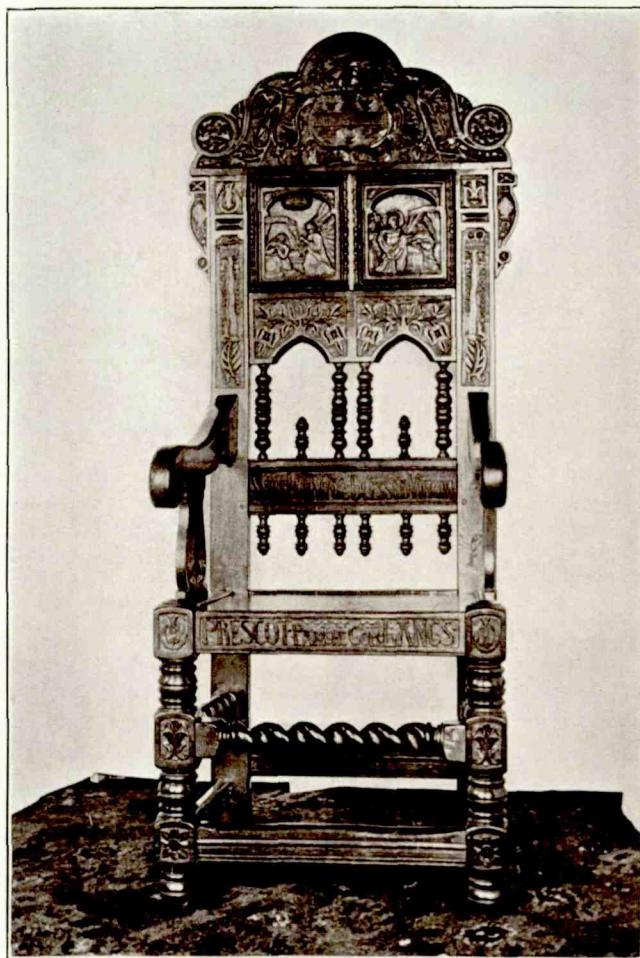


FIG. I.



THE SANCTUARY CHAIR, PRESCOT.

## TRANSACTIONS.

THE SANCTUARY CHAIR OF PRESCOT CHURCH,  
1610.

By *Frederic Crooks*.

Read 26 Feb., 1925.

**I**N November 1920 it became known that an old ecclesiastical chair, originally belonging to Prescot, was to be sold by auction in Manchester the next day. The matter was at once taken up, and the chair bought and given to Prescot Church by Mr. F. W. Halsall of Prescot, to whom I am indebted for the loan of the block from which this illustration is taken. The chair appears to have been presented to Prescot Church by John Ogle of Whiston in the parish of Prescot, in 1610, at which date part of the Church was rebuilt. It was during this same year (1610) that John's son and heir, Henry Ogle, was married,<sup>1</sup> the Vicar at that time being Thomas Mead, M.A., who was presented to the living on the 26th December 1583, and he held it until his death in 1616.<sup>2</sup> John Ogle of Whiston belonged to a branch of the Northumberland Ogles, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Standish of Duxbury. He was buried at Prescot 12th September 1612.<sup>3</sup> The Ogles were stewards of the Manor of Prescot in the middle of the fifteenth century. John Ogle purchased the Manor of Whiston from Sir Thomas Bold about 1608.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Lancs. & Ches. Rec.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. & Ches.), i, 32.

<sup>2</sup> Paterson's *Hist. of Prescot*.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H. Lancs.*, iii, 349.

It is not known for how long the chair remained in the Church after its presentation, but it is conjectured that it was removed during the Civil Wars in the seventeenth century and never replaced. The present Vicar (Rev. J. P. W. Lovett, M.A.) informs me that nothing has been traced of its wanderings, beyond the fact that it was in the possession of a Dr. Jordan of Manchester, prior to its sale by auction in November 1920, Dr. Jordan having previously bought it at a sale in Birkdale (Southport) in 1886.

The chair is in perfect condition, and the following measurements and details may be noted:—Extreme height, 5 ft. 1 in.; extreme width, 2 ft.; depth from back of chair to front of arms, 1 ft. 8 in.; height of seat from floor, 1 ft. 7 in. At the top of the chair are carved the arms, crest, and motto of the Ogles, viz.—A fesse between three crescents. Crest: An antelope's head erased. Motto: *Veritas Vincit*. Over these arms is carved the name JOHN OGLE, together with the date A.D. 1610. There are two scenes carved in the two panels immediately below; one is The Annunciation; the other is said to represent The Risen Christ's visit to His Mother. Lower down on the crosspiece or rail in the back of the chair, appear the words—SAINT MARIE YE BLESSED VIRGIN. On the front of the seat itself is carved—PRESKOT PARISHE COM LANCS. On the back of the chair—ANO 1610 DOM THOMAS MEAD VICAR.

The chair now stands within the altar rails in the chancel of the Church, close to the supposed effigy of its original donor, John Ogle.