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JULY 1992



OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

Chairman	T P Smith BA, MA, M.Litt., MIFA	School Flat, Dartford Grammar School for Boys, West Hill Dartford, Kent DA1 2HW
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Hon.Sec and Membership Sec	M Hammett ARIBA	9 Bailey Close, Lucas Road High Wycombe, HP13 6QA 0494 520299
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(who also receives all direct subscriptions £3 p.a.)

Enquiries Sec and Editor of 'Information'	D Kennett	27 Lords Lane, Bradwell Great Yarmouth Norfolk NR31 8NY 0493 668605
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(for enquiries on academic or historical matters and articles and items for 'Information')

Hon.Treasurer	Mrs Evelyn Hammersley	68 Bromley Heath Road Downend, Bristol BS16 6JT
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(only matters concerning the annual a/cs, expenses etc.)

Publications Officer and Bibliographer	Mrs A Los	"Peran", Plaxton Bridge, Woodmansey, Beverley E Yorks HU17 0RT
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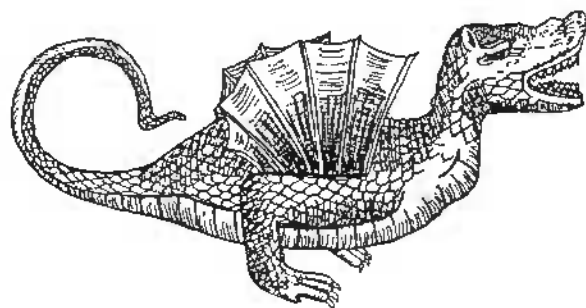
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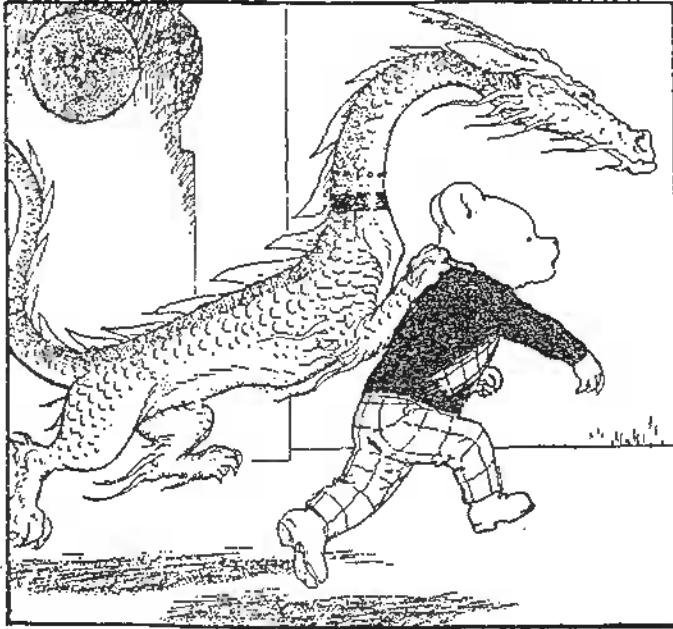
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EDITORIAL: THE DRAGONS BREATHE AGAIN!

This issue of Information has been built round many submissions about dragons and other terracotta beasts both as finials and as free-standing sculptures. One county survey was received and this has been printed as a separate article. Notes on the various individual sightings of dragons and their close relatives, wyverns, have been grouped together under a more general piece. Finally, the attempt has been made to list dragons/wyverns by English and Welsh counties and to provide a preliminary distribution map. Some foreign sightings, mostly from books rather than in the flesh, complete the record of dragons and their relatives.

Dragons/wyverns have now been reported from seventeen English counties and two in Wales. Six manufacturers in England and one in Wales are known. But whereas there are dragons and other beasts in some profusion in Sussex and Berkshire, extending across the river into Buckinghamshire, the local scene has none in Somerset and Denbighshire or at least none reported to the editor of Information. Perhaps Grendel's lair is too attractive as a hiding place.

Some contributors have called the beasts "dragons" and others "wyverns". In the survey of Sussex beasts, Ron Martin proposes the useful distinction of two legs = wyvern, four legs = dragon.

Shades, one might almost say of the pigs on Animal Farm but two beasts are clearly involved. It may prove useful to continue with the distinction.

The range of terracotta beasts continues to grow. As finials, kangaroos have been reported from Australia, and from Sussex there are sightings of a boar, a bull, various seahorses, and an assortment of birds including eagles in various guises. As free-standing creatures, Hove has monkeys and a bat in addition to dragons, while in Great Yarmouth there are bears. Maidenhead has a swan.

These are all very expensive. The ones produced in Ruabon cost the equivalent of two weeks wages of a bricklayer. And, indeed, the earliest dragon yet reported, constructed on top of a house built in 1875, appears hidden away above the laundry room of the largest late Victorian house in Luton. Appropriately the house was built for a brickmaker!

The retiring nature of the early dragon poses an interesting social question. Mr Forder's house has been described as "a wealthy but uninspired, gabled brick house". Clearly Professor Pevsner did not like it! However, the dragon

has a lowly status. Later beasts are meant to be seen: that was part of the cost. The now demolished 'Railway Hotel' at Aylesbury put the dragons on gables on the street front and over rooms which had balconies, indicating high status and presumably expense in hiring the room.

One interesting feature is the number which guard public houses and hotels. Our late member, Sidney Beadle, noted two public houses in Enfield and one in Tottenham with a total of six dragons in all. Ron Martin notes wyverns on public houses in Eastbourne and Lewes, and a dragon on one in Southborough, Kent. Did brewery architects have a penchant for specifying a dragon finial?

Clearly the hunt is not yet over. Members may wish to continue to send notes about dragons and wyverns, and other beasts guarding buildings, either on the roof or above the pediment. The editor can corral them for a season before letting them breathe in a future issue of Information.

This issue of Information has rather concentrated on dragons, wyverns, and other beasts. Partly this has been forced on the editor: apart from a lengthy piece by the chairman, the first of four parts of a multi-part article on the brick tax, to be included in Information 56 (November 1992), the box has virtually run dry.

Contributions would be gratefully received for consideration for inclusion in Information 56 and subsequent issues for 1993 and 1994. Some preliminary work will probably be done in the summer; the final setting will be done in the October half-term.

Many members will have read of the death of J.M. Richards on 26 April 1992. I was introduced to architectural history by his books, Modern Architecture, (1940, revised 1953) and that remarkable work The Functional Tradition in Early Industrial Buildings, (1958): well-thumbed, repaired even in a clumsy way, and certainly yellowing they sit on my shelves. They were amongst the earliest architectural history books I bought: the paperback of the former cost me 3s 6d, the hardback of the latter the magnificent sum of 36s. The second deserves the thanks of the British Brick Society for its photographs: the frontispiece is of the yellow stock brick of the west side of Cannon Street Railway Station built in 1865-66 for the South Eastern Railway. Flicking at will there is the yellow stock brick of the Quadrangle at Sheerness, of 1829; Stanley Mill of 1813 at Stonehouse; the high brick walls of St Katharine's Dock of 1828; the Stockport Railway Viaduct of 1841; various London breweries of 1796-1802, 1805, and 1831-36.

All of these were massive users of brick, and at the time bricks were taxed. More on this, at least as far as railways are concerned, in Information 56.

Looking again at Richards' The Functional Tradition I am reminded of a loss: Simpson's Brewery on the High Street at Baldock. It was there when Eric de Maré took the photograph but had gone a few years later. Also gone is Bullard's Anchor Brewery in Norwich, dating to 1868: I watched the ball and chain hitting it fiercely in 1978 or 1979.

One final building: the eight-storey maltings beside the River Stour at Mistley, a little to the east of where the train turns right and heads south-east to London. Each week, for a year, I saw the buildings; but when I went to find the iron gates on the road face, they were not there: my Norfolk grandfather, Henry Harrod, made them in 1933 or perhaps the year before.

As a postscript to the dragon hunt began by Terence Smith, can I draw attention to terracotta panels.

Members of the society who visited Reading on 31 August 1991 were marched north of the railway to a series of roads with names recalling the cities of South Wales. Street names doubtless were instituted to recall the opening of the Severn Tunnel in 1884 and even more the direct line, avoiding Bristol, in 1895. In the middle of housing of the 1860s and later is Swansea Road Board School: the Victorians made no bones about their educational philosophy. Three storeys high, fierce red brick in English bond. Below the centre gable is a terracotta panel signifying learning, a single moulding with a base of over 10 ft. Above this is the name panel of the school in specially made bricks. The date of 1898 is on the playground side opposite, again in specially made bricks with the elements of each figure hollowed into the stretcher face of the brick.

A building with which I am very familiar is Ship House, Buckingham Gate, London W1. It is now the London offices of the United Nations Organisation and its basement has a useful reference library. Built for a retired sea captain, of Dutch origin, in the 1890s, the house has a great terracotta panel showing Neptune and the spirits and implements of the Sea.

Can any member throw any light on these? Who had the skill to mould, or carve, such great panels, and who had the skill and kiln space to fire them? The London one is 15-16 ft wide, judging from the ground floor, and it fills the full width of the house just below the stepped gable.

David H. Kennett
Editor

SOMERSET CONNECTIONS

Brian J. Murless

As a result of the writer's research for the proposed Somerset Brick & Tile Museum, two Bridgwater companies are known to have advertised terracotta figures of mythical creatures.

In a catalogue of H.J. & C. Major (1) three finials are illustrated and a trade poster reproduced as a handbill by Barham Brothers (fig. 1) shows two further examples (nos. 364 and 371 in centre), (2).

Locally manufactured finials of this nature in situ have not been reported but given Bridgwater's important economic position in the brick and tile industry, it is probable that a large number were made for export to other parts of Great Britain and beyond.

Fig. 1 (overleaf) Trade handbill of Barham Brothers, Bridgwater.
The dragon finial is no. 371. (centre, right)
The serpent finial is no. 364. (centre, left)

[illegible]

One surviving building of interest to members of the British Brick Society is No. 2 Fore Street, Bridgwater. The facade displays the most extraordinary collection of what the local civic society has termed "Edwardian baroque" motifs. Above this is a hipped roof crowned by a massive brick chimney stack which is elaborately moulded. From its four corners writhing terracotta serpents project outwards.

References

- 1 Murless, B.J., 'Bridgwater Brickmaking Tradition', BBS Information, 54 (Dec 1991), 9 footnote 24; entries on pages 19, 21, and 23, numbered 17, 32, and 34 respectively.
- 2 Somerset County Library, Bridgwater; by whose kind permission fig. 3 appears.

OUT OF GRENDEL'S LAIR DRAGONS AND OTHERS

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In the course of the past eight months, the editor has received a number of short items about the sighting of dragons and other beasts. Some have been lists of examples in individual towns or a complete county; others have drawn attention to a manufacturer's catalogue. These are in order of receipt. Several draw attention to investigations needing to be done.

David H. Kennett

WYVERNS IN HERTFORDSHIRE

I prefer to call dragons in terracotta wyverns. The ones that occur in Hertfordshire are:

HERTFORD	42, 44 Raynham Street	1 wyvern
	36 Ware Road	3 wyverns
	131 Ware Road	1 wyvern
HITCHIN	31 Whitehill Road ('Highbury End')	1 wyvern
HODDESDON	'Rye House' (public house), Rye Road	1 wyvern

A complete list of the terracottas on buildings in Hertfordshire have been deposited in Hertfordshire County Record Office, Hertford.

A cognate subject is considered in L.E. Perrins, 'Brick Festoons in Hertfordshire', Hertfordshire Archaeology, 9, 1983-86, 193-197. These too date to the last decade and a half of Queen Victoria's reign (1885-1901). Among the manufacturers was S.E. Collier of Reading, a firm, I am informed, which also made wyverns.

Lyle Perrins

DRAGONS IN CHELTENHAM

Dragons have been sighted in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, in a variety of locations:

- 1 in terracotta on the roof of a corner house in the north-west of Wellington Square,
- 2 on the tea rooms in the middle of Pittville Park where Cheltenham waters used to be dispensed, also in terracotta,
- 3 in plaster with a brick core on the porch of 16 Albert Road,
- 4 unfortunately in cast iron, flying in circular formation round the top of many lamps!

Judith Patrick

A DRAGON OVER A LAUNDRY IN LUTON

Luton Museum is housed in a large house built in 1875, and from 1893 let to B.J.H. Forder, the prominent brickmaker. When Forder retired, the house became the home of Halley Stewart; the latter was the father of Sir Malcolm Stewart who brought together a number of brickworks in Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire to form the nucleus of the London Brick Company. The name of the house "Wardown" derives from Forder's house in Sussex, where he had lived before moving to Luton.

The house and adjacent outbuildings have a number of gables and ends of the ridges of hipped roofs crowned with finials of one form or another. At the top of the house, facing a rooftop courtyard used as the drying area, is a small room above which is a finial in the form of a dragon.

The room, which has a water tank and a large sink, served as the laundry room when it was a gentleman's residence. It is now used as a store for part of Luton Museum's extensive collection of palaeolithic flints.

David H. Kennett

A DRAGON ON A PORCH IN CAMBRIDGE

When members of the British Brick Society visited Cambridge in 1991, a brick dragon was seen on a porch of a house on the corner of Queens' Road and Sidgwick Avenue. Its date is unknown.

Terence Paul Smith

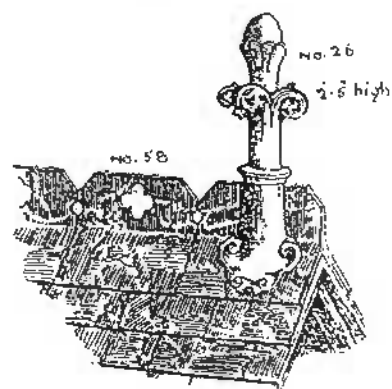
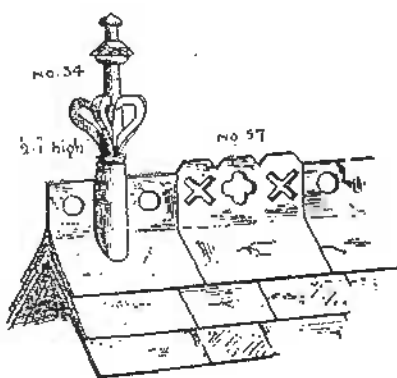
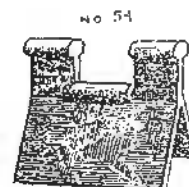
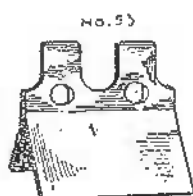
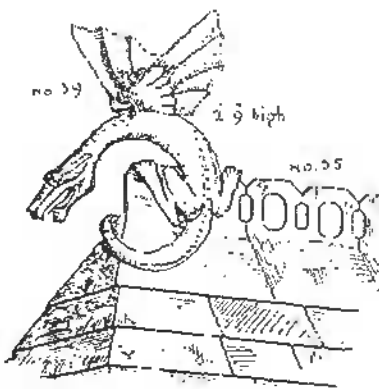
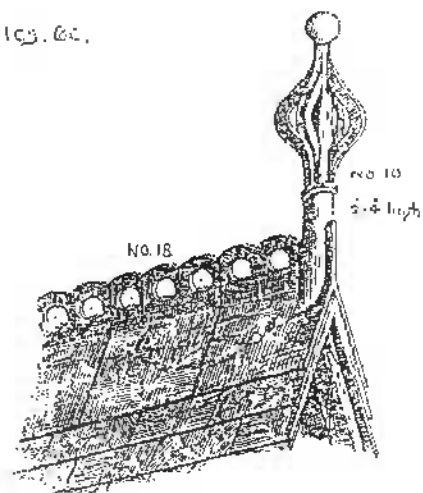
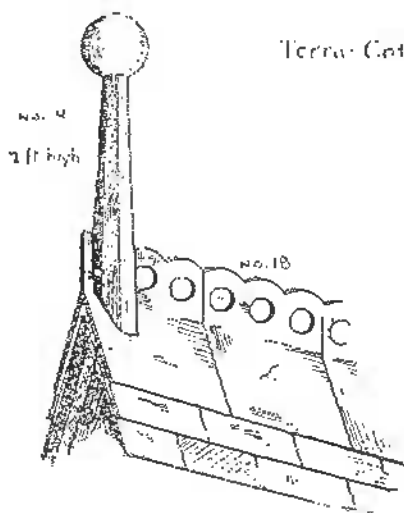
J.C. EDWARDS OF RUABON

In the firm's catalogue of 1890-91, J.C. Edwards of Ruabon, Denbighshire (now Clwyd), Wales, offered type 39, a finial for a hipped roof with a dragon with two legs and two wings gripping the ridge of the tile. The dragon is 2ft 9in (0.74m) high including the tile. For comparison, the other finials

Fig.1 (overleaf) Plate 45 from the 1890-91 catalogue of J.C. Edwards of Ruabon, showing terracotta finials, ornamental ridge tiles, etc., in red, brindled, buff, or blue.

J. C. EDWARDS & SONS

Terra Cotta Finials Ornamental Ridge Tiles, &c.,
in Red, Brimled, Buff or Blue.



NOTE: All ridge Tiles are made in 14 in. lengths unless otherwise specified

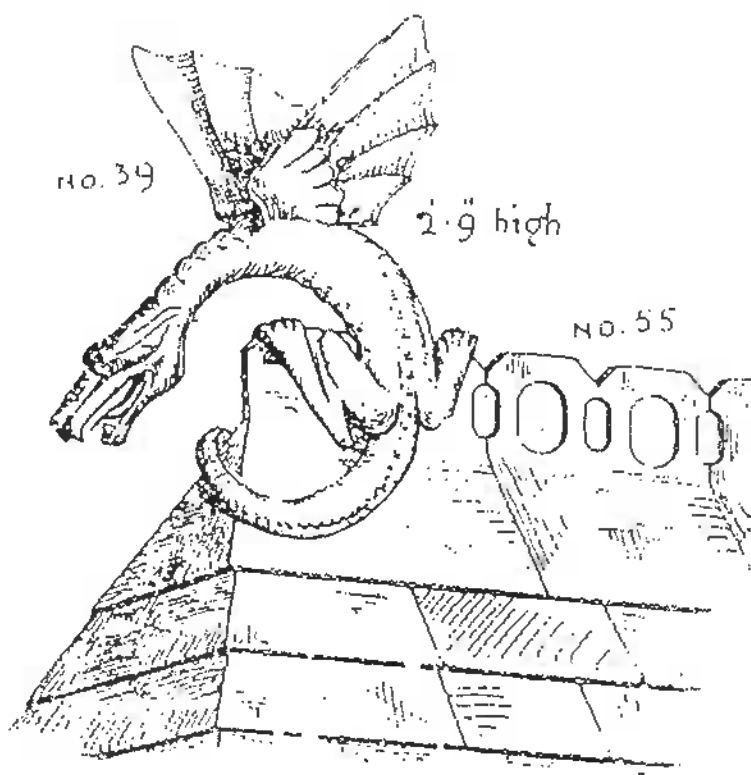


Fig.2 Enlargement of illustration of dragon finial from 1890-91 catalogue of J.C. Edwards of Ruabon.

four inches (100mm) or more shorter.

The price of the dragon finial was £3 10s 0d.

In 1895, the monthly wage of a cook in Liverpool was £2 13s 4d plus board; positions were advertised at £32 per annum. Houses, without dragons on their roof, were let in nearby Wrexham for £18 per annum, or £1 10s 0d per month, which at 6s 11d is well above the minimum property qualification of a rent of 3s 11½d per week (sc. £10 per annum) for the vote in parliamentary elections.

A decade after this, in 1906, bricklayers in Great Britain had an average pay of £94 per annum, or £1 16s 2d per week. In the same year, pottery throwers had a slightly greater income, £110 per annum, or £2 2s 3¼d per week, although some earned about the same as bricklayer. The incomes of those who made the dragons and those who fitted them would have been the result of two weeks work for the price of the dragon finial.

Gwynfor Williams
Michael Hammett
David H. Kennett

BEAVERS IN LONDON

I wonder if anyone knows about the three terracotta beavers that used to be on the parapet of a building on the south side of Oxford Street, London, at the Tottenham Court Road end? They were there in 1975 but I could not see them when I was there in 1990.

Edwin J. Rose
Norfolk Archaeological Unit
Gressenhall, Dereham NR20 4DR

DRAGONS IN SALISBURY

Two buildings in Salisbury, Wilts., have dragons on the roof gables.

A single downward-looking dragon with raised wings looks down on to the Market Square from the corner of Blue Boar Road and Castle Street (grid ref. SU/14403005). It is on the main gable. On gables over dormer windows are wooden spike finials.

On the roof of Concorde's Nightclub in St Marks Avenue (grid ref SU/15003080) perch four dragons. One is similar to the Market Square beast, a downward-looking dragon with raised wings; it is above a gable designating the principal entry. The three others are upward-looking examples (? all from the same mould) with raised wings, a long raised neck, and an open mouth with protruding tongue. Both types of dragon seem to have their tails threaded into a hole in the ridge/crest of the tile.

I have not been able to find out anything of the dates of these buildings or the dragon source.

Jo Mills



Fig. 3 Concorde's Nightclub, Salisbury

The downward-looking dragon is on the centre gable; two of the upward-looking ones are on the outer gables, and the third above the half-hipped roof, left of centre.

THE AYLESBURY MUSEUM DRAGON

In Information 49 (1990), 20, reference was made to the dragon finial now in the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury. This came from the demolished 'Railway Hotel' in Great Western Street. The hotel, described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "an engaging little horror", was built in 1898 and demolished in 1966 for Aylesbury's inner ring road.

A photograph, reproduced in E. Viney and P. Nightingale, *Old Aylesbury*, (Luton: White Crescent Press, 1976), pl. 64a, shows a veritable array of beasts. On the gable furthest from the camera is a wingless beast facing outwards. This is the dragon in the museum. It has feet with three claws at front and back: the front legs straddle the ridge of the tile, but both back legs are on the same side. It also has the tail threaded over the ridge of the tile. The backbone is emphasised by prominent scale plates. The head has a single horn. The mouth is open showing a protruding tongue, fearsome teeth and prominent incisors.



Fig. 4 The Aylesbury Museum Dragon from the former 'Railway Hotel', Great Western Street, Aylesbury.

On the principal gable of the hotel, which had exposed timbers showing and where the pole for the name-board was situated, is a four-footed, long-necked, downward-looking dragon with raised wings arched outwards from the spine. A second dragon of this type used to reside above a gable with clapboarding. The rooms below these gables had the central windows recessed and giving the illusion of access to small private balconies.

The hotel also had a number of upright finials on minor gables above rooms of lesser status. In addition, there was a balustrade to a first-floor balcony which had at least two (and possibly a third) globular finials on it.

Similar globular finials appear in Aylesbury on the central pediment of the now demolished Public Baths which stood at the junction of the old Friarage Road and Bourbon Street. These were opened in 1895 and demolished in 1960. Viney and Nightingale, *op.cit.*, illustrate this building as pl. 70b.

David H. Kennett
Jo Mills

LONDON DRAGONS

In the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, a number of dragons have been observed above houses in the vicinity of Sloane Square:

No 14 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1

No 44 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1

No 12 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1, has a pediment and base exactly the same as that on no 14 but no dragon; almost certainly there was one once.

I have also noted an illustrated dragon (similar to no 14 Lower Sloane Street) at 20-22 Pont Street, London SW1. It is pictured in Ian Hesselberg, London in Danger (London, 1986), no pagination. (The book was originally published as The London Book, 1980).

There are probably others in Pont Street and its environs. I am hoping to look for them in subsequent months.

Terence Paul Smith

A DRAGON ABROAD

Recently, I came across a reference to a dragon in Corsica. In Another Self, (London, 1970, reissued 1984), p. 117, James Lees-Milne writes:

a little provincial town (unnamed) on the main Bastia to Ajaccio road, (the house visited) had a front door within a Moorish arch. A terra cotta dragon leant perilously over a gable encrusted with shiny yellow mosaics.

The visit to Toi et Moi, the house, took place in 1933.

Terence Paul Smith

TERRACOTTA BEARS AT GREAT YARMOUTH

'The Two Bears Hotel', Southtown Road, Great Yarmouth, has a facade erected in 1910: the date is placed in the centre of a roundel in the pediment above the three centre bays of the south front. At either end of the top of the pediment is a three-quarters life-size brown bear. The bears sit upright with the outside paw in each case held out with the claws down-facing.

The structure of the building is much older than its facade. Eighteenth-century brickwork and fenestration were observed in 1990 during work on the west wall. The east wall, which goes alongside Cobholm Road, is generally thought to date to a mid-nineteenth-century refurbishment.

For many years, approximately 1859 to 1985, the hotel formed the north side of a square at the western end of Great Yarmouth's Haven Bridge; the west side of the square was the buildings of Southtown Station, the terminus of the East Suffolk Railway from Great Yarmouth to Ipswich and London Liverpool Street. The latter was built of white bricks made either at Somerleyton or Burgh Castle, places visited by the British Brick Society on its day in Lothingland in 1990.

David H. Kennett

DRAGONS, WYVERNS, AND OTHERS:

A List of Terracotta Beasts in Sussex

Betty Driver and R.G.Martin

The list of dragons, wyverns, and other terracotta beasts in Sussex was begun by Betty Driver of the Stanmer Preservation Society and has been collated and added to by Ron Martin of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society. It has also been extended to include a few examples from places just over the border in adjacent counties. The list as of February 1992 is printed as Appendix 1.

Most of the roof finials are defined as wyverns, that is a dragon with two legs and two wings. The term "dragon" is reserved for beasts with four legs and two or more wings.

Most of the beasts are roof finials, but a number of free-standing examples are known, particularly in Hove. These are marked * in the list in Appendix 1. The criterion for inclusion in the list is a terracotta beast not the presence of a terracotta beast on a roof finial.

TABLE

TERRACOTTA BEASTS IN SUSSEX AND ADJACENT COUNTIES

Type of Beast	Sussex	Kent	Surrey	Hampshire
Wyvern	56	1	2	
Dragon	9	1	6	1
Grotesque	4			
Bird	27			
Tufted Eagle	4			
Eagle	3			
Eagle's Head	3			
Dove			1	
Bull	1			
Boar	1			
Bat	1			
Monkey	2			
Camel's Head	1			
Sea Horse	2	5		
Totals:				
Wyvern/Dragon	65	2	8	1
Other Beasts	58	5	1	
Total Beasts	123	7	9	1

The authors are aware that many of the beasts and finials were made in Burgess Hill and Ditchling. However, it has not proved possible to identify the maker of many of them. One has been found with the maker's name inscribed:

PEAKES - TERRO-METALLIC

Can anyone throw any light on this?

There is a record of one Henry Johnson who took over the Ditchling works in 1873 and started making dragons and wyverns soon afterwards. It has been suggested that he started the fashion but there is no proof that this is so. It would seem that someone has read too much into a simple statement that

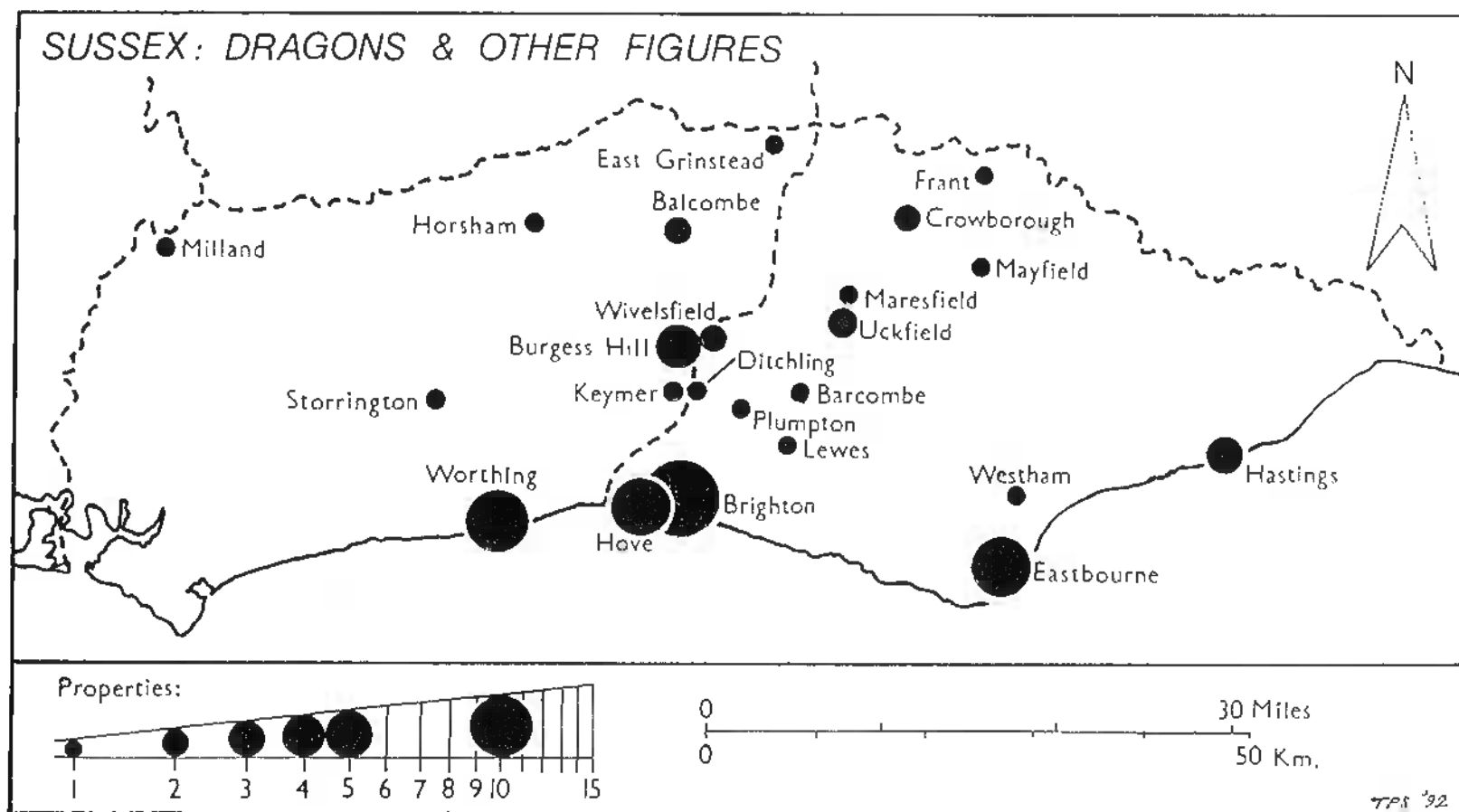


Fig. 1 Dragons and other figures in Sussex, mapped by properties.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MAP REF.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<u>EAST SUSSEX</u>			
BARCOMBE,	Hillside, High Street, Barcombe Cross	TQ 418 15	4 Wyverns
BRIGHTON,	3/5 and 7/9 Bellevue Gardens	TQ 3249 0401	2 Grotesques
	138 Dyke Road - Wiston's Nursing Home	TQ 303 054	4 Wyverns
	East Brighton Park Pavilion - re-roofed (Ex	TQ 339 038)	
	26 and 29 East Drive, Queen's Park	TQ 3231 0454	2 Wyverns
	8 Harrington Road	TQ 3032 0573	1 Wyvern
	London Road - "Homeleigh" (now in Brighton		
	Museum, Church Street. (Ex	TQ 300 080)	1 Wyvern
	59 North Street	TQ 3089 0429	1 Dragon
	261 Preston Drove	TQ 303 065	1 Wyvern
	45 Queen's Park Rise	TQ 3246 0476	1 Wyvern
	52, 56 and 58 Rugby Road	TQ 313 060	4 Tufted Eagles
	58 Rugby Road	TQ 313 060	1 Eagle
	66 Surrenden Road (Gone)		
	22 Tongdean Lane	TQ 2964 0764	1 Wyvern
CROWBOROUGH	Studland Caravans, Croham Road	TQ 517 310	1 Wyvern
	Sillwood Place, St. John's Road		2 Wyverns
DITCHLING,	(Ex) Beacon Road - now at Ditchling Museum	TQ 325 149	1 Wyvern
EASTBOURNE,	11 - 19 Gorringe Road	TQ 609 999	27 Birds
	78, 82 and 86 Victoria Drive	TQ 592 996	3 Eagle's heads
	84 Victoria Drive	TQ 592 996	1 Camel's Head
	Hurst Arms P.H., 76 Willingdon Road	TQ 597 000	2 Wyverns
FRANT,	Chase Cottage, Frant Road	TQ 585 363	1 Bull
HASTINGS,	5 Grosvenor Crescent, St. Leonards	TQ 789 089	1 Boar
	8 Grosvenor Crescent, St. Leonards	TQ 789 089	1 Grotesque
	1 Wychnour, Hastings Road	TQ 784 135	1 Wyvern
	(Ex "Normanhurst" in Catsfield)		
HOVE,	73 The Drive	TQ 2913 0519	1 Bat *
	77 The Drive	TQ 2913 0523	2 Dragons *
	5 and 9 Sackville Road	TQ 283 048	2 Monkeys *
	7 and 11 Sackville Road	TQ 283 048	2 Dragons *
	56 Wilbury Crescent	TQ 2970 0557	1 Wyvern
LEWES,	King's Head P.H., 9 Southover High Street	TQ 413 097	1 Wyvern
MARESFIELD,	Lodge to Oldlands Hall, Heron's Ghyll	TQ 481 273	1 Wyvern
MAYFIELD,	Tidebrook House, Coggin's Mill Road	TQ 609 292	5 Wyverns 1 Dragon 1 Grotesque
PLUMPTON,	"East View", Station Road, Plumpton Green	TQ 363 162	1 Wyvern
UCKFIELD	66 and 67 New Road, Ridgewood.	TQ 480 196	2 Wyverns
WESTHAM	Gurr Farm, Hanksam Street	TQ 618 061	1 Wyvern
WIVELSFIELD,	"Jack of Clubs", Eastern Road	TQ 342 198	2 Wyverns
	Clef House, North Common Road	TQ 355 201	2 Wyverns

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>MAP REF.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<u>WEST SUSSEX</u>			
BALCOMBE,	"Ringwood", Stockcroft Road	TQ 300 303	1 Wyvern
	"The Knoll", Stockcroft Road	TQ 300 303	1 Wyvern
BURGESS HILL,	(Ex) 23 Church Road - now in possession of F.M. Avery	TQ 315 299	1 Wyvern
	Grove House, Grove Road (Gone)		
	Nye Road, Keymer Brick and Tile Co. Ltd	TQ 321 192	3 Eagles
	54 Royal George Road	TQ 304 192	1 Wyvern
EAST GRINSTEAD,	102 London Road	TQ 381 384	1 Wyvern
HORSHAM,	35 Queens Street	TQ 176 303	1 Wyvern
KEYMER,	9 Stanford Avenue, Hassocks	TQ 301 156	1 Wyvern
STORRINGTON	St. Joseph's R.C. Convent, Greyfriars, Church St	TQ 085 139	1 Wyvern
WORTHING,	69 and 69A Grand Avenue	TQ 132 028	4 Wyverns
	(one wyvern removed to garage of No. 69A with one wing missing)		1 Dragon
	69B Grand Avenue		1 Sea Horse
	1 Heane Road	TQ 138 023	3 Wyverns
	212 Littlehampton Road - Gone	(Ex TQ 110 040)	(1 Wyvern
	42 Mill Road, Pentlands Nursing Home	TQ 129 028	(1 Sea Horse
	9 Queens Road,	TQ 142 023	1 Dragon
	18 Queens Road	TQ 142 023	1 Dragon
	349 Tarring Road	TQ 127 032	1 Wyvern
	9 West Avenue		1 Wyvern
<u>KENT</u>			
SOUTHBOROUGH	"Hand and Sceptre" P.H. London Road	TQ 577 428	1 Dragon
TONBRIDGE	North Frith	TQ 610 503	5 Sea Horses
	36 High Street	TQ 588 462	1 Wyvern
<u>HAMPSHIRE</u>	Milland Place	SU 832 283	1 Dragon
<u>SURREY</u>			
GUILDFORD	Dapdune Wharf	SU 993 503	1 Dove
LINGFIELD	1 - 4 Newchapel Road	TQ 384 435	2 Dragons
PURLEY.	2, 10, 12 and 20 Tudor Court, Russell Hill Road	TQ 312 616	2 Wyverns
			4 Dragons

"Mr Johnson started making dragons". However, on present evidence there does appear to be a greater number known in Sussex. If this is shown to be more than a distribution of where looking for dragons has been systematically done, there could be some justification for the claim about Mr Johnson.

Several examples of dragons and other beasts are probably free sculptures moulded on to the top of ridge tiles, but the majority are from standard moulds. It would be interesting to make a national survey to ascertain to what extent the patterns are common in different parts of the country.

It would be valuable to know what triggered off the fashion. Almost all the examples in Sussex are on houses built between 1880 and 1914. And although dragons have been used extensively as decoration in the past - the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, for example, is littered with them - the use of terracotta dragons and wyverns on roofs seems to be confined to this comparatively short period.

We thank T.P. Smith for the map which accompanies this listing and the commentary.

DRAGONS: A COUNT BY COUNTIES

David H. Kennett and T.P. Smith

The present note attempts to provide a national list of dragons as known to the authors on 1 June 1992. Only dragons are included in the list on page 1. Dragons are defined as those beasts with two or four legs and a pair of wings. Thus no distinction is made between dragons and wyverns.

Individual dragons are counted, not buildings. Thus, if like 'The Jolly Butchers', Baker Street, Enfield, Middlesex, there are two dragons on the roof, the record is two, not one.

Counties are taken to be those of the period when dragons were made, sc post 1870 and pre-1914. For convenience, it is assumed that the boundaries are those of 1888 to 1964. Thus Middlesex and Huntingdonshire exist, and London is the area of the London County Council.

This arrangement has the considerable advantage that it fits in with the standard reference books such as The Victoria County History of England, the series The Buildings of England: ... by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner and his collaborators, and sources useful for their photographs such as Arthur Mee, The King's England: ...

One attribute which needs to be addressed is the number of dragons. Vague descriptions such as "quite a lot of these dragons" and "dragons which spread their wings" do not unfortunately offer an exact quantification. It could be one or two houses each with a single dragon or ten or fifteen houses each with a dragon at the two ends of a hipped roof or on one or more gables.

On the map, counties are distinguished as those with dragons and other beasts and those which have been more fully surveyed. At present only Sussex may be said to qualify as the latter.

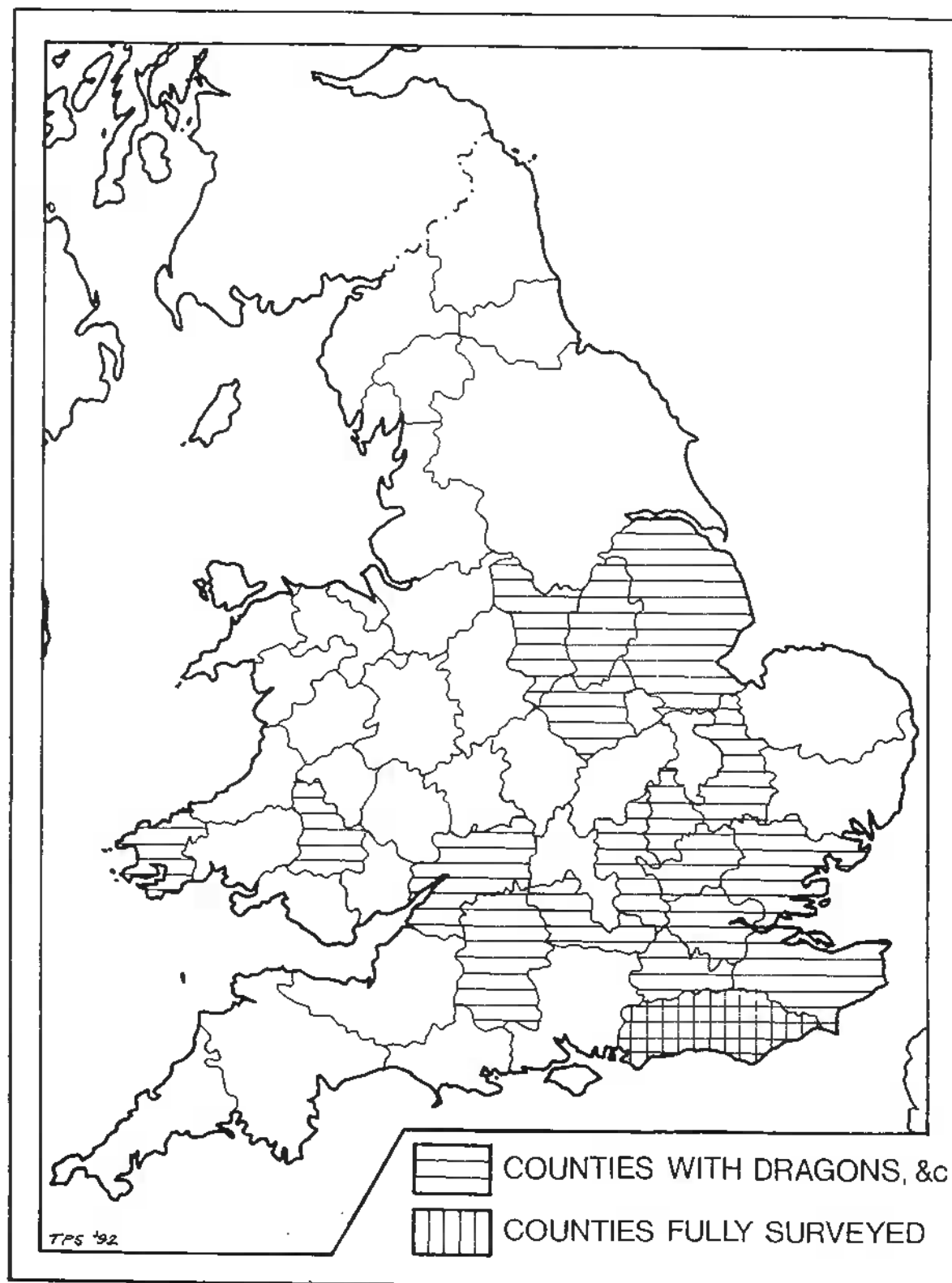


Fig. 1 Dragons and other beasts in England and Wales.

APPENDIX:
LIST OF DRAGONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Country County	Place	Number of Dragons
England		
Bedfordshire	Luton	1
Berkshire	Maidenhead	Several
	Reading	2 (+? more)
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	2
	Taplow	Several
Cambridgeshire	Cambridge	1
Derbyshire	Ashbourne	1
	Buxton	1
Essex	Chingford	2
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham	3
Hertfordshire	Hertford	5
	Hitchin	1
	Hoddesdon	1
Kent	Bromley	1
	Southborough	1
	Tonbridge	1
Leicestershire	Leicester	3
Lincolnshire	Sleaford	2
London	Dulwich	1
	Kensington	3 (+1 lost)
	Putney	3
Middlesex	Enfield	11
	Tottenham	2
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham	1
Surrey	Lingfield	4
	Purley	4
Sussex (East)	Barcombe	4
	Brighton	12
	Crowborough	3
	Ditchling	1
	Eastbourne	1
	Hastings	1
	Hove	1
	Lewes	1
	Maresfield	1
	Mayfield	6
	Plumpton	1
	Uckfield	2
	Westham	1
	Wivelsfield	4
Sussex (West)	Balcombe	2
	Burgess Hill	2
	East Grinstead	1
	Horsham	1
	Keymer	1
	Storrington	1
	Worthing	14
Wiltshire	Salisbury	5
Wales		
Pembrokeshire	St David's	1
	Tenby	1
Brecknock	Craig-y-nos Castle	2

JABEZ THOMPSON OF NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE

Brick Manufacturer and Salt Proprietor

Andrew Fielding

In 1842 the Thompson family set up an open pan salt works in Marston, Cheshire, which produced fishery salt, bay salt, various sized crystal salt and lump salt. The salt was pumped as 'wild brine' from 40 m beneath the works and evaporated in a large iron pan. The salt crystals formed were raked to the side of the pan and shovelled into tubs to form blocks of salt. The blocks were dried in the brick stove houses before being exported to India, Canada, and West Africa. Local salt was delivered by railway wagons before road transport became more popular.

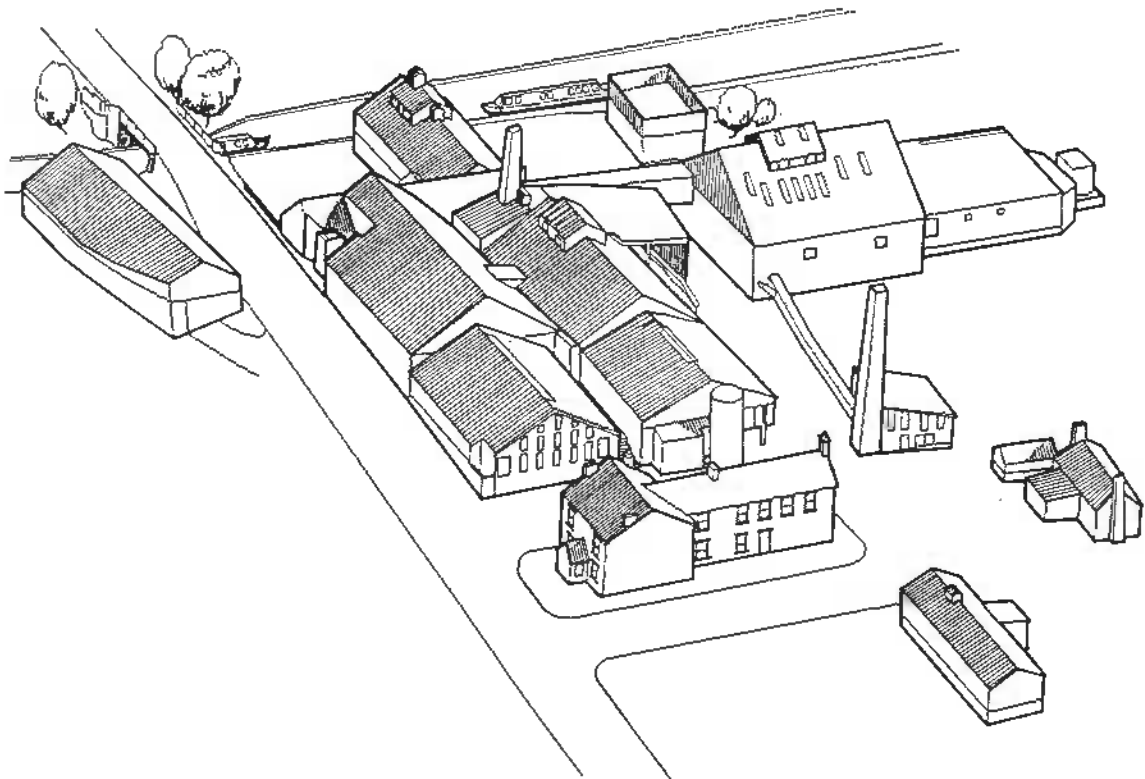


Fig. 1 The Lion Salt Works at Marston, near Northwich, Cheshire.

The Lion Salt Works closed in 1986 after the collapse of the West African market. A project is underway to restore the site as a working industrial museum, demonstrating the production of salt by the ancient method of open pan evaporation.

One of the Thompson family of Northwich was Jabez Thompson who carried on the business of both a salt producer and brick manufacturer. An advertisement from The Morris Directory to Northwich of 1874 is reproduced as figure 2 (overleaf). The Engineers and Surveyors Compendium of 1906 has a reference to his patent of "brick wood".

Jabez Thompson,
 BRICK AND DRAINING PIPE
 MANUFACTURER,
 ROCK AND WHITE SALT PROPRIETOR,
 NORTHWICH.

SALT WORKS —

The "ALLIANCE," Marston
 BRICK AND PIPE YARD,
 MANCHESTER ROAD, NORTHWICH.

MACHINE & HAND-MADE BRICKS

PIPES FROM 2 TO 12 INCHES DIAMETER.

Ornamental Bricks of any design under the sun.

PRICES ON APPLICATION.

ORDERS SUPPLIED TO ALL PARTS.

OFFICE:—WINNINGTON ST. NORTHWICH.

Fig. 2 Advertisement from The Morris Directory to Northwich, (1874), for Jabez Thompson.

Jabez Thompson and other members of his family lived in Sandiway and Cuddington, villages about 5 miles south-west of Northwich. Many of the houses here were designed by John Douglas, the local Chester and Cheshire architect.

Bricks stamped with Thompson's mark have also been found in the demolition of tracery windows at the Methodist Chapel, Poyser Street, Wrexham, Clwyd, Wales, nearly 30 miles away.

Further examples of Thompson's bricks and references to Jabez Thompson's brickworks and buildings constructed of his bricks would help my research into this local brickmaker and salt proprietor.

Andrew Fielding is Project Officer, Lion Salt Works, Marston, Northwich, Cheshire CW7 6ES.

AN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF ANCIENT BRICK

The General Shale Museum of Ancient Brick is at the headquarters of the General Shale Products Corporation in Johnson City, Tennessee, U.S.A. General Shale Products Corporation is one of the most successful and profitable brick companies in the U.S.A.

The museum was started in 1962 by George Sells, then vice-president of sales and now the company's chairman. It has an in-house curator, Basil Saffer. The collection has grown with the help of governments and archaeologists from all over the world. It includes a brick from the Biblical city of Jericho, dating to between 10000 and 8000 B.P. (sc. 8000-6000 B.C.), by courtesy of the late Dame Kathleen Kenyon. Another exhibit is a brick from the ziggurat of Ur of the Chaldees; one from Babylon is stamped with King Nebuchadnezzar's name and titles. In the collection are fired bricks from Kalibangan and other Indus Valley cities, belonging to the period 5000 to 4500 B.P. (sc. 3000-2500 B.C.). Other bricks dating to before the Christian era include specimens from ancient Egypt and the Sumerian city of Nippur.

Dating to the first millenium A.D. are bricks from ancient Rome and from Roman Britain. More recent are a twelfth-century brick from Soburg Castle, Denmark, one from the Great Wall of China dated 1584, and a brick from the first Governor's Residence, the oldest brick building in Australia.

Martin Hammond

Adapted from an article in Marley Mail, issue 21, 1987.

A BRICK COURSE

Horncastle Residential College, Lincolnshire, are holding a weekend course 'Bricks - Their History & Uses' (course number N901) on the weekend 4-6 September 1992. The tutor is David Robinson.

The programme includes the opportunity to visit a local disused brick pit and restored scotch kiln.

The cost is £79-00.

Further details from Horncastle Residential College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire LN9 6EW. Telephone 0507 522449.

BOOK NOTICE

I.R. Pattison, D.S. Pattison & N.W. Alcock (editors), A Bibliography of Vernacular Architecture Volume III 1977-1989
 Vernacular Architecture Group, 1992, £9-50
 144pp., ISBN 0-906259-01-0

Just as Information 55 was put to bed, the volume appeared. Copious with 2427 entries, backed by indices of authors, places, and journals. The latter regrettably do not include British Brick Society Information. The lacanna has been remedied for A Bibliography of Vernacular Architecture Volume IV. It may be that the next volume will have brick as a differentiated structural material, as is timber: at present it is necessary to look under 'Materials other than timber i Walls' where mathematical tiles appear quite prominently. Roofing materials also have a section to themselves.

Members of the British Brick Society figure in the index of names of authors. I have noted, amongst others, R.W. Brunskill, M.U. Exwood, T.P. Smith, R.K. Morris, A. Cox, D.F. Renn, T. Tatton-Brown, J.A. Wight, D. Yeomans, and W.J. Wright. It is probable some members have been omitted in this list, whose contributions include writings on brick in vernacular buildings.

DHK

BOOK REVIEW

Helen Arnold, A Book about Bricks
 Reading for Learning series, Level 1: Macmillan Educational Ltd, 1990
 24 pp., many colour illustrations; no price stated
 ISBN 0-333-47998-X

Some time ago I reviewed Terry Cash's excellent 1988 book for primary school children, entitled simply Bricks - see Information 50, October 1990, 20. Helen Arnold's new book is in a series designed to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and aimed at children of age 7 to 12. This book must be intended for pupils at the lower end of that range.

Beginning with a version of the nursery story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf ('I'll huff and I'll puff ...' etc). children are taught that a brick-built house is much stronger than one built of straw or wood. Actually, I don't suppose that there have ever been many houses built of straw in this country. As far as timber building is concerned: timber-framed buildings are not intrinsically weak; in fact, many well-built medieval and Tudor examples are structurally superior to many jerry-built brick buildings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. (Ironically, it is likely to be the more privileged schoolchildren, readers of this book who will live in timber-framed houses!) The third little pig informs readers about the nature, manufacture, and use of the material. Coloured drawings and some colour photographs illustrate different types and colours of bricks and methods of manufacture. The importance of mortar and of bonding is stressed, and the principal bonding types illustrated. Finally, a series of photographs shows the different stages in producing a handmade brick.

One of the frustrations of teaching children - especially young children - is that one is forced to simplify; and all simplification is falsification. In some measure this just has to be accepted. But to tell young children that 'There is English bond from 1450 onwards (Why 1450?), Flemish bond from 1650 onwards and Stretcher bond from 1930 onwards' does seem irresponsibly reckless, even with the qualification that 'We can often tell how old a house is by looking at the pattern of the bricks' (p.21, emphasis added). On the same page, the assertion that some buildings 'have no real pattern of bonding at all. That means they were built before 1450' is illustrated by a photograph of a post-medieval house in rubble stone walling (!), whilst the assertion itself is, to say the least, misleading. The use of the frog, to increase strength by holding mortar with the bricks laid frog down (p.15) is asserted with more confidence than most of us would care to

show. By implication, English, Flemish, and Stretcher Bonds are regarded as equally strong (p.22). And are bricks really 'baked' (rather than burned) in a kiln (p.15)? An explanation of the term 'frog' seems to be promised (p.6) later in the book, but never appears. Surprisingly, for the present day, nothing is said about the different textures of bricks - an important aspect well-introduced in Terry Cash's book. The use of differently coloured bricks to create patterns and pictures - and even writing and dates - is a topic which might be expected to appeal to young children, and is also important in its own right: it is not mentioned.

The book is attractively produced in a large (A4) format, and its tale is engagingly told by the little pigs. Yet it is marred by the over-generalisations, omissions, and straight-forward errors. If I taught children of the relevant age, I would not care to use it. The National Curriculum is curse enough, both in its rigidity and in its pointlessness, without the added burden of textbooks that need correcting as one goes along.

Asked to recommend an introductory text for young children, I should unhesitatingly choose Terry Cash's book, not this one.

T.P. Smith

BRICKS IN EDUCATION

About the same time as the foregoing book notice was submitted, notes appeared in the educational press about bricks.

Times Educational Supplement 11 October 1991 records 'Brickie's mates', the visit of Alison Sherratt's class at Riddlesden School, Keighley, to the Keighley Construction Curriculum Centre at the local college of further education. The latter has been developed with first schools (Key Stage 1 in the jargon) in mind. The dexterity of young children was a revelation to Mark Curtis, the bricklayer turned college lecturer, who shows children how to build a wall with real bricks. Mark Curtis is compiling work books and learning packs about the centre's work; subjects include 'Buildings and Materials', 'Houses and Homes', and Humpty Dumpty who needs a strong and attractive wall.

EG, supplement to The Guardian 29 October 1991 had a double page spread 'A matter of course', subtitled 'Bricks' complete with a wall containing pictures including bricks being made in Africa, the Tower of Babel, Ancient Egyptians making bricks, Digswell Railway Viaduct, the Great Fire of London, and a brickmaking factory. Main text covers other cultures, the Romans, and how bricks are made, and makes reference to the subjects illustrated. A box covers Bricklaying and bonds, the importance of the damp-proof course, and making bricks.

EG, supplement to The Guardian 11 February 1992 also reports on the Keighley Curriculum Centre.

Addresses are given:

The Keighley Construction Curriculum Centre, Keighley College, Dalton Lane, Annexe, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 2DF. Telephone 0535 618640.

Les Greenacre, CITB, Bircham Newton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6RH. Telephone 0553 776677.

DEK