

JOHN IVES, F.R.S. AND F.S.A., SUFFOLK HERALD EXTRAORDINARY

1751 - 1776

A bicentenary recollection

by NORMAN SCARFE, M.A., F.S.A.

On 9 January 1776, at the age of 24½ years, one of East Anglia's most promising young antiquaries died of consumption.¹ John Ives was 'the only descendant of an opulent father and grandfather of the same name,' Yarmouth merchants with property in Belton and the Lothingland countryside.² He himself recorded³ that he was born 'in the South-end of the Town of Yarmouth', not far from the river which was still the county boundary (Plate XXV). He was thus a native of Norfolk, though rather a borderline case, like his friend 'Honest Tom Martin', his senior by over half a century, who had been born in Thetford, but south of the river in the Suffolk parish of St. Mary the Less, and who lived most of his life in a large house facing Palgrave church.⁴

At Palgrave, Ives came under the influence of the jovial successor to one of the most valuable of all the private East Anglian historical collections, those of Peter le Neve (1661-1729), whose widow Tom Martin married. The papers came with her, and provided the backbone of the *History of Norfolk* begun in 1736 by Martin's boon

¹ Born 14 July 1751, see below, p.301, *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, sub Ives, mistakenly says his death was on 9 June 'having just entered his 25th year', which would be wrong even if June were right. A. I. Suckling, *History and Antiquities of Suffolk*, 1 (1846), p.305, says he died 'at the early age of 25 years.' The Rev. Leslie Ward, rector of Belton, kindly confirmed from the register that Ives was buried on 14 January 1776.

² John Ives, *Remarks upon the Gariononum of the Romans*, anonymous Preface, by Dawson Turner, to 2nd edn. (1803), p.vii. C. J. Palmer, in *The Perilustration of Yarmouth*, II (1874), p.71, quoted the tradition that the grandfather was 'worth £50,000', a fortune his son 'more than doubled.'

³ See below, p.301, and engraving, Plate XXV. The house he was born in had been the home of his father's first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Robert Emms: Palmer, *op. cit.*, II, p. 379. It has been destroyed.

⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, sub Martin: the house was demolished in 1859. Mr. Paul Rutledge, Norfolk's Deputy County Archivist, who has kindly suggested a number of improvements to this article, notes that the MS memoir of Martin by Sir John Fenn, 1784, is now in the Norfolk R.O. (MS. 357, shelf T131A). The late Eric Pursehouse showed that the large house Martin came to live in at Palgrave in 1723 stood on the west side of the Green, opposite the 1853 school; and that it had served as Elizabethan grammar school, and went on to serve as Mr. and Mrs. Barbauld's celebrated school before being pulled down: *Waveney Valley Studies* (Diss, n.d.), pp. 119-125.

companion, Francis Blomefield.⁵ Ives first went to Palgrave to meet Martin one June day in 1770, only nine months before the hard-drinking old man's sudden death.⁶ By then, Martin had lost his legal practice and his money and was reduced to selling some of his richly annotated books.⁷ But, through young Ives, he was 'pleased to communicate several curious original papers' to another of Ives' older friends, the Yarmouth schoolmaster, surveyor, land-and-window tax collector, mapmaker and historian, Henry Swinden.

Swinden published his *Proposals* for printing by subscription 'The History and Antiquities of Great Yarmouth' back in 1767: subscribers were promised 'about 500' pages quarto, on 'superfine Paper,' for a guinea. When the massive book appeared, in the spring of 1772, a spirited and effective Preface by Ives explained that Swinden had 'closed his life and his work together—the last sheet was in the press at the time of his decease.' The 110 subscribers (apart from Yarmouth Corporation, which had voted £50 in return for ten copies), got nearly twice as many quarto pages as they bargained for: 957, as well as addenda and an index. The brief Elizabethan MS history of the town, long presumed to be by the elder Henry Manship and not published until 1847, and lately ascribed to Thomas Damet, was evidently acquired by Ives from the late Tom Martin's collection just too late for embodiment in Swinden's work,⁹ which nevertheless provides an invaluable series of documentary chapters on Yarmouth's strange history.

Ives' association with Swinden must have been a most useful experience for him. Like a sensible editor, he had his own copy of the book specially interleaved, to carry his notes as additional material came to light over the years: this doubled his copy to

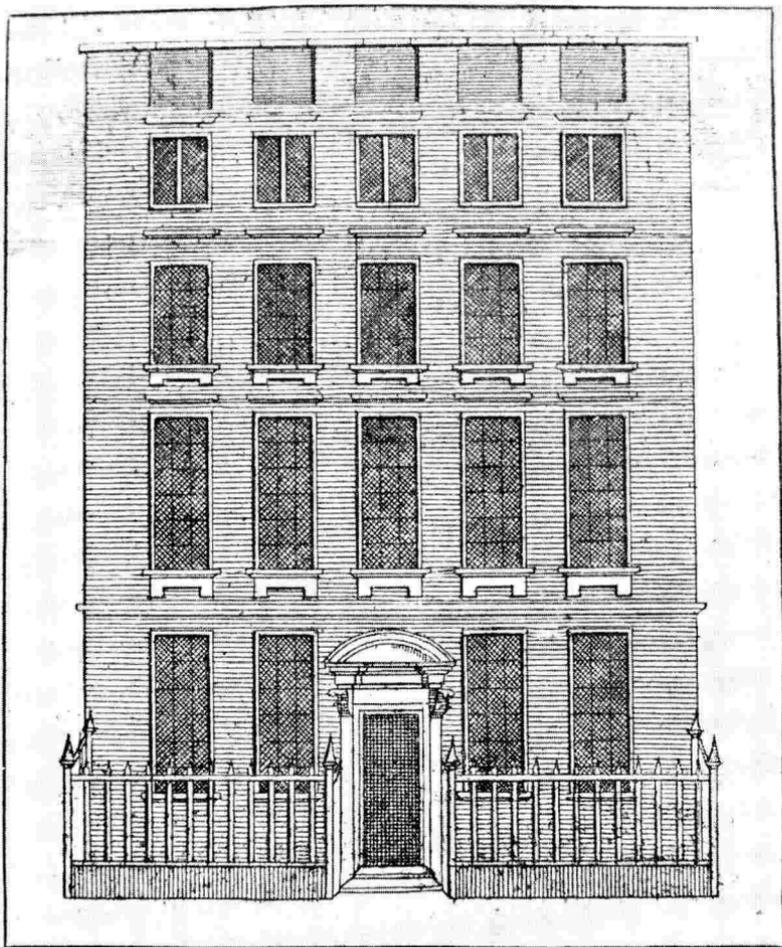
⁵ Francis Rye, *Calendar of Correspondence and Documents relating to the family of Oliver le Neve* (Norwich 1895), pp.xv-xvi, and cf. *Dict. Nat. Biog. sub* Blomefield.

⁶ See below, p.302, and *Dict. Nat. Biog., sub* Martin.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Two subscribers had meanwhile died, including Martin. An unbalanced, supercilious review of the book appeared in *The Critical Review*, September 1773, the reviewer devoting 2½ pages to the style of Ives' 4½-page preface, and 3 pages to the remaining 1,000 pages of the work: the affairs of 'such a town. . . may be thought matters of consequence to its inhabitants, but are little deserving the attention of the public in general.' Ives duly preserved in his copy this piece of metropolitan impertinence. When Edmund Gillingwater came to publish his *Historical Account of the Ancient Town of Lowestoft*, in 1790, he was content to refer his readers to Swinden for the records of the Yarmouth side of his story, for instance the 13th-cent. disputes over trading rights between Yarmouth and Lothingland: p.9, footnote.

⁹ Ed. C. J. Palmer, *A Booke of the Foundation and Antiquitye of the Towne of, Greate Yermouthe* (Yarmouth, 1847), p.xi: 'Ives wrote his name . . . on the inside of the cover with the date 1772.' Ives quoted from it in the *Remarks upon Gariononum* (1774), p.7. For Paul Rutledge's recent convincing ascription of the work to Thomas Damet, see *Norf. Arch.*, xxxiii (1965), pp.119-30 and xxxiv (1968), pp.332-4. The MS is now in the Norfolk R.O.



‡ In this House, which is situated
 in the South-end of the Town of
 Yarmouth, I John Ives was born
 on Sunday July 14th 1751. O.S at
 half past eight in the morning.

J. Ives



J. S. pinx.

P. Lamborn fecit

John



J. Ves

nearly 1,000 *leaves*, calf-bound in two stout volumes.¹⁰ When they arrived from the binder, he wrote, in a small, fine hand, a review of his life up to date, at the end of April, 1772. It was easily contained on three of the four sides of a quarto folded sheet which remains, as he fixed it, in the back of the first of those volumes.

The 200th anniversary of John Ives' untimely death seems a proper occasion for publishing his few surviving autobiographical notes. Not intended, like that Preface to Swinden, for publication, they remain artless and factual, but they add important details about his education; in this, and in other respects, correcting both Dawson Turner's (anonymous) memoir, with which, a generation later, he prefaced the 2nd edition of Ives' little book *Remarks upon Gariononum*, 1803, and Thompson Cooper's outline of his life in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, 1908.¹¹ In allowing Ives to alter with his own words the existing published perspectives of his first twenty years, we create a favourable opportunity to glance at the remaining four, and at a rare etching, by Peter Lamborn, of his portrait (Plate XXVI). First, his manuscript, to which I have applied some modern punctuation:

'I, JOHN IVES, was the Son & only Child of John Ives of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk, Esquire, by Mary, his second wife, daughter of Mr James Hannott, Merchant, & Mary his Wife. I was born on the 14th of July 1751 at about half an hour after Eight o'Clock in the morning.¹²

When I became of proper age I received the first instruction in the English Language from the Revd. Mr Whiteside, minister of the Congregational Church at Yarmouth.¹³

¹⁰ I bought them some years ago in Messrs. Halliday's bookshop, New Walk, Leicester: provenance unknown. They will go to the Norfolk Record Office.

¹¹ The *D.N.B.* article on Ives erroneously attributed Dawson Turner's editorship, and the invaluable prefatory memoir, to the Rev. Sir John Cullum (who had himself died of consumption in 1784). The *D.N.B.* article on Dawson Turner (1775-1858) claimed rightly for him the editorship: it squares well with the contents of the memoir. Mrs. Margaret Statham kindly investigated the matter in the Cullum Library at Bury St. Edmunds, and found that the Cullums' own copy of the 2nd edn. bears the ascription in ink, probably in Sir Thomas Gery Cullum's hand, of the editorship to Dawson Turner: that surely clinches the matter. Dawson Turner himself acquired Ives' copy of Swinden, with his MS notes, years later, in 1848, from a bookseller, J. H. Burn, of St. Martin's Lane. Burn's letter to Turner is stuck into Vol. I.

¹² Old Style. The removal of the period 3-13 September 1752 from the calendar, by Chesterfield's Act, meant that the calendar-span of Ives' brief life was further reduced by 11 days.

¹³ Palmer, *op.cit.* II, p.71, noted that Ives' great-grandfather Thomas, son of John Ives of Swaffham, settled in Yarmouth, was admitted member of the Congregationalists in 1678, and died in 1711. In the same volume, at p. 401, Palmer cited without query a very erroneous pedigree of Ives, in which the antiquary was supposed to be descended from another Thomas Ives, a merchant of Spalding, who was elected a member of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society in 1731. Mr. N. C. Simson, the present Hon. Secretary of that Society, has kindly helped to resolve this confusion.

- 1762 April 27 I went to Norwich and was put to the Free School under the Care of the Rev. Mr Symonds—but afterwards went to a private School kept by Mr William Pagan, an excellent Grammarian and Master of 8 languages. Here I learned Latin. The Revd. Mr Bruckner taught me French & Mr John Massingham Writing.
- 1767 April 25th I returned home from Norwich. About this time I began to apply myself to the study of British Antiquities.¹⁴
- 1770 June 12 I went to Palgrave in Suffolk and there became first acquainted with that curious and eminent Antiquary Thomas Martin Esq^{re}.
- 1771 March 7 My Worthy Friend Mr Martin died suddenly in his Chair¹⁵
 March 15 I went to Palgrave & offered my assistance in settling the affairs of my late friend—I returned the 18.
 April 23^d about 7 in the evening I first entered London & lodged in Warwick Court, Holborn.
 May 2^d I went to the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries in Chancery lane & shew them my Rosicrucian Roll.
 May 5 I first saw his Majesty King George 3^d
 —10 I saw the British Museum for the first time.
 I went to Windsor and staid there till May 18. I went to Rochester & returned to London 20th.
 May 28th I left London & came to Yarmouth.
 June 13 I was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.¹⁶

¹⁴ Dawson Turner, himself the son of the head of the Yarmouth bank, and somewhat privately educated by the excellent Robert Forby, stayed barely a year at Cambridge and entered his father's bank. He had this to say of Ives' education (preface to 2nd edn. of *Gariononum*). 'At an early period of his life, he discovered strong symptoms of application and abilities which . . . only required the fostering care of a literary education. . . This important duty was, however, neglected; for, a more than usual portion of his youth was passed under female tuition, and, tho' he was afterwards placed in the Free School in Norwich, he was removed thence before it was possible for him to have acquired any competent knowledge of Greek and Latin. . . His next employment was in his Father's counting-house; an employment far more congenial to the wishes of his parents than to his own inclination, and he therefore, as far as lay in his power, devoted his time to the cultivation of that taste for Antiquities . . .' Turner evidently knew nothing of Mr. Pagan's contribution when he wrote this memoir.

¹⁵ From Thomas Martin, according to Turner, 'he obtained much knowledge in Antiquities, as well as some singularity of manners, which marked his personal appearance and habits: from him, too, he learned to neglect all other branches of Science, and to pride himself alone upon his antiquarian researches . . . had he been gratified in his desire of residing at Cambridge, it can hardly admit of a doubt that he would have ornamented them with the elegance of classical taste and dignified them by an application to their genuine object, the elucidation of history.'

¹⁶ 'He was more proud of this honor,' wrote Turner, 'than he would have been of a peerage.'

I went to Palgrave to settle Mr Martin's affairs & staid there ¹⁷ till

October 12th Died My Grandmother Anne Ives aged 90.

October 15th She was interred in my Grandfather's Grave at the West end of the Parish Church of Belton in Suffolk¹⁸

1772 January 11th My old Friend Mr Henry Swinden, Author of the History & Antiquities of Great Yarmouth, 4^{to}, 1772, died about 6 oClock in the morning. He left me and Mr Joseph Ainger his Executors.¹⁹

January 15th he was interred in the north Isle of St Nicholas's Church, Yarmouth.

March I caused a han[d]some mural monument to be placed over his Grave with this Inscription:²⁰

Near
this Place are
deposited the remains of
HENRY SWINDEN
Author of the History & Antiquities
of
Great Yarmouth
Who died 11th Jan^y 1772 aged 55.
To whose Memory
This marble is erected
By
John Ives. F.S.A.

¹⁷ It was presumably while he was going through Martin's papers that he found two letters that he inserted into his copy of Swinden. Dated 1752 and '53, and one of them a copy in Martin's hand, they were written by the scribbler and physician Dr. Ralph Schomberg, who was practising in Yarmouth and had 'had thoughts a long time' of writing a history of the town. 'For want of proper materials,' he approached first Blomefield's widow, then Tom Martin. By 1761, doubtless still in want of those materials, he moved to Bath, where he attended Gainsborough's family and stood for the splendid portrait now in the National Gallery.

¹⁸ The location of his grandfather's property in Belton has not been established. In 1793, his father died in adjacent Bradwell, at Hobland Hall, the lease of which he seems to have acquired after 1774.

¹⁹ 'Not content,' wrote Turner, 'with having during the author's life assisted him with his purse, he afterwards superintended the publication for the benefit of the widow.'

²⁰ The monument was destroyed by enemy action in 1942. A new one, not with the original wording, replaces it.

March 7 I paid Mr Lamborn of Cambridge four pounds for etching a small portrait of My late Worthy Friend Mr Martin. It has this inscription at the bottom:

THOMAS MARTIN

Philarchaios

Suffolkiensis

Honoris et Gratitude Ergo Voluit Johannes Ives. S.A.S.

April 22^d I went to London & lodged near Norfolk Street in the Strand.

April 23^d St George's Day. I dined at the Mitre in Fleet Street, being the anniversary Dinner of the Society of Antiquaries.

Leaving himself at dinner with his fellows, he ended this sketch of his formative years. In that year, the Royal Society admitted him to its fellowship. In 1774, by favour of the Earl of Suffolk, the office of Suffolk Herald Extraordinary was revived for him; valuable for the access it afforded him to the manuscripts of the Heralds' College. Suffolk Herald was a title in use during the Hundred Years' War and again in Henry VIII's reign. It was revived for Robert Dale, who became Suffolk Herald Extraordinary in 1707. Since then only Ives has held the title.²¹

The story is best completed by Dawson Turner: 'He surprized his friends by eloping with Miss Kett,²² of an ancient family in Norfolk, to whom by a special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury he was married at Lambeth Chapel on 16th July 1773 . . . His parents at first expressed much dissatisfaction at this matrimonial expedition; but he was agreeably surprized, on his return to Yarmouth, to find a house completely fitted up for his reception,²³ and an annual allowance settled upon him . . . From this time he devoted himself exclusively to the pursuit of

²¹ *The Complete Peerage*, xi, Appendix C, p.87. I am grateful to Sir Anthony Wagner, Garter Principal King of Arms, for directing me to this appendix on heralds extraordinary.

²² Sarah, daughter of Wade Kett, of Lopham. Not all his friends were surprised. Daniel Bonhote, the Bungay attorney whom he paid to acquire seals and monumental brasses for him from Dunwich (E. R. Cooper, *Memories of Bygone Dunwich*), wrote to him before the elopement (C. J. Palmer, *op.cit.*, III (1875), p.396): 'I heartily wish some fair one would hook you so deep as not to be erased by every pretty face you meet. I have a very great notion that Miss Kett will still be the lady after your own heart. From your description she is well qualified to make anyone happy. Be not obstinate therefore, but submit to the silken fetters. It you have any regard for her—strike—I say.'

²³ In Middlegate Street, between Rows 135 and 140 (Palmer, II, p.401). Here he established his museum and printing-press.

literature, but his health shortly after began to be impaired: during the autumn of 1775 he was much indisposed, and on 9th January 1776 he died of a deep decline.'

Ives' Victorian successor as antiquary in Lothingland, the Rev. A. I. Suckling, saw fit to denigrate him, in his own account of the parish of Belton.²⁴ 'Mr Ives was possessed of a quick and lively fancy, but seems to have been deficient in sound antiquarian learning.' One must say what needs to be said in Ives' defence. The first defence must naturally be his youth, and here it is surprising to find Suckling, who so assumes a sufficiency 'in sound antiquarian learning,' carelessly translating '*Aetat.XXV*': 'at the age of 25 years', a slip no doubt. *Aetat.XXV* can be understood to mean only 'the 25th year of age,' i.e. 24. Suckling seems to have had no compunction in using Ives' material, as in his own description of Oulton church.

In the outline of his life for the year 1771, it is odd that Ives mentioned neither the issue during that year of the (anonymous) printed prospectus²⁵ of his 'History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Lothingland', nor his assiduous researches towards that History. Though it was never published, there is a copy in the British Museum,²⁶ and there are odd pages of the MS notes scattered now among several repositories.²⁷ His church notes are careful, distinguished by their neatness, signed with his monogram and dated. Sending me a photocopy of the proof-plate Ives prepared of his illustration of the early 14th-century brass effigy of a knight in Gorleston church, Dr. J. M. Blatchly observes that the drawing was Martin's but the etching was Ives' own work. Though the result is hardly assured, it does show the brass before Craven Ord purloined it: by the time it was recovered for the church, the bottom of the brass had been lost, with the boar on which the feet rested.²⁸ We thus owe Martin and Ives one element in the heraldic composition that may yet lead to a confident identification of that punctiliously ailetted knight.

²⁴ *Op.cit.*, I (1846), p.305.

²⁵ Dr. J. M. Blatchly, our President, kindly notes that a rare copy is stuck into Craven Ord's own grangerised *Suffolk Traveller*, Bodley MS, Top.Suff. b.2.

²⁶ Add. MSS, 19,098.

²⁷ Dr. Blatchly reports some among the Martin notes in the S.R.O. (Bury) a page or two in Ord's *Suffolk Gentry* (Ipswich, S.R.O. Library), and 7 folios in Iveagh MS. 75 at Elveden. *Brit. Arch. Assoc. Jour.*, xxi, pp.158-9, carries a list of MS Suffolk collections in the College of Arms. 10 of the volumes listed were 'sometime in the possession of John Ives, Esq., Suffolk Herald.' Vol. 9 includes notes on Burgh church and castle by Martin and Ives. Vol. 10 includes notes by Ives on the Ives family.

²⁸ John Sell Cotman, *Engravings of Sepulchral Brasses in Suffolk* (1838), p.4.

Suckling at least acknowledged his quotations from Ives. Edmund Gillingwater embodied the substance of *Remarks upon Gariononum* almost *verbatim* in his *Historical Account of Lowestoft*, 1790, pp. 33-39, without quotation marks or any but the most perfunctory acknowledgement in a footnote. *Remarks upon Gariononum* leaves a modern antiquary with an impression, clean different from Suckling's, that Ives, for his time and his relative youth, had a very sound approach. 'There is one thing remarkable in the Tract,' Ives claimed in his Advertisement; 'that the general connection between the letter-press and the Plates is reversed; for here, the former is to be considered only as illustrative of the latter.' The second plate is of particular interest, based on an old map in the Yarmouth Corporation 'hutch', drawn *temp.* Elizabeth I and showing the waterways at the mouth of the Yare as they may be presumed to have been *c.* A.D. 1000.²⁹ This is of course the necessary first step to understanding Burgh Castle's site in relation to Caister, Norwich, and so on. The fifth plate reproduced rough drawings of two 'Roman urns'. These are now seen to be Anglo-Saxon urns of the 5th century.³⁰ But the important contribution of Ives is to have drawn and published them.

A wide range of both classical and contemporary authorities was cited to support his arguments, and was properly combined with a close examination and description of the physical remains: 'The mortar made use of by the Romans in general, and upon this occasion in particular, was composed of lime and sand unrefined by the sieve, and incorporated with common gravel and small pebbles. From the pits at Belton they procured the first, and their own beach afforded an ample supply of the latter.' He then described the detailed processes of building.

In each of the years 1773, 1774 and 1775, Ives printed from the originals in his own collection *Select Papers chiefly relating to English Antiquities*. They included Archbishop Sharp's 'Remarks upon our English coins, from the Norman Invasion down to the end of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth', Sir William Dugdale's 'Directions for the Search of Records and making use of them . . .' and Blomefield's 'Annals of Gonville and Caius', the college where Ives himself would so gladly have resided. The first of these *Select Papers* was dedicated to Horace Walpole, who had himself begun in 1772 to publish, from the Strawberry Hill Press, a similar series called *Miscellaneous Antiquities*.³¹ The tenuous contact Ives thereby established with Walpole was the means of preserving a few additional sources of evidence about his life.

²⁹ Paul Rutledge informs me that a map ascribable to Thomas Damet and formerly in the town hutch is now kept with the borough charters at Yarmouth Town Hall. What Ives engraved was a variant 'based', he said, on that map.

³⁰ See my *Suffolk Landscape* (1972), p.72.

³¹ R. W. Ketton-Cremer, *Horace Walpole* (2nd edn. 1946), p.280.

That it was tenuous is clear from the enquiry Walpole addressed to the Cambridge antiquary, the Rev. William Cole, on 20 February 1777.³² 'Pray, can you tell me the title of the book that Mr Ives dedicated to me. I never saw it, for he was so odd (I cannot call it modest, lest I should seem not so myself) as never to send it to me, and I never could get it.' One particular item in Ives' collection Walpole knew of from their mutual acquaintance Joseph Strutt, author of the pioneer volumes on the *Manners, Customs, Arms, Habits &c. of the Inhabitants of England*, whose 2nd volume was newly out when Walpole wrote to tell Cole that Strutt 'showed me two or three much better drawings from pictures in the possession of Mr Ives. One of them made me very happy: it is a genuine portrait of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester'.³³ This portrait of Duke Humphrey was part of a hinged altar-piece from Bury St. Edmunds abbey that Ives had from Tom Martin and that Walpole bought for £20, '(immensely dear),' when Ives' coins, medals, ancient paintings and antiquities were auctioned by Messrs. Langford of Covent Garden, 13 and 14 February, 1777.³⁴ In 1842, this remarkable altar-piece, fully described in the same letter to Cole and in Walpole's *Description of Strawberry Hill*, was knocked down to the Duke of Sutherland, at the Strawberry Hill sale, for £63.10s.³⁵

Cole lent Walpole his copy of Ives' tracts, and Walpole expressed his intention to buy them for himself at the sale (by Messrs. Baker and Leigh on 3-6 March 1777) of Ives' library. He had evidently also bought some stained glass from Ives' collection, for he wrote that most of the pieces 'had suffered so much by being brought to London and carried to Twickenham that they were too broken to offer you.'³⁶ What he sent Cole included 'but one good piece'. And what he kept included 'a handsome coat in painted glass of Hobart impaling Boleyn', a match he hoped Cole could explain. A letter Walpole wrote, but never sent, to Cole survives and shows what a pity it is that Ives failed to send Walpole a copy of the work he dedicated to him. The *Select Paper* entitled 'The Coronation of Henry VII and of Queen Elizabeth [of York]' appealed irresistibly to the author of *Historic Doubts on the Life and Reign of King Richard the Third* (1768). Writing at Strawberry Hill, on 26 March 1780, Walpole had been looking through the *Select Papers*: 'They have

³² W. S. Lewis and A. Dayle Wallace, *Horace Walpole's Correspondence with the Rev. William Cole* (Yale and Oxford, 1937), II, p. 32.

³³ *Op.cit.*, I, pp. 351-352.

³⁴ *Op.cit.*, II, p. 30, notes 1 and 2.

³⁵ It came up as Lot 44 on the 21st day of the sale. *Loc. cit.* note 3. It is further described in a letter to Cole on 30 May 1780, *ibid.*, pp. 219-220. It is no longer among the Sutherland family collections and appears to have been sold in France earlier in the present century. The Countess of Sutherland has most kindly supplied a photograph which may enable it to be located and published.

³⁶ *Op.cit.*, II, p. 47.

set me on amusing myself with studying the state of the court in the beginning of the reign of Henry VII, whose coronation, and his Queen's, are described there.' There followed so long and interesting a train of reflections on the Court at that critical period that Walpole was unable to part with his own letter.³⁷

Yet, in one way, he was able to repay Ives. By collecting some of his literary remains, he ensured their safekeeping in the treasury of Walpoliana built up at Farmington, Connecticut, by W. S. Lewis, whose great Yale edition of the *Correspondence* has been cited above. Among the lesser papers, a diary kept by John Ives' father when he was a lad of about fifteen years old, between May 1734 and January 1736, throws an unexpectedly sympathetic light on the family and, indirectly, on Ives' own literary propensities; just at the moment when we had begun to think rather unkindly of the father who clearly knew how to realise the market-value of his late son's antiquarian collections.

Working at Farmington, the late Mr R. W. Ketton-Cremer, Horace Walpole's biographer and historian of Norfolk, came across this fragment of a diary and summarised it with his characteristic perception.³⁸ He brings out the boy's enthusiastic involvement in his family's partisanship of the Whigs. (The diarist's own son's copy of Swinden's *Yarmouth* bears documentary evidence that the young antiquary continued these party loyalties.) The boy gives a vivid account of the bustling life of the port and fishing-harbour. 'His favourite amusement', Mr Ketton-Cremer noted, 'was fishing; he used to catch smelts, butts and eels'. His father liked to go 'setting' in the country, but usually seems not to have brought home more than a brace of birds. In the spring of 1735, 'I and my father and brother went in our Chais to Gorleston to see a Man slide down from the Church Stepel, and pulled a barrow down with a Boy in it, and then an Ass flew down.' The poor ass seems not to have shared the celebrated resentment of the Pope's favourite mule when it was subjected to a similar indignity at Avignon,³⁹ for it repeated the performance next week from the spire of St. Nicholas at Yarmouth. These entertainments contrast notably with the serious activities of the Suffolk Herald Extraordinary in those and the neighbouring churches.

Ives gave up a portion of his own short time to the melancholy task of composing the epitaphs of his friends. When his own marble

³⁷ *Op.cit.*, II, pp. 363-366.

³⁸ R. W. Ketton-Cremer, *Forty Norfolk Essays* (Norwich 1961), pp. 62-64. Since this memoir went to press, Mr. Lewis has kindly sent photo-copied excerpts from a letter-book at Farmington in Ives' own hand. When it comes to be edited, it will reveal Ives' antiquarian activities in greater detail.

³⁹ As recorded by tradition and Alphonse Daudet, *Lettres de Mon Moulin* (1869).

was fixed to the wall of Belton church, an appreciative memorial of his life was inscribed on it. It was written not by his widow, nor by his father, the author of that boyish diary. Dawson Turner recorded⁴⁰ that it was the work of the Rev. E. Thomas, of Faversham, who was perhaps the friendly clergyman who performed Ives' marriage in July, 1773.⁴¹ It may be he who designed the carving, at the foot of the monument, of the oak tree, broken in the middle, from which only a handful of acorns have been scattered.

*This article is published with the aid of a generous grant
from the Marc Fitch Fund.*

⁴⁰ *Loc. cit.* Turner here reproduced the epitaph; so did F. Shoberl, *Suffolk* (1813), p.392; the editor of *Excursions in Suffolk* (1819), II, p.157; and Suckling, *loc. cit.* Turner reproduced it again in *Sepulchral Remains of a Market Town* (Yarmouth 1848), p. 128.

⁴¹ In November, 1773, Ives wrote of his wife to 'the Rev. Mr. Thomas': 'My father has grown so excessively fond of her, that he will hardly suffer her to be one moment out of his sight.' (Palmer, *op. cit.*, II, p.403).