

LYME REGIS CHARTERS at the Dorset History Centre

1284, 1 January Edward I DC/LR/I/2 Done at Bristol

Edward, king of England, lord of Ireland and duke of Aquitaine To burgesses of Lyme in the County of Dorset. Grant of all liberties granted to the citizens of London, namely:

That no burgess shall be compelled to plead outside the bounds of the borough; except in cases concerning: foreign tenures; king's moneyers and ministers; offences against the king's peace which are usually determined by the common law in the parts where the offences were committed; pleas concerning merchandise which are usually determined by the merchant law in boroughs and fairs, provided however that four or five of the burgesses present in the said boroughs and fairs may determine disputes, reserving ameracements to the king.

That the burgesses shall be quit of murder - fine within the borough and portsoken.

That no burgess shall engage in trial by combat.

That they may make proof in their own behalf in pleas of the crown arising within the borough or suburbs, according to the ancient custom of the City of London, except (as is excepted in the liberties of London), that when men chosen to make proof in such matters have died, it is not permitted to swear on the tombs of the dead to that which they would have said if living, but other free and lawful men shall be chosen in their place.

That no one shall take lodging within the borough or portsoken by force or marshal's assignment.

That throughout the land and in seaports on both sides of the sea the burgesses may take their merchandise free of toll and lastage and other customary dues; except the king's ancient prisage of one tun of wine before the mast and another abaft the mast at twenty shillings the tun to be paid in the usual manner; and if anyone takes toll or other customary dues contrary to this grant, the bailiff of Lyme may make distraint at Lyme.

That they may hold a hustings court every week for one day only, provided however that unfinished business may be held over until the next day, but no further.

That they shall have full right of justice touching their lands and tenures within the borough, according to the custom of the city of London, provided that both strangers and others may make attorneys to bring and

defend actions.

That they shall not be prosecuted for formal errors in pleading.

That pleas touching debts contracted or pledges given at Lyme may be held there, according to the usual custom and the custom of the city of London.

That the burgesses shall be quit of childwite and yeresyeve and scotale, provided that neither the bailiffs nor anyone else makes a scotale.

That they shall justly hold their lands, tenures, pledges and debts.

That no merchant shall go to meet merchants coming to the borough by land or water with goods to buy or resell until they have arrived and exposed their wares for sale, on pain of forfeiture of the thing bought and imprisonment.

That no one who owes customary dues shall expose his goods for sale until the custom has been levied, on pain of forfeiture of the goods.

That no merchant, stranger or other shall buy or sell any goods that ought to be weighed, except by the king's balance and beam, under forfeit of the goods.

That debts due to the burgesses shall be enrolled in the king's Exchequer, on the acknowledgement of the debtor, provided that no debt shall be enrolled on the acknowledgement of anyone not well known there, unless his identity is established by the oath of four or six lawful men of sufficient means to answer for the debt and any damages arising; and for every pound enrolled one penny shall be paid to maintain those who make the enrolments.

All these liberties and customs, together with other just and reasonable customs which the citizens of London have heretofore enjoyed, to be held by the burgesses and their heirs as long as they behave well and faithfully towards the king and his heirs.

King and his heirs to provide as seems fit concerning Jews, stranger merchants and other matters.

Witnesses:

John, Archbishop of Canterbury; Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells; William, Bishop of Norwich; Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester; Oliver, Bishop of Lincoln; Edmund the king's brother; Edmund, Earl of Cornwall; Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford; John de Warenne; Earl of Surrey; Roger de Mortimer; John de Vessy; Roger de Clifford; Reginald de Grey; William de [...] Leybern; John Giffard; Richard de Bruse; John de Vaux; Robert Fitzwalter; Hugh Fitzotto; Alan Plukenet; Anthony Bek,

Archdeacon of Durham; Master Robert de Schardeburg, Dean of York;
Thomas Bek, Archdeacon of Dorset; Master Geoffrey de Hasphale,
Archdeacon of Dublin

1330, 20 March Edward III DC/LR/I/3

Inspeximus of Edward III of charters of 1321 and 1285 confirming liberties. (Part of Great Seal).

[Inspeximus = we have seen, confirming the grant of former king]

1340, 17 October Edward III DC/LR/I/4

Letters patent of Edward III

Erection of new watermill on a plot called le Mulehulle with a ditch running transversely across the same plot from the river, which runs on the North side of the plot, southward to the mill.

Rent: 7s payment in two equal portions

Mandate to Ralph de Middeluye, escheator of Dorset, Somerset and Devon to conduct an inquisition ad quod damnum

Witnesses Edward Duke of Cornwall

Seal: Great Seal of Edward III, green wax on cords. (damaged)

1400, 10 June Henry IV DC/LR/I/5

Inspeximus of Henry IV of charters of 1330, 1321 and 1285 confirming liberties. (Part of Great Seal).

1414, 12 May DC/LR/I/6

Grant of town at fee farm for 10 years.

1444, 6 November DC/LR/I/7

Pardon of large debt owed by the Burgesses to Henry VI. (Part of Great Seal).

1461, 23 December Edward IV DC/LR/I/8

Grant of fee farm by Edward IV for 50 years. (Great Seal).

1482/3, 20 February DC/LR/I/9

Grant of fee farm for 65 years.

1488, 4 June DC/LR/I/10

Exchequer grant that fee farm and subsidies paid by the town should not be increased. (Fragment of Great Seal).

1510 21 November Henry VIII DC/LR/I/11

Inspeximus by Henry VIII of grant of fee farm for 65 years, 1483, confirmed 1488. (Part of Great Seal).

1543 5 June Henry VIII DC /LR/I/12

Grant by Henry VIII of fee farm for 50 years provided Burgesses maintain the Cobb. (Part of Great Seal).

1547 10 December Edward VI DC/LR/I/13

Inspeximus by Edward VI of I 12. (Part of Great Seal).

1554 Mary I DC/LR/I/14

Grant by Mary I of weekly market and 2 fairs yearly. (Part of Great Seal).

1555, 25 September DC/LR/I/15

Inspeximus of charter of Edward I.

1560, 18 March DC/LR/I/16

Inspeximus of (1) charters of 1400, 1330, 1321 and 1285 confirming liberties, (2) 1547 inspeximus of grant of fee farm for 50 years provided Burgesses maintain the Cobb, 1543, renewing grant of fee farm for 65 years, 1483. (No seal).

1579 Elizabeth I DC/LR/I/17

Exemplification of proceedings at enquiry into condition, utility and revenue of Cobb. (Exchequer Records Trinity.)

1591, 26 June DC/LR/I/18

Charter of Incorporation.

1604, 25 June James I DC/LR/I/19

Confirmation of privileges to Mayor and Corporation. (Part seal James I).

1608, 30 May DC/LR/I/20

Exemplification of decree in court of Exchequer, Easter Term, 6 James I, about Dorset clothiers and Dorsetshire dozens; that it is lawful for Dorset merchants to transport Dorsetshire dozens, made of their own Dorset wool and yarn, paying duty as for "short cloths" of 24 yards at 6s 8d per "short cloth". 30 May.

1610, 28 August James I DC/LR/I/21

Grant by James I of annuity of £20 for 21 years to maintain the Cobb, out of customs of port of Poole. (Great Seal, defective).

1634, 20 June Charles I DC/LR/I/22

Confirmation by Charles I of fee farm for ever, and grant that the Mayor shall be Clerk of the Market.

1655, 27 September Cromwell DC/LR/I/23

Grant by Oliver Cromwell of annuity of £100 for 10 years to maintain the Cobb, out of Lyme Regis customs. (good Commonwealth seal).

1670, 9 September Charles II DC/LR/I/24

Grant by Charles II of annuity of £100 for 7 years to maintain the Cobb, out of Lyme Regis customs. (Part of Great Seal).

1674, 22 December Charles II DC/LR/I/25

Charter of Charles II concerning Mayor and Common Council. (No seal).

1686, 11 March DC/LR/I/26

Confirmation of annuity of £100 for 21 years to maintain the Cobb out of Lyme Regis customs, granted 1684. (No seal).

1692/3, 2 and 4 March DC/LR/I/27

Confirmation by commissioners of the Great Seal of decree in Chancery ordering Gregory Alford etc to pay money owed to Mayor and Corporation and mortgage on prebend of Lyme Regis and Halstock. (Seal).

1705 31 July Anne DC/LR/I/28

Confirmation by of grant by Charles II of annuity of £100 for 19 years to maintain the Cobb. (Part of Great Seal).

Compiled from the National Archives Web Site

Richard Bull
17th March 2012