

in the 4th or 5th century.
On the whole I consider
the ~~prob~~ probability is
in favour of the Swerne
tite being Christian, but
I should like to hear
what some specialist in
Roman things has to say
about it.

I believe we have found the
tombstone of Gildas' old
sinner Vortipore. If so
he has a very early cross
of this shape ⊗ above his
epitaph. This is illustrated
in the October no. of the
"Reliquary"

I remain
yrs. vly. Sincerely
J Romilly Allen.

28 Egt Ormond St - London
THE RELIQUARY W.C.
AND
ILLUSTRATED ARCHÆOLOGIST.

Amnd
Sept. 30/95.

L1409

Editor:
J. Romilly Allen.
S. S. C. (Scot.)

Office: 23, Old Bailey,
LONDON, E.C.

Publishers:
Bemrose & Sons, Ltd.

Sept 28 1895

Dear General Pitt-Rivers

I beg to thank you
for the photograph of
the Roman tite from
Swerne which is of
such unique interest that
I should certainly be
glad to have your kind
permission to publish it
in the "Reliquary".
The publication of an

an illustration of the
tile might elicit other
opinions more valuable
than my own. I think
the cross within the circle
on this tile has certainly
a ~~rather~~^{good} claim to be
considered ~~as~~ one of the earliest
Christian symbols ~~to~~ yet found
in Great Britain. It
would be quite impossible
for anyone to prove that
it was not a Christian
symbol. The only question
is whether it was intended
for the Pagan wheel

symbol, which although
chiefly characteristic of the
Bronze Age in Scandinavia,
is I believe to be seen on
one or two Roman altars
in the north of England.
One would expect to find
the Chi-Rho monogram
used in preference to the
circular cross during the
Romano-British period,
but at the same time the
⊕ occurs on the earliest
post-Roman monuments
in this country and may
very well have been a
recognized Christian symbol