

NOTES ON THE MONUMENT IN
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

Originally marking the burial place of the Heart of
Ethelmar.¹

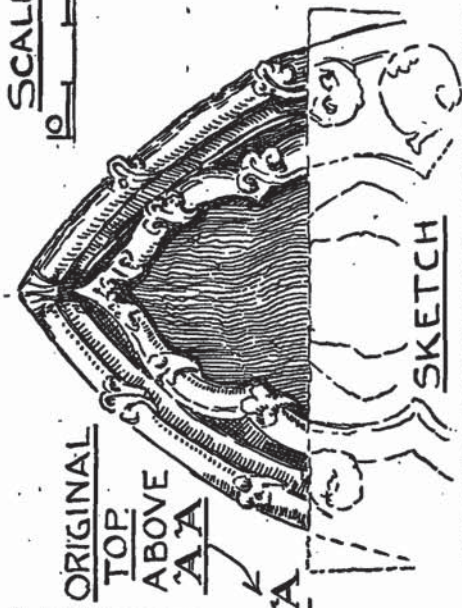
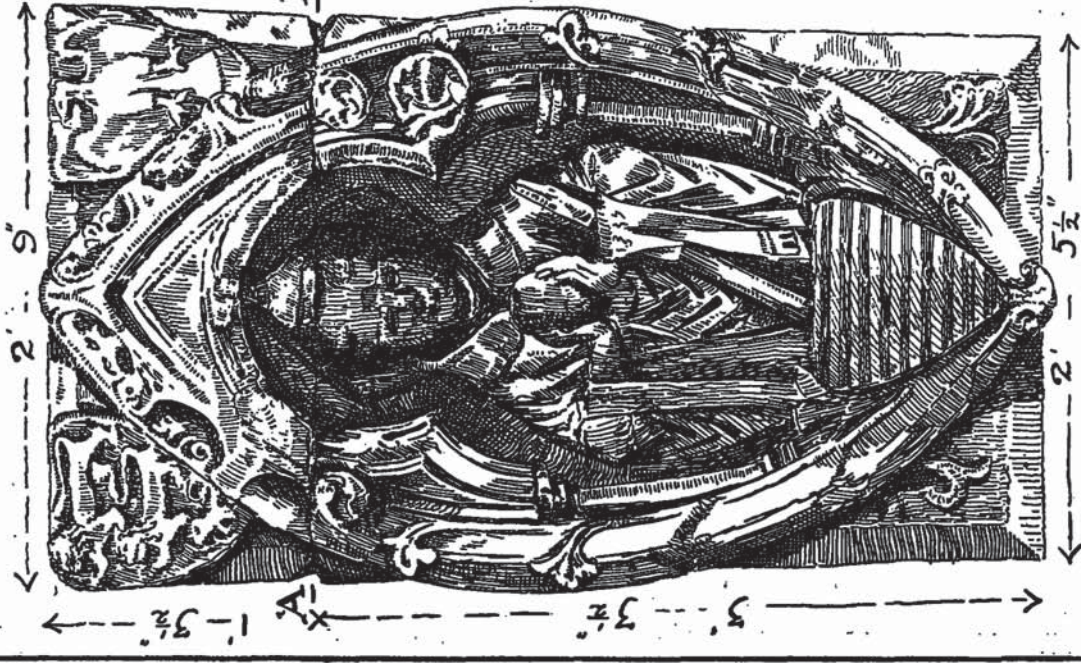
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On the death of Peter de Roches (or de Rupibus) in 1238, Henry III. had endeavoured to obtain the election by the monks of St. Swithun's of one of the kinsmen of his wife, but the monks had eventually prevented the rule of a foreign favourite being thrust upon them by electing William Raley, Bishop of Norwich, who was understood to be a favourite of the King, but, although the Royal consent was obtained for this appointment it is hardly surprising to learn that on the next vacancy of the See, the King did his utmost to ensure his own nominee being elected to the bishopric. This time it was his own half-brother Ethelmar, the son of Queen Isabella, who after the death of King John had married Hugh, Lord of Lusignan and Valence, Count of La Marche.

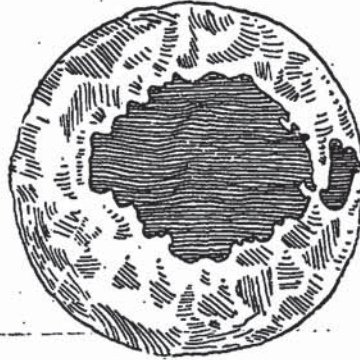
The proposed bishop was quite unqualified for the position, and was only 23 years of age. The King, however, was so determined on his election that he came down to Winchester, and calling the monks together, addressed them in their own Chapter House, concluding by giving some very strong hints as to what might be expected if his wishes were not complied with. The monks, recognizing that they could gain no permanent advantage by opposing the King a second time agreed to the election.

¹ Called also Audemer or Aymer.

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



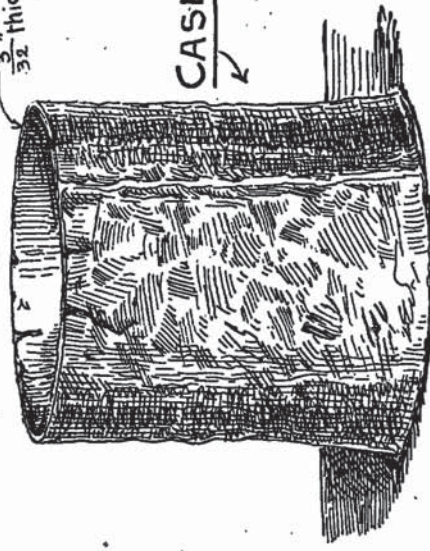
FALSE BOTTOM.
(HAMMERED)



BOTTOM OF CASKET.
SHEWING HOLES.



$\frac{3}{32}$ thick.



McKENNELL H.R.S.F.
1913.

MENS & DELT.

ETHELMAR MONUMENT & CASKET. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.

The youth and unsuitability of the Bishop-elect apparently raised difficulties in other quarters, and we hear of him later at Rome endeavouring, perhaps, to overcome opposition originating there.

He never returned to England, but died in Paris in 1261, directing that his heart should be buried in Winchester Cathedral.

The position in which the heart was originally deposited is approximately fixed by the fact that when the monument was removed on the erection of the screens on each side of the Presbytery by Bishop Fox, about 1525, an inscription¹ and coat of arms was placed in the bay originally occupied by the monument on the north side of the Sacrarium.

It is evident that when Fox erected these screens the floor levels of the Sacrarium and Feretory were at the same height above the aisle floor as at present. This is proved by the bases of the piers and the doorways in the Great Screen. This seems to suggest that Fox raised his new screens upon an existing dwarf wall, which, in the bay we are considering, would be almost a necessity to form a line of demarcation between the higher and lower floor levels. Possibly this arrangement did not extend to the bays further west where the floors are at the same level.

It must be remembered, however, that at the time of this Heart Burial, Bishop De Lucy had already made some modification of the Norman apse in order to connect the Eastern aisles, which had been erected during the first decade of the century, with the existing Norman work. The present arrangement, by which the original Norman piers are replaced by a much lighter arcade of pointed arches, was probably not completed until the 14th century.

It seems most likely that the Ethelmar monument was placed on the north side of the Sacrarium just inside the Norman arcade which then separated it from the ambulatory

¹ CORPUS ETHELMARI
CVIVS COR NVNC TENET
ISTVD SAXVM PARISHS
MORTE DATVR TVMVLO
OBIIT. A.D. 1261.

One shield is barruly of .-/9 the other of 10 and the one on the original monument barruly of 17, but since it is sometimes blazoned as "sans nombre" there is no need for close similarity.

surrounding the apse. The floor of the Sacrarium in Norman times was not quite so high as at present. This is proved by the mouldings of the one remaining base of one of the Norman piers. The monumental slab was placed flat, and since there is a bold "chamfer" or splay carried all round the stone it must have been raised slightly above the floor line.

With regard to the monument itself. It originally consisted of two stones, apparently of Purbeck marble or some similar material. As will be seen from the illustration the greater part of the design, including the effigy as far as the top of the head, or base of the mitre, was upon the larger stone. This portion does not appear to have been removed from the Cathedral, as there is evidence of it being among the loose fragments in the building before it was re-fixed in its present position about 1820. When this was done the upper portion was "restored" by the completion of the "Vesica" outline in Portland stone painted to match the old work.

The smaller stone forming the head of the original monument appears to have been removed from the church; possibly it was placed in the Cloisters when disturbed in 1525. It was, fortunately, re-discovered in 1912 when excavating for the foundations of the new buttresses on the South side of the nave, and eventually replaced in its original relationship to the other part of the monument.

It was thought of interest to discover whether the memorial had originally been monolithic, but that for some reason it had been sawn in two at the time of its removal. A careful examination seems to prove that it was always formed of two separate stones. A comparison of the sawmarks, as also of other peculiarities of grain, texture, flaws, quartz veins, and other features failed to detect any corresponding similarities on the two parts.

It will be seen from the illustration, that the complete design is of the usual tapered form common to the sepulchral slabs of the period, but of much less elongated proportions

than is usual. This was probably done to show the difference between those marking an ordinary burial and an unusual one, where a full-length grave was not requisite.

The monument shows a three-quarter-length effigy of the Bishop wearing his mitre, but with his head resting upon a cushion. In his hands he holds a heart, while the staff of his crozier is supported by his left arm, and although broken just above this point, its floriated head or scroll is evident above. On the left wrist the maniple is worn, and the position of the arms show the folds of the chasuble in which he is vested.

Immediately below the figure is a shield "barruly" (probably originally coloured azure and argent). It will be noticed that this shield is very similar to that upon the tomb of his brother, William de Valence, in Westminster Abbey, but without the "Orle" of martlets. The figure and shield are all enclosed within a "vesica" shaped enclosure formed by boldly cut mouldings enriched by delicate trefoil leaves, while within the "vesica," and enclosing the head of the figure, is a small trefoil-headed arch with small supporting columns. We have now only to deal with those portions of the design lying outside the "vesica." This practically applies only to the smaller or upper stone lately re-discovered, since in the two lower angles the triangular spaces are ornamented with simple trefoil leaves typical of 13th century work, but in the two upper angles two more shields appear. That on the "dexter" side bears three lions "passant," and although not depicted as "gardant," as would be correct if representing the Royal Arms, yet, since some red colour is still evident in several parts of the "field" it seems probable that the arms are intended for those of the Bishop's Royal half-brother.

The "sinister" shield bears an eagle "displayed." Its single and uncrowned head is turned to the "dexter" side, and, therefore, resembles very closely one of the shields originally upon the monument of his kinsman in Westminster Abbey. A copy of this shield is preserved in the British

Museum, and illustrated in Bowtell's Heraldry, where it is referred to as an Imperial eagle. If it should be regarded as such, then perhaps the arms in the two upper spandrels may be taken as representing those of the Bishop's adopted country (England) as well as his native one (Provence), which had since 1032 been included within the Empire. It is also suggested that the arms may be those of his two Royal half-brothers, viz., Henry III. and Richard, Earl of Cornwall and King of the Romans.¹

Still another suggestion is that while the "dexter" coat bears the Royal Arms of England, the "sinister" displays those of his father, Hugh le Brun.² If this is so then the arms of De Valence are probably of the nature of territorial arms representing his lordship of Lusignan and Valence. The whole question of the heraldry of this monument seems to call for further discussion and explanation.

When the smaller stone forming the head of the memorial was recovered it was felt that it should be replaced in its proper position with regard to the other portion of the monument, and it became the duty of the writer to see this carried out. In order to avoid damage being done to the 13th century caps of the wall arcade, in a bay of which the monument had been placed early in the 19th century, it was necessary to remove it entirely from the wall in order that the whole when refixed might be below the projections referred to. When this was done a small cavity, about 7 ins. square was noticed in the wall at the bottom of the space behind the monument, and in it was standing a leaden cylindrical box measuring 6½ ins. high and 6 ins. across its diameter. At first it was thought that this might contain some record of the reason for having fixed the monument in the position it had occupied for nearly a century, but on

¹ It is recognised that these were not the *personal* arms of Richard which were:—*Argent*, Alion rampant *Gules*, crowned *or* within a bordure *Sable* bezanty.

² Milner, who wrote before the refixing of the monument, mentions that while one account connected it with Ethelmar, another supposed it to represent *Prior* Hugh le Brun. No such *Prior* is known, but the connection of the name with this fragment rather suggests that tradition had handed down the name of the bishop's father.

raising the lid it was seen that this was not the case. Instead were found the remains of something evidently much older. The contents consisted largely of vegetable fibre, possibly spices, small fragments of very much decayed wood, probably oak, about an eighth of an inch thick. There were also fragments of a dark coloured substance, and later examination shewed traces of metal.

There was a large irregular-shaped hole in the bottom of the box, which may have been the result of corrosion. This had been stopped by placing another piece of lead, loosely in the bottom so as to prevent the contents falling through. This piece of lead was quite different to that of which the box was made, for while the latter was very rough "cast" lead and shewed the "sand" surface distinctly on one side the former appeared to have been hammered all over, and the marks of some such treatment were plainly visible on both sides.

A further fact seemed to suggest that the insertion of the "false" bottom was not merely a precaution dating from the last century, since through both the original and later lead there were evidences of it having been pierced by some sharp instrument such as a pick-axe or similar tool. The position of the holes rather pointed to an accidental discovery, and perhaps also that the "bottom," or end opposite the lid, was uppermost at the time.

The box was carefully examined by the veteran antiquary, Mr. F. J. Baigent, and Mr. Reginald Smith, of the British Museum, but no mark or other indication of anything to denote its age was discovered. The box was ultimately returned to the position in which it was found, a sealed glass bottle being placed with it containing a record describing how and when it was found and replaced.

It is difficult to explain exactly how this leaden casket, which apparently contained the remains of the Bishop's heart, had been removed to the new position behind a portion of the stone slab which had originally covered it.

It is possible that the heart left undisturbed when Bishop Fox removed the monument was removed either by the

Commissioners of Henry VIII., or by the Puritans at a later period. A quotation in the Winchester volume of Bell's cathedral series supports the latter theory, but as its source is not given any further details which might have thrown additional light upon the subject cannot be traced. If, however, the heart was then "found in a golden cup," which was taken by the directors of the spoliation, the leaden box may have been provided as a receptacle for its contents, but it is also possible that the casing of baser metal may have formed the original protection of the more precious one. The fragments of wood found seemed to suggest a wooden casket of some kind as old as the original burial.

This paper is intended only as a record of the re-discovery of the missing part of the monument, as well as the subsequent finding of the leaden box and its contents, which it is thought should find a place in the publications of the County Archæological Society, and it is hoped that members better qualified than the writer may be able to throw some further light on some of the points raised.
