RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

A RADIOCARBON DATE FOR THE BRONZE AGE SITE AT GREENHILL, OTFORD

A C^{14} date has recently been obtained for the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age site at Greenhill, Otford.[1] Soil samples were taken from an area of burning at the base of a sub-soil hollow (feature 7, layer 5a) and sent to A.E.R.E. Harwell, where the charcoal was extracted and radiocarbon dated by R.L. Otlet. The results are set out below.

> Ref. no.   HAR 3690
> Date bp: 4230 ± 80
> Date bc: 2280 ± 80

The area of burning was thought to have been associated with the earliest phase of forest clearance in the coombe, on the basis of the land snail evidence. The date of 2280 bc ± 80 corresponds with a number of the flints and the Peterborough pottery and gives a positive Late Neolithic date for the earliest settlement on the site.

At Brook near Ashford a similar site was investigated by Kerney, Brown and Chandler in 1964.[2] Set in the chalk escarpment of the North Downs, the site overlooked the river Stour from a similar south-west facing coombe. A primary clearance phase was identified by land snail analysis and charcoal fragments, which were found in association, were dated by C^{14} to 2590 bc ± 105.[3]

---

[1] J.A. Pyke, 'Greenhill Bronze Age Site, Otford', *Arch. Cant.*, xcvi (1980), 321–39.

[2] M.P. Kerney, E.H. Brown and T.J. Chandler, 'The late-glacial and post-glacial History of the Chalk Escarpment near Brook, Kent', *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, B 248 (1964), 135–204.

[3] H. Barker, R. Burleigh and N. Meeks, 'British Museum natural Radiocarbon Measurements, vii', *Radiocarbon,* xiii (1971), 169.

Another site with similar features was found at Pitstone in Buckinghamshire, where a coombe at the foot of the Chiltern Hills was examined by Evans and Valentine.[4] A primary clearance phase was also identified by land snail analysis and associated charcoal fragments were dated to 1960 bc ± 220.

J. PYKE

A MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC BRASS TRAPPING FOUND AT ROCHESTER

In 1979 the small brass trapping illustrated in Plate I was uncovered in the garden of 25 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester, by the owner, Mr. K. Holland. The present house is eighteenth-century in date and there is no evidence of earlier settlement. The numerous pottery fragments in the garden are all post-medieval.

The trapping is a cast openwork plaque from which hang three pendants, the associated loops are in the form of serpent heads with bared fangs. The plaque and pendants all have engraved foliate arabesques on one side only. Each of the pendants is pierced by an iron rivet and the plaque by three rivets, these latter to attach it, probably to leather. There is no evidence that the piece had any function such as a strap or rein distributor as the hook and rings attaching the pendants are too flimsy to take any strain and show no sign of wear. The iron rivets in the pendants must have held some decorative hanging such as tassels.

The author of this note is carrying out research into Islamic metalwork and to this end drilled a small sample from the proper right pendant for analysis by atomic absorption spectrometry.

Composition

Cu	Zn	Sn	Pb	Fe	As	Ag	Ni	Co	Sb
86	11.0	2.4	0.65	0.25	0.2	0.13	0.2	0.003	0.04

Cd, Mn, Au, Bi not detected

The major elements have a precision of ± 1 per cent, the trace elements of ± 20 per cent. All elements could be detected down to at least 0.005 per cent in the metal.

---

[4] J.G. Evans and K.W.G. Valentine, 'Ecological Changes induced by prehistoric Man at Pitstone, Buckinghamshire'. *Journ. Archaeol. Science,* (1974), 343–52.

PLATE I

(Photo. J. Heffron, British Museum Research Laboratory)

Islamic Brass Trapping from Rochester (Scale: 1:1).

The composition is typical of cast Islamic metalwork of this period.

The trapping was shown to Michael Rogers, of the Department of Oriental Antiquities in the British Museum, where it was identified as Islamic of the twelfth century A.D. and most likely to have been made in Syria or Mesopotamia. It has not proved possible to find an exact parallel but it would seem to be a purely decorative trapping for a belt, purse or harness.

The find spot is significant; that is, barely 300 m. south of Rochester Castle and Cathedral and lying by the side of the old road to Wouldham, Aylesford and Maidstone, (the road is still marked 'Pilgrims' Way' on the 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey Map). In the twelfth century both castle and bishop maintained forces of knights,

some of whom must almost certainly have travelled in the Middle East with the Crusades. This small trapping could well have been brought to Rochester by a returning Crusader only to be lost for eight centuries, but eventually to provide a rare reminder of that colourful episode in medieval history. The trapping has been presented to the British Museum.

P.T. CRADDOCK

THE ALICE DRAYTON BRASS IN HORTON KIRBY CHURCH

In my note on this brass in *Arch. Cant.,* xcvi (1980) 386–90, I suggested that it might at one time have been partly covered. Our Member, Mr. M. Leach, has kindly drawn my attention to a passage in the Rev. Arthur Hussey's *Notes on the Churches in the Counties of Kent, Sussex and Surrey* (1852) where his observations on Horton Kirby conclude as follows: 'Brasses: male and female, small, 1595; female, larger, partly concealed by a pew'. Moreover, in the Rev. Herbert Haines' *Manual of Monumental Brasses,* Part II (1861), no mention is made of the Drayton brass although he records that of John Browne in the north transept, and this is further indication that the former brass was obscured at that period. In 1831, Sir Stephen Glynne remarked that in this church there were 'some brasses much mutilated or concealed by pews' (*Notes on the Churches of Kent,* 1877).

P.J. TESTER

ZION CHAPEL SITE, QUEEN STREET, DOVER, KENT.
EXCAVATIONS 1980–81

Another rescue-excavation was completed by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit on the south side of Queen Street, Dover in March 1981. This area falls within the proposed five-acre town-centre redevelopment scheme, which occupies a large part of the ancient centres of Roman and medieval Dover. The extensive programme of rescue excavation is now in its tenth year and has been mainly financed by the Department of the Environment and the Dover District Council. The Kent Archaeological Society made

a grant of £1,000 in 1980 towards the cost of work on this particular site, which is here gratefully acknowledged. This money was used exclusively for the hire of plant, machinery and materials. The work also has the support of the many voluntary groups through the co-ordination of the Council for Kentish Archaeology. The work of all these groups, particularly that of the local Dover Group, is also grateful acknowledged. The results of the excavations from 1970–1977, mainly dealing with the *Classis Britannica* aspect of the sites, have just been published as a major research report, the third in the Kent Monograph Series.

The Zion Chapel excavation revealed a series of medieval buildings framed between the present-day Queen Street, Last Lane and Chapel Lane. The medieval stratified deposits survived to a remarkable depth of more than 2 m. and revealed the detailed development of this area of the town in the post-Conquest period. The primary structures on the site had chalk-block walls and earth floors and were probably mostly of twelfth- or thirteenth-century date. These had been rebuilt progressively, in either chalk blocks or stone, through the next three centuries and adjacent areas infilled with smaller structures or boundary walls. Four separate stone-lined shafts had been inserted in different buildings and these had subsequently been filled with domestic rubbish and rubble. Two produced fine groups of fourteenth-century jugs, probably Tyler Hill ware.

Comparatively little of post-medieval date had survived on the site and it seems likely that there was a large-scale clearance of the area when the Zion Chapel was built in about 1705. After a variety of subsequent secular uses the chapel was demolished in 1974 and the site became available for excavation in 1980.

The medieval deposits sat directly on clean, yellow wind-blown sand representing substantial sand-dunes which buried this part of Dover in the post-Roman period. The sand sealed deep deposits of silt and dumps of soil, mainly of second-century date, which appear to have infilled this part of the valley bottom at the edge of the Roman harbour. The Roman water-front must lie nearby to the east. These deposits were sealed by a late-Roman metalled road, probably relating to the Saxon Shore fort.

BRIAN PHILP

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

APPLEDORE

A small lead medieval seal matrix (Fig. 1, 3) was found by Mr. D.R. Butcher in February 1981 (N.G.R. TQ 957295), inscribed + S' PhILIRIChAIVN (Seal of Philip Richaiun): dia. 7/8 in. Dr. Reaney, discussing the origin of the names Richards and Richardson, refers to the diminutive form of Ricard, Ricardun[1] and it is possible that the name Richaiun here is a bungled form of Richardun. Thirteenth century.

BOXLEY

1. A bronze cast-flanged axe (Fig. 1, 1) was found in the woods above Boxley (N.G.R. TQ 772598) in April 1980, by Mr. D.R. Butcher and kindly presented by him to the museum (acc. no. 6. 1980). It is 4⅓ in. long and 2⅓ in. wide at the blade, with a stop-ridge or median bevel 2¼ in. from the edge of the blade. Cast-flanged axes are assignable to the later part of the Early Bronze Age, from the late seventeenth to the end of the sixteenth or early fifteenth century B.C.

2. An uninscribed bronze coin of Mack type 299 was found by Mr. M. Cox on the downs above Boxley in June 1980 (N.G.R. TQ 761603).

3. A *potin* coin of Allen's class C1[2] was found by Mr. M. Cox in Boxley Warren in June 1980 (N.G.R. TQ 786593).

4. A *potin* coin was found by Mr. B. Port in October 1980, in Boxley Warren (N.G.R. TQ 785591). It bears a head/butting bull, both to the left, of the type illustrated by Allen[3] and is of Gaulish origin, from the middle Loire area.[4] The British *potin* coins were derived from Gaulish coins of this general type.

In addition to these pre-Roman coins eleven Roman coins, ranging in date from Faustina II to Valentinian II, have been found in Boxley Warren over the past two years.
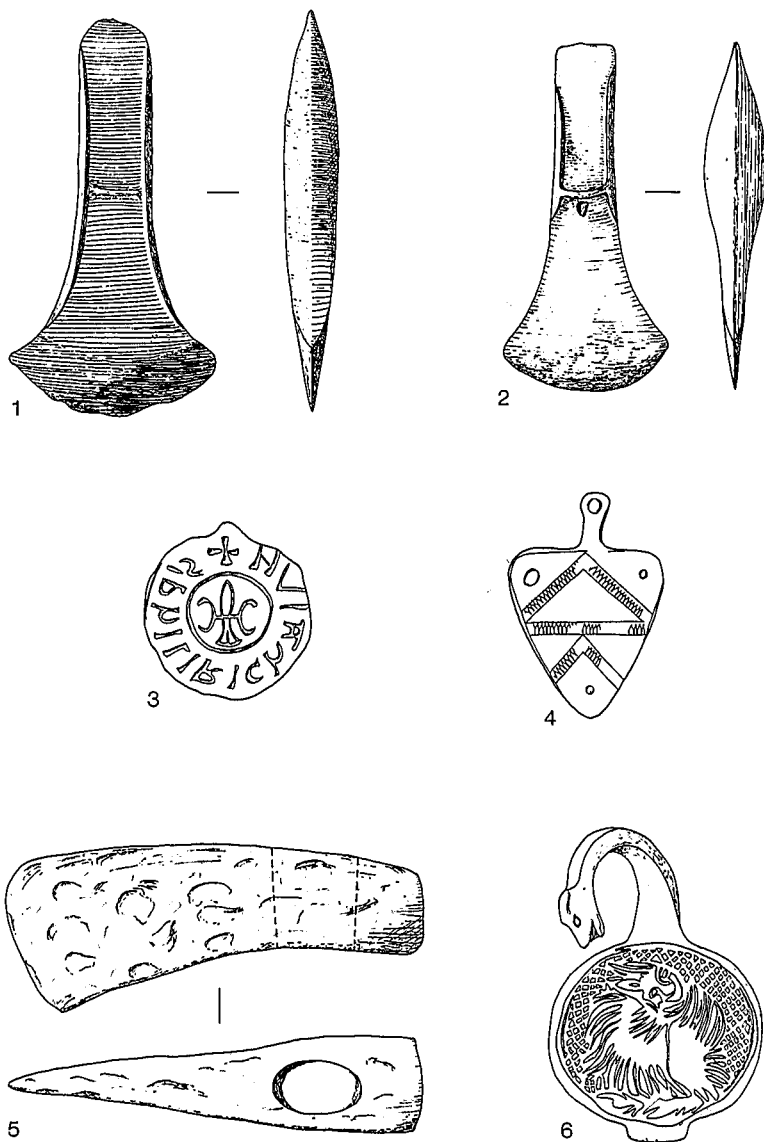
[1] P.H. Reaney, *The Origin of English Surnames*, London 1967, 154.
[2] D.F. Allen, 'British *Potin* Coins: A Review', in M. Jesson and D. Hill (eds.), *The Iron Age and its Hill-forts*, Southampton 1971, 127–54.
[3] *Ibid.*, Pl. IV, 9–11.
[4] D. Nash, 'Five first-century B.C. Coins from Gaul found recently in east Kent', *Arch. Cant.*, xcv (1979), 298–9.

DBK

Fig. 1. 1. Boxley: Early Bronze Age flanged Axe (½); 2. Plaxtol: Palstave (¼); 3. Appledore: Medieval Seal Matrix (1:1); 4. Otham: Medieval Harness Pendant (½); 5. Fairseat: Roman Axe (¼); 6. Lydden: Medieval Belt-hook (1:1).

CHARING

A stone Neolithic axe of Group I (Mount's Bay area, Cornwall) was found at Wittersham on a field track in November 1980, by Mr. D. Burt. According to the finder it probably reached Wittersham in a load of hard-core from Charing. The county number is Kent 61. Length: 5⅓ in.; max. width: 2¼ in.

FAIRSEAT

An iron axe (Fig. 1, 5) was found in 1979 during the digging of a water-pipe trench (N.G.R. TQ 6261 – the exact find spot is not known). Length: 8½ in. The type is Roman, often of late date and parallels can be cited from Housesteads,[5] Richborough[6] and other sites.

GREENWICH

In a recent British Museum publication[7] two Neolithic stone axes were recorded as found while a berth was being prepared for H.M.S. Fisguard, a frigate moved from Woolwich to a site outside the Naval College (N.G.R. TQ 384780) in 1873 and broken up in 1879. Number 49 in the British Museum list (B.M. – Eng. 20) is a Group I axe and number 277 (B.M. – Eng. 19) Group VI.[8] The county numbers are, respectively, Kent 56 and 57.

LYDDEN

The medieval bronze illustrated (Fig. 1, 6) was found in 1979 by Mr. T. Crump (N.G.R. TR 262453). It is 1 1/16 in. in diameter with a large hook with an animal head terminal at the top and a smaller, flat hook of triangular shape at the bottom, bending to the back. The figure was presumably gilt and the surrounding area is keyed

---

[5] W.H. Manning, *Catalogue of Romano-British Ironwork in the Museum of Antiquities of Newcastle-upon-Tyne,* Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1976, no. 55 and references therein.

[6] J.P. Bushe-Fox, *Fourth Report on the Excavations of the Roman Fort at Richborough, Kent,* Oxford 1949, 154 and Pl. LXI, 341–2.

[7] R. Adkins and R. Jackson, *Neolithic Stone and Flint Axes from the River Thames,* British Museum Occasional Papers, no. 1, London 1978.

[8] J.W. Stanley in *Science and Archaeology,* xviii (1976), 3–11.

for enamelling, of which no trace remains. The object is probably a belt-hook.

The design shows a figure, probably human despite its long ears, clad in a fleece and must represent a wild man, wodwose or wood-house. In his paper 'Some abnormal and composite human forms in English Church architecture', G.C. Druce discussed the wild man[9] and shows how, from being depicted as a naked and hairy savage in earlier centuries, he changes his appearance during the first half of the fourteenth century and from then is usually, though not invari-ably, shown dressed in sheep-skins. Normally, these are tight-fitting and the wild man is bearded, with hair covering the ears, and carries a club or branch. The figure on the Lydden belt-hook does not conform to this type, but the craftsman in this case was restricted by the small size and shape of the roundel and by the need to fill most of the surface with the figure.

From the first half of the fourteenth century and throughout the fifteenth century wild men enjoyed a vogue and were depicted on church carvings, tapestries,[10] apparel[11] and even as the knops of spoons[12] and in heraldry, usually as supporters.[13] It is to this period that the Lydden belt-hook may be dated.

OTHAM

A bronze medieval harness pendant of Ward Perkins type 1 (Fig. 1, 4) was found in November 1980, by Mr. D.R. Butcher in the wood adjacent to Stoneacre (N.G.R. TQ 799535). The pendant measures 2¼ by 1 9/16 in. and has had three holes bored through it. The field was gilt and the charges keyed for enamelling, none of which remains. The shield of arms may be described: Or, a fess between two chevrons (? gules, sable, azure). According to Boutell,[14] Robert FitzWalter, a member of the de Clare family, substituted a fess for the middle one of the de Clare chevrons. This composition, variously tinctured, was borne by several families, FitzWalter (gules) and De Lisle (Cambs.) (sable) among them.

[9] Arch. Journ., lxxii (915), 159–69.
[10] Archaeologia, xxi (1827), 258.
[11] Archaeologia, xxxi (1845), 41, 43, 122.
[12] Proc. Suffolk Inst. of Arch. and Nat. Hist., xiv (1912), 289–90.
[13] Arch. Journ., lvii (1900), 313–5.
[14] C.W. Scott-Giles, Boutell's Heraldry, revised edition, London 1954, 113. I am grateful to Mr. L.R.A. Grove for this reference.

PLAXTOL

A bronze palstave (Fig. 1, 2) was lent to the museum from 1965 until 1979. It was re-discovered by its owner, Mr. B.A. Smith, in a drawer in his home many years after being found on the farm (N.G.R. TQ 594598), so that the precise find-spot is not now known. The palstave is 7 in. long, low-flanged and has below the stop-ridge a small pit, redolent of the U-shaped hollow found on many low-flanged palstaves of the south-eastern type.[15] It is very close to a palstave found at East Malling some years ago[16] and assignable to the Taunton phase of the later Middle Bronze Age.

D.B. KELLY

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

A large number of buildings were inspected during the year to August 1981, including emergency recording of Pond House, Otford, 11–13 High Street, Otford, and Filston Oast-house, Shoreham, all while builders' work was in progress. Studies of these and other buildings found to incorporate features of merit will be made available as soon as practicable.

Regarding Otford Palace, there has been no change in the highly unsatisfactory situation which I reported in the last volume of *Archaeologia Cantiana*, pp. 367–8. Pressure on Sevenoaks District Council, as owners, to proceed with the long-overdue repairs is being maintained by national, county and local organizations, but so far without success. Meanwhile, the early sixteenth-century tower has become even more dilapidated and part of its parapet is in danger of collapse.

I personally have devoted several months of the year to a fresh analysis and interpretative study of all known primary evidence of the architectural history of Otford Palace. The outcome constitutes the most comprehensive account of the successive structures ever attempted and is to be published as part of a forthcoming book on the houses of the Archbishops of Canterbury from Lanfranc to Laud.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

---

[15] *PPS*, xxv (1959), 167.
[16] *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1971), 220.

FROGNAL HOUSE, SIDCUP

For several years this house has been unoccupied and during that period its condition degenerated to a state where the feasibility of its restoration was in serious doubt. At one time the home of the Viscounts Sydney, it became part of Queen Mary's Hospital during World War I, but following the building of a new hospital on an adjacent site in the 1960s, Frognal House was abandoned. Lead was stolen from the roofs and gutters and the interior was reduced to a ruinous condition by the intrusion of rain water. In 1980, the firm Housetrend Limited took possession, having obtained planning permission to convert the building into business offices. This work is now (1981) in an advanced state and has led to various interesting discoveries.

Due to serious dilapidation, it was found necessary to rebuild the roof and most of the interior walls down to first-floor level, but care has been taken to preserve or replace mouldings, panelling and ornamental plasterwork wherever possible. The long gallery in the east range is to be restored to its original form by removing partitions introduced when the house became an annexe of the old hospital. A recent report by the Department of the Environment contains the following information:

The external elevations are mainly seventeenth- and eighteenth-century but older fragments remain inside, the whole arranged round a small courtyard. Within the south range recent work has revealed traces of a late-medieval timber two-bay hall-house with a storeyed wing at the east end. A slightly later timber-framed wing was added to the west, extended into a west range and subsequently encased in late seventeenth-century brickwork. The east front was rebuilt in the seventeenth or early eighteenth century but rests on earlier stone foundations, probably of the mid-sixteenth century. Service quarters occupied the north and west ranges, the former being of brick on stone foundations like the east range. From inside the courtyard can be seen early stonework to first-floor level on the north and east sides, with a four-centred arch doorway into a brick cellar under the east range. In the south-east corner of the courtyard is a tower containing an early eighteenth-century staircase, and traces remain of a sixteenth-century fireplace in the south end of the east range.

The necessarily drastic treatment of the building in the course of its restoration has, therefore, had the fortunate result of revealing

PLATE II
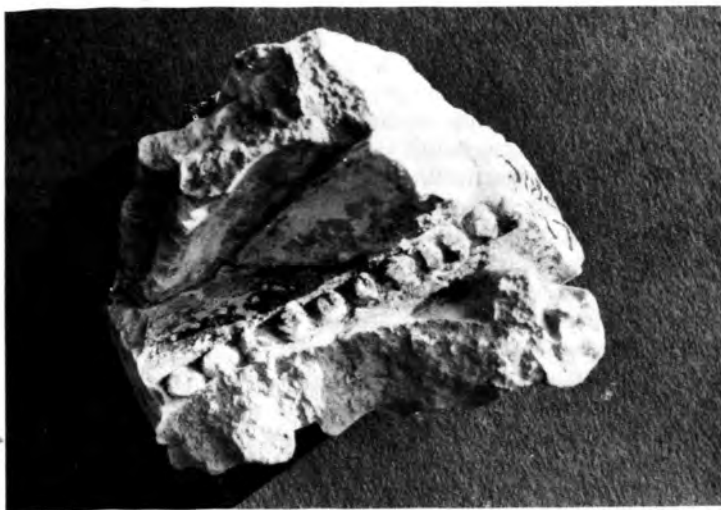
(Photo. P.J. Tester)

(Photo. P.J. Tester)

Fragment of Sculpture from Leeds Priory

hitherto concealed evidence of its early origin and the stages of its development.

<div align="right">P.J. TESTER</div>

A FRAGMENT OF MEDIEVAL SCULPTURE FROM LEEDS PRIORY

During the excavation of Leeds Priory in 1973–77, a fragment of medieval figure sculpture was discovered in debris covering the site of the south-west crossing pier (Plate II). It is 6 in. long and represents the forearm of a human figure from the wrist to just below the elbow. At the narrow end (2 in. diameter) there are three dowel holes for the attachment of the missing hand, and the arm is enclosed in a tight-fitting sleeve with a row of rounded close-set buttons along the underside, such as are frequently depicted on civilian brasses of the fourteenth century. Traces of gilding occur on the sleeve over a black undercoat. Across the upper side of the arm is a band of drapery in heavy folds, 4½ in. wide. This cannot have represented a chasuble or cloak hanging from both shoulders as each end of the sleeved arm protrudes slightly from the sides of the drapery. At the upper end the diameter of the forearm is 3 in.

There is no doubt that the fragment belonged to a standing or seated figure, approximately life size, and may have come from the rood screen or pulpitum (cf. the figures on the quire screens at Canterbury and Rochester cathedrals). The arm would appear to have been extended horizontally or slightly raised as otherwise the buttons on the underside would not have been visible. The material is apparently Upper Greensand ('firestone') and its surface condition shows that it was never exposed to external weathering. By courtesy of the landowners it has been donated to Maidstone Museum.

<div align="right">P.J. TESTER</div>

A ROMAN BRONZE HEAD FROM MARGATE

During an excavation carried out by The Isle of Thanet Archaeological Unit in 1981 at Drapers Mills School, Margate, a small bronze head was found. The bronze was obtained from the stratified
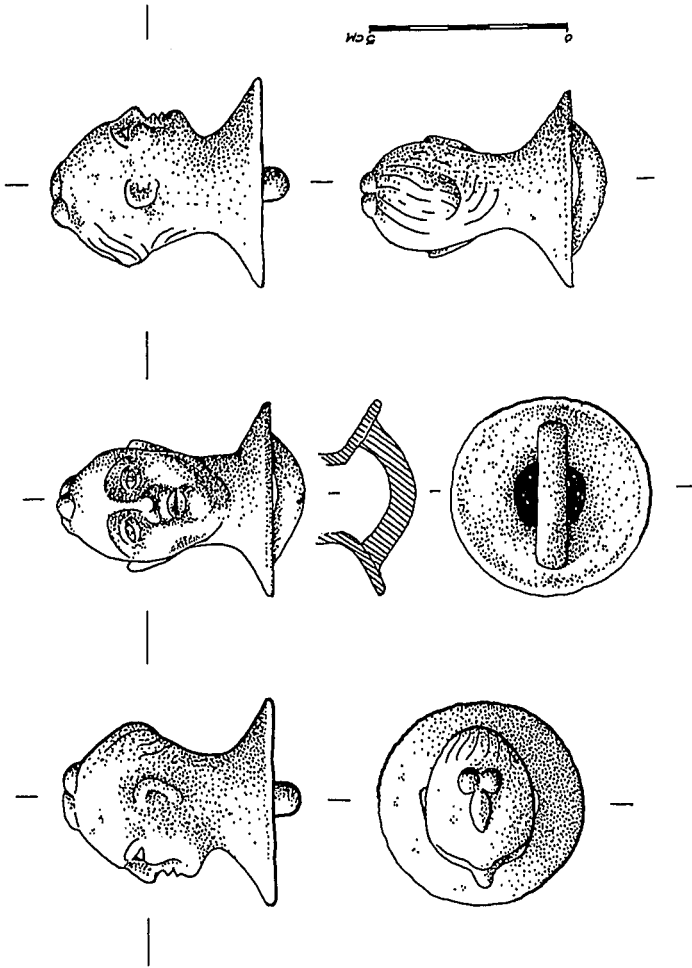
<div align="center">307</div>

Fig. 2.   A Roman Bronze Head from Margate (Scale: ½).

infill of a chalk working sited beside the St. Peter's footpath at N.G.R. TR 363699. On being submitted to the British Museum, Miss Catherine Johns, F.S.A., of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, supplied the following note:

'The small bronze which is the subject of this note (Fig. 2) was excavated at Margate in a second-century context.[1] It is a hollow casting in the form of a male head, set on a plain, flaring, circular base; beneath the base is a thick curved bar which would have served to attach the head to some other object. The total height is 6.3 cm. and the diameter of the base 5 cm. The personage represented has a rounded, blandly smiling face, and the head is bald apart from a single large and slightly wavy lock of hair at the back. In profile, the facial features which appear almost childish from the front have a different aspect, coarse and heavy, and the ears are simply modelled and thick. The most striking feature is that on the top of the head where are modelled a phallus and testicles, facing forwards.

There are a number of parallels for this intriguing piece, though it may well be the first to have been discovered in an archaeological context. The closest parallel known to the writer is in the museum at Mariemont in Belgium, no. F. 27 in the catalogue of that collection.[2] This is close in style and even in size to our piece, though the phallus is modelled in higher relief, and the expression on the face is serious. Further examples are cited in the discussion of the Mariemont piece. Another good parallel, now in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum at Trier, was found in the river Mosel: it is no. 270 in Menzel's catalogue of the Trier bronzes.[3] This is a somewhat coarsely modelled example with a frowning expression and a very large phallus on the top of the head: its rounded base is extended to form a square plate.

There are some slightly more distant parallels which feature a human head surmounted by a phallus: a fragmentary sample from Trier (Menzel 180) is the head of slightly grotesque old man, while an example in New York, also with grotesque features, has the phallus almost completely in the round, projecting from the top of

[1] The bronze was submitted to the British Museum for an opinion by Mr. D.R.J. Perkins, and the writer is most grateful to him for providing the opportunity to study it.

[2] *Les Antiquités égyptiennes, grecques, étrusques, romaines et gallo-romaines du Musée de Mariemont,* Brussels, 1952.

[3] Heinz Menzel, *Die römischen Bronzen aus Deutschland: II: Trier,* Mainz, 1966.

the head;[4] another head in Naples[5] also has a pronounced phallus of this type, but it points away from the face. The exaggerated features of these two heads, with long noses, hint at some connection with the grotesques derived from characters in comedy, but they share with the Margate bronze and the Trier and Mariemont parallels the distinctive single lock of hair.

This hairstyle or slight variations of it can also be seen on three further bronze heads at Trier, though they all lack the phallic ornament. Menzel's 182 is stylistically very close to the Margate head. His no. 178 is a crudely worked piece with a pointed, projecting lock of hair, while no. 183, a more complete bust in which the shoulders and upper part of the chest are modelled, has the lock very clearly twisted up and knotted to form a pointed projection.

The Margate bronze can therefore be linked with published Continental Roman bronzes both on the basis of the phallus motif and on that of the hairstyle. The significance of both these features will be considered below, but first, the possible use of the bronze should be discussed. Though the Mariemont bronze is apparently filled with lead, it is hard to see how this or any of the other examples can have functioned as steelyard weights, since they all lack any trace of a suspension ring on the top of the head. The basal rings or bars are the fastening devices, so we are dealing with mounts which were placed on top of some object. In the case of the Margate bronze, the attachment bar is both robust and has a very shallow curve, so it could not easily have served to attach the head to a wooden base, though it would do very well to anchor the head to a stout leather strap. It may be that the object served as a harness mount, therefore. There is insufficient evidence for any definite ideas on this.

The distinctive hairstyle should help in the identification of the type of character depicted. Several of the published sources suggest that these heads depict priests of Isis, and state that the single lock of hair was worn by them. However, in Egypt itself such priests undoubtedly had completely shaven heads, and it seems likely that this was so throughout the Empire. There is another group of persons in the Roman Empire which did affect the single lock of hair on many occasions, though not universally; namely pugilists – boxers, wrestlers and pancratists. Closer observation of the Margate

[4] G.M.A. Richter, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Greek Etruscan and Roman Bronzes,* New York, 1915, no. 276.

[5] Michael Grant, *Erotic Art in Pompeii,* London, 1975, 135.

head and some of the closest parallels suggests that they are supposed to represent these fighters rather than priests. One of the Trier busts, Menzel 183, has ears which are so solid and thickened as to qualify as cauliflower ears, while Menzel 182 has similar ears and apparently a broken nose as well. The illustration of the Mariemont bronze depicts an angle which makes it difficult to judge this feature, but our bronze also shows thickly-bordered ears like the Trier parallels. While representations of pugilists were not nearly as common as those of gladiators, fighters were certainly popular figures, and the identification of this whole group as pugilists seems very likely.

The presence of the phallus on the top of the head is easily explained. Throughout the Roman world, the phallus was believed to have the power to avert the evil eye, and it was therefore a widely used apotropaic device. It occurs on its own, carved on buildings, or as a bronze pendant or other ornament, and it is also found in various fanciful associations. The head and the phallus were not infrequently combined as an amulet. The humorous element in the combination displayed by the Margate bronze should also not be overlooked: it may well be that the placing of the apotropaic phallus on the bald head was originally suggested by the single lock of hair worn by pugilists. In its role as the destroyer of the evil eye and the protector of good luck, the phallus was seen as a powerful and aggressive force: this concept may have been appropriately reinforced by combining it with the image of a character whose profession was fighting.

The smile on the face of the Margate bronze is unusual amongst these pieces, which tend more towards stern expressions. It is perhaps worth noting the resemblance of the face to those of the pipeclay busts from Central Gaul which depict a smiling, bald-headed child, usually referred to as *Risus*.[6] There may be no direct connection, but the similarity is striking.

In summary, therefore, this interesting small bronze appears to be a decorative mount, possibly for horse-harness, which depicts a pugilist and was intended as a good-luck charm, a function which was strengthened and underlined by the addition of phallic decoration'.

D.R.J. PERKINS

---

[6] M. Rouvier-Jeanlin, *Les Figurines gallo-romaines en Terre cuite au Musée des Antiquités nationales,* Paris, 1972, nos. 669–698.

BOXLEY ABBEY

In *Arch. Cant.,* lxxxviii (1973), 133, reference was made to a letter written to George Payne on this subject. Contrary to what was stated, the writer now appears to have been Richard Cooke of Detling whose name is included at that time in the K.A.S. membership list, and the letter is dated 21st January, 1898. This correction applies also to a note in *Arch. Cant.,* xciv (1978), 257, although the error of attribution in no way affects the significance of the remarks contained in the letter.

P.J. TESTER

THE TOWER OF STONE CASTLE, GREENHITHE

The manor of Stone came to the church of St. Andrew at Rochester in 995 and has remained with the bishopric ever since. At the knighting of the Black Prince in 1347, John de Northwood paid the aid for half a knight's fee on the manor of Stone *Castle*, which Henry de Northwood had held before him of the Bishop of Rochester.[1] How much earlier the estate had been subinfeudated we do not know.

Stone Castle stands one mile south of Greenhithe and half a mile north of Watling Street, on ground rising from a dry valley (N.G.R. TQ 584740). It commands good views to north and east, particularly of Fiddler's Reach of the river Thames. The main building is late Georgian, but since Hasted's day at least the tower at the south-east corner has been recognised as ancient. Recently, the tower was converted from domestic to office use, and this enabled the writers to examine it in some detail, with the kind permission of M.L. Cheesmer, Esq., F.R.I.C.S., Regional Estates Surveyor of Blue Circle Industries, Ltd.

The tower (Figs. 3 and 4) is rectangular, of three storeys with one room to each floor, faced on the outside with dark grey knapped flints, tightly jointed and roughly coursed and small freestone rubble quoins. This contrasts with the faced random flint and yellow brick

---

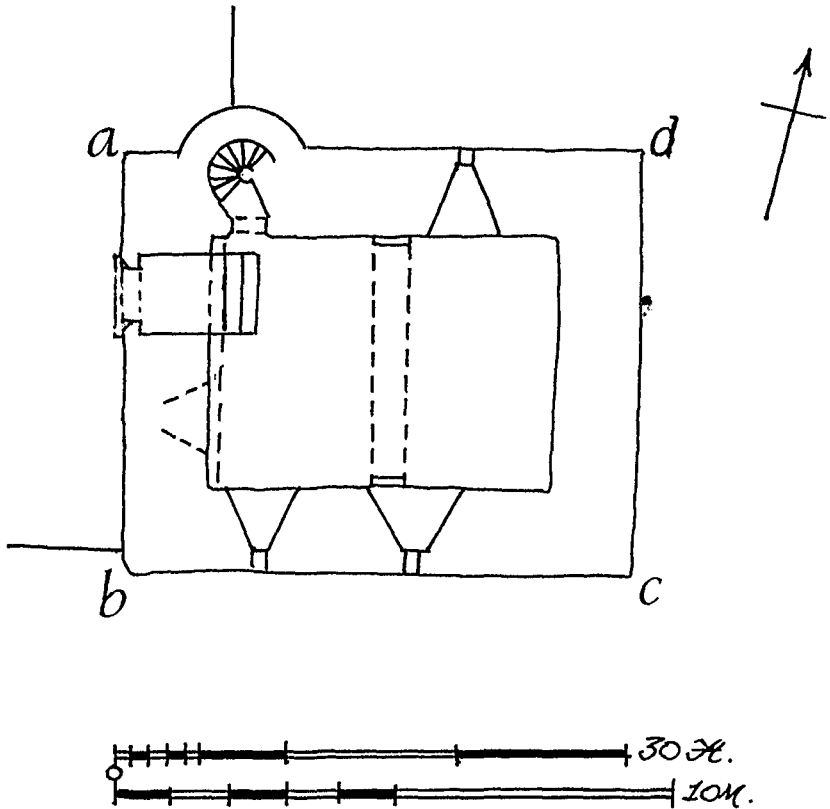[1] E. Hasted, *History of Kent,* 2nd Edition (1797) Vol. 2, 386, 390.

Fig. 3. Basement Plan of the Tower, Stone Castle.

quoins of the later house, which engages the west face and north-west angle of the tower. Each other face of the tower has traces of three vertical lines of putlog holes and a rectangular two-light window with cusped heads under a hoodmould to the topmost of the three floors. The north (Plate IIIA) and south faces of the tower also have a rectangular two-light window (but with a transom) light-ing the middle storey, and respectively one and two slits at present ground level lighting the basement. The dressings of the slits are partly renewed but represent an original feature (see below); the other windows resemble those in the nineteenth-century house (although the latter have sashes but neither mullions nor cusped heads) and may replace earlier openings. Near the west end of the
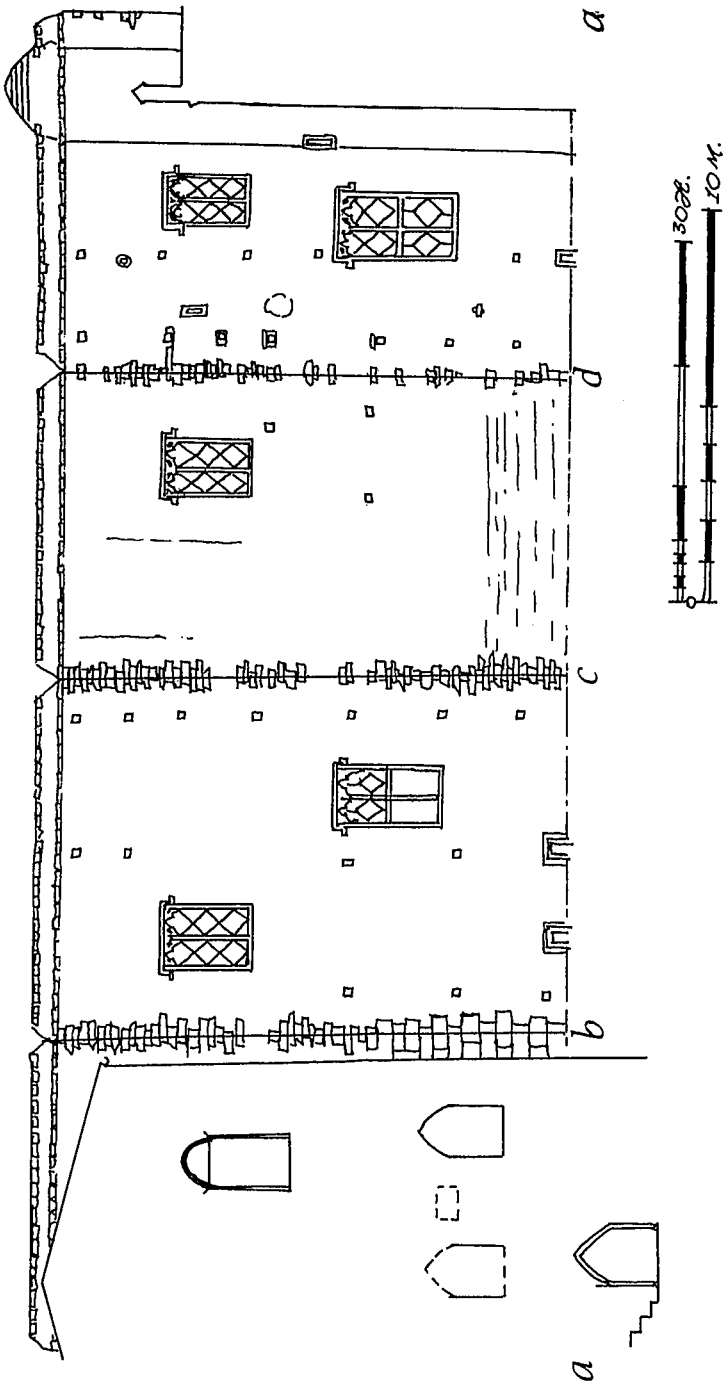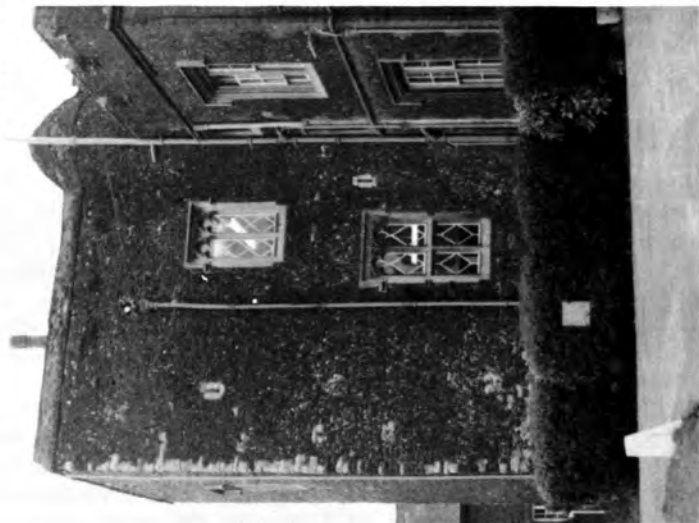
313

Fig. 4. External Elevations of the Tower, Stone Castle (lettering as Fig. 3).

314

PLATE IIIB

The Basement Doorway to the Tower, Stone Castle, looking South-east.

PLATE IIIA

The Tower of Stone Castle, looking South.

315

north wall is a half-round stair-turret, with a small original lighting slit halfway up, rising to a tiled conical cap just above roof level. There are various small openings further east in this wall now backed by modern fireplaces (see the chimney-pot on Plate IIIA) which may replace earlier ones or have adapted the shaft of a former latrine chute.

The most interesting face is the western (Fig. 4, a–b) although it is inside the later house and plastered over. The semi-basement is entered through a doorway (Plate IIIB) with a two-centred chamfered head and broach steps to the jambs, all within a continuous moulding. This is entirely of freestone ashlar; the main walls within are of alternate courses of uncut flints and chalk blocks. The lighting slits have splayed jambs and segmental heads to the embrasures; there are traces on another blocked slit alongside the entrance doorway. A small doorway (only 1.2 m. high and 60 cm. wide, with a pointed head) gives access to a spiral stair only 1.2 m. in diameter. Each complete turn leads up to a similar door to the next floor and, finally, the roof.

The middle floor is supported by a 45 cm. square beam resting on plain corbels, with a similar arrangement forming a bressumer on the west wall. This floor is entered by a recased doorway with a two-centred head, taller but narrower than that below. Within the room there is a similar (but blocked) opening in the same wall, with a square cupboard-like recess between them. The walls are wainscot and plastered, and no traces of other early features could be seen.

The upper floor is entered through a rectangular doorway within a full-centred round arch carried down as a bowtell moulding; again, the interior showed no original features. The parapet to the roof has been renewed, incorporating courses of yellow stock brick, and the leading of the flat roof has graffiti made with a plumber's iron, including the outline of a hand and of a boot, and the inscription 'G (or S) H 1833'.

The house adjoining the tower was rebuilt to face north, about 1825. It is of two storeys, with a battlemented parapet, the central bay forming a three-storey tower. On the west side are two large canted bay windows, while adjacent to these is a section of crinkle-crankle garden wall. The whole is built of random split flints, with yellow brick long-and-short quoins. There is a print of 1829 showing the north front in Ireland's *Kent*.[2] The ground floor is raised some 1.5 m. from the medieval level, as defined by the lower doorway.

[2] W.H. Ireland, *History of Kent*, Vol. IV (1830), 386.

Discussion

Clearly the tower formed the private apartments – the 'solar' or chamber block – or a house whose main hall (not necessarily of stone) stood further west on the site of the prevent house. There is a tower of similar purpose at Lympne[3] and both occupy an intermediate typological position between the chamber blocks at Dover Castle (Godsfoe's Tower of *c.* 1214)[4] and Old Soar manor at Plaxtol.[5]

Simple solar towers have a wide geographical spread in Britain (e.g. Foresters Lodge, Millichope, Salop[6] and Dunstan's Hall, Embleton, Northumberland,[7] of the thirteenth century, and the timber hall and tower of *c.* 1200 excavated at Lismahon in Co. Down).[8] The type may originate earlier: the enigmatic two-bay building excavated at Chilham and dated to the eleventh century[9] had a stair-turret and high diaphragm arch indicating a tower-like structure, subsequently partly buried in a motte and used as the foundation for a keep of *c.* 1171–4.

The simple broach steps to the basement doorway at Stone suggest a mid- to late-thirteenth century date for the tower. The round-headed upper arch is not very Romanesque-looking, even allowing for plaster and paint, and such arches had a revival in the late thirteenth century (Barnwell Castle *c.* 1264, and the castles of King Edward I in Wales from 1277). Doorways at three levels are unusual, but occur also at Stokesay Castle, Salop,[10] both from the solar into the courtyard and from the hall into the earlier north tower: the only direct access from the solar to the adjoining later south tower is by an external timber gangway). Such an arrangement would be impracticable at Stone unless one or other of the upper doorways has been moved from its original postition. We have no details of the original openings above ground level, but Stone Castle tower seems designed rather for passive strength than for active defence; in particular, there is very restricted access between floors by way of the spiral stair, for which the writers can vouch personally!

---

[3] *Arch. Journ.,* cxxvi (1969), 260–2.
[4] R. Allen Brown, *Dover Castle: Official Guide* (1966), 10, 20.
[5] *Arch. Journ.,* cv (1950), Supplement, 36–8.
[6] *Ibid.,* 70–71.
[7] AA[4], xvii (1940), 39–53. We owe this reference to Dr. P.W. Dixon.
[8] *Med. Arch.,* iii (1959), 139–76.
[9] *Antiq. Journ.,* viii (1928), 350–3.
[10] *Op. cit.,* in n. 5, 64–70, pl. XIV.

There is a contrast between the solar tower at Stone and the self-contained residence capable of all-round defence built at Rye early in the reign of King Henry III.[11] But the original wallhead at Stone has gone completely – the fate of many parapets – and it might have been adequately defended from the reef. Such an otherwise entirely domestic building as Little Wenham Hall (Suffolk)[12] had a crenellated and loopholed parapet strong enough to get it included in many standard works on castles. At any rate, with the doors barred against the hall, a knight (or a bishop ?) could lie easy in his bed in the tower of Stone Castle.

K.W.E. GRAVETT and D.F. RENN

TWO CREMATIONS OF THE ROMAN PERIOD FROM ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE, CANTERBURY

The cutting of a drainage trench during maintenance work on St. Augustine's College (N.G.R. TR 15445781) in August 1981 resulted in the disturbance of two Roman cremation deposits. Four vessels were recovered by Mr. Jim Roberts, one of the excavators, and reported to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust by Mr. Hugh Perks, Surveyor to St. Augustine's Foundation. Subsequent excavation of the trench by Trust members revealed two further vessels, intact (nos. 4–5), and three sherds incorporated in the fill of the burial pits.

The site lies in Dovecot Gardens, a quadrangle within the precincts of St. Augustine's Abbey. The two burials were roughly 3 m. apart, at a depth of approximately 1.20 m. below the modern ground surface. The south section of the trench, which cut cremation pit 2, showed a possible conical pit with wide mouth, backfilled to a depth of some 0.55 m. with orange-brown loamy clay presumably derived from the excavation of the pit. This was sealed by a layer of light brown clay-loam some 0.10 m. deep, both layers being cut by a feature of unknown date, possibly a rubbish pit, which was overlain by modern topsoil. The burials can be dated by the associated pottery vessels to c. A.D. 80–100/120.

The burials lay some 180 m. east of the third-century Roman wall, and 115 m. north of the probable line of the Roman road to Richborough through Burgate (Fig. 5). It is proposed that the

---

[11] *Arch. Journ.*, cxxxvi (1979), 193–202.
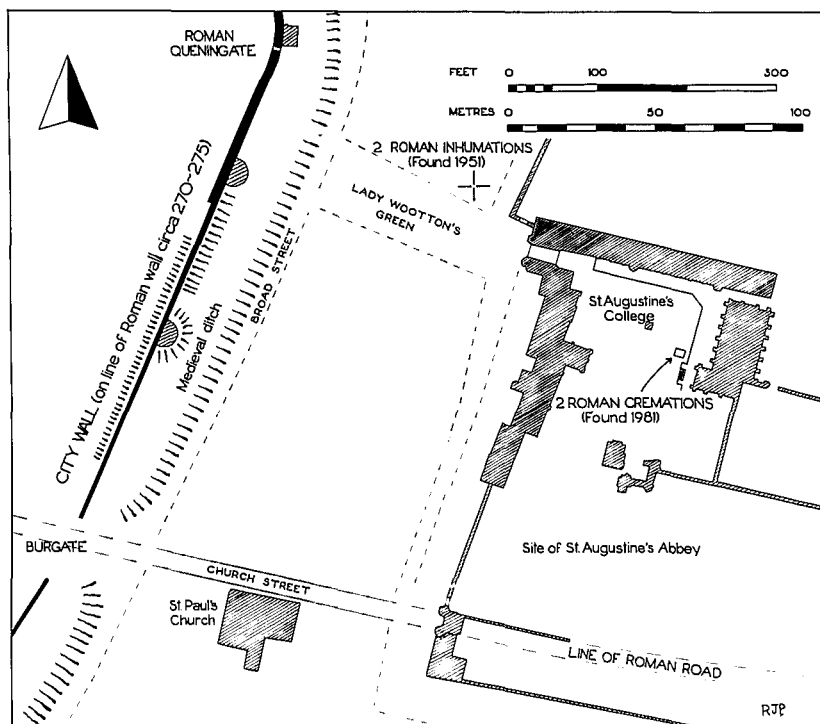[12] *Op. cit.*, in no. 5, 76–81.

Fig. 5. Location Plan.

road through Queningate passed to the north of the burials,
although evidence has not been forthcoming on the alignment of
this thoroughfare. The burials are closer to the heart of
Durovernum than any other cremations on the eastern side of the
Roman city (Day 1980). Other interments in the vicinity of St.
Augustine's College that have been recorded were inhumations, a
mode of burial characteristic of the later third and fourth centuries
A.D. (Clarke 1979; Day 1980). Two inhumation cemeteries are
suspected, one focussing on Lady Wootton's Green, and one in the
area of St. Augustine's Abbey (Day 1980). Roman law forbade the
interment of human corpses, excepting newly-born babies, within
the boundary of a town; it follows that the Dovecot Gardens
cremations lay beyond this boundary. Their location thus marks the
maximum possible eastward extent of the town in the
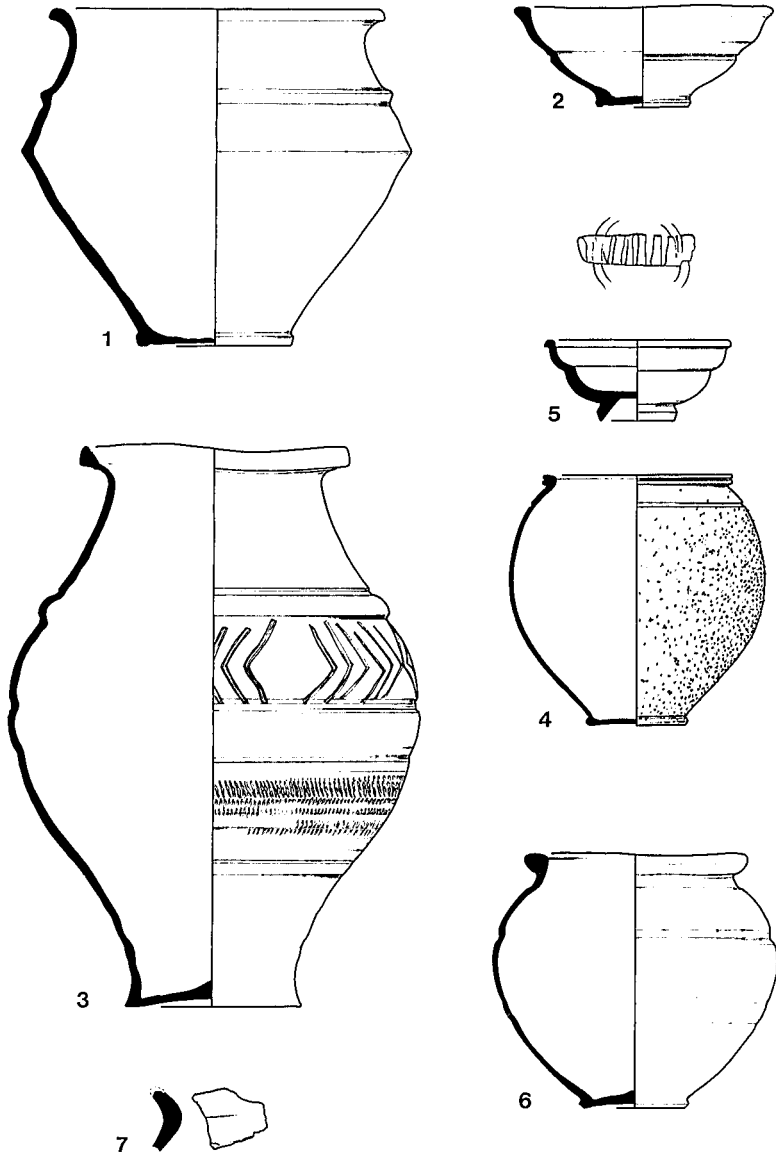Flavian-Trajanic period, assuming the Lady Wootton's Green area

319

Fig. 6.   Pottery from St. Augustine's College, Canterbury (¼).

inhumation cemetery to be later Roman. Taken in conjunction with the location of the Roman industrial quarter in the neighbourhood of Whitehall Road where pottery and tile kilns have been excavated (Jenkins 1960) — both these industries are unlikely to have been sited within the city boundary owing to the fire hazard — and the proposed extent of the St. Dunstan's area Roman cemetery (Canterbury Archaeological Trust 1979), a maximum east—west width of the city of some 1100 m. through the site of the London Gate in the first-early second centuries may be proposed. The intramural width on the same line from the late third century onwards was some 890 m. The siting of the extramural inhumation cemeteries close to London Gate and the east wall, if these are later Roman in date, implies that the later Roman boundary did not extend much beyond the wall, and was probably marked by the latter. There is no evidence for substantial structures of the Roman period beyond the line of the walls, and it may be that the first- to mid-third century boundary fell within the later defended perimeter. The fact that the early Roman Wincheap cemetery is crossed by the wall implies that on the south side at least the early boundary lay well inside the third-century walls (Bennett *et al.* 1982).

The Cremation Groups (Fig. 6)

Group 1: 1. Biconical jar in soft fine micaceous dark grey/ red/dark grey smoothed ware. Contained cremated bone. Mid-Flavian to early Hadrianic, cf. Richborough 289–290 (Bushe-Fox 1932). Probably from east Kent or the Upchurch Marshes (Noël Hume 1954).

2. Campanulate cup copying samian Drag. 27, in soft fine micaceous orange smoothed ware. Probably late-Flavian to early-Hadrianic, cf. Richborough 226–227 (Bushe-Fox 1932) and Marsh, form 12.

Group 2: 3. Butt-beaker in soft fine micaceous black/brown/ black to brown smoothed ware. Contained cremated bone. Probably Flavian. Belongs to a group of butt-beakers from north-east Kent with fine combed decoration and rouletting as this vessel, in fine grey ware; the combed motifs include chevrons and "compass-scribed" arcs; Richborough 541 (Cunliffe 1968), Minster (Whiting 1924, fig. 1, group B), Ramsgate

(Couchman 1924) and Birchington (Anon. 1924). Possibly from east Kent, since this motif has not been seen by the present author on vessels from the Upchurch Marshes.

4. Bag-beaker with grooved cornice rim in soft fine orange-buff ware containing small red iron-stone inclusions and flakes of "gold" mica (Phlogopite/Biotite). Clay pellet rough-casting on the exterior, covered by an external colour-coat varying from pale/dark brown to orange. Probably from north Gaul (Anderson 1980, North Gaul Fabric 2); exports of this ware to Britain belong to the Flavian-Hadrianic period (*ibid.*).

5. Drag. 27 cup, South Gaul, rather roughly-finished, with an 'illiterate' stamp on the interior of the base, of a type previously unrecorded (B. Dickinson, pers. comm.). Flavian-Flavian/Trajanic. Found sitting upright in the mouth of 4. Soil content of 5 removed for analysis of any votive offering contained within.

Ungrouped: 6. Triangular-roll-rim necked jar in coarse sandy grey wheel-thrown ware. Broadly Flavian-Antonine. Probably from a Canterbury kiln, cf. Dane John 33–35 (Kirkman 1940), North Lane 3, 4 and 6 (Bennett *et al.* 1978). This vessel undoubtedly belonged to one of the burial groups, but which one could not be ascertained.

Miscellaneous sherds from the burial pits:

Group 1 – one sherd of abraded grey-brown coarse flint-temper-ed ware, Iron Age to mid-first century A.D.

Group 2 – one sherd of abraded grey grog-tempered ware, mid-first century B.C. to second century A.D. One rim sherd (no. 7 here) in hard finely irregular very sandy micaceous black fabric with a moderate amount of flint temper (1–2 mm. grit size) and sparse grog, facet-burnished externally. Possibly from a 'foot-ring' or 'onion-shaped' jar (cf. Macpherson-Grant 1980, no. 32; Cunliffe 1980, p. 177–8; Jessup and Cook 1936, no. 11). This form is absent from late first-century B.C./early first-century A.D. contexts at Canterbury (e.g. Frere 1954; Pollard forthcoming); in Essex it may be given a *terminus ante quem* in the mid-first

century B.C. (Drury and Rodwell 1973; Drury 1978). An occupation of the Canterbury area pre-dating the 'Aylesford-Swarling' first century B.C. settlement is indicated by a site in the south angle of the junction of Castle Street and St. John's Lane (N.G.R. TR 14725759) from which pottery ascribed to 'Iron Age A' of *c*. 200 B.C. date at the time of excavation (Jenkins 1951) was recovered. In the now-obsolete 'ABC' terminology (Hawkes 1931; Cunliffe 1978, 4–10) this rim sherd would be ascribed to 'B' (cf. Ward Perkins 1944), and may therefore relate to a different settlement from that found by Jenkins.

Acknowledgements

The Trust commends Mr. Roberts and Mr. Perks on the promptness of their notification at the finding of the cremations, and thanks them for the assistance given in recording them. Marion Green described vessel 4, and Joanna Bird vessel 5. Brenda Dickinson provided the information on the potter's stamp on 5. John Rady recorded the location of the site, provided details of the south section of the trench and recovered vessels 4 and 5 *in situ*. Mark Duncan drew the pottery.

R.J. POLLARD

REFERENCES

Anderson 1980	A.C. Anderson, *A Guide to Roman Fine Wares*, Vorda Research Series no. 1, Highworth 1980.
Anon. 1924	'Rare Pottery from Kent', *Antiq. Journ.*, iv (1924), 158–9.
Bennett *et al.* 1982	P. Bennett, S.S. Frere and S. Stow, *Excavations at Canterbury Castle*, The Archaeology of Canterbury I, Maidstone 1982.
Bennett, Garrard and Macpherson-Grant 1978	P. Bennett, P. Garrard and N. Macpherson-Grant, 'Excavations at 16–21 North Lane, Canterbury', *Arch. Cant.*, xciv (1978), 165–91.
Bushe-Fox 1932	J.P. Bushe-Fox, *Third Report on the Excavations of the Roman Fort at Richborough, Kent*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, x, Oxford 1932.
Canterbury Archaeological Trust 1979	*Topographical Maps of Canterbury, A.D. 400–1700*, Canterbury 1979.
Clarke 1979	G. Clarke, *The Roman Cemetery at Lankhills*, Winchester Studies III, Oxford 1979.

Couchman 1924 — J.E. Couchman, 'Recent Discoveries at Ramsgate', *Antiq. Journ.*, iv (1924), 53–4.

Cunliffe 1968 — B.W. Cunliffe (Ed.), *Fifth Report on the Excavations of the Roman Fort at Richborough, Kent,* Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, xxiii, Oxford 1968.

Cunliffe 1978 — B.W. Cunliffe, *Iron Age Communities in Britain*, Second edition, London 1978.

Cunliffe 1980 — B.W. Cunliffe, 'Overall Discussion of the Iron Age Pottery', in Macpherson-Grant 1980, 174–9.

Day 1980 — M. Day, 'The Roman Period in the Parishes of St. Martin and St. Paul', in M. Sparks (Ed.), *The Parish of St. Martin and St. Paul: Historical Essays in Memory of James Hobbs*, Canterbury 1980, 5–11.

Drury 1978 — P.J. Drury, *Excavations at Little Waltham, 1970_71*, CBA Research Report 26, London 1978.

Drury and Rodwell 1973 — P.J. Drury and W.J. Rodwell, 'Excavations at Gun Hill, West Tilbury', *Essex Archaeology and History*, Third series, v (1973), 48–112.

Frere 1954 — S.S. Frere, 'Canterbury Excavations, Summer 1946', *Arch. Cant.*, lxviii (1954), 101–43.

Hawkes 1931 — C.F.C. Hawkes, 'Hill Forts', *Antiquity*, v (1931), 60–97.

Jenkins 1951 — F. Jenkins, 'Canterbury Excavations', *Arch. Newsletter*, March 1951, 145–7.

Jenkins 1960 — F. Jenkins, 'Two Pottery Kilns and a Tilery of the Roman Period at Canterbury', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxiv (1960), 151–61.

Jessup and Cook 1936 — R.F. Jessup and N.C. Cook, 'Excavations at Bigberry Camp, Harbledown', *Arch. Cant.*, xlviii (1936), 151–68.

Kirkman 1940 — J.S. Kirkman, 'A Roman Pottery Kiln at Canterbury: The Pottery', *Arch. Cant.*, liii (1940), 118–33.

Macpherson-Grant 1980 — N. Macpherson-Grant, 'Archaeological Work along the A2: 1966–74', *Arch. Cant.,* xcvi (1980), 133–83.

Marsh 1978 — G. Marsh, 'Early second Century Fine Wares in the London Area', in P.A. Arthur and G. Marsh (Eds.), *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*, BAR 57, Oxford 1978, 119–24.

Noël Hume 1954 — I. Noël Hume, 'Romano-British Potteries on the Upchurch Marshes', *Arch. Cant.*, lxviii (1954), 72–90.

Pollard forthcoming — R.J. Pollard, 'The Roman Coarse Pottery', in K. Blockley and M. Day, *Excavations in the Marlowe Car Park and associated Areas*, The Archaeology of Canterbury V, Maidstone.

Ward-Perkins 1944 — J.B. Ward-Perkins, 'Excavations at the Iron Age Hillfort at Oldbury, near Ightham, Kent', *Archaeologia*, xc (1944), 127–76.

Whiting 1924 — W. Whiting, 'Further Roman Finds in Kent', *Antiq. Journ.*, iv (1924), 22–5.