

## Proceedings at Evening Meetings.

March 4, 1863.

BASSETT SMITH, Esq., F.G.S., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. W. H. OVERALL read an interesting paper on "Inedited London Tokens," exhibiting from the cabinets of various collectors a series of examples illustrative of the subject. Many of these were remarkably fine and previously unknown. Mr. Overall also exhibited from the collection of F. Bousfield, Esq. a collection of antiquities, which comprised some curious examples of early badges, seals, spoons, &c. The following as described by Mr. Overall may be briefly referred to: a silver gilt badge said to have been connected with the Mercers' Company, with a motto, "Thincke and thancke God, 1625;" a brass seal of Richard de Redvers (Earl Rivers) who died 1184. This seal is not perfect, but sufficient remains to show a sleeping dog or wolf below a griffin displayed. Prior to the death of the Earl of Devon he substituted a lion for the above arms. An enamelled ring of William Earl of Gloucester, who died 1182. An enamelled badge of Philippa, Queen of Edward III.; this queen is said to have led the army which defeated the Scots at Neville's Cross. An ancient wooden seal, conjectured to have been in use prior to the introduction of heraldic arms; it is similar in character to the old wool seals, &c.

Mr. JOHN E. PRICE exhibited a series of unpublished tokens; also an example of the leaden pilgrim's sign, representing a mitred head and bust, lately recovered from the Thames.

April 1, 1863.

CHARLES J. SHOPPEE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. J. J. WILKINSON exhibited an elegantly-carved wooden casket discovered in a salt mine in South America, and supposed to have belonged to the extinct tribe of the Incas; also some curious alabaster figures obtained from the churches there.

Mr. W. H. OVERALL read a paper on the birthplace of Chaucer. He commenced by remarking that while the biographers of the Poet believe him to have been born in the city, and to have been a member of one of the Companies, none have hitherto been able to define his residence. He exhibited a copy of a MS. dated 4 Richard II., being a transfer of premises from

Chaucer to Herbury, in the parish of St. Martin's in the Vintry. It would appear from this deed that this spot was probably the father's residence, and there are good grounds for supposing that here Chaucer was born and lived. His father being a vintner he was born free of that craft. These facts are strengthened by a passage in his *Book of Love*, book i. sect. 5 : "Also the Citey of London, that is to me dere and swete, in which I was forth growen, and more kindly love have I to that place than to any other in yerth (earth), as every kindly cature hath full appetite to that place of his kindly engendrure, and to wilne reste and peace in that stede to abide."

Mr. Overall next exhibited a Scotch tally of Edward I., for the payment of a certain sum of money to Allen of St. Botolph, holden for the defence of the town of St. John de Perth. He also briefly described several antiquities kindly lent for exhibition by Frederick Bousfield, Esq. Among these were two bronze Roman locks, with hasp and keys, discovered at Colchester ; also specimens of *fibule* in bronze and lead ; likewise two curious examples of the fool's bauble, and a Bellarmine, bearing on the side a fool's cap and bells. Several interesting historical facts connected with these objects were adduced.

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May 6, 1863.

ALFRED WHITE, Esq., F.S.A., F.L.S., in the Chair.

Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL FRENCH described a standard gallon measure in bronze of the reign of Henry VII., and a small Roman lamp of the same metal, both exhibited by Messrs. Warner and Son of Jewin Street. The measure stands  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, the diameter at the mouth  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, at foot  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Two bands, each of three beadings, are round the measure, and between these is a raised flat band, whereon is the Yorkist badge of the *rose en soleil*, and the inscription in raised black letter, HENRICUS SEPTIMUS between the Tudor badges, the greyhound and portcullis (*Beaufort*). The handle is formed of the head and trunk of an elephant ; on each side of the rim is a square notch, as if to receive a cover ; the metal is of good thickness. The handle of the lamp is the crescent of Diana.

Mr. CHARLES BAILY made some interesting observations on mediæval locks, ornamental ironwork, &c., and contributed a large and varied series of drawings illustrative of his remarks. He also exhibited a curious lock of German workmanship, presumed to have been the diploma work of an apprentice. It bore an inscription in German verse, with the date 1748.

3rd June, 1863.

ALFRED WHITE, F.L.S., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. W. H. OVERALL exhibited, by permission of F. Blades, esq. author of a recent "*Life of Caxton*," several fac-similes of engravings from the printer's early works. He observed that one represented the house of one Robert Large, in the Old Jewry, to whom Caxton was apprenticed in early life. Large was afterwards Mayor, and at the time of Caxton's apprenticeship was probably one of the merchant princes of the City: it is said of him that he sent more money to the king's revenue, had more well-mounted men, and spent larger sums on their appointments, than any merchant of his day. After the expiration of his term, in 1466, Caxton was sent to Bruges, and to his residence there may probably be attributed his connexion with printing, for there he must have acquired that great love for it which resulted in its becoming the ultimate aim of his life. Many of the engravings were extremely curious. The subjects for the most part were allegorical, and comprised among them "*Mansion of Merchant Adventurers at Bruges, inhabited by Caxton, 1470*;" representations of the "*Nativity and Passion of our Lord, from the Golden Legend, 1483*;" figures of printing presses and type-founding in the year 1520, and circa; illustrations from *Æsop's Fables*, &c., and a very interesting leaf, the only one of the book now left in existence, being the first page of the service of the Transfiguration. This single page was lately discovered in the Congregational Library, and purchased by the British Museum for 200*l*.

Mr. Overall also described a series of antiquities exhibited by F. Bousfield, esq., a small early metal pomander, or scent-box, on the lid of which is a figure of Victory with a trumpet, and an extended arm holding a wreath; two curious knife-handles, carved in morse ivory; also a lock of the reign of Charles I., and a small inlaid early bolt lock; some specimens of pewter vessels with handles, one of these dated 1653; and examples of pateræ in the same metal, one as early apparently as 1578, with a representation of a boar's head.

Dr. WILLIAM BELL read a paper, entitled "*The Regal Devices of the Royal Families of England*," which was followed by some interesting observations by Mr. G. R. FRENCH on the same subject.

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1st July, 1863.

JOHN FRANKLIN, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. CHARLES BAILY read an interesting paper "*On the Mode of Roofing Buildings in the Middle Ages*," with a view to ascertain the style of roof originally placed over the Guildhall of London, and to consider the proposed restorations.

11th January, 1864.

A. WHITE, Esq., F.S.A., F.L.S., in the Chair.

Mr. G. R. FRENCH read a paper "On the Stone Coffins found on the north side of the Temple Church in 1862," and especially with reference to one bearing the inscription "Philippus Hilario," which he believed to be the monument of Hilary, Bishop of Chichester, one of the most learned men of his day, and one who bore a distinguished part in the contest which raged between King Henry (Beauclerk) and Archbishop Thomas à Becket. He was in 1148 consecrated Bishop of Chichester, by virtue of a mandate from Pope Eugenius III., and soon afterwards was elected Archbishop of York, but in consequence of a dispute was not translated to that province. He took a decided part with reference to the contests between the king and clergy, and stood alone, at one time, in support of the monarch, and was afterwards one of the Royal Commissioners opposing the Archbishops' appeal to Rome, and died in 1169. The present Temple Church being the successor to a church which stood between Fleet Street and Holborn, and the Bishops of Chichester having a palace in Chancery Lane on the site now called Chichester Rents, Mr. French concluded, that, in the event of Bishop Hilary having died whilst in London, he might probably have been buried in the church of the Templars, and that the coffin of so eminent a person would, upon the completion of the new church, have been removed thither.

The coffin is 6ft. 9 by 2ft. 2½ wide at the head, sloping to 1ft. 3 at the foot; it is slightly coped, and has a raised ridge down the centre, but is quite plain in other respects. The inscription is in two lines on one side of the ridge; on the ridge itself is the letter T.

8th February, 1864.

J. W. BUTTERWORTH, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. BAILY read a paper on one of the effigies in the Temple Church, hitherto ascribed to Geoffrey Magnaville, Earl of Essex. Tracing briefly the history of that notorious character until his death, and his burial in the round of the Temple Church, he stated that the arms of the De Magnaville family were, Quarterly, or and gu., and Dugdale says (without mentioning any authority) that Geoffrey added an escarbuncle. When the church was restored, the figure and shield were freed from whitewash and dirt, and the bearings appear to be, two fesses dancettée, and over all an escarbuncle, and therefore materially different from those ascribed to the Earl. The effigy itself, although of a very early character, cannot be placed before the

reign of King Richard the First. From these facts he concluded that the figure does not represent Geoffrey de Magnaville as hitherto supposed.\*

Mr. OVERALL exhibited and described photographs of the Pledge Cup of the Worshipful Company of Founders.

Mr. J. E. PRICE read a paper "On a Kiln for burning Encaustic Tiles," discovered near Farringdon Road, Clerkenwell, which is printed at p. 31 of the present volume.

Mr. H. W. SASS exhibited some Roman remains found while excavating in St. Mildred's Court, Poultry.

14th March, 1864.

CHARLES BAILY, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. W. H. OVERALL read a paper "On the Writings of Geoffrey Chaucer." He commenced by noticing his works in their relation to archæology, and pointed out their importance to antiquaries, on account of the valuable information they furnish regarding the manners and customs of the English people in the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II., and proceeded to show that the fact of Chaucer not being a general favorite arose from the quaintness of his style, and the antiquity which clings to his writings, he being often tedious and obscure, and his orthography difficult, but that his descriptions are life-like and thoroughly English, and his characters may always be distinguished as inhabitants of his own land. The paper concluded with a reference to the various portraits of the poet.

Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL FRENCH contributed some observations on the same subject, tracing the biography of Chaucer from his birth in London in 1328; his education at the university; his co-operation in the army with which Edward III. invaded France; and his subsequent appointment in the customs; on to the time when he fell into straitened circumstances, which were relieved by the grant of a pension in 1399, in addition to an annuity formerly granted by Richard II., and to his death, which occurred in the following year, on the 25th October, 1400, at the age of seventy-two.

\* See further on this subject an article entitled "The Effigy attributed to Geoffrey de Magnaville, and the other Effigies in the Temple Church," which is published in *The Herald and Genealogist*, (May 1865,) vol. iii. pp. 97—112. It is accompanied by an engraving copied from Mr. Edward Richardson's *Monumental Effigies of the Temple Church*, showing the two dancettes, and perhaps indications of a third. The shield is certainly *not Quarterly*, and the escarbuncle is merely constructional, not heraldic. The person for whom the effigy was really intended has not been ascertained; but its costume shows it to be of a date very nearly, if not quite, half a century posterior to that of the death of Geoffrey de Magnaville, Earl of Essex, in 1144. (*Edit.*)

He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a tomb was erected to his memory by Nicholas Brigham, a poet, in 1556.

Mr. THOMAS WILLS exhibited some ancient finger rings found in London, with other objects of interest from his collection.

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11th April, 1864.

ALFRED WHITE, Esq., F.S.A., F.L.S., in the Chair.

Mr. G. R. FRENCH read an interesting paper "On the localities connected with Shakespeare's Plays in general, but especially the places in London and Westminster recorded in the Histories from King Richard II. to Henry VIII. inclusive."

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9th May, 1864.

JOHN FRANKLIN, Esq., in the Chair.

Some discussion took place on the subject of Mr. French's paper, read at the previous meeting, in which Mr. Charles Baily referred especially to the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey and Hall; and the Rev. Thomas Hugo to Ely House and Crosby Place; and Mr. Overall to Guildhall. The remarks were concluded by a paper by Mr. FRENCH on the death of the two young Princes in the Tower.

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13th June, 1864.

J. W. BUTTERWORTH, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. J. E. PRICE read a paper, entitled "Reminiscences of the Steelyard, formerly in Upper Thames Street, with an account of the Antiquities recently discovered on its site," which is printed at p. 67 of the present volume.

Mr. W. H. OVERALL exhibited a series of antiquities from the museum of Frederick Bousfield, Esq., and made some observations on the more remarkable objects in the collection. He remarked that the series of "whorls" was unique and of peculiar interest. In former times these little circular pieces of stone or other material, with a hole in the centre, were thought by antiquaries to have served the purposes of "buttons," but there is little doubt that they were used in the operation of spinning wool or flax, and were intended to put the spindle in, when in motion. They much

resemble the wheels or whorls—"vorticellum"—of the Romans. These were formed of "stone, bone, or baked clay," and have frequently been found in different parts of London. Spindle wheels have also been found in Scotland and the Hebrides, and in various parts of England. One, formed of grey terra cotta, was exhumed at Alchester from a Roman excavation, and another is described in the *Nenia Britannica* as being  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter.\* Of those exhibited, there were two very good examples of the Anglo-Saxon whorl in terra cotta, five mediæval specimens having many curious devices upon them, one with an owl represented, with various letters and evidences of Gothic tracery. These are all from about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch to 2 inches in diameter, and much resemble the Mexican "*Tosca*."

Mr. Overall then described a collection of studs from the reign of Henry VIII. to the present century, a curious metal casket, and a jug of a very nondescript character. It is of large size, and has the mouth formed like a modern tap instead of the ordinary spout. It is beautifully ornamented, and entirely covered with a bright green glaze.

A letter was then read from Mr. F. Wallen, announcing that a very large and fine portion of the old London Wall had recently become exposed to view by the removal of some warehouses in Cooper's Row, Crutched Friars. Mr. Wallen's remarks appear at p. 52 of the present volume.

9th January, 1865.

JOHN GOUGH NICHOLS, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., gave a paper on "Ancient Wills, and the Illustrations they afford to London Life and History."

Messrs. FRANCIS and SON, Architects, Guildford Street, kindly contributed for exhibition three remarkable specimens of Roman Amphoræ lately discovered in Clement's Lane, Lombard Street.

The CHAIRMAN exhibited a curious two-quart Mug of Delft ware, made for the Butchers' Company, and ornamented with their arms, crest, and supporters.

13th February, 1865.

Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. THOMAS MILBOURN read a paper on "The Milbourne Almshouses lately standing in Crutched Friars, with some account of their founder and his family." He observed that these buildings, familiarly known as the

\* See also the paper entitled "On the Distaff and Spindle, as the Insignia of the Female Sex in former times," by J. Y. Akerman, Esq., late Secretary S.A. in the *Archæologia*, vol. XXXVII. pp. 83—101.

Drapers' Almshouses, were until recently to be seen on the right-hand side of Cooper's Row, in passing to Tower Hill. They were originally founded by Sir John Milbourne, Lord Mayor of London in 1521, and were built of brick partly faced with stone, and possessed a curious arched gateway and a high pitched roof of red tiles. Over the gateway, prior to its removal, was an ancient piece of sculpture representing the Assumption of the Virgin, supported by six angels, and on either side was a coat of arms, that at the right hand being those of the Milbourne family and the other the arms of the Drapers' Company, while beneath were those of the Haberdashers' Company. Under the sculpture there was an inscription in Latin, which may be literally given as follows:—"To the praise of God and the Glorious Virgin Mary this work was erected by Sir John Milbourne, Knight, and Alderman of the City, Anno Dom. 1535." This inscription had disappeared long previous to the demolition of the old buildings, and had been replaced by one in our mother tongue to the same effect. The Drapers' Company having purchased a site at Tottenham High Cross, five miles from London, in 1862, erected thereon a large school-house for fifty boys, and twenty-four almshouses. To these the sixteen almspeople in Cooper's Row were removed, with eight others from the Company's almshouses in Beech Street, Barbican. Shortly after their removal the buildings were sold by auction and the site cleared for the erection of some new warehouses. Care has been taken of the piece of sculpture referred to, the same being now preserved in the houses at Tottenham.

Mr. JOHN E. PRICE contributed some notes on a Roman interment in West Smithfield, printed at p. 37 of the present volume.

13th March, 1865.

Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Mr. CHARLES BAILY described a series of Roman and Mediæval Antiquities recently found in London; and kindly lent for exhibition by Mr. Walker Baily.

The CHAIRMAN contributed a paper upon the "Real Origin and Foundation of Christ's Hospital."

Mr. J. GOUGH NICHOLS forwarded a communication entitled "The Progress of the Royal Hospitals."

10th April, 1865.

ARTHUR ASHIPITEL, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN read a paper upon the Original Drawings made by Sir Christopher Wren for St. Paul's Cathedral. An article, being a more



extended account of the drawings by that celebrated architect now belonging to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, has been since prepared by Mr. Ashpitel, and appears at p. 39 of the present volume.

Mr. E. J. BARRON exhibited, by the kindness of the Lodge of Antiquity, an excellent portrait of Sir Christopher Wren, and a wooden mallet formerly used by him.

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8th May, 1865.

Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN gave a description of some Painted Glass found under remains of an old wall near St. John's Church, Clerkenwell.

Mr. CECIL BRENT exhibited Roman Antiquities in iron and bronze from various parts of the city.

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12th June, 1865.

J. G. WALLER, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Rev. THOMAS HUGO, F.S.A., read a paper on "The History of Painted Glass;" and a variety of specimens of stained glass were exhibited by Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. SHOPPEE.

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15th January, 1866.

ALFRED WHITE, Esq., F.S.A., F.L.S., in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM TAYLER, F.S.A., read an interesting paper entitled "An Historical Sketch of the Ancient Mansions of our Forefathers, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and her successors, in the County of Middlesex and City of London."

Mr. WALKER BAILY, Mr. GUNSTON, and Mr. PRICE exhibited some curious examples of Roman cinerary urns lately exhumed while excavating for the dead meat and poultry market, Smithfield.

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12th February, 1866.

WILLIAM H. BLACK, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

MR. GEORGE RUSSELL FRENCH read a paper entitled "Tapestry and its Relation to Sacred and Profane History." Illustrative of the subject there were suspended round the meeting room some curious examples of tapestry exhibited by Mr. J. FRANKLIN, and a valuable piece of large dimensions contributed by the Committee of the Sussex Archæological Society. Mr. E. J. BARRON, Mr. EMSLIE, and Mr. HUNTER also exhibited specimens of needlework.

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12th March, 1866.

Rev. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., in the Chair.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY BLACK, F.S.A., read an interesting paper "On the real meaning and significance of the three sitting figures in the museum of the Guildhall." This piece of Roman sculpture, familiar, doubtless, to many of our readers, was discovered some twenty years since in the course of excavations for sewerage in Crutched Friars. It consists of three female figures seated and bearing in their laps baskets containing what has hitherto been thought to be fruit. It has been described at length in the journals of various antiquarian societies, and has been considered to be a representation of the "Deæ Matres," or "Mother Goddesses" of the Roman age. The object of Mr. Black's communication was to controvert this opinion, and, as suggested by the title of his paper, ascribe to them a far different meaning and interpretation. Instead of goddesses he held them to be impersonations of provinces, and the contents of the baskets to be treasure, the tribute money of Roman times. The idea of representing authority and government by a female seated is of very ancient origin; and Mr. Black adduced some references thereto that exist in Holy Writ, in Isaiah. In the North of England such sculptures have been frequently found, and in the museum at Newcastle is a group of five figures seated, discovered among the remains of a portion of the Roman wall. Mr. Black concluded his dissertation by reference to such Roman coins as have upon their reverses representations of seated figures. In those relating to this country, Britannia is in the sitting posture; and this mode of symbolizing power has been continued on our coins to the present day.

MR. J. P. EMSLIE exhibited a large crayon drawing of the three figures, in which the peculiarities of the sculpture were well displayed.

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14th May, 1866.

ALFRED WHITE, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Rev. T. HUGO read a highly interesting paper on "The last Survivors of the Inmates of the Religious Houses in London and Middlesex."

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11th June, 1866.

G. R. FRENCH, Esq., in the Chair.

A paper was read by Mr. W. H. BLACK, F.S.A., on "The Primitive Site, Extent, and Neighbourhood of Roman London."

Mr. ALFRED WHITE, F.S.A., made some remarks on Roman Coins lately found at Battersea.

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