

letter itself, but a transcript of it set down in a great register-book⁴ belonging to the Privy Seal Office, in which this stands very near to the beginning. I have marked the number of the MS, and of the article, if you choose to consult the Museum about it. I told you false when I said the letter was dated,⁵ but the reason I concluded so was that the articles,⁶ as I remember, go on regularly in the book in order of time, and many come after it that belong to the first year of his reign.

In the page that contains his letter⁷ about Jane Shore,⁸ at a little distance below it are some abbreviated words in a cramp hand thus⁹

ffin by s Copie
Thom Drury dat
Ao ixo Henr sept
vt p copia pred scrutat³

which seem to say something about the ninth year of Henry VII, but I think they relate not to this letter (which is directed to the *Bishop of Lincoln, his Chauncellor*; now Russel¹⁰ Bishop of Lincoln was his Chancellor,¹¹ and not so to Henry VII) and the few succeeding articles are really of Henry VII and Henry VIII's time,¹² so I suppose the words to relate to them only.

4. Harl. MS 433: 'A book in folio, . . . being a register of the grants, etc., passing the Privy Seal, royal signet, or sign manual during the reigns of King Edward V and King Richard III, with some other entries . . .' (*Catalogue of the Harleian Collection* . . . , 1759, vol. i, introductory note under No. 433).

5. The letter 'can be of no other year than the year 1484' (James Gairdner, *History of the Life and Reign of Richard III*, Cambridge, 1898, p. 189).

6. The book, 340 folio pages, contains articles numbered 1-2378.

7. 'Letter of King Richard III . . . commanding him to dehort Thomas Lynon, his (the King's) solicitor from marrying with Jane Shore, late the wife of William Shore, now being in Ludgate' (*Catalogue of the Harleian Collection* . . . , 1759, vol. i, MS 433, art. 2378, f. 340b). The letter is printed in *Historic Doubts* 118-19.

8. (d. ?1527), m. (before 1483) William Shore, London goldsmith; mistress of Edward IV and of Thomas Grey, 1st M. of Dorset.

9. Gray's transcript, here reproduced, is a fairly accurate copy of the original, but 'by' in the first line is a mistaken transliteration of 'vj.' Mr A. J. Watson, with the help of Dr C. E. Wright and others in the Department of MSS in the BM, has kindly transcribed the original MS for us as follows:

ffin vj s Copie
Thom Drury dat
Ao ixo Henr sept
vt p copia pred scrutat

Dr Wright thinks it unwise to risk expansion of all the abbreviations, but, taking 'ffin[is]' in the sense of 'fee,' it is clearly a clerk's statement that he was paid six shillings for his work as a copyist.

10. John Russel (d. 1494), Bp of Lincoln, 1480.

11. From 1483 to 1485.

12. Gray, who had made his transcripts in 1759 (see *Gray's Corr.* ii. 642) and had probably not consulted the MS since, is mistaken here. Article 2378 is the last catalogued item in the MS; nothing follows it except two brief Latin entries on the same leaf, one of them an indecent joke about a