

Finch & C^o



TWO MEDIEVAL CARVED LIMESTONE 'HUNKY PUNKS' OR CHURCH GROTESQUES IN THE FORM OF HYBRID DRAGONS

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13 – 14 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 33 CM HIGH , 33 CM WIDE – 13 INS HIGH , 13 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THESE GROTESQUE CHURCH CARVINGS ARE KNOWN IN THE WEST COUNTRY AS 'HUNKY PUNKS' . THEY OCCUR ON MANY OF THE EXTERIOR WALLS OF THE LOCAL CHURCHES ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE SOMERSET LEVELS . IT IS THOUGHT THAT MASONS WOULD CARVE THEM WORKING ON EACH 'NEW' CHURCH IN THE AREA IN TURN . HAVING THEIR ROOTS IN BOTH PAGAN MYTHOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM THESE STONE DRAGONS ACT AS SPIRITUAL SCARECROWS INTENDED TO SCARE AWAY THE DEVL WITH A TASTE OF HIS OWN MONSTROSITY .