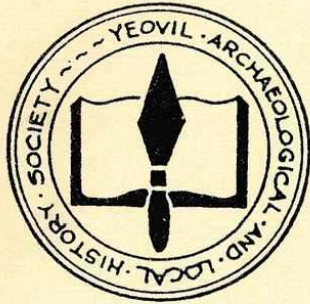


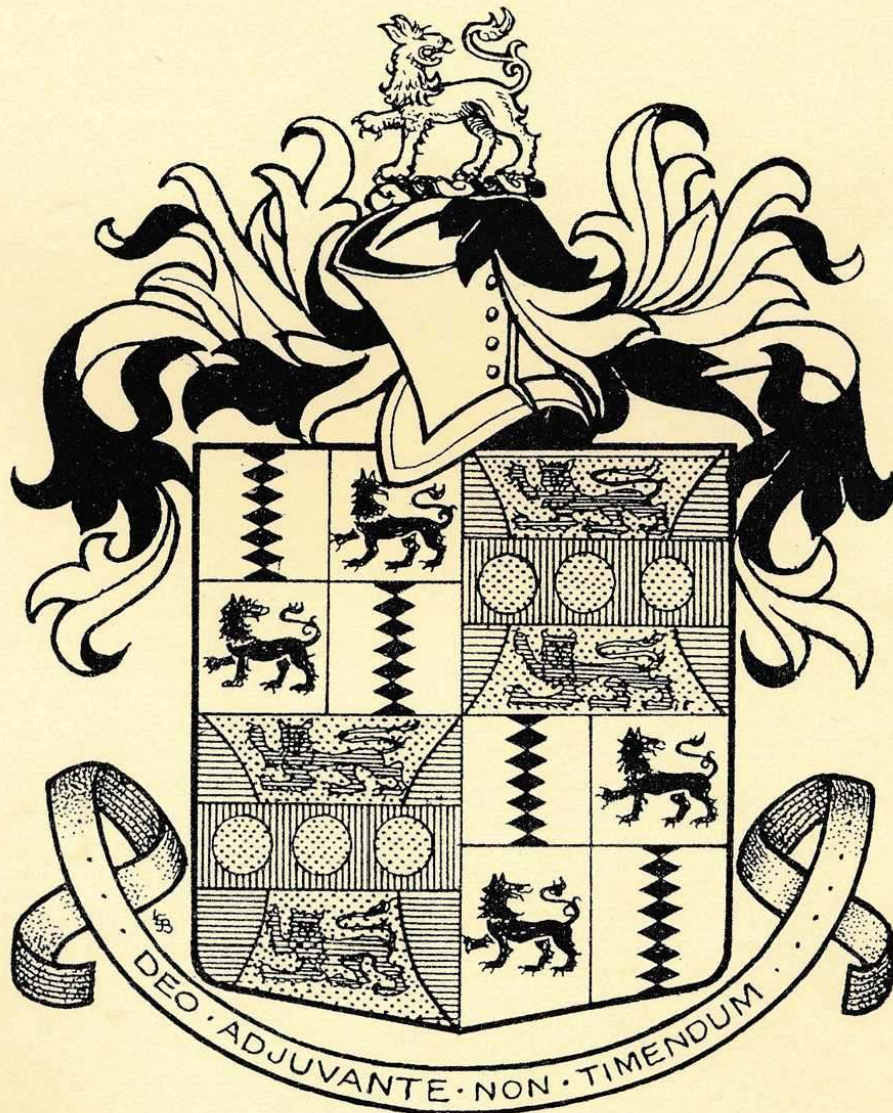
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offered a plate of mixed boiled wheat grains, sesame seeds and pomegranate seeds. Apparently, consumption of this brew was considered to be of benefit to the souls of the departed. Many archaeological sites were visited, including a crusader castle and there was a daring excursion by taxi into the Turkish sector. A particular highlight was a four-day cruise to Israel and Egypt.

Brian Gittos contributed the second half of the programme, with an account of the Anglo-Saxon work at East Coker church, which has been described in the two previous editions of Chronicle, but on this occasion it was supported by suitable slides. To round off the evening, he showed some further slides of details from an important early 14th century illuminated manuscript known as the "De Lisle Psalter" and from 19th century copies of the paintings which once adorned the splendid "Painted Chamber" in the Palace of Westminster, which had been decorated for Henry III and Edward I but which were destroyed in a fire in 1834.

DISCOVERY AT RIMPTON

The church of St. Mary Rimpton, Somerset, is situated five miles north east of Yeovil and, during a visit in March 1992, an interesting discovery was made. On the north side of the nave there is a small vestry room entered through a narrow doorway which appears to be older than the room itself. A number of monuments have been re-located from elsewhere in the church, presumably during restoration. These are mainly 18th century wall tablets but there are, in addition, several ledger slabs set in the floor. Also set into the floor is a mediaeval grave slab which is adjacent to the north wall of the vestry and half covered by a long, narrow cupboard. The grave slab is of a standard type which seems to have been produced in some quantity in the 13th century. It is coffin-shaped and has a hollow-moulded chamfer around the edge. The monument was originally embellished with a cross design in low relief, standing on a three-stepped calvary base. This detail is badly worn and difficult to interpret, particularly with regard to the shape of the cross head, although it was probably composed of four broken circles, set back to back. However, the most important feature of this, apparently unrecorded, mediaeval monument concerns the material from which it is made. It is carved from a block of Purbeck Marble from the Isle of Purbeck and, if the distribution of mediaeval monuments made from this material is plotted on a map of the area, it can be seen that they are rarely found further from Purbeck than the immediate vicinity of Yeovil. This was because of the availability of local substitute stones such as blue lias and Ham stone. The only examples in the immediate area are the sculptured effigies of ecclesiastics in Sherborne Abbey and the very badly weathered double effigy (two figures carved on one stone) in the churchyard at Charlton Mackrell. It is hoped that it may be possible to discover the original detail of the monument at Rimpton by methods such as oblique lighting and, if so, an illustration will be included in a future edition of Chronicle.

BRIAN & MOIRA GITTO