

Margaret M. Condon and Evan T. Jones (eds.), ‘Bristol 1509-10: Particulars of account of a controller of customs, 29 September 1509 to c. 14 January 1510: Supplementary Fragment: Introduction’ (University of Bristol, Research Data Repository, 2024)¹

In 2023 Condon and Jones published ‘a rather odd record’ that was an imperfect membrane from a controller’s account for the port of Bristol 1509-10.² At that stage they were unaware that a further fragment from the same membrane remained unidentified in a large and unsorted bundle of customs miscellanea.³ This fragment can be matched to the previously edited document both physically, by matching up the tear lines of the two fragments, and by the continuity of data read across the two separate pieces of parchment. Prompted by the positive identification of the fragment, it has now been removed from the bundle by the National Archives and placed and referenced in a folder together with the larger, published membrane.⁴ The photograph at the end of this introduction shows the two parts of the membrane, reunited.

The abnormalities of the record were explored at length in the ‘Introduction’ to the 2023 publication and are not repeated here. The account was shown to be an incomplete record of trade from which, most notably, wine had been completely excluded. That omission at least was because the entries antedated the life grant to Henry VIII of tonnage on wine. The statutory provision for that grant was made only in January 1510, more than eight months after the king’s accession. The broad analysis of the previously published large fragment remains true for the present item and should be read in conjunction with this new text.

The discovery of the new fragment achieves four things in addition to supplementing the shipping and trade data. First, it provides some explanation of both documents. A barely legible heading on what, following the TNA make-up of the larger document, had been described as the dorse, reads:

*Nota*⁵ Custum of Cloth paid of *merchauntes* of Bristoll
a fore the said date of *master* Lloides patent

Attention was previously drawn to the fact that John Lloyd took his oath of office as controller only in November 1509. His only known patent is undated, but is enrolled among other records of July 1509. In view of the heading, it must be possible that he received a second patent which has not survived. Formal appointments to several ports were irregular in the first year of Henry VIII’s reign. In Bristol, both Richard Pole, who had continued in office after Henry VII’s death, and John Lloyd, were held responsible for the account commencing Michaelmas 1509.

Second, the fragment confirms the authors’ previous suggestion in 2023 (for the larger fragment, E122/165/1) that the same three ships named and lightly laden on exit with goods paying poundage could also be the unidentified ships carrying cloth recorded on the dorse of the document. The recovered data names them and thus presents a more complete and more conventional picture of their outward lading.

¹ The National Archives [TNA], E122/165/1 (part), formerly TNA, E122/174/3 (part). This transcription is an output of the ‘Cabot Project’ (University of Bristol, 2009-).

² Margaret M. Condon and Evan T. Jones, ‘[Bristol 1509-10: Particulars of account of a controller of customs, 29 September 1509 to c. 14 January 1510](#)’, (University of Bristol, Research Data Repository, July 2023), from TNA, E122/165/1.

³ TNA, E122/174/3.

⁴ Fragment removed from TNA, E122/174/3 and added to E165/1 in January 2024. We thank the TNA for their assistance. Limited availability of conservation resources mean that the two parts have not been physically joined each to other.

⁵ Used here in the sense of ‘Memorandum’ or ‘nota bene’.

Third, it will be obvious from the small amount of data added to the recto, that very little was missing from the record of poundage as earlier given. The membrane is blank after the entry of the *Kateryne* of New Ross. As discussed in our previous introduction, the grant of poundage was also subject to parliamentary approval. However, in practice it had been collected from the beginning of the reign on the authority of the Treasurer's warrant. That situation was addressed retrospectively (for all ports) by a warrant addressed by the king to the treasurer and chamberlains of the Exchequer in Michaelmas term 1510, remitting a third part of the subsidy paid between the king's accession and the first day of the parliament that met in 1510.⁶ It is not clear whether, or how, that mandate was put into effect.

Fourth, a roman 'ij' entered immediately below the entries for the *Kateryne* identifies the whole rotulet as the second membrane of the account.

Since completing this edition, one further membrane of the account has been recovered.⁷ It could be dated only after the completion of the edition of the two fragments of E122/165/1, and the butlerage account of 1509-10. The additional membrane was previously thought to be undatable, other than to the reigns of Henry VII or Henry VIII. The document remains among a large bundle of customs fragments, and has been edited separately as a further supplement to the account of 1509-10. The authors will publish it later.

Presentation of data

In order to facilitate the use of the data from the whole of the restored membrane we have preserved the line entry numbers from the 2023 publication in the EXCEL spreadsheet. We have repeated the data from entry numbers 1-43 (lines 2-44), and from entry numbers 73-92 (lines 82-101, formerly lines 74-92). Intervening numbers have been fully or partially replaced with new data. However, in the new spreadsheet, entry number 50 (line 51) has been replaced and further subdivided as 50A-J. This accommodates the entries for the *Jesus*, whose exit was not represented at all in the previously published text.⁸ Cells/part cells in red represent already published data from TNA E122/165/1; entries in black are from the new fragment. A note attached to the membrane number emphasises that, although both the larger fragment and the present small fragment constitute the single rotulet that is the physical item and is therefore designated as membrane one, both parts of the rotulet were actually membrane two in the original make-up of the roll.

The manuscript reference of this new fragment is given as E122/175/3. However, this is now obsolete since, as noted above, the fragment has now been re-catalogued by the TNA and is stored with E122/165/1. For other conventions, see the 2023 publication.

⁶ TNA, E403/2558, fo. 171r.

⁷ It remains in TNA, E122/174/3 (part).

⁸ In 2023 lines 50 (recto) and 51 (verso) had been inserted as empty placeholders to represent missing information of unknown length and quantity. Lines 50A-50J have been reassigned to what, according to the TNA makeup of the large fragment, is said to be the dorse of the membrane; the previously empty line 51 has been filled with new information; and lines 44-49, and lines 52-72 completed.

Photograph of the recto of the reunited parts of E122/165/1 (fragment below)

