

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

JOHN BOWRA : LAND SURVEYOR AND CARTOGRAPHER.

JOHN BOWRA, an eighteenth century Land Surveyor and mapper of many estates in West Kent, was born at Groombridge in 1713. He was the son of John Bowra, of Groombridge (b. Sevenoaks, 1683 ; d. Groombridge, 1738) and the grandson of Thomas Bowra, Chirurgion, of Sevenoaks, who was buried in Sevenoaks churchyard in 1690. In 1738, a few months after his father's death, John Bowra, jun., married Martha Cruttenden, of Maidstone. They had two sons, one of whom died in infancy, the other, b. 1746 later became the Rev. William Bowra, M.A., Vicar of Clavering, Essex, a man of some distinction, to whom there is a memorial in Clavering Church. He was Scholar and Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and Ninth Wrangler in 1767. The father, John Bowra, sen., was churchwarden for the peculiars, Withyham, Sussex, in 1735. A connection with the Camfields of Groombridge Place was established in 1793 when Edward Bowra (b. 1752 and therefore possibly as a second marriage, though no record of another marriage has been found) a cousin of John Bowra, jun., married Ann Camfield of Groombridge Place.

In view of this atmosphere of respectability, the smuggling story told by Dr. Gordon Ward in his article "John Bowra" in *Sevenoaks Essays* reads strangely in these days, even if the story of the expedition to the coast of twenty-nine men on horses, with long guns, gives a touch of Dumas-like romance to what might otherwise be commonplace. If we may believe the assertions of the informer (*v. The Smugglers*, Teignmouth and Harper, pp. 42-5, Vol. I) in whose statement however there is more than a suspicion of spite, both father and son were implicated in the affair. But there is no evidence that either of them was brought to trial, or indeed that any more was heard of the matter ; and so far as the younger man was concerned at any rate we may conclude that a lesson was learned from this youthful indiscretion

and his activities thenceforth confined to the peaceful pursuit of his profession. Smuggling in those days was in any case regarded as almost a legitimate proceeding and the smuggler as the friend of the people. It was only when the smugglers degenerated into brigands and ruffians, as in the case of the Hawkhurst gang, that public feeling was roused sufficiently to demand their extirpation.

The burial of John Bowra, jun., is recorded in the Speldhurst church registers under date of 14 May, 1780 : "John Bowra, at Groombridge Chapel yard, Land Surveyor."

The maps of John Bowra which have come to the notice of the writer of this note (who is his collateral descendant) and some of which are in his possession are :

1738 A Survey of Tunbridge Wells and Adjg Places of Note within a mile and a half of the Chappel.

The survey, which is dedicated to the Right Honourable William Lord Abergavenny, is preserved at the British Museum. It is a fine piece of work, beautifully drawn and coloured, which shows apparently Lord Abergavenny's property at that time in the immediate vicinity of Tunbridge Wells. This map is referred to in Miss Margaret Barton's book on Tunbridge Wells.

1739 An Exact Survey of the River Medway ; From Maidstone up to Penshurst in the County of Kent, and also of the stream falling thereinto from Forest-row in the County of Sussex.

This survey, which gives a list of the Medway bridges (with some omissions apparently) is also in the British Museum.

1743 A Map of Selby's and Saxby's Farms lying in the Parish of Tonbridge in the County of Kent. Belonging to the Revnd Mr John Head.

Names of adjoining land-owners are given as Mr. Richard Children and Mr. Roger Wheatley.

1749 A Map of Land being in the Parish of Seven Oaks in the County of Kent belonging to Mrs. Mary Madox.

The lands surrounding this property are marked as owned by Sir Thomas Farnaby, Mr. Thomas Streatfeild and Mr. Lake, with the rest as Glebe Land.

1752 Land belonging to Yalding School in Kent.

This seems to consist of a number of separate fields, dotted about among other properties. The names of adjoining landowners which appear in the map are Lord Westmorland, Lady Shaw, John Moseley, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Ling, Mr. West, Farman, Simmonds, Woodmar, Latter, Snat, Wm. Walter, Plumber, Esq., James Starns, Mr. Savage and Mr. Hatcher.

1764 A Map of Brick House Farm, Frensbury.

This map is mentioned by Dr. Gordon Ward in *Sevenoaks Essays*, References, 136.

1765 A Map of Merrymans Farm Lying in the Parishes of Ightham and Wrootham in the County of Kent Belonging to John Children Esqf.

This property is bounded by Ightham Common on one side and by land owned by Wm. Dallison, Esq., and Widow Baldwin on the other. The map shows the site of the Pump House and traces the course of a conduit which runs from it across the farm.

1771 A Map of Perryhill Farm, Hartfield, Sussex.

1774 A Map or Survey of the Parks of Buckhurst and Stoneland, parts of the Barony of Buckhurst in the County of Sussex, Drawne according to a Survey booke of both made by Thomas Marsh Gentleman Auditor and Surveyor of Lands and Estate of Lord Thomas Baron of Buckhurst in the nine and thirtieth and fortyeth year of Queen Elizabeth 1598.

The map, which is signed John Bowra, 1774, is evidently based on Thomas Marsh's survey.

1780 A Map of Sevenoaks Park.

Mentioned in *Sevenoaks Essays*, p. 233.

I have also in my possession a copper-plate or die, used by John Bowra for printing his trade-card. This is headed :

Estates accurately survey'd and MAPS neatly
drawn by John Bowra at Tonbridge in Kent.

Below the heading is shown a small specimen map of

A Farm in the Parish of Chiddingston in Kent,
(name of farm not given).

It is probable that the above surveys are only a few of those executed by John Bowra in his working life of more than forty years, and that many other maps lie buried in lawyers' and estate offices in various parts of Kent and Sussex.

CECIL A. V. BOWRA.

A GOLD NOBLE AT NEW ROMNEY.

THE local secretary for Romney Marsh (Major M. Teichman Derville) reports the finding on May 29th, 1940, at Hope Cottages, New Romney, of a gold noble of Edward III, struck between 1369 and 1377.

It was dug up a foot or two below the surface in a garden, but probably came from New Romney town itself, as the place where it was found used to be one of the old rubbish dumps of the Borough.

It may be described as follows :

Obv. King crowned standing in ship holding sword and shield. Legend EDWARD DEI GRA REX ANGL. DVS. HYB. & AQVT (i.e. King of England, Lord of Ireland and Aquitaine).

Rev. Within a tressure of 8 arches with a lis in each spandril, a floriated cross with lis at end of each arm, lion passant, guardant in each quarter and E (for Edward) in centre of cross.

Legend IHS AUTEM TRANSIENS PER MEDIV [M] ILLORUM IBAT (But Jesus passing through the midst of them went his way ; Luke iv. 30).

The ship is believed to have been chosen as the type of the noble in commemoration of the naval victory at Sluys



GOLD NOBLE FROM NEW ROMNEY.

in 1340. No satisfactory explanation has been given of the name "noble"—it may be simply the noble metal—nor of the choice of the scriptural legend on the reverse.

The coin, as may be seen from the photograph, was in a remarkably fine state of preservation, and the finder, Mr. F. Piper, Town Sergeant of New Romney, is to be congratulated on such a valuable discovery.

TILE KILN AT BOROUGH GREEN.

IN July, 1940, an excavation made for a private air-raid shelter at Borough Green, in the garden of a bungalow called Glenfield situate on the east side of the Borough Green—Wrotham road about 100 yards north of the railway station approach, disclosed two small, round-headed arches side by side about three feet below the surface.

The writer visited the site when the arches, though broken into, were still standing but conditions did not allow more than a cursory inspection. They were built entirely of tiles and bore a striking resemblance to the arches belonging to the chamber in the grounds of Town House, Ightham, described in *Arch. Cant.*, XXII, 1. The heap of material taken from the excavation included tiles, fragments of glazed brick, and blocks of ragstone and chalk.

Mr. R. F. Jessup, F.S.A., whose note follows, saw the excavation three days later, but by this time the arches had been destroyed.

The site adjoins a timbered sixteenth century farmhouse and buildings, and lies very near to the site of the Wrotham Old Pottery, though there is no reason to suggest a connection between the one and the other.

E.R.H.

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At the time of my visit, the tile-turned arches had been destroyed, and apart from a springer of one arch, the structural features had been almost obliterated by the walls of the concrete air-raid shelter. There can be little doubt that the remains were those of a tile-kiln. In one side of the excavation there appeared a fairly regular coursing of old broken tiles, many of them fused together, and ragstone,

which probably formed the outer casing of the kiln, the kiln itself being built in a pit or hollow for ease in firing and control of draught. The tile arches seem to have been the main arches of the kiln, and the stoke-hole probably still exists in the unexcavated ground close by. The oven floor had not been exposed.

The normal product of the kiln, of which there were many examples in the material removed, was a thin flat two-holed tile measuring approximately 10" x 6". Such tiles were commonly applied in facing, and particularly in weather-tiling, a method of protection which has been widely used in south-eastern England since Tudor times. It may well be that this kiln supplied material for the building of the neighbouring farmhouse.

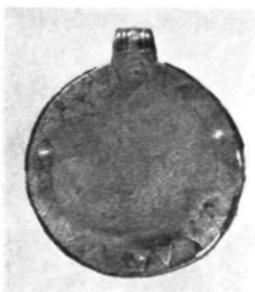
A recent visit to the kiln in the grounds of Town House, Ightham, showed that similar tiles were made there, and the so-called Roman hypocaust discovered at Hartley in 1926 (*Arch. Cant.*, XXXIX, xlix) seems after all to have been a tile kiln of much the same kind.

R.F.J.

RISELEY SAXON CEMETERY.

At a special exhibition of Anglo-Saxon antiquities from Kent, held at the British Museum in 1938, the gold ornaments from Riseley, Horton Kirby, and others from the Jutish cemetery at Howletts, near Canterbury, were shown, giving an opportunity to compare Eastern and Western Kentish styles. The ornaments, which are described as "gold pendants, amethyst beads, and a jewelled silver pendant encasing a piece of foreign polychrome glass" from Horton Kirby and "two particularly fine silver-gilt 'radiated' brooches and a disc brooch bearing embossed animal-ornament of an unusual kind" from Howletts are illustrated by photographs in the *British Museum Quarterly*, Vol. xii, No. 2 (1938). The Saxon ornaments were exhibited at the British Museum for six weeks and for four weeks following at the London University quinquennial exhibition of archæological discoveries, Regent's Park.

A. CUMBERLAND.



JEWELLED SILVER PENDANT, WITH POLYCHROME
GLASS.

Riseley, Horton Kirby.



GOLD PENDANTS.

Riseley, Horton Kirby.

Photographs and blocks by the courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum.

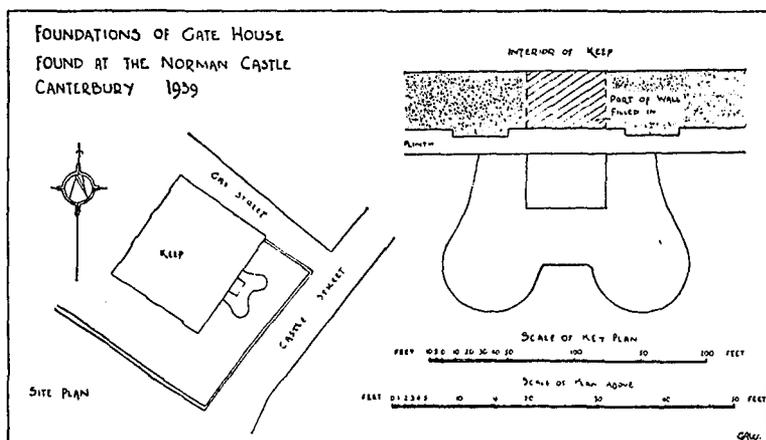


SILVER-GILT BROOCHES.
Howletts, near Canterbury.

Photographs and blocks by the courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum.

NOTES ON THE DISCOVERY OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF
A GATEHOUSE AT THE NORMAN CASTLE, CANTERBURY,
1939.

THE conversion of the Keep of the Norman Castle, at the beginning of the war, into an air raid shelter necessitated the lowering of the ground level round the outside of the Keep, to provide filling for sandbags. The existence of concrete foundations was noticed, at the time, just below the ground level, on the Castle Street side. Since then, the site has been more thoroughly investigated and these foundations



have been discovered to be symmetrical with the south-east wall of the Keep and to consist of two circular bastions joined together. The diameter of each bastion is 14 feet and the width of foundation between them, 7 feet. Against the wall of the Keep is a rectangular portion, 12 feet by 8 feet, in which there appears no trace of foundation, but this so far remains unexplored.

It is quite evident that the foundations represent the vestiges of a small gate-house giving access to the ground floor of the Keep. This is substantiated by the presence of an opening in the actual Keep wall, occurring in its very centre. This opening is shown on all early views of the Castle, but as no ornamental or dressed stonework has been

found on any part of it or observed on the prints, the conclusion had previously been reached that it was made after the Keep had fallen into ruins, in the seventeenth century, to facilitate access with a horse and cart for the purpose of removing stonework from the interior. The opening was sealed up at the end of the nineteenth century, when the Canterbury Gas and Water Company converted the Keep into a coal store. When the restoration of the Castle was carried out, by the Canterbury Corporation in 1932, a careful examination was made, and on finding no evidence of its antiquity, it was decided to retain the filling.

Both the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Mr. J. P. Bushe-Fox, and his assistant, Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, have inspected the foundations and declared that, although there are in this country a few examples of plain entrances into the ground floor of a Norman Keep, such a gate-house as this, in the Edwardian style, is unique.

The main entrance to the Keep, on to the first floor, was on the north-west or river side. The lower part of this is still clearly visible and an old print shows a portion of the wall of the fore building. Most of the early MSS. relating to the Castle have suffered destruction and none of those surviving appear to throw any light on the building, purpose, or even the existence of this gate-house.

In resorting to speculation, two known factors may jointly explain the entrance. From the late thirteenth century until the sixteenth century, the Castle was used as the County Jail and, as the most stringent search has failed to reveal any underground dungeons, the prisoners must have been housed on the ground floor. The second fact is the occasional use of the Castle as a residence, by some of the Sheriffs of Kent, who were keepers of the Castle for a long period.

It may have been the desire of one of these worthies to have separated his residence from the portion used as the prison and so make a direct entrance to the latter, on the opposite side of the Keep.

Before the development of the present conflict, the Canterbury Corporation had decided to preserve these

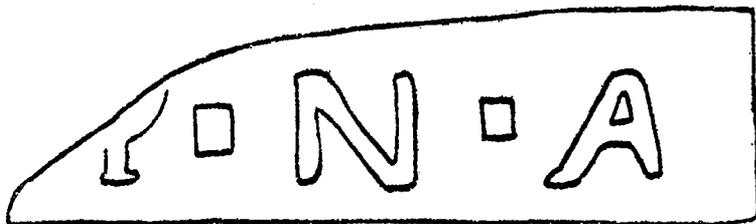
foundations and raise their level above the present turf line, for their better visibility.

In compiling these notes I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. H. M. Enderby, the City Surveyor, for allowing me to use a plan of the Castle and the foundations, and to Mrs. Gardiner's excellent booklet, *The Story of Canterbury Castle, etc.*

GRAHAM WEBSTER.

NOTES ON A ROMAN STAMPED TILE FOUND IN
CANTERBURY.

THIS tile was found by the writer in April 1940 at the Norman Castle. Some interesting medieval foundations had previously been uncovered adjacent to the wall of the Keep on



FULL SIZE.

the Castle Street side and it was upon a small mound of earth by these excavations that the tile was first seen.

It is unfortunately only part of its original size and the fracture occurs across the stamp. Its thickness ($1\frac{1}{2}$ "), shape, and texture is very similar to the many other Roman tiles which have been built into the base of the Norman Keep and the fragments of mortar still adhering suggest that this too had once been incorporated within that structure.

No other stamped tile has yet been recorded from Canterbury, indeed epigraphic material of any kind is almost non-existent. Stamped tiles from purely civil sites in this country are rare, the famous Plaxtol tile¹ being the only Kentish example. Some few have been brought to light in

¹ *P.S.A. Lond.* (2nd series), xxiii, p. 109.

London,¹ and others which seem to be of a civil character have been found on military sites such as Gloucester,² Wroxeter,³ Cirencester,⁴ and Richborough.⁵

Professor R. G. Collingwood, M.A., F.S.A., who has examined the tile, pointed to a close parallel recorded by C. Roach Smith in his *Excavations at Lympne*, p. 24, pl. VI (also in *C.I.L.*, VII, 1249) which reads P.N.I. From this Professor Collingwood suggests that the Canterbury stamp is entire, but no solution is offered for either. The tile has now found a permanent home in the Royal Museum, Canterbury.

GRAHAM WEBSTER.

TWO EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WILLS.

THE interest in these is not in their age but in the comparison between wealth in personal and family possessions and wealth in invested funds. Legacies in cash are useful, but there is still in both of the devisors' minds a reverence for things handled, handed down, worn or slept in; and to be passed on; which is almost alien to present-day thought. Both of the ladies were spinsters of independent means; and took snuff as did Elizabeth Carter.

Legacies bequeathed under the Will of Jane Curling of Ramsgate, spinster, dated 25th July, 1750.

Brother John Curling. The annual interest on my two East India Bonds for the principle sum of £50 for his life. After his death the Bonds to my heirs Jane, Ann and Elizabeth Long and Sibella ffarles.

Sister Elizabeth Long, widow. My new Callimanco⁶ petticoat that is not yet made up.

Sister Isabella ffarles, wife of John ffarles. My black quilted petticoat.

¹ *B.M. Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain*, 1922, p. 26.

² Haverfield, *The Romanization of Roman Britain*, 4th edn., 1923, p. 63.

³, ⁴ *C.I.L.*, Vol. VII.

⁵ Research Committee of the Soc. of Ant. (Lond.), 3rd Richborough Report, 1932, p. 164, pl. VII.

⁶ A woollen stuff of Flanders, woven in a special way.

Heir Jane Long. My green damask gown, my best suit of lared (? bed) Linnen, my clear Lawn apron, my best ffan, my Case of Drawers and my sconces.

Heir Ann Long. My silver Mug, my Snuff Box, my Silver Buckles, a pair of Holland-Sheets, a pair of fine pillow Coats with Seamings in them, one large Damask Sheet, and my sampler.

Heir Elizabeth Long. My Yellow Silk Gown, my striped silk petticoat, one Stone Gold Ring, and Six Silver Tea Spoons.

Heir Elizabeth ffarles. My black paduasoye¹ Gown, my brown Damask Gown, my second best suit of lared Linnen, my finest pair of Sheets, one plain Gold Ring, Six India Sprigg'd pictures, my Silver Scissors Chain, One Silver Table Spoon, and my Yellow Silk petticoat.

And I give and bequeath my ffather Bed and Bolster to such of my said ffour Heires as shall be first married.

Brother John Curling. The Using and Custody but not the absolute property or disposal of all my Household Linnen (except such as I have herein before disposed of) for his natural life, and all the residue of my Moneys, plate, linnen, etc., and also my said Household Linnen after my brother's decease to my said four Heires equally to be divided between them.

Bequests under the Will of 1780 of Mrs. Jane Wraight of Deal, spinster. This lady died in 1785 and after leaving many sums of £10 to £200 to legatees from the sale of Old South Sea Annuities, bequeathed the following possessions :—

To her Kinswoman Elizabeth Musson, spinster. My silver pint mug.

Her Kinswoman Mary Dehane, spinster. My black silk sack and best suit of lace, one pair of Ruby earrings and drops, my large silver salver, and my silver milk pot.

Her cousin Ann Minter. My small silver salver and my amethyst Earrings.

¹ A gros-grain (rogram) silk—padua silk.

Her cousins Elizabeth Cross and Mary Fenkin, widows, equally to be divided between them. My six silver Table spoons marked I^WM.

Her cousin Eleanor Stridwick. My small silver cup, my silver salts and six silver tea spoons, tongs and strainer.

Her kinsman Jacob Dehane. My silver punch ladle and large silver sauce spoon.

To Mary Collins. My silver snuff box marked R E.

To her sister Elizabeth Fenkin, spinster. My Amethyst ring set with sparks.

Her kinsman John Nokes. My two silver spoons marked I^HM and also my copper and cistern as they now stand together, with the bed I usually lie upon with the blue hangings and all the furniture thereof and six walnut tree chairs standing in my best chamber.

My wearing apparel of all sorts and kinds both silk, Linnen and woollen (except my black silk sack and best suit of lace) unto my cousins Eleanor Stridwick and Mary Fenkin, widows and my kinswoman Mary Warren Nokes, spinster, equally to be divided between them.

W.P.D.S.