ENGLISH GOTHIC FOLIAGE SCULPTURE
ENGLISH GOTHIC FOLIAGE SCULPTURE

BY

SAMUEL GARDNER

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
1927
PREFACE

It is my hope that this little treatise may serve to enhance the pleasure and interest of such visitors to our ancient Churches as care for architectural details, and that it may help them to follow the development of one of the most beautiful features.

With this object I have endeavoured to be clear and concise. This has necessitated the rejection of scores of illustrations which might have added to the attractiveness of the book, but would also have added to its complexity. In making my selection I have had regard in every case to certain points which are briefly hinted in the list of illustrations.

In suggesting approximate dates I have been guided mostly by the character of the work, but I have compared my suggestions with records when available. Appearances are often safer guides than doubtful records.
vi

PREFACE

For about one-fourth of the photographs from which the illustrations are made I am indebted to my son Mr Arthur Gardner, F.S.A. The rest are from my own negatives.

S. G.

HARROW

January 1927
CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS . . . . page ix

ABBREVIATIONS . . . . . . XVI

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION . . . . 1
Pre-conquest and Anglo-Saxon work—Norman carrying on of Classical traditions—13th century Renaissance and progress—English and French development

CHAPTER II: PRIMITIVES . . . . 7
Anglian crosses—Anglo-Saxon embryo of Stiff-leaf—Byzantine elements

CHAPTER III: ROMANESQUE OR NORMAN . . . . 14
Shapes of capitals—Lombardic ornaments—Early experiments—French Corinthian—Scallops

CHAPTER IV: EARLY ENGLISH STIFF-LEAF . . . . 22
Basis of trefoils—Two types, the solid mid-rib and the hollowed or cut-out—Traditional and Progressive—Course of development

CHAPTER V: NATURALISTIC . . . . 33
The Return to Nature—Roses and Daisies, etc.

CHAPTER VI: DECORATED . . . . . 39
Globular waves and Ripples—Stone-carving gives way to Wood-carving
viii CONTENTS

CHAPTER VII: PERPENDICULAR . . . page 42
Squareness and drilled holes—Sprawling leafage—Final effort to return to Nature

CHAPTER VIII: MATERIALS . . . . 46
Form v. Surface—Building stone—Purbeck marble—Wood

CHAPTER IX: CONVENTIONAL ORNAMENTS . . 53
Dog-tooth—Ball-flower—Tudor-flower

TOPOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF PLATES . . . 55
# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The figures on the right give the pages where the Plates are described or mentioned. Small print indicates points to be noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plate</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shapes of Capitals . . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(i) Cushion (Winchester Crypt); (ii) Scallop (Tower of London); (iii) Bell (Boxgrove); (iv) Cup (Bury St Edmunds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sompting, Sussex (String Course) . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saxon trefoils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Oxford Galleries (Ivory Casket) . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turned-over tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kimpton, Herts (Arcade) . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alternate N. and E.E. caps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Christchurch, Hants (Capitals) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Greek anthenion caps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hemel Hempstead, Herts (Capital) 15, 36, 41, 42, 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beaded strands and profile leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Northampton, St Peter's (Capital) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triple profile leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aylesbury (Base of Font) . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triple strands and profile leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oxford Cathedral (Capital) . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interlaced strands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Deerhurst, Glos (Font) . . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saxon spirals and sprays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Deerhurst, Glos (Capital) . . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E.E. copy of font-sprays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Durham Cathedral Library (Trees) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beaded straps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>King's Walden, Herts (Capital). . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transition water-leaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Oxford Cathedral (Capitals) . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transition experiments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Canterbury Cathedral Choir (Capital) . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French Corinthian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

16 Broadwater, Sussex (Capitals) . . . . 19
   A.S. type and French
17 Sompting (Capital) . . . . . . . . . . 19
   Corinthian experiment
18 Canterbury Crypt (Capital) . . . . . . 20
   Parallel leaves
19 Black Bourton, Oxon (Capital) . . . . . . 21
   Curved scallops
20 Kimpton (Capital) . . . . . . . . . . 21, 24
   Foliated scallops
21 King’s Walden (Capital) . . . . . . . 21, 24
   Scalps and parallel leaves
22 Romsey Abbey (Capitals) . . . . . . . 21
   Enriched scallops
23 Cuddington, Bucks (Capital) . . . . . . 21
   A variety of scallops
24 King’s Walden (Capital) . . . . . . . 22
   Mid-ribbed trefoils
25 Hereford Cathedral (Capitals) . . . . . . 2, 23
   Curved variation of Pl. 2
26 St David’s Cathedral (Capitals) . . . . 23, 28, 31
   Hollowed trefoils
27 Bledlow, Bucks (Capital) . . . . . . . 23
   Alternate mid-ribbed and hollowed
28 Fountains Abbey (Capital) . . . . . . . 23
   Alternate mid-ribbed and hollowed
29 Kimpton (Capital) . . . . . . . . . . 23
   Early stiff-leaf
30 Kimpton (Capital) . . . . . . . . . . 24
   Early stiff-leaf
31 Minster, Thanet (Capital) . . . . . . . 24
   Solid and hollowed trefoils
32 Wells Cathedral, S. Transept (Capitals) . . . . . . 25, 28
   Stiff-leaf varieties
33 Lincoln Cathedral, Nave (Capital) . . . . . . 25
   Characteristic stiff-leaf
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

34 Hereford Cathedral, N. Transect (Capitals) 25, 28, 53
Convolutions and curved dog-tooth

35 Teversham, Cambs (Corbel) . . . . 26
Flat mid-ribs piercing tips

36 Eaton Bray, Beds (Capitals) . . . . 26
Wavy garlands

37 Ivinghoe, Bucks (Capitals) . . . . 26
Typical trefoils

38 Stone, Kent (Spandril) . . . . 27
Good specimen of late stiff-leaf

39 Westminster Abbey (Spandril). . . . 27
The predecessor of Pl. 38

40 Lincoln Cathedral, Nave (Capital) . . . 27, 28
Split trefoils

41 Wells Cathedral, W. Nave (Capitals) . . 27
Free treatment

42 Wells Cathedral, W. Nave (Corbel) . . . 28
Cut-out trefoils

43 Wells Cathedral, W. Nave (Corbel). . . 28
Fronts and backs of leaves

44 Lincoln Cathedral, S.E. Porch (Foliage round statuettes) . . . . . . . 28
Undercut arbours

45 Lincoln Cathedral, Choir Aisle Doorway (Foliage on mouldings) . . . . . 29, 39, 50
Undercut sprays

46 Lincoln Cathedral, Choir Aisle (Capital) . . 29
Crockets

47 Lincoln Cathedral, E. Angel Choir (Capital) . . 24, 29
Extreme limits of stiff-leaf

48 King’s Lynn, Norfolk (Capital) . . . . 29, 40
Stiff-leaf with flowers

49 Lichfield Cathedral (Capitals) . . . . 30, 53
Cinquefoils and 2-leaved dog-tooth

50 Salisbury Cathedral, Chapter House (Capitals) 30
Crocketed trefoils

51 Salisbury Cathedral, Old Choir Screen (Capital) 30
Graceful free treatment
xii  LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

52  Wells Cathedral, W. Nave (Capitals) . . . 30
    The Wells development suggesting cornucopiae
53  Wells Cathedral, Nave (Capitals) . . . 31
    The Wells development suggesting cornucopiae
54  Ely Cathedral, Retrochoir (Capitals) . . . 32, 50
    Bulged centres appearing
55  Llandaff Cathedral (Capitals, etc.) . . . 32
    Local varieties
56  Weobley, Heref. (Coffin-lid) . . . . 32
    Stiff-leaf cross
57  Southwell Cathedral, Chapter House (Capital) 35, 40
    Naturalistic hops
58  Southwell Cathedral, Chapter House (Capitals) 35
    Naturalistic hawthorn, etc.
59  Southwell Cathedral, Chapter House (Gable) . 35
    Naturalistic hawthorn, etc.
60  Hereford Cathedral, Cantilupe Shrine (Spandril) 36
    Trefoils and cinquefoils
61  Winchelsea, Tomb (Panel) . . . . 36, 41, 42, 50
    Oak
62  Oxford Cathedral, Shrine (Spandril) . . . 36
    Oak
63  Exeter Cathedral, Choir (Corbel) . . . 36
    Oak
64  Exeter Cathedral, Choir (Corbel) . . . 36
    Celery (?)
65  Ifley, Oxford (Door jamb) . . . . 37
    Norman rosettes
66  Lincoln Cathedral, Choir Aisle Doorway (Mouldings) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 37, 53
    E.E. roses and dog-tooth
67  Fyfield, Essex (Window jamb) . . . . 37
    Globular roses
68  Rochester Cathedral (Chapter House Doorway) 37
    Heraldic roses
69  Erwarton, Suffolk, Font (Rose) . . . . 38
    Later form of Pl. 68
# List of Illustrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Cambridge, St John’s College Gateway 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Beverley Minster (Capital) 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Winchelsea, Tomb (Panel) 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Beverley Minster, Tomb (Capital) 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Ely Cathedral, Lady Chapel (Gable) 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Ely Cathedral, Lady Chapel (Capitals) 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Lincoln Cathedral, Easter Sepulchre (Panels) 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Exeter Cathedral, Tomb (Decoration) 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Patrington, Yorks (Capitals) 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Aldenham, Herts, Tomb (Spandril) 36, 41, 42, 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>St Albans Cathedral, Ramryge Chantry (Cornice) 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Ely Cathedral, Alcock Chantry (Cornice) 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>North Cerney, Glos (Pulpit) 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Oxford, St Mary’s (Cornice and Spandril) 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Oxford Cathedral, Watching Loft (Decorations) 43, 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Cambridge, King’s College Chapel (Mouldings of W. Doorway) 37, 38, 44, 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Lincoln Cathedral (Corbel and Capital) 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Exeter Cathedral, Tomb (Panels) 49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

88 York Cathedral, Tomb (Spandril) . . . 49
  Purbeck marble foliage
89 Rochester Cathedral (Corbel) . . . 49
  Purbeck marble foliage
90 Peterborough Cathedral (Capitula) . . . 49
  Wood 13th cent. capital fitted into Renaissance arches
91 Exeter Cathedral (Misericord) . . . 50
  Wood stiff-leaf
92 Exeter Cathedral (Misericord) . . . 50
  Wood stiff-leaf
93 Exeter Cathedral (Misericord) . . . 50
  Wood stiff-leaf with knobs
94 Christchurch, Hants (Misericord) . . . 50
  Specimen of 13th cent. wood-carving
95 King’s Lynn, Norfolk (Misericord) 36, 41, 42, 43, 50
  Specimen of 14th cent. wood-carving
96 King’s Lynn, Norfolk (Screen) . . . 50
  Wood canopies
97 Winchester Cathedral (Stalls) . . . 50
  14th cent. wood leaves and fruit
98 Tong, Salop (Cornice and Screen) . . . 51
  15th cent. wood leaves and fruit
99 Tong, Salop (Cornice and Screen) . . . 51
  15th cent. wood leaves and fruit
100 Abergavenny, Mon. (Cornice and Screen) . . . 51
  15th cent. wood leaves and fruit
101 Norwich Cathedral (Canopy of Stalls) . . . 51
  15th cent. wood crockets
102 Mullion, Cornwall (Bench) . . . . . 52
  16th cent. wood-carving
103 Crowcombe, Som. (Bench) . . . . . 52
  16th cent. naturalistic work
104 Ely Cathedral, Galilee (Wall Arcade) . . . 53
  Dog-tooth in mouldings
105 Soham, Cambs (Chancel Arch) . . . . 53
  3-leaved dog-tooth
## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>St Cross, Winchester (Arch over W. Doorway)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Dunstable, Beds (Mouldings)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Wells Cathedral, W. Doorway (Mouldings)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Leominster, Heref. (Window)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Exeter Cathedral (Screen Panel and Mouldings)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Tewkesbury Abbey, Tomb (Mouldings)</td>
<td>40, 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Purse Caundle, Dorset, Tomb (Spandril and Cornice)</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABBREVIATIONS

The following Abbreviations are used:

A.S. Anglo-Saxon,  N. Norman,  Tr. Transition,
E.E. Early English, D. Decorated, P. Perpendicular,
N. North, S. South, E. East, W. West