



Charter of Edward III

1341

An English translation of the Latin text

[Patent Roll, 15 Edward III., Part 2, m.38. Public Record Office]

[Bois *A Constitutional History of Jersey* para 8/8: ‘In 1341 Edward III granted a Charter which confirmed “all privileges¹, liberties, immunities, exemptions and customs in persons, goods, moneys and other things . . . without hindrance or molestation . . .”.’]

Pro hominibus Insularum Regis de Gernereye Jereseye etc. Rex omnibus ad quos etc. salutem.

For the people of the Islands of Guernsey Jersey etc. The King to all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting.

Sciatis quod nos grata memoria recesentes quam constanter et maganimiter dilecti et fideles nostri homines Insularum nostrarum de Jersey Gernereye Serk et Aureneye in Fidelitate nostra et progenitorum nostrorum Regum Anglie semper hactenus persisterunt et quanta pro saluacione dictarum Insularum et nostrorum conservacione jurium et honoris ibidem sustinuerunt tam pericula corporum quam suarum dispendia facultatum et

Know ye that we in grateful memory, considering how faithfully and magnanimously our faithful and beloved people of our Islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Sark and Alderney have hitherto always persevered in their fidelity towards our progenitors kings of England, and how much they have borne in defence of the Islands, and in the maintenance of our rights and honour in the same, as well in personal danger as in the expenditure of their own means; and therefore, willing to

¹ Bois *Op. cit.* para 8/2: ‘The word “privilege” and its French counterpart are derived from the Latin word which is a compound of the words “private” and “law”. Thus a privilege is founded on law; the claim to a privilege is a claim to a legal right, that is to say, a right founded on constitutional law or constitutional convention; something which cannot be taken away without the consent of the grantee.’

proinde volentes ipsos favour prosequi
gracioso concessimus pronobis et
heredibus nostris dictis hominibus
Insularum predictarum quod ipsi heredis et
successores sui omnia privilegia libertates
immunitates exempciones et consuetudines
in personis rebus monetis et aliis eis virtute
concessionum progenitorum nostrorum
Regum Anglie vel alias legitime
competencia habeant et teneant ac eis sine
impedimento vel molestacione nostri
heredum vel Ministrorum nostrorum
quorumcumque plene gaudeant et utantur
prout ipsi et eorum antecessores
habitatores dictarum Insularum eis usi sunt
rationabiliter et gavisi que jam eis in forma
predicta generaliter confirmamus volentes
ea cum super hiis plene informati fuerimus
prout justum fuerit specialiter confirmare.

In cuius etc. Teste Rege apud Turrim
Londinii. X die Julij.

bestow our gracious favours upon them, we
concede for ourselves and our heirs, to the
said people of the aforesaid Islands, that
they, their heirs and successors, do hold and
retain all privileges, immunities,
exemptions and customs in persons, goods,
monies and other things, in virtue of the
concessions of our progenitors kings of
England, or of other legitimate
competency; and that they fully enjoy and
use them, without hindrance or molestation
from ourselves, our heirs, or our officers
whomsoever; even as they and their
predecessors, inhabitants of the said
Islands, have reasonably used and enjoyed
them; which we now also confirm to them,
generally, in the aforesaid form; being
willing, when we have been fully informed
of the above according to justice, specially
to confirm them.

In witness whereof [we have caused these
our letters to be made patent]. Witness
myself at the Tower of London, the tenth
day of July, [in the fifteenth year of our
reign in England, but of ours of France, the
second].