

## On a Mediæval Paten at Hartshorne.

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THE paten represented so clearly on the accompanying platinotype (Plate X.), by Mr. Keene, of Derby, is the second one of mediæval date I have met with while examining the church plate of Derbyshire. Its discovery is, however, directly due to an entry in the records of the parish of Hartshorne,\* to which it belongs, stating that among the church goods in 1612 were "a communion cupp of silver w<sup>th</sup> a plate of Silver having Ihon Bapt<sup>d</sup> head vppon it." A copy of this entry was sent to me by Dr. Cox, who suggested that if the "plate of silver" was still at Hartshorne, it was probably a mediæval paten, like that at Shirley, with the Vernicle; the device having been quite excusably described by the 17th century churchwarden as St. John Baptist's head. On visiting Hartshorne I found Dr. Cox's suggestion to be correct.

The paten is of silver parcel-gilt; it measures  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter and is of a common type that prevailed from *circa* 1450 to *circa* 1530. The rim is quite plain, with the exception of four narrow lines engraved on the extreme edge. The centre has a circular depression, which again contains a slightly sunk sexfoil with the spandrils filled with a rayed leaf ornament. The central device is a Vernicle, engraved on a circular plate with a glory of short rays around.

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R. KEENE, DERBY, PLATINOTYPE.

MEDIEVAL PATEN

AT HARTSHORNE, DERBYSHIRE.

[FULL SIZE.]

The hall marks are three in number—

- (1) The maker's mark—an uncusped Lombardic capital B, in a dotted circle.
- (2) The leopard's head crowned.
- (3) The date letter.

Unfortunately the last has been so obliterated that it is not possible to say with certainty what it was, or we could have known in what year the paten was made.

The "communion cup of silver" now at Hartshorne may be the one there in 1612. It bears the London hall marks for 1611-12, and the inscription

*Justus fide vivet + I + R + C.*  
1612.

It is of a common type of the period, and a very good example of it. The letters I. R. C., I take to signify the "James Royll, Churchwarden" of 1612.

Recent researches by Mr. T. M. Fallow and myself, have brought to light over seventy mediæval English patens. It may perhaps be useful to give the classification we have drawn up, after an exhaustive analysis of the various features of the patens themselves:—

Form I. A plate with plain circular depression with an inner second depression multifoil in outline.

Form II. A plate with one impression only, either circular or multifoil.

Type A (Form I.) Lower depression quatrefoil; central device uncertain. Date *circa* 1180—*circa* 1260

Type B (Form II.) Depression octofoil or multiple; central device usually the *manus Dei*.\* Date, *circa* 1260—*circa* 1300.

Type C (Form I.) Lower depression sexfoil with plain cusps; central device various, but mostly the *manus Dei*. Date *circa* 1300 to *circa* 1350.

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\* Or hand of God in the act of blessing, often on a cruciform nimbus and issuing downwards from a cloud.

Type D (Form I.) Same as type C, but the spandrils of the sexfoil filled with a rayed leaf ornament. The central device is most frequently the Vernicle\* with, in many cases, an encircling glory of short rays. Examples occur from *circa* 1450 to *circa* 1530.†

Type E (Form II.) Single circular depression with, usually, ihs or ihc in centre. Date *circa* 1485.

Type F (Form I.) An elaboration of Type D, which it resembles, in general form, but the central device has a glory of long rays filling the sexfoil depression, and on the rim is an engraved legend. Central device various. Date *circa* 1525.

Type G (Form II.) An elaboration of type E. Single circular depression, with central device surrounded by a glory of long rays. On the rim is an engraved legend. Date *circa* 1520-1535.

It will be seen that the Hartshorne paten belongs to our type D. Its date is *circa* 1480.

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\* Or representation of our Lord's face, on a nimbus. See the legend of St. Veronica.

† Late patens of this type have an engraved legend on the rim.