



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1701 onwards
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TOMB TALK continued from 22

This subject resulted in quite a postbag.

First from Edward (our Canon Chancellor) re Gorges: 'the monument is of course on the site of the chapel/altar of St Peter, so I think it's most likely that the twisted columns are a conscious echo of the baldacchino in Rome (Berninis baldacchino, below, *courtesy of Basilica di San Pietro, Rome*). But I'm highly sceptical about the hidden symbolism so beloved by some. These architectural and cultural expressions and fashions tend to be very widespread, and tastes change by mysterious osmosis. No one has yet, to my knowledge, suggested that St Paul's cathedral by Wren hinted at Roman Catholic sympathies – but the conspiracy-minded might as well suggest that that's hidden in its architectural echoes of Florence and Rome. The fact is though that there were always quite a few RCs in England from Tudor times on, and while they came in for waves of oppression and periods of being more fashionable, no one denied they existed. Given that Italy contained all the most interesting classical stuff and most of the most culturally dynamic cities (and that it really didn't represent any kind of political threat) it was always quite fashionable to borrow trends from there, irrespective of religion.'

Then Steve Dunn: 'Peter Sherlock adds to the discussion in a chapter devoted to the tomb in: "Monuments and Memory in Early Modern England'. I am especially taken by the symbolism of the polyhedra. Sherlock echoes some of John Elliott's thoughts and also suggests that these represent Sir Thomas' connections with Early Modern geometrists such as John Dee. He goes on to say that in a 'post Reformation age increasingly gripped by concerns



about the true intent of Archbishop Laud and his followers, abstract images were a safe way to represent concepts such as the nature of the elements, the heavens and the afterlife'. There is similar sphere at Wimborne St. Giles at the feet of Sir Anthony Ashley. Pevsner suggests that this is a stylised cabbage(!) as Sir Anthony introduced the vegetable to England apparently! My money is that it more likely to have been placed for similar reasons to the Gorges'. Steve followed this up by lending me Peter Sherlock's book *Monuments and Memory in Early Modern England*.

Gordon Verity messaged: Some years ago, I bought a book in the Cathedral shop "The sisters who would be Queen" by Leanda de Lisle. According to the book, the Earl of Hertford resided after his release at Wulfhall, Burbage and died at the age of 82. Your research indicates that he was living in Marlborough at the time of his death. I wonder which is correct. Ed: My information was that he died at Netley Abbey in south Hampshire, which was one of his properties.

Margaret Scard messaged: I wondered if you, or any other guides who wanted further information, might be interested to know that I have a biography of Edward Seymour (the father). The book was on sale in the Cathedral Shop last time I looked. Obviously, it contains much work on both Edward and Thomas Seymour and a little on Parr.

As a result of all this I read the last chapter in Peter Sherlock's book which was most enlightening on both tombs. I also checked the heraldry in my copy of Boutell. Sir Thomas gorge died in 1610 but the original altar had been moved 50 years before. Catherine died in 1568 (there is an error on the tomb) and the tomb was erected in 1635 (probably by William Wright). Catherine's remains are believed to have been translated from Yoxford. The Gorges tomb stresses *devices and emblems* whereas the Hertford tomb majors on *lineage and continuity*.

A point I failed to take on board before was that BOTH ladies are higher status than their husbands, Helena being Gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber and Dowager Marchioness of Northampton. The Gorges' crest is a greyhound and the Hertford's a phoenix. The Gorges' coat of arms is '*argent, a gurge azure*' and is in the form of concentric rings as *gurge* is Latin for whirlpool. Bernini's baldacchino was erected in 1633 so possibly rather late to have influenced the Gorges. Now Sherlock states that 'it is doubtful that the pillars are a coded reference to religious affiliation' Spiral columns could be linked to Solomon or, more likely, a rebus - a visual pun on the whirlpool.

One of the quotations on the Gorges tomb is from Milton (1608-74). Interestingly, Milton wrote for the Pembrokes. Sir Thomas knew John Dee and his library included magical and astrological works. The obelisks are references to eternity. Also represented are the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit and the 4 cardinal virtues. The icosahedron refers to Venus and is therefore female whilst the dodecahedron refers to Mars and is therefore male. Shades of *Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus*. The whole thing is a challenge to visitors and something of a mental Rubik's Cube. All the time you are puzzling over such meanings you are looking at the Gorges and perhaps that was the intention. After all the English love 'devices, emblems, jokes and verbal puns'.

SIR JOHN DE MONTACUTE

I had coffee with Ben Elliott who is always a fund of historical information. He reminded me that the details on this tomb were incorrect.

I am currently compiling a booklet on tombs that tell a story; below is the appropriate excerpt.

Sandstone tomb chest with effigy in armour. Tomb chest has shields bearing arms. North side panel probably from canopy in Hungerford chapel. No remains survive.



The jupon (a short close-

fitting sleeveless padded garment, used in the late 14th and early 15th centuries with armour) was formerly painted with arms. Effigy has traces of paint and gilding. Formerly against wall on stylobate between Trinity Chapel and Chapel of St. Peter and Apostles.



Sir John married Baroness (in her own right) Margaret Monthermer so three of these armorials show the Monthermer eagle (Or, an erne displayed vert) 'displayed' refers to an eagle with the body affronte, head usually to the dexter (shield's right) and wings and legs spread out on each side.

The husband and wife armorials are shown impaled and quartered. The Montagu or Montacute shield of arms was Argent (silver), three lozenges (strictly fusils as they are elongated) cojoined in fess gules (red). Right is from the doors of Bath Abbey.



The quartered shield has the Montacute arms within an invected bordure (edged with convex curves) where the others have a straight bordure. I don't think

that there is any heraldic significance in this.

The left-hand image (facing west) appears to be quartered with the Isle of Man (Gules, three legs armed proper cojoined in the fess point at the upper part of the thighs, flexed in a triangle, garnished and spurred or).

Younger brother of second Earl of Salisbury.

Participated in the siege of Calais with Edward III in 1349.

Married Baroness Margaret de Monthermer and had eight children.

Son Thomas became Dean of Salisbury (1365 - 1404).

Sister Sybil became Prioress of Amesbury (1329 - 1389).

The Isle of Man connection: William, the first Earl was made custodian of the Isle of Man by Edward II in 1333. The title was sold by the second Earl in 1392/3.

Architect Wyatt: Wyatt was not solely to blame for moving monuments. Montacute was probably moved originally in the 14th century to allow a door into the Hungerford Chantry.

O&S

January 1794: *That Mr Morris do cut down five Elm trees at Quidhampton to be applied for repairs of houses and premises those that Mr Morris do cut down the trees examined by him and found fit to be cut at Lockerley and Mr Morris do plant some young trees in the room of those to be cut down.*

Great to see that they were ahead of us on sustainability. Even when I was a boy the Forestry Commission would plant 10 trees for every one they cut down.

May 1865: *A circular letter from the Schools Inquiry Commission on the state of popular education and on certain public schools calling for replies to numerous questions.* The Chapter replies that the Chorister's School is private. In the following June the Chapter bow to the Schools Inquiry Commission after they had pointed out that £800 of the school's income came from the tithes of Preshute; and anyway they were inquiring into all classes of school [this is the period of Charles Dickens and the Commission's report came to 20 volumes].

October 1852: *My dear Mr Dean*

At a meeting of the Training School Committee last week, I was desired to communicate to the D&C that the committee had unanimously agreed to a vote of thanks to them and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for their magnificent gift of the reversion of the fee [change of ownership] of the King's House and Sub-Chantry. Will you be so kind as to make this communication to the Chapter at their next quarterly meeting.

I remain dear Mr Dean

Yours very faithfully

W.H.Hamilton.

April 1867: *A workman having fallen from the scaffold in the tower and being unable to work from the injuries received it was ordered that £5 [£545 today] be remitted to the Curate of Saint Martins in which parish he was lodging for his use and be charged to the Fabric Fund.*

PRIMARY SOURCE

Jot and Tittle is based on my trawling through the Cathedral Chapter minutes. I have nearly completed writing up the period 1701 to 1877 in what I call a



CAPITULAR CONCORDANCE, capitular being the adjective for a cathedral chapter and concordance according to Webster is an index of the words or passages of a book or author.

So in essence, this is a work which enables those doing research to find the references more easily and to better understand the context. It runs to 135 pages. It is intended that this manual should be held in the Archives for anyone wishing to do research. However, I will place a copy in the Guides' drawer in the south aisle for anyone who is interested. I will then tackle the period from 1888 onwards!!!!

I have arranged the extracts by subject matter as they give a real insight into life in the Church and laity in the 18th and 19th centuries. I have given date references to enable each passage to be looked up in the original, and direct quotes are shown in italics. '...' has been used where a word (or words) is indecipherable or simply missing (the clerk often failed to record Christian names). With some paragraphs I have been unable to ascertain a meaning: John Nourse Clerk Master of Arts prebendary of the major part of the Altar. There was however a prebend known as Major Pars Altaris.

Although hand-written on parchment the minutes are set out in a business-like fashion, always with a rubric, such as:

On Thursday 30th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four between the hours of twelve and two of the clock in the afternoon of the same day at the Deanery. Then and there present the Reverend and Worshipful Hugh Nicolas Pearson Clerk DD Dean of Sarum, the Reverend Matthew Marsh Clerk BD, the Reverend William Macdonald Clerk MA, the Reverend Lidcombe Clarke Clerk MA Canon Residentiary of the said Cathedral Church in Chapter assembled.

Note that even now the Archdeaconry is still referred to as Sarum. The Chapter Clerk who was usually a notary, always referred to himself as *me*.