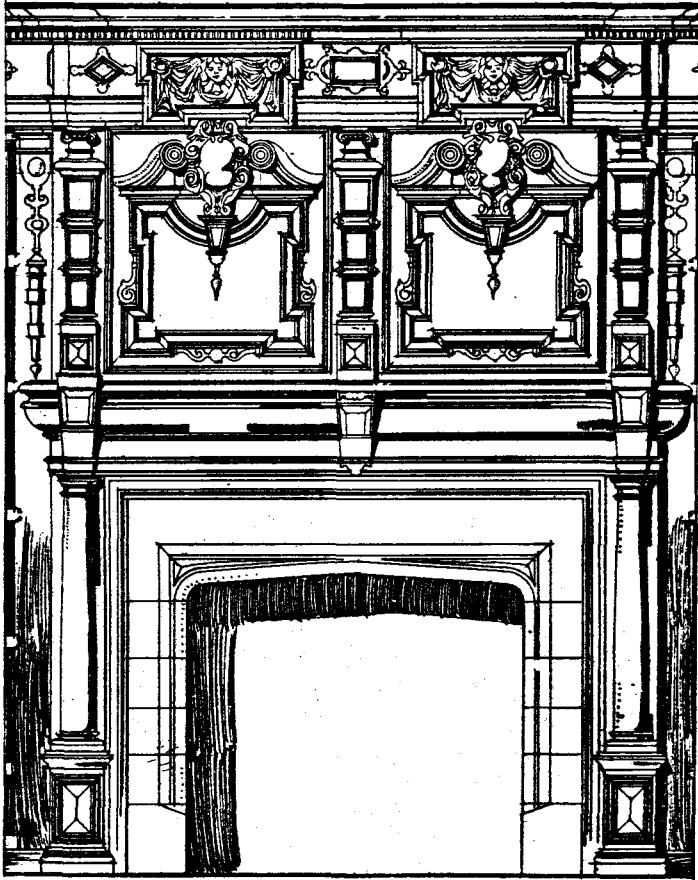


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

November 1964

2s.6d.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Saye and Sele, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.

Chairman: J.H. Fearon, Esq., Fleece Cottage, Bodicote, Banbury.

Hon. Secretary

J.S.W. Gibson, F.S.G.,
Humber House,
Bloxham,
Banbury.
(Tel: Bloxham 332)

Hon. Treasurer:

A.W. Pain, A.L.A.
c/o Borough Library,
Marlborough Road,
Banbury.
(Tel: Banbury 2282)

Hon. Editor "Cake and Cockhorse":

B. S. Trinder, 90 Bretch Hill, Banbury.

Hon. Research Adviser:

E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., F.R. Hist. Soc.

Hon. Archaeological Adviser:

J. H. Fearon, B.Sc.

Committee Members:

Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, D.Sc., R.K. Bigwood,
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* * * * *

The Society was founded in 1958 to encourage interest in the history of the town and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The magazine Cake and Cockhorse is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. A booklet Old Banbury - a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., price 3/6 and a pamphlet A History of Banbury Cross price 6d have been published and a Christmas card is a popular annual production,

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. Banbury Marriage Register has been published in three parts, a volume on Oxfordshire Clockmakers 1400-1850 and South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684 have been produced and the Register of Baptisms and Burials for Banbury covering the years 1558 - 1653 is planned for 1965.

Meetings are held during the winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. at the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is 25/-, including the annual records volume, or 10/- if this is excluded. Junior membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE

The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued to members four times a year.
Volume Two. Number Ten. November, 1964.

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Editorial

This is not a definitive history of the Globe Room. Our original intention was that this issue should be a delayed obituary, but the discovery of the panels in February last means that it is again possible to ask questions about the room's past which could never otherwise have been posed. This is rather a progress report, a brief series of statements of current knowledge and an indication of some of the questions which remain to be faced.

First, what answers can already be given? Mr. Laithwaite describes with authority the building into which the Globe Room was placed and seems reasonably confident that it was installed by about 1640 and that it was specially built for the Reindeer. We can offer little explanation of what happened to the room between its installation in the Reindeer and the beginning of the reign of Queen Victoria. The description published by the Mechanics' Institute in 1840 seems to be the first recorded mention of the room. For much of the rest of its time at the Reindeer it seems to have been no more than a common tap room. It seems reasonably certain that it first achieved real fame in the late 1880's after the visit of the Architectural Association. Dr. Beeson explains how the Hook Norton Brewery came to sell the room and has traced its history between 1912 and 1964 as clearly as is possible at the present time, and has also set the story in the context of the antique trade of the period. Since the more recent history of the room is largely the concern of the Society, Mr. Gibson is able to describe it in detail.

What remains to be discovered about the room? First, the reason for its installation in the Reindeer. Was the Reindeer the property of people of exceptional taste and wealth in the 1630's? Further work on the Knight family may give the answer. About the room's story between 1640 and 1840 it is doubtful whether we shall ever be able to find out very much, but it may be possible from wills, inventories or correspondence, to find out the status of the Reindeer as an inn in the 18th century and perhaps even how the Globe Room was furnished. Mysteries about what happened to the room between 1912 and 1964 remain, but hopes of further discoveries in the immediate future seem slender.

The most interesting future discoveries will probably relate to the craftsmen responsible for the room. Comparison of the panels with those at St. John's College, Oxford, and other places may make it possible to find out the name of the craftsman who carved them. Similarly comparison of the ceiling with contemporary work may reveal the identity of the plasterer. Investigation of the origins of the plaster cast of the ceiling at Shoppenhangers Manor may well lead to further information about the history of the Globe Room after its sale, and may help to identify the plasterer.

The most cheering fact about future work on the room is that the panels will be returning to Banbury, ultimately to decorate the mayor's parlour in the new civic centre. There, surmounted by a plaster cast of the ceiling, they will be one of the chief features of architectural interest in the district and a continual stimulus to further research.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Winter Programme 1964/65

Wednesday, 25th November, 7.30 p.m. ADDERBURY VILLAGE HALL: "The Village of Adderbury" (organized in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council). The meeting will consist of short talks entitled:

"Did you know?" (houses and families of Adderbury) by Dr. C. F. C. Beeson: "Let's find out" (Adderbury church) by W. H. Clark, illustrated with coloured slides by G. F. Lawson and a Map Quiz, by L. W. Wood.

There will be an interval for refreshments.

This is a new venture for the Society, but it is hoped its success will encourage the holding of meetings in other villages. Many of the members of the Society live outside Banbury, and we are sure that all will do what they can to support the meeting by attending.

A history of Adderbury, by W. H. Clark, has just been published by the Civic Society. This is reviewed on page 175 and will be on sale at the meeting.

In order that those without cars can be given a lift from Banbury it is requested that anyone coming from Banbury, with or without transport, reports outside the Essoldo Cinema, Horsefair, at 7.00 p.m. Lifts will of course be available back to Banbury after the meeting.

Thursday 28th January, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club: Exhibition and talk by members of the Oxfordshire County Record Office staff. Tuesday, 30th March, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club: "Sulgrave, on 11th century thegn's residence" by Brian Davison.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As reported in the last number of Cake & Cockhorse, this year's Christmas Card issued by the Society is a two-colour view of South Bar about 1850. This is one of the illustrations in A History of Banbury Cross. The card of Banbury Cross in 1860 is also available again. Both cards cost 6/- per dozen, including envelopes, to members only (prices in shops are considerably higher). The massive support of members is essential if the Society is to be able to afford to issue a new card each year, as it has now for six years. Cards will be on sale at the meeting on 25th November, but meanwhile and afterwards they are available from Hon. Secretary, Humber House, Bloxham, Banbury.

THE 1838 MAP OF BANBURY

Much interest has been aroused by the 1838 map of Banbury printed in our September issue, and the display of the original in Banbury Public Library, arranged by the Society, has attracted much favourable comment. We are particularly pleased that a Banbury Guardian reporter has found an even older map in the attic of that newspaper's premises. This was reproduced in the Guardian of October 8th. In response to considerable demand we have reprinted a number of copies of the 1838 map which may be obtained from the Editor, Cake and Cockhorse, 90, Bretch Hill, Banbury, price 6d. each, 5/- per dozen or £1 for 50.

THE PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

A notice issued on behalf of the County Record Office by the Clerk of the Oxfordshire County Council and the Town Clerk of Oxford is enclosed. It relates to the frequent destruction of irreplaceable records when storerooms, offices, etc., are cleared out; in particular now that this is necessary to comply with fire precautions. Although many members may not work in or be responsible for offices or business premises as such, it is sure to be of relevance in some form to nearly all. It is to be hoped that all readers of this magazine will also read the notice and take what action they can to implement it.

THE REINDEER INN, BANBURY


The Reindeer is considerably the oldest inn in Banbury and must in its day have been one of the most important, but despite this very little is known of its early history. No major event in the town's history is known to have taken place here, and even the landlords' names are not recorded before 1666. The name 'Reindeer' itself has not been found in a document earlier than 1664. In fact the interest of the Reindeer lies not in its associations but in its buildings, which are conveniently inscribed with the dates of their erection and so provide an exceptionally fine example of the evolution of an inn in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

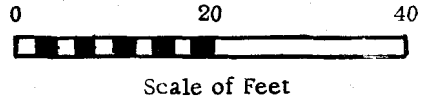
Until 1706 or 1707 the inn comprised not only No. 47 Parson's Street, the present Reindeer, but also No. 48 which adjoins it to the east.(1) It is clear, however, from the structural evidence, that the front range of the building is of two quite distinct periods, the eastern part, including the gateway and the building over it, being the later. This is established by two pieces of evidence. First, the two parts of the building have independently framed roof structures, with trusses only a few inches apart at the point where the buildings adjoin. Secondly, the truss at the east end of the western building is weathered on the outer face, showing that it must originally have been an exposed gable. However, the trusses are of the same pattern throughout the whole range, with queen-struts, raking struts from collar to principal, and curved, well shaped windbraces, all features consistent with an early or mid sixteenth century date. It would, therefore, be difficult to pin down the date of either part more precisely, were it not that the gates bear the inscription 'IOHN-KNIGHT + IHONE-KNIGHT + DAVID-HORN. ANNO. D^N. 1570.' There seems no reason to doubt the authenticity of this inscription, particularly since it was treated as ancient by a writer of as long ago as 1841,(2) and it may reasonably be assumed that 1570 was the date of the whole eastern half of the range. Another, somewhat circumstantial, piece of evidence is provided by a document of 1564 (3) which records the purchase by John Knight, baker, of a cottage or shop in 'groape cont lane', possibly another name for Parson's Street.(4) The origin of this document is not known, but it corresponds very closely to one described by Beesley as 'in the writings of the Raindeer Inn.'(5) Moreover, the cottage is described as having the tenement 'in which the same John Knight now lives' on its west side. It is conceivable, therefore, that John Knight, having in 1564 bought the rather poorly developed plot of land next to his own, in 1570 built on it a grander extension to his own house, which he then made into an inn. It is not necessary to assume that he continued to live in the house himself, for his will shows that he was a man of property, (6) and one might hazard a guess that David Horn, of whom nothing else is known, was his first tenant and landlord.

The original, pre-1570 house is a modest building of stone with a timber-framed front wall in the upper storey, which originally, no doubt, was jettied over a similar wall in the ground storey, now rebuilt in stone. Part of the rear wing, extending almost to the Globe Room, is fairly certainly of the same date and its wall to the yard, though rebuilt in modern times, is likely to have been timber-framed also. This curious building technique is characteristic of 16th and 17th century town houses in the stone belt, and was probably practised because it allowed a greater display of carving and decorative work than stone; in Banbury, Lincoln Chambers, in the Market Place, and Nos. 86-7 High Street (Neale & Perkins) are excellent mid-seventeenth-century examples. The interior of the house retains no original features, except perhaps a little re-used panelling, and its original plan can only be conjectured. Possibly it followed the existing ground-floor arrangement of two rooms in the front block divided by a through passage, and one large room in the wing.


The additions made in 1570 almost certainly included, besides the front block, the imposing three-storeyed wing which lies behind it. This, too, has been sadly mutilated, but its oriel windows are still visible in the second storey, while in the third storey the timber-framed front wall is jettied forward, the stone gable walls, which likewise project, being supported by huge moulded corbels. The interior has been greatly altered, but evidence remains to show that the second-floor room had a fine ceiling with moulded beams at tie-beam level, a feature which is also traceable in the room over the gateway.


The next dateable addition to the inn was made in 1624, according to a datestone set into the wall, when an extra room with walls wholly of stone was inserted in the angle between the front

 Early or Mid 16th Century



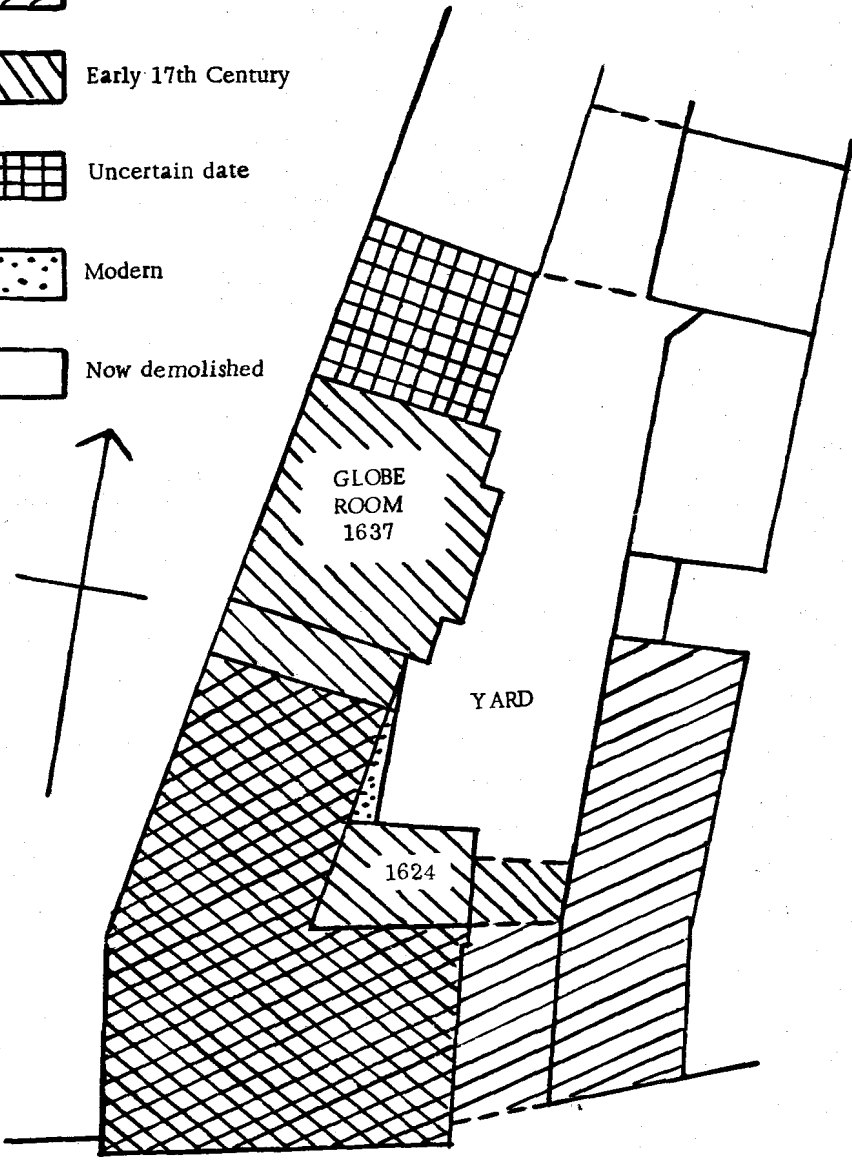
 1570

 Early 17th Century

 Uncertain date

 Modern

 Now demolished



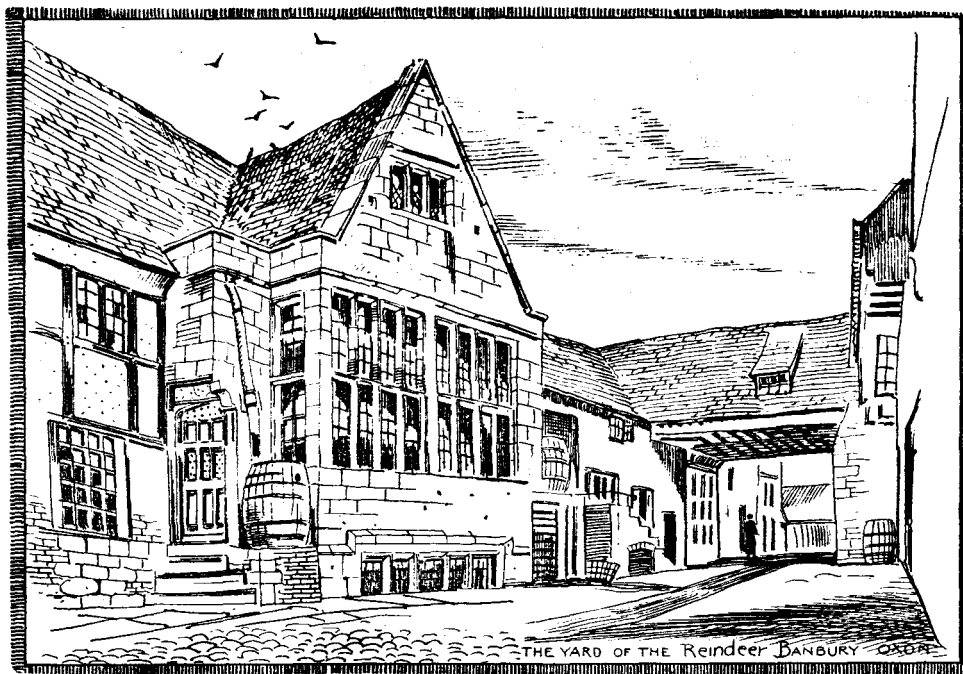
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No. 48

PARSON'S STREET

range and the west wing. And about the same time - perhaps a little later, to judge by a window with ovolo-moulded mullions - a short passage was added behind the room over the gateway, linking it with the new extension.

The Globe Room marked the peak of the inn's development. Built, according to a datestone now removed, in 1637,(7) it was a piece of architecture of the highest contemporary quality, unlike the earlier buildings which, though good, had been very much of the common run. Its front with the great mullioned and transomed window, now rebuilt in wood, was originally of stone. The mullions were of ovolo section, and this in itself is an interesting indication of the class of the building, for mullions of this type are not known to have been in use in the vernacular building of the area before 1647.(8) Internally, the building consisted of one large lofty room - that containing the panelling - with a cellar below and a rather cramped garret above. The garret and the cellar were reached by a small staircase contained in a timber-framed structure linking the Globe Room with the rear wing of the original house. Of the panelled room itself little need be said for it has been adequately described elsewhere. It was almost certainly designed for the room at the Reindeer, and certain features of the panelling, particularly the absence of the worst Jacobean ebullience, support a date as late as 1637. There is no evidence to attribute its design to any known architect - and most certainly not to Inigo Jones. Examples of work in a similar manner are to be found all over the country, and if comparisons are to be made with any particular example, it is with work apparently of about the same date at St. John's College, Oxford. As to the name of the room itself, no information at all has come to light. Probably the room was used as a parlour by guests at the inn, and may have contained a large globe of the world, as was sometimes the custom.



Until a few years ago the courtyard was enclosed on all four sides. Old photographs show a timber-framed building of two storeys on the east side, linked to the wing of 1570 by what appears to be an enclosed gallery at first-floor level. The front of the building was crudely pargetted, and this may indicate a date of about the mid 17th century. The north end of the yard was closed by a gateway with a garret over it. This is very difficult to date, but an old photograph(9) shows a pair of panelled gates very similar to those in the front range, and it may be that they were an original feature of the inn.

The Reindeer seems to have remained in the hands of the Knight family until 1706, in which year Bezaliel Knight, perhaps the great great grandson of John and Joan Knight, sold the extensive family properties in Banbury to Benjamin Howes.(1) It is this continuity of ownership that has deprived us of early references to the inn, and in fact, the only intermediate reference to its ownership by the family is in 1664, when Mr. William Knight paid chief rent for 'ye Rayne Deer'. (10) The Knight family was among the most important in Banbury during the first century of the inn's history and their position seems to have been maintained by reserving almost the entire family property to the eldest son. For example, William Knight (d. 1631) left his whole property to his elder son, Bezaliel, with only a life interest to the younger son.(11) A later William Knight (d. 1672), bequeathed his property in the same way, the younger son, another Bezaliel, receiving only a sum of money and an apprenticeship to the legal profession in London.(12) It was this practice which eventually ended the family connection with Banbury, for Bezaliel's elder brother, William, died childless in 1674,(13) and it was Bezaliel, evidently well established in London, who finally disposed of the property to Howes in 1706.

Probably the Reindeer was already in decline by this date. Thomas Sutton, who had been landlord for a long period until his death in 1685, had been an important figure in the town,(14) and no doubt this reflected to some extent the prosperity of his business. Howes, however, promptly divided off half the inn as a private dwelling-house (now No. 48), and thereafter this part never seems to have been returned to its original use, being finally sold as a separate property in 1795.(1) The later owners of the inn are listed below.

Disappointingly, it has not proved possible to find a probate inventory which relates with absolute certainty to the Reindeer. That of Ralph Adey,(15) who seems to have been landlord up to the year of his death in 1713,(14) is unacceptable because the register of burials shows that he was buried from the Hare and Hounds, next door but one at No. 45. It must be admitted that the inventory does not fit easily with the plan of the Reindeer, but, on the other hand, it does mention a room 'over ye gatehouse', and also a skittle alley, which is a feature mentioned in a 1795 deed of the Reindeer.(1)

Historic Buildings Section, L. C. C.

Michael Laithwate.

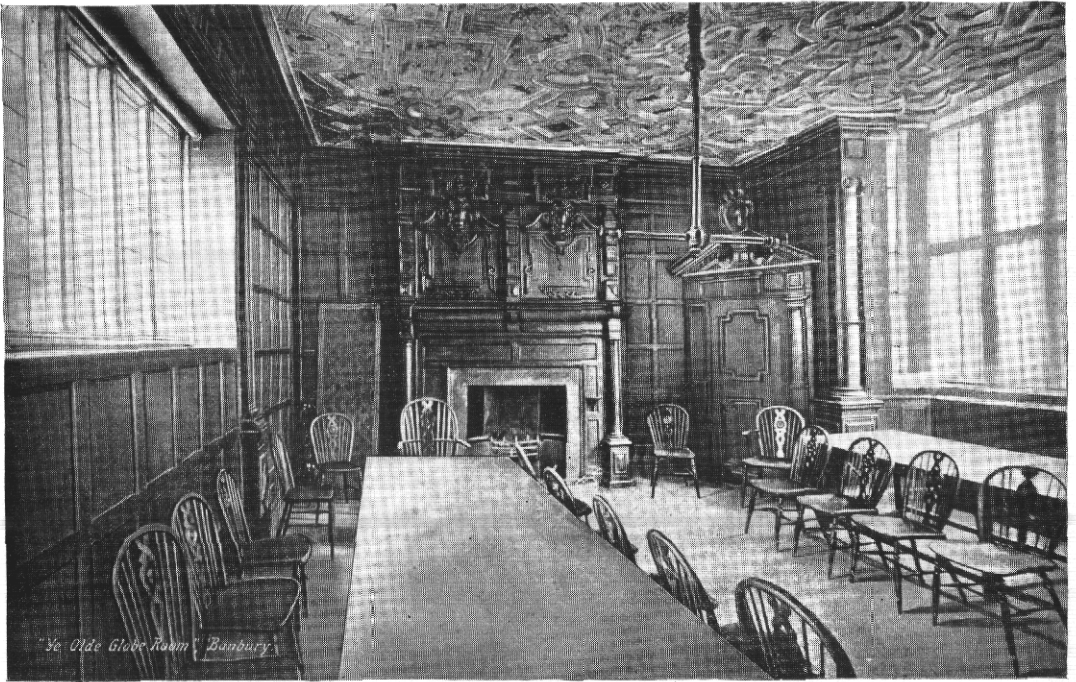
(Footnote: I should like to express my thanks to Miss D. E. Batts, Messrs. A. & H. Batts, Mr. K. Franklin, landlord of the Reindeer, and to the Hook Norton Brewery, who kindly allowed me to investigate the Reindeer buildings and to examine title deeds in their possession. Also to Mr. J. S. W. Gibson for the use of his notes from the register of baptisms and burials).

Later Owners of the Reindeer

1706 - 1714	Benjamin Howes.	1789 - 1794	Ann Roberts, widow.
1714 - ? 1744	William Russell.	1794 - 1795	Joseph Walker.
? 1744 - 1755	Hon. James West.	From this date on, No. 47 Parsons	
1755 - ? 1771	Thomas Grant.	Street only :- (16)	
1771 - 1779	William Sanders.	1795 - 1818	William Hale.
1779 - ? 1789	William Mosley (but bankrupt	1818 - 1821	Maria Hale, widow.
	1781)	1821 - 1829	Thomas Herbert.

References :

- (1) Oxfordshire County Record Office, Stockton & Fortescue Collection, Box 19, Bundle I.
- (2) A. Beesley, 'History of Banbury', 1841, p. 277.
- (3) Banbury Borough Library, document B 2.
- (4) E.R.C. Brinkworth, 'Old Banbury', 1958, p. 8, but evidence is conflicting.
- (5) A. Beesley, *op. cit.*, p. 275, n. 28.
- (6) P.C.C., 36 Rutland. The will also helps to confirm that the various references are to the same John Knight, for he is described as 'baker', as on the deed of 1564, and his wife is called Joane, as on the Reindeer gates.



1. General view of the Globe Room.

- (7) A. Beesley, *op. cit.*, p. 277.
 (8) R. B. Wood-Jones, 'Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region', 1963, p. 258.
 (9) In possession of Miss M. Whitehorn.
 (10) List of Chief Rents, 1664, in possession of the Town Clerk of Banbury.
 (11) P.C.C., 120 St. John.
 (12) P.C.C., 7 Eure.
 (13) P.C.C., 21 Bunce.
 (14) C. F. C. Beeson, '17th Century Innkeepers in Banbury', *Cake and Cockhorse*, Vol. 1, p. 123.
 (15) Bodleian, MSS. Wills Peculiars 32/2/24.
 (16) Title deeds in possession of Hook Norton Brewery.

THE GLOBE ROOM AT THE REINDEER INN

(This article is reprinted from The Banbury Mechanics' Institute Manuscript Magazine, No. 26, January 1st, 1840. We publish it, not for its merits as a piece of architectural criticism, nor for its quaintness as a period piece, but because it contains useful information not elsewhere available, e.g. that the ceiling of the Globe Room was painted green and pink in 1840, and most of all because it is the earliest written record of the Globe Room. It also deserves fame as being the stimulus to the inquiries which eventually led to the discovery of the Globe Room panels).

This fine apartment, it appears from the date above the window on the outside, was built in the fourth year of the reign of Charles the first, 1629, and to the antiquary is deservedly one of the lions of Banbury.

The best plan of describing it will perhaps be by taking it side by side; we shall therefore, commence with the back, premising as a general description that the room is entirely wainscotted with fine dark oak, which fortunately has been very tolerably preserved and, mirabile dictu, has escaped from the "beautifying" and painting propensities of any of its proprietors. (1)

The back of the room then, is divided by two pilasters of incorrect Italian design, into three compartments. These pilasters have their bases on the floor of the room, and bear the frieze and cornice of it on their capitals. The two end compartments are filled from the floor to the ceiling with small square or rather oblong panelling. The centre compartment, which is a little wider than the end ones, would resemble them, but that it contains a window about five feet from the floor, and reaching to the frieze of the wainscoting. This window is probably about six feet six inches wide, by three feet six inches high, and is divided by four upright stone mullions of the character exhibited in so many of the old houses in the town, those in the Vicarage for instance.

The lower end of the room is the same as the back, but without a window, square panelling occupying the whole of the three compartments. The pilasters, friezes and cornice are precisely the same.

The upper end of the room contains the chimney piece, and two slightly recessed compartments, one on each side, also of the same square panelling. The fireplace opening, made for a hearth burning wood upon, has originally been about five feet six inches high, and seven feet wide, but it is now filled up to meet a modern grate. The chimney piece consists of two Italian pillars (2) before square piers, based on the floor of the room, and being about the height of the fireplace opening. These support a deeply moulded mantel, above this the space is occupied by the panels, the styles of these are ornamented with carved termini, and the panels themselves are very richly carved, they are surmounted with pediments in which occur oval shields in florid framework. Above these, in the frieze of the room, are two square framed compartments containing cherubim and drapery also in carved oak.

The fourth side of the room contains a large embayed window divided in the middle by a single transom and perpendicularly by seven mullions of stone, besides the returns. This window is perhaps four feet from the floor of the room and reaches to the plaister of the ceiling. Beneath it, the wall is wainscotted by small oak panelling, as the rest of the room. On each side of it, is an Ionic pillar, with pedestal, the shaft of which is perhaps one foot in diameter. These stand out from the wainscot, though the frieze of it is carried round their entablature, they are the whole height of the room. This window from its great breadth leaves but a small span on each side of it to describe, but these spaces are made the most of, as they each present us with a finely carved oak

door, surmounted by a rich pediment, and placed in an angular position. One of them is the entrance to the room, thus, with the outer door, forming by the way it is placed in, a small lobby, the other is a closet or beaufette in the angle nearest to the fireplace. Above each is an irregular oval shield the moulding of which is richly carved.

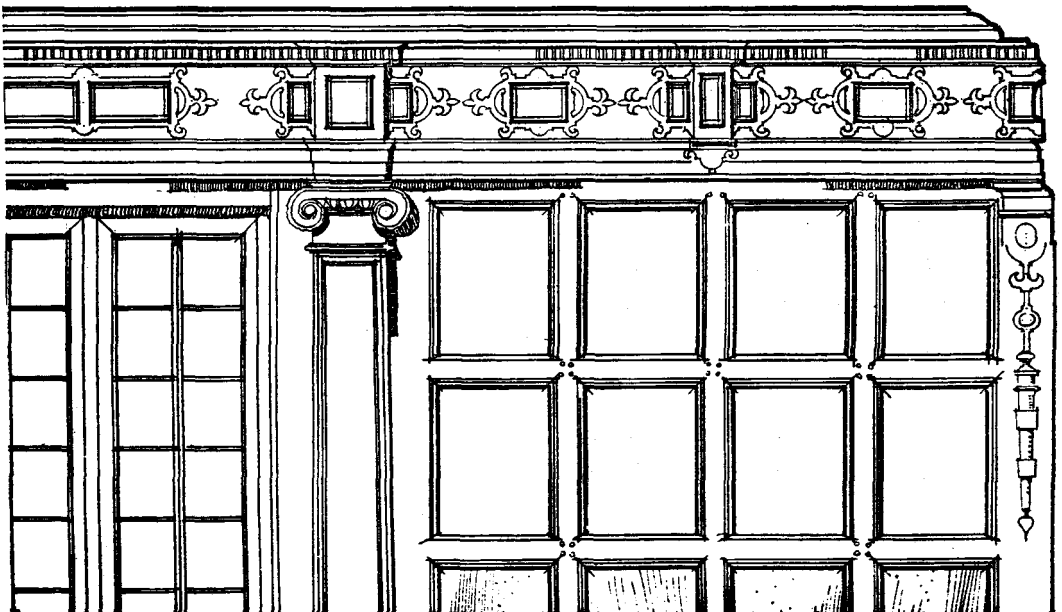
The frieze and cornice of the room are deep and rich, the former is ornamented with labels of a form common in the seventeenth and latter part of the sixteenth centuries and which may be characterized as a mixture of angles and scrolls but which it is impossible to describe without the assistance of the pencil.

The apartment is completed by a fine honeycomb plaister ceiling, consisting of framework and panel, the latter upwards of eighty in number, and of all shapes, though together forming a regular figure. The framework is in tolerably high relief, and is moulded on each side down to the panels, on it, between the mouldings at its edges, is a continuous pattern of flowers and foliage also in relief. The panels are variously filled up, some with flowers, and some with that queer combination of angles and scrolls mentioned before, in others the figure of a mermaid is repeatedly introduced. These are now coloured green, and the framework of the ceiling also has been coloured pink, or salmon colour, but although we happen to have heard it suggested, by one well versed in such matters that this colouring was done when the room was constructed such was not the case, though it is said that colouring and even gilding such ceilings was not an uncommon practice.

Whilst noting these particulars, we unfortunately were not provided with a rule, the dimensions above stated of various parts must not therefore be taken as strictly correct. The length of the room is perhaps (from memory) twenty feet, its breadth from the back to the window about 17 and its height about 11. Should these dimensions be found very incorrect they shall be corrected in the next number of the magazine.

EDITOR.

- (1) The magnificent dining room at Broughton Castle, of the same character as the room we are describing, has at some time actually been covered with white oil paint and still remains so.
- (2) The pillars and pilasters in this room would be correct Ionic, were it not for a small annulet on each shaft.



The Reindeer ceased to be one of Banbury's foremost inns during the 18th century, probably because its constricted site in a narrow street made it unattractive to coaches. This may well account for the apparent neglect of the Globe Room.

In that great age of critical travellers, the half century between 1780 and 1830, none of the writers who recorded their visits to Banbury made any mention of the room. Lord Torrington, who might well have found it interesting, makes no reference to it, nor does Arthur Young. It is even more surprising that Alfred Beesley should ignore the room in his History of Banbury (1841), but at the time of writing Beesley had just joined those fanatical zealots of the Gothic, the Cambridge Camden Society, (1) which may well explain his reluctance to comment on such a fine example of the Classical in architecture. Not that he was omitting to mention something that was greatly prized in the town. The Reindeer was then an insignificant inn, visited by few leading citizens. George Herbert obviously was well acquainted with his namesakes who kept the inn, yet he does not refer to the Globe Room in Shoemaker's Window (1949) and he was certainly no Gothic bigot.

The first sign of any appreciation of the Globe Room's architectural qualities came in 1840, when the Manuscript Magazine of the Banbury Mechanics' Institute published the description of the room which we reprint on page 163. Many aspects of this account may appear ludicrous, particularly the apology for the lack of a rule when assessing the dimensions of the room and the assertion that the pillars would be "correct Ionic, were it not for ...". But the important point about this article is that it shows the qualities of the room being appreciated, perhaps for the first time for two centuries.

In the middle decades of the 19th century the Reindeer was rarely the scene of important political meetings, since the venues for these were well established, the great centre of Conservatism being the Red Lion, while Liberal headquarters were usually at the Flying Horse. In April 1859 Sir Charles Douglas, the successful independent Liberal candidate in the general election of that month, made his headquarters in the Globe Room and paid £30 out of his expenses fund to Henry and Maria Herbert for using it. His committee rooms were again at the Reindeer when he unsuccessfully defended his seat against Bernhard Samuelson in 1865. In 1868 the petition asking William Mewburn of Wykham Park to be a candidate for parliament was displayed for public signature in the Globe Room. Mewburn later made use of the room to entertain a large party of workmen who had been engaged on the rebuilding of Wykham Park in 1871. It is some indication of the inn's social standing that a rich man should consider it a suitable place for entertaining workmen.

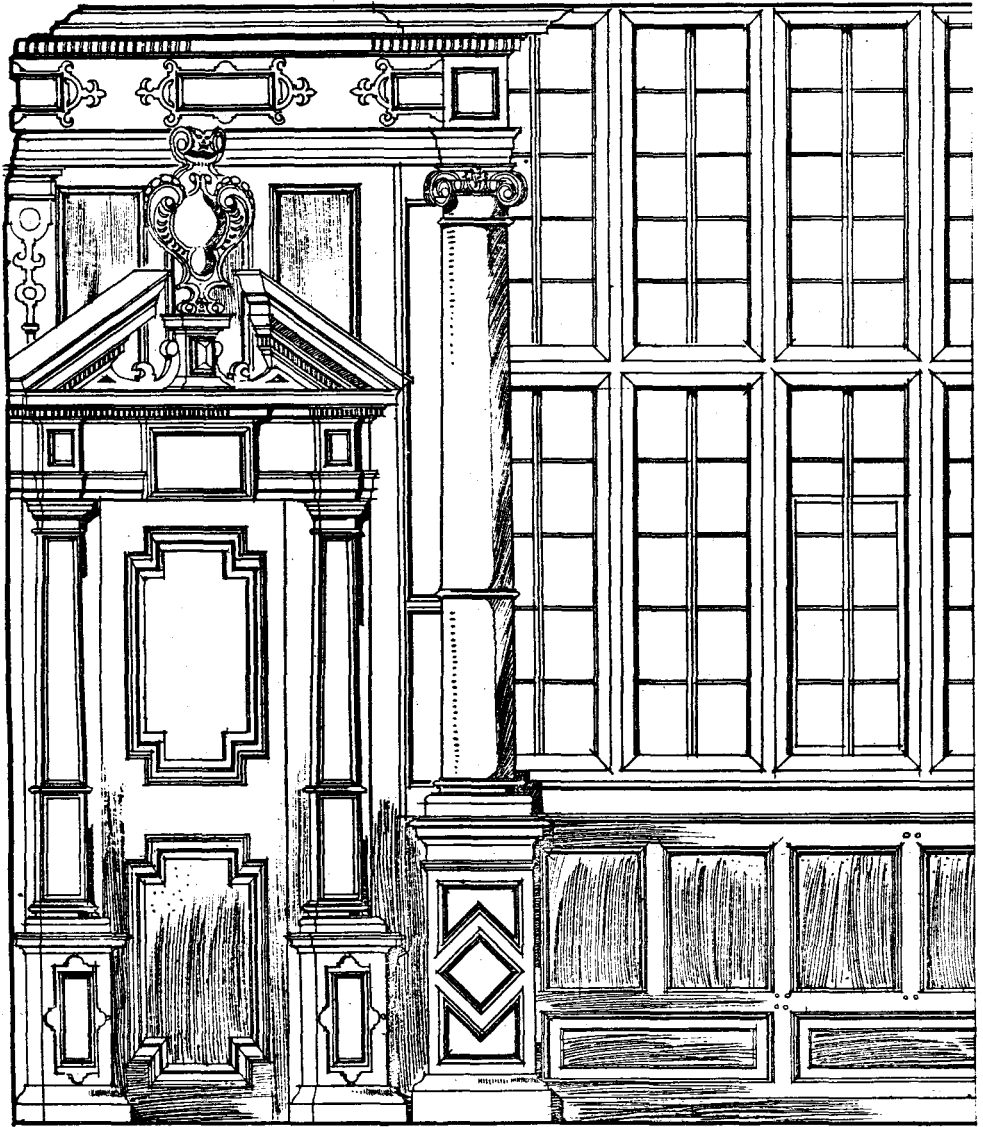
The first published picture of the Globe Room, a rather indifferent reproduction of an original sketch by Mr. J. Hutchings, appeared in a London newspaper in August 1859. No description appeared with it (2).

On Saturday October 15th 1885 the members of the Architectural Association visited the Globe Room on the last of the organised excursions of their week's stay in the Banbury area.(3) They were duly impressed with the qualities of the room, which was the only building in Banbury itself to receive detailed mention in the official accounts of the visit. The Builder (15.8.1885) called it "a particularly fine room with an excellent plaster ceiling and dark oak panelling extending to the floor. The shape and the arrangement of the room are pleasant and the whole effect is heightened by coming as a surprise". A later report called it "a most interesting and complete piece of work and considering its present use (a sort of market room attached to the inn) is in as good a state of preservation as can well be expected". This report went on to remark that there was some damage to the cornice and that odd bits of the ornamental detail were missing. The Builder printed a view and measured detail of the fireplace in its issue of August 15th 1885, and further drawings of the interior on September 19th 1885.

The visit of the Architectural Association was the starting point of considerable interest in the room by architects, reflected in mentions in numerous learned works of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. J. A. Gotch must certainly have become acquainted with the room during the Architectural Association visit, since he was one of the leaders of the group and conducted

OLDE REINE DEERE INN BANBURY

DRAWINGS OF GLOBE ROOM



members over Compton Wynyates. In Early Renaissance Architecture in England (Batsford. 1901. 2nd Ed. 1914) he describes the room on page 162, the ceiling on page 177, the panelling on page 181, and reproduces a photograph of part of the ceiling and a drawing of the north wall with the chimney piece. Comments on the panelling and detailed drawings appeared in H. Tanner, English Interior Woodwork (Batsford 1902) and comments on the overmantel in L. A. Shuffrey, The English Fireplace (Batsford 1912). A drawing and a photograph of the ceiling appeared in M. Jourdain, English Decorative Plasterwork of the Renaissance (Batsford 1926). A plan, elevation sketch and details of ceiling, panelling and moulding, dated 1891, appeared in Architectural Association Sketchbooks, 3rd series. No. 4. (1899). (4)

The visit of the Architectural Association made some impact locally as well as nationally. In 1887 it was suggested that to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the whole range of ancient buildings at the Reindeer should be bought by the Corporation and dedicated to public use. This proposal came to nothing. (5)

In spite of learned acclaim the Globe Room was still used for the most menial of purposes. The Pictorial World of April 28th 1887 printed an article on the Reindeer which after wrongly ascribing it to the reign of the seventh Henry, pointed the contrast between the "dark oak wainscoting enriched most elaborately and beautifully with carved work" and "the common deal forms and long tap-room table which furnish it and the company which on a market day assemble in it to smoke and drink or snatch their homely dinners". A picture printed with the article confirms this impression, showing four besmoked rustics smoking pipes and conversing round a glowing fire, while an elderly gentleman in rough coat and bowler hat sitting on a rough form by a rough table tries to attract the attention of a small dog of doubtful pedigree.

The room was used occasionally for small dinners, a well established social custom of the late 19th century. Most inns were renowned for a particular supper dish, Mr. Busby of the White Horse for example being famed for his tripe dishes, but there was no such speciality at the Reindeer. By the late 1880's the room was one of the sights of Banbury to which citizens took their visitors. A small fee was sometimes charged to see it, but this was usually waived if the visitor drank in the inn. (6)

In 1899 a plaster cast of the ceiling was taken for the Victoria and Albert Museum, where its number is 1899-65. By this time considerable local enthusiasm of the Globe Room had been aroused. Morland's Illustrated Guide to Banbury (N.D. circa 1900) mentioned a fine panelled room at the Reindeer in the "Italian Cinquecent" style. The landlord about 1900 realised the value of the room for attracting trade and drew attention to its existence on the lower strut of the bracket holding the inn sign over Parson's Street, and also on a small notice hung on the right hand gate post. (7) Public interest in the room was by now considerable and it was regarded as a "sort of museum". Stories of its associations with Prince Rupert and Oliver Cromwell were very popular (7) A photograph of the room appeared in P. H. Ditchfield Oxfordshire (1915 but written 1912).

In the Report of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society for 1905 William Potts contributed a short article on the Globe Room, describing it as "the most perfect relic of the past that Banbury has to show" and "one of the best specimens of a Jacobean room in existence". He mentioned several of the traditions connecting the room with Inigo Jones and Oliver Cromwell, while admitting the inadequacy of their foundation, and confessed that "the room has practically no history". Potts also confirms the impression given by other sources that it had "a no more favoured position than the assembly rooms of other local hostleries".

The Banbury Guardian for the years 1910-12 suggests that there was determined local opposition to the removal of the Globe Room. This may well have been because its editor, William Potts, author of A History of Banbury (1958) and other local historical works, was the leader of what opposition there was in the town. The most vehement protests came from national, not local, bodies, and there was little support for proposals for the corporation to buy the Reindeer. This tends to confirm the impression given by citizens of the time who consider that most people were largely apathetic about the destruction of the room. (8)

The Berks., Bucks., and Oxon. Archaeological Journal for July 1912 published a report on a visit to see the Globe Room re-erected at "An upholster's and decorator's premises in

London". After praising the room's qualities and describing the ceiling in detail, the report mentioned the finding during demolition work of a double-barrelled pistol inscribed "Presented to Dick Turpin at the White Bear Inn, Drury Lane, Feb. 7, 1735".

Since 1912 it has been generally believed in Banbury that the Globe Room was exported to the United States, and together with the destruction of the original Cross, the Castle and the old parish church, this has been an important item of evidence for the supposed wanton destructiveness of the people of Banbury. The origin of the story of the room's crossing of the Atlantic may be the reference in the second edition of Gotch's Early Renaissance Architecture in England, though it may be doubted whether this had many readers in the locality, and it would seem more probably that talk of a sale to "an American gentleman" in 1910 and 1912 led people to assume that this deal had actually been accomplished without waiting for concrete evidence. Certainly, throughout the inter-war period most guide books related this as a fact. Ethel Carleton Williams in Companion into Oxfordshire (1935) describes the destruction of the Cross, Castle and Church, and concludes, "finally the Globe Room in the Reindeer Inn, famous for its handsome plaster ceiling, oak panelling and great mullioned windows was sold and shipped to the United States in 1912". R. L. P. Jowitz, Berkshire and Oxfordshire (Penguin 1950) and Maxwell Fraser Oxfordshire in Pictures (N. D.) make similar references. It may be significant that in none of the works of William Potts is there any precise reference to the export of the room. In his short account of it in A History of Banbury (1958) he merely says it was sold to a London dealer.

The Banbury Historical Society first took an interest in the Globe Room in 1962 when the attention of the Editor of Cake and Cockhorse was drawn to the article in the Manuscript Magazine of the Banbury Mechanics' Institute as a worthy item for re-publication. At the same time Mr. Michael Laithwaite was carrying out research into the original buildings of the Reindeer and it was felt that a feature on the inn would be a suitable subject for a future issue. Unconfirmed rumours said that the Globe Room had been sold to an American in California, and so one of the Society's member libraries in that state was approached to help find its present location. The search proved fruitless, as did the enquiries of a number of other American libraries, universities and individuals who were approached, and it seemed that the search would be unavailing. In January 1964 some members of the Society were at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and since they were unable to find the cast of the Globe Room ceiling, the Museum authorities were approached to see if it was still intact. In a letter dated 21st January, 1964, a member of the Museum staff replied that the panels were in London and had been offered to the Museum only the previous month. The Society's quickly contacted the agent and on February 17th a small group went to the furniture factory in Islington where the room was stored and partially erected. The Society's Secretary was immediately informed that it was for sale and the campaign to secure its return to Banbury was begun.

Barrie S. Trinder.

REFERENCES

1. Kenneth Clark. The Gothic Revival (1964 Ed.) p. 139 seq.
2. Banbury Public Library. Case E1 f 14.
3. There is a collection of cuttings describing the entire visit in Banbury Public Library, Potts Scrapbook, p. 24 seq.
4. I am indebted to Mr. Michael Laithwaite for considerable help with this paragraph.
5. Banbury Guardian 3.2.1910.
6. I am indebted to Mr. John L. Langley for the information in this paragraph.
7. Photograph in collection presented to Banbury Borough Council when the panels were purchased. Now in Banbury Public Library.
8. Information John L. Langley.

THE GLOBE ROOM AS AN ANTIQUE, 1910-1964

The full details of the sale of the Globe Room are no longer traceable, but it is possible to reconstruct some of the story from the files of the Banbury Guardian and the Minutes of the Directors' Meetings of the Hook Norton Brewery Co. It seems that at the end of 1909 a prospective purchaser appeared and by January 1910 the Brewery had decided to sell the room unless a satisfactory agreement could be reached locally for the future of the Reindeer Inn. Even at this time (according to the Banbury Guardian of 3rd February 1910) it was believed that the fittings of the Globe Room were destined for the U.S.A. This aroused more than local interest. It was reported in the London papers in February: the National Trust and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, among other bodies, actively protested. In March the Brewery reconsidered the matter and offered to lease the building to the Banbury Corporation, but nothing came of this solution. Consequently the panelling and ceiling were offered to the London firm of Lenygon & Co. for £1,500. This price was unacceptable and in August 1910 the Brewery tried again to dispose of the property locally. The Directors wrote to Mr. William Potts, editor of the Banbury Guardian, offering to sell the Reindeer Inn, provided that the house was closed as licensed premises. This proposal also received no definite response from the Corporation, although it was raised again by the Brewery through Mr. Potts in April and May 1911.

Finally in February 1912 the Brewery reopened negotiations with Lenygon and Co. and on the 17th accepted the firm's offer of £1,000 for the plaster ceiling, oak panelling, stone mullion windows and 16th century fireplace. The contract was signed on 11th March 1912, with the condition that these parts of the Globe Room should be wholly removed and not resold in situ. Again there was widespread indignation. Articles appeared in the Morning Leader, the Daily Graphic and the Pall Mall Gazette. New York papers also referred to the sale. In June 1912 Henry Lenygon, the purchaser, agreed to suspend removal of the windows and these still remain in place. The wainscotting and ceiling were then dismantled and taken away, but fortunately the carefully dimensioned drawings made at the time still survive.

The firm of Lenygon and Morant, Ltd. were for many years at 31 Old Burlington Street, London. One member of the firm, Francis Lenygon, was a leading authority on English furniture having written, Decoration and furniture of English Mansions during the 17th and 18th centuries in 1909, and Furniture in England from 1660 to 1760 and Decoration in England from 1640 to 1760, both in 1914. Second editions of the latter works appeared in 1924 and 1927.

In Early Renaissance architecture in England, J. Alfred Gotch gives a line drawing by John Stewart of part of the wainscotting (fig. 185) and a photograph of the principal patterns of the plaster ceiling (fig. 221). He completed the second edition of his book in March 1914 and noted (page 180), "This room has now been demolished and its decorative work has been taken to America". This inference may have been based on the knowledge that Lenygon and Morant had a branch in New York, and on the general belief that the materials had actually be exported.

If there was a commission or option on behalf of a customer in the U.S.A., the deal for some reason fell through and the materials did not leave this country.

Conditions after the outbreak of the First World War were not the main reason for the reprieve. On the contrary, in 1915 the editor of The Connoisseur (page 201) was complaining that "unless the British public can give support to art dealers, it seems likely that a large portion of the treasures they have accumulated will be transferred to the other side of the Atlantic". In the same magazine (page 254), with specific reference to an early 17th century overmantel, much less ornate than that of the Globe Room, it was stated, "Fine pieces of this character are now being largely purchased for the American market".

During the years immediately after the war, the interiors of oak panelled rooms continued to be offered for sale by several of the leading English firms of antique dealers, among them the firm of White Allom and Co., then in George Street, Hanover Square, London, with a branch in Madison Avenue, New York. Moreover, supplying the American market was no longer considered deplorable. At the annual banquet of the British Antique Dealers' Association in August 1923, the firm of White Allom was complimented by the editor of The Connoisseur for being "engaged in establishing the traditions of English art and architecture in more than one continent".

The supply of panelled rooms of all periods from medieval to Adam showed no signs of exhaustion as the years passed, and antique dealers frequently re-erected and displayed them at their London galleries. For the Daily Telegraph Exhibition of Antiques and Works of Art at Olympia in July 1928, Sir Charles Allom (founder of the firm) was able to organise a series of several panelled rooms. These included some from Combe Abbey, Warwickshire, the Chantry House, Newark, Nottinghamshire, and an old house from Worcester, but not the Globe Room.

This exhibition must have revived interest in the architectural application of period rooms; at any rate, shortly afterwards the firm of Lenygon and Morant, Ltd., offered the room for sale. The wainscoting and the ceiling with a substituted stone fireplace and dummy windows were erected in the Old Burlington Street galleries. A photograph of the interior together with a small inset of the exterior of the building in the Reindeer Yard appeared as full page advertisements in several issues of The Connoisseur in 1929 and 1930.

This publicity failed to secure a buyer in the United Kingdom, possibly owing to the changing fashion which preferred stripped pine or mahogany to the older vogue for oak.

As the slump in the English art trade developed, the potential market in the United States was also affected. Although the furniture expert, R. W. Symonds, had referred in 1928 to "the appalling exodus of English works of art to the United States," and the editor of The Connoisseur a year later confirmed that "America is becoming more and more the reservoir in which the great bulk of unattached art treasures is being gradually accumulated", no foreign buyer appeared for the Reindeer Room.

By the end of 1931 it was too late. The art market in the United States then stood in a position precisely like that in Great Britain. This depression lasted with fluctuations until the Second World War started.

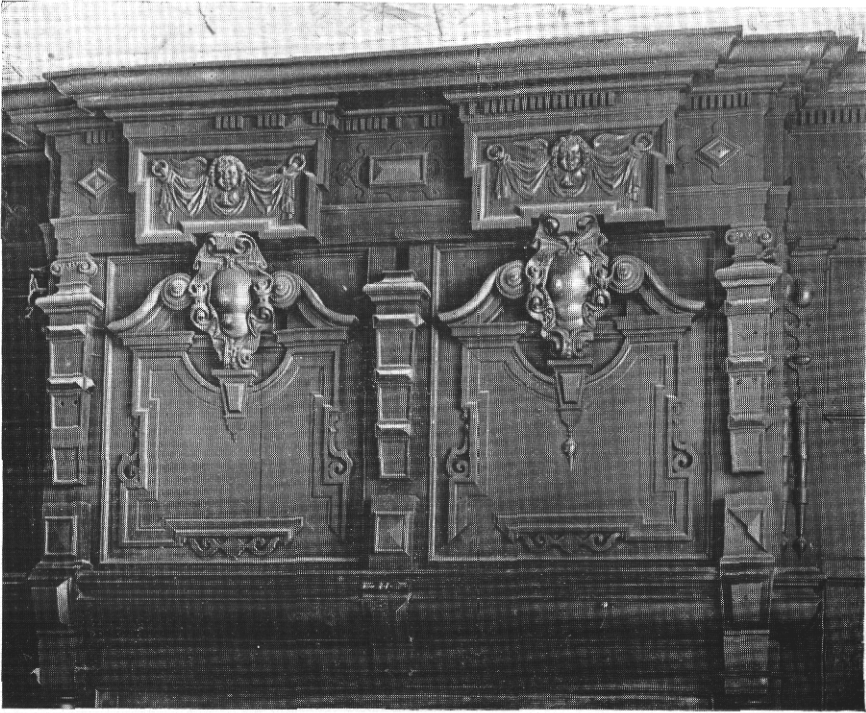
Before 1939 the last member of Lenygon family retired and went to America. The firm was acquired by a private purchaser and its business was managed by Ralph Freeman-Smith until his death. It has been stated that Mr. Freeman-Smith bought the panelling for £7,000, but today no one in the trade has any idea from whom it was bought or where it was beforehand. It was never owned by White Allom.

During the Second World War the panelling of the Globe Room was removed for safety, probably to Cricklewood, but the ceiling remained in storage elsewhere and is said to have been destroyed by enemy action. Later the panelling was stored with a quantity of similar woodwork in a garage on the Great North Road. From there it was recently removed by White Allom in order to assemble certain features of the room at their Matilda Street works in Islington. This resurrection was undertaken on behalf of the last owner Mr. Murray Adams-Action, architect and art dealer, and author of Domestic Architecture and-Old Furniture (1929).

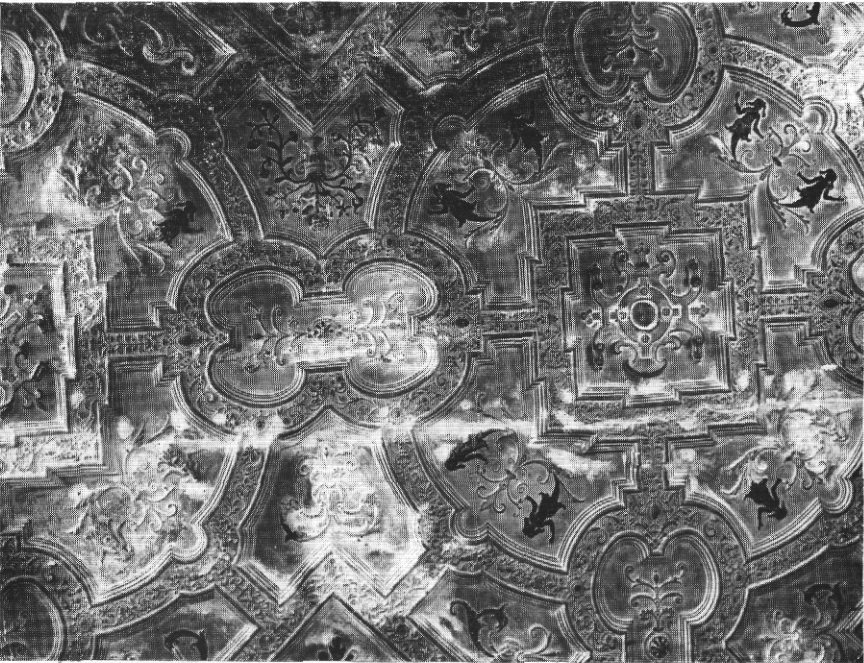
C. F. C. Beeson.

BANBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

In addition to the documents from the Parish Church listed in September, the Historical Society has recently secured the deposit on loan of another valuable source for local history in the Reference Library. This is a bound volume of the Oxford City and County Chronicle covering the years 1837-40 (inclusive). The Chronicle was a strongly radical newspaper and the Tories of the time come in for much baiting in the column of Banbury news which appeared every week. One of the most amusing reports is of happenings in Farthinghoe when reports of the death of the much-hated Tory rector, Francis Litchfield, reached the village. One man said that the bells should ring for twenty-four hours, even if he had to pay for new ropes, and the old women were promised a week's free tea drinking, upon which one of them threw her bonnet so high that it lodged on a spout far out of reach. The rumours were short-lived for it was soon found that it was the vicar of Farthingstone who had died. The volume is a valuable source for the 1837 election in Banbury and is a most important addition to locally available material on the period since it covers the years immediately before the Banbury Guardian started to publish news regularly. The thanks of all local historians are due to Mr. W.H. Kelly of Horton View who has loaned the volume to the Library.



2. The fireplace overmantel.



3. Detail of the ceiling (now destroyed).

THE RECOVERY OF THE GLOBE ROOM PANELS

Once the Globe Room panelling was discovered and the price at which it was for sale - £2,500 - ascertained, it was obviously up to the Historical Society to attempt to bring it back to the town, or at least the county. The Society itself of course had neither the money nor a home for the room; and so it was necessary to find first a body, or possibly a person, able to house it suitably - and this would indicate the most likely sources for financing the actual purchase.

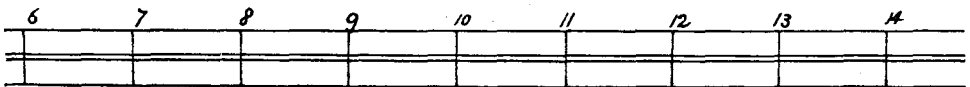
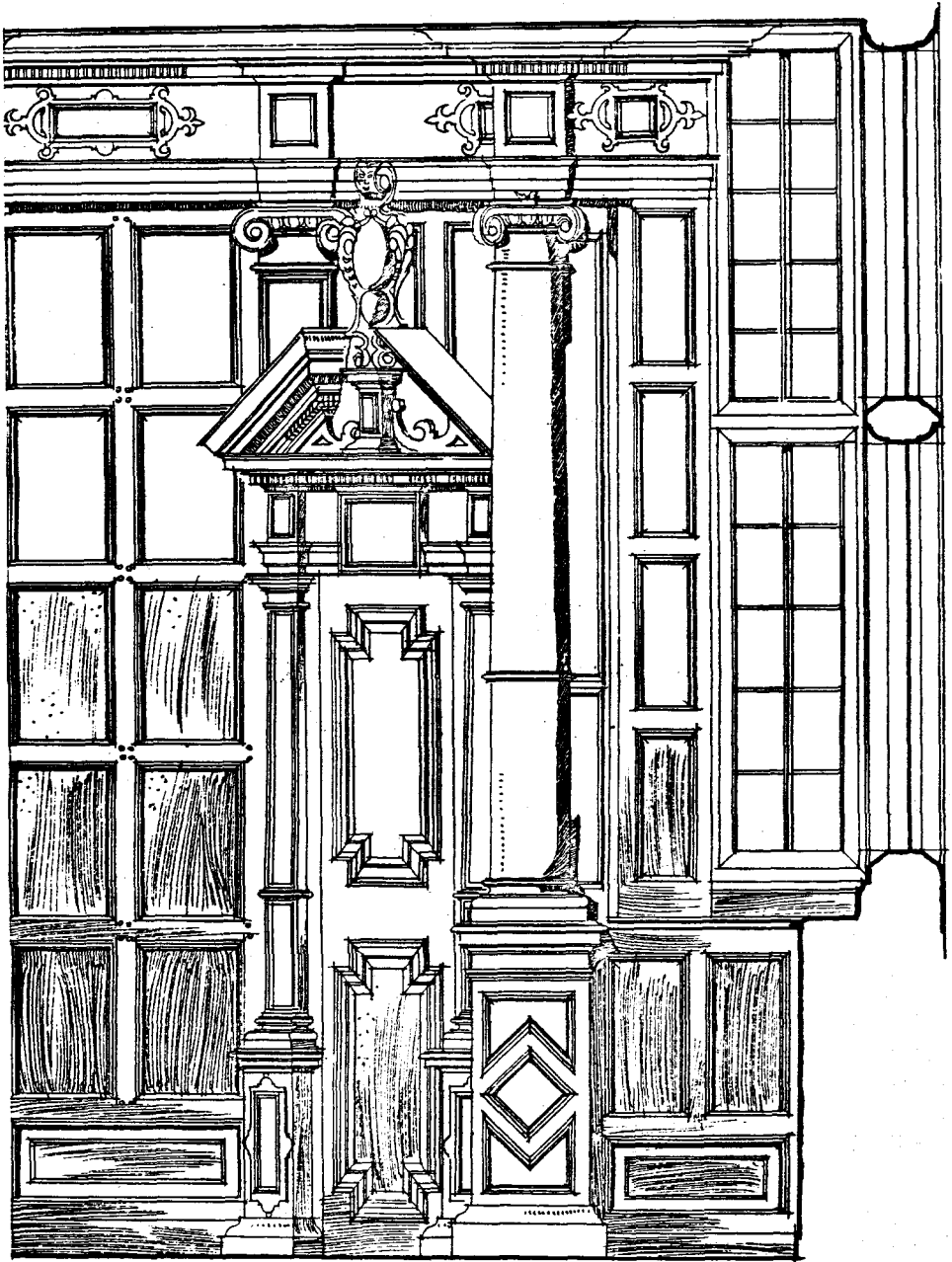
It was the dealer's first wish that the panelling should return to its original home, in the Reindeer Inn in Parsons Street; but the owners, Hook Norton Brewery, are not part of one of the wealthy brewing combines who might possibly have taken this as an opportunity to remodel the place for the tourist trade. The panelling once having been removed from Parsons Street it seemed a pity not to take advantage of the fact by rehousing it in a more fitting setting where it could be seen by the public.

Alternatively the dealer hoped that it might go to a local museum; but the present museum in Banbury is merely a small room forming an annexe to the Reference Library, considerably smaller than the Globe Room itself, and there is no likelihood of a larger museum being established in the town for some years to come. Readers may recall, from our January issue, that an Oxfordshire County and City Museum, in Woodstock, is at present in formation. As initially there had seemed no obvious home for it in Banbury, what more splendid contribution could we make to such a museum than this panelling? Accordingly approaches were made to a number of people connected with the scheme. All greeted the idea with enthusiasm - until the question of cost was mentioned - and here those who really mattered - the City and County Councillors who would need to authorise the expenditure of £2,500 or more - were very pessimistic. Indeed they were of the opinion that it would be legally impossible for ratepayers' money to be so spent - apparently the new museum is to rely on gifts for its exhibits, and is only to receive a grant to cover running costs and salaries.

It was in these circumstances that an informal approach was made to our member Alderman Portergill - a former Mayor of Banbury. He expressed great personal interest in the discovery of the panelling. Although he was of course non-committal about any action that could be taken by the Council, he thought that if the panelling was purchased a possibility might be that it could be incorporated in the proposed Civic Centre - one suggestion being that it could be used in the Mayor's Parlour. He promised to see if anything could be done regarding the purchase. The action he did take exceeded our wildest expectations. Within two days he arranged a meeting with the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Development Committee of the Council, Alderman Friswell. At this, it was unanimously agreed that it was legally possible and highly desirable that the panelling be bought by the Council.

It was of course necessary for the matter to be considered first by the Development Committee and then by the full Council - but no likelihood of opposition here was foreseen, and in fact there was none. Meanwhile it was essential that an option on the purchase of the panelling, and confirmation of the price, be acquired immediately, and that a further inspection of its condition be made. Dr. Beeson, as an expert on antiques and woodwork, and the writer therefore arranged to visit the dealer the following day - as a result of which meeting the Historical Society became the possessor of the necessary option for the next six weeks. Also handed over at this stage were a fine set of photographs of the room taken before it was dismantled.

It was agreed that news of the discovery of the panelling should not be published until the Council itself revealed its interest - at the publication of minutes a week before the March meeting. The Historical Society accordingly interviewed the local press very shortly before the Town Clerk's own press conference, and the link between the two was clearly shown. In spite of this, The Guardian (of Manchester and London) reported the matter in its issue of Tuesday 17th March and the B.B.C. Midland News mentioned it in the early hours of the same morning. The Oxford Mail gave two columns and a photograph - offprints of which have been sent to members - on Wednesday 18th quoting the Society's own press release extensively and accurately - whilst the news formed the main front-page item in both The Banbury Guardian and The Banbury Advertiser. In an editorial leader the Banbury Guardian asked why the panelling was not being restored to the Reindeer Inn, but otherwise the Committee's proposal met widespread approval. On April 1st the Advertiser reported prominently the doubts of a local man, who detected a similarity between the



panelling and some that had been removed from his own cottage in the 1920's. When interviewed, however, he admitted that this judgment was based merely on a newspaper photograph, and that the height of the panels - over 10 ft. - precluded their connection with the cottage, in which the rooms were less than 7 ft. The following week the Banbury Guardian published a selection of letters commenting on the purchase of the panelling, together with a photograph of the room. One letter suggested that when bought the panels might be neglected and another deplored the effect on the rates, but the remainder were enthusiastic.

Meanwhile in the Council the opportunity to restore the room to the town was greeted with delight. At the Meeting on Tuesday, 24th March, the following report was made by the Development Committee: "... that the Banbury Historical Society had recently discovered that the panelling of the Globe Room of the Reindeer Inn, Parsons Street, which had been dismantled some 50 years ago and was thought to have been exported, was still in this country and was for disposal. The panelling was some 10 ft. high and would encase a room approximately 22 ft. by 17 ft., less window space. The panelling was about 300 years old and the Society had received expert advice that it was in perfect condition. The Society had obtained a six week option on the panelling. The price was £2,500 and the Society were prepared to offer it to the Council at that figure." The Committee recommended that the panelling be purchased, that the possibility of obtaining grants towards the cost be investigated, and that the Historical Society be thanked for their assistance. At the request of the Chairman of the Development Committee, Alderman Potergill proposed the acceptance of these recommendations. He said that he felt honoured to be allowed to propose so historic a resolution, and then related the circumstances of the Society's approach to him, and his subsequent discussions with the Town Clerk and Alderman Friswell. He closed on a note of congratulation to the Society on their discovery of the panelling, and urged other Aldermen and Councillors to support the Society by becoming members. His praise was echoed by Alderman Friswell, who seconded the recommendation, and Alderman Miss Bustin. Support was also given by Councillor (now Alderman) Walklett, and Councillor Batts, who emphasised however, that at £2,500 plus a possible further £1,000 for repair and restoration, the Council was not getting a "bargain", as some Councillors seemed to think. Although the room had changed hands it was said for more than this in the 1920's this was when the ceiling was still intact, and he had gathered that this ceiling was an important, if not essential, part of the magnificent effect. The recommendation was agreed unanimously.

As a postscript it is pleasing to report that the Council has received a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of purchase from the National Arts Collections Fund; and that the Pilgrim Trust has offered to make a contribution towards the cost of restoration work. No detailed plans have yet been prepared for the Civic Centre but a large part of the site, on North Bar, has already been bought and it is hoped that building may be commenced within about the next five years.

J.S.W. Gibson.

BANBURY PARISH REGISTER

The earliest surviving register for Banbury is a paper volume covering the years 1580 to 1707 (with some gaps). As was common in most parishes a "fair copy" was made in 1599 on parchment, and this volume and its successor were maintained throughout the 17th century as the "official" register. However, the early paper register continued to be used at the same time as a rough copy. In copying the registers the Society has been careful to compare the two versions, and many discrepancies and additional information have thus been found. It will be seen therefore that this earliest register is one of the most useful and precious of Banbury's early records.

The book has an intricate and heavily tooled contemporary binding. This and the earlier pages have for many years been in a very bad state of repair. Now that the registers have been deposited in the Bodleian the opportunity has at last arisen to have the book repaired by expert binders. However, the cost will be thirty pounds, and the Banbury Parochial Church Council understandably feel unable to meet this from church funds. The Historical Society has offered five pounds, and an appeal was made in the local press for the remainder. It is hoped that individual members will be prepared to support this appeal, and make their own contributions to help restore this priceless volume. Donations and offers of help should be sent to the Revd. D. Eastman, Banbury Vicarage.

THE CEILING AT SHOPPENHANGERS MANOR

Not long after the discovery of the Globe Room panels was announced last March, a member of the Society informed us that about 1953 Mr. Walter Thornton-Smith had shown him a copy of the Globe Room ceiling in the dining room of his house, Shoppenhangers Manor, Maidenhead, Berkshire. Mr. Walter Thornton-Smith died in 1963, but by kind permission of his brother, two members of the Society were allowed to see the ceiling. They were completely satisfied that it was indeed made up of casts of parts of the Globe Room ceiling, but since the room at Shoppenhangers measures 30 ft. x 13 ft. as against the 22 ft. x 10 ft. of the Globe Room it was clearly not an exact copy.

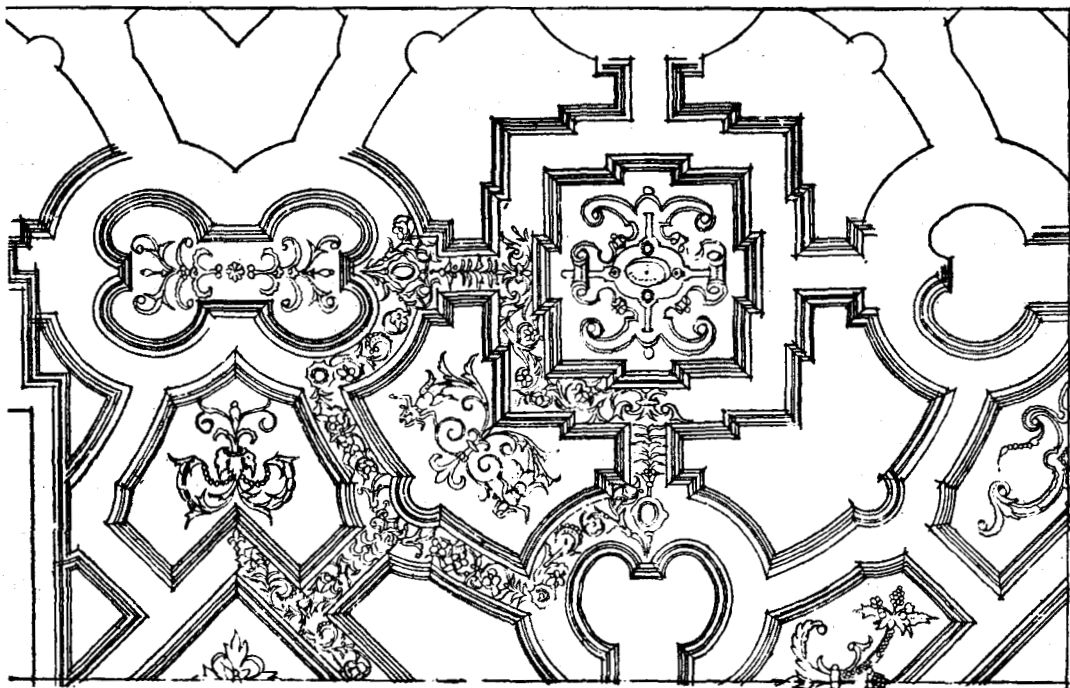
It is believed that Mr. Walter Thornton-Smith installed the ceiling about 1918, after buying the house in 1915. According to some sources it was a copy of the ceiling of the Presence Chamber in the Treaty House at Uxbridge, (a panelled room sold to the U.S.A. by Thornton-Smith Brothers, antique dealers, about 1918 and recently restored by the Uxbridge Historical Society) but according to a drawing in Redford and Riches, History of Uxbridge (1818), this room had a plain ceiling.

A few years ago the ceiling at Shoppenhangers was damaged by fire and the original moulds were used to repair it, but unfortunately these were themselves destroyed in a recent outhouse fire.

Shoppenhangers Manor is now to be sold, probably for use as an hotel.

M.J.L.
B.S.T.

Part of the Globe Room Ceiling.



REVIEWS

Brochure of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Appeal,
produced for the Appeal by Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1964.

This booklet, generously contributed to the cause by Robert Maxwell, M.C., Publisher at Pergamon Press, consists of some eight pages of introduction and general description, with a middle inset of twenty-nine photographs, each with a brief note alongside. The arrangement of the former is somewhat odd, in that, after division between great and small, other churches are noted under those "of Architectural Note" and those "with atmosphere", while the style, of necessity, becomes almost that of a catalogue. However, the main illustrated section does present clearly a picture of the county's wealth in this field which should quicken the concern of those partly aware of the need for help and also awaken a new interest in many an unaware resident and visitor. There is information too, both here and in the general section, for the most seasoned "church-hunter", for whom, and for others, a map would have been useful.

It is difficult to select from what is itself an introduction. While Norman Iffley, Dorchester Abbey, the de la Pole triple foundation at Ewelme and other better known churches are duly presented, the emphasis is properly on the less known, emphasised by John Piper's coverpiece of Georgian Wheatfield in its mediaeval shell. Attention is drawn to the close juxtaposition of church and manor at Minster Lovell, to the wall paintings of Widford and Shorthampton, to a 14th century tomb at Broughton and an intricate 18th century monument at Spelsbury, to the simplicity of rural Easington (in south Oxfordshire).

"There is no distinctive type of Oxfordshire design" for churches and they rather illustrate at every stage architectural development in England. How much better could the next generation be brought to see this close at hand rather than in great cathedrals seen on the occasional visit! One hopes, therefore, that the material in this brochure will be made available in a more permanent and extended form, to assist local studies in schools and elsewhere.

Churchfields Comprehensive School, West Bromwich.

W. J. Fowler.

Editor's Note: Readers will be pleased to find a copy of this booklet enclosed with their magazine. Further copies are available, without charge, from the Hon. Secretary, Oxfordshire Historic Churches Appeal, c/o Oxford Preservation Trust, 3 Cornmarket Street, Oxford.

A Short History of Adderbury

by Walter H. Clark, F.R.I.B.A. Banbury and District Civic Society, 1964. 3/- On sale at Blinkhorn's, South Bar, Banbury.

In 1963 the Banbury and District Civic Society inaugurated a series of village walks, and after the second of these (the first having been at Aynhoe) Walter Clark produced this excellent booklet.

Mr. Clark has lived in Adderbury for a number of years and has closely studied local architecture. The short history is a summary of the information in Rev. Henry J. Gepp's Adderbury (1924) and added emphasis is given to architectural history. Mr. Clark does not hesitate to express his own opinions, and clearly hopes that many other villages in the Banbury area will produce similar histories as a means of preserving their essential character.

A large proportion of the book is made up of sketches which give a most vivid impression of many of the older buildings before modification. Most of these sketches were produced from photographs in Mr. Clark's collection, which is made up largely of illustrations from Country Life.

Mr. Clark's history deals principally with the larger houses, together with the Church, the smallest building mentioned being the Friends' Meeting House (illustrated on the cover of Cake and Cockhorse II. 9 September 1964). It is unfortunate that more room could not be found for the smaller cottages which are, after all, the backbone of village life. Some comparison between these old buildings and such new buildings as the school would be welcome.

Dates are given, but only to keep chronological order and they have not been used in parrot fashion. The text is well written and easy to understand, in spite of some technical terms. The reader can easily feel that he is living at the time each of the buildings was erected.

It is apparent from Mr. Clark's observations that the present owners of "The Grange", "The Old Vicarage" and "The Manor House" among others are all eager to preserve the historic character of their homes while at the same time adapting them successfully to present day needs.

It is hoped that similar booklets will be produced about many more of the villages in the area so that those responsible for new developments will easily be able to understand their history and their character. Each neighbourhood has its own unique character which new buildings should maintain without slavish copying.

Bloxham.

Ian F. Lawson.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

In recent months work by building contractors has been accelerated on the Banbury Bus Station and Castle Street widening, which embraces the reputed site of Banbury Castle in Castle Wharf. In the course of the work, a sewer trench approximately 12 - 20 ft. deep has been cut across the site from Bridge Street to the Castle Street entrance to the wharf. Despite the enthusiastic co-operation of the workmen, no positive evidence that would identify the site of the Castle was found. About 20 yards from Factory Street the trench passed through a black layer about 1 ft. thick and 8 - 10 ft. long which lay in an arc from 5 ft. to 10 ft. below the surface. On top of this were many complete human skeletons. Nearer Bridge Street the trench had cut through a number of pits containing bovine remains, probably indicating the previous existence of a slaughter-house on the site.

The writer is firmly of the opinion (bearing in mind the results of the Society's dig in 1959) that the mound adjoining Castle Street and illustrated in Old Banbury (p. 19) cannot be proved to be the original castle mound. Another mound nearer Factory Street is just as likely a site but this again cannot be proved. A renewed search for the Rowlandson painting mentioned on p. 18 of Potts is recommended as the best line of future enquiry.

Oxford University continued their work at Rainsborough (C & CH I. 114) for a third season and have concentrated their efforts on the entrance (The Times 25.9.64) Details of this entrance include the notable find of two "C" shaped guard rooms which are unique in this part of the country. The rooms are about 13ft. diameter and faced with drystone walling. The whole entrance was clearly a work of some sophistication with in-turned ramparts as well as the guard rooms. The fort was apparently destroyed in pre-Roman times, probably by the Belgae, but a Roman building dating from the 4th Century A.D. was discovered just outside the entrance.

Early in May 1964 a member of the Buckingham Archaeological Society engaged in building work on land at Marston St. Lawrence (Grid 535415) found a collection of five jars, the largest of which contained a quantity of bones. In the opinion of Mr. Charles Green, these were part of a 2nd or 3rd century roadside burial. In due course the finds will be deposited in the Northamptonshire County Museum.

J.H.F.

SAMUELSONS' REAPING MACHINES

'Ted Hay' of the Banbury Guardian recently published a query on behalf of the Historical Society requesting knowledge of the location of surviving reaping machines made by Bernard Samuelson's foundry at Banbury. At least four machines have come to light, which suggests that there are many such historic implements awaiting the attention of the staff of the new County Museum when they start to look for agricultural exhibits. In its issue of July 23rd the Banbury Guardian also mentioned the finding of a Samuelson lawn mower at Bloxham, though Banbury museum already has a similar machine in store.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford regions. Its activities include lectures, excursions and the publication of an annual journal, Oxoniensia. The Society also endeavours to preserve and safeguard local buildings and monuments. Full membership (to include Oxoniensia) two guineas. Ordinary membership, fifteen shillings.

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