

## NOTES

*Medieval floor-tiles from Orford and Sudbourne.* The tiles from Orford have come to light recently during work on the church; similar tiles in the neighbouring church of Sudbourne have been known to exist for some time. In view of the work on Suffolk tiles printed elsewhere in these *Proceedings* it seems appropriate to record the circumstances of the new discovery and describe the tiles.

The Orford tiles were found by one of the writers (D.S.) in September 1971 during the restoration of the church tower. Six medieval decorated tiles and fragments of three plain tiles were found in the wall-cores where they had been embedded, presumably during repairs carried out in the last century. They have been deposited on loan in Ipswich Museum.

The tiles in Sudbourne church are set in the back of the chancel piscina; there are nine, four plain and five decorated. There is apparently no record of when the tiles were put in their present position but a reference in 1937 records them where they now are.<sup>1</sup>

The Orford and Sudbourne tiles provide useful additional information about the types and distribution of tiles in the area (see Fig. 41 above for distribution). All the tiles discussed here have designs in relief (for details of manufacture see page 140 above).

Ward-Perkins recorded a tile from Orford in 1937.<sup>2</sup> It was then in Moyses's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds. An examination of the collection there has unfortunately failed to bring the tile to light.<sup>3</sup> It was described as being in high relief with a greenish-brown glaze. The published drawing shows a five-lobed leaf with fruit, probably a maple. Two other sites are known to have had a tile with this design—Dennington and Sibton. A tracing of three tiles from Dennington is in Lord Alwyne Compton's book of tracings in the library of the Society of Antiquaries of London.<sup>4</sup> The tracing was taken towards the end of the 19th century; it shows the tiles placed end to end to form a continuous running motif of leaves and stalks. A letter to the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1806, from *iuvenis Suffolciensis*, records tiles from Sibton.<sup>5</sup> One of those illustrated is apparently the same as those from Dennington and Orford.

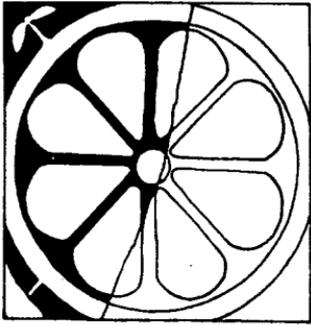
<sup>1</sup> H. Munro Cautley, *Suffolk Churches* (Ipswich, 1937), p. 321.

<sup>2</sup> J. B. Ward-Perkins, 'English Medieval Embossed Tiles', *Arch. Jour.* xciv (1937), p. 152 and fig. 8, 2.

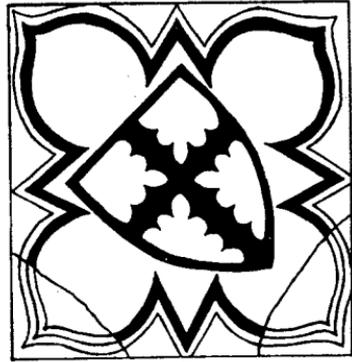
<sup>3</sup> L. K. is grateful to the Curator, Mr. A. R. Edwardson, F.S.A., for kindly providing facilities to study the tiles at Bury.

<sup>4</sup> Lord Alwyne F. Compton, Bishop of Ely, *Tile Tracings*, f. 42v. We would like to thank here Mr. John Hopkins and Mr. John Kenyon for assistance in locating many references and for bringing much to our notice.

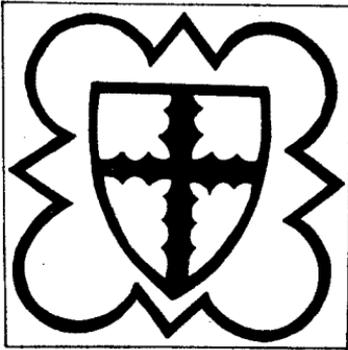
<sup>5</sup> *Gent. Mag.* LXXVI (1806), p. 17 and fig. 3.



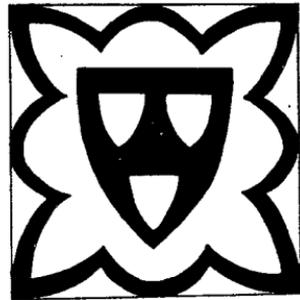
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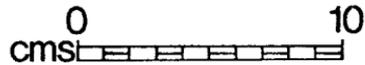
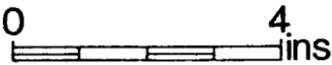


FIG. 47.—Orford Church tiles.

The connection between these three sites is reinforced by a tile with the arms of Ufford (Fig. 47, 2) which is among the recent Orford finds and which is also recorded at Dennington by Compton<sup>6</sup> and at Sibton by the *iuvenis Suffolciensis*.

The other tiles from Orford (Fig. 47) are recorded for the first time, except Fig. 47, 4 which is recorded at Butley.<sup>7</sup>

Five designs are to be found at Sudbourne, one of these not yet recorded elsewhere (Fig. 48, 1). One design is probably the same as no. 9 from Campsea Ash (Fig. 39, above). Two are the same as designs from Butley,<sup>8</sup> one of them (Fig. 48, 2) also being similar to no. 8 from Campsea Ash (Fig. 39). The fifth is the same as no. 5 from Orford.

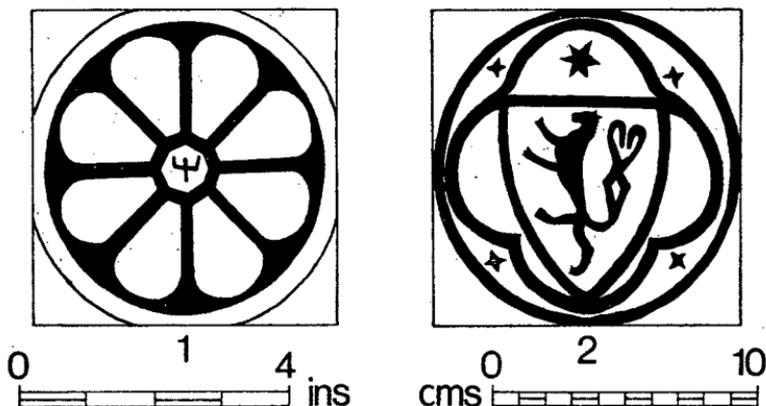


FIG. 48.—Sudbourne Church tiles.

The tiles, of well-fired red earthenware, have green or brown lead glazes and vary in size between 110 mm and 132 mm square. Thicknesses vary too, from 13 mm to 19 mm. Like other tiles in the area there is very little bevel on the sides and no keying scoops on the backs.

As already stated (above, p. 148) there is as yet little evidence to give firm dates to Suffolk tiles. However, it would seem that all the tiles from Sudbourne and Orford could belong to the 14th century.

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<sup>6</sup> *op. cit.*, f. 172. Ward-Perkins mentions and illustrates this tile, *op. cit.*, p. 150 and fig. 8, 3, but unfortunately there has been some confusion of place-names and Denston is used by him.

<sup>7</sup> J. N. L. Myres, 'Butley Priory, Suffolk', *Arch. Jour.* xc (1933), fig. 6, no. 7.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 6, nos. 4 (—lion doublequeued) and 8 (nebuly per bend).