

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

(1) CANTERBURY

Mr. Frank Higenbottam, Curator of the Royal Museum, Canterbury, recently gave me an opportunity to make the drawing (Fig. 1) of a small copper-alloy shield, embellished with champlevé enamel, found during the recent war when Littlebourne Road was being dug up. It is most likely a horse trapping, but no trace remains of any fitting.<sup>1</sup>

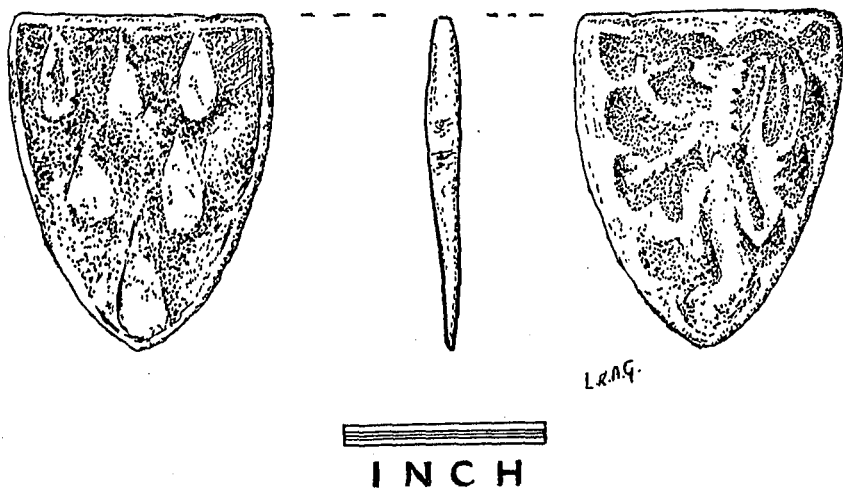


Fig. 1. Armorial Pendant, Canterbury.

Description :

*Obverse*—gules a lion rampant double tailed within a bordure engrailed. The field of this side shows traces of red enamel.

It may be assumed that the lion, in polished metal, was intended to appear as golden.

*Reverse*—azure goutté d'or. Traces of blue enamel appear on the sunken field.

<sup>1</sup> See J. B. Ward Perkins on "A Medieval Harness-Mount at Termoli," *Antiq. Jour.*, XXIX, pp. 1-7. Ward Perkins discusses armorial pendants and concludes that the Termoli harness fitting dates from the fourteenth century.

It may be noted that Thomas de Bourne bore at the second Dunstable tournament in 1334 "gules a lyon rampant or tail fourchée a bordure engrelé argent". To Sir Christopher Bourne, knighted at the capitulation of Calais, 1348, is attributed "gules a lyon rampant argent a bordure engrailed or" which are obviously the tinctures of Thomas de Bourne changed for difference. Sir Bartholomew Burghersh of Kent bore at the battle of Boroughbridge, 1322, and at the siege of Calais, 1345-8, "gules a lyon rampant tail fourchée or" and it can be possible that the present shield is a Burghersh one which uses an engrailed bordure as a difference.<sup>1</sup>

This theme of differencing I must leave to students of heraldry, to whom I commend the fascinating attraction of playing variations on the theme of arms such as those of the Talbots who, too, could be drawn into our discussion.

## (2) CRANBROOK

Through the kind offices of our member, Mr. C. C. R. Pile, examples of the CL. BR. ("Classis Britannica") stamped tiles—square, imbrex and flue—from Little Farningham Farm have been deposited in Maidstone Museum by the Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Local History Society.<sup>2</sup>

## (3) EAST MALLING (LARKFIELD)

Towards the end of June, 1957, panelling at the east end of the Great Hall of Bradbourne House, Larkfield, was temporarily removed.<sup>3</sup> On 22nd June, through the courtesy of the Director of East Malling Research Station, Dr. F. R. Tubbs, and the Secretary, Mr. T. R. Littlehales, I was allowed to inspect a mural painting on plaster which was uncovered during the course of this work.

The painting portrayed a very lightly-draped female, holding a dish covered with flowers in her right hand and standing on a pedestal. The approximate height was seven feet. The figure was painted in grey tones and had a reddish background and surround.

The date of the painting would seem to be late seventeenth century. The wall on which it appeared is much repaired, and certainly incorporates parts of the older, pre-1715 building.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Foster, *Some Feudal Coats of Arms*, pp. 28 and 38.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXX, 283.

<sup>3</sup> See *Arch. Cant.*, LVIII, Plate II (opposite p. 43), for an appropriate view of the Great Hall. The figure was found behind the panelling to the left of the door shown on this plate.

<sup>4</sup> Arthur Oswald, *Country Houses of Kent*, p. 62.

On the pedestal was an inscription, and this gives a clue to the dating of the Great Hall's panelling :

George Saulthorp  
Carver  
Ignatius Hinton Joyner  
Febuarey y<sup>o</sup> 21 An 1737<sup>o</sup>

Line two was written in pencil and the remaining lines were in red chalk or crayon.

The figure and its inscription have now once again been covered up by the panelling.

(4) HADLOW

There has recently been found at the Hadlow Cemetery site,<sup>1</sup> which has produced Roman material from time to time, the upper stone of a circular, pudding-stone quern, probably of Kent provenance.<sup>2</sup> This has now been given to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 2.1957) by our member, Wing-Commander W. V. Dumbreck. The stone is 13½ in. in diameter and the central hole tapers from 3 in. at the top to 1½ in. at the base.

(5) HEADCORN

There has recently been given to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 7.1957) a brass four-armed seal matrix found in a grave at Headcorn Churchyard c. 1930. It is 1½ inches in diameter. The subjects on each arm are crudely depicted but probably represent a deer, goat, boar and lion. Such seals appear on sixteenth-century documents.

(6) HERNE BAY

I am again indebted to Mr. H. E. Gough, Honorary Curator of the Herne Bay Records Society, for permission to publish another leaden seal matrix, found during August, 1957, at Bishopstone, quite close to the find-spot of the matrix described in the last volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*.<sup>3</sup> The finder was Mr. A. C. Arlott of Beltinge, Herne Bay, and he has since generously presented the matrix to Herne Bay Museum.

<sup>1</sup> O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet, LI, N.W.

<sup>2</sup> In the past the material for pudding-stone querns found in Kent has been said to have come from Hertfordshire and strata north of the River Thames, but there is reason to claim that our own Kent Eocene beds produced it. Our member, Mr. Frank Jenkins, F.S.A., is collecting information about the local pudding-stone and the surviving querns made from it.

<sup>3</sup> The find-spot is the beach at Bishopstone, just east of the opening of the "ravine," called either Bishopstone Glen or Oldhaven Gap. National Grid Reference 61/208688.

The matrix is a simple disc with no attachments. The diameter is  $1\frac{1}{16}$  in. and the thickness  $\frac{1}{12}$  in.

The inscription reads :

✠ S' HAMON' FIL' GER'

and surrounds an 8-foil. There are no incised circles on each side of the inscription. The matrix is much worn, probably by water action, so that the inscription is faint.<sup>1</sup> The main point of interest is that the "N" in "HAMON" is reversed. Such reversal is a noticeable feature on the silver pennies of both Edward I and III. The "H" and "A" are the only letters which retain their Lombardic flavour.

The inscription may be transcribed as "Seal of Hamo, son of Gerald (or FitzGerald)."

#### (7) KENT IN GENERAL

The late Mr. H. W. Taffs' cabinet of Kent seventeenth-century tokens has recently been presented to Maidstone Museum by his family.<sup>2</sup> This collection, added to the Museum's own one, which has been built up for a century, makes most of the tokens listed in William-son's *Boyne* available to students.

#### (8) OTFORD

In May, 1957, our member, Mr. A. D. Stoyel, told me of the finding of a leaden seal matrix at "Kursella," Sevenoaks Road, Otford, whilst the occupier, Mr. C. M. Lawrence, was digging his front garden.<sup>3</sup> Through Mr. Stoyel's interest the matrix has now been given by the finder to Maidstone Museum,<sup>4</sup> and I am further indebted to the former for the drawing which accompanies this note (Fig. 2).

The matrix is in excellent condition and both the inscription—  
"✠ S' : IORDANI : TANAT :"—and the 8-foil which it surrounds are still sharp-edged. Between the petals of the 8-foil are single, incised diamonds. The Roman "N" is used in "IORDANI"; the Lombardic in "TANAT." Both types of "N" were being used together on the English coinage until well into the fifteenth century. However, there is good reason to believe that leaden matrices, such as those I have described in my notes, were mainly produced in the fourteenth century.

I have recently come across confirmation of this dating on a deed in which Geoffrey (Galfridus) Porter sells land in Tonbridge (Thonebregg)

<sup>1</sup> The finder says "it is quite possible that the seal was water worn as I found it after a strong wind and tide had washed the beach down to the blue clay and the seal was just bedded in the clay about 5 to 10 yds. from the cliff bottom."

<sup>2</sup> Accession No. 17.1957.

<sup>3</sup> National Grid Reference 527589.

<sup>4</sup> Accession No. 49.1957.

to John, son of Robert of Hadlow. Geoffrey attests with a green wax seal which bears the inscription "S GALFRIDI PORTIR" around a rough 8-foil. This seal bears all the signs of having been made by a lead matrix. The date of the deed is 14 Edward II (=1321).<sup>1</sup>

The legend of the Otford matrix may be transcribed as "the seal of Jordan the Tanner." I have given the word "Tanat" careful thought, and I believe that it is more likely to be an abbreviation for "Tannator" than to be one of the variants of "Thanet."

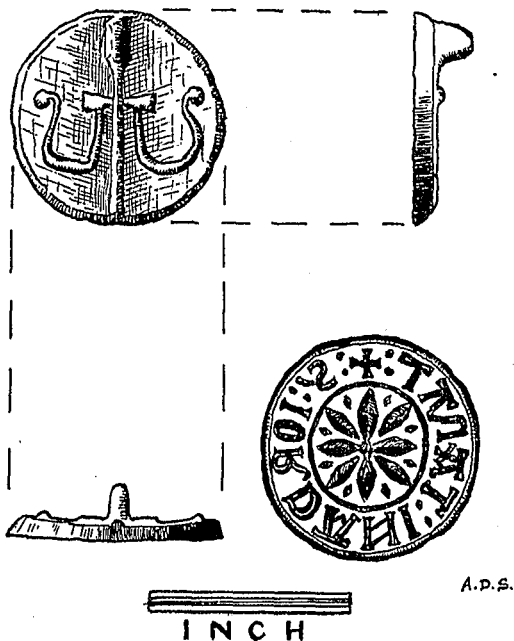


Fig. 2. Seal Matrix from Otford.

(9) SUTTON VALENCE

Excavation at Sutton Valence Castle has continued during the summers of 1956 and 1957. The work has been done by scholars of Sutton Valence School under the direction of Mr. Graeme Horner, with co-operation from Mr. S. E. Rigold and Maidstone Museum. During the whole period of excavations Mr. J. B. Simpson, History Master at the school, has acted as supervisor.

The account of the Castle by Mr. Sands in *Archæologia Cantiana* XXV served to show the many gaps in our knowledge of a building

<sup>1</sup> Maidstone Museum, Oliver Collection, No. 1.

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which consists simply of a so-called "keep," 36 ft. square externally (24 ft. internally), approached on the north side from a small fore-building. The present excavations were started to remedy this lack of information and Mr. Horner has written a short and lucid account of them (with plans and sections), copies of which he has deposited at Sutton Valence School and Maidstone Museum.

His general conclusions are well worth noting here. The pottery found ranged from the second half of the twelfth century to late thirteenth century. This, in conjunction with the stratification, suggested the following sequence of building. The construction of the "keep" took place in the period from the middle to late twelfth century. Shortly after a fore-building was added. At the turn of the century a small fire caused the collapse of the internal partition wall and a new floor had to be laid over it. At about this time the early fore-building was levelled and a new staircase replaced it. Later this latter was encased by walls which were probably not completed. The castle was abandoned at the end of the thirteenth century. There is no evidence as yet to suggest that it had a violent end.

L. R. A. GROVE.

### ST. PAUL'S CRAY

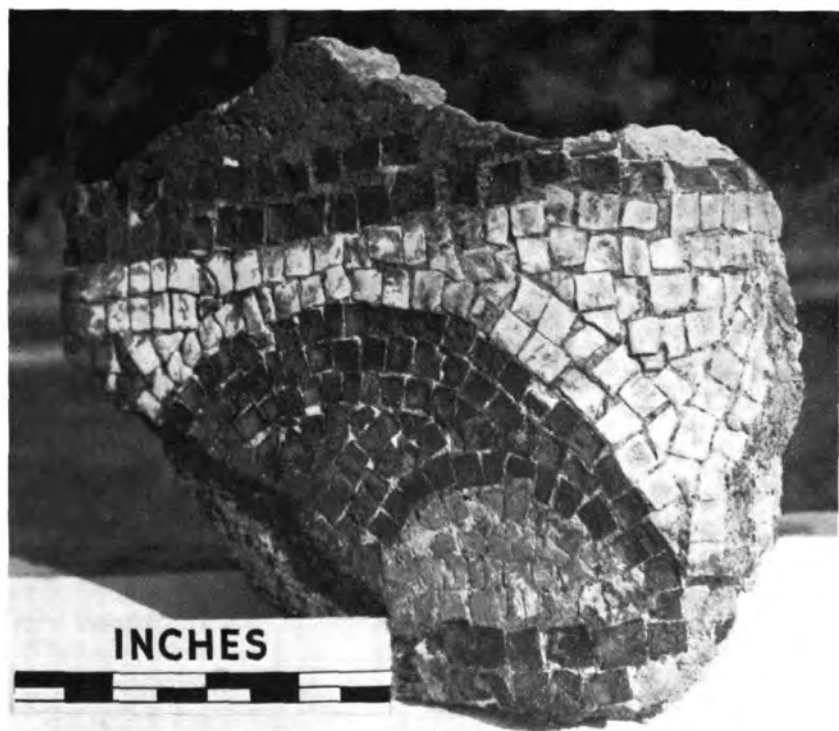
The material recovered by the Cray Antiquarian Society in 1956, during the course of an emergency excavation at St. Paul's Cray, for the Kent River Board, is now in the Museum.

### EAST MALLING

A limited excavation at the site of the Roman Villa, on ground belonging to the East Malling Research Station, was undertaken in 1955 by members of the Museum staff and Station personnel. The area examined was outside the villa walls: at the present time no further excavation is possible, to explore the interior. Excavation notes and the pottery and small finds have been deposited in the Museum.

Outstanding among the finds was a fragment of mosaic (Plate I) which was discovered in the debris and spill of roof-tiles associated with the destruction of the building. It is not possible yet to state the time of the destruction with certainty, but a fourth century date can be provisionally accepted. The mosaic, about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. by 7 in. in size, has decoration in white, brown and yellow. The yellow tesserae are of limestone, the others are of a clay paste. They are set in a pink mortar, which (together with some of the tesserae) shows signs of having been burnt, presumably at the time of the destruction.

There is a pronounced curve at one end of the piece, which seems to have been set deliberately at the junction of two motives. It could



[*Photograph by Ivor Morgan*

Wall Mosaic Fragment from East Malling.

hardly have been caused accidentally as the result of damage by fire : the tesserae there are in good condition, and retain their original position. The curve suggests that the mosaic was a wall decoration ; its natural position would seem to be a vertical one, on a wall, at a corner. It is not convincing as a step on a horizontal plane. The size of the tesserae, too, is comparable with that of tesserae on other recognized wall mosaics.

Wall mosaics which show signs of decoration are comparatively rare in this country : a guilloche motif occurs at Wroxeter. The pelta motif of East Malling seems to be repeated as if on a continuous frieze. It occurs elsewhere in Britain on pavements which are almost certainly attributable to the fourth century, although it is also found on earlier work. The East Malling fragment is of such indefinite quality that it could belong to any period.

The writer is indebted to Dr. David Smith of the University of Durham for his help on the subject, and for references to other wall mosaics known in Britain. These mosaics have been found *in situ* at Wroxeter and Silchester, and in villas at Greetwell Fields, near Lincoln ; Castor, Northants. ; and Wingham, Kent. Glass tesserae which may indicate wall mosaics have been found at Keynsham, Somerset ; Southwick in Sussex and Capel St. Mary, Suffolk.

#### HAM HILL, SNODLAND

Early in 1956, at the Ham Hill quarry, Snodland,<sup>1</sup> which belongs to the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, a number of Roman vessels associated with a cremation burial was recovered from a point near the present ground surface, at the top of the quarry face. The pottery was at first retained by the firm, but was transferred to Maidstone Museum in November, 1956.

The group consisted of an olla, containing the cremation, one flagon and the base of another, and two Samian dishes. The deposit seems to belong to the middle of the second century.

#### *The Coarse Ware*

(1) Cavetto-rimmed olla, with cordoned shoulder (Fig. 3) ; a pinkish-orange ware. It is similar to an olla discovered in a second-century cremation group at Ryarsh in 1934.

(2) Flagon, with a plain saucer-mouth, and single strip handle : a brittle pink fabric, with traces of white colour coating (cf. *Ospringe* 232, Antonine).

(3) The lower portion of a globular flagon of a hard fine fabric : a pink ware, with traces of colour-coating (cf. *Richborough* IV, 369, A.D. 130-150).

<sup>1</sup> National Grid Reference TQ51/697606.



*The Samian*

(4) Form 31 (cf. *Oswald and Price*, Plate XLVI, No. 14. Rheinzaubern : Antonine).

(5) Form 31 ; with quarter-round moulding : incomplete (cf. *Oswald and Price*, Plate XLIII, No. 43 : Antonine ; from Corbridge). It is stamped VXOPILLVS (Lezoux). A similar dish occurs at Rough Castle, stamped by DOVECCVS, also of Lezoux. The piece

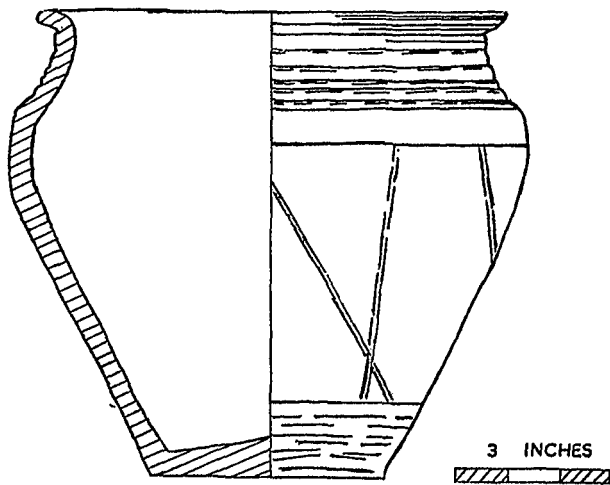


FIG. 3. Ham Hill, Snodland.

also corresponds to one found on the Upchurch Marshes (*Arch. Cant.*, 1951, pp. 168-9) which Dr. Felix Oswald classed as a form 15/31 dated between A.D. 130 and 140.

## RECVLVER

In July, 1957, Mr. A. W. Jan gave to the Museum a number of objects which he had recovered from the beach at Reculver. From a grave group there is a shale bracelet ; isolated finds include fragments of bone and bronze pins, bronze rings, bracelets and brooches, and various bronze mounts studded for attachment to leather. The collection also included a number of Roman coins. Various items, chiefly pottery, which have been recovered by others in the same area are still in private possession.

## FAVERSHAM

A small silver disk from a grave in the King's Field, Faversham, has been given to the Museum by Dr. Gordon Ward.<sup>1</sup> It was originally in the collection of Charles Martin of Bessels Green.

<sup>1</sup> Museum Accession No. : 32.1957.

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The disk, which is an inch in diameter, has a central boss, and is decorated with intersecting lines of perforations. It has been described as a miniature shield. It may have been an ornamented fitting for the head of an umbo.

A similar, but smaller, disk is among the items in the Tomlinson Collection from Bifrons (K.A.S., 1954).

ELIZABETH PIRIE.

### AN ANGLO-SAXON RING FROM SARRE, KENT

The British Museum has recently acquired a silver finger-ring of the pagan Anglo-Saxon period from Sarre Mill, Kent.<sup>1</sup> The ring (Fig. 4)

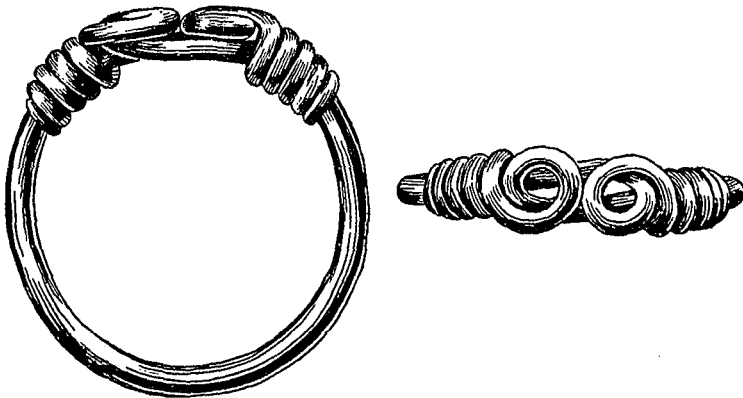


FIG. 4. Ring from Sarre Mill.

was found in 1860 during excavations for a new boiler and engine house at the mill which revealed the well-known brooch, necklace and bronze bowl.<sup>2</sup> The ring, which was acquired from a nephew of the then owner of the mill, was probably found in one of the graves mentioned by Roach Smith,<sup>3</sup> which were discovered before the formal excavation of the site by Brent.

The ring is of plain silver wire with a double-looped, twisted bezel and is 2·2 cm. in diameter. The wire which forms the loop of the ring is of fairly uniform cross-section (·2 cm.); a slight tapering is, however, noticeable towards and in the twisted bezel. The ring is of a form common in the pagan Anglo-Saxon period; a similar, although not so

<sup>1</sup> Reg. No. 1956, 10-9, 1.

<sup>2</sup> Brent, J. Account of the Society's researches in the Saxon Cemetery at Sarre, *Arch. Cant.*, V, 305.

<sup>3</sup> *Collectanea Antiqua*, VI. London, 1868, p. 146.

elaborate, ring was found near Tickford Abbey, Bucks.,<sup>1</sup> and others with a single spiral bezel at Faversham,<sup>2</sup> and at Sarre itself.<sup>3</sup>

With the ring the Museum has acquired a photograph of the excavations in progress at Sarre Mill in 1860.

DAVID M. WILSON.

#### THE BEXLEY HEATH BRONZE AGE HOARD

A Late Bronze Age founder's hoard figured and described in *Antiquaries Journal*, XI (Plate XXVI), and also listed in the British Museum publication *Later Prehistoric Antiquities of the British Isles* (p. 44), is described in both instances as coming from Bexley Heath. No information as to the exact provenance is recorded at the B.M. or elsewhere, but I have recently been able to establish the find-spot with certainty. A workman of my acquaintance was actually concerned in the discovery, and he affirms that the sandpit where the hoard came to light in 1930 was on the west side of Dartford Heath, National Grid Reference 513737. The pit is described in *Antiquaries Journal* merely as "a sandpit belonging to Mrs. Buckley at Bexley Heath, near the arterial road." The Dartford Heath pit fits the last part of this description, and it is well remembered by many local inhabitants that Mr. T. C. Buckley owned this working which on his death passed to his widow.

The boundary between Bexley and Dartford runs very close to this point, and it is probable that the find was in fact made just inside the Dartford area. Buckley lived at Bexley Heath and the mistake in describing the provenance of the hoard may have arisen through this fact, with the possible confusion of the similar names of Bexley Heath and Dartford Heath.

A point of particular significance is that Buckley's pit was an extension of the working where two hoards of Late Bronze Age gold penannular rings were found in 1906 and 1907, as recorded in *V.C.H., Kent*, I, 338.

The main part of the 1930 hoard went to the B.M. soon after the discovery, but Mr. J. W. Brailsford, Assistant Keeper of the Sub-Department of Prehistoric and Roman Britain, informs me that a further seven axes, a fragment of the same and a piece of bronze cake have recently been purchased from a dealer who described them as coming from the same site as the objects from "Bexley Heath" described in *Antiquaries Journal*, XI.

<sup>1</sup> *Antiquaries Journal*, V, 1926, p. 289.

<sup>2</sup> British Museum, *Guide to Anglo-Saxon Antiquities*, London, 1923, p. 45, Fig. 45.

<sup>3</sup> Brent, *op. cit.*, Pl. II, 4.

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Mr. Brailsford also remarks that the hoard of thirteen objects listed in the B.M. publication mentioned above as coming from Dartford is not connected with the Dartford Heath finds, as it is recorded that they were found in Dartford in January, 1935, by labourers engaged in road work for building new houses near the modern Watling Street.

P. J. TESTER.

### NEW DISCOVERIES IN THE JOYDEN'S WOOD SQUARE EARTHWORK, NEAR DARTFORD

In view of the impending destruction of this earthwork,<sup>1</sup> which has been described by Mr. A. H. A. Hogg in *Arch. Cant.*, LIV (1941), an emergency excavation was carried out during 1957 by the writers, assisted by a small number of friends, on the chance of discovering features undetected by previous investigators. The main result of the work has been the uncovering of the flint and chalk footings of a medieval hall, 62 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, with remains of a central hearth composed of thin tiles set on edge, and traces of partition walls across one end. The building is within the enclosure marked NPQR on Hogg's plan and lies roughly N.E. and S.W. across the line of the transverse ditch. Pottery found on the original floor-level suggests that the hall was in use in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, and the absence of fallen debris implies that the structure was mainly of timber. Great quantities of broken tiles, evidently from the roof, are littered over the site about a foot from the present surface.

On either side of the hall we have also brought to light two smaller structures, one being related to the two disarticulated wall fragments marked on Hogg's plan. It now appears that the small building discovered over thirty years ago by Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood,<sup>2</sup> and also that found by Mr. H. M. Colvin in 1939,<sup>3</sup> formed part of the same group of outbuildings clustering around the recently found hall.

Mr. S. E. Rigold of the Ministry of Works Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments has made several visits to the site during the excavation, and about sixty members of our Society inspected the exposed footings during the N.W. Kent excursion on 29th June, 1957. It is intended to publish a detailed report in due course.

P. J. TESTER.

J. E. L. CAIGER.

### ENCLOSURES, HAYES COMMON

The groups of earthworks, enclosures and pit-dwellings on Hayes

<sup>1</sup> See report in *Arch. Cant.*, LXIX, xlii.

<sup>2</sup> *Journ. Brit. Arch. Ass.*, N.S. XXXIV (1928).

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXI, 133.

Common<sup>1</sup> have long been known to exist,<sup>2</sup> but they have been subjected to little archæological research.

Most of the enclosures, consisting of low earth-banks and shallow ditches, are on the common-land itself, but certain sections run across private property. Such a section<sup>3</sup> crosses the rear garden of 99 Harvest Bank, West Wickham; here a cutting was put across it to facilitate recording, by the kind permission of the owner-occupier, Mrs. A. Hewitt.<sup>4</sup>

This part of the system is certainly one of the best preserved, never apparently having been disturbed. The Common here reaches about 300 feet above mean sea level and consists geologically of pebble beds. All the soil turned contained a large proportion of these pebbles.

The cutting made revealed fairly distinct stratification, and from it the sequence of construction could be followed (Fig. 5). Through the natural (17), original top soil (16) and original turf (15) had been cut a circular hole (18) (perhaps for a post), some 12 inches in diameter. The upcast from this had been thrown to the north (to form layer 14). A larger and apparently continuous hole or trench (19) had also been dug, probably at the same time as the post-hole. The filling of both these holes was later covered by a bed of turf (12), perhaps natural, which appears to have formed the footings of the bank proper. Turf-blocks (layers 6 and 7), pebbles-and-earth (4, 8, 10, 11 and 13) and sandy layers (5 and 9) then went to complete the bank. The large ditch (3) on the northern side was likely to have been dug in conjunction with the building of the bank; its upcast probably being used as material for the latter. A covering of leaf-mould (1) tends to have a levelling effect. The cutting (2) in the large ditch was dug for domestic purposes in modern times.

The apparent sequence of construction suggests that prior to the building of the bank itself there existed a delimitation in the form of a fence, one of the post-holes of which was found, with perhaps a shallow ditch on the outside. No packing-stones were found in the supposed post-hole, and more extensive excavations are necessary to confirm this suggestion. The bank and ditch appear to have formed the second stage of construction; this time the ditch being to the north, or inside. Some short time may have elapsed before the second stage was commenced, as the earlier holes appear to have silted naturally.

<sup>1</sup> Ref. Nat. Grid TQ (51) 6541.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, XII, p. 258. G. Clinch, *Antiquarian Jottings* (1889), p. 122. First noted by Flinders Petrie, cf. *Arch. Cant.*, XIII (1880), 12. Surveyed *Arch. Cant.*, LIV (1941), 28. Summarized *V.C.H. Kent*, Vol. I.

<sup>3</sup> O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet XV S.E. 652401.

<sup>4</sup> The work was carried out on the 27th and 28th April, 1957, by Mr. Brian Kewell and the writer. Mr. Kewell was also responsible for the meticulous execution of Fig. 5.

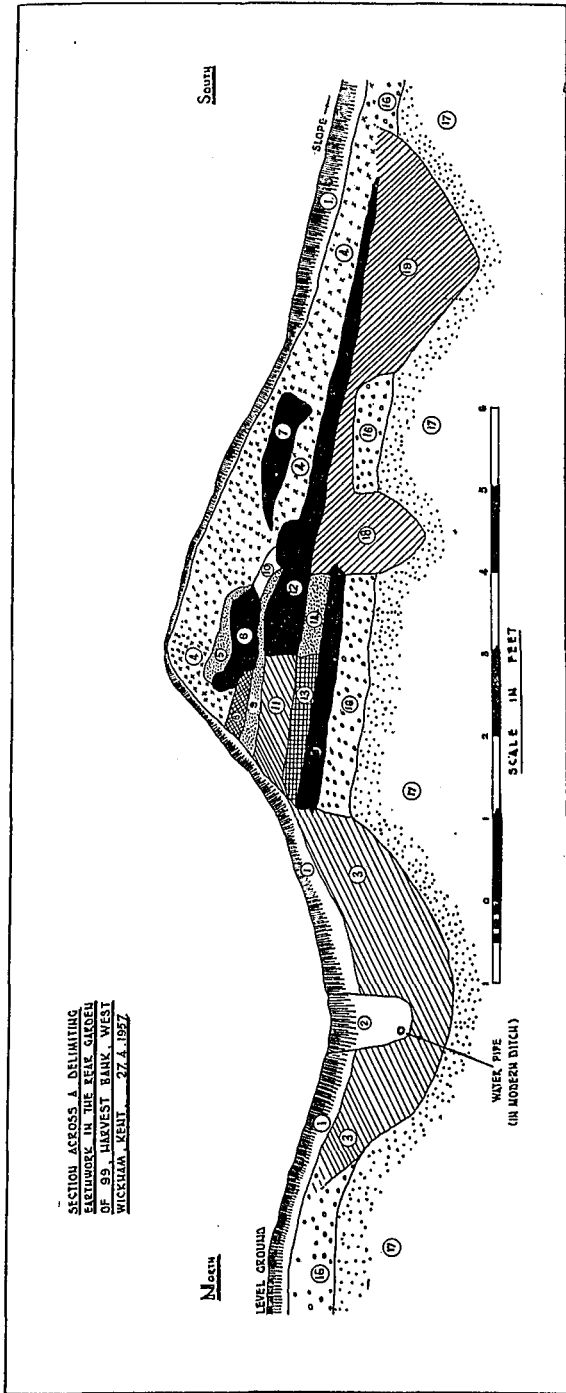


Fig. 5. Earthwork, Hayes Common.

The over-all length of the second stage was about 13 feet, and the vertical depth of the combined obstruction would have been much higher than the 42 inches of today, allowing for many years of denudation. The bank may well have been surmounted by a small thicket fence or even brushwood palisade.

The only finds from the site were pebbles ; of these, 79 could be identified as " pot-boilers," most showing the characteristic cracking, chipping and reddening through contact with quite severe heat. Numerous other pebbles and flints were recovered, but these must be classified as doubtful.

The majority of the recognizable finds came from the large ditch but at least a third came from the lower part of the bank, although none were noticed in the two earlier holes (18 and 19).

Pot-boilers of identical nature have been recovered from rabbit-scrapes and from the surface of an adjacent group of pit-dwellings about 250 yards from the point examined.

There can be little doubt from the shape and size of the banks and ditches that their purpose was not military defence but that they served merely as " enclosures " for animals, serving the dual use of keeping domestic animals in and wilder ones without. These comparatively slight earthworks, taken collectively, form a number of well-defined rectangles generally segregated from the various groups of pit-dwellings. Very similar banks and ditches, but enclosing larger areas, have been identified in Wiltshire<sup>1</sup> and are dated to the Late Bronze Age. The Salisbury Plain examples are known as " ranch boundaries " <sup>2</sup> a term that is equally applicable to the Hayes system.

The finding of similar artifacts in the pit-dwellings and in the ditch and bank infers an approximately contemporary date for their construction and use. By analogy the ranch boundaries should be of Late Bronze Age date ; hence, likewise the dwellings. Indeed, this dating proves pleasantly consistent with a previous intimation.<sup>3</sup> The close proximity of a small group of supposed Bronze Age bell-barrows further strengthens this dating.

B. J. PHILP.

#### TOOTSWOOD, BEOKENHAM

Objects of alleged Roman date were reported<sup>4</sup> to have been found in a group of shallow and roughly circular depressions in a locality known as Tootswood, in 1884.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Quarley Hill district. Cf. O. G. S. Crawford, *Archæology in the Field*, 1953, unpublished 6-in. edition of the area.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 107. The ranch-boundary hypothesis having found apparent acceptance.

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXVI (1953), 162, where a date in the Bronze Age is suggested.

<sup>4</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, XII, 347, also noted in *V.O.H. Kent*, III, 146.

<sup>5</sup> Ref. Nat. Grid TQ (51) 881394.

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The name "Toot" is used in Somerset to denote a burial mound,<sup>1</sup> and indeed some editions of the 25-inch O.S. show a nearby mound as being just that. However, the Survey's interpretation of the depressions as "Deneholes" appears to be without foundation.

In conjunction with Mr. Brian Kewell, the writer dug a number of trial trenches in this vicinity in an attempt to substantiate the earlier claims. The depressions, four in number, are now in the gardens of Nos. 41 and 43 South Hill Road, and it was by kind permission of the owners, Mr. I. Dimmock and Miss C. Jay respectively, that the digging was undertaken. However, selective trenching in certain parts of the heavy woodland and also in the most northerly of the "ponds" produced no finds whatsoever.

Mention<sup>2</sup> of slight footings under the present Tootswood Road may indicate an occupation site connected with these earthworks.

B. J. PHILP.

### BIRCHINGTON

Miss A. Powell Cotton, of Quex Park, continuing her investigations on the eroded foreshore at Minnis Bay, has found Late Bronze Age pottery, remains of leather objects and a red deer antler axe mount in pits which may form part of the habitation complex investigated by F. H. Worsfold 1938-40 (*P.P.S.* (1943), IX, 28-48).

In other pits she has found EIA/RB first-century pottery (grooved ware, etc.), portions of leather sandals, wooden and bone objects and a small La Tène III brooch. And on the eroded edge of the cliff, in spreads of oystershell, RB late first century, early second century pottery.

### PENSHURST

Second-century Romano-British cremation burial in coarse ware olla was found in the grounds of Culver House, Penshurst, and presented to Maidstone Museum by Mr. Bamber.

### ROLVENDEN

Two second-century Romano-British cremation burial deposits in oak boxes were found in excavations for foundations of a bungalow at the corner of Puddingcake Lane, Rolvenden High Street.

M. BLUMSTEIN.

### ORPINGTON AREA REPORT, 1956

The house known as Barkhart, Orpington, has now been demolished, after having been used as local council offices for some years. The

<sup>1</sup> Grinsell, *Ancient Burial Mounds in England*, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup> G. Clinch, *Antiquarian Jottings*, 1889.



house—at which, according to Hasted, Queen Elizabeth was entertained in 1573—contained a small amount of Elizabethan, and a great deal of later, work. The building was in a lamentable state and infested with dry rot.

This demolition was carried out in order to make way for a considerable addition to All Saints' Parish Church, which Barkhart adjoined remarkably closely, the south wall of the Church being only a few feet from the north wall of the house.

Restoration work, which has been in progress since 1949, continues at Chelsfield Church. This year the tracery of the more westerly of the windows in the south of the chancel has been renewed, the design of the original perpendicular tracery being followed.

Upon investigation, the story of the "Rufferth Chantry" at Crofton in Orpington, related by Hasted and repeated by almost every historian of Orpington since that time, proves to be unfounded in fact. He mentions that "there was a free chapel at this place [Crofton] called Rufferth chantry, suppressed by the Act of the 1st of Edward VI, which was distant two miles from the parish church; when, upon a survey taken, it appeared that there was a flood between them, whereby the people of Crofton were prevented from going thither; and that there were two chantries in this chapel." Orpington Church, however, stands between Crofton and the source of the Cray, the only considerable stream in the area; and reference to the Augmentation Office document quoted by Hasted, now in the P.R.O., reveals that the entry concerns not Crofton in Kent but Croston in Lancashire. The explanation of Hasted's error would appear to lie in the fact that the abbreviation for Lancashire ("Lanc'") heading the entry is easily confused with the abbreviation for Kent ("Kanc'") in the script of the period.

G. D. COPUS.

THE GRAVESEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY reports as follows :

#### GRAVESEND

The tombstones at St. George's Church have been taken down and moved to one side of the churchyard. A complete copy of the names on the stones, based on a list made by T. C. Colyer Fergusson some years ago, and a plan have been placed in the Gravesend Public Library.

Three skeletons were found some fifty yards from the River Thames, which was thought to have been the site of the Gravesend gibbet. Experts were unable to date the bones precisely; but the finding of these bones, and others found in chains in 1910, all lend evidence to the existence of the gibbet at this spot (Map. reference 643744).

A.J.E.

## SPRINGHEAD

Since the work on Site A was completed (reported in the present issue) Site B has been finished and work on Site C is in progress. On Site B, the principal structural finds were the Watling Street with a branch road, a shop and a square podium on which probably stood a free-standing column with a Corinthian capital. On Site C is a well-preserved temple, with a square cella, ambulatory with entrances on the east and west sides, all floors being tessellated. Dating evidence is so far sparse but indicates usage *c.* A.D. 140-160, A.D. 190-220, and early fourth century. The most important "small" find was the altar which unfortunately lacked inscriptions. A new building has been discovered to the south of this temple with a "grand staircase" and the tiled square plinths of several columns. Evidence is far from complete, but the "basilica" type building, which may be fourth century, is clearly of great importance, and work is to be continued.

A museum in Milton Chantry, Gravesend, consisting largely of material excavated from the Roman site at Springhead, has been open to the public for the first time this year on one evening a week during the summer months, and at other times by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary.

W.S.P.

## ORPINGTON HISTORICAL RECORDS SOCIETY REPORT, 1956

We have explored six archaeological sites during this year, and full and comprehensive records have been kept of them. A brief account follows :

1. *Barkhart.* (N.G.R. 4665 : 6640.) Members of the Group, under the leadership of Messrs. Parsons and Stoyel, have investigated the site of the Barkhart residence, which was demolished this year to make room for an extension to the Orpington Parish Church of All Saints. During our exploration it was confirmed that the original foundation of the building dated to the first half of the sixteenth century, but there had been some sporadic occupation of the site from 1250 onwards. A full report will be made of the archaeological investigation of a residence which was occupied to within the last decade to confirm its literary history.

Two discoveries of human remains were made during the course of the contractors' activities here ; the first was the remains of a shallow grave in the forecourt, the bone fragments from which were submitted to Dr. Keith Randall for examination. He reported that the bones were human, probably male, of an individual about six feet in height, and that the burial was several hundred years old. News of the second discovery was communicated to our President, Mr. E. C. H. Jones, by the contractors engaged in demolishing the foundations of the house. It consisted of seven or more dismembered skeletons found in a shaft,

and it is suggested that they were the remains of victims of the plague which visited Orpington in 1583.

2. *Bedens Field.* (N.G.R. 4795 : 7118.) Members of the Society, in conjunction with the Cray Antiquarian Association, further investigated the Roman kitchen hut adjoining the Bath building already reported (*Arch. Cant.*, LXX, 263). That portion of the hut flooring excavated consisted of two superimposed chalk-block floors with a layer of occupational debris (c. A.D. 80) between them. Under the lower chalk floor were found pieces of a bead-rim pot of mid-first century date.

Nearby a large ditched enclosure some 250 ft. square was observed during the contractors' trenching for the council estate now being built. Sections taken across the Roman ditch at intervals showed a general width of 9 feet and a depth of 3 feet into undisturbed soil. Quantities of stratified pottery were recovered, giving a first-century date for the initial silting and a second-century date for the final filling.

3. *Orpington.* (N.G.R. 4540 : 6583.) During the third year's excavation of the Roman villa, adjoining Orpington Station, three 50-ft. long sections were taken through the site. Chalk-based flint foundations walls were encountered, together with unbonded flint cross-walls inserted at a later date. The original floors of tile-impregnated mortar were present in most rooms, but at a later period tessellated flooring had been laid over certain of them and, in one case, evidence of tesserae floors one above the other was encountered. Among the objects found was a coin of Tetricus (A.D. 270-274) from beneath the tiled-roof collapse, resting upon the mortar flooring. Dr. J. P. C. Kent, of the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, who kindly identified it, suggested that such coins were in circulation at least until A.D. 330. Further finds included late fourth century pie-dishes, a portion of a glass beaker, and wall-plaster in red, yellow, lilac, brown and blue. A full photographic record of the excavation is being maintained by Mr. A. C. Hart, while detailed plans and drawings of stratifications are being undertaken by the Director of Excavation, Mr. John Parsons.

4. *Oregon Square.* (N.G.R. 4480 : 6595.) Mr. F. Geary reported finding pottery sherds in his garden, which on examination appear to be debris from a Roman occupational site yet to be identified.

5. *Ramsden.* (N.G.R. 471 : 663.) Some fifteen members of the Society, under the leadership of Mr. Parsons, took an active part in the emergency excavation of the Iron Age village at Ramsden, which was directed by Miss Blumstein of Maidstone Museum.

6. *Reynolds Cross.* (N.G.R. 471 : 674.) Pottery from a possible Belgic cremation burial and also some fourth-century "scatter" was found during trenching operations in the area. The site was reported by Mr. G. Rushe.

A. J. J. PARSONS.