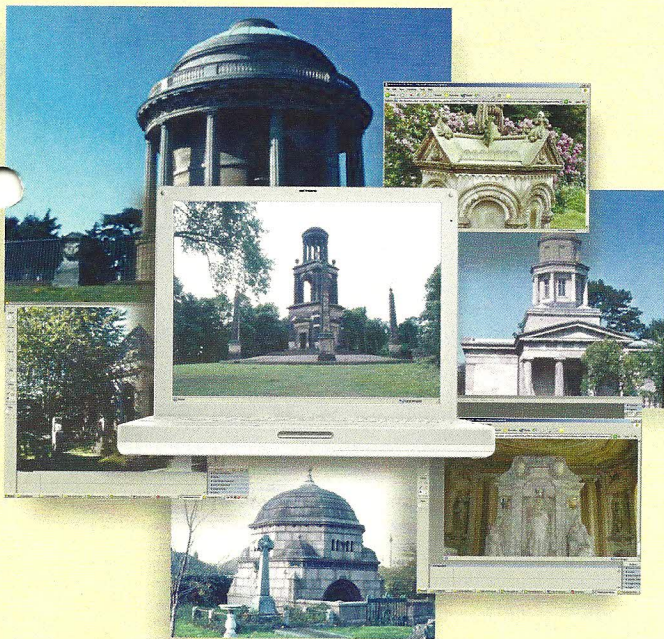


MMT News

Newsletter No.15 Summer 2006 The Mausolea & Monuments Trust

Launch of the MMT Gazetteer on the Net

Teresa Sladen



The MMT's gazetteer of English mausolea is going live on the web this Autumn. It provides a record of every monument of this type currently known to the MMT, together with images and historical information, much of which has never been published before. It takes the form of a database or, if you like, a multi-functional index. Those visiting the site will be able to search for any mausoleum in England by name, location, date, century, architect, listed status and keyword. It is designed to be interactive; we want people to contact us if they have further information on the buildings it contains.

At the time of writing, there are some 330 detailed entries in the gazetteer, with a further 130 mausolea mentioned more briefly in the supplementary cemetery lists. This is the sum total of all the mausolea in England of which the Trust is currently aware. But no doubt there are others, and we hope people will tell us about the ones we have missed.

All the entries provide the name, the location, the precise, or an approximate, date of the structure, its listed status and a comment on its condition. Where known, we have also included the name of the architect or designer, the history of the mausoleum, and something about the person for whom it was built. But there are many gaps in our knowledge, and again we are seeking further information. We intend to update and improve the entries as we learn more about the buildings.

We will also need help in keeping the records of the state of the buildings up to date and so we are asking people to let us know if the condition of a particular mausoleum has changed – either for the better or for the worse – since it was last visited by the MMT.

When is a Mausoleum not a Mausoleum?

This is a ticklish question. The MMT has described mausolea as "house[s] for the dead...freestanding roofed structures erected to receive coffins". But, despite this, we have included some funerary chapels attached to churches in our gazetteer. Furthermore, the gazetteer also contains a number of buildings that are really no more than porches, small above-ground structures sheltering steps leading down to a vault below.

The reason for this catholicism is that one type of mausoleum shades into another. In many cases a freestanding mausoleum, built in the form of a chapel with a vault below, differs little from a funerary chapel attached to a church. All that has happened is that, as the church crypt has become too crowded for further burials, the chapel has moved away from the church. With regard to burial vaults in churchyards or cemeteries, the deciding factor for inclusion in the gazetteer has been the existence of an above-ground structure with a door; we have excluded vaults which are merely sealed with a slab.

Intended Expansion of the Gazetteer

At present the gazetteer only contains English mausolea, but the database has been designed in such a way that information on mausolea in other countries can be included at a later date. We are looking forward to incorporating records of mausolea situated in the rest of the United Kingdom, and perhaps, in years to come, those that are found even further afield. We are also keen to include information on important mausolea that have been demolished, especially in cases where images of the buildings still survive.

Saving Mausolea

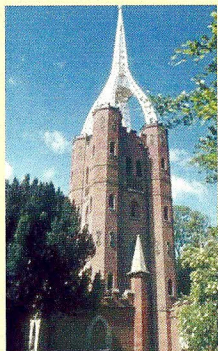
The MMT's gazetteer is the first comprehensive guide to English mausolea ever produced and we see its publication as a vital step in our drive to preserve the best of these monuments for generations to come. As well as revealing the intriguing histories of many of the buildings, the gazetteer will enable all those with an interest in a particular mausoleum – be they members of local authorities, parochial church councils or private individuals – to see where that building stands on the national scale, a knowledge of which is crucial in any effective campaign to save an historic monument.

Acknowledgement

The publication of the gazetteer has been made possible by the provision of generous grants from the Marc Fitch Fund and a private donor.

Teresa Sladen is a Trustee of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust.

Some of the Mausolea Included in the Gazetteer



Cotton Mausoleum

Address: Quex Park,
Birchington-on-Sea, Kent, CT7 0BH.

Date: Waterloo Tower:
1818-9; Cotton mausoleum and spire: 1896.

Architect(s): Waterloo

Tower: possibly William Fuller Pocock

Listing: Grade 2

History: The Waterloo Tower was built in the grounds of Quex Park in 1819 by John Powell Powell. Powell was an expert bell ringer and the tower was constructed to house a peal of twelve bells cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. As he had no children of his own, he left his property to a nephew, Henry Perry Cotton (1806-1881). It was Henry Perry Cotton's grandson, Percy Horace Gordon Cotton, who restored the building in 1896, adding the cast-iron openwork spire and creating a mausoleum in one of the rooms at the base of the tower. He dedicated the work to the memory of his father, Henry Horace Powell Cotton.

Description: A four-storey red brick tower with turrets at the corners and four rooms built round the base, one of which houses the mausoleum. The tower is surmounted by a dramatic open-work iron spire which shelters an urn, also of iron, standing on a pedestal on top of the tower.

Condition: Good, though some of the decorative stonework needs repair (2002).



Evelyn Mausoleum

Address: Brickyard Lane,
Wotton, Surrey.

Date: Early 19th century

Architect(s): Not known

Listing: Grade 2

History: It is not known which member of the Evelyn family built this mausoleum. It may have been Mary Lady Evelyn, the wife of the 3rd and last baronet, Sir Frederick Evelyn, following his death in 1812. As the couple had had no children, the Wotton estate then passed to a cousin, Captain George Evelyn (1791-1829). He served in the Peninsular War and was wounded at the Battle of Waterloo. The mausoleum could have been built during his lifetime, or even following his death in 1829. Whether it was ever used is not known either: the coffin niches inside are now all empty. It was restored by J P M H Evelyn in 1993.

Description: This cyclopean mausoleum is built into a hillside scattered with large rocks. In the pediment above the entrance there is a gryphon (the Evelyn crest) and on the lintel over the door a carving of a butterfly and the inscription "Good deeds are the best memorials". The forecourt is enclosed by a wall and entered via wrought iron gates. The brick-lined rectangular chamber inside the mausoleum contains twenty coffin niches, in two rows of five to either side.

Condition: Good (2002).



Dashwood Mausoleum

Address: Church Hill, West
Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Date: 1763-4

Architect(s): Probably Sir
Francis Dashwood, 2nd Bart.
and John Donowell. The
building was completed by

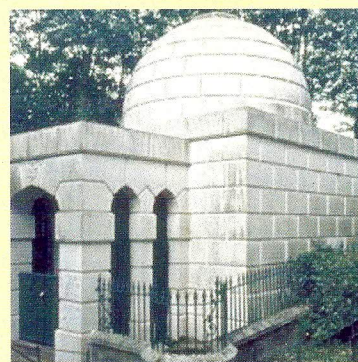
the mason-architect John Bastard the Younger of Blandford.

Listing: Grade 1

History: This extraordinary mausoleum was built by Sir Francis Dashwood, Lord le Despencer, 2nd Bt. (1708-81), creator of the so-called Hell-Fire Club and one of the founders of the Dilettanti Society. Between 1751 and 1763 Dashwood was engaged in rebuilding the Church of St Lawrence, placing a great gilded ball, fitted up inside for his drinking parties, on top of the tower. When this was finished he turned his attention to a new building project. His friend George Bubb Dodington, 1st Baron Melcombe, had left him a legacy of £500 for an "arch or temple" and Dashwood used this money to construct the great walled enclosure, probably the largest mausoleum built since antiquity, to house the memorials of his family and friends. It is still in the ownership of the Dashwood family.

Description: The mausoleum is an unroofed hexagonal structure, formed by a series of linked triumphal arches. There is no obvious precedent for such a design save, perhaps, that of a Scottish 'lair' or sepulchral enclosure. In the centre stands a pedestal and urn dedicated to Dashwood's wife, Lady le Despencer (d.1769); a wall plaque commemorates his mother (d.1710) and stepmother (d.1719); and three inscriptions in the frieze refer to Dashwood himself, his friend, Dodington, and his uncle, the 7th Earl of Westmorland. There is also an urn containing the heart of the poet, Paul Whitehead, and there used to be busts of the painter Giuseppe Borgnis and Dr Thompson (doctor to Frederick, Prince of Wales) in niches in the walls.

Condition: Good (2000).



Montefiore Mausoleum

Address: Honeysuckle
Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11.

Date: c.1862

Architect(s): Not known

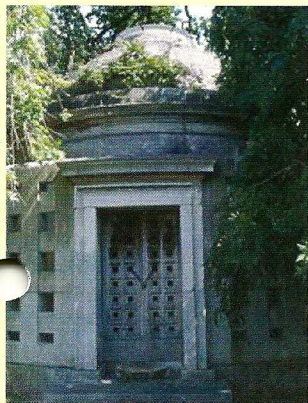
Listing: Grade 2

History: Sir Moses Montefiore, 1st bt (1784-1885) made a fortune at a relatively young age and devoted himself thereafter to good works. Among other things, he secured a firman from the sultan placing Jews on the same footing as all other aliens (1840), founded a school and hospital in Jerusalem (1855), raised funds for the Jewish and Christian refugees at Gibraltar (1860) and interceded on behalf of the Moldavian Jews (1867). In 1833 he had commissioned the architect, A D Mocatta, to build a synagogue at Ramsgate where he lived. The mausoleum, which stands close by, was built in 1862 following the death of his wife, Judith, Lady Montefiore (d.1862).

Description: The design of the mausoleum is based on that of

the tomb of Rachel, near Bethlehem, a celebrated burial structure of the ancient world restored by Lady Montefiore. It is domed and rectangular in plan, with heavy rustication. Behind the mausoleum there is a low stone column, presumably recalling Judith's original monument ("And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day"; Genesis 35, 19). The simple interior is lit from above by a coloured glass skylight. It contains two marble tombs surrounded with wooden fretwork and has a wrought-iron 'perpetual lamp' hanging in the centre.

Condition: Good (2002).



Philipson Mausoleum

Address: Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London, NW11 7NL.

Date: 1914-16

Architect(s): Sir Edwin Lutyens

Listing: Grade 2

History: The mausoleum was built following the death of Florence Philipson (1877-1914) wife of RH Philipson. The family came from Newcastle, and in his

will Philipson left a sum of money to a boys' home in that town, stipulating that any surplus was to be used for the care of the mausoleum. A set of Lutyens' drawings for the mausoleum are held in the Cremation Company archives, while other sketches of the building are among the architect's papers in the RIBA Drawings Collection.

Description: This is an extraordinary building; a latticed wall encircles a central domed structure, originally designed, like the Pantheon, to be open to the sky. The intention was for the space between the outer and inner walls to be planted with roses. Inside, two alabaster cinerary urns stand on a pedestal opposite the doorway. In front of this, in the centre of the floor, is an 'inverted dome' to catch the rainwater (no longer needed now that the dome is glazed) and, round the wall a walkway and bench.

Condition: Good, although there appears to be a leak in the of (2002).



Hopper Mausoleum

Address: Churchyard of St Andrew, Greymare Hill, Shotley, Northumberland.

Date: 1752

Architect(s): Not known

Listing: Grade 1

History: The inscription on the mausoleum says it was "Erected by Humfrey Hopper of Black Hedley, in memory of his wife Jane Hodgson, who died February 29th, 1752, aged 77."

The plaque dates from the 19th century and this, combined with the untutored classical style of the architecture, has sometimes led historians to suggest that the monument was actually built in the 17th century by an earlier Humfrey Hopper, the grandfather of the one mentioned on the plaque. But as the Hoppers were little more than peasant farmers at that date this does not seem likely.

Furthermore, the style of the monument is similar to that of other building projects undertaken by Humfrey Hopper in the 18th century, and, when Archdeacon Singleton visited Shotley Church in 1828, he confirmed the date of the monument as 1752.

By the mid 20th century both church and mausoleum were in poor condition owing to subsidence caused by mining in the area. Fortunately, in 1973, the buildings were taken into the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. After this repairs were carried out and the piers and railings in front of the mausoleum were re-instated.

Description: The small church of St Andrew stands in a lonely position high up on a windswept hill. Although a simple building, the interior has great charm as it still has all the fittings added in 1769 when the church was rebuilt. The mausoleum is far grander than the church. The upper part of this bizarre structure is embellished with obelisks, shields, scrollwork and statues in shell-headed niches with, to top it all, an undulating stepped stone roof crowned with a lantern. To the front low stone walls capped with iron railings enclose a flight of steps leading down to the basement level. Here, under an arch, are two weathered stone figures, lying on a tomb slab.

Condition: Fairly good but, owing to the exposed site, more stone conservation is now required. The mausoleum also suffers from recurring theft and vandalism (2004).



Constable Mausoleum

Address: Halsham, East Yorkshire.

Date: 1792-1802

Architect(s):

Thomas Atkinson of York, but completed by his son John.

Listing: Grade 2*

History: Built by Sir Edward Constable in accordance with the will of his father, Sir William Constable (d.1791) of Burton Constable. The base of the building was altered c.1830 by Charles

Mountain of Hull. The mausoleum was restored around 1910.

Description : The avenue of yew trees leading up to this mausoleum provides a sombre setting for what might otherwise be taken for an elegant garden building. It is a domed temple, set on a circular platform (reputedly built on the site of a tumulus) with two flights of steps leading up to the entrance. Although classical in style, the detail is spare and lightly drawn. Inside, the building has a balustrade running around a central well. The upper storey has a full-height plastered arcade with carved and painted shields in the frieze, a ribbed vault and coloured glass in the skylight. Standing in the centre of the well is a tall pedestal which supports the urn inscribed to Sir William Constable. The vaulted corridor round the base of the tower contains memorials to other members of the family, together with a plaque inscribed with the words "Bones of the Ancestors of the/ Family of CONSTABLE/ Collected in The Old Vault of the Family adjoining the Church of Halsham and transferred to the MAUSOLEUM on the 23rd of August 1802"

Condition: Good (2002).

