



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

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AT LESNES ABBEY, ERITH, KENT

Further work on the ruins of the Augustinian Abbey of Lesnes has been carried out this year under the auspices of the London County Council, directed by the writer of this note.

To the west of the known site of the Infirmary, a large building was uncovered, 36 feet long and 24 feet wide, evidently adjoining the Infirmary block to the west. This structure is very poorly constructed with thin flint rubble walls but with an inner face of chalk blocks. As it was impossible to proceed with the preservation of this walling, the whole was once again covered in, to protect the remains from the winter frosts. The purpose of this apartment is problematical. If it was associated with the Infirmary, it is difficult to suggest its purpose, as all the component parts of a normal infirmary are already accounted for (see *Lesnes Abbey*, A. W. Clapham, F.S.A., 1915, p. 58), but if it does prove to be an integral part of these buildings, the result will be a block about 140 feet long—as long as the nave of the Abbey Church—an inordinate length for such a group of buildings especially as the normal complement of canons never exceeded twelve, and generally was less. The date of this structure is probably late, nearer the fifteenth century than the thirteenth, but future examination would give more information. There was certainly a fireplace in the room, as fragmentary pieces of its hearth were uncovered.

The remainder of the season was spent on the undercroft of the Dormitory, and about two-thirds of this has been exposed and repaired. Several windows have been opened out and repaired, the large fireplace of the Warming House similarly treated, and the masonry foundations of the wooden posts that supported the Dormitory floor firmly consolidated. In one part of the east wall of this undercroft a part of the walling, marked off from the remainder by two vertical straight joints, was opened out in part and proved to be the blocking of a small flight of steps from the ground floor of the undercroft to the somewhat higher ground outside.

The whole of the season's work has made it very clear that some rewriting of the architectural history of the Abbey buildings may be necessary. It is becoming increasingly obvious that the decay of the fabric in the fourteenth-fifteenth centuries must have been far more serious than usually stated, and further it must have been due to causes other than the cost of marsh drainage, which has hitherto been the credited reason for the poverty of the house. The position of the

Warming House is a case in point. This apartment is usually (though not invariably) near to the dormitory stairs, but here at Lesnes it is far from them, and only approached by a dark and hazardous journey through storerooms and the usual clutter of a cellar. Such fittings of this "common room" that can be dated point to somewhere in the early sixteenth or late fifteenth centuries, and can only be part of a considerable re-organization of the whole of the internal economy of the community. Suspicion for the cause of all this may now be directed towards the bad government and conduct of John of Hoddesden, abbot from 1327 to 1344, details of whose career may be found in the work cited above, with fuller details in the Register of Bishop Hamo of Hythe.

F. C. ELLISTON-ERWOOD, F.S.A.,
Hon. Director of Excavations.

CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT

BELGIC. Gravel quarrying at Stodmarsh Road, Canterbury, near Trenley Park Wood, revealed the site of a Belgic settlement consisting of a boundary ditch which was seen in section at two points in the quarry. A limited excavation proved that the ditches were Belgic in date, the primary silting containing pottery which is pre-Roman in character and similar to that found on the opposite side of the Stour valley some years ago. The ditches were found to be V-shaped in section, about 3 feet deep and 9 feet wide.

ROMAN. The development of land for building purposes has revealed the sites of three Roman kilns. One of these, a tile kiln, was the normal rectangular up-draught type having a system of four cross-flues in the combustion chamber. Fragments of late second-century Roman pottery were found in the layer of ash on the floor of the main flue channel, and a coin of Geta, a base denarius, lay in the tightly packed filling of burnt clay which choked one of the cross-vents. A pottery kiln of the normal circular up-draught type was also examined. Much of the oven floor was found to be intact. This was supported upon cross-walls built of clay and broken tiles, and so arranged to form flat-bottomed cross-vents which led the heat through circular holes in the floor, into the oven. A large group of pottery found in the kiln and its stokehole pit is of early second-century type.

A few yards to the east of this kiln trenching for main drainage sectioned a pit of unusual shape. As seen in section this resembled an inverted funnel about 2 ft. 9 in. deep, 6 ft. wide at the bottom and 4 ft. wide at the top. It had evidently been dug from the original ground level which lies about 2 ft. below the present-day ground level. The lowest filling consisted of much burnt clay and charcoal containing a quantity of iron slag in the form of "sows" and hemispherical lumps

evidently formed in crucibles. A few fragments of Roman pottery were also present, and it seems that the feature belongs to a Roman Bloomery, the pit being perhaps a receptacle for the waste derived from the industry or in view of its peculiar shape perhaps part of the furnace which may lie outside the excavated area.

A third kiln of the circular up-draught type was found in the same area on land over which the Canterbury—London A2 by-pass road will eventually cross. The floor of the kiln was found *in situ* and was supported upon a central tongue-shaped wall. This floor consisted of a number of large ingot-shaped clay bars set in a radial fashion with the outer ends resting upon the rim of the combustion chamber, with very narrow spaces between them to allow the heat to pass into the oven. The pottery found in the ash on the bottom of the combustion chamber, as also in the stokehole pit filling, was of unusual interest, as much of it represented jars having two or more handles placed around the wide mouth which was decorated in a frilled manner. Below this neck was a crudely made human face, five examples of which have been found. This type of vessel belongs to the early second century and there is no reason for doubting that it was one of the products of this kiln. It is clear that the kiln was modified in construction during the time that it was active. In view of the many chalk lumps found in the filling of the stokehole pit it is possible that later it was converted for the purpose of lime burning.

In September of this year trenching for Post Office telephone work half way up Bridge Hill on the Dover side of the village of Bridge, partly under the pavement on the north side of the Dover Road, revealed human remains. Upon excavation over a considerable area three inhumated burials were found. These were lying close together side by side with the skeletons lying in a supine position in an approximately south-west to north-east direction with the skull to the south-west. In one grave were two small Roman pottery jugs of fourth-century type placed at the feet of the skeleton on the right side of the grave, where a small platform of chalk had been left to accommodate them. These graves no doubt belong to the cemetery found in this area many years ago, which produced Roman pottery now in Liverpool Museum.

Excavations for the foundations of the new Corn Exchange under construction at Market Way, St. Stephen's Road, Canterbury, sectioned a number of pits containing many fragments of Roman tile "wasters." These pits lie close to the site of the Roman tile kiln excavated by the writer some years ago, and probably belong to the same industry. A full report on that kiln has been recently published in *The Antiquaries Journal*.

MEDIEVAL. Acting upon information received from Major Burns of Elham, the writer visited Atchester Wood, near the village of

Bossingham, in company with Mr. Sheppard Frere. In this wood, which covers the high spur of ground overlooking Lynsore Court, there are a number of low earthworks consisting of many flint stones, evidently the overgrown foundations of a complex system of walls. Here the ground is littered with many fragments of flat roofing tiles of medieval type, and at one point a small fragment of a typical cooking pot of the same date was picked up. In view of this evidence it seems that the site is Medieval and is possibly part of the old manor of Lynsore to which the land still belongs.

FRANK JENKINS.

THE LULLINGSTONE ROMAN VILLA

The road that had concealed for so long the east frontage of the villa no longer remains an obstruction to archaeological research. Early in 1956 a new diversionary road was constructed by the Kent County Council, a public-spirited action which has enabled the fullest examination of the area to take place.

Sponsored by the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works, and by the Society of Antiquaries of London, the main excavation was devoted to recovering the fallen debris of the east part of the Romano-Christian chapel. A vast quantity of painted plaster came to light, but it was found necessary to defer the meticulous work in the lowest, and most important, levels, until the summer of 1957. Much of the original fourth-century masonry construction was recovered. This included sections of walls and a large and deep window, or perhaps a door, of tile and pink mortar, together with part of a large and imposing pillar of moulded pinkish limestone. The Christian altar slab, if it exists, still eludes the excavators. It may yet lie deeply buried; but such evidence is vital to a precise interpretation of the Christian chapel. Several fragments of plaster show a definite Christian motif and still further reinforce the Christianity of the upper room. An interesting adjunct at this point in the excavations has been a quantity of pottery sherds of rough, hand-made fabric, which, together with fragments of late fourth-century Roman wares, went in on top of the fallen debris of the Chapel. This pottery may therefore provide a more accurate dating for the destruction of the Chapel than that already advanced (c. 400 A.D.). Mr. C. D. P. Nicholson, F.S.A., conducted the excavation of the Chapel throughout the season with his usual skill.

Removal of the park drive at the south end of the site revealed, as was expected, the cold plunge baths, thus completing the Bath Block range. They are of two sizes, adjacent to each other, and constructed of pink mortar. Their floors were originally tiled, but extensive robbing of these tiles took place in the Middle Ages.

Short of the finds in connection with the Christian chapel, the most

intriguing discovery was made at the north end of the villa, and involved the Basement Room, the converging flights of tiled steps, and the corridors with their walls of clay surrounding on three, possibly four, sides a single square room with a floor of crushed brick (*Arch. Cant.*, Vol. LXV, Fig. 18, and Vol. LXVI, Fig. 8). The whole of this "clay wall" complex was excavated, and large slabs of fallen wall plaster were successfully raised. These disclosed the same "palm and panel" decoration as that found adorning the walls of the Basement Room. The colours throughout are red, green and yellow, and the palm branches, which spring vertically from the floor levels, have fronds spreading out on either side; the colour is either yellow or green. This decoration is of second-century date and is confined to the Basement Room, the flights of stairs, and the square "clay wall" complex on its north side.

It now appears that the Basement Room was at this time sunk into the surrounding ground to a depth of four feet, an exterior entrance being now problematical. It may well be that the whole complex was approached from within the house, down the principal flight of stairs. The significance of this is not yet understood, but the curious and interesting construction may have had some pagan cult purpose. Much of this "palm and panel" decoration still remains *in situ* in one corner of the Basement Room, and full excavation in 1957 will help to clear up the whole problem. The late fourth-century Christian rooms above appear to have no connection with the second-century pagan apartments beneath and to the north; these had long since fallen in ruin before Christianity came to the villa.

The work of this season has been carried out by a large team of students and experienced archaeologists in a very efficient manner. Especially was this so in the meticulous work in excavating the Christian and pagan plaster; while the skill and intelligence shown in excavating the clay walls from their surrounding fallen clay was beyond praise. Much help and encouragement was received from many sources, among which must be particularly mentioned with gratitude Mr. W. H. Gough-Cooper of Wilmington and Mr. H. Hutt of Swanley, both of whom provided equipment which greatly lightened the work. Among the interested general public, large numbers of schools visited the site, whose educational advantages are clearly very great; and it is due to the organizing and lecturing abilities of Mr. R. J. Rook that their visits, often repeated, were so successful. Excavation is scheduled to recommence early in 1957.

G. W. MEATES.

KITS COTY HOUSE

In August, 1956, certain members of the Aylesford Society and other interested students carried out some investigation in the field containing

the remains of the barrow of Kits Coty House. Although an accurate measurement is today impossible, our observations throw a little more light on this problem. We suggest the following: Length, between 170 and 180 ft., and width, assuming that Dr. Stukeley's drawing is correct, an average of 44 ft. A clearer view of the barrow was obtained when the crop was harvested. This would approximate to the larger outline suggested by Mr. John Evans, and shown in Fig. 1 B of his interesting paper on "Kentish Megalith Types."¹

Along the northern foot of the barrow some 60 ft. from the chamber and 22 ft. from the centre line of the barrow, a large stone of the peristalith was removed in 1947. On the same side, but much nearer the barrow other stones remain buried; Ayleway, it will be remembered, described the peristalith associated with Kits Coty House.²

Some elongated depressions on the north side of the remains of the barrow would seem to indicate the former existence of a ditch on this side.

A trial trench dug towards the south at right angles to the main axis of the barrow and almost half way along its length, revealed the possibility of a ditch in undisturbed chalk which was 12 ft. 6 in. below the existing remains of the barrow. It would seem that this ditch had been filled up with earth from the barrow to permit the cultivation of the field.

SMYTHE'S MEGALITH

An interesting addition to our knowledge of this megalith, discovered in 1823, but first published by Mr. John Evans in *Arch. Cant.*, LXI, 135, came to light in November, 1955. Once again, as 130 years before, the farmer found obstruction from large stones when ploughing in the same field as that in which the megalith was discovered. I obtained his permission to investigate, and after some removal of soil found two stones lying north and south 585 ft. north-west of the White Horse Wood from a point 125 ft. west of the White Horse Stone, and 345 ft. west of the western edge of Westfield Wood. N.G.R. 753605. This position is some 300 ft. south-east of the site of Smythe's Megalith as shown on the Bensted map of 1863 and is also the position which, as explained by Mr. Evans, will appear in the future 6-inch O.S. Sheet XXXI S.E., for the site shown on Sheet XXXI N.E. is inaccurate.

The stones lay 8 ft. apart and measured (1) 8 ft. long, 5 ft. 6 in. wide and up to 20 in. thick; (2) 50 in. by 43 in. and up to 16 in. thick. They are thus in the same class as those of the megalith as regards size, but can hardly be those uncovered in 1823 since it is recorded that these were dragged off the field, as was customary in such cases. Nor could

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXIII, 64.

² As quoted, *loc. cit.*

they be the stones of a possible peristalith of the megalith, for they are too far away from it, assuming that Bensted's siting is accurate, and that the stones themselves have not been moved previously. Possibly we have here the remains of yet another burial chamber.

In April, 1956, the farmer, worried by the number of plough point breakages, decided to remove the stones. With great difficulty he towed the smaller stone to the south of the field, but the larger one could only be moved out of its hole. Fortunately for us we can now view this stone from a distance and notice that, in spite of the gentle undulation of the field, it can be clearly seen set in a low east to west mound.

THE GENERAL'S TOMBSTONE

It will be recalled that Stukeley¹ in his view of Kits Coty House dated 15th October, 1722, shows a huge Sarsen stone some distance from the northern end of the barrow, towards the east. This was later generally known as the General's Tombstone, but by Beale Poste called The Altar Stone,² and he recorded that it had been buried by Bentham, the then tenant of the land, in 1787. Later, however, it was stated that a field labourer, Thomas Costin,³ blew it to pieces with gunpowder in 1867. Having been informed by the ploughman that a huge stone existed here, I obtained permission to inspect it. So in April, 1956, the top and western side of the stone was exposed to view, some photographs were obtained of it, and its measurements found to be: length 6 ft., width 6 ft., and 20 in. maximum thickness. The western edge presents a particularly straight cut, unusual for these stones, as if it had been broken off from its original section. The distance of 80 yards from the barrow is correct, and it is 89 ft. from the western hedge of the field. It is quite possible that any one of the three large stones drawn by Stukeley in the south-western part of the field might have acquired the name.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. John Evans for his help and advice in the compiling of this note, and to Mr. Veitch and Mr. Tipples for permission to dig on their land; and to Messrs. G. Garrett, M. Ocock, L. Parris and others who have given their time unsparingly.

ALAN MCCRERIE.

CHALK, GRAVESEND—ROMAN REMAINS

In the same gravel pit as that mentioned in my paper in *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII, 144, the remains of an up-draught kiln of type II Grimes

¹ Stukeley, *Iter. Our.*, 2nd Ed., 1776, Plate 31 2 d (1722).

² *Arch. Cant.*, LXII, 133.

³ This Costin lived at Brick-on-Edge Cottage, at the junction of the Pilgrim's Way with the main road, and now replaced by a modern house, next door to the Petrol Filling Station. It was Costin who, in 1882, assisted in the levelling of the Kits Coty Barrow.

(Y Cymmroder) has been found with the remains of another kiln beside it which had been partially destroyed. There were no datable finds in the kiln, but the pottery would appear to be of the first to second century type. Near by a rubbish trench was discovered of an earlier date with first century type pottery, including five miniature pots only 2 in. in height.

SHORNE: THE LOST VILLAGE OF MERSTON

Whilst ploughing on the site of the lost medieval village of Merston a ploughman uncovered part of a fourteenth-century coffin slab. Excavation on the site has revealed the foundations of Merston Church, the whereabouts of which have been a matter of conjecture for many years. The foundations (which are at approximately N.G. Ref. 704722) show that the Church was a simple aisleless apsidal building, its dimensions being 19 ft. by 52 ft. These dimensions agree as to width with those reported by Hasted in his history, but the length is greater. The curved apse on the eastern end has never been recorded and must have vanished before Hasted's time. Excavations are proceeding, but so far no other discoveries have been made on this site.

A. F. ALLEN.

FIRST-CENTURY POTTERY FROM TEMPLE HILL, DARTFORD

During the initial stages of constructing an extension on the west side of Temple Hill County Primary School (National Grid Reference 551749) in June, 1955, the builders' trenches showed sections of a number of dark-filled depressions in the Boyn Hill gravel. From the trench spoil, and also from the dark fillings, Mr. D. H. Phillips, a master at the school, collected a quantity of first-century coarse pottery with some animal bones and teeth. The depressions were evidently rubbish pits and indicate a settlement at this point, though no tiles or traces of a stone building were observed.

The pottery is typologically slightly later than that from a similarly situated site at Crayford,¹ and may be confidently referred to the second half of the first century A.D. Cordons appear on several sherds, and the assemblage has a strong Belgic character. Two Patch Grove vessels are represented, and also a flagon of Richborough type 188 dated to A.D. 50-80. Altogether about a dozen vessels can be identified from the recovered sherds.

At the same time, slightly to the south-east, trenches were being dug in connection with the building of a new Roman Catholic school bordering the north side of Littlebrook Manor Way. Here also the workmen disturbed pottery, but in this case the vessels seem to have been

¹ *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 1938 (Jan.-July), pp. 151-68.

associated with cremation burials, and pieces of calcined bone were recovered from the spoil. The finds include a Samian form 18 (Drag.) and part of a Ritterling 8; also a vessel closely resembling Cheriton No. 14¹ which is dated by association to A.D. 80-90. It appears that the pottery in this second group is all roughly contemporary with that discovered on the nearby Primary School site. Approximately fifteen vessels are to be identified by the collected sherds, a few being almost complete and others represented by single fragments. It is now impossible to associate the vessels in their original burial groups.

Early Iron Age and Romano-British pottery has been found in times past at many points on this spread of 100 ft. terrace gravel between Crayford and Northfleet, and it is apparent that the area, which no doubt consisted then of well-drained, unforested heathland overlooking the Thames, was attractive to settlement during that period.

The finds from the Primary School site are being kept by the school for instructional purposes. Some of the vessels from the other site are now in the possession of Dartford Museum.

P. J. TESTER.

A ROMAN BURIAL AT BEXLEYHEATH

A note in *Arch. Cant.*, XLVII, xlv, mentions the discovery "at Bexley" of a Roman urn and accessory vessel. As a result of recent enquiries I have established that the actual find-spot was "in the vicinity of Mr. Sheldon's Farm, Long Lane, Bexleyheath"² (approximately National Grid Reference 491763), over half a mile north of Watling Street as represented by the existing Dover Road. In view of the rarity of such discoveries hereabouts I take an opportunity of recording the information I have collected.³

The vessels came to light in August, 1934, as a result of digging connected with building operations undertaken by Messrs. W. H. Wedlock Limited, who presented the finds to Dartford Museum⁴ (Fig. 1).

The urn is of dark grey ware and has a low cordon at the base of its collar-neck and a shallow girth-groove about its shoulder. A small quantity of bone fragments remains in the vessel, but these are insufficient to provide any anatomical evidence. Most of the human remains were apparently taken out at the time of the discovery or soon after. In form the urn may be compared with Ospringe 684,⁵ which is described

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXII (1949), p. 27.

² This information was kindly communicated by the finders in October 1952.

³ F. C. J. Spurrell noted the occurrence of Roman coins at Bexleyheath and Upton in *Arch. Cant.*, XVIII, p. 313.

⁴ Mr. S. Atkin, A.L.A., has kindly permitted publication of this material in his charge.

⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, XXXIX, p. 41.

as mid-first century. Another parallel is Cheriton 22,¹ which was associated with Samian ware of A.D. 100-110, or a little earlier.

Accompanying the urn was a small flask-shaped vessel of orange-red ware with buff slip. It is now in a damaged condition, but upon close examination I find it to possess indications of having been an infant's feeding-bottle. The nipple is missing, but its former presence is proved

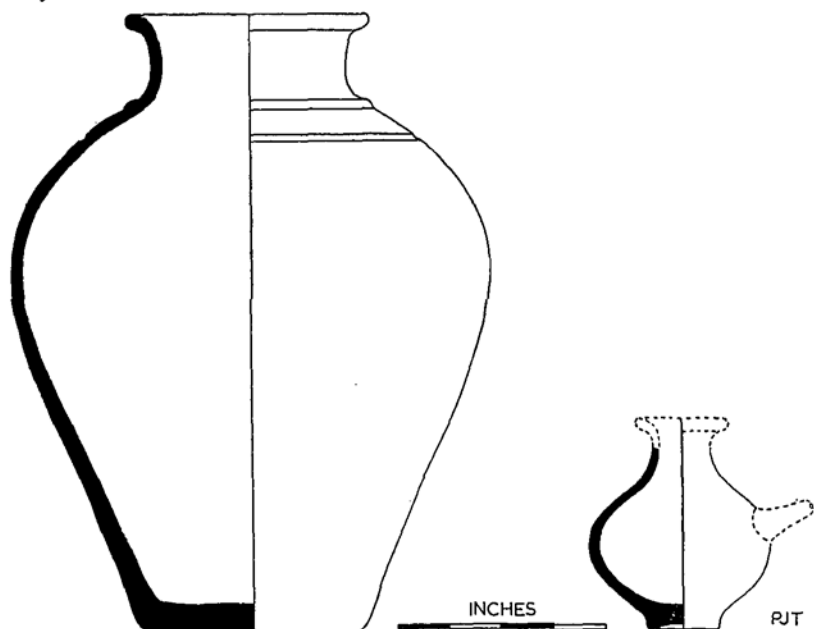


FIG. 1. Roman burial, Bexleyheath.

beyond dispute by a small round hole in one side surrounded by a roughly circular scar $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. It resembles Ospringle 542 and Richborough 325, the latter being assigned to A.D. 80-120.²

An article by Mr. A. D. Lacaille, F.S.A., on the early use of feeding-bottles occurred in the *Archæological News Letter*, Vol. 4, No. 7, March-April, 1952. There he shows that European examples of such vessels go back to Neolithic times, and he suggests that a sheath made from a cow's or a calf's udder was probably fitted over the earthenware spout to avoid injury to the mouth of a young child.

P. J. TESTER.

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXII, p. 29.

² Other Kentish feeding bottles of Roman age are illustrated in *Arch. Cant.*, XXXIX, p. 44; V, p. 29; and XX, p. 53.

SARZEN GROUP NEAR ACTON FARM, CHARING

In a field on the south side of the main road between Lenham and Charing there occurs a row of sarzens, 20 yards long, parallel with the road and about 40 yards from it (National Grid Reference 936504). These stones, some of which stand upright, have the appearance of being part of a megalithic monument, but investigation has shown that they lie on the course of an old field boundary and almost certainly owe their present arrangement to this fact.

Large sarzens occur naturally in the fields hereabouts. Many have been dragged off by the farmers and can now be seen where they were left at the foot of the hedgerows. If the hedges are eventually removed and the boundaries altered, these sarzens may also remain in alignments to arouse the curiosity of future archæologists.

P. J. TESTER.

AN ANGLO-SAXON OCCUPATION-SITE AT DARTFORD

An interesting archæological discovery was made in July, 1955, in the area covered by the Wellcome Chemical Works. During alterations to one of the buildings¹ a hole about a yard square was made through the concrete floor and continued downward into the soil for some distance. At a depth of about 3 ft. there were encountered animal bones, sherds of coarse hand-made pottery and a bone pin. The finds were rescued by our member, Mr. D. Stephenson, B.Sc., who went to considerable trouble to collect all the available evidence.

On being shown the pottery I tentatively identified it as Anglo-Saxon, and this has since been confirmed by the expert opinions of Mr. G. C. Dunning, Sir Cyril and Lady Fox, Professor Christopher Hawkes, Mr. R. Merrifield and Dr. J. N. L. Myers.

The nature of the discovery suggests the presence of an Anglo-Saxon occupation-site, perhaps a hut floor, and in view of the rarity of these it is particularly regrettable that further exploration is precluded by the extension of the thick concrete floor over the area surrounding the small excavation referred to and from which all the finds here described were obtained.

The site is on the east slope of the Darent valley, just below the 50-ft. contour, and about 150 yards from the course of the river. Geologically it lies on a narrow strip of chalk which outcrops from beneath the wide expanse of 100-ft. Terrace gravel to the east, while the Low Level Alluvium and Brickearth intervene on the west between the find-spot and the river. The confluence of the Darent and the Thames is two miles northward, the former being still navigable for

¹ The building (No. 119) is shown on the O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet IX N.W. (1938), its N.E. corner lying just S.W. of Nat. Grid Ref. 546746. The hole was dug near its S.E. corner.

small craft to about the position of the Wellcome works. About 600 yards south is the site of the ancient ford where the Roman Watling Street crossed the Darent, a feature from which Dartford derives its name and much of its historical importance.

Many archaeological discoveries of Anglo-Saxon age have been made in the Darent Valley, a list of these appearing in *Arch. Cant.*, LIV (1941), p. 26.

THE POTTERY (Fig. 2). The close dating of this pottery is by no means easy. Dr. Myers, who for nearly twenty years has been collecting material for a census of pagan Anglo-Saxon pottery, has declared that the rim forms are unfamiliar to him in vessels of the pagan period. On the other hand, I find a close similarity to some of the pottery from the important sixth-century pagan cemetery at Riseley, in the parish of Horton Kirby, four miles south of Dartford,¹ particularly with regard to paste, coloration and hardness. Only simple rims of the type of No. 1 figured here occurred at Riseley, but "straw-filling" is evident in both groups, that is to say, the fractured edges show the inclusion of streaks of carbonized matter, evidently chopped straw mixed with the clay to give it greater stability while the pot was being moulded by the fingers. Signs of this often occur on the surface where particles of straw have burnt out, leaving marks like short, shallow scratches. Mr. Sheppard Frere is of the opinion that straw-filled ware may have been still in use at Canterbury in the seventh century.² The Dartford pottery shows no traces of shell-filling, hard paste or wheel-turning, which occur in late Saxon wares.

After some consideration I have formed the opinion that a seventh century age is not improbable, mainly because some of the rims appear to be slightly more evolved than any of the late sixth-century examples from Riseley,³ while the similarity in other respects between the wares from both sites implies that no very great interval separated their manufacture.

1. Large cooking pot with everted rim. Burnished black ware. This form of vessel occurs from the sixth to the eighth century. The smooth profile of this example seems to indicate an early date, as the later forms often display greater angularity. Cf. *London and the Saxons* (1935), p. 156, No. 2, from Mortlake, and p. 134, No. 1, from the pagan cemetery at Ewell.

2. Cooking pot with flattened bead-rim and decoration of shallow

¹ *Transactions of the Dartford District Antiquarian Society*, Number VIII, 1938. Also *Arch. Cant.*, LIII (1940), p. 142.

² *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII (1954), p. 124.

³ Dr. Myers has examined drawings of all the Riseley pottery which I recently sent him in connection with his census, and he informs me that he regards these vessels as late sixth century, with one possible exception. The pottery, with the rest of the material from this cemetery, is in Dartford Museum.

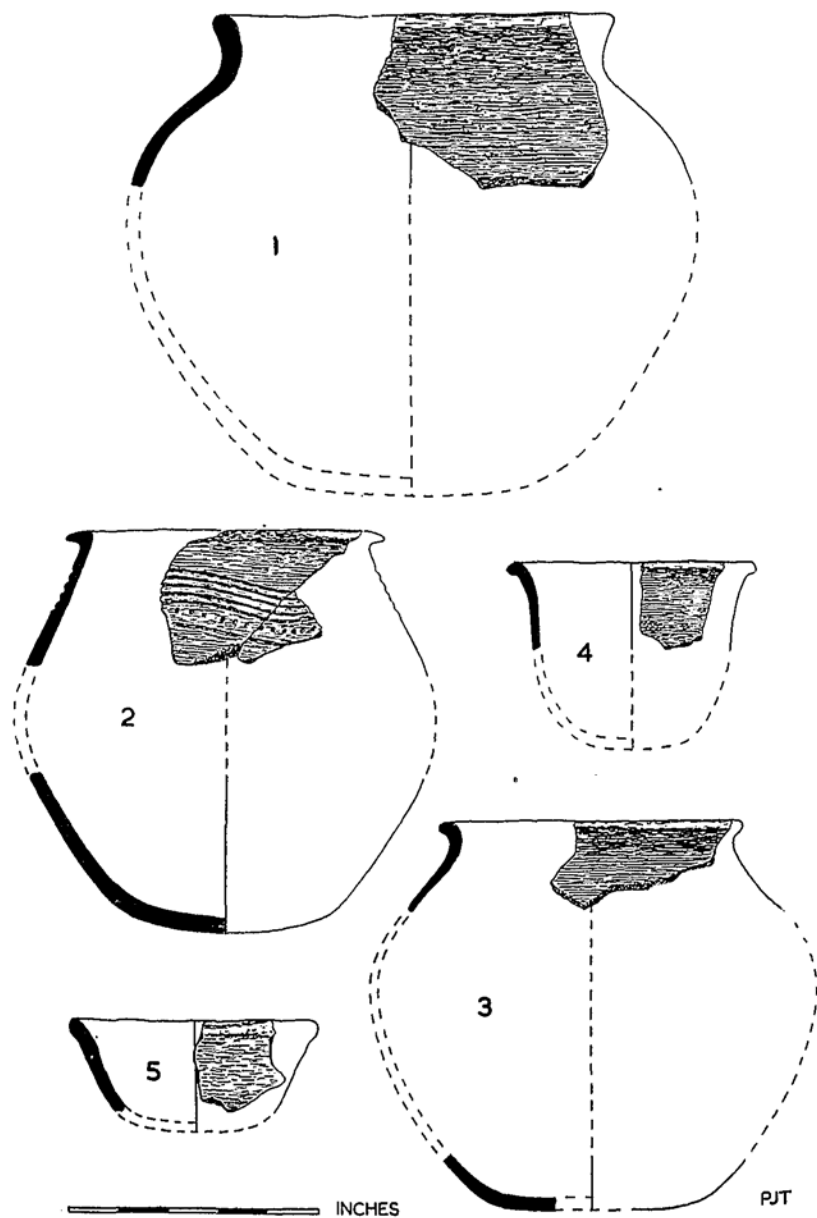


FIG. 2. Anglo-Saxon pottery, Dartford.

parallel grooves forming an undulating band round neck. Between the lowest two grooves is a band of stabbing. Black ware burnt to lighter shades on the outer surface, particularly on the base which is also burnished. It is not entirely certain that the rim and base belonged to the same vessel, but the probability is considered sufficiently strong to warrant the reconstruction shown. This resembles a vessel from Hanwell figured in *London and the Saxons*, p. 137, No. 1, and regarded as late fifth or sixth century.

3. Cooking pot with everted, thickened rim. The associated fragment of base probably belonged to the same vessel. Both are of burnished black ware.

4. Small bowl or cup with irregular, slightly thickened rim. Burnished black ware. Cf. *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII (1954), p. 123, No. 115, possibly seventh or eighth century, from the Rose Lane sites at Canterbury.

5. Small, shallow bowl with suggestion of irregular and faintly developed bead-rim. Black surface internally but burnt to a greyish-brown on the outside.

BONE PIN (Fig. 3). This has apparently been made by rubbing down a rib, the broad, flat head still retaining the natural shape of the end of the bone except for the perforation, which is now broken away



FIG. 3. Bone pin, Dartford.

at the top. Length 3.9 inches. A very similar pin is figured by T. C. Lethbridge in *Merlin's Island* (1948), p. 48, among a group of objects described as sixth-seventh century types.

ANIMAL BONES. Most of these were splintered and very fragmentary, suggesting that they had been split to extract the marrow. The British Museum (Natural History) kindly identified the bones as those of ox, pig and sheep. The remains of these three animals are commonly found on Saxon sites.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. The credit for this discovery belongs to Mr. Stephenson, without whose interest the finds would almost certainly have gone unreported. Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome Ltd. have kindly allowed me to inspect the find-spot and have presented the material to Maidstone Museum.

P. J. TESTER.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY FOUND IN BEXLEY CHURCH

For many years there have lain in the vestry of St. Mary's Church a damaged medieval jug together with sherds of another green-glazed vessel, accompanied by a label bearing this interesting information:

These fragments of earthenware vases were found buried 18 inches deep in the North wall of the Chancel of St Marys Bexley and about 2 feet above the level of the floor.

At the bottom of the higher vessel a substance was found which under the microscope appeared to be the remains of a piece of parchment.

The Vessels were evidently built into the wall when originally constructed.

It is known that the discovery was made during the restoration of the church in 1883.

The taller jug (Fig. 4, No. 1) is of grey ware with a thin, patchy green glaze. The other (No. 2), which is less complete, is of buff clay

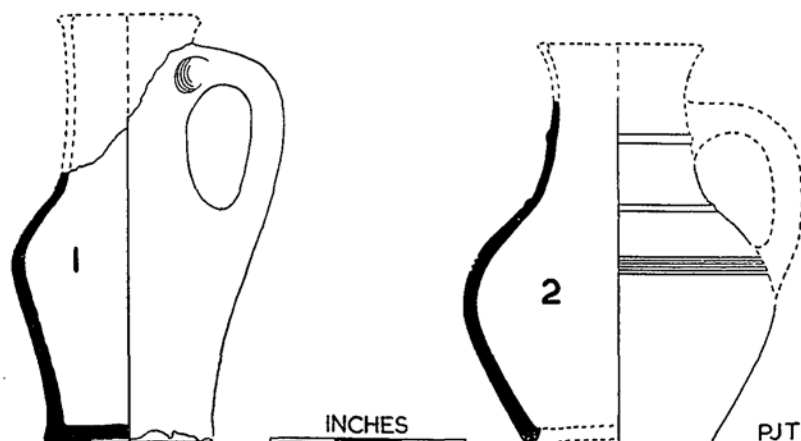


FIG. 4. Medieval pottery, Bexley Church.

with a speckled green-glazed surface. The reconstruction of the lip and handle is based on a similar vessel in the Guildhall Museum.

Our member, Mr. R. Merrifield, F.S.A., Assistant Keeper of the Guildhall Museum, has kindly examined these jugs and in his opinion they are fifteenth century in type. No. 2 is probably late within this period, though the other jug might be a little earlier. This raises a difficulty in respect of the statement contained in the last sentence on the label quoted above, for no part of the north wall of the chancel is

later than the fourteenth century and most of it is earlier. This is shown in the historical plan of the church by Mr. F. C. Elliston-Erwood, F.S.A., in *Arch. Cant.*, LXV, p. 141. There is thus reason for supposing that the jugs were in fact inserted in the wall after its construction.

Numerous instances are recorded of pottery vessels being found embedded in the walls of medieval churches, and the opinion is commonly held that they were placed there with the intention of improving the acoustic properties of the building. Sometimes these "acoustic jars" appear to have been made especially for the purpose, as at Luppitt, Devon, where jars of a peculiar form, not like ordinary domestic pots, were found blocking the inner openings of putlog-holes going through the entire thickness of the chancel walls. On stripping off the plaster a number of these jars were revealed lying on their sides with their mouths towards the interior of the building. The Luppitt jars are said to resemble some found in Leeds Church, Kent.¹

Occasionally ordinary domestic pots were placed in church walls, presumably with the same intention. Where the age of the vessels can be judged it is often found that they are of fifteenth-century origin.

The "acoustic jar" theory is, however, by no means universally accepted, and the real purpose for which the two vessels were enclosed in the wall of Bexley Church must remain, therefore, a matter for speculation.

P. J. TESTER.

ROMAN SITE AT BETSHAM

The position of a Roman site is marked on the 1-in. O.S. Sheet No. 171, N.G.R. 586714. The site was first discovered in 1895 and was confirmed without excavation by the late G. Payne who was engaged in excavating the nearby Darenth villa.

At the present time the area is covered by an apple orchard, and digging is made difficult due to the proximity of tree roots. The ground around the site is strewn with flints which have been turned up by the plough.

Trial trenches undertaken during the spring of this year (1956) to determine the nature of the site revealed a flat-bottomed ditch 16 ft. long, 2 ft. 9 in. wide by 2 ft. deep, terminating in what appeared to be a hearth.

The ditch contained a filling of broken tiles, burrs, and mortared flints in a matrix of black organic material. The sides of this ditch showed evidence of having been subjected to intense heat.

The hearth was of horseshoe shape, 2 ft. wide by 3 ft., lined with burnt clay, heavily covered with a dark green fused substance. As the

¹ An account of the Luppitt jars, and others found in similar circumstances at Ashburton, appeared in *The Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, Volume XXXVIII (1882), pp. 218-21.

entire site is on Thanet Sand, the clay must have been brought from a distance. A marked feature of the excavation was the total absence of any pottery sherds and the intensely burnt appearance of the Thanet Sand within the ditch.

It would appear that the site was perhaps an industrial one rather than domestic, and as a time limit had been imposed by the landowner it was impossible to determine more fully the extent of these features. See *V.C.H. of Kent*, III, 113; also *Arch. Cant.*, XXII, 51.

J. E. L. CAIGER.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL. EXCAVATION OF CELLARERS HALL

During November, 1955, exploratory trenches were dug in the grounds of 29 Precincts, to establish if any remains of the monastic buildings have survived. At various depths of 1 to 2 ft. the main outer walls 4 ft. 6 in. thick were uncovered. On the west lining up with the fragment of the building (formerly the Buttery) adjoining the Old Palace and on the north returning to the monastic kitchen building abutting upon the Archdeacon of Canterbury's house.

Portions of medieval floor tiling were found. Until the Dean and Chapter completely uncover the site and that of the Refectory, the plan of these buildings remains a buried secret.

C. W. WALKER.

CRAY VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT (1952)

MESOLITHIC PERIOD

(a) NORTH CRAY. (Stable Meadow Allotments) Nat. Grid Ref.: 486/722.

Flint implements, consisting of blades, cores, micro-cores, and scrapers, identified by the British Museum as "definitely Mesolithic," were amongst surface finds. Excavation of certain circular soil-discolorations may disclose the existence of a settlement.

NEOLITHIC PERIOD

(b) ST. PAULS CRAY. (St. Paulinus Churchyard) Nat. Grid Ref.: 4744/6908.

The haft part of a flint sickle was discovered, near a newly-dug grave. The implement had been fractured in antiquity.

(c) NORTH CRAY. (Bedens Field) Nat. Grid Ref.: 481/712.

A leaf-shaped arrow head of pale whitish flint, beautifully worked on both faces, was a "scatter" find, together with a partially polished part of the cutting edge from a Neolithic celt of narrow convex cross-section. A similar polished celt was found nearby on Pilgrims Hill, St. Pauls Cray. (See E. Greenfield, *Trans. Dart. Dist. Antiq. Soc.*, 1936.)

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

(d) NORTH CRAY. (Stable Meadow Allotments) Nat. Grid Ref.: 4855/7220.

A Neolithic arrow head, leaf-shaped, of pale brownish flint, was excavated during the laying of the piped water supply. It is extensively worked on one side with, however, only a slight retouch on the other. This is an unusual feature.

BRONZE AGE

(e) ST. PAULS CRAY. (St. Barnabas Church site) Nat. Grid Ref.: 4650/6915.

Hundreds of flint flakes, cores and implements, identified as being exclusively of the Early Bronze Age, were found in and about a small settlement (now destroyed) which existed on the hill-top in the area formerly known as Broomwood, now part of the L.C.C. estate.

(f) NORTH CRAY. (Bedens Field) Nat. Grid Ref.: 4798/7108.

Quantities of flint tools belonging to the Bronze Age were collected from the field surface in limited localities. They included some fine examples of flint discoidal scrapers.

ROMAN PERIOD

(g) ST. PAULS CRAY. (Sevenoaks Way, Find-spot) Nat. Grid Ref.: 471/686.

A tetradrachm coin of the emperor Probus (c. A.D. 279), minted at Alexandria, was found by Mr. Scot of "Springvale," Sevenoaks Way, in his front garden. Other coins from this area included a third brass of Constantius II (A.D. 323-350) (see E. Greenfield, *Trans. Dart. Dist. Antiq. Soc.*, 1936).

(h) ST. PAULS CRAY. (Gravel Pits, Sandy Lane) Nat. Grid Ref.: 475/700.

Remains from a Roman building discovered during the excavation of the Gravel Pits (1936) consist of tegulae, box-flue tile, and first-century pottery.

(i) NORTH CRAY. (Bedens Field) Nat. Grid Ref.: 4795/7115.

The foundations of a Roman building have been discovered near the River Cray. Objects recovered from a preliminary investigation included hypocaust tiles, tegulae, painted wall plaster, quern and pottery pieces. It is hoped to continue exploration of this interesting site some time in the near future.

(j) NORTH CRAY. (Stable Meadow Allotments) Nat. Grid Ref.: 485/723.

Roman debris from a building, yet to be positively located, includes many fragments of flanged and box-flue tile, besides "wattle and daub." Other occupational remains consist of some hundreds of fragments of pottery, mortaria, and quern. The pottery dates from the first to the third century.

A. J. J. PARSONS.

A HOARD OF ROMAN FOLLES FROM BROMLEY

On 27th January, 1955, boys of Hayesford Raglan Secondary School at Bromley, while digging a long-jump pit in the sports field, dug up a pot containing Roman coins, and subsequent digging produced more coins which brought the total to 300. The Kent Education Committee sent the coins for examination to the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum.

The find consisted exclusively of tin- or silver-washed bronze coins, the so-called *folles*, first introduced by the emperor Diocletian somewhere about A.D. 295. The accompanying table shows that the coins range in time from about A.D. 295 to the reign of Constantine as Augustus, probably about A.D. 308. The mints represented are those of the Western Empire except for Antioch which is represented by only one coin. A feature of note is the good proportion of coins from a mint which did not sign its output, probably the mint of London, whose later signed coins are also well represented.

The hoard has been examined in conjunction with three others of the same period, and it is intended to publish (in the *Numismatic Chronicle*) the full detailed description of them, including Bromley, together with a consideration of the evidence furnished by them.

The pot in which the Bromley coin-hoard was found is 6.9 inches high. The ware is moderately fine, fairly hard and brown to grey in colour. The vessel is roughly made, apparently by hand except for the rim which was probably finished on the wheel. There are smoothed zones above the base and below the rim; the intervening part of the surface is matt.

There is a black deposit on the inside of the pot. Dr. A. E. Werner, of the British Museum Research Laboratory, reports that this "appears to me to be carbonaceous matter, having no particular recognizable structure. It is the kind of deposit which one might expect to find inside a cooking-pot." There seems to be no reason to think that the deposit may be the remains of a cloth or leather bag, in which the coins were contained within the pot.

Two sherds from pots other than that containing the coins were associated with the find; one of these is of indeterminate coarse ware, the other is of coarse grey Roman fabric.

The pot may be regarded as belonging to the class of late Romano-British cooking-vessels represented, for instance, at Verulamium (f.n. R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium*, Fig. 38, No. 83) and Richborough (f.n. First Report, Pl. XXV, No. 57; Second Report, Pl. XXXI, No. 149; Third Report, Pl. XL, No. 334; Fourth Report, Pl. XCIV, No. 475). An unusual feature of the Bromley pot is the convex or "sagging" base.

J. W. BRAILSFORD.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

DISTRIBUTION BY EMPERORS AND MINTS

Emperors	Unmarked	London	Treveri	Lugdunum	Ticinum	Rome	Carthage	Antioch	Total
Diocletian ..	10	—	25	4	—	1	2	—	42
Diocletian (abdicated) ..	6	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	11
Maximian ..	11	—	13	7	4	1	1	—	37
Maximian (abdicated) ..	3	20	1	—	—	—	—	—	24
Constantius (Caesar) ..	8	1	15	10	2	3	3	—	42
Constantius (Augustus) ..	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	6
Constantius (Deified) ..	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Galerius (Caesar) ..	5	—	11	6	2	2	2	1	29
Galerius (Augustus) ..	6	—	7	6	—	—	—	—	19
Severus (Caesar) ..	5	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	8
Severus (Augustus) ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Maximinus II (Caesar) ..	3	4	4	4	1	—	1	—	17
Maximinus II (Augustus) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Constantine I (Caesar) ..	1	15	12	3	—	—	—	—	31
Constantine I (Augustus) ..	—	14	10	2	—	—	—	—	26
Maxentius ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	63	56	107	43	13	7	10	1	300

[R. A. G. CARSON AND J. P. C. KENT.]

AN INHUMATION BURIAL AT SOUTHFLEET

The burial was enclosed in a tile-cist of the Roman period, which in its original form must have consisted of five slabs of reddish tile at each side, and probably one at each end. The slabs are each roughly 1 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 1 in., and vary from 1½ in. to 2½ in. in thickness.

The grave was first discovered by a workman, Mr. G. Pope, in a hedge bank at the side of a chalk pit belonging to the Associated Portland Cement Company Ltd. In October, 1955, he saw a corner of an end slab projecting from the bank, but made no attempt to remove anything until 1st November. On uncovering some bones and slabs of red tile, he took them to Northfleet Police Station, who in turn notified the British Museum. The slabs at the present time are set at an angle in the bank, i.e. the top being farther inclined outwardly than the base, forming a roof-like structure. One end slab remained

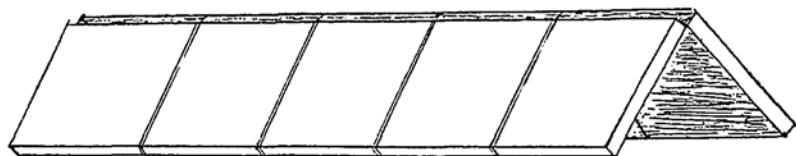


FIG. 5. Tile-cist, Southfleet.

at the foot of the cist when it was uncovered, together with four and a half side slabs.

The grave backs on to the Southfleet Road, and the top of the slabs lay roughly 2 ft. below ground surface. The grave must have been exposed during mechanical excavation of the chalk-pit some years ago, but its significance was not realized until Mr. Pope found the incomplete skeleton. The head was orientated almost due north, and the presence of some iron nails near the bones indicate that the skeleton may have been enclosed in a wooden coffin. There were no other associated finds. The burial lay in a layer of clayey soil overlying the chalk, and what appears to be a slight mound over the burial is probably material thrown up to form the hedge-bank.

The skeletal remains, which are at present at the British Museum (Natural History), are as follows: 3 pieces of skull, 2 femurs, 2 pieces of pelvis, 1? carpal, 1 longish bone ?tibia, and one small fragment. They appear to be female.

Map reference: O.S. 51/67, 62, 73·8.

For comparative sites cf. *Collectanea Cantiana*, 32 (Payne); *Arch. Cant.*, XL, 29 (R. F. Jessup); *Archæologia*, LI (Payne, "An Archæological Survey of Kent").

PAULINE A. O. WILLIAMS.

RESEARCH AND RECORD—EAST KENT. 1955-56

Of sites and discoveries in East Kent not previously noted, mention should be made of the following:

BRONZE AGE. The fine beaker of this age which was found during the trenching for the foundations of a bungalow at The Drove-way, St. Margaret's Bay, has been restored through the kindness of the British Museum Authorities. An illustration and description for comparison with other examples awaits publication.

A notification in March by the Police that bones had been exposed in a chalk pit at Shuart Farm at St. Nicholas at Wade on the marsh edge, showed that in this last exposure of the chalk a burial had been opened up, but that this had been in an earlier and 4 ft. deep excavation. On clearing the pit a crouched burial was exposed lying roughly north and south. Nothing was found with the burial. The second extended burial, which brought Mr. G. C. Dunning and me to the site on 8th March, lay at a higher level but had been destroyed and the bones impounded by the Police. No pottery or iron had been noted.

EARLY IRON AGE. Evidence of occupation on the Downland above the site of the above-mentioned beaker was clear from sherds in the surface soil, but no excavation was possible.

ROMAN. The development and expansion of the housing estate between St. Richard's Road and St. Martin's Road on the western confines of the Borough of Deal has opened up in supply trenches two first-second century Roman cremation burials. The first contained a large buff-ware urn with a turned-over rim and double-incised lines on upper part of the swell of the body. In this was a Samian dish broken and since much damaged by the excavation. It is of Type 31. A third vessel is a cordoned black-ware vase—carinated beaker—Type 83. Fragments of thin glass are evidence of a small glass vessel with the cremation.

An interesting new record is of three plain types of second-century Samian from the Pudding Pan shoal. All three have potters' stamps. The largest—Form 9—has the name possibly MAINACNI. No. 2 is probably Form II, while No. 3 seems from Oswald and Pryce—Pl. L, p. 189—to be that unusual form Ludovici Type NA.

The three have been in the owner's possession since they were dredged up fifty years ago. At present they are being studied at the British Museum.

MEDIEVAL. Work is still possible at the restricted site, and in the early level, above the shingle-bed at the southern end of the Stonar of fine quality ware in use. A recent find was of a small knife and a worn lower grindstone of Hythe material, 25 inches in diameter.

In the later occupation level immediately above is to be recorded

a clay-pipe bowl with the initials N R. The interest of this is that it is of a Broseley maker—Roden—who was working in 1681.

W. P. D. STEBBING.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

(1) ABBEY WOOD

In R. F. Jessup's *The Archaeology of Kent*, page 56, a triangular-shaped and holed pebble, termed a macehead, from Abbey Wood,¹ is described as "of brown polished flint." The external appearance of this implement certainly justifies this description, but as doubts were expressed about the material by Mr. W. F. Rankine after study of comparative maceheads, this example was sent to Dr. J. F. S. Stone, F.S.A., for petrological examination under the scheme set up by the Stone Axe Sub-Committee of the South-Western Group of Museums and Art Galleries. His report is as follows:

"Macro: a brownish, hard quartzite.

Micro: consists of a mass of unevenly graded quartz grains with a very little ferruginous cement."

(2) HERNE BAY

In August, 1956, a sixteen-year-old boy, Jon King of Beltinge, Herne Bay, found a lead seal matrix of medieval date on the beach at Bishopstone, quite close to the Bishopstone Manor buildings on the cliffs above.² I am very much indebted to Mr. H. E. Gough, of the County Branch Library and Museum at Herne Bay, for allowing me to study this matrix and for providing me with details concerning the find.

The matrix is similar in appearance to one found at Chatham in 1948.³ It is circular with an average diameter of one inch. The average thickness is one-tenth of an inch. On the back, behind the cross of the inscription, is a small projection which is not perforated for suspension purposes. It was probably used as a position guide and measures at its greatest height $\frac{5}{32}$ in., with a base of $\frac{9}{32}$ in. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

The inscription reads:

✠ S' DENIS' VXOR' ADE

(The seal of Denise wife of Adam)

The cross bar of the "N" is reversed, the "o" and "R" in "VXOR" are joined, as are the "D" and "E" in "ADE." The space encircled by the inscription bears a crude floral spray.⁴

¹ Maidstone Museum 943. "Abbey Wood, Kent, near Woolwich. Found by R. W. Cradock."

² National Grid Reference 61/208688

³ *Arch. Cant.*, LXVI, p. 154.

⁴ There is a discussion on the decoration in the centre of matrices in *Arch. Journ.*, X, pp. 327-8. See also *Arch. Cant.*, LIII, p. xliii.

Who was Denise (or Dionysia), the wife of Adam? It is tempting to link her with the Aubrey, son of Adam, of the Chatham matrix, and also with Adam le Eyre, a London citizen, who gave land at Bishopstone to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Edward III's reign.¹ But these are guesses, and some search among the relevant archives is surely indicated.

The matrix is at present on long loan to the Herne Bay Museum.

(3) IGHTHAM AND MAIDSTONE DISTRICTS

During 1956 two important collections of archæological material have been given to the Maidstone Museum. The larger consisted of the choicest pieces—ranging from eoliths to medieval pottery—from Sir Edward Harrison's private museum at Old Stones, Ightham. A tour round this museum under Sir Edward's guidance must be a happy memory of many K.A.S. members. Together with the archæological items, mainly collected by Sir Edward and his father, came Benjamin Harrison's manuscript autobiography and many of his notebooks. This extremely valuable presentation is Sir Edward Harrison's.²

The smaller group of similar material, but in this instance mainly from Larkfield, West Malling and Holborough, was the gift of Dr. W. A. Roach, lately of West Malling. He was responsible for the excavation of many of the items during the years between the two World Wars.³

(4) JEW'S HARPS

Since the note on Jew's harps in the last volume of *Archæologia Cantiana*,⁴ two more examples have been inspected by the writer:

(a) A wrought-iron harp, comparable in size and appearance to that from Otford,⁵ although with a slightly more oval bow. The prongs have a diamond section. There is approximately the same amount of reed left as in the Otford example.

Total length: 2½ in.

Greatest width of bow: 1⅜ in.

Greatest height of bow: 1 in.

Length of prongs externally: 1½ in.

It was found on 17th July, 1956, on the surface of a freshly-ploughed strawberry field at Egerton, by our member, Mr. V. J. Newbury.⁶

¹ I owe the Adam le Eyre suggestion to Mr. H. E. Gough. The reference is 29 Edward III, *Inquisit. ad quod damnum*.

² Maidstone Museum Accession No. 28.1956.

³ Maidstone Museum Accession No. 27.1956.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, LXIX, p. 210.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 211, Fig. 5.

⁶ O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet, LIV, S.W.—approximately 2,200 ft. S.S.E. of St. James's Church, Egerton.

(b) Our member, Mr. R. D. Clarke, has given me the details of the finding of two more Jew's harps at Otford, one of which is now in Maidstone Museum. The latter, of bronze, was found by Mr. E. S. Jenkins whilst digging his garden at 7 Tudor Drive, Otford, in 1939.¹ A second Jew's harp was found at about the same time in the same garden, but this, which was in bad condition, has been lost. It will be remembered that a wrought-iron Jew's harp was found in the garden of 9 Tudor Drive, in 1949.² The Otford bronze harp is similar in appearance to the East Sutton bronze example found in May, 1955, but is smaller.³ The prongs have been bent away from the straight so that the dimensions given herewith are approximate.

Total length: $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Greatest width of bow: $1\frac{1}{8}$ in.

Greatest height of bow: $\frac{7}{8}$ in.

Length of prongs externally: $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

There are criss-cross marks of coarse filing on the outer ring of the bow. The prongs and inner ring have a finer filing. The end of the iron reed remains in the slot at the apex of the bow. The condition of the patina on the bronze is good and is similar to that on the Egerton and East Sutton examples. Edges are sharp. Sections of bow and prongs are paralleled in the East Sutton Jew's harp.

(c) In the State Museum of Antiquities (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden), Leiden, there is exhibited as Roman a wrought-iron Jew's harp from a "villa bij Backerbosch." It would not look out of place for size and appearance amongst the examples quoted by Mr. F. C. Elliston-Erwood and myself.

(5) ST. MARY-IN-THE-MARSH

The medieval ewer spout (Fig. 6) was found, early in November, 1956, at a site which lies midway between Dymchurch, St. Mary's Bay, and St. Mary-in-the-Marsh.⁴ The land is known as Fordred's Charity and the findspot is at the crossing of two old tracks, near the pond which is marked on the O.S. 6-inch map. Mr. J. C. Allnatt, of Lucys, Hythe, who has lent the spout to Maidstone Museum for study, tells me that there was a small mound on the site some years ago but much of it was pushed into the pond for agricultural purposes. This summer (1956) potatoes have been grown there, and it was after the harvesting of them that the spout was found on the top of the cultivated soil. Previously Mr. Allnatt has shown me late medieval pottery fragments from this field.

¹ National Grid Reference 51/534593.

² *Arch. Cant.*, LXIX, p. 212.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 210, illustration p. 211, Fig. 3.

⁴ O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet, LXXXI, S.E. 5,000 ft. E.N.E. of St. Mary's Church, St. Mary-in-the-Marsh. The site lies between fields No. 205 and No. 225.

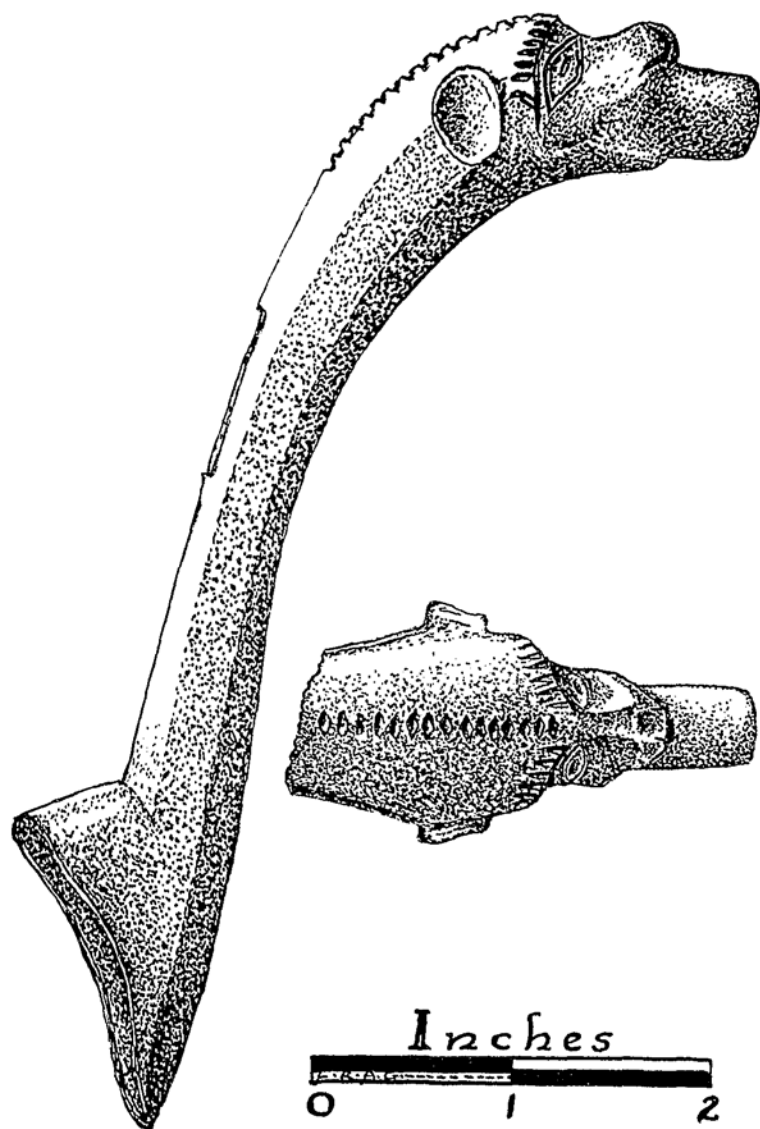


FIG. 6. Medieval bronze spout.

The Fordred's Charity spout is made of copper alloy¹ but the nearest parallel known to me is on a pewter vessel from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle.² Although this example is just less than three inches in greatest length against the six inches of the Kentish spout, nevertheless the faceted stem, bridge attachment to the main body and general distribution of features on the animal head, show a good deal of kinship between them. The Ashby-de-la-Zouch vessel was found in the filling of a well in front of the main entry to the Great Tower built in 1476. Therefore, according to Mr. R. S. Simms, it may be "safely assumed that the well was connected with earlier buildings on the site and was filled in during the building of the tower."³

It may be suspected that our Kentish example comes fairly early in the sequence of medieval, animal-head spout-terminals. It will be noted that the modelling is good and that there is a mane formed from fifteen neatly-made chisel marks. By the fifteenth century such animal heads were becoming vestigial. There may be instanced those on the spouts of brass ewers in the Victoria and Albert Museum.⁴ Likewise on the spouts of the contemporary lavabo formalization has set in.⁵ On style alone the Kentish spout may be dated at least to the early part of the fourteenth century, and no compunction need be felt, in discussing its workmanship, at putting it in the same category as the chisel-finished late thirteenth-century steelyard weights.

The line of least resistance when studying medieval ewers and lavabos is to dismiss them as *dinanderie* and thus to hint at a foreign origin. The Richard II jug in the British Museum, and two similar examples in the Victoria and Albert and the London Museums, can be claimed as home products, and Ward Perkins insists that they "can safely be regarded as the work of contemporary bell-founders."⁶ Some strong evidence to support this statement exists in English bell-

¹ I am indebted to Mr. R. E. Spalding of the Kent County Council Analyst's Department for the following analysis:

Copper	..	..	72.4	per cent
Zinc	..	..	14.4	" "
Lead	..	..	6.6	" "
Tin	..	..	4.4	" "
Iron	..	..	1.9	" "

² *Antiq. Journ.*, XVIII (1938), p. 178, plate L.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 178.

⁴ Figured on plate XXXVI of J. Tavenor-Perry's *Dinanderie* (1910), p. 177; "common in the fifteenth century."

⁵ In the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, a two-spouted lavabo with a pierced gallery at the rim has an inscription commencing "God und Her . . ." which enables it to be given a dating of c. 1500. The animal spout-terminals are debased. Compare also the spout of the brass ewer found at Fortrose in 1880 (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, XIV, pp. 182-219). This contained a late fourteenth-century hoard of coins of Robert III, King of Scots. The London Museum has a similar example which is discussed by Ward Perkins in the London Museum *Medieval Catalogue*, pp. 200-1.

⁶ Ward Perkins, *op. cit.*, p. 200.

founders' trade marks, such as those of John Langhorne (late fourteenth century)¹ and Henry Jordan (c. 1460),² whereon ewers and lavers are depicted. Early in the fourteenth century Sandre of Gloucester had a seal which portrayed a bell and a bridge-spouted ewer of the same breed as the Battersea example in the London Museum.³

(6) WINGHAM DISTRICT

Two hooden horses, probably of nineteenth-century vintage and from the Wingham district of East Kent, have recently been presented to Maidstone Museum by Wye College.⁴ These are rarities, and the present writer would be glad to know if any other Kent examples have survived. There is a possibility that some of those described and illustrated by Maylam may still be in existence.⁵

L. R. A. GROVE.

ROMAN POTTERY FROM HOO

Beachcombing along the salt marshes off Hoo St. Werburgh at various times during the last year, Mrs. B. de Seyssell collected, to judge by the number of bases, the remains of 243 first-century pots, which she kindly presented to the Maidstone Museum. Despite the large quantity of pottery and the chance nature of the find, the collection is remarkably homogeneous, and includes a useful and typical series of most first-century fagon types.

All the pottery comes from the islet (N.G.R. 783708, Kent Sheet XI S.E.), scattered along the north beach below high tide level. There were no previous finds on record from this precise spot, and it is probable that the sherds have been washed out only over the past few years by the current deflected by the comparatively new embankment to the north. They were heavily covered with barnacles (*Balanus balanoides*, *Elminius modestus*), but these were alive when found and most not more than twelve months old.

This area has been largely eroded since Roman times⁶ and it is probable that the island was originally joined to Hoo St. Werburgh, where there is copious evidence for Roman and earlier occupation.^{7, 8} A systematic investigation of the site was not possible, but no stratified source for the pottery was noticed, either on the islet, or in the eroded bank.

¹ H. B. Walters, *Church Bells of England*, 1912, p. 188.

² *Ibid.*, p. 304.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 199, and *Arch. Journ.*, XIII, p. 73.

⁴ Maidstone Museum Accession No. 42.1956.

⁵ P. Maylam, *The Hooden Horse: an East Kent Christmas Custom*, 1909.

⁶ *Arch. Cant.*, LXVII, pp. 103-46. John H. Evans, "Archæological Horizons in the North Kent Marshes."

⁷ George Payne, *Collectanea Cantiana*, pp. 194-6.

⁸ *Arch. Cant.*, XXXI, p. 280.

THE FLAGONS. I. "*Cup mouthed*." The bulk of the collection, 141 of the 164 specimens sufficiently complete for classification, consists of the remains of "white ware," "cup mouthed" flagons, comparable with those found at Hofheim¹ (Hofheim, Type 50) in a context A.D. 40-51 and Camulodunum² (Type 140) in a context A.D. 43-68.

Made from a well levigated chalky clay, which when well baked becomes a fine hard fabric, orangy-red in colour, they occasionally show traces of white slip. They exhibit not only a consistently high level of craftsmanship, but a considerable standardization in manufacturing technique. Thus necks, even on the smallest specimens where this is not dictated by necessity, have been formed separately, and bonded into the leather-hard pot before finishing, and the triple ribbed handles seem to have been consistently made by pulling a strip of clay and giving it a template finish. The bases, particularly the largest (see table), have a well-made squared foot ring (Fig. 1), and inside at least 82 of the 240, some potter has left an informal signature, a characteristic triskele swirl when, using three fingers, he scooped out surplus moist clay (Fig. 7, No. 9).

It has not been possible to reconstruct a complete profile, though this seems to have been of conventional form and height, but the regular gradation (see table) of the size of rim and base imply an adherence to a rigid set of specifications allowing for the manufacture of flagons in seven lip-sizes with some consistent variation permissible throughout in the neck shape which, in *Type A* (Fig. 7, No. 1), is very "waisted," in *Type B* (Fig. 7, No. 2) is more cylindrical with the curvature slight and occurring just below the lip, in *Type C* (Fig. 7, No. 6) is again cylindrical but shorter, almost "stubby" in appearance, in *Type D* (Fig. 7, No. 3) waisted, but slim and short, while in *Type E* (Fig. 7, No. 4) it is very short and quite cylindrical.

The other flagons in the collection are made in similar fabric, occasionally showing traces of white slip, and within the same size range. The date limit is the same.

II. *Variations on the "cup mouthed" type.* In Fig. 7, No. 10 (1 specimen) the top half of the hitherto hollow lip is everted sharply and emphasized with a median groove (cf. *Richborough*, 111, 189, 198,³ A.D. 40-60). In Fig. 7, No. 7 (1 specimen) it has become a straight-sided cone with a cordon below (cf. *Richborough*, 111, 202, Nero, *Vespasian*; *Hofheim*, Abb. 64, 3 and 6).⁴

III. *Forms transitional between "cup mouthed" and "screw*

¹ *Annalen des Vereins für Nassauische Altertumskunde*, E. Ritterling, "Das Frühromische Lager bei Hofheim im Taunus," 1913.

² C. F. C. Hawkes, M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum*, 1st Report, 1947.

³ J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Excavations at Richborough, Kent*, Vols. I-IV.

⁴ *Annalen des Vereins für Nassauische Altertumskunde*, E. Ritterling, "Das Frühromische Lager bei Hofheim im Taunus," 1913.

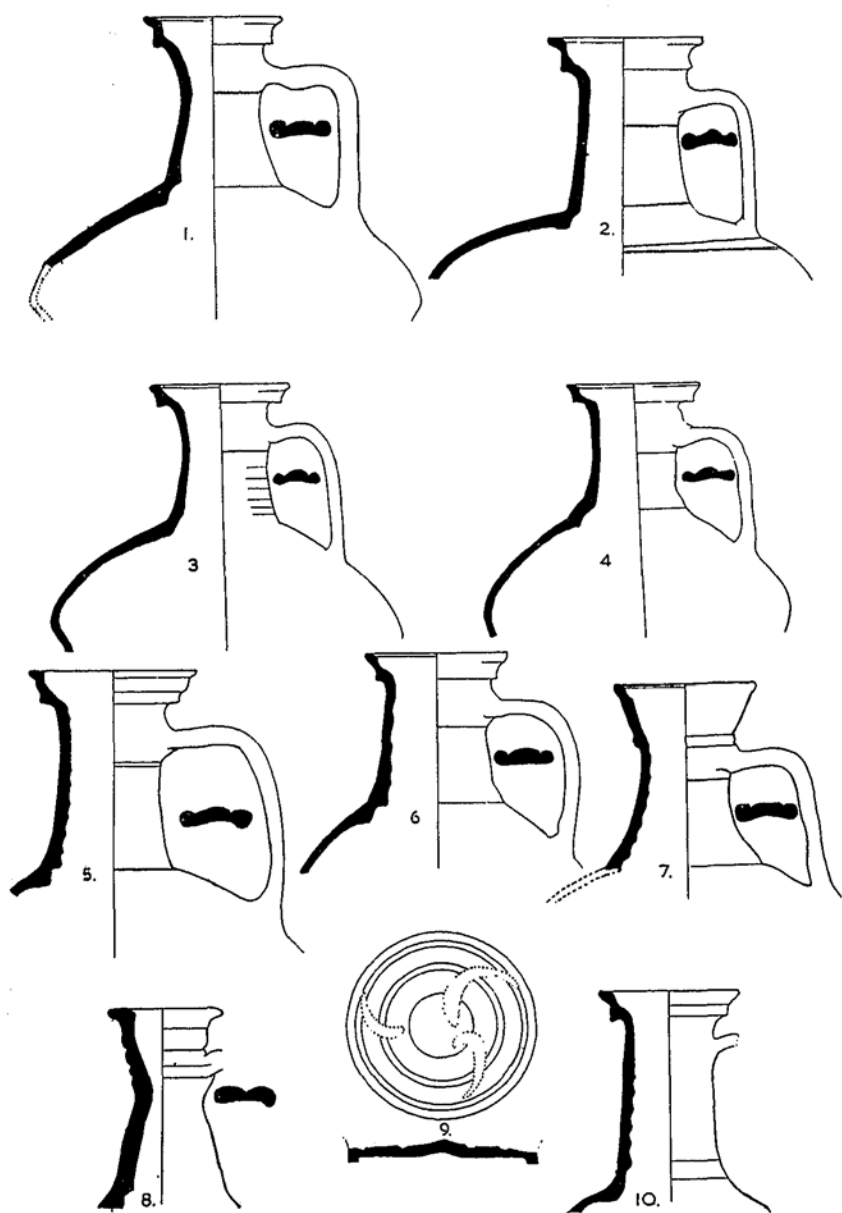


FIG. 7. Roman pottery from Hoo, 1/2.

necked" types. Fig. 7, No. 5 probably exhibits a reaction of *Hofheim* 52 (see below) on *Hofheim* 50. The lip has a central bulge instead of the usual concavity; an incipient cordon. This influence is more apparent in four with 4-grooved lip, and one with 3-grooved lip (cf. *Camulodunum* 143¹ and *Richborough* 1, 36, though our specimens retain the right-angled handle).

IV. *Flagons with a cordoned cone-shaped neck, strongly grooved* ("Screw necks"). Of *Camulodunum* Type 154 based on *Hofheim* 52 but with vertical grooved mouthpiece, there are three specimens, one with 4 grooves, two with 3. Of *Camulodunum* Type 155 (the *Hofheim* 52) there are four specimens, three with 4 grooves, one with 5 (cf. *Richborough* 35). One of the 4-grooved vessels has an unusual cup-like hollow inside the mouth. Fig. 7, No. 8, 6 specimens, shows the topmost cordon emphasized and everted (cf. *Richborough*, 1, 35, mid-late first century).

V. *Flagons with flat squashed-down lip*. Two specimens of *Camulodunum* 149 (*Hofheim* 55) (cf. *Richborough*, III, 204. A.D. 70-100. *Hofheim*, Abb. 64, No. 8).

OTHER POTTERY. Of this there is not a large quantity, but most of the commonest forms occurring at *Camulodunum* and *Richborough* in contexts A.D. 50-100 are represented; e.g. fragments of *Grooved Ware*, three large ollæ (cf. *Richborough*, II, 136²), *Belgic Black Ware*, one platter. In a *Fine Orange Ware* which resembles very closely the fabric from which the flagons are made there are fragments of (a) five cordoned ollæ with cavetto rims (cf. *Richborough*, III, 275, *Camulodunum* 220B³); (b) five small bowls with rounded profiles, bead or fine oblique rims (cf. *Richborough*, II, 285); (c) a butt beaker; (d) two small globular beakers (cf. *Richborough*, II, 250). One has vertical stripes of cream slip down the shoulder which give it a striking resemblance to the globular beaker from Ewell in the British Museum (B.M. Acc. No. 48.5.10.86), a continental import with thick olive-green glaze with similar cream trails.

BRIQUETAGE (2) AND WASTERS (12). The very few specimens can, I feel, only partly be accounted for by the difficulty of distinguishing black waster from black Thames mud. A comparative analysis of waste sherds and flagon pottery is awaited and may be conclusive. All that can be said at this stage is that they are from wheel-made pots of similar thickness. But so close are the Upchurch pottery sites that these may well be strays. The three waste flagon necks present are by no means so distorted as to be unusable.

It would be tempting to conclude from the array of "cup mouthed"

¹ C. F. C. Hawkes, M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum*, 1st Report, 1947.

² J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Excavations at Richborough, Kent*, Vols. I-IV.

³ C. F. C. Hawkes, M. R. Hull, *ibid.*

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

flagons and other contemporary flagon forms and domestic pottery, that we have here the debris of a kiln which in the middle of the first century was producing a local version of this popular continental import from the Rhineland. There were such kilns at Camulodunum¹ (*op. cit.*, p. 106, Fig. 58, 1-9) and at Canterbury.² Moreover, there was until recently a suitable clay deposit not quarter of a mile to the north. But, in the absence of structural and stratified evidence, the few wasters form too flimsy a basis for any stand in the North Kent Romano-British Potteries controversy, and all that can be concluded is that we have here the remains of a nearby depot of flagons, most from the same manufactory and with perhaps a third thrown by the same potter, though where he worked must remain an open question.

I should like to acknowledge with thanks the help of Mrs. de Seyssell; Dr. Harding, British Museum (Natural History); the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty; Mr. Thomas, Maidstone School of Art.

Lip Size No.	Lip Size Range	Base Size	Bases Total No.	Necks Av. length types A & B	Type A	Type B	Type C	Type D	Type E	Un-classifiable	Total
1	9— 9.5 cm.	10— 11 cm.	32	8.4 cm.	4	6	—	—	1	1	12
2	8.5— 9 cm.	9— 10 cm.	52	8 cm.	11	5	9	—	5	—	30
3	8— 8.5 cm.	8— 9 cm.	64	7.5 cm.	4	19	—	—	2	3	28
4	7.5— 8 cm.	7— 8 cm.	81	7.8 cm.	3	4	1	—	—	3	11
5	7— 7.5 cm.	—	—	6.6 6.6 cm.	9	12	5	6	4	6	42
6	6— 6.5 cm.	—	—	5 cm.	5	2	3	1	3	1	15
7	5.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3

CUP-MOUTHED FLAGONS: SIZES AND TYPES

M. BLUMSTEIN.

¹ C. F. C. Hawkes, M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum*, 1st Report, 1947.

² F. Jenkins, "A Roman tiliary and two pottery kilns at Durovernum (Canterbury)," *Antiq. Journ.*, XXXVI, pp. 40-56.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT POLHILL

Thirteen Anglo-Saxon burials were discovered between January and June, 1956, at Polhill, National Grid Reference 505589, Kent Sheet 28 S.E., during excavation of the chalk banks at the junction of Pilgrims Way and A21, for a road-widening scheme. Skeletons had been said to have been found at approximately this spot in the nine-

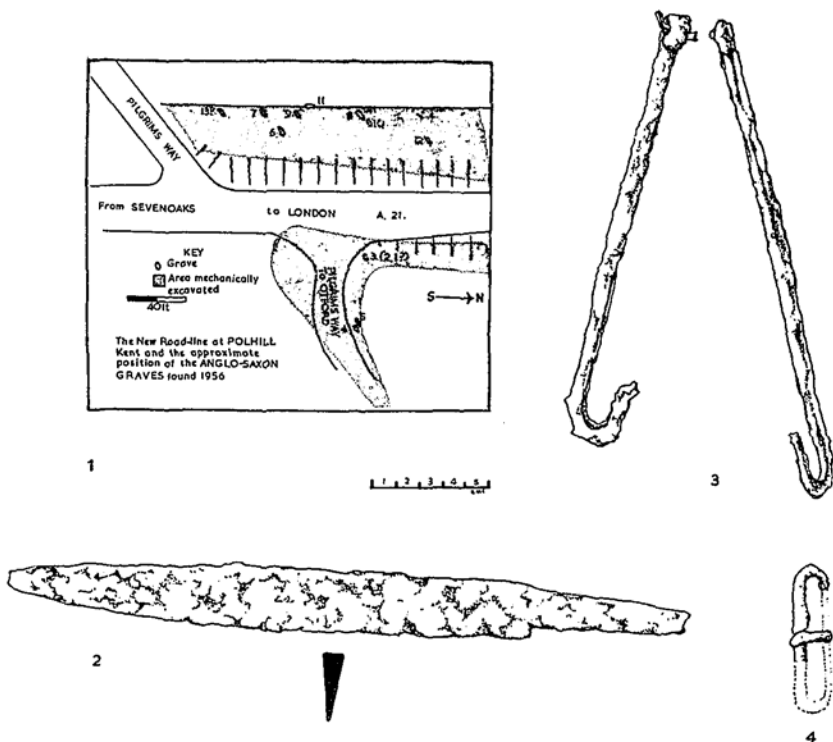


FIG. 8. 1, 2, 3, 4. Polhill Anglo-Saxon Cemetery.

teenth century,¹ but no accurate records of this previous find have been preserved.

Through the kind co-operation of Mr. F. O. S. Denniff, Divisional Surveyor, the museum was immediately informed of the find and steps were taken to keep watch on the site, and rescue and record the graves as disclosed by the mechanical excavator.

The graves (see Fig. 8, no. 1) were all aligned east-west, with one exception lying north-south. Those to the west of A21 were cut some 2 ft. 6 in. into the "bullhead," those to the east a foot into the chalk but covered

¹ Dr. G. Ward, *Sevenoaks Essays*, 1931, pp. 89-91.

with 4-5 ft. of loam, in part probably hillwash. All had been back filled, and it was not possible to distinguish the precise outline, but they seem to have been roughly rectangular hollows just large enough to accommodate the body.

GRAVE 1. Male Adult. No details recorded. No finds.

GRAVE 2. Child. No details recorded. No finds.

GRAVE 3. Female. 20-25 years. No details recorded. No finds.

GRAVE 4. Female. 40-50 years. Supine, extended. Right hand on pelvis, left arm by side. Facing east north-east. No finds.

GRAVE 5. Male. 40-50 years. Position, alignment as Grave 4 but arms by sides and at slightly higher level. No finds.

GRAVE 6. Male. 15-16 years. Supine, extended, with left arm across pelvis, right arm extended by side. Facing east north-east. No finds.

GRAVE 7. Male. 50-60 years. Supine, extended. Arms at sides. Facing east north-east. No finds.

GRAVE 8. Male. 27-28 years. Supine, extended, hands folded in lap, facing east north-east. A small iron *knife*, length 11 cm., was found by the right arm, and the oval iron *buckle* (Fig. 8, no. 4) of fairly common type and wide range in date (cf. examples from Shudy Camps, Grave 12¹, Sarre,² *passim*) under the body, but these had been disturbed.

GRAVE 9. Male. 15-16 years. Supine, extended, facing east north-east. *Scramasax* (Fig. 8, no. 2), iron, length 29.5 cm., early seventh century, cf. examples from Uncleby³ and Winchester⁴ said to have had "point under femur, handle towards leg bones."

GRAVE 10. Male. About 45 years. Supine, extended. Arms by sides, facing east north-east.

GRAVE 11. Male. Supine, extended, facing north. Iron *knife*, length 19.5 cm., resting on sacrum, blade slanting upwards across body, and another (incomplete) under sacrum, handle towards feet.

GRAVE 12. Male. Supine, extended. Facing east north-east. Small *knife* on sacrum.

GRAVE 13. Female? No record was made and no bones salvaged from this grave, but the iron keys (Fig. 8, no 3) (latch lifters) with single hook ends came from here and can be compared with those from Shudy Camps, Grave 76,⁵ Burwell, Grave 76,⁶ which seem comparatively late and occur in Anglian contexts.

¹ *Camb. Ant. Soc.*, N.S. V. "Excavations in an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Shudy Camps, T. C. Lethbridge.

² *Arch. Cant.*, Vols. VI, VII, 1864-8 *passim*.

³ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd Series, Vol. XXIV, pp. 146-58.

⁴ *Ant. Journ.*, Vol. XI, No. , pp. 1-13.

⁵ *Op. cit.*, Fig. 11, 1 and 2.

⁶ *Camb. Ant. Soc.*, N.S. III, "Recent Excavations in Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Cambridge and Suffolk," Burwell, Cambs., T. C. Lethbridge, 1931, Fig. 32.5.3.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

GRAVES 1-3 were salvaged by the Sevenoaks Police, and the bones reported on by Scotland Yard who also dealt with those from GRAVES 4 and 11 recorded by Dr. Randall and members of the Pathology Department, Orpington Hospital. GRAVES 6 and 7 were rescued by Dr. Gordon Ward and the writer, the osteological report from these graves and 8, 9 and 10 was kindly undertaken by Mr. T. W. E. Pugh. The writer dealt with GRAVE 10, Dr. Gordon Ward and G. Anckorn with GRAVE 9, and Dr. White with numbers 5 and 12. All of whose help, that of Mr. Clarke and members of the Otford Historical Society, and Mr. Bruce Mitford, British Museum, I acknowledge most gratefully. All the finds with the exception of the knife from GRAVE 12 are in the Maidstone Museum.

The comparatively late date for the scramasax (*circa* A.D. 650), the paucity of the finds and predominantly east-west alignment of the bodies would seem to imply the presence of a Christian Anglo-Saxon cemetery comparable with those excavated by T. C. Lethbridge in Cambridge-shire. But there are far too few datable finds from which to judge, and the cemetery siting on the 400 ft. contour line, the false crest of Polhill, is Pagan.¹ It is to be hoped that the systematic excavations currently being pursued by the Otford Historical Society in association with the museum in the quarry field to the west of the A21, so kindly made available to them by the Dunton Green lime works, will be productive of more, and those more conclusive, finds.

M. BLUMSTEIN.

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. LXIX, "The Jutish Cemetery at Lyminge," A. Warhurst, 1955, pp. 1-40.