

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

7 NOVEMBER, 1900, TO 29 MAY, 1901,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XLII.

BEING No. 2 OF THE TENTH VOLUME.

(FOURTH VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)



Cambridge:

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS.

1902.

Price 5s.

The number of pre-reformation patens now known to be in use in English Churches is about 90. The larger number of these belong to the type of which the present one is a specimen, and range in date from 1450 to 1520.

The practice of hall-marking was not introduced till the later part of the above period, and consequently only about 20 are hall-marked and have their dates accurately fixed.

The dates of others can be arrived at with some degree of probability by a comparison of their style of manufacture and of the execution of the engraving upon them; but the characteristics of this paten are not sufficiently marked to enable its date to be fixed, but it may be put at about 1500.

More than 30 of the pre-reformation patens belong to parishes in the County of Norfolk, a fact worthy of notice in connexion with the present discovery, as Parson Drove is not more than six miles from the boundary of that County, though the diocese is not the same. It is also noticeable that, though so many pre-reformation patens escaped destruction in the County of Norfolk under the orders made by the bishops at the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign, there is no pre-reformation chalice left in that County nor in this. It is suggested that the survival of the patens was caused by the fact that the order for destruction mentioned specifically the chalice, meaning thereby the chalice and cover-paten, but that it was taken literally by some parochial authorities to mean the chalice only.

It is probable that this particular paten escaped because of the inaccessibility of the village, as approach to the district must have been very difficult till the drainage of the fens was carried to its present development.

C. E. SAYLE, M.A., made the following communication :

A TINDER-BOX ATTRIBUTED TO SHAKESPEARE.

This tinder-box (Pl. VI.) and the papers in it were placed in my hands in December, 1900. It is the property of Mrs R. I. Severs, of 10, King's Parade, Cambridge, and was found by her among her husband's goods shortly after his death. She



TINDER-BOX. [See page 119.]

is of opinion that Mr Severs was unaware that it was in his possession, and that it came to him with other assets when he took on the establishment from Mr Dimmock, a stationer, in January, 1869.

The size of the box is $10 \times 2 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The wood is oak.

The documents are to the following effect:

Document 1.]

Love is like *the flint* that strikes upon *the steel*,
Gives coldness *heat*, exerts the *hidden flame*,
And spreads its *sparkles round* to warm the world.

This Tinder box was given amongst other Household Gods, by John Shakespeare to his son William Shakespeare when he married Anne Hathaway 1582 and as (*sic*) remained in the family of the Hathaways ever since—Was Bot (*sic*) by David Garrick at the sale of M. Hathaway's Coal Merchant in Colman Street in the City of London in the year 1701 (*sic*), and sold at his sale at Richmond.

The lines upon the Top of this Paper was (*sic*) found in the Tinder box when it was sold at Hathaways Sale and supposed to have been written by our Immortal bard¹.

* * * Water-mark, "Rocklesby & Morbey 1827."

Document 2.]

Lines written upon a Tinder Box in the Possession of M Forster 4 Lower James Street Golden Sqr (Suposed (*sic*) to have been Shakespeares)

Love is like the flint, *etc.* (as above).

Upon the bottom of the box appears the name of John Shakespeare.

* * * Endorsed "Shakespeares Tinder Box Double *Rotunda* with a Witness." No water-mark.

The attribution to Shakespeare may be dismissed at once. It is wrong to say that the name John Shakespeare appears on the bottom of the box. All that can be seen are the initials "L. S." (the J turned the wrong way) and the date

¹ These lines do not occur, so far as I can discover, in Shakespeare's works.

"1569." The figures are not in Elizabethan character. The attribution to Shakespeare, if it rests on this inscription, therefore falls to the ground.

The date 1701 in connexion with David Garrick is unfortunate, inasmuch as he was not born till 1716. As he died in 1779, we are driven to suppose that 1701 is written in error for 1761; and, as we can see from three other mistakes in the two documents that the writer was not a person of education, we may give him or her the benefit of the doubt.

I have not been able to trace the sale of Garrick's effects. His books were sold at Richmond in 1823, and a copy of the sale catalogue, which I have examined, is in the British Museum Library. If the Garrick tradition is to be received favourably, the fact that one of the documents is written on paper with the water-mark of 1827, and the other probably at the same time, may be borne in mind.

I have shown the box to Mr C. H. Reed, the Keeper of the British and Mediaeval Antiquities and Ethnography at the British Museum. He at once pronounced the object to be of Dutch workmanship; but was unwilling to assign a date to it, as traditional ornamentation of this character would naturally continue unchanged through a long period. He informed me that the last work of this kind which he had acquired, also Dutch, had come from New Guinea. But unfortunately he was unable to find in the Museum Collection the purchases to which he referred.

I also showed the box to Mr Hodge, of the firm of Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge, through whom it will shortly be offered for sale¹. Mr Hodge affirmed also that the character of decoration appeared to him to be similar to that which he had seen on New Guinea clubs which had passed through his hands.

He added that "the sale of Mr Hathaway's Coal Merchant in Colman Street" mentioned in the first document appeared to him, upon recollection, familiar: but I have not been fortunate enough to find any further confirmation.

¹ It was purchased by Mr Tregaskis, 232, High Holborn.

I regret that, through the illness and absence from Cambridge of Baron A. von Hügel, I have been unable to discover if we possess in our own Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology any objects of Dutch or New Guinea work which would show any affinity to that now exhibited.

The Curator of the Pitt Rivers Collection, of the Ethnographical Department, at the University Museum in Oxford, Mr Henry Balfour, to whom I sent a photograph of the box now exhibited, writes to me as follows:

22 January 1901.

Your tinder box is very interesting and I am glad to have seen the photograph. Wooden tinder boxes of this rectangular type with compartments have a wide distribution and I have a number of them from various regions, though none carved like yours. From the nature of the carving I should suppose that it is of Dutch provenance, the shape of the projecting flanges of the lid and base being very characteristic of Dutch domestic carving, e.g. the hand-mangles which present this feature very commonly. The surface carving too might, I think, well be Dutch, though the particular design of the circular rosette on the lid occurs again and again in Norwegian and other Scandinavian carving, and this fact may make one inclined to locate the specimen further north in a region where Dutch and Scandinavian styles find a meeting ground. This would point to Denmark as being a likely spot. The date I should imagine might be anywhere between say 1720 and 1820 or 1830¹. I regret that I have no specimen in my collection similar to this, although I have collected as a private hobby fire-making and lighting appliances for many years, and have a very good collection at my house.

Mr J. L. André, of Horsham, has also kindly given me his opinion:

24 January 1901.

All the tinder boxes which I have seen have been round tin ones, but the shape of the one of which you send me a photograph resembles that of old English knife boxes which were hung up in a similar manner, and I have one resembling your tinder-box in the outlines of the back and of the lid. The chip carving on your example would suggest that it has a Scandinavian origin, and may be of late 17th century date².

¹ I was careful, in writing to Mr Balfour, to give him no clue by which he might be misled as to the date.

² Again, I gave Mr André no lead as to the date of the box.

I may here add that I have recently learnt of the existence of a tinder-box in the Home for Poor Travellers at Rochester, the house celebrated by Dickens: but in that example there was an absence of all attempt at decoration, though I am told that it is similar in design. I regret that I have been unable to obtain a photograph of it in time to exhibit it at this meeting.

I am indebted to Mr Albert Hartshorne, of Shepton Mallet, for assistance in the preparation of this note.

The Rev. H. P. STOKES, LL.D., pointed out the scandal of attaching the name of Shakespeare to such forgeries.

Mr W. B. REDFERN mentioned that he had heard the box alluded to by those who had known Mr Dimmock, and that Mr Dimmock had been in the habit of putting it to a practical use. Mr Redfern also drew attention to a similar tinder-box bearing the date 1761 in the collection of Mr R. T. Mole of Edgbaston, Birmingham, a drawing of which appeared in the *Cambridge Graphic* of 27 October, 1900, page 5.

Mr T. D. ATKINSON made the following communication:

THE SEALS OF THE COMMONALTY AND OF
THE MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGE.

After the great riot of 1381, certain chosen representatives of the Town appeared before Parliament in the enquiry as to the tumult. On being asked if they had authority under the common seal of the town, they replied in the negative, saying that the town had no common seal¹.

For nearly half a century after this the town had not a common seal. But on the Thursday after the Nativity of the Virgin [the 8th of September], 1423, that is, quite early in the

¹ Cooper, *Annals*, i. 123 (1381). MS. Cole, xii, 128 b.

CONTENTS

OF PROCEEDINGS, No. XLII.

VOL. X. (NEW SERIES, VOL. IV.) No. 2.

	PAGE
Two Series of Paintings formerly at Worcester Priory. By Dr JAMES	99
Exhibition of English Pottery. By Dr GLAISHER	116
Cambridgeshire Place Names. By Professor SKEAT	117
Underground Dwellings in the British Isles. By Mr DAVID MACRITCHIE	118
Paten from Parson Drove. By J. E. FOSTER, M.A. and Mr E. M. H. JACKSON	118
Tinder-box attributed to Shakespeare. By C. E. SAYLE, M.A.	119
The Seals of the Commonalty and of the Mayor of Cambridge. By Mr T. D. ATKINSON	123
A Medal of Justinian I. By the Rev. W. G. SEABLE, M.A.	129
The Sculptures on the South Portal of the Abbey Church at Malmesbury. By Dr JAMES	136
Sculptures at Lincoln Cathedral. By Dr JAMES	148
Stone Implements from Sarawak. By Dr HOSE and Dr HADDON	152
Annual General Meeting	153
Annual Report of the Council for 1900—1901	154
County History Report, 1900—1901	156
List of Presents	160
Summary of Accounts, 1900	167
List of Officers and Council, 1901—1902	168
Plates V—VIII.	