

Investigating further Mrs Sencicle discovered that Dickens stayed in Dover on several occasions, notably for several weeks in 1856. On that occasion he lodged in the Ship Hotel. During his stay he read a book about some-one being guillotined, and he would have been very aware of the fortifications taking place because of strained relations with France. The rooms in which he stayed were in an annexe to the hotel, and had formerly been the house of Laurie, the son of John Minet Fector.

The building of Customs House on the other side of the hotel had been financed by John Minet Fector and it seems likely that Dickens would have learned about the family. He would have learned, in

particular, that John Minet Fector was aristocratic, well educated and popular, but had eventually been tried for treason. Mrs. Sencicle argued that Charles Darnay in the novel was almost certainly based on Fector. Substantiating her general argument, she pointed to several references to Dover in the novel and to an article in *Household Words* which was clearly based on the town.

Mrs. Sencicle concluded by saying that her thesis had sufficiently convinced others for it to be published by the Dickens Fellowship and other learned societies. Her address was illustrated with delightful pictures of old Dover and she is to be congratulated on an ingenious piece of detective work.

## A VISIT TO LOSELEY PARK

*Reported by Tessa George*



14 On Saturday, 27th May, on a grey day, a small party of seventeen Dover society members visited Loseley Park, just south-west of Guildford in Surrey off the A3. Loseley Park covers 1,400 acres of rolling countryside.

Christopher More was owner of the original Loseley Park House in the reign of Henry VII. Sir William More, his son, supervised the building of the Elizabethan Manor in 1562 in the reign of Elizabeth I. The materials used were eleventh century stones from the ruins of the Cistercian Waverley Abbey at Farnham, clunch facings from a quarry in Guildford and the pillars were of stones from quarries at Hascombe Hill.

When Katherine Parr could no longer maintain the upkeep of Henry VIII's Nonesuch Palace, dispersal took place and many works of art including paintings, tapestries, trompe l'oeil and ceramic wall panellings came to Loseley Park. The Great Hall contains portraits of James I and his Queen, the first portrait of Edward VI after he became king and many of the More-Molyneux-Longbourne family. George IV's spiritual coronation chair is in the north alcove.

Leaving the Great Hall by the West door, the first room one enters on the right is the Library. Sir William More was one of the first English gentlemen to create a library.

A carved piece of wood above the mantelpiece bears Elizabeth I's arms and initials. She apparently asked Sir William More to build a house she could visit and Loseley Park was the result. James I and his Queen Anne of Denmark visited it and latterly Queen Mary.



*The Drawing Room*



*Inlaid Wrangleschrank cabinet,  
early 16th Century, S. German*

The Drawing Room is beautifully proportioned with a gilded ceiling decorated for James I's Visit. The moorhens, cockatrices and mulberry trees which adorn the frieze are family emblems. The motto *Morus tarde moriens morum cit moriturum* (the family dies slowly, the fruit dies quickly) is a pun on the family name of More. The chimney piece is carved from chalk adorned by two Elizabethan Maid of Honour chairs, the cushions of which are believed to have been worked by Queen

Elizabeth. This room houses a portrait of the builder of the house, Sir William More, the only known portrait by Flemish artist Lucas de Heere; Sir Thomas More, the Chancellor, connected to the family by marriage; Anne Boleyn (Queen Elizabeth's mother) and some flowers painted on glass for Queen Elizabeth. In this room is one of the few remaining examples of a Wrangleschrank cabinet (S. German early

sixteenth century) made of pinewood and inlaid with pearwood, rosewood, beech, sycamore and Hungarian ash.

The pictures hanging on the walls on the main staircase to the bedrooms depict the life and death of Christ. Further details are available from the Loseley Christian Trust.

The first bedroom on the right is Sir More's room. Furnishing includes a large four-poster bed and an eighteenth century Vauxhall mirror. The oak court cupboard bears the date 1697. At the end of a short passage on the right is the King's Room which was occupied by King James I. Here the carpet features the Tudor Rose and Crown and Thistle and the tapestries are Oudenarde of about 1650.

Queen Elizabeth's room adjoins the King's Room and the tapestry is Mortlake of Charles II period. The bed cover dates from the William and Mary period and was so greatly admired by Queen Mary that she arranged for its occasional exhibition. The delicate carving over the fireplace depicts the story of the Good Samaritan and is thought to be seventeenth century German. Queen Elizabeth would not sleep in a room facing north since she thought that too draughty so this room is on the south side of the building.

A small nursery contains a mahogany and cane swing cradle in perfect condition so one should not try to rock it!

The meticulously restored two-and-a-half acre Walled Garden was originally laid out in 1562. There are five unique "rooms", a rose garden, a herb garden, a flower garden, a fountain garden and the latest addition, a vegetable and cut flower garden. The Moat Walk, which runs the entire length of the Walled Garden, is lined with perfumed herbaceous plants and a water-filled moat, abundant with wildlife, carp and pond plants.