

## *Notes and Documents*

### *The Alleged Settlement of the Parisii in Lincolnshire.*

SIR JAMES RAMSAY describes the establishment of the Romans at Lincoln (*Lindum*) as 'marking a third stage' of their conquest of Britain, and he remarks that 'this acquisition may be regarded as won from the Parisii, a tribe noticed by Ptolemy and usually placed north of the Humber. But their proper seat seems fixed by the fact that as late as the thirteenth century "Paris" was still the name of a district round Horncastle to which we owe our great chronicler Matthew Paris.'<sup>1</sup> The authority vouched for this Lincolnshire Paris is Sir Frederic Madden.<sup>2</sup> This passage of Sir James Ramsay's book has led Professor Rhys to add, in the recently published third edition of his *Celtic Britain*, to the description of the Parisii as occupying Holderness and the Yorkshire Wolds, and 'possibly the whole coast from the Humber to the Tees,' of the earlier editions, the statement that 'it is also very possible that they took possession of a large tract of country to the south of the Humber.'<sup>3</sup> Accordingly in the map given in the third edition the name of the Parisii displaces that of the Coritani in Lincolnshire.

The objections to this new location of the Parisii are very serious. In the first place we have the clear evidence of Ptolemy, writing some half-century after the period assigned by Sir James Ramsay for the occupation of Lincoln by the Romans, that the Parisii were settled along the east coast of Yorkshire. Secondly, he describes the Coritani as being settled round their chief towns of Lindon and Ratae. There is no question as to the identity of these towns with Lincoln and Leicester. Horncastle lies to the south-east of the former, and it is therefore obvious that any settlement of the Parisii round Horncastle must have been cut off from their fellows in Yorkshire by the Coritani at Lincoln. To account for the possession of that city and the greater part of

<sup>1</sup> *Foundations of England*, i. 61. This Lincolnshire origin of the St. Albans chronicler is an inference of Sir James Ramsay, depending entirely upon this alleged district called 'Paris.'

<sup>2</sup> Preface to Matthew Paris's *Historia Minor*, lii. p. viii.

<sup>3</sup> P. 40.

Lincolnshire by the latter tribe in Ptolemy's time we should be driven to hold that they had reconquered Lincolnshire from the Parisii. The survival of British tribal names through the Roman occupation and the English conquest is so exceedingly rare in the east of England that the existence of a district deriving its name from the Parisii requires the most unimpeachable proof. The very form of the district name alleged by Sir James Ramsay raises grave doubts as to its derivation from Parisii. Such a name as the latter could not have been submitted for centuries to the action of Old English sound changes without suffering mutation of the vowel of the root syllable from *a* to *e*, so that the Old English form would have been \**Perise*, and probably \**Perse* with syncope. This latter is actually the form assumed by the name of the French city in the chronicle under the year 660, where Beda's *Parisiorum episcopus* is represented by *Persa biscop(dom)*.<sup>4</sup> A similar mutation of *a* to *e* before the following *i* would occur in Welsh, and we may perhaps recognise the Parisii in the *Cair Peris*<sup>5</sup> of the list of cities appended to Nennius. But this Welsh change is possibly, though not certainly, later than the date of the English conquest of Lincolnshire.

There is moreover no evidence that a district in Lincolnshire bore the name Paris in the thirteenth century, or indeed at any other time. Turning to Madden's work, we find therein no statement of the existence of such a district, and not even a suggestion that there may have been one so called. Madden simply collected from such of the public records as were accessible in print in his time and from charters in the British Museum the occurrences of the surname *Paris, de Parisius*,<sup>6</sup> &c., as corroborating his view that the chronicler's 'surname came to him from his family as a surname.' In so doing he adduced 'numerous instances of persons of this name living in England (particularly in Lincolnshire) during

<sup>4</sup> Beda, *Hist. Eccl.* iii. c. 7, iv. c. 1. In the O.E. translation of this work the name is 'Ceaster . . . Parisiace hatte' and 'byscop Parisiorum'—that is, the translator takes over in untranslated forms the names as given by Beda. The ignorance here displayed seems to be another argument against the existing O.E. version being the work of Alfred.

<sup>5</sup> This, if derived from the name of the Parisii, is probably Petuaria, the chief city of the Parini, which is constantly identified with Patrinton, a purely English name that cannot be connected with it, although both names possess a *P*, *i*, and *r* in common.

<sup>6</sup> The indeclinable form *Parisius* is a proof that the surnames embodying it are derived from the French city. It is a fossilised form possessing two features that are common in Gaul, but are unknown in Britain, namely, the use of the name of the tribe in a Latinised accusative plural in place of the real name of their chief city (Wilhelm Schultze, 'Zur Geschichte lateinischer Eigennamen,' 1904, p. 8, *Abhandlungen der k. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen*, Neue Folge, Band v. 2), and the Vulgar-Latin change of *o* to *e*. This form occurs as early as the time of Gregory of Tours (Max Bonnet, *Le Latin de Grégoire de Tours*, Paris, 1890, pp. 126, 570). Sir James Ramsay's statement that 'in medieval writers both the city [of] Paris and the district [in Lincolnshire] are given in Latin as "Parisius"' is an error based upon the derivation of the surnames cited by him from the hypothetical Lincolnshire district.

the thirteenth century.' Among the latter is a *Willelmus de Paris, miles, dominus de Martons iuxta Horncastre* (Horncastle). This is the sole proof of a 'district called "Paris" near Horncastle.' Madden cites in all some dozen cases of men of this surname in Lincolnshire from 1190 to 1280. The number is not too great to preclude the suggestion that all of them were descended from some immigrant from the city on the Seine. In the early years of Henry II we find a William de Paris accounting for the ferm of the city of Lincoln;<sup>7</sup> in 1227 John de Paris was mayor of Lincoln,<sup>8</sup> and the name was still current in the fourteenth century.<sup>9</sup> The surname Paris, de Paris, de Parisius is not unfrequently met with in England in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. If the presence of a family or families bearing this surname in Lincolnshire in these centuries is to be accepted as proof of former occupation of the county by the Parisii it is certain that we might with equal justice plant the Parisii in other counties, such as Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, the Home Counties, &c. The surname comes to the surface in medieval London,<sup>10</sup> and there can be little doubt that the bearers derived it from trade immigrants from the city on the Seine. We may safely explain the Lincolnshire instances in the same way,<sup>11</sup> and decline to see any proof in them of the settlement of the Parisii in Lincolnshire during the Roman occupation.

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### *The Date of the 'Albertine' Statutes of Verona.*

VERONA possesses five collections of statutes. The earliest belongs to the time of the commune and was drawn up by the notary Willelmus Calvus in 1225. A second collection, better arranged and considerably longer, was compiled under the early Scaligeri. Contrary to the usual custom this collection is undated; tradition long assigned it to Alberto I (*capitaneus generalis* of Verona 1277-1801); hence the name Albertine, but recent researches have shown that it cannot be later than 1270,<sup>1</sup> or at any rate 1276.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Pipe Roll, 10 Hen. II, p. 28; 12 Hen. II, p. 5; 18 Hen. II, p. 50.

<sup>8</sup> *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, p. 171.

<sup>9</sup> A John de Paris, of Lincoln, occurs in 10 Edward III ('Catalogue of Ancient Deeds' in the Public Record Office, C 8189).

<sup>10</sup> Richard de Paris was sheriff of London in 1271, Simon de Paris in 1802, and Roger de Paris in 1804.

<sup>11</sup> The statement placed in the mouth of a French Jew by Richard of Devizes that the young Jew to whom he was speaking 'in Dunelmo, Northwic, sive Lincolnia perpaucos de tua condicione, nullum penitus audias Romane loquentem' need not be taken too literally (*De Rebus Gestis Ricardi Primi*, ed. Howlett, *Chronicles of the Reigns of Stephen, Henry II, and Richard I*, iii. 437).

<sup>1</sup> H. Spangenberg, *Compendio I della Scala*, pt. II. App. I Berlin, 1895.

<sup>2</sup> C. Cipolla, *Storia di Verona*, pp. 184-6. Verona, 1899.