

NOTICE OF
A Monumental Brass,

DISCOVERED UNDER THE PEWS IN ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, NORWICH.

COMMUNICATED BY

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THE interesting Monumental Brass here represented was brought to light by the removal of the pews in St. Stephen's Church, Norwich, when it was re-seated in 1859. It is one of the class which may be termed *palimpsest*, inasmuch as it has done duty for two different persons at different periods. The inscription attached to it is as follows:—

“Pray for the Soul of El Buttry, Sūtyme Pryores
of Campesse, on whose soule Jesu haue mercy
the xxiiij day of Octobr. m̄^o xlvi.”

Elizabeth¹ (or Ela) Buttry was the last Prioress of Campsey Ash, Suffolk, and directed by her will “to be buried in the North side of The Chappell of ower blyssed Ladye” in this church. Blomefield says, “she gave iiij Quyshions of Verdours, a cross cloth, an altar cloth of Dyepar, & a Frontlet for the Sepulchre.”² The brass, however, here engraved is evidently of much earlier date than 1546, and must be the

¹ Willis's *Mitred Abbeys*, ii. 222.

² Blomefield's *Norf.* iv. 155.



pray for the Soule of Fel Batten Sufraue
 Pryores of Laxpelle on whole soule Iesu
 Haur on the xxiii day of Decem^r 1461

UTTING.

BRASS IN ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, NORWICH.

memorial of an unknown lady, appropriated, as in the case of many others, for later use by those who had no title to it. It represents the usual female costume of the close of the reign of Henry IV. The figure is completely covered with a long gown, girt at the wrist with very deep sleeves, and a high stiff collar, buttoned under the chin: a veil is worn on the head. The whole costume is precisely that of about the year 1410, and this is the date assigned to the brass by Mr. Haines, in the *Manual of Monumental Brasses*, where an engraving of it has appeared.³

A more noticeable part of this memorial is the representation, at the feet of the figure, of two beggars, or friars, seated, and holding crutches and rosaries. I believe this brass is unique in this respect; figures of animals are not unfrequently found in such positions, either as representing supports to the recumbent feet, or as favourites of their masters or mistresses; thus, a well-known brass formerly at Ingham, in this county, of the date of 1438, gave the figure of a dog at his master's feet, with its name inscribed, "iakke."⁴ But I am not aware of any other instance, in brasses, of beggars, or bedesmen, although the arrangement occurs in some stone effigies, where they are occasionally seen as "weepers" at the sides of tombs.

These figures, as Mr. Haines has observed,⁵ have reference to the funeral obsequies of the deceased. In the will of John, Lord Scrope of Upsal, 1451, are these directions: "I desire that at my funeral my corpse be carried by my sons and servants, being then at my house, to the said chapel," (Scrope's chapel in York Cathedral) "twenty-four poor men, clothed in white gowns and hoods, each of them having a new set of wooden beads, walking before it; and I will that these poor men stand, sit, or kneel, in the aisle before the entrance to that chapel, saying their prayers, as well at the

³ Introd. p. cex.

⁴ Cotman's *Brasses*, i. pl. xxii. p. 19.

⁵ *Manual of Brasses*, Introd. p. cxxvi.

dirige as at the mass, and that each of them receive vi^d. for their pains.”⁶

Sir Robert Swylyngton, 1379, gives the following direction in his will: “Item, volo quod sex pauperes vestiantur in russet et sedeant ad orandum circa corpus meum quousque sepeliatur.”⁷

Isabel, Countess of Warwick, 1439, wills as follows: “Also I will that my statue be made, all naked, with my hair cast backwards, according to the design and model which Thomas Porchalion has for that purpose, with Mary Magdalen laying her hand across, and St. John the Evangelist on the right side, and St. Anthony on the left; at my feet a scutcheon, impaling my arms with those of the Earl my husband, supported by two griffins, but on the sides thereof the statues of poor men and women in their poor array, with their beads in their hands.”⁸

The unknown lady commemorated by this brass was probably a benefactor to the poor, and may have devised by her will, that those representations of the objects of her charity should be engraved upon her monument.

An engraving of a portion of a brass is given by Cotman,⁹ which has every appearance of being the same as the one now described. Cotman, or rather his editor, attributes it to St. Lawrence’s church; and the lower part, with the two poor men, is altogether omitted. The date is there considered to be *c.* 1390. Probably a rubbing or drawing had been taken, and the reference lost; while the brass itself had in the meantime been concealed by pews.

The following appear to be all the brasses now remaining in this church, viz.:

1. The figure of a lady described above, with inscription to Eel Buttry. (North chapel.)

⁶ Nicolas’s *Testamenta Vetusta*, p. 271.

⁷ *Test. Ebor.* p. 107, No. lxxx.

⁸ *Testamenta Vetusta*, p. 239.

⁹ Cotman’s *Brasses*, vol. ii. Appendix, pl. 1. fig. A, p. 57.

2. Robert Brasyer, alderman and mayor, (dec. 1435) and wife Christian ; engraved *c.* 1513. (North aisle.)
3. Richard Brasyer, mayor, and son Richard, mayor, 1513. Removed to west end of nave in 1859.
4. A male figure, wife lost, *c.* 1430. (South aisle.)
5. Thomas Capp, Doctor of Ecclesiastical Law, vicar, in cope, 1545. (Chancel.)
6. John Frankissh, 1498, inscription.
7. Inscription to Robert Burght, mayor, and wife Alice, 1516. Effigies lost.
8. Inscription to Maria, wife of Edward Turfett, 1625. (North aisle.)
9. William Mingaye, 1607, Henry Mingaye, 1632. (Under benches in north chancel aisle.)

In addition to these, Cotman has engraved the brasses of John Danyel, mayor, 1418, and Richard Poryngland, vicar, 1457, a figure in a shroud, encircled with four inscriptions ; these, together with the following, which Blomefield records, have been lost for many years.¹

Walter Daniel, mayor, 1426, The merchant's mark belonging to this brass is in the Norwich Museum.

John Cheese, 1443.

Thomas Bokenham and wife, 1460.

John Underwood, or Leystoft, vicar, 1461. (Figure lost in Blomefield's time.)

Thomas Kingesley, notary, 1473, and wife, 1471. (Lost in Blomefield's time.)

Robert Calton, D.D., vicar, 1500.

John Stalon, merchant, 1505.

John Godsallf, 1511.

Robert Browne, mayor, and wife, 1530.

Robert Grene, mayor, 1541.

Sir John Gryme, 1543. (Loose in Blomefield's time.)

Mary Lady Tymperley, 1546.

¹ Blomefield, iv, 147, &c.

Maude Heade, 1567.

Robert Rant, 1598. (Loose in Blomefield's time.)

Simon Borough, 1602.

Gregory Newhouse, 1612.

Parnell Rant, 1619.

Henry and Humphrey Style, 1617, 1620.

John Banyard and wife.

Robert Carr.

Thomas Stuart.

Dr. Edmund Wryght.

The church of St. Stephen, with its panelled walls, forms one of the most beautiful interiors in Norwich ; but it is too well known to need further description. It is much to be desired that, as the work of church restoration proceeds in this city, the clergy and churchwardens keep a strict watch over antiquities such as brasses, which are so liable to be injured or lost.