

Francis Grose
The antiquities of England and Wales, 2nd
edition
London
1783–7

volume 1

1:111 – "ARCHITECTURE." <Romanesque details – no. 4 from Christ Church, nos. 6–8 from Rochester (identified in the footnote on p. 111)>

1:111 – The grand Door of Barfreston Church in Kent."

1:113 – "BARFREESTON CHURCH, KENT."

1:113 – "Stranger's Hall, Christ Church Canterbury."

volume 3

3:1 – Allington castle (1760)

3:3 – The great hall of the archbishop's palace, Canterbury (1769)

3:5 – Arches in the wall of the city of Canterbury (1765)

3:7 – St. Augustine's monastery, plate 1 (1758)

3:9 – St. Augustine's monastery, plate 2 (1759)

3:11 – Broadsole, or St. Radigund's abbey (1761)

3:14 – Canterbury castle (1761)

3:18 – Canterbury cathedral (1772)

3:19 – The chiding stone (1768)

3:20 – Chilham castle (1773)

3:24 – Cowling castle, plate 1 (1759)

3:26 – Cowling castle, plate 2 (1759)

3:26 – Dartford priory (1759)

3:31 – The priory of Davyngton, near Faversham (1758)

3:35 – Dover castle, plate 1 (1762)

3:39 – Dover castle, plate 2 (1762)

3:42 – The Mote, or Mote's bulwark, Dover (1762)

3:43 – Faversham abbey, plate 1 (1756)

3:48 – Faversham abbey, plate 2 (1758)

3:52 – Halling house (1759)

3:55 – Ket's Coity House (1760)

3:58 – Leeds castle (1762)

3:63 – Leibourn castle, plate 1 (1750)

3:65 – Leibourn castle, plate 2 (1759)

3:66 – Lyme castle (1772)

3:67 – St. Mary and All-Saints' college, Maidstone (1760)

3:70 – St. Martin's priory, or the Newarke, Dover, plate 1 (1760)

3:74 – St. Martin's priory, or the Newarke, Dover, plate 2 (1760)

3:76 – The monastery of Minster, in the isle of Shepey (1759)

3:79 – The old church in Dover castle (1758)

3:82 – Ostenhanger, or Westenhanger house, plate 1 (1773)

3:86 – Ostenhanger, or Westenhanger house, plate 2 (1773)

3:87 – The chapel of St. Pancras in St. Augustine's monastery, Canterbury (1775)

3:90 – Queenborough castle, in the isle of Shepey <copied from a drawing by Hollar>

3:94 – Gundulph's tower, Rochester (1781)

3:94 – Rochester castle, plate 1 (1759)

3:101 – Rochester castle, plate 2 (1759)

3:107 – The Temple, or mansion of the Knights Templars, at Stroud (1759)

3:109 – Saltwood castle, Kent (1773)

3:112 – Upnor castle (1757)

3:113 – The west gate of Canterbury (1749)

3:115 – West-Malling abbey (1762)

3:120 – Wincheap gate, Canterbury (1755)

volume 8 (supplement)

8:98 – Maidstone bridge, plate 1 (1760)

8:98 – Maidstone bridge, plate 2 (1760)

8:99 – Ruined offices in St. Augustine's monastery, Canterbury (1750)

8:99 – St. Gregory's priory, Canterbury (1758)

8:100 – Sandgate castle (1762)

8:101 – The White Friars, Canterbury (1758)

<I am not at all well acquainted with this book, which has a complicated publication history. It was, so I gather, first published in 1772–6, in sixty parts making four volumes. A second edition, in eight volumes (seven volumes plus a supplement), was published in 1783–7. (The additional material was, it seems, also issued separately, as a two-volume supplement, for customers who already owned the first edition.) I have not seen either of these editions. The only copies which I have seen are: (1) a single volume (vol. 3) from an edition printed for S. Hooper (perhaps in 1792), and (2) a full set of eight volumes from an edition printed for Hooper & Wigstead (perhaps in 1797). (The dates are doubtful. I assume, provisionally, that this vol. 3 belongs to the edition advertised by Hooper in March 1792. One of the eight volumes (vol. 7) is dated 1797 on the title-page, and I assume, provisionally again, that the same date applies to them all. (The Hooper & Wigstead partnership seems not to have lasted for more than a few years, from 1796 til 1799.) However, it is reported that an even later edition exists, printed on paper which is dated "1809" in the watermark, but retaining the Hooper & Wigstead title-page.) As far as vol. 3 is concerned, the editions which I have seen are very nearly page for page the same, but not exactly so: the first word on p. 2 is "and" in the earlier, "ports;" in the later of the two. The engraved title-page – with a vignette showing a hermit in his cave – was altered for this later edition. "VOL: III." was erased and replaced with "[VOL. III. New Edition.]", and the imprint, "LONDON. Printed for S. HOOPER, No. 212 HIGH HOLBORN." (one line, all in black-letter type) was erased from "S." onwards and made to say "LONDON. Printed for [HOOPER & WIGSTEAD, No: 212, High Holborn, facing / Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square.]" (two lines, the first in roman, the second in italics). All the other title-pages look as if they may have been altered in the same way; but I cannot say whether that is the case or not. This file is a list of the plates relating to Kent, as they appear in the eight-volume edition. From Gough (1780), it appears that almost all of them (not counting those in vol. 8) were already to be found in the first (four-volume) edition: only four are not mentioned by him (Queenborough castle, Gundulph's tower, Strood Temple, Upnor castle). (The view of Canterbury cathedral, according to Gough, formed the frontispiece to vol. 2.) Taken together, these plates are a record of Grose's travels around this county over a period of many years, from 1749 till 1781. They are also a valuable record of what he saw, and when he saw it. There were things which he had seen in the 1750s which had vanished by the 1770s. – C.F. May 2011.>

<Further thoughts

This is, so to speak, a second interim report. After looking again at any evidence which I can find, through ECCO or the Open Library, I see things more clearly than I did; but I am still very far from a full understanding of the history of this book.

(1) The first edition (4 vols, 1772–6) is still unknown to me.

Apparently it took the form of a portfolio, with the letterpress printed on the same sheet as the engraving to which it refers.

(2) There exists an undated "Collection of plans" first published as an optional extra to the first edition.

(3) An undated series of county maps was also produced, again apparently as an optional extra.

(4) The "new edition" was published in parts in 1783–6, to be bound as seven volumes (vols 1–6 for England, vol 7 for Wales). Some new plates were included. (Some copies of vol 1 retain a letterpress title-page dated 1783: those that do are certain to belong to this edition, not to any later reprint.)

(5) As each volume was completed, an engraved title-page was provided for it.

(6) A "supplement" called "vol 8" was published in 1787.

(7) A two-volume "supplement" was published, also in 1787, in portfolio form, for the benefit of people who had bought the first edition. This includes the added plates from vols 1–7 and all of the plates from vol 8.

(8) The eight-volume edition was apparently reprinted in 1792 (see below).

(9) It was apparently reprinted again in 1797, for Hooper and Wigstead, with the title-pages altered accordingly.

As far as Kent is concerned, this is how things seem to stand.

(1) ?

(2) Three plans are mentioned in the preface: (i) St Augustine's, "from the original survey made by Mr. Doidge, and since corrected on the spot"; (ii) Canterbury castle, "partly from Doidge's map of that city"; (iii) Faversham abbey, "copied from Doidge's plan of that place, but corrected on the spot". "N.B. The Castle of Rochester, in Kent, was intended to have been given, and is mentioned in the Index; but the Drawing not having been found sufficiently accurate, it was omitted." A plan of Dover castle was published in 1787 (see below). A plan of Canterbury cathedral (copied from the "Monasticon") occurs in some copies of the book, but I do not know when it was first made available.

(3) A horrid little map of Kent, not dated or signed. The letterpress occupies the lower half of the recto plus the whole of the verso; it was reset at least once.

(4) Kent is the first county in vol 3, completed in 1784. Four new plates were included in this edition (as I inferred before from the fact that Gough (1780) does not mention them): Gundulph's tower, Queenborough castle, Strood Temple, Upnor castle.

(5) The title-page for this volume occurs (as I said before) in at least three states. The earliest state has the volume number "VOL: III.", which the next state alters to "[VOL. III. New Edition.]" Those states both have the imprint "LONDON. Printed for S. HOOPER, No. 212, HIGH HOLBORN.", which the latest state alters to "LONDON. Printed for [HOOPER & WIGSTEAD, No. 212, High Holborn, facing Southampton Street, Bloomsbury-Square.]" Of these three I suspect that the earliest is just a proof. The second state seems to have been used in 1784 and 1792, the third state in 1797.

(6) Seven new plates for Kent were published in the supplement (vol 8): ruined offices at St Augustine's, a plan of Dover castle, St Gregory's, two views of Maidstone bridge, Sandgate castle,

White Friars at Canterbury. The instructions for the binder say that the plan of Dover castle is to be inserted in vol 3.

(7) The contents are as they should be.

(8–9) All the same plates are included.

Looking more closely at the letterpress describing these plates (vol 3, pp 1–120), I discover that it comes in (at least) three different settings. The quickest way to tell them apart is to look at page 37, where the settings vary like this:

Setting 1

Sir William of Albrance had twenty-one knights fees, and warded eighty-two weeks.

Sir William of Arsick had eighty-one knights fees, and warded twenty-four weeks.

Setting 2

Sir William of Albrance had 21 knights fees, and warded 82 weeks.

Sir William of Arsick had 81 knights fees, and warded 24 weeks.

Setting 3

Sir William of Albrance had 21 knights-fees, and warded 82 weeks.

Sir William of Arsick had 81 knights-fees, and warded 24 weeks.

For the most part, setting 2 is a line-for-line facsimile of setting 1; setting 3 is a looser reproduction of setting 2. In substance the text is identical in all three settings, except that some obvious misprints get corrected.

There are two distinguishing features which, from what I have seen, may possibly apply to all eight volumes (or at least to vols 1–7, if vol 8 turns out, as perhaps it may, to be a special case). Setting 1 is differentiated by its use of the abbreviation "Esq;"; not "Esq." as in settings 2 and 3. Setting 3 is differentiated by its use of italic type for the notation "l. s. d.", not roman as in settings 1 and 2.

For settings 1 and 3, the dating seems to be straightforward. Setting 1 is the "new edition" as it was originally published in 1783–7. Setting 3 is associated with the "Hooper & Wigstead" title-pages, probably all published, as one of them explicitly says it was, in 1797. If that is right, the existence of setting 2 will imply that the book was reprinted at some intermediate date, after 1787 but before 1797.

An advertisement of Hooper's, dated March 1792 (an incomplete copy of which is available through ECCO), appears to confirm the existence of such an edition, and to fix the date of it. It begins by announcing the publication of part 1 of the "Antiquities of Ireland", which Grose had left unfinished when he died. (He died in May 1791.) Then (perhaps reproducing a somewhat earlier advert) it announces the publication of part 1 "of each of the Two following WORKS, By the late FRANCIS GROSE, Esq.", the first of which is the "Antiquities of England and Wales". It is expected that some purchasers will wish to buy one part a week, over a period of more than three years. But in fact the edition is finished, and anyone who wants a whole volume, or a complete set of eight volumes, can have it straight away. I assume that this gives us a date for setting 2 – after May 1791 but before March 1792. – C.F. June 2012.>

<Since writing that, I have seen a copy of the book in which setting 2 is associated with the "Hooper & Wigstead" title-pages. There is, I conclude, no simple correlation between different settings of the text and different states of the title-page. Having reached that conclusion, I give up. But I will continue to keep an eye open for copies of volume 8. – C.F. August 2012.>