

## Durham Priory: Sacrist of Coldingham's Accounts

### Introduction

1310-1413, but only 1363-67 contain relevant material; relevant rolls one membrane each, length 283-381 mm., width 288-310 mm. Single column, with undivided expenses and a separate line for each entry. Unusually, these rolls are cut in zig-zag fashion at the head rather than the side, suggesting that they were cut after one copy had been copied below another, but as only one copy survives for each year, this cannot be proved. Terminal dates are each from a different numerical date in May until 'the same day the following year', but all these dates coincide with the Monday after Ascension.

Coldingham had been the site of a famous Anglo-Saxon monastery,<sup>1</sup> which was re-founded by 1139 following grants to Durham Priory from the Kings of Scots.<sup>2</sup> The harmony of this arrangement was disrupted by King Edward I's invasions of Scotland in the 1290s and by Durham priory's association with English attempts to impose Edward Balliol as a tributary King of Scots in the first half of the fourteenth century.<sup>3</sup> These led to suspicions at the Scottish court about English control of Coldingham, and ultimately to a long and bitter dispute over it between Durham and Dunfermline, which ended after nearly a century with Durham's loss of control in 1462.<sup>4</sup>

There are also some surviving accounts of the Prior of Coldingham between 1342 and 1447, but these contain no relevant material, nor do any of the Coldingham accounts provide evidence for performance there; the only relevant items are payments for the Almonry Bishop in Durham.

### Texts

**1363-4** (15<sup>th</sup> May - 15<sup>th</sup> May)

**Sacrist of Coldingham's Account** DUL

...

*Item Episcopo* Elimosinarie in percameno et in .j. *quaterno* de Papiro empto iij s. vj d.

...

**1364-5** (6<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> May)

**Sacrist of Coldingham's Account** DUL

...

*Item Domino* uttredo de Bolton *pro expensis* suis. *apud capitulum generale* Domino R de Clayxton nouiciis. *Episcopo* elimosinarie et in elimosina data per annum xj s. iiij d.

...

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<sup>1</sup> Bede, *An Ecclesiastical History of the English Church and People*, Book IV, chapters 19, 25, ed. B. Colgrave and R.A.B. Mynors, Oxford, 1969, 392-93 and 420-27.

<sup>2</sup> A.C. Lawrie, *Early Scottish Charters* CXXI, CXXXIII and CLXXVIII. On the origins of the monasteries of Coldingham and Holy Island we have been greatly helped by an unpublished article by A.J. Piper.

<sup>3</sup> See end note on the Bursar's account for 1332-3, and Nicholson, *Edward III and the Scots*, passim.

<sup>4</sup> See Dobson, *Durham Priory* 316-27 and idem, 'The Last English Monks on Scottish Soil: the Severance of Coldingham from the Monastery of Durham, 1461-78, *Scottish Historical Review* 46 (1967), 1-25.

**1366-7** (18<sup>th</sup> May – 18<sup>th</sup> May)  
**Sacrist of Coldingham's Account** DUL

...

Exspense: ...

*Item in donis datis per annum videlicet episcopo elimosiinarie & fratribus nostris venientibus ad Coldingham cum oblacionibus datis ad natale & pascam*

xx.vj s. ij d.

...

### **Textual Notes**

- 1363-4: a roll written without any subsection headings; closing date is probably approximate, as the account for the following year begins on 6<sup>th</sup> May.
- 1364-5: [subsection heading lost](#).

### **End Notes**

- 1364-5: Uhtred of Boldon and Robert of Claxton were Durham monks. Uhtred was a notable scholar and opponent of John Wycliffe who was probably based in Oxford at this time (Dobson, *Durham Priory*, 345-46), but his journey to attend the general chapter was paid for by contributions from a number of cells and obedientiaries, of which this is one. Robert of Claxton was probably a student at Durham College, Oxford.