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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

HIGHAM ABBEY

The farmhouse known as Abbey Farm which contained a substantial amount of the medieval stonework originally forming part of the abbey or nunnery was demolished in June this year. During the demolition a substantial wall indicating a two storey range of buildings running from north to south was disclosed which was apparently late 14th century date. It is hoped to publish further information in a later volume.

ST. KATHERINE'S, SHORNE

With reference to the papers by G. M. Arnold in Vols. XX and XXIII of *Archæologia Cantiana* in which he stated that no traces of any other buildings had been found around the chapel, in April 1959, workmen digging a trench for drainage approximately 30 feet to the north of the existing chapel uncovered a substantial flint wall some 18 inches to 2 feet thick and extending some 2 feet into the ground and partially demolished it. This wall ran parallel with the north wall of the chapel for a distance of approximately 45 feet. Circumstances prevented any further investigation but the wall was clearly part of a substantial building and further investigation should be carried out, if possible, to trace its purpose.

ROMAN BUILDING AT CHALK

In June this year during building operations carried on upon the site of a house known as West Filborough, Lower Higham Road, some remains, consisting of fragments of pottery and human skull, were uncovered. The skull and pottery were associated but exact positions could not be given for the pottery. The pottery (last seen at Gravesend Library) was Roman probably 2nd century. Upon further enquiry of the neighbourhood it was discovered that at map reference 119917 (500 feet to the south west of the finds on the building site) a substantial quantity of roman tile and hypocaust tile could be observed in the plough lands. As a result of excavation in the fields (with the kind consent of Mr. Smith the tenant of the small holding) at a depth of 4 feet a well coursed chalk wall was discovered running roughly south-west north-east which was crossed by a flint wall running approximately north and south. The whole excavation was through a mass of broken plaster of Roman type with chalk and stone rubble

and many broken tiles clearly indicating that the building had been demolished for building material. At the bottom of the excavation (approximately 4 feet 6 inches) a cement floor and a clay floor was found. The examination of the plough land around the site revealed many fragments of pottery of early Roman type. This site would appear to cover a substantial Roman building in an area of some 150 feet by 50 feet by 60 feet. As a matter of interest Chalk Church which lies about 1,000 yards to the south-east of the site has a quantity of roman tiles and bricks incorporated in the east wall of its chancel.

A. F. ALLEN.

RECVLVER, 1958-59

The Reculver Excavation Group continued work on the Roman fort during September 1958, on private land near the King Ethelbert Inn. In all, 22 members of the Group helped with the excavations which lasted for a total of nine days.

The exact position of the south-west corner of the fort was determined and a huge stone buttress was found supporting the inside of the corner. Over 150 feet of the south wall of the fort and part of the south-west angle was found to have been robbed, probably in Medieval times. A 75 feet trench was cut at right-angles to the south wall near to the south-west corner to permit the examination of the outer defences. It was found that there had only been a single defensive ditch at this point, as additional defence was provided by the marshes, now known to have extended much nearer the fort. The ditch in its wasted state was found to be 20 feet wide and 5 feet deep.

The Group had proposed to continue work inside the fort during September 1959. It was then hoped to confirm the fort's construction date as previously determined and also to recover part of the fort's internal plan.

FAWKHAM : EARLY ROMAN SETTLEMENT, EASTWOOD FARM

Work was continued on the site throughout 1958 and 1959 in an endeavour to locate the building with which the large amount of pottery, recovered in 1957,¹ must have been associated. A series of 89 test-holes over a wide area has failed to produce a single trace of a structure. The ditch containing the finds has now been traced for a distance of 347 feet and has produced isolated groups of rubbish. There is thus no cause to revise the earlier conclusions that the site was occupied during the first century A.D. by a small yet prosperous villa. In all probability this has been entirely removed by ploughing.

With the kind co-operation and interest of the farmer, Mr. G. Self,

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII (1958), p. 193.

a final attempt to locate the building will be made during the Autumn of 1959.

WEST WICKHAM

A field survey of certain agricultural land in West Wickham was undertaken during February and March 1959 in an attempt to substantiate certain "finds" made by George Clinch in the nineteenth century.¹ Supporting evidence was not forthcoming from any of the sites. An aerial survey of the district in July 1959, by kind co-operation of Mr. Ian Moores, also proved negative.

B. J. PHILP.
M. L. KELLAWAY.

NEOLITHIC AXES FROM DARENTH, BEXLEY AND EAST WICKHAM

Four neolithic axes brought to my notice in recent years are of particular interest in being made of stone entirely foreign to the locality in which they were discovered. The distribution of such implements in relation to the source of the raw material is now recognized by prehistorians as important evidence for determining early lines of communication and possible trade-routes.

Darenth. A polished axe found on the surface by a schoolboy at approximately Nat. Grid. Ref. TQ 563714. It has been sliced for examination at the Geological Survey and Museum, and the following report made :

The specimen is made from a dark green banded rock, perhaps a crystal tuff. The thin section shows that the banding is due to concentrations of larger crystal grains alternating with finer material of the same composition. Crystals present are of plagioclase and possibly orthoclase feldspar, pale green amphibole, epidate and pale green partially altered pyroxene and chlorite ; also some grains of iron ore. A few small grains of quartz are present. The larger fragments may reach 0.5 mm. in diameter. The fragments in the finer grained bands seldom exceed 0.05 mm. in diameter and are surrounded by a greater proportion of the chlorite and amphibole flakes of the matrix.

The rock may be of S.W. England or S. Wales origin but it has not been possible to find material to match the specimen.

Bexley. A small greenstone axe found in the garden of a house in Erith road, approximately Nat. Grid. TQ 497754, and at present on loan to Bexley Public Library.² It has not been sliced but may be described as of dark green stone, and a very perfect specimen of its

¹ *Antiquarian Jottings*, 1889.

² Mr. P. E. Morris, F.L.A., has kindly drawn my attention to this specimen, and I am similarly indebted to Mr. F. Threlfall, F.L.A., in respect of that from E. Wickham.

type. The flattened sides shown in cross-section also occurred on flint axes discovered less than a mile away at Upton in 1883.¹

Our member, Mr. R. E. Linington, has reported the finding of part of a narrow axe or chisel (not illustrated) at Nat. Grid. Ref. TQ 479758. The part remaining consists of the cutting edge, and in its rectangular section and general form it appears to be of the type represented by Fig. 66 in Evans' *Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain* (2nd Ed.,

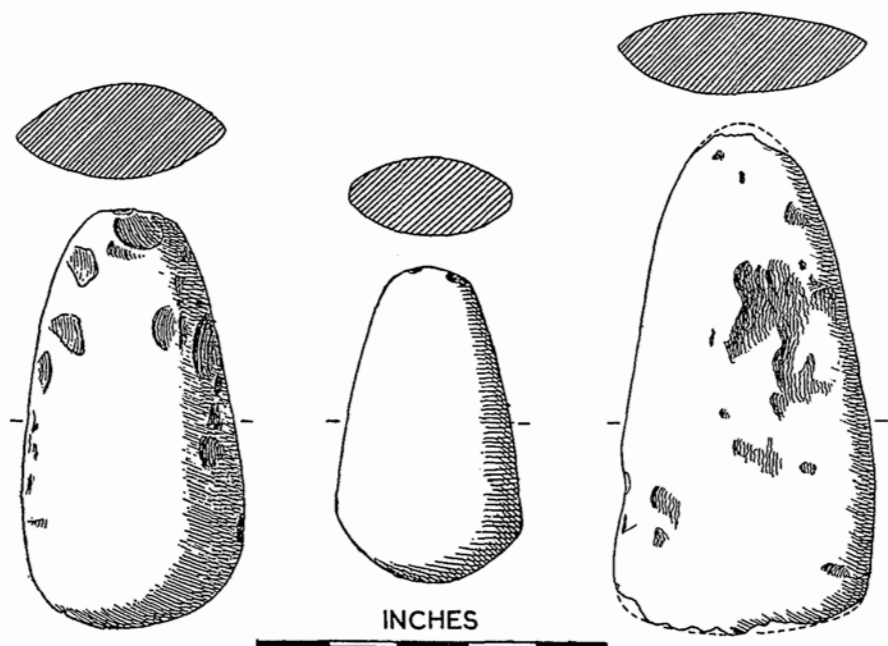


FIG. 1. Neolithic Axes. *Left to right: Darenth, Bexley, East Wickham.*

1897). The report on the material stated that it is a common kind of plateau basalt with little to mark its exact provenance. It may be an erratic from some northerly source, as such rocks occur among the Tertiary lavas of the Brito-Iceland province (Iceland, N. Ireland and Inner Hebrides). On the other hand, it may have come from the Rhineland or the Auvergne, of which the former is more likely.

The width of the cutting edge is 1.9 in. and the thickness 1.1 in.

East Wickham. Bexley Library possesses a polished axe found many years ago on land belonging to Gibson's Farm, approximately Nat. Grid. Ref. TQ 466769. As one face is slightly concave towards the cutting edge, it may have been used as an adze. After slicing and examination, the report on the stone stated :

¹ Brit. Mus. *Stone Age Guide* (1926) p. 103, and Plate VI.

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The specimen is made from a very hard grey rock, apparently stained by limonite on patches of the surface. A thin section cut from one edge shows a micaceous aggregate with a little iron ore. The specific gravity of the specimen is 3.02. It has not been possible to match this rock.

CONCLUSIONS

It is disappointing that so little can be said at present as to the exact localities from which these implements originated. The need for further research in this field is very obvious.

Reginald Smith noted in the *B.M. Stone Age Guide* (1926) that greenstone and basalt axes are common in the Thames Valley, and it is noteworthy that none of the present examples occurred more than three miles from the south bank of that river.

P. J. TESTER.

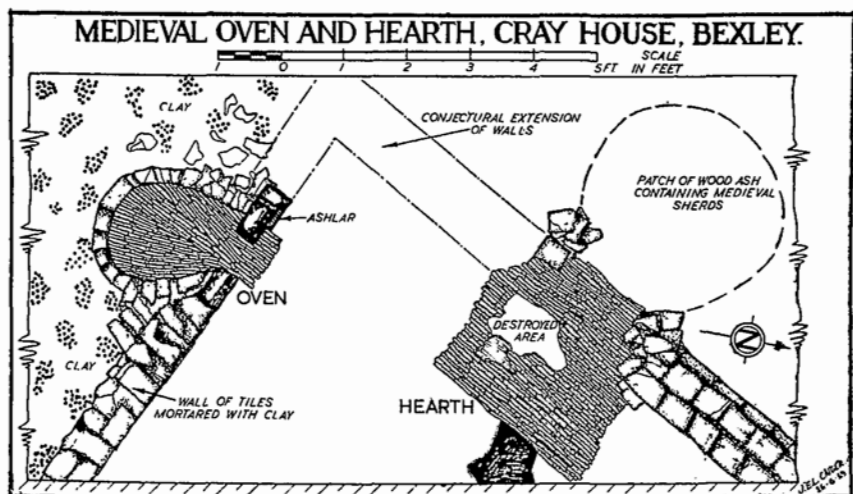


FIG. 2. Cray House, Bexley. Medieval Oven and Hearth.

MIEVEAL DISCOVERIES AT CRAY HOUSE, BEXLEY

Digging undertaken in a very limited area of the garden of Cray House, as recorded in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, xlv, revealed remains of several features of interest which it is the purpose of this note to describe more fully.

The plan (Fig. 2) shows two fragments of walls composed of broken roof-tiles¹ set in clay mortar. These walls may have extended originally

¹ The size of a complete tile is estimated to have been $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. with a thickness of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. They have tapering peg-holes and closely resemble the plain tiles from Joyden's Wood illustrated in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII, p. 28.

to meet at an approximate right-angle, as shown by chain lines in the plan. Adjoining each were areas paved with similar tiles set on edge, that to the south being an oven and the other a hearth.¹

Fig. 3 is an isometric view of the lower part of the oven, the superstructure having entirely vanished. A mass of clay containing flints and chalk lumps surrounding the outside may represent material fallen from the upper part. On either side of the firing hole were blocks

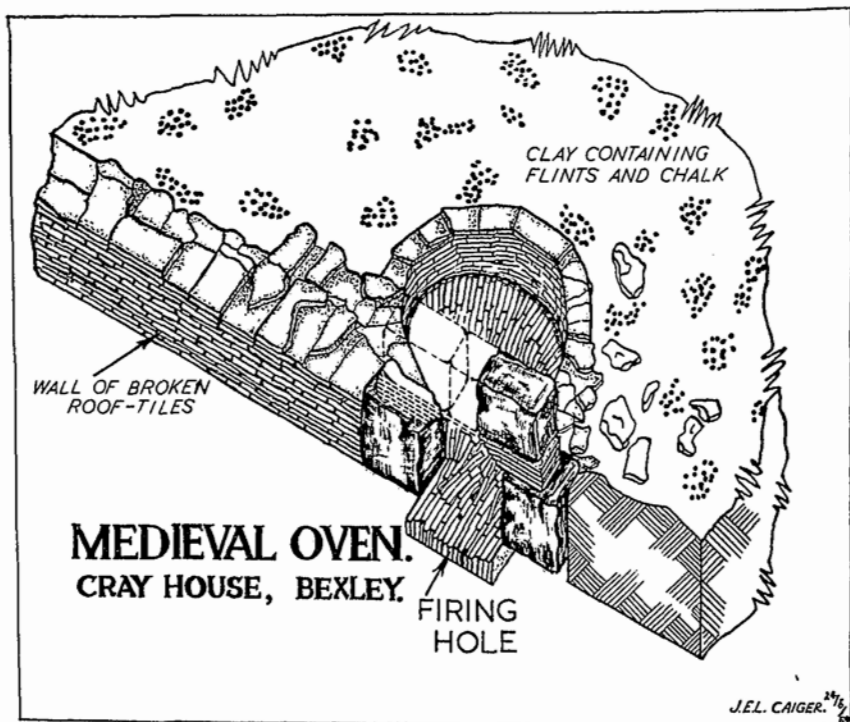


FIG. 3. Cray House, Bexley. Medieval Oven.

of Greensand ashlar, on one of which were set several courses of tiles corbelled out to support lintel stones as shown in the drawing. Wood ash occurred on the floor of this oven.

A few feet away was a rectangular hearth of similar construction to the larger example uncovered by the writers six months later in the medieval hall in Joyden's Wood, only a mile away.² A part of the

¹ Both features were described as kilns or ovens in our preliminary note in *Arch. Cant.* I.XXI.

² *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII, p. 21.

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centre had been destroyed and its original form was less definite than that of the oven. On the side adjoining the wall it apparently opened on to a roughly circular patch of wood ash containing sherds of two medieval louvers (Fig. 5) and an unglazed, grey-ware jug (Fig. 4).

There is no doubt that the oven and hearth were contemporary with the jug, which Mr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., dates *c.* 1300, and which shows the characteristics of Limpsfield ware.¹ He comments that a date rather before than after that given is more likely. The only finds of later age from this site were in an unrelated context some yards away.

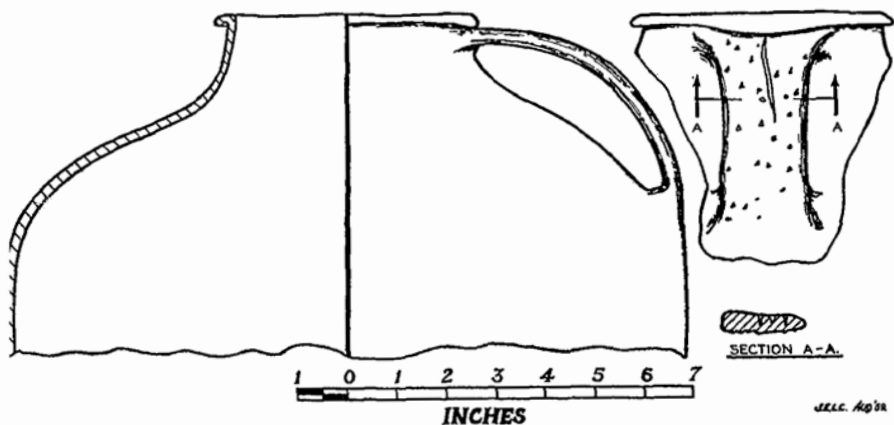


FIG. 4. Cray House, Bexley. Grey-ware Jug.

The following note on the two louvers found in association with the hearth has been kindly supplied by Mr. G. C. Dunning.

THE POTTERY LOUVERS

Fragments of two large objects of pottery were found close to the hearth of the medieval building. These belong to a class of roof ventilator or louver, known from a number of sites in southern England and the Midlands. The Bexley find is fortunate, as louvers have seldom been found in closely dated contexts, or in circumstances that enable them to be related to a medieval structure. The louvers differ in size, and also in the shape and size of the openings in the side. It is tempting to correlate them with the oven and hearth of the building but there can be no certainty on this point. The Bexley louvers may be described as follows (Fig. 5).

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII, p. 37.

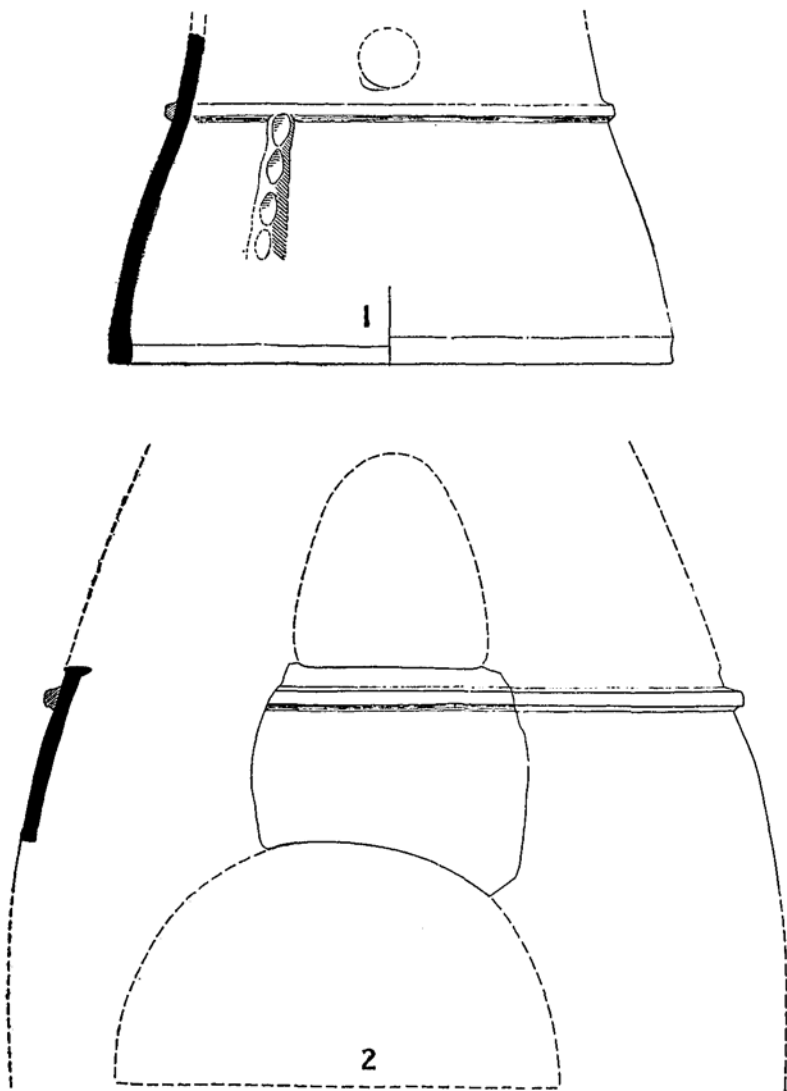


FIG. 5. Gray House, Bexley. Pottery Louvers.

1. Two large fragments of grey, very sandy ware, with light red surface. Thick lustrous green glaze covers one piece, but it is mostly flaked off the other. The inside surface is smoke-stained. The louver is $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter at the base, conical in shape with incurved profile, and remains to a height of $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.

About $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. above the base is an applied cordon. On one fragment an applied vertical strip with deep thumb-marks passes vertically down from the cordon. On the same piece is part of a circular hole, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter, just above the cordon. The other fragment shows part of another hole in the same position, so there were at least two such holes above the cordon. The evidence is insufficient to show if any apertures were present in the lower part of the louver.

2. Fragment of the side of a large louver. Hard, light reddish-brown sandy ware, with patches of green glaze on the upper part. The inside surface is smoke-stained. An applied cordon crosses the fragment. Just above the cordon is the straight lower edge, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, of an opening, with up-turned edges at both ends. The edge was cut before firing and is pressed over on the inside. About $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the cordon is part of the cut edge of a large circular opening, made not quite vertically below the upper opening. The curve is part of a circle about 6 in. in radius.

The shape of the louver can be restored as conical with curved profile. The upper opening was probably triangular or even a half circle, but not rectangular because of the decreasing size of the structure at this level. The lower opening is restored as a half circle only, but even so a series of three or four holes of this size seem more than sufficient. The diameter of the louver at the base was about 20 in., and the height about 18-20 in.

The louver, a structure invented in medieval times to carry away smoke from the open central hearth, was usually made of stone or wood and erected on the middle of the roof.¹ It was provided with a series of openings when of stone, which were divided by horizontal slats when made of wood, in order to create an updraught to draw the smoke from the interior of the room, and also to minimize downdraughts from the wind blowing into the louver.

The same dynamics govern the design of louvers made of pottery. They are provided with apertures of various shapes arranged in one or more stages all round the side, to create a cross-draught from any direction and for the exit of smoke.

¹ Documentary evidence in L. F. Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540* (1952), p. 166. For surviving louvers see Margaret E. Wood, "Thirteenth-century Domestic Architecture in England", *Archaeological Journal*, CV, Supplement, p. 122-3.

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The majority of the pottery louvers from southern England are large dome- or beehive-shaped structures, widest at the base, and about 15-20 in. in diameter and about the same height. The apertures are either circular, triangular or rectangular, and the shapes may occur singly or together on the same louver. On some louvers the openings are provided with rims or flanges projecting from the side to act as baffle plates. Examples of this type are from Stonar and New Romney in Kent, The More, Herts.,¹ Warrington, Warwicks, and Bristol. On other louvers the openings are simply cut out of the side, and the structure is given a more formal appearance by applied cordons and strips, which divide the surface into stages and panels. The Bexley louvers are good examples of this sub-type.

DISPOSAL OF FINDS

All the material obtained during this excavation is retained by the present owner of Cray House, Mr. N. P. Knight.

P. J. TESTER.

J. E. L. CAIGER.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT SHOREHAM CHURCH

At the Darent valley church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Shoreham, a rare opportunity for archaeological research beneath the floor of the nave and south aisle recently arose while work was in progress on the laying of paving stones. An investigation was carried out by the writer, with help from the Vicar and Mr. R. Booker, between December, 1956, and September, 1957, and was followed by a further series of small excavations round the base of the tower by the writer in September, 1958. The object was to remove some of the doubts which existed as to the medieval stages of development of the fabric. Brief architectural notes on this church by our member, Mr. F. C. Elliston-Erwood, F.S.A., appeared, together with a plan,² in *Arch. Cant.*, LXV (1952) and in more than one respect the recent discoveries testify to the soundness of conclusions which he expressed as conjectural at the time.

The most important outcome of the investigation was that footings of walls of the Norman chancel were brought to light. This was a small rectangular structure and, as the accompanying diagram will show, its lay-out was as indicated on Mr. Elliston-Erwood's plan except that the site was some six feet further east. The footings revealed were those of a short stretch of the east and the full length of the north chancel walls, with the adjoining east wall of the Norman nave from its northern extremity to the respond of the chancel arch.

¹ *Arch. Journ.*, CXV, forthcoming.

² It should be noted that the scale on the plan in *Arch. Cant.*, LXV, was unfortunately misprinted to read in stages up to 30 feet instead of 50 feet.

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They showed that the internal length of the chancel was 12 feet 2 in. and, assuming that the position of its south wall correspond with the north in relation to the present nave, the width was about 11 feet 7 in. The footings were composed of small unknapped flints and occasional blocks of Kentish ragstone in ample lime mortar which, in its decayed condition, was of a chalky consistency. The 3 walls were bonded together at their angles and were 3 feet to 3 feet 3 ins. thick.

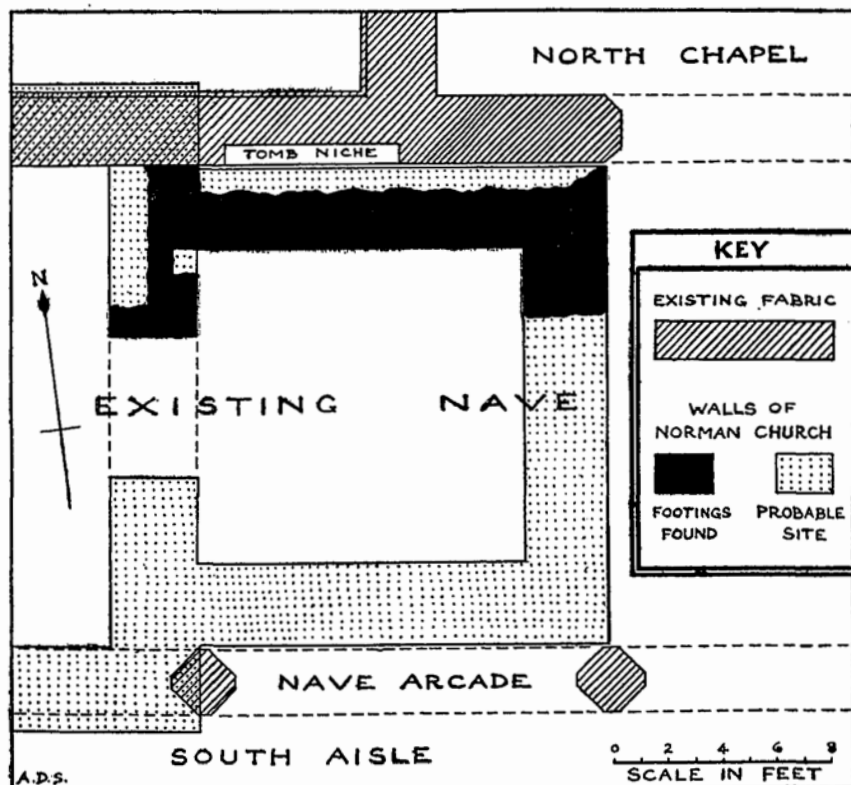


FIG. 5. Shoreham Church.

There is little doubt that these remains are coeval with the present nave west wall, which appears to be the earliest part of the existing building, and together they probably constitute survivals of the first stone church on this site. It is thus deduced that the dimensions of the Norman nave were 37 feet 6 in. by 17 feet 10 in. Hitherto the west wall has generally been considered late twelfth-century work on account

of the Transitional tower arch it incorporates. The small size of the chancel and the character of the masonry of its wall footings, however, though not in themselves very reliable as dating evidence, are suggestive of a somewhat earlier period. Weight is added to this suggestion by the thought that the deanery church of Shoreham is likely to have been of stone construction before its chapel at Otford, the earliest masonry of which clearly antedates the Shoreham tower arch. An alternative hypothesis to the late twelfth-century chancel, nave and western tower envisaged by Mr. Elliston-Erwood thus emerges; it is that a church consisting only of a nave and chancel was erected on the site of the Saxon building, probably around the dawn of the twelfth century, and that, as at Otford, a tower with an arch opening into the nave was added several decades later. If the nave west wall could be examined stripped of its plaster rendering, the solution of the problem may well become clear.

Excavations round the base of the tower exterior showed that the present eighteenth-century structure of red brick and neatly knapped flintwork was built on rubble footings consisting of unknapped flints with a few pieces of ironstone, chalk and Kentish ragstone, the wall-face being left rough as though for rendering with mortar. These footings are consistent in character with a late twelfth-century date and are undoubtedly remains of the former tower; its ground-plan conformed externally with that of the existing one and, if the symbols which Symonson used to denote churches on his map¹ of 1596 can be relied upon, it carried a spire.

There was evidence of a diagonal buttress added at its south-western angle, perhaps in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, and of a possible right-angled buttress at the east end of the north side. Upwards of 12 in. below ground level was a continuous flat platform of mortared flintwork built against the footings all round the tower and projecting about 18 in. from the wall-face; this proved to be an eighteenth-century device for the strengthening of the medieval masonry which was to bear the weight of the new tower.

No signs of thirteenth-century alterations to the church came to light and it is concluded that the ground-plan probably remained unchanged until the major developments of the fourteenth century, which apparently involved the extension of the nave to its present length and the erection of a new chancel. Fragmentary masonry found along the line of the arcade wall suggested that this fourteenth century nave was aisleless, but the evidence was by no means conclusive. Heavy stone blocks below the floor were revealed running parallel with and immediately west of the rood screen and these may represent remains of a fourteenth-century chancel arch wall.

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, XXX, pp. 85 and 90.

Traces of early work apart from those already mentioned were generally shown to have been obliterated in the course of alterations to the church, notably the addition of the south aisle and chapel and the reconstruction of the present chancel with its well known timber rood screen. These operations, together with the erection of the porch, appear to belong to a single period of work and can be ascribed with some degree of certainty to the time of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon on the strength of the carved rose and pomegranate which appear in the spandrels of the doorway to the rood stair, the latter motif being repeated in a band of carving throughout the length of the screen.

It was clear that the floor-level of the nave and aisle was several inches higher in the sixteenth century than it is now, and there was apparently a rise of two steps to the chancel and south chapel. Late burial vaults of local families were visible beneath the floors of both chapels.

A copy of the full report on the excavations has been lodged with the K.A.S. Library. This contains acknowledgements of the valuable assistance received from various quarters, but the enthusiastic co-operation of the Rev. V. S. Edwards, M.A., Vicar of Shoreham, should be mentioned here; he made the investigation not only possible but a particular pleasure to undertake.

A. D. STOYEL.

A PROBABLE ROMAN INTERMENT AT DEAL

Two first-century vessels were found 100 yards south-west of Douglas Avenue, of Mill Hill, Deal, in a disused chalk quarry. Grid. Ref. TQ (51) 362512 (East Kent No. 173).

They were discovered by the father of Mr. R. A. Adamson of West Wickham, Kent, in about 1890. They appear to indicate the presence of an urn field, of which this is a solitary example. The vessels are now in the possession of Mr. R. I. Little.

(See Belgic site near at hand. "Iron age C".)

(a). Urn of soft black ware, height $7\frac{1}{4}$ in., diameter, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., base, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Restored from fragments and showing characteristic first century features, such as cordoning, and pecked decoration. This vessel was presumably used as a receptacle for ashes.

(b). Samian patera. Form 18. Height, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., diameter, $6\frac{3}{4}$ in., base $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. Stamped BASSI, the work of the potter Bassus from La Graufesenque. This specimen is in almost perfect condition, and shows defects due to impurities in the clay body. Claudian-Vespasian. A.D. 40-80.

K. D. HORE.

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FURTHER DISCOVERIES OF ROMAN KILNS AND REMAINS AT CHALK NEAR GRAVESEND

In 1953 (*Arch. Cant.* Vol. LXVIII, 144) finds of Roman kilns and graves were reported from a site at Chalk near Gravesend (Grid. Ref. 690732). It was thought at that time that the closing of the gravel pit would put an end to further discoveries, but after the pit had closed a small portion of unexcavated ground in its north-east corner showed traces of Roman occupation and further investigation has resulted in the discovery of the remains of two kilns together with some unrelated but interesting pottery of first-century type.

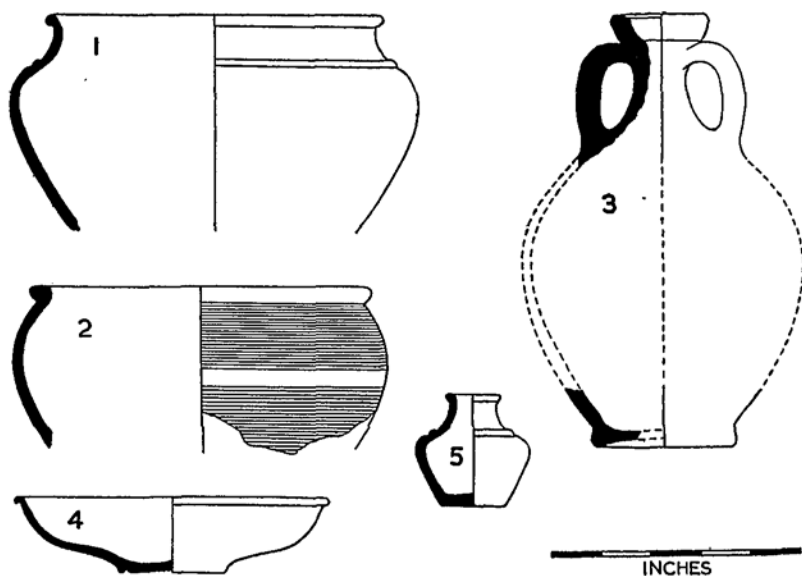
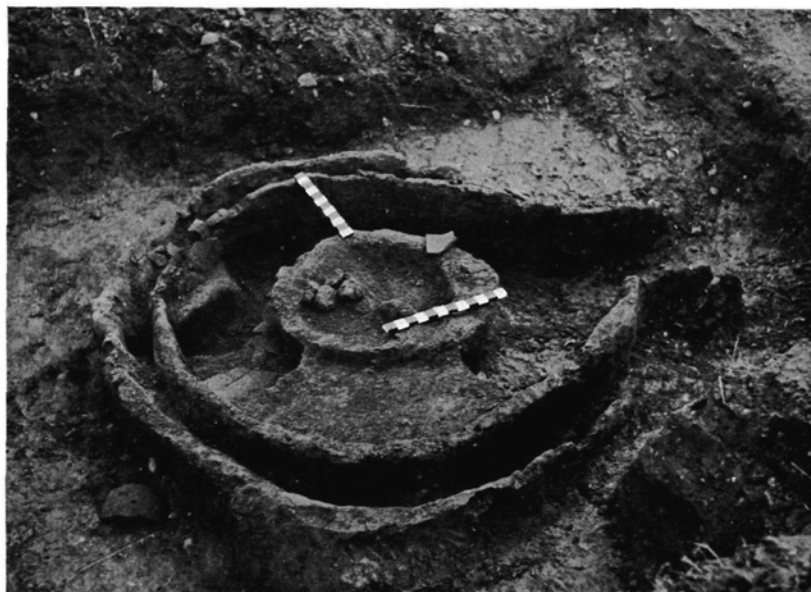


FIG. 7. Kiln at Chalk. First century pottery.

KILNS

The two kilns overlapped, one having been destroyed to make way for the other. The remains of the later and more complete kiln consisted of a combustion chamber, roughly circular in shape, having a diameter of 5 feet 6 in., with the firing point at the west end. The kiln appeared to be an updraft kiln of Grimes type II (Y Cymmroder) but there were some variations of interest.

The oven floor of the kiln appeared to have been supported on a central column made from a solid mass of clay circular in shape with diameter of 2 feet 4 in., and 8 in. high. This column appears to have been baked in situ by the firing of the kiln which has resulted in the formation of a massive ring of very hard baked clay about 4 in. thick,



Roman Kiln at Chalk.

except that on the north side where, presumably from some variation of draught, greater heat has baked the clay to a thickness of approximately 6 in. The clay inside the baked ring was reddened by heat, but not converted into the bricklike substance of the outer ring. The column stood on a clay floor reddened by heat and approximately 2 in. thick. In this clay floor were a few fragments of coarse pottery, and beneath the clay was a floor of gravel or pebbles.

At a distance of about 12 in. this central column was encircled by a wall of well-baked clay averaging an inch and a half in thickness standing upon the clay floor of the combustion chamber. This wall was blackened on both sides, with a core of brick red colour. Its height was (like the central column) approximately 8 in. At the western end this wall projected to form a funnel-shaped entrance to the combustion chamber and here the floor and wall of the entrance sloped downwards towards the firing point. At the turn of the south wall where it projected towards the firing point a small portion of the wall was found to be turned inwards indicating that at this point the wall was originally domed over with baked clay.

Outside this wall of well fired clay, and set at approximately 5 in. from it, was another wall of baked clay about 8 in. high. This outer wall was of different character from the inner wall. Its inner face was baked a light greenish yellow and was fairly hard, but its outer face could not be determined, merging into a heat-reddened clay and then natural clay. The base of this outer wall was built on the same floor of clay on pebbles as the rest of the kiln, but in the clay were several large fragments of baked clay which appeared to have formed part of the broken-down upper part of a kiln. The base of this outer wall inclined inwards towards the inner wall, but was not joined to it.

Beneath and around the kiln was a well defined pebble or gravel floor firmly trodden in. This floor was approximately 1 foot 3 in. below ground level at the north and south sides of the kiln, but dipped to approximately 2 feet at the firing point to the west, and had another depression at the eastern end of the kiln about 1 foot 6 in. deep which was filled with broken kiln material. The depression at the western end was obviously for ease of firing, but the reason for the depression at the eastern end was not clear ; possibly some drainage purpose was served.

Approximately 2 feet to the south was found the remains of another kiln. It appeared to have been somewhat larger than the first, but all that remained of it was a semi-circle of baked clay approximately 7 in. high and about 4 feet long. It stood on the same pebble floor as the first kiln and had obviously been destroyed to make room for it. This fragment resembled the outer wall of the more complete kiln in having a well baked greenish inner face fading through red into reddened

clay. Its inner face had a marked curve inwards at the base but no trace of any inner wall or central mass was found, except a considerable quantity of baked clay which was scattered in small pieces all over the site. At the western end of this broken kiln the baked clay faded from a hard brick like mass into a bank of raw clay approximately 6 in. high. This bank ran along the edge of the depression in the pebble floor which formed the firing pit. The clay, when tested, baked to a similar fabric as the baked clay of the kiln wall and may have been either a reserve supply of clay or banked on the south side of the firing pit to act in some way as a draught guide. The pebble floor inside the kiln showed marked signs of heat over an area which presumably represented the centre of the broken kiln.

No trace of any oven floor could be found for either kiln. There were neither bars, tiles, nor baked clay fragments inside the kilns or in the debris around. The space between the central column and the inner wall of the more complete kiln was filled with potsherds to a depth of approximately 4 in. These sherds were closely packed in a sooty filling and consisted mainly of what appeared to be broken fragments of one large pot of very coarse heavy black ware with a reddish clay interior, which were so badly fired and soft that it was found impossible to remove sufficient to form any accurate idea of its size or shape. The other fragments mixed with those of the large pot were coarse pottery of apparently first/second-century type.

The evidence suggests that the more complete kiln was built upon the site of an earlier kiln and that the central column and inner wall of the kiln was a permanent structure supporting an oven floor, around which was built a temporary dome of clay at each firing, the dome being broken and replaced with each batch of pots. When the kiln fell into disuse the oven floor was removed and the combustion chamber filled with fragments of broken pottery and the site levelled.¹ The significance of the packed pottery is not clear, but there is no indication that the kiln was ever used as a rubbish tip, as is often the case, and the space between the inner and outer wall of the kiln was only filled with normal topsoil.

FIRST-CENTURY POTTERY

Some 48 feet south eastwards from the kiln described above was found what appeared to be a rubbish trench containing much Roman pottery, humus matter, and occasional oxbones and teeth. The trench had been much cut about by the modern gravel working, but appeared to extend for some 10 feet northwards from the edge where

¹ This may be compared with the filling of a kiln at Shorne (about half a mile from this site) mentioned in *B. M. Guide to Roman Britain*, 1922, 113, which describes that kiln as circular with small pieces of pottery packed inside.

the gravel digging had stopped. As discovered, the trench appeared to be approximately 2 feet deep with a width at the bottom of two feet sloping outwards to about 3 to 4 feet at the top. The trench yielded no certain dating material but there were several fragments of pottery of early Roman character (1, 2 and 3) and a small dish (4 of Fig. 7). The most interesting find however was that of five miniature pots or vases all found scattered on the bottom of the trench roughly in a line running from north to south along the trench. They were not placed in any particular manner some being on their sides; one was upright and another with the neck downwards. All were of the same pattern though they varied slightly in size (5 of Fig. 7). The character of the pots indicates a probable first-century date which agrees with the dating of the other fragments found. No conclusions as to the purpose of the trench could be drawn from the contents of the pit or the purpose of the small pots to which no exact parallel can so far be found. Mr. P. J. Tester's notes on the pottery finds are appended.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. R. Foord for his assistance in the excavation and for his photography, and likewise to put on record the assistance so willingly given by Mr. P. J. Tester in preparing the drawings of the pottery, and the notes thereon.

NOTES ON THE POTTERY. By P. J. TESTER.

1. Wide bowl or cooking-pot with cordon on shoulder. Brownish surface, grey core; scorched red on body. Cf. *Stone*, No. 1 which has a pedestal base and is dated tentatively to late 1st century B.C.¹ Also *Camulodunum* I, 220 which is second half of 1st century A.D., to which period the present example probably belongs.

2. Cooking-pot with bead rim and rilled body. Grey-brown native ware, black on outer surface. Cf. *Camulodunum* 260A. Mid-1st century A.D.

3. Cup-mouthed jug with two plain round handles. Cream ware. May have affinities to *Camulodunum* 168/9 which would date it with 1 and 2 above.

4. Bowl or dish. Hard, fine, grey-brown ware. Cf. *Richborough* III, 235 which has the same S profile and is dated 80-120 A.D., but this example may be a little earlier on evidence of association.

5. Diminutive vessel with cordon above shoulder. Gritty grey ware. One of five identical pots found together. Probably toys, like those from the floor of a potter's hut at Islands Thorns, New Forest, though these are of very different form (*B.M. Guide to Antiquities of Roman Britain*, 1951, p. 36, No. 28).

A. F. ALLEN.

¹ *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 1941, p. 136.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

COBHAM PARK; INTERIM REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S EXCAVATIONS, 1959

In accordance with the Excavation Committee's proposals approved by Council in December 1958, excavations were carried out in Cobham Park under the writer's supervision during the period 3rd to 11th April and again between 31st July and 14th August, 1959. Over thirty persons have taken an active part, about half the number being members of the Society.

Earthworks. The main purpose of the investigation has been achieved, as datable material was found in two cuttings made across the earthworks. While a detailed description of the evidence and discussion of its significance must await publication at a later date, it may be stated in advance that nothing has been found to confirm the theory that the banks and ditches bordering the wooded Pleasure Grounds on their north-east and west sides form part of a "British oppidum", as has been commonly claimed.¹ On the north-east, some fragments of thin roof-tiles, which are certainly not pre-medieval, were found on the old surface under the banks. On the west side of the hill, the straight bank and ditch of the "annexe" were tested, and it was found that the bank at one point contained and overlay abundant Roman material, chiefly tiles and pottery, in a manner which excludes the possibility of the earthwork being of earlier construction, though it could be a good deal later.

Building I. The chance discovery of this Roman debris led to a search being made for the building from which it had come. The position of this has now been located by trial digging. It lies partly under the bank and extends into the field to the west, not far north of the Water Gauge marked on the O.S. 6 in. map (Kent Sheet, XVIII, N.E.). A flint wall and part of a plain tessellated floor have so far been uncovered but the main lay-out of the structure awaits investigation. Samian ware and other pottery in association seems to be mainly of the period A.D. 50-100.

Building II. In the field to the west, about thirty yards from the bank, another building was found by trial digging and fully uncovered in August. It was a simple rectangular structure, 45 feet by 19 feet, with flint footings. Roman tiles and pottery lay on its earthen floor.

Well. Still further westward, another test-hole revealed the filling of a pit which, when totally excavated, turned out to be a Roman well, 7½ feet deep, timber-lined at the bottom and still fed by a spring. Some of the saturated timbers were extracted, and it was possible to make out the exact form of the jointing and construction of the lining. It is hoped that it may be possible to date the wood by tree-ring analysis.

¹ See *Arch. Cant.*, XI (1876), 121-2, and *Victoria County History of Kent*, I (1908), 392-4. The latter contains a plan based on Col. O. E. Ruck's survey of 1905.



A. Timber lining at bottom of Roman well.



B. Flint footing at N.E. corner of Building II,
EXCAVATIONS IN COBHAM PARK.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Four pots were found in the bottom $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet of silt; one, over a foot high, was in almost perfect condition, the others shattered but capable of complete reconstruction. These were undoubtedly vessels used for drawing water and lost down the well by accident.

The unexpected discovery of this Roman settlement has recalled the fact that in 1883 an unassociated hoard of 836 coins ranging from A.D. 306 to 353 was dug up by chance in this same field (*Arch. Cant.*, XV, 321).¹

A great deal has been accomplished in the three weeks, due to the enthusiasm and hard work of all those taking part, aided by good weather. As the general circumstances are most favourable and a good team of local diggers has been formed, it is proposed that the Society should continue work here in 1960 with a view to obtaining more evidence concerning the nature and extent of the Roman settlement. As this lies close to the line of Watling Street it may have been a place of some importance.

Less than half the sum of £40 set aside by the Society to meet the expenses of the first season's work has been spent. Much of this saving is due to the generous loan of tools and other necessary equipment, and the willing co-operation of the voluntary diggers in back-filling the excavations at the end of the August session to avoid the cost of hiring labour for the purpose.

Permission for the recent digging was kindly given by the land-owners, Lord Darnley and the Ministry of Works.

P. J. TESTER.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT POLHILL

The excavations at this site by members of the Otford and District Historical Society under the ægis of Maidstone Museum have already been mentioned in *Arch. Cant.*, LXX (1956), p. 280. During the summer months of 1956 and 1958 a grid laid out in the quarry field to the west of the A21 road was opened, with the work being directed by Mr. L. E. Tomkins, F.R.I.C.S. Previously, the mechanical excavator's wholesale removal of the bank immediately east of the grid had disclosed eight of the graves reported on by Miss Blumstein. It was, therefore, a great disappointment that the patient and systematic archaeological investigation proved almost completely fruitless. No further graves came to light and the only finds (kindly identified by Maidstone Museum) were

- (1) coin of Magnentius (A.D. 350-353).
- (2) small bronze penannular brooch comparable with one from Springhead,² of the first half of the first century.

¹ The exact find-spot is shown on Ruck's original plan, a blueprint of which is preserved in Gravesend Library.

² *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, p. 98, Fig. 14, 6.

A report detailing the area investigated is in the Otford and District Historical Society's records.

Ironically, at the time of writing, mechanical excavators have just resumed operations and revealed further graves in removing more of the roadside bank on the west side of A21 at the northern extremity of the area covered by the plan on p. 278 of *Arch. Cant.*, LXX. Observation on the site is being maintained.

"DANES TRENCH", POLHILL

It is understood that a major project for the straightening of the A21 road up Polhill is contemplated, which if carried out may endanger much of "Danes Trench". This fine earthwork, defensive in character but of unknown origin, follows the foot of the steep slope of Polhill to the east of the road for a distance of some six hundred yards.

A. D. STOYEL.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

(1) CHARING

A recent accession to the Museum (accession no. 84.1958) has been the bottom portion of a beehive quern made of puddingstone. It was found in the Newlands Sandpit of Messrs. H. R. King and Company. This pit lies to the West of Newlands medieval chapel and it was there that Mr. Alan Warhurst, Mr. Ronald Haynes and the writer found a great deal of fragments of Belgic pottery in 1952. At least one complete Belgic pot (Museum Accession No. 23.1952) has come from the site.

Dimensions of quern :

Greatest diameter, 1 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Height, approx. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

There are remains of a metal central pivot.

(2) CHATHAM AND ROCHESTER

A Chatham $\frac{1}{2}$ d. token of Richard Ien, 1668 (Williamson's *Boyne*, No. 95), was recently found on the site of the Old Brewery, Theobalds Square, Rochester. Museum Accession No. 11.1959.

(3) DODDINGTON

The gold solidus of the Emperor Valentinian (A.D. 364-375), found at Dully Wood, Doddington, and mentioned in *Arch. Cant.*, XXV, pp. lxvi-lxvii, has now been presented by our member, Mr. Ronald Haynes, to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 9.1959).

Description :

Obverse : DN VALENTINIANVS PF AVG

Reverse : VICTORIA AVGG

Exergue : TROBS (Treves mint).

(4) EGERTON

The uncommon farthing token of John Mors of Charing, 1651, (Williamson's *Boyne*, no. 87) was recently dug up here by Mr. E. Smith of Stonebridge Green, and was presented by him to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 37.1959).

L. R. A. GROVE.

(5) FOLKESTONE

A bronze knife-blade¹ found at Folkestone, c. 1880, has been given to Maidstone Museum by the Museum Committee of the Central Museum, Northampton, through A. Warhurst, Esq., F.S.A.

The blade has a projecting rib upon the tang, and is closely paralleled by a knife illustrated in Evans' *Ancient Bronze Implements*, p. 212, fig. 252. It has been previously recorded in *Arch. Cant.*, XLIX (1937), pp. 284-5.

E. J. E. PIRIE.

(6) GREENWICH

Volume three of *The Victoria History of the County of Kent*, 1932, mentions a small manufactory of china at Greenwich in 1747 and comments that "nothing is known of its history".² The *London Tradesman* of that date noted "of late we have made some attempts to make porcelain or china-ware, after the manner it is done in China and Dresden. There is a house at Greenwich, and another at Chelsea, where the undertakers have been for some time trying to imitate that beautiful manufacture".³

It is probable that the Elizabethan forebear of the Greenwich factory of 1747 was a pottery described in a manuscript deed dated 10th December, 1590, now in Maidstone Museum.

Nicholas Churcheman, potter, of East Greenwich mortgaged for £40 to Thomas Hasellwood, citizen and alebrewer of Newgate, London, "all that mesuage or ten(emen)t in Eastgreenw(i)ch aforesaid wherein

¹ Museum Accession Number : 25.1959.

² Page 402.

³ Jewitt, *The Ceramic Art of Great Britain*, I (1878), p. 162. M. L. Solon on p. 49 of his *A Brief History of Old English Porcelain*, 1903, says "we should not be surprised if of such minor and short-lived factories as Stepney and Greenwich nothing remains but the mere mention of their name".

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the saide Nicholas Churcheman now dwelleth And all Chambers Cellars Sollars owtehowses Barnes Stables woorkehowses Outeledds sheds & yeards gardenis waies entries lights liberties easements and appurtenanc(e)s whatsoev(er) . . . Being now in the tenure or occupation of the saide Nich(ol)as Churcheman or his assignes Scituate and beinge in Eastgrenewiche aforesaide in or neare a certaine streate theare leadinge towards Bellingsgate theare Abbutting to the quenes highwaie on the East/agaynst the com(m)on sewar of the west/against the lands of Rob(er)te Browne sberman on the sowthe And the lands of John Wheatley on the Northe ”.

Drake¹ quotes from *Close Roll* 25 Elizabeth I that Anthony Rooper and John Gauver, both of Farningham, sold to Henry Stutfielde of Writtlemersh, yeoman, the fee of a messuage situate in Billingsgate, E. Greenwich, then under lease from William Rooper, the father, to Thomas Fearn, potter, and concludes that probably the ferry at Billingsgate was called Potter's Ferry because of the potter nearby. Potter's Ferry was originally from Billingsgate to the Isle of Dogs and was transferred to Garden Stairs in 1672.²

The site of the pottery is still further defined by an entry on page 82 of “ A Survey of the Kings Lordship or Mannor of East Greenwich . . . Taken before Samuel Travers Esqr. His Majesty's Surveyor General 1697 ”.³ This describes four tenements which were part of the reputed manor of Old Court belonging to the Honour and Manor of East Greenwich and which “ with a Garden to each of them belonging, as also one little Wharfe and a Potter's Kilne House . . . were formerly in the Occupation of Richard Bradley, Robert Wootton, Athanasius Whinyard, Nicholas Penton, and George Reynolds, scituate lying and being, at the West End of Greenwich, lying South of the River Thames and adjoining to a Place call'd Billingsgate in the said Town of Greenwich, and containing three Roods ”.

(7) HERNE BAY

Another lead seal matrix was found by Mr. A. C. Arlott on the 27th October, 1958, on the beach almost in the entrance of Bishopstone Glen and a little west of the find-place of the previously published matrices from this neighbourhood.⁴ It was folded (60°-180°) and has since been carefully opened up by Mr. Arlott. I am again indebted to Mr. H. E. Gough for letting me examine the matrix and for supplying information concerning the find.

¹ *Hasted's History of Kent*, edited by Henry H. Drake, part 1, *The Hundred of Blackheath*, 1886, footnote 1, p. 78.

² *Ibid.*, p. 104.

³ Bound manuscript in Maidstone Museum, reference no. 318/1891.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, LXX, p. 268 and LXXI, p. 225.

*Description :*Diameter $1\frac{1}{8}$ in.

There is a small tag $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long on the reverse. It is placed behind the obverse inscription's commencing cross.

Inscription :

+ S' ALEXANDERI SO-T

(Seal of Alexander So-t)

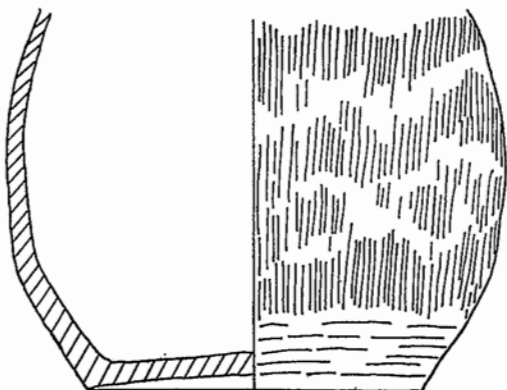
The split caused by folding runs through the missing letter in SO-T to the half-obliterated second A in ALEXANDERI.

As this is the third lead matrix from a small area Mr. Gough suspects that there may be a possibly unwitting "plant" here through loss, or dumping of unwanted material by an occupier of Bishopstone Manor. It is to be noted that the late J. Lewin Payne, O.B.E., a member of our Society, lived at the Manor before the recent War.

L.R.A.G.

(8) HOLLINGBOURNE

In June, 1959, a hoard of about 5470 Roman antoniniani in a pottery container was ploughed up in a field¹ on Old Mill Farm, Hollingbourne,² by Mr. William Reddick. The find was made at the west end of the field, when the plough was being turned on the brow of a slight slope. The deposit was at a depth of about two feet.

FIG. 8. Hollingbourne Roman Coin-Hoard Pot ($\frac{1}{2}$).

Mr. Osmund Horne of Old Mill Farm reported the find to Maidstone Museum and to the police. Subsequently, an inquest was held and the coins were declared Treasure Trove. They were then sent to the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum. A preliminary examination of the coins indicates that they range from the

¹ O.S. 70.² O.S. 6", Kent sheet, LXIII S.W.

reign of Elagabalus (A.D. 218-222) to that of Probus (A.D. 276-282). The hoard must have been deposited about A.D. 280. A full report on the find will appear in due course in one of the numismatic journals.

The pottery urn (fig. 8) is a native type, hand-made in a grey/buff ware, and coated with hæmatite in an Early Iron Age A tradition. The only decoration consists of irregular, shallow grooving, which is vertical on the upper part of the body and horizontal towards the base. No piece of the rim was found and it is possible that this had already been cut off by ploughing activity on some previous occasion before the coins themselves came to light. The urn cannot be closely dated independently of the coins.

The pot remains the property of Lady Bailey of Leeds Castle, and it is now on loan to Maidstone Museum.¹

E.J.E.P.

(9) MILTON NEXT SITTINGBOURNE

Fourteen silver sceattas, probably part of a seventh century hoard found by the late Mr. R. Mills near the Old Court Hall, Milton, in 1916,² have recently been purchased for Maidstone Museum³ with the aid of a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum. Mr. R. H. M. Dolley, F.S.A., of the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, in a preliminary report to me has put the coins into four groups consisting of seven of *B.M.C.*, type 2a, one of 27a variety, five of type 27b, and one of 27b variety.⁴

L.R.A.G.

(10) ORPINGTON

Mr. H. F. Marfleet, 19 Cross Way, Petts Wood, has given to the Museum the cutting edge of a Bronze Age socketted axe⁵ which he found, c. 1957, on his allotment "about a quarter of a mile from Petts Wood station, travelling towards London, and a few yards from the railway track".

E.J.E.P.

(11) ST. MARY CRAY

Through the kind help of Mr. Peter Tester, F.S.A., I have been allowed to examine a lead seal matrix which belongs to Mr. L. Dale of Bexley. This has recently been found on Chantler's Nursery, sixty

¹ Museum loan 1959/5.

² J. D. A. Thompson, *Inventory of British Coin Hoards*, 1956, p. 103, item 269.

³ Accession no. 9.1959.

⁴ *A Catalogue of English Coins in the British Museum. Anglo-Saxon Series*, vol. I (1887), pp. 2, 14 and 15.

⁵ Museum Accession Number : 26.1959.

to seventy feet from the High Street, St. Mary Cray. It is not in a good state of preservation but the inscription can be clearly read.

Description :

Inscription : †S' WALTERI . FIL . R . MVN

(Seal of Walter son of R. Mun).

The inscription encircles a five pointed star with wavy rays.

Greatest diameter, 1.3 in.

Thickness, $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

No projecting handle occurs on the reverse but there is a small circular boss in the centre about a tenth of an inch in diameter. The matrix itself appears to be made of two thicknesses of lead pressed together.

A parallel to the form of the inscription is to be found in *Birch*¹ on a late 12th century seal inscribed SIGILLVM . W . FILII . (W.) FILII (WAR)INI for William, son of William FitzWarin of Pershore.

(12) STAPLEHURST

A "steeple bottle", similar in shape and size to the Whitstable example in the Canterbury Museum,² was recently found under the floor of Ely Court, Staplehurst, and later presented to Maidstone Museum (Accession No. 35.1959). The height of $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. with base diameter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. puts this bottle early in Mr. Thorpe's sequence of steeple-shaped phials³ but the whiteness of the glass—with very little green tinting—seems to place it fairly in the 17th century.

L.R.A.G.

(13) TENTERDEN

The lower portion of a pitcher or cooking pot (Fig. 9) was found at 10 West Cross, Tenterden, "under a very deep foundation wall which appeared to have been shored up long ago". The pottery is of hard grey/buff ware, coloured with a dark green, and is decorated with horizontal bands of grooves. It is similar to one of the pitchers among the group of unglazed vessels which was found under the Bentlif Wing, Maidstone Museum, in 1889, and, like it, may be attributed to the 13th century.

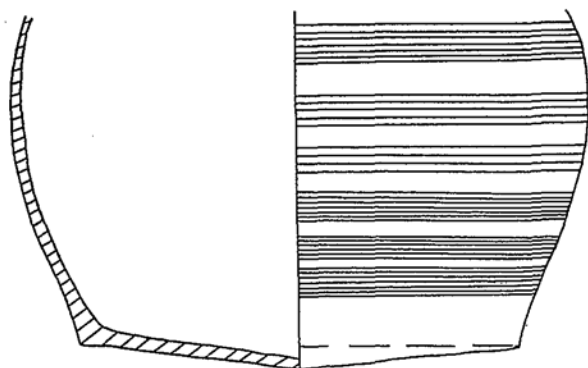
The pot remains the property of Mrs. Irene Pugh, of the above address in Tenterden.

E.J.E.P.

¹ Birch, *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*, II, p. 293, no. 6026.

² Figured in Thorpe, *English Glass*, 1949, plate XVb, where it is described as "English; c. 1400".

³ W. A. Thorpe, *English Glassware in the Seventeenth Century*, in Messrs. Churchill's *Glass Notes*, no. 16 (1956).

FIG. 9. Medieval Pot, Tenterden ($\frac{1}{2}$).

(14) WORMSHILL

Soon after the publication of my note on the Wormshill Chest in *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI, I received from our member, the Reverend Thomas Underhill, a letter in which he told me of his discovery of the chest in 1914, before which date its history is a blank. I have his permission to quote the following extract from his letter :

“ I visited the Church for taking notes on the 1st June, 1914, and during my inspection found the Chest in the N. chancel placed against the E. wall. It was covered with a cloth ; and thinking there was an old altar table beneath, I raised it, and the Chest was revealed. As I knew the Graveney chest, I realized its date and rarity. The Rector helped me to cover up the window above the Chest to take a photo, and as he had no knowledge of the date and value of the Chest I impressed upon him the need to take great care of it.” Mr. Underhill published a short note on the chest and his discovery of it in *The Antiquary* for February, 1915.

L.R.A.G.