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**A wall-painting of the arms of the Apothecaries Company from
Stow-on-the-Wold**

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period. Green (1979, 188) attributed the prolonged cultivation of spelt in this area to the cultivation of a different type of land, climatic conditions, or even rural conservatism in this part of Gloucestershire. He also noted the absence of any remains of barley. In the present samples the opposite is the case; barley is identified by the presence of some rachis internodes, whereas the wheat remains are not well-enough preserved to suggest whether spelt or more likely bread wheat forms part of the assemblage. Green (1979) also suggests that waterlogged cereal remains from some of the 11th- and 12th-century pits represent discarded animal fodder or redeposited stable litter such as animal dung from a stable floor.

A similar deposit was recently examined from 14th-century Baynard's Castle, City of London, which was considered to consist of stable sweepings, and many of the same plant species were identified as in the Gloucester samples. Yarrow, stinking mayweed, buttercups, sedges, bulrushes, knapweed, and docks were among the plants represented as well as straw, grass, and rush stems (Davis 1982). The Baynard's Castle deposit also contained a curry comb which was useful supportive evidence for the stable-sweepings hypothesis.

The plant macrofossils from the Gloucester street surfaces are, therefore, likely to represent dung of herbivores such as horses or cattle and/or stable sweepings and refuse consistent with continuous horse-drawn traffic.

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A WALL-PAINTING OF THE ARMS OF THE APOTHECARIES COMPANY FROM STOW-ON-THE-WOLD

During 1981/2 the former premises of solicitors Francis, Wickens, and Hill in The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold were converted for use as a new branch office for the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. Early in July 1981 during the stripping of plaster in a front downstairs room a wall-painting representing the arms of the Society of Apothecaries was uncovered by contractor's workmen and duly reported both to the Society and subsequently to the Corinium Museum at Cirencester. After investigation and discussion as to the best form of preservation of the plasterwork and painting, it was conserved in the studio of Mrs E. Baker near Banbury and was restored as a panel for permanent exhibition in the new office which opened in April 1982 (see *Glos Chronicle* 24 April 1982).

When discovered the panel formed a roughly square fragment; clearly it had not been destroyed during earlier remodellings of the room in which it was found, and particularly had not been damaged when it was hidden from view by the plasterwork removed in 1981. The panel as now restored and framed measures 0.59 × 0.75m within the frame and is a considerable



FIG. 10 Wall-painting at Stow-on-the-Wold of the arms of the Apothecaries Company. (Photograph courtesy of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.)

embellishment to the new usage of the building to which it belongs. FIG. 10 shows the details of the panel before conservation.

The representation is clearly that part of the arms of the Society of Apothecaries contained within the shield and described in the blazon as 'in a shield azure Apollo, the inuentor of physique proper, with his heade Radiant, holdinge in his left hand a bowe and his Right hand an Arow dor, Suplanting a Serpent . . .', this accompanied by the motto OPIFERQUE PER ORBEM DICOR which comes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Translated this means 'I am called throughout the world the bringer of aid' (Wall *et al.* 1963, 403–4).

The workmanship is provincial, even local, and it might be suggested that this representation of the arms was commissioned from a local craftsman by an apothecary of Stow as an advertisement of his profession and indeed perhaps as a celebration of some achievement or milestone in his practice as an apothecary.

The painting bears two dates, 1690 included as the end of the motto, and 1701 which is the more dominant and is shown as a date split either side of the figure of Apollo. It was not unusual for apothecaries to advertise their occupation, usually as a feature on items of their regular use, perhaps a pill-slab or a drug-jar. An example of the former dated about 1690 might be mentioned (Garner and Archer 1948, 12 and pl.27). Thus advertising one's calling was not unusual but it is rather rare to find such a large and obvious representation and one so clearly displayed in the premises.

A number of apothecaries are known in Stow-on-the-Wold in the late 17th and early part of the 18th centuries. One Thomas Broasgrove issued a halfpenny token in 1670; and the Gloucestershire Record Office contains references to the inventories of Walwyn Dadford (Glos R.O. inv. 1685/89), Samuel Curtis (Glos R.O. inv. 1701/142), and Daniel Wainwright (Glos R.O. inv. 1739/79). Reference to the deeds of the property indicates that the house appears to have belonged to a family of apothecaries and barber-surgeons from some time before 1687 until at least 1734. Samuel Curtis, the apothecary who died in 1700, would seem to be the most likely candidate to be involved in or responsible for the painting's execution. As a hypothesis the two dates on the representation might be explained as a date of 1690 indicating the establishment of Samuel Curtis' practice, and the later date the creation of the painting. Curtis is known to have died by 1 October 1701, when his wife Mary gave an administration bond.

The Society of Apothecaries Court Minute Book for 1 June 1714 records that Samuel Curtis, son of Samuel Curtis, Apothecary of Stow-on-the-Wold, was bound (i.e. in apprenticeship) to William Speed. He was subsequently turned over to James Nicholson and freed on 3 July 1722 on payment of £5 fine for setting up three years before his time was out.

In the absence of further and detailed work to elucidate the history of the building, it seems reasonable to link the painting with the period of Samuel Curtis senior's practice in Stow-on-the-Wold and to compliment all parties involved in the identification, conservation, and redisplay of this interesting fragment of the history of Stow-on-the-Wold.

Acknowledgements

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DAVID VINER and DOUGLAS WHITTET

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The information contained in this review is arranged under parishes as shown on the O.S. 1:10,000 series maps. The parish name is followed, where appropriate, by the site name and grid reference.

ASHLEWORTH, *Ashleworth Quay*, SO 819251. A small quantity of early Roman pottery was recovered by Mrs S. Laville from river dredgings deposited near Ashleworth Quay. The sherds are large and relatively unabraded and are thus probably derived from the river bank rather than from the river bed. The material dates to the second half of the 1st century AD, and has been donated to Gloucester City Museum, accn. no. G.27/1984.
J.R. Timby, Gloucester City Excavation Unit

BATSFORD, *Dorn*, SP 205340. Ninety-five Roman coins collected by Mr S. Righton have been examined by Dr R. Reece and records deposited with Corinium Museum.
E.G. Price

BISLEY WITH LYPIATT, SO 901071. Part of a Hallstatt or La Tène knobbed-type bracelet was found in an arable field. The find has been deposited in Stroud District Museum.
E.G. Price

CHARLTON KINGS, Vineyards Farm, SO 973186. Further excavation of the Roman building has revealed three rooms, set on a terrace and dug into the hill-slope, with a rear wall 18.1 m long. All rooms had coloured wall plaster; in the centre room part of a triangular design showing a crude leaf pattern was found. Vestiges of floors made of a hard mortar survive. Two rooms had fireplaces, one in good condition. The walls in the south-east corner where they were set into the hillside survived to a height of 2.9 m. The site has been back-filled to ensure preservation.

Bernard Rawes