HUNT OFFICIALS—*continued*

of the Privy Buckhounds, the Mastership of which was free from these hindrances (*Queen's Hounds*, pp. 14, 15; *Burrows, Brocas*, pp. 252–253). It was the son of the above Sir Bernard Brocas, who remaining loyal to Richard's cause, was one of theconspirators betrayed by Rutland (the Duke of York of our text) and was executed at Tyburn for treason in the first year of Henry IV.'s reign. The King then granted the mastership of his buckhounds to Sir Rustyn Villenove for life (*Pat. Rolls*, 1 *Henry IV.*), but he disappears from the scenes in this capacity in the second year of Henry's reign, when we again find a Brocas, William, son of Sir Bernard, receiving £50 0s. 7*d.* from the sheriff of Sussex by virtue of the office of master of buckhounds. Joan, the widow of Sir Bernard, was reinstated in the forfeited properties of her husband by letters patent Feb. 15th, 1400, but the attainder had not affected the Manor of Little Weldon called Hunter's manor, as the old Sir Bernard had granted it with other manors, lands and tenements to Arnald Brocas and others by Fine, 7 Richard II., and the trust was still existing (*Burrows*, 256).

There seems never to have been any special heritable property held by serjeantry of keeping hert or staghounds; but this mastership seems to have been the most important office of all others after that of Master of Game, and we find that those who held this mastership were also sometimes Master of Game as well, which office we have never found united with that of the buckhounds.

In Henry IV.'s reign we find the Duke of York was master of the herthounds, *magister canum Regis pro cervis capiendis*, during the years 1401, 1402, 1403, 1405 and 1406, as he received during those years the emoluments of the office. For the years 1399 and 1400 there is no mention of the master himself, although wages were paid to others connected with the office. (*Exch. 2 R.* 405–418.) These two years correspond with the years of his first disgrace. It is doubtful if he was really master after the year 1406, as we find no payments made to him after that date. Also during an interval in 1405, Robert Waterton was appointed master of "our running hounds called herthounds," *i.e.*, March 12, 1405, retaining it until Sept. 30, 1405, which period corresponds with the third disgrace of the Duke of York. There were two other masters of the herthounds before Henry's death in 1413, William Bourgchier for some time filled the post, and was succeeded on his death by Wautier Fitz Wautier who had the office granted him by Henry IV. and confirmed by Henry V. and Henry VI. (*Pat. Rolls, Henry VI.*, 1425, *Rolls of Parl. iv. p.* 121).

The mastership of the harriers seems to have been of scarcely less importance than that of the hart or the buck hounds. In the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries our Kings had large kennels of harriers (*see* Appendix: Harriers), and during the last two centuries the master received the same emolument of 12*d.* daily. In Edward I.'s time however, the "keeper of the heyrettor dogs" only received 2*d.* per day (*Ward. Acc.* 34 *Ed. I.*). As has been already mentioned elsewhere this was *not* a pack of hounds for hare hunting, for these hounds were used chiefly to hunt up deer in covert and to chase all the smaller deer called rascal or folly. The Duke of York tells us that the "owrers" (harriers) were "made to renne and enchase alle games liche lief, and that is the cause whi the maister of hem hath the fees of alle deere saaf hert and buk" (p. 112), and that "the fees of alle the folies ben the maisters of the eirers" (p. 111). We find this a very ancient custom, and the Duke's assertion is confirmed in the following grant made by Richard II.: "Grant for life with assent of the King's council to the king's esquire Adam Ramsay, whom the king lately appointed to the keepership of his dogs called *heriers* with the usual fees, and fees called folies, for the summer season of the chace, and who petitioned for 12*d.* a day which he asserts John Titchemessh and other holders of the office had heretofore, but which the king is credibly informed do not belong to the office, of the said counties of Bedford and Buckingham, for the good service to the King's father and the King, and not for the sake of the office, on condition however that he release the King the 7½*d.* a day he receives for his stay in the household" (*Pat. Rolls, Richard II.*, 1388, p. 526).

This brings us to the question as to how or by what treasury all the expenses of the hunting establishments of the King were defrayed. Although by the above we see that King Richard denied that those of the harriers should be charged on the revenues of the two counties named, yet we find in all subsequent documents express mention is made that Bedford and Buckinghamshire are to bear the burden of paying the wages of 12*d.* a day to the Master of Harriers, but that the wages of his men and the keep of his hounds were charged "on the issues of the subsidy and ulnage of cloth and a moiety of the forfeitures of the same in the counties of Somerset and Dorset, with all other profits" (*Pat. Rolls, Ed. IV.*, 1461, 12 *July, p.* 22; *Pat. Rolls, Edw. IV.* 25 *June*, 1474; *Issue Rolls*, 25 *Henry VI.*).

In the time of Edward I., one John le Bay held two hides of land of the King in Bokhampton, Co. Bucks, by serjeantry of keeping a kennel of little harriers for the king, but we have not as yet come across any one of that name as master or keeper of the King's dogs, nor as huntsman, nor of any further connection between these lands and the royal harriers. (*Plac. Coron.*, 12 *Ed. I.*)

Sir Hugh de Malgrave was Master of Harriers during the reigns of Henry IV., V. and VI.; he was preceded, as we have seen, by Adam Ramsay and was succeeded by Richard Strickland (*Pat. Rolls, Edward IV.*, 1461; *Henry VI.*, 1423). Sir Hugh de Malgrave also held the office of parker of the park of Freemantle, Co. Southampton, with "the usual wages out of the profits of the said county," by grant of Henry VI. until

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1430 (*Pat. Rolls*, 8 *Henry VI.*). In the Wardrobe Accounts of 1409 we find he received cloth, probably for his livery: "Hugh de Malgrave servienti venatori' vocat' hayters p' cervo, coloured and rayed cloth" (*Q. R. Ward. Acc., Wylie, vol. iv. p.* 214).

Subordinate to the masters of hounds and huntsmen we find berners, fewterers or veuterers and Cachekens, or chacechiens. There were yeomen berners at horse and yeomen berners on foot, the former receiving 4*d.* daily and 3*d.* for the keep of their horse, and the latter from 1½*d.* daily to 2*d.* daily. As a rule both berners and fewterers were on foot, and it seems only in the later days of the 14th century that yeomen fewterers and yeomen berners at horse were usually in attendance on the pack of hart hounds.

Berners were the special attendants on hounds, *i.e.*, on running or scenting hounds, not greyhounds, the veutrer being in charge of the latter. A berner generally had 12 hounds in his charge, although he sometimes may have had a couple more or less. We usually find two berners in charge of 24 hounds (*Close Rolls*, 9 *Ed. II.*; 4 *Ed. II.*; 7 *Ed. II.*, &c.). Occasionally we come across one berner to fourteen or sixteen hounds (9 *Ed. II.*; 12 *Ed. III.*).

It must be remembered that the hounds were all coupled and tied together or "hardeled" (*see* Appendix: Hardel), from three to four couples in each harde; each berner would hold two hardes, sixteen hounds seem to have been the most that could be thus held by one man, and twelve was a more convenient as well as a more usual number. Whether the berners were attached to packs of stag- or buck-hounds or harriers it did not alter their being called berners, but they sometimes had the prefix of the pack they belonged to appended, thus we find the King sending his huntsmen William de Balliolo, John Lovel and Robert Squier with two *haericii* berners and four *haericii* veutrers and two *daemericii* berners and two *daemericii* fewterers "with 24 *haericii* dogs and twenty-four running *daemericii* dogs and 30 greyhounds, to take the King's venison." This means that there were two berners for the harriers, and four fewterers for the greyhounds, belonging to the harrier kennel, two berners for the buckhounds and two fewterers for the greyhounds belonging to the kennel of the buckhounds. We see from this that each berner would have 6 couples of hounds in his charge, and each of the fewterers five greyhounds (*Close Rolls*, 5 *Ed. II.*, *Mem.* 31). The huntsmen mentioned each received 12*d.* and each of the berners and fewterers 2*d.* daily.

Fewterers generally had charge of three couples of greyhounds, but we occasionally find this number far exceeded, especially in the days of King John who had enormous kennels of these dogs. We find on one occasion 19 fewterers sent in charge of 240 greyhounds (*Close Rolls*, 15 *John*, 1213), for which the sheriff of the county is told to provide. Another time there were 56 "veltrars" and 240 greyhounds, or little over two couples to each man.

Chacechiens or cacheken or cachekene as the word is spelt in the old documents, were an inferior kind of attendant, probably they did the duties of whipper-in and kennel-men. They were rarely paid more than 1½*d.* daily. Whether the original spelling of this word was chacechien and cacheken the Anglo-Norman corruption, or *vice versa*, it is difficult to say, Chacechien seems to offer us an equivalent for one who chases with the dogs, whereas cacheken might be coucheken, Ken being the Norman for dog, one who attended to the dog's couch or litter, a kennel man.

Yeomen of the King's Bow are mentioned in our text (p. 107), and their duties defined on the occasion of drives.

Bercelettars one meets often in one's researches among the *personnel* of hunting establishments. The name Bercelettar, derived from bercel, a butt, berser, to shoot, we know must have been a bowman or archer, and whenever we find a bercelettar going on hunting expeditions with the buckhounds or staghounds or harriers, we find he was accompanied by a bercelet or bertelet, *i.e.*, his shooting dog (*see* Appendix: Berseret). (*Close Rolls*, 4 *Ed. II.*; 7 *Ed. II.*) His wages were 2*d.* daily, and for the dog's keep ½*d.* was allowed. The bercelettar's dog was probably trained to hunt in leash like the limer, to put up the game, or as a track dog to hunt wounded game. They may have been of the same breed as the running hound of that day, but taken from the pack at an early age, and trained for their special work, in the same way as we find was done with hounds intended for limers (*see* Appendix: Limer). These dogs were sometimes expeditated (mutilated to prevent them running fast) as we find that Richard II. appoints during pleasure, "John Lovel as master of the King's hounds called *berceletz* giving him licence to expeditate them" (*Pat. Rolls*, 1 *Richard II.*, 1377). So that they were evidently intended for slow hunting or tracking. The *Bercelettar* or *bercelatarius*, as it is sometimes written, would probably give the *coup de grace* to the stag which the hounds had brought to bay, if he could not be killed with a sword or hunting knife (spayed) in the manner indicated in our text (p. 98). Possibly the *bercelettar* was sometimes posted at a likely pass to shoot the deer that were being coursed with greyhounds.

Accompanying the large hunting expeditions sent about the country by the King for fat venison *one* such archer was sent with the hounds. Thus with a pack of 24 hayericii dogs, 18 greyhounds, 2 berners and 3 fewterers, only one bercelettar and two bercelets are sent (*Close R.* 1 *Edw. II.*).

Grooms and Pages occasionally mentioned, seem to receive also 1½*d.* or 1*d.* per day wages.

The Lardener was another important personage in the fat venison season; he accompanied the hunters, for the purpose of taking charge of and salting the venison; he was paid 2*d.* a day.