

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

I. REPORTS ON EXCAVATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIETY

Interim Report by Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., on the Excavations at Boxley Abbey.

The Society's excavations at Boxley Abbey were concluded in April 1972, when further trenches were dug to establish details of the monastic plan. This was in continuation of the programme undertaken in 1971, as reported in the last volume of *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1970), 231. Part of the northern chapel of the north transept was uncovered, including the base of the altar. In the nave a cutting against the line of the south arcade revealed a patch of medieval floor-tiling 2 ft. below the present surface of the water-garden. A search was made for traces of a refectory lying north-south on the south side of the cloister but the evidence was negative, and we are forced to the conclusion that at Boxley the normal Cistercian development did not take place, and that the twelfth-century east-west refectory was retained. Other digging was directed to discovering the west entrance of the church, the chapter-house doorway, the internal arrangements of the dormitory undercroft and the outlet of the reredorter drain.

From the evidence gained in the two seasons' digging, it is now possible to reconstruct the plan of the church and claustral buildings with confidence. It is hoped to present a full report in the next volume of *Arch. Cant.* The thanks of the Society are expressed for the continued help of various local bodies in this investigation, together with that of numerous individuals, and above all for the wholehearted encouragement of the site owner, our member Sir John Best-Shaw.

Interim Report by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., on the Excavations at the Eccles Romano-British Site.

The eleventh season of excavations was carried out by the Eccles Excavation Committee, at weekends between late March and late October 1972, at the site of the Roman villa and its immediate vicinity at Eccles, in the parish of Aylesford.

The work was again supported by grants from the Kent Archaeological Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the British Academy, the Haverfield Bequest of the University of Oxford, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and private donors. The season's

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work was again concentrated to the north-east and south-east of the main villa block, and at another site, and the following is a preliminary summary of the results obtained:

(i) Further work, immediately to the north-east of the dwelling-house and in the area of the burial ground (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1971), 31-2, 235), has now established that it dates from Anglo-Saxon times; several more graves were located and the earliest of these contained grave-goods datable to the end of the sixth century A.D., though it is quite certain that the cemetery continued in use during the following Christian period. The full extent of this cemetery is not yet known.

(ii) Immediately to south-east of the villa, more sections were cut across the line of a number of ditches dating from the first half of the first century A.D.; after the construction of the house, most of this part of the site seems to have been given over to tipping of domestic rubbish, certainly in the latter phases of the villa's occupation.

(iii) Work continued in the area of the villa's south-east wing which has now been completely recorded; evidence was also found for a perimeter wall enclosing the frontage of the villa and at present only partially examined.

(iv) Mechanical trenching across the fronting courtyard of the house has brought to light an ornamental basin, approximately at the centre of the area; it had been very solidly built, mainly of bonding-tiles and tufa, and rendered with a thick coating of *opus signinum*. The slightness of its walls, however, suggests not a great depth of water contained within this structure which, in view of its location, too, is unlikely to have been a water-tank.

(v) At a short distance from the villa and in the general location where a tile-kiln was excavated in 1966 (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxii (1967), 170-8), exploratory trenching has established the existence of at least one pottery kiln producing mainly flagons about A.D. 75; the amount of waste materials present at this site suggests that other kilns may be found in 1973.

Training Course

The fifth Training Course in Romano-British archaeology was conducted at the site between 29th July and 12th August, 1972; it was again jointly sponsored by the Kent Archæological Society and the Eccles Excavation Committee and directed by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., assisted by Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., and Mrs. S. M. Frettingham, B.A. This course, as in previous years, was recognized, for grant purposes, by the Kent Education Committee for the training of teachers serving under the authority.

Nearly forty students were accommodated this year, from many

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parts of this country and abroad, and training was given in excavation techniques and field survey and recording, as well as background talks, lectures and seminars, at noon and in the evenings, on a great variety of archaeological topics; the course also visited Richborough Roman Fort, Canterbury Museum, the Roman city of Rochester, and the Lullingstone Roman villa.

Both the organizing bodies and the honorary director are in the debt of all those who assisted with the general conduct of this training course and ensured its success in spite of a near-tragic accident to the directing staff, and in particular to Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., Mrs. S. M. Frettingham, B.A., and to the visiting lecturers, Mr. J. E. L. Caiger, Mr. R. G. Foord, Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., Mr. R. Merrifield, B.A., F.S.A., Professor D. E. Strong, M.A., D.Phil., F.S.A., and Mr. F. H. Thompson, M.C., M.A., F.M.A.

It is hoped to offer a sixth Training Course in 1973.

Interim Report by Mr. S. R. Harker on the Excavations at Springhead.

Work has continued during 1972 mainly in the temple temenos to the south of Road R1. With the exception of part of the west portico wall, the whole plan of Temple VII has now been exposed by the removal of the baulks of the original grid system. This has revealed damage to the south portico wall which was completely cut through by a large pit. Apart from the evidence of the contents which were datable to the mid-second century A.D., the stratigraphy was also revealing and supplemented data from a section cut from the edge of Road R1 to the north-east corner of Temple I, over a distance of nearly 18 m. The additional information thus made available reinforces the hypothesis that the building only had a limited life and went out of use early in the second century when the larger Temple I was erected. Traces of a sleeper-beam along the south portico wall suggest the possibility of a wooden superstructure which could have been dismantled virtually without trace.

To the west of Temple VII, there is evidence of a succession of small wooden buildings along the line of a road branching to the south from Road R1. These were separated from the road by a small bank and ditch. The road itself had been much repaired and exhibited a variety of surfaces ranging from the original smooth 'concreted' pebbling on chalk to heavy flint cobbling. The road surface and the ditch yielded a variety of small finds including a large proportion of ironwork. One of the adjacent buildings had undoubtedly been used by a blacksmith from the evidence of large hearths, slag, charcoal and clay reddened by burning. The road appears to continue to the rear of Temples I and II, and could therefore be the Temenos Road West conjectured

by the late W. S. Penn. There is no evidence within the area available for excavation of a corresponding ditch on the other side of the road so that its width cannot yet be firmly established, but it must be of the order of 7-8 m.

To the north of Road R1 another well lined with wood has been examined with disappointing results. Dug to a depth of approximately 4.5 m., it appeared to have been in use for only a short period, possibly due to a collapse of the open wooden framework at the bottom which led to its being backfilled and abandoned.

Further work has also been done to investigate the ditch system in this area. Subsidences in a number of places are being examined and expected to yield information on more large pits and ditches underlying the later Roman levels.

Interim Report by Mr. C. B. Giles on the Excavations at Tonbridge.

Rescue excavations, supported by the Department of the Environment, the Kent Archæological Society, the Tonbridge Urban District Council and the Tonbridge Historical Society, were carried out this year on the medieval defences of Tonbridge, under the direction of Mr. J. H. Money, F.S.A., and Dr. R. M. Ogilvie, F.S.A. Work, which was supervised by Messrs. C. B. Giles, A. F. Streeten and A. Webster, was carried out on two sites; firstly, a section was cut through the bank and ditch 100 m. to the west of the High Street, and, secondly, on a site adjacent to the north gate of the medieval town.

The section revealed a bank of clay 10 m. wide, and standing to a height of 4 m.; the ditch was 6 m. wide and 2.5 m. deep. Clearly, there was more material in the bank than could have come from the ditch, but no evidence of scoops for this soil was found inside the bank. No conclusive dating evidence was found, but both medieval and Romano-British sherds were discovered in the make-up of the bank.

The site adjacent to the High Street was much disturbed by eighteenth- and nineteenth-century foundations; the outer face of the clay rampart was located, lying on an old land surface which contained much charcoal. The natural soil, of decayed sandstone, was located at a depth of 3.5 m., dipping to the north, which suggests the use of an earlier slope in the construction of the defences.

No evidence of the gateway was found, possibly due to the construction of a nineteenth-century cellar; but a small drainage ditch containing medieval sherds was found under the present pavement and it seems probable that the medieval road lies underneath the present road.

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II. REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

Ashford Area. Mr. J. Bradshaw reports:

ALDINGTON

A scatter of Romano-British occupational débris extends from the parish boundary bank downhill to the stream at the north-west (N.G.R. TR 08623595), consisting mainly of tiles, bricks and ragstone fragments.

KINGSTON

For several years Mr. C. Fagg, of Westwood Farm, has reported areas of burnt soil revealed by ploughing in the general area of N.G.R. TR 169496. Several of these had been examined and found to be small hearths. In August 1972, another was found, and, when dug, the crushed remains of a black, bead-rim pot were found.

MONKS HORTON

A map in Horton Priory, titled 'A Map of Land in Horton 1687' and drawn by Thomas Morris, shows a large mound with 'The Barrow' adjoining, at N.G.R. TR 13153990. From above and on the same level nothing is today discernible; but from below a slight rise in the ground can be seen. As the ground slopes rapidly to the south and west, ploughing may have eroded its greater part away.

SMARDEN

A small group of flint flakes and blades and the butt end of a flint axe have been found by a Mr. Wyatt, now deceased, and Miss W. Buckman, of Hamden Stone, Bethersden. The area is within the fork of two tributaries of the river Beult at N.G.R. TQ 892415, and a considerable distance from other flint knapping areas.

STOWTING

Ninety metres north of Stowting Court (N.G.R. TQ 11904161), on the opposite side of the road leading to Stowting parish church, a considerable rise in ground level occurs. It terminates at an old hedge-row on the south-east. Sections were cut in two places and the finds included worked flints of Neolithic and Beaker periods, with sherds of domestic Beakers. The original diameter of this round barrow must have been over 30 m., the portion remaining being slightly over half, with a possibility of the primary burial being undisturbed. Present height from original ground level is 2.5 m.

The vestigial remains of a barrow occur as a ridge between the road

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leading from Brabourne to Stowting Common and the field behind (N.G.R. TR 11464260). This is north-west of the road and from the field entrance traces of the ploughed-out portion can be seen.

In the angle formed by the garden fence of 'Braeside' and the churchyard (N.G.R. TR 12454182), occurs a disturbed area of building material and possibly walls at a depth of 0.25 m. As an Ordnance Survey record card states that a Mrs. Patterson found Romano-British sherds in the general area, c. 1930, it is possible unrecorded excavations took place. Our 1972 examination found coarse sherds of this period in the garden of 'Braeside'; those found in the dug area were of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries A.D. and at a depth of 0.4 m.

Two inscribed marble tablets from the grounds of the Rectory have been given by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Owen, to Hythe Museum. The first is a facsimile of a gravestone from Rome (*CIL* 10169). The second is *CIL* 16663. Thanks are due to the Hon. Editor for his assistance in their identification.

Sir John Crofts found a large Acheulean twisted ovate axe of white patinated flint in 1969, which he retains (N.G.R. TR 133432).

A simple bowl quern of heavy sandstone associated with sherds of Romano-British coarse ware was found during the bulldozing away of the bank on the west of Stone Street, in 1963 (N.G.R. TR 13474209). It is in the possession of the finder, Mr. Marshall, of Harvest Cottages, Sole Street, Crundale.

The motte and bailey centred on N.G.R. TR 12254200, and known locally as Castle Mound, was examined without excavation as part of a general search of Stowting parish during the winter of 1971-2. There is no record with the Ordnance Survey that trenches were cut across the inner moat and into the mound at the north-west in the early 1920s. No record was kept of the finds which included pottery. The top of the motte was also disturbed during the 1939-45 war.

This area was referred to by the Rev. F. Wrench in his book *The Parish of Stowting*, 1845, as 'Near the church to the north-west is the Castle Field, planted with firs, and surrounded by a double moat, now partly filled up' (p. 5). What is surprising is that on p. 6 he notes that 'in 1836 some men who were digging for stones in a place called the Pean, supposed to have been the ancient market place, found coins of Carausius and Licinius', without mentioning that the local name for the field around the moat is known to the villagers as the Pean.

No documentary evidence has yet been found to confirm the area as the field named by Wrench as the Pean; but a search, after ploughing in 1972, yielded several hundred worn sherds of Romano-British fine and coarse wares, and a barbarous radiate of Tetricus, in good condition. At the northern end were fragments of *tegulae* and *imbrices*; and it is conceivable that the men digging for stones were in fact taking away

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material from the walls and foundations of an earlier building, the only natural stones being small Tertiary pebbles.

WYE

In the autumn of 1972 part of a Romano-British building was excavated in the area reported as west of the river Stour in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1971), 237. A rectangular building, 19 m. by 6 m., with a hypocaust at the south was found, with later additions at each end, particularly the north, and the side nearer the river.

This was centred on N.G.R. TR 0478246528, with the flint foundations of other walls at varying distances between 20 m. and 80 m. to the north and north-west.

On the opposite side of the river, on the higher ground at N.G.R. TR 04944610, a field drain revealed Romano-British occupation débris of the mid-fourth century A.D. This came from a depth of 1 m.; and on excavation, a rubbish-filled hollow containing sherds, bones, domestic items and coins dating A.D. 330-370 were recovered. An unornamented gate-type bronze buckle, and an iron dagger with pommel and quillon ferrule of a different metal were found in association and sent away for examination and restoration.

WALTHAM

A symmetrical mound in Compartment 93A of the Forestry Commission's Denge Wood beat (N.G.R. TR 10155079). The diameter is 15.0 m. and height 0.6 m., with no trace of a ditch or interference with the mound.

Beckenham and Penge. Mr. G. W. Tookey, Q.C., reports:

Preliminary excavations have been made on the site of the old irrigation farm at Elmer's End on the Kent-Surrey border and have revealed some interesting medieval remains. The work has been carried out under the joint directorship of Mrs. Lilian Thornhill and Mr. Richard Savage of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. The land, although in Kent, is owned by the Croydon Corporation.

Dover. Mr. E. H. Bayly reports:

The Dover Archaeological Group investigated a building site east of the River Dour at Lower Road, River, and uncovered a metalled road, possibly part of the old Pilgrims' Way, which yielded both

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Romano-British and medieval sherds. On another building site at the Ridgeway, River, medieval sherds were recorded from a road thought to date from the fifteenth century. Inspection during the construction of the water pipeline between Sutton and Walmer revealed three ditches containing medieval sherds. Roman pits and ditches, medieval sherds and mesolithic tools were recorded during the construction of a water pipeline between Hougham and St. Radigunds.

On the site of the old Salem chapel in the centre of Dover (N.G.R. TR 32174164), members of the Dover Archæological Group undertook an investigation.

The main feature of the site was a layer of black alluvial mud, which reached from natural brick-earth to the footings of the Salem chapel. This layer extended across the whole of the site, but at its extreme north-easterly end, below the alluvial layer, a green pebble/gravel layer was in evidence, from which a few sherds of samian ware were obtained.

With the kind permission of the National Coal Board, observations are being made during the construction of the Tilmanstone mine-water pipeline. To date the following features have been recorded:

The Roman road near Updown; a medieval pit near Westwood House; a pit and two U-shaped ditches near 'Caesar's Camp'; two U-shaped medieval pits, and a grave, disturbed by the mechanical digger, from which some human remains and potsherds were recovered.

CIB Archæological Rescue Corps. Mr. B. J. Philp reports:

Major rescue-excavations by the Corps, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, over a period of sixteen months extended an initial programme of three months' work in 1970 (*Kent Arch. Review*, 23 (1971), 74). The work on the line of the York Street by-pass and on the town-centre scheme aimed at recording acres of the town's unrecorded history before it was forever destroyed. This eventually involved dozens of major structures of all dates and archæological deposits to a depth of fifteen feet. The work had the support of 300 volunteers and twelve member groups of the C.K.A. Financial support from many sources included a grant of £250 from the Kent Archæological Society, for which grateful thanks are here recorded. The interest, support and help of the Mayor, Town Clerk and Corporation of Dover is acknowledged with special thanks and their concern for their unrecorded past makes them paramount in Kent today.

The work located a hitherto unknown Roman fort of the *Classis Britannica*, on the west side of the town. The fort, now being studied

in detail, covered several acres and included many rectilinear buildings, broad streets, drains, sewers, and water-mains of a range of periods through the second century. Stamped tiles in large numbers were also recovered in addition to many found in the town some years before. With the presence of the two major lighthouses on the flanking cliffs and the existence of a fine harbour, it now seems clear that the newly-discovered Roman fort was in fact the headquarters of the Roman fleet in Britain.

The naval fortress of the fleet was totally superseded sometime in the third century by another major fort, this time constructed by army units against Saxon raids on the south-east coast. It was one of four listed in the *Notitia Dignitatum*, the others at Lympne, Richborough and Reculver, the latter being the earliest of the series. These 'Saxon Shore' forts have provoked much discussion of late and indeed the one predicted by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in 1929 at Dover had only recently been discounted. The current excavations revealed long lengths of the west and south walls and a series of bastions of varying forms. Of the internal arrangements we yet know little. Exactly when the fort was abandoned and the nature and extent of the military occupation are problems for the future.

Work on an even larger scale will be required in the centre of Dover during 1973.

Kent Rescue Unit. Mr. B. J. Philp reports:

Arising out of the need for non-stop rescue excavations in Dover and on dozens of sites throughout Kent and the increase in the rate of pending destruction, a full-time mobile rescue-unit has now been created in Kent. Under the title CIB Archæological Rescue Corps the unit operates from the new rescue-centre in Dover Castle provided through the kindness of Dr. A. J. Taylor, Dir. S.A., Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Supplementary depots also exist at Reculver, Bromley, Fawkham and Keston. The Corps aims to:

- (a) Deal with large-scale emergencies beyond the resources of local groups (such as the excavations at Dover).
- (b) To cover those areas of Kent which have inadequate coverage.
- (c) To assist local groups when invited to do so.

The team consists of men and women who have abandoned their own professions to live on a small subsistence payment in humble circumstances to help save Britain's unrecorded past. The Department of the Environment has provided some money for this work, but the continued financing of this vital work is likely to be a major problem of the future.

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London Borough of Bromley. Mrs. Susann Palmer reports:

ORPINGTON

Excavations on the Roman site at Fordercroft, Orpington, were again directed this season by the curator on behalf of Bromley Borough Council. Continued work on the part of the site investigated last year did not yield further substantial information, and the attention was transferred to another part of the site. The remains of substantial walls were here uncovered, the average width being over 2 ft. 6 in., and in some places standing to a height of 18 in. or more. Several small rooms have been partly excavated, and it would seem that we have located the rear part of a south-facing building, with the main part under the adjacent rough road. It is likely that large parts of the building were probably destroyed during the laying of water mains and sewage pipes in the area. There is some evidence that more than one period of building construction may be involved. The pottery ranges in date from first to fourth century A.D. Excavations will continue during 1973.

ST. PAUL'S CRAY

In 1928 the existence of a possible Romano-British site was reported in St. Paul's Cray centred round N.G.R. TQ 47156880. For several months during 1972 the curator examined all trenches and excavations made on the site of 149 Sevenoaks Way during redevelopment. Several deep trenches crossed the length and width of the site and a large number of trial trenches approximately 10 ft. square were spaced out over the whole area; the excavations were between 5 to 8 ft. deep. No evidence of archaeological significance was found.

A Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age polished axe has been found in a field behind the Church of England School in St. Paul's Cray at N.G.R. TQ 69154745. It was found by Mrs. Hamer and given to the museum. It is of white flint with some iron stains. Several scars on both surfaces of the working edge indicate that the axe has been extensively used, and one large scar indicates resharpening.

GREEN STREET GREEN

A Roman lamp of coarse brown gritty ware has been found, by Mr. Pyle, who retains it, in the garden of his house at World's End Lane at N.G.R. TQ 46056330. The lamp was made on a wheel and is only very slightly damaged. Date: probably *c.* second century A.D.

The following Mesolithic finds came from the garden of Major A. G. Fordyce in the Ridge, Orpington (N.G.R. TQ 44946554): 3 scrapers, 2 awls, 3 retouched flakes, 1 microlith intermediate form, 1 microburin mishit, 14 waste flakes and calcined pebbles. The site is on the top of a hill.

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Peter Sewell, of Newstead Avenue, Farnborough, has found an *antoninianus* of Claudius II (A.D. 268–270) in the garden of his home. The reverse depicts *Victoria Augusta* with a wreath and palm. The coin remains in the possession of the finder.

ACQUISITIONS TO ORPINGTON MUSEUM

A commemorative coin, struck in 1795 to mark the destruction of a large number of horses as a result of a plague, has been bought by the museum. It has been described as very rare. The obverse side is inscribed 'Their value upwards of £500. Voluntarily destroyed by D. Colgate of Orpington, Kent. 1795' and the reverse is inscribed 'A mark of respect to the Rt. Hon. T. Skinner. Sr. R. Glode. Kt. & Mr. W. Austin. We also are but as yesterday. Our days a shadow. He taketh away. Who can hinder? Man (also) giveth up the ghost and where is he!'

The Museum has acquired from the Dept. of Weights and Measures, London Borough of Bromley, a set of eleven measures made of gun metal and first stamped by the Board of Trade in 1889 as being fit for use as Local Standards by the Kent County Council. It was later used by the Inspectors as working standards and, in 1965, transferred to Bromley when the local authority assumed responsibility for the enforcement of the Weights and Measures legislation.

Fawkham and Ash. Mr. R. A. C. Cockett reports:

Excavations at the mediæval settlement of Scotsgrove near Hartley were carried out by the Fawkham and Ash Archæological Group between April and October and uncovered three of the buildings due to be destroyed by a new road in a year's time. The best-preserved was the undercroft of a house having mortared flint walls and a possible integral 'cupboard' with a ragstone cill. A barn-like structure to the east had been built firstly in timber and then in flint. Superimposed on this was a much later structure of loose flints which was presumably that interpreted as a chapel by Hasted in 1797. A structure some 50 m. to the south-west had a roughly circular plan; its use is not clear, but an ox-mill or a dovecote seem possible. Datable material has been sparse, but pottery and worked ragstone recovered suggest a date range from the thirteenth to mid-fourteenth centuries.

Further Roman structures and a metalled trackway have been revealed by earth-moving at New Ash Green where the housing estate is being extended. Pottery of mid-third-century date has been found here; the site is at N.G.R. TQ 608651, 100 m. north of the villa excavated in 1969.

A fourteenth-century aisled hall-house has been discovered within

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the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century shell of Court Lodge, Fawkham; the surviving features will be preserved within the building which is undergoing extensive restoration.

Observation of roadworks in the Darent Valley, opposite Lullingstone Castle, produced a scatter of late-second-century Roman sherds which was traced to the top of a ridge at N.G.R. TQ 533638.

A training scheme in practical archæology has been started by members of the group. Lectures take place at Dartford Adult Education Centre and practical work will follow on a number of sites in the area next year.

Greenwich. Mr. D. E. Wickham, M.A., reports:

'Excavations at Greenwich Palace, 1970-1971', an interim report by Philip Dixon, M.A., was published by the Greenwich and Lewisham Antiquarian Society in June 1972. Mr. Dixon's excavations beneath the lawns of the Royal Naval College revealed considerable remains of the Tudor Palace of Greenwich and remnants of two medieval houses. The booklet is well illustrated with eleven plates and three plans.

A joint meeting for members of the Kent Archæological Society and of the Woolwich and District Antiquarian Society was held during October 1972. The purpose of the evening's lecture was to announce a projected new edition, heavily edited and much corrected, of W. T. Vincent's *Records of the Woolwich District*. This work was published in 1890 and, although out of print since about 1917, remains in constant unsatisfied demand.

High Weald Area. Mrs. M. C. Lebon, M.A., reports:

BENENDEN

Work continued on the Hemsted Brickworks (N.G.R. TQ 800340), discovered when a deep trench was mechanically excavated for drainage and had cut obliquely through the walls of two adjacent firing tunnels, 21 ft. in length and together forming a rectangular structure shown on an estate plan of 1779. A halfpenny of William III was found nearby. The bricks are of many shapes and dimensions, and have not been precisely dated.

One of the tunnels retains a completely vaulted chamber near the stoking end. The other, deeper-based, evidently contained a very high-temperature charcoal furnace which has left a green glaze on the bricks of its collapsed arches. A third of the way along there seems to have been an opening, 27 in. wide, between the two passages, and opposite to it the sill of an external aperture in the side of the tunnel.

Just outside the brick-kiln and close to a field drain of later date, some Roman glass and a samian dish were excavated, together with small fragments of a crumbly coarse-ware pot. They are likely to be the remains of a burial assemblage disturbed during the drainage operations, when the nearby sewage works were constructed, or when the brick-works was set up. The site lies alongside the presumed alignment of the Roman road a quarter of a mile north-west of the Hemsted junction.

The dish, kindly identified by Mr. Michael Brown at Cambridge University Museum of Archæology and Ethnology, is Form 15/17, South Gaulish and pre-Flavian. Its surface is very worn and the stamp is almost illegible. Mr. A. P. Detsicas, who kindly examined it, suggests the stamp is probably one of several used by MASCLVS or MASCVLVS.

The glass consisted of innumerable fragments of a thin glass jar in midnight blue which has been reconstructed enough to see most of the profile.

WOODCHURCH. Miss M. H. Mansell reports:

The Royal Coat of Arms of George III, dated 1773, in the Parish Church of All Saints is a fine drawing by an artist hitherto unidentified. V. J. Torr mentions it in *Arch. Cant.*, xlv (1933), 215, and again in *Kent Churches*, 1954, suggesting that it may be the work of an Ashford man. However, an examination of the churchwardens' accounts and the parish registers of Woodchurch for the period concerned shows that the painter was Joseph Gibson of Woodchurch. The relevant entry is among the transactions 'Received and Distributed in the year 1773, Yielded up the 23 day of July 1774':

'Pd Josh Gibson for drawing the Kings Arms—£8-8s.'

Further entries show that he was regularly employed in the painting needed for the church until his death in 1786/7 at the age of 71. For painting 'the Alter Piece and the Believe and the Lords Prayer and some new sentences', he received £6. These have long ago disappeared; but the Benefaction Table in the tower chamber still shows his beautiful script. For writing this and painting the frame he was paid £2 10s.

In the Woodchurch register the first two entries of the baptism of their children state that Joseph Gibson and his wife Sarah came from Biddenden. In the eastern part of the churchyard, the tall headstone of his grave also records the names of five of his children. The coat of arms is not signed with his name; but two quaint little drawings in the lower corners of the painting are probably portraits; the man is no doubt Joseph the artist; the young boy's face may be that of one

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of his sons. One is led to speculate whether the female figure that decorates the Irish harp, which is signed with the letter S, represents his wife, Sarah.

CRANBROOK. Mr. A. B. Cardwell reports:

Members of Cranbrook Archæological Society (formerly the Wealden Archæological Research Group) have continued their work on the site of the iron-works at Hammermill Farm, Biddenden.

After a most successful season, the wheel-stream and 'dick' have been almost entirely exposed, showing a timber shoring and floor to have been used along its length.

On drier levels, more has been done on the working area of the site, where baked hearths and brickwork of uncertain function have been revealed.

Hundred of Hoo. Mrs. P. P. Day reports:

COOLING

The limits of the Romano-British site at Eastborough Farm, Cooling, have been established and several features have been examined and recorded; the majority of the finds suggests occupation from the Antonine period onward.

CLIFFE

Fragments of medieval pottery and burnt clay were found in the area of the Northern Pools; elsewhere, in the general area of the Northern Pools, burnt earth, Romano-British coarse pottery and samian ware were recovered from exposed baulks.

Maidstone Area Archæological Group. Mr. P. E. Oldham, B.A., reports:

The Group continues a regional survey scheme, for which it has been awarded a Carnegie U.K. Trust grant for training in fieldwork techniques. Projects have been started in Teston, Tovil, Hermitage Farm, Aylesford, and a joint project has been undertaken with Oldborough Manor School at Brishing. Surveys have also been undertaken ahead of building development off the Sittingbourne Road, Maidstone, and on the proposed route of the M20 Motorway, Hollingbourne to Charing section. The survey work is much helped by the aerial survey section, founded by our member, Mr. D. T. Jackson, who maintains a regular surveillance of the area from the air.

I conducted an excavation in the garden of the Brenchley Alms-houses, King Street, where an office building is to be built. Seventeenth-

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century rubbish layers were revealed. It is hoped to investigate the area scheduled for a town centre redevelopment scheme between King Street and Water Lane, Maidstone. Under the direction of Mr. D. B. Kelly, B.A., A.M.A., the Group commenced excavation on behalf of the Department of the Environment, of a Romano-British building near the town centre, threatened by a major road scheme.

The building section has participated in attempts to protect Rocky Hill Terrace, 2 Bedford Place, and Farm Cottages, Shepway.

Co-ordinated by Mr. R. J. Spain, the industrial archaeology section has been gathering material on the history of brewing in Maidstone, and the report is now in draft form.

Rochester. Col. E. T. L. Baker, O.B.E., T.D., M.A., reports:

The Wardens of Rochester Bridge have recently acquired a most interesting manuscript. This is an autograph copy, made early in the eighteenth century by Sergeant Francis Barrell, of the account of the bridge written by Sir Roger Manwood in 1586. Manwood was largely responsible for repairing the neglect of centuries which had reduced the bridge to a deplorable condition and at last placed the upkeep of the bridge on a permanent and sound financial basis. Hasted says, 'the laborious part which he took throughout the whole of it deserves particular commendation'.

Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., reports:

Beneath the cellar floor of no. 38 High Street and 8 ft. 6 in. below pavement level, a strip of flint cobbling has been found running at right-angles to the High Street. It extends westwards for 8 ft. 6 in. into the cellar and to an unknown distance inside no. 36 and runs for at least 12 ft. to the south. A few fragments of second-century Roman pottery were associated with it, and it is suggested that it formed part of a road or lane leading south from the main road.

A recent excavation for an underground chair-store has exposed the lower part of the wall of the north transept of the Cathedral. There are indications of rebuilding here which may shed light upon the disputed question of the dimensions of Bishop Gundulf's transept.

Sevenoaks. Mr. P. E. Leach reports:

A quantity of Romano-British pottery and tiles was uncovered in summer 1972, during observation of a gas-pipe trench through the Otford area. The site is on the west bank of the Darent, south of the

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village of Otford (N.G.R. TQ 525583). The material found in a layer 2 ft. from the surface included examples of samian, Castor and Rhenish wares.

An exploratory dig sponsored by the Otford and District Archaeological Group took place on the site during the last two weeks in October when further finds of the same type were found to a depth of 3 ft. 6 in., but no evidence leading to the site of a building was discovered.

The Otford and District Archaeological Group reported that a Bronze Age cinerary urn was discovered in the summer of 1972 in the garden of no. 46 Green Hill Road, Otford (N.G.R. TQ 536601).

The urn was found 23 in. from the surface in an inverted position, containing bone fragments. Decoration around the top consisted of impressed corded markings and a thumb-nail star. A full report will follow later.

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