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St Peter's Church, Frocester

by H. S. Gracie
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St Peter's Church, Frocester

By H. S. GRACIE, F.S.A.

AFTER the completion of the demolition of St Peter's Church, Frocester, the writer cut an exploratory trench across the east end of the nave and wrote an interim report.¹ In 1959 he undertook a more extensive excavation which was attended by considerable difficulties, somewhat alleviated by the devotion of many helpers.² This revealed a complicated succession of Roman buildings, Saxon cemetery, Norman, Medieval and 19th-century churches, which are described below.

Sincere thanks must be expressed to the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Worshipful E. Garth Moore, for permission to excavate; Professor I. A. Richmond and Mrs Clifford who both visited the site and gave much helpful advice; Mrs Eve Harris, Mr G. C. Dunning, Dr F. S. Wallis, Miss Joan Liversidge, Mr P. F. Bird, Mr R. H. M. Dolley and Mr D. C. Teychenné for reports on the material in their specialist fields; and the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society who paid all expenses. An historical note by Mr Irvine Gray, F.S.A., appears elsewhere in this volume (p. 143). It should be read in conjunction with this report since the archaeological and documentary evidence supplement and help to elucidate each other.

THE EXCAVATION

Owing to the confined space, the churchyard being still in use and not available for dumps, it was necessary to fill in one trench before another could be opened. The whole area was overlain by some 2 feet of loose rubble resulting from the recent demolition and, except at the extreme west end of the nave, this rested on 5 feet of soil many times disturbed by grave diggers so that heavy rain was apt to bring down the sides of the trenches. Very little stratification had survived and even the east walls of the earlier churches had been completely destroyed.

¹ *Trans. BGAS*, LXXVII (1958), pp. 23-30.

² These included I. E. Gray, J. Maiden, S. and J. Waters, J. H. Hedgely, P. Griffin, H. Beard and others, who have the writer's grateful thanks.

In consequence the excavation sites had to be chosen in an apparently haphazard manner. Each site was lettered as shown in FIG. 1 and the various layers were indicated by Roman numerals. Time did not permit the cutting of another trench across the nave, which might have been useful, and family vaults precluded the investigation of the chancel and north chapel. Small finds were few, as was to be expected within a church, and these have been deposited in the Stroud Museum. They include a key with handle in a plane at right angles to that of the wards associated with 3rd-century pottery in layer G (c) VIII and others described below. In the field to the south of the church Messrs Beard and Griffin found 2nd- and 4th-century pottery, a 2nd-century bronze brooch and a tile stamped ARVERI.

Where undisturbed the original top soil appeared as a layer, some 12 inches thick, of uniform brown sandy clay. This rested on 2 feet of gravel which in turn lay on the blue Lias clay. The gravel spread covers a slight ridge between two small streams running north-west towards the Severn. The site is on the top of the ridge at 150 feet O.D.

The Roman Buildings (FIG. 1)

The earliest Roman activity observed was the cutting of a ditch (PLATE VIII, a), 2 feet 6 inches deep, running from under the west wall in an east-north-east direction to the middle of the church and probably beyond, possible traces of it being observed in the foundation trench in site C. This was filled to a depth of 14 inches with fine sterile silt suggesting a boundary ditch. On this silt lay a layer of debris containing early 2nd-century pottery and a coin of Marcus Aurelius in good condition. It had then been deliberately filled with gravel and soil containing 2nd- and 3rd-century pottery, fragments of painted wall plaster, broken tiles, window glass and large numbers of unused *tesserae*. Traces of a boundary wall had been found in 1958 running north under Room 1 and cut through by the northern foundation trench.

The villa, presumed to exist to the north and west of the site,¹ was extended over the ditch early in the 3rd century. Room 1, 19 feet by 10 feet (FIG. 1), had a channel type hypocaust with the furnace at the west end. A layer of concrete, partly over the ditch, formed the stoker's floor. Under it were sherds of 2nd-century pottery and fragments of window glass. Medieval burials lay in the jaws of the furnace, which had been partly destroyed, but enough of the Roman wall was left to

¹ Mr Pick has recovered Roman pottery and groups of *tesserae* in their original matrices while digging post-holes outside the churchyard on the north side.

show that clay bricks 14 inches square were incorporated. In this room the bases of 5 hypocaust flues were discernible and the remains of box tiles were in position in two of them (PLATE VIII, d). Though the floor had been completely removed the numbers of groups of *tesserae* in the area suggest that it sported a mosaic. Room 2 was somewhat wider than

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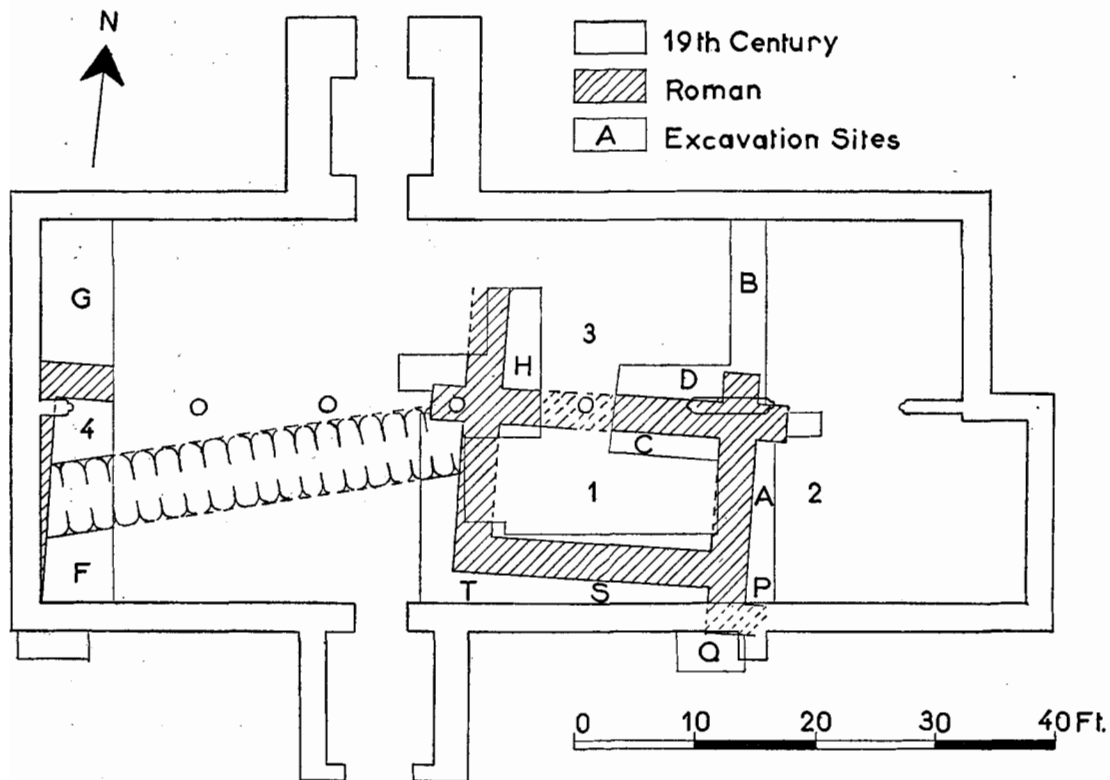
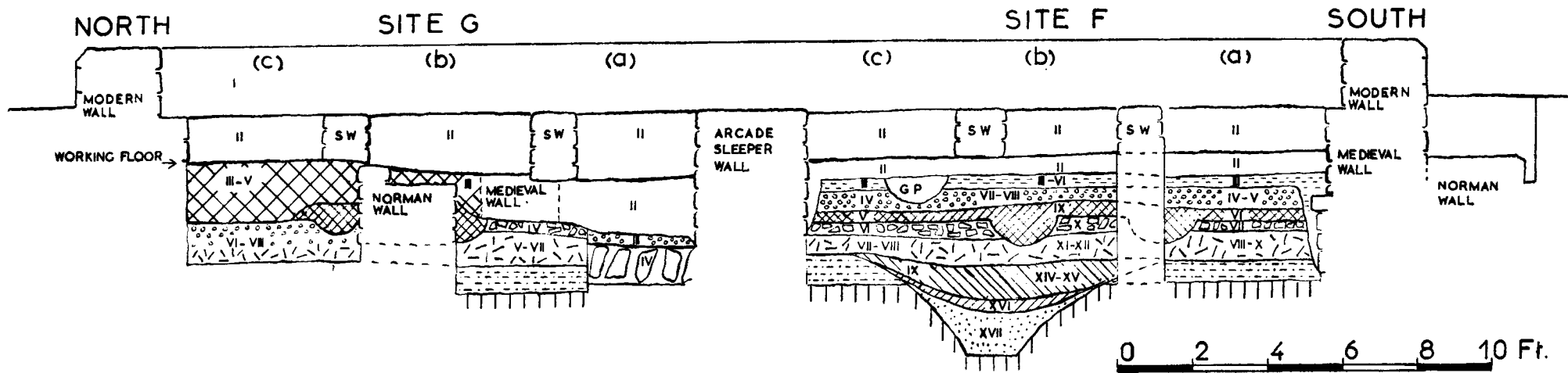


Fig. 1. Plan of the modern church and the Roman Building

Room 1 and also had hypocaust flues, but its full extent could not be observed since it passed under the chancel. The observed part of the north wall was a buttress-like projection of the same build and dimensions as that running north from the junction between these two rooms and illustrated in the interim report. A niche in the west wall was precisely the same as the lower ends of the hypocaust flues in Room 1,



- sw Sleeper Wall
- gp Glaziers' Pit
- I Rubble from 1952 demolition
- II Rubble from 1849 demolition
- ⊠ Dark earth with medieval graves

- ▨ Laminated sand of 13th-century floor
- ▩ Gravel
- ⊠ Black deposit with Saxon material
- ▧ Roman rammed stone floor
- ▩ Builders' debris

- ▨ Deliberate filling of ditch
- ▩ Casual filling of ditch
- ▩ Silt
- ▩ Brown sandy clay
- ▩ Undisturbed natural gravel

Fig. 2. Section through the nave 6 feet from the west wall

from which it is clear that this room also was heated. One is tempted to think that the 'buttresses' here and in Room 3 were for strengthening on account of the older ditch, but the flue base in Room 2 shows that this was actually a room and the projections would then appear to be responds of arches. Room 3 again had lost its floor but does not seem to have been heated. It was the same length as Room 1 and more than 9 feet wide. The footings of all these walls consisted of two courses of pitched stones surmounted by eight courses—3 feet—of well laid, shaped stones (Interim Report, FIG. 2). The footings were 2 feet 11 inches wide except for the south wall of Room 1 where they were 3 feet 3 inches wide. The first course of the wall proper survived here and was 2 feet wide.

At the west end of the nave there was a much slighter construction, the foundations penetrating only 22 inches below floor level. Room 4 was at least 16 feet wide from north to south and its floor was of rammed stone (PLATE VIII, b). Except over the ditch there were two courses of pitched stones, but all above that had been robbed, the footings of the Norman church resting directly upon them. The rammed stone floor was just above the pitched stones. There was a similar floor beyond the north wall, but it gradually turned to gravel and was probably courtyard.

All the Roman walls were constructed of oolite from the local quarries. Although a few *tegulae* and *imbrices* were found, the most usual roofing material was Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean. This material was also used in the Middle Ages but there appeared to be two distinctions: the Roman hexagonal tiles were secured by iron nails through square holes, while the medieval builders used wooden pegs and round holes in rectangular tiles.

The Saxon Deposit

The Roman floors were covered by a deposit, 5-7 inches thick, of black, stony earth with food bones and a few scraps of Saxon pottery. In this and dug into the Roman level was a row of graves, all orientated east-west and filled with the same black deposit. The skeletons were so near the top of the layer that the surface must have been higher before the church builders levelled the ground. The footings of the Norman church cut into one of them in site G and another in site T. Doubtless there was a chapel attached to this cemetery but no certain trace of it was discerned. Only a patch of mortared floor in site T could have belonged to it. Documentary evidence suggests that there was a religious building of this period in close proximity.¹

¹ I. E. Gray, p. 144.

The Norman Church (FIG. 3)

The west wall of this church coincided with the Roman and subsequent west walls (PLATE VIII, c). Three courses remained and a gravel floor connected with it. The nave was 26 feet wide, the south wall being just outside that of the modern building and the north wall 8 feet inside. The north wall was in line with the foundations of the first tower, whose masonry and mortar corresponded with the Norman construction. The south wall also appears east of the porch and continues 14 feet beyond it, but is not in alignment with the western

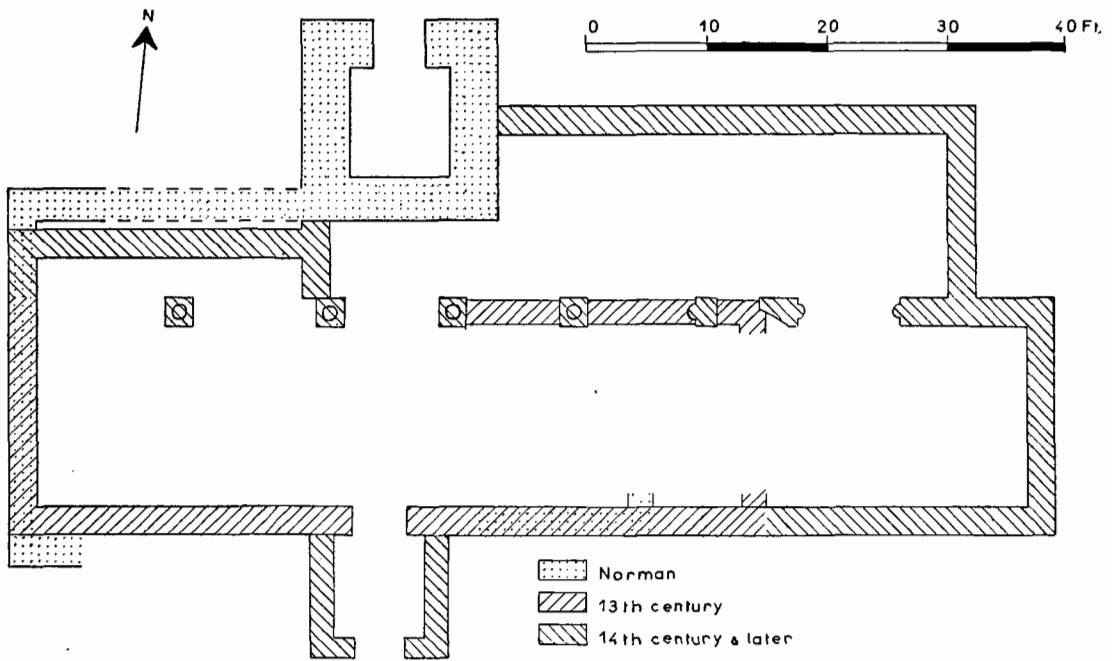
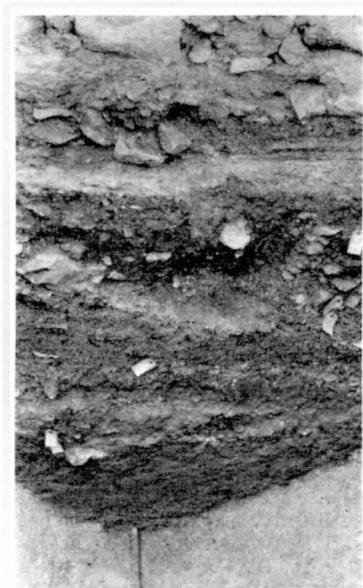


Fig. 3. Plans of the Norman and Medieval churches

portion. The gravel floor did not extend beyond this point. The beginnings of the east wall were visible here, but the rest of it had been destroyed. No indication of the extent of the chancel had survived. Lying on the Roman wall and just above it, but east of where the Norman wall ends, were found many sherds of a large cooking-pot (FIG. 6, 1) in Saxon style but with 12th-century decoration, dated by Mr Dunning to *c.* A.D. 1100. It is reasonable to connect this pot with the building of the church, which would then be very early in the 12th century.



(a) Roman ditch. Site F.



(b) Roman floor. Site F.



(c) West walls. Site F.



(d) Roman wall. Sites S and T.

PLATE VIII

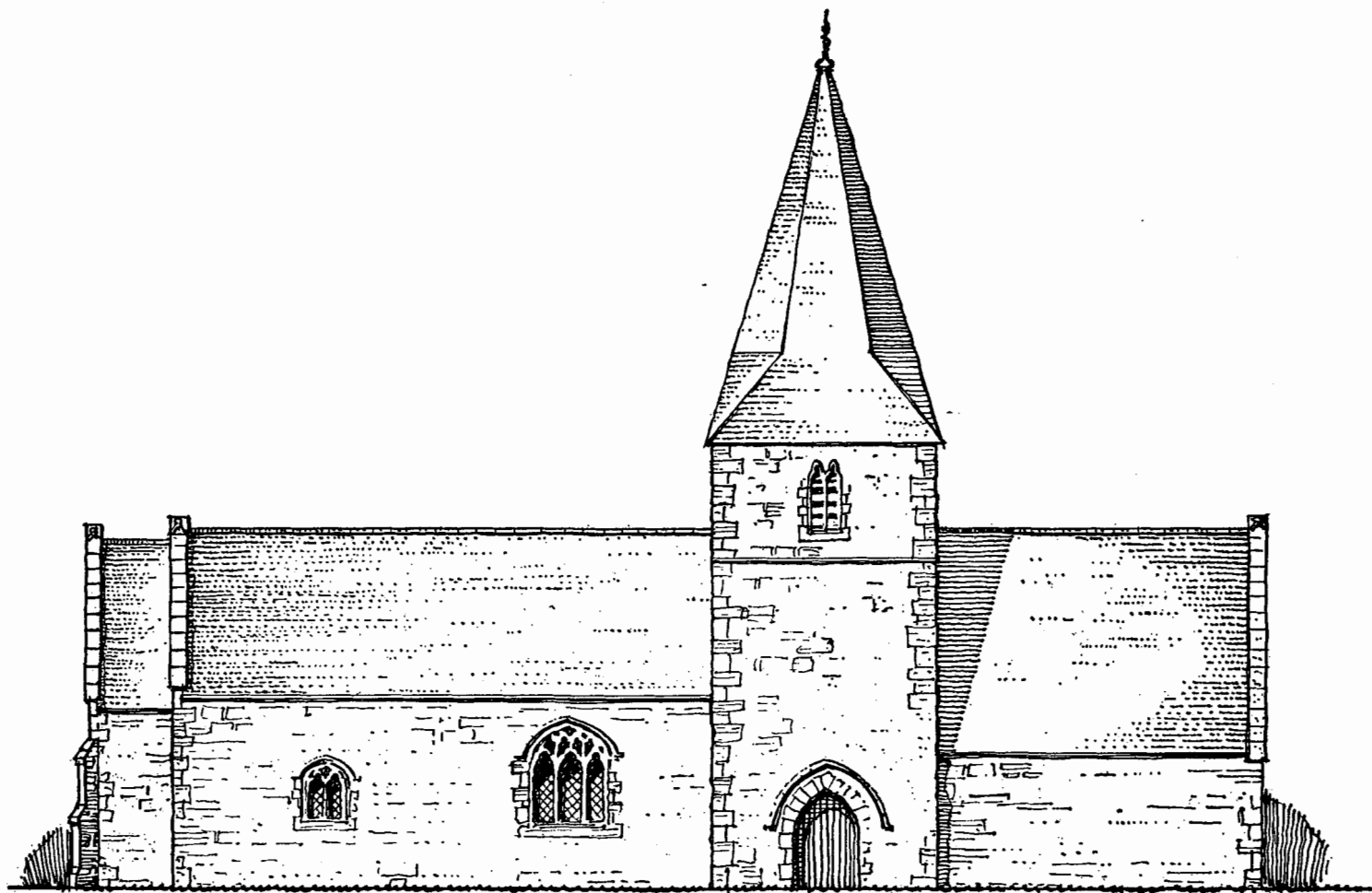


Fig. 4. a. North elevation of the medieval church in its final form. *After Niblett.*

The Medieval Church (FIGS. 3 and 4 a, b)

Before pulling down the medieval church, the Architect, Niblett, drew a plan and the four elevations. These are preserved in the County Records Office but all of them are too badly damaged and distorted for reproduction. The elevations show windows of the 14th and 15th centuries. The tower, which is probably Norman, had by this time

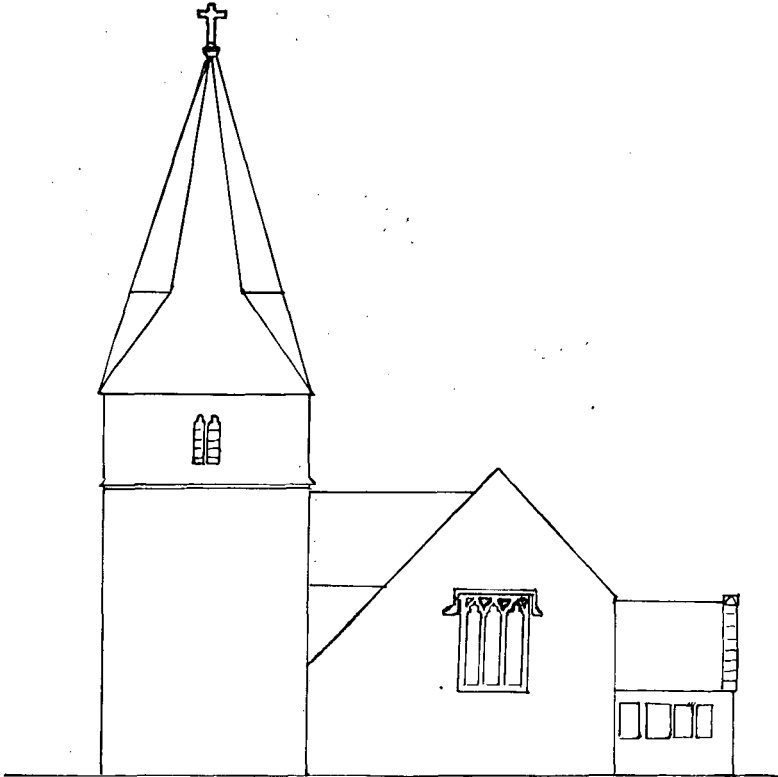


Fig. 4, b. West elevation of the medieval church in its final form. *After Niblett*

acquired a wooden steeple.¹ The plan in FIG. 3 is based on Niblett and the elevations (FIG. 4 a, b) are tracings from his, restored, drawings.² The Norman church, apart from the tower, was pulled down to ground level and rebuilt in the Middle Ages. The nave was narrowed to 21 feet, both north and south walls being just inside those of the Norman church. The north wall may have been even further in

¹ *The Ecclesiologist*, LXXV (1849), pp. 247-50.

² In the original drawing it was not clear whether there was a moulding over the tower door or a relieving arch. Nor was it clear whether the feature was round or pointed.

originally, possibly on the line of the arcade. If it had coincided with the arcade all traces of it were destroyed by the 1849 builders. The curious recess west of the tower is difficult to explain unless it was an extension of the original building. The foundations here were 2 feet shallower than elsewhere and it is clear that the main weight of the roof was taken by the arcade. Further east the foundations of the arcade sleeper wall were more massive and a re-build suggests that the north aisle and chapel were additions. The fenestration, as shown in Niblett's elevation (FIG. 4, a), indicates that this cannot have been done much later than the end of the 14th century. His west elevation (FIG. 4, b) is compatible with this theory. An analysis of the mortars was carried out by Mr Teychenné but was inconclusive. The proportion of lime to aggregate could not be ascertained since the aggregate itself was derived from limestone.

Three courses of the west wall and eight of the south survive, the five lower ones abutting against the Roman and Norman west walls. Only an inch of plaster, turning the corner, indicates the junction between west and north walls and this coincides with Niblett's plan. The original chancel could not be traced, but the cessation of faced stone in the footings on both sides just west of the modern chancel step suggests that originally the nave ended here and that there was a narrower chancel, or none at all. The 13th-century arcade wall ends under the last pillar and the later re-build projects beyond it, coming to a stepped end just beyond the pillar base. The floor connected with the nave of this period consisted of laminated sand with scatters of plaster powder. Doubtless this was a foundation for a flag stone or tiled floor. Traces of white plaster still adhered to the walls in several places. In the floor were found a few sherds of an early 13th-century pot (FIG. 6, 3), and the rubble resulting from the demolition yielded more 13th-century pottery and a ridge tile of the same date (FIG. 7) together with floor tiles of the 14th century. Two shallow holes dug in this floor contained much spilt lead, and a 13th-century potsherd, evidently the remains of the glaziers of the period. Many graves had been dug through this floor. One, lying in the jaws of the Roman hypocaust furnace, was that of a priest since it contained a base metal chalice and paten in the crook of the right arm.¹ The outside of the vault built for Sir George Huntley, who died in 1574, was exposed and seen to be constructed of poorly made Elizabethan bricks, evidently seconds that could not have been used where they could be seen. The stone memorial tablet has been transferred to St Andrew's church.

¹ I am indebted to Mr Walrond for the following references to sepulchral plate in Gloucestershire: *Trans. BGAS*, vol. 19, p. 338 (Haresfield); vol. 63, p. 222 (Haselton); vol. 61, p. 163 (Hill); Evans, *Church Plate of Gloucestershire*, p. 9.

The date of the main building can be placed in the first half of the 13th century by the pottery in the floor, and it is reasonable to suppose that it took place after the grant of the advowson to Gloucester Abbey in 1225. It should be noted that there was no Selsley type pottery, which might have been expected a few years later.

The Modern Church

This was built in 1849 by Niblett. He used the first three courses of the medieval building everywhere except for the tower and the north wall to the west of it. The nave was filled with rubble from the demolition, which was brought to a level floor for the builders' use. They constructed sleeper walls 16–18 inches high to carry a wooden floor and then filled in with more rubble. The chancel was paved with ledger slabs, some covering vaults and others brought in from the churchyard and laid upside down. Interference with this floor included a few more graves, ducts for hot water pipes and the replacement of wood in the aisles by encaustic tiles. A 12th-century grave slab was found upside down under the pulpit and two more, of a somewhat later date, were used to form the ceiling of the tower stairway where it entered the belfry. This building was pulled down in 1952 leaving the tower as a landmark, the medieval south porch and 18 inches of wall to show the outline. The stone was used to re-build the chapel at Wycliffe College, the bells were transferred to Eastington and a stained glass window to St Andrew's. The whole interior has now been covered with a spread of gravel.

SUMMARY

Roman occupation commenced in the late 1st or early 2nd century and an elaborate villa, or extension to an existing building, was constructed in the 3rd century and occupied well into the 4th. Saxons, no doubt attracted by the building stone, established a religious community here after their conversion to Christianity. A large church, mother church to the surrounding parishes, was built very early in the 12th century. Towards the middle of the 13th century, probably soon after the acquisition of the advowson by St Peter's Abbey, the old church was pulled down and a narrower one erected, taking advantage of the Roman footings, but a hundred years later it became necessary to enlarge the building by adding a north aisle and, perhaps, a larger chancel. By 1849 the church had fallen into decay and was again re-built. In 1952 the parish could no longer support two churches and St Peter's was once again demolished.

Roman Pottery and Finds

By MRS EVE HARRIS

Small Finds

1. Segment of a jet finger ring, 0.1 inch thick, triangular in section and milled on the outside edge; the inside only roughly finished. Internal diameter 0.8 inch. (F(a)VIII).
2. Strip of bronze, 2.4 inches long, 0.1 inch wide and 0.04 inch thick, now roughly bent into a C; decorated on the outside with groups of five engraved lines alternating with single lines. Probably part of a child's bracelet. 3rd-4th century. (H(b)V).
3. Small fragment of tile bearing the end of a stamp showing the letter F. (A V).

Glass

1. Fragments of a beaker of colourless transparent glass with opaque weathering on the outside. ?3rd century. (A VIII).
2. Several fragments of window glass. (F(b)XIII, F(b)XIV and H(e)).
3. Fragments of a bowl of colourless transparent glass. (F(b)XIII).
4. Fragments of greenish tinged glass engraved with wheat ear decoration, similar to some found at Chedworth in 1954. (F(b)XIII).
5. A small ovoid bead of weathered green glass. (F(c)VIII).

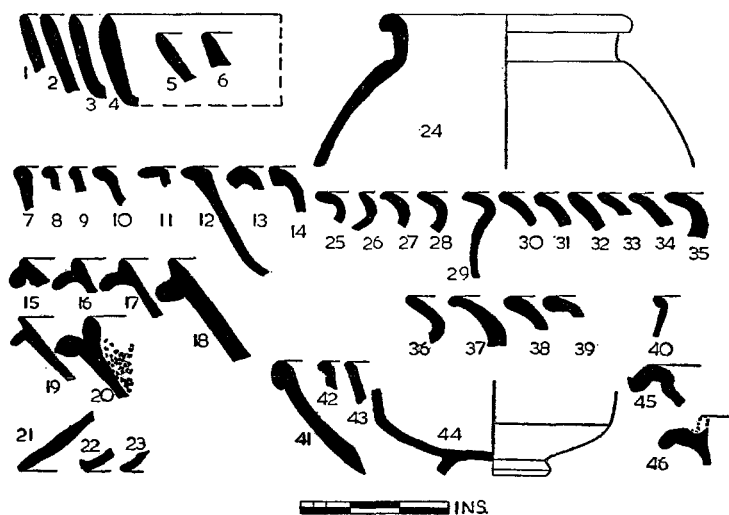
Pottery

From the earlier Roman levels came a limited quantity of 2nd-century pottery, including some fragments of samian (Drag. 27 from G(b)VIII; Drag. 18 from F(b)XIII), though in some cases this was somewhat worn. The greater part of the pottery belongs, however, to the 3rd and 4th centuries and includes several examples of the imitation samian typical of this period.

Dishes

1. Slightly sandy grey ware. (P V).
2. Hard, slightly sandy grey ware, with a grey slip over the top of the rim, the inside, and in a narrow band round the outside of the body. ?4th century. (H(d)V; found with nos. 41 and 45).

3. Coarse grey ware covered with a mottled white, buff and grey slip; the variation in colour is due to oxidization, probably during use. (P VII; found with no. 40).
4. Coarse grey ware, the surface somewhat smoothed by the application of a slip; traces of lattice decoration. 3rd century. (S V; found with no. 22).
5. Hard sandy grey ware covered with a black slip; lightly burnished lattice decoration. (C IX; found with nos. 9 and 37 and some small fragments of colour-coated wares and early 3rd-century Rhenish pottery).

Fig. 5. Roman pottery ($\frac{1}{4}$)

6. Rather coarse hard grey ware covered with a grey slip. 3rd-4th century. (T VI; found with nos. 43 and 46).

Bowls (see also nos. 41-5)

7. Sandy black ware with traces of a burnt (carbonaceous) deposit on the rim. (D VIII; found with no. 10).
8. Hard buff ware covered with a red slip, probably in imitation of samian. 3rd century. (S III—Saxon and Med. levels).
9. Sandy feeling, slightly micaceous buff ware, roughly finished. 3rd century (C IX; found with nos. 5 and 37).

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10. Sandy black ware with traces of a burnt (carbonaceous) deposit on the inside and below the rim on the outside. (D VIII; found with no. 7).
11. Fine micaceous grey ware, black on the surface and slightly burnished. 2nd century. (G(b)VIII—top).
12. Fine sandy grey ware with a slip (slightly buff in parts) over the inside and the rim. Late 2nd century (F(b)XV).
13. Hard grey ware with traces of a slip over the surface. (B V; found with no. 36).
14. Coarse grey ware containing bits of shell; ?the rim of a necked bowl or jar. (C VIII).

Flanged bowls (see also no. 46)

15. Hard grey ware with a black slip over the major part of the surface. 3rd–4th century. (Saxon deposit in the south-west corner of Room 1).
16. Coarse grey ware, with a grey slip over the top of the flange, the rim and on parts of the interior. Late 3rd century. (A IX).
17. Hard sandy grey ware, with a smooth, slightly glossy slip over the inside, the rim, and the top of the flange. 3rd–4th century. (Q V; found with no. 39).
18. Hard grey ware. 4th century. (Q IV—Saxon and Med. levels).
19. Rather sandy grey ware with traces of a black slip both inside and out. (Q VI).

Mortarium

20. Buff/grey/buff ware with grits set into the inside. 2nd–4th century. (A VI).

Lids

21. Hard grey ware covered with a grey slip on the inside. (A V).
22. Slightly sandy black ware covered with a shiny black slip on the inside. Probably 3rd century. (A VIII and S V).
23. Very small fragment of fine, very hard grey ware covered with a very smooth and glossy slip; possibly from the rim of a storage jar. (X III—Med. wall).

Jars

24. Sandy micaceous grey ware with traces of lattice decoration on the body. First half of 2nd century (F(c)IX).
25. Hard, very slightly micaceous orange ware. 2nd century. (B VII; found with 3rd–4th century imitation samian).

26. Hard grey ware. 2nd century. (H(c)VII; found with no. 27).
27. Hard grey ware with traces of soot over the edge of the rim. Late 2nd century. (H(c)VII; found with no. 26).
28. Coarse dark grey ware covered with a black slip oxidized to a pinkish buff over the rim. 3rd century. (B V; found with nos. 31 and 35).
29. Small jar of slightly sandy grey ware, the outside of the body and both surfaces of the rim smoothed by a grey slip. 3rd century. (G(c)VIII).
30. Hard, slightly sandy feeling grey ware containing small flecks of mica. 3rd century. (B V).
31. Very hard grey ware with a grey slip over the inside of the rim. 3rd century. (B V; found with nos. 28 and 35).
32. Hard buff ware. Probably 3rd century. (F(a)V).
33. Slightly sandy grey sandwich ware. 3rd century (F(c)IV).
34. Hard sandy grey ware with a smooth dark grey slip over the inside of the rim. 3rd-4th century. (B V).
35. Coarse hard black ware covered with a black slip. 3rd century. (B V; found with nos. 28 and 31).
36. Hard, dark grey/red/dark grey ware with a grey slip over the rim. 3rd-4th century. (B V; found with no. 13).
37. Large cavetto rim of hard sandy grey ware, with a black slip over the rim and traces of soot on the underside. 4th century (C IX; found with nos. 5 and 9).
38. Hard sandy dark grey ware. Late 3rd-4th century. (Q VIII—foundation trench).
39. Slightly sandy feeling light grey micaceous ware. 3rd-4th century. (Q V; found with no. 17).
40. Hard buff ware, with a matt black slip over the outside and on the inside of the rim. (P VII and Q VII).

Imitation Samian (see also no. 8)

41. Hard, orange/grey/orange ware covered with a bright orange slip and rouletted round the outside of the body; derived from Drag. 31. 4th century. (H(d)V; deposit containing fragments of three similar vessels and nos. 2 and 45).
42. Red/grey/red ware covered with a red slip now wearing off; very similar to, and possibly the rim of, no. 44. 3rd-4th century. (C VI).
43. Hard light red ware covered with a light red slip. 3rd-4th century. (T VI; found with nos. 6 and 46).

44. Major part of a bowl of hard, red/grey/red ware, covered with a red slip, with small patches of a thicker red slip on the outside; derived from Drag. 29. 3rd-4th century. (D III). See no. 42.
45. Hard, orange/grey/orange ware, covered with an orange slip and decorated on the rim with lines painted in white slip; derived from Drag. 35. 4th century. (H(d)V; found with nos. 2 and 41). Similar pottery was found in a 4th-century deposit at Lydney R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Rept. on the Excavation . . . in Lydney Park*, fig. 26, no. 27 and p. 98).
46. Hard light red ware covered with a light red slip; derived from Drag. 38. 4th century. (T VI; found with nos. 6 and 43).

Roman Painted Wall Plaster

By MISS JOAN LIVERSIDGE, F.S.A.

Numerous small fragments of wall-painting decorated in several different colours were recovered from this site and the results of the excavations suggested that they should belong to two periods: an earlier phase consisting of material shovelled into a ditch as part of the levelling of the site for subsequent reconstruction, and a later phase which had been much disturbed by post-Roman grave diggers. On first inspection it seemed doubtful if these two periods could really be distinguished as both the early and late decorators seem to have enjoyed much the same colour schemes. However, a careful comparison of the specimens from the various levels does show a slight variation in the composition of the plaster backing, that of the earlier material being the darker of the two. Probably sand of varying colours was used for the backing at different periods.

From the early ditch of 2nd-century date came much material painted white, yellow or brown, all badly preserved so that it is impossible to decide whether it was originally patterned or plain. Fragments painted purple and white survived rather better and may belong to white panels edged with purple stripes or *vice versa*. The same purple also occurs separated from a lighter mauvish pink by a white or pale bluish-grey line 0.3 inch wide. Purple and white stippling on this pink ground suggests that we have here material from a dado imitating a marble wall veneer. One plain purple fragment probably comes from a window splay. A few pieces of the pink and purple

border occurred at a slightly higher level with two pieces showing a black line 0.1 inch wide on a white ground. Other purple fragments found in the vicinity (F(b)XIII) include one with a fine white line next to traces of black appearing along one edge. Some of them were painted on a backing containing red tile and a similar backing also occurs occasionally at the lower levels. Possibly it was associated with a floor of *opus signinum*.

The late period plaster is also painted purple and white, the white sometimes dividing the purple from traces of a black line or stripe. Plain red or white also occur and fragments of imitation marbling consisting of red and black stippling on a yellow or white ground. A few white painted chips show traces of a later second coat, also white, and some fragments may have been painted in more delicate shades of pale green, pink, yellow or brown but these pigments have almost entirely perished. One piece from the base of the later levels has traces of a pattern in purple, mauve, yellow and white.

Considering the material as a whole it becomes apparent that while brown, yellow, purple and white were favoured in both periods, two distinct types of marbling do occur suggesting a dado with a mauve ground for Period I and a yellow or white one, perhaps used alternately, for Period II. It is impossible to visualize what form the decoration took above this level although white panels with striped purple borders seem a possibility at all times, perhaps alternating with panels of other colours.

Medieval Pottery and Finds

By G. C. DUNNING, F.S.A.

The pottery belongs to two groups, both stratigraphically related to the two medieval churches that stood on the site. The first church belongs to the Norman period, and may be dated more precisely to c. 1100 or early 12th century by the pottery. The second church is dated not earlier than c. 1225 (see p. 156). The associated pottery suggests that it was built in the period c. 1225-50 but not later. The crested ridge-tile and the floor-tile are minor features belonging to this structure.

The pottery and finds have been deposited in the Stroud Museum.

12th Century

The pottery comprises numerous pieces of a large cooking-pot, found in Trench S, IV, and sherds of similar ware found in Trenches F, III and V and P, IV.

The hand-made cooking-pot (FIG. 6, 1) has been skilfully restored at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London. It is made of coarse laminated black ware, tempered by sparse stone grits and chopped vegetable matter which has fired out, leaving pittings on the surface. The outside is mostly light red, with grey patches. The rim slopes outwards on the top and has an external thickening, and is set on a straight neck meeting the body at a fairly well defined angle. The body has a well-filled profile converging below to the rounded base. The outside is roughly scored or striated from the neck to the base. The striations are mostly horizontal, but in places run in a vertical direction.

In shape, technique and detail such as the rim-section the pot has many analogies in the late 11th and early 12th centuries. The striated treatment of the surface brings it into relationship with the primitive 'scratch-marked' pottery of Wessex.¹ This hand-made pottery continues the late Saxon ceramic tradition until about the middle of the 12th century. While close dating of the Frocester cooking-pot is not possible, it may most reasonably be referred to *c.* 1100 or the early 12th century. As a domestic or culinary vessel it was no doubt much used by the builders of the Norman church.

13th Century

The pottery consists of sherds of unglazed cooking-pots and glazed jugs or pitchers, found in Trenches F, II, III and IV; G, II; H, II and T, IV (the glazier's pit). Although not large in quantity, the material is consistent in character, suggesting that it does not cover a long period of time. The cooking-pot rims (FIG. 6, 2-4) are of types usual in the West Country in the first half of the 13th century. The absence of rims with internal glazes of the Selsley Common type,² widespread in the region, may be taken as valid negative evidence that the assemblage does not continue into the second half of the 13th century.

The glazed sherds (FIG. 6, 5-7) represent the baggy and capacious vessels (tripod-pitchers and jugs) current in the West Country in the 13th century and well represented, for instance, at

¹ *Medieval Archaeology*, III (1959), p. 34 with references, and map on p. 70, fig. 39.

² *Trans. BGAS*, LXXVIII, p. 30.

Gloucester and Cirencester. The Frocester sherds are too few for wider discussion, but the differences in the fabric (stone-gritted and micaceous) show that at least two pottery sources supplied Frocester.¹

Cooking-pots (FIG. 6, 2-4)

2. Rim of small cooking-pot of grey ware with sparse stone grits, red surface stained black outside. A simple erected rim of long-lived type. Trench F, IV.
3. Rim of large cooking-pot of grey ware with white stone grits, light brown surface. The rim is expanded, with a rounded bevel internally. Trench F, III.
4. Rim of large cooking-pot of coarse grey ware with white stone grits, dark grey surface. A devolved version of the folded-in rim of the 12th century and onwards, as at Whittington Court.² Trench F, II.

Glazed Jugs (FIG. 6, 5-7)

5. Sherd from side of large pitcher or jug. Black core with white grits, buff surface. Light green glaze overall outside. Decorated with incised girth-grooves and groups of short combed strokes, as at Bristol.³ Trench G, II.
6. Sherd from upper part of jug. Fine grey ware with micaceous specks, yellow surface. Light green glaze overall outside. Decorated with spaced, shallow girth-grooves, as on tripod-pitchers at Gloucester⁴ and Frampton-on-Severn,⁵ and a sherd at Bristol.⁶ Trench T, IV (the glazier's pit).
7. Sherd from upper part of jug. Grey ware with white stone grits, buff surface, pitted inside. Thin light green glaze overall outside. Incised decoration of bands of fine girth-grooves, combed wavy-lines and long slash-marks. The incised motifs have many analogies on tripod-pitchers in the region, as at Gloucester,⁷ Frampton-on-Severn, etc. Trench H, II.

¹ The absence of pottery of Ham Green ware (p. 95 of this volume) may also be noted. Though later in date than the Frocester pottery, it has similar motifs decorating the jugs.

² *Trans. BGAS*, LXXXI, p. 66, fig. 7, 21-35.

³ *Trans. BGAS*, LXXIX, p. 239, fig. 10, 14.

⁴ *Antiq. Journ.*, xx, p. 106, figs. 3 and 4.

⁵ *Trans. BGAS*, LXVIII, p. 42, fig. 5, 2.

⁶ *Trans. BGAS*, LXXIX, p. 239, fig. 10, 15.

⁷ *Antiq. Journ.*, xx, p. 106, fig. 4.

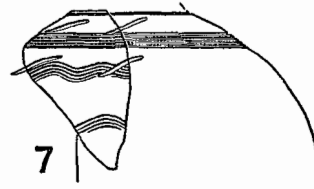
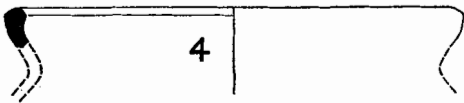
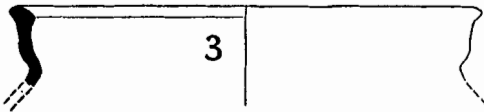
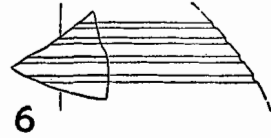
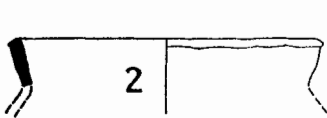
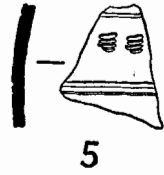
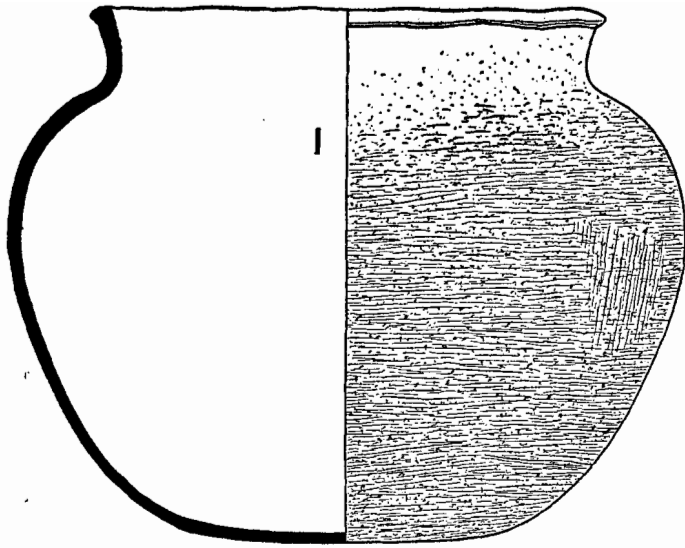


Fig. 6. Medieval pottery. (¼)

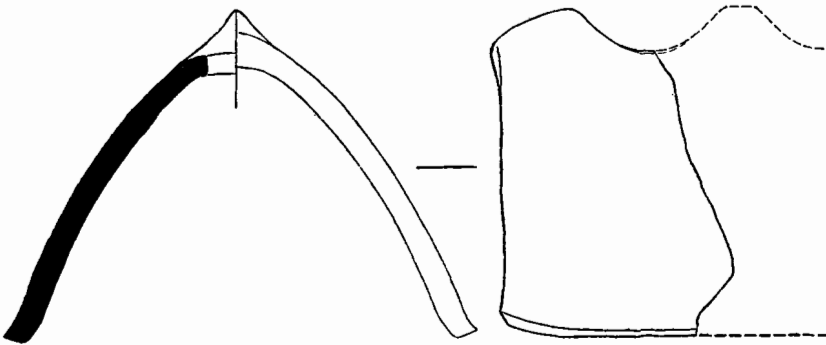


Fig. 7. Ridge-tile. (¼)

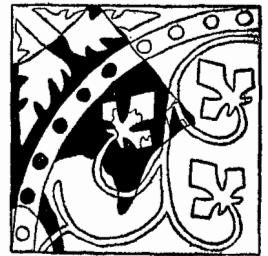


Fig. 8. Floor-tile. (¼)

Ridge-tile (FIG. 7)

End of ridge-tile found at west end of church in rubble under floor of the 1849 church. Trench F, I.

The tile is made of black ware with fine white stone grits. The surface is buff to light red and has traces of thin light green glaze on the crest and sides. The crest is moulded by hand, and behind it the tile is pierced by a hole $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, made before firing.

Ridge-tiles of this form and fabric, with hand-moulded crests and sometimes with the hole in the top (presumably for ventilation), are known over a wide area of the West Country and southern Midlands, from Cirencester to the east of Oxford, and northwards to Deddington and Whichford Castle, Warwickshire.¹ Hand-moulded crests on ridge-tiles are characteristic of the earlier part of the 13th century, and were replaced by larger, sharply pointed serrations, cut into shape by a knife, towards the end of the century.² The Frocester ridge-tile is therefore to be associated with the second church on the site.

Floor-tile (FIG. 8)

Part of a glazed tile of light red ware, 5.1 inches square and 1.05 inches thick. It was found among demolition rubble in site F (F, II). The tile was submitted to Mrs E. S. Eames, F.S.A., who has kindly made the following report.

The tile is part of one of a four-tile square, each tile bearing the same design and the whole making a circular spotted band enclosing a vine scroll, rather badly drawn, occupying the whole central circle and having twelve leaves in all, three per tile. In each outer corner are two detached serrated-edged leaves. The design is printed on with a thin slip slightly below the level of the glazed surface of the tile.

The design is matched exactly on tiles at Maxstoke Priory and Burton Hastings, both in Warwickshire.³ The date of these tiles is given by the founding of Maxstoke Priory in 1336. The published drawing of the Warwickshire tiles shows the serrated leaves in the outer corner as more stylized with square-cut edges than they appear on the Frocester tile. This difference suggests a slightly later date, and the Frocester tile is therefore placed in the latter half of the 14th century.

¹ *Antiq. Journ.*, xxxix, p. 265, fig. 19, 8.

² *Oxoniensia*, xvi, p. 86.

³ *Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc.*, LX (1936), p. 41, fig. 43, 8.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, FROCESTER

Coin List

Identified by R. H. M. DOLLEY, F.S.A.

1. Marcus Aurelius as Caesar; As. (F(b)XV).
Rev. JVENTAS
Mint, Rome, A.D. 140-4.
BMC, 1397-1401.
2. Constantine I; small brass. (A VI, disturbed material).
Rev. GLORIA EXERCITVS (1 standard).
Mint, Lyons, A.D. 336-7.
LRBC I, 222.
3. Edward IV; penny. (S II, disturbed material).
Minted at Durham for Bishop Lawrence Booth A.D. 1471-3.