

Spotlight On: Chancery

We hope you enjoyed [watching our Education Service video](#) with collections expert Paul Dryburgh. This video focusses a chancery record from the reign of Henry III and explores the role and function of chancery within royal government.

Suitable for:

KS 3-5

Time period:

Medieval

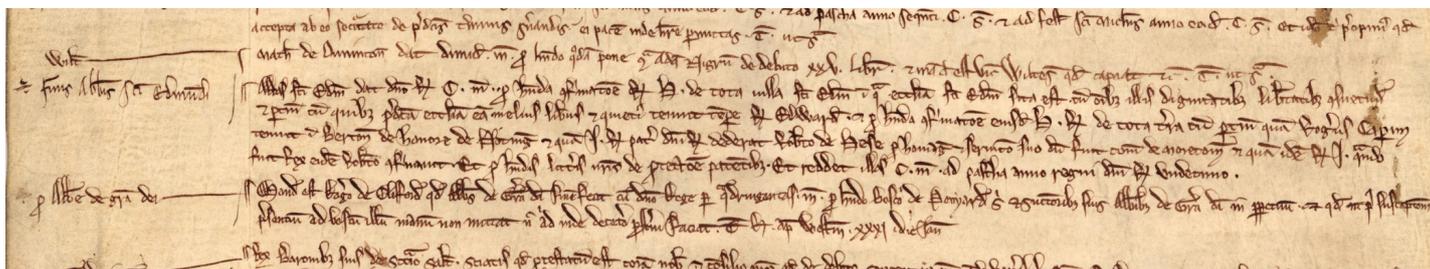
974-1485

Watch the video then try and answer the following questions:

- What was the medieval chancery?
- Who worked there?
- The three types of Chancery roll are: Letters close; letter patent; fine rolls. Can you explain the difference between them?
- How is information kept together in a roll?
- How did the scribes solve the problem of not having an index?
- What type of document is the Henry III document featured in the video?
[Look at the image and transcript or the video]
- Can you describe the appearance of the document?
- What is the date?
- Who has produced it?
- Who is it for?
- What is the purpose of this particular document? [Use the transcript to help]
- How is this document useful for understanding society during the reign of Henry III?
- What is the value of chancery records?
- Why does the National Archives have these records?

Fine Roll of Henry III, 11 Henry III (28 Oct 1226-27 Oct 1227)

Catalogue Ref: C 60/25/10



Transcript

The abbot of St Edmunds gives the king 100 m. for having his confirmation of the whole vill of st Edmunds, in which the church of St Edmund is sited, with all those dignities, liberties, customs and appurtenances which the aforesaid church is held it best, most freely and most quit in the time of King Edward, and for having the confirmation of King Henry of all land with appurtenances that Roger Caperun held in Barton of the honour of Nottingham and which King John, father of the King, had given to Robert de Hese for his homage and service while he was count of Mortain, and which King John confirmed when he became king, and for having the king's letters patent of protection. He is to render those 100 m. at Easter in the eleventh year.

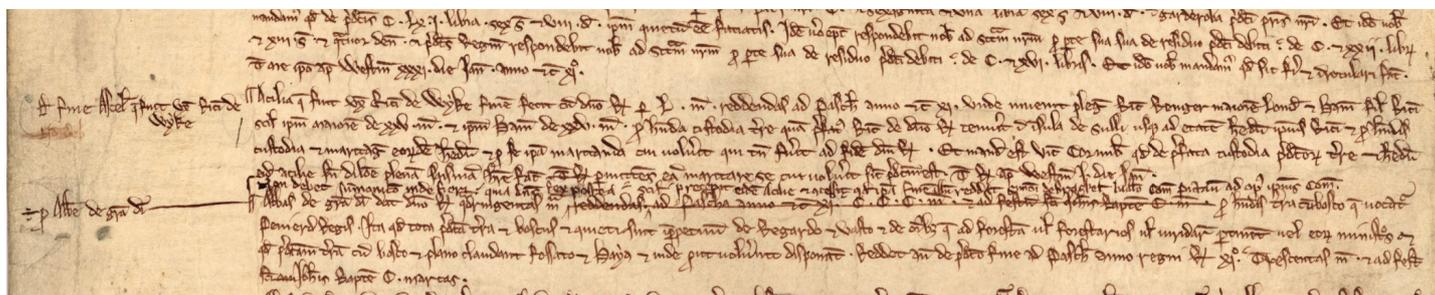
Glossary

Vill: the smallest administrative unit under the feudal system, consisting of a number of houses and their adjacent lands, roughly corresponding to the modern parish.

M: mark was a measure of weight mainly for gold and silver, commonly used throughout Europe, a unit currency.

Fine Roll of Henry III, 11 Henry III (28 Oct 1226-27 Oct 1227)

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Transcript

Acilia, who was the wife of Richard of Week, has made fine with the king by 50 m., to be rendered at Easter in the eleventh year, for which she has found Richard Reinger, mayor of London, and Hamo son of Richard as pledges, namely the mayor for 25 m. and Hamo for 25 m., for having custody of the land that the abovesaid Richard held of the king in the isles of Scilly, until his heirs come of age, and for having the custody and marriage of the same heirs, and for marrying whom she wishes who will then be in the king's faith. Order to the sheriff of Cornwall to cause Acilia to have full seisin without delay of the abovesaid custody of the aforesaid land and heirs, permitting her to marry herself to whomever she will wish, as aforesaid. 1 The summons ought not to be made because, afterwards, the king namely ordered and granted to Acilia that she may render that fine to Simon of Brackley, bailiff of the count of Poitou, to the use of the same count.

Glossary

seisin: possession of land by freehold.

M: mark was a measure of weight mainly for gold and silver, commonly used throughout Europe, a unit currency.

Connections to Curriculum

Key stage 4

AQA GCSE History

- Power and the people: c1170 to the present day: Challenging authority and feudalism: The origins of parliament: issues between King Henry III and his barons.

OCR GCSE History

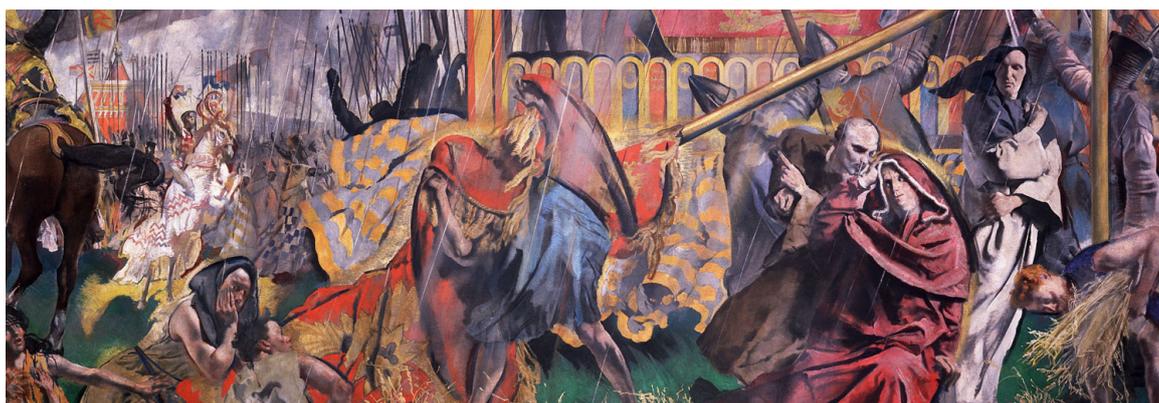
- Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1000 to 2014: Struggles over power: emergence of Parliament in the reigns of Henry III

Related resources



Magna Carta

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Magna Carta, 1215 and beyond

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What was Anglo-Saxon society like?

Related resources



Chertsey

What was Chertsey like in the Middle Ages?



Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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