

NOTES

LANGLEY MARISH, *Sir John Kederminster's Library*. Suitable steps are being taken in 1973 to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Library in 1623. These include a special service, and a postal issue; and it is hoped that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will make a visit. The 11th century Winchester Gospels (normally on indefinite loan at the British Museum) will be on view on the day of the service.

But the most important item is the cleaning, conservation and restoration of the painted panelling in the Library, a task never before undertaken by proper, up-to-date scientific methods. The work is being done by Miss Ann Ballantyne, who spent 18 months in the Conservation Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, dealing with the Brougham reredos—an important piece of Flemish polychromed wood sculpture.

Already remarkably good results have been achieved, particularly with the portraits of the Founder and his wife, both of which had been seriously damaged by previous unskilled treatment and amateur 'botching'. The signature of a Slough workman and the date 1873 has been found; and the extent of previous treatment by varnish and linseed oil, and much insensitive re-painting have been revealed. The Bucks County Council, as Lord of the Manor and responsible for the upkeep of the Library and Kederminster Transept fabric, are sponsoring the work, a full account of which will be given in due course.

E. C. R.

Bucks Archaeological Society Representative,
and Chairman of the Library Trustees.

CHALFONT ST. PETER, *Hill Farm*. Following a third Public Enquiry in which the owners, Russell Developments, sought renewed permission for the demolition of the house and adjacent barns, the Minister for the Department of the Environment announced his decision in January 1973. (It will be recalled that Mr. C. F. Stell gave a definitive account of the house, with dated plans, photographs and details in the *Records*, Vol. XVIII, part 1, 1966, 73-77. This account has formed the basis of all subsequent arguments for the preservation of the house, on grounds of its architectural importance.)

The Minister overruled his Inspector's findings, saying that he considered the Inspector had given insufficient weight to the importance of preserving this architecturally interesting historic house and its two barns. This decision is welcome evidence of a growing tide of opinion against the alarming flood of demolitions. And it will encourage those who gave evidence for preservation at the various enquiries—representing this Society, the C.P.R.E., S.P.A.B., etc.

HIGH WYCOMBE, *The Old Chequers*, (Nos. 1-3 Church Street, and No. 2 White Hart Street), *Wall Painting*. The fate of these premises by contrast with the item discussed above, is still in the balance. And here again there is to be a further Public Enquiry in February 1973, on appeal for demolition by the owners or developers. (Reference was made to it in *Records* Vol. XIX, Part 1, 1971, 98). Mr. George Berry in his article in the *Records* Vol. XVIII, Part 2, 1967, illustrated the house and the token issued by John Juson, the Innkeeper of the Chequers in 1669.

Interest, and value, has been added to the house by the discovery of a wall painting in a room on the first floor. This is on the plaster-faced wattle and daub filling and is carried over the timber-framing in the usual way. It is painted representation of wooden panelling, with oak-graining and is unusually detailed, showing the chamfer mouldings, mitred joints and wooden pegs. Such schemes of decoration were very popular in the late 16th and early 17th century, and this would appear to be later rather than earlier.

A remarkable feature is that on the right of the painting a rectangular or almost square space has been left blank as if for a permanent fitting or fixture: and on the plaster here are rough drawings of objects which might well be associated with an Inn—a drinking cup, or chalice, an elaborate covered cup or perhaps a salt, and one or two other items not easily identifiable—perhaps the whole representing a set table. These are almost like workmen's or artist's "doodles", and were probably not intended to be seen. It is greatly to be hoped that the premises will be preserved; for apart from their own intrinsic value and architectural interest, they are in a Conservation area and at a focal point in the town which has already lost almost all its buildings, largely without proper record. (Plate XII).

LITTLE MISSENDEN, *Mill Cottages: Wall Painting*. Another wall painting, also representing painted panelling, has been found in the southernmost of the three tenements that were once one house. (See R.C.H.M., Bucks, South Vol., 235). The house is in process of modernisation and will remain as 3 dwellings. Removal of modern partitions elsewhere in the house has revealed the timber frame structure and suggests the house consisted originally of a central open hall with cross-wings of almost similar date.

The painting occurs on the inner wall of the ground-floor room containing the large open fireplace, and there appear to be 3 complete panels and remains of others in what is now the entrance lobby. The scheme consists of painted panels each containing a strap-work design with a central oval feature containing a 'feathered' motif in white. There is a fairly wide colour-range, and it is hoped to uncover and conserve all that remains. The new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Buston, plan their restoration with every care for ancient features. E.C.R.

AYLESBURY. Old businesses are becoming rapidly rarer even in the county towns so there is good reason to congratulate the firm of Ivatts on two hundred and fifty years of successful trading on the same site in Kingsbury, Aylesbury. Robert Ivatts started his shoemaking business in 1723; his descendants were Thomas who was born in 1726, James 1761, Charles 1789, William 1826, John Charles 1858 and Charles 1887. The latter had no son to succeed him and sold his business in 1949, to another firm—J. Buckingham and Sons of Norwich—who had a similar outlook and have continued to run the business in the same way. The Buckingham family have also been in this trade for over one hundred and sixty years and the Norwich firm celebrated its centenary in 1962. The present head of the Aylesbury business is Alderman Maurice Buckingham, Mayor of Aylesbury in 1972. E.V.

A NOTE ON THE FLETTON BRICK COMPANY'S FORMER WORKS AT BLETCHLEY.

P. S. Richards writes:

From 1934 to 1969 the brick works of Messrs. Flettons Ltd. at Bletchley were a flourishing concern. The works, too, were a conspicuous line-side feature for rail travellers between London (Euston) and Bletchley, Bucks. These works were then considered in a paper in this journal (Vol. XVII pp. 234-7).

Despite the advantages enjoyed by these works they were closed down completely

in late 1969, demolished and the site sold. The post-war demand for bricks slackened off, when new methods of constructing buildings were adopted by the trade. Pre-cast sections allowed houses to be built more quickly. The decision to close these works by Flettons was simply due to the state of trade, the lack of demand for bricks and formed part of the policy of a planned run-down of the Company's activities.

The extensive lineside site and quarry were sold to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. The four chimneys have been felled, the whole of the brickworks have been demolished and the site has been levelled. The quarry adjoining the former works presents some land-use problems; it may be filled in, but more likely will be used to form a surface water reserve reservoir in that area to avoid flooding further downstream.

THE GARDENS AT STOWE. In the house and park at Stowe the county possesses one of the most important series of buildings in England. Landscape gardening was born in Stowe in the early 18th century and despite many vicissitudes the grounds survive today as a unique example of the English "ideal" landscape.

But the upkeep, not only of the original landscape, but of the numerous statues, columns, temples, grottos, bridges and other buildings which make up this unique scene would be a difficult enough task in itself, let alone as an additional burden over and above the normal maintenance of a great public school. Nevertheless, with faith, courage and public spirit, the Governors of the school in 1965 prepared a comprehensive scheme of repairs and restoration of the monuments in their charge. Grants have been received from many bodies notably the Historic Buildings Council, the Pilgrim Trust, the Bucks County Council, the Landmark Trust, the Leche Trust and private donors. Under the supervision of Mr. Hugh Creighton, A.R.I.B.A., much has already been done and more is in progress. To date, work has been completed on the following:

Cobham Pillar	(Gibbs)
Queens Temple	(Gibbs)
Pebble Alcove	(Gibbs)
Gothic Temple	(Gibbs)
Temple of Friendship	(Kent)
Lake Pavilions	(Kent)
Shell Bridge	(Vanbrugh)
Fane of Pastoral Poetry	

at a total cost of about £67,000.

Work on the Palladian Bridge is now in progress and the repair of the Grenville Column is in prospect, but when these are done there will still remain another dozen monuments to be tackled, including the Temple of Ancient Virtue and the Temple of Concord, two of the largest and most important of the garden buildings. (Illustration Plate XIII.)

E.V. BEE BOLES—The Bee Research Association is carrying out a survey of Bee Boles in the British Isles. Bee-boles are recesses in a wall built to house skeps (wicker or straw bee-hives) and protect them from the weather. The earliest recorded date from the 14th century; there are a number in Tudor and later walls. They are generally in groups of 3-10, their shapes varying from square to arched, and most have a southerly aspect. About 500 have been recorded and others await identification (falcon-mews, goose pens, and other types of recess look similar to bee-boles).

A preliminary survey has shown that bee-boles still exist at five places in the County—Beaconsfield Rectory, Hitcham Old Gardens, Remnantz at Marlow, Chilton House and Burnham Abbey. (Illustration Plate XII.)

E.V.

ROYAL ARMS IN BUCKS CHURCHES. Dr. A. E. M. Hartley of Henley-on-Thames has compiled this provisional list of Royal Arms. Any additions or amendments to it will be welcomed.

ASTWOOD William 4
 BIDDLESDEN 1723 George 1
 BLEDLOW 1952 Elizabeth 2
 BUCKINGHAM Hanoverian
 CALVERTON Edward 7
 CHALFONT ST GILES 1812 George 3
 CHALFONT ST PETER 1966.
 Elisabeth 2
 CHEARSLEY George 1
 CHEARSLEY George 4
 CHENIES Victoria
 CHETWODE Stuart
 CHILTON Hanoverian
 CLIFTON REYNES 1806 George 3
 CUBLINGTON 1743 George 2
 DATCHET 1683 Charles 2
 FINGEST Anne
 FULMER James 1
 GAYHURST George 2
 GREAT BRICKHILL Hanoverian
 GREAT KIMBLE Shield missing
 HADDENHAM William 3

HILLESDEN William 3
 ICKFORD 1913 George 5
 LANGLEY MARSH 1625 Charles 1
 LILLINGSTONE LOVELL George 3
 LITTLE MISSENDEN
 LOUGHTON 1831 William 4
 MILTON KEYNES Stuart
 NETHER WINCHENDON George 4
 OLD BRADWELL Stuart
 OLNEY George 3
 PENN Anne
 PITSTONE Hanoverian
 SAUNDERTON Stuart
 SHABBINGTON George 3
 SHENLEY 1772 George 3
 SIMPSON George 2
 STOKE GOLDINGTON William 4
 SWANBOURNE George 5
 WHADDON 1832 William 4
 WHITCHURCH 1768 George 3
 WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN William 4

THE MUSEUM

During the year a very useful addition to the floor area of the Museum has been made by the insertion of an additional floor at first-floor level in the largest gallery in the Museum, which has in fact been closed for the last fifteen years or so. The ground floor is being converted into an Education Room for teaching school parties, and a small extension to the Geological Gallery, whilst on the first floor it is hoped to provide a Rural Life Gallery. Mr. Robin Wade has been commissioned to design the displays in the latter. It is expected that the Education Room will be in operation early in 1973, but due to the financial situation the new gallery will not be completed until 1974.

A County Antiquities Survey has been organised by the Field Archaeologist and a number of local societies and individuals are co-operating in this work. Published works are being searched for all entries relating to archaeology, and the Museum's existing records are being used. In addition, there are a few individuals undertaking field work, which is resulting in the discovery of new archaeological sites. There is also a small archaeology group meeting in the Museum every Tuesday and working on some aspects of the archaeological collection.

The Museum carried out two excavations, both with grants from the Department of the Environment. One, in advance of gravel extraction, was on part of the original medieval village of Fulmer, directed by Mr. M. E. Farley, which also produced evidence of Mesolithic occupation, and the other, directed by Mr. A. E. Johnson, at Thornborough in advance of bridge building and road improvements in an area where Romano-British finds had been made, located Roman roads and seven Roman cremation burials.

Amongst the temporary exhibitions was one of recent natural history work in Bucks, which was made up of contributions from natural history societies and individuals in the county undertaking research work. It is intended that a smaller version of this exhibition should be circulated to libraries in the county. The Bucks

Federation of Women's Institutes and the Wendover Art Club held exhibitions in the Museum, as has become customary. Other exhibitions were borrowed from the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Arts Council.

The Museum was fortunate to be able to buy at less than its market value a Chinese porcelain bowl with portraits of John Wilkes and the Lord Chief Justice, with suitable inscriptions. Accessions are listed in the Annual Reports of the Museum.

C. N. Gowing