

Not & Tittle Garum

A personal selection of Salisbury Cathedral, Museum and local history.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The great Erasmus (1466 - 1536) who is credited with being the spark that ignited the Reformation often came to England where he had a group of Christian Humanist friends. The principle contacts were Sir Thomas More (1478 - 1535) and John Colet (1467 - 1519). One of their greatest achievements was the educational reformation that revitalised the grammar schools and set a blue print for all future such schools.

John Colet (right, portrait by Holbein The Younger) was Chaplain to Henry VIII and Dean of St Pauls and inherited a rather run down grammar school. As he succeeded to a fortune from his father he was able to make major changes. Primarily this was to use Erasmus' ideas on education to form the ethos and teaching style of the school. As two of my cousins were lucky enough to be educated there, I can vouch for the quality of its teaching. St Paul's School was overseen by the Mercer's Company, the first time a non-church body was in charge of a school. As Colet wrote, the trustees were to be *patrones and defenders governours and Rulers*. It was the largest school in the country.



Originally, the school admitted 153 boys of *all nacions and countries indifferentlya*", focusing on literature and etiquette. They learned to argue and declaim a point of view using the techniques of grammar which fitted them for a career in the Church, in law, in politics and commerce.



In researching this topic I discovered that John Colet was also a canon of Salisbury Cathedral, holding the prebend of Durnford from 1503 to 1519. His stall coat of arms differs slightly from those now applied to the school (left). It should be on the Decani (south) side of the Quire and is shown in the Guide's Blue Book as opposite the gangway, but is not being displayed for some reason.

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

On the garth side of the cloisters, some of the buttresses have a recess cut into the face of the stonework. According to Roy Spring, Clerk of the Works (died 2012 aged 80), these were to receive the end of a prop which restrained any movement while the buttresses were undercut and extended. This work followed Christopher Wren's report that the cloisters needed reinforcing.

According to William Dodsworth, it was the custom from the outset that new residential canons should invite and hospitably entertain the Bishop for forty days, the Dean for thirty days and each canon for 20 days. This was later commuted to money - 100 marks (a mark was worth 13 shillings and fourpence) and 100 shillings. This was a lot of money; in terms of purchasing power, around £50,000 today.

There are two odd prebendaries that the canons could be awarded: Major Pars Altaris and Minor Pars Altaris. In stead of income provided by a parish church's tithes, these were a share of oblations given at the High Altar. They were created by Bishop Jocelin de Bohun (1142 - 1184) from a legacy of Saint Osmund. Originally the Major portion was part of the Bishop's income but this was exchanged for the prebend of Horton in 1219

Salisbury Cathedral Close is as old as the cathedral for which it provides the perfect setting and the city it adjoins. Its 83 acres make it the most spacious close in the country; its 13th century layout is unique. For the first 40 years of its existence it was a busy building site, and it continued so into the early 14th century when the spire was built.



Now the city's market was given its Royal Charter by Henry III in 1227 but in fact the Bishop obtained permission for a market from 1219. As the cathedral was not dedicated until 1258, we have the intriguing position of the market in operation before the cathedral. In order to build Salisbury

Cathedral in so short a time the workforce must have been very large. As they would need housing, clothing and feeding - not to mention relaxation - you can see why a market would be an absolute necessity.

You can also see from the two illustrations, how in Medieval times, market stalls developed from temporary units known as *shambles* to a more secure lockable affairs. In Salisbury these wooden buildings eventually became Oatmeal, Butcher and Fish Rows.

This change required the Bishop's permission but as he could then charge 2^d per perch (16.5 feet or around 30 square metres) rent there was no real problem.



In the Chapter minutes of March 1755, Lucy Hayter, widow, is appointed *seat carrier*. Has anybody any idea what this refers to? Later that year, William Bidlecombe died. His work was split between Higgons and Antrim (note no first names for the choristers and lowly workers), the first as *Church Pricker* and the second as *Writing Marker*. The first job involved marking parchment at equal intervals down each side. The tiny holes could then be joined by lines for writing or staves for music. But what is a Writing Marker's job - perhaps he ruled the lines between the pricks? This seems very laborious since printing was well established by 1755.

Read all about it!



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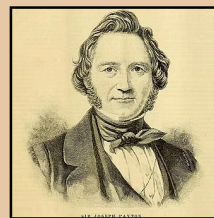
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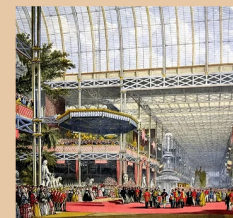
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