

Frederick William Kuhlicke, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A.: an appreciation



Frederick William Kuhlicke BA FSA AMA retired from the post of Director of Bedford Museum and Honorary Curator of the Collections of the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School on 31 January 1974. In recognition of this and his long-standing commitment to Bedfordshire Archaeology, the Bedfordshire Archaeological Council felt that it would be a not inappropriate gesture to use the 1974 volume of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* as a tribute to his work, his encouragement and his vivacious enthusiasm. In recognition of this *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* 9, 1974, has been given the special title of *Bedfordshire Archaeology: Essays Presented to Frederick William Kuhlicke BA FSA AMA*.

Frederick William Kuhlicke was not Bedfordshire born, but he came to embody the traits of his adopted county, that could contain in the mid-seventeenth century both John Bunyan and

Giles Thorne. And he sought to make this small land, England's second smallest county, better known. His adopted county has good cause to be thankful that his wit and his scholarship have been put to good use. From the 1930s on, a steady stream of pieces, both authoritative and at the same time written in an engaging style to be read by Everyman, have come from his pen. Their scope was wide: from the Bronze Age to the present day in time, from medieval steelyard weights to Bedford charities in content. Though wide-ranging in his interests, one aspect held his attention for all time and this, his series of articles in the *Bedfordshire Magazine* under the individual and general title, "A Bedfordshire Armorial", must rank as one of the most sustained attempts to write for the layman on a topic which is both recherche and specialist. That these pieces have now reached their ninetieth contribution since

their inception in 1948 is a tribute not merely to his knowledge but also to his energy and the zealous application of his pen.

Frederick William Kuhlicke was a man of wider sympathies than just heraldic studies as the bibliography of his works here appended (pp.4-8, *infra*) demonstrates at a glance. It includes much on the history of Bedford and much on the archaeology of the county. It is this aspect of his life to which this volume particularly wishes to pay tribute. For not just one, not even two, but for over three long decades, Frederick William Kuhlicke embodies archaeology in the county of Bedfordshire. From 1933 until 1959, in addition to being a busy schoolmaster, and head of the Department of Modern Languages in Bedford Modern School for most of these years, Frederick William Kuhlicke was the Curator of the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School. Founded in 1884, this miscellaneous collection had served as the repository of all kinds of bric-a-brac assembled by the late Victorian collecting mania. It had become rather more, a *de facto*, if not *de jure*, town and to a large extent county museum. Frederick William Kuhlicke had first come to know it when he initially joined the staff of Bedford Modern School in 1926 as an assistant master in modern languages and school librarian. The Rev P.G. Langdon was then drawing to the close of his long association with the school and its museum, until 1931 the only one in the county. When Langdon retired in 1933, Frederick William Kuhlicke added to his already multifarious duties the onerous tasks of a museum curator. For over forty years, Bedfordshire in general and the town of Bedford in particular has had good cause to be thankful for his caring concern for the museum, its contents and the recording of the past of the town and the county.

It was a task for which Frederick William Kuhlicke would seem to have had little prior training, beyond the possession of a catholic but systematic mind. His early life belongs to the halcyon years of late Victorian and Edwardian England. Born on the feast of St Cyprian 1893, graduated from University College, London, in 1913. A succession of posts followed, varied in their experience. A master of modern languages, they included not only the regular, but others too. Six years in Greece left an impression and a lasting knowledge of modern as well as classical Greek to which he also added Turkish. A wide linguistic competence made him a master of the written word in his own native tongue. For a

while, at Bedford Modern School he also taught English and one early acquisition, Anglo-Saxon, never left him.

The early years in the museum were long and arduous, made more difficult after the Second World War by the hostility of the school's new headmaster, J.E. Taylor did not evince much enthusiasm for the museum. The continued demands of education on the museum's space meant that when Frederick William Kuhlicke retired from the staff of Bedford Modern School in the summer of 1959 with no obvious successor as curator of the museum, the already on-going but somewhat protracted negotiations whereby the (then) Borough of Bedford might acquire the collections of the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School from the Harpur Trust could be more speedily concluded. The Corporation of Bedford already had a museum collection of its own, ill-housed, unknown and without a proper series of accession registers. These were amalgamated and at an age when many men see fit to draw in the strands of their life, Frederick William Kuhlicke embarked on a new career. At the age of 67, though belied by his youthful zest, he became the Director of Bedford Museum. A former garage was acquired and in 1962, this new museum was opened to the public as Bedford Museum, incorporating the Pritchard Museum of Bedford Modern School.

Cases were organised, resorted and relabelled, and for over a decade, a man with whom age never seemed to catch up, worked single-handed to the betterment of the collections, amalgamating two collections of diverse history, but often containing items from the same site. Though time did not permit the production of a comprehensive catalogue of the museum's full collections, the first edition of the *Bedford Museum Guide* came out in 1968 and was quickly followed by a second edition in 1971. The constant demands of the multitudinous tasks of a museum curator left little time for reflection and writing, yet the 1960s were Frederick William Kuhlicke's most productive decade. No fewer than sixty-one items appeared from his pen. They included both editions of his joint work with F.G. Emmison, sometime Clerk of Records to the Bedfordshire County Council, entitled *English Local History Handlist*. It was done for the Historical Association, of which Frederick William Kuhlicke has been a Vice-President since 1947, and a stalwart supporter of the Bedford Branch for many years more.

In this he reaffirmed his belief not merely in the catholicity of all human knowledge but also in the need to encourage others. Many men have been rather more than grateful for his long years in Bedford, encouraging the proper and detailed study of material. Not all are now living to offer their contribution to these studies presented to Frederick William Kuhlicke. In one respect his varied interests have not been covered by these varied papers now offered as a tribute to his work. The Palaeolithic is well represented in the county of Bedfordshire and its archaeology much studied in the late nineteenth century, but of those who have been nurtured, or come to maturity within these boundaries, none is now living to place on record the debt which students owe to the happy preservation in Bedford Museum of the collections of James Wyatt and others from sites in the county and throughout the world. There have been other prehistoric interests, latent more usually than active, but no man who has controlled a museum with such masterworks of Iron Age art as the Old Warden mirror and the Felmersham Bridge fish-head spout would ever doubt the riches of the pre-Roman centuries. Equally Frederick William Kuhlicke felt it important always to emphasise the aesthetic in archaeology.

Frederick William Kuhlicke was a man whose life was based on that deep understanding of the relative importance of the material and the spiritual. For many years he was the embodiment of the residual wisdom of one of Bedford's ancient churches, that dedicated to St Paul. To its history he contributed much, to its life rather more.

He possessed that basic faith, that was not dulled by over thirty years as Vicar's Warden. The office enriched the man and the man the office.

It is characteristic that he should write on the church's bells as well as its history, and equally in tune that he should examine the history of more than one of the other ancient churches of Bedford.

To the history of the town Frederick William Kuhlicke contributed his vast knowledge, in newspaper articles, *Bedfordshire Magazine* contributions and pieces in collaborative works. These culminated in his definitive introduction to the reprint in 1970

of C.F. Farrar's *Old Bedford*. But Frederick William Kuhlicke did more than this. He collected the raw material of the town's urban past, and he conserved it, making it readily available to other, usually younger, students of that past.

It was not merely that free access to the material was readily given, but his knowledge was always at hand and available. More than one thesis, from more than one hand, has owed more than it might acknowledge to that ready gift of communication.

Frederick William Kuhlicke taught more than one contributor to this volume that lesson which all true scholars have to learn and show they have learnt that knowledge is there to be shared. More than one contribution reflects in its words that truth. It is perhaps more than fitting that the niceties of the calendar demand that on the day this appreciation is written, the words of the third verse of the second lesson at the office of Evening Prayer contain the comment:

A sower went forth to sow.

Frederick William Kuhlicke sowed in more than one man an appreciation of the past and how it should be studied in its entirety, without artificial division. It may be more than significant that his own multifarious contributions to scholarship, perhaps not adequately reflected in these pages, should be in the fields of heraldry and monumental brasses where artefact and document merge most easily. Instead, these essays on *Bedfordshire Archaeology* are on topics in which he has inspired others — Bronze Age barrows and a Roman settlement, most notably; but also they are in fields where his early influence on their authors may be most keenly recognised. The three pieces on aspects of Anglo-Saxon England, its cemeteries, its numismatics and its architecture, are each by a man whose interest was fostered by the encouragement of Frederick William Kuhlicke. The two last belong also to those pieces in this volume which reflect the town of Bedford and its history. Each of the contributors knows only too well how much more sparse would be our knowledge of that history but for the life and work of Frederick William Kuhlicke.

D.H.K.

The Feast of St James the Apostle, 1975.

Frederick William Kuhlicke: a select bibliography

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INTRODUCTION

This bibliography has been compiled to give as complete a listing as possible of the writings of Mr Kuhlicke. Its guiding principle has been the permanent and the traceable. It is complete to 31 December 1974.

The permanent and the traceable have been deemed to be those publications which have an interest beyond an immediate and restricted readership. Thus this listing does not include the many contributions of F.W. Kuhlicke to two publications which are more ephemeral. Both the *Spire* and the *Eagle* have contained much from his pen, but these have not been checked as they are of small, and localised clientèle. The *Spire* from 1931 onwards carried pieces in many issues relating to the Church of St Paul, Bedford, of which it is the parish magazine. Many of these are of an historical nature, some culminating in his short history of the church, *The Parish Church of St Paul's, Bedford*. F.W. Kuhlicke contributed to the *Eagle* from 1930 onwards, and from 1947 to 1959 he acted as the editor of the school magazine of Bedford Modern School. To this from 1947 to 1955, he contributed a series of twenty-three parts of 'The Chronicles of Bedford Modern', given a slightly variant title in Summer 1951 onwards of 'The Chronicles of B.M.S.' which contain much on the history of this school. These articles and some earlier pieces in the same periodical have not been included in this bibliography.

ABBREVIATIONS

To facilitate a simplified referencing to the writings of F.W. Kuhlicke, this bibliography has used a number of abbreviations, not all of which might be familiar to readers of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*. A complete list of those used is therefore given:

Amat.Hist. *Amateur Historian*, (London, 1951 to date)

Beds.Archaeologist *Bedfordshire Archaeologist*, (Luton, 1955-59)
Beds.Arch.J. *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* (Luton, 1962 to date)
Beds. Mag. *Bedfordshire Magazine*, (Luton, 1947 to date)
BMS *Bedford Modern School Field Club Journal and Museum Bulletin*, (Bedford, 1934-37)
BTT *Bedfordshire Times and Independent*, (Bedford, 1872-1939, then continued as *BTS*)
BTS *Bedfordshire Times and Bedfordshire Standard*, (Bedford, 1939 to date)
Lock Gate *Lock Gate*, (the magazine of the Great Ouse Restoration Society, Bedford, 1961 to date)
T.M.B.S. *Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society*, (Cambridge, 1894 to date)
Univ. Coll. *University College, London Magazine* (London, 1904 to 1919)

1913

'Round About Gower Street', *Univ. Coll.*

1914

'The Lyrical Poetry of Heinrich Heine', *Univ. Coll.*

1934

'Museum Bulletin', *BMS* 1, 6-8

'Some Remarks on Bedfordshire Heraldry', *BMS* 1, 29-32

1935

'The Museum Report and Bulletin', *BMS* 2, 39-42

1936

'Museum Bulletin and Report', *BMS* 3, 66-70

'Excavations on a Romano-British site at Bletsoe', *BMS* 3, 83-4.

1937

'Museum Bulletin', *BMS* 4, 90-4

'The Founding of Bedford', *BMS* 4, 116-23
'The Early History of Bedford', *BTI* 5, 12, 19
February

1940

Visitor's Guide to St Paul's, Bedford

1942

'The Waller Brasses in St Paul's, Bedford', *T.M.B.S.*
7, 355-6

1943

The Bells of St Paul's, Bedford, 1741-1941

1945

'Replanning Bedford in 1803', *BTS* 16 March
'The Brasses at Barton', *T.M.B.S.* 8, 96-8

1946

'Notes on Some Bedfordshire Brasses', *T.M.B.S.*
8, 139-40

1947

'The Lost Peal of St John the Baptist, Bedford',
Beds. Mag. 1, 57-62, 103-06

'The Calt indent at St Paul's, Bedford', *T.M.B.S.*
8, 184-5

1948

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Bedford', *Beds. Mag.* 1, 137-8

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: II – Beauchamp de
Eton', *Beds. Mag.* 1, 175-6

'Bedfordshire Biographies: IV – The Salmons of
Meppershall', *Beds. Mag.* 1, 177-80

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: III – De Meppershall of
Meppershall', *Beds. Mag.* 1, 221-3.

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Beds. Mag. 1, 249-55

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: IV – Wahull, Wadull or
Woodhall', *Beds. Mag.* 1, 269-71

1949

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: V – D'Aubigny or
D'Albini of Cainhoe and Clophill and Daubeney
of Kempston', *Beds. Mag.* 1, 311-12

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: VI – Morteyn or Mor-
tafn of Tilsworth and Marston', *Beds. Mag.* 2,
13-14

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: VII – Loring or Loryng
or Loreng of Chalgrave and Sharnbrook', *Beds.*
Mag. 2, 68-70

'The Beaker Folk', *Beds. Mag.* 2, 103-07

'Bedford and Flitton Churches', *T.M.B.S.* 8, 347

1950

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: VIII – Hervey of
Riseley and Thurleigh', *Beds. Mag.* 2, 136-7

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: IX – Hoo of Luton
Hoo', *Beds. Mag.* 2, 194-5

'Review: L. Meynell, *Bedfordshire*', *Beds. Mag.* 2,
204-06

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Bedford', *Beds. Mag.* 2, 270-2

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XI – Falk de Breaute,
Beds. Mag. 2, 272

'The First Bedford', *Bedford: a survey*, 3-6
The Parish Church of St Paul's, Bedford

1951

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Mag. 2, 333-4

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XIII – Warden Abbey',
Beds. Mag. 2, 334

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XIV – Dunstable Pri-
ory', *Beds. Mag.* 3, 35

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XV – Dunstable Cor-
poration', *Beds. Mag.* 3, 35

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XVI – Sumeri', *Beds.*
Mag. 3, 81-2

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XVII – Grey de Ruth-
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1952

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'The Brawl and the Miracle', *Beds. Mag.* 3, 281-4

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Use', *T.M.B.S.* 9, 60-71

1953

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XX – Pirot', *Beds. Mag.*
3, 316-18

'The Anglo-Saxons in Bedfordshire', *Beds. Mag.* 4,
13-20

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXI – The Borough of
Luton', *Beds. Mag.* 4, 63-4

'St Loyes in Bedford', *Beds. Mag.* 4, 113-14

1954

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXII – Mowbray',

Beds. Mag. 4, 167-9

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXIII – Bray or Braye of Eaton Bray and Silsoe', *Beds. Mag.* 4, 233-6

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXIV – Broughton of Toddington and Chalgrave', *Beds. Mag.* 4, 302-3

1955

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'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXVI – Malory of Shelton', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 13-14

'Recording Bedfordshire Archaeology: I – To the end of the Nineteenth Century', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 24-30

'Recording Bedfordshire Archaeology: II – The Twentieth Century', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 69-74

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXVII – Leventhorpe of Meppershall', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 81-2

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXVIII – De Port of Hatley Port or Cockayne Hatley', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 102-3

'The Antiquity of Bedford', *Beds. Archaeologist* 1, 5-8

'The Rudyng Brass, Biggleswade', *T.M.B.S.* 9, 284-5

1956

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXIX – Brian or Bryan of Milton Bryant', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 257-8

'A Bedfordshire Armorial: XXX – The Knights Hospitallers of St John', *Beds. Mag.* 5, 273

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'Triskele from Harrod', *Beds. Archaeologist* 1, 133

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1959

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1960

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1961

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- 'The Arms Used by Bedford School', *The Coat of Arms* 7, 137-41
- 'Piety and Bridges', *Lock Gate* 1, 110-11
- 'Another Link Broken: Demolition of St Paul's Vicarage, Bedford', *BTS* 22 February
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- 'Tribute to C.E. Freeman', *Beds. Mag.* 10, 8
- 'A Bedfordshire Armorial: LVII — De Salford of Salford, Stotfold and Aspley', *Beds. Mag.* 10, 10-12
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- 'A Bedfordshire Armorial: LXII — Orlebar of Poddington', *Beds. Mag.* 10, 257-9
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- 'A Bedfordshire Armorial: LXVI — Dive or Dyve of Bromham, Bedfordshire, and Harleston, Quinton and Holwell, Northamptonshire', *Beds. Mag.* 11, 122-4

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 - 'Review: C.E.C. Beeson, *English Church Clocks, 1280-1850*', *Beds. Mag.* 14, 43-4
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