

area which should be earlier than the construction of the castle, thus corroborating the impression of a 11th-century date for at least some examples and, by association the remainder, since the kiln is unlikely to have had a long life. A sherd has been recognized in an assemblage, assignable in general to this period, from K. J. Barton's excavations at Bishops Waltham.

The general similarities of a few of the Michelmersh products to pottery from groups at Portchester has already been noted. Cunliffe does not argue the date of this pottery closely, but he assigns it to the 10th and early 11th century, and the stratigraphic position of the pits in which it was found is clear enough. There seems no reason, therefore, why the products of this kiln should not, in retrospect at least, be seen as a perfectly natural and predictable element in the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman ceramic spectrum. Their distribution, and in particular the extent to which they reached Romsey, Winchester, Southampton, and perhaps E. Wiltshire markets, and even Salisbury, will be an interesting research project, made all the easier by the distinctive nature of the product.

P. V. ADDYMAN, B. G. HOPKINS AND G. T. NORTON

A 12TH-CENTURY STONE LAMP FROM LLANGWM UCHAF, MONMOUTHSHIRE (PL. XII; FIGS. 38-9)

Llangwm, three miles east of Usk in Monmouthshire, contains two parish churches, Llangwm Isaf (=Lower Llangwm) dedicated to St. John, and Llangwm Uchaf (=Upper Llangwm) dedicated to St. Jerome. Standing by the font at the W. end of St. Jerome's is an hourglass-shaped stone decorated with interlace and with its top surface hollowed out into a bowl. This stone had been built into the fabric of the church and was found during the rebuilding of 1858-71. The vicar at that period, the Rev. William Price, was responsible for saving both the Llangwm churches from total destruction, following a long period of neglect in which two largely unaltered medieval structures retaining their rood-screens and lofts, medieval altars and wall-paintings were allowed to fall into semi-ruin. St. John's has now been almost totally rebuilt, but St. Jerome's still has many of its medieval features, including a magnificent rood-screen and loft.

According to the Book of Llandaff,¹² Llangwm was granted to Llandaff in the time of Bishop Grecielis, a cleric believed to have lived in the 9th century. We are perhaps on firmer ground with a grant of 1071-5,¹³ by which one Caradoc ap Rhiwallon granted land at Llangwm to the church at Llandaff and to the four saints of Llangwm, Mirgint, Cinficc, Huui and Ereun. Among the witnesses is Elinui, described as a monk of Llangwm (*monachus de lanncum*). From this grant it would seem probable that we are dealing with a pre-Norman monastic foundation which passed into the sphere of influence of the church of Llandaff. In 1119 a bull of Calixtus II¹⁴ confirmed 'the vill of Lann Cum, with the churches' to Llandaff, showing that both St. Jerome's and St. John's were already in existence.

The stone (PL. XII, A, B; FIG. 38), 20 in. (50.8 cm.) high and circular in section, is a fine grained pale cream oolitic limestone of non-local origin. It consists of two bucket-shaped elements joined at their bases by a cylindrical central collar, the collar and upper part being decorated with a broad, loose ribbon-plait. The lower element or base is solid, the upper part hollowed out into a bowl, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (12 cm.) deep, and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (19 cm.) wide at the top. At some date the stone has been reused as a stoup, for it is perforated by a circular hole 1 in. in diameter, set 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below this rim. This

¹² *The Text of the Book of Llan Dav*, ed. J. G. Evans and J. Rhys (London, 1893), 173-4, 373.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 274-5, 384; *Episcopal Acts Relating to Welsh Dioceses, 1066-1272*, ed. J. Conway Davies (Cardiff, 1948), II, 608-9 (l. 6).

¹⁴ *Op. cit.* in note 12, 89-92; Conway Davies, *op. cit.* in note 13, II, 615 (l. 27).

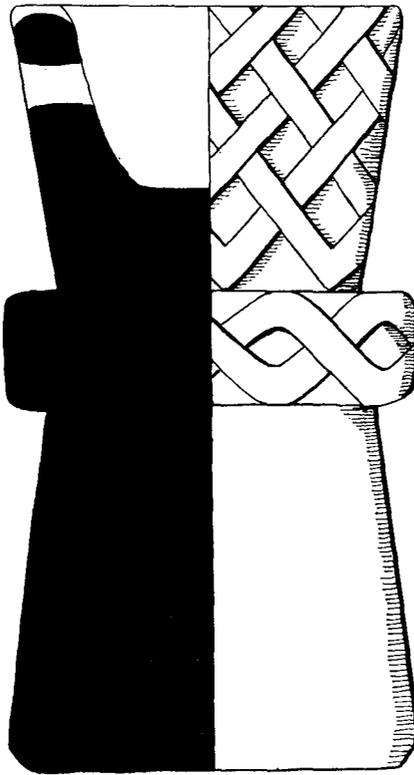


FIG. 38

A 12TH-CENTURY STONE LAMP FROM LLANGWM UCHAF,
MONMOUTHSHIRE (pp. 130, 132). Sc. $\frac{1}{2}$

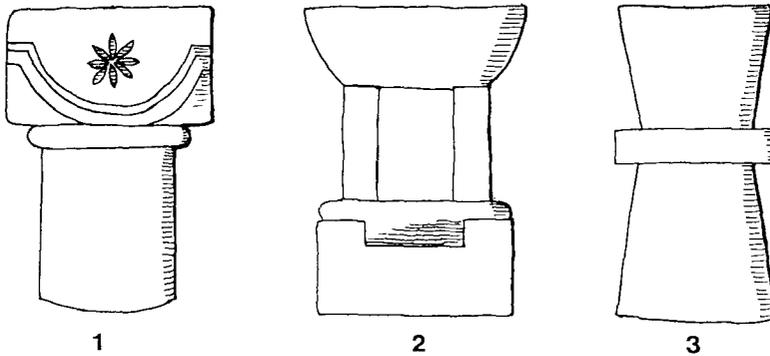


FIG. 39

DIAGRAMMATIC DRAWINGS OF 12TH-CENTURY STONE LAMPS
London (no. 1), Winchester (no. 2), and Llangwm Uchaf (no. 3). The decoration
on nos. 2 and 3 is omitted (p. 132). Not to scale

cuts the decoration and is clearly secondary. The stone has been identified as a baluster-shaft and as a pillar-piscina. Both suggestions emphasize the pillar-like form, but its shape and proportions make the former very improbable and the stone lacks the vertical drain-perforation and flattened back needed for a functional pillar-piscina. Parallels from elsewhere make it fairly clear that the piece was originally a standing lamp.

Stone lamps were already current in late Saxon times¹⁵ and a number of medieval examples from London have been published by Ward-Perkins.¹⁶ From these and from other examples at least one line of development is clear. The stone stems from a type copying a romanesque capital and shaft (FIG. 39, no. 1). Two examples in the London Museum appear to be reused architectural pieces,¹⁷ but others exist and not all of them seem to be made from stones previously used for another purpose. They are attractive objects, but their top-heavy form is a functional weakness, making them potential fire-risks. Those which are close copies of another class of object—some, perhaps, originating as reused pieces—are clearly the primary form. This top-heaviness was overcome on other examples by providing a solid block base, producing a type looking rather like a Roman altar, such as is known from Winchester and from Monmouth (FIG. 39, no. 2),¹⁸ or by splaying out the shaft into a truncated cone. In the latter case, the upper part was given a similar shape, producing a symmetrical form, with the necking below the capital surviving as a discoidal central collar, thus producing the form of the Llangwm lamp or the lamp in the Guildhall Museum from an unrecorded find-spot in London (FIG. 39, no. 3).¹⁹ It is very possible that this symmetrical form may also owe something to the somewhat similarly-shaped Saxo-Norman pottery lamps with pedestal feet.²⁰

The rim of the Llangwm lamp bears no sign of burning or of blackening from a wick and it would possibly be more accurate to describe these stone 'lamps' as holders or stands for hemispherical bowl-lamps of pottery or metal. The well-known series of lipped hemispherical 12th-century pottery bowl-lamps²¹ would be ideal for such a purpose.

A late 11th- or 12th-century date for the Llangwm lamp is clearly indicated by the character of its decoration. One of the panels of the Carew (Pembrokeshire) cross of 1033–5²² is already showing signs of becoming simplified into this type of loose diagonal ribbon plait and good parallels for the decoration of the lamp can be found on such late 11th- or 12th-century work as the standing crosses at Whitford ('Maen Achwyfan') and Dyserth in Flintshire²³ or, nearer home, on the coped gravestones (an Anglo-Norman form) from Newcastle, Bridgend in Glamorganshire.²⁴ A date after the Norman conquest is also indicated by the use of non-local fine limestone, for pre-Norman sculpture in Wales is normally of local stone and only in the Norman period does a trade in fine-quality limestone develop. There is, however, just about enough romanesque work of conventional type from the area to suggest that the native tradition represented in the interlace would not have survived beyond about the middle of the 12th century, so that a date of 1070 to c. 1150 may be suggested for the Llangwm lamp.

¹⁵ *Med. Archaeol.*, vi–vii (1962–3), 66. Wilfred's crypts at Ripon and Hexham are lighted by sets of stone cresset-lamps, as Mr. Douglas Hague points out to me.

¹⁶ *London Museum, Medieval Catalogue* (H.M. Stationery Office, London, 1967), 174–6, fig. 54, nos. 1–4.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 175, fig. 54, nos. 1–2. For one from Marcross, Glam., see *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, 1893, 342.

¹⁸ B. Cunliffe, *Winchester Excavations 1949–60* (Winchester, 1964), 152–3, fig. 51, no. 4, pl. ix; and church of St. Mary's Priory, Monmouth (unpublished).

¹⁹ *Op. cit.* in note 16, fig. 54, no. 3.

²⁰ E.g., *op. cit.* in note 16, fig. 54, nos. 5–7 (from London); *Med. Archaeol.*, iii (1959), 34, fig. 12, nos. 8–9 (Thetford ware); *id.*, iv (1960), 46, fig. 12, no. 4 (from Corfe, Dorset).

²¹ E.g., the bowl containing the hoard of c. 1070 from St.-Mary-at-Hill Church, London; see J. D. A. Thompson, *Inventory of British Coin Hoards, A.D. 600–1500* (London, 1956), no. 250, pl. vi, c (though this might have been a lipped crucible). See also the container of the William I hoard from Bishophill, York (Thompson, *ibid.*, no. 386).

²² V. E. Nash-Williams, *The Early Christian Monuments of Wales* (Cardiff, 1950), no. 303.

²³ *Ibid.*, nos. 185, 190.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, no. 253.

There remains the question of its function at Llangwm. Whilst there is no reason to doubt that the main series of stone lamps is secular, the medieval cresset stones which follow them seem to be not only ecclesiastical but (at least in Wales) specifically monastic.²⁵ The Llangwm lamp, from its find-spot alone, is clearly not secular and its size also emphasizes its special character. The secular lamps are about 5 in. (13 cm.) high, suitable for lighting a single room. The Llangwm lamp is four times this size. The only other stone lamps from Wales known to me are again monastic—a larger, undecorated version of the St George's Street, Winchester, lamp (i.e. as FIG. 39, no. 2) in local sandstone at Monmouth Priory and two examples of a simpler type not so far discussed. These, rectangular blocks of imported limestone, are from Talley Abbey, Carmarthenshire²⁶ and Burryholms in the Gower;²⁷ the latter, of 12th-century date, being footed and elaborately decorated. It therefore seems reasonable to assume a connexion between the Llangwm lamp and the monastic establishment indicated in the documents.²⁸

JEREMY KNIGHT

THE EARTHWORKS OF BORDESLEY ABBEY, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE (FIG. 40)

Bordesley Abbey (SP 045686) was founded as a Cistercian monastery in 1136 or 1138 by Empress Matilda²⁹ in an area of Worcestershire which at that time was very wooded and rather isolated. The main claustral buildings were sited on the S. side of a low spur projecting E. at a point where a small stream joins the River Arrow, a situation very favourable for the elaborate and efficient use of the water running through its precinct.³⁰

The area is now included in Redditch New Town and it was this designation that prompted archaeological work on the site, including a detailed earthwork-survey carried out³¹ in 1968 (FIG. 40). Before this, little archaeological work had taken place here since the 19th century.³² The site is unusual in that a vast area (c. 140,000 sq. m.) of earthworks without standing remains has been preserved since the dissolution with little detectable later disturbance; this provides a unique open-air laboratory for the study of a monastic community. The survey was carried out on the basis of 100-ft.-grid squares, which were subdivided into 20-ft. squares where there were a great many earthworks. Features were then sketched in from these squares; for complicated areas individual sections were measured and plotted in more detail.

Until the 18th century 'a great old gate' (1)³³ stood at the entry from the W., and from this point the earthworks can be seen clearly in the fields below. On the left are

²⁵ The examples from Wales are from Monmouth Priory, Brecon Priory and Llanthony Priory (Mon.), all 12th-century foundations. For a full study (with list and bibliography) of medieval cresset-lamps see Jane Evans, 'A discovery of two unusual objects in New Shoreham', *Sussex Archaeol. Collections*, cvii (1969), 79–86.

²⁶ *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, 1941, 87–91 (now in the National Museum of Wales). I am very grateful to Miss Jane Evans for drawing my attention to this lamp.

²⁷ *Gower*, xvii (1966), 39, from excavations by Mr. Douglas Hague; full publication forthcoming.

²⁸ I am very grateful to the vicar of Llangwm, the Rev. K. H. S. Guppy, for permission to publish the lamp and to Mr. George Nichols, of the staff of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, Wales, for the photographs on PL. XII.

²⁹ *V.C.H., Worcestershire*, II, 151; M. Dickens, *A Thousand Years in Tardebigge* (Birmingham, 1931), 16.

³⁰ J. K. S. St. Joseph and D. M. Knowles, *Monastic Sites from the Air* (Cambridge, 1952), p. xxii.

³¹ By M. A. Aston and A. P. Muntton of the Dept. of Geography, University of Birmingham.

³² J. M. Woodward, *The History of Bordesley Abbey* (London, 1866).

³³ Numbers in brackets are marked on FIG. 40.