TWO SKELETONS FROM ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR CASTLE

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Two skeletons were found under the floor of the vestry of St George's Chapel. Their date is uncertain at present but it is hoped that a C14 determination will solve this problem. Both skeletons are on the same alignment, not quite East-West, and would seem to have been buried at the same period. There was no trace of any coffin.

The adult individual was elderly and almost certainly male. Most of the molars had been lost ante mortem so age could not be assessed on the basis of molar wear and the pubic bones were missing so the appearance of the pubic symphysis was also unuseable as an aging criterion. The dental formula was:-

Key:-

--- area missing

X = lost ante mortem

/ = lost post mortem

A = abscess

Indications of advancing years can be seen on most of the bones of the body. Extra bone has been laid down around joints, musle insertions and in cartilage, especially around the sternum and on the ventral ends of the ribs. The vertebrae are also affected, the bodies of three of the lower cervicals/upper thoracics being fused and a moderate degree of lipping is present on most of the lumbar vertebrae.

Maximum living stature was calculated from the long bone measurements as 164 cm (c. 5' 5")⁽²⁾.

The juvenile skeleton was that of an individual aged 3-4. Age was estimated from the degree of development of the teeth. (1)

References

- (1) McCALL, J O and WALD, S S (1963) Clinical dental roentgenology p 149, 157.
- (2) TROTTER, M and GLESER, G C (1952) Amer J phys. Anthrop 16 p 79-123.