

KINDRED QUESTIONS

It was in June of 1343 that King Philip VI, having heard the suppliance of his knight, Geoffroy de Charny, granted him a modest revenue for a chaplaincy he intended to found at Lirey for the salvation of his soul and the souls of his wife and their predecessors. It was common practice for royalty to donate land or other means of revenue for pious foundations. One must not suppose that Philip's grant in any way represents some special favor to his "amé et féal" vassal.

The year 1343 was a propitious moment to start planning this project, for on 19 January 1343, a three-year truce ended the desolate and useless siege of Vannes, at which Geoffroy shared with the Count of Guines command of the rearguard. Riding off in 1337 for his first major engagement, Geoffroy had had little time, between campaigns in Guyenne, Flanders, Brittany and finally Vannes, to attend to private affairs.

Eleven years later, in a bull of Innocent VI dated January 1354, it is stated that Geoffroy de Charny donated some of his own wealth toward the construction of the church: "... *ac de bonis propriis dotasse dicitur* ...". Geoffroy's cousin, Henri de Joinville, count of Vaudémont, records that Geoffroy donated an inheritance from their aunt, Alix de Beaufort.

Alix de Joinville, dame de Beaufort, was the daughter of Jean de Joinville and sister to Marguerite de Joinville, who married Jean de Charny; Marguerite was mother of Geoffroy de Charny, and died in 1306. Henri de Joinville, count of Vaudemont, like Geoffroy, was a nephew of Alix, dame de Beaufort, and grandson of Jean de Joinville; Henri's father was Anseau de Joinville, brother of Marguerite and Alix. At the Battle of Poitiers, Henri de Joinville was taken prisoner along with King Jean II; he was released on ransom the same night.

On the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, 14 September 1300, Alix married Jean, seigneur d'Arcis-sur-l'Aube et Chacenay. Jean d'Arcis died in 1307; Alix then married Jean de Lancaster. (Anselme says Alix married Henry of England, count [sic] of Lancaster.) She was still living in 1336.

In his biography of Jean de Joinville, Delaborde reports a document in the Archives Nationales dated 2 June 1323:

Le bailli de Troyes reçoit l'ordre de lever le séquestre mis à Arcis sur les biens du douaire d'Alix de Joinville, dame de Beaufort, qui avait refusé d'assurer Guillaume de Marcilly, conseiller du roi.

The events leading up to this notice have not been brought to light. But here we see that Alix had property at Arcis — lands, castles or other sources of income — left to her by her first husband, Jean d'Arcis. *Douaire* is but the medieval equivalent of an insurance policy for the benefit of a surviving wife.

Pierre d'Arcis, author of the famous *Memoriale*, and his brother, Jean d'Arcis, were sons of an official of the king's household, a peer of France: their name derives from the town of Arcis-sur-l'Aube. If Jean d'Arcis, who married Alix de Joinville, was of the same family, though an earlier generation, a new question would arise about the inexplicable virulence of the Bishop of Troyes toward the expositions of the Shroud by Geoffroy de Charny in the church of Lirey.

Add to this the fact that Geoffroy II, against whom the *Memoriale* was directed, married the niece of Henri de Poitiers, predecessor of Pierre d'Arcis in the bishopric of Troyes and named by him in the *Memoriale*. Marguerite de Poitiers was the daughter of Charles, seigneur de Saint-Vallier, Arcis-sur-l'Aube and Longeville, a fortress near Lirey.

Did Pierre d'Arcis know more about the Shroud than he was willing to admit? Harbored he rancor against Joinville or Charny, stemming from some property transaction or deviation of inheritance? Could the inheritance Geoffroy de Charny received from his aunt have included revenues or feudal rights from Arcis-sur-l'Aube? Was there a marriage relationship between the family of Pierre d'Arcis and Alix de Joinville, dame de Beaufort?

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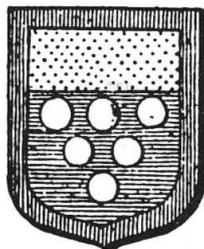
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