

NOTES

Three Sixteenth-century London Names: 'S. Thaphins', '4. Canti', and 'Canon Strete'

Recently two plates of a large-scale copper-engraved map of London made in the middle of the sixteenth century have been discovered and one is now in the London Museum. Many of the names on these plates are phonetically spelled or betray an imperfect acquaintance with English. Three of the names which are of special interest are noticed here.

St. Alphage, London Wall, is called 'S. Thaphins' on the copper plate and also on the map of London in Braun and Hogenberg's *Civitates Orbis Terrarum*; other similar versions of the name are 'S. Tapius' (with the engraver's mistake 'u' for 'n') on the map attributed to Agas, and 'S. Taphyns' on Norden's map of 1593. An early variation of the name 'St. Alphage' is 'St. Alfin' in the Chronicle of Robert of Gloucester, c. 1300. The transference of the final 't' of 'saint' is found also in 'tantony' (bell), 'tawdry' (lace), and S. Towlles or Tooley (street), from St. Anthony, St. Audrey, and St. Olave, respectively. The loss of 'l' before 'f' can be seen in 'half', Ralph pronounced Rafe or Rauf, and the occasional pronunciation of 'golf'.

The intersection of Gracechurch and Lombard Streets is called '4. Canti'. Its meaning is literally 'four corners' and occurs thus in Stow (*Survey of London*, ed. Kingsford, i. 202): "Then by the foure corners (so called of Fen church streete in the East, Bridgestreete on the South, Grasse streete on the North and Lombard streete on the West)."

Hitherto the earliest noted occurrence of 'Canon' or 'Cannon' Street with one 'n' was on Leake's map dated 1666, and with two 'n's on the title-page of a book dated 1664; the form 'Canon Strete' on the copper engraving precedes these by more than a century. The common forms during the sixteenth century were Candlewick, Canwick, and the like. (See E. Ekwall, *Street-names of the City of London*, 1954, and Arthur Bonner, 'Some London Street Names' in *Lond. & Mdsx. Arch. Soc. T.*, New Series, III (1915), esp. pp. 211-3.

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A note on an old custom

On October 26, 1962, *The Times* reported the ancient ceremony in which the City Comptroller rendered the quit rent service due to the Crown from the Corporation of London for the Moor in Shropshire and a tenement called the Forge in the parish of St. Clement Danes on the site (roughly) of Australia House. For the Forge he counted six horseshoes and 61 nails and presented them to the Queen's Remembrancer, who said: 'Good number.' For the Moor the Comptroller cut a faggot with a billhook and severed it in two with a hatchet. He then gave billhook and hatchet to the Queen's Remembrancer, who accepted them with the words: 'Good service.'

The Tudor diarist, Henry Machyn, reports the second part of the ceremony on September 30, 1561, a week after Merchant Taylors' School was founded. Machyn, a Freeman of the Merchant Taylors' Company, was a funeral furnisher or undertaker. He began the diary as a record of business transactions and ended by jotting down current events of importance as they came to his notice. Of the above ceremony, or the part of it relating to the Moor, Machyn wrote: 'The xxx day of September my lord mayre and the althermen and the new shreyffes took ther barges at the iij cranes in the Vintre and so to Westmynster, and so into the Cheker, and ther took ther hoythe; and ser Rowland Hyll whent up, and master Hoggys toke ser Rowland Hyll a choppyng knyef, and one dyd hold a whyt rod, and he with the knyef cute the rod in sunder a-for all the pepull; and after to London to ther plases to dener, my lord mayre and all the althermen and mony worshipulle men.'

The true meaning of the ceremony is shown by Professor V. H. Galbraith in *Studies in the Public Records*. For centuries the payment of these two quit-rents took place before the Cursitor Baron at the Court of Exchequer. Now down to the year 1826—astonishing as it may appear—the only record of payments in the Exchequer was kept on wooden tallies. These were of hazel and the amount paid was marked on them. Galbraith says that the rent for the Moor was two knives for cutting tallies. These knives must be shown by a practical demonstration—'a-for all the pepull', as Machyn puts it—to be sharp enough to cut them properly. The faggots are of minor importance and do not appear in the earliest documents. The oldest record, that of 1212, mentions no wood at all, only the two knives. When the annual service was re-stated in 1272, it was laid down that the tenant must cut a hazel rod with each knife. Galbraith's explanation is that this rod represented an Exchequer tally and is borne out by Machyn's statement that Sir Rowland Hill cut a white rod with a chopping knife. Presumably this rod was painted white or merely peeled in order to show plainly the figures afterwards marked on it. The faggot, billhook, and hatchet are innovations that have intruded in the course of time. The ceremony was transferred from Westminster to the Law Courts in 1859 following the death of the last Cursitor Baron and the abolition of his office.

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