



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

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## A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 20

**M**IKE DEEMING WRITES:

The two greatest poets from the Salisbury Diocese were George Herbert and Thomas Hardy. Discuss!

Herbert of course was the vicar at Bemerton and his life is commemorated in the Cathedral by the superb window behind the Gorges tomb, where the images relate to his poem 'Joy and Charitie'. We peeked at this in Jot&Tittle 54. Thomas Hardy, pictured right, lived in the Dorset half of the diocese and his many serialised novels relate to Wessex. Indeed, the stone-mason 'Jude the Obscure' worked for a time in Melchester (Salisbury) Cathedral; the novel also drew on the experience of Hardy's sisters who attended the College of Sarum St Michael (now the Salisbury Museum). Hardy's grave is in the churchyard at Stinsford, near Dorchester, near to his home at Max Gate.



The church is home to this fantastic commemorative window (below) by the prolific Scottish glazier, Douglas Strachan – it displays Hardy's favourite Old Testament story, in which Elijah listens to the still small voice after the tumult of wind, earthquake and fire. Hardy's funeral in 1928 was held in Westminster Abbey but proved controversial. He wished for his body to be buried at Stinsford next to his first wife, Emma, but his executor insisted that he be placed in Poet's Corner in the Abbey. As a compromise, his heart was buried at Stinsford and his ashes at Poets' Corner. Hardy also wanted to be remembered as a poet, rather than as a novelist; but that is arguably not the common perception these days when he's probably best known for the films based on his novels.



The Westminster Abbey Poets' Corner graves and memorials are illuminated by the huge South Transept rose widow, produced and installed by the glaziers Burlison and Grylls. The window was devised by the architect G F Bodley, who in 1868 had encouraged John Burlison and Thomas Grylls to establish their own studio, both having been trained at Clayton and Bell. Bodley had studied with George Gilbert Scott and together they were staunch advocates of the Early-English Gothic revival movement. Burlison and Grylls also supported that movement too and that brought them numerous commissions from Scott and Bodley.

Scott was, of course, responsible for re-establishing the Gothic style in Salisbury Cathedral in the 1860s and 1870s, with the active support of Bishop Walter Kerr Hamilton. Part of this support involved charging visitors to the

Cathedral a fee as a contribution to the 'Fabric Fund'! Scott designed the bishop's cenotaph in the south choir aisle, incorporating a copy of the design based on the medieval screen now in the Morning Chapel. By 1886 when the bishop's wife Isabel died, the fashion had moved to memorial windows. So Burlison and Grylls were invited to design and install the window in her memory, above the St Martin altar in the Morning Chapel. The style is C15 Germanic, with images of the corporal acts of mercy, each in a castellated surround. This window opened the floodgates for late Victorian and C20 memorial windows in an amazing panoply of styles. Later windows, including the Herbert window here and the Hardy window in Stinsford, exemplify this amazing range of styles, but time moves on and no more windows were glazed in the Cathedral in the medieval style of Burlison and Grylls.



### THE BALTIC

**A**s part of the Second Crusade it was decided that converting the pagans of the North (including Orthodox Russians) was as meritorious as the defence of the Holy Land. This gave the Germans and Danes a religious justification for their conquests.

Although the **Teutonic Knights** were based on the Templars they were linked to the German imperial throne. There were also two minor orders the Sword Brothers (1202) and the Knights of Dobrin (1206). The Sword Brothers joined the Teutonic Knights in 1236. By 1292 a million



new inhabitants were under Latin control. The Danes and Swedes also made progress but they were really only interested in setting up trading posts.



The German expansion resulted in a lot more trading around the Baltic, especially in Gdansk, Riga and Revel (Tallinn). By 1250, key towns had banded together into *Hanse* or guilds. This consortium became the **Hanseatic League**, operating under the laws of Lübeck (the city is shown on page 2 *courtesy of K.ristof, Creative Commons*). They established *Kontore*, trading posts which often became members of the league as they developed. These included Bruges, Novgorod, Bergen and London. Above, Hanseatic *Kogge*.

This powerful league established a level playing field for trade, ganged up on unreasonable rulers, protected their ships from pirates and even researched and produced navigational charts. They were extremely successful until the great maritime nations (Portugal, Netherlands and England) started exploration and development of their own. A reduced League though lasted



until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In effect the Hansa Towns were an international Common Market eventually covering 194 cities in 16 countries BUT without the political downside of the EU - what a pity politicians tend not to read history. The English called the Baltic traders *Easterlings*; their pound was so strong that the English liked to trade in their currency. Overtime *Easterling* was shortened to *Sterling*.

I hope you noted the spires on Lübeck cathedral (1173), reconstructed after the RAF destroyed a fifth of the city in 1942. They are so reminiscent of our own Saxon *Rhenish Helm* on St.Mary's Sompting, Sussex (left).

#### PARISH THE THOUGHT

**A** recent exploration of local villages turned up trumps when we went to West Grimstead, just east of Salisbury, off the A36. The delightful little church

(right) with its 17<sup>th</sup> century tower, is supposed to date back to William Rufus (1087 - 1100) and the village is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

Mercifully, the church escaped the Victorian restorationists except for a coating of lime wash which has since been removed. The roof beams are original Spanish chestnut and the pulpit looks Jacobean but could be Elizabethan. The font on the other hand looks Saxon but is most likely Norman. Before the tower and entrance porch were built, access was by the traditional north and south doors and you can see where they have been bricked-up. The pillar and Chilmark arches (left) are early English and the North aisle behind is referred to as the Clarendon Aisle.





There is a large slab in the nave, formerly with a small brass, dedicated to Alice, daughter of John Lye, whose husband was one John Mompesson.

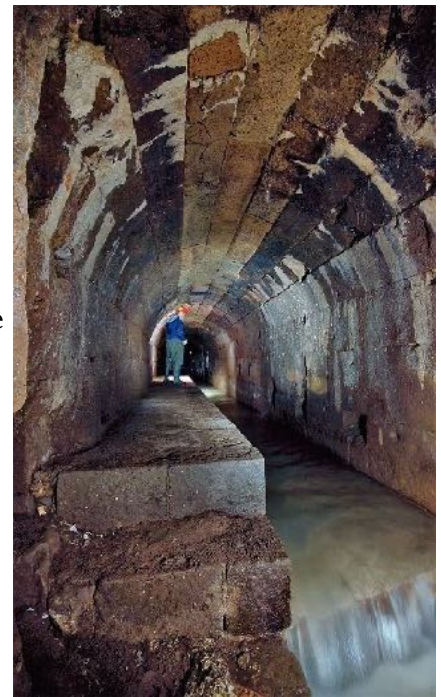
### QUORA

This website (quora.com) has many nuggets of historical info so I thought it might make a regular J&T feature.

Q. How good was the Roman sewer system (you must think I am becoming obsessed with this subject)?

A. The Cloaca Maxima or Greatest Sewer (right) was built before 509 BC. It's still in use today in Rome. One of the kings of Rome ordered its construction by drafting the young men of the city. But some of the pampered young men committed suicide. The king deterred the copycats by crucifying the bodies not cremating them. They were left to rot along the canal route.

The Etruscans, to whom the Romans owed much, built the original canal which was later roofed over, probably for the same reason as Salisbury's canals. The aqueducts, after supplying the city with water, discharged into the sewer to keep it fresh. It is said that the bodies of teenage Emperor Elagabalus (204 - 222) and Sebianus/Saint Sebastian (256 - 288) both ended up in the sewers. Incidentally, the famous arrows did not kill him, he was clubbed to death!



For more info on the Cloaca go to Wikipedia.

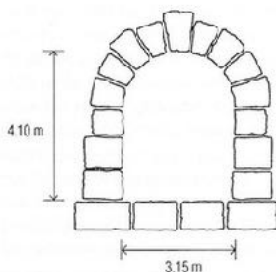
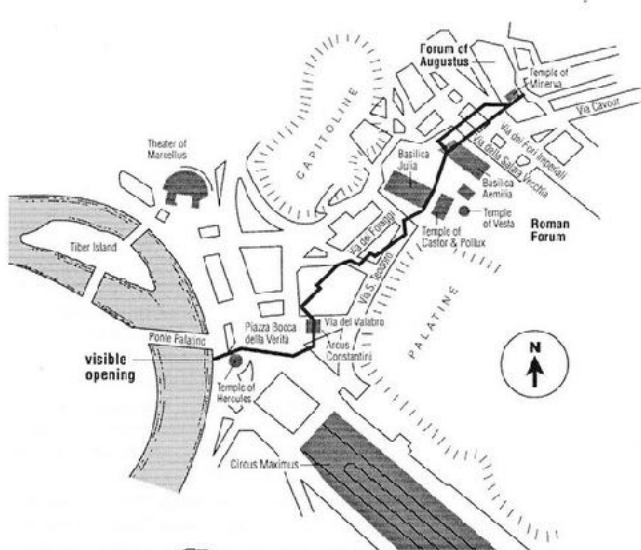


Figure 3. Ancient Rome's main sewer line, the Cloaca Maxima. Still used for street run-off, the sewer's terminus, ancient stone intact, can be seen from Ponte Palatino (after Lamprocht).

### PUZZLE

The answer to the quiz in the last edition is that it was a ship-mounted apparatus for projecting Greek Fire (probably based on naptha and quicklime). Below: The crew of a Byzantine *dromon*, spraying an enemy ship with Greek fire.

