

REPORTS.

The following notes have been received on local or more general activities :

REPORT OF SOCIETY'S CURATOR, MAIDSTONE.

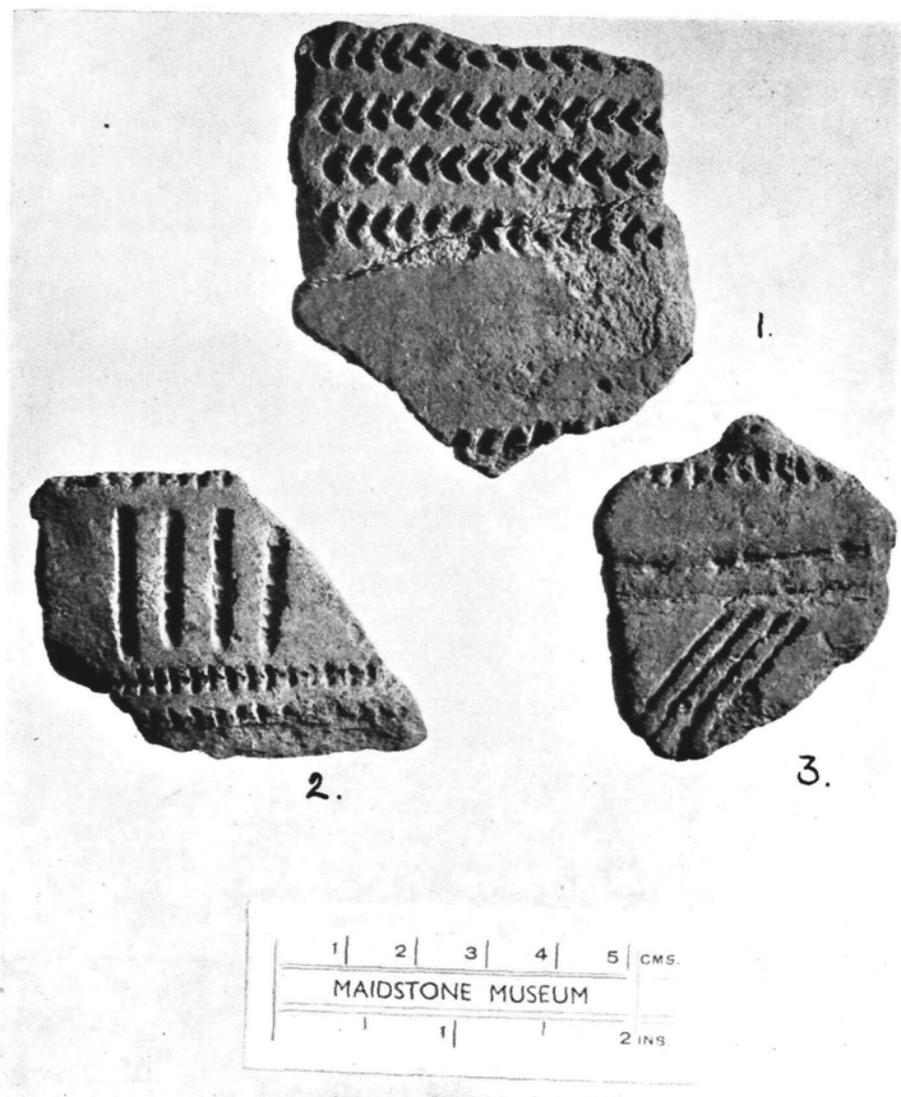
THREE extremely interesting potsherds have been presented to Maidstone Museum by Mr. K. P. Oakley. They were in the collection of Mr. John Rhodes, a fossil collector on the Geological Survey. All that is known of their provenance is that they were dug up in a field near Orpington many years ago.

Apparently, the only parallels to these sherds in England are those from the Durham coast, published by Prof. Gordon Childe (*Archæologia Aeliana* Vol. IX, 4th series, 1932, p. 84). Here it is pointed out that the sherds are distinct from any British wares and are identical with those found in the megalithic tombs of the Danish islands and the coast of Jutland, termed in English, " passage graves ".

The ornament in No. 1 seems to have been produced by impressing the articular end of a bird bone into the pot before baking. The oblique lines in No. 3 have a slight curve and are serrated inside. This decoration may be due to the use of a sea shell such as *cardium*.

There is no reason to doubt that these sherds reached Kent in prehistoric times. Their smallness and insignificant appearance and the fact that their fractured edges are worn and rubbed, make it unlikely that they were brought into England subsequently by an antiquary and lost or thrown away. I am indebted to Mr. Stuart Piggott for giving me the reference to Prof. Childe's paper.

The drawing, p. 285, illustrates a hitherto unpublished bronze blade found at Folkestone and now in Northampton Museum. Mr. Reginald Brown, Keeper and Secretary, was kind enough to give me permission to publish it and to



SHERDS FROM ORPINGTON.

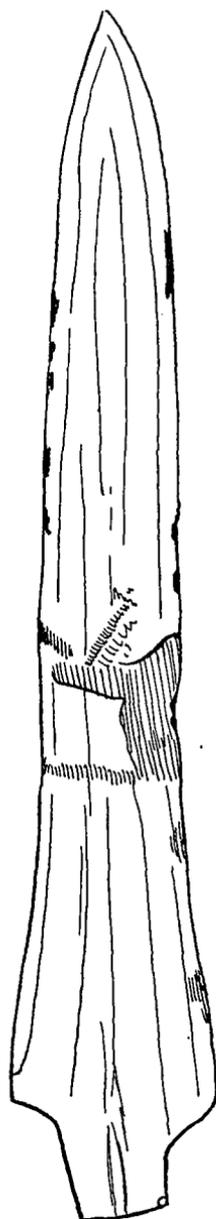
send me a sketch from which our illustration is taken. He tells me that the only record in connection with the find is as follows :—“ This bronze dagger was found in digging a drain near some cottages recently purchased by a Roman Catholic establishment in the upper part of Dover St., Folkestone. It was sold by the finder to a marine store dealer named Austin as old metal and by him to Pager, a dealer in antiquities from whom I purchased it. W.C.C. June 26th, 1880 ”. There is no record of the identity of “ W. C. C. ”.

The blade belongs to no recognised Bronze Age form and it seems probable it is actually a re-used portion of a broken larger weapon such as a rapier blade.

Sevenoaks Museum has acquired a looped and socketed bronze celt with a widely expanded cutting edge. This was found in January 1937, being dug out of the floor of one of the rooms of a Tudor cottage at Dunton Green.

Finds of Viking date are not common in Kent and the discovery of an iron axe of Bearded type near Maidstone makes a welcome addition to our meagre list. It was found in Sandling lane, between Peel St. Hedges and Lushington's Park gates (Kent 6" Maps XXXI, S.E. Lat. 51°, 17' 18" N. Long. 0°, 32' 9" E.

This type of axe was in use for a long period. The Old London Bridge Group (11th century) in the London Museum contains axes of this type, and the same form is shown on the



BRONZE BLADE
FROM
FOLKESTONE.
Length 8 inches.

Bayeux tapestry, several generations later. This new discovery has been given to Maidstone Museum by the Borough Surveyor.

NORMAN COOK.

SEVENOAKS REPORT 1937.

We have again had a rather uneventful year in Sevenoaks and district. A socketed celt found at Dunton Green is described in the Report of the Society's Curator.

In Sevenoaks Town, however, an incident has occurred which is of considerable importance to all who wish to preserve the individual character of the older streets in our towns and villages. The Urban Council has appointed a committee to prepare a Town-planning scheme, and the draft of this scheme is now practically settled. One of its provisions is designed to protect the old narrow, winding, upper High Street from unnecessary modernization, it being felt that to mar its attractions as a pleasant old street abounding in Georgian and older houses is not only bad from the æsthetic point of view but is also bad business. This provision was cordially approved by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Transport, however, has now insisted through the Highway Authority, the Kent County Council, that the street shall be widened to a width of fifty feet throughout, a measure which means the eventual disappearance of half the old house fronts. And this in spite of the projected expenditure of over £500,000 on a by-pass road mainly designed to relieve the congestion in this street. One wonders whether this drastic treatment is to be applied to Canterbury !

We still await the provision by some benevolent person of the necessary funds for an aerial survey of the Roman site at Frog Farm, Otford. The finds referred to in XXXIX, XLII and XLVI volumes of *Arch. Cant.* seem to indicate a settlement of some importance, but so far no buildings have been traced and the size and regular cultivation of the farm render a systematic search impracticable.

F. GODWIN.

DOVER REPORT FOR 1937.

BRONZE AGE.

A socketed celt $4\frac{3}{8}$ ins. long found by Mr. M. Tollidge of Pineham on the Roman Road has been deposited in the Museum.

ROMAN.

The excavation of a drainage trench near Elms Vale Road and Stelling Down exposed two cremation burials. Both the large ollas were reported to have had covers. The better preserved example has been presented to the Museum. The discovery extends the area of Roman finds in this part of Stelling Down.

MEDIEVAL.

In the Adrian Street clearance area one house had wattle and daub partitions $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick on widely spaced laths. The chimney was mainly of chalk with clay for mortar. A second chimney had three blocks of Caen stone built into it. An iron hook was probably for the suspension of the pot hanger. A third was built of Tudor brick and had a pointed-headed recess at side 1 ft. high and deep. The house containing this was part of a much older one. Cottages in Albion Place were built of small flint cobbles with chalk backing, and had brick framed openings.

No trace of the Town wall has yet been found. In Trevanion Street the Roman quern of Niedermendig lava that was built into the wall of No. 1, now rebuilt, has disappeared. Fragments of inscribed grave stones were also said to have been built into the wall.

At the Castle the Office of Works has continued the removal of earth and modern work from the rear of the Crevecour Tower. A fine arrow slit, which probably lighted a chamber, is now visible.

The Coastal and River Craft Sub-Committee of the Society for Nautical Research have had their surveyor at Dover and Deal taking measurements of existing types, and collecting information about the galley punts, galleys, foresail and mizzen punts and the now extinct Deal lugger.

E. G. J. AMOS.

DISCOVERIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF DEAL
DURING 1937.

No finds of early date have been reported to the writer during the year, and nothing definitely medieval. In July a trench dug for pipes along Black Lane and the Woodnesborough Road near Ash exposed at the depth of 2 ft. 6 in. parts of a human skeleton. The thin walled skull was that of an adult, with well preserved teeth. A fragment of the lower jaw showed five incisors. A part of the pelvis was included among other much decayed bones. From the earth of the trench the burial was probably of later date than medieval but up to 400 years.

Extensive excavations in two old gardens, with walls at least 200 years old, for the foundations of Marks & Spencer's new store in High Street, Deal, opened up three burials. The first found in January was that of an aged person with very much worn teeth. The body lay facing east near the foundations of the later wall, in made soil with a number of large flint cobbles on one side. It was possibly that of a ship-wrecked sailor washed up on the shore within the last 300 years and buried on the nearest open ground. Other chance burials to the north of the above have previously been reported. The other bodies were found in March in the garden to the south. They lay separately buried but close together. Dr. Alexander Davies considered them to be those of two young females. Nothing datable being found in conjunction with them, it is reasonable to suppose they were victims of some sea tragedy, although it is also possible they died of plague. The parish church then was a mile away.

Further excavations on the above site opened up two pits containing scores of broken late seventeenth and early eighteenth century clay tobacco pipes.

During April the old Swan Inn, dated 1694, in Queen Street was demolished in the carrying out of a scheme for road widening. It was a poor structure of no architectural value. The cellars were of brick, with the usual niches in which to stand a candle.

In November an electrician wiring a late seventeenth century house in Golden Street discovered under some flooring a package of three dozen short-wristed white kid gloves. The inner wrapping paper had the water mark A M V, and partly destroyed wording in French which has been read as 3 doz. A . . . blanc cousu soie. Below are traces of two other words which may be read as [Qualiti]e Sur.[fine], and below again one or more words beginning with the letter A. The outer wrapping was of tarred paper tied with tarred twine. The gloves, which seem to be part of a smuggled consignment of Napoleonic date, are of very fine kid, silk stitched, and quite unstained.

At Sandwich the demolition of a fine fragment of a fifteenth century wall and the adjoining house at the Harnet Street end of Delf Street revealed a great chimney stack with the original fireplace. The massive oak bressummer had a moulded edge and good stop chamfers ; and rested on corbelled-out fifteenth century buff bricks.

W.P.D.S.

THE GREENWICH AND LEWISHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

The Society has published this year a further number of Transactions. This is the first number of a new series, Vol. IV, No. 1.

It contains among other matter of antiquarian interest, papers on Saint Alfege, on Kidbrooke Parish Church and its medieval vicars, and on the Battle of Blackheath in 1497.