The hospital of St Bartholomew between Oxford and Cowley attributed its foundation to King Henry I. In 1279 the hundred roll described it as the house (domus) of St Bartholomew, ‘fundata a domino rege Henrico ueteri qui bonam reginam Matildam duxit in uxorem et assignata ad hospitacionem et sustentacionem infirmorum leprosorum’, constituted as twelve frатes and a chaplain (HundR, ii. 725b). The king was said to have granted 1d per day for each person from the farm of the city of Oxford (£19 15s 5d), plus 5s per year for each person for clothing (65s), a total of £23 0s 5d. These payments are the first legible words in the pipe roll of 1130 (PR 31 Hen. I, 1), proof that these pensions existed in King Henry’s time: ‘Et in liberationibus constitutis xij prebendariorum xix li. xv s. v d. numero. Et in uestitura eorumdem prebendariorum lxv s. numero’. The payments continue in the pipe rolls of Henry II, Richard I, and John, where the recipients are usually referred to as ‘xii infirmis’, thirteen sick persons. By 1279 the payments were made by the mayor and burgesses of Oxford rather than by the sheriff.\(^1\) In 1535 the pipe rolls

\(^1\) The burgesses of Oxford stated before the justices in eyre at Oxford, 14 January 1285, that King Henry I (‘dominus rex Henricus senior’) had granted them their borough at fee farm of £63 0s 5d, made up of £40 payable at the Exchequer and £23 0d 5d delivered to the frатes or leprosi of St Bartholomew (J. E. Thorold Rogers, Oxford
were inspected and the results exemplified in letters patent under the Exchequer seal, dated 4 June 27 Henry VIII (Oriel College Ch. 659; Shadwell, ix. 17, no. 65; not in L. & P. Henry VIII); this reports the payments first from 'antiquissimum magnum rotulum in scaccario nostro apud Westm’ residentem, videlicet magnum rotulum de anno primo regni Regis Henrici secundi’ (i.e. 31 Henry I, which is quoted verbatim), and thereafter to 6 Henry III, also quoted, and then from 6 Henry III to 12 Edward I, in which roll a writ of liberate was attached as a schedule). There is a brief history of the hospital by H. E. Salter in VCH Oxon, ii. 157–8. No foundation charter survives.

The hospital was granted to Oriel College, Oxford, by letters patent of King Edward III, dated 24 February 1328 (Oriel College Muniments, Ch. 404, 405; Shadwell, ix. 6, nos. 8–9; Shadwell & Salter, 290–91, no. 336; CalPat 1327–1330, 239). The college took over and maintained the hospital’s archive, described by C. L. Shadwell, Oriel College. Catalogue of Muniments ix Concerning St Bartholomew’s Hospital (1902); x Concerning the property of St Bartholomew’s Hospital (1905). Some are printed in C. L. Shadwell & H. E. Salter, Oriel College Records (Oxford, 1926), 282–369.

King Henry’s alms to the hospital of Oxford are referred to in an act of King Stephen (below), datable to 1136 × 1139. Both the original and an engrossed inspeximus from 1324 have been retained by Oriel College. In addition to the pension from the farm of the city, King Henry was also said to have given two cartloads of hay per year from the king’s meadow near Osney. This gift was the subject of an inquisition in 1267, which confirmed that the master and brethren of the hospital of St Bartholomew in Oxford had had two cartloads of hay per year from the king’s meadow near Osney, ‘ex dono domini H(enrici) regis Angl(orum) aui domini regis Iohannis’ (CalIMisc, i. 110 (no. 323), from PRO C145/14/1; Shadwell, x. 4). Here auus must stand for proauus, and the reference is again to Henry I. The pension was renewed by letters patent dated 16 January 1267, after inspection of the pipe rolls; the cartloads of hay on 10 November 1267 after the inquisition (Oriel College, Ch. 464, 640, Shadwell, ix. 1, no. 2; x. 4, no. 5; Shadwell & Salter, 284, 311–12, nos. 331, 365; CalPat 1266–1272, 27, 166). Henry III’s patents were

inspected by Edward I, 20 June 1293 (Oriel College, Ch. 452; Shadwell, ix. 2, no. 3; Shadwell & Salter, 284–5, no. 332; CalCh, ii. 429).

Behind the inspeximus from 1324 is a dossier of transcripts, preserved among the Chancery Miscellanea, now C47/9/7 (formerly 3/28). This includes a confirmation by Henry II (H2/2011), datable to 1155 × 1158, which was not included in the inspeximus and does not survive among the muniments at Oriel College; it defines the king’s alms as prebends, ‘sciatis me concessisse infirmis de hospitali Oxfunford’ elemosinam quam H(enricus) rex eis dedit et concessit, uidelicet XIII prebendas’. In 1200 the *infirmi* are referred to as the *leprosi* of St Bartholomew of Oxford, who had letters of simple protection from King John (*RChart*, 99a), also now lacking from the muniments.

00 Lost act giving the king’s alms to the hospital of Oxford. 1100 × 1130

**SOURCE:** Mention in an act of King Stephen, Ste/636, datable to 1136 × 1139, surviving as an original in Oxford, Oriel College, Ch. 416 (Bishop 619, scribe not identified; Shadwell, ix. 1, no. 1); tongue torn, seal missing; also in an inspeximus dated 10 May 1324 (Oriel College, Ch. 420; Shadwell, ix. 6, no. 7; Charter Roll 17 Edward II, C53/110, mem. 4, CalCh, iii. 464–6); copied with other royal and papal acts in a roll, 17 Edward II, now in Chancery Miscellanea, PRO C47/9/7, transcripts of charters and bulls in favour of St Bartholomew’s Hospital, where Stephen’s initial is replaced (deliberately?) with the name Henry. BL MS Lansdowne 386 (abstract from an Oriel College register, c. 1397), fols. 28r, 32r, refers to Henry III’s confirming Henry I’s gift.

**FACSIMILE:** Salter, *Oxford Charters*, no. 53 [original of Ste/636].

**PRINTED:** C. L. Shadwell & H. E. Salter, *Oriel College Records* (Oxford, 1926), 283–4 (no. 330); *Regesta*, iii. 236 (no. 636).

**CALENDAR:** Not in *Regesta*.

S(tephanus) rex Angl(orum) episcopo Linc(olnensi) et Roberto de Oil(li) et uic(ecomiti) Oxen(efordie) salutem. Sciatis me reddidisse et concessisse infirmis Oxen(efordie) elemosinam quam rex H(enricus) eis dedit. Et teneant bene et in pace et habeant libertates suas in bosco et pascuis sicut melius habuerunt tempore H(enrici) regis. Et concedo eis sicut prebende Oxen(efordie) deliberabuntur, ut ipsi habeant sicut rex H(enricus) eis concessit. T(este) episcopo Sar(esberiensis). Apud Oxen(efordiam)

*Stephen king of the English to the bishop of Lincoln and Robert de Oilly and the sheriff of Oxford greeting, Know that I have restored and granted to the sick men of Oxford the alms which King Henry gave them. And they shall hold well and in peace and shall*
have their liberties in wood and meadows just as they well had them in the time of King Henry. And I grant to them just as their prebends are paid at Oxford, that they shall have them just as King Henry granted to them. Witness the bishop of Salisbury. At Oxford.

DATE: Not later than the Pipe Roll, 1129–30.
CONTEXT: The dispositive words are explicitly a renewal of King Henry’s grant, but without the words ‘et sicut carta eius testatur’ there is no attestation of a written act for the hospital, and it may not be assumed that one was produced as precedent for the renewal. The lack of specification of the alms suggests the sum must have been accepted as customary and respected as such by the sheriff. Yet it is unlikely that the sheriff paid out the king’s alms without some authority for doing so. It is possible that in such a case, where King Henry had granted a pension, the document in support of the grant was held by the sheriff as accounting officer. Now, when Stephen was in Oxford, in 1136 or 1139, the hospital has obtained its own act, attested by Bishop Roger.