No. 10

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: Professor G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M., C.B.E.

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1960 - 1961

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BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society, the Sussex Archaeological Trust, and the South-Eastern Federation of Museums and Art Galleries

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EDITORIAL NOTE

During the Society's year which ended on October 14th 1961 four lectures were given which do not appear in this number of the *Transactions*; one by Mr. A. W. F. Tweedie, late Curator of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, on "The Natural History and Archaeology of Malaya"; one by Mr. Rupert Gunnis on "Unknown Westminster Abbey"; and two by Mr. G. P. Burstow, B.A., F.S.A. Mr. Burstow, who has addressed the Society more times than any other lecturer, illustrated his talks with his own coloured slides. Those he showed in "A trip to Greece" were a joy to behold; while in "Excavations at Ranscombe Iron Age Camp, the photographs were just as informative as diagrams and much more artistic. Colour photography, however, is so self-explanatory that the spoken word is reduced to a minimum; and as Mr. Burstow had no notes for his second lecture, it could not be published.

The Museum, Library, and Fieldwork sub-committee has had a busy and financially satisfactory year. In addition to the £25 received from Hastings Museum, with which a separate excavation fund has been opened, a member who wishes to remain anonymous, and to whom we are very grateful, gave to the Museum fund a like amount, which has virtually extinguished the bank overdraft.

Lecture delivered by Dr. R. van der Riet Wooley, F.R.S., Astronomer Royal on Friday February 5th 1960

"THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL GREENWICH OBSERVATORY"

The Society was privileged to hear the first lecture in Sussex to be given by the Astronomer Royal. Greenwich Observatory, said the lecturer, was founded by Charles II in 1675. For over a century the need for authoritative astronomy, to enable mariners to fix their location, had become acute. From the days of the Greek and Arab astronomers latitude

could be accurately gauged from the varying height of known stars in the sky; but to reach the Cape, safely, without knowing the longitude, it was necessary to follow the west coast of Africa, thence due west to Brazil, and along the South American coast, until the latitude of the Cape was reached, and followed eastward. King Charles founded the observatory primarily to fill this gap in our knowledge. Its promoters found a friend at court in Louise de Kerouaille, King Charles' Breton mistress, in whose following a Sire de St. Pierre claimed to have solved the problem; but the King appointed John Flamsteed his astronomer to conduct an observatory at Greenwich.

Flamsteed, a Derbyshire man, was good at his work, but too secretive. He would not disclose his results to such contemporaries as Halley (of comet fame) and Sir Isaac Newton. The King set up a commission of these two and Sir Hans Sloane to compel Flamsteed to do so. The Observatory records contain their complaints, and also of Flamsteed's dreams which show in Latin how unsympathetically he regarded Halley.

Astronomers Royal live long: Dr. Wooley being only the eleventh. Halley was the second, and among others came Maskelyne, who founded the Nautical Almanach, now supplemented by an Air Almanach. The astronomers inspired the clockmakers to work on making a clock which would not be affected by the roll of the sea. One Harrison won the prize of £15,000 for a chronometer which voyaged to the West Indies and back without gaining or losing more than one minute. So, at last, longitude could be accurately ascertained. In 1818 the Admiralty took charge of the observatory; but the astronomer's post at that time could not have been strenuous; for Pond, who held it, lived for long periods in Spain. But in Victorian times the responsibilities increased and, as the astronomer was then the only scientist in government employ, he was consulted on various extraneous questions. In Sir John Airey's day, about 1880, Greenwich time was established as the only recognised British time in all legal matters, and measurements of longitude throughout the world were based by all nations on the Greenwich meridian.

When Greenwich Observatory was built by Wren, the site was lofty and beautiful, in open country, and subject only to the river fogs of the Thames; but in the last two centuries the industrial spread of London has added 'smog' to fog. By the nineteen twenties Sir H. Spencer Jones, who had been Astronomer Royal in the clear skies of the Cape, was pressing

for a new site. After the late war, Herstmonceux Castle was for sale. It has proved an excellent choice; being largely protected from sea fogs by the Downs ending at Beachy Head. In 1959 from January to October six nights out of ten gave unclouded observation.

As to equipment, a defect of all early telescopes was chromatic variation showing red or blue at the edges. To overcome this in part, telescopes of great length were constructed; but in Victorian times two private owners developed telescopes with very large reflectors to multiply the light; which in the case even of Sirius is only one millionth of that of the Sun. The two were Sir William Herschell and Lord Ross. The latter's son, Parsons, the turbine inventor, was also a founder of the firm of Grubb and Parsons of Newcastle, which has just undertaken to complete a great new 100 inch telescope, the 'Sir Isaac Newton', to be erected at Herstmoncuex by 1965 at a cost of about £640,000. This will be larger than the great telescope at Mount Wilson, California.

Other improvements are in progress. Twenty-four students from universities now spend their summer at Herstmonceux each year. The historic castle can still be seen by visitors; but naturally most of the establishment is strictly reserved to scientists.

Lecture delivered by Miss Margery Weiner on Friday January 20th 1961

"THE FRENCH EXILES IN SUSSEX AND LONDON 1789 - 1815"

The lecturer, who has already made a name by her book on this subject, collected for this lecture much fresh material bearing on the reception of the exiles in Sussex. Of the 25,000 who came over, mainly in 1792, to escape the terrors of the French Revolution, the great majority landed in Sussex and Kent; and most of them stayed for 22 years in England. One evening in September 1792, 76 clergy arrived at Hastings: on another occasion 170 persons, mostly priests, we landed from packets and an open boat at Brighton: on a third, 300 Frenchmen were put ashore at Eastbourne: while Gibbon tells of 1,500 being landed at Dover within a week. Some English people found it hard to welcome their old foemen, and Papists at that; and "surely the women need not come".

Hastings fishermen, with centuries of fights at sea in their blood, were not always generous; and some charged 4/- to 5/-

a head for bringing them ashore from their ships. But on the whole charity and generosity prevailed. At Hastings, the Rev. William Whitear 'hospitably entertained' the 76 clergy after their stormy crossing from Dieppe: Lord Gage welcomed some at Firle: and at Eastbourne many of the exiles were "most hospitably received by the nobility and gentry". "It is the duty of every magistrate and gentleman", wrote the *Sussex Weekly Advertiser*, "to prevent the lower classes in this country from imposing on these poor fugitives. The exactions of the boatmen at Hastings last Wednesday were shameful in the extreme. Among British mariners we thought that such unjust and unfeeling wretches were not to be found."

Of all Sussex nobility and gentry, Lord Sheffield of Sheffield Park, was outstanding in the practical aid he gave to the émigrés. Not only did he take them into his own home, but lent his co-operation to almost every enterprise undertaken on their behalf. In this he was rivalled only by the Marquess of Buckingham. On Monday September 17th 1792 the local newspaper advertised a meeting at the Star Inn, Lewes (which stood on the site of the present Town Hall) for Thursday at 12 o'clock "of those desirous of promoting a hospitable reception of the unfortunate men who are cruelly driven from France and land on the coast of Sussex". The committee then appointed included Lord Sheffield, a Mr. Jackson of Hastings, Mr. Sneyd of Eastbourne, and Mr. Scott of Brighthelmstone. Their task was to arrange safe and unmolested conveyance to London, to ascertain the numbers landed on the Sussex coast, and to demonstrate the absurdity of the opinion that the numbers landed would raise the price of provisions. Agents for raising subscriptions were appointed in each large town in Sussex—Messrs. Tilden for Hastings. By November 19th £152-11-0 had been raised, "which does us great credit" wrote Lord Sheffield. Most of the émigrés went to London by stage coach, chaise, cart, or waggon. They all brought a deep dread of the English highwayman. Some few stayed in Lewes and Arundel until the Aliens' Act required them to leave the coastal areas. English hosts, though well-meaning, were not all discriminating in their choice of suitable entertainment for the foreign guests. Thus Mrs. Fitzherbert, at Brighton, thought the best way of distracting Mme. de Noailles after her gruelling experiences was to take her to see a cricket match between Middlesex and Brighton. It is recorded that the Prince of Wales' band played the whole time, and that Brighton won. In the evening Mrs. Fitzherbert paraded her guest around among the curious spectators. We have not space to follow the

exiles, as did Miss Weiner, to London; where they were allowed the bare subsistence of 1/- a day each. The late king's eldest brother was not permitted to live in London, but in country houses generously provided by Lord Buckingham. The next brother was financed in maintaining a meagre court in houses in the Baker Street area. It had become the habit for English families to adopt a pet émigré; and when the exiles went back to France they left as friends leaving friends. Some had attempted to learn a trade, *e.g.* making straw hats, but their earlier lives hardly fitted them for such tasks. Yet they worked hard. Thus a M. Raymond advertised his French academy at School Hill, Lewes, and a graduate of Orelans University taught at Brighton Grammar School. Typically the best was the Breton, Auguste de la Ferronays, gentleman in waiting to the Claimant's nephew, the Duc de Berri. He came down to Hastings once and, doubtless from Fairlight cliff, wrote to his wife a touching account of "seeing the coast of his beloved France: and for how much longer yet will that gulf separate me from my country, the unique object of all my desires".

They nearly all went home in 1814 - 15; of the very few families which remained the best known is that of Mallet du Pin, which produced a minister under Asquith and, in our generation, our neighbour at Wittersham, Sir Victor Mallet, lately our Ambassador to Italy.

Lecture delivered by Lieut.-Comdr. G. W. R. Harrison, R.N.V.R. on Friday February 17th 1961

"EARLY HERALDRY AND THE ROYAL ARMS"

The lecturer, having briefly recapitulated his first lecture to the Society in 1960, went on to discuss and illustrate Seals, and the interesting question whether, and to what extent heraldic seals preceded marks on shields. The earliest heraldic seal is dated 1135, some 50 years or more before true Armory came into use.

The lecturer then dealt with Rolls of Arms and their great value in providing us with evidence of early armorial practice and language; the joining together of coats of arms by demidiation, impalement and quartering; the Garter stalls at St. George's Chapel, Windsor; the Tudor and later visitations of the Heralds to authorise the use of Coats-of-Arms; Augmentations, and their historical interest; Corporate Heraldry,

which is widely in use today; the story of the Royal Arms, and its several changes in design; Badges and their use; the heraldry of the very interesting sword belt found in the tomb of the Infante Fernando de la Cerda, eldest son of Alfonso X of Castile, dated 1275; modern examples of heraldic art, and some Sussex examples of Coats-of-Arms.

Lecture delivered by Mr. J. G. Hurst on Friday March 3rd 1961

" LOST MEDIEVAL VILLAGES "

The lecturer, an Inspector of Ancient Monuments, is also a founder member of the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group, which has listed some 2,000 of such villages which have been reduced to two houses or less.

One cause of desertion of villages, said the lecturer, was deliberate destruction, as when William the Conqueror created the New Forest, an example followed by other leading Normans. The Cistercians, also, when planting their abbeys in the 12th century, decided they required complete quiet, and therefore removed adjacent villages.

Contrary to general opinion, very few villages became deserted as a result of the Black Death; but from 1300 to 1480 a deterioration of climate and a fall in the price of corn rendered many villages uneconomical in areas of marginal utility, while the increase in the Continental price of wool gave great incentive to the production of sheep in broad acres with a minimum of men in control. This was the largest cause of destruction of complete villages. Later there followed, in the 18th century, the building of great country houses with broad vistas. This led to the destruction of whole villages; though in some cases the landlord rebuilt the village some distance away. Examples of this are at Wimpole, Hunts., and Milton Abbas, Dorset. The lecturer showed many pictures of deserted sites; and the air photographs, in particular, revealed the shallow outlines of the roads and houses of a pattern repeated in many parts of the country. By careful excavation, layer by layer, it is possible to discern the structure of successive houses. Thus at Wharram Percy, in the Yorkshire chalk wolds, six successive houses on one site could be identified: of the 13th century, roughly joined timber and wattles interspersed with cob (clay); 14th century rough stone walling; 15th century more accurately framed timber and cob; and 16th century, when farming had become more prosperous,

half-timbered houses as we know them, with animal sheds separated from the house. These investigations were of the utmost importance, for they gave us for the first time some knowledge of the long-decayed homes of the villein or small farmer population of the middle ages. The picture was of a low long rectangular house with a sleeping room at one end, a living room, with a hole in the roof to emit smoke, in the centre, and a byre at the other end, all under one roof. This form of house has been thought to be Celtic because it survived in Wales into the last century; but in fact it is the standard peasant house of Northern Europe, found throughout Denmark, the Anglo-Saxon homeland, and the Low Countries. Special reference was made to local deserted villages such as Manxeye and Northeye in Pevensey Marsh, and Hangleton, where the spread of Hove has brought the 12th century church back again into active use. There the population fell from 50 households at Domesday to two in 1428; but now numbers some 9,000 persons, nearly all newcomers since 1935.

Notes: Buxted provides a Sussex example of the removal of a complete village. In the early 19th century it lay around the manor house and church. Lord Liverpool forced its evacuation by refusing to repair any of the houses; and the village is now nearly a mile away on the main road.

Mr. Hurst visited Manxeye a few hours before he gave his lecture. He remarked that the main street was quite apparent, as also the site of the church about 300 yards to the south of the village. Manxeye can be seen close to the east side of the Pevensey-Wartling road, 1½ miles from Pevensey.—Ed.

Lecture delivered by Mr. Ian Anstruther on Friday March 17th 1961

"THE HISTORY OF THE LAMBS OF BEAUPORT"

Some months earlier Mr. Ian Anstruther had visited Battle and Hastings in search of information about the Lambs, because of their connection with the Scottish Earls of Eglinton, whose family history he was writing. With this limited approach he modestly claimed to be opening a discussion rather than lecturing; so this account includes some facts contributed to the discussion by members of the audience.

Before 1766 the property now known as Beauport Park was called Beacon Hill; but in that year it was bought by Sir James Murray, who renamed it after the village of Beauport near Quebec, where he had landed and fought as one of Wolfe's Brigadiers in 1759. Thereafter he became Governor of Quebec and won the respect and confidence of all, British and French. His association with this neighbourhood stems from his marriage, in 1748, with Cordelia Collier, a Hastings heiress. He gave to Hastings Corporation a shield, charged with the arms of the city, taken from the gate of Quebec. Hastings returned this shield to Quebec in 1925, and received in return a replica, which now hangs in the Mayor's Parlour.

Upon Murray's death in 1794, Beauport was sold to James Bland Burges, whose father George had captured the Young Pretender's standard at Culloden. In 1794 a rich London merchant John Lamb had left funds producing £6,000 a year to James Burges, who at that time was Pitt's Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In that capacity Burges had to deal with the problems raised by the influx in that year of several thousand French émigrés. He had a French wife, the daughter of the Baron de St. Hippolite, and his own family sprang remotely from a Flemish ancestor. His present descendant, Mr. Singleton, holds a document which implies that the name is a transposition of Bruges, and suggests that the original Burges was a Flemish merchant who settled in London in the 14th century. In spite of this, Burges was very unsympathetic to the unfortunate strangers; and Miss Weiner's book tells us that he wrote "Fools here open subscriptions which I understand our own poor take amiss . . . Not one, except a few harmless old women, deserves anything; for the whole class were Jacobins and persecutors so long as they were in power." However, he adds, "The bishops and clergy are compassionated and respected." Thus Lord Sheffield's and Sir John Eardley Wilmot's charitable organisations in Sussex and London found no supporter in the new owner of Beauport Park. James Burges left the government about 1796, receiving a baronetcy and the office of Knight Marshall of the Royal Household, deputy of the Earl Marshall. This office, created in 1541 but in abeyance between 1714 and 1797, empowered the holder to settle in the Marshalsea Court disputes between members of the King's Court and others arising within 12 miles of the royal residence. As Knight Marshall, Sir James Burges figured prominently at the coronation of George IV.

Sir James' son Charles was born in 1785. He went to Cambridge, but made no mark except as a lady-killer. He had £12,000 a year of his own, and when, in 1816 he married the widowed Countess of Eglinton, she brought him a further £28,000 a year. Much of this fabulous fortune was dissipated at Geneva and Nice where Charles concurrently had fine mansions. His wife had been born the daughter of an Earl of Eglinton, whose younger cousin and successor she had married. When, on his death, she married Charles Burges, she elected to be called by her maiden name, Lady Mary Montgomerie. In 1821 James and Charles changed their name to Lamb in honour of their benefactor. It should be noted that Sir Charles and his Lady Mary were no relation to the Charles and Mary Lamb of the Essays of Elia or the Tales from Shakespeare. Their son, also Charles, with a passion for the medieval, started the collection of armour frequently attributed to his father who outlived him. The younger Charles, to his credit, married Anne Grey, the handsome daughter of a Chichester shopkeeper with whom he had an affair. Some years later he died in Ayrshire in poor circumstances, a dependant on the Eglintons. His son (and Anne's), Archibald, succeeded to the baronetcy; and it was he who gave the site for the church at Higher Telham. His son, Sir Charles, died in obscurity in 1953, the last of a line which, although endowed with great charm and beginning with great wealth, left no mark upon their times either nationally or locally. Yet there were a few in the audience who remembered the last two baronets with affection as kind neighbours, generous to their dependants, some of whom appeared to share their handsome features.

VISIT TO SMALLHYTHE AND TENTERDEN

on Saturday May 13th 1961

For the eleventh year in succession, the first meeting of the season was held in fine weather. With a shade temperature of 76, the day was even warmer than at the first meetings of 1953 (Herstmonceux), 1957 (Etchingham), or 1960 (Marsh churches). The 44 members who attended assembled at Ellen Terry's cottage at Smallhythe. This 15th century cottage was formerly the residence of the harbourmaster, and his private dock can be seen in the garden. Such a statement appears absurd; as Smallhythe now faces green meadows, and is about 8 miles from the sea. But as late as 1509 the green meadows were a channel nearly a mile wide separating the Isle of Oxney from the mainland; and so maritime was the locality that in that year permission was granted to the inhabitants to bury shipwrecked sailors whose bodies were cast ashore on the beach. Smallhythe with its quay was the port of Tenterden, a subsidiary Cinque Port and "limb" of Rye.

Members rambled round the Ellen Terry Museum, examining the hundreds of exhibits associated with the famous actress, who lived her last years in the cottage, and died there.

The Tudor Rose at Tenterden, where members had tea, is an interesting building of the 16th century, if not older.

Tenterden church, which was described by Colonel Mead, one of the churchwardens, bears the unusual dedication to St. Mildred, niece of a Saxon King, and 2nd Abbess of Minster in Thanet. It is of 13th century foundation, with a 15th century tower 100 feet high; from whose summit, it is said, 100 other churches and the coast of France can be seen. The completely shingled roof is possibly the only surviving example in England; and the bill for supplying 10,000 wooden tiles in the 16th century still exists. The church interior, however, is not remarkable, except, perhaps, for the panelled barrel ceiling, which unfortunately, owing to the placing of the windows and lights, can be properly seen neither by day nor by night. The font dates from the 15th century, but all the stained glass windows are modern. One window was erected to the Rev. Philip Ward, the vicar of Tenterden who married Horatia, daughter of Nelson and Lady Hamilton.

Tenterden is the traditional home of Caxton, though evidence is lacking that he was actually born there.

VISIT TO CRANBROOK AND HAWKHURST

on Wednesday May 31st 1961

Cranbrook Church

The party of 41 members was met by the Vicar, recently returned from a 12 months' "exchange of pulpits" in the U.S.A., who pointed out the objects of interest, and produced the church register dating from the reign of Elizabeth I. The church is certainly of Saxon foundation, being dated to St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, who died in 998, and mentioned in a document dated about 1070. No traces of Saxon work, however, have been discovered, and the first church may have been of wood. The earliest work, at the west end, is of the 12th century; and the church was thereafter enlarged and improved in each century. The introduction of cloth making in the reign of Edward III, which brought considerable prosperity and an increased population to the town, is reflected in the erection of the grand tower, and the start of a rebuilding programme, which by the middle of the 16th century had produced the beautiful church which is seen today. The interior is light and spacious; and the Tudor arches of the south arcade are a noteworthy feature. They date from 1520, the north arcade being older by 100 years. The church contains a most unusual dipping pool for total immersion at baptism.

The Cloth Hall

This is the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Rathbone who received and welcomed the party. The house, a tile-hung L-shaped building, the earliest parts of which date from the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth I, was originally the home and store of the cloth bailiff of Coursehorn Manor. At that time the weaving of cloth was a cottage industry; and tenants of the manor brought their cloth to the Cloth Hall, whence it was sent by pack mule to London. According to local tradition, when Queen Elizabeth visited Cranbrook she rode the 2½ miles to Coursehorn over a continuous strip of carpet woven by the tenants. On the decline of weaving, the house was put to other uses, and by 1925 had become two 4-roomed cottages and a cart shed, all in very bad repair. The building was restored and extended with such skill that the new blends perfectly with the old. The original water supply, a pump drawing from a rainwater tank, is still in working order, though now seldom used.

The Church of St. Laurence, Hawkhurst

The Manor of Wye, of which Hawkhurst is part, was given to Battle Abbey as part of its endowment by the Conqueror; and it is reasonable to suppose that if no church already existed, one was soon built. It is mentioned by Henry de Aylesford, 13th Abbott of Battle, in a charter dated 1285. The great east window, which has been described as one of the finest pieces of architecture in the country, has a wonderful curvilinear design in the tracery. It was built about 1350. On August 13th 1944 a German flying bomb fell in the churchyard, and did so much damage that the church was put out of use for 13 years. Fortunately the tracery of the window escaped serious damage, though all the glass was lost. Both porches have upper rooms, one being the muniments room and the other the treasury, where the Custos of Battle Abbey received his rents. The font dates from 1450, and there are 5 brasses, one being a palimpsest.

VISIT TO GOODWOOD AND BOXGROVE PRIORY

on Wednesday June 14th 1961

Goodwood

After a drive of 2½ hours on a warm sunny day, the 35 members who attended arrived for lunch at the Waterbeach Hotel just outside the main entrance to the house. Goodwood appears in Domesday Book as Godinwood; which may mean that it formed part of the estates of Earl Godwin, father of King Harold. There was apparently some building on the site in the 12th century. In 1720, Charles Lennox, son of King Charles II and Louise de Quérouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth and D'Aubigny, bought the old Gothic structure then standing, pulled it down, and erected a hunting box. His grandson, in 1800, proposed to replace this by a very ambitious building; but finding funds insufficient had the idea of building an octagon, with towers at the angles, which would enclose the old hunting box. Even this building, designed by James Wyatt, was not completed; and the present house, home of the 9th Duke of Richmond and 3rd of Gordon (9th in descent from Charles II) consists of three sides of an octagon and four towers, with the old hunting box behind. It was described by Augustus Hare as "quite without beauty". Members were allowed to roam at will in the apartments open to the

public, and were able to view at leisure the fine portraits by Vandyke, Lely, Kneller, Reynolds, Gainsborough, Romney, and Lawrence, as well as the exquisite historical furniture. On the staircase hangs the famous group of Charles I and his family by Lely; while in the Tapestry Drawing Room was seen Frances Stuart as Minerva, by the same artist. The figure of Britannia on the reverse of the penny was taken from this portrait of "La belle Stuart".

Boxgrove Priory

In the absence of the Vicar, members were met and shown round by Cmdr. C. V. Robinson, O.B.E., R.N., one of the churchwardens. The Priory of Bossgrave, as it was then called, was founded in 1117 by Robert de Haia of Halnaker as a cell of the Benedictine Abbey of Lessay near Coutances. At the Dissolution, Thomas West, Lord de la Warr, pleaded with Thomas Cromwell not to destroy the church and buildings. He had no success; the revenue of £3,000 was seized, and today the parish church consists of the choir, transepts, and tower of the Priory church. Outside may be seen part of one wall and one arch of the arcade of the nave, the entrance doorway and two windows of the Chapter House which form a row of beautiful little Norman arches, and the undercroft of the Guest House. All the rest has disappeared.

Dedicated to St. Mary and St. Blaise (Bishop of Sebaste, Armenia, and martyred in 316), the church interior is very striking with its marble columns in the choir, clustered in the French fashion, its arcades of pointed arches grouped two by two under round arches, and its vaulted roof. The latter, constructed with "double bay" and not square vaulting, and covered with 16th century fresco, may be unique in England. In the south aisle are some typical Norman arches, and in the Clerestory the arches are Early English supported on slender Purbeck pillars. The whole church, in fact, is illustrative of the transition period. There are very fine 15th century oak ceilings and screens forming galleries in both transepts. Their purpose has not been determined. The High Altar, and those in the chapels of St. Blaise, St. Catherine, and St. John are all of stone; having been thrown out at the Reformation and since recovered. In the chancel is a very beautiful renaissance chantry or shrine, built by Thomas de la Warr in 1532. It is covered with armorial bearings.

Seals of religious houses have an odd way of turning up in unexpected places. The great seal of Boxgrove, now in the British Museum, was found by a workman during the con-

struction of the railway; not as dramatic a resurrection, perhaps, as of that of Whitby (or was it Jarrow?) which was dredged from the sea-bottom by a fisherman's net!

Barely a fortnight after this visit, some members of our Society actually visited Lessaye Abbey with the *Souvenir Normand*, whose chairman, Mr. Roger Frewen, presented our chairman, Mr. Chevallier, with a charming brochure about the abbey for our library. Lessaye Abbey, built about 1060, was largely destroyed in 1944; but has now been beautifully restored, so that we can see how a Benedictine abbey church, such as that of Battle Abbey, built about the same time, looked when new.

VISIT TO SHEFFIELD PARK AND FLETCHING

on Wednesday June 28th 1961

Fletching is celebrated in history in several diverse ways—for Lord Sheffield, Gibbon, an old Sussex proverb, the passage of the Barons' army, and the Piltdown skull.

The party of 27 members were able to see on the way to Sheffield Park the exterior of a medieval gem, the mid-fifteenth century Dale Hame Cottage. Sheffield Park, being now the offices of a Limited Company, could not be conveniently visited; but the famous gardens, a National Trust property, charmed all by their beauty, in their setting of four lakes and noble trees. Here lived Lord Sheffield, mentioned in Miss Weiner's lecture in this number as having been an outstanding benefactor to the French refugees in 1792. Edward Gibbon, author of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire", was his friend; and on the latter's death in 1794 he buried him in the Sheffield family vault in Fletching church, where his monument bears an epitaph by Dr. Parr. Fletching church is of the 13th century. On an altar tomb in the south transept is a fine brass of Sir Walter Dalyngruge and his lady 1395, a relation of the builder of Bodiam Castle.

Fletching is an attractive old-fashioned country village with timber houses interspersed with trees; and one wonders if the inhabitants really merited the old proverb which was made up about them: "The people of Fletching live by snapping and ketching."

About May 8th 1264 the Barons' army of about 5,000 men, under Simon de Montfort marched into Fletching from London and encamped about the village. The soldiers with large white crosses sewn on their tunics must have presented a strange sight as they moved about in the fields. At dawn on May 14th they broke camp and marched 8 miles to Offham Hill, Lewes, where they gave battle to Henry III and defeated him.

Close to the inn called "The Piltdown Man" in Fletching parish lies the now disused quarry in which, in 1911, the "Piltdown skull" was "found"; but of that notorious archaeological forgery the less said, perhaps, the better.

VISIT TO WESTERHAM

on Wednesday July 26th 1961

This Kentish village, home of Wolfe and Winston Churchill, was visited by 36 members on a warm afternoon. The first call was at Quebec House, a National Trust property; which, when known as Spiers, was the home of Colonel Edward Wolfe, 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards and 1st Regiment of Marines, and his wife Henrietta Thompson. It was, however, at the Vicarage that their son James, on January 2nd 1727, began his life which was to end, only 32 years later, at the moment of victory on the Plains of Abraham. Quebec House is a museum of Wolfe's personal belongings, his equipment, camp kit, and the ornate dressing gown in which his body was wrapped for transport to England. There are also many contemporary sketches and engravings connected with his career and campaign in Canada; as well as furniture and table-ware belonging to his parents.

The Woulfes, as the name was originally spelt, were a Welsh family, which emigrated to the south-west of Ireland in the fifteenth century. Two hundred years later, George and Francis Woulfe, Catholic Irishmen, defended Limerick impartially, first against Ormonde, and then against Cromwell. At the sack of Limerick, Cromwell executed Francis; but George escaped to Yorkshire and turned Protestant. His son was a soldier, as well as his grandson, the father of the victor of Quebec. There are thus no Wolfe tombs in the church, as the family only lived at Westerham from 1726 to 1738, and James was buried at Greenwich. He is, however, commemorated in the church by a stone tablet, a modern bronze

plaque, and a stained glass window, and on the triangular green outside, by a spirited bronze statue. The church, mostly 14th century with a 13th century tower, contains a fine collection of 16th century brasses and an almost unique 14th century timber spiral staircase in the tower.

Pitt's Cottage, where members had tea, is a marvellously timbered Tudor building; so called because the Earl of Chatham used to stay there frequently; though it was not, apparently, his home.

Squerryes, the last call, though built during the reign of Charles II, is a typical example of the William and Mary style of manor house. The curious name derives from the de Squerie family who lived there in the reign of Henry III. In 1657 William Leech was the owner, who married a relation of Evelyn the diarist, who records under August 5th of that year: "We went to Squirries, Westerham, to visit my cousin Leech, daughter to Sir John Evelyn; a pretty finely wooded and well watered seate, the stables good, the house old but convenient." Squerryes is still finely wooded and well watered (the River Darenth rises in the lake); but the old house was pulled down and replaced by the present mansion in 1681. In 1731 it was bought by John Warde, whose descendant, Major J. R. O'B. Warde, still lives there. John Warde's second son George, a year older than James Wolfe, was his great friend, and acted as executor to Wolfe's mother, who left him her husband's and son's commissions, letters, some personal belongings, and the only portrait of her son for which he ever sat. All these were seen in the Wolfe room. The remainder of the house contains a wealth of 17th and 18th century furniture and pictures, which, except the family portraits, are largely of the Dutch school. It was in the garden of Squerryes that Wolfe received his first commission in the First Regiment of Marines, at the age of 14; and the spot is marked by a small 18th century monument with inscription.

VISIT TO SOUTHOVER, LEWES

on Wednesday September 13th 1961

This, the last meeting of the summer season, was attended by 29 members. They were met at St. Pancras Priory, previously visited on May 12th 1954, by Mr. Emil Godfrey, who very kindly gave the history and description of the ruins. The realization that they were being guided by such an eminent authority enabled members to brave the very unpleasant weather conditions; for it rained the whole time.

The Rev. D. G. Matthews again showed St. John the Baptist's church and the tomb of Gundrada; recalling the visit of 7 years ago. Tea was taken at Southover Grange; after which members visited Anne of Cleve's House, where many new exhibits have appeared. One room is now devoted entirely to carved stonework from St. Pancras Priory. Descriptions of all the buildings visited appeared in the *Transactions* for 1954 and 1955.

THE RAPE OF BRAMBER

The visit of the Society to Steyning, in August 1960, suggests that it may be opportune to recall some more of the history and prehistory of this interesting neighbourhood. Bramber, near by, was the capital of one of the six rapes into which Sussex was divided. This division is quite unique; and seems to have been carried out rather late in Saxon times—perhaps by Canute, or even by Edward the Confessor. William the Conqueror adopted the system, putting a reliable Norman in charge of each rape. William de Braose was given the Rape of Bramber. He hailed from Briouze near William's birthplace Falaise. In Scotland his family name was early corrupted to Bruce. The Braoses were in possession of Bramber in 1264 and, like all other holders of the Saxon rapes, fought on the King's side at the Battle of Lewes. Later it passed to the Mowbrays, who became Dukes of Norfolk in 1397, so that the rape was virtually merged with that of Arundel. The castle which occupied an isolated chalk mound, oval in shape, with maximum length 187 yards and breadth 93 yards, was razed to the ground by the Parliamentary army in 1641, the nave of the castle chapel alone remaining to form the present church, with a new chancel formed under the tower.

Two miles to the west of Steyning rises Chanctonbury Ring, and three miles south-west Cissbury Ring. Both were great hill-contour Iron Age forts built about B.C. 250, by invaders from the Marne Area east of Paris. Cissbury is also

the site of the well-known Neolithic flint mines, operated fifteen hundred years earlier, about B.C. 1750. Chanctonbury Ring, on the other hand, includes the site of a Romano-British temple, a stone and wooden building, 20 feet square, which flourished between A.D. 250 and 400. In Steyning parish the most striking antiquity from prehistoric times dates from halfway between the two extremes mentioned, namely in the late Bronze Age about B.C. 700—about the date of Hezekiah in Judah, or the early Olympic Games in Greece. High on Steyning Round Hill, a mile south-west of the town, boys of Steyning Grammar School found, in 1949, fragments of urns standing upside down, their open ends covering cremated human bones. Guided by their headmaster and Mr. G. P. Burstow, they soon uncovered parts of 24 such urns. This was a cemetery of the Urnfield People, who spread in many directions from a cradle area in Switzerland. They appear to have come to Britain from Normandy, and several of their urnfield cemeteries have been found in counties further west; but this is the only one so far discovered in Sussex. The Urnfield People are of interest to our Society because the very beautiful curved trumpet, recorded as found at Battle prior to 1783 and since lost, is attributed to them. They are thought to have been the first people to bring Celtic speech to Britain, in fact the first of the Gauls. C.T.C.

A ROUNDHEAD ARSENAL

If we leave Sedlescombe on the Brede road, turn left to pass Jacob's Farm, and then right, the narrow by-road crosses a flat valley. To the left (north) can be seen the high embankment of the Hastings Corporation reservoir, beneath the waters of which Powdermill Farm has disappeared, and to the east a solitary cottage inhabited by Mrs. Apps. In topographical parlance, we have arrived at National Grid 51/800191; and, believe it or not, at the site of one of the two arsenals (the other being at Horsmonden) where nearly all the guns of the Parliamentary Army in the Civil War were cast. Today, nothing whatever can be seen to suggest the hive of activity which this secluded valley must have presented about the middle of the 17th century. The fields on both sides of the road, however, have an uneven surface; and it was while ploughing the one on the south side in November 1960 that Mr. Harmer of Bramshill Farm, Telham, turned up a piece of a cannon, 20 inches long, 8 inches wide, and 4 inches thick, which weighed about a hundredweight. He kindly brought it in to the Museum. The fragment can be identified as a 101

degree segment of the breech end of a Minnion; a gun which was 6 feet 6 inches long, weighed 9 cwt. 1 qtr. 14 lbs., had a calibre of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and fired a shot weighing 5.2 lbs. The gun had probably burst on testing; as it is recorded that, for this purpose, they were fired from one side of the valley into the bank on the other side.

Brede furnace which had operated since Tudor times came, in the early part of the 17th century, into possession of the Sackville family. The outbreak of the Civil War found its furnaces and forges in full working order and controlled by Mr. John Browne, the King's Gunfounder, who also controlled the furnaces at Horsmonden. The furnaces, of course, were deep in Parliamentary territory; and it was inevitable that they would be used to supply the Parliamentary army with artillery. Mr. John Browne obligingly remained in control, and was therefore responsible for casting nearly all the Roundhead guns used in the war. He died in 1652; and it says much for the clemency of Charles II that he appointed Browne's grandson to be King's Gunfounderat the Restoration.

It is recorded that Brede furnace also cast bullets; and Mrs. Apps has kindly presented to the Museum a block of lead which was found in the field near her house. In size and shape it resembles a cake of kitchen soap; which suggests that the lead was put up in this portable form for conveyance, possibly by packhorse, from the distant mines. A powdermill was later set up in the same valley near the farm of that name, but that is another story. C.H.L.

FINDS AND FIELDWORK

At the beginning of 1961, it was decided:

(1) To investigate the earthwork lying to the north of Bodian Castle and partly occupied by Court Lodge and its farm buildings, known locally as "The Gun Garden" or "Gun Battery Field".

(2) To investigate the site of the Old Manor House of Bodiam if time permitted.

(3) To obtain more information about the course of the Rochester-Hastings Roman road, between Sandhurst Cross and the Rother at Bodiam.

1. The earthwork known as the "Gun Garden"

Beginning on March 30th, trenches were opened. They consisted of a main trench driven through the ditch and embankment of the earthwork as far as a circular depressed

area in the middle, and four small subsidiary trenches running north and south across the southern edge of the embankment. In all these subsidiary trenches, at a depth of between three feet and three feet six inches, the foundation stones of a narrow roughly-made wall were exposed. There were no traces of mortar; which suggests that they were built as a dry foundation for wooden walls. One definite post hole found supports this view; and there were two others which may have been caused by a later intrusion. The main trench through the ditch and embankment made it clear that the ditch had never been intended as a means of defence, as it was much too narrow and shallow. In this trench, at the edge of the embankment, wall foundations were again found, confirming the theory that a wall must have run due east and west along the southern edge of the embankment. Continuing this trench northwards, two floors were exposed; an upper one consisting of smallish stones and gravel, and a lower one composed of much larger nodules. Both these floors petered out eventually on reaching an outcrop of sandstone which sloped southwards. That a building or buildings of some sort had been erected on the earthwork is proved by the mass of tiles found throughout the excavation, as also quantities of charcoal and ash. It was hoped that the main trench, on reaching the central depressed area, might afford some definite evidence of the origin and use of the site; but, except for a few pieces of late 13th century pottery, and a piece of thick bronze, showing the lip of what must have been a large bowl, nothing of importance was recovered. In the most westerly of the subsidiary trenches was found a hearth containing yellowish firebricks. These have been identified as Dutch, and probably early 14th century. As the pasture was required for cattle, excavation had to be terminated; but sufficient evidence was obtained to arrive at the following conclusions:

(*a*) That the earthwork had nothing to do with the Roman occupation of this area.

(*b*) That it was not intended for any defensive purpose.

(*c*) That in the late 13th or early 14th century, there was on the earthwork a building or collection of buildings, probably of timber and wattle, on a foundation of two or three courses of unmortared stones.

Nothing was found to suggest that the earthwork had ever been a "gun garden"; and in fact this is most unlikely. In 1483 Richard III ordered the castle to be seized from Sir Thomas Lewknor; and two months later a Yorkist castellan

was in charge. A bombard of that period was found in the moat; but ordnance of that type would have been mounted closer than 400 yards, the distance of the earthwork, even supposing that there was a siege. In the Great Civil War, there was no fighting at Bodiam: it was in Parliamentary territory, and the castle, like others not required by the New Model Army, was slighted. A suggestion on the use of the site will be put forward later.

2. The Old Manor House of Bodiam

At the Conquest, the Rape of Hastings and 108 manors were conferred on William de Ow (or Eu), son of Robert, Count of Eu in Normandy. Among the feudatories of the latter was one Osbert or Osborn, who is said in the Battle Abbey Chronicle to have been the son of Hugo de Ow, and who is entered in Domesday Book as "holding of the Manor of Werst (Ewhurst) one hide and three virgates (roods) in Bodeham, and there was the Hall". By 1154 the Manor had grown in importance; for Richard de Bodiam, grandson of Osbert, is shown as holding the manor, amounting to four knights fees, or 2,560 acres, including a park (the name and site still survive in Bodiam Park, Park Farm and South Park). It is difficult to find anything good to say about the site of the Hall, except that there was plenty of water available. It lay in the bottom of the valley to the north of the Court Lodge ridge, near the right bank of the Kent Ditch.

Here is a small quadrangular plot of ground, surrounded by a small moat which used to be fed by a small stream which ran from the Kent Ditch; but which is now filled in to make an entrance to a hop field. It must have been a place of damp mists and liable to flooding. From a defensive point of view it was commanded by, and within bowshot range of the northern slopes of the Court Lodge ridge; and the moat must have been an inconsiderable obstacle. A very modest and unpretentious site for the Lords of Bodiam.

Early in June we started the excavation of this site; and were rewarded almost immediately by finding, at a depth of about 9 inches, the foundations of narrow walls, roughly made of unmortared stones. Following these, we unearthed the outlines of a room, and, to the east of it, what is apparently a corridor running north and south. To the south of this corridor we laid bare an area bounded on three sides by wall footings. The fourth side is not yet excavated. Within this area was a cache of pieces of bronze and copper, some of which were of considerable thickness, curved, and heavy. Some were

thin strips, and some showed traces of fusion. It was a fragmentary collection; and as there was also a mass of charcoal, cinder, and black ash, and what appeared to be evidence of at least two furnaces, it is reasonable to suppose that the place was some kind of foundry. Another curious find was a quantity of tiles laid out in serried ranks, each row overlapping the next. On some of them a high glaze showed here and there. Over the whole area exposed to date were fallen tiles and slates in profusion. Pieces of late 13th century pottery, showing a brown and green glaze, sometimes streaked with black, were recovered in small quantities, together with some very corroded iron, and some yellow "fire bricks" like those found at the Court Lodge earthwork.

Indeed, in a number of ways, there was a striking similarity between these two sites: the rough stone walling, the quantities of tiles, the yellow bricks, the types of pottery fragments, and a ruthless robbing of both sites which suggested that they had been deliberately despoiled. For a possible explanation we have to turn to 1385, when Sir Edward Dalingridge, who held the manor, received a Royal Licence to crenellate his Hall "for the defence of the adjacent country, and the resistance to our enemys". The enemy in this case was the French; who in 1377 had burned the town of Rye. Such a licence is unusual; and to qualify for it the King's Commissioners must have inspected the Hall to see if it fulfilled requirements. It is impossible to conceive that the old Manor Hall of Domesday could have done so; whereas a Hall on the Court Lodge earthwork, though out of bowshot of the river bank, would have had an extended view of the river and its crossings; and would have been much more favourably placed for defence. The suggestion is therefore put forward that at some time between 1150 and 1250 the old Manor House of Bodiam was demolished and another hall was built on the earthwork. This was the hall visited by the Commissioners, who recommended its crenellation; but Sir Edward preferred to build the present castle on the river bank. The intermediate hall on the earthwork would be demolished in turn, and everything of value taken away and incorporated in the new structure; which would account for the robbing of both former sites. Much remains to be done at the Old Manor House site; and, until the whole ground plan has been exposed, any report must be of a general nature. Eventually a full description of the whole field work carried out, together with photographs and plans, will be available in the library of the Society.

J.D.H.

3. The Rochester - Hastings Roman Road

The two points at which this road was found near Bodiam Church in 1960 suggested that it ran straight from there to the Castle; so a trench was opened on March 31st 1961 at a point 130 yards south-east of Court Lodge (Nat. Grid 51/784260) across a trough or hollow, which runs down the hill past the "Platform", on that line. The road surface was found at a depth varying from 1 foot 4 inches to 2 inches. The road lay in the trough, into which it fitted, so that there was no overspill. It was 20 feet wide, and had an average thickness of 18 inches in the middle; but, because it was laid in the trough, it tapered to nothing at the edges. The metalling consisted of fairly large pieces of sandstone and ironstone grouted with clay. An iron pipe, laid to supply water in 1905 to Court Lodge, crossed the road under the metalling, which had been carefully replaced after laying it. Under the metalling near the middle of the road was found a small piece of the rim of a native buff-coloured jar of the Roman period. Under the road metal proper was a bed of much larger stones, averaging 3 or 4 pounds in weight and 6 inches long, quite loosely packed in the subsoil material, sandy clay. They were of many types: sandstone, ironstone, a rich form of iron ore, shell-bearing limestone, the so-called "Bethersden Marble" and "Pudding stone". A circular formation of stones under the middle of the road suggested a rough drain. Below this bed, which was 1 foot 8 inches thick, greyish silt filled the remainder of the hollow.

In August, some Bodiam boys reported outcrops of iron ore in the banks of two streams near Bodiam Mill. Examination proved that they marked the crossing places of the road. At the first stream, 200 yards south of Bodiam Mill, the road crossed only 9 feet downstream from the existing bridge. It now lies 4 feet below ground level, and evidently had a total width of about 26 feet and a thickness of 2 feet. It was composed of compacted iron cinder. At the second stream, 130 yards north-east of Bodiam Mill, the crossing place, again 9 feet downstream from the bridge, is similar but not so well defined. A straight line between these two crossing places was seen to cross the Kent Ditch where there are no trees; and at that point, 60 yards downstream from the Mill Bridge, the crossing place was marked by iron cinder in the banks of the stream. The course of the diversion in Sussex has therefore now been traced; and there remains only half a mile in Kent still to be found.

In the last number of the *Transactions* it was stated that the overall alignment of the road on a bearing of 199 degrees held from Sponden to Cripps' Corner. While that is roughly correct, it did not seem to be an entirely satisfactory solution; so a new approach was made; and the result shed some light on the methods of Roman surveyors. On arrival at the point where the course already surveyed reached the crest of the hill near Sandhurst Church, the most distant conspicuous point to the south which the surveyor would see would be Stapley Beacon (Beacon Farm, Staplecross). For greater accuracy, the Latitude and Longitude of these two points was found, and the bearing of one from the other, instead of being measured, was calculated. The result was 185 degrees 55 minutes. In a similar manner the average bearing of the straight part of the road, south of the Rother, was calculated from three known points on it—the place where it was exposed near Bodiam Station in 1960, Brasses Farm, and Staplecross crossroads. This worked out at 186 degrees 8 minutes. The astonishing closeness of these results (they differ only by 13 minutes) proves conclusively that Stapley Beacon was indeed the Roman surveyor's next survey point after the hill near Sandhurst Church; but, faced with the necessity of crossing the Kent Ditch and the Rother at suitable places, and negociating the steep slopes of Court Lodge ridge, an immediate diversion became necessary. The ford or bridge over the Rother seems to have been just 200 feet downstream from the present bridge. Thereafter there were no more obstacles to prevent the surveyor from laying out a straight line in the direction he had decided; but he evidently judged it unnecessary to return pedantically to the survey line; so he built the road on a parallel line 250 yards to the westward. How he did that with an error of less than a quarter of a degree, when he could see neither of his survey points and had no compass, must remain an interesting subject for speculation. C.H.L.

Casual Finds

Two cannon balls for a Minnion, found, one close to the road 200 yards E.N.E., and the other 300 yards S.E. of Jacob's Farm, Sedlescombe. Both places are just to the west of the site of Brede Furnace (see article *A Roundhead Arsenal*). Also ploughed up just north of Jacob's Farm, a miniature bronze medallion, 2¼ inches in diameter, of Canning; who was M.P. for Hastings 1807-12, and Prime Minister in 1828. The medallion is by Chantry, the sculptor who bequeathed his whole fortune to the Royal Academy. Sir James Doak has kindly presented one cannon ball and the medallion to the Museum.

COMMEMORATION LECTURE

Delivered by Dr. W. G. Urry, F.S.A.

Chapter Librarian, Canterbury

on Friday October 13th 1961

"THE NORMANS IN KENT"

At the Battle of Hastings the men of Kent claimed their traditional right to strike the first blow; and their losses must have been enormous. The monk, Goscelin, however, mentioned in his *Miracles of St. Augustine of Canterbury* one refugee, a certain "honourable man" who fled with others when William took the kingdom, and found his way to Constantinople, where he was made a duke by the Emperor, and his followers joined the Varangian Guard. He married a noble lady called Eudoxia and built a basilica dedicated to St. Augustine of Canterbury, where the English exiles used to worship. It may be noted in passing that in the reign of the Empress Zoë the Varangian Guard was commanded by somebody better known—Harald Hardrada, who invaded England and was killed at Stamford Bridge in 1066.

After the Battle of Hastings, William proceeded along the coast, captured Dover, and then turning inland obtained the submission of Canterbury. The Conqueror gave Kent to his half-brother, Bishop Odo of Bayeux; and one can imagine the joyous invasion of the county by the Bishop and his followers from the Domesday entries. Most of the native lords, including Harold's brother Earl Leofwine, had been killed in the battle, and the remainder fled overseas. Lay and religious institutions were seized, and more than 200 manors shared out, and the names of knights from Vaubadon, Ryes, Douvres, and Colombelles near Bayeux appear as holders of land in Kent.

East Kent has the advantage of possessing three Domesday books; the official Exchequer version and those compiled by the abbeys of Christchurch (Domesday Monachorum), and of St. Augustine. It is thought that the monks were co-opted to help in the Domesday survey. By 1087 there had been a systematic destruction of housing in Canterbury to make room for the building of the castle and Archbishop Lanfranc's palace. The great hall of King's School stands on a site so cleared. The case of Canterbury provides an example of a great Domesday problem: what is the relationship between

manors out in the countryside, and the *burgages, mansurae, haws,* houses and so forth, said to belong to them in the borough? This phenomenon is found in many other boroughs. No less than 17 manors situated out in the country are said to have had dwellings in Canterbury. Most of them were held by tenants of Odo.

In the new book on the Bayeux Tapestry, Professor Wormald recalls that there was at the time an accomplished school of drawing at Canterbury, and that by 1067 Odo had become Earl of Kent with his headquarters in the county. Canterbury, he says, would be a good candidate for the place of embroidery. It would: anybody living there would know by sight many of the persons depicted on the Tapestry: King Edward, Archbishop Stigand, Eustace of Boulogne, Odo of Bayeux, Gyrth Leofwine, Wadard and Vital. Wadard and Vital (who first sighted the Saxon army at Senlac) were Odo's tenants. Wadard held manors and land at Farningham, Maplescombe, Combe, Buckwell, Mongeham, Northbourne, and houses in Dover; while Vital held a group of manors around Canterbury, and also the manor of Stourmouth. There is evidence that his son and grandson both founded churches in Canterbury. Finally it is recorded that Wibart, Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, from 1153 to 1167, "made a great picture-curtain" (The Bayeux Tapestry, p.34).

Much Caen stone was used in the building of churches in England; and Goscelin tells how certain merchants sailed with a flotilla of 15 ships to Normandy on business. A royal exactor, called Vitalis, requisitioned the ships on their return voyage to carry Caen stone for Westminster Palace; except one which was to carry it to Canterbury for the Abbey there. The convoy set sail; but when one-third of the way across the Channel encountered a violent gale in which all the Westminster-bound ships foundered. The remaining ship, by bailing, and stuffing tow and cloth into the seams which had started, managed, after a fearful struggle, the make Bramber; where the ship split in halves, and shot the stone on to the sands. The master bought another ship, reloaded the stone, and sailed round to Canterbury. The monks there, on hearing his story, added a bonus of some shillings to the agreed price; but the master offered half the money to God and St. Augustine in gratitude for his escape, and asked that prayer should be offered for his drowned mates.

It would be hardly possible to close this lecture without mentioning Becket. The Saint had connections with Canter-

bury long before he became Archbishop, possibly from 1155, and was also Archdeacon. His predecessor was Roger Pont l'Evêque, afterwards Archbishop of York, who crowned Henry II, and was Becket's arch-enemy. After Henry had spoken the fatal words at Bur close, Roger is said to have briefed the four knights and given them 60 marks each for their journey to Bayeux.

Henry did penance after the murder at Avranches; and in July 1174 submitted himself to a flogging at Canterbury. He also confirmed by charter an annual payment of 20 marks promised as part of his penance to the Hospital at Harbledown. In 1234 the City of Canterbury became responsible for the payment, and still pays it. The hospital has now become an almshouse for aged folk, and the Borough Treasurer sends the cheque; but the amount is still 20 marks (£13-6-8), and every ratepayer of Canterbury is thus taking part in an act of penance for the murder of Archbishop St. Thomas Becket on December 29th 1170.

Note: Our Society has a special interest in the Canterbury Martyr. It was he who, as King's Chancellor, successfully defended Walter de Lucy, 5th Abbott of Battle, against the claims of Hilary, Bishop of Chichester, before King Henry II, at Colchester in 1157. We have also picked up his trail in several places on our summer outings. Becket was once a priest at St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings (visited 14.5.52). He inducted a priest called Wilhelmus as rector of Penchester (now Penshurst, visited 28.7.56) only 48 hours before his death. It was at Saltwood Castle (visited 24.6.59) that the four knights stayed the night before his murder. On 3.7.61 the British Section of our sister society, the *Souvenir Normand*, which included some members of our Society, saw, at Avranches, the stone on which Henry II knelt when doing penance for the murder.—Ed.

THE COMMEMORATION SERVICE IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, BATTLE

The Very Reverend F. H. Outram, M.A., Dean of Battle, conducted the annual special service in the parish church on Sunday morning October 15th 1961. The lessons were read by Mrs. E. Harbord, a Vice-President, and Mr. C. T. Chevallier,

Chairman of the Society. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Canon F. P. Cheetham, a member of the Society, on the subject "History and Divine Providence". Taking as his text "Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephes. v. 17), he said that English people generally knew little about this district and the Battle of Hastings; hence the value of our Society and its annual commemoration service. It was a wonderful and fascinating story. Harold, a great leader and a gallant warrior, performed a great feat of organization and marching, and deserved a better fate. William, the greatest man of his age, achieved his merited success by skilful preparation, hard thinking, and courageous determination. We, as Christians, have more than these historical facts to consider. It has been said that William "had all the luck" with the weather, Norwegian invasion, etc.; and that Harold was the unlucky victim of a lucky shot. Such an assessment is in accordance with the gambling spirit of today, but to a historian it is trivial and futile, and to a Christian impossible; because the Bible teaches God's providence in history, and luck does not enter in. What do we see of Divine purpose in The Conquest? Two virile tribes were brought together to make a great nation. England was brought into the main stream of European civilization. There was an advance in education, art, music, and architecture; but above all an advance in the Christian religion; the Church was built up and extended. In spite of human failings, a great new age began, contributing to nobler living. "Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." It is our duty to seek God's will for the nations of today. Human stupidity, selfishness, and cruelty cannot prevent God's purpose. The great need today is the drawing together of East and West to form a better world. We should seek it, pray for it, work for it.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on November 17th 1961

The Chairman began with a tribute to Mr. R. H. D'Elboux, M.C., F.S.A., and Major C. D. Grant. Mr. D'Elboux was one of the original twelve members of the Committee when the Society was formed in 1950, and was later a Vice-President and Life Member Honoris Causa. Major Grant was a member of the Committee until ill-health forced his resignation. Members stood in silence to their memory, and to that of the other members deceased during the year.

Membership had dropped during the year from 297 to 268; and all members were asked to help by recruiting newcomers in their districts. The balance of the General Account had increased from £29 to £49; largely owing to the number of members who regarded 7/6 as a minimum subscription. The overdraft on the Museum account has been reduced to £1-0-9, a most satisfactory result. A donation had been made from a fund controlled by Mr. Manwaring Baines, Curator of Hastings Museum, to be applied to the furtherance of Fieldwork. Further excavations had been carried out at Bodiam by Lt.-Col. Darrell Hill and Mr. V. Oliver with most interesting and important results; but more volunteers for excavation were required when the season opened again in the spring. At the ensuing elections, Sir John Thorne, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., was elected a Life Member, *Honoris Causa*, and the appointment of Major Y. A. Burges to the Committee, vice Mr. Homer, resigned, was confirmed. Mr. C. T. Chevallier was re-elected Chairman, Mr. B. E. Beechey, Vice-Chairman; Major L. C. Gates, Hon. Secretary; Mr. R. W. Bishop, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. A. R. Clough, Mr. H. C. Cowen, and Miss M. J. Powell, due to retire by rotation, were re-elected to the Committee for three years, until 1964. The Chairman recalled that the Provisional Committee considering the ninth centenary of the Battle of Hastings had given way to a permanent "1966 Celebrations Council", on which the Society was represented by Mrs. Harbord, Major Gates, Miss Robertson, and himself. Mrs. Harbord and he had been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Council. The Council held its first meeting, appropriately, in the library of Battle Abbey on October 18th. At the conclusion of business, Mr. E. C. Hole, formerly a Consul General in the Mediterranean, spoke for about half an hour on "The Moors in Spain".

Note: The membership has improved since the above figures were supplied to the Chairman. It now stands at 277.—Ed.