

ABSTRACT

The Cistercian plantation in Wales was initiated by the Norman invaders in the south, but within a few decades the Cistercian Order had been enthusiastically adopted by the Welsh princes and their subjects and a family of Welsh Cistercian monasteries established throughout the length and breadth of *pura Wallia* with Welsh personnel and distinctly Welsh political loyalties. This native Welsh filiation of Cistercian houses has traditionally been contrasted with the houses which remained loyal to the Normans and which established no daughter houses in Wales, but in reality the position was more complex. The charter evidence relating to three of the Norman abbeys, all located in frontier zones in which Anglo-Norman dominance remained contested until well into the thirteenth century, shows that they were endowed by the Welsh ruling dynasties vying with the Anglo-Normans for control of these zones and, in one case, that Welsh princes eventually supplanted Anglo-Norman barons as patrons. That relating to a fourth Cistercian abbey under Welsh patronage shows that it was able to to a limited extent to expand its patrimony in the opposite direction across the English border. Cistercian ideology gradually abandoned its original commitment to complete isolation from the outside world and came to encompass engagement with it, or at least with its lay and ecclesiastical leaders. The aim of this dissertation is to explore in detail the motivation for and pattern of endowments to the four Cistercian monasteries with a view to assessing the extent to which they constituted a third, hybrid, group alongside those traditionally identified as Anglo-Norman and Welsh, and to which the Cistercians themselves played a part in fostering the reciprocal relationships with both the Welsh and Anglo-Norman ruling élites that enabled them to expand their patrimonies and to prosper.

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Note on Personal, River and Place-Names

Personal names referred to in charters have been spelled in their modern form where possible, as have the names of identifiable places; those of places which cannot be identified have been shown in italics. River and place-names have been given in either their Welsh or English forms depending upon which are believed to be currently in most common use.

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Age of Conquest</i>	R.R. Davies, <i>The Age of Conquest: Wales 1063-1415</i> (Oxford, 2000).
<i>AWR</i>	<i>The Acts of Welsh Rulers, 1120-1283</i> , ed. Huw Pryce with the assistance of Charles Insley (Cardiff, 2005).
<i>Chester Charters</i>	<i>The Charters of the Anglo-Norman Earls of Chester, c. 1071-1237</i> , ed. Geoffrey Barraclough (Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 1988).
<i>Cal. Pat.</i>	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office, Henry III</i> (London, 1901-1913).
<i>Cal. Rot. Chart.</i>	<i>Calendar of Charter Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> , (London, 1903-27).
<i>Cartae</i>	<i>Cartae et Alia Munimenta quae ad Dominium de Glamorgancia Pertinent</i> , ed. G.T. Clark, 6 vols. (2nd edn., Cardiff, 1910).
<i>CR</i>	<i>Close Rolls in the Reign of Henry III Preserved in the Public Record Office</i> (London, 1902-1938).
<i>GCH</i>	<i>Glamorgan County History</i> , Vol. III, ed. T.B. Pugh (Cardiff, 1971).
<i>Rice Merrick</i>	<i>Rice Merrick. Morganiae Archaiographia. A Book of Antiquities of Glamorganshire</i> , ed. Brian Ll. James

(South Wales Record Society, vol.1;
1983).

Rot. Chart.

*Rotuli Chartarum in Turri Londonensi
Asservati*, ed. T.D. Hardy (London,
Record Commission, 1837).

Ystrad Marchell Charters

*The Charters of the Abbey of Ystrad
Marchell*, ed. Graham C.G. Thomas
(Aberystwyth, 1997).