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Additional letters of Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) to Catalonia*

Abstract:

The completion of the Austrian edition of the papal registers as well as various collections concerning the Iberian Peninsula, and most particularly the *Butllari de Catalunya* of Schmidt and Sabanés, will now allow historians to advance the work undertaken by Paul Kehr and his team a century ago in deepening our understanding of papal relations with Catalonia at the time of the influential Pope Innocent III (1198–1216). It is worth recording that there are letters of Innocent III which are neither in the papal registers nor in the *Butllari* (which deals with originals) and that these letters also remain of great historical value. The following is a register of 32 additional letters of Innocent III, mainly copies, concerning Catalonia which indicate the wide-ranging nature of papal government and the extent of the pope's authority there. While it is hoped that this list may be almost complete, it is indicated that there could yet be more rooms to be added to Kehr's 'archivalische Labyrinth'.

The recent completion of the great historical enterprise of the Austrian edition of all the extant registers of Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) is particularly welcome to the historians of the Iberian Peninsula¹. The relations between the rulers and churchmen of the Peninsula and the papacy are of prime importance in understanding political and religious life in the High Middle Ages, and papal letters offer us a huge amount of information concerning those relations. Students of this history now have opportunities for research which were not available for their predecessors. The edition of the papal documents in Aragon, Navarre and Catalonia to 1198 edited by Paul Fridolin Kehr and his team,

* The circumstances of the pandemic have left us especially in the debt of Dr. Martín Alvira Cabrer, Dr. Claire Gilbert, and Mossèn Josep Maria Masnou, all of whom generously looked up references and transcribed letters in Madrid and Barcelona.

¹ *Die Register Innocenz' III*, 13 vols, ed. Othmar HAGENEDER–Anton HAIDACHER–Alfred A. STRNAD–Andrea SOMMERLECHNER–Werner MALECZEK–Rainer MURAUER–Herwig WEIGL (Graz–Cologne–Rome–Vienna 1964–2022).

the papal documents concerning Portugal edited by Carl Erdmann, and the editions of letters of Innocent III and Honorius III (1216–1227) to Spain by Demetrio Mansilla², have in recent times been greatly supplemented not only by the superior edition of Innocent III's enregistered letters but also by a number of other publications: the papal documents in Castile until 1198 edited by Daniel Berger, Klaus Herbers and Thorsten Schlauwitz³; the *Iberia Pontificia* which also goes to 1198⁴; the materials for the study of the relations of the papacy and Portugal from 1198 to 1417 edited by the late Peter Linehan⁵; the same historian's *España Pontifica*, which provides a register of original papal letters to Spain from 1198 until 1307⁶; the various volumes of papal documents, from both the registers and Peninsula archives, edited by Santiago Domínguez Sánchez for many of the popes from Gregory IX (1227–1241) until Clement V (1305–1314)⁷; the *Butllari de Catalunya*, edited by Tilmann Schmidt and Roser Sabanés, containing original papal letters, some 1394 in all, from 1198 to 1417 conserved within 32 archives within what Kehr memorably described as the “archivalische Labyrinth” of Catalonia⁸.

It is worth pointing out that there are yet more papal letters. In the case of the Catalan part of the modern Spanish state, for the pontificate of Innocent III, as well as the letters related to Catalonia in the papal registers, and the 60

² *Papsturkunden in Spanien. Vorarbeiten zur Hispania Pontificia*, 2 vols, ed. Paul F. KEHR (Göttingen 1926–1928); *Papsturkunden in Portugal*, ed. Carl ERDMANN (Berlin 1927); *La documentación pontificia hasta Inocencio III, 965–1216*, ed. Demetrio MANSILLA (Rome 1956); *La documentación pontificia de Honorio III, 1216–1227*, ed. ID. (Rome 1966).

³ *Papsturkunden in Spanien III: Kastilien. Vorarbeiten zur Hispania (Iberia) Pontificia*, ed. Daniel BERGER–Klaus HERBERS–Thorsten SCHLAUWITZ (Berlin 2020).

⁴ *Regesta Pontificum Romanorum. Iberia Pontificia*, 6 vols to date, ed. Daniel BERGER–Frank ENGEL–Santiago DOMÍNGUEZ SÁNCHEZ–José Luis MARTÍN MARTÍN–Thomas CZERNER (Göttingen 2012–2022).

⁵ *Portugalia Pontificia: Materials for the History of Portugal and the Papacy, 1198–1417*, 2 vols, ed. Peter LINEHAN (Lisbon 2013).

⁶ *España Pontifica: Papal Letters to Spain, 1198–1303*, ed. ID. (Washington 2022).

⁷ *Documentos de Gregorio IX (1227–1241) referentes a España* (León 2004); *Documentos de Clemente IV (1265–1268) referentes a España* (León 1996); *Documentos de Gregorio X (1272–1276) referentes a España (1272–1276)* (León 1997); *Documentos de Nicolás III (1277–1280) referentes a España* (León 1999); *Documentos de Martín IV (1281–1285) referentes a España* (León 2010); *Documentos de Honorio IV (1285–1287) referentes a España* (León 2015); *Documentos de Nicolás IV (1288–1292) referentes a España* (León 2009); *Documentos de Bonifacio VIII (1295–1303) referentes a España* (León 2006); *Documentos de Clemente V (1305–1314) referentes a España* (León 2014).

⁸ *Butllari de Catalunya: documents pontificis originals conservats als arxius de Catalunya (1198–1417)*, 3 vols, ed. Tilmann SCHMIDT–Roser SABANÉS i FERNÁNDEZ (Barcelona 2016); *Papsturkunden in Spanien I 1*.

letters which have been edited in the *Butllari de Catalunya*⁹, we have located 32 more letters which are listed neither in the papal registers nor the *Butllari*. While most of these are copies rather than originals, insofar as one wants to make a complete record of the pope's interventions and signal their sometimes wider political and historical significance, it is useful to include copies, and we have even considered a Spanish translation of a lost original from the monastery of Ripoll, burned in 1834, made by the monastery's last archivist, Roc d'Olzinelles¹⁰. These letters are concentrated in the first part of Innocent's pontificate with 8 issued in the period 1198–1200 and 25 before the end of 1207. The first of these letters chronologically is indeed that of Ripoll, dated June 14, 1198, which appoints the bishops of Huesca and Vic along with the archdeacon of Urgell to inquire into a property dispute between Ripoll and the archdiocese of Tarragona. The last is a confirmation by Innocent on 5 June 1216, at Perugia (where he would die just over a month later) of the privilege of his predecessor Benedict VIII (1012–1024), granted to the monastery of Sant Cugat del Vallès in the diocese of Barcelona¹¹.

When Kehr undertook his journey to Catalonia in 1925, he and his associate, Peter Rassow, expected that most of their findings would come from the central archives in Madrid and Barcelona¹². With the collaboration of their local informant, Josep Maria Rius Serra, they soon found that not only did cathedral archives also hold important examples of pre-1198 papal letters, but that relevant material was to be unearthed in libraries, seminaries, monasteries restored after the dissolutions of the early 19th century, parish churches that had formerly been collegiate foundations and various factitious collections. It is worth pointing out that of the 32 letters listed here, only three are from the *Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó* in Barcelona (two of which are also in Barcelona's diocesan archive) and five from the *Archivo Historico Nacional* in Madrid. One of those in the Crown archive, a privilege of Innocent to the Premonstratensians of Bellpuig de les Avellanes in late 1198, we only learnt of through Kehr's notation¹³. Nearly all the other letters come from ecclesiastical archives, although a confirmation by Innocent III of a donation made by the influential and wealthy sacristan of Vic, Pere de Tavertet, to the chapter of Vic in 1199,

⁹ *Butllari de Catalunya* I 57–124.

¹⁰ *Diplomatari del monestir de Ripoll*, 3 vols, ed. Ramon ORDEIG I MATA (Vic 2015–17) III 395, no. 1224.

¹¹ Barcelona, *Arxiu de la catedral*, perg. 3–2–182; Massimo PETROCCHI, *L'ultimo destino perugino di Innocenzo III*, in: *Bollettino della deputazione di storia patria per l'Umbria* 64 (1967) 201–207.

¹² *Papsturkunden in Spanien* I 1–10.

¹³ *Ibid.* I 184; Paul FREEDMAN–Damian J. SMITH, *A Privilege of Pope Innocent III for the Premonstratensian House of Bellpuig de les Avellanes*, in: *RHM* 55 (2013) 81–97.

was in the 1980s in a collection of a few hundred parchments owned by a kind of cultural club in the village of Torelló, north of Vic¹⁴. It is now housed in the municipal archive of Torelló.

These letters, grouped around several important themes, offer an indication of the wide-ranging nature of papal government, and provide an insight into the way papal authority was built up and modified. One of the ways in which papal power grew was through initiatives taken by monasteries and other religious houses to place themselves under papal protection, usually to diminish or escape the jurisdiction of diocesan bishops¹⁵. The prestige of the papacy was increased through such petitions and privileges but ultimately led to conflicts between the monasteries and local bishops, and sometimes undermined the authority of a bishop in a way which the papacy itself might not approve.

Some 34 papal letters from the pontificate of Nicholas II (1060) to that of Gregory IX (1240) deal with the exemption of the Augustinian canonry of Àger which was founded on the frontier with Islam by a local magnate, Arnau Mir de Tost and his wife Arsendis¹⁶. At this time, Àger was in *terra nullius* as regards episcopal administration and both Nicholas II and Alexander II confirmed its direct dependence on the papacy. The chapter of canons resisted jurisdictional claims by Urgell and by Lleida (the latter established as a bishopric in 1149). Pope Alexander III devoted 23 letters to this matter, eventually confirming Àger's exemption. Celestine III, who had been the papal legate during this litigation, favored the claims of Lleida and endeavored to force Àger into submission through excommunication. In 1203, Innocent III ordered the archbishop of Tarragona to enforce the excommunication, although by 1211, he seems to have come around to favoring the recalcitrant chapter, when remonstrating with the King of Aragon, Peter II, over his seizure of a castle belonging to Àger¹⁷.

¹⁴ Paul FREEDMAN, A New Letter from the Early Pontificate of Pope Innocent III, in: RHM 29 (1987) 215–220.

¹⁵ I(an) S(tuart) ROBINSON, The Papacy, 1073–1198: Continuity and Innovation (Cambridge 1990) 209–43; Michele MACCARRONE, Primato romano e monasteri dal principio del secolo XII ad Innocenzo III, in: Istituzioni monastiche e istituzioni canonicali in Occidente (1123–1215) (Milan 1980) 49–132; Ludwig FALKENSTEIN, La papauté et les abbayes françaises aux XIe et XIIe siècles: exemption et protection apostolique (Paris 1997).

¹⁶ Paul FREEDMAN, Jurisdictional disputes over Sant Pere d'Àger (Catalonia) in light of new papal documents, in: ID., Church, Law and Society in Catalonia, 900–1500 (Variorum Collected Studies Series 440, Aldershot 1994) 1–29.

¹⁷ (23/05/1203) Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 31v–32r; Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya, Arxiu Històric, Reg. 3537, perg. 153; Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya, Arxiu Històric, Reg. 3544, perg. 155; (20/04/1211) Butllari de Catalunya I 101, no. 47.

The privilege, *Quoniam concedenda*, which Innocent confirmed to Sant Cugat del Vallès in June 1216, had a life which stretched back even further than Benedict VIII to Popes Sylvester II (999–1003) in 1002 and John XVIII (1004–1009) in 1007, and gave the monastery, like many others around that time, exemption from episcopal control¹⁸. This would lead to considerable friction between the bishop of Barcelona and the abbot on several occasions, particularly at the time of Saint Oleguer (bishop of Barcelona 1116–1137) and then again in the early years of the 13th century, when the combative Pere de Cirac (1208–1211), sought jurisdictional oversight of the major monastery of his diocese, which certainly then appeared in need of reform¹⁹. In this case, Innocent's confirmation of Benedict's privilege came at a moment when the abbot of Sant Cugat, was bargaining with the redoubtable Bishop Berenguer II de Palou, and the two sought a compromise which would lead to a recognition of certain rights and possessions of the bishop²⁰. Innocent's confirmation was enregistered at the time but that final register is no longer extant²¹.

New religious communities in the early thirteenth century also considered papal protection as necessary for their security. A group of hermits at the foot of the Serra de Montserrat having won approval from the rulers of Aragon, Alfonso II and Sancha of Castile, and local landowners, most important among whom were Pere Balb and his wife Guilleuma, in 1202 sought the approval of the pope, who with *Non absque dolore* placed their house of Santa Maria de Bonrepòs and its possessions under his protection and that of Saint Peter, while also indicating that they were by this time operating under the Cistercian rule²². In the following year, the hermits withdrew from this house, which then became a feminine community, which the archbishop of Tarragona, Ramon de Rocabertí, approved in 1210, fixing that the number of nuns there should not

¹⁸ Cartulario de Sant Cugat del Vallès, 3 vols, ed. José RIUS SERRA (Barcelona, 1945–1947) II, nos. 382 (Sylvester II), 412 (John XVIII), 486 (Benedict VIII). See Antoni PLADEVALL i FONT, *Conflictes entre les exempcions monàstiques i els drets episcopals dels segles XII al XIV*, in: I Col·loqui d'Història del Monaquisme Català, Santes Creus 1966, 2 vols (Santes Creus 1966–1969) I 263–95.

¹⁹ Die Register Innocenz' III, XIV 238s., no. 152. Josep BAUCCELLS i REIG, *Qüestions sobre l'exempció episcopal d'alguns priorats de Barcelona-diòcesi (s. XIV) i del monestir de Sant Cugat del Vallès (s. XI a XIV)*, in: I Col·loqui d'Història del Monaquisme Català I 21–61.

²⁰ BAUCCELLS i REIG 41–48.

²¹ Augustin THEINER, *Vetera monumenta Slavorum meridionalium historiam sacram illustrantia*, 2 vols (Rome 1863–1875) I 70, no. 200.

²² Jaime VILLANUEVA, *Viage literario a las Iglesias de España*, 22 vols (Madrid 1803–52) XX 267, no. 46; Josep TRENCHS ODENA, *El Montserrat y sus monasterios. Colección diplomática (1164–1212)*, in: *Anales de la Universidad de Alicante. Historia Medieval* 2 (1983) 226, no. 22.

exceed thirteen. Innocent recognized this new foundation in 1213, confirming its possessions, regulating its offices, and granting it the liberties and immunities which other Cistercian houses enjoyed²³.

The support of the papacy was sought with equal eagerness by the military orders of the Templars and the Hospitallers, both of which were very active in Catalonia. There were privileges which were often repeated which proved vital in protecting the military orders in their struggles. Many of these privileges are commonplace but they are no less significant for that²⁴. We have therefore included in this list copies of the famous *Omne datum optimum*, first issued by Innocent II in March 1139, the oft-repeated *Militia Dei*, first issued by Eugenius III in April 1145, and *Quanto Maiora*, first issued by Alexander III between 1171–1180, because they were sent to the Templars in Catalonia in the first half of Innocent III's pontificate because of the specific need the Templars had for them there and then, as was *Quia partiumque*, which instructed prelates that Templars should not be forced to pay any tithes on *novalles* or other lands that they had cultivated with their own hands for their own use or for animal fodder²⁵. These privileges were usually needed because of contests between the Templars and the episcopate. The number of jurisdictional controversies between the Templars and the Hospitallers with the cathedrals of Tortosa, Tarragona and Lleida, as with the case of Àger, were the result of the moving frontier of the so-called *Reconquista*²⁶. In this instance, the question was not that of who crossed the boundary first but rather that of the division of the spoils, a process begun after 1150 with the consolidation of New Catalonia²⁷.

The disputes between the military orders and the bishops are a reminder of how much papal authority had come to rest on the effectiveness of papal justice in a great many disputes brought from all over Christendom²⁸. The number of cases had risen dramatically during the 12th century, both in the Tarragona province and elsewhere, and even in a small sample of letters one can see how

²³ Madrid, Archivo Histórico Nacional, clero, carpeta, 1989, no. 18; TRENCHS ODENA 229, no. 31; 230, no. 34.

²⁴ See Luis GARCÍA-GUIJARRO RAMOS, *Papado, Cruzadas y Órdenes Militares, Siglos XI–XIII* (Madrid 1995) 100–106, 124–32.

²⁵ Barcelona, Arxiu Diocesà, Liber Niger, 1, fol. 31r–31v, no. 92 (*Quia partiumque*); *Papsturkunden für Templer und Johanniter. Archivberichte und Texte*, ed. Rudolf HIESTAND (Göttingen 1972) 205–210, no. 3 (*Omne datum optimum*); 217, no. 10 (*Militia Dei*); 305, no. 117 (*Quanto maiora*).

²⁶ On the role of the Templars and the Hospitallers in this story, see A(lan) J(ohn) FOREY, *The Templars in the Corona de Aragón* (London 1973); Joaquin MIRET i SANS, *Les cases de Templers i Hospitalers a Catalunya* (Lleida 2006, orig. Barcelona 1910).

²⁷ On this expansion now see Thomas W. BARTON, *Victory's Shadow. Conquest and Governance in Medieval Catalonia* (Ithaca 2019).

²⁸ ROBINSON 179–208.

many different prelates and lesser clergy had become involved in papal government through judging cases returned from Rome. Surely the case here which assumed greatest importance was that which Innocent assigned to the archbishop and treasurer of Tarragona and the archdeacon of Barcelona concerning the dispute between the canons of Vic and their bishop, Guillem de Tavertet. *Propter nimium caritatem*, of 7 April 1206, sheds light on the decretal *Cum oporteat* which is included in the Decretals (X 5. 1. 19). The significance of *Cum oporteat* concerns the credit to be given in litigation to the *fama* or *infamia* of witnesses or those accused of wrongdoing²⁹. The letter *Propter nimium caritatem* shows the context which *Cum Oporteat* leaves vague, of the actual accusations against the bishop of Vic who already had a reputation for intransigence and was accused by the canons of turning over church revenues to corrupt cronies, countenancing murder, neglecting his duties, dilapidating the church and other crimes. The canons also, however, seem to have resisted efforts of the bishop to reform the chapter, rationalize its revenues, and resist the incursions of the lay co-lord of the city of Vic, Guillem Ramon de Montcada. Much original work in a recently defended Catalan doctoral thesis by Josep Maria Masnou suggests a different perspective on the embattled Bishop Guillem³⁰.

What remains to be discovered? The labyrinth constantly adds twists and rooms to its complexity. Materials confiscated by the state from monasteries is still being unpacked; church archives formerly neglected and disorganized are being put in order; there is an entire network of regional archives run by the Catalan government, despite recent political discord, many including substantial medieval material³¹. There are also considerable amounts of medieval documentation in private hands, much of which has been donated to the abbey of Montserrat and the equivalent of a national library, the Biblioteca de Catalunya in Barcelona³². None of these new collections are particularly promising *prima*

²⁹ Damian J. SMITH, A Letter of Innocent III from the Archive of Vic Shedding Light on *Cum oporteat* (X 5. 1. 19), in: RHM 50 (2008) 197–208.

³⁰ Josep MASNOU PRATDESEBA, La vida canonical a la catedral de Vic (886–1230). L'aplicació de la reforma gregoriana a partir de l'estudi prosopogràfic (Ph.D thesis, Barcelona 2021). Among much else, it should be noted here that the documents section of the thesis includes two letters from Vic to Innocent III: a letter of 1206 from Bishop Guillem to the pope defending his own actions (1244s., no. 380); a letter of February 1215 from some of the canons of the chapter of Vic, protesting that Bishop Guillem had behaved well since exonerated by the pope from the previous accusations against him (1270, no. 400).

³¹ See Directori dels Arxius de Catalunya, ed. Departament de Culutra de la Generalitat de Catalunya (Barcelona 1989).

³² Cebrià BARAUT, Documents reials i pontificis de l'antic arxiu de Montserrat, segles XII–XV, in : Studia Monastica 35 (1993) 97–159, does not contain any papal letters before

facie, but there is also the limitation of our own investigations, both as to neglected locations and simply not finding materials in archives we have visited.

Documents:

1. June 14, 1198. St Peter's.

Vic, Arxiu Episcopal, Regest d'Olzinelles, lligall 2059, plec IX, pp. 3s.

Innocent III to the bishops of Huesca and Vic and the archdeacon of Urgell asking them to resolve litigation between the monastery of Ripoll and the Archbishop of Tarragona over the honor of Centcelles.

A Spanish translation of a lost original (from the monastery of Ripoll) by Roca d'Olzinelles (1784–1835), the last archivist of Ripoll.

Ed. *Diplomatari de Ripoll* III 395, no. 1224.

2. December 17, 1198. Lateran.

Barcelona, Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó, Butlles Pontificies, lligall 3, no. 2

Innocent III issues the privilege Religiosam vitam eligentibus to the Premonstratensians of Santa Maria de Bellpuig de les Avellanes.

Ed. FREEDMAN–SMITH 93–97.

Religiosam vitam eligentibus

3. May 13, 1199. Lateran.

Torelló, Arxiu Municipal, pergamin no. 202 100

Innocent III confirms a donation made by Pere de Tavertet, sacristan of the cathedral of Vic, to the chapter of canons.

Ed. FREEDMAN, *A New Letter* 219s.

A revised and corrected edition using another record, Arxiu de la Catedral de Vic, calaix 6, 2798D, is edited in: Paul FREEDMAN–Josep Maria MASNOU, *Some Additional Letters of Pope Innocent III Concerning the Cathedral Chapter of Vic*, in: *RHM* 44 (2002) 116.

Cum a nobis petitur

4. May 15, 1199. Lateran.

Madrid, Archivo Historico Nacional, Sigil-Sello, c. 5, no. 14

Innocent III excommunicates laity and suspends from their offices clergy who have invaded the property of Santa Maria de les Franqueses

Ed. Javier ESCUDER, *Diplomatari de Santa Maria de les Franqueses, 1075–1298* (Barcelona 2016) no. 151; Santiago DOMÍNGUEZ SÁNCHEZ, *Documentos*

the fourteenth century. Much of the material in the Biblioteca de Catalunya can be consulted at <https://www.bnc.cat/Fons-i-col-leccions/Arxius>.

Pontificios Medievales del Monasterio de Santa María de Poblet, 1132–1449 (León, 2017) no. 25.

Non absque dolore

5. June 22, 1199. Lateran.

Barcelona, Arxiu Diocesà, *Liber Niger*, 1, fol. 31, no. 92

Innocent III instructs prelates that the Templars should not be forced to pay any tithes on novalles or other lands that they had cultivated with their own hands for their own use or for animal fodder.

Quia partiumque

6. April, 1200. Lateran.

Barcelona, Arxiu Diocesà, *Liber Niger*, 1, fol. 17r–18v, no. 41

Innocent III instructs prelates that the Templars be allowed suitable priests to serve them, and, without diminishing parochial rights, be allowed to build chapels and cemeteries, and orders prelates to consecrate them at their request.

Milicia Dei

7. April 18, 1200. Lateran.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 32r

Innocent III orders the archbishop of Tarragona to investigate various complaints of the bishop of Lleida against nobles and parishioners whom he claims had unjustly appropriated tithes and other rights pertaining to the church of Lleida.

Ed. Damian SMITH, *Innocent III and the Crown of Aragon: the limits of papal authority* (Aldershot 2004) 266, no. 2.

Sicut venerabilis frater

8. May 27, 1200. Lateran.

Barcelona, Arxiu diocesà, *Liber Niger*, 1, fol. 18v, no. 42

Barcelona, Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó, Cancilleria, Reg. no. 309, fol. 12

Innocent III orders prelates that exactions are not to be made for the burial of Templar brothers.

Quanto maiora

9. June 9, 1201. Lateran.

Vic, Arxiu de la Catedral, calaix 6, 2798C

Innocent III to the canons of the cathedral of Vic regarding the gift of the sacristan Pere de Tavertet to the altar of St. Michael and for candles and lamps in the parish church of Santa Maria Rotonda.

Ed. FREEDMAN–MASNOU 117

Cum a nobis petitur

10. July 1, 1201. Lateran.

Madrid, Archivo Historico Nacional, Clero, carpeta 2075, nos. 18–21

Madrid, AHN, Clero, cód, 1204b, no. 11

Innocent III grants a privilege of protection to the monastery of Poblet.

Religiosam vitam eligentibus

11. May 23, 1202. Lateran.

Madrid, AHN, clero, carpeta 1989, no. 11, original

Madrid, AHN, clero, carpeta 1989, no. 12, copy 1395

Madrid, AHN, clero, carpeta 1989, no. 13, simple copy

Innocent grants protection to a group of Cistercian monks established at Bonrepòs (Tarragona) and confirms to them all the possessions which they had been granted by Pere Balb (a citizen of Lleida) and his wife for the remedy of their souls.

Ed. VILLANUEVA XX, 267, doc. 46; MANSILLA 281, no. 260.

Cum a nobis petitur

12. May 23, 1203. Ferentino.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 31v–32r

Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya, Arxiu Històric, Reg. 3537, perg. 153

Barcelona, Biblioteca de Catalunya, Arxiu Històric, Reg. 3544, perg. 155

Innocent III orders the archbishop and archdeacon of Tarragona to proceed against the collegiate churches of Àger and Sant Victòria with excommunication because of their defiance of the Bishop and Chapter of Lleida.

Cum de liberalitate

13. May 23, 1203. Ferentino.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 32v

Innocent III informs the archbishop of Tarragona and the bishops of Vic and Urgell of complaints by the bishop of Lleida concerning their retention of churches belonging to his diocese, ordering them to return them.

Ed. SMITH, Innocent III and the Crown of Aragon 267, no. 4.

Constitutis in presencia nostra

14. May 23, 1203. Ferentino.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 32v

Innocent III instructs the bishops of Huesca and Tarazona and the provost of Jaca to obtain for the bishop of Lleida churches that are held by Tarragona, Vic and Urgell that were supposed to have been given to Lleida after it had been conquered from the Saracens.

Venerabilis frater noster

15. May 23, 1203. Ferentino.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 55v

Innocent III to the archbishop and archdeacon of Tarragona, ordering them to intervene in answer to a complaint by the bishop of Lleida that the Templars of Lleida have refused their obligation to give one-half of the tithes paid from Templar lands to the church of Lleida.

Exhibita nobis

16. May 23, 1203. Ferentino.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 55

Innocent III to the archbishop and archdeacon of Tarragona, ordering them to compel the Templars in Lleida to restore to the church of Lleida the rights of quarta and cena from 28 churches that the Order had received from previous bishops of Lleida.

Significante venerabili

17. May 24, 1203. Ferentino.

Lleida, Arxiu de la Catedral, Llibre Vert, fol. 32

Innocent III to the archbishop and archdeacon of Tarragona, asking them to investigate the matter of the sacristan of Urgell's continued defiance in holding the church of Arboca, which belongs to the cathedral of Lleida.

Ed. SMITH, *Innocent III and the Crown of Aragon* 268, no. 5.

Venerabilis fratris nostri

18. April 7, 1206. St Peter's.

Vic Arxiu de la Catedral, calaix 10, Plec de butlles (unnumbered)

To the archbishop and treasurer of Tarragona and the archdeacon of Barcelona describing charges made against Bishop Guillem de Tavertet of Vic and ordering the recipients to make an investigation.

Ed. SMITH, *A Letter of Innocent III from the Archive of Vic* 205–207.

Propter nimium caritatem

19. August 26, 1206. Ferentino.

Barcelona, Arxiu de la Catedral. *Libri Antiquitatum*, IV, fol. 211, no. 379

Innocent III to the archbishop and archdeacon of Tarragona and the abbot of Poblet ordering them to investigate a complaint from the church of Barcelona against the abbot of Sant Pere and the commander of the Templars, and other religious, who refused to pay tithes, attend synods, or show obedience in other matters.

Ed. SMITH, *Innocent III and the Crown of Aragon* 271s., no. 10³³.

Oblata nobis

³³ Joseph MAS, *Notes històriques del bisbat de Barcelona*, 13 vols (Barcelona 1906–1921) XII 271, no. 2650, attributes the letter to Innocent IV. But Innocent III was at Feren-

20. September 25, 1206. Lateran.

Barcelona, Arxiu Diocesà, *Liber Niger*, 1, fol. 14r–15r, no. 36

Barcelona, Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó, Cancilleria, Reg. no. 309, fol. 11

Innocent III to master and the brothers of the militia of the Temple, renewing the privilege of his predecessors Alexander III, Urban III, and Clement III.

Omne Datum Optimum

21. April 25, 1207. Lateran.

Tortosa, Arxiu de la Catedral, Cartulari 6, d. 122, fol. 45r

Innocent III orders the abbot of Santes Creus and the hospitaller of Tarragona that they should oblige the citizens of Tortosa to abandon the conspiracy of choosing to be buried at the Hospital of Amposta to the prejudice of the church of Tortosa, while they were subject to excommunication.

Ed. Antoni VIRGILI, *Diplomatari de la Catedral de Tortosa (1193–1212)* (Barcelona 2001) 338, no. 684.

Presentium vobis

22. May 14, 1207. Lateran.

Tortosa, Arxiu de la Catedral, Cartulari, 8, títol II, d. V, d. 28, fol. 47v

Tortosa, Arxiu de la Catedral, Cartulari, 6, d. 117, fol. 44r

Innocent III confirms to the chapter of the church of Tortosa their accord with the Templars upon tithes, first fruits, burials and other possessions which the Templars held or would hold in the diocese of Tortosa.

Ed. VIRGILI 341s., no. 687.

Solet annuere

23. June 27, 1207. Viterbo.

Vic, Arxiu de la Catedral, calaix 10, Plec de Butlles (unnumbered)

Innocent III to Arnaldus sacristan and Vitalis magister of the cathedral chapter of Lleida asking them to investigate dispute between the bishop of Vic and the archbishop of Tarragona over the church of Sant Salvador on the outskirts of Tarragona.

Ed. Paul FREEDMAN, *A Letter of Pope Innocent III Concerning a Dispute Between Vic and Tarragona*, in: *RHM* 30 (1988) 91.

Inter venerabilem fratrem

tino on 26 August 1206 (Potth. I, no. 2873) whereas Innocent IV was in Milan through August 1251 (Potth. II, nos. 14371–14391). Moreover, the other letter Innocent III issued on that day from Ferentino was *Orta tempestate* to the clergy of Barcelona (Register Innocenz' III, IX 273, no. 150).

24. October 27, 1207. Corneto.

Tortosa, Arxiu de la Catedral, cartulari 6, d. 120, fol. 45v

Innocent III communicates to the archdeacon, steward and preceptor of Tarragona that they will be the arbiters in the complaint of the bishop of Tortosa against the brothers of the Hospital of Amposta for the harm they had done him concerning tithes and other serious matters.

Ed. VIRGILI 340, no. 693.

Conquestus est nobis

25. November 6, 1207. Corneto.

Tortosa, Arxiu de la Catedral, cartulari 6, d. 119, fol. 45v

Innocent III to the abbot of Poblet, and the steward and preceptor of Tarragona that the bishop of Tortosa had complained to him concerning the Hospitallers of Amposta concerning the tithes they received of the sheep and all the other animals that pastured in the district of the castle of Ulledecona, which pertained to the church of Tortosa and the bishop. The pope orders to the judges, or at least two of the three, that they should oblige the brothers of the order to fulfill their obligations towards the bishop of Tortosa by means of ecclesiastical censure.

Ed. VIRGILI 351s., no. 695.

Suam ad nos

26. August 20, 1209. Viterbo.

Tortosa, Arxiu de la Catedral, Templers, 8 (525.400). Copy: 1316, juny 21

Innocent III to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors and other hierarchies of the Church to remind them of their obligation to observe the privileges granted to the Hospitallers by pontifical authority.

Ed. VIRGILI 387–390, no. 720.

Ad nostram audienciam

27. April 24, 1212. Segni.

Madrid, Archivo Historico Nacional, clero, Poblet, cód. 992b, fol. 9

Innocent III grants a privilege of protection to possessions of the abbot and community of Poblet.

Ed. SMITH, *Innocent III and the Crown of Aragon* 275s., no. 16; DOMÍNGUEZ SÁNCHEZ no. 28.

Cum a nobis petitur

28. July 5, 1213. Lateran.

Madrid, AHN, clero, carpeta, 1989, no. 18. Original letter, witnessed by 13 of the cardinals, with seal attached

Innocent III grants a privilege to Abbess Anglesa and the sisters of Bonrepòs (Tarragona), confirming their adherence to the Cistercian order and their possessions, and placing them under Apostolic protection.

In primis siquidem

29. January 23, 1214. Lateran.

Arxiu de la Catedral de Vic, calaix 6, no. 2053B

Innocent III to the abbot of Poblet, the provost of Tarragona and to the canon Bertran de Castellet, ordering them to investigate the complaint of Pere de Viver who demands recognition as a canon of the cathedral chapter of Vic. This is followed by an account of the inquiry made by Bernat, abbot of La Portella and Esteve, prior of Casserres who interviewed five people including the sacristan of Vic.

Ad aures nostras

30. October 30, 1215. Lateran.

Vic, Arxiu Capitular, calaix 7, plec 13, no. 18

Innocent III to the archbishop and archdeacon of Tarragona and the prior of Escornalbau ordering them to investigate a long-standing dispute between the chapter of Vic and A. laicus concerning the manse of Pontarro.

Ed. FREEDMAN–MASNOU 118s.

Porrecta nobis

31. February 9, 1216. Lateran.

Banyoles, Arxiu del Monestir de Banyoles (Casa Missió), Llibre de Privilegis del Monestir de Sant Esteve de Banyoles, fol. 19v–20r

Innocent III confirms the rights of Sant Esteve de Banyoles.

Ed. Flocel SABATÉ–Paul FREEDMAN, A Letter of Pope Innocent III to the Monastery of Sant Esteve de Banyoles (1216), in: RHM 38 (1996) 140s.

Iustis petentium desideriis

32. June 10, 1216. Perugia.

Arxiu de la catedral de Barcelona, perg. 3-2-182. Copy made by the public notary of Barcelona, Pere Borrell, on 4 August 1340

Innocent III confirms the ancient privileges and exemptions of the monastery of Sant Cugat del Vallès in the diocese of Barcelona granted by his predecessor Benedict VIII in 1023.

Quoniam concedenda