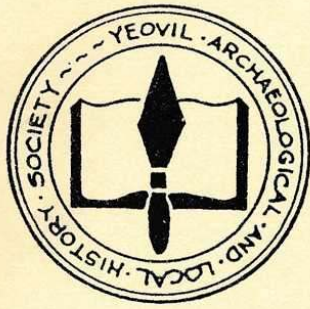


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Plate 27

THE LULLINGTON FONT

The church of All Saints Lullington stands in an unpretentious little village about 3 miles north of Frome. It is a small church with a central tower and it underwent vital restoration in 1862, under the control of Mr. William Duckworth. It is described in Pevsner's "North Somerset and Bristol" volume of the "Buildings of England" as 'Perhaps the most enjoyable Norman village church in Somerset'. The gabled south doorway is indeed of exceptional interest and the capitals to the tower piers are also very good examples of the Romanesque style in Somerset. However, the font illustrated here is one of the most interesting features of the church. The rim has been restored in places but, in other respects, it appears to be original. Early Norman work in England before 1110/20 is characterised by its severity of line and lack of undue embellishment but, in about the 1130's this caution was thrown aside and a wealth of decorative carving was introduced. The Lullington font seems to date from this period. Unusually for a Romanesque font it carries an incised inscription. Presented in bold characters it reads "HOC FONTIS SACRO PEREUNT DELICTA LAVACRO", which may be translated 'In this holy font sins perish and are washed away'.

BRIAN & MOIRA GITIOS