

NOTES

A Fracas at St. Albans.

From St. Albans they write that Mr. Conigisby, their new high Sheriffe came thither to cause a Proclamation to be proclaimed in his Majesties name, that all should forthwith lay downe their Armes, otherwise the high Sheriffe with the Posse Com. to proceed against the refusers as Traytors, after proclaiming thereof, it was fixed upon severall places in the Market stead, being Market day, which 6. of Captain Cromwels Troopers seeing, pulled it down, and went where the high Sheriffe was, and took him prisoner, but was rescued again by a great multitude, and then the Sheriffe went to the Market Crosse, where the multitude proclaimed him their lawfull high Sheriffe, but some 20 of the Troopers having horst themselves, seised upon the high Sheriffe, which was then in an Inne, the gates shut notwithstanding the multitude, many of them having Musquets, but the countrey market people kept them off till the Troops brought him away, but one Townesman hurt: and the Sheriffe is now in safe custody in Ely house.

(The Kingdomes Weekly Intelligencer: sent abroad to prevent mis-information, from Tuesday the 10 of January to Tuesday the 17 of January, 1643.)

Letters Patent for the Repair of St. Albans Abbey Church.

These are to give Notice that Mr. Francis Child, Goldsmith, within Temple-Bar, is appointed by the Right Reverend Henry Lord Bishop of London, to receive the Moneys Collected throughout England and Wales, for the Repair of the Great and Antient Church of St. Albans; and his Receipt shall be a sufficient discharge to any Persons that shall Pay such Monies, and return the Duplicates therewith; and the Persons entrusted with the said Repairs, do humbly Request the most Reverend the Archbishops, and the Right Reverend the Bishops and the respective Archdeacons, to further the speedy Collection and Payment thereof, according to the Tenor of His Majesties Letters Patents in that behalf, bearing date the 26th of February last.

(The London Gazette, Monday December 12 to Thursday December 15. 1681.)

Postal Services in 1682.

These are to give Notice, That since the 29th day of September last, there is and will be a Post continued, as usual, from London to St. Albans, and so to Luton, Barton, Amphill, Bedford, and from Bedford to Carleton, Wellingbrow, Kettering, Thrapston, and Oundle; to which said Towns will be particular Bags for their conveniency, as also of the Towns adjacent, and so back again to London three times a Week; and all persons concerned are desired to insert at the bottom of their Letters the Post-Town nearest to the place their Letters are directed, for their speedy Conveyance.

(*The London Gazette*, Monday October 2 to Thursday October 5, 1682.)

An Early Verulamium Museum.

This is to give Notice, that Hugh Boulton is removed from the Rampant Lyon Inn, on Holywell Hill in St. Alban's, to the Crown Inn just below, where all Travellers, as well as the accustomed Guests, may be sure to have good Entertainment and Civil Usage. N.B. For the Entertainment of the Curious at the same Inn, there are several Pieces of Antiquity, which were Dug out of the Ruins of the Ancient City of Verulam, and the Monastery of St. Albans.

(*The London Gazette*, Tuesday November 8 to Saturday November 12, 1737.)

Contempt of Court in 1750.

Friday 7-night at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at St. Alban's, for that Town and Liberty, before the Mayor, and Thomas Garrard, Esq., Recorder, John Hayes and James Clark, two London Gamblers, were tried for stealing out of the Atherstone Waggon a Portmanteau the 12th of January last, as it stood in the Saracen's Inn Yard, when, after a long Trial, they were found guilty, and ordered to be transported. Their Behaviour was very insolent and impudent, for when the Jury brought them in guilty, one of them thank'd them, and said when they came back from Virginia he would bring them a Black; and after the Recorder had given Judgment, Hayes said he thank'd him, and ask'd if he would drink, and pulled

Letters are directed for their speedy conveyance to the Recorder. They are to be removed to Hertford Goal, to be tried the next Assizes for stealing out of the same Waggon a Portmanteau Trunk, in which were Goods to the Amount of 200 £.

(*Read's Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer*, Saturday, May 5, 1750.)

Treasure Trove at St. Albans.

At St. Albans, in Hertfordshire, some workmen lately digging for a foundation for a house near the wall of the old abbey, a large chest, supposed to be made of chesnut wood was discovered, which contained some small silver vessels, and some gold and silver coin of William Rufus and Stephen.

(*Middlesex Journal and Evening Advertiser*, Saturday December 25 to Tuesday, December 28, 1773.)

St. Albans Public Services in 1815.

ST. ALBAN'S POST OFFICE.

Upon this office much public service devolves and at the most unseasonable hours; at nine o'clock at night the St. Alban's down mail is made up, at ten the one for London; at about a quarter-past ten the cross mail from Rickmersworth and Watford is received; and at half-past ten the bags from Winslow, Aylesbury, Tring, Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead are received by another cross mail from those towns; the bags by the cross mails are then opened and the letters immediately sorted into those destined for Ireland, Scotland, and parts of the north, officially called the down mail; which are dispatched at eleven o'clock the same night by the London mail, which passes through St. Alban's at that time and leaves the bag for this town and also the London bags, for the towns above-mentioned, for the cross mails to convey them to in the morning immediately after the arrival of the up mails which bring the bags of letters from the north, and which are immediately opened and put into the country bags for the cross mails; so that those towns and St. Alban's have daily correspondence with the north, without the

letters going through London; the cross mails are dispatched at half-past three o'clock in the morning, but some times and particularly in the winter season the up mails are so variable in their time that the greater part of the night is occupied in attending upon their arrival.

At seven o'clock in the morning the letter carrier to the sub-deputies at Redbourn and Harpenden, and the out-postman is dispatched, and at eight o'clock the office delivery commences for the town.

COACHES.

Besides the numerous mails, common stage coaches, carravans and waggons, passing through St. Albans, the following go from the town :

Woolpack Coach.

A daily coach at eight o'clock in the morning, from the Woolpack, to the Rose Inn, Smithfield, London, returns at half-past two in the winter, and three in the summer, except Sunday.

George Coach.

A daily coach at half-past seven o'clock in the morning, from the George Inn, to the Ram Inn, Smithfield, returns at two in the winter, and half-past two in the summer, except Sunday.

Town Waggon.

Stage waggon from the Chequers Inn, to the Three Cups, Aldersgate Street, London, every Monday and Thursday, at two in the morning, returns in the summer season every Monday and Thursday at six in the evening, and in the winter every Tuesday and Friday, at four in the morning.

PRINCIPAL INNS.

White Hart—Mr. J. R. Hayward;

Angel—Mrs. Butler: for families and posting: each of which for the information of travellers keep printed lists of the Posting Inns, distances, &c., to the North.

Wool-Pack—Mrs. Smith: for commercial travellers, families and posting.

Peanen—Mrs. Marks: for commercial travellers, most of the coaches call here, and waggons.

Blue Boar—Mr. Wildbore: celebrated for home-brewed ale.

Great Red Lion—Mrs. Calvert: accommodation for waggons, mails call here.

George—Mr. Moreton: commercial travellers, excellent home-brewed ale, waggons stop here.

Crown—Mr. Ward: general resort of sportsmen, particularly during the hunting season, home-brewed ale.

Fleur-de-lis—Messrs. Groom and Saunders: let saddle horses, single-horse chaises, &c.

White Horse—Mr. Gosling: same as above.

The Chequers—Mr. Hodgson.

Bell—Mr. Foster.

King's Head—Mr. Brooks.

Swan—Mr. Marsh: for hawkers, &c.

[From *History of Verulam and St. Alban's*, published anonymously in 1815 (from internal evidence the author was apparently Frederick Lake Williams, who published an enlarged edition in 1822).]

SALE OF THE OLD TOWN HALL, ST. ALBANS.¹

The old Town Hall, St. Albans, by Mr. Rumball (By order of the Mayor and Aldermen) on the premises on Saturday, April 2nd, 1831, at three, as a freehold estate. This property comprises the old Town Hall and premises thereto belonging; it is substantially built, is situate in the heart of the town, having a frontage of 31 feet towards the market and 101 feet in Dagenhall Lane, and presents an excellent speculation, or secure investment. It contains 18 apartments, besides the principal room, which is 100 feet long, and there is stabling for eight horses; the whole is so arranged as to require but little alteration for business purposes.

[From *Herts, Huntingdon, Bedford, Cambridge and Isle of Ely Mercury*, March 19th, 1831.]

¹ The present Town Hall was built in 1829-30, and the old building, now occupied by W. H. Smith & Son, Ltd., was then sold.

REVIEWS

(The following books are in the Society's Library)

Romano-British Imitations of Bronze Coins of Claudius I. By C. H. V. Sutherland. F'cap. 8vo., pp. 31, with eight plates. (Imitated Bronze Coins manufactured in Britain, of Claudius I type.)

This subject forms No. 65 of "Numismatic Notes and Monographs" published by the American Numismatic Society. The author considers that some of these coins were authorised as currency in consequence of the shortage of small change. Similar shortages have occurred in this country on several occasions, as most numismatists are aware. These are merely cases of history repeating itself. The pamphlet mentions the rare As with reversed designs found at Verulamium, and some in the Museum.

The historical value of these Romano-British local coins of Roman type entirely depends upon the identification of the dies and their provenance or mint.

From the context and plate VIII only two specimens have been identified as struck from the same obverse die. The reverses differ. Coins from about 30 sites are marked on the map, but the author points out that his list and records cannot be considered complete.

A. E. R.

Verulamium: A Belgic and Two Roman Cities. By R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler. Super royal 8vo., pp. xii. + 244. 120 plates and 49 figures in the text. London: The Society of Antiquaries, 1936 (Price 15/-.)

This volume contains the official report on the excavations at Verulamium during the years 1930 to 1934, and gives a full and deeply interesting record of the vast amount of work accomplished, while the labour necessary for the compilation of such a book will impress every reader.

Those who have followed the progress of the excavations, as well as those who have not had the opportunity to do so, will find pleasure in studying this connected and detailed account of the work, with its numerous plates and plans. Four of the plates, showing mosaic pavements, are excellently produced in colour.

The illustrations of pre-Roman and Roman objects found depict only a small proportion of the complete collection, for which it is hoped that a worthy home will shortly be provided on or nearly adjacent to the site of the Roman city.

The English Castle. By Hugh Braun, F.S.A. Demy 8vo., pp. 120, with 121 plates and many drawings. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1936. Foreword by Hilaire Belloc. (Price 7/6.)

This is a book of great value and interest, dealing as a whole with a subject that has been to a great extent neglected by historians. The author shows how the story of military architecture is that of a long struggle against an enemy's inventions of new and more formidable methods of attack.

Ancient earthworks, Norman strongholds, Edwardian castles, and the fourteenth-century fortified houses destroyed by Puritan artillery, are all fully dealt with, and the book will appeal as much to the general reader as to the expert.

The numerous illustrations are of the very high standard associated with the productions of Messrs. Batsford.

Ancient Monuments of Northern England. By the Rt. Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, F.S.A., M.P. Crown 8vo., pp. 86, with 20 illustrations and map. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1936.

Ancient Monuments of Southern England. By the Rt. Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, F.S.A., M.P. Crown 8vo., pp. 56, with 20 illustrations and map. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1936.

Ancient Monuments of England: East Anglia and Midlands. By the Rt. Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, F.S.A., M.P. Crown 8vo., pp. 70, with 20 illustrations and map. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1936.

These three volumes together form a complete record of the ancient monuments in England of which His Majesty's Office of Works are owners or guardians. It is hoped to publish similar volumes dealing with Wales and Scotland in due course.

The monuments recorded range from remains of the Palæolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron ages of the Prehistoric Period to the monastic buildings and castles of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Separate sections are also devoted to the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods.

Outstanding prehistoric monuments such as those at Castle Rigg, Avebury, Stonehenge and Maiden Castle, important Roman fortresses like those of Richborough and Portchester, are among the more impressive of the early monuments described by the author. There are, however, very many others equally noteworthy but not so well known, such as Kit's Coty House, Trethevy Quoit among the ancient stone monuments, the beautiful castle of Restormel in Cornwall, romantic Tintagel, a number of Henry VIII's coast castles and the delightful Queen's House at Greenwich built by Inigo Jones. Of all these and many others these new Guides furnish a brief description.

Concise bibliographies give a handy guide to the most important literature on the subject, while the sketch maps showing the sites of the principal monuments and the main roads should prove of great assistance to travellers. Photographic illustrations are given of the chief monuments described.

Each volume is attractively bound in green cloth, and at the published price of 1/- is a marvel of cheapness.

Hexton: A Parish Survey. Edited by Ralph J. Whiteman.
Med. 8vo., pp. ix. + 184, with 22 illustrations and 11 maps.
Foreword by Reginald L. Hine, F.S.A. Rickmansworth:
R. J. Whiteman, Mill End School, 1936. (Price 7/6.)

The Manor of Hexton, situated on the northern slope of the Chiltern Hills, was given to the Abbot and Convent of St. Albans by Sexi, a Dane, in or about the year 1030, and remained in their possession until after the Dissolution, when Henry VIII presented it to Sir Richard Lee.

The history of the manor from 1030 to the present time is fully and ably recorded in this volume, and it is interesting to note the changes in its name during the period. In Sexi's day it was called HEHSTANSTUNE, in Domesday Book HEGÆSTANESTUNE, later, successively, HECSTANESTER, HEXSTONESTON, HEXCEVESTON and HEXSTON, while the present spelling of HEXTON did not appear until the beginning of the seventeenth century.

A chapter is devoted to Ravensburgh Castle, the famous prehistoric hill-fortress which lies in the parish. Geology, Fauna, Flora, the Court Rolls of the manor, the Hocktide feast, the Church, the Manor House and much else are interestingly dealt with, and a feature worthy of imitation is a map showing all the field names in the parish, with the probable derivation of each.

The book is remarkable by reason of the fact that practically all the necessary data were collected by the senior children of Hexton C.C. School during the year 1935, when the editor was headmaster there. Mr. Whiteman has generously and unselfishly stated on the title-page that it was "made and compiled" by the children, but his own share in the work must have been great. He has set an example which might with advantage be extensively followed, not only in our own county but throughout the whole of England.

