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Head of Minerva-Roma at Kingscote

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We now come to the main difficulty concerning the final element of this interesting name. How did the long—and fairly preserved terminal O.E. *Ofer*=Ore, a bank (that seems to fit so exactly this particular site on the Cotswold escarpment, though it so little fits the Oxonian's Hill), suffer change into *Quarr*? The answer to this is the less easy to offer in that we lack some intermediate overlapping forms of this corruption that led to *Quarr*. But, though this want cannot yet be quite fully remedied there remain to us one or two hypothetical points (drawn again from solid local considerations), that may help the point. For instance (1) the word *Scar*, used for a steep bank, occurs at several localities in the county; the nearest examples being found at Chalford and Minchinhampton, both of them neighbouring quarrying centres. We find it not difficult to admit that this term *Scar* may well have directly influenced both owners and quarrymen by easy confusion with *quarr*; cf. (O. Fr.) *esquarre*; (E) *square*, whence (Mod. Fr.) *carriere*; (E) quarry. In addition to this there was (2) an old Gloucestershire term *shore*; to cut; deriving from O.E. *Scoren*, *sceran*: to cut or shear (cf. Skt: *skar*=to cut) as in Shorn-cliff; a precipice, and the abbot of Gloucester (1265) used to exact, or, at least to be paid—*Schern-selver* or *Schernpeny*; presumably for the right of cutting stone; and this *querne-gavel* therefore closely corresponded to the better-known *querne-peny* of Kent (cf. Accts. of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, 1438). It seems quite possible therefore, that these familiar terms (as pronounced by local folk employed here in stone-cutting during successive centuries, and even until to-day), at Shoteshore, may have thus effected the peculiar and little expected transformation into *Scotch-quarr*.

ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

THE MINERVA HEAD AT KINGSCOTE.

(Plate).

In 1691 was found at Kingscote in a field called "The Chestles" (*i.e.* *cestel*, a loan-word from *Castellum*) a bronze enamelled fibula, a tessellated pavement, and perhaps a small statue representing Minerva-Roma. The head alone of the last survives. The torso has since been lost. It is carved in a hard rag-stone, and from the break of the neck to the ridge of the crested helmet it measures 16 inches. The hair rolls up thickly from its central parting under the heavy rim, and suggests a youthful goddess, though the expression (partly owing to the injuries it has received since recovery) is now gloomy and sinister. But, seen in profile, the result is more favourable. It reflected a well-known type of this



MINERVA-ROMA HEAD AT KINGSCOTE CHURCH

Goddess as a young maiden holding the spear in her right hand and looking penetratively forward as if regarding great deeds. The eyes, as usual, are deep set, but were not of glass inlaid. The statue may have adorned a Legionary's Villa, or possibly a local shrine of Minerva-Roma, or a warrior's tomb. It is a pleasure to record that Mrs. Mary Kingscote has presented the Minerva head to Cirencester museum. The thanks of archæologists are also due to the Rev. Selwyn E. Rudge, who for some years allowed the head a resting place in his church.

ST. CLAIR BADDELEY.

CALCOT BARN RELIEF.

(Plate).

The semi-circular relief embedded in the inner wall of the entrance of Calcot Barn may have come from a road-side tomb between this and Kingscote. It represents, however, a far later grade of art than does the Minerva head. But under the wear and tear suffered it can still be recognised as the head of some funerary monument, and that it presents a military motive, doubtless associated with an unknown fourth century Legionary living in s.w. Britain. He is shewn armed, and on horseback leading the way. Behind him follows a standard-bearer with his insignia. Other damaged figures are made out with greater difficulty.

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CARVED STONE AT CHURCHAM.

(*Transactions*, xlv, 91-3).

The Rev. W. B. Atherton, of Coberley rectory, writes as follows (13 January 1926):—

“The late Rev. G. Hall, vicar of Churcham with Bulley, informed me when I was curate there (1891-3) that the carved stone now in the church was found in the churchyard and that it was inserted in the wall by his instructions. He thought that it was part of a cross. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew and the two wheel-like crosses are like St. Andrew's crosses. I have a drawing of the carving which I made in 1893. Mr. Hall, who was a great friend of the late T. Gambier Parry, told him about the wayside chapel at the corner of Highnam lane, and he at once had bricks removed from the niche in the wall which evidently at one time contained statues of the B.V.M. and of Our Lord. The wood close at hand is Mary Wood. During the Civil War there was fighting in Highnam lane and the chapel may have been injured then and converted into a cottage afterwards. Sir William Guise knew of it.”