

A medieval floor-tile from Flixton. This fragment of relief floor tile (Fig. 49) was found by Mr. Norman Scarfe in the ruined nave of Flixton St. Andrew Church, in soil disturbed by cattle. The tile was originally 6-7 ins. square, straight sided and of a hard, fine paste oxidised on the under surface and the sides, with a thickness of $1\frac{3}{8}$ ins. The design is deeply impressed and the whole of the upper surface was originally covered with a thick glaze, green in the reduced areas and orange in the oxidised region.

The main design is clearly a Paschal Lamb with a flag surmounted by a cross. The head and forepart of the Lamb is outlined with a raised band. In the top right hand corner is a bird in flight; above the flag, in front of the Lamb and beneath it are apparently fish designs.

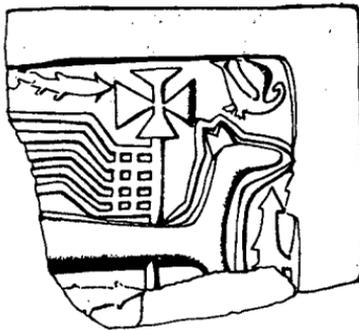


FIG. 49.—Tile from Flixton St. Andrew. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

There are traces of mortar on the back and sides, but its position of finding, loose in the nave, may not have been its original setting.

The tile is not apparently of the Bawsey type and no parallels or sources of origin are so far known.

S. E. WEST

Suffolk Churches. Our member the Revd. John Fitch, rector of Brandon, has recently carried out a survey of the 470-odd churches in Suffolk, grading them according to their architectural and historical value, and indicating those in each category which are threatened with immediate redundancy and those which may be in the near future. This is the first time such a classification has been attempted and we owe Mr. Fitch a debt of gratitude for his excellent and charmingly written report. Altogether, over 200 churches are at risk, of which Mr. Fitch considers about 50 to be of outstanding merit and worthy of preservation at all costs, while nearly 30 others

are close runners-up; all these churches serve populations of under two hundred and fifty.

The Churches of Suffolk is published by the Suffolk Preservation Society, is beautifully produced and illustrated by Christina Carpenter and Jack Penton, and is obtainable from Mr. Field Reid, Bower Close, Polstead, nr. Colchester at 80p.

All members who are concerned about the preservation of our magnificent medieval churches should get a copy of this fascinating but disturbing book.

L.D.

The Sutton Hoo Handbook. The second edition of Dr. Bruce-Mitford's *Handbook* to the ship-burial was published while these *Proceedings* were in proof.¹ The book has been much revised and enlarged to incorporate the results of recent research, both in and outside the British Museum, which are fundamental to the interpretation of the ship-burial. Here special mention must be made of the new reconstructions of the fragments of the musical instrument (a lyre, not a harp) and the helmet. The bronze stag is shown to belong to the sceptre instead of the standard. There is fresh evidence relating to the ship itself and the new dating of the coins makes it almost certain that the burial commemorates King Raedwald.

There are still a few mis-prints but the poor colour plates of the first edition have been replaced by eight superb new ones, and the second edition is an even more splendid handbook to Britain's most marvellous archaeological find. The preface tells us that a third edition is planned to incorporate the results of research still in progress and that Volume I of the definitive publication is now in the press.

D.S.

¹ Price £1.50 paperback; £2 cloth. The first edition was reviewed by Norman Smedley in Vol. xxxi (1968), p. 210.