



Special Interest Day on BESS OF HARDWICK [1521-1608] : her houses, interiors and embroideries.

Lecture 1: CHATSWORTH & SHEFFIELD : Bess of Hardwick built Chatsworth House with her second husband, Sir William Cavendish in the 1550s. One of her social ambitions was rewarded in 1568 when, with her fourth marriage to George Talbot 6th Earl of Shrewsbury & Lord of the Manor of Sheffield, she became wife of the premier Garter Earl of England.

Lecture 2: BESS OF HARDWICK & MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS: From 1567 until 1584, under strict instruction from Queen Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots was in the custody of Bess' husband, the Earl of Shrewsbury. During these years, Bess & Mary embroidered and designed arguably the finest surviving Elizabethan embroideries in England.

Lecture 3: HARDWICK HALL : In 1584, when her fourth marriage broke down, Bess left Chatsworth for Hardwick, and began building the greatest Elizabethan house in the land, not merely as a setting for her fabulous textiles, but also as a palace for her grand-daughter, Arbella Stuart.

