

La fondation de la chartreuse d'Oujon, dans l'actuelle commune d'Arzier (VD) représenté, outre sa dimension spirituelle, une des phases de colonisation de la haute chaîne du Jura au milieu du XIIe siècle. Nous nous proposons de montrer ici non pas l'héritage spirituel ou culturel d'un monastère à tous points de vue fort modeste, qui ne nous a laissé aucune production d'ordre théologique ou liturgique, mais un héritage relevant de la seule et très pragmatique politique territoriale.

La fondation de la chartreuse d'Oujon remonte aux environs de 1146 et est due à l'initiative d'un seigneur local, Louis de Mont, représentant d'une famille bien implantée entre Léman et Jura. Au moment de la mise en place de ce nouveau monastère, dans un endroit non défriché, à plus de 1000 mètres d'altitude, la colonisation de la haute montagne jurassienne est encore embryonnaire, même si la chaîne est traversée par des voies de circulation bien fréquentées. Les Romains ne s'étaient pas intéressés à ces étages et dans la région qui nous intéresse, il n'y a au XIIe siècle que bien peu d'acteurs présents sur le terrain. Le plus important d'entre eux est sans conteste la puissante ablaye de Saint-Oyend (qui s'appellera bientôt Saint-Claude), dont le territoire déboude largement sur le col de Saint-Cergue et la vallée de Joux. Dans ce dernier secteur, le monastère qui a été le point de départ de toute une «spiritualité jurassienne» se trouve face à un nouveau venu, l'abbaye des Prémontrés du lac de Joux, création de la famille de Grandson. Mais les limites de ces zones de souveraineté sont d'autant plus floues que les terres sont encore peu exploitées. L'arrivée dans ce contexte d'une nouvelle seigneurie temporelle, la chartreuse d'Oujon, agit comme un élément perturbateur, mais finira par forcer des délimitations et des accommodements. Apaisé pour un temps, à grands renforts de confirmations par les plus hautes instances, le conflit de frontières entre Oujon et Saint-Claude resurgira au milieu du XIVe siècle, pour des raisons obscures, puis après l'introduction de la Réforme dans le Pays de Vaud en 1536 et la suppression subséquente de la chartreuse, pour des raisons qui le sont beaucoup moins.

Mais, et c'est ce qui fait la particularité de notre cas, ce conflit tirera encore des prolongements inattendus jusqu'en plein XIXe siècle, puisque, c'est du moins notre hypothèse, il est à l'origine du problème dit de la vallée des Dappes, qui a terni les relations franco-suisse sous le Second Empire. C'est cette filiation étrange et apparemment ignorée des historiens jusqu'à ce jour que nous nous proposons de démêler ici.

The Carthusian *Provincia Angliae*,<sup>1</sup> created in 1369,<sup>2</sup> consisted of the Charterhouses of Witham (1178/79-1539),<sup>3</sup> Hinton (1227/32-1539),<sup>4</sup> Beauvale (1343-1539),<sup>5</sup> London

<sup>1</sup> For the history of the English charterhouses the standard work remains K.M. Thompson, *The Carthusian Order in England*, London 1930, though this should be supplemented by Carol B. Rowntree's remarkable unpublished dissertation, *Studies in Carthusian History in Later Medieval England With Special Reference to the Order's Relations with Secular Society*, Dept. of History, University of York 1981, which is particularly valuable for the source material which it offers. For the dissolution cf. Joyce Youings, *The Dissolution of the Monasteries*, London 1971. For further bibliographical indications cf. James Hogg, "Les Chartreuses Anglaises: Maisons et Bibliothèques", in Daniel Le Blévec and Alain Girard (eds.), *Les Chartreux et l'art: XIVe-XVIIIe siècles: Actes du Colloque de Villeneuve-lès-Avignon*, Paris 1989, pp. 207-28. A good deal of information concerning the English charterhouses can be gleaned from the Acta of the Carthusian General Chapter, which have been in the course of publication since 1984 as *Analecta Cartusiana* 100. About 30 volumes have been issued to date. James Hogg (ed.), "Dom Paléon Bastin's Extracts from the ACTA of the Carthusian General Chapter for the PROVINCIA ANGLIAE: PARKMINSTER MS. B.77", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 100:21 (1989), pp. 33-102, deals exclusively with the English charterhouses. Work on the *Chartae* project has delayed the completion of James Hogg, *Surviving English Carthusian Remains: Beauvale, Coventry, Mountgrace*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 36, of which only the album appeared in 1976, as it seemed preferable to wait until more unpublished material had been assembled for the introductory volume, which will deal with all the English charterhouses. The album contains the following plates: 1 Witham; 2-19 Beauvale; 20-45 Coventry; 46 Axholme; 47-127 Mountgrace; 128-35 Hinton, 136 Parkminster. Summary information of high calibre is offered in David Knowles and R. Neville Hadcock, *Medieval Religious Houses: England and Wales*, London 1971, pp. 133-136. Recently Joseph A. Gribbin has shed further light on the English charterhouses in *Aspects of Carthusian Liturgical Practice in Later Medieval England*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 99:33 (1995), and his *Liturgical and Miscellaneous Questions, Dubia and Supplications to La Grande Chartreuse from the English Carthusian Province in the Later Middle Ages*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 100:32 (1999). John Leland, *The Itinerary of John Leland, in or about the years 1535-1543*, ed. L.T. Smith, 5 vols., London 1964, offers valuable information on some of the English charterhouses in the years following their suppression.

<sup>2</sup> For the creation of the Carthusian Provinces, cf. James Hogg, "Die Ausbreitung der Kartäuser", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 89 (1987), pp. 5-26.

<sup>3</sup> There is no real history of Witham. The best account is Rowntree, pp. 13-32, 440-41. There are numerous references to Witham in Adam of Eynsham's *Magna Vita Sancti Hugonis*, ed. Decima L. Douie and Hugh Farmer, 2 vols., London 1961. Information on points of local history can be gleaned from Michael McGarvie, *Witham Friary: Church and Parish, Church Histories 1*, Frome 1981. Among the older literature Revd. John Collinson, *History and Antiquities of ... Somerset*, Vol. 2 (1791), pp. 232-36; Samuel Cuzner, *Handbook to Froome Selwood* (1866); Sir Richard Colt Hoare, *Monastic Remains of the Religious Houses of Witham, Bruton, and Stavordale* (1824); Edward Hutton, *Highways and Byways in Somerset* (1924); Revd. E.B. Prince, *Sketches of the History and the Life of Witham Friary in the Nineteenth Century* (1909); E.M. Thompson, *The Somerset Carthusians* (1895) —also for Hinton (pp. 343-50 on the buildings); *Victoria History of the County of Somerset*, Vol. 2: Religious Houses. The following articles also add some details: J. Armitage Robinson, "Tine Foundation Charter of Witham Charterhouse", *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* 64 (1918); T.F. Elworthy, "Witham Friary", *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* 39 (1893); Bishop Hobhouse, "Witham Friary", *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* 39 (1893); E. Hunt, "On the Stone Vaulting of the Carthusian Church at Witham", *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* 24 (1878); J.H. Parker, "On the Origins of Gothic Architecture", *Archaeologia* 43 (1871); J.T.E. Westropp, "Witham Friary", *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* 39 (1893); William White, "On the Restoration of the Church at Witham", *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological Society* 24 (1878); D.M. Wilson and D.C. Hurst, "Medieval Britain in 1966", *Medieval Archaeology* 11 (1967), pp. 275-76.

(1371-1537),<sup>7</sup> Kingston-upon-Hull (1377-1539),<sup>8</sup> Coventry (1381-1539),<sup>9</sup> Axholme (1397-1538),<sup>10</sup> Mount Grace (1398-1539),<sup>10</sup> and Sheen (1414-1539)<sup>11</sup>. An Irish charterhouse existed in Kinalekin in Galway ca. 1249-1321,<sup>12</sup> but was abandoned by the Carthusian General Chapter in 1321, though some elderly monks, who were too

<sup>7</sup> Cf. James Hogg, *The Architecture of Hinton Charterhouse*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 25 (1975); Rowntree, pp. 32-38, 441-42. The following books and articles offer information on specific points: Sir William Dugdale, *Monasticon Anglicanum*, ed. John Caley, Henry Ellis, and Bulkeley Bandinel, Vol. 6, Part 1, London 1830; Philip C. Fletcher, "Further Excavations at Hinton Priory, Somerset", *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* 103 (1958-59), pp. 7680; Philip C. Fletcher, "Recent Excavations at Hinton Priory", *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* 96 (1951), pp. 160-65; E.D. Foxcroft, "Notes on Hinton Charterhouse", *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society* 41 (1895), pp. 92-98; Edward T.D. Foxcroft, "Tine Carthusian Priory of Hinton", Bath 1891 (reprinted from *Transactions of the Bath Field Club*); Rev. Frederick S. Gray, *Locus Dei, the Story of Hinton Charterhouse*, London 1921; Anna Maria Spencer, *Some Account of Hinton Charterhouse and more particularly of Hinton Abbey*, London 1844; D.M. Wilson and J.C. Hurst, "Medieval Britain in 1957", *Medieval Archaeology* 2 (1958), pp. 191-92.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. Rowntree, pp. 38-46, 442-44.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. W.H. St. John Hope, *The History of the London Charterhouse*, London 1925,—particularly useful for its documentation; David Knowles and W.F. Grimes, *Charterhouse: The Medieval Foundation in the Light of Recent Discoveries*, London 1954; Rowntree, pp. 47-63, 444-45.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. James Hogg, "Kingston upon Hull", *DHGE* (in the press); Rowntree, pp. 64-76, 446; *Victoria County Histories: Yorkshire, East Riding*, Vol. 1, pp. 54, 333-34, 341-42; A.S. Harvey, "A Calendar of Documents Relating to the Carthusian Priory and the Maison-Dieu Almshouse of Kingston-upon-Hull", *Transactions of the East Riding Antiquarian Society* 30 (1953), pp. 92-102; and amongst the older literature: John Cook, *The History of God's House of Hull, commonly called the Charterhouse*, Hull 1882, and John Tickell, *The History of the Town and County of Kingston-upon-Hull*, London 1796, pp. 424, 741, 745-46.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. *Victoria County Histories: Warwickshire*, Vol. 8, pp. 129-30; B. Poole, *Coventry: Its History and Antiquities*, London 1870; W.G. Fretton, "Memorials of the Charterhouse, Coventry", *Birmingham Archeological Society, Transactions, Excursions and Report* 5 (1874), pp. 26-45; Rowntree, pp. 7693, 447-49. M. Rylatt & L. Soden, "Excavations at the Carthusian Priory of St. Anne, Coventry", *West Midlands Archeological Newsheet* 1987.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. P.J. Hills, *The Priory of the Wood*, Gainsborough 1961; D.M. Owen, *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, Lincoln 1971, p. 146; N. Pevsner and J. Harris, *Lincolnshire*, London 1964, pp. 188, 334; W.B. Stonehouse, *The History and Topography of the Isle of Axholme*, London 1839, p. 254; *Victoria County Histories: Lincolnshire*, Vol. 1 1, pp. 210-1 1; Rowntree, pp. 94-104, 449-53.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. H.V. Le Bas, W. Brown, W.H. St. John Hope, "Mount Grace Priory", *Yorkshire Archeological Journal* 71 (1905), pp. 241-309; Rowntree, pp. 104-17, 453-56.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. Rowntree, pp. 117-28, 457-75. For the remains in 1649 cf. James Hogg, "Sheen Charterhouse: The 1649 Parliamentary Survey", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 116:4 (1989), pp. 110-18. The most significant work on Sheen is, however, Neil Beckett's recent unpublished Oxford D. phil. dissertation. Unfortunately, the author was unable to obtain a permanent academic post and had to enter commerce. The loss to scholarship will undoubtedly be considerable. For the apocryphal charterhouse of Totnes, cf. James Hogg, "Tine Reputed Charterhouse of Totnes", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 116:4 (1989), pp. 7684.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. Andrew Gray, "Kinaleghin: A Forgotten Irish Charterhouse of the Thirteenth Century", *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 89 (1959), pp. 35-58 (with extensive bibliography). Though adequately endowed, its estates were the subject of prolonged litigation. In 1321 the Carthusian General Chapter decreed: "De Domo Hiberniae extrahat quidquid poterunt in redditibus et pecunia Priores Angliae, cum sit inutilis Ordini, et hoc faciant de consilio peritorum, nec ulterius mittantur monachi ad eandem, nisi forte ad tractandum de praedicta permutatione facienda." (John Clark ed.), *Dom Johannes Chauvet: Transumptum ex Chartis Capituli Generalis: Ab Anno 1250 Ad Annum 1379*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 100:29 (1998), p. 91. There is a brief notice on Kinalekin with bibliography by James Hogg in *DHGE* (in the press). The buildings which survived on the site until recent times were due to the Franciscans, who eventually succeeded the Carthusians at Kinalekin.

infirm to transfür to distant houses in England or France, probably lingered on until their death. A charterhouse at Perth<sup>13</sup> in Scotland existed 1429-1567, but was, for political reasons, only affiliated to the English Province at irregular intervals.

The *Provincia Angliae* ceased to exist in 1539, all the houses being suppressed by Henry VIII before the end of that year. Only Sheen was destined to enjoy a brief renaissance 1557-1559 by the grace and favour of Mary Tudor, but soon after the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558 the monks had to take the road to exile, though they continued a communal existence as Sheen Anglorum in various locations in the Low Countries, maintaining their English identity until the suppression of the contemplative Orders under the Austrian Emperor Joseph II in 1782.<sup>14</sup>

In 1873 a new charterhouse was projected at Partridge Green, near Horsham in rural Sussex, to house Carthusians threatened by anti-clerical legislation in France. Dedicated to St. Hugh of Lincoln, a vast complex, Parkminster, was erected at the expense of the Order by an army of workers from 1876 onwards under the direction of a French architect in neo-gothic style. The great cloister, a parallelogram measuring 377 x 440 feet, encloses a cloister garth of three and a half acres! By the late twentieth century the charterhouse was in urgent need of major restoration, when, fortunately, the English Heritage stepped in to aid with the very considerable costs. The solitude of the site has been diminished in recent years by an important road from London to the South Coast resorts, which passes in close proximity to the charterhouse.<sup>15</sup>

#### WITHAM CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to Our Lady, St. John the Baptist, and All Saints, the charterhouse of Witham was constructed in a clearance in Selwood Forest. Even in the twentieth century the population of the area is by no means dense. The monastery was surrendered to the agents of Henry VIII on 15 March 1539.<sup>16</sup> Its estates were limited, as its annual revenues were assessed at a mere £ 215 in 1535.<sup>17</sup> Only the chapel<sup>18</sup> of the laybrethren, Witham Friary, is extant, which formed part of the corriere,<sup>19</sup> which the laybrothers inhabited until ca. 1458, when they were transferred to the charterhouse proper a quarter of a mile away.<sup>20</sup> The last remnants of the monastic buildings were demolished in 1764, but

<sup>13</sup> Cf. W.N.M. Beckett, "Tine Perth Charterhouse before 1500", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 128 (1988), pp. 3-74. John Knox, the Scottish Reformer, who inspired the sack of the Perth charterhouse in May 1559, pretended that it was extremely rich, but the entries in the Acta of the General Chapter do not give this impression. The buildings were totally destroyed during the upheavals of the Reformation, though a Scottish enterprise claimed in 1996 that it owns them!

<sup>14</sup> Cf. Jan de Grauwe, *Histoire de la chartreuse de Sheen Anglorum au continent: Bruges, Louvain, Malines, Nieuport (1559-1783)*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 48 (1984).

<sup>15</sup> There are interesting details about the construction in John Skinner, *Hear Our Silence*, London 1995. One wonders, however, whether a more modest complex in Ireland, which was under consideration, would not have been more economical than restoring Parkminster's vast range of buildings.

<sup>16</sup> Cf. J.H. Bethey, *The Suppression of the Monasteries in the West Country*, Gloucester 1989, pp. 7, 10, 11, 20, 48, 71, 118-19, 136, 146, 148, 161, 183.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135.

<sup>18</sup> There is a detailed description of the building and the various modifications to it during the periodic restorations in McGarvie, pp. 3-9, 15-18.

<sup>19</sup> Some of the buildings of the corriere, besides the chapel, seem still to have been extant as late as 1812, according to a plan drawn up by Francis Webb in that year: cf. McGarvie, pp. 40-42.

<sup>20</sup> There is a brief description of Witham in Jean-Pierre Aniel, *Les maisons de Chartreux: Des Origines à la Chartreuse de Pavie*, Bibliothèque de la Société Française d'Archéologie 16, Geneva 1983, pp.

amateur excavations under the direction of Peter Barlow and his son Robin Barlow in 1965-1969<sup>21</sup> revealed the main outlines of the plan, including the church, the cloister alleys,<sup>22</sup> possibly the chapterhouse and a monk's cell.<sup>23</sup> Disturbingly, the excavations revealed a church of considerably dimensions with a central nave and two aisles,<sup>24</sup> contrary to primitive Carthusian usage, but it was assumed that the aisles had been added subsequently to provide space for supplementary altars when private masses became more frequent.<sup>25</sup>

Probably the monastic buildings were left to decay after the dissolution, though part of them were utilised by the Hopton family as a residence. Ralph Hopton's acquisition of Friary Grange in 1544 is recorded.<sup>26</sup> When Sir William Wyndham inherited the estate, he decided to erect a new mansion on the site, Witham House, engaging the fashionable architect William Talman to design it in Palladian style. No doubt, the building materials from the charterhouse were employed in the new construction, which was completed around 1717, inspiring Robert Adam to employ the frontal screen features in Osterley Park, Middlesex after 1762. The estate changed hands several times, including among its owners William Beckford, who was to build Fonthill Abbey. By 1861 only ruins of the Palladian house were extant.<sup>27</sup> The monastic dovecote, mentioned in the grant of Friary Grange to Ralph Hopton in 1544, is still extant, though much modified over the years.

#### HINTON CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to Our Lady, St. John the Baptist, and All Saints, Hinton charterhouse near Bath, today close to a busy road, no doubt enjoyed an appropriate solitude in the Middle Ages. The monastery should have been constructed at Hatherop in Gloucestershire in 1222, but the monks complained of the inadequate endowment, and on the death of William Longespée in 1226, his widow transferred the foundation to her park at Hinton in 1227. As the church was consecrated in May 1232, the main buildings must already have been completed at this time. They were renovated during the priorate of Richard Burton in the first half of the fifteenth century. Its modest annual revenues were assessed at £ 248 in 1535.<sup>28</sup> Henry VIII's agents dissolved the monastery and took over the buildings on 31 March 1539.<sup>29</sup> Thomas Cromwell had promised the charterhouse to Sir Walter Hungerford and the royal agents for the West Country, Dr.

John Tregonwell and Dr. William Petre, placed part of the property in his hands, but Sir Thomas Arundel, Augmentations Receiver for the South-Western counties, arrived at Hinton during Hungerford's absence in London, "sold and despoiled, and quite carried away a great part of the church and other superfluous buildings." Apparently Arundel was trying to make the maximum profits possible.<sup>30</sup> Hungerford was soon disgraced and executed, Hinton reverting to the Crown. In 1546 the charterhouse was granted to John Bartlett, alias Sancocke, and Robert Bartlett.<sup>31</sup> The rest of the estate was split up into lots and allocated to several purchasers from 1539 to 1546. Substantial quantities of lead was stripped from the roofs of the church, the bell-tower, the cloisters, and other buildings.<sup>32</sup> The Bartletts were mere speculators and soon sold the property to Matthew Colthurst.<sup>33</sup> Edward Colthurst in turn sold it to the Hungerfords in 1578, who are usually credited with the construction of the extant manor house, which certainly includes medieval features, probably of the former monastic guesthouse. John Leland, however, on his journey to the West Country soon after the dissolution speaks already of "a graung great and well builded, that longed to Henton Priory of Chartusians."<sup>34</sup> In 1615 the manors of Hinton and Norton were granted to Henry, Prince of Wales, on whose death they passed to his brother, Prince Charles, who, some time after his accession to the throne, granted them to Lord Craven. Around 1660 the lands were again in the hands of the Hungerford family, but towards 1684 they were sold to Henry Baynton, who in turn sold them to Walter Robinson early in the eighteenth century. On the death of Stocker Robinson in 1781, they passed in the right of his daughters Margaret and Ellen to James Humphreys and Joseph Frowd. The manor house came into the hands of the Fletcher family in the early 1930's and Major Philip and his son, Robin Fletcher, carried out extensive excavations from April 1950 till 1958-59, revealing the foundations of the thirteenth century aisleless church, measuring 96 x 26 feet, on the north side of the cloister, the cloister alleys of the great cloister, which formed a square of 226.50 feet, and fifteen cells, whereby two — one in the south-west corner and another on a corridor from the north-west corner — were clearly later additions. Besides the manor house, only the two storied chapterhouse building, revealing modestly moulded capitals and foliated corbels, with either the archives or the library above, and the likewise two storied refectory and kitchen at the north-west corner of the great cloister are today extant. The Fletcher family had to put up the charterhouse for sale in 1970, but it has remained in private hands. The laybrothers originally inhabited a corrie near the River Frome, about half a mile from the charterhouse proper. The site of their church has been identified.

<sup>21</sup> Cf. Peter Barlow, "Excavation Notes", in *77th and 78th Annual Reports of the Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society* 1965-66, pp. 6-7, and his "Excavation Notes", in *79th and 80th Annual Reports of the Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society* 1967-68, pp. 7-11.

<sup>22</sup> The great cloister apparently measured 161 feet from east to west and 312 feet from north to south.

<sup>23</sup> Cf. James Hogg, "Excavations at Witham Charterhouse", in *Analecta Cartusiana* 37 (1977), pp. 118-33, with two plans (pp. 132-33). Dean Armitage Robinson and Prebendary Palmer, then Vicar of Witham, had dug two shallow trenches on the presumed site in Terrace Field in 1921, which confirmed the location (cf. *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries* 17, p. 90).

<sup>24</sup> The central nave was 20 feet wide, the two aisles 11 feet. The length of the church was 81 feet.

<sup>25</sup> This assumption was supported by the discovery of fragments of tracery from both the Decorated and Perpendicular periods. Cf. James Hogg, "Excavations", pp. 127-28.

<sup>26</sup> Cf. McGarvie, p. 45.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. McGarvie, pp. 12, 34 (with reproduction of an engraving of Witham House from *Vitruvius Britannicus* by John Cleghorn, made for Sir Richard Colt Hoare's *Monastic Remains* in 1824). The house appeared to be in good order at that time, but had nothing monastic in its appearance.

<sup>28</sup> Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135.

<sup>29</sup> Cf. Bettye, pp. 7, 8, 11, 20, 30, 31, 32, 65, 91, 114-15, 118-19, 122, 160, 183.

<sup>30</sup> Cf. *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII*, Vol. 14, pt. i, N<sup>o</sup>. 1154.

<sup>31</sup> *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 37 Henry VIII, pt. iii.

<sup>32</sup> *Augmentation Office Accounts*, 30-31 Henry VIII, N<sup>o</sup> 224. Surprisingly, there is no mention of the bells.

<sup>33</sup> Foxcroft, p. 11, suggests that Matthew Colthurst built the Elizabethan manor house that is still standing.

<sup>34</sup> Leland, Vol. 1, p. 139. Collinson, Vol. 3, p. 366, 369, wrote of the site of the charterhouse in 1791: "The present Manor-house of Hinton was erected out of the ruins of the Abbey, of which several parts, such as the chapel, out-chapel, charnel-house, and granary, are still remaining." I am not sure what Collinson means by the "chapel" and "out-chapel". Is one of them the chapterhouse?

## BEAUVALE CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to the Holy Trinity, Our Lady, and All Saints, the charterhouse of Beauvale, founded in 1343 in a rural area on land donated by Nicholas de Cantilupe, Lord of Ilkeston, a minor noble, was indeed a modest establishment. Planned for a prior and twelve monks, about forty years later a number of extra cells were added. Nevertheless, in the 1370's the original buildings had still not been completed, as the emblem of Richard II has been identified on tiles, along with those of the Cantilupe and Zouche families. The house should have been suppressed as a minor monastery in 1535, when its annual revenues amounted to a mere £ 195,<sup>35</sup> but it purchased a reprieve, being finally suppressed by Henry VIII's commissioners on 18 July 1539. Today only sections of the north and south walls of the church in a very dilapidated condition, a three storied building adjacent to the west of the church, which originally had its own courtyard, part of the gatehouse, and the east precinct wall are extant. Excavations were made on the site at the beginning of the century, which roughly established the plan.<sup>36</sup> The great cloister measured 190 feet from east to west and 186 feet from north to south. Between the great cloister and the precinct wall on the north, west, and south sides a space of 43 feet allowed the construction of the monks' cells. The excavations revealed the foundations of five cells on the north side, and it is assumed there were four more on the west and five on the south side. The church, measuring 27 by at least 112 feet lay on the east side, but the east wall was not located. To the south of the church was a small cloister measuring 60 by 120 feet, but the precise lay-out of the buildings around it could not be established. The extant fifteenth century three storied building, with two large rooms with fireplaces in the upper stories, has often been referred to as the prior's lodging, though there is no evidence to confirm this. On the ground floor were two storerooms with a corridor in the middle leading from the church to the cloister. Of the gatehouse the eastern wall and upper storey are no longer extant, but three rooms on the ground floor are visible. As the gatehouse was in the centre, the room to the east probably served the laybrother who answered the door, with the guesthouse and monastic obediences to the west, now mainly under the farm buildings which occupy the site. It is not known whether the laybrethren originally inhabited a corrie separate from the charterhouse.<sup>37</sup> Further excavations on the site are unlikely.

## LONDON CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to the Salutation of the Blessed Virgin, the London charterhouse, founded in 1371 unromantically on the site of a cemetery, where up to 100,000 victims of the Black Death and its aftermath were interred, by Sir Walter Manny, who had become wealthy serving in the French Wars, was designed from the beginning for a double community with twenty-four cells. Architecturally it was certainly along with Sheen the most impressive of the English charterhouses, as it attracted a considerable number of

benefactors among the rich citizens of London and in ecclesiastical circles.<sup>38</sup> Noted for its fervour, the charterhouse counted thirty monks and eighteen laybrothers in 1535, and the annual revenues were assessed at the considerable figure of £ 642. The charterhouse offered heroic resistance to Henry VIII, the prior, John Houghton, and a number of its monks and laybrothers suffering martyrdom for their faith,<sup>39</sup> before it was forcibly closed in 1537. Unfortunately, only a corner of the great cloister, the entrance portal to a cell with the hatch, and probably the chapterhouse are extant today, such other buildings as survived the Reformation being destroyed by an incendiary bomb on 11 May 1941 during the Second World War. Limited excavations in the area of the church, the chapterhouse, the refectory, the guesthouse, and the laybrothers' quarters, were made 1948-49, before the buildings were reconstructed.<sup>40</sup> The area of the great cloister is, however, covered by modern edifices, which rendered excavations impossible. The great cloister measured 340 feet from east to west and 300 feet from north to south.<sup>41</sup> The church, measuring 97 by 38 feet, and the chapterhouse were on the southern side of the great cloister with three cells further to the east. The little cloister to the west of the church measured 41 feet from west to east and 35.50 feet from north to south. Further to the west lay first the guesthouse, then the quarters of the laybrothers, and finally the gatehouse. A fifteenth century plan of the water supply for the charterhouse<sup>42</sup> was held by a number of authors to be a flight of phantasy, but was confirmed in all its details by the excavations. There are also two contemporary accounts of the buildings shortly after the dissolution: the first by William Dale, dated 24 November 1537,<sup>43</sup> and the second by William Hamton, dated 18 March 1545.<sup>44</sup> Both Lord North and then Thomas Howard, fourth Duke of Norfolk, occupied the charterhouse as their London mansion in the years following the expulsion of the monks. Thereafter the buildings served as a charitable institution from 1611 onwards, when Sutton purchased them, and it housed the famous Charterhouse Public School,<sup>45</sup> until the latter was transferred to more suitable surroundings for the education of youth in Surrey.

<sup>35</sup> Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135.

<sup>36</sup> Cf. Rev. A. Du Boulay Hill and H. Gill, "Beauvale Charterhouse, Nottinghamshire", *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* 12 (1908), pp. 69-94. James Hogg, "Supplementary Photographs of Beauvale Charterhouse", *Analecta Cartusiana* 35:5 (1986), pp. 128-29, provided recent illustrations of the ruins.

<sup>37</sup> If they did, it has been speculated that this might have been on the site of the present Manor Farm.

<sup>38</sup> Apart from Hope and Knowles and Grimes, some further details on the buildings can be found in G.S. Davies, *Charterhouse in London*, London 1921, Lawrence Hendriks, *The London Charterhouse*, London 1889, and A. Oswald, *The London Charterhouse Restored*, London 1959.

<sup>39</sup> Cf. the contemporary witness of Dom Maurice Chauncy of the London Charterhouse, *Historia aliquot martyrum anglorum maxime octodecim Cartusianorum*, Montreuil-sur-Mer 1888; Dom Maurice Chauncy, *The Passion and Martyrdom of the Holy English Carthusian Fathers: The Short Narration*, ed. by G.W.S. Curtis, London 1935. Details of the lives of the martyrs can be found in L.E. Whatmore, *The Carthusians under King Henry VIII*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 109 (1983). The general background is given in David and Gervase Mathew O.P., *The Reformation and the Contemplative Life: A Study of the Conflict between the Carthusians and the State*, London 1934.

<sup>40</sup> They form the subject-matter of the book by Knowles and Grimes, who furnish an excellent plan between pages 82 and 83. They also print photographs of all significant features.

<sup>41</sup> Knowles and Grimes indicate the probable distribution of the cells on pp. 52 and 81.

<sup>42</sup> Reproduced in Knowles and Grimes, p. 35, and Hope, p. 107.

<sup>43</sup> The significant passages are printed by Knowles and Grimes, pp. 85-85. The document is printed in full by Hope, pp. 178-84.

<sup>44</sup> Printed in Knowles and Grimes, pp. 84-85.

<sup>45</sup> Details can be found in Davies.

## HULL CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St. Michael and All the Angels, and St. Thomas à Becket, Hull charterhouse was founded in 1377 by Michael de la Pole, subsequently first Earl of Suffolk, who became Chancellor to Richard II in 1383, but, through the jealousy of the nobility, was condemned to be hanged in 1388, though he escaped to Paris, where he died the following year. Situated a quarter of a mile north of the city, near the river Hull, its origin was fortuitous. Michael's father, William de la Pole, obtained a licence in 1354 to found a hospital for poor persons with a resident chaplain. In 1364, shortly before his death, William decided to transform the foundation into a monastery for Minoresses of St. Clare, though still retaining the original provision for the poor. In 1377 Michael de la Pole declared that, as the nuns had never taken up residence, the foundation would be transferred to the Carthusians, though provision for thirteen poor men and thirteen poor women was retained, the exact *modus vivendi* being left open. In 1384 the hospital for the poor was also finally established, but the founder's disgrace put the charterhouse in jeopardy, and as late as 1441 it had still not received all the properties envisaged in the foundation charter. The citizens of Hull were not particularly generous to the Carthusians, only John Colthorpe, mayor of Hull 1389-90, endowing a cell. The Carthusian 'desert' surrounding the charterhouse so near the town walls led to friction with the citizenry from 1433 onwards, as the town expanded. Thus the charterhouse was always struggling financially, and was only assessed at an annual value of £ 174 18s. 4d in 1535. It should have been suppressed as a minor monastery in 1536, but escaped on paying a substantial fine of £ 233 6s. 8d. The Carthusians of Hull were at first inclined to resist Henry VIII's religious changes, but were persuaded by the Archbishop of York to acquiesce. They were probably intimidated by the execution on 15 May 1537 at York of two monks of the London charterhouse, John Rochester and James Walworth, who had been sent to the Hull charterhouse to break their resistance to the Royal Supremacy. The charterhouse surrendered to the royal commissioners on 9 November 1539. No monastic remains are extant, though a building called the Charterhouse occupies the site.<sup>46</sup> In 1642 both the charterhouse and the hospital were destroyed by Sir John Hotham, the town governor, to prevent them from falling into the hands of the royalist forces during the Civil War,<sup>47</sup> though the hospital was rebuilt soon afterwards. The present building on the site dates from 1780.<sup>48</sup> The east gateway of the charterhouse survived until ca. 1805, when it was demolished.<sup>49</sup> No excavations have been made on the site and no plan exists, but a sixteenth century engraving of Hull,<sup>50</sup> which may be based on an earlier representation, shows the charterhouse opposite the north gate of the town, with a substantial gatehouse, the tower of the church behind, and towards the west probably three cells, but there are no means of controlling the accuracy of the depiction. Like most of the buildings in Hull of the period, the charterhouse was mainly constructed of brick.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Cf. *Victoria County Histories, Yorkshire. East Riding*, Vol. 1, pp. 333-34, 341-42.

<sup>47</sup> Cf. Tickell, p. 424.

<sup>48</sup> Cf. Tickell, pp. 741, 745-46.

<sup>49</sup> It was depicted in an engraving of 1793, reproduced in Tickell, facing p. 746. Cook, p. 19, records its demolition.

<sup>50</sup> Cf. *Victoria County Histories, Yorkshire. East Riding*, Vol. 1, p. 54.

<sup>51</sup> Leland, Vol. 1, p., 50, records: "The charter house of the De la Pole's fundation, and an hospitale of their fundation, is without the north gate. The hospitale standith. Certain of the De la Poles wher buried yn this Carthusian monastery; and at the late suppressing of it were founde dyverse trowehes

## COVENTRY CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to St. Anne, the Coventry charterhouse was founded in 1381<sup>52</sup> by William, Lord Zouch of Harrington, but he died promptly, and it was left to the citizens of Coventry to aid the monks to complete the buildings. The endowment was, however, inadequate, and the monks were obliged to open a school for twelve boys to repay a debt. Though the Carthusian Statutes forbade the education of children, this institution is still attested as late as 1536. Unfortunately, no excavations have been undertaken to date, though the site is largely open. To the west the river forms a natural boundary. Few of the buildings have survived, though parts of the north and east enclosure walls are still extant, as well as the building near the north wall, which, although falsely designated the prior's cell, was probably the monastic guesthouse. Measuring 60 by 28 feet, and divided by a crosswall into sections of 40 and 20 feet, it has been considerably modified over the centuries. The south section was probably always two storied, but the northern part may originally have been single storied. Though the roof is more recent, the windows, doorways, tiling, fireplaces, a spiral staircase in the southern section, and stone corbels and carved tie-beams are medieval. On the dividing wall there are the remains of a depiction of the crucifixion, executed directly on the stone surface,—the only surviving medieval painting in an English charterhouse. Unfortunately, only the legs of Christ along with the Blessed Virgin, the Apostle John, two angels and two Roman soldiers at the foot of the Cross are visible today. To the right is another fresco, probably of St. Anne with a book, teaching the Blessed Virgin to read.<sup>53</sup> A medieval inscription, referring to Prior William Sowlyland and his procurator Thomas Lambert,<sup>54</sup> allows the paintings to be dated between 1411 and 1436, when William Sowlyland was prior in Coventry. To the west of this building fragments of foundations can be traced, which probably represent the entrance courtyard.<sup>55</sup> The great cloister must have been to the east, as there human bones were found. The antiquarian Thomas Sharpe, writing around 1830, reported: "No traces of the church, cloisters, or cells remain, but that they stood eastward of the present residence there are good reasons for concluding. A level grassplat behind the house, formerly a bowling green, appears, from the number of human bones that were dug up in laying it out, to have been the cemetery of the monastery; and about 30 years ago the evident remains of one of the cells not far distant, and to the south of the bowling green was taken down."<sup>56</sup> Poole, however, writing in 1870, noted that "in the garden, within the [outer] wall, some marks of the small door which opened to the cells of the former austere inhabitants may yet be seen."<sup>57</sup> A fragment of a register from Coventry charterhouse reveals that the church was on the north side of the great cloister together with the chapterhouse, and that there were eleven cells.<sup>58</sup> Sharpe noted that fine alabaster statues

of leade with bones in a volte under the high alter ther. Most part of this monastery was buildid with brike, as the residew of the buildings of Hull for the most part be."

<sup>52</sup> Some sources maintain, however, that Carthusians came to Coventry as early as 1375 and inhabited first of all a hermitage.

<sup>53</sup> Cf. P. Turpin, "Ancient wall-paintings in the charterhouse", *Burlington Magazine* 35 (1919), pp. 249-52; 36 (1920), pp. 84-87.

<sup>54</sup> Thomas Lambert died in 1440.

<sup>55</sup> Thomas Lambert died in 1440.

<sup>56</sup> QUoted in FrettOn'P. 43.

<sup>57</sup> Poole, p. 28.

<sup>58</sup> Printed in Dugdale, Vol. 6, 1. London 1849, pp. 16-17. Rowntree, p. 448, speculates that five cells were on the east side, four on the south, and two on the west.

of St. Denis and St. Lawrence were found in the garden in the late eighteenth century, but have been lost sight of since.<sup>59</sup> The charterhouse should have been suppressed in 1536, as its annual revenues in 1535 were only £ 131,<sup>60</sup> but, on paying a fine, it was allowed to continue its poverty-stricken existence, until it was surrendered into the hands of the royal commissioners on 16 January 1539.

#### AXHOLME CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to the Visitation of Our Lady, the charterhouse of Axholme, or Epworth, founded by Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham, created Duke of Norfolk in 1397, had been projected as early as 1389, but, as the *Chartoe* of the Carthusian General Chapter demonstrate, its first decades were extremely difficult. The situation was rendered highly precarious by the fact that a good part of the endowment consisted of confiscated estates belonging to French religious houses, which, on the restoration of peace, were anxious to recover their properties. As late as 1449 not even all the cells for the monks had been constructed. Though its annual revenues came to £ 257 in 1535,<sup>61</sup> the charterhouse was still dogged with economic problems, and it probably almost came as a relief when it was surrendered to the royal commissioners on 18 June 1538. Today nothing is extant, and even the exact site is disputed. John Leland visited the charterhouse soon after the suppression, declaring: "By Milwood Park side stoode the right fair monasterie of the Carthusianes, wher one of the Mulbrais dukes of Northfolk was buried in a tumbe of alabaster." He notes: "Mr. Candisch hath now turnid the monasterie to a goodly manor place."<sup>62</sup> In fact, after the suppression the charterhouse was described in the deeds of 1540 as being situated at Owston,<sup>63</sup> but all the medieval documents locate it at Epworth. It is generally held that the charterhouse was at Low Melwood, one mile north of Owston Ferry and two and a half miles south-east of Epworth.<sup>64</sup> The assumed site forms a square, with a substantial ditch on the west, south, and east sides, and a line of trees to the north. Such a location would

<sup>59</sup> Quoted in Fretton, p. 43.

<sup>60</sup> Cf. Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135.

<sup>61</sup> Cf. Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135. 62Leland' Vol. 1, pp. 37-38.

<sup>62</sup> Cf. *Letters & Papers Henry VIII*, Vol. 15, N° 733 (p. 345).

<sup>63</sup> Cf. *Letters & Papers Henry VIII*, Vol. 15, N° 733 (p. 345).

<sup>64</sup> Cf. D.M. Owen, *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolushire*, Lincoln 1971, p. 146. Sir Nicholas Pevsner and J. Harris, *Lincolushire*, London 1964, p. 334, note that there is a medieval stone column in the cellar of the seventeenth century farmhouse now on the site at Low Melwood. Rowntree, p. 450, speculates that the farmhouse and the adjacent area in the west "could easily have housed the gatehouse, guesthouse and of fices."

certainly have ensured the necessary privacy for the Carthusians. It is thus disconcerting to read in Abraham de la Pryme's journal, written in 1698:

There is a pretty excellent Church at Epworth, but no monument, coat of arms, nor inscriptions are therein, that I could observe. In the north porch of the church I observed these two coats.

3 serpent heads with  
pricked up ears.

A lion or lioness, which is  
the arms of the Mowhrays.

The chancel of the church was formerly a most stately building, almost as bigg as the whole church, and all arched and dubbled roof, but falling to decay, they made it be taken down and less built out of the ruins thereof, which was about twenty five years ago.<sup>1</sup>

All on the east end of the Church, and over against the south thereof, stood a famous and magnificent monastery of Carthusian monks, which, upon the reformation, were all expelled, and the monastry pulled down to the bare ground, to the great shame and skandall of the christian religion; in which ground, where it stood, they tell me that there has oft been found several old pieces of English coin, and several gold rings, but they could not shew me any

The sanctuary of the demolished church he describes does sound suspiciously like the choir of a Carthusian church! He goes on to mention Low Melwood:

Low Melwood, in the Isle of Axholme, was (I have lately heard) in antient time a most fine and stately priory, belonging first of all to the Knight Templars, then afterwards to the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem, and was dedicated, as I imagine, to Saint Leonard, because there is land in the Isle called Saint Leonard's land, which holds of the sayd Melwood.

I have several times been at it, but I was so young I cannot very well remember the same.

However, I can remember very well that [it] was a great and most stately building of many stores high, all of huge squared stone, all wholly built so upon vaults and arches that I have gone under the same a great way. All was huge stone stercases, huge pillars, long entrys, with the doores of both sides opening into opposite rooms. I remember the dining room also, which was at the end of one of those entrys, had huge oak tables in it, great church windows, and a great deal of painted glass. The outside of the house was all butify'd with semi-arches jetting of the walls upon channel'd pillars, and the top was all covered with lead. The doors were huge and strong, and ascended up unto by a great many steps, and places made through the opposite turrets to defend the same, and the whole was encompass'd with a huge ditch or moat.

There were the finest gardens, orchards, and flowers there that ever I saw; but now there is, I believe, none of these things to be seen, for, about ten years ago, all or most part being ruinous was pulled down, and a lesser house built out of the same.<sup>2</sup>

Whilst the vaulting and arches might suggest a Carthusian great cloister, the rest does not. The farmhouse on the site would, however, be the successor of the buildings that Abraham de la Pryme describes. A further problem arises, however. There is no record of either the Knights Templars or the Hospitallers at Low Melwood. The Hospitallers

<sup>1</sup> The parish church of St. Andrew at Epworth shows no sign of having been rebuilt argund 1673, so this cannot be the church referred to: cf. Pevsner and Harris, p. 233.

<sup>2</sup> C. Jackson (ed.), *The Diary of Abraham de la Pryme*, *Surtees Society* 54 (1870), pp. 173-74.

did have a preceptory at Willoughton, which had first been in the possession of the Templars, but that was ten miles south-east of Low Melwood.<sup>3</sup> Rowntree nevertheless points out: "However, the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem held a considerable number of manors or camerae, many of which have not been charted. One such holding, and one of the most important, was a place in Lincolnshire called Belwood: part of Belton, a town two miles north of Epworth. All that stands there today is a ruined early Georgian house. Local residents affirm that this was a Templar holding—indeed they call it Temple Belwood—but historians are more reticent. Perhaps this was the place to which Pryme refers, and one can easily comprehend how scribal confusion could have converted Belwood into Melwood. But Pryme's description of the Low Melwood site has certain convincing features: he mentions the moat encompassing the building, which still exists today, and also comments that a smaller house was built there circa 1688, which is certainly a plausible construction date for the house on the site now." The antiquarian William Stonehouse described Low Melwood in 1837:

The original building was of brick, coyned with great ashlar stones, many of which are still to be seen in the farming buildings which have been erected in late years: and part of the great window sills, and other huge caned stones, may be found in many of the chesse presses, horsing blocks and door stones in the parish. The cellars of the present house, the kitchen doorway, the pantry and dairy, are part of the original building. There is a stone pillar of immense thickness in one of the cellars, which probably supported some of those lofty arches which Pryme has mentioned.<sup>4</sup>

Here, despite Pryme scepticism, it again sounds on balance like the charterhouse, though the plan of the foundations that had been excavated does not allow any valid conclusions and the recently demolished steeple of the church, which had been used as a dovecote, leaves open the question of how the steeple was still standing, though the church had long since disappeared. However, on 4 May 1844 an alarming discovery was made by Mr. Fox of the King's Head Inn at Epworth. Whilst digging a hole to bury a pig, he hit a stone image. "On a further search being made, upwards of 50 stone figures of angels, saints, martyrs, bishops etc. were brought to light. None of them are perfect, but the stone of which they are made is in an excellent state of preservation."<sup>5</sup> Alas! the whereabouts of the sculptures today is unknown. If one was of Hugh of Lincoln, the probability of them emanating from the charterhouse should be rated as high, but 50 stone statues from a comparatively obscure charterhouse seems a lot .... Only excavations at Low Melwood and Epworth could shed further light on the location of the charterhouse.

## MOUNT GRACE CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady and St. Nicholas, the charterhouse of Mount Grace, founded by Thomas Holland, Duke of Surrey in 1398 with the blessing of Richard II, was situated in an oak forest at the foot of the Cleveland Hills, six miles north-east of Northallerton. No doubt, its solitude in the Middle Ages was formidable, but the construction of a busy motorway in recent years close to the site renders the abortive, romantic attempt of the English Carthusians to repurchase the remains in the

<sup>3</sup> Victoria County Histories, Vol. 2, pp. 210-11.

<sup>4</sup> Stonehouse, p. 254.

<sup>5</sup> G.L. Gomme (ed.), "English Topography", *Gentleman's Library Magazine* 7 (1896), pp. 121-22.

early 1950's a blessing in disguise in its failure. Unfortunately, Richard II was deposed in 1399 and his successor, Henry IV, had the Duke of Surrey beheaded at Cirencester in January 1400 for revolting against him.<sup>6</sup> Despite this setback, the main buildings for a community comprising the prior and sixteen monks were already inhabitable around 1400, though additions were made in 1420 and again after 1450. The architecture has been described as mean and lacking in distinction, but, though certainly by no means approaching grandeur, its buildings were decidedly functional and the ruins of the church, in perpendicular gothic, originally 88 feet in length, but later extended to 118 feet, when chapels were also added on the north and south sides, display a modest elegance. The position of the high altar and two tombs, one of which was presumably that of the founder, can still be seen. The great cloister, contrary to all the other English charterhouses for which a plan has been drawn up, is irregular in form, the north, east, and south sides being 231 feet in length, whilst the west is 272 feet. Certainly, the uneven site, even after preliminary levelling operations, was responsible for this abnormality. There were five cells on the west, east and north cloister alleys, with a further three cells on the south side. To the south and east of the church a narrow corridor gave access to six further cells, which were financed by Thomas of Beaufort in 1420,<sup>7</sup> who also paid for barns and stalls outside the enclosure walls. Later the obediences for the laybrothers were constructed, and at the beginning of the sixteenth century a London merchant made a donation which covered the cost of the new monastic guesthouse on the west side of the charterhouse, near the entrance gatehouse.<sup>8</sup>

The monks of Mount Grace resisted the religious changes under Henry VIII valiantly, and the Archbishop of York had to use all his powers of persuasion to convince the prior to submit. Despite the initial difficulties, Mount Grace was adequately endowed, its annual revenues in 1535 being assessed at £ 323.<sup>9</sup> It was surrendered to the royal commissioners on 18 December 1539. Sir James Strangways was the first successor of the monks, but in 1653 it passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Lascelles, who adapted the guesthouse into the mansion which still exists. Around 1900 Sir Lowthian Bell, a wealthy iron merchant, cleaned up the site, made excavations, stabilised the existing ruins, and even reconstructed a cell, but in 1918 Mount Grace passed into the hands of the Treasury in lieu on death-duties for Maurice Bell. In 1953 it was handed on to the National Trust, and in 1955 to the Ministry of the Environment.<sup>10</sup> The Lady Chapel<sup>11</sup> on

<sup>6</sup> He was nevertheless buried in the church at Mount Grace in 1412.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. *Calendar of Patent Rolls 1413-16*, p. 355.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. A.G. Dickens (ed.), *Clifford Letters of the Sixteenth Century*, *Surtees Society* 172 (1962), p. 66. John Wilson, the prior, wrote in 1522: "Mi Lorde, wee have a propre lodgyng at our place, wich a marchand of London did bulde, & he is now departed frome hus & made knyght at the Roddes." There are other references in the *Clifford Letters* to building activities. An anchorage was constructed on the hill overlooking the charterhouse (pp. 63-6, 71-2). Minor repair work and embellishments are also referred to: "I thynke to have iij sellis thekyt with lede a fore wynter. Aiso I muste pay for ccxx wanscottes," (p. 63) "stones hewen as will fynnych the houses" and "the welle that shall goo aboute the gardyn." (p. 66) In 1508 Martin Colyns, Treasurer of York Minster, left 10 marks to Mount Grace "ad opera sive adificationes quas" (*Register of Archbishop Bainbridge 1508-14*, in Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York, ff. 135r-136r), and in 1509 Alison Clark left ten shillings "to the building of a "lasse window." (*York Dean and Chapter Wills*, 2, ff. 82r-83v).

<sup>9</sup> Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135.

<sup>10</sup> There is a description of the buildings in L. Butler and C. Given-Wilson, *Medieval Monasteries of Great Britain*, London 1979, pp. 298-300.

<sup>11</sup> Cf. Brown, pp. 268-69. The Benedictines took up their ministry in 1993. The present writer had the pleasure of lecturing on the Carthusian Life at the Lady Chapel in July 1997.

the hillside dominating Mount Grace is today served by a small group of Benedictine monks based at Osmotherley, who thus maintain the monastic presence in the area.

### SHEEN CHARTERHOUSE

Dedicated to Jesus of Bethlehem, the charterhouse of Sheen, founded by Henry V in 1414, supposedly as part of Henry IV's penance for his involvement in the murder of Archbishop Scrope, enjoyed a considerable endowment, but the monarch was economical, most of it consisting of confiscated estates in England belonging to French religious houses. Once peace was reestablished, obviously they were subject to litigation in an attempt by the original owners to recover them, leading even to the excommunication of the prior of Sheen. Notices concerning the affair were affixed on the entrance portal of the Grande Chartreuse, to the consternation of the General Chapter. The charterhouse was erected near the ancient royal palace of Sheen, in the Old Deer Park, close to the river. Surrounded by an enclosure wall twelve feet high, the buildings were extensive, their foundations lying partially under Kew Observatory and the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course. Unfortunately, no excavations have been possible, though there are a few stones from Sheen at Parkminster and some foundations were located during work at Kew Observatory at the end of the nineteenth century. Originally forty monks were envisaged, but William of Worcestre, writing during the reign of Edward IV, refers to thirty. According to his account, the great cloister formed a square and he mentions thirty-four tablets in the church, which was of considerable dimensions.<sup>12</sup> It has been assumed that these tablets were commemorative plaques for benefactors. Sheen's annual revenues were assessed at £ 800 in 1535,<sup>13</sup> the highest income of any English charterhouse. After slight resistance, the charterhouse accepted Henry VIII's demands and the charterhouse was surrendered to the Crown in 1539, the last prior, Henry Man, even becoming the Anglican Bishop of Sodor and Man in 1546. The property passed into the hands of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, in 1551, but reverted to the Crown on the execution of the Duke in 1554. It was thus briefly reopened as a charterhouse during the Catholic Revival under Mary Tudor on 26 January 1557 with Maurice Chauncy, a former monk of the London charterhouse, as prior, but the monks were again forced into exile after the accession of Elizabeth I, and the property passed first into the hands of Thomas Gorges in 1584, and later into those of Viscount Belhaven, but he did not renew his lease in 1638. James, Duke of Lennox, a cousin of Charles I, then leased some of the buildings. A Parliamentary Survey in 1649<sup>14</sup> shows that a fair amount of the complex was still standing, but in a poor state of repair, and the identification of specific elements of the former charterhouse is problematical. A gateway of the charterhouse survived until 1769, when, during the construction of Kew Observatory, it was demolished. The other buildings had either collapsed over the years or been demolished about a quarter of a century earlier.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> W. Worcestre, *Itineraries*, ed. J.H. Harvey, Oxford 1969, pp. 270-71.

<sup>13</sup> Knowles and Hadcock, p. 135.

<sup>14</sup> The text is edited in James Hogg, "Sheen Charterhouse: The 1649 Parliamentary Survey", in *Kartäuserliturgie und Kartäuserschrifttum*, *Analecta Cartusiana* 116:4 (1989), pp. 110-118.

<sup>15</sup> J Cloake, "Sheen Charterhouse", *Surrey Archeological Collections* 71 (1977), pp. 145-98, reproduces the extant representations: by Antonius van den Wyngaerde (1562), Moses Glover (1653), and the painting of the portal before its demolition by Hieronymus Grimm.

### Conclusion

As so often elsewhere, it proved difficult to find a suitable utilisation for the English charterhouses after their suppression. Witham, Hinton, Coventry, Axholme, and Mount Grace served as private residences, as did London and Sheen for a time, but obviously most of the buildings were superfluous and soon demolished or left to decay. Beauvale became a simple farm, as did Axholme probably later. Only the London charterhouse, first as a charitable institution, then as a school, found a new destiny, but even then with the loss of the great cloister and the monks' cells, which are the hallmark of a charterhouse.

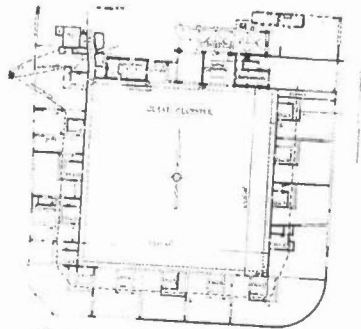
### Illustrations

1. Witham Charterhouse: The Church of the Laybrethren in 1900 (from an etching by E. Piper in *The Church Towers of Somerset*, published by Frost and Reed (Vol. 1, p. 28)).
2. Plan of Hinton Charterhouse, showing the final results of the excavations. (by courtesy of Robin Fletcher).
3. Hinton Charterhouse: The Chapterhouse (James Hogg).
4. London Charterhouse (W. Maitland, *History and Survey of London*, 1756).
5. Mount Grace Charterhouse: Mansion House adapted after the Suppression (James Hogg).
6. Mount Grace Charterhouse: The Church (H.J. Deakin).





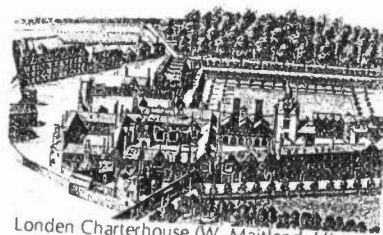
Witham Charterhouse: The Church of the Laybrethren in 1900 (from an etching by E. Piper in *The Church Towers of Somerset*, published by Forost and Reed (Vol. 1, p.28)).



Plan of Hinton Charterhouse, showing the final results of the excavations, (by courtesy of Robin Fletcher)



Hinton Charterhouse: The Chapterhouse (James Hogg).



London Charterhouse (W. Maitland, *History and Survey of London*, 1756).



Mount Grace Charterhouse: Mansion House adapted after the Suppression (James Hogg).



Mount Grace Charterhouse: The Church (H. J. Deakin).

## Zum Schicksal der sechs Kartausen zwischen Werra und Oder in der Reformationszeit Gerhard Schlegel, D-Rostock

Auf einer Übersichtskarte in den "Maisons" ist das klosterhistorisch wenig bearbeitete Gebiet der ehemaligen DDR zwischen den Flüssen Werra und Oder mit den ehemaligen Kartausen Erfurt, Eisenach, Frankfurt/O, Rostock, Konradsburg und Crimmitschau dargestellt.<sup>1</sup>

Diese sechs Kartausen verteilen sich jetzt auf die 5 neuen Bundesländer (von N nach S): Rostock in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Konradsburg in Sachsen-Anhalt, Frankfurt/O in Brandenburg, Erfurt und Eisenach in Thüringen sowie Crimmitschau in Sachsen.

Untersucht werden soll, wie sich die Konvente dieser Klöster während des 16. Jh. im Ursprungsland der Reformation verhielten.

Hierbei wird in drei Schritten vorgegangen:

- Kurzportraits der Kartausen von der Gründung bis zum Ende des 15. Jh.,
- Verhalten der Konvente auf reformatorische Bestrebungen ausserhalb und innerhalb der Klöster sowie
- eine Übersicht des überkommenen Kartäuser-Erbes für die Gegenwart.

### Erfurt - Domus Mons Sancti Salvatoris (1372-1803)<sup>2</sup>

Die bedeutende thüringische Handels- und spätere Universitätsstadt (1392) hat früh, 1372, durch die Stiftung der Pröpste Johannes Ortonis und Johannes Herbord eine Kartause erhalten. Die ersten Mönche kommen unter Heinrich Röchel (+1380) aus Grünau. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt besitzt Erfurt mit 12 Klöstern weiterer Orden schon ein reiches und blühendes geistliches Leben. Der Zustrom zur Kartause und die finanziellen Mittel erlauben es, kurz darauf noch eine weitere eremitische Stiftung 1380 in Eisenach auszustatten.

Die spirituelle Ausstrahlung der 1374 inkorporierten Kartause innerhalb des Ordens ist vorbildlich. - Die Prioren werden seit 1405 zu Visitatoren berufen, neue Gründungen, z.B. Hildesheim 1387, mit Erfurter Kartäusern besiedelt und die Professen des Hauses zu Prioren anderer Häuser berufen. Die Hauschronik Erfurts berichtet voller Stolz zum Jahre 1434, dass noch weitere 8 Prioren von Kartausen dem Erfurter Konvent als Professen entstammen.

Als Viri illustres des Ordens aus Erfurt gelten die kritischen Reformtheologen Jakob von Paradies (+1465) und Johannes Hagen (+1475).

Die Bildung des Konvents - zahlreiche Professen haben vor dem Klostereintritt an der Universität akademische Grade erlangt<sup>3</sup> - dokumentiert der für das 15. Jh. vorbildliche Bibliothekskatalog.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Maisons de l' Ordre des Chartreux IV, Parkminster 1919, 271.

<sup>2</sup> Oergel, G. Über die Karthause zu Erfurt, in: Mitt. d. V. f. Gesch. Erfurts 27, 1906, 1-49; Kurt, J., Die Geschichte der Kartause Erfurt, ACar 32.1, Salzburg 1989.

<sup>3</sup> Schlegel, G., Universität und Kartause - ehemalige Studenten und Professoren in norddeutschen Kartausen, in: Akten des II. Internationalen Kongresses für Kartäuserforschung in Ittingen 1.-5. Dezember 1993, Kartause Ittingen 1995, 67-84.