



An Inventory of Ancient Sacramental Plate in the County of Berks.

By Arthur Irwin Dament.

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ALDERMASTON (ST. MARY).

(1 and 2) Elizabethan chalice and paten cover with usual belt, stem swelling out into a circular knob covered with a reeded pattern, which is also repeated on one of the mouldings of the foot. Height 7 inches, width at the rim $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and at base $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, weight of chalice $10\frac{3}{4}$ oz., of cover $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

- Marks 1. Small black letter T [London date letter for 1576.]
2. Leopard's head crowned.
 3. Lion passant.
 4. Maker's mark, the letter H transfix'd by an arrow.

The marks are repeated on the paten cover.

There was formerly another Elizabethan chalice at Aldermaston by a different maker and of the year 1570. I believe it is now in the possession of the Goldsmith's Company, though how and when removed from the parish is a mystery.

(3 and 4) A plain chalice and cover silvergilt, weighing 1 lb. $12\frac{3}{4}$ oz. (avoirdupois), the cup standing $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, diameter of bowl $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Inscription round bowl, "The gift of Sr. Humphrey Foster and ye Lady Anna his wife."

Only mark. R.M. with cinquefoil beneath in an irregular shield. Circa. 1630-35, see "Old English Plate" where Mr. Cripps notes a pair of plain communion flagons of the year 1634 by this maker belonging to Trinity College, Oxford.

- (5 and 6) A pair of silvergilt flagons with dome-shaped lids, one weighing 32 oz. 3 dwts., and the other 32 oz. 6 dwts., and each bearing an inscription on the under part of the base "The gift of Dame Judith Forster to Aldermaston Church anno dom. 1718." Height 9 inches without cover.

Marks 1. Roman letter capital C. [London, date letter for 1718].

2. Britannia.
3. Lion's head erased.
4. B.A., maker's mark [Richard Bayley].

Maker's mark on handle, and marks repeated on the lid.

- (7) A silver alms plate bearing the same inscription as the flagons above-mentioned and weighing 14 oz. 3 dwts.

Marks 1. Roman letter capital C [London, date letter for 1718].

2. Britannia.
3. Lion's head erased.
4. Maker's mark. A half obliterated H.

- (8, 9 and 10) A very massive silvergilt chalice paten and alms dish, weighing respectively 2 lb. 19½ oz. and 4 lb. 3½ oz. (avoirdupois) "The gift of Wm. Congreve, Esqre., to the Church of Aldermaston, A.D. 1809" (into whose family the Forster heiress had married), and purchased of Messrs. Rundell and Bridge in 1809.

For a small country parish Aldermaston thus possesses an unusual variety of sacramental vessels, including typical examples of the silversmith's art in four successive centuries.

ALDWORTH (ST. MARY).

- (1 and 2) A plain silver chalice and paten to match.

Marks 1. Small Italic letter *p* [London, date letter for 1632].

2. Leopard's head crowned.
3. Lion passant.
4. Maker's mark, D.W., with a mullet beneath.

- (3) Tall pewter flagon, the lid missing, marked on the handle R.M. with the figure of a bird in a circular punch.

- (4) A plated flagon "The gift of Revd. J. T. Austen, 1840."

ARBORFIELD (ST. BARTHOLOMEW).

- (1) Large plain paten inscribed "Richardus Hayes, hujus Ecclesiæ, Rector, D.D., Anno Domini 1793."

Marks 1. Small Roman letter r [London, date letter for 1792].

2. Leopard's head crowned.
3. Lion passant.
4. Maker's mark [R.S.].
5. Sovereign's head.

- (2) Small paten with foot, quite plain, with same marks and inscription. Remainder modern.

At Arborfield Hall are preserved two old pewter plates and a flagon, marked "John Home, London, superfine," ř ĭ ů, and the letter X surmounted by a crown.

ASHAMPSTEAD (ST. CLEMENT).

Chalice and paten modern (1850 and 1851).

The only old ecclesiastical vessel in use here is a pewter flagon (which has been electro-plated by the present vicar), inscribed :

"James Breach,
Robert Green,
Church-Wardens,
Ashamstead,
1731."

Mark on base I.N., with a fleur de lis beneath.

(To be continued.)

