

BOLTON PRIORY

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Introduction

William Meschines and his wife Cecilia de Romeli, lady of Skipton, founded this Augustinian monastery in 1120 at Embsay near Skipton. In 1151, the Austin canons relocated the priory to more productive lands on the banks of the River Wharfe just north of the village of Bolton Abbey (which is about five miles east of Skipton, 24 miles northwest of Leeds).¹ Given how the Priory prospered in the early years of the fourteenth century as a result of strong harvests of wheat, oats, and barley and a herd of about 400 cattle,² it is surprising that we have no other evidence of performance activity there except for this record of a boy bishop from York. In the wake of the Dissolution of the monasteries, Henry Clifford of Skipton Castle, first earl of Cumberland, purchased most of the Bolton Priory property, thereby acquiring this Bolton Abbey manuscripts, which are now at Chatsworth House.

¹"Houses of Austin canons: Priory of Bolton," in *A History of the County of York: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1974), pp. 195: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/vol3/pp195-199> [accessed 16 January 2016].

²David Hey, *Yorkshire from AD 1000* (London and New York: Longman, 1986), pp. 70, 74.

Record

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Account Book: Gifts

Devonshire MSS, Chatsworth, Bolton MS 73A

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Episcopo Innocenter de Eborum --- ij. s.

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Document Description

Devonshire MSS, Chatsworth, Bolton MS 73A; 1287-1325; Latin; parchment; 502

folios; 270mm x 180mm; fair condition with some fading and mildew damage; repaired and bound in board and leather; title on cover *Compotus Monasterii de Boulton*; numbered by folio in a later hand.