SOME OLD ENGLISH PASSAGES RELATING TO THE EPISCOPAL MANOR OF TAUNTON

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Folios 27b and 28 of the Codex Wintoniensis contain copies of portions of Old English documents which, perhaps because they are not specifically dated, have not hitherto been printed. These passages, seven in number, are grouped consecutively under the heading \mathbf{D} is sænd þa engliscan land-gæmere to Tantunæ—' From here onwards are the land boundaries pertaining to Taunton, in English.'¹ They contain material of importance for the early history of the Manor of Taunton, and provide valuable evidence for place-name study.

The Codex Wintoniensis, British Museum Additional MS. 15,350, is a cartulary of St. Swithun's at Winchester, the greater part of which was compiled between the years 1130 and 1150;² the manuscript retains its original binding. Confusion between the Old English letter p and the letter p occurs throughout the manuscript, and is naturally most frequent in place-names with which the scribes were not familiar. But it is also found in words which were in common use in Old English; for instance, OE *swa* is sometimes written *spa*, *west* appears as *pest*. This would suggest that some of the scribes employed in compiling the cartulary had an inadequate knowledge of the Anglo-Saxon tongue.

Folios 27b and 28 are both in the same hand; the calligraphy is similar to that of the preceding document, which is a record of dues pertaining to Taunton shortly after the death of Edward the Confessor.³ Some of the capitals at the head of each passage are in a single colour—red, green, blue or brown—as elsewhere in the manuscript. The initial T- of the heading To Risctune covers much of the top part of folio 27b, and some of the colours in this ornately decorated letter are outlined thinly in black. This style of illumination occurs also on folio 75b, but is not typical of the manuscript as a whole.

In the text, the recommendations made in the *Report on Editing Historical Documents*⁴ have been followed as closely as

¹ Reading Dass sind.

² D. Whitelock : Anglo-Saxon Wills, p. 116.

³ This was printed by Kemble (KCD 897); v. note 2 infra.

⁴ Institute of Historical Research : Bulletin 1-2, pp. 6-25.

possible. The Old English abbreviation $\stackrel{*}{p}$ is often found to stand in the manuscript for *panon*, and is so rendered in the text; less often it has its usual sense of *pæt*. MS. *da non*, and *lang*, which are the commonest forms, have been transcribed as *danon* and andlang respectively. Compounds such as earace (line 3) and stangedelf (line 101), transcribed as single words, appear with separated elements (unhyphenated) in the manuscript, as *stan ge delf*. Further changes are recorded in the textual notes.

I should like to express my special thanks to Dr. C. E. Wright, of the British Museum, for valuable assistance and information concerning the manuscript. I also stand indebted to Professor Bruce Dickins, of Cambridge University, for his kind help and guidance when the text was first prepared five years ago.

TEXT

[Fol. 27b.]

Das sind ba engliscan land-gæmere to Tantunæ.

TO RISCTUNE

[1. Land boundaries at Ruishton.]¹ Erest on Blacanford, ðanon andlang broces on Tán: ðanon andlang Tán on þa ealdan earace oð Beadding-beorh-broc. Úpp andlang Beaddincg/-broces on Beaddingc-bricge: 7 ðanon úpp andlang

- 5 Halgan Wylles; 7 ðanon on gerihte on ða díc 7 ða norð andlang hrycges ongen þa twegen ðornas to broce, andlang broc-rewe on Blacan-ford. [2. Grants of land, etc., near Taunton.]² Dæt land wæs gebocod ðreora manna/deg æt Nigon Hidum Wulfhere Ciddingce on þa gerad se þe landes
- 10 bruce þæt he gesealde ælce gere .xx. scillingas into Tantune : 7 þæt hy fuligdon þam ðe ðonne ðere cyricean hlaford wære þa hwile þe hi landes brucan moton. and þa land gesealde Esne bisceop his mæge Deoreage 7 his magan Deneðryþe, æt Stoce 7 æt Rysctune út/ of Tantune, on ða gerad þæt hy
- 15 sealdon ælce geare twa dægfeorma into ðere stowe for/Æsnes bisceopes sawle: 7 gyf hi þæt ne geleston, þa land gán into ðere stowe ðær hit togebyrað. 7 þæt land æt Hegstealdcumbe Esne bisceop lende his mæge Wynsie on þa gerád þe ealle þa/ gerihta eodon into ðere stowe þe þæt land togebyrað,
 20 þæt is Tantun. [3. Land boundaries at Kingston, near

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Taunton.]³ Dis is þæt land/ to Cincgtune gemere. Erest of Mot-leage, swa up on Humma-pað, þonne adun on hearpað: donne on Fin-stówe, adun on Taccan-lege westwerdre, donne on riht landsceare to/ Middel-broce. donne úp on Bradanmed suðwerde, þonne on Noccan-mere suðewerðe :/ þonne up on landsceare on biscopes gemere, donne úp on Frecan-

beorh, of Frecan-beorge eft on Mot-lege.

TO TANTUNÆ. [4. Boundaries of the manor of Taunton.]⁴

Æræst þer Beaddinc-broc scyt innan Tán, þanon to þam 30 ealdan æsce/, swa ðwyres ofer dune to þam oðrum esce, swa westwearð þæt hit cymð/ to Spænan.⁵ þanon to þere dene þe man het Orcerdcumb. ðanon on/ gerihta ofer dune to þam ðyfele, þe man hét Bradan-ðorn : þanon to þam/ ambran wege.⁶ þanon to Widecumbes heafde. ðanon and-

- 35 lang riðe to Eartancumbes-forda.⁷ þanon to þere widan dic, 7 swa hit strecð westwerð on norð-healf des holtes þe man/ Duddincg-bearu nemð. þanon of þere widan dic to Oterigcforda. þanon úp agen stréam/ oð hit cumð to des wulles heafde : þanon on norð-healf, oð hit cumð to Wiðigcumbe :/
- 40 swa forð to Ring-woldes hylle. þanon to Waldanes-wege ; swa to Oxena-felda. ðanon to/ Snelles-cumbes heafde : swa forð on gerihta to Gregan-stane 7 on west-healfe Man-hylle/, þanon to Blacan-broces wylle.⁸ swa nyðer andlang streames on ðone readan ford. 7 swa west/ þurh þone holt oð hit cymð
- 45 to Scytere :⁹ andlang Scyteres, on pone ealdan ford. panon/ on west-healf on pone deopan ford ; danon to Heardangeate. panon on sud-healfe on Bennas- [Fol. 28] cumbes ride : swa nyder on dere ride fordryne of dere burnan on west-healf, od hit cymd/ to Fyres-leage. danon to Culfran-
- 50 dene, þanon forð to ðere stowe, þe man het Fiduc-scaga.¹⁰ swa ðwyres/ ofer done feld on west-healfe on Hafucalras. þanon on gerihta oð hit cymð to Tán ðære ea. þanon/ on west-healfe to Melen-beorge-burnan : swa norð oð Cyppanleage :¹¹ þanon tó Melenburnan./ swa to þam haran dorne,
- 55 þanon norð ofer ðone feld westweard oð hit cymð to ðan halgan æsce/,¹² 7 swa west on þa ea wið Wifeles-cumbes gemere. þanon eft norð be ea oð ða ealdan gemer-dic, ðanon to Pyttes-forda:¹³ 7 swa on west-healf Lufes-dune. þanon norð on ða ealdan streat 7 swa ðurh/ ðone norð del on gerihta

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- 60 to dere frym-wylle, þe man Wyllite namð. swa east on done witan-/ mor.¹⁴ þanon to Lydegeard: þanon norð oð da west-healfe des mores þe man hét Wulluces-mor:/ 7 swa on gerhita norð on da ea. þanon úp ongen stream on norðhealf oð done langan þorn. þanon norð/ ofer done feld, oð
- 65 õne ealdan ambran weg: 7 swa on norð-healf Truscumbes, swa on ðone ambran/ weg oþ þa sceortan dic. swa on easthealf on Rugan-beorg: of ðere stowe on norð-healf Escholtes/on Horspaðes-ford. þanon suð on ðone horegan ford,¹⁵ swa on Heanwille. þanon on Gemot-leage: swa on gerhita
- 70 oð Dun-dic, þanon on Fiscwylle. swa to Ellewylle : swa on middel del þære dune þe man Middelcnol/ nemð. þanon on Hægelstalcumb 7 swa on Meccan-fen : þanon to þere riðe, þæt man Neglescumb clypað./ swa east on midneweardne del þære dune þe man Hætbeorg nemð : 7 swa be ufeweardum
- 75 Brige-/ cumbe, þanon on Leollescescumb, swa on Weannanstan. þanon on east-healf þæs mores þe man Hafoe-/ ford nemð: þanon on Hægelstalcumb, 7 swa to/þære stowe þe is gehaten Stan-torr. þanon to Secgbroce/, 7 swa on Tán þa ea, 7 swa be eastreame oð hyt cymð eft on Beaddincg-beorh./
- 80 To WIÞICLEA. [5. Land boundaries near Withiel Florey.]¹⁶ Æræst on Ucing-ford, of þæs cumbes heafde on done smalan weg: þurh/ þone mor to Widig-slede. þanon to Brocenan-beorge: swa tó Wuduforda: þanon to/Lullesbeorge. swa forð andlang hearpaðes to Megenstanes dene:
- 85 swa/to Wiðigleagate : panon to Nædran-beorge : panon ðurh pone mor be rihte gemere on Wiðig-mor, panon/ eft on Ucing-ford.
 - To CEARNÆL. [6. Land boundaries at the place called Cearn.]¹⁷
- 90 Æræst of sæ up on Hengster-hricg : þonan norð on Gyrdweg : swa norð/ andlang hrigces on middeweardne Sealteracumb. þanon be cumbe innan/ Holan-bróc. þanon andlang streames innan Hlosmoc : adune on stream/, on Syfoneceras : þanon of streame eft onbutan Seofan-eceras. eft suð
- 95 on Hlosmoc : panon adune/ on stream oð ða suran apeldran. panon suð on þa norð rewe : panon eft on Cern on Gataford /: panon suð bufan lytlan graf. swa suð on Earneshlinc : of Earnes-hlince eft ut on sæ./

 100 To WECEDFORDA. [7. Land boundaries at Washford and Kentsford, near Watchet.]¹⁸
 Erest on Keanulfes-forda, up on stream on stangedelf :

panon on/ dic : swa east on Risc-lace. panon on hearpað oð Brydan-pytt : panon west andlang forda. panon suð/ on stream : panon west on pel-brygce. ðanon norð on Heah-

105 bence eastewearde. þanon on ðone haran/ stan westanweardne: þanon norð on þæt ealde hlidgeat. swa norð on Hreod-mere easteweardne./ swa út on sæ: of sæ on Wiðigcumbes heafod. þanon suð on Holan-dene: andlang denes eft/ on Ceanulfes-ford.

Rubric. MS. Dis sænd. 1. MS. blacanforð, BCS 549 blacanford. 2. MS. and/lang. 5. MS. halga wylle, BCS 549 on halgan wylle: MS ge/ rictu. 6. MS. and/lang. 7. MS. blacan forð. 8. MS. ge bocod. 9. MS. pulfhere : gerat. 10. MS. ge-/sealde : scill. 11. MS. fulig don : cy-/ricean. 12. MS. land: ge seal-/de. 13. MS. deor eage. 16. MS. saple. 17. MS. stope: to ge by-/rað: heg steald cumbe. 18. MS. b: pynsie. 19. MS. stope. 20. MS. is. 21. MS. is. 22. MS. an humma wað: ón hear wað. 23. MS. donn: stópe. 24. MS. land sceare. 26. MS. land sceare. 27. MS. beor-/ge. 29. MS. innantan. 32. MS. nan. 35. MS. for-/da. 38-39. MS. hft. 44. MS. readan forð: BCS 476 rubro vado. 45. MS. ealdan forð : BCS 476 vetus vadum. 46. MS. peast : deowan ford, BCS 476 profundum vadum. 49. MS. pest: leáge. 51. MS. oryres: felo. 56. MS. spa pest. 57. MS. da/non. 58. MS. weast. 59. MS. spa: durk. 60. MS. mano, BCS 476 nominatur : ad album gromam. 61. MS. nord. 62. MS. weast: spa. 65. MS. ón. 66. MS. sceórtan. 68. MS. horswaðes forð, BCS 476 horswaðes vadum. MS. horegan forð, BCS 476 sordidum vadum. 69. MS. leáge: spa: ge/rihta. 73. MS. clywað. 74. MS. spa: ufe weardu. 76. MS. hafoc/forð: BCS 476 hafucford. 77. MS. hægel stalcumb: spa: stope: is. 78. MS. ge haton: ontà. 79. MS. spa. 81. MS. ucing forð : BCS 158 Uping ford, BCS 727 ucingc forð. 83. MS. broce nen: BCS 158 brocenan: spa. 84. MS. spa. 86. MS. ef. 87. MS. forð. 90. MS. gyrð, BCS 158 gyrd. 91. MS. spa. 92. MS. innan. 94. MS. sceofan, BCS 727 seofan. 95. MS. aweldran. 96. MS. rewe, or repe. 97. MS. gata forð, BCS 727 gata ford. 98. MS. ef. 103. MS. brydan wytt: ford. 105-6. MS. weastan weardne.

NOTES

1. For similar boundaries, cf. BCS 549, recording a grant of land at Ruishton to Denewulf, bishop of Winchester, about the year 880. Blacanford, 'the Black Ford,' was probably in the vicinity of Blackbrook Bridge (6"), in the north-west corner of Ruishton parish, v. further G. B. Grundy, The Saxon Charters and Field Names of Somerset, pp. 28-9. Beadding-beorh (line 3) is 'hill belonging to a man called *Beadda'; this OE. personal name

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is not recorded independently, but occurs in Beddington, Surrey (Beaddinctun 901-8 (12th) BCS 618, etc.), cf. Ekwall, DEPN 32.

2. Grants of land, etc., in the Taunton district.

"The land at Nynehead was granted for three generations to *Wulfhere Cidding*, on condition that whoever possessed the estate should give twenty shillings to Taunton every year: and on the understanding that (his descendants), as long as they were able to possess the estate, should be followers of the lord of the church, whoever that might be at the time. And Bishop Esne granted the estates at Stoke and Ruishton out of Taunton to his kinsman $D\bar{e}orh\bar{e}ah$ and his kinswoman Denethryth, on the understanding that they gave each year two days' provisions to that place for Bishop Esne's soul; and if they did not fulfil that agreement, the estates must revert to the place where they belong. And Bishop Esne leased the estate at Hestercombe to his kinsman Wynsige, on condition that all the dues went to the place to which the land belongs, that is Taunton."

The passage generally may be compared with KCD 897, a record of dues pertaining to Taunton shortly after the death of Edward the Confessor, v. further A. J. Robertson, Anglo-Saxon Charters, pp. 236-9, 485-90. (at) Nigon Hidium is Nynehead, near Wellington; (at) Stoce is Stoke St. Mary, Rysctune is Ruishton; Hegstealdcumbe (Hægelstalcumb in lines 72 and 77 of the text) is Hestercombe in the parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine.

Wulfhere cidding occurs as a witness in BCS 599 (KCD 1079), a charter of Bishop Denewulf, dated 902. Bishop Esne is mentioned in King Alfred's Will (BCS 553). His see is unknown, but bearing in mind his connections with Taunton, it is possible that he was a suffragan in the undivided diocese of Winchester or Sherborne. Such appointments were not unknown in ninth century Wessex, cf. F. M. Stenton, Anglo-Saxon England, p. 433.

3. Land boundaries at Kingston, near Taunton.

Kingston is not specifically named in Domesday Book, but it was included in the survey as part of the bishop of Winchester's estate at Taunton, cf. R. W. Eyton, *Domesday Studies*, ii.34. The boundaries given in the text are not to be found in any extant charter, although a section of the land is covered in other grants ; *Mot-le(a)ge* in lines 22 and 27 is *gemotleage* BCS 476, *Motlege* BCS 610. *Middel-broce* (line 24) survives in Middlebrooks, now on the borders of Bishop's Lydeard and Cothelstone, but formerly a detached part of Kingston parish. *Biscopes gemere* (line 26) may refer to a portion of the boundary of Bishop's Lydeard, which was granted by Edward the Elder to Asser, bishop of Sherborne (BCS 610) : at a later period it was held by the bishops of Wells.

4. Boundaries of the episcopal manor of Taunton.

This survey is an Old English version of the boundaries (mostly in Latin) printed in BCS 476. In the margin of the MS., level with the beginning of the passage, is the following note in a 16th century hand : 'This description is also in Latyne, fol. 57, where this not(e) is \mathbf{q} .' In the manuscript, most of the place-names in the survey are underlined in a later hand. The topography of the boundaries as a whole is discussed by Grundy, *op. cit.*, pp. 9-22.

5. (to) Spænan: BCS 476 (ad) 's' penam. A connection with Middle English spenne might be suggested, cf. Ekwall, DEPN 413 (Spen).

6. ambran wege: note ealdan ambran weg (line 65). Ambran answers to publicam in BCS 476, but is obscure in meaning. It is unlikely to be a personal name, as the roads referred to are several miles apart. A weak form of OE. ambyre, 'favourable, fair,' is a possibility to be considered.

7. Eartancumbes-forda: 'ford in the valley of the River Yarty,' cf. Ekwall, RN 479, DEPN 517, 530. Ceartancumbesford, BCS 476, is a mistake for *Æartancumbes*- (given in KCD 1052), which is the correct reading.

8. Blacan-broces wylle: BCS 476 bláám bróc. Now Black Brook (6") in Pitminster parish, cf. Grundy, op. cit. 12; cattle are said to be unable to drink from the upper waters of this stream.

9. Scytere : this stream-name is discussed by Ekwall in RN 362-4.

10. Fiduc-scaga: OE. Fiduc survives in Fideoak (6") in the parish of Bishop's Hull Without, but was originally the name of a stream, v. further *Proceedings*, Vol. XCV (1950), p. 116. The first element may be identical with the stem *fid*- in Latin *fidēs* ' faith,' Modern Welsh *ffydd*, Breton *feiz*, ' faith,' etc. The second element is probably a derivative of the Celtic suffix -aco-, which can denote a sense of plenitude or possession.

The name may have been applied to the stream itself, as suggested in *Proceedings*. But it is also possible that it was in the first place a personal name; cf. Cad Brook (6") in Ilton ((on) caducburne 725 (14th) Much) in which the first element is identical with the Welsh personal name Cadog, from British *Cataco-. In either case, the sense behind a British *Fidaco- could be ' possessing faith ' or ' faithful.'

11. Cyppan-leage: now Chipley, in Nynehead and Langford Budville, v. Proceedings, Vol. XCV (1950), p. 115.

12. San halgan æsce: BCS 476 quendam fraxinum quem imperiti sacrum vocant, 'a certain ash-tree which the ignorant call sacred.'

13. Pyttes-forda: BCS 476 wettesford. This survives in Pitsford Hill. Brompton Ralph, cf. Grundy, op. cit. 17.

14. $\delta one witan mor$: BCS 476 (ad) albam gromam, now Whitemoor Farm in the parish of Stogumber. It is interesting to note that the soil here is a vivid red; bearing this in mind, it is possible that 'white' referred to the flowers of the cotton-grass, which thrives in a wet upland soil.

15. Some horegan ford: BCS 476 sordidum vadum. The Old English form shows that this cannot be identified with Fulford, as suggested by Ekwall, DEPN 181; the correct locality is pointed out by Grundy, op. cit. 20.

16. Boundaries at Withiel Florey.

Withiel Florey is now included in the parish of Brompton Regis, but was formerly parcel of Taunton Deane Hundred, cf. Collinson, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, Vol. III, p. 225. Similar boundaries are found in BCS 158, 727; grants of land recorded in BCS 960, 1072 cover part of the same district. 17. To Cearnæl. Similar boundaries are given in BCS 158, 727, where, however, the locality is called *Cearn*. The form *Cearnæl* is isolated, and is reminiscent of *Cernel*, an ancient name for Cerne Abbas in Dorset, v. Ekwall, DEPN 526. *Cearn*, etc., as the boundaries show, was primarily the name of a stream, cf. Ekwall, RN 73-4.

Cearn was granted to the church at Winchester in the year 737, for the purpose of constructing saltpans (ad salinaria construenda) (BCS 158); in 938, this grant was confirmed by Athelstan (BCS 727). The charter is endorsed $Wipiglea 7 \ldots$ Cearn pis syndon Tantunes land, 'Withiel and ... Cearn—these are lands belonging to Taunton.'

The exact locality of the place is uncertain. The difficulty has been to reconcile the boundaries, which run approximately northwards from the sea, with a site not far from Taunton. *Cearn* is unlikely to have been situated on the coast near Watchet, as implied by Ekwall (RN 73), as the coastline there faces north, and any land boundaries would have to run in a southerly direction from it.

I suggest that the sea $(s\alpha)$ in this case may refer to the tidal marshes of the Parrett or one of its tributaries. In ancient times the salinity of these marshes was considerable; cf. Saltmoor, the name of a locality near Burrow Bridge, which is Saltmore 1180-1 (1735) Ath, Saltmor' 1233 Wells (1), pasturam de Saltmor 1233-4 FF (PRO), etc.; in Stoke St. Gregory or North Curry there was formerly a place called moram de Salthulle 1262-3 FF (PRO), 'Salthill moor.' In the parish of North Petherton a piece of land is described as portiuncula terre que vocatur Saltpath' (ante 1276 (15th) Buck), probably identical with Salterespath (1290-2 Taunton (NP)) 'salt-worker's path'; cf. Sealtera-cumb, in line 91 of the text.

It is possible that *Cearn* is to be connected with *Cerney*, formerly the name of a place not far from Taunton; this was *Cerneheye juxta Taunton* 1303-4, *Cerneheye* 1373, *Cerney* 1437-8 FF: it was the home of *Algar de Serneheg* (also *de Sernege*) and *Marger' de Cerney* (1208-9, 1257-8 PW). For the S- spellings, cf. A. Fägersten, *The Place-Names of Dorset*, p. 196, note 4.

18. Land boundaries at Washford and Kentsford, near Watchet.

The charter to which these boundaries belonged has not survived, but Washford was parcel of the manor of Taunton as early as the reign of King Edgar; cf. BCS 1149, *Tres mansae in Cearn ad rus prefatum (Tantun) pertinent et duae æt Wecetforda*. On *Ceanulfes-ford*, now Kentsford Farm on the boundaries of Williton and Watchet, v. *Proceedings*, Vol. XCV (1950), pp. 118-9. *Heah-bence* (line 104) is perhaps to be connected with Highbeck Covert (6") in the parish of Old Cleeve, which is situated on the slope of a 300 ft. hill : for OE. *benc* as an element in minor names, v. PNW 423.

The first element in Washford (OE. Wecedforda) is identical with Watchet (OE. Wæced, Weced-<British *Uo-cēto-), cf. Ekwall, DEPN 476-7; the sense behind the name, however, seems to be 'ford over the river Weced.' The stream at Washford is now known as the Washford River.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ath	Excerpta ex Registro Abbatiae de Athelney. Printed by the Somerset Record Society, Vol. 14, p. 113 onwards.
BCS	W. de G. Birch : Cartularium Saxonicum.
Buck	The cartulary of the Priory of Buckland (Durston, Somer- set); a late 15th century MS. at Taunton Castle.
DEPN	E. Ekwall: The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place- Names; 3rd Edition, Oxford (1947).
FF	Feet of Fines for Somerset; Somerset Record Society, Vols. 6, 12, 17, 22.
FF (PRO)	Feet of Fines; original documents in the Public Record Office.
KCD	J. M. Kemble : Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici ; (1839-48).
Much	E. H. Bates : The Cartulary of Muchelney Abbey; Somerset Record Society, Vol. 14.
OE.	Old English.
PNW	The Place-names of Wiltshire; The English Place-Name Society, 1939.
PW	The Pipe Rolls of the Bishopric of Winchester ; original rolls in the possession of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.
RN	E. Ekwall: English River-Names;; Oxford, 1928.
Taunton (NP)	Original rolls relating to North Petherton at Taunton Castle.