



1215 Thirsk 2015

Magna Carta town



In 1215 William de Mowbray was one of 25 barons appointed to ensure that King John kept to the terms of Magna Carta. Never before had Barons been given the power to seize the King's castles and property if he broke the agreed terms.

Clause 61. we give and grant to them the underwritten security, namely, that the barons choose five and twenty barons of the kingdom, whomsoever they will, who shall be bound with all their might, to observe and hold, and cause to be observed, the peace and liberties we have granted and confirmed to them by this our present Charter, so that if we, or our justiciar, or our bailiffs or any one of our officers, shall in anything be at fault towards anyone, or shall have broken any one of the articles of this peace or of this security, and the offense be notified to four barons of the foresaid five and twenty, the said four barons shall repair to us (or our justiciar, if we are out of the realm) and, laying the transgression before us, petition to have that transgression redressed without delay. And if we shall not have corrected the transgression (or, in the event of our being out of the realm, if our justiciar shall not have corrected it) within forty days, reckoning from the time it has been intimated to us (or to our justiciar, if we should be out of the realm), the four barons aforesaid shall refer that matter to the rest of the five and twenty barons, and those five and twenty barons shall, together with the community of the whole realm, distrain and distress us in all possible ways, namely, by seizing our castles, lands, possessions, and in any other way they can, until redress has been obtained as they deem fit, saving harmless our own person, and the persons of our queen and children; and when redress has been obtained, they shall resume their old relations towards us.

Translation – Magna Carta Barons Association



**“They have given me
twenty-five over-
kings!”**

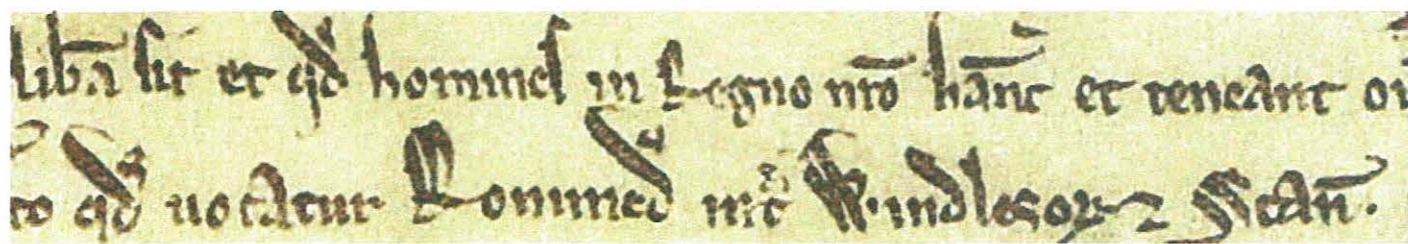
Magna Carta 1215 a summary (underlined clauses omitted from later versions)

- 1 The English church shall be free, rights and liberties unimpaired.
- 2 Ancient rate of inheritance payment on death of earl to apply.
- 3 Heir under age, no payment to be made
- 4 Duty of care of guardian of heir under age
- 5 Guardians' duty to maintain estate
- 6 Heirs to be given in marriage without disparagement [marriage below one's rank]
- 7 Widow to receive her inheritance without delay
- 8 Widow not to be compelled to marry
- 9 Bailiffs to seize debtor's chattels before land, and debtor's assets before surety's; sureties then to be entitled to debtor's assets
- 10 Deceased's debt to Jews not to carry interest if heir is under age.
- 11 Widow's dower [money] and reasonable provision for children to take priority over debts to Jews or other creditors
- 12 restrictions on scutage and aid [two forms of tax]
- 13 City of London and other towns to have all their ancient liberties and customs
- 14 Notice to be given to summon senior clergy and barons to [parliament]
- 15 Restriction on taking aid from freemen
- 16 No one to be compelled to perform more service than is due

- 17 Common Pleas to be held in a fixed place
- 18 Assizes to be held in counties periodically
- 19 All assize business to be concluded
- 20 Proportionate penalties for freemen
- 21 Earls and barons to be judged by their peers
- 22 Clerks to be judged by their peers and by reference to size of their ecclesiastical benefice
- 23 Restriction on requirement to build bridges
- 24 Restriction on who may hold Pleas of the Crown
- 25 Rents to be at old rates
- 26 Sheriff may detain assets of deceased for Crown debt; balance payable to executors
- 27 Rules on administration of intestate estate
- 28 No requisition of assets without cash payment or agreed deferment
- 29 Restriction on requirement to pay for castle guard [form of tax]
- 30 No appropriation of horses and carts of freemen without agreement
- 31 No appropriation of timber without agreement
- 32 Lands of convicted felon not to be held for more than a year and a day
- 33 Removal of fish weirs forthwith
- 34 Restrictions on writ of praecipe
- 35 Standardisation of wine and cloth measure, and weights
- 36 Restriction on writ of inquisition of life or limb
- 37 Interaction of fee-farm and knight service tenure
- 38 Credible witnesses required for bailiff to put a person on trial
- 39 No penalty against freemen except by lawful judgment of their peers or by the law of the land
- 40 The Crown not to sell, deny or delay justice
- 41 Merchants to be safe; merchants of enemy state to be held hostage
- 42 Freedom of movement within the realm
- 43 Provision regarding specific escheats [tenant dies without heir]
- 44 Restriction of proceedings before justices of the forest
- 45 Judges, sherrifs etc to understand the law and be competent
- 46 Barons to have custody of abbeys during vacancies [death of abbot]
- 47 Reversal of Crown afforestations and river-bank enclosures

- 48 County panels of knights to investigate forthwith evil customs of forest sheriffs and river banks and abolish same
- 49 Restoration of hostages and charters given as security to the Crown
- 50 Certain named persons to be dismissed from office
- 51 Removal of foreign troops and mercenaries from England
- 52 Restoration of assets taken by the Crown without lawful judgment; disputes to be referred to the 25 Barons
- 53 Same provision regarding forests and lands
- 54 No one to be taken or imprisoned on appeal of a woman for the death of anyone, except her husband
- 55 Fines taken unjustly to be repaid; disputes to be dealt with by the 25 barons and the Archbishop of Canterbury
- 56 Assets taken unlawfully from Welshmen to be returned, according to the law of the location
- 57 Provisions relating to clause 56
- 58 Restoration of Welsh hostages and charters taken as security for peace
- 59 Arrangements regarding hostages etc of Alexander, King of the Scots
- 60 All persons to observe the customs and liberties granted by the Crown
- 61 25 barons to be chosen, four to bring alleged breach of the above provisions to the King or justiciar for redress within 40 days, failing which the 25 barons may seize assets of the Crown for amends
- 62 The Crown pardons all ill-will, grudge etc from the time of the quarrel
- 63 The Church to be free, all men in the realm to enjoy these liberties, rights and concessions in perpetuity

Runnymede, 15th June 1215



liba sit et qd homines in Regno nro hanc et teneant oi
 ro qd vocatur Ronimed ntr Windlesor & Stanes.

qd vocatur Ronimed ntr Windlesoram & Stanes

...in the meadow which is called Runnymede between Windsor and Staines...

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