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New Volume!

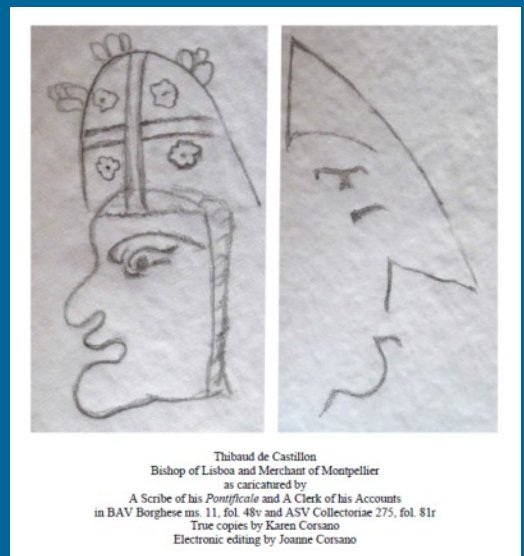
The Spoils of the Pope and the Pirates, 1357 The Complete Legal Dossier from the Vatican Archives

Edited by:
Daniel Williman, professor emeritus Binghamton University
Karen Ann Corsano, private scholar of Cambridge, Massachusetts

***Providing remarkable insights into how the most
extensive of medieval bureaucracies worked***

Pursuant to a quite mysterious provision of canon law, vast amounts of treasure were seized by collectors of the papal Camera at Avignon from the estate of a worldly bishop of Lisbon after his death in 1356. Much of the treasure was shipped through the Strait of Gibraltar and captured by pirates. One of the pirate ships was wrecked near Montpellier, some of the treasure recovered, the pirate crew summarily executed, and the pirate officers sent off to the papal prison at Avignon, whence they were ultimately released after making composition with the Camera.

Hollywood could use this story. But Hollywood does not know anything about it, because it is buried in the documents edited here, mostly for the first time. Over the course of almost fifty years, the editors have pieced together from the vast archive of the Avignonese papacy fifty-four documents that tell the story.



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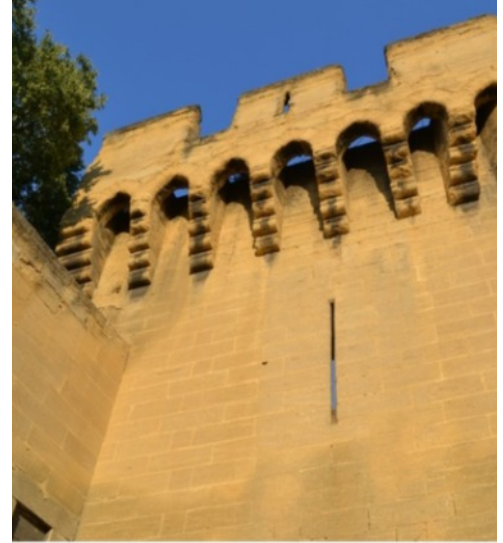
More about *The Spoils of the Pope and the Pirates, 1357 The Complete Legal Dossier from the Vatican Archives*

Most of these documents are accounts and inventories. In them we can trace the activities on a daily basis of the papal collectors and learn about the stunning amount of 'stuff' that the worldly bishop left behind him at his death. Scattered throughout the inventories of goods are lists of manuscripts. A network of mercantile transactions can be traced as agents of the bishop admit to what they owe or argue that they are owed more than they owe. Pieces of the story can be filled in from papal letters and other official letters, and three sets of depositions. The documents not only tell this story, they also provide remarkable insights into how the most extensive of medieval bureaucracies worked.

The documents are edited in full in Latin, accompanied by English summaries. The editors have provided a brief introduction that tells the story more fully and gives guidance as to the many types of money that appear in the documents and to the different series of Vatican archives that they have used. There is a Bibliography, an extensive Index of Persons and Places, an Index of Topics, and a Glossary.

Pricing Information:

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The famous walls of Avignon were built from funds derived from a salt tax that was instituted as a partial result of the settlement achieved in this case (Introduction, p. xvi).

*This title is available online as an e-book via this link: <http://amesfoundation.law.harvard.edu/> and in HeinOnline's *Selden Society Publications and the History of Early English Law*.

Highlights of the series

The tenth volume, *which was the seventh volume in the series of Year Books of Richard II*, was published in 1996. A few years later in 1998 the eleventh volume in the series was published. It was an edition of the thirteenth-century treatise *Lex mercatoria*, with an elaborate introduction and commentary.

In addition to the *Year Books of Richard II* and *Lex mercatoria*, the Foundation has also published Joseph Henry Beale's Bibliography of Early English Law Books, Robert Bowie Anderson's Supplement to Beale, and Bertha Haven Putnam's Proceedings Before the Justices of the Peace in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries.



The Year Books are the most important source for the history of English law from the late thirteenth century to the beginning of the sixteenth. Written in the curious dialect of Norman French known as "Law French," they give, in dialogue form, the arguments of counsel and the questions asked by the judges in the most important cases that were pleaded before the central royal courts in this formative period of English law. Most of the Year Books were printed in the sixteenth century, but the Year Books of the reign of Richard II (1377-1399) were, for some reason, never printed, though a number of them survive in manuscript.

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