



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

ON MR. TEANBY'S COLLECTION OF ROMANO-BRITISH, AND ROMANO-GAULISH, POTTERY AT GRAVESEND.

BY C. ROACH SMITH, F.S.A.

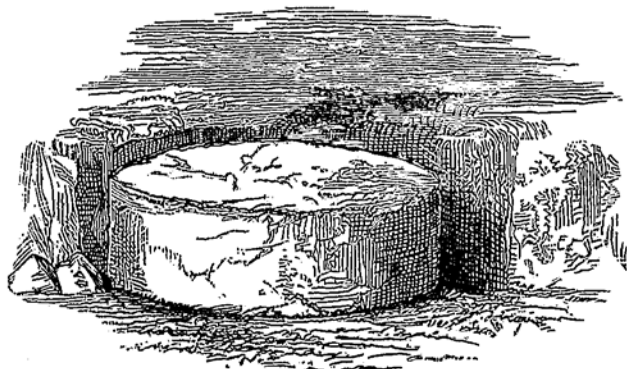
IN compliance with the request of our Secretary I visited on the 4th of August, 1876, the Pottery exhibited by Mr. W. J. Homewood to the recent Congress of the Society. I was accompanied by Mr. Humphrey Wickham, of Strood; and joined at Gravesend by Mr. John Harris and Mr. Spurrell of Belvedere. Mr. Homewood rendered every assistance in his power; and promised to see if he could find, either by memoranda, or by oral testimony, any clues to the history of a portion of the collection made by the late Mr. Teanby, who bequeathed the entire assemblage to Mr. Homewood unarranged and undescribed. It is now on the upper floor of an untenanted house in Harmer Street. It consists of many hundreds of vessels, lamps, cinerary urns, pateræ, and vases of every size and shape, some in a very fragmentary state, and a considerable number perfect. It comprises, Mr. Homewood told us, the collections of the late Mr. Crafter, and of some other collector, as well as what Mr. Teanby himself discovered, or acquired. Some of the vessels are labelled, and thus can be referred to their proper

localities; but a vast number are without even this evidence of their history. The omission of suitable records has deprived the discoveries of very much of their scientific value.

There are a few articles which were obtained from excavations made in the City of London, but the localities which seem to have supplied most of the pottery are Higham and Shorne. Of both we obtain some information from the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. iv., pp. 393-4. Some of the remains from Higham were excavated by Mr. Crafter, assisted by Mr. A. H. Burkitt, in a field within two hundred yards of the church, in the walls of which are Roman tiles. The ground in which the excavations were made was then (1849) in possession of Mr. Styles, and the high road to Higham Ferry passes between it and the church. Mr. Burkitt states:—"At a depth of three feet six inches from the surface I dug out a large portion of a quern, formed of lava, besides pieces of iron much corroded; and masses of a metallic substance mixed with clay, probably refuse from potters' kilns. The ground opened in various directions in the same field, as well as on the surface in parts which had been formerly disturbed, exposed vast quantities of similar deposits, covering a space of at least four acres; and although the most considerable quantity of fragments occurred within one foot of the surface, at the depth of three feet there was still a plentiful supply. At the latter depth our labours were arrested by land springs." It is not improbable that the *débris* Mr. Burkitt mentions may, as he supposes, indicate the works of potters: precisely such refuse is to be noticed along the Medway below Upchurch upon the extensive

sites of Roman potteries. The urns with burned bones are conclusive as to the appropriation of at least a portion of the ground as a burial place; while the remains indicate that the district was well populated, and never, within the historic period, could it have been covered with the sea, as has been supposed by some.

Mr. Teanby's discoveries were made near the line of the North Kent Railway at Higham. There, as he informed me, he excavated a tile tomb and much pottery. Mr. Homewood has kindly examined Mr. Teanby's diary, and furnished me with a transcript of the following entry:—"24th November, 1861. Walked over to Higham, by the bank of the canal, with Peachey. The workmen have struck into the vein again, and cartloads of fragments of Roman Pottery have been turned out of late. Traces of large fires, at three distinct spots, were visible on the edge of the cutting." On March 23rd, 1863, he further records "a large accession to my collection of Roman Pottery." Mr. Teanby has left a sketch of the tile tomb, from which I infer that it was manufactured and baked upon the spot. The sketch, which is engraved below, does not pretend to shew

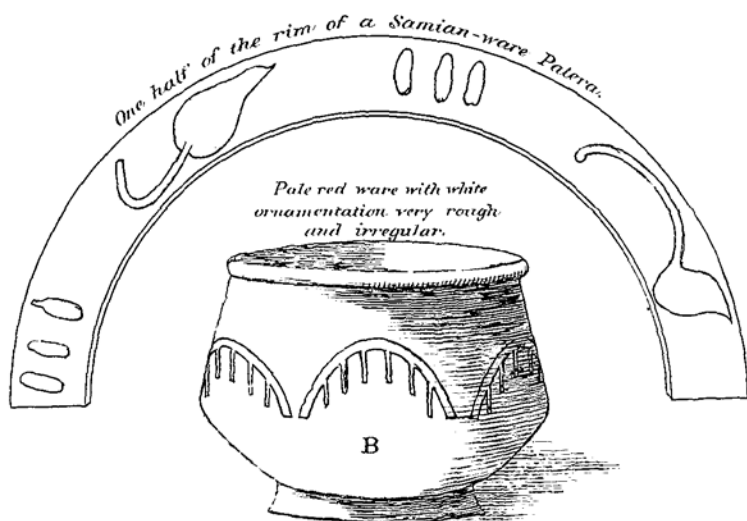


the depth of the tomb beneath the actual surface of the ground. The tomb itself was of oval form, five feet in diameter, and three feet eight inches high.

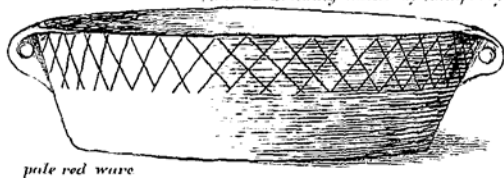
One example of a tile tomb, ornamented with figures, in high relief, is furnished by the late Mr. Beale Poste, at pages 65-66 of the volume mentioned above, from a stone quarry in the parish of Allington, about a mile north-west of Maidstone. Mr. Poste says:—

“The cavity of the cist was about four and a half feet long by three feet broad; it was about eighteen inches high where the head and chest of the skeleton were laid, and the height at the other end was about twelve inches. The manner of forming the cist, which was five feet below the surface of the ground, was as follows. The pit having been dug of the dimensions above stated, the bottom and lower parts of the sides were worked and prepared, as clay is tempered for making pottery or bricks. When this had been sufficiently done, fuel was introduced and a strong fire made, which burnt into a solid substance of brick the bottom and lower parts of the sides; and thus the cist was in part formed. The ashes were cleared out, and the corpse was placed in the cist, with a quantity of moss. It appears, from the nature of the cavity, that the head must have been inclined on the chest, and the knees slightly raised and bent. A dome was then made over the corpse, composed of rods of wood, in diameter from an inch to half an inch, stretched across from side to side, crossed at about the distance of six or seven inches by other rods, two or three together, some impressions of which have been preserved. The dome of tempered clay was then made over it, fuel introduced, and a very strong fire again made, which burnt the dome into a complete vaulting of brick over the corpse. After this a layer of large stones was placed over the dome about a foot thick; and afterwards the pit was filled up with earth.” (*Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, vol. iv., pp. 65, 66.)

Another instance of such a tile tomb is given by Mr. H. Ecroyd Smith in his *Reliquiæ Isurianæ*,



Roman Pottery in Mr. Teanby's Collection.
(from a Drawing made by Humphrey Wickham Esq.)



pale red ware

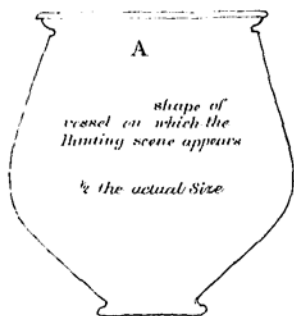
Fragment of a large Amphora



$\frac{1}{2}$ Size of the impressed



Upper part of handles



Fragment of pottery found at Streed

Hunting Scene, embossed on a small Roman vessel in Mr. Teanby's collection
(Drawn by Humphrey Wickham Esq.)

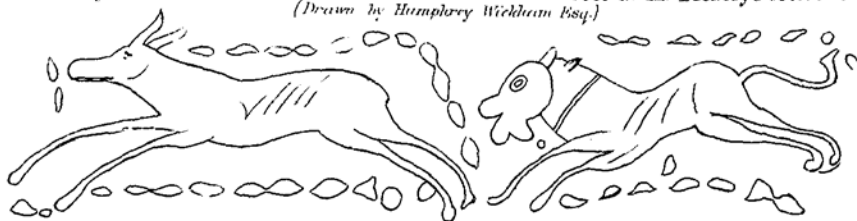


plate x.* The Higham tomb varies from these two, which are also not altogether similar; but the principle is alike in all; and they afford most interesting examples of a process of inhumation ingenious and effective, and probably worthy of consideration in modern times.

The same volume of the Journal (iv., p. 406), contains also a record of the Shorne discoveries with engravings of five of the rarer types, and a fibula. It is brief; of the date December 13, 1848:—

“Mr. W. Crafter, of Gravesend, announced the discovery of a large number of Roman vases near Shorne, with fibulæ and large iron nails. Mr. Crafter had by prompt exertions and liberality saved nearly fifty of these vessels from destruction, or, what is almost equally bad, from being carried away by persons, who, actuated by a spirit of puerile curiosity, see in such objects nothing beyond their mere antiquity, and fancy that *possession* implies all their worth and interest.” Others must have been obtained subsequently, as several are marked “Shorne Gravel Pit, 1849.” It would appear that they were found from time to time by men employed in digging gravel near the Mill at Shorne. Two vases ornamented with figures in relief, and marked A, B, in the annexed plate, were found in Shorne Gravel Pit by a workman named John Peachey. Some are marked “Lower Shorne Gravel Pit.” This also must have been the site of a burial place, and the number of interments indicate a populous *vicus* near at hand.

The Collection further contains many specimens

* *The Remains of the Roman Isurium, now Aldbrough, near Borough-bridge, Yorkshire, illustrated.* Folio, J. Russell Smith, London, 1852.

of the red lustrous ware called "Samian," dredged up off Whitstable, from what is known to the fishermen as the Pan Pudding Rock. They are chiefly of the flat, open kind, or *pateræ*, and are usually marked with the makers' names. I believe the first account of them was published by Governor Pownall in the *Archæologia*, vol. v. There can be no doubt of their having been procured from this spot, as they are more or less encrusted with marine shells; and the names will be found to accord with those given in the *Archæologia*. As this peculiar ware was certainly imported into Britain from Gaul, it is most probable that its presence at this particular spot is to be assigned to accident in the importation. I give the potters' names from the entire collection:—

AISTIVI . M. Two.
 ARNCIM.
 ATILIANI . M.
 CAPETI . M. *Careti* ?
 CASIVS FII.

VS . F
 . CATVI { On the rim of a
 mortarium. It is
 probably the CATV-
 LIVS of the London
 list.

CINTVS M. Two.
 . . . NIMANVS. *Cinnimanus* ?
 CIPPI . M.
 CRACVNA.
 DAGODVMNVS.
 DATI . . FECI. ?
 GEMINI.
 IVSI . M. *Iusti M.*
 LVPII . M.

MAMILIANVS.
 MAIORIS.
 MA
 MATERNNI.
 OF . PARIO . . . *Of. Patrici* ?
 PRIMI . .
 PRIMVLI.
 C . IVL . PRIM.
 QVINTI . M.
 RAC . . . *Racuna* ?
 RECVLLVS . F.
 SIIXTI . M. *Sexti M.*
 One, from Shorne, bears the
 owner's name, SORAVSI (*Sor-*
ausius), cut on the exterior.
 TAVRINVS F. Two, from Whit-
 stable.
 VXOPILI M.
 VELCEDV . . ?

Most of these names will be found in the list of

potters' stamps given in my *Illustrations of Roman London*, and in the lists of the *Collectanea Antiqua*. Dagodumnus is probably the correct reading of an imperfect or questioned stamp in the London list. C. IVL. PRIM. is *Caius Julius Primus* or *Primulus*; VXOPILI. M. is new, I believe, to this country. It is a variety of VXXOPILLI found at Augst and at Ems, given in M. H. Schuerman's *Sigles Figulines*. The spelling of these names often varies very considerably. It is not unusual to find a name in three or four different forms, a peculiarity accounted for in the number of stamps required, and in the workmen often engraving them by ear. I have written so fully on this subject that I may be excused saying more, on this occasion, than that these stamps are very instructive, as affording the only source of knowing the names of an extensive and important industrial class of provincial Romans; and in giving a notion of the immense importation of this elegant ware.

Allowing for variations in spelling, the London excavations afforded over four hundred potters' names; and to these may be added full a hundred more from other parts of this country. Of many of these names there are numerous examples, and among others of the same class they are also found throughout France and Germany. In Italy, as may be well imagined, this pseudo-Samian pottery is not common, if it be at all known. There we meet with superior kinds, and the stamps of the potters of the country; and these are but very rarely discovered in England.

The following is a list given by Mr. Edward Jacob, of Faversham, of the potters' names from the Pan Pudding Rock, in *Archæologia*, vol. vi. p. 124.

ALBVCINI.	MARN . C.
ATILIANI.	MATERNNIM.
ATRVICINI.	MATERNI.
CADANVS.	NAMILIAN.
CINTVS.	PATT . O.
CARATIN.	SATVRNINI.
CARETI.	SAVERIANI.
DECMI.	

Pownall gives three of these, and OTIMVVI and
CALETI . M.