

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

### A BELGIC SITE AT BEXLEY

A Belgic occupation site was discovered at Cold Blow, Bexley, during the Autumn of 1957 (Nat. Grid TQ 50637344). The area, formerly part of a large apple orchard, has recently been developed for building and now forms part of a housing estate.

The site lies on private property owned by Mr. Cullington, who dug up some pieces of pottery whilst laying out the garden of his newly-built house. The writer was informed of this discovery and sought to investigate the area by some exploratory digging. Permission to excavate was readily granted by the owner and digging was undertaken with the valued help of two friends.

The site location is most interesting in view of its proximity to both the Crayford<sup>1</sup> Early Iron Age and Stone<sup>2</sup> Belgic Cremation sites, which were discovered nearly 20 years ago. It is situated on the Boyne Hill (100 ft.) Terrace and lies about 108 ft. above O.D. The Crayford Iron Age site is one mile distant, across the valley formed by the River Cray.

An exploratory cutting was made at a spot indicated by Mr. Cullington, from whence he had previously found pottery sherds. This excavation soon revealed the position of a large V-section ditch, 9 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep, running across the garden in a N.E. direction.

The ditch was carefully cleared of its filling for an approximate distance of 20 ft. A smaller ditch, cut at an acute angle to the larger one, was encountered at a more distant position. The general layout of these two ditches showed a marked similarity to those found at Borden<sup>3</sup> early in 1943.

The larger ditch contained a primary silting of gravel from which no potsherds were recovered but overlying this silting was a darker filling of gravel and black-stained loam which contained a mass of potsherds and the objects which were recovered from the excavations.

Amongst the various finds were pot-boilers, some animal bones and teeth, part of a broken quern, an iron knife and a triangular piece of baked clay, possibly a loomweight.

<sup>1</sup> J. B. Ward Perkins. "An Early Iron Age Site at Crayford, Kent", *Prehistoric Society Proceedings*, 1938.

<sup>2</sup> M. A. Cotton and K. M. Richardson. "A Belgic Cremation Site at Stone, Kent", *Prehistoric Society Proceedings*, 1941.

<sup>3</sup> F. H. Worsfold. "An Early Iron Age Site at Borden", *Arch. Cant.*, LXI, 149.

It is the pottery types alone, however, that appear to warrant a more detailed description.

Unfortunately, virtually nothing authoritative can be stated with regard to the nature of this Belgic Settlement, as there was no distinct stratification of the pottery within the upper ditch filling. The impression gained, was that it had been cast in at random and the ditches levelled at a slightly later period. No rim forms were found to suggest that this site was occupied after the Roman conquest.

As the site so far examined is in an area of private ownership, more systematic and extensive excavations are impracticable. It may be, however, that further discoveries will be made when the owners of the houses on this estate develop their new gardens.

#### THE POTTERY (FIG. 1)

From the total pottery sherds recovered was a quantity of rim forms similar in most respects to those previously drawn and described from the nearby Crayford site.

The coarse ware from the Cold Blow settlement is very corky and porous, the outside surfaces of which are deeply pitted. When the fabric is newly fractured it exhibits a grey-black spongy core which is heavily loaded with white shell grit. The outer faces have fired to light red.

From an examination of this corky ware, it is apparent that the curiously pitted surface, is directly due to the shell grit having decomposed after prolonged burial in an acid soil. Fragments of white shell grit in the incomplete process of disintegration are to be seen in the bottom of these pits and scars.

This pottery, which doubtless was made from local clay, has intentionally been loaded with shell grit in order to reduce distortion during firing. The ancient practice of adding straw for the same purpose was not employed with the coarse ware found on this site.

The other forms are as follows:

No. 1. Storage jar. Wheel made, corky fabric, pitted surface.

White shell grit loading. Fired to a light brown externally. The zone beneath the rim is tooled and terminates with a "herring bone" rouletting.

No. 2. As above, but with a black, bitumen coated surface.

No. 3. Jar. Wheel made and turned. Grey, hard fabric. Slight cordons on neck zone.

No. 4. Platter. Imported continental *terra nigra*, white fabric, slate grey, silver speckled surface.

No. 5. Biconical jar. Wheel made and turned. Grey hard fabric.

No. 6. Wheel made. Soft fabric. Yellow-brown coated surface.

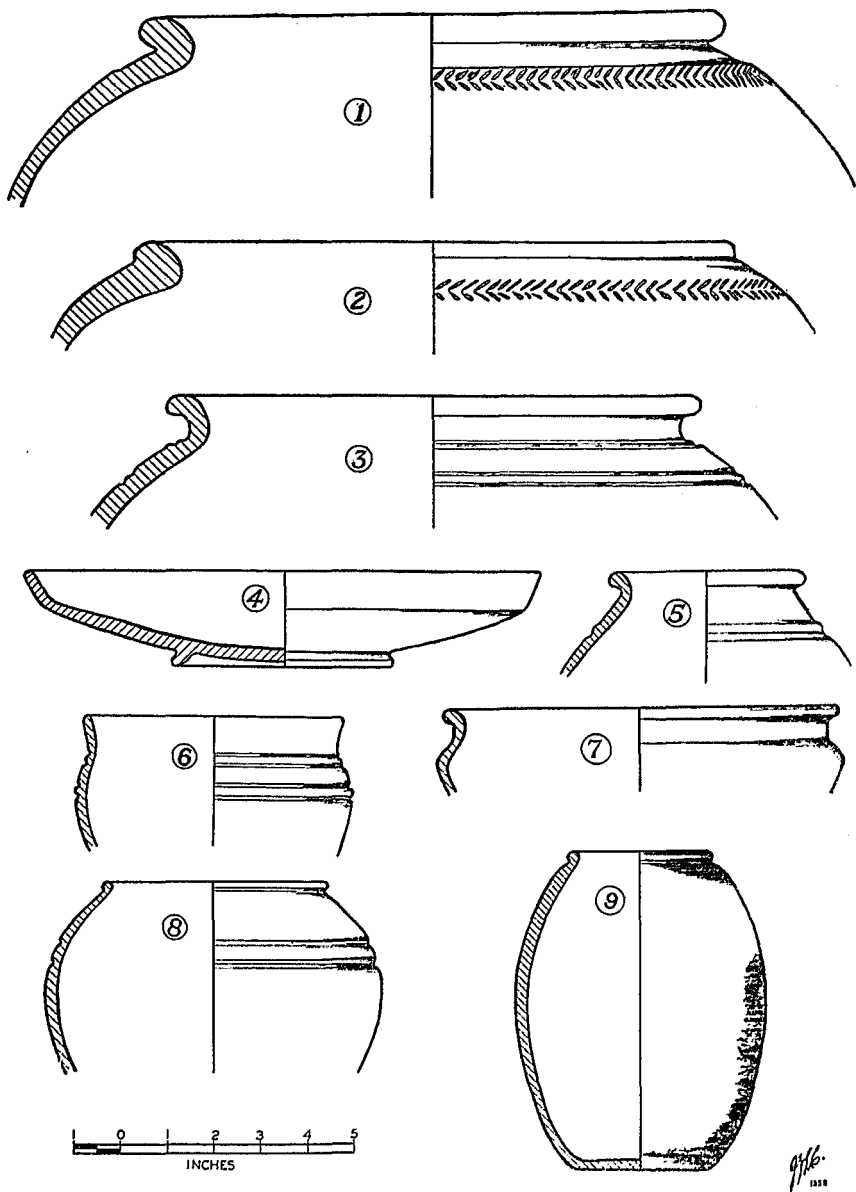


FIG. 1. Pottery from Bexley.

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No. 7. Bowl. Wheel made and turned. Red surface. Grey porridgy core.

No. 8. Globular bead-rim pot. Wheel made. Orange brown polished surface.

No. 9. Butt-beaker. Brown leather-like polished surface.

J. E. L. CAIGER.

### FURTHER NOTE ON KENTISH BEE BOLES

Since my second paper on Kentish Bee Boles (*Arch. Cant.*, LXX, 1956), three more sites of particular interest have come to my notice, which brings our number to twenty-three for the county of Kent.

1. For some time there has been uncertainty as to the purpose of the recesses in the outside of the War Memorial Garden wall, Canterbury Cathedral. Though similar in shape, these were too shallow to be bee boles, a fact to which I referred in my last paper, and which I confirmed personally this summer. But to my surprise and delight, on examining the inner walls of the Garden, I discovered on the north wall no fewer than eight genuine bee boles, many almost hidden by shrubs and flowering plants; five of them had been bricked-in, and three left open, but in a very neglected condition. The recesses are 9-10 inches deep, and have round arched roofs, plainly visible in the bricked-in recess behind the seat. They could well once have been used by the monks to house their skeps.

2. A bee bole in Church House Gardens, Bromley, was first reported to me by Mr. Andrus of Scadbury Manor, Southfleet, who also sent me a photograph of the bee bole, and a copy of an article which appeared in the *Bromley District Times* of 1898. This article gives the first stages of a rather curious story: describes how, at the time of the building of the new electric station, a considerable portion of the 300-year-old garden wall of Grete House was discovered (Grete House itself, the home of Dr. Hawkesworth, colleague and friend of Dr. Johnson, was demolished in the last decade of the eighteenth century), and that a number of recesses were found in the wall, one of which is pictured in the article. The article goes on to say that various suggestions were made as to their use, but no satisfactory solution was arrived at.

For the second stage I am indebted to Mr. Grubb of Sidcup, who has sent me an excerpt from a lengthy passage on this bee bole from the standard history of Bromley, *Bromley, Kent* by E. L. S. Horsburgh, published in 1929, p. 31: ". . . interesting discovery (1898) was made behind premises supposed to occupy the site of the Thornhill mansion. A massive wall was discovered, with a succession of small arched recesses about two feet high, a foot and a half wide, and nine or ten inches deep. The brickwork apparently dated from Tudor times,

and there is little doubt that the wall itself was the original wall of the Thornhill garden. There has been much speculation as to the uses to which the small recesses were put, some maintaining that they were receptacles for beehives. One of these recesses was transferred to 20 Widmore Road, and reconstructed, where it is to be seen today."

The third stage completes the story, and this I have both from Mr. Andrus and Mr. Grubb. The recess suffered yet a further move, and was re-erected, due to the good offices of Mr. William Baxter, in a public garden, The Church House grounds, about 100 yards from Church Road, and a plaque was affixed stating that it came from Grete House (presumably Great House), this house being synonymous with the "Thornhill mansion" mentioned above.

There it now stands today, clearly recognizable as a bee bole. Let us hope it will not travel any further.

3. Mr. Killick of Sidcup, searching a wood at Wickhambreux, near Wingham, for mulberry leaves, came across the remains of an old wall in front of where had once stood Great Wenderton Manor, of which now nothing is left but rubble. The wall, facing west, was situated over a hollow which still bears signs of having been a garden. Mr. Killick was curious about the recesses in the wall, and photographed them, thinking it might one day be of interest to someone. He was indeed right. This year, he read an article of mine on bee boles, at once remembered this photograph, and sent me a copy. The recesses are undoubtedly bee boles.

Apart from these three new sites, an interesting item of information has reached me from Mrs. Guthrie of Farningham. It concerns the bee bole in this village (or town) (see *Arch. Cant.*, LXX, 1956) and illustrates the interest that has been aroused in these recesses. There is to be held a four-day exhibition "This is Farningham", and in a film made for the occasion our bee bole is to be a feature; standing by it—and it is in fact at her cottage door—will be Mrs. Humphries, a member of one of the oldest Farningham families, that of Everest, a name which can be traced back to 1595.

I would like to end this note by quoting two descriptions of bee boles, which I have recently come across quite by chance.

The first description was in a book entitled *The Four Gardens* by Handasyde, and is from the chapter called *The Haunted Garden*:

"At one time there had been bees in the garden; the deep recess in the enormously thick wall, divided into four compartments by slabs of stone, was where they had been kept. The builder took care to choose the sunniest corner for the hives of plaited straw, and plants of balm, to be bruised and rubbed along the platforms of each hive, still grew along the haunted wall. . . ."

The second description is a quotation from *A New Orchard of*



A. Re-constructed bee bole from the old walled garden of Grete House, Bromley, the residence of Dr. Hawkesworth, the contemporary of Dr. Johnson. Many of these recesses were destroyed when the site was prepared for the new electric station. Mr. William Baxter suggested that one should be saved and reconstructed in Church House Gardens. Tudor date.



B. Remains of an old Tudor wall in the garden of what was the site of Great Wender-ton Manor, Wickhambreux, nr. Wingham. Discovered by Mr. Killick of Sideup.

*the Best Way for Planting . . . Particularly in the North Parts of England*  
by William Lawson, 1618 :

" You need not doubt their stings, for they hurt not, whom they know, and they know their Keeper and acquaintance. If you like not to come among them, you need not doubt them ; for, but near their store, and in their own defence, they will not fight, and in that case only (and who can blame them?) they are manly, and fight desperately. Some (as that honourable Lady of Hacknes, whose name doth much grace mine Orchard) use to make a seat for them in the stone-walls of their Orchard, or Garden, which is good, but wood is better. A Vine over shadowing a seat, is very comely, though her grapes with us ripen slowly."

V. F. DESBOROUGH.

#### ADDINGTON : THE CHESTNUTS MEGALITHIC TOMB

In August and September, 1957, excavations were carried out on this badly ruined tomb through the enterprise of the owner Mr. E. Boyle, and the encouragement of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments. The site proved unexpectedly interesting and complex and it was possible to recognize five periods in its history.

I. Before the megalithic tomb was built there had been extensive mesolithic settlement in the area. This has long been known from surface collections but was now found stratified under the floor and wallstones of the tomb. An industry of some 5,000 pieces was collected and is now being studied.

II. On top of this debris a tomb and barrow were erected. Twelve large sarsen fragments survive although badly damaged by collapse and erosion. The majority of them were apparently still in their original positions although, like the Coldrum megalithic tomb, most of them had not been set in socket-holes. The plan was an oblong chamber, oriented east-west, blocked at both ends and having a façade of four stones, two on each side at the east end. The holes made by stakes which helped to ease one of these into position were discovered. The chamber, covered by two capstones, was about 12 ft. × 8 ft. and 7 ft. high. It was probably paved with fragments of greensand and clean yellow sand. It contained the cremated fragments (some 4,800 were collected) of at least eleven adults and one infant. The acid nature of the soil would almost certainly have destroyed ordinary inhumations so that nothing can be said of the total number of burials. The remains of at least three pots (50 fragments) also came from the chamber, one with fingernail impression, and all were of Neolithic-Early Bronze Age fabric. Two fine barbed and tanged-arrowheads from the same area may be connected with the burials. Fragments of a fourth pot were found where it had been smashed just outside the entrance.

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A large barrow had once covered the tomb. It has only survived for about one quarter of the circuit but suggested a total width of 60 ft. and is likely to have been oval in plan.

The morphology of the tomb, and the grave-goods, suggest that it was in use in the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age (c. 1800-1400 B.C.).

III. The barrow was still standing in the late 1st-2nd century A.D., when a small settlement sheltered in the lea of it and left a mass of pottery (some 900 sherds, iron nails etc.).

IV. The destruction of the tomb in the 12th-13th centuries was apparently deliberate, probably during a search for treasure. The chamber was systematically turned over, pits were dug under the stones and the barrow was dug away. As a result of this the chamber collapsed sealing medieval sherds beneath its stones.

V. Since then the monument has been little disturbed. Some digging took place round the stones in the eighteenth-nineteenth centuries and some of the smaller fragments may have been taken for roadmending, but the larger ones were untouched.

The full account of this excavation will be published in the next volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*.

JOHN ALEXANDER.

## RECVLVER

The excavation of the exposed north section of the Roman Fort at Reculver in October, 1957, proceeded as scheduled<sup>1</sup> and proved entirely successful. During a period of eight days intensive excavation, by a team of 10 diggers, over 100 feet of the fort's interior levels were examined.

The findings confirmed the Early Iron Age occupation of the site, established the date of the fort's construction, and identified two phases of Roman occupation. No trace of the known Belgic settlement was encountered. The team investigated the pre-historic levels, the construction of the fort wall, the rampart-bank, a gravel road (intervallum), two ovens, a large clay and stone barrack-block or granary, the site of the East gate of the fort, and a substantial wall repair near the south-east angle. A detailed report on the findings is at present being studied by the Ministry of Works.

The 1958 dig was planned for September when it was hoped to examine the outer defences of the fort situated on private ground near to the King Ethelbert Inn. It was then hoped to determine the exact position of the south-west angle of the fort and also to cut the first section across the two or more surrounding ditches.

<sup>1</sup> Noted in *Arch. Cant.* LXXI, p. 184.



## FAWKHAM : EARLY ROMAN SETTLEMENT, EASTWOOD FARM

(N.G.R. 51-5887 : 6469)

Following the discovery of Roman pottery by the farmer, Mr. George Self, in October, 1957, the writers have investigated the site (Eastwood Farm) with the aid of a small team of helpers.

The original discovery had been in a ditch 30 inches deep which the team have so far traced for 150 feet. After serving its original function as a delimiting boundary, the ditch was used for the disposal of rubbish.

This rubbish tip has yielded six bronze brooches (three examples of "rod-bow" type ; one "*Hod-Hill*" winged type, all complete, and two damaged brooches of the "*one-piece*" type).

Samian forms 18 and 27 and a stamped platter (Form 18?), Samian form 30 depicting *Bacchus* and a panther ; over 1,200 coarse-ware potsherds representing close on 100 vessels ; vessel-glass ; fragments of lava quern-stone ; iron ; daub ; and much animal bone.

Amongst the coarse pottery are a number of examples of imported beakers, platters and flagons. The bulk of the pottery is, however, of native origin and is largely composed of two distinct types.

Twenty examples of bead-rim jars with an admixture of crushed shell and the same number of vessels of a thick, soapy texture with out-curved rims resembling the so-called Patchgrove ware.

The group is embraced by the dates A.D. 40-80, though the deposit is likely to have accumulated during the last decade of that period.

The vast quantity of rubbish removed from the ditch clearly indicates the close proximity of a settlement, probably a villa. The ditch, it is supposed, encircled the building but extensive trenching around adjacent farm out-buildings has proved, as yet, unrewarding.

Much important information will be gleaned if the ground-plan of this, certainly pre-Flavian, building can be recovered. The closely dated quantity of pottery from the ditch will itself provide a useful addition to our knowledge of pottery of the period.

The team is grateful to Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A. for taking a keen interest in its activities at Eastwood.

## NORTHFLEET: ROMAN LEVEL (N.G.R. 51-618 : 739)

On information received from Mr. J. Lucas of Pilgrims' Way, Trottiscliffe, the writers proceeded (January, 1958) to a disused chalk quarry in Northfleet.

In the face of the quarry at a depth of about 30 inches below ground-level was detected a distinct level extending for over 100 feet. The only structural detail noticed was a chalk and rubble footing some 15 feet in length.

A few potsherds, iron nails and a bronze belt fitting were found.

The pottery, including colour-coated mortarium, flanged pie-dish and imitation of Samian form 38, was all of fourth century date.

In all probability, the level had been associated with buildings known to have been destroyed when the chalk pits were dug, although land untouched by quarrying to the north might produce remains of a settlement.

B. J. PHILP.

M. L. KELLAWAY.

#### AN ACHEULIAN SITE AT ORPINGTON

When the ground was being levelled preparatory to laying a new road on the Ramsden Estate, half a mile east of All Saints Church, Orpington, in 1956, the mechanical excavator uncovered a concentration of well-made Acheulian hand-axes, all lying about a foot deep within an area not more than 20 yards across. I have been able to inspect over a dozen of these which are now in Maidstone Museum and there are believed to be several others in private possession. Miss Madeleine Blumstein was at that time supervising the excavation of a Romano-British settlement in the immediate vicinity<sup>1</sup> and she kindly brought the occurrence of the hand-axes to my notice. Mrs. Barbara de Seyssel, who was also engaged in the excavation, visited the site with me and indicated the spot where the flints were found. On that occasion an intensive search was made over the whole surrounding area without discovering any further implements or even flakes.

The site lies to the east of the Cray valley, on the 250 ft. contour (National Grid Ref. 475662). On the Geological Survey 1 in. (Drift) Sheet the area is mapped as Upper Chalk though recent sections showed a thin capping of tertiary material including Blackheath Pebble Beds. Further eastward on the plateau between the Cray and the Darent there are numerous unwasted outliers of this material separated by the Cray from the main mass on its western side.

From their condition it is clear that the implements have never been rolled in a stream or subjected to solifluxion. Their edges are quite sharp and they are all patinated white.<sup>2</sup> Apparently they had reached their position at the base of the shallow topsoil simply by the action of earthworms which results in the eventual burial of all small objects left on the surface of the ground.<sup>3</sup>

These Ramsden implements are slightly more evolved than the pear-shaped hand-axes found in the Middle Gravel of the famous Barn-

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, xlvii.

<sup>2</sup> The familiar ochreous colour of surface palaeoliths is by no means invariable. Cf. the example found near Dover described in *Arch. Cant.*, LXII, p. 140.

<sup>3</sup> The significance of this phenomenon, which was studied long ago by Darwin, has been dealt with from the archaeological standpoint by Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson in his recent book *Stonehenge* (1956), p. 54.

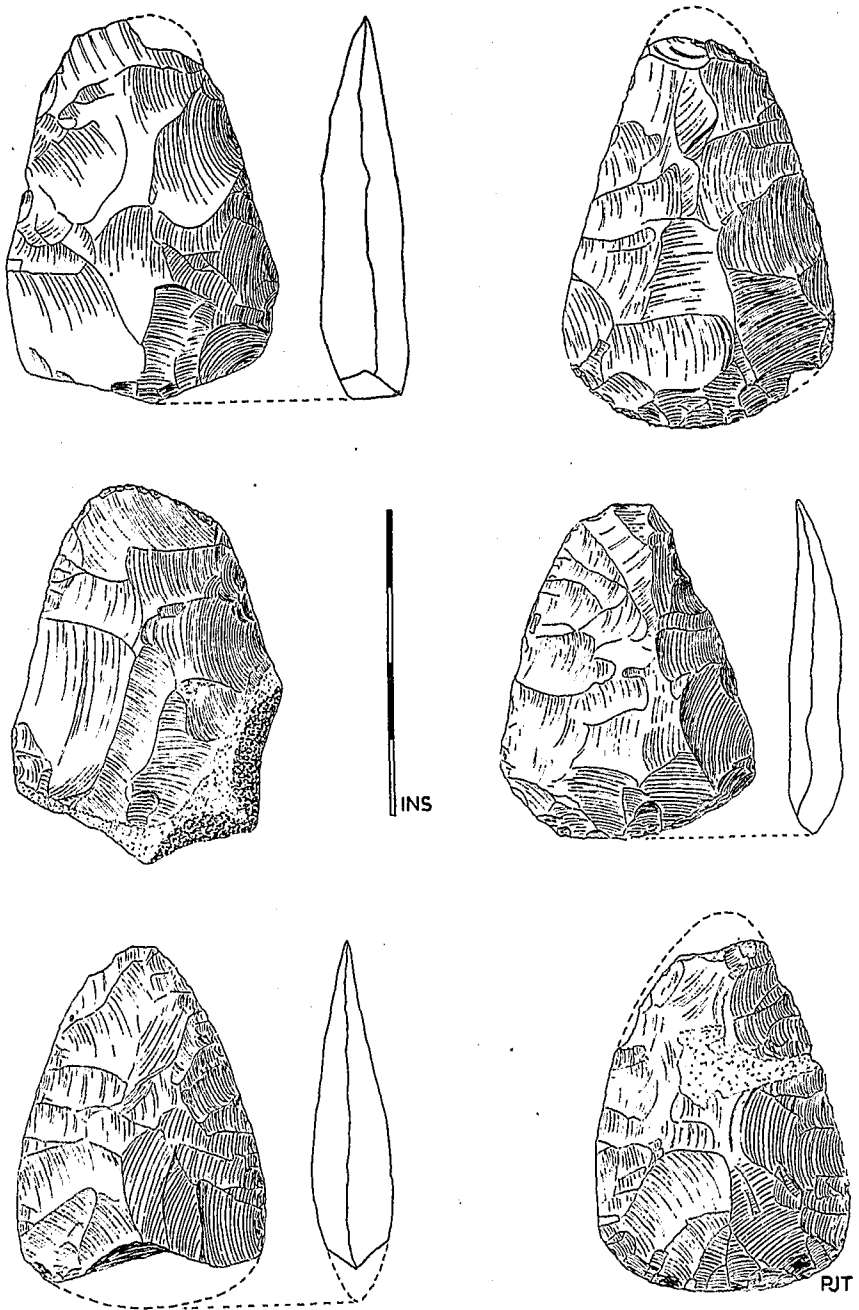


FIG. 2. Acheulian hand-axes from Orpington.

field pit at Swanscombe, only 9 miles away to the north-east. The butts of the latter tend to be thicker and less fully worked, and their points more elongated. But the Ramsden assemblage contains no example of the twisted ovates which characterize the latest industries of the 100 ft. terrace of the Lower Thames, and so is probably earlier than the end of the period of the 100 ft. aggradation. The level in the classic Barnfield section which has produced hand-axes comparable to those from Ramsden is the Upper Loam capping the Middle Gravel, and on this evidence they may be included in the category of Middle Acheulian. If Professor Zeuner's estimate of the age of the 100 ft. terrace of the Lower Thames is correct, these implements are not less than 230,000 years old.

A slight variation of form observable in the assemblage in no way lessens the probability that the implements were all made at the same time. In stratified horizons yielding closely contemporary tools an equivalent degree of variation is often apparent, this being due to the unequal skill of individual tool-makers, the quality of the raw material and the specific purpose for which each implement was designed. A hand-axe made for shaping a wooden club might well be rougher than one intended for skinning a deer, although the general technique in shaping both implements would be similar. A close study of the Swanscombe hand-axes has shown that crude and apparently primitive specimens are contemporary with others much better made,<sup>1</sup> and in such cases it is the tools showing the highest stage of technical development which must be used for dating the assemblage.

The possibility of this being a "workshop" site is ruled out by the absence of waste flakes. There are, moreover, no associated flake tools, though one small, poorly made hand-axe is obviously made from an oval flake. I consider that the circumstances fully justify the belief that this spot on the side of the valley at Ramsden was a "butchering-site" where a party of Palaeolithic hunters once squatted to hack up the carcass of their prey. Lest this should seem fanciful we may consider Dr. L. S. B. Leakey's discovery in Tanganyika of a concentration of Acheulian hand-axes associated with the dismembered skeleton of a hippopotamus, plainly the relics of a communal feast.<sup>2</sup> There were hippos in plenty in N. W. Kent when Palaeolithic man roamed and hunted along its valleys, not to mention elephants and similar big game, whose bones have been dug out of the Swanscombe gravels in considerable quantities. The preservation of any such bones at Ramsden could not be expected on account of unsuitable soil conditions. Dr. Kenneth Oakley has

<sup>1</sup> *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, LXVIII, January-June, 1938, p. 37.

<sup>2</sup> For this information and some of the other facts mentioned in the present notes I am indebted to Dr. K. P. Oakley's article "Swanscombe Man" in *Proc. Geol. Assoc.*, Vol. 63, Part 4 (1953).

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described how modern African natives will gather round the carcass of a hippopotamus, hacking off the meat with iron knives and consuming it on the spot. Acheulian man undoubtedly used hand-axes for this purpose and these were probably abandoned on the site of the feast at its conclusion. Modern experimenters can make a perfect hand-axe in a few minutes and there is no reason to suppose that the ancient workers were less skilful. Thus it is reasonable to assume that Acheulian man would make a new hand-axe to deal with each kill rather than carry one with him on the hunt, especially in areas where the raw material was readily available. This would account for the very great number of hand-axes which occur in some districts. The population of those times can never have been large, as a hunting and food-gathering economy requires that small bands roam over a very wide area to obtain their livelihood. It has been suggested that the entire population of Britain in Acheulian times did not exceed about a dozen bands, each composed most likely of not more than 50 individuals. As the hand-axe makers lived in S.E. England over a period of several hundred thousand years the total accumulation of tools in this time—assuming that each individual made and abandoned about one a day—would run into millions.

The accompanying figures of six representative implements require little explanation though several features deserve comment. Mention has already been made of the typical thinness at the butt which is shown by the three specimens illustrated in profile. In some cases the tips have been finished by a transverse blow producing an oblique cutting edge, a feature common in late-Middle Acheulian. One with a heavy cortex-covered butt—represented by stipple—has definite wear due to utilization round the point, as though it had been used to clean meat from a heavy bone.

P. J. TESTER.

### STOUR VALLEY RESEARCH GROUP—REPORT

The Canterbury Archæological Society has formed the Stour Valley Research Group, for the purpose of covering the area for all matters concerned with excavation. Mr. F. Jenkins and Mr. L. D. Lyle have undertaken to control the work and have co-opted Messrs. P. Woodfield and J. D. Coy to assist. All are members of the K.A.S. Volunteers are needed and will be very welcome. What follows is a brief summary of the work carried out by the Group since its formation under its present title.

### BELGIC

Extensive digging for gravel at Messrs. Robert Brett's pit at Trenley Park Woods, Stodmarsh Road, has revealed more of the Belgic settle-

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ment which was first noted by F. Jenkins in 1952. Further excavation by the Research Group under his supervision has traced a boundary ditch for a length of 125 ft. in a straight line across the site in a north-west to south-east direction. At the latter end the ditch was found to turn at right angles and was traced for a considerable distance. It was v-shaped in cross-section, 3 ft. deep and averaged 6 ft. in width.

The layer of grey silt, which had accumulated on the bottom of the ditch while it was still in use and open, contained a large quantity of pottery of Belgic type, characteristic of the period A.D. 20-45. Similar pottery was found in the top filling and as there was no admixture of Roman pottery, it seems that the site was occupied in the period just prior to the Claudian conquest. Many pieces of burnt daub and numerous calcined flints bore witness to the fact that the settlement had been destroyed by fire. Some years ago the mechanical excavator, working in the adjacent quarry where it is known that the ditch extended, uncovered a patch of ash and burnt daub about 12 ft. square, together with large pieces of Belgic pottery. The feature was evidently a hut which had also been destroyed by fire. If this was not as a result of a domestic accident, it may well have occurred during the first phase of the Roman advance towards Canterbury. The site lies not far from the line of the road from Richborough, and must have been over-run in the early stages of the campaign.

### ROMAN

Trenching carried out by the Canterbury Water Co., along Whitehall Road revealed a section of Roman Watling Street near the spot where it crosses the River Stour, opposite the site of the Roman gateway discovered earlier by Mr. Sheppard Frere.

The Group has continued excavating the site in Whitehall Road on the line of the proposed by-pass road. No Roman structural features were encountered excepting three square foundations of rammed flints and gravel, about 3 ft. by 3 ft. and 2 ft. 6 in. deep, in a line across the site. No evidence of the true function of these was found. The area had evidently served as a quarry for brickearth for a series of very large pits were found. It is possible that they belonged to the potter's kiln which was excavated by the group in 1956, and lay only a short distance from them.

Traces of Belgic timber structures were found in the lowest deposits, associated with pottery of the period A.D. 20-43.

Workmen digging foundations for the extension of Messrs. Meaker's premises at 20 High Street, Canterbury, and at the rear of the County Hotel, opposite the former site, uncovered extensive areas of rammed gravel more than 3 ft. in thickness. Similar gravel was examined by Mr. Sheppard Frere and Mr. F. Jenkins in the basement of the County

Hotel. It is most likely that the gravel once formed the metalling of the Forum of Roman Canterbury, for it is of that period.

Limited excavations for foundations on the site of the now demolished Fleur-de-Lis Hotel in the same area, revealed traces of similar spreads of gravel.

#### MEDIEVAL

Excavations were carried out by the group on the site of a bastion on the city wall, in the old Cattle Market, Canterbury. Here the wall changes direction, and from an old plan of the city it was known that the bastion stood there up to the end of the eighteenth century when it was destroyed. Preliminary work was carried out by the City Engineer's Department to locate the foundations and the group was invited to complete the work.

Upon sectioning the battering base which was hollow, it was found that it had been filled with dumped clay. This also filled the foundation trench inside the bastion, and this trench had been dug through several super-imposed layers of building debris. This suggests that the city defences were in a ruinous state before the bastion was added. Records in the City Archives state that about A.D. 1390 the government of Richard II granted a large sum of money for the restoration of the walls of the city. The evidence provided by the pottery actually found in the foundation trench tends to confirm this date for the erection of the bastion. The much mutilated remains of an earlier structure were found in the lowest levels but the evidence is too slight to permit any conjectures concerning it.

The battering base was found to be built of well-coursed and shaped blocks of stone, identified as Caen stone. The City Council have decided to restore the bastion to its original height in the course of the gradual restoration of the city wall which lies between the Riding Gate and Newingate. At the time of writing the re-building of the bastion is well advanced.

#### ST. GREGORY'S PRIORY

The excavations for the new gateway of the new Post Office garage on the corner of Union Street and Northgate have revealed part of the foundations of the Priory of St. Gregory, on that part of the site fronting on to Victoria Row. Close co-operation was secured with the Clerk of Works, Mr. Livermore of the Ministry of Works Sites and Buildings Division.

The priory wall is built of flints plastered on the surface. A part of the original floor has survived and there were a few decorated encaustic tiles still *in situ*. The foundations are now covered in

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and, when the gateway is erected, the Ministry of Works will set up a suitable plaque to mark the site.

### WESTGATE GROVE

Trenching by the Canterbury Water Co., in Westgate Grove on the left bank of the River Stour, revealed a very solid masonry structure built of large blocks of stone, the river-ward edge of which was in line with the centre of the modern road. It was traced for a distance of just over 30 ft., where it then left the line of the modern trench. It lies some feet from the present river bank and the intervening space was filled with black mud. No evidence of date could be found because of the high water-level, but it is fairly clear that it represents a well-constructed quayside, perhaps built about the same time as the nearby Westgate.

### TILE KILN, ST. THOMAS'S HILL

Upon the invitation of Mr. C. Peto, the group investigated some tile-lined cavities which had appeared in his garden at the rear of his house at No. 1, The Close, St. Edmund's School. It proved that the cavities formed part of a tile-kiln which was completely excavated. No evidence of date was found, but judging by the many "tile wasters", and similar tiles built into the structure, it seems that a date at the end of the eighteenth century is indicated. The kiln had twin firing tunnels which led into horizontal flues and worked on the updraught principle. The furnace consisted of a series of cross-walls carried over the main flues on arches, thus forming a system of vertical vents to allow the heat to pass upwards into the oven.

It is of interest that the kiln stood alongside the old road which is now seen as a hollow way to the west of the modern highway, now known as St. Thomas's Hill.

### BEKESBOURNE SAXON CEMETERY

Thanks to a grant from the Carnegie Trust, through the Council for British Archæology, excavations have been resumed on the site of the Saxon cemetery, under the supervision of Mr. F. Jenkins who carried out the original work. Members of the Research Group are assisting.

F. JENKINS.

### ANOTHER "JEW'S HARP" FROM KENT

To the number of those bronze objects, termed, probably correctly, "Jew's Harps" enumerated in *Arch. Cant.* LVI, pp. 23-40, LX, pp. 107-212, and LXX, p. 269, by myself or Mr. L. R. A. Grove, another can now be added, making the total nearly a score. The example illus-



trated was found during the excavations at Lesnes Abbey, Erith, Kent, but it cannot be maintained that it had any connection or association with the Abbey itself. It was found in much disturbed soil in company with pottery that can be more likely associated with the farmhouse built on, and incorporating parts of the old Abbot's Lodging. All of these buildings have been demolished and the ground several times turned over. Further, during the last war the site was occupied by units of the Air Force who dug latrines, refuse pits and incinerators round about.

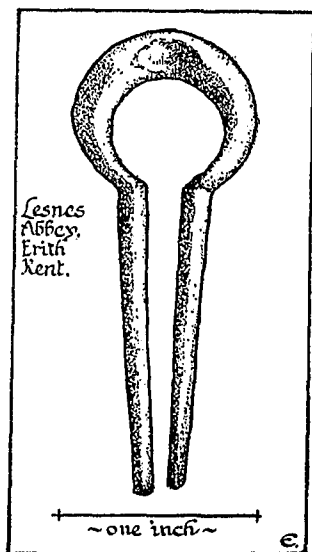


FIG. 3. Jew's Harp.

Any evidence that might have dated the object is therefore absent, but the Saxon date suggested for some of the earlier examples seems definitely ruled out. Nothing has been discovered on the Abbey site earlier in date than that of the Abbey itself (1178) in spite of a very watchful eye over all excavated material, for the topography of the site does certainly suggest earlier occupation. Relics of a Romano-British site were specially sought, but practically everything found is of a post-dissolution period, except of course objects obviously associated with the Abbey itself.

This example is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. long with a circular bow one inch external diameter, of bronze with a large patch of iron rust where the original "stang" or "tang" has rusted away. The two prongs are somewhat more slender than usual and closer together and terminate in blunt

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

points. The object is carefully finished off with a few indications of filing and hammer marks, other than those naturally produced by hammering over the edges of the chase containing the tang or reed.

F. C. ELLISTON-ERWOOD.

### EXCAVATIONS AT LESNES ABBEY, ERITH

Work on this site has continued this season from May to October and in spite of the adverse weather much progress has been made, but the hope that the work might have been completed this year was frustrated by the nature of the many problems encountered. The whole of the dorter range proper has been cleared and laid out, but the adjoining reredorter block necessitated deep excavations to reveal the basement of this building, its culvert and interior arrangements. It seemed clear that soon after the dissolution this part of the eastern range had been adapted for residence and farm purposes, and the deep pits and drainage system had been filled in, presumably to avoid dangers from these cellar-like parts that could not be usefully utilized. Some of the problems posed by this section of the Abbey buildings are still unresolved as for instance the source and volume of the water supply necessary for adequate flushing and also the method of disposal of the effluent. As yet no obvious discharge towards the river or the many marsh drains is indicated.

Another matter for conjecture is the reason for the large scale on which the church, chapter house, dormitory and refectory are laid out for seemingly never in the history of the Abbey were there more than twelve inmates, and generally fewer—five or six only at the dissolution. In the reredorter basement itself the floor appears to indicate a very sharp fall of six feet or more in a length of forty-five feet. Work will be continued on this section next year in the hope of solving these matters and in addition the infirmary block will receive attention. This again is a very large block, being approximately 150 ft. by 60 ft., again out of all proportion to the number of possible inmates but from earlier excavations most of the buildings were of half timber or timber on stone footings. Only the chapel appeared to be of more substantial construction.

F. C. ELLISTON-ERWOOD, *Hon. Director.*

### THE CHURCH OF S. NICHOLAS, PLUMSTEAD

This church was the subject of a brief architectural description in *Arch. Cant.*, LX, with plans and illustrations. The account ended with details of the loss suffered by the fabric in 1945 as a result of war damage. It is regrettable to have to record that for over twelve years little or nothing was done to save something from the wreckage, and

being left open to the sky, the elements, the birds and the local hooligans, most of the monuments were lost or damaged, the floor was a repulsive deposit of bird droppings, and the thirteenth-century transept further ill-treated so that it was beyond repair.

This year (1958) restoration has been carried out and the church brought back almost to its size in pre-war times. Almost, but not quite, and the most serious loss has been the above-mentioned south transept with its Early English windows. Even the fifteenth-century arch separating this transept from the old nave disappeared, after an effort had been made to collect its component voussoirs.

The work carried out on the old nave (which had become the south aisle of the enlarged building) did, however, reveal much that confirms its twelfth-century date and also shows details added in the medieval period. These may be briefly summarized:

- (a) A companion window to that existing over the porch has been uncovered and skilfully repaired. This window was always suspected and sometimes, in particular lights, possibly seen, but the evidence till now was insufficient to make it a certainty. It had been plastered over and most of the original stonework had been preserved.
- (b) The rere-arch of the blocked doorway of fourteenth-century date shown on the plans accompanying the article already mentioned was uncovered, but much more important, when the interior rendering was removed, there was the head of a semicircular doorway of twelfth-century date. This doorway was only about 4 ft., but its crown was 11 ft. 6 in. above the existing floor. From this it was clear that the present floor level is about 18 in. below that of the twelfth century.
- (c) On the west wall there is definite evidence of an earlier window, probably the southernmost of a triplet of lancets. There is also the rere-arch of the blocked (fifteenth century) doorway in this wall also indicated on the plan.
- (d) The exterior of this west wall is in such a bad condition that it will have to be rendered, but at present it shows the following important details:
  - (1) That part of the wall adjoining the tower is probably part of the original fabric, which was evidently made up of blocks of Reigate stone, some of which showed definite diagonal tooling.
  - (2) The south-western coin of the wall was of Reigate stone with one large block of calcareous tufa. About ten stones survived *in situ*.
  - (3) Evidence of the above-mentioned possible triplet of lancets was clear on this wall also.

- (4) The blocked doorway showed that the earlier floor level, indicated by the Norman doorway, existed in the fifteenth century. The threshold of this doorway was a re-used coffin lid, as was also the case in the other blocked door on the south side.
- (e) The base of the respond of the fifteenth-century chancel arch was uncovered and will be preserved.
- (f) The fragment of a doorway of the thirteenth-century chancel shown in the photograph on Plate III of the article in Vol. LX was carefully preserved under an iron grill at the earlier restoration, but neglect had led to it being lost under an accumulation of debris and entirely forgotten. It has been cleared once more, and this time it will be covered by a movable concrete slab.
- (g) The transept has been reduced to a recess only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep, but an effort is being made to preserve the peculiar diagonal passage from the transept to the chancel, though much of the original work has gone.

The result of all this work has been to confirm the scheme of evolution outlined in the earlier article and it may be possible in the next volume of *Arch. Cant.* to give a revised plan of the church as it is now, with all the old features indicated. A fleeting thought, that must be further pursued, has suggested to me that the Reigate stone and perhaps the tufa have after all been brought from Lesnes Abbey and used there in a sixteenth or seventeenth-century restoration. There is some authority for this supposition as in the earlier restoration a fragment of an inlaid tile (which I have) is of exactly the same pattern as several found on the Abbey site. The matter will be carefully considered before the final plan is produced.

F. C. ELLISTON-ERWOOD.

#### SOME RECENT FINDS AT RECOLVER, 1955-1957

This note is an attempt to present some of the pottery and other objects found by Mr. A. W. Jan, a member of the Kent Archæological Society, and myself at Reculver during the last two years. The majority of finds came from the beach below the low cliff which extends to the west of Reculver Church. Some items were found in rubbish pits and this has been noted in the relevant places. Those objects having an asterisk against them are now in the Maidstone Museum ; all others remain in the possession of Mr. Jan or myself.

#### *Pottery*

Although large quantities of pottery have been found, most of it comes from the beach and consequently the fragments are very small, or, in the case of the coarse pottery, the sea has rendered them incapable

of certain identification. The following list is, therefore, far shorter than it should be.

*Samian Ware*

- Drag. 18. Fragments of this plate with low, oblique and slightly rounded wall, with a semi-circular lip, are common.
- Drag. 31. A complete dish of this form with high oblique wall was found in two pieces in a rubbish pit on the beach where fragments are quite common. The base has no potter's stamp.
- Drag. 33. Pieces of the smooth-walled type, and that with an incised groove half-way down the exterior wall were found. A specimen of the smooth-walled type with the stamp MARTI.M came from the beach. The potter Martius, or Martis worked at Lezoux during the Domitian—Antonine period.
- Drag. 36. An example of this type of shallow dish, having a curved rim with "en barbotine" decoration, was found in two pieces on the beach; the example is complete save for a small section of the rim; no potter's stamp.
- Drag. 37. Pieces of this hemispherical bowl are common; a base was found with the stamp DOMITVS/F. This is presumably Domitus of Banassac and later, Lezoux, of the Domitian—Antonine period. The oblique line occurring between the name and F(ecit) is a variant not listed in Oswald's *Stamps on Terra Sigillata*, p. 109.
- Drag. 45. Fragments of the upright rim of this type of wall-sided mortarium are quite common.
- \*Drag. 31. Base stamped VRBANVS FI—probably from the potter Urbanus of Heiligenberg and Treves, working during the Hadrianic—late Antonine period.
- \*Drag. 37. Sherds of a hemispherical bowl, with plain band below the rim, separated by an "ovolo" from a zone of ornament. A.D. c. 85.
- \*Drag. 45. Mortarium, large sherd of "wallside" type, with lion's head spout; late second-early third century.

*Coarse wares*

*Castor Ware.* Many bases of this ware are found and also very small fragments. One large sherd, 11 cm. in height and 6½ cm. in width, bears a representation of a hare with decoration from a hare-and-hounds hunting scene.

*New Forest ware.* The base of a New Forest ware beaker was found and has a graffito cross (4 cm. square) on it.

*Mortaria.* Specimens fall into five types:—<sup>1</sup>

- No. 102. Bent-down rim with bead rising above it. c. late second to 3rd century.
- No. 114. Heavily moulded sloping rim (very prominent) c. late second century.
- No. 198. Hammer-head type with plain rim. c. late third, or fourth century.
- No. 218. Vertical rim type—c. late second century.
- No. 222. Vertical rim type (not as deep as 218) c. late second century.

*Amphorae.* Fragments of the walls of a large buff-coloured specimen and part of the neck and handle of a white example of late third or early fourth century date came from the beach.

*Jugs.* Four types are apparent from the necks and rims which were found.

- 1. Part of a neck with 3-ribbed handle : reddish-buff clay.
- 2. Neck of a two-handled jug : hard white clay.
- 3. Part of the neck of a flagon.  
(Cf. *Richborough*, IV, Pl. lxxxv, No. 373. A.D. c. 60-85.)
- 4. Neck of a flagon with rather heavy moulding beneath the lip.  
(Cf. *Richborough*, IV, Pl. lxxxvi, No. 379.)

*Other pottery.*

- 1. Neck of a large narrow-mouthed beaker, vertical : smooth from rim to shoulder, then rouletted pattern : slate-grey fabric. (Cf. Gillam,<sup>2</sup> Fig. 6, No. 43. A.D. 350-400.)
- 2. Neck of a narrow-mouthed jar : buff-coloured, fine fabric. (Cf. Gillam, Fig. 12, No. 104. A.D. 80-120.)
- 3. Sherds of dishes with straight sides and plain rims : some with lattice-work incised pattern : all of black or grey fumed, cooking-pot fabric. (Cf. Gillam, Fig. 32, No. 330. A.D. 330-370.)
- 4. Rim of dish with deep lattice-work decoration : appears to have had a small handle on the side, and the interior base roughened with grit. (Cf. Gillam, Fig. 31, No. 318. A.D. 160-200, which lacks an indication of a handle.)
- 5. Large sections of deep-sided bowls with rims varying from thin to quite thick : black or grey-black in colour. (Cf. Gillam, Fig. 23, No. 225. A.D. 190-240.)
- 6. Sherds of cooking-pots, corresponding to the following :  
Gillam type 124—A.D. 125-160.  
type 132—A.D. 140-220.

<sup>1</sup> Bushe-Fox, J. P.—*Excavations on the site of the Roman Town at Wroxeter, Shropshire, in 1912.* Classification of coarse pottery, pp. 69-80.

<sup>2</sup> Gillam, J. P. *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain.* *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4th series, Vol. XXXV.

type 135—A.D. 170-250.

type 142—A.D. 190-280.

7. Rim of flanged bowl in cooking-pot fabric. (Cf. Gillam, Fig. 24, No. 229. A.D. 350-400.)

*Tiles.* A red brick tile (11 in. × 9 in.) which has the imprint of six fingers.

### *Small Finds*

*Brooches.\* P-shaped brooches.* Pieces of three specimens were found. Two are of bronze (cf. Collingwood,<sup>1</sup> Fig. 63, No. 74), one being the upper half of the loop with the right hand side of the bar having a knob ornamentation; the other consists of the complete loop with knob ornamentation at the top. The third brooch is of silver (Collingwood, Fig. 63, No. 75). It is 4½ cm. in height, having the complete loop and crossbar, except for one knob which is missing from the left-hand end of the bar. Collingwood gives a fourth century date for this type of cross-bow brooch, but the majority of examples from Richborough were found in third century fillings or stratification.

An example of the earlier type of cross-bow brooch (cf. Collingwood, Fig. 63, No. 73) with a row of knobs along the bow (c. A.D. 220, according to Collingwood) was found. Only the lower half of the loop and half the bow survive.

*Divided bow brooches.* Parts of three examples in bronze were found. They are all of the P-shaped type which Collingwood dates to c. A.D. 180-260.

*Bracelets.\** Two complete bronze bracelets and parts of two others were found in addition to those found in the well (see below). Of the two complete bracelets, one is a complete circle 2 in. in diameter, and the other is penannular,\* 2¾ in. in diameter, the open ends being ornamented with circular grooves. The two fragmentary bracelets are plain and represent examples of much the same size as the others.

*Rings.\** One complete ring and parts of two others, all of bronze, were found on the beach. The complete ring is circular, expanding into a plain oblong front. Of the two incomplete examples, one is part of a combined finger-ring and lever-key, and the other is the front half of a bronze ring inset with a paste intaglio of a lion walking to the left and raising one front paw. Two small plain flat bronze rings were also found.

*Pins\* bronze.* Five examples were found; two of them complete, and the upper portions only of three more survive.

<sup>1</sup> Collingwood, R. G. *Archæology of Roman Britain.* 1930.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

*bone.* Two examples were found; one of them complete, the other is the lower half only. The complete bone pin is 4 in. in length, with an ordinary round knob for a head. Of the two complete bronze pins, one has a plain round head and the other a round head ornamented with rouletting. Two of the three upper halves of pins have heads decorated with circular cuts and the third has a plain elongated head.

*Pendant.* A pendant of walrus ivory was found on the beach during the summer of 1955. It is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cm. long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cm. at its widest part in the middle, whence it tapers to a head, with a well-drilled hole for suspension. The bottom end is left broken, although the surface has been polished. Because of its somewhat barbaric style, a date near the Conquest (?A.D. 43) has been suggested.

*Lock.* The much corroded box and spring of a spring lock was found in 1956, and recently the bar of such a lock was also found, both on the beach.

*Coins.* A total of 71 coins has been found so far; 30 have not been identified with certainty, the remaining 41 can be assigned to Emperors.

\*Claudius, A.D. 41-45. As.

\*Vespasian, A.D. 69-79. Denarius.

\*?Trajan, A.D. 98-117. Sestertius.

Hadrian, A.D. 117-138. Sestertii (2).\*

Antoninus Pius, A.D. 138-161. Sestertii (2).

\*Faustina I, c. A.D. 141. Sestertius.

Marcus Aurelius, A.D. 161-180. Sestertii (2).\*

Faustina II, A.D. 147-176. Sestertius,\* As.\*

\*Lucilla, c. 169. Sestertius.

Commodus (as Caesar), c. A.D. 166-176. Sestertius.\* Asses (3).\*

Commodus, A.D. 180-192. Sestertius,\* As.\*

Septimius Severus, A.D. 193-211. Base denarii (5),\* As.\*

\*Julia Domna, A.D. 193-216. Base denarius.

\*Caracalla, A.D. 196-216. Base denarius.

\*Plautilla, A.D. 202-205. Base denarius.

\*Severus Alexander, A.D. 222-235. Base denarii (6).\*

Gordian III, A.D. 238-244. Base Antoninianus,\* As.\*

\*Valerian I, A.D. 253-259. Antoninianus.

\*Gallienus, A.D. 259-268. Antoninianus.

\*Constantine I, A.D. 308-337. Antoninianus (issue of 320-335).

\*Constantinople issue (imitation), A.D. 330-335.

\*Fausta, c. A.D. 330-335. Antoninianus, mint marked SMALA.

\*Constans, A.D. 337-350. (Æ, issue 341-346).

\*Constantius II, A.D. 337-361 (issue c. 346) Æ, mint mark SMANZ.



*Uncertain*

- \*Flavian Emperor—Sestertius.
- \*Second-century Empress—As.
- Second and third century—Sestertii (2) ;\* Asses (4).\*
- Third and fourth century—22 (\*14).

ANIMAL REMAINS

Of the bones found in the rubbish pits those of oxen predominate and the bones and horn of a goat were also found.

FINDS FROM A WELL

A small deposit of objects was recovered from the base of the cliff some two hundred yards west of the Roman fort, by Mr. A. W. Jan. Excavation of the area was necessarily a rushed affair since, at the time of finding, the tide had turned and was coming in. Skeletal remains which were recovered are the skull and a few finger-bones of a female, whose age has been estimated to be about twenty ; the teeth are in an excellent state of preservation.

The associated finds consist of a necklace of twisted bronze and iron wire in two pieces ; a bracelet of the same materials and style in three pieces (cf. *Richborough*, IV, Pl. xlix, No. 11) and also a complete circular bracelet of shale,\* 3 in. in diameter (cf. London Museum Catalogue, *Roman London*, Pl. xl, No. 3). There is also the rear portion of a bronze finger ring and a small, very corroded, disc (1 in. in diameter) with traces of a mount on the reverse.

The area was refilled before the tide reached it but on returning after the tide had fallen the remains of the excavation were found to have been completely scooped out of the cliff and swept out to sea. It is now realized that the objects were from the filling of one of the wells since recorded in the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. A. W. Jan, for making much of the above material available to me before presenting it to the Maidstone Museum. Also to Miss Elizabeth Pirie of the Museum for most helpful suggestions.

PETER A. CLAYTON.

ORPINGTON HISTORICAL RECORDS AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL REPORT, 1957-8.

During the time since the last official Report, members of the Archæological Section of the Society have been committed each week-end, without exception, in the reporting and recording of the

archæological remains of the area. During the period under review excavations were also continued on the following sites :

(a) "*Villa Orpus*" (N.G.R. 4540 : 6583). In our fourth season of exploration on the Orpington Roman Villa, we have made some more interesting discoveries, the most important of which being the remains of an Iron Age hut dwelling of the first century B.C., found at a depth of some two feet below the flooring of the first-century A.D. Roman residence. Evidence, in the form of primitive pottery recovered from the base of the hut, indicates an initial occupation from about 100 B.C. Later, the hut had been filled in with a sandy soil containing Claudian pottery c. A.D. 50. However, it is possible that this "filling" took place prior to the building of the Roman residence (in about A.D. 80) on the site and that, in fact, the Claudian sherds were worn and discarded domestic refuse. Mrs. E. V. Piercy-Fox, B.A., F.S.A., and Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., have kindly examined the Iron Age pottery and confirm its dating to the period. (In passing, it should be mentioned that Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood, F.S.A., recovered part of a Belgic bowl from the same area, and it is to this gentleman that we owe the initial discovery of the site in 1926.)

In connection with the later Roman house, we have found this season the remains of a tile-bonded doorway into a central room. Small finds recovered include part of a Roman sandal, a darning needle, several white mosaic tesserae, and painted wall-plaster. This latter is identical, both in colour and design, to that recovered from the latest excavations at Pompeii, showing that the same fashionable form of decoration existed in one of the Roman rooms at Orpington as in similar rooms at Pompeii in A.D. 79.

In the near future we hope to restore certain features of the Roman house at Orpington for permanent exhibition on the site. It is to this end that, during our excavations, we have been collecting tesserae for the Roman floors, and flint, brick and tiles for the walls. In connection with restoration, I am pleased to report that, due to the good offices of Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood, F.S.A., and our member, Mrs. L. Saunders, some Roman material found during the construction of the Council Offices in 1926 has been restored to the present Orpington Urban District Council.

(b) *Bedens Field* (N.G.R. 3795 : 7118). Members of the society, together with Bexley and Sidcup societies under the auspices of the Cray Antiquarian Association, have continued the exploration of the Roman settlement near Footscray. The north-east corner of the square, ditched enclosure (previously reported in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI p. 240) was fully investigated, and a wealth of early first and second century material was recovered from the ditch filling. This indicated that there was much sheep and cattle farming during the

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

period for, apart from a mass of dismembered animal bones discovered, we found sheep-shears, a heavy butcher's knife, a tethering chain, and a fine iron key in a perfect state of preservation.

Adjoining the initial 250 ft. square enclosure, were found traces of four others, each having evidence of a chalk-floored structure similar to the "Kitchen Hut" found near the "Bath House" (already reported in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI p. xiv), from which first and second-century pottery was recovered. The only evidence of fourth-century occupation was found in a compact but limited layer of flints, tiles, bones and pottery debris which survived being ploughed out in the topmost levels of the ditchwork.

(c) *Goddington* (N.G.R. 4760 : 6475). Some first-century Roman pottery "scatter" has been found on the field surface by Mrs. L. Saunders and her son Anthony. It is hoped to investigate this new site in the near future.

Other finds from the Orpington area during the past year include an ancient sun-dial recovered from the rebuilding of the south wall of the Parish Church, and admirably reported by Mr. A. Eldridge (Past-President of the Society) to the local Press (see *Orpington and Kentish Times*, August 22nd, 1958).

JOHN PARSONS.

### ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

#### (1) AYLESFORD

In July-August, 1958, during operations for widening Forstal Road, off the Maidstone-Chatham Road,<sup>1</sup> workmen of the Kent County Council cut through two rubbish pits filled with miscellaneous metal fragments and quantities of Roman pottery. There were also two coins. The finds are now in Maidstone Museum. The writer would like to acknowledge the co-operation of Peter Fuller, Douglas Dorrington and David Canning.

The pottery is identifiable as being of the third and fourth century. The most interesting sherd (Fig. 4) is probably from an indented beaker; it is of an orange-red ware, with a poor red slip; decoration is in relief, and with a trail of white slip down the right-hand side; traces of (?) letters ɳ \ / ? are in low relief at the right-hand side.

The first coin is a solidus of Valens (A.D. 364-378).

*Obverse:* D N VALENS P F AVG

Bust of Emperor, diademed, to right.

*Reverse:* RESTITVTOR REIPVBLICAE

Emperor in military garb, standing to right, holding standard in right hand, and statue of Victory in left.

Mint mark TR. in exergue—Treveri.

<sup>1</sup> N.G.R.—TQ 51/754583.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

The other coin is an aes of Gratianus (A.D. 367-383).

*Obverse:* D N GRATIANVS AVGG AVG  
Bust of Emperor, diademed, to right.

*Reverse:* GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI  
Emperor standing, holding labarum.

E. J. E. PIRIE.

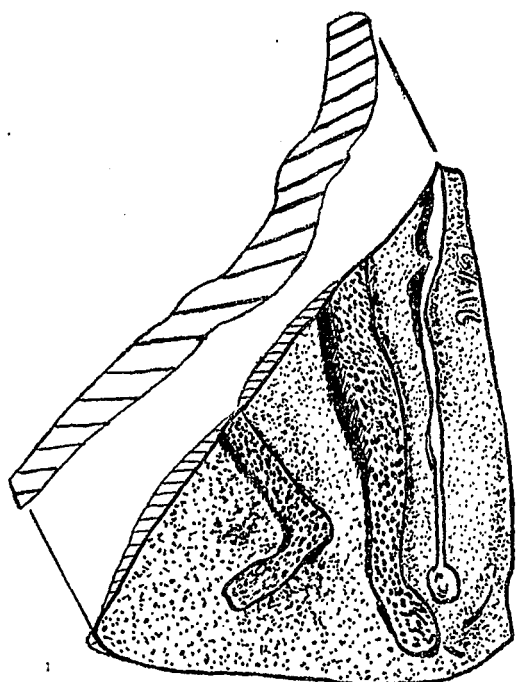


FIG. 4. Sherd from pit at Forstal Road, Aylesford.

(2) BOUGHTON ALUPH

A mask (Plate II), believed to be the mount and handle of a bucket or cauldron, was ploughed up in a field<sup>1</sup> on Boughton Court Farm, Boughton Aluph, near Ashford, at the beginning of November, 1957. The object was found in a clod of mud adhering to the wheel of a tractor-

<sup>1</sup> N.G.R. TR 61/484035.



[*Photograph by Ivor Morgan*

Bronze handle-mount from Boughton Aluph.

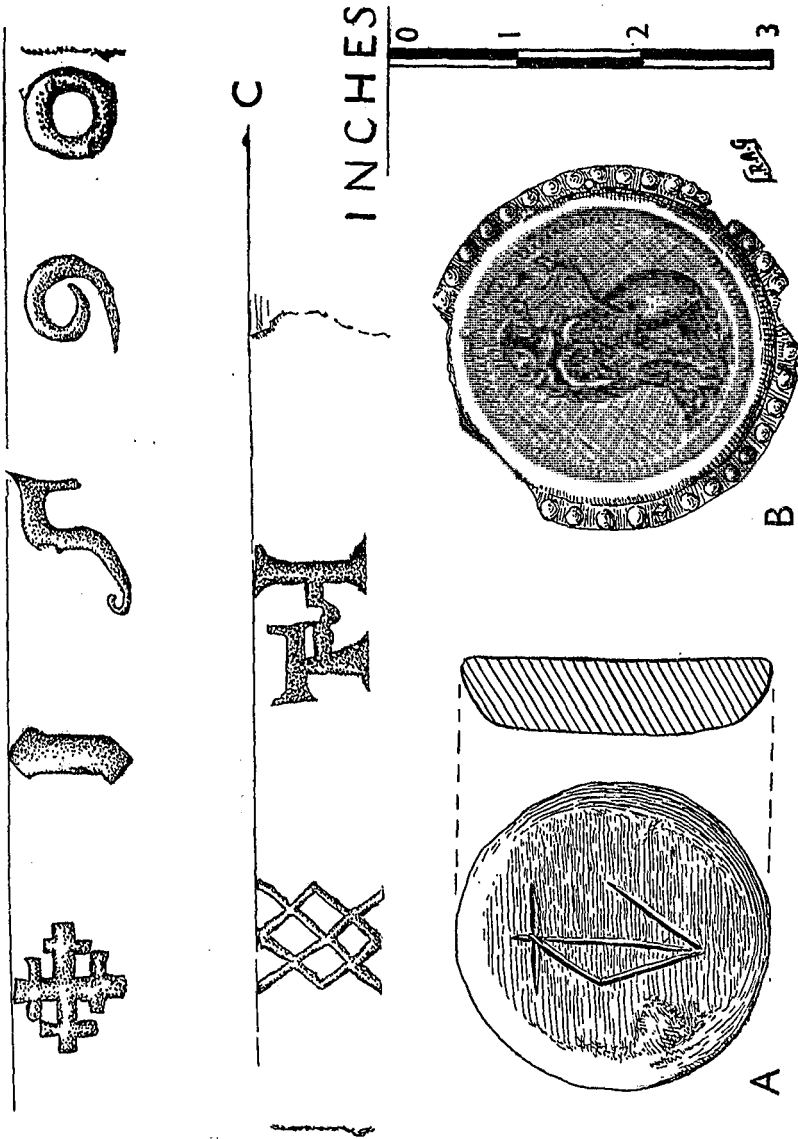


FIG. 5. A. Boughton Monchelsea weight.  
B. Strood boss.  
C. Mortar inscription.

cultivator, when it returned to the farm buildings after work in this field.

It is of bronze, with red enamel set in the striations of the hair. The metal has been submitted to the British Museum Research Laboratory for inspection to confirm its antiquity. The loop of the handle is grooved, and the mask itself, which has rivet-holes at each side of the face and one on the neck, is set on a slight curve, which would suggest that it had originally been placed against the body of the cauldron.

The mask is strongly Celtic in style, yet no other example has been recorded which parallels the different features very closely, or with associations which would enable an exact date to be given to the Boughton Aluph find. Professor Christopher Hawkes is of the opinion that the object is Gaulish work which must have been imported into this country early in the first century B.C., about the years 80-75.

It is not possible to identify the figure which might be represented. The horns<sup>1</sup> suggest that it is intended to represent a deity—the closest parallel seems to be the figure of Cernunnos on the Gundestrup cauldron.<sup>2</sup> The facial features are treated similarly on the cauldron. The grooved treatment of the hair is paralleled too in some of the Gundestrup figures: it is also not unlike the grooving on the heads of the Aylesford bucket.<sup>3</sup> The neck seems to have been finished with an animal head: the bronze from Stanwick,<sup>4</sup> embossed with a horse's head, has been quoted for comparison. The handle itself, with the central groove, is not unlike some of the examples cited by Leeds in his paper on bronze cauldrons.<sup>5</sup> There seems to be no real reason for crediting the suggestion that there might have been a curved piece of metal set into the groove, forming a headdress similar to that on the Aylesford head.

The mount is  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in. from the top of the loop to the base of the neck, and 2 inches across the face from rivet-hole to rivet-hole; it is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  in. in depth from the nose to the back.

Sir Edward Hardy, of Boughton Court, has already presented the mount to the Kent Archæological Society.

E.J.E.P.

### (3) BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

Fig. 5A shows a white-patinated, one pound (avoirdupois) lead weight, found on August 7th, 1958, by Mr. G. M. F. Pelosi in the back garden of his house, "Frاندor," Gandys Lane, Boughton Mon-

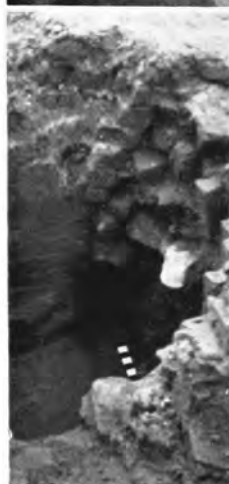
<sup>1</sup> Horns occur on the cow-head bucket escutcheons found at Felmersham-on-Ouse, Bedfordshire, published by W. Watson in *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. XXI, 1949, pp. 37ff., which have been recognized as Belgic.

<sup>2</sup> Brøndsted, *Danmarks Oldtid*, III, pp. 90-5.

<sup>3</sup> Evans, *A Late-Celtic Urn-Field at Aylesford, Kent*, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup> B.M., *E.I.A. Guide*, 1925, p. 142.

<sup>5</sup> *Archæologia*, Vol. 80, pp. 1-36.



Kiln at Sittingbourne Road, Boxley.  
(1) The firing tunnels, from the East.  
(2) The eastern tunnel, showing the glazed walls and the brick floor.  
(3) The outer wall of the kiln, from the West.

Blocking of debris at the entrance with the later brick wall in front.



chelsea. He has given it to Maidstone Museum (Accession number 39.1958).

On the upper side of the weight is incised a mark which has affinity to the so-called mason or banker marks,<sup>1</sup> to be found on our medieval and later buildings, both lay and ecclesiastical. Variations on the theme of the arrow are frequent and Maidstone Museum can show on its Tudor stonework (ragstone) three examples of a mark which is identical with one of the arrow signs made on a 1536 document concerning the sale of ragstone from Boughton Monchelsea quarries and assumed to be the sign-manuals of the masons concerned.<sup>2</sup>

Gandys Lane is a continuation of a road which runs from Coombe Bank by Boughton Hall (now Elm House Farm) across Elm Tree Corner to the main road from Cock Street to Linton Corner.<sup>3</sup> It will be seen therefore that the site of the present find is very near to the Boughton quarries and it is tempting to connect the weight, with its possibly banker-mark decoration, with a Boughton mason.

L. R. A. GROVE.

(4) BOXLEY

(a) *The Excavation*

In June, the discovery of a kiln for bricks and tiles was reported near the Sittingbourne Road, in the parish of Boxley.<sup>4</sup> The kiln, which was set in Folkestone sand, had unfortunately been badly damaged by bull-dozers before it could be properly inspected, so that the arched roofs of the firing tunnels had collapsed at the south end and filled the tunnels with debris. There was no sign of the oven floor.

The two parallel tunnels were constructed of brick-faced on the inner sides with a rich green glaze or glass.<sup>5</sup> The floor was paved with larger firebricks, at a depth of 35 in. The roof, where it was partially recovered at the north end, was constructed of bricks placed vertically, to a depth of 18 inches. The headers of the bricks immediately over the

<sup>1</sup> For a discussion of marks see:

(a) Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540*, p.127.

(b) Brooks, *Mason's Marks*, E. Yorks Local History Soc., 1952.

(c) Cheesman, *On Masons' Marks*, Leicester, 1924.

<sup>2</sup> Salzman, *op. cit.*, p. 121 and plate 11.

<sup>3</sup> O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheets, XLII S.E., and LII N.E.

<sup>4</sup> O.S. (6-in.) Kent XLII N.E.

<sup>5</sup> I am indebted to Mr. R. Spalding, Deputy County Analyst, for the analysis of the glaze:

	%
Silicon dioxide .. .. .	54.7
Iron and aluminium oxide .. .. .	12.8
Calcium oxide .. .. .	2.3
Magnesium oxide .. .. .	2.6
Sodium and/or potassium oxide .. .. .	27.6

It seems certain that the walls were deliberately coated with this composition, and that the glaze was not formed accidentally as a result of firing.

tunnels were stained green-blue, and were glazed in the same way as those of the walls. It is understood that the oven would have overlain the tunnels at the south end and that the fires would have been stoked from the north. The kiln was about 20 ft. long and tapered to the north, where the central wall which divided the tunnels stopped short before a single entrance. In front of that, a wall of later brick work (c.1800) blocked up the kiln, and beyond was a pit filled with brick and tile debris.

A little to the West, in the section of the road, was discovered brick rubble of two periods; the original and the later type used as blocking. This was cleared to reveal another solid structure still covered by the bank. There has, however, been no opportunity of examining this as yet.

The bricks of the kiln structure were the following sizes:

(1) Glazed bricks in the wall:  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{3}{8}$  in.

(2) Unglazed firebricks in the floor:  $9\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  in.

It may be estimated that the kiln was working about 1700.

No complete bricks were recovered which could certainly represent those made at the kiln, and it is not possible to report their complete dimension. The headers measured  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{8}$  in. The fragments of tile recovered showed that they were all a pale pink colour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, and 6 in. across; in length, at least 9 in. Some of them were curved ridge tiles, others were pierced at the corners for roofing.

In the pink and black sand filling at the bottom of the tunnels portions of the bowls of four clay pipes were recovered. Three of them may be dated c. 1780, the other slightly earlier.<sup>1</sup>

On the evidence of the pipes, and of the later brick-work, it may be assumed that the kiln was abandoned about the end of the eighteenth century.

The site has already been destroyed by bulldozers.

E. J. E. PIRIE.

(b) *A Note on the History of the Boxley Kilns*

The manufacture of tiles and bricks<sup>2</sup> has a long history at Boxley. The Cistercian monks of Boxley Abbey had tile yards from which in 1362 were sold 5,000 flat tiles at 6s. 8d., and 2,000 at 10s. the thousand.

*The Archaeological News Letter*, No. 12, 1955, p. 243, *The Evolution and Chronology of English Clay Tobacco Pipes*, by Adrian Oswald. Cf. types 10c (1780) and 10b (c.1740). The examples which are discussed are mainly from London. One may perhaps allow a reasonable time-lag before their appearance in this district.

<sup>2</sup> It is difficult to separate bricks from tiles in medieval references to tegulae. It is fairly certain that the yards produced both. In 1437 William Weysey, brickmaker, was appointed to search for earth suitable for making tiles (tegulae) called "brike". See Lloyd, *A History of English Brickwork*, 1925, pp. 2-6, 15.

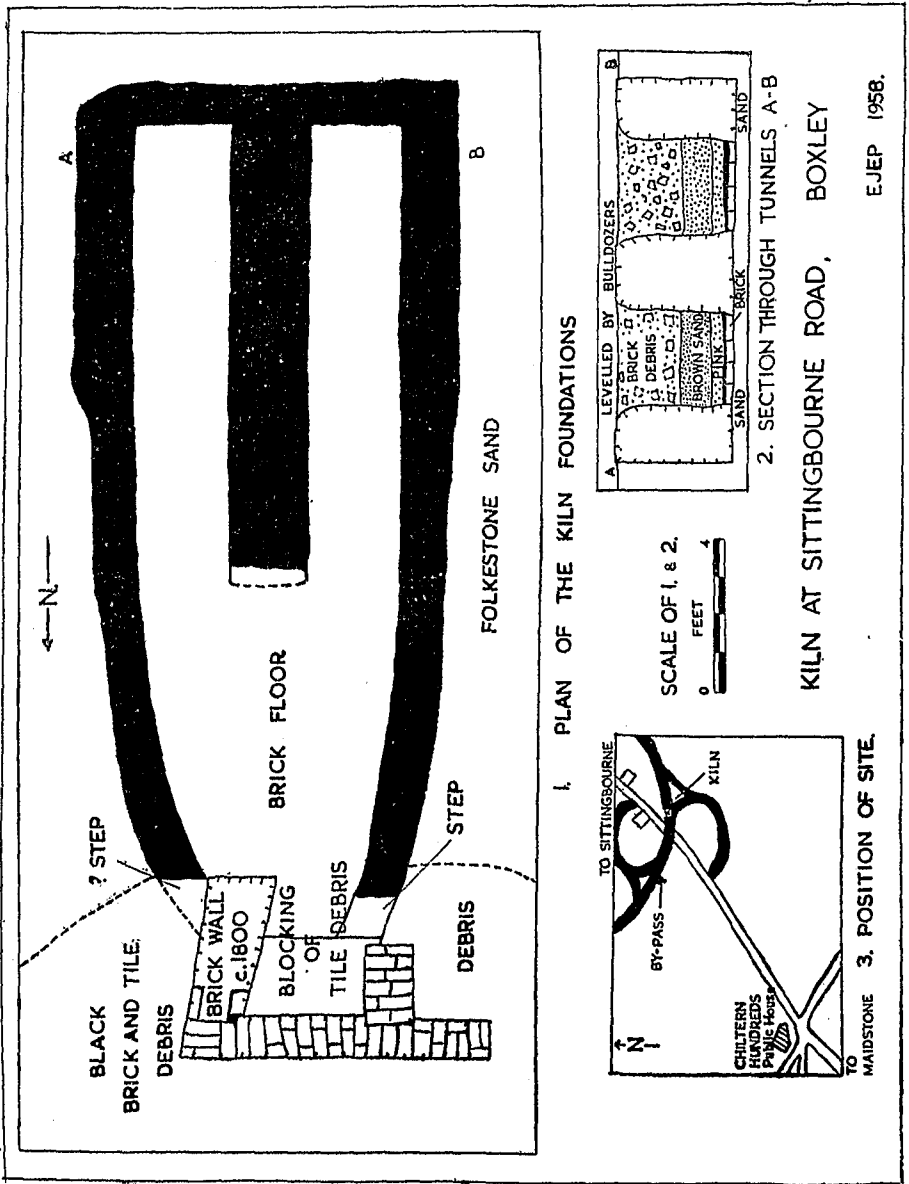


FIG. 6. Boxley Kiln.

They paid their workmen at the rate of 18d. to 2s. the week. The working period lasted from August to November.<sup>1</sup>

In *The Rochester Naturalist* for 1928<sup>2</sup> Mr. Norman Cook, F.S.A., reported that on Boxley Abbey Farm grounds, workmen had discovered a tile kiln which was built of broken tiles and contained a large pan bearing traces of metals. "Some of the tiles were glazed, but in others the design was cut out and filled in with a white material." The recovered inscription thereon was :

✠ . . (GVI) LLELMUS . DE . DVDIS . ME . FECIT

There is sufficient space for another word to be inserted before GVILLELMUS (Fig. 7). Seven fragments of this tile or brick, which is 1.3 in. in thickness, are preserved in Maidstone Museum. Mr. Cook concludes that "probably the kiln had a close association with the Abbey which is only half a mile distant." The date is thirteenth to early fourteenth century.<sup>3</sup>

References to Boxley tiles occur in the *Compotus* of Maidstone College of Priests, 1424-5.<sup>4</sup> For instance John Brode of Boxley was paid 13s. 4d. for 4,000 tiles for the College.<sup>5</sup> In the Maidstone Corpus Christi Fraternity accounts<sup>6</sup> for 1476 Sawyer of Detling had 6s. 8d. for tiles. It would appear that as the Reformation drew near there arose strong secular competition to the Abbey.

In 1670 Robert Hartridge<sup>7</sup> of Maidstone supplied 20,000 bricks for Chatham Stores at 17s. per 1,000, all full size and well burnt, together with 1,000 ridge tiles at 15s. per 1,000, and 1,000 gutter tiles at 15s. per 1,000. It is about this time and a little later that there was a good deal of rebuilding and refacing of houses in the Maidstone district. An example which should be well known to members is the external wall of the Kent Archæological Society's Room at Chillington House,

<sup>1</sup> *Victoria County History of Kent*, III, p. 393. For an account of late medieval organization of the industry see F. W. Brooks, *A Medieval Brick Yard at Hull*, *Journal Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, 3 Ser., IV, pp. 153-74.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. VI, No. 131, p. 107. The find was in January, 1926.

<sup>3</sup> One of the fragments in Maidstone Museum is distinct from the others in being printed rather than inlaid. This points to a transition period (*London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, p. 233) and the group may with some confidence be dated to the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century. This dating is confirmed by the style of the Lombardic lettering.

<sup>4</sup> *Penes* Maidstone Museum.

<sup>5</sup> There is evidence that Boxley Abbey had an eye on the buiding trade for the *Compotus* records a payment of 14s. to the Cellarer of Boxley for 24 quarters of burnt lime.

<sup>6</sup> Gilbert, *The Accounts of Corpus Christi Fraternity*, 1865, p. 20.

<sup>7</sup> *V.C.H. Kent*, III, p. 394. Robert Hartridge appears in the first *Maidstone Rate Book* of 1668 as being in possession of 12 acres at Harbourland. His neighbour is shown as Mr. Athawes, probably the same person who appears in the next footnote. In the *Cesse* for September, 1672, the entry is "Robert Hartridge now Jo: Dennis".

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Maidstone, which wall is part of a rebuilding scheme which can be approximately dated from a brick therein, inscribed "1699."

That the industry was equipped to meet this demand for bricks is shown by a map of Boxley in the Kent Archives Office.<sup>1</sup> The property

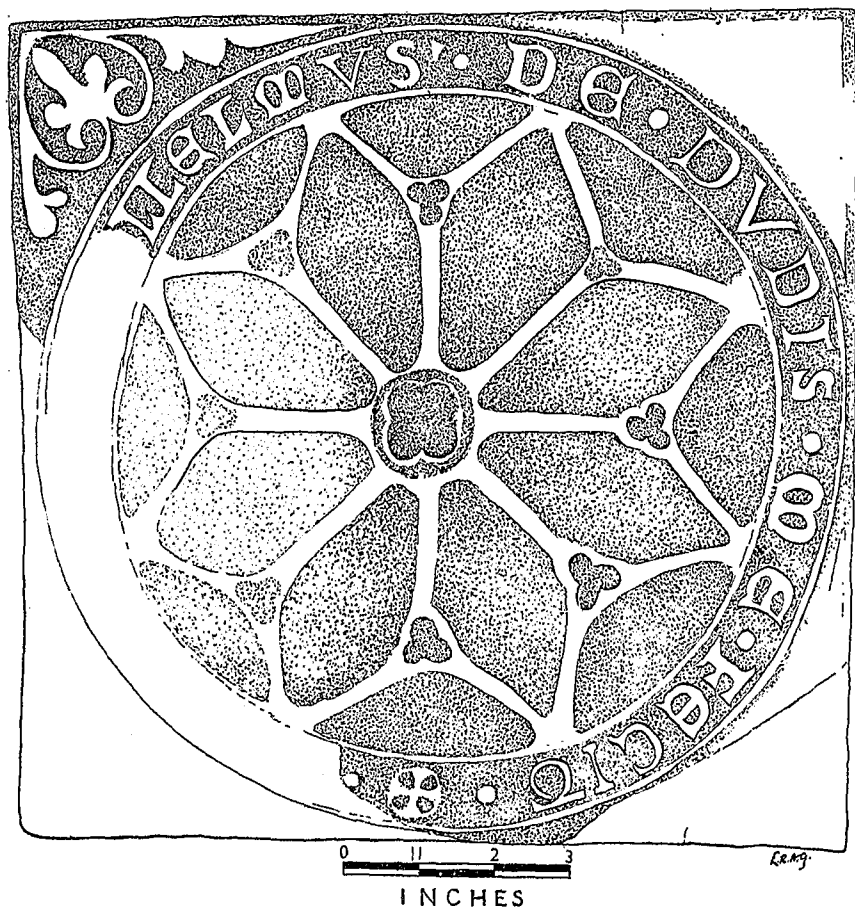


FIG. 7. Medieval tile from Boxley.

<sup>1</sup> K.A.O., U 480, P.1. "A Mapp of a Farm in the Parish of Boxley in the County of Kent Called Park Farm Together With a Brick & Tyle Kiln. . . . All which said Lands are in the Occupation of Samuel Athaws: &c. . . . This Estate was Actually Surveyed and delineated in the Moneth of October Anno Dom: 1697: By Mr. Walter."

I am much indebted to Dr. Felix Hull and Miss Rosemary Keen for finding this map for me after hearing about Miss Pirie's excavation.

depicted includes "The Tyle Kiln Belonging to Newnham Court" on the East side of "The Road from Detling to Maidstone". This is the kiln which is the subject of the present note. The same map shows another kiln, described as "Workhouse Yard and Kiln," which lies on the East side of Sandy Lane, leading from Penenden Heath to Boxley. To the North of the kiln is "The Tyle House Field". The site of the kiln (or kilns) may now be seen near the home of our member, Dr. J. F. D. Frazer, Stone House, Harbourland.

The history of the Newnham Court kiln may be fittingly rounded off by quoting another map in the Kent Archives Offices. This is dated 1821 and is a copy by Thomas Brown of Maidstone of a copy of a map lent by Mr. John Jones of Lincoln's Inn, Solicitor to the Earl of Aylesford. The Newnham Court kiln, as in the 1697 map, borders the Sittingbourne Road and is surrounded by Brick Kiln Field and Kiln Field and has the happily-named outliers of Littel and Great Crockens.

Very little has been written concerning the type of glazed brick which was found in the Newnham Court kiln. The standard history, Nathaniel Lloyd's *A History of English Brickwork*, 1925, exhausts itself with the following extract, included under "Diapers":

"... patterns were produced by picking out overburnt headers, often vitrified, for the purpose. These were darker in colour than the rest of the brickwork; purples, blues, greys and sometimes almost black. Although often referred to as 'black headers,' they were seldom so dark. Owing to the excessive burning and consequent vitrification, they reflect light. . . ."<sup>1</sup>

Kent was noted for grey bricks<sup>2</sup> but nowhere can I find a definite reference to the making of bricks with the thick covering of greyish glaze, which is something more than the vitrification for Lloyd's diapers.

I first noticed Kent's heavily glazed bricks some years ago when I was given some examples excavated by Mr. H. K. Wright from a possible kiln site at Park Wood, Benenden. Since that time I have noticed glazed bricks (or, at least, their "headers") *in situ* at, amongst other places, Snoad, Otterden (on a king-post hall house refronted in the sixteenth century); in the walls of a conduit under Chillington Manor, Maidstone (2½ in. thick brick) and in the North wall of the Society's Room there (approximately dated 1699, bricks 9 × 4 × 2.4 in.); at Paddlesworth Farm near Snodland; and at Tilts, Boughton Monchelsea, which was rebuilt c. 1715 for William Musgrove. At the latter house the size of an average, glazed brick, is 8.6 × 4.3 × 2.3 in.<sup>3</sup>

L.R.A.G.

<sup>1</sup> P. 68.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, p. 57, quoting Moxon's *Mechanick Exercises* of 1682.

<sup>3</sup> For average brick sizes see Lloyd, *op. cit.*, pp. 10, 91-3 and 99-100.

## (5) BREDGAR, NEAR SITTINGBOURNE

The Museum has acquired a set of electrotypes of the hoard of 34 Roman aurei discovered at Bredgar in July, 1957: the facsimiles are on permanent loan from the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum, where the originals were sent after having been declared Treasure Trove. The group of coins includes one of Julius Caesar, twelve of Augustus, seventeen of Tiberius and four of Claudius: the Claudian aurei are practically in mint condition, and the hoard must have been deposited soon after A.D. 43.

The hoard itself is of considerable numismatic importance because of being only the third of any great quantity of Roman gold coins recorded in this country. It is also of historical interest for it is the earliest hoard of purely Roman coins in Britain, connected with the first stages of the Roman occupation.

The writer is greatly indebted to Mr. R. A. G. Carson of the British Museum for arranging the loan, and for supplying information on the importance of the find. E.J.E.P.

## (6) FOLKESTONE

A recent acquisition of Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 40.1958) is a bronze, vesica-shaped seal matrix. According to the donor it was found in 1936 when he was digging the foundation for the Jubilee Inn, Folkestone Fish Market.

The length is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. and the greatest breadth  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. On the back there is a slender flange which is pierced for suspension at the apex of the matrix and which narrows to a point at the other extreme. The inscription is in what the late Sir William Hope called "Good Lombardic"<sup>1</sup> capitals and reads:

\* S' ROGERI : LE VENVR :

In the space in the centre is cut a rampant lion which, on an impression, would face sinister. The seal is typical of the late thirteenth and early fourteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

The name of Le Venour, Venur or Venour is one which appears regularly in the indices of the medieval volumes of the *Rolls Series*. Perhaps the best-known member of the family was Sir Robert Le Venour, a Lincolnshire knight, who, with his wife, Alice, in June, 1297, had a suit *re a tenement* at St. Paul's Cray.<sup>3</sup> With such a name<sup>4</sup> it is not surprising to find him in the Tower of London in 1281 for trespasses of venison in the King's park at Windsor.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, 2 Ser., XI, 271-306.

<sup>2</sup> H. S. Kingsford, *The Epigraphy of Medieval English Seals*, *Archæologia*, LXXIX, pp. 149-178.

<sup>3</sup> *Harleian Society*, LXXXIV, *Knights of Edward I*, Vol. V, pp. 102-3.

<sup>4</sup> "Le Veneur (Latin venator). Grand veneur = chef de la vénerie d'un souverain". (*Larousse, Dictionnaire Encyclopédique.*)

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The only Roger le Venur I have found was a cleric in Edward III's reign. His claim to have been the owner of the seal is not at all sure although the date is right. In the *Calendarium Inquisitionum post mortem*<sup>1</sup> there is the following entry under the ninth year of Edward III :

<p>“ Roger le Veynour Capellanus pro Will(elm)o de Bampton p(er)sona de Feryng. Feryng 28 acr(e) terr(e) &amp;c Kelleveton 60s. redd(iti) ib(ide)m remanent eidem Rogero</p>	}	Essex.” <sup>2</sup>
--	---	----------------------

In the *Great Parliamentary Roll* of Edward II, c 1312,<sup>3</sup> Sir Robert le Venour is shown as bearing a shield “ De argent crusule de goul’ a un lion rampand de goul’ la couwe forchie ”<sup>4</sup>. This is clearly a differenced bearing as will be seen by a glance at Burke's *General Armory*. Roger le Venur was obviously using the barest essentials of his arms as was fitting to such a small space on the matrix.

L.R.A.G.

### (7) HOLLINGBOURNE

The construction of the by-pass has exposed two structures to the west of Hollingbourne, on the Maidstone side of Musket Lane.<sup>5</sup> To the north of the road, a ditch has been cut through and Belgic pottery recovered from the filling : to the south, about twenty yards further west, bulldozers have sliced along the edge of ragstone foundations of a small building within which there is an area of heavy burning. The Roman pottery from this site all seems to be of the first and early second century.

It is hoped that there may be an opportunity of examining the structures further, on the adjoining private ground.

E.J.E.P.

### (8) LANGLEY

In April, an uninscribed Belgic gold stater was brought to the Museum for identification. It corresponds with Evans's types B8-B9, and with that illustrated by Allen.<sup>6</sup> It had been found at Redpit, Langley, near Maidstone.<sup>7</sup> The coin has been purchased for the Kent Numismatic Society.

E.J.E.P.

<sup>1</sup> *Rolls Series*, Vol. II, *Edward III*, 1808, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> Feering and Kelvedon near Coggeshall.

<sup>3</sup> *Harleian Society*, C, *A Catalogue of English Medieval Rolls of Arms*, 1950, p. 42.

<sup>4</sup> Modernized to “argent crusily and a lion rampant tail fourchée gules”. See Foster, *Some Feudal Coats of Arms*, 1902, p. 197.

<sup>5</sup> O.S. (6-in.) Kent XLIII N.W.

<sup>6</sup> *The Belgic Dynasties of Britain and their Coins*, Plate I, No. 1.

<sup>7</sup> O.S. (6-in.) Kent XLIII S.W.



## (9) LARKFIELD

In *Archæologia Cantiana*, LXIX,<sup>1</sup> I described half of a bronze mould for making the obverses of lead tokens.<sup>2</sup> I made a guess that as the mould had produced a shilling token the smaller impression would form a sixpence. I was wrong as far as the wording was concerned.

Dr. F. R. Tubbs, the Director of East Malling Research Station, on July 1st, 1958, kindly sent me for comment a lead token picked up on field P.1, just a couple of hundred yards to the west of Bradbourne House, Larkfield. It is definitely from the Maidstone Museum's mould for it bears the altered "T.T." (the initials of Sir Thomas Twisden) but, instead of "1 SIXPENCE," the reverse bears the inscription "1 BUSHEL."<sup>3</sup> L.R.A.G.

## (10) LINTON

At the beginning of July, workmen engaged in constructing a dam across the River Beult, by Stile Bridge at Linton,<sup>4</sup> dredged four items of pottery from the mud. Besides two fragments of buff-coloured mortaria and half an olla (7 in. high) of black-grey ware, there is a bowl of firm brown-grey fabric from which only a small portion of the rim is missing: it is  $4\frac{3}{8}$  in. high and  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in. over the rim diameter. Mr. Peter Tester has suggested one of the vessels from the site at Stone, near Dartford,<sup>5</sup> as a close parallel for the shape, which would belong to the late first century B.C. The Stone bowl is also of a hard brown ware, and has a slight neck cordon and faintly hollowed base: the Linton example has in addition a zone of ornament below the cordon, which is made up of zig-zag bands of hatching, each band being composed of four strokes.

The pottery has been presented to the Museum by the Kent River Board (34.1958). E.J.E.P.

## (11) MAIDSTONE

A flint arrowhead with a strong white patina was discovered during the winter of 1957-1958 in Queen's Road, Maidstone, on land belonging to Darge Thomson, Ltd. The arrowhead, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long, is of the Neolithic "leaf" type, a variety which is wedge-shaped at one end and pointed at the other; the point has been chipped off, probably in antiquity.

The flint has been presented to the Museum by Master David West, (31.1958). E.J.E.P.

<sup>1</sup> P. 215.

<sup>2</sup> With the initials "R.T." (for Sir Roger Twisden) and the name "Bradborne".

<sup>3</sup> Greatest diameter  $\frac{3}{16}$  in.; greatest thickness  $\frac{3}{32}$  in.

<sup>4</sup> O.S. (6-in.) Kent LII N.E.

<sup>5</sup> P.P.S. (1941) p. 139, Fig. 3, No. 7.

## (12) ORPINGTON, RAMSDEN

In March, 1958, workmen cutting a drainage trench behind 78 Ramsden Road, Orpington, discovered a deposit of pottery sherds and fragments of cremated bone about 2-3 ft. below the surface, in the sandy top-soil.

Two sherds of a sandy pink-white ware may have been from a small flagon or jug, but the majority of sherds belonged to a cream-coloured two-handled jug of which the neck, one stout two-ribbed handle and part of the body survive. The internal measurement of the mouth diameter is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. ; the thickness of the fabric is a uniform 2 cm. The type corresponds to *Camulodunum*, Form 172, of which the Flavian examples have the more massive rim. The Ramsden jug may therefore be assigned to the end of the first century.

The deposit remains the property of the Orpington U.D.C.

E.J.E.P.

## (13) SITTINGBOURNE

A Bronze Age looped and socketed axe was found 9 feet down in a trench, while making a sewer in Ruins Barn Road, near Sittingbourne in 1928 :<sup>1</sup> it has been given to the Museum by the finder, Mr. W. Deverson (54.1957). It is similar to that illustrated in Evans,<sup>2</sup> which was discovered at Dorchester, Oxon. In addition to the wing ornament on the faces and sides of the axe, there is a rib-moulding round the mouth : like the Dorchester axe, the Sittingbourne example has two small projecting longitudinal ribs inside the socket.

The axe is  $3\frac{7}{8}$  in. long, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. across the mouth of the socket. The olive-green patina is only patchy on the surface, and roughly pitted : on both faces the metal is well exposed.

E.J.E.P.

## SITTINGBOURNE

In March, a silver coin was dug up in an allotment between Berry Street, Sittingbourne, and a nearby school.<sup>3</sup> It was submitted to Mr. R. H. M. Dolley at the British Museum who identified it as a schilling of the Teutonic Knights of East Prussia, issued by the Grand-Master Paul I of Russdorf (1422-1441). Mr. Dolley, who intends to publish a note on its numismatic interest, says that he does not know of another example of the type found in this country. The coin has been presented to the Museum by the finder, Mr. W. H. Clack (32.1958).

E.J.E.P.

<sup>1</sup> O.S. (6-in.) Kent XXXIII N.W.

<sup>2</sup> *Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain*, p. 109, Fig. 111.

<sup>3</sup> O.S. (6-in.) Kent XXXIII N.W.

## (14) STROOD

On January 7th, 1958, during operations for the extension and widening of Broomhill Road, Strood, a bronze-gilt boss (Fig. 5B) was found on the North side of the road by Mr. Derek R. Penfold, who subsequently gave it to Maidstone Museum (Accession number 33.1958). Some slight damage had been done to the side and centre of the boss, more especially to the neck of the lion.

Bosses are the Cinderellas of archaeological research and frequently find themselves promoted to be horse harness embellishments.<sup>1</sup> The present example has two—possibly three—surviving small holes for attachment by either rivet or thread. The background to the lion sejant regardant consists of a hatching of raised lines which is admirably moulded to retain the gilding. The outstanding characteristics of the beast are his unusual, 8-shaped curly ears. Otherwise in shape and feeling he is very much akin to the lions trodden upon by many a knight on brasses of the fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries. It is probably best to give the boss a broad dating as "late medieval".

L.R.A.G.

## (15) THURNHAM

A limited investigation was carried out at the site of the Roman villa at Thurnham during May-June on the area to be destroyed by the roadworks for the new Maidstone by-pass. Two sets of foundations, both of ragstone and flint, were recovered. The main area has been interpreted as the kitchen wing of the house, on the evidence of pottery, charcoal, oystershells and bones, drains and rubbish-pits. There seems to have been two distinct phases of occupation lasting from the first century well into the third century A.D.

The second complex of foundations was badly damaged as a result of ploughing but seemed to represent nothing more elaborate than outbuildings.

The main quarters of the villa are believed to be undisturbed on private ground adjoining the line of the road. Paul Ashbee excavated a portion of the site in 1933.

E.J.E.P.

## (16) ULCOMBE

There has recently been given to Maidstone Museum (Accession number 35.1958) a bell-metal mortar bearing the date "1590," the initials "T.H.," a cross crosslet and a fret (Fig. 5C). It is  $5\frac{1}{8}$  in. in height. The diameter at the rim is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. and at the base  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. The inscription appears to have been made by two moulds.

<sup>1</sup> *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, p. 85 and p. 290, A 21084, for a possible predecessor.

## RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

A glance at the list of English bell-founders in the *Appendix* to H. B. Walters's *Church Bells of England* shows that only one founder with the initials T.H. was working during the last years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, namely Thomas Hatch of Ulcombe, of whom some account is given in Stahlschmidt's *The Church Bells of Kent*.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately there seem to be only two records of his bells in Kent, at the churches at St. Margaret's, Canterbury, and Langley, near Maidstone. Langley bell bears a foundry stamp upon which the letters "T.H." have very much the shape of those on the mortar although they are not ligatured.<sup>2</sup>

Stahlschmidt's book, published in 1887, would appear to have rung the knell for the last seventy years for research work on bell founders. However it will be seen that a new line of exploration is to be found in noting the marks on bell-metal mortars and on other objects of founders' work, such as the handles of posnets. It is a hopeful sign that one of Stahlschmidt's errors concerns a John Palmar mortar<sup>3</sup> which he thought to be a converted Sanctus or Priest's bell—and which is nothing of the sort.<sup>4</sup>

L.R.A.G.

### WYE : FIFTEENTH-CENTURY DRAIN

During February, 1958, workmen uncovered a fifteenth-century drain outside Wye College, near the Latin School. It connected with the old town sewers on the further side of the road. The arched drain was 14 in. wide, and 14 in. also from the floor to the springing of the arch. Floor and arched roof were of red bricks, the sides being of block chalk (see Plate IV).

E. W. MOORE, *Wye Historical Society*.

### BELGIC

A silver coin of Dubnovellaunos, King of Kent (Evans's pl. iv, 11), found by Mr. J. Johnson of Ramsgate, in the grounds of Seven Stones House just south of Dumpton Gap, near the Belgic village site, has been presented by him to the Royal Museum, Canterbury.

<sup>1</sup> Pp. 74-5. See also *Arch. Cant.*, XVIII, p. 434.

<sup>2</sup> *Stahlschmidt, op. cit.*, p. 75.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 83-4.

<sup>4</sup> In the collection of Robert Spalding, Esq., Loose.



Fifteenth century drain—Wye.