

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

AT ITS FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

MAY 7, 1883,

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY,
1882—1883.

ALSO

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXV.

BEING No. 3 OF THE FIFTH VOLUME.

Cambridge:

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS,

1884.

Price 7s. 6d.

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WITH APPENDIX.



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1884.

Cambridge:

PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A. & SON,
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

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XVIII. NOTE ON THE TOMB (IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY)
OF MARGARET BEAUFORT, COUNTESS OF RICHMOND
AND DERBY, MOTHER OF KING HENRY VII.
Communicated by J. W. CLARK, M.A., Trinity
College.

[May 7, 1883.]

WHILE searching the Audit-Books of S. John's College for notices of the buildings, I came upon a series of entries relating to the tomb of the Lady Margaret in Westminster Abbey; and subsequently, while looking through a bundle of old papers which had been found in the Muniment Room, I had the good fortune to discover some receipts signed by the artists employed upon it. These throw additional light on the original design of the tomb, and also confirm the tradition that the existing structure was executed by Pietro Torregiano, the celebrated Florentine sculptor.

The Lady Margaret died 29 June, 1509. In her will, dated 6 June, 1508, she had given the following directions respecting the place of her burial:

'And our body to be buried in the monastery of Seynt Peter of Westm'
in suche convenable place as we in our life, or our executors aftir our

decesse shall provide for the same within the chapell of our Lady which is now begun by...our most deer son¹.

She was accordingly buried in King Henry the Seventh's Chapel near the east end of the south aisle. Her tomb is "an altar monument of black marble and touchstone, each side being divided by pilasters into three compartments. At the ends and sides are eight scutcheons within chaplets of laurel surrounded by roses. On the top is a recumbent effigy of the Countess in her coronet and robes of state, the head resting on cushions beneath a gothic canopy; and the feet supported by a fawn. The effigy, scutcheons, chaplets, roses, etc. are of copper, and the effigy is gilt. On the ledge of the tomb is the inscription, composed by Erasmus²." This altar-tomb is in excellent preservation. I am now able to shew that it was originally protected by a cage of gilt ironwork, resting on a stone plinth, which has not only disappeared, but all tradition of its former existence has been forgotten. The tomb was paid for by the executors of the Countess, but the ironwork was the gift of S. John's College, and must have been a very splendid work, for it cost £25, which represents at least £250 at the present value of money, exclusive of the stonework, and the gilding.

The accounts of the Executors³ of the Lady Margaret shew a total expenditure of £17.8s.2d. upon the tomb. Garter King receives £0. 13s. 4d. for "declaring my ladies armes in viij schochyns for my ladies tombe, and deliuerede to the florentyne, 27 December, 1512": Erasmus receives £1. 0s. 0d. for the epitaph, 28 December, 1512: "Maynarde paynter" receives

¹ Will of Margaret Countess of Richmond: printed in the Appendix to her funeral sermon by Bishop Fisher, ed. Hymers, p. 230.

² *Memoir of Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby*. By the late C. H. Cooper, F.S.A. 8vo. Camb. 1874. p. 124. Mr Cooper gives the inscriptions, and describes the eight coats of arms, with other particulars.

³ Cooper, *ut supra*, p. 200.

£1. 13s. 4d. "for makynge the picture and inage of the seide ladye 22 June 1513"; and £4. 13s. 4d. for the makynge of diuerse patrons for my ladies tombe 15 March 1514; and the Prior of S. Bartholomews expends £9. 8s. 2d. in various matters not particularized. It is hardly likely that these entries contain the whole expense of the tomb, for it is stated that the aforesaid Prior (who gave his labour gratis) surveyed and controlled the workmen, and sent for divers workmen from beyond the sea to make the said tomb.

One of the receipts lately discovered contains the particulars of an expenditure of £4. 13s. 4d., evidently the above sum paid to Maynard, though his name is not mentioned, and the document is not dated:

'For my lady the kinges grandame
Whose Soulle god pardone.

First for making of iij patrons in paper for her Tombe eche } xij^s. iij^d.
of theym diuerse facions summa

Item for ij patrons made in cloth beyng the length of her }
tombe wrought with colours wherof the one Remayned in the }
executours handes and the oder in Master Petirs handes at }
xl s the pece And for his costes and lett of other besynes at } iij li
diuerse and many tymes attending vpon the priour of seynt }
Bartilmewes and vpon the forsaid Master Petir by the com- }
mandement of the Executours summa

Summa totalis—iij^{li} xij^s iij^d. [countersigned] 'Jo Roffs¹'

A second receipt, dated 7 February, 1512, for money paid to the same artist—probably part of the above sum—shews that he was a Fleming, and that his real name was Meynnart Wewyck:

'M^d that I Maynarde Vewicke of London paynter haue ressayuid the vij daie of February the thrid yeire of the reigne of kynge henry the viij of the Reuerend father in god John bushop of Rochester thre poundes ster-

¹ John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester.

lyng in parte of payement of A more some for a certen table and ij patrones drawn for my ladie the kynges grandeam' tombe. In witnes wher of I the saide maynarde haue subscribed this bill wth my hand.

Meynnart Wewyck¹.

The "Master Peter" of the above Account, and "the florentyne" of the former Account, are evidently one and the same person, viz. Pietro Torregiano, a Florentine artist, who came to England about this time, and, 26 October 1512, signed an agreement with the Executors of King Henry the Seventh, to make a tomb of marble and touchstone, with recumbent effigies, in gilt copp^r, of the King and Queen. This document is recited in a draft indenture dated 5 January, 1518, in which the same artist, there styled "Petir Torrysany of the citie of Florence Graver", and further on, "Payntour", agrees to execute a tomb for King Henry the Eighth and Queen Katherine¹.

The above receipts and entries shew that the coats of arms were planned, and the inscriptions written, before 1512; and that the designs for the effigy and tomb were made between 1512 and 1514. The execution of the work probably proceeded as slowly as the selection of designs for it had done; for the first payment for the ironwork was made in the last quarter of the year 1526, to an artist—evidently a Fleming like Meynnart Wewyck—called "Cornelys Symondeson," "Cornelys Sympson," or simply "the Smyth at Temple barre." The first payment to him is "in earnest," and therefore probably marks the making of the bargain. One of his receipts, dated 26 October, 1527, shews that he was to receive £25 for his work; and as the last payment to him was made between June and September, 1529, we may conclude that the work was then completed, and that about two years and a half had been spent

¹ The document is printed in the *Archæologia*, Vol. xvi. p. 84. See also Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting*, etc., ed. Dallaway i. 171.

in the execution of it. The account, of which the details are given below, runs as follows :

Michaelmas—Christmas 1526	0 . 13 . 4
January—February 1527	4 . 10 . 0
May—June; (receipt also) 1527	5 . 0 . 0
26 October; (receipt also) „	4 . 0 . 0
	<hr/>
	14 . 3 . 4
Received also as per last receipt	0 . 16 . 8 ¹
	<hr/>
Total received to 26 October, 1527	15 . 0 . 0
April—June 1528	5 . 0 . 0
15 October; (receipt also) 1528	1 . 13 . 4
13 February 1529	2 . 0 . 0
June—September	1 . 6 . 8
	<hr/>
	<u>£25 . 0 . 0</u>

The payments and receipts referred to in this account are appended, in order of date :

Mich. Term. 18 Hen VIII: i.e Mich—Christmas 1526.

‘Item to the Smyth at Temple barre in Ernest xiiij^d; and in the margin: ‘a grat for my ladys tomb’

Hilary Term 18 Hen VIII: i.e January—February 1527.

‘Item paid in p^t of payment to Cornelys Smyth for making a greate of Irone at Westm’ ouer my lady the kinges mother the vijth (sic) iiijth. x^s.’

Easter Term 19 Hen VIII: i.e 23 May—24 June 1527.

‘Item paid in part of payment to Cornellys smyth for making the kynges grandemother tumbe at Westm’vth.’

‘M^d that I cornellys symonson hath Receyued of nycholas metcalf Clerke master of seynt Johns colleg in cambrigg fyue poundes sterlyng in part of payment of a mor some for making my lady the kynges grandmothe the viijth grate at Westm’ in wyttnes wher of I haue subscribyd my hande and sette my seall the xxxiiij day of may the xix yere of kyng Henry viijth.’ [23 May 1527].

Mich. Term. 19 Hen VIII: i.e Mich—Christmas 1527.

‘The xxvi dai of Octobre. To Cornelis Sympson in parte of payment for making a Grate of my ladys tombeiiijth.’

¹ The last receipt shews that this sum must have been paid. I have either overlooked it, or, the Audit-Books being somewhat incomplete for this period, the leaf containing it has been lost.

'This bill Witteneth that I Cornelys Symonson Smyth haue rec' of M' Doctor metcalf at diuers tymes as appereth by sondre bokes xv li in parte of payment of xxv li for the making of a certen grate betwext me the sayd Cornelys and the sayde M' doctor apoynted and barganed of the whiche xv li I the sayd Cornelys knowlege my self truly contented and payed and the said M' doctor and his assignes therof do clerly acquite and discharge by these presentes for euer.

In Wittenes wherof I the said Cornelys to these presentes haue setto my seale the xxvj day of octobre A° xix° henrici octauī. [26 October 1527]

'Sigillat' et pro vere fact' deliberat' fuit in presencia mei Raunhohi Hall, Willelmi Lamkin. by me Gabriell metcalf.'

Easter Term. 20 Hen VIII: i.e 12 April—24 June 1528.

'Item to Cornelis the Smyth in parte of payment for my ladys tombe and in full payment of xx^{li}.v^{li}.'

'This bill made the xvth day of Octobre in the xx^a yeare of the Reigne of kyng henry the viijth wittenesith that I Cornelys Symondeson haue recieved of M' doctor metcalf in parte of payment for making a tumber for my lady the kynges Grand xxxiiij^s iiij^d in full payment of xxj^{li}. xiiij^s. iiij^d. In wittenes wherof I the saide Cornelys haue subscribed this bill wth myn owne hande the day and yer aboue written.' [15 October 1528]£1. 13. 4

'The xiiijth day of Febr' 20 Hen VIII: [i.e 13 February 1529.] 'Item to the Smyth for my ladys gratxl^s.'

Midsummer Term 21 Hen. VIII. June—September 1529.

'Item to Cornelys Symondeson in full payment for the grayte aboute my ladys tombe our ffoundresxxvj^s. viij^d.'

'Item in rewarde amongst the Smyths seruants that maide the grayt ffor our ffoundres tumberiiij^d.'

The stone plinth for the ironwork was executed by a free-mason, named Raynold Bray, citizen of London, who was paid £2. 13s. 4d. for his work:

Mich—January 20. Hen. VIII: probably Michaelmas 1528—January 1528—29.

'Item to Raynold Bray in parte of payment for making the baysses about my ladys towmb in Westm'x^s.'

January—February 20 Hen. VIII: i.e January—February 1529.

'Item to Ranold Bray for stonewarke to set the grate vpon about my ladys tumberx^s.'

'Be it knowen to all men by these presentes that I Raynold Bray, Citizen and Fremason of london haue receaved this present day of maister

Doctor Medcalf xx^s. sterlinge in partie of payment of a more somme. Of the whiche xx^s. I knowlege my self welle and truly contented and payde by these presentes, Sealed w^t my seall. yauen the vj day of February the xxth yere of the Reigne of King Henry the viijth. [6 February 1528—29.]

13 February 1528—29.

'Item to the Fre mason for stone warkexiiij. iiij^d.'

Lastly, the following charge is made for the gilding :

Michaelmas, 1529—30.

'Item for gylding the grate about my ladys tombexl.'

Among the papers in the Muniment Room is the following receipt, dated 2 October, 1509 :

'Be hyt knowen to all men that I Jhon Wolf¹ setezen and peynter of London hath Reseyvyd of the excecutors of most nobell pryncys marget late countes of rychmont and Derby grandam to owr soverain lorde kyng hary the viiith for a full contentacyon of my dewty for makyng of xxxiiij skochans in metallis per paly w^t a cronall and lxiiij in colors by the handys of syr thomas mawdysley iiijth. vjth. viij^d. the first yer of the reyne of kyng hary the viijth the second day of October and for a more wyttenes I the sayd Jhon hathe wreten thys byll w^t my awn hand and subskrybyd my name
per me Jhon Wolfe

We approve the deliuerance of the sayde markes un to the sayde payntour Jo Roff' Henry Hornby.'

As Sir Thomas Mawdesley was steward to the Lady Margaret, John Bishop of Rochester her confessor, and Henry Hornby, Bishop of Ely, her chancellor; and as the two latter persons, among others, were her executors, it may be conjectured that this bill refers either to her tomb, or to the ceremonies of her funeral.

¹ In 1510-11 this painter is paid by the executors for two 'pictures of my ladys personage': Cooper *ut supra*, p. 185. This receipt is printed, somewhat inaccurately, in the notes to the same work, p. 259.

