

References

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A CRYPTONYM OF c. 1633–45 IN THE BISHOP'S WALTHAM RENTALS

By H G BARSTOW

Recently, Dr E C Cawte of Ibstock, Leicester, informed me that there should be an amendment to the published Rental of Bishop's Waltham manors of c. 1630 (Barstow 1994; HRO 11M59Ecc.II 155651/2). On page 108 and the accompanying note on land belonging to 'The Bishop of Canterbury', a re-examination of the original rental shows that the suggested letter 'H' in the fourth line should be an 'T'. The column of letters now reads 'Will Laud', who was Archbishop of Canterbury 1633–45 and at an earlier date Rector of Ibstock.

Evidently the scribe disapproved of him, and calls him only a 'Bishop'. His name used as Ro-

man numerals is as follows, reading downwards; presuming he uses the 'W' as an 'X', and the capital 'J' normally used in documents of this period for the letter 'T'. The 'A' counts as 0, not being a Roman numeral.

William Laud (1573–1645) was educated at St John's college, Oxford, at the age of sixteen. He became a Fellow four years later and was ordained in 1601. He made himself unpopular with the university authorities by his open antipathy to the dominant Puritanism. Nevertheless, he rose steadily with the help of James I, Charles I and the nobility. His preferments included Bishop of St

The B'pp. of Canterbury.

W (X).....	10
J (I).....	1
LL.....	100
L.....	50
A.....	0
U.....	5
D.....	500

666

Compare these numeral letters
to ye 18 verse of ye 13 Cap: (*Chapter*) of ye Revelations.

*"Here is wisdom Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast;
for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."*

David's 1621, Bishop of Bath and Wells 1626, Bishop of London 1628 and Archbishop of Canterbury 1633.

He tried to raise the Church of England as a branch of the Church Catholic, and to root out Calvinism in England and Presbyterianism in Scotland, for which the Pope twice offered him a Cardinalship. The latter led to the 'Bishop's War' in Scotland 1635-7. He was impeached for treason in 1640 by the Long Parliament, and sent to the Tower. In 1644, he was found guilty of endeavouring to subvert the laws and overthrow the Protestant religion. Although the judges said that this was not treason, he was beheaded on Tower Hill in 1645.

The Date of the Manuscript

This cryptograph in the c. 1630 Rental of Bishop's Waltham gives a more positive date for the document of not earlier than 1633, unless it is a later insertion. This seems improbable, since the rest of the manuscript and the cryptograph appear to be in the same hand. The original manuscript is very mutilated, and was dated in the 1994 edition to c.

1630, on the evidence that this date appears twice among the surviving portions. This now has to be revised to 1633 or later. An additional dating clue is provided by the mention of (D)r or (Recto)r Gulston of Hoo, which is adjacent to Waltham (Barstow 1994, 48). A Joseph Gulston was rector of Waltham 1642-9, and could possibly date the manuscript to the later date of 1642-5, when Laud was beheaded. Research of wills and manorial court documents (if any), at the PRO and HRO, for persons listed in this rental, and their decease, which may give a more accurate dating, has not been attempted.

References

Manuscript Source

Hampshire Record Office 11M59Ecc.II 155621/2

Printed Source

Barstow, H G 1994 (ed.) *1630 & 1693 Rentals of Bishop's Waltham Manors with 1550 Bursledon & Weston, and 1573 Ashton*, privately published.

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