HOSPITALITY IN A CISTERCIAN ABBEY: THE CASE OF KIRKSTALL IN THE LATER MIDDLE AGES

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Institute for Medieval Studies
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KIRKSTALL ABBEY ✚   ● Leeds

● Wakefield   ● Pontefract

✚ Cistercian Abbeys

```
10    0    10    20    30    40 km
10         0         10    20 miles
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0.1: Map of the principal medieval towns and nearby abbeys of Yorkshire.
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Spofforth

Micklethwaite

Collingham

● Otley

Bardsey

Guisely

Yeadon

Alwoodley

Adel   Moor Allerton

Horsforth   Weetwood   Barwick-in-Elmet
              Meanwood   Chapel Allerton
Calverley

KIRKSTALL ABBEY ✚   Headingley   Gipton
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Bramley

Burmantofts
Pudsey   Armley   ● Leeds   Garforth

Scale 1:125,000   Hunslet   Temple Newsam

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1    0    1    2    3    4 miles
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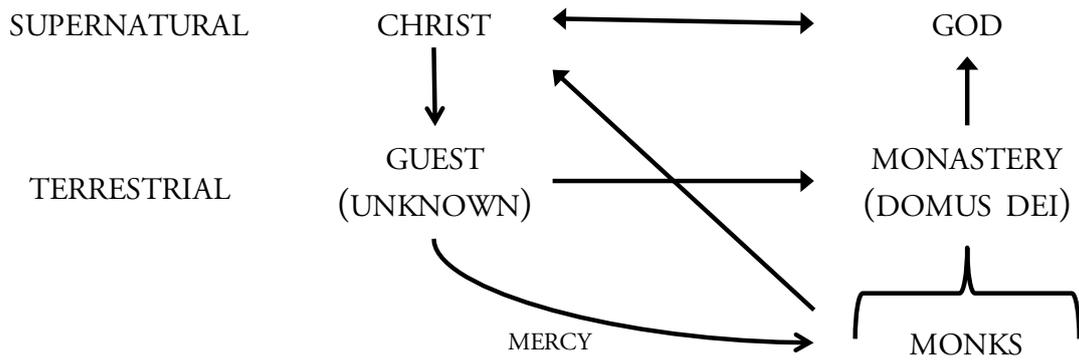
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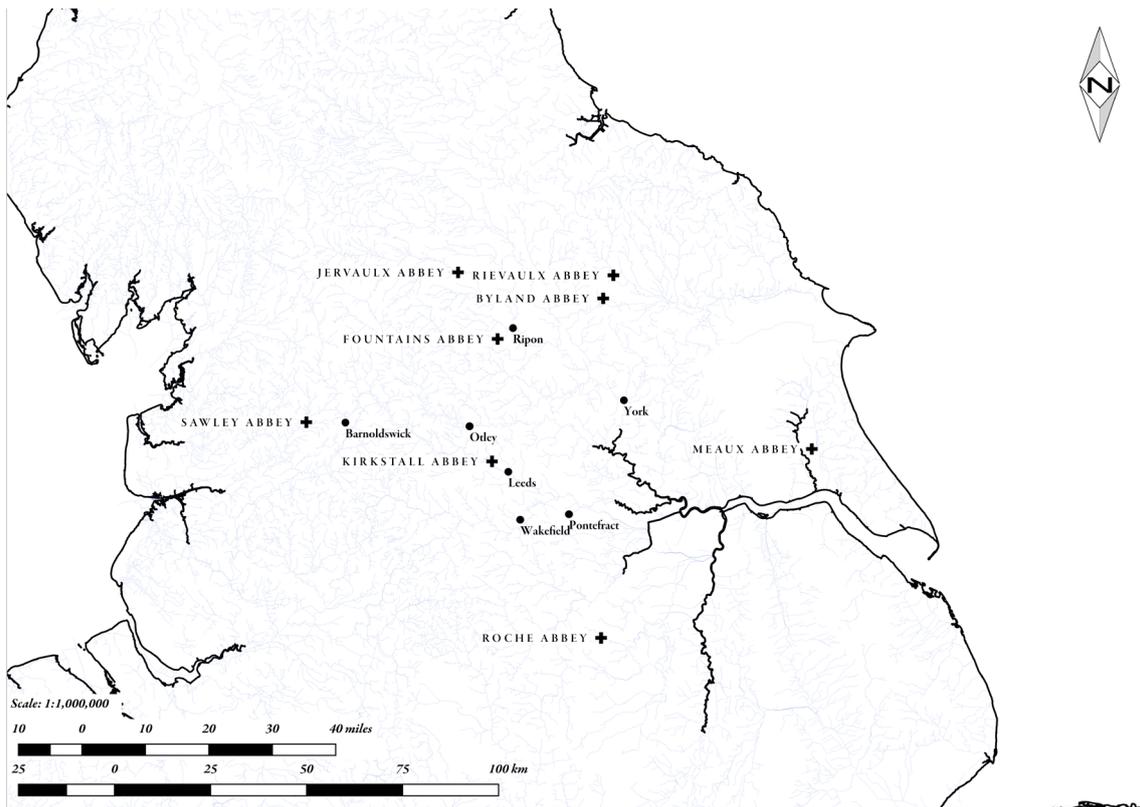
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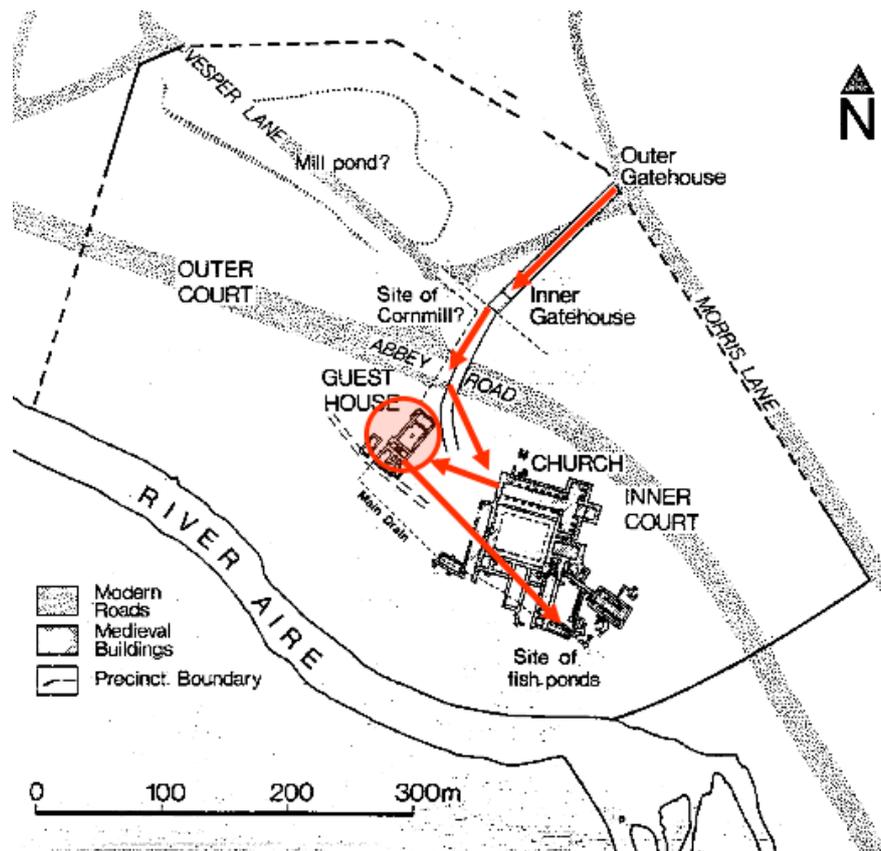
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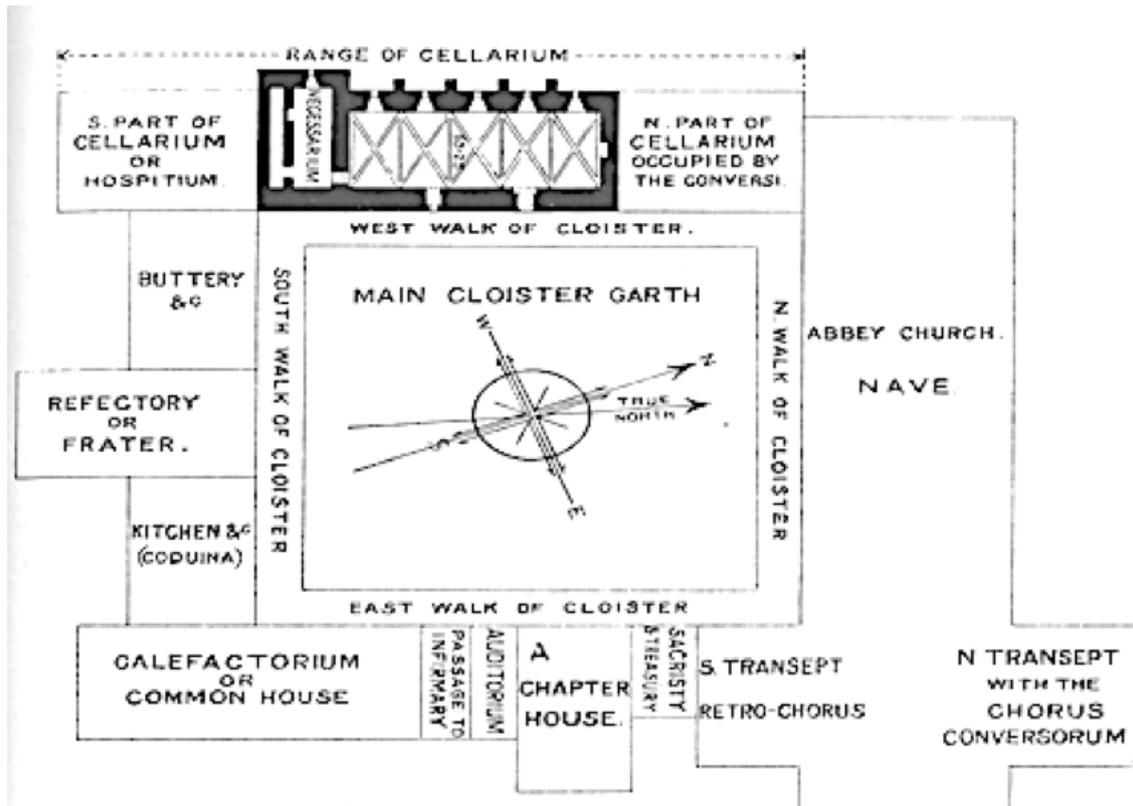
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PLAN OF THE
BUILDINGS FROM
LARGE MAP BY
GEORGE AISLABIE
1769.

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GROUND PLAN
OF REMAINS
OF CHURCH

14 YARDS TO THE INCH
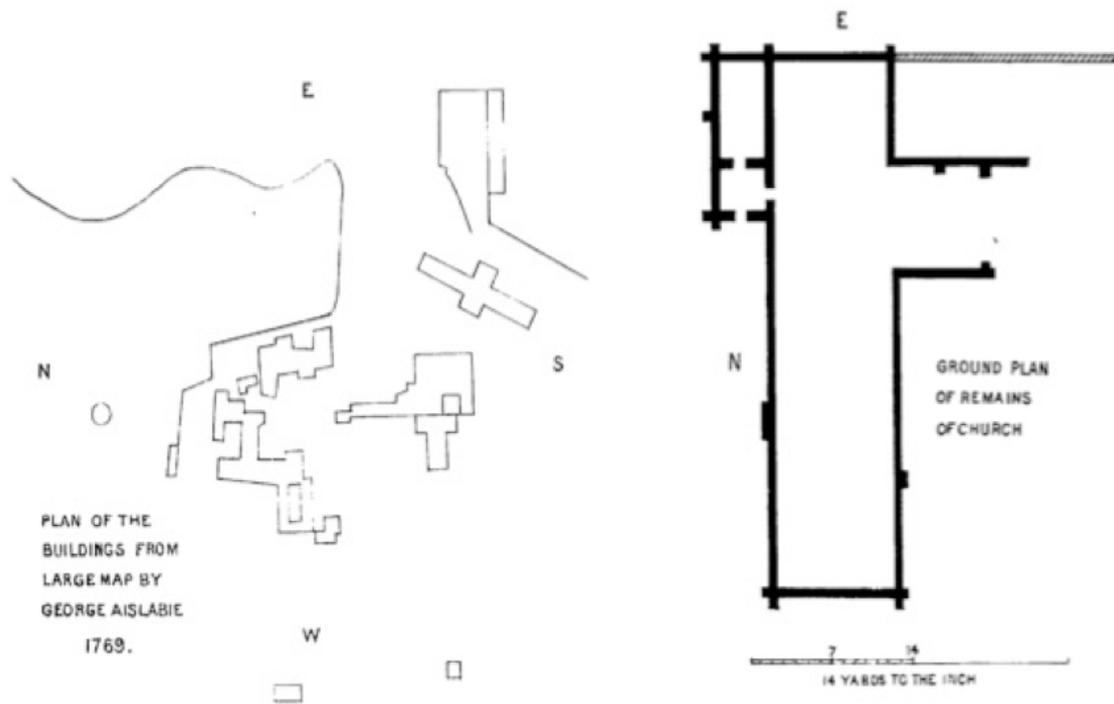
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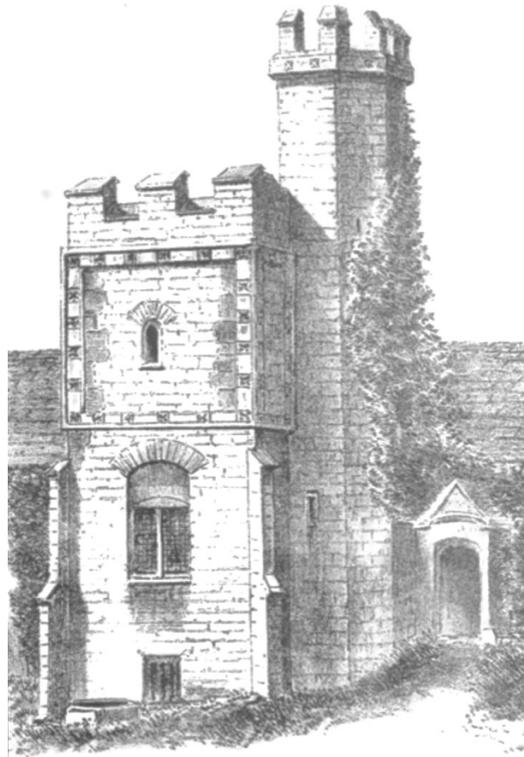
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NO.	CATEGORY	EXAMPLE OBJECTS	MATERIAL TYPES
1.	*Building Materials*	Window cames	Lead
		Window glass	Glass
		Roofing (e.g. flashing)	Lead
		Architectural fragments	Stone
2.	*Building Fasteners and Fittings*	Door hinges	Iron
		Decorative estoilles	Lead
		Lead piping (water management)	Lead
		Nails	Iron
		Padlock	Copper alloy
		Rivet	Copper alloy
		Washers	Copper alloy
3.	*Household*	Handles (of various objects/vessels)	Copper alloy/lead
		Thimbles	Copper alloy
		Tongs	Iron
		Vessel fragments (e.g. cauldron leg)	Copper alloy
4.	*Crafts and Industry*	Chisel	Iron
		Fragments	Lead/copper allow
		Punch	Iron
5.	*Multipurpose Blades and Sharpeners*	Knives	Iron
		Whetstone	Stone
6.	*Commerce*	Numismatic finds (e.g. coins and jettons)	Silver/lead
7.	*Measurement*	Weights	Lead
8.	*Communications*	Book bindings	Copper alloy
		Seal matrices	Copper alloy
		Seal rings	Copper alloy
		Styli	Copper alloy
		Writing leads	Lead
9.	*Pastimes*	Die	Bone
		Tuning peg	Bone
		Gaming counters	Stone
10.	*Transport and Horse-Related*	Harness pendants	Copper alloy
		Horseshoes	Iron
11.	*Subsistence and Agriculture*	Animal Bones	Bone
		Fishing weight	Lead
		Millstone	Stone
		Quern	Stone
12.	*Hunting and Weaponry*	Arrow heads	Iron
		Dagger chape	Copper alloy

**3.1: Functional categories of the Kirkstall guesthouse objects.
(Continued on next page.)**

NO.	CATEGORY	EXAMPLE OBJECTS	MATERIAL TYPES
13.	*Personal Adornment and Dress*	Belt buckles	Copper alloy/lead
		Belt loops	Copper alloy
		Brooches	Copper alloy (with silver)
		Buckle pins	Copper alloy
		Buttons	Copper alloy
		Clips	Copper alloy (modern?)
		Lace tags	Copper alloy
		Pendants	Copper alloy
		Rings	Copper alloy/lead
		Strap Fittings	Copper alloy
		Studs	Copper alloy/lead
14.	*Toilet, Surgical, and Pharmaceutical*	Toilet implement	Copper alloy
		Cased mirror	Copper alloy
15.	*Religious and Political Beliefs*	Monumental/ gravestone letter	Copper alloy
		Pilgrim badge holder	Lead
		Rosary Bead	Jet
16.	*Prehistoric Flint and Stone*	n/a	n/a
17.	*Wide-Ranging Uses*	Rings and loops	Copper alloy/lead/iron
18.	*Unknown / Uncertain*	Various sheet and strip fragments	Copper alloy/lead/iron
19.	*Natural Objects / Ecofacts*	Tooth	Tooth

ANALYTICAL CATEGORY	FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF OBJECTS * indicates potential for crossover between categories
Material Environment	*Building Materials*	Window cames Window glass Roofing (e.g. flashing) Architectural fragments
	Building Fasteners and Fittings	Door hinges Decorative estoilles Lead piping (water management) Nails Padlock Rivet Washers
	Religious and Political Beliefs	Monumental/ gravestone letter
Social and Gender Identity	*Transport and Horse-Related*	Harness pendants Horseshoes
	Hunting and Weaponry	Arrow heads Dagger chape
	Personal Adornment and Dress	Belt buckles Belt loops * Brooches Buckle pins Buttons Clips Lace tags Pendants * Rings Strap Fittings Studs
	Toilet, Surgical, and Pharmaceutical	* Toilet implement * Cased mirror
	Religious and Political Beliefs	Monumental/ gravestone letter Pilgrim badge holder Rosary Bead
Activities and Behaviour	*Household*	Handles (of various objects/vessels) Thimbles Tongs Vessel fragments (e.g. cauldron leg)

3.2: Analytical categories of the Kirkstall guesthouse objects.
    (Continued on next page.)

ANALYTICAL CATEGORY	FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF OBJECTS * indicates potential for crossover between categories
	Crafts and Industry	Chisel Fragments Punch
	Multipurpose Blades and Sharpeners	Knives Whetstone
	Commerce	* Numismatic finds (e.g. coins and jettons)
	Measurement	Weights
	Communications	* Book bindings * Seal matrices * Seal rings Styli Writing leads
	Pastimes	Die * Tuning peg Gaming counters
	Transport and Horse-Related	* Harness pendants Horseshoes
	Subsistence and Agriculture	Animal Bones Fishing weight Millstone Quern
	Hunting and Weaponry	Arrow heads Dagger chape
	Toilet, Surgical, and Pharmaceutical	* Toilet implement * Cased mirror
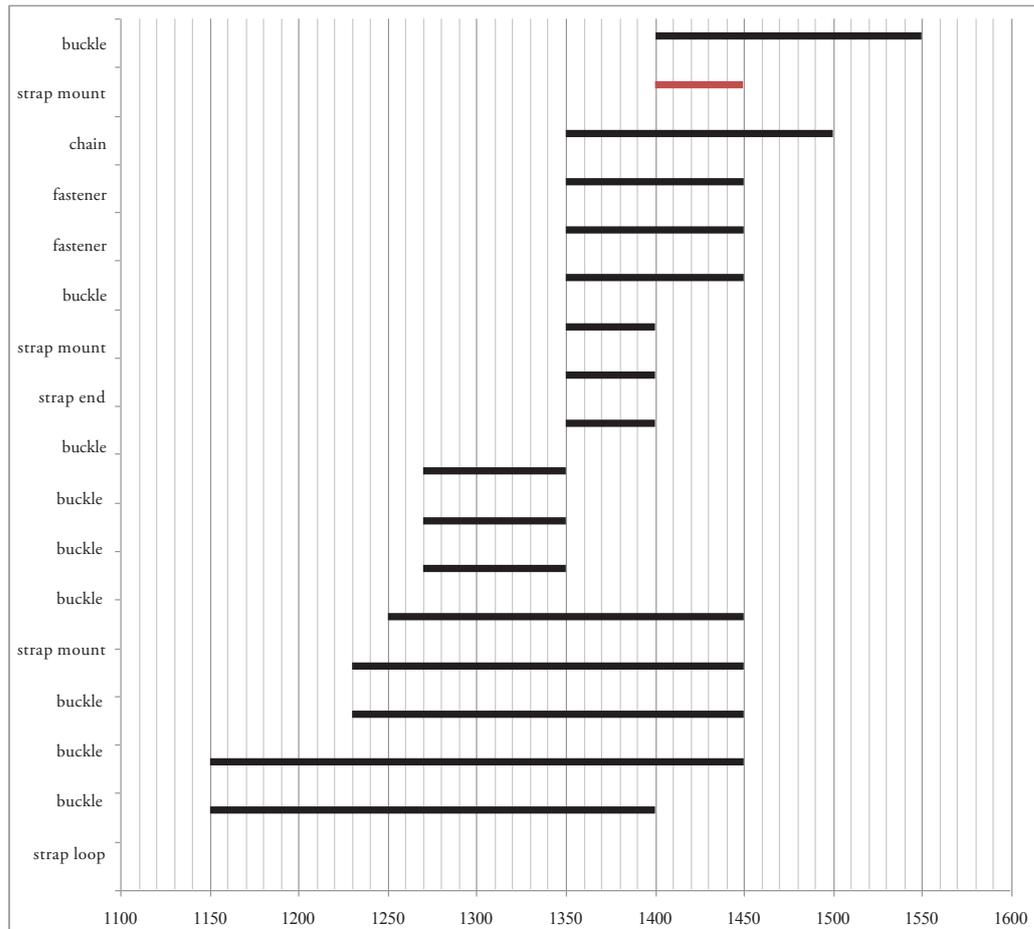
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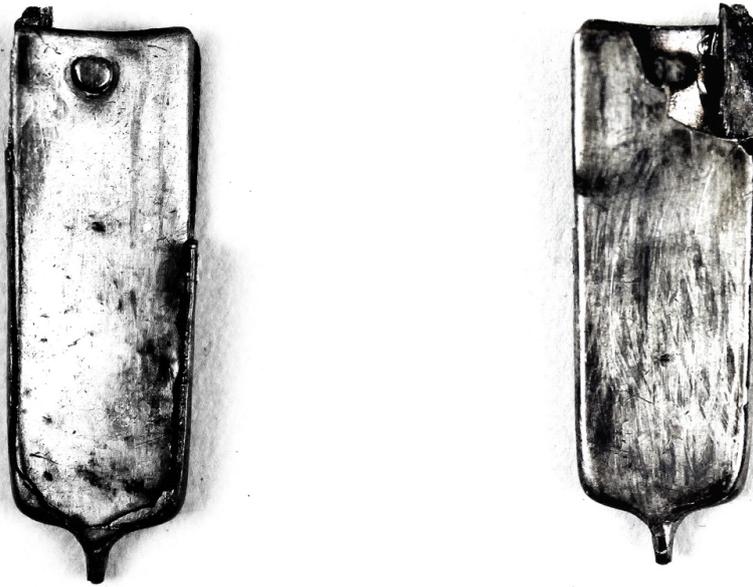
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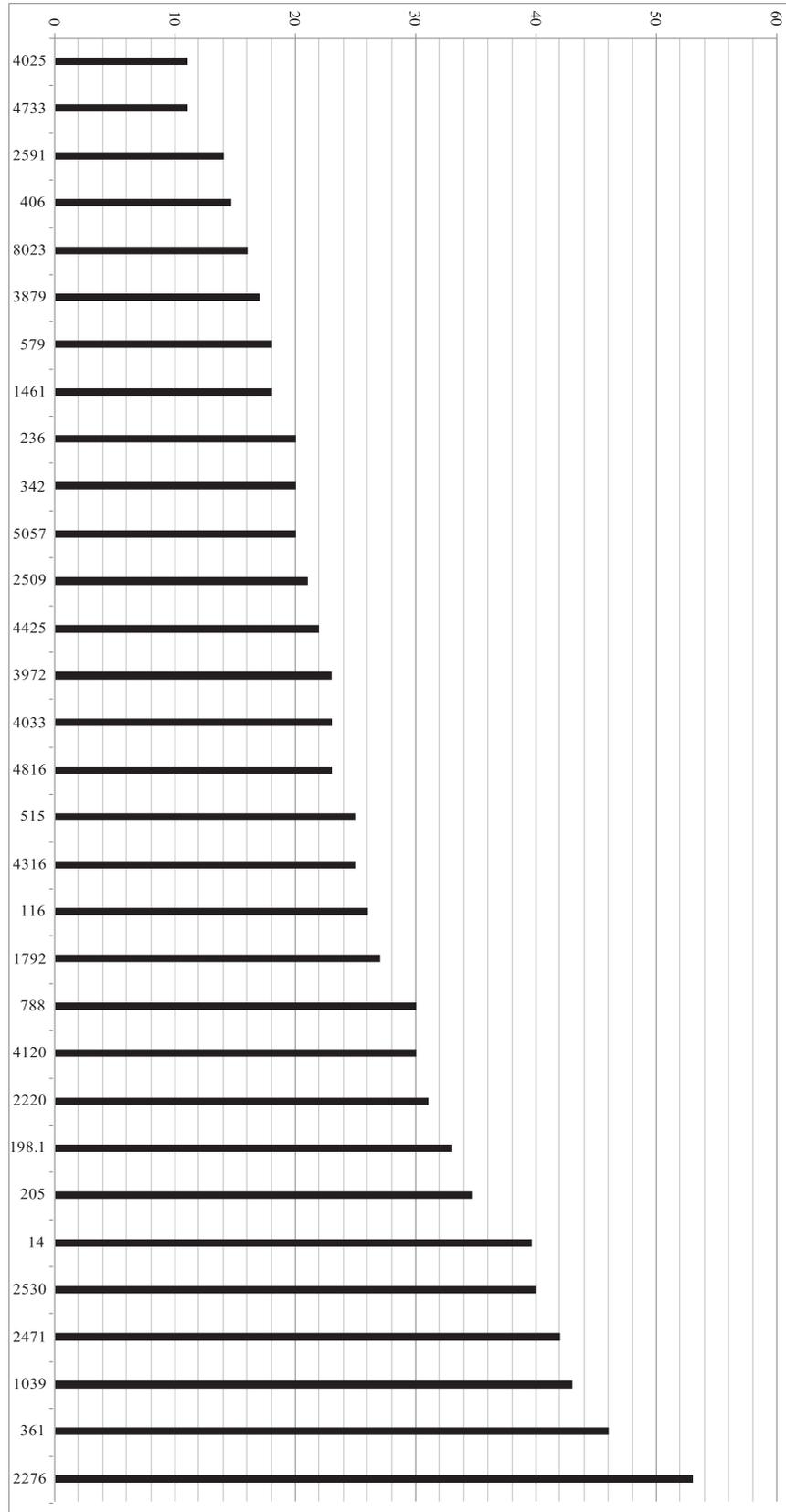
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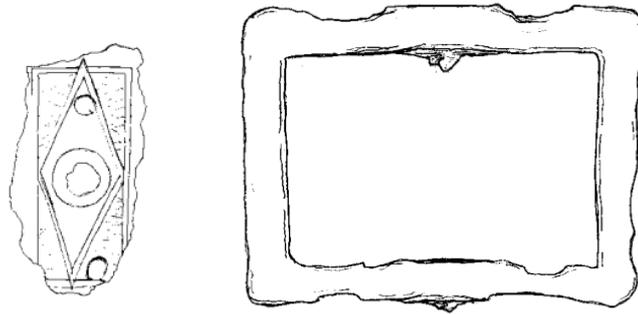
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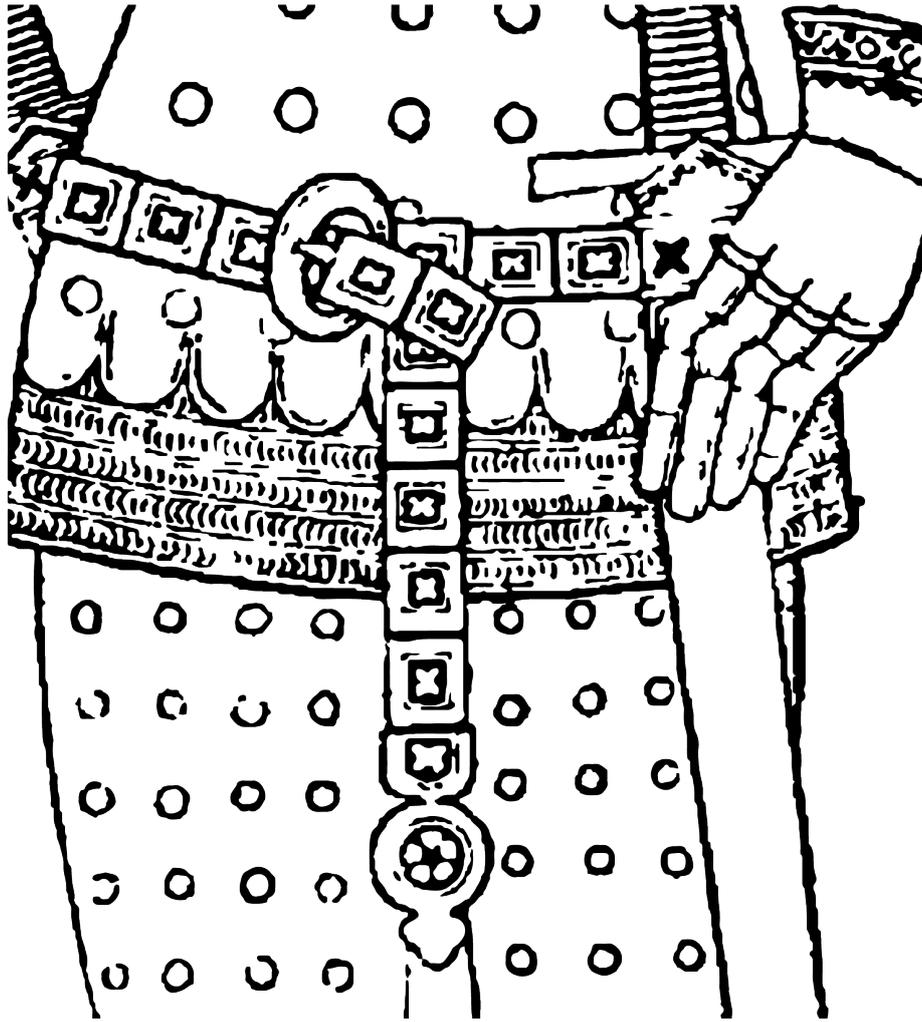
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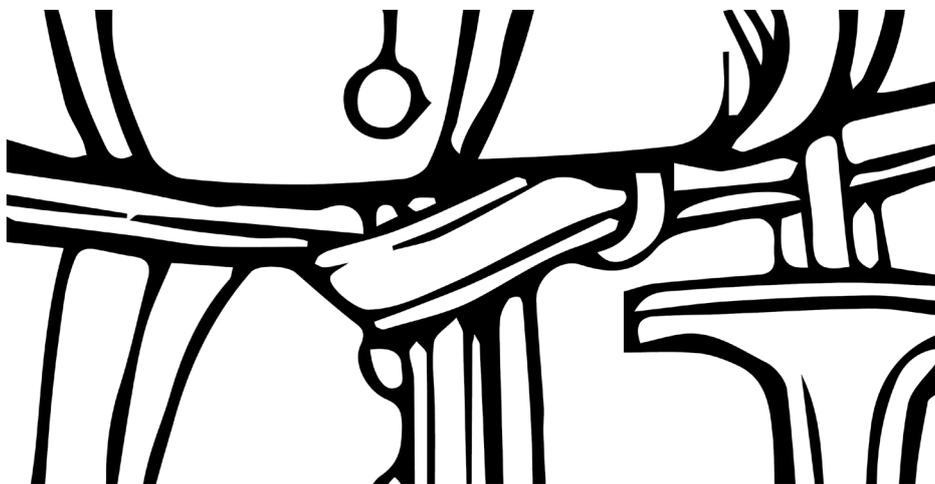
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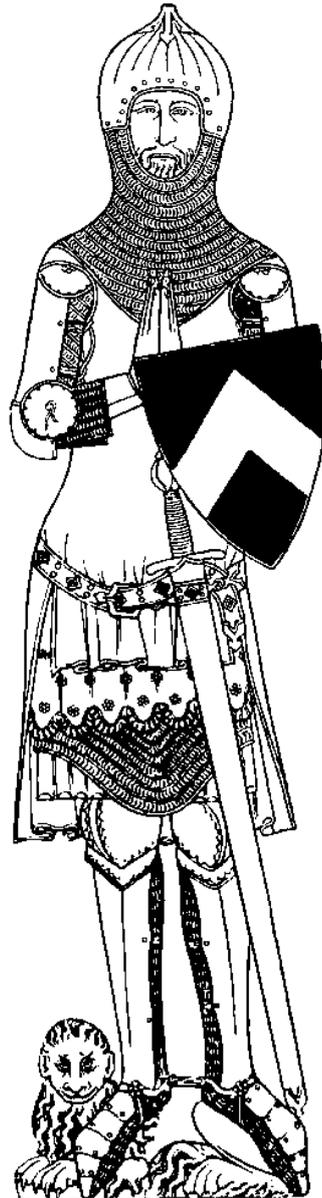
3.30: Brass of Sir John D'Aubernon, Chapel of St John the Baptish and St James, Stoke D'Abernon (Surrey), 1327.
Source: Frederick Herbert Crossley, *English Church Monuments A.D. 1150–1550: An Introduction to the Study of Tombs and Effigies of the Mediaeval Period* (London: B.T. Batsford, 1921), p. 239.
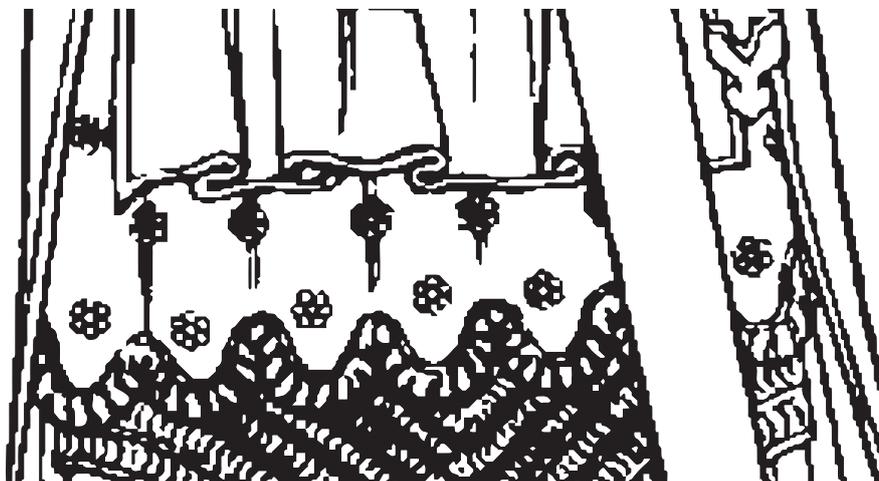
3.31: Effigy of Sir Gerard de Insula, Stow Nine Churches (Northamptonshire), 1260 × 70.
Source: Frederick Herbert Crossley, *English Church Monuments A.D. 1150–1550: An Introduction to the Study of Tombs and Effigies of the Mediaeval Period* (London: B.T. Batsford, 1921), p. 239.

3.32: Two bar mounts.

Top: bar mount with central perforated lobe and slightly expanded and perforated terminals, with bands of engraved transverse lines decorating either side of central lobe.
SF 1422; LEEDM.D.2012.0035.001.225.

Bottom: possible bar mount with central lobe, with terminals broken off.
SF 4732; LEEDM.D.2012.0035.001.311).

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3.33: Oval frame buckle with ornate outside edge, Kirkstall guesthouse.
SF 8023; LEEDM.D.2012.0035.001.068.

3.34: Oval frame buckle with ornate outside edge, from Lurk Lane, Beverley.
Source: Alison Goodall, 'The Copper Alloy and Gold', in *Excavations at Lurk Lane Beverley, 1979–1982*, ed. by Peter Armstrong, D. H. Evans, and David Tomlinson, Sheffield Excavation Reports, 1 (Sheffield: Humberside Archaeology Unit, 1991), pp. 148–54 (p. 150, fig. 114, no. 590).

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3.35: Composite strap fastener, Kirkstall guesthouse, 1350–1450.
SF 1797; LEEDM.D.2012.0035.001.218.

3.36: Composite strap fastener from Bedern.
Source: Patrick Ottaway and Nicola Rogers, *Craft, Industry and Everyday Life: Finds from Medieval York*, The Archaeology of York, 17 (York: Council for British Archaeology, 2002), p. 2903, fig.1477, no. 14389.

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3.37: Roger van der Weyden, 'Portrait of Anonymous Young Woman', *c.* **1460, with detail of belt. Source: Margaret Scott,** *A Visual History of Costume: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries* **(London: '. Batsford, 1986), p. 94, fig. 96.**

SITE	KIRKSTALL (CLOISTER)	KIRKSTALL (GUESTHOUSE)	COPPERGATE, YORK	BEDERN, YORK	FISHERGATE, YORK
No. of dress accessories	15	302	14	144	22

3.38: Number of dress accessories found at Kirkstall Abbey and York.

3.39: Roger van der Weyden,'Portrait of a Woman with a Winged Bonnet', *c.* 1435. Now held at Gemäldegalerie, Staatliche Museen, Berlin.

**3.40: Roger van der Weyden, 'Portrait of a Woman', *c.* 1460.
Now held at National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C..**

3.41: Roger van der Weyden, 'Portrait of a Woman', *c.* 1460.
Now held at National Gallery, London.

MONASTIC AREAS	OX	SHEEP	PIG	DEER
% NO. / BONES	90	5	3	2
MEAT KITCHEN ANNEXE	81%	12%	5%	2%
WORKSHOP RANGE	75%	14%	7%	4%

4.1: Composition of animal bones found in monastic areas.
Source: Michael L. Ryder, 'The Animal Bones', in *Kirkstall Abbey Excavations, 1955–59*, Publications of the Thoresby Society, 48 (Leeds: Thoresby Society, 1961), pp. 41–53 (p. 70).

OX	<2 YRS	> 2 YRS	> 5 YRS	C. 10 YRS
Mandibles	1	23	34	5
Molars	-	122	229	87
Incisors	-	15	8	14
Total	1	160	271	106
%	0.19	29.7	50.4	19.7

4.2: Aging of ox bones from Kirkstall Abbey meat kitchen.
Source: Michael L. Ryder, 'The Animal Bones', in *Kirkstall Abbey Excavations, 1955–59*, Publications of the Thoresby Society, 48 (Leeds: Thoresby Society, 1961), pp. 41–53 (p. 71).

SHEEP	<2 YRS	> 2 YRS	> 5 YRS	C. 10 YRS
MANDIBLES	2	21	-	-
MOLARS	-	11 (over 2 yrs, but n. v. worn)	-	-
TOTAL	2	32	-	-
%	5.9	94.1	-	-

4.3: Aging of sheep bones from Kirkstall Abbey meat kitchen.
Source: Michael L. Ryder, 'The Animal Bones', in *Kirkstall Abbey Excavations, 1955–59*, Publications of the Thoresby Society, 48 (Leeds: Thoresby Society, 1961), pp. 41–53 (p. 71).

PIG	C. 1 YR (5 MOLARS)	C. 1.5 YRS (7TH MOLAR ERUPTING)	C. 2 YRS (7 MOLARS)	> 2 YRS (7 MOLARS, VERY WORN)
MANDIBLES	1	10	3	1
%	6.7	66.7	20.0	6.7

4.4: Aging of pig bones from Kirkstall Abbey meat kitchen.
Michael L. Ryder, 'The Animal Bones', in *Kirkstall Abbey Excavations, 1955–59*, Publications of the Thoresby Society, 48 (Leeds: Thoresby Society, 1961), pp. 41–53 (p. 71).

GUESTHOUSE RANGE	OX	SHEEP	PIG	DEER
TOTAL NO. / BONES	1543	508	365	43
% NO. / BONES	50.61	16.66	11.97	1.41

4.5: Composition of animal bones from Kirkstall's guesthouse.
Source: Jane Richardson, 'Kirkstall Guest House Animal Bones', in *Kirkstall Abbey, Vol. 2: The Guest House Excavations, 1979–86*, ed. by Stuart Wrathmell, forthcoming.

Relative Proportions of Species Represented at British Sites

Legend: Cattle, Sheep, Pig, Deer

Sites (bottom to top): St Andrew, Fishergate, York (early); St Frideswide's, Oxford (12–14C); St Frideswide's, Oxford (16C); KA Meat Kitchen; KA Guest House; Greyfriars, London; St Andrew, Fishergate, York (late); Aug. Hermits of Leicester; Norton Abbey, Cheshire; Gomeldon (Wilts.; Bllgs 1 and 2); Grenstein (Norf.); Lyveden (Northants.); Martinsthorpe, Rutland (1972); Seacourt (Berks.); Upton (Gloucs.); Wharram Percy (Yorks.; Area 10)

4.6 Relative proportions of animal bones according to species in religious sites of Britain.
Source: Data from Jane Richardson, 'Kirkstall Guest House Animal Bones', in *Kirkstall Abbey, Vol. 2: The Guest House Excavations, 1979–86*, ed. by Stuart Wrathmell (Wakefield: West Yorkshire Achaeological Advisory Service, forthcoming), table 13; supplemented with data from Christopher Dyer, *Standards of Living in the Later Middle Ages: Social Change in England c.1200–1520*, rev. edn (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), p. 155, concerning Gomeldon (Wilts.; Bllgs 1 and 2), Grenstein (Norf.), Lyveden (Northants.), Martinsthorpe (Rutland), Seacourt (Berks.), Upton (Gloucs.), and Wharram Percy (Yorks.; Area 10).

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4.7 Seal ring.
SF 1473; location unknown.