NO. 1.—SCHRÖBULL, LOW SET OPENING. EXTERIOR.

NO. 2.—HYLLINGE, LOW SET OPENING. EXTERIOR.
SOME FURTHER NOTES ON LOW SET OPENINGS IN SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES.¹

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Another short journey in Scandinavia enables me to make a small addition to a paper which appeared in our Journal last year,² and, although I am only able to record two fresh examples of low set openings, they are interesting from the fact that they both occur in parts which had, on my first inquiry, been declared by the principal ecclesiastical authority of the districts to be quite devoid of this feature.

The first to which I draw attention was brought under my notice by Professor Haupt of Eutin. It occurs in the thirteenth-century brick church of Schöbull near Husum, on the west coast of Schleswig Holstein, originally in the ancient area of Frisia and later in the district of North Friesland (Plate I, No. 1). With one exception of Romanesque type at the east end of the chancel, the original windows are lancets, and mostly blocked. The three which are still open, are splayed both outwardly and inwardly. The opening is in the south wall of the chancel, but not in the usual position, being 19 feet 6 inches from the wall of the chancel arch and only 12 feet from the east wall of the chancel. It is 1 foot 3 inches from the ground, and is 2 feet 10 inches in height and 1 foot three inches in width. The opening is blocked flush with the wall, and there is no trace of it in the inside of the church, but it was probably splayed on both sides in the manner of the lancet windows in the church.

The second example occurs in Zealand, in which island, as mentioned in my previous paper, Professor Kornerup, the chief authority in this diocese, considered that no

¹ Read before the Institute, Dec. 4th, 1907.
² The previous notes on the above subject appeared in the Journal, lxiii, 5-24.
examples existed. The information came to me from Mr. Uldall, of Randers, who, some years ago, on a journey in connection with the great work on the mediaeval bells of Denmark, which he has lately published, noted a probable trace of such an opening in the church of Hyllinge, near Roeskilde. His observation, as usual, was quite correct. It is in the south wall of the chancel which terminates in an apse. A photograph of the faint lines now existing (Plate I, No. 2) shows how the covering of whitewash almost obliterates any trace, and proves how easy it is for those who are not interested in the subject to overlook the slight indications which remain.

The chancel apse and the sacristy are the only original parts of the church now remaining. The former is ornamented externally with an arcading of Romanesque arches and has three round windows, all blocked. The low side opening is also round and blocked flush with the wall: it is in the usual position, only 6 inches from the wall of the chancel arch, and 3 feet 6 inches from the plinth, while its diameter on the wall surface is 1 foot 10 inches: no doubt it contracted to a very small orifice, in the same manner as similar openings in Jutland. It is the only low set opening I have been able to hear of in this island, but a careful and systematic examination of the churches would probably result in the discovery of other examples.

This, I am sorry to say, is the extent of the new matter which I am able to bring before you, but subsequently passing through Sweden I visited the church at Husaby, for the purpose of seeing with my own eyes the very remarkable opening in the south wall of the chancel, to which I alluded in my former paper.¹ I am now able to furnish photographs of it, both from the outside and the inside (Plate II), and to give particulars in English measurements. Internally the height of the actual opening is 10 inches, and its width, 6 inches: the height from the floor is 3 feet 10 inches and the width of the splay is 3 feet: from the splay to the chancel arch wall the distance is 9 inches. Externally the distance from plinth to sill is 3 feet, and from sill to glass is 1 foot 3 inches.

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, lxiii, 18.
PLATE II.

NO. 1.—HUSABY. LOW SET OPENING. EXTERIOR.

NO. 2.—HUSABY. LOW SET OPENING. INTERIOR.
Internally the sill falls by four small steps from the actual opening to the floor, the two other windows in the chancel, which are at the usual height, have similar step-like sills. I have observed a like fashion in the church of Holebüll, near Flensburg, in Schleswig.

Husaby church, however, is otherwise so interesting that it merits a few words of general description. It consists of a square western tower with semi-circular stair turrets on either side: a nave without aisles and a small low chancel terminating in an apse (Plate III).

The tower, which is undoubtedly older than the rest of the church, is supposed to date from the earlier years of the eleventh century and to be contemporaneous with the first church erected here in A.D. 1005 by Olof Skotkonung, the first Christian king of Sweden, after his baptism by English missionaries, or, as is now more generally held, by the German missionary St. Sigfrid, in the well at Husaby. The method of building in the lower stages of the tower is quite different from that in the rest of the church: the stone is just as it came from the quarry, not worked in any appreciable degree, and consequently quite irregular in size and form: the joints also are correspondingly wide and uneven. The builders have, however, tried to lay the stones in continuous courses as far as possible, although they have not always been successful. The walls of the church, on the other hand, exhibit much more care. The stones are worked into fairly regular squares of about the same thickness, and consequently could be laid with tolerably fine joints. The outer surface of the squares is coarsely tooled, probably with a chisel, a style of work, according to Viollet-le-Duc, prevalent in France up to the middle of the eleventh century.

The stair turrets are built entirely in connection with the walls of the main tower, except as regards quite the upper part of the central tower, which is composed of hewn stones of similar character to those used in the nave and chancel. No doubt this addition was made at the time of the building of the second church. Before the addition the central tower was probably flat roofed,

\[1\] I draw on the accounts published by Dr. E. Ekhoff in Svenska Fornminnesföreningens Tidskrift, Vol. x, and by the rector, the Rev. M. Aren.
with the stair turrets standing above it, like watch towers on either side.

Another circumstance which lends interest to the Husaby tower is that there still remain considerable traces of former defensive arrangements, evidenced in the upper part by a number of small holes, now closed up, which probably held timbers supporting a gallery or wooden parapet on the outside of the wall. In the lower stage of the west wall of the tower is an original round-headed doorway about 16 feet above the ground. This, at first sight, curious arrangement was no doubt constructed, so as to avoid using the lower entrances when the church in troublous times was garrisoned for defence; the lower entrances were then securely fastened by means of massive bars, the holes for which are still to be seen, and access to the tower, and from the tower to the church, was only obtainable either by means of a ladder or windlass, through this high-placed doorway, in the same manner as in a secular fortress. I may mention that I have observed the same arrangement in some of the older church towers in Jutland.

A feature of very unusual character occurs in the northern wall of the chancel arch (Plate III, No. 2). The wall contains a small chamber, large enough for one person in a standing position, to which access is obtained by a door in the chancel arch itself. This chamber has towards the nave a rectangular opening, placed at such a height that the inmate could conveniently speak to the congregation, and there is no doubt that it was constructed for the purpose of a pulpit or ambo. On the sill of the opening is inscribed,

DOGMA SALUTIS ERIT HOC QUIDQUID DICERE QUERIT CLERUS IN AMBONE SUBTILI CUM RATIONE

which can be rendered,

Whatever the priest out of the fulness of his wisdom doth seek to utter in the pulpit, that shall be the doctrine of salvation.

It bears the arms of Bryngolf Gerlakson, bishop of Skara, and three minuscules mdv (1505), the year of his death.
PLATE III.

NO. 1.—HUZABY CHURCH. EXTERIOR.

NO. 2.—HUZABY CHURCH. INTERIOR.
IN SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES.

The interior of the church is unusually rich in painting, both on the walls and vaulting. Covered with whitewash at the Reformation, they were brought to light at the recent restoration of the church, but, unfortunately, have been entirely repainted in strong colours. They consist of scenes from the life of our Lord, representations of the four evangelists, the four major and twelve minor prophets, and some of the church fathers, and saints, in all about 120 subjects, besides others which were too damaged for reproduction. They are ascribed to the fifteenth century.

In the upper tower room is a very interesting collection of articles of furniture formerly used in the church. Among others may be mentioned:

(1) Two oblation irons, one of which has six circular spaces for stamping the sacramental wafer, each inscribed with the year 1110 and some symbolical characters; the other is of later date, with a crucifix at the one end and a chalice at the other.

(2) The old stocks, which formerly stood on the north side of the altar. There is space for two delinquents and four holes for their legs.

(3) A long staff with a large wooden ball at one end pierced with small holes, in some of which are the remains of bristles. This appears to have been an aspersorium with which the congregation, after the brush had been dipped in the holy water, were sprinkled during the service.

(4) A staff painted blue with an iron shoe at the lower end and a wooden knob at the upper. This was the so-called “pusher” with which the verger awakened any who slept during the service. He first struck on the stone floor with the iron end, and then, if that had not the desired effect, he pushed the slumberer with the wooden end.¹

After Husaby I visited Vadstena, to inspect the

¹I am informed that a similar article of church furniture is preserved in Wimborne Minster.
confessional openings in the Bridgetine church to which I alluded in my former paper. They are, as therein described, in the north wall of the chancel, and since the orientation of the church is to the west, they were in the same position as the normal low set opening in a chancel orientated to the east. The dimensions of the openings are approximately as follows: height, 1 foot 7 inches; width, 11 inches; width of splay, 1 foot 8 inches; distance from ground, 2 feet 8 inches. Numbers 1, 4, and 5 retain the original stone work, numbers 2 and 3 have been more or less restored. Inside of the openings are recesses or cells 5 feet 6 inches deep, and 4 feet wide, with a stone seat on each side.

The church is large, and interesting as a fine example of the Bridgetine style. Buried here is Queen Philippa, who died in 1430. She was the daughter of our Henry IV., and wife of Eric of Pomerania, king of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. There is a slab over the tomb with a large incised crucifix and the royal arms of England and France.

Note.—I desire to make the following corrections in connection with the description of the churches of Jutland in my former paper. On page 7, as regards the fonts, I should have written “mostly sculptured, some very elaborately.” What I believed to be an alms dish is a very shallow and generally highly ornamented metal dish fitted into, and used in place of, the original deep bowl. On page 8, the whitewashing of the churches, as regards the interior, took place between 1540 and 1600, but in respect of the exterior, where the building consisted of rough granite, this was whitened from the first; on the other hand, walls built of squared granite blocks were usually left bare.

1 Archaeological Journal, lxiii, 18.