

Master of the Armoury,
H.M. Tower of London,
E.C.3.

'Wellyards',
Hempstead,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

22nd September, 1965.

Dear Sir,

Last Thursday I left in the possession of your colleague, Mr. H. Russel Robinson, the funeral helm of Dr. William Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood. This helm is normally kept in the parish church at Hempstead and was brought to the Tower for Mr. Robinson's advice on the cleaning and restoration thereof.

Mr. Robinson, after examining the piece, made his recommendation and suggested that the craftsmen in the Tower were the best qualified people to carry out this work, with your permission. I have spoken to the vicar and the secretary of the P.C.C. and gave them Mr. Robinson's rough estimate of £5 that will be required to carry out this work. They will be grateful if you would give your permission for this work to be carried out and would like confirmation of any work you intend to put in hand in writing.

I understand that church armour is a subject in which you take special interest and we would appreciate any information you can give us concerning the history of the piece. The only information we have is that it was used for Dr. Harvey's funeral in 1657.

Yours faithfully,

A. A. Weedon.



THE ARMOURIES
H.M. TOWER OF LONDON, E.C.3
Telephone: ROYAL ~~2195~~ 0765 Ext 217

26th November, 1965.

A.A. Weedon, Esq.,
'Wellyards',
Hempstead,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

Dear Mr. Weedon,

I am sorry for the delay in the cleaning of the Harvey helmet but outside work which is done free of charge has to wait its turn with official jobs. The workshop staff have not begun work on the helmet yet but will be doing so in a few days time. Once commenced it will only take a day or so.

Yours sincerely,

H. Russell Robinson,

Assistant to the Master of the Armouries.



THE ARMOURIES
H.M. TOWER OF LONDON, E.C.3
Telephone: ROYAL ~~2195~~ 0765 Ext 217

27th September, 1965.

A.A. Weedon, Esq.,
'Wellyards',
Hempstead,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

Dear Mr. Weedon,

Thank you for your letter. Since our meeting I have learned that the Master of the Armouries has ruled that all work on church armour shall be done free of charge for he feels that it is better that the armour receive attention rather than be neglected because a church lacks the necessary funds for the treatment as they so often do.

We propose to simply clean the helmet by removing rust and paint and then sealing the surface with a coat of strong acrylic lacquer. We shall also make good the rivet fastening the crest stalk on top of the helmet.

I will write you again as soon as the work has been completed.

Yours sincerely,

H. Russell Robinson,

Assistant to the Master of the Armouries.



THE ARMOURIES
 H.M. TOWER OF LONDON, E.C.3
 Telephone: ROYAL 2195 0765 Ext 217

18th January, 1966.

A.A. Weedon, Esq.,
 'Wellyards',
 Hempstead,
 Saffron Walden,
 Essex.

Dear Mr. Weedon,

The Harvey Church helmet is now ready for collection at your convenience.

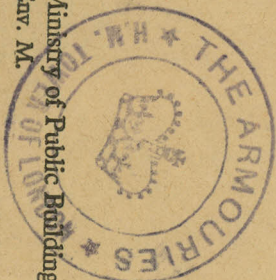
It has been thoroughly cleaned and treated with bedacryl and should now be preserved for a long time providing the lacquer is not chipped.

Yours sincerely,

H. Russell Robinson,

Assistant to the Master of the Armouries.

Ministry of Public Building & Works,
 Env. M.



On Her Majesty's Service
 A.A. Weedon, Esq.,
 'Wellyards',
 Hempstead,
 Saffron Walden,
 Essex.



HELP SAVE
 YOUR TIME





THE ARMOURIES
 H.M. Tower of London, E.C.3
 Telephone: ROYAL 0765 Ext 217

5th June, 1969.

Alan A. Weedon Esq.,
 "Wellyards",
 Hempstead,
SAFFRON WALDEN, Essex.

Dear Mr. Weedon,

We were very sorry to hear of the theft of the Harvey helmet. We shall naturally be on the lookout for it but have little hope. So many have been stolen recently but very few have been recovered. We have supplied photographs and details to the police.

A good reproduction could be made for you by our craftsmen as a private job, but the figure would be rather high. They think about £200. They could not undertake the work for several months even if you agreed to the price.

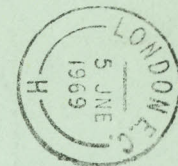
Yours sincerely,

H. Russell Robinson,

Assistant to the Master of the Armouries.



Alan A. Weedon, Esq.,
 "Wellyards",
 Hempstead,
SAFFRON WALDEN, Essex.



THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM
 Chief Office
 London
 F.C.T.

