



St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle

THE SOCIETY OF  
THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S  
AND  
THE DESCENDANTS OF  
THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER



REPORT

to 31st December, 1950

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1950

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11A THE CLOISTERS  
WINDSOR CASTLE

## THE DEAN'S LETTER

THE DEANERY,  
WINDSOR CASTLE.

*February 1951.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

A UNITED "Town and Castle" service in St. George's, on Sunday, 6th May, at 3 p.m., to be attended by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, His Worship the Mayor, and representatives of civic interests throughout the Royal Borough, will mark the opening of our Festival of Britain celebrations. We shall be taking a further part in the Festival on 9th and 23rd June when the combined choirs of Eton College and St. George's, under the direction of Dr. Sidney Watson and Dr. Harris, will give afternoon recitals of English church music from the sixteenth century to the present day. That such a year should be overshadowed by necessary re-armament and renewed austerity is a solemn challenge to Christian faith and resolution. It underlines the price we are prepared to pay for freedom and for what we like to call the British way of life, and should move us to narrow the gap between theory and practice.

Three days later the annual service of the Order of the Garter, with its splendid pageantry, will symbolize undying values for which St. George's stands, and applications by members of the Friends to the Chapter Clerk after 1st April will receive the usual priority of attention.

It was with great reluctance that the Chapter this year decided to impose an entrance fee of one shilling to the Chapel, from which you are exempt on production of your badge of membership. The public as a whole have accepted it with admirable good sense, knowing that limitation of the increasing crowd of visitors was urgently needed to regain some degree of peace and tranquillity within its walls.

Please study the programme for our annual meeting on 19th May. Canon Venables will give a preliminary outline of the proposed tour which will take members round less familiar corners in the precincts after Evensong. Inside the Chapel you may notice that the older monuments have been carefully cleaned by an expert hand and have thereby regained much of their original beauty; you will also see the John Schorn Book of Hours, which the Friends presented a year ago, now placed with its protecting casket in a restored niche next to the Lincoln Chapel in the South Quire aisle. On all hands you will be made aware of the valuable service rendered to St. George's by the Friends.

By the death of General Sir Charles Kavanagh the Military Knights of Windsor have lost a much respected Governor and friend. We shall all miss him greatly, with his warmth of heart, his humour and his courtesy.



Those who know Dr. Fellowes would wish to join in the chorus of congratulation which greeted him on his eightieth birthday. He has now been for fifty years an honoured member of the College, which gains distinction by his wide and well-merited reputation in the world of music.

We welcome Captain Forbes, R.N., who has quickly mastered the difficulties inherent in the office of Chapter Clerk, wishing him and his wife every happiness in our community.

Members of the Friends are under no explicit obligation to remember us and St. George's in their prayers, but I like to think that many do so without prompting, for we greatly need them. You are frequently remembered at our altar with thanksgiving.

ERIC HAMILTON, Bp.

*Dean of Windsor.*

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### The Report

Members will be glad to have in print the talk which Sir Owen Morshead gave at the Annual General Meeting in 1949. There have been many requests for it from those who were fortunate enough to hear it.

It is appropriate to have in the Report an account of recent research in pre-Reformation music at St. George's from Mr. Simkins, himself a lay clerk. He has been engaged in this work in collaboration with Dom Anselm Hughes, O.S.B., of Nashdom Abbey, a leading authority on fifteenth-century music.

### Obituaries

Two Knights of the Garter have died during the year, King Gustavus V of Sweden, whose appointment was as long ago as 1905, and Edward William Spencer Cavendish, 10th Duke of Devonshire.

Sir Charles Kavanagh, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Governor of the Military Knights since 1932, died on 11th October, 1950. He had had a distinguished career in the Army before retiring in 1926. He will be remembered in Windsor, by all who knew him, for his courtesy and friendliness and his love of gardening, which made a wilderness blossom like a rose.

Mr. C. J. P. Cave, F.S.A., became a life member of the Friends on 24th October at the age of eighty, and we regret to report that he died early in December. He was the authority on English roof bosses, and on 24th November gave a lecture to the Society of Antiquaries on the roof bosses of St. George's, illustrated by lantern slides, for which he had done the photography. These showed the beauty and detail of the bosses, and Mr. Cave's deductions from them may revise deductions, previously arrived at, as to the order of construction of different parts of the Chapel.



### Garter King of Arms

Congratulations to the Hon. Sir George Bellew on his appointment as Garter King of Arms. As Somerset Herald he has been a valuable member of the Committee of the Friends, co-opted to the Committee on the suggestion and in the place of Sir Algar Howard, former Garter King of Arms, whom he now succeeds, as Sir Algar found that it was impossible to attend meetings.

Our good wishes go to Sir Algar on his retirement to Greystoke Castle, near Penrith.

### The "Fasti"

The late Canon Ollard's *Fasti Wyndesorienses* was published in April 1950. It contains biographies of the 59 deans and 437 canons of Windsor who have served the Chapel since the original institution of the college by Edward III in 1348. There is also a general survey of their lives and work in the introduction, and twenty-five handsome illustrations. The volume has received an instant welcome in the Press as "full of good things" and "a valuable contribution to scholarship . . . it crowns the work of a much-loved founder of a local school of history". It is certainly indispensable to all who would understand the history of St. George's Chapel, and it is far from being a dull reference book, for it contains many amusing stories and anecdotes. Its price to the public is 21s., to Friends 15s. 9d., obtainable from Messrs. Oxley & Son (Windsor) Ltd., 4 High Street, Windsor.

### The Aerary

The Michaelmas 1950 number of *Archives* (the journal of the British Records Association) published an account of "The Windsor Aerary", by Mr. M. F. Bond, the Hon. Custodian of the Muniments. In the course of the year the work begun by Canon Dalton and Mr. Stainton in classifying and cataloguing the Chapel's very valuable collection of manuscripts has been continued and several early records have turned up in the process, including a Steward's bill for gardening of about 1462. Several twelfth- and thirteenth-century manuscripts were cleaned and repaired by Mr. J. R. Smith, of the Record Office, House of Lords, and many visits have been paid to the Aerary by archivists and historians, including a most welcome visit in May by the Archaeological Society of Eton College. Recently the manuscripts have been of service to Windsor Borough, for in some early deeds of Windsor properties were found the names of Windsor Mayors and Bailiffs earlier in date than the first hitherto known Mayor of 1413. These are to be inscribed on panels in the Guildhall.

### The Festival of Britain

The Festival of Britain opens in Windsor with a service in St. George's Chapel on Sunday afternoon, 6th May, at 3 o'clock.

St. George's Music Festival is a contribution to the Festival of Britain, and two recitals will be given on Saturday, 9th June, and

Saturday, 23rd June, at 2.45. Admission will be by ticket, price 5s., procurable at local agencies. Friends and Descendants will be allotted free seats, as far as space permits, in the Quire, in strict order of application, which should be made not earlier than 20th April to the Hon. Secretary, Friends of St. George's, 11A The Cloisters, Windsor Castle. A stamped and addressed envelope should be sent with each application.

As stated in the Dean's letter, the annual service of the Garter Knights will take place on 9th May. Application for tickets should be made after 1st April to the Chapter Clerk, not to the Friends' Office. For the service on 6th May apply to the Town Clerk, Windsor.

The Borough of Windsor is restoring its seventeenth-century Guildhall, which was completed by Christopher Wren, himself the son of a noted Windsor Dean, in readiness for the Festival of Britain, and is establishing in it a permanent exhibition illustrating the history of the Borough.

Windsor, Ontario, which helped the people of Windsor, England, very generously at the time of the disastrous floods of 1947, has launched an appeal to raise funds towards the enterprise, and its Mayor, Mr. Reaume, intends to visit the Guildhall in May.

The Committee of the Friends propose that the Society should offer to the city he represents honorary life membership of the Friends to mark the occasion. This will bring Windsor, Ontario, into line with the English borough, which in the early days of the Society gave a donation for life membership.

### **Corporate Membership**

There are several corporate members of the Society, including a new one that we have been glad to welcome this year, the Berkshire Archaeological Society.

### **Work Undertaken by the Society**

The Dean and Canons are faced with a big programme for the proper maintenance of the Chapel and all the buildings connected with it, and their valuable contents. The restoration of the Horse-shoe Cloister has begun, and will continue over a period of years at very considerable expense.

The expenditure of the funds provided by the Friends and Descendants has received careful consideration by the Committee. It has been decided not to make, at any rate at this stage, a contribution to so large an undertaking as that of the Horseshoe Cloister, but to provide the entire cost of some restoration. Two suitable objects present themselves.

The Chapter Library Committee have found themselves confronted with an estimate for £1650 for decoration of the Chapter Library, but by reducing the work, this has been cut down to £875. The Committee of the Friends has decided to cover the whole of this amount, so that the sum of about £1000 raised by the sale of books may be kept intact as capital to provide a yearly revenue, unfortunately small and inadequate, for upkeep.



Our old friend, the Curfew Clock, has been showing signs of its 260 years. A complete overhaul is required and the Committee voted up to £250 to meet the cost. The clock itself has raised some of the money through visitors' offerings for the leaflet, which Mr. Dyson kindly provides.

### The Society During 1950

The membership of the Society is about a thousand. The number of members joining during the year has been 140, of which 117 are Friends and twenty-three are Descendants.

This has been largely brought about by members persuading their friends to join, and is no doubt a response to the appeal to show, by increased membership, appreciation to General Pelly for his devoted service to the Society. We offer him this tribute with our congratulations on the improved state of his health.

Membership leaflets are now always available in the Chapel, and some new members have been gained by their means. Receipts as shown in the balance sheet give a satisfactory advance on former years, as the year has been the first full one at the increased rate of subscription.

It will be noted that the income this year has been £1110 as against £624 last year. Of this, £142 came from the Publications Account, which has now been merged in the General Account.

Unfortunately, few new members have covenanted to pay for seven years. The Society can claim a refund of income tax at the rate of 8s. 3d. on a 10s. subscription, and proportionately on higher subscriptions, and such sums in bulk yield a very valuable addition to our revenue. Forms for covenanting can be obtained from 11A The Cloisters.

Mr. Key has given invaluable help in the office in all branches of the work, and particularly in keeping the books, so that the auditors, Messrs. Layton-Bennett and Billingham, to whom we are again much indebted for the work that they do each year voluntarily, found faultless detailed statements awaiting their inspection.

A new feature of the year's working has been the appointing of subcommittees by the Committee, as a means of giving more detailed consideration to certain aspects of the working of the Society.

One met in July to consider the Annual Report, with special reference to the rising cost of production which had been mentioned at the General Meeting. Mr. Burgess's statement that printing had gone up by one third since the issue of the last Report emphasized the need for their deliberations. It was felt that economy should be effected not at the expense of the high standard of production, nor of the space allowed to original contributions, but by reduction of the pages for other material. Consequently, there will be only a quinquennial list of all the members, and new members' names will appear in each intervening year. More economical spacing and arrangement has been adopted.

About 100 copies of the Report go out to houses where more than one member of the family is a Friend, and the Committee wishes every member to have the copy of the Report to which he is entitled. However, it is known that some households prefer to have only one copy of the Report. The Secretary would be glad to be informed of such cases in order to effect an economy.

Another subcommittee made plans for the Annual General Meeting, which are given on a separate leaflet. It was decided to start the business meeting earlier in order to allow longer time for discussion than last year.

According to the constitution three members of the Committee retire each year, so three new names have to be approved annually by the meeting.

This year the Hon. Sir George Bellew, Mr. Hambidge and Mrs. Vigor, who have all given valuable help to the Friends, are due to retire. The Committee proposes for the consideration of the annual meeting that the Garter King of Arms should *ex officio* be a member of the Committee, and will make nominations for three vacancies at the Annual General Meeting.

It is open to members to propose names for these vacancies, subject to gaining the consent of the nominees. Nominations should reach the Secretary at 11A The Cloisters at least a fortnight before the date of the meeting.

### Reports

The Secretary would be glad to receive copies of the 1938 Report from members who can spare them to make up complete sets for the Chapter Library and the Chapter Clerk's Office. Copies of other years also would be acceptable, as stocks are low or exhausted.

### Admission to the Chapel

As you will have learned, Friends and Descendants are admitted to the Chapel without charge on the production of the badge of membership. Badges may be procured from the Secretary at 11A The Cloisters. It should be noted that the price of the Friends badge has been reduced to 5s., while the Descendants', which is much more handsome, is still 7s. 6d. To new life members, either badge that is appropriate is sent free of charge.

### EMBROIDERY OF THE GARTER STALL CUSHIONS

**T**HE Dean and Canons have received, and warmly approved, a generous proposal recently made to them by Mrs. Venables for embroidering the Garter Stall cushions in St. George's Chapel. The full design, now being prepared, will be submitted to the Dean and Chapter and, it is hoped, will be on view for the Friends to see on 19th May.

Would any who feel able to take part in this work kindly get in touch with Mrs. Venables, 4 The Cloisters.



## THE SCHORN BOOK OF HOURS

THE John Schorn Book of Hours, bought by the Friends to present to the Chapter, has now been repaired at the Chapter's expense. The work was superbly executed by Mr. Roger Powell, of Froxfield. The sewing of the volume, although 500 years old, was discovered to be sound and was retained, but some mends had to be made in the leaves and a good deal of subsidiary work done to the spine. The boards were removed and repaired with additions of English oak from the roof of Staple Inn, London—actually older, it is believed, than the original boards. A recess was cut in the front board to accommodate an electrotype of the John Schorn "Pilgrim's Token" (illustrated in the last Report) showing Schorn preaching from a pulpit. The book was finally covered in white alum-tawed goatskin, and two straps were attached in the original position.

In the course of the work a number of further discoveries were made, most notably that on the first "fly leaf" there is a small pocket of parchment that might well have held a relic—presumably of John Schorn, a fragment of bone or fabric, or a secondary relic, something which had touched his body or shrine. The book, as was suggested last year, although in its original covers, must have existed for a time as three separate books, probably unbound, book A running from present ff. 3 to 58, B from 67 to 99(?), C from 104 to 127 or 135. The remaining leaves between the main "books" and at each end were presumably added later before the final binding. It should be emphasized, however, that all this work was done in the fifteenth century, and that the completed Book of Hours is a remarkably full and interesting example of one of the most fascinating types of manuscript. It has recently been placed in a casket in the niche beside the Schorn Chapel in the South Quire aisle.

M. F. BOND.

## THE JUBILEE OF DR. EDMUND H. FELLOWES

DR. FELLOWES' eightieth birthday and the completion of his fiftieth year as Minor Canon of Windsor, fell on 11th November, 1950, and was marked by about 180 personal greetings, all of which he acknowledged in writing or in person. Very warm tributes appeared in the Press, and there was a charming appreciation of his work in Music Magazine on the Home Service of the B.B.C. on 5th November, from which permission has been given to quote as follows:

"Dr. Fellowes is a man who has warmed both hands at the fire of life. He has travelled. He is a family man. He calls himself an amateur of music, because all his life he has played the violin. He has been a great games player, he rarely misses an Eton-Winchester cricket match, he coxed the Winchester four as a boy and rowed in the Oriel eight as an undergraduate; he is a great player of fives and of lawn tennis—and thereby hangs a tale.

"It was (believe it or not) at a tennis tournament that he dedicated himself to musicology. It was not called musicology then, but the idea of making the Tudor classics available in modern editions was suggested to him by a lady during a drive from Exeter to the Sidmouth tennis tournament. All the Elizabethan poets, she said, could be obtained in complete editions; why not the composers? Dr. Fellowes had long before this been dissatisfied with the performances of such madrigals, motets and canticles as survived in the repertory of choirs, which were sung at the wrong speed, at the wrong pitch and the wrong rhythm. He was convinced that these errors could only be put right by new and more accurate copies to sing from. He therefore embarked at his own financial responsibility upon the task of making a new edition of the madrigals."

Thus was born the enterprise which has brought about his editing of thirty-six volumes of the English Madrigal School and thirty-two volumes of the English School of Lutenist Writers. He has been an active member of the editorial committee for the publication of Byrd's music through the Carnegie Trustees, and his work for Byrd culminated in 1950 in the completion of the edition by his three volumes, numbered XVIII-XX, containing the pieces for the virginal. Recognition has come to him through honorary doctorates of the universities of Dublin, Oxford, and Cambridge, and an honorary fellowship of his old college at Oxford, while in 1944 he was made a Companion of Honour.

Dr. Fellowes has written a masterpiece of succinct biography and criticism in the book *English Madrigal Composers*, and two biographies of William Byrd, the short outline for the tercentenary in 1923, and the definitive life in 1936. His autobiography, *Memoirs of an Amateur*, written with characteristic industry during convalescence after an operation, gives interesting sidelights on his own life and on events at St. George's. His knowledge of all aspects of the Chapel is unsurpassed. His contributions to the Monograph Series show the width of his interests and the exactitude of his researches. In addition to his volumes on the Minor Canons, the Military Knights, the Organists and Masters of the Choristers, and the Stall Plates of the Knights of the Garter, already published, another on the Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths is now in the press. In the last Report of the Friends he contributed the article on the Garter Plate of Charles I.

Between 1924 and 1928 he was master of the choristers, and in 1927 he had charge of the combined choirs of St. George's and Westminster Abbey which toured Canada.

Dr. Fellowes takes pleasure in the fact that his work has been done in the house in which John Marbeck, the great Elizabethan composer, lived and worked. Most appropriately in 1949 Dr. Fellowes edited for the fourth centenary of the English Prayer Book the Office of the Holy Communion as set by John Marbeck in the original notation, spelling and punctuation, with comments on the text and the notation employed.



## ST GEORGE'S MUSIC in the FIFTEENTH CENTURY

IT will be as well, in considering the fifteenth-century period of art and letters, to remember that England was at this time the "first" musical nation in Europe. And such a statement is surprising—nowhere more than in England itself. There are several reasons why this is so: (i) our national habit of self-depreciation, (ii) our complacent acceptance of the German musical yoke from the time of Handel onwards, and (iii) the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century.

Yet from very earliest days the important part choral music should take in the liturgy was realized. One of the earliest references to music at St. George's, Windsor, is to be found in the Aery, where details are set out for writing and "noting" a Gospel Book, a book of the Genealogies, the Passions, a Martyrology and three Processionals.<sup>1</sup>

It should be explained that Plainsong, which was introduced into England in 597 by St. Augustine, is vocal music possessing a scheme of rhythm which is freer and more elastic than anything we are accustomed to now. It deals with music in "one-dimensional" terms, i.e. in unison, and represents music in its basic form. It has an extremely solemn and impressive effect, and is, therefore, especially suitable for ecclesiastical use in which many complicated texts have to be sung clearly, giving musical expression—either simply or elaborately—to a prose text.

Polyphony, which is complementary to unisonal music, is the result of combining two or more melodic lines in a harmonious manner. This music is measured and requires time and "key" systems. It is perhaps less valuable for liturgical use, but more exciting musically with its resultant harmonies and counterpoint. The polyphonic period dates from about the ninth century to the sixteenth century. Polyphony developed slowly but continuously during those eight centuries until it reached the rich and elaborate style of the compositions being discussed in this article.

But what of a just appraisal of fifteenth-century English polyphony? To achieve anything like a critical knowledge of the subject has been difficult because such part-books as are available are written in the now obsolete and bar-less notation of the period (decipherable only to those who have a flair for the subject—and mathematics!). Another obstacle is that at the Reformation there was a wholesale destruction of choir books. Very few remain; but it should be a matter of delight to us at Windsor that five of the principal surviving sources of information come from the two sister colleges of Windsor and Eton. One from Eton is known as the *Eton Manuscript*. It was written *circa* 1500-10, and its subject matter, of the very greatest interest, has been dealt with by Dom Anselm Hughes in the *Proceedings of the Musical Association*, 1926-7 (pp. 69-83).

## THE OLD HALL MANUSCRIPT

There are four other books of music which are without doubt a product of St. George's College at Windsor. First, the Old Hall MS. This is one of the priceless treasures of English musical history. In its 112 folios there are some 150 compositions, consisting almost entirely of settings of *Gloria*, *Credo*, *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*; there are no *Kyries*. Of twenty-four composers named therein, four (John Burell, John Cooke, Thomas Damett and Nicholas Sturgeon) are mentioned in the Wardrobe Book of the Chapel Royal in 1413, and two others (John Aleyn and Robert Chirbury) appear in 1421, when Cooke's name was dropped out. This discovery was made a few years ago by Mr. John H. Harvey, the author of *Gothic England*, with the result that the music of the Old Hall MS. as a whole must be viewed as an achievement of the court of Henry V, to whom are now attributed the *Gloria* and *Sanctus* which occur under the designation of "Roy Henry". Until recently, following Barclay Squire's description of the MS. in 1901, they had been ascribed to Henry VI.

Though the Chapel Royal of Henry V seems to be the origin of the greater part of the music, the manuscript is undoubtedly the production of the Royal Free Chapel of St. George, for Damett held a canonry here from 1430 to 1436, and Sturgeon from 1441 to 1454. These two men seem to have been the successive owners, and in part the actual scribes, of the volume; and the oldest material included is probably music traditional at St. George's from the later part of the preceding century. At the other extreme, probably after the rest of the music had been written in, we have motets by Forest and Dunstable (d. 1453) copied in from elsewhere. If there exists any doubt about the provenance of the collection of music it is dispelled by the words of the "*Salvatoris mater pia*" by Damett (fol. 98v) which are entirely concerned with King Henry and invoke the protection of St. George. However, St. George did not become patron of England until after 1415.

It is difficult to understand how Henry V found time for the study of composition in his short life (1387-1422), but there is ample evidence of his musical interests in the exceptional musical establishment of his Chapel Royal, whose choir he summoned to Rouen for the Easter celebrations after his victory there in 1419. We see this monarch as the head of a musical culture of the highest importance, appearing not as an imitator of other men's work but as an original composer; and one has only to listen to his setting of "Sanctus" when sung by men's voices to realize the sincerity and beauty of the music.

We are greatly indebted to Mgr. Bagshawe, President of St. Edmund's College, Ware, the owners of the Old Hall MS., for permission to reproduce in Plate I a page from the original MS. A transcription in modern notation is given opposite.



# Sanctus

Old Hall ms.

*slowly & smoothly*

Tenor.

Bass  
I

Bass  
II

Handwritten musical score for the Sanctus, featuring three vocal parts: Tenor, Bass I, and Bass II. The score is written in a system of three staves, with the Tenor part on the top staff and the Bass parts on the bottom two staves. The music is in a 3/4 time signature and features a variety of note values, including minims, crotchets, and quavers. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words appearing in a larger, bolder font. The score is divided into four systems, each containing three staves. The first system includes the lyrics "Sa-ctus,". The second system includes "Sa-ctus, Sa-". The third system includes "nus; Do-mi-". The fourth system includes "nus De-na Sa-". The score concludes with a double bar line. The handwriting is in ink and shows signs of age, with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Modern transcription of Old Hall MS.

## THE SELDEN MANUSCRIPT

The second musical manuscript of the fifteenth century closely connected with St. George's is the first portion of the MS. Selden B.26 (in the Bodleian Library at Oxford). Not much attention has been given to it since it was published in facsimile in 1901.<sup>2</sup> Of the contents of this manuscript, it has been pointed out there is a striking similarity between it and those contained in Egerton 3307—acquired during the Second World War by the British Museum—which will be mentioned briefly later in this article. *Selden B.26* contains carols, hymns from the Sarum Processional, a second version of the Agincourt Song (it has no connexion with "Oure Kynge went forth") and a Drinking Song. As to the place of its origin, I think the inclusion of the Agincourt Song as well as a song in honour of St. George (invoking the patron Saint of England to end civil discord) and the fact that a choral establishment attached to the royal court would not confine its activities to liturgical music, make it safe to ascribe it as a product by and for the musical centre of this country—Windsor.

## A BODLEIAN MS.

The third MS., Bodley 384 (2209), also in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, is a fourteenth or early fifteenth-century manuscript containing part-music for *Gloria in Excelsis*. Actually it consists of fly-leaves for a choir book with music in three parts. The volume came from St. George's, Windsor, in 1612, but it is not clear whether it was actually written in the College. Details of the contents are as follows:

- fo. i(r) End of a Gloria, with the *Spiritus et alme tropes . . . gloriam. Qui sedes to Amen*. In "conductus" score.
- fo. i(v) Beginning of another Gloria, but in separate score and in so-called "ballade" style, the text for the upper voice only, Tenor and Secundus Tenor at Foot, wordless. Alternate sections only, the rest to be supplied in plain-chant.
- fo. ii(r) End of a third Gloria, in the same form as the first and with the same tropes.
- fo. ii(v) Music erased and covered with fifteenth-century writing.
- and iii (r)
- fo. iii(v) Also erased, but not much writing overlaid, showing at head *Domine Dominus noster quis* and at foot a fourth Gloria in score.

The back cover of the volume shows that a fourth leaf was once in this place, with music of "ballade" style as on fo. i(v).

## THE EGERTON MS.

The fourth of the manuscripts is the most interesting of all, for the discovery of a fifteenth-century music manuscript about which nothing is known of its previous ownership, nor to which any reference has been found, is something like a first-class mystery. The story of its acquisition by the British Museum and a scholarly analysis



of the contents of this manuscript have been most ably given by Dr. Bertram Schofield, the Assistant Keeper of MSS. there.<sup>3</sup>

To appreciate the importance of this manuscript it is necessary to draw attention to the form in which, in mediaeval times, the services in St. George's were to be observed as prescribed by the Use of Sarum. A statement of exactly how these services were divided has already been made by Mr. Maurice Bond in one of the monographs.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Bond shows that on the occasion of a double feast a liturgical procession would be formed. On fo. 37<sup>(b)</sup> of the Egerton MS. there is *one* musical setting for *five* hymns for such a procession, of which four—Easter, Ascension, Whit-Sunday, Trinity—are taken from the Sarum Processional. The fifth begins:

Salve festa dies, toto venerabilis suo  
Qua pugil anglorum suscipit ense polum  
Ecce patent orbi solennia festa georgii  
Martiris invicti militis egregii.

and does not occur in the Sarum service books.

Various authorities have, in their turn, tried to locate the origin of this manuscript to some place other than St. George's, but I think (and the view is shared also by Dom Anselm Hughes and Dr. Schofield) the evidence is conclusive that the manuscript, like Selden B.26 and Bodley 384, was compiled here, and intended for use here.

The compositions are written in black—and red—void notation upon a five-lined stave, and many of the compositions—all of which are anonymous—have beautifully executed initials. It is tantalizing to find in the Treasurer's roll of 1438-9 an entry for writing music, and again in 1449-50, but neither item provides any clue either as to date or provenance.

Altogether there are fifty-five musical settings of hymns, carols and Latin cantilenae for two and sometimes three voices. A drinking song for three voices—*O potores exquisiti*—is a remarkably hilarious affair. Nothing could exceed the restrained beauty of the two settings of the Passion: one for use at Mass on Palm Sunday, *secundum Mattheum*, which, unfortunately, is imperfect and ends abruptly at "Ave Rab (bi)". The other, *secundum Lucam*, is sung at Mass on Wednesday in Holy Week. This has been transcribed into modern notation, and it may be of passing interest to know that during Holy Week in 1948 this music was sung at Nashdom Abbey.

These two settings are considerably older than the setting by Richard Davy which is to be found in the Eton Manuscript already referred to, and are the earliest known of the polyphonic settings of the "crowd" utterances. Could it possibly be that the detailed account of expenses for "noting" a book of the Genealogy and Passions mentioned by John Prust, canon 1379-1403, refers to these compositions?

Amongst so much that is of interest mention must be made of a setting of the "*Ordinary of the Mass*"—remarkable because it contains a musical setting for Kyrie and yet is obviously intended for use during Holy Week. Imperfect though this Kyrie is, recon-

struction is possible, and it is hoped in due course to print it in modern notation.

In endeavouring to appraise the value of the music in the manuscripts discussed above, it is necessary to try and appreciate the difficulties of the composers themselves. In any collection of whatever nature there are bound to be items which are third-rate. We can, however, be thankful that in these four collections of music, brought together for actual liturgical or secular use, intellectual, musical (and mathematical) features predominate, and the four MSS. between them enable us to appreciate the truth of Mr. Schofield's conclusion that St. George's was pre-eminent as "the musical centre of England in the fifteenth century" being "eminently placed to influence the development both of sacred and lay music".

It remains only to end by quoting the words of one of the group of five English carols—a setting for two voices in which the words have been slightly modernized:

Enforce we us with all our might  
To love St. George, our Lady's knight.

Worship of vertue is the mede [i.e. reward]  
And seweth [followeth] him aye of right  
To worship George, then, have we need  
Which is our Sovereign Lady's knight.

He kept the maid from dragons dread  
And fared all France and put to flight.  
At Agincourt the chronicle ye read:  
The French him see foremost in [the] fight.

In his virtue he will us lead  
Against the fiende, the foul wight,  
And with his banner us o'erspread  
If we love him with all our might.

These words are at once a prayer and an inspiration to those who are trying to maintain the traditions which are the very life-blood of St. George's in this year of grace 1951.

C. F. SIMKINS.

<sup>1</sup> *Windsor Records*, XV 3.3 It is tantalizing to find no special reference to the question of polyphonic music at St. George's in the fourteenth century. There is, however, this item contained in the Windsor Inventory of 1384-5: *Item unus Rotulus de Cantu musico, ex legato domini Johannis Aleyn*. This is printed by M. F. Bond in *The Inventories of St. George's Chapel*, p. 34.

<sup>2</sup> *Early Bodleian Music* (2 vols.), Sacred and Secular Songs. J. F. R. and C. Stainer.

<sup>3</sup> *Musical Quarterly*, New York, Vol. 23, No. 4, Oct. 1946, pp. 509-36. At the British Museum the MS. is catalogued as Egerton MS. 3307.

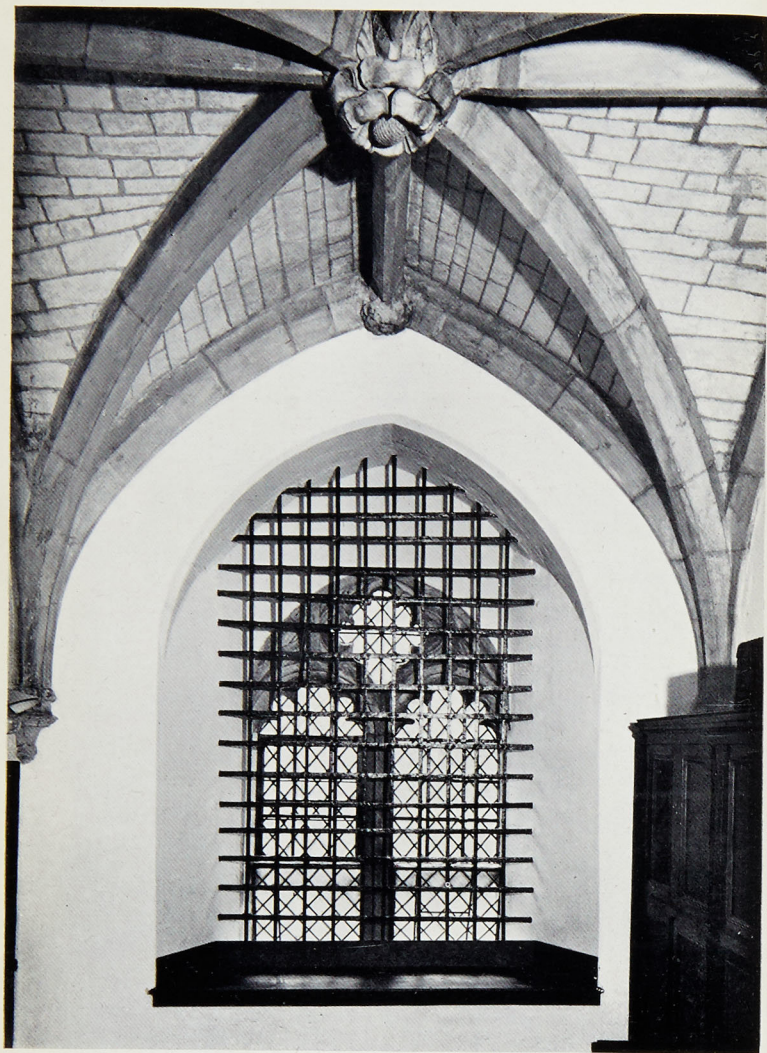
<sup>4</sup> Cf. Appendix A, "The Mediaeval Services of St. George's", to the *Inventories*, also reprinted separately in *Liturgy and Worship in St. George's Chapel* (1947).





Plate I

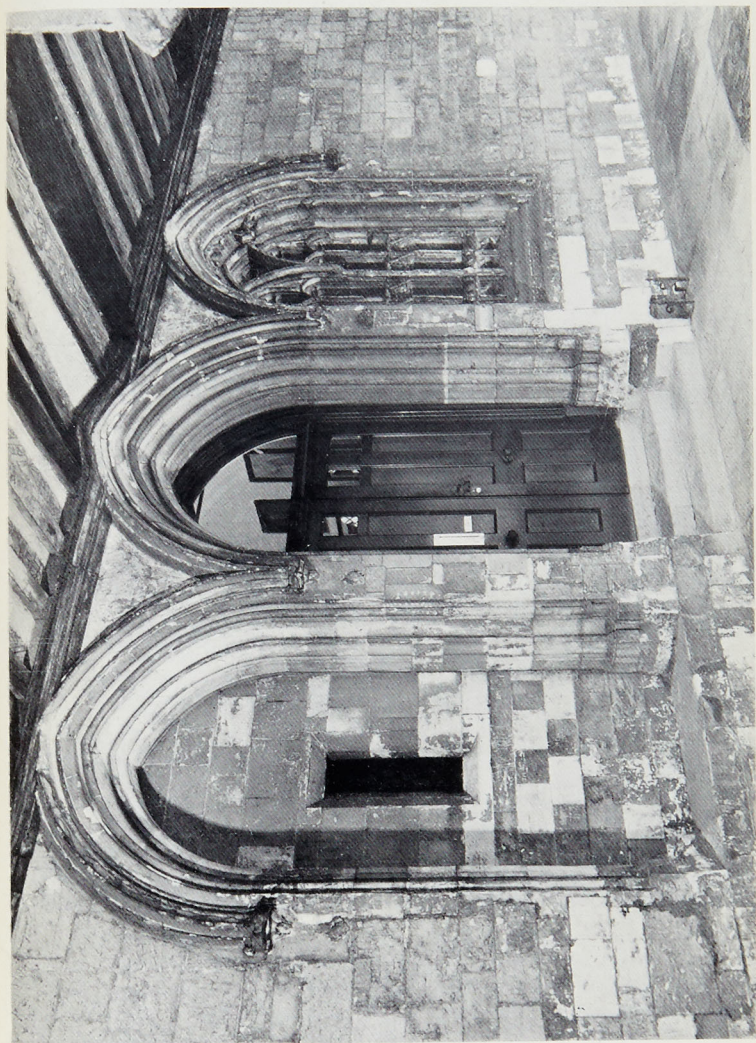
A "free" setting of Sanctus as it appears in the Old Hall MS., fo. 80v—the composer's name, "Roy Henry" (Henry V), appearing at the top of the page. A transcription in modern notation is given in the body of the text.



#### THE AERARY

This room was built between 1353 and 1355 as the treasury and muniment room of the college, and it still houses the records. The iron window grating was inserted in 1496.





Entrance with flanking windows into the old Chapter House of the Order of the Garter, built in 1351, now the doorway into the Deanery



BISHOP JOHN FISHER, D.D.

From an engraving after the portrait dated 1807 by James Northcote in the Bishop's Palace at Salisbury. Another portrait hangs in the Bishop's Palace at Exeter.



**JOHN FISHER**  
**Bishop of Salisbury**

**I**N the Life of Charles Abbot, Lord Colchester, Speaker of the House of Commons in the time of Trafalgar and Waterloo, there is embedded the following letter, signed by John Fisher, Bishop of Salisbury:

SEYMOUR STREET,

*February 9th, 1811.*

DEAR SIR,

The building in which I ventured to make the alterations which I mentioned to you yesterday, is St. George's Chapel, the Collegiate Chapel at Windsor.

If I mistake not, it was in the year 1787 that the King began the alterations and improvements of the Chapel. His Majesty confined his attention to the choir, as particularly connected with the Order of the Garter, leaving the rest of the edifice to the care of the Dean and Chapter.

As His Majesty had undertaken to do such great things for the choir, the Dean and Chapter felt themselves called upon to undertake the reparation and ornamenting of the rest of the Chapel. I, at that time, held the office of Treasurer, a part of whose duty it is to attend to the fabric. His Majesty thought proper to appoint me to superintend all the works which he had engaged for, in order that the whole might be under the direction of the same person.

The King was in the constant habit of attending the progress of the works till his melancholy illness at the end of 1788. The works, however, were not suspended during his illness. And it was in the interval between the commencement of the illness and the recovery that I ventured upon striking out or covering all those false ornaments which occurred at the intersections of all the various arches in the roof. In the ante-chapel or nave I have made no exception; but obliterated all the painted devices because the side walls are all perfectly plain. But in the choir I ordered the keystones of the centre arches in which were placed the arms of Edward the Confessor, and of the Kings Edward IV and Henry VI, to be repainted and gilded, because these harmonized with the sides of the choir, which were highly ornamented with the arms and escutcheons of the Knights of the Garter.

Upon the King's recovery and return to Windsor, his first visit was to the Chapel, where he fully approved of whatever had been done in his absence. And, as a proof of his approbation, he sent me the next day a bank-note for £1000 to pay immediately the workmen who had persevered in their labours during his indisposition.

His Majesty's expenses amounted to more than £16,000. Those of the Chapter to about £6000.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Your most faithful servant,

J. SARUM.

PS. There were various coloured devices at the intersection of the arches in the roof of the choir. All these were obliterated, except the arms in the centres which I mentioned above.<sup>1</sup>

This letter poses two questions, namely, What were these rather extensive works undertaken in St. George's Chapel during the closing years of the eighteenth century? And who was this Bishop of Salisbury who seems to have been in charge of them?

In the year 1778 King George III, penetrated at last by the sentiments which inspired the Gothic revival, took a decision momentous in the history of Windsor: he resolved to restore the Castle, neglected under his two predecessors, to its primacy of place among the royal residences. He had begun, so we are told, with no other design than to secure a lodging when he should hunt in this neighbourhood or make an excursion with the Queen, and find it too late for them conveniently to return to London or to Kew. He first tried to bribe his brother, Prince Henry, to give up Cumberland Lodge to him for this purpose; but failing in this he commissioned Sir William Chambers to build for him Queen's Lodge, within the shadow of the Castle along its southern flank. In this operation, as is common enough, he found himself led on from little to more, until in the end he had laid out £70,000 upon an unpretentious barrack—and wished that he had instead devoted so considerable a sum towards the accomplishment of his major project in the Castle itself.<sup>2</sup>

In his work upon the Castle, like Charles II before and George IV after, he concentrated his attention upon the Upper Ward, which formed his own habitation; but he also took a lively interest in the Order of the Garter, and it was for this reason that he undertook at the same time to carry out certain improvements within St. George's Chapel—or the Cathedral, as it was commonly called. But here likewise he confined himself to the choir, because that was the portion associated with the ceremonial of the Order. The Chapter, not to be behindhand, thereupon charged themselves with the refurbishing of the nave: and to accomplish this, let it be recorded, the twelve Canons themselves forewent £50 a year of their several incomes over a considerable period.<sup>3</sup>

We are not concerned here to examine in detail the works executed during those years; they are set out in St. John Hope. Chief among them was the removal of the great east window over the altar, as to which the following observations are recorded on the part of two informed and discerning critics: "James Wyatt and Lysons much regretted taking away the beautiful Gothick window work to make room for the painted glass window by West, who has persuaded the King to do it".<sup>3</sup> Let us content ourselves with visiting the Chapel immediately afterwards in the company of



Horace Walpole (who incidentally once passed a summer in the Canon's house now known as No. 4 The Cloisters):<sup>4</sup>

St. George's Chapel, that I always worshipped, though so dark and black that I could see nothing distinctly, is now being cleaned and decorated, a scene of lightness and grace. There is a new screen prefixed to the choir, so airy and harmonious that I concluded it to be Wyatt's, but it is by a Windsor architect. Jarvis' window over the altar, after West, is rather too sombre for the Resurrection, though it accords with the tone of the choir; but the Christ is a poor figure, scrambling to Heaven in a fright, as if in dread of being again buried alive, and not ascending calmly in secure dignity; and there is a Judas below, so gigantic that he seems more likely to burst by his bulk than through guilt.<sup>5</sup>

Familiar to visitors and residents alike is the circular tower which stands at the south-western corner of Windsor Castle, nearest the statue of Queen Victoria in the street outside. It bears the name Salisbury Tower because, over a period of several centuries, it formed the official residence of the Bishop of Salisbury as Chancellor of the Order of the Garter. Certainly it was so used as late as 1832:<sup>6</sup> four years later, in 1836, Berkshire was dissevered from the diocese of Salisbury and added to that of Oxford, and in default of other evidence I would hazard the guess that Salisbury Tower ceased to house its eponymous bishop after the death of Bishop Burgess in 1837. It had been a valuable appanage to the bishopric, for Windsor was a welcome staging-place on the way from Salisbury to London, as well as a convenient centre for the oversight of this easternmost corner of a wide-flung diocese.

One consequence, we may suppose, of King George III's new association with Windsor was a quickened interest in the see of Salisbury, whose bishop was a conspicuous figure among the Sovereign's neighbours in the Castle; and it is noticeable, though hitherto unnoticed, that from this time onwards he chose for Salisbury men with whom he had had opportunity to become acquainted as Canons of Windsor. Shute Barrington (bishop from 1782-91) was succeeded by John Douglas; and after him, in 1807, came John Fisher, the subject of our present consideration, who reigned in Salisbury and Salisbury Tower throughout the years which remained to the old King. All three bishops, spanning between them forty-three consecutive years, were familiar figures on the Windsor scene before their elevation to the bench.

Let us now turn to John Fisher and see where a consideration of his career and his times may lead us. Born in 1748, he was from the first in the full tradition of his period, being one of the ten sons of a country parson: and in so far as it may have been an advantage to be the eldest, that advantage was his. He was educated at St. Paul's and Peterhouse, whence he graduated as tenth wrangler. He then became a Fellow of St. John's College, and Tutor, in which capacity, we are told, he was distinguished not only for his various talents but also for the suavity of his manners and the peculiarly felicitous manner in which he conveyed instruction.

His father, also the Rev. John Fisher, was chaplain to Dr. John Thomas, who had been Preceptor to King George III in childhood.

This John Thomas, following the track blazed by royal tutors before and since, became Bishop of Salisbury; and in this position he rewarded his Chaplain with a prebendal stall. Thus for the younger John Fisher the diocese which fate held in store for him became familiar ground between the ages of 11 and 31; and it was among the austere downs and lush valleys of the Wiltshire country that he nurtured that love of the English scene which it was his lifelong habit to record with his pencil.

Chance plays a part in the lives of most men, and chance it was which was now to lead the young Cambridge don into Court life. The Mastership of his college fell vacant and he, as a junior Fellow, found himself courted as the possessor of a vote in the election of a new Master. On account of past kindnesses he felt himself bound in honour to a certain candidate (who was, in the event, successful); but Lord North, Lord Sandwich and others of high rank and station pressed his father to prevail upon him to change sides and pledge his vote to another. Fisher, however, declined; and to his conduct on this occasion, which in the first instance threatened him with worldly ill, he himself was accustomed to attribute the good fortune of his future life. Certainly it was because of it that the influential Bishop Hurd, five years later, secured for him the Tutorship of Prince Edward, later Duke of Kent and father of Queen Victoria. He removed to Windsor, where he was made Chaplain to the King and Deputy Clerk of the Closet. The tutorship he discharged with satisfaction to all concerned from 1780 until, in 1785, his pupil was of age to proceed, like his brothers, to the University of Göttingen, in His Majesty's Hanoverian dominions.

It was while he was with Prince Edward that we get a glimpse of him through the eyes of Miss Mary Hamilton, one of Queen Charlotte's Maids of Honour, in the summer of 1780, when certain of the younger members of the Royal Family were taking the sea air at Eastbourne.

Our day is usually spent as follows. Rise early; I sleep in the room with Princess Elizabeth. After Her Royal Highness and Princess Sophia have bathed, which depends on the tides, we walk on the sands for an hour. At 3 Prince Edward and his Governor come to dinner. Sometimes Mr. Fisher stays and obligingly instructs the Princess in drawing. At 9 Their Royal Highnesses go to bed. Soon afterwards, Lady Charlotte, M. Bruyères, Mr. Farhill, Mr. Fisher and I sit down to supper and spend an hour or more in agreeable conversation.<sup>7</sup>

The improving nature of the instruction which Mr. Fisher imparted may be judged from the letter<sup>8</sup> which his twelve-year-old pupil wrote from Eastbourne to the future King William IV, then a midshipman at sea:

Sea-houses. 28th July, 1780.

My dearest Brother,

I am very happy to congratulate you upon your approaching Birthday. I am upon the coast of Sussex now, together with my two sisters Elizabeth and Sophia, and my brother Octavius, for the benefit of bathing in the Sea: at first I did not like it much, but now I am fond of it. We have Captain Cummings, of the Carisford Frigate, to guard the Coast between Dungeness and Beachy Head. You see that by His Majesty's kind Care we are not entirely left at the mercy of Privateers. I daresay that your letters from Windsor inform you that all our family is very



well. I conclude, Dear Brother, with assuring you that success to the fleet and continuance of good health to you are the constant and sincere wishes of your very affecte. Brother

EDWARD.

There are in the Royal Library two examples of his sketching which date from this seaside visit. His health at this time not being robust, upon laying down his tutorship in 1785 he took a tour on the Continent for several months. No less than twenty-eight years afterwards we find Mrs. Piozzi, familiar to readers of Boswell, observing of him: "He was a charming creature when we knew him abroad, and called him *The King's Fisher*".<sup>9</sup>

Upon his return George III advanced him to a canonry of Windsor, into which he was installed on 14th July (1786). It is now Fanny Burney's turn to twitter encomiums upon this promising and eligible young Canon:

Mr. Fisher sleeps here while his house is fitting up. He is in very high and very deserved favour with all the Royal Family, and the King grants him the same apartment that he inhabited when a young preceptor of Prince Edward, till his Canon of Windsor's residence is fitted up. Mr. Fisher takes landscapes in a most pleasing manner, and travelled all through Italy and Switzerland with a pencil in his hand. (He) was full of intelligence, communicated in the gentlest and simplest manner.

And again three weeks later:

The moment I arrived at Windsor I sent to entreat my dearest Mrs. Delany and her niece to dinner. They came; and in the evening Mr. Fisher alone added to our party. Mr. Fisher produced the drawings he had sketched in Italy and Switzerland; views from well-chosen prospects, very happily, I believe, executed. With the help of his verbal description Mrs. Delany saw them pretty well; and we were both indebted to him for much entertainment. The quietness of the evening pleased him as much as it did ourselves.

But a year later we find the frosty entry: "Mr. Fisher returned *married* to Windsor"; and when first she met the bride Miss Burney recorded that she "seems good-natured, cheerful and obliging, neither well nor ill in her appearance, and I fancy not strongly marked in any way. But she adores Mr. Fisher, and has brought him a large fortune".<sup>10</sup> The bride to whom this faint praise is accorded was Dorothea, only daughter of J. F. Scrivenor, of Sibton Park, Suffolk—a relative, we are told, of Lord Nelson. She lies buried here with her husband in the south aisle of the nave of St. George's Chapel. In addition to a substantial fortune of £1600-£1800 a year<sup>11</sup> she brought him in due course two agreeable daughters, one of whom painted landscapes in oil under the instruction of Constable. Their only son being weak in the head, was placed with a clergyman in the country.

No sooner was Fisher in his new house in the Cloisters than the King's operations upon the choir of the Chapel began; and the oversight of these, together with the collateral works of the Chapter in the nave, no doubt kept the new Treasurer busy. The occupant of Salisbury Tower in those days was Bishop Shute Barrington, whose periodical residences were those of a *revenant*, for as we have seen he had himself been in former days a Canon of Windsor. In the winter of 1788 came the onset of the King's first bout of madness, upon his recovery from which the physicians prescribed a visit

to Weymouth—the first of a long series of annual excursions to that favoured resort. In 1791 Bishop Barrington died; and the vacancy thus created forms, we may reasonably suppose, the background to the following anecdote told by Lord Chancellor Eldon—the aspiring bishop being presumably Dr. John Douglas, at that time serving the remote and impecunious see of Chester:

I met a Prelate who was at that time bishop of a see not very richly endowed, coming out of His Majesty George III's closet at Buckingham House as I was going into it. The King asked me if I did not very much like sincerity? I answered, "Yes, Sir". "So does that prelate", said the King, "for he has just assured me that he is perfectly content with his present preferment; he should wish, indeed, to have Salisbury instead of it—but he added that he so wished for no other reason whatever but merely that he might have the honour of giving me a breakfast in my way to Weymouth. Can you", he added, "believe that, when a bishop says it? I can't."<sup>12</sup>

Dr. Douglas, if indeed it was he, was successful; and the following August (1792) we find the Royal Family partaking of refreshment with him in the Palace at Salisbury on their way through to Weymouth. If the Hanoverian cream horses, which were used for the purpose, could not accomplish the journey without a break, it was not for lack of speed. On the same trip in the previous summer it was reported that "the singular circumstance occurred of the carriage of the Princesses taking fire owing to the velocity with which they travelled".<sup>13</sup>

The canony of Windsor and his wife's private means were not Dr. Fisher's only sources of income during these years, for he further enjoyed the Chapter living of Stowey in Somerset, and also those of Hartley Wespall in Hampshire and Langham in Essex. At length, in July 1803, there fell to him the bishopric of Exeter; not a wealthy see, but made the more acceptable by the addition of an archdeaconry and a prebendal stall. We learn from his friend Farington that "he had hopes of being allowed to retain his canony of Windsor with his bishopric; he was allowed to keep his other livings, but that was taken from him—which affected him much, Exeter is about £2000 a year".<sup>11</sup> Very well, one would think, for a start; and it is pleasing to find Benjamin West shortly afterwards speaking "very handsomely of the Bishop of Exeter, saying that he preserves in that situation his natural manner and is just the same as before".<sup>14</sup>

We now come to a painful interlude in the life of this cultivated man, when he accepted the task of schooling the Sovereign's refractory granddaughter, Princess Charlotte, heir presumptive to the throne. This is how the Lord Chancellor was instructed to communicate the King's intentions to the Prince of Wales:

The King, having given the utmost attention to the magnitude of the object he has at heart, the fixing on proper persons to superintend the care and education of his dear granddaughter the Princess Charlotte, is convinced that, on the bench of bishops, no man is so well calculated to plan the mode of education as the Bishop of Exeter, who, in addition to his exemplary conduct and erudition, and having with great assiduity and attention attended the Duke of Kent, has the peculiar advantage of being of a very mild disposition, and possessing a most engaging manner, likely to gain the esteem of any young person he is required to converse with.



His Majesty thought that under the care of Dr. Fisher she would be rendered an honour and comfort to her relations, and a blessing to the Dominions over which she might thereafter preside. And this might have been the case had the course of history run otherwise: but she proved anything but a comfort and a blessing to the bishop. He assumed his duties in March 1805 and soon realized the difficulties inherent in a household in which the King appointed the men and the Prince appointed the women. The Prince slighted him and the women undermined his standing in the eyes of his pupil. Her very manners had not been attended to: when her nose required to be wiped she did apply not her handkerchief, but wiped her nose with her sleeves, as vulgar people did.<sup>15</sup> It is only fair to add that her lady companion, Miss Cornelia Knight, formed no high opinion of the deportment of the Bishop, who, she recorded, "from having lived much at Windsor had imbibed the bad style of manners belonging to that place".<sup>16</sup>

One blessing, and perhaps one only, he may have owed in some degree to this post, namely the succession to the bishopric of Salisbury when it became vacant in 1807. Its income was twice that of Exeter; for twenty of the most formative years of his life it had been his home country; and from the tower in Windsor Castle he could fulfil the duties of his tutorship with less inconvenience alike to his diocese and to himself. And not his tutorship only, for Charles Knight affords us a glimpse (not wholly flattering) of the new bishop conducting a confirmation service in St. George's Chapel.

I had diligently prepared myself for Confirmation. Dr. Fisher, Bishop of Salisbury, was to perform the rite. There was an absence of all solemnity, and even of decency, upon which I look back with disgust. I still see the bishop's officers driving the young people to the altar-rails as if they were sheep going to the fair; the monotonous formality of the imposition of hands upon the huddled batches who knelt for a few minutes, and then were chased back to their seats by the impatient ministers of the solemnity. Its failure altogether to satisfy my excited feelings compelled me into a passion of tears, and I went home and told my father that I would be a Quaker or a Unitarian.<sup>17</sup>

If it was with greater convenience that he now supervised the education of his charge, it was not with less distaste; for the strain of coarseness which the Princess had inherited from her rantipole mother grated continually upon a man of his refinement; and moreover, it was natural that she should regard him as her gaoler. Her letters to her confidante, Miss Mercer Elphinstone, abound in bitter allusions to "The Great U.P." as she sometimes called him, from his alleged habit of pronouncing the word *Bish-up*.

This morning I was very correctly behaved, for I went and lunched with *Sarum*, his *cara sposa* and their *lovely progeny*. Your ears ought to have burnt, for the *lusus naturae* was singing your praises in the highest way possible.

The hours and days are very long. The bishop is here and reads with me for an hour or two every day from Mrs. Hannah More's *Hints for Forming the Education of a Princess*. This I believe is what makes me find the hours so long. I am not quite good enough for that yet.

I have got a letter from the bishop in which he says that amidst his episcopal duties he does not think with less anxiety on *another most*

*important duty, me, and that whatever concerns my happiness, welfare and character occupies his most serious consideration and engages his thoughts both sleeping and walking—and he promises a long letter next time.*<sup>19</sup>

And indeed he did not, during the summer of 1814, lack matter for serious consideration. His ward had just jilted the Prince of Orange, and when the Bishop had accompanied the incensed Prince Regent to her apartments she had requested leave to retire in the middle of the interview—and escaped by the back staircase into the street. His friends found him looking ill, a broken man.<sup>18</sup> His seaside holiday that autumn did little to recruit his strength, if we may judge by the letters which Miss Mercer Elphinstone received twice a week from Weymouth:

The Bishop is expected to arrive here to-day with his whole family, having taken a lodging for a month. I fear I shall be subjected to visits in and out from morning to night, and a variety of *tête-à-tête* visits of advice and so on, which are all very tiresome and odious.

The Bishop and family are come here. He dines with us every day. I was at church yesterday, when the Bishop preached. I never heard so weak a voice and so bad a delivery. It is enough to spoil the very best sermon that ever was composed.<sup>19</sup>

From the cares of office Dr. Fisher found relaxation in the practice of his water-colours and the company of artists. His election to the chaplaincy of the Royal Academy in 1807 gave him pleasure and he was usually to be found at their dinners. In 1805 he took a leading part in the founding of the British Institution, formed with royal approval for the encouragement of contemporary art. Having undertaken to support the project in conversation with the King, "he recommended that a short statement should be written and delivered to His Majesty, who, having by that means acquired some notion of the matter, might be so induced to ask questions which would lead to further explanation: he said he always proceeded in that way upon matters of business".<sup>20</sup>

From the diary of John Constable we have it that over a period of twenty-five years the Bishop was his kind monitor and patron; he stayed in the palace for three weeks in 1811, and one of his most glorious paintings of Salisbury is the view of the cathedral from the Bishop's garden. It was Constable, moreover, who painted the portrait of Fisher which still hangs in the bishop's palace at Exeter.

Leslie's well-known biography of Constable is largely based upon the life-long affection which subsisted between the painter and yet another Dr. John Fisher, this time a nephew, whom the kindly Bishop had made an archdeacon in his diocese; indeed a great portion of the book is composed of the letters which these two friends exchanged. Very agreeable it is to follow the archdeacon as, based upon his uncle's residence in Salisbury Tower, he carries out his visitations among the clergy of this neighbourhood; and we may glance over his shoulder as he sits in judgment at Maidenhead one drowsy September afternoon:

I write this sitting in commission upon a dispute between a clergyman and his parishioners, and compose while the parties argue. There is a



brother parson arguing his own case, with powder, white forehead, and a very red face—like a copper vessel newly tinned. He is mixing up, in a tremulous tone, with an eager bloodshot eye, accusations, apologies, statements, reservations and appeals, till his voice sounds on my ear, as I write, like a distant waterfall.

Think of St. Paul [he writes on another occasion] with a full-blown wig, deep shovel hat, apron, round belly, double chin, deep cough, stern eye, rough voice and imperious manner, drinking port wine and laying down the law as to the best way of escaping the operation of the Curates' Residence Act.<sup>21</sup>

The Bishop's portrait by Northcote in the palace at Salisbury bears out the character that we should expect, with its chiselled features and kindly expression. He wears the wig, which the bench of bishops retained after it had been discarded by the generality of men—and which the judicial bench alone continue to wear to-day. In after life Prince Ernest, by then King of Hanover, committed to paper his recollections of the days when young Mr. Fisher had been tutor to Prince Edward. It was nothing unusual, he wrote, to see Bishops Hurd and Markham (successively tutors to the eldest pair of princes), and Bishop Courtenay of Exeter too, taking their walks abroad among the fields and paths around Kew arrayed in the full haberdashery of ecclesiastical consequence: wig and cocked hat, purple coat and stockings—and their male servants in purple and fine linen too, according to the custom of the day. It was Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, of Oxford, he declared, who first persuaded King George IV to allow him to lay aside the wig, because his wife found him better looking without it. King George III would never have allowed that. When Bishop Randolph came to St. James's to do homage upon his translation to London in 1809 Lord Sidmouth turned him away because he had no wig. "You were perfectly right, my Lord", said the King; "and tell the bishop from me that until he has shaven his head and provided himself with a wig suitable to his garb I shall not admit him into my presence." Times were now so changed, concluded the King of Hanover, writing in 1850, that he had himself seen Bishop Blomfield of London attend the committee room in the House of Lords in black Wellington coat with top boots—and the hat of a butcher or coachmaster.<sup>22</sup>

In 1818, after the marriage (and indeed after the tragic death) of Princess Charlotte, Dr. Fisher broke new ground by paying a visit to the Channel Islands and confirming 4000 candidates in four days. Already 70 years old when he accomplished this feat, he was the first Christian bishop to be seen in the islands since first they had been linked with the diocese of Winchester. The Church was beginning to turn in its sleep: at St. Paul's Cathedral they had taken to administering the Communion weekly instead of monthly—though to be sure scarcely any one attended saving the handful of paupers amongst whom it was the custom to distribute the offertory. But down in Salisbury these new-fangled ways were probably little felt before the old Bishop's life drew to its peaceful close in 1825. Throughout his years on the bench it had been his rule to allocate a considerable portion of his revenue to charitable uses, and upon his death it was found that he had not enriched

himself during the years of his pastorate. Men commented, in fact, upon the disinterestedness with which he refrained from renewing the lease of the best property belonging to the see, from which abstention Bishop Burgess, his successor, profited by no less than £30,000. In religious matters he had never been what was known with distaste in the eighteenth century as an enthusiast, and Samuel Parr paid him a compliment in the couplet:

"Unsoil'd by Courts, and unseduc'd by zeal,  
FISHER endangers not the public weal."

And the nephew? "*Life is short, friendship is sweet*; these were the last words of poor Fisher to me in his last invitation." So wrote Constable to a friend after the Archdeacon's death. Let us close the window upon these pleasant scenes by recalling an earlier invitation. The year is 1829. The mast on the Round Tower still wears the standard of King George IV, but in Salisbury Tower Bishop Fisher is but a memory. Not the only memory, however; and as the nephew lays his plans for another visitation of his archdeaconry he bids his old friend to "summon up the semblance of times past" under the enchantments of Windsor in May. "I shall be at Eton with my boy", he writes to John Constable, "on the 1st May and must stay there a fortnight. Will you run down for a few days? You will find me there in lodgings. Pray do; and let us walk over those delicious scenes again of natural and artificial magnificence; where parsons eat and stuff, and dream of preferment; where pedagogues flog little boys, talk burly, and think themselves great men in three-cornered hats; and where everybody seems indifferent to the splendid scenes that surround them."

#### REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> Diary and Correspondence of Charles Abbot, Lord Colchester, 1861; II, 320.
- <sup>2</sup> Farington's Diary, 22nd November, 1793.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid., 6th November, 1797.
- <sup>4</sup> *Correspondence of Horace Walpole*, Yale Edn.; IX, 44.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid, XI, 363.
- <sup>6</sup> *Windsor and Eton Express*, 1st September, 1832.
- <sup>7</sup> *Mary Hamilton*, ed. Anson; 1925; p.95.
- <sup>8</sup> Royal Archives; Barton Papers.
- <sup>9</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*, sub. Fisher.
- <sup>10</sup> *Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arblay*, ed. Austin Dobson; III, 20, 21, 35, 327, 355.
- <sup>11</sup> Farington's Diary, 30th October, 1803.
- <sup>12</sup> Lord Eldon's *Anecdote Book* (Royal Library), No. 194.
- <sup>13</sup> Robert Huish, *Life of George III*, 1825; p. 565.
- <sup>14</sup> Farington's Diary, 11th April, 1804.
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid, 2nd June, 1807.
- <sup>16</sup> *Autobiography of Miss C. Knight*, 1861; I, 233.
- <sup>17</sup> Charles Knight, *Passages of a Working Life*; I, 77.
- <sup>18</sup> Farington's Diary, 7th July, 1814.
- <sup>19</sup> *Letters of the Princess Charlotte*, ed. Aspinall, 1949; pp. 19, 38, 145, 154, 156.
- <sup>20</sup> Farington's Diary, 8th May, 1805.
- <sup>21</sup> C. R. Leslie, *Memoirs of Constable*, 2nd ed., 1845; pp. 173, 191, 194.
- <sup>22</sup> *Letters of the King of Hanover to Viscount Strangford*, ed. Whibley, 1925; p. 71.



## OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

THE Society exists to unite friends and admirers of the Chapel, and descendants of the Knights of the Garter, to help the Dean and Canons to beautify the Chapel and preserve it and the other buildings in their charge.

St. George's is famous for the beauty of its architecture and the treasures which it contains, including the stalls of the Garter Knights and the tombs of the Kings. The cloisters, which house the canons and the gentlemen of the choir, and St. George's School, where the choirboys live and are educated, are full of historic interest.

In 1867 the Dean and Canons surrendered the valuable properties with which St. George's was endowed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in return for a fixed income. Despite drastic economies, including reductions of staff, this sum is increasingly inadequate to cover the expenses of maintaining all the possessions of the Chapter.

The minimum annual subscription to the Society of the Friends and Descendants is ten shillings, and the minimum donation for life membership is ten guineas. A certificate of membership is issued and the names of the members are inscribed in the beautiful "roll" book in the Chapel.

Enamel badges can be procured from IIA The Cloisters, 7s. 6d. for the Descendants and 5s. for the Friends, while either badge is supplied free to new life members. The badge admits members free of charge to the Chapel. There is an annual meeting each May, and an annual report is circulated to members.

## LIST OF WORK DONE

EITHER ENTIRELY BY, OR WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF,  
THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS AND DESCENDANTS

Pipeless heating system.

Mediaeval paintings in Oxenbridge and Hastings Chapels restored.

Tapestry restored and placed in glass frame.

Restoration of painted panels of the "Four Kings".

Installation of amplifying system.

Candles for electric lighting in choir.

Reparation work in Dean's Cloisters.

Painting organ pipes.

Restoration of Hastings and Oxenbridge Chapels.

Work on roof and organ.

Micro-filming documents.

Treatment of stonework in Rutland Chapel.

Restoration of George III Shield over Cloister door.

Heating and reorganization of Chapter Library (still in progress).

Book of Hours purchased.

## FORM OF BEQUEST

I BEQUEATH a legacy of £..... to the Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and I DECLARE that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Society shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors in respect of such legacy.

## LIST OF NEW MEMBERS, 1950

† Life Members.      \* Subscribe annually under seven-year covenant.

### THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Abbott, Miss W. M.<br/>           †Apsey, Miss Bessie.<br/>           Atkins, Wilfred.</p> <p>*Baker, W. E.<br/>           Ball, Mrs. D. Dyer.<br/>           Bebbington, W. G.<br/>           Bebbington, Mrs. W. G.<br/>           Belfrage, Dr. D. H.<br/>           Berks Archaeological Society.<br/>           Best, Arthur Sydney.<br/>           Bolston, Miss.<br/>           Bourne, Miss Helena.<br/>           Bricknell, Major Percival H.<br/>           Bridges, Miss E. A.<br/>           †Brook, Eng./Cmdr. A. W. J., R.N.<br/>           †Brook, Mrs. A. W. J.<br/>           †Brook, David, J.P.<br/>           Buston, Rev. Graham.<br/>           *Byard, Arthur George.<br/>           Byard, Mrs. E. M.</p> <p>Canny, Lady.<br/>           Cantlie, Lady.<br/>           †Cave, C. J. P.<br/>           Charles, Miss E.<br/>           *Collins, Mrs. L. P.<br/>           Comber, Major J. T. H.<br/>           Comber, Mrs. J. T. H.<br/>           Congreve, Mrs. Ambrose.<br/>           *Cooke, William Morley.<br/>           Cooke, Mrs. W. M.<br/>           Cooke, Miss P. S.</p> <p>†Deneke, Miss Margaret.<br/>           *Derisley, L. R.<br/>           *Derisley, Miss Mary.<br/>           Dowding, Ed'E Miss.</p> <p>*Eastman, Mrs. A. T.<br/>           Eliot, K. R. Mrs.<br/>           Elisha, Miss A. C.</p> <p>Fennell, Lt.-Col. G. W. P.</p> | <p>*Fisher, Mrs. E. H.<br/>           Fleming, Miss S. G.<br/>           *Forster, A. L.<br/>           †Frost, Mrs. A. C.</p> <p>Gaymer-Jones, Mrs. J.<br/>           Godfrey, R. S., C.B.E., F.S.A.<br/>           Groome, Mrs. M. K.<br/>           Grove, Mrs. M. J.</p> <p>Hackett, Leonard.<br/>           Hazelton, Lt.-Col. E. G.<br/>           Hedley, Miss Olwen.<br/>           *Hepburn, Mrs. W. E.<br/>           Hepple, L. S.<br/>           Hirst, Miss M. A. J.<br/>           *Hogg, Albert.<br/>           *Holroyd, Rev. J. A.<br/>           *Horner, Mrs.<br/>           Howard, Mrs.<br/>           Hunter, Miss E.</p> <p>†James, M. R.<br/>           Jones, Miss A. M. L.</p> <p>Kirk, Mrs. D. L.</p> <p>Lee, Lady Ivy Laura.<br/>           Lee, Miss M. Bedell.<br/>           Little, Miss Dora.<br/>           Loring, Miss Joan M.<br/>           Ludovici, George.<br/>           Lumley, Mrs.</p> <p>*Marett, E. de G.<br/>           McIntosh, Miss E.<br/>           McLagan, Mrs. J. M.<br/>           Mack, Mrs. George.<br/>           Mahood, Dr. James.<br/>           Martin, Mrs.<br/>           *Millar, Mrs.<br/>           Moberly, Sir Walter.<br/>           Moberly, Lady.<br/>           Moberly, John.</p> |
|---|---|



Moberly, Robert.  
Morrell, Miss C.

Nunn, Mrs. L. M.  
Nunn, Lewis E.

Platt, Miss Barbara.

Riznerova, Miss B.

Semler, Bertram B.  
Semler, Mrs. B. B.  
Short, P. A.  
Short, Mrs.  
Short, G. S.  
Simpson, Mrs.  
Springthorpe, Miss C.  
Sterry, Lady.  
Sterry, Sir Wasey.  
Stevenson, Bernard.  
Street, Mrs. H. L.  
Stubbs, George.

Thomas, Mrs. R. M. D.  
Thornton, Lady.  
Thorpe-Ellis, Miss M.  
†Turnbull, Mrs. J. C.  
Tunks, Rev. W. V.

\*Valentine, Miss M. O.  
Vernon, Major H. B., M.C.  
Vernon, Mrs. H. B.  
Vyner-Brooks, V. R.

Wadham, Mrs. G.  
Walton, F. W. C.  
Walton, Mrs. F. W. C.  
\*Webb, Dr. E. R.  
Wells, Miss D.  
Whalley, F. S.  
Whalley, Mrs. F. S.  
Wilder, Mrs. F. M. H.  
Willoughby, Major John.  
Willoughby, Mrs. J.  
†Wilson, Mrs. R.  
Wyatt, Mrs. G.

### DESCENDANTS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER

Calfee, Arthur Davidson.  
Calfee, Creighton Beedy.  
Carwithen, Mrs. H. P.  
Cooke, Major N. H.  
†Couchman, Miss V. E. I.

Elphinstone, Lady Gertrude D.  
Evans, Miss Jane Brooke.

Farmer, Miss C. P. J.  
Frere, J. A., F.S.A.

Haworth-Booth, Benjamin.  
\*Honywood, Col. Sir William,  
Bart, M.C.

†Langston, Mrs. W. C.

Latham, Richard.  
Lumley, Rex A. L.  
\*Lumley, Rev. R. J. C.

Malet, C. H. W.

Ozanne, Mrs.

†Richardson, Mrs. Henry J.

†Smith, Mrs. S. Fahs.  
Stampa, Miss C. M.  
Stampa, Miss F. A. M.

Tenison, Miss.  
Thornton, Sir Hugh, K.C.M.G.,  
C.V.O.

**THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S**  
with which is amalgamated  
**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DESCENDANTS OF**  
**THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER**

**Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31st December, 1950**

**CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

	£	s.	d.
BALANCE at 1st January, 1950	635	2	3
RECEIPTS:			
Life Membership Fees and Donations	314	16	11
	£949	19	2
PAYMENT:			
Purchase of £225 2½ per cent Defence Bonds	225	0	0
	£724	19	2
BALANCE at 31st December, 1950:			
On Deposit with the Post Office Savings Bank	500	0	0
At Bank	224	19	2
	£724	19	2

NOTE: At 31st December, 1950, the Society held the following investments on Capital Account:

Investment	Market Value at 31st December, 1950
	£ s. d.
£350 3½ per cent War Stock	329 17 6
£950 2½ per cent Defence Bonds	950 0 0
500 National Savings Certificates	562 18 0
	£1,842 15 6

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

	£	s.	d.
BALANCE at 1st January, 1950 (including £142 6s. 4d. transferred from Romance and Publications Account)	1,126	13	4
RECEIPTS			
Subscriptions and Sale of Badges (including Income Tax recovered in respect of subscriptions received net)	796	2	4
Interest—3 per cent Savings Bonds	6	0	0
2½ per cent Defence Bonds	20	9	7
3½ per cent War Loan	12	5	0
Post Office Savings Bank	21	13	8
	856	10	7
	£1,983	3	11
PAYMENTS:			
Assistant Secretary	48	0	0
Purchase of Badges	71	5	0
Printing and Stationery	220	12	4
Postages and Sundries	82	11	0
	422	8	4
	1,560	15	7
BALANCE at 31st December, 1950:			
On Deposit with the Post Office Savings Bank	680	18	11
At Bank	874	13	4
In Hand	5	3	4
	£1,560	15	7

NOTE: At 31st December, 1950, the Society held £200 3 per cent Savings Bonds, the Market Value of which was £200.

(Signed) L. SMELT, *Hon. Treasurer.*

We have examined the foregoing Statements of Receipts and Payments and certify that they are in accordance with the books and vouchers produced to us.

23rd January, 1951.

LAYTON-BENNETT, BILLINGHAM & CO., *Hon. Auditors.*