

NOTES ON THE OLD-HUTTON CHALICE AND THE HAMSTERLEY PATEN.¹

By the Rev. H. WHITEHEAD.

The Old-Hutton chalice, an engraving of which is here given by the kind permission of the editor of the recently published book on *Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle* is already so well known to several members of this Institute, who saw it in the temporary museum at Carlisle, and to others through Miss Goodwin's description of it (*Old Church Plate, Dio. Carl.*, pp. 114-7), that nothing further need be said about it in this paper. The reason for here mentioning it is the circumstance of its exhibition during the visit of the Institute to Carlisle having been the means of bringing to light the paten now submitted to the inspection of the present meeting.

This paten, which belongs to Hamsterley Church, in the diocese of Durham, was sent, soon after the Institute had left Carlisle, by a clergyman who had seen the Old-Hutton chalice in the temporary museum, to a member of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian Society, with a request that he would give his opinion as to its age and character. It closely resembles the Nettlecombe paten, described by Mr. Octavius Morgan in the *Archæologia*.

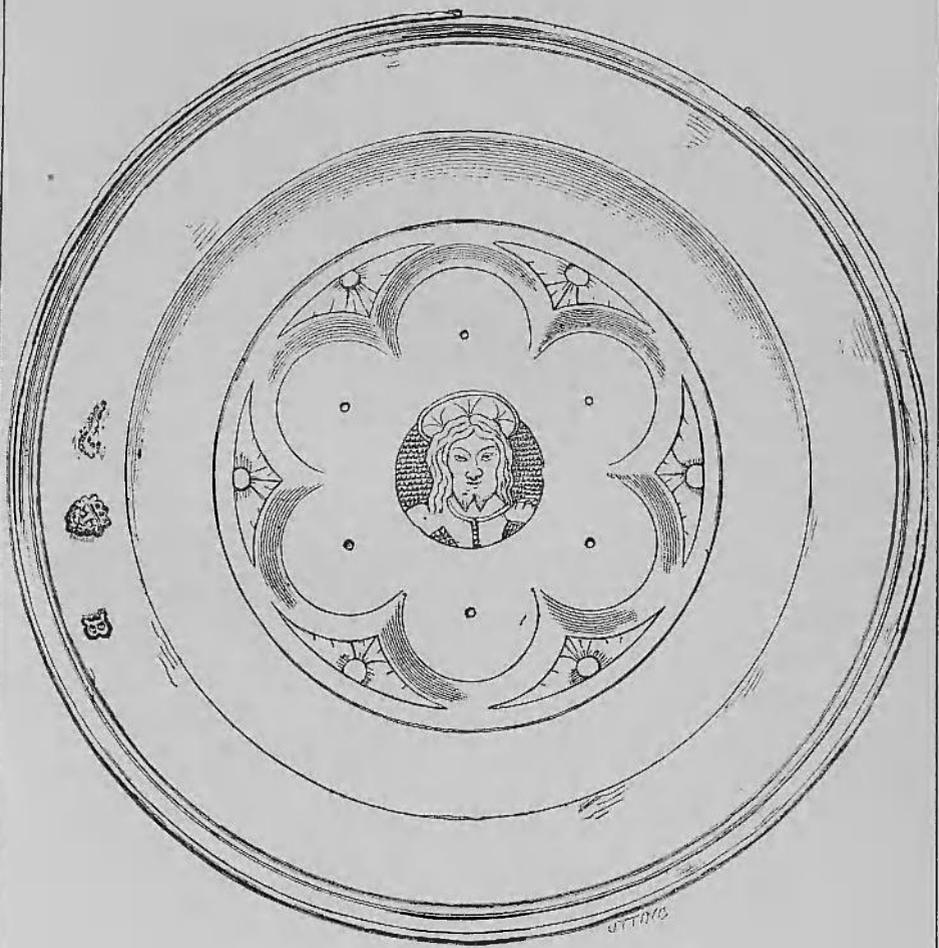
It only differs from the Nettlecombe paten in the following particulars: Its radiating ornament in the spandrels has but three lines instead of ten; its vernicle is not enamelled, and the nimbus not cruciform; nothing is let in from the back, and it lacks the sacred monogram. It has three marks: 1. Maker's symbol, defaced; 2. Leopard's head, crowned, in a stamp shaped to the outline of the head; 3. An uncusped Lombardic B, in a stamp following the outline of the letter only on the right hand side. The date letter of the Nettlecombe paten, assigned by Mr. Morgan and Mr. Cripps to Alphabet II, is also a Lombardic B, but with external cusps. To that alphabet, then, assuming it to have been rightly credited with external cusps, the uncusped Lombardic B of the Hamsterley paten does not belong; nor to Alphabet III, which is double-cusped Lombardic; nor to IV, which is a small black letter; nor to VI, which is Roman. It must, therefore, belong to I or V, both of which are simple Lombardic. If it is to be assigned to Alphabet V, its date will be 1519; but if to I, then the date is 1439, and the paten is the oldest known example of hall-marked English plate.

Concerning the Hamsterley paten, Mr. Cripps has been kind enough to send the following observations:—"It is not the B of the Nettlecombe cup and paten which is cusped in the most marked way at the back of the bows of the B. This cusped B we have been used to assign to 1459, more owing to the apparent date of the Nettlecombe articles than for any other reason. I think that the plain B of the Hamsterley object, on

¹ Communicated to the Monthly Meeting of the Institute, November 2, 1882.



The Old-Hutton Chalice.



The Hamsterley Paten.

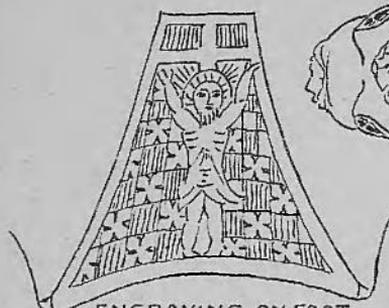
(Real Size.)

SILVER CHALICE.
CIRCA 1460-80.

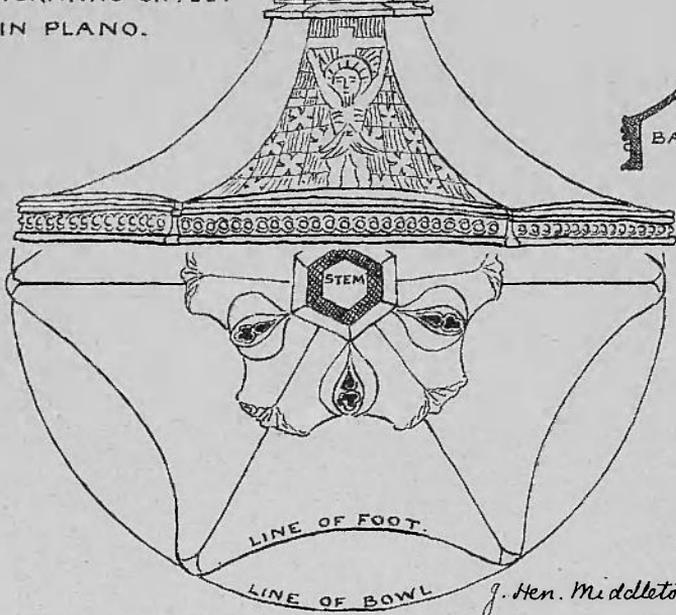
LITTLE FARRINGTON,
OXON.



HEADS ON
KNOP.



ENGRAVING ON FOOT
IN PLANO.



Scale of Inches.

the same showing, would really very likely be the most ancient hall-mark known, and stand for 1439. The fashion altogether fits that early year better than 1519, though the leopard's head crowned looks more like 1519 than 1439 I must confess. The difficulty as to early marks is that there are so few known pieces available for comparison, and the marks upon them are so much worn, that any conclusions drawn from minute differences in their appearance are very untrustworthy. I think the approximate date could be settled from the divided beard, &c., and then the hall-mark would enable us to fix the actual year in which this interesting piece was made.

NOTES ON THE LITTLE FARRINGDON CHALICE.¹

By J. H. MIDDLETON, M.A., F.S.A.

At the church of Little Farringdon, Oxon, once a chapelry of Langford in the same county, there is still preserved the very beautiful specimen of a fifteenth century silver chalice here illustrated.

The bowl and the base are both of *hammered* work; the latter is a hexagon in plan, with sides curved inwards. It has a delicate moulding round the lower part of the foot, further ornamented by beading, each bead of which has been produced by the blow of a small circular punch. On one of the compartments of the foot is the usual crucifix, in this case rudely engraved on a diapered ground. The knop and the hexagon stem are of *cast* work, probably executed by the "cire perdue" process. The knop is ornamented with pierced tracery and six grotesque human heads, modelled with great spirit. The hall-mark, which was inside the bowl, is obliterated except the lower part of the leopard's head.

The outline and proportions of this chalice are very graceful, and the work, both hammered and cast, of good and careful execution. I would suggest 1460-1480 as its probable date. The engraved crucifix is very inferior in style. The whole has once been gilt, but little of the gilding now remains.

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