

Further Notes on the Monumental Brasses of Surrey and the Collection of Rubbings at Castle Arch

by JOHN M. BLATCHLY

In 1899 Mill Stephenson arranged the collection of rubbings belonging to the Society in a portfolio in their new home at Castle Arch. Our good fortune in being one of the few county societies with a comprehensive collection (including early impressions before losses occurred) stems firstly from our close associations with the greatest expert in the subject this century. A few years ago our late secretary, A. S. Gilbert, organised the completion of the collection, a work Mrs Gilbert is currently finishing. The writer has now arranged the almost complete collection in four new portfolios, and annotated a copy of the 1970 reprint of Stephenson's *List of Monumental Brasses in Surrey* (abb. *Surrey Brasses* in this article) for use as a catalogue of the whole. Two subsidiary collections for lecture or exhibition use and school loan have also been put together. Small coloured marks indicate lost brasses (red), unidentified brasses (blue), rubbings of non-brass memorials (green), and MS comments by Stephenson (yellow).

The earliest dated rubbing is 1843, but others may well predate it. Many early examples of the use of Richardson's metallic process (introduced about 1845) are included and it is quite surprising how few of the early rubbings are done in ordinary grey cobbler's wax. The good quality black wax must have been in general use by 1850.

Notable amongst early enthusiasts who contributed to the collection were Major Alfred Heales, F.S.A., a member of the Council of the Society for some years (rubbing 1845), and the Revd E. H. Hay (rubbing 1885) whose name does not appear on lists of members. A tantalising and unidentifiable rubber who signs himself once as HP (1843) has given us many of the rubbings of brasses now lost, but what poor rubbings they are. To improve the design or its symmetry he would cheerfully halve a row of children or add a detail from another brass, and he liked the inscription cut into strips and spaced out. His labelling of church of origin was erratic, and several attributions have had to be corrected. The real puzzle is posed by ten rubbings of his, labelled Send, East Horsley and Weybridge, of brasses quite unfamiliar to the author, which could possibly have since been lost from the churches stated, but quite probably come from nearby counties. These rubbings with a few other miscellaneous items (including Herbert Haines' rubbing of the Ore, Sussex, brass used to illustrate his *Manual*), have been put into portfolio II (D-H) in the hope that others will help in their identification.

In the course of the arrangement of the collection a few more items on Surrey

Brasses have come to light. What follows is therefore yet another appendix to *Surrey Brasses*. After the revision of Stephenson's countrywide *List* currently being undertaken by members of the Monumental Brass Society, in which figure brasses to date and inscriptions to 1850 are being recorded, there will be even more additions. It is nice to feel that the Middle Ages are still flowering in monumental fields.

ADDINGTON II. A 14 inch strip of the marginal inscription bearing the words 'decesseased the xxiii daye of' is now in the vestry safe.

BEDDINGTON II. The lower limb of the cross fleury was lost before 1848 (the date of the earliest rubbing in our collection), and in illustrations it is always shown restored. Boutell, in his *Series and Christian Monuments*, 40, shows a fourth fleur de lys on the missing stem following the precedents at Cassington, Oxon., c. 1415 and Broadwater, Sussex, 1445. Mill Stephenson in *Surrey Brasses*, 26, indicates a plain stem, which an inspection of the indent shows to be correct.

X. Not lost or under seats, but on the floor of the tower with two other indents not previously recorded including yet another cross indent, the fifth in the church.

XI. Inscr. in Roman capitals, Francis Strickland, Esq., 1702, coffin plate 7 inches square, a skull beneath the inscription, mur. S. A.

FRANCIS STRICK-
LAN.^D ESQ.^R DYED
Y^E 25TH OF APRILL
1702 IN THE 32.^D
YEAR OF HIS AGE

XII. Inscr. in cursive script, Miss Isabella Leigh, 1818, diamond shaped lead coffin plate, diagonals 9½ inches and 7½ inches, mur. S. A.

Miss
Isabella Leigh
Died 1st Jan.^y 1818
Aged 2 years
Amen.

BOOKHAM, GREAT V. A rubbing showing the sinister shield complete in our collection.

CAMBERWELL V. Trivick, *Craft and Design of Monumental Brasses*, pl. 65.

CHEAM III., IV. and V. in *Surrey Brasses* correspond to V., III. and IV. in Stephenson's *List*.

COBHAM. There are rubbings dated 1843 by H.P. in our collection of all the brasses including that now lost of 15 sons, c. 1500. H.P. records 'These Brasses are not fixed.'

CROYDON I. The illustration of the lost indent of the brass of Giles Seymor, 1390, (Fig. 1), is after the sketch by William Alexander (made 8 October 1810) in the Phillips MS (Coll. Soc. Antiq. MS 34481) and appears here by permission of the Society of Antiquaries. A full account of Alexander's work is in *Surrey A.C.*, XL (1932), 107. Lost brasses 3, 11 and 14. Rubbings in our collection, all dated July 1845.

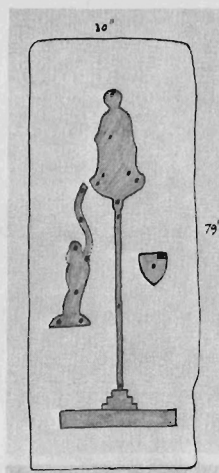


Fig. 1. Lost indent of the brass of Giles Seymor, 1390, Croydon.

FARNHAM. Fig. 2 illustrates the indent of the fine cross brass described in *Surrey Brasses*, 245.

GUILDFORD, HOLY TRINITY. I. The small brass of a civilian c. 1500 was stolen in 1969, but will shortly be returned to the church by a member or the Monumental Brass Society who purchased it with a view to tracing its origin and replacing it.

HAMLEDON. Lost Brass (1). A second rubbing of this brass has come to light in the reorganisation of the collection. It is by H.P. and therefore probably c. 1843, before the rebuilding of the church in 1846, and shows a group of five sons as well as the two main figures and the inscription. Aubrey, (IV, 40) mentions groups of five sons and five daughters, but Manning and Bray report a group of three children extant with the in-

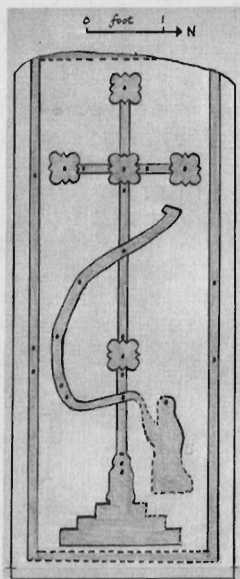


Fig. 2. Farnham. Indent of cross brass, c. 1400, drawn from a rubbing by A. I. Hardman.

scription after the loss of the main figures. There is no doubt that both of our rubbings showing main figures post-date Manning and Bray, and it seems likely that the one found recently which includes a group of sons is the earlier. The rubbings of H.P. are so often wrongly mounted and labelled that one must not exclude the possibility that the sons belong to a different brass.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES. Lost brass (4). Inscription with skull and crossbones above, Mrs. Elizabeth Smithe, 1714, rect. pl., $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Known only from a rubbing by the metallic process in the collection dated April 1846. The wording implies that it was part of a larger monument:

HERE allso LYes
 ē
 y Body of M^{rs}
 Eliz-Smithe-Gran
 Daughte of Doct
 Iob-Weale who
 Departed this
 Life ē 11th of Novem^r
 1714 Ætat sua 56.

LAMBETH I. The illustration Fig. 3 is from an etching in the author's collection with the caption 'Tomb in Lambeth Church. Publish'd as the Act directs, March 1st. 1792, by T. Cadell, Strand'. Style, date and publisher strongly suggest that this is a rejected plate prepared for the first edition of Lyson's *Environs of London*. This and the other four brass plates for the first volume were apparently drawn by Samuel Lysons, son of the author. If it is to scale, the lost slab was 79 by 48 inches, and it shows indents for eight scrolls and not ten as noted on a rubbing in coll. Soc. Antiq. (see *Surrey Brasses*, 312) Another Surrey tabard brass with scrolls is at Ewell, 1519. Trivick illustrates the figure of Lady Katherine Howard, plate 81.



Fig. 3. Brass and slab in Lambeth Church, Lady Katherine Howard, 1535.

LINGFIELD XI. A rubbing in our collection by Major Heales and dated Jan. 1847 shows the effigy complete with feet, as illustrated by Boutell

in his *Series* (1849). A note by Heales indicates that at the time the inscription was $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches above the head.

XII. The Society's rubbing shows the mouth scroll complete, but in three parts, in 1849.

The high tomb with sculptured effigies to Reginald, third Lord Cobham, 1446, and Ann Bardolf, his wife, 1453, had a brass marginal inscription which may have been lost by the time of Aubrey since he does not quote it. Part of it was restored by J. G. Waller (1865-6) and reads as follows:

Orate + p × animabus + Reginald × Cobham + militis ⊕ et + Annae ⊕
consortis + sue × fundatorum + huius × Collegii
(Decorations: + wyvern × Cobham estoile ⊕ rose)

Mill Stephenson omits mention of this in both the *List* and in *Surrey Brasses*.

MERSTHAM II. Group of seven daughters loose in safe keeping. To be relaid.

III. Shields relaid in slab but in wrong order, i.e. arms of Newdegate the sinister, Swanland dexter.

IV. There are now three shields of arms laid with this brass, the lower pair perfect and identical, the upper sinister mutilated and possibly differing in its dexter coat.

V. Our collection includes a rubbing by H.P. c. 1843 with the figure of Peter Best, and another dated 1849 with the indent of the figure drawn in. Mill Stephenson's estimate of the date of theft (1845) is therefore reasonable.

MICKLEHAM I. Shield of arms of the Mercers' Company lost about thirty years ago. Two rubbings in our collection include the shield.

MORDEN I. Lost or under heating pipes.

OCKHAM III. It would be interesting to know whether the inscription is palimpsest.¹ Other brasses from the same workshop (e.g. Putney I.) have palimpsest inscriptions and the holes in this one look as though engraving from both sides may have weakened the plate.

PEPERHAROW V. Inscr., Robert Holdsworth, Rector, 1749, in Roman caps., rect. pl., 10 by $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches, mural, C.

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF

ROBERT HOLDSWORTH. A.M

RECTOR OF THIS PARISH

55 YEARS. HE DYED

AUGUST ^F 18TH 1749

AGED 80 YEARS.

PUTNEY I. The rubbing in our collection (30 October 1846) has the shield and complete inscription. A well-proportioned eighteenth-century line and wash drawing in the possession of M. S. Bull, Esq. of Putney is here illustrated (Fig. 4) with his permission. The drawing is the only known record of the figure of Agnes Welbek, 17½ inches high, full face, wearing mitred headdress and fur edged gown. Two similar figures are to be found at Merstham, M.S. II, 1473.

The numbering of II. and III. are reversed in *Surrey Brasses* and *List*.



Fig. 4. Brass of John Welbek (1476) and his wife Agnes (1478), Putney.

REIGATE V. The slab of this brass has a later incised inscription cut in the stone. Now barely legible, it commemorates Edward Thurland whose wife is the subject of the brass. The only decipherable part reads:

Here also lyeth EDWARD
THURLAND Esq. the only
son of S^R EDWARD THUR
LAND

VIII. Inscr. in Roman caps. with achievement, Mrs Elizabeth Rawlinson,
1723, rect. pl., 11½ by 12 inches, mural, C.

HERE LYETH INTERR.^D
THE BODY OF M^{RS}. ELIZ.TH RAWLINSON LATE WIFE
OF M.^R DANIEL RAWLINSON CITIZEN AND VINTNER
OF LONDON WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 21ST OF
APRILL 1723 IN THE 70TH YEAR OF HER AGE
A. LOVEING WIFE
A. TENDER PARENT
AND A. CHARITABLE NEIGHBOUR

The shield of arms is (*Gu.*) *two bars gemelles between three escallops (arg.)* for RAWLINSON impaling (*Vert (?)*) *3 plates or bezants.* The crest of Rawlinson is *a sheldrake proper, in the beak an escallop (arg.)*

STOKE D'ABERNON I. The small shield is loose in safe keeping. V. The figure of a priest is a conjectural restoration of c. 1960.

STREATHAM In 1969 the inscription to John Elslefeld was discovered on moving some benches in the south west corner of the nave. Apparently still in the original slab, the brass must have been moved from the chancel in the last century and remained covered until recently.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Messrs Augustus White and W. J. Blair for the assistance they have given me in collecting material for these notes.

NOTE

1. B. S. H. Egan, while re-laying the inscription, found an earlier inscription to a London grocer on the reverse (Nov. 1971).