

John Harris
Proposals for printing by subscription,
The history of the county of Kent
London
1713

The British Library has a copy of this prospectus, 'dated on the verso: London, March 25, 1713.' I have not seen it. What follows is the edited version of Harris's 'Proposals' quoted by Rawlinson, *The English topographer* (London, 1720), 88–92, with the intention (I take it) of letting it be seen how far the performance had fallen short of the promise.

'This History *was to contain these five Parts. *sic

'I. An Exact Topography, or Description of the County: Wherein whatever hath been already printed by Lambert, Somner, Kilburn, Philpot, Weaver, Camden, Leland, Dugdale, Southouse, Fuller, Battely, &c. is methodically inserted; corrected and improv'd by my own Observations; and, by the best Information I could get from Enquiries, and from ancient Manuscripts.

'And here *was propos'd to give a particular Account of the Cities of Canterbury and Rochester; of Ecclesiastical Benefices; of Families, Mannors, and Seats; and of the Descents and Conveyances of Estates. With an Account of that large Woody Tract, called the Weald, or Wild; as also of Romney Marsh; the Time of its Inning; its Laws, Charters, and Customs. With a Division of the County into its proper Laths, Bayliwicks, and Hundreds; and of the Rise and Course of its Rivers. To the End of this Part will be annexed a Transcript of Doomesday Book as far as relates to KENT, with many Corrections and Additions from several Manuscripts and Charters. With an Account of all the Roman Ways, Stations, Camps, Castles, Watch-Towers, Ports and Forts, and of other Monuments of Antiquity. *sic

'To the whole is prefix'd, a new and accurate Map of the County, having the Arms of the Nobility and Gentry placed round about it.

'II. The Civil History of KENT: From the first State of it in the Times of the ancient Britains, thro' the several Changes and Revolutions it hath suffered by the Romans, Saxons, and Danes, 'till it came to be a Part of the Monarchy of England. And to this part *was to be added, the History of the Kings of KENT, and of the Earls and Sheriffs of this County: And also of the Lord-Wardens, *sic

Constables of Dover and of other Castles. With a large Account of the Original and Nature of Gavelkind: And the History of the Cinque-Ports, their Original, Design, Services, Laws, Customs, Courts, Charters, and Privileges.

'III. The History of the Archbishops of Canterbury, and of the Bishops of Rochester; and of the Abbots, Priors, Deans, and Archdeacons of those Sees; with an Account of such other Men as have been famous for Arts and Learning, and Employments Civil and Military. And of all the Religious Houses, Chapels, and Chantries, their Founders, Times of Erection, &c. And of the Foundations and Revenues of all the Hospitals and Schools in the County, and of all other publick Benefactions and Donations to good and charitable Uses.

'IV. The History of the Royal Navy; and of its Rise, Progress, and Improvement: With Observations on, and a Comparison between, the ancient and modern Shipping: The State of the four Docks, Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, and Chatham, situated in this County, on the Rivers Thames and Medway, for the Building and Repairing of our Ships of War; with an Account of all the Ships of the Navy-Royal; when built, where, and by whom, their Length, Breadth, Depth, Tuns, Guns, Men, &c.

'V. The Natural History of KENT; wherein is an Account given of the Sea, and of the Coasts adjoining to it; the Tides, Rocks, Shoals, Shelves, and Sands. Of the Fishes and Fishery in the Sea, on the Kentish Coasts. Of the Rivers, Brooks, Eylebourns, Springs, Fountains, Medicinal Waters, (and particularly a large Account of Tunbridge-Wells) Lakes and Ponds, with the several Kinds of Fish they produce.

'Of the Earth, Soil, and Nature of the Ground, in all its several Parts: The Beasts, Birds, and Insects; the Trees, Plants, and Grasses; Fruits, Seeds, Flowers, and Grains in this County. Together with the Metals and Minerals; with a large Account of the Iron and Copperas Works. The Salts, Stones, Chalks, Clays, Marl, Mold, Fullers and Potters Earth, Sand and Gravel, that are any where found within its Bowels. And of the several Kinds and Improvements of Husbandry, Planting, and Gard'ning.

'With Observations also on the Tem-

per of the Air, &c. in the several
Parts of the County, with regard to
Winds, Weather, Rain, Snow, Hail,
Frosts, &c.

'An Account of the Trades, Manu=
factures, and Mechanicks, peculiar to
KENT, or improv'd therein.'

C.F. September 2012