



12th CENTURY CARVING AT HADDON HALL.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

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## A 12TH CENTURY CARVING AT HADDON HALL.

The original photograph of the stone here reproduced was taken about fifty years ago by Mr. Bennett of Breadsall. This original has now almost fallen to pieces but Mr. F. A. Barrett has skilfully reconstructed the print and our reproduction is taken from a print of his.

The stone is built into the wall over the doorway into the old stables, now the motor garage, at Haddon Hall. Its position and condition have kept it from notice but I am told it is still in place, although my correspondent says that he has passed it at least four times each day for the past two years without observing it particularly.

The age of the carving and its position present something of a problem but it probably represents a tumbler performing one of his tricks. Mr. Walton dates it 12th century and presumes that it has been taken out of the Hall Chapel where it may have been an ornament representing the 12th century legend of the Juggler of Notre Dame.

Mr. Kendrick of the British Museum says it is undoubtedly a 12th century rustic carving. He compares it with the whimsical carvings on the roof corbels at Kilpeck in Herefordshire. These carvings are connected with the "Sheila-na-gigs" of Ireland and it is supposed they were often incorporated in later buildings for luck.

Whatever the explanation it is a very unusual carving to find in Derbyshire.

S. TAYLOR.