

ISBN978-4-87354-491-5

C3022 ¥2800E

定価(本体2,800円+税)



9784873544915



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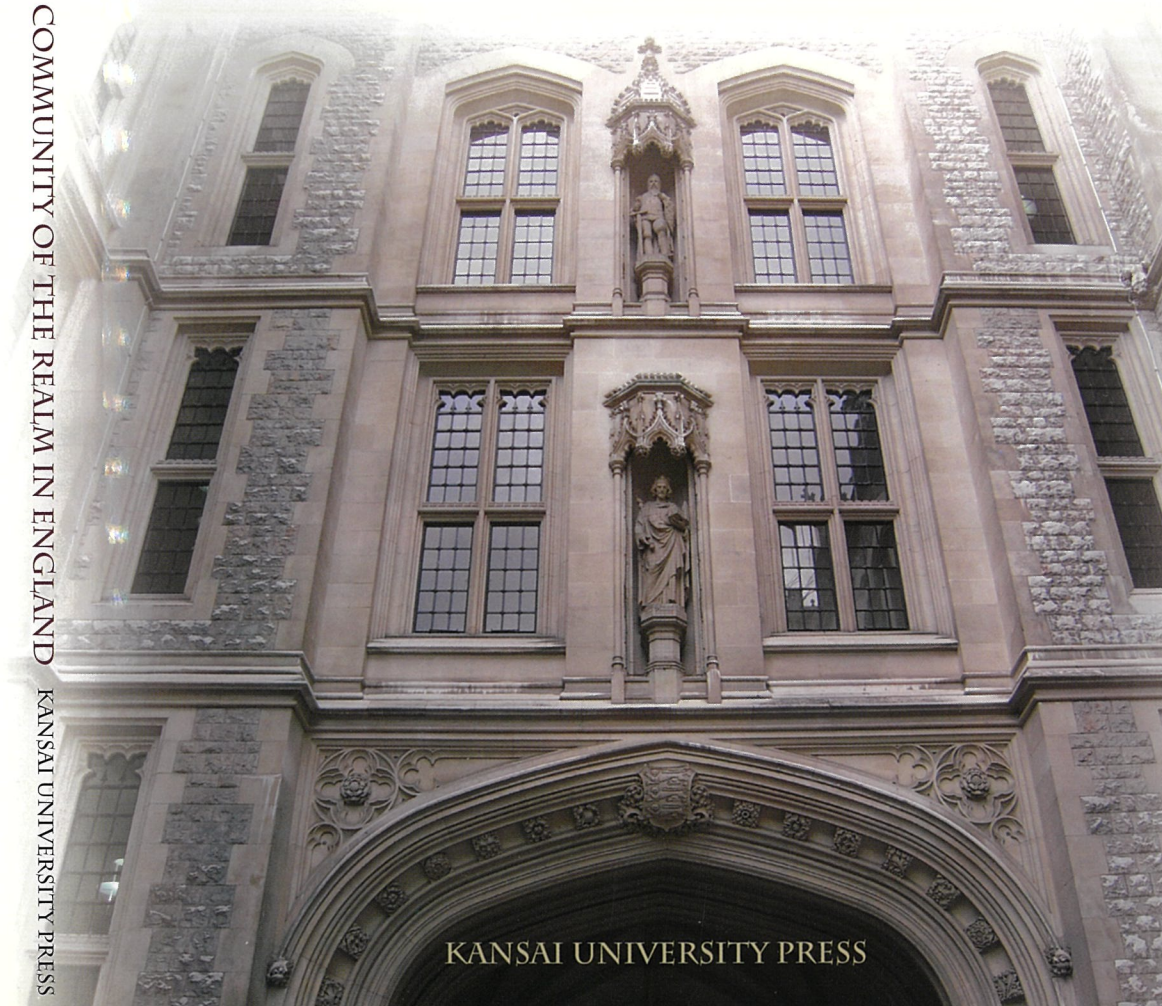


THE ANGEVIN EMPIRE AND THE COMMUNITY OF THE REALM IN ENGLAND KANSAI UNIVERSITY PRESS

Kansai University Institute of Oriental and Occidental Studies
Study Report Series 35

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KEIZO ASAJI



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35

The Angevin Empire and the Community of the Realm in England

Keizo Asaji

Professor, Kansai University

Kansai University Press

Kansai University
Institute of Oriental and Occidental Studies

First Published in Japan in 2010
An imprint of Yubunsha Co., Ltd.

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ISBN 978-4-87354-491-5 C3022
Printed in Japan

Kansai University Press
3-3-35 Yamate-cho, Suita, Osaka, Japan

Foreword

During the last decades, Professor Keizo Asaji has fulfilled a leading role in exploring the medieval history of England, particularly in identifying the meaning of the community of the realm in the thirteenth century. In a series of articles written after his visiting fellowship at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, between 1987 and 1989, and also in *The Community of the Realm and the Baronial Reform Movement, 1258–1267* (in Japanese. Kyoto: Kyoto University Press, 2003), Prof. Asaji vividly illustrated the Baron's War led by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester (1208–65), and its impact on the English constitutional reforms through cooperation of the community of barons with the king in the mid-thirteenth century.

In the present work, *The Angevin Empire and the Community of the Realm in England*, Professor Asaji goes into a more fundamental issue in examining the historical significance of the community of the realm, focusing on the Angevin Empire that descended from the courts of Anjou in western France and prospered in the late twelfth and early-thirteenth centuries. The early rulers of the Plantagenets, the dynastic family of the Angevin Empire, gained ruling authority over the kingdom of England, their native land of Anjou, and the duchies of Normandy and Aquitaine by inheritance and marriage. Their French campaigns and defeats, and the subsequent increase of taxation resulted in the issue of Magna Carta by John in 1215 to his baronial opponents. The early usage of the phrase, 'community of the realm', is found in the Charter. So it can be stated that the rise and fall of the Angevin Empire prepared the way for state-formation in England in the course of conflicts between the

barons and Henry III in the mid-thirteenth century. The development of the community of the realm is, therefore, inseparable from the history of the Angevin Empire. Prof. Asaji's unravelling of the various factors of Angevin dominions enables us to understand the historical significance of the community of the realm more concretely and comprehensively. Such a stimulating character of the present volume is achieved through his tenacious transcription of the medieval parchments in the British archives over many years.

We are pleased to add this volume to our research publication series as enhancing its intellectual quality. It is anticipated that Professor Asaji's achievement not only gives an instructive idea of the constitutional history of medieval England for specialists in the subject, but will also stimulate further research and discussion in related fields.

July 15, 2009

Akira MATSUURA

Director

Institute of Oriental and Occidental Studies, Kansai University

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Preface

Many excellent scholars of England, the United States of America and Canada generously helped me to improve the English drafts included in this volume. I would like to give their names here to express my gratitude. Professor John Ott, Mr. Taylor Harvey, Dr. Michael Clanchy, Miss Susan Reynolds, Dr. Adrian Jobson, Professor Peter Makin, Professor James Kirwan, Dr. Judith Everard, Dr. Paul Brand, Dr. Jennifer Ward, Professor David Carpenter, Professor Robert Stacey, Professor David Farrah, Professor Arlene Schindler, Professor Mark Meli and Professor Julian Hoppit.

Elsevier, the publisher of *Journal of Medieval History*, kindly granted permission to reproduce my former article in *Journal of Medieval History*, vol.21, no.2, 1995 through RIGHTSLINK.

The Institute of Oriental and Occidental Studies, Kansai University, granted me aid to publish the present volume. Some of the articles included are partly based on the cooperative work of the research group of scholars belonging to the Institute. Professor Haruo Noma, and Professor Seiji Hashimoto particularly encouraged me to publish the articles in English.

The first appearance of each paper at various conferences is written below. Except the 8th article, none of the papers has been published before.

1. Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA, March 2009.
2. Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of Portland, Oregon, USA, March 2002.
3. Anglo-Japanese Conference of Historians, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, UK, September

- 2000.
4. Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, March 2007.
 5. Medieval Academy of America, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA, March 2001.
 6. Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of Hawaii, Manoa, Honolulu, USA, March 1997.
 7. The Thirteenth Century England Conference, St. Aidan's College, University of Durham, UK, September 1995.
 8. Medieval Association of the Pacific, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, March, 1994.
 9. International Conference of Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, UK, July, 1999.
 10. Late Medieval Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, UK, January, 2001.

July 30, 2009

Keizo Asaji

Introduction

The Community of the Realm of England in the Angevin Empire and its Legacy

Of the ten articles included in this book only the 8th article has been published previously. So I thus decided to publish these papers, each being read at a conference in England or in the USA, in one volume. Those papers were written at different times, and read at various conferences, but the historical concept I would like to describe is consistent through all of them.

In 1250, Louis IX was captured by the Saracens in the East, and Emperor Friedrich II died. Then Henry III, King of England, changed his dynastic policy toward the continent from the one that he had followed before 1250 to a new and enlarged one. He stopped the traditional plan to regain the Plantagenet dominions in western France long lost since the days of King John. Instead he accepted from the Pope in 1254, a proposal of the Sicilian throne for his son, Edmund, in return for financing the Sicilian crusade. He also managed for his brother, Richard of Cornwall, to be elected Emperor in 1257. Once both of the plans were completed, the house of Plantagenet would become a renowned dynasty in Western Europe, dominating England, Germany and Sicily. The Plantagenet Empire would surround the Capetian dominions.

As some of the barons of England had inherited from their continental ancestors properties in France, Henry's traditional foreign policy to regain the lost French dominions could be a good enterprise for them to share with the king. But after Henry

adopted his new foreign policy, pursuing the throne of Sicily or the Emperor's authority for the king's family could not necessarily be in the common interest of the English barons. It seems to have become difficult for the Plantagenets to curb the tendency of local lords in Normandy and Anjou who inclined to affiliate with the Capetians. But in southern France, especially in Gascony, where local lords had not formed a community of territorial leaders of their own, the Plantagenet kings still kept a possibility of retaining their affiliation to them as the traditional suzerain. In the first half of the thirteenth century the legacy of the Angevin Empire still existed. In the Introduction of this book, Simon de Montfort's government of Gascony in the mid-thirteenth century is explained in the historical context as mentioned above.

Some of the leading magnates of England shared a notion of government of the realm around 1250. Their cooperation with the king regarding the government of the realm could settle domestic and foreign problems. Since 1216 the barons had experienced several occasions where they solved various constitutional problems with the king. Abruptly around 1250 the king changed his foreign policy without consulting the leading magnates. Consequently, after 1253 Henry asked the people in England for a grant to finance the Sicilian crusade. Then surfaced the possible collapse of the cooperative government of magnates and the king. Then, in 1258, some of the magnates took an oath to form a community of barons, tenants-in-chief, to take the initiative of government to reform the constitution for the benefit of the realm. The king, expecting a grant for the crusade, agreed to accept the reform plan of the magnates. In part one of this book three articles are included which consider

the community of the realm during the Barons' War.

Once magnates took the initiative of government, many changes in various aspects of local government happened. Before 1258 King Henry had granted his favour to his local officials to deliver royal authority to local inhabitants. But his policy was stopped by the reformist government. The barons' community between 1258 and 1260, though admitting the policy of centralized jurisdiction by the king's officials, tried hard to keep their liberty as tenants-in-chief. Some of the gentry and influential landholders in each of local societies kept their traditional patronage-dependant attitude towards the king. But there were some others who expected that the institutionalized government of the reformist plan might satisfy their demand for office holding or financial grants better than the king's government, and might fix their troubles between neighbours. The articles included in parts two and three will describe some examples of such cases from eyre rolls.

Although I cannot explain all the aspects of the Baronial Reform Movement during 1258–67 in this volume, what I have understood from reading the eyre rolls and other documents of the period, is presented in the chapters.