

TIDESWHEEL, DERBYSHIRE
John Foljambe, Esq.

no M.S.
Modern brass

St. John the Baptist
H tid 1875 [1358]

Effigy of John Foljambe, Esquire, 1358, in armor. Renewed in 1875 by C.G.S. Foljambe. Marginal inscription in Latin. On the floor of the chancel.

As a nineteenth century restoration, this brass to John Foljambe has no historical value, but it is nevertheless a handsome effigy. Here John Foljambe is depicted full-face, bearded with a long mustache, his feet resting on a couchant lion facing to the viewer's right. On his head is a basinet that covers the aventail or hood of mail to which it would be attached at the rim. On the shoulders are jointed spaulders; on the arms, strapped rerebraces; on the elbows, couters; on the forearms, vambraces; and, on his hands, fingered gauntlets. Portions of a hauberk or shirt of mail are visible on the arms and below the sleeveless cloth jupon, which is emblazoned with the Foljambe arms: Sable, a bend between six scallops Or.¹ A wide baldric decorated with quatrefoils and fastened in front with a square clasp, also with a quatrefoil design, supports a long sword on Foljambe's left hip.

Of the leg harness, the cuisses here are probably cuir boulli (hardened leather) studded with metal rivets; the poleyns over the knees and the partial greaves over the lower legs are probably of metal. The mail shown over the lower legs suggests mail stocking called chausses. On the feet are pointed, jointed sabatons of metal to which rowel spurs are attached at the instep.

One should note that although the engraver has not accurately depicted the armor that would have been worn by John Foljambe during his lifetime, he has designed an attractive effigy.

A scroll surrounding the head in Latin and black letter reads,

Ecce nunc in pulver dormio / Sed Scio qu re veget' meus vivit

Freely translated:

Behold now, I sleep in dust / But I know who will come to bring life to me.

A marginal inscription not on the Hamline rubbing reads, beginning at the top of the stone slab:

Tumulus Iohis filij dni Thome
Foljambe militis qui obiit quarto die mensis Augusti anno domini millesimo
qui quidem Johis
quinque gesimo octovo qui quidem Johis

¹Cox, II, 299.

multa bono fecit circa fabricationem hujus ecclesie . Hoc monumentum
Restauratum MDCCCxixvi C. G. S. F. fieri fecit.

Translated:

The tomb of John, the son of Sir Thomas
Foljambe, knight, who died the fourth day of the month of August, in the
year of our Lord, One thousand three hundred fifty-eight,
which same John
with great cost, renewed the fabric of this church. This monument was
restored in 1875 by C. G. S. F.

The effigy of John Foljambe is 59 1/2" (151.1cm) high.

The Foljambes, like the Lyttons (q.v.), have been long associated with the
Tideswell church, apparently as far back as their settlement in the area soon after the
Norman conquest, for John Foljambe, who died in 1249 asked to be buried in the
Tideswell Church "with his forefathers." Indeed, the chancel of the church was apparently
the burial place of the Foljambe family until the extinction of the main line upon the death
of Robert Foljambe in 1448.²

In the early seventeenth century, it was reported that there were three brasses
extant, all now gone—one to Sir Thomas Foljambe (1283) and his wife Margaret Gernon;
a second to Sir Thomas Foljambe (1298) and his wife Catherine Eyre; and, a third to his
son Thomas Foljambe (1323) and his wife Alice Furnival.³

The brass now covering the grave of John Foljambe, who died on 4 August 1358,
is a modern reproduction placed in the original indent on the stone slab in 1875, renewed
by an descendant, C.G.S. Foljambe.

About John Foljambe we know little. The son of Sir Thomas Foljambe, he
apparently was a generous benefactor in the rebuilding of the church of St. John the
Baptist.

²Cox, II, pp. 298-9.

³*Ibid.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cox, J. Charles. *The Churches of Derbyshire*. 4 vols. Chesterfield: Palmer and Edmunds,
1575-77.