

Research Notes and Queries

A Chantry Chapel at Sheriff Hutton

Peter Hammond has sent the following note:—

In the *BL Harleian Ms.433* (ed. Rosemary Horrox and P. W. Hammond, Vol. 2, 1980, p.189) there occurs a warrant to Geoffrey Franke, Receiver of the lordship of Sheriff Hutton, to pay 'Sir' William Symson, 'chantry priest of our Lady Chapel beside the Church of Sheriff Hutton' his salary at Michaelmas 'last past' for the half year. This warrant is dated 15 January 1485, and the period in question is thus the six months from 29 March 1484 until Michaelmas, 29 September. Appointment of chantry priests is rare in *BL Harleian Ms.433*, and indeed in other records, and one wonders why this particular appointment was made, at this particular time, at Sheriff Hutton. The possibility immediately occurs that this was a priest appointed to a chantry set up for Edward of Middleham, who died about the end of March 1484 (P. W. Hammond, *Edward of Middleham*, 1973, p.21). It is known that there were a number of chantry chapels in the parish of Sheriff Hutton, including one in the castle. The latter cannot possibly be meant because of the description 'beside the church', but which of the three or four within the church it was we cannot tell. There does appear to have been one dedicated to St. Mary. It is possible that there was a separate chapel in the churchyard as one Robert Jeffraison asked in 1525 in his will to be buried in the churchyard of the parish church of Sheriff Hutton 'on the north side, between the chapel and the church' (Borthwick Institute, Probate Register 9, f.339). This wording is reminiscent of that in the warrant to Geoffrey Franke.

Who William Symson was is also something of a mystery. He was possibly the W. S. of the York Diocese who was ordained priest on 12 June 1484 at Oxford (A. B. Emden, *Biographical Register Oxford*, vol. 3, 1959, p.1843), about whom nothing further appears to be known. He could just possibly be the W. S. who was Sacrist at the Premonstratensian Abbey of Topholme (Lincs.) described as priest in 1488 (F. A. Gasquet, *Collectanea Anglia-Premonstratensia*, vol. 3, Camden Society, 1906, p.160).

Thanks are due to Rosemary Horrox for first drawing my attention to the entry in *BL Harleian Ms.433*, and to Mr. Tony Wright for confirming the existence of a chapel of St. Mary in Sheriff Hutton church.

Book Reviews

THE YEAR OF THE THREE KINGS. Giles St. Aubyn. 1983. Collins, £11.95.

1483 shares with only two other years (1066 and 1936) the distinction of having had three different kings reigning in London in the same twelve months. This book tells the story of 1483, of the accession to the throne of