

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

A ROMANO-GAULISH STATUETTE FROM COWDEN, KENT

THE incomplete clay statuette here illustrated was found in the garden of Ludwalls Farm, Cowden, Kent. It is the upper part of a figure of a nude boy, now broken off at the waist, its present height being 5 cm. The fracture is unusually clean and sharp considering the thickness of the material, which may suggest that in its complete state it was not a free-standing figure, but a half-length bust mounted on a small pedestal. The head is slightly inclined to the left, and the hair is arranged in curls hanging close to the back of the head, and combed forward on the forehead. A crested bird with one wing upraised, presumably a cockerel, is held by the left hand close against the boy's chest, and he extends his right forefinger to touch the tip of the bird's beak which is open.

The statuette is in fine white pipe-clay, and was produced in a two-piece mould, the front and rear halves being subsequently luted together and the medial joint then roughly trimmed with a knife or spatula. Although an exact parallel has not been found, it is clear that the facial expression with its simpering smile, the treatment of the eyes, nose and hair, are all characteristic of the work of the clay statuette modellers who worked in the Allier district in the latter half of the second century A.D. In fact, there are clay busts from that industry which portray children holding various animals in the same general pose. For example, there are two, portraying a young girl holding a rabbit, which were found at Arpajon (Cantal) and Clermont (Puy-de-Dôme) respectively, and also one of a boy holding a small dog from Saint Pourcain-sur-Besbre (Allier).¹

Analogous types from elsewhere in Britain are also recorded. All are now incomplete and made of white clay. One, from Bootle-in-Cumberland, is the torso of a male personage, nude but for an apron tied behind the back. He has both hands raised close to the chest where they clasp what seem to be ears of corn and fruits of some kind.² The second example was found by chance on the foreshore at Leigh-on-Sea (Essex).³ Only the front half has survived and its height is now 6.8 cm. Both hands are raised to the chest where they clasp

¹ St. Germain-en-Laye Museum Nos. 6865, 28117 and 28054, respectively.

² *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* (new series), xxx, 119. Present whereabouts unknown.

³ Chelmsford Museum Nos. A 1304/1 and A 1304/2, two pieces which join.

fruits of some kind and in the left hand is an object resembling a key.⁴ The third example was found in 1849 in the Roman baths at Chelmsford (Essex).⁵ It is the torso of a nude male figure now lacking the head and broken off at the knees. Like the others just described, the hands are in a similar position and clasp fruits against the chest; the height is now 7.6 cm.

In discussing the identity of the personage represented by the Bootle statuette, the late Professor Collingwood remarked that the combination of the apron and fruits suggested that it was Priapus, but he thought that this was unlikely as the figure is not ithyphallic. Silvanus is frequently represented in a similar guise holding fruits, but Collingwood preferred to think that a minor Celtic deity of strictly local origin may have been intended.⁶ In our view, however, none of these identifications seems entirely satisfactory.

In seeking parallels one is reminded of the various stone votive statuettes which have been recovered from several temple-sites in Gaul, as for example those found in the shrine of the Xulsigiae adjacent to the temple of Mars-Lenus at Trier.⁷ The inscriptions borne by these reveal that they were proffered to Mars-Iovantucarus (Lover of Children) by parents concerned for the health and welfare of their young offspring. It is noteworthy that some of these youthful figures hold a bird in precisely the same pose as that of the Cowden figure. There are, of course, no grounds for thinking that this indicates the site of a temple in the vicinity of its find-spot, but its very close similarity to the stone *ex votos* could mean that it had a similar function.

It seems therefore, that the Cowden figure was produced in the Allier workshops to meet the demand for cheap substitutes for the more expensive statuettes in stone and metal which were destined as gifts to the gods. If this is true, then it seems more reasonable to regard these clay statuettes of children who bear fruits, animals or birds, not as divine beings, either classical or local Celtic, but as stereotyped subjects symbolic of the children who were expected to be the recipients of the favours of the gods to whom the statuettes were presented.

The author is indebted to Mr. David Kelly, of Maidstone Museum,

⁴ *V.C.H., Essex*, iii (1963), 154, but not illustrated.

⁵ *Trans. of the Essex Arch. Soc.*, i (old series). Now in the Chelmsford Museum.

⁶ *Loc. cit.*

⁷ E. Gose, *Der Tempelbezirk des Lenus-Mars in Trier*, Berlin, 1955, Taf 28, Abb. 49; there are also several analogous stone statuettes which have been found with many other *ex votos* in the temple of Sequana at the sources of the Seine. Part of what seems to be a similar statuette of white clay is now in the Provinciaal Oudheidkundig Museum at Utrecht (Inv. No. G 16 = 5616) found at s'Heerenberg. Nothing else is known, and the site is not a Roman one. All that has survived of the figure is the lower part of a nude male from the waist down to the ankles. The proportions and size are close to the British examples. The height is now c. 8.9 cm.



Romano-Gaulish Statuette from Cowden.

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for drawing his attention to this interesting statuette and for arranging for him to examine and photograph it. The statuette is now in the possession of Mr. E. C. Webber, formerly of Ludwalls Farm.

FRANK JENKINS

COURT WOOD, SOUTHFLEET

Court Wood is situated at the south-east side of the parish of Southfleet and covers an area of approximately 28 acres. The N.G.R. is TQ 619697. The wood contains a complex of earthworks which do not appear to have been recorded by the Ordnance Survey, neither are they shown on the Tithe Award plans. An inspection of the latter map shows that there has been no significant change in the shape of the wood since 1841. The woodland is on stiff clay with chalk lying only a few feet below the surface.

In order that all the earthworks should be accurately located, an instrumental survey was made of the entire wood in the winter of 1970 and the accompanying plan shows the earthworks in detail. The principal feature is a large 3 ft. high bank with a ditch on the outside which encloses a major part of the wood. As will be seen from the plan, the western side of the earthwork has been partly destroyed by constant ploughing in the adjoining field but in all the other quarters it is still in good condition. At the extreme south end of the wood, the bank and ditch make an unaccountable turn north for some 120 ft. This part of the earthwork was carefully examined for signs of a possible entry into the enclosure but none was found. There is a single trackway in the wood which runs from north to south; it breaches the northern bank of the earthwork but fades out before it reaches the southern bank. At the north-east side of the wood and lying immediately outside the large earthwork is a group of small enclosed areas, mostly rectangular in shape. Each enclosure is separated from the adjacent one by a low bank and sometimes by a bank and ditch. Their form has become obliterated by garden cultivation in the building development on the eastern side of the wood. Similar forms of enclosures are to be noted at the north end of the wood, and the continual ploughing of the fields on the north-west side has destroyed some of their banks. At the extreme north, a small piece of woodland, which even in 1841, was isolated from Court Wood by the intrusion of a ploughed field, contains a small rectangular earthwork. Within this enclosing rectangle there is a deep circular depression. This area was carefully searched for any signs of occupation of an earlier period but no surface finds of tiles, masonry or pottery were evident.

These groups of small earthworks outside the major one appear to represent the remains of some form of cultivation; this opinion is

EARTHWORKS IN COURT WOOD, SOUTHFLEET.

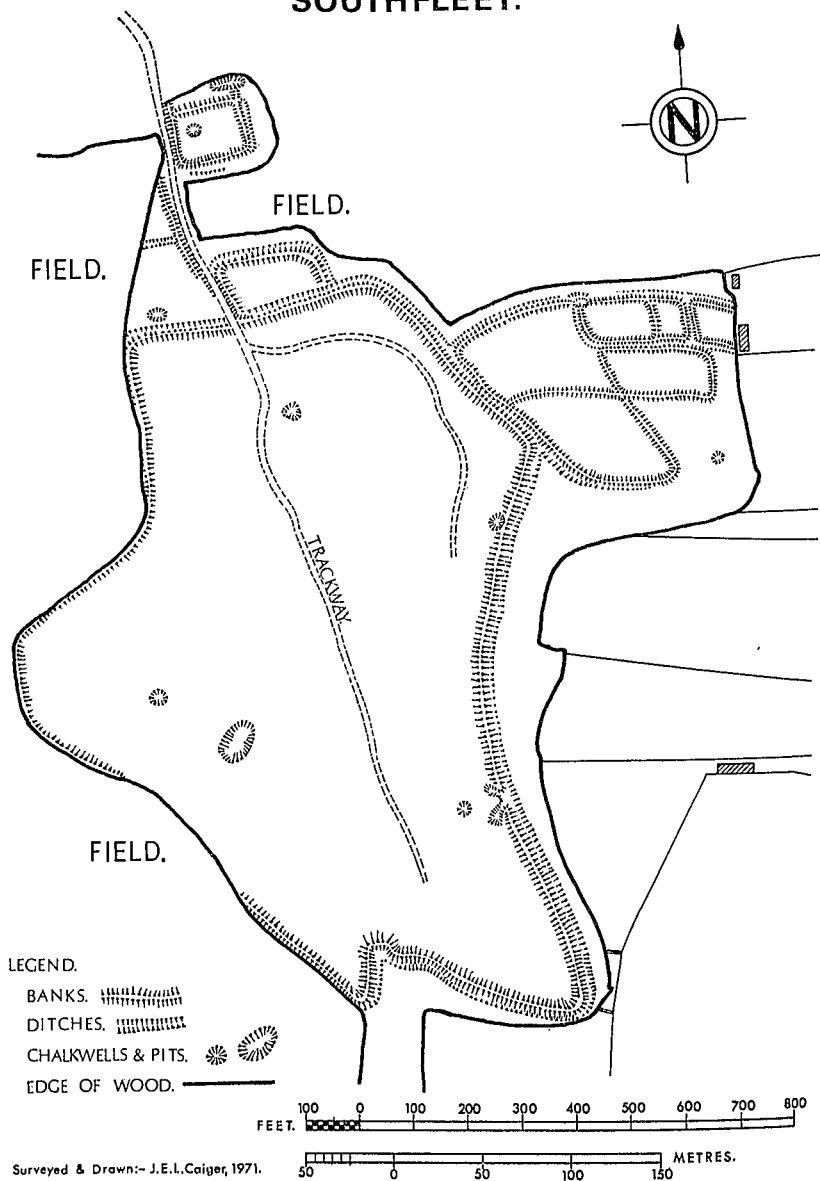


FIG. 1.

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considerably strengthened by the proximity of several collapsed chalk-wells sited just outside the ditches and also only a short distance away from the enclosed areas. The whole pattern bears some resemblance to the earthworks in Darenth Wood, *Arch. Cant.*, lxxix (1964), 77.

Dr. A. Baker, whose opinion was sought in connection with these earthworks and their origin, tentatively suggested that the features described might have some parallels with certain field patterns identified in Brittany by André Meynier of the University of Rennes.

Several large enclosures, with adjacent small enclosures, have been discovered and surveyed in this part of Kent in the last few years; they appear to be of medieval date, but the reason for their construction remains somewhat obscure. It is tempting to suggest that the large enclosed areas were for the exclusive use of the Manor and were probably made as a compound for livestock, possibly hogs, whilst the small rectangular enclosures outside this barrier represent all that remains of the small fields cultivated by the peasants.

J. E. L. CAIGER

FLINT ARTIFACTS FROM PADDLESWORTH, NEAR FOLKESTONE

Thirty-seven flakes and five cores were found by the writer when examining soil tipped by a mechanical excavator at a site near Paddlesworth, 4 miles north-west of Folkestone. The site belongs to the Folkestone and District Water Company; it is an open field (N.G.R. TR 199395) at 612 ft. A.O.D. on the highest part of a downland plateau. The excavation work was for a new reservoir, and permission to search for archaeological evidence was kindly given by the manager of the company, Mr. P. A. D. Powell.

The soil had been excavated by a grader to form a pit 50 yds. square and 7 ft. deep and had been dumped on the western side of the excavation. The topsoil was a brown loam, the upper subsoil was orange Lenham sand and the lower subsoil was clay-with-flints, with some chalk. Flint nodules and pieces of ironstone were also present. The artifacts were found in the heaped up topsoil. They were mostly of local flint patinated grey, with portions of buff cortex. Common characteristics of the flakes were (a) bulb at opposite end of butt, (b) bulb side plain, and (c) shallow flaking on reverse side. Retouching was present on a few specimens. The collection consisted of three steep core scrapers, one small chopper, one split core, one rejuvenation flake, fifteen scrapers, thirteen small flakes ranging from 1-3 cm. in length, two blades, four small broken blades, two augers.

No potsherds or signs of occupations were found, but the characteristics of most specimens seem to indicate a Mesolithic date—an opinion supported by Mr. D. B. Kelly and Mr. A. G. Woodcock. The site may

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have been a summer camping-ground on a high position overlooking the surrounding plateau.

A. H. GIBSON

SUPPOSED BARROWS AND HUT-SITES ON DARTFORD HEATH

Successive editions of the Ordnance Survey Six-Inch Kent Sheet IX. NW. have hitherto shown groups of 'tumuli' on Dartford Heath, but these have been omitted from the 1966 Revision (TQ 57.SW.). Shallow pits, often with surrounding low banks, are associated with the mounds and have been regarded by some observers as indications of primitive dwellings. F. C. J. Spurrell noted them in his paper on Dartford Antiquities in *Arch. Cant.*, xviii (1889), 308-9, and he mentions that his own excavations of both pits and mounds had produced no evidence of an early origin. The purpose of this present note is to put on record the equally negative results of an investigation by the writer in 1950 and 1955. Permission for this work was kindly given by Dartford Council.

A small pit, roughly elliptical, 15 ft. long, 10 ft. wide and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep, was examined. It formed one of a concentration of similar pits of varying sizes near the centre of the Heath (N.G.R. approximately TQ 517733), slightly south of a small group of 'tumuli' marked on the old O.S. map. On excavation, the longitudinal section revealed that the pit, as originally dug into the gravel subsoil, appeared to have two roughly formed wide steps at one end, while the opposite side was steeper at an approximate angle of 45 degrees. The floor was flat and the filling consisted of no more than a foot of humus spreading up the sides at a fairly uniform thickness. From this a microlith, a calcined flint and the stem of a clay tobacco pipe were obtained. It was concluded that these objects had simply silted in from the surrounding surface and were not reliable indications of the period at which the pit was formed. There was no hearth or anything to suggest that the pit had served as a habitation.

On the east side of the Heath the 1938-1939 Revision of the O.S. map marked a line of sixteen 'tumuli' running N.E.-S.W. Some of these are low mounds, about 15 ft. in diameter, with indications of a surrounding ditch. Others are of similar size but have no appreciable mound and consist of a circular platform defined by a slight ditch. In 1955, I excavated one of these with the assistance of several of our local members. Two quadrants were excavated which showed that the platform was about 14 ft. in diameter and only a foot high above the old turf-line. The ditch was originally $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. deep, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, with a flat bottom and the sides at an angle of 50 degrees to the horizontal. From the stony soil of the platform and the dark filling of the ditch

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came a number of datable objects. A glass bottle-neck from high in the ditch-filling belonged to the first half of the nineteenth century, and some pottery from the body of the platform was not earlier than the late eighteenth century. Nothing of greater antiquity than this was observed in any part of the excavated area.

Whatever the exact age and purpose of these curious features, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that they were in some way connected with the military camps formed on Dartford Heath at various times, particularly in the eighteenth century. One of these, in 1779–1780, was described by Alfred John Dunkin in his *History of the County of Kent* (1856), 54, and he included a plan showing the dispositions of the various bodies of troops. One long line of encampment quarters is there shown more or less in the position of the string of ‘tumuli’ referred to above. Writing over 60 years after the event, he commented significantly: ‘The site of the long row of tents is still apparent (1853) and clearly indicated by the turf-ruins, as the traveller crosses from Heath-lane towards Baldwins.’ What he meant by ‘turf-ruins’ is not clear, but after so long an interval they were obviously something more permanent than bare patches where tents had stood.

Mr. I. D. Margary, F.S.A., has compared the Dartford Heath mounds to some in Ashdown Forest,¹ which have now been proved to be remains of military field kitchens associated with a camp north of Duddleswell and on Stone Hill in 1793.² The details of their original construction are explained in Mr. Margary’s paper on the Sussex examples,³ and reference is also made to other similar mounds associated with eighteenth-century military camps near Tunbridge Wells and on Easthampstead Common in Berkshire.

P. J. TESTER

DISCOVERIES AT HALL PLACE, BEXLEY

In the course of repairs undertaken in 1971, the panelling lining the walls of the parlour in the west wing was removed. This revealed several items of interest which help to a further understanding of the architectural history of the house. Reference to the plan and notes in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxi (1957), 153–61, will facilitate an understanding of the following descriptions.

The stud partition across the south end of the parlour is now seen to be Tudor work except for the central opening and the short return at its west end. Recently, it has been underset with brickwork and the modern imitation half-timber facing on the south side replaced. Behind this, however, the basic sixteenth-century timber-framing was clearly

¹ *Sussex Notes & Queries*, iii (1931), 190.

² *Sx. Arch. Coll.*, ciii (1965), 60–6.

³ *Ibid.*

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in evidence, with the suggestion of an original opening at the east end.

In the west wall, between this partition and the bay window, there appeared a blocked Tudor window, about 5 ft. wide and 7 ft. 2 in. from cill to floor.

On either side of the bay window the rubble wall had been rebuilt in Tudor brickwork for several feet. This is obvious evidence that the bay window was, in its original form, a Period II Tudor insertion, but the present yellow-brick quoins of the window-opening indicate that the feature has been renewed at a much later date, possibly within the present century.

The east wall showed another blocked Tudor window between the chapel and the parlour fireplace. It was situated just north of the junction with the hall and had been blocked, probably in Period II, with re-used mouldings and other medieval carved stones of the type found in great quantity elsewhere in the Tudor house. As previously stated, this is almost certainly monastic material derived from the dissolution of a religious house in the reign of Henry VIII. The width of this window was 4 ft. 3 in. and the cill was 6 ft. 10 in. from the floor. Between it and the fireplace, a narrow oblique passage, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, had been roughly hacked, N.W.-S.E., through the stonework to the north and the brickwork of the fireplace to communicate with the hall. From its unfinished appearance, it is doubtful if this opening was ever put to regular use.

South of the fireplace the wall takes the form of a sixteenth-century stud partition. The illusion of a thick partition wall between hall and parlour, as shown in the 1957 plan, is due to there being a second stud and plaster partition on the hall side forming a hollow wall, and designed to mask the eastward projection of the fireplace and chimney when this was inserted in Period II. Possibly the Period I parlour fireplace was on the west side and was removed when the bay window was formed.

P. J. TESTER

BELGIC AND ROMAN POTTERY FROM DARTFORD

In 1959, the premises of Messrs. Penny Son & Parker in Dartford High Street, about 50 yards west of Holy Trinity Church, were demolished and the site excavated for a considerable depth in preparation for the erection of F. W. Woolworth's Stores which now cover the area (N.G.R. TQ 54337400). This digging was kept under observation and material of archaeological interest was recovered with the help of the workmen. This included some Belgic and Roman pottery which is considered worthy of publication in view of the scarcity of recorded material of this age found close to the intersection of the Roman road with the River Darent.

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The section exposed at right-angles to the south side of the High Street showed a thick layer of black peaty alluvium resting with its base on river gravel about 7 ft. below the modern surface. A Belgic-type urn, Roman pottery, fragments of *tegulae*, animal bones and charcoal were observed towards the base of the black stratum. This agrees with the observations of F. C. J. Spurrell who noted that the town of Dartford 'now stands on black peaty soil; a mere swamp, the deposits of floods and the tide, mixed of course with the debris of old buildings. But the Roman level is not touched nearer than 4 or 5 feet from the surface . . .' (*Arch. Cant.*, xviii (1889), 312). He recorded foundations seen in 1866 in the High Street near the church, and a tessellated pavement at the entrance to Lowfield Street, but apart from this very little has previously come to light to confirm the probability that a Roman settlement existed on the low ground near the Darent ford. Most of the Roman finds from Dartford have come from higher ground on either side of the valley and close to the line of Watling Street of which the High Street forms a part.

It seems likely that the pottery had been washed out of its original context by flooding of the Darent in post-Roman times and incorporated in the alluvium by the same agency.

A small quantity of Roman sherds was also obtained in 1958 during the building of an extension to Marks & Spencer's shop on the opposite side of the High Street. River gravel was revealed 8 ft. from the surface, capped by black soil containing Roman tiles and pottery, including Patch Grove ware.

When a telephone exchange was constructed in 1969-1970 behind the Post Office in Hythe Street (N.G.R. TQ 54197413) alluvium was noted to a depth of 7 ft. A Roman flagon neck was recovered from this site (Fig. 1, no. 18).

The following note on the samian ware from the Woolworth's site has been contributed by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A. Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., has figured and described the coarse pottery.

SAMIAN WARE

The forms represented in this assemblage are as follows:

(i) *Plain*:

Form 15/17, South Gaulish, 1 vessel, Flavian.

Form 18, South Gaulish, 2 vessels, Flavian.

Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, mid-second century.

Form 31, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, late second century.

Form 33, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, mid-second century.

Form 33, East Gaulish, 1 vessel, late second century.

Form 27, South Gaulish, 2 vessels, Flavian.

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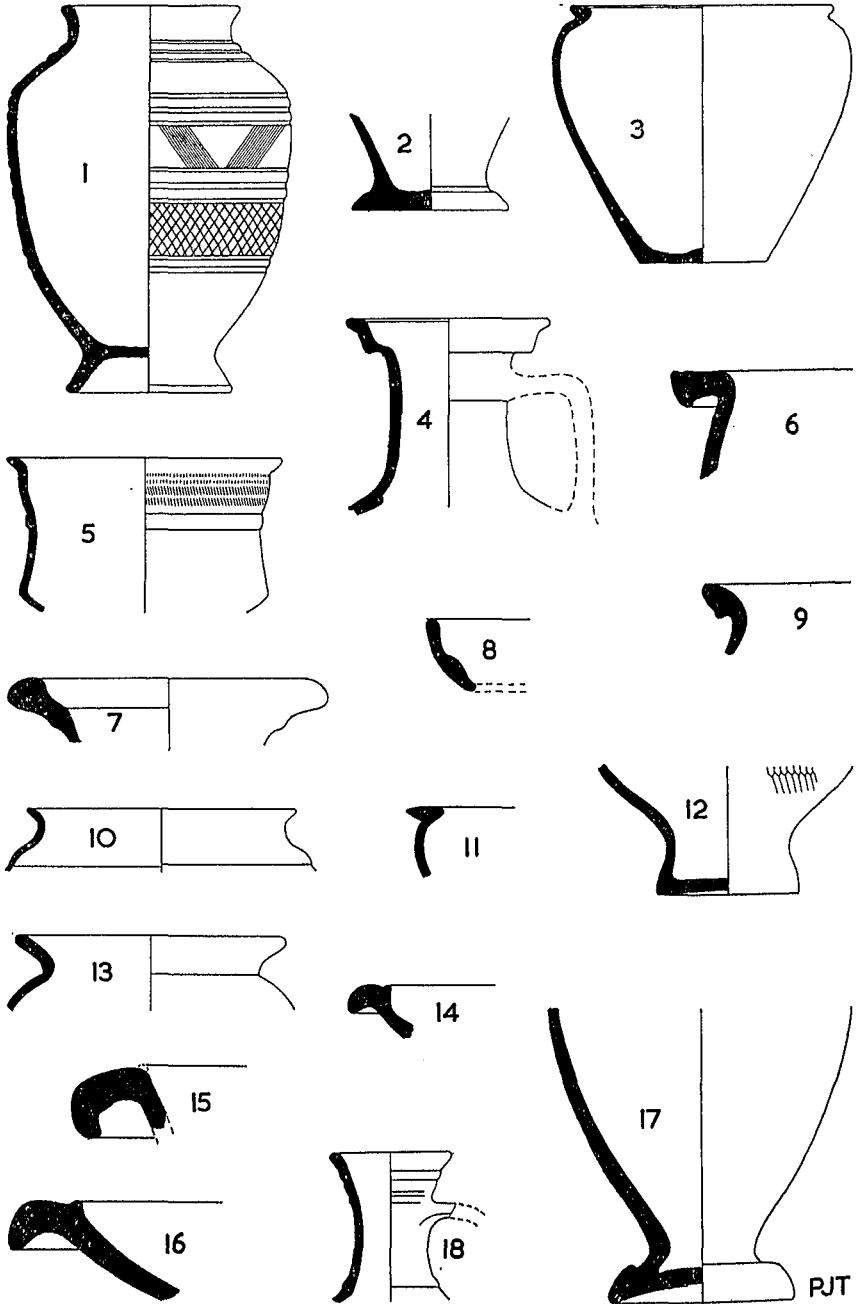


FIG. 1. Belgic and Roman Pottery from Dartford ($\frac{1}{2}$).

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- Form 27, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, Trajan-Hadrianic.
- Form 36, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, second century.
- Form 38, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, late second century.
- Form 45, Central Gaulish, 1 vessel, end of second century.
- Form Curle 11, South Gaulish, 1 vessel, Flavian.

(ii) *Decorated:*

- Form 29, South Gaulish, 1 vessel, Flavian.
- Form 29, South Gaulish, stamped inside base OFMOM/, with graffito N below the foot-ring, Neronian-Flavian.
- Form 37, Central Gaulish, rim-band only, 2 vessels, late-Antonine.
- Form 37, South Gaulish, 1 vessel, late first century.
- Form 37, East Gaulish, 1 vessel, late second century.

The samian ware as a whole suggests occupation from the Flavian period to the third century A.D.

COARSE POTTERY

Only a proportion of the sherds lend themselves to illustration or detailed description. Of those figured herewith (Fig. 1), nos. 1-17 came from the Woolworth's site, while no. 18 was recovered from the Telephone Exchange excavation in Hythe Street. The material from the former provenance is predominantly early in character and includes common domestic forms, such as mortars, which indicate a habitation site, although no. 1 might well have come from a cremation burial.

1. Pedestal-base vessel of Belgic character, recovered almost complete but with no trace of cremated remains in the contents. Grey ware. Low cordons defined by shallow grooves encircle neck and body, with tooled lattice and chevron decoration, now very eroded. This decoration compares with *Richborough III*, 254 (mid-first century), while the shape is clearly related to the Belgic pedestal-urns of pre-Roman Swarling type.

2. Flat quoit-shaped pedestal base of hard grey ware with black burnished surface. Its Belgic affinities link it with no. 1 above. First half of first century A.D.

3. Charlton-type bead-rim cooking-pot with recess on bead. Hard gritty grey ware. Late first or second century. (Cf. *Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1954), 177, nos. 8-13, from Joyden's Wood.)

4. Cup-mouthed flagon, reddish ware with white slip. (Cf. *Arch. Cant.*, lxx (1956), 275, nos. 1-6 from Hoo St. Werburg.) Mid-first century.

5. Carinated bowl with low cordon round constriction of body and zone of eroded rouletting between cordon and rim. Hard fine grey ware. First century.

6. Heavy moulded rim in hard grey ware fired to pinkish shades on surface. Rim diameter about 12 in. (Cf. *Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1954), 114, nos. 58, from Canterbury.) Late first or early second century.

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7. Rim of amphora in typical buff ware.
8. Platter of grey ware with pronounced internal thickening of wall. A common first-century form.
9. Rim of cooking pot with slight bead on lower edge. Dull-red ware. Rim diameter 8 in. (Cf. *Colchester*, 268.) Common in second century.
10. Vessel in thin reddish ware, with outcurved rim, and raised corrugation on shoulder. (Cf. *Richborough II*, 144.) First century.
11. Depressed bead rim of bowl, in hard grey ware with smooth black outer surface. Rim diameter about 9 in.
12. Lower part of vessel with faint traces of eroded rouletting. Hard gritty brown ware. (Cf. *Arch. Cant.*, lxxii (1949), 25, no. 5, and 27, no. 14.) Second half of first century.
13. Small cooking pot with everted rim. Grey ware. A very common form in the second century.
14. Mortar or bowl (no grits visible) of buff ware. Diameter 8 in. Probably late first or second century.
15. Mortar of buff ware, with boldly hooked flange, bead eroded. Diameter 12 in. Late first or second century.
16. Mortar of pinkish-buff ware, coarsely gritted, drooping flange. Diameter 16 in. Late first or second century.
17. Lower part of vessel with slightly raised base and heavily moulded foot-ring. Hard smooth dull-red clay. Probably late-third or fourth century. Almost identical with *Richborough II*, 179.
18. Ring-neck jug in dull orange clay with traces of white slip and two-ribbed handle. Late-first or early second century. From Telephone Exchange site, Hythe Street.

(Not illustrated)

19. Part of neck of large flagon with two-ribbed handle. White ware, very eroded. Possibly resembled *Richborough III*, 195 (first century), but too incomplete for satisfactory identification.
20. Rim and shoulder of Patch Grove storage jar with stabbed decoration on shoulder very similar to vessel from Bexley figured in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxii (1958), 188, no. 1. Rim form, however, is closer to *Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1954), 175, no. 2, from Joyden's Wood. Late first or second century.
21. Fragment of rim of Patch Grove vessel of same general type as that from Joyden's Wood previously mentioned.
22. Rim similar to Joyden's Wood, no. 1 (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1954), 175). Grey ware, shell filled, with traces of black coating. Late-first or second century.
23. Lattice-decorated pie-dish of common type. *Richborough III*, 339. Late first or second century.

24. Poppy-head beaker with characteristic applied stud decoration. Wall-sherds only. *Richborough I*, 54. Late first or second century.
25. Rim of plate resembling *Richborough I*, 86. Grey ware.
26. Side of plain dish resembling *Richborough I*, 85. Dark grey ware.
- 27-32. Six plain everted rims of jars or cooking-pots of a common and persistent type.
33. Bead-rim of bowl of pink ware with red slip. Fourth century.

L. C. DALE

THE BLACKFRIARS, CANTERBURY

In 1969 and 1970, a small housing development was put up on that part of the site of the Dominican Priory, or Blackfriars, Canterbury, which lies on the west side of King Street, on either side of Blackfriars Street. In 1929, A. R. Martin published a study of the Priory¹ which included a suggested plan based on a drawing made in 1595² and on comparisons with other Dominican sites. In advance of the recent building operations, trial excavations were made by the writer and Mr. F. Jenkins for the Canterbury Archaeological Society with the help of a grant from the then Ministry of Public Building and Works, with the object of checking on this plan. In addition, a watch was kept on the builders' excavations. The area in question contained the north-east corner of the cloister, the east ends of the chapter house and church and part of a domestic building on the north-east corner of the Blackfriars site.

(1) Cloisters

This part of the site had recently been a timber-yard and was badly disturbed by saw pits. It is possible, however, to establish the line of the inner and outer walls of the north wing of the cloister and the outer wall of the east wing. The walls were constructed of coursed flints with occasional chalk lumps set in a hard yellow mortar. The external face of the east wall had a plinth made from a single course of chamfered Caen stone blocks. The cloister floor consisted of thick rammed chalk on top of which was a thin layer of clay, presumably for bedding tiles. The external walls were in line with those shown on Martin's plan (Fig. 1), but the north wing was only half the suggested width. This might affect Martin's siting of the dormer on top of this part of the cloister (see below). Two sherds of Tyler Hill pottery came from the

¹ A. R. Martin, 'The Dominican Priory at Canterbury', *Arch. J.*, lxxxvi (1929), 152-77.

² *Ibid.*, 153, fig. 4; 156, pl. ii. The plan, an isometric drawing of the Priory from the west, was made by Thomas Langdon in 1595. The original plan disappeared in the early nineteenth century and is now known from an engraving published by J. Robson of Bond Street in 1792.

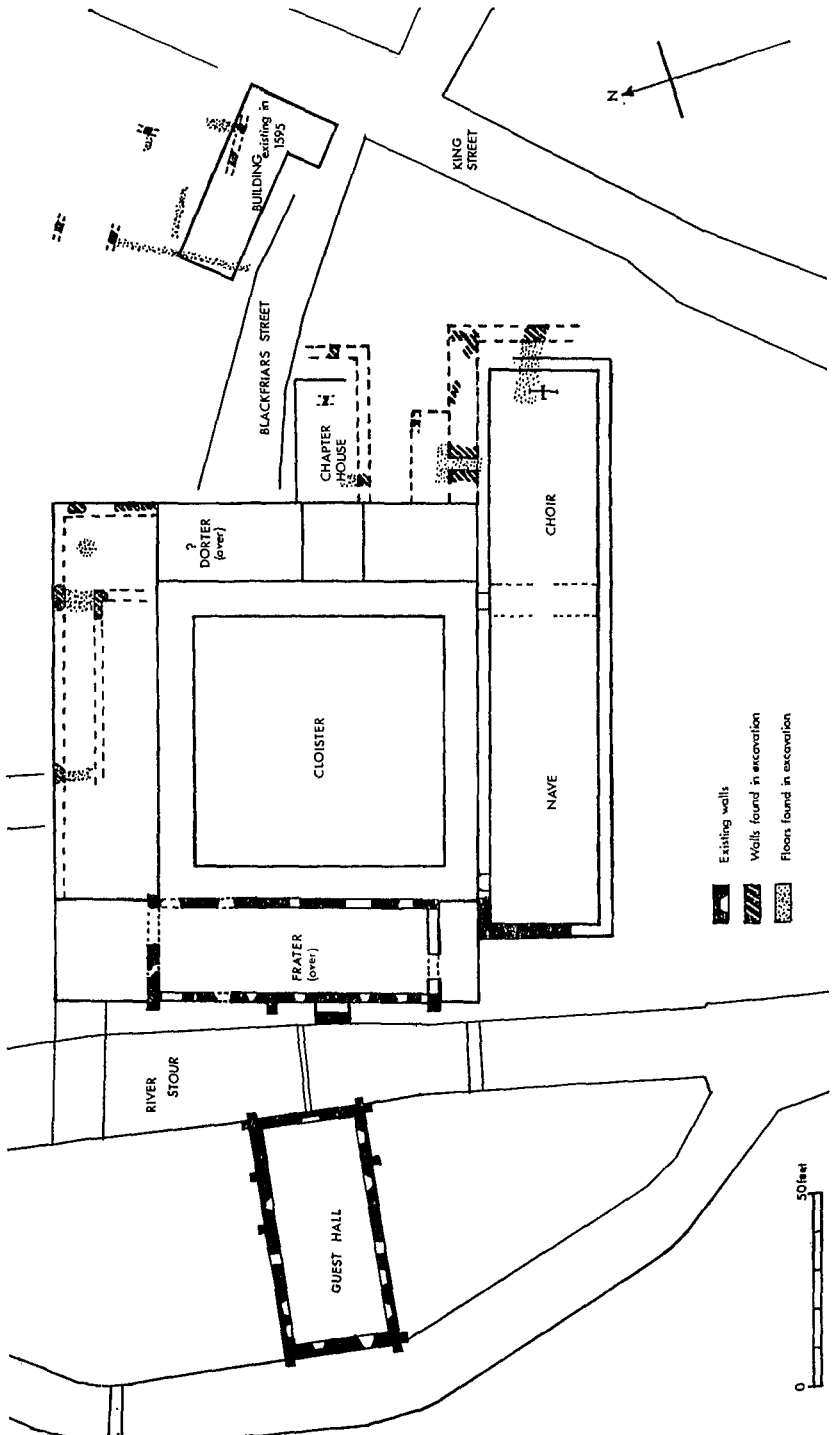


FIG. 1 The Dominican Priory, Canterbury: Plan showing the Relationship of Features found in 1969/70 to Martin's plan.

foundations and pieces of stone moulding and Tyler Hill-type floor-tiles were found in unstratified contexts during building operations.

(2) *Chapter House*

The chapter house and church stood to the south of the present Blackfriars Street and the site was disturbed by foundations and wells belonging to a row of nineteenth-century cottages that had stood here. It was possible to establish the positions of the south and east walls of the chapter house. The south wall followed the line suggested by Martin, while the east wall was about 10 ft. further east. The walls were similar in construction to those of the cloisters and the floor was made of gravelly yellowish mortar. Part of what may have been an internal wall was found in the builders' trenches. It was not possible to investigate the junction of the chapter house and the church with the cloister as this part of the site is below the gardens of the houses still standing in Blackfriars Street.

(3) *Church*

The north wall of the church followed the line suggested by Martin, but as in the chapter house, the east wall was about 10 ft. further to the east. The walls were made of uncoursed flints set in a hard, light yellow mortar and the east wall had a Caen stone plinth similar to the one on the east cloister wall. The east wall was similar in width to the walls of the cloisters and chapter house, but the north wall was massively built and about 8 ft. wide. This wall contained an interesting feature, a narrow passage leading to a room on the north side of the church (Fig. 2). The passage was 3 ft. in width and, at either end of it, there were slots made from dressed chalk blocks to hold screens or sliding doors (Fig. 2). A column base of Caen stone with a carved moulding stood at the south-west corner of the passage facing into the church and a less elaborate column base stood at the north-east corner facing into the room. The floor of the passage was paved with Tyler Hill tiles set in soft mortar. These were very worn but had originally been printed and glazed. Nineteenth-century disturbance prevented any investigation of the room on the north side of the church but it, apparently, had a floor of rammed chalk and part of a wall belonging to it was seen in the builders' trenches. No indication of this room is given in the 1595 plan. There seem to be two possibilities as to the nature of this room. It may have been a vestry. There was a small rectangular room, no longer existing, on the north side of the quire of the church of the Dominican Priory at Norwich and it was suggested by F. C.

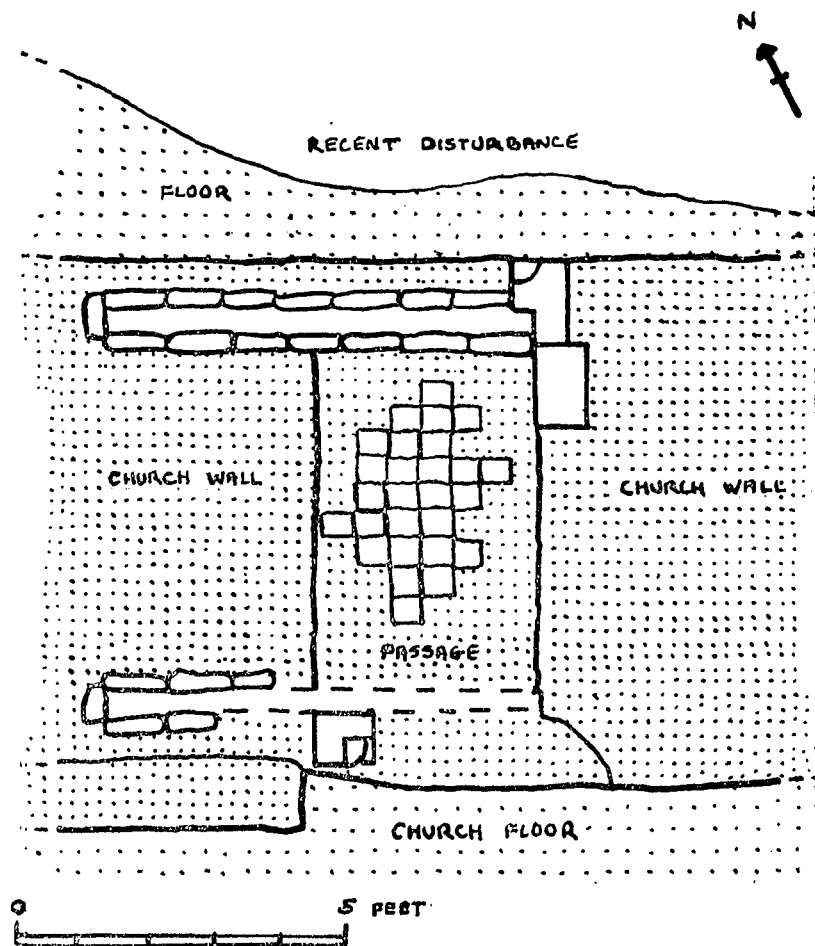


FIG. 2. The Dominican Priory, Canterbury: Plan of Passage in north Wall of Church.

Elliston-Erwood that this was a vestry.³ The church at Norwich is more elaborate than the Canterbury one and dates from the fifteenth century. The other possibility is that the room may have been a night stair from the dormer. This would fit with the position of the room in relation to the church and cloister if the dormer were in fact over the east wing of the cloister rather than over the north wing as suggested by Martin. The narrow width of the north wing has already been noted. A somewhat similar arrangement of church, cloister, night

³ F. C. Elliston Erwood, 'The Norwich Blackfriars', Report of the Summer Meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute at Norwich, 1949. *Arch. J.*, cvi (1949), 90, pl. vi.

stair and dorter occurs at the Augustinian Abbey of Inchcolm.⁴ Again, Inchcolm is a more complex building than the Canterbury Blackfriars and later in date, the cloisters dating from the fourteenth and the church and night stair from the fifteenth centuries.

The floor of the Canterbury church was of rammed chalk and mortar and had presumably originally been tiled. No burials were found in the church or elsewhere on the site.

(4) *Domestic Building*

The 1595 plan shows a building at the north-east end of the site, interpreted by Martin as an L-shaped building on the corner of Blackfriars Street and King Street.⁵ A watch was kept on the builders' excavations in this area, but considerable disturbance by saw pits made it difficult to build up a coherent picture. Walls and floors from more than one domestic building were recorded, the most southerly wall found in this area probably representing the north wall of the building shown on Martin's plan. The build of this wall differs from the other walls in this area, being of chalk lumps set in hard, bright yellow mortar, while the other walls are of uncoursed flints and chalk in soft, ochre-coloured mortar. If this is the north wall of Martin's building, the projecting wing of the house would be under the present Blackfriars Street. Doidge's Map of 1752⁶ shows a solid block of building on the west side of King Street from the entrance to the Blackfriars almost to Mill Lane. Presumably, the foundations found on this part of the site, including those of Martin's building, formed part of this block. The floor levels of the buildings in this area were of chalk and mortar and were separated from each other by thin, dark occupation levels.

The church was the first building of the Priory to be erected. It was begun in 1237 and was almost completed by 1244, while the other buildings seem to have been built by about 1260.⁷ There was no trace of any earlier medieval occupation on the site: the priory buildings lay directly above the black post-Roman build-up which, in this area, was about 1 ft. 6 in. deep. Indications of destruction levels and floors from a substantial Roman building were found in the builders' trenches on the north-east part of the site.

L. MILLARD

⁴ J. Wilson Paterson, *Inchcolm Abbey*, Ministry of Public Building and Works Official Guide Book, 2nd ed., H.M.S.O., 1950, 21-3, plans 8-11.

⁵ The 1792 engraving of the plan shows a rectangular building with an addition at the east end fronting on to King Street and two additions on the south side, one of which seems to be a porch and the other is a building that gives the L-shaped outline shown by Martin.

⁶ W. and H. Doidge, *A Plan of the Ancient City of Canterbury*, 1752.

⁷ Martin, *op. cit.*, 155, 159.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

BILSINGTON

On the west face of Bilsington church tower is a stone tablet which bears in relief the date 1590 and a shield of arms (illustrated on page 22 of Aylwin Sampson's *The Parishes of Bonnington, Bilsington and Hurst*, Kent Messenger, Maidstone, 1957). Because two of the quarterings show a pheon, a tradition seems to be developing to claim that the shield has some connection with the family of Sidney (*op. cit.*, 23, and John Newman, *West Kent and the Weald*, 1969, 165).

As the pheon is the charge on the second and third quarterings research work was concentrated on the first and fourth quarterings. These latter appear to show a cross engrailed between four crescents.

In 1590, the manors of Bilsington Superior and Inferior were owned by Sir Martin Barnham of Hollingbourne whose father, Francis, Sheriff of London in 1570, had bequeathed them to him in 1571, 'which being then lett at low rates . . . were for the present but of smale valew.'¹ Sir Martin's father had married a Sussex heiress, Alice Brogbridge or Brodbrige, and therefore bore on his shield his own arms (sable a cross engrailed between four crescents argent) impaling his wife's (azure a broad arrow head argent the top of the middle part or). His son, the lord of the two Bilsingtons, would bear the arms quartered, as shown on the church tower.

EAST MALLING (RIVER MEDWAY)

On the 10th April, 1971, Mr. J. T. Fulman, of Holt Wood, with the aid of a mine detector, found a palstave (Fig. 1) on the west bank of the River Medway by Abbey Meads on the Lower Cut (O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet XXX NW., 4,900 feet due west of St. Mark's Church, Eccles).

The palstave is 6 in. in length, with a greatest width of 2½ in. The weight is approximately 15 ounces. It has a deep green patination with some pitting. It is low flanged and possesses a blade splayed into a wide cutting edge.² A parallel example from Plaxtol is in the Maidstone Museum.

FAVERSHAM

Whilst digging his garden at 31 Redland Crescent, Faversham, during Spring 1971, Mr. P. Oliver found the late medieval, enamelled roundel shown in Fig. 2. It is made of copper and is slightly concave on the plain underside and slightly convex on the side depicting heraldically

¹ *The Ancestor*, ix (1904), 196. (This article quotes from the Sir Francis Barnham MS.) See also Hasted, *Kent*, viii, 347.

² M. A. Smith, 'Some Somerset Hoards and their place in the Bronze Age of Southern Britain', *P.P.S.*, xxv (1959), 144-87.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

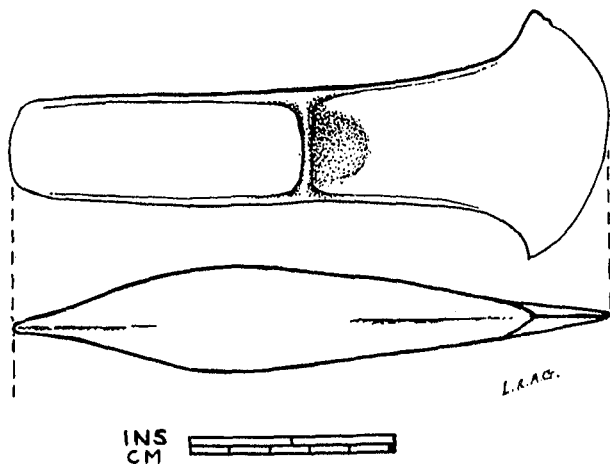


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

Azure semé of cross crosslet (or possibly of cross bottony) a lion passant or.

I have assumed that the polished copper would appear as golden in colour.

The metal of the roundel is badly corroded, especially so on the lion's snout. The blue enamel, however, has fared better. In the figure its extent on the roundel is shown by the customary hatching of horizontal lines. In the centre of the underside is an intentionally-made, small round hole. The thickness is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The arms could be a differencing of those borne by Astley (Edward III *Roll*), namely, azure crusily or and a lyon passant gardant argent.

HYTHE

Mr. Geoffrey William's recent book on *The Heraldry of the Cinque Ports* (1971) has rightly concentrated on the arms shown on the working side of the Cinque Ports matrices. He gives a figure (p. 107) of the Common Seal of Hythe and mentions that it is similar to others dating from the end of the thirteenth century. Walter de Gray Birch, in his *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*, ii (1892), 94, dated the seal '12th-13th century', and G. S. Laird Clowes in *Sailing Ships*, part 1, 48, gave reasons for believing it to date to 1284. Its earliest appearance on a document is on E 42/237 in the Public Record Office, 26 Edward I, 1298 (Williams, *op. cit.*, 84). It is $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter.

It is surprising to find that in spite of all the expertise spent on the Hythe Common Seal nobody has bothered to withdraw the matrix from the former wooden mount and handle of convenience in order to describe the mythical animals which appear on the back.

The topmost animal (Fig. 3) is clearly a unicorn and the bottom beast seems to be either a crowned wyvern or lindworm. Medieval *Bestiaries*, such as that of Guillaume le Clerc (translated by the late G. C. Druce), agree that the Unicorn represents Christ:

'This wonderful beast
Which has one horn on its head,
Signifies our lord,
Jesus Christ, our saviour,
He is the spiritual unicorn.'



FIG. 3.

The Unicorn is very swift because neither Principalities, nor Powers, nor Thrones nor Dominations could keep up with him.³ Francis Bond (*Misericords*, 52) gave examples of this symbolism on misericords at Windsor and Durham Castle chapel where a unicorn tramples on a human-headed dragon or snake in allusion to the Psalmist's words 'Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and dragon shalt thou trample under feet.'

Wyverns and lindworms were sub-standard dragons as they only had two legs. The former had wings, the latter were without. However, with or without wings, they both represented the Devil to medieval minds.

It would appear then that the back of the Hythe Common Seal had religious significance. It showed the triumph of Christ over the Devil (the middle panel serpent) and probably over Principalities and Thrones (crowned lindworm at the base).

MAIDSTONE

On the 28th April, 1953, the late Mr. Harry Smith, of 92 King Street, Maidstone, asked Mr. Alan Warhurst, F.S.A., the present Director of the Ulster Museum, and me, to examine a structure uncovered in his garden. The house itself was a post-medieval timber-framed building with few distinct features. It was demolished in January, 1971, and the site, together with part of the garden, was built over. This part of King Street was formerly known as East Lane.

I took notes at the time and these show that Mr. Warhurst and I concluded that from the back of the house there was a conduit, probably of seventeenth-century date, leading downhill to the River Len. There were ragstone footings at about 3 ft. down from the modern surface and nearby a brick floor at about 6 ft. down. The eighteenth-century bricks were broken into half lengths and were 3½ in. wide and 2½ in. in depth, with no frog. According to Mr. Harry Smith, there was an underground flask-shaped structure a few feet to the south-east of the ragstone footings.

To the west of 92 King Street lie the Brenchley Almshouses (nos. 76-82). In Maidstone Museum's Clement Taylor Smythe manuscripts, compiled in 1832, there is a note stating that a mineral spring 'was supposed to be in' a large garden at the back of the almshouses. By a fortunate chance, Mr. Dennis Baker has recently been working on the Canon Thomas Austen manuscripts in the British Museum (Additional MS. 24269) and on f. 27 came across the following confirming account by Canon Austen who had been a schoolboy in Maidstone. Its content would seem to place Maidstone amongst the minor ancient spas of Kent.

³ *Bestiary MS.*, Cambridge University Library, No. 278, trans. T. S. White, 21.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

'Purging water. I remember about the year 1736 &c that accidentally I met with a sort of Calybeat water. It had a red settlement at bottom when it stood a small time, and purged those that drank it, it came from a Leaden pipe & was for the use of everybody in common at the further end of East Lane at Maidstone towards the fields but has been since inclosed & taken into the use of those houses that were afterwards built upon the spot: for a gent: of my acquaintance endeavoured to find it out but could not. Whether it be stoppd up, is uncertain, but certain enough that there was such a spring, & the only one of the kind (of a red Tincture) any where about Maidstone, as I know of.'

MAIDSTONE

The Maidstone *Burghmote Book DD* (IV, 5, in Miss K. S. Martin's classification of the Town's Archives) under the dates 10th December, 1714, 11th December, 1714, 21st December, 1714, 4th January, 1714-1715, 22nd April, 1715, and 30th September, 1715, records that Daniel Whetland, the Mayor, presided over meetings of the Court of Burghmote. It is strange therefore to find his name omitted from the list of mayors of this time on the Town Hall's official boards and from the lists in Miss Martin's *Records of Maidstone* and in Russell's *The History of Maidstone*, 1887. The reasons for this strange omission seem to be two—the premature death of the succeeding mayor and the difficulties caused by regnal and fiscal dating.

For the period 1713 to 1716, Miss Martin sets out her list of mayors as follows:

1713	James Sherbourne
	{ John How (died 17th January, 1715, aged 80)
	{ William Weldish
1715	George Curteis
1716	George Curteis.

Further reading of *Burghmote Book DD* reveals that John How was elected mayor on 2nd November, 1715, but that 'on Tuesday the vith day of January in the second yeare of the reigne of our Sovereign Lord George . . . 1715' William Weldish was made mayor in his place as the former had 'departed this life the same day'. The second regnal year of George I began on 1st August, 1715, and finished on 31st July, 1716 (Royal Historical Society Guide no. 4, *Handbook of Dates*, 1955) so that William Weldish started his mayoralty in the year which nowadays would be regarded as 1716. The next election—of George Curtis or Curteis—was made the second day of November 'in the third yeare of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord George . . . 1716.'

The amended list of mayors now reads:

1713	James Sherbourne
1714	Daniel Whetland

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

- 1715 John How (died 6th January, 1716)
1715-16 William Weldish
1716 George Curteis.

It is worthy of note that Miss Martin on page 172 of her *Records of Maidstone* has a marginal note that Whetland was the Mayor on 11th December, 1714. Whetland's second mayoralty in 1727-1728 is officially recorded.

The Maidstone Archives (VI, 152) also possess an agreement of 23rd April, 1715, in which Daniel Whetland is described as Mayor and in which mention is made of the repair of pipes conveying water from the fountain house on Rocky Hill in Maidstone to each of the three conduits in the High Street. The successor of this building has recently been semi-demolished by Maidstone Corporation.

L. R. A. GROVE

AYLESFORD

An *antoninianus* of Gordian III was found in November, 1970, by Mr. C. Clark in his garden at 2 Vicarage Close (N.G.R. TQ 729591) and brought to the museum for identification. *R.I.C.*, 145.

CRANBROOK

In the field of Golford (N.G.R. TQ 797364), where Mesolithic flints were found in 1969,⁴ Mr. F. C. Harmer found a large Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead.

EAST FARLEIGH

Two Roman coins were found in November, 1970, at different sites and brought to the museum for identification.

1. *As* of Domitian, *R.I.C.*, 353 (b). Found by Mrs. B. M. Gurr in her garden at Forge Cottage, Forge Lane. N.G.R. TQ 744530.

2. *Sestertius* of Marcus Aurelius, *R.I.C.*, 964. Found in a hop garden by the Medway, N.G.R. TQ 730536, by Mr. A. E. Oliver, and kindly given by him to the museum. Acc. no. 78.1970.

EGERTON

In the autumn of 1970, Mr. C. Gardner of Monday Boys found a fine Neolithic polished flint axe, complete except for a small piece missing at the butt end. It is of a mottled flint, brown, grey and white in colour, and polished all over. Length (broken): 6 in.; max. width: 2½ in. N.G.R. TQ 905453.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxv (1970), 198.

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GILLINGHAM

A small bead-rim jar with combed decoration was found in August, 1971, by Mr. G. Peters, of Sittingbourne, on Nor Marsh (N.G.R. TQ 811696). It is complete and was washed out of a bank a short distance to the north-east of the site of Roman burials marked on the O.S. 2½-in. sheet TQ 86. Grey ware: horizontal combing all over except for rim and the lowest part of the body; traces of black burnishing. Height: 3½ in.; rim: 3½ in.; base: 2¼ in. Mid-first century A.D. and presumably from a burial of the early post-conquest years.

LUDDSDOWN

An unfinished Neolithic flint adze was found in Whitehorse Wood (N.G.R. TQ 656621) by Mr. D. J. Wilson, of Birling, and kindly given by him to the museum (Acc. no. 12.1971). Length: 5½ in.; max. width: 2¾ in.

D. B. KELLY

CHALK

In 1970 a circular crop mark was observed in a field in the old parish of Chalk, now part of the Borough of Gravesend, at N.G.R. TQ 675713. This mark was interesting because it was similar to that reported by George Payne in his article on 'Celtic Interments discovered at Shorne' (*Arch. Cant.*, xxiv (1900), 86), and was less than half a mile south-west of his site.

By permission of Mrs. A. E. Davys, the owner of the farm, it was decided to explore the site and during the winter of 1970/1971 a team led by Mr. G. Dockrill excavated the site. Beneath a topsoil some 12-15 in. deep solid chalk was encountered, and in the chalk were found two circular ditches the inner one having a diameter of 42 ft., whilst the somewhat irregular diameter of the outer ditch varied between 63 and 66 ft.

Trial excavation of the inner ditch showed it to be of an average depth of 1 ft. 9 in. into the solid chalk (in all depth measurements given here the upper layer of plough-soil is ignored) with a varying width at the top of 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. 6 in., whilst the base of the ditch was from 1 ft. 6 in. to 1 ft. 10 in. in width. The sides of this ditch were smooth and well finished showing little signs of weathering whilst the bottom of the ditch was flat. The filling of the two sections of this ditch produced no finds of any description, and, from the relatively clean nature of the chalk infilling and the unweathered state of its sides, it may be conjectured that this ditch was filled in within a relatively short time after it was dug by spoil taken from the outer ditch. The outer ditch appeared to vary in width from 3-7 ft. and also

in depth from 1 ft. 9 in., where sectioned on the western side, to 4 ft. 6 in. on the southern perimeter. It had a flat bottom but was rougher in outline and much more weathered than the inner ditch. The lower part of the ditch was filled with chalk rubble suggesting normal weathering to a depth of 1 ft. 6 in. in the deeper section. On this was a loamy layer suggesting a turf-line, though with some flints. Above this line was what appeared to be normal silting of a loamy chalk to an approximately V-shaped section filled with a mass of dark topsoil with flints and traces of charcoal. In this layer were found a few small fragments of bone too decayed and broken to be positively identified, and one or two small fragments of soft pottery with a reddish exterior and black core, again too small to be identified. No find was associated with any other and the whole appeared to be the result of a rough filling of a shallow natural depression, which would have marked the naturally silted ditch, with material from a barrow within the ditch.

As Mr. Payne had discovered what was probably a primary burial within the circle of his ditch, it was decided to strip the topsoil from within the inner ditch, but though the whole area was cleared no trace of any primary burial cut into the chalk was found nor post-holes and, from the plough marks on the chalk surface, it was clear that any shallower grave in the topsoil had been dispersed long ago. At this point further investigation proved impracticable, which is disappointing because Mr. George Payne claims to have found burials in his ditch, but a provisional suggestion may be advanced that the ditches mark the site of a barrow which was first surrounded by the inner ditch, but that shortly after its construction, it was enlarged by the construction of a larger ditch and that the larger barrow stood until recently when the whole was levelled by farmers, probably in one operation and not by repeated cultivation. There is one small piece of evidence to give a very approximate date to this final filling in of the ditch and levelling of the barrow. In the upper filling of the ditch was found a small piece of clay-pipe. From the size of the bore of the stem, admittedly not very firm evidence, it may be dated to the early nineteenth century.

Finally, it may be observed that the field in which this find was made was formerly known locally as Chalky Nob, and the topsoil around the site is still liberally mixed with many more small chalk fragments than the surrounding field where the topsoil over the chalk is thinner. The name suggests a folk memory of the time when the barrow was still standing showing its chalk construction.

A single circle crop-mark was also observed in the field some 200 yds. to the north-east of this site on the other side of the valley which will be kept under observation.

A. F. ALLEN

MARGATE

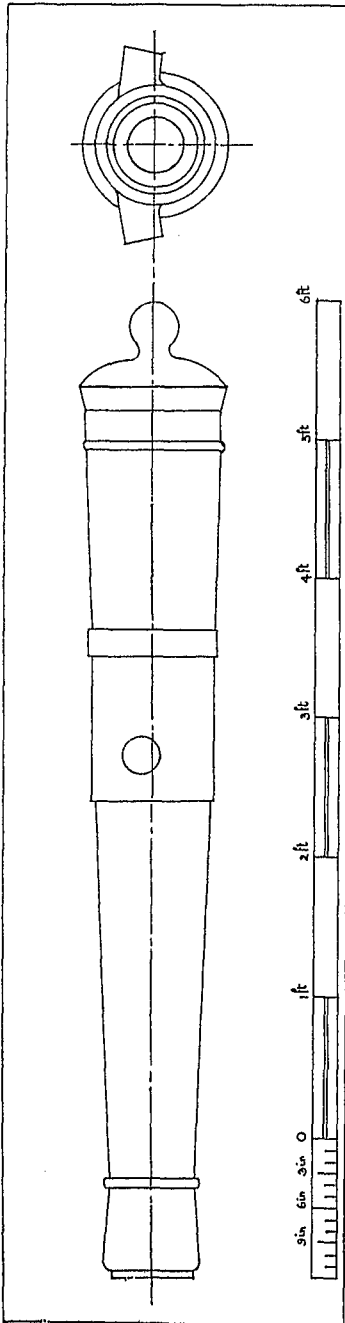
During September, 1971, the Margate Sub Aqua Club, diving about 1 mile north of Margate, located a cast-iron cannon barrel in about 7 fathoms of water; it has since been raised and brought ashore. It appears to be of eighteenth-century design and could be of French or English manufacture.

D. G. SCURRELL

BRENZETT

In the recently ploughed 'Big Field' at Brenzett, the owner, Mr. Harry Finn, found a small piece of metal measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{2}{8}$ in. It was sent to the Department of Medieval Antiquities of the British Museum, and it was suggested that the plaque, of copper, was all that remained of a *champlevé* enamel which had been made, probably in England, at the end of the twelfth century. 'It presented certain stylistic parallels with such works as the Masters plaque and the Kennet.'

The central figure has a cruciform halo, symbolic of the figure of Christ. His right hand is raised in blessing, and on the left, what might be a ladder, presents problems of iconography. In early Christian art this has been known to represent the ascent of a martyr into Heaven. Possibly this 'ladder' may be a book, such as is often seen in figures of Christ in Judgment, whether carved on ivory panels, or in stone tympani or in illuminated manuscripts. Illustrations of medieval books with parallel metal clasps on





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the covers, and a projection from the spine sometimes present a ladder-like appearance, and it would seem likely that the plaque represents Christ as Judge.

ANNE ROPER

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