

## Keepers of the Earl's Avowries

The earl's avowries were a source of income, and come to be reported as such in the Pipe Rolls during those periods that the earldom was vested in the king, as opposed to his eldest son as earl of Chester.

### Hugh de Venables

The enrolled accounts of John de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, for the issues of the county of Chester from 29 August 1237 to 29 August 1238 (Pipe Roll E 372/82 m. 4), the first account after the death of earl John and the permanent reversion of the earldom to the Crown, we find an income of 4s 6d from the avowries in the section relating to Frodsham, 18s from avowries in the account for Weaverham, 7s from avowries in Over and Darnhall, and a general item of £22 18s 7d 'de aduocariis p Hugon'. de Venables custode'.<sup>22</sup>

The following year (29 August 1238 to 29 August 1239: E 372/83), the amount from Frodsham is again 4s 6d; 12s from Weaverham; 7s from Over and Darnhall; 'Et de xx.lj'. vijs' iij.d'. de aduocariis' — no keeper named.<sup>23</sup> Similarly, in following years, general totals are given, but without mentioning the keeper.

The account of John de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, for Cheshire from 29 August 1239 to 6 January 1240 (E 372/84) gives 4s 6d for the Frodsham avowries, 12s from Weaverham, 6s 2d from Over and Darnhall; and £4 12s 'de aduocariis p<sup>r</sup>t<sup>r</sup> q'd J. Goulard recepit'.

The same roll includes the accounts of John de Lexington and Simon de Cestria clerk, for Cheshire, from 2 March 1240 to 19 December 1240. This has 7s 10d from the Frodsham avowries, 12s from the Weaverham avowries, 6s from Over and Darnhall, and £9 6s from the avowries in general; plus a further 30s from Halton.<sup>24</sup>

The account of John Lestrange for Cheshire from 19 December 1240 to 25 December 1241 (E 372/85) includes the receipt of 4s 6d from avowries in Frodsham, 12s from Weaverham, 3s 10d from Over and Darnhall, £18 from avowries in general, and 60s 8d from Halton.<sup>25</sup>

The account of John Lestrange for Cheshire for 25 December 1241 to 25 December 1242 (E 372/86)<sup>26</sup> has no values for avowries in individual manors, those having all been put to farm for the period. The general avowries amount to £19 2s 4d. His account for 25 December 1242 to 29 September 1244 (E

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<sup>22</sup> [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no82/aE372no82fronts/IMG\\_4636.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no82/aE372no82fronts/IMG_4636.htm)

<sup>23</sup> [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no83/aE372no83fronts/IMG\\_4794.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no83/aE372no83fronts/IMG_4794.htm)

<sup>24</sup> [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no84/aE372no84fronts/IMG\\_4882.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no84/aE372no84fronts/IMG_4882.htm)

<sup>25</sup> [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no85/bE372no85dorses/IMG\\_1121.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no85/bE372no85dorses/IMG_1121.htm)

<sup>26</sup> [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no86/aE372no86fronts/IMG\\_5000.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no86/aE372no86fronts/IMG_5000.htm)

372/89) gives lump sums for the royal manors, without specifying the contribution from avowries; the general avowry total is £17 11s 2d.<sup>27</sup>

30 October 1245 to 30 October 1247 John Lestrange reports (E 372/91) £19 7s 5d from the avowries; 30 October 1247 to 2 July 1250 (E 372/94) £19 7s 5d.

Occasional spikes in the sums received from the avowries may be accounted for by the inclusion of the value of heriots taken in from time to time.

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<sup>27</sup> [http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no89/aE372no89fronts/IMG\\_5410.htm](http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT4/H3/E372no89/aE372no89fronts/IMG_5410.htm)