

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*

THE KING

Extent made at Melkesham by command of the King before *Master Walter Scamel*, Dean of Salisbury, and *Matthew de Columber*, hereto assigned, 4 Edward I [1275-6], by the oath of *Walter de Insula bona*, *Henry Coe*, *Roger De Calstun*, *William de Forestal*, *Richard Cocale*, knights, *Laurence de Bosco*, *Peter Testewoode*, *Henry Hereberd*, *Richard de Comerwelle*, *Henry de Gatescoerte*, *William Esturdy*, *William Basset*, *Walter de Foxhangere*, *Geoffrey Bochard*, *Gilbert de la Roche*, *Gilbert de Aula*, *Peter de Bandeham*, *William de Bienacre*, *Hugh de Wlvemere*, *Walter de la rude*, *Elias de Thingele*, *Roger de Bukkentun*, *William de Esteworth*, and *Richard de Wike*, who say that

In the manor of Melkesham there is of the rent of assize of the freemen and customers together with the customs and services which the customars ought to make per annum £43 3s. 11d. Also or arable land there are in the said manor of good land 178½ acres by measured perch, price of the acre 12d. Also 92 acres of poor land by measured perch, whereof the price of the acre is 6d. The easements of the court with the curtilage are worth per annum 4s. There are there 51½ acres of meadow, and the acre is appraised at 2s. 6d. There is there a pasture called Inmerhs, and it is worth per annum 110s. Also another pasture called Utmerhs wherein certain men of the manor have common, and it is worth per annum 30s. Also a pasture called Chalnecrofte, and it is worth per annum 28s. The pleas and perquisites of the intrinsic hundred with the fines and heriots are worth per annum £4. And of the same hundred of the rent which is called lyefsilver per annum 18s. Also the pleas and perquisites of the foreign hundred with the rent which is called turn and tethingpeni are worth per annum £4 12s. The pannage in the wood is worth per annum 20s. The tolsester are worth per annum 10s. The chirchet of the hens is worth per annum 29s. The capitage of the natives is worth per annum 18d. The toll of beasts sold is worth per annum 12d. Sum of the whole extent, £82 1s. 8d.

Chan, Inq. p.m., 4 Edward I, No. 192. "Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem," 1901, edited by George S. Fry & Edw. Alex Fry.