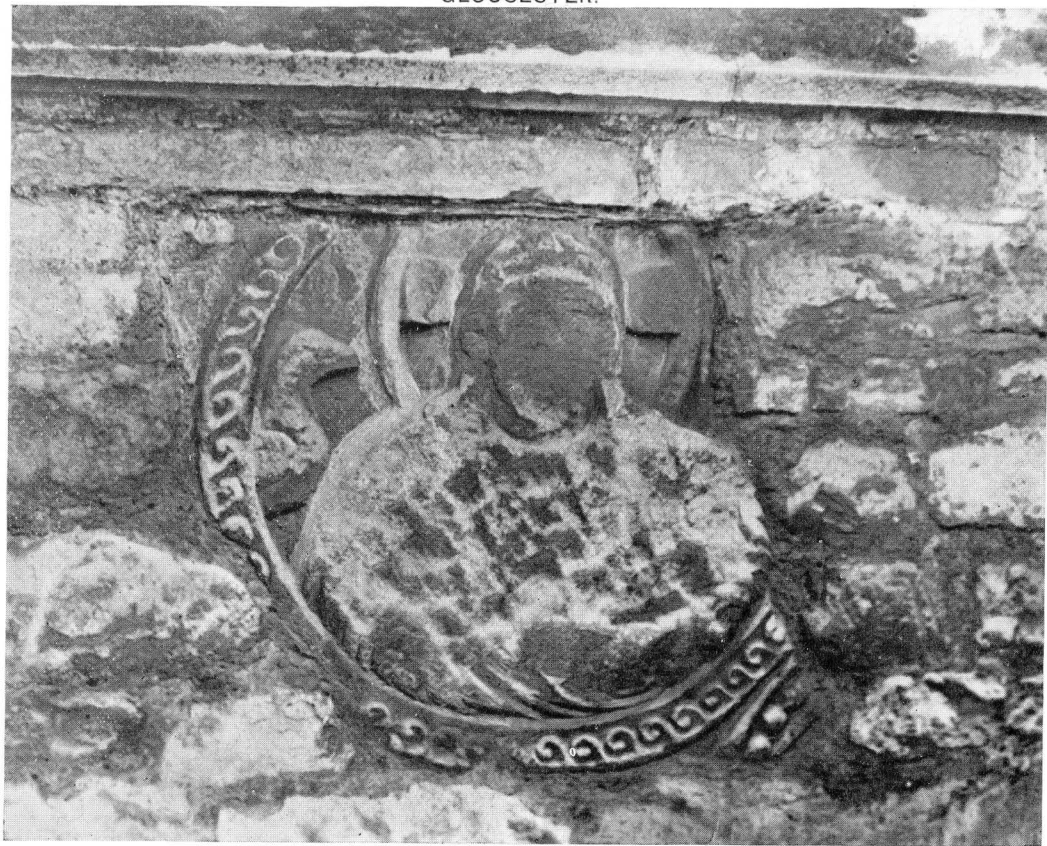


Sculptured Norman Tympanum at Gloucester.

Inserted in the wall of the garden of the Bishop's Palace at Gloucester, is part of a large stone, which appears to be a portion of the tympanum of a Norman Doorway. In the centre is a circular medallion, with a series of single loops on the border. This encloses a sculpture, exhibiting the head and shoulders of our Lord. He has the cruciform nimbus very clearly portrayed, but the face has been hacked away, though the ears are still discernible. The chest and arms have also been mutilated, and it is difficult to make out the pose of the figure, though the arms seem to be holding something in front of the chest. On the left side is part of a bird probably the Holy Dove, with its beak against the nimbus by the right ear of our Lord. The treatment is unusual, nor can I call to mind any subject at all similar to this. In the Cloisters at Lincoln Cathedral is preserved part of a tympanum with a figure of Christ seated in Majesty, and the Holy Dove within a vesica above Him. At Tarrant Rushton, in Dorsetshire, on the lintel over the south doorway is the Agnus Dei in the centre, and a seated figure giving the benediction on either side, that on the right holds a dove on the right hand. At Bondleigh, in Devonshire, on the tympanum over the south doorway, is the Agnus Dei within a circular cable border in the centre, and a bird probably a dove on either side. The tympanum at Gloucester is not very early, probably about the middle of the twelfth century. There is no record as to where it came from.

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PORTION (p) OF A NORMAN TYMPANUM IN WALL OF THE BISHOP'S PALACE GARDEN.