



Notes On The Little Farringdon Chalice

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the same showing, would really very likely be the most ancient hall-mark known, and stand for 1439. The fashion altogether fits that early year better than 1519, though the leopard's head crowned looks more like 1519 than 1439 I must confess. The difficulty as to early marks is that there are so few known pieces available for comparison, and the marks upon them are so much worn, that any conclusions drawn from minute differences in their appearance are very untrustworthy. I think the approximate date could be settled from the divided beard, &c., and then the hall-mark would enable us to fix the actual year in which this interesting piece was made.

NOTES ON THE LITTLE FARRINGDON CHALICE.¹

By J. H. MIDDLETON, M.A., F.S.A.

At the church of Little Farringdon, Oxon, once a chapelry of Langford in the same county, there is still preserved the very beautiful specimen of a fifteenth century silver chalice here illustrated.

The bowl and the base are both of *hammered* work; the latter is a hexagon in plan, with sides curved inwards. It has a delicate moulding round the lower part of the foot, further ornamented by beading, each bead of which has been produced by the blow of a small circular punch. On one of the compartments of the foot is the usual crucifix, in this case rudely engraved on a diapered ground. The knop and the hexagon stem are of *cast* work, probably executed by the "cire perdue" process. The knop is ornamented with pierced tracery and six grotesque human heads, modelled with great spirit. The hall-mark, which was inside the bowl, is obliterated except the lower part of the leopard's head.

The outline and proportions of this chalice are very graceful, and the work, both hammered and cast, of good and careful execution. I would suggest 1460-1480 as its probable date. The engraved crucifix is very inferior in style. The whole has once been gilt, but little of the gilding now remains.

¹ Communicated to the Monthly Meeting of the Institute, November 2, 1882.