REPORT OF THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT CHURCH STRETTON IN 1956

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

The Summer Meeting in 1956 was held at Church Stretton from Monday, July the 9th to Saturday the 14th, in association with the Shropshire Archaeological Society. The Institute last met in Shropshire, at Shrewsbury, in 1928, and the Report of that Meeting will be found in Volume LXXXV of the *Archaeological Journal.*

The Patrons of the Meeting were the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop Suffragan of Shrewsbury (the Right Rev. R. L. Hodson, M.A.), the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Shrewsbury (Councillor Mrs. E. M. Cook, J.P.), the Right Hon. the 5th Earl of Bradford, J.P., D.L., the Right Hon. the Earl of Powis, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Captain Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., J.P., D.L. (President, Shropshire Archaeological Society), Sir Walter Blount, Bart., Sir Philip Magnus-Allcroft, Bart., and Lt.-Col. E. S. Arthur.

The Institute is much indebted to Miss Lily F. Chitty, O.B.E., F.S.A., for writing the *Introduction to Shropshire Archaeology* for the Programme and for compiling the Select Bibliography, which will be found at the end of her Introduction. The Institute is also indebted to Mr. J. T. Smith for his note on the *Domestic Architecture of Shrewsbury.*

Mr. John Salmon acted as local Secretary, and the Institute is grateful to him and to Mr. J. D. K. Lloyd and Mr. H. Beaumont for the advice and help which contributed so much to the success of the Meeting.

The President, Dr. Philip Corder, M.A., was present throughout the Meeting, which was attended by 103 members and their guests.

The present report of the Meeting follows the sequence of events given in the synopsis of the programme below :

MONDAY, 9th July. Afternoon in Shrewsbury : St. Mary's Church, Drapers' Hall, the Assembly Room of the Lion Hotel, Rowley's House, Shrewsbury Castle, where members were received by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Shrewsbury. Condover Hall and Church.

TUESDAY, 10th July. Bromfield Church, Mawley Hall, Ludlow Church and Castle, Downton Castle. Evening visit to Pitchford Hall.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY. Longnor Hall, Acton Burnell Castle and Church, Wroxeter (Viroconium), Buildwas Abbey, Much Wenlock Priory and Guildhall.

THURSDAY, 12TH JULY. Ironbridge, Tong Church, Weston Park ; either the Wrekin or Wroxeter Church and Haughmond Abbey ; Attingham Hall. Evening lecture on the Marches in Roman times by Mr. Graham Webster.

FRIDAY, 13TH JULY. Stokesay Castle, Powis Castle, Offa's Dyke, Ffridd Faldwyn, Montgomery Church, Kerry Church.

SATURDAY, 14TH JULY. In Shrewsbury : Abbey Church, School Library, New St. Chad's Church. Moreton Corbet Castle and Church.

Thanks are especially due to the Secretary of the Meeting, Mr. S. D. T. Spittle ; to Mr. Graham Webster for his evening lecture on ' *Some of the Problems of the Marches in Roman Times* ' ; and to Mr. C. A. R. Radford for the scholarship placed so generously at the disposal of the Institute. The Council also wish to record their thanks to Mr. P. K. Baillie Reynolds, Miss Mary Baldwin, Mr. H. Beaumont, Mrs. Trenchard Cox, Mr. Kenneth

Garlick, Mr. D. B. Hague, Mr. T. L. Jones, Dr. K. M. Kenyon, Mr. L. C. Lloyd, Mr. J. D. K. Lloyd, the Rev. A. L. Moir, Mr. J. B. Oldham, Mrs. B. B. Parry, Mr. M. de C. Peele, Mr. J. Salmon, Mr. R. S. Simms, Mr. J. T. Smith, and Mr. G. Trevelyan.

The Institute is much indebted to the Right Hon. the Mayor of Shrewsbury (Councillor Mrs. E. M. Cook) for the Reception and hospitality at the Castle, and to the Shrewsbury Town Council for permitting the visit to the Castle ; to the Shropshire Education Authority for the visit to Attingham Hall, and to the Borough Librarian of Shrewsbury for permission to visit Rowley's House, and to the National Library of Wales, and the Much Wenlock Town Council, for visits to Pitchford Hall and the Guildhall at Much Wenlock. Thanks are due to the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop Suffragan of Shrewsbury (Draper's Hall, Shrewsbury) ; to the incumbents of the churches visited ; and to the proprietors and tenants of the houses and other places visited, namely, the Headmaster of Condover Hall School for the Blind (Condover Hall) ; the Headmaster of Shrewsbury School (the Library) ; the Right Hon. the late Earl of Bradford (Weston Park) ; the Right Hon. the Earl of Powys (Ludlow Castle, Offa's Dyke, and Ffridd Faldwyn) ; Sir Walter Blount, Bart. (Mawley Hall) ; Sir Philip and Lady Magnus-Allcroft (Stokesay Castle) ; Lt.-Col. E. S. Arthur (Longnor Hall) ; Major W. M. Kincaid Lennox (Downton Castle) ; Mr. L. Motley (Much Wenlock Priory) ; the Manager of the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury (the Assembly Room) ; the Ministry of Works (Acton Burnell Castle, Buildwas Abbey, Moreton Corbet Castle, and Viroconium) ; and the National Trust (Powys Castle).

AN INTRODUCTION TO SHROPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY. By Lily F. Chitty

(*i*) *The Setting.*

Shropshire, the County of Salop, covering about 1,346 square miles, is an area as diversified as are its geological foundations. It comprises two major contrasting regions :

(1) The Northern Plain,

(2) The Southern Hills and Dales,

the River Severn forming a link, or a dividing line, between them, with Shrewsbury as a nodal point where the main roads naturally converge. Through the ages there has tended to be a distinction between these two regions, still perpetuated in the Dioceses of Lichfield and Hereford, which are practically divided by the Severn : the former covers our part of the Midland Gap and tends to look towards England ; the hill country is, geographically, an abutment from Wales and probably formed part of Powys, the Central Welsh province, until the 7th century A.D.

The undulating Triassic Plain, blanketed by glacial drift, with meres and peat-mosses in the hollows, is broken by upstanding sandstone ridges (Nesscliff, Pim Hill, Grinshill, Hawkstone). Northward it is bounded by morainic country centring on Ellesmere and by heathland leading through Whitchurch into Cheshire, north-eastward by Market Drayton and eastward through Newport into Staffordshire. The Plain appears mainly as a flat expanse when viewed from the more ancient ranges that form the centre of South Shropshire : their trend is generally from south-west to north-east (Long Mountain, Stapeley and Shelve Hills, Stiperstones (1,731 feet), Longmynd, Stretton Hills, Wenlock Edge) : in the hill-and-dale country Church Stretton (Stretton-in-the-Dale) and Much Wenlock, at the north-east end of the Edge, are the chief centres. Haughmond Hill and our most famous eminence, The Wrekin (1,335 feet), continue lines of Pre-Cambrian rocks into the Northern Plain. South-east of The Wrekin, beyond the Buildwas level, the post-glacial Severn carved its way down the Ironbridge Gorge. Here, on the Coalbrookdale Coalfield, which extends north to Wellington and Lilleshall, is the industrial area of Shropshire.

On the west of the county rise the foothills of the Welsh Mountains, whose tripartite outliers, the Breidden, dominate the Severn Plain where Shropshire meets Montgomeryshire. To the north-west, the hilly Oswestry district, adjoining Denbighshire, is still largely Welsh in character, as in many of its place-names. Southward from the Breidden gap, lovely unspoilt country, including wild moorland, marches with Wales through Chirbury, Bishop's Castle and the Clun region as far as Knighton, over the Radnorshire boundary. Here is the terrain of Offa's Dyke.

In the south of Shropshire, another distinctive region centres in Ludlow, on its hill overlooking Corve Dale and the valleys of the Onny and Teme : it is flanked on the east by the basalt-capped Clee Hills (Abdon Burf on Brown Clee, 1,790 feet, Titterstone, 1,749 feet), south-west by Bringewood Chase and the hills of north Herefordshire, and by Clun Forest to westward leading on into Wales.

Near our south-east boundary, Cleobury Mortimer is a market town for the Clee country and looks into Worcestershire, while east of the Severn the sandstone area focussing on Bridgnorth and extending to Shifnal and Tong has much of the character of the adjacent English Midlands.

(*ii*) *Prehistoric.*

Shropshire, an inland territory, heavily wooded, on the fringe of the Highland Zone of Western Britain, was never an area of primary settlement. Of Palaeolithic Man, no traces have been established within our borders, and the few surface finds of flint implements of Mesolithic character do not suffice to prove occupation in that period.

The distribution of objects and of field monuments suggests that traffic in Neolithic times was partly related to river valleys, partly to the more naturally open hills : in the succeeding dry phase of the Bronze Age, movement was largely along the ridgeways, reverting to the valleys in the Late Bronze Age as the climate deteriorated. Evidence, though thin, is adequate to show that the Severn was used as a highway from Neolithic times onwards.

Neither long barrows nor chambered cairns have been identified in Shropshire, but a megalithic tomb (destroyed) on Llanymynech Hill, Montgomeryshire, affords a link between South and North Wales that is supplemented by the distribution of stone axes. Two great standing stones (the surviving Garreg Lwyd, Oswestry, and Whitcott Keysett, near Clun) have been destroyed in recent years ; their period of erection is uncertain. The nearest proved settlement dated by Neolithic pottery lay underneath the inner hill-fort of the Early Iron Age on Ffridd Faldwyn, above Montgomery, but during the heyday of traffic in axes of stone and flint Shropshire afforded important passage-ways with far-flung contacts. Distributional evidence, confirmed by Professor F. W. Shotton's petrological analysis, suggests an emporium on the Severn between Shrewsbury and Buildwas where traders in stone axes from North Wales (Group VII rock, Graig Lwyd), the Lake District (Group VI, Great Langdale) and Northern Ireland (Group IX) met traffic in flint implements from the chalklands and axes of Cornish rock (Group I). (Collection in Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury.)

The only natural flint in Shropshire occurs as weathered nodules in the Irish Sea drift : it is thus astonishing that several thousand flint flakes and implements have come to light, mainly in the Clun and Bishop's Castle areas of the south-west (Clun Museum), with others in the Clee region. The majority need not antedate the Bronze Age and are probably contemporary with the manufacture of perforated stone axe-hammers and ' battle-axes '. many of which were made from the distinctive picrite which is found in the foothills south of Corndon, within the extension of Montgomeryshire between Chirbury and Bishop's Castle. The large axe-hammer is the type object of Salopian prehistory and many have come to light among the southern hills : the finer double-expanding ' battle-axe ' was evidently made for export, and examples of our picrite (Group XII) have been identified from inhumation burials of the Wessex Culture in the South of England and in Cambridgeshire. Some of this traffic went along the course of the Severn, but the most important trade-route took a short cut west-and-east, by which were carried, not only picrite implements, but also early Irish axes of bronze in transit from Cardigan Bay to Lowland Britain. Traders followed a ridgeway along the hills south of Clun to the plain below Ludlow at Bromfield and thence over the shoulder of Titterstone Clee by Farlow to the Severn at Bewdley : the route is closely related to the distribution of imported flints conveyed in the reverse direction. Traffic with Wessex is also indicated by the hoard of eight bronze implements found, about 1849, at Ebnall, near Oswestry ; it comprised 2 ogival daggers, an early looped spearhead, 3 axes (one certainly cast-flanged), a small trunnion chisel and a punch.

No actual settlement sites of the Bronze Age have been identified in Shropshire, although a number can be inferred from concentrations of flints and of burial mounds. The earliest known Salopian is represented by the skeleton of a man found with a finely-worked flint implement in a stone cist under a mound at Eyton, Alberbury, a mile south of the Severn. Of the few other prehistoric burials on record, most are cremations. Bronze Age barrows are not plentiful in Shropshire, apart from a group of six on the Old Field, Bromfield (the Ludlow Racecourse), and twenty-four related to the line of the Port Way along the crest of the Longmynd. The so-called ' stone circles ' of the Clun district are probably related to the ring-walled barrows of South Wales and our free-standing circles may be connected with that area : one remains on Kerry Hill, Montgomeryshire, and there were three, including the well-known Mitchell's Fold, associated with cairns on and near the Stapeley Hill Ridgeway, which is a branch from *Yr Hen Ffordd*, ' The Ancient Road ' along the Kerry ridge that crossed over by the west flank of Corndon : the Hoar Stone

Circle and a large axe-hammer (Ashmolean Museum) ploughed up in reclaiming land in its neighbourhood antedated the formation of the Black Marsh (Chirbury parish), of which the peat grew after the stones of the circle had been set up on the underlying soil.

Prehistoric pottery is poorly represented : no beakers are recorded locally, apart from one just over the Welsh border in Llansilin parish (*B.A.P.*, I, Fig. 95). Unique twin food-vessels (Shrewsbury Museum) from Aqualate, Newport (just in Staffordshire), probably show the way by which makers of perforated stone axe-hammers, moving from the north-east, bridged the Midland Gap when they first entered Shropshire and by which specimens made of picrite were later traded back. The few known cinerary urns are of Enlarged Food-vessel type (e.g. Ryton, Condover, in Shrewsbury Museum, found with a ' flower-pot ' food-vessel ; each contained human ashes), with the exception of two ' Pennine ' urns (lost) from Oswestry and a late collared-urn-derivative found with a cremation on Prees Heath (Whitchurch Museum).

The bulk of our early evidence comes from the south of the county, but during the Full Bronze Age each of the low watersheds between the southward-flowing rivers of the Northern Plain (Morda, Perry, Roden, Tern) carried its quota of traffic to and from the Severn Valley. Bronze palstaves and looped spearheads, typical of the Middle Bronze Age, with an extended range into the succeeding phase, are well represented in Shropshire. A looped palstave found 8 ft. down in the peat of Whixall Moss, near the border of Flint Maelor, came from the pine stump level at the base of Godwin's VII–VIII layer and so is fixed in the Middle Bronze Age.

A remarkable number of Shropshire hoards are on record, mainly of Late Bronze Age weapons, notably two from Willow Moor, in a valley east of the Wrekin. Bronze swords have been found in the Severn at each end of the Ironbridge Gorge, at Quatford in 1776, and at Buildwas in 1795, when the new bridge was made ; this sword lay deep in the south bank of the river near a socketed bronze axe and a large piece of oak timber. Another sword came from Val Hill, near Ellesmere, and there were broken fragments in several of the large local hoards. Bronze socketed axes and rivet-holed spearheads are fairly numerous in the north of the county, where the Ellesmere Region was now opened up. From the southern hill country only one socketed axe and a gouge are known, but hoards of weapons (e.g. ' The Bloody Romans ' on Lydham Heath, and Broadward, in Clungunford parish) indicate movement along the Onny-Camlad gap and the Clun basin.

From great Shropshire oaks dug-out canoes were hollowed ; three are in Shrewsbury Museum. The punt-like boat from Whattall Moss, near Ellesmere, came from the upper VII–VIII peat layer and is dated to the L.B.A.–E.I.A. Transition. The dug-out from Marton Pool, on the Rea-Camlad pass leading to Chirbury, was found near a platform that may be a crannog. The coracles that still ply on the Severn probably have a prehistoric ancestry. In marshy ground on the Plain a score of stone-boiling mounds have been discovered, but there was nothing to date them.

Although farming is now a leading occupation of Salopians, early traces of agriculture are rare. Celtic fields were recognised from the air by Group-Captain Livock at the south-west end of the Longmynd in 1938 and more probably await discovery.

Portable antiquities of the Early Iron Age are scarce, but Hill-Forts are our most outstanding ancient monuments, and they include many that are on the grand scale, notably Bury Ditches, Hopesay Burrow Camp and Caer Caradoc in the Clun district, with Old Oswestry in the north-west of the county and Bury Walls, Hawkstone, in the north-east. They crown many of our southern hills, but are naturally scarcer in the north, where, however, there are related fortified island sites, e.g. The Berth, Baschurch, and The Wall, Kinnersley-on-the-Weald Moors. The majority have fine inturned entrances. The few local hill-forts that have been excavated, including two in Montgomeryshire, are listed in the Bibliography. Few objects were found : pottery of Iron Age II character was identified from the Wrekin Camp, The Breiddin and Old Oswestry.

The distinction between the two main regions of Shropshire may have held good at the time of the Claudian Conquest : the Cornovii then occupied North Shropshire and Cheshire ; the Wrekin was a key stronghold dominating the Plain and overlooking the future site of Viroconium, 4 miles to the west. But who was responsible for the hill-forts south of the Severn ? Were they the work of the Ordovices, in whose territory Caratacus made his final stand in A.D. 51 ?

(*iii*) *Roman.*

For Romano-British Shropshire, the *V.C.H.* article by Professor F. Haverfield and Miss M. V. Taylor gave the basic evidence up to 1908 : numerous additions can now be made to the Topographical Index and much more excavation has been carried out at Wroxeter (*see below*, Bibliography), where a Summer School in Romano-British Archaeology is now held annually. Under the leadership of Mr. Graham Webster, a special study is being made of the initial Roman military advance through the West Midlands : sites of this and of later periods have been discovered (or the evidence amplified) from the air by Dr. St. Joseph and are included in the new Map of Roman Britain (ed. 3, 1956).

Shropshire occupied the westward margin of the civil zone of Britain and fringed the military frontier of the Welsh Marches. *Viroconium Cornoviorum* (Wroxeter) was early established as a military base and only developed fully as a civil town, the fourth largest in Britain and the cantonal capital of the Cornovii, when the Western Command was transferred to a Legionary Fortress at *Deva* (Chester) about A.D. 75. Thus nearly 30 years must have been spent in consolidating the Roman Conquest east of the Severn and in subduing tribesmen who held the hill-forts beyond the river, prior to the advance of Julius Frontinus and the founding of the Roman Forts of Powysland, Forden Gaer and Caersws, also about A.D. 75.

Of Roman Roads, east Shropshire is traversed by Watling Street from *Pennocrucium* (Staffs.) west to Wroxeter by way of Red Hill (614 feet, the highest point on its course), where overlaying enclosures have been located from the air. The extension southward from Wroxeter across the Severn, conveniently known as Watling Street South, ran through the Stretton Gap to *Bravonium* (Leintwardine), continuing perhaps originally to Gloucester and, subsequently, to Caerleon. The site of a Roman bridge on this road at Acton Burnell can be traced. The first part of the road north from Wroxeter to Chester, already known approximately, was established from air photographs taken in 1929 which, combined with subsequent field work, indicated the site of *Rutunium* to the north of Harcourt Mill on the River Roden, where Roman pottery has since been found. *Mediolanum*, the next station of Iter II, is now accepted as Whitchurch, where a considerable number of Roman objects have come to light sporadically (Whitchurch Museum). The course of the Roman Road west to the Long Mountain and the forts of Central Wales has been established through Yockleton to Westbury.

Roman Villas have been excavated at Acton Scott (above the Southern road) and near Linley Hall ; a fine tesselated pavement was unearthed in 1793 at The Lea, in Pontesbury parish, just north of the River Rea, and other sites related to the same brook have come to light at Cruckton (excavated 1949–1952 ; publication projected) and on the Chapel Field, Whitley, dug in 1893.

That the lead ore of our western hills was exploited by the Romans is attested by the discovery of at least three pigs of lead stamped with the name of the Emperor Hadrian. Oaken spades impregnated with lead have been found in old mines in the Shelve country, but their age is not certain (two in Shrewsbury Museum).

The principal objects found at Wroxeter (apart from those remaining on the site) form the Viroconium Collection in Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury : these include Legionary and other tombstones (on the ground floor) and the magnificent inscription from the entrance to the Forum, raised in honour of the Emperor Hadrian in A.D. 130 by the Civitas Cornoviorum. Noteworthy among finds from numerous other sites in

Shropshire is a small handled jar containing a hoard of 362 base silver coins of late A.D. III, found in 1950 at Hordley Grange, near Ellesmere. Roman pottery found in the (presumably native) promontory fort on Nesscliff Hill indicates settlement there in A.D. II (publication pending).

(*iv*) *Post-Roman*

Post-Roman occupation of some of our hill-forts has been demonstrated (Old Oswestry, Breiddin), and the large bronze cauldron found near the Berth Pool, Baschurch (British Museum), is now assigned by Professor Hawkes (*Aspects of Archaeology*, pp. 186, 188) to a late Romano-British or Sub-Roman date : this lends colour to the idea that The Berth, a glacial mound ringed by a rampart with inturned entrance, connected by causeways across the encircling marsh to dry land and to a second mound, may even be the site of the Hall of Cynddylan, a chieftain of Powys slain in A.D. VII and buried in the Churches of Bassa (*Eglwyseu Bassa*). Shropshire has no Early Christian inscribed stones.

Little is known of what happened hereabouts during the post-Roman epoch in the West or of the Anglo-Saxon advances from Mercia or from Wessex and the ultimate settlement of our area by the invaders. A number of lesser camps on plateaux and promontories, which are often related to ancient ridgeways, may be sites of Welsh occupation in times of Mercian pressure, but clear evidence is lacking. There is nothing to suggest that Pagan Angles or Saxons penetrated so far, and even later Anglo-Saxon finds are rare. No such pottery has been recognised. An iron spearhead found on Titterstone Clee Hill, in 1928, is assigned to A.D. VII–IX (British Museum). A supposed Roman bronze stylus found during the 1890 excavations in the crypt of Old St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, proves to be a Saxon styliform pin of A.D. VIII–IX (Shrewsbury Museum).

The course of Offa's Dyke, the western frontier of Mercia towards the close of the 8th century, is defined in Sir Cyril Fox's great work : it is aligned along the margin of the Welsh uplands, and some of its finest stretches are within or near the Shropshire border on westward-facing hills in the Oswestry and Clun regions : a well-preserved portion crossed by the Chirbury-Montgomery road will be seen. Further into England, Wat's Dyke, probably an earlier Mercian work extending from the Dee Estuary, terminates at the Morda Brook, south of Oswestry. Excavation is projected at Chirbury, the presumptive site of Æthelflæd's Burh (A.D.815).

Stone querns and spindle-whorls are fairly common in Shropshire, but nearly all are chance finds and they have not been classified or dated; some are certainly prehistoric, others Roman, some probably Saxon or medieval, others more recent.

(*v*) *Medieval*

Architecture, Church-fittings, and Structural Remains after 1066 are beyond the scope of this brief archaeological survey. Suffice it to mention that, in addition to the well-known castles, fortified manor-houses and domestic habitations in half-timber and in stone (of which examples were studied during the Meeting and described in the Programme), Motte-and-Bailey Castles (locally known as 'Mounts') are abundant in the Welsh Marches. An interesting series is related to the Rea-Camlad Gap between the great castles of Shrewsbury and Montgomery, the border fortress of Caus Castle (Westbury parish) controlling the centre of the pass. Here at Caus the motte is of colossal size, like that of Shrewsbury Castle and The Bishop's Moat above Bishop's Castle. Homestead Moats are likewise numerous in Shropshire. Lists, with numerous plans, are given in the V.C.H. under Ancient Earthworks.

Encaustic Tiles from churches and religious establishments in Shropshire cover a wide range of designs, including a series distinctive of the Cistercian Abbeys of Buildwas, Strata Marcella and, especially, Strata Florida, near Aberystwyth, suggesting the former existence of a common tilery, perhaps connected with the Buildwas house, somewhere in the Broseley district of the Ironbridge Gorge.

Some medieval and later pottery, as well as fine local porcelain, may be seen in Shrewsbury Museum. There is also a collection of ' Bygones '.

Select Bibliography

The following abbreviations are used :

Ant. J.	... ...	*Antiquaries Journal.*
Arch. Camb.	...	*Archaeologia Cambrensis.*
Arch. J.	... ...	*Archaeological Journal.*
Caradoc Trans.	...	*Transactions of the Caradoc & Severn Valley Field Club.*
J.R.S.	... ...	*Journal of Roman Studies.*
S.A.T.	... ...	*Shropshire Archaeological Transactions.*
V.C.H.	... ...	*Victoria County History of Shropshire.*

The single volume for Shropshire of the Victoria County History, I (1908), contains articles on *Early Man, Romano-British Shropshire,* and *Ancient Earthworks* (with Plans).

GENERAL AND LOCAL.

Rev. C. H. Hartshorne. *Salopia Antiqua* (1841).

Prof. W. W. Watts. *Shropshire : The Geography of the County* (Wilding, Shrewsbury, 1919 ; ed. 2, 1939).

W. A. Seaby. 'Archaeology of the Birmingham Plateau and its Margins ', *Archaeological News Letter,* October, 1949, 85–90.

E. S. Cobbold. *Church Stretton,* Vol. III, Archaeology (Wilding, 1904).

Lily F. Chitty. ' Prehistoric and other Early Finds in the Borough of Shrewsbury ', *S.A.T.* LIV (1951–2), 105–148.

For the numerous publications on Shropshire History, Architecture and Topography, see *A Select Bibliography* on sale at Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury (6d.).

PREHISTORY.

(N.B.—As far as is practicable, the following short Bibliography will follow the sequence of the text of the Introduction, which can be checked by the references given.)

Miss L. F. Chitty has amassed material for a *Prehistory of Shropshire* : see numerous papers and records in the *Shropshire Archaeological Transactions,* 1925–1953, and others in the *Antiquaries Journal, Archaeologia Cambrensis* and elsewhere (many others in preparation) ; also Annual Reports on Shropshire Archaeology in the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club's *Records of Bare Facts,* 1930 to date ; Notes on the Prehistoric Collections in Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury, in *Guide to Museum* (6d.) ; Distribution Maps in Sir Cyril Fox's *Personality of Britain* (ed. 4, 1943), in Varley & Jackson's *Prehistoric Cheshire* (1940), and Fig. 18, Pre-Roman Evidence, with H. Thorpe, in his ' Growth of Settlement before the Norman Conquest ', *Birmingham & its Regional Setting* (British Association, 1950).

Of the few papers and notes on Prehistoric matters in the early *Transactions* of the Shropshire Archaeological Society (established 1877), the following are the most noteworthy :

George Luff. ' Neolithic Man and his Remains in Shropshire ', XI (1888), 211–222, mainly records of the Clun district.

Charles Fortey. ' Explorations upon the Old Field near Ludlow, December 1884 ', VIII (1885), 445–9 (the Bromfield Round Barrows).

R. Lloyd Kenyon. ' Pre-Historic Shropshire ', 2.IV (1892), 264–286.

R. Lloyd Kenyon. ' British Shropshire ', 2.XI (1899), 159–178.

Rev. Thomas Auden. ' Discovery of Cinerary Urns ', 3.VI (1906), Misc. X ; see also L. F. Chitty and R. C. C. Clay, ' Two Cinerary Urns of the Bronze Age from Little Ryton, near Condover ', 4.X (1926), Misc. XVII.

Rev. Thomas Auden. ' Traces of Pre-Historic Man ', 3.VII (1907), Misc. IX (Shipton and Thonglands).

Flint and Stone Implements.

T. C. Cantrill. ' Flint Flakes from the Shrewsbury and Wellington District ', *S.A.T.,* XLVI (1931), 19–30.

Herbert C. Jones. ' Flints of the Clun Valley ', *Caradoc Trans.,* 1934, 263–7, and other local papers, 1934, 1930, 1940.

Lily F. Chitty. ' Perforated Stone Axe-Hammers found in Shropshire ', *Bull. of Board of Celtic Studies,* IV (1927), 74–91.

Lily F. Chitty. ' Flint Implements recently found in Shropshire S. of the Severn ', with Note on Axe-Hammers, *S.A.T.,* LIII (1949), 24–36.

Shotton, Chitty and Seaby. 'A New Centre of Stone Axe Dispersal on the Welsh Border ', *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.,* 1951, 159–167 (Axe-Hammers of Picrite) ; also

Shotton, Chitty and Seaby. 'Report on the Petrological Identification of Stone Implements in the West Midlands' (Publication projected).
Watkins-Pitchford and Chitty. 'A Perforated Stone Implement from Dudmaston, near Bridgnorth'. *S.A.T.*, LII (1947), 129–138, with notes on other local finds.
W. A. Cummins. 'Stone Tools and Medieval Pottery from Skyborry, near Knighton', *S.A.T.*, LIV (1953), 227–233.

Bronze Age Sites and Bronze Implements.

L. F. Chitty. 'Notes on Prehistoric Implements', *S.A.T.*, 4.X (1926), 233–246 (Clee District, Montford Bridge, Aston, near Oswestry).
L. F. Chitty. 'The Hoar Stone or Marsh Pool Circle', *ibid.*, 247–253, and Misc. XV, The Whetstones Rapier; also *Arch. Camb.*, 1926, 409–413, Fig.
L. F. Chitty. 'Bronze Implements from the Oswestry Region', *Arch. Camb.*, 1940, 27–35, including the Ebnall Hoard (also publication pending).
L. F. Chitty. 'Bronze Implements from Shropshire in National Museum of Wales, Cardiff', *S.A.T.*, L (1940), 143–154.
L. F. Chitty. 'Bronze Age Cist Burial found at Eyton, near Alberbury', *S.A.T.*, LI (1943), 139–145.
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THE DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF SHREWSBURY. By J. T. Smith

The earliest domestic buildings in Shrewsbury we have knowledge of were stone houses, normally of two storeys, dating between *c.* 1250–1350. The most interesting survival is ' Bennetteshalle ', behind Price's Tailors shop at the foot of Pride Hill ; though ruinous it retains fine detail of *c.* 1260. It was about 65 ft. x 30 ft. and divided transversely by an arcade of two storeys, that in the undercroft comprising two arches, that in the main storey a fireplace flanked by two arches. Vaughan's Mansion is incorporated in the Music Hall ; late 13th-century transomed windows set in ashlar can be seen on the first floor, together with a good copy of the 15th-century roof destroyed by fire in 1917. Others of similar type are recorded.

From the mid 14th century onwards the kind of prosperous merchant who had formerly built in stone began to build in timber. The earliest of the resulting series of timber-framed halls is 8A Castle Street (Church Farm Café) ; its impressive roof has an open arch-braced tie-beam truss upon which stands a king-post and collar purlin, the king-post being supported by cusped and ogee braces. Behind the Nag's Head on Wyle Cop are the moulded timbers of an early 15th-century spere-truss hall ; the lobby above the screens-passage contains a fine crocketed ogee-headed doorway leading to a solar above the service rooms. Riggs Hall in the library courtyard and the brick-faced building in Butcher Row due south of the 'Abbot's House ' are of the same type, and there are some half-dozen more.

The 15th century saw the introduction of jettied buildings, first of two and later of three storeys. Purslow's shop in Frankwell is the earliest survivor ; it is two-storeyed and has cusped braces and an original side doorway. A house at the bottom of Fish Street with close-studded framing and a moulded bressummer is a later example of the type. The earliest three-storeyed building is Henry Tudor House, one of a pair on Wyle Cop ; its ground floor was a shop, its first floor the hall, where the elaborate traceried window has original glass in its top lights. Somewhat later, *c.* 1480–90, Nos. 65–69 Wyle Cop were built as five tenements, each having one room and a lobby (for a stair) on each floor. The arrangement recurs *c.* 1500 in the misnamed 'Abbot's House ' in Butcher Row, notable for its medieval shop-fronts, of which a further example remains in the Old Post Office Yard. Nos. 1–3 Fish Street, of the 15th century, seem to resemble Tackley's Inn, Oxford, in having an open hall behind a jettied frontage.

Three-storeyed houses of medieval type persisted into the reign of Elizabeth I (Eldred Mottram, Frankwell), when they were generally superseded by buildings of two storeys with attics, e.g. the house west of Park Hotel, Abbey Foregate, Merevale House dated 1601 by the Technical College, and the former ' Cross Keys ' by Grope Lane dated 1575. Ireland's Mansion built *c.* 1585–90, is exceptional both in its three storeys and attics and in its plan ; the internal division, which seems to follow the original plan, provides three tenements, whereas the elevation is divided into units of two or four, a contrast which may well herald a Renaissance feeling in architectural matters.

The amount of building diminishes in the first half of the 17th century : the Council House Gateway of 1620 and ' The Old Porch House ' in Swan Hill dated 1628 (named from a former big timber porch) are the only dated examples. The Old House, Dogpole, is largely a rebuilding in the time of Charles I of a medieval house which comprises the timber-framed block next to the street. A considerable part of the building effort at this period was put into enlargement of earlier houses : Cockle's shop in Milk Street shows the 17th-century heightening (with a type of upper-cruck truss) of a late medieval house ; a recently restored shop on Wyle Cop shows the addition of a second storey and attics to an Elizabethan house ; a shop at the corner of Mardol and Hill's Lane was refronted in timber and dormers added ; and late in the 17th century a tower-like two-storey attic block was added to the Park Hotel. The latest phase of timber building is exemplified by the Verger's House, 3 St. Mary's Place ; its much larger fellows have disappeared.

Brick building only became usual near the turn of the 17th century. Celia Fiennes's comment in 1698 was ' there are no fine houses but there are many large old houses that are convenient and stately '. ' Fine ' houses begin with the one of *c.* 1670 on the north side of St. Alkmund's Square, and there is a series of dated buildings from 1697 to 1727, several of them in and around The Square, notably Adnitt and Naunton's premises. The Co-operative shop in Princess Street has a remarkable pilastered frontage. Good 18th-century houses are numerous, particularly in Claremont Hill, St. John's Hill, and Swan Hill, but the brick architecture of Shrewsbury has never been adequately studied.

CHURCH STRETTON. By John Salmon

Church Stretton fills the obvious and most easily passable north-south gap in the hills of south-west Shropshire. Consequently it is on a route that has been of importance from the earliest times. Probably of Iron Age date are Bodbury Ring on a spur of the Long Mynd just to the north-west of the town and the large hill-fort on the summit of Caer Caradoc, immediately east of the Church Stretton gap and one of the traditional sites of the last stand of Caractacus against the Romans in 51 A.D. ' Watling Street ' marks the line of the Roman road from Viroconium to Magna (Kenchester, north-west of Hereford). Castle Hill at All Stretton and Brockhurst Castle between Church Stretton and Little Stretton appear to be Norman motte-and-bailey earthworks. A mill and church are mentioned in Doomsday. In 1214 a weekly market was instituted. With the opening of the Shrewsbury–Hereford railway in 1852, Church Stretton developed into a small inland holiday resort and residential town, a position it still holds.

PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, 9TH JULY

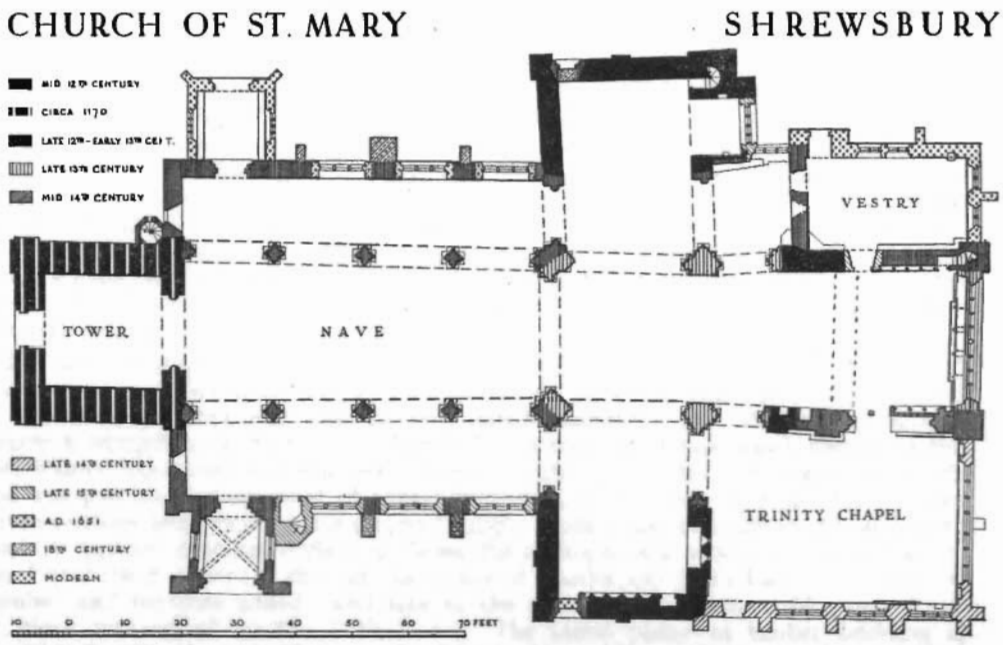
SHREWSBURY: THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY. BY D. B. HAGUE AND C. A. R. RADFORD

Most of the structure of the church of St. Mary can be dated between 1150 and 1250. It contains much interesting detail of this period, including the early plate-tracery of the south porch, but it is especially noted for its fine collection of early English and Continental glass.

The Chantry Commissioners of Henry VIII stated that the church was founded by King Edgar in the 10th century, and it was described as a Minster in Domesday Book. The existence of a pre-Conquest church was supported by excavation carried out in 1864. The plan of a church lying under the present nave was uncovered; it had an eastern apse. The only relic of this period is a grave-slab now placed against the north side of the vestry; it is of late 10th or early 11th century date (Pl. XXVB). Little is known of the church's early history. In 1218 a request was made to confirm its concession by King John to the monastry of Lilleshall, but as Dugdale does not record this it may be assumed the grant was not confirmed.

The first Norman church consisted of the surviving transepts with eastern chapels, and an aisleless nave of which the walling above the inserted arcades remains. The chancel was of two bays, the evidence being the base of the clasping buttress at the S.E. angle of the early chancel, which may be seen under the W. respond of the eastern opening of the present chancel to the S. chapel. The surviving sedile of this date was originally the westernmost of three. The west tower was an early addition.

The next stage in the building, of *circa* 1190–1220, produced the aisles of the nave, the south porch, and the lengthening of the chancel. This work appears, contrary to the usual



Traced from photostatic enlargements of a survey by W. A. Webb, A.R.I.B.A.

Fig. 1

custom, to have started from the west end. Chapels to the east of the transepts, flanking the chancel, were also built. The chancel itself may well be of two dates. The side walls suggest that it was designed, as originally extended, for a vault of two bays, and that at the time that this was carried out the tower over the crossing was still standing. It is possible therefore that the period shewn on the hatched plan as late 12th-early 13th century could be subdivided, and the *circa* 1190 work on the nave distinguished from the *circa* 1220 continuation in the chancel.

The second stage in the chancel is formed by the taking down of the central tower and a remaking of the whole structure, which involved the demolition of the vault, if this had ever been erected. The outer arches of the two western piers of the crossing were retained, but the rest of these piers and the whole of the eastern piers of the old crossing were rebuilt. The character of this work is late 13th century and it is probably contemporary with the great eastern window, which in spite of modern reconstruction shews evidence of a date *circa* 1300.

Late in the 14th century the south-east Trinity Chapel was added, replacing the smaller Leybourne Chapel. There followed the addition of the clerestories of chancel, nave, and transepts, the refenestration of the south aisle, and the raising of the slender 200 feet spire to the west tower. The north aisle was not raised until 1651, and the outline of the gable of the old north door can still be seen internally : both aisles still retain original windows in their west walls.

Unlike St. Laurence's, Ludlow, little of the ancient glass was made for the church. The great east window, representing the tree of Jesse, was in Old St. Chad's and was removed and set up in 1792, but there are grounds for thinking that before the dissolution its original home was The Grey Friars. Amongst the figures in the lower panel is that of Sir John de Charlton, the donor of the window, who died in 1353.

There are nineteen panels of painted glass depicting the life of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. This was made in Cologne *circa* 1500 and was originally in the cloisters of Altenburg Abbey. This monastery was suppressed in 1803, and in 1845 the glass was secured by the Rev. W. G. Rowland who set it up in its present position. Fourteen panels are in the triple lancet in the north wall of the chancel, and five in the central window of the south aisle.

Other continental glass from the cathedral of Trèves, St. Jacques' Church, Liège, and Hirschenrode, is set in the north and south aisles and in the Trinity Chapel. A large number of roundels of Flemish origin and later date have been fitted in the vestry, and also in the chapel of St. Nicholas, where eight illustrate scenes from the Book of Tobit.

The font dates from the 15th century. Also of interest are three carved panels set in the sedilia in the Trinity Chapel. Eight of the ten bells date from 1775. There is no old plate.

D. H. S. Cranage, *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire ;* J. E. Hunt, *The Glass in St. Mary's Church, Shrewsbury.*

DRAPERS' HALL. By M. de C. Peele

Drapers' Hall is a late 16th-century timber-framed house, always partly a residence, containing a hall for meetings of the Company. The Company, the wealthiest of the Shrewsbury trade gilds, was incorporated in 1461–2, and traded, largely to London and abroad, in Welsh cloth. The house contains a 15th or 16th-century painting on wood of the first Master, and a painting of 1660 of Edward IV. There are tables, benches and other items of the gild's furniture of the 16th and 17th centuries.

THE LION HOTEL, THE ASSEMBLY ROOM. By J. T. Smith

The earliest part of the existing hotel is a late 15th-century three-storeyed timber-framed house which has been embellished externally in the Gothic manner. The history of the Lion has never been properly investigated, but at least as early as the middle of the 18th century it was one of the principal inns of Shrewsbury. In 1763 it is stated that the

chief inns are the Raven, the Talbot, and the Red Lion :[1] Between that year and 1780 there was a great increase in coaching traffic, thanks largely to the efforts of Robert Lawrence, proprietor of the Raven, who procured the diversion through Shrewsbury of some north-bound coaches which had formerly travelled via Newport. The Talbot—no longer an inn—at the east corner of Market Street and Swan Hill, has rainwater heads dated 1777, showing that it was rebuilt to cater for the expected increase in traffic. In the same year the Lion was rebuilt[2] and a splendid assembly room added at the back in the Adam manner. The architect is not known, though a likely man is Joseph Bromfield of Shrewsbury who subscribed to Richardson's *Book of Ceilings* published in 1774 and who was employed for the stucco work of the library at Hartlebury Castle in 1782.[3]

The innkeeper who commissioned the work was Joseph Richards, " a Gentleman of a very liberal Taste ",[4] who left the Lion to go to Worcester in 1780[5] and was succeeded by Robert Lawrence of the Raven,[6] the inn most used by coaches at that time.

The reasons for Lawrence's move can be inferred from references in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of 1779 to the holding of weekly Card and Dancing Assemblies at the Lion, which had become a leading place of fashionable resort thanks to the Assembly Room. In November, 1780, the weekly Hunt meeting was removed from the Raven to the Lion,[7] and from February, 1781, all the coaches to London, Bristol, Holyhead, and elsewhere which had formerly used the Raven began to use the Lion as a terminal or stage.[8] From that time onwards the Lion was indisputably the leading inn of the town.

ROWLEY'S HOUSE. By J. T. Smith

The eponymous owner of this property was a wealthy brewer, William Rowley, who lived in the early 17th century. The profitable trade in the town's ales, which were distributed over a wide area of the Marches and North Wales from the 14th century onwards, enabled him to build the brick mansion known by his name which fronts Hill Street. It is the earliest brick building in Shrewsbury, of L-shaped plan, and bore rainwater-heads (now removed) dated 1618 ; it is now gutted for use as a warehouse.

West of it the range of timber-framed building known as Rowley's House was left standing for use as a museum after the general demolition in the car-park area in 1934. It incorporates part of a late medieval building and was heightened in the early 17th century, no doubt by Rowley himself.

On the south side, facing the Market, the truncated gable of the old house can be seen above its bracketed tie-beam ; the wall-post of the second storey has been specially cut to fit the tenon on top of the post below, which was intended to house the mortice of the wall-plate. The whole was extensively restored with timbers from the nearby demolished buildings ; in the carriageway which runs through the block can be seen a curved timber, used as a strut, which was cut as a principal rafter of unusual shape.

The museum collections housed here include a large amount of Romano-British material from Wroxeter among which the most important relics are from Prof. D. Atkinson's excavation of the Forum. These include the fine inscription, a silver mirror, and pottery and whetstones recovered among the dramatic ruins of the shops. There are some military tombstones on the ground floor, and a collection of antiquities and bygones of other periods.

[1] *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1763, 481–2.
[2] H. Pidgeon, *Memorials of Shrewsbury* (1837), 184.
[3] M. Jourdain, *English Decorative Plasterwork of the Renaissance*, p. ix.
[4] *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 24 July, 1779.
[5] *S.C.*, 20 May, 1780.
[6] *S.C.*, 28 October, 1780.
[7] *S.C.*, 11 November, 1780.
[8] *S.C.*, 24 February, 1781.

A. Wroxeter. Part of cross-shaft reset under eaves of church
(*Photograph by A. D. Saunders*)

B. St. Mary's, Shrewsbury. Tomb slab
(*Photograph by courtesy of West Midland Photo Services Ltd.*)

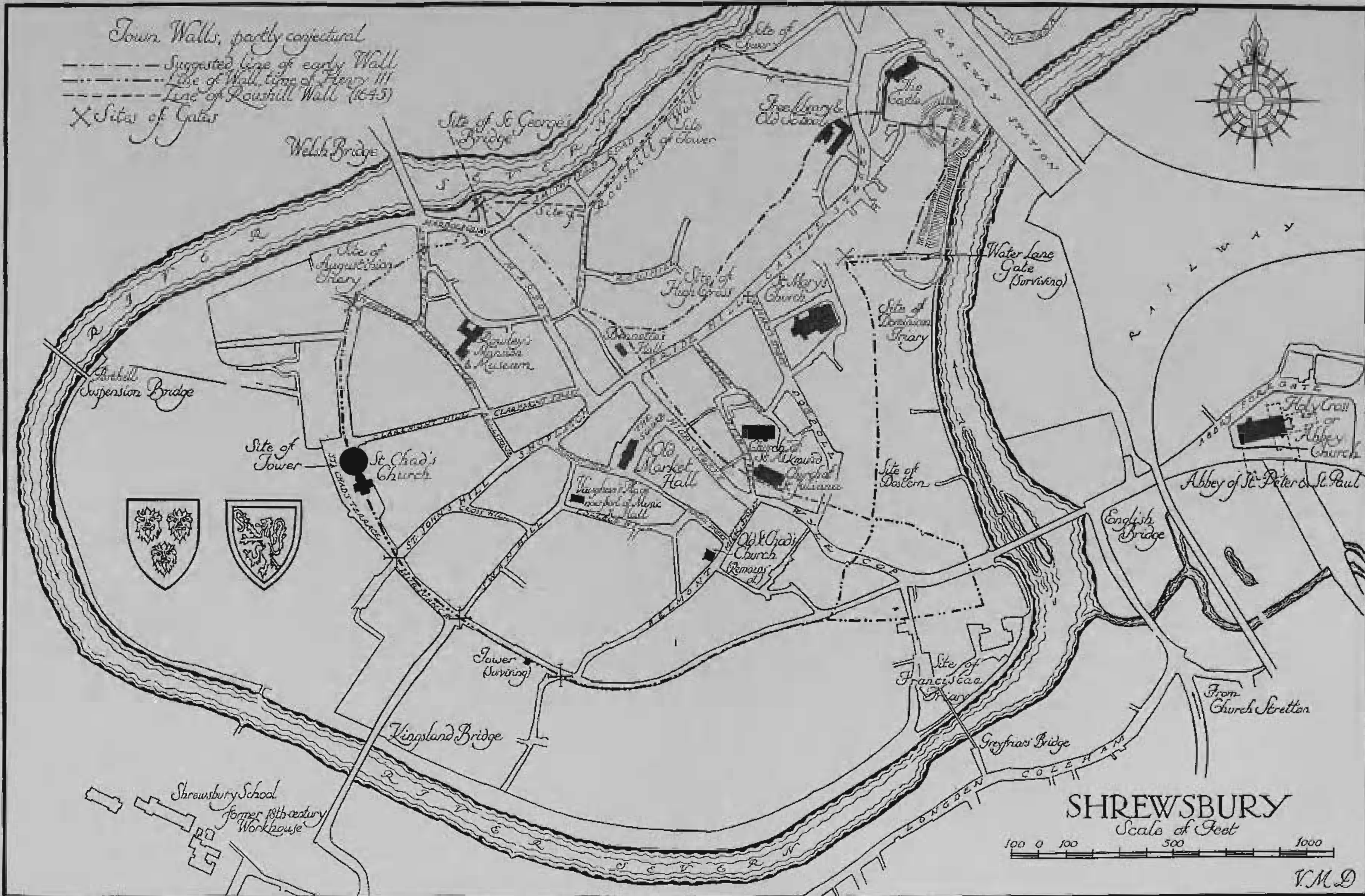

Town Walls, partly conjectural
Suggested line of early Wall
Line of Wall, time of Henry III
Line of Roushill Wall (1645)
Sites of Gates
Welsh Bridge
Site of St George's Bridge
Site of Tower
The Library & Old School
The Castle
Railway Station
Roushill Wall
Site of Tower
Site of High Cross
St Mary's Church
Water Lane Gate (Surviving)
Site of Dominican Friary
Railway
Site of Augustinian Friary
Rowley's Mansion & Museum
Porthill Suspension Bridge
Site of Tower
St Chad's Church
Old Market Hall
Church of St Alkmund
Church of St Julian
Site of Postern
Holy Cross or Abbey Church
Abbey of St Peter & St Paul
English Bridge
Old St Chad's Church (Remains)
Tower (Surviving)
Site of Franciscan Friary
From Church Stretton
Kingsland Bridge
Greyfriars Bridge
Shrewsbury School
former 18th century Workhouse
River Severn
Pride Hill
Shoplatch
St John's Hill
Belmont
Abbey Foregate
Coleham
Longden
SHREWSBURY
Scale of Feet
100 0 100 500 1000
V.M.D

Fig. 2

SHREWSBURY CASTLE. By H. Beaumont

Shrewsbury is almost entirely surrounded by the great bend of the River Severn. The castle is built on the steeply rising ground on the only spot not wholly protected by the river. Together with the Town Walls and the river, the castle forms a complete defensive work.

Most of the great castles were designed to serve as living quarters for the garrison and local populations in time of war. Shrewsbury Castle needed little in the way of such provision, since the townsfolk were safe within the defensive shield of river and Town Walls so long as the castle held out at the only open approach. Therefore, it has never been an elaborate dwelling but remained a military fort, usually falling into decay in peaceful times.

The site of the present castle was probably fortified in pre-Conquest times, for Odericus Vitalis speaks of a King's Castle at Shrewsbury in 1069. This site was extended and strengthened by Roger of Montgomery, created Earl of Shrewsbury in 1074. Fifty-one houses were removed for the purpose.[1] His work probably resulted in the construction of the motte surmounted by a wooden tower, and surrounded by an inner bailey of earth with timber stockade following roughly the line of the present castle walls.

Robert of Belesme forfeited the castle to Henry I but there is no evidence of work on the castle until the reign of Henry II when references to such work begin to appear in the Pipe Rolls.[2] The pattern of the present inner bailey wall, with its short straight lengths, is typical of the mid-12th century. The masonry at the base of the walls in places is of the same period, as is the stone work of the lower part of the main hall and the main gate. The position and extent of the outer bailey, and when it was constructed, cannot be stated with any certainty, but the outer bailey probably extended along the high ridge overlooking the river to the east of the castle, then turned at right angles up the line of St. Mary's Water Lane. On the west side of the castle the outer bailey probably followed a line almost due south, adjoining the Water Lane Wall at the top of the Water Lane near Windsor Place. Henry III built the main town walls, the line of which is well known. The castle remained with little change from the time of Henry II until it was greatly strengthened by Edward I. The great circular towers were built at this time. Parts of the second storey of the main hall and the doorway into the eastern tower appear to be of the same period, indicating that the earlier hall was either raised a storey or extensively repaired at this time.[3]

By the 16th century the castle was in a ruinous state.[4] It was leased to the Onslow family from 1565 to 1596. Possibly the characteristically Tudor third storey and timber roof beams were added during this period. At the time of the Great Civil War the Castle, again in bad repair in April, 1643, was patched up to meet the emergency. Walls were repaired, a new wall (Roushill Wall) constructed[5] from the western tower to the river and along the river side to Mardol Quay. The postern gate in the north east wall of the bailey was made at this time, and musketry embrasures inserted in the flanking walls to the main gate. The heavy studded oak door at the main gate is of this period, as is the screen now at the east end of the hall of the castle. Its original position was in the centre of the hall.

At the Restoration the castle was granted to Sir Francis Newport, later 1st Earl of Bradford. Late in the 18th century it was remodelled by Telford for use as a private dwelling for Sir William Pulteney. Telford partitioned the hall into several small rooms, re-designed most of the windows, blocked up the original entrance, and constructed a new doorway which is now the basement entrance. He also built for Pulteney's daughter Laura the octagonal tower on the mound—hence its present name " Laura's Tower ". In 1924 the castle was purchased by the Shropshire Horticultural Society and presented to the Corporation. It was then again re-designed. The main entrance was restored to its original position, the internal partitions removed, the main hall equipped for use as the Council Chamber, and the building and grounds given their present form.

[1] Domesday Book in *Vic. County Hist. Shropshire I.* 310

[2] Pipe Rolls Hy. II. (*Pipe Roll Society* VIII, 89; IX, 59; XIII, 108; XXX, 17; XXXII, 1.)

[3] See Calendar of Letters Close 1279–88, 516; and 1288–96, 22.

[4] Thos. Leland *Itinerary* Edn. 1770, extract in *Trans. Shrops. Arch. Soc. IV*, 134.

[5] The Roushill Wall should be dated 1643 on the city plan,

CONDOVER HALL. By J. Salmon

The Hall was built about 1598 by Thomas Owen, Sergeant-at-Law and Justice of the Common Pleas. The architect was Walter Hancock, who was buried at Much Wenlock and who was almost certainly also responsible in this district for the Market Hall at Shrewsbury, the Hall at Eyton-on-Severn, and High Ercall Hall. The house is built of local sandstone and is H-shaped on plan. Except for the porch, the gables are straight-sided, but classical details are to be seen in the porch, the parapets of the towers and the colonnade (now glazed) on the south side. The chimneys are plain and of brick. One of the few exterior additions are some good lead rainwater heads of *c.* 1720. Inside, the house has been much restored, though the long gallery remains fairly intact. The Hall is now used as a school for the blind.

CONDOVER CHURCH. By J. Salmon

The north transept is late 12th century and has three round-headed windows with primitive stiff-leafed foliage capitals, one window in the west wall, two in the north. Above the latter is a contemporary window, circular on the inside and of quatrefoil-shape outside. An entry in the parish register reads : ' Condor Church fell Doune the 22 of november 1660 '. The nave, south transept and tower date from the rebuilding carried out between 1660 and 1666 and are of Gothic design. The nave was rebuilt without aisles and its considerable width is spanned by a fine hammer-beam roof best seen from the chancel. The chancel and its chapels were rebuilt in 1868. There is a 14th-century chest with contemporary ironwork. The monuments are of interest, the most important being : (1) on south side of sanctuary, Thomas Scriven (1587) and his wife (1612), (2) in north chapel, a monument erected in 1641 to Mrs. Jane Norton (1640), her father, Judge Owen (builder of the Hall), her eldest brother, Sir Roger Owen, and her husband, (3) above the vestry door, medallion monument to Martha Owen (1641), formerly in Old St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, (4) east wall of north chapel, Roger Owen, who died in 1718, but the monument, by Roubiliac, was not erected till 1746, (5) and (6) two very good modern monuments commemorating Thomas Cholmondeley (1864) and Alice Cholmondeley (1868).

Tuesday, 10th July

BROMFIELD CHURCH. By A. L. Moir and C. A. R. Radford.

The church is situated at the junction of the rivers Teme and Onny, a few miles north of Ludlow. The original church in the 10th century was the spiritual home of twelve secular canons, with special privileges from Edward the Confessor, living in their own homesteads. The canons in 1135 became affiliated to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester, and formed a regular priory. For a long time the church was under the dual control of vicars and priors. At the dissolution in 1538 Charles Foxe of Ludlow acquired Bromfield priory and converted the conventual buildings into a house for himself, incorporating the chancel for a dining-room with a bedroom above it. Existing architectural ruins substantiate this. A hundred years later this house was destroyed by fire. The chancel was then restored to its proper use and given a plastered rounded ceiling, decorated with cherubs among clouds, and festoons of texts.

The earliest remains belong to a cruciform church of the 12th century, erected shortly after the establishment of the Benedictine Priory in 1135. The nave walls are largely of this date, with a blocked round-headed window at the west end of the south wall and traces of another on the north side. There is no indication of any division between the nave and the crossing and the absence of any thickening in the eastern part of the walls suggests that there was no central tower. The eastern arch into the sanctuary, now blocked, is set excentrically to the modern chancel, shewing that the south wall of the nave, like the north, continued in the same line. External scars shew that the sanctuary was rather

narrower than the nave ; a plan of this type and date requires a square-ended east end. The arch to the north transept survives and now gives on to the modern vestry ; the original transept, as indicated by the stumps of the north and east walls, was rather larger. No trace of the corresponding south transept remains, but a symmetrical plan may be restored.

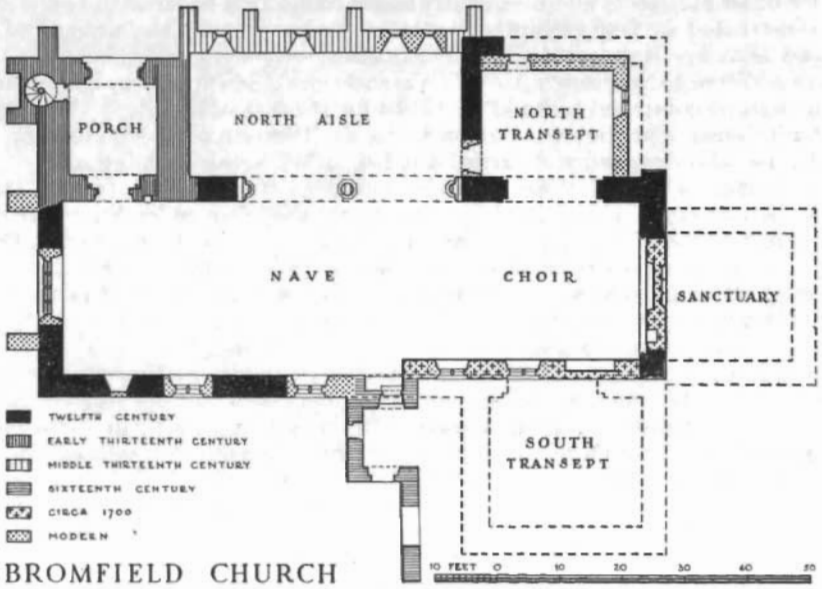


Fig. 3

An elaborate porch surmounted by a tower was added against the west end of the north wall early in the 13th century. A little later an aisle was inserted between the porch and the earlier transept. This addition marks the growing importance of the parochial element in the church. Extensive medieval alterations are visible in the walling of the nave. The 19th-century restoration of the windows in the style of the 14th century probably marks the date of these alterations.

In 1890 considerable restoration took place, Georgian plaster was removed and a triptych placed in front of the blocked east window. In 1930 a tablet was set on the north wall of the nave by a section of Anaesthetists of the Royal Society of Medicine, a centenary tribute to Henry Hickman 'the first known pioneer in anaesthetics by inhalation'. He was born in the parish in 1800 and buried in 1830. The lych-gate was put up in memory of Bishop Augustus Selwyn, first bishop of New Zealand, whose son was vicar for forty years. The original priory gatehouse remains, but a black and white superstructure of brick and timber was added later.

Country Life, 9th September, 1949.

MAWLEY HALL. By Mary Parry

The rainwater heads at Mawley Hall carry the date 1730. This was in the time of Sir Edward Blount, the fourth baronet, whose arms together with those of his wife, Apollonia Throckmorton, are displayed in the pediment on the front of the house. This is all that is known with certainty about the building of the house. No documentary evidence has come to light so the name of the architect is a matter of supposition. On stylistic grounds Avray Tipping attributed the house to Francis Smith of Warwick (*Country Life*, 2nd July, 1910 ; and *English Homes*, Period V, Vol. I) and Mawley has so many

features in common with Smith's known work that this attribution seems eminently reasonable.[1]

Francis Smith (1672–1738) began life as a stone-mason and with his elder brother William (1661–1724) worked up a very fine building practice which extended all over the midlands of England. His understanding of architecture derived from his experience of building for other architects and his country house connection began with two large houses that he constructed in Oxfordshire : Heythrop (1705–1710) to the designs of Thomas Archer, and Ditchley (1720–1726) for James Gibbs. By 1714, in which year he began his massive addition to Stoneleigh Abbey (Warwickshire), Smith was designing on his own account though he continued to build for Gibbs for the rest of his life. The second large house of Smith's own invention was Sutton Scarsdale (Derbyshire), begun in 1724. Before 1730 Smith had also designed and carried out four other houses of more modest size that are still standing. Three of these are in Shropshire ; Buntingsdale (1721), Davenport (1726), and Kinlet (1727–1729), the latter being less than four miles from Mawley on an estate that had formerly belonged to the Blount family. The fourth house, Ombersley Court (1723–1730), is in Worcestershire and is about twelve miles from Mawley.

The most striking external feature at Mawley is the Giant Order of pilasters with its incomplete entablature. Architrave, frieze and cornice occur in full over the pilasters themselves but only the cornice is continued round the house. The Giant Order incompletely terminated is a feature that occurs with fair frequency in English country houses of the period and is the mark of the provincial architect who had not received a thorough grounding in the accepted use of the Orders. It was a favourite theme with Smith who had encountered the Giant Order at Heythrop where although the treatment of the Order is unconventional the entablature is complete. He used Giant Orders at Stoneleigh, Sutton, Buntingsdale and Ombersley Court although this last house was refaced with stone in 1812–1814 when the Order was obliterated. At Sutton the entablature is complete on three sides of the house but truncated on the fourth though the cornice is continuous. In the other three cases the entablature is truncated on all four sides, only the cornice being continuous.

The pronounced keystones with the shelf at the top are another feature at Mawley most suggestive of Smith. This motif (which Smith may have learnt from Gibbs who used it at Ditchley) occurs at Stoneleigh, Buntingsdale and Sutton ; and it may have been present at Ombersley Court.

Other relief features at Mawley are the urns and statues on the skyline, the armorial embellishment of the pediment, the scroll-work round the window above the main doorway and the carved aprons under the windows. These aprons are not known to occur elsewhere in Smith's work but he was an obliging architect, always willing to fall in with his patron's wishes and ready to adopt an engaging feature wherever it was to be found. Both Stoneleigh and Sutton have windows with scrolled architraves over doorways, the treatment being very similar to that at Mawley ; and Sutton has armorial embellishment on the pediment. Davenport has urns on the skyline and originally Ombersley and Kinlet had them also.

The interiors of Smith's houses are simply arranged. He always planned a large entrance hall (except at Ombersley of one storey height) leading through an arch or archways to a staircase hall which was always fitted with a traditional English wooden staircase rising in three flights round the sides of the room. These halls were decorated with plasterwork often of a strongly architectural character. All six houses have at least one room wainscotted in dark wood with large panels, and fluted pilasters flanking the chimneypiece and elsewhere. The capitals are frequently Corinthian with little bunches of fruit and flowers worked into the foliage and the doorcases are of very varied and unusual forms.

[1] Arthur Oswald in his *Country Life* article on Davenport, (11th July, 1952), and Christopher Hussey in *English Country Homes*, 1715–1760 suggest Thomas White of Worcester as the architect of Mawley. White as an architect is a very shadowy figure and most of the arguments put forward in his favour can be applied with equal force to Francis Smith.

A. Mawley Hall. Entrance Front
(*Photograph by G. B. Mason ; by permission of the National Buildings Record*)

B. Longnor Hall. Entrance Front
(*Photograph by Mrs. B. B. Parry*)

Mawley Hall. The Entrance Hall

(*Photograph by G. B. Mason, by kind permission of the National Buildings Record*)

Mawley Hall displays all these features and its particular glory is the splendid plasterwork of its halls which must be of foreign craftsmanship. At Sutton, Smith is known to have employed the Italian plasterers Artari and Vessali who had worked for Gibbs at Ditchley, and Smith's close connection with Gibbs would keep him in touch with the best craftsmen in the country. At Mawley the entrance hall has a dado and piers between the arches of channelled plasterwork. This channelling was used in the hall at Davenport and externally at Sutton and on the basement at Stoneleigh. The capitals in the hall at Mawley are of intricate design with in-curled volutes, an eccentricity that is usually associated with Thomas Archer. There are in-curled volutes at Davenport and there are other features which link this house with Mawley. Both houses have marble chimneypieces the entablatures of which are carved with agricultural tools and other trophies and these could have come from Smith's own marble yard. In both houses the oak stairs are banded with inlays of a darker wood, as are those at Ombersley. But it is in the similarity of the woodwork of the small drawing room at Mawley to that of the inlaid saloon at Davenport that the most striking resemblance lies. Both rooms have the walls and doors decorated with parquetry work of the finest quality in a great variety of woods of a character perhaps better suited to furniture than to wall surfaces. Both have inlaid heraldic panels and the floors of both rooms are of squared marquetry. These rooms are the only examples of such wall treatment and the same craftsmen may reasonably be supposed to have been responsible for both.

Until further evidence appears the authorship of Mawley remains a matter of attribution but the case for Francis Smith rests on solid ground.

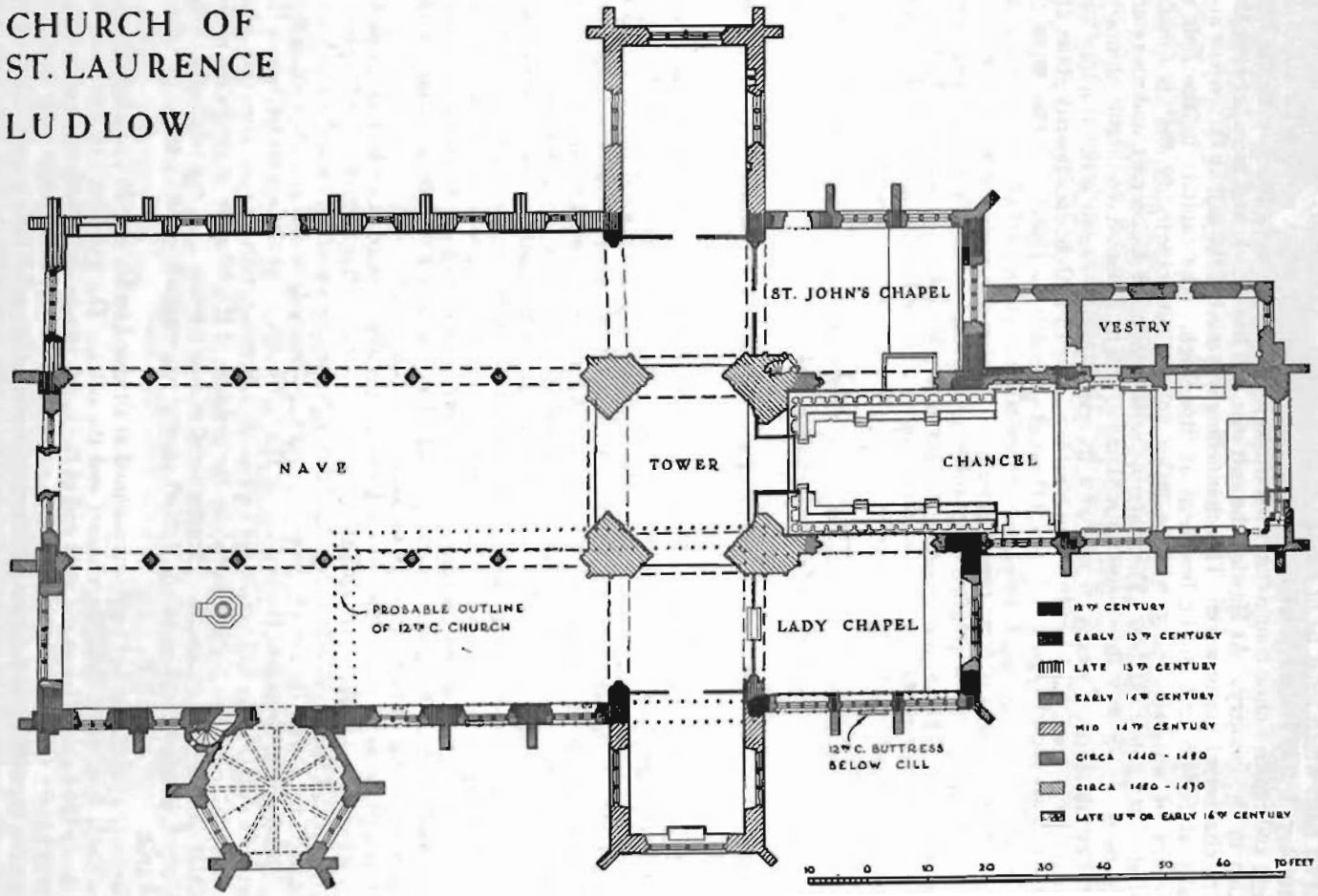
LUDLOW: CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE. By D. B. Hague and C. A. R. Radford

The great aisled church of St. Laurence, rightly renowned for its size and beauty, was begun about the year 1200 and completed within about seventy years; thereafter it was much altered, reaching its present form in the 15th century when royal patronage made Ludlow a place of considerable importance. Apart from its main architectural features, which include the 166 ft. high crossing tower and the unusual hexagonal south porch, the church is rich in late medieval woodwork and is specially noted for its English glass.

There is no record of any pre-Conquest church; and as the castle, started in *circa* 1090, contained an early chapel, it is unlikely that a church of any size would have existed much before the building of the stone walls of the town in *circa* 1230. Leland saw and transcribed a MS. dated 1199, in which the inhabitants of Ludlow are said to have deemed it necessary to extend their church by levelling the ground to the west. The interpretation of the structure is made difficult by extensive refacing.

The original church is embodied in the Lady Chapel and in the eastern half of the south aisle. Although its details must remain conjectural, a flat buttress outside, and a piscina within the Lady Chapel, provide a clue; and the slight disalignment between the south wall of the Lady Chapel and that of the nave aisle on the same side is decisive when compared with the straight alignment of these walls on the north side. The irregular baying at the east end of the south nave aisle probably represents a three bay 12th century nave, the centre of the western bay of this being marked by the position of the window immediately to the east of the (present) south porch. Remains not *in situ* are two half capitals lying in the Lady Chapel, which almost certainly formed part of the responds of the late 12th century chancel arch.

The early 13th century church was planned as an aisled building. Presumably the east end was built first, or at least the chancel and its aisles. The 13th century work can be traced down the nave as far as the west end of the north arcade, but no trace appears in the north aisle; there may have been a pause as money ran out, with the south aisle (the 12th century nave extended), or nave and south aisle, serving the parish for a generation or more. The north aisle appears to have followed about the middle of the 13th century, the anomalous cusping of the windows being a 19th century addition.



Traced from photostatic enlargement of a survey by W. A. Webb, A.R.I.B.A.

Fig. 4

The chancel of the early 13th century church probably ended more than one bay short of the present east end, and was extended eastward either in the late 13th, or early 14th century. The evidence appears in the small sacristy in the south east corner ; the window associated with this appears to be *in situ*, and there are signs of alteration to the chamber when the 15th century east end was built. The chancel walls have been so refaced externally that no other evidence is now visible, but the extension of the transepts in the 14th century calls for a similar enlargement of the chancel, and the latter is likely to have been the first undertaken.

The two-storied south porch is a notable addition of the 14th century, and the two west windows of the south aisle were remodelled to conform with it. The south transepts followed towards the middle of the century, and the north transept was later still. In the north aisle the 14th century work is confined to the inserted north door, and the west window of *circa* 1320 with its glass.

The 15th century alterations seem to have been carried out in three stages. The earliest was the heightening of the nave and chancel with the clerestories ; this on the architectural evidence and the now incomplete inscription in the glass in the east window must be dated to *circa* 1440–50. The next stage was the insertion of the tower, which may have been a replacement of an earlier one belonging to the 13th century church. The third stage, which is of *circa* 1500 and may be early 16th century, consists of the raising of the transepts and the insertion of the great half-arches buttressing the tower on the north and south. These cut across the mouldings of the tower piers, and may replace earlier arches at the east end of the aisles, as they spring from 13th century bases. They became structurally necessary when these smaller arches were opened up. The windows in the east part of the south aisle and the Lady Chapel are minor alterations of this date.

The vestry is structurally later than the 1440–50 chancel, but appears to have been part of the same plan.

There are records that before the Reformation there were at least twenty altars in the church, some have been identified, and their positions are clear from the surviving piscinae.

Among the rich woodwork of the 15th century are the rood screen and the parclose screens to the north and south chapels : in the choir are well-preserved stalls with carved misericords recording droll aspects of medieval life. Most of the roofs are of this period, and in St. John's Chapel there is an altar canopy, which is a feature more common in North Wales than in England.

The earliest glass in the north aisle can be dated heraldically to *circa* 1316. In the chancel the east window depicts the life of St. Laurence, the patron saint. The east window of the south wall illustrates some of the Commandments. All the windows of St. John's Chapel, which belonged to the Palmers' guild, contain interesting glass. The east of *circa* 1460 depicts the story of the guild, the two easternmost of the north wall contain the Twelve Apostles carrying their emblems and sentences of the Creed. The fourth contains saints and a dramatic representation of the Annunciation.

The Lady Chapel is noted for its 14th-century Jesse east window. The south transept contains some reset 14th and 15th-century glass, but the medieval glass noted by Dugdale in the south aisle has disappeared. The Table of Commandments dated 1561 in the Lady Chapel is of interest, and the church is fortunate in possessing Churchwardens' accounts from 1540. The plate includes two Elizabethan cups remodelled and hall-marked 1774 and provided with paten covers, and two large silver flagons marked 1637.

D. H. S. Cranage, *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*, Pt. II ; H. T. Weyman, *The Glass in Ludlow Church*.

LUDLOW CASTLE. By C. A. R. Radford

Ludlow is not mentioned in Domesday Book. The Castle was built on the great estate of Stanton, which belonged to Roger de Lacy from 1085 till his flight oversea in 1095. It then passed to his brother Hugh, on whose death in 1121 his nephew Gilbert succeeded.

In 1234 Ludlow passed to coheiresses and eventually became the possession of Roger Mortimer, Earl of March. On the death of the 5th Earl in 1425 the Castle passed to his nephew Richard, Duke of York, and so by succession to the Crown. It was a residence of the Kings' sons between 1472 and 1502, when Prince Arthur died in the Castle. Ludlow then became the seat of the Court of the March and the buildings were adapted to house the Lord President and the Judges. Decay began in 1689 when the Court was abolished, and the buildings were already roofless when the Castle was sold to the Earl of Powis in 1811.

The Castle consists of two wards lying at the north-west corner of the walled town. The inner ward with its stone curtain and square flanking towers is generally ascribed to Roger de Lacy (1085–95), but so elaborate a plan would be more appropriate in the following century. Moreover, the columns with moulded bases and simple capitals without abaci in the gatehall (now the blocked base of the great tower) are similar to those found in the arcade inside the chapel, where they are combined with chevron ornament on the alternate arches. There is no reason to doubt Clapham's verdict that this motif first appears in England about 1110 and so attribute the earliest work in both gate and Chapel to the time of Hugh de Lacy or his successor. The type of entrance with a gatehall forming the ground stage of a great tower occurs in a primitive form at Exeter (1068), but a better parallel to Ludlow is the Castle at Newark, built by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln (1123–48).

The round Chapel formerly had an apsidal chancel, the plan of which was recovered by excavation. The lower part belongs to the first quarter of the 12th century. The upper stage and the inserted chancel-arch date from the middle of the century.

The great hall and adjacent chambers, all on the first floor, belong to the early 14th century. The work may have been begun rather earlier, but in its present form the block is essentially the creation of Roger Mortimer, who held the property from 1314. The great chamber east of the hall was later the Court Room, with a gallery leading across to an upper floor inserted in the Chapel. The Lodgings beyond were occupied by Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII, during his residence.

The curtain enclosing the outer ward is of the later 12th century with round flanking towers added in the 13th century.

Archaeologia, lxi, 257–328.

Arch. Journ., Vol. CXXXV, for plan.

DOWNTON CASTLE. By Kenneth Garlick

Downton Castle stands on the north bank of the river Teme and overlooks the woods of Bringewood Chase, which, with the adjacent lands, were purchased from Lord Craven by the ironmaster Richard Knight early in the 18th century. It was built by Knight's grandson Richard Payne Knight, F.S.A. (1750–1824) between 1774 and 1778, though the decoration of the interior was probably not completed until later.

Knight was his own architect. He deliberately planned a Gothic exterior and a Classic interior. This was not a display of architectural wit but a serious attempt to resolve a problem which he expounded in his poem *The Landscape* published in 1774, the year that Downton Castle was begun, *i.e.* the problem of relating architecture to landscape. Knight, like his neighbour Uvedale Price, reacted against the 'methodising' schemes of Capability Brown. 'I do not know', he wrote, 'a more melancholy object than classical houses of strict symmetry in the countryside. . . . Houses should be irregular where all the accompaniments are irregular'. At Downton therefore no radical alteration was made to the landscape setting of the house. Some laying of lawns was allowed but no levelling or trimming or taming of Nature, and the house was designed in medieval terms on a deliberately asymmetrical plan so that it should the more convincingly appear to be a part of the natural scene. The construction is notably solid and the design remarkably convincing at a date when Strawberry Hill Gothic was still in vogue. There is no doubt that Knight had in mind a landscape composition by Claude of the nature of *The Enchanted Castle*. He wished to recreate a romantic Claudian landscape as a specific challenge to the classical Claudian landscape of Brown.

The design of the interior reflects more directly his antiquarian tastes and his Italian travels. The circular dining-room, which occupies the interior of the central tower of the south front, is domed and coffered on the pattern of the Pantheon, and some porphyry columns that Knight had acquired in Italy are placed here to good effect against walls painted in imitation of marble. Other columns were used to frame doorways in the library.

Knight bequeathed his important collection of ancient bronzes and coins to the British Museum, but certain of his pictures, including the Rembrandt *Holy Family*, a Poussin, his portrait by Lawrence, and an interesting series of paintings by Westall are still in the house. The collection now contains two other Rembrandts, a *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* and a *St. Bartholomew*.

Knight handed over the castle and estate to his brother in 1809 but built for himself a Tower adjacent to the south front which was fitted as a library.

PITCHFORD HALL. By John Salmon

The Pitchford estate was bought by Richard Ottley, a Shrewsbury merchant and a member of the Staple of Calais, in 1473, since when it has never been sold. The present house was built about a century later and is the finest surviving example of a timber-framed house in Shropshire. It follows the 'E'-shaped plan of a central block with a central porch and, at either end, projecting wings at right angles. The porch has the quatrefoil design which dated examples in Shrewsbury show to have been used between about 1570 and 1595, while the lack of ornate design in most of the timber work suggests no later a date. Certain alterations and additions were made within the house after the Restoration of 1660, for example, the fireplace and ceiling in the main hall and the panelling in the drawing-room (the most attractive room in the house), though the plaster ceiling of the latter decorated with Ottley wheatsheaves, the portcullis, the Tudor rose, etc., is original. A certain amount of this work, however, only dates from the restoration of the house made by Colonel Cotes in *circa* 1900. Between 1695 and 1807 there were only two owners and little alteration was made other than to some of the fireplaces. The house was carefully restored in the late 19th century when, for convenience, the entrance was transferred from the south to the north side. The house contains many family possessions, though there are no pictures of outstanding merit. The late Lady Sybil Grant died in 1955 and left the house to the National Library of Wales.

Up a lime tree in the garden is a summer-house known from a picture to have been in existence in 1714. It was probably built in the late 17th century, though its interior was 'Gothicised' about a century later.

Pitchford Church stands just to the north of the house. It is a small aisleless building, dating in part from the 12th century, and houses a great wooden effigy lying on a tomb-chest, which from the heraldry has been identified as commemorating Sir John de Pitchford, 1285. Within the altar rails are four incised slabs to four of the five 16th-century Ottley owners. The last two are signed by John Tarbook of Bewdley, 1587. Against the north wall at the east end of the nave and incorporated in the present pews, *circa* 1700, are what are in all probability part of the base of the rood screen, with well cut elevation squints.[1]

Wednesday, 11th July

LONGNOR HALL. By S. D. T. Spittle

The families of de la Pole and le Strange held the Longnor estate until it passed to the Corbetts in the 15th century. About a quarter of a mile to the east of Longnor church are the remains of a small moated manor house which is assumed to be that belonging to the Corbetts before the present house was built. All that survives of this earlier house is the

[1] Aymer Vallance, *English Church Screens*, 40.

hall, now converted into two cottages with an inserted upper floor. The roof, which would seem to be of late 15th century date, consists of trusses terminating on head-corbels alternating with trusses connected with wall posts rising the full height of the building.

The present house was built soon after the Restoration by Richard Corbett who apparently acquired considerable wealth through his marriage ; the family was also fortunate in avoiding a large fine imposed on account of its Royalist sympathies. Although the arms of the third baronet, Sir Uvedale, impaling Cecil, are to be found over the entrance door, the house was certainly completed before Sir Richard's death in 1683 ; the soffit of this doorway bears the date 1670. The architect is not known but the house is typical of its time. On plan it is practically symmetrical, having two large central rooms placed back to back against a deep chimney stack, and on either side, smaller rooms and minor staircases. The southern of the central spaces houses the main staircase. The exterior of the house has been somewhat altered. During the 18th century the windows were given sashes and the sills of the ground floor ones were lowered. The pediment on the north side and the dormer-windows were remodelled in the last century. The interior, however, has remained largely in its original state, with the exception of the Library which was redecorated in the Adam style by the 4th baronet. In the north-east room the re-set panelling appears to date from the early 17th century and it is possible that it came from the old manor house although there is no evidence of this. Until recently the dining room was hung with large leather panels painted with racing and other rural scenes and bearing the date 1723. These are now said to be in an American museum. Behind the panels was hung a Chinese wallpaper of high quality and early date, most of which remains ; some of this wallpaper is in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The staircase is particularly fine and bears a close resemblance to that at Powis Castle ; it is richly carved in walnut veneer and the landings are inlaid with elaborate geometrical patterns or with the cypher of Sir Richard and his wife. Throughout the house the doorcases are heavily carved and some show similarity to ones at Powis Castle and others to those at Thorpe Hall.

The grounds were originally laid out with formal canals and pools. The arrangement, which was possibly influenced by the existence of the medieval fish stews, was destroyed in the 18th century. Probably at the same time the long underground passage leading to the domestic quarters in the basement was constructed.

Longnor Moat House and Longnor Hall, *Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club.* Trans. 1930, 261–64.

Avray Tipping, *English Homes, Period IV–Vol. I, Country Life*, 1939, 145–154.

ACTON BURNELL MANOR. By C. A. R. Radford

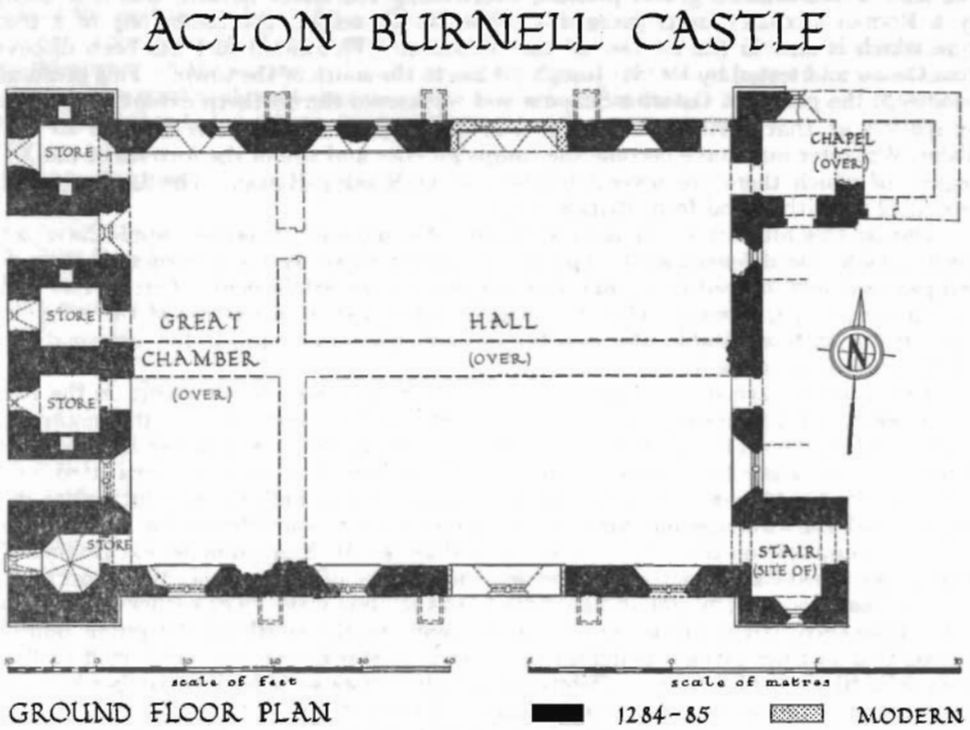
The Castle, or more correctly the fortified manor house, of Acton Burnell was built by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells and Chancellor of England under Edward I ; the licence to crenellate was issued in 1284 and work was in progress in that year. The Parliament of Acton Burnell, which was held in 1283, must have sat in the earlier manor house, which is known to have existed there.

The surviving ruin is of a thoroughly domestic character, consisting of a main rectangular block with a smaller block in the centre of the west end and angular towers at the corners, which rise above the central part. The great hall and chamber together fill the first floor of the main block. The Chancellor's private apartments lay at the west end and were reached by a stair in the southwest tower. They consisted of a private chamber above the great chamber, a bedroom in the western block and a garderobe in the northwest tower. The chapel, which lay on the same level as the hall, occupied the northeast tower, which was originally twice the size of the other three. The service rooms were on the east side of the house and apparently of timber.

The whole building, including the ground floor, is provided with ample fenestration, the angle towers and the battlements affording the only appearance of military strength.

The later history of the castle is undistinguished. It passed to the Lovels and finally to the family of Smythe. It was placed in the care of the Ministry of Works in 1930.

Ministry of Works : Official Guide (1957).



(Reproduced by permission of the Ministry of Works)

Fig. 5

ACTON BURNELL CHURCH. By John Salmon

Like the Castle, Acton Burnell church was built in the late 13th century by Robert Burnell, Lord Chancellor, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and a personal friend of Edward I. Its plan is aisleless and cruciform and, apart from the roofs (chancel 1571, nave 1598) and the tower added in 1887–9 and sited so as to interfere as little as possible with the original design, the structure is original. The work in the chancel in particular is of a very high standard ; note, for example, the trefoil-headed windows on the south side. The sedilia and piscina in the chancel and the font also show good detail, and the simpler but effective west end should be studied from outside. The north wall shows the blocked mortice-holes of a gallery which projected into the nave. There are traces of an anchorite's cell. In addition to medieval tiling, the north transept has the following monuments : (1) a brass on a table-tomb to Nicholas Burnell, 1382, (2) a large monument to Richard Lee, 1591, and his family, (3) a wall-monument to Humphrey Lee, 1632, by Nicholas Stone (the cost was £66-19-4), and (4) an attractive little tablet by King of Bath to William Smythe, 1794.

WROXETER : THE ROMAN TOWN AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF VIROCONIUM.

By Graham Webster

The area of the Roman town of *Viroconium* within the defences, 170 acres, makes it the fourth largest town in Britain, smaller only than London, Cirencester and *Verulamium*. The site, a well-drained gravel plateau, overlooking the River Severn, was first occupied by a Roman auxiliary unit, perhaps a cohort of Thracians, the tombstone of a trooper from which is now in the Rowley House collection. This small fort has been discovered from the air and tested by Dr. St. Joseph ; it lies to the south of the town. This presumably belongs to the period of Ostorius Scapula and represents the northern extent of the Roman occupation at that period. Later (in A.D. 58?) when the Romans decided to occupy Wales, Wroxeter may have become the campaign base and site of the fortress of the XIVth Legion, of which there are several tombstones in Rowley House. The Legion remained here until its withdrawal from Britain in 69 A.D.

During this military occupation a considerable number of natives would have settled down outside the defences of the fortress, attracted there by the presence of some 6,000 well-paid soldiers in need of civilian refreshment and entertainment. Out of this humble beginning sprang the town. This, the largest concentration of natives of the tribe of the *Cornovii*, on such a suitable site, was the obvious place to establish the cantonal capital of the *Civitas Cornoviorum*.

Excavations have shown that the first attempts at urban development on the Roman model were not successful. Below the Forum, on the west side of the main street, Professor D. Atkinson found that the Baths begun *circa* A.D. 90 were never finished. Some of the rooms in which hypocausts should have been inserted were never excavated for that purpose. Perhaps the government subsidy or loan for this building ran out before it was finished and the townspeople were either too poor or too indifferent to see the project through. Similarly on the other side of the road Dr. K. M. Kenyon in her excavation of the later Baths found that structures suggesting the Basilica of a Forum lay to the north of the site, and these too were begun and abandoned in the same way. The earlier excavations of J. P. Bushe-Fox (1912–14) along the main street, to the south of the public buildings, showed that in their private buildings also, the inhabitants were not converted to the use of stone until the 2nd century. Before then their houses were built of timber and wattle and daub and show several phases of building and rebuilding.

A renewed drive towards the provision of public buildings came in the reign of Hadrian and may even be associated with the visit of that Emperor to Britain. The ruins of the incompleted Baths were demolished, the site levelled out and the Civic Centre replanned. The two sites were interchanged so that the new Forum rose on the old Baths site and the new Baths on the old Forum site. The date of this rebuilding is given by one of the finest inscriptions found in Roman Britain. Recovered in 169 pieces where it had fallen in the entrance to the Forum, it dates the building to A.D. 130, and gives as the official name and status of the tribal capital *Civitas Cornoviorum*. A cast can be seen in the site museum.

The Forum plan conforms to the usual pattern but only the porticoed front along the street has been left uncovered. The building was burnt down some time after A.D. 155 and rebuilt. The excavator considered that it was again in ruins after another fire by the end of the 3rd century and never thereafter rebuilt. Use of parts of the building continued, however, well into the 4th century. One of the drums of the portico buried in the debris along the street frontage was found to have considerable wear from passing vehicles.

The Bath building is far more difficult to understand. The piece of upstanding wall has always excited interest and led inevitably to the excavations in the middle of the last century which have done little to further an understanding, although a useful account by Thomas Wright (1872) was in advance of its time. In spite of more recent work by Dr. K. M. Kenyon, there are many problems relating to this complicated building which may remain for ever unsolved.

There are three distinct parts to this building, the original basilica-like hall lying on an east-west axis, and running off it two ranges of rooms with an open space in the centre. The east range, 55 ft. by 155 ft., is divided into four large rooms, but the west range consists of three different parts, including a courtyard with thirteen small compartments round it and a large public latrine. The actual bath suites were added later, one on each side of the east range, into which were also inserted hypocausts.

The line of the defences of the town can be followed but their history is more complicated than would appear on the surface. Dr. Kenyon has argued on the analogy of *Verulamium* the existence of a smaller defended area with a simple bank of the 1st century, and that the later and larger enceinte belongs to the Antonine period.

BUILDWAS ABBEY. By R. S. Simms

The Abbey of Our Lady and St. Chad at Buildwas was founded in 1135 by Roger de Clinton, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, as a house of the Savignac Order. This Order was merged with the Cistercian in 1147, and Buildwas then became a Cistercian house. Its history was mainly uneventful but, being so close to the Welsh border, it suffered from the inroads of the Welsh. In 1350 the Abbot was captured and imprisoned in mid-Wales and in 1406 the lands were wasted by Owain Glyndwr. It was never a rich house, and was classed as one of the smaller monastic houses at the Suppression, being surrendered to the Crown in 1536. The remains were handed over into the guardianship of the Commissioners of Works, now the Ministry of Works, in 1925.

The church had the claustral ranges on the north. Building commenced immediately after the foundation of the Abbey in 1135 and continued throughout the century, the church and buildings surrounding the cloister being probably completed by 1200; they remained almost unaltered until the Suppression.

The church consists of a square-ended chancel, a crossing with a low central tower and north and south transepts. The transepts have each two eastern chapels. The nave is of seven bays with aisles and was divided at the third bay by a screen dividing the lay-brothers' choir from the monastic choir. There has been little alteration to the original building except for the enlargement of the three eastern windows and other minor additions. A chapel was added on the south side of the nave at the end of the 14th century; this had no direct access to the main church, and its purpose is uncertain. The cloister, owing to the natural slope of the ground, is at a lower level than the church and the western and northern alleys are lower than the other two.

The east range of the cloister, which contained the dorter on the first floor, consists of the usual series of apartments; there is, however, a crypt under part of the north transept. To the north of the transept is the Sacristy and then the Chapter House. This last is a vaulted apartment, divided by four piers into nine bays; next to the north is the Parlour, also covered by two bays of ribbed vaulting. The range north of the Parlour, on private property, is much ruined; the reredorter lay in this direction. The modern house to the north incorporates fragments of the Infirmary and the Abbot's Lodging. Little is known about the layout of the north range, containing the Frater, that lies in the garden of the modern house.

The west or lay-brothers' range was separated from the cloister by a narrow lane. This range was of several floors, but only fragments of the basement survive.

MUCH WENLOCK: THE CLUNIAC PRIORY OF ST. MILBURGE. By C. A. R. Radford.

Much Wenlock was founded by Merewald, King of Mercia, about 680, as a nunnery; the first abbess was his daughter, St. Milburga. Excavations in 1901 brought to light the remains of early buildings under the crossing and in the first bay to the west. A small apse was hollowed internally out of the broad eastern wall. The western foundations were double and the northern angles were not in alignment. The explanation of these enigmatic

remains will have to await further exploration, but they have generally been accepted as belonging to the original church of the 7th century.

In the middle of the 11th century a well endowed minster was founded on the same site by Leofric Earl of Mercia. After the Conquest Earl Roger of Montgomery introduced Cluniac monks, displacing the older secular canons of Leofric's foundation. The excavations of 1901 brought to light the foundations of a large apse in the third bay east of the crossing ; it had a thick sleeper wall across the chord and was flanked on the south side by a smaller apse with a square outline externally. This has generally been accepted as the east end of the first Cluniac church, though it may date from the pre-Conquest foundation of Leofric.

The Chapter House, originally a vaulted building of three bays, dates from the middle of the 12th century. It retains much of the original elaborate decoration, though the vaults have fallen. To the south and running east is the Farmery Hall, now incorporated in the dwelling house. This fine building, also of the mid-12th century, retains a number of original windows and other contemporary detail. On the south side of the cloister are the remains of the octagonal lavatory. The stone basin was elaborately carved with foliage. It is now broken and the fragments made up with other sculpture found on the site.

The church was entirely rebuilt in the early 13th century. Only the foundations and the base of the walls stand over the greater part. The most substantial remains consist of the south transept, the western aisle of the north transept and the chapel at the west end of the south aisle, all of which incorporate unusual features.

The church was planned so as to leave a narrow space between the south transept and the cloister walk, the position of which was determined by the line of the older cloister. On the ground level this space was utilised as a library or book store, with three arches opening out of the cloister opposite recesses intended to house book presses. Above the vault of this store a wide passage led from the upper floor of the east range to a newel stair in the angle between the aisle and the transept, thus providing an alternative arrangement to the more usual night stair descending directly into the transept.

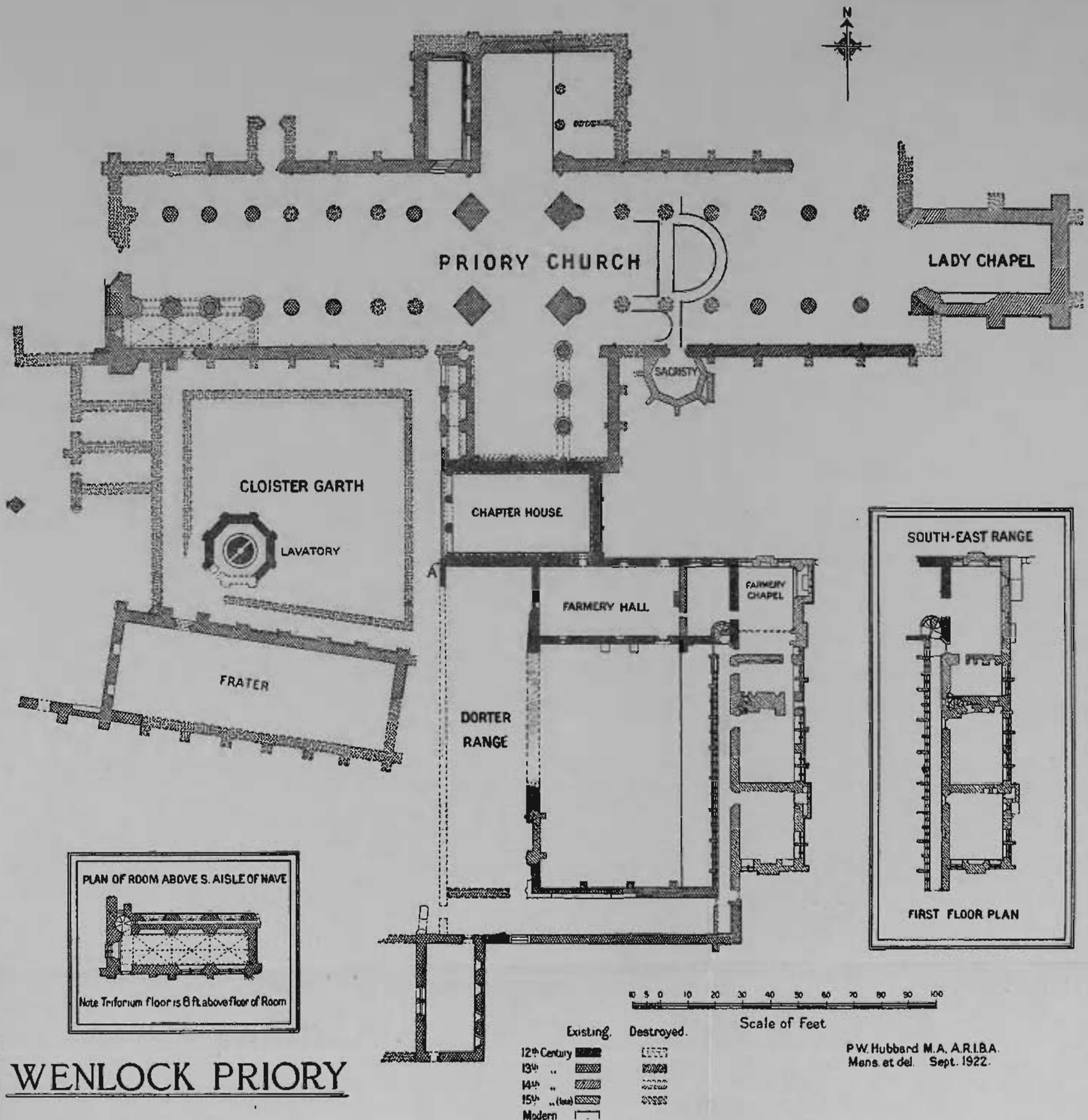
The three bays of the western aisle of the north transept were walled off and built in two stages. The lower floor, reached by a stair descending from the aisle, formed a crypt covered with a barrel vault. The upper floor was entered through a door in the innermost bay ; the other two eastern bays had settings for altars. The crypt is not normally part of a Cluniac church, and Dr. Joan Evans, analysing the French evidence, shews that, when present, it was built to receive relics of especial importance of the patron saint of the church (*Romanesque Architecture of the Order of Cluny*, 104). At Much Wenlock it is probable that this aisle housed the feretory or shrine of St. Milburga, with other relics in the crypt. The position, on the north side, away from the monastic buildings, is convenient and the north door, with its porch, probably served as a special entry for pilgrims.

The three bays at the west end of the south aisle were designed to provide a spacious and dignified upper chamber with a floor below the normal level of the triforium gallery. The chamber was reached by an outer door from the upper storey of the west range, which would have formed the Prior's Lodging. Dr. Rose Graham has rightly shewn the similarity between this chamber and the Chapel of St. Michael, set high at the west end of the great church at Cluny. At Wenlock it must also have served as the chapel of the Prior's Lodging.

Archaeologia 72, 105–32 ; *Arch. Journ.*, lxxv, 220–1 ; *B.A.A. Journal*, Third Series, iv, 119–40.

MUCH WENLOCK : THE GUILDHALL. By C. A. R. Radford

The Guildhall is an interesting building in the centre of the town, south of the Parish Church. The oldest part is the north end, which dates from the 14th century. The ground stage is in two parts. The northern half consists of a stone-built chamber, with a small window, now blocked ; this probably served as a prison. To the south was an open hall with wooden posts and arches supporting the upper storey. This provided the hall, which, like the present chamber, extended over both parts of the ground stage.



WENLOCK PRIORY

with the addition in outline of the apses excavated in 1901

Fig. 6

In 1577 the building was enlarged southwards to almost double its previous size. The extension also had an open ground stage with posts and arches supporting the upper floor. The mouldings and details are characteristic of the late 16th or early 17th century and contrast with the medieval work alongside. The upper storey is a fine example of Elizabethan black and white work. The roof and fenestration of the medieval hall were renewed when the extension was built, but the west elevation shews that the original timber framework was retained.

The whole building was drastically restored in the 19th century, when the present Council Chamber and Court Room were refurnished in the medieval and Elizabethan halls respectively. The present stairway and the extension at the back are probably of this date. The fittings incorporate panelling and other woodwork, much of it collected by the late Dr. W. P. Brookes.

Thursday, 12th July

IRONBRIDGE. By L. C. Lloyd

Here in the Ironbridge Gorge the River Severn cuts through a series of Carboniferous rocks, exposing seams of coal, ironstone, clay and limestone, which have been exploited from medieval times nearly up to the present day. Coalbrookdale has some claim to be called the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, for it was here, in 1708, that Abraham Darby I first succeeded in smelting iron-ore with mineral fuel. Here, too, in 1767, cast-iron rails first replaced the wooden rails hitherto in use, and in 1774, on the opposite bank of the river, John Wilkinson brought into use his boring mill which played an important part in the development of the Boulton and Watt steam engine. In 1779 Abraham Darby III built the cast-iron bridge which still spans the river and which gave the township of Ironbridge its name. This was the first bridge ever constructed of this material, and the earliest example of the architectural use of cast-iron. Eight years later John Wilkinson successfully launched the first iron boat from his wharf on the southern bank. On both sides of the river, from the 17th century onwards, there have been numerous works for the production of earthenware, pottery and porcelain, the most notable being those at Caughley, Coalport and Madeley.

TONG CHURCH. By Mary D. Cox

There are no recognisable traces of the 11th-century church that Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, presented to the Abbey of Holy Cross. The arch at the east end of the south aisle is of *circa* 1300 with two chamfered orders without capitals. The south arcade of the same date was remodelled when the church was rebuilt in the first half of the 15th century. The arches have heavy double chamfers and are carried on the original responds. The piers are reworked so as to conform in appearance with the new north arcade. The plan suggests an early cruciform church with an aisled nave. The incised slab in the north transept also belongs to the earlier church. With the exception of the Vernon Chantry Chapel, on the south side, which was added in the early 16th century, all the rest of the church dates from the first half of the 15th century for, in 1410, the widow of Sir Fulke de Pembrugge, Lord of Tong, obtained permission from Henry IV to convert Tong church to the use of a College of St. Bartholomew the Apostle consisting of five chaplains, one of whom was to be the Warden. The collegiate buildings have been entirely destroyed.

Tong church is more remarkable for its contents than for its structure, although this is large and well designed. The most striking feature of the exterior is the central tower, which has an octagonal lantern above the square base of the crossing and a short spire pierced with ornate louvres. The east window of the chancel is irregularly set, some inches nearer to the south wall than the north.

The tombs of the Lords of Tong form one of the richest series of monuments in any parish church ; those of chief interest are noted here in chronological order, their position, as shown on the plan, is indicated by the numerals in brackets after the name. Sir Fulke de Pembrugge, d. 1409 (I), has the unusual crest of a Saracen maiden's head upon the helm under his head ; his wife, Lady Elizabeth, or Isabel as she is sometimes called, wears a widow's wimple and veil. A break in the carving on the tomb-chest perhaps indicates that this chest was originally meant only to carry Sir Fulke's effigy. The magnificent alabaster effigy of Sir Richard Vernon, d. 1451 (II), the grand-nephew of Sir Fulke, shows him wearing plate armour and an SS collar of complicated design. His wife, Benedicta Ludlow, also wears the SS collar. The tomb-chest shows alternating figures of angels and Apostles, some of the latter having interesting iconographical features. Sir William Vernon, d. 1467 (III), and his wife Margaret Twynfen, have a fine memorial brass on their richly traceried tomb-chest. The effigies of Sir Henry Vernon and his wife Lady Anne Talbot (IV), lie under a traceried canopy, which has lost its original images, beneath an arch opening into the Chantry Chapel they founded. This tomb retains traces of colour as does also the Chapel, once known as the Golden Chantry. A wall-painting of the Crucifixion and an inscription requesting that prayers be said for the founders, were painted

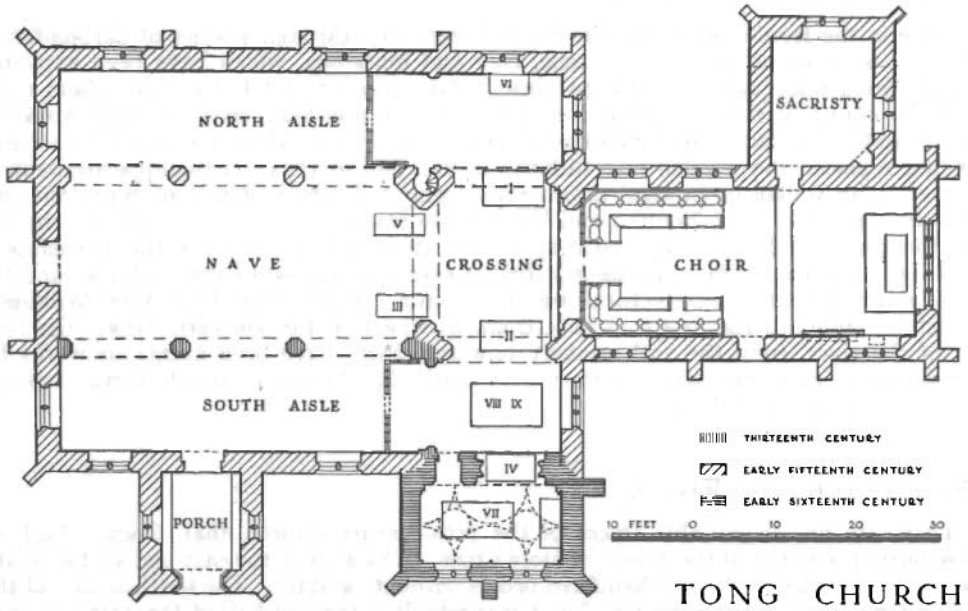


Fig. 7

upon the east wall, and on the west is a curious demi-figure of a cleric reading, or preaching, set in a niche. This probably refers to Sir Arthur Vernon, fifth son of Sir Henry, who died in 1517. He is also represented, in the dress of a Master of Arts at Cambridge, upon a brass in this chapel (VII). An elder brother, Humphrey, d. 1542 (VI) has an incised slab. The tomb-chest of Richard Vernon, d. 1517 (V), and his wife Margaret Dymoke has small figures of bedesmen on the sides. At one end of the tomb is a charming statuette of their son George as a young boy. Sir George Vernon was the last male heir of the line and his two daughters became co-heiresses of the Tong and Haddon estates. Margaret married Sir Thomas Stanley, while Dorothy is more widely remembered for her romantic elopment with Sir John Manners. Sir Thomas Stanley, d. 1576 (VIII), and Margaret are shown in effigy on a double-decked tomb, while the effigy of their son, Sir Edward Stanley, d. 1632, lies on a shallow sarcophagus within the supporting arcade (IX). The events mentioned in the epitaph suggest that this tomb was made not long before Sir Edward sold the Tong

estates in 1623, and Mrs. Esdaile has suggested that it is the work of William Cure II. The unique interest of this Stanley tomb is that Sir William Dugdale recorded that its epitaph was by Shakespeare. The monument of George Durant, d. 1780, is perhaps by John Bacon. Other monuments of some interest are the brass of Ralph Elcock, d. 1510, on the wall of the south aisle. He was a member of the College and perhaps its Cellarer. The portrait-medallion of Elizabeth, only daughter of Lord Pierrepont, is over the vestry door and his tomb is marked by a small brass below.

The screens are of good 15th-century work but not as remarkable as the fine choir stalls, which are probably by the same carvers as those of Gresford and Halsall. These stalls cannot be an original fitting in their present position, as they hide consecration crosses of the early 15th century. It seems probable that the main screen originally stood further west with the collegiate choir in the crossing. Two of the finials to the desk-fronts represent the Resurrection and Ascension, while the Annunciation with the Lily Crucifix is carved on one of the misericords of the return-stalls. There are only scanty remains of the original glass, mostly in the west window.

The vestry now contains the Minister of Tong's Library, given for his use by Lord Pierrepont in 1697, and further enriched by the Duke of Kingston in 1725 when the books were moved from their original library in Tong Castle to a room specially built for them in the Vicarage. The oldest book is the *Summa de Exemplis* of Johannes de Sancto Geminiano, printed in Venice in 1499 ; most of the others are chiefly of interest as showing what was considered a suitable reference library for a country Vicar.

The churchwardens' accounts record that in about 1630 the church was given the pulpit (dated 1629) and an embroidered pulpit frontal by Dame Elinor Harries, daughter of Roger Gifford, Queen Elizabeth's physician. His motto '*Use bien temps*' is worked on the frontal, which was probably made for a private chapel. She also gave a magnificent 16th-century silver-gilt and crystal ciborium and other silver vessels.

The finely carved Royal Arms were made in 1814 when the Parish Council decided to commemorate in this way the Peace of Paris and Napoleon's banishment to Elba.

A sandstone cross on the north side of the church marks the burial place of unbaptised infants. Verses by Byron and Moore were once legible upon it.

D. H. S. Cranage, *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*, 42–54.

WESTON PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE. By Mary Baldwin

Weston Park, the residence of the Earls of Bradford, has passed by inheritance from the Westons, established here by the mid 12th century, through the hands of Myttons, Wilbrahams and Newports to the Bridgemans, who still hold it. The present house was built by Sir Thomas and Lady Wilbraham in 1671 and the stable block a little later, the rainwater heads of the latter bearing the date 1688. In the latter part of the next century the park was transformed by Capability Brown and embellished with garden architecture of high quality, while the estate was the first in the Midlands to see the introduction of improved agriculture according to the system of Coke of Norfolk. The house was considerably enlarged and altered by the 3rd Earl, who succeeded in 1865, and subsequently formed the setting of the singular friendship between Selina, Countess of Bradford, and the ageing Disraeli.

In the library is the annotated copy of Palladio's First Book of Architecture (*trans.* Godfrey Richards, 1663) with a page of notes on building costs in Lady Wilbraham's hand headed 'For building Weston House, 1671'. It would appear that she and her mason Samuel Grice were responsible for the design, which is up to date in conception but betrays a certain clumsiness in the detail of the stone dressings. Lady Wilbraham later rebuilt the body of the adjacent church, reopened in 1702, in which she set up monuments by William Wilson the Leicester statuary.

Sir Henry Bridgeman (created Baron Bradford in 1794) succeeded in 1762. A man of great culture, and nephew to George Bridgeman who was Surveyor of the Royal Parks to George II, he spent over £12,000 on improvements. Considerable payments were made

in 1766 and 1768 to Capability Brown. Two artificial lakes were formed, and James Paine erected a fine bridge and the charming Temple of Diana with its music room, painted room for tea-drinking, and orangery with elaborate plaster ceiling.

The splendid barn near the stables can be linked with the pioneer agricultural activities of Sir Henry's son Orlando (created Earl of Bradford in 1815). Orlando's son, the 2nd Earl, encased the house in stucco, which has recently been removed to reveal the original brickwork. In the latter half of the 19th century the 3rd Earl made sweeping changes to the internal arrangements of the house and added a wing, an orangery, and the arcade linking the mansion with the church.

There is a fine collection of paintings in the house including an exceptional series of family portraits.

Christopher Hussey in *Country Life*, Nov. 9th, 16th, 23rd, 1945.

THE WREKIN. By K. M. Kenyon

The archaeological interest of the Wrekin, a hill famous in Shropshire folk-lore, lies in the hill-fort that crowns it. The summit, markedly hog-backed in profile, is enclosed by an outer and an inner line of defences, which conform to the shape of the hill in their elongated plan. On the steep south-eastern and north-western slope of the hill, the inner and outer defences are close together, but on the more gentle slopes on the ridge the outer line swings out well in advance of the inner. At each end on this ridge there are entrances through both lines of defence.

Excavations were carried out on the site in 1939, which established three periods of occupation. The first preceded the fortifications. To the second belongs the first stage of construction of the inner defences, in which the rampart had a stone revetment. In the third period the inner rampart was heightened over a turf-line sealing the first phase, and after the revetment had for the most part collapsed, and was constructed in the mound or glacis technique, with no revetment in front. To the same period belonged alterations to the south-west entrance of the inner defences, which alone was excavated, in which the entrance passage was lengthened by the addition of recessed guard-rooms; the guard-rooms had stone walls, but in a much inferior style of building than that of the original revetment of the entrance passage.

The outer defences were not fully examined, and it was not conclusively established whether they were contemporary in origin with the inner ones. What evidence there was suggested that they were contemporary, and that the long entrance passage of the north-west outer entrance is an addition, presumably contemporary with the similar addition to the inner entrance; the south-east outer entrance lacks this feature.

The Wrekin is an outlier of the upland zone of Shropshire, which lies across the River Severn to the south and west. The culture of the hill-fort accords well with its position at the junction of highland and lowland zones. The sequence of occupation, an undefended settlement, a phase of defence-building, a phase of decay of fortifications and a final, and probably hurried, refortification, is similar to that which has been established for a number of hill-forts in the Welsh Marches. But the occupation is in contrast with these last in that the finds include an appreciable quantity of pottery, which is generalised Iron Age A in character, but insufficiently distinctive to associate it with any particular Iron Age A area. The arrival on the fringes of the Welsh Marches of an Iron Age A group presumably reflects the pressure on South-Eastern Britain of the immigrant groups, Iron Age B and C, in the last century B.C., in which the less progressive of the previous inhabitants were pressed back towards the north and west. In the Welsh Marches they came into contact with the Bronze Age inhabitants of the area. The same pressure is reflected in the remarkable outburst of hill-fort building which gives such a distinctive character to a map of the archaeological remains of the district. At the Wrekin, as elsewhere, after the original war-scare, which we may well associate with the disturbances caused by Caesar's conquest of Gaul in the middle of the 1st century, an ensuing period of tranquility was responsible for a neglect of the fortifications. The final refortification may reasonably be associated with a new war-scare due to the advance of the Roman legions across Britain. The Wrekin,

like so many other prehistoric capitals, was then abandoned with the establishment of the Romano-British *civitas* in the plain at its foot.

K. M. Kenyon, Excavations on the Wrekin, Shropshire, 1939, in *Archaeological Journal* XCIX.

WROXETER CHURCH. By C. A. R. Radford

The Parish Church of St. Andrew lies within the limits of the Roman city and incorporates many reused Roman stones. The eastern part of the north wall of the nave is formed of massive blocks, roughly coursed. The north-west quoin is visible, but the other end of the wall is masked by the projection of the chancel. At the top of the wall is a contemporary stringcourse, set 2 or 3 ins. forward from the face and returned round the western angle. Near the centre of the wall is a small rectangular window, now blocked ; it has a monolithic head. This early wall formed one side of a small nave originally some 40 ft. by 26 ft. overall ; the contemporary church must have been completed by a small square chancel. The stringcourse suggests a date in the 10th or 11th century, though the character of the masonry has been used to support an earlier dating within the Saxon period. Built into the top of the 18th-century south wall is part of a cross shaft, the exposed face measuring some 4 ft. by 10 ins. with a slight taper. The panels shew an interlaced

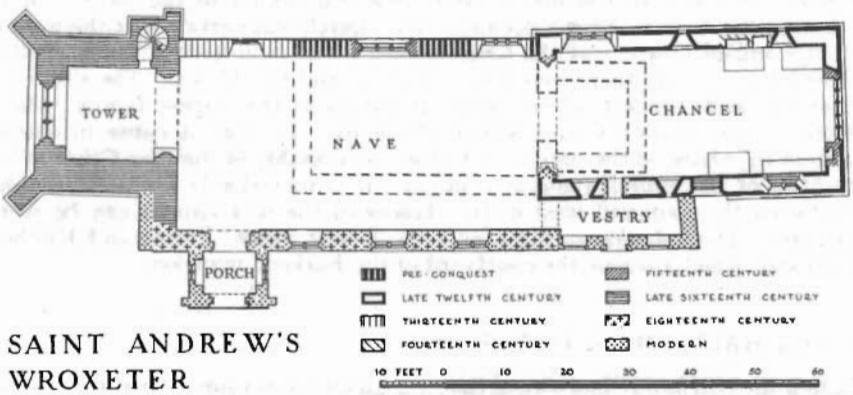


Fig. 8

beast and a scroll, good Mercian work of the 8th or early 9th century. (Plate XXVa). In the rockery in front of the hotel, east of the churchyard (formerly the rectory) is a much weathered fragment of a cross base, probably of the 9th century.

A new chancel, slightly wider than the nave, was added in the 12th century. It has plain, narrow round-headed windows with a string at sill level. Two, out of the original three, remain on each side. There was a triplet of similar windows in the east wall ; only the outer splays of the two side openings are now visible externally on either side of the Perpendicular east window. The original south door of the chancel, now blocked, has foliated capitals to the nook shafts and an elaborate moulded and ornamental arch.

The nave was lengthened westward in the 13th century and larger windows were inserted in the north side of both the older nave and the chancel. A south aisle was added in the early 14th century ; its position is indicated by the stopping of the plinth of the tower, which also gives the width of the pre-Conquest nave. One of the responds from the arcade of this aisle is preserved loose in the vestry. The aisle was still standing in 1709. The two-light window on the south side of the chancel and the Easter Sepulchre and large aumbry in the north wall are also of the 14th century.

The west tower is a late Perpendicular addition, incorporating many medieval fragments; it was probably erected after the Reformation. The demolition of the south aisle

and the widening of the nave on this side was carried out in the middle of the 18th century, the porch being added in the 19th, when many of the windows were renewed. The present form of the chancel arch also dates from the 19th century.

There are four fine monuments in the chancel : *1*) a table tomb with effigies of Thomas Bromley, Lord Chief Justice (b. 1555) and Mabel, his wife ; *2*) a table tomb with effigies of Sir Richard Newport and Margaret, his wife, daughter to Sir Thomas Bromley ; *3*) a table tomb of John Barker (ob. 1618) and Margaret, his wife and *4*) a large wall monument to Francis, Baron Newport, 1st Earl of Bradford (ob. 1708).

The font is part of a large Roman capital, much re-dressed. There are smaller Roman columns with capitals flanking the gateway into the churchyard.

Arch. Journ., lxxxv, 240 ; Baldwin Brown, *Arts in Early England : Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, 488 ; D. H. S. Cranage, *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*, 650–60.

HAUGHMOND ABBEY. By P. K. Baillie Reynolds

Haughmond Abbey was founded about 1130 by William Fitz Alan as a Priory for Augustinian Canons. In about 1155 it had so increased in wealth and numbers that it was made an Abbey, and its church was entirely rebuilt on a larger scale and on a slightly different site. In the 13th century a north aisle was added to the nave. In the 16th century there seems to have been a decline. The church was curtailed at the west end, the western range pulled down, and the Chapter-house was rebuilt on a much smaller scale. At the Dissolution in 1541 there were twelve Canons and the Abbot. The site was bought by Sir Rowland Hill, through whose sisters it passed to the Barker family, who made a mansion out of the Infirmary and Abbot's Lodging. In 1740 it came into the Corbet family, who in 1931 handed the ruins over to the guardianship of the then Office of Works.

Very little of the church remains standing ; it is remarkable for the great difference in level between the east and west ends. Traces of the first church can be seen in the south transept. The Infirmary (14th century), Dorter range, Frater and Kitchens form a second cloister, which became the courtyard of the Barkers' mansion.

ATTINGHAM HALL. By S. D. T. Spittle

Although the Hill family had owned the Attingham estates since the early 16th century, nothing is known of a house standing there until the first part of the 18th century. Then, a house known as Tern Hall was built ; it lasted until 1782 when Noel Hill, later 1st Lord Berwick, started the present house retaining a large part of the earlier building as kitchens and offices. The architect for the new house was George Steuart, the designer of Lythwood Hall nearby (recently demolished) and New St. Chad's church in Shrewsbury. An engraving of Tern Hall shows that it had a symmetrical south front with two-storey bay windows on either side of a central projection. Against this front Steuart placed a U-shaped building thus forming a courtyard ; tall bay windows were put on the north ends of the new wings so that they knitted on to the bay windows of the old house. The central part of Tern Hall was removed and a gatehouse made as an entrance into the courtyard. On either side long colonnaded wings ending in pavilions abut on to the bays ; an unfortunate junction of the cornices at this point can be accounted for by the two building dates. Steuart's façades are restrained in feeling, the wall surfaces being relieved only by stringcourses and shallow pilasters.

He contrived some distinguished and well-proportioned rooms on the ground floor of the new building. They include an entrance hall with scagliola columns, a dining-room decorated in Pompeian red, a drawing-room with a ceiling in the Adam manner, as well as some elaborately decorated smaller rooms in the wings at the back.

In 1807 John Nash was commissioned to construct a picture gallery to house the large collection of pictures accumulated by the 2nd Lord Berwick. The work necessitated

the removal of the large staircase behind the entrance hall and its replacement by the gallery and a circular staircase which was placed axially on the N. side. Both the gallery and the new staircase are covered by roof-lights supported on iron frames cast by the Coalbrookdale Company, and are thus very early examples of this form of construction. The park was altered in 1797 by Humphrey Repton, whose sketches for the proposed changes exist.

Attingham is now the property of the National Trust and is leased to the Shropshire Education Authority. Furniture and pictures belonging to the late Lord Berwick remain in the house.

Avray Tipping in *Country Life*, Feb., 1921.
Michael Rix in *Country Life*, Oct., 1954.
National Trust Guidebook, 1949.

Friday, 13th July

STOKESAY CASTLE. By J. T. Smith

The manor of Stokesay derives its name from the family of de Saye to whom it belonged from the early 12th century to the middle of the 13th ; by 1255 it had passed to John de Verdon, thence to John de Gray, and so by 1281 to its most famous owner, the great wool merchant, Lawrence de Ludlow, whose descendants retained it until 1497. The manor then passed by marriage to Thomas Vernon, and in 1620 it was bought by a member of the Craven family.

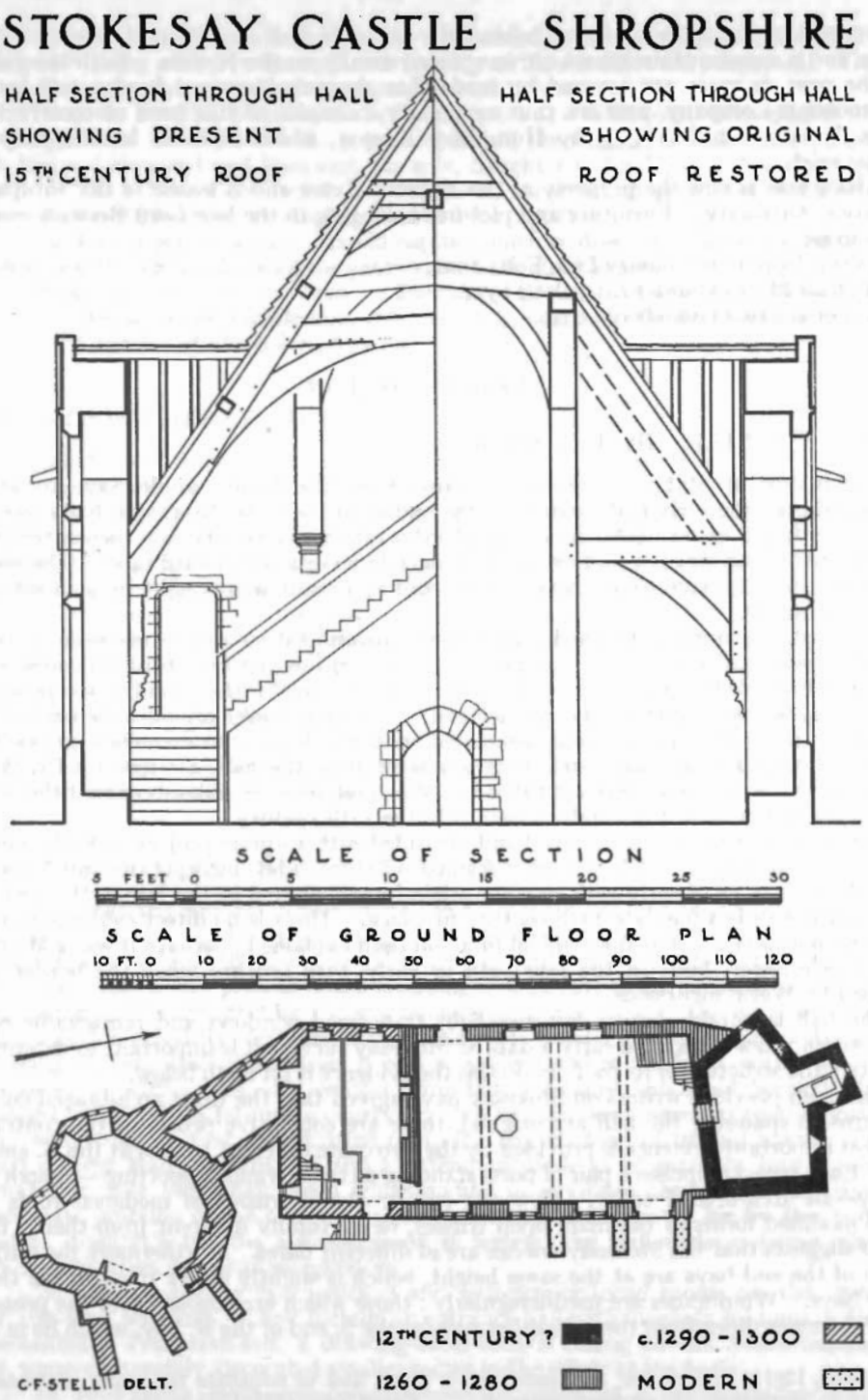
The Castle is simply a fortified manor-house surrounded by a moat enclosing a court-yard which was walled in 1291. Entrance is gained on the east by a timber-framed gate-house built towards the end of the 16th century. On the west is the main block comprising the hall and solar wing with a tower at each end. The south tower provides the basis of the chronology, since it is presumably associated with the licence to crenellate granted to Lawrence de Ludlow in 1291[1] and is clearly later than the hall, ascribed by Dr. Wood together with the solar wing to *circa* 1260–80. Plan and masonry alike show that the north tower is yet earlier, and it is usually assigned to the 12th century.

The north tower is three-storeyed and five-sided with a square projection to the north-west. The top storey, which is timber-framed on three sides, incorporates much reused material and may be of early 16th-century origin largely altered in the late 17th century. In the south wall is a fine late 13th-century fireplace. There is no direct evidence to date the tower, nor have its plan and original function been explained ; perhaps it was a Marcher form of pele-tower, built in the late 12th or early 13th century when the border was disturbed by Welsh incursions.

The hall is notable for its fine two-light transomed windows and remarkable roof. Moreover since few halls of so early a date as Stokesay survive it is important to determine accurately the structure of its roof ; to do this the evidence is set forth below.

Although previous writers on Stokesay have agreed that the three arch-braced collar-beam trusses spanning the hall are original, there are conclusive proofs to the contrary. The most important evidence is provided by the two quite different trusses at the N. and S. ends. Each truss comprises a pair of posts standing on corbels and supporting—though not directly—an arch-braced collar. Now the end or closed trusses of medieval roofs are always modified forms of the main open trusses, never totally different from them ; that in itself suggests that the Stokesay trusses are of different dates. Furthermore the purlins in each of the end bays are at the same height, which is slightly above those in the three middle bays. Windbraces are used irregularly ; those which are tenoned into the posts of both end trusses differ from the only other pair, at the S. end of the N. bay, which lie in the

[1] Oct. 19th, 1291 ; Licence for Lawrence de Lodelawe to strengthen his dwelling house of Stok Say, Co. Salop, with a wall of stone and lime, and to crenellate the same. *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1281–1292, p. 450.



(Based on a drawing in the A.A. Sketch Book, by kind permission of the Council of the Architectural Association)

Fig. 9

pitch of the roof. The high quality of the moulded corbels in the side walls contrasts with the rougher, irregularly sized masonry forming crude pilasters above them, upon which the feet of the principal rafters rest ; the corbels are obviously intended to support timbers directly, exactly as those on the end walls still do. The open trusses have some scarfed joints so complicated as to suggest that old timbers were reused. All these features prove that extensive alterations have been made to the roof.

The two original trusses on the end walls prove that the hall was built with timber arcades. What are now purlins in the end bays were originally plates which surmounted the arcades and rested squarely on the posts, just like the arcade-plates of the late 13th-century St. Mary's Hospital at Chichester which provides the closest analogy.[1] What are now collars in the end trusses were originally, as at Chichester, tie-beams. Arcades of five bays ran the length of the hall.[2] The roof proper was of the trussed-rafter type comprising pairs of rafters halved together at the apex, each pair strengthened by a collar. There is no sign of a pegged mortise for a kingpost in the tie-beams of the end trusses, though this needs to be checked closely from a ladder. Although its absence would not be surprising in so early a roof, the collar-purlin at the N. end may well be an original feature, and if so implies the former existence of kingposts to support it. The corbels in the side-walls were designed to carry timbers which propped the arcades laterally. An exact reconstruction is hardly possible, but the fact that the corbels are moulded and intended to be viewed suggests a post upon them rather than a beam. The well-known 14th-century barn at Great Coxwell in Berkshire may provide a parallel. On this analogy each corbel carried a wallpost recessed slightly into the wall ; the post supported a beam into which, presumably, the valley rafters were jointed and which was tenoned at the other end into the arcade-post opposite the corbel ; the wallpost and beam were joined by a curved brace, and there may have been a straight brace from the beam to the arcade-post ; it is at present impossible to tell. The suggestion of wallposts is strengthened by the fact that the masonry pilasters which have replaced them appear to have been built partly behind the wallface, with which they make a straight joint ; that is, they neither bond into the walling nor make a ragged joint with it as one would expect if the cutting-back had been done specially to accommodate masonry : hence the pilasters are built into recesses which must antedate the rebuilding of the roof.

These conclusions have been incorporated in the reconstructed half-section (fig. 9).[3]

The three open trusses of the existing roof were built in the early 15th century. Their curved feet ally the principal rafters to the class of scarfed or jointed crucks ;[4] the main (lower) collar-beams with arch-braces are a very common form of construction in several western counties and the Marches. An upper collar with straight braces below was provided on each truss in order to support a middle or collar-purlin. At present this purlin exists only in the three bays at the upper end of the hall, and it is uncertain whether it ever extended the full length. The collar-purlin is normal in roofs belonging to the south-eastern aisled-hall tradition of building, and where it appears in conjunction with arch-braced collars is usually imported for the sake of appearance rather than for any function it performs. At Stokesay, however, it may be a direct survival of the earlier roof, as was hinted above. If it is original, it provided the only means of stiffening the roof lengthwise. In the rebuilding this function was taken over by the side purlins.

Later alterations have been limited to strengthening the principals and replacing weak timbers.

The solar wing is usually regarded as contemporary with the hall. However the east wall is built of rubble laid in courses of varying depth which has a quite a different appear-

[1] F. T. Dollman and J. R. Jobbins, *Analysis of Ancient Domestic Architecture*, Vol. I.

[2] I suggested in the Summer Programme notes that the roof might have been a derivative type of the aisled hall, raised on tie beams spanning the hall ; Mr. C. A. R. Radford has pointed out that the span of 31 ft. rules out such a solution.

[3] For this drawing and for discussion of the roof problems I am indebted to Mr. C. F. Stell, A.R.I.B.A. The drawing is based on one in the *Architectural Association Sketch Book*, 1909.

[4] For a smaller example of this class, see L. F. J. Walroad, *Beecham's Cottage, Pitney, Som., Proc. Somerset Arch. Soc.* XCVII (1952), 79–91.

ance from the uniform squared rubble of the hall. Though the actual break of joint is masked by openings, it is quite clear on the less accessible west side. To confirm this impression of two builds, the solar walls on plan deflect slightly west from those of the hall. The solar is therefore contemporary with the south tower and later than the hall ; it thus fits into the general development of ground-floor halls, which in the 13th century do not normally have a solar at the upper end. Prior to the additions at the south end in the 1290's, the principal private apartments must have been in the north tower.[1] The S. wing was refitted early in the 17th century with an elaborate Jacobean fireplace and panelling.

Until the early 19th century a kitchen and subsidiary buildings stood on the north side of the courtyard, within which was also a small open well-house having a roof braced by trefoil arches.

R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, V, 29–37 ; Dr. Margaret E. Wood, ' Thirteenth Century Domestic Architecture in England ' in *Arch. Journ.*, CV, Supplement (1950), 64–71, which contains the best and only modern plan with references to earlier literature.

POWIS CASTLE. By J. D. K. Lloyd

The Princes of Powys in early medieval times appear to have resided at Mathrafal, near Meifod, some 5 miles north-west of Welshpool, and were buried at Meifod at any rate until the close of the 12th century.

The importance of Castell Goch (The Red Castle) was of later date, and though the existence of a motte-and-bailey, the Lady's Mount, about 300 yards west of the castle, suggests an earlier occupation of the general site, it seems probable that the present structure was begun towards the end of the 13th century either by Prince Gruffydd ap Wenwynwyn or by his son Owain ap Gruffydd (Owen de la Pole) the last Welsh Lord of Powys. Gruffydd, in 1278, granted permission to Owain and his heirs to build or rebuild a castle here. Both these princes married Norman wives and would thus have come under the influence of new methods of castle building.

Hawys Gadarn, daughter of Owain, married in 1309 Sir John Cherleton (their portraits can be seen at the foot of the great east window in St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, removed from their burial-place, the Greyfriars), and the castle was held by the Cherletons until the death of Edward, 5th Lord Cherleton, in 1421, when his possessions were divided between his daughters Joan and Joyce, who married respectively into the families of Grey and Tiptoft. Both the Greys and the Tiptofts seem to have been recognized as Lords of Powis, with the strange result that the castle itself was for some time in the hands of both these families, the keep belonging to the Greys and the ' utterward ' to the Tiptofts, Earls of Worcester, whose claims passed towards the end of the 15th century to the Suttons, Lords Dudley. (An interesting shield-of-arms of four grand quarters, 1 and 4 Somerie and Sutton, 2 and 3 Cherleton and Tiptoft, is in the west window of Buttington church, 3 miles north-east of Welshpool).

The Greys obtained possession of the whole castle and barony by alienation from the Dudleys about 1540, but very shortly afterwards came to an end themselves, when the castle was sold by Edward, the illegitimate son of the 4th Lord Grey of Powis to Sir Edward Herbert, second son of the 1st Earl of Pembroke of the second creation, in 1587.

In October, 1644, the castle was taken, after a very short assault, by the Parliamentarians, but was restored to the Herberts at the Restoration. William, 1st Marquess and titular Duke of Powis, having followed James II to France, was deprived of his estates and the castle was occupied from 1696 to 1722 by the Zuylesteyns, Lords Rochford. The 2nd Marquess obtained restitution in the latter year and the estates eventually passed, by the marriage of Lady Henrietta Herbert to Edward 2nd Lord Clive, son of the victor of Plassey, to that family. Lord Clive was created Earl of Powis in 1804 and subsequently adopted

[1] cf. King John's House, Warnford, Hants. ; *Arch. Journ.*, CV, *Suppt.* (1950).

the name of Herbert. The 4th Earl of the present creation, who died in 1952, vested the castle and gardens in the National Trust. He was succeeded by his cousin, the present Earl, who resides there.

The original castle, according to the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, *Montgomeryshire*, consisted of a parallelogram of 50 yards by 30 yards, with small drums at the angles and a west entrance between two small guard towers, together with a curtain wall and towers on two sides of the outer court, the precipitous south side being probably without defences. The existing 13th-century portions are the lower part of the exterior of the north wall of the outer courtyard and the drums on either side of the present (west) entrance and the south wall of the castle above the terraces.[1]

Extensive alterations took place at the end of the 16th century, when Sir Edward Herbert constructed the small inner courtyard : from this period dates the Long Gallery with its plastered ceiling and painted panelling. The entrance to the outer courtyard and the east portal date from the end of the 17th century, as do the furnishings of the State Bedroom and the fine Grand Staircase, constructed in 1668 (the fasciated string and the design of the balusters are closely copied in the slightly later staircase at Longnor, five miles north of Church Stretton). The painted walls of the Grand Staircase by Lanscroon and the terraced gardens can be attributed to the 1st or 2nd Lords Rochford. The present dining-room is by G. F. Bodley. The fine double yew hedge and the formal garden date from the early years of the present century.

G. Sandford and M. C. Jones, ' Powis Castle, past and present ', in *Mont. Coll.* XV (1882).
R.C.A.M. *Montgomeryshire* (1911), with plan.
The Complete Peerage, 2nd ed., G.E.C., passim.

OFFA'S DYKE. By C. A. R. Radford

Offa's Dyke is a linear earthwork, consisting of a bank and ditch facing west ; it runs from near Prestatyn on the coast of Flintshire to the mouth of the Wye at Beachley. The work was fully surveyed and published by Sir Cyril Fox, whose excavations proved it to be of post-Roman date. He concluded that there was no reason to doubt the traditional ascription to Offa, King of Mercia (757–96). The survey shewed that the Dyke was constructed to control the frontier against the Welsh. It represented the culmination of a long series of frontier works, of which the short dykes, blocking and controlling individual trackways, mark the earliest stage. The purpose of these works was to protect the Mercian farming settlements against the Welsh, who had previously been raiding deep into the heart of the English Midlands.

Sir Cyril Fox, *Offa's Dyke* (1954), a reissue by the British Academy of the original reports that appeared in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*.

FFRIDD FALDWYN. By K. M. KENYON

The hill-fort of Ffridd Faldwyn was excavated by the late B. H. St. J. O'Neil between 1937 and 1939, when the excavations were interrupted by the outbreak of war, with the result that not all the problems of the site were solved.

The position occupied by the hill-fort is a commanding one. It crowns a hill which lies at the end of a ridge projecting north-westwards from the main hill-country, towards the important ford over the Severn known as Rhyd Whiman, and it controlled the routes approaching the ford as did Forden Gaer in the Roman period and Montgomery in the Middle Ages. The results of the excavations emphasised the importance of the site. Five periods of occupation were established, which is a more complicated succession than has been proved for any other hill-fort of the Welsh Marches.

[1] The castle is not strictly orientated : for the sake of brevity, the gardens are assumed to lie on the south side of the castle.

The first occupation belongs to the Neolithic period. This was attested only by flints and pottery, and no remains of any structures were found. The traces of this occupation were sealed by a sterile layer, presumably indicating that the site was not occupied during the Bronze Age.

The remaining four periods belong to the Early Iron Age, and represent a series of fortifications of the hill top. In the first two, the line of the defences follows that of the plateau which forms the summit of the hill. The earliest, of which the existence was established only at the south-west entrance, consisted of a double palisade, apparently not associated with any bank or ditch. The entrance through this palisade was at the same point as the entrance through the later earthworks, and was formed by a right-angled turn inwards of each end of the palisade, with a substantial gate at the inner end.

Period III is marked by the refortification of the same area by bank and ditch, after a time-lapse sufficient for the timbers of the palisade to decay *in situ*, though not presumably so great that the line of the palisades and the position of the gate were forgotten. The main line of the defences consisted of a single rampart separated by a berm from a comparatively shallow ditch. The entrance, on the line of that in the earlier palisade, was similarly inturned with a gate at the inner end. The rampart consisted of a rear portion of earth and stones, with a stone revetment on both faces. In front of this, possibly as an addition, though the excavator does not express an opinion on this, was a massive thickening of earth and stones, based on a timber foundation, and with the core interlaced by substantial horizontal timbers. There were also a number of irregularly arranged vertical timbers in the core. No trace of a front revetment survived, but it seems probable that this must have been of stone, which was removed for use in the Period IV rampart. In the area excavated, sections, but not the whole circuit, of this timber-laced rampart had been subjected to violent heat, which had turned the whole core red and had partly vitrified the stones. There are surface indications of similar burnt sections near the northern entrance. Excavation further established the fact that at the southern entrance there was a second bank and a ditch 50 ft. in advance of the inner, and a third on the line subsequently followed by the Period IV rampart. The excavator was of the opinion that these represented an outwork at the entrance, similar to that added to the Iron Age A defences of Maiden Castle, Dorset, rather than the multiple defences of the Iron Age B phase in the south-west. It does not, however, seem clear that this point was sufficiently established by excavation, particularly since there are surface indications of the second rampart in a considerable part of the northern section of the camp.

In Period IV, the main line of defence was advanced considerably down the slope of the hill. At the two entrances the rampart was a massive affair, which excavation at the south end showed to have been revetted in stone on both faces. The examination of the defences of this phase had not been completed when excavations were suspended, and the complicated series of levels and ditches visible on the surface at the south end was not elucidated. It would appear, however, that in the first phase of the extended camp the second rampart, which elsewhere follows the circuit of the inner one, was extended outwards to enclose a projecting tongue of ground. Subsequently, possibly in Period V, the line of the inner defences across this tongue was elaborated by a projecting claw, and the area enclosed by the earlier prolongation may have been excluded.

Against the rear of the main rampart of this phase was a fairly extensive occupation layer. It is apparent that, as for instance at Sutton Walls, there was at this stage permanent occupation of the camp, and that the huts were concentrated in the hollow at the rear of the ramparts. The summit of the hill, in the area occupied by the original camp, apparently became a cattle enclosure. Just inside the line of the original ditch a new ditch was cut, partly through the already consolidated silt of the earlier one. The bank was on the outside of the ditch, and there were traces that this was surmounted by a palisade. A series of pairs of postholes within this enclosure was interpreted as evidence of the foundations of hay or corn-drying racks of the type found at Little Woodbury.

The final stage, Period V, is represented by a considerable heightening of the Period IV ramparts after they had become partly ruinous. The additional material was not revetted, and there were signs that the refortification was carried out hurriedly.

The dating of the various phases at Ffridd Faldwyn is rendered difficult by the almost complete absence of datable finds. Only five small sherds of pottery were found in the whole excavations. As elsewhere in the Welsh Marches, the inhabitants reacted to events in the lowland area of Britain by adopting the new fashions in defence, but otherwise retaining their indigenous culture. The simple defensive palisade has its analogies in Iron Age A sites in southern Britain at Quarley Hill in Hampshire and Hollingbury Hill in Sussex, as well as at Old Oswestry and Eddisbury in the West Midlands. The timber-laced technique of the Period IV rampart is also probably Iron Age A, for Mrs. Cotton has shown that it is in the Hallstatt tradition, and is not to be associated with the debased *murus gallicus* type of the Scottish timber-laced ramparts. The actual dating is dependent on whether or not the excavator was correct in believing that the defences were not truly multivallate. Sir Mortimer Wheeler has shown that in south-west Britain the introduction of multivallate defences is the reaction to the introduction of a new method of attack, the use of sling-stones. If this criterion can also be used in the Midlands, a thesis which requires further excavation for definite proof, and again if Phase III is truly multivallate, this phase might correspond to the appearance of Iron Age A people at the Wrekin, probably in the 1st century B.C. The difficulty of this dating is that it compresses the later history of the site, for the ramparts of Period III were apparently ruinous and the ditch completely silted up before the construction of the Period IV defences. It may therefore be that Period III represents a reaction to earlier Iron Age A expansion towards the West Midlands, not so far documented, and that Period IV belongs to the wave of defensive measures among the inhabitants of the region which can be attributed to the second half of the 1st century B.C. Period V very probably represented the hurried refortification in the face of the threat of the Roman advance, which is probably to be recognized at the Wrekin and a number of other sites in the Welsh Marches.

B. H. St. J. O'Neil, Excavations at Ffridd Faldwyn Camp, 1937–39, in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, XCVII.

MONTGOMERY CHURCH. By J. D. K. Lloyd

The existing parish and church date from the founding of the castle of " New Montgomery " by Henry III in 1223 and the granting of a charter to the Borough in 1227. The district, described in Domesday as having been, T.R.E., waste land used only for hunting, remained in the Shropshire parish of Chirbury during the tenure of " Old Montgomery " (now the hamlet and motte-and-bailey of Hendomen, 1 mile to the north) by the families of Montgomery and Bollers and their successors. The church of the new parish is described as " de novo constructe " in 1227.

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, has no Welsh characteristics. Though apparently cruciform, it is not of one build, the transepts, which have no internal structural connection with the body of the church, having been added later in the 13th century, when the church was perhaps also extended eastwards. Three of the original narrow lancets, with external rebates, may be seen in the nave and another, probably removed thence when the side chapels were built, in the south transept. There is no ancient glass, though there is record of some having existed as late as the early part of the 18th century.

The nave has two fine 15th-century roofs, the westernmost being of arched principals with a quatrefoil design of a type not uncommon in this part of the Marches (e.g. Hopesay, Salop, and Kerry, Mont.); the eastern roof is of the " waggon " type, with moulded ribs and plaster panels.

The original Montgomery screen is the western of the two and there is no evidence as to whether it had a loft above. The present loft, together with the eastern screen and the stallwork, was almost certainly brought from Chirbury Priory at the Dissolution. The stall panelling is of excellent design and is attributed by F. H. Crossley to the same workshop as that at Ludlow and at Leintwardine. The baberies have been badly mutilated. The screen gates and the roof of the south transept are early 17th-century. The tower was rebuilt in 1816.

There are two medieval effigies, considerably restored, in the south transept, the smaller being probably that of Edmund Mortimer, the son-in-law of Glyn Dŵr and the larger almost certainly that of Sir Richard Herbert. The effigies of the grandson of the latter, Richard Herbert and of his wife Magdalen Newport, the parents of Lord Herbert of Chirbury and George Herbert, lie under a handsome canopied tomb in the same transept, dated 1600.

Arch. Camb., 1932 ; for the stalls and screens, Crossley and Ridgway in *Arch. Camb.*, 1947 ; for the medieval tombs, W. J. Hemp in *Arch. Camb.*, 1925 ; for the canopied tomb, J. D. K. Lloyd in *Mont. Coll.*, LI (1951) ; for history, R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire* (1854), XI.

CHURCH OF LLANFIHANGEL YNG NGHERI (KERRY CHURCH). By C. A. R. Radford

Ceri is a small cwmwd and large parish which was originally a part of Maelienydd in north Radnorshire. In the 12th century it formed part of the lordship of Rhwng Gwy a Hafren, ruled by the dynasty of Elstan Glodrudd, whose representative in 1176 was Cadwallon ap Madog, founder of the Cistercian Abbey of Cwmhir. In that year the Bishop of St. Asaph proposed to dedicate the new church in Ceri. But the district was claimed as part of the diocese of St. David's and Giraldus (Cambrensis), then Archdeacon of Brycheiniog, proceeded at once to the site and, by his energetic action, frustrated the designs of the Bishop. In the 13th century Ceri, together with the neighbouring cwmwd of Cydewain, passed to the Mortimers of Wigmore ; but possession was disputed by the Welsh princes. The Edwardian conquest secured the lordship to the Mortimers, who continued to hold Ceri and Cydewain, the former being on more than one occasion used as part of the widow's endowment. From 1307 till her death in 1334 Ceri was held by Margaret, the mother of Roger Mortimer, 1st Earl of March.

The earliest surviving remains belong to the church dedicated in 1176 ; it consisted of an aisled nave of three bays with a small square chancel narrower than the nave. Only the north arcade survives. It has massive round piers, the plain moulded capitals with necking and abacus. The arches are of two square orders, the inner recut with a stopped chamfer of 14th-century type. The present third pier from the west was originally the east respond and has the capital on the west side only. Traces of a similar south arcade were found during the 19th-century restoration. The aisles were narrow with pent roofs, traces of which can be seen on the north side. The plan is typical of important non-monastic Welsh churches of pre-Edwardian date.

The church was doubled in size early in the 14th century. A chancel, of four bays and of the same width as the early chancel, was added to the east ; it had a north aisle of the same size. The chancel arcade has round headed arches of two chamfered orders and octagonal piers and responds with moulded capitals. The central pier has a band of rather crude ballflowers on the capital. The east window of the north aisle has three pointed lights, with tracery of early 14th-century character. The stonework is modern but copies the pre-restoration form, which may be seen in a painting and photograph, now in the vestry. Other modern windows in the same style probably reproduce older designs, though the positions may not be original. The ballflower and the form of the windows are evidence of English influence during the tenure of Margaret Mortimer.

The width of the new chancel and its position one bay east of the Romanesque arcade show that the older chancel was retained, probably with an arch cut through the east wall. The resulting plan would give two almost separated linked buildings. The new chancel and aisle were probably added for the English household of the Mortimers, leaving the old building to the Welsh tenants.

Later in the 14th or in the 15th century the two parts were thrown together by the extension westward of the wide north aisle of the 14th-century chancel. The square 12th-century chancel was demolished and the two arcades linked by an arch set askew to bridge the difference in width. This awkward junction was probably masked by a screen extending the full width of the church. The western tower is of the same period. A late Perpendicular

window was inserted in the east wall. The replacement of the south arcade with a solid wall was probably carried out at the same date, as there is some evidence that the old porch was medieval.

The nave roof is of the 14th century. The chancel has a waggon roof, probably of the 14th century with a panelled canopy of honour, now lacking paintings, above the altar. The aisle roof is of the 15th century much renewed.

The church was drastically restored in 1883 under the direction of Street. The outer walls, with the exception of the tower, were rebuilt in Llanymynech stone, only a few of the medieval details being reused. The church stands in a typical round churchyard raised well above the surrounding fields.

Giraldus Cambrensis, de rebus a se gestis, cap. vi (Rolls Series : xxi, i, 32–9).

Montgomeryshire Collections, xxiii, 97–120, 345–70; xxiv, 355–94; xxv, 9–35 and 363–93.

Saturday, 14th July

SHREWSBURY : CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS. By C. A. R. Radford

Domesday Book records that ' in the city of Shrewsbury Earl Roger is making an abbey and has given to it the minster of St. Peter, where there was a parish in the city '. The new foundation was a Benedictine house named in honour of St. Peter and St. Paul ; it has been more generally known as Holy Cross. Earl Roger's new foundation was built on a site outside the city walls on the east side of the river ; it received the property, and doubtless took over the ecclesiastical duties, of the old Saxon minster of St. Peter.

The abbey church was cruciform ; the nave and crossing survive together with parts of the transepts. The detail of the crossing and of the transepts is of the first half of the 12th century. The compound piers have cushion capitals and slight bases on chamfered plinths. The arches of the crossing, though much re-dressed, retain their original form ; the arch at the east end of the north aisle is comparatively untouched. The nave of six bays was divided into two parts by massive compound piers ; the eastern half remains with high bases and bold moulded capitals, dating from the third quarter of the century.

In the later 14th century, probably about 1360–70, a large tower was inserted at the west end of the nave. This part of the arcades was rebuilt with pointed and elaborately moulded arches; a similar arch was inserted at the east end of the south aisle. The great west window was remade at the same time, with a statue of Edward III in the niche above the apex. Within the church are preserved the much weathered remains of an elaborate stone screen with figures of saints in niches ; these probably came from the rood screen at the east end of the parochial nave.

The north porch is of the 13th century with an elaborately ornamented upper storey added 200 years later. The cloister lay to the south of the church. Two large niches, now shewing as arches, are preserved in the wall of the east walk ; they served as presses for service books and were conveniently placed near the entrance to the church. The 14th-century pulpit of the frater survives on the far side of the road, shewing that the cloister measured about 100 ft. in each direction.

The aisled nave was retained as a parish church after the suppression of the abbey. It has been repaired at various dates. The gables, with the roofs running transversely across the eastern part of the north aisle, are already shewn in drawings of the 18th century and probably date from the late 17th century. The church was restored by J. L. Pearson, who reformed the crossing and added a chancel in the Early English style. The triforium arches were glazed as windows and a series of gabled roofs running transversely across the south aisle added ; these are masked externally by a parapet.

The founder of the abbey, Earl Roger of Montgomery, died as a member of his new community. He was buried in the abbey church, where he is now commemorated by a modern brass plate. This is set in a tomb recess of *circa* 1300 near the east end of the

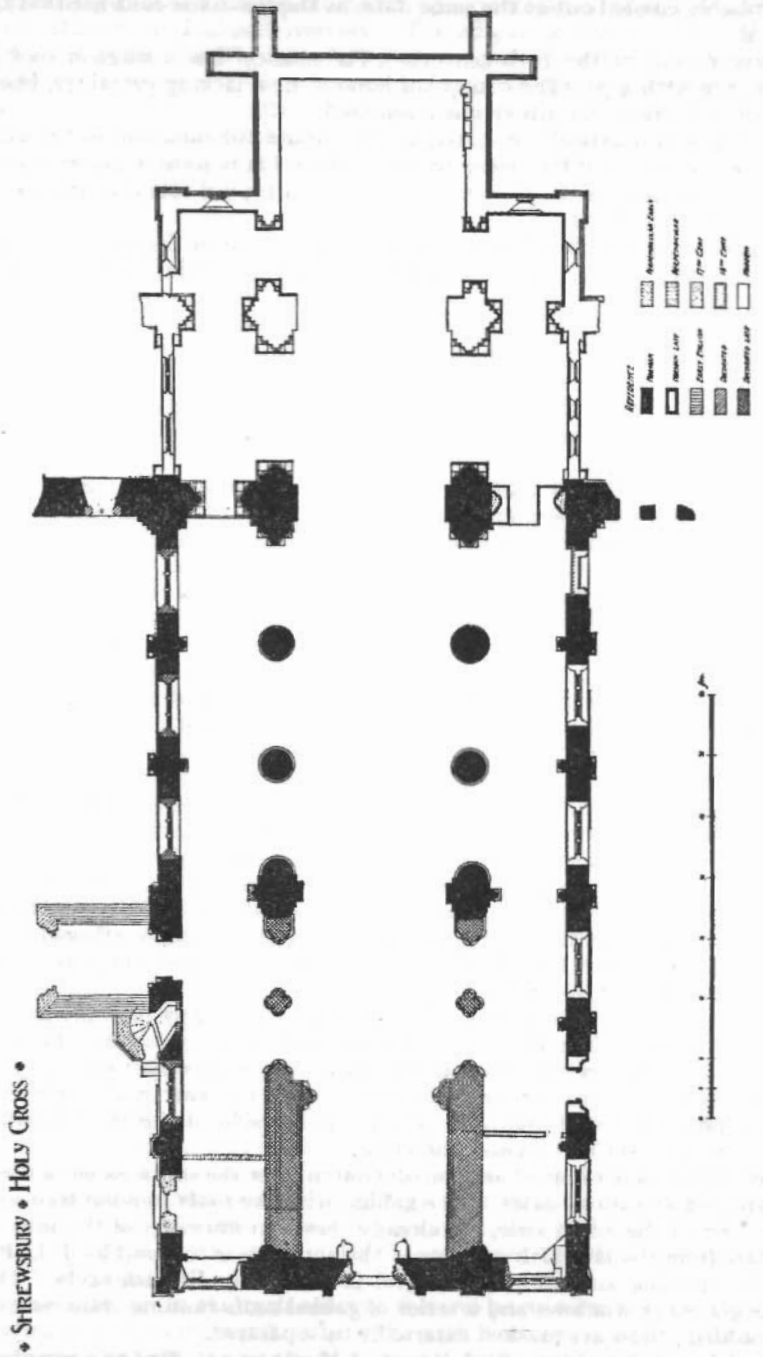


Fig. 10

south aisle. In front of the recess is a reconstructed table tomb with a military effigy of the late 13th or early 14th century.

Arch. Journ., lxxxv, 215 ; D. H. S. Cranage, *An Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire*, ii, 867–92.

Shropshire Archaeological Society Trans., 2nd series, xi, 199–242, and 4th series, vii, 93–5.

NEW ST. CHAD'S CHURCH. By L. C. Lloyd

When the tower of old St. Chad's Church collapsed in 1788, involving most of the fabric in ruin, it was decided after a good deal of argument to make no attempt at reconstruction, but to build a new church on a different site. George Steuart, not to be confused with the more celebrated James 'Athenian' Stuart, was employed as architect, and the present church, with its unusual plan of circular nave and oval vestibule, has been described by Mr. Marcus Whiffen as ' one of the most boldly conceived buildings of the whole Georgian epoch '. Built in 1790–92, it occupies an impressive site on high ground above the Quarry (Shrewsbury's public park), which slopes down to the Severn, and looks across to the buildings of Shrewsbury School on the other side of the river. Noteworthy features of the interior are the graceful twin staircases ascending to the gallery, and the chancel window, which is a copy of Ruben's ' Descent from the Cross ' by David Evans, a Shrewsbury artist of the early 19th century who played an important part in the revival of glass-staining.

MORETON CORBET CASTLE. By T. L. Jones

This small moated castle occupies a low-lying position of no natural strength in the valley of the River Roden. The present plan is roughly triangular, the south side of the triangle being formed by a range of Elizabethan buildings that was probably built over a filled-in section of the moat.

The surviving remains of the medieval castle are ranged along the irregular line of the curtain wall that forms the other two sides of the triangle. The earliest work lies on the north-west side, where there are the remains of a small keep, of *circa* 1200, having an elaborate fireplace on the first floor. The curtain wall running from the north-west corner of this keep is probably of the same date. At its northern apex is a gatehouse which is a 16th century insertion ; to the east of this gatehouse the curtain wall is almost entirely a 16th century rebuild. The domestic buildings of the castle probably lay along the inner side of the wall, but excavation is required to recover their plan. The gatehouse was heightened in 1579, a year after the southern wing of the castle was built, and later blocked.

This wing was built for Sir Robert Corbet, who died in 1583, and is remarkably advanced in style for its date. It has many points of resemblance with Longleat, which was being built at the same time ; it is also the first known building in England to employ the treatment of alternating triangular and segmental pediments above the windows, which became a common feature in the 17th century. Originally this wing formed one arm of an L-shaped block ; the other arm, which contained the hall and probably the great staircase, lay along the east curtain wall and has now entirely vanished.

The castle remained in the hands of the Corbet family until 1949, when it was placed in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works.

MORETON CORBET CHURCH. By John Salmon

The chancel shows traces of 12th-century work, including a sedile broken into by a later window. A wide south aisle was added in the second half of the 14th century, its triangular-shaped west window being unusual. It is known from the evidence of a will that the tower was building in 1539, but the upper part was rebuilt in 1769. The east window of the chancel

is dated 1778, to approximately which date also belongs the Corbet family pew, complete with fireplace, opening out of the south aisle from which it is now separated by early 18th-century altar-rails. Heraldic glass in its south window is dated 1790 and 1820. The monuments are of interest, though the two earliest were repainted some 50 years ago in rather a crude manner. They are stone effigies on table-tombs and commemorate Sir Robert Corbet (1513) and his wife Elizabeth Vernon, and Richard Corbet (1567) and his wife Margaret. The columns on the sides of the latter show classical influence. In the squire's pew is a very crude wall-monument to Richard Corbet (1691), and there are several other wall-monuments in the south aisle. The altar and other additions made to the chancel about 50 years ago in memory of Vincent Stewart Corbet, who died in 1903 while still a boy at Eton, are characteristic works by Comper.