



# East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2007

## \*\*\* Changes to the published Programme \*\*\*

- Susanne Palmer who was to speak in April has cancelled. The March lecture with Robert Webley has been changed to the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

## RECENT EVENTS

### Last EDAS Lecture

We were given an excellent talk by Colin Cope on the Sturminster (or rather Shapwick) Whitemill at our February meeting. He first described the interviewing process of the National Trust to get his role as Custodian of the Mill. It was a long, drawn out and comprehensive experience which resulted in his getting a job he has been exceedingly grateful for ever since.

Before describing the Mill he gave us a vivid account of the all-important landscape background. The river and its waywardness was brought to life and flooding described with personal experience; an interesting account was given of the adjacent Whitemill bridge. This bridge, built about 1175, is reputed to be the oldest in Dorset. It has eight arches and remains in its original Norman condition. Earlier it had been the main route to Dorchester from Wimborne but with the advent of the Julians Bridge roadway it has been left untouched (except for the occasional accident) hence its narrow construction. While undergoing checks by the County Engineers several years ago it was found there were cavities under the stonework and the heavy stone piers were sinking. The original builders had driven oak piles into the river bed then built oak rafts on them, on top of which the masonry was erected. Parts of the raft had started to deteriorate, the rotten parts were removed and replaced with concrete.

From medieval times to probably the 16<sup>th</sup> century two mills occupied the site, one a fulling the other a grist mill. It was substantially rebuilt in 1776 by Henry Banks for £300!! Until then no rent had been paid but from then the mill occupier, John Joyce, agreed to pay £20 annually. There has been extensive renovations in recent years and we are proud to say that our member Tim Box was responsible for this.

The terrain around Whitemill is level creating problems about water power to move the water wheels. This had been overcome by building a number of weirs at intervals upstream so as to increase the water pressure. The water wheels are constructed of timber and of undershot design. The quality of the carpentry is very high and makes its survival of national importance

Colin introduced us to the Joyce family who were at Whitemill from about 1550 until the early 1900s. The most famous of the family was H.S.Joyce who among other things wrote and illustrated seven books on rural life and wrote for many leading magazines of the day. There was no end to his talents – he was a competent swimmer and lifesaving examiner and a fine singer who performed in operatic productions.

It came over with clarity that Colin and his family had found their paradise home and it left us with great fondness. It is with sincere appreciation we thank him for a stimulating talk about a place on our doorstep.

John

## Forthcoming Events

### AGM

Our AGM is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and will be followed by two short talks. Our Programme Secretary Steve Smith will talk about: "The EDAS field trip 2006: A taste of Worcestershire", and Katherine Barker, of the Dorset County Boundary Survey Project, has offered to give us an informal talk.

This is your chance to give us your views on EDAS, and vote for your 2007/8 Committee. The list of current Committee members is:

<b>Chairman:</b>	John Day	<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Della Day
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Peter Walker	<b>Programme Secretary:</b>	Steve Smith
<b>Secretary:</b>	Gill Broadbent	<b>Special Advisor:</b>	Martin Green
<b>Ordinary Members:</b>	Graham Adams, Keith Allsopp, Helen Brickell, Phil Roberts, David Stewart		
<b>Co-opted in 2006:</b>	Karen Brown		

Keith and Phil will step down (in line with our constitution) and are both willing come back on again. Steve Smith will be stepping down as Programme Secretary for next year, but there is no urgency as the 07/08 programmes is already well, underway.

There is still one vacancy on the Committee, and Karen Brown can be voted on formally. You will also find a Nomination Form in with this Newsletter if you want to propose any new members for the Committee. Please send to Della (address on form) by 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

AGM reports will be e-mailed out before the AGM to those who receive their Newsletter this way. Some paper copies will also be available at the meeting itself.

We would also like to remind members that subscriptions are also due for renewal in April if you do not already pay by standing order.

### **Sunday 5 August Visit to Silchester**

For 7 weeks each year Reading University has been excavating Insula IX of the Roman town of Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum). We last visited the site in 2000, so it will be interesting to see what has been revealed since then. The site is remarkable because, unlike most large Roman towns in Britain, it was completely abandoned. The defensive walls still survive, in places more than 4m high.

We hope to arrange a guided tour of the excavation, probably by Professor Michael Fulford, the excavation director. We will then walk to the amphitheatre and have a picnic lunch, returning to the coach via part of the town walls. We will then, if time permits, go to Reading Museum where the excavation finds are displayed.

To avoid members having to drive to Silchester (about 67 miles from Wimborne) we are considering hiring a coach, which would depart from the Allenvie car park in Wimborne. Parking is £2.80 for 10 hours. The cost will be approximately £14, depending on the size of the coach. To enable us to gauge interest in the visit and in particular travelling by coach, could you please contact Peter Walker (email: [peter@peterwalker.info](mailto:peter@peterwalker.info) telephone: 01425-471326 or by post: 16 Whitfield Park, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, BH24 2DX) by Saturday 24 March. Peter will then update members at the AGM.

For more information about Silchester see <http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk/index.html>

### **Book Review: BESTIARY, by Richard Barber. Boydell Press, Woodbridge. 1999.**

To understand the medieval mind we must abandoned modern knowledge and attitudes, even then it is not easy to grasp the way people thought and understood things. One way is to see how they saw the natural world. This can be gleaned from the medieval natural history book *The Bestiary*. The explanations contained therein have their roots in much older and pre-Christian times.

We find in *The Bestiary* descriptions of many real and imaginary beasts, birds and fish. The writers of the several editions of the book believed that everything in creation had a purpose, and the Creator had made nothing without the purpose of educating and instructing sinful man. This included the nature and habits of wild life, which reflected the world of sinful man. *The Bestiary* is therefore a book about morality. One of the difficulties of understanding these beliefs is that the same creature may represent good and evil.

Probably the most common reference in modern books is to Reynard the fox, a representation of which can be seen in the sculptures of many churches.

One of the other animals of considerable interest is the hare, represented in one of the bosses of a local church. ? which one. (Guide books often refer to them as rabbits but this is inaccurate)

*The Bestiary* says of the hare:

“The hare is called light-footed because it runs so swiftly. It is a swift creature, and fairly timid. The hare represents men who fear God, and put their trust in not in themselves but in the Creator. So we read in Solomon’s words: ‘The hares are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks’[Proverbs 30:26] Whence the Psalmists says: ‘The high hills are a refuge for the hedgehogs: and the rocks for the hare [104:]. For the rock is Christ. It is written of Moses that he, the hare of the Lord, shall stand in the cleft of the rock because he hopes for salvation through the passion of our redeemer. The hedgehog is a very timid animal, but always provided by nature with armour; its skin is covered with very thick, sharp bristles. But it does not rely only on its natural armour; lest any harm should come to it it always hides among the stones, it may fairly be likened to the man who, fearing to be judged for his sins, knows that he has a firm refuge in the rock of Christ.”

This paperback book is a version of the original at the Bodlian library, Oxford and has copies of all the original pictures. Such is its importance in understanding the medieval mind I will write further comments in the next Newsletter

John Day

### **THE JETON**

The purpose of this note is to describe two late 16<sup>th</sup> century jetons that have biblical connections. Both items were found in fields in Dorset. First, however, I will give some general information

The jeton was invented probably in France in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. (The name is derived from *jeter* - to throw.) Jetons made in silver and gold were a form of present, e.g. a bonus at New Year, to officers of the State, and were still being used in this way in France in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century they were made of latten (an alloy of Cu, Zn, Sn and Pb), and bore on the obverse various legends and designs, e.g. The Shield of France. These were probably royal issues struck by a Royal Mint e.g. in Paris.

Before the introduction of Arabic numerals in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when only Roman numerals were used, the jeton was developed as a counting aid, simple calculations of numbers in Roman numerals being made with jetons on a counting board. During the 15<sup>th</sup> century a mass market arose for the jeton used in this way by the merchant classes, e.g. bankers. As royal authority declined during the 15<sup>th</sup> century this market was exploited, in particular by the town of Tournai in France. Jetons made in a copper alloy (Cu:Sn or Cu:Zn), were provided by the French copper industry, with obverse designs of the Shield of France and reverses of some form of stranded straight cross being the most commonly used. Although France and the Low Countries made jetons in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> /early 17<sup>th</sup> century the predominant type was German, and the principal production centre was in Nuremberg. Well known manufacturers of the Nuremberg jetons were Hans Krauwinckel I and II, 1580 -1610 and 1586 -1635, respectively, and Mathaus and Hans Lauffer.

### **A Biblical jeton**

Hans Krauwinckel II, Nuremberg 16/17<sup>th</sup> century. Copper alloy 28 mm diam.  
With Old Testament characters.

**Fig: 1a Obverse:** portrays friendship between David and Jonathan  
King David standing left with harp facing towards Jonathan, who has a bow.  
Between them: **DAVID/JONAT/HAN**

Legend: **SIT DOMIN INTER ME ET TE VSQUE IN SEMP**  
(The Lord is with us now and always)  
The legend implies the concept of eternal faithfulness between comrades.

**Fig: 1b Reverse:** portrays false friendship - Amasa and Joab  
Amasa embracing Joab, who is about to stab him in the back.  
In field **IOAB - AMA / SA / II.B. -S.XXI**  
In exergue: **.H.K.**

Legend: **FRIDE MIT DIR MEIN BRVDER** (Art thou in health my brother)

### **An anonymous jeton**

Nuremberg 1585. Copper alloy 28 mm diam.

The legends are quotations from the New Testament.

**Fig: 2a Obverse:** Crucifixion scene. Christ upon cross, with label above, inscribed ‘**INRI**’  
Mary standing on left, Saint John on right.

Legend: **CVIVS LAVORE SANATI SVMVS**(By whose stripes you were healed)

Exergue: **IN CHRISTO OMNES VIVIFICABUNTUR**(In Christ shall all be made alive)

**Fig: 2b Reverse:** Apple tree with serpent around its trunk. Adam and Eve standing to each side.

Legend: **IN ADAM OMNES MORIVNTVR** (In Adam all dies)

Reverse legend from: First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians. Chap. 15: v. 22.

Obverse legend from: First Epistle General of Peter. Chap. 2: v. 24.

Exergue legend from: First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians. Chap. 15: v. 22.



Fig: 1a



Fig: 2a



Fig: 1b



Fig: 2b

**Notes.**

1. It has been suggested that the OT jeton shows the strong influence of Protestantism, which required everyone to know their Bible well.
2. The crucifixion design remained popular to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Translations of the Latin quotations were taken from the Internet.

Ken Wheatley

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The dates for EDAS events are underlined. The monthly evening lectures start at 7.30pm. Walks and field visits usually meet at 10.30 am at the published Grid Reference. Ring the leader if the weather is doubtful or if more details are required.

### **2007**

- Wed 14 Mar EDAS lecture: Dr Jenny Chambers of the National Ice Age Network will speak on the "**Big Chill? Environments and Inhabitants of England during the Ice Age.**"
- Wed 28 Mar **EDAS AGM** followed by 2 talks: our Programme Secretary Steve Smith on "**EDAS field trip 2006: A taste of Worcestershire**", and Katherine Barker on the **Dorset County Boundary Project**.
- Wed 11 Apr EDAS lecture: "**Treasure and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire**" with Robert Webley, Portable antiquities officer for Hampshire. \* **Change from the published Programme** \*.
- Wed 9 May EDAS lecture: "**The Villages of East Dorset**" with Emma Ayling, curator of the Priests' House Museum, Wimborne.
- Sun 22 Apr **EDAS Walk** with Barry Perratt. More details later.