

THE OLDEST MAP OF ROMNEY MARSH.

BY F. WILLIAM COCK, M.D., F.S.A.

SOME few years back my friend Mr. Wintle came across a coloured copy of the map I am about to briefly describe. This was the specimen preserved at Trinity House. He had it photographed, and presented the print to the Corporation of New Romney, of which he is a member. From time to time during the last twenty years notes have appeared in *The Kentish Express* as to the rarity of "Cole's map of 1617." Whenever I could I have been to see the map quoted. It is extremely rare—I do not know of more than nine or ten copies—but the map that I saw in each case was not of the date 1617. It certainly had that date upon it, connected with the name Matthew Poker as its author, but in itself it was an engraving of the first half of the eighteenth century. I suspected that the engraving was from an early seventeenth-century MS. map, because it shews the Rother in its old channel. So the original must have been before 1636, about which year the river was turned into its present course. Also there are houses shewn on it belonging to people who had parted with them by 1659, as is to be ascertained by looking up Phillipot. I wrote to the British Museum, and they told me that their copy had been dated 1760 with a query, and referred me to Bryant's *Dictionary of Engravers* for the date of J. Cole. This states that he was at work in 1720. I already knew that he had done the plates for Dart's *Canterbury Cathedral*, 1726, and had been told that he had worked later, but on hunting up that reference did not find it correct, so I have had to leave him; but, in doing so, quite agree with the criticism on Dart's work, viz., that had

the literary part been as good as the engravings there would have been little to find fault with. The map, like the engravings in Dart, is first-class, solid work, clear, bold without unnecessary detail, and very comfortable to the eye.

Then I hunted about to find out who was Matthew Poker. I thought the name might be a misprint for Matthew Parker, and, as it is known that the archbishop was interested in topography, the original map might have been done to his order, and the date on the printed map might have been a mistake for 1717. I wrote to the great authority on Parker, Dr. James, and asked if there was a MS. map of the Marsh among his papers. The answer was in the negative, so I applied to my friend Mr. Papillon, as his family was mentioned on some copies of Cole's map. He very kindly said there was no connection between the archbishop and his ancestors, but that the David Papillon so mentioned (1691—1761) had been M.P. for New Romney 1722—1728, and Mr. Richard S. Jones, Clerk to the Level of Romney Marsh, tells me that David Papillon was Deputy Lord for the manor of Bonnington in 1725, and the same name repeatedly appears afterwards. The family is still owner of the manor. Miller's MS. New Romney Diary mentions him as "Squire Papillon," which by-the-by is the spelling on Cole's map. So the matter rested, when, owing to a correspondence with a fellow member of our Council, the Hon. Henry Hannen, my attention was directed to a battered parchment MS. map in the Maidstone Museum, which the curator, Mr. Allchin, got out for me, and with which he took much trouble, both in measuring it and having it photographed. On looking at this I was convinced at once that here was the original. There was the date 1617 and M. Poker's signature in the left-hand bottom corner close to the scale. In the right-hand top corner appeared the description of the Marshes, which Cole most accurately copied in his engraving; but the most interesting thing on it is the representation of a fleet of what was practically every kind of sea-vessel then in use, which is shewn riding in the

East and West Bays. It is quite a lesson in the shapes of our then sea-craft. On turning over the map I found this note on the back: "This map of Romney Marsh was found with some rubbish at Acrise Court, the property of the Papillon Family, and presented to the Charles Museum by Edward Gandy, Maidstone, October 11th, 1867."

Mr. Hannen had also drawn my attention to Gough's topographical collections, page 492, *Additions and Corrections to Kent*, where it states: "Mr. Papillon, 1737, shewed the Antiquary Society an illuminated map of Romney Marsh and the adjacent counties, copied from an authentic MS. survey done in the year 1617, by Matthew Poker, and engraved by James Coles." So I wrote to the secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and he replied that there was no doubt of this exhibition to the Society, and that Mr. Papillon had given them this illuminated map, but it was not now to be found. Mr. Falconer-Madan, the Bodleian Librarian, writes to me that they have two copies of the map in the Gough collection, but does not state that there is any note with them. All these are, of course, impressions of J. Cole's plate, based on Poker's MS. map of the previous century.

As to the original map in the Maidstone Museum: size, with the painted margin, 34 by 24 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches; date, "1617," in bottom left-hand corner, below the name "M. Poker," at end of explanation of scale; scale, 3 furlongs = 1 inch; description of Marshes, top right-hand corner, signed "Mathew Poker."

J. Cole's map exists in the following states:

(a) Without dedication or indication of Cole having done it. At the New Hall, Dymchurch.

(b) With Cole's dedication to the Lords and other Proprietors of Romney Marsh.

(c) With this dedication, and in addition the delightful Latin phrase: "Insculptus ex sumptibus David Papillon, Esqr." This is the common form. This issue also includes thick paper copies, which are coloured nearly like the original. Of these, the only specimens I am acquainted with

are that at Trinity House, my own, and a very imperfect copy in the Maidstone Museum. This last is the only one I have seen on a single sheet, all the others are on two.

The size of the impressions of Cole's map varies a little, owing to the joining of the two sheets differing in the several copies, but generally the printed map to outer heavy line = $33\frac{3}{4}$ by $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches, so that it very closely agrees with the original. The price 5s. is outside this line in bottom right-hand corner. I have to thank my friend Mr. Liesching of Trinity House for much trouble and care in the details of the map under his charge, and to all my other friends whose names I have mentioned the same thanks are most heartily due. I may add that Cole's map was reproduced by W. Tiffen of Hythe in 1845. He has printed his name on this with his own date.

Copies of J. Cole's impressions known to me:—

Trinity House	1 coloured copy.
British Museum	1 plain ditto.
Bodleian (Gough collection)	2 plain ditto.
Maidstone Museum	1 coloured ditto (imperfect).
New Hall, Dymchurch	1 plain ditto (earliest state).
Mr. Finn-Kelcey, Old Romney	1 plain ditto (imperfect).
Myself	1 plain and 1 coloured ditto.

I should be glad to hear of any other copies.

[By the kindness of the Curator of the Maidstone Museum we are enabled to reproduce Mathew Poker's map for this volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*; and by the courtesy of the Director of the British Museum we are able to publish, for the purpose of comparison, a reproduction of a copy of James Cole's engraving. The holes in Poker's MS. were evidently caused by some misfortune that happened when the map was kept rolled up. The series of dots underneath the holes seem to have been caused by a drop of

some acid when the map was in the same position. The inscription, faithfully copied by J. Cole, runs as follows:

The Description of ROMNEY MARSH, WALLAND MARSH, DENGGE MARSH & GUILDEFORD MARSH with the divisions of their Waterings, Heads, Arms, Pinnokes, Bridgs and principal Gutts, for the sewing of the fresh Waters that fall into the same. With the Highways, Lanes, Parish Churches, Dwelling Houses & Cottages within the said several Levels. As also the Channel of Appledowre from Courtbrooks & passing by Appledowre five Waterings & Rye into the Sea, and the Marshes adjoining to the Channel with their Watercourses & Gutts: Herein also is described as followeth, First the Territory of Romney Marsh is defended from the Inundation of the Salt Sea by a Wall, & preserved from the surrounding & overflowing of the fresh Waters by certain Watercourses as by this Plate may partly appear.

The Wall is commonly known by the Name of Dymchurch Wall, beginning at Everdens groyne and continuing by diverse & sundry denominations unto the end of Highknock Wall, containing in the whole 1060 Rods in length, which Wall is Armed & Fenced against the rage and wash of the Sea by Bufhes & Faggotts of Thorne fastened to the said Wall with Oken stakes, called Needles & Groyne, or knock of Piles continually maintained at the charge of the whole Levell.

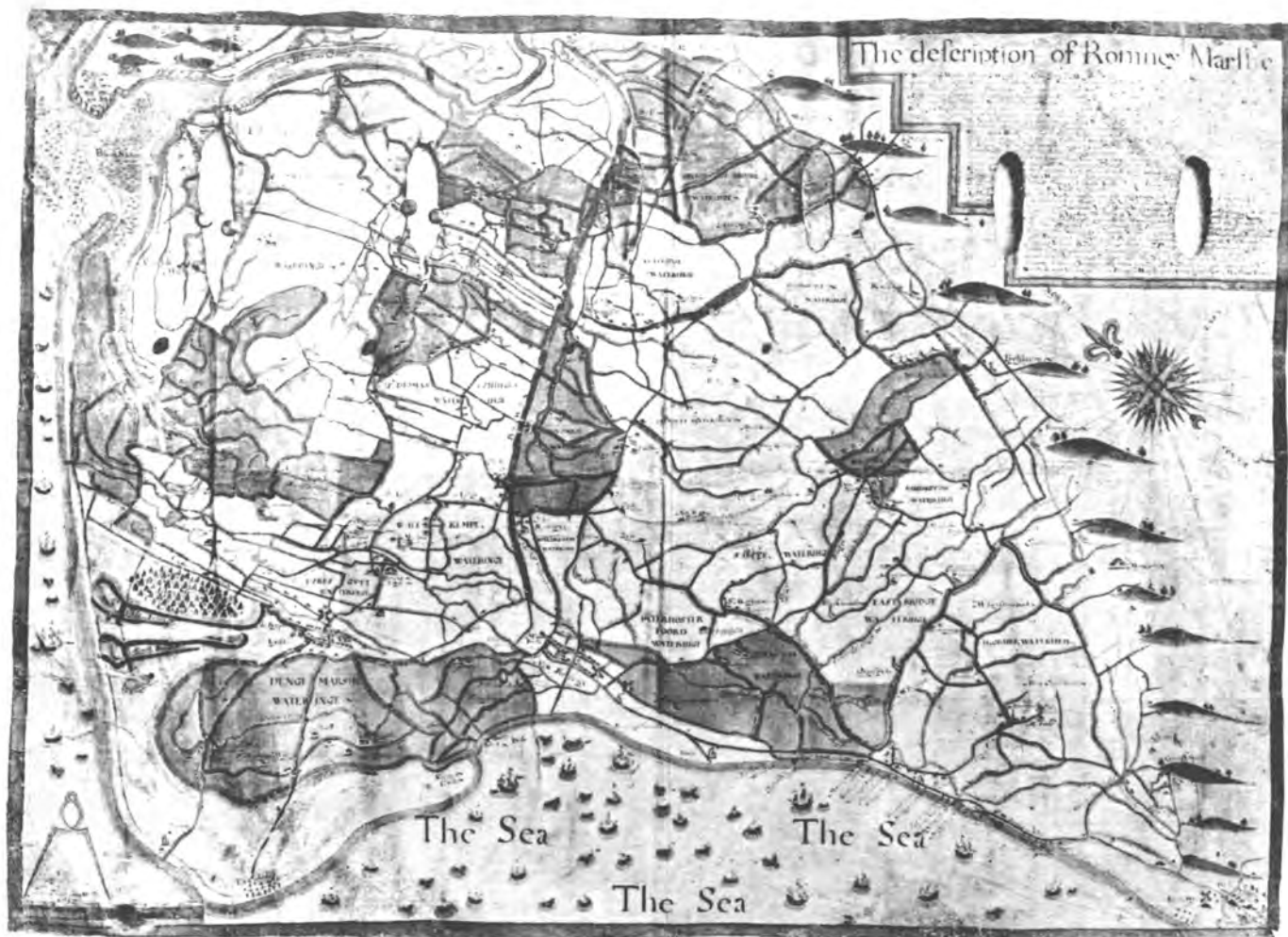
These Water Courses for the better Conveyances and shorter passage of the Water out of the said Levell are so ordered to have their Vent or Issues into the Sea two several ways, and that each by diverse Armes or principal Sewers conducting the Water to either Vent or Issues. The one of y^e said Watering Issues runneth Eastward unto Dymchurch Wall where it falleth into the Sea by three several passages or Gutts, Wyllop, Marshland & Clobesden Gutts; the other Watering Issue tendeth Westward by five several Armes which conveyeth their Water unto Arrowhead Gutt & so thro Woodroofe, and from thence by the Sea Wall to Cheritons bars where the Gutts end, and there falleth into Appledowre Channel. These Watercourses are also maintained at the Charge of the whole Levell according to their limmits & several taxes which are in Number Great & are here distinguished by Prick Lines. Viz^t The 5 Waterings Springbrook, Abatridge, Sidbrooke, Brenfett & Yokes. The other 9 Wallingham, Paternosterfoord, Shetye, Walesfoot, Bilsington, Eastbridge, Gefferfton, Hoornes & Wyllop.

And the Territory of the other Marshes are preserved also from the surrounding and overflowing of the fresh Waters by certain Water Courses or several Sewers, Woodrooffe, Beldinghope, and Snorland, Cheyngut, Balden, Boniface & Hallan, St. Thomas Inninges, Whitekempe, Iures Gutt & Denge Marsh sewers, which for the better conveyance & shorter passage of the said Waters out of the Levels have their Vents & Issuings into the Sea five sundry ways, & that by diverse Armes or Yoakes into their principal Sewers thro their Gutt. Viz. Whitekemp, Weneway, Iures, Denge Marsh and North Layd Gutt. Math. Poker 1617.

To the Right Hon^{ble}
the Lords, and other Proprietors
of the Lands in these Levels
This Plate is Dedicated by your most humble
and obedient Servant
James Cole
Insculptus ex sumptibus David Papillion, Esq.
[1737*]

—Ed.]

* Date entered in pencil by the authorities of the British Museum.



Arch. Cant. XXX.]

M. POKER'S MAP OF ROMNEY MARSH, 1617.
 (From the original MS. in Maidstone Museum: 34'' x 24'').

[De' Ath & Dunk, photo.]