



Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1733 onwards and divers historical prospecting.

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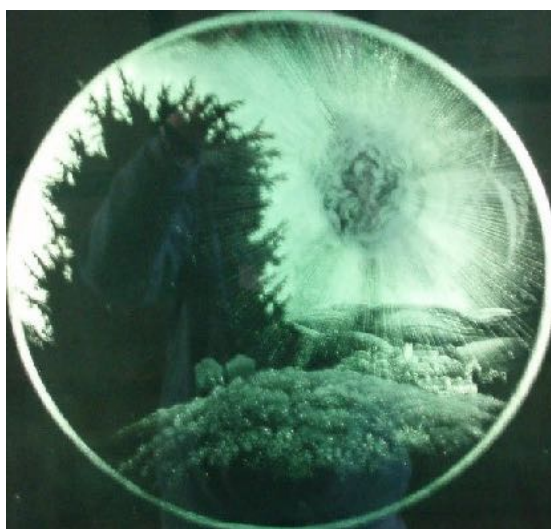
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A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 6

Mike Deeming writes:

John and Peggy Booker moved with their children Christopher and Joey from Ilchester to set up Knighton House Preparatory School in 1950, and built a wonderful home for them and the girls of the school. It was based in the old farmhouse on the Portman estate near Blandford Forum in North Dorset, home too to Bryanston School. Their younger daughter Serena (pictured) was born there in 1954 in a violent thunderstorm and nicknamed 'Cly' by her family – short for 'Clytemnestra', the wife of Agamemnon, also born in a thunderstorm. Joey married and had three children, but suffered from acute depression and committed suicide in 1976.

Her parents retired to the Old Rectory in Shillingstone in 1980 and two years later further tragedy befell, when Cly was murdered when on holiday in Thailand – her guide was arrested and charged with her murder, but whilst on bail his body was found riddled with bullet wounds, so he never came to trial. Cly was cremated in a Buddhist ceremony in Thailand, where the British Vice-consul had placed a bunch of roses on her funeral pyre. Her ashes were brought back to England, where half were buried next to Joanna in the churchyard of St Nicolas' Church, Durweston, near the school. The remaining ashes were scattered on hillsides, some on the Dorset hills and some near Vienna where Cly had worked. Visiting the churchyard now, the girls' matching gravestones are complemented by the stone marking the burial place of their parents.



Before she went to Thailand, Cly had met Laurence Whistler. He had set out to be a poet and wrote a biography of Sir John Vanbrugh, but had abandoned this life and built up a career in glass engraving – Cly was a great admirer. After her memorial service in Durweston, Christopher approached Whistler to create a memorial window for the sisters – he had already been thinking of it. The glass panels, now displayed on the back of the organ in the North Quire aisle, are each dominated by a vision of a giant rose radiating light, with Dorset hill forts in the background. In the background of the left panel, shown here, is a view over Durweston village of Hod Hill, as seen from the school and in the right panel, a view of Hambledon Hill as seen from

the Old Rectory in Shillingstone. By an extraordinary coincidence, Christopher had been reading T S Eliot's poem 'Little Gidding' from the Four Quartets, when he spoke to Whistler, who himself had already inscribed words of this poem on the glass. Please read the touching words on the glass and note that 'the moment of the rose and the moment of the yew tree are of equal duration' lie beneath the rose and the yew tree in the image.

Although originally intended for Durweston Church, the panels were installed in the Cathedral's north porch in 1985 before being moved to their current location in 1989. Christopher Booker, one of the founders on Private Eye magazine, scriptwriter for 'That was the Week That was' and columnist for the Sunday Telegraph, died in 2019. Laurence Whistler's other work in the Cathedral – the prism in the morning chapel – is of course a memorial to his brother, Rex, killed during the Normandy Landings in 1944. I wouldn't presume to write about Rex – the archive in the Salisbury Museum is comprehensive.

Ed: A great friend of ours was Laurence Whistler's secretary. Unfortunately, her life was also tragic as her only son died and she committed suicide.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

I had not fully appreciated the effect of the Sarum Rite on the design of the Cathedral until I re-read Sarah Brown's *Sumptuous and Richly Adorn'd*. We have in previous issues (J&T 28 and 29) talked about the cloisters being built in order to process around but this is also true of the Cathedral itself. The break in the Nave stylobates near the font allows processing as does the North and south entrances between the Choir and the Presbytery and also the Ambulatory. This was yet another reason for leaving Old Sarum as that cathedral had not been designed with the Osmund/Poore Sarum Rite in mind.

As well as the high altar and the nave altar (for the laity) there were thirteen others. This were to serve the large number of canons and specific interests such as the guilds, eg Mary Magdalen was the patron saint of perfumers and St. Peter the patron of shoemakers and clock makers. Right the Magdalene probably by a follower of Andrea Solario c1524, *courtesy of Walters Art Museum, Baltimore*. Incidentally, the belief that Mary was a reformed prostitute comes from Pope Gregory I in 591AD who conflated Mary Magdalene with Mary of Bethany and the unnamed 'sinful woman' who anoints Jesus' feet (Luke 7:36-50). But I digress....



The Sunday procession involved visiting all the altars and asperging (purifying) them with water and maybe censuring with incense as well. It was only on major occasions that the procession



would proceed outside the Cathedral. As you can see, one aspect of the Cathedral is as a theatrical stage.

THE PRESBYTERY

This brings us to the Presbytery: I believe that the Chancel refers to the area between the Crossing and the High Altar that is composed of the Choir and the Presbytery. So the area I am talking about is from the small crossing (between the north-east and

south-east transepts) to the Ambulatory, or at least the arches where the reredos once stood. My understanding is that the High Altar has been in several positions within this space as changing liturgy has demanded. The question I wish to ask is where was the altar placed originally?

To the best of my research it would appear that the most likely position would have been between the (later) Audley Chantry and the (much later) Radnor Pew. This means that before Radnor moved his ancestors chantry there would have been a sedilia and piscina (Above, St.Mary, Buriton Hants*). The capitals of the adjacent columns are decorated and the ceiling decoration would support this supposed positioning of the altar. The question then arises, what was the space between the altar and the Ambulatory used for? Surely, the answer must be the shrine of St.Osmund! What do you think?

*Those of you of my age might recall that Buriton, between Petersfield and the South Downs, was where Michael Bentine's son was killed in a light aircraft crash. Bentine was of course the 'Fourth Goon'.

TOMB TALK - Sir Robert Hyde

Below, on the west-wall of the Southern Transept, *courtesy of Wikipedia*. James Harris' *The Epitaphs in Salisbury Cathedral* states that there *stands a handsome monument of black and white marble, and in an oval is the busto of a person in a Judge's habit, wearing his cap and collar of SS, and on a white marble table is a Latin inscription:*

A man of primitive manners, a protector of destitute widows, most observant of the laws, and an avenger of them when broken : he was not dismayed at the disorder of the state ; in public calms and storms the same. At length justice revisiting the land, emulous of his paternal uncle (1), and his exalted paternal cousin (2), he rose by due steps to the highest state of his profession. Chief Justice of England. Perhaps you may enquire whether captivity in the Tower was more honorable to him, than the tribunal purple ; where being intimately acquainted with the common and statute law, he was a faithful guardian to both, an asylum to the people, and protector of the clergy.

On a black tablet beneath.

Here lies interred, in the same rank as his Father (3) and brother (4) Sir Robert Hyde, Knt. second Son of Sir Laurence Hyde of the Close, at a time to be reckoned among the Preservers of the Cathedral and Spire from the destructive Malice of the Sacrilegious Roundheads ; consulting

especially the Advantage of his Native City, although a Resident of the Metropolis ; having fulfilled his earthly Duty - ripe for heaven - struck by sudden death - he was removed thither on the Calends of May, in the year of our redemption 1665, aged 70. His disconsolate Widow erected this Monument in Testimony of her very severe loss.

Note: 1. Sir Nicholas Hyde. 2. Lord Chancellor Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. 3. Sir Lawrence Hyde. 4. Sir Henry Hyde. Sir Robert Hyde was Recorder of Salisbury till 1664, the year before his death, when he resigned in favour of his relation, Councillor Richard Coleman.—The plague raged in England in 1665, and carried off 68,000 persons, and very likely Lord Chief Justice Hyde among them.

Hyde was born at Heale House in the Woodford Valley. He was called to the bar in 1617 and became serjeant-at-law in 1640 (during the time of Lord Coke of Magna Carta fame). As Recorder of Salisbury he had complaints made against him for his remissness in collecting *ship-money*. This was a Medieval tax that the king could impose without the approval of Parliament and was one of the causes of the civil war. Samuel Pepys' cousin Roger was bound over at Cambridge Assizes in 1664 for speaking insultingly of Hyde.



He represented Salisbury in the Short and Long Parliaments. Having joined the King at Oxford he was voted a malignant by parliament. He was committed to the Tower for 10 months and deprived of his recordership. He also sheltered Charles II at Heale House for six nights when he was on his way to Shoreham. With no children of his own he made his brother Alexander, Bishop of Salisbury, his heir.

THE KING'S HOUSE

The properties in the Close were also a source of income. In the Chapter minutes, Lt.General John Slade was given a forty year extension of lease on Sherborne Place in May 1822. This refers to the King's House (now the Museum) which began life as the residence of the Abbot of Sherborne. An odd piece of land adjoining Sherborne place was removed from the current owner's lease and added to the General's! There was another renewal of lease in April 1836 Sir John was the occupier from 1808 to 1852 and was probably *Black Jack* Slade, an inferior general sent home by Wellington but who rose to the top through his connections.

There is an interesting note dated October 1837 concerning what is now the King's House Museum. *Application was made on behalf of General Sir John Slade for a licence to alienate [transfer] to Miss Beazley [Godolphin School] a portion of Sherborne Place and for a licence to alienate the remainder of the premises to Mr Henry Brodribb [new tenant].*

Some entries just leave you hanging in the air: Clerk of Works no longer to receive rent for Sherburne Place held by Miss Bazley, Mrs Jacob and J. H. Jacob Esq.