

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Antiquities at Cirencester and Berkeley. Memoranda of Certain
Sketches**

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1878-79, Vol. 3, 256-257

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ANTIQUITIES AT CIRENCESTER AND BERKELEY.
MEMORANDA OF CERTAIN SKETCHES

By J. T. IRVINE.

Submitted to the Society by J. F. NICHOLLS, F.S.A.

CIRENCESTER.

THE first illustrates a very remarkable fragment of a side-table or stand, of stone, of late Roman work, shewing a treatment which might almost be said to verge upon Norman. It may be conjectured to have been intended for the support of a bust in the centre and smaller figures on each side. It is of much interest as an example of transition in the History of Architecture (see Plate IX., figs. 1 to 4.)

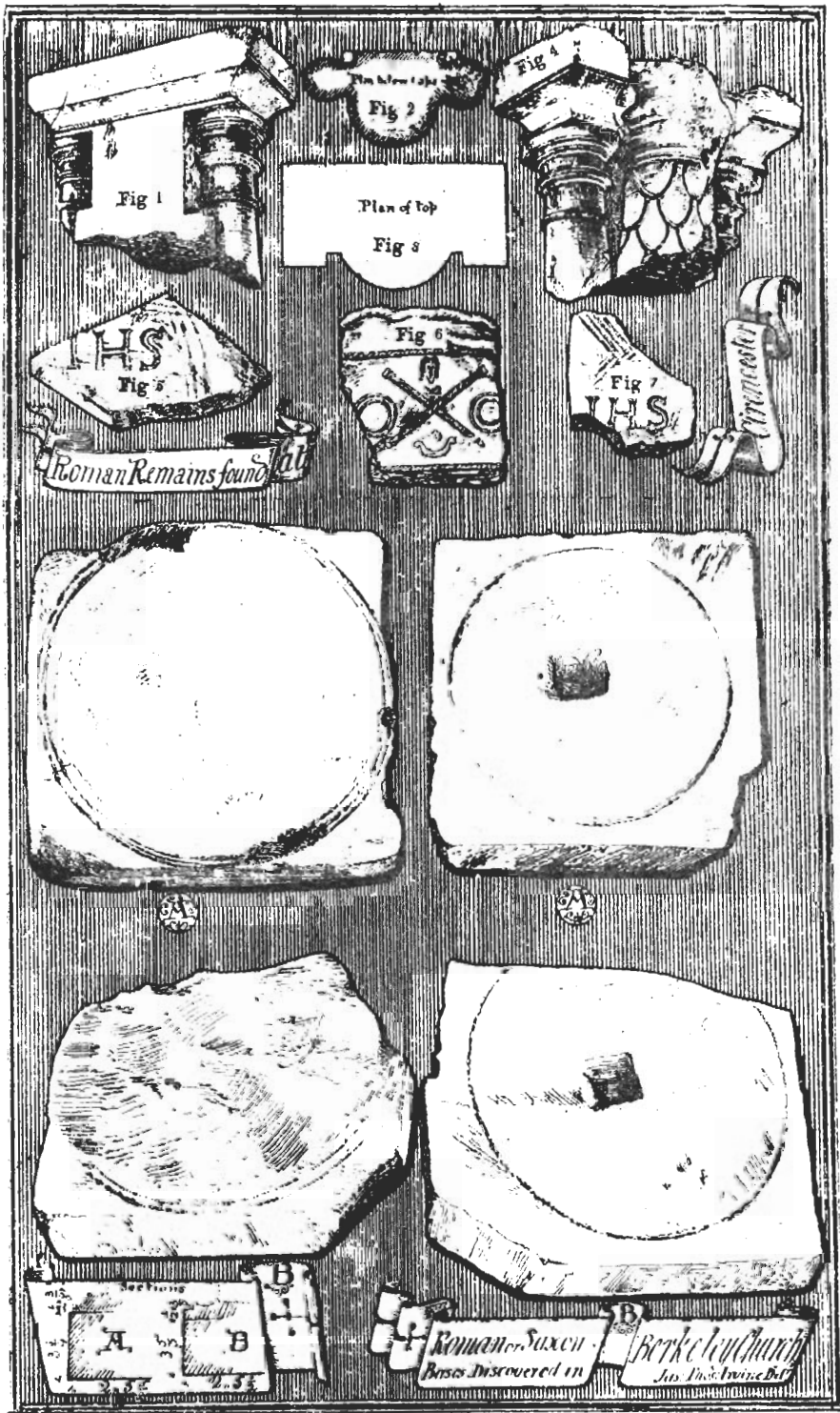
The two fragments of tiles (Plate IX., fig. 5 & 7) are remarkable as exhibiting, certainly, the initials I.H.S., and the letters differ so much in size and character from the usual tile stamps as almost inevitably to lead to the conclusion that they form the Christian Monogram.

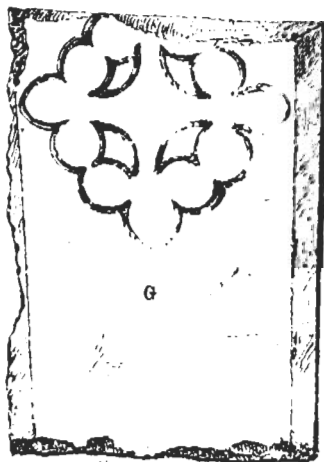
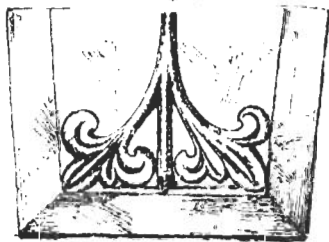
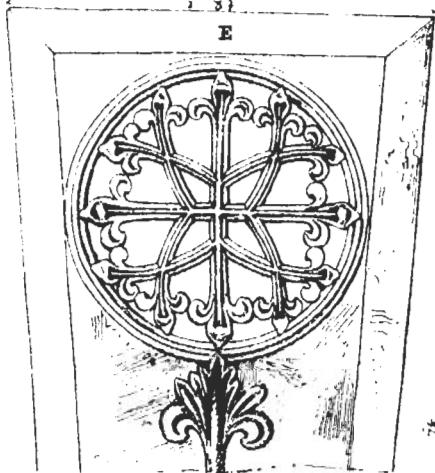
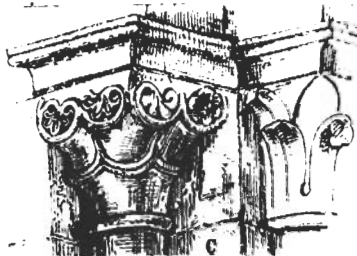
Much discussion respecting them took place among the members of the "Bristol Archæological Association," on the visit of the Association to Cirencester.

The other fragment (Plate IX., fig. 6) is part of a leaden coffin, of Roman date, very richly ornamented. The decoration would appear to be of a Pagan character.

BERKELEY.

The remainder of the illustrations represent objects discovered during the restoration of Berkeley Church, in 1865, under the direction of the late Sir Gilbert Scott. The church is of unusual architectural interest. Some parts of it being of pre-Norman date, having formed portions of the church of the Saxon Nunnery, which here existed.





4. 4

D

E

F

G

Engraved
July 10. 1868
J. T. Davis

During the removal of the floor, for the purpose of laying a bed of concrete, a stone cist was discovered containing bones. The interment, itself, is not believed to be of any very great antiquity, but the cist was, in part, constructed of two large slabs, appearing to have formed bases of columns of considerable size. They are moulded, and were evidently turned in a lathe, the socket remaining in the bottom of each. The mouldings are 2-ft. 4-in. in diameter, but unfortunately they are destroyed down to only an inch or two in height, and so defaced as to render it impossible to say, with certainty, whether they were of Roman or later date. The square slabs are but three or four inches in thickness at their edges, but within the circular moulding, where the surface of the stone is very roughly "bunched" or dressed, with the stone axe, they are one or two inches thicker.¹ At the backs they are both reduced to a tolerably even surface (See Plate IX., figs. A and B). The figure marked C. Plate X., represents the capitals of the columns on the west side of the south door of the nave. These remain *in situ*. That marked D, is an illustration of a portion of an unusually beautiful churchyard cross of Early English date. This fragment, together with a smaller plain portion of the shaft, were found used up as wall-stones in repairing, at some time or other, the buttress west of the north door of the nave. On the upper part, or arms of the cross, appear the lower portions of two figures, one kneeling and the other standing. The subject was, probably, the Annunciation, that on the other side being the Crucifixion. The above fragment was placed in the Berkeley Chapel.²

The beautiful sculptured coffin-lid, marked E, was found beneath the floor of the church, lying somewhat diagonally on its edge. It measures only 3ft. 7in. in length. This slab is now preserved in the Berkeley Chapel.

The other two stones, marked F and G, were found reversed and used as paving stones.

The thinness of the slab would seem to preclude the idea that were ever intended to support columns of such large dimensions as is mentioned in the text.

We regret to learn that it cannot now be found.