

CHURCH CHESTS OF THE TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH
CENTURIES IN ENGLAND.

By PHILIP MAINWARING JOHNSTON, F.R.I.B.A.

At first sight it seems a sufficiently bold claim to make that there are considerably over a hundred thirteenth century chests remaining in the cathedrals, churches, and museums of England, but it is possible to go further and to place some half-dozen of the group within the last quarter of the twelfth century. It is only a matter of comparative evidence.

Having always felt a special interest in one or two early chests such as those in Stoke d'Abernon and Clymping churches, it happened that I was asked to write a paper upon the former church for the Surrey Archaeological Society's *Collections*,¹ and so I had a natural object in collecting evidence that might throw light upon the antiquity and purpose of this remarkable piece of church furniture. A lengthy appendix proved insufficient for more than a cursory examination of this group of early chests, and it seemed, therefore, desirable that the whole subject should receive separate and fuller treatment, especially as, since the publication of this appendix, several very important examples have come to light.

By the courtesy of the Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society, of which I desire to make the fullest acknowledgment, I am permitted to reproduce here the illustrations made for that appendix, and to these I have added a large number of new ones. Necessarily also, some of the letterpress has been reprinted in the descriptions of a few of the chests in the following pages, with such modifications as I have found necessary.

In the early days of the Gothic Revival, the late Mr. John Henry Parker and other writers drew attention

¹ xx. 68.

to two or three of these early church chests and commented upon the similarity in design and construction observable in the Clypping and Stoke d'Abernon examples. The late Mr. William Twopenny, F.S.A., most painstaking and accurate of architectural draughtsmen, had drawn the former in 1833 for Mr. Henry Shaw's *Examples of Old Furniture*. The late William Burges in his *Architectural Drawings* had drawn attention to similar chests in Westminster Abbey and Salisbury Cathedral; Mr. J. Romilly Allen, in *Cutts' Dictionary of the Church of England*; Mr. B. J. Talbert in *Examples of Ancient and Modern Furniture*; the late M. H. Bloxam, in *Gothic Architecture*,¹ and Pugin, in his *Glossary*,² have all dealt generally with church chests, and incidentally with the earlier examples. An important paper on the subject was published by Colonel Hart in the Birmingham and Midland Institute's *Transactions*,³ from which I have ventured to borrow. Scattered notices of early chests occur in the publications of archaeological societies and other works, which I have endeavoured to trace and make use of in this paper.⁴

It need hardly be remarked that of all pieces of furniture the chest is undoubtedly the most ancient. Some sort of a box, if only an excavated tree trunk, would be evolved by the primitive savage for the safe keeping and transport of his few valuable possessions. Chests were in common use in Egypt, Greece and Rome; examples from the former, four thousand years old, made of sycamore, tamarisk or acacia wood, are preserved in the Louvre. In shape they are square or oblong, having flat, curved, or gable-shaped lids, painted on the surface, and are generally raised above the ground by short legs or prolongations of the rails forming the framework. These were, no doubt, used for the storage and safe

¹ ii, 157.

² 71.

³ xx, 60.

⁴ *Inter alia*, *The Spring Gardens Sketch Book*; Vols. iii and xxviii, of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*; the *Reports of the Associated Architectural Societies*; an article in Andrews' *Ecclesiastical Curiosities*; and the volumes of *The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist*.

For several of these references I am indebted to my friend Mr. Francis Bond, M.A., who is himself engaged upon a work embracing this subject. While this paper was in writing, Messrs. Methuen have issued their very interesting *English Church Furniture*, by Dr. Cox and Mr. Harvey, and from the section on Church Chests I have made one or two quotations.

custody of articles of clothing, jewels and other valuables: and from such a venerable ancestry, and to serve a like purpose, our mediaeval church chest came into being.

That the church chest was a recognised and usual feature in pre-Conquest times seems certain from its enumeration by archbishop Ælfric (995-1005) as among sacred things; and no doubt from the earliest period a strong box, variously termed a great ark, chest, coffer, hutch or locker, was commonly used for the deposit of the sacred vessels, jewels, money, books and vestments belonging to the church.

Perhaps the earliest form which this box would take would be that of a *monoaxylon*, a split tree trunk, excavated or hollowed out and bound round with numerous straps of iron; but equally it may be assumed that these "trunks," the very name of which has become synonymous with a receptacle for containing wearing apparel and personal possessions, would remain in use long after the framed and ironbound chests of a more scientific school of carpentry had been evolved. I do not propose in this paper to do more than enumerate such instances of these excavated trunks as are known to me, adding, in one or two cases, a few particulars.

A LIST OF EXCAVATED TRUNKS.

CHESHIRE. NETHER PEOVER.

An exceptionally high and deep example. Length about 6 feet, width 2 feet 3 inches, height 2 feet 3 inches, with a long cavity in the centre, having a coped lid. There are many iron straps, a ring handle and three locks. The date is probably not earlier than that of the very interesting timber church itself, namely, c. 1520.

DORSET. WIMBORNE MINSTER.

The trunk is 6 feet 6 inches long, but the hollowed out cavity is only 22 inches in length by 9 inches in width and 6 inches in depth. The lid, which is very massive and fairly sound, retains parts of six locks at one time in use. There is nothing in this rude chest.

to prevent our believing the popular tradition that it dates back to the time of St. Cuthberga's foundation of the original church *c.* A.D. 705, in which case the chest has been in use for over twelve centuries.

ESSEX. LANGHAM.

There is a solid trunk here, length 4 feet 8 inches, width 1 foot 6 inches and height 1 foot 6 inches, with an exceptionally small cavity, only 12 inches by 9 inches.

MOUNTNESSING.

HEREFORDSHIRE. MUNSLEY.

ORLETON.

Two large and massive hollowed trunks, perhaps of the thirteenth century.

HERTFORDSHIRE. HATFIELD.

Nail-studded and banded, with money slit, of early thirteenth century date.

KENT. HOO.

MINSTER IN THANET.

This curious example is probably of early twelfth century date. It is of elm, with a solid coved lid of oak, half a tree in effect.

LANCASHIRE. GRAPPENHALL.

This example, which measures 5 feet 8 inches long, is now in the Warrington museum.

LEICESTERSHIRE. BRADFORD ABBAS.

CHURCHILL.

ST. MARGARET'S, LEICESTER.

The chest in the latter church, hewn out of a solid log, has a lid covered with ironwork, in which are two apertures for the reception of money. This chest has three locks and hinges.

ST. MARTIN'S, LEICESTER.

Here is a large chest of the same type.

NORFOLK. HORNING.

The ironwork on this shows the date to be of the first half of the thirteenth century

NORTHANTS. CASTOR.

WEST HADDON.

8 feet long : now in Northampton museum.

MARSTON TRUSSELL.

A twelfth century example.

OXFORDSHIRE. BAMPTON.

There is a curious hollowed trunk in the vestry here.

EYNSHAM.

The chest here is an excavated tree trunk, with a lid 2 inches thick.

RUTLAND. WHITWELL.

A hollowed trunk strongly bound with iron.

SHROPSHIRE. HALESOWEN.

SOMERSETSHIRE. DUNSTER.

LONG SUTTON.

WELLS.

There is a large and rude ironbound excavated chest in the crypt of the cathedral chapter-house.

STAFFORDSHIRE. TATTENHALL.

SUFFOLK. LITTLE WALDINGFIELD.

SURREY. BETCHWORTH.

BURSTOW.

NEWDIGATE.

These churches have tree-trunk chests with some plain iron straps. The first is very early, while the others are perhaps co-eval with the wooden towers of late fifteenth or early sixteenth century date.

SUSSEX. WEST GRINSTEAD.

Pre-Conquest. (?) Hollowed in centre only, leaving a solid mass at either end.

WARWICKSHIRE. BICKENHILL.

A tree-trunk 8 feet long, banded with iron, amongst which are some crescent or C-shaped ornaments which suggest a twelfth century date from their similarity to those found on many Norman doors. The lid opens in two sections, each with three locks.

ASTON HALL.

Very rudely made and cross-banded with iron. The lid is slightly rounded and about 3 inches shorter than the body, and has a raised edge cut out of the solid which fits the interior of the chest. One wall of the chest is 7 inches thick. The locks are on the under side of the lid.

CURDWORTH.

Probably the largest dug-out chest known. It is 10 feet long, and has two compartments, each with a

lid, the one having staples for two padlocks and the other for three.

LAPWORTH.
MAXSTOKE.
OFFCHURCH.

WORCESTERSHIRE.¹ CHURCHILL.

A huge block of oak, hollowed, with a thick cover.

CLEEVE PRIOR.

An elm chest.

ECKINGTON.

Of elm, in bad condition ; said to be of thirteenth century date.

SPETCHLEY.

YORKSHIRE.

CRAYKE.

There are two dug-out chests in this church.

TICKHILL. (Plate I.)²

Here is a very curious dug-out chest, elaborately bound with iron. There are thirteen straps over the top, corresponding to eleven vertical ones on the front, carried underneath the solid baulk and up the back ; the ends are also clamped horizontally with straps, and in each end is a lifting ring, the only instance of such a feature in solid chests, so far as I am aware. There have been three ordinary locks in the front, the centre of which alone remains, and two padlocks which *may* be co-eval. The lid is hinged by means of knuckle-jointed straps, and the hasps of locks and padlocks are also attached by knuckle joints to the straps on the lid.

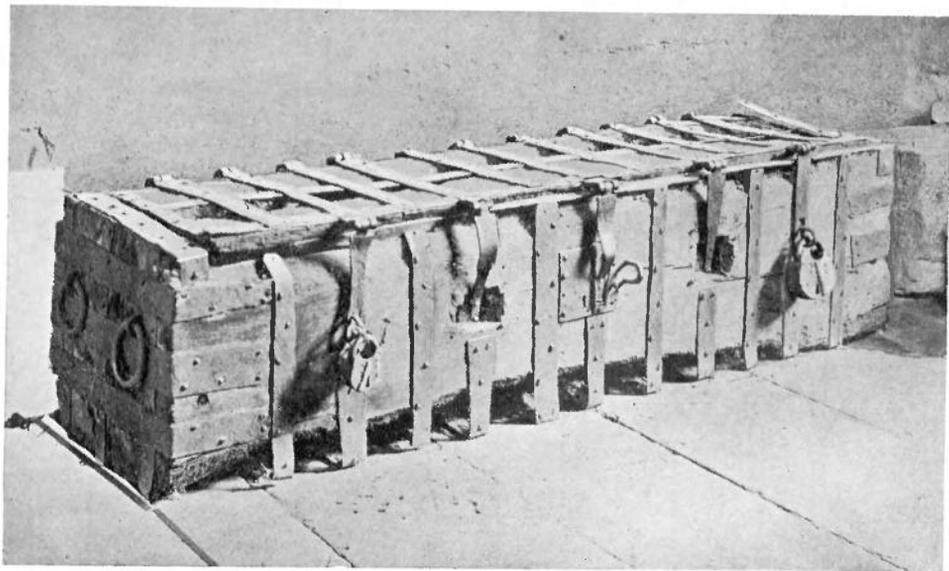
The other chests of early date may be classed as two groups : the "pin-hinge" and the "strap-hinge" types, both being framed together with planks, posts and rails, and presenting, in most cases, quite elaborate examples of mediaeval carpentry.³ For practical purposes these

¹ There are said to be many more dug-out chests in this county.

² For the photograph here reproduced, and for some of these particulars, I am indebted to my friend Mr. Henry Horn-castle.

³ Most of the pin-hinged chests have had, and still retain, strap-hinges as well

as the pin-hinge for additional security against the lid being prised off from the back. For the same reason, and to prevent their being bodily carried off, we find that in many cases they were attached by means of iron chains and staples to a wall, as at Westminster, Chichester and Clymping.



TICKHILL, YORKSHIRE.
Dug-out iron-bound chest, probably early thirteenth century.

two groups are best considered as one and taken alphabetically under counties; but in the following classification the chests which are constructed with the pin-hinge are distinguished by an asterisk.¹

The peculiar feature known as the pin-hinge demands particular notice. It is found, so far as I am aware, only in chests constructed between the end of the twelfth and the latter part of the thirteenth century. In no case has it been observed to occur in the typical tracery-fronted chests of the fourteenth century, nor in those of later date, but it is found in many fine chests in churches and museums on the Continent, as at Ypres, Belgium, ascribed to the thirteenth century.

The construction of the pin-hinge will be best understood by reference to some of the illustrations in the following pages,² but it may be explained here that the top horizontal rail at either end of the chest, which appears, when the lid is closed, to form part of the framework of the end, in reality is attached to the lid, so that when the lid is opened it lifts with it. This rail is secured by a stout oak pin, which passes through a tenon in its rear end, to a slot cut in the standard at the back of the chest, the top of which standard is rounded, so that the rail revolves over it; and the pin by which both are united and which forms the centre of revolution is protected from being drawn out by an iron plate or shield, nailed or strapped over the end of the standard. This shield, in some examples, takes a pear- or kite-shape, such as is found in actual shields of the twelfth century.

Another very remarkable feature, chiefly associated with the pin-hinge group of chests, is the small money-hutch or tray found within, sometimes at the right sometimes at the left hand end. Occasionally these hutches have a slit for money in the lid, corresponding to a similar slit in the outer lid. The small lid, like the

¹ I have not attempted to describe in this paper such developments of the ordinary church chest as the *Cope-chest* and the *Armoire*. There are examples of the former at Salisbury, Westminster and York, and of the latter, a cupboard for the safekeeping of church plate and

vestments, at Chester, Westminster, Ripon, etc., besides the well-known French *armoires*, at Bayeux and Noyon. These are nearly all of thirteenth-century date.

² Best shown in Figs. 11, 18 and 21.

larger one, works on pin-hinges. In several cases, as will be seen in the accompanying illustrations,¹ these money hutches have cleverly contrived false bottoms, which, when pulled out, disclose a secret well for the storage of church plate or other valuables.

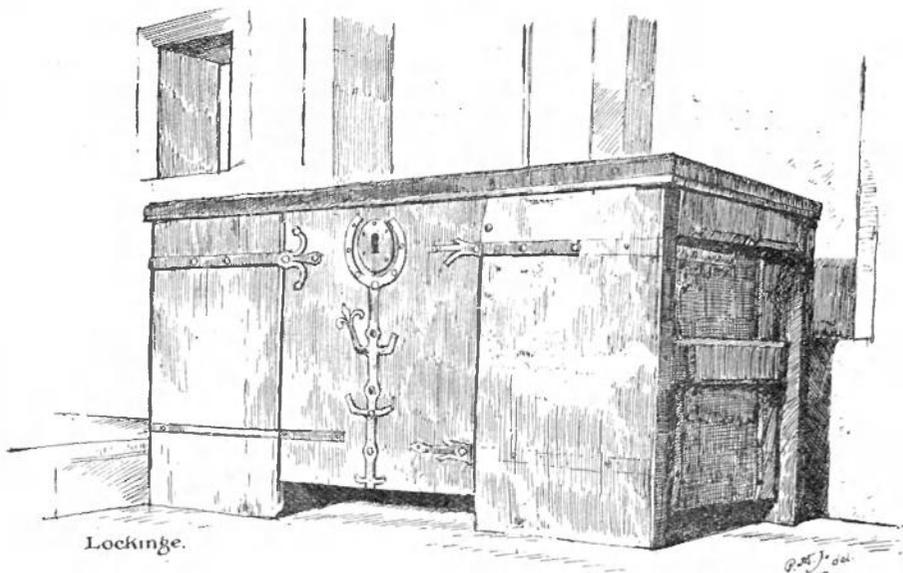


FIG. 1.

LIST OF TWELFTH- AND THIRTEENTH-CENTURY CHESTS
BELONGING EITHER TO THE "PIN-HINGE" OR TO
THE "STRAP-HINGE" GROUP.

N.B.—All those marked * in the following list have or had the pin-hinge, and in the character of their ornamentation have points in common with the Stoke d'Abernon chest. Those without an asterisk have or had strap-hinges.

BERKSHIRE. *LOCKINGE. (Fig. 1.)

Through the kindness of my friend Mr. G. C. Druce, I am enabled to illustrate a very interesting thirteenth-century chest here, belonging to the pin-hinge group.

¹ This peculiarity is well shown in the (Fig. 3), Stoke d'Abernon (Fig. 11),
illustrations of Long Stanton St. Michael Bosham (Fig. 14), and Rogate (Fig. 22).

It stands in a chapel of early thirteenth-century date, and is evidently co-eval. The front consists of the usual central body, framed into broad standards right and left, and braced with ornamental iron straps of the hinge type, having *fleur-de-llys* scrolled terminations resembling those at Rustington, Sussex (Fig. 23). There have originally been two of these on each standard, but only one of the four remains in a perfect state: of the rest there are fragments. A vertical strap also remains upon the central body, ornamented with two pairs of scrolled branches, and terminating in a

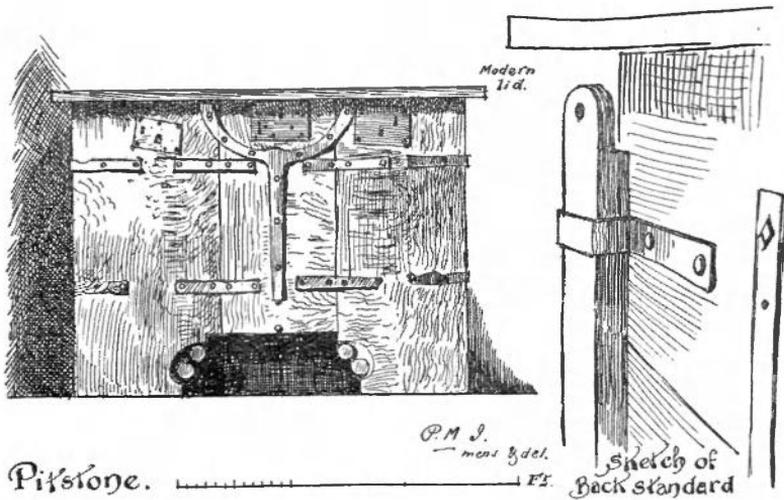


FIG. 2.

crescent, or horseshoe (compare Pitstone, Bucks, Fig. 2), within which is an original oval-shaped key-plate. Iron rivets with circular convex heads are used both in the framework and the iron straps. The ends are formed by recessed planks, grooved into the front and back standards and held in their place by a central cross rail, chamfered. The standards have square-ended feet which may originally have been longer, and perhaps ornamented, as in other examples.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. *PITSTONE. (Fig. 2.)

In the vestry of this church is a well-preserved early thirteenth-century chest of beautifully figured black

oak, strengthened with iron straps and having a curious Y-shaped strap in the centre.¹ The present lid is comparatively modern; the original one worked on a pin-hinge, as is evidenced by the back standards, which have rounded ends retaining the perforation for the pin. Without the lid the chest stands 2 feet 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches from the floor, and is 3 feet 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and 2 feet $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide. The broad standards of the front are actually wider than the central body (1 foot 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches as against 1 foot), and they terminate in a sort of scooped-out quadrant, in which are two flat discs, an ornament exactly repeated in one of the Westminster chests (Fig. 4). There are three locks, the side ones being original.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. *LONG STANTON ST. MICHAEL. (Fig. 3.)

The chest here dates from about 1200. Length, 6 feet 9 inches; width, 2 feet 1 inch; height, 2 feet 3 inches. It has a central body and a broad standard at either end. The ends have an applied framework, chamfered, as at Stoke d'Abernon (Fig. 11), and there are two large roundels on the central body of the front, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, having a geometrical design of seven stars within a zigzag border. Its lid originally worked with a pin-hinge, as does also the lid of the small hutch for money or valuables, on the left within the chest. This hutch has a false bottom, which, on the removal of a pin on the outside, tilts up, and by this ingenious contrivance (shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 3) the money in the hutch would be dropped into the secret well beneath. The same arrangement occurs in the

¹ I met with this hitherto unrecorded and very interesting example quite accidentally; probably there are many like it hidden away, their high antiquity and interest undreamed of by their custodians. It would be a worthy object for our County Archaeological Societies to compile dated lists of all the church chests within their boundaries. Within my knowledge several valuable early examples have quite lately escaped destruction by the narrowest chance, owing to the foolish ignorance of those who should be their jealous guardians. Others in time past have been barbarously

mutilated, broken up and burnt, or handed over to enterprising collectors, or as "old materials" to the builder carrying out a restoration. I need only mention as instances the lost "Flanders" chests of Guestling (figured in Parker's *Glossary*), a chest at Sidlesham, Sussex (Horsfield's *Hist. of Sussex*), and another at Wittersham, Kent; also the thirteenth-century chest, belonging to the pin-hinge group, which disappeared from Rustington, Sussex, in the 'fifties, and another of the same period which remained in Arundel church till some twenty years later.

Bosham, Stoke d'Abernon and other chests. The lid of this little hutch has a prettily scalloped edge, very similar to that of the hutch in the chests of this type in Chichester cathedral and Bosham. It is probable that the chest has been reduced in height some 6 inches by the feet of the end standards having been cut down. The present lid is comparatively modern, and is hinged in the ordinary fashion from the back. There are three locks, one of which is ancient and identical in design

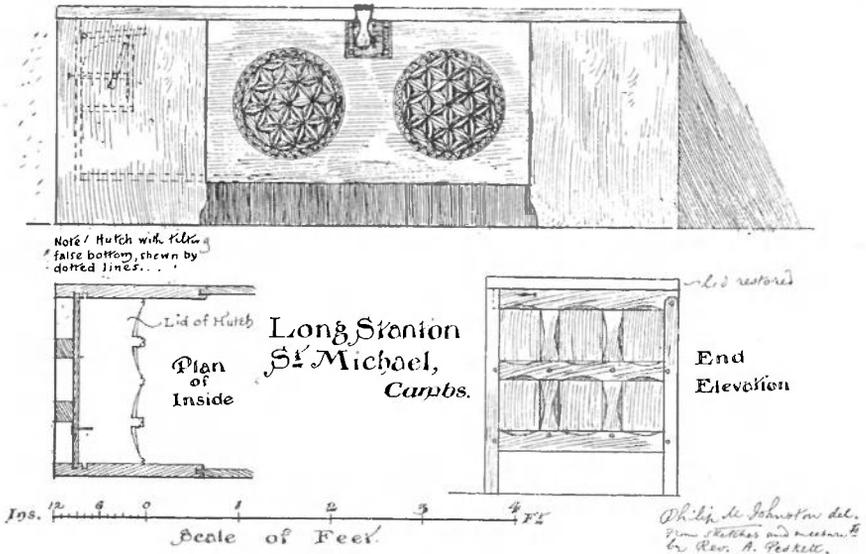


FIG. 3.

with the centre lock of the Stoke d'Abernon chest, having applied straps, an elegantly-shaped hasp and a keyhole cut to fit the wards of the key, as in the chests at Felpham, Westminster and others. I am informed by Mr. T. M. Grose-Lloyd that a chest closely resembling this, but without the roundels, exists at Anstey, Herts.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. *MILTON. See note, page 306.

DERBYSHIRE. WILNE.

This chest is illustrated in Roe's *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*. It dates from the latter part of the thirteenth century, but has evidently been altered and

almost re-made in the seventeenth century, with somewhat confusing results. Among the original features remaining is a border of six-pointed stars or flowers of the Clymping type, above a row of interlacing arches. There is a somewhat similar chest at South Acre, Norfolk,¹ but in this case some of the ornamentation has a later appearance.

ESSEX. NEWPORT.

This is one of the finest and most elaborately decorated ancient chests remaining in England, dating probably from the third quarter of the thirteenth century. Fortunately, it has been well described and illustrated. The chest is ironbound and extremely massive, about 4 feet 3 inches long by 2 feet wide and high. One original lock-plate remains in the centre of the front, with an ingenious device for masking the keyhole, and there would appear to have been four others, perhaps not co-eval. There are lifting handles on the front and sides, and the front is ornamented by a row of small shields, twelve in number, once, perhaps, heraldically painted, and twelve sunk circles, filled probably with a metal enrichment similar to the band of tracery lozenges that occupies the space in the middle between the other ornaments. These lozenges are formed in cast lead or pewter let into little compartments sunk to receive them.³ On the inside of the lid are five painted panels in the form of trefoiled arches, the Crucifixion, with SS. Mary, John, Peter and Paul occupying the space within. Red and green are the principal colours employed, and there is no doubt as to the painting being co-eval. What makes it more remarkable is that the medium employed is oil colour; perhaps this is the earliest example we can now point to of its use in decoration. The heads of the little figures are remarkably life-like.

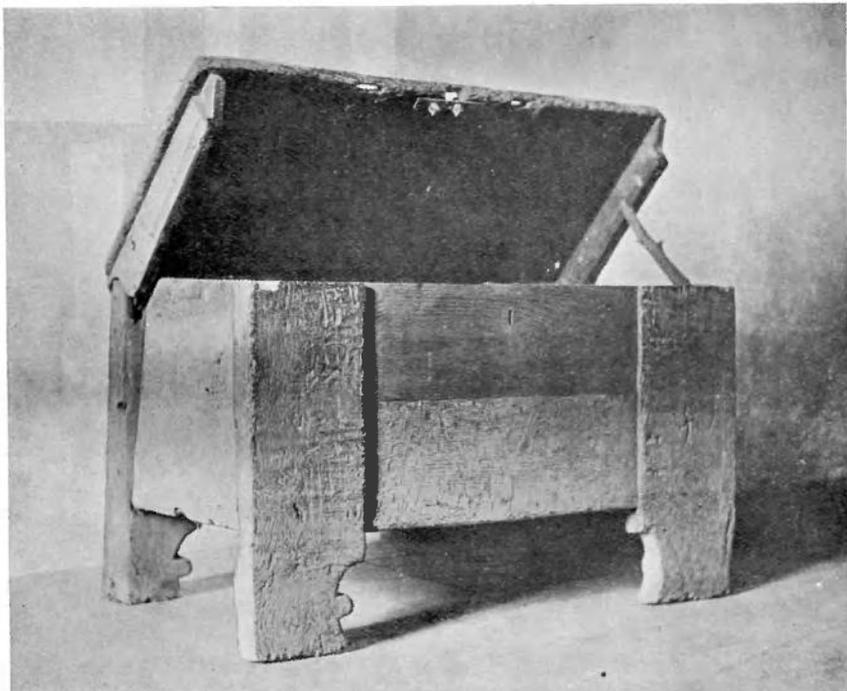
Another noteworthy feature of this chest is the

¹ See *Spring Gardens Sketch Book*, iii, 68.

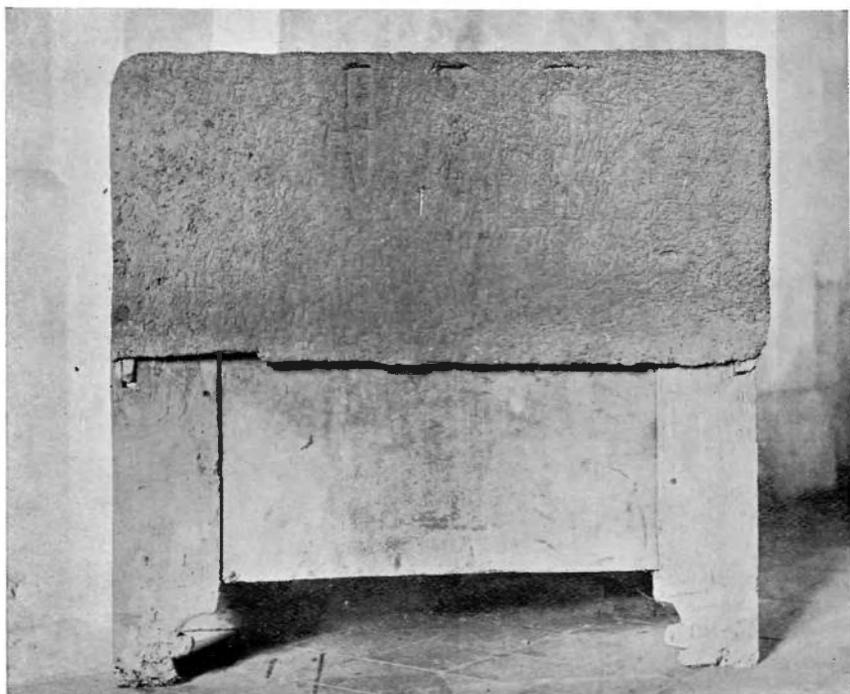
² (1) By Fairholt, *Journal of the Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, iii, 204-8, and (2) by Mr. Roe in his *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*, 26-9. The latter gives an excellent coloured plate, show-

ing the remarkable paintings upon the inside of the lid and other unusual details.

³ These were replaced by copies, cast from the originals, some years ago. The originals are in South Kensington Museum.



HECKFIELD, HANTS.
Early pin-hinged chest.



View showing back and money slit.

strong-box with which the interior is fitted, which possesses a secret sliding panel in its bottom, the existence of which is masked by two false bars in the framework. The same idea on a small scale is found in the secret well beneath the inner hutch in the Long Stanton, Stoke d'Abernon, Bosham and Rogate chests.

ESSEX. WEST BERGHOLT.

There is an early chest here having eight iron bands.

ESSEX. WEST HANNINGFIELD.

The chest here is covered with iron bands. Length, 8 feet 2 inches; width, 2 feet 2 inches; height, 1 foot 6 inches.

ESSEX. LAYER MARNEY.

This example has twenty iron bands. Length, 7 feet 3 inches; width, 2 feet 2 inches; height, 1 foot 11 inches.

ESSEX. RAMSDEN WELLHOUSE.

Another banded chest with twelve iron straps. Length, 7 feet 7 inches; width, 1 foot 7 inches; height, 2 feet 2 inches.

ESSEX. TILBURY-JUXTA-CLARE.

"A large iron-banded chest."¹

ESSEX. WENNINGTON. (Plate VI.)

Of the early thirteenth century, this is a small plain oak chest, somewhat like that at Heckfield. Length about 3 feet 2 inches; width, 2 feet 1 inch; height, 2 feet. The feet of the front standards are shaped somewhat in the manner of those at Heckfield and other examples. There is a co-eval large lock-plate in the centre, and on the standards staples connected with hasps on the lid for padlocks. These are possibly original also, as they resemble others of this date at Salisbury and elsewhere. The lid is original, working on pin-hinges, and it retains, in addition, two original iron strap-hinges, as in the case of Stoke d'Abernon and some of the Westminster group. These hinges are formed with knuckle-joints to serve as hasps for the padlocks and are carried

¹ I have thought it well to insert the foregoing five examples tentatively, on the authority of Mr. T. M. Grose-Lloyd,

but I cannot personally vouch for their dating within the period to which I have limited myself in this paper.

down the back of the chest for additional security, as in other examples. The top rail of the sides is pinned in the usual way to the lid, so as to lift with it, and its lower edge is prettily stop-chamfered, as in the Chichester, Westminster and Salisbury chests. Inside, on the left, is a very perfect little money-hutch, retaining its pin-hinged lid. The unusual size of the lock-plate, which is 7 inches wide by 8 inches deep, should be noted.¹

ESSEX. WHITTLESFORD.

Mr. Grose-Lloyd informs me that there is a chest of early character here. Length, 7 feet 9 inches; width, 2 feet 2 inches; height, 1 foot 10 inches, banded with iron straps closely interlaced, and having no less than fourteen hinges and five locks. It would appear to belong to the iron-banded group above described.

HAMPSHIRE. *HECKFIELD. (Plate II.)

This rudely fashioned chest has a very early appearance, and may ante-date the thirteenth century. It is of oak; length, 3 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width, 1 foot $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, 1 foot 9 inches, the well being 11 inches deep. There is a money-slit in the lid, which latter works on a pin-hinge and bears marks of hasp-straps with three cross-shaped ends. There were three locks to correspond. On the left, inside, is a small hutch or tray, with a pin-hinged lid, for the storage of plate or money, but the slit in the main lid does not communicate with this. The feet of both back and front standards are shaped on the inside edge, somewhat in the manner of the Stoke d'Abernon chest, but otherwise this example is perfectly plain; and it may well have been the work of a local carpenter, as it lacks the beauty and finish that characterise most of the chests of the pin-hinge group.²

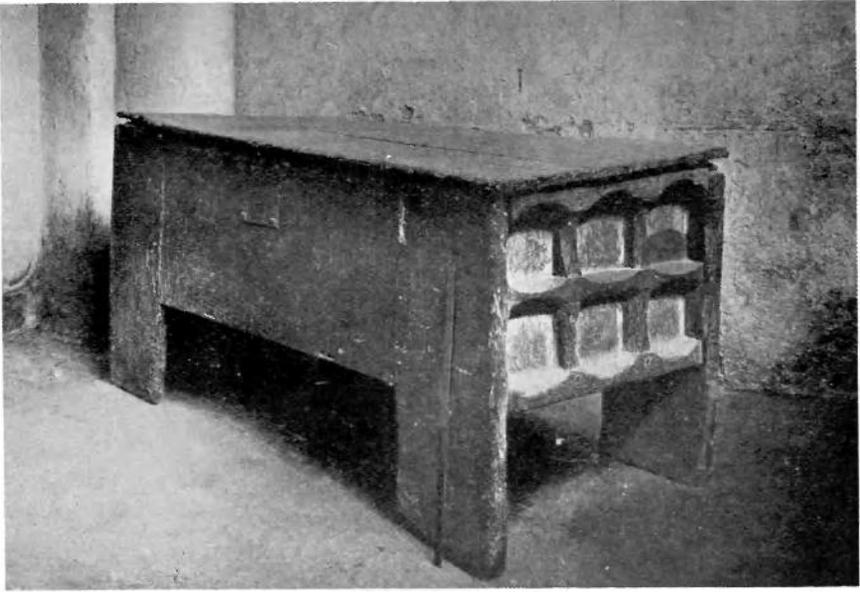
HAMPSHIRE. LONG SUTTON.

This is a large chest, 6 feet 5 inches, by 2 feet

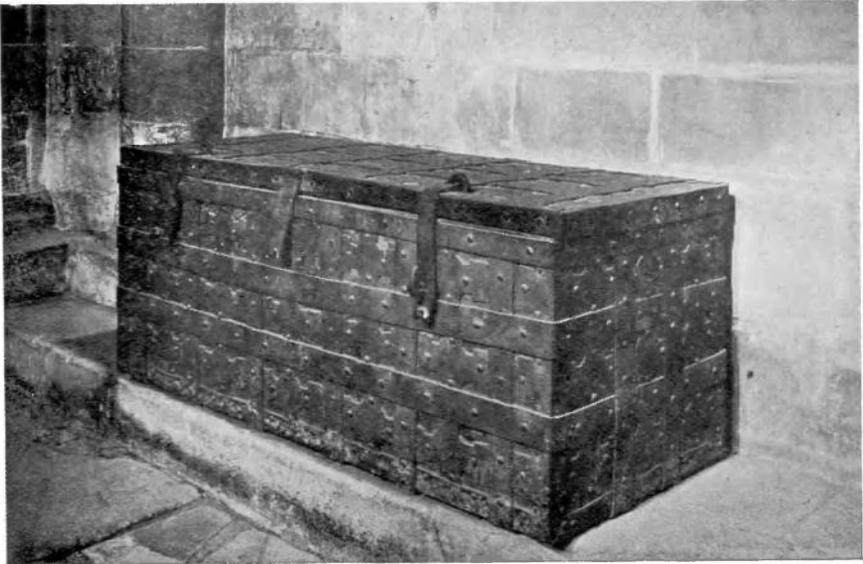
¹ For some of these particulars, my thanks are due to the vicar of Wennington, the Rev. Nicholas Brady, and to my friend Mr. R. Garraway Rice, F.S.A., who has supplied the excellent photograph of this chest. (Plate VI.)

² By the courtesy of the rector of

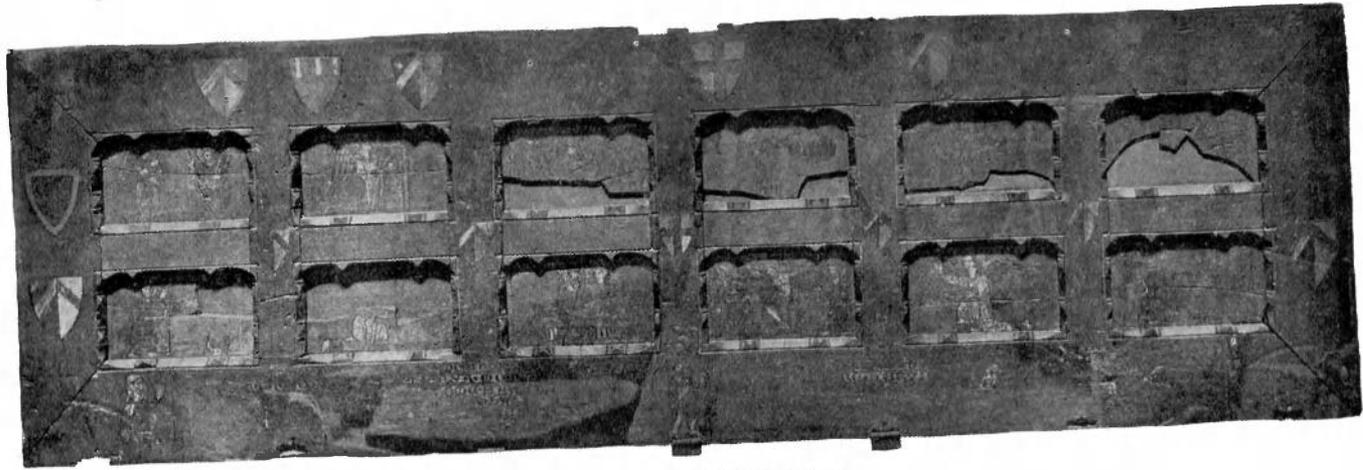
Heckfield, the Rev. G. P. Thomas, I am able to include two excellent photographic reproductions of this interesting chest, from the blocks in his possession. I owe my knowledge of this chest to the Rev. J. Charles Cox, LL.D., F.S.A.



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, HANTS.
No. 1.—Early thirteenth century pin-hinged chest.



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, HANTS.
No. 2.—Iron bound strap-hinged chest, probably thirteenth century.



WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, HANTS.
Painted lid of a relic chest, late thirteenth century.

6 inches, and no less than 2 feet 10 inches high. The lid and hinges are modern. It has moulded feet to the standards flanking the central panel. It was probably made c. 1250 to hold the vestments and books of the chantry chapel in which it stands.

HAMPSHIRE. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL. (Plates III and IV.)

There are two very perfect early chests here and the lid of a third, all of great interest.

The oldest* (Plate III, No. 1) is a plain pin-hinge chest, length 5 feet 5 inches; width, 2 feet 6 inches; height, 2 feet 6½ inches, including the lid. It has plain standards, 1 foot wide, chamfered rails to the ends, and one original lock-plate in the centre fixed with straps and bolts, and resembling that at Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey. Inside, at the left end, is a money box, but there is no slit in the lid. The date is probably early thirteenth century. The chamfering of the end rails should be compared with the similar work at South Bersted, Sussex, well shown in the illustrations on Plate VII.

The second ancient chest (Plate III, No. 2) is difficult to place as to date. It measures 4 feet 1 inch in breadth, 1 foot 8 inches in height, and is almost entirely covered with iron straps and plates in three layers, the lowest being cut into a rude pattern. There is a central lock with a design in diamond and cross lines upon its hasp, in the end of which is a conical stud; and right and left are two great hasps for padlocks, carried through a massive ring and over the lid to act as hinges. There is a general resemblance between this chest and that preserved in Salisbury cathedral (Plate X, No. 2), which I believe to be of thirteenth-century date. Being practically all of iron, the extraordinarily fresh look of both is hardly a matter for surprise.

Beside the above, there is the very beautiful and most interesting chest lid preserved in the Feretory (Plate IV). This measures 7 feet 9½ inches in length, by 2 feet 5½ inches in width, and the total thickness is about 3½ inches.¹ There is little doubt that this

The measurements of this and of the two foregoing examples were supplied to me by the kindness of Mr.

H. W. Salmon, photographer, of Winchester, who specially photographed all three at my request.

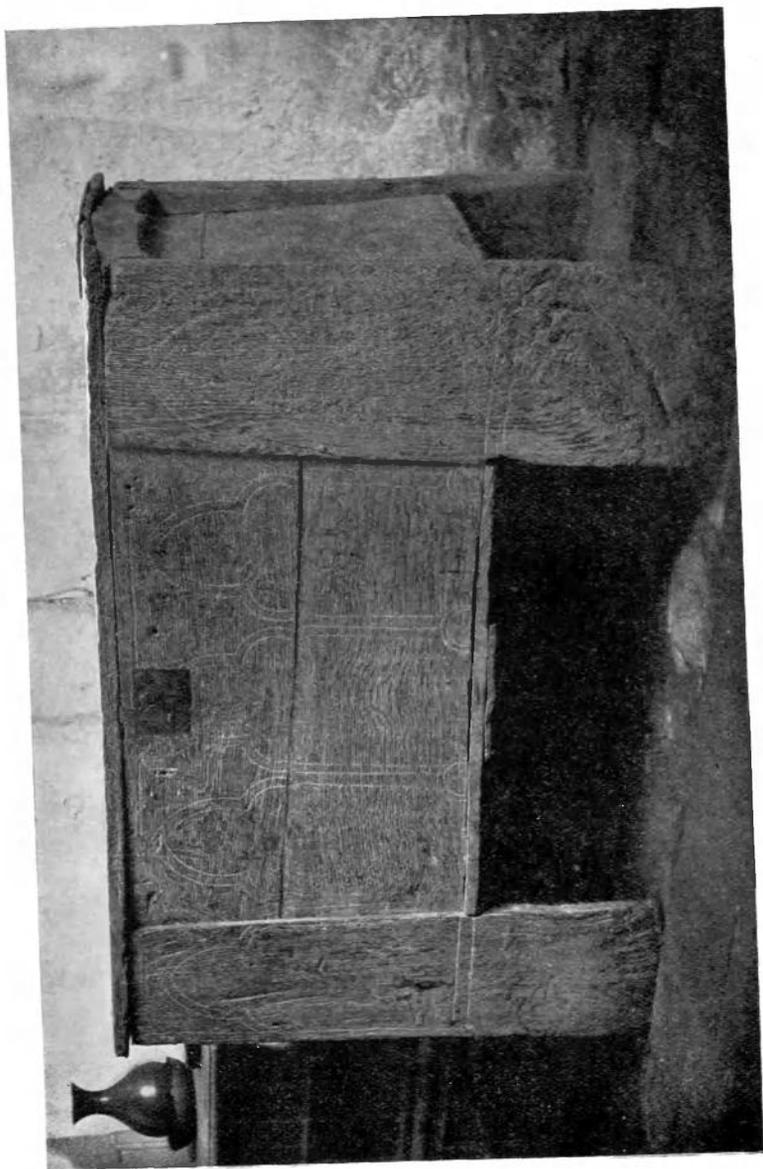
valuable fragment formed part of a relic chest, said to have been given by Sir William de Lillebourne and his wife to the cathedral in 1309. If this be the date of presentation, however, the actual date of the lid is almost certainly twenty years earlier, judging by the sort of nail-head ornament bordering the panels.

The peculiar interest of the lid lies in the paintings, still remaining, though faint and partially destroyed. On the bottom rail, at either end, are the little kneeling figures of the donor and his wife. He is represented in mail armour, his sword by his side, a shield with heraldic charge on his left shoulder and his hands joined as in prayer. The lady, also with joined hands, has a wimple head-dress, and a small shield bearing her coat of arms on her right shoulder.¹ Between them is a long inscription in Lombardic letters, only a few words of which are decipherable. In the centre is a figure of St. John the Baptist holding the image of the *Agnus Dei*. Round the end, middle and top rails are some seventeen heater-shaped shields bearing various heraldic charges, such as the red cross of St. George on a white ground and a chevron counter-charged red and white: another has a plain red ground with a white border. Among the subjects painted on the twelve panels,² going from left to right are, top row (1) St. George and St. Peter; (2) an angel holding the nails and reed; (3) a Majesty, with the evangelistic symbols, S. LVCAS and S. JOHANNES being inscribed on scrolls accompanying those at the top; the lower ones have been destroyed; (4) the Coronation of the Virgin; (5) an angel bearing the spear; (6) figures of two saints. Bottom row (7) figure of a pilgrim and another obliterated: it may represent the legend of St. Edward the Confessor; (8) part of a censuring angel, kneeling; (9) the Virgin and Child, enthroned; (10) the Crucifixion, with SS. Mary and

¹ Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, who drew my attention to this remarkable fragment, thinks that the lid was painted after Sir W. de Lillebourne's death in 1334, as he considers that the lady's head-dress indicates that she was

a widow. It appears to me, however, that there is nothing distinctive in the wimple that she is wearing, which was the normal head-dress of the period.

² The inside measurement of one of these panels is 10½ inches by 5½ inches.



GRAVEY, KENT.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200-1220.

John ; (11) a censuring angel, holding an incense boat in his left hand ; (12) two figures of saints almost obliterated.

The style of all these paintings, if not co-eval with the lid, can be only slightly later, and they constitute a rare and highly interesting example of the painted decoration which must originally have added to the beauty of many of our early chests. The special purpose for which the chest was dedicated gives to the paintings on the lid a peculiar value.

HERTS. ANSTEY.

Mr. Grose-Lloyd informs us that there is a pin-hinged chest here, resembling that at Long Stanton St. Michael (Fig. 3), saving that it has no carved roundels.

KENT. *GRAVENEY. (Plate V.)

This chest is of about the date 1200-20, and is figured in Parker's *Glossary of Architecture*. Length, 4 feet 5 inches ; width 2 feet $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches ; height, 2 feet $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The height is greater than in most kindred examples. There is no money-slit or internal hutch, and only one lock, co-eval with the chest. The lid is pin-hinged, and the planks in the ends are set sloping inwards, a peculiarity of construction shared with one of the Chichester chests (Fig. 15), and those at Godalming and Ditchling (Figs. 10 and 20). The chief point of interest is the incised ornamentation on the front in thin lines, which takes the form of five trefoil-headed arches, the "shafts" of which spring from three-quarter circles in lieu of bases, all very simple and quaint in character. Compare the similar incised ornamentation on one of the Chichester chests (Fig. 15), and the arcades at Clymping, Sussex (Fig. 17), and Wintringham, Norfolk (Fig. 5). The proportion of the trefoil heads in itself suggests an early date, the upper lobe being much larger than the lower ones, as in the earliest thirteenth-century work at Lincoln cathedral. It may be doubted whether the craftsman ever intended to cut these arches in relief, the simple incised work was probably meant for the finished ornamentation.

KENT. SALTWOOD.

This very fine long chest dates from the very end of the thirteenth century. Length, 7 feet 5 inches; width, 2 feet 6 inches; height, 1 foot 11 inches. There are no less than four locks, all apparently original, and the front is elaborately carved with tracery, wyverns, roses, foliage, etc.¹ The tracery on the front takes the form of five windows, each divided into four trefoiled lights with two six-leaved flowers above, and over all a six-foiled circle. The total effect is very rich.

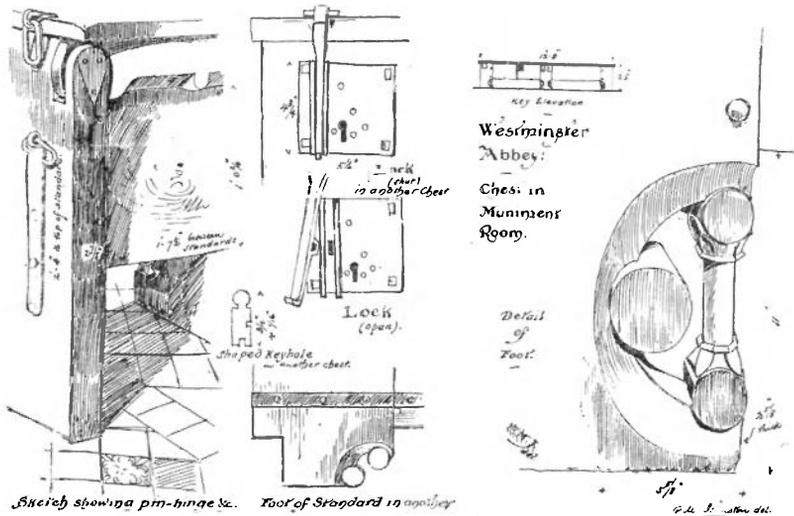


FIG. 4.

MIDDLESEX. *WESTMINSTER ABBEY. (Fig. 4.)

There are at least seven chests of this period preserved in the Triforium and Pyx Chapel, dating generally between c. 1220 and 1250. One in the former, which has beautiful scrolled hinges, may belong to the last years of the twelfth century, and another, in the latter, to the end of the thirteenth century. These alone have strap-hinges; the others are worked with the pin-hinge. In the locks, chamfering of framework, and ornamentation of the feet of the standards, they have points in common

¹ It has been illustrated, *inter alia*, in *boards*, 34, and in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, xviii, 421.

with the Surrey-Sussex group.¹ Some are of great length, being in effect double chests, with a middle as well as end standards. One such is 12 feet 8 inches long, 2 feet wide, and 2 feet 5 inches high. The late Mr. W. Burges noticed the resemblance in construction and ornamentation between this chest and one of ordinary size in Salisbury cathedral. The pin-hinges are protected by kite-shaped pieces of iron, as at Stoke d'Abernon. Round-headed iron rivets of large size and square-headed oak pins are used in the construction, both features found in the Surrey-Sussex group. Beyond the ornamented feet of the standards, which have a detached shaft with a peculiar cap and base, set within a half-moon-shaped opening;² there is practically no ornamentation, except in the ironwork. The locks are very elaborate and perfect. Some at least of these are treasure-chests, some for keeping tallies of the Exchequer, and probably others were used for the safe keeping of charters, books, plate, and vestments. Good woodcuts of three of these chests appear in Scott's *Gleanings from Westminster*. The large chest in the chapel of the Pyx has some fine wrought iron-work with stamped or moulded rosettes as terminations to the reeded straps, the work bearing some resemblance to the celebrated iron grille over Queen Eleanor's tomb in the abbey, the date of which is about 1290. Compare also for the ironwork the smaller chest at Chichester and that at West Horsley, Surrey, though both are probably earlier. The lid opens in two sections. Westminster Abbey is unique in possessing such a valuable group of early chests. They demand a fully illustrated account to themselves, and I cannot in the present paper attempt to do justice to their many points of interest.

MIDDLESEX. VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON.

There is a chest of English workmanship and

¹ One or two have chains hanging on their backs, by which they were originally attached to wooden posts or to a wall (*cf.* Clymping, Fig. 19). Similar protecting chains remain on the Shere chest.

² Similar in idea to the foot of the Chichester chest (Fig. 15), except that the space within the half-circle is pierced, instead of solid, as in the latter. The same *motif* is found in thirteenth-century choir stall-ends.

thirteenth-century date here, figured in Mr. Roe's book, the front and sides of which are covered with beautiful iron scrollwork, somewhat resembling that at Church Brampton, Northants. Its original home is unknown. This is quite one of the gems of mediaeval furniture.

NORFOLK. SOUTH ACRE.

This chest, illustrated in the *Spring Gardens Sketch Book*,¹ has many of the characteristics of the thirteenth century, especially in the roundels of star and prism pattern, spread over the front like a border, but the roses, an arcade of interlacing arches, a crowned \mathfrak{M} and other details, point rather to a later date. Length, 5 feet $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches; width, 1 foot $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, 2 feet 5 inches. These are narrow end standards, and under the central body is some curious cusping. The sides have plain cross framework.

NORFOLK. *WINTRINGHAM. (Fig. 5.)

The exceptionally interesting character of this chest is at once apparent on consulting the accompanying illustration.² It belongs to the pin-hinge group, but has this peculiarity, that while the body of the chest is obviously very early, probably not later than 1200, and possibly ten years or so earlier, yet the lid, with its raised wings or hinge-rails, closely resembles the later type found at Buxted (Plate VII) and Ditchling, Sussex (Fig. 20). This would suggest the probability that both types of pin-hinged lid were in use from an early date, but that the simpler form prevailed more generally, because of its simplicity.

The chest consists of a central body and end standards. There is practically no ironwork about it, excepting one large central lock-plate and hasp, which appear to be original, some small square-headed nails and straps. The lid rises *en dos d'âne*, and the planking of the ends tumbles inwards, as in other examples.

¹ iii, 68.

² My attention was drawn to this chest by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, and

I have made the accompanying drawing from a photograph kindly given me by his son.

The most remarkable feature is the shallow arcading, in little more than incised lines, carried across the front, which, with its interlaced circular arches and square capitals has quite a Transitional Norman character. It at once recalls the somewhat earlier open balustrade or arcade in woodwork, well-known to antiquaries, at Compton church, Surrey. At the same time, the incised lines remind one of the arcade on the Graveney chest. In both cases the arches on the standards right and left of the

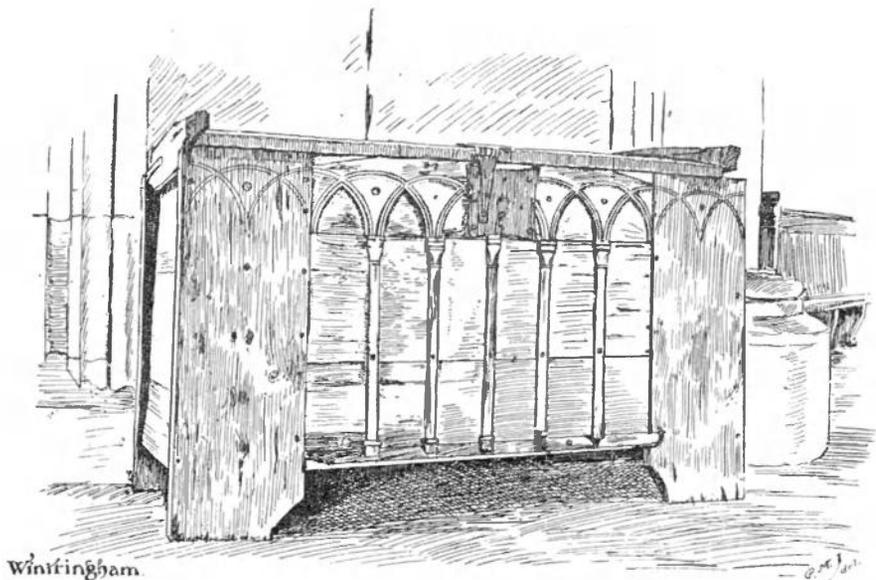


FIG. 5.

centre are much more lightly traced upon the wood than those on the body of the chest.

NORTHAMPTON. CHURCH BRAMPTON.

A chest totally unlike the wooden pin-hinge group. It is possibly as old as the last decade of the twelfth century, and is simply a long box, unornamented, save for some incised lines or beading along the top edge, but it is covered with the most beautiful iron scroll-work, extremely graceful in design and delicate in execution. It retains its original key-plate hasps and

staples for two padlocks, also probably co-eval, and the carrying handles at the ends.¹

NORTHAMPTON. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL.

The form and ornamentation of this beautiful example proclaim its late thirteenth-century date. The central part bears an intricate design of interlacing tracery of a simple geometrical type, in which the prominent features are trefoil arches, quatrefoils, and little five-petalled roses, with which the interstices are incrustated. The standards have each three roundels of the whorl, or spiral pattern. The ends are protected by an applied framework. There is one original lock. It is only right to say that Mr. Roe² casts doubt upon the genuineness of the carving on this chest.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. UPTON.

There is a large iron-bound chest, of early thirteenth-century date, in this church.³ Length, 6 feet 3 inches; width, 2 feet; height, 2 feet 5½ inches. There have been three locks; and front, sides and top, are bound across with iron straps, some with roses and trefoils at the ends, some worked into cross-shaped devices, with X-like pieces radiating from the centre of the cross. There are lifting-rings at the ends. Both in construction and details this chest resembles that at West Horsley, Surrey. (Plate VI.)

OXFORDSHIRE. *BLOXHAM.

There is an interesting early thirteenth century-chest here, the end standards of which have feet terminating in a pierced quadrant and little column as at Chichester and Westminster. The quadrant is enriched with a nail-head border (as at Chichester), and on the inside edge with a square-cut foliation, also somewhat like that at Chichester, but quite plain. I have not seen this example, and local enquiries failed to elicit any further information.

¹ Mr. Roe in his *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*, illustrates it with an excellent photograph, a much better rendering than the engraving in Parker's *Glossary* or Viollet le-Duc's *Dictionnaire du Mobilier Français*.

² *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*.

³ Illustrated in *The Spring Gardens Sketch Book*, iv, Plate ix; and in Andrews's *Ecclesiastical Curiosities* 167.

OXFORDSHIRE. ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S, OXFORD.

This very beautiful chest, illustrated in Mr. Roe's *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*, so strikingly resembles that at Saltwood, Kent, that there can be little doubt that both are productions of the same hand or at least of the same group of craftsmen. As at Saltwood, so here, there are wyverns, Geometrical window tracery roses, and a peculiar notched pyramidal ornamentation on the front standards. Beneath these on the feet of the standards is a single row of three stars or dog's teeth, recalling the honeycombed feet at Clymping. (Fig. 17.) As in some of the earlier examples, the ends are constructed with a framework of crossed bars or rails backed by a plain panel of boarding.

Mr. Roe supposes this chest to date from the middle of the fourteenth century, but its likeness to the Saltwood chest, which he himself places at "about 1300," appears to me to warrant its inclusion within the thirteenth-century period. Indeed, of the two chests this one seems to be the earlier if anything, judging by the character of the tracery, and other details.¹

SHROPSHIRE. COUND.²

Probably late twelfth century. Length, 6 feet 3 inches; breadth, 1 foot 5 inches; height, 1 foot 10 inches. It is of oak, clamped with scrolled hinges and straps, and thickly studded with round-headed nails, the body and standards being very ingeniously dovetailed together. The latter have shaped feet, like those in the Heckfield example (Plate II). The lid is slightly coped. There is an inner money-box, and at the ends are links and a ring for carrying.

SHROPSHIRE. MEOLE BRACE.

There is a fine chest here, having centre body and

¹ With them should be compared the very beautiful chest now in the Cluny museum, illustrated in Mr. Roe's *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*, 29. This has that eminently thirteenth-century peculiarity, the pin-hinge, and, like the others, has a front of Geometrical window tracery, wyverns, dragons and roses. The twelve knights on the front bearing shields with various heraldic charges, and the "army" carved on the side panel, together with other carvings

on the lid, render this chest, as Viollet-le-Duc observes, the most beautiful that remains to us of this century. It should be mentioned here that the pin-hinge is found in other Continental examples of thirteenth-century chest, as in that in the museum at Ypres, Belgium, illustrated by Mr. Roe on page 125 of his work.

² Very fully illustrated in an article in *The Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist*, ix.

flanking standards, and braced with iron scrolled bends.¹ It retains a lock and a padlock and the scrolled ends of the hinges resemble those in the lost chest of Rustington. The lid takes a peculiar ridged form sometimes found in these early examples.

SOMERSET. ST. JOHN'S, GLASTONBURY.

Of the middle or latter part of the thirteenth century. The central body has six tracery panels of *vesica* shape quatrefoiled, and divided by a horizontal bar; and five painted shields with heraldic charges. The standards have each a row of five incised geometrical patterns, chiefly stars and whorls or spirals. Length 6 feet 2 inches, width 2 feet 4 inches, height without lid 2 feet 7 inches. The ends are in one piece, with two horizontal stop-chamfered rails. There is no lid now. The front is studded with large iron rivets and retains its two iron lock-plates, cut like shields.²

STAFFORDSHIRE. *ST. CHAD'S, STAFFORD.

Colonel Hart describes this chest as of the thirteenth century and as having no ironwork: "The front and one end are ornamented with trefoil-headed panels; the other end has one panel only, and this is diapered with incised lines."³ The flanking stands of the front have quadrant pieces cut out of the foot, with a little column having a capital and base, forming as it were the string of the bow. This last detail corresponds with the Chichester, Westminster, Bloxham and other chests.

SUFFOLK. ICKLINGWORTH.

This is well illustrated by a photographic plate in Cox's *English Church Furniture*.⁴ It is 5 feet 9 inches long, 1 foot 9 inches wide and 1 foot 6 inches high, and is an oblong box, the whole of which is practically covered with very handsome iron scrollwork. It is of early thirteenth-century date and much resembles that at Church Brampton, particularly in the character of the ironwork, which is practically identical in design and

¹ An excellent illustration of this chest appears in Mr. T. D. Atkinson's *Glossary of Terms used in English Architecture*.

² Good measured drawings of this beautiful chest, by the late Mr. J. T.

Micklethwaite, F.S.A., are to be found in *The Spring Gardens Sketch Book*, iv, plate ix.

³ *Transactions of the Birmingham and Midland Institute*, xx, 74.

⁴ 292.

must have been forged by the same smith. It has one original lock and two padlock hasps strapped over the ends. The original handles for lifting also remain.

SUFFOLK. *EARL STONHAM. (Fig. 6 and Plate XI.)

This has every feature of the Surrey-Sussex group, including carved geometrical roundels. The feet of the standards, which originally raised the body of the chest above the floor, have been cut off. Length 5 feet 8 inches, width 1 foot 10½ inches, height 1 foot 10½ inches; there are panelled ends, and a central iron lock (original). Along the front are four large roundels, similar to those at Stoke d'Abernon, but one foot in diameter. The patterns are practically identical and are: (1) the spiral; (2) seven interlaced stars or flowers;

Earl Stonham.

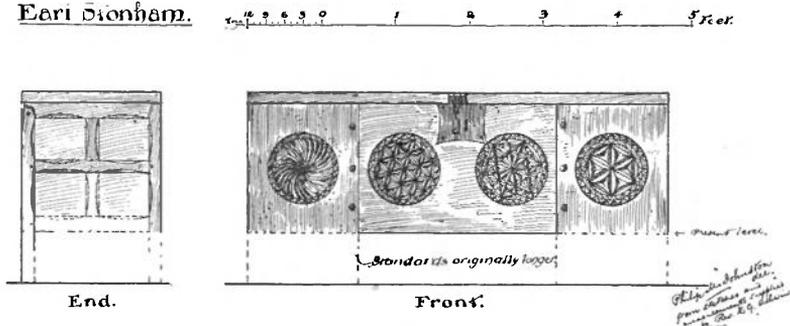


FIG. 6.

(3) interlaced triangles, divided up into stars or prisms; (4) a single star, set within a double zigzag border. The others have a single border of zigzags. There can be no doubt that the same workman or guild, using the same patterns, made the Stoke d'Abernon, this, and other chests. The three pieces of which the front is composed, are riveted together with bolts, having large round convex heads, such as are found in some of the Westminster and Surrey-Sussex groups. The "panelled" framework at the ends is similar to that at South Bersted (Plate VII and fig. 13).

SUFFOLK. *POSILINGFORD.

There is a chest here with zigzag carving of the same character as that at Earl Stonham. It has a centre body and end standards.

SURREY. CHARLWOOD. (Fig. 8.)¹

The chest in this out-of-the-way church is of the same type as that at Worth, just over the Sussex border, and, like it, differs in construction from the other chests of this early Surrey-Sussex group.

Details of Chests.

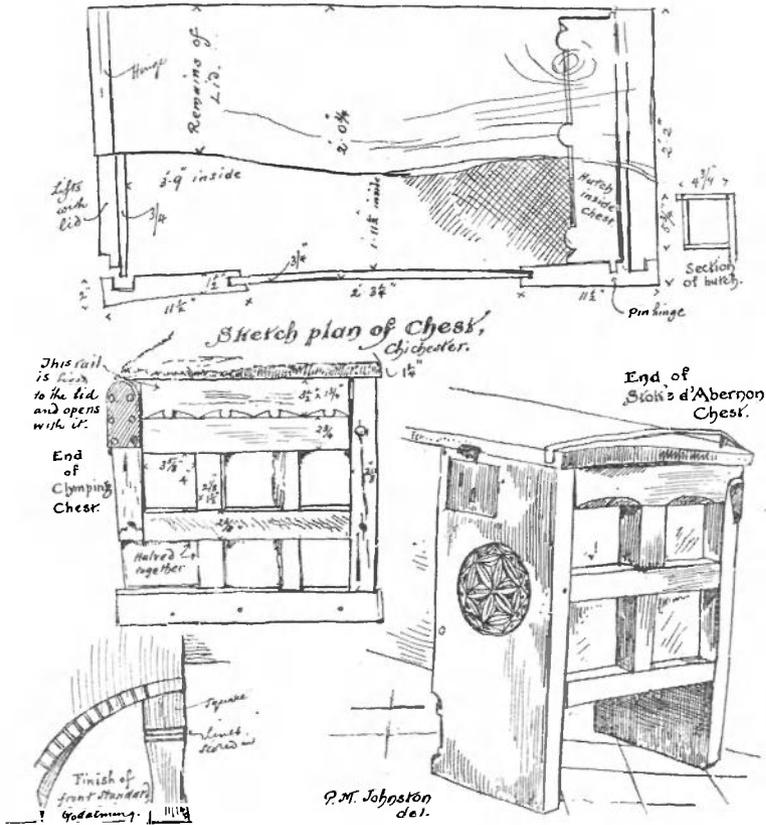


FIG. 7.—DETAILS AT GODALMING, STOKE D'ABERNON, CHICHESTER AND CLYMPING.

Instead of the flat lid it has a three-sided coped top, as at Worth. It stands upon two detached blocks of wood to keep it off the floor, and as from the nature of its construction it is evident that there were never any upright standards, this may be an original arrange-

¹ The illustration is from a photograph by my friend Mr. G. C. Druce.

ment. The bottom, front, back and ends are each in a single plank or piece, and the / α \ -shaped top is also in three planks, the ends (at *a*) being filled in with a solid piece, the whole secured by nails and bound together with plain iron straps, vertical over the main body and horizontal across the angles. Three of those which pass over the lid terminate in hasps having a knuckle joint, and these hasps correspond to three oblong lock-plates (that on the left is now missing), which have key-holes shaped to the outline of the

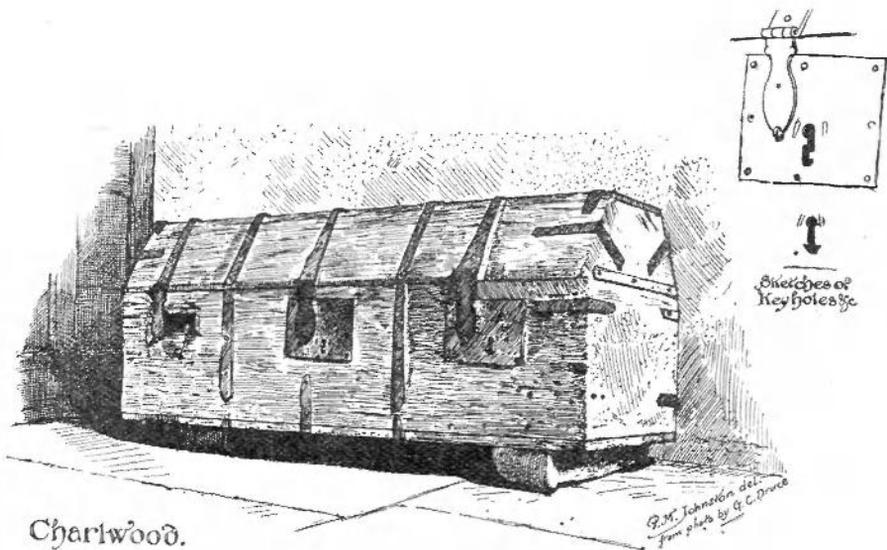


FIG. 8.

wards of the key, a detail found in the chests at Westminster, Stoke d'Abernon, Felpham and elsewhere (Figs. 4, 12 and 14), and which I venture to claim as a special thirteenth century characteristic. As the south aisle of this interesting church belongs to the latter half of that century it is possible that the chest was connected with some guild or chantry, for which the aisle or chapel was built.

SURREY. *CHOBHAM. (Fig. 9.)¹

This chest has the central body and end standards

¹ I owe to the kindness of Miss Mitchell, of Chobham vicarage, an excellent photograph of this chest, from

which my drawing is reproduced. There is also a good drawing of it in Mr. Roe's *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards*.

(their feet shaped on the inner edge, as at Stoke d'Abernon), the three oblong lock-plates, the convex-headed rivets, the inward sloping panel at the ends, and the pin-hinge, as in the other examples. Its lid has unfortunately been renewed quite recently, and the original hasps of the locks removed, though the iron straps have been replaced on the new lid. In addition to these, it has two very elegant fleur-de-lys-headed straps fastened on the front of the body, with round-headed nails, a row of which remain also in the centre. The date is about 1250.

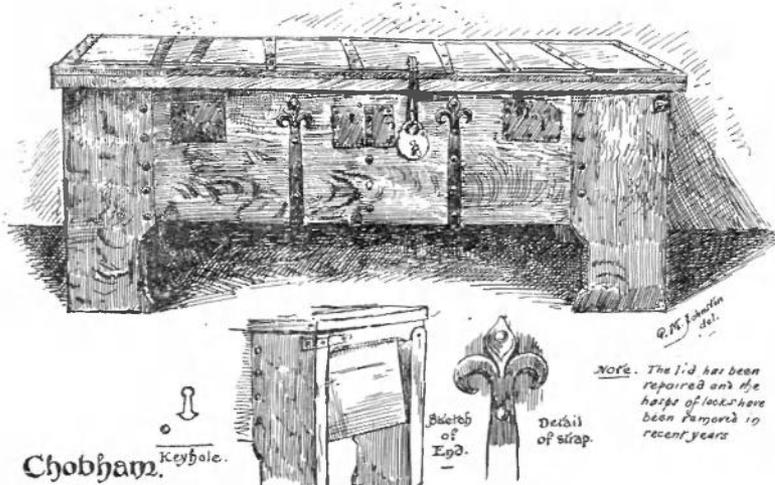


FIG. 9.

SURREY. *GODALMING. (Figs. 7 and 10.)

The chest here is a good example of the plainer type of the Surrey-Sussex group. Length, 5 feet $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, 1 foot $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height, 2 feet 4 inches. The massive lid, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick, the pin-hinge, framed ends, three original locks, and circular-headed iron rivets, are all in perfect preservation. Probably there is a money-tray or hutch inside, but the chest being locked it was impossible to see. There is no external slit. The styles and rails of the ends and the backs of the standards are very prettily stop-chamfered, and the stops, which are of a peculiar

pattern in the latter case, are identical with those on the standards of the large plain chest at Bosham (Fig. 14), which the Godalming chest closely resembles. One detail, namely, the finish of the feet of the standards, is very curious. It is a quadrant instead of a semi-circle, with a little square angle post taking the place of the miniature column described in one of the Westminster chests. The quadrant is finished with a border of a sort of ribbed pattern. This same detail is repeated identically in the Rogate chest (Fig. 22). The sides of this chest slope inwards in an upward

Godalming.

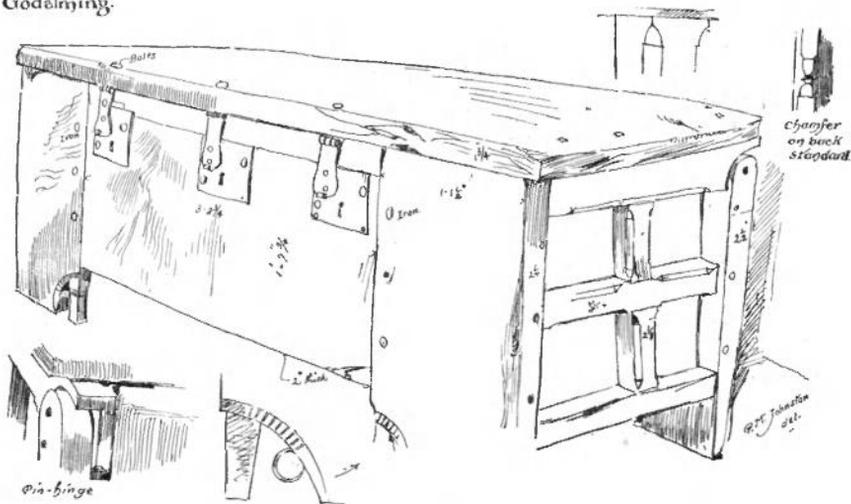


FIG. 10.

direction, and the face framing follows the same angle, as at Felpham (Fig. 14). The date is about 1200-1220.

SURREY. WEST HORSLEY. (Plate VI.)

The chest here is simply a long box, bound both vertically and horizontally with iron straps. Length, 5 feet 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width, 1 foot 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches; height, 1 foot 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Some of the straps are wrought to a reeded section, and have splayed-out heads of a rosette pattern, similar to the grille on Queen Eleanor's tomb at Westminster, and the other iron-work known to have been executed by John de

Leighton, about 1250. I should be inclined, however, to put the date of this chest somewhat earlier than the grille, namely, at about 1220. As in the case of the smaller coffer at Chichester, and of one at Westminster, for the purpose of raising the chest above the floor, some of these vertical straps have little feet. The smaller of the two thirteenth-century coffers at Chichester has very similar straps: so also has the Upton chest, above-mentioned.¹ It has an enormous hasp in the centre of the front, with a knuckle joint to a strap on the lid, and there are two oblong lock-plates right and left, the hasps of which are missing. The iron straps have large round-headed rivets, and at the ends are the remains of handles for lifting.

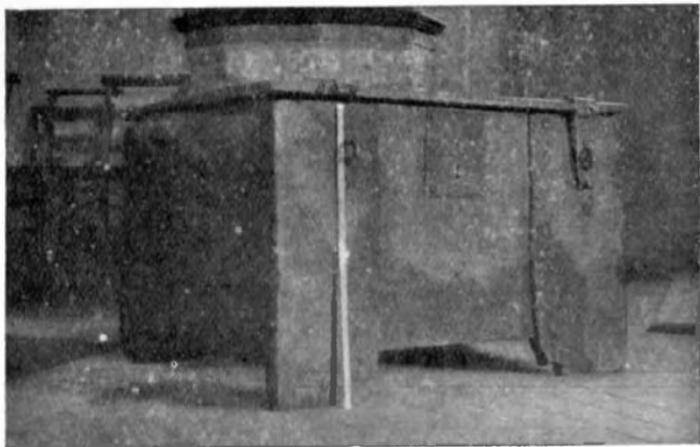
SURREY. *SHERE. (Plate VI.)

This long and massive chest, rescued by the rector from a stable-loft, and now standing on the floor of the south porch,² is a plain specimen of the Surrey-Sussex group. It bears a general resemblance to the Godalming chest, especially in the stop-chamfered framework of the ends. Length, 7 feet 3 inches; width, 1 foot 9 inches; height, now about 2 feet, but the standards have obviously been shortened some 4 inches or more, and the ornamental terminations, if any, destroyed. The standards and lid are about 2 inches thick. The latter works on pin-hinges, and it and the central body are protected by iron straps studded with round-headed nails. There are three iron lock-plates with their hasps, all in very perfect condition, and on the back the remains of the massive chains by which the chest was originally fastened to a wall. A quirked and beaded moulding runs along the lower edge of the central body. The rector, the Rev. F. C. Hill, informs me that there are remains of two hutches³ inside at either end. A curious circular iron washer, with a rivet through it, remains on the front, similar to others I have noted on the South Bersted, Salisbury, and Westminster chests, forming

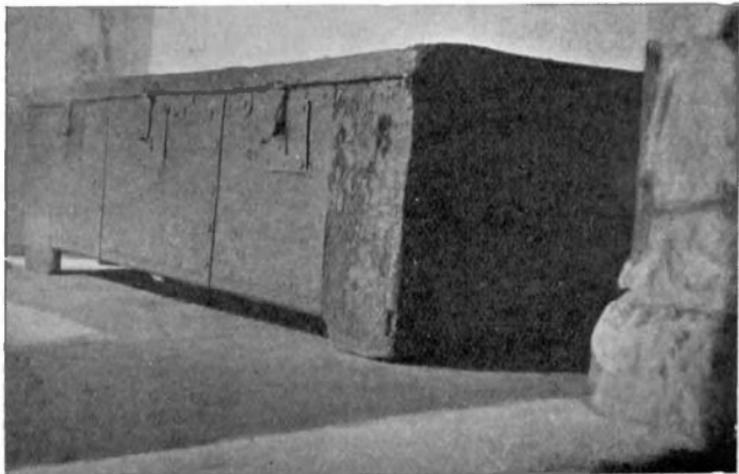
¹ This chest is illustrated by the late Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, in *The Spring Gardens Sketch Book*, iv, Plate ix.

² It would be drier inside the church.

³ Beneath one of these hutches is a secret well.

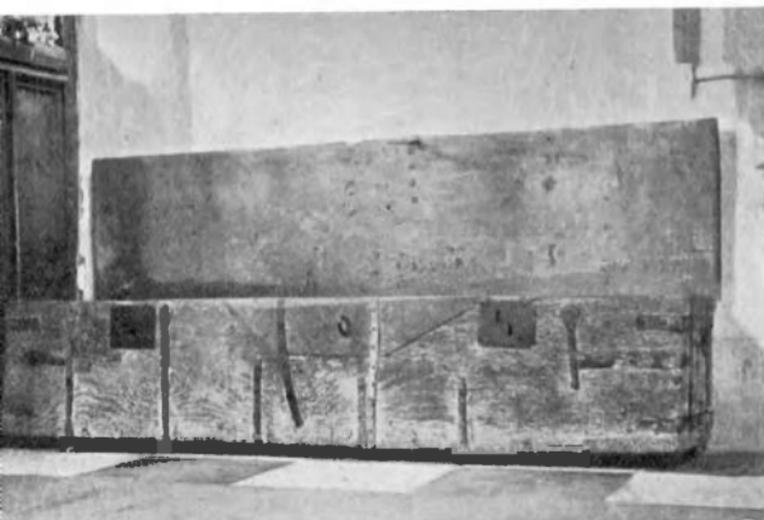


WENNINGTON, ESSEX.
Early thirteenth-century pin-hinged chest.

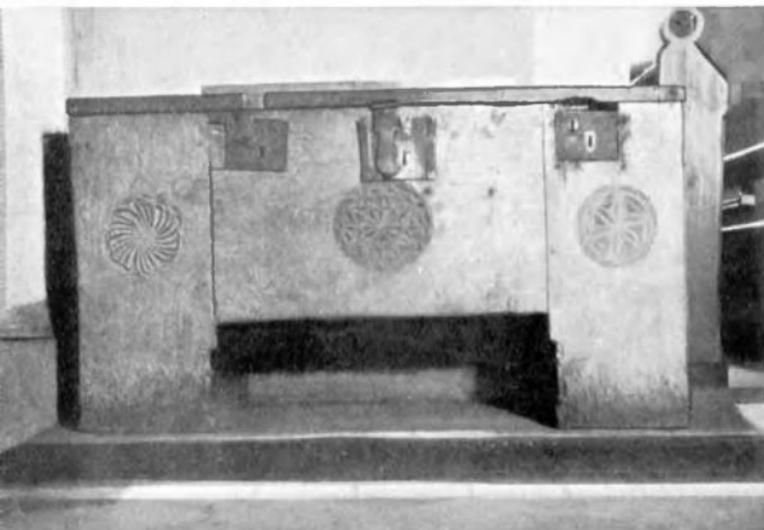


SIERE, SURREY.

1900-1920



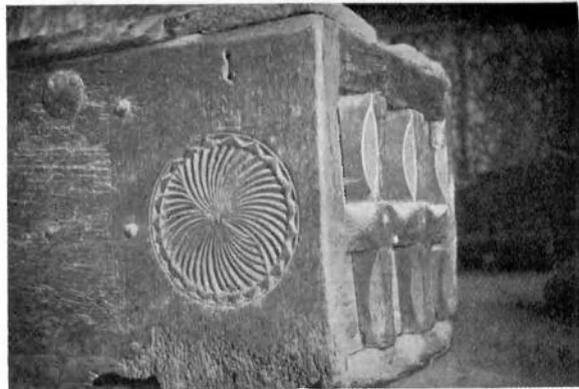
WEST HORSLEY, SURREY.
Strap-hinged chest, date *circa* 1220.



STOKE D'ABERNON, SURREY.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200-1220.

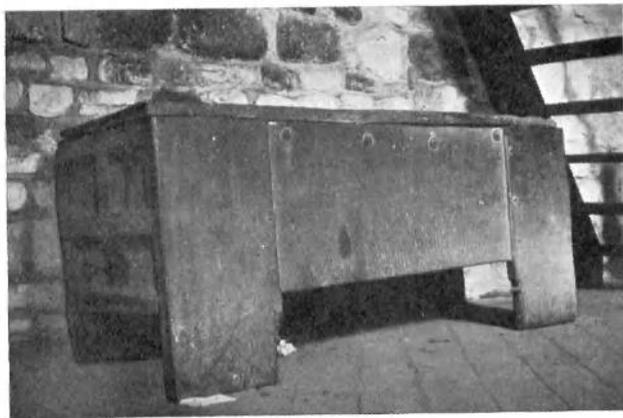


Left side.

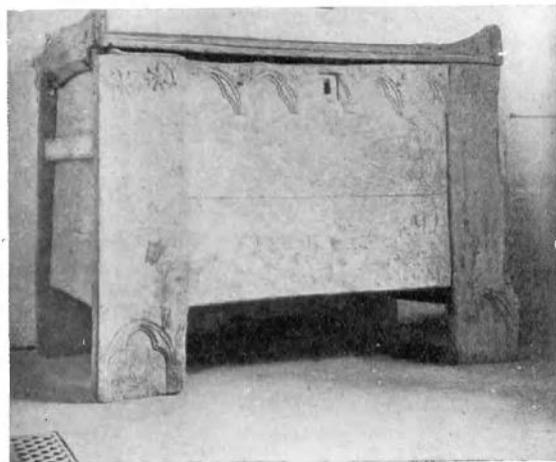


Right side and end.

SOUTH BERSTED, SUSSEX.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200.



BOSHAM, SUSSEX.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200-1220.



BUXTED, SUSSEX.
Pin-hinged chest with coped lid, late thirteenth century.

the original locking arrangement. The date is about 1200--1220.

SURREY. *STOKE D'ABERNON. (Plates VI and XII, and Figs. 7, 11 and 12.)

This is one of the best preserved and most thoroughly typical, as it is also perhaps the best known, of the pin-hinge group of chests. There is a good illustration of it in Parker's *Glossary of Architecture*. The date may be taken to be about 1200--1220. The chest is of oak, polished with long use and hard as iron, and like others of its class, it would seem to have been originally partially coloured. Traces of red appear in the curved roundels. Length, 3 feet $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width, 1 foot $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; total height, 2 feet 2 inches. The lid being in one slab from 1 inch to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in thickness, and, like the other planks of which the chest is constructed, this appears to have been cleft and adzed, not sawn. The front and back are each formed with two end standards $10\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide, by from $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in thickness, and into these the centre plank is tenoned. The back standards, having more work to do, are the thicker. The ends of the chest present a panelled effect, through the plain slab with which they are closed being faced with a construction of posts and rails, halved together and tenoned into the standards. The top rail, as in the other pin-hinge chests, opens with the lid. A reference to the illustration (Fig. 11) will make this clear. The body of the chest is 1 foot $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and it is raised by the prolongation of the standards about $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches above the floor. The inner edges of the front standards are worked into the semblance of a semi-octagonal pilaster, a feature that recurs many times over, with variations, in this Southern Counties group of chests. Upon the upper part of these standards and in the centre of the front are roundels incised with geometrical patterns, the side ones $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and the central $7\frac{5}{8}$ inches. These are given in the folding Plate XII, from rubbings reduced to exactly half the real size, to compare with others taken from similar chests. The designs of these roundels (repeated almost identically

in six chests of this group) are of the greatest interest, and it will be noticed how well suited to the material

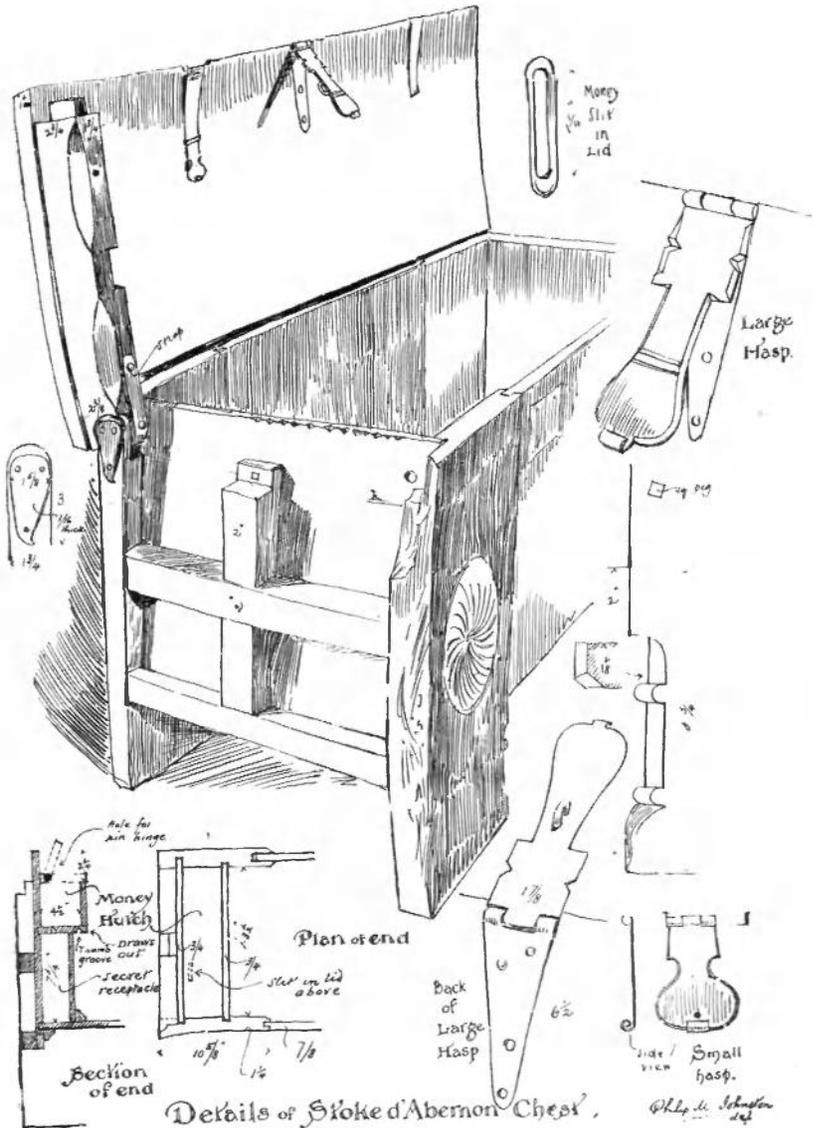


FIG. 11.

is the shallow chip-carving of the patterns. The identity in the case of the example at Stoke d'Abernon,

Felpham (Plate XII), and Midhurst (Plate XV), extends to the actual sizes of the roundels and to the number of zigzags and spirals composing one of the designs. At Stoke d'Abernon No. 1 in Plate XII is a whorl pattern, with spirals radiating from the centre, within a zigzag border : No. 2 is a prism design, based upon two interlacing triangles : while No. 3 has a six-petalled flower or star set in the same border, perhaps founded on the ancient method of representing the sun. The patterns are cut in to a depth of about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch.

Three oblong iron lock-plates, of the same date as the chest, are fixed at irregular intervals upon the

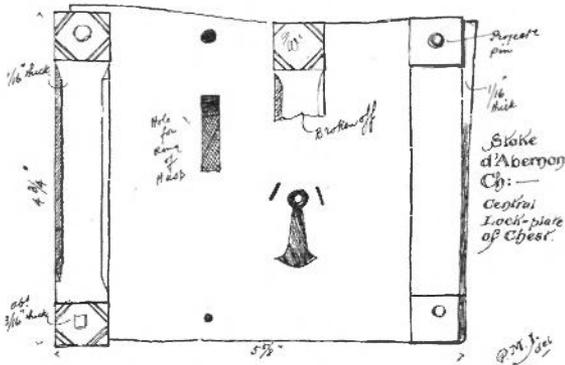


FIG. 12.

front, the original hasps, gracefully shaped and chiselled, remaining in two cases. The centre lock-plate is bolted on for additional security with chiselled strips at each side, as at Long Stanton St. Michael, Cambs. and elsewhere. The keyholes are gracefully shaped and take the exact outline of the key (Fig. 12), a characteristic peculiarity in the thirteenth century : in the Long Stanton, Charlwood, Chobham, Felpham and Westminster chests, for example, the keyholes of the similar lock-plates are cut to the irregular profile of the wards of the key. The back standards, which are stouter, are quite plain, and in connection with them is found the most characteristic feature of this type of chest, namely, the pin-hinge, a feature peculiar, so far as

extant examples go, to the thirteenth century and an infallible test of date. The Stoke d'Abernon chest is a very complete example of this pin-hinge type, the peculiarity of which is full set out above at p. 249, and is well seen in many of the illustrations accompanying this paper. To the lid at each side is affixed a rail which forms part of the design of the panelled end, and the rear end of this rail is shaped so as to run over the rounded top of the standard, a pin being passed through a hole in both to act as a pivot. The outer face of the end of the standard is securely shod with iron which, in some cases, is carried round the sides, as well as on the face, to protect the end of the pivot-pin and prevent its being withdrawn or working out. The form which this iron plate takes in the Stoke d'Abernon and some other examples (*e.g.* Chichester and Westminster) is that of a kite-shaped shield, an interesting "note" in itself, as suggesting a twelfth-century pedigree for this small detail of constructional ornament. Hinged in this manner, the chest would be extremely difficult to force open when locked, whereas iron strap-hinges might be prized off with comparative ease.

There is another noteworthy feature about this chest, shared by most of the others in this early group, namely, the little tray or hutch within, intended for the reception of money. Other chests in this list will be found to share the same peculiarity, but not all have the corresponding slit in the outer lid, answering to one in the lid of the little tray, as is the case at Long Stanton, Bosham, Chichester, Clymping, (Fig. 18), Midhurst, and others. In this chest the hutch has lost its lid, but evidence of its former existence is to be seen in the two round holes in the front and back standards, in which the lid pivoted. This hutch, though to all appearance only a shallow box, framed into the solid walls of the chest, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by about the same depth, has below it a false panel, recessed so as to appear to be the end wall of the chest. In reality it marks a cavity about 7 inches deep, by 3 inches wide, of the same length as the hutch above. It is covered at the top by the bottom of the hutch,

which slides in and out, being moved by means of a groove on the under edge, into which the finger-tips can be inserted. By this ingenious contrivance (which is found also at Long Stanton, Fig. 3, Bosham, Fig. 14, and Rogate, Fig. 22) the money collected in the hutch itself could be easily made to fall into the well or cavity below and thus be securely concealed, either when the hutch was full, or as an additional security against thieves.

This chest was put together with square-headed oak pins, as at Godalming, Clymping, Westminster and others, and the lid was further guarded against being prized off by iron strap-hinges, which passed over the lid and down the back. One of these, after lying loose for many years, has disappeared.¹

SUSSEX. *ARUNDEL.

There is an illustration in *Examples of Ancient and Modern Furniture*, by B. J. Talbert, of an early thirteenth-century chest, said to be in this church, which bears a considerable resemblance to that at Stoke d'Abernon in design and construction. It is stated to be 4 feet 10 inches long, 1 foot 10 inches wide, and 2 feet 11 inches high. The front standards are shaped at the feet like those at Stoke d'Abernon, with the addition of an incised roundel (zigzags and stars) on each foot, not a full circle, but a three-quarter one, like the similar ornament in the Chichester chest. This chest had iron straps and one original lock. There were iron rivets and oak pins used in the construction, and the ends were divided into two panels by a central horizontal rail. I cannot learn what has become of this chest. It has not been heard of by the present vicar, the Rev. E. S. Saleebey, who has most obligingly made enquiries. There is a small iron-bound chest there, but it is probably not older than the sixteenth century.

SUSSEX. *SOUTH BERSTED. (Plate VII² and Fig. 13.)

This, although it has lost the feet of the standards,

¹ The writer has lately had a hinge repaired, and other trifling matters seen to at the request of the vicar and churchwardens.

² I am indebted to Mr. Druce for the photographs from which this plate has been prepared.

is one of the most interesting and best preserved of the Surrey-Sussex group. It is no less than 6 feet long, the width is 2 feet, and the body, including the lid, which is 2 inches thick, stands at present 1 foot 8½ inches high from the floor.¹ It possesses all the salient characteristics of the group, namely, pin-hinge, "panelled" ends, lock plates, and rivets with circular convex heads, but no internal hutch with lid, for money offerings, although there must have been one originally. The curious, rather than beautiful, designs of the roundels, which are 9 inches in diameter, are well shown in Plate VII. That on the left standard has a zigzag border, somewhat differently treated from those at Earl Stonham, Felpham, Stoke d'Abernon and Midhurst

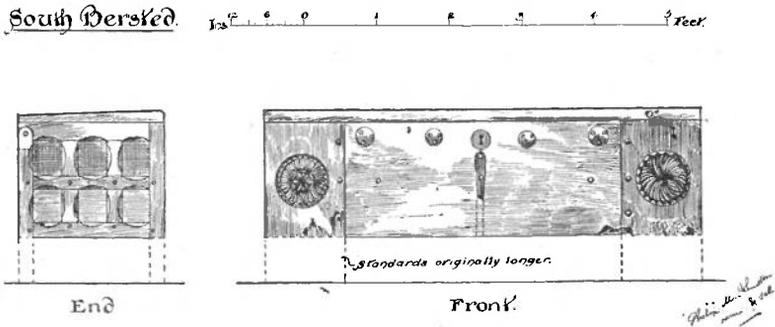


FIG. 13.

(Plates XII to XV), and Long Stanton. In the centre is a six-petalled flower or star, the centre of which is marked by a large round-headed nail. Between this and the border is a freak pattern of spirals, going in contrary directions, as though the craftsman had done a piece and then reversed the design five times. The right-hand roundel has one large spiral pattern, half of the spirals going one way and half the other, giving the impression of a man's head under the machine-brush at a hair-dresser's! The styles and rails of the ends, shown in the illustration, have curved

¹ But it has lost its feet, which, if added on the analogy of other examples, would make the total height about 2 feet 4 inches. It is gratifying to

record that, as the result of advice tendered by the writer, the chest is to be raised on baulks to keep it above the floor and so protect it from damp.

chamfers, which also occur at Long Stanton, Earl Stonham, Felpham, and in the top rail at Stoke d'Abernon and Bosham. Originally the lock was a long bolt controlled by one key. The iron bosses on the front, shown in the illustration, have to do with this, as at Westminster, Shere, Bosham and Salisbury. The date cannot be much after 1200.

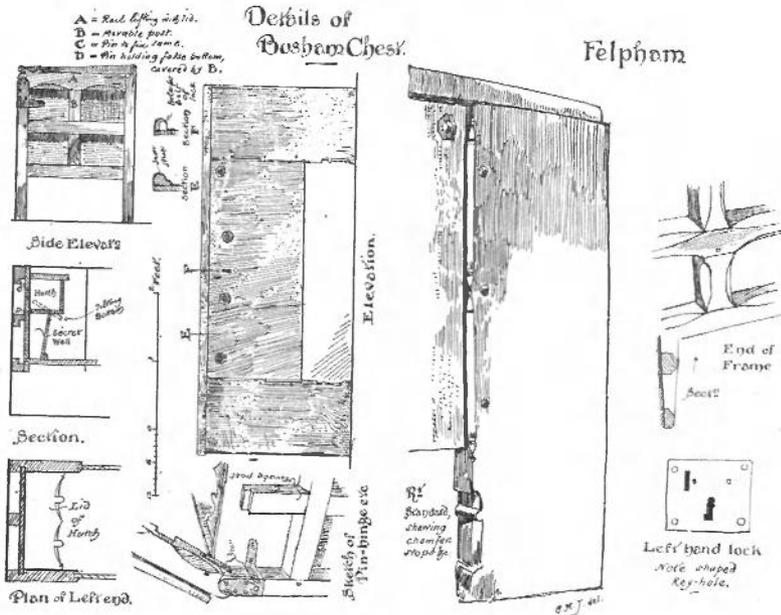


FIG. 14.

SUSSEX. BOSHAM. (Plate VII and Fig. 14.)

This chest, as has been before remarked, closely resembles that at Godalming, Surrey,¹ so closely, indeed, as to compel the conclusion that both are by the same hand. The dimensions are: length 5 feet 6 inches, width 1 foot 9½ inches, height 2 feet 2½ inches. It has no roundels, and is a very plain, solid and well-preserved example, dating from about 1200-1220. The most noteworthy features are the pin hinges, in perfect working order, the "panelled" ends, the "pilaster" terminations to the standards (exactly like

¹ A peculiar "stop" to the narrow chamfer on the standards is found in both chests.

those at Stoke d'Abernon, Midhurst, etc.), the curious lock controlled by one key, yet locking by means of a long bolt, four hasps that fall *inside* the chest,¹ and above all, the little internal hutch or "till" for money offerings, with its quaintly scalloped lid,² and the remarkable secret well beneath. All these points are shown on the accompanying illustration, which I have made from my own photograph, supplemented by measurements, sketches and notes supplied by my assistant Mr. C. G. MacDowell, and the respected vicar of Bosham, the Rev. K. H. MacDermott.

To the antiquarian zeal of the latter gentleman we owe an important and highly interesting discovery, which at least proves that the chest is of thirteenth-century date. I give the record of this in his own words:³

"We have quite recently made a most interesting find in the old parish chest in the church. According to Mr. Philip Johnston . . . the chest is of about the date 1210, thus being 700 years old, and in giving a description of it to Mr. Johnston we, at his suggestion, searched for and discovered a secret well or chamber under the box or 'hutch' inside the chest. The hutch has a false bottom to it, which forms the lid of the well. This discovery filled us with intense excitement and tantalised us beyond measure, for at first it seemed impossible to open it. . . . We eagerly proceeded to fathom the secret, and at length, after many vain efforts, succeeded in opening the mysterious chamber, when behold! dust and cobwebs . . . alone met our gaze. But these might hide something yet, and our further search was rewarded by the discovery of a tiny little coin, which dropped from the false bottom of the hutch into the chest itself. This has turned out to be an extremely interesting find, for the coin is a silver Anglo-Irish halfpenny of the date of Edward I. (1272-1307), and in all probability it has lain hidden in the chest, unknown and unseen by the thousands of persons who have sat within a yard or two of it for over five hundred years! The coin, which is now in the glass case in the church is inscribed as follows:

Obverse : EDW. R. ANGL. DNS. HYB. (*Edwardus Rex Angliæ Dominus Hybernice* : Edward King of England and Lord of Ireland), with the King's full-faced bust in a triangle.

Reverse : A long cross, with three pellets in each angle, and the words CIVITAS VATERFOR.

This latter inscription indicates the place where the coin was minted

¹ Chests at South Bersted, Shere, Salisbury, Westminster, and (probably originally) Godalming, were made with this peculiar method of locking, the outward tokens of which are the iron

bolts and washers in a line just beneath the lid, *vide* illustrations.

² *Cf.* that at Long Stanton St. Michael, Cambs.

³ *Bosham Parish Mag.*, Dec., 1907.

viz., Waterford, in Ireland.' The title, 'Lord of Ireland,' was first held by King John, and Anglo-Irish money was coined by him and his successors at the mints at Dublin, Cork and Waterford."

This interesting discovery sets one wondering whether like finds may not await the curious investigator in the case of others of our ancient chests, especially those that have secret wells. It is a remarkable fact that the "secret" of the secret well, on the evidence of this coin concealed in the crack between the false bottom and the front wall of the hutch, must have been lost since the end of the thirteenth century; or, in other words, the well had not been opened and emptied of its contents since that remote date! The ingenious method by which its secret is guarded is worth notice, and can best be understood by reference to the accompanying drawing. By way of comparison, it may be noted that the false bottom of the hutch at Long Stanton St. Michael, Cambs., tilts in much the same way, and is also secured by a concealed pin at the back. That at Stoke d'Abernon draws out with a finger-groove. See also the description of the chest at Newport, Essex, *supra*.

SUSSEX. *BUXTED. (Plate VII.)

This chest and that at Ditchling in the same county (Fig. 20) resemble the remarkable early chest at Wintringham, Norfolk (Fig. 5), in one respect, namely, that the end rails which lift with the lid, instead of being affixed to the underside, as in the other pin-hinge examples, form a sort of shaped cresting, rising above the lid and having the lid, which itself is of a ridged or curved section, *en dos d'âne*, framed into them. The effect is singular and picturesque. The date may be placed at about 1260,² judging by the character of the ornamentation, which, besides a number of irregularly carved rosettes or roundels of the star or flower pattern (octofoiled,

¹ The connection of Bosham with the port of Waterford in Ireland is not so remote as might seem at first sight. Both are Danish settlements. Canute's daughter is buried in Bosham church, where her coffin was discovered in 1861, and it is quite likely that the bold fisher-

men and traders of Bosham had kept up through two or three centuries commerce and intercourse with their Irish cousins.

² To which date the handsome nave arcades and other features belong.

instead of sexfoiled, as in the earlier chests),¹ has a row of pointed arches, trefoiled in the central body beneath the lid, and hanging in the air, so to speak, that is to say, with no shafts under them. Similar, but larger, trefoiled arches are carved on the feet of the standards. The coped lid is heavily constructed, with a moulded edge, and the ridge in the centre is formed into a sort of shaft, or triple roll moulding, with capital and base, lying on its back, parallel to the front of the chest. The plain panels of the ends are made to slope inwards, as in the Godalming and some other examples, being held in position by a cross rail. There is a sinking for one lock only, in the centre of the chest, cut through the middle of the five arches in a very clumsy fashion. This chest is large and bulky, much taller than those of the earlier pin-hinge group.

SUSSEX. *CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL (Plate VIII and Figs. 7 and 15, 16.)

There are several most interesting chests here. One, which is well known, is the long narrow chest standing on trestles on the floor of the north-west tower, possibly not older than the fourteenth century, and intended perhaps as the receptacle for the bishop's pastoral staff.² Another is the very handsome early sixteenth-century chest in the chapter room, which my friends, Dr. Codrington and Prebendary Bennett, identify with the chest specially made by bishop Sherburne, a man of precise and methodical ways, for the reception, unfolded, of the parchments dealing with the possessions of the see.³ We are not, how-

¹ Some are concave and some convex, and one on the right is only a half circle.

² Length 8 feet 7 inches, height 15 inches, width 15½ inches; illustrated in the *Architectural Association Sketch Book*, ii.

³ As a matter of general archaeological interest I append the quotation, as kindly supplied by Prebendary F. G. Bennett, from Bishop Sherburne's *Statutes* :—

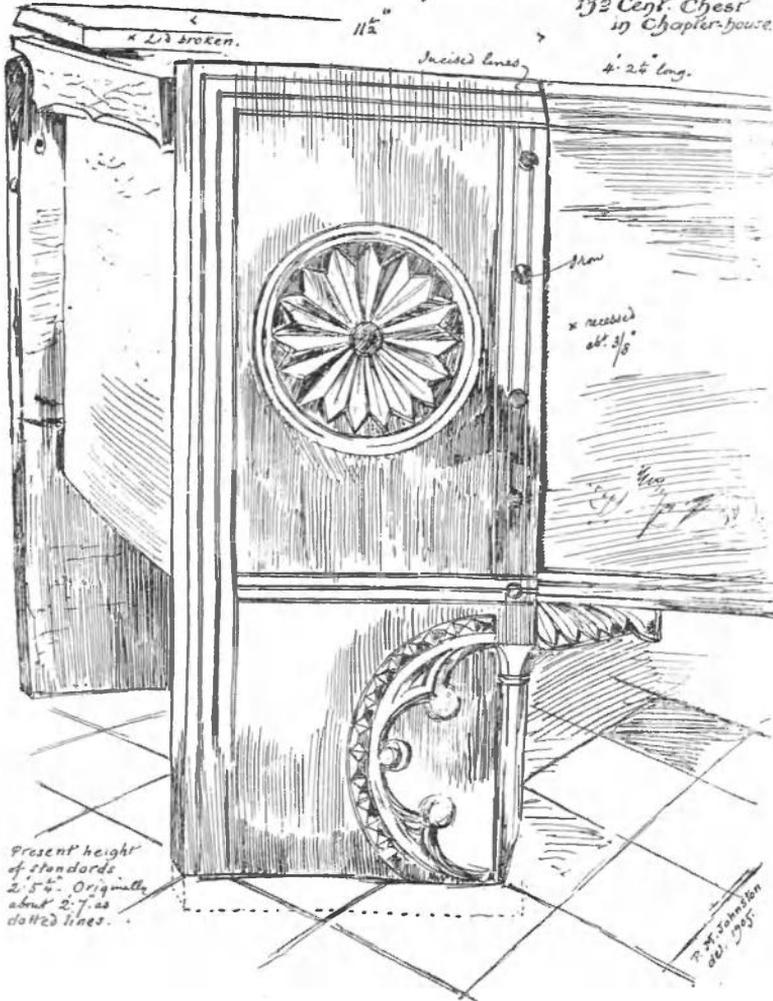
"Also, because (the Philosopher being witness) all things are corrupted and become decayed in time, to the end

and effect that our muniments may not, so far as we can prevent it, perish in course of time, we ordain and will that our original purchasings with their indentures, terriers, lettngs, obligations and rentals, be, by the order of Mr. Dean and the Chapter, first transcribed into a clean, well bound book on paper, and then, within two years at the most, into a parchment book, strongly bound with choice, thick and close-grained boards; and that the originals of the old purchasings be placed in our Treasury in strong oaken boxes, without being folded or rolled up; but let the

ever, concerned with either of these, but with two chests of thirteenth-century date. One, shown in Plate VIII, No. 1, is a beautiful little portable coffer,

Note. Iron boss in centre of rose. One rose at either end and one in centre, all alike. Traces of red colour.

Chichester Colln.
13th Cent. Chest
in Chapter-house
4' 2 1/2" long.



Present height
of standards
2' 5 1/4". Originally
about 2' 7" as
dotted lines.

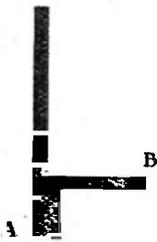
P. W. Salmon
del. 1897.

FIG. 15.

boxes be of such dimensions that the muniments may be altogether free from being cracked and rolled together We ordain furthermore and will that after the annual Compotus the boxes be immediately opened and the muniments

be turned with careful examination, lest anything should perish by the boxes becoming old, or by the eating of worms, or in any other way. And this matter we commit to the Prebendaries ordained by us with the Sub-Treasurer."

with the rings for carrying remaining on one of the elaborately panelled ends. It was in a most dilapidated state, the lid and parts of the sides having altogether disappeared, and several of the iron straps lying loose inside. These latter are of the type described above under West Horsley, *i.e.*, they have reeded straps and rosettes at the flattened-out ends. The stop-chamfering of the framed ends is very pretty and elaborate.



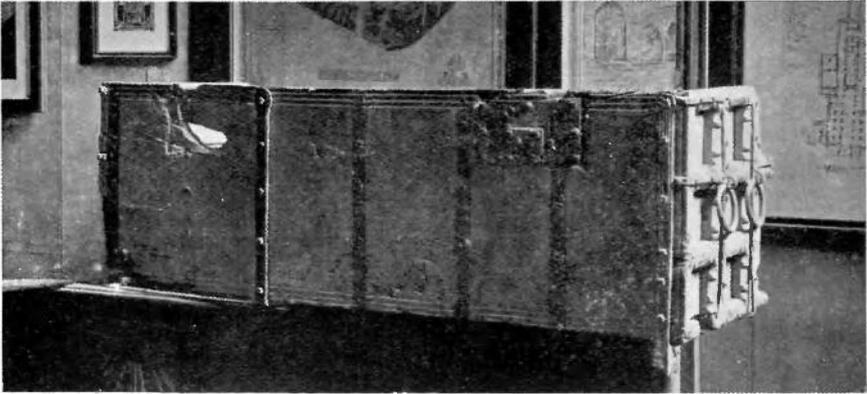
Under the writer's supervision this chest has lately been just sufficiently repaired to make it hold together, and the loose straps have been re-fixed. The original method of raising the body of the chest above the floor can still be seen, in the shape of short iron feet (A), which form the end of the ornamental irons on the front, and are secured also by an angle piece

(B) to the bottom.

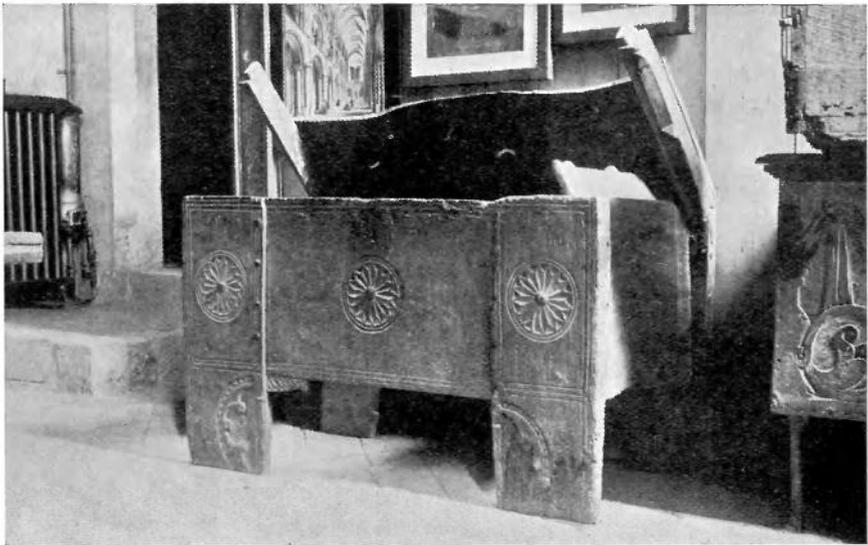
The other chest is of more especial interest to us on account of its likeness to that at Stoke d'Abernon. I have illustrated it in Figs. 7, 15, and 16 and Plate VIII, No. 2. Its length is 4 feet 2½ inches; width, 2 feet 2 inches; and present height, 2 feet 5½ inches. I have indicated on Fig. 15 that its original height was probably about 2 feet 7 inches. It also is in a bad state of repair, and, as will be seen by the plan (Fig. 7), its top is broken.¹ I have shown the little hutch on this, and with its prettily-shaped lid it at once recalls the same feature in the Long Stanton and Bosham chests, above described. The way in which the lifting-rail attached to the main lid works in a mortice in the front standards is plainly shown on this plan, also the wedge-shape of the standards, indicating that they are cleft, not sawn. On Fig. 16 the pear- or kite-shaped piece of iron covering the pin-hinge, the chamfering of the lifting-rail, and the shaped feet of the back standards are shown; also the construction of the bottom and side.

¹ This chest also has been carefully repaired within the last year under the writer's superintendence, and the missing bottom and half of the lid have been replaced. The spray of the foliage corresponding to that shown in the

illustration had "disappeared" only a little while before this repair was carried out. Something is also to be done in the cases of two other ancient chests in this county, as the result of suggestions made by the writer.



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, SUSSEX.
No. 1.—Thirteenth century portable coffer on iron feet.



CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, SUSSEX.
No. 2.—Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200.

The shaped feet resemble those at Heckfield and Cound, both of late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century date; and I think we may safely ascribe this chest to about A.D. 1200. Its ornamentation is very interesting (see Fig. 15). Incised lines are carried as a border round the central body and standards, and in the centre and on either standard are marigolds or stars of V section within a circular border. The centre of

Chichester Chest.

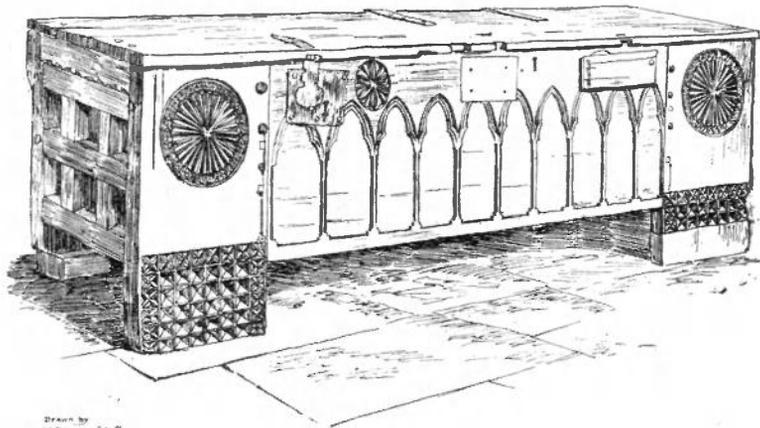
Details of end.



FIG. 16.

each is marked by an iron stud with a circular convex head, similar to the rivets before noticed, a row of which secures the mortice and tenon joint of the body and standards. The feet of the front standards have a demi-quatrefoil, with circular bosses or cusps, within a border of nail-head ornament, such as is found in stone throughout the twelfth century, and in one or

two examples of woodwork early in the thirteenth.¹ On the angle is worked an octagonal shaft, also resembling the stone forms of the latter part of the twelfth century, and in the angle between this and the body of the chest is a very singular piece of ornament, attached by a pin or pins to the main construction. It consists of a spray of foliage, curiously resembling some cusp terminations on an early thirteenth-century wall-tomb in Freshwater church, Isle of Wight. It and other parts of the sunk ornamentation of this chest show plain traces of red ochre colouring. A fragment of one of the original chains for attaching to a wall remains on the back.



Drawn by
W. T. P. King
c. 1885, at London

CHEST IN CLYMPING CHURCH, SUSSEX

FIG. 17.

SUSSEX. *CLYMPING. (Plates IX, XIII and XIV, and Figs. 7, 17, 18, and 19.)

Date c. 1230. This is both the best-known and the finest chest of the Surrey-Sussex group, and, standing as it does in an exceptionally complete and beautiful Early English church, it is in singular harmony with its surroundings. When I first knew it, thirty-two years ago, it stood in the chancel: now it rests upon the floor of a little vestry that has been screened off

¹ As in a wall-plate at Upmarden church, Sussex (near Chichester), illustrated in Rickman's *Gothic Archi-*

itecture, 7th ed., 145. This example is there approximately dated 1220.

from the end of the south aisle. We are fortunate in possessing, from the pencil of the late Mr. William Twopenny, a minutely accurate drawing of this chest

Clymping

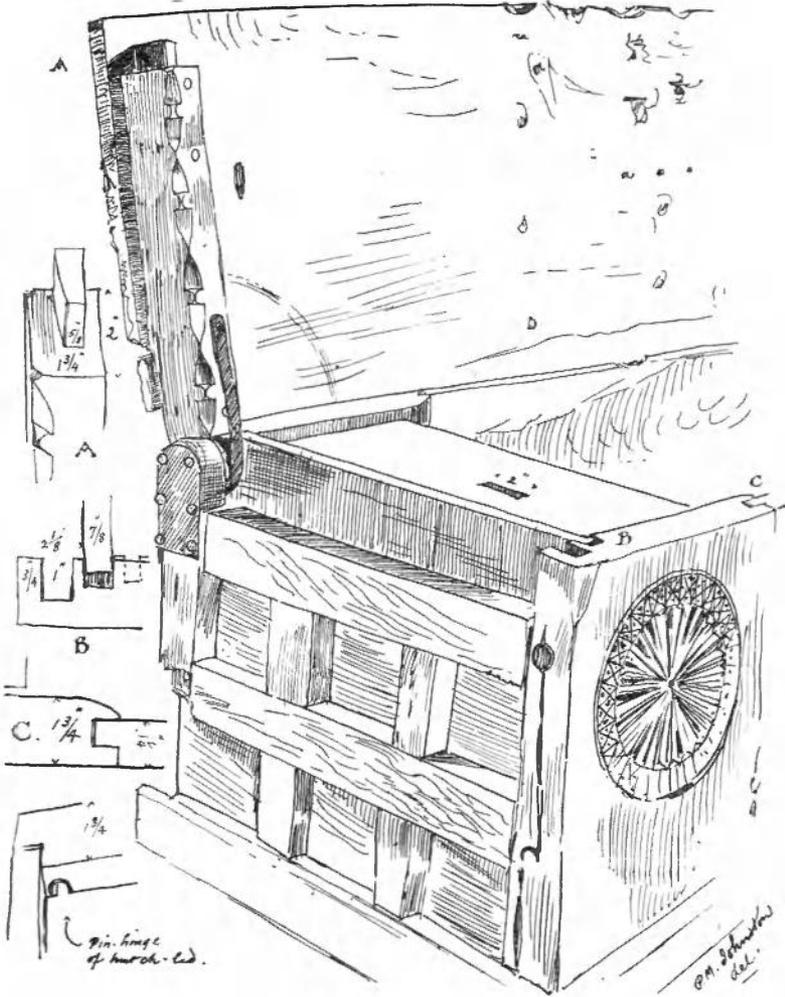


FIG. 18.

as it appeared in 1836, from which my illustration (Fig. 17) has been traced. When perfect, with its roundels, the arcaded front, and carved feet of dog's-tooth and honey-comb work, it must have been a very

beautiful object. But, alas! it has suffered more than most of these chests from neglect and wanton ill-usage. It appears to have been sent, a long while ago, to an exhibition of ecclesiastical furniture, and to have been returned *minus* its carved feet and co-eval lock, the latter being replaced by a brand new one of brass. The resulting evil is that, besides the loss to its appearance, the chest now stands literally on the floor, doubly a prey to damp and decay. Well might it say, "Save me from my friends!"

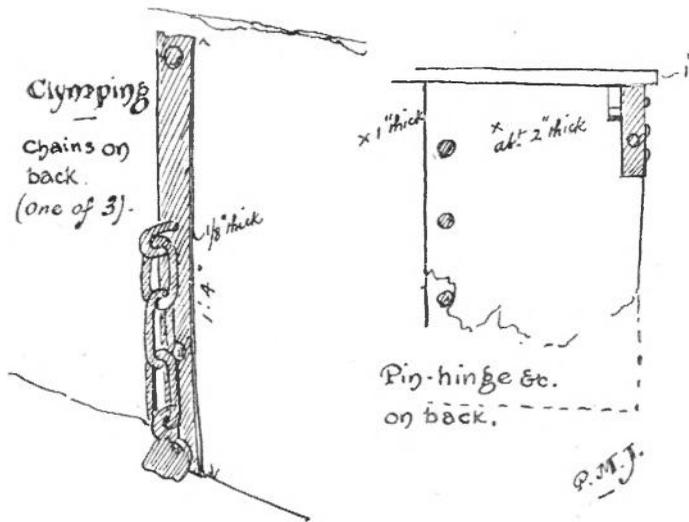


FIG. 19.

The length is 6 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width, 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; and height (originally) about 2 feet 3 inches. The pin-hinges are protected by a nail-studded iron covering, rectangular in shape, with a rounded top, an advance upon the more easily removed pear- or kite-shaped piece of the other chests, such as Stoke d'Abernon (see Fig. 11). There is also a development in the provision of a constructional top rail to the framing of the ends, in *addition* to the lifting-rail attached to the lid. The latter has some pretty stop-chamfering (Fig. 7. Cf. Rustington, Fig. 23). The styles and rails of the framework are halved together, as at Stoke d'Abernon and elsewhere,

and the ends of the rails are secured by round-headed nails to the standards, which are $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick in front and rather more at the back. The same iron rivets, together with the peculiar square-headed oak pins, will be seen in Mr. Twopenny's drawing and my reduced rubbings of the chest front (Plates XIII and XIV). As shown in Fig. 19, there are chains on the back for attaching to a wall. Besides the large roundels on the standards, there are smaller ones of the familiar star (or six-leaved flower) and spiral patterns upon the front, and the positions of the original locks, which would partially cover one of them and a portion of the arcading, suggest that, wherever the chests were made, the locks were fitted to them in the church. The trefoil arches are moulded with a double bead (see Plate XIV), the space within being recessed about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch; and their shafts, which have no capitals, rise from slightly stepped bases, now hidden by a common piece of deal skirting. The large roundels are of a plain-rayed pattern, enclosed within a zigzag border in the right, and one of a star pattern in the left hand. The honey-comb and dog's-tooth work of the feet is specially interesting, and unique, so far as I am aware. There is a money-slit on the left-hand of the lid and a very perfect hutch, with pin-hinge lid, within the chest below, also provided with a money-slit, but having no secret well beneath.

SUSSEX. *DITCHLING. (Fig. 20.)

There is no ironwork about this chest, which, as will be seen by the illustration, compares closely with the Buxted example (Plate VII) in regard to the construction of the lid with its heavy-shaped wings, or hinge-rails, and the inclined ends. The feet of the standards are cut to a pattern found in the Chichester and other chests. The hinge-rails revolve upon a peg. Inside, on the left are the grooves in which originally the framework of a small money-box was fixed. The length of the chest is 2 feet 11 inches; its width, 1 foot 9 inches; and the height 2 feet.

SUSSEX. *FELPHAM. (Plates IX and XII, and Fig. 14.)

A comparison of this chest, with that at Stoke d'Abernon will show at a glance that they are extra-

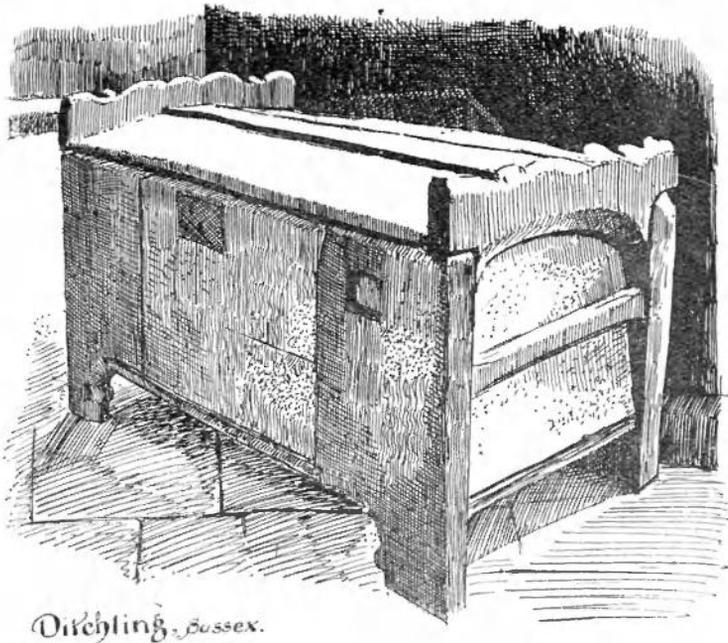


FIG. 20.

ordinarily alike, and that both resemble closely the longer chest at Midhurst. This general resemblance is amply borne out in the smaller details, as is attested by comparing the rubbings of the roundels on Plates XII and XV, where the identical patterns, the spiral, interlaced triangles, and six-pointed star or flower, occur in each. It will be seen that the right- and left-hand roundels at Felpham and Stoke d'Abernon are of the same size, and that even the number of the spirals (24) and zig-zags (10) in both the left-hand patterns is the same. The hutch in all three is on the left side. The Felpham chest is about 4 feet 3 inches long, 1 foot $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and has a present height of 1 foot 8 inches (originally, perhaps, 2 feet 4 inches). The framework of the ends has chamfered styles and rails of the same character as in the South Bersted chest. The lid is comparatively modern, and a piece of oak has been let into the front with new locks in it, but

two of the original lock-plates remain, one having a curiously-shaped keyhole, cut to fit the wards of the key, a detail I have noticed in one of the Westminster chests, and at Charlwood, Chobham, and Stoke d'Abernon. The hutch here has no money-slit, beneath

Midhurst

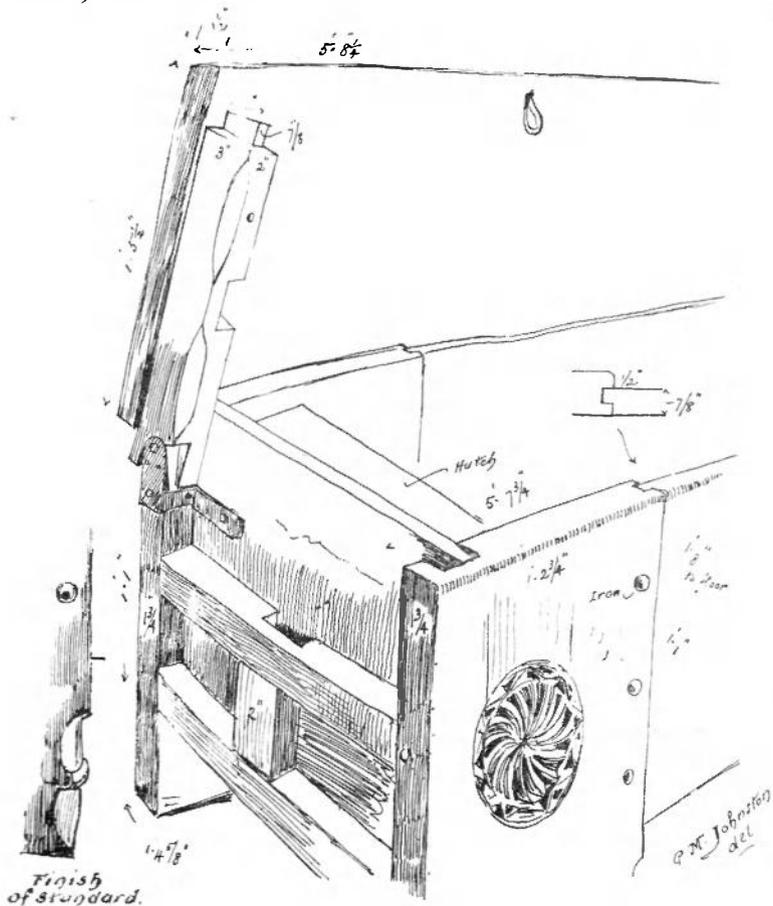


FIG. 21.

it is a very perfect secret well identical in mechanism with that at Bosham. The back of the chest, like the front, in all these cases, is in three pieces, mortised and tenoned together. The sides slope inwards excessively. It should be noticed that Clymping, South

Bersted, Felpham, Chichester and Bosham, are all within a distance of about ten miles, and close to, or upon, the sea coast.

SUSSEX. FITTLEWORTH.

I am informed by the Rev. A. H. Simpson that two chests are preserved in the rectory, which may both be of this period.

SUSSEX. *HORSHAM.

There is a plain, solid oak chest here, 3 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 1 foot 10 inches broad, and 2 feet high; with a massive lid, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. Its date is probably early thirteenth century.

SUSSEX. *MIDHURST. (Plates IX and XV, and Fig. 21.)

Here, unlike the cases quoted above, the chest is found in a church remote from the sea. The dimensions are: length, 5 feet $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; width, 1 foot $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; total height only 1 foot 8 inches, perhaps slightly more originally. There is only one lock-plate, and that, probably, not the original. The framework of the ends is square-edged, and there are rivets with large and prominent heads at the junction of the central body and standards. The latter have the sort of pilaster ornament found at Stoke d'Abernon and Bosham. Beneath the money-hutch is a secret well.

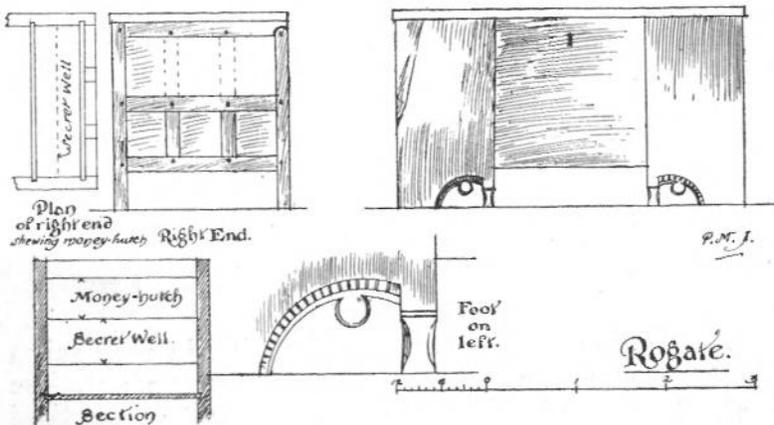
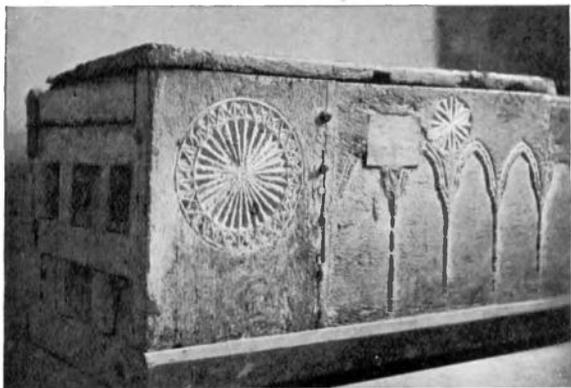
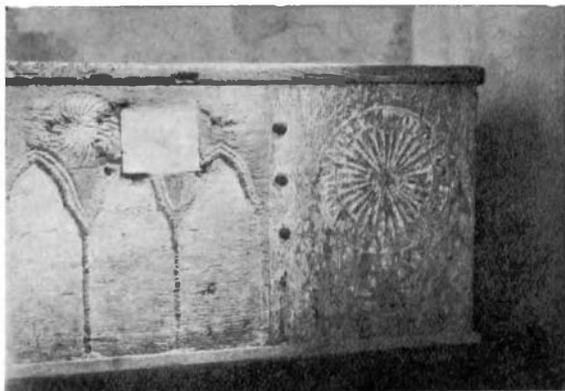


FIG. 22.

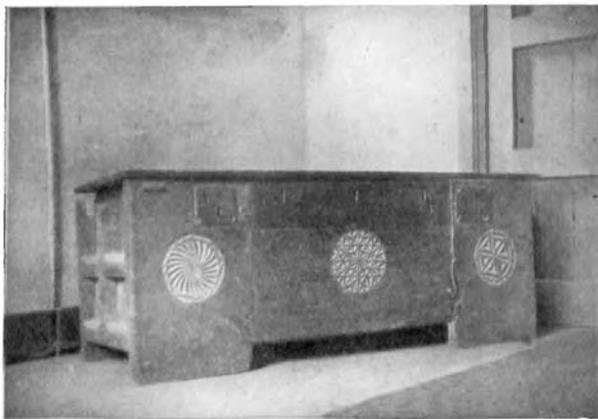


Left side and end.

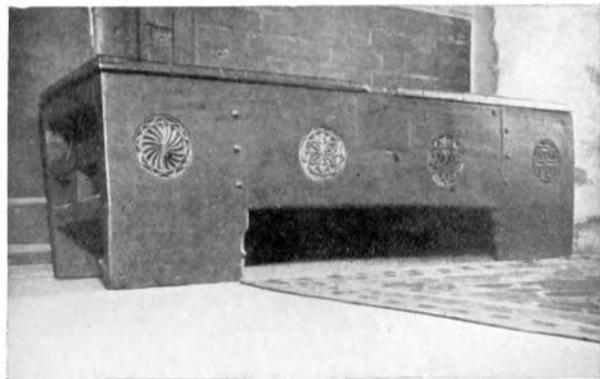


Right side.

CLYPPING, SUSSEX.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1230.



FELPHAM, SUSSEX.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200-1220.



MIDHURST, SUSSEX.
Pin-hinged chest, date *circa* 1200-1220.

SUSSEX. ROGATE. (Fig. 22.)

A small plain example, resembling that at Godalming. It is of oak, painted brown, and is 3 feet $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 1 foot $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 2 feet 1 inch high, exclusive of modern lid; with plain applied framework to the ends, as at Godalming. The lid originally worked on a pin-hinge, and the front standards are almost exactly similar to those at Godalming in respect of the pierced quadrant and its square "leg." There is a money-tray on the right, with a secret cavity beneath it. Date c. 1200-1220.

Rustington Ch. Sussex

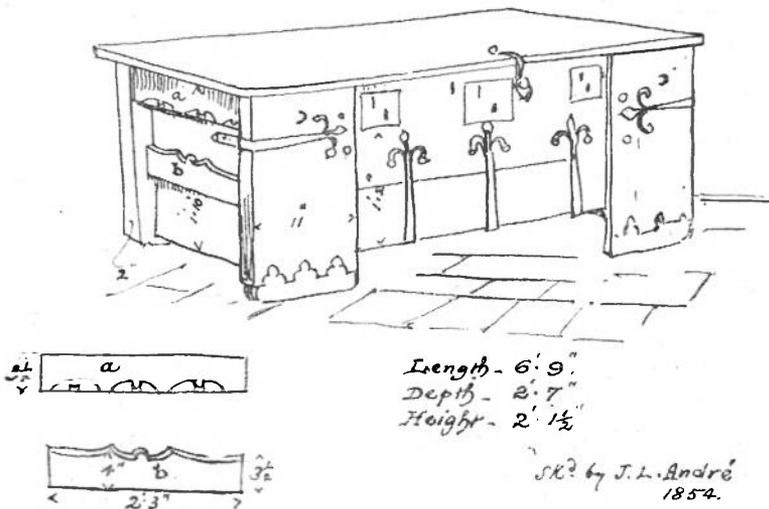


FIG. 23.

SUSSEX. *RUSTINGTON. (Fig. 23.)

This chest "disappeared" about the time of the restoration of the church in 1857. I am therefore doubly happy in possessing a sketch of it, made in 1854, by my late friend, Mr. J. L. André. Its length is there given as 6 feet 9 inches; width, 2 feet 7 inches; and height, 2 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The chamfered and shaped rails on the side are noteworthy. The resemblance between the upper one and that at Clymping has before been remarked on. The three

locks, the pretty strap-hinges, with foliated ends, and the small trefoil arches in the standard feet, are other interesting details. I should assign the date of about 1230 to this example. The scrolled ends of the straps are like those on one of the Westminster chests.

SUSSEX. WILLINGDON.

There is an ancient chest here, probably of thirteenth-century date, of which the vicar, the Rev. O. L. Tudor, has most kindly sent me an admirable sketch and a very full description. The chest has a panelled lid, comparatively modern, opening in two pieces, probably an original arrangement. The measurements are: length, 5 feet 10 inches; breadth, 2 feet 9 inches; height, 2 feet 7 inches. Originally there were three locks, two of which, with their wrought-iron plates and hasps, remain, the place of the central one being indicated by a hole in the wood. The chest is constructed with standards to front *and sides* (a very unusual feature this last), top and bottom rails, and, in front and back, an upright stile, forming two panels. These and the single panel of the sides are filled with chequerwork, formed of small posts and rails halved together, exactly corresponding with the ends of the Clymington chest (Figs. 7 and 18). Short, ornamental wrought-iron straps strengthen the angles and joints of the main framework. The interior is divided into two by a partition, corresponding with the division in the lid, and probably, as in the case of the lid an original feature, as it is found in one of the Westminster chests. This suggests that the chest served for two purposes, such as storing plate and muniments or vestments. I can find no indications of pin-hinges. This seems in all likelihood a thirteenth-century chest.

SUSSEX. WORTH.

Not the least interesting among the many remarkable features of this well-known church is the rude chest in the south transept. The ends are prolonged some 6 inches, so as to lift the body off the ground. They are formed of a stout broad slab of oak and have a -shaped opening cut through at the bottom (*cf.* Rowington, Warwickshire). The angles are clamped

with plain iron straps and other similar straps are carried underneath the body and up the front. There is one padlock of comparatively modern character and two hasp-locks, probably co-eval with the chest. A small ring for transporting remains on each end. Inside is a hutch or box, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, extending to the bottom. By the kindness of the rector of Worth, I am enabled to give the following dimensions: length, 4 feet 1 inch; width, at top, 1 foot $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches; at bottom, 1 foot 6 inches. The lid is somewhat steeply coped.

WARWICKSHIRE. BADDESLEY CLINTON.

There is a chest here made of massive oak slabs, bound together with iron straps having foliated ends, the whole of thirteenth-century character.

WARWICKSHIRE. COVENTRY. ST. MARY'S HALL.

Colonel Hart records a thirteenth-century chest as preserved here.

WARWICKSHIRE. ROWINGTON.

Figured in Colonel Hart's paper.¹ He says, after assigning to the chest a thirteenth-century date, "The body of the chest tapers, and is made of solid slabs roughly hewn. It has three locks of the same date, evidently co-eval with the woodwork. The plates have each two vertical bands, enriched with chased lines. The hinges and bands clamping the work together have trefoil ends, and are remarkable for being let into the woodwork the whole thickness of the iron." The body stands upon raised feet "end on," and is itself built to slope forwards in this fashion. The angles of lid and body are ornamented with a sort of scooped-out pattern, resembling the ornamental chamfering at Clymping and in other chests of the pin-hinge group.



WARWICKSHIRE. RUGBY.

Also figured in Colonel Hart's paper.² It is of oak, and consists of a central body and end standards, the latter mounted upon four discs or wheels of wood, which, if they belong to the original construction, as appears probable, no doubt served to convey the chest

¹ *Transactions of the Birmingham and Midland Institute*, xx, 74. ² *Ibid.*, 73.

from one part of the church to another, or even to same distance outside. It also has chains attached to either end, with rings which may have been used to pass a pole through in transporting. The central body is covered with somewhat elaborate iron scrolled bands with *fleur-de-lys* terminations and C-shaped pieces, of early character, and there are straps round the angles. In the centre is a large lock-plate which, besides the ordinary lock, bears a staple to which a hasp and padlock are attached; and to the right and left are other hasps and padlocks. All three would appear to be original fittings. Altogether this is a very valuable example of the first half of the thirteenth century.

WARWICKSHIRE. TANWORTH.

This chest is no less than 8 feet 3 inches long and consists of a central body with narrow end standards. The front is ornamented with six handsome vertical scrolled straps, and plain straps, disposed horizontally, clamp the angles. There are three original locks. The ornamental straps of the front have a rounded section, the ends of the centre scrolls being beaten out to the shape of a cross. The scrolls have eyes punched in them for nails, and they are further secured to the chest by cramps. A good drawing of this chest accompanies Colonel Hart's description.¹

WARWICKSHIRE. WIXFORD.

Colonel Hart records the existence of a thirteenth-century chest here, "kept in a hut in the churchyard, and containing the sexton's professional implements, which has two locks and iron bands with *fleur-de-lys* ends." There are, he adds, "columns in the end pieces of the front, formed by cutting a quadrant out of the bottom." Cf. Chichester, Banbury and Westminster.

WARWICKSHIRE. WOOTEN WAWEN.

This is a very handsome chest, and its date is probably about 1200. It is illustrated by a good photograph, lent by the Warwickshire Photographic Survey, in Colonel Hart's monograph, and this has been reproduced in *English Church Furniture*.² The chest is

¹ *Transactions of the Birmingham and Midland Institute*, xx.

² 306.

constructed of a central body, covered with handsome iron scrollwork on the front, and end standards prolonged into feet shaped on the inner edge like those at Heckfield.

WILTSHIRE. *SALISBURY CATHEDRAL. (Fig. 24 and Plate X.)

In his *Architectural Drawings* the late Mr. W. Burges refers to this chest, one of a number preserved in the cathedral. As will be seen from Fig. 24, it is a plain edition of the Chichester chest, and also greatly

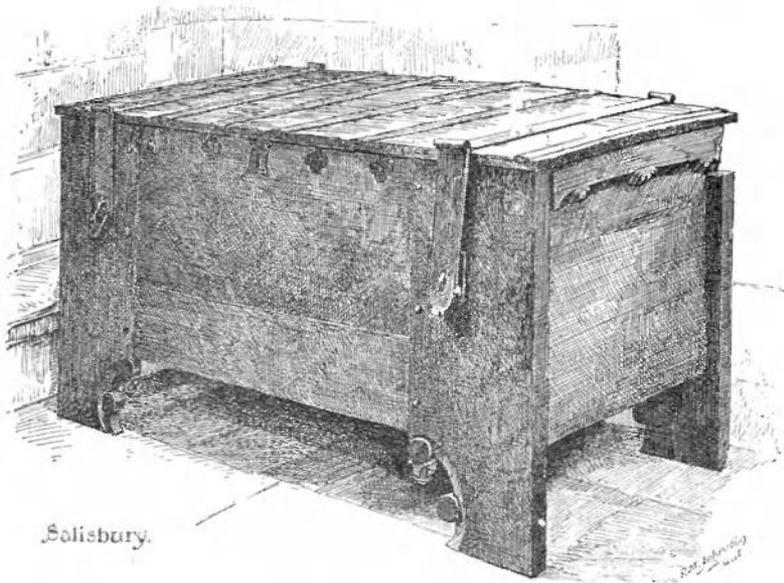


FIG. 24.

resembles one of those at Westminster Abbey. The dimensions are: length 6 feet, width 2 feet 7 inches, and height 2 feet 9 inches. The pin-hinge, some little plates of iron in a quatrefoil shape on the front (connected with the original long bolt of the lock), the elaborately stop-chamfered lifting-rail and the curious ornamentation of the feet of the standards are remarkable features. The last-named resembles the semi-circular ornament in the same position at Chichester cathedral and Westminster, but instead of a little column, answering to the string of the bow, there is a

pendant, and a circular boss projects from the back of the curve. The lid is not original, but the great hasps for padlocks appear to be. I am not aware whether there is a hutch for money inside. Of the other ancient chests, one is a thirteenth century cope-chest of great beauty and interest, also drawn by Mr. Burges: another, very massive and strongly bound with iron; has no less than three locks and four padlocks (Plate X, No. 1). This *may* be thirteenth century, but there is no certain evidence. Yet another, of oak, crossed with innumerable iron bands and straps, some with scrolled ends, and curious ornamental rivet heads, is certainly of early thirteenth-century date (Plate X, No. 2). It retains its three original iron locks, and is altogether a very noteworthy example.

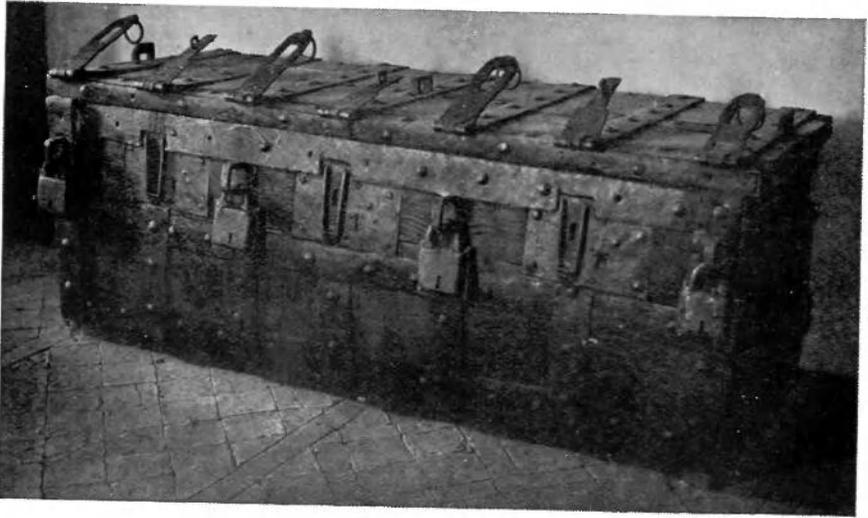
YORKSHIRE. *SALTON-IN-RYEDAILE.¹

This is a chest of the pin-hinge class, though the present lid is hinged in the ordinary way. Length 4 feet 9 inches, width 2 feet 7 inches, and height 2 feet 6 inches. It retains six iron scroll-straps, exactly like those on the body of the Rustington chest; also two little cinquefoils of iron like the similar quatrefoils at Salisbury, under the top edge of the front, which had to do with the locking arrangement, as in the foregoing and other examples. The feet of the standards are cut into a shape resembling those at Westminster and Salisbury. The treatment of the ends resembles that at Rustington. I cannot find that there was a money-tray in this instance.

Of the objects for which chests in all ages were made, nothing need here be said, but I propose now to sum up as briefly as possible the various uses to which the church chests which we have been considering were put, and for which, in most cases, they were probably specially constructed.

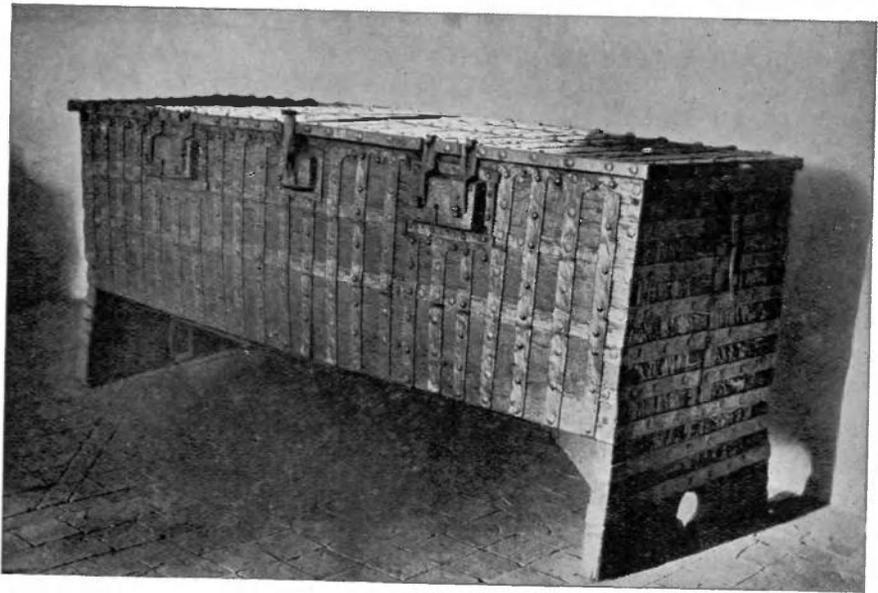
At the commencement of this paper I have alluded to the enumeration of the church-chests by archbishop Ælfric (995-1005) as among the sacred things of the church. No doubt, in bringing it into use in their buildings the

¹ Illustrated in the *Assoc. Archit. Societies' Reports*, 1880, p. 224.



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL, WILTS.

No. 1.—Iron-bound treasure chest, probably thirteenth century.



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL, WILTS.

No. 2.—Early thirteenth century iron-bound chest.

Christians of the early centuries were influenced by the frequent mention in the Scriptures of this article of furniture, or of something corresponding to it in connection with the Jewish Temple. It is recorded, for example, that when King Jehoash and Jehoida the priest set about repairing the breaches in the house of the Lord, that

“Jehoida the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the Lord: and the priests that kept the door put therein all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord . . . and they laid it out to the carpenters and builders that wrought upon the house of the Lord, and to masons, and hewers of stone, and to buy timber and hewed stone to repair the breaches of the house of the Lord, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair it.”¹

The incident of “the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury,” and the poor widow who cast her two mites in thither, recorded in the Gospels, may be cited as evidence of the established use of this offertory chest in our Lord’s time.

1. The provision of a chest or strong box for a similar purpose, the maintenance of the sacred fabric, would therefore be a fitting and obvious thing in the Christian Church from the earliest times; and in the Chronicle of Jocelin of Brakelond, a monk of St. Edmundsbury, covering the period from A.D. 1173 to 1202, we learn that one Warin, a monk, and the keeper of the shrine of St. Edmund, and Sampson, the sub-sacrist, made a certain hollow trunk, with a hole in the middle or at the top, and fastened with an iron lock; this they caused to be set up in the great church, near the door without the choir in the way of the people, so that therein persons should put their contributions for the building of the tower.²

It is a safe assumption that many of the chests above described served at the outset as offertory chests for the collection of funds in aid of the church, aisle, chancel or other part of the building that was being put up, and when the work was done the chest would be retained for general uses. There is every likelihood that the tradition at Westminster Abbey with regard to some of the fine

¹ II Kings xii.

² *Chronica Iocelini de Brakelonda*, p. 7: Camden Society.

chests in the triforium is correct, namely, that they were made for workmen's pay chests.

2. There is abundant evidence for the church chest having been used as a place of deposit for the sacred vessels, vestments and books. Among the earliest references to it in this connection is that at the Synod of Exeter in 1287, where the provision of a chest for the safe custody of the books and vestments of the church, *cistam ad libros et vestimenta*, is laid down. We have evidence to warrant the assumption that most chantry chapels were furnished with a chest standing somewhere near the altar, in which the priest who served the chantry kept his vestments, books and plate. Thus in the Inventory of goods belonging to St. Mary's, Warwick, A.D. 1464, we read

"It: in the Vestrye i gret olde arke to put in vestyments etc.

"It: in the Sextry above the Vestrye, i olde arke at the auters ende, i olde coofre irebonde having a long lok of the olde facion, and i lasse new coofre having iii loks called the tresory cofre and certeyn almaries."

Also

"It: in the house afore the Chapter hous i old irebounde cofre having hie feet and rings of iron in the endes thereof to heve it bye. And therein both certein bokes belonging to the Chapter."¹

Five ironbound chests, one a money chest, and three "great old arks" for vestments are enumerated in this Inventory.

As to the chantry chest, we have in the will of Richard Brekeley, rector of Kirk Smeaton, under date 1507.

"To the Chauntre at Branburgh where Sir Richard Mylnes servys, my long iron bonden kyrst, for to kepe y^e chales, y^e vestments, and y^e evydence belongyng to y^e said chauntre; and it for to be divided in too: and oon parte to have ij lokes for y^e evydence; and y^e keyes to be in keyyng os y^e composicion shewes. I gyff to y^e servys whilke I have ordenyt to be at Smeton, os is aforesaid, my cowntyr in my chamber, for to kepe y^e evydence thereto belongyng and other ornamentes."²

¹ The graphic description brings before us the very image of the "irebounde cofre" at Salisbury, with its "hie feet" and "rings of iron in the endes."

² I have ventured to cite these two interesting references to chests from Colonel Hart's paper referred to above.

Two wills in connection with Faversham church, Kent,¹ make mention of chests to be used as receptacles for vestments, altar cloths, plate, etc. One, that of Thomas Reade, 1505, directs that

“The two altar cloths of arras, a vestment of purple damask, with all the parell, a chalice of silver and parcel gilt, and all other cloths with appurtenances in a chest standing in the Chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, shall remain to the said Altar of the Chapel for evermore, and the key of the chest and stuff remain and abide in the custody of Robert Withiot and Robert Deve and of their assignus to the use abovesaid, and none otherwise.”

In another, Henry Hache, in 1533, leaves
“to the Church my chest bound with iron, the which I bought of Henry Estey of London, to put in the towels and plate of the Church.”

3. In many cases chests must have been used, and even expressly made, for keeping relics of saints in. The Newport chest, above described, may have had this for one of its uses; while in Winchester cathedral we have the wonderful painted lid of a thirteenth-century chest given for this particular purpose.²

4. Some, at least, of our remaining ancient chests may have been used for the contributions to parochial guilds, brotherhoods and the like.

5. Perhaps the most obvious and clearly established use was that of the “poor men’s box,” which, as an institution, doubtless dates from long before the Reformation, but which is specifically ordered to be provided by the eighty-fourth Canon of 1603. In the rubric in the Communion Office of the First Prayer-book of Edward VI., the term “box” is used, which would seem at first sight to apply to one of those boxes on pillars or brackets of wood, such as still remain in many cases in our churches, some of pre-Reformation date, usually found affixed to a wall or pier. But in the later Canon a chest is unmistakably described. The church-wardens, it says, are to provide “a strong chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof,” and it is to have three keys, one for the vicar and one each for the wardens. The parson is directed that it is his duty to keep the

¹ An invaluable contribution to ecclesiology, published in *Testamenta Cantiana*, by L. L. Duncan, F.S.A.

² The much later (sixteenth century)

relic-chests, still standing on bishop Fox’s screens in the choir of Winchester cathedral, are interesting survivals of a far older class.

chest as full as possible by moving the people to contribute, "especially when men make their testaments."

No doubt many chests which, under the old ritual, had been applied to the purpose of keeping the church plate and vestments, would, in obedience to this Canon, be used to collect alms for the poor, but the allusion in the Prayer-book of 1549, implies that the "poor men's box" was already a recognised institution, and we may safely assume that many of the chests I have described served partly or wholly for this very laudable purpose.

6. The last class to which I have to refer is in some ways the most interesting.

Henry II., in A.D. 1166, issued a mandate for the collection of contributions towards the defence and assistance of the Christians in the Holy Land, and enjoined that a coffer, *truncus*, should be placed in every church. This coffer was to have three keys, one to be kept by the priest, and the others by the most trustworthy of the parishioners.

"Et erit truncus in ecclesia episcopali, et per singulas villas in ecclesiis . . . Truncus vero habebit tres claves, quarum unam custodi et Presbyter duas fideiiores viri de parochia."¹

Thirty-four years later, in 1200, Pope Innocent III. issued a general mandate for the setting up of these offertory chests in the churches of England and the other countries of Europe. This mandate, addressed to the archbishops and bishops of the various provinces and dioceses, contains the following very precise directions :

"To this end we command that in every church there shall be placed a hollow trunk, fastened with three keys, the first to be kept by the bishop, the second by the priest of the church, and the third by some religious layman ; and that the faithful shall be exhorted to deposit in it, according as God shall move their hearts, their alms for the remission of their sins ; and that once in the week in all churches mass shall be publicly sung for the remission of sins, and especially of those who shall thus contribute."

These alms were for the express object of providing means for the benefit of the Holy Land. If either or both of these mandates were literally obeyed, as to which there can be little doubt, we are faced with the fact that for this one purpose, in England alone, some thousands of chests must have been specially constructed and placed

¹ *Chronica Gervasii. An. Græ. 1166.*

in the cathedral and parochial churches between 1166 and the first few years of the thirteenth century, and it is to this, as I conceive, that we owe the somewhat remarkable fact of the survival of such an exceptional number of early chests throughout the land. It would be interesting to know if chests of this period survive to anything like the same extent in Continental countries. Mr. Roe's book¹ records several French examples, and one in the museum at Ypres, Belgium, the latter and at least one other, in the Cluny museum, having the pin-hinge.

On the whole, therefore, I incline to the belief that the greater number of these early chests in England, including most of the pin-hinge group, were made specifically for the collection of alms for the Crusades. The evidence of the drawings, photographs, and rubbings of roundels, with which this paper is illustrated, irresistibly proves that a great proportion of them were made at the same time and probably by the same guild of chest-makers, and this alone would point to some special purpose having arisen to bring them into existence.

One obvious conclusion to which we can safely come is that large numbers of these chests were made at some central place or places and distributed broad-cast from thence. This would account for chests in churches so far apart as Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Surrey and Sussex bearing so close a resemblance to one another, particularly in the patterns of their roundels. This is very noticeable in the reproductions from rubbings among the accompanying illustrations.

As to the patterns of these roundels, I have elsewhere suggested that there is a good deal of conscious or unconscious symbolism in the designs employed and so constantly repeated. They do not represent the chance fancy of the craftsman. The spiral, or whorl, the six-petalled flower, or six-rayed star, and the interlaced triangle had some definite meaning, although the workman who carved them may have got it only at second-hand. The fact that the three designs are

¹ *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards.*

repeated so many times in conjunction would alone suggest this.

Apart from any theory of symbolism, it is a plain fact that these geometrical roundels have a pedigree of hoary antiquity. They may be seen as sun-wheels on the baked clay and stone tablets of Babylon,¹ and there is no doubt that they owe their original evolution to sun-worship, which would account for the idea being so wide-spread and continually cropping out among all races and in every age. The six-rayed star, or marigold, and the whorl are found in pre-Christian Scandinavian memorials of the dead, and can be traced to an Aryan origin of much older date.

Coming to Christian art, it was natural that the old patterns, eminently suited for chip-carving in wood or shallow chiselling in stone, should be continued under the new faith. No doubt they were invested with a symbolism appropriate to the changed religious beliefs.² Such patterns were familiar by tradition and use to the Norman craftsmen. We find them in wood, lead and stone-work of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, as for instance on leaden fountains at Couteville, Brittany,³ Warborough, Oxfordshire, and Long Wittenham, Berks,⁴ all of late twelfth-century date, and exhibiting whorl and other patterns. In stonework of early Norman date we find sun-discs upon the shafts of a window in Stourbridge chapel, Cambridgeshire, and on window-heads in several Essex churches, such as South Shoebury and Margaret Roding: it is quite a local feature: also upon the corbels to a door-lintel at Peterborough cathedral, on the Monk's Door at Ely, on a font of late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century date at St. Thomas's Priory church, Launceston (where the six-rayed sun-disc is encircled by a pair of dragons on each of the four sides

¹ As e.g., a stone tablet in the British Museum, recording the restoration of the temple of the Sun-god at Sippara, near Babylon, dating from about B.C. 900.

² In the late twelfth-century wall-painting at Chaldon, Surrey, the sun is represented as a six-rayed star, or six-petalled flower. It is similarly shown on early illuminations of the Crucifixion, and also (with the moon and a star)

upon late twelfth- and thirteenth-century grave-slabs, as at Titsey, Surrey, and Southwark cathedral.

³ My friend Mr. G. C. Druce has sent me excellent photographs which he has taken of this interesting font.

⁴ These two last fonts, almost identical in design, are figured in the admirable paper by Dr. Fryer in the *Archaeological Journal*, lvii (opposite page 43).

of the bowl); and upon window-heads of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century dates at Aylesbury, Bucks, and Boyton, Wilts. On some at least of these, as also where the wheel-pattern occurs upon a jamb of a Norman doorway (as at Barfreton), some charm or protective virtue may well have been ascribed to the device, which again may be logically traceable to relics of world-wide sun-worship, unconsciously perpetuated by the mediaeval craftsmen.

A late and very interesting instance of the occurrence of these geometrical roundels has come under my notice in the three fonts of almost identical design at Cowfold, Shermanbury and Thakeham, all in West Sussex. The first is dated by an entry in the churchwardens' accounts 1481-1482. The six-rayed star, or sunflower, occurs singly or in groups upon the bowls and bases of these curious fonts. A curious instance of the survival of early forms is to be found in the Jacobean chest at Rusper, Sussex, where, side by side with unmistakable Renaissance ornaments, are several of these six-pointed stars, which would look quite at home if found on a piece of thirteenth-century woodwork.

It might well be expected that if found so often upon a group of early thirteenth-century chests, we should meet with these chip-carving patterns in roundels upon other woodwork of the period. The only instances I have met with, are some rosettes upon the standards of the well-known "monk's seat" in the south transept of Winchester cathedral, where, however, the rosette is in relief and of quite different character; and the remarkable examples at Old Shoreham church, Sussex. In the chancel of the latter is the well-known thirteenth-century tie-beam carved with the dog's-tooth moulding and richly moulded, to which the late Mr. John Parker called attention as the only instance of the occurrence of the dog's-tooth moulding in woodwork.¹ On the soffit of this beam, at either end immediately where it leaves the wall-plate, is a carved patera, or roundel, about 7 inches in diameter, precisely similar to those on the chests.

¹ This was not strictly correct. There used to be a similarly ornamented tie-beam in the chancel of Ditchling

church, until the beginning of the nineteenth century.

That on the northern side has the whorl pattern, while that on the south has the six-rayed star, within a zigzag border, exactly as found on several of the chests. Incidentally we have in the occurrence of these roundels on this beam, which is indisputably of a date not later than the middle of the thirteenth century, corroborative evidence of the date of the chests. It is perhaps worth while remarking that the vigorous art of these early chest makers has survived in unbroken tradition in the stop-chamfered framework of our country carts, waggons and vans. The village wheelwright of to-day in a country village is unconsciously perpetuating the simple designs of the thirteenth-century craftsman whose carts were, after all, only chests on wheels.

From the close correspondence that exists between them in the different chests, I am convinced that the locks and other ironwork are in nearly every case, original. Had the locks been renewed at a later date, in places so far apart as Suffolk and Surrey, there would almost certainly be many points of difference in the *minutiae* of design and construction. But the reverse is the case in such instances as Earl Stonham, Suffolk, and Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey.

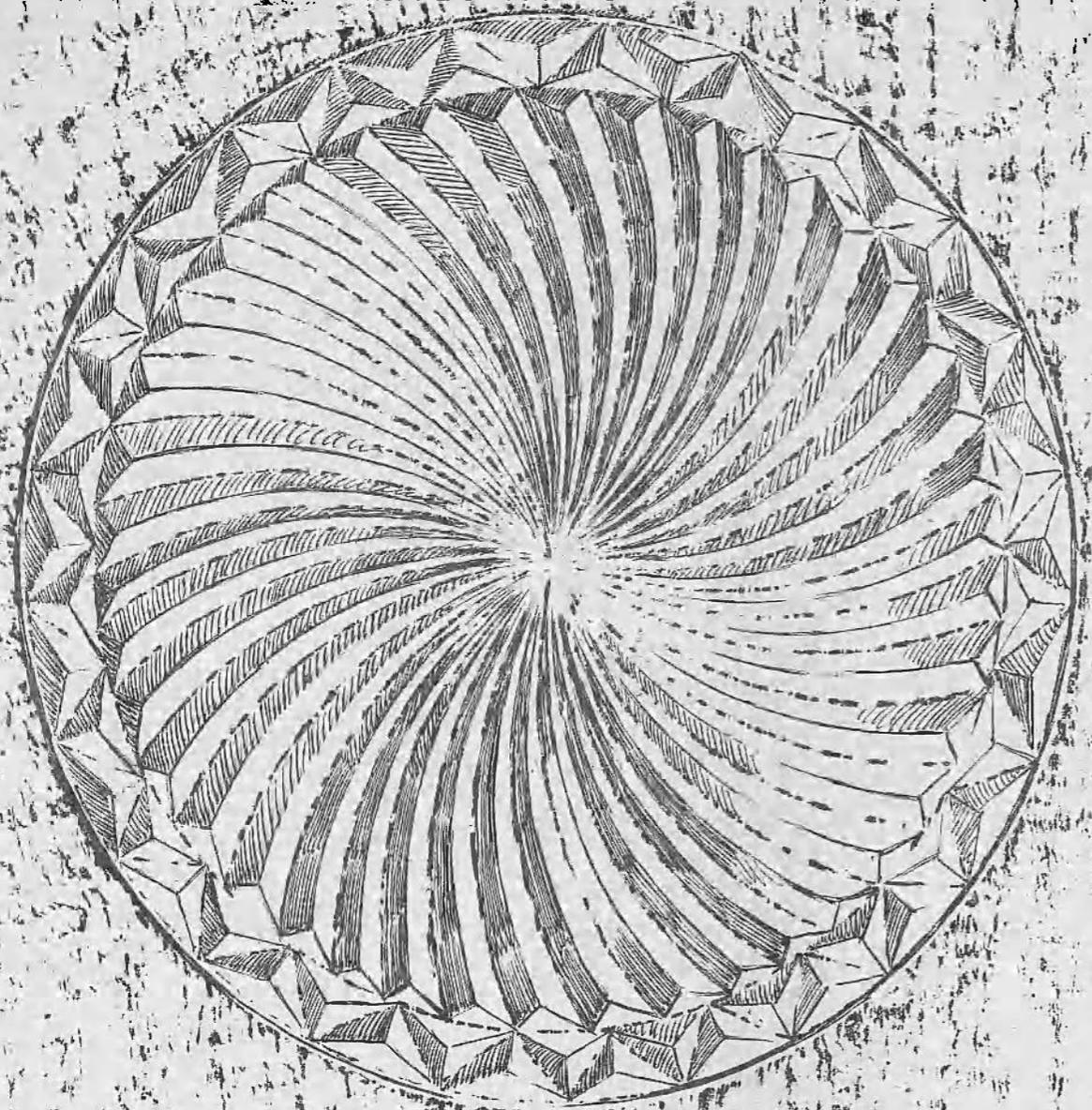
NOTE.—One further example, an unusually elaborate pin-hinged chest of thirteenth-century date, has come to my notice too late for insertion in the alphabetical list in the body of the paper. It is figured in the *Publication of the Anastatic Drawing Society*, xvi, Plate xlv, where the following account is given of it:

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. *MILTON.

"This beautifully carved oak chest, probably of the fourteenth century, was recently discovered in a cottage at Milton, a village near Cambridge, and is, considering its great antiquity, in very good preservation. The front (disfigured by a modern lock) is divided into five canopied panels, each containing a subject carved in *relief*; the back of the chest is also carved, as are the two ends, but here the carving is simple and *sunk*. The lid has been richly carved, but is so much broken and decayed that the subject can scarcely be distinguished. Inside the box, at one end, is a small shelf covered with a flap. There are no metal hinges, the lid working on wooden pins in sockets. The chest is 21½ inches long, 13 inches high and 11 inches wide, and is in the possession of the finder, Mr. Whitaker, of Cambridge."

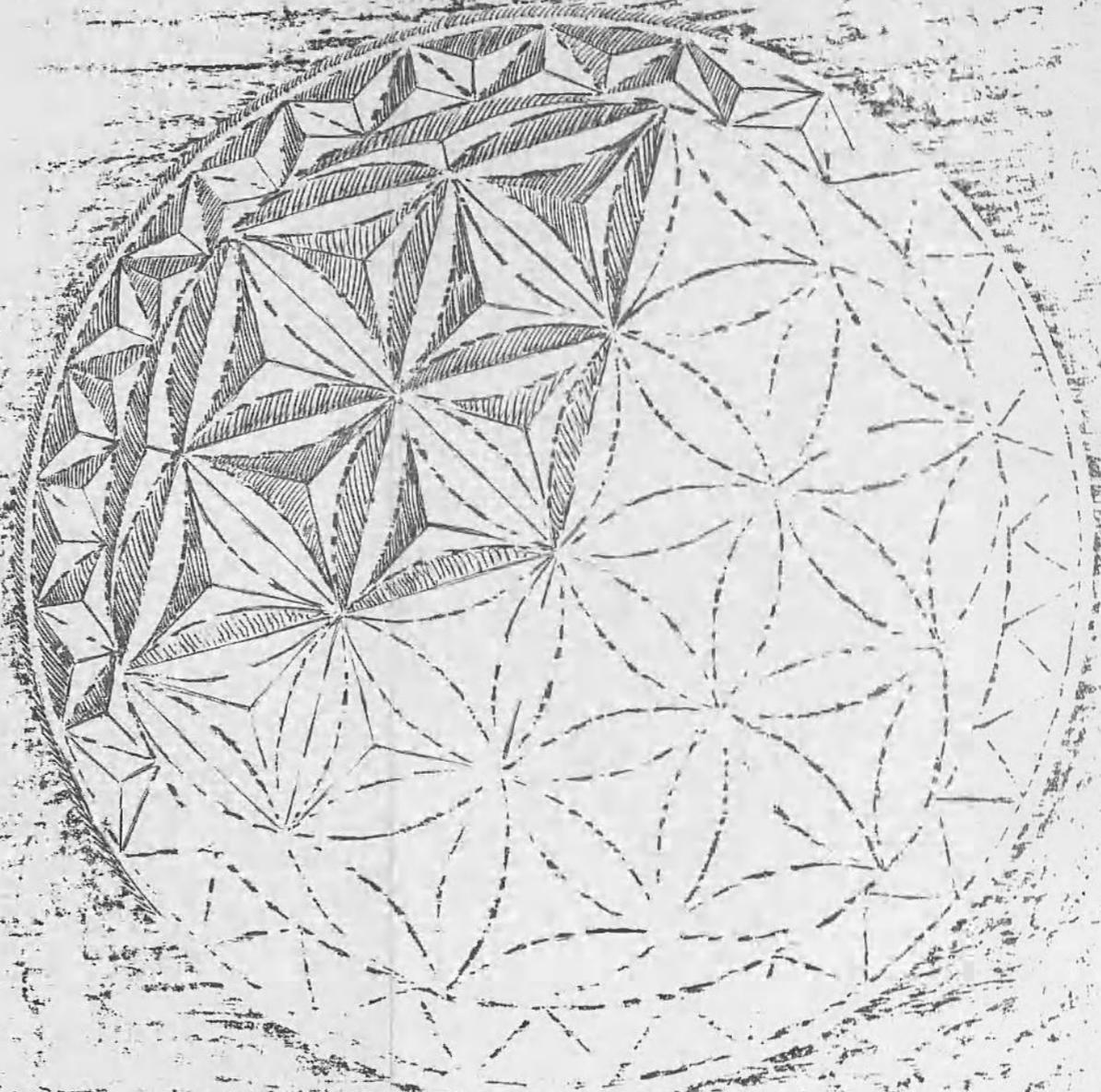
The diminutive size is noteworthy, and altogether exceptional in chests of this pin-hinged group. The internal shelf, "with a flap" spoken of, are clearly the remains of a money hutch. From the drawing of the front it is evident that the subject occupying the three canopied trefoil-headed panels of the central body is the Annunciation; the angel occupying the left hand, a lily-pot the middle, and the Blessed Virgin, with the Dove, the right hand panel. On the flanking standards is a single figure in each panel, and on the feet of the standards a tracery panel framing a carved head. A cross *patee* is incised upon the tumbling-in end plank of the ends and on the back a *fleur-de-lys*, scroll-work, quatrefoils and other ornaments appear in slight relief. Quatrefoils and ball-flowers are found above the tracery panels of the front. The chest has evidently come from a church, perhaps it formed part of the furniture of a lady chapel, and its date may be about 1270.

Nº 1



Earl Stonham.

Nº 2



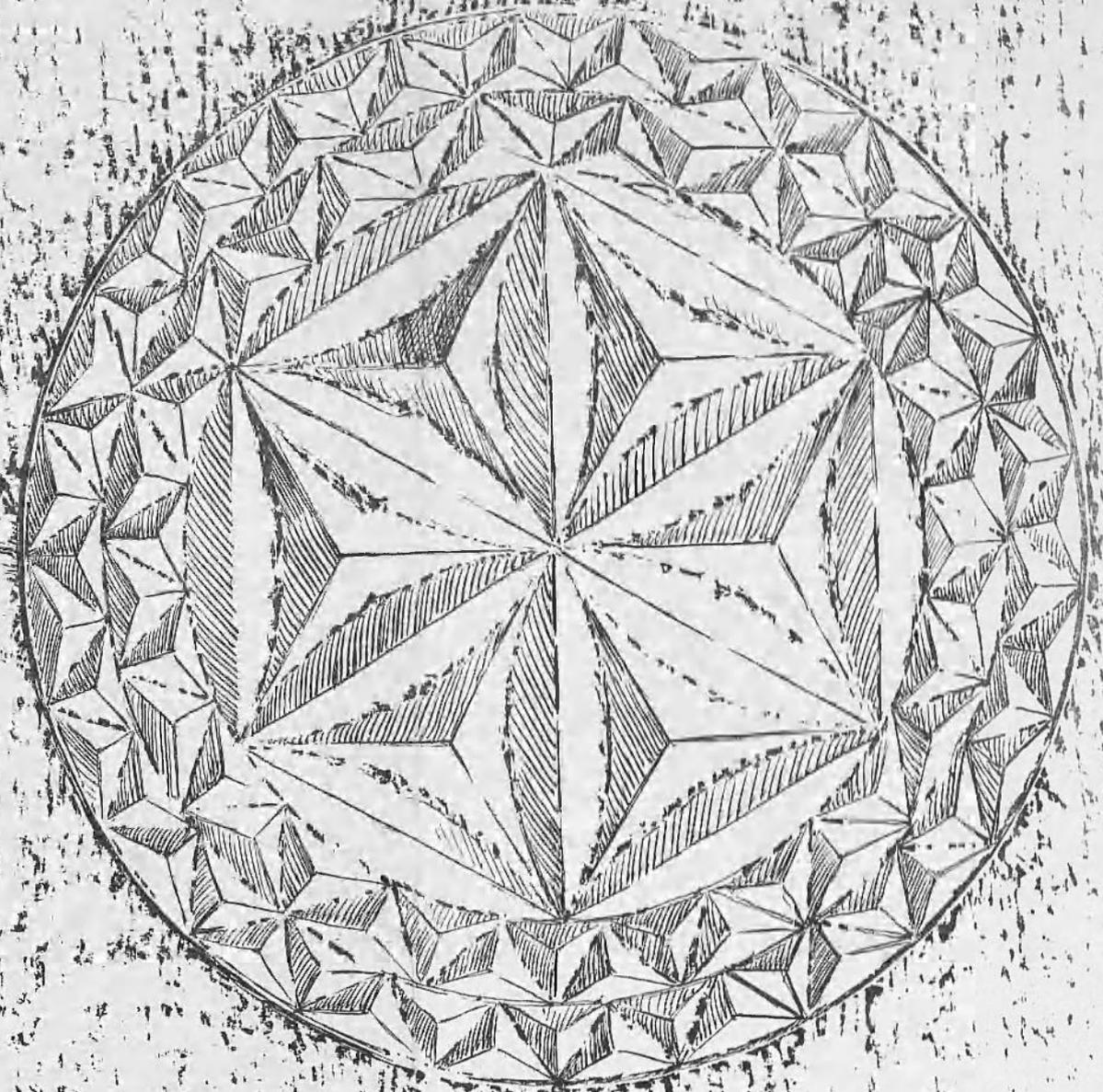
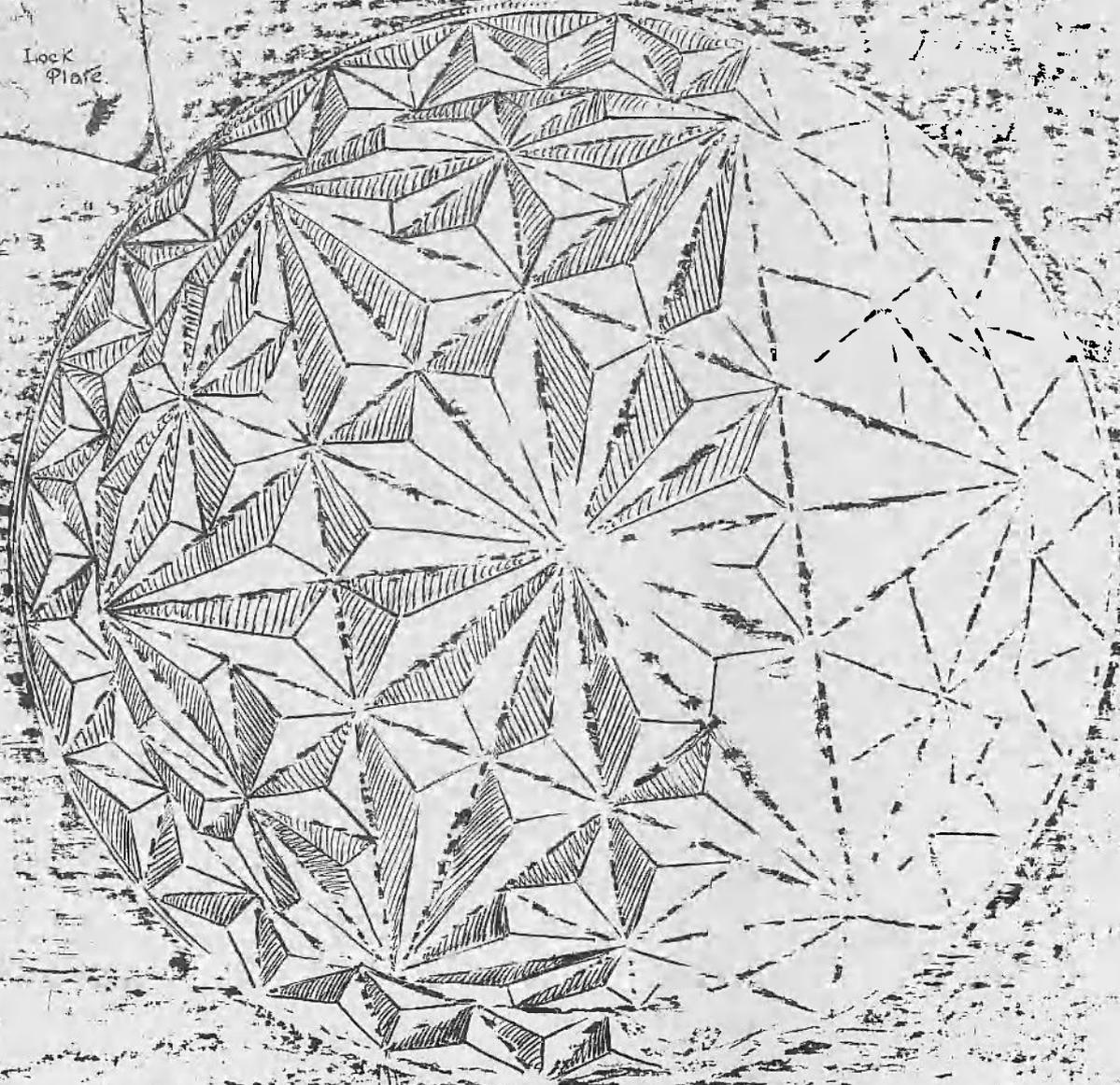
Half real size.

From a rubbing finished in ink

X1 a

(P.M.)

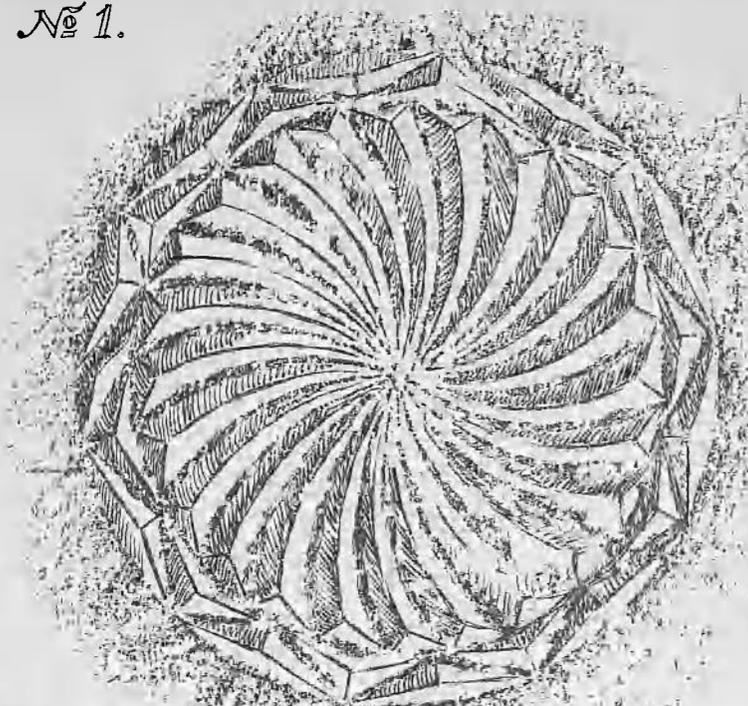
Lock
Plate



R.M.

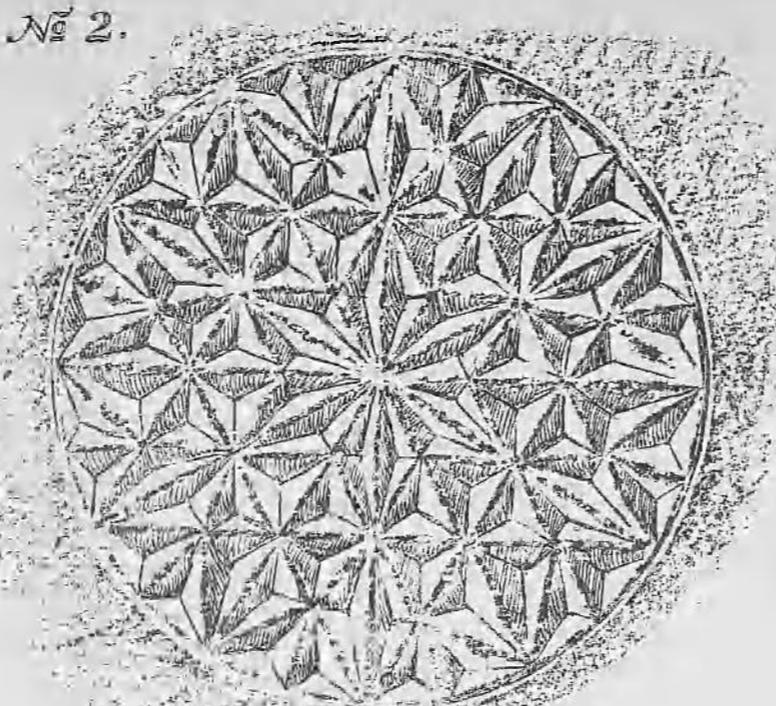
From a rubbing finished in ink

N^o 1.



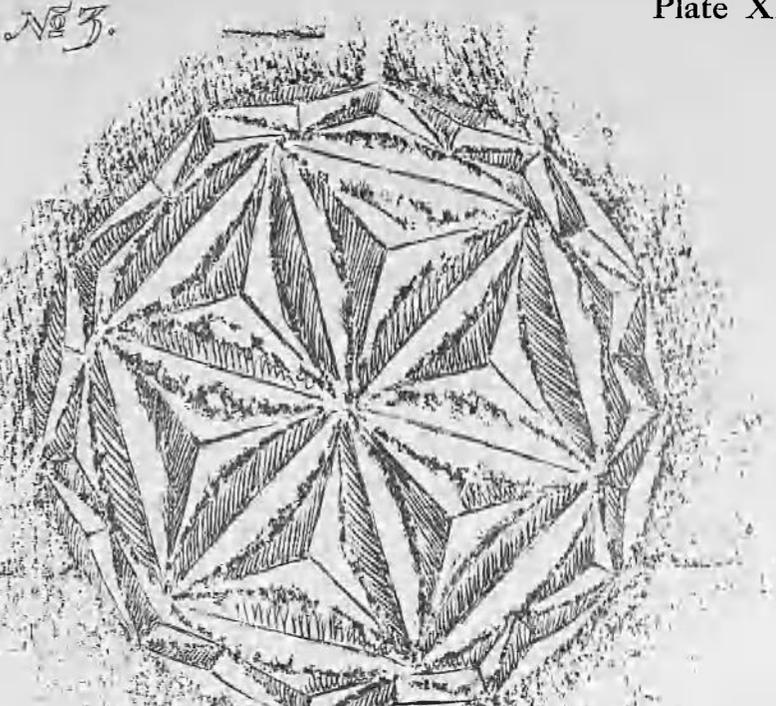
Felpham.

N^o 2.

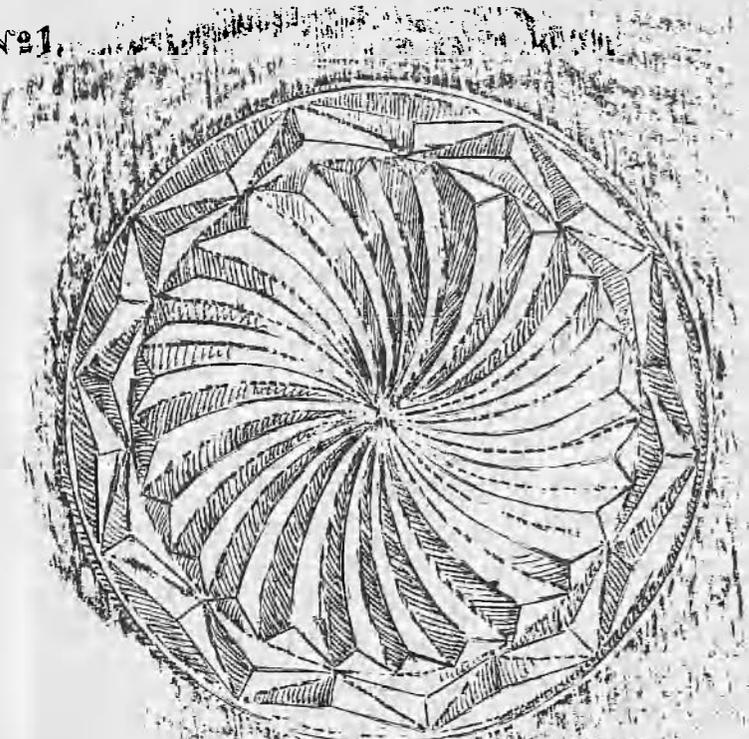


Half real size.

N^o 3.

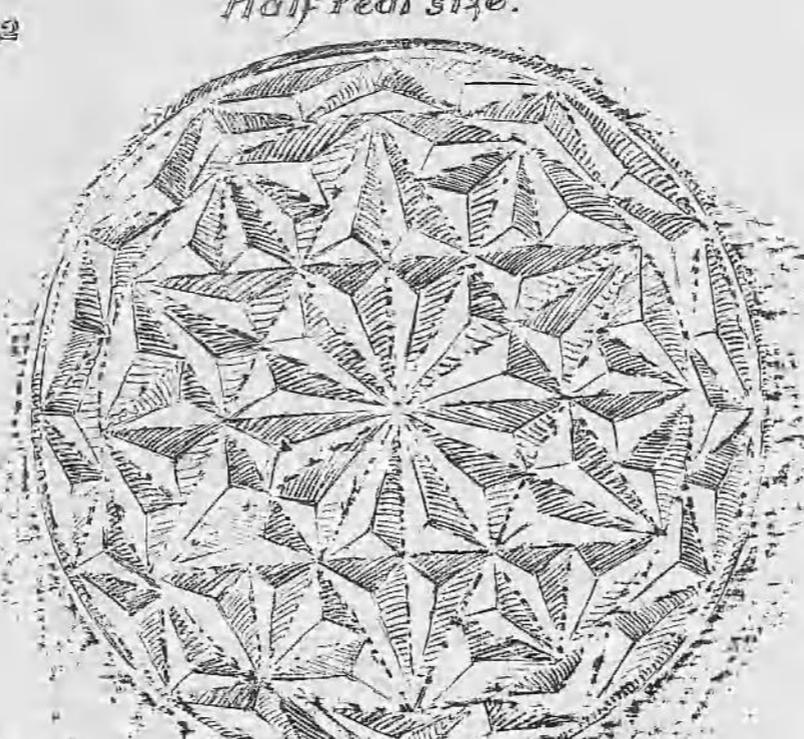


N^o 1.



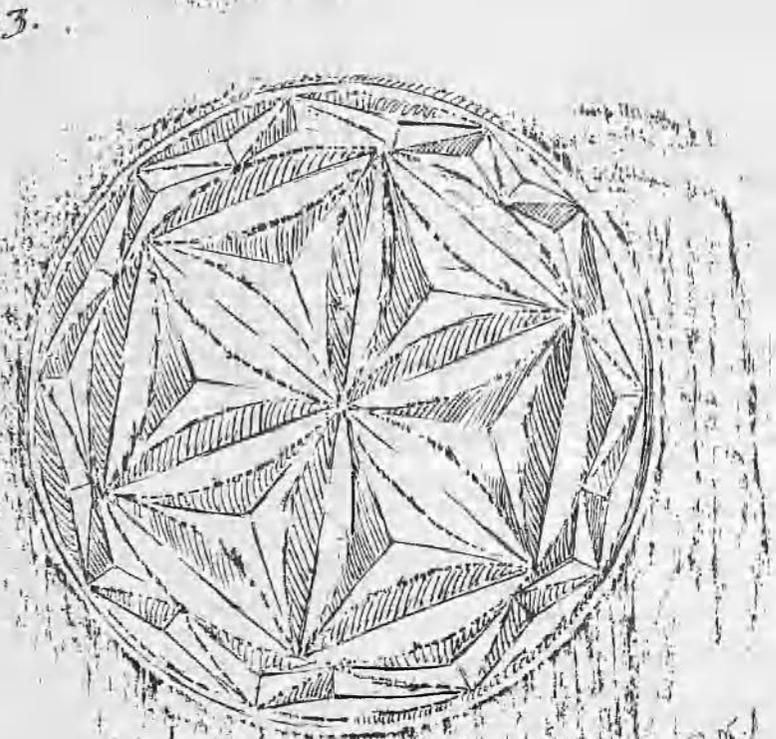
Stoke

N^o 2.



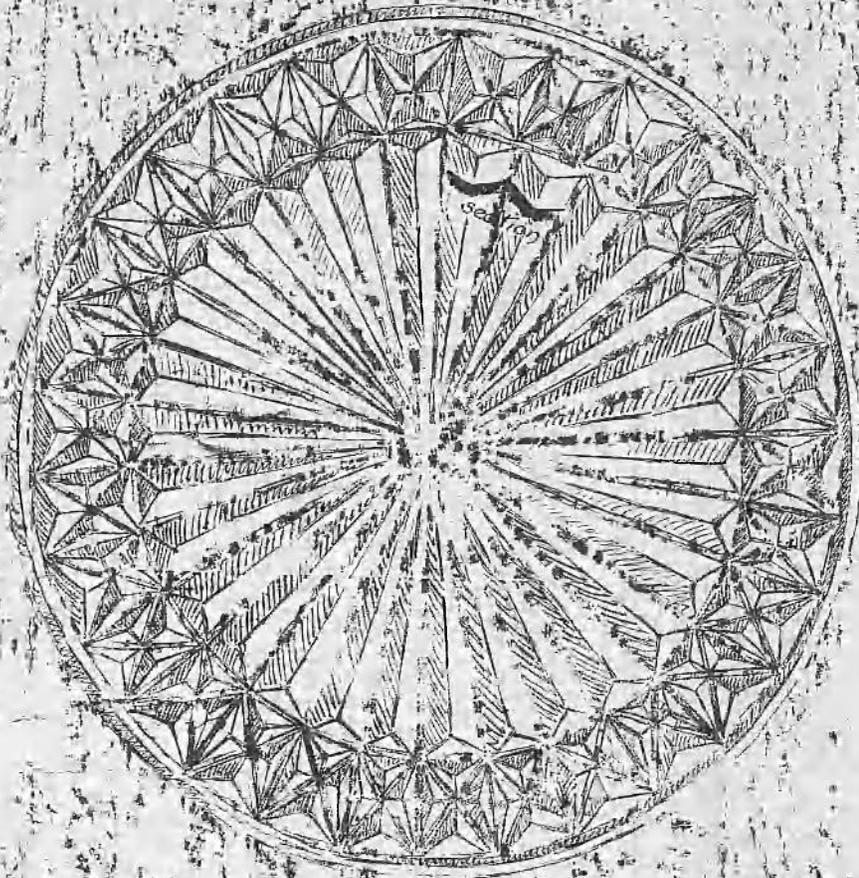
d'Abernon.

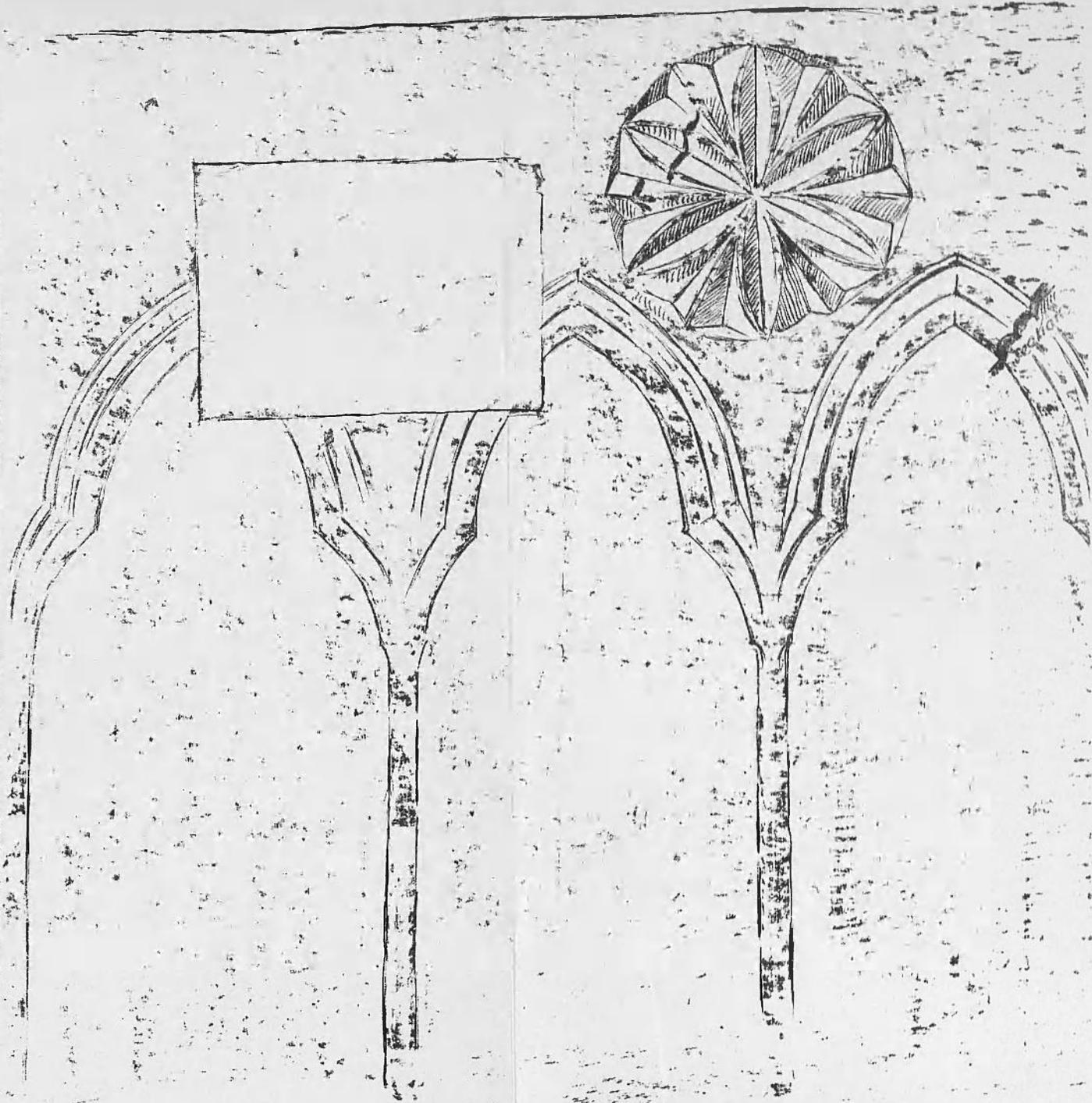
N^o 3.



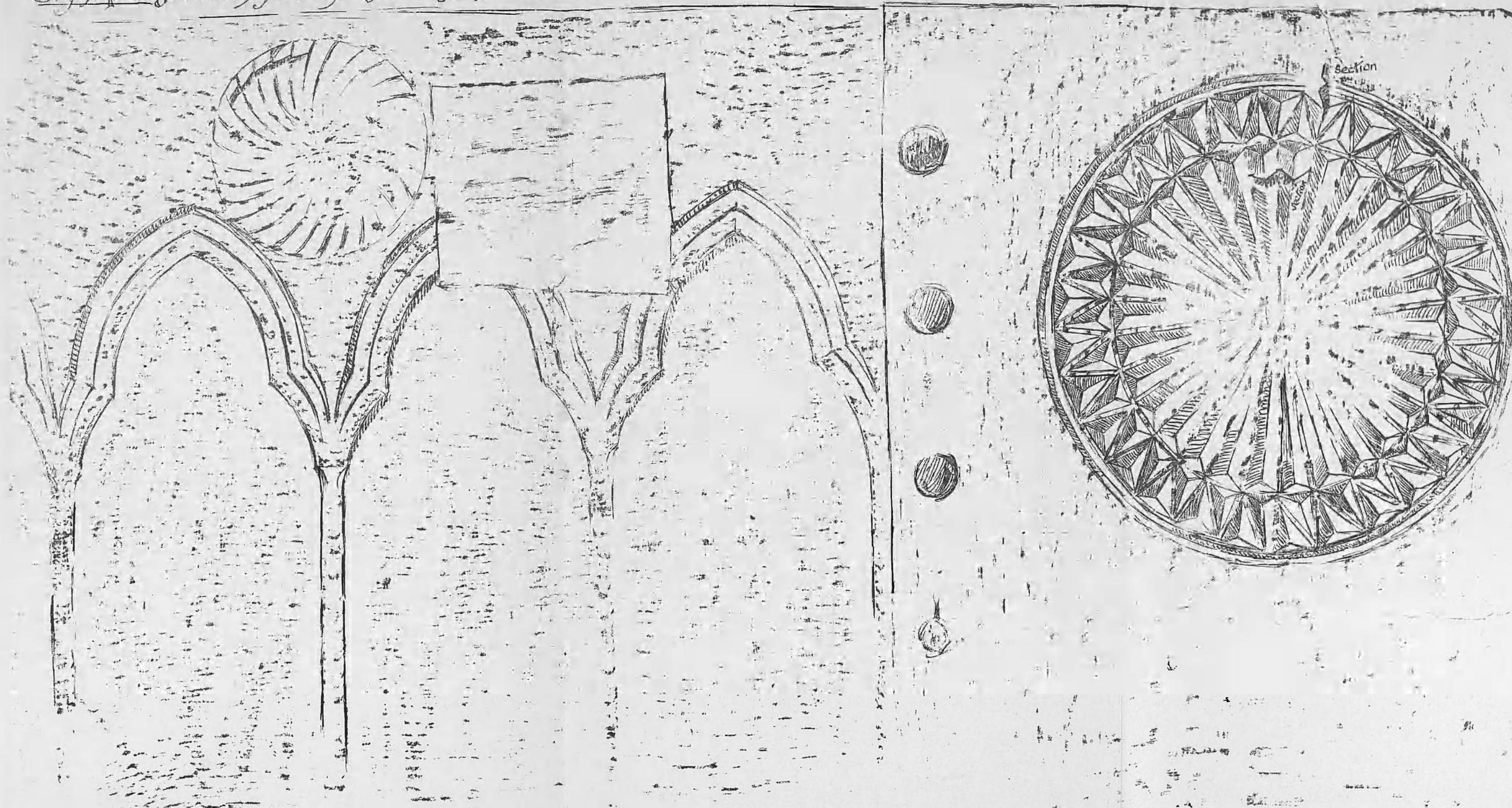
From a rubbing finished in 1816.

Clypeus. Part of front of Chest (left). Half real size.



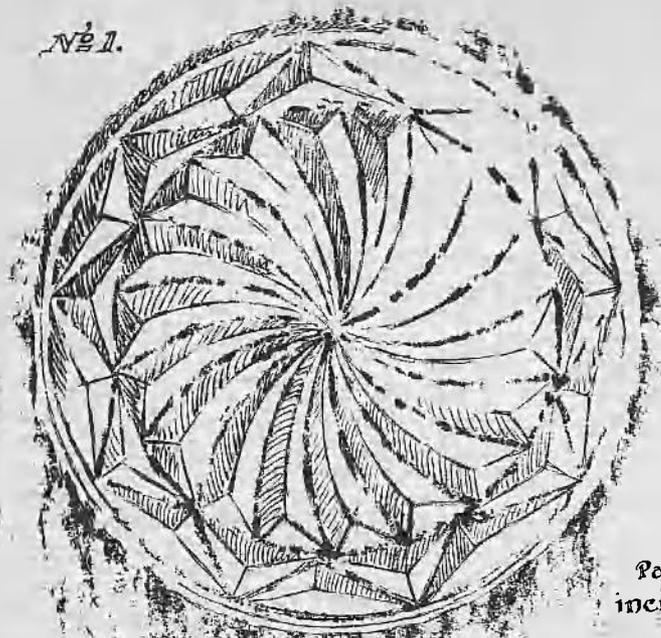


From a rubbing finished in ink by P.M.J.

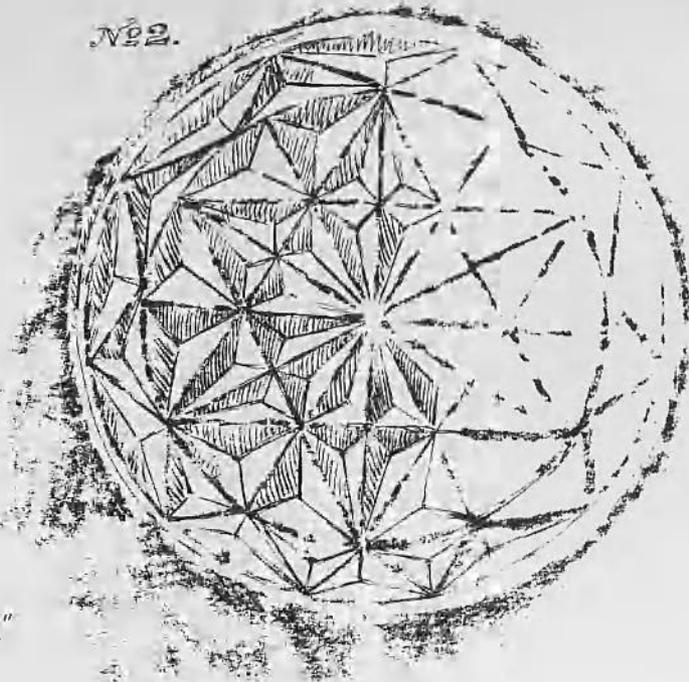


From a rubbing finished in ink by P.M.J.

N^o 1.



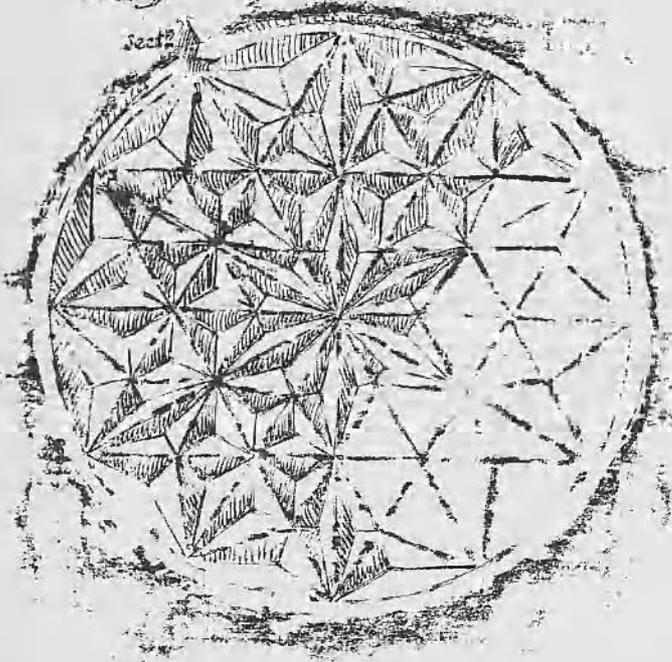
N^o 2.



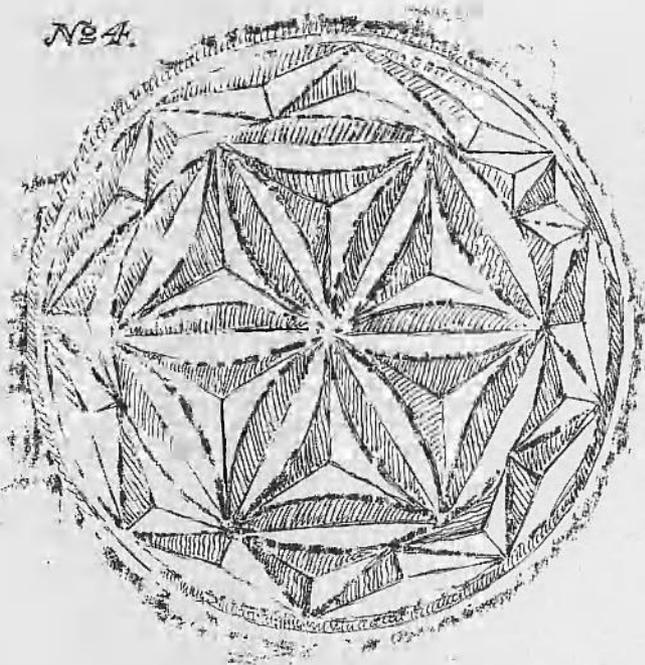
Patterns
incised $\frac{1}{4}$ "

N^o 3.

sect 2



N^o 4.



From a rubbing finished in ink by P.M.J.