



**KENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

ARCHIVES

**PETER TESTER
PAPERS**

The P.J. Tester Archive

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Peter James Tester

Peter James Tester F.S.A was born in Bexleyheath in 1921. During World War II he served in the RAF, in this country, and in West Africa. Apart from his war service, Peter lived all his life in the Bexley area and for thirty years he taught history at Welling School, retiring as Head of its History Department.

From early boyhood he was keenly interested in archaeology and history and spent most of his leisure time in research, particularly in Kent. He was Vice-President of our Society, of the Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Society and of the Orpington Historical Society. A holder of the University of London's Diploma in European History, Peter was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1958 in recognition of his work and publications. He was also a prolific contributor to *Archaeologia Cantiana*. In 1972, he was appointed Honorary Archaeological Consultant to the Diocese of Rochester.

Peter's interests were wide-ranging - from prehistoric flints, old churches and monumental brasses to medieval architecture in general. Whilst serving as Chairman of the Society's Excavations Committee, he initiated a programme of research excavations on monastic sites, including Boxley Abbey and the Priors at Higham, Leeds and Davington. He also directed excavations at a prehistoric site at Cuxton, a Romano-British site in Cobham Park and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Orpington. Timber buildings were also among Peter's interests, and he was instrumental in preventing the destruction of a medieval hall-house at North Cray and securing its re-erection at the Open Air Museum in Singleton in Sussex. Greatly in demand as a lecturer to local history societies, he also conducted courses for the Workers' Educational Association.

This extensive collection of Peter Tester's research notes, correspondence and pamphlets is arranged in 11 box files and two large folders and can be consulted in the KAS Library by arrangement.

Peter died on 22nd January 1994. For a full obituary see *Archaeologia Cantiana* Volume 112, page 439/440.

P.J. Tester Box File No.1.

Higham Priory Excavation

Number	Contents
Book 1	Field Notes made as excavation proceeded.
Book 2	Historical notes and details of finds of structural items and drawings of foundations – a valuable record
3. Pamphlet	Booklet – ‘A short history of St Mary’s and St John’s churches – Higham with Merston.
4. Brown envelope	Contents: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Small envelope containing Mr Tester’s own photos of rear of Abbey Farmhouse (7), of revealed foundation burial (1) and inscription on a stone feature.2. Enlargements of above excluding the farmhouses.3. Typed description of site dated 11 June 1959 by D. Spittle on HMSO paper.4. Layout of Higham Priory traced by 1966/67 excavation.5. Drawing of a late 13th C. Jetton.6. Unidentified drawing on linen of an east wall and plan of a room, presumably incorporated in present farm building.7. Map showing location of Abbey Farm.8. 3 prints showing north west and south view of remains of Higham Abbey.9. Reproduction of sketches by C.E. and J. Thorpe of fragmentary remains.10. Pencil drawing of large slab and chalk wall.11. Letters received from (1) A.F. Allen [15 Feb 1965], Lt.Col. G.W. Meates [16 Dec 1965], A.K. Hirst [22 Mar 1966], Felix Hull [22 Mar 1966], T.W. Webb [15 Feb 1967].

P.J. Tester Box File No.2.

Leeds Priory

Number	Contents
1	Location map based on Ordnance Survey map.
2	Brown envelope containing information from a member of the Crevecoeur Society whose forebears founded the Abbey. Essential reading for any researcher.
3	Grey folder containing correspondence regarding excavations at Leeds Priory.
4	2 green notebooks containing site notes with measured details of foundations.
5	Drawing by A. Daniels of reconstruction of part of mural arcade in north alley of cloister.
6	File of correspondence (1980s) and various drawings regarding Leeds Priory.

P.J. Tester Box File No.3.

Boxley Abbey

Number	Contents
1	Pamphlet: A short history of St Mary & All Saints, Boxley
2	7 folders of black and white negatives.
3	Green notebook containing letters, plans and notes.
4	Pack of black and white prints and negatives.
5	Correspondence December 1970-April 1975.
6	Plans and notes

P.J. Tester Box File No.4.

Cuxton

Number	Contents
1	2 sets of cards giving details of hand axes.
2	Red notebook – notes of trial excavation at Cuxton, 27 October 1962.
3	Brown envelope containing letters and notes regarding a decapitated burial at Cuxton.
4	File of correspondence December 1961-July 1965; 1986
5	File of plans, press cuttings, pamphlets, etc.
6	List of items borrowed December 1963 re. Cuxton Rectory.
7	Proof corrections to 'An Acheulian Site at Cuxton' article.

P.J. Tester Box File No.5.

Orpington

Number	Contents
1	Pamphlet: Excavations at Fordcroft, Orpington.
2	Letter from Birkbeck College, and negatives re. Orpington buckles.
3	Report and prints of glass bangles.
4	Red notebook on excavations at Orpington.
5	Prints and negatives of excavations including skeleton.
6	File of correspondence – August 1965-June 1981
7	Drawings, reports etc.

P.J. Tester Box File No.6.

Davington Priory

Number	Contents
1	Brown notebook containing handwritten notes and drawings.
2	Leaflet – Davington Priory by Clive Wainwright, reprinted from Country Life, 9 and 16 December 1971.
3	Handwritten notes and typed article – ‘A Plan and Architectural Description of the Medieval Remains of Davington Priory’

P.J. Tester Box File No.7.

Cobham

Number	Contents
1	Printed plan of Roman Villa in Cobham Park.
2	Printed plan of Cobham College medieval remains in relation to church and almshouses.
3	Brown envelope containing notes and correspondence on Cobham College excavations.
4	7 packets of negatives and prints of excavations, including those at Cobham Villa and Tile Kiln.
5	Small blue notebook containing rough notes on Cobham Park Roman Villa, 1959/60. See Arch. Cant. LXXVI (1961)
6	Blue notebook containing rough notes on the Roman Villa in Cobham Park excavations, 1959/60. See report in Arch. Cant. Vol. LXXVI (1961)
7	Blue notebook containing notes on excavations in Cobham Park, 1959.
8	Envelope containing black and white prints from early excavations, Cobham Villa, etc.
9	Envelope containing notes and typed articles on Owletts Barn.
10	Unidentified metal object – printing template?

P.J. Tester Box File No.8

Pamphlets and notes on miscellaneous sites, mainly in north Kent

Number	Contents
1	Soft back notebook – Handwritten archaeological notes on various sites in the Dartford area, 1953.
2	Pamphlet – ‘The Palaeolithic site at Bapchild, near Sittingbourne’, by HD. Dines, read 8 June 1928, (reprinted from the Transactions of the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies).
3	Pamphlet – ‘Excavations on a Roman site at Northfleet’, by W.H. Steadman
4	Pamphlet – ‘On the Question of the pre-Palaeolithic age of the eoliths from the Northern limb of the Wealden anticline’, by W.H. Cook.
5	Census of and correspondence regarding ruined churches in the Rochester Diocese
6	Handwritten notes, drawings and correspondence re. St Michael’s church, Offham, 1980s.
7	Soft back notebook – Handwritten ‘Archaeological jottings’ on Buckleys Bronze Age hoard, Horton Kirby church, Chislehurst brasses, 1955.
8	Handwritten note regarding ‘Circumstances of discovery of Paleolith near Dorchester, Oxon’, 14 August 1951.
9	Folder containing notes on the Romano site on Parsonage Farm, Newnham, with copy of letter from J. Bradshaw to Dr Derek Roe, Institute of Quarternary Research, Oxford, 2 August 1979.
10	Pamphlet – ‘On the discovery of a human skeleton in a brick-earth deposit in the valley of the River Medway at Halling, Kent’, by W.H. Cook, (read 8 April, 1913).
11	Small hardback notebook – Rough notes on excavation undertaken for DoE preparatory to creation of new entrance to Rochester Library from Corporation Street, 1961. (See Arch. Cant LXXXIII, pages 68-72, 1968.
12	Pamphlet – ‘The Pleistocene deposits of Crayford, together with the report of an excursion to Slades Green and Barnhurst’, June 28, 1913, by R.H. Chandler. reprinted from the Proceedings of the Geologists’ Association, Vol. XXV, part 1, 1914 –
13	Pamphlet – ‘On the question of the alleged depression of the land in SE of England in Post Roman times’ by W.H. Cook, published by the Medway Scientific Research Society, March 31, 1914.
14	Envelope containing notes on St Radigund’s Abbey, near Dover, with large plan of same.
15	Soft back notebook – Notes on brasses and monuments in Horton Kirby church.
16	Hardback notebook – Handwritten notes on Roman remains around Dartford.
17	Soft back notebook – Handwritten notes on Excavations on Dartford Heath, see Arch. Cant Vol. 86,pp 208-9.
18	Bundle of miscellaneous notes, drawings, etc. re.various sites in Kent.

P.J. Tester Box File No.9

Pamphlets and reprints from various Journals

Number	Contents
1	Bundle of Reprints. Articles by Derek Roe from the Yearbook of Physical Anthropology (1982); Quarterly Review of Archaeology Vol. 5, No.3 (Sept 1984); Current Anthropology Vol.20, No.4, (Dec 1979);
2	Letter from R. John Cruse, Aberdeen regarding Dr Gibbard's review of the Middle Thames Pleistocene history, 3 January 1987.
3	Pamphlet – 'Early Man in Britain – Time and Chance by J.J. Wymer (received 10 January 1985).
4	Pamphlet – A collection of Essays by Paul Ashbee, Peter Murphy, John Wymer, Roger Jacobi, Frances Healy and Andrew Lawson, reprinted from 'Aspects of East Anglian pre-History
5	Pamphlet – 'Local Wares at Canterbury: 1, Saxo-Norman & Medieval shell-on-surface sandy ware', by Nigel Macpherson-Grant (Canterbury Archaeological Trust, July 1981)
6	Pamphlet – 'Canterbury Ceramics: the processing and Study of Excavated Pottery by Nigel Macpherson-Grant and Marion Green (Canterbury Archaeological Trust, Autumn 1983).
7	Pamphlet – Annual Report of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 1984-5.

P.J. Tester Box File No.10

Floor plans and notes of houses; excavations at Rochester and Orpington

Number	Contents
1	Floor plan of house at 94-96 High Street, Halling (Mrs Marron) (1972)
2	Floor plan and notes on hall house (Pin kham) at East Peckham, inspected 9 April 1974.
3	Floor plan and notes on Dambridge Farm, Wingham, August 1962.
4	Floor plan of house at Hale Street, East Peckham.
5	Folder of correspondence, mainly regarding the City Wall at Rochester; notes on 2 nd season's work on the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Orpington, excavated for Orpington Museum.

P.J. Tester Box File No.11

Notes, plans, etc. of excavations, houses, churches, etc.

Number	Contents
1	Notes, drawings and correspondence regarding excavations at John's Hope marshland, Cliffe
2	Correspondence and notes re. Bucklands Farm, Cliffe, August 1987.
3	Folder of prints from finds at Cheriton (Folkestone), 1948 and Pembury flint drawings (?1951)
4	Large OS map of Northfleet area.
5	Typed notes and floor plan of Old Bury Hall, Ightham
6	Typed notes of recent researches in Chislehurst church
7	Floor plan and notes re. Beales Farm, Woodchurch.
9	Notes and plans re. Thames Tunnel and M2 construction, 1960s.
10	Large envelope containing notes and plans of Court Lodge, Horton Kirby, 1974; family tree of the Russells of Court Lodge, 1682-1890s; notes on the medieval monuments in Horton Kirby church; floor plan and notes on Dean's Bottom, Horton Kirby

P.J. Tester Large Folder No.1

In KAS Library

Contents
Notes, correspondence and drawings : Davington Priory (plans and drawings) Owlett's Barn, Cobham North Cray Church St Mary's Hospital, Strood Large street plan of Maidstone in 1650, with names of owners of properties. Bowman's Lodge, Dartford. Benjamin Harrison

P.J. Tester Large Folder No.3

In KAS Library

Contents
Miscellaneous notes, correspondence and drawings and researches in the Dartford area:
Southfleet Parsonage
Walnut Tree Cottage, Green Street Green.
82 High Street, Dartford
Court Lodge, Fawkham.
Riseley Saxon Cemetery
Temple Hill, Dartford
Bridge Cottage, Darenth
Upper Bush Farm
Lowfield Street,
Gore Tree Cottage, Eynsford
Old Farm House, Pinden
Pivington
Lower Barn End, Wilmington
Cliffe Church
Bee Hole, Farningham
Nurstead Court
Rickson's pit artefacts
The Bull at Otford
Knight Jug, Dartford
Old House, Wilmington
Cudhams and Northfleet church
Dartford High Street (rough section) 1959
12 OS Maps relating to archaeological matters