



The Auditorium of the Gaumont Cinema, c1935

THE HALLE OF JOHN HALLE

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THE FIRST VOLUME OF

PROLUSIONES HISTORIAE:

OR,

ESSAYS ILLUSTRATIVE OF

THE HALLE OF JOHN HALLE,

Citizen and Merchant of Salisbury,

IN THE REIGNS OF HENRY, THE SIXTH, AND EDWARD THE FOURTH,
BY THE

REV. EDWARD DUKE, M.A., F.A.S., AND L.S.

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John Halle Hall c 1910

The Text of the plaque inside the building, which is now the foyer of the Odeon Cinema:-

John Halle

John Halle, the builder of the residence of which this halle formed part, was a wool merchant of Salisbury. He was possibly a son of Thomas Halle, a member of the Corporation from 1436 to 1440. In 1446 John Halle was a member of the Common Council, becoming an Alderman in 1448, and Constable of New Street ward in 1449. He was undoubtedly a man of wealth and considerable influence for it is recorded by Aubrey, the Wiltshire Antiquary in 1669, that "as Greville and Wenman bought all the Coteswold soe did Halle and Webb all the wooll of Salisbury plaines." John Halle was a "Merchant of the Staple", i.e. a merchant trading in a commodity which was liable to export duty and as such sworn to maintain the "Staple" laws then in force as to the handling of the goods and the proper collection of the duty. In 1451 he was elected Mayor of Salisbury, an honour repeated in 1458, 1460 and 1461.

During Halle's mayorality of 1465, the Corporation became involved in a dispute with Richard de Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, as to the ownership of a piece of land near St Thomas Churchyard and John Halle took forcible possession. For this he was prosecuted by the Bishop and summoned to appear before the King and Privy council in London where his bearing was apparently so truculent that the King (Edward IV) committed him to the Tower for "shewing himself of a right cedicious hasty willful and full unwilly disposicon". The Corporation were ordered to elect a new mayor which they refused to do and it would appear that Halle was re-elected Mayor for the fourth time whilst actually in the Tower. Later on, John Halle was released and in 1470 in response to a call from the Earl of Warwick (the King Maker) to the City of Salisbury, he was given a sum of forty marks to raise a troop of forty men to help the Lancastrian King against Edward IV of York. After Warwick's defeat and death at Barnet in April 1471, Halle appears to have returned to his allegiance to the victorious Edward IV and nothing further is recorded of him until his death on October 18th 1479.

He had one son William Halle, who is mentioned as taking part in Buckingham's rebellion in 1483 and whose daughter married Sir Thomas Wriothesley Garter King at Arms in the reign of Henry VII. Also one daughter Chrystian married to Sir Thomas Hungerford.

August 1931

William Edward Trent, Architect
Gaumont British Picture Corporation



Photo of the interior of the Entrance Hall, dated 1935, when the Halle of John Halle was first converted into the entrance hall to the Gaumont cinema.