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Sections of Two Samian Ware
Patera with Potters names.



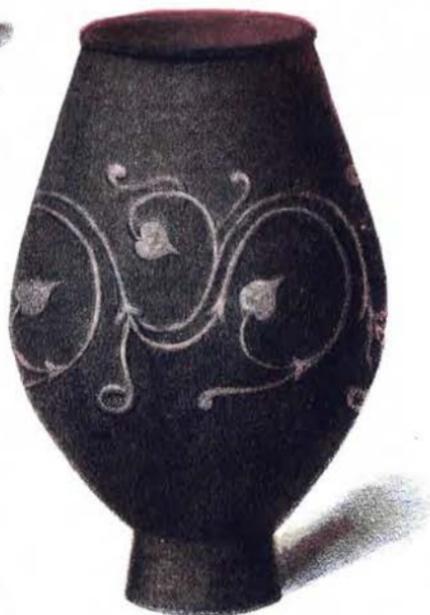
$\frac{4}{7}$ " Diameter
 $\frac{7}{8}$ " High.



$\frac{4}{8}$ " Diameter
 $\frac{3}{8}$ " High.



16" Diameter.
18 $\frac{1}{2}$ " High



4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " High.



3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " High.

Roman Pottery from Hoo.

ON ROMAN POTTERY FROM HOO.

BY HUMPHREY WICKHAM, ESQ.

THE accompanying plate represents some Roman remains which were found, in 1849, in marshes belonging to William Henry Nicholson, Esq., situate in the parish of Hoo, about half-a-mile south-east of the church. No record of the find, or description of the articles, has ever been published, but I saw the latter, many years ago, at the British Museum, in a group without numbers, or any note of reference. The three vessels, shewn on the left hand, in the illustration, are drawn upon a small scale, and represent the objects first discovered. They were brought to me with a request that I would endeavour to repair the urn, which was much broken, and I succeeded in perfectly setting it up again, with the exception of one handle which was missing.

On hearing of the discovery, I at once proceeded to the spot, and found that the workmen had uncovered another urn, the upper half of which they had broken into fragments. The bottom part of the urn was in situ, about five feet from the surface; it measured one foot nine inches in diameter, and three-quarters of an inch in thickness, and I was told that when found it was covered with a large tile. This remaining part was full of marsh mud, and ashes, in

which I found the four articles depicted on a large scale, on the right hand side of the plate. The two pateræ of Samian ware were entirely without ornament, and the potters' names were imperfectly impressed. The handsome vase in the centre of the plate had been burnt in what is called a smother kiln, and most probably was ornamented afterwards.

The discovery of these funereal deposits in what is now a marsh, over which the spring tides of the Medway flow, is of especial interest in relation to the discoveries, made in the Upchurch marshes, on the opposite side of the river, lower down towards the sea, so fully described in the sixth volume of Mr. Roach Smith's 'Collectanea Antiqua.' These discoveries shew that very extensive potteries were there worked by the Romans; and that the land must have been well populated. Since then, the gradual encroachment of the water has submerged the pottery district, for miles, on the Upchurch side of the river, and the sepulchral deposits now described, prove that a similar submersion has taken place on the Hoo side. It is not to be supposed that the Romans would inter the ashes of their dead in land subject to periodical overflowings of the tide; and we may conclude that, 1500 years ago, the long tracts of marsh land on both sides of the Medway were well populated, the land being at all times dry; indeed, I have heard a person (now dead, but who, if alive, would be upwards of a hundred years old) say he had seen corn growing on the Upchurch marshes, and such no doubt was the fact, as some portions of them still remain in ridges.

Strood, August 20th, 1874.