

9 Architectural fragments *by Andrew Dunn*

In all, 412 separate architectural fragments were recovered and catalogued during the excavations (these include two *in situ* springers of the ribbed ceiling vault in room 5 and a grave slab re-used to cover the great drain). The fragments appear to derive exclusively from the area under excavation: that is, they represent the remains of buildings which have collapsed *in situ*, and which have since undergone robbing and further reduction. The majority of the fragments are the remnants of a system of quadripartite vaulting, the principal means by which the undercroft supported the floors above. These perhaps escaped robbing because of their irregular form, making them less attractive as building blocks in comparison to the more regular stones from the walls of the former structures. The relative frequency of all fragment types in the assemblage is shown in [Table 1](#).

Table 1 Architectural fragments: frequency of different elements in the assemblage

Type	Freq.
vault rib	246
door/window	46
quoins/'corner' elements	22
Springer	11
Column	4
string course	4
scarcement	4
buttress	3
drain elements	2
capitol	1
Arch	1
slab	1
garderobe	1
threshold	1
unknown	65
Total	409

9.1 Masons' marks ([illus 41](#))

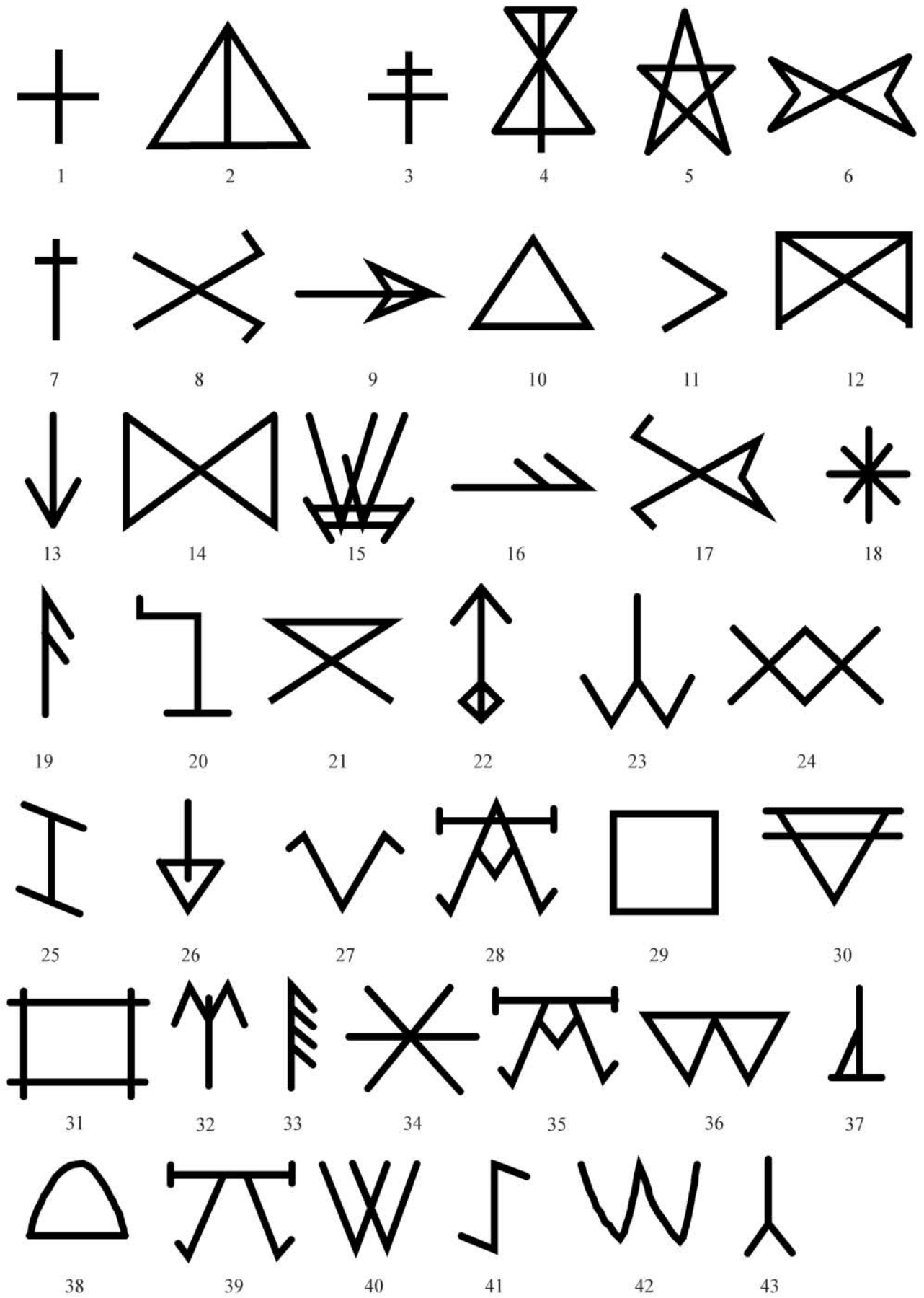
Some 226 of the fragments (55%) bore masons' marks of one kind or another. Forty-three different types were recorded (although the most common mark is not, strictly speaking, a mason's mark). The relative frequency of each type is given in [Table 2](#).

The marks are largely concentrated on fragments of ceiling vault ribbing (only three types are absent from ribbing) though, in this context, Type 1 could more accurately be described as a locating device rather than a true mason's mark. This appears on the tops or bottoms of the dressed stones forming the rib and indicated the correct position for the next stone in the construction sequence.

On some fragments more than one mark occurs. In most cases where two occur, one of the marks is of Type 1 (not a true masons' mark). However, in 18 cases (all vault ribs), marks of two other types (sometimes alongside a Type 1 mark) appear in conjunction. The most common mark in the pairings is Type 10, perhaps representing a mason who finished or assembled the ribs, rather than one who worked them up from undressed blocks of quarry stone.

Table 2 Type and frequency of masons' marks (see [illus 41](#))

No.	Freq.	No.	Freq.	No.	Freq.	No.	Freq.
1	193	12	2	23	3	34	10
2	1	13	12	24	1	35	7
3	1	14	1	25	1	36	1
4	1	15	1	26	2	37	1
5	14	16	1	27	3	38	1
6	1	17	25	28	2	39	2
7	1	18	2	29	1	40	1
8	2	19	1	30	1	41	5
9	5	20	1	31	9	42	4
10	24	21	1	32	2	43	1
11	1	22	15	33	1		



Illus 41 Masons' marks