

Inquisitions post mortem

- Sworn enquiries into the lands held at their deaths by direct tenants of the crown (tenants-in-chief)
- Survive from about 1236 to 1660 (when feudal tenures were abolished) in more-or-less continuous series at the National Archives
- Usually created by *escheator*
- Designed to record and enforce royal feudal rights, especially
 - *Wardship*, when a tenant died and their heir was not of full legal age
 - *Primer seisin* and *relief*, when an heir was of full age
- Related documents:
 - *Proofs of age*
 - *Assignments of dower*

Cristina, Wife Of Henry Haraz 1319

Inquisition taken before the King's escheator at Old Sarum in co. Wilts, 12th March, 13 Edward II [1319], by the oath of Stephen Beauner, Walter de Thachham, John de Gomolden, Stephen Hulon, John Henry, John le Frere, Thomas Cosyn, Stephen le Zongg, Gilbert Vryryng, John Suandre, John de Caneford, and John Haukyn, who say that

Cristina, who was the wife of Henry Haraz, held of the King in chief by serjeantry, paying per annum 2s. 9d. to the sheriff of Wilts, and died seised in her demesne as of fee of one messuage in Alwardebury, which is worth per annum 3s., one virgate of land which contains 20 acres, and each acre whereof is worth 2d., 4 acres of meadow, each acre whereof is worth per annum 12d., and 3 acres of wood, each acre whereof is worth 6d.

The said Cristian died on the day of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, in the 7th year of the King that now is [1313]; the said Henry survived her, and held the said lands and tenements by the law of England, and died 24th October, 13 Edward II [1319]. Richard le Haraz is the sone and next heir of the said Cristina, and is now aged 30 years.

Chan. Inq. p.m., 13 Edward II, No. 11

"Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1908, edited by Edw. Alex Fry.