

Transmission and recall: the use of short wall anchors in the wide world

2 Volumes - Volume 1

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Abstract

P.R.A. Reynolds : Transmission and recall: the use of short wall anchors in the wide world : PhD.

This thesis considers the use of a little-known building technique: short wall anchor construction. Ignored by its users and misunderstood by many of those who observed it subsequently, the short wall anchor construction technique has proved a useful window into the perception and behaviour of early modern people and subsequent communities.

Using the technology of the late twentieth century: the relational database, digital mapping and the internet I have taken a world-wide approach to analyse and interpret the short wall anchor as a feature within an assemblage.

This analysis, and a study of the processes and contexts of transmission has demonstrated a close connection between display, narrative and identity and the building façade. Short wall anchors give insight into these practices in the early modern world - the whole world - where new relationships between people, places and things were being forged.

569 pages, 156 illustrations (all in colour), 5 maps (all in colour), 10 tables, bibliography, CD of entire thesis, including animated maps and database.

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Accompanying material

A cd accompanies the bound volume. It contains a copy of the text, illustrations, maps, animations, and tables. Some of these are digital appendices.

Preface

In 1992 I began to work for English Heritage, cataloguing a collection of architectural fragments at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. The collection had been acquired during the late 1940s, when a quarter of the town was being levelled prior to redevelopment. The area had been earmarked for redevelopment by the local council since early in the century, as the housing stock was thought to be of poor quality. The houses had, in addition, been greatly damaged in their use as a training area for hand-to-hand combat during the second world war, and the local council had long wanted to clear the neighbourhood.

However, the area was known to contain a great number of medieval and early modern buildings. Local antiquarians had been arguing against slum clearance proposals, contending that Great Yarmouth was a precious survivor of an early modern town. They set up a trust and in 1908 purchased the Old Merchant's House, 8, Row 117. In 1943, after some bomb damaged had occurred in the Rows, but before the site was handed over to the army, B.St.J. O'Neil, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, visited the town and recorded some of the buildings between Rows 107 and 128 (Tooke 1987, 9).

In 1947 O'Neil (PRO WORK14/1348 14269) argued that the Old Merchant's House should be taken into guardianship of the Ministry of Works. In his proposal that the house was suitable to be taken into guardianship, O'Neil implies that it was as meritorious as Hampton Court palace. This house was taken into guardianship in 1949, and the following year the adjoining part of the house (9, Row 117) was purchased. In 1951, another house in Row 111 (Nos 6, 7 and 8), was thought to have survived well enough to be preserved, and was taken into guardianship. The foreman of works engaged on the repair of these two houses in the late 1940s and 1950s, Mr Rosie, salvaged many items from the surrounding buildings. Initially, the idea seems to have been that they could be used in the restoration of the two houses, but the collection of windows, doors, mouldings, panelling, tiles, and other fragments grew beyond this, to a collection to act as a memorial to the craftsmen who had built Yarmouth.

The surrounding area was levelled. One local resident recalled the bulldozers moving earth turned white with the quantity of delft tile (English Heritage oral history tapes). Terraces of social housing maisonettes were built, cutting across the now obliterated medieval street pattern.

I had been brought in to catalogue this collection because I had expertise in door furniture. I found some other areas of the collection quite unfamiliar. I was particularly intrigued by the iron wall anchors, a building component I had never met before. Unlike the rest of the collection, where there were reference books, comparable collections and comparable material in situ, to help me catalogue the collection, the wall anchors seemed to be as isolated, solitary and strange as the two historic houses, now marooned in a sea of maisonettes.

The contract completed, I continued to notice wall anchors, and to wonder about the people who had built with them. Dissatisfaction with that unproductive speculating led me to decide to undertake this research degree.

Acknowledgements

*A gift is not yours until you have said
thank you.* - Baden-Powell

Thank you for your gifts, so generously given. I hope you like what I have done with them.

My especial thanks go to my husband, Trevor Reynolds, and my supervisor, Dr Jane Grenville.

I would also like to thank :

My family, who showed me that the undersides of tables were as interesting as the veneer on top and taught me that if you're going to talk about other people; do it with respect.

All the members of the museum (and more latterly, heritage) community of Surrey, including its multi-shifting Area Museum Council/Strategic Regional Agency. Especially Jeremy (for the conversations on ritual), Judy (for not saying 'Intellectual Access!!!!' too harshly), and my staff (salaried and volunteers), for excellence in service delivery against a background of mutterings about French philosophers.

Pauline, Sue and Jo - my Action Learning Set - who asked 'if this chapter were an animal, what would it be' and other transforming questions.

Sandra and Kurt, Andrew (in absentia), Laurajane and Gary (and Hamish and Mahalia very much in presence) who put me up, and put up with me on my visits to York.

The members of the Tolkien Society and the English Fief of the Swedish Tolkien Society: thanks for perceptive conversations and conversations on perception, and thanks for not saying too often that you thought I'd spend my time better telling you Gawain-stories.

More conventional thanks are due to those who have helped in more conventional (but no less helpful) ways:

Dr Tania Dickinson, for chairing my Thesis Advisory Panel, Dr Kate Giles for being on my Thesis Advisory Panel until 2004, and other staff and fellow students of the Department of Archaeology of the University of York. I also wish to record my thanks for the fees bursary, which supported my studies.

Dr Kate Giles and Dr Chris Gosden for examining this thesis - and for suggesting interesting avenues for my future work.

The members of the TimeMap Open Source Consortium, including staff of the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI) and the Archaeological Computing Laboratory, University of Sydney, especially Dr Ian Johnson, for development of TimeMap and support in its use.

Pat Ryan who helped me to explore Essex and Suffolk, and whose knowledge of the history of brick-making and brick use in Essex John Glenn and Mary Anderson who helped me to explore Boston, Lincolnshire. Adriaan Linters who helped with access in Brussels.

During my studies I attended a number of conferences (detailed in the Authors' statement, below, where I presented papers). I received much useful feedback and encouragement. The first of these was *Hollanders Uit en Thuis*, Zaanse Museum, 19th October 2001. I displayed photographs at the inaugural summer conference of the Norfolk Historic Buildings group in 2002, which led to several members identifying buildings or documentary sources. At *Parallel Cities, Amsterdam and New York 1653-2003*, Roosevelt Study Center. Amsterdam, 31 January-1 February, 2003 I particularly benefited from conversations with Jan Schipper, Boudewijn Bakker and Tracy Metz.

The librarians of York, De Rijksdienst voor Archeologie, Cultuurlandschap en Monumenten (RACM) (formerly the Monumentenzorg), Das Landesamt für Kultur und Denkmalpflege Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the British Library, Die Deutsche Bibliothek, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Den Haag) and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek van België/Bibliothèque royale de Belgique. Eric Roth of the Huguenot Historical Society, Bruce Watson of the Museum of London,

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Dr Nat Alcock, for initial discussions and encouragement to undertake this research, but especially for suggesting that I contact Dr Jane Grenville.

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Dr Arturs Lapins, for advice on and photographs of buildings in Latvia.

Dr Nicola McDonald for providing the information on *aunkers* (page 33).

Dr Marty Perdue for tracking down the reference to the gift of the Duke of York's arms, and providing references to similar uses in the English colonies.

Frank Turley, smith, for information on manufacturing techniques.

Brian Hoggard and John Dean for discussions on the use of decorative markings.

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Members of the the ACCU project board of The National Board of Antiquities, Finland, who organised a field trip to Louhissari Manor.

Andy Armstrong, who provided design ideas, debugged and descrambled the htlm which underlies the CD-rom which forms part of this thesis.

Matthew Vernon and friends, who diverted themselves with trying to work out if it is mathematically possible to calculate the measurements of

a window from a non-photometric photograph. Dr Ned Crankshaw for discussing the utility of his CARPA (computer aided reverse perspective analysis). Various members of the HistArch discussion list have lately (March 2007) offered suggestions of programmes which might achieve this (see chapter 9).

Matthew Vernon (on his own), who performed the K-S test on my data (chapter 6.1)

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Author's declaration

Parts of my thesis have been previously published as:

'Recording structural ironwork in buildings before iron frame' in *Yorkshire Buildings* (2002) 30, 18-24

and

'Muuramkers/wallanchors' *D.I.S. Magazine: a quarterly publication of the Dutch International Society* (2006) 37 (4) 16-19

I first presented the initial results of my work as 'Definitively Dutch?: Regional variation in the polythetic classification of "Dutch" Buildings' at the 9th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Saint Petersburg, Russia, 10-14 September 2003, largely to an audience

of Dutch prehistorians, which resulted in a number of conversations regarding visibility and significance in the archaeological record.

I gave a brief outline of the use of TimeMap to the autumn meeting of the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group in November 2003.

I sent a poster 'Using TimeMap with Wall Anchors' to Pacific Neighborhood Consortium / Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative Joint Meetings October 19th - 22nd, 2004, Taipei, Taiwan, but was unable to attend.

I presented 'Ties Home : Early Iron Construction and "Dutch" Identity' at the annual Mid-Atlantic American Culture/Popular Culture Association conference Buffalo, New York 5-7 November 2004 as part of the Built Environment / Architecture stream. Dr Rett Lorrence had brought together diverse speakers, and wove them into a close-knit, cohesive stream where methodologies from the performance art to physics to political history informed one another.

At *From Nieuw Nederlandt to New York: The emergence of a New World Society in the Hudson Valley* New Paltz, New York 12-13th November 2004 I presented "'Dutch" Buildings in New York State and Beyond': conversations with my fellow presenters Ruth K. Abrahams and Neil Larsson were informative.

Presenting 'Ties Home : Early Iron Construction in Dutch East India Company Colonies' at the annual conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology, York gave me the opportunity to speak with Dr Robert Parthesius of the Maritime Archaeology Unit, Galle, Sri Lanka.