
Permission to Ring Bells

Introduction

Depending whether you live within or without Göttingen's city walls, this record granting permission to ring church bells at pretty well any time of day or night may strike you as either quaint or downright criminal.

More than any other text we're reading this term, this one has unusual orthography due to its late date, which may almost be described as ME. This affects inflectional endings above all, though you may also be at a loss to find forms like "munchun" and "ysettinge" in your dictionary. Those you may have to guess, but remember you can and should use *DOE*'s attested spelling field to find forms like "andebernisse."

Manuscript

Exeter, Cathedral MS 3501, fol. 5r (bound in from Cambridge, University Library MS Ii. 2. 11; s. xi/xii)

Text

(1) Wita ða þe nu beoð and ða te cumene sy þat yc Osbern Execestres biscop gef leaua ðam munche on Sancte Nicholaus minstre to hringinde hyre tyde be dage and be nihte, (2) hwanne hy efre willat, (3) swa swa belympð to hire andebnisse, (4) bute an Cristesmasseniht and Giestersunneue, (5) and Sancte Petres and Paules massedeg.

(6) And þeos leaua þurh hyre abbed Henri, (7) and toforan him and his munchun (8) and toforan eallum mynum canunche innan minum capitule of myne and hyre eallre helf swa fastlice ys ysett, (9) þat non man after þys ðas ysettinge undon ne mage.

(10) And for þyse leaua twygys elce gere, (11) þat is an Palmsunnendeg and Cristes upstigandeg, (12) to processiun mid þam canunche hy gan sceule.

Notes

8 canunche: A canon was a cleric associated with a cathedral or collegiate church and living under a rule not unlike those observed by monks; **capitule:** a group of clerics associated with a cathedral or collegiate church

Lessons Learned

- Inflected forms and unusual spellings may easily be found in *DOE* using the attested spelling field, provided they fall within the range of published fascicles.