

John Weever
Ancient funerall monuments
London
1631

ANCIENT
FUNERALL MONUMENTS WITHIN THE
MONARCHIE OF GREAT
Britaine, Ireland, and the Islands adjacent, with
the dissolved Monasteries therein contained: their
Founders, and what eminent Persons haue bene
in the same interred.

AS ALSO THE DEATH AND
BURIALL OF CERTAINE OF THE
Bloud Royall; the Nobilitie and Gentry of these
Kingdomes entombed in forraine Nations.

A worke reuiuing the dead memory of the Royall Progenie,
the Nobilitie, Gentry, and Communitie, of these his
Majesties Dominions.

Intermixed and illustrated with variety of Historically obseruations, annotations, and briefe notes, extracted out of approved Authors, infallible Records, Lieger Bookes, Charters, Rolls, old Manuscripts, and the Collections of iudicious Antiquaries.

Whereunto is prefixed a Discourse of Funerall Monuments. Of the Foundation and fall of Religious Houses. Of Religious Orders. Of the Ecclesiasticall estate of England. And of other occurrences touched vpon by the way, in the whole passage of these intended labours.

Composed by the Studie and Trauels of
JOHN WEEVER.

Spe labor leuis.

LONDON,
Printed by THOMAS HARPER.
1631.

And are to be sold by Laurence Sadler at the signe of the
Golden Lion in little Britaine.

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41

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We desire likewise to behold the mournfull ruines of other religious houses, although their goodly faire structures bee altogether destroyed, their tombes battered downe, and the bodies of their dead cast out of their coffins; for that, that very earth which did sometimes couer the corps of the defunct, puts vs in minde of our mortalitie, and consequently brings vs to vnfaigned repentance. What numbers of Citizens and others at this very time, go to Lesnes Abbey in Kent, to see some few coffins there lately found in her ruines, wherein are the remaines of such as haue bene there anciently interred; of which, when I come to speake of her Foundation.

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777

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Of the valourous atcheeuements and pious actions of this worthie Knight, and religious Votarie, I haue related somewhat before within the

Sir Rich. Lucie
found buried
in the Abbey
of Lesnes Ann.
1630.

Diocesse of Rochester, where I write of the dissolved monastery of Lesnes, an Abbey of his Foundation, where in the place where the Church there= of sometime stood (which had laine a long time buried in her owne ruines, and growne ouer with Oke, Elme, and Ashe-trees) certaine workemen appointed, by the owner of the mannour, Sir Iohn Epsley knight, to digge amongst the rubbish of the decayed Fabricke for stones, happened vpon a goodly Funerall monument, the full proportion of a man, in his coate armour cut all in freestone; his sword hanging at his side by a broad belt, vpon which the Flower de luce was engrauen in many places (being as I take it the Rebus or name-deuise of the Lucies) this his representation or

778

picture lay vpon a flat marble stone; that stone vpon a trough or coffin of white smooth hewen Asheler stone, in that coffin, and in a sheet of lead, (both being made fit for the dimension of a dead body;) the remaines of an ashie drie carkasse, lay enwrapped, whole and vndisioynted, and vpon the head, some haire, or a *simile quiddam* of haire appeared: they found likewise other statues of men, in like manner proportioned, as also of a woman in her attire and abiliments, with many grauestones and bones of the deceased; to see all which, great confluence of people resorted, amongst which number, I was not the hindmost.

<Two passages in Weever's book refer to some recent excavations at Lesnes Abbey. One occurs in the introductory essay; the other turns up in the description of the diocese of Norwich, where Weever has another chance to mention Richard Lucie, and so to say what he had forgotten to say when speaking of the abbey. – C.F. January 2012.>