

THE SHERBORNE PAGEANT ARCHIVE SHERBORNE SCHOOL (ARCHON CODE: GB1949)

Dubbed by its author Louis Napoleon Parker (1852-1944) as 'The Mother of all Pageants' because it led to 'Pageant Mania' in England and the USA, the origins of the Sherborne Pageant date back to 1904 when the antiquarian Canon Charles Herbert Mayo (1845-1929) wrote to the Vicar of Sherborne suggesting that in 1905 the 1200th anniversary of the arrival of Aldhelm in Sherborne should be celebrated. The Rev. Arthur Field (1872-1960), who was curate to the Vicar of Sherborne and an old boy of Sherborne School, wrote to Louis Napoleon Parker, his former music master at Sherborne School and by then a successful dramatist in London, asking whether he had any suggestions as to what form the celebrations should take. This request resulted in Parker making a speech at a town meeting held in Sherborne on 14 July 1904 in which he pitched the then entirely novel idea of staging a Pageant. The final script consisted of eleven episodes, ten written by Parker and one by Walter Raymond, telling the story of Sherborne from 705 to 1593. Although originally Parker had conceived that about 200 people from the town would take part in three performances of the Pageant, in the end over 800 performers took part in six performances staged at Sherborne Old Castle on 12-15 June 1905. All the actors, apart from one, were amateurs. The only professional actor was Mabel Terry-Lewis (1872-1957) who played the role of Lady Raleigh. It is estimated that the Pageant was attended by 30,000 visitors.



Sherborne School was involved in all aspects of the Sherborne Pageant. In 1948, the Rev. Arthur Field claimed that 'without the school the Pageant would never have been held as it was due to Westcott's [Frederick Brooke Westcott, Headmaster 1892-1909] enthusiasm that preliminary difficulties were overcome.' Many members of the School's staff appeared in the Pageant, with the Headmaster F.B. Westcott taking the lead role of Aldhelm. The score was composed jointly by Archibald Frank Tester (1882-1925), then organist and piano teacher at Sherborne School, and Francis Clive Savill Carey, known as Clive Carey (1883-1968), a former pupil of the School who later became famous as an opera producer and folk song collector, with the words by the poet James Rhoades (1841-1923) who had taught at Sherborne School from 1880 to 1892. The Master of Music for the Pageant was the School's Director of Music, Charles Herbert Hodgson (1857-1922). Much of the artwork, including the posters and programme covers, was designed by the School's art master Henry Hudson (1864-1943), who also appeared in the Pageant with his wife as Ancient Britons. Boys from the School appeared en masse in episode 10 in which 'Sherborne School Gets its Charter', having paid 10 shillings each for their costumes.

Louis Napoleon Parker had come to Sherborne School in 1873 as a temporary piano master, however, he remained for 19 years, becoming in 1877 organist and Director of Music. During his time at Sherborne Parker composed the music for many School songs, including 'The Carmen'. In 1878 he married Georgiana Bessie Calder in Sherborne Abbey. He died at Bishopsteignton in Devon on 21 September 1944, aged 91.

THE SHERBORNE PAGEANT ARCHIVE

The Sherborne Pageant archive held at Sherborne School appears to have been compiled by A.B. Gourlay in or around 1965 from a variety of sources. It comprises scripts, scores, programmes, photographs, publicity material, postcards and souvenirs, press cuttings, publications and audio-visual material. It also includes material relating to subsequent pageants held elsewhere, and to the unveiling of a memorial stone in the Pageant Gardens in Sherborne in 1925.

SCRIPTS

1/1	<p>Annotated typescript of the script of The Sherborne Pageant by Louis N. Parker, James Rhoades and Walter Raymond, 1904/1905.</p> <p>The script appears to have been marked-up for publication. The original preface by Louis N. Parker dated London, December 1904, has been amended to London, January 1905. Also includes crossings out of text with additional text added in pencil; the names of possible members of the cast, which had been added in blue pencil, have been crossed out; two episode have been removed from the final version (12th episode: 1645, the siege of Sherborne Castle; 13th episode: 1688, William III issues his first proclamation from Sherborne Castle). Includes a property list.</p> <p>Typed by Miss Dickens's Type-Writing Office, 3 Tavistock Street, Covent Garden.</p>	1904/ 1905
1/2	<p>Printed script of The Sherborne Pageant, with a preface by Louis N. Parker, London, January 1905.</p> <p>Printed by F. Bennett, The Parade, Sherborne, 1905. (4 copies)</p>	1905
1/3	<p>Printed script of The Sherborne Pageant, with a preface by Louis N. Parker, London, January 1905. With property list.</p> <p>Printed by F. Bennett, The Parade, Sherborne.</p>	1905
1/4	<p>Printed script of The Sherborne Pageant, with a preface by Louis N. Parker, London, January 1905 (2nd edition). With a plan of the arena.</p> <p>One copy has been annotated in pencil with the names of some of the actors.</p> <p>Printed by Bennett's Printing Works, Sherborne. (2 copies)</p>	1905
1/5	<p>Printed script of The Sherborne Pageant, with a preface by Louis N. Parker, London, January 1905.</p> <p>Includes names of the Sherborne Pageant Committee and organisers.</p> <p>The cover features H. Hudson's design of a knight on horseback riding from Sherborne Old Castle.</p> <p>Printed by J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, Printers, Sherborne. (4 copies)</p>	1905
1/6	<p>Printed script of The Sherborne Pageant, with a preface by Louis N. Parker, London, January 1905. With a plan of the arena and a property list.</p> <p>Printed by F. Bennett, The Parade, Sherborne, 1905.</p> <p>A.F. Tester's copy, 1905. The text has been annotated by Tester with the musical accompaniment required at certain points.</p>	1905
1/7	<p>Printed script of The Sherborne Pageant, with a preface by Louis N. Parker, London, January 1905 (3rd edition).</p> <p>Printed by J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, Printers, Sherborne.</p> <p>Cecil P. Goodden's copy, 1905. The text has been annotated with the names of the principal actors and at the back the names of those who appeared in the crowd scenes listed by episode, including the Maypole dancers, the dramatic chorus, the narrative chorus, the local orchestra and shield bearers.</p>	1905

SCORES

2/1	<p>Printed score for The Sherborne Pageant by Archibald F. Tester and F.C.S. Carey, with words by James Rhoades. With additional extracts from William Sterndale Bennett's <i>The May Queen</i> and the 'Hail, Bright Abode' chorus from Wagner's <i>Tannhäuser</i>.</p> <p>C.H. Hodgson's copy. The score has been annotated by Hodgson and includes some staging notes. [Hodgson was Master of the Music for the Pageant and Director of Music at Sherborne School]</p>	[1905]
2/2	<p>Printed score: 'The Complete Choral Music in the Sherborne Pageant', composed by Archibald F. Tester, F.C.S. Carey and Louis N. Parker, the words by James Rhoades. Printed by F. Bennett, The Parade, Sherborne, 1905. (2 copies)</p> <p>One copy owned by J.W. Pigeon (f 1902-1905), June 1905; the other given by 'mother' to Winifred, June 1905.</p>	1905

SHERBORNE PAGEANT GENERAL COMMITTEE

3/1	<p>Printed 'Preliminary Announcement' by the Local Festival Committee of events to be held in Sherborne 12-17 June 1905 to celebrate the 12,00th Anniversary of the Founding of the Bishopric, Town and School of Sherborne by Saint Aldhelm in AD 705. Printed by J.C. and A.T. Sawtell, Sherborne. (2 copies)</p> <p>Events include a festival, services of thanksgiving, and a pageant in the ruins of the Old Castle in which 'several hundred inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood will take part'. The Pageant is described as comprising 16 episodes, including the Siege of Sherborne Castle, the flight of Charles II, and the Yeomanry of Dorset are summoned to resist the threatened invasion by Napoleon.</p>	[1905]
3/2	<p>Printed slips issued by the Committee of the Sherborne Pageant to accompany an announcement in which it is requested that the recipient displays it in 'some conspicuous place', n.d. [1905] (11 copies)</p>	[1905]
3/3	<p>Postcard from the Bandmaster of the Band of the Royal Artillery, Portsmouth, to H.J. Seymour [Hon. Secretary of the Pageant Committee] asking whether his band might be able to help. Date stamped 12 February 1905. On the front of the postcard is a photograph of the Royal Artillery band.</p>	1905
3/4	<p>Printed notice of a meeting of the General Committee at the Church Lads' Brigade Drill Hall in order to consider a presentation to Mr Douglas, Mr Seymour and Mr Adams in recognition of their invaluable services to the Pageant, and that the surplus be employed in laying out and endowing a Garden on the piece of ground in front of the Railway Station, 21 July 1905.</p>	1905
3/5	<p>Printed address of thanks from the General Committee of the Sherborne Pageant to the Hon. Secretaries 'for their invaluable labours, which contributed so largely to the triumphant success of the celebration', 2 August 1905.</p>	1905
3/6	<p>Printed accounts for The Sherborne Pageant, audited by Denman & Fletcher, Chartered Accountants, Yeovil, 17 March 1906.</p>	1906

SHERBORNE PAGEANT SEATS COMMITTEE

4/1	<p>Printed notice from H. Newlyn to Mr Park, Wingfield Road, Sherborne to attend 'Block 2' on 31 May [1905] at 1 pm. Other members of 'Block 2' were Mr Sheldrake and Mr White.</p> <p>[Donated in November 1965 by Miss Park of 2 West Terrace, Westbury, Sherborne, to A.B. Gourlay, together with a photograph of Mr H.J. Gillingham's workmen who constructed the stands at the Sherborne Pageant.]</p>	[1905]
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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

5/1	<p>Photograph of an illuminated address sent from the town of Sherborne, Dorset, to the town of Sherborn, Massachusetts, 19 December 1905. B&W photograph. Photographer: Adam Gosney, Sherborne.</p> <p>'From The Town of Sherborne, Dorset to the Town of Sherborn, in the State of Massachusetts, Greeting. The bond of common blood and common tongue to which reference is made in your brotherly message of March the Sixth in this memorable year is dear to us, as it is to you. On either side of the ocean all English speaking folk still cherish the same ideals with undiminished zeal and, though leagues of water part us, in heart we all are one. Your gracious words of greeting, read daily by the Herald at each Pageant celebration, were not the least striking feature of that great spectacle. Everyone was touched by the kindly thought that prompted your eloquent message and all gratefully acknowledged your claim to part and lot in our great heritage of priceless memories during twelve shirring centuries. It is our pride and boast that our Sherborne has ever been a place of loyal faith and of God fearing ways from the day when St. Ealdhelm came to dwell here amid the woods. This spirit we share with you, re-echoing the prayer that our God and the God of our fathers may continue for centuries to come peace, prosperity, and happiness, to each of the two Towns which trace to this Servant's coming their name and origin. Done pursuant to a resolution carried unanimously at a meeting of the Urban District Council of Sherborne, Dorset, held on Tuesday, the nineteenth day of December, 1905, and sealed with the Common Seal of the said Council'.</p>	1905
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PUBLICITY MATERIAL

6/1	<p>Sherborne Pageant poster, designed by Henry Hudson. Printed by The Dorset and Somerset Standard Litho., Sherborne.</p> <p>The poster announces 'St Aldhelm Celebration after Twelve Hundred Years. Laus Deo. Abbey. School. Town. Sherborne Dorset June 12-15 1905. Grand Historical Pageant each day at 3pm.'</p>	1905
6/2	<p>Sherborne Pageant programme cover, designed by Henry Hudson. Featuring a knight on horseback in front of Sherborne Old Castle. With a b&w photograph of a painting that appears to have been the inspiration for the design.</p>	1905
6/3	<p>Two postcards promoting the St Aldhelm Celebration in Sherborne, Dorset, designed by Henry Hudson.</p>	1905
6/4	<p>Envelope on which is printed in red 'Sherborne Pageant, June, 1905'. Date stamped 9 February 1905. Addressed to Reginald Young Esq., Fringilla, Linnet Lane, Liverpool.</p>	1905
6/5	<p>Printed notice from Canon Westcott (Headmaster of Sherborne School) to parents announcing the Sherborne Pageant, informing them of the cost of the boys' costumes,</p>	1905

	and making arrangements for Commemoration Day, 25 February 1905.	
6/6	Draft leaflet advertising the Sherborne Pageant, 'An Unique Historical Spectacle or Folk Play' to be held in Sherborne on 12-15 June 1905. Includes photographs of the town, Louis N. Parker, the old and new castles, Sherborne School, the Abbey.	1905
6/7	Printed flyer and order form for W.B. Wildman's <i>Life of St. Ealdhelm</i> , available from Mr F. Bennett, Bookseller, Sherborne. On the back is an advertisement for the Sherborne Pageant.	1905
6/8	Printed flyer and order form for a book of <i>The Sherborne Pageant</i> , to be published by F. Bennett, Bookseller, Sherborne.	1905

PROGRAMMES, POSTCARDS & SOUVENIRS

7/1	Souvenir programmes for The Sherborne Pageant, June 1905. Published and produced by F. Bennett, The Parade, Sherborne. Includes a description of the episodes and photographs of the Pageant. One copy is inscribed 'With Mr Field's love to Mrs Hind in remembrance of the Sherborne Pageant, June 1905'. (7 copies)	1905
7/2	Order of services and hymns to be used on 12, 13, 15 June 1905 at the St Aldhelm Celebration Thanksgiving Services in Sherborne Abbey. Printed by F. Bennett, Sherborne.	1905
7/3	Four postcards of the Sherborne Pageant, featuring photographs by Russell & Sons, Southsea.	1905
7/4	Silk handkerchief featuring etchings of Sherborne Abbey, Sherborne School, Sherborne Castle and Sherborne Old Castle, with the text 'Sherborne Pageant. AD 705. St Ealdhelm. AD 1905'. [Originally given to Mrs Brown by her mother when aged 5. Following Mrs Brown's death in 1966 it was given to Sherborne School by her husband W.J.E. Brown.]	1905

PHOTOGRAPHS

8/1	27 photographs of actors in costume and scenes from the Sherborne Pageant, 1905. B&W photographs, mounted. Photographer: J. Benjamin Stone [Sir John Benjamin Stone, 1838-1914, photographer and politician]. Also includes Sherborne Abbey viewed from the south, and two group photographs of the male and female inhabitants of the Sherborne Almshouse. [The photographs were originally accompanied by a letter from J. Benjamin Stone, but this is now missing, September 2014].	1905
8/2	Photograph of Mr H.J. Gillingham's workmen who constructed the stands at the Sherborne Pageant, 1905. B&W photograph. Photographer: Russell & Son, Southsea. [Donated by Miss Park, 2 West Terrace, Westbury, Sherborne. On the back of the photograph is a letter from A.B. Gourlay to Miss Park, dated 2 November 1965. Gourlay thanks Miss Park for donation of the photograph, which Gourlay had displayed in an exhibition the previous night. Miss Park also donated a card used to summons	1905

	doorkeepers to attend the dress rehearsal performance.]	
8/3	Ten photographs of scenes of the Sherborne Pageant, 1905. B&W photographs. Photographer: Witcomb & Son of Yeovil & Salisbury. The photographs appear to have formed lot 427 in an auction. [Acc.no. 2012/002, donated by Mervyn Carter]	1905
8/4	28 official photographs of the Sherborne Pageant, 1905. B&W photographs. Photographers include Russell & Son, Southsea. Some published as postcards by R. Wilkinson & Co., Trowbridge. Include Sir Walter Raleigh [John R.P. Goodden] and Lady Raleigh [Mabel Batley (née Terry-Lewis)], Sherborne School boys, the Shield bearers, the founding of the almshouse, the townsmen [inc. Arthur Scott], the mad woman [Olivia Grove], Aldhelm [F.B. Westcott], the death of Ethelbald, King Ine [H.R. King] makes Aldhelm the first Bishop of Sherborne [F.B. Westcott], episode 1.	1905
8/5	Album of amateur photographs collected or taken by Edmund Basil Walker (1888-1915) of the Sherborne Pageant, Sherborne School and town in 1905. Edmund attended Sherborne School (Abbeylands) September 1902 to July 1907 and was killed, aged 26, on Hill 60 near Ypres on 18 April 1915. The album was presented to the School Library by Edmund's brother, Ronald Sherbrooke-Walker (Abbeylands 1911-1914). Contents: p.1, Sherborne Old Castle. p.2, The gatehouse, Sherborne Old Castle, with visitors entering the gates. p.3, Episode 1, Ancient Britons: Mr Davis, Mr Bell, Mr Carey, Mr Palmer. p.4, Ancient Britons: Mr Hudson (Art master) and Mrs Hudson. p.5, St Aldhelm (Archdeacon Westcott, H.M.). p.6, Episode 1, Ancient Britons [inc. T.A. Bell, G.M. Carey, Mr & Mrs Hudson, Mr Davis and Mr Palmer]. p.7, King Ine [H.R. King]. p.8, Episode 1, courtiers. p.9, Ethelbert [Rev. John Crichton], Alfred [Richard McCreery], Queen Osberga [Mrs Frances McAdam]. p.10, Episode III, (i) a bearer, (ii) Queen Osberga [Mrs Frances McAdam] and Alfred [Richard McCreery]. p.11, (i) Alfred [Richard McCreery], (ii) Episode 1: Esquire and Page. p.12, William the Conqueror [Robert B. Goodden]. p.13, Knights of William I. p.14, Bishop Wulfsey [Cecil P. Goodden]. p.15, Episode V. p.16, Episode VI, Foundation of the Castle. p.17, (i) Mad woman [Miss Olivia Grove], (ii) Pipe player [A.F. Tester]. p.18, Townsmen of the 15 th Century [Arthur Scott, School Custos]. p.19, Foundation of the Almshouse. p.20, Men and women from the Almshouse. p.21, E.B. Walker and C.O'D. Carey of Abbeylands. p.22, A knight. p.23, Sir Walter Raleigh [John R.P. Goodden]. p.24, Lady Raleigh [Mabel Batley (née Terry-Lewis)]. p.25, Maypole dancers. p.26, Britannia [Mrs Winifred M. Wildman]. p.27, The Two Sherbornes [Florence Drewe and Dorothy Parker]. p.28, Principal members of the cast with Louis N. Parker.	1905

	<p>p.29, Ladies in Waiting. p.30, Episode 7 [Morris Dancers]. p.31, A warrior. p.32, A warrior and Ethelbald [Henry Dunkin]. p.33, A Bishop. p.34, Ancient Britons. p.35, The West end of Sherborne Abbey and the School library viewed from the Abbey Close. p.36, The School chapel viewed from the north-west. p.37, The Cloisters. p.38, Sherborne Abbey viewed from the south-west. p.39, The Lady Chapel of Sherborne Abbey viewed from the south. p.40, the old gateway to the Courts p.41, the altar of Sherborne Abbey viewed from the west end. p.42, Sherborne Abbey viewed from the west. p.43, Sherborne Abbey viewed from the south-east. p.44, The Lady Chapel viewed from the south. p.45, Abbeylands viewed from Cheap Street. p.46, Abbeylands viewed from Abbey Road. p.47, The Almshouses viewed from the east.</p> <p>Loose photographs: 1, Principal members of the cast with Louis N. Parker. 2, The Hobby Horses. 3, Two Townsmen [Arthur Scott, School Custos]. 4, King Alfred [Richard McCreery]. 5, King Ine [H.R. King] and attendants.</p>	
8/6	Amateur photograph of G.M. Carey wearing his Ancient Briton costume, taken by Norman Parkes Goodwin (b 1898-1900), June 1905. On the back is written G.M. Carey my form master'. (3 copies)	1905
8/7	21 negatives of amateur photographs [possibly taken by J.W. Pigeon (f 1902-1905) or by his father Dr Pigeon] of the Sherborne Pageant, 1905. In an envelope addressed to Dr Pigeon, 6 Albion Street, Hull.	1905
8/8	125 amateur photographs of the Sherborne Pageant, from a variety of sources, some identified on the back, many taken at the rehearsals with the cast wearing their own clothes.	1905

PRESS CUTTINGS

9/1	<p>Bound scrapbook containing press cuttings and printed material relating to the Sherborne Pageant, with an index. Stamped on the spine in gold lettering: 'A Record of the Sherborne Pageant. 1905'. Stamped in gold lettering on the cover: 'Presented to the Library Sherborne School by H.J. Seymour & R.J. Adams, O.S., Hon. Secretaries'</p> <p>The volume includes a printed copy of a letter written by Louis N. Parker to the Rev. Arthur Field on 9 June 1904 in which he outlines his initial thoughts for a Pageant; a letter from L.N. Parker to the Sherborne Pageant Committee dated 16 July 1904 asking whether they intend to appoint him to Superintend the Pageant; notices issued by the Sherborne Pageant General Committee; circular letter from the Sherborne Pageant General Committee to residents of Sherborne asking what part they would like to play in the Pageant (can you act, sing, play an instrument, or assist in making or providing any articles?); references to a pageant at Warwick; the presentation to L.N. Parker of</p>	1904-1906
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	the two albums; the setting up of the Pageant Gardens; a copy of the address presented to the town of Sherborne in Dorset by the town of Sherborn in Massachusetts and of the address sent in return by the town of Sherborne in Dorset; a copy of the Sherborne Pageant accounts, 17 March 1906; and ends with an anniversary greeting from Louis N. Parker dated 9 June 1906.	
9/2	Newspaper cuttings about the Sherborne Pageant collected by the Rev. Arthur Field, 4 - 24 June 1905. Sourced by Woolgar & Roberts' Press Cutting, Printing and Typewriting Agency, London. (51 docs)	1905
9/3	<i>The Sketch</i> , 14 June 1905. Including a centre spread photograph by Goodfellow of the Death of Ethelbald and the Coming of Alfred.	1905
9/4	Lewis Morris, 'The Sherborne Pageant', n.d. [1905]. Morris talks about his return to Sherborne to attend the Pageant. [Lewis Morris (1833-1907) attended Sherborne School (School House) 1850-1851. He was a popular poet of the Anglo-Welsh school and was knighted in 1895]	1905
9/5	<i>The World's Work and Play</i> , June 1905. 'Sherborne Pageant Special – Fully Illustrated.' Includes an article by Chalmer Roberts, 'The Sherborne Pageant, a Striking Revival of Old England', with photographs of scenes from the Pageant, the Rev. A. Field and Mr L.N. Parker in Cheap Street, and a working party of Sherborne ladies making costumes for the Pageant.	1905
9/6	'The First Modern Pageant', <i>The Listener</i> , 23 June 1949. Review of a talk by Victor Adams in the West of England Home Service about the Sherborne Pageant.	1949
9/7	'Jubilee of Sherborne Pageant', <i>The Western Gazette</i> , 10 June 1955.	1955
9/8	John Armstrong, 'Repair Work on Castle Cost Public £24,000 in Seven Years', <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> , 7 July 1965. Cost of repairs carried out by the Ministry of Public Building and Works at Sherborne Old Castle since it took over the guardianship in 1956.	1965

PUBLICATIONS

10/1	Cecil P. Goodden, <i>The Story of the Sherborne Pageant</i> , with an introduction by Louis N. Parker and a sonnet by James Rhoades (F. Bennett, Sherborne, 1905). (3 copies) One copy was donated by F.C.M. Richards to Sherborne School library in memory of his brother J.D.E. Richards. Two letters from F.C.M. Richards to the School librarian, dated, 8 October 1944 and 16 November 1944, are pasted inside the front cover.	1905
10/2	Cecil P. Goodden, <i>The Story of the Sherborne Pageant</i> , with an introduction by Louis N. Parker and a sonnet by James Rhoades (F. Bennett, Sherborne, 1906). (2 copies) One copy was donated by F. Goodwin in memory of his father N.P. Goodwin. With a letter from F. Goodwin, dated 14 January 1969, pasted inside the front cover.	1906

LOUIS NAPOLEON PARKER

11/1	Fifteen letters from Louis N. Parker to the Rev. Arthur Field, 8 September 1904-5 April 1905, 21 December 1924-26 July 1925. Concerning preparations for the Sherborne	1904-1925
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Pageant (June 1905) and arrangements for the unveiling ceremony of an inscription stone in the Pageant Garden, Sherborne (22 July 1925).

/1: 8 September 1904. Parker will not come to the General Meeting in Sherborne on 15th September as the date of the Pageant is not fixed and that owing to Digby's illness it is not known whether the ground can be levelled, also that there is no guarantee of the money being available.

/2: 11 September 1904. Parker states that he feels 'they've got it into their heads I am urging the pageant for reasons of my own.' Invites Field to lunch on 20th as 'I have many, many things I want to say to you, which I cannot possibly write.'

/3: 16 September 1904. Parker agrees to meet Field at the new University on Tuesday. Apologises that he is unable to offer Field seats for 'Beauty and the Barge' but it is fully booked.

/4: 5 April 1905. Parker is unable to meet Field tomorrow as he has to read his new play to the Haymarket Company and begin rehearsing it, and in the evening has to take the chair at a lecture by Walter Raymond for the Men of Somerset. Encloses a timetable for the stage managers. Requests that everyone attend the general meeting of performers on 8 May to point out 'the heavy responsibility which is now on our shoulders' and that 'everyone must now make great personal sacrifices'. He adds 'The Pageant has got to work like clockwork, and the absence of one apparently insignificant item may upset the whole thing.' Mentions providing special seats in front of the Grand Stands for genuine children of Sherborne. He ends 'From May 8 to June 16th the town has got to give itself up entirely to the Pageant and nothing whatever must be allowed to interfere with it.'

/5: Undated letter, [1905]. Parker sends Field a letter to read to the stage managers and suggests that it is printed in the Standard. He adds 'I share your nervousness to the utmost and feel the responsibility very very deeply. But we'll pull it through all right if we are properly backed up.'

/6: 21 December 1924. Parker sends Field best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. He is writing his memoirs, though doesn't think they will be interesting to anyone except himself, 'I have written the thing in the form of letters to the people chiefly concerned, and I have addressed the Pagt. Section to you.'

/7: 25 December 1924. Parker has received an invitation to the Dinner but does not think he will attend, 'I never quite got the feeling of patriotic fervour which animates the Public School boy. I was only an "extra" at Sherborne. I have not come into contact with the school since the Pageant. And now that every one of my contemporaries with the exception of King, is dead I should feel terribly out among the later bloods. Moreover my deafness makes pretending to listen to speeches an intolerable burden, from which I escape whenever I can... I can show you some contrivances which help me enormously in conversation – and I am sure I am much deafer than you. I envy you the beautiful house and garden [Greenhill now, now The Green]: the loveliest house in Sherborne. And I rather envy you your talk to the girls of the School. At any rate I wish I could hear it.' Parker is greatly distressed at having lost Field's very first letter to him about the Pageant. Asks Field to send him a copy of the inscription in the Pageant Gardens. Has just received a card from O.W. Tancock who helped to marry him in 1878.

/8: 2 March 1925. Headed 'Private and Confidential'. Parker, at the request of Sherborne Urban District Council and Field, submits his thoughts on the proposed

	<p>inscription [for Pageant Gardens]. He adds 'I beg you, in any case, to omit all allusion to my genius, we will take that for granted.' He suggests the lettering should be in old Roman and that the tablet should not be too small. The School Choir ought to sing the 'Fons Limpidus' at the unveiling.</p> <p>/9: 4 March 1925. Parker discusses the unveiling ceremony. He suggests an open air service in which all denominations could share, but conducted by the Bishop of Sherborne, which he feels would be more in keeping with the Pageant Spirit. 'The Nonconformist element was just as keen as any other.' Suggests Wednesday (early closing), with a dinner for old performers, a large choir and some sort of band, and a procession through the town from the Abbey to the Pageant Gardens.</p> <p>/10: 29 April 1925. Parker thinks the idea of two stones is excellent. Had felt that the name of the Squire twice on one stone was 'rather-rather. But I know my Shirburnians and cold say nothing.' May have to rehearse an open air performance of Drake at York. Is trying to finish his memoir. Is currently rehearsing a new and difficult play with amateurs for a charity performance, which he wants to get into shape before he leaves it to the tender mercies of the producer. 'Producers are – well, never mind. I shall not see the performance.'</p> <p>/11: 16 June 1925. Parker feels the arrangement for the unveiling have become overwhelming and is unhappy about the religious difficulty. Does not feel his daughter Dorothy (who played Sherborn, Mass.) will be able to attend as she is working at Wembley. Would like the press represented at the ceremony. If a handbill or programme is issued asks for one to be sent to the Town Clerks of Warwick, Bury, Dover, Colchester, York and the London papers, 'Don't think I am seeking too bold advertisement, but it is such an exceptional event that it ought to be heard of, and now that Sherborne is a See, <u>and</u> you have discovered another Saxon King the more Sherborne is talked about in a dignified way the better.'</p> <p>12/: 2 July 1925. Parker feels that a vote of thanks would be much more suitable in the comparative privacy of the Picture Palace rather than in the Pageant Gardens. Has lined up things at York and so is now looking forward to the 22nd with nervous joy. He adds '100 performers surviving is wonderful!'</p> <p>13/: 13 July 1925. Parker thanks Field for the tickets and looks forward to receiving the official programme. Regrets that he is unable to send circulars to the Press as it would look like self-advertising. Understands that he is to unveil the memorial in the Gardens and then to say a few words from the bandstand. He adds in confidence that 'I have always considered my alleged music to Fair & Grey ['Fair and Grey and Ancient'] one of my worst failures. It is spun out and dreary. But no matter the words [by James Rhoades] are fine.'</p> <p>14/: 14 July 1925. Parker sends Field his proposed bandstand speech and asks for his frank opinion whether it is the right sort of thing.</p> <p>15/: 26 July 1925. Parker thanks Field for the information about Mayo, Tester and Trevett. Will write to the <i>Western Gazette</i> newspaper to ask for a copy of the report. With envelope.</p>	
11/2	<p>Letter from Louis N. Parker to Clive Carey, 3 April 1905.</p> <p>Parker informs Carey that the first fanfare should be for four trumpets, so should add one if he can. The military band can only have one rehearsal of the entire Pageant, and it is therefore unsafe for it to accompany anything. He adds 'Stop thinking about it until</p>	1905

	the song has been corrected and is out. Then see how you feel; and if you feel you cannot score it, send it up to me and I will have it done by a quite excellent man at my expense. Don't bother about anything new but getting well. We are heavily indebted to you already'	
11/3	Framed print of a photograph of L.N. Parker in the grounds of Sherborne Old Castle by Russell & Son, Southsea. On the reverse is a printed open letter from Louis N. Parker to 'My Dear Friends', dated 26 June 1905, in which he thanks everyone who was involved in the Sherborne Pageant, stating 'You have achieved a great thing; you have set an example which will be followed by many towns throughout England; but I doubt whether there are many towns in which nine hundred and thirty people will be found, ready to sacrifice their time and labour with the spontaneity and enthusiasm which you have shewn, or gifted with such talent as yours.'	1905
11/4	<p>Caricature of L.N. Parker by Ralph St. John Ainslie (1861-1908), entitled 'L.N.P. inventing it'. Signed on the back 'R. St. John Ainslie. Dawlish'. Pen on paper.</p> <p>The caricature shows Parker writing the script of the Sherborne Pageant and is reproduced in L.N. Parker's biography <i>Several of My Lives</i> (1928). Ralph St. John Ainslie was a former pupil of Parker's at Sherborne School, which he attended from 1873 to 1880. Later, he became an assistant master at Sedbergh (1884-1898) and Headmaster of Greenbank School, Liverpool (1900-1903), before retiring to Sherborne.</p> <p>L.N. Parker wrote in <i>Several of My Lives</i> (1928), 'Our star baritone was R. St. J. Ainslie, who became, even while he was at school, a remarkable singer. In addition to a charming exterior and a winning "platform manner," he had a sympathetic voice of great compass, and he was a thorough musician. He was a fellow of infinite humour, could draw and paint and turn out a copy of verses; and I suffered gladly from his readiness as a caricaturist. He ought to have become a famous singer; but his talents were all wasted in the sands of assistant mastership; and, alas, he died young.'</p>	n.d. [c.1905]
11/5	<p>Illuminated address, bound in white vellum, presented to L.N. Parker in the Digby Assembly Rooms, Sherborne, on 24 October 1905. Includes the signatures of all the performers in the Sherborne Pageant, arranged by episode (the narrative chorus, the orchestra, episodes 1-11, the maypole, the pedestal group, shield children, assistants at the gates, assistants at the stands, workers).</p> <p>The volume is inscribed: 'Dear Mr Parker. We, the nine hundred dwellers in Sherborne & the neighbourhood, who were privileged to bear a part in the wonderful Pageant, conceived by your genius and carried to a triumphant issue by your skill and patience, desire to approach you with the expression of our warmest gratitude for the happiness which you have given us one and all, by associating us with yourself in this delightful celebration, and for the lustre you have shed upon the ancient Town, for which we all of us cherish so heartfelt an affection. Your work has shown that even a little Town, if it be but of one mind in any matter, may achieve results of the most remarkable order. You have taught us young and old, the glories of our home in lessons we shall never forget, you have given us the joy of daily co-operation in a work where all was harmony; all good fellowship. You have lifted us for a while from the smallness of the daily life into the larger atmosphere of self-forgetting Art; you have filled us for a season with your own enthusiasm. All England – the whole of the British World – has rung with the glory of our Sherborne, and a chorus of approval, with hardly a note of dissent, has greeted the astonishing results, which have crowned your unselfish labours. Yet far above praise of critics, we believe you will prize and cherish the words of the happy scores, who hail you as their Master. As a dramatist and musician we admire you: as a Stage Manager</p>	1905

	we wonder at you: as a friend and as a man we love you. Of this you need no assurance; but in case a doubt should come turn over these pages and scan the serried names of those who feel more grateful to you than they can say! Here follow the names of performers arranged by Episodes, and the names of all who laboured, with energy and delight, caught from their Head.'	
11/6	Album of photographs of the Sherborne Pageant, bound in white vellum, presented to L.N. Parker in the Digby Assembly Rooms, Sherborne, on 24 October 1905. The cover was designed by Canon Westcott. Contains: 3 x b&w photographs of the Old Castle by F.F. & Co. 120 x b&w photographs of scenes from the Sherborne Pageant by Russell & Sons, Southsea.	1905
11/7	Oak lectern designed to hold the illuminated address and photograph album presented to L.N. Parker on 24 October 1905. On the leg of the lectern is carved 'L.N.P. from C.G. 1905'. [The lectern may have been a gift from Cecil Goodden who played Wulfsy in the Sherborne Pageant].	1905
11/8	Menu card for a complimentary dinner to the Master Louis N. Parker esq. to be held in the Sherborne School Gymnasium on 24 October 1905. Card designed by Henry Hudson.	1905
11/9	Louis N. Parker, <i>Several of My Lives</i> (London, Chapman & Hall Ltd., 1928). The book appears to have been owned formerly by the Rev. Arthur Field and by A.B. Gourlay. Stuck into the front of the volume are two letters: one from Arthur Field to 'Bishop' date 12 June 1946 in which he lends Bishop the book to answer some of Bishop's questions about Parker's life; and the other from H.T.R., Church House, Shillingstone, to Field dated 24 June 1949 in which he thanks Field for the loan of the book which he has used for research for an article about the Sherborne Pageant for inclusion in the <i>Dorset Year Book</i> . Stuck into the back of the volume are a book review by S.R.L. of <i>Several of My Lives</i> from <i>The Morning Post</i> , 26 October 1928; and a black & white photograph of Parker, inscribed 'Taken by me in his study at 17 Prince of Wales Terrace, Kensington, 1935 or thereabouts, William G. Evening.' There are also notes in A.B. Gourlay's handwriting, including a note that according to E.J. Lugg, the owner of Wootton Villa [Coldharbour, Sherborne], the deeds state that L.N. Parker formerly owned the house; inserted into page 131 is a typewritten extract from a letter written by L.N. Parker to P.W.G. Stuart-French in 1942 in which Parker relates information about the rank of a music master at Sherborne School and how when Regan, the violin master, was fired aged 60 he had to buy a black wig before he could be employed in theatrical orchestras in London.	1928

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL

In June 1905 the Charles Urban Trading Company filmed, free of cost, dress rehearsals of episodes of the Sherborne Pageant. The film was first shown for publicity purposes in London before the actual pageant had taken place. It contains approximately 16 minutes of black and white footage with no soundtrack. It was shown in Sherborne on 24 October 1905 when L.N. Parker was presented with two albums of photographs and signatures, and subsequently during Rowland's Circus' visit to Sherborne, then again on 22 July 1925 at the Picture Palace in Sherborne on the occasion of the unveiling ceremony of a memorial stone by L.N. Parker in the Pageant Gardens. By 1945, the film was in a fragile state and was repaired and

reprinted in 35mm (negative and positive), paid for by the Louis Napoleon Parker Memorial Fund. It was shown at the Sherborne School Commemoration Day in 1946. In 1964 it was reduced to 16mm for easier projection and was shown in Dorchester early in 1965. In July 1977 the original film was destroyed because it was in a dangerous condition. A print of the film is held at the National Film and Television Archive and a copy is held by the TSW Film and Television Archive of the South West.

12/1	<p>'Sherborne Pageant, 1905'.</p> <p>VHS video containing black and white footage with no soundtrack. Running time: 16 mins, 20 seconds. The original film was made free of charge by the Charles Urban Trading Company at a dress rehearsal of the Sherborne Pageant in June 1905. This print was made by the TSW Film and Television Archive of the South West from the National Film and Television Archive.</p> <p>[DVD copy also available]</p>	1905
12/2	<p>'Mother of All Pageants', [c.2005].</p> <p>VHS video presented by Gerald Pitman and produced by Trilith. Pitman tells the story of the Sherborne Pageant, with Michael Baatz reading the words of Louis N. Parker, and features interviews by Christine Stones with Vic Cheeseman, Miss Pesket and Bertie Chant who appeared in the Sherborne Pageant. It includes extracts from the original Pageant film made in 1905.</p> <p>[DVD copy also available]</p>	[c.2005]

JOCELYN A. FFOOKS

Jocelyn Albert Ffooks (1851-1917), attended Sherborne School (f 1865-1868) and was Clerk to the Governors of Sherborne School 1876-1896. Ffooks created the shields held by the children to frame the final tableau of the Sherborne Pageant.

13/1	<p>Watercolour sketch by Jocelyn A. Ffooks of thirteen of the shields which featured in the Sherborne Pageant of 1905. (Watercolour on paper, 42cm x 55cm).</p> <p>Inscribed: 'Some of the shields which figured in the Pageant of more special interest to Shirburnians painted for the occasion and presented to the School by Jocelyn A. Ffooks, O.S.'</p> <p>[Some of the shields used in the Pageant were displayed on the walls of the Upper Library at Sherborne School for a number of years]</p>	1905
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EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF JANE MARY DEANE

14/1	<p>Colour copies of extracts from the diary of Jane Mary Deane, 13-15 June 1905, including her account of attending the Sherborne Pageant.</p> <p>[Original held in the Dorset History Centre, ref. D-DES/F/34]</p>	1905
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REV. ARTHUR FIELD'S LECTURE NOTES ON THE SHERBORNE PAGEANT

15/1	<p>Notes made by the Rev. Arthur Field for two lectures given by him about the Sherborne Pageant. n.d. [c.1946]</p> <p>In one lecture Field used episodes (and slides) from the Pageant to reconstruct scenes of church life in Dorset. The other lecture was given in the Carlton Cinema in Sherborne on 23 June 1946 and was illustrated by a film and lantern slides of the Pageant. In it Field tells the story of how Canon Mayo had the initial idea of celebrating the 1200th anniversary of the founding of Sherborne and how L.N. Parker came up with the concept of staging a Pageant. With two copies of the published script of the Sherborne</p>	n.d. [c.1946]
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	Pageant annotated by Field with slide numbers.	
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NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT LANTERN SLIDES OF THE SHERBORNE PAGEANT

16/1	List of slides of the Sherborne Pageant, with a commentary on their contents, n.d.	n.d.
16/2	<p>Correspondence concerning the offer of a set of 89 lantern slides, plus duplicates and negatives, to Sherborne School by the Bournemouth Natural Science Society, 10 August-26 October 1948. It was suggested that they might be better lodged with the Sherborne Urban District Council.</p> <p>Includes a letter from the Rev. Arthur Field dated 11 October 1948, 'without the school the Pageant would never have been held as it was due to Westcott's enthusiasm that preliminary difficulties were overcome... In 1905 Canon Westcott had a very fine set of coloured slides of the Pageant made at his own expense and I believe that when he left Sherborne, he gave them, together with his lantern, to Arthur Scott, the School Custos... Dr Williams' daughter also made some uncoloured slides from his own photographs and may still have them.'</p>	1948

A.B. GOURLAY'S RESEARCH AND LECTURE NOTES ON THE SHERBORNE PAGEANT

17/1	<p>Notes made by A.B. Gourlay concerning the Sherborne Pageant. Includes extracts from the Sherborne School Governors' clerk's letters files (rescheduling the Governors' meeting in 1905, and H.A. Olivier's portrait of St Aldhelm in 1907); Dorset County Council records (auction of items from the Pageant in 1910); a portrait of Walter Raymond (1852-1931) in Yeovil Museum; F.B. Westcott's stay at Sherborne Castle; identifying the figures supporting the poles of the Almshouse triptych as Lugg (father of Alwyn Lugg and E.J. Lugg) and Tom March (the School carpenter); Johnnie Reeves being a watchmaker in Hound Street; a likeness of Mark Parsons being one of the carved stone heads on the Digby Memorial Hall in Digby Road; that in 1881 L.N. Parker saw a military tournament in the Old Castle grounds which may have given him the idea for staging the Pageant there.</p> <p>(8 docs)</p>	[c.1965]
17/2	<p>A.B. Gourlay's lecture notes on the Sherborne Pageant, given to the Sherborne Historical Society on 1 November 1965. (2 drafts)</p> <p>Covers in great detail the background to the Pageant, the visual record (slides and film), a description of the slides of each episode, the aftermath, and the film (screenings of the film from 1905 to 1965).</p>	1965
17/3	'Pageant Identifications': notes made by A.B. Gourlay identifying actors who appeared in the Sherborne Pageant, n.d. [c.1965]	[c.1965]
17/4	<p>Poster advertising A.B. Gourlay's lecture to the Sherborne Historical Society about the Sherborne Pageant, including a showing of the original film, in the Big School Room at Sherborne School on 1 November 1965.</p> <p>(2 copies)</p>	1965
17/5	<p>Correspondence between A.B. Gourlay and Mrs Maude Hankey (née Goodden), 22-27 November 1965.</p> <p>Gourlay asks Mrs Hankey about her role as Lady Raleigh and Maid Marion in the Sherborne Pageant. Also mentions Mrs Batley (Mabel Terry-Lewis), Frank Spiller, Johnny Reeves, and the Morris Dance arranged by the sports mistress [Miss Creemer</p>	1965

	Rowe] of Sherborne Girls' School. (3 docs)	
17/6	List of items from the Sherborne Pageant displayed on 1 November 1966. Includes the School House banner, shields, two L.N. Parker albums, musical score, selection of texts, poster, original film, two framed designs, newspaper cuttings, a circular from Canon Westcott to parents, letters from L.N. Parker to Rev. A. Field, a collection of photographs taken by Benjamin Stone, preliminary notice, thanks to secretaries, a photograph of the stand constructors.	1966

ARTICLES

18/1	Off-print: Roy Judge, 'Merrie England and the Morris 1881-1910', <i>Folklore</i> , vol.104, 1993. p.135, includes a reference to the Sherborne Pageant Morris Dance arranged by Miss Rowe of Sherborne Girls' School.	1993
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UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL STONE IN THE PAGEANT GARDENS

The final profit from the Sherborne Pageant was about £1800. It was decided to use the profit to set out a formal garden in Sherborne, to be known as the Pageant Gardens, on land given by F.J.B. Wingfield Digby on his 21st birthday. £700 was spent on laying-out a formal garden and £1000 set aside for permanent maintenance. The Pageant Gardens were formally opened on 5 September 1906. In 1924 it was discovered that the inscription stone commemorating the 1905 Pageant had never been installed in the Pageant Gardens and so this was remedied on 22 July 1925 with the unveiling of a memorial stone.

19/1	Printed invitation from The Pageant Memorial Committee to attend an unveiling ceremony in the Pageant Gardens at 5.30pm on Wednesday, 22 July 1925, followed by a presentation of the Pageant Film in the Picture Palace at 7pm. There will also be a reception in the garden of Greenhill House from 9-10pm to enable Mr Parker to meet old friends. Printed by F. Bennett & Co., Sherborne. (2 copies)	1925
19/2	Notes made by the Rev. Arthur Field on the events that lead to a memorial stone being unveiled in the Pageant Gardens on 22 July 1925. Field records that following a letter from L.N. Parker in 1924 the Sherborne Urban District Council authorised him to acquire a block of stone from a quarry near St Aldhelm's Head in Swanage. An inscription, devised by Canon Westcott in 1906, was inscribed on the stone which was unveiled during a ceremony at which the Suffragen Bishop of Sherborne made his first appearance.	1925

PAGEANTS STAGED ELSEWHERE

20/1	Butleigh Revel, June 1906: Six postcards featuring scenes from the pageant held in Butleigh, Somerset, in June 1906. Printed by the Gazette Co., Glastonbury.	1906
20/2	Warwick Pageant, July 1906: Ten postcards of actors in the Warwick Pageant, including one of Louis N. Parker 'playing the megaphone'. Printed by The Water Colour Post Card Co., 17 Paternoster	1906

	Row, E.C. [The Warwick Pageant was produced by L.N. Parker in 1906. A special train took a large party from Sherborne to see it. Many costumes used in the Sherborne Pageant were reused in the Warwick Pageant. In 1953, L.N. Parker's grandson produced another Warwick Pageant, with a few actors performing in both]	
20/3	Unidentified photograph, possibly of the Hertford Pageant, 1914. B&W photograph.	1914
20/4	Girls' Friendly Society (G.F.S.) Pageant, Hippodrome, Exeter, 22 May 1930: Printed programme. Printed by Dimond & Co., Honiton. (2 copies) Typescript page from an unidentified pageant [possibly the G.F.S.] set during the reign of George V (1910-1936). Characters mentioned include Margaret, Cecily and Una.	1930

Rachel Hassall
29 September 2014