

Order of Saint Lazarus: Primary sources

William, Master of Burton. Admission of Robert Bostock and members of his family into the Confraternity of Saint Lazarus at Burton dated 19th January 1473.

- Transcribed in: William Henry Stevenson, John Edward Stocks, Gilbert Allen Chinnery, Helen Stocks.: Records of the Borough of Leicester; being a series of extracts from the archives of the corporation of Leicester. C.J. Clay, Leicester (England), CUP Archive, 1899, p.386-387

Box G, No. 369. [Jan. 9, 1474.] **Universis Sancte Matris ecclesie Filiis ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Frater Willelmus Magister de Burton Sancti Lazari Jerusalem in Anglia et eiusdem loci confratres salutem ac utriusque hominis continuum incrementum. Quia quanto magis spiritualia dona erogantur tanto ut credimus potiora eterne retributionis premia conseruantur †verum† dileccioni vestre innotescimus per presentes quod sancte Romane Ecclesie pontifices ex plenitudine eorum potestatis nobis gracie indulcerunt quod omnibus qui de facultatibus et bonis eisdem a deo collatis nobis subvenirint aut in nostram fraternitatem †sunt† assumpti et omnibus benefactoribus ac exortatoribus tocies quociens unum annum injuncte penitencie relaxauerunt et in plenam participacionem omnium missarum et aliarum devocionum singulis ecclesiis per universum orbem deo offerendarum ac singulis annis in die veneris magne ebdomade eorum proprium curatum plenam habere potestatem eosdem absolventi ab omnibus peccatis nisi talia sint super quibus sedes apostolica sit merito consulenda, et eciam vota abstinencie et peregrinacionis quecumque commutandi in alia pia subsidia dicto hospitali eroganda, votis Jerusalemitan' et beatorum Petri et Pauli apostolorum dum-**

taxat exceptis, et in tempore mortis omnium peccatorum plenam remissionem, personis autem ecclesiasticis in nostram fraternitatem assumptis qui propter †notum† irregularitatem a sentenciis canonis vel hominis †contractis† pro beneficio absolucionis ad curiam romanam debuissent accedere vt id a proprio curato valeant recipere misericorditer concesserunt, ac sic ab eodem propter omissionem horarum canonicarum †induimus† pro recompenso plenam remissionem et ut hii qui in nostram fraternitatem sunt assumpti si ecclesie ad quas pertinent a divinis officiis fuerint interdicte cosque mori contigerit eisdem ecclesiastica sepultura non negetur nisi vinculo excommunicationis nominatim fuerint innodati. Vnde nos magister et confratres hospitalis antedicti auctoritate apostolica vigoreque privilegiorum nostrorum in nostram confraternitatem recipientes dilectos nobis in Christo Robertum Bostokke, Johannam uxorem suam et Agnetem et Aliciam filias eorum †et Aliciam matrem† nostrorum privilegiorum indulgenciarum et aliorum pietatis operum participes in omnibus fecimus per presentes. Sigillo nostro confraternitatis signato apud Burton predict' in nostra domo capitulari vicesimo nono die mensis Januarii A.D. 1473.

English translation

To all the sons of Holy Mother Church to whom the present letters shall come, Brother William Master of Burton St Lazar's of Jerusalem in England, and the co-brethren of that place, both greeting and the continual profit of each man¹. Since the more largely spiritual gifts are bestowed, by so much, as we believe, the better rewards of eternal retribution are secured, we make known to your affection by these presents that the pontiffs of the Holy Roman Church out of the plenitude of their power have graciously indulged us so far that they have released to all who, of the means and goods granted to them by God, shall assist us, or shall be taken into our fraternity, and to all benefactors and supporters whensoever, one year of enjoined penance and full participation of all masses and other devotions to be offered to God in all churches throughout the whole world; and every year on Friday of Holy Week have mercifully granted full power to their own *curatus* to absolve them from all sins, except such as the Apostolic see ought to be consulted upon, and also to commute vows of abstinence and pilgrimage whatsoever into other pious aids to be bestowed on the said hospital, vows of [visiting] Jerusalem and the Blessed

¹ Meaning probably both spiritual and worldly life.

Apostles Peter and Paul alone excepted, and in the hour of death, full remission of all sins; and also for the persons ecclesiastical taken into our fraternity, who ought to go to the Roman Court for the benefit of absolution from the sentences of the canon or the civil law incurred for notorious irregularity, they have mercifully granted that they may receive it from their own *curatus*, and likewise from the same (*curatus*) for the omission of the canonical hours we obtain for recompense full remission, and that those who are taken into our fraternity, if the churches to which they belong shall have been interdicted from the divine offices, and it shall happen that they die, shall not be denied ecclesiastical burial, unless they shall have been excommunicated by name. Wherefore we the Master and co-brethren of the hospital aforesaid by the apostolic authority and by virtue of our privileges receiving into our confraternity our well-beloved in Christ, Robert Bostock, Joan his wife, and Agnes and Alice their daughters and Alice the mother have made them sharers of our privileges, indulgences and other works of piety in all things by these presents. Signed with our seal of the confraternity at Burton aforesaid in our chapter-house on the 29th day of the month of January A.D. 1473.