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CHALICE AND PATEN FROM BISHOP GROSTESTE'S COFFIN (1200-1250). CHALICE, TYPE A; PATEN, TYPE A.

THE CHURCH PLATE OF THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN.¹

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In the present diocese of Lincoln there are 584 parishes, of which several are composed of two or more originally separate parishes; and I have notes, due to the care, zeal and energy of my old friend, master and pastor, the late Canon Harvey, of the plate of some 500 at least of these churches. It is disappointing that apparently there is so very little remains of mediaeval church plate in the diocese. Six pieces only are known, and these we may begin to notice at once. The first is the chalice and paten (plate i) found in 1783 in bishop Grosseteste's tomb in the cathedral church. He was bishop of Lincoln from 1235 to the year of his death, 1253, and both chalice and paten belong to what Messrs. Hope and Fallow call type A (from 1200-1250) in their memorable article in the *Archaeological Journal*.² The bowl is broad and shallow, the stem, knot and foot, plain and circular. The paten has a quatrefoil lower depression, a circular central one with an engraved figure of a bishop, his left hand holding a crozier, his right uplifted in blessing. The second example is the chalice and paten found in 1889 on opening the grave of Oliver Sutton, bishop of Lincoln from 1281 to 1299 (plate ii). In spite of the later date of the bishop's rule, both chalice and paten belong to the same type A; a quasi-lip will be noticed on the edge of the bowl, and the paten has two circular depressions, uncusped, and in the central one the *Manus Dei* issues from conventional clouds in the act of blessing. The third chalice and paten came from the grave of Richard de Gravesend, bishop of Lincoln from 1258 till his death in 1279 (plate iii), and belong to type B, the bowl and foot being much the same as in type A, but with the stem and knot as a separate

¹ Read before the Institute at the Annual Meeting at Lincoln, July 24th, 1909. See also "Notes on Lincolnshire Church Plate with a Lincoln Maker's Mark, and on another

Mark attributed to Lincoln," *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* 2nd. ser. xxii, ii, 346.

² xliii, 161 and 364.

piece of metal, the knot having eight lobes, and the circular stem having its upper and lower edges milled, and its surface ornamented with vandyking, alternately plain and hatched. The paten also belongs to type B, having only one depression in the shape of a square and quatrefoil combined: in the centre is the *Manus Dei* surrounded by a circle of wavy pattern. The next example of mediaeval date is the beautiful chalice from Brant Broughton. It has a rather conical bowl, a hexagonal stem, with delicate work pierced foliation at the junction of stem and foot and stem and bowl, and crossed bars; these appear also at its junctions with the knot, which has six lobes of square-leaved flowers. The foot has six lobes, with an up-and-down cut ornament on the vertical edge. Traces, unfortunately indecipherable, of hall marks can be seen on one lobe, and on another in a rather roughly-incised cross recerclée. It has been dated at about the year 1510. This delightful specimen belongs to type H, though its bowl does not quite agree with the shape described, as might be expected, since it is of foreign make and design. The paten from Scremby, of which I regret not to give an illustration, has the vernicle, or face of our Lord, in the centre, and a sexfoil depression, with the spandrils filled with a rayed leaf ornament. It belongs to type D of Messrs. Hope and Fallow's arrangement, and fortunately has the London marks, a fish for maker's mark, and a small black letter p for the year 1512. The next paten, from Barnetby-le-Wold (plate iv), is very similar, only more battered in condition, having lost a considerable part of its rim. It has the vernicle in the middle, and the sexfoil depression, but no marks to show its date. Like the Scremby example also, it belongs to type D.

From an inventory, dated 1553, given in *Church Furniture* by our veteran Lincolnshire antiquary, Mr. Edward Peacock, in 34 parishes there was a chalice remaining in each, and Gainsborough, Haxey, and Owston possessed a couple. The old name chalice is used occasionally in the Survey of 1566, which forms the bulk of Mr. Peacock's book, as at Barholme, Epworth, Gretford, Somerby, St. George's, Stamford, and Welton, near Lincoln. Welton, near Louth, gives us a light on the paucity of mediaeval church plate remaining in the diocese, as the entry for



[G. Hadley & Son, phot.]

CHALICE AND PATEN FROM BISHOP OLIVER SUTTON'S COFFIN (1200-1250). CHALICE, TYPE A; PATEN, TYPE A.



[G. Hadley & Son, phot.]
CHALICE AND PATEN FROM BISHOP GRAVESEND'S COFFIN (1279). CHALICE, TYPE B; PATEN, TYPE B.

that parish says, "Item, one chalice, sold to Roger Stutt of Lawith since Christmas last beinge brokne in peces"; while at Grantham the transition from the old to the new is chronicled as follows: "Itm. two chalyces of silver "there patente" (their patens?) "and a silver and copper "shryne called senct Wulffram shryne was sold and bought "wythe the pryce thereof a silver pott pcel" (parcel?) "Gylt an an Ewer of sylver for the mynistracion of the holye "and most sacred supper of oure lorde Jhesus Crist called "the holye comunyon." I may also mention that in 1549 Edward VI sanctioned a union of parishes in Lincoln owing to the disappearance of their inhabitants, when the forty-nine were reduced to thirteen, and in divers cases the church plate and other appurtenances of the churches which were pulled down were sold "for the City's use." Before this, in 1546, in the corporation records it will be noticed that St. John's church in Newport was ordered to be taken down, and the plate, etc. to be sold for "the use of the Common Chamber," and so we find that a chalice lately pertaining to that church sold on Oct. 10, 1547, for 49s. at 4s. 8d. the ounce.

I am not able to say definitely that any archbishop of Canterbury or bishop of Lincoln enjoined the use of communion cups in the diocese of Lincoln, but the existence of more than 100 cups and patens of the years 1569-1570, or thereabouts, is evidence, I think, of a very considerable change in this county, which points to some order or injunction having been issued, which was obeyed so promptly and so widely throughout this part of the diocese. The earliest dated examples are of the date 1558 at Gretford, and 1562 at Spalding; then comes one of 1566 at Halton Holegate and Stainton by Langwith, both of London make, as are nineteen others of three and four years later. I may here remark that the greater part of the church plate in this diocese is of London make; Ulceby, Barrow-on-Humber, Horkstow, and Barnoldby-le-Beck, all near the Humber, however, have plate made in Hull in the seventeenth century.

The so-called Lincoln maker's mark, well shown on plate v, no. 1, will be seen to be a capital M surmounted by a capital I or J enclosed in a shield something of the shape of the larger end of a violin body, which is found in the

sixteenth century. Both the mark and the outline of the shield stand out in relief. I have notes of this mark on fifty communion cups, all of which, save one, are in the diocese and county of Lincoln. In three instances out of the fifty it occurs in company with a seven-pointed star, formed by seven wedge-shaped or elongated heart-shaped indentations, and without a shield, as at Woodford St. Mary's, Northamptonshire (the one example which I know, outside the county), at Upton-cum-Kexby, and in the example on the illustration at Aubourn (plate v). With the mark and the star in this last instance, a letter or figure, a capital I or the number 1 will be observed, and this occurs, I believe, on no other example of this series. Its general position is, as shown in the Aubourn cup, between the edge of the lip and the engraved pattern which usually runs round the middle of the bowl. In two cases, at Legbourn and at West Rasen, this mark is struck on both cup and paten-cover, and in the latter example it has been struck twice on the paten-cover. Eight of the cups have lost their paten-covers, but, among the complete specimens, a key is given to the date of these pieces of church plate by the fact of 1569 being inscribed in figures on the bottom of the foot of the paten-cover in nineteen instances, 1570 in two instances (one of which is illustrated), and 1571 in one case. In those years the diocese of Lincoln consisted of the counties of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Huntingdon, Bedford and Buckingham, and a large portion of Hertfordshire, but I have not succeeded in finding any examples of this maker's marked plate either in the admirable work of my friend, the late Andrew Trollope, on Leicestershire church plate, or in a series of manuscript notes of that in Huntingdonshire, kindly lent me by Mr. J. E. Foster, of Cambridge.

The distribution of these cups in the diocese is fairly even over the western half of the county, and the north-eastern quarter, but I have no note of any specimen having been found in the triangle between Bardney, Burgh and Stamford.

From the fact that this mark occurs alone in all but three instances, and with one exception on plate in the county of Lincoln, I think it may reasonably and fairly be concluded that it is the private or maker's mark of a



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BARNETBY-LE-WOLD. PATEN, TYPE D (1430-1530).



NO. I. MARKS ON A COMMUNION CUP AT AUBOURN (†).



NO. 2. YARBOROUGH. COCOANUT CUP.

silversmith who probably lived and worked at Lincoln. But up to the present I have not been able to discover his name. The city freeman's lists, the wills both in the local probate court and at Canterbury, the registers of the various parishes where these cups occur, and the municipal registers, have all been searched in vain for the originator of the mark I or J M, or M I. This, besides being vexatious, is rather surprising, as the maker of so many of these cups should have been a person of some importance; and all the more so, if, as I believe, he was the maker of some thirty-five other cups, which have no mark at all, and of which thirteen have 1569 in figures on the paten-cover foot, and two 1571, for the style of cup, paten and decorations of both are identical with that of the marked specimens. Which leads me on to give a brief description of the cups and patens which possess the mark in question. The cups vary in height from about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and in weight, of course, accordingly. Speaking generally, they are of the ordinary Elizabethan type, the bowl having almost straight sides, slightly sloping outwards and widening towards the lip, the lower end being flat where it joins the stem, except in two instances (of which one is at Scotton), where it is somewhat rounded off, making it more of a bell shape. Some of the unmarked cups are of this shape, as at Barnetby-le-Wold. The bowl always has a band of arabesque design (sometimes called, I think very suitably, the crane's-bill pattern) about the middle, between two straps which intersect two or three times in the circuit, as in the specimen from Aubourn (plate vi). Here also, as in a considerable number of cases, these straps are shaded, so to speak, with an up-and-down cutting. In the Barnetby cup this shading is effected by horizontally running dashes. In some cases a single line takes the place of the strap, and on the fine specimen (the finest of the series I have as yet come across) at West Rasen (plate vii) this shading has been omitted, and at the intersections the straps are carried above and below the band, and end in sprays of foliage, a not uncommon feature in the ornamentation of these cups.

The stem is sometimes plain, with a horizontally reeded moulding at the junction with the bowl and with the foot, as at Aubourn, Beelsby, Boultham, Brinkhill, and

four more places. At Haxey there are three bands of this moulding, one constituting a knob in the centre of the stem. Occasionally the reeding of this moulding is vertical, as at Kirkby Green and Bag Enderby. In other examples there is a well-defined knob in the middle of the stem, which, as well as the junction of stem and bowl, and stem and foot, is ornamented with a kind of trellis-work pattern. This is found on two cups at Frodingham, on one at Messingham and Harlaxton, and in seven other instances. It is well shown in the two examples from Barnetby and North Carlton (plate VIII), the latter of which has little dots in the interspaces of the trellis-work. In the West Rasen example the central knob has a rounded moulding, and the stem is divided from the bowl and foot respectively by mouldings made up of a series of small roundels set side by side. The foot is generally of a flattened dome shape, with a broad flange, the diameter of the foot being usually the same as that of the mouth of the bowl. Below the dome in the West Rasen example is a belt of elegant little dentelles, outside which again, on the flat of the flange, is a band of egg and dart moulding. The upper portion of the foot of the Barnetby cup, which is much flattened, has a band of interrupted dashes round it.

The paten-cover is much of the same size and shape as the foot just described; it is a flat-domed plate, with wide flange. On the under surface (when used as a cover) is a projecting rim, a third of an inch or so deep, which fits into the top of the bowl. On the summit of the dome is a small stem with a flat top to serve as a handle for taking off the paten-cover, and as a foot or stand when placed with its concave surface upwards on the altar. The paten shares in the general scheme of ornament already mentioned. At Aubourn the flat top of the foot has a band of the up-and-down cutting; between two similar bands on the rounded shoulder of the dome is an elegant band of foliage, while another belt of foliage fills up the width of the outer flange.

Another mark, that of a fleur de lys, has been attributed to the city of Lincoln by no less an authority than Mr. C. J. Jackson, the author of an almost monumental work on English goldsmiths and their marks; and by Mr. H. D.



[*G. Hadley & Son, phot.*

AUBOURN. CUP AND PATEN.



WEST RASEN. CUP AND PATEN.

[G. Hadley & Son, phot.]

Ellis. The suggestion that the fleur de lys, the emblem of the Virgin Mary, to whom the minster is dedicated, was taken out of the city's coat of arms (which is the shield of St. George, with the lily in the centre), and used for the city mark on plate, is both interesting and carries with it a high degree of initial probability. At Carlisle, Cripps tells us the seeded rose, taken out of the city's coat of arms, was used for stamping weights and measures, and it is also to be found on some early Elizabethan communion cups in the diocese. At Lincoln, however, the plain shield of St. George, without the fleur de lys, was used for stamping weights and measures, and of late years, till 1889, the same shield with the words "City" above and "Lincoln" below it.

The evidence produced both by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Ellis, resting, as it did, upon a number of spoons, stamped with fleur de lys certainly, but with no other indication of their origin, a few other uncertain articles at York and Dublin, a mug with T. Skottowe's initials, a lion's face, a Norwich date letter, and a fleur de lys, of which the suggestion was made that Skottowe practised at Norwich and Lincoln about the same time, seemed to me so very unsatisfactory that I thought a careful study of the church plate in the actual diocese of Lincoln might help to throw some light on this question. Out of the five hundred returns (including, it must be remembered, generally some three to ten or twelve articles of plate), I have found only five with the fleur de lys mark, at Fenton, Halton Holegate, Skillington, Dunston, and Reepham, and alas for theory, these are all specimens of London make. At North Carlton is an interesting cup and paten (plate VIII), each marked with a peculiar stamp which I considered might be a debased fleur de lys, but the better opinion appears to be that it was a spray of foliage, perhaps of hawthorn, as suggested by Mr. Hope. The bowl of the cup is rather bell-shaped, like the unmarked cups described already, and the scroll-work and the three rows of trellis-work ornaments with dots inside, around the stem, are exactly similar to several of those assigned to the Lincoln maker.

There is in the diocese a certain amount of Jacobean plate, and the restoration of the monarchy, in 1660, has

been marked in some half-dozen instances by the plate of the churches, as at Croft, Hainton, Friskney, and elsewhere.

A special feature of the end of the seventeenth and the eighteenth century is the occurrence of large and handsome flagons, not infrequently in pairs; there are at least twenty instances before 1700, and about seventy-five between that date and 1800. I have notes of one or two instances of all the church vessels being of pewter, of which there is a considerable quantity in the diocese, and in two cases, a little puzzling at first sight, a pewter plate and a pewter alms-dish have been silver-plated.

One very interesting feature of church plate is that it forms a more or less permanent record, by their gifts of plate, of the association of various families with the various parishes. Such are those of the Bolles of Scampton, the St. Pauls of Snarford, the Beresfords of Leadenham, Henry Stone (a great benefactor to the London Christ's Hospital) at Skellingthorpe, the Dymokes at Scrivelsby, Asterby and Sausthorpe, the Fitzwilliams at Withern, the Monsons at Croft, the Brownlows at Belton, Great Humby and Somerby, and the Sheffields at Burton Stather; several parishes also are indebted for their church plate to the late bishops Kaye, Jackson, and Trollope. Perhaps the most striking instance is at Edenham, to which church Lord Willoughby de Eresby presented in 1847 a superb series of foreign plate, an Italian chalice, an Augsburg chalice, a Castilian flagon, an Italian gold chrismatory, a Flemish alms-dish, and Italian candlesticks. But possibly the most interesting plate in the diocese after mediaeval times exists at Knaith. This little village, a few miles east of Gainsborough, is celebrated as being the birth-place of Thomas Sutton, the munificent founder of Charterhouse school and hospital, London, and it was one of the country seats of Francis, fifth Lord Willoughby of Parham in Suffolk, a member of a junior branch of the Willoughby de Eresby family. He was a prominent leader of the Parliamentary forces in this county, but returned to his allegiance to the king in 1648, and died in 1666. A cup, paten and two flagons at Knaith have on each the Willoughby coat of arms, *or*, a fret of 8 pieces, *azure* surmounted by a coronet and the London hall mark



[G. Hadley & Son, phot.]

NORTH CARLTON. CUP AND PATEN.



STICKNEY. CHURCH BEAKER (1608).

either for 1661 or 1671. But the alms-dish, which has undoubtedly the London letter for 1659, has on it the remarkable engraving shown in the illustration, which is certainly meant for Charles, between two sprays of olive branches (fig. 1). And I would suggest that this was, so to speak, conscience money, given by Lord Willoughby, before the restoration, as a token of his regretful remorse at having taken up arms against his king, and at the circumstances of the king's death.

Of other plate of special interest I may select the caudle cups, one dated 1676, at Ashby Puerorum, an appropriate place ; and another at Stainton.



FIG. 1. KNAITH. ALMS-DISH.

A cocoanut cup at Yarborough, with the coat of arms of the Yarborough family (now represented by Lord Deramore) surrounded by palm branches of late seventeenth century date on its foot (plate v, no. 2). The cup seems to be of the date of Charles I, and the stem possibly has been renewed, judging by the absence of hinges to the lower ends of the straps and the style and appearance of the knot.

An apostle spoon at Wold Newton obviously represents St. John the evangelist with a cup ; it is of sixteenth-century date probably, but has no hall marks of any kind, not even a fleur de lys. The beaker at Stickney (plate ix) is dated 1608, and I believe is one of five known to be used as Communion cups in this country.

At Thurlby is a fine two-handled cup bought with prize-money for the battle of Waterloo and the capture of Paris in 1815, and given to the church in 1892. At Honington is the curiously-shaped cup and cover, dated 1690, of which an illustration is shown in plate x. It is London made, the maker's mark being W. H. above a cherub's face in a shield, Cripps giving this for 1669. The entire decoration of this cup and cover has a great likeness to that prevalent on Communion cups in the earlier years of queen Elizabeth's reign, and, if this example of plate does not belong to the year 1570 (which the small black letter n may denote) it is a remarkable instance of the survival of mouldings and ornament for more than 100 years. At Stainfield is a well-shaped cup something like an enlarged claret glass, dated 1808, which was won by a farmer in a fat stock show, and by him presented to the church. A sumptuous and splendid alms-dish is at St. Peter-at-Arches, the city church, and into it the collections are poured with what Lord Beaconsfield called "an elegant clatter." It is in the shape of a scallop shell, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, is dated 1758, and has the inscription, which is also on a fine flagon, "Dedicated by Subscription to the Glory of God and the Use of the Church of St. Peter at the Arches in Lincoln 1758."



[Alfred Emary, Grantbam, phot.]

HONINGTON. CUP AND COVER.