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http://www.archive.org/stream/s3proceedings03sociuoft/s3proceedings03sociuoft_djvu.txt

NOTE: The optical character recognition (OCR) version of the English, and particularly the Latin text, on the above website, is very poor with many errors. I have therefore corrected the English according to the sense, and the Latin from the original document held at the University of Exeter Library in its Special Collections, and examined by me.

This version may therefore be cited as 'SARA: Syon Abbey Refoundation Document, New Transcription, July 2012 of web version from Society of Antiquaries', Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1909'

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REFOUNDATION CHARTER OF SYON ABBEY.

The following are the transcription and translation of Cardinal Pole's charter of refoundation of Syon abbey, exhibited by Mr. Oswin Charlton at last January meeting.

The deed is on parchment, measuring 36 in. by 20 in. Attached by a long plaited red silk cord, is the lower part of a silver seal case, a pointed oval 5 in. by 2 in. The seal is entirely lost¹.

The signature in the lower left hand corner is apparently that of Cardinal Pole (see plate facing p 96).²

There are endorsements in Portuguese and English, the former probably written while the community was established in Lisbon, in the eighteenth century. There is also endorsed what appears to be an early library reference number.

Reginaldus Miseratione divina tituli Sanctae Mariae in Cosmedin Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae³ Presbyter Cardinalis Polus Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis sanctissimi domini nostri papae et Sedis Apostolicae ad Serenissimum Phillipum et Serenissimam Mariam Angliae et Hiberniae Regem et Reginam et universa Angliae et Hiberniae Regna et partes illis adiacentes de latere Legatus, Ad perpetuam rei memoriam Cum Monasterium sancti Salvatoris et sanctarum Mariae Virginis et Brigidae de Syon ordinis Sancti Augustini Londonensis diocesis quod quondam clarae memoriae Henricus Quintus Angliae Rex Illustris ad ripam Tamesis {?eremone} domus regularis Jesu de Bethlehem loci de Shene ordinis fratrum Carthusianorum Wintoniensis diocesis ab eodem Henrico Rege fundatae erectae et dotatae similiter fundavit erexit et dotavit eodem modo quo domus de Shene prefata tempore perniciosissimi schismatis nuper hoc in Regno vigentis expulsis ab eo mulieribus et viris religiosis licet temere et de facto penitus dissolutum ac in Fisci Regii dominium cum eius bonis translatum et sublata inde ecclesia et secularibus

¹ If this document is the same as that seen by JSA and SF on Friday 29 June 2012 in the University of Exeter Special Collections, then the silver seal case is now also missing. The cord was still attached, and although of a very thin threads and a fine weave, did not look or feel like silk, but rather like linen. It was a faded colour, which might well have been red, but also perhaps like the famous Syon pink covers for their library books.

² Not included in the text of the website

³ Latin abbreviations in the original document have been expanded in the transliteration – thus *Presbyter* for *Pbr* in the original document. The original layout has also been retained.

edibus inibi extractis ad profanes usus redactum fuerit Serenissimus Philippus et Serenissima Maria Angliae Rex et Regina qui ab illo inde tempore quo singulari Dei misericordia eorumque studio et opera dicto schismate extincto ipsum Regnum ad unitatem ecclesiae et sedis apostolicae obedientiam reductum fuit ea quae calamitosissimo illo tempore diruta et collapsa fuerunt restaurari maxime cupiverunt et ad id indies totis viribus incumbunt Monasterium de Syon prefatum restaurari et ad pristinum statum reduci summopere desiderantes ut id auctoritate apostolica per nos efficeretur a nobis multa cum instantia postulaverunt Nos igitur prout Legationis qua fungimur officium ac munus postulat tam piis iustisque eorundem Regis et Reginae votis annuentes auctoritate apostolica nobis hac in nostra Legatione concessa qua fungimur in hac parte tenore presentium locum de Syon predictum in pristinum statum regulare reponimus et reintegramus ipsamque domum in Monasterium sub eodem titulo sancti Salvatoris et Sanctae Mariae Virginis et Brigidae de Syon quem ante dictam dissolutionem habebat erigimus et instituimus utque idem Monasterium Abbatissam cum Priorissa seu Presidente necnon Confessore generali et certo numero sororum et fratrum eiusdem ordinis sancti Augustini et regulae sanctae Brigidae iuxta facultatem reddituum ipsius Monasterii inibi instituendorum omniaque alia et singula iura ad Monasteria et Conventus regulares eorundem ordinis et regulae pertinentia et quae ante dictam dissolutionem habebat et exercebat perpetuo habeat decernimus et declaramus in eodemque Monasterio religiosas mulieres sorores seu Moniales Catherinam Palmer Johannam Rushe Annam Unkes Clementem Tresham Rosam Pachet Margaritam Dele Aliciam Elderton Johannam Deane Dorotheam Sotherington Mariam Whetnall Agnetem Merett Ursulam Fetiplace Elizabeth Knottisford Eleonoram Fetiplace Elizabeth Faax Elizabeth Yeates Audieam Dele Mariam Nevell Annam Dawnsy Dorotheam Slyght et Margaritam Monyngton ordinem et regulam predictos professoras et religiosos viros fratres Johannem Grene Antonium Litle et Johannem Stewkyn eorundem ordinis et regulae professores inibi scilicet mulieres in uno et viros in altero distinctis et separatis conventibus sub obedientia suorum superiorum ac alias secundum Deum et ordinationes ordinis ac regulae predictorum foundationemque et statuta loci seu Monasterii predicti et alias constitutiones quae pro felici dicti Monasterii regimine ac statu per Nos seu alios ad id potestatem habentes canonice sancientur victuras et victuros et in eodem Monasterio Altissimo deservituras ac deservituros instituimus et ordinamus Et eidem Monasterio Abbatissae solatio destitute pro hac vice de persona Venerabilis sororis Catherinae Palmer predictae quam ob fidei Catholicae puritatem morum honestatem devotionis fervorem aliaque multiplicia virtutum et meritorum dona quibus eam Altissimus insignivit ad onus idoneam iudicavimus providemus ac ipsam eidem Monasterio in Abbatissam preficimus regimen et gubernationem ipsius Monasterii eidem in spiritualibus et temporalibus plenarie committendo Necnon Venerabilem patrem Johannem Grene prefatum in Confessorem eidem Monasterio ac eisdem viris religiosis presidentem preficimus et deputamus ac mulieres professoras superius nominatas in Conventum Monasterii de Syon predictum erigimus et instituimus

illasque eiusdem Monasterii Conventum facere decernimus et declaramus Necnon eidem Monasterio ac Abbatissae et Conventui nunc et pro tempore inibi exeuntibus domum de Syon prefatam ac quaecunque alia bona mobilia et immobilia iura et actiones quaecunque cum omnibus annexis et pertinentiis suis de quibus Serenissimus Philippus Rex et Serenissima Maria Regina predictum! idem Monasterium dotare proponunt si et postque per eosdem Regem et Reginam Monasterio ac Abbatissae et Conventui prefatis in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam data concessa et elargita fuerint in perpetuum absque alicuius preiudicio applicamus et appropriamus et in eventum predictum Serenissimos Regem et Reginam prefatos et ipsius Serenissimae Reginae heredes et successores eiusdem Monasterii veros et indubitatos fundatores dotatores et patronos existere ac sic dici et ab omnibus reputari ac ita in premissis per quoscunque Iudices et Auditores sublata eis quavis aliter iudicandi et interpretandi potestate facilitate et auctoritate iudicari et diffiniri debere et quicquid secus attemptari contigerit irritum et inane fore decernimus Non obstante apostolicis necnon bonae memoriae Othonis et Othoboni olim hoc in Regno sedis apostolicae Legatorum ac in Provincialibus et Synodalibus Conciliis editis specialibus vel generalibus constitutionibus et ordinationibus statutis et consuetudinibus Monasterii et ordinis prefatorum etiam Juramento confirmatione apostolica vel quavis firmitate alia roboratis Privilegiisque eidem Monasterio et ordini concessis quibus eorum omnium et singulorum tenores pro sufficienter expressis habentes ipsis alias in sue robore permansuris pro hac vice duntaxat specialiter et expresse derogamus ceterisque contrariis quibuscunque. Datum Grenewichi Roffensis diocesis Anno a Nativitate domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo septimo Kalendis Martii Pontificatus Sanctissimi in Christo patris et domini nostri domini Pauli divina providentia Papae Quarti Anno Secundo .

Reginaldus Cardinalis Polus Legatus

D Lamponius ⁴

(NOT in Newcastle transcription, but on right hand edge of the text:

Marcus Antonius Faita Secr.^s [Secretarius])

Endorsed :

L. octavo Folio 102

⁴ Lamponius and Faita were Secretaries to Pole and witnessed his will. For text of will see: http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=p6UKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA48&dq=will+of+cardinal+pole&hl=en&sa=X&ei=rE_vT4CTD6X80QWPudDcDQ&ved=0CEkQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=will%20of%20cardinal%20pole&f=false

R. Jordanus a

'Regionad ap ca e restauraca de Mosteiro de Sion

empo' dos tres Reys Phillipe e Ma'

'The restauration of the monastery of Sion

in the reign of King Philipp and

Queen Mary by Cardinal Pool assistance. '

'JSo. 2 Cardinal Pool. Kal. Martii, 1557. '⁵

The following is a translation of the document :

Reginald Pole, by divine pity cardinal-priest of the Holy Roman Church of the title of Saint Mary in Cosmedin⁶, Archbishop of Canterbury, Legate de latere of our most holy lord the Pope and of the Apostolic See to their Highnesses Philip and Mary, King and Queen of England and Ireland, and to the whole kingdom of England and Ireland and the parts adjacent to them, in perpetual remembrance. Whereas Henry V, illustrious King of England, of famous memory, founded, established and endowed the monastery of the Holy Saviour and of the Holy Virgin Mary and of St. Brigid of Syon, of the order of Saint Augustine, in the diocese of London, on the bank of the Thames, out of land belonging to the monastic house of Jesus of Bethlehem of Shene, of the order of Carthusian friars, in the diocese of Winchester (which had been founded, established and endowed by the same King Henry), in the same manner as the foresaid house of Shene ; and whereas at the time of the most hateful schism lately rife in this kingdom, the religious men and women were expelled from it, and the house was wholly (albeit unconstitutionally and de facto) dissolved, and transferred with its property into the control of the Royal Treasury, and brought to profane uses, the church being removed thence and secular buildings erected there ; and whereas their Highnesses Philip and Mary, King and Queen of

⁵ The above are in various hands and various states, and perhaps require closer scrutiny on the original document to be fully comprehensible

⁶ Basilica of Saint Mary in Cosmedin, in Rome.

England, from the very time that the schism was ended by the singular mercy of God and by their own endeavour and help, and that kingdom brought back to unity with the Church and to obedience to the Apostolic See, have greatly desired that those things which had been pulled down and had fallen in that most disastrous time should be restored, and they labour thereto daily with all their power, especially desiring that the foresaid monastery of Syon should be restored and brought back to its former state, and have required from us with great instancy that that may be effected by us under apostolic authority. We in accordance with the demands of the office and task of the legateship which we hold, consent to the pious and just resolves of the said King and Queen, and, by the apostolic authority granted to us in this legateship which we exercise in this realm, by the terms of this present writing, replace and reinstate the aforesaid house of Syon in its former recognised position. We set up and establish that house as a monastery under the very title of the Holy Saviour and of the Holy Virgin Mary and of Saint Brigid of Syon, which it had before the said dissolution and we determine and declare that that monastery may for ever have an abbess and a prioress or president, together with a confessor general and a definite number of sisters and brethren of the aforesaid order of Saint Augustine and of the rule of Saint Brigid, in accordance with the means furnished by the rents of that monastery there to be imposed, and that it may have all other and singular rights pertaining to monasteries and regular convents of that order and rule, and which it held and exercised before the said dissolution. And we establish and ordain that in that monastery the religious women, sisters or nuns, Catherine Palmer, Johanna Rushe, Ann Unkes, Clement (*Clementem*) Tresham, Rose Pachet, Margaret Dele, Alicia Elderton, Johanna Deane, Dorothy Sotherington, Mary Whetnall, Agnes Merett, Ursula Fetiplace, Elizabeth Knottisford, Eleanor Fetiplace, Elizabeth Faax (*sic*), Elizabeth Yeates, Audrey Dele, Mary Nevell, Ann Dawnsy, Dorothy Slyght and Margaret Monyngton, who have professed the aforesaid order and rule, and the religious men, brothers John Grene, Anthony Litle and John Stewkyn, professors of the same order and rule, shall live therein, to wit the women in one place and the men in another, in distinct and separate convents, in obedience to their superiors, and otherwise in accord with God and the ordinances of the aforesaid order and rule, and the foundation and statutes of the aforesaid place or monastery, and the other constitutions which have canonic sanction from us or others (having power thereto) for the happy rule and state of the said monastery, and that in that monastery they shall serve the Most High. And for this time we make provision to that Monastery, which is without the advantage of having an abbess, of the person of the aforesaid venerable sister, Catherine Palmer, whom we have judged fit for the task of governance through purity of Catholic faith, uprightness of conduct, fervour of devotion and the other and varied gifts of virtues and merits with which the Most High has endowed her ; and we set her over that Monastery as abbess, committing to her fully the rule and governance of that monastery in spiritual and temporal

concerns. Moreover we appoint and depute the venerable father John Grene as confessor to that monastery and president of those religious men. We establish and institute the professed women above name as the convent of the aforesaid monastery of Syon, and we determine and declare them to make up the convent of that monastery. Moreover we apply and appropriate to that monastery and to the abbess and convent that now are and for the time to come shall be therein, the aforesaid house of Syon, and whatsoever other goods, moveable and immoveable, rights and actions whatsoever, with all things dependent thereon or belonging to the same, with which their Highnesses the aforesaid King Philip and Queen Mary propose to endow that monastery, if and after they be given, granted and bestowed, by that King and Queen, to and upon the aforesaid monastery and the abbess and convent in pure and perpetual alms forever, without prejudice to any. And in that event we decree their aforesaid Highnesses the King and Queen and the heirs and successors of her Highness the Queen to be true and indubitable founders, benefactors and patrons of that monastery and so to be styled and by all to be reputed and so to be necessarily judged and defined in the premises by all or any judges or auditors, taking from them any power, means, and authority of and for judging and interpreting otherwise, and we pronounce null and void whatever may be attempted to the contrary ; notwithstanding the special or general constitutions, ordinances, statutes and customs of the aforesaid monastery and order, of Otho and Othobon, of apostolic and good memory, formerly legates of the apostolic see in this realm, as well as those that have been pronounced in provincial and diocesan councils, or confirmed by oath apostolic confirmation or any other binding power. And we specially and expressly, for this occasion only, derogate from the privileges granted to that monastery and order, and from other things to the contrary whatsoever, holding the meaning of all and singular of the said privileges to be sufficiently expressed, and the privileges themselves to continue otherwise in full force. Given at Greenwich in the diocese of Rochester, in the year from the birth of the Lord 1557, the kalends of March⁷, in the second year of the pontificate of our most sacred father in Christ and lord, Paul iv, by divine providence Pope.

Reginald Cardinal Pole Legate. “

⁷ 1 March 1557 – i.e. first of March 1558 in modern counting. The year 1557 previously ended on 25 March 1558.