

BEAUNE — BERKHAMSTED A HISTORICAL LINK

The launching of the exchange scheme between Beaune and Berkhamsted has prompted some historical research that has so far yielded one definite connection between the two towns over 600 years ago.

When the Black Prince captured King John the Good of France at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356, he also captured the King's younger son, Philip. Although only 14 years of age, his courage in the battle earned Philip the nickname of "the Bold". Both father and son were imprisoned, first in the Tower of London, then at Somerton and Hertford castles and lastly in 1360, Berkhamsted castle was "made ready" for them. Shortly after their return to France the Duchy of Burgundy reverted to the French Crown and King John created Philip Duke of Burgundy (1364) the first of the four Valois Dukes who reigned up to 1477—one of the most glorious periods in the history of Burgundy.

While the court of Burgundy appears to have been based at Dijon, Philip was responsible for building a ducal palace at Beaune (1368). It is likely that the young Philip (he was a mere 22 when he was created Duke) would have visited, if not actually lived in, Beaune. No doubt, he compared the hills of the Côte d'Or at the foot of which Beaune is situated with the hills surrounding Berkhamsted Castle—just as many Berkhamsted and Beaune children will be doing later this year. The Burgundian and English hills probably had one common feature—rows of vines, since the vines mentioned in the Domesday Book as growing near Berkhamsted were probably still there in 1360.

Philip the Bold was succeeded by his son John the Fearless (reigned 1404-1419) and his grandson Philip the Good (born Dijon 1396, reigned 1419-1467). It is possible that, as a young lad, Philip learned from his grandfather of his imprisonment in Berkhamsted nearly fifty years earlier.

Philip the Good was in alliance with England, but I can trace no record of his crossing the English Channel. His Chancellor, Nicolas Rolin, founded the Hotel-

Dieu (hospital) in Beaune in 1443—one of the showpieces of the town. Two of the wines produced from the hospital vineyards (the source of much of the hospital's wealth) are named after Nicolas Rolin and Philip the Good. Incidentally, it has recently been discovered that the source of Nicolas Rolin's munificence was the 10,000 Gold Crowns paid to the Burgundians by the English for surrendering Joan of Arc in 1430. K.S.

MILK TOPS FOR GUIDE TOPS

We are now on our way towards the fifth guide dog provided by the collection of milk tops in Berkhamsted. The amount collected so far from the beginning is £1,183. This includes a number of generous gifts including a recent one of £100 from an anonymous donor.

The main centre for the collection is still the Boys School, where Mr. A. Beesley has now taken over from Mr. N. Pearce. Please keep on collecting. The tops can be left at the following addresses: Berkhamsted Public Library (Kings Road); Collins (Butcher), High Street; Dinah (Wool Shop), opposite Swing Gate Lane School; Mr. Paul Jay, 69 High Street; Mortimer (Green-grocer), High Street; Mrs. Hines, "Cranbrook", Hall Park Hill. Other collection points can be ascertained from Mr. Beesley either at the Boys School or at 43 Bridgewater Road. Please hand in clean tops and exclude silver paper.

OXFAM

The Berkhamsted Oxfam group is examining the possibility of opening a temporary shop for a week in March and April. If you are willing to help in manning it, please contact Mrs. Audrey Hope, 5 Castle Hill Close (tel. 4537).

PARISH REGISTER (ST. PETER'S)

Holy Baptism: January 26: Jacqueline Claire Basnett.

Holy Matrimony: January 11: Alistaire Shaw and Jane-Anne Elisabeth Vine.

Funerals: January 10: Mabel Tolman (All Saints). January 13: Ronald Harris (All Saints).