

## INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

### REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

*London Borough of Bromley Museum.* Mrs. S. Palmer M.Phil., A.M.A. reports:

Some progress is being made on the conservation of the Roman bath-house at Poverest, Orpington, and a permanent structure has been placed over the remains. A coin found near the banks of the River Cray by C. Bennett in 1980 was brought to the museum for identification. It proved to be a silver-plated copper *denarius* dating to 42 B.C. of the second triumvirate of Mark Anthony (obverse) with Octavian (reverse). The coin is now with the Museum.

In January 1981, Mr. J. Harlin of Bromley Local History Society recovered a coin on a Farnborough footpath with the aid of a metal detector. The coin was brought to the Museum and subsequently examined by Miss M. Archibald of the Dept. of Coins and Medals at the British Museum. She confirmed the coin as being a silver penny of Offa of Mercia, minted at Canterbury ? c. 775 by the moneyer Ealmund from a previously unrecorded reverse type, and now weighing 1.22 gr. A coroner's court awarded the coin to Mr. Harlin who auctioned it at Sotheby's. Mrs. Palmer discussed the situation with the C.B.A. and the Museums Association. The consensus of opinion was that the coin should not be allowed to fall into a dealer's hands and lost to public view. Consequently the coin was finally purchased for the borough by the Council, with the aid of a Victoria and Albert Museum grant. It will go on display in a security case at the Museum in due course.

*Orpington & District Archaeological Society.* Mr. B. J. Bull reports:

Underlying the Romano-British corn drier at St. Mary Cray (reported in Arch. Cant., xciv (1978) 284), a pit 1.3 m. in diameter and 1.3 m. deep was examined. It contained several bovine horn cores and large quantities of potsherds, including some forming two-

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thirds of a samian ware cup (form 33) marked with the potter's stamp PRISCINIM. This has been dated to A.D. 80–130.<sup>1</sup> To assist in the interpretation of the difficult stratigraphy of this site an auxiliary dig was carried out which recorded every find in three dimensions. The information gained resulted in a project being initiated to carry out a detailed fabric analysis of local coarse pottery ware, examining fabric intrusions with the intention of establishing kiln sources. Under Dr. Alan Hart and Michael Fortune the project was awarded a grant by the "Lloyds Bank Fund 1980" towards the cost of a stereo-microscope.

Fieldwalking at Ruxley in the area scheduled for the A20 improvements led to the discovery of a Roman hearth and the recovery of a Belgic coin attributed to Epillus, A.D. 10–30.

Excavations by O.D.A.S. on the site of the new road entrance to Priory Gardens adjacent to 60 High Street, Orpington, revealed a large scatter of Romano-British and medieval potsherds and led to the recovery of a silver *denarius* of Nero, minted in Rome, issue I, A.D. 64–66. A coroner's court awarded possession of the coin to Michael Fortune who donated the coin to the London Borough of Bromley Museum, free of charge, in accordance with O.D.A.S.' declared policy. O.D.A.S. has continued to assist the Museum with the up-dating of documentary research and has continued to provide its very successful series of monthly illustrated evening lectures.

O.D.A.S. this year initiated the Ormonde Hales Memorial Prize, a project designed to promote archaeological interest and research in local schools. The various prizes were presented at the A.G.M. on 9th December.

<sup>1</sup> Identified and dated by Mr. A.P. Detsicas.