



The Fleece Hotel, Cirencester today

The Golden Fleece in 1692:
In the Inventory of Richard Parsloe

By John Parsloe

Wikipedia's entry for the Fleece Inn in Cirencester reads, in part:

“The Fleece Hotel was first opened in 1497 as one of the three major inns of Gloucester to house pilgrims visiting the tomb of Edward II of England. The 12th century undercroft, known as the ‘Monk’s Retreat’ was originally part of a merchant’s house, and was incorporated into the structure. By 1455, it was a property owned by Gloucester Abbey, and was developed into an inn by the Abbey during the 16th century. It was first recorded as the Golden Fleece Inn in 1673”ⁱ.

In 1608 there were still only three innkeepers in Cirencester recorded by John Smythⁱⁱ. Two were in Criclet [Cricklade] Street and one in Gosditch Street. But the Fleece is in Market Place, that is *“the upper end of Dyer Street forming the Market-place”*ⁱⁱⁱ. Smyth does record a vintener, William Crippes, in Dyer Street. He was about 40, of middle stature, fit to serve as a Calyver. He had 40 young servants, each aged about 20, and also fit to serve as Calyvers, namely Thomas Hewes, Will’m Heyward, James Alloway and Thomas Jones. I suspect William Crippes was the innkeeper of the Golden Fleece.

Recently I found an inventory of 1692 of The Golden Fleece in Cirencester in *Ancestry's Gloucestershire Wills and Inventories 1541–1858*.

While the will of the innkeeper, Richard Parsloe, had long been known to me, the inventory had not^{iv}. As the footnotes indicate, it presents a number of orthographic puzzles and also the odd heading ‘In Dollfrie’ which defeats me, but which I hope some reader can explain. The text is as follows:

Ann inventory of the Goods and Chattells of Rich^r. Parsloe late of Cirencester in County Glouc^r desesed and praised by us as followys.

In the Hall

*# Three Table borads [boards] & frames three formes one Settell Apd^v
one Iron grate a pare Iron Andirons fier shevell and tonnigs [tongs]
frying pann a Cleaving Knife five spitts too Gridirons one Jacke too*

*pott hockes [hooks] three Iron Candle sticks to littell chopeing
Knifes one sconsse one fley^{vi} forke* 3:10:00

In the Kitching

*# Sixteen dishes pewter too Basons Six plats three Sasers [saucers]
Seven porringers thirty nine flaggons nine Chamber potts Six
spoons fouer pewter Candell Sticks one [?] grease pott three bowls
too Salts a [?]s] traineing Cullingder too Tine [?tin] Coverings a
Trenche Racke three dozen Trenchers thre warming pans one Iron
dripping pann three bras Kittells one brass pann five brass potts
three bras Loadells [ladles] three skomer [skimmers] five skilletts
one posenott^{vii} one Iron dripping panne one Iron Chaffing dish one
Jack one sasepann [saucepan] a Scypier mottor & presell^{viii} three
small Kittells too pare Andirons one paer Rackes five shovel and
tonnigs one Ironn Benke [?bench] one Beacon [bacon] Racke one
pare Billows [bellows] too stolls [stools] one table borde & frame
fouer flog [?flock] Chayers one side Dresser and other Lumber* 10:00:0

In the brewe house

*# One furnase one messing [?mixing] Vate eight Tubbs and
Ceeveres [covers] and Brewing Vsells [vessels] Three Barrells and
other Lumber* 05:00:00

In the Stable

in hay Shype Cubbs^{ix} and wood and other Lumber 08:00:00
Three slane [?slain] pigges 01:10:00

In the Seller [Cellar]

*# Three hogsheds and halfe beare [beer] Seaverell empty Casks
hogges heads & half hogges head and other Lumber* 08:05:00

In the Fore Street Rome

too feather beads & bolsters C[o]jurings & vallions three Ruggs 10:00:00
*one Coverlead too high coene [?cane] stools meats [matts] &
Cov[er]s too table borads Tweleve Leather Chayers one Sid[e]*

Cubbertt and Comping^x three Flower potts too pare bras Andirons too pare Iron doggss pare Bellows one looking glass and other Lumber

46:05:00

In the Rome ov[er] the For Street Rome

one Feather Bead & bolstere one High bedstead one Blankett one Rugg Curtings and vallions bead Moats and Cov[erle]ds one Flock and Truckell bead steed too Leather Chayers one table bord & frame one sid[e] Cubbett [?]Coveling and Cubbett Cloth one Carpett window Curting [curtain] one pare Andirons pair fier shovel and Toning [tong] one [?]Conce a pare blallows

Apd

04:00:00

In Dollfrie

one Feather Bead and Bollistere to Ruggs one Blankett Curting [curtain] & vallions bead [bed] matt and Cov[erle]de one Truckle beadsteed one high beadsteed one Flockbead & bolster bead matt and Cov[erle]de Seaven Lather Chayers to table bords an Carpet one Sid[e] Cubbertt and Cubbertt Cloth and Cousing [cushion] one Settell pare bellows pare Iron Andirons one fronte window Curtings

05:10:00

In the Shuffell bord Rome^{xii}

four Flocke Beads four Bollsters four Blanketts four Rugges Curtings and vallions to high beadsteeds to truckell beadsteeds one shuffell borde & ?severnes one sid[e] Cubbett one old Chayer and Ceffer

05:00:00

In the Bell^{xiii}

*# one feather Bead too Boylsters to Blanketts one Rugg one Beadsteed Curtings and valions one Table bord and freame one sid[e] Cubbett a pare Brass Andirons one pare dogs fier shevell ad Tonings pare Bellows a brass sconce to Chayer three Joynt stolls
the Sine Borads Calld the Goulden Fliss^{xiv}*

04:00:00

05:00:00

In the Rome next the Bell

too Flocke Beads three Ruggs too Bolsters three Blanketts two
feather pillows one High bead steed one Truckell bead steed one
Table bord & fream one Chest one Coffe one Clothing press one
Trunck [? 'ye' erased] to Joynt stolls [stools] with other lumber 03:10:00

In Linning [linen] of all sorts 06:00:00

I[n] mony Ousanding and debt good & bad 80:00:00

his wareing apparel 05:00:00

118:00:00

46:05:00

The whole comes to 164:05:00

Ob^a Arrowsmith

Jn^o Pitman jun^r

*Ex[hib]tum erat hoc Inventar[ium] apud
Cirencestr 29 April 1692 per
['Alic' erased] Thomas Burgis Procurem ex[ecutor]is
&c p[er] vero et pleno &c sub p[ro]test[ac]ione
Tamen de addendo &c qd si &c^{xv}*

Footnotes:

ⁱThe entry is part of the Historic England listing of the property (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1245447>) which in turn quotes Household, HGW, *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* in *The Fleece* in Upper Westgate Street (1946–1948), pp. 37–57 as a source.

ⁱⁱ*The Names and Surnames of all the Able and Sufficient Men in Body fit for His Majesty's Service in the Wars, in the month of August 1608, in the Sixth Year of the Reign of James the First*, ed. Sir John Maclean (Gloucester 1902).

ⁱⁱⁱ*History of Cirencester and The Roman City Corinium*, KJ Beecham (Cirencester 1887).

^{iv}Will of Richard Parsloe of Cirencester dated 30th March 1692: buried 22nd April: inventory exhibited and probate of Will 29th April. There is also reference to Richard in the Cirencester Halimote (Manor) Court record for 9th November 1699 (Gloucestershire Archives D2050/M1). Edward Eldridge or his

assigns was acquiring the tenancy of a messuage or tenement in 'Dyers Street (also called Chipping Street)' of which he or they were already in occupation. The property is described as having a messuage or tenement in the possession or occupation of Richard Parsley on the east. This will be the Golden Fleece.

^vAppraised.

^{vi}?flaying.

^{vii}posnet – a little basin

^{viii}?saucepan, a scraper mortar and pestle

^{ix}probably sheep cubs or pens

^x?things accompanying

^{xi}Possibly the name of the room. *Bristol Probate Inventories* (Bristol Record Society's Publication Vol.54), pp. 159–162 and 166–168, has inventories of two inns where the rooms are named. But 'In Dollfrie' rather than 'In the Dollfrie' may indicate an area.

^{xii}The Shuffle Board Room seems very full of furniture if people came to play shuffle board there. But it may not have been unusual for an inn to have such a room. In 1718, the inventory of Thomas Robins senior of Malmesbury (WSA P3/R/353), the proprietor of The Three Cuppes (which still exists) records: In the Shuffle Board Roome Merry Gold & other Chambers – Seaven Beds & Appurtenances Boards, Chaires Boxes Coffers fformes Chaires, Lumber & other Implimts & Utensells.

^{xiii}Possibly also the name of the room.

^{xiv}i.e. the Signboard called the Golden Fleece – the current Fleece Hotel in Cirencester. It was remarkably highly valued.

^{xv}Translation with acknowledgements to Brooke Westcott *Making Sense of Latin Documents for Family and Local Historians*: This inventory was exhibited at Cirencester on 22nd April 1692 by Robert Burgis the Proctor of the executor etc as a true and full etc [i.e. and whole inventory of all and singular the goods and chattels etc. of the said deceased] under protest however of adding etc if etc [i.e. further goods should come to light]. 'Alic' is erased before the name Robert Burgis because the format was changing to put their name of the heir which in this case was Richard's widow Alice Parsloe rather than the proctor.