

PLATE XXXIII



Armorial Shield at Shrubland Park

NOTES

An Armorial Shield at Shrubland Park. Mr. Frank Girling, F.S.A., sends me a photograph (Plate XXXIII) of a heraldic shield, carved in stone, at Shrubland Park, near Ipswich. He writes: 'The shield is built into the wall of the terrace on the east (or, to be more exact, east-south-east) side of the house'.

The arms are FOWLE (*a chevron and a chief, the latter charged with three pierced mullets*), impaling MINGAY (*on a bend three leopards' faces*) and the crest is *a griffin's head erased*. This shield represents the marriage of John Fowle, of Broome, Norfolk (1666-1732) and Anne Mingay of Saxlingham (1665-1701); there is a tablet in the nave of Broome church with a similar shield in colour.¹

The connection of the Fowles with Shrubland is somewhat complicated. Sir William Middleton of Crowfield bought the estate shortly after 1795 and is reputed to have built most of the present house. He was created a baronet in 1804, having married, in 1774, Harriot Acton, daughter of Nathaniel Acton. She was also the niece of John Fowle of Broome (probably grandson or great-grandson of the John Fowle above) and from him she inherited the Broome Hall property; whereupon her husband, in 1822, assumed the name of Fowle before that of Middleton. Harriot also inherited the large Acton estates and died in 1852 at the great age of ninety eight. On her monument in Barham church it is recorded that:

her Christian virtues were justly honoured and cherished by those who enjoyed the blessing of her parental affection; and by all who dwell with grateful recollection on her warm friendship and active benevolence . . . her life was passed in the practice of the duties that religion enjoys and was closed in the hopes that it inspires.²

Only two children 'enjoyed the blessing of her parental affection'; Sir William Fowle Middleton, second baronet, who died without issue in 1860, when the baronetcy became extinct; and Sarah Louisa, who married Sir Philip Bowes Vere Broke, created a baronet in 1813. The two elder sons of this marriage died without issue and the Broke baronetcy expired in 1887, but the third son, Charles Acton Vere Broke, who had predeceased his two brothers, had an only child, Jane Anne, who in 1882,

¹ Farrer, *Norfolk Church Heraldry*, i., p. 115.

² Copinger, *Manors of Suffolk*, ii, pp. 244-5.

married the fourth Lord de Saumarez, who died in 1937. Thus, through a series of heiresses, did the Acton, Fowle, Middleton and Broke estates pass to the de Saumarez family.

We have seen that the Fowle-Mingay shield commemorates a marriage which probably took place about 1685-1695, whereas Shrubland Park was not rebuilt until more than a hundred years later. It seems likely, therefore, that the shield may have originally been at Broome Hall in Norfolk and was brought to Shrubland by Sir William Middleton and incorporated in his new terrace after his wife, Harriot, had inherited the Broome property from her uncle.

LESLIE DOW.

A 16th century Sprinkler from Ipswich. Search for material for the 'Ipswich through the Ages' Exhibition, held in the Wolsey Art Gallery during June and July, 1956, resulted in bringing to light a number of interesting relics of the town's past history. Among these was an earthenware sprinkler, used no doubt to allay the dust which accumulated on the rush-covered floors of the houses of the Tudor and Elizabethan periods. It had been found during excavations for the extensions to the premises of Tollemache's Breweries, Ltd., during the 1920's, and was made available for the Exhibition by the kindness of Lord Tollemache, of Helmingham, who has also given permission for the publication of this note.

The appearance of the sprinkler is best demonstrated visually, and is shown on Plate XXXI, which gives a good idea of the general form. There was, of course, a handle; the neck was approximately one inch higher, and was extended in front, behind the rose, to form a convex guard to prevent spilling. Measurements are as follows:—

Height to top of rose	11½ ins.
Greatest diameter	8 ins.
Diameter at base	5 ins.
Diameter of rose	5 ins.

The rose projects 3½ inches from the line of the body, and 2 inches from the rim to the apex, and bears a series of impressed circles, with interspersed perforations; its diameter is just over 5 inches. The handle has a pentagonal section, with rounded angles, one of which forms the inside of the grip; it is set 6¾ inches above the base, which has down-pressed thumbed decoration. The neck was ribbed, with a cordon at the junction with the body. The vessel is of reddish-buff clay, with green glaze on the rose, and running down the front of the body. This is the first sprinkler of its type to be found locally.