

# From Magna Carta to the Parliamentary State: the fine rolls of King Henry III 1216-1272

David Carpenter



2nd July 2007

CCH – King's College London

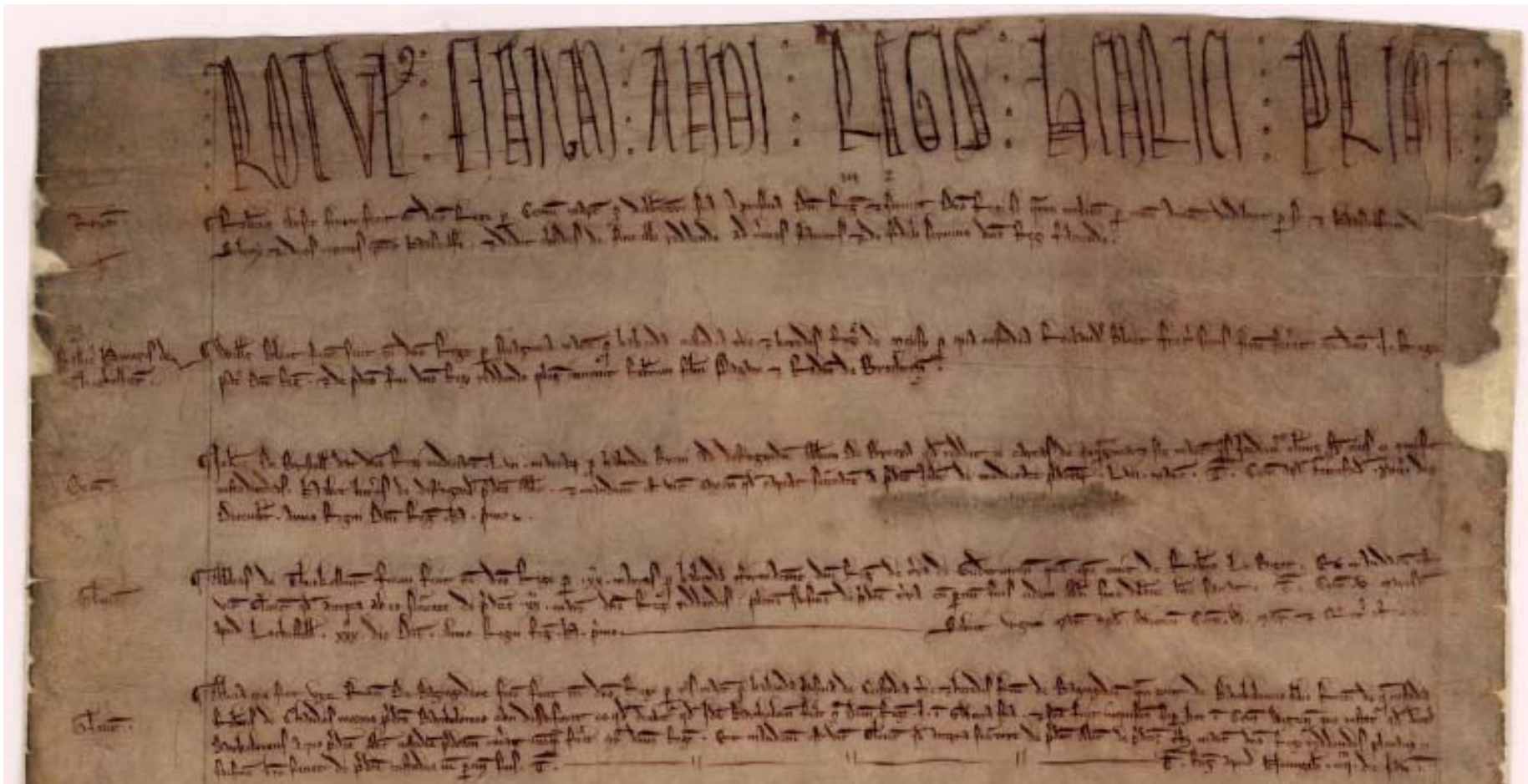




Henry III Fine Rolls Project

# Henry III Fine Rolls project

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# Margaret de Redvers

325 [No date]. For Margaret de Redvers. Margaret de Redvers has made fine with the king by 200 m., so that she is to be quit of sending knights with the king at his passage in the thirteenth, year, and for having her scutage from the knights' fees that she holds of the king in chief, namely 3 m. per shield for the king's army at the aforesaid passage, and so that she shall not be compelled to marry for as long as she wishes to live without a husband, and if she will wish to marry, she is to marry by her will on condition that she does not marry enemies of the king. <sup>1</sup>



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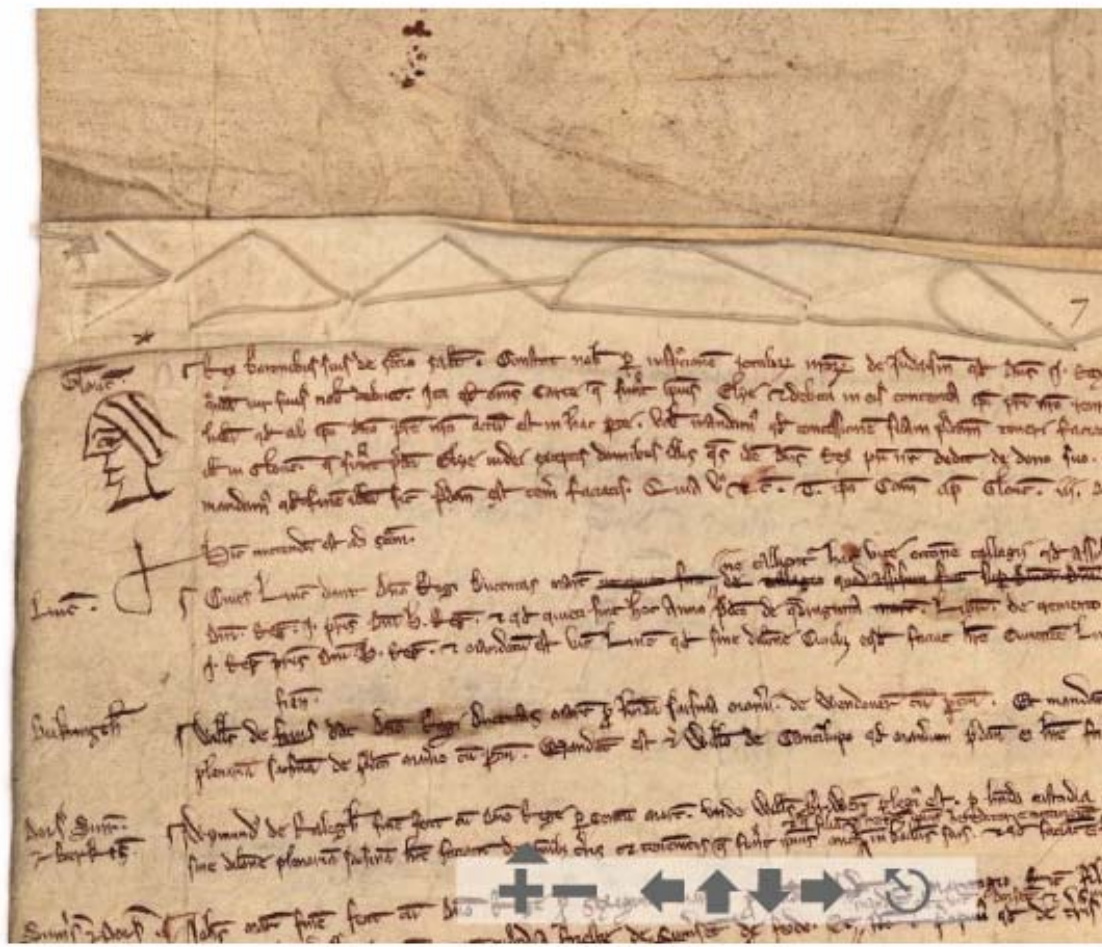
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# Henry III Fine Rolls Project

*A window into English  
history, 1216-1272*

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, and combining The National Archives with King's College London's Department of History and Centre for Computing in the Humanities, The Henry III Fine Rolls Project is a unique and pioneering enterprise which democratises the rolls by making them freely available in English translation with a sophisticated electronic search engine, the first medieval source to be treated in this way.

This first three year project will publish the rolls down to 1248 in the following forms:

- An English translation of the rolls in electronic form on the KCL website, with a sophisticated search and analysis facility.
- Four printed volumes, published by Boydell & Brewer, with full indexes.
- Digital facsimile images of the rolls on the KCL website.

Directors: David Carpenter (KCL), David Crook (TNA), Harold Short (CCH)



[Enter the Henry III Fine Rolls website](#)





## Translation

Links to the full translated text of the Fine Rolls, 1-8 Henry III (1216 – 1224). Users are advised that:

- The translation of the rolls presented here for 9-18 Henry III (1224 – 1234) is still in progress and is subject to change.
- No translation is yet available for the rolls for 19-34 Henry III (1234 – 1248), although the scanned [images](#) of these rolls are available.
- Anyone wishing to cite entries in these later rolls are urged to contact the project team to ascertain the latest state of progress. Any report of errors and comments are welcome through our [feedback form](#)

TNA Reference	Regnal Year	Date
<a href="#">+ C 60/8</a>	1 HENRY III	(28 October 1216-27 October 1217)
<a href="#">+ C 60/9</a>	2 HENRY III	(28 October 1217-27 October 1218)
<a href="#">+ C 60/11</a>	3 HENRY III	(28 October 1218-27 October 1219)
<a href="#">+ C 60/12</a>	4 Henry III	(28 October 1219-27 October 1220)
<a href="#">+ C 60/15</a>	5 HENRY III	(28 October 1220-27 October 1221)
<a href="#">+ C 60/16</a>	6 HENRY III	(28 October 1221-27 October 1222)
<a href="#">+ C 60/18</a>	7 HENRY III	(28 October 1222-27 October 1223)
<a href="#">+ C 60/21</a>	8 HENRY III	(28 October 1223-27 October 1224)
<a href="#">+ C 60/22</a>	9 HENRY III	(28 October 1224-27 October 1225)
<a href="#">+ C 60/23</a>	9 HENRY III	(28 October 1224-27 October 1225)
<a href="#">+ C 60/24</a>	10 HENRY III	(28 October 1225-27 October 1226)
<a href="#">+ C 60/25</a>	11 HENRY III	(28 October 1226-27 October 1227)
<a href="#">+ C 60/27</a>	12 HENRY III	(28 October 1227-27 October 1228)
<a href="#">+ C 60/28</a>	13 HENRY III	(28 October 1228-27 October 1229)
<a href="#">+ C 60/29</a>	14 HENRY III	(28 October 1229-27 October 1230)
<a href="#">+ C 60/30</a>	15 HENRY III	(28 October 1230-27 October 1231)
<a href="#">+ C 60/31</a>	16 HENRY III	(28 October 1231-27 October 1232)
<a href="#">+ C 60/32</a>	17 HENRY III	(28 October 1232-27 October 1233)
<a href="#">+ C 60/33</a>	18 HENRY III	(28 October 1233-27 October 1234)

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### 4 Henry III (28 October 1219-27 October 1220)

 [Images of roll C 60/12](#)

View calendar by date October 1219 

Membrane 9

 [Image of membrane 9](#)

Roll of fines from the fourth year of King Henry.

- 1     **27 Oct.** Westminster. *Lancaster*. To the sheriff of Lancaster. The king has received the homage of Adam of Pendlebury for one carucate of land with appurtenances in Pendlebury and for the fourth part of a bovate of land with appurtenances in Shoresworth, of which Elias of Pendlebury, his father, whose heir Adam is, was, he says, seised as of his right and inheritance on the day he died. Order that, having accepted security for rendering his relief of these lands, he is to cause him to have full seisin of them without delay. Witness H. etc.

---

- 2     *Yorkshire*. To the sheriff of Yorkshire. The king has committed to Robert, former abbot of Thorney, his manor of Easingwold with appurtenances for his sustenance in the king's service until he can be advanced to another prelacy, so that he is to answer at the Exchequer by his hand for the farm due from this manor, for which the aforesaid sheriff and other sheriffs have been accustomed to answer. Order to cause him to have full seisin of the manor with appurtenances in the aforesaid manner. <sup>1</sup> Witness as above. By the same and the king's council. Before the Legate.
  1. <sup>1</sup> '...saving to the king his will and command when he reaches age' has been crossed through. In the witness clause 'the bishop of Winchester' has also been crossed through.

---

- 3     **29 Oct.** Westminister. *Devon*. Order to the sheriff of Devon that, having accepted security from Robert de Courtenay for rendering his relief, he is to cause him to have full seisin without delay of all lands and appurtenances formerly of Hawise de Courtenay, his mother, which fall to him by inheritance within his bailiwick. Witness H. etc.

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- 4     It is written in the same manner to the sheriff of Dorset and Somerset.



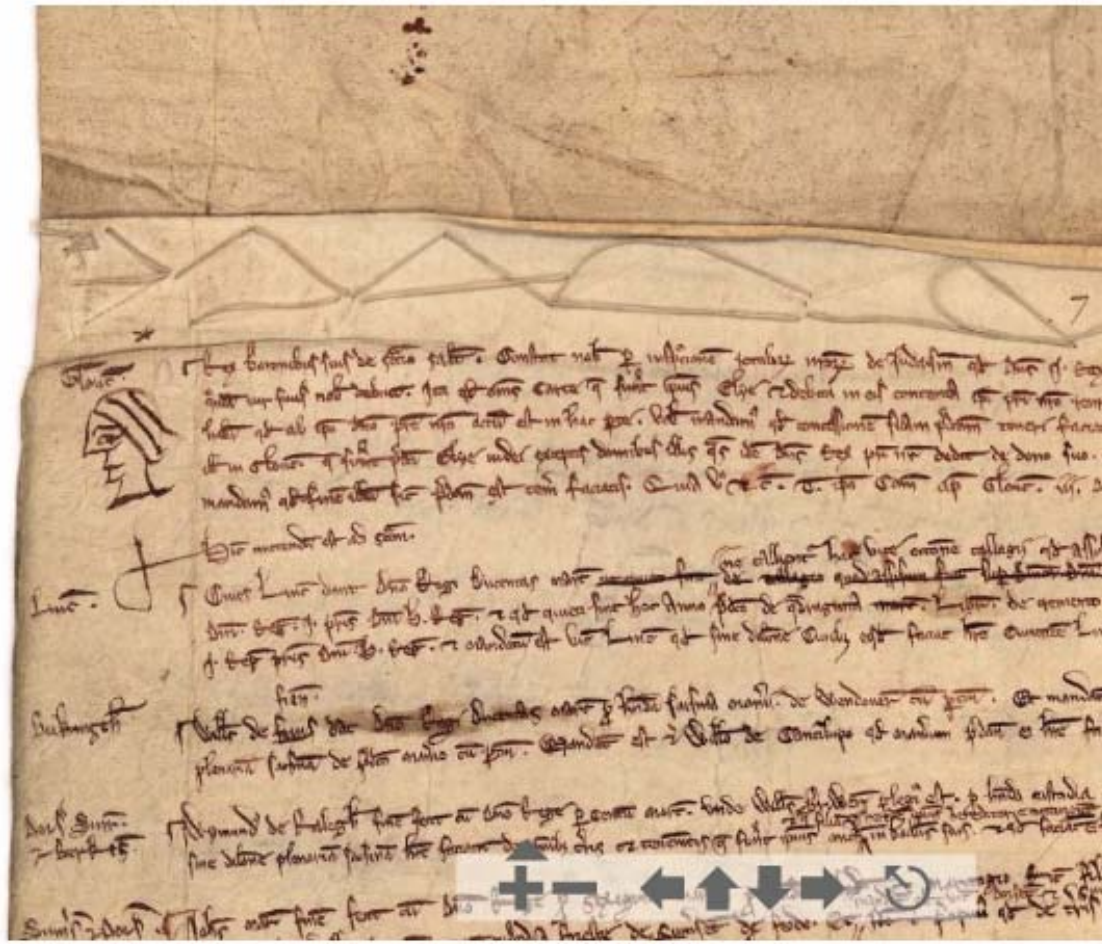


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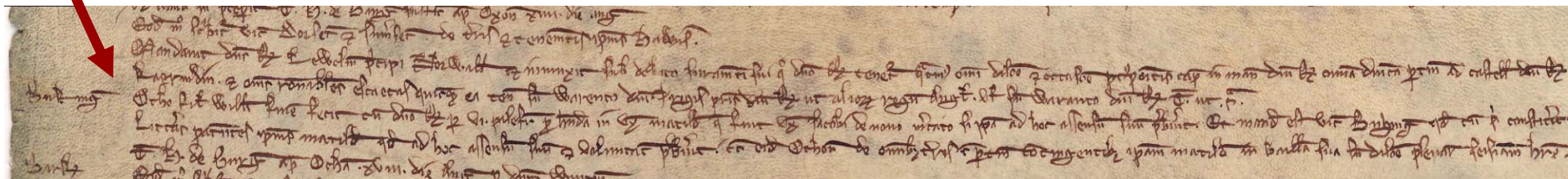
See also [Assizes](#) ; [Markets](#) ; [Prise](#) ; [Renders](#)



# Otto son William offers the king six palfreys to have to wife Matilda widow of James of Newmarket

367

**18 Aug.** Oakham. *Buckinghamshire*. Otto son of William has made fine with the king by six palfreys for having to wife Matilda, who was the wife of James de Neufmarche , if she will give her assent to this. Order to the sheriff of Buckinghamshire that, when he can establish by Matilda's letters patent that she offers her assent and will to this, then he is to cause Otho to have full seisin without delay of all lands with appurtenances falling to her in his bailiwick. Witness H. de Burgh. By the bishop of Winchester.







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## Fine of the Month

As part of the process of editing the Fine Rolls, a number of entries of general interest, or of more specific interest to the academic reader, have been identified. Since December 2005, every month a member of the Project Team or other scholar has commented on material of particular interest in the Rolls. Simply click on the links below for access to the monthly fines.

- ▶ December 2005: → [The first agenda for a meeting of the king's council, 1218](#) David Carpenter
- ▶ January 2006: → [Maud de Caux and the custody of the forests of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire](#) David Crook
- ▶ February 2006: → [The inheritance of Thurstan Basset](#) Scott Waugh
- ▶ March 2006: → [The Munster estates of John d'Evreux](#) Beth Hartland
- ▶ April 2006: → [A Medieval Murder Mystery, or the Crime of the Canteloups](#) Tony Moore
- ▶ May 2006: → [The Dower of Isabella of Angoulême](#) Louise Wilkinson
- ▶ June 2006: → [The role of the sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in local and national politics](#) Tony Moore
- ▶ July 2006: → [Fines made with Henry III for the confirmation of charters, January-February 1227](#) David Carpenter
- ▶ August 2006: → [The bishop of Winchester's fine in 1227](#) David Carpenter
- ▶ September 2006: → [Ranulf le Bretun and the Development of the Wardrobe Audit: March – August 1233](#) Ben Wild
- ▶ October 2006: → [Adam de St. Martin and the king's tenants of Mansfield 1217-1222](#) David Crook
- ▶ November 2006: → [Uncle and Niece: The Disputed Huse Family Inheritance](#) Paul Brand
- ▶ December 2006: → [The lady is not for turning: Margaret de Redvers' fine not to be compelled to marry](#) Michael Ray
- ▶ January 2007: → [The fine rolls, Godfrey of Crowcombe and the Oxfordshire offices](#) David Carpenter
- ▶ February 2007: → [The rolls of King John in Corfe Castle, 1227](#) David Carpenter
- ▶ March 2007: → [The Four Knights' System and the Evidence for it in the Fine Rolls](#) Julie Kanter
- ▶ April 2007: → [Images and Indexing: Scribal Creativity in the Fine Rolls, 1216 – 1234](#) Ben Wild
- ▶ May 2007: → [The battle of Lincoln \(20 May 1217\) and William Marshal's ransom agreement with Nicholas de Stuteville](#) David Carpenter
- ▶ June 2007: → [The Language of Making Fine](#) Paul Dryburgh



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## Fine of the Month: March 2007

(Julie Kanter)

### The Four Knights' System and the Evidence for it in the Fine Rolls

*In the fine of the month for March Julie Kanter, drawing on the patent rolls and the fine rolls, presents entirely new information about the 'Four Knight' commissions to hear petty assizes in the years between 1218 and 1232. Julie is reading for an MA in Medieval History at King's College London.*

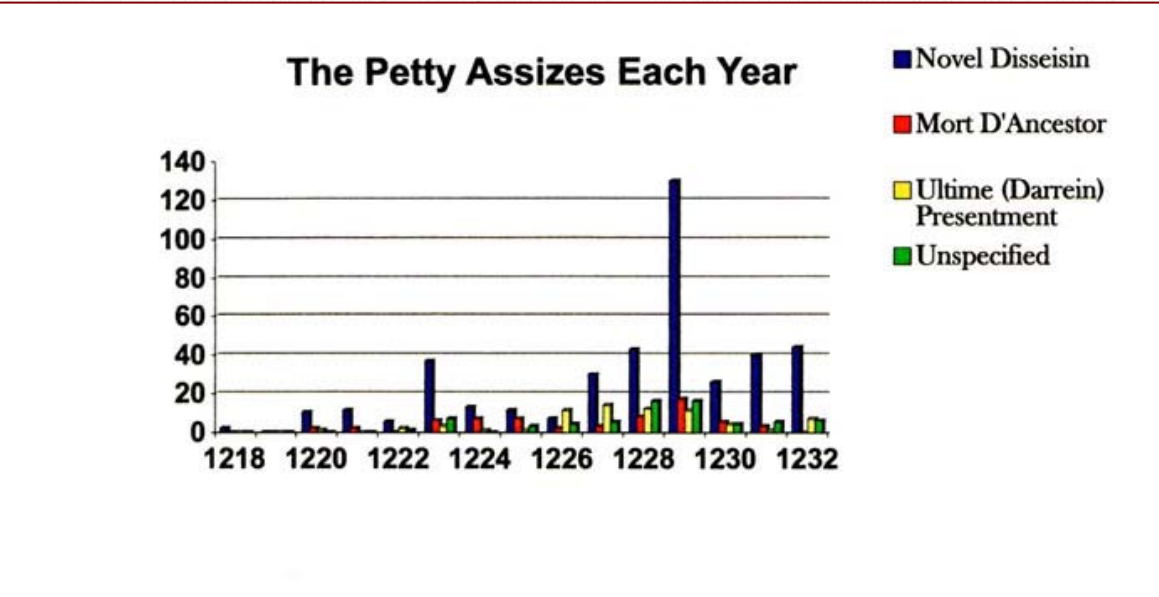
As is well known, chapter 18 of Magna Carta 1215 calls for the hearing of three of the petty assizes, those of novel disseisin, mort d'ancestor

and darrein presentment, or, if he was the vicar, he may have heard the petty assize more frequently.<sup>2</sup> Even if by Henry III's reign the commissions were to be issued, though, they were abandoned.

The clause has no evidence of visitation commissions seen as so is the first

to hear an assize of novel disseisin in Cornwall.<sup>6</sup> Between the time of that first commission in 1218 and 27 October 1232 there are some 620 commissions for the Four Knights' System enrolled on the dorso of the patent rolls.<sup>7</sup> Of these 620, there are 418 commissions to hear an assize of novel disseisin, seventy to hear an assize of darrein presentment, sixty-nine to hear an unspecified assize involving land and sixty-three to hear an assize of mort d'ancestor. The breakdown of the number of commissions per assize type, per year for the whole of England is as follows:

▶ *Novel Disseisin*: 1218: 2; 1219: 0; 1220: 10; 1221: 11; 1222: 5; 1223: 37; 1224: 13; 1225: 11; 1226: 7; 1227: 30; 1228: 43; 1229: 130; 1230: 26; 1231: 40; 1232: 44.



ent by the king, demanded here s who would us to hear itinerate far very four years. increase in such a overnment of assizes which tminster, from being e county court  
ever, there is e to average a binted. The ment - can be ebruary 1218) art, who were

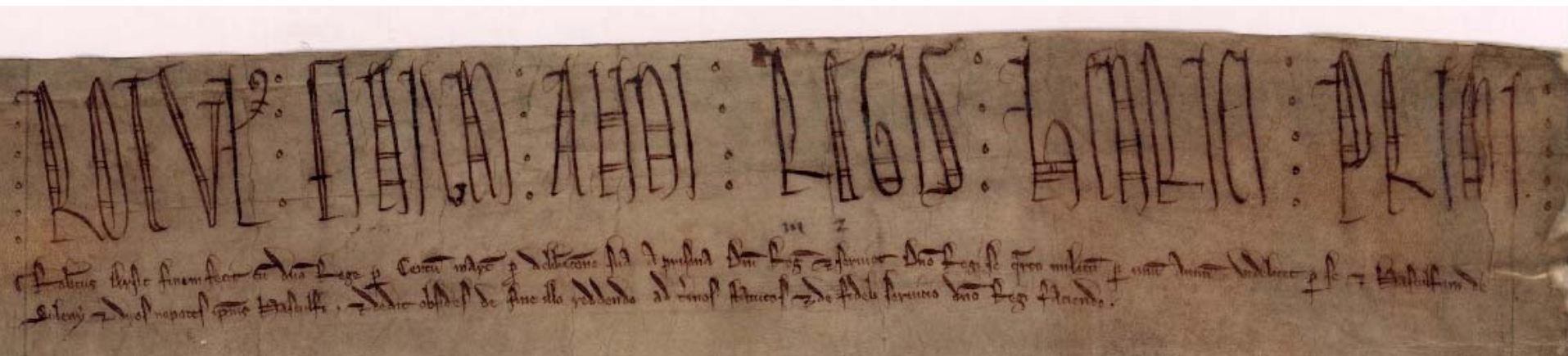




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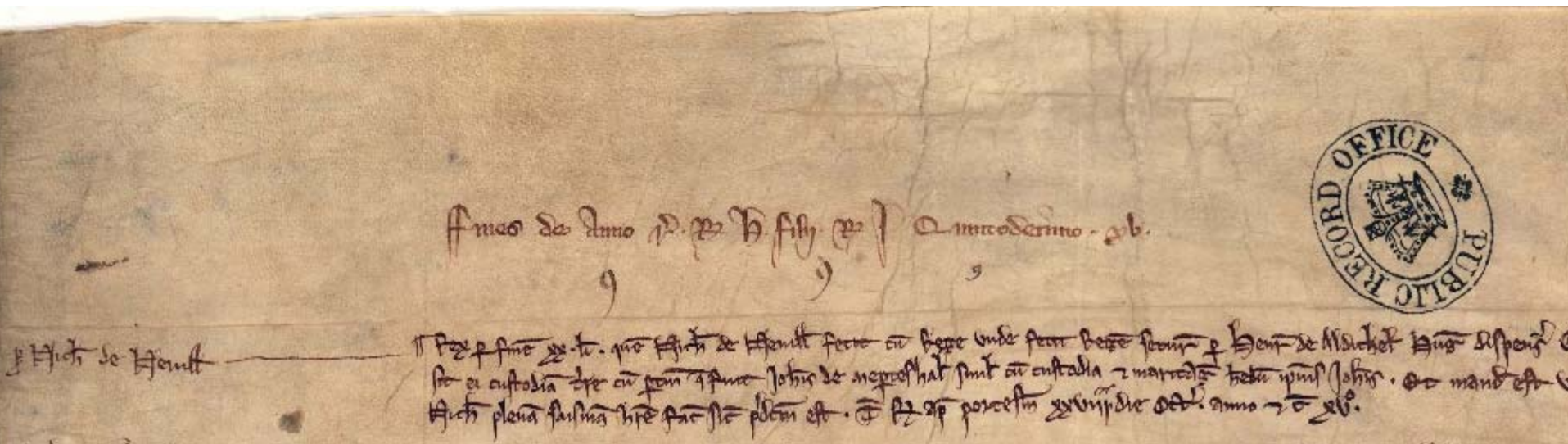


Heading to the first roll



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Heading for year fifteen





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