

**A DERBYSHIRE GIBBONS MONUMENT.**

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By THE EDITORS.

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IN her very interesting paper on post-reformation monuments printed in this *Journal* (Vol. LX, 1939), Mrs. Arundell Esdaile showed her considerable knowledge of Derbyshire monuments. It must be a matter for regret that she did not continue the results of her researches in a subject on which her opinion had considerable authority.

Obviously she had not inspected all the Derbyshire examples, and as far as is known did not visit Radbourne. In the church there is the memorial which is described in Bagshawe's *History and Directory of Derbyshire for 1846* as "a splendid monument to German Pole esq. (who died in 1683) and his wife Ann."

This massive piece was given a close examination by Dr. F. C. Eeles, F.S.A., secretary of the Central Council for the Care of Churches, when in Derbyshire in 1950. Without hesitation he pronounced it to be a characteristic example of Grinling Gibbons' work, somewhat pretentious but well executed.

In the absence of any documentary evidence it seemed that this identification would have to rest only on the strength of the typical Gibbons styling.

During the calendaring of the Pole family papers this year, however, a letter was discovered from Charles Coke to his nephew Samuel Pole of Radbourne. Writing from London on February 21st, 1683/4, he says: ". . . this afternoon I was with Mr. Gibbons who desires that asoone as the roads are passable for waggons, some may be appointed for the bringing of the monument down." In the considerable mass of miscellaneous receipts and accounts examined, we might have hoped to find Gibbons' receipt, but it seems this has not survived. Nevertheless, the indisputable authority of Dr. Eeles' opinion and the unequivocal wording of the letter seem to leave no doubt that we may add this interesting monument to the FitzHerbert memorial in Tissington identified by Mrs. Esdaile.