No. 7

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Transactions

1957 - 58

Price 1/-

(free to members)

BATTLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Sussex Archaeological Society and the Sussex Archaeological Trust

President:

PROFESSOR G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M., O.B.E.

Vice-Presidents:

MR. R. H. D'ELBOUX, M.C., F.S.A.
MRS. E. HARBORD
MISS HOPE MUNTZ
THE VERY REV. A. T. A. NAYLOR, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.A.
THE HON. MRS. J. WHISTLER

Chairman:

MR. A. E. MARSON, M.B.E.

Vice-Chairman:

MR. A. R. CLOUGH

Hon. Secretary:

MAJOR L. C. GATES, M.B.E., M.C.

Hon. Treasurer:

MR. R. W. BISHOP

Committee:

MR. C. T. CHEVALLIER, M.A.
MISS R. CHIVERTON
SIR JAMES DOAK
MR. W. T. DUNFORD
MAJOR C. D. GRANT
LIEUT.-COLONEL C. H. LEMMON, D.S.O.
MISS M. J. POWELL
MR. L. H. PYKE
MR. W. RAPER
SIR JOHN THORNE, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

CONTENTS

NOTE:—The Society is in no way responsible for the opinions of contributors as expressed in the above articles.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The eighth year of the B.&D.H.S. is noteworthy for the success of the Museum, which can now be considered as having passed the experimental stage. Since it opened on May 19th 1956 no less than 15,036 persons have paid for admission, and it is now within sight of paying its way. Within the Museum is a library open only to members of the Society, and there unfortunately the success is not so marked; for it appears that very few of the 253 members use it. For its size it contains a good collection of historical and archaeological books, including several standard works which are now difficult to get; and there is also a complete set of the Sussex Archaeological Collections, which is a mine of information in itself. Some newly published books have been purchased, including "The Bayeux Tapestry", and a "History of the British Iron and Steel Industry"; and all may be borrowed. It is disappointing that this side of the Society's activities has not proved more popular.

The Souvenir Normand paid its third visit to Battle since its revival. During their visit to the district from June 13th to the 17th the weather was happily fine and warm; almost the only spell of fine weather during the so-called summer. The usual ceremony took place ath the Norman Stone.

The interesting lecture on Witchcraft by Mr. W. E. Reynolds, M.A., being of general rather than local interest, has had regretfully to be omitted from this number for reasons of space.

As the years pass, the difficulty increases of being able to keep up the supply of visits to historic spots within reasonable distance which have not been previously visited. Some have already been visited twice and even three times. The extreme distance for an afternoon's excursion is a round trip of about 60 miles. Anything more would need a whole day—an excursion which could only be contemplated once during the season. It would assist the committee greatly if members would send to the Hon. Secretary suggestions for summer excursions. The following places have been visited by the Society to date:—

Churches. Ashburnham (2), Arlington, Battle, Beckley, Berwick, Brede (2), Brightling, Burwash (2), Canterbury Cathedral, Etchingham, Goudhurst, Hastings (All Saints and St. Clements), Herstmonceux, Icklesham, Lewes (St. John's Southover), Lamberhurst, Mereworth, Mountfield, Northiam (2), Salehurst, Ticehurst, Wartling, West Firle, Westham, Wilmington, Winchelsea.

Historic Houses open to the public. Batemans (3), Brede Place (2), Firle Place, Glynde Place, Great Dixter (3), Knole Park, Mereworth Castle, Penshurst Place.

Private Houses not regularly open to the public. Ashburnham Place, Battle Abbey (interior) (3), Brickwall, Bugsell, Claverham Manor, Durhamford Manor, Goatley Old Manor, Great Wigsell, King John's Lodge, Michelham Priory, Pashley Manor, Rampyndene, Robertsbridge Abbey (2), Roydon Hall, Twissenden Manor, Whiligh.

Other Buildings. Allington Castle, Aysford Priory, Hastings Old Town Hall, Herstmonceux Castle, Lewes (Castle, Barbican House Museum, Bull House, Ann of Cleves House, Southover Grange), London (Goldsmiths' and Merchant Taylors' Halls), Rye (Town Hall, Ypres Tower, Mint), Wilmington Priory, Winchelsea (Court Hall Museum).

Ruins. Bayham Abbey, Bodiam Castle (2), Glossum Manor site, Hastings Castle, Lewes (St. Pancras Priory), Pevensey Castle, Scotney Castle, Winchelsea (Grey Friars).

Various. Bedgebury Pinetum, Dicker Pottery Works, Eridge Castle Costume Museum, Glyndebourne Opera House, Iron sites (Panningridge, Ashburnham, and Potmans), Lewes Battlefield, Sissinghurst Castle Gardens.

Lecture delivered by Mr. H. T. Winter, after the Annual General Meeting on Friday, November 1st 1957

KIPLING AND SUSSEX

One may ask from what roots did Rudyard Kipling's genius spring? His father was the son of a Methodist minister, who became an artist and a sculptor; and his mother came from a family of literary tastes. Her sisters married Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Sir Edward Poynter, P.R.A. and Alfred Baldwin, M.P., father of Stanley Baldwin. Rudyard was born in India, where his father was professor at the Bombay School of Art, and he remained there until he was six. In 1878 Rudyard entered the United Services College, Westward Ho, later to become the scene of *Stalkey and Co.* He returned to India for five years, working on the staff of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, and the *Pioneer*. In 1892 Joseph Rudyard Kipling married Caroline Starr Balestier and they went to live in Vermont, U.S.A., for four years, where their two daughters, Josephine and Elsie, were born. They arrived at Rottingdean

in Sussex in 1897, where the third child, John, was born. They paid a disastrous visit to the U.S.A. in 1899, where they all fell ill, and Josephine died of pneumonia. Months passed before Rudyard Kipling recovered from his illness: from the shock of his daughter's death he never recovered; nor did Carrie. In the *Just So Stories* is a delightful little poem of *Merrow Down* in which "Jaffy" is Josephine. From Merrow Down to Romney Marsh there was no landscape now that did not recall to Rudyard that slight figure, dancing through fern; and when, deep in the stilly woods of oak, he found his dream-house at last, it lacked one blessing only for him—"the child who might have taken his hand."

"It was the heart-breaking Locomobile, an American steam car, which brought us to Batemans". During this time the Down Country must have been widely explored in the Locomobile to produce such vivid pictures as are to be found in the dedication to "Sussex".

I will go out against the sun
Where the rolled scarp retires
And the Long Man of Wilmington
Looks naked towards the shires;
And east till doubling Rother crawls
To find the fickle tide,
By dry and sea-forgotten walls,
Our ports of stranded pride.

After they moved to Batemans he wrote to a friend: "Now we discovered England, which we had never done before, and went to live in it. Just beyond the west fringe of our land stood the long overgrown slag heap of a most ancient forge, supposed to have been worked by the Phoenicians and Romans; and, since then, uninterruptedly till the middle of the 18th century. Every part of that little corner was alive with ghosts and shadows." The historic continuity of this little valley stirred Kipling's vivid imagination, and when, in 1904, the children performed their little play of Titania and Bottom in the fairy ring beside the Dudwell (river), the setting for a series of historical stories presented itself, *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *Rewards and Fairies.*

It has been wisely said that the hero of the books is not Puck but old Hobden, a yeoman who understands the whole story of the Valley and the Brook by instinct and tradition. Proud as Rudyard was to become a landowner, he soon humbled himself before the historical figure of Hobden the Hedger.

His dead are in the churchyard thirty generations laid.
Their names were old in history when Domesday Book was made;
And the passion and the piety and prowess of his line
Have seeded, rooted, fruited in some land the Law calls mine.

If you have ever been to Batemans and seen what is left of the age-old millwheel you will recognise this verse from Puck's song:

See you our little mill that clacks
So busy by the brook?
She has ground her corn and paid her tax
Ever since Domesday Book.

Kipling had few hobbies, but he took a practical interest in his bees, and *Puck of Pook's Hill* has the song of Hobden's son the Bee Boy. Before lunch he would spend a break in his garden, which they had done much to beautify. Here are two verses from *The Glory of the Garden:*

Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By saying "Oh, how beautiful" and sitting in the shade,
While better men than we go out and start their waking lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel paths with broken dinner knives.

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees.
So when your work is finished, you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away.
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away.

But Sussex shall have the last word:

God gives all men all earth to love
But since man's heart is small,
Ordains for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.

Each to his choice, and I rejoice
The lot has fallen to me
In a fair ground—in a fair ground,
Yea, Sussex by the sea.

A series of four lectures delivered by
Mrs. E. G. C. Masters, B.A., L.R.A.M.
" TUDOR ENGLAND "

First lecture delivered on Friday, November 15th 1957

THE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

During the time when the 'stagnant and declining civilization' inherited by Henry VII developed into the lively and successful England of Shakespeare the work of the Council increased in importance. Its judicial functions were useful to Henry VII and its administrative duties were multiplied until the Privy Council of Elizabeth I concerned itself with every aspect of the nation's life. Thomas Cromwell had exalted the powers of the secretary and Elizabeth's secretaries, Cecil and Walsingham, are important figures. Membership of the Council was essential for a high political career as Essex found when he wanted 'domestical greatness'. Elizabeth's choice of servants was shrewd, although she disagreed with them and acted contrary to their advice on many occasions, her personal relations with them were often really affectionate.

The influence of Thomas Cromwell is again seen in the evolution of the power of the House of Commons in this period. Under Henry VII it was infrequently summoned, though it had established the right to grant supplies and to claim the supremacy of Statute Law; but it was Cromwell who contrived that the great Reformation changes should be formulated as Statutes. Privy Councillors were members of the Commons and the government was increasingly forced to pay attention to this House. Elizabeth refused freedom of speech in matters affecting the prerogative, such as trade, religion, the succession, foreign policy; and although there were hot arguments on matters of religion, her marriage, the succession, and above all txaation, the Commons were obedient, though grumbling, to the end. The significance of Parliamentary development in the Tudor period lies not in what the Commons were, but in what they might claim to be under a new dynasty.

The sources of national revenue, which was in fact, solely the royal revenue, were examined. Henry VII laid

great importance on a full treasury; Henry VIII wasted his inheritance, but survived bankruptcy by debasement of the coinage and monastic confiscations. It was left to Elizabeth I to stabilise the currency, to be frugal, to pay the expenses of a long war, and yet to merit the comment, 'the solvency of her government has been held the miracle of her age.'

In the Tudor period the Church indeed became the agency of the Government. The true turning point in the 16th century for us is the year 1533 when the Act in restraint of appeals to Rome was passed. Henry VIII would have been content with the breach with Rome and no doctrinal change, but other streams of religious thought coming from Germany and Geneva proved more powerful, and after much strife Elizabeth I had to produce her compromise settlement—the Anglican Church. She had great difficulties and opposition from recusants, from Presbyterians, from Brownists, from Cartwright, and Martin Marprelate, seminary priest and preaching Puritan; but by dint of the gradual education of the public, by Injunctions, 39 Articles, Parker's Advertisements, the Homilies and less gently by High Commission and Conventicle Act, the Church survived in a form which was able to ride even the storm of the Civil War.

Second lecture delivered on Friday, November 29th 1957

THE COUNTRYSIDE AND ITS PROBLEMS

England suffered, as did the rest of Europe, from inflation in the 16th century, and prices rose during this period to five and half times what they had been at the beginning of the century. As always, those who relied on fixed incomes were the worst sufferers, and the landlords reacted to the crisis in various ways. They took an interest in new farming methods, introducing root crops, bee-keeping by more efficient methods borrowed from the foreigner, expansion of hop-growing, and better manuring. To help them there was a large output of farming literature, of which some extracts were read by the lecturer. Although the population was still small, husbandry was the occupation of a large part of the people, and there was still a large amount of forest and waste land in the country, which caused some pressure on the land. Some farmers exploited the minerals they had on their lands and some took to enclosure. This practice covered many different enterprises, some harmless as when holdings were nucleated but still under the plough, some hurtful as when emparking and enclosing for sheep runs was practised. The evil was most

prominent in the Midlands and East Anglia; but the propaganda against it was so prolific that later generations have perhaps exaggerated its importance. Legislation was adopted to try to curtail enclosure; and commissions were appointed to enquire into it, but nothing could be done to stop the process until it became apparent to the farmer that corn was a more profitable crop than wool. Extracts were read from contemporary writings on enclosures, in particular from the Dialogue of the Commonwealth.

The lecturer suggested two possible reasons for the failure of Tudor governments to implement their policy. One was the poor state of communications. The act of 1555 was examined, and the duties of the unfortunate surveyors of highways listed. Another was the fact that the Justices of the Peace and the other unpaid civil servants of the period were just of that class which practised enclosure for their own benefit. This idea led to the study of the various duties of Elizabethan Justices of the Peace; and examples were taken from the Covert Papers referring to the treatment of Recusants, the prevention of dearth, the recruitment of the army and navy, the preservation of law and order, and finally the proclamation of the new king in 1603. The lecturer reminded the audience of the pictures drawn of local officials by Shakespeare in *Henry IV, Part II* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Some accounts in the Coverts of Slaugham and Cuckfield illustrate the type of family which was using local office to advance itself.

Third lecture delivered on Friday, January 10th 1958

TRADE, INDUSTRY AND DISCOVERY

The chief planner in the reign of Elizabeth was William Cecil, Lord Burghley. His aim was to make England self-sufficient and prepared for war, as he now knew that Spain's attack would not be long delayed. Thus an act 'to banish idleness' was framed in 1563, which has been called 'the national service act of the 16th century'. Any industry which was connected with war potential was encouraged. This was the golden ago of the Sussex iron industry; fortunes were made, but difficulties attended the industry from the serious denudation of the forests, owing to the lack of patriotism of the iron masters who sold to Spain even in war time. Though this was still the timber age, the coal industry expanded rapidly to meet the increased demand for fuel. Copper was mined with the help of German capital and workers in Cumber-

land; calamine was found near Bristol; saltpetre became a government monopoly. Burghley's first care was always the country's shipping; and he put the affairs of the Admiralty first on the list of 'things immediately to be done'. Though Burghley aimed at a balanced trade, he realised that we must buy from foreigners so that they could buy from us; but he also planned to exploiu new markets for our staple export—cloth; this lies behind much of the exploration of the time. Roger Bodenham urged him to insist on the improvement in the quality of our exported cloth, which lagged behind the excellence of our wool. In this our oldest industry foreign immigrants played a big part, as they did too in the glass and brick manufactures.

But in spite of all the planning for full employment there was much trouble from the rogues or sturdy beggars. These had increased for several reasons during the century; and though sometimes a source of entertainment to the populace were always an anxiety to the government. Harman listed all the categories of rogues in his Caveat for Common Cursitors; some of them come to life in Shakespeare's plays, in such characters as Christopher Sly and Autolycous. Once again Thomas Cromwell is found to be the originator of an enlightened policy towards these unemployed. Hitherto they had been whipped, branded, and even put to death; but after 1536 provision was made for setting them to work. Proceeding by experiment, often educated by the enterprise of the towns which had begun to tackle the problem, the Elizabethan government evolved a poor law policy which is set out in the act of 1597. The civil parish came into being to deal with this problem. London was excluded from the survey; but some accounts of the lesser towns revealed that their constitutions were not at all democratic. All they were seeking was renewals or grants of charters; for his townsman's rights were more important to a Tudor burgess than his parliamentary representation. This indeed he was often glad to resign into the hands of the local magnate, in return for his meeting the expenses of the Member of Parliament. Oligarchical government was not inefficient. In many towns there was provision for water supply, sanitation, fire fighting, lighting, and of course the preservation of law and order. Examples can be taken from Lewes, where there is a clear account in the Book of John Rowe and in the Town Book of Lewes.

Fourth lecture delivered on Friday, January 24th 1958

EDUCATION AND HOME LIFE

In spite of the inflation of the 16th century, indeed perhaps because of it, men were making money and climbing into the ranks of the gentry. The Heralds were busy providing new coats of arms for these people. Class as we know it did not exist; status, degree, based on functions performed in the community were all the distinctions which the 16th century recognised and yet the ownership of land was a necessary accompaniment to gentility. Dress was certainly not a distinctive factor; for writers speak of a mingled-mangle of dress which made it impossible to tell gentle from simple.

After the Reformation a woman could find a career only in the home; where, even if her marriage had been arranged by her parents, her husband usually treated her as a helpmate; although expecting much of her in the management of the family and home. Standards of comfort and housing rose considerably in the 16th century, as it is easy to see from Harrisson and Stubbes. The practice of using chimneys added to the cleanliness of the home, though rushes were still the usual covering for floors. Furniture may have been padded though it was still sparse, and the Elizabethan woman, notoriously vain and extravagant in her clothes, had only chests to put them in and probably a polished metal mirror in which to admire her dyed or borrowed tresses. The large bed, sometimes worth thousands of pounds, was almost a separate room and its curtains were essential for privacy since the bedrooms led out of each other. The personal cleanliness of the Elizabethan was higher than that of some of their descendants; though sanitary arrangements might be worse than in medieval times.

Food was lavish and varied. The Englishman was learning to drink since he had fought in the Low Countries and better families kept the wine and ale on the sideboard to help to preserve temperance. Queen Elizabeth was given forks on two occasions for New Year presents; but as yet this fashion from Italy found little favour; and the Englishman thought it unnecessary to "make hay with his mouth". Children were loved but, though numerous, were short-lived. They were strictly disciplined, and often exposed on purpose to plague and smallpox "to get over it". Learning was begun at home at four years of age. It was growing to be fashionable to send boys to school, rather than to have them taught at home by tutors. Though many schoolmasters were cruelly strict, there

was much advanced educational thought and practice, and it was a great age for the founding of new schools. As Elizabethans were practical, they realised the value of education for politics, the law, and local government, in which they sought to make careers for their sons. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the stirring expansion of man's knowledge of the Universe at the time, the Elizabethan world picture was medieval and stable. The idea of a great chain of being, from inanimate creation to the angels, gave the 16th century man his belief in *degree*; without which, as Sir Thomas Elyot put it, all would be chaos. "Untie that string", says Shakespeare's *Ulysses*, "and hark what discord follows". In each order of creation lay a function, and in each function one superior individual such as the Rose, the Lion, and among men, the Prince. This was a useful theory, especially to Elizabeth whose throne was not secure. Accompanying these underlying assumptions was a genuine homely piety, in spite of the shock which the religious controversies of the century must have given to the faith. There was much superstition, belief in witchcraft, astrology, and fairy folk. The place of music in the life of the Elizabethans was very important, and although it was not usually taught in schools, the tradition among the educated was that all should be able to play one instrument and read a part in a song at sight. Our lutenists went to foreign courts, we were considered the best players of the Viola da Gamba in Europe, and the composers of the age have left us a mighty musical literature.

Two lectures delivered by Dr. A. E. Wilson, Litt.D., F.S.A. on Friday, December 13th 1957 and Friday, March 7th 1958

THE LATE SAXON PERIOD IN SUSSEX

Saxon charters and a few entries in Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle describe the conversion of Sussex in the latter part of the seventh century. At Bosham the Celtic monks had a small monastery before 661; in which year Aedelwald, the first 'king' of Sussex to be named since Cissa son of Aella died, was baptised with his chief ministers at the instance of Wulfhere King of Mercia.

Somewhere about A.D. 680, Cadwalla of Wessex defeated and eventually killed Aedelwald, and Sussex came under the

control of Wessex. While Cadwalla was overlord of Sussex, Wilfred, in exile from Northumbria, asked him for land to support a church at Pagham. Wilfred, on his reconciliation with the Archbishop Theodore, transferred the Pagham lands to the Archbishop, and received in their place Selsey, which remained the seat of the bishopric until its transfer to Chichester in Norman times.

At various dates in the seventh and eighth centuries, various under-kings and thegns in Sussex founded 'minsters' with a small staff at Ferring, Henfield, Preston (Brighton), Bishopstone, and Bexhill, endowed with substantial grants of land which remained episcopal estates until the Reformation. These charters granted to the 'minster', the rents which the Crown had previously enjoyed from the estate; and such land is called 'bocland' (land booked by charter) as distinct from the 'folcland' retained by the king. At first these rents were paid in kind as food rents.

During the eighth century Sussex passed once more under the suzerainty of Mercia; and we find Offa, King of Mercia, confirming the grants made by the under-kings of Sussex, who by this time have lost their royal title and have become ealdermen in charge of the shire. Two charters dealing with the royal manor of Beddingham and the bishops land at Denton show the difficulties which arose when Egbert of Wessex began to assert his control over southern England at the expense of the Mercian kings. The Bishop of Selsey obtains confirmation of his title at a synod of Clobesham, and the Wessex king accepts the decision.

Alfred's will shows that the king still retained royal estates in Sussex at Aldingbourne, Compton, Beeding, Beddingham, Ditchling, Lyminster, Angmering, and Rotherfield. From his estates the king's Reeve, the predecessor of the sheriff, collected royal rents in money or in kind. The frequent occurrence of the name Kingston indicates the residences of such officials in Saxon times. Alfred's military arrangements against the Danes led to the building of a series of burhs around Wessex as centres of defence and administration. A slightly later document named in Sussex Hastings, Lewes, Burpham and Chichester, and assigned the responsibility for the upkeep of the surrounding countryside. A copy of the Burghal Hidage informs us that it required 4 men to a pole of wall. During Alfred's reign the burhware of Chichester beat off the Danes and slew several hundreds. The burhs under their burhreeves or portreeves became centres of administration and trade. In 928 one of Aethelstan's laws

authorized certain burhs to have a moneyer to strike coinage. Among the towns named were Chichester and Lewes; but before the end of Saxon times Steyning, Hastings, and Winchelsea also had licensed moneyers.

Before the Norman Conquest Hastings had begun to play an important part not only in trade but in naval affairs. It was one of the ports (later known as the Cinque Ports) to which Edward the Confessor gave the right to the proceeds from their judicial courts in return for their providing a certain number of ships for the navy. Moreover it was these 'butescarles' of Hastings who played an important part in restoring Earl Godwine and his family to their large estates in Sussex and elsewhere after their quarrel with Edward the Confessor.

During later Saxon times the Church developed and we know of 5 grades of churches; the head minster like Selsey, the ordinary minster like Bishopstone, the lesser church with a graveyard, the lesser church without a graveyard, and, in outlying districts, the field church. The first foundations were by kings or ealdormen. In later times thegns founded the lesser churches and regarded them as their property to which they appointed a priest; and it was not till 746 that the Bishop gained the right to institute. The upkeep of the priest derived from offerings of his parishioners, the cultivation of his share of the land, and tithes.

The Laws of Aethelstan (A.D.925) describe three other sources of revenue—Plough Alms (a penny for each plough team to be paid within a fortnight of Easter)—Church Scot (later called hearth-penny: levied on all freemen)—and Soul Scot (payable at the open grave). Gradually tithe became the most important source of income. At first it was payable to minsters only; and the parishes cut out of the territories of the minster had to bargain with the minster before they obtained a share—usually one-third of the tithe.

Many village churches in Sussex still retain Saxon architectural features dating from the 10th and 11th centuries —the tower and chancel arch at Bosham, the tower at Somping, the general plan and many features of Worth, and the porch at Bishopstone are perhaps the most noteworthy of the many reminders of our Saxon heritage in this county of Sussex—the land of the South Saxons.

A. E. WILSON

Lecture delivered by Miss M. J. Powell on Friday, February 21st 1958

DOVES AND DOVECOTS FROM ROMAN TIMES

Doves are mentioned frequently in the Bible; as a messenger from the Ark, and as one of the acceptable Temple sacrifices. It is strange that they should be the traditional symbol of peace as they have anything but pleasant natures. Their reputation is perhaps due to the fact that they coo pleasantly, mate for life, and have no gall-bladders.

The keeping of doves or pigeons can be traced continuously from the Romans with their Columbaria to the present day, when they have ceased to be utilitarian and have become a hobby. It is claimed that one or two existing dovecots date from Saxon times; but it can hardly be disputed that pigeon keeping was brought to this country by the Romans. From Pliny the Elder and Varro we learn that the mania for pigeon keeping rose to such an extent in Rome that veritable towns were built on the roofs of houses to accommodate them. They were much used for message carrying, taken to the Forum for racing, and to a lesser extent, eaten. White pigeons were not favoured as they were an easy prey to hawks.

Early dovecots closely resembled the Columbarium; they were usually round with vaulted roofs, built of stone with walls often as much as three feet thick. They might contain up to 3,000 nest boxes made in the thickness of the walls, with a small shelf in front of the nest boxes to enable the birds to alight. They sometimes had a bath for the birds and a common feature was a kind of ladder, called a Potence, which revolved around a central pole to facilitate the collection of eggs. The entrance was very small and smooth plaster made from ground marble was usually plastered round the windows so that no foothold might be offered to vermin.

Later cotes reflected the architecture of the period in which they were built, and were often constructed as part of the house, or stables, they are found over entrance gates, and some were even built in church towers. Some of these cotes were of great beauty, but unfortunately their numbers decrease each year. In France and Scotland the walls were frequently raised above the level of the roof on three sides to protect the alighting birds from the prevalent winds.

The south-west tower of Bodiam Castle contains a dovecot which must originally have contained 300 nests, but two of the walls have been rebuilt without nests. The dovecot at St. Pancras Priory, Lewes, destroyed in the early 19th century, must have been unique; it was cruciform, one arm measuring 81 feet 3 inches, and the other only one foot shorter. It is thought to have housed no less than 4,000 to 5,000 birds. Battle Abbey is known to have had a large dovecot; but no trace can now be found. Berwick Farm has a dovecot which was mentioned in 1619 by Prebendary John Nutt as follows: "The Pigeon house had paid me tithes and doth this year by Nicholas Dobson, now farmer thereof; it is rented at £5 a year, but I take them in kind and stand to the truth and conscience of the farmer in the paying of them." Charleston Farm, near Berwick, has a circular dovecot built of flints, 14 feet high and 18 feet in diameter. The walls are very thick, and the Potence was still in place 30 years ago. The two dovecots of Old Basing House, Hampshire, proved their worth during three years' siege in the Civil War. Much food had been stored against such a siege, but undoubtedly the two dovecots were a valuable source of fresh meat.

Pigeons formerly occupied the tower of Ensham Church, Oxfordshire, and we learn that in 1388 a man engaged in catching them fell down into the choir and was killed. In the reign of Henry III, John Hertford, the carrier of Holy Water at Denham Church, Bucks., let fall a stone while driving some pigeons out of the lantern. It fell on the head of Agnes, wife of Robert de Denham, and she died two days afterwards.

We are told that sitting hens were encouraged to exercise lest "sadiened by the slavery of continued confinement they might lose their health". Young birds that were crammed for the table were less fortunate; their legs were broken to prevent them taking exercise, but we are assured that they suffered only 2 or 3 days—it would perhaps be interesting to have the pigeons' opinion!

Pigeons were expected to bring others home with them; and were anointed with myrrh, and cummin or old wine was added to their food so that others might be attracted by the sweetness of their breath. John Moore in his "Columbarium or Pigeon House" 1735, gives the receipe for 'Salt Cat', a pigeon food designed for this purpose, which consisted of sand, lime rubble, cummin seed, and saltpetre. He discredits the tradition that a baked cat was one of the ingredients and the origin of the name; but an item in the accounts of Jesus College,

Cambridge, for 1651-2 is significant: "For a roasted dog and comin seed, 00:02:00".

In 1491 the monks of Pontoise sold more than 4,500 pigeons, while in England there is a 14th century record of 2,151 birds being sold on one estate and 700 on another. In 1466 George Neville was made Archbishop of York; "and on that day were four thousand pigeons consumed". In the 15th century the Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, ate or sold between two and three thousand doves a year from their great dovecot at Granchester.

The keeping of dovecots was not apparently restricted in ancient Rome, but in England it was restricted to the Lord of the Manor and the Church. Milton's friend Hartlib estimated that in the middle of 17th century there were no less than 26,000 of them in England. When each manor, abbey, monastery, and nunnery possessed a cote from which hundreds of birds emerged every morning to devour the crops of farmer and peasant, this amounted in practice to a substantial additional tax, as the millions of birds must have devoured many millions of bushels of corn. In France the keeping of pigeons was restricted to the Church, nobles, and certain privileged commoners; an evil which was a contributary factor to the Revolution. In England the reaction of the farmers is summed up by our President, Professor Trevelyan, in his *Social History*: "But most of all did it rejoice the farmer's heart to slay secretly for his own pot one of the legion of privileged birds from the dovecots of the manor house whose function in life was to grow plump on the peasants' corn till they were fit for the lord's table."

Note: The Little Oxford Dictionary defines a *dove* as a *pigeon*; and a *dovecot* or *dovecote* (for both spellings are permissable) as a pigeon-house.—ED.

Lecture delivered by Mr. R. T. G. Rowsell, F.L.A. on Friday, March 21st 1958

LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS OF SUSSEX

So great has been the spell cast on famous men and women by this county of Sussex, that it would be impossible in a short lecture to mention all who have had some link with it. Of Sussex-born writers, the earliest was Dr. Andrew Borde (or Boorde) of Borde Hill, Cuckfield, born about 1490, believed

to be the author of "The Merry Tales of the Wise Men of Gotham", written about the Pevensey neighbourhood.

Of greater literary importance was Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, born at Buckhurst, Withyham in 1536; who was part-author of "The Tragedy of Gorboduc", or "Ferrex and Perrex", the first drama in blank verse. He was followed by a greater dramatist, John Fletcher of Rye, born in 1579, whose father became Bishop of London. John Selden, lawyer and historian, was born at West Tarring in 1584. He has been called the Father of Sussex Literature. Except for "Table Talk", which is still in print, his works were of a learned nature. Thomas May, born in Mayfield Palace in 1595, wrote several comedies and historical plays. Thomas Otway, of Trotton, near Midhurst, born in 1652, after failing as an actor, became, after Dryden, the foremost dramatist of the Restoration period with plays such as "The Soldier's Fortune", "Venice Preserved", and "The Orphan". In 1695, William Hay was born at Glyndebourne and lived his life in Sussex. His prose works make dull reading, but he also wrote poems, one of which, "Mount Caburn", is quite good. He later became M.P. for Seaford. William Pattison of Peasmarsh, born in 1706, is the county's "black sheep", and William Collins of Chichester, a much better poet, though he suffered from mental trouble, is commemorated by a monument in Chichester Cathedral. William Hayley, another native of Chichester, lived from 1745 to 1820 and was a prolific and popular writer of prose and poetry. He was offered and refused the Poet Laureateship, and became known as "The Poet of Eartham". He was a friend of Blacke, Cowper, Edward Gibbon, and other literary men, who visited him in Sussex. James Hurdis of Bishopstone, also a friend of Hayley, was curate of Burwash, Vicar of Bishopstone, and Professor of Poetry at Oxford University. Two long poems of his are "The Village Curate", and "The Favourite Village". The latter he actually printed and published himself.

Literary visitors to the county to the end of the 18th century included John Taylor, who wrote about Eastbourne, Hastings and Goring, Edmund Waller, M.P. for Hastings, John Evelyn who lived at Southover Grange, Lewes, with relations while he was at school. The great Dr. Johnson and Fanny Burney visited Mr. and Mrs. Thrale at Brighton on many occasions. Gibbon spent the last summer of his life at Sheffield Place, Fletching, and is buried there in the family vault of his friend, the Earl of Sheffield. Pope was a frequent visitor to John Caryll of West Grinstead.

On August 4th 1792, Percy Bysshe Shelley, the greatest poet Sussex has produced, was born at Field Place, Warnham, where he wrote "Queen Mab". Minor poets of Sussex include Charles Crocker, shoemaker and verger of Chichester, Thomas Rickman of Lewes, Richard Lower, father of Mark Antony the historian, Arthur Lee, James Howard of Seaford, the shepherd boy who became a headmaster, and Mrs. Charlotte Smith, who was also a novelist. Sussex has also had its diarists: the Rev. Giles Moore of Horsted Keynes, the Stapley family of Twineham, Timothy Burrell of Cuckfield, Thomas Marchant of Hurstpierpoint, Walter Gale of Mayfield, and Thomas Turner of East Hoathley. Thomas Turner's diary covers the years 1754-1765, and has been separately published, extracts from the others have appeared in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*. Victorian novelists of Sussex, who set some of their works in the county, are Edna Lyall (Miss Ada Ellen Bayley) of Brighton, Alfred Ollivant of Nuthurst, Mrs. Henry Dudeney of Lewes, and Wilfred Scawen Blunt, also poet, diarist and traveller, of Crabbet Park.

Kipling, the greatest writer of them all, and Hillaire Belloc, a great Victorian, both settled in Sussex, the former at Rottingdean and Burwash, and the latter at Slindon and Shipley.

19th century visitors to Sussex included Leigh Hunt, Lord Byron, Thomas Hood, Charles Townsend, Lord Tennyson (who retired to Aldworth), Fred Locker-Lampson, Coventry Patmore (associated with Hastings), William Morris, Swinburne, D. G. Rosetti (married at Hastings).

Renewed health has been found by many in Sussex, among them W. E. Henley at Worthing, Francis Thompson at Storrington, W. H. Hudson the naturalist at Worthing, and 'Michael Fairless' in the neighbourhood of Ashurst and Shermanbury. Other visitors to Brighton include Walter Scott, William Hazlitt, Charles Lamb, Captain Marryat, Charles Dickens, William Black, and Thackeray. Eastbourne's visitors include Jane Austin, Theodore Hook, R. D. Blackmore, and George Gissing. To Hastings went Thomas Carlyle and George Macdonald. George Meredith went to Steyning and Seaford, and Henry Kingsley retired to Cuckfield.

John Ruskin liked Burpham, George Moore was fond of Southwick and its village green, American-born Henry James lived in Rye for about 17 years, Sir Rider Haggard lived at St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle at Crowborough, and John Galsworthy at Bury House near Amberley. The county has proved a popular setting to modern novelists, and

excellent examples of this have been written by Warwick Deeping, Jeffery Farnol, and Ernest Raymond; but perhaps the best of all were written by our own Sussex-born Sheila Kaye-Smith, who lived near Brede, in the centre of her own marshland country which she knew so well, and has described in such novels as *Sussex Gorse* and *Joanna Godden.*

In conclusion it can be said that the above is only a small proportion of the literary associations of the county, which can now claim what was once claimed by Brighton, namely that nearly everyone of any importance at all in the literary world has visited the county at some time or other.

Notes: Warwick Deeping lived at Green Gore, Whatlington Road. Sheila Kaye-Smith (Mrs. Penrose Fry) was a Vice-president of and B. and D.H.S. for the five years preceding her death in 1956. The historical novelist Alfred Duggan, stepson of Lord Curzon, lived at Bodiam and St. Leonards, and served on the Committee of the B. and D.H.S. in 1951-52.—ED.

VISIT TO GLYNDEBOURNE AND GLYNDE PLACE
on Wednesday, May 14th 1958

This meeting, the first of the season, was held in fine though rather cold and blustery weather, and was attended by 71 members.

GLYNDEBOURNE

The party was met by Mr. John Christie, who gave an interesting and exhaustive account of the origin and operations of the Glyndebourne Opera. A comprehensive tour of the opera buildings followed. Beginning with the auditorium, where it is claimed that the acoustics are as nearly perfect as is possible to make them, the party proceeded behind the stage, through bays of scenery made by a local firm in Ringmer, down an avenue of dressing rooms to the Green Room. This proved to be a very fine apartment, restfully furnished, with five windows looking out on the South Downs. Here the artistes relax during the 1½ hour's interval at each performance.

GLYNDE PLACE

Records of Glynde Place go back more than 700 years; and during this long period it has never changed hands by sale. The present house was built on the site of an earlier manor house by William Morley in the reign of Elizabeth I. His

grandson was Colonel Herbert Morley, a well-known Parliamentarian in the Civil War, and a member of the Council of State. Although one of the judges at the trial of Charles I, Morley refused to sign the death-warrant, and was opposed to Cromwell's oligarchic rule. He would have no hand, however, in the Restoration, though urged to do so by his old schoolfellow Evelyn. He was able to purchase later for £1,000 a document granting him a pardon for his revolutionary activities, which can be seen in the house. Herbert Morley married Mary Trevor, daughter of another Councillor of State. On the failure of the Morley line, Glynde Place passed to the Trevors, of whom Richard Trevor, a favourite of George II, was Bishop of St. Davids and afterwards of Durham. His episcopal duties did not prevent him from carrying out many improvements at Glynde Place; for it was he who changed the front of the house from west to east, built the stables, erected the entrance gateway, installed the noteworthy chimney pieces, and put up the beautiful staircase which is such a feature of the house.

The Trevor line failed with the 2nd Viscount Hampden, and Glynde passed to Baroness Dacre, of a collateral branch, who married Thomas Brand. Their grandson, Henry Bouverie Brand, who inherited Glynde, was Speaker of the House of Commons in the stormy days of Parnell and Home Rule. He became the first Viscount Hampden of the second creation, and his grandson's widow was still living at Glynde Place at the time of the Society's visit.

The house is an unusually good example of the period about 1570, a great age for domestic architecture. It is built of local flints and Caen stone round a courtyard with an arched gateway, and somewhat resembles an Oxford or Cambridge college of the period. The house contains many portraits of the Trevors by Walker, Jansson, Kneller, Lely, Copley, Zoffany, and Hopner, but none of the Morleys. There are also other paintings by Verbruggen, Ceruti, and Zucarelli. The fine panelling in the picture gallery dates from 1680.

Note: The Free School at Southover, Lewes, attended by Herbert Morley and John Evelyn, stood in the garden of Southover Grange, which was visited by the Society on May 11th 1955.

VISIT TO BATEMANS, BURWASH, RAMPYNDENE AND BURWASH CHURCH

on Wednesday, May 28th 1958

This meeting, which was attended by thirty members, took place on a perfect summer afternoon.

BATEMANS. A short account has already appeared in the *Transactions* for 1951-52. On this, the third visit of the Society, members were shown round by Mrs. L. C. Lees, the present occupant.

RAMPYNDENE. This very charming house, the home of Mrs. M. Waite, is not open to the general public, and the Society is therefore very grateful to her for kindly allowing them to visit it, and for shewing them round. The main part of the house is William and Mary and dates from 1699, when it was built by John Butler, a wealthy timber merchant. The back is Tudor, so that it seems that John Butler enlarged an already existing house. The staircase and frescoed ceilings, the work of an unnamed Italian craftsman, are particularly fine; and in the dining room a fine period hearth was discovered, hidden by an ugly Victorian fireplace. The origin of the curious name of the house has never been satisfactorily explained.

BURWASH CHURCH. Members were met by the Rector, the Rev. E. Somerville Collie, and Mrs. Collie. An account of this church, which was visited by the Society in 1951, appears in the first volume of the *Transactions*. The Rector, while taking members round the church on this occasion, pointed out the ancient horn lantern, which is still used when Holy Communion is celebrated in the Lady Chapel; and also a "Breeches Bible" (the Genevan Bible of 1560), which was discovered among old lumber in the vestry in 1954. The iron sepulchral monument is of interest from many points of view: Kipling noticed it, and put it into the *Conversion of St. Wilfrid* in *Rewards and Fairies*: "He (Puck) led them (Dan and Una) to the end of the south aisle, where there is a slab of iron which says in queer, long-tailed letters *Orate p. annema Jhone Coline.* The children always called it 'Panama Corner'." The queer letters are Lombardic script, the date is early 14th century, and it is said to be the earliest example of a Sussex iron grave slab in existence. Joan Collins belonged to the ironmaster's family which owned the Socknersh iron site.

Little is known of the iron processes between Roman and Tudor times; but it is likely that the monument was not cast, but wrought from the plastic bloom just as it came from the bloomery, and the lettering stamped on.

The proper name of the village now called Burwash is really Berghersh, and from it the Earl of Westmoreland takes his second title—Baron Berghersh. It is regrettable that such a barbarous corruption should have been allowed to supplant the original name.

VISIT TO ASHBURNHAM PLACE AND ASHBURNHAM CHURCH
on Wednesday, June 24th 1958

This meeting was attended by 21 members, who visited the church and viewed the exterior of the empty mansion. The subsequent picnic in the grounds was marred by rain.

VISIT TO ROYDON HALL, MEREWORTH CASTLE AND MEREWORTH CHURCH
on Wednesday, July 9th 1958

The meeting was attended by 42 members and the day was warm and sunny. By kind permission of Captain A.R. Cook, members were able to view the exterior of Roydon Hall, and wander at will in the gardens, which command an extensive view.

ROYDON HALL is described as a conventional design of a fortified dwelling with walls and towers around it; which were probably an embellishment and not an actual defence. It was completed in 1535. Many houses of the period had these defences, but Roydon is one of the very few cases in which the defences have survived.

There is moulded brickwork and an Ogee arch in the courtyard, and upper doors in the octagonal towers show an original higher level structure around the outer walls which had fireplaces. The porch dates from 1685, when many alterations were carried out to the east wing. The garden towers on the upper terrace are as early as the house, and a clock in one of them dated 1764 with one hand, still goes and keeps excellent time. A French lead water tank at the base of this

tower came from Versailles, and is dated 1770. The niches in the terrace walls, looking like loopholes, are bee-garths, in which skeps were put. The stable and laundry below the house were built in 1860. Unfortunately the architect, bitten by the mid-Victorian craze for Neo-Gothic, interfered with the old house by crow-stepping the gables, thereby rendering them hideous, and spoiling the Tudor front. Thomas Roydon died in 1557, leaving 5 daughters. The third daughter purchased her sisters' shares in the estate, married William Twysden of Chelmington, and founded the family of Roydon Twysdens who remained in possession until 1834. In that year Mr. William Cook, the great-grandfather of the present owner, purchased Roydon, which has thus been in the possession of two families only in 400 years.

The Twysdens were a famous Kentish Royalist family: Sir Roger was a 17th century antiquary, and his brother Sir Thomas, lived at Bradbourne, an ancient house in East Malling, which now belongs to the Cold Storage Research Station. He was one of the judges who tried the regicides, and had to pronounce judgement of Matthew Tomlinson, whose sister he had married. Tomlinson had fought in the Parliamentary army, and had been entrusted with the custody of the King, whom he delivered to his executioners. The presence of his brother-in-law on the bench probably saved his life. Sir Thomas Twysden also tried John Bunyan and George Fox, the Quaker.

MEREWORTH CASTLE. Their first view of Mereworth Castle must have surprised many; for it is no castle, but an almost exact copy of the Villa Almerico at Vincenza, built by the Italian master Andrea Palladio in the mid-16th century. There are only three other similar buildings in England — at Chiswick, Foots Cray, and in Nottinghamshire. This Italian villa at Mereworth was erected for the Hon. John Fane by a Scottish architect named Colin Campbell between 1720 and 1723 at a cost of £100,000. The site was first cleared by the destruction of the ancient moated manor house, the ancient parish church, and the rectory. The central *Salon* under the dome is 60 feet high, around the upper part of which runs a *Poggio*, or balustered gallery; the whole decorated with stucco designs, and the dome richly panelled and rosetted. The Long Gallery, the most magnificent of all the rooms, is 82 feet long, with a painted ceiling of deeply recessed circular panels, thought to be by Amigoni, with delicate stucco foliage and wreaths by Bagutti. Other smaller rooms are the Card Room, which contains the best painted ceiling and a parquetry floor

in multi-coloured woods; and the Dining Room which contains fitted tapestries. Above the Billiard Room and Library are several attractive bedrooms containing furniture of the period. There are two flanking pavilions, added after Campbell's death in 1729. Mereworth Castle has had many owners, including in our own time Lord Falmouth, Lord Oranmore and Browne, Lord Rothermere, and Mr. Peter Beatty, who left it to the present owner, Mr. Michael Tree.

MERWORTH CHURCH. This was described by the Rector, the Rev. J. Mayne. It is perhaps the oddest church in Kent. At the entrance, six great columns support the portico, and the tower is surmounted by a needlelike spire. Inside are 36 sham marble columns. The church contains however much from the ancient church which John Fane destroyed; there is old stained glass in the east window and south chapel: there are striking sculptures among the tombs in the chapel at the west end, as well as brasses dated 1365 (John de Mereworth), 1479 and 1542. The canopied tomb of a medieval Earl and Countess of Westmoreland is particularly fine. There is a tablet to Lieutenant Charles Davis Lucas, R.N., the first recipient of the V.C., and a small monument to the four victims of the fire at Wateringbury Hall in 1927.

VISIT TO BAYHAM ABBEY AND WHILIGH
on Wednesday, September 10th 1958

Fifty-one members attended this, the last outing of the season, on a fine but cloudy day which fortunately happened after a long spell of wet weather. Bayham Abbey ruins, no longer open to the general public, were visited by kind permission of the Marquess of Camden; and at Whiligh the Society was warmly welcomed by the Hon. Misses Courthope, who very kindly gave tea to the large party, and allowed them to wander at will over their ancient home.

BAYHAM ABBEY. The erection of this abbey was due to Robert de Turneham, a distinguished soldier of Richard I. In an anonymous poem it is stated of him that "Robert de Turneham with his fauchion gan to crack many a crown". He commanded half of the galleys which took part in the landing on Cyprus carried out by Richard I in 1195, on his way to the third Crusade; and was afterwards installed as governor of the island. The Emperor of Cyprus had been captured; and when another was set up, de Turneham captured him too and hanged him on a gallows. To atone, as some

say, for his bloodthirsty deeds he began to build the abbey on his own property in 1200. He died in 1212. There is evidence that building was still in progress in 1234, and Ela de Sackville, whose name is also associated with the erection of the abbey was probably responsible for its completion. From the beauty of the site, the abbey was first called Beaulieu.

The inscribed stone in the ruins is misleading: Robert de Turneham appears as Richard de Thornham, some of the monks are said to have come from Beaulieu, and Ela de Sackville is named as the founder; none of which agrees with the V.C.H. or Horsfield.

The monks installed in the abbey were of the order of the White Canons of Prémonstré near Laon in France, a reformed branch of the Augustinians, which had been founded in 1121. Two very poor houses at Brockley, Kent, and Otteham near Hailsham were closed, and the brethren brought to Bayham. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, granted 40 days indulgence to all who visited the abbey, which must have helped to raise funds for the building. The ancient Chartulary of the abbey still exists in the British Museum. In Pope Nicholas' taxation in 1291, the value of the house was £37—2—4.

There are records of seven visits between 1478 and 1500 of Richard Redman, bishop of St. Asaph and Abbot of Shap in Westmoreland, who had been appointed by the Abbot of Prémonstré to visit houses of the order in England. The monks must have dreaded his visits, each of which was marked by excommunications and banishments. Two abbots, Thomas Cottyngham and Robert Naysh, were deprived at different times of the Abbacy; but seem to have returned, for at subsequent visits they were again banished. Other canons were declared apostate, or sent for several years to a monastery in Lincolnshire. Irregularities among Monstretensians seem to have been widespread, for as early as 1250 the aged bishop of Lincoln actually undertook a journey to Rome, in order to complain personally to the Pope about their conduct.

In 1279 the whole abbey was excommunicated because they had installed 4 canons and 4 lay brethren at Hailsham to conduct the services of the church there, over which they claimed jurisdiction.

Distinguished visitors to the abbey included Edward I on June 21st 1299, Edward II on August 27th 1344, and Richard de la Wych, Bishop of Chichester, better known as Saint Richard.

Bayham Abbey with two others was granted by Henry VIII to Cardinal Wolsey to enable him to found his colleges

at Oxford and Ipswich. Pope Clement VII issued a bull, and Bayham was dissolved in May 1525 after a life of more than 280 years. The closure of the abbey excited strong local feelings, and Grafton records "But so befell the cause that a riotous company, disguised and unknown, with painted faces and visors, came to the same monasterie and brought with them the canons and put them in their place again." They are not likely however to have remained there long, and the abbey we must suppose was allowed to fall into ruins from that date.

In 1530, on Wolsey's fall, the abbey buildings and lands reverted to the crown. Queen Elizabeth I gave them to Anthony Brown, Viscount Montague, already owner of Battle Abbey. In 1744, 30 years after the sale of Battle Abbey, Ambrose Brown sold Bayham to John Pratt, whose son became Lord High Chancellor, and 1st Earl of Camden. His son was created a Marquess, and the present owner is the 6th Marquess of Camden, whose residence is on the hill facing the ruins.

The name Bayham, originally Begham, and the fact that Bedgebury is not far away, suggests the settlement of a Saxon, or more likely a Jutish tribe with some similar name in the neighbourhood.

There are many interesting, and some unusual features in the architecture. All was built in the 13th century, but at three different times. The shape of the church resembles that of the "Cross of Lorraine", having two transepts. The eastern-most transept contains two chapels in each arm; the other transept has both arms cut off by walls pierced by doorways. Owing to the two transepts, the cloisters had, of necessity, to be placed west of both of them; and this would have given them no access by processional doors to the nave, had not a 'Galilee' been erected to prolong the nave. The nave and galilee were 50 feet high, but only 25 feet wide, an unusual proportion. The buttresses of the galilee project into the cloisters, which would have prevented the monks from making a complete ambulation; so they were pierced by small arches. Round the cloisters were vestry, chapter house, dorter, frater, kitchen, and guest hall. The presbytery, which architecturally is the chancel, ends in an unusual trigonal apse. Some pilasters in the nave shew an unusual delicate *concave* fluting. Some carved corbels remain which are still remarkably sharp after 700 years, particularly one of a monk with a wrinkled fore-head.

C. H. LEMMON.

WHILIGH

Whiligh House was built by John Courthope in 1586, but has been much enlarged in modern times. The old south front is of timber framing mostly covered with modern plaster, and is in three bays marked by gables of varying size. The two end bays have overhanging first floor and attic carried on moulded bressummers, and projecting first floor windows supported on brackets; those in the easternmost bay having been carved with scrollwork and the date 1586. The interior has been modernized, but the hall is lined with reset panelling of mid-17th century date, and has an ornate overmantle.

(V.C.H. Sussex IX. 253)

Whiligh (pronounced Whyly) according to the English Place Name Society (Sussex 454) means 'Temple clearing', in common with Whyly in East Hoathley, Willey in Surrey, Weeley in Essex, and Weoley in Worcestershire. Thus it would be one of the six places in Sussex whose names refer to heathen worship. It first appears however as Wiglege in a charter of 1018, and as G in the first syllable is present here and absent in the other places mentioned, it seems just as probable that our Whiligh incorporates the word Wig (pron. weeg), meaning war or warrior; so that just as last year we visited at Wigsell a warrior's 'geselle' (hall), so today we visit a warriors' clearing in the weald, or even a clearing where a battle was fought.

The charter of 1018 is of great interest, as it sets out the boundaries of what it calls 'the little woodland pasture glade' called Haeselerse. Dr. Gordon Ward, F.S.A., of Seven Oaks, an eminent local archaeologist, has shewn in S.A.C. Vol. 77, that the boundaries signify an area of about three square miles of which the eastern or Ticehurst half of Whiligh Park, forms the southernmost part, or about one-sixth of the whole; but what is of the highest interest is that one boundary point at Whiligh is marked by a smithy; which means that in 1018, in Canute's reign, fifty years before the conquest, there was in the heart of the weald a farmland area of this and other estates densely enough developed to have its own smithy.

Even more historical than the house at Whiligh is the family of Courthope which has held the manor since 1513. The family of Courthope held lands in Wadhurst in 1272. In 1343 John Courthope was Bailiff of the towns of Winchelsea and Rye. In the Parliament of 1420 and the four succeeding ones William Courthope sat as Member for Hastings. John Courthope in 1513 succeeded to Whiligh in right of his wife Elizabeth Saunders on the death of her father. Thereafter, son

followed son in the succession—George—John (who had Whiligh House in 1586—Sir George (knight)—Sir George, knight and M.P. for East Grinstead at the Restoration, who died in 1685—then eight Georges in succession of whom the last was M.P. for the Rye division of Sussex for 39 years, 1906 to 1945. He was also a barrister, a forestry commissioner, a colonel in the Territorial Army, having commanded the 5th Cinque Ports Battalion, in which he served with distinction (M.C.) in the first world war. The 17th century Sir George who was member for East Grinstead, was elected in 1656 as one of the nine knights of the shire for Sussex and was immediately charged by his rivals with having sent money to the King at Oxford in 1643. His case was about to be investigated by the Council of State when Cromwell himself came in and called attention to another and more important matter concerning the fleet. After that the matter was dropped. It was indeed well known that Courthope had been a royalist sympathiser; but the money sent to Oxford had only been sent in the course of his duties, being monies belonging to the Alienation Office, of which he was a commissioner, and which he was bound to remit to the King's treasury from time to time. Courthope therefore took his seat and no more objection was raised. At the Restoration, as a Cromwellian M.P., Courthope was a little anxious, but his personal loyalty to the King was well known: he was confirmed in his post in the Alienation Office, granted a pension in succession to an uncle, and knighted at King Charles' coronation. However, to make matters quite sure he obtained a pardon under the great seal. He retained his seat in Parliament until 1679.

C. T. CHEVALLIER

COMMEMORATION OF THE 892nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

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

Mr. Robert Stainton, M.A., Headmaster of Glengorse School, conducted the annual special service in the parish church on Sunday evening, October 12th 1958. The lessons were read by Mrs. E. Harbord, a Vice-President, and Mr. A. E. Marson, Chairman of the Society.

In his sermon Mr. Stainton said that there were three qualifications for the serious historian: knowledge, imagination, and love of truth. Man's history can be seen as a continuing judgment derived from a permanent standard of comparison—the Law of God—a rational and moral principle pervading the Universe and the world of men. It is easy to read the judgment upon the Assyrians or Napoleon or Prussianism: they failed to conform to the Law of God. But not all conquerors have suffered it when they gave something to the peoples they conquered: Macedon gave a bigger idea of monarchy and the brotherhood of man; Rome, order and world citizenship; the Normans, strong government dependant on the loyalty of people to the crown as well as the strong hand of force. We are being judged: each generation in its own time. How far do we conform to the moral law of God? God offers individuals and nations life and good—or death and evil. Therefore let each of us choose life, that we and our seed may live.

COMMEMORATION LECTURE

delivered by Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith, M.A., F.R.S.A. on Tuesday, October 14th 1958

THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

At the best attended meeting to date in the life of the Society, Mr. Gibbs-Smith, who is keeper of the Museum Extension Services of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and part editor of the book on the Tapestry recently acquired for the Society's library, gave a vivid lecture which transported his enthusiastic audience of some 250 back to the momentous

years 1065 and 1066. He unfolded the story of the Tapestry in detail, with the help of very find coloured slides and no little humour.

The lecturer, as one who had served in the Ministry of Information during the war, pointed out that the Tapestry, one of the most famous pieces of needlework in the world, was really a strip cartoon of pure propaganda; its object being to whitewash William, and justify his seizure of the English throne. It is quite usual in war time to portray your enemy as a perjured blasphemer; which is the whole object of the complicated story the tapestry tells.

We shall never know the truth of Harold's "hunting expedition" to Normandy. It may be that he was captured by Guy as the result of being driven ashore in a storm; but William undoubtedly seized the opportunity presented with a ruthless energy which ultimately led him to the English throne.

The popular story that Harold was hit in the eye and killed by an arrow was completely discredited by the lecturer. He showed that, in the Tapestry record, the man with the arrow in his eye was clearly *not* Harold; who is shown, in the following scene, being killed in hand-to-hand combat with Norman knights. The arrow story appears to have obtained credence from a 14th century poem which, being three centuries after the event, cannot stand against the contemporary evidence of the Tapestry.

During the discussion the lecturer asked if there were any physical features of the battlefield which could be identified; and was interested to learn that the hillock portrayed on the tapestry could be seen, now covered with trees, in the Abbey park, and could be identified by its shape.

EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on November 21st 1958

The Chairman drew attention in his remarks to the welcome increase of 30 in membership, which now stood at 253. On account of the increasing interest shewn in the Museum by the general public, the Committee had felt justified in giving, last September, the necessary six months notice to renew the lease for four years from March 1959, and he now asked the meeting to confirm that action, which was done. The balance of funds at the end of the year was £51—13—5 in the General Account; which in all the circumstances was satisfactory. The Museum Account remained overdrawn £50—15—8.

The following were re-elected as officers for 1958-59:—Chairman, Mr. A. E. Marson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. R. Clough; Honorary Secretary, Major L. C. Gates; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. R. W. Bishop. The two members of the Committee due to retire in rotation, Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Lemmon and Miss M. J. Powell, were re-elected for three years till 1961. Mr. B. E. Beechey was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. W. T. Dunford. After the meeting, light refreshments were served, and later there was a competition on B.B.C. lines between two teams who were presented with several strange antique objects for identification.

Printed by
BUDD & GILLATT
NORTH STREET
ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA
SUSSEX