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Kingscote Wotton-under-Edge

by N. Kingscote
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perhaps before in 1691 a fibula described elsewhere as of brass with red and blue enamel:¹ but Rudder writes of only remains of one pavement, while Gibson² does not mention even tesserae. In fact my impression is that the site has never been excavated, but only turned up in ploughing, yielding surface finds. Baddeley³ writes also of the frequent finding of funerary urns and Romano-British ritual remains: but I have seen no other mention of these. In spite of these doubts and discrepancies, it seems to be certain that there was a villa here, even if Gough's and Rudder's description of it as a Roman military station are exaggerated.

Kingscote Park also preserved and still has a tombstone of Julia Ingenuilla who died young at 20 years⁴: it would have been interesting to identify her with the 'young person, probable female' in the coffin: but this stone with its crescent symbol was found elsewhere. The *C.I.L.* ascribes it to a 'Hearleywood' which cannot be traced: Baddeley says it was found *in situ* at Horsley Wood near Nailsworth, which is only 1½ miles from Kingscote Park: though no other Roman finds from there were known of, the Gloucester City Museum has a coin of Antoninus Pius labelled by Baddeley 'Horsley Wood (Edge),' hitherto wrongly ascribed to Edge near Painswick: also, a trackway traced by Baddeley passes the wood. So that story fails.

E. S. LINDLEY.

" KINGSCOTE, WOTTON UNDER EDGE

On the 27 August 1872, when a field called 'The Middle Chestles,' above Ashel Barn was being ploughed, the plough struck against a stone, not 3 inches from the surface, which on examination was found to be the top of a solid stone coffin. On forcing it open, the two top stones fitting closely together, were secured by an iron clamp at each end of the coffin, a

¹ Rudder, *Gloucestershire*, 1779, p. 512.

² *Brittania*, 1722 edition, I, p. 281.

³ *B.G.A.S.*, LII, p. 151.

⁴ *B.G.A.S.*, LII, p. 164, and *C.I.L.*, VII, no. 75.

perfect skeleton was laying in it, 4 ft. 6 in. in length. Apparently that of a young person as the teeth were so fresh and good and no wisdom teeth to be seen, and probably a female from the size and formation of the bones. No coin or ring was in the coffin, which was perfectly dry and clean inside. The coffin lay exactly north and south, the feet toward the south. The coffin was removed to the churchyard at Kingscote, and the bones which crumbled and perished rapidly after the coffin was opened were buried there also."

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A MURAL PAINTING IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WOTTON UNDER EDGE

Mr Clive Rouse has kindly inspected the mural described in a former article (*B.G.A.S.*, 68, p. 190). He describes it as a 17th century painting of Death, who is usually shown with a mattock or such in his right hand, and an arrow held spear fashion in his left: this figure is generally balanced by a Time on the south of the west wall, but of this there is no sign here. At that period the saints and other figures of earlier murals were banned: only this pair were approved, and a Moses and Aaron by the Tables of the Law above the altar.

The position of the St. Christopher seems to have been above the south door: it must have been demolished when the Taswell and other monuments were moved there to clear the chancel, and an inner wooden porch made, by Canon Sewell in 1882-3.

E. S. LINDLEY.

BURIALS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AT BERKELEY

The following are extracts from the earliest extant volume of the Slimbridge Parish Register concerning the Parliamentary besiegers of Berkeley Castle :