

THE ROMAN CEMETERIES AT OSPRINGE.
DESCRIPTION OF FINDS CONCLUDED.

BY W. WHITING.

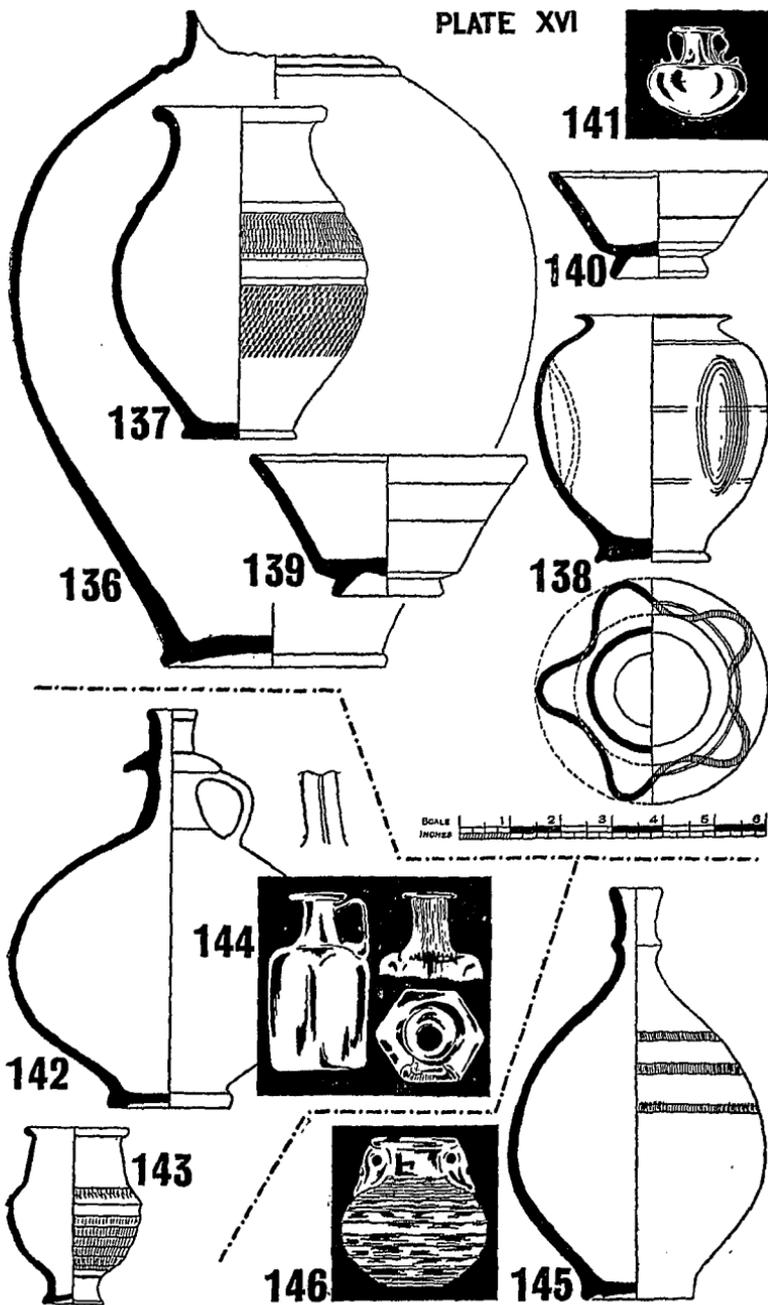
IN continuing the report on objects found in these interments, a few groups will be seen to contain some interesting glass relics. The first unbroken glass phial was met with on the 15th February 1923 and is numbered 141, and to distinguish them from the pottery all the pieces of glass are illustrated against a dark back-ground.

They are all small examples of their class, and no similar vessels large enough for use as cinerary urns have been found. This feature is worthy of remark in view of the large number of beautiful glass jars that can be seen in other Kentish museums, as well as those in the national collections from this county, that have been used for this purpose; and it has given rise to the opinion that probably the only people buried here were the poorer folk who could not afford the more expensive glass urns.

GROUP XL.

- No. 136. URN, containing calcined bones; $10\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay, reddish core, black varnish above middle.
- No. 137. BUTT-SHAPED BEAKER, $6\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, 5 in. diameter; bright red smooth clay.
- No. 138. BEAKER, with five irregular indentations, $4\frac{7}{8}$ in. high, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; clay as last.
- No. 139. CUP, imitating form 33 Dragendorff, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; with central stamp (?) MASCULI F.; warm yellowish buff clay.

PLATE XVI



- No. 140. CUP, form 33 Drag., Terra Sigillata ware, $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; the central stamp illegible owing to the erosion of the glaze.
- No. 141. GLASS UNGUENTARIUM, globular shaped, $1\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, 2 in. diameter.

Glass bottles of this shape are common. An identical example found at Shoebury is in Colchester Museum, and a Samian cup found with its group parallels No. 140 and bears the potter's stamp MATERNIANUS. A larger one, found at Kennington near Ashford, can be seen in Maidstone Museum.

In this group the glass bottle and the four red-ware pots were neatly arranged around and resting on the shoulder of the urn.

GROUP XLI.

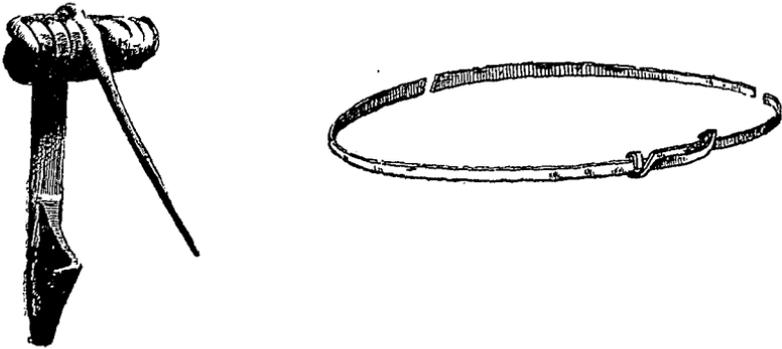
- No. 142. FLAGON, 8 in. high, $6\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; stopper mouth; bright red clay, polished surface partly eroded; third century.

The stopper-mouth flagon occurs at Niederbieber, A.D. 190—260, but not in the New Forest fabric with nipple mouth, and should be distinguished therefrom, being of earlier date, early third century.

- No. 143. BEAKER, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $2\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; thin white clay wall, reddish at core. See No. 86 *ante*.
- No. 144. GLASS BOTTLE, $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, $2\frac{4}{8}$ in. diameter; six sided with peaked and reeded handle.

These three pieces were buried alongside a body lying north-east to south-west, of which faint traces of the bones only remained; the head could not be distinguished. A metal vessel, presumably lead or pewter, was also observed, and the complete bronze fibula or brooch illustrated was recovered from close beside the flagon.

Near to the last burial, at a depth of $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, was found the skeleton of a young girl lying head to the north. The remains had obviously been disturbed before, and on the wrists were two small bracelets with ingenious expanding



BROOCH, GROUP XLI, AND CHILD'S BRACELET ($\frac{1}{2}$).

joints. The one which is here illustrated was found on analysis to be made of 82·9 per cent. of copper, 12·4 per cent. of tin, and 1·4 per cent. of lead.

GROUP XLII.

- No. 145. FLASK, $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, 5 in. diameter; fumed grey hard clay.
- No. 146. GLASS UNGUENTARIUM, 3 in. high, $2\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter; spirally wound with fine glass thread, with two moulded handles joining body and neck (Fili-grano). This was restored from over 100 pieces, and took three months to mend.

Group dated by parallel example of flagon, *British Museum Guide to Britain*, p. 121, pl. xii, No. 15, A.D. 300.

GROUP XLIII.

In this group a WINE AMPHORA was used as a cist or container. Its opening had been covered by a quern stone of Andernach Lava, measuring $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.

thick, dished and scored latticewise to a hole 3 in. diameter in the centre. When first uncovered this lid was complete, but on exposure to the air and in removal it crumbled, unfortunately, into many fragments. Innumerable similar stones of this material have been preserved with other things found along Hadrian's Wall. Those examples, however, are still hard, and it is assumed that the brick earth in which this one was buried had exercised a deleterious effect upon it. A fragment of a similar millstone found in Syndale Park on the opposite side of the road is but little harder than these fragments. The cinerary urn within appeared to have been placed intentionally so that moisture entering through the 3-inch aperture could not flow into it, consequently the bones inside were exceptionally free from earthy matter and were poured out of the pot practically dry. Among them were the glass disc, the phial No. 151, the fragments of another one, apparently a replica, but such that had unfortunately been nearly all melted by fire, probably on the funeral pyre, and also a few indistinguishable fragments of bone, iron, and thin bronze.

No. 147. WINE AMPHORA, used as holder or cist.

No. 148. URN, containing dry calcined bones, $12\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $11\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; hand-made, brownish clay with soapy surface.

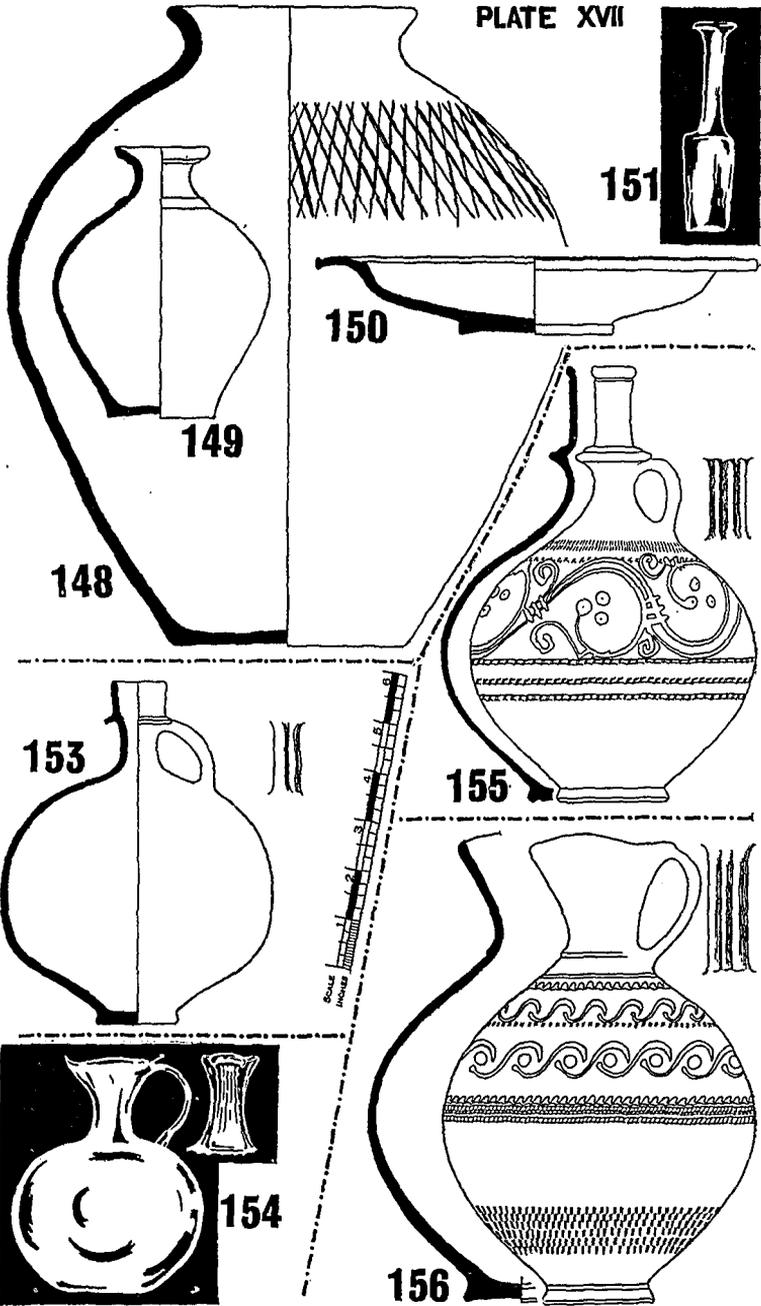
No. 149. FLASK, $5\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; form 65 Dechelette, fumed grey clay; beside the last.

No. 150. PLATE OR FLAT BOWL, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, 8 in. diameter; imitating form 36 Drag., in Belgic terra-nigra ware with eroded surface. Found inverted and placed in the Amphora with Urn on top of it.

No. 151. GLASS UNGUENTARIUM, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, 1 in. diameter; with square body.

GLASS DISC, $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter. (See Group XXVII.)

PLATE XVII



GROUP XLIV.

Also an Amphora burial, but in this case the only object found inside it was the Flagon illustrated.

No. 152. WINE AMPHORA, used as urn.

No. 153. FLAGON, $6\frac{7}{8}$ in. high, $5\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; of red ware white coated.

Dated by parallels at Niederbieber, A.D. 190—260.

No. 154. GLASS DECANTER, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; globular bodied with trumpet mouth, round curved handle joining the lip, with hook for thumb rest. This delicate vessel was recovered empty and practically intact, with nothing but a few pottery fragments near it.

The next three burials to record were inhumations at a depth of $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the present surface, Nos. 155 and 156 being about 3 ft. apart. They were met with in the trench being driven northwards, as mentioned in the remarks preceding Group No. XX. No. 155 had with it a mixed lot of human bones, among which part of a pelvis and some femora were identified; this burial had certainly been disturbed. About 1 foot from No. 156 was a skull, the body appearing to lie with its feet eastwards at right angles to the trench, and consequently inaccessible at this time.

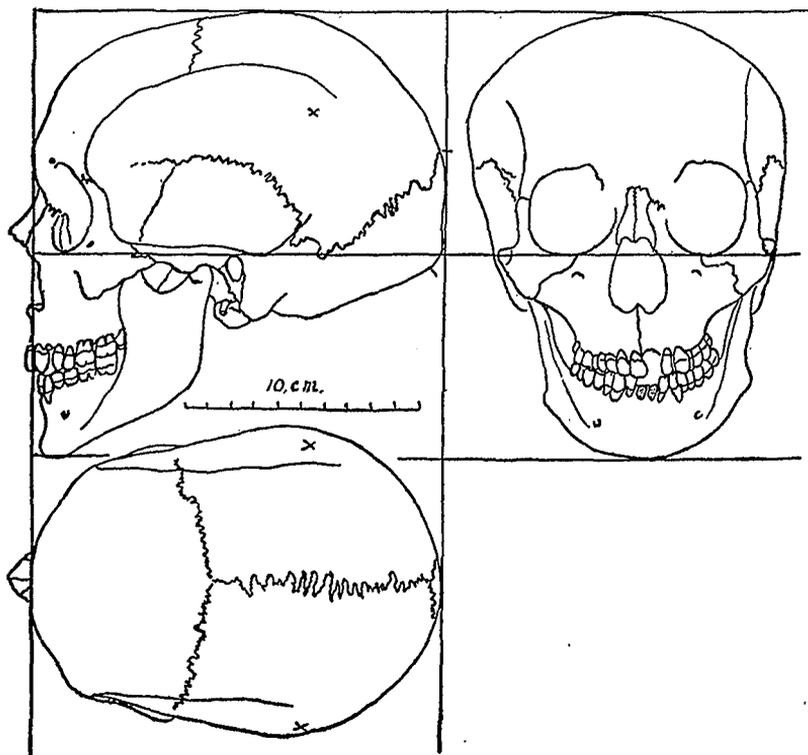
No. 155. FLAGON, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $5\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; decorated with a roulette row bordered zone of scroll pattern ending in three berries, painted in white slip; dark buff clay coated with black slip or varnish.

No. 156. JUG, $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; decorated on shoulder with a zone of S-shaped and vitruvian scrolls between zig-zag borders in white slip.

Smith, *British Museum Guide*, p. 121, pl. xii, No. 15.

Hengistbury Head Report, p. 49, pl. xxv, No. 7.

GROUP XLV.



In the third burial the body was fortunately lying in the line of the trench with head to the north. The skeleton was in a remarkably good state of preservation; it was carefully uncovered by our member Dr. M. W. Kidman-Bird, and for the drawing from which the skull is illustrated

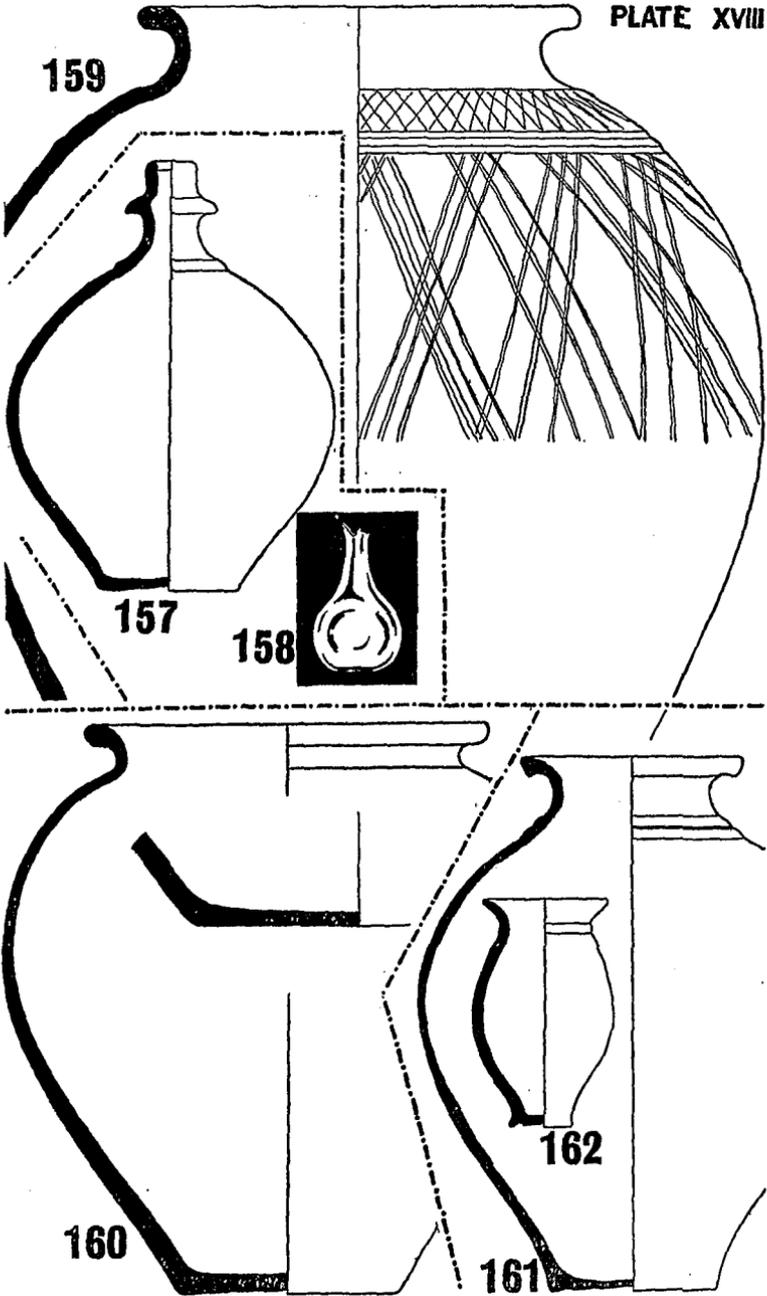
we are indebted to Professor F. G. Parsons. Sir Arthur Keith, who has examined this and some of the other skulls, pronounces it to be that of a woman about 40 years of age, perhaps rather younger. He describes this and the skull with No. 156 as Romano-British, with faces of the oval Madonna type and facial features which are often seen in living English women. We understand that Professor Parsons called recently at the Maison Dieu Museum to examine the relics comprising this group, and expressed the opinion that, were it not for their essentially Roman character, the skull might easily have been taken for a Saxon one of considerably later date. But considering the vast amount of colonisation by the Romans themselves, and of the intercommunication between all races and peoples during their sway over the then known and civilised world, is it not possible that stray Saxon settlers were already here and mixing with the Romanized natives long before the whole land was left to be overrun by them a century or two later?

No. 157. FLASK, $8\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; Belgic fumed grey clay. Niederbieber, A.D. 190—260.

No. 158. GLASS PHIAL, flattened, $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, 2 in. across, 1 in. thick.

The former vessel was in a metal tray or dish near the head of the skeleton, the glass phial being beside the cheek; on or around the right arm were three bracelets, a plain one of Kimmeridge Shale, one of bronze wire, and one of similar wire with small silver beads on it; when analysed a fragment of the last-mentioned bracelet showed a faint trace of gold. Upon the hip of the skeleton was one of the thin glass discs, $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter, as so frequently found in the cinerary urns.

The flask is exceptionally thick; it is interesting to note that the neck ring and stopper mouth could not be found in 1923, but was immediately recognised when thrown out in the digging two years later.



No. 159. OLLA used as Urn, $18\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $15\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey smooth clay.

This fine large pot was almost filled with flints, and a flint stone measuring approximately 12 in. long, 10 in. wide, 4 in. thick, and weighing 28 lbs. had been placed on top of it; naturally the urn was very much damaged.

No. 160. OLLA, $11\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, $11\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey sandy clay, black varnished and partly scorched by wood flames, brownish at core.

GROUP XLVI.

No. 161. FLOWER VASE, $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $8\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; Belgic, form 65 Dech., thin walls coated with black varnish, partly burnt away. This is an early Belgic type, and the Sigillata form of LIBERTVS, A.D. 69—117, may be an imitation of it, or *vice versa*.

No. 162. BEAKER, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay.

GROUP XLVII.

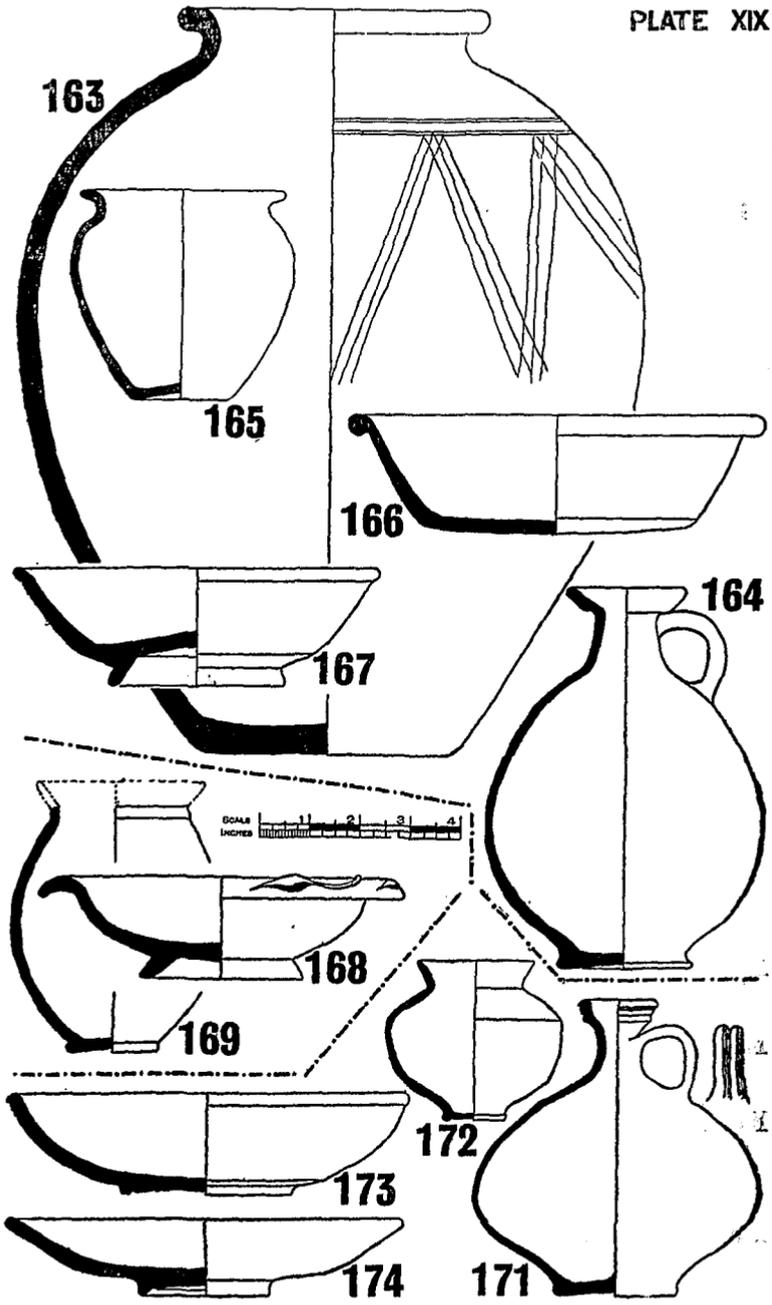
No. 163. OLLA as Urn, 15 in. high, $12\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay, scorched to reddish in parts.

No. 164. FLAGON, $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; pale red clay, with remains of white slip.

No. 165. OLLA-SHAPED BEAKER, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; very sandy fumed grey clay, reddish at core.

No. 166. BOWL or PLATTER, $1\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; hard, fumed dark grey clay, smoothed on surface.

No. 167. BOWL, Sigillata, form 31 Drag., $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter, with central stamp of potter NATALIS, A.D. 190—260.



In this burial it is believed No. 166 was used as a cover to the urn; the pots were very much broken, and it was not realised until they were being mended that the group contained five pieces.

GROUP XLVIII.

- No. 168. BOWL, *Sigillata*, form 35 Drag., 2 in. high, $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; decorated with leaf.
- No. 169. BEAKER, 5 in. high, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay, burnt reddish at base; poppy-head type, second century.

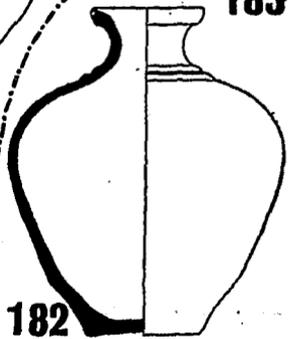
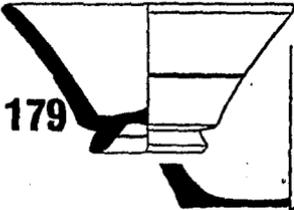
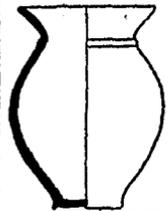
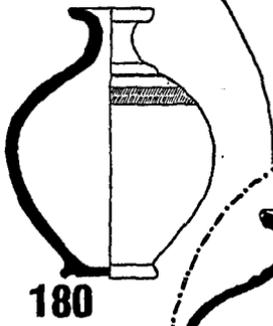
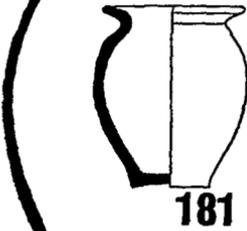
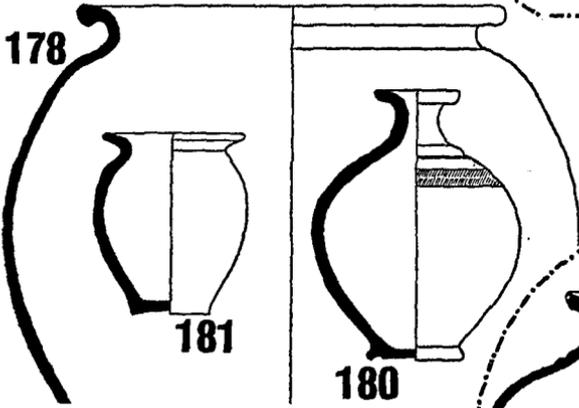
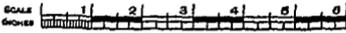
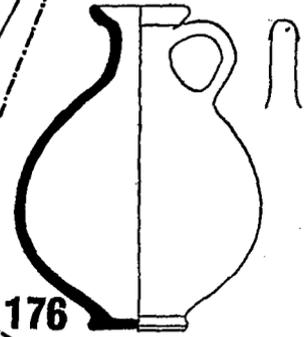
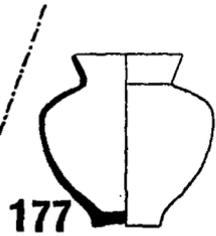
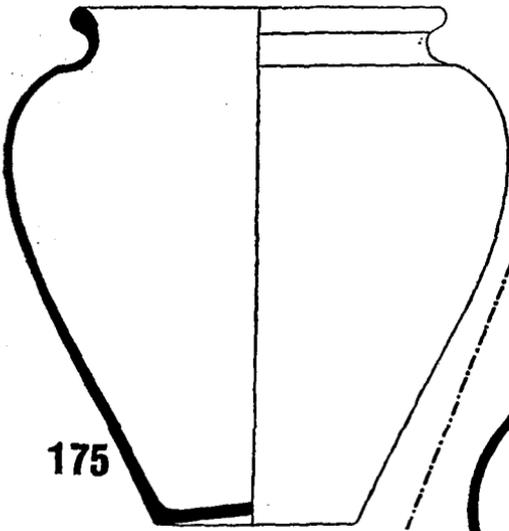
With these pots no human remains, burnt or otherwise, could be found.

GROUP XLIX.

- No. 170. WINE AMPHORA, as Urn. The side of this pot had a hole in it which was found covered by a piece of a very thin olla to close the gap.
- No. 171. FLAGON, 6 in. high, $5\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; sandy buff clay; wide bulged, second century type.
- No. 172. BEAKER, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; Belgic type; hard, thin fumed grey clay.
- No. 173. BOWL, 2 in. high, 8 in. diameter; imitation of form 32 Drag., of tile-red clay, coated with bright red smooth slip. ? of local manufacture, A.D. 190—260.
- No. 174. BOWL, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $7\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; also an imitation of form 32 Drag., of bright red smooth, rather soft, clay.

Some bird bones, in a remarkably good state of preservation, were found in bowl No. 173, and they constitute the only evidence of food being placed in the smaller vessels with the cremated remains of the dead.

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- No. 175. URN, $10\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $9\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay.
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GROUP L.

- No. 176. FLAGON, $6\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, $4\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter; bright red clay, with white slip partly eroded.
- No. 177. OLLA, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; dark grey clay, brown core.

GROUP LI.

- No. 178. OLLA as Urn, $12\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $11\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; clay, hard brittle, charged with fine sand and coated thinly with black varnish, much burnt away below.
- No. 179. CUP, Sigillata, form 33 Drag., 3 in. high, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; unstamped, matt glaze, A.D. 190—260, Niederbieber type 9.
- No. 180. FLASK OR VASE, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; Belgic, form 65 Dech., fumed grey clay with traces of black varnish burnt away.
- No. 181. OLLA-SHAPED BEAKER, $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, 3 in. diameter; fumed light grey clay.

This urn was at the very edge of the digging and on the line of the public pathway, and when it was pulled over into the trench the three small pots were found nestling together just behind.

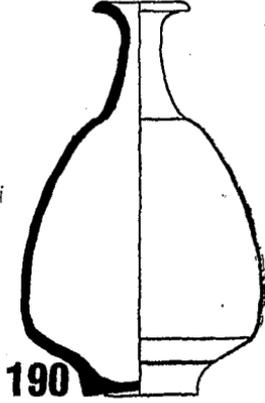
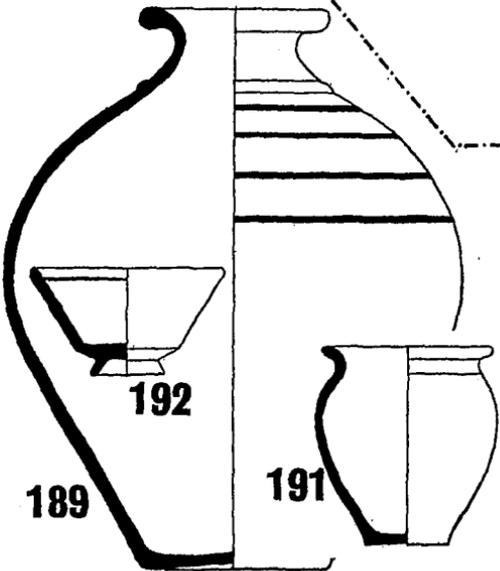
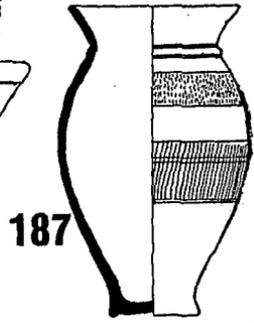
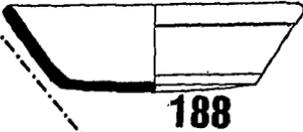
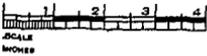
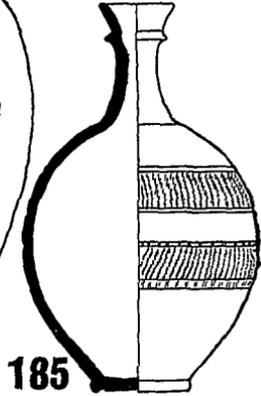
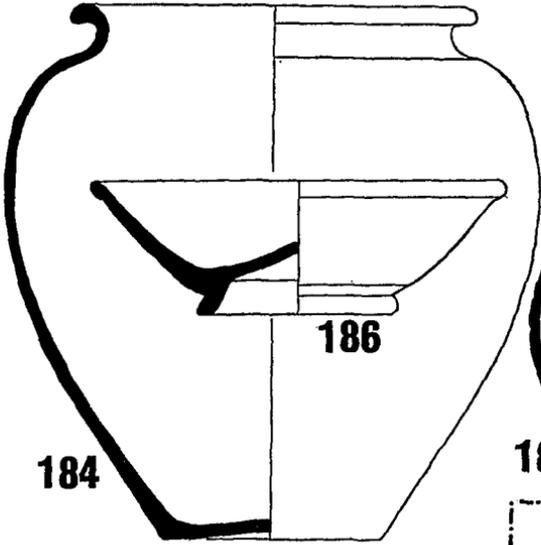
GROUP LII.

- No. 182. FLASK OR BOTTLE, $6\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, $5\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; red-brown clay, coated black. *Cf.* No. 226.
- No. 183. OLLA, $4\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, 3 in. diameter; pomegranate or poppy-head form, of fumed grey clay.

GROUP LIII.

- No. 184. OLLA as urn, $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $10\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; with short neck separated by a ledge; sandy, hard, fumed dark grey clay.

PLATE XXI



- No. 185. FLASK, $7\frac{7}{8}$ in. high, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; Belgic, with narrow neck expanding up and down, and separated by a ledge or offset at the base. Pale fumed grey clay with traces of black varnish. Owner's mark on base, consisting of a cross within an incomplete circle, very roughly scratched on.
- No. 186. BOWL, Sigillata, form 31 Drag., $2\frac{5}{8}$ in. high, $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; with central stamp of potter, VIIRINVS, A.D. 120—200. Rheinzabern potter, second century.

GROUP LIV.

- No. 187. BEAKER, $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; with pale red slip coating between the roulette hatched zones and black varnish below the middle; fumed grey clay.
- No. 188. BOWL or SAUCER, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, 6 in. diameter; fumed grey clay, well smoothed and black varnished.

GROUP LV.

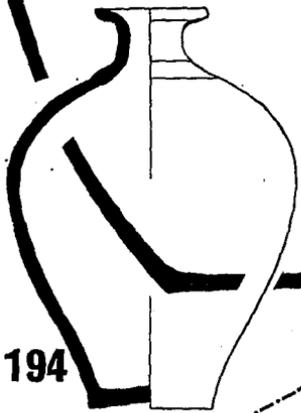
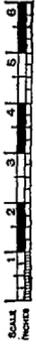
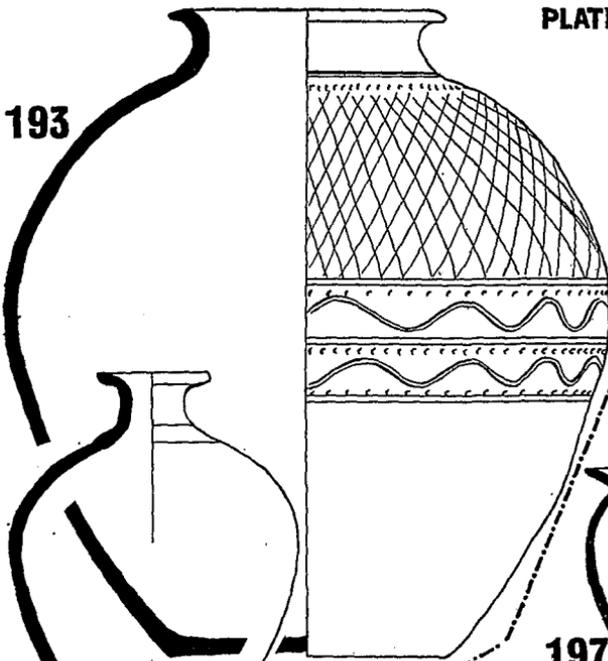
- No. 189. VASE, used as Urn, $11\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, 9 in. diameter; with burnished zones on the shoulder; fumed reddish-grey sandy clay, black varnished.
- No. 190. FLASK, $7\frac{7}{8}$ in. high, $4\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay.
- No. 191. OLLA-SHAPED BEAKER, 4 in. high, $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed reddish-grey sandy clay.
- No. 192. CUP, Sigillata, form 33 Drag., $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter; unstamped.

GROUP LVI.

- No. 193. OLLA, 13 in. high, $11\frac{7}{8}$ in. diameter; with three rows of prodded holes round the middle; coarse

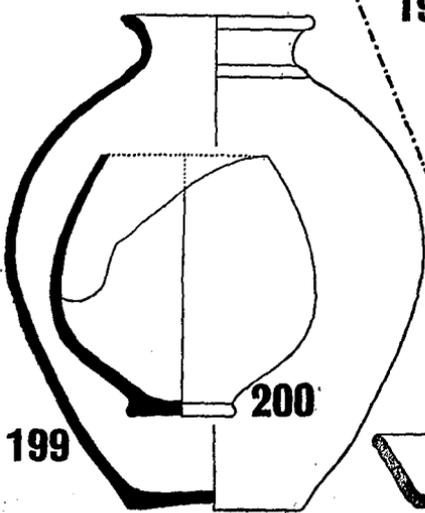
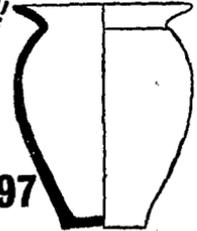
PLATE XXII

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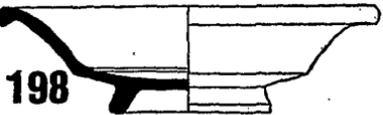
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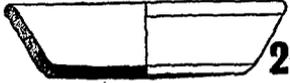
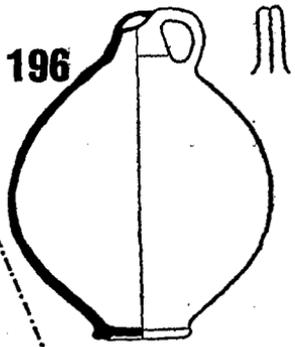
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200



198

196



201

clay coated with smooth soapy slip and black varnish, which had run down in streaks and is nearly all burnt away.

- No. 194. FLASK OR FLOWER VASE, 8 in. high, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; Belgic, form 65 Dech; fumed grey clay scorched to reddish in parts by wood flames; c. A.D. 150.

GROUP LVII.

- No. 195. WINE AMPHORA, as Urn.
- No. 196. FLAGON, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; tile-red clay with remnant of white slip coating.
- No. 197. OLLA-SHAPED BEAKER, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; pale, smooth, fumed grey clay.
- No. 198. BOWL, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; Sigillata, form 51 Drag., variant, with central stamp in the form of small and larger concentric double circles.

May, *Silchester Pottery*, p. 92, pl. xxxii, No. 35, A.D. 140—180.

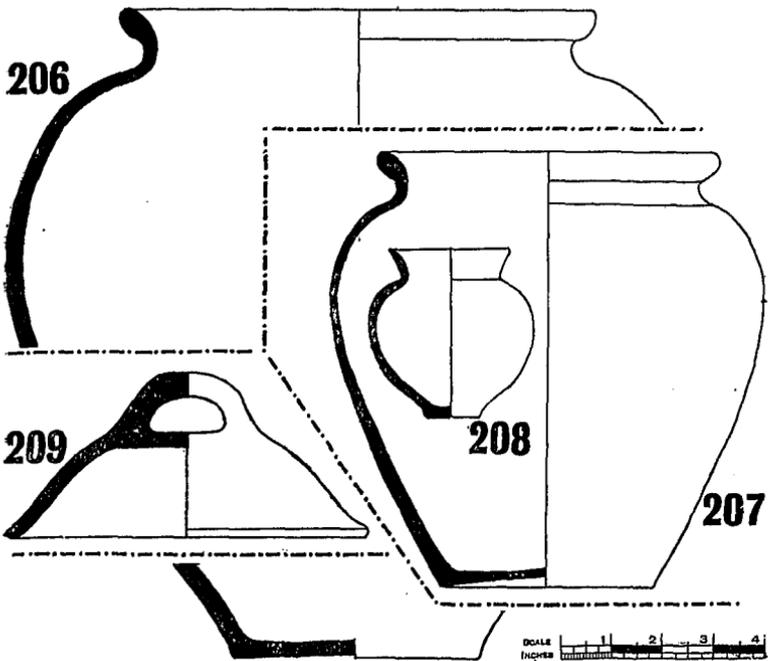
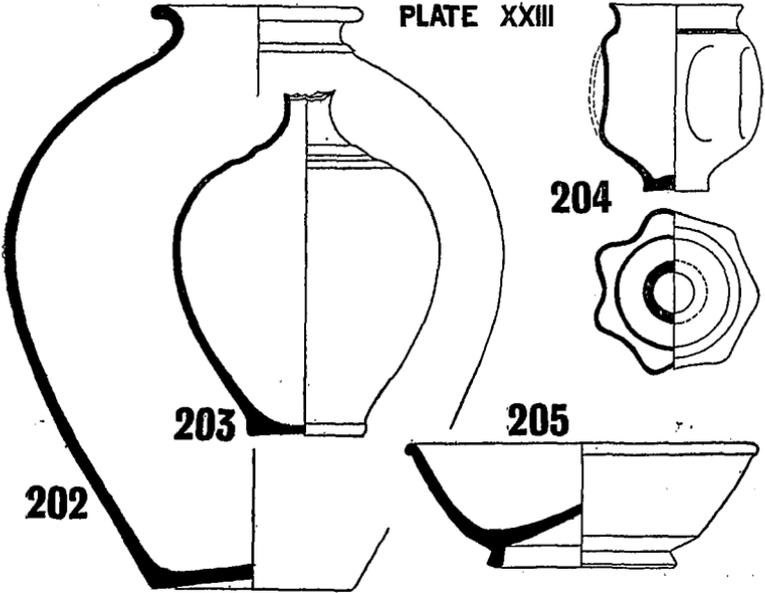
Newstead, p. 200, pl. xl, No. 15, A.D. 140—180.

GROUP LVIII.

- No. 199. URN, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; sandy grey to red-brown clay; second century type.
- No. 200. FLASK OR FLAGON, upper portion missing, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; soft red clay.
- No. 201. FLAT BOWL, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; hard, sandy grey clay.

A cremation burial, badly disturbed for a later inhumation one, as a skull was found about 9 inches lower down just east of the group.

PLATE XXIII



GROUP LIX.

- No. 202. VASE, as Urn, $11\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; sandy fumed grey clay eroded by clay soil.
- No. 203. FLASK, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay.
- No. 204. BEAKER, with seven oval flutings, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; tile-red clay with eroded black varnish.
- No. 205. BOWL, Sigillata, form 31 Drag., $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, 7 in. diameter, with central stamp of potter MACCALI M., A.D. 150—190.

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- No. 206. OLLA, 13 in. high, $13\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; thin, hard, well-potted sandy clay fumed grey and scorched below.

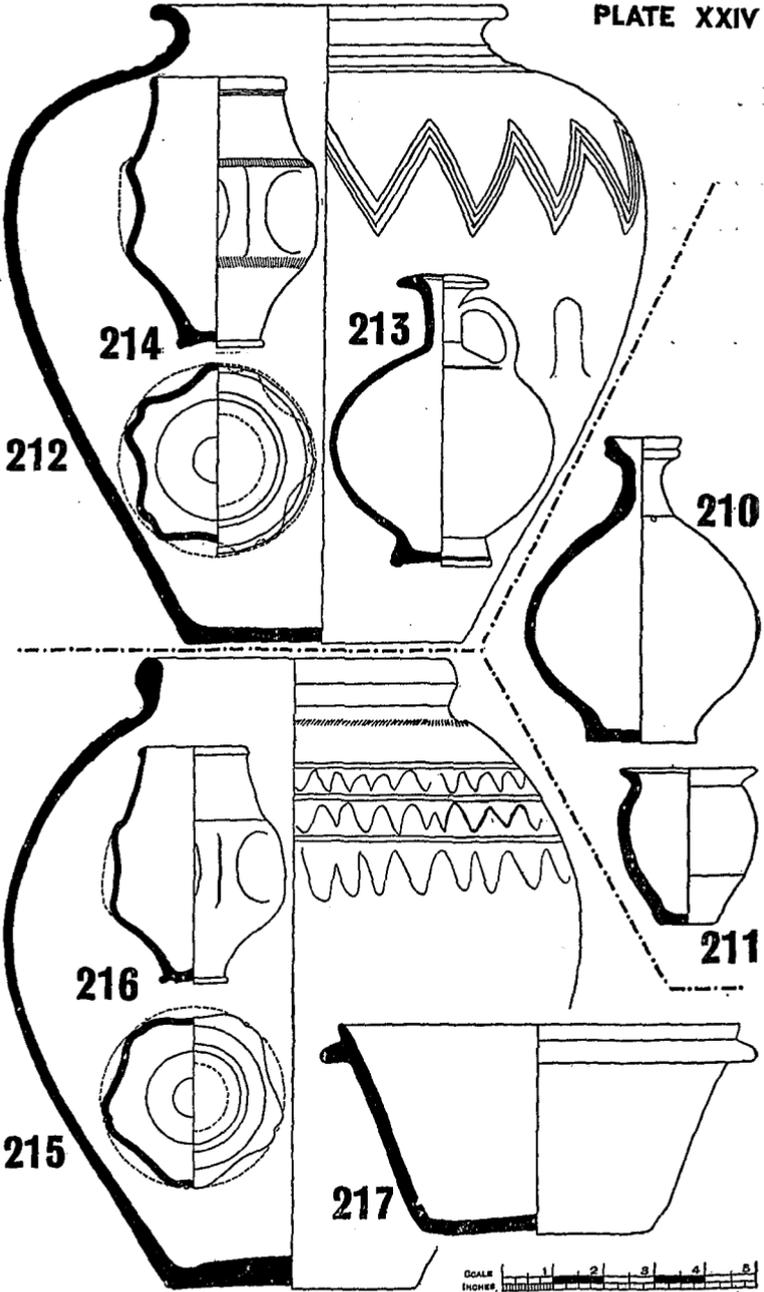
This urn was in the side of the trench and contained nothing but the burnt bones; no other pottery was near it, excepting what appeared to be fragments of a thumb-pot, not enough to restore.

GROUP LX.

- No. 207. OLLA, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $8\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey sandy clay, slightly scorched and reddened by fire.
- No. 208. PEAR-SHAPED BEAKER, $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; pale, smooth, fumed grey clay.

This group completes the record of restorable pottery and similar relics recovered from burials exhumed north of the present road to the end of March 1923. Early in April trenches were dug in various directions in Syndale Park, on the opposite side of the road, in order to ascertain how far the cemetery extended in that direction. In one of the trenches a rubbish pit was encountered containing many and various animal bones, a coin of Commodus (A.D. 188—208),

PLATE XXIV



and large quantities of pot sherds, among which the most interesting fragment was:—

No. 209. POT LID, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, 7 in. diameter; with over-arched bar handle; fumed grey black varnished clay.

The following six burial groups were also exhumed from Syndale Park between the 9th and 16th of April, when the work was discontinued for lack of funds:—

GROUP LXI.

No. 210. FLASK, $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $4\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; drinking flask (costrel) with very narrow neck, pierced with vent-hole at base; fumed grey clay with black varnish.

No. 211. OLLA, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey sandy clay, red-brown at core; of late and inferior type, third century.

Parts of a bronze fibula, similar to that found with Group XLI., were found close to the flask, and although no traces of the bones could be seen, it is believed these two vessels were part of an inhumation burial.

GROUP LXII.

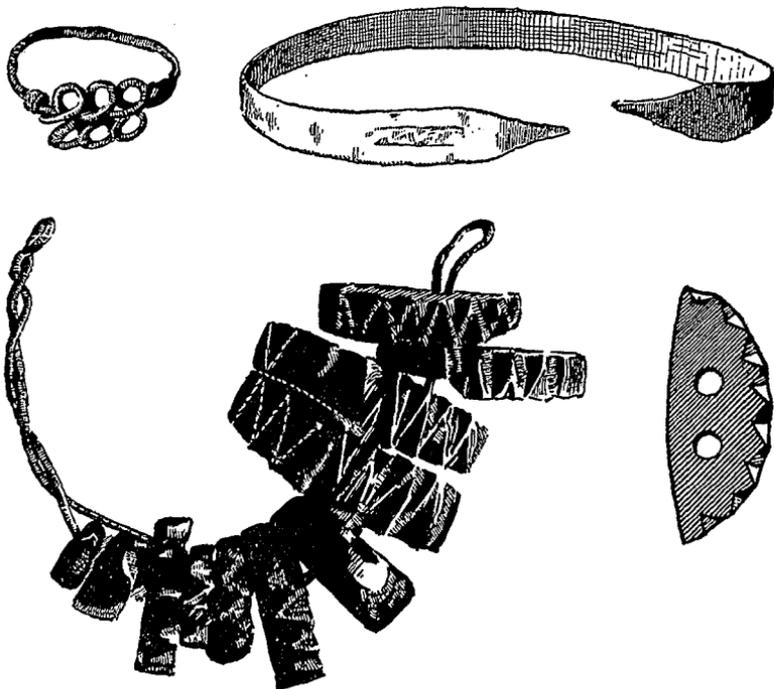
No. 212. OLLA as Urn, $12\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $12\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay, rather thin and well potted.

No. 213. FLAGON, 6 in. high, $4\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; bright red polished clay, scorched below handle.

No. 214. BEAKER, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; with five circular foldings separated by five vertical narrow linear ones on the bulge; dull drab clay, hard and coated with dark brown slip; A.D. 190—260.

The two small pots were lying on the calcined bones in the urn. Among the bones were found four finger rings and

four bracelets; one of the former was of finely entwined bronze wire, one of the latter consisted of twenty-four jet beads threaded on similar wire, another was of the so-called "snake-pattern," and the remainder, not illustrated, were plain bands or wire.



RING AND BRACELETS, GROUP LXII ($\frac{1}{2}$).

GROUP LXIII.

- No. 215. OLLA, $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, $11\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; fumed grey, rough, sandy clay, black coated surface scorched to reddish in parts.
- No. 216. BEAKER, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter; with five shallow round indentations; brown clay with black slip or dull varnish; A.D. 190—260.
- No. 217. BOWL, $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; fumed grey clay with brownish core, coated with black polished bitumen.

In this burial, close by the last, the bowl was inverted over the mouth of the urn as a cover. The similarity of the indented beaker to the one in the adjoining group is worthy of note, although in this case it was deposited alongside and not in the urn. A previous example of two pieces of somewhat similar pottery being found in two adjoining graves can be seen in the decorated jugs Nos. 155 and 156.

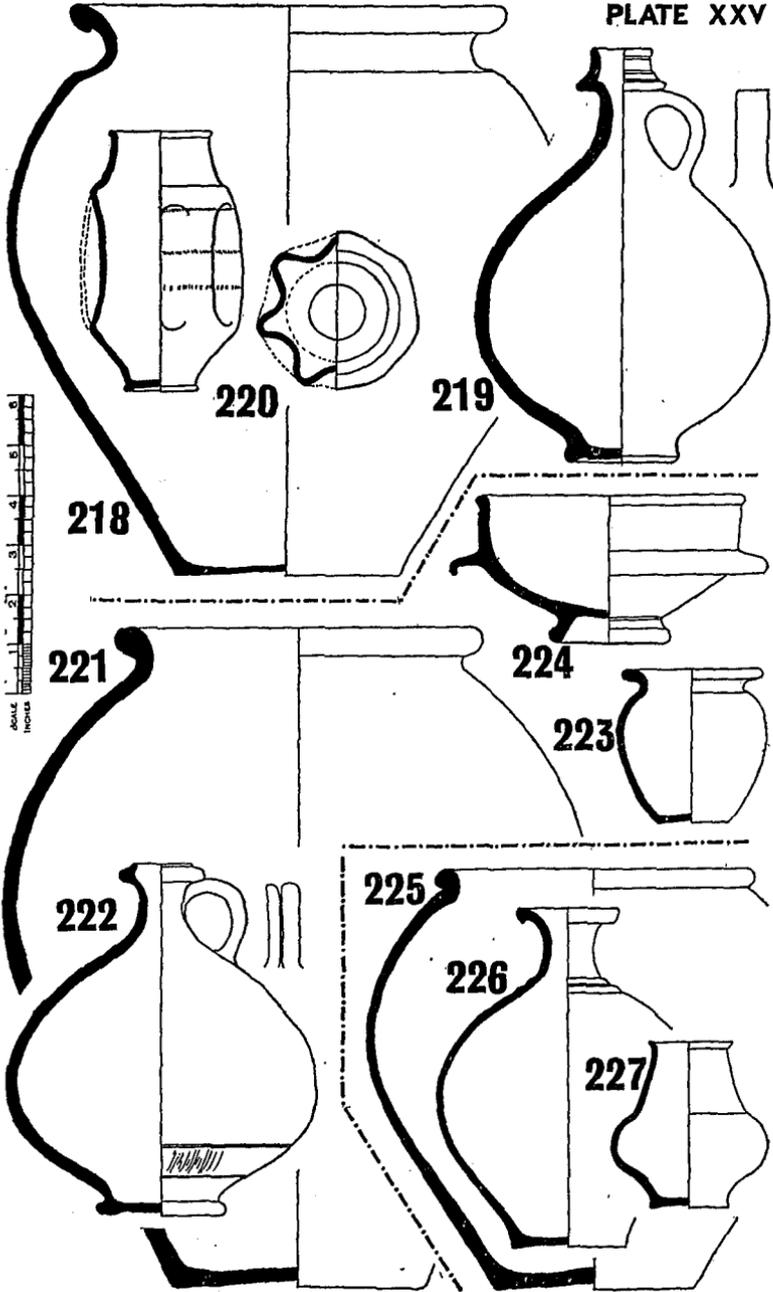
GROUP LXIV.

- No. 218. PEAR-SHAPED OLLA, $11\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, 11 in. diameter; sandy fumed grey clay, red-brown core with black varnish much burnt off.
- No. 219. FLAGON, $8\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter; tile-red clay coated with cream-coloured slip, which is much eroded or worn away. The incipient neck-ring and over-stepped mouth-piece indicate the second century.
- No. 220. BEAKER, with seven indentations, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter; black glazed Rhenish ware.
Oelmann, *Niederbieber*, p. 40, pl. ii, 33 c,
A.D. 190—260.

GROUP LXV.

- No. 221. OLLA, $13\frac{1}{4}$ in. high, $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter; fumed grey sandy clay.
- No. 222. FLAGON, 7 in. high, $6\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; tile-red clay coated with bright red slip, much eroded.
- No. 223. OLLA-SHAPED BEAKER, $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. high, 3 in. diameter; fumed grey clay.
- No. 224. BOWL, 3 in. high, $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter; Sigillata, form 38 Drag., with central stamp of potter CATVLLIM, probably CATVLLVS, Rhein-zabern potter of second century.

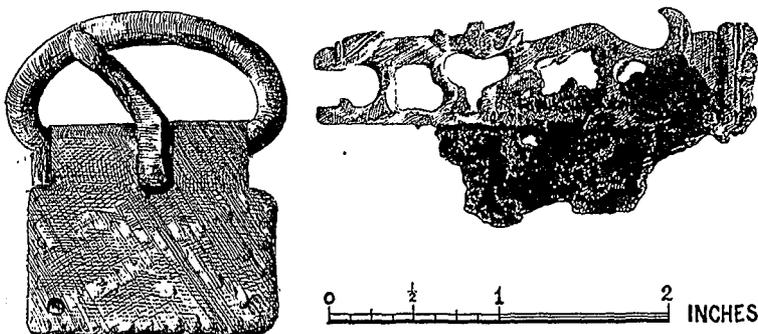
Fragments of a flanged bowl had been observed the day before this burial was met with; it was therefore gratifying



to find the first practically complete specimen in this urn. The bottle and beaker were buried outside the urn; possibly the flanged bowl was intended as a cover, but had gone in when the pressure of the surrounding earth smashed the urn.

GROUP LXVI.

- No. 225. URN, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, 9 in. diameter; coarse brown clay with grey core.
- No. 226. BOTTLE, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, $5\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter; light grey clay, dark grey core coated black.
- No. 227. BEAKER, $3\frac{3}{8}$ in. high, 3 in. diameter; brownish-grey sandy clay.



BRONZE BUCKLE AND CLASP KNIFE.

Two objects found when cleaning and examining the considerable quantity of odd pot sherds that accumulated in the course of the work were the Bronze Buckle and the Clasp Knife here illustrated. The former calls for no particular remark, but the latter is the most complete specimen of its kind the writer has so far seen. At least two-thirds of the iron blade still remain in and pivoted to the bronze handle. This is grooved laterally to receive the cutting edge of the blade exactly as in a modern pocket-knife. The crude design of the hare and hound has been previously illustrated in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. X.,

p. 308, from a specimen found in the Saxon cemetery at Bifrons, in connection with which several other examples are enumerated.

Besides these another one, apparently from the same mould, can be seen in the London Museum, and a portion of yet another in the British Museum. At Cirencester, both in the Corinium and in Mrs. Wilfred Cripps' private museums, an excellent handle is preserved, and each should be examined and compared with these from the eastern area. The west country examples are of a slightly different and much more artistic pattern; in them the graceful modelling of the lifelike greyhound and the hare could hardly be excelled. It would seem that the balance of evidence being in favour of a Saxon origin for these knives, as mentioned by Mr. T. G. Godfrey-Faussett in *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X., would be difficult to maintain.

The only coin recovered during the digging up to April 1923, in addition to the one already mentioned, was one of Postumus (A.D. 258), found with the scanty remains of a much decayed skull; the direction and remainder of the burial could not be traced, and therefore no pottery could be associated with it.

It will be realized that all the groups from XX. to LXVI. were encountered in searching practically two strips only, crossing one another and respectively $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet and 15 feet wide; but the pioneer work in thus ascertaining the extent of the burial-ground in four directions proved most useful when the opportunity arose about two years later for the thorough completion of the work thus begun.

In the autumn of 1924 Mr. Lewis H. Finn, who had recently purchased Queen Court Farm, which embodies this site, decided to grub the hops which covered it preparatory to planting it up with fruit trees, and he most generously placed the field for the winter at the disposal of the Society of Antiquaries. The timely receipt of a most munificent gift from an anonymous donor enabled that Society to put the work in hand at once, and under the superintendence of their Fellow, Col. William Hawley, no less than two dozen

ex-service men were employed for several months to complete the excavation of the cemetery. For a more detailed account of the inception, carrying-out and success of this research, readers are referred to the anniversary address by their President, published in the *Antiquaries' Journal* for July 1925, p. 228.

In the result a much larger quantity of material was found than that which it has been the writer's privilege to record; so much, indeed, remains to be published that it is anticipated a separate report of their work will be issued in the near future by the Research Committee of that Society. While naturally regretting therefore that the remainder of the discoveries in the Ospringe cemeteries cannot be printed in these pages, it is only fitting that the Society, under whose auspices and superintendence they were excavated, should publish their own report on one of the most fruitful digs they have ever carried through, and one which incidentally constitutes the first time in Britain that so large a Roman cemetery has been thoroughly and systematically explored and careful notes made on the spot of all the pottery and other grave furniture.

The loss to these pages, however, may be considered as more than counterbalanced by the generosity of the Society of Antiquaries in allowing the remains to be deposited near to the site where they were found, and so forming the backbone of the unique and scientifically valuable collection in the Maison Dieu Museum.