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**Compotus Roll of Tewkesbury Abbey**

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Edward Armytage had his attention drawn by a ploughman to some dark brown large tesserae. Suspecting them to be of Roman origin he took some of them and forwarded them in a box to me, together with the base of a small Romano-British pot. On receiving my confirmative reply and my request to see the site where the ploughman had met with these, Mr. Armytage kindly took me to visit the ground, at the same time informing me that there was actually some few feet of pavement still in site. This we soon found and I noticed that, as usual, the broken up mortar of the former Villa structure was sufficiently spread over the central field as to actually lighten and diversify its natural colour. Searching here I soon saw evidence even of a repair of the pavement by means of white tesserae inserted here and there in the purple sandstone ground-work. There were also many fragments of thick tiles, two varieties of cooking vessels, and much gravel brought from elsewhere. These heavy sandstone tesserae (also roof-tiles) I have found were used in the Withington Villa and elsewhere: though for outside courts and verandah-floors, rather than for interior *triclinia* and baths.

#### ROMAN BRICK.

A fine 8" by 8" tile of red brick, 1½" thick: from Woodchester (now in the Museum at Gloucester), bearing capital impression of a nail-studded *caliga* (shoe), or more probably a close fitting *calceus*, having the studs arranged in decorative circles. About  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the sole is represented on the tile. The upper-work of such a shoe was also often adorned with patterns in punch work.

St. CLAIR BADDELEY.

#### COMPOTUS ROLL OF TEWKESBURY ABBEY.

A feature of interest in connexion with the celebration, in October, 1923, of the octocentenary of the consecration of Tewkesbury Abbey was the presentation to the Church, by the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, of the Compotus Roll of the Abbey drawn up by the commissioners of Henry VIII in 1541. The roll consists of 74 skins, all but two of which are written on. It had been lying in the Cathedral Library at Winchester for many years and was not known until 1909, when a mass of papers was cleared from the Chapter Room. The roll gives the account of the first financial year after the dissolution of the Abbey, which took place on 9th of January, 1539. The annual value of the Abbey's possessions at that date was £1595 15s. 6d., with a further sum of £136 8s. 1d. from fees, etc. The pensions assigned

by the Commissioners amounted to £551 6s. 8d., leaving £1044 8s. 10d. for the uses of the Church.

### THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

With the recent addition of nearly forty volumes of Calendars of State Papers to the Society's Library at Gloucester members now have access to a complete series of all the Record Publications most necessary for parochial history, for in addition to their own they can also enjoy the use of those in the Gloucester Public Library, where the Society's books are housed. The following information may therefore be of service to members.

In the Society's Library there are complete sets of the Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, 6 vols.; the Calendars of Patent Rolls, Henry III to Henry VII (1216-1509), 54 vols.; the Calendar of Close Rolls, Henry III to Richard II (1227-1392), 33 vols.; the Calendar of Charter Rolls, Henry III to Edward III (1226-1347), 5 vols.; the Calendar of Fine Rolls, Edward I to Edward III (1272-1368), 7 vols.; Inquisitions Post Mortem and other analogous documents, Henry III to Edward III, 10 vols.; Miscellaneous Inquisitions, 2 vols.

In the Public Library there are the Calendars of State Papers, Domestic series, from 1547 to 1661; a complete set of the "Rolls Series"; Acts of the Privy Council, 1542-1580; and, with only a few exceptions, all the publications of the Record Commissioners, in which are comprised such important works as the Valor Ecclesiasticus, Hundred Rolls, Pipe Rolls, etc.

The two Libraries combined have an almost complete set of the Letters and Papers of Henry VIII. There are also a few volumes in the Shire Hall library which are not in either of the others, and permission to consult them is usually granted on application to the Clerk of the Peace, E. T. Gardom, Esq.

The only remaining set of papers of consequence which it is desirable to add to the Society's Library is the Calendar of Papal Registers and these will be purchased in due course.

### THE BRITWELL LIBRARY.

The further portion of this famous Library which was sold at Sotheby's on the 31st March, 1924, and the four following days, contained a few Gloucestershire books, all of which fetched high prices. A copy of the first issue of the *Annalia Dubrensia*, 1636, but with the frontispiece from the second issue (late 17th century), sold for £19. A copy of the very rare *Nympha Libethris*, by Clement Barksdale, 1651, was bound up with two other pieces by