

BIDDENDEN, KENT

All Saints

John Evrenden and his two wives,
Jone and Jane

M.S. VII

S bid 1598

London workshop

The effigies of John Evrenden, 1598, in civilian dress, and his two wives, 1) Jone, with two sons and two daughters (lost), and 2) Jane, no issue. Inscription in English. On the floor of the chancel.

The arrangement of figures on this brass varies from the usual pattern. John Evrenden stands in serai -profile to the left, but his two wives are togfe-^ther in semi-profile to the right turned toward him. In civilian dress, he wears over a doublet buttoned up the front and surmounted by a ruff an over-gown with false sleeves, collared and open in front (though not open here to show the trunk hose which he probably wears). His hair is cut short and, as is typical, he has a beard.

Evreden's two wives are dressed almost identically, both wearing wide-brimmed hats over the Paris head with its lappet thrown forward over the head, peaked bodices, skirts distended by farthingales to reveal a petticoat beneath, and tied by a sash at the waist. Though a partlet which each wears is embroidered differently, each is surmounted by a starched ruff. All figures are shown in pointed, soled shoes.

A nine-line English foot-inscription in Roman capitals reads,

IOHN EVREDEti BED.GE OF THE AGE OF THRESCORE YEARES
HAVITGE PASSED THE TYKE OF HIS PILGRIMAGE IJITH GOOD AND
GODLYE REPORTE KATK FBIISIIED HIS MORTAL DATES. HIS
'JIVES IEENE TV70 ICKE AND IAIffi. WITH THE FIRST HE LIVED
TIJETTYE FIVE YEARES AKD HAD ISSVE t/ILLIAr. FERDI1IA1IDO.
ISABELL. & FHEBE

WITH THE OTHER SEVEN TEARES ALLD HAD KQE ISSVE

AND NOW LYETH VNDER THIS MARBLE STONE WHO WAS

BVRIED THE THIRTEKTH DAI OF APRILL, 1598

On a snail plate to the left are figure of the two sons, each bareheaded and wearing long overgowns surmounted by ruffs. A second plate to the right with figures of the two daughters has been lost.

The effigy of John Evrenden is 20 1/4" (51.4cm) high. The plate with the two wives is 12 3/4" x 18 3/4" (32.4 x 44.6cm); the foot inscription, 23 1/2" x 9" (59.1 x 22.9cm), and the plate with the two sons, 3 3/4" x 6" (9.5 x 15.2cm).

The brass provides what we know of John Evrenden. He married twice, first, for twenty-five years, to a woman named Joan by whom he had four children: two sons, William and Ferdinando, and two daughters, Isabel and Phebe; and second, for seven years, to a woman named Jane, who had no children. He died in April 1598 and was buried on April 13 of that year.