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Further Thoughts on a probable Medieval Pyx

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FURTHER THOUGHTS ON A PROBABLE MEDIEVAL PYX

The Revd. Canon P.G. Cobb, in his note in these *Transactions* on the probable medieval pyx formerly in St. Peter's church, Bristol,¹ stated that the description on the reverse of a photograph of the object taken by Fred Little c. 1910 was not in the handwriting of the Bristol antiquary, the Revd. Canon M.A.R.T. Cole (1874–1948), rector of Christ Church with St. Ewen. It has now been possible to check this assertion following the death of the Revd. Charles Maurice Joseph Turner (1913–97), an honorary curate of Christ Church and a life-long friend of Canon Cole. In his will Turner bequeathed to me his joint right of patronage in the living, and I received a box of papers including two notebooks in Canon Cole's handwriting. The last are a record of monuments and gravestones in the church made by him between 1914 and 1922 and a general notebook on the parish kept by him and his father, Canon E.P. Cole, between the 1880s and 1920s. This bequest enabled a comparison of the writing on the back of the photograph of the probable pyx with that in the notebooks, and there is no doubt whatever that both are in the same hand.

The large quantity of photographs of Bristol church buildings and ecclesiastical objects in Canon Cole's collection was dispersed following his death in 1948. The photographs, taken by Fred Little, Mr. C. Dudley Ruding Bryan (the art master at Clifton College and the heraldic artist responsible for the painting of the coat of arms in the Old Council Chamber of the Wills Memorial Building), and S.J. Collins, appear to have once constituted a systematic and complete photographic record of the old city churches in Bristol and their contents.

The photograph of the pyx was published prior to its appearance in our *Transactions* for it was part of a piece on St. Peter's, Castle Green, one of a series of articles published in the *Bristol Evening World* c. 1942–3 under the title 'Lest You Forget—Blitzed Churches'. The photograph was included with a display of objects lost in the air raids and is entitled 'One of the church treasures—an ancient post box'!

Note

1. *Trans. B.G.A.S.* 113 (1995), 179–80.

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