BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

From a map of Sussex by John Nordon, augmented by John Speede. a.1616 d.

Newsletter

APRIL, 1986 **No. 4**

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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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FOREWORD

This issue, like the last, includes summaries of all lectures given during the 1984/85 session, and thanks are due to those members of the Committee who have helped me in this task. If there are inaccuracies the fault lies not with speakers or reporters, but with poor acoustics in Langton Hall. (And, it must be said, from the reluctance of some lecturers to use the microphone even when it is in working order.) The present situation in which speakers cannot be heard by many in the audience is thoroughly unsatisfactory, and hardly encourages members to renew their subscriptions. Your Committee is investigating the possibility of purchasing our own microphone, and one which will avoid the hazard, both to lecturers and to your Chairman, of trailing wire! The purchase would be expensive, but if it would enable members to hear what was said, it would be money well spent.

Unlike 1984, we were able in 1985 to hold our Commemoration Party in the Abbot's Hall, and we are grateful to the Headmaster of Battle Abbey School for allowing us to do so. It may not often be possible for us to hold our party as close to the anniversary of Senlac as we might like, but it is obviously more convenient for the School if our celebration takes place during the School's half term; and the place is a more important consideration than the date.

The Abbey being, of course, a Benedictine foundation, it was very appropriate that the Commemoration Sermon on October 13th, 1985 should be given by the Rev. J.B. Boyan of the Benedictine Community of St. Lawrence, Ampleforth, and that he should talk about the Rule of St. Benedict. As I mentioned at the Annual General Meeting last November, the future of the Commemoration Service was then under discussion with the Dean because of reservations he had expressed about this Service. I am happy to tell you that in the light of views expressed by members at the AGM, the Dean has readily agreed that the Service should continue. I am, therefore, insisting on a very full attendance of members at Mattins on Sunday October 12th, 1986!

The summer outings were very well supported, and we must all be grateful to Mr. Tim Walker for organising them and for reporting on two of them. Reports on other places visited have not been included, since information about them will be found in our Library in earlier publications of the Society.

Having secured the agreement of members to the necessary change in our Rules, we are now making application to the Charity Commissioners for registration as a Charity.

As I said at the AGM, I hope that there will come a time when some members of the Society will be able to take part in archaeological and research activities. Sadly our hopes for participation in a "dig" at the gunpowder mill site at Powdermill House were dashed when a preliminary examination

suggested that the state of the site was now such that little of archaeological or historical value could result. As for research, Dr. Brian Short, an account of whose talk on Ashburnham in October 1985 will appear in next year's Newsletter, would be glad to hear from any members who can shed further light on the Ashburnham family. He also says that there is a great deal of material awaiting analysis, and that many more manuscripts have recently been deposited in the East Sussex Record Office. He concludes "If any of your members would like to undertake work on this fascinating Estate - possibly in conjunction with myself - or possibly as a registered post graduate student, perhaps they would be good enough to contact me." I shall be happy to put anyone interested in touch with Dr. Short.

Members will already know that in August 1986, we are hoping to show, in the Abbot's Hall the reproduction by the 'Ladies of the Leek School of Embroidery' in 1886, of the Bayeux Tapestry. We shall need many volunteers to act as Stewards, and we have undertaken quite a task in this respect; help from those willing to undertake two hour stints is essential. Forms for use by volunteers have been available at our meetings, and another is included with the summer programme. As I am sure those members who have acted as Stewards in Battle Church during the tourist season will confirm, in this kind of activity one meets interesting people from all over the world. In short, it is enjoyment rather than a chore. So why not join me in an Abbey (slightly to misquote Alexander Pope)....

".....bosomed deep in vines,
Where slumbered abbots, purple as their wines"?!

K.M. Reader.

THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

The Commemoration Lecture: Mr. J. Manwaring Baines, F.S.A. 12th October, 1984

The subject matter of the Bayeux Tapestry, said Mr. Manwaring Baines, divided into three parts, viz. Harold in Normandy, the preparation for the invasion, and the Battle of Senlac itself. Given the limited time available he would show slides and comment on the first two parts only.

But first the speaker corrected some of the common misunderstandings about the 'Tapestry'. It was not tapestry but embroidery, it was not the work of Queen Mathilda and her ladies, but almost certainly a Canterbury product. (Two slides shown during the evening pointed to the close similarity between the scene where Bishop Odo blesses the food at the meal after the landing and the representation of the Last Supper (a photograph of this is now in our Museum, Ed.) in the 6th century Gospels at St. Augustine's Canterbury, of which house Odo was a generous benefactor. Almost certainly the Tapestry was commissioned by Odo for his new cathedral at Bayeux which was consecrated in 1077. The Tapestry itself gives great prominence to the part played in the invasion by Bishop Odo, Duke William's half brother, who was to become Earl of Kent, a fact which could well account for the Canterbury provenance for the work. It may also be significant that the only three people mentioned by name on the Tapestry, apart from the main protagonists (and the mysterious AElfgyva - Ed.) are Thurold, Wadard and Vital, who appear in Domesday as Kentish tenants of Odo.

There may also be errors in the Tapestry. Did Harold swear the fatal oath at Bayeux as indicated in the Tapestry? Some say the incident took place at Bonneville, some Rouen, another at the manor of Bur; and the authorities for the oath having been sworn at all are all Norman (William of Poitiers, William of Jumieges, and the Carmen de Hastingae Proelio of Guy, Bishop of Amiens.)

The Tapestry is therefore a piece of propaganda, and like the written authorities mentioned the events are depicted from a Norman point of view. Harold, in assuming the Kingship, has broken a solemn oath. But did Edward the Confessor, despite his upbringing in Normandy and his awareness that Duke William was a strong ruler of the kind that England needed (in contrast to what he was himself) ever make William the promise of the Crown? Did Edward send Harold to Normandy to confirm that promise as the Tapestry indicates? If so it seems odd that there is no record of any agreement to this by the Witan. Was the visit to Normandy Harold's own idea? William had a reputation as an outstanding fighting man and commander, and Harold might well have wished to meet him. In his Historia Novarum, written soon after 1110, Eadmer, an English monk of Canterbury, states that Harold persuaded a relunctant Edward to allow him to cross to Normandy, and this would certainly not be inconsistent with

the two encounters between Harold and William shown in a Tapestry of Anglo-Saxon workmanship.

Mr. Manwaring Baines then showed slides illustrating this story:- Harold's visit to Bosham, hawk on wrist, before his ill fated voyage, his seizure by Count Guy for ransom. But Duke William with his efficient intelligence service forced Guy to bring Harold to the Norman court. It could well be that Harold and William formed a strong friendship, for they became comrades in arms against Conan of Brittany. It was in this campaign that at the river Couesnon, by Mont St. Michel, Harold used his great strength to rescue those caught in the quicksands. (The Tapestry is in error here in suggesting that it is Conan fleeing from a beseiged Dol. Conan was not there but in Dinan, and William's forces were, in fact, raising the siege of the fortress by Conan's men.) Then William is shown giving arms to Harold and in effect knighting him, a ceremony conferring dignity on the recipient but also signifying allegiance. After that comes the oath on the reliquary, and Harold's return to England. As Edward's "right hand man" and the effective ruler of England, he had been away for a long time, and the scene with Harold again before Edward shows Harold with what could be termed the hunched shoulders of contrition and an "I told you so" attitude from the Confessor. Very different from the Harold/Edward meeting shown earlier.

With Edward's death Harold was in a dilemma. His assumption of the Crown in accordance with Edward's wishes and those of the Witan would almost certainly result in invasion. Accepting William as King would almost as certainly lead to Civil War.

Then followed slides showing Harold's coronation, the subsequent Norman preparations for invasion, the ship building and provisioning etc.. Finally the landing, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle at Pevensey, and the construction of a castle at Hastings. (The Tapestry is the first illustration of the construction of an early Norman castle.) Hastings was an obvious base for the Normans since the Abbey of Fecamp owned both churches in the town, and it has been suggested that one of those churches contained a memorial to Alfred the AEtheling murdered by Harold's father, Earl Godwin.

K.M. Reader.

(There is a very interesting article on 'The Authority and Interpretation of the Bayeux Tapestry 'by N.P. Brooks and H.E. Walker, in 'Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1978' edited by our President, Professor R. Allen Brown. This book is in our Library. -Ed.)

LEEDS CASTLE

Mr. D. Cleggett — 26th October, 1984

Mr. Cleggett began by warning members that some of the contents of the Castle shown in the slides or seen on earlier visits had now been reclaimed by the Burrell Collection in Glasgow. ("Although the policy of long-term loans of individual items from the Collection had been discontinued in Burrell's last years an exception was made in the late 1970's when some of the best oak furniture and other fittings were lent to the Leeds Castle Foundation; it is ironic that in this glorious Kent castle (which formed the setting for that most delicious of films 'Kind Hearts and Coronets') these pieces were more at home than they could ever have been at Hutton." from "Burrell, Portrait of a Collector" by Richard Marks, until recently Keeper of the Burrell Collection.) (Hutton was Sir William Burrell's home 1927 until his death in 1958. - Ed.)

He then proceeded to give a spendidly illustrated talk on the history, architecture and contents of the Castle. On the site of a wooden Saxon structure, one of the victorious Normans began the stone Castle - the Norman keep dates from 1170. The long royal ownership of the Castle began in 1272 when the owner conveyed it to Edward I, who enlarged the Gatehouse and added an Outer Bailey. He gave the Castle to his Queen, Eleanor of Castile, as a Dower, and on her death to his second wife, the sister of the King of France. Thus began the tradition that Leeds Castle was given as a Dower to the Queen and retained by her in widowhood - Isabella the wife of Edward II, Anne of Bohemia the wife of Richard II, Joan of Navarre the wife of Henry IV, Catherine of Valois the wife of Henry V. But in the reign of Henry VIII the Castle passed out of royal ownership into that of the St. Leger family. But not before Henry VIII had made major changes, adding the Banqueting Hall and the Maiden's Tower and an upper storey to the Gloriette; and with lavish redecoration turning a Castle into something more like a Palace.

The Castle is unusual in that although in a defensible position on the River Len it does not command a strategic road or river crossing. Even so, it was beseiged by King Stephen, and during the Civil Wars occupied by Parliamentary forces. Fortunately it was dismantled only partly when the garrison withdrew in 1650.

After subsequent changes of ownership, the Culpeppers, Fairfaxes and the Wykeham-Martins, the Castle was bought in 1926 by the Hon. Lady Baillie, who restored, redecorated and refurnished it. She stocked the gardens and lakes with rare birds, china geese, swans from Western Australia etc., had many trees planted, and brought in many tons of lime-free soil for the azaleas and rhododendrons. Mr. Cleggett also outlined a connection with America earlier than that of Lady Baillie, when the then owner of the Castle, the Culpepper family, was given a large estate in Virginia by

Charles II. This passed through marriage to the Fairfaxes. It is this American connection that explains the Culpepper garden in the Castle grounds.

During the last war the Castle was used as a military hospital. Before Lady Baillie died in 1974 she bequeathed the Castle to the Nation for its enjoyment and for use as a conferance centre. The Leeds Castle Foundation, endowed by Lady Baillie, holds research seminars attended by medical scientists from all over the world involved in the fight against disease. Because of the peaceful surroundings and easy security the Castle was the venue for a meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli Prime Ministers in 1976.

A very fine selection of slides illustrated the talk:- the cellars the oldest part of the Castle, the Gloriette, the royal bedrooms, the Chapel, the Thorpe Hall Room and the Yellow Drawing Room, and the Seminar Room (not normally open to the public) with its charming and priceless collection of Impressionist paintings. Other noteworthy paintings at the Castle include a Pissaro "View of Rouen" and a Tiepolo "Punchinelli at a Meal."

The slides of the Castle, its lake setting and the grounds, make it easy to understand why to many American visitors, (and indeed to us) Leeds Castle has something of the fairy tale quality of Arthur's Camelot. K.M. Reader.

(Leeds Castle was visited by members of the Society on 18th July, 1985. Unfortunately the visit was marred by bad weather, which made it less easy for us to appreciate the charm of the setting and to enjoy the grounds and wildlife.)

ENGLISH MONASTERIES

Mr. K.M. Midmer — 9th November, 1985.

Mr. Midmer, in his introduction, said that his subject could all too easily become over-loaded with statistics. It was also one that gave rise to many interesting questions. Was there one religious order stricter than the rest? Was there an order peculiar to England? (The Carthusians and the Gilbertines, I think. - Ed.) Was there one essential factor in the Dissolution? The subject was vast; so much so that it would be possible to cover the ground under as many as eighteen headings.

The speaker then gave a most comprehensive review, with maps, diagrams and slides, covering the early founders of monasticism, (St.Anthony, St.Patrick, St.Columba, and above all St.Benedict), the eleven contemplative orders, the eight Mendicant (Augustian Friars, Dominicans, Franciscans etc.) and the Military Orders, (Templars and Hospitallers).

In England there was a dramatic increase in the number of monasteries in the century after Senlac. In that year there were 61 Anglo-Saxon monasteries. Between then and 1100 there were around 100 new foundations, and within a hundred years

of Senlac the number had increased to 400. The increase continued until the early fourteenth century, and then came the Black Death which resulted in a very considerable decline in the number of monks. About a third of the population, including monks and nuns, died, and indeed a good half of the mendicants succumbed. Thereafter the quality of monastic life, in general, declined.

Alien Priories (cells of individual foreign Abbeys) were taken into the King's hands during the Hundred Years' War, apart from the more important conventual priories that bought charters of denization from the Crown. Wolsey, in a fore-runner of the Dissolution, closed 29 Houses between 1524 and his fall in 1529, transferring their revenues to his foundations at Ipswich and Oxford (later Christ Church). All lesser monasteries were dissolved in 1536, and the rest in 1539.

A map was displayed showing the geographical distribution of 900 monasteries in England, with 18 in London, 15 in Oxford, 15 in Bristol, and with a very heavy concentration in Yorkshire. A third of them have left no trace and we do not know their exact location. Rather more than a third exist as scanty ruins. Slightly less than a third survive either with substantial ruins, or like Westminster Abbey, Tewkesbury and Bristol with the monastic church still in use today. Some like Battle were incorporated into private dwellings.

Mr. Midmer touched on the many differenct types of tiles, many made by the monks themselves, the work and skills of the masons (95% of the stones were cut to size and handled by two men), and he emphasized the point that no continental masons had the problems of English masons who, with one or two exceptions, worked not in Caen stone but in local stones. Whitby - easy to work ironstone, Rivaulx - white sandstone with a large lime content, Beauchamp - millstone grit, Burnham and Hailes - limestone oolite, Wenlock - crystalline limestone, Laycock - clay based limestone.

Finally Mr. Midmer traced the history of the one foundation with an unbroken history of 540 years - the Bridgettine house of Syon Abbey, once the largest and richest nunnery in England. St. Bridget, a Swedish noblewoman, finding a Stockholm nunnery insufficiently strict, founded a House herself at Vadstena. The one Bridgettine House in England was founded in 1415 at Twickenham, moved to Isleworth, and then in 1531 to Syon. At the Dissolution the community went to Flanders, returning to Syon in the reign of Mary Tudor. In Elizabeth's reign they were back at Dermond, then moved in 1580 to Rouen (all the nuns still being English women) and then to Portugal. In 1861 the Community returned to England, remaining at Spettisbury in Dorset until 1887 when they moved to their present site at Chudleigh in Devon.

The remaining slides showed the nave at Whitby, Rivaulx, (unusually sited not east and west but north and south), Glastonbury on the site of a Saxon church, with the altar, again unusually, at the west end, Fountains and Pershore.

K.M. Reader.

(Mr. Midmer has very generously donated a copy of his book "English Monasteries, 1066 - 1540" to our Library. The book, after a very useful introduction, is a comprehensive gazeteer of all known English monasteries. It is clearly the result of exhaustive and painstaking research, and if any work merits the term "definitive" this is surely it. - Ed.)

DAILY LIFE IN HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE IN THE MID 17th CENTURY

Mr. David Calvert — 7th December, 1984.

Mr. Calvert gave us an illuminating talk on the daily life in a Stuart Mansion and an interesting account leading up to that period.

In 1441 Sir Roger Fiennes who owned Hever Castle in Kent as well as Herst Manor House felt neither was good enough for a man in his position. He therefore applied to Henry VI, successfully, for a licence to "with walls and lime, enclose, krenellate, entower and embattle his manor of Hurst Monceux - in the County of Sussex". From the first the castle was provided with all the facilities necessary for the provision and maintenance of a luxurious country mansion. There were bake houses, brew houses, granaries, beer cellars and extensive kitchens. Fish were readily available from ponds which fed the moat from the north. The building is estimated to have cost £3,800 and represents a transitional stage between a medieval stronghold and an Elizabethan country mansion and could be comfortable as well as imposing. But be did not enjoy if for long as he died in 1449.

After this, the building began to deteriorate. It was not until the latter part of the 16th century that Margaret Fiennes restored the Castle to its former level of comfort. She was the daughter of Thomas, 3rd Lord Dacre of the South who married Sampson Lennard and became Baroness Dacre in her own right.

Descendants of Margaret and Sampson Lennard continued to live in the castle but it is only from the time of Francis Lennard, who became Lord Dacre in 1630, that we have detailed evidence of what life in the Castle was like. Fortunately an account book of Herstmonceux Castle kept by a man named Field has been preserved and from this it can be seen in detail how the Castle was run. Mr. Calvert showed a most interesting slide of a double page of the account book of the Castle for the week beginning 30 December 1643. It showed a wealth of information. It included household provisions and wages paid. In fact, food accounted for a large part of the expenditure, and suggested that people had enormous appetites! The household averaging 40 people used about 200 lbs of beef a week, up to six sheep, eight gallons of beer per person in addition to claret, sack and probably Dutch gin. The account book gives much information on other aspects of life. There are entries for the cooper mending the bath tub, and soap, e.g. "paid for 4 lbs of soap and 3 ozs of powder blew to wash my Lord's clothes 3/-" An entry "paid for white mercuric to scare crows 1/6" Unexpectedly, there were a number of entries

on yachting. Francis Lennard was sailing a private yacht by 1643, 17 years before yachting is generally thought to have been introduced to this country at the time of the Restoration of Charles II. His own yacht was called the Primrose which he kept at Pevensey. The account book gives unique details of expenses involved. "paid Mr. Wright (ship carpenter) for mending and trimming the yacht £4.15.3" and "paid for an anker for my Lords youcht weighing 113 lbs - 17/8" and "paid to John Waters, pilot for conducting my Lords yought from Gravesend to Herstmonceux". He must have been a man of character because although he was a Parliamentarian he was strongly opposed to the trial and execution of Charles I in 1649.

The life of Francis Lennard was not entirely happy. A letter of the period tells of a journey abroad in 1655 because of "some discontent between him and his lady". After a sudden illness he died in 1662 and the estates passed to his son Thomas.

Thomas was the last descendant of the ancient families of Herst and Monceux to own the manor. He married Lady Ann Fitzroy, an illegitimate daughter of Charles II. This marriage gained for him the specially created title of Earl of Sussex and the promise of a dowry of £20,000. It was never paid. His love of court life and gambling drained the resources of the estate. In 1708 he sold the Herstmonceux estate to a George Naylor of Lincoln's Inn for £38,215 to pay off his gambling debt. This was the first recorded occasion when the manor changed hands by purchase. He died at Chevening in 1715.

And so ended a long line of Fiennes and Dacres whose lives were marked by a great number of vicissitudes.

A.R. Denny.

DEFENCES AGAINST NAPOLEON (MARTELLO TOWERS)

Mr. Barry Funnell — 4th January, 1985

Lectures on defence works in the period when the Royal Navy were in the ascendency are always a great pleasure. We were therefore exceedingly fortunate in having Mr. Barry Funnell present us with such an interesting illustrated talk on one of the measures taken at that time to fortify the South coast.

Ironically, this fortification was adapted by the English from a similar defence tower called the 'Mortella Tower' which gave British forces much trouble when attempting to answer a call for help from the people of Corsica in 1794.

To meet the Napoleonic threat to Britain it was planned to build two chains of Martello Towers, one along the coast of Essex and Suffolk and the other numbering 74 stretching from Folkestone to Seaford. Due to planning difficulties inherent in any stretched defence of this nature, building was not started until 1805 and took about three years to complete. By this time the threat had disappeared as the

Emperor's sights turned towards the East. It is estimated that some ¼ million bricks were used in each tower, most of them coming in barges from a London supplier (the forerunner of the London Brick Company?) sometimes supplemented by local suppliers who apparently made a good profit. Details of the construction of the towers were most illuminating. Apparently mortar used was a mixture of sand, lime and hot tallow which set hard as iron.

An essential feature of all Martello Towers was that the entrance was at first floor level, the lower area being used for the storage of ammunition, food and water. Quarters were obviously cramped and one can appreciate how a complement of 30 troops had to live and work therein. Around the central pillar are places for 27 muskets. On the roof is the cannon. Naval type guns were adopted as standard since it was felt there was an abundance of old seamen who could be called upon to man the guns at short notice should an emergency arise.

The first tower in Sussex, No.28, is on the banks of the River Rother at Rye Harbour; it is one of the few towers with a name, in this case, 'Enchantress'. No.29 sited at the mouth of the Rother was washed away after four years, much to the dismay of those trying to justify expenditure on the towers in the face of strong public criticism. Moving on from Rye the next 24 towers stretching along the foreshore from Pett Level to Cooden have all gone, but fortunately a few pictures of these still exist. There were eight towers, Nos. 31 to 38, equally spaced along the two miles of Winchelsea - Pett Level beaches. Gradually these towers in this unstable area of coastline were undermined by the sea and those which did not succumb to the waves were demolished in military exercises. We learnt from 'The Hastings - St.Leonards News' for 18 April 1872 and again a week later that 800 lbs of gunpowder were placed in Tower No. 35 and 200 lbs of 'Mr. Abel's gunpowder in No.38. Very long fuses were ignited for 'prudential reasons'!

First of the Hastings Martello Towers was No.39 at Bopeep on the site of the present bathing pool. Turner painted the scene in 1811. Further along the coast towers stood at regular intervals but most of them have fallen victim to the sea, although the one at Normans Bay was in a fair state of preservation in 1977, as indeed were some in Pevensey Bay, surrounded by houses. Most of the towers standing along the Eastbourne foreshore have long gone with the exception of No.73 which is now part of a tourist attraction with its Redoubt which is a unique building. Mr. Funnell feels that the Redoubts were an integral part in the Martello coastal defence scheme. One of their functions was to provide base camps for reserve garrisons for the towers. The last of the southeast towers is No.74 sited beyond Beachy Head at the eastern end of Seaford's somewhat inhospitable seafront. It is not clear why this spot was chosen.

This raises the question whether or not the towers would have

been effective against an invading force as they were never tested in war. It is perhaps interesting to note the use to which the remaining towers have been put in latter years; in the military field as gunnery and observer posts, and latterly more peacefully, as retirement homes and tourist attractions. All this is a very far cry from Napoleon who referred to them, at the time, as 'Les Bulldogues' but by then he was marching in the other direction.

A.D. Denny.

HERALDRY

Mr. D.A. Kimber — 2nd February, 1985.

An audience of over 70 members heard this interesting talk on English Heraldry. Mr. Kimber stressed that he could do no more than touch on the rudiments of the subject. He explained that the first ordered form of Heraldry originated in France, and began in England at the time of the marriage of Henry I's daughter to Geoffrey of Anjou in 1127. Heraldry was a recognition signal but also initially an art form, and since draughtsmen's abilities varied it was possible in early days for lions to appear as leopards, and now no one really knows if in the original Royal Arms were leopards or lions!

Military Heraldry began in feudal times when few could read or write, so an overlord had to use a visual aid. Before a battle the lord's design would be shown to his followers, and this practice is, in fact, the origin of Trooping The Colour.

On a Shield *"Ordinaries" break up the outline, perhaps with a simple **"Chevron". "Charges"*** were added as time went on and more lords needed means of recongnition. The next step was for the horse clothing to be emblazoned with the design, and then crests were added to helmets. In the year 1327 some chaos ensued at the siege of Carlaverock when a knight on each side wore the same heraldric device. Hence the need for some form of regulation of Heraldry and hence the Court of Chivalry from which evolved the College of Arms. Heraldry then developed into what we see today, with Shield, Wreath, Trapping, Crest and Motto. This forms an "Heraldic Achievement" which never changes from father to son, although sometimes the motto can be altered.

* "Ordinaries". In early practice of painting a band or bands of colour across the shield for purpose of distinction certain simple forms originated which on account of their common usage have come to be called 'Ordinaries.'
(Boutell's Heraldry)

**"Chevron". Broad bands like the side of an isosceles triangle with the apex towards the centre of the top of the shield.

***"Charge". Any object or figure placed on an heraldic shield or any other object on an armorial composition.
(Ibid)

An example of poor draughtsmanship leading to confusion was an heraldic device of two men sharing one horse to show their poverty, and this became blurred and confused by artists and evolved into "Pegasus" the design of the Knights Templar.

Among the rules laid down was one to prevent the use of "metal" on "metal" (i.e. metallic colours) or colour to avoid confusion at a distance.

METALS	COLOURS	FURS
Gold	Red	Ermine
Silver	Blue	Ermines
	Green	Sable

COLLEGE OF ARMS

Heralds College

Earl Marshall

Norroy	Garter	Clarenceaux
Richmond Chester	Windsor Somerset	Lancaster York
Rouge Dragon (Wales)		Rouge Croix (England)
Portcullis		Bluemantle

Norroy and Clarenceux are very old. Garter is responsible for all Royal Heraldry. Portcullis, introduced in the reign of Henry VII was the house mark of Westminster, and is used today by the House of Commons. Bluemantle is so called because Henry VII had a claim to the throne of France, the arms of which are the Fleur de Lys on a blue background.

T. Walker.

(Apart from its historical and artistic interest and colourful charm, the language of Heraldry has its own fascination. Thus "Sir Edward de Montague - Ermine, three fusils conjoined in fess gules, a label of Monthermer, i.e. or, on each point an eagle displayed vert." If any member wishes to pursue the subject further, there are books on Heraldry in our Library. - Ed.)

Members may like to be reminded that the Society has its own Hon. Genealogist and Heraldist. He is, Mr. A.P.S. de Redman whose address is:- Flat 3, 34, Summerfield Crescent, Birmingham B16 OER. He will help, within reason, with any queries about family history or coats of arms. (Stamped addressed envelopes welcome.)

ARMS AND ARMOUR IN 1066

Mr. I. Peirce — 15th February, 1985

The prime source of information on arms and armour in 1066 lies in the Bayeux Tapestry. Its accuracy is fully borne out by reference to other representations of fighting men in contemporary European wall paintings, sculptures, ivory and bone carvings, and manuscript illustrations.

The basic piece of armour is the suit of mail, the hauberk. This covered the trunk, the upper arm and upper leg. It was formed of iron rings each fastened to the adjacent rings with rivets. It was very practical, allowing free movement, and distributing the force of any blow well beyond the point of impact. It was not unduly heavy, weighing around 23 to 24 pounds. The hauberk worn by Normans and English was basically similar, but for the Normans, riding on horseback, a split skirt allowed outer thigh protection. The English, fighting on foot, required all round thigh protection, and retained the trouser. The edges of the hauberk were padded, as required, to prevent fretting, and under the whole a tunic was worn. Also often worn was a mail coif covering the neck and extending under the helmet. Some of the more important Normans, e.g. Guy and William, wore a rectangular banded frame which may have given added chest protection. The leg below the knee was sometimes protected by chausses, apparently also of mail.

The hauberk has a long history. It has been in use since at least 200 B.C; that worn by St. Wencelaus (935 A.D.), together with his helmet, is preserved in Prague. In 1947-48 the body of a Norman warrior was found when the wall of St. Mary's churchyard was moved back, but the mail quickly disintegrated, and unfortunately no proper records were made.

Both Normans and English wore helmets of the same type. They were conical in shape, with a downward projecting nasal bar to protect the upper face and nose. They were sometimes formed from a single piece of metal, and sometimes from several plates of metal either riveted together or held together by a metal band at the rim. This type of helmet persisted well into the 14th century.

The sword was the typical Viking broadsword, carried widely throughout Europe by the Norsemen. It was about three feet long with a simple crossbar hilt, and a large round or 'D-shaped' balancing pommel. The blade was straight, with a blade-length groove on each side, which reduced the weight without impairing the strength. The blade was sometimes inscribed with an appropriate invocation or phrase. It weighed about 3½ pounds. Many fine contemporary blades survive in major collections of Europe and in private hands.

Shields on both sides were kite-shaped in general, but some of the English carried round shields. They were made of wood covered with leather, and were curved to give greater body protection. Around 1150 the top of the shield became less prominently rounded.

Lance shafts were made of apple wood or ash because of their flexible character. They were not thrown, but were used in an overarm, underarm, or in a crouched mode. Their length was about eleven feet. Some of the Norman horsemen, armed with lance and sword, appear in the Tapestry grouped around a banner; this suggests fighting units were grouped around their gonfalon, and presupposes a degree of discipline which might well have allowed William to organise feigned retreats and so draw Harold's right flank from its dominating position.

The weapon of the English housecarls was a formidable two-handed axe, the shaft of which was some four feet in length. Its use must have demanded a high degree of training and expertise, for the momentum of a missed hit might well whirl its user off a stable stance.

The archers used a short bow, and as far as is known, no special wood was used in its making. William had a large number of foot archers in his ranks; their attack probably preceded the charge of the cavalry. One archer is depicted riding a horse. On the English side one lone archer appears in the Tapestry.

The horses were by no means diminutive, and appear to have had no protective covering. Stirrups were long. Many horses must have been held in reserve, for William himself is recorded as having used four mounts. Centres for breeding suitable horses must have been numerous; evidence of one such has recently been discovered in Wales.

Then, too, the high degree of craftsmanship in the weaponry of both sides indicates of great skill in metal working were active in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

At the close of the lecture Mr. Peirce showed replicas of weapons and armour used in the battle. The opportunity to examine and to get the 'feel' of ancient weapons was much appreciated. (Fortunately the coffee served during this period, unlike the armour, was not laced!)

Dr. R.H. Clark

FILM EVENING - 1st March 1985

Two films were shown.

Ceremonies of the Tower of London

The traditions of the Tower are as old as the Tower itself, and the film showed six of the traditional ceremonies there. The Royal Salute by the Honourable Artillery Company, the installation of a new Constable of the Tower (a private ceremony before an invited audience), the installation of a new Yeoman Warder, the Easter State Parade, and finally one of the oldest and most dramatic daily events - the Ceremony of the Keys, the traditional locking up of the Tower at night.

The Hand of Adam

The film traced the life and achievement of Robert Adam, and among the many locations visited were the ruins of Diocletian's palace at Split in Yugoslavia (which Adam visited in 1757) and his later reinterpretations of Roman palaces at Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire and Headford House in Ireland. Among other palaces shown were Syon House and Osterly Park. (Our thanks again to Mr. Denny for arranging the programme.)

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Mrs. June Osborne — 15th March, 1985

Mrs. Osborne, author, lecturer and Palace guide began an interesting and relaxed talk on Hampton Court Palace and its history with an outline of its origins. Initially a Manor House owned by the Knights Hospitallers on the banks of the Thames it was leased in 1514 by the then Archbishop of York, Thomas Wolsey. The following year he became a Cardinal and Lord Chancellor, and it was rebuilt and furnished on a lavish scale, surpassing anything owned by the King. There Cardinal Wolsey entertained royalty and ambassadors, with a large household staff of almost 500. He was to enjoy this for only a few years, as he lost favour with Henry VIII. In a desperate effort to restore his position he presented the King with Hampton Court and all its furnishings. Although he was given a pardon he was later charged with high treason, and died mysteriously on the journey from York to London. Henry went on to enlarge and embellish the Palace, making it one of the most luxurious in the land, bringing all but one of his Queens to live and have their children there.

Mrs. Osborne then went on to give us, by means of slides, a conducted tour of the Palace as we see it today. Notable parts of Hampton Court remaining from Tudor times include the Great Hall with its magnificent hammer beam roof, and the Anne Boleyn Gateway with its Astronomical Clock of 1540 when the sun still revolved round the earth! Katherine Howard is said to be one of the fifteen ghosts still haunting the Palace having been dragged along the Haunted Gallery after pleading, in vain, with the King for her life. The Royal Tennis Court, built by Henry VIII and enlarged by Charles II is still in use.

Successive monarchs lived in the Palace. James I held the great Conference there which, among other things, resulted in the Authorized Version of the Bible. By the time of William and Mary the palace was considered old and out of fashion. Sir Christopher Wren who was commissioned to rebuild it considered demolishing everything except the Great Hall. However, what resulted was a new suite of rooms and galleries around Fountain Court. As William and Mary were joint monarchs each had an equal suite of State rooms, known as King's side and Queen's side. (The original 'his' and 'hers'?) The walls and ceiling of the King's staircase were decorated elaborately by the Neapolitan painter Verrio with scenes from Classical

Mythology, showing Gods, Godesses and Muses. At the head of the staircase in the King's Guard Room is a wall display of over 3,000 arms still arranged in their original patterns. Much remained to be completed by the end of William and Mary's reign, and further redecoration was carried out by Queen Anne and George I and George II. After George II died in 1760 the Palace was never again occupied by a reigning monarch and George III removed much of the furniture to Windsor. The Palace entered a period of neglect until Queen Victoria opened the State rooms to the public. Considerable restoration work was done, much of it in poor taste; for example, the use of machine made bricks on the face of the Great Gatehouse. More of the Palace has since been opened to the public, and it is now occasionally used for ceremonial banquets.

Mrs. Osborne completed the slides with an aerial view showing the Palace very much as a city in its own right. She remarked that Henry VIII described it as "his best loved palace" and its many visitors feel the same love for it today.

Mrs. J. Kinnear

SUMMER OUTINGS 1985

Black Charles, Underriver — 7th May

The half day outing to Black Charles, Underriver, near Sevenoaks attracted a full coach and the weather being dry and sunny we were able to enjoy the garden as well as the house.

Black Charles derives its name from the family of BLAKECHERL, the probable owner being John of that name in 1327. The house is a timber framed medieval Wealden house, adapted in the Elizabethan and Queen Anne periods, and originally built as a large open hall with a fire in the centre, and ground floor and upper rooms at each end. The servants and owners slept at opposite ends of the house and access to the upper rooms was by ladder; the present hall was formerly the buttery and pantry. A staircase was added during the Jacobean period and there is a wealth of Jacobean panelling. An unusual feature is a Tudor carving, thought originally to have been a butcher's sign.

In the passageway off the hall hangs a portrait of a founder member of the B.M.A., an ancestor of Mrs. Hugh Gamon, the owner of the house. The dining room was originally the master's room which although now with a ceiling would once have been open to the roof. The dining table is a monk's table with a removable top, and the expression "to turn the tables" is said to originate in the days when monks ate off the rough side of the table but reversed the top to provide visitors with a smooth finish. The central chimney now provides a large fireplace and inglenook within which are two Jacobean cupboards.

The drawing room is panelled in linenfold and is lit by a number of stained glass windows. An interesting item of

furniture is a "dole" cupboard which in years gone by was filled with scraps of food and left out for the poor to help themselves.

The parlour was the original private room for the master and mistress of the medieval house and now has a fine Tudor fireplace with carved panelling. The bedrooms are spacious and a feature in each is the specially made Doulton wash basins which are themselves on the way to becoming antique, a useful marriage of the very old and the not so new.

T. Walker

Romney Marsh Churches — 22nd August

A full coachload enjoyed this outing on an afternoon of rare sunshine. The outing was arranged through Brigadier Tony Harper CBE Honorary Secretary of the Romney Marsh Historical Churches Trust and we were also accompanied by Dr. Hudd who gave a brief but very informative talk at each Church visited.

Our first stop was St. Dunstan's, Snargate - a fairly large building dating from the 13th Century. St. Dunstan's is especially notable as having been the Church where the author of the Ingoldsby Legends, the Reverend Richard Harris Barham was Rector. The name Snargate is a derivation of 'Snare-gate' or sluice gate. As in many of the Marshland Churches, there is no chancel arch in St. Dunstan's. In recent times a wall painting of a Tudor Great Ship has been discovered and preserved (Date 1480-1520). This Church was a favourite place for hiding contraband in the heyday of smuggling.

From Snargate we travelled to Ivychurch to the vast and impressive St. George's, dating from the 14th Century. Cromwellian troops are supposed to have used it as a stable for their horses and over the years it has suffered severely from neglect but much restoration work has been carried out since the 1970s. There is a coat of arms of George III, 1775, and many fine examples of Marshland Text Boards. Dr. Hudd pointed out a 'Hudd' similar to a sentry box and used during wet days for funerals as a shelter for the Parson to keep his wig dry. It is said that in the smuggling era one Sunday, Service had to be cancelled as the Church was so full of contraband. In our own era the Church was used to store emergency supplies for a resistance force should the country be invaded.

Next on our itinerary was Lydd, to the Parish Church of All Saints. The Baptistry walls are the remains of the Saxon Church and the Church is the longest in Kent at 199 feet and with a tower rising to 132 feet. Cardinal Wolsey at one time was Rector of Lydd. The Church was severely damaged in World War II when the entire East end was destroyed, but has been beautifully restored in a manner which blends in with the older parts.

Brookland and the Church of St. Augustine beckoned as it was here we were to have tea in the Church Hall. The Church is

probably the best known of the Marsh Churches because of its bell tower which sits on the ground beside it. There are many reasons given for this oddity but the true one seems to be the fear of subsidence. This is given credence by the alarming angle assumed by the nave arches. The Norman lead font, dated 1150, is older than the Church and is the finest in Britain. Around it are embossed the signs of the Zodiac and Occupations of the months. On the wall of the South aisle is a medieval wall painting depicting the murder of St. Thomas Becket.

Our final port of call was Fairfield, isolated from the road by pasture land; originally built in the 14th Century and restored lastly in 1913. The interior is a mass of old beams with a fine collection of Text Boards behind the altar and a unique 13th century seven-sided font.

Everyone enjoyed this outing, which had a waiting list of 25, and as one member put it "an added bonus in Dr. Hudd".

T. Walker.

(A talk on Rural Churches of Romney Marsh was given by Mr. Barry Funnell on 28th October, 1983, and a note on this will be found in Newsletter No.3 of April 1985. - Ed.)

Other Outings

Members also visited Petworth House (11th June), Leeds Castle (18th July) and Penshurst Place (17th September). A note on a previous visit to Petworth will be found in Transactions No.15, to Penshurst in Transactions No.14. A summary of the talk on Leeds Castle by Mr. Cleggett on October 26th 1984 is in this issue, and a note on a previous visit to the Castle is in Transactions No.26. Copies of the Society's Transactions (which preceded the present series of Newsletters) will be found in our Library.

THE MUSEUM TRUST

The Museum Trust had a quietly successful year. Visitors totalled over 11,000 and 22 schools came on organised visits. Perhaps the poor summer weather helped increase our numbers, but whatever the cause, the result was gratifying. Dr. Brown, to whom we are much indebted for a reorganisation of our library has left the district. Fortunately Mrs. G. Young, who has considerable experience as a librarian has filled the gap; this experience and her enthusiasm are a great asset to our members. However we still lack a volunteer to sort out our archive material.

Additions to our exhibits include the following items which may be of particular interest. One of our members, Mr. A. Murduck, who was once a Scout in the troop (now alas defunct) founded by 'B.P.' himself when he lived in Ewhurst, has presented to us his old shoulder flash....'Chief Scout's Own'. Unique to our Museum?! A 13th-14th century brick, donated by Mr. C. Hawkins, was found on the bank of the Brede below a medieval site (Snailham). It was identified by a Dutch

visitor as a 'Yesil brick' made from characteristic clay from the river of that name. He added that these bricks were much sought after as embellishments to modern houses.

The manner in which the scene is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry where Bishop Odo entertains William at a meal after the landing may well derive from a representation of the Last Supper in the St. Augustine Gospels of the 5th/6th century. See the reference to this in the note on the talk on the Bayeux Tapestry given by Mr. Manwaring Baines on 12th October 1984. This was once kept at Canterbury, and may well have been seen by the Tapestry's designer. It is now in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The College librarian has kindly sent us, for exhibition, a photograph of the relevant page of the Gospel. Members and future visitors will now be able to compare this with the scene in our copy of the Tapestry. The proper display of these, and our other exhibits, await the replacement of our leaky roof. When this is done it will slightly increase space available for display. It will also call for much muscular effort to clear exhibits and cases out of the Museum before this work starts, then back on completion - VOLUNTEERS WILL BE CALLED FOR.

Dr. R.H.P.Clark.

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