THE CHURCH BELLS OF WORCESTERSHIRE.

BY H. B. WALTERS.

PART VI.

A GENERAL SURVEY OF WORCESTERSHIRE BELLS (Part I).

The County of Worcester contains 213 ancient parish churches (i.e., of Pre-Reformation origin) and about 65 of more modern foundation, including several which replace ancient edifices fallen into ruins or still standing, but not including chapels-of-ease. In these 278 churches there are 1,134 bells, which may be classified as follows:

- Rings of twelve bells - 1 = 12
- Rings of ten bells - 4 = 40
- Rings of eight bells - 32 = 256
- Rings of six - 64 = 408
- Rings of five - 12 = 60
- Rings of four - 15 = 60
- Rings of three - 24 = 102
- Rings of two - 28 = 56
- Single bells - 79 = 79
- Sanctus bells, clock bells, and disused bells 61 = 61

Total 1134

Modern churches are here credited with one bell, where no information of a larger number has been received. Among these, five contain bells from older churches:

- Broadheath (in Hallow) from Hallow.
- Kidderminster.
- Holy Innocents from Worcester St. Michael.¹
- Moseley St. Anne (3) from Moseley parish church.
- Worcester, Holy Trinity from the Cathedral.
- Yardley, Emmanuel, Sparkbrook. from Ullenhall, Warwick.²

On the other hand, seven bells are no longer in the county. There are two churches in Devonport to which bells were transferred from Worcester churches by Mr. J. St. Aubyn in 1851³: St. Paul’s has one of the old medieval bells

¹ The other old bell of St. Michael is at New St. Martin’s.
² See my Ch. Bells of Warwick, p. 1.
³ Ellacombe, Ch. Bells of Devon, p. 32; see Vol. vi. pp. 46, 57=250, 261.
of St. Michael’s; and St. James, Keyham, has two old bells from St. Alban’s. The four remaining medieval bells of Worcester Cathedral were taken by Lord Amherst of Hackney to Didlington, Norfolk, and now hang in the church tower there.

The following churches were founded between 1550 and 1800, and may perhaps be regarded as ancient rather than modern: Cradley (1798); Dudley St. Edmund (1724); Hall Green (1704); Stourbridge (1726); Wribbenhall (1701). The churches of Doddenham and Droitwich St. Nicholas have been destroyed, but the latter has been rebuilt after lapse of time, and is consequently reckoned as a modern church.

At Doddenham the church was rebuilt on a new site at Knightsford Bridge to serve for that parish and Knightwick combined, although the old church at Knightwick still partly survives with its bell. The old churches at Welland and Worcester St. Clement no longer exist.

The following old churches are now disused or in ruins:
- Abberley (disused bell and another in old church).
- Broadway (bells in old and new churches).
- Edvin Loach (bells in new church on floor).
- Finstal (bells in old and new churches).
- Ombersley (bells in new church).
- Lower Sapey (bells in new church).
- Upton-on-Severn (bells in new church; new clock-bells in old).

Seven churches contain tubular ‘bells’: in addition to the older ones at Dalesford, Hindlip, and Wythall; others at Droitwich St. Nicholas, Dudley St. John, Lye, and Malvern Wells, all these being modern churches.

In addition to the above may be mentioned the following non-parochial bells which for more than one reason may be of interest:
- Abberley Hall chimes (Vol. ii., p. 7).
- Bromsgrove Town Hall (now at the parish church).
- Cookhill Priory, Inkberrow (see fig. 151 and iv. p. 35=152).
- Droitwich Town Hall (not examined).
- Grafton Manor (not examined).
- Hartlebury Castle (not examined).
- Overbury Court (see v. p. 131=188).
- Worcester, Berkeley Hospital (not examined).
- Worcester, St. Oswald’s Hospital (not examined).

As some uncertainty has always existed about the boundaries of the county of Worcester, and they have been further
affected by recent changes, both political and ecclesiastical, it may be noted that the following outlying parishes are all included:

- Alderminster
- Alstone
- Blockley
- Cutsdean
- Daylesford
- Evenlode
- Shipston-on-Stour
- Tidmington
- Tredington
- Washbournes, Little

Also the following parishes, no longer in the county:

- Acton Beauchamp, now Oldberrow, now Warwick.
- Edvin Loach, now Hereford.
- Mathon, now Hereford.

and the following, transferred from other counties:

- Arley, Upper, from Staffordshire.
- Dowles, from Shropshire.
- Stoke Bliss, from Herefordshire.

It is possible to classify these 1,134 bells in another manner, according to age, as follows:

- Pre-Reformation (anterior to 1550): 44
- Other ancient bells, but uninscribed: 12
- ‘Transitional’ period (1550-1600): 12
- Seventeenth century: 246
- Eighteenth century: 307
- Nineteenth century and later: 481
- Bells of uncertain date or uninscribed: 32

The number of Pre-Reformation bells is therefore 56, not a very large proportion as compared with the neighbouring counties of Gloucester or Hereford, but better than Shropshire or Stafford, and about the same as Warwick. If it is permissible to include the four old bells of the Cathedral and the one at Devonport, existing though no longer in the county, the total is 61, making a percentage of about 5½ per cent. Shropshire has only 4 per cent., and Staffordshire, 3¼; on the other hand in Gloucester the percentage is about 6½ (in spite of the activity of the Rudhalls) and in Hereford (not yet completely explored), about 7 per cent. If the ‘Transitional’ bells are reckoned in, the percentage is increased to 6 per cent. of ancient bells. There are indeed not nearly so many of

1 I understand that these parishes will be definitely separated from Worcester in 1931.
these latter as in Warwickshire, where the activity of the Leicester foundry in the reign of Elizabeth made itself much more strongly felt.

Of the 48 inscribed Pre-Reformation bells, no less than 43 are in Gothic capitals throughout, and only five in black-letter smalls, a very unusual proportion especially if compared with the eastern or southern counties. But for some reason the Worcester and Gloucester foundries which supplied nearly all the medieval bells in the county never adopted the new system of black-letter inscriptions which came in elsewhere in the 15th century. The black-letter bells are only found at Abberley, Birtsmorton, Fladbury, Tidmington, and Worcester Cathedral (formerly).

There are complete medieval 'rings' of two at Besford (one blank) and Broughton Hackett, and one of four at Spetchley, where only one is inscribed and the other three are obviously of Pre-Reformation date, though not of the same make as the inscribed one. Besides the uninscribed bells at Besford and Spetchley, there are others of medieval date at Cotheridge, Hill Croome, Holt, Oldberrow, Ribbesford, and Shelsley Beauchamp (sanctus), as well as a disused one at Edvin Loach, and another at Didlington from Worcester Cathedral. The Oldberrow bell is certainly earlier than 1300, and that at Ribbesford may be even older. Of the same period is the bell at St. Agatha, Sparkbrook (in Yardley), already mentioned.

We have a record of some twenty medieval bells which have disappeared during the last hundred years or so; for many of these we are indebted to the industry of Dr. Prattinton of Bewdley, who visited nearly all the Worcestershire churches about 1810-35, and diligently copied the inscriptions on the bells. He notes the following, now no longer in existence:—

| Berrow (2) | Hadsor |
| Bretforton | Hallow |
| Broadway | Longdon (4) |
| Church Honeybourne | Stone (dated 1525) |

1 See Antiquaries Journal, 1928, p. 429, fig. 9. About thirty later blank bells exist, mostly 'ting-tangs'. Some of these, however, if properly examined, might prove to be medieval.

2 His invaluable MSS. are now in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, including descriptions of the parishes in many volumes, alphabetically arranged. See E. A. B. Barnard, The Prattinton Collections of Worcestershire History (Journal Press, Evesham, 1931).
In addition, medieval bells have been more or less recently recast at

- Bengeworth
- Claines
- Defford
- Droitwich St. Peter
- Knighton-on-Teme
- Mamble
- Shelsley Walsh
- St. Peter
- Warndon

and one at Warndon has disappeared.

A large proportion of the Worcestershire bells were cast within the borders of the county, and this is true both of the medieval and later periods. Of the medieval bells no less than 29 are from the great foundry at Worcester, though it is possible that one group was cast by the monks of that city and not by professional craftsmen. In later days the Worcester foundry continued to flourish for nearly 100 years, and nearly a hundred out of the 246 17th century bells were cast there. There was also an important foundry at Bromsgrove in the first part of the eighteenth century, and one of less account at Evesham. Gloucester, London, Reading, Nottingham, Leicester, Buckingham, Walsall, Chacombe (Northants), Woodstock, Edgbaston, Wellington, Leominster, and Aldbourne (Wilts.), have also at different times contributed to the bells of the county, as will be seen in the following pages. In fact almost as many different foundries are represented as in the adjoining county of Warwick.

It will be noted that the medieval bells are mostly found in and round the City of Worcester, and up the Teme Valley; they are exceedingly rare in the more industrial north and north-east of the county, and by no means common in the southern part.

A few words on the dedications of the medieval bells in the county may be of interest. It will be noted that in popularity they correspond fairly closely with those of the churches, but that it is rare to find a bell dedicated to the patron saint of its church. On the other hand, the proportion is higher in Worcestershire than in most counties. I find seven existing examples: Hill Croome, S. Littleton, Great Malvern, Stockton, and St. Andrew, St. Martin, and St. Michael, Worcester. Among bells now recast were examples at Clifton-on-Teme, Droitwich St. Peter, Longdon, and Stone. In most cases the tenor bell was thus dedicated, as at S. Littleton and Worcester St. Martin. I have discussed the corresponding popularity of bell and church dedications elsewhere, both generally and with reference to Worcestershire.1

1 Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports, xxv., p. 555; Church Bells of England, p. 205 ff; see also F. Bond, Dedications of English Churches, p. 217.
Another point which is perhaps worth noting here is the frequency of sanctus or priest’s bells, of which there are 38 in all, a proportion in the ancient churches of 2 in every 11 towers. Only the counties of Oxfordshire and Bucks have a larger proportion. Generally speaking, such bells are common in the west and south Midlands, but rare everywhere else (except in Yorkshire and Lincoln). Can any reason be given for their prevalence in the region indicated?

In the foregoing survey I may claim to have investigated, personally or with the help of others, every ancient belfry in the county, except Rochford. The sanctus bell at St. Nicholas, Worcester, also remains unexamined owing to its inaccessibility. But on the whole, this is quite a satisfactory record!

THE FOUNDERS OF WORCESTERSHIRE BELLS.

I.—MEDIEVAL PERIOD.

It has already been noted that the earliest examples of bell-founding in Worcestershire are devoid of any inscription or date, and can only be approximately dated from their archaic shape or from external evidence. At the beginning of the fourteenth century we first find inscriptions on bells as a regular thing, and we must now proceed to discuss the bells which undoubtedly belong to that century. I have little hesitation in regarding as the earliest inscribed bell in the county the treble at Hill Croome, which bears the following simple inscription

\[ + \text{AVE MARIA} \ (\text{Fig. 76}) \]

headed by a plain Maltese cross. No other bells with similar lettering are known, but the simple character of the lettering and the brevity of the inscription justify us in placing it about 1320. In shape it also shows a tendency towards the elongated form of the preceding century. For a suggestion about its founder see below, page 13 (285).

Another bell of unknown origin, and probably of equally early date is the old one remaining in the rebuilt church at Newland, inscribed

\[ + \text{SCI THESSILIAY} \ (\text{Fig. 169}) \]

The saint here commemorated is one whose name is familiar to Welshmen under the form ‘Tyssilio,’ and is found in several place-names in the Principality, as Llandyssil, Llandyssilio,
etc. He was Bishop of St. Asaph, and there is another
dedication to him across the English border, the church of
Sellack in Herefordshire. It is possible that this bell was not
cast in the county, but has been imported from Wales.

The next bells with which we have to deal are the pair at
Broughton Hackett, which belong to a group most largely
represented in Warwickshire, and therefore probably cast in
that county. The larger bell is inscribed

+ AVE : MARIA : GRACIA (Fig. 48)

the smaller:

+ IHESUS : NAZARENVS : REX : IVDEORVM (Fig. 48)

The lettering in each case is different, although the initial
cross is the same, and the 1st is probably of earlier date than
the 2nd on which the lettering is more ornamental. Note
especially the peculiar form of the M. In Warwickshire there
are similar bells at Beaudesert and Whitechurch, the 2nd at
Beaudesert being an exact duplicate of Broughton Hackett
2nd. The inscription on the Whitechurch bell combines the
two Broughton Hackett inscriptions in an abbreviated form:—

+ INRI AE MA GA

There are other bells of this type at Dalby Parva, Leics., and
Wadenhoe, Northants., but the Broughton Hackett 1st
appears to be unique as regards the lettering. The treble at
Halford, Warwickshire, has some connexion with the group,
but is undoubtedly earlier.

In discussing these bells elsewhere¹ I surmised that they
were probably cast at Warwick, and this has received some
support from a discovery by Mr. J. H. Bloom which he kindly
communicated to me by letter dated 12 July, 1914. In the
Cartulary of St. Mary's, Warwick, one Robert le Belyetere
appears as witness to a charter dated 34 Edward I (1306),
and he is mentioned in 1333 in somewhat discereditable
circumstances, in a grant by the Dean and Chapter of Warwick
to John Soteman (or Soceman) of a croft which fell to them
by the escheat for the felony of Robert le Belyetere.

If he is the founder of these bells, he is not likely to have
been at work later than 1333, by which time he was under
a cloud. It would however be quite reasonable to place them
as early as 1320-1330, the Halford bell being probably about
1310.

¹ Ch. Bells of Warw., p. 4.
The next group to be discussed includes two Worcestershire bells, the 3rd at St. Martin’s, Worcester, inscribed:

+ (fleur-de-lys) SANCTE MARTINE (fleur-de-lys) HORA (fleur-de-lys) PRO (fleur-de-lys) NOBIS (fleur-de-lys)(Fig. 233)

and the 6th at Hartlebury, which bears the beautiful and remarkable inscription:

+ SANCTA MARIA VIRGO INTERCEDE PRO TOTO MVNDQ QVEXA GENVISTI REGEM ORBIS (Fig. 143)

Similar bells are found at Curdworth, Warwick, where the tenor has the first part of the Hartlebury inscription (down to MVNDQ), and in Denbigh, Derbyshire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire. It will be noted that a fleur-de-lys occurs as stop on the St. Martin’s, Worcester bell, and this is also found at Wrockwardine, Salop, and on some of the Staffordshire examples. We shall meet with this stamp again at a much later date, in the hands of another foundry. It may also be noted that there are four or five bells in Shropshire and one in Staffordshire with similar lettering but a different cross, and one of these, the 2nd at Adderley, Salop, has the same inscription as at Curdworth. They are probably by a later founder, residing at Shrewsbury.

In regard to the date of this group, it is to be noted that the bells are all somewhat archaic in shape, resembling in the squarness of their shoulders and long ‘waists’ bells known to date from the early part of the fourteenth century; although on other grounds one might be inclined to place them later. The fact that four are to be found in Staffordshire and nearly all the others close to the borders of that county points to the foundry having been at one of the principal towns in that shire. We know that bell-founders were working at Lichfield about 1300; Michael de Lichfield is mentioned just before that date, and Henry Mitchell of Lichfield cast a bell for the Cistercians at Croxden in 1313. It is therefore probable that this group is the work of the latter.

---

1 As already noted (p. 5=277), the tenor of the original ring.
3 Lynam, *Croxden Abbey*, p. vi.
4 For a full list of these bells see my *Church Bells of Warwickshire*, p. 12.
THE GLOUCESTER FOUNDRY.

Records of Gloucester bell-founders go back well into the thirteenth century, and at the beginning of the fourteenth we hear of one Christiana la Belyutere, daughter of Hugh the Bell-founder, mentioned in a document of 1303-04. Her father's name occurs in 1270. As there is in Worcestershire a bell with lettering of a type which we can associate with the Gloucester foundry, and as this bell is evidently much earlier than others from the same source, I am disposed to assign it to the lady founder. This is the 1st at Besford, inscribed in small neat capitals:—

+ CAMPAVM SANCVM MKAELIS (Fig. 25)

The other bell in that turret is uninscribed, but is evidently of the same date and make. The form of the inscription is an early one, and occurs on the 13th century bell at Chaldon, Surrey. I should however hesitate to place the Besford bell earlier than 1300; it may therefore be the work of Christiana.

The same lettering occurs on a small group of six bells with the cross numbered 52 in Ellacombe’s Gloucestershire; and this is followed by another group with the cross 105 and stop 73, and an enlarged version of the aforesaid lettering. The first group may be assigned to one Sandre of Gloucester, a bell-founder whose seal was found in the Thames many years ago. There are no documentary records of him, but his date must be about 1320.

The later group is a much larger one, and is found in the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Shropshire, Warwick, Worcester, and Glamorgan. There are also doubtful examples in Oxfordshire and Somerset. The Worcestershire examples include:—

Broadwas 5th

+ IOHannis : PRECE : DVLCE : SONET : ET : AMENE

Great Malvern service bell

+ VIRGINIS : EGREGIE : VOCOR : CAMPANA : MARIE

Little Malvern bell

+ AVE : MARIA : GRACIA : PLENA : DOMINS : TECAM


The last-named bears a plain cross, and appears to belong to a sub-group of which other examples are found at Hawling, Gloucs., and in Shropshire.¹

These bells may fairly be assigned to John of Gloucester, who cast the bells of Ely Cathedral in 1354, and is also mentioned in a document of 1346.²

It is worth noting that a bell at Charlton Abbots, Gloucs., with a different cross and lettering bears the initials I.S., and to this unknown Gloucester founder can be assigned bells at Dewsall and Kilpeck, Hereford, and Pentyrch, Glamorgau, discovered by Mr. Arthur Wright, and others at Ashley and Easton Grey, Wilts. They certainly belong to the first half of the 14th century and may be by a founder intervening between Sandre and John.

For the next hundred years or so all records of Gloucester bell-founding are wanting, and we pass on to the period 1450-1550, in which an important founder appears on the scene in the person of Robert Hendley, whose name occurs on a bell at St. Nicholas, Gloucester. This bell also bears the name of Clement Lichfield, sacrist, and it is probable that this is the man who subsequently became the last Abbot of Evesham and built the famous bell-tower there.³ If so, he may have been sacrist of Gloucester Cathedral about 1480-1500. Robert Hendley’s bells are very numerous, especially in Gloucestershire,⁴ and are also found in Hereford, Monmouth, Shropshire, Somerset, Warwick, Wilts., Worcester, Brecknock, Montgomery, Radnor, and Glamorgan.

The solitary Worcestershire example (as near to Gloucestershire as it could get!) is the 4th at Overbury, inscribed:—

+ SANCTE (crown) EQIDI (crown) ORA PRO NOBIS
(Fig. 180)

which may be dated about 1480. It bears Hendley’s typical floriated cross with one plain arm, and the crown which he uses as a stop.

¹ For a list of these bells and further details, see Church Bells of Warwickshire, p. 5, and Trans. Bristol and Gloucs. Arch. Soc., xviii, p. 229. To the list there given should be added the following Herefordshire examples: Little Dewchurch, Lea, Llanwarne, Marstow, Monnington.
⁴ But not in the south of that county, which shows that they were made at Gloucester, not Bristol.
In the sixteenth century we hear of William Henshaw (1500-1520) and Richard Atkyns (1529). To one of these, preferably the latter, I would assign the old bell, known as the ’Corporation Bell,’ at St. Andrew’s, Worcester. which bears the remarkable inscription:

\[\text{† ANDREE SANCTI CAMPANAM QVIPPE BEATAM}\\ \text{FECIT IN HONOREM VYLLIEI DIGNVM SIBI FLOREM}\\ (\text{Fig. 232})\]

The sanctus bell at St. Nicholas, Gloucester, has similar cross and lettering, and was given by John and Alice Putte or Pytte; the former may be a John Pytte whose will is in existence, dated 1558. The name of the donor on the Worcester bell, Wylley, naturally suggests John Willey who was rector of the church 1436-50. But other evidence shows that the bell was given some sixty years later by a Mr. Whely, and that it must be dated about 1500-10 at the earliest. But as John Pytte can hardly have made his gift earlier than 1520, it is probably of the later date, and would therefore more likely be the work of Atkyns than of Henshaw.

THE WORCESTER FOUNDRY.

Recent researches have shown that the medieval bell-foundry at Worcester was one of considerable importance, and enjoyed a history extending over nearly 300 years; though it was probably never quite of so great importance as those at Gloucester and Bristol, still it was while it lasted fully as flourishing as any other in the Midlands, with the possible exception of that at Nottingham. Thanks to the researches of Mr. J. H. Bloom and the staff of the Victoria County History who have kindly placed their results at my disposal, aided by the collections of Dr. Prattinton, I am able to draw up here a fairly full and connected history of the foundry, and also to publish some new and interesting records.

The earliest documents we possess go back to the early years of Edward I’s reign (1274-1280), in which we find the name of Simon le Belyetere more than once mentioned. There is a Simon Camponarius recorded at Worcester between 1226 and 1266, but I have elsewhere given reasons for refusing to

1 See p. 252 for a suggested translation.
3 The ring of bells put up in the Cathedral in 1220 appears to have been a piece of monastic founding; the bell-founding guilds were then hardly established.
accept this word as meaning a bell-founder. 1 The *Campanarius*
was probably a cleric in minor orders who acted as bell-ringer.
A document in the Record Office dated 1274-752 runs as
follows:—

Simon filius Ricardi de Hyrewyk petit versus Agnetam le
Belyetere et Thomam filium eius 1 1 virgam terrae cum
pertinentibus in Bathehaie ut ius suum et in quam non habent
ingressum(?) nisi per Simonem le Belyetere cui Alclea Penkes
mater predicti Simonis cuius heres Ipse est illam dimisit ad
terminum qui pererit, etc.

Et Agnes et Thomas venerunt et bene cognoscunt quod
habent ingressum(?) in predictam terram per predictum
Simonem et quod predicta Alclea dimisit primo predictam
terram predicto Simoni ad terminum, set dicit quod infra
eundem terminum eadem Alclea feoffavit predictum Simonem
de eadem et de hoc ponunt se super petram et Simo fiat
inde jur.'

Jur.' de consensu partium etc. dic'quod predicta Alclea dimisit
predictam terram predicto Simoni le Belytere ad terminum
decem et octo annorum infra quem terminum eadem Alclea
feoffavit eundem Simonem et per ilud feoffamentum remansit
in seysina de eadem. Et Idea cons.' et quod predictus Simon
richardi [filius] capiat per breve istud set sit in iniuria(?)
pro false clam' et Agnes et Thomas inde sine die.

Further on in the same Assize Rolls3 we read that:—

Simon Gurney et Lucia uxor eius petunt versus Agnetem
que fuit uxor Simonis le Belytere med' unius messuagii cum
pertinentibus in Wygornia ut ius et raciabilem partem
ipsum Lucce de hereditate que fuit Mabel' quandam uxoris
Gilberti le Archer avie predicte Lucia et matris predicte
Agnetis cuius heres ipse est, etc.

[Agnes said that Mabel long before her death had granted the
messuage in lie to Simon le Ceyntnrer her former husband,
and Simon on his deathbed bequeathed it to Agnes herself,
wherefore Mabel did not die seised of the messuage, which
Simon and Lucy finally denied, notwithstanding any evidence.
The jury found in accordance with Agnes' testimony.]

There is something of a difficulty here. The Simon, husband
of Agnes, who had predeceased her in 1274 clearly cannot be
same as the son of Alice Penkes, who as we learn from other
sources4 was not only living in Sidbury in 1294, but actually
died in 1306 (35 Edward I). The grange of this Simon le
Belytere is mentioned as a boundary in 'the street called
Southbury' (i.e. Sidbury). Were there two bell-founding
Simons, and was the earlier one identical with Simon le

1 *Church Bells of England*, p. 175.
2 P.R.O. Assize Rolls 1026 m. 24 (3 Edw. I).
3 1026 m. 27 (1274-75).
Ceinturer? The latter is not impossible, as medieval bell-founders often carried on other callings as well, and we see that Agnes was also apparently known by both designations. A Madresfield charter of about 1280 mentions one Thomas, son of Simon the bell-founder, citizen of Worcester.\footnote{Ex inform. Mr. E. A. B. Barnard.} In a Lay Subsidy of the same date are mentioned Agnes la Ceintere and her son Henry in St. Peter's ward.\footnote{Worcs. Hist. Soc. (1883), pp. 3, 40.} Further, in the Assize Rolls already referred to (m. 25d), in the case of Thomas Russell v. Robert de Charlton, re a messuage in Worcester, the latter called in Henry le Belyetere, a descendant of Simon le Ceynturer.

Unfortunately the dates are rather vague, but the family pedigree seems to work out somewhat as follows:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c}
\text{Alicia Penkes} & \text{Simon le Ceinturer} & \text{Mabel} \\
& \text{or Belyetere} & \\
\text{Simon le Belyetere} & \text{Agnes Belyetere or Ceintere} & 1270-1306 \\
\hline
\text{Henry Belyetere} & \text{Thomas} & \text{Lucy} = \text{Simon Gurney}
\end{array}
\]

Mr. Bloom has also unearthed the name of Richard le Belyetere, who was conspicuous in the government of the city, and on three occasions (1301, 1310-12, 1314) was Bailiff. He occurs as witness many times between 1300 and 1322, but in only one document as a principal; in this he leases lands in Timberdine to one Richard le Mercer in 1306. The deed has affixed to it a fine specimen of his seal; a wide-mouthed bell with the legend SIGILLVM RICARDI LE BELYETER.

This Richard may have been a grandson of the earlier Simon, and in any case was possibly father of one John le Belyetere who succeeds him and appears as witness in 1347-57.

We know nothing more of these men and still less of their works, but it would not be unreasonable to attribute to one of them the treble at Hill Croome, which is certainly not later in date than 1350, but is the only fourteenth-century bell still existing which can be attributed to a Worcester founder. The contemporary bell at Newland may be of local make, but the dedication to a Welsh Saint seems to imply (as already noted) that it originally came from somewhere in Wales.

When we reach the beginning of the fifteenth century we are more in touch with the Worcester founders and their
works. The well-known group of bells bearing the heads of Edward III and Queen Philippa as stops, which are grouped in such numbers round Worcester that they obviously emanated from a foundry in that city, can now be dated between the years 1400 and 1420. The key to the position is the tenor at Bitterley in Shropshire, a very fine example of this group, which bears the inscription:

+ IESV LE SEIGNE SEYNT ANNE PER LE OROYNAVNC
ALEIS STURY QVE DIV ASOILE PVR SA QAVNT MERCY

Now it has been ascertained that Alice Stury had a close connexion not only with Bitterley but with Worcestershire. She was patroness of the living of Hampton Lovett, and founded a chantry there in 1414 which she dedicated to her patron saint, St. Anne (like the bell at Bitterley). She died in 1415, and bequeathed some plate to the Rector of Hampton Lovett, John Baysham. The bell was evidently given to Bitterley before 1415, and would naturally have been ordered from the neighbouring foundry of Worcester. We have also a terminus post quem for the date of these bells. The stamps used (initial cross, Royal heads, and lettering) were previously in the possession of a founder named William Rufford of Toddington, Bedfordshire, who died about 1398, so they can only have come to Worcester after his death.

There are ten of these bells still existing in Worcestershire, viz.:

- Abbot's Morton
- Elmley Castle
- Hallow (Broadheath) Bell
- South Littleton
- Stockton
- White Ladies Aston

1. + ARD VRE LEX AVOU CAMPAANE MARIE (Fig. 3).
2. + VREGENIS EGREGIE VCOOR CAM-PANAE JOHN (Fig. 115).
3. + ETERNIS ANNS RESONET CAM-PANAE JOHANNES (Fig. 115).
4. + DFS TONAT HOC SIGNVM HOST-DEM VUVAT ANNA MALIGNVM (Fig. 134).
5. + SUELVE IVBENTE DRO TERRARVM PETRE CATHESAS (Fig. 156).
6. + AD LAVDEM CLARE MICHELIS DO RESONARE (Fig. 157).
7. + SANCTE ANDRIA ORA PRO NOBIS.
8. + SANCTE JACOBPE ORA PRO NOBIS (Figs. 7, 10).

1 Arch. Journ. lxiii, p. 186. I owe these results to Rev. J. R. Burton, a former Rector of Bitterley.
2 Also probably three at Longdon formerly, and one each at Berrow, Hadsor, and Hallow.
Worcester St. Swithin 3. + Iohannes Christi Care Me
Salva Semper Clare (Fig. 239).
4. + Ave Maria Graciam Plena
Dominus Tecum
5. + Iesvs Nazarenvs Rex Iudaeorum Fili Dei Miserere Me!

All have the heads of King and Queen as alternate stops.

In other counties there are the following:—

**Brecknock:**
Llanvillo Disused

**Gloucester:**
Boddington 2
Cubberley 1 and old 3
Dyrham old
Huntley 3
Kempley 2.3
Upper Slaughter 2
Staunton old 3
Winstone 3

**Hereford:**

Hereford (continued):
Stoke Prior 3
Wellington 2.4.5

Monmouth:
Dixon 4
Kerry 2

Oxford:
Idbury 2.3

Radnor:
Llandilo Graban

**Shropshire:**
Two recast

**Hereford:** Asherton 3.4
Avenbury 3
Hentland 3
Holmer 3
Kimbolton 4
Lea 3
Letton 3
Lugwardine 4
Ocle Pychard 3
Middleton 2.3
Pipe-cum-Lyde 3
Stoke Edith old 6
Stoke Lacy 4

Four bells of the same type in Northants may be either from
the Worcester foundry or cast at Toddington by William
Rufford. I think probably the latter.

The whole history of the 'Royal Head' stamps is exceedingly
interesting, but I have not space to give here more than a
brief outline. 1 They first appear on bells in East Anglia,
probably cast at Lynn about 1340. Next we meet with them
(in two varieties) on the bells cast at Toddington by John
and William Rufford successively between 1345 and 1390.
Of the two sets, the earlier, used only by John Rufford,
disappears for a time, and eventually reappears on medieval
bells cast at Nottingham in the fifteenth and sixteenth
centuries (e.g., Stoneleigh 2nd, Warwickshire); in the time of
Elizabeth they appear on bells cast at Leicester. The other

1 See Assoc. Arch. Socs. Reports, xxv., p. 562.
set remained apparently at Worcester down to the Reformation, and then reappears (about 1580) at Nottingham, where it supplanted the earlier set on the bells cast by Henry Oldfield down to about 1620. Once more lost to sight, this set makes an unexpected reappearance on a few Nottingham bells cast at the end of the eighteenth century, and is finally found as late as 1805 on bells cast by John Briant of Hertford for Waltham Abbey.

A few words must be devoted to the characteristic features of this group of bells, apart from the Royal Heads already discussed. They all bear in addition the initial cross used by William Rufford, and the lettering is throughout identical or practically identical with his. The A and D are both of peculiar form, and are identical in both alphabets; the Roman form of S and T is preserved, but the S is for some reason frequently reversed. The most interesting feature of the group is the large stock of inscriptions in leonine hexameters which we find on them.

One of the best is on the bell at Broadheath (formerly at Hallow) which bears

CVM TONAT HOC SIGNVM HOSTEM FVGAT ANNA MALIGNVM

There is a variant of this at Ipsley in Warwickshire, which ends:

PRECE PELLE ROBERTE MALIGNVM

Two more good examples may be found at South Littleton.

Mr. Bloom found the name of another Richard le Belyetere occurring in 1464, perhaps one of the same family as those mentioned on pp. 11-13 (283-285). It is extremely likely that he is the founder of another large group of bells, which like the preceding centre round Worcester, and were obviously cast there. There is evidence from the bells themselves that they follow the Royal Head group in point of date, and the cross and lettering were undoubtedly acquired from a Salisbury founder named John Barber, whose will is in existence, dated 1403.1 The stamps show frequent signs of wear. On Barber’s bells the separate letters are all surmounted by crowns, but except in the earlier examples of the Worcester group only the initial letter of each word is crowned. The ornamental stop which Barber uses is also dropped.

But there is a group of nine bells of this type which show a distinct connexion with the Royal Head group, and must therefore be the earliest examples of this founder's work. They may be classified as follows:—

1. 'Royal Heads' with accompanying lettering but John Barber's Cross. Pembridge, Herefordshire, old 5th.
2. 'Royal Head' cross; Royal Head stops; John Barber's letters, all crowned. Shelsley Walsh, Worcs., old bell.
3. John Barber's cross and letters (all crowned) with Royal Heads as stops.
   - Spetchley, Worcs., 3rd.
   - Stanford-on-Teme, Worcs., 4th.
   - Brinsop, Heref., 1st—3rd.
   - Thornbury, Heref., 1st.
   - Trefeglwys, Montgomery.

The rest of the bells are of the normal type, i.e., only initials crowned, and no stops.

In Worcestershire we have thirteen:—

- Acton Beauchamp 2.3
- Bayton 1
- Defford old 2
- Dormstone 3
- Doverdale 3
- Hanley William 1
- Malmie 3 and old 1
- Norton by Kempsey 3
- Stanford-on-Teme 3
- Warndon
   - one disused, one lost

In other counties:—

- Hereford:—
  - Hereford St. Peter 1
  - Hereford St. Nicholas old 2.5
  - Laisters 2.2
  - Middleton 1
  - Pudleston 2.5
  - Thornbury 2.3
  - Montgomery
  - Aberhafesp old
  - Castle Caer Elton old
  - Hyssington old

- Shropshire:
  - Aston Abbots 1.2
  - Bitterley 2
  - Condover old 4
  - Stanton Long old 3
  - Warwick:
  - Allensley old 3
  - Lapworth 3
  - Radnor
  - Cascoeb Disused

As a rule the bells in this group are not of any special interest. They are nearly all inscribed with the usual formula, the name of a saint with ora pro nobis. The stamps often show signs of wear, and we need not therefore be surprised when they occur on a later group of bells to find them almost illegible. About 1475 these stamps appear to have become the property of Thomas Harris of London, and they are found on existing bells by him at Lillington, Warwickshire, and in Essex.

The next group of Worcester-cast bells is a very remarkable one, and in some ways the most interesting in the Midlands, if not in England. This is partly due to the circumstance...
that they show signs of being of monastic origin and not the work of an ordinary secular founder. This may be the case with other medieval bells in this country, but so far I have no evidence that any now existing are of monastic origin, except perhaps Great Peter of Gloucester and one dated 1528 at Bruton, Somerset. Still we know that medieval monks were exponents of the art, and we have evidence from Bury St. Edmunds, St. Albans, and other great abbeys.¹ And it has already been noted (p. 241) that the ring of bells put up in Worcester Cathedral in 1220 was cast under the supervision of the sacrist (the words are 'fusae sunt sub W. Bradewe sacrista'), and possibly they were actually his work.

In the present case we have admittedly no proof, but a certain amount of probability; and a monastic origin for these bells would account for (1) the absence of any records of founders in the period to which they belong, (2) the scholarly character of the leonine hexameters and other inscriptions found on some of them; (3) the fact that one is recorded to have been made 'in the time of Robert Multon, prior of Worcester.' The character of the inscriptions on the 'Royal Head' bells and the absence of any recorded founders' names in the period when they were cast, suggest that they also may possibly be of monastic origin.

However this may be, the fact remains that the bells of this type centre round Worcester, and certainly had their origin in that city. The list is as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claines</td>
<td>old 2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Droitwich St. Peter</td>
<td>old 3rd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyford Flavel</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grimley</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Dated 1482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindridge</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sanctus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oddingley</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichenford</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester St. Michael</td>
<td>Bell, Dated 1480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and in other counties:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Devonport St. Paul, Devon Bell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(From St. Michael, Worcester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Preen, Salop</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ness Magna</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Packington, Warwick</td>
<td>Sanctus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and a doubtful example at Ocle Pychard in Herefordshire.²

² To these should probably be added a bell formerly at Pershore Abbey (see v. p. 138=195).
The outstanding examples of the group are of course the two dated examples, at Grimley and Worcester St. Michael. Both are fully described and illustrated on previous pages (see figs. 131, 237), and I need not go into further details now; but there cannot be any more interesting bells in the Midlands, which indeed only contain two other dated examples. The Wichenford bell is also of interest as another which can be dated from the name of the Vicar which appears on it (he died in 1489).

The whole group is conspicuous for the wealth of ornamental stops employed (see Figs. 104, 112, 126, 127), especially the unique Royal Heads. There are three varieties of lettering, that at Droitwich, Worcester St. Michael, and on the two Shropshire bells differing from the Grimley and Flyford Flavel type. On the two sanctus bells we find reduced versions of the lettering and stops, being the same as on the upper row at Wichenford.

These stamps are found again on bells of later date in Gloucestershire, for which see below, p. 26 (298).

After 1485 or thereabouts there is a break in the history of Worcester bell-founding, which is not disturbed until just before the Reformation. In 1542 the will was proved at Worcester, on April 28th, of one Nicholas Grene, the text being as follows:

In dei nomine Amen. The xxv day of February the yere of our lorde MCCCCXL. I Nicholas Grene of the p'yshe of Saynt Nicholas in Wurcestr bell-founder beyng sicke of my body and in p'fyte mynde make this my testament and last will first I gyve and bequeathe my soU to the glorious trinite and my body to be buryed in Saynt Marie churcheyard. Item I gyve unto the hye awter of my paryshe churche xijd. Item I gyve and bequeathe unto Elizabeth my daughter xl markes sterling for her marriage. Itm I gyve and bequeath unto Henry my sonne all my bell moldes and all my brasse pott moldes and to occupye them wt his moder during her lyfe, and all my pewter moldes of brasse whatsoevr they be.

The rest of the will refers to his domestic property, and attached to it is an inventory a good deal faded and obliterated, but containing an inventory of goods 'in the belle howse' and a list of debts owing from the wardens of various churches, i.e., 'Dymock, Yardley, Hampton, Suckley, Blockley, All Hallows yn Evessam, All Hallow parsse yn Worcester, Segeley(1), Lapynton († Lapworth), Hadser.'


2 Worcester Wills, 1541, no. 64. I am indebted to Dr. Floyer for calling my attention to this some 25 years ago. The text is also given in Arch. Journ., xliii, p. 189.
Nicholas Grene was probably not in a very large way of business, and he may have died comparatively young. Nothing can be traced of his son Henry as a bell-founder, but as we shall see later, there were Greenes founding in Worcester in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I., who may have been members of the same family. There is however a small group of bells which we may regard as very likely the work of this founder, though none of them are in Worcestershire. The group comprises the following:—

Morton Bagot, Warwickshire, 2nd.

+ (King's Head and fleur-de-lys) maria + (King's Head)
maria (King's Head and fleur-de-lys) maria (fleur-de-lys) + maria

Bearley, Warwickshire (former bell).

+ airam + (King's Head and fleur-de-lys) airam (King's
Head) + airam (fleur de-lys and King's Head).

Hinton in Hedges, Northants, 1st.

+ maria mater dei memento mei (with fleur-de-lys stop).

The smaller bell at Morton Bagot is about the same date, but the lettering is of a different type. Now these three bells are of very considerable interest, as combining the stamps of two earlier foundries. The cross and fleur-de-lys are the same as at Hartlebury and St. Martin's, Worcester, revived after an interval of two hundred years (see above, p. 8 (280)). The King's Head, on the other hand, is our old friend from the Bitterley group of bells. The lettering is what we might expect on a bell of Nicholas Grene's time, and that he may have inherited the Royal Head stamps is quite conceivable. Shortly after his death they must have passed over to Nottingham (see later).

**BELLS BY LONDON FOUNDERS.**

There is now only one certain example in the county of a London bell-founder's work. This is the 3rd at Birtsmorton, inscribed

+ Misit De Cell's Habeo Nomen Gabrielys (two shields)
(Fig. 26).

The first shield being the three leopards of England, the other bearing the initials r c. The initial cross and capital letters are found on bells in almost every county in England,
and are assigned to a line of founders working in Aldgate, London, during the fifteenth century. It has not yet been discovered with any certainty what name the initials R.C. denote, but as Robert Crowch and Richard Cresswell are both mentioned as bell-founders about 1425-1450, it has been suggested that one of them was the owner of the shield. More recently however Dr. Tyssen has put forward convincing reasons for placing the R. C. founder about ten years earlier, and if so we are still in doubt of his identity. In any case he was either a short-lived or an unsuccessful craftsman, as only fifteen of his bells exist. It is the more remarkable, as his bells are so rare, that examples should be found in such remote counties as Cornwall, Worcestershire, and Shropshire. He must be distinguished from another R. C. living at Nottingham about the same time, who uses a very similar shield.

The Worcester Cathedral bells now at Didlington, Norfolk, are all the work of London founders, and must therefore receive some notice here. The two smallest, one of which is uninscribed, were cast by William Burford about 1375, and the third by Stephen Norton about the same time. The tenor is by a later founder, about 1460.

I need not repeat here the description of these three bells already given under the heading of Worcester Cathedral (vi. p. 40 (244)), but must say a few words on their founders.

Stephen Norton, who cast the 3rd, with its interesting reference to the rebuilding of the central tower in 1374, was not strictly speaking a London founder; at any rate he describes himself on his bells as ‘Stephen Norton of Kent.’ But he was certainly the predecessor of a long line of London founders, who regularly used his beautiful crowned letters as initials.

William Burford, who cast the two smaller bells, one dedicated to St. Wulstan, was another ancestor of this line of bell-founders. His date is about 1375-1400. Little is known of him, and his authorship of these bells is really only a guess, but it has been generally accepted by all writers on this subject. We know that a man of this name was founding in Aldgate, London, at the time mentioned, and that he was succeeded by his son Richard, who is identified with the founder of a group of bells of similar type but in black-letter with William’s capitals as initials.

1 Church Bells of Sussex (1914), p. 25.
2 Ch. Bells of Essex, p. 12.
3 Ibid., p. 13.
The tenor is by a founder whose name is unknown, but he appears to be the successor of John Danyell,¹ who cast bells for King’s College, Cambridge, in 1456. That Danyell is not the author of this and similar bells is proved by the absence of his initials and the use of a new stamp, usually known as the ‘Brede stamp’ (see Fig. 229). The other beautiful cross (Fig. 223) is very rare, but occurs on two other existing bells (see vi. p. 42 (246). About ninety bells can be attributed to our founder, who, it may be noted, seems to have inherited the privilege granted to Danyell, of using the Royal Arms.

The remaining medieval bells in Worcestershire are all inscribed in black-letter smalls, and are three in number. The total for the county, including Birtsmorton and the Worcester Cathedral bell, is thus only five, a remarkably small proportion, which only finds a parallel in Herefordshire, Shropshire, and some of the Northern counties.

Of these three the earliest is the old bell remaining in the disused and ruined church of Abberley, inscribed

+ Ave : Graecia : Plena : Dominus : Tecum (three shields above) (Fig. 2).

Now the remarkable feature of this bell is that it is not of a Midland but a North-country type. The stamps and lettering are found on a large group of bells in the Northern counties, of which there are at least twenty in Yorkshire, bearing the same floriated initial cross, and shield with three bells. They are all inscribed in large black-letter with somewhat rough initial capitals, and may be dated about 1500. We have no clue to the founder, and the only bell bearing a name is one at Kirkby Fleetham in the N. Riding which has the name of Richard Pette on the shoulder. He is however far more likely to be the donor. There is on the other hand no question that these bells must have been cast at York. Not only are there a large proportion in Yorkshire, but there was no other medieval foundry of importance in the Northern counties, and even Cumberland was largely dependent on York for its bells. We have a long list of York medieval founders between 1300 and 1550,² but it is not easy to select a founder from these without further evidence.

¹ Ch. Bells of Essex, p. 34; Tyssen, Ch. Bells of Sussex (1914), p. 40. Under the heading of Worcester Cathedral this bell was wrongly assigned to Danyell himself (vi. p. 42=246).
² See V.C.H., Yorks, ii., p. 449 ff.
The late Rector of Abberley, Rev. J. L. Moilliet, has thrown an interesting light on the presence of this North-country bell in Worcestershire. His predecessor at the time of the Dissolution was one John Blamyre (1514-1545), whose name is a typical Yorkshire one, and Mr. Moilliet suggested that he had either been prior of some small Yorkshire monastery previous to the Dissolution and preserved the bell for old association’s sake, or that he had facilities for purchasing it owing to his north-country connexion. In any case it is not likely to have been cast specially for the Worcestershire parish.

The tenor at Tidmington, inscribed

Sancte (shield) petre ora (shield) pro nobis (Fig. 208),

is of very late date, probably about 1540. The only mark which it bears is a founder’s shield, almost obliterated, but which appears to be the mark of a London founder of about 1410, with a chevron between three laver-pots. This was used by one William Dawe, and it is to be noted that his special trade-mark (a medallion with the words ‘William founder me fecit’) was in the hands of a Reading founder in the sixteenth century, who uses it at Radcliffe, Bucks. There is nothing very distinctive about the lettering at Tidmington, but the above-mentioned clue enables us to trace the bell to Reading. Mr. Cocks, whose knowledge of Reading bells was unrivalled, assigned our bell to John Sanders (1539-1559). 2 I am not quite content to accept this attribution, as the distinctive marks of Sanders’ bells are well known, and I would rather assign it to one of his successors, William Welles or Vincent Goroway, who were in the habit of using any old types on which they could lay their hands.

Another bell of exceptional interest is the little sanctusbell which hangs in the western tower-window of Fladbury church. The inscription is

+ Sancta (coin) Katerina (coin) Ora Pro Me Edwardo Gregson (Fig. 121)

and the initial cross may be recognised as used by a London founder (John Sturdy), in the first part of the fifteenth century; the lettering also resembles his, but is greatly reduced to suit the size of the bell. But we are here confronted with the difficulty that the bell is not mentioned in the In-

1 In a letter to me, dated 27 June, 1896.
2 V.C.H., Berks, ii., p. 417. He erroneously gives this bell as being at Shipston-on-Stour.
ventory of goods of Edward VI's reign, and that Edward Gregson who is here commemorated and who was Vicar from 1509-1557 is recorded by Habington to have given 'a Saynts bell to the chancel.' The date of the bell is thus limited to the period 1553-1557, and the character of the inscription is of course quite in keeping with the reign of Queen Mary. This precludes the possibility of its being made by the London founder above-named, and we must suppose that his stamps were used or imitated by some later founder.

The important medieval foundry at Nottingham is not now represented in Worcestershire. But we know that bells were cast there for Halesowen in 1518, and Dr. Prattington records others, at Bretforton and Broadway, both inscribed

**Trinitate Sacra Fiat Haec Campana Beata**

which was a favourite and typical inscription of the Nottingham foundry. The inscriptions were probably in black-letter with large initial Gothic capitals.

The Abberley bell has already been instanced as an example of the removal of bells at the Dissolution, such as may be traced all over England. Another famous example is the Royal Head bell at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, which certainly came from Winchcombe Abbey. The Inventories of Edward VI's reign give another instance from Worcestershire, in the case of the Strensham bells which came from Bordesley Abbey (see above, p. 219).

The same Inventories also throw much light on the state of our steeples at or shortly after the Reformation. At Lindridge we read of 'iiij bells on the steple, viij lytle bells upon a whele, a saunce bell, a liche bell, another lytle bell,' a remarkably complete record. The old saunce bell still exists, as we have seen; the 'little bells on a wheel' are an example of a sanctus bell chime, such as those for which the cases still remain at Tewkesbury and at Milton Abbey, Dorset. At Besford the two bells still existing are mentioned as 'ij bells in the steple,' and the same is the case at Broughton Hackett; at Droitwich S. Andrew, 'iiij bells, a saunce bell, a

1 Nash, 1., p. 449. His brass was at one time in the chancel (ibid.).
3 But Spetchley on the other hand is assigned only three bells, whereas four still exist (see vi. p. 8-212).
common bell for the towne”; at Hallow, “the bells in the stepell, a bell to ring before the corps when it comethe to churche, with a lytell sacryage bell . . . . and a lytell lyche bell that went before the corps.” Most churches seem to have had, besides the two to four bells in the steeple, several small bells variously styled sannces, lyche bells, or sacring bells.

The Greyfriars Monastery in Worcester, had “ij bells in ye Stepull,” and that of the Blackfriars “in ye Stepull a great bell and a small.” Concerning the latter, the late Mr. Noake stated in an article in the *Worcester Herald* that the sanctus bell was sold for 15s. at the suppression in 1540, and that one Mr. Grymes gave £23. 15s. for the two great bells. It would be interesting to know the fate of these, and whether they yet hang in any Worcestershire steeple.

II.—POST-REFORMATION PERIOD.

At the time of the Reformation a great change comes over the character of our church bells. Like the other changes brought about by that event, it is a gradual one, and the new style may be said to have been finally established by 1600. We have thus a Transitional period of some fifty years, during which it is possible, though not usual, to find inscriptions of pre-Reformation sentiment, some of which indeed may be due to the reaction under Queen Mary (cf. Fladbury sanctus). Dates and founders’ names have not yet come into regular use, and the latter are hardly known in Worcestershire before 1650. Dated bells gradually increase in number, but with one exception the earliest example is in 1584. As regards lettering, medieval capitals and black-letter smalls are still in use but are gradually supplanted by Roman letters; and in some cases the lettering is of a mixed character, neither Roman nor Gothic.

We have in Worcestershire only fourteen bells which can be described as Transitional, which is a smaller proportion than in most counties, owing largely to the temporary inactivity of the local foundries. The earliest of these is undoubtedly the former 5th at Elmley Castle, recast in 1886, which is inscribed IHEVS 1559, as shown under that heading (iii. p. 48 (106)). The date is probably 1559 but might possibly be 1556, in which case this would have been one of the very few Marian bells known.¹ There is no clue to the founder.

¹ I only know North Muskham, Notts., and Islington, Norfolk, dated 1556; Middleton-on-Tees, Durham, and Boroughbridge, Yorks. (1557), the latter recast.
A considerable gap of 25 years brings us to the next two bells, both dated 1584, but presumably by different founders, both unknown. One is the little disused bell of Little Washbourne church, inscribed simply MADE 1584 (Fig. 219); the other, the single remaining bell at Frankley, bearing the name of Sir John Littleton (Fig. 123). In both cases the 4 is of the early Elizabethan type, resembling an 8 with the bottom cut off.

The sanctus bell at Tidmington is undated, and by an unknown founder. The inscription is in Roman or quasi-Roman capitals, but is very difficult to make out, and seems to be a meaningless combination of letters. Such inscriptions are not uncommon about 1600, the period to which the bell belongs.

Next we have a bell which was formerly at St. Alban's, Worcester, and is now in the tower of St. James', Devonport, dated 1588. The inscription is set backwards throughout, but its purport is:

IN MY BEGINENGE GOD BE MY SPED AND SEND ME LOVE [see Fig. 231] and at the end is the date 1588. Now the lettering on this bell, is recognisable as that associated with the medieval bells of the 'monastic' type described on p. 18 (290). Possibly the stamps were distributed at the Dissolution, and eventually found their way into a bell-founder's hands. But I doubt if he was a Worcester man. The only examples resembling the St. Alban's bell are (with a doubtful exception in Herefordshire) found near Gloucester, viz., at Huntley (1616), Oxenhall (1605), and Dowdeswell (undated), in that county. It is therefore more likely that he was a Gloucester man.

The remaining bells of Transitional type come from known foundries: those of Gloucester, Worcester, and Leicester. They are therefore described under those respective headings.

THE GLOUCESTER FOUNDRY.

I have already mentioned a group of bells which seem likely to have been cast in this city between 1588 and 1616, but if so, they were contemporary with another group, which from their distribution must certainly have come from this source. This group includes eight bells, mostly of small size, all of which bear the initials I.B., as those of the founder. Unfortunately his name has not yet been discovered, and the
initials are too common to be traced in any Gloucester registers, but it may yet come to light from some local document. Two of the group are in Worcestershire, the sanctus bells at Kempsey (1587) and Hanley Castle (1600). Both are inscribed in capitals, at Kempsey with fleur-de-lys and rose stops, and a bell between the I.B.; at Hanley Castle there is a shield inverted with three bells, between the initials. The other bells are at Corse (1590; recast), Huntley (1590), and Gloucester St. Nicholas (1608); Llanvetherine, Monmouth (1582); Edwin Ralph, Hereford (1587); and Neen Sollars, Salop (1590). The Corse and Neen Sollars bells have also a stamp of a dog.

Overlapping with this group is a founder named Henry Farmer, whose bells, about thirty in number, cover the period 1600-1622. His name, not otherwise known, was recovered from the tenor at Throckmorton, which bears the words

**BE IT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT SHALL VS SEE THAT HENRIE FARMER MADE WE 4 OF 3 1622**

That he was a Gloucester man, if not proved, seems pretty certain, as the majority of his bells are found in that county and in South Worcestershire. There are also two in Warwickshire, and one at Kinnersley in Herefordshire. His chief characteristic is his fondness for giving the day of the month as well as the year when the bells were cast (as at Stow-on-the-Wold and Elmley Castle). He always uses an artistic fleur-de-lys (Fig. 33) as stop, and sometimes, as at Church Lench (Fig. 54), Elmley Castle (Fig. 116), and Throckmorton, an elegant arabesque border.

His Worcestershire bells are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>Church Lench</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1602</td>
<td>Queenhill</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1603</td>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teddington</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1604</td>
<td>Deford</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1605</td>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(new church)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1609</td>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teddington</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Martin Hussingtree we find the initials of an assistant T.W., also occurring at Westcote, Gloucs.

Mention should also be made here of two interesting bells, on which Farmer's initials occur in conjunction with those of James Keene, a founder who came from Bedford to Woodstock about 1623, and set up a foundry at the latter place.

One of these bells, being at Chesterton in Oxfordshire was probably cast at Woodstock, and we may assume that Farmer migrated thither to join Keene and died shortly after. At all events we find Keene using his stamps thence forward. The other bell, at Woolstone, Gloucs., is not dated, and has only the fleur-de-lys and border, and the initials of the pair. A duplicate set of Farmer's stamps seems to have been acquired by Thomas Hancox of Walsall (for whom see later).

At Gloucester he seems to have been succeeded by one John Palmer, whose actual earliest bell, at Sandhurst in that county, is dated 1621. He is not now represented in Worcestershire, the only previous example, at Berrow (1651), having been recently recast.

THE LEICESTER FOUNDRY.

Three of the 'Transitional' bells come from the great foundry at Leicester, unrepresented hitherto in Worcestershire, though it supplied many bells to Warwickshire from about 1350 onwards. In my account of the bells of the latter county (p. 28, ff.), I have gone at some length into its history and that of its successive owners, the Newcombes and Wattses, and as I have no new evidence to bring forward since I wrote, I do not propose to repeat what has there been said.

The 3rd bell at Overbury is, as we shall see, the work of one of the Newcombes. It is inscribed:

\[ + \text{ABCDEFGXEE} \] (see Fig. 179)

with a large and elaborate floriated cross (Warwick pl.: xv. 2: Northants, Fig. 77), the letters being of similar character: i.e. of a semi-Gothic type, but sometimes curiously indeterminate in form, as for instance the ninth and eleventh. Lettering of this type is characteristic of the period, and is also found on bells from the Buckingham foundry and elsewhere. The cross and lettering are found on four other bells with similar meaningless inscriptions:—

Old Weston, Hants., 1st.
Newton Linford, Leics., 3rd (no cross).
Higham Ferrers, Northants., old 4th.
Little Packington, Warwick, 3rd.

2 Dated by me about 1580, being either by Thomas or Robert Newcombe.
At Little Packington we also find marks characteristic of the Newcombes’ bells, which permit us to assign the group to one of that family, viz., the ‘Brasyer’ shield, the head of King Edward III. of the Stoneleigh type (see p. 15 (287)), and two fleur-de-lys stops (one = Leics. 43). The shield is also found at Higham Ferrers. The Brasyer shield (Fig. 78), originally used by founders of that name at Norwich, came into the Newcombes’ hands about 1560 and passed from them to the Wattses about 1590, while the King’s Head came from Nottingham. It is also found on the tenor at Cotheridge, which is inscribed in large spindly characters (the whole being set upside down):

(shield) ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
(two coins) QRSTUVWXYZ
(shield) (Fig. 75).

This is probably a Newcombe bell, but I can find no other example of the lettering. The initial cross however (Fig. 80) is illustrated by North (Leicestershire, Fig. 64), but it only seems to occur at Swinestead, Lincs., and Ackworth, Yorks.

Once again Tidmington tower furnishes a bell of special interest in the 2nd which is inscribed:—

+BARTELMEW ATON (crown) (Fig. 206).

The lettering and stamps are frequently found on bells cast cast at Leicester by Thomas Newcombe (1560-1580), but the name of the founder, Bartholomew Atton, is only found elsewhere on bells cast at Buckingham where he was founding, 1585-1610. The evidence of the Tidmington bell as given by the stamps is that Atton learned his business under Thomas Newcombe at Leicester, where he cast this bell for that founder, or placed his name on it as his assistant, and it must therefore be dated about 1575-85, before he set up on his own at Buckingham. It is interesting to note that only a mile or so away across the Warwickshire border, at Barcheston, is a bell which Atton cast at Buckingham in 1590.

Two later instances of the Newcombes’ work are the 4th at Beoley and the 4th at Severn Stoke, both similarly inscribed with their favourite formula:—

BE YT KNOWNE TO ALL THAT DOTH WE SEE THAT NEWCOMBE OF LEICESTER MADE MEE (at Severn Stoke we have also THOMAS)

and dated respectively 1611 and 1605. The Leicester foundry

1 See my Church Bells of Warw., p. 36.
was then (1602-1612) in the hands of four members of the
Newcombe family, Edward and his three sons, Thomas,
Robert and William, a sort of joint-stock company; hence
the almost invariable absence of Christian names on the bells.
In 1616 the foundry ended with the death of Edward.

The Newcombes' stamps appear to have passed previously,
I.e., about 1590, into the hands of their rivals and former
partners the Wattses. The first mention of this famous bell-
founding family at Leicester is in 1564, when Francis Watts
cast bells for St. Peter's church there. He died in 1600, but
contemporary with him was another Watts, named Hugh,
whose bells occur between 1593 and 1605, and who died in
1617. The final retirement of the Newcombes left the field
clear for this family, and in 1615 a younger Hugh Watts took
sole charge of the foundry. He enjoyed a long and illustrious
career, until his death in 1643, and his 'Nazarenes' or bells
bearing the familiar inscription IHS NAZARENVS, etc., were
known all over the Midlands.

We have one bell in Worcestershire which must be assigned
to the elder Hugh Watts, the tenor at Beoley, dated 1601
(see Fig. 17). It is inscribed throughout in large Gothic capi-
tals which, like the three-bell shield, came from the Brassiers
of Norwich, as did the large ornamental cross (found on one
of their bells at Fressingfield, Suffolk). These capitals are
always used by Hugh Watts I., but only occasionally by his
successor.1

From the younger Hugh Watts we have eight bells, all
cast towards the end of his career:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moseley St. Anne</td>
<td>1638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yardley</td>
<td>1. 4. 5. 1638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester St. Martin</td>
<td>4. 5. 1638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>6. 1640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartlebury old 2</td>
<td>1641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All of these call for some comment, and I am glad to be
able, by the kindness of Canon R. A. Wilson, to give a re-
presentation of the Hartlebury bell, from a photograph taken
before it was recast, reproduced as a Frontispiece to this Part.

The Moseley bell is of the ordinary Hugh Watts type,
though it does not bear his typical 'Jesus Nazarenus' in-
scription, which occurs on Yardley 4th. These bells are
inscribed in small thick letters, the words interspersed with

1 Note the absence of a capital W from the alphabet, for which
a "lower case" letter had to be substituted.
the acorn-border (*Fig. 240*). In 1638 Watts introduced a different style of lettering, of a thinner and squarer type, which is nearly always found henceforth, and occurs on all his other bells in Worcestershire, with the arabesque (as *Fig. 234*) as stop in place of the acorn-border. The three-bell Brasyer shield (*Fig. 78*) is still retained at the beginning of the inscription. On the tenor at Worcester St. Martin we find in its place a cross of unusual type (*Fig. 224*) which I have not met with elsewhere. On the 5th bell of that church Watts reverts to the large Brasyer capitals which the elder Hugh used, as at Beoley.

**THE WORCESTER FOUNDRY.**

We have now to deal with the bells which were certainly cast at Worcester between the end of the Sixteenth and end of the Seventeenth century. The first founder we meet with is the maker of a group of bells, one of which bears the initials I.G. They are all inscribed in small thin letters, and range in date between 1595 and 1608.

The list is as follows:

1595 Dowles, Worcs., 1
1596 Sandhurst, Gloucs. 5, 6. n.d. Droitwich St.Peter,

To these we may possibly add the 2nd at Yarpole, Herefordshire (1605), 1 and two bells in Wales, though I am very doubtful about the latter. 2 Both are dated 1594, and the lettering is very similar to the above group, but between the words are stops in the form of the Greek letter *psi*, not found elsewhere. The Droitwich bell bears the inscription:

GOD SAVA OAR QVEENE ATESABEC (*Fig. 100*)

and consequently cannot be later than 1603. None of the others present any features of special interest.

Now, who is I.G.? The answer seems to be given by another group of bells of later date, all certainly cast at Worcester, one of which, the sanctus at St. John in Bedwardine bears the name IOHN GRE, with the date 1626. The same lettering occurs on eighteen other bells, mostly in Worcestershire,

1 This bell has a border (*Ch. Bells of Warw.,* pl. xx., 8) which also occurs on a bell by John Greene II at Bulkington, Warw.
2 These bells are at Llanybi, Cardigan, and Hyssington, Montgomery.
between 1609 and 1634, and most of them have also a shield with three bells and the initials I.G. We may then assume that the first I.G. was the predecessor of this founder, and very likely also a relative of the Nicholas Grene mentioned on a previous page.

The later John Greene can also be traced in the records of Stratford-on-Avon, under date 26 July, 1627, where we find the entry:

"John Greene bell-founder was presented by the minister and churchwardens for working on Sabbath-day, July 13, in y* time of divine service." and probably fined. Again at Ludlow there is in the churchwardens' accounts for 1623-24 a payment to Greene the Bell-founder towards his charges by the appointment of Mr. Bayliff's iijs iijd.

It would appear however from the accounts for the following year that his tender for recasting bells was not accepted.

The list of John Greene's bells is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Bells</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1609</td>
<td>Holmer Heref.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1614</td>
<td>Bulkington Warw. 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shilton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1618</td>
<td>Upton Warren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worcs. 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1620</td>
<td>Stoke Prior</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1625</td>
<td>Harvington, old 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cotteridge</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1626</td>
<td>Grimley Worcs. 5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naunton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1627</td>
<td>Bockleton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1628</td>
<td>Littie Hereford</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1629</td>
<td>Worcs. 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1630</td>
<td>Stoke Lacy Heref. 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beuchamp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1633</td>
<td>Cotheridge</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kginsley Heref. 4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1634</td>
<td>Kinnersley Worcs. 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naunton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1635</td>
<td>Stoke Lacy Heref. 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beuchamp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1637</td>
<td>Worces. old 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worcester St.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1638</td>
<td>Grumley Worcs. 5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harvington, old 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1674</td>
<td>Naunton</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The date of the Naunton Beuchamp bell is clearly an error for 1624. There is yet another bell which seems to be wrongly dated, and this is an important one, as it gives the founder's name and place of residence:

Lugwardine, Heref. 3rd:

1651 AM ADEM RATSOW FO G (bell) NOHI O DNA ELD

VOH & HTDO TAHT HE

"He that doth hovlde and C Ihon G of Wostar meda ma
1651."

Apart from the fact that the inscription is set backwards and mostly upside down, so that it can only be read by standing on the head before a looking-glass, the date is puzzling as suggesting at first sight another John Greene. And this seems to be further supported by an entry in the Registers of St. Helen's Church:

1 Halliwell, Churchwardens' Papers, p. 25.
165? John Greene baptized
which suggests the son of a then living John Greene. But we
know nothing else to show that any John Greene was foundin
gells in 1651, an unlikely time, and one when John Martin
probably enjoyed a monopoly of the craft. I therefore prefer
to assume that the date is an error for 1615.

John Greene's lettering is neat and well-formed, and he
uses a simple but pleasing initial cross. It is interesting to
note that his shield (Fig. 137) bears in addition to his own
initials those of ZG, presumably one Zachary Greene who acted
as his assistant. At Upton Warren we also find the initials
BG, indicating a third member of the family.

Contemporary with John Greene are two small groups of
bells, both undoubtedly of Worcester origin. There are four
bells cast by Godwin Baker:—

      Doverdale, Wores., 1.
      Worcester St. Peter Wores., 1.


His name occurs on the Worcester St. Peter bell in full; on
the others, only his initials. His bells are chiefly remarkable
for the use of a crown, fleur-de-lys, and crossed keys as stops
between the words. Possibly the last-named refer to a
residence in St. Peter's parish.

Next we have at Edvin Loach a bell inscribed:—

JOHN · ROGARSE · 1629 · S · B (Fig. 88)

and this I think we may fairly assign to one Simon Baker,
whose name occurs in the the Churchwardens' accounts of
St. Nicholas, Warwick in 1619:—

Given to Symon Baker the Belfounder over and above vs
Simon Baker is here connected with another founder, Richard
Dawkes:

In primis pd to Richard Dawkes in Ernest when he under-
took the Casting of the fourth Bell xijd

The only other record of this Richard Dawkes is that he recast
the great bell of Stratford Guild Chapel in 1606, and is
described in the accounts as 'the bell-founder at Evesham.'
In spite of this statement however I incline to claim him as a
Worcester man, only temporarily at Evesham, perhaps for
the purpose of this one operation. For there is in the neigh-

1 Ch. Bells of Warw., p. 56.
bourhood of Worcester and in counties further to the west a group of bells some of which bear the initials R. D., and which therefore one would naturally assign to this Dawkes. They are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1630</td>
<td>Devonport St. James Devon</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1631</td>
<td>Dormstone Worcs.</td>
<td>2 P R D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peopleton Worcs.</td>
<td>3 P I H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1633</td>
<td>Little Hereford Heref.</td>
<td>1 R D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Casco Radnor</td>
<td>2 I H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1636</td>
<td>Boughrood Radnor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White Ladies’ Aston Worcs.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Devonport bell was formerly at St. Albans, Worcester. Whether I.P. and I.H. were assistants to R.D., or the repetition of these initials is merely coincidence I cannot say, but the group is homogeneous in character, and must have been cast at Worcester. The lettering is thin and rather large; the ornament confined to a stop of three vertical dots, except at White Ladies’ Aston, where we have a row of diagonal crosses.

We now come to a Worcester founder of real distinction, one of the most successful craftsmen of the Seventeenth century. This is John Martin, whose industrial career of no less than fifty years began in somewhat unpromising circumstances in the thick of the Civil War, when little bell-founding appears to have been going on in England. His earliest bell is dated 1644, and we have another in 1645, but none in 1646 or 1647. In 1648 he appears on the scene again, and thenceforward he seems to have enjoyed a career of steady prosperity, doubtless due to the introduction of change-ringing which caused increases or alterations to so many rings in the time of Charles II. The total number of his bells existing or recorded, is about 170; and out of 135 Worcestershire bells cast during the fifty years of his career no less than 94 are his work.

He would seem to have been born about the year 1620, and to have set up his foundry in Silver Street in the parish of St. Martin’s, on a site still known as Bellfounder’s Yard.\(^1\) There is no record in the registers of St. Martin’s of his baptism or any earlier occurrence of the name, and it is possible that the well-known practice of giving foundlings a surname from their adopted parish may explain the identity of his surname with the locality. The first actual record which we have of

\(^1\) Nonke, *Notes and Queries*, p. 17
him is in 1655, in which year his marriage took place under the strictly civil conditions of the Commonwealth, as set forth in the parish registers:

Memorandum that John Martin of ye plsh of Martins in ye Cittie of Worcester & Anne Knight of ye plsh of Sweathins in ye Cittie aforesaid were married by Mr. John Nash on ye 8th day of December 1655 being publicly proclaimed 8 several Lord days in ye plsh Church of Martins in ye Cittie of Worcester. Witnesses John Martin & Maria Galloways and John Roberts.

The presence of a John Martin as witness may imply that after all he had a father, but if so he was a Melchisedek without beginning or end of life, so far as the parish records go. In 1697 his wife Anne was buried on April 15th, preceding him by only three days, for we find immediately after the entry:

1697. John Martin was buried April ye 18.

He was thus about 77 at his death, and his last bell was cast in 1693 when he was four years younger. It is therefore quite likely that he was the author of all the bells cast in the preceding 50 years, and there is no necessity to assume two men of the name in so long a period. It is however just worth noting that there is a change in the character of the lettering used about the year 1659, as also in the size of the trade mark.

I have noted that out of his 172 bells, 94 are to be found in Worcestershire; in other counties we have in Gloucestershire 4, Herefordshire 23, Leicestershire 2, Montgomery 1, Shropshire 24, Stafford 2, Radnor 5, and Warwickshire 17. To the south John Palmer of Gloucester seems to have been too powerful for him, and on the east he was even more hemmed in by the Bagleys of Chacombe; hence his bells are rare in South-east Worcestershire.

John Martin used three sets of lettering in all. On the majority of his bells down to 1659 we find a plain thick type of letter, which subsequently occurs once or twice; otherwise he generally uses a thinner variety which is only found in some half-dozen instances before 1659. A smaller version of the latter is found on sanctus bells and others of lesser size. He also uses three forms of foundry-mark, either a heart-shaped shield with a bell and the initials I.M., which is found in two sizes, and seems to have been imitated from Thomas Hancox’s trade-mark (see later), or a large shield of oblong shape surmounted by mantling, on which are the initials with three bells. The latter has an interesting history, as it was
originally used, without the initials, by Robert Atton of Buckingham, and as we shall see later, there is an intermediate instance of its use in 1638 at Stanway, Gloucs. There is a distinct preference for the use of the large heart-mark on his earlier bells, and even the shield is only used once before 1658. He is generally speaking very fond of ornament on his bells, and some are most richly decorated with ornamental patterns (such as Figs. 59 and 71), the latter used either in small or long sections as a stop between the words, the former as a border to the inscriptions all round. A typical initial cross is Fig. 72, derived from Hancox of Walsall, and on his two earliest bells we find a rose as stop between the words.

His inscriptions are not as a rule of great interest; by far the commonest is:

SOLI DEO GLORIA PAX HOMINIBVS

but as a rule we only find names of churchwardens. Grafton Flyford and Himbleton are however notable exceptions, as here we find almost the only instances of his name in full, in the poetic formula beloved of Seventeenth-century Midland founders.

Other inscriptions are found in these two rings

ALL PRAYSE AND GLORY BE TO GOD FOR EVER

(often found on his smaller bells)

ALL MEN THAT HEAR MY ROARING SOUND
REPENT BEFORE YOU LY IN GROUND

(probably acquired from the Oldfields of Nottingham)

and lastly a unique one at Grafton Flyford

WEE WISH IN HEVEN THEER SOULS MAY SING
THAT GAVST VS SIX HERE FOR TO RING

I give here the complete list of John Martin’s bells, in order to complete the record of the Worcester founders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Lettering.</th>
<th>Trade- Other</th>
<th>Mark. marks.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1644</td>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>3 Thick.</td>
<td>Cross and rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1645</td>
<td>Droitwich St.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>7 &quot; Fig. 68</td>
<td>Cross and rose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1648</td>
<td>Severn Stoke</td>
<td>&quot; 1, 5, old</td>
<td>69 Cross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1649</td>
<td>Neen Sollars</td>
<td>Salep.</td>
<td>3 Thin.</td>
<td>69 Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>Bickenhill</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>4 Thick.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheldon</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>4 Thin.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southam</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>5 Thick.</td>
<td>Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wishaw</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>1.2 &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moseley St. Anne</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>2 &quot;</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>Vol.</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1651</td>
<td>Croome d'Abitot</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1652</td>
<td>Bayton</td>
<td>Heref.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yarpole</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1653</td>
<td>Thurlaston</td>
<td>Leics.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryton</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tachbrook</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upton Warren</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yardley</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1654</td>
<td>Worcester St. Swithin</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fillongley</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1655</td>
<td>Ashby Magna</td>
<td>Leics.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clifton</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mumble</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Busbury</td>
<td>Staffs.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1657</td>
<td>King's Pyon</td>
<td>Heref.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weobley</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ditton Priors</td>
<td>Salop</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holgate</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1658</td>
<td>Beckbury</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shinpton</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abberley</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Lench</td>
<td>Heref.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mansel Lacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pembridge</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1659</td>
<td>Brimfield</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stratford</td>
<td>Salop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solihull</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stanton</td>
<td>Gloucs.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bosbury</td>
<td>Heref.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kimbolton</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abberley</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Doverdale</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worcester St. Michael</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1660</td>
<td>Oddingley</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roues Lench</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Severn Stoke</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worcester St. Martin</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1661</td>
<td>Temple Grafton</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Llanvihangel Beguildy</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1662</td>
<td>Llandysill</td>
<td>Montgom.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church Lench</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oldberrow</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Year | Location        | Note | Lettering          | Mark | Mark | Trade-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1663</td>
<td>Eastham</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fig. 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knightwick</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hampton Lovett</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lindridge</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stoke Prior</td>
<td>6 &amp; old</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drayton Bassett</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Curdworth</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1664</td>
<td>Ipsley</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gethyis</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>67, 68</td>
<td>67, 68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Llanvihangel</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beguildy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clifton-on-Teme</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hampton Lovett</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wichenford</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birmston</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Cross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastham</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td>(only on 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diddlebury</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nash</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tugford</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holgate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stoke Prior</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bockleton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crowle</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Llanelly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clun</td>
<td>Salop old 2.6</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Cross</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clifton-on-Teme</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Haseor</td>
<td>old 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hindlip</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pensax</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stoke Bliss</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gt. Alne</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boraston</td>
<td>Salop old 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bostre Wafers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yarkhill</td>
<td>Herref.</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>(only on 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stanford Bishop</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wixford</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bayton</td>
<td>Warw.</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Broom</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Churchhill</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wichenford</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1673</td>
<td>Oldberrow</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Highley</td>
<td>Salop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elmstone</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hardwick</td>
<td>Gloucs.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Himbleton</td>
<td>Worcs.</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathon</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Naunton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beauchamp</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1676</td>
<td>Grafton Flyford</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N. Piddle</td>
<td>old 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diddlebury</td>
<td>Salop</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stanton Long</td>
<td>old 3</td>
<td>Thick</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worcester St. Peter</td>
<td>Worcs. old 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The last of the Worcester Seventeenth-century founders was William Huntbach, who exactly overlaps with the last eight years of John Martin’s career. He was apparently not a very successful founder, and besides a ring of five bells which he cast for Mordiford in Herefordshire, and three others for Kington, there are only three or four other examples of his work. There is also a record of certain transactions of an unsuccessful character with the churchwardens of Ludlow in 1688, when he cast two trebles for that church which proved unsatisfactory, and in 1694 were taken down and returned to him.¹ His residence in Worcester was near the Cross, as we learn from a description of the beating of the bounds of St. Nicholas’ parish in 1692, which mentions his house.² We do not know the date of his death, but that of his widow is given in the registers of St. Helen’s parish in 1715.

¹ Walters, Church Bells of Shropshire, pp. 114, 149, 150.
The list of his bells is as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1686</td>
<td>Claines, Worcs.</td>
<td>Worcs. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1687</td>
<td>Hereford St. Nicholas, Heref. old 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mordiford</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1692</td>
<td>Droitwich St. Peter, Worcs. S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1693</td>
<td>Kington</td>
<td>Worcs. 1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possibly also the treble at Llanynys, Brecknock, dated 1673. Huntbach's name is given in full on Mordiford 4th, and also at Hereford St. Nicholas. On the Claines and Kington bells we have his initials coupled with those of one R.D., not otherwise known. It is just possible he may be one of the two following mentioned in St. Helen's Registers: Richard Daggett, who had a daughter in 1673; Richard Dancocks, married in 1681, also mentioned in 1682 and 1689.

1 See for the full inscriptions, Duncumbe-Cooke, Hist. of Heref., ii., p. 78.

(To be concluded).