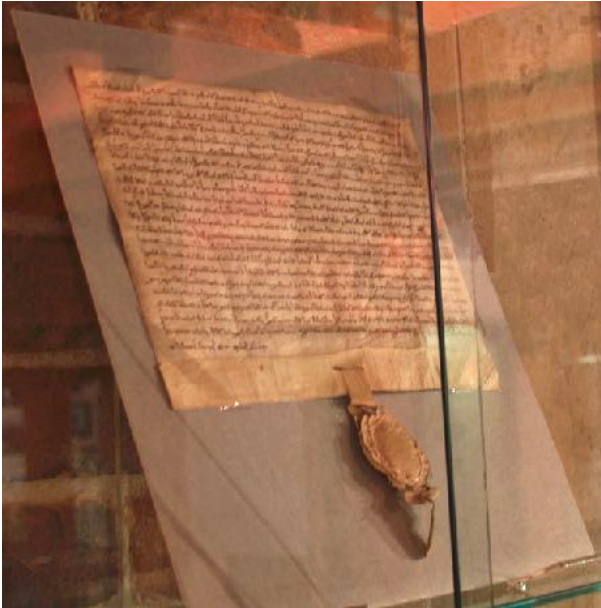




Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards and divers historical prospecting.

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POOLE

Did you know that Poole has a town charter dated 1248 (left, Wikipedia) which translated reads: Know all persons present and those to come, that I, **William Longespee**, have given and granted and by this my present writing have confirmed for me and mine heirs to the burgesses of Poole and their heirs, all kinds of liberties and free customs and acquittances, as well of their bodies and their chattels, form toll and all appertaining, as free citizens or burgesses of the cities or towns of our lord the King have throughout all England, in an ample a manner as was known to belong to me or my lands, upon the land, sea, ports and passages, saving to me and mine heirs of every ship sailing over the seas to foreign parts two shillings?

This was a quid pro quo for the burgesses of Poole raising money for William to go on the Seventh Crusade. Poole could now choose their town council but W.L. appointed the Mayor - then called the Port-reeve.

Off at a tangent: Angevin kings were known to make mistresses of their wards. Isabel de Beaumont provided a son for Henry I and Countess Ida de Tosny for Henry II; her offspring of course being our William Longespée.

TEE HEE LAURENCE

Whilst talking of Poole, we recently met up with an old friend from the town. We were discussing interesting parish churches and she happened to mention a fascinating apsidal church, St.Nicholas, at Moreton (near Bovington, Dorset), "You know, where Peter O'Toole is buried." It took me a minute to make the connection!

Q. What is the connection with us?
A. The Laurence Whistler windows. (right Moreton window by Whistler, courtesy Visit Dorset)



OUR ELIAS (Part 2)

Sue Allenby writes:

There are two lines in the snippets on Elias (J&T31) ref: Adrian Hastings on Becket's shrine, that I think need some clarification: the first sentence of the top paragraph on page 5, and the last sentence of paragraph 6. I don't think either is a direct quotation.

The shrine was spectacular with the gold casket created by Master Walter of Colchester; and Elias was described as an Artifex Incomparabilis, meaning that he was regarded not only as a capable administrator but also as a man of exceptional artistic achievement.

The first one as it stands does not have the wider context, so it skews the second, even as it turns Matthew Paris' valuable contemporary judgement into a non sequitur.

Walter of Colchester became a sacrist at St Albans Abbey. It is true that in a monastery sacrists were practising artists but that does not mean all practising artists were sacrists. Matthew Paris the St Albans Chronicler saw the shrine and identified two men as its creators: incomparabiles artifices, he wrote. In medieval writing, 'artifex' meant a working craftsman. So, where does the first sentence leave Elias, whose many skills included artist-craftsman? As late as 1238 he was still getting his hands dirty, building a sumptuous tomb base, possibly for Richard Poore. We know that because the king requisitioned it for his sister on March 6th she having died unexpectedly, on March 4th.

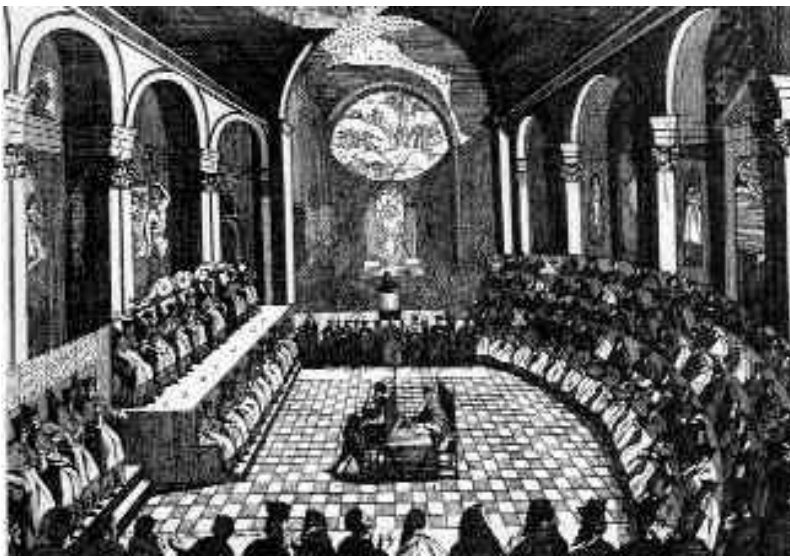
The fact that sacristans were known goldsmiths has led to the conclusion in the first sentence that Walter was the sole creator of the casket, but that conclusion ignores Matthew Paris' judgement on the shrine (right, self-portrait, *British Library MS Royal 14c VII, folio 6r - Wikipedia*). With great gaps in written source material, I found that each of the conundrums thrown up by Elias' life had to be



solved at least as a working hypothesis before I could move on with the story intelligently: here that means making sense of Matthew Paris' words and of all the other fragments that back them up. We cannot know for certain unless a new-found archive sheds light.

A contemporary craft, often overlooked, is that of tomb and shrine builder. Originally deriving from wood, it involved wood and stone carving, gold-smithing and colouring. It fits the interests perfectly of this multi-talented man. Hobby, like architect, are more modern words, but genius, as understood by the Romans, derives from the Latin, 'born with the person'. This hypothesis covers Becket's shrine and explains the tomb Elias was building in 1238. I could place then the attributed construction of Hubert Walter's stone tomb chest, identical in form to Longspee's tomb chest in oak, and one a similar design at Rochester for Bishop Gilbert Glanvil. And in 1244, at the end of Elias life, the making of a golden pyx for the reserved sacrament in Salisbury, for which the king paid him £20.

Elias had been one of Archbishop Stephen Langton's inner circle (the only one with artistic skill and architectural vision and knowledge), so this hypothesis also gives weight to Langton's



determination to have him returned early from exile. Later, when Elias chose his artists for the Salisbury vault paintings, he could instruct them himself. He could do this by applying his own creative artistry to his intimate knowledge of the Sarum Use, and of the reformed message from the Fourth Lateran Council (left, Council of Trent, *courtesy of Wikipedia*), so important to Stephen Langton. Langton died in 1228, before Bishop Richard left Salisbury to go

to Durham.

Elias became the only man in Salisbury who could ensure this reformed message would be fulfilled in art, which he did because the crossing that marked off all the sacred spaces was finished before he died in 1245. And I could move on with the story at least as far as the next conundrum, which was Bishop Richard's heartbroken letter to chapter on leaving and therefore his state of mind throughout that spring and summer of 1228. In April 1228 he knew he was to be translated to Durham. His written instruction from the pope came dated 14th May but he did not travel until late July. (Acta Richard Poore)

DID YOU KNOW

Another talented individual was Archbishop Stephen Langton. He not only compiled Magna Carta (no doubt with help from Elias) but also

The Bible is a compilation of many sacred texts and we take for granted the numbering system of chapters and verses that enable us to reference any part of the book. So I was surprised to read that it is to Stephen Langton that we owe this system. Various scholars had tried to come up with a workable method but it is Langton's on which modern chapter divisions are based.

And did you know that 100 million copies of the Bible are sold annually! The first printed Bible was the Latin Vulgate printed by Gutenberg in 1455 (right, *New York Public Library, courtesy of Wikipedia*).



TOMB TALK
In the north

transept is the memorial plaque to The Reverend Sir James Erasmus Phillipps, 12th Baronet who was born on 23rd October 1824 at Boyton (right, *courtesy of Church Monuments Gazeteer*). He was the son of Sir James Evans Phillipps 11th Baronet and Mary Anne Bickley. He married the Honorable Mary Margaret Best, daughter of the Honorable Reverend Samuel Best and Emma Duke on 5th May 1859. He died on 21st February 1912 at the age of 87.



He graduated from Christ Church, Oxford in 1847 with a BA Arts and obtained his MA in 1853. Between 1859 and 1897 he was Vicar at Warminster and a Canon of the Cathedral. Whilst there he reordered the Minster (St. Denys), founded St. John's Church, Warminster Hospital, the Orphanages of Pity, St. Monica's School for Girls (now part of Warminster School), St. Boniface College for Missionaries and the Sisters of St. Denys Convent.

He retired (no doubt exhausted) to the family seat of Picton Castle, Haverfordwest, Pembroke (below, by Waterborough 2013, *Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike*).

Between them they had eleven children and one, Captain Bertram Erasmus Phillipps (1870 - 1947), bought Dinton House and renamed it after himself - Phillipps House, now National Trust. All the offspring seem to have done well, take Ivo for example:

He gained the rank of Lieutenant in 1883 in the Indian Army. He fought in the Burmese War between 1887 and 1889. He fought in the China Lushai Expedition in 1889. He fought in the Miranzai Expedition in 1891. He fought in the Isazai Expedition in 1892. He gained the rank of Captain in 1894. He fought in the North-West Frontier in 1896. He fought in the Tirah Campaign from 1896 to 1897. He wrote the book The Issue of Orders in the Field, published 1900. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) in 1900. He fought in the Boxer Rebellion between 1900 and 1901, in the Relief Expedition, where he was mentioned in despatches. He gained the rank of Major in 1901.

He held the office of Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire. He held the office of Member of Parliament (M.P.) (Liberal) for Southampton between 1906 and 1922. He gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1908. He held the office of Governor of Pembroke Castle between 1908 and 1912. He held the office of Justice of the



Peace (J.P.) for Haverfordwest. He was appointed Justice of the Peace (J.P.) for Pembrokeshire. He gained the rank of GSO(2) in 1914. He fought in the First World War. He was Brigadier-General of the 115th Brigade between 1914 and 1915. He held the office of Parliamentary Secretary (Military), Ministry of Munitions in 1915. He gained the rank of Temporary Major-General between 1915 and 1916 in the 38th (Welsh) Division. He was appointed Knight Commander, Order of the Bath (K.C.B.) in 1917.