

St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle

THE SOCIETY OF

THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S

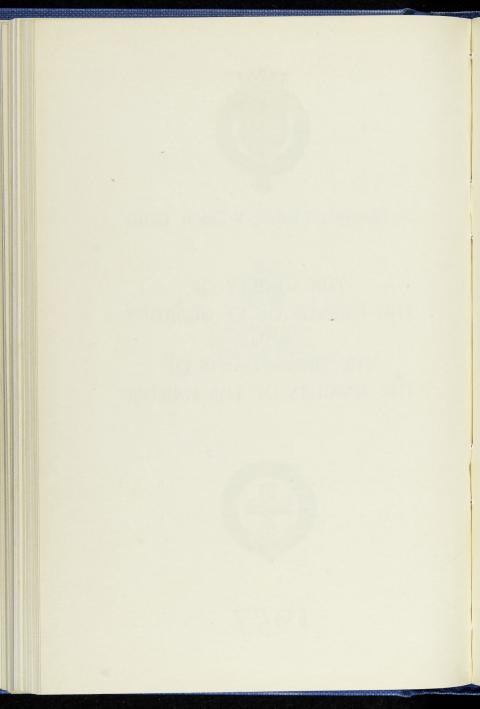
AND

THE DESCENDANTS OF

THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER



1957





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AND
THE DESCENDANTS OF
THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER



REPORT to 31st December, 1957

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THE DEAN'S LETTER

THE DEANERY,
WINDSOR CASTLE.

January 1958.

My DEAR FRIENDS.

As the years go by I am more and more thankful that in the providence of God we are unable to look into the future. If it had been possible to foresee that within a few weeks last summer we were to lose both our Vice-Chairman and our Honorary Secretary many of us would not only have been deeply saddened for personal reasons but anxious and apprehensive about the work they would leave behind and who would be found to succeed them worthily. Later in this report you will find appreciations both of Canon Venables and of Miss Curtis, and if disinterested love and skilful care for St George's Chapel and for this Society give priority in our record their names are high on the list; nothing I write can adequately express our gratitude. In each case I tried in Chapel soon after their sudden deaths to put into words what we feel about them and the respective contributions they made to our well-being, and here I can only add that they, and those nearest to them, are not forgotten in our prayers.

During the four months' interregnum Mrs. Watkins, who had helped Miss Curtis with the office work and knew the ropes, shouldered the responsibility with equal courage and efficiency. Then by an almost incredible stroke of good fortune the ideal successor was found in Lieut.-Colonel C. F. Battiscombe, O.B.E., F.S.A., of Henry III Tower in Windsor Castle. I believe that there is no one better suited both by talent, training and personality for the work, and we are most grateful to him for accepting the post in an honorary capacity and wish him happiness in this

generous enterprise.

You will also be glad to know that the Rev. G. R. Dunstan, a minor Canon of St George's, with a wealth of historical knowledge and a keen interest in the fabric, has agreed to become

Vice-Chairman.

We may congratulate ourselves on these two appointments at a time when the support of the Friends has never been of greater value. These are days of austerity for the Chapter, with its fixed and wholly insufficient income, and the repairs you have carried out on the Oliver King Chapel and the North-East door during the past year, though long overdue, could not have been undertaken but for the Society's munificence.

Two new and illustrious names were added to our list of Vice-Presidents on 17th June when The Queen with age-long ceremony invested and installed Lord Ismay and Lord Middleton as Knights Companions of the Most Noble Order of the Garter; large numbers of the Friends were able to witness this annual pageantry from the lawns on the route of the Procession or from seats reserved for them in the Nave.

We welcome Canon Bentley in place of Dr. Vidler and wish him and Mrs. Bentley much happiness in the Castle community.

The further appointment of Canon Hawkins to the latest vacant Canonry of Windsor has just been published and we offer both him and his wife our warm good wishes. The Rev. John Nourse, who succeeded Mr. Galliford early last year, has already with his

wife fitted happily into the Cloister family.

We can ill afford to lose old and tried friends. I have sadly to note that Major J. B. S. Bourne-May, whose ready help both as a Sunday steward in the Chapel and as a valued and forthright Committee member deserves high praise, has moved to Scotland. We must further steel ourselves to the impending departure of Sir Owen Morshead, on whose friendship and learning and many-sided wisdom we have so long and gratefully relied. I sometimes feel moved, as Elisha did when the great Elijah was carried off by his fiery steeds, to cry out "the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof", but with the changing years one learns increasingly to believe that God does not forget us in our utter dependence on His trustworthiness.

May He bless the Friends in this New Year.

Yours most sincerely,

ERIC HAMILTON, Bishop,

Dean of Windsor.

P.S.—There is space left as we go to press to let you know that Dr. Douglas Belfrage, a keen friend of St George's and a devoted Christian, died suddenly on 11th February. God rest his soul.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Membership

During 1957 we have welcomed 144 new members, of whom 20 are Descendants and 124 Friends. There has been a loss of 120 members owing to death and lapsed subscriptions, so that the present total membership is 1,962, a very satisfactory total, but one which, we are sure, could be still further increased with the co-operation of present members. It would be of particular help to the Society, in addition, if more members covenanted to subscribe, thus making possible the recovery of additional moneys from the Income Tax authorities.

A covenant form is printed at the end of this *Report*.

It is usual to send a copy of the Annual Report to each Friend and Descendant. Where several members of a family at the same address are Friends or Descendants, however, it would be a great help to the Society if they were willing to accept a single copy only of the Report, now that postage costs have risen so considerably. Members who are willing to adopt this arrangement are asked to inform the Honorary Secretary.

Finance

The Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st December,

1957, are as usual printed at the end of the Report.

Unfortunately, overhead expenses, such as postage, printing and stationery, continue to mount, but despite this the overall financial position still remains satisfactory, and has enabled the Society to undertake, and pay for, certain improvements within the object of its constitution.

This work during 1957 consisted of:

 Restoration of the Oliver King Chapel and Font, which involved an outlay of £578 14s. 9d.

 Renewal of North-East Door, at a total cost of £365 18s. 9d., of which £139 10s. 0d. was paid for during the year under review.

Our grateful thanks are due to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E. L. Shephard, and to the Honorary Auditors, Messrs. Layton-Bennett, Billingham and Co., for their continued services to the Society.

Work carried out by the Friends

Canon Ritchie, the Steward of the Chapel, has most kindly contributed a note which is printed separately below (page 9) on the work carried out with the Friends' support over the past year, and he has added a valuable survey of eight important pieces of work on the fabric which ought to be undertaken by the Chapter in the near future. It is to be hoped that, so far as the resources of the Society permit, further help can be given to the Chapter in a part of this work during 1958.

The Contents of this Report

It is particularly fitting that this *Report* should include an article by the late Canon Venables on the Oliver King chapel. Canon Venables had himself supervised the recent restoration of the King chapel on behalf both of the Chapter and the Society, and the article which he had only just completed before his sudden death, is a characteristically thorough and valuable account of a little

known part of St George's.

The second main article, by Mr. Arthur Brown, Assistant Master at St George's Choir School, likewise opens up a relatively little studied subject, that of the Prayer Books used and kept in the Choir stalls. These, he tells us, seem to be of greater antiquity and historical interest than the books in any other cathedral or collegiate church in the country. Mr. Brown has also contributed a full and scholarly analysis of these Prayer Books for permanent preservation in the Aerary amongst the Chapter muniments. We are most grateful to Mr. Brown for his article, and to the authors of the shorter notes and articles which precede the two main contributions to the *Report*.

Our thanks are due to Sir Owen Morshead for permission to print the photograph reproduced in Plate VII, and to the North

Thames Gas Board for Plate VIII.

As in previous years, the Friends and Descendants are most grateful for the generous gift of eight blocks to illustrate the *Report*. Mr. George Evans gave us eight blocks in 1951, and after his death Mrs. Evans confirmed this annual present with the firm of Harding Gough Ltd.; to both of whom the Society is grateful for such kind help in the furtherance of its aims.

"The Romance of St George's Chapel"

The fourth edition of this work was put on sale in 1956; by the end of 1957 all but 1,000 of the 12,000 copies had been sold—a very satisfactory result, especially in view of the fact that it was on sale at two places only, at the Chapel, and, by kind arrangement with Mr. Burgess, at Messrs. Oxley's, 4 High Street, Windsor. As the book clearly meets a need for a short, well-illustrated account of the Chapel, the possibility of producing a further edition is now being investigated. When available, the *Romance* can be purchased by members from Messrs. Oxley at 3s. 4d. a copy, post free.

The Vice-Chairmanship

Eight years ago the Committee created the permanent post of Vice-Chairman, to maintain constant liaison between the officers of the Society and the Chapter, electing Canon E. M. Venables as the first holder of the post. As Canon Venables's successor, the Committee has elected the Reverend G. R. Dunstan, Minor Canon of the Chapel. Mr. Dunstan was recently made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; he is a member of the Council of the Canterbury and York Society, and is well known as a church historian. He will thus bring, as did his predecessor, specialised knowledge of a most valuable type to his new office.

Nominations for Committee

The three members retiring this year are Major Bourne-May, Lord Freyberg and Miss Price-Hill, to all of whom the warmest thanks of the Society are due for their constant and most helpful

service during the past three years.

The Committee nominates Miss G. Hanbury-Williams, M.V.O., Mr. Patrick Manley, and Mr. R. Mackworth-Young for the vacancies which arise. Members may put forward other names, with the consent of the nominees, to the Honorary Secretary, at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting.

Annual General Meeting

The date of the meeting is Saturday, 10th May. Details are given on the enclosed leaflet, and the Society is deeply indebted to Sir Owen Morshead for the privilege of visiting the Royal

Library under his expert guidance. Members requiring tea—which is again to be provided at the Castle Hotel, High Street—should obtain tea tickets from the Honorary Secretary in advance.

MISS MARGARET CURTIS

On 20th August, 1957, Miss Margaret Curtis was involved in a road accident while at the wheel of her car. She died next day without regaining consciousness. She was the untiring Secretary of the "Friends and Descendants", and an active participator in many local affairs. It was characteristically in the service of one of these Societies that she died, for she had been planning a corporate excursion at the time.

It is not on her account that we mourn, but for the friends whom she leaves and more especially for this Society of which she was the mainspring. A voluntary association needs the watchful care of one dedicated official. She was in every way exactly the person; we realised it at the time and cannot forget it now. She had been for twenty-five creative years the headmistress of the Windsor County Girls' School: when she retired the Dean and Canons prudently installed her in a house in the Cloisters, and she instantly identified herself with the work of the Society. Our membership multiplied, both in number and in geographical range; and with its increase grew the labour of correspondence and of finance. Both in the spiritual and in the material sense it was for her a work of love. Her religious faith was quiet and unquestioning, and her antiquarian interests came first among her chosen activities. At the lectures and business meetings of the Berkshire Archaeological Society no one was more familiar or more welcome; nor did she often miss their annual week's expedition to other parts of the country, with planned visits under learned guidance.

For a woman of 70 or thereabouts this might seem a sufficient programme in retirement. But like many busy people she always had time for more. Every Tuesday morning, betimes, her sprightly figure would be seen doing her house to house calls for the Savings Movement. On numerous education committees she had worked for thirty years and more. The Historical Association, the Windsor and Eton Society, and very many other local organisations, all profited from her diligence and sense of public obligation.

She was the good citizen and many causes are the poorer for her passing. We of the Friends have particular reason to honour her. An inconvenience it must necessarily be when an organising secretary is suddenly removed. But the loss of Miss Curtis is a calamity to the Society and a deep sorrow to many of its members.

CANON E. M. VENABLES

The Rev. E. M. Venables, Canon of Windsor since 1949, died on 28th September, 1957, in his house in the Cloisters, aged 73. Although Canon Venables was at Windsor for only eight years

Although Canon Venables was at Windsor for only eight years he left his mark upon that aspect of Chapter administration with which the Friends are chiefly concerned, namely the conservation and embellishment of St George's Chapel. More and more as he came to know it did his affection for it deepen and his inborn feeling for beauty find its practical outlet. He was not himself the Steward, but no member of the Chapter took a more informed interest in the activities of the Friends. Although his shyness led him to eschew the limelight it was in fact he who bore the chief part in promoting, from the wings, such recent improvements as the new altar rail, the cleaning of the stone effigies, and the restoration of the Beaufort and Oliver King side-chapels. The lastnamed, his latest interest, is fittingly recorded in the present Report by an article from his pen.

It was in the beauty of holiness that he worshipped the Lord, and to this end he would direct his working hours, his vision, his diplomacy and every other endowment that he had. He had served his apprenticeship to church music as head boy in the choir of Magdalen College, Oxford, in the days of the redoubtable Dr. Varley Roberts. The services in St George's were to him a continual source of refreshment and inspiration, and as Precentor he

jealously watched over the interests of the choir.

Our loss by his death is twofold, for in all his work for St George's his wife, herself a sensitive musician, was at his side. It is to Mrs. Venables that we owe the complete set of embroidered cushions for the choir stalls and the altar rail; for the accomplishment of this task she organised a team of skilful needlewomen. Both husband and wife are a real loss to the active work of this Society, and they are greatly missed by the community within the Castle.

O. M.

"ACTA" AND "AGENDA"

The Steward's Report For 1957

A PPARENTLY it is customary for the Steward to contribute some notes for the *Annual Report*, setting out what has been done during the year under review to beautify the Chapel and its precincts, with special reference to such work as has been undertaken by the Friends, and also to indicate in general what still remains to be done, so that as complete a picture as possible may be presented. The following paragraphs are no more than notes.

(1) The Oliver King Chapel

This has been beautifully restored by the Friends, and has been written about elsewhere in this Report by the late Canon Venables, who took such an active interest in the work. The Chapel is shortly to have an altar, given by his family as a memorial to him.

(2) The North East Doorway

During the year 1956 it was suggested that the doorway from the Ambulatory to the Dean's Cloister should be considered with a view to improving its appearance. The oak panelled doors were typically late 18th century in design and treatment and were set in a very ugly painted softwood surround, which had the general appearance of being incomplete and decidedly shoddy. In order to ascertain the true nature of this doorway, the doors and frame were removed to disclose the original 15th century stone jambs and four centred arched heads.

A new pair of doors was therefore designed by Lord Mottistone to be in keeping with this exposed stonework and to fit the opening

as was originally intended.

Necessary repairs to the stonework were carried out, the old outer door was removed and the old ironmongery which had been left bedded in the stonework was cut out, except for a pair of mediaeval hinge pivots which have been retained for their antiquity. The newly-designed doors of English oak, stained and waxed to a brown-grey colour were fitted during the summer of 1957, and although of a simple design are a true interpretation of the late 15th or early 16th century double panelled doors.

The improvement to the doorway is apparent both when viewed from within the Ambulatory as well as from the Dean's Cloister. The Friends can be justly proud of both these undertakings.

(3) Rutland Chapel Kneelers

Through the kindness of Mrs. Venables new kneelers have been made for all the pews in the Rutland Chapel to replace old ones that were worn out and unseemly, and also two new kneelers at the Communion rails. All who have seen the cushions in the stalls of the Choir, for a great many of which Mrs. Venables was personally responsible, will know the beauty of her needlework, and they

will see how much this enhances the beauty of the Rutland Chapel. The Dean and Canons are indeed grateful to Mrs. Venables.

(4) The 17th Century Font

This has been cleaned (but not re-painted) and moved from the Oliver King Chapel to one of the bays in the Nave where its beauty can be seen to greater advantage. (See Sir Owen Morshead's description of the Font on p. 14.)

(5) The Canons' Cloister

The walls and ceiling of the Canons' Cloister have been cleaned and painted, and the oak beams treated, so that the lovely old 14th century cloister can now be seen in something of its original beauty. This improvement was long overdue.

There is a considerable amount of work that remains to be done, some of which may possibly be considered by the Friends as coming within their purview.

- (1) Much of the stonework of the Chapel both inside and outside is showing signs of exfoliation, about which the Architects are disturbed. This should be dealt with as soon as possible. There is enough work to occupy the full time of a mason if we could find one and afford to have him on the maintenance staff.
- (2) The completion of the restoration of the Dean's Cloister, one corner of which has already been done by the Friends. The total estimated cost of this work is about £4,000.
- (3) The renewing of part of the roof of the Dean's Cloister, which will cost about £1,000.
- (4) Much of the paving in the Nave and many of the marble tiles in the Choir are badly worn and should be renewed. This work will cost about £500.
- (5) The repaying of the roadway on the North side of the Chapel, which is breaking up badly. This will cost about £1,500.
- (6) The completion of the restoration of the Horseshoe Cloisters, of which rather less than one third was carried out some years ago and which had to be stopped through lack of funds. The work remaining to be done will cost about £50,000.
- (7) The roofs of the Deanery and of the Canons' houses are in a poor state and sooner or later will have to be renewed, at a very considerable figure.
- (8) The gardener's cottage in the Chapter mews in the opinion of the architects ought to be pulled down and a new flat built. Estimated cost £5,000.

All this latter part—of things to be done—presents a rather formidable picture, but it is thought that those who have the welfare of St George's and its precincts at heart should be made

aware of the situation. At present the Dean and Canons have no funds with which to meet these commitments, which will have to be placed carefully into an order of priorities, to be dealt with as and when the financial position improves.

C. H. RITCHIE.

THE TWO NEW HISTORICAL MONOGRAPHS

DESPITE the difficulties endemic in our times, the series of "Historical Monographs relating to St George's Chapel" continues on its way. It may be doubted whether an equivalent mass of material has been made available about any comparable foundation; and although the end is now in sight we may still look forward to a concluding treatise, already in the press, on the Monuments in the Chapel. In the meanwhile two new volumes were published last autumn, namely, The Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers of St George's Chapel, the joint production of the late Dr. E. H. Fellowes and of Miss Elisabeth Poyser; and The Manuscripts of St George's Chapel, by the late Canon J. N. Dalton.

The former, to take the less weighty item first, is a faithful transcript of the original registers, well edited and well indexed. It will be of professional use to genealogists, and of personal interest to many whose relations and friends appear in it. But apart from these restricted groups its pages yield, even for the casual reader, much of history and not a little of entertainment. It opens with the birth of a daughter to one of the Petticanons in 1618, and proceeds to chronicle (in 1625) the death of a clergyman who was 'the first that ever presented King James with the sport of fishinge with the Cormorantes". There are no entries during the Commonwealth: the burial of King Charles I is noted only in the register of the Parish Church. On the other hand we are told of the birth of the third child of Queen Anne (12 May 1686) "in ye Prince of Wales his Lodgeing in ye Chamber over ye Staires yt goes downe into ye Tarrace Walke". The record continues, at varying levels of interest, down to modern times, when we are privileged to picture the future Earl Mountbatten of Burma receiving his first baptism of water in the drawing-room of Frogmore House. Miss Poyser is an experienced and most efficient editor: Dr. Fellowes, a notable contributor to this series, would commend her proficiency in preparing this book which he had hoped himself to see in print.

The volume on *The Manuscripts* is at once the largest and the most ambitious of the Monographs. It is nearly seventy years since Canon Dalton addressed himself to the task of abstracting the documents in the "Aerary" of St George's Chapel. It is to his enduring credit that he achieved, and actually got into print, 450 quarto pages of text in the course of his pioneering labours. His printed sheets remained unbound for half a century. Now the work has been completed by Mr. Maurice Bond, the Honorary Custodian of the Muniments. He has added sixty pages of text

and thirty-six pages of erudite Introduction and corrigenda. The disparity in amount between the work of the two compilers is less than it appears to be, for Mr. Bond has had to condense his material to a degree unnecessary (and unfashionable) in the ampler days of Canon Dalton; his sixty pages represent in fact the distillation of 1,400 bundles of parchment and paper. By rights this work of reference should have been known to posterity as "Dalton & Bond". To it Mr. A. W. Mabbs, an Assistant Keeper in the Public Record Office, has supplied an enormous index, comprising 336 columns of names. This in itself is a work of scholarship. With its aid it will be practicable to return answers to the kind of enquiries which have bewildered generations of Canons.

For the contents of the Aerary are not self-explanatory. Although the College of St George was not instituted until 1348. King Edward III at that time endowed it with landed properties the deeds of which reach as far back as 1140. Mr. Bond has listed 250 of these estates, dispersed between Northumberland and Cornwall, and this section alone offers a wide scope to local historians. But the muniments do not only deal with these; they cover the whole field of collegiate administration, as well as that of the Order of the Garter. There are even some papers concerning the Deanery of Wolverhampton, which in 1480 was annexed to our Deanery. Such subjects, and many others, are too complex, too diverse and too technical, to be dealt with in this Report. But enough has been said to indicate the field which has been opened up to antiquarians by the singular diligence and devotion of Mr. Bond during such leisure as his work among the Records of the House of Lords affords him. The inventory, in its range of time and topic, is probably unique in this country. Its publication is a feat in which the Chapter may justly take satisfaction and pride.

O. M.

THE QUARTERLY OBIT

A question which must arise in the minds of all but the most erudite of newcomers to the Castle community is "what is an Obiit?" I have undertaken to answer it briefly and to suggest what our reaction should be.

Ever since the College of St George was founded it has been a pious custom or obligation for its members to gather in the Chapel so as to commend to God's keeping the Founder, King Edward the third, together with Sovereigns and Princes, benefactors and other famous persons "by whose munificence the College has been from time to time enriched".

The Latin word may be literally translated "he died"; but for us it means the solemn and thankful commemoration of this great invisible company to whom we owe a particular debt of honour.

On three Mondays next before Quarter Day the Service is held at 9.15 a.m. and on the Sunday next before 29th September at 10.45 a.m. On each of these occasions the Military Knights of Windsor, as an integral part of the College, are present in uniform and the Dean or his representative reads the list of illustrious and, to some of us by now, familiar names. The Monday Obiits are preceded by Holy Communion at 8 a.m. with special Collects, Epistle and Gospel which are also used at the annual Sunday Obiits. This latter Service is our chief commemoration with Morning Prayer, a brief sermon and choral Communion. In the latest revision the Form of Service was made more coherent and intelligible and Sir Walter Parratt's settings to versicles and responses as well as to the anthem "As the whirlwind passeth" carefully retained.

All are welcome to attend these Obiits but upon members of the College and their families there lies a degree of obligation worthily to continue this solemn and time-honoured observance.

ERIC HAMILTON, Bp.

¹ At Windsor the special form of the word, 'Obiit' and the more usual 'Obiit', are synonymous. 'Obiit', as will be seen in the illustrations in plates Va and VIb has been in use for more than a century. *Obiit* literally means 'he died', and *obit(us)*, 'commemoration' or 'anniversary'.

THE WOODEN FONT

By SIR OWEN MORSHEAD

Before the recent renovation of the Oliver King Chapel, dealt with elsewhere in this issue, there stood in it the wooden font illustrated in Plate I. It has now been brought out from that shy retreat and placed between two pillars of the nave, on the north side and towards the west end, next the bay in which is the tomb of King George V and Queen Mary. Here the light from the clerestory windows on the south side falls upon it, disclosing beauties unheeded before. Visitors, entering in the normal manner by the south door, gain their first impression of the chapel from the bare emptiness of the nave. In the clear light of these surroundings the little font provides a welcome point of colour, standing like a gaily-tinted pomegranate upon its stalk. A closer view confirms and strengthens the impression of quality which it offers from a distance, revealing it as a rare example of the period of King James I or thereabouts. It is in fine condition, its decoration of blue and red and gold being certainly not new, and possibly even original.

What would be the history of this *trouvaille*? In a collegiate foundation, based upon celibacy, occasions for the use of a font were rare; where one is found today in a college chapel it is usually not early in date. Would this XVIIth century example be the first in the present St George's Chapel? It may be presumed to have served its purpose until the restorations effected by the Dean and Chapter in the nave in the 1780's; it was then that Dr. Majendie presented the admired Gothic font in Coade stone which was described and illustrated in our Annual Report for 1955 (Pl. II).

St John Hope, in a bare allusion on page 458, describes it as "a curious vase-shaped wooden font, with its cover, of XVIIth century date". It was jettisoned at that time (1913) in the Beaufort Chapel, where he shews it in his Plate LXX. It did not look well there; indeed there was hardly room to stow it at all. My impression is that in the late 1920's it used to stand in the Rutland Chapel; at any rate it was there that it was obligingly brought into use for the christening of one of my children in 1931. Probably it was consigned to the Oliver King Chapel when the Rutland Chapel was beautified at the expense of Dean Baillie about 1935. Be this as it may, the font looks well now, and we must be thankful that it has survived the perils which attend the unfashionable, to find fresh appreciation in the eyes of our generation.

THE OLIVER KING CHAPEL

By the late Canon E. M. Venables, M.A., B.D.

THIS modest annexe to the exterior of St George's Chapel has in the past attracted less attention than is its due. Of somewhat later date than the main fabric, it was contrived between two of the buttresses on the south flank; it thus measures only ten feet nine inches square. It is moreover on a lower level, so that to those who peer down into it from the south choir aisle its more interesting features are wholly or partially out of sight. The tomb, with its painted shields, is beneath the spectator's feet: the ceiling is below sight level. The geometrical decoration of the walls was carried out in a frigid colour scheme, its delineation so mechanical as to make the whole composition almost repellent to the eye. Few were tempted to descend into the interior, and these sensed a mortuary chill. A harsh blue paint covered the ancient door of finely-figured oak, as well as the mouldings about the tomb and much else besides. Did not Oliver King merit a more sympathetic, a more deeply cherished, memorial than this?

To ask the question was to perceive the answer, for close inspection shewed that imaginative treatment could effect a restoration here that might transform the chapel and bring it back to life. That this has been achieved will be manifest to all who see it now, and our gratitude is due to the Friends for enabling the work to be carried out. It was done by Mr. Clive Rouse, in consultation with Messrs. Seeley & Paget, during the year now under review. Under their joint skill it has become as attractive to look upon as it is interesting to study.

It will be well first to say something about Oliver King himself, whose body, as likely as not, lies in the tomb within the chapel. The career of this close friend and influential adviser of King Henry VII began when he was elected a scholar of Eton in 1449; and thence he proceeded to a fellowship of King's College, Cambridge. Political interest soon drew him into royal circles. After being appointed secretary to Edward, Prince of Wales (son of King Henry VI) he became in 1476 chief "secretary for French" for life to King Edward IV. In 1480 he was made Canon of Windsor and, soon afterwards, Register of the Order of the Garter. He was for a brief period deprived of his secretarial post and imprisoned by Richard III owing to his association with Lord Hastings; but he fortunately did not share the latter's fate and was soon released. It is relevant to note that the Hastings arms, which adorn the chantry in the north choir aisle, find a place also in the stained glass of this Oliver King chapel.

Hanging significantly opposite to it, across the aisle, is a large painting on panel depicting four royal figures; each is named, and

King Richard III is, perhaps pointedly, not among them. On the right is Prince Edward, against a quarried background, with ostrich feathers and Bohun swans; he wears a cap of state encircled by a golden coronet, his supporters being a white antelope with golden horns and a white swan. Next to him is King Edward IV, against a quarried background with white roses on sunbeams; he wears a crown and is supported by a white lion and a white hart, as is also his son, the uncrowned King Edward V, in the third panel. In the fourth panel is King Henry VII, against a field powdered with red roses and gold portcullises in quarries; he is shewn with crown, orb and sceptre, and his shield is supported by a red dragon and a white talbot. Beneath these four panels runs a Latin inscription inviting prayer for Oliver King and recording his offices under these royal personages.² King Henry VII reinstated the Secretary in 1485, and we find him presently entrusting him with responsible embassies and commissions.

In 1487 Oliver King became Dean of Hereford, and in the next year he received a licence to found, at Windsor, the Guild of the Holy Trinity. In 1489, in Wells cathedral, he was installed as Archdeacon of Taunton; and three years later he was appointed, by papal provision, Bishop of Exeter. As soon as November 1495 he was translated to the bishopric of Bath and Wells. Here it was that he experienced the famous dream which led him to build Bath Abbey; the story is best told in the words of Sir John Harington.

Lying at Bathe, and musing or meditating one night late, after his devotions and prayers for the prosperity of Henry VII and his children, to which king he was principle secretary, and by him preferred to his bishopric; he saw, or supposed he saw, a vision of the holy Trinitie with angells ascending and descending by a ladder, neer to the foot of which there was a fayre olive tree supporting a crowne, and a voyce said: Let an Olive establish the crowne and let a King restore the church. Of this dreame, or vision, he took exceeding great comfort, applying it to the king his master in parte, and some parte to himself. To his master, because the olive being the emblem or hierglyphick of peace and plenty, seemed to him to allude to king Henry VII who was worthily accounted the wisest and most peaceable king in all Europe of that age. To himself, (for the wisest will flatter themselves somtime) because he was not only a chiefe councellor to this king and [had] bene his ambassador to conclude the most honourable peace with Charles VIII, but also he carried both the Olive and King in his own name.

¹ The painting may be dated to 1493-1495, since its inscription says that Oliver King had been appointed to Exeter (i.e. in 1493) and does not mention his translation (in 1495) to Bath and Wells. St John Hope (p. 414) assumes that the Oliver King Chapel would have been of the same date as the painting. The decoration of its walls refers to the vision which Oliver King is said to have had in Bath not earlier than 1498, and must therefore date from 1498 at earliest, or possibly even from Oliver King's death in 1503.—M. F. Bond.

² Orate pro dn'o Olivero Kyng. Juris utriusque professore. ac illustris Edwardi primogeniti Regis Henrici sexti et serenissimorum Regum Edward quarti. Edwardi quinti. et Henrici septimi. principali secretario. dignissimi ordinis garterii registerio. et hujus sacri collegii canonico aº dn'i 1489 et postea per dictum illustrissi^m: Rege' He'ricu' septi^m aº dn'i 1492 ad sede' Exoni'em co'me'dato.

Note, that Bishop King was in fact consecrated Bishop of Exeter on 3rd February, 1492/3.

Harington then tells how this led to the building of the church, upon the west end of which the bishop caused a representation of his vision to be carved, together with the olive and crown—"with certaine French wordes, which I could not reade, but in English is this vearse taken out of the booke of Judges, Chap. 9.

Trees going to chuse their king Said, be to us the Olive King.

And to make the credit of all this the more authentique, he added

this worde to it, 'De sursum est, it is from on high'."

But the bishop was not destined to see the completion of the Abbey, for "amid all this joy and comfort it hapned the king's primogenitus, the noble Prince Arthur, to depart this life. This so daunted the heart and hopes of this good bishop that he doubted now his vision would prove but an illusion, that his OLIVA would be but an OLEASTER."

On 29th August, 1503, Oliver King died. In his will he directed that he should be buried at Bath, where, however, he has no known tomb. Cassan, in his lives of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, favours Windsor as the place of interment. Pote, in 1749, writes: "The building this Chapel, the Tomb, with the antient Altar, and the Decorations yet visible, relating to this Bishop, and his being Register of the Order of the Garter; also the Decorations of the Arch in the Isle, with the Painting and Inscriptions alluding to the Princes to whom this Bishop was Secretary, are certainly strong indications that this Bishop was buried in this Chapel, which has always gone by his name." Pote might have added that, in the vaulted roof of the aisle outside, there presides over the entrance to the Oliver King chapel an angel holding a shield with the bishop's armorial bearings. It seems improbable that this distinctive testimony to him should be assembled in and about a specific chapel if his body lies elsewhere, devoid of all memorial.

A descent of four steps leads into the chapel through a doorway with a four-centre arch. It retains its original oak door, of singular beauty since the removal of the coat of paint from its interior face. Oliver King's shield at its top has been coloured, and the carved inscription across the middle of the door has been enriched with

¹ It may be of interest to note two appearances of the Oliver King chapel in the records of St George's. In 1523 Raynold Heynson, priest vicar, was paid 14s 4d "for washing the statues of St George, the one in the choir, and the other in the chapel of the Bishop of Bath and Wells (in capelle episcopi Bathon)". Thus the little chapel was, as early as this, associated with Oliver King; and it contained a statue of St George—was it also perhaps dedicated to him? (Inventories of St George's Chapel, p. 161.)

The Inventory of 1534 lists several ornaments given to St George's by Oliver King: "ij sqware cruetts parcell gylt and lackyng a cover wayeng ix unces", "another lytle box with a cover wayeng xviij unces", and "a "canstycke a prick with ij snoffers parcell gylt wayeng xviij unces" (*ibid*, p. 175).

Although Oliver King may well have been buried in the chapel which, as we have seen, bore his name, no evidence survives that a chantry was established there (cf. Ashmole, Order of the Garter, pp. 149-151).—M. F. BOND

gold leaf (Pl. II). In it a hand, issuing from a cloud, holds the initial letter of the legend *De sursu' est*; and against a chained book

appear the words Ut disca'.

The most noticeable feature of the interior is the coloured decoration of the east and west walls. It consists of a series of blue and white panels or vertical compartments, disposed alternately in squares and in bends, countercoloured—an arrangement significantly similar to that of the borders of the painted royal figures across the aisle. The squares contain alternately a scroll with the motto *Ut discam*, and a chained book, in allusion to Oliver King's learning. The other compartments, in bends, shew at the top a hand issuing from a cloud amid the sun's rays; it bears a scroll with the words *De Sursum est* and the reference *Jac. I*. This relates to verse 17: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights." The words *Ut discam* are also coupled with a formidable bookmarker of coloured thongs knotted to a small rod. Round the cornice is a selection of chains, bookmarkers and penholders. (See Plate III.)

St John Hope writes, of this mural decoration: "The east and west walls are covered with a modern reproduction of the ancient colouring, discovered when the chapel was restored in 1847." This was the work of Thomas Willement, who did much decoration in St George's at about this date. He recorded that in the King Chapel, as likewise in the Beaufort Chapel, he found, in repairing the walls, sufficient remains of the original decorations to warrant

his making a confident reconstruction.

It was upon the proposal of Mr. Clive Rouse, and with the concurrence of Messrs. Seeley & Paget, that Willement's rigid and unlovely rescension has recently been removed, in the hope of disclosing sufficient of the ancient work to produce a gentler, warmertoned congruity with the original design. This delicate task was carried out with skill and patience by Miss Fenton (Mr. Rouse's assistant). Gradually there came to light, seemingly unharmed, the original mellow colouring, harmonious in its varying tones, its linear markings blending into one composite and pleasing design. Why Willement thought it necessary to paint it out is a mystery.

Miss Fenton's achievement is now seen against a fresh background of stone-coloured wash instead of the hard metallic blue which formerly chilled the atmosphere of the chapel. The face of the tomb has likewise been colour-washed, and its armorial shields tricked with their true heraldic tints: the cross of St George and the arms of Oliver King are central, and these are flanked with the initials 'O' and 'K', intertwined allusively with the foliage of the olive tree. Where the spandrels of the arch have been touched with colour, attention has been faithfully paid to fragmentary remains of the early designs and tints which emerged from beneath the Victorian accretions. (See Plate IV.)

With the brasses in the floor we are not here concerned, but the windows contain stained glass of varying interest. St John Hope records it as follows:

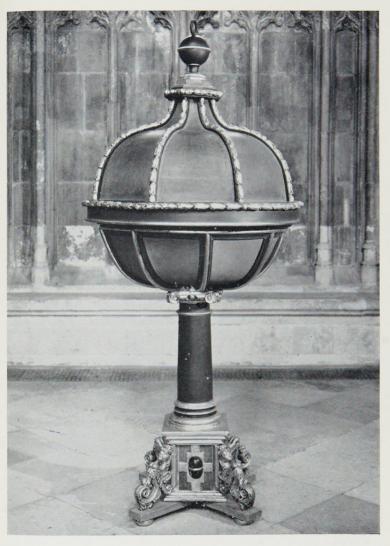


PLATE I. THE XVIITH CENTURY WOODEN FONT. (See p. 14.)



PLATE II. THE XVTH CENTURY DOOR OPENING INTO THE OLIVER KING CHAPEL. (See p. 17.)

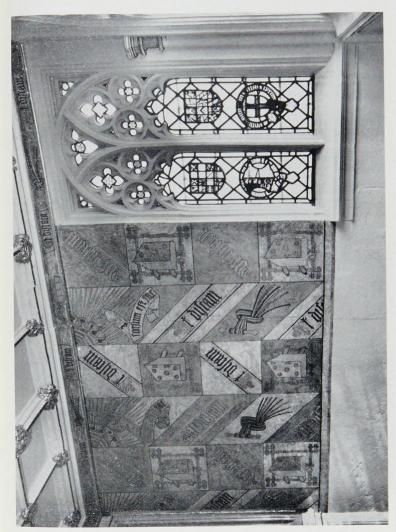


PLATE III. THE EAST WALL OF THE OLIVER KING CHAPEL. (See p. 18 for a description of the wall painting; and p. 19 for notes on the window.)



PLATE IV. THE TOMB OF BISHOP OLIVER KING, FROM INSIDE HIS CHAPEL. Note the recently repainted bosses. (See p. 18.)

Obiit Sunday.

Chrift, affit our heavenly Father and merciful Saviour Jefus Chrift, affit our moft worthy KING continually with thy Holy Spirit, that as HE is antiently and truth Defeended from the noble Princes of this Realm, and the bountful Patrens and Founders of this noble Order and Church, fo HE may proceed in all good works, namely, for fuffentation of Learning, and help of Poverty; and that all Noblemen of this Realm (especially such as be Companions of this most honourable Order of the Garter) may likewise dispose them-Gives in Honour and Virtue at all times, that God thereby may be the better honoured, the Commonwealth ferved, and their Fame remain to their Posterity; and that we all may continue in the true Faith, and walk in good works, that God hath appointed us, through Jefus Christ our Lord. Amen. Kings, Patrons and Founders of this Order, and our Benefithors thy Servants, hurlily befeething the Myldth, that as they for their time Honour also and Charleste, that States. ably and Charitably did beftow their Gifts to our Relief, so we may faithfuly use them, to the end that thereby others may be moved with fuch Examples, to provide for good and learned Ministers to teach thy Word, and to be merciful in relieving the Poor, through Jefus Christ our Lord and

in thee, and ever feek thy Honour and Glory, through Jefus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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> OD fave our gracious Sovereign, and all the Companions of the most honourable and noble Order of the Garter.

mount wo di Thou halt love thy neighbour as them; and flraightway he why left Love worketh no ill to his fend them. All this was done, i

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Saviour, Amen.

OD fave our Gracious Sovereign, and all the Companions of I the most Honourable and Noble Order of the Garter. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR USE ON OBILT SUNDAY IN THE PRAYER Воок оғ 1799. (See p. 25.) PLATE V (a).

SEPARATELY PRINTED IN THE REIGN OF KING GEORGE III. (See p. 26.) PLATE V (b). PRAYERS FOR THE SOVEREIGN AND THE ORDER AS

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Servant GEORGE our most

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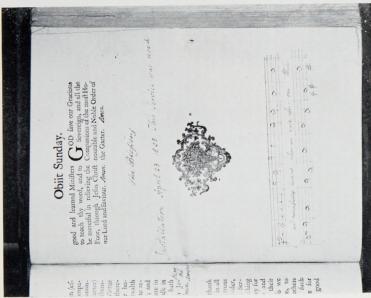
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THE CALENDAR, TABLE OF LESSONS.

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PLATE VI (b). AN ANNOTATED CALENDAR IN ONE OF THE PRAYER Воокѕ. (See p. 26.) PLATE VI (a). ANNOTATIONS IN HIGHMORE SKEATS'S PRAYER BOOK.

(See p. 26.)

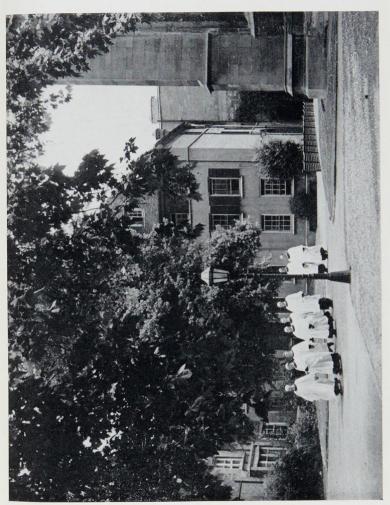


PLATE VII. SOME OF THE LAY CLERKS OF ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, OUTSIDE THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CHAPEL, TAKEN IN 1942.



PLATE VIII. THE NORTH-WEST TURRET OF ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WITH THE THAMES VALLEY BEYOND.

This photograph was taken by the North Thames Gas Board to confirm that the flue of the new heating system is invisible,

- East Window, North light. (a) The upper shield of 16 quarterings for Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, K.G. 1570.
 - (b) Below this, the Tudor shield of France and England quarterly, impaling Aragon, within the Garter; for King Henry VIII and Queen Katherine of Aragon.
 - South light. (a) The upper shield of 12 quarterings for Brooke, Baron Chobham, K.G. 1584.
 - (b) Below this the cross of St George within the Garter.
- South Window, Light 1. (a) A red rose crowned.
 - (b) Below this a shield quartering England (probably an error) for Sir Gervase Clifton, d. 1587.
 - Light 2. (a) Arms of Edward the Confessor, within the Garter.
 - (b) Below this the arms of Dynham, impaling Arches, within the Garter; for Lord Dynham K.G., circa 1485.
 - Light 3. (a) A roundel of Tudor royal arms, shewing France and England quarterly, within the Garter.
 - (b) Below this a larger shield, for King Henry VII or VIII, within the Garter, with a rose at the base.
 - Light 4. (a) Shield of St George within the Garter.
 (b) The same as (b) in Light 3.

In the great restoration by Brakspear during the 1920s an additional buttress was built against the outer wall of this little chapel, blocking the light from the window in its south-west corner. Its glass was accordingly replaced by metal panels, and it may be taken as certain that the displaced shields are those which now furnish the north-east window of the chantry over the tomb of King Edward IV. They are as follows: Edward the Confessor's shield, within the Garter; a red rose, crowned; arms of Dynham impaling Arches (as above); arms of Richard Sydnor, Canon of Windsor 1519-34 and Chancellor² of the Order of the Garter from 1524

There remains but one point to mention. There was formerly an altar, probably of stone, bonded into the east wall; its marks were visible to St John Hope. Its replacement, together with the essential and appropriate furnishings, would crown the restoration work which the generosity of the Friends has been so felicitously accomplished.

¹ See Plate III.

² Hope is in error in calling him Register of the Order.

THE PRAYER BOOKS IN THE CHOIR OF ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

By ARTHUR BROWN, M.A.

THE pleasure of attending a service in the Choir of St George's Chapel is increased by the likelihood of being able to follow the words of the liturgy in an interesting copy of the Book of Common Prayer. There are eighty folio and quarto books in daily use in the stalls, and nine others in reserve. The earliest of them has the date 1758 on its title page, so that this year's Report of the Society is an appropriate one for an article on these books. So far as I can ascertain, no collegiate or cathedral church has anything to compare with them.

In the Sovereign's and the Prince of Wales's stalls there are two large folio books bound in blue leather, heavily gilt-edged and brass-bound at the corners. They used to have clasps, but these are now missing. These were acquired at the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign. There are also twenty-six folio books with the date 1902 on the title page. Apart from two which are awaiting repair, these are now in the returned stalls and in the back row on the Decani side. Nearly all of them received new pages for Morning and Evening Prayer between 1947 and 1952. They contain little matter for comment. The only other folio book is a beautiful specimen dated 1799, free from alteration or amendments. The Royal Warrant is on a particularly handsome page. Unfortunately the pages of Morning and Evening Prayer and one page of the Communion Service are so badly frayed and torn that it would be impossible to restore the book to regular use unless these pages were replaced.

Nearly all the matters of interest are afforded by the quarto books, which are an extremely varied collection. The original parts of the earliest one are of George II's reign, and five date from George III's reign. The majority of them are Victorian, three are Edwardian; and finally there is the book which was provided only a few years ago for the use of the Minor Canon in Course.

The older books have nearly all received extensive repairs, many of them on more than one occasion. Inevitably the pages of a Prayer Book containing Mattins and Evensong are submitted to wear and tear out of all proportion to the rest of the book. For this reason the publishers of Prayer Books in preparing new editions are careful not to change the places at which new pages begin, so that individual groups of pages in old books can be replaced. In many cases the new pages have whiter paper, a different style of print or some variation in wording to indicate the extent of the repair. Elsewhere there is evidence that the book has received new pages, but no means of telling how many are the original ones. The details which can provide clues in this respect are the places where the wording has changed from one cause or another since the first printed edition of the Book Annexed to the Act of Uniformity appeared in 1662.

The most conspicuous alterations are in the names of the Royal Family. The books at St George's cover nine reigns, and contain printed allusions to all the Sovereigns except King Edward VIII, although the word "William" is only found on two labels which have been stuck over the word "George" in the Obiit Service. The name of the Monarch occurs twelve times in a complete Prayer Book (and five times more in one earlier than 1859). There are also five places where the names of members of the Royal Family are found. When any event necessitates a change in the wording at these places, the Order in Council usually directs that the Ordinary shall with a pen make the alteration to the books in use in his church. In the days when there was sufficient leisure for such tasks and when obedience to such regulations was regarded as being of more importance than the preservation of antiquities, Prayer Books were frequently amended in pencil, in ink or by means of labels. To find the original wording unspoilt one must turn to the place which is most likely to have been overlooked. This is the Litany in the Ordination of Deacons. In none of the books at St George's has the wording here been corrected.

The oldest book contains these words at that point: "That it may please thee to bless and preserve their Royal Highnesses George Prince of Wales, the Princess Dowager of Wales, the Duke, the Princesses and all the Royal Family". This dates from the time (1751 to 1760) when the King was George II, whose wife, Queen Caroline, had died in 1737. George Prince of Wales was the King's grandson, later George III, who did not marry until 1761. This provides an interesting precedent for the title of Prince of Wales being conferred upon somebody other than the eldest surviving son of the reigning sovereign. The Princess Dowager of Wales was Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, the King's only daughter-inlaw the widow of Frederick Prince of Wales, who died in 1751, and the mother of George III, his four brothers and his two sisters. The Duke was William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, third son of George II, the victor of Culloden. In 1758 he was the only living royal duke, because the second son of George II died in infancy, and of the four younger brothers of the Prince of Wales the eldest. later Duke of York and Albany, was only nineteen. The Princesses were the three surviving daughters of George II.

Custom seems now to have established the rule that the Prayer for the Royal Family shall include the names of the husband or wife of the Sovereign, the heir to the throne and his or her consort, with the understanding that anybody who has once been included shall continue to be named until his or her death. If this is correct several of the variations to be found among the books at Windsor are remarkable.

In one book the pages from the beginning of Morning Prayer to the middle of the Thanksgivings are the only surviving record of the reign of King George IV. He would not allow his wife, Queen Caroline, to be prayed for by name, nor his two brothers, who were successively the heir presumptive, Frederick Duke of York and Albany, who died in 1827, and William Duke of Clarence, who succeeded as William IV in 1830. Thus the petition in the Litany reads, "That it may please thee to bless and preserve all the Royal Family"; and there is no gap for the insertion of names as there was in the Annexed Book of 1661.

In three books whose dates are between 1837 and 1840 the petition for the Royal Family names only "Adelaide, the Queen Dowager". This is remarkable in that it does not include the heir to the throne. Between 1837 and 1840 the heir presumptive was Queen Victoria's uncle, Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover, and then for a year it was the infant Princess Victoria. There were three other periods during the last two hundred years when the heir to the throne was not cited by name. For two years from 1760 when George III came to the throne the heir presumptive was William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland. During the reign of George IV there were no names in the Prayer for the Royal Family. Thirdly, throughout the reign of William IV, when the heir presumptive was the Princess Victoria, only "our gracious Queen Adelaide" was named, although the Princess had as good a claim as Anne of Denmark or Sophia of Brunswick, who appeared in Prayer Books printed between 1689 and 1714.

Many of the books were repaired and received some new pages between the present Queen's marriage and her accession. During that period the Prayer for the Royal Family included the words "our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, the Duke of Edinburgh and all the Royal Family". Many people believe this to have been a mistake. As "Peterborough" expressed it in the Daily Telegraph at the time, "the Almighty knows no princes by their titles". The reply was that precedent had been consulted; but there was no precedent for the consort of an heiress presumptive. There were plenty of precedents for a lady being referred to by her title only immediately after her husband had been mentioned by his name and the same title: "Frederick Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales", "Albert Duke of York, the Duchess of York", etc. To follow this precedent the words "the Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke of Edinburgh" would have had to have been adopted. From 1729 to 1760 William Duke of Cumberland appeared in the Prayer Book as "the Duke", but his position was in no way comparable to that of the Duke of Edinburgh. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth II the words "Philip Duke of Edinburgh" were very properly authorised.

The newest book includes "Charles Duke of Cornwall". This is the third time that the title "Duke of Cornwall" has appeared in the Prayer Book, and the three occasions have all been during this century. For most of the year 1901 King George V was prayed for as "George Duke of Cornwall and York"; and for a few months in 1910 the present Duke of Windsor was "Edward Duke of

Cornwall".

Many of the earlier books contain the State Services. This is the name usually given to three services commemorating striking events in our history and one in honour of the Accession of the Reigning Sovereign. The last is the only one still in use, and it had the earliest origin. A special service of this sort was issued in 1578; but its first appearance in the Prayer Book was on the authority of a mandate of King James II. The Form of Prayer for the Fifth Day of November "for the happy deliverance of King James I and the three estates of England from the most traitorous and bloody intended massacre by gunpowder" was issued in its original form by royal authority in 1606. The service was revised in 1662 and again in 1690, when various alterations were made in consequence of the date happening to be that of "the happy arrival of His Majesty King William for the Deliverance of our Church and Nation". The Form of Prayer for the thirtieth day of January "being the day of the Martyrdom of the Blessed King Charles I" was prepared by a committee of Convocation appointed in 1661. The Form of Prayer for the twenty-ninth day of May "with Thanksgiving to Almightv God for having put an end to the Great Rebellion by the Restitution of the King and Royal Family and the Restoration of the Government after many years' interruption" was first prepared in the reign of Charles II and revised in 1685. On the recommendation of Convocation and at the request of parliament Queen Victoria issued a royal warrant in 1859 commanding that the three state services other than the Accession Service should be discontinued.

Unless the pages are missing, the Prayer Books at St George's contain the Accession Service, and those which are earlier than 1859 have the other three State Services as well. They often display a feeling of vindictiveness which makes curious reading nowadays; and phrases like "the secret contrivance and hellish malice of Popish Conspirators" sound strangely in modern ears. Yet if these Services seem to us unnecessarily anxious to confess "that thy judgements were right in permitting cruel men, sons of Belial (as on this day) to imbrue their hands in the blood of Thine anointed", they also sound a note of real humility when they admit that it was the sins of the nation which called down these calamities and when they pray that the sins of the fathers may not be visited upon the children. "Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Thy governance, that Thy church may joyfully serve Thee in all godly quietness", which is a part of the King Charles Service, is one of Cranmer's most exquisite collects.

The Accession Service was drastically revised in 1901. Among other changes it was ordered to be read not on a specific date but on "the Anniversary of the Day of Accession of the Reigning Sovereign or upon such other day as shall be appointed by authority". Before this century the old Accession Service had the date of the Monarch's Accession in its title and often in the heading of its other pages as well. The 1758 book is interesting in this

connection. In the Accession Service in this book the first three pages including the heading read "A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to be used upon the Twenty-Second Day of June", which is the date on which George II acceded in 1727, but the remaining pages are headed "A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to be used upon the Twenty-Fifth Day of October", which is the date on which George III acceded in 1760. This is the only indication that the book received new pages at this point during the reign of George III.

After the Accession Service comes the Royal Warrant authorising its use signed by the Home Secretary. The earliest example among the books at St George's is dated 1728 and is signed by Lord Townshend: the most recent is dated 1953 and is signed by David

Maxwell-Fvfe.

Many Prayer Books bear a date at the bottom of the title page; but there is plenty of evidence that this cannot be accepted as the year in which the book was issued by the publishers. The most obvious example of this among the books at St George's is the newest one in the stall of the Minor Canon in Course. The whole of this book is of the present reign; but the date on the title page is 1912, and the Table of Moveable Feasts begins with that year. Even allowing for the fact that printers will not change the date at the beginning of each year as they continue to print otherwise similar copies of the same edition, one finds evidence of pages from old editions including obsolete wording having been incorporated in new books. The book in the Prince of Wales's stall bears the date 1838; but the services after the Psalms, which appear to be on original pages, include the words "Adelaide the Queen Dowager, the Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales and all the Royal Family". This was the wording from 1842 to 1849. Three of the quarto books which are dated 1862 contain within a few pages of each other some words which were superseded in 1858 and others which first appeared in 1863. Oxford books are particularly unreliable in this respect.

The books other than those of the present century include the Oath of the Sovereign's Supremacy in the Ordination of Deacons. The old form ordered in the reign of William and Mary was changed in 1858 to one much longer though less picturesque. The original version abhorred, detested and abjured, "as impious and heretical, that damnable doctrine and position That Princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, or any authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects"; and this may be found in many of the books. The later version asserting that the succession to the Crown is limited "to the Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, and the heirs of her body being Protestants" was in authorised use for only seven years. Unluckily, although there are at St George's three books with the date 1862 on the title page, they all have the form of oath which was superseded in 1858. These books contain pages earlier in the same service which refer to the Princess of Wales and which cannot therefore have been printed before 1863. The Clergy Subscription Act of 1865 decreed that oaths are not to be administered during services of Ordination; but this does not include the oath of due obedience to the Archbishop taken by Bishops on Consecration

A change of one word which is to be found in the books at St George's is the substitution of "dominions" for "kingdoms" in the Prayer for the High Court of Parliament and the first of the Prayers to be used at Sea. This alteration was authorised on 1st January, 1801; but Prayer Books elsewhere in the country, printed in the early years of the nineteenth century, show that it was not immediately adopted. People who know St George's Chapel well are familiar with the windows in the North Choir Aisle which show who was the last King of England to call himself King of France. It is interesting to find that this information can also be obtained (though at greater labour) from a scrutiny of the Prayer Books in the Choir.

For those who are fond of minutiae there are three places in the Prayer Book where there are discrepancies in the matter of commas. The best known is in the Catechism, where it has the effect of causing an alternative meaning. There is a difference between "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given unto us, ordained by Christ himself" and "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us, ordained by Christ himself". The other two are in the Psalms. In some books Psalm 145, verse 3, reads "marvellous worthy to be praised" and in others "marvellous, worthy to be praised". Again in Psalm 105, verse 25, Cambridge books read "whose heart turned, so that they hated his people" and most Oxford books read "whose heart turned so, that they hated his people". In all three cases I have quoted the version of the Book Annexed first. Examples of all these discrepancies can be found among the books at St George's. Members of the congregation who are joining in the choral services silently may think that they have found a further variant when they hear the choir sing, "The children of men are deceitful. Upon the weights they are altogether lighter than vanity itself", in Psalm 62, verse 9. This alteration is found in no printed editions of the Prayer Book, nor is it supported by the Hebrew.

The statutes of the College ordain that four times in every year a commemoration of Benefactors called the Obiit Service¹ shall be held at Morning Service. The form of service at present in use is the result of a recent revision, and copies of it are bound and kept separately. Many of the Prayer Books have copies of earlier versions of the Obiit Service bound in among their pages. The most interesting example is the folio copy of the Obiit service of George III's reign which is to be found before the Psalms in the folio book of 1789 (Plate Va). Among the quarto books there are five examples of the Obiit Service of George III's reign printed in the beautiful style of the period. A large number of the books include the

¹ For a note on the spelling of the word Obiit, see page 13.

service as printed in George IV's reign, which provides a most unfortunate contrast æsthetically with the earlier ones. It is printed in severe type with very heavy initial capital letters. In Queen Victoria's reign a new edition of the service was printed; and when this was inserted in the books it was placed before Morning Prayer instead of after the Commination Service where the earlier editions are found. Appended to the Victorian version are several pages of long prayers for the private use of members of the college on each day of the week and certain special occasions. The George IV version has four misprints among the Psalms: Psalm 146, verses 5 and 6, and Psalm 147, verses 8 and 9, all begin with the word "Which" instead of "Who".

The Prayer for the Sovereign's Majesty as used at St George's followed by the Garter Prayer printed on a small sheet of paper is to be found in many of the books. The folio book of 1799 and three of the Georgian quarto books contain the page as printed in the reign of King George III in very large and handsome type (Plate Vb). There are also many examples of the same page as printed in later reigns. In all except the most recent version the Garter Prayer is in the form in which it appears at the bottom of the West Window; but the pages printed in George VI's reign include the three words "living and departed" which were added at that time.

Nine books have several pages of music manuscript paper bound in at the front. These have Tallis's Festal and Ferial Responses carefully written out, together with a number of responses for use at various occasional services. These responses do not use up the whole of the manuscript paper; and the blank lines remaining have

been used for various unofficial purposes.

From a musical point of view the most interesting book is one which was almost certainly used by Highmore Skeats in the organ loft while he was Organist of the Chapel. It is very much disfigured by annotations in his untidy writing. At the beginning of the Psalms he has written, "My Bar and Tye System of Three and Five", and at the end, "Introduced 1834. H. Skeats". He has superimposed the whole of his system of pointing on the Psalms. There are also many notes in the body of the book such as "Sanctus comes here", "Play this", "First anthem", etc. (Plate VIa).

The most entertaining details in the books at St George's are provided by the annotations which some unknown persons have not thought it improper to inscribe from time to time. There are very few drawings, although one page is adorned by an unflattering portrait of one of the ladies of the Cloisters; but many of the books contain copious comments and remarks in the margin. A great many of these are entirely secular, and some are so unedifying as to be out of place in a Prayer Book.

Two places have received especial attention in this connection. One is the Calendar, which in one book has been used to record more than a hundred and fifty different events (Plate VIb). The following selection taken from several books will indicate the nature of some of the more interesting entries:

- Feb. 1 Bust fixed on Sir J. Elley's monument. 7 The Dean's Lady of a daughter 1826.
 - 21 Flagstaff fixed on the round tower 1831.
 - 25 Scaffolding from the Cenotaph¹ taken down 1825.
- Mar. 14 Hill Harris Salmon French and Mitchell, Hail smiling morn, Return blest days, Say mighty love.
- April 1 1910 Bishop Barry died while sleeping—should have come into Residence to-day.
 - 2 Glee Club Supper 1841. Castle Inn.
- " 26 Cuckoo 1841. Ditton Park.
- May 8 Fire. 4 Houses burnt to the ground 1823. Roberts, Didbury, Blunt and Chode.
- June 1 Windsor Bridge opened 1824.
- 3 1906 Special prayer of Thanksgiving for deliverance of King and Queen of Spain from hand of assassin who threw a bomb on wedding day.
 - 9 Marble Slab put down in the choir. Henry 8th. 1837.
- ", 11 The Queen shot at in the Park (London) 1840 by Edward Oxford.
- " 15 Red cassocks first worn Thurs. 1905.
- July 2 Augmentation stipend £5. 1835.
 - .. 7 Thermr. 90 in shade.
 - 10 1919 No service at Evensong there being no parson present.
 - , 14 No Canon or Minor Canon present. Service read by the Dean 1882.
- Aug. 4 Terrace closed except Sundays by order of the King 1823.
 - 8 Dean and Canons removed to their original stalls Sunday 1830.
 - 25 Figure of the King and the Horse's head arrived 1831.
- Sep. 12 Sunday Service in the Library 1841. Stained windows putting in closet side.
 - 25 Duke of Wellington in Chapel in his stall 1842.
- Oct. 13 Candles lighted 1869.
- Dec. 1 1901 New Bible used—Advent Sunday.
 - 5 Orders for the week first introduced 1836.
 - 30 Cassocks introduced 1889.

The other place where the entries are prolific is at the long Gospels appointed for Holy Week. Here the number of minutes taken by different members of the Chapter in reading them year after year, or else the exact time at which the service ended are recorded in several books with scrupulous care.

One book contains several remarks about the drought in 1893: "Scarcely any rain from 4 Mch. until July (prayed for). Hay £10 a load". And against the Prayer for Rain: "18.6.93. Again 25

¹ The Cenotaph is the Princess Charlotte Memorial.

June 93. Again 2 July 93. Again 9 July 93. Again 16 July 93". Several books record personal disagreement with the first parenthesis in the Commination Service, which states that it is much to be wished that the godly discipline should be restored whereby at the beginning of Lent such persons as stood convicted of notorious sin were put to open penance. This is often deleted with comments ranging from "Dean Wellesley omitted the above always" to "Rot". Again, the rubric ordering a brief sermon in the Obiit Service comes in for comments varying from expressive question marks to "Canon Dalton 1 Oct. 1905 unusually long". Several of the written notes refer to events at Eton College. These reflect a period when the times of services made it possible to be a lay clerk at both St George's and Eton, and several gentlemen held both appointments in plurality. In one book the words "I don't think" are written against the rule that a man may not marry his wife's mother.

A few of the books are signed by the people who regularly used them. Mr. Mudge and Mr. Barnby have left their autographs behind them. Mr. Boyle's admission as a Lay Clerk is also recorded: "Stephen Malcolm Boyle. Tenor. Commenced duties at St. George's Chapel 1st. March 1905 on Decani side". Bound into this book is a handbill advertising a recital at St Mary Oatlands on Monday, 6th December, 1909, by W. Cary Bliss, F.R.C.O., and Malcolm Boyle. In another book is a copy of Wesley's Responses to the Ten Commandments. Another contains "A Form of Prayer to Almighty God for Relief from the Plague now existing amongst Cattle and for Protection against Cholera" authorised for use on 8th October, 1865.

A complete survey of the Prayer Books, listing all their peculiarities and recording all their annotations fully is now among the Chapter Records. These books provide a fascinating source of information about an era when the life and worship at St George's was not as different from our own as it might at first sight appear.

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS, 1957

FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S

Allen, Bernard Spencer Annesley, The Hon. Hilda Atkinson, J. S. Atkinson, Mrs. J. S. *Atkinson, A. Wickham *Atkinson, Mrs. A. Wickham Baigent, Miss Kathleen A. M. Barber, Dana G. †Batchelor, The Rev. Canon A. W., M.A., D.C.L. (additional to foundation Life Membership) Bayliss, R. M. Berne, Mrs. Melanie *Bostock, Mrs. J. Box, C. P. F. Braithwaite, Miss M. Hawarth Braithwaite, J. Frederick Bridger, K. C. Bridger, Frederick J. *Brooke, Mrs. P. Brown, Francis I. S. Burton, Miss F. M. Buss, Major R. C. Byron, Miss Nora Campbell, Henry S. T. Ceuppens, C. L. Clark, Mrs. H. M. *Clark, Miss Violet Elaine Cole, Miss Mabel M. Corbluth, Arnold Cotton, Lady Creber, Harry V. Crisp, A. D. Cunnington, Leonard G. De Guadan y Lascaris, Dr. A. Em. *Deacon, J. C. Derwent, Cmdr. K. H., R.N. Dickinson, A. H., C.M.G., O.B.E. Dickinson, Mrs. A. H. *Dixon, Capt. N. E. Dowling, Michael F. Drewett, Mrs. F. E. Dutton, Miss Ida G. Ewart, The Rev. Canon W. J. *Farrer, Mrs. J. Galloway, H. P. Gibson, Mrs. K. P. †Graham-Watson, Mrs. Claud Groves, Miss Isabell Hastings, Miss Flora Heath, Major E. S. *Holmes, Miss D. G. Hutchings, E. L., A.C.A. Hutchings, Mrs. E. L. Hutchings, Miss Peggy Hyde, Miss Mabel Martina Jeakes, Miss B. M.

*Kaines-Thomas, Dr. Margaret, M.A., D.Lit., F.S.A. Keale, Mrs. E. M. Keale, Miss J. C. King, Miss P. G. Keene, The Rev. Stanley H. Laduga, Friedrich Le Seelleur, Miss K. M. Lewis, Mrs. Dorothy Llewellyn, Miss G. J. Lowndes, Capt. A. E. Licudi Lunney, Edward Frank Lyons, Mrs. Margaret Mackellar, Miss M. Brown Mackenzie, Mrs. I. D. *Macro, Frederick I. Macro, Mrs. F. I. Maffett, Mrs. R. †Maktos, John Mapleston, Hugh Morgan, Miss E. H. †Morshead, G. Lawrence Mounthey, The Rev. F. H. Murray, Miss A. G. I. †Nesbitt, Miss Alice Nichols, R. Nourse, The Rev. John †Patterson, Miss A. M. Phillips, Mrs. M. D. Phillips, Mrs. M. Moore Potter, Gilbert Winter *Potter, J. E. B. Reed, Mrs. Hazel Rietveld, William F. Risteen, Frederick P. Risteen, Mrs. F. P. Rushbrooke, Mrs. P. Saunders, Miss Rosalind Sharp, W. H. Sharp, Mrs. W. H. *Shaw, R. E. *Shaw, Mrs. R. E. *Sowrey, Miss Joan *Sowrey, Miss Mary *Spafford, Mrs. A. J. H. Summers, H. Summers, Mrs. H. *Tebbit, Edward *Tebbit, Mrs. E. *Tebbit, John Tebbit, Miss Christine *Tewson, Mrs. V. C. Thomas, Miss Gwyneth Tootal, Mrs. K. M. van Uchelen, B. Croiset Wakeman-Long, Mrs. F. A. J. †Wallace, H. L. Walls, Dr. Stanley King

Ward, Miss M. M. Warner, Mrs. H. L. West, Mrs. H. Arnold *White, Frank *White, Mrs. F. Whittaker, Miss Doris M. Williams, Mrs. M. C. *Wood, Miss F. M., M.A.

Wood, Miss M. R. *Woods, Miss E. M. Wynzar, Miss E. M. Ussher, Mrs. Richard

Corrected Entry Gretton, Mrs. Mary Sturge, J.P., B.Litt.(Oxon), F.R.Hist.Soc.

DESCENDANTS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER

†Ashworth, Mrs. D. B. Barnard-Smith, W. W. *Berthon, Lt.-Col. C. H. D. Burston, Mrs. E. M. L. Clifton, Miss Fay St Pierre Clifton, Gervase Dudley Talbot Davies, Mrs. E. E. H. †Dundas, The Lord †Dundas, The Lady Serena Durant, Henry Lide Faulconer, The Hon. Mrs. †Middleton, The Lord, K.G.

Nickalls, Mrs. N. J. D. Northridge, J. L. Palaeologus-Biondi di Castelfalfi, H.H. The Princess Elsie Palaeologus, The Nobiussimius Despotesse Robina †Percival, Stanley Piers Bassnett Somerville-Lloyd-Harper, Herbert. The Marquis, M.H.R.E., K.H.R. †Symons, Miss Anne *Warner, Harold Lumley

† Life Member. * Subscriber under seven-year covenant.

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 choristers 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 Henry III Tower, Windsor Castle, 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 usually in 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. Mediæval 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. Book of Hours purchased. Repair of the John Davis Clock in the Curfew Tower. Restoration of the Beaufort Chapel. Purchase of Statue for Beaufort Chapel. FitzWilliams Plate in Bray Chapel. Restoration of the Porch of Honour. Colouring and gilding of East Door. Restoration of East wall and oriel in Dean's Cloister. Purchase of Norfolk Plate. Altar rails and altar frontal. New N.W. Pier in the Dean's Cloister. Restoration of the Oliver King Chapel. Erection of new doors at North-East Entrance of St George's

FORM OF BEQUEST

Chapel.

THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S

with which is amalgamated

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE GARTER RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957

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CAPITAL ACCOUNT	Purchase of 44% Defence Bonds 1000 0 Balance at 31st December, 1957: On Deposit with Thames Valley Trustee Savings At Bank on Deposit Account 957 2 6	0	GENERAL ACCOUNT	Restoration of Oliver King Chapel and Four For Management Printing and Strationery 133 7	1st December, 1957: sit with the Post Office Savings Bank on Current Account		E. L. SHEPHARD, Honorary Treasurer.	We have examined the foregoing Receipts and Payments Accounts and certithat they are in accordance with the books and vouchers produced to us.
CAPITAL	Balance at 1st January, 1957 RECEIPTS £ s. d. £ s. d. Life Membership Fees and Donations 348 10 1 Proceeds of redemption of: 41503 %. Defence Bonds 152 0 11 £850 3½% Defence Bonds 863 10 7		GENERAL	Balance at 1st January, 1957 £ s. d. £ s. d. 5	Interest—2.7. Wat Loan	<u>173 19 0</u> <u>173 19 10</u> <u>173 170</u>	NOTE: On the 31st December, 1957, the Society held the following Investments on Capital Account: Market Value at 31st Dec., 1957	£1000 34% Defence Bonds

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THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S

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(A Descendant has to prove descent from a Knight of the Garter)
‡A Donation for Life Membership (not less than Ten Guineas) the sum of £ : : .
\ddagger An Annual Subscription (not less than Ten Shillings) the sum of £ : : .
I enclose ‡Bank Order, ‡Cheque, ‡Postal Order, ‡Cash, for the sum mentioned above.
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HENRY III TOWER, WINDSOR CASTLE

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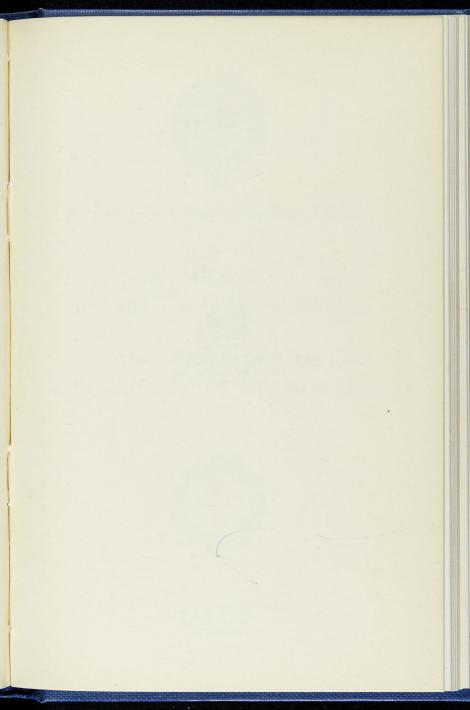
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