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THE SHIP MODELS AT CUCKFIELD PARK, SUSSEX.

By HENRY B. WHEATLEY.

COMMANDER Robinson asks me to write a note to attach to his interesting list of the Ship Models, which he and I saw on a visit to Cuckfield in company with Mr. Edward Hudson a year ago. These models are by tradition associated with the name of Samuel Pepys, but it will be seen that, although they are of much value, they are mostly of a later date than that of Pepys's connection with the Admiralty. We have no direct evidence as to the history of these models, but a consideration of their position in the house in close connection with a library of handsome volumes in the original bookcases, takes us back to the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries, when Charles Sergison was Clerk of the Acts. This officer succeeded James Sotherne (who was appointed Secretary of the Admiralty in 1690), and continued to hold his office until the year 1719. Sergison and Pepys would naturally be friends—both, as they did, holding the same office at different times. When the younger man began collecting models, Pepys would be sure to help him, more particularly on account of his own particular interest in these objects.

This leads me to ask a question which I hope will obtain the widest publicity, viz., where is now located Pepys's considerable collection of models of ships, which he bequeathed by will to William Hewer, with the expressed hope that, united with Hewer's own collection, it might be "preserved for publick benefit"?