

## **From the Cartulary of La Roë: the Costs and Hassles of Going of Crusade**

*The following translations were made made Dr. Richard Barton (UNC-Greensboro) for his seminar on the Crusades. These particular translations were made from the unpublished cartulary in the Archives départementales de la Mayenne.*

### **1. The Costs of Crusading**

Wanting to go to Jerusalem, Zachary of Corbières gave to the church and canons of St Mary de la Roë the fief of Mellandus, which was next to Valeeta. But because he was afflicted with poverty, lord Albinus, abbot of the aforesaid church, gave 50 shillings to him out of charity, and 5 more shillings to his wife, Agnes. The couple completely surrendered the fief, along with its revenues, namely 5 shillings per year, and the tailles that were due to it, as alms to that church. Hugh, lord of Craon, approved and confirmed this donation, with the following persons seeing and hearing: Aubrey, Reginald, William, Warin de Port, all canons of Saint-Nicholas. From the laity, Roland of Craon, Pain the cook, with many others.

Not long after, John Mella denied to Abbot Robert and the canons the taille from his land. For this reason, the abbot impleaded him. With the just judgment of good judges, namely Geoffrey de Balors, Liseius of Novestol, Hamelin the Child, Hugh of la Roë, and many men of the church, including John the draper, John Bear-foot, Gimel, Payn Trosner and others, the abbot forced him to pay his taille, along with a fine of 7 ½ shillings. On top of this, the aforesaid judges adjudged that John Mella and his heirs should aid [i.e., endow] the church and canons from their acquisitions, not as much as 5 shillings, but according to the magnitude of his acquisitions and fief just as his other men; and if it should please the abbot and canons, he will aid them with only the 5 shillings [rough trans.]. The aforesaid judges saw and heard this, as did the following canons: Michael the cellarer, Theobald the prior, Theobald the candle-keeper, with many others.

Date: Abbot Albinus ruled La Roë between c.1116 and c.1125; Abbot Robert succeeded him, ruling from c.1125 to c.1138.

Source: Cartulaire de la Roë, Archives départementales de la Mayenne, H 154, f. 57r-57v, no. CXXVIII. Transcribed and translated from the Latin by Richard Barton

### **2. Organizing Friends and Vassals to Journey to the East**

*Concerning Hubert son of Helias*

After the death of his father, Helias, Hubert Helias concealed and denied the agreement which had been made between us and his father and Hubert himself, namely concerning the knight service valued at 10 shillings that he and his heirs owed us for their fief. Hubert, however, denied five shillings out of the aforesaid ten. So Abbot Walter set a date for a legal hearing, and summoned Hubert concerning his default of service to Cosmes in the house of the canons at the great court that had gathered there on account of William de Plessey, who, wanting to go to Jerusalem, was speaking on that day with his friends and vassals. Hubert twisted and kicked

sufficiently, but was foiled because many who were present had been at the previous agreement; through these men it was finally terminated, for Hubert, not daring to accept judgment, agreed to recognize the entire 10 shillings from which he had previously shaved off five. These persons saw and heard: Gervase Chaorcin, William de Plessey and Geoffrey his brother, Roland de Merail, Oliver his brother, Reginald de Coulaines, Raginald Bernuce, Matthew Sale, Isembard of the Chapel, Nicholas de Cosmes, John Terrici and an infinite number of others. From the canons: Abbot Walter himself, Lambert de Cherencius, Hamelin of Marigné, Reginald de Blochet, Ralph Bern[], John de Livré, Guit[ernus] of Bomas. From our men: Vivian Sorel and his son, Hubert Daure, Guito, André Roland. With these and many others present, lord Abbot Walter received Hubert Helie in liege homage, with the hands of Hubert placed between the hands of the abbot.

Date: after 1170 but before 1191. Possibly 1181-1191, and thus possibly connected to the Third Crusade.

Source: Cartulaire de la Roë, Archives départementales de la Mayenne, H 154, f.100r.  
Transcribed and translated from the Latin by Richard Barton.

### **3. Holding Court after Returning from the East**

Reginald son of Geoffrey de Yriaco gave in alms to the church of St Mary of la Roë the customs of his men that he received at Poencé, namely the third part between himself and Oliver de Veriz. On account of this, Michael, then abbot, and the convent of La Roë made an anniversary for the soul of Reginald his son, and received him in all the benefits of the church, along with the father and mother of Geoffrey, Juliana his wife, his father and mother and sons and daughters, namely Philip and William, and his brothers and sisters. The abbot also put the name of the aforesaid Reginald in the canons' martyrology. Not long afterwards, Oliver de Veriz came to the court of lord Maurice of Craon, which was the first he had held after his return from Jerusalem; it was on Christmas at Peletronia. Abbot Michael, and Geoffrey Letart his canon, went to Oliver and begged him for his part of the customs. For the love of God and for the salvation of him and his, Oliver freely gave it as nothing more than alms. These ones heard: Maurice of Craon, Hugo Boirne, German, with many others. And thus the canons had all the customs of Poencé and its lordship. The gift of lord Reginald of Yriaco was heard by Philip de Vere, Reginald de Plessey, Mathhew Bogner and many others.

Date: Christmas Day, possibly 1170.

Source: Cartulaire de la Roë, Archives départementales de la Mayenne, H 154, f.95r. Transcribed and translated from the Latin by Richard Barton.