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# Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

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(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

Volume XCI  
for 2002



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## Recent Publications of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

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### **Proceedings LXXXVIII, 1999: Price £12.50 for members, £14.50 for non-members**

John Alexander and Joyce Pullinger: *Roman Cambridge: Excavations on Castle Hill 1956–1988*

### **Proceedings LXXXIX, 2000: Price £12.50 for members, £14.50 for non-members**

Richard Mortimer with a contribution by David Hall: *Village Development and Ceramic Sequence: The Middle to Late Saxon village at Lordship Lane, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire*

Paul Spoerry: *The Topography of Anglo-Saxon Huntingdon: a survey of the archaeological and historical evidence*

Mary Hesse: *Field systems in southwest Cambridgeshire: Abington Pigotts, Litlington and the Mile Ditches*

S M Oosthuizen and C C Taylor: *Rediscovery of a vanished garden in Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, and the impact of the Lynne family on the medieval landscape*

Margaret Spufford: *General View of the Rural Economy of the County of Cambridge*

Susan Oosthuizen, John Alexander and Alison Taylor: *Reviews*

Tim Reynolds, Jeremy Parsons, Tim Malim and Ben Robinson: *Field-Work in Cambridgeshire*

### **Proceedings XC, 2001: Price £12.50 for members, £14.50 for non-members**

Alex Jones: *A Romano-Celtic Shrine and Settlements at Little Paxton Quarry, Diddington, Cambridgeshire*

Audrey L Meaney: *Felix's life of St Guthlac: Hagiography and/or Truth*

Susan Oosthuizen: *Anglo-Saxon minsters in south Cambridgeshire*

J H Denton: *The 1291 valuation of the churches of Ely diocese*

Robert Walker: *Cambridgeshire Bell Frames*

Alison Dickins: *Kings College Chapel, Cambridge: A Study of Artefacts Recovered from Beneath the Choir Stalls*

Timothy Insoll: *The Cambridge Mosque and Muslim Community*

Alison Taylor: *Reviews*

Helen Lewis, Tim Malim and Judith Roberts: *Field-Work in Cambridgeshire 2000*

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Editor Alison Taylor

**Published by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 2002**

ISSN 0309-3606

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## Editorial

After two themed volumes these *Proceedings* return to the usual PCAS format of mixed papers, covering excavations, local history, landscape archaeology, architecture and historical geography. Indeed, in the finest antiquarian tradition many of the papers involve more than one of these disciplines. There should therefore be something to interest all members in this miscellany.

Two departures from recent practice are the inclusion of Conference synopses and an abbreviated *Conduit*. The synopses are by popular request, rising from a realisation that many members would be grateful to have a lasting reminder of these important papers. We are grateful to the authors who supplied copy so conscientiously after the event (naturally we had not thought of this in advance), and to Derek Booth who collected them all together. *Conduit* had to be an even more last-minute construct, when it became clear that the County Council could no longer keep up with the necessary production time-scale. This year's approach is a bit of an experiment, and it will be useful to know what reaction we have both from members and from affiliated societies.

*Alison Taylor*

## President's Address

Two years as President is too short a time to see through any substantial programme of reform for CAS. When I was elected there were a number of initiatives I wanted to start in the hope they would mature in another President's time. To this end Derek Booth as Secretary and I put out a questionnaire in the year 2000 to profile our membership and to canvas opinion on possible changes.

It has been a central part of my Presidency to re-imbue the Society and its membership with confidence in its right to express opinion on heritage issues. It is essential that there remains a well-informed independent Society to safeguard archaeological and related services at a time when other pressures and agenda take precedence within local and central governmental organisations which we perhaps naively assume will be acting in our best interests in protecting the past. It is particularly regrettable that CAS has been excluded from representation within long-established fora to discuss and scrutinise public heritage services within Cambridgeshire at this time.

Another issue I hoped we could address was to reverse the decline of amateur archaeology, perhaps by re-establishing the Society's post of Director of Fieldwork, and to encourage research-led investigation in the County once more. This latter still awaits the right person and opportunity, but I am pleased there are encouraging signs in the way local groups have attracted grants which will give them solid research foci and draw in new members. Notable amongst these are Thriplow Society, Fulbourn Village History Society, Haverhill and District Archaeological Group and Cambridge Archaeology Field Group.

We asked members if it would be beneficial for CAS to develop other venues for meetings, and would there be interest in workshops on current research topics. We have developed the workshop idea with this year's conference dedicated to the archaeology, architecture and history of Ely, a town that has had considerable investigation in the past ten years, with some startling new discoveries but little co-ordination or academic discussion. Synopses of the talks are published within this volume. From October we shall be holding our monthly meetings in more comfortable and more accessible surroundings, in the newly built Divinity Faculty at the Sidgewick Site.

Other positive steps are that, after two years I can report that the Web page is now complete and will shortly appear at [www.Cambridge-Antiquarian-Society.org.uk](http://www.Cambridge-Antiquarian-Society.org.uk), and that the Society has taken back full ownership of *Conduit* which, over the past ten years, had been produced jointly with Cambridgeshire County Council.

In summary there has been good progress over the past two years and the Society will continue to build upon its strengths as the paramount amenity society guarding Cambridgeshire's heritage. Government policies at central and local level are capricious and we cannot afford to put faith in them without constant scrutiny and challenge. With the advent of regional government and root and branch reform of the planning system, a Cambridgeshire focus for our heritage provided by CAS will be ever more imperative. The Society is therefore essential and I thank you all for continuing to support and contribute to it. I am pleased to leave it in the capable hands of your secretary Liz Allan, and new President, Tony Kirby.

*Tim Malim*

## Reviews

Alison Taylor, Peter Warner

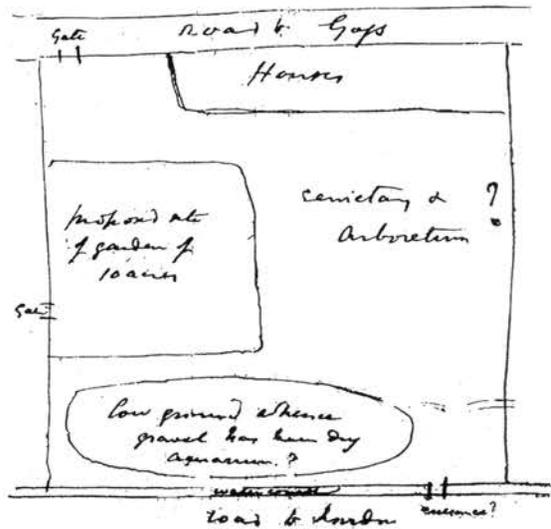
**Darwin's Mentor: John Stephen Henslow, 1796-1861**  
 SM Walters and EA Stow 2001  
 Cambridge University Press 338pp £40

In his day it was Henslow who was the great man, Darwin was 'the man who walked with Henslow'. Yet his scientific work in botany was good rather than great, and it is as an all-rounder (researcher, writer, teacher, philanthropist, pastor and good parent) that he was fondly remembered in so many spheres. He was also successful in getting things done; Cambridge Botanic Gardens are just one of his creations.

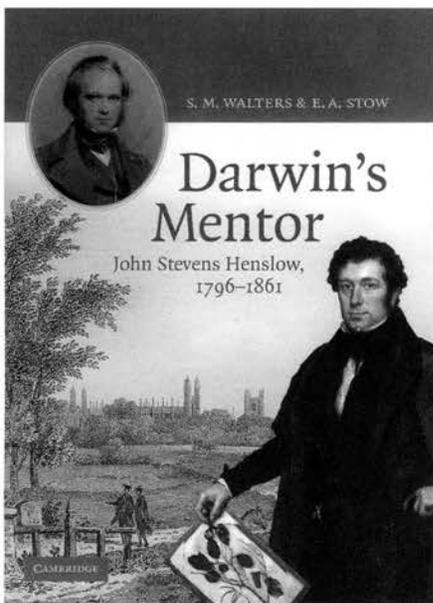
Starting by dragging home specimens said to be as large as his infant self his family accepted him as a future botanist long before he came to St John's in 1814 to study mathematics. Students then had access to any scientific courses they wanted to attend, and Henslow made good use of this, though it was Adam Sedgwick, perhaps because of his exciting geological field trips, who won greatest loyalty, and Henslow was soon making his own expeditions and discoveries.

The new science of botany soon claimed him, and from 1818 he was collecting every plant in the

*Plan of 30 acres purchased for garden*



*Henslow's sketch plan of the New Botanic Garden from Darwin's Mentor.*



Cambridge area and creating the University Herbarium. His records and specimens can still be used to plot land changes, such as the extinction of the boggy landscape of Shelford Common

Darwin always recognised Henslow as his formative influence, through teaching and his Friday soirees, but most of all their botanising expeditions. All on foot, there is an epic quality to quite casual trips. On 24 August 1824 for example they walked to Gamlingay, had a whole day recording 27 plant species that are now mostly extinct, and then walked back to Cambridge. Records and specimens from this jaunt are still of great value today. In later days Henslow was to make enemies even of old friends such as Sedgwick because of his support for Darwin, despite great differences in their religious views. He must have used formidable committee skills when, as Chair at the Oxford meeting that debated *The Origin of Species* he kept control over speakers with some of the

strongest views of their day.

Apart from holding chairs in botany and in mineralogy Henslow's interests were occasionally antiquarian. He was involved in the Bartlow excavations (and did the plant identifications there) and it was he who recorded and illustrated a similar Roman barrow at Rougham in Suffolk.



*Twigs & Leaves of Box (Buxus sempervirens) from a Roman Tomb at Chesterford (after within, where a little sandy loam). A similar deposit occurred in one of the Bartlow Tumuli, of which I possess specimens.*  
L. Henslow

*Henslow's specimen of box leaves from a Romano-British burial site from Darwin's Mentor.*

His rectorship of Hitcham, Suffolk eventually took precedence over his Cambridge work, and the family lived in the village from 1839. Henslow took his parish duties extremely seriously, though the mismatch with this totally rural parish must have been extraordinary. He evidently made little allowance for intellectual difference: he ran horticultural shows where flowers in posies must be 'named and classed', children who could barely read were expected to know the right Latin names for parts of plants, and he preached unintelligibly. However, he also set up a village school and was a kind benefactor.

Apart from sponsorship of Darwin perhaps his greatest impact came from his discovery and publication of the fertilising powers of coprolites, deriving from his interests in geology and in improving his parishioners crop yields. Other achievements included the foundation of Ipswich Museum and an influential role in setting up University College, London.

Max Walters and Anne Stow have done a valuable service in bringing back to life a gifted and charming man, the sort that the ramshackle university of the early nineteenth century could occasionally produce despite itself, a man who quietly influenced both thinkers and doers in a multitude of ways.

*Alison Taylor*

### Pioneers of the Past

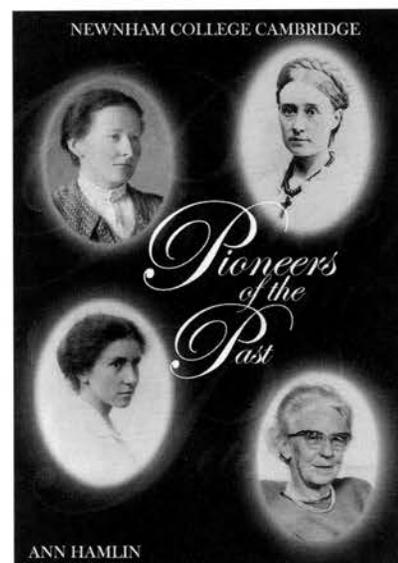
Ann Hamlin 2001

Newnham College Cambridge 66pp £4.95

This small book, produced in aid of Newnham College library fund, is another celebration of past Cambridge scholars, this time all women, all connected with Newnham and all leading figures in archaeology or history. There are fifteen of them (an impressive tally, especially as they have to be dead to qualify here), all significant figures, and it is a shame they have not yet justified a larger work. Nevertheless this is a fascinating introduction for anyone interested in early historical studies for, in the best Cambridge tradition, their powerful influences spread through every continent.

The sheer scholasticism represented here demonstrates a tremendous contribution to antiquarian studies in the first half of the twentieth century. We have Ella Armitage, whose *Early Norman Castles of England*, published in 1912, first defined mottes as Norman, and whose use of written sources for castle studies makes her a useful reference today. She was also conscientious in fieldwork, visiting most castles throughout Britain and Ireland in the days when travel must have made this dreadfully difficult. This is very modest however compared to Gertrude Thompson, a prodigious explorer who demonstrated the indigenous origins of Zimbabwe in 1929 and lived to update her work from later discoveries in 1971, and to Dorothy Garrod, whose foreign expeditions included the Palaeolithic caves of Mount Carmel and other excavations of international fame. Other works that I for one go back to are Norah Chadwick's many books on Celtic history, Joan Liversidge on domestic aspects of Roman Britain, and Dorothy Whitelock's *The beginnings of English Society*, still valuable after fifty years.

In the male-dominated Cambridge of these years (women could not be fully members of the University or be awarded degrees until 1948) women's scholastic achievements were unlikely to translate into high aca-



demical office, but in fact some of them did remarkably well here too. Dorothy Garrod became the first Oxbridge professor in 1939, with the Disney Chair of Archaeology, and it was she who gained full Tripod status for Archaeology and Anthropology. Jocelyn Toynbee was professor of Classical Archaeology and a renowned writer on Roman art and religion (like most of these early scholars she took interdisciplinary work for granted and had no trouble in combining art, archaeology, classical texts and religious studies) and Dorothy Whitelock was professor of Anglo-Saxon, the acknowledged leading Anglo-Saxon scholar of her generation.

Jacquetta Hawkes stands out as a rather wilder character in both private and public life. Her contributions were on a wide public stage: as archaeological advisor to the Festival of Britain and archaeological correspondent for the Observer and Sunday Times for example. Some of her books are positively post-modern in their spiritual rather than scientific approach (though vastly better written than most of our contemporary offerings).

Some even contributed to the work of Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Mary Bateson became our first woman member of Council, in the early 1890s, and the well-loved Joan Liversidge was Secretary (and mainstay) of CAS for 25 years.

Alison Taylor

#### JOAN LIVERSIDGE

Dedicated teacher and contributor to Roman archaeology (1914-84)

Joan Eileen Annie Liversidge was born in London on 22 May 1914, an only child. Her family came originally from Yorkshire and, in common with several others in this booklet, its background was in cloth manufacture. Her father was killed in the 1914-18 war so she was brought up by her mother and was mainly privately educated. She suffered from poor health as a child and was never robust, but she entered Newnham in 1934 to study Music. After Part I she changed to Archaeology, graduating in 1938.



I am uncertain of all the detail of the next ten years, but at this time she settled with her mother in Cambridge. Her mother greatly supported her work until Mrs Liversidge's later years, when Joan cared for her. Both were involved in war work, including the WVS and air-raid wardening. She spent the year 1941-2 at Newnham and, with the encouragement of Jocelyn Toynbee, she identified her research topic and must have been gathering material for it, as in 1949 she was awarded a M Litt degree for a survey of Roman villas. This provided the basis for what became her specialist study for the rest of her life - the interior

*Part of the entry for Joan Liversidge from Pioneers of the Past.*

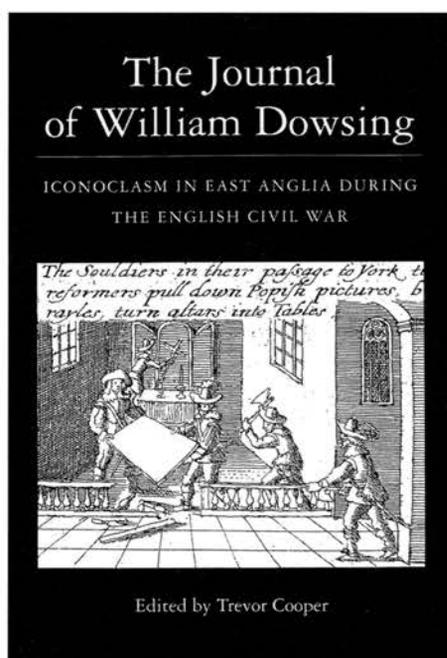
#### The Journal of William Dowsing: Iconoclasm in East Anglia during the English Civil War

Edited by Trevor Cooper 2001

Published by the Ecclesiological Society and Boydell Press. £50 hardback ISBN 0 85115 833 1 website: www.williamdowsing.org

This beautifully presented book contains not just the journal of the famous 17th-century iconoclast himself, but an important collection of papers and detailed notes on different aspects of his life and times. It works on several levels: first, as a definitive reference book, a vital tool for anyone studying the period of the Civil War; second, as a key source for the history of religious reform in England and the impact of the Civil War on the local community, and finally, as a primary source for those working on ecclesiastical history in East Anglia. It is a work which many historians and non-historians alike will enjoy either by reading, or simply by repeated delving. It should not be banished to the reference shelf of a library, but used and delighted in like one of the other great journals, by a Samuel Pepys or a Parson Woodforde.

The book is divided into three parts: first there are essays and commentaries on Dowsing by Professor John Morrill and John Blatchly, followed by chapters on the counties of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and East Anglia by Robert Walker, Trevor Cooper and Dr Sadler. Secondly, the central part of the book is taken up with the journal itself and detailed commentaries. The third part is made up of 16 appendices, comprehensive notes, bibliography and index. This structure works well and I had no difficulty finding my way around; indeed I enjoyed browsing endlessly through the detail, exemplified with excellent photographs and carefully researched commentaries on almost every line in the journal. The writers have sought confirmation from church wardens' accounts,



diaries, letters and other contemporary sources, which have been expertly woven into the text. It is this richness of detail that will fascinate the modern reader.

Dowsing was 'Provost Marshal' for the Eastern Association, responsible for prosecuting and punishing wayward soldiers. We would nowadays regard him as a religious fanatic, but he blended seamlessly into the Parliamentary cause; it would be dangerous to think that he was in any sense out of step with his contemporaries on the radical wing of the Puritan movement. Born at Laxfield, Suffolk, in 1597 from a very ordinary middle ranking yeoman farming family, he drew support from family and friends mostly with similar farming backgrounds. His deputies were more often than not related to him by marriage, or were known to him through the local Suffolk farming community. It was to his home area that he returned in December 1643, with a commission from the Second Earl of Manchester, to search for and root out the evils of idolatry in the Eastern Association. This he did with a passionate sense of self-righteousness. Blatchley sees Dowsings' iconoclasm as: 'the out-working of a deeply rooted faith and piety, providing strength in times of trouble as well as of triumph.'

The Bible was his principal source of learning and inspiration; he had an unerring ability to find a quotation from it to suit almost any occasion and to substantiate and defend his every act of destruction. Some readers might feel a sense of revulsion at a figure popularly branded as a Philistine, but at the same time we can identify with someone in search of intellectual purity, determined to cleanse his beloved church of all idolatry, regardless of the mayhem and destruction in its wake. It is his fastidiousness that somehow countermands the Philistine image. His books and journals survive, because they were given to Ipswich Town Library in 1725. They reveal, in the words of John Morrill, 'a sincere and godly man.' In Appendix 3, John Blatchly discusses Dowsing's collection of Parliamentary sermons where he carefully noted the date of purchase and the day when he first read each one. Fastidiousness and religious fanaticism clearly go hand in hand; with such detail we can almost get inside the mind of this iconoclast.

Dowsing may have visited over 250 parish churches, but only 6% have surviving contemporary records, even so the hours of research needed to complete this book beggars belief. The three authors searched the records of seven counties in order to compile Appendix 8 on 'Parish Records'; sometimes to extract just a line or two from a church warden's account book. There is no pretence that such an exercise is wholly comprehensive, indeed, Appendix 16 lists twenty-one key unanswered questions to which readers are invited to contribute answers via the internet. This is a new approach for a history reference book of this type and one which will no doubt be copied by other authors. It is not a gimmick; this is a serious way in which people with detailed local knowledge of their parish churches and who have access to private archives can add to an existing body of knowledge in a key area of British history. The appendices also in-

clude Parliamentary Ordinances, surveys of stained glass, monumental brasses and even forgeries of Dowsing's texts: one exposed by M R James in 1906 has no known author, but the other was fabricated by a founder member of the Norfolk Archaeological Society; it is an exercise in antiquarian elephant traps! This is a truly fascinating book, comprehensive in its depth of detail, encapsulating an important body of knowledge, and the outcome of many years of research on the part of its distinguished authors. Yet it also has a lightness of touch, which brings this colourful period and its contemporaries vividly to life. There are so many examples that it is difficult in a short review to do them justice, but two will suffice. Some instances reveal the man himself, such as Dowsing's confrontation with the Fellows of Pembroke College on the issue of reading sermons, when he declared: "I told them, if reading was preaching, my child preaches as well as they, and they stared one on another without answer." Others reveal the trauma of the time and the fear generated by religious intolerance. The story is told of the vicar of Uggheshall who hid 200 gold pieces in a pot in a child's grave near the high altar only to have them discovered when his sequestrators, local men we are told, levelled the east end of the church. Such stories are endorsed by the immediate impact of carefully photographed chisel marks, battered images and defaced inscriptions described with archaeological precision. It is a book to be savoured and enjoyed on many different levels for years to come.

*Peter Warner*

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