



The Monumental Brasses of Berkshire.

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IF Berkshire is lacking in the brasses of early knights, it is more fortunate with those of ecclesiastics. The earliest known brass of a priest in England was to be seen formerly at Oulton in Suffolk. It was a large-sized effigy corresponding to those of the earliest knights, and belonging to the commencement of the fourteenth century. But it was, unhappily, stolen from the church in 1857. The only other that belongs to the earliest years of the fourteenth century is another undated example, a fine half-effigy on the head of a mutilated cross, in Merton College Chapel. And the person represented in it is a Berkshire man, Richard de Hakbourne, or Hagbourne; for the name of the place is spelt with *k* in a brass inscription of 1403 in Hagbourne Church. Thus we begin our series of ecclesiastics where we ended our series of knights.

After this, one of the earliest brasses of ecclesiastics belongs *bona fide* to Berkshire. It is a fine half-effigy, nameless and undated, at Wantage, assigned by Mr. Haines to about the year 1320. Then we have a very interesting little half-effigy at Binfield, Walter de Annefordhe, 1361, and a full figure of the same period at Sparsholt, William de Herleston, in the head of a floriated cross. The figure is perfect, though the chief part of the cross is lost. It may be compared with a similar mutilated cross, of smaller size,

surrounding the effigy of a priest whose name is lost, in Merton College Chapel, 1372.

At Shottesbrooke, and at West Hanney are the two best examples of priests which this county affords, both undated, but assigned to about the year 1370. The Shottesbrooke brass has also a second effigy, in civilian's dress, and the two are surmounted by a double canopy. The inscription is lost and the names are unknown. They have been thought to be the co-founders of the church. This distinctly takes rank as the finest brass of all in Berkshire. The similar figure at Hanney has no canopy, but, like those of the same period at Bray, it has rested on a bracket. This, with the lower part of the effigy, is lost, as well as most of the marginal inscription; but enough remains to show that the person represented is John Seys, a rector. There is yet another of this century, and it demands special notice for the boldness of the design, and the remarkable character of the features, which show plainly that it is intended to be a portrait. It is at Stanford in the Vale, a half-effigy of Roger Campedene, rector, 1398; and it affords the earliest example in this county of the Evangelistic symbols, which are placed on shields at the corners of the slab.

In the next century we have the following. At Longworth, a small half-effigy to John Henele, rector, 1422; at Little Wittenham, John Churmound, rector, 1433; at Cholsey, John Mere, vicar, a small and worn effigy, 1471; at Childrey, a very good nameless effigy, *cir.* 1480, and another, small and headless, *cir.* 1490; lastly, at Blewbury, John Balam, vicar, 1496. There remain two of the next century, of very indifferent workmanship. One is at Faringdon, John Sadler, Vicar of Inglesham, 1505. The other is at Brightwell, John Scolffylde, 1507, and the grammar is as bad as the engraving, "*Hic jacet corpora magistri,*" etc. But it is interesting as being the only example in Berkshire of a priest holding the chalice and Host. The Cholsey priest and the second at Childrey hold the chalice only.

The fourteen effigies of priests which have been enumerated wear the eucharistic vestments, alb and chasuble, etc. There remain seven others, differently habited. Four of these wear academic gowns; namely, at Welford, John Westlake, *cir.* 1490; at Abingdon (St. Helen's), William Herward, D.D., a good but much worn figure, 1501; at Wantage, probably William Geddyng, vicar of Wantage and of All Hallows Barking, London, 1512; and at Childrey, Bryan Roos, LL.D., 1529. This last has the evangelistic

emblems, but two of them are lost. With the exception of the last, the gowns have short full sleeves, and in every case the hood and tippet is worn over them. The examples at Wantage and Childrey have a pointed scull-cap.

The county contains only two specimens of the processional cope, both at Ashbury, and both good examples. The one is a headless effigy of Thomas de Busshbury, Canon of Hertford (*i.e.*, Hereford), and rector of Ashbury, 1409. In this the cope, as is usual in such early examples, reaches to the ground. The other is William Skelton, LL.B., Provost of Wells and rector of Ashbury and of St. Vedast's, London, 1448. Here the cope is shorter. Its orphrey is ornamented with escallops. In both instances the cope is worn over the surplice and fur amyss or almuce, which usually appears as the vestment of dignitaries of cathedral or collegiate churches. It was a fur tippet fastened at the neck, and having a pendant from each side in front, so that when worn under the cope it has the appearance of a fur stole. It is probably the origin of the modern black silk scarf, which until recently was never used by ordinary parish priests, but only by those who held some office or dignity other than a parochial cure. Berkshire only gives one instance of the fur amyss worn without the cope. It is at St. George's, Windsor, a kneeling effigy of Robert Honywode, LL.D., Archdeacon of Taunton, and Canon of Windsor, 1522. It is one of the first examples of a pictorial brass on a quadrangular plate, and bears representations of the B. V. Mary with the Holy Child, seated before the kneeling figure, and St. Catherine standing behind. This is the only brass of a Canon of Windsor in the county. But there are three others in the adjoining counties which may fitly be noticed here, and which are the more interesting as being habited in the special vesture of the Windsor canons, namely, a mantle tied with a cord at the neck and having the badge of the Order of the Garter on the left breast. They are of very different periods, and the first, from its antiquity, is of the highest interest. It is a headless half-effigy of Roger Parkers, rector, at Northstoke, Oxon, *cir.* 1370. The second is Roger Lupton, Provost of Eton, *cir.* 1536, in Eton College Chapel (its inscription, though lost, is on record). The third is Arthur Cole, S.T.B., President of Magdalen, 1558, in Magdalen College Chapel. All these are described as Canons of Windsor in their inscriptions. The Northstoke brass has been carefully relaid at the expense of the Dean and other Members of the present Chapter.

The brasses of Civilians in Berkshire begin with the interesting little figure of John de Walden at Ashbury, assigned to about the year 1360. He wears a hood and cape, but being only a half-effigy the lower portions of the dress do not appear. But there is a complete figure in precisely similar costume, surrounded by the head of a beautiful floriated cross, at Taplow, Bucks, so closely resembling this that it would appear to be the work of the same artist; it is to Nichole de Aumberdene, "*jadis pessoner de Londres*," and the fish, from which the stem of the cross rises, indicates the trade of the fishmonger. He wears a tunic reaching below the knees, with short sleeves having lappets from the elbows, and long pointed shoes.

The next figure of a civilian is that already noticed at Shottesbrooke, with the priest at his side, *cir.* 1370. He is a franklin, or freeholder, a person of wealth and distinction though not entitled to wear armour. His rank is shown by the anelace or short sword which he carries at his side. He wears a mantle buttoned on the right shoulder and thrown over the left arm. This very fine example is the only complete figure of a civilian of early date in Berkshire; and the next in point of date are all half-effigies. Of about the year 1400 is the brass of John de Estbury and his wife at Lambourne. He wears the hood, but not the tippet nor the mantle. The sleeves of the tunic have ornamental cuffs, and an under-garment has sleeves buttoning over the hands. In this brass two of the evangelistic symbols remain. In the next examples the sleeves of the tunic become fuller, and the general appearance is altered by the fashion of wearing the hair short, instead of flowing as in the previous period. A good illustration of the transition is at Lambourne, in the brass of another John Estbury with his son Thomas, *cir.* 1410, where the hair of the son is cropped short. Similar examples are to be seen at St. Laurence's, Reading, in the brass of John Kent, burgess of Reading, and his wife, *cir.* 1415; and in that at St. Helen's, Abingdon, of Geoffrey Barbur, merchant, once Bailiff of Bristol, 1417. The first full-length effigy of this century is that of Henry Eldysley, merchant, at East Hendred (a second effigy, representing his brother, being lost), 1439. Here we have the first example in this county of shields bearing merchants' marks. The costume is like that of the half-effigies last noticed, except that the sleeves become fuller, though still drawn in at the wrist.

At East Hampstead is a small half-effigy of Thomas Berwyk,

1443. It differs from the last in having the sleeves less full, and a belt is buckled loosely round the waist. Of the middle of this century are three small effigies; at Little Wittenham, David Kidwelly, porter of the palace to King Henry VI, 1454; at Cookham, John Babham, 1458; and at Tilehurst, Gauwin More, gentleman, and his wife, son of Richard More, Esq., who was Marshall of the King's palace, 1469. The best specimen of this period is the brass at Childrey, of William Walrond and his wife, which Mr. Haines probably dates too late, *cir.* 1480. In the last quarter of the century the tunic is lengthened to the ground, as in the fine brass at Bray, of Sir William Laken, Justice of the King's Bench, 1475, but in this case the judicial vesture is worn. He has a mantle, like the franklin at Shottesbrooke, but lined with fur; the anelace also is at his side, and a rosary is attached to his girdle. The shoes are highly ornamented, and he wears a judge's coif, or scull-cap. A small but good illustration of the ordinary layman's dress at this time is at Steventon, in the brass of Richard Do and his wife, 1476. He wears a rosary and anelace, and a satchel at the waist is introduced for the first time. The rosary and satchel appear again in the next instance, the fine brass at Little Wittenham, of Geoffrey Kidwelly, Esq., 1483; but as he was entitled to bear arms the anelace in this case would have been superfluous. A hood is thrown over the right shoulder, with a long scarf attached.

Of the last years of the century are the brasses of William Smyth and his two wives, at Bray, *cir.* 1490; part of an effigy at Sparsholt, probably of Thomas Bothe, *cir.* 1495; John Clerk and his wife, at Basildon, 1497, where the hood appears on the shoulder; and William Morys, "sumtyme fermier of cokyswell," at Great Coxwell, *cir.* 1500. This brass has two sons and a daughter engraved on a small plate below, and the custom of representing the children in this way becomes common from this time.

In the 16th century we have at Cookham, a small brass of William Andrew and his wife, with her second husband, John Monkedon, 1503; at Brightwell, two brasses, first, Robert Court, auditor to Prince Arthur, 1509, and his wife, and secondly, Richard Hampden and his wife, 1512; at Bisham, Thomas Crekett, "somtyme Fysshmonger of london," and his wife, 1517. Of the same year is the brass at Brightwaltham, of John Newman and his wife, with a small figure of their child between the effigies. This brass was left in the churchyard when the church was

removed to another site twenty years ago, and all that remains of it is the male effigy which was lately loose at the Rectory. The finest civilian's brass in the county belonging to this period is at Newbury, to "John Smalwode, *als* Wynchcom,"* 1519, with his wife and children. Circular plates are introduced at the angles of the slab, two bearing his initials, and the other two a device which seems to be St. John Baptist with a lamb. This is the famous clothier, "Jack of Newbury," who built part of Newbury Church, and entertained at his house King Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon. Three undated examples are assigned to about the year 1520 by Mr. Haines; at Compton Parva, Richard Pygott and wife; and at Wokingham, a nameless pair. The third is a brass at Childrey, evidently engraved at this time, but representing persons who died in 1477 and 1480, Thomas Wolrond and his wife. They are kneeling figures on a mural monument, with a representation of the Holy Trinity. At St. Giles', Reading, is the brass of John Bowyer, Tanner, and his wife, 1521; at Wantage, Walter Tawbott and two wives, 1522; at Welford, John Younge, *cir.* 1530. At this period the tunic is again frequently shortened, and an ample gown with sleeves is worn over it, as at St. Laurence's, Reading, in the brass of Walter Barton, 1538. The next are two brasses at Sunning, Anthony Barker, 1546, and William Barker, "sumtyme steward and receyver of this lordship of Sunning," and his wife, 1549. At Shottesbrooke is the very interesting brass of Thomas Noke, with his three wives, "Who for his great age and vertuous lief was revered of all men and comenly called Father Noke, created Esquyer by Kyng Henry the VIIIth, he was of stature high comely and for his excellencie in artilarie made yoman of the crowne of Englonde:" he died 1567, aged 87. At Hurst are kneeling figures of Richard Warde and wife, 1574. At Cookham, mutilated figures of Raffe More and wife, 1577. A good brass at Buckland represents John Yate, Esq., and wife, 1578; and another at Bisham, John Brinkhurst and two wives, 1581. Of the same date, *cir.* 1580, is a little brass at Cumnor, to a man and wife of the Staverton family. At Streatley, is Griffin Clarke, 1583; at St. Laurence, Reading, Edward Butler, five times Mayor of Reading, 1584 (his wife and two daughters are lost, but a good effigy of a daughter still remains). Here comes in a large and fine example of kneeling effigies on a mural quadrangular plate at Little

* "John Smalwode als Wynchcom."

Wittenham. It was part of a large monument (now destroyed) to Wm. Dunche, Esq., and his wife, *cir.* 1585, who was auditor of the mints to Henry VIII, and Edward VI, "& esquier sworne exteordinarye for the body of our soveraigne lady Elizabeth." The monument was erected in his lifetime, and the Register records his death in 1597. At Wokingham, on a smaller plate of similar character, are the kneeling figures of a man and wife, *cir.* 1590; and the name William Feild, scratched in an old hand on the brass, seems to imply that this is the person commemorated, though the quaint verses of the inscription do not name him. The arms are four lozenges fess-wise, in chief a mullet. A very fine brass at Hanney commemorates John Ayshcombe of Lyfford, and his two wives, 1592; at Warfield, of the same year, a small effigy of Houmfrey Staverton was lately loose at the Rectory; at Harwell is a brass of John Jennens and wife, 1599. In this last the large cloak is discarded, and a short cloak reaching to the knees is substituted; a costume which frequently appears during the period that follows.

(To be continued.)

