

TOWNSCAPE REVISITED

BARNARD CASTLE

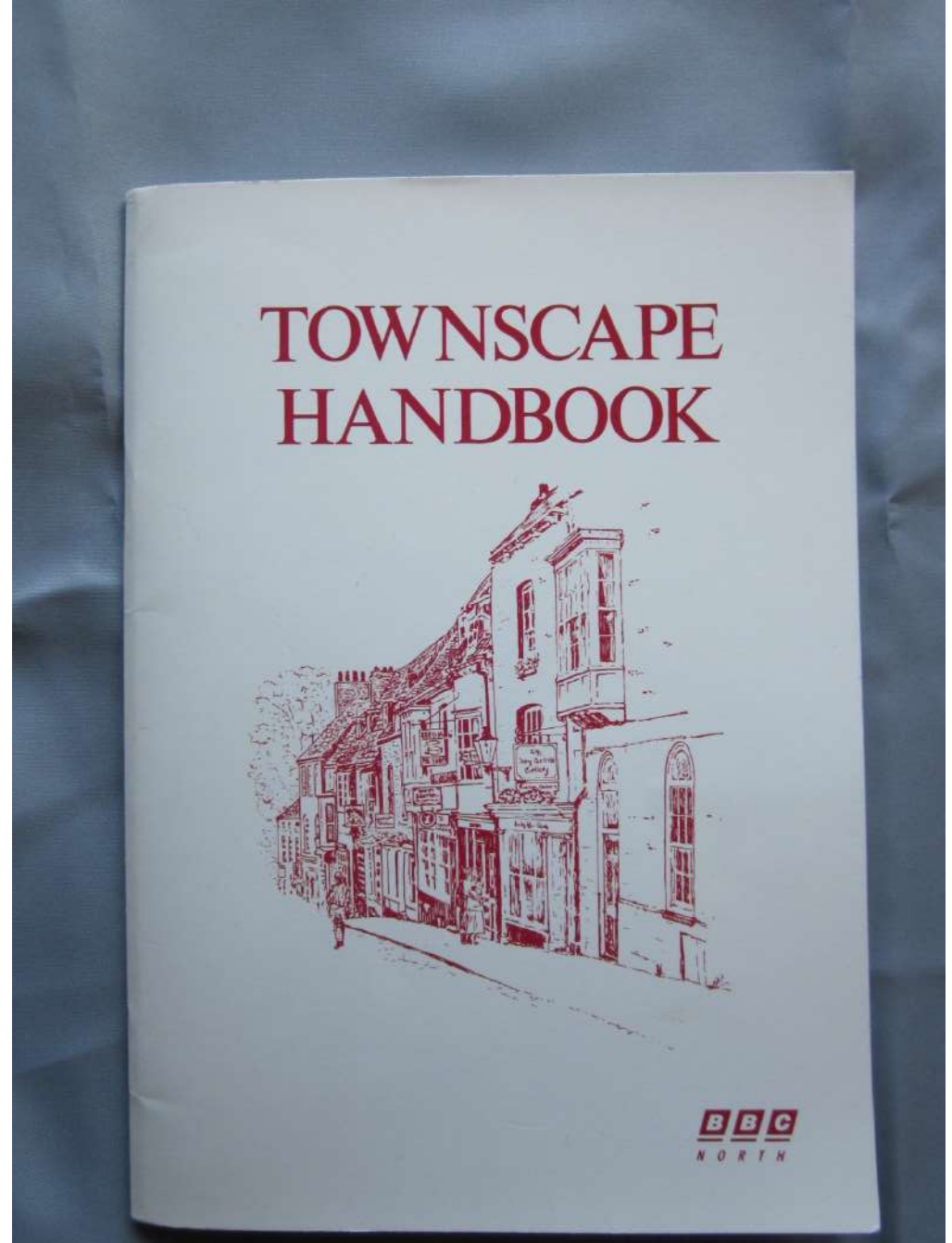
Bruce Speed

November 2019

TOWNSCAPE

Townscape was a magazine programme concerned with the built environment, made by BBC Newcastle, which ran four series weekly from 1986.

BBC North MCMXC



Around 1100, Guy de Baliol, supporter of William II established an administrative centre here and his son Bernard began the stone structure that lends its name to the town, Barnard Castle.



Remains of the Baliol Tower



Market Place from Horse Market. Baliol's control of the community ensured that the first developments were well to the East of the castle moat. Building on the right did not begin until 1655, after the castle was abandoned.



Market Place



THE GOLDEN LION. Building on the West side along the castle moat began in 1655m much stone taken from the abandoned castle behind most of the frontages seen today.



MOCK TUDOR - 1679



KINGS COURT CARE HOME



Hall Street Yard

The now pedestrianised Hall Street at the point where Market Place and Horse Market divide. The buildings behind are older than those on Horse Market and Market Street.



HALL STREET



Market Place and Horse Market from Hall Street



Waterloo Yard

A typical snicket
adjacent to the
former Waterloo Inn.




Buttercross from Newgate, the eastern approach to Barnard Castle: Market Street on the right.



The Buttercross at the top of The Bank and Thomas Breaks's House, the 4 storey building on the right.



A photograph of a stone building's corner. The building is constructed from large, light-colored stone blocks. On the upper level, there are three windows: a central arched window with a white frame and a grid pattern, flanked by two smaller, rectangular windows with white frames. Below the windows, a dark stone plaque is set into the wall. The plaque contains white text that reads: "This Building was Erected 1747. at the Expence of THOMAS BREAKS ESQ. Native of this Place". To the right, another stone building with a tiled roof is visible. In the foreground, a dark, mossy roof is partially seen. A street lamp is visible near the bottom right corner.

This Building was
Erected 1747. at
the Expence of
THOMAS BREAKS
ESQ.
Native of this Place

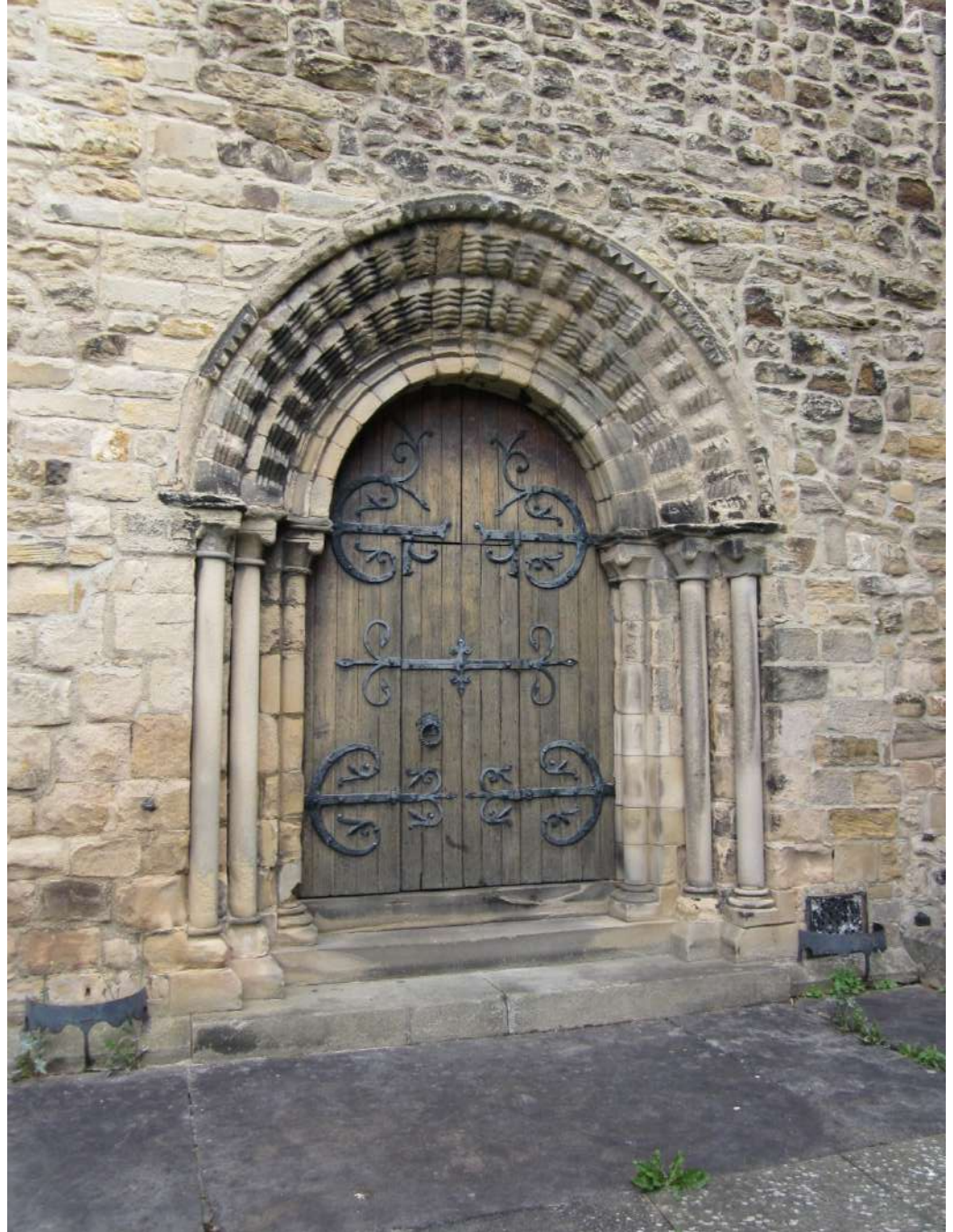
St Mary's

The parish church of St. Mary's at the top of The Bank, showing the aisle added by the Baliol family.



St. Mary's

The fine south door in its Norman arch, provided by the Baliols who added an aisle in the 12th century



THE BANK, leading to the Tees



BLAGRAVE'S HOUSE

An Inn until 1672
when it became
Joseph Blagrave's
home, later a
museum and
today a restaurant.
The stone
musicians on the
façade are 1920s.



BLAGRAVES HOUSE, THE BANK with one of the many Blue Plaques throughout the town.



THE BANK and BREAKS'S HOUSE



LOWER GALGATE AND METHODIST CHURCH (1894). The name comes from the gallows located at the northern end. The cattle market was held at this end adjacent to the horse market.



ACROSS LOWER GALGATE



THE THREE HORSESHOES, LOWER GALGATE



The former house of SIR RODERICK MURCHISON on Galgate



SIR RODERICK MURCHISON



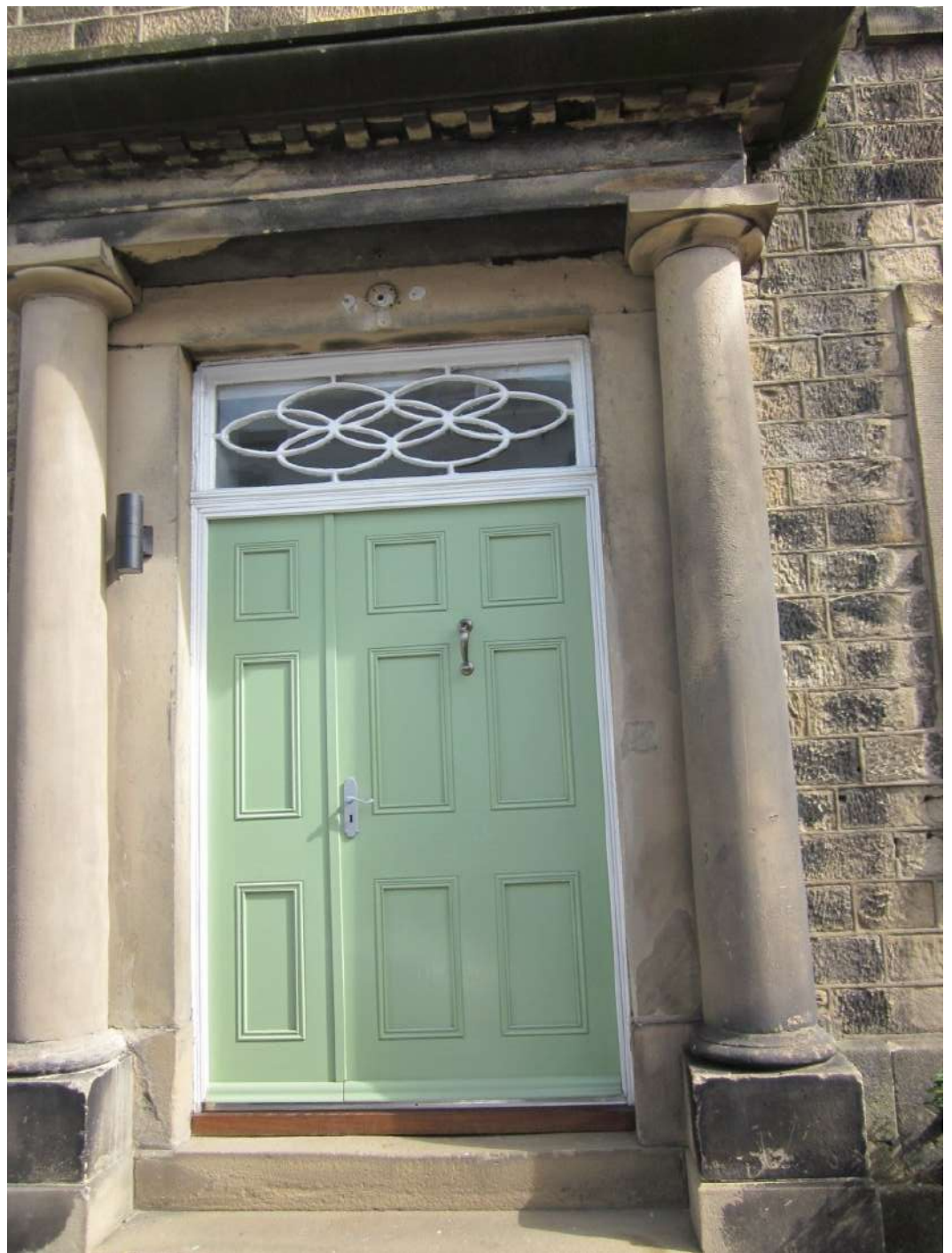
FORMERLY
THE RESIDENCE OF
SIR RODERICK MURCHISON,
TWICE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL
GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY. HE DIED
IN 1871, AGED 79. A GREAT
GEOLOGIST AND EXPLORER, A TOWN
IN NEW ZEALAND, FALLS ON THE NILE,
A MOUNTAIN RANGE AND RIVER IN
AUSTRALIA AND A SOUND IN
GREENLAND ARE ALL NAMED
AFTER HIM.

Georgian Houses in King Street, begun in the 1820s as part of improvements to the town, and named after George IV. It is adjoined by Queen Street after Queen Caroline.



KING STREET

The fine door case and fanlight of Dr. Nixon's former residence.



KING STREET



A sneaky-uppy in KING STREET

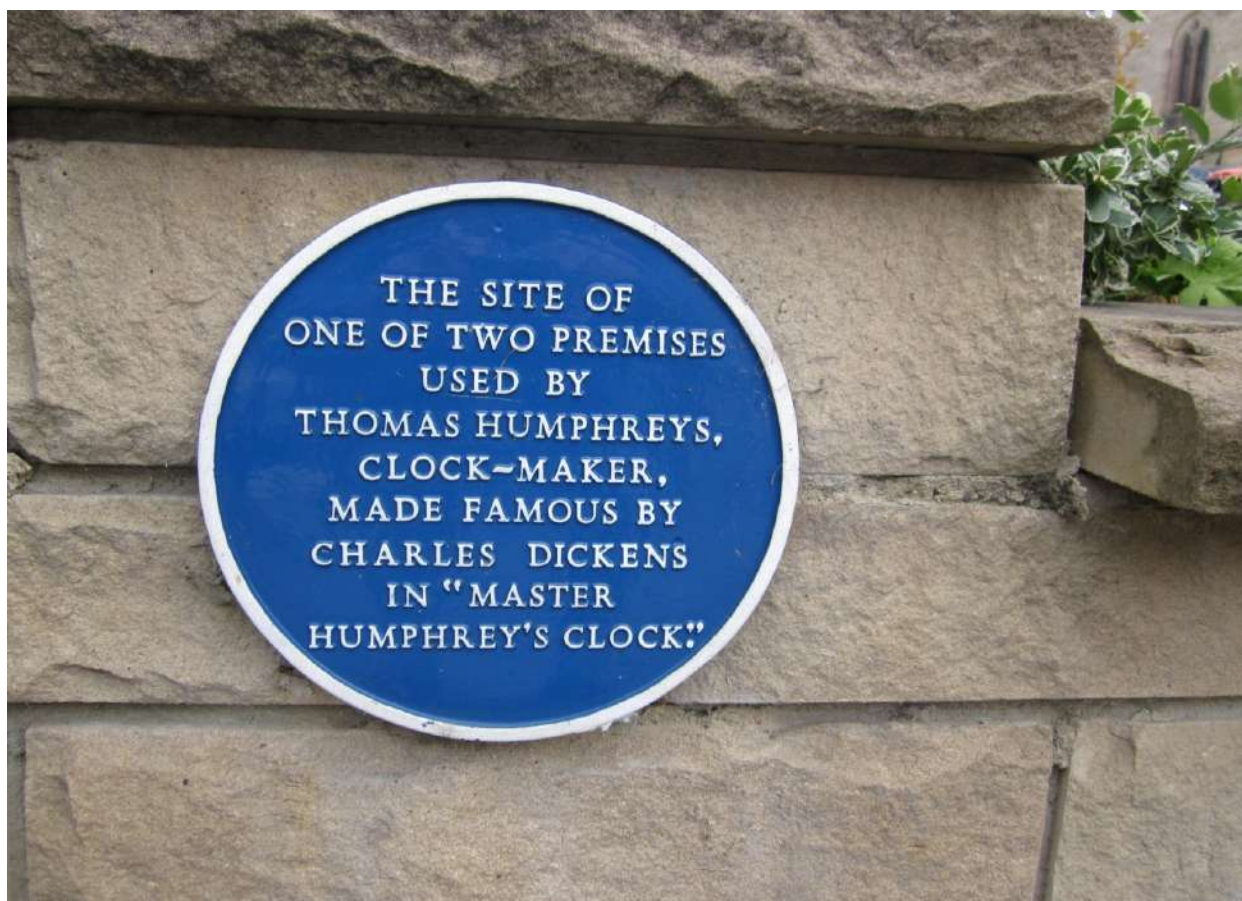


KING STREET

**An appropriate
new entrance
compatible with
the architectural
style of King Street
dated 2015**



Charles Dickens stayed two nights in February 1838 at the Kings Head, now a private house on Market Street, to research for *Nicholas Nickleby*. The school of William Shaw at Bowes, four miles from Barnard Castle, has generally been accepted as the prototype Yorkshire boarding school "Dotheboys Hall." But the town also gave him the title for *Master Humphrey's Clock* named after the shop of Thomas Humphreys a clock maker and native of Barnard Castle. The original shop is no longer standing, but this plaque near St Mary's marks the site.



The Bowes Museum on the Eastgate approach to Barnard Castle

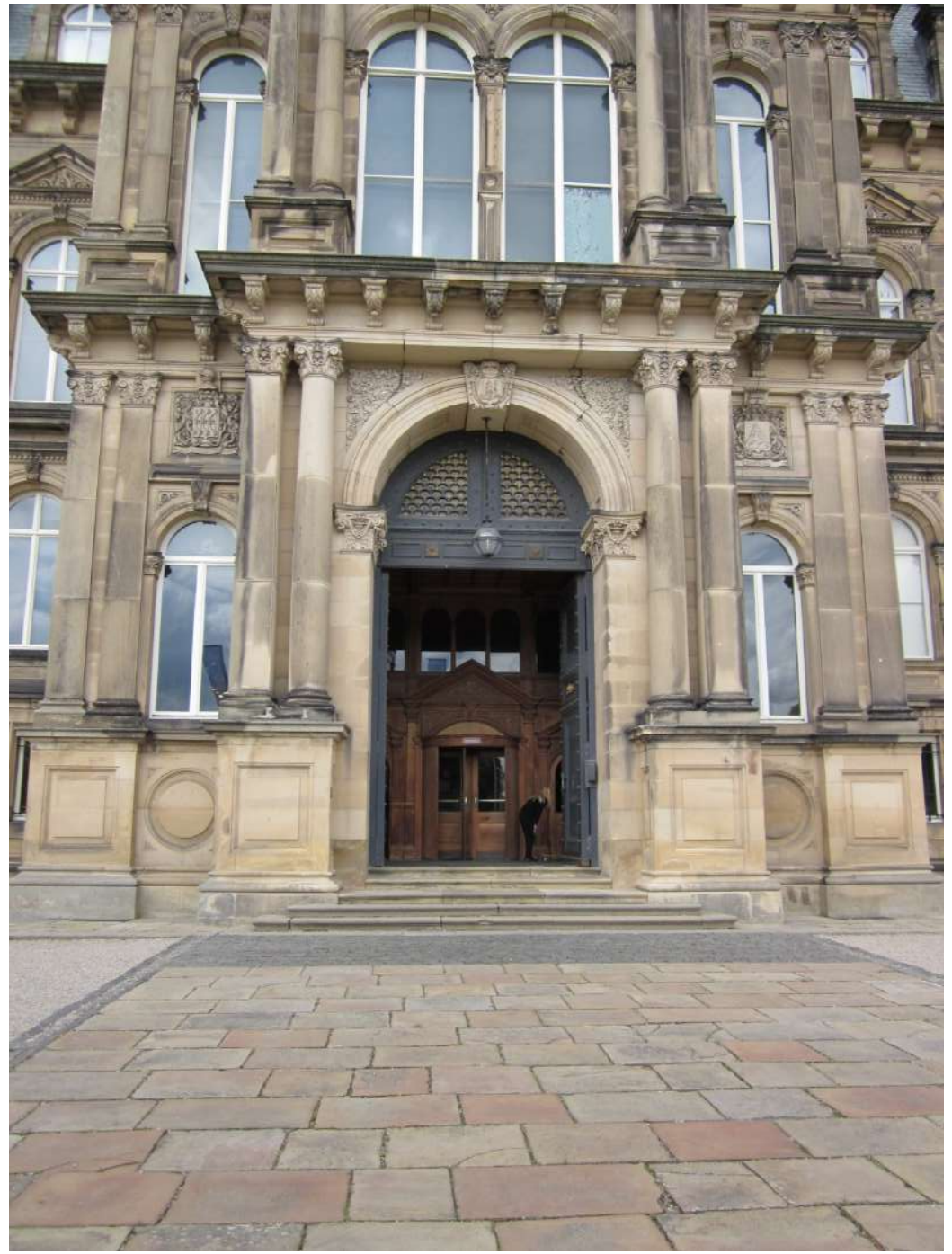
- Unlike Chateau Impney near Droitwich also in the French Chateau style that was built as a home, Bowes Museum was created in the style of a French town hall or chateau to house the vast collection that John Bowes and his wife Josephine Benoit had collected. Neither of them lived to see its completion: Josephine died in 1874 and John died in 1885. It opened to the public on 10th June 1892.

BOWES MUSEUM



BOWES MUSEUM ENTRANCE

A visitor is
dwarfed by
scale of the
entrance



The Bowes and Montalbo Crests on either side of the entrance. He was the illegitimate son of the Earl of Strathmore and Mary Eleanor Bowes (nee Milner), and although the Earl married her 16 hours before he died, John did not get the Strathmore title. However, he got the Durham estates. Because John did not gain the title, he purchased the title Duchess of Montalbo for Josephine and we see both family crests beside the entrance.



As the Townscape Handbook says Barnard Castle is “a fine stoney town high in the valley of the Tees. It has wide streets and some interesting buildings, but much of it is ordinary in the best sense of the word – harmonious buildings built with local materials and in scale with their neighbours”

