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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

DISCOVERY OF MASONRY ON CASTLE HILL, FOLKESTONE

CASTLE HILL, Folkestone, was excavated by Major-General A. H. L. F. Pitt-Rivers about 70 years ago and a report printed in *Archæologia* Vol. XLVII (1882). His conclusion from the "finds" was that the earthworks were Norman. He found no trace of masonry.

In the summer of 1949 a fall of earth exposed a portion of walling about 10 feet long and 3 feet high in the southern face of the causeway across the inner ditch of the "camp."

The masonry is of natural flints, chalk blocks, and blocks of iron-impregnated greensand set in coarse mortar. The wall appears to have been originally faced with roughly squared ironstone blocks. Near the base of the exposed wall was found a piece of Roman ridge-tile (imbrex), now in the custody of Folkestone Museum—the association of this may be purely accidental as it was a surface find.

The exposed portion of wall showed no sign of Roman brick. It seems to have supported a causeway across the innermost trench round the hill-top. The causeway runs from W. to E. and the exposed wall is on its southern face. This causeway at present carries the main track eastwards from the crest of the hill (which is the centre of the "camp") and is about the middle of the east-side of the central camp enclosure.

The writer intended to carry out excavation during the summer of 1950 but circumstances prevented. The matter is worthy of further investigation. Permission for excavation would have to be obtained from the Agents for the Radnor Estate, The Manor Office, Folkestone, and from the Ministry of Works as the earthworks are scheduled as an ancient monument.

HAROLD F. BING.

DEEDS WITH KENT CONNECTIONS

ASHBURNHAM DEED, No. 38.

12th Jan., 1 Henry IV (1399-1400).

Grant by William Septvannts, Knt., of the Co. of Kent, to John Estone of Nenenfield (Ninfield), Co. Sussex, and Agnes his wife, of a tenement called Batysrede in the said parish, next land of John Poteman, N., Richard Lyvet, E. and Robert Hunte of Bexle (Bexhill), S., and the heirs of Roger de Mapelisdenne, W.

Witnesses :—John Yngerham, John Lonsford, Henry Mauesyn, John Poteman, Geoffrey Broker.

At Nenenfield.

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ASHBURNHAM DEED No. 97.

9th March 1453-4.

Quitclaim by William Rotheley of Derteford, Co. Kent, to Margaret Groveherst, Widow, of and in lands and tenements &c. in the vills and parishes of Derteford and Chilham, Co. Kent, which he lately had by feoffment of Robert Lovecock, father of the said Margaret.

R. H. D'ELBOUX.

COURT HOUSE, UPPER DEAL

THE above small brick dwelling with its central chimney stack of late sixteenth century date, was formerly the Steward's house of the Manor of Deal Prebend. At a later date it was enlarged by the addition of a second story, and a lean-to kitchen was built on at the back. The entrance to a cellar under the western end of the house was then roofed over by this addition. In 1721 the house was in occupation as the Parish Poor House, and, by leave of the parish authorities, was rented to the Corporation for its meetings. The Corporation paid a rent of £6 for this use but in the above year had so delayed payment that the Vestry took the matter up and in July decided to sue the then Mayor—Mr. Bevis Hill—for it.

Recent internal work to make the house more suitable for occupation led to the discovery of a small three-light oak-framed casement which had been lathed and plastered on both sides when the above lean-to addition, with its large fireplace, was added. The chimney breast for this actually projects across part of the window. The three lights with their leaded diamond quarries and massive iron bars had been left intact. The centre light was arranged to open and retained its catch with spring and plate. Dimensions are—total width 4 feet, height 2 feet 6 inches. Each light 1 foot wide with moulded mullions 3 inches wide.

W. P. D. STEBBING.

BRONZE IMPLEMENTS FROM KENT

CHELTENHAM MUSEUM

Socketed and looped bronze spearhead, with loops on the sides of the socket, from Chartham Paper Mills, Kent, found 1861. Looks as though it might have come from a stream or river, as it is more or less free from patina.

EXETER MUSEUM

Socketed bronze spearhead, with rivet-holes in socket, said to have been found 23 feet below ground, at Stone Court, Greenhithe.

L. V. GRINSELL.

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EXCAVATIONS AT STONAR

REPORT ON SKULLS FROM THE SITE OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST.
NICHOLAS

By PROFESSOR F. WOOD JONES, F.R.C.S.

NUMBER 1

Skull with mandible. All sutures of the vault are open, including the metopic suture. The basilar suture is apparently unclosed. All teeth have been erupted. With the exception of the lower molar III all teeth have been present at death. Wearing is considerable. Molar I, right lower, has been reduced to a simple root stump. Small alveolar arch with rotated upper premolars. All sutures open within. Narial margins sharp. Characters female. Age probably about 20 years.

NUMBER 2

Skull with mandible. All cranial sutures closed and sagittal largely obliterated. All teeth have been erupted and molars well worn. All teeth have been present at death. Molar I, upper left, represented only by stumps of one root. Narial margins double. Characters on the whole female. Adult. Age over 35 years.

NUMBER 3

Broken skull. All sutures closed and obliterated. Face missing. Few remaining teeth, much worn. *Well developed medial palatine torus*. Narial margins almost guttered. Characters on the whole masculine. Adult, over 30 years.

NUMBER 4

Broken skull, with no facial parts and no mandible. All sutures obliterated within and closed without. Characters on the whole masculine. Adult, over 30 years.

NUMBER 5

Broken skull, with all sutures of the vault open without and within. Third molars high in alveolar cavity. With the exception of the third molar all teeth were present at death and unworn. Narial margins sharp. Probably a boy. Definitely about 12 years old.

NUMBER 6

Lower jaw; part of left ramus with two milk molars and one permanent molar. *First permanent molar has only four cusps*. Child of about 6 years.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

The skulls are all of the same type and are rather broader than the average medieval skull; the cranial index of such as are capable of

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complete measurement being about 80. Despite this relative broadening there is no non-metrical feature in which they differ from the usual type of English crania of the period.

In Nos. 3 and 6 interesting anomalies connected with the palate and teeth have been presented to the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons by the Wingham Engineering Company and Mr. Stebbing.

It seems likely that the churchyard was not finally disused till the sixteenth century. There are no records, but when its site and that of the church was excavated for foundations in 1948 many burials were exposed and, to the E. of the church, a grave lined with bricks of two sizes, the larger of sixteenth century type ($8\frac{5}{8}$ in. \times $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. \times 2 in.) suggests that burials were still taking place well into that century (*Arch Cant.*, Vol. LV, 1942, p. 39).

W. P. D. STEBBING.

REPORT ON TUMULI AT BROCKMAN'S BUSHES, NEAR HYTHE

No. 1. At the junction of the Old Trackway from Lyminge to Hythe and the trackway from Etchinghill. A Round Barrow of diameter 40 feet, and height 6 feet with a very slight depression in its crown. There is slight evidence of a surrounding ditch.

No. 2. South of No. 1, close to, and to the west of the track above mentioned. A Round Barrow of 60 feet diameter and about 6 feet high from the ditch on the north side; on the south side the slope of the barrow is almost continuous with that of the hillside. There is slight evidence of surrounding ditch. The ground around is heavily pitted with shell and bomb craters.

No. 3. This is marked on the O.S. map as being slightly west of No. 2, but owing to bombardment all trace has now disappeared.

No. 4. This is east of the Trackway, near the scarp of the hill. A Round Barrow of 40 feet diameter and 10 feet high, with a much broken crown. It is pitted with rabbit holes where a gash has been made in the top by war activity.

HAROLD F. BING.

THE COLLEGE OF ALL SAINTS, MAIDSTONE

AN interesting parchment roll has recently been acquired by the Maidstone Museum, on which is written the steward's account of the College at "Maydenstone" for the third year of Henry VI (1424).

The steward was Sir John Cook, and he gives in detail the rents, tithes, and customs of the College, and particulars of the costs of everything used in the establishment.

At this time a mason was paid 4d. a day, with food, for repairing the buildings.

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Among the receipts is mentioned a penny increase in the yearly rent of "a parcel of enclosed land next the Archbishop's Park in Westre."

An example of an occupational surname appears when William Gynmaker makes gins for fish at 8d. each.

The choristers wore flat caps known as "galettys," and shoes which cost 5d. a pair, and these boys were kept shaved by Haman Clerk from the Feast of Michaelmas to Easter at a cost of 12d.

Rents were paid to the Abbot of "Boxle," the Prior of "Ledys," and the Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, for outlying land, and "Stone" (one of the manors to the south of the town giving the name to Stone Street) is mentioned.

We learn that Robert Riperose had his expenses paid for riding to Canterbury on Maundy Thursday for "the blessed oil," and that on this day 13 poor people received 2d. each from the Master of the College.

Alms were also given to poor people "in the anniversary of William Courtney, founder."

Wax candles were made for festivals, the cost of making the wax and wicks being given in detail.

One pound of incense was bought for the Feast of Easter for 12d., and two torches were made, from resin and other materials, "towards the Feast of Christmas," at a cost of 12d.

John Carter was paid 2s. 4d. for seven gallons of wine "bought of him for celebrating masses in the Church."

The rents, tithes, and customs due to the College were paid mostly in kind, including barley, peas, oats, malt, "hoggasters" (second-year sheep), geese, nesting swans, and faggots.

At Christmas two cocks and six hens were sold for 3d., perhaps to help in the loss of the sale of straw.

"Of straw sold this year, nothing, because it was trampled by the College cattle."

This roll, many yards in length, gives a most interesting insight of the domestic arrangements of the College over 500 years ago, and its transcription, of which this is a brief note only for purpose of record, runs to 61 pages.

JOHN W. BRIDGE.

FRENCH OR FLEMISH JETTON (*Imitation of Mouton d'or*)

JETTON found in yard behind Mr. Olney's (now Mr. Clark's) butcher's shop, High Street, Elham, about 1½ years ago. Now in possession of Mrs. M. Olney, 22 Railway Avenue, Whitstable.

Obverse: Representation of the *Agnus dei*, with the legend MOUTON (S.U.I.) ??? in Lombardic letters

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Reverse : Floriated cross within a quatrefoil, with a cross paty and the word AVE between the cusps.

(Cf. laten jetton found at Godmersham by C. E. Woodruff, *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XXXIII, p. 167-8.)

The present specimen is inferior to the Godmersham and would appear to be later.

F. HIGENBOTTAM.

SHORNE PARISH RECORDS

THE earliest mention of "Bulham" in the local records is an entry in the parish poor rate accounts of 1598 (accounts interesting in themselves as preceding the famous Act of 1601) which reads :—

"Wm Ilford for Bullams Marsh for 80 acres salting vis (?) viijd. (?)."

The name crops up at irregular intervals in all the rate accounts (both Poor Rate and Church Rate) which I have examined until about the end of the eighteenth century. For instance, in the Churchwardens' accounts of 1635 it is "Bulham Marsh" and from the amount of the assessment (at 1d. an acre) it seems that the area had decreased to 60 acres by 1635. In 1781 it is called "Bulham Salts" and its rental value is stated to be £6 per annum.

There has either been further embankment since these entries or the area has shrunk considerably, as there is now only a very small area of saltings within the parish boundaries—probably less than five acres. Curiously enough I am told that Roman pottery has been found in this surviving area of saltings, and I am now awaiting a suitable occasion to visit the site to see if I can find any confirmation of that story.

The practice of the rate accounts is not to mention the name of any particular property upon which rates are charged, but a few exceptions to this rule are to be found, particular properties being mentioned again and again at irregular intervals in all the accounts. Whether this has any significance I have been unable to discover. If it had, it might provide further information about "Bulham Salts."

Although I have made enquiries of local people to see if anyone can remember "Bulham marsh" so far I have been unsuccessful. Curiously enough there is a "Bull marsh" which has been vaguely indicated by one of my informants as "near the Milton Range Halt." This Halt is, however, in Chalk Parish.

From local knowledge, I think Mr. R. F. Jessup's conjecture (*Arch. Cant.*, LV for 1942, p. 15) that "Bulan ham" is the settlement connected with the Anglo-Saxon burials discovered near the Uralite Works, is correct. There is a local story that these discoveries proved a source of pocket money to the men working in the gravel pit. It is

said that many things such as swords and the like were found by the workmen and sold by them in an unspecified market, without, alas, being recorded by anyone.

The area in which the finds were made is also the probable location of the ancient manor of Bickley, or Bichelie as it is called in Domesday. According to Domesday it had land for half a ploughland, and a mill, and the Victoria County History places this manor in the parish of Chalk. Until 1886 there was indeed between the parishes of Shorne and Higham a small area of about 124 acres which formed part of the parish of Chalk and was known as "Chalk Extra" being completely detached from that parish. The area is now incorporated in the Higham Parish.

It seems to me highly probable that this "Chalk Extra" is the old manor of Bichelie. The trackway running from the Uralite Works to Higham Church which bounds the old Chalk Extra on part of its northern boundary is known locally as Bickley Lane, and there were formerly cottages known as Bickley Cottages on this lane. Nearby is "Beckley Hill." Besides this there is still a spring which at present flows into the remains of the Canal within the Chalk Extra boundary and thence drains into a ditch which connects with the very irregular ditch forming the present Shorne-Higham Boundary. It seems to me quite a possibility that this spring and stream were formerly the site of the Mill belonging to the Domesday Bichelie, and casting even further back into the past it seems to be fairly certain that this stream was the "Merc fleot" mentioned in the Saxon Charter of 774.

A. F. ALLEN.

A NOTE ON EARLY KENT CRICKET

AMONGST the material recently left to the Society by the late Alderman R. F. Brain of Chatham is Sir Roger Twysden's¹ bound collection of papers relating to the Weald,² Romney Marsh and East Peckham. On page 341³ there commences a contemporary report of a case in the King's Bench on 12th May, 1640—Robert Spilstedd, plaintiff, against Robert Shell and Michael Steavens, defendants, in an action of trespass. The plaintiff declared that on 1st July, 14 Charles I, the defendants entered his close called Pightlake Coppice in Chevening and "did

¹ Sir Roger Twysden, Bart., of Roydon Hall in East Peckham (1597-1672).

² Smith's *Bibliotheca Cantiana*, 1837, p. 89, quotes Gough as saying "Mr. Warburton had a manuscript discourse concerning the *Weald of Kent*, by Sir Roger Twysden, Bart., on 50 pages, now in the hands of Mr. Jacob, of Faversham." The present papers were purchased before 1793 at a London sale by the Rev. Thomas William Wrighte who, in 1829, gave them to his friend, the Rev. Beale Poste.

³ The original pagination is much broken up between two volumes. The sections dealing with the Weald were originally numbered 1, 27-30, 31-32, 33-50, 51-58, 61-68, 341-2, 343-4, 345-9.

spoile and prostrate his hedges and with his Cattle did bite the Sprouts & young shoutes thereof, And pedibus ambulando did tread & consume his grasse . . . And did spoile and subverte his ground with Carriages . . . did take and carry away 400 of Hoppoles . . . Et alia Enormia." The defendants pleaded that the tithes of all the woods growing in Chevening parish belonged to Dr. Buckner, the Rector, and that they farmed them on his behalf. The reply to this was that the coppice was situated within the precincts of the Weald of Kent and "lieth 150 Rods Southward belowe the Sand Hill which is 4 miles belowe the Chalkehill." Then, surprisingly, evidence¹ is given "That about 45 years since there was a football playing and about 30 yeares since a Cricketting betweene the Weald & Upland & this Chalkehill distinguished."

To the best of my knowledge this is the earliest reliable reference to cricket in Kent and may be roughly dated 1610. Our neighbours in Surrey claim that cricket was played by boys of the free school of Guildford in or about 1550 but this record² is doubtful and it is probable that the word "crickett" in the relevant document should really be "quoits."³

The Surrey record seems to be an isolated one. On the other hand, the early records of cricket in Kent are several and conclusive. A document in the archives of Maidstone Corporation⁴ has recently been singled out for the honour of being shown in the National Book League's 1950 Exhibition of Cricket Books. It concerns a certain conversation "held on May 28th, 22 Charles I (1646) at Maidstone concerning 'unum lusum fustibul Anglice one game of cricket,' to be played on May 29th of the said year at Coxheath in the parish of Boughton Monchalsey by Thomas Harlackenden, esq., and Samuel Filmer, gentleman, of the one part, against Walter Francklyn, esq., Richard Marsh, esq., William Cooper, gentleman, and Robert Sanders, gentleman, of the other part."

Close to this in date is a reference in the Reverend George Swinnoock's *The Life and Death of Mr. Tho. Wilson, Minister of Maidstone*, printed in 1672 :—⁵

"Maidstone was formerly a very prophane Town, insomuch that I have seen Morrice dancing, Cudgel playing, Stool-ball, Crickets, and many other sports openly and publicly on the Lords Day . . . the former vain sinful customes of sports were reformed before his (Wilson's) coming."

¹ I am indebted to Mr. D. C. Coleman for noticing this passage (p. 344).

² Russell's *History of Guildford*, 1801, p. 202.

³ W. G. Grace's *Cricket*, 1891, p. 3.

⁴ K. S. Martin's *Records of Maidstone*, 1926, p. 270.

⁵ Chap. xviii, p. 40.

I make no excuse for giving this quotation in full. The first part has been quoted before¹ but not the last phrase and so the dating significance has been missed. The Reverend Thomas Wilson came to the living of Otham, on the outskirts of Maidstone, in 1630. In 1635 he was suspended from his office because of his refusal to publish the *Book of Sports* in his church and he then moved into Maidstone.² It is clear therefore that the quotation refers to a period before 1635.

In *A History of Cricket*³ Altham and Swanton mention the Churchwardens and Overseers of Eltham who in 1654 fined seven of their parishioners the sum of two shillings each for playing cricket on the Sabbath. That is an item which may be believed as it comes from a contemporary document—but what of the entry in Farrington's Diary for 1811 which puts the history of the Kent cricket ball back to c. 1560? *Fere libenter homines id quod volunt credunt.*

L. R. A. GROVE.

A PIPE-CLAY STATUETTE OF VENUS

DURING recent excavations on the site of a Roman building behind Chart Sutton church (National Grid Reference 51/804495) Mr. M. C. W. Thomas, director of operations, turned up an incomplete pipe-clay statuette of Venus.

Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler says of these figurines (*London in Roman Times*, p. 48) that they "represent an extensive industry which flourished in the Allier district of central France during the first century, A.D., and later extended to the Rhineland, where it enjoyed a considerable vogue (e.g. at Rheinzabern) throughout the second century." Dr. Wheeler points out that occasionally the figures seem to have lasted into the fourth century, as is indicated by the one found in a fourth century barrack building at Birdoswald, on Hadrian's Wall. The figurines are cast in moulds, and the majority of them fall into two classes: (1) figurines of Venus, such as this one from Chart Sutton; and (2) figures of a seated goddess suckling either one or two infants. They were sometimes placed in pipe-clay shrines, and were used probably for domestic worship—perhaps as charms rather than as definite cult-objects—and certainly as offerings at temples. Many of them, for example, have been found in the Romano-Celtic temples of Normandy.

Other sites in Great Britain which have yielded clay statuettes include London (at least eight), Wroxeter (two), Birdoswald and Richborough.

W. NEVILLE TERRY.

¹ For instance in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, VI (1947), under "Cricket."

² He became Vicar of Maidstone in 1643.

³ 4th edition, 1948, p. 21.