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A BRASS FIXED IN THE WRONG NORFOLK CHURCH

by J. Roger Greenwood, F.S.A.

On the South wall of the Nave of Wickhampton church, Norfolk, are two inscriptions. One of them reads:-

Hic Jacet dñs Williūs Jullys quōdām Rector de Wykhm̄toñ qui obiit iij^o die
aprilis A^o dñi M^o CCCC lxxxvj^o cui' aiē p'piciet' de' amen

The style of the inscription is Norwich-2¹ and this agrees well with the date of death, 3rd April 1486.

The will of William Jullys survives.² It was dated 2nd April 1486, the day before his death, and proved a few days later on April 16th. Although he is described both on his brass and in his will as the rector of Wickhampton, he requested burial in the Chancel or the Church of Reedham, which is the neighbouring parish to Wickhampton. He makes bequests to both churches.

It is not unknown for details of wills to be disregarded by executors, and the burial site of William Jullys would have been dismissed as such a case had it not been for the note by the Rev. Edmund Farrer, which describes the circumstances surrounding the fixing of the inscription in Wickhampton church.³

'In 1891 both these inscriptions were in the possession of an inhabitant of Wickhampton. They were recovered by the Rev. J. Kaye, who was then Rector of the parish, and it is understood they were then to be restored to the Church. However, the Rev. G. R. Panter, the present Rector, writes on April 27th, 1897, "In respect to the brasses which you kindly interested yourself about, they were left by Mr. Kaye with a cowkeeper, who told me last week that they were to be thrown out as rubbish. The cowkeeper has handed them to Mr. Kerry, churchwarden, in whose possession I saw them Friday last" '.

The two brasses were evidently eventually fixed in the church at Wickhampton, for Mill Stephenson⁴ records them there, and they were rubbed there by the present author on 7th May 1979. They are mounted on wood blocks and fixed side-by-side to the South wall of the Nave.

Under these circumstances it seems likely that the burial instructions were not disregarded but that an error was made in assuming that because the brasses were in the possession of an inhabitant of Wickhampton they originally came out of the church there. This is supported by the absence of any indents in Wickhampton church, and led the author to seek an appropriate indent in Reedham church. He took the rubbing of William Jullys's inscription straight away to Reedham church where it was found to fit the indent for an inscription beneath a Norwich-Style-2 chalice in a Non-Purbeck slab that forms the threshold of the North door. The exactness of the fit is not confined to the overall dimensions but also accommodates the two rivet holes exactly.

It is evident that William Jullys was originally buried and commemorated by a chalice and inscription in Reedham and not Wickhampton church.

May 1979

¹ See Chapter 3, pp. 14 to 36, but especially p.26, *The Brasses of Norfolk Churches*, by Roger Greenwood and Malcolm Norris, Norfolk Churches Trust, 1976, for an account of the Norwich styles of engraving.

² Norwich Consistory Court Will register, A. Caston, f. 265 recto, in the Norfolk Record Office.

³ *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. XIII, p. 197.

⁴ Mill Stephenson, *A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles*, London, 1926, p. 374.

PAINTERS IN SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NORWICH by Virginia Tillyard, M.A.

A summary of documentary and manuscript information from sources in the Norfolk Record Office.

Part I

Painters elected or proposed as freemen 1553 – 1727

The following chronological list is based on entries in Percy Millican, *The Freemen of Norwich 1714 – 1752*, Norfolk Record Society, vol. XXIII (1952), and Percy Millican, *The Freemen of Norwich 1548-1713* (1934). Where subsequent documentary evidence has been found in the Norfolk Record Office, this is cross-referenced under the name of the painter.

Inconsistencies in spelling are due to manuscript discrepancies.

William Bush, non appr., 3 May 1554

William Hesselwood, non appr. 3 May 1571

Probate Inventory 1612. William Haslewood, painter *Inv. 25/9*

Gregory Axson, non appr. 1 July 1571

William Barbour, appr., 21 Sept. 1573

Henry Albon son of Henry Albon late citizen of Norwich, barber, 27 June 1566

Henry Ives, non appr., 21 Sept. 1577

Probate Inventory. 1599 Henry Eives, painter *Inv. 16/176*

Richard Edmondson, non appr., 28 Feb. 1578

Robert Noxe, non appr., 4 May 1584

Augustin Isbourne, 5 July 1616

George Trew, appr. Augustus Isborne, 18 Aug. 1620

City Chamberlain's Accounts

Payments for work done in the Guildhall

1621-2 (by bill) Item paid to George Trewe Paynter for worke done by him at Hellesdon Bridge 3d