

PRESS RELEASE.

for MR. JOHN HUNT

EXCAVATIONS AT SHEFFIELD MANOR - 9<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 1976

Since 1968, Sheffield City Museums have annually carried out a short season of excavation at the Manor. The aim is to unearth more information about the building and history of the house. No original plans or pictures survive and though some walls remain standing above ground, possibly as much as 50% of the remains of the house lie below ground awaiting excavation.

This year the picture of the Manor house has been added to considerably by the ~~uncovering~~ discovery of part of a ~~new~~ new wing of the 1525 house, and substantial remains of rooms behind the entrance to the house, buried under 8 feet of alluvial deposits. Objects found include 16th century window glass and masonry, pottery and deer bones. The work has been carried out by Museum staff assisted by ~~Sheffield~~ students from Sheffield schools and the University, and interested people from South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire.

BACKGROUND

Discoveries made in previous years excavations include remains of the entrance tower and roadway to the 1525 Manor house, a garderobe of the same date in the Wolsley Tower, and earlier remains probably of a hunting lodge in the outer courtyard.

The earliest building was probably a medieval hunting lodge recorded around 1480 as having been re-furbished, and sited in the centre of Sheffield Park, famous for its

deer hunting. The main house was built around 1525 as an alternative residence to Sheffield Castle, by the Talbot family, the Earls of Shrewsbury. The house was built in a typical early 16th century style with twin red brick octagonal towers flanking the main entrance, and the main building ranged round an inner courtyard.

Famous guests at the house include Cardinal Wolsey in 1529, shortly before his death; and Mary Queen of Scots who for 14 years, from 1570 to 1584, was held prisoner by the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury. She spent most of her imprisonment in Sheffield, either at the Castle or at the Manor. In 1708 part of the house was deliberately demolished and the rest leased out to tenants, who included a potter. Excavation has shown that he built a kiln into the ruins in the early 18th century.

Pauline Sebrick  
Kpr. of Antiquities, City Museum  
a Director of Excavations.

28.8.76