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XVIII. LAURENCE MINOT'S TRIBUTE TO JOHN BADDING

In commemorating the men who fought for "sir Edward" in the battle "of Englisch men & Normandes in þe Swyn" Laurence Minot praised John Badding "als one of þe best."¹ Beyond this tribute, however, Badding has remained unknown to the readers of Minot's poems. In editing these poems, Mr. Joseph Hall surmises that, since Badding's name appears in no other account of the fight at Sluys (1340) the poet "has here inserted the name of some comparatively obscure friend of his."² This friend, he thinks, was probably some person connected with the Robert Badding who was M.P. for Winchelsea in 1371, with the John Badding who was M.P. for Rye between 1386 and 1407, or with the John Badding who, according to *Rolls of Parliament*, I, 413, was involved in the taking of twenty-four livres worth of goods from a vessel belonging to John Houchoun and Thomas Peverell of Sherborne in 1321-22.³ It is my purpose to show that, whatever his relation to the M.P.'s for Winchelsea and Rye may have been, the John Badding who was involved in the affair of 1321-22 was probably the person to whom Minot paid tribute for his valor in the fight at Sluys. The evidence for this statement is contained in the record mentioned above and in two other records which identify John Badding with the Cinque Ports and show that he was a well known English seaman of the second quarter of the fourteenth century. With these facts established, the justice of Minot's tribute becomes plausible.

Inasmuch as these documents have never (to the best of my knowledge) been noted in this connection, it seems worth

¹ Joseph Hall. *Poems of Laurence Minot*. Third Edition. Oxford, 1914. Pp. 14-17.

² *Ibid.*, p. 65.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 66.

while to print them here. They belong to the years 1321-22, 1336, and 1341. They deal respectively with the taking of goods from the ship of John Houchoun and Thomas Peverell of Sherborne, the preparation of the English fleet to take the sea against the "allies of the Scots," and the payment of expenses incurred in taking a new galley from Winchelsea to London. The three documents are as follows:

(1) *Rolls of Parliament*, I, 413.

Au Counsiel nostre Segnieur le Roy monstrent ses poveres genz Johan Huchoun, & Thomas Peverell, de Shyrbourne en Dorset, qe par la ou il aveynt charge une Nief de Whytesond de vynt & cynq' drasz, chescun drape pres de cynq' Mars, & cynquaunt aunes de canevas pres de viii soudz, & dys & seept livres d'esterlinges, & vyndrent devaunt Portesmuthe le Vendredy procheyn apres la Feste de Seint Michel, en l'an du regne le Roy qe ore est, qe Dieu gard, quynszyme, la vyndrent Robert de la Bataille, Piers Ward, Johan Badding, Johan Dyne, & Andreu Sely, e autres gentz desconuz, des Cynk Portz, & en la dite Nief entrerent a force & armes, & les avaunditz deniers & chateux pristrent & enporterent, encountre la pees, a lour greve damage de iii^{xx} livres, & surmistrent a les ditz Marchauntz q'il furent de Weymouthe les gentz Roger Damory, & sount de Shyrbourne com les lettres overtes l'Evesqe de Salesbuyrs lour tesmoigne. De ceo prient remedie.

Habeant Breve de transgressionem versus transgressores. Responsio.

(2) *Rotuli Scotiae*, I, 446.

R. dilecto sibi Reginaldo Alard de Wynchelse salutem. Cum pro eo quod intelleximus a nonnullis quod quedam galee in partibus transmarinis hostibus armatis ac aliis necessariis de guerra munite & parate ad partes Normann & Britann' jam noviter accesserunt ad invadend' hostiliter regnum nostrum vel contra nos hostibus nostris Scot' succurend' quam plures naves regni nostri de guerra parrari & congregari fecerimus ad obviand' & resistend' galeis paratis & aliis navibus guerrinis si ad partes regni nostri vt ad partes Scot' ex causa

predicta presumpserint declinare & ad easdem galeas & naves si ad partes Scot' absque resistentia hujusmodi evaserint insequend' ac jam intellexerimus quod quedam naves de partibus nostris que in hujusmodi obsequium nostrum proficisci deberent pro eo quod victualibus munita non existunt adhuc domi detinentur. Nos periculis que ex defectu hujusmodi evenire poterunt quod absit volentes Deo propitio obviare considerantes etiam quod vos sicut ceteri de regno nostro attento tante necessitatis articulo salvationem regni & populi nostri intime contingente ad defensionem & resistentiam predictas viriliter & potentius quo poteritis faciend' ratione ligentie nostre astricti estis vobis mandamus firmiter injungentes quod quandam navem nostram pro guerra competentiore victualibus necessariis juxta avisumentum dilecti & fidelis nostri Galfridi de Say admiralli flote nostre navium versus partes occidentales quem super hoc oneravimus vel deputandi ab eo in hac parte quibuscumque excusatione & dilectione cessantibus muniri fac' ita quod ipsa hujusmodi victualibus sic munita prompta sit & parata ad proficiscend' supra mare in obsequium nostrum hujusmodi in comitiva prefati admiralli nostri una cum aliis navibus de flota predicta indenturas intra ipsum admirallum vel deputand' ab eo et vos continentes que & cujusmodi dicta victualia fuerint & eorum pretium fieri facientes prout decet per quas vobis de pretio predicto in crastino Sancti Martini proxime futur' juxta formam earundem indenturarum ad scaccariam nostram satisfieri faciemus Taliter vos habentes in permissis quod per defectum victualium predictorum profectio navis predictae non retardetur nec dicta defensio regni nostri minuatur per quod ad vos & vestra ex hoc materiam habeamus modo quo convenit capiendi.

T. R. apud Villam de Sancto Johanne xxvj die Aug. pro ipsum regem. Consilia brevia diriguntur subscriptis videlicet. Henr' Wynch, Stephano Padyham, Ricardo de Wertynge, Roberto Batayle, Benedicto Sely, Johanni Bad-dyng, Stephano Tregeden, de Wynchelse seperatim; Alexandro Alayn & Karolo Colyn de Wynchelse conjunctim; Johanni Wyche de Rye; Will'o Arche & Alexandro Hertyn de

Dovorr' conjunctim; Henr' Chaumpeneys de Sandwych; Simoni Godard & Stephano atte Cherc de Sandwico conjunctim; Johanni Botoun & Stephano Messeberwe de Sandwico conjunctim; Stephano Zoke & Will'o Yre de Sandwico con'; Petro County & Will'o Elys de Sandwico; Petro atte Pette de Sandwico; Petro Bard de Sandwico.⁴

(3) *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 14 Edward III, part 2, p. 599.

January 19, 1341. Westminster. To the treasurer and barons of the exchequer. Whereas the king ordered Stephen de Padyham, bailiff of Winchelse, to find the expenses for taking a new galley of the king from Winchelse to London on a certain day and to be attendant upon John Baddyng, master of the galley, in things necessary for the rigging of the galley, by virtue of which order Stephan incurred divers expenses, as he says, and has besought the king to order allowance to be made to him therefor, the king orders the treasurer and barons to view the king's order and to account with Stephen for the said expenses, causing reasonable allowance therefor to be made to him in his account. By pet. of C.

These records establish the fact that there was a John Badding living at the time of which Minot writes, that he was associated with men of some position in English naval affairs, that he was from Winchelsea, and that he was officially a master of the galley. It is interesting to note that Robert Bataille, who was with Badding in the Southampton affair of 1321-22, was a member of the expedition sent from the Cinque Ports against the Scots in 1336. Like the other associates of Badding, he was from the vicinity of the Cinque Ports. As late as 1342 he was supervisor of walls and waterworks "in the marsh of Northmarsh, near Rye, and Spadeland, between Winchelsea and Dounswall, and other marshes in countySussex."⁵ Stephan de Padyham, who was a member of the expedition against the Scots and was attendant on

⁴ I have made no changes in the punctuation of this record except such as were necessary to separate the names appended to it.

⁵ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 16 Edward III, p. 582.

Badding in delivering the new galley to the king in 1341, was also an office holder. On March 8, 1338, the barons of the exchequer were ordered to pay him one hundred pounds "for making a new galley at Winchelsea for the king."⁶ On April 3, 1338, he was bailiff of Winchelsea and keeper of the Manor of Ihamme.⁷ He still held this position on August 28, 1342.⁸ Finally, Peter Bard, who was also a member of the expedition against the Scots, was an important naval officer. He was, jointly with John Sturmy, captain and admiral of the fleet sent against the Scots in 1314;⁹ he was captain and admiral of the fleet "from the mouth of the Thames towards the west" in 1338;¹⁰ and he was collector of the port of Sandwich at his death in 1339.¹¹ John Badding's association with these men indicates that he was a man of some importance in the Cinque Ports and explains Minot's

Faire come he sayland out of þe suthwest.

Judging from the evidence of location and associations, the John Badding against whom complaint was issued in 1321-22 was apparently the same man to whom Minot pays tribute for valor in battle in 1340.

Since Badding was a master of the galley, it is probable that he well deserved Minot's tribute. A galley was second in size to a cog, which was a first class vessel in Minot's time.¹² A master of a galley would, therefore, command a second rate fighting ship. Such a ship carried from sixty to eighty-seven sailors and from fifty to sixty fighting men.¹³ As there were about two hundred and fifty English vessels in the fight at Sluys,¹⁴ it was obviously too tedious a task

⁶ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 16 Edward III, p. 339.

⁷ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 12 Edward III, p. 400.

⁸ See 5 *op. cit.*

⁹ Sir N. H. Nichols, *History of the Royal Navy*, I, 451.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, II, p. 525.

¹¹ See 7 *op. cit.*

¹² Nichols, *op. cit.* II, 159-160.

¹³ *Ibid.*, I, 401.

¹⁴ Joseph Hall. *Poems of Laurence Minot*, p. 60.

for the chroniclers to mention all the masters of galleys. They, therefore, confined themselves to recording the deeds of the nobility. Minot, however, made one exception in his poem. He probably did this either because John Badding was better known than most of his fellows or because he knew Badding personally. In view of the documents recently published by Professor Moore, which indicate that Minot was engaged in some business transactions in France, the latter hypothesis seems more probable.¹⁵

ROSCOE E. PARKER

¹⁵ *Mod. Lang. Notes*, XXXV, 78-81. I am indebted to Professor Carleton Brown for directing my attention to this article and for other valuable suggestions.