

Author's Note

A persistent problem for the writing of this book has been how best to render medieval French names. The now growing trend to fully anglicise these has seemed inappropriate for the biography of a Frenchman who is widely referred to, even amongst English language historians, as Geofroi (or Geoffroy) de Charny. Here the lead of historians such as Richard Vaughan has been followed by making a virtue of inconsistency. Thus, King Jean has been left non-anglicised, because 'John' would have been too English, yet the less cumbersome 'Philip' has been employed for his father. 'Odo' I have used for the dukes of Burgundy, though have reverted to 'Eudes' for lesser mortals. For most French men and women below the rank of kings and dukes I have used the normal French rendering. Because of the non-standardisation of medieval spelling, there are issues even for the name 'Charny', of which there are numerous variants. Though the Holkham and Madrid manuscripts indicate that Charny preferred to spell this 'Charni', I have retained the normally accepted modern spelling.

Quoting from Froissart has proved a similar challenge, because of the numerous variant manuscripts and the lack of any single fully definitive edition. Wherever appropriate I have therefore indicated the particular French edition from which the quotation has been derived, using the edition of Siméon Luce as first base.

