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POTTERY AND BOTTLE FROM ROMAN GRAVE, MAIDSTONE.

REPORTS.

ARCHÆOLOGY IN KENT, 1938.

MESOLITHIC.

During the digging of test pits in Addington Park, Mr. A. J. G. Evans, of the Ace Sand and Gravel Company, Ltd., noticed some small flint implements. These proved to be of Mesolithic type and the find included a typical burin, many flakes and cores. These were found about two feet below the surface on the top of a layer of fine white sand. It appears extremely likely that this is a habitation site as traces of a post hole were seen where a 4 ft. section through the humus and sand had been made.

EARLY IRON AGE.

In January some pits of Early Iron Age date were found on the sea-front at Westgate. In addition sherds of pedestal urns of Aylesford-Swarling type were discovered. (*Isle of Thanet Gazette*, January 1st, 1938.)

ROMANO-BRITISH.

A burial group comprising a large two-handled cinerary urn with a white slip decoration on the shoulder (fragmentary), a one-handled jug, a small square bottle of blue-green glass, a black dish of coarse ware, and a Samian cup (Drag. form 27, potters stamp Laxtucis F.), was discovered in December, 1937, in the grounds of Rochester Meadow on the Maidstone-Chatham Road. The date of the group is about A.D. 120. The specimens are on loan to Maidstone Museum.

An olla, or cooking-pot, of second century type was found during the digging of the foundations for Messrs. Rootes new building in Mill Street, Maidstone. It is now in Maidstone Museum.

At the beginning of April, during road widening operations in Welling High Street, Romano-British burial groups

comprising a cinerary urn 14 inches high, and fragments of two others were discovered. In addition a small black vase of first century Belgic type, a jug of grey buff ware, and a small Samian dish of early second century type were found. (*The Times*, August 30th, 1938.)

ANGLO-SAXON.

An extensive cemetery of great importance has been found at Riseley, Horton Kirby. About seventy graves consisting of inhumation burials, the majority of which are shallow, being about 2 feet in depth, have been explored up to the present. The objects found include spearheads, knives, umboes [of shields], buckles and bronze fibulae. In a female grave five circular gold brooches with filigree decoration and set with stones, as well as four beads of amethystine quartz were discovered. These are similar to some found at Sarre. One point of interest about these latter finds is that they are easily the farthest west of any Jutish discoveries in Kent. (*The Times*, September 16th, 1938.)

C. E. FISHER.

DARTFORD BOROUGH MUSEUM.

THE safe return of the Horton Kirby (Riseley) material after exhibition at the British Museum and later at the Institute of Archæology (University of London) has made possible the wider selection of grave goods now on view in the Dartford Borough Museum.

Cordial thanks are due to the Dartford Rural Council for so courteously consenting to these temporary loans, and affording facilities for site examination during 1937-38.

Except for a Roman vessel from a solitary burial, all the pottery found so far has proved to be hand-formed Saxon cinerary urns.

The desire to gain experience in this type of work is attracting a useful increase of members to the Dartford Antiquarian Society.

S. PRIEST.

RESEARCH AT DOVER DURING 1938.

MR. E. G. J. AMOS writes that work on the Adrian Street Clearance Area opened up in the bank of a new road along Pilot Meadow a curious rectangular structure built of chalk and rolled flints, set at the top and faced up in pink mortar, but lower down built with mortar of a brownish colour. When cleared out under the supervision of the Borough Engineer, it was revealed as a pit 37 inches square. It was excavated to a depth of 1 foot below the road trench and then showed 4 feet of walling, but bottom was not reached. The filling included nothing datable, but a piece of Hythe Stone showed signs of fire. Mr. Amos queries was it a Roman burial shaft and perhaps similar to a timber-lined one at Bekesbourne.

A surface drain in the same area starting from near the top of Five Post Lane, and dug 8 feet deep, showed made ground with Roman rubbish, including the neck of a glass bottle, pieces of human skull, a dice-like object with hollows in the sides, a small tube ornamented with raised rings, two Samian bases (one with part of a stamp) and pieces of tufa.

Near Chapel Place there was opened up a patch of sandy soil similar to the blown sand that runs from Snargate Street to Market Square.

Above the last site a skeleton was exposed lying across the line of a trench with head towards the South-East. The grave had been dug where 9 inches of clay lay above 2 feet 6 inches of chalky marl. Gossip hinted that some coins had been found in connection with the burial. (The Museum has a denarius of Antoninus Pius from the area.)

The excavations exposed no trace of the town wall or gate.

Further trench digging up to 8 feet in depth, indicated a chalk face which had been levelled up with made ground. Roman material was found in this, with pieces of tufa at the bottom. A similar feature was noted in Albany Place in 1917 or 1918. Human bones were again found during this section of the work.

The clearance of the site gave evidence, in brickwork and chimney breasts, that some of the houses went back to the sixteenth century.

Dover Castle—Crevequer Tower, Further work here has brought to light an arched passage blocked by modern masonry at the far end, but still about 7 feet long. In the thickness of wall to one side of this is another passage 11 feet by 3 feet, and 8 feet high. The raised floor at the inner end possibly indicated a garderobe which had been blocked up. Another discovery was a well of rubble stonework which had been covered with the earth banked up against the back of the tower.

An interesting find from a garden on the South Foreland Estate at St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe is a bronze pin, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, with a flat head, and swelled out about one-third of its length down. This swelling has been pierced with a small hole. Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes, of the British Museum, writing to Mr. F. Knocker, says that it is an unusual specimen of the late Bronze Age, and that the home of the type is South Germany. A further note on this pin, with a drawing, will appear in *The Antiquaries Journal*.