



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

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

A PALÆOLITHIC IMPLEMENT FOUND ON THE HIGH PLATEAU BETWEEN FOLKESTONE AND DOVER

DURING September 1948, while engaged in a casual inspection of the surface of a recently ploughed field bordering the north side of the roadway between St. Radigund's Abbey and Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, (1 in. O.S. Sheet 173, National Grid Reference 267420), the writer was fortunate in discovering a well-made Palæolithic implement of St. Acheul form. This find has been considered worthy of publication as very few Palæolithic implements have been found in the locality.

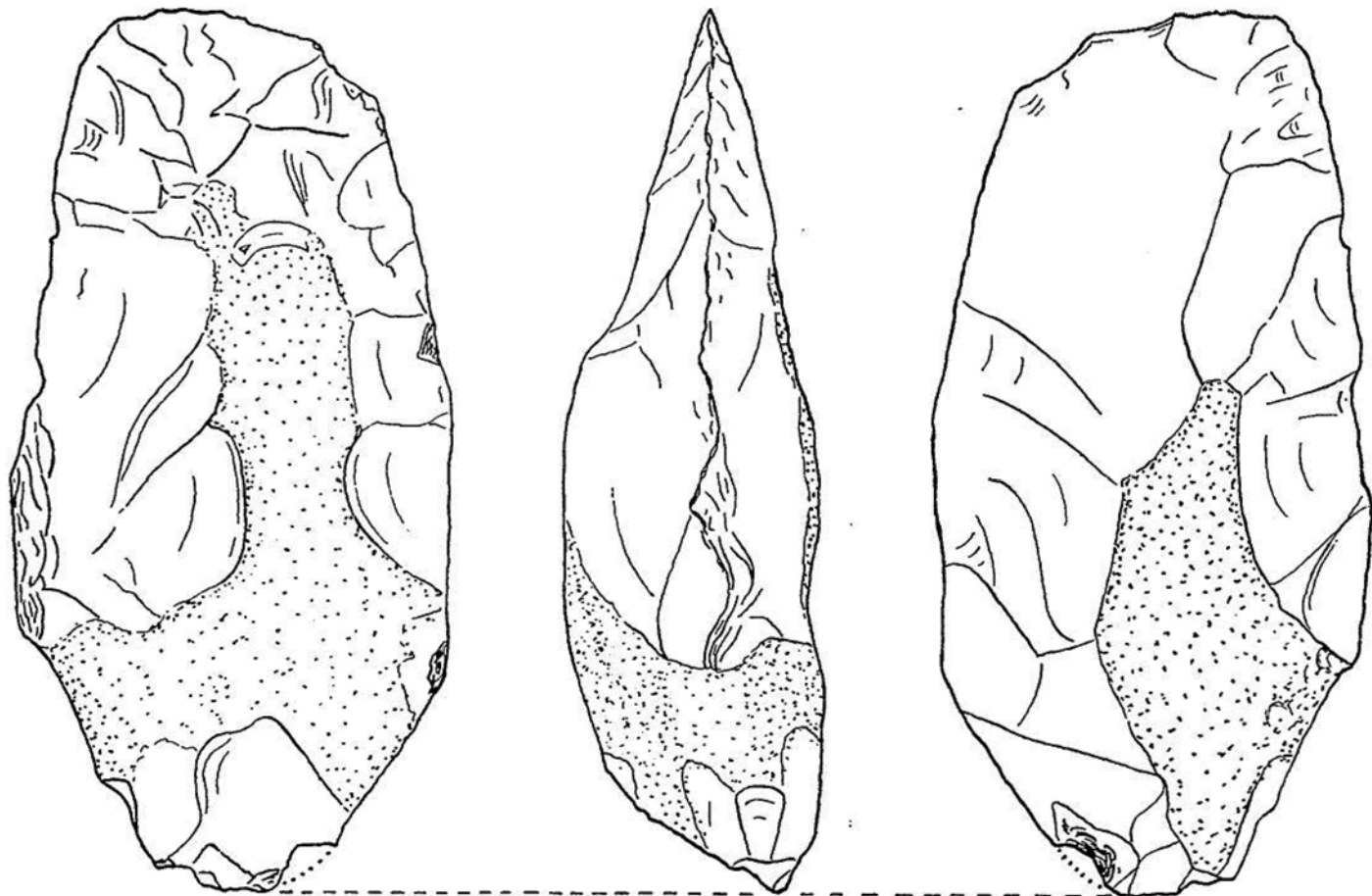
The implement must be regarded simply as a surface find, not having come from a river drift deposit but resting above the 400 ft. contour on the face of a chalk plateau which is bounded on its northern side by the Alkham Valley and covered with Plateau Loam, a deposit of uncertain age and origin.

Typologically it clearly belongs to the St. Acheul culture which is known to have persisted in this country during the long interglacial period between the Mindel and Riss glaciations, the latter probably having occurred about 230,000 years ago. In general shape it conforms to the type of implement commonly known as a "hand-axe," the butt end retaining considerable portions of the cortex of the flint nodule from which it was fashioned so as to allow the implement to be grasped *directly in the hand of the user*.

The skilfully produced flaking on one side of the implement exhibits the characteristic feature of St. Acheul workmanship, the flat beds of the flake-scars being the result of trimming the flint with a bone or wooden bar, as distinct from the more general Stone-Age technique of hammer-stone flaking, which produced hollow flake-scars with pronounced negative bulbs of percussion. On the opposite side the flaking is much coarser, the required form having been produced by about a dozen bold strokes.

It is also interesting to note that the implement does not terminate in the usual acute point, but in a wide cutting edge, and it thus resembles the tool-form now commonly distinguished as a "cleaver." Such "basil-ended" implements, to use another current term, occur frequently in Palæolithic deposits in Africa, but are less usual in this country.

There is no sign of water action or other natural abrasion, the whole flint being in a remarkably fresh and well preserved state. The patina



Palæolithic implement found on the surface near St. Radigund's Abbey, between Folkestone and Dover Length 6.4 inches

is an even, lustrous, white surfacing, frequently found on flints in chalk country. Portions of cortex remaining show the raw material to have been a nodule extracted from the chalk and not a water-worn gravel flint as was sometimes used. Small patches of gloss, similar to that found on many implements from the Knowle Farm gravel-pit in Wiltshire, occur near the tip.

The maximum length of the implement is 6.4 in. and the breadth 3 in. It is at present in the possession of the writer.

P. J. TESTER.

A FLINT DAGGER FROM CANTERBURY

THE flint dagger illustrated in Plate I has been for some years in the Museum of Kingswood School, Bath, and bears the label "found near Canterbury." There seems no reason to doubt the attribution to this find-spot, but no more exact details can be given of the provenance of the dagger or of the circumstances of discovery.

The dagger is 18.7 cm. long and has a greatest width of 6.6 cm.; its weight is 117.9 gm. It is thus a fairly large specimen of this class of artifact if the measurements given by the late Sir John Evans are taken as standard.¹ The shape is lanceolate, with a very slight suggestion of a shoulder rather above the middle. The tapered sides, which by being concave give the dagger something of a ogee outline, help to form a handle, enhanced by the slight but definite thickening of the lower half. In its present state it is asymmetrical, owing to the damaged condition of the upper part of one edge (the right in (a), see Plate), where there is also a small cherty inclusion. Both edges have been trimmed by pressure-flaking along their whole length from point to butt; there are no traces of grinding. Both edges again are translucent along their whole length except for two very small patches of chert. The point has been slightly damaged, and there is a recent break, not a form of hafting notch, on one side near the butt. The colour of the dagger is variegated, ranging from a predominant grey in the lower part, with a dark grey band running diagonally across, to light brown and pink with blotches of white and pale yellow in the upper.

This specimen seems to belong to the first class identified by Mr. W. F. Grimes in his discussion of flint daggers assignable to the "A" Beaker complex, with a butt-end shaped for holding rather than hafting.² The comparative rarity of daggers in Kent gives it an added interest. Its outline bears a resemblance to that of several others

¹ Evans, *Ancient Stone Implements*, 2nd ed., p. 348. Cf. R. A. Smith, *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, xxxii (1919-20), p. 8, and W. F. Grimes, *P.S.E.A.*, VI (1931), p. 340.

² Grimes, *op. cit.*, p. 340.

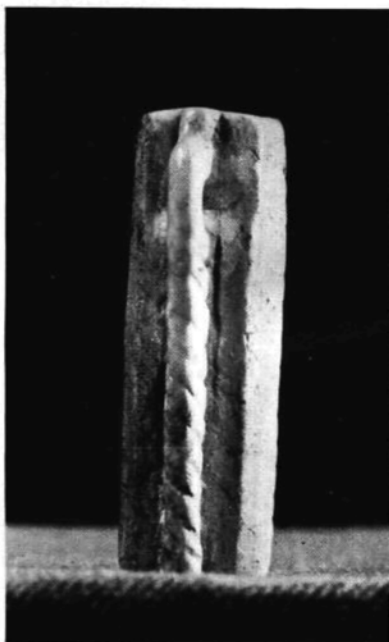


(a)

Flint Dagger from Canterbury
(Length : 18.7 cm.)

(b)

PLATE II



Plaque from Wye, Kent
(Height: 47 mm.)

previously published, for example to that of the dagger described by Mortimer from Garton Slack, Yorks.¹

J. W. GARDNER.

A PLAQUE FROM WYE

THE bone (or ivory) plaque illustrated in Plate II was recently disinterred near the junction of Church Street and Bridge Street, Wye, close to the site of a medieval vaulted crypt of unknown origin.

The British Museum authorities attribute the plaque to a date about A.D. 1200. It is thought to be either the tab of a book-marker or a pendent to be worn round the neck; the reverse side, unlike the obverse, bears a high polish, and the obtruding spine is pierced in the upper part with a hole presumably designed to be threaded with a fine cord.

A very similar ivory plaque bearing a figure of Madonna and Child was found during the last World War on the site of a moated house at Nuthampsted, Hertfordshire, in the course of airfield construction. It is mentioned and illustrated in *War and Archaeology in Britain* (S.O. Code No. 70-574) and has been fully described with photographs and drawings in *The Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. XXVI, p. 141.

The plaque is 47 mm. in height.

G. E. HUBBARD.

FOUR BRONZE IMPLEMENTS

THE Maidstone Museum archaeological collection has recently been enriched by four bronze implements, from Ightham, Ashford, Sheerness, and Burham (Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the figure).

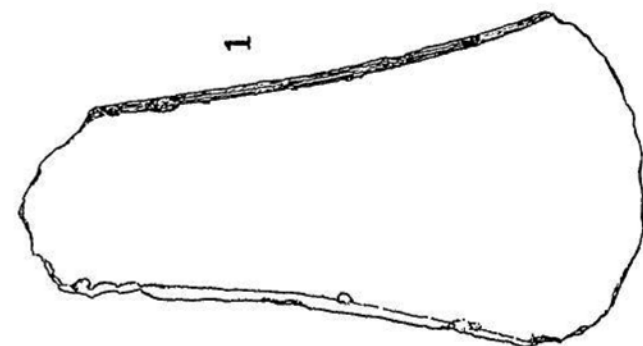
The first three of these have already been noticed in *Arch. Cant.*, LXI. Not much need be added to Sir Edward Harrison's account of the Ightham Early Bronze Age flat axe (*Ibid.*, p. xlv). The patina, dark green on one face, a faded olive green on the other, is in an unhealthy condition and the axe will need chemical treatment to prevent further deterioration. The finder, Mr. W. Beeching, of Harrietsham, gave the implement to the Museum.

Mr. L. V. Grinsell's note (*Ibid.*, p. 185) resulted in the subscribers to the Maidstone Museum Auxiliary Fund purchasing the Ashford flanged axe and the Sheerness palstave from Mr. E. R. H. Dicken, Curator of the Avalon Museum, Glastonbury, and in further information being obtained concerning them.

The Ashford flanged axe is 3.8 in. long and has a much damaged, dark green patina. Mr. Dicken obtained it from the caddy who found it on the Golf Links in 1936.

The Sheerness palstave is 6.15 in. in length. The dirty dark green patina is disfigured by several blow holes, the product of faulty casting.

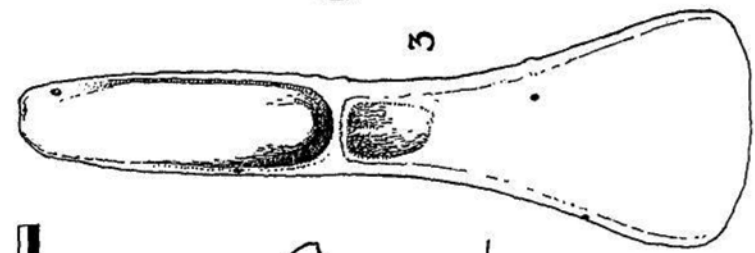
¹ Mortimer, *Burial Mounds*, p. 217. Cf. Grimes, *op. cit.*, pp. 354 and 355, and fig. 1.



1



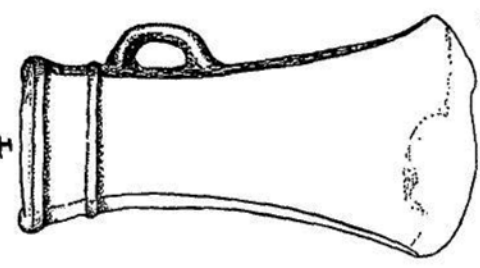
2



3



4



L.C.A.G.
1909.

1. Flat axe from Fishponds, Ighthem
2. Flanged axe from Ashford Golf Course
3. Palstave from Sheerness
4. Socketed axe from Burham

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

In a letter Mr. Dicken says he acquired the palstave in 1933, "shortly after it had come to light." He adds, "I cannot recollect whether the man I obtained it from found it actually himself or whether some one else found it and passed it on to him."

For the gift of the fourth implement, a socketed axe from Burham, the Museum is indebted to our member, Mr. John H. Evans, F.S.A., who obtained it from the late Mr. W. H. Cook. It was found about 1920 by workmen uncallowing a chalk pit (i.e. taking the topsoil off the chalk). The length of the implement is 3·8 in. The green patina is very prone to flake away and on one face (the opposite to that figured) is almost worn away to the metal.

L. R. A. GROVE.

W. NEVILLE TERRY.

RECENT EXCAVATION IN THE CANTERBURY DISTRICT

STURRY

Extensive exploitation of part of the Westbere marshes for ballast has revealed that a site, occupied in Roman times, existed about half a mile E. of Sturry Railway Station (O.S. 6 in. Kent Sheet XXXVI, S.W. Lat. 51.18'. Long. 1.8' E. approx.). With the kind permission of the owners, Messrs. R. Brett & Sons, Ltd., trial trenches were dug to recover some evidence relating to the nature and dating of the site before it was destroyed by the mechanical excavators. Though limited in scale, due to the lack of assistance in digging, and also to the high water level, which was less than 2 ft. below the surface, these trenches provided sufficient evidence that the site was occupied during a period from the second to the third century, and probably into the fourth. Various features found were a rubbish pit containing second-third century Samian ware; an open drain of flanged tiles set in a trench; and lengths of brick footings. Much of the structural features had been destroyed before an investigation could be made; the full ground-plan, therefore, could not be drawn up. As no actual floors were found, other than the gravel which covered the whole of the site, it would appear likely that they formed part of an outbuilding.

The presence of a large number of oak stakes at the edge of the alluvium, south of these footings, which represents the shore line of the long silted up navigable creek of the Stour, suggests that they formed part of a Roman quayside. A large oak beam also came from this spot.

Mr. A. W. G. Lowther, F.S.A., has examined the tree rings derived from sample slices, and tells me that they form a series covering a 96-year period, of which 77 rings occur in the plot derived from a large timber found, this year, at Little Plaxton, Hants, with third century pottery. This gives a mid-third century date for the felling of the Sturry trees, which in turn gives the earliest date at which the quayside

could have been constructed. This agrees with the dating of the associated pottery, etc., found in the stratified deposits on the site itself.

It is apparent that at this site we have a riverside settlement, which may have served Canterbury as a port, and the discoveries prove, what has long been suspected, that the Stour was navigable throughout the Roman period at least as far as Sturry.

It would be as well to mention the finding, about three years ago, of a very fine mid-bronze age spearhead, dredged up by the grab from the alluvium. It is now on loan to the Canterbury Museum, by the kindness of Councillor Tom White, the present owner.

In a gravel pit situated at the summit of Babs Oak Hill I have located what is probably an Early Iron Age pit dwelling. At present I have only partially excavated it, and found a quantity of sherds from crude hand-made vessels of very friable black gritted ware, typical of that period, together with fragments of burnt daub.

Detailed reports on the foregoing are in preparation, and it is hoped that they will be published at a later date.

F. JENKINS.

ROMAN REMAINS FROM UPCHURCH MARSHES

My copy of Payne's *Collectanea Cantiana* once belonged to Lt.-Col. C. S. F. Fagan, R.M.L.I., an original subscriber to the volume, and an officer interested in archæology, although he appears never to have been a member of our Society.

On the blank back of Plate XXI, opposite page 75, appears the following note in the neat autograph of the Colonel.

"On Saturday, 11th August, 1894. In the presence of Mr. G. Payne, F.S.A. (author and secy of the Kent Archaeological Society), Rev. Woodruff, Vicar of Bredhurst, and his son, Lt.-Col. C. S. F. Fagan and Waters (digger). At a mound a short distance W. of the road, and about 300 yds. from the Sea-Wall of Slay Hills Saltings were found pieces of Samian ware, and the remains of a kiln, the first of its kind yet found in this neighbourhood; and further N., about 150 yds. nearer to the Sea Wall, on the edge of the marsh, and within 30 yds. of the road, were found three graves, from which were removed a Samian Cup about 4 inches in diameter makers mark *SEXTII M*, and a Samian plate, makers mark *LATINUS*, a slight chip (or probe mark) on the rim of each. Also a small urn of black ware 4 inches high, an echinus in flint, and a piece of quartz (lucky stone). Many bones and fragments of pottery ware also disinterred, and a piece of Upchurch ware with the typical markings, which latter I have retained, the remainder going to Rochester Museum per Mr. G. Payne, F.S.A. etc., the indefatigable Secretary of the Kent Archæological Society."

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Payne reported this discovery in *Archæologia Cantiana*, XXI, p. lii, but makes no mention of the kiln, a curious exception when we remember the eagerness with which antiquaries sought them in these marshes. But the interest of Fagan's note lies in the exact details which he gives of the find-spots, for Payne gives almost no information under this head. A great amount of Roman material has been unearthed from the extensive Medway marshes, principally by mud-diggers, but the exact siting of find-spots is all too rare. When the problem of the Roman land surface in the Medway estuary comes to be considered exact siting, both horizontally and vertically, will be of great importance and it is for this reason that this note is put on record.

CORRECTIONS. ROMAN REMAINS IN THE MEDWAY MARSHES.

The following corrections to various notes which have appeared in *Archæologia Cantiana* are long overdue.

Vol. XXI, p. 1. "Slough Fort, Isle of Grain" should read "Slough Fort, Allhallows." See *Arch. Cant.*, XXV, p. lxxv.

Vol. XXI, p. xlvii. Stoke Marshes in Hoo. "Lamhead Creek" should read "Damhead Creek."

Vol. XXXI, p. 280. "This marsh lies about a mile from Hoo St. Werburgh Church in a south-westerly direction." The direction should be south-easterly.

JOHN H. EVANS.

HOLYWELL, UPCHURCH

EARLY this year (1949) Mrs. F. E. Stevens of Holywell Farm, Upchurch, reported to me that a large flat stone had been met with when ploughing. The villagers of Upchurch and Lower Halstow have long speculated on the site of the lost "Holy Well," and it was thought that this stone might cover the well head.

My friend Mr. Oliver Phippen and I went to the site and found a large sarzen stone lying prone about 1 ft. below the surface of a ploughed field. The stone was a rough square 5 ft. by 5 ft. and with an average thickness of 9 in. On being raised it was found to cover a roughly circular opening which had been filled in with smallish flint nodules. By probing it was found that the well was 5 ft. 6 in. deep, and the water level about 4 ft. 6 in. down. No trace of masonry or brickwork was observed, but the filling was not removed.

The well lies near the bottom of a gentle valley through which flows, about 130 ft. away, the stream which feeds Twinney Creek. The land hereabouts is just over 25 ft. O.D. and the site is 400 ft. from the crown of Holywell Lane, by the farm, and 17 ft. from the fence bounding the

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

lane which leads across to Lower Halstow. The National Grid Indication is 85106695.

The evidence suggests that the local view might well be correct, and that here we have the original Holy Well of the place-name. It is possible that the well was filled in and any associated masonry destroyed at the time of the Reformation, the heavy sarzen stone being dragged over the site to prevent villagers from reopening it. There are considerable numbers of sarzens on Holywell Farm. Many such Christian "Holy Wells" were pagan in origin.

JOHN H. EVANS.

TYLER HILL POTTERY SITE NEAR CANTERBURY

A FURTHER NOTE

A PAPER on the site, and the pottery from it, by the writer, and Messrs. W. P. D. Stebbing and G. C. Dunning appeared in Vol. LV (1942) of this Journal. Advantage was taken of the dry weather of 1947 to make some further investigations round the bombed area.

The probable position of the kiln has been located but little more material has so far been found. Tiling with fingered dog-tooth impressions, a small money box and two candlesticks are some of the more interesting discoveries.

A second kiln site was found in 1945 on the northern edge of the bomb-disturbed area. Roof tiles, wall and floor tiles were all produced in this kiln with glazed and patterned tiles of the type known as encaustic.

Stab marks on the tiling and the pottery of both sites show that these were made by two-pronged forks, either of wood or metal, the prongs being just 1 in. apart. So far no metal except one small fragment has been found.

Extracts from the Harleian MSS. show that in 1363 a lease of the site—at Tighelerchilde—was granted to Christian Belsire of Hackington near Canterbury.

P. J. SPILLET.

GLASS AND MONUMENTS FORMERLY IN GILLINGHAM CHURCH

A POSTSCRIPT

SINCE the publication of my paper in Vol. LXI of *Archæologia Cantiana*, some small additional discoveries have been made which are, perhaps, worth recording. The page-numbers below refer to Vol. LXI.

P. 162. Figure of a bishop, recorded in 1808. A drawing of this subject by Thomas Fisher (noted "in a S. window") has now come to light. It shows the upper two-thirds of the figure of the bishop, in mitre and cope, looking to right. The figure was in white and yellow stained glass, of the fifteenth century. (Add. MS. 32,363, fol. 90.)

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

In the same MS. has been found a finished drawing by Fisher of the brass of Joan Bamme, 1431 (see p. 176). The charges on the chevron of her coat of arms are confirmed as talbots.

This MS. also contains (fol. 84) a careful drawing, dated 1782, of Gillingham Church, showing that the present east window, the tracery of which is represented in the diagram opposite p. 160, is a complete changeling of the Victorian age. The original window, of five lights, had a four-centred head and plain Perpendicular tracery, and might be dated c. 1500. This fits very well with the date I had conjectured for the shields formerly in this window (pp. 177-9).

C. R. COUNCER.

HENGEST LUNCHEON

To celebrate the fifteenth centenary of the landing of Hengest in the Isle of Thanet, a luncheon was arranged at the Star Hotel, Maidstone, on April 20th, 1949. It was felt this centenary of the arrival of English-speaking peoples in the country and the foundation of the Kingdom of Kent by Hengest in A.D. 449 called for a commemoration at which archaeologists and historians might pay tribute to these early invaders, who were a symbol of our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, a symbol of the language and tradition of individual freedom which we share, and a symbol of a new civilization in England that was to spread in the course of centuries all over the world.

About two hundred members of the Society attended the luncheon and among the distinguished guests were Count Reventlow, the Danish Ambassador, with Countess Reventlow, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Rochester and Mrs. Chavasse, Sir Edward Hardy, Chairman of the County Council, the Mayor and Mayoress of Maidstone, Dr. Hugh Smith of University College, London, Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen, the High Sheriff and Mrs. Chamberlain, Pastor Viggo Jensen of the Danish Church in London, and Hr. Wegener-Clausen, the Consul General.

Red and white Danish flags fluttered from the flagstuffs of many public buildings. The Mayor and Mayoress received the Danish party at the Town Hall at 11.30 a.m., and after the signing of the Visitors' Book, took them round the Council Chamber and the tapestry rooms, later the party was shown the fourteenth century Collegiate Church by the Vicar, and the Carriage Museum with its handsome State Coaches and remarkable travelling carriage which are housed in the old Tithe Barn, formerly the stables of the Archbishop's Palace.

The party then proceeded to the Star Hotel, where they were received by the President. Luncheon was served at 1.15 p.m., the grace was said in English and in Danish. The tables were decorated with small red and white Danish flags alternating with Union Jacks, and

with bowls of red and white flowers, the Danish national colours. Sir Edward Hardy, in proposing the toast, "Our Forefathers from Denmark," welcomed the Danish guests, and said, "1,500 years ago your forefathers and ours laid the foundations of Anglo-Saxon civilization which has spread through the ages, almost all over the world carrying with it much which can be justifiably claimed to have provided far-reaching benefits for those who have come under its influence." It was assumed that Hengest and Horsa were our forefathers from Denmark, although to some it might seem a reckless assumption, "but, it would be impossible in any case to persuade the people of Kent that they were not connected with Hengest and the white horse which was their county symbol." When the Danes first came, they found the only way of settling disputes was by the sword, "had we greater peace of mind than our forefathers and in a world that claimed to be civilized? Were our weapons more humane than the sword? Nevertheless, I have immense faith in the Anglo-Saxon race. I believe that an association that began 1,500 years ago and which has brought so much that is good into the world, may yet by constant and determined effort bring peace of mind to men, and through men, to nations everywhere." In giving the toast, Sir Edward said he did so "in the hope and belief that this association of fifteen centuries might in the end prove to be the greatest single factor in bringing lasting peace to a greatly shattered world."

Count Reventlow, in reply, recalled the ancient and close associations of Kent and Denmark, and associated himself with Sir Edward's faith in the Anglo-Saxon peoples; the luncheon seemed to him "characteristic of the British temperament, combining history and tradition with modern efficiency and faith in the future." The Danes regarded themselves as "good colonizers and looked back with pride to the period of Canute when they not only gave Dominion status to the British Isles, but very soon complete freedom. Looking back at the subsequent history of this country and all it had accomplished, I feel we can be satisfied with our policy and very proud that the Danes should still be recognized as your forefathers." He recalled the close connection of Denmark with the Royal East Kent Regiment, "The Buffs," of which King Frederik, like his father and his grandfather, was Honorary Colonel and in which so many Danes served during the war.

Dr. Hugh Smith, of the Scandinavian Department, University College, in proposing "Hengest and the Kingdom of Kent," examined the historical background, its sources and problems in the light of all the evidence that could be assembled, and referred to the coming of the English-speaking peoples as undoubtedly one of the outstanding events in the history of Western civilization.

The Archbishop of Canterbury proposed the toast of "The English-speaking Peoples," and referred to the differences in the way the English language was spoken in different parts of the world, but there was a linguistic unity; still more, there was a unity of ideals and traditions among those who used it. The English-speaking peoples had contributed much for the good of mankind and of civilization, and at this moment, a great task and burden rested on all of them whether they spoke English naturally or by adoption to be true to the past and to preserve in the future the true basis on which men could live in amity and good neighbourliness on God's earth."

Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen, in responding to this toast, doubted whether a banquet had ever been given voluntarily in honour of an invader, but the descendants of these invaders were animated by ideas and ideals of political governance, moderation, compromise, foresight, and the ability to deal with the problems of the world without losing their heads.

The spirit of the luncheon was embodied in a quotation on the back of the toast list taken from John Richard Green's *Short History of the English People*. "It is with the landing of Hengest and his warband at Ebbsfleet that English history begins. No spot in England can be so sacred to Englishmen as that which first felt the tread of English feet."

The luncheon arrangements were in the hands of four members of the Council, Dr. Gordon Ward, Commander Stagg, Major Boorman and Miss Roper, who shared the financial responsibility. Dr. Ward generously presented everyone with a printed copy of *The Saga of Hengest*, his translation of the Finnsburg Fragment, a tenth century Anglo-Saxon manuscript. The proceedings closed with the singing to an orchestral accompaniment of the National Anthem and the Danish "Kong Kristian."

A.R.

BY-GONES

THE date at which the obsolete becomes the antique is hard to define, and we have scattered in the various parishes of Kent many structural objects of eighteenth or early nineteenth century date, which are suffering undeserved neglect because they have not as yet come of age in an antiquarian sense. Such objects, though not of distinctive architectural merit, deserve recognition and preservation as examples of local craftsmanship typifying lost ways of life.

The active co-operation of all members is asked for, to record such objects as mounting-blocks, well-heads, pack-horse and field bridges, garden houses before 1850; exact positions, condition, and any unusual feature should be given. A parish visitation of by-gones might well be

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

undertaken by local societies and local history groups. A beginning has already been made by local secretaries, and their reports make it clear that many more await attention.

Information should be sent to the Hon. Secretary for filing; the results it is hoped will be published in a future number of this Journal.