

MMT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

Nº 19

July 2008

NEW PATRONS AND CHAIRMAN

After some dark weeks following the untimely deaths of our Patron, Sir Howard Colvin, and Chairman, Thomas Cocke, the Mausolea & Monuments Trust is delighted to welcome two new Patrons and a new Chairman to take the MMT into its second decade.

Patron James Stevens Curl is honorary senior research fellow at Queen's University Belfast and professor emeritus of architectural history, De Montfort University; he has twice been visiting fellow at Peterhouse, Cambridge. His many books include *The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture*, *Classical Architecture*, *Victorian Architecture: Diversity & Invention*, *The Egyptian Revival*, *The Victorian Celebration of Death*, *Irish Castles and Country Houses* and *The Art and Architecture of Freemasonry* (winner of the 1992 Sir Banister Fletcher Award for architectural writing). **Patron Tim Knox** (MMT Chairman 2000-2004) is a graduate of the Courtauld Institute of Art; from Assistant Curator at the RIBA Drawings Collection, he moved to the National Trust in 1995, becoming its Architectural Historian in 1996 and Head Curator in 2002; since 2005, he has been Director of Sir John Soane's Museum, London. He regularly writes and lectures on art, architecture and the history of collecting. **Chairman Roger Bowdler** did a Ph.D. at Cambridge on 17thC funerary monuments with macabre imagery, and joined English Heritage in 1989, first as a historian, more recently as a listing inspector. He is now Head of Designation in the Heritage Protection Department, responsible for English Heritage's recommendations on listing, scheduling and other designation issues.



At the Annual General Meeting of the Mausolea & Monuments Trust, (Art Workers' Guild, London, 22 May 2008): guest speaker Dan Cruickshank, Chairman Roger Bowdler, Trustee Leanne Targett-Parker, Treasurer Ian Johnson and Secretary John St. Brioc Hooper

THOMAS COCKE

19 FEBRUARY 1949 – 23 APRIL 2008



Thomas Cocke was a precociously gifted architectural historian who was denied the academic career in which his gifts might best have shone, but who nonetheless made important contributions to the subject, and worked or volunteered for a variety of institutions that benefited greatly from his enthusiasm, gregariousness, and knowledge.

He grew up in the family mansion, N° 1, Southside (once, when someone expressed surprise at the extent of his rural knowledge, he said: "But didn't you know? I grew up in Wimbledon"). At prep school, he won the fiendishly difficult Townsend-Warner Preparatory Schools History Prize, not once but twice. He won a scholarship to Marlborough (thus establishing an additional link with his subsequent supervisor, Anthony Blunt), and another to Pembroke College, Cambridge, when only sixteen.

Sensibly deferring going up for two years, he went to America – in particular, California, where, in some way that was never fully explained, he became an honorary member of a Native American tribe. He also went to Bologna to stay with an aunt (who had married the mayor of the city in 1933 and had remained there during the war), learning Italian, and beginning to develop an interest in the history of architecture.

Nonetheless, when he went up, it was history itself that he read, after changing from classics, and he always retained a delight in the arcana of the subject. There can have been few contemporaries who knew, as he did, the meaning and significance of the term *reichsunmittelbar*, or that there had been over seventy successive Barons, Counts, and Princes of Reuss, all called Heinrich. Unsurprisingly, he gained a first in Part II of the History Tripos, and the Hadley History Prize, in 1970.

Going on to the Courtauld Institute, with particular tuition from Anthony Blunt, he gained a distinction with his MA, and then embarked on a thesis whose topic owed more to another of his tutors, Peter Kidson: 'Attitudes to the Restoration of Medieval Buildings in England from c.1550 to c.1775', for which he obtained a Ph.D. in 1982.

This took in the relatively unexplored topic of Gothic Survival, as well as the more familiar pioneers of a taste for the 'Gothick'. It was researched and written while occupying full-time posts, first as Lecturer in the History of Art Department of the University of Manchester (where he found Professor C.R. Dodwell an unsympathetic Head of Department), and then as Investigator for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (RCHM).

His thesis resulted, most notably, in the exhibition and catalogue devoted to 'The Ingenious Mr. Essex, Architect, 1722-1784' at the Fitzwilliam Museum in 1984, and to his work for the RCHM on *Churches of South-East Wiltshire* (HMSO 1987), and thus for the HMSO itself, for which he and Peter Kidson wrote *Salisbury Cathedral: Perspectives on the Architectural History* (1993).

He was, meanwhile, a regular on the Courtauld Summer Schools taken by Anthony Blunt and Peter Kidson: in Bavaria in 1973 (where Blunt famously 'discovered' Neil MacGregor, and nurtured what would become *Baroque & Rococo: Architecture and Decoration*, 1978); Austria in 1974 (on which Cocke wrote an amusing spoof); and Rome in 1976 (out of which grew Blunt's *Guide to Baroque Rome*, 1982). Through these inimitable tours he became great friends with their generous creators and organizers, Charles and Barbara Robertson, for whom he helped take the School to Lombardy in 1981.

He was always a committed Christian and a firm Anglican, latterly with a particular fondness for Julian of Norwich. (With moving aptness, his funeral at St. James Garlickhythe – the church of the Skinners Company, of which he was proud to be a liveryman – was on May 8th, the day of her

fifteen 'showings'.) Thus it was a satisfying career change for him to become Secretary to the Council for the Care of Churches (CCC), from 1990 to 2001. This, too, he combined with other things, that would have taken all the energies of a lesser man – most notably, selecting, cataloguing, and assisting in the arrangement of the exhibition '900 Years: The Restorations of Westminster Abbey', at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1995 – as well as giving numerous papers and lectures, writing articles, and taking tours for Swan Hellenic and Inscape.

He met and married Carolyn Clark (now Development Director to the Royal Marsden Hospital) before he went to Manchester in 1973. Always regarding himself as a countryman at heart, he and Carrie bought a house with a satisfyingly complex history (that he characteristically sought to unravel), in Stonham Aspal, Suffolk, whilst keeping a pied-à-terre in London. The dual life that this entailed may have contributed to the strains that emerged in his later years.

So, too, perhaps did his move from the CCC to become Chief Executive of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies (NADFAS) in 2001. There was an obvious link between his particular interests and NADFAS's admirable voluntary work in compiling detailed inventories of the contents of parish churches all over England, but the managerial role was one for which he was not ideally suited, and a clash of personalities led to his resignation in 2006. He did not take another full-time job, but continued to write and lead tours – including one to Bologna for the Society of Architectural Historians in 2007 – and to serve on numerous committees, not least

becoming Chairman of the Mausolea & Monuments Trust in 2005. Depression increasingly took hold of him, however, for which no clinic was ever able to find the cure, and he died on St. George's Day, aged 59. A memorial service will be held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Monday 6 October 2008 at twelve noon.

ALASTAIR LAING

Thomas Hugh Cocke, architectural historian: born London 19 February 1949; Lecturer, History of Art Department, Manchester University 1973-1976; Investigator, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1976-1990; FSA 1983; Member, Faculty of Architecture and History of Art, Cambridge University 1985-2000, Fellow, Darwin College 1987-2001; Chief Executive, National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies 2001-2006; Chairman, Mausolea & Monuments Trust 2005-2008; married 1973 Carolyn Clark (one son, one daughter); died 23 April 2008.

VICTORIAN MINIATURE

There are several references in this issue to *Victorian Miniature*, Owen Chadwick's meticulous study of the journals, letters, publications and private papers of Sir John Boileau, the Rev. William Wayte Andrew, their families and neighbours, which *The Times* called "better than any fiction". We warmly encourage anyone with an interest in early Victorian society – or human relations in any age – to acquire a copy forthwith. Extracts from *Victorian Miniature* © Owen Chadwick 1960, published by Cambridge University Press, reproduced with permission.

BEQUESTS

The Mausolea & Monuments trust has received over £1000 in donations in lieu of flowers in memory of the late David Allibone, and a most generous bequest of £5000 from his will. David was the husband of the late Dr. Jill Allibone, who founded the MMT (*MMT Newsletter N° 18*), and we are most grateful for this last of many gifts.

We know that at least one other member intends to leave a legacy to the Trust, and we hope that those who can will remember us amongst other charities in their wills, and be remembered in turn for helping to preserve some of the country's most remarkable and splendid buildings.

A bequest to the Mausolea & Monuments Trust represents an extremely valuable gift to us, free of Inheritance Tax. The form that such a gift should take is set out below; please ask your solicitor to insert this bequest in your testamentary provisions. Rather than set a fixed sum, you may also designate a proportion of your estate as a bequest.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I bequeath a legacy of £..... to the Mausolea & Monuments Trust (Registered Charity N° 1106634) whose office is at 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ, for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary for the time being of the said Trust shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executor in respect of such legacy.

THE BOILEAU MAUSOLEUM

The Boileau Mausoleum at Ketteringham, Norfolk, was handed into the care of the Mausolea & Monuments Trust on Sunday, 27 April 2008, following Morning Prayer amidst the many splendid monuments of St. Peter's church. The ceremony was attended by members of the Boileau family, the Chairman of the South Norfolk District Council, representatives of the South Norfolk Buildings Preservation Trust (SNBPT), stonemason Tony Dobson, Trustees and members of the MMT, and members of the congregation.

The vicar spoke of the rich history of the church and of the benevolence of Sir John and the Boileau family. Viscountess Knollys, Chairman SNBPT, thanked the many people involved with the restoration of the mausoleum. Raymond Boileau, the present head of the family, spoke about his ancestor Sir John, and Lady Catherine, whose remains lie within the mausoleum. He then presented the key, and a copy of Owen Chadwick's *Victorian Miniature* – which tells the story of Sir John and the vicar of Ketteringham, the Rev. William Wayte Andrew – to our new Patron Tim Knox, who accepted on behalf of the Trustees of the MMT.

Tim, in his speech, praised the enthusiasm and diligence which had driven the restoration and, in particular, the enormous amount of work and energy that Dr. Mary Parker had put into the project – without her, the mausoleum might have faced a very different future. We are

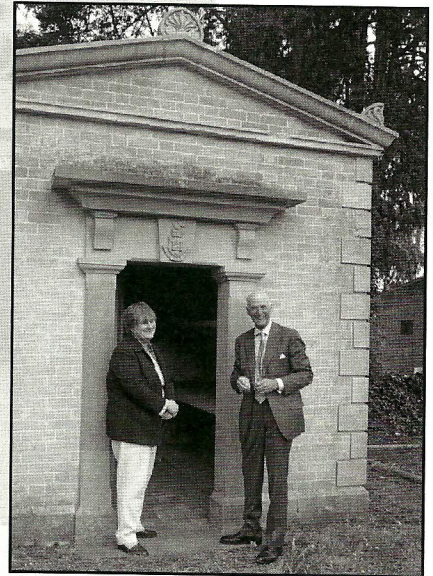
Dr. Mary Parker and Mr. Raymond Boileau at the handover of the Boileau Mausoleum

delighted to receive the fully restored Boileau Mausoleum into our care.

JOHN ST. BRIOC HOOPER

Fortified spiritually by Matins in St. Peter's, Ketteringham, philanthropically by the transfer of the key of the Boileau Mausoleum, and bodily by a generous lunch, we set off for two more mausolea within a five-mile radius of Ketteringham.

We were warmly received at Bracon Ash, where the Berney Mausoleum was added to the north of the chancel of the church of St. Nicholas in the mid-18thC. An imposing stone-built structure with classical detailing, it contains ranges of recesses for coffins. It is entered through a much earlier front of Early Renaissance terracotta, which Pevsner and Wilson say is



“without doubt the work of the same craftsmen who did the Bedingfeld monuments at Oxborough and the nearby Wymondham monument”. The latter is, curiously, also only a façade, and not a monument at all. The answer at Bracon Ash is surely, as our Patron Tim Knox first suggested, that this terracotta front was not originally associated with the mausoleum but with the oval tablet above it, to the Rev. William Bedingfeld (†1696), fourth son of Humphrey Bedingfeld of Wighton, and husband of Elizabeth Wood of Bracon Ash. Could this conforming scion of the recusant Bedingfelds have abstracted it from elsewhere? And could some similar transfer have occurred at Wymondham Abbey? The Rev. William, like the Bedingf(i)elds of Oxburgh Hall, was descended from Grace, daughter of Sir Henry Marney; she married Sir Henry Bedingfeld in 1508. Her father was created Baron Marney six weeks before his death in 1523, but the title died with his son John just two years later. The two barons lie under a great tomb-chest with a similar terracotta canopy in the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Layer Marney, near Colchester.

We then progressed to All Saints, Hethel. With its Vanbrughian detailing in brick, the Branthwait(e) family chapel is much more imposing without than within (where it is whitewashed, with three rather mean aedicules that have never received their intended tablets or inscriptions). The massive flagstone covering the entrance to the vault was lifted, and one or two bolder spirits were preparing to descend, when we realized that the floor was under water. The idea was abandoned – as interments evidently had been too.

The chapel-cum-mausoleum was built for Miles Branthwait of Hethel Hall, in or

around 1730. The fine alabaster monument to Miles (†1612, *æt.* 55) and his wife Mary (née Southwell) Branthwait, the first owners of the now vanished Hall, and a number of black ledger stones to subsequent members of the family, indicate that previous burials had been in the chancel. The first interment in the mausoleum, of one of a later Miles’s numerous children, took place in 1740, but was followed by just two more, also of children. That Miles’ daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married Thomas Beevor of Norwich, created a baronet in 1784. His son Thomas, later 2nd Bt., married Anne, daughter and heir of Hugh Hare of Hargham Hall, which thereafter became the Beevor seat. Not only did they abandon the mausoleum, but in 1840 the eccentric 3rd Baronet sold Hethel Hall to none other than Sir John Boileau. The tenant at the time – in the absence of any parsonage or suitable house within the parish of Ketteringham – was the Rev. William Wayte Andrew. His ejection from the Hall by Sir John – not even to create a dower-house, but for the newlywed Boileau tutor and governess, who set up a prep school there – was one of the first incidents to sour relations between squire and vicar, as Owen Chadwick’s *Victorian Miniature* vividly recounts. After years of letting to a succession of tenants, Hethel Hall had become derelict by 1937, and was finally demolished around 1950. Who is responsible for the mausoleum now?

The visit was rounded off with a short walk across a field to the Hethel Thorn, reputedly nearly 800 years old, and preserved, with some of its old crutches, by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. As with the Glastonbury Thorn, it needs to be viewed with the eye of faith, to appreciate its antiquity.

ALASTAIR LAING

