

Notes and Queries.

NOTES.

CHURCH PLATE OF HEMSBY, RURAL DEANERY OF FLEGG (*Norfolk Archæology*, vol. xix., p. 188).

The maker's mark on the Norwich Cup is not that of the orb and cross, as recorded by Mr. Hopper, but the numerals IV over a heart in a shaped shield, which I first came across at Bintry (*Norfolk Archæology*, vol. xix., p. 223).

JOHN H. F. WALTER.

A LOST BRASS AT WELLS-BY-THE-SEA.

In Tom Martin's MSS., 17/4 is a most interesting sketch of a brass here, which is only recorded by Blomefield, vol. ix., p. 286, and not by anyone else. It was on a grave stone 8 spans long, 3½ wide, "now standing against the wall in the Vestry" and represents a naked crowned figure with "Jhu mercy" and "Lady Help" on labels from the hands, and the inscription:—


"Thomas Bradley qui quondam fuit rector¹.....prebendarius
ecclesie collegiate de P[lessy] a'ie propicietur deus Amen"

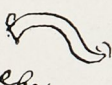
and the following strange inscriptions on labels:—

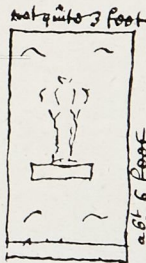
"Haue meend ma(n) of my dreadful doom
Swyche schal be thyn it is no nay
Parchunce to the(e) schal come this daye
That yisterday to me is come."

This is an early variant of the old formula, "As I am so shall ye be," etc. See my *Some Early Inscriptions in Norfolk*, p. 17. He built the chancel here, and having resigned Little Barningham in 1437, was appointed Rector of Wells in 1446 by Humphrey, Duke of Bucks (Blomefield, vol. ix., pp. 285/6). Blomefield does not


¹ Blomefield here gives "de Wellys."


 have mended ma of my ^{dreadful} ~~absent~~ ^{absent} ~~door~~ ^{door}



 & wyche schal be thyn in the May



This closer
 Thome Bradley qui quonda
 fuit rector plebani & cete
 sic Collegiate de p


 have mended ma of my schal come his daye

That zistorday to me is comd.


 Now standing & spray long. 3 or half wide. Bradleys Grave Stone -
 Now standing against the wall in the bostry.

describe the monument or the brass, which is worth reproducing, as it is one of the few naked figures I have seen. His successor was appointed 1463; but Blomefield gives his death date as 5th October, 1499.

WALTER RYE.

CHARTERS OF BONDMEN.

What follows is, unfortunately, lacking in finish, but I consider it ought to be recorded.

It has been said that the bond tenants on a manor could not do this, that, and the other, but one will not read far in a court roll before finding them doing most or all of the impossibilities. For instance, we are told that a bondman could not marry without the lord's license. Marry he did: and was the lord's permission ever asked? I doubt it. The lord could not annul the bond made by the Church, though he could and did exact a fine for the breach of the customs. Very likely the difference between the fine and the fee for a license was negligible, and, doubtless, the fine caused the least trouble to all parties. To reduce the subject to an absurdity, I have found "Agnes filia Thome quod peperit sine licencia domini fecit finem." Of what avail to withhold the license or demand it?

Again, the bondman could not sell his holding. Yet the Rev. W. Hudson found many instances to the contrary in the Martham Court Rolls, and many more can be produced. But I am going a step further with the statement that not only could the bondman sell his holding, but also occasionally did so by charter.

It must be in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Hoveton St. John that entries to this effect occur:—

"Peter Piper did out of court convey certain bond land by charter to Thomas Tucker which is contrary to the custom of this manor therefore the charter is seized into the lord's hand."

The tenor thereof follows in these words:—

That is to say, the charter was copied into the court roll, and I am inclined to think that, barring the enrolment, the practice was not uncommon. The Court Rolls with which I am most familiar are associated with a number of charters, and I venture the opinion that many of them relate to bond land and were seized by the Steward who preserved them, though he would not condescend to admit of their existence in the rolls.

Looking at the subject from another point of view, I suggest that such charters were valid at the Common Law and the Lord of the Manor or his Steward could not destroy them without rendering themselves guilty of contempt of court. The remedy was simple, viz., a refusal to admit the purchaser to the property

unless he gave up the charter. If he were unwilling, the land was seized into the lord's hand.

I have written from memory, not from notes, for when I saw the above entries there appeared no possibility that I could ever make use of them and, had notes been made, most likely they would have been lost in the approaching confusion. The Great War has changed my outlook, and regrets are useless. Meanwhile the rolls have disappeared. There is no reason to think they are lost or destroyed, but I cannot trace them or ascertain who is the Steward.

J. C. TINGEY.

BRISLEY CHURCH.

Since the Society visited this Church in July, restoration work has begun, and there has come to light beneath the plaster on the north wall of the chancel the recess for the Easter Sepulchre. The front was substantially walled in with brick, and at present it is inadvisable for this to be entirely removed owing to the insecure condition of the window above: sufficient has, however, been opened to reveal space behind the brick facing, half filled up with rubble, and a substantial oak beam supporting the upper part, all in apparently crude condition. As restoration proceeds it is hoped to explore further.

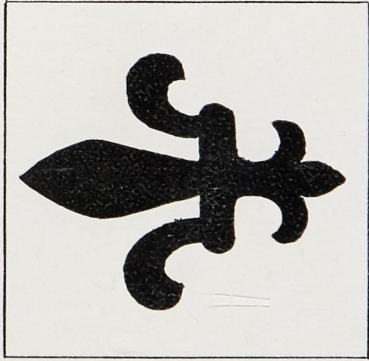
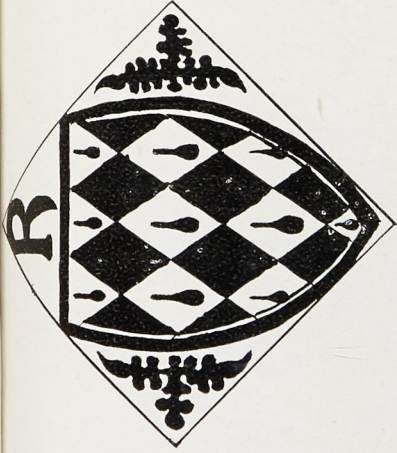
Beneath the wood flooring of a 16th-century box-pew in the south aisle, lying among debris, have been found several encaustic flooring tiles, much worn and fragmentary, but with patterns easily discernible, in six varieties: these are shown on the accompanying sketch. The heraldic tile with "Lozengy and ermine" surmounted by the letter "R," the tincture "vert," we may assume, is evidence of the interest of some former family, and a name may yet be traced.

In the south wall of the south aisle there has been found, in perfect condition, the fenestella and piscina of a side altar, and it is remarkable that the wood itself is quite sound. The recess was completely filled with rubble flint.

Doubtless, if funds permit of the restoration continuing, and the necessary work of repairing the roof being proceeded with first, many interesting finds may come to light in this ancient, and, in recent centuries, unrestored Church.

ARTHUR CROSS.

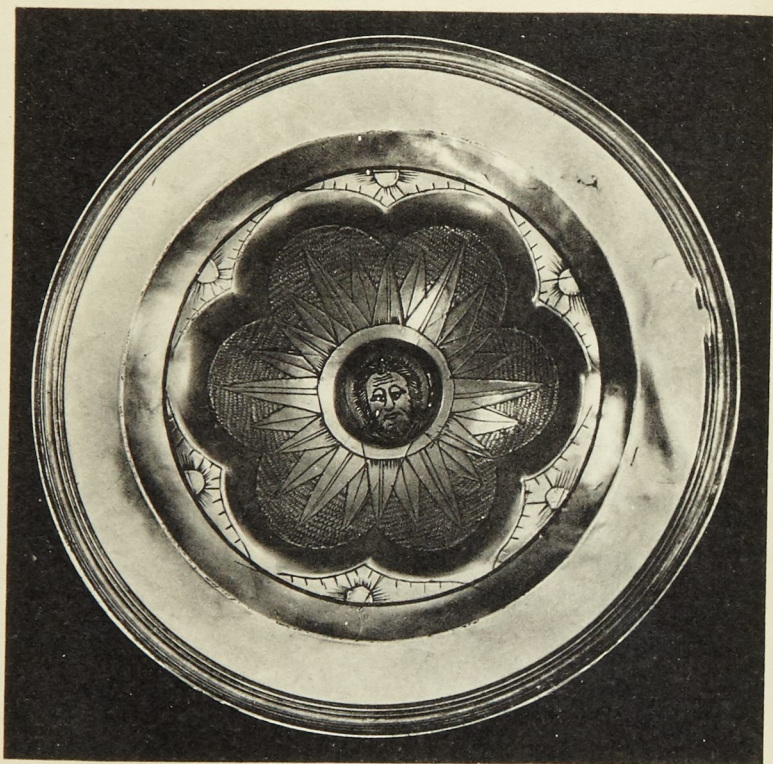
[It is estimated that the cost of restoration will be £3,000, of which sum £400 has been raised locally. If any of our members wish to help in this valuable work of repairing one of our finest Norfolk churches, will they please send their donations to the Rev. A. Cross, Brisley Rectory, North Elmham.—ED.]



ENCAUSTIC TILES FOUND IN BRISLEY CHURCH DURING RESTORATION, 1926—SCATTERED IN DEBRIS UNDER FLOOR-BOARDS.



OXBURGH.



OXBURGH.

THE OXBURGH CHALICE AND PATEN.

It was my privilege on October 6th, 1926, to offer on loan for a term of five years to the Castle Museum Committee, on behalf of the Princesses Duleep Singh, sisters of our late President, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, the above beautiful pieces of old plate, which had been acquired by him at Lord Swaythling's sale on May 7th, 1924.

Messrs. Christie describe them in their catalogue of the Swaythling sale as:

"A Henry VIII. Chalice and Paten—the Chalice 6 ins. high, 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. diam. of lip; the Paten 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ ins. diam.—(weight, 16 oz. 2 dwt.)—London Hall Mark for 1518; maker's mark, a scorpion.

"Of silver-gilt. The Chalice has a plain spreading cup, supported by a hexagonal stem with compressed knop, moulded with fluting, and embossed with human heads in diamond-shaped panels; on hexafoil foot, engraved with IHS and IPS in Gothic characters on a matted ground, the border also engraved with the initials E and H joined by a true lovers' knot."

There are six human heads. The Gothic letters are incorrectly rendered. The IHS should be IHC, the sacred monogram; and the IPS should be FPS or Filio Patri Spiritui—To the Father, Son (and) Holy Ghost—if, as I suggest, the dative should be used. I have been unable to ascertain to whom the initials EH should be ascribed. They are in ordinary shaded capitals. The lion passant should be added to the marks.

"The Paten engraved with the Head of the Saviour, filled in with blue enamel and with rayed and matted border, with the sacred monogram on the reverse."

The Paten is also silver-gilt. Within a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. depression there are six spandrels with twenty-four rays, six long and eighteen short, on a matted ground. The Head of the Saviour has the hair turned back off the forehead, and there are short rays of glory all round to chin, which has a short beard. The top of each spandrel has a similar conventional decoration, and a reeded border runs round the Paten. The enamel is mostly worn away. The reverse to the Vernicle has the sacred monogram IHC on a hatched ground, all the rest quite plain up to the spandrels and without any decoration whatever. Marks (three) as on Chalice.

"Formerly the property of Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Bart., of Oxburgh Hall, Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, purchased at Christie's June 28th, 1905. Lot 47."

The 1905 catalogue says, "The following is the property of a gentleman in whose family it has remained for many generations." It also gives the maker's mark as "a fish in an oval."

"It is probable that the Chalice originally belonged to Sir Henry Bedingfeld, Knt., of Oxburgh, one of the first who declared for Queen Mary on the death of Edward VI. He was made Knight-Marshal of her Army, Captain of the Guards, and Governor of the Tower of London.

"Price: 1924, £860; 1905, £900."

JOHN H. F. WALTER.

WATLINGTON CHURCH.

Some years ago I found, about 5 ft. 6 ins. from floor, on the south side of the tower arch in Watlington Church, the enclosed inscription, in a hand which seems to belong to the early 15th century. The other day, wishing to show it to the present incumbent, I found that, in the course of some slight alterations,

John Reyns

John Reyns quondam Curatus huius ecclesie in
anno e 15^{to}

the greater part of it had been scraped away altogether. You might therefore be inclined, perhaps, to print this tracing¹ as a permanent record of what would otherwise perish even as a memory. It reads:

“John Reyns

“John Reyns formerly curate of this church. [m (or in) . . .] and in the year [. . . x] xxv.”

G. G. COULTON.

The Assistant Secretary sends these memoranda:—

SPORLE PRIORY.

Mr. Thomas S. Matthews, J.P., of Swaffham, writes to me, October, 1926:—

“You will be interested to hear that my neighbour, the Rev. J. M. Roberts, has just presented me with some massive Norman capitals (spear-point and others) which were dug up on the site of Sporle Priory, many years ago, on condition that I provided an iron fence for same on the spot. This has now been done and they will remain here, instead of being sent to Norwich.”

ERPINGHAM DEED.

Among a parcel of deeds presented to the Society by the representatives of Mr. W. H. Wright, deceased, there is one of interest, in that it is described and illustrated in the 9th volume of our papers and bears the original seal of Sir Thos. Erpingham, and another seal. It is thought a note to this effect might be inserted here, as the deed is now in the Society's possession.

¹ The original tracing measures 7½ inches.