of Lower Normandy in the Thirteenth and Early Fourteenth Centuries <i>Laurence Jean-Marie</i> (translated by <i>Susan Nicholls</i>)	96
The Roots of the English Royal Forest <i>Dolly Jørgensen</i>	114
Knighthood and Chivalry in the Histories of the Norman Dukes: Dudo and Benoît <i>Max Lieberman</i>	129
Prayers for the King and Royal Titles in Anglo-Norman Charters <i>Stephen Marritt</i>	184
Domesday Mortlake <i>Pamela Taylor</i>	203

MAPS AND TABLES

Richard Holt, *Urban Transformation*

The figures, composed and drawn by Nigel Baker, are from Nigel Baker and Richard Holt, *Urban Growth and the Medieval Church: Gloucester and Worcester*, Aldershot 2004, 167, 171, 189, and are reproduced by kind permission of Dr Baker and of Ashgate Publishing Limited.

Fig. 1	Worcester: an archaeological summary plan of major defensive features around and underlying the medieval city	62
Fig. 2	Central Worcester and the pre-Conquest defences: the archaeological evidence for the Worcester borough	63
Fig. 3	Worcester: the plot-system on the High Street, with measurements between primary (frontage to frontage) property boundaries, and the line of the levelled pre-Conquest defences	64

Max Lieberman, *Knighthood and Chivalry*

Table 1	Jean Flori's classification of <i>chevalier</i> in the <i>chansons de geste</i>	147
Fig. 1	Occurrences of <i>chevalier</i> in Benoît	157
Table 2	Other nouns used by Benoît for named <i>chevaliers</i>	177
Table 3	Adjectives used by Benoît for named <i>chevaliers</i>	179
Table 4	Other nouns used by Benoît for groups of unnamed <i>chevaliers</i>	182
Table 5	Adjectives used by Benoît for groups of unnamed <i>chevaliers</i>	183

Pamela Taylor, *Domesday Mortlake*

Fig. 1	Domesday Mortlake in context	204
Table 1	The boundary clauses of the Battersea and Wandsworth charters	214
Table 2	Payments from selected Canterbury estates	220
Table 3	Lanfranc's alleged recoveries	222

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The 32nd annual Battle Conference was held from 30 July to 3 August 2009 away from the venue that has been customary for four years in every five, because Pyke House in Battle was closed. Instead, the conference returned to the University of Wales Conference Centre at Gregynog, where the 2007 conference had been held so successfully. Holding the conference away from Battle imposes extra administrative tasks. This year they were despatched with efficiency and style by Charlotte Cartwright. Everyone who attended the conference, but especially the director, thanks her warmly for everything that she did to make the conference run smoothly.

All but one of the papers read during the conference are printed here, and it is hoped to include Julian Munby's paper on the Domesday boroughs in volume 33. The Allen Brown Memorial Lecture, honouring the conference's founder, was delivered on the first evening by Professor Dominique Barthélemy of the Sorbonne. The lecture is supported by the R. Allen Brown Memorial Trust, a registered charity, which welcomed a large group of members of the Powysland Club and other local historians to the event. As always, the conference was international in scope, speakers and delegates travelling this year from four countries outside the UK and representing nine nationalities. Further information about the Battle Conference can be seen at www.battleconference.com.

The outing on Saturday 1 August concentrated on the remains of two great monasteries of the Severn valley, Buildwas abbey and Wenlock priory. The visit to Buildwas also took in the abbot's lodgings, now in use as a social club, where the steward was welcoming and the members tolerant. The party also visited two smaller churches of the eleventh century: the little known St Giles, Barrow, and St Eata, Atcham, notable among Anglo-Normanists for its connections with Orderic Vitalis and his editor Marjorie Chibnall. The site visits were led by Carol Davidson Cragoe and Chris Lewis. Lunch was taken at the George & Dragon, Much Wenlock, which provided excellent hospitality, food, and drink on a rather wet day. Back at Gregynog there was a display of new books by Boydell & Brewer, and a visit to the private press, Gwasg Gregynog.

Caroline Palmer and her colleagues at Boydell & Brewer performed their annual miracle of producing the volume quickly despite extreme provocation this year by a dilatory editor with other things on his mind. Superstitious readers of prefaces will note that this is the thirteenth volume of *Anglo-Norman Studies* in which successive editors have thanked Caroline.

Chris Lewis