

TACS Gazetteer News

November 1999

Issue 4

Pilgrim Trust secures future of Gazetteer

In the past, I have been delighted to report on contributions to project funds from the Manifold Trust (two donations), the Scouloudi Foundation and the Cumming Ceramic Research Foundation. Now, I am equally pleased to be able to say that the whole of the gazetteer project fieldwork expenses, to the tune of almost £5,000, are to be supported by the Pilgrim Trust. We have just received the news of this grant award, which will secure the future of the entire project. Many thanks to the Pilgrim Trust for this tremendous contribution.

You will notice a slight change (see below right) in the way the total number of sites is reported in each issue. Previously, this was known - incorrectly - as the gazetteer site count. Of course, the gazetteer will be a 'best of' the entire database, so the total number is now given as the database site count. This excludes those sites which have been demolished or covered over, and those classified as private, eg fragile medieval sites. I hope that's clear!

Lynn Pearson, Gazetteer Editor

An angel in red Tile hunting in Scotland

Although many of the English counties are coming on very well when it comes to site investigation - Hants and Staffs come to mind, thanks to the efforts of members - we are almost bereft of volunteers in Scotland and Wales. So it is good to be able to tell you about a few sites unearthed by a member in Dumfries and Galloway. Top right is a tile panel - a red-robed angel, with blue wings on gold ground - which can be



The angel in red - Doulton panel in Parton Church

found in the parish church of Parton, an Edwardian hamlet near Castle Douglas. This attractive memorial panel, signed Doulton (at the bottom left corner), commemorates one Ebie Gray, who died at the age of 29 in 1892. Below is an unusual and well-preserved frieze of blue and white Wedgwood tiles from a butcher's shop in Castle Douglas; these animal designs (artist unknown) were introduced around 1900.



*Wedgwood frieze in Henderson's butcher's shop, 64 King Street, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway
Photos:
Helen Ross*

TACS Gazetteer News is published by the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society, registered charity no: 289090.

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Database Site Count

Date	Number of Sites in Database
November 1999	2747
July 1999	2571
November 1998	1850
March 1997	1443

Minton tiles in the churches of Staffordshire

The story so far...

You may remember that we were fortunate to be awarded the Cumming Ceramic Research Foundation Scholarship for



*Tiles in an aisle of St Mary and All Saints, Trentham, Staffordshire
Photo: Alan Swale*

1999, to investigate tile donations by Herbert Minton to a series of Staffordshire churches between 1844 and his death in 1858. The aim of the project was to ascertain just how many of the churches named in the original donation list survived (with their tiles intact and uncovered), and to look at the designs of the tiles; in some cases, it was hoped to compare the new tiles with any medieval tiles present in the church. I'm now in the middle of research on this project, which has proved quite illuminating. Archive research has finalised the number of churches concerned as being 38; of these, three have been demolished while four have either lost their tiles or covered them permanently. This leaves the not inconsiderable number of 31 to visit. In this task I am being assisted by TACS Chairman and local resident Alan Swale, who is using the latest digital technology to provide photographs, see left; this experimental photo of St Mary, Trentham, is the first digital print I have received on the whole gazetteer project, but I'm sure there will be many more. Church visits have revealed a wide range of encaustic tiles, plus a wonderful gold-lettered reredos

at St Mary, Stafford. Most unusual thus far has been Penn, Wolverhampton, where the donation comprised copies of the Westminster Abbey Chapter House pictorial tiles. More typical have been Christ Church, Lichfield and St John, Aldridge, with intricate repeat encaustic patterns. The remaining 26 churches will be visited by the end of December 1999.

Decorative ceramics in the buildings of the brewing industry

Spreading the word was the theme of the Gaz Ed's paper to the seminar preceding the annual conference of the Association for Industrial Archaeology at Chatham in early September. In 'Decorative ceramics in the buildings of the

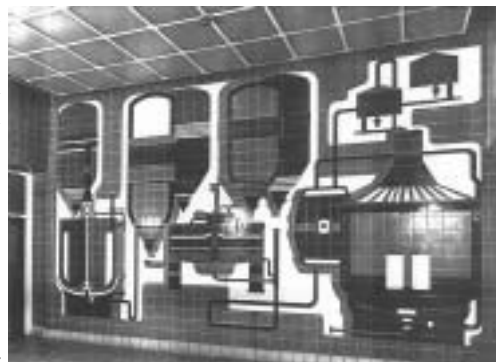


*White Horse Hotel,
Aberystwyth
(manufacturer unknown)
Photo: Lynn Pearson*

brewing industry', I attempted to expand on the interconnections between the ceramics and brewing industries; some of my illustrations are shown here. The content of the paper ran from Georgian brewer's houses via Victorian breweries and Edwardian pubs right up to the present, taking in the little-known role of the tiler in design on the way. Apart from (I hope!) the intrinsic interest of the subject, my aim was to fly the flag for TACS and the gazetteer in a wider field than pure ceramics specialists. Note: The White Horse is extant, while the Mersey Brewery is still brewing,



*Decorative glazed brickwork in the fermenting room of the Mersey Brewery, Liverpool
Photo: Whitbread Archives*



*Carter's panel at Truman's Black Eagle Brewery, Spitalfields, London (c1965)
Photo: Waterfront Museum, Poole*

its facade a ravishing display of Ruabon terracotta ornamentation. But its interior is unknown, as is that of the Black Eagle Brewery.