



A Salisbury-Cathedral-centric view of History.

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A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 34

MIKE DEEMING WRITES:

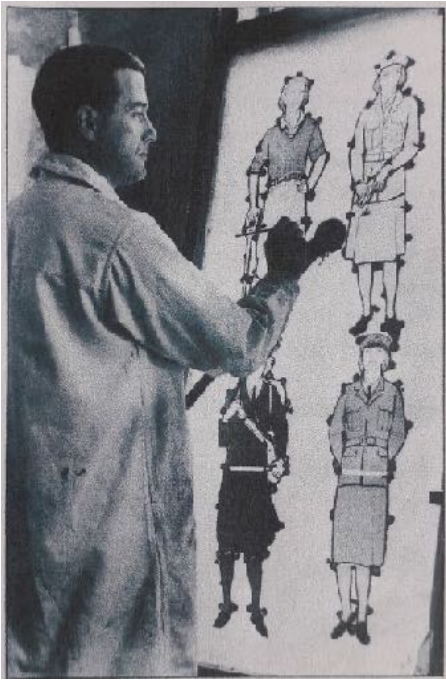
Before the twentieth century, it was very uncommon for glaziers to depict their maker's mark on the window. But it became much more common after 1900 and, in particular, after WWI.

Reginald Bell often inserted his maker's mark, but not in his WWI memorial windows in the St Laurence Chapel nor in the 'Victory' window in the south wall of the St Michael Chapel. The earliest we have in Salisbury Cathedral is in the David and Goliath window, where Edward Woore has written his name out in full. In 1950 Harry Stammers put his compass rose mark in the bottom left corner of his Glider Pilot Regiment memorial window.

One artist who regularly included his mark was Christopher Webb. You can see his St Christopher mark (right) both in the WWII memorial window and in the window that is a memorial to George Herbert. But what is unusual about his mark with its picture of St Christopher, is that he includes the names of the craftsmen who worked on it. Although he was very much in the tradition of the Arts and Crafts movement, where the artist participated in all aspects of the making of the window, Webb employed two key assistants at his workshop in St Albans. They were Frank Pinnock and Tom Walden, and their names too are in the Webb maker's mark.



After studying at the Slade School of Art, Webb was articled in 1909 to train in stained glass under the guidance of Sir Ninian Comper. Webb served with the Artists' Rifles in the trenches at the Battle of Loos in 1915 and, after the war, set up an independent studio in Guildford with Randall Blacking. In 1930, having recently married, he split with Blacking and created his own studio in the grounds of his sister's house in St Albans. He recruited a 15-year-old trainee, Frank Pinnock, who developed to be Webb's main glass painter. Webb had been appointed artistic adviser to St Alban's Cathedral in 1936, and his connections to architects there led to numerous commissions, including in Sheffield Cathedral and Sherborne Abbey. Pinnock served in Malaysia in WWII so Webb hired and trained Tom Walden, who stayed with Whall till the 1950's. After the war, business boomed – many windows needed repair or replacement and new memorial windows were widely sought.



The Salisbury WWII memorial window in the north nave aisle was installed in 1949, and has in the corner, the maker's mark shown above. Extraordinarily, this photo (left) also survives, showing Frank Pinnock painting the glass for the military women, using the design templates ('cartoons') that Webb had painted.



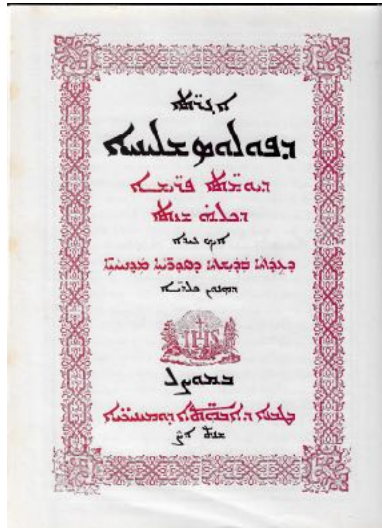
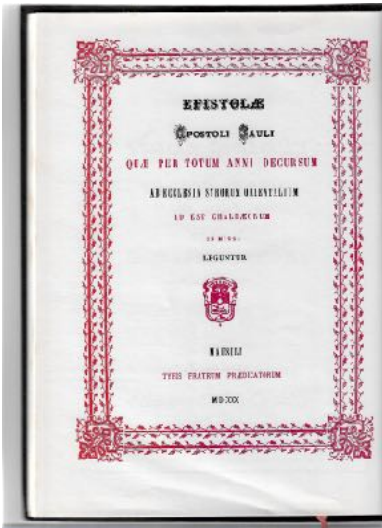
Work flourished through the 1950's and Webb regarded the highlight as being all the windows in the restored St Lawrence Jewry next Guildhall church in the City of London. The original Christopher Wren church, severely damaged by fire in 1940, had been restored and Webb was asked to provide a complete set of new windows. Fittingly, the last window in the vestibule, depicts Wren and the range of designers, architects and workers associated with the church. It includes this image of Pinnock at work at his easel. The CW motif also features widely, representing both Wren and, of course, Webb.

Webb died in 1966 and his ashes were scattered beneath one of his windows in St Alban's Cathedral. Pinnock lived till 2000, and his image in the St Lawrence Jewry window is his memorial.

SCRIPT-TURE

Fellow Guide James Thompson writes: 'I notice in the J&T No 87, you mention the Assyrian church and the use of Aramaic in their services.

I was in Northern Iraq , in the town of Zakho in 1984/5 and met a priest, Fr Petros from the Assyrian-Chaldean church. We attended the Christmas Day service there, and visited him sometimes at the presbytery. He was a French Syrian priest, and all the services were in Aramaic. The church was segregated with women and children on one side and men on the other. The Kurdish men retained their turbans in church, and very few women covered their faces.



When the French officer and I departed at the end of our tour, Fr Petros gave us each a copy of the Epistle of Paul in Aramaic, and a minute enamelled cross with his blessing. I attach the introductory page in Latin and the same in Aramaic, and the first page of the first chapter in Aramaic. I cannot read it, and am unsure which Epistle it is. It might be of interest to see the Aramaic script (above).'

LA REINE, NOTRE DUC

The Channel Islands are a typically quirky bit of Britishness. They were once part of Normandy, when it belonged to England. Although we lost Normandy in the Middle Ages we still retained these islands (except Iles Chausey) but Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm still owe allegiance to the *Duke of Normandy* - their loyal toast is *The Queen, our Duke*, and no it should not be *Duchess*. The French anyway stopped using the title at the Revolution and we gave up any claim to mainland Normandy in 1259.



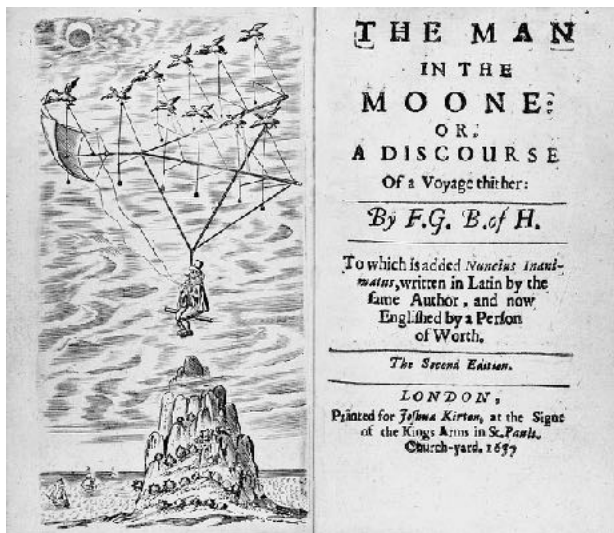
The diocese that incorporates the islands has changed over the years but mainly came under Winchester. Following a dispute between the Dean of Jersey and the Bishop of Winchester it is now part of the Salisbury diocese. There are resident deans in both Jersey and Guernsey. Our hospital too has close links with the islands, even performing operations over a video-link. The seal, right, was granted by Edward I and is used as an unofficial coat of arms.

COKE

In one of my foraging expeditions I picked up from Mencap a copy of *Magna Carta and all that* by Rod Green, Andre Deutsch 2015. Rod is an editor not a historian and so has taken a more holistic approach and filled out some of the characters involved. Under Sir Edward Coke, I was interested to read that he started off as a lawyer and barrister and became Solicitor General and then Attorney General under Queen Elizabeth. In this capacity he prosecuted Robert Devereux Earl of Essex for leading a coup against the government, who then became the last person to be beheaded in the Tower of London. Coke also prosecuted Sir Walter Raleigh and the eight participants in the Gunpowder Plot.

BEDTIME READING

I would recommend *I Never Knew That About England* by Christopher Winn published by Random House in 2005, it is the ideal book to dip into. Just to give you a flavour: under *Herefordshire*, he writes: Whitbourne village, dozing in a green hollow by a stream, with a moated house and a mossy stone church. The church should be a place of wonder for all devotees of *Dr Who* and *Star Trek*, for here lies the first Englishman to take us to the Moon. The illustration, comes *courtesy of Balliol College and is in the Public Domain*.



Brilliant, eccentric, far-seeing Francis Godwin, Bishop of Hereford, was all these things. Some time around 1600 he wrote *The Man in the Moon*, the first science-fiction story in the English Language! It tells the tale of a Spaniard, Domingo Gonsales, marooned on an island with his black companion (inspiration for *Robinson Crusoe* and *Man Friday*?), who is transported to the Moon by a flock of wild swans. On his voyage he is able to observe the truth of Copernicus's theory that the earth is not the centre of the universe but revolves around the sun. He also perceives that the earth possesses a secret property that pulls things towards it but gets weaker with distance and has no power in space - in other words he describes gravity 70 years before Isaac Newton. He is believed to have influenced both *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Gulliver's Travels*.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE

