

The lay brethren's frater preserved in the later house is one of the finest examples in Britain. Its spoon and linen cupboards remain in the N. wall, and the split cell of the vault against the S. wall indicates the position of the reredos or crucifix over the high table. The outer parlour also did duty as a service passage to this frater, to which it has direct access. The westernmost of the two doorways that connect it to the cellar is grooved for a half-door or service hatch, and it seems likely that the S. bays of the cellar served as buttery and pantry to the two fraters, as was deduced from more slender evidence at Fountains (*Yorks. Archaeol. J.*, xv (1900), 109). The block in the cellar carrying the lay brethren's night stairs is pierced by a barrel-vaulted passage, and the position of their day stairs has been verified by the discovery of the treads in the core of the wall of the house. The manner in which both flights of stairs are constructed is again closely paralleled at Fountains.

The discovery of shaped floor-tiles, none *in situ*, shows that parts of the abbey had mosaic tile-pavements of the type characteristic of some northern Cistercian houses.

R. GILYARD-BEER

BRONZE PLAQUES FROM NORWICH (PL. XX ; FIG. 33)

During building operations in 1964 on the W. side of Castle Street, Norwich (TG/23050855), four bronze roundels (Norwich Castle Museum, 570.964) were dis-

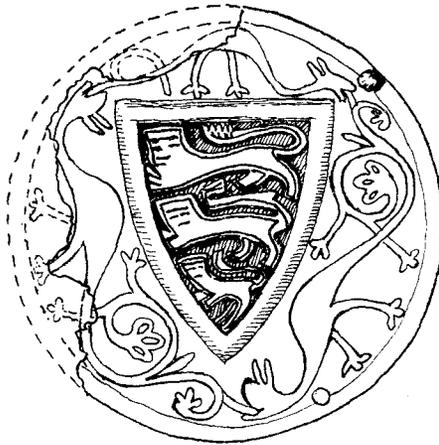


FIG. 33

CASTLE STREET, NORWICH

Reconstruction of bronze plaque, drawn by W. F. Milligan. Sc. $\frac{3}{4}$

covered by workmen. These roundels are incomplete, but appear to be approximately the same size, 7.8–8 cm. diam., and very thin. Each had several small nail holes. The roundels are decorated in relief with the Arms of England, 1198–1340, around which are decorative scrolls, but the detail is blurred by corrosion.

The E. side of Castle Street marked the boundary of Norwich Castle Fee until 1345 when Edward III granted much of the Fee to the citizens of Norwich. Before this the tenants of the Fee of this royal castle formed a separate community, free from the jurisdiction of the bailiffs of Norwich. From abutments of properties erected in the old Fee after 1345, given in conveyances, it seems that the boundaries of the Fee ran some distance from the outer lips of the castle ditches. Until now the method of defining the boundary of the Fee was unknown. It is suggested, however, that these plaques were

mounted either at intervals along a palisade or on four sides of posts set at intervals, thus defining the Fee boundary. I would be most grateful for information about parallels to these plaques or on how the fees of other royal castles within a town were defined.

BARBARA GREEN

MEDIEVAL TOWN WALL, PARK ROW, NOTTINGHAM (PL. XXI ; FIGS. 34-36)

In April and again in December 1964 demolitions in Park Row, Nottingham, provided an opportunity to examine the medieval town wall, which was expected to lie beneath the buildings on the E. side of the street (FIG. 34). The wall had been observed in 1924 south of Granby Street, where it was seen to be 7 ft. thick and to lie 33 ft. back from Park Row, and again in 1958, at Chapel Bar, where it was only 5 ft. thick.²⁹ This discrepancy in thickness can now be explained.

A total length of about 120 ft. of wall from the N. side of Park Place southwards was investigated (FIGS. 34-5).³⁰ Corporation workmen, after clearing the site and exposing the wall top, also dug a trench in front of the wall. One new sewer trench, laid before excavation was contemplated, removed some foundation stones of the link wall between the two lengths ; the sewer is at such a depth that it was necessary to remove only the two bottom courses of the wall to take it underneath. Another new sewer runs over the wall.

The wall is constructed throughout this length (including Chapel Bar) of a coarse white sandstone from Hollington, near Rocester, Staffs.,³¹ except for a chamfered plinth on the piece of link wall. This is a fine-grained sandstone from the coal measures, of which the nearest outcrop is at Cossall, 5 m. west of Nottingham. Reports on the wall in Parliament Street refer only to local sandstones of one kind or another.³² The wall is coursed throughout. A lime mortar was used only for the facing courses, the remainder being bedded in red clay (Keuper Marl). Since the ground rises to the south, the surviving top of the wall, reduced in the 19th century to the level of the cellars of houses then built along Park Row, rises 2 ft. in the 120-ft. length. Fifteen courses survive from C to B, standing about 10½ ft. high, but at B the foundations step up three courses and 3 ft. (PL. XXI, A). The direction also changes by four degrees at B. The right-angled bend brought the face of the wall 11 ft. further west, and must have been required to link work proceeding from the direction of the castle with the Chapel Bar itself.

It was evident from the section A-B (FIG. 36) that the wall was constructed against an existing bank (layers 2 and 3 in section A-B, 5 and 6 in section E-F). The stepped construction-trench could be seen from A-B southwards. The material of the bank contained sherds of pottery among which unglazed Stamford ware in high proportion was the most distinctive type. This pottery implies a 12th-century date for the bank, but is not at present susceptible of closer dating.³³ The bank may well have been raised after the wall was built (A-B, layer 1). Two sherds of green-glazed pottery from the wall construction-trench, one in front and the other behind the wall, are insufficient to refine or modify the date 1267-1334 for the wall derived from murage grants.

The advanced length of wall and the external angle had been robbed in the

²⁹ *Trans. Thoroton Soc.*, xxix (1925), 179 ; *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 290.

³⁰ In the redevelopment of this area, Park Place will disappear and Granby Street will be closed, for the completion of the inner ring road. On FIG. 34 the pre-1964 street pattern is shown with continuous lines, the new layout with broken lines. This length of wall will be buried 9 ft. below the two carriageways of the ring road.

³¹ A. Clifton-Taylor, *The Pattern of English Building* (1962), p. 134. This identification was confidently made by a Nottingham firm of masons familiar with Hollington stone, but should be treated with caution. The sandstones of the Bunter cannot easily be distinguished, and the distance (32 m.) makes Hollington a less likely source than some quarry in Nottingham itself which cannot now be located.

³² J. Shipman, *Old Town Wall of Nottingham* (1899), pp. v, ix, 3, 4, 8.

³³ I am indebted to Mr. J. G. Hurst for examining the pottery.