

SOME INTERNET RESOURCES FOR MEDIEVAL GENEALOGY

by Chris Phillips¹

Chris Phillips continues his regular feature with a focus on three academic projects that have recently made important collections of medieval English source material freely available on the Internet.

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Calendar of the Patent Rolls

The Patent Rolls, beginning around the year 1200, are one of the major series of records produced by the English government in medieval times. English abstracts in 52 volumes, covering the period 1232-1509, were published about a century ago, and more than half of these have now been made available on the Internet in PDF format by Professor Bob Boynton and the University of Iowa Libraries. The text is searchable by keyword, or the images can be viewed by specifying a volume and page number. So far 27 volumes covering the period 1348-1452 are included, and there are plans to add the earlier volumes in the series. Currently the collection is at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/patentrolls/>, but it is due to move to a new permanent home in the future.

DEEDS

Professor Michael Gervers and his group at the University of Toronto have digitised a large collection of Latin texts of medieval charters, known as DEEDS. (The acronym stands for Documents of Essex England Data Set, but the scope of the collection has expanded to include many charters from other parts of England and Wales.) These texts - currently including more than 8000 charters extracted from 170 published cartularies, mainly from the 12th and 13th centuries - are now online at <http://www.utoronto.ca/deeds/research/research.html>. The largest numbers of charters come from Lincoln Cathedral, the Order of the Knights of the Hospital of St John, and the abbeys of Osney, Cirencester and Eynsham. The texts can be browsed or searched (it's important to remember that the text is in Latin when picking keywords), and for each charter there is normally a link to a scan of the published version, which may include an abstract in English.

Dugdale's Monasticon

Monastic Matrix, at <http://monasticmatrix.usc.edu/>, is an impressive site that provides resources for the study of women's religious communities in the period 400-1600. The site contains a lot of useful reference material and is well worth exploring fully, but one outstanding contribution is a PDF version of the 1817-1830 edition of Sir William Dugdale's *Monasticon*, originally published in the 17th century and containing extensive extracts from English monastic records, many of them copied from originals since lost. To reach the *Monasticon*, start from <http://monasticmatrix.usc.edu/bibliographia/> and use the "Search" option, specifying "Monasticon" as the title. One note of caution - currently there is one file

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for each religious house, which means download times can be quite long, especially when using a dial-up connection. Apparently it's hoped to split the material into smaller files in the future.

N.B. The producers of *Monastic Matrix* hope to add more digitised texts in the future, and would welcome suggestions of suitable material relevant to the site's area of interest. Please send any suggestions to Professor Lisa Bitel at *bitel@usc.edu*.

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