PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society

WITH

COMMUNICATIONS

MADE TO THE SOCIETY

VOL. XXX

1927—1928

CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SOLD BY BOWES & BOWES.

1929

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

CONTENTS

PAGE

Report of the Council for 1927 1

Summary of Accounts for 1927 5

Ordinary Meetings with Communications:

The Care of Ancient Monuments. C. R. PEERS, C.B.E. . . . 8

Ancient Man at Hoxne, Suffolk. J. REID MOIR, F.R.A.I. . . 8

The Story of a Derelict Railway (the Newmarket and Chesterford Line). KENNETH BROWN 9

Air-Photographs and Archaeology. O. G. S. CRAWFORD, F.S.A. . 9

The Present Traffic in Old Documents. E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S. 10

Court Life in China during the T'ang Dynasty, as illustrated by the Poems of Tu Fu. Mrs FLORENCE AYSCOUGH, D.Litt. . . . 10

The Early Iron Age in England and Wales. CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A. 11

Eighty-Eighth Annual General Meeting:

Adoption of Annual Report and Treasurer's Balance Sheet for 1927 . 11

Election of New Officers and Members of the Council for 1928–9 . 11

A Visitation of the Religious Houses of the Diocese of Ely in A.D. 1373. ARTHUR GRAY, M.A. 11

A Wall-Decoration at Linton. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A. . . 11

The Tympanum at St John's Church, Duxford. L. COBBETT, M.D., F.R.C.S. 11

Excavations in the Cambridgeshire Dykes, VIth Report, Bran or Heydon Ditch. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, F.S.A. 11

Report on Skeletons found at the above Excavations. W. L. H. DUCKWORTH, M.D., Sc.D. 11

Graeco-Roman Textile Fabrics from Egypt. A. F. KENDRICK . 11

Two Cambridgeshire Antiquaries, John Layer of Shepreth and "Cardinal" Cole of Milton. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A. . 13

New Officers for 1928–29 14

Complete List of Officers for 1928–29 15

Printed Papers:

PAGE

Seal Matrices in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. H. S. KINGSFORD, M.A. 16

Ickleton Church in the XVIIIth Century. LOUIS COBBETT, M.D., F.R.C.S. 29

The Early Iron Age in England and Wales. CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A. 52

A Visitation of the Religious Houses of the Diocese of Ely in A.D. 1373. ARTHUR GRAY, M.A. 54

A Wall-Decoration at Linton. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A. . . . 60

The Tympanum at St John's Church, Duxford. LOUIS COBBETT, M.D., F.R.C.S. 63

Excavations in the Cambridgeshire Dykes. VI. Bran Ditch, Second Report. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, F.S.A., and W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A. 78

Notes on the Human Remains from Mr Lethbridge's Excavations of the Bran Ditch in 1927. W. L. H. DUCKWORTH, M.D., Sc.D., M.A. 94

The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Burwell, Cambs. Part IV. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, F.S.A. 97

Archaeological Notes 110

Index 113

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Seals in Museum, Cambridge: PAGE

Plate I . . . . . facing 18

Plate II . . . . . „ 19

Ickleton Church, Cambridgeshire:

Exterior from N.W. . . . . facing 29

North Wall of Chancel . . . . . „ 32

Estimate of "Expence of the proposed Alteration" . . . „ 42

Plan of the proposed Alteration . . . . . „ 44

Plan of Church, with outline of former Chantries and N. Transept . . . . . „ 49

A Wall-Decoration at Linton:

Decoration at "The Griffin," Linton . . . . . facing 60

„ „ „ . . . . . „ 61

Plan of the Market Place at Linton, about 1660 . . . 61

The Old Crown, and Manor Court House, Linton . . . facing 62

The Tympanum at St John's Church, Duxford:

The Tympanum *in situ* . . . . . facing 63

Enlarged view of Cross from Tympanum . . . . „ 64

Rosettes at Kilkieran, Ireland 65

„ Lincoln, Coleraine, and Behioh 66

Step ornament at Tower of London, Stow, Deerhurst, and Kilkenny . . . . . facing 66

Stepped Cross from Rabanus, "De Laude Crucis" . . . „ 69

Crosses at Kirkdale, Jarrow, St Andrews, Monk Wearmouth, and Birtley . . . . . „ 70

Stepped Cross at Rosemarkie, Scotland 72

Crosses at Clonmacnois, Hartlepool, and Oakington . . . facing 72

Excavations in the Cambridgeshire Dykes: PAGE

Sections of Bran Ditch, Fosse and Vallum 79

Section of Vallum 6 yards S.E. of Fox's Section D . . . facing 82

Plan of Excavations . . . . . ,, 84

Diagram of skeletons . . . . . ,, 84

Iron knife and clip from Grave 7. Bronze brooches from Great Pit. Bronze ornament from mediaeval roadway . . ,, 87

The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Burwell:

Plan of Excavations . . . . . facing 97

Section of Pit . . . . . ,, 98

Objects from Graves 72, 92, 84, 90 and 79 . . . . ,, 100

Diagrams of Graves 83 and 76, and objects from Grave 83 . ,, 103

Objects from Grave 76 . . . . . ,, 104

,, Grave 83 . . . . . ,, 107

Bone comb and beads from Grave 83 . . . . . ,, 109

Archaeological Notes:

Pyx and Bronze bowl . . . . . facing 110

Swords and daggers . . . . . ,, 111

A VISITATION OF THE RELIGIOUS HOUSES OF THE DIOCESE OF ELY IN A.D. 1373.

By Arthur Gray, M.A.,
Master of Jesus College.

(Read 5 March, 1928.)

The facts relating to this visitation are given at length in the Register of Archbishop Wittlesey in Lambeth Library, pp. 152 following.

John de Barnet, Bishop of Ely, died June 7, 1373. Thomas de Arundel, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, was consecrated Bishop of Ely, April 9, 1374, but was not enthroned at Ely until April 20, 1376. During the vacancy of the see Archbishop Wittlesey issued a commission appointing Thomas de Wormenhale, LL.D., who was rector of Terrington, Norfolk, canon of Salisbury, prebendary of Chichester and next year (1374) became Master of Peterhouse, as his Official and Vicar in spirituals to visit and report on all benefices in the diocese including Religious Houses and Hospitals. The commission is given from Otford, Kent, and in the Register is erroneously dated June 5, i.e. two days before the Bishop's death.

A century before this, in November 1277, when Hugh Balsham was Bishop of Ely, the Archbishop, Robert Kilwardby, notified the Archdeacon of Ely of his intention of visiting the diocese in person. The visitation was actually carried out in the following December and January. Kilwardby was extraordinarily energetic in visiting the various dioceses of his province, and in the preceding year had personally visited the vast diocese of Lincoln. His itinerary from day to day is given in the Vetus Liber of the Archdeacon of Ely. Starting from Elsworth, a manor of the Bishop of Ely, on Dec. 11, in nine days he held visitations in nine different places. From December 20 to 30 he remained at Ely with the Bishop, and while he was there he visited Ely monastery and the Deaneries of Ely and Wisbech. From Dec. 31 to Jan. 3 he

lodged with the canons of Barnwell and inspected their house and that of the nuns of St Radegund. Between Jan. 4 and 7 he returned to his rounds in rural Cambridgeshire. A surprising programme for an old man to undertake in the depth of winter and in the miry roads of rural Cambridgeshire.

In the Introduction to his edition of the Vetus Liber Dr Feltoe follows the track of an energetic Archdeacon in a visitation which happened soon after that of Archbishop Kilwardby. Each day's itinerary is noted, and the starting place was evidently Cambridge. On the first day nine churches were inspected, and eight on the next: the total for seven days was 51 churches. The Archdeacon's business was mainly to report on church property and furniture, tithes, subsidies, etc. He visited no religious houses and had not the Archbishop's tedious business of listening to complaints of defective diet, gossip of petty scandals and irregularities, etc.

Archbishop Wittlesey's Commissary, Thomas de Wormenhale, carried out his duties in a more leisurely fashion, and if we may judge from the *comperta*, or evidence, which he collected, his investigations were not of a penetrating kind, nor do they throw much light on the conditions prevailing in the religious households of the time. It has to be remembered that the years about 1373 made a gloomy period in English history. Two years before this, in 1371, the Black Prince returned to England, a broken and dying man, and the long and costly war ended in 1374 in the final clearance of the English from all but a few places in France. Naturally the monasteries made grievous moan over the exactions to which they were subjected in those last years of the war.

Wormenhale began his investigations with the monastic and cathedral church of Ely on Saturday next following the Translation of St Thomas, Archbishop (July 7) and continued the examination until the next Tuesday. At all the religious houses each member was separately and privately questioned. It was alleged that the sacrist, John of Ely, did not attend to his duties, neglected to repair the church, and by his bad management had incurred debts amounting to £100. But John, and the Prior and others denied the article, and John was dismissed without reproof.

On Thursday and Friday in the same week there were visitations of parish churches in the city and Deanery of Ely, on the former day in the church of St Mary, Ely, on the latter in Sutton church.

After an interval the Benedictine nunnery of Chatteris was visited on Tuesday and Wednesday next after the feast of St James (July 25). Margaret Hotot was Abbess. Certain five of the nuns were charged with disobedience and with leaving the chapter house without the permission of the Abbess before the business of the chapter was ended. It was complained that the Abbess did not consult the sisterhood on important business and relied too much on the advice of a certain Edward Grenge: to which the Abbess replied that she did not fail to consult the wishes of the convent, and that the said Edward was an expert man of business whom she was glad to consult on matters that did not concern the convent. To a further allegation that she "subtracted" an annual sum of 10*s*. provided for the clothing of the sisters she made answer that the house was so burdened with tithes, subsidies, etc., that she could not help it, but hoped some day to make up the 10*s*. Too little bread and beer was another complaint: in future things should be better, said the Abbess.

On the following Friday the Hospital of St John, Cambridge was visited. William Deer was Master. It was found that the buildings from lack of repair were suffering "great ruin": also that the brethren did not make confession to the Master, as they were bound to do. These matters, the visitor pointed out, must be better attended to.

Next day the Nunnery of St Radegund was visited. Margaret Clanyle was Prioress. There was a long list of *comperta*. First it was alleged that the Prioress made her subordinate officials discharge payments beyond what was required by the custom of their offices and without assigning any reason. This the Prioress denied, but she was cautioned in future to explain to the officials the reasons for all expenditure required of them. Next she was charged with not finding priests to celebrate for various benefactors: she answered that the means of the house were not sufficient to sustain the said burdens. She was instructed to discharge these obligations

as soon as the fortunes of the house enabled her to do so. Then it was complained that she suffered the Refectory to remain without cover, so that in rainy weather the nuns were not able to take their meals there in common, as by rule they were bound to do. The Prioress replied that the Nunnery was so burdened with debts and taxation in these times that she had been unable to carry out repairs, but that she would do so as soon as possible. It was further alleged that she did not correct sister Elizabeth de Cambridge for withdrawing herself from divine service, and allowed friars of different orders, as well as seculars, to visit her at inopportune times and to converse with her, to the scandal of religion. The Prioress said that she had frequently corrected her. She was ordered in future strictly to correct her and chastise her for the faults alleged. It was also said that the Prioress was too easily persuaded to give permission to the Nuns to go outside the cloister. Furthermore sister Elizabeth de Cambridge was reported for making discord among the sisters and murmuring against correction and that she did not trouble to get up to attend mattins, as she was bound to do—a fault, I might observe, which $5\frac{1}{2}$ centuries have failed to correct in attendance at St Radegund's church. Elizabeth denied the fact, but rather weakly added that, supposing she had done so, she had been corrected by the Prioress. She was warned to cease from murmuring and provoking discord, and to get up for mattins whenever she could. The severity of the visitor's judgment was no doubt tempered by the consideration that Elizabeth's father was that important local dignitary, Sir Thomas de Cambridge.

On the Wednesday following the day of St Peter ad Vincula (August 1) the Augustinian house of Anglesey was visited. William of Quy was Prior. There were no *comperta*.

Next day the Benedictine Nunnery of Swaffham was visited. Eva Wasteneys was Prioress. The only disorder noted was concerned with the Church services. From the time of their foundation the nuns had been used to follow the rule of St Benedict, as observed by the monks of Ely, in their day and night offices. Certain of the present and former nuns had introduced antiphons, verses and collects of various

saints in the services, with the result that the due and accustomed order was either negligently performed or sometimes omitted. Direction was given that in the ordinary services the Benedictine rule should be restored, and that in future the observances which had been introduced should be left to private devotions.

The visitation of the Augustinian canons of Barnwell took place next day (Friday). Ralf de Norton was Prior. Here and at the Benedictine nunnery of Icklington, which was examined on the following Monday, there were no *comperta*.

After the Icklington visit the Commissary did not resume his task until the last week in September. Then on the Monday after St Matthew's day (Sept. 21) he examined the Benedictine house at Thorney, of which John de Depyng was Abbot. Apart from a complaint that the Abbot was lax in discipline and given to favouritism the grievances were of the usual financial and administrative kind. The Abbot was said to have "subtracted" the rent of the conventual manor of Whittlesea, and he urged in reply the usual reason that the burden of tithes, subsidies, etc. prevented payment and said that he was ready to pay in future. Also it was alleged that he neglected to repair the hall of *minucio*, i.e. the place where the monks underwent blood-letting at stated intervals; to which the Abbot replied that though that was no business of his, yet for the sake of peace and mutual goodwill he was willing to do the repairs at his own charges. The visitor decreed that such repairs were not rightly chargeable to the Abbot, and were only to be done by him as an act of grace.

On the Thursday after the Thorney visit the Commissary began an investigation, prolonged for several days following, about a poor and obscure sisterhood at Long Stow. The evidence was taken in St Mary's church outside Trumpington Gates. In 1278, when king Edward I made the general inquisition known as the Hundred Rolls, there existed at Stow an almshouse or hospital, called the New Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the relief of the poor. It had been established by a certain Walter, vicar of Stow, and endowed with no more than two acres of land next Ermine Street. The sisterhood of the foundation were clothed in russet, i.e.

not in the black Benedictine habit. The foundation lapsed before the Reformation and hardly anything is known of it. Joan of Whaplode, dwelling in the household, was charged before the Commissary with having assumed without authority the Benedictine habit, with usurping the title of Prioress of the house without canonical election, with taking on herself the administration of the goods of the house and dissipating them by her careless control. Joan admitted that she had assumed the Benedictine habit without authority, but alleged that she had been duly elected Prioress by her sisters, and that by the privileges of the house the election required no confirmation. She further stated that, so far from dissipating the household goods, she had increased them, so that their value was £120. At a later interview she produced certain documents with seals attached, which however did not satisfy the Commissary, who remained convinced of her "naughtiness," *malicia*, and committed the administration of the household effects to John, vicar of Bourn. The report ends with a statement that the punishment of Joan would be considered on a later day. Joan, if her word is to be taken, seems to have been a practically-minded woman capable of making a little go a long way, but intolerant of clerical supervision and just as ignorant of canon law as a sensible housekeeper would be likely to be.

CONTENTS

OF PROCEEDINGS,

VOL. XXX, 1927–28.

	PAGE
Report of Council for 1927	1
Summary of Accounts for 1927	5
Ordinary Meetings with Communications	8
Eighty-Eighth Annual Meeting	11
New Officers for 1928–29	14
Complete List of Officers for 1928–29	15

Printed Papers:

Seal Matrices in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. H. S. KINGSFORD, M.A.	16
Ickleton Church in the XVIIIth Century. LOUIS COBBETT, M.D., F.R.C.S.	29
The Early Iron Age in England and Wales. CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A.	52
A Visitation of the Religious Houses of the Diocese of Ely in A.D. 1373. ARTHUR GRAY, M.A.	54
A Wall-Decoration at Linton. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	60
The Tympanum at St John's Church, Duxford. LOUIS COBBETT, M.D., F.R.C.S.	63
Excavations in the Cambridgeshire Dykes. VI. Bran Ditch, Second Report. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, F.S.A., and W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	78
Notes on the Human Remains from Mr Lethbridge's Excavations of the Bran Ditch in 1927. W. L. H. DUCKWORTH, M.D., Sc.D., M.A.	94
The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Burwell, Cambs. Part IV. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, F.S.A.	97
Archaeological Notes	110
Index	113