

MISERICORDS IN OTHER CHURCHES

Medieval Choir Stalls with Misericords:

<u>Church</u>	<u>No of originals</u>	<u>Now</u>
York Minster	64	none
Lincoln Cathedral	62	62
Beverley Minster	42	42
Ripon Cathedral	34	34
St Mary Newark	26	26
St Mary Nottingham	16	none
Thurgaton Priory	?	3
Southwell Minster	20	6

YORK

All except two destroyed in fire of 1829. Surviving two now in Zouche Chapel

ST MARY'S NOTTINGHAM

16 stalls rescued from burning and installed at St Stephen's Sneinton – but only 8 remain

SOUTHWELL

All except six return stalls removed in late 1700's, replaced about 1800 by copies of stalls by Bernasconi. These themselves removed c1872 and replaced by present stalls. Pieces of original stalls found above chapter house in 1870s and seem to have been deposited in Nottingham Castle Museum, but enquiries have turned up no record of them. Do they survive uncatalogued in some castle cellars?

The most common subjects for portrayal on misericords are:

1. Biblical scenes
2. Scenes from the lives of the saints
3. Medieval legends and tales
4. Everyday household, agricultural and craft scenes
5. Grotesques, often from the bestiary
6. Foliage, including green men

These usually had a moral attached to them which the occupants of the stalls would often have recognised from sermon illustrations of the time. The subjects chosen seem to be generally haphazard, with no obvious connection with the occupant of the stall. Lincoln, Beverley, Ripon Newark and Sneinton show a mixture of these themes but the surviving ones at Southwell pose a problem: they are all of foliage either issuing from or grasped by a human, grotesque or animal. If, as is probable they survived because in the stone pulpitum and therefore are in their original places, was the whole series one consisting of various designs involving foliage? Unusual if so; here is a problem asking to be solved!