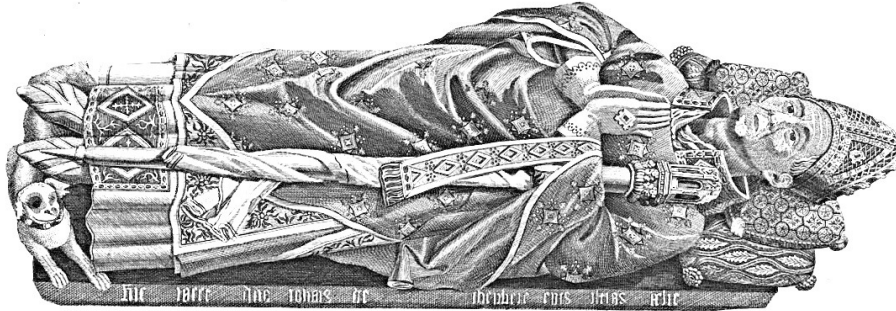


Effigy of John de Sheppey, bishop of Rochester (d. 1360),  
drawn by John Barak Swaine in 1831



Effigy of John de Sheppy Bishop of Rochester. / Drawn & Engraved by I. B. Swaine. / Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, April 23rd. 1833.

This is the effigy discovered by Cottingham's workmen in January 1825, as they unblocked the arch between the presbytery and the aisle of the north-east transept. The drawing was made in August 1831 by John Barak Swaine (who was 16 or 17 years old at the time). It was commissioned by A. J. Kempe, exhibited by him at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries on 3 May 1832, and published in *Archaeologia* one year later.

When it was first exposed, the effigy was in a much more damaged state than this. 'A large piece of the mitre had been broken off, and the nose, upper lip, and chin, greatly mutilated, evidently by a sword or other sharp instrument. . . . The hands of the Bishop, which had lost the fingers, are closed in the act of prayer, and the feet (great part of which had been broken off) rested on two dogs, both damaged, the head of one being wanting' (*Gentleman's Magazine*, Sep. 1825, p. 226). But the missing pieces mostly turned up, in the rubble which had been used for blocking the arch, and Cottingham reattached them. 'The top of the mitre, nearly all the fingers, the feet, and one of the dogs' heads, have been subsequently found, and joined to the effigy; the mitre is therefore now complete' (*ibid.*).

Copies are reported to exist of a set of six lithographs which Cottingham had drawn at the time (Palmer 1897:102, 1899:102), but I have not laid eyes on them.

Hope (1898:314–15) gives the following description:

The effigy is carved in clunch, and represents the bishop in amice [collar] and alb [ankle-length tunic] with brown and gold apparels, pink dalmatic diapered with black flowers, and red chasuble lined with green and powdered with a gold cruciform device. The gloves are white with jewelled backs, and from the

left wrist hangs a golden fanon [maniple] set with crystals. . . . The crosier has a napkin twisted round it, but the crook, which was fixed into the staff by a peg, has been lost; perhaps it was of metal. The face appears to be a likeness. The mitre is richly gilt and jewelled, and perhaps represents *mitram meam novam de opere Johannis de Coloigne* [my new mitre of the workmanship of John of Cologne], which the bishop, by will dated 21st September 1360, bequeathed to the Prior and Chapter. Beneath the head are two oblong cushions of different design. The feet are covered by white sandals [boots] with brown bands, and rest on two dogs, each adorned with a red collar with gold bells.

He omits to mention the ring worn over the glove on the bishop's right hand.