

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT.

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SINCE my last communication to the Society several discoveries have been made in the County, particulars of which I have laid before the Society of Antiquaries of London, as their Local Secretary for Kent, immediately after each discovery was made. I now propose to supply a brief descriptive list of these from 1890 until 1894 inclusive, and to give a similar report in future volumes of our *Archæologia* as they are issued.

STROOD CEMETERY BY ROCHESTER. PRE-ROMAN PERIOD.—Bone comb, with the head of a pick made from the antler of the old red deer (*cervus elaphus*); these were found with a lump of clay which had been kneaded by hand and numerous potsherds. The site of the cemetery is by the western edge of the Pre-Roman Way leading from Strood to Cuxton.

MILTON NEXT SITTINGBOURNE. CHURCH FARM.—Roman tile-tombs. Each grave consisted of a small group of urns with large roof-tiles placed round and over them to form a cist. These interments were some 300 yards from the Bex Hill Cemetery, which furnished so many Roman leaden coffins (see *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. IX., 164).

STOKE MARSHES IN HOO. ROMAN PERIOD.—Sepulchral deposits along the bank of the River Medway, 150 yards from the shore, north-east of Lamhead Creek, and opposite Burnt-wick Marsh. The interments consisted of two cinerary urns containing calcined bones; accompanying the urns were four Samian pateræ, one stamped CRESIMI, a patera of black ware, and a vase with two handles.

BROADSTAIRS. ROMAN PERIOD.—On laying out the "Sea View" Estate, between the church of Broadstairs and the marine residence of the late Archbishop Tate, the workmen discovered, at a depth of 2 feet, six trenches, 3 feet deep and 2 feet wide, extending east and west. It was stated that twenty human skeletons were found huddled together as if hastily buried. With them was a lump of

amber bored for suspension, a bronze ring, and three Roman vases, one being of Durobrivian ware. These discoveries were made sixty-eight paces from the old road from Ramsgate to the North Foreland.

PLUMSTEAD.—In *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVII., 10, I reported the discovery of a Roman leaden coffin near the King's Highway, at Plumstead, on the property of Mr. W. G. Dawson. In the same field, and only a few yards distant from the coffin, a dene-hole was met with, which had at some early period been filled up with sand. This Mr. Dawson caused to be cleared out. The dene-hole was of the usual type, with a circular shaft sunk through a stratum of sand about 30 feet until the chalk was reached. A domed cavity had been excavated in the chalk 18 feet in diameter and 20 feet in depth. During the progress of the excavations several portions of a human skeleton were found, together with numerous skulls and bones of the ox, pig, goat, dog, and creatures of the weasel or polecat species, also an antler of the roebuck. Near the base of the pit the fragments of seven or eight Roman vessels were brought to light, a portion of an iron knife and an iron bell with handle and clapper, likewise of Roman date. A few oyster and snail shells were present, with fragments of burnt sticks and a broken Roman flange-tile. Mr. Dawson, who carefully watched the excavations, stated that the bones were found mainly round the margin of the chamber, and that portions of the same animal lay in opposite directions. This one would expect to find, as when carcases were cast into the pit they would strike the centre of the cone of earth at the bottom, and either roll down the side of it or stick fast on the top, in which case, as the body decayed, the various parts would by degrees break away and be found in the manner described by Mr. Dawson. From the absence of post-Roman relics we may infer that the dene-hole was filled up at a very early period. The presence of remains of polecats shews that these animals had entered the pits to feed on the carrion, and when once in were unable to return.

LUTON FORT, NEAR CHATHAM. PRE-ROMAN PERIOD.—The workmen engaged in making the *glacis* outside the fort in the Luton Valley came upon the remains of two human skeletons, one of which was accompanied by a dog; subsequently a third was discovered. At thirty-six paces from these skeletons, and higher up the bank, a small neatly cut cist was met with, 3 feet long, 1 foot 6 inches wide, and 2 feet 10 inches deep, containing nothing

but a fragment of burnt wood. Forty-two feet further north a large chamber was found with a passage way leading into it. The chamber was cut out of the solid chalk, and had been filled up with chalk rubble at probably an early period. This debris was removed with the greatest care under my personal supervision, and in the passage we found a portion of a stag's antler, a few fragments of bone, and potsherds of pre-Roman ware. The chamber was of oval form, measuring 27 feet 7 inches from east to west, and 15 feet 8 inches from north to south, the passage way being 6 feet 8 inches wide at the entrance, and 7 feet 8 inches at the edge of the commencement of the circle. At the entrance the floor was struck at a depth of 3 feet, and it gradually deepened to 6 feet 7 inches at the western wall of the chamber. When the north side of the passage was dug away towards the edge of the circle, at a foot from the surface, portions of a human skeleton were met with, lying in such a manner as to shew that the body had been buried in a contracted position. The entire skull was missing. By the skeleton, on its eastern side, a small urn was found in a fractured state. Nearly in line with the mouth of the passage, and 5 feet 6 inches to the north of its northern edge, a cremated deposit was met with, consisting of a thick coarsely-made cinerary urn, imperfect, containing calcined human bones. Eighteen inches from the urn a small urn-shaped vase was found broken, and evidently belonging to the same interment. The work continued in a northerly direction, and at 13 feet from this interment another chamber, similar to but smaller than that already described, was discovered. This had also been filled in with rubble and flints. The entrance to the cavity had been destroyed, but on the floor of it were three bowl-shaped depressions scooped out in the chalk, but for what purpose was not apparent. On the south side of the chamber, outside, was an urn-shaped hole in the chalk filled with burnt matter. On clearing out this second pit nothing was found in it but a few fragments of coarse pottery covered with charred matter, also a burnt flint flake. The chamber measured 12 feet from north to south, and 15 feet 6 inches from east to west, its depth being about the same as that of the first discovered. These chambers appear to have been excavated either for dwellings or sepulchral purposes, but there was nothing to shew that they had been used. Just below the site of these discoveries is a farm called Epp's, but which is named on the 6-inch Ordnance Map "Street-end." The road coming from Luton which passes in front of the farmhouse may

therefore be of ancient date. Immediately after leaving the farm it has long since ceased to be used, but its course may be distinctly traced through Snodhurst and Snowledge Farms, then it joins the Chatham Road to Westfield Sole, and two miles beyond it falls into the Pilgrim Road at Boxley.

SLOUGH FORT, ISLE OF GRAIN.—During the construction of the fort Roman interments were met with. The only objects saved being a cinerary urn containing calcined bones, five vases, and two *pateræ* of Upchurch ware, a diminutive *patera* of Samian ware, a large red urn, and a clay stopper or plug.

Mr. Alderman Fry of Dover communicated to me the discovery, amongst the ruins of the ancient Church of St. Martin-le-Grand at Dover, of a pewter chalice and paten of the thirteenth century. Two graves were met with on the eastern side of the north transept; they were about 6 feet in length, 22 inches in width, and 18 inches deep, built of chalk masonry, with a 9-inch chalk division wall, and were covered with slabs of chalk. One grave was empty, but the other contained the bones of two skeletons, giving Mr. Fry the impression that at some former period the bones had been disturbed, and the contents of one grave placed in that adjoining.

MINSTER, ISLE OF THANET. PRE-ROMAN PERIOD.—Mr. W. H. Hills of Ramsgate kindly placed in my hands a hoard of bronze weapons and implements which had been discovered on a farm at Ebbs Fleet, near Minster. The hoard consisted of 181 pieces, weighing about 60 lbs., and comprised palstaves, socketed celts, spear-heads, portions of swords and celts, belt fasteners, portion of a dagger, a knife, and a quantity of lumps of copper. These objects formed the stock-in-trade of a bronze founder, who went about from one settlement to another casting implements on the spot, and taking old worn and broken ones as part payment for new.

WYE AND CRUNDALE DOWNS. ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.—At the request of the family of the late Mr. Henry Durden of Blandford, Dorset, I prepared a Catalogue of his famous Collection, which was afterwards printed for private circulation. In the Collection I discovered a series of antiquities which had been discovered in 1858 in Anglo-Saxon graves on the Kentish Downs mentioned above.

The objects from Wye consisted of four circular gold pendants, earrings of silver wire on which beads were strung, two carbuncles, one set in silver, a silver finger ring, a glass cup, an iron knife and spear-head, and a strand of beads of amethystine quartz, green and red pastes, etc.

The Crundale series comprises a sumptuous buckle of bronze, plated with silver and gold. The triangular plate is adorned with the figure of a fish, in gilt metal, ribbed in herring-bone pattern from head to tail. A circular brooch of silver, parcel gilt. It is a flat ring of metal, engraved with two concentric circles of crouching quadrupeds, the engraved part being gilt. Within this, and joined to it, is a penannular fibula of the ordinary type; upon the loop of the pin is a figure of a dove, and two similar figures are fixed upon the flat outer ring facing the opening of the brooch, one so adjusted as to revolve.

The other articles consist of two circular gilt brooches set with garnets, two square-headed brooches of bronze gilt, a small saucer brooch of bronze gilt with human face, two circular studs set with garnets, two bronze ring-brooches, bronze gilt buckle set with slices of garnet, two earrings of silver wire with glass beads threaded upon them, bronze pins, and about ninety beads of various materials, crystal, amber, paste, glass, etc. With these objects were found some plain urns of pottery and part of a glass vessel, an iron sword with gold work upon the handle, and a gold pommel.

FAVERSHAM DISTRICT. ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.—Mr. D. F. Kennard of Linton has acquired during the past three years a fine collection of objects discovered in graves, consisting of gold fibulæ, other examples in bronze-gilt and bronze, gold bracteates and pendants, bronze buckles and pins, eight vessels of amber, green and blue glass, various beads, two gold sceattæ, a sceatta of silver, three vases of pottery, an iron sword, and two spear-heads.

LINTON DISTRICT. PRE-ROMAN PERIOD.—Mr. Kennard has obtained from the farms between Court Lodge, Wester Hill, and Great Tilden a large quantity of flint weapons and implements of both Palæolithic and Neolithic age. The number is so great of the latter period that it would indicate the existence in the immediate locality of a Celtic settlement. The farms on which they were found are situate to the west of the road from Maidstone, which passes through Loose, Linton, and Marden into the Weald of Kent. Besides these discoveries Mr. Kennard has secured the following British gold coins from the neighbourhood:—

1. Uninscribed stater, found at Linton below the hill.
2. Uninscribed quarter stater, found at Eagle's Farm, Linton.
3. Uninscribed stater, found at Pimp's Court Farm, Coxheath.
4. Uninscribed quarter stater, found at Court Lodge Farm, Linton.

5. Uninscribed quarter stater, found at Court Lodge, Linton.
6. Cunobelinus, stater, inscribed, found at Coxheath, Linton.
7. Uninscribed quarter stater, found at Red Court Farm, Marden.

These discoveries at Linton are of the utmost importance, as they extend the line of occupation of the district, in pre-Roman times, along the northern confines of the Forest of Andred, beyond a limit hitherto ascertained.

STROOD, BY ROCHESTER.—During excavations in rear of the Strood Union two Roman interments were disclosed. One skeleton lay east and west, the other north and south; accompanying the former, by the skull was a Samian cup decorated with groups of white spots. Nothing was found with the latter. These discoveries having been made close to the road leading from the Watling Street through Frindsbury into the Hundred of Hoo, indicates that the Frindsbury Road is ancient, and probably therefore a continuation of the pre-Roman Way on the western side of the Medway.

BORSTAL, ROCHESTER.—During the erection of the cement works at the Manor Farm a skeleton was exhumed, accompanied by a fragment of embossed Samian ware. I have ascertained that during the cultivation of the land to the west of the Convict Prison at Borstal several Roman coins were discovered.

HADLOW, NEAR TONBRIDGE.—At Hawfield on Hadlow Common, when excavating for gravel, the workmen came upon several holes about the size of a bushel measure, and from 2 to 3 feet below the surface. These holes, from the baked condition of their sides, shewed that fires had been kindled in them. They were filled with charred material, and contained numerous fragments of rude coarse pottery, clay net-sinkers, portions of a millstone, an iron sickle-shaped implement, also many fragments of Roman pottery, including Samian and Durobrivian ware. Mr. F. W. E. Shrivell, to whom I am indebted for this information, finds upon his farm at Thompson's Golden Green, near Hadlow, numerous flint spear-points, barbed arrow-heads, and other weapons of neolithic age, indicating the proximity of a pre-Roman settlement.

UPCHURCH MARSHES.—The Rev. C. E. Woodruff, Vicar of Bredhurst, kindly communicates the discovery by himself, between Ham Green and Slay Hills Marsh, about 3 feet below the surface of the "Saltings," of a sepulchral deposit, consisting of four vessels of Upchurch ware, a Samian patera stamped TRITVSI, a Samian

cup stamped FELIX, and the fragments of an embossed Samian bowl with figures of men and birds, with the potter's name SAXAM . . . some of the pieces having been mended with pitch, and one piece bears marks of rivets. Mr. Woodruff and myself, in company with his son and Lieut.-Col. Fagan, R.M.L.I., recently followed up these researches, and discovered at the same spot two other interments, from which we obtained vases of Upchurch ware containing calcined bones, and two Samian cups stamped respectively with the names, LATINVS.F and SEXTIL.M. In one of the urns was a fossil *echinus*, a water-worn pebble of quartz, and a fragment of a bronze pendant ornament. As far as I am aware this is the first recorded discovery of interments on the site of the Roman potteries in the Upchurch marshes; and from the fact of their being by the side of the present road through the "Saltings," it seems to indicate that the modern road has been laid down upon an ancient way. That there was a way into the very centre of the potteries in Roman times we may safely assume, and the presence of these burials along the existing road is perhaps sufficient to establish the antiquity of its foundation.

KING'S FIELD, FAVERSHAM. ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.—This famous field, which has yielded such a vast store of valuable relics procured from Anglo-Saxon graves, is now almost cleared of brick-earth. During the last few years Messrs. W. E. and J. Rigden, the owners of the property, have secured several objects of special interest, consisting of the following:—

Eleven brooches of bronze gilt, all of a circular form, set with garnets, and ornamented in filigree.

Circular brooch of gold, the sockets being set with garnets.

Two pendants of gold, one set with garnets.

Circular bracteate of gold, decorated with intertwined mythical creatures.

Pair of bronzed saucer-shaped brooches. The only other examples of this type met with in Kent being those found at Horton Kirby, and now in the Society's Collection.

Buckle-plate of elegant design in bronze gilt, inlaid with bands of gold filigree, divided by settings of garnet.

Buckles of bronze.

Earrings and rings of bronze, silver and gold.

Armlet of bronze.

Eight glass cups of various forms and colours.

Five hundred and eighty-eight beads of amber, amethystine,

quartz, clay, clear and opaque glass, a substance resembling meerschau, and two beads of bronze.

Through the kindness of the late Mrs. Fielding of Rochester, who was the daughter of Sir John Fagge, sixth Baronet, I am enabled to draw attention to a cup, now in the possession of her niece, Miss Fagge, which is said to have been the grace cup of the last Abbot of St. Augustine's Monastery, Canterbury, John Essex, who was descended from the Foche (afterwards Fagge) family. Hasted says (*History of Kent*, 8vo edition, xii., 211): "This Abbot's family name was Foche, his brother Henry was of Ripple, in this county." Mrs. Fielding found the following entry relating to the cup in her mother's (Lady Fagge) manuscript book: "Copy of a memorandum in the handwriting of my father, Daniel Newman, at the bottom of a curious cup belonging to his ancestors. A description of this cup is to be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. xxix., p. 271, 1759, by Samuel Pegge, Vicar of Godmersham, in Kent. N.B. Given by my mother to her grandson, Sir John Fagge, said to be the grace cup possessed by the last Abbot of St Augustine's Monastery, Canterbury."

The cup is made out of a cocoa-nut, and is mounted in silver-gilt, with the following inscription round the rim:—

Welcom o ze be o Dryng o for o charite.

The base and stem of the cup are of plainly turned wood, and of modern date. Upon the top of the stem is riveted a collar of metal,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter. This collar spreads out into a frill of feathers bound round by a cable. The frill forms a bed for the cup, which is 3 inches in height and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, the diameter of the rim of the cocoa-nut cup being nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Upon this rim rests a collar of feathers pointing downwards, with a band above ornamented with a row of four dots in the form of a square with a dot in the centre, the pattern being repeated all round the rim. The mouth of the cup here widens to a diameter of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches, the band being an inch in height. In the centre of this band occurs the inscription; the letters are slightly over a quarter of an inch in length. Above and below the inscription are plain bands a quarter of an inch wide; above the upper one is a band with the dot pattern before described, surmounted by a rebated band forming the rim.

The band round the rim is united to the collar in base by three elegant foliated straps, each having a cable down the centre.

When I exhibited this cup at the Society of Antiquaries, its date was pronounced by the President about 1505; hence it may have been used by the Abbot for a grace cup.

ROCHESTER, WATT'S AVENUE. ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.—When the trenches were excavated for the foundations of the garden wall of Saxonbury House, now occupied by Mr. Franklin Homan, the workmen cut through eleven graves, which I was kindly permitted to clear of their contents, as follows:—

1. Skeleton in sleeping posture on its left side, left arm bent.

2. Skeleton lying on its back at full length, right arm bent; two band finger rings of silver by the hand; in the pelvis lay a pair of iron scissor-shears; under the skull were four opaque green glass beads, two of amethystine quartz, and a small gold kite-shaped pendant set with a carbuncle.

3 and 4 were empty.

5. Skeleton on its left side, right arm bent; an iron knife by the left hip.

6. Skeleton at full length, right arm bent, left leg crossed over the right; iron spear-head by right shoulder, iron knife by left arm.

7. Skeleton in bent posture, upper part of body entirely absorbed; iron knife under pelvis. This grave was not so deep by 15 inches as No. 6, and the leg bones were drawn round over the legs of the underlying skeleton.

8. Skeleton decayed with the exception of two pieces of the leg bones; by the centre of the body lay an iron knife, two beads of opaque blue glass streaked with white spirals, and a small food cup with rounded bottom of black clay.

9. Skeleton absorbed with the exception of the leg bones, which were lying at full length; by the left hip was an iron knife.

10. Nothing found but the crown of a human tooth and a piece of iron pyrites.

11. Skeleton at full length, leg bones only remaining; by the left side of the skull an iron spear-head which lay edge up.

The skeletons all lay about east and west, with the feet towards the east, in cists cut into the chalk at a depth of 3 feet.

The dimensions of each cist averaged 6 feet in length by 2 feet in width.

ST. LEONARD'S STREET, WEST MALLING. ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD.—Mr. Oliver kindly reported to me the discovery of urns by workmen employed in laying a gas main. The site of the discovery was about midway between the two carriage entrances to the

residences of Miss Savage and Dr. Adam, and about 6 feet from the stone wall opposite. The objects found consisted of an elegant urn of Upchurch ware, containing calcined human bones; by its side was a small urn-vase of the same ware also filled with bones, and a patera of Samian ware with the potter's name stamped upon it, but too indistinct to be deciphered. A few paces from this deposit, the fragments and handle of another vessel were met with. These burials must have been made by the side of the original road, but as it became widened, in after years, the road covered the deposits.

WICKHAMBREUX, NEAR WINGHAM. ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD.—Lieut.-Col. Copeland, F.S.A., of Westgate-on-Sea, has recently obtained a quantity of swords, spear-heads, umbos of shields, bronze bowls with handles and stands, together with other remains from graves. These discoveries are a continuation of those recorded by Mr. George Dowker, F.G.S., in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XVII., 6—9. Mr. Dowker describes the site as being “upon the high gravel ridge that separates the Greater and Lesser Stour Valleys, not far from the high road between Grove and Wickham, about a quarter of a mile east of Supperton.”