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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY AT ROMNEY.

IN his article "Some Early Kentish Wills," *Arch. Cant.*, XLVI (1934), Mr. Woodruff gives an abstract of the will of Robert le Pere of Romney, dated August 20th (not 25th), 1278, in which appears the following bequest: "To the Friars Minor of Romenal 1 mark" (p. 29). The entry is of more interest than it seems at first sight.

Hitherto four references to the short-lived friary at Romney have been discovered.

(1) On December 6th, 1241, Henry III instructed the Keepers of the Archbishopric of Canterbury to cause the friars minor of Rumenhal to have 100 s. out of the issues of the archbishopric for their clothing. (*Cal. Liberate Rolls, Hen. III*, Vol. II, p. 93.)

(2) In October, 1243, the King ordered the Keepers of the Bishopric of Winchester to supply out of the issues of the bishopric clothing for fourteen friars minor of Rumenhalle. (*Rôles Gascons*, ed. F. Michel, Vol. I, No. 1969.)

(3) Thomas of Eccleston in his *De adventu Minorum in Angliam* (ed. A. G. Little, Paris, 1909) enumerates the first friars who came to England. The third, he says, was Richard of Devon, a young English acolyte, "who has left us many examples of long suffering & obedience. For after having travelled through divers provinces by holy obedience he has been living for eleven [one version says fifteen] years continuously at the place [i.e. friary] of Romehale though often worn out with quartan fevers." The word I have translated "has been living" is *morabatur*. The imperfect was often used for an event of some duration which was still going on. A good instance occurs in the letters of the Dominican Master General, Friar Jordan of Saxony, who writes (in 1230) from Oxford "ubi ad praesens eram." (*B. Jordanis de Saxoniam Opera*, ed. Berthier, 1891, p. 72.)

The passage above quoted shows that Richard of Devon was still alive and the Friary at Romney still in existence when Eccleston finished his chronicle, i.e. in 1258.

(4) Boniface of Savoy, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his will dated at Canterbury, 11th October, 1264, left 5 marks to the friars minor "de Romenal" (the will is given in full in S. Guichenon's *Histoire généalogique de la Royale Maison de Savoie* (Lyon, 1660), II, pp. 59-62).

Robert le Pere's bequest prolongs the known life of the Friary another fourteen years and also suggests that the house was not given up owing to its unhealthy situation (probably Richard of Devon was not the only friar who suffered from ague). The house had, however, ceased to exist when the list of friaries of the English province, which was presented to the General Chapter at Perpignan in 1331, was drawn up (Little, *Studies in English Franciscan History*, pp. 235-8).

There can be little doubt that the abandonment of the Friary was the result of the great storms which wrought havoc in the Marsh in or about 1287.

A. G. LITTLE.

IRON AGE DISCOVERY (200-100 B.C.) IN ROMNEY MARSH.

THE discovery of several objects of archaeological interest in a field in Romney Marsh, only reported late in November 1937 to the Honorary Secretary for the district, has led to a preliminary investigation of the site.

The field in question is marked 128 in the Kent Sheet, LXXXI (14) of the 1907 25 inch Ordnance Survey, and lies in the triangle formed by Honeychild, Yokes Farm and Hope Chapel, at the head of Paternoster Watering.

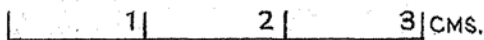
When this field was being broken up, it was found by the owner that a large site in the extreme N.W. corner, adjoining the bridge over the new Cut, could not be ploughed owing to the presence of numerous large stones and some brick foundations below the surface.

It was consequently decided to dig this portion by hand. The large stones near the surface were removed for paving

purposes, and during the operation, numerous coins, objects, pottery, glass, etc., were found, which were put aside and have been roughly identified as listed below.

Throughout Romney Marsh there are many sites of ancient buildings which can be identified by the rectangular depressions showing where the moat round the old house lay, but in this case the field was perfectly level and there was no trace that any building had ever existed on or near it.

None of the regular old maps of Romney Marsh, so far examined, shows any building on this site, nor can it yet be



Teichman Derville.

IRON AGE BEAD FROM ROMNEY MARSH.

identified by any record, but in the earliest Romney Marsh Scotting map in New Hall, Dymchurch, dated 1653, a sketch of a large and important building is drawn on the site. The next Scotting map dated 1759 shows no sign of any house, which it is conjectured must have ceased to exist before 1700. Curiously enough, however, in the 1869 register to the Scotting map of that date, the field is referred to as "Haunted House Field," by which title it was evidently known in the early nineteenth century.

It is hoped to make a further examination of the site in the autumn, as soon as harvest operations permit digging,

as the objects listed below represent mostly only the casual finds on or near the surface.

The most important find is that of a blue glass bead with spiral inlays of yellow. Mr. Norman Cook reports on it as follows: "A blue glass bead with spiral inlays of yellow. Two very similar specimens have been found in Kent, one from Westerham now in the British Museum, and the other from Oldbury Camp, Ightham, in the collection of Sir Edward Harrison (*Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XLV, p. 158, pl. IV); in both of these specimens, however, the filling of the spiral inlays is white.

"These beads belong to the Early Iron Age and may be dated between 200 and 100 B.C. (See figure.)

"Finds of prehistoric date from Romney Marsh are very rare and of great interest. The only other prehistoric object which I know from this district is a small scraper of Neolithic-Bronze Age date, found by me at Ivychurch a few years ago and now in New Romney Museum. Such finds, scarce as they are, suggest that the Marsh was by no means deserted in early times, and it seems that the Marsh may have many relics of prehistoric date hidden beneath the later alluvial deposits."

The other finds, apart from a quantity of old pottery and glass not yet identified, as will be seen from the list are of seventeenth century date.

Charles I token copper farthing, 1626-40.

Commonwealth half groat, 1651-59.

Krauwinkel Nuremberg token, 1635.

Farthing token of W. Wellard of the Cock Inn,
Dover, 1650-65.

Charles I farthing, as above, 1626-35.

Charles II halfpenny, 1660-70.

Farthing token of Richard Baker, New Romney,
1650-65.

Metal chatelaine, bronze anointing spoon, three small keys, one large key, metal bill hook, chopper, hammer, chisel, and spurs, all of seventeenth century date.

M. TEICHMAN DERVILLE.

THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS HOPE IN ROMNEY
MARSH.

THE following extract from the records of the Court of the Archdeacon of Canterbury for 1663 (Chapter Library, Vol. 37, p. 262) probably marks the latest date at which any suggestion was made that the Church of All Saints might still be used for public worship.

“ These are humbly to certify . . . that the parish church of Hope All Saints in Romney marsh, what with the late great storms, & what with the constant neglect of 40 years continuance or more, especially in the late times which so much countenanced & connived at such neglects, is, as to the Body & Steeple of it, quite ruined & fallen down, insomuch that the chancel only (by some better care & course from time to time taken for the repair of it by the Rector thereof) is now left standing. That the repairs & reedifying of the Church cannot be effected or compassed without the expense & charge of some hundreds of pounds, a charge much exceeding the ability of all whether inhabiting or landed in the parish, there being indeed but one inhabitant there, & the circuit of land there not very great, or of any population suitable to so great a burden. That the remainder & yet standing part of the building, the chancel, is of sufficient capacity for the reception of that small number which shall repair to church, for the partaking of the divine service and sacraments, & may with the help of such materials as the ruins of the Body will furnish and supply, be fitted for that use with a small & easy charge.” The petition is signed by John Browne, Rector ; John Miller, inhabitant and Churchwarden ; nine Landowners, and five Bailiffs and Jurats of Romney Marsh.

* * * *

It is unlikely that the restoration of the chancel was actually carried out. That the church once possessed a steeple does not appear to have been previously recorded. (See *Arch. Cant.*, XXXVII, p. 191.)

C.E.W.

ROMAN GRAVE POTTERY FROM IVY HATCH, NEAR
IGHTHAM.

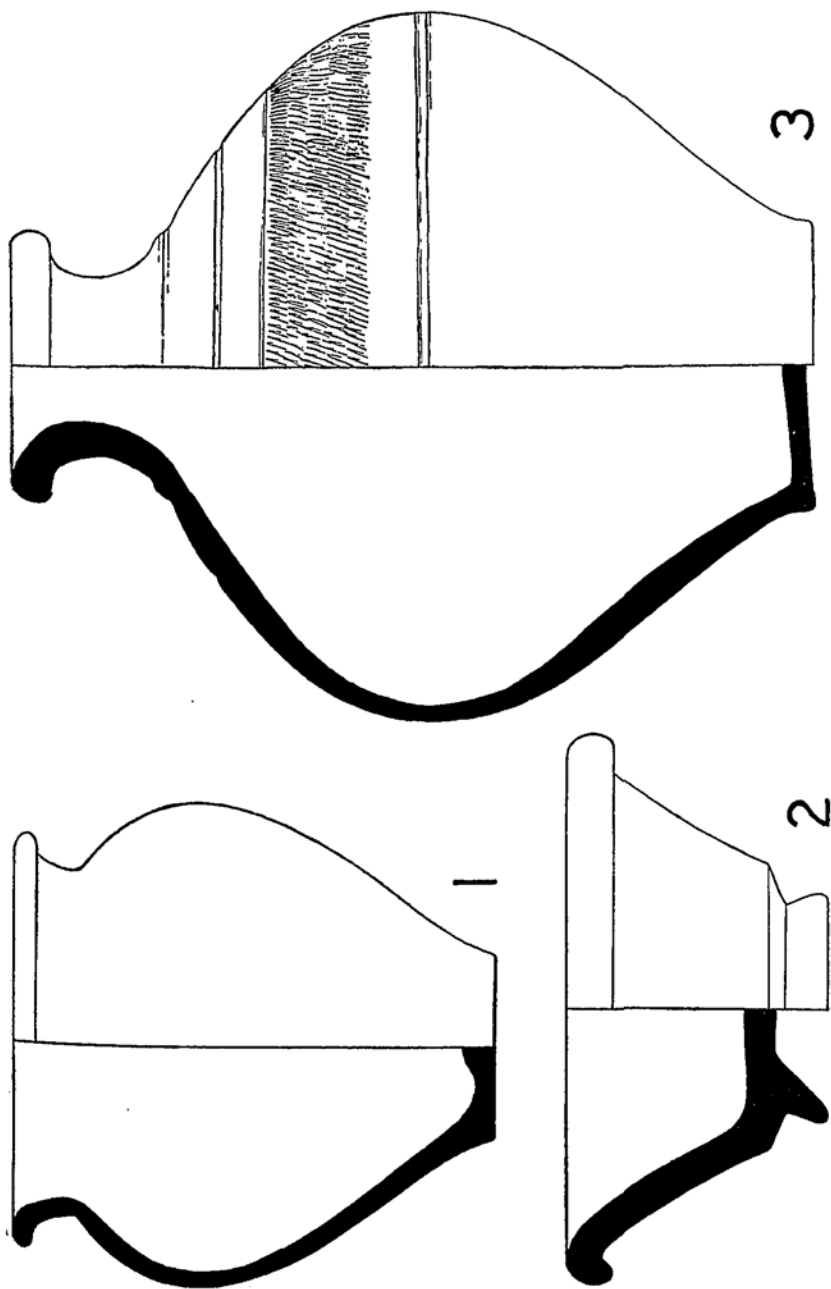
In September, 1938, while searching for flint implements in Fielder's sand pit, Ivy Hatch, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Ightham village (O.S. 6 in. Kent 40 N.E.), Dr. T. Armstrong Bowes, F.S.A., found in the face of the pit, near the north-east corner, some 18 inches below the surface, the remains of a Roman flask (Fig. No. 3). This flask is of a gray-cored sandy pink ware with a dark grey surface coating and light roulette ornament on the body.

In 1936 two other Roman vessels and a fragment of a third were found at the same spot. They are now in the possession of Sir Edward Harrison (Fig. Nos. 1 and 2). No. 1 is of rough surfaced, hard, brick-red ware; No. 2 of soft pink imitation Samian ware with a little red surfacing.

All three vessels probably belong to the late second or early third century and, no doubt, indicate the existence of a Roman cemetery of this period. Other Roman interments are recorded from Ivy Hatch Court, a short distance to the south-west (*Archæol.*, li, 1888, 459, *s.v.* Hale's house), and these may well come from the same cemetery.

There are records of a number of other Roman cemeteries or isolated interments in the neighbourhood: at Biggs' Field, Borough Green (*Arch. Cant.*, II, 1859, 7) and others immediately to the north of the railway station (*Arch. Cant.*, XXIX, 1900, lvii-lviii), two pots from these are in Sir Edward Harrison's possession and the remainder in Maidstone Museum; at Ightham Court Lodge (*Arch. Cant.*, II, 1859, 8); at Stone-pit Field, 2 miles west of Ightham village (*Archæol.*, li, 1888, 459); at One-tree Hill, south-east of Sevenoaks (*Archæol.*, *loc. cit.*, *s.v.* Wimlet Hill); at Bitchet, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of Ightham village (*Archæol.*, *loc. cit.*); and at Buckwell Field, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the north-west of Oldbury Hill (*Arch. Cant.*, II, 1859, 8).

J. B. WARD PERKINS.



1 INCHES

ROMAN GRAVE POTTERY, IVY HATCH.

THE BUILDINGS OF ALDINGTON MANOR, TEMP. JAMES I :
A CORRECTION

IN the second volume of his *History of the Weald of Kent*,¹ Furley gives a precis of a Survey of the Manor of Aldington, which was made in 1608 as a part of the general Survey of the Crown lands which was undertaken by the Exchequer Commissioner, John Hercy, and various county gentry who were holding land in the locality of the Manors surveyed. Those who served in surveying Aldington were Sir Edward Hales; Thomas Scott, Esq.; and Henry Hayman, Esq.; and it seems that Hercy and Hayman were mainly responsible for the work there. This consisted in examining the Indentures or Letters Patent by which the lessees held their land, discovering the acreage and rental of the pieces of land which made up the holding, setting down the bounds of the manorial demesne, and noting the terms of service on the Manor, together with its general state. In all of this they were assisted by a panel of local jurors, a dozen or fifteen in number. Their Survey, made on September 12th, 1608, is now split up among Miscellaneous Books of the Land Revenue and Augmentation Offices at the Public Record Office. It is difficult to know whether Furley consulted this fragmented document or whether there was then a copy existing in the Manorial archives which was complete: he does not state where he studied the Survey. However, the matter is not of very great importance so far as the present point is concerned, though it is important for the history of the Manor as a whole.

Furley says that the buildings of Aldington Manor at that time included 5 kitchens, 9 barns, 6 stables and 7 fodder houses, and, lastly, 8 dovecots. Such an allowance seems overgenerous even for a former Archbishopal Palace: farmers must have had something to put up with if there were 8 dovecots at the Manor. But not only does the assembly of buildings seem impossibly large; it is very much larger than what appears in a Survey of 1571-2 when William Hart held the demesne on a forty years lease. Hasted² tells us

¹ Part II, p. 522, *et seq.* (1874).

² *History of Kent*, 2nd Edition, Vol. III, p. 318. (1799).

that the manorial buildings were greatly improved by Archbishop Morton and there is every reason to suppose that the buildings which existed in 1540, when Henry VIII gained the Manor, existed without much addition during the rest of the century, during which they were leased out. According to the Survey of 1571-2 (contained in Rentals & Surveys, G.S., portfolio 20, f. 22) the site of the Manor consisted of "one house, two barns, two stables, a granary, a dovecot and a chapel as well as the yards adjacent, containing in all, by estimation, one acre." An enormous amount of building is presupposed by Furley's statement, which he made on the authority of the 1608 Survey. Inspection of the relevant portion of that Survey, now conserved in Misc. Book (Land Revenue) 196, ff. 250-255, shows that Furley's statement is actually based on a misreading of the document: though I am not quite certain that he saw this copy of it. Here is the account of the Site of the Manor, then held on lease by Richard Knight: it is necessary to give it in its unexpanded form.

Dom manss v spat, Coquin iij spat, horr	}	ij acr.
vj spat, ali horr vj spat, stabuli vij spat		
le ffordrhouse viij spat, le dovehouse		
grenar pomar gardin et curtilag contin per estimat		

Furley's error is clear: he has neglected the word *spatium* or *spacium* and has misplaced the commas. Hence the five, which belongs to the Manor house, has been appropriated to the kitchens; the three, belonging to the kitchens but misread as belonging to the first barn, has been added to the six, belonging to the first barn but misread as belonging to the second, to give a total of nine barns and so on, until the eight referring to the fodder house is appropriated to the dove cot. The writing is fairly clear, but it is easy to see how the mistake might have been made through a hurried examination and a failure to understand the use of *spatium*. If we are still in any doubt about our right to translate that word as section or compartment, we have warrant from the very same document. As I have said, one of the duties of the Commissioners was to ascertain

the Bounds of the Demesne. The description of the Bounds was usually entered in English and a space left for it to be translated into Latin later ; but in most cases the translation was never done and the blank was left. That is so in this case as well as in the case of the subordinate Manor of Willope. So on the last two folios of this Survey we find a document, attested by thirteen names and signed as true by Henry Hayman, called *The Boundes of the mannor of Aldington, and of all houses edifices buildinges demesne lande now belonginge to the same*. It begins thus : " ffirst the Hall howse contayninge fflower Bayes the kitchine one Baye one Corne Barne, seaven Bayes, one other Barne seaven Bayes the Stable and Stals ffyve Bayes the ffooderhouse Eight Bayes one gardiner and dovehouse the Scite of the said Mannor one Ortchard one hempland. . . ." The mistake is quite plain. There seems to be some disagreement about the number of compartments, and this may or may not be due to scribal errors. It is more likely to be due to different reckonings and the fodderhouse does remain constant. But the actual number of principle buildings is the same as at the time of the Elizabethan Survey, that is the Manor house, two Barns, Stables and Stalls, dovecot and granary. The Chapel must have been put to other uses : it would be interesting to find which total of *Bayes* it went to swell.

C. A. F. MEEKINGS.

A NOTE ON CHARLES WINSTON, THE AUTHOR OF
" ANCIENT GLASS PAINTINGS WITH HINTS ON GLASS
PAINTING," 1867.

THE Rev. E. J. Nash, who has presented a copy of the above book to the Library, writes that " When I was Vicar of Farningham, I discovered from entries in the Registers by Benjamin Sandford, a previous vicar, that Charles Winston was his son and that one of the church windows was filled in 1832 with glass painted, stained and executed by my eldest son Charles. . . ."

" Now Winston is mentioned in all the books on Glass painting as a rather important worker in its Revival : but no one seems to know of that window : and good authorities

whom I consulted assured me it was an important discovery. His book, of course, was well known, but was supposed to be his only contribution to the Art. He makes no mention of this glass in his book, but that may only be his modesty! Anyway his illustrations are all of *ancient* glass.

“The family name was changed to Winston when they came into some property.”

THIRTEENTH CENTURY GLASS AT NACKINGTON CHURCH,
NEAR CANTERBURY.

(From the “*Kentish Gazette and Canterbury Press*” of
November 20th, 1937.)

Two windows of early thirteenth century glass, which have been restored by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Baldwin in memory of their son, Donald Mason Baldwin, who died on March 22nd, 1935, were rededicated by the Rector (Rev. R. D. Middleton) at Nackington Church on Sunday morning. The glass, which is of a date not later than 1220 and came originally from Canterbury Cathedral, was for many years in the window of St. Michael's Chapel in Nackington Church. It has been cleaned and rearranged in the windows on the north side of the sanctuary by Mr. Caldwell, whose work of glass restoration in Canterbury Cathedral and Merton College, Oxford, is well known.

Of the two windows, that on the left of the spectator contains in the upper portion the figure of Our Lady crowned and seated, her hands placed together in prayer. In the centre are seen David and Solomon, evidently part of a Jesse tree, Solomon to the right with the inscription SALMON over his head, David to the left with his harp.

In the right hand window at the top will be seen a prophetic figure, probably Moses with the tables of stone. In the centre is a charming group representing the marriage at Cana in Galilee. Our Lord is clearly seen to the left, His hands are raised in benediction, and around His head is a red halo with the cross shown in white. Next to Him is the Virgin Mary, the end of whose robe can be seen coming out from beneath the table; her face is turned in the

direction of the servant in charge of the water pots. The figure of a man wearing a cap is doubtless that of the ruler of the feast, and next to him are the bride and bridegroom. In the foreground, to the front of the latter is the kneeling figure of one of the servants in a bright green tunic, and at the other end in a red tunic is another servant kneeling beside the six water pots of stone. In the middle in front of the table is a servant in a red tunic pouring water into the six jars.

Beneath this group will be seen against a blue background arranged by Mr. Caldwell from contemporary glass, one of the most valuable and interesting pieces of stained glass in the country. It is a pictorial representation of St. Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, made less than fifty years after his death. He is seated and wears a blue chasuble. His mitre is green and richly jewelled. His amice has a green apparel with a clasp or fibula in front marked with what looks like an uplifted hand. His pallium is clearly shown and he wears a beard. On either side of him are the head and shoulders of a king. The kings have golden crowns and green robes. Their faces are turned towards the Archbishop, and their hands are outstretched towards him as if in supplication. Above the figure on the right is the legend *Henricus Rex*. There is no other writing. The two kings are doubtless Henry II of England and Louis VII of France.

K.H.J.

A MARBLE CARVING FROM RECVLVER

THIS remarkable carved figure is said to have been found on the beach at Reculver, well over a hundred years ago, since when it was employed as a door stop in a cottage near by for very many years, but eventually found its way to Mr. H. T. Mead, of the Royal Museum, Canterbury. (Pl. I, figs. 1 and 2.)

The carving, of white Italian marble, is rough and crude but bold and well designed. It is $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high by 11 ins. long, and weighs 13 lbs.

A bearded male figure leans on the neck of an animal



FIG. 1. MARBLE FIGURE FROM RECVLVER.



FIG. 2. MARBLE FIGURE FROM RECVLVER. End View.

whose ears and eyes are incised and on the side of whose neck is an unmistakable frog in low relief, whilst immediately below its chin is a disc-like body slightly raised with radiating incisions, and this in its turn is supported on a cone, apex upwards.

Below the neck of the animal, with its superimposed frog, is a well-executed fish. At its tail is another disc-like object similar to that at the head end. Below the fish is what may be a conventionalized boat, or possibly a water lily.

The right arm of the figure itself is bare and the right hand grasps what may be intended for a fold of a garment or a fishing net. The folds are shown on the back of the figure above and below the elbow. The hair is plaited into a number of small tails, one of which hangs down the back. The base is finished smooth. There is a slight convexity forward in the long axis of the carving as if it had been made from a curved piece of marble.

Photographs of this remarkable figure have been sent to numerous experts at home and abroad and no one seems to have seen anything like it. It seems possible that it is intended to represent a river god or at any rate some being connected with things of the water, and, in view of the presence of the frog, of things fluviatile rather than marine.

It must be remembered that although the names of very many Romano-Celtic gods and goddesses are known to us, any reference to their appearance or attributes is extremely rare.

As for the material of which the carving is made we know that large quantities of Italian marble was lying about in a derelict condition at Richborough when the fort at Reculver was built. It is quite likely that it is from this that the figure was made.

On the other hand Reculver is situated on the coast, or at any rate was always near to it, so that the arrival of the image by ship or even by shipwreck and from a distant part of the Empire is possible and may account for its unusual appearance.

One antiquary suggests that the unusual number of symbols worked into the design of the carving indicates a

desire on the part of the artist to crowd as much as possible into the space available.

Reculver, the Saxon Shore fort of Regulbium, was garrisoned in the fourth century by the Vetasii, a people who came from what is now Brabant in Holland, and it is not impossible that the marble carving is meant to represent some deity of this Teutonic people.

The photographs were taken by Mr. C. E. Fisher, B.Sc., of the Museum, Maidstone.

K. H. JONES, M.B., F.S.A.

A LATE ROMAN COFFINED BURIAL AT KESTON

OF the extensive Roman remains on the lower slopes of Holwood Hill, Keston, the majority were discovered and partially excavated many years ago. The meagre accounts (see *V.C.H. Kent*, i, pp. 119-21) indicate a fairly considerable settlement. There were certainly two buildings, one of them of some complexity; and attached to them a scattered cemetery, of which the well-known circular tomb structure and several adjacent inhumation burials are known. The rather unsatisfactory evidence points to a date during the third and fourth centuries for the occupation of the site and for the related burials.

In May 1938 digging for foundations revealed a Roman coffin. Mr. A. Sagar-Musgrave-Brooksbank, and Mr. E. J. Boosey, the owners of the land, immediately informed the London Museum, and it was in consequence possible to obtain an adequate record of an undisturbed Roman burial in plaster. The writer takes this opportunity of expressing his thanks for their forethought and for their most courteous and generous help in the examination of the burial and in its removal.

The coffin lay, with the head slightly south of east, against the south face of a square-cut chalk trench some 250-300 ft. to the south-west of the circular tomb.¹ It is of well-dressed Kentish rag, squared at the head and rounded at the foot, the over-all dimensions being 6 ft. 9 ins. by

¹ O.S. 25" Kent XVI S.W. The coffin lay approximately at the "f" of "Burial Ground, site of."

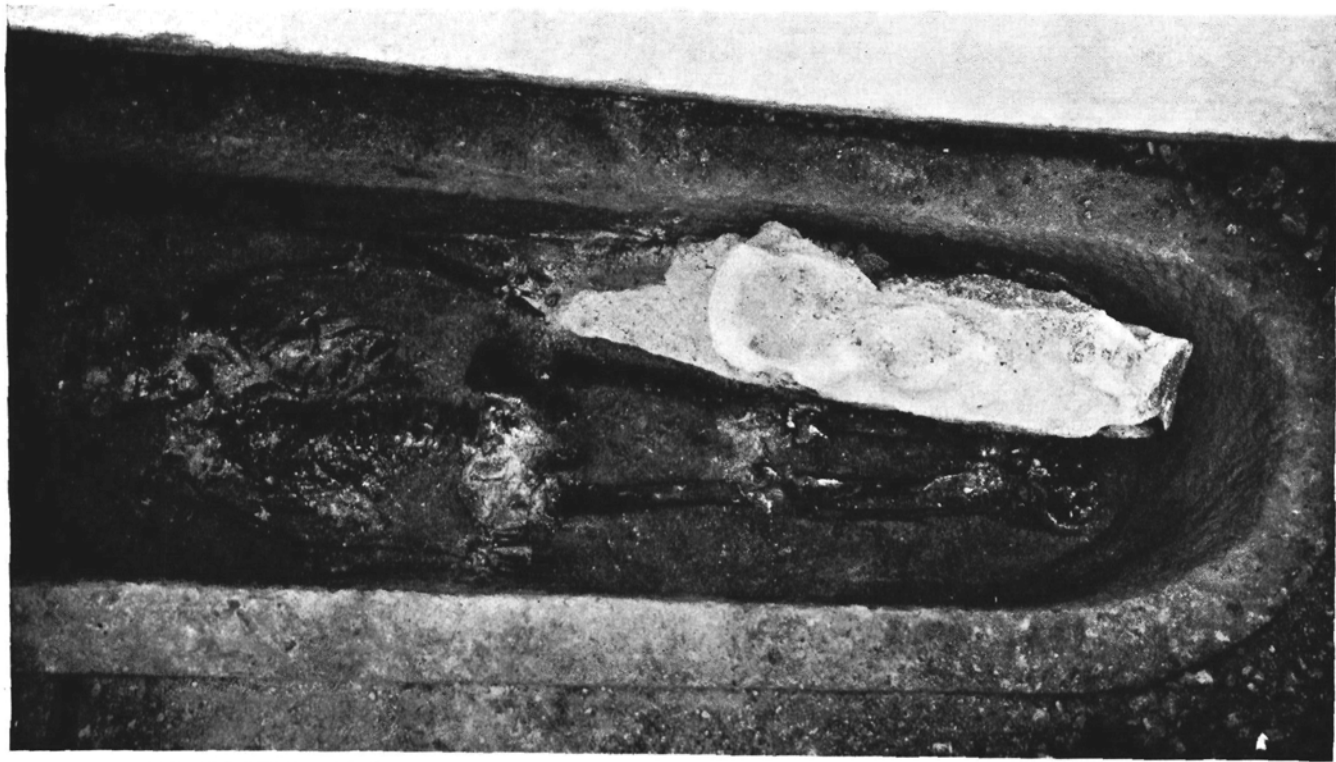


PLATE I. THE INTERIOR OF THE COFFIN WITH THE PLASTER COVERING OF THE LEGS RAISED TO SHOW THE COMPLETE SKELETON.



PLATE II. THE LEGS OF THE SKELETON WITH THE PLASTER COVERING PARTIALLY RAISED TO SHOW THE IMPRESSION OF THE CORPSE.

The marks left by the folds of the shroud are clearly visible.

2 ft. 9 ins. (at the head ; 2 ft. 0 ins. at the foot) by 1 ft. 9 ins. deep, with an average thickness of 4 ins. ; the lid is flat (Pl. I.). In the chalk-rubble packing between the north face of the coffin and the side of the trench, a foot from either end of the coffin and right up against it, were two four-inch stake-holes. These presumably once held the supporting uprights of a wooden memorial tablet above ground.

The body, which was that of a man of middle height, had been buried in plaster. This was kindly analysed by Mr. John Sutherland and was found to consist of sulphate of lime, *i.e.* plaster of Paris. It had evidently been added in powdered form and had hardened with the gradual percolation of moisture into the coffin. That covering the head and body had collapsed and lay in a confused heap upon the crushed skeleton, but over the legs it was still intact and retained the impression of the body wrapped in its shroud (Pl. II.). The plaster in the coffin had settled with the decomposition of the body, and the smooth upper surface lay some five inches below its top. The impression of the legs on the under side also showed that the flesh had largely decomposed before the plaster had hardened, and in places the pink mortar with which the lid was sealed had trickled down the inner surface of the coffin and through the porous plaster.

This burial custom is one familiar in the late Roman period. Of a coffin found at Dartford in 1797 it is recorded that the face still "exhibited all the lineaments of the deceased, but, upon the nose being touched by a person named Watson, it trembled for an instant, then fell to dust" (*V.C.H. Kent, loc. cit.*). Another coffin at Dartford contained a well-preserved body as well as some of the linen within which it had been swathed and a coin of the fourth century. The Keston burial belongs presumably to a similar date.

J. B. WARD PERKINS.

[Some of the best examples of burials in plaster of Paris (gypsum, sulphate of lime) are in the Yorkshire Museum at York, where seven from in or near the city are exhibited. Dr. Walter Collinge, the Keeper, informs us that most likely they are of the second and third centuries.—ED.]

STONAR.

A LITTLE while ago a workman employed at Richborough made some interesting statements to me which, as far as I know, have not so far been put on record. He stated that he was at Stonar when the large lake was formed by the working of the shingle bank for use in the construction of the Admiralty Harbour at Dover. In the course of the excavations a well was found, similar to that described in *Arch. Cant.*, XLIX, 278-9, which lay close to the Sandwich-Ramsgate road. Several holes were dug on the site of the huts (now being demolished) and much pottery and some human bones were disclosed as if a burial ground had been penetrated. Also in the smaller basin which was being worked by Messrs. Pearson & Co., a "Roman galley" was found. *The timbers had been cut with an adze. Experts were brought to see it and for a while the gravel was carefully removed from around it, but when the watchers went away the workmen tried to drag it out with a crane with the result that it broke up. The pieces were taken away, but my informant did not know what became of them. Also not far from the galley was an "anchor stone", a more or less rectangular mass with a hole cut through it for a rope.*

BERTRAM W. PEARCE.

EXCAVATIONS ON OLDBURY HILL, IGHTHAM.

THE excavations, undertaken between August 29th and October 10th, 1938 by the Kent Archæological Society upon the Iron Age Hill-fort of Oldbury, Ightham (see *Arch. Cantiana*, XLV, 1933, 142-61), were successful in determining the age and character of the earthwork. A full report on the work will appear in Vol. LI of *Archæologia Cantiana*, and it is here necessary only briefly to summarize the results.

The earthwork, one of the largest in the country, was erected, probably in the face of external pressure, at a date not earlier than the late first century B.C. In its earliest form it consisted simply of a bank and ditch, in places double, but lacking any complex structural features. Two gates were identified, one at the southern end and one to the north-east; and their situation provides a clue to the choice of site,

which commands one of the only routes between the North Downs and the Weald that were practicable under prehistoric conditions. There may have been another gate to the east. No traces of permanent settlement were found in the interior, but sufficient pottery, some of it wheel-turned, was found in the body of the rampart to show that it was erected by a non-Belgic people whose affinities would seem to lie along the northern part of the sandstone areas of Kent and Surrey.

At a later date the north-east gate was elaborately refortified. The occasion was almost certainly the Roman invasion of 43 A.D.; and the associated pottery seems to indicate that the district had by then passed under Belgic control. This gateway had been burnt, and the absence of specifically post-conquest fabrics suggests that the site was abandoned, perhaps forcibly, before the Roman advance.

A habitation site was found immediately outside the ramparts in a valley to the north-west. A representative amount of pottery beginning with the Early Iron Age was obtained from the rubbish-dumps, and this indicated a continuous occupation well on into the Roman period. To this period belonged also tesserae and fragments of flue-tile. The pre-Roman settlement itself was located, but was not extensively examined.

J.B.W.P.

THE HOLMESDALE VOLUNTEER CORPS OF INFANTRY,
1805.

THE Corps, which was one of the many local associations raised to protect the country from invasion, was disbanded at the Peace of Amiens (March 27th, 1802), but was again raised when the war was renewed the following year. In the negotiations in 1801 preliminary to the above peace, Lord Hawkesbury signed on behalf of England. The back of the official form as completed and now printed is endorsed:—
“Mem Return to be made to L^d Hawkesbury's Office of the Holmesdale Volunteer Infantry 6th August 1805.”

The form had spaces to be filled up by the commanding officer. The paper is one of a large series of Kentish material

belonging to Charles Roach Smith and acquired after his death by the late Martyn Mowll of Dover.

W.P.D.S.

RETURN of The Holmesdale Corps—of VOLUNTEER INFANTRY in the County of Kent commanded by The Commanded by [erased] Rt. Hon^{ble} Lord Whitworth K.B. the 6th Day of August 1805.

ESTABLISHMENT.														EFFECTIVES.						
Number of Companies.	Colonels.	Lieutenant Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Adjutants.	Surgeons.	Quarter Masters.	Paymasters.	Serjeant Major.	Drum Major.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Drummers.	Privates.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Drummers.	Privates.
6	1	1	1	6	9	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	30	12	570	30	30	12	529

Vacant Officers.

3 Lieutenants.

1 Ensign.

N.B. The Surgeon included in the nine Lieutenants

The Paymaster d^o in the five Ensigns

I hereby certify this to be a correct Return.

Signed Whitworth Col^l

There is also a Company consisting of 100 Men under the Command of Captⁿ R. Packham called the Wrotham & Ightham Company attached to The Holmesdale Volunteer Infantry under my command but who are not included in the above return altho they have been inspected & have been serving on permanent Duty with that Regiment.

Whitworth. Col^l

A DENEHOLE AT WINGHAM WELL.

PRELIMINARY NOTE.

THIS chalk mine was discovered by accident in August, 1938, through the collapse of the floor of a pigsty in the yard of the "Eight Bells" at Wingham Well, on the by-road between Bramling and Wingham. Illustrated reports appeared in *The Kentish Express* and *The Kentish Gazette and Canterbury Press* on August 26th and 27th.

The Denehole is typical of those with a vertical shaft, at the bottom of which are two chambers of a roughly trefoil shape in plan. These open out from the bottom of the shaft by what may be called the stalks of the trefoils. The shaft is carried through a surface bed of loam into the chalk. In it are cut footholes by which a man could straddle down with the help of a rope. The excavation is in solid chalk, but in one or two cases the roof of the chambers, in the desire to get the maximum amount, has exposed the loam. In a further case a pot-hole, filled with loam and flints, has been cut into. The various lobes of the trefoils, not all of the same height, are bee-hive in section and show many marks of a small pointed tool of an iron pickaxe type. Round the walls is a stained line showing the height to which flood water has risen.

When first descended a thick layer of buff loam covered the floor. Messrs. Mackeson, who own the house, have been kind enough to supply labour to have this removed, and in this way the bones of various animals which had fallen down the shaft before it became blocked, have been recovered. A full account, and a plan by Messrs. G. C. Solley, with a report on the bones and any other objects that may have been found, will appear in the next volume.

In 1877 a somewhat similar subsidence occurred on Mr. Laslett's farm at Wingham Well. This was noted by Captain McDakin in the East Kent Natural History Society's Proceedings. The depth was about 43 feet.

For a general account of Deneholes reference may be made to the paper, "A Denehole at Hammill", in Vol. XLVII of *Archæologia Cantiana*, pp. 211-18.

W.P.D.S.