

attached but is similar to court records drawn up between 1437 and 1446 (PRO SC 2 172/31-32). John Joye, who was named in the letters, appeared at courts between 1437 and 1451, and Robert Spencer, also mentioned, was bailiff between 1442 and 1446. It seems more probable, therefore, that the letters were written in the earlier part of the period, that is about 1446.

A further point of interest lies in the writer's statement that if his correspondent could not obtain the services of a brick mason, he would go to Witham to try and get one there. Witham is only one and a half miles away from where Sir John Montgomery, who died in 1448, built his brick mansion of Faulkbourne Hall.³

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Mr Victor Gray, County Archivist of the Essex Record Office for permission to publish these excerpts and to Mrs Jo-Ann Buck for assistance with transcribing several difficult passages in them.

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NOTES

¹ T. P. Smith, *The Medieval Brickmaking Industry in England, 1400-1450* (Oxford, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Brit. Ser. 138, 1985).

² 'for viiid to the day and hys mete' has been deleted at this point in the letter.

³ T. P. Smith, 'The early brickwork of Someries Castle, Bedfordshire, and its place in the history of English brick building', *J. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, 129 (1976), 48-53, 55, 58.

THE TRURO CONFERENCE 1986

The 29th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Truro from 11-14 April 1986 on the theme of 'Post-Roman and Medieval Cornwall'. The opening lecture on Friday 11 April was given by Charles Thomas (Vice-President of the Society) on 'Early Christian and Medieval Scilly'. The following lectures were given on Saturday, Sunday and Monday: 'Cornish place-names and medieval archaeology' (Oliver Padel), 'The medieval landscape of Bodmin Moor' (Peter Rose), 'Medieval tin working in Cornwall' (Sandy Gerrard), 'The material remains of documented pre-Christian religious houses in Cornwall' (Lynette Olson) and 'Enclosed Christian cemeteries of Cornwall' (Ann Preston-Jones). There were three excursions, on Saturday (Tintagel), Sunday (Bodmin Moor) and Monday (St Michael's Mount, Breage and Germoe). As an extension of the formal proceedings of the Conference there were two optional excursions on Tuesday 15 April, to the Scillies or West Penwith. The Conference dinner was held at Trerice House on Saturday 12 April by kind permission of the National Trust.

All the lectures took place at the County Museum by invitation of the Royal Institution of Cornwall and the Cornwall Archaeological Society whose members gave the Society much greatly appreciated help and a warm welcome. Staff of the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and the Institute of Cornish Studies were responsible for the organization of lectures and excursions and the Society is greatly indebted to them for making the Conference an outstanding success. A final word of thanks goes to Professor Charles Thomas whose work as Local Secretary made the Truro Conference one of the most worthwhile and enjoyable meetings held by the Society.

HELEN CLARKE