

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

2335

SERIES/No

CONSULTANT

AUTHOR

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TITLE

Stained Glass from DENNY ABBEY,
Cambridgeshire

STAINED GLASS FROM DENNEY ABBEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Dr Peter A Newton

The glass is all of the fourteenth century in date. It is impossible to tell from the existing fragments if it is a single glazing programme or different programmes spread over a period of time. There are some particular features of style and design that are consistent with a dating in the third quarter of the fourteenth century. These are the male head, 720445, drawing A, the repeated quarry design, drawings B, no 5, D, no 3 and F, no 5 and the crown border pieces, drawing D no 1 and 2. However some of the designs are standard types in the first half of the century, for example the geometric grisaille painted with trails of oak leaves and acorns, drawing C nos 1 and 4 and D no 2, and the canopy pinnacles with ball crockets, drawings F, no 3 and G no 1.

There is very little glass extant from Franciscan houses. The most important and extensive collection is the 14 century glass excavated at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge, on the site of the Franciscan Priory. It may be significant that both sites, Sidney Sussex and Denney, yielded little coloured glass. This suggests that the Franciscans may have preferred the cheaper type of glass design with its predominance of white and yellow stained glass.

DRAWING A

Bearded male head, facing three-quarters right

Facial type with heavy beard more appropriate to an Old Testament Prophet or Patriarch rather than a Saint. The strong linear treatment of the beard can be compared with the patriarchs and prophets at New College, Oxford of the mid 1380s. For example the head of Enoch. see C Woodforde The Stained Glass of New College, Oxford (1951) plate V. However the drawing of the eyes is simpler with a straight lower eye lid, this is more in accord with the mid 14th century style and design.
Date 14th century circa 1350 - 80.

DRAWING B

1. Patterned diaper work, possibly from a side-shafting of a canopy, the curve on the plain border suggests it comes from the upper part of the original design.

Date 14th century.

2. Base of a finial from a canopy design

Date 14th century.

3. Fragment of a geometric grisaille design painted with trails of foilage. See B nos 6 and 7 below.

Date 14th century.

4. Head of a bird, possibly a border design. See drawing C nos 5, 6 and 7 below.

Date 14th century.

5. Quarry with rose and foliage design

Same design as drawing D no 3 and Drawing F no 5. This type of design with a repeated flower and foliage design at the centre of each quarry is widespread from the mid 14th century and continues throughout the 15th century, the later examples become very stylised. The naturalistic drawing of the rose and foliage in these examples suggests a dating in the third quarter of the 14th century

6. and 7. Fragments of a geometric grisaille painted with trails of naturalistic foliage

A common class of design found from the late 13th century onwards less common after the mid 14th century when the trellis or quarries, like No 5 above was more popular.

Date 14th century

DRAWING C

1. Fragment of geometric grisaille painted with a trail of oak leaves and acorns.

See drawing B nos 6 and 7 above.

Date 14 century.

2. Uncertain subject Possibly part of a figure?

Date 14th century

3. Border design

Curved border suggests that this came from the shoulder of a main light or possibly from a tracery light. Repeated design of stylised quatrefoil plaques alternating with cross-hatching, commonly found from the mid 14 century onwards.

Date 14th century.

4. Oak grisaille see C no 1 and Drawing B nos 6 and 7 above.

Date 14th century.

5. 6. 7. Bird borders

The semi-circular shaping of the glass above the head of each bird in nos 5 and 6 suggests that these are border pieces and that originally the birds would have alternated with leaves, the latter could have been in coloured glass and separately leaded. This would account for the semi-circular shaping of these pieces. An extremely common design, particularly in the first half of the 14th century.

8. Border piece

Square border with design of a swastika motif in a diamond shaped frame.

Date 14th century.

DRAWING D

1. Unidentified fragment

2. Oak Grisaille. See C 1 and 3 and B6 and 7 above. Here the border has a wavy line pattern scratched out of matt paint.

Date 14th century

3. Rose quarry See B5 above.

Date 14th century, third quarter.

4. Border design

Repeated design of roses joined by a stem that divides into two to enclose each rose.

Common design from the mid 14th century onwards.

DRAWING E

1. Fragment of a canopy shaft

Date 14 century.

2. Leat

The leat is picked out of a matt paint wash, suggesting this part of a border design.

Date 14th century

3. Geometric grisaille with foliage stem

This comes from the centre of the design where it is a standard practice to have a vertical patterned stem with off-springing asymmetrical trails of foliage.

Date 14th century.

4. Crocheted pinnacle

Standard type, the drawing of the crochets favours a mid 14th century dating.

5. Oak grisaille See D2 above etc.

Date 14th century.

6. Fleur-de-lis border piece

Oblong piece with fleur-de-lis in a quatrefoil frame and semi-circular line pattern at each corner. A common class of design from the mid 14th century and throughout the 15th century.

DRAWING F

1. and 2. Crown border pieces

A common border design alternating with pieces of coloured glass, sometimes the crowns are set above initials. The slight curve of the side edges suggest that these pieces come from the shoulders or head of a light. They are a main light border design rather than a tracery light.

Date 14th century.

3. Fragment of a crocheted pinnacle

From a canopy design. The plain ball crockets are common late 13th century - mid 14th century.

4. Bird?

Possibly part of a border design, see Drawing C 5 - 7 above. However the shape of the piece above the bird rather suggests that this might be part of a larger composition .

Date 14th century.

5. Rose Quarry See Drawing B 5 above.

Date 14th century third quarter.

DRAWING G

1. Crocketed Pinnacle

From a canopy design, see F 3 above.

Date 14th century.

2. and 4.

Pattern diaper

Type commonly used to diaper side-shafts of canopies. Date 14th century

3. and 5.

Fragments of rose border designs, see D 4 above.

Date 14th century

6. Geometric quisaille painted with foliage trail. See B 6 and 7 above.

Date 14th century.

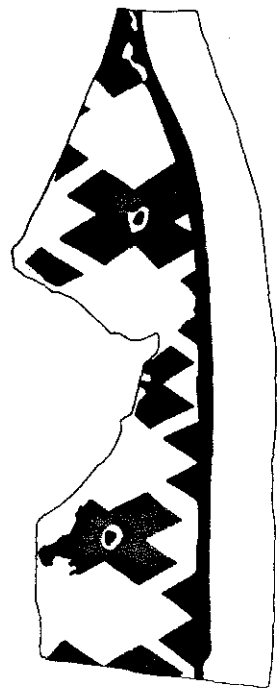


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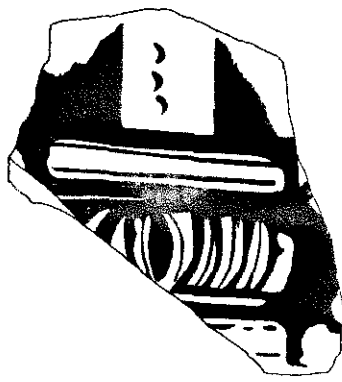
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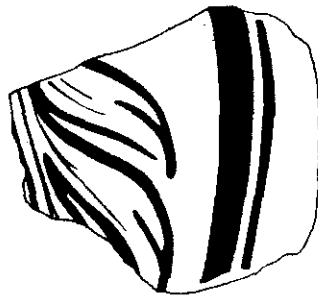
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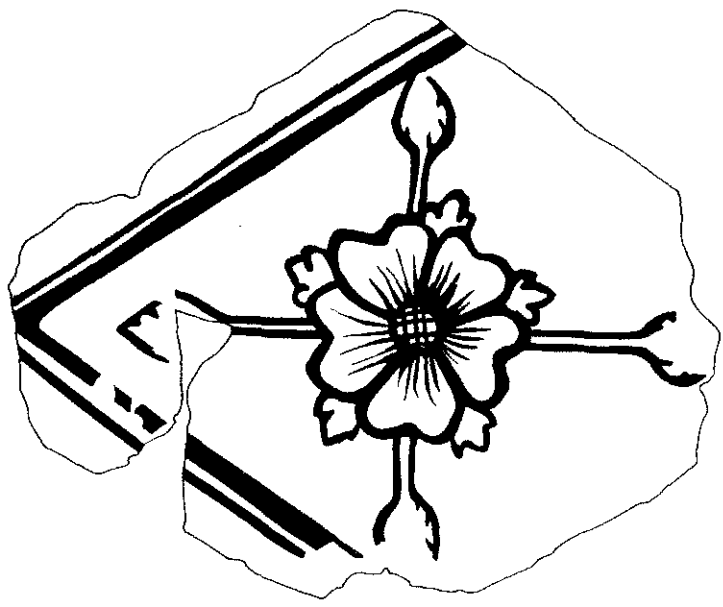


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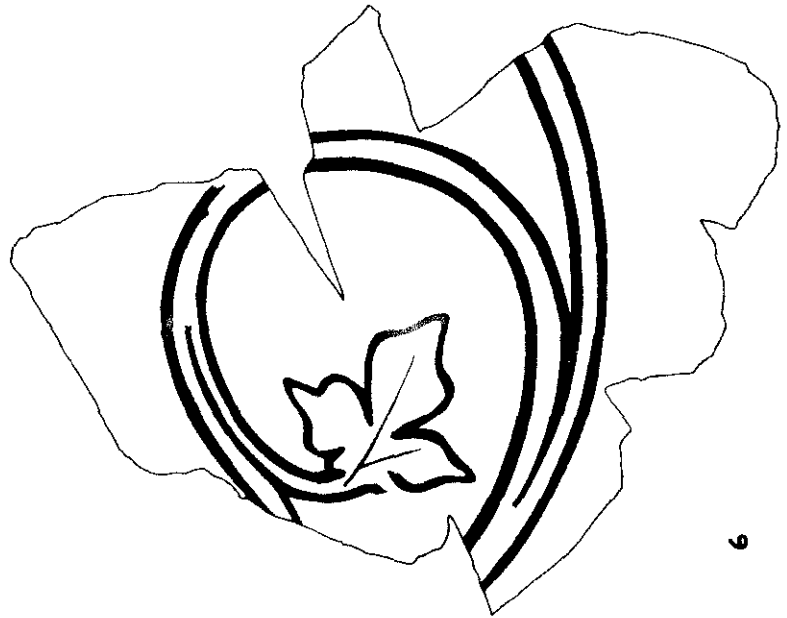


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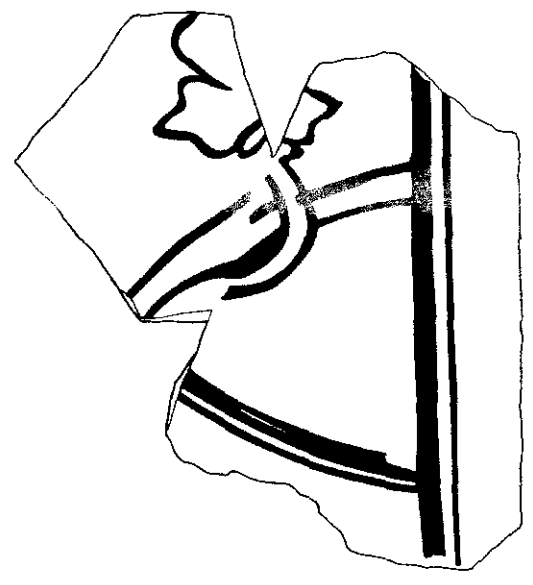
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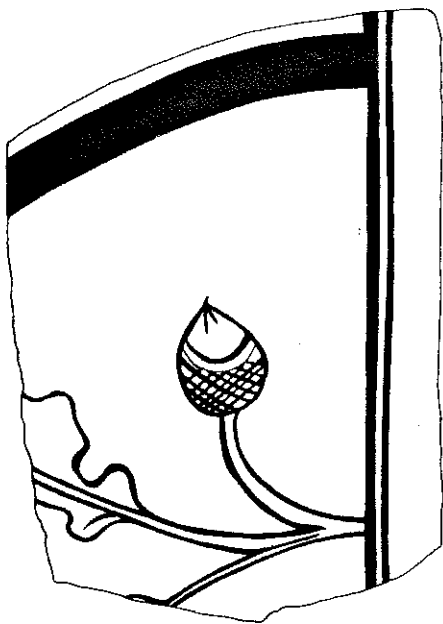
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Stony Abbey. Stained Glass. - Invas Miller 76

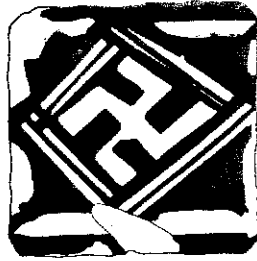
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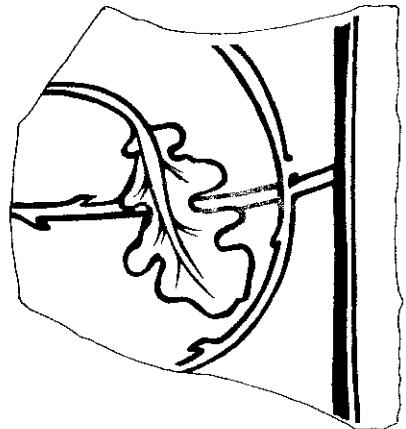


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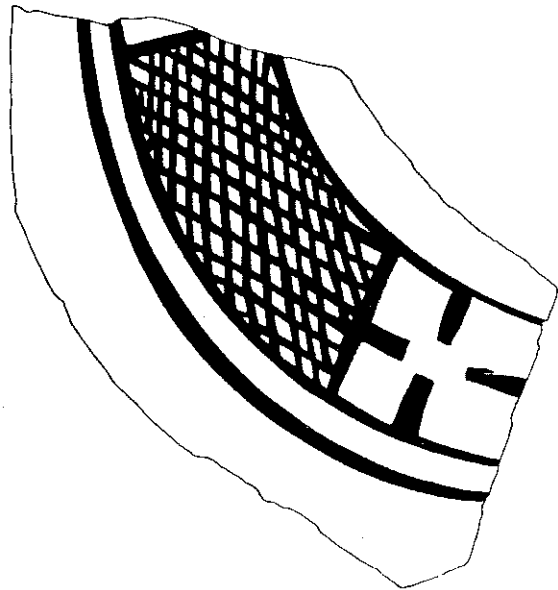
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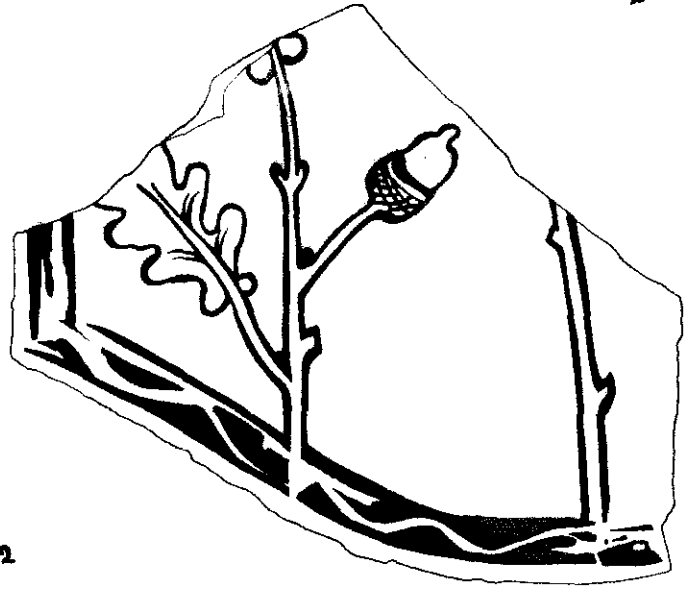
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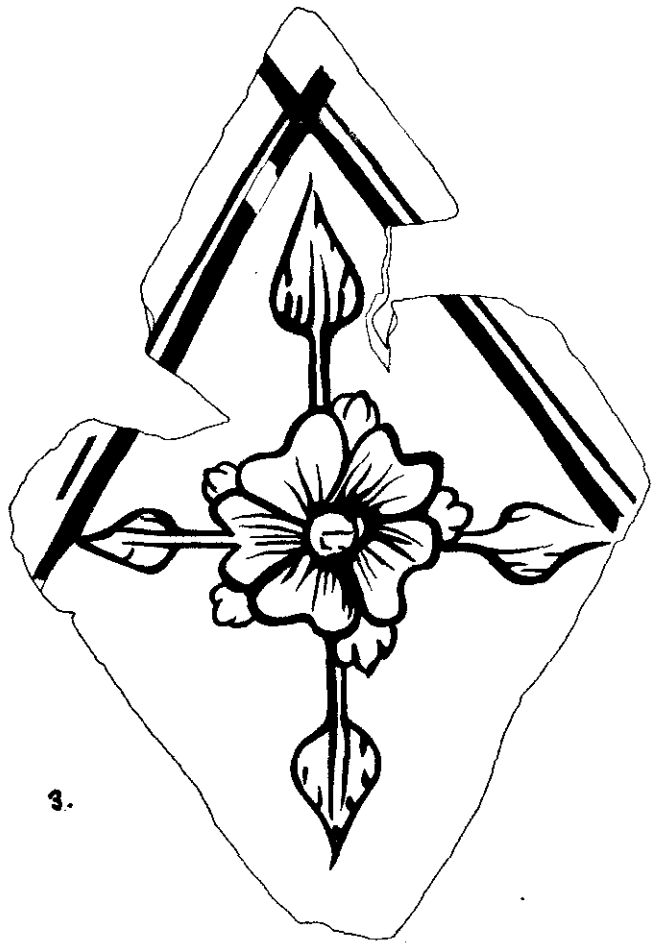


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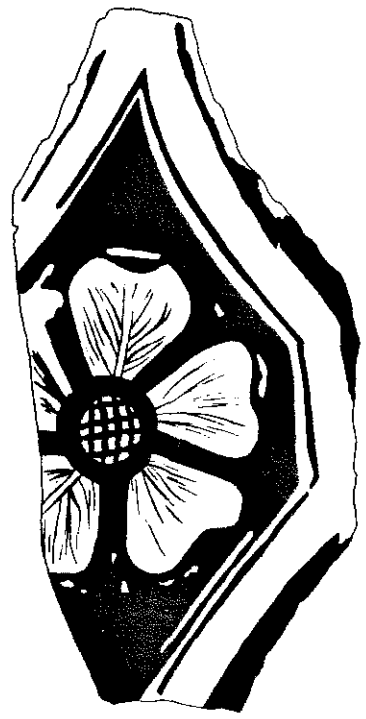


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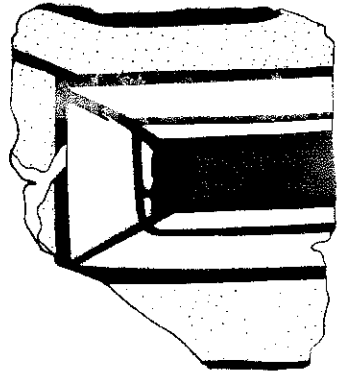
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Down Abbey Standard Glass - 1/2 inch x 1/2 inch x 1/2 inch

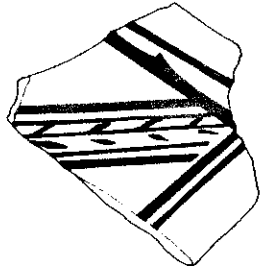


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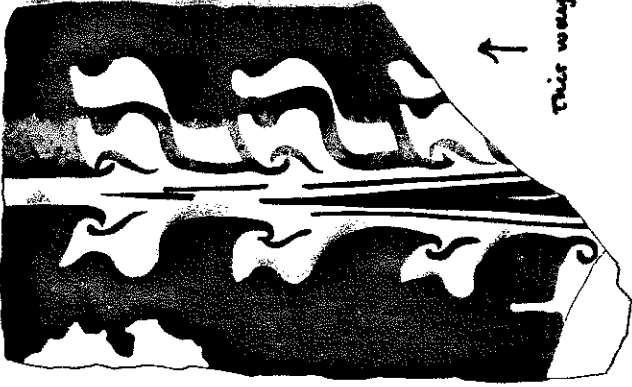


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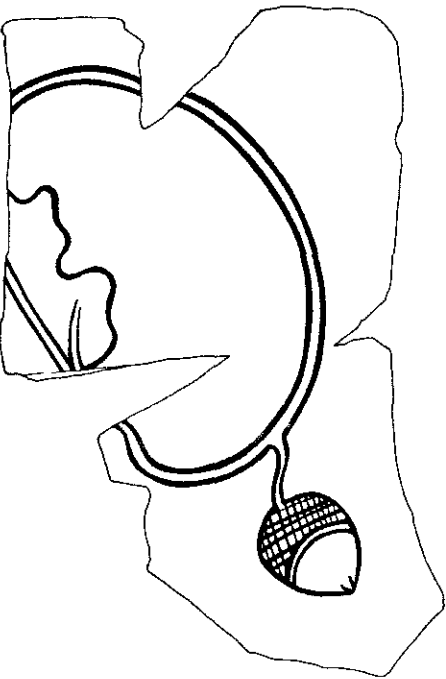
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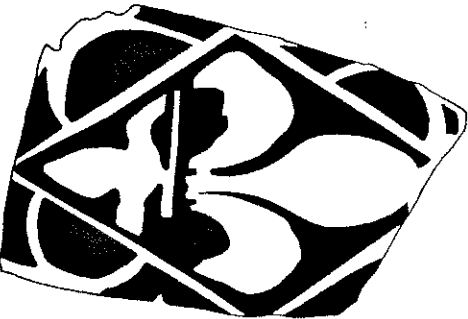
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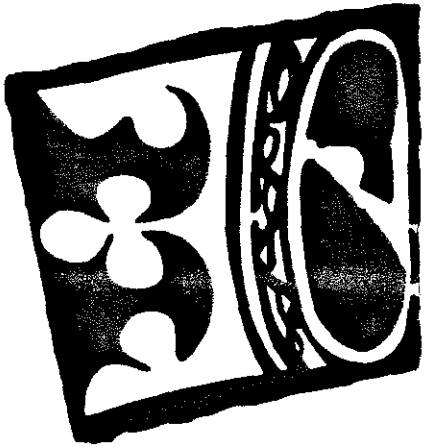


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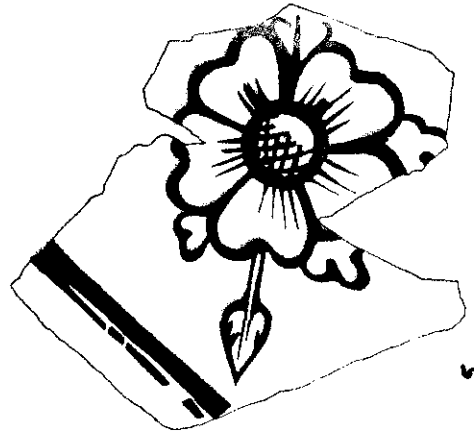
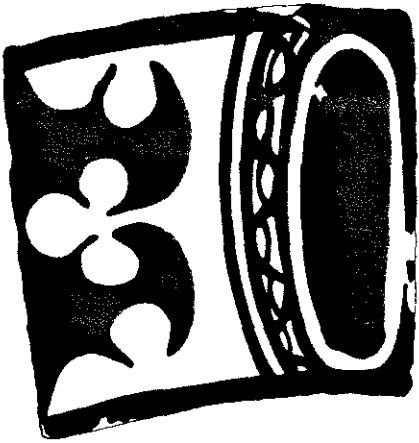


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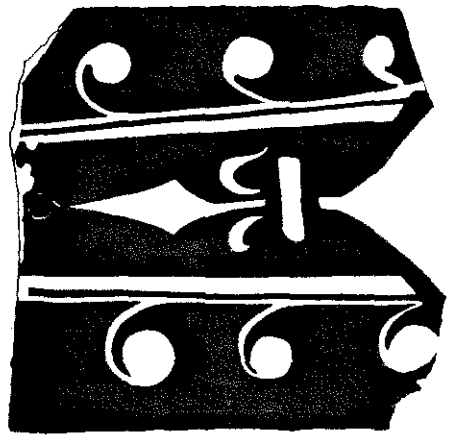
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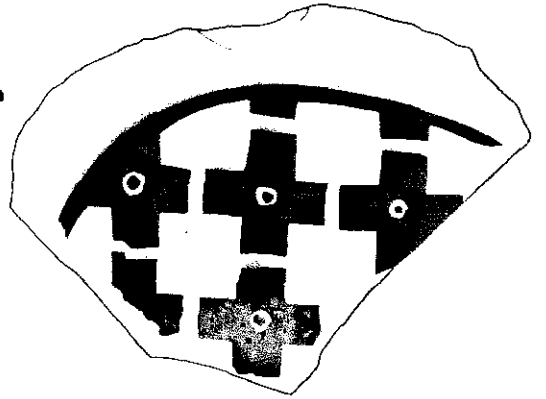


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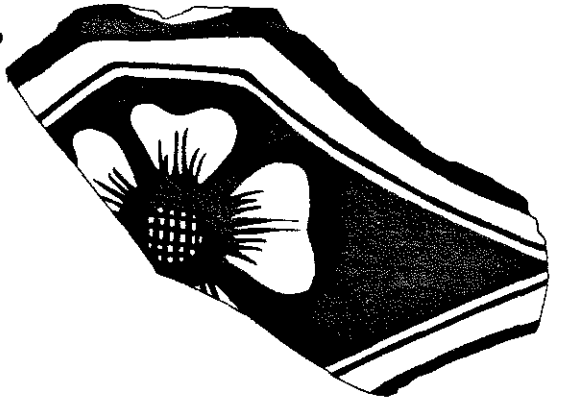
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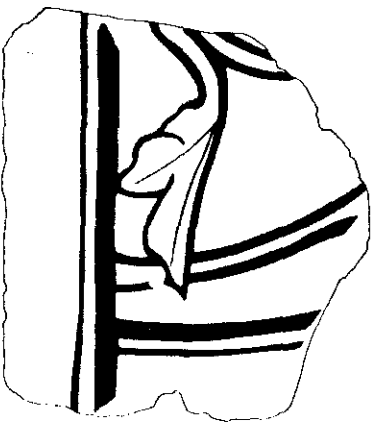
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