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The Antiquary.

(Editor: Rev J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.)

Holdenby Rectory,

Northampton.

7 Sept 94

Dear General Pitt Rivers

Thank you very much
for your "Guide to Lamer
Grounds & the Museum". I
am delighted to see how your
pains efforts for the whole
education & instruction
of your neighbours is being
appreciated.

I am writing an account
of your museum for Oct. issue
of above, based on your big
volume, the Guide, my
own recollections, & information
of one or two recent visitors.

I should like to refer to the
"Guide" in a note, & to be able
to say where & what cost
it could be obtained. If
you could just send me
word as to this by as early a
post as may be convenient I
should be very much obliged

I enclose you a circular
that you may see the nature of
some medical excavation in
E. M. Yorks in which I shall
almost immediately be engaged.
I am a poor beggar, & I know we
have no claims on you, but
in case you could spare us a
shilling or two I am sure our
work will be most grateful.
I am afraid we shall a little
fall short of funds.

Most sincerely yours J. Charles Cox

£2
Subscribed
by
Genl. Rivers.

L 1013

East Riding Antiquarian Society.

RENEWED EXCAVATION OF THE SITE OF
WATTON PRIORY.

By the kind permission of Mr. Bethell, the owner, and Mr. Beckitt, the tenant, the East Riding Antiquarian Society is about to renew the excavation and examination of the site of Watton Priory, near Beverley, which was begun in September, 1893.

The undertaking is of great importance, not only to all antiquaries and ecclesiologists, but especially to those who desire to study the various developments of the Christian Faith in England during the Middle Ages.

Watton was a religious house of the remarkable Gilbertine Order, founded by St. Gilbert of Sempringham, in 1148, the only monastic order established by an Englishman. There were but twenty-five houses (including cells), and Watton was one of the three which are known certainly to have been double (*i.e.*, for both canons and sisters) up to the time of the Dissolution. None of the few remains of these Gilbertine houses have as yet been examined, and we are consequently ignorant of the manner in which the houses were arranged for the division of the sexes.

Watton was the wealthiest and the largest of all the houses of the Order. A statute passed about 1200 provided that the brothers and sisters of Watton should not exceed 140, namely, 70 of each sex. To the mother house of Sempringham, and to the house of Chicksand, 120 were allowed, whilst the remainder were much smaller, Old Malton having only 35 canons. At the time of the Dissolution, in Henry VIII's reign, the value of Watton

was about £7,000 a year of our money, considerably in excess of that of any other house of the Order.

The site of the conventual buildings is unencumbered with any modern fabrics, and is irregular pasture, and only awaits the judicious use of pick and shovel for the exceptional arrangements of a joint or double house of religious to be made manifest.

A week's work of a small body of navvies, under the direction of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope and Rev. Dr. Cox, in September, 1893, brought to light the foundations of the conventual church, 208ft. long by 51ft. wide, exclusive of the irregular shafted transepts. It was found to be divided from end to end into two unequal parts by a partition wall to separate the sexes, and various discoveries of considerable interest were made with respect to the arrangement and plan of the church and some of the closely adjacent buildings. These were fully described on September 26th, when the members of the East Riding Society and their friends met on the site.

Neither time nor money rendered it possible to continue the work last year, and the arrangement of the conventual buildings yet remains to be elucidated.

The Council are glad to be able to announce that they are fortunate enough to have again secured the services of Mr. W. H. St. John Hope (Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries), who has had unrivalled experience in such undertakings, and he will be assisted by Rev. Dr. Cox, F.S.A.

It is proposed to begin the renewed operations about September 10th. On Monday and Tuesday, September 24th and 25th, the annual meeting of the East Riding Antiquarian Society will be held at Driffield, the members and their friends being invited to visit Watton Priory on the 25th.

The Council of the East Riding Antiquarian Society desire to tender their best thanks to the Society of Antiquaries (London) for their recognition of the importance of this undertaking by voting £5 from their "Excavation Fund" for the purpose, and

they desire to raise a sum of £100 to be devoted to these excavations. A balance in hand of £7 remains from the contributions of last year.

The following sums have already been promised:—

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES (London)	£5	0	0
SIR AUGUSTUS W. FRANKS, K.C.B., President of the Society of Antiquaries	2	2	0
SIR TATTON SYKES - - - -	5	0	0
W. BETHELL, ESQ. (second donation) - - - -	5	0	0
COLONEL THOMAS BROOKE, F.S.A. - - - -	5	0	0
JAMES HILTON, ESQ., F.S.A., Hon. Treasurer Royal Archæological Institute - - - -	1	1	0
THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF BEVERLEY (second donation) - - - -	1	1	0
THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF YORK (second donation) - - - -	1	0	0
SIR H. S. KING, M.P. - - - -	1	1	0
SIR JAMES RECKITT, Bart. - - - -	1	1	0
REV. M. C. F. MORRIS, M.A., B.C.L. (second donation) - - - -	1	1	0
REV. N. J. MILLER, M.A. - - - -	1	1	0
E. W. BRABROOK, ESQ., F.S.A. - - - -	1	1	0
REV. DR. COX, F.S.A. (second donation)	1	1	0
REV. E. EVERS, M.A. - - - -	0	10	6
THE VERY REV. THE PRIOR OF AMPLEFORTH	0	10	0
REV. J. DAVIDSON, M.A. - - - -	0	10	0
WILLIAM STEPHENSON, ESQ. - - - -	0	10	6
WILLIAM ANDREWS, F.R.H.S. (second donation)	0	10	6

Subscriptions may be paid into the York City & County Bank, to the "Watton Priory Excavation Fund," or may be forwarded to Captain Travis-Cook, 14, Parliament Street, Hull, Hon. Treasurer of the East Riding Antiquarian Society.

The Vicarage, Filey,
and
1, Dock Street, Hull.

A. N. COOPER, } Hon. Secs.
WILLIAM ANDREWS, } pro. tem.