

DOCUMENT: L 157 b

SOURCE: Literae Cantuarienses: The Letter Books of the Monastery Christ Church, Canterbury ed. J Brigstocke Sheppard (HMSO) 1887

Vol. I p226 Letter 219 / Alt. ref. L. 157 b

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY

2 JULY 1327

The distant manor of Doccombe in Devonshire has through the neglect of the Seneschal, whose duties are performed by a deputy, been less profitable to the Convent than it ought to have been; the Prior therefore gives instructions to the locum tenens of the Seneschal.

TRANSLATION

Letter to Henry of Lappeflode, bailiff of Doccombe, about our tenants there.

'To his dear and well-beloved in God H[enry]. de Lappeflode, deputy of our seneschal in the county of Devonshire Henry, Prior of the Church, etc, [sends] greeting. Know, that on the second of July John Pope gave us a letter patent sealed with twelve seals, all made of one kind of wax, of which seven seals were all of one form, and five all of another form. And because there were contained in the said letter many things against us, and against the welfare of our Church, we send you a copy of this same letter by the hand of the said John Pope, but the sealed letter we shall retain with us until you come to us at Canterbury at Michaelmas, as you have lately promised to do by your letters.*

And we desire that all our lands held from us by our bondmen at Dockombe may remain in the hands and in the keeping of some of our own bondmen, to be held at our will accordingly as you may see will be for our profit; and that our said lands may not be entrusted to any freeman, nor to any bondman belonging to any lordship other than ours, even if he should be willing to pay more than one of our own bondsmen.

And we command that you do not let our land at Dockombe to any one who demands it as a right: or by any hereditary claim.

And because our bondmen at Dockombe (who are liable to be taxed at our will) have not been taxed for a long time, we desire that at Michaelmas next coming, you let them be taxed, and their chattels and moveable goods which they may have at that time to be appraised, and that for every mark {160d} of their goods and moveable chattels, you cause twelve pence {i.e. 7.5%} to be levied for our use by way of taillage, in order to keep alive our right.

And let us have this taillage, and the rent, and the profits of our land at Dockombe for this year as soon as you can after Michaelmas.

God be with you and keep you, and all belonging to you. Given at Canterbury on the day above written, in the first year of the reign of King Edward, the third after the Conquest. And let the names of all our men and our tenants of Dockombe who are now alive be written in a roll, and let us have this roll as soon as you can.'

*John Pope of Godmersham was an Accountant for CCC