

NOTES

A Carved Brick Found at St. Albans.

During the month of September, 1937, and in the course of excavations being made in the yard of the "Golden Harp," Verulam Road, St. Albans, a carved brick of oriental origin was discovered at a depth of three feet below the surface.

The brick is of red hard burnt clay and measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ " \times $3\frac{1}{4}$ " \times $1\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. It is plain but for the carving



(By courtesy of the *Herts Advertiser*.)

on one surface, cut into the body of the brick, which was done in the plastic state.

The subject is a woman standing, in cloak and head dress, clasping in her left arm a jar or pitcher, while

her right arm is extended downwards and her hand grasps the left arm of a child who reclines on the ground at her feet.

I submitted the specimen to the authorities in the Indian section of the British Museum who pronounced it to be of Bengal origin, seventeenth or eighteenth century, and of a fairly well-known type. No explanation could be given as to how it came to be found below ground on an old site in St. Albans, but it was considered likely that it was brought to this country as a curio in a ship of the East India Company.

The brick is of a density and hardness akin to the Roman bricks at Verulamium. The carving is perfect though a little worn, but the raised surrounding border is imperfect.

JOHN C. ROGERS.

Roman Site at King's Langley.

In April, 1936, Mr. Grisewood found on his allotment, opposite the Ovaltine works and close to the L.M.S. main line, the remains of several urns at a depth of three feet, including a buff vessel with cordoned neck, a small grey studded beaker and a fragment of a brownish-black urn, all being native ware of early second century date. In May, 1937, I opened up some adjoining ground and found similar fragments.

It is of interest to note that in 1932, about 250 yards from the above-mentioned site, there were found at Messrs. Dickinson's Home Park Mills other sherds of early second-century pottery. It is also recorded (Arch. Survey, 253; Cussans, III, 86, 181) that in 1825 a Roman building and pavement were discovered two hundred yards north-west of King's Langley Station, but there is no plan given and the exact position is not specified. This may yet be ascertained and the sites correlated.

Very probably a Roman valley road passed down the east side of the River Gade, towards Watford.

NORMAN DAVEY.

A Runaway.

ADVERTISEMENT.

John Gladman, 14 years of age, of a middle stature, with brown hair curled, well favoured, with a full brown coate, vyolet coloured Breeches and Dublet, and gray hose, an old black hat on: he went from his Mother from St. Albans the 10 of Sept. if any one can bring intelligence of him, to John Merries at the Bee-hive in Houndsditch, or to Thomas Norris at the Mitre Tavern in Drury-lane, shall have 40s. for their pains.

(*The London Gazette*, from Munday September 29 to Thursday October 2, 1673.)

Caveat Emptor.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The ninth instant, was bought at the Red-Lion-Inn in S. Albans, near the Cross, a Black Mare fifteen hands high (by several circumstances) supposed to be stoln. If any person layeth claim to the said Mare, he may hear of her, at Mr. John Seliokes, at the Red Lion aforesaid, paying the charges he hath been at.

(*The London Gazette*, from Munday April 13 to Thursday April 16, 1674.)

John Selioke was Mayor of St. Albans in 1684.

Properties To Be Let or Sold.

In St. Albans, on the Abbey Green, is a large Convenient House well situated, with a Coach house, Stables, Garden, Orchards and other Conveniences, to be Lett or Sold. Enquire of Mr. Charles James at the Stamp Office in Lincolns-Inn, or at Mrs. James's at St. Albans aforesaid, and you may know further.

(*The London Gazette*, from Thursday March 12 to Monday March 16, 1695.)

A Large House in St. Albans, in which most of the Rooms are Wainesetted, with Conveniences for a Coach and Stables, and suitable Necessaries affixt in the Outhouses for Brewing, &c., together with large

Gardens and Orchard, is to be Sold or Lett. Enquire at the Mill'd Lead Sign in Aurenge-street by Red Lyon Square, or at Mr. Edward Horsells in St. Albans.

(*The London Gazette*, from Monday July 19 to Thursday July 22, 1697.)

Edward Horsell was Mayor of St. Albans in 1691.

Family Differences.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The case of John Dunton, Citizen of London: With respect to his Mother-in-Law, Madam. Jane Nicholas, of St. Albans; and her Only Child, Sarah Dunton. With the just Reasons for her Husband's leaving her. In a Letter to his Worthy Friend Mr. George Larkin, Senior. To which is added, His Letter to his Wife. Sold by A. Baldwin, near the Oxford-Arms, in Warwick Lane. Price Three Pence.

(*The Flying Post: or The Post-Master*, from Thursday Dec. 21 to Saturday Dec. 23, 1699.)

Persistent Housebreakers.

Three several Fires broke out last week in the Town of St. Albans, one on Tuesday Night on Holloway Hill, another on Thursday Night in School-house Lane, and a third on Saturday last, at Alderman Carter's Brewhouse: Considerable Damage was done by all the three, but chiefly by the last. The House where the first happen'd was attempted to be broke open on the three foregoing Nights successively, and is therefore believed to be designedly fired, in order to be plunder'd; and the better to succeed in their villainous Attempt, the Rogues had cut off the Well-Rope from the Bucket.

(*The Weekly Journal or Saturday's Post*, Saturday February 17, 1722.)

Francis Carter was Mayor of St. Albans in 1724.

Sale of the White Horse Inn, &c.

To be sold before Robert Holford, Esq; one of the Masters of the High Court of Chancery, pursuant to

a Decree of the said Court, the Estate late of Mr. Thomas Robinson, of St. Albans, in the County of Hertford, Innholder, deceased, consisting of Arable and Pasture Land, containing about 45 Acres, Freehold and Tythe-free, a Messuage or Inn called the White Horse Inn, with Stables, and a convenient Brew-house, and a small Tenement thereto adjoining, both Freehold; and a Barn and Pightle of Ground of about two Acres Copyhold of Inheritance, and lying in the Parish of St. Peter's, and St. Albans aforesaid: Particulars whereof may be had at the said Master's Chambers in Symond's-Inn in Chancery-lane.

(*The London Gazette*, from Tuesday November 13 to Saturday November 17, 1722.)

Demanding Money with Menaces.

March 9. At this Time one Jeremiah Fitch, a Joiner at St. Alban's, was capitally convicted at Hertford Assizes, upon the Black Act, as being an Incendiary, in sending a threatening Letter to Godman Jenkyn, Esq.; threatening to take away his Life, and burn him and his Family in the House, if he did not leave 30 Guineas in the High Road before his Gate. The chief Evidence against him was a Bricklayer's Labourer, who threw the Letter over the Wall, and was taken searching for the Money. Fitch was then seen with him, and escap'd, but was taken the next Day.

(*The Monthly Chronicle* for March, 1731.)

Death of a St. Albans Mayor.

Deaths:—At St. Albans, Mr. Alderman Carr, who kept the White Hart Inn there: He was smoaking a Pipe in his Chair, and seemingly in good Health, about half an Hour before he died.

(*The Gloucester Journal*, Tuesday, March 20, 1732-3.)

William Carr was Mayor of St. Albans in 1721 and was serving a second term of office at the time of his death.

A Tan-yard at St. Michaels.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION.

By Order of the Executors of James Oliver, late of the Borough of St. Alban's, in the County of Hertford, Tanner, deceas'd, on Thursday the 21st of June Instant, between the Hours of Two and Six o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the Red-Lyon Tavern in St. Alban's aforesaid.

ALL that Freehold Messuage or Tenement situated, standing and being in St. Michael's Street, in St. Alban's aforesaid, having four Rooms on a Floor, besides a spacious Hall pav'd with Portland and Bremen Stone, with a large Barn, Coach-house, Stables, and other convenient Out-houses, a pretty Garden well planted with good Fruit-Trees, with a Bason in the said Garden well stored with Fish, a large Tan-yard adjoining, with eighty large Vats, and a most convenient good Shed, with a fine running River at the Bottom of the said Yard and Garden, which feeds the said Bason; all which said Premises were purchased by the said James Oliver in the Year 1729, of Bathia Wellingham, of the Parish of Paul's Walden, in the said County of Hertford, Spinster, and John Wellingham of the said Place, Tanner, for the sum of 410£ 15s. and since by him the best Part rebuilt, and the rest well repaired, having laid out upon the said Premises upwards of 1400£ besides the Purchase Money, and must be Sold the Day above-mention'd to the best Bidder, the same being untenanted, and mortgaged for the Sum of 500£.

Note, It may serve any other Gentleman as well as a Tanner, the Conveniences for the Trade making it a cheap Purchase to the Tanner, as by changing the Property in pulling down the Shed, and taking up the vats, will do the same to any other Person.

Enquire of Mr. Tannet, Town-Clerk, at St. Alban's, and of W. Wigan, in Basinghall-Street, Auctioneer.

(*The London Evening-Post*, from Saturday June 9, to Tuesday Jue 12, 1744.)

William Tannett, Attorney-at-Law, was Town Clerk of St. Albans from 1742 to 1754.

A Furnished House near St. Peter's Church.

AT ST. ALBANS.

To be Lett compleatly furnished, near St. Peter's Church, a Pleasant House, and Garden in great Perfection, with Coach-house and Stables, and all convenient Out-Offices for a Family; together with a Dove-house well stock'd, and any Quantity of Pasture Land contiguous to the Premises.

Enquire of the Rev. Mr. Ray at St. Albans; or of Mr. Borradale at the Admiralty-Office at Whitehall.

(*The General Advertiser*, Wednesday, March 7, 1749-50.)

The Rev. Charles Ray was Vicar of St. Peter's from 1743 to 1754. He had previously been Vicar of Codicote from 1740 to 1743.

Murder by a Footpad.

On Saturday as Mr. Archer of St. Albans, was walking in a field about half a mile from the town, a man with the common observation on weather, commenced a conversation with him, and in a few minutes after demanded his money. Mr. Archer gave him all that he had instantly. The robber suspecting he had concealed something, began to rifle him, which Mr. Archer resented, seeing no weapon in his hand. The Ruffian immediately pulled a double barrell'd horse pistol from his pocket, and lodged the contents in Mr. Archer's shoulder, and ran off. Mr. Archer languished until Sunday night, when he died in extreme agonies, leaving a wife and eight children.

(*The St. James's Chronicle or British Evening-Post*, from Tuesday, August 20, to Thursday, August 22, 1793.)

A Stage-Coach Handbill.

ST. ALBANS, DUNSTABLE AND WOOBURN STAGE COACHES.

Sets out from the *White Horse Inn* in *Dunstable* every *Monday* and *Wednesday* Morning at Seven o'Clock; and from the *Flour de Luce Inn*, *St. Alban's*, at Ten, to the *Cross Keys Inn*, *St. John's-Street*,

LONDON; from *London* every *Tuesday* and *Saturday* to *Dunstable*, at Seven o'Clock; and every *Thursday* to the *George Inn, Wooburn*, at Six o'Clock; and from *Wooburn* every *Friday* at Six, for the Winter Season: Carries Passengers and Parcels to and from *South Mims, Colney, St. Alban's, Redburn, Market-Street, Dunstable, and Wooburn.*

Performed (if GOD permit) by WILLIAM GLOVER.

At the above *Flour de Luce Inn* in *St. Albans* may be had a Hearse or Bye Coach with able Horses.

(A handbill, now in the possession of Mr. E. Stanley Kent, found when buildings in the High Street, St. Albans, were being demolished.)

From London to Boxmoor by Railway in 1837.

“ I was a passenger by the two o'clock train to Box Moor yesterday and was informed at the London station that little more than one hour would be occupied in the passage. The fact proved very different, as we did not reach Box Moor until the expiration of two hours and a quarter from the time of starting from Euston Square. The train scarcely went a snail's pace through the Primrose Hill tunnel, as, we were told, the engine was not right (it was engine No. 2 I believe), and we did not reach Harrow under one hour and eleven minutes—eleven miles. We loitered about thirteen minutes at Harrow, some time at Watford, and met with a most confused and uncomfortable reception at Box Moor; when on our return we were all huddled together for a quarter of an hour in a small yard, exposed to a burning sun, until the bell rang for starting, and then crushed through a small gate at the risk of our limbs, instead of being allowed quietly to take our seats in the carriages as we arrived, notwithstanding we had paid our money and were in the possession of our tickets. The collection of these tickets, which took place on our approach to the extremity of Regent's Park, for which purpose the train was stopped, occupied about half an hour. It is rather too bad of the directors to be thus making

their experimental journeys at the expense of the public.”

(A letter to *The Times* in 1837.)

How the Passing of the Reform Bill was Celebrated in St. Albans.

REFORM FESTIVAL

IN ST. PETER'S STREET, ST. ALBANS
on Wednesday, the 27th. of June 1832.

THE MORNING WILL BE USHERED IN BY RINGING OF BELLS
Precisely at Two o'clock

1600 Men, Women and Children

will sit down to good Old English Fare,—Roast Beef, Plum Pudding and good Ale. While the dinner is being served up, the Band will play the favourite Air—
“O the Roast Beef of Old England.”

After Dinner “God Save the King” and “Rule Britannia” will be sung by the whole of the Company, assisted by the Band.

At Five o'clock

A PROCESSION will be formed when the Company, headed by the Band, will march to BERNARD'S HEATH, to witness the
RURAL SPORTS

which will be as follows (the commencement to be announced by the firing of Cannon)—

1. A Donkey Race, for a New Bridle. The first in to win.
2. A Jingling Match,* for a New White Smock Frock.
3. A Foot Race, by Married Men of upwards of 40 years of age, for a new Pair of High Shoes.
4. A Ditto, by single men under 30 years of age, for a New Hat.
5. Climbing the Greasy Pole, for a leg of mutton.
6. Ditto, for a piece of Roasting Beef.
7. A Foot Race by Married Women upwards of 30 years of age, for 12 yards of Calico for a pair of sheets.
8. Jumping in Sacks by 6 Men, for the following prizes: the First in, a New Smock Frock:—the second, 20 yards of Calico:—the third, a New Pair of Worsted Stockings.

* A game in which blindfolded players try to catch a player who has a bell tied to him.

9. A Donkey Race, for 30 yards of Calico. Each Donkey to be rode by the owner. The last in to be the Winner.
10. A Race by 6 young Women, under 20 years of age, for a New Cotton Gown Piece. The first in to be declared the Winner of the Gown Piece; the second to receive 20 yards of Calico; and the third 12 yards.
11. A Foot Race between Men, under 40 years of age, married or single, for a New Hat.

The Committee wish the Inhabitants in general to afford every assistance at the Dinner, not only in their own persons but also recommending their Apprentices and Servants as far as is convenient to them to attend, in order to add to the comforts of the Day: and that the maintenance of unanimity and good order be *strictly enjoined on all classes*.

Free Tickets for the Dinner may be had of the Committee by applying at Mr. W. Deayton's, the Blue Boar Inn, on any Day before Wednesday (Sunday excepted) between the hours of 10 and 4.

T. WELLS,
Hon. Sec.

(From a poster in the Herts County Museum, where can also be seen a picture of a similar banquet at Christchurch, Hants.)

REVIEWS

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

An Encyclopaedia of London. Edited by William Kent. Crown 8vo., illustrated with 16 pp. of photographs. London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1937 (Price 7/6).

Here, in 750 pages for the price of 7/6, is the indispensable book on London, not only to the visitor, but to the dweller in or near London who usually knows so much less about it than the visitor does. Historical and antiquarian interests no doubt predominate in this volume, but by no means exclusively. The London Passenger Transport Board is there as well as Archbishop Laud's tortoise, the Stock Exchange as well as London Highwaymen. There is an article with a wealth of information of every kind on each London borough, and over a hundred pages on City Churches past and present (but surely one cannot state categorically that St. Helen, however much she is now of Bishopsgate, was of British rather than Balkan origin). We can if we wish picture the Strand as it was in the days when the palaces of the great stretched along the river between the city and the village of Westminster, or if we prefer it we can find out in an article on London Music (in which, oddly enough, the London Philharmonic Orchestra is not mentioned) where to go to concerts: we can even see Bernard Shaw in a stained glass window. Every need has been thought of: American visitors will find an article on Americans in London, antiquaries the addresses of London antiquarian societies. Some encyclopaedias have a knack of making interesting things sound uninteresting. This one if anything does the reverse. There are all sorts of out of the way bits of information. How many people for instance know that "going west" as an expression for dying refers to Tyburn? And, talking of dying, there are some amazing epitaphs of which I cannot refrain from quoting one, that of Mrs. Kendall in Westminster Abbey:—

" Those admirable qualities
In which she was equalled by few of her sex,
surpassed by none,
Rendered her every way worthy of that
close
union and friendship
In which she lived with
The Lady Catherine Jones."

Everyone who refers to this book will want further knowledge and will find for that purpose an excellent bibliography at the beginning of the volume.

P. M. K. S.

The Beauty of Britain: A Pictorial Survey. Introduced by J. B. Priestley. Crown 8vo., 244 pp. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 1935 (Price 5/-).

There is no need to say anything about the 109 photographs in this volume except that they fully live up to the standard that Messrs. Batsford have taught us to expect. I thought one a particularly imaginative piece of work: Thames Barges on the Medway at Rochester. The masts and their reflections in the river make a pleasing pattern through which the castle and cathedral spire are seen in the background. Fourteen chapters make up the letter-press of the book, the first one the admirable general introduction one would expect from Mr. Priestley, the thirteen others, by writers of authority, on different regions or types of country in Britain. Scotland is allowed thirty-two pages out of two hundred and forty-five, and though she must be used to such scurvy treatment by this time, it is none the less greatly to the credit of Mr. George Blake that he has been able to do his subject anything like justice. There are a great many pitfalls to avoid in writing essays like these. They must not degenerate into mere sections of a guide book, yet they must not be too general and allusive, for this gives the reader who does not know the country described too little to bite on: they must be individual, yet the author must not make them an excuse for airing his own prejudices: they must mention some of the literary and historical associations connected with the district, neither too obvious (Oh for a man with the courage to write about Exmoor without mentioning Lorna Doone!) nor too obscure. Above all, the author must have the rare gift of creating the atmosphere of the country which he is describing. Finally, however well he performs all these tasks, every reader will feel that not enough notice has been taken of the places which he himself loves best. These various difficulties are on the whole most successfully surmounted in this book, and it would be invidious when all are so good to single out any one chapter, though I, personally, should put in a word for Mr. Charles Fry's on East Anglia. There is one very usual mistake on page 146. The small dark people of the Welsh border are pre-Celtic racially. The Celts proper were of course tall and fair. This is a book to take up when one is planning a holiday; and to take up again when one is looking back on it.

P. M. K. S.

England Under Trust: The Principal Properties Held by the National Trust in England and Wales. Described and illustrated by J. Dixon-Scott, with a Foreword by G. M. Trevelyan, O.M., Demy 8vo., 333 pp., 62 plates. London: Alexander Maclehose & Co., 1937 (Price 7/6).

Professor Trevelyan in the foreword to this volume stresses what cannot be too often repeated, that the National Trust is the only body in this country which can ensure the permanent preservation of places of natural beauty and buildings that are still inhabited, and that it has at present no financial resources to do more than preserve the 60,000 acres—little enough—which

it already holds. It is therefore vitally important that much more interest in and support for its work should be aroused in time to save the beauties that still are left to us. Mr. Dixon-Scott's excellent book is performing an invaluable task in making the work of the Trust better known. He "deals with a number of the Trust's properties, chiefly, though not entirely, from their historical and antiquarian aspect." The accounts given are of necessity brief, but they are clearly the product of wide knowledge, and are delightful to read. Each one is preceded by a note as to the size of the property and how and when the Trust acquired it. The sixty-two photographs are superb, and must make everyone who looks at them thankful that the places they depict can never be spoilt. One small complaint. It would be kinder not to make the reader turn back to the table of contents each time he wants to know what a photograph represents.

P. M. K. S.

England's Greater Churches. A Pictorial Survey with an Introduction by C. B. Nicolson. London: B. T. Batsford, Ltd. (Price 3/6).

This volume provides for the general reader an admirable introduction to the study of the development of mediæval ecclesiastical architecture in this country. There are, to illustrate this development, nearly a hundred pictures, chosen, with two exceptions, from "churches built for monastic, collegiate or cathedral purposes." As illustrations and, in the main, as photographs, these are excellent, though occasionally, notably in the picture of the York "Five Sisters," the composition is inartistic, and the Winchester photograph, chosen to show the length of the cathedral, gives little or no indication of its beauty. It is a little unfortunate, too, that the regrettable nineteenth-century window in the north transept of St. Albans Abbey figures quite so prominently. These are, however, minor blemishes and, when the price of the book is considered, it would be unfair to complain that the photographs are sometimes too much crowded together for the best effect to be obtained. Mr. Nicolson's introduction and notes perform their admittedly minor task most adequately.

P.M.K.S.

Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st December, 1937

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.									
				£	s.	d.							
Balance, January 1st, 1937	35	10	11	Subscriptions :—						
Subscriptions	135	19	6	National Trust for Preserving Places	2	2	0			
Interest on Investment	9	4		of Historical Interest	1	0	0			
							British Records Society	10	0	0			
							Monumental Brass Society	1	0	0			
							Archæological Congress	2	2	0			
							Donations :—						
							Lockleys Excavations	2	2	0			
							Devil's Dyke	2	2	0			
							Avebury Preservation	2	2	0			
							Lectures	53	13	8			
							Excursions	3	0	11			
							Transactions	37	18	4			
							Library	2	3	3			
							Stationery	2	16	11			
							Postages	4	11	8			
							Balance, December 31st, 1937	56	17	0			
				<u>£171</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£171</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>			

F. M. WHITING,
Hon. Treasurer.

Examined with passbook and vouchers and found correct.
January 19th, 1938. N. P. ANDREW.

