



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
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THE EAGLE

May 1866 - Letter to the Dean from Precentor Francis Lear:

My brothers and sisters and myself have with your sanction placed a brass eagle lectern in the Cathedral in memory of our late parents.

I have now on their behalf and my own to ask you and the Chapter to accept such lectern for the use of the Cathedral.

It has been executed in the Art Manufactory of Messers Skidmore, Coventry.

Francis Skidmore was the great specialist in ecclesiastical ironwork. Dean Lear's widow paid £1,000 for the great screen which he constructed as a pulpitum and installed in 1870. G G Scott wanted a stone screen but Mrs Lear could not afford it. Scott did the design but believed that Skidmore actually subsidised the cost of the magnificent screen. The banister to the pulpit is also Skidmore work. It is worth looking at YouTube where you can find a V&A video of the amazing restoration of the large rood cross that originally surmounted the screen. The screen was taken down in 1959 and mainly sold.

The Eagle lectern is part of the Gothic revival. In Medieval times it was believed that the eagle could look into the sun and as the highest flying bird was therefore closest to heaven. It was also an attribute of St. John the Apostle and thus represented the inspiration of the gospels.

BEECHAM

Richard Beauchamp was a younger son of Sir Walter de Beauchamp, a distinguished soldier and lawyer, and Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Roche.

He was Archdeacon of Suffolk in 1448 and installed as Bishop of Hereford in 1449 finally being translated by papal Bull in 1450 to the See of Salisbury.

From 1452 he appears to have acted upon occasions as Chaplain to the Order of the Garter and in 1475 was appointed by Edward IV as the first Chancellor of the Order with official lodgings in the precincts of Windsor Castle.

Beauchamp was made Master and Surveyor of 'works to be newly constructed', and by October 1475 work had begun and careful accounts for years 1477-9 kept by the Bishop on the building of the new

Chapel for the Order of the Garter. He was installed as Dean of Windsor in March 1478. The wood carving in the quire of St George's Chapel also contains the arms and badge, a snail, of Richard Beauchamp. The snail appears on numerous misericords and also desk fronts with mitres and Garter

KEY POSITIONS

In September 1867 following a spate of key tampering:

Proposed scheme for the keys

1. *The master keys to be done away with.*
2. *A separate lock to the Library a key to which shall be given to each of the following persons:- The Bishop, The Dean, The four Canons, The four Minor Canons, The Chancellor, The Sub Dean, The Succentor, The Chapter Clerk and the Senior Verger. This key to be stamped with the letter L and with the words Not transferable.*
3. *A separate lock to the Chapter House and Vestry a key to which shall be given to the Bishop, the Dean, the four Canons, the Chapter Clerk, the Clerk of Works and the two Vergers. This has to be stamped with the letters C V and with the words Not transferable.*
4. *A separate lock to the Cloisters, South Transept door, the Bishop's garden, the Library staircase, the North Porch gate and the West Front doors to which two keys shall be given to the Bishop, the Dean and the four Canons, and one key each to the following persons:- the Chancellor, the Sub Dean, the Succentor [Deputy Precentor], the Minor Canons, the Chapter Clerk, the Clerk of Works, the Junior Verger, the Close Laborer, Bell Boy and Bishop's Gardener also three keys to the Senior Verger. This key to be stamped with the letter C and with the words Not transferable.*
5. *A separate lock to the door of the North Porch the key to which shall be in the custody of the Head Verger from whom it may be obtained by tradesmen when employed in the Cathedral.*

The number of keys required

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|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Library lock | 1 lock and 16 keys |
| 2. Chapter House and Vestry | 2 locks and 10 keys |
| 3. Cloisters | 7 locks and 28 keys |
| 4. North Porch door | 1 lock and 3 keys |

And the Chapter Clerk was requested to communicate with Messers Chubb with a view of giving effect to the proposal.

MAGNA CARTA

Although I have talked about it before, we shall no doubt continue to come back to it as new discoveries are made and aspects of this fascinating document are made clearer. I

have just acquired a copy of Penguin's 2015 printing of *Magna Carta* which I find very illuminating.

Firstly, it clarifies the name. *Magna Carta* was used initially in 1225 to distinguish it from the smaller *Charter of the Forest*. There was a certain amount of confusion before it became generally established that the *Great* had become a reference to the document's importance.

The next point to be clarified concerns the word Copy which confuses a lot of our visitors who fail to understand the concept of an 'original copy'. The Penguin edition makes it clear that all sealed versions are, to use the legal term, *engrossments* and are original. A copy of an engrossment would not have had a seal attached. Just to confuse matters there are still extant drafts of the *Charter of Liberties* at different stages in the negotiation which fit between the *Articles of The Barons* and *Magna Carta* itself. Whilst mentioning the word *Liberties* it would appear that John thought of them as concessions whereas the Barons thought of them as rights.

Was there an original authorised text produced at Runnymede? The Penguin book believes there was. John declared that bishops would issue *letters patent testimonial* that would confirm the 'concessions'. None survive but in the 14th century one from Canterbury was copied into *The Red Book of the Exchequer*.

It is interesting to note that very quickly MC was translated into French for the benefit of the Barons but an English translation was not available until 1300. The first written translation into English that is still around today dates from the sixteenth century.

Finally, a subject that intrigues many visitors - are there any mistakes? It would appear that all copies contain errors but not of meaning. In our version *elongatus* (dispossessed) is omitted from Chapter 57. *Henry archbishop of Dublin* from Chapter 62 and in Chapter 61 the word *justicar* is used instead of 'king's justices'.

Incidentally, the Salisbury style of writing is described as 'bookish in form being similar to the writing in texts such as bibles and psalters'. Also that Salisbury is in the *future indicative* whereas the others are in the *present subjunctive* - I won't pretend to know what this means. If any of you are retired teachers and can provide a simple answer it would be much appreciated.

O & S

As you know, Old Sarum was famous for its scriptorium and I have often wondered what happened to it after the move to New Sarum. Could it be that the cloisters were in part built to house the scribes' carrels (cubicles cum desks)?

If you are missing any back copies of J&T which you would like to see, do e-mail me and I will forward them to you.