



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 52 - Autumn 2007



The John Hampden Society is a registered charity which exists to bring together people with an interest in John Hampden, and to encourage wider knowledge of this great 17th century Parliamentarian, his life and times

EXPERTS PRONOUNCE ON THE BROUGHTON JEWEL



The Jewels compared. The Bodleian Library's Hampden Jewel (left) (ref no. J.L. 663) and the Broughton copy (centre and right) showing the hallmark on the back.

Photograph reproduced by permission of The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Following the revelation by Lord Saye and Sele of Broughton Castle that he also had a jewel similar to the Hampden Jewel in the Bodleian Library, correspondence between him and Dr Bruce Barker-Benfield of the Library's Department of Special Collections & Western Manuscripts resulted in an appointment being made for this to be inspected by some of the Library's experts on 24th September. Lord Saye kindly invited me to join him, and together with Lady Saye we met Dr Barker-Benfield, his departmental head Dr Chris Fletcher, and conservator Madeline Slaven. We were later joined by Society member Brian Cox, who has recently obtained an Oxford Diploma in the History of Art.

The Bodleian had previously suggested that, if the Broughton jewel turned out to be genuine, it might have been one of a number worn by such like-minded individuals as the colleagues of Hampden and the first Viscount Saye and Sele, who gathered in 'The Room That Hath No

Ears' at Broughton during the 11 years in which Parliament was not sitting. On the other hand, as pointed out in Sam Hearn's article on page 2, such talismans were common in the 17th century.

The two jewels were inspected side by side, and it soon became apparent that Lord Saye's was different in one important respect. The cornelian of the Bodleian jewel is held only at the edges, so that the artefact appears identical from either side and the stone can display its translucency. In the Broughton jewel the mounting is in the form of a cup, with a hallmark on the back - something the Bodleian version lacks.

Research into the hallmark suggested that it referred to Deakin & Francis, a firm of silversmiths founded in Birmingham in 1786, and that the jewel was manufactured around 1910-11. Such a date was consistent with the condition of the jewel, which looks much newer than its Bodleian counterpart, as can be seen in

our picture. This is particularly evident in the motto engraved around the mounting. The style and lettering is identical in both cases, but in the case of the Bodleian jewel, some of the letters at the top corners of the heart-shaped mounting have been abraded so that they are almost illegible - possibly by being rubbed against a shirt? Otherwise, the similarity between the two is striking.

This similarity suggests that whoever manufactured the Broughton copy must have had access either to the original in the Bodleian or to another such, as it would have been impossible to make such an almost exact copy from photographs or drawings.

The owner of Broughton Castle in the early 20th century was the present Lord Saye's grandfather, who from 1912-1915 was Comptroller of His Majesty's Household, suggesting that he had enough influence to persuade the Bodleian to lend the Jewel for copying if necessary.

But why was it made? Was it intended as a replacement for an original which been lost or stolen? Or was it decided to have replica of the Hampden Jewel to add to a collection of Hampden memorabilia? The Castle already houses a number of artefacts associated with John Hampden, including a copy of the St Germans portrait and a silver cup engraved 'John Hampden to John Fienes 1643'. (see *The Patriot* no. 7, Summer 1994)

Lord Saye has told us that the jewel has been languishing in a drawer for a good number of years, and no-one had any idea what it was until he read our article about it in *The Patriot* number 50.

As always seems to be the case with any new discovery connected with John Hampden, it poses more questions than it answers.

Roy Bailey

A PORTABLE TALISMAN

The Society has consulted Diana Scarisbrick about the authenticity of the Hampden Jewel owned by the Bodleian Library. Diana is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and an acknowledged expert on historic jewellery on which she has published a number of books. She is certain that the piece is seventeenth century because of its 'saw tooth' setting. The cornelian stone is not inappropriate (see below).

In her opinion the jewel would be best described as 'a portable talisman' and not as a jewel. She says that in the seventeenth century it was not uncommon for a talisman to be worn about the neck or wrist. Archbishop Tennyson noted that the Duke of Monmouth carried a charm beneath his ring in the belief that it would protect him from danger and defeat in battle.

Diana has also drawn our attention to Thomas Nicols' book, *A Lapidary or The History of Pretious Stones* (Cambridge 1652) p.125, apropos of cornelian 'it causeth him that weareth it to be of chearfull heart: free from fear and nobly audacious, and that it is a good protection for him against witchcrafts and fascinations, and putrefactions of humours.'

She has also pointed out a reference to a mass-produced glass version of Hampden's portrait recorded in a 1791 *Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient and Modern Gems* published by J Tassie and R Raspe. Hampden is erroneously described in the catalogue as 'the famous republican'.

Sam Hearn



The Spread Eagle Hotel

THAME
OXFORDSHIRE
OX9 2BW
TELEPHONE (01844) 213661
www.spreadeaglethame.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT
& BANQUETING

DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE....

Earlier this year a letter was received from the granddaughter of a man who was an ardent admirer of John Hampden. The gentleman in question was named Heber Margetts and he was brought up in Watlington, Oxfordshire and later lived at Littlemore, also in Oxfordshire, until his death in 1959.

Heber felt so passionately about the monument at Chalgrove that, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when he was in his seventies, he often cycled to and from the monument, a round trip of approximately 20 miles, to trim the grass around it with his garden shears and to try to clean the monument. He wrote numerous letters complaining about the lack of respect and care being given to the monument.

Heber's granddaughter commented that she had much for which to be grateful to her grandfather, not least being the great love of mid-17th century history which he instilled into her as a small child. She still lives in Oxfordshire and, having relatives at Watlington, often passes near the monument, although she comments that the direct road no longer passes by it as it did when she was young.

Heber's granddaughter has a great admiration for the Society and feels certain that, had it existed in his day, Heber would certainly have been a member. She comments that he would have been happy to know that so many people care about John Hampden and all he stood for. She thinks that her grandfather felt he was a 'lone voice', but knows that he was adamant that Chalgrove Field was not a mere skirmish!

Unfortunately she was unable to find a photograph of her grandfather, so we can only guess what he looked like, but what a wonderful character he must have been to undertake that journey on his bicycle in order to help maintain the monument to his idol.

Anthea Coles

GOODWIN AND PYE AT CHALGROVE?

It was a battlefield crowded with notables and friends who attended Hampden on that fateful day, or so it seems. Being as John Hampden was out with Sir Samuel Luke and Dulbier and they came across Gunter, Crosse and Sheffield's troops, those who had the Watch that night, where did John Hampden's notable friends come from?

It was a scratch force of troopers who left Thame that morning for Chalgrove and there is no mention in dispatches of Sir Arthur Goodwin or the other claimant, Sir Robert Pye. Yet we have a near full list of captains and majors listed in *The Late Beating Up*. Had these Gentlemen been at the Battle I am sure we would have had contemporary accounts of their exploits. Even Sir Arthur's famous letter to his daughter Jenny only states that he attended Hampden on the Saturday just before he died. Surely he would have said if he had accompanied the wounded Hampden back to Thame.

Sir Robert even had the occasion of the Battle engraved on his tomb, but of course who would dispute his claim in 1701 when he died. His epitaph is still there in Faringdon Church for all to see. Personally I don't think either gentleman was at Chalgrove, they just wanted to share in the glory of Hampden's name. If he had been present, Goodwin, a Colonel of a regiment of Horse, having the cavalry experience and seniority, would surely have led the battle rather than Major John Gunter. I rest my case.

Derek Lester

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Not having been inundated with volunteers to take on this post, I was fearful that it was a job I would inherit. It was with relief, therefore, that I eventually received an e-mail from Roger Paynter, a Society member from Grampound, asking what was involved.

Roger has, in the past, been Clerk to the Parish Council of Grampound and is prepared to have a go at keeping our records up to date. Distance should not be a problem, thanks to electronic wizardry, and he will try to attend at least one event each year, so with a little organisation all round, things should run smoothly.

Thank you for stepping into the breach, Roger. I look forward to meeting you in the not too distant future.

Anthea Coles

Published by

The John Hampden Society
Little Hampden, Cryers Hill
High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6JS
Tel: 07985 607224

e-mail: secretary@johnhampden.org

Web Site: www.johnhampden.org

Registered charity no. 1098314

HAMPDEN'S LETTER

Penelope Benson-Wright had shown us, on the internet, Hampden's letter written in Northampton on 31st October 1642. Was it the genuine article? It certainly looked like it, especially as I read that the British Library only had a copy. After inquires to the Library it transpired that they had the original and a copy.

I met Penelope at the Library on the 11th October and finally, getting to the manuscript room, we could begin to find answers to our many questions. I had previously arranged for all the documents to be present.

Hampden, in his own hand, had written the note to four recipients, Col. Bulstrode, Capt. Grenfield, Capt. Tyrell and Capt. West. On comparing the 19th century copies to the original I could have believed that they had photocopies. They were identical in every way. Yet Nugent in his biography of Hampden changed Grenfield's name to Grenvil. Oh, spellings were arbitrary in the 17th century I've been told. Well surprise. Hampden was a lawyer and scholar who wrote concisely. He knew Grenvil, the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire personally and probably signed the warrant for his appointment. I am still researching, but I bet that Grenvil had a rank or status higher than Captain. Would Hampden have misspelled his name and demeaned his rank?

While looking further in the catalogue of letters we chanced upon another letter signed by Hampden. It was written by another person in somewhat scruffy writing. The gist of this letter was apologising for the previous day's letter 'inclosed' not being sent on the day stated. It was addressed as above, except this time the scribe had written Captain Grenvil. As Aylesbury was the centre of attention in early November and Sir Richard Grenvil lived nearby, he probably received the letter by mistake. Lord Nugent George Grenville being related to the Grenvil's had access to these papers. By Nugent's time the letters were in the Stowe collection. What a joy for him to find such a strong family link to his research, but alas.

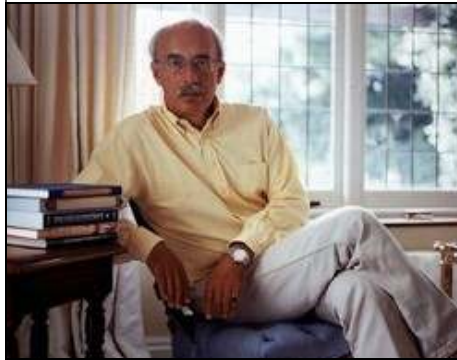
If anyone has information on the four original recipients and which regiments they commanded as well as the rank or status of Sir Richard Grenvil (or Grenville or Greenville) then please enlighten us.

Derek Lester

TRAIL BLAZING IN HOUNSLOW - THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

As this edition of *The Patriot* goes to the printers the project to mark the 1642 battlefields at Brentford and Turnham Green will be coming to a successful conclusion. The six information boards have emerged in all their glory from the design process and are now being transformed into 21st Century vandal-resistant street furniture.

By the time you read this, Richard Holmes (*below*), the historian and TV personality, will have unveiled two of the boards at official ceremonies, on 28th October, at Syon House and Turnham Green Terrace. The Mayors of Hounslow and Ealing will have been in attendance to accept ownership of the boards and enjoy a photo opportunity with Derek Lester and other members of Hampden's Regiment of Foote.



By the 28th of October thousands of battlefield trail leaflets should be available and an informative website will be 'accessible'. Further work still needs to be done on preparing material for use in local schools and satisfying the Heritage Lottery Fund that their grant has been well spent.

The assistance of the John Hampden Society is acknowledged on the information boards and two of the boards include the Walker portrait of John Hampden in their design. The text refers to the vital contribution that Hampden and his regiment made to both battles. I hope that many of you will have the opportunity to see the information boards and/or visit the website (details to follow).

HAMPDEN REMEMBERED AT HARVARD

The Society is grateful to Jackie Kay of the High Wycombe History Society for letting us know about the existence of yet another depiction of John Hampden in stained glass. The window in question (*right*) is one of a series installed in Harvard University's Memorial



DIARY DATES

2007

Tuesday 13 November:

An illustrated talk to Thame Historical Society at The Church Barns, Thame, Oxon, commencing at 7.30 pm.

All meetings commence at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated.

For up-to-date information, see the Diary page on the Society's website at:

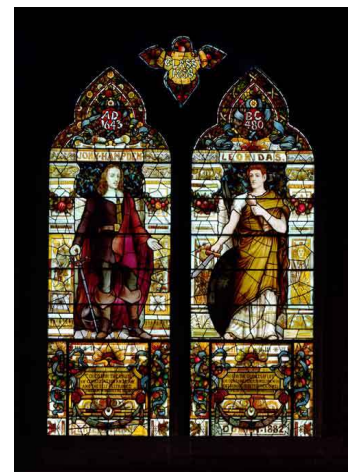
www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm

Hall between 1872 and 1902. Most of the windows were commissioned and funded by individual alumni classes and around half of them illustrate themes from the American Civil War.

The Hampden Window was given to the University by the Class of 1858, many of whom would have seen action on America's Civil War battlefields. The window depicts Hampden and the Spartan King Leonidas. The death of both men (Hampden and Leonidas) 'in battle' is used to symbolically commemorate the valour and patriotism of the individuals from Harvard who died in the American Civil War.

Leonidas commanded the Greek forces sent to hold the pass of Thermopylae in 480 BC against the advance of the Persian host under their King, Xerxes. He was destroyed by the Persians when they outflanked his position. The determination of Leonidas and his 300 Spartans inspired the Greeks, particularly the Athenians, to successfully resist the Persians and change the course of World History. Arguably Hampden and his regiment secured a similar place in the history books in the closing stages of the battle of Brentford in 1642.

For those who wish to know about the windows further details can be found at www.fas.harvard.edu/~memhall/staincls.html



BOOK REVIEWS



CAVALIER

A Tale of Chivalry, Passion and Great Houses

by Lucy Worsley ISBN 978-0-57122703-7, 332 pages plus 41 colour plates on 16 pages, 48 black and white illustrations within the text. Published 2007 by Faber and Faber.

This is the story of one remarkable man, William Cavendish, Marquess of Newcastle, and his large and extraordinary household. Newcastle embodied all the virtues and vices commonly associated with a Cavalier. He was both courageous and cultured and his passions were architecture, horses and women. In 1638 he was appointed Governor, or tutor, to the young Prince of Wales, the only royal post that Hampden is known to have coveted.

Born in 1593 Newcastle was, like John Hampden, already rather 'long in the tooth' when the Civil War eventually erupted. He was nevertheless the King's General in the North and was part of the royalist army so comprehensively defeated at Marston Moor. Over 4,000 of his white-coated soldiers were killed and he fled into exile. He returned to England in triumph in 1660 with a new marchioness but he found it hard to fit into the world of Restoration court life and politics.

The book is strong on period detail, although Ms Worsley knows rather more about the underwear of seventeenth century gentlemen than would seemly entirely healthy. I would concur with Sir Roy Strong's comment that the book is 'a tour de force of historical imagination aligned to impeccable scholarship'. One would expect nothing less from the Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces.



HENRIETTA HOWARD

King's Mistress, Queen's Servant

by Tracy Borman ISBN 978-0-224-07606-7, 323 pages plus 34 black and white plates on 16 pages. Published 2007 by Jonathan Cape.

Many members will remember Tracy's talk about Henrietta, at Hartwell House in 2006. She has generously remembered the support of the John Hampden Society in the acknowledgements section of the book. There are a couple of other references in the book to John Hampden, Henrietta's great grandfather.

Tracy recounts with great panache the life of the woman who, for two decades, was the official mistress and confidante of George II. She describes how following a disastrous marriage and brushes with poverty Henrietta managed, through her own ingenuity and determination, to secure a place at the heart of the Hanoverian Court.

It is Tracy's contention that this enigmatic and largely forgotten mistress left her mark on the society and culture of early Georgian England that was to resonate well beyond the court, and can still be felt today.

Alison Weir, the doyenne of popular modern history writers, describes the work as 'a delightfully entertaining book, packed with fascinating period detail'. One would expect nothing less from the Learning Director of English Heritage.

Sam Hearn

2007 BUCKS LOCAL HISTORY FAIR & CONFERENCE 4th OCTOBER - WYCOMBE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The theme of this year's conference was the industrial heritage of Bucks. Brewing, bricks, paper, furniture and Wolverton the railway town were each the subject of individual talks. The now traditional afternoon guided walks continued the industrial theme with the opportunity to see the remains of High Wycombe's manufacturing past. It was hard to choose between the five walks on offer. However I did not regret opting for the visit to the village of Penn and the talk by Miles Green on the area's massive medieval tile-making industry.

These annual fairs are an opportunity to showcase what the Society has to offer. Anyone interested in manning the Society's stall next year should contact the Secretary. Unless more members volunteer their services it is unlikely that the Society will be able to run a stall at next year's fair. Even the offer of ten or fifteen minutes of your time could make all the difference.

Sam Hearn

THE NEW PUTNEY DEBATES

Sam Hearn was asked to give a twenty minute lunchtime talk to the 6th Form A Level History Set at his daughter's school, Putney High, on Monday 8th October.

The questions that followed the talk included the old chestnut of whether or not Hampden would have been one of the regicides if he had lived.

It was fascinating to hear the students crowding around the Society's display boards at the end of the talk and discussing how 'dishy' Prince Rupert looked in his portrait. Plus ce change, plus c'est le meme chose.

OBITUARY

The Society has been notified of the death, on 6th August 2007, in his 88th year, of Mr Henry Graham Baldwin of Tasmania. The funeral took place on 13th August, at the Church where he had been a worshipper and Churchwarden for many years. Mr Baldwin was a longstanding member of the Society and it is hoped to include a more detailed obituary in the next edition of *The Patriot*.