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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

UPCHURCH¹: TWO ROMAN POTTERY KILNS

These sites, situated in the Slayhill Marshes near Upchurch, were discovered by the writer while searching the marshes for evidence of Roman pottery workings in that area. Owing to the find spot being in a bird breeding area the writer has been requested to omit map references so as to prevent unwarranted attacks on the clay banks.

The kilns lie in layers of debris whose surfaces vary from 2 ft. to 3 ft. below the marsh surface, which is here 10 ft. OD. Owing to tidal action only parts of the kilns remained.

Kiln 1 (Fig. 1)

The kiln was of a normal updraught type being roughly circular in plan, and it had been badly eroded by tidal action ; in consequence the stokehole was not seen but parts of the fire tunnel were still *in situ*. The furnace so far as could be determined measured more than 2 ft. in diameter and was 1 ft. deep. It had been constructed in a circular pit dug into the natural clay (a l. on section) from the original ground level and had been lined with lumps of burnt clay, which had been rendered over with a 1 inch slurry of clay.

Clear traces of a ledge 3 in. wide were found at the top of the furnace. This most likely supported the edges of the oven floor which now no longer remains. Additional support for the oven floor probably had been provided, and signs to this effect were seen by the presence of two potsherds stuck to the base of the furnace which were covered with burnt clay, the sherds probably being used to reinforce the support. The figured layers in Section C-C are as follows :

Layer 1. Newly deposited clay.

Layer 2. Kiln debris containing a few bones and potsherds.

Layer a 1. Natural clay into which the pit was dug from Layer 2.

¹ Grateful thanks are extended to Mr. Francis Webb for permission to visit the sites. Thanks are also due to Mr. Frank Jenkins, F.S.A., and Mr. J. H. Evans, F.S.A., for their advice during the preparation of this report.

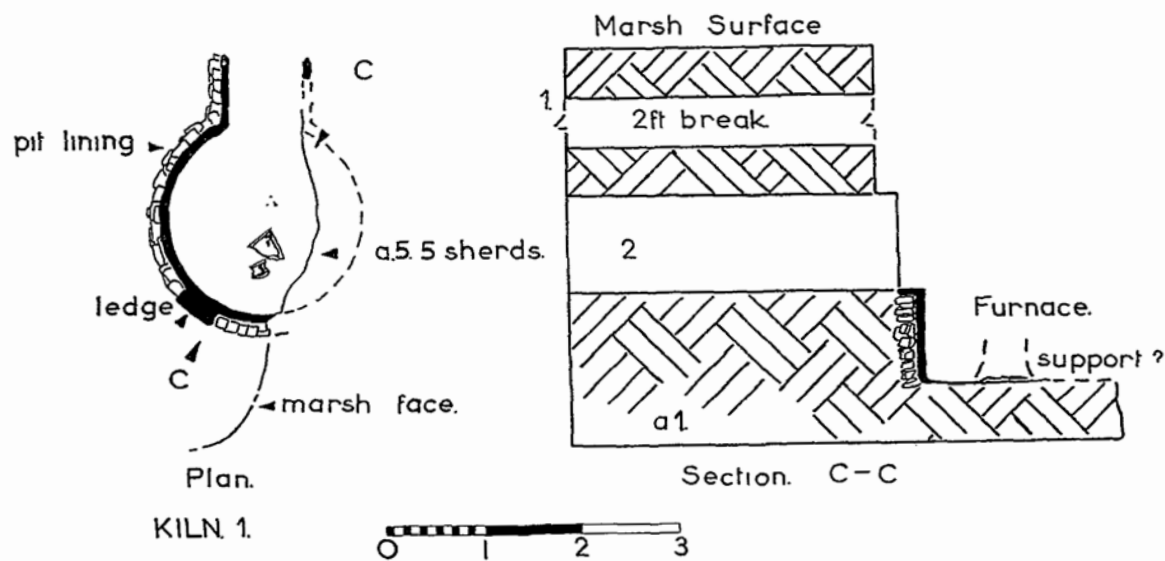


FIG. 1. Upchurch : Kiln 1.

Kiln 2 (Fig. 2)

This seems to be a pottery kiln of a rectangular updraught type of which only a corner of the furnace chamber was found, its remaining walls being 1 ft. high and 5 in. thick. No signs of an oven floor or fire-tunnel were found, the latter most likely being destroyed with the erosion of the marsh.

If Section A-A is examined it will be seen that resting on the natural clay (1) is a layer of occupational debris, (2) which contained bone, daub and other rubbish. Resting on this layer, and effectively sealing it, is a floor of burnt clay (3). A deposit of burnt clay (4) was resting upon this; this could have been laid down as a levelling layer or probably is part of the kiln structure, the apparent change of the clay being due to the variations in temperature. The remaining part of the furnace (blackened in on section) was in a layer of ash (5) which contained large lumps of burnt clay suggesting that part of the furnace had collapsed (C.D. on section). 5a on the section is an ash layer containing lumps of burnt clay which may be a part of the stokehole. Above this there is a layer of clay with specks of burnt clay and ash (6). From this layer to the surface there is newly deposited clay 7.

Figured layers on Section B-B are as follows :

Layer 1. Burnt layer of rubbish hard at surface.

Layer 2. As No. 5 in Section A-A containing a brick and a fragment of a tile; also in this layer were some round clay objects (see pottery).

Layer 3. Newly deposited clay.

As indicated on Plan the excavation from front section AA to rear section BB extended 4 ft., the marsh surface sloping by 2 ft. 6 in. between the two sections.

POTTERY (Fig. 3)

The majority of the potsherds possess Belgic affinities. All potsherds were affected by faulty firing.

Kiln 1

- a5.5 Two sherds both belonging to the same vessel. Light brown surface with gray core, rims slightly everted. Both sherds stuck to base of furnace.
- 10 Lid of sandy ware, the grip of which seems to have been slashed with a knife; it also bore fingered impressions. Found in layer 2 Section C-C.
- 3 Fragment of bead-rimmed olla of gray ware with grit chips. The fragment is overfired. Found same as above.

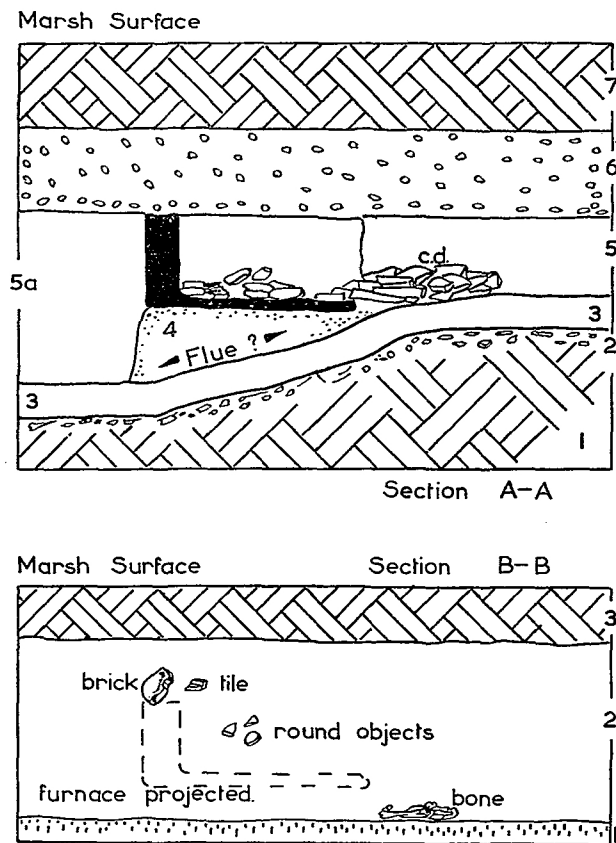
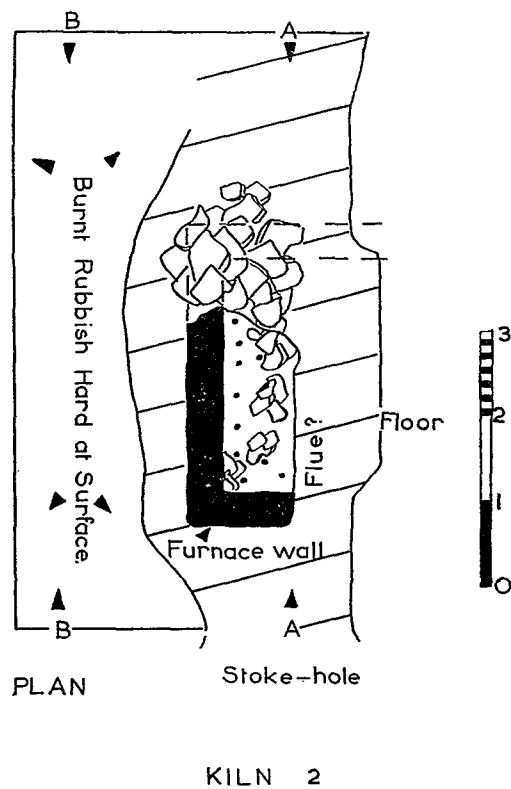


FIG. 2. Upchurch : Kiln 2.

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Kiln 2

- 14 Rim of a small saucermouthed jug, internal diameter 2 in. Found at top of furnace wall, layer 5. Section A-A.
- 15 Rim fragment of leathery brown ware with two cordons at the neck and decorated with a tooled trellis. Found in layer 2.
- 13 Rim of soft gray ware with signs of black coating, similar to a rim of a Belgic Butt Beaker. Found lying on floor in layer 4.
- 7 Rim of leathery brown ware containing grit chips. Found lying on the bottom of the furnace.
- 2 Rim of gray ware with dark burnished surface grooved at base of neck. Found in floor.
- 8 A rim of leathery brown ware with a smooth surface, signs of faulty firing. Found in layer 6.
- 4 Similar to sherd 2. Found with sherd 14.
- 16 Fragment of brown ware bowl with cordon near neck. Surface has a shell-like appearance. Found in layer 2, Section B-B.
- 17 Round burnt clay object, being half an inch thick with a diameter of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. It had been thoroughly fired. This object probably was used to stand vessels on while in progress of firing. Fragments of other round objects were found. Found same as 16.
- 1 Bead-rimmed olla of gray ware with flint chips. Signs of black coating around shoulder and rim. The specimen is badly fired distorted at base. Various cracks on shoulder. Found in debris layer 5.
- 6 Fragment of bead-rimmed olla. The specimen is badly fired and flattened. Layer 5.
- 12 Fragment of coarse gray ware bowl with grit chips, the rim of which is grooved for a lid. Found with similar sherds in layer 5.
- 11 Sherd of a bowl with a polished black coating around rim. Layer 5.
- 9 Rim fragment of a bowl of gray ware. Layer 5.

CONCLUSIONS AS TOWARDS THE DATING OF KILNS

Kiln 1

It would seem from pottery evidence and the small amount of kiln debris, that the kiln was active sometime between the late first to early second century, and was in use for only a short period of time.

Kiln 2

The extensive debris layers surrounding Kiln 2 indicate that it was in use much longer than Kiln 1, and most likely was active sometime during the latter half of the first century.

I. JACKSON.

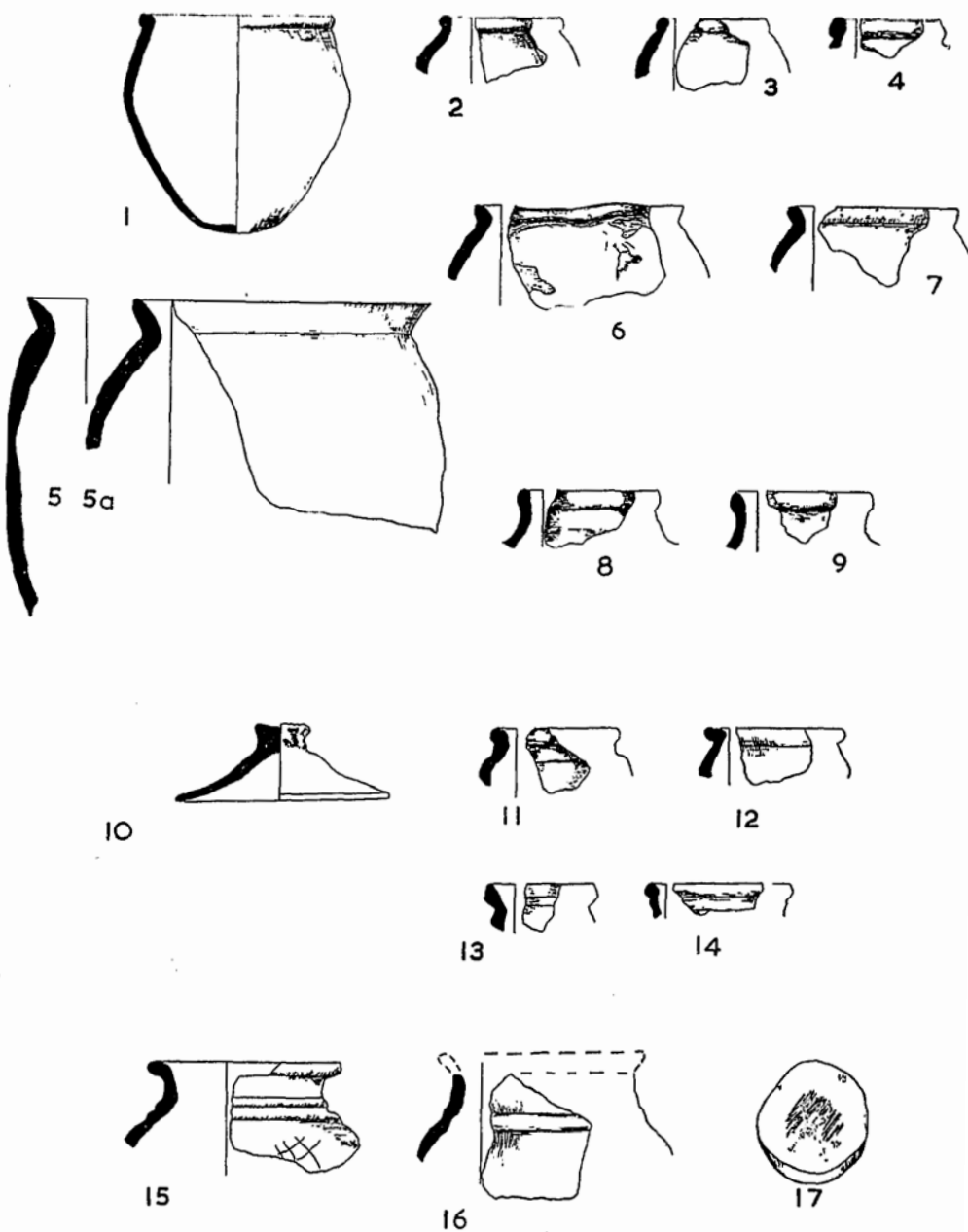


FIG. 3. Upchurch : Pottery.

GRAVESEND : SEVENTEENTH-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FINDS

During the latter part of 1961 and the early part of 1962, whilst excavating for a new extension to Messrs Chiesman's at the southern end of Princes Street, Gravesend, a number of cess-pits of varying depths were uncovered in the underlying chalk. In all, five pits were excavated during which a large quantity of pottery was recovered, together with a lot of clay tobacco pipes, and glass bottles.

The material can be classified into two distinct groups. One pit yielded seventeenth-century to eighteenth-century wares, whilst the other four contained early to late Victorian pottery. The earlier and more interesting finds came, as far as can be ascertained, from a pit at a depth of about 14 ft. In all, from this pit, twenty-six different vessels, are represented as well as eighteen pipes. It is very infrequently that such a closely dated group is found in such quantity. Only the most complete of the finds will be recorded.

The most interesting piece is an almost complete vessel, 13½ in. high, of red ware, partially covered with a brownish lead glaze. A large perforated rose on one side and a thick rounded handle on the other indicate its use as a water sprinkler. It originally had a guard round the neck to prevent spilling the liquid during pouring. The jets became choked during its use and someone has pricked them out during cleaning resulting in the pottery becoming "spalled". There are parallels to it in the Maidstone, Brighton, and Hastings Museums. All claim it as sixteenth century, but a date around the middle of the seventeenth century would seem to be indicated for the Gravesend specimen (Fig. 4 (2)).

A pint jug of grey English Fulham stoneware with a faint mottled brown salt-glaze is another outstanding piece. On the upper body beside the handle is an indistinct, circular stamp which is probably meant to be the official stamp of W.R. or A.R. beneath a crown for William III or Ann (Fig. 4 (4)).

Bellarmine bottles are well represented by several pieces, necks, and handles, and by the complete body (from the lower part of the bearded mask to the base), of a fine quart-size one. Three medallions around the body are dated "1603" but the vessel is probably a little later in date. One large sherd bears the arms of Amsterdam.

Large parts of several simple household articles in the form of jugs, drinking vessels, and storage jars in reddish ware with brown glazing were found including a particularly fine jug, 10 in. in height, glazed inside and out with a brown lead glaze, and having a single handle, and a pinched spout (Fig. 4 (3)).

A two-handled, brown, lead-glazed vessel of red ware is worthy of mention. It has a pronounced shoulder below the neck and several girth grooves around the upper body. The glazing is poor, in fact the

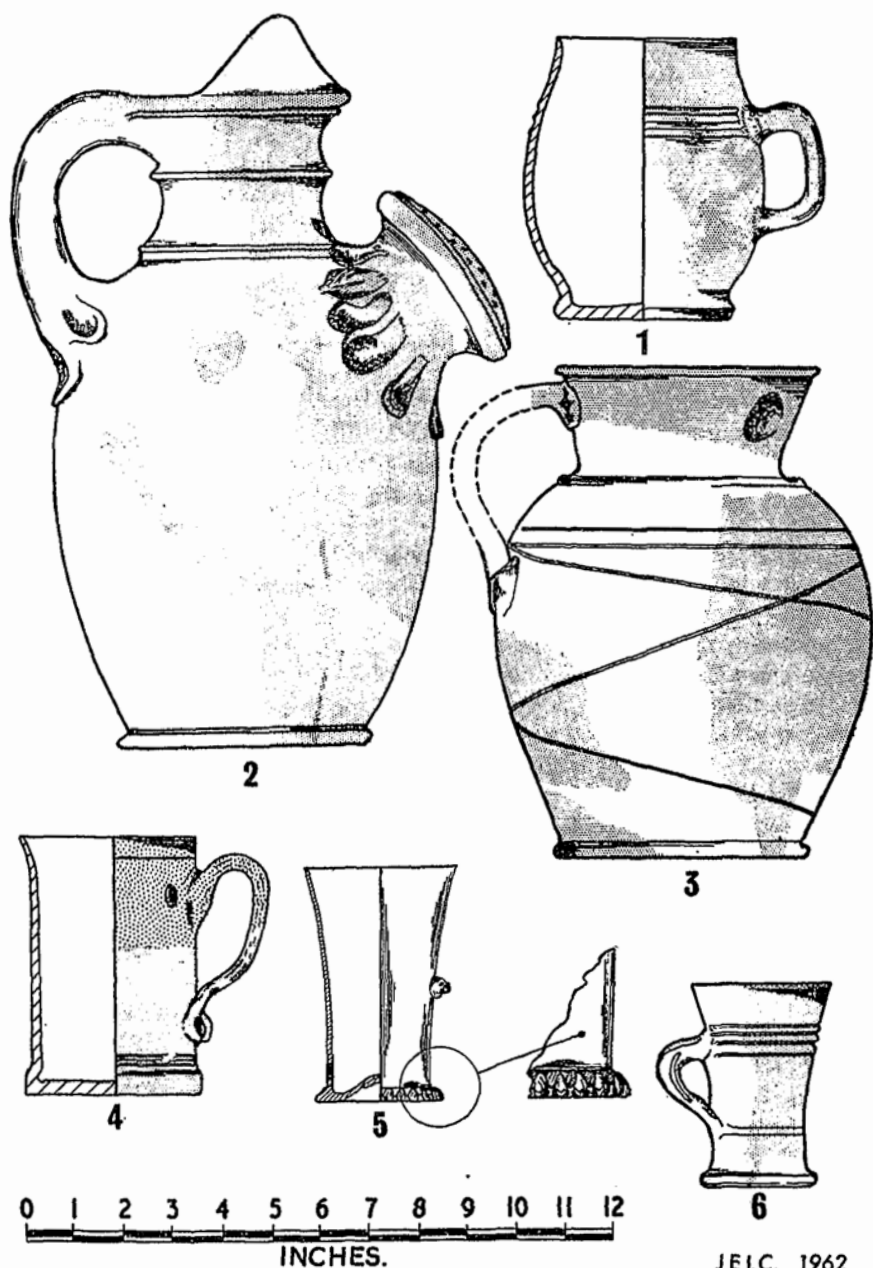


FIG. 4. Gravesend : seventeenth-eighteenth century finds.

JELC. 1962.

lower part of the vessel is almost devoid of glazing, while the handles and neck are missing. Enough of the pot remains to place it in the sixteenth-seventeenth century group. Similarly a one-handed vessel of grey stoneware with an overall mottled brown tortoiseshell glaze can be allied with the one previously mentioned.

The neck of a candlestick of buff ware, and the handle of a small pipkin are examples of pottery which has the typical yellow and apple-green glaze of the mid-seventeenth century. Staffordshire ware with a manganese stain added to the lead glaze to make its appearance almost black, is represented by a one-handed, bulbous jug (Fig. 4 (1)), a single-handled tyg or drinking vessel, with pronounced ribbing around the body (Fig. 4 (6)), and a mug. Two pieces of High Halden ware with its characteristic all-over light brown glaze, a large base and a bulbous jug, were also found.

Two tiny early eighteenth century Staffordshire ware teapots were found in the same pit but it is felt that as these are of a later date than the rest of the collection they must have come from higher up in the filling. These teapots are no more than 3 in. high and have a very fine high glaze. A white one still has its little lid, while the other is a triple-legged one of "Jackfield ware" with a lustrous black glaze. Unfortunately both spouts are missing, but neither pot appears to have ever been used as the insides are unstained and the perforations at the spouts are clean and unmarked.

Glass was represented by only three specimens. A straight-sided beaker of colourless glass with a beaded cord running round the edge of the base.¹ This glass is in the Venetian style, perhaps of Liège or of Swedish manufacture of the second half of the sixteenth century. There were undoubtedly three or more crimped protuberances around the body of the glass, and there is also a prominent scar on the base which is the pontil mark (Fig. 4 (5)). The neck of a flask in clear greenish-blue glass, having a glass trail at the neck and body junction, also a heavy, solid, dark greenish glass, oblate object, which was undoubtedly the end of a linen-slicker or smoother, were found. In the scrap-heap of the sixteenth century glass-house at Woodchester, Gloucestershire, was a number of these toad-stool shaped implements.²

The only metal object recovered from the pit was an iron, double-edged dagger blade which with its tang measured 15½ in. long.

The clay pipes can be arranged in a series to cover the period 1620 to 1700 and were all of the plain bowl type with no marks on the heels or spurs. Six of them were of Oswald's³ type 4a (1620-50), one of

¹ W. B. Honey, "Glass", *Victoria and Albert Museum Handbook*.

² H. J. Powell, C.B.E., *Glass-making in England*. Cambridge, 1923.

³ A. Oswald, "The Evolution and Chronology of English Tobacco Pipes", *The Archaeological Newsletter*, Vol. 5, No. 12 (1955), 243.

type 5b (1640-70), and one of 6c (1670-90). A solitary specimen of type 11b can be dated to the late eighteenth century.

The fifty-two pipes from the four Victorian pits, except for one similar to type 12b, and one 9a/b, are all variants of the very common type 11a. As was only to be expected, most of the pipes found were manufactured by the Gravesend makers of the period, John Bishop and Joseph Sloper. Bishop made from various addresses in Gravesend during 1840-80, and the only decoration his pipes bear are oak leaves and festoons. Sloper of Bath Street, Gravesend, worked from about 1842 to 1870 using similar decoration. His are the most numerous, being about 50 per cent of the total. A bearded-faced bowl is in the style of Thomas Pascall of Dartford and several bear his initials on the spurs. William Sandy, also of Dartford, is represented by one specimen. Both worked from a factory in Overy Street during the latter half of the nineteenth century, the finished products being sold from a house near the bottom of East Hill. Pascall specialized in well made elaborately decorated pipes, whilst Sandy kept to the plainer type of bowls.

As much as possible of this interesting collection will be restored and arranged as a complete group in the museum to illustrate the ordinary household pottery of a Gravesend housewife of the late Stuart period.

My thanks are due to Mr. J. E. L. Caiger who undertook to illustrate the pottery and offered much helpful advice.

ERNEST W. TILLEY.

ORPINGTON, WELL HILL: MESOLITHIC SITES

Following study of the report by Mr. E. C. H. Jones in *Arch. Cant.*, LXV (1952), p. 174, I have to report finding examples of Mesolithic flint industry widely scattered around Well Hill at about 510 ft. elevation, generally on sand. In addition concentrations of waste and implements in various stages of completion have been found in two sites about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to S.W. of the 1952 site. Details are given below.

SITE 1. National Grid Location—TQ/493631

On Thanet sand at about 510 ft. elevation of S.W. slope of spur of Well Hill which has a thin capping of humus. Numerous flakes appear on surface over area some 20 yards square. Chelsfield Lane cuts through the centre of the site and worked flints are exposed in the top 3 ft. of the bank or fallen in the roadway below. Some of the flints have been sent to Mr. Sieveking of the British Museum.

SITE 2. National Grid Location—TQ/495631

On Woolwich Beds Sand at 540 ft. elevation $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile E.S.E. of Site 1 situated in deep woodland of Hollows Wood. Erosion on an overgrown path reveals examples of the Mesolithic industry similar to Site 1. However, much of the evidence is under a layer of humus and fallen leaves. The site is again near the top of a S.W. slope of a spur of Well Hill.

I am indebted to Mr. William Bowes of Badgers Mount for permission to search his woodland.

MICHAEL EDMONDS.

GREENHITHE: EXCAVATIONS AT STONE CASTLE QUARRY

A short trial excavation, following the discovery of a hearth and associated rubbish-pit in the course of quarrying at Stone Castle Quarry, near Greenhithe (N.G.R. TQ/583732), took place in the autumn of 1960. A rescue excavation of the available area was carried out throughout 1961, under the auspices of the Ministry of Works and with the generous co-operation of Mr. A. J. Thomas, the local manager of the land-owners, Messrs. A.P.C.M. Ltd. This brief note presents a summary account of the results obtained in anticipation of the full report to be published later.

Evidence was found of two hut-circles and storage-pits and hearths associated with them; these circles were respectively 54 and 138 ft. in diameter. The smaller circle probably contained a hut-dwelling built of wood and puddled clay and chalk, although mechanical stripping of the topsoil has removed all traces of post-holes; no evidence was found for a similar construction in the larger circle, which may have been no more than a cattle-enclosure, although a storage-pit contained within this area may be considered as a pointer to another hut-dwelling completely removed by bulldozer action. On the evidence of the pottery recovered, the two circles are strictly contemporary and were occupied during Iron Age Southern Second B.

During the Romano-British period, a large rectangular pit, some 20 by 24 ft. in dimensions, was cut to a depth of 6-8 ft. out of the chalk subsoil. The chalk removed from this area was probably used for lime-burning and certainly to make chalk-bricks some of which were recovered bearing traces of tooling. This pit was subsequently used for the deposition of domestic refuse and building debris. The pottery in this deposit extends from the closing years of the first to the last quarter of the second centuries and contains, beside the usual types of the period, a fair proportion of early vessels. At a later stage in the occupation of the site, a hearth was placed on a foundation of flints inside this deep pit to be eventually superseded by two ovens cut out of the chalk beyond the line of the original excavation for the pit. In its

final phase, this pit was filled in, levelled and had a small outhouse built on top of it and following the original outline of the pit ; of this small building, foundations of flints set in clay were only found and it seems likely the building was a timber structure. A deep ditch, V-shaped in section, ran parallel with one side of this building, cutting through one of the storage-pits in the smaller circle. Another feature of the site is a system of intersecting ditches, probably serving as field-boundaries and belonging to different periods ; one of these ditches was cut through the larger circle soon after it fell into disuse as it deviates from its intended alignment in order to avoid the storage-pit inside this circle.

Occupation of the site appears to have begun some time during the second half of the first century and continued, probably uninterrupted, until the third century A.D. when, on present evidence, the site was probably abandoned. It would seem probable that a small community in a pre-Roman type of homestead settled the site well into the Romano-British period, though without attaining the importance, or size, of the villa-type of settlement. It is, however, just possible that a substantial building did exist North of the present site, and the large amount of pottery as well as the building debris recovered from the pit would strongly support this possibility. No traces have been observed of such a building and no record exists of any evidence for such a structure having been noted during intensive wartime quarrying operations. On the other hand, south and east of the site, trial trenching has proved completely negative and, in view of the very slight depth of topsoil and the absence of any surface debris, it seems unlikely that a building existed in the area immediately to the south of the excavation. Similarly, no evidence for a building has been recorded west of the excavated site, an area which has been quarried at depth.

A. P. DETSIOAS.

HARTLIP : DENEHOLE

In November, 1961, the concrete floor of a disused pig-stye at 3 Spade Lane partially caved in to reveal a shaft through the upper loam and running down into the underlying chalk. This discovery was reported to the Curator of Eastgate House Museum, Rochester, with the suggestion that the shaft ought to be inspected before being filled in. Accordingly the writer and Mr. John Caiger of Bexley visited the site, whose Nat. Grid Ref. is TQ/833647.

We found that a narrow shaft approximately 3 ft. in diameter had been sunk down to the chalk and at its base the usual denehole-type double trefoil chambers had been hewn. The floor was 24 ft. from ground level. All the chambers bore many pick mark indentations made by a square-sectioned pick wielded from top right to bottom left in aim. Five chambers had been fully formed but a sixth, a lateral one,

was evidently under construction when the work was abandoned. The main chambers were orientated along a N.W. to S.W. centre line. Nothing was found to indicate use and date of excavation.

Similar deneholes have been found in Hartlip and Newington, notably at Bull Lane in the latter place where one collapsed in a garden in January, 1961.

H. A. N. BERRY.

CANTERBURY : SAMIAN FIND

Whilst searching a bomb site bordering Watling Street, Canterbury, a base of a Form 27 was found stamped "INVENTII". The find was unstratified. Inventus worked at La Graufesenque during the Flavian era. His stamps occur on a Form 29 at London, and a Form 27 at Boulogne. (See *London Museum Catalogues*, No. 3. *London in Roman Times*, p. 173, No. 108.)

K. D. HORE.

SHOREHAM : QUERN STONE

On the 30th September, 1956, the writer accompanied by Mr. R. I. Little found a rotary quern stone in the river bed by the side of Shoreham Villa, Nat. Grid Ref. 523623 (O.S. Map 171).

Although this note is a little belated I feel it is of interest, because of similar finds in this area. The stone is the upper half of the quern, and only approximately one-third of the whole was found. The socket left by a handle, possibly of wood, is evident on one side. The Geological Museum were of the opinion that it originated from the South West of England.

K. D. HORE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

BAYHAM, LAMBERHURST

Recently Dr. Felix Hull, County Archivist, was examining archive material from Bayham Abbey, the seat of the Marquess Camden, when he found, buried amongst the manuscripts, a medieval brass of an ecclesiastic. Unfortunately there was no information with the brass but one is tempted to associate it with Bayham Abbey, a house of Premonstratensian canons, the site of which, just over the border in Sussex but still in Lamberhurst, was given by a Kent man, Robert de Thornham of Thurnham Castle.

Our Society is greatly indebted to the Marquess Camden who has given this unusual example to its collections housed at Maidstone Museum. Here it will be exhibited in the Medieval Room, together with the brasses listed under "Maidstone Museum" in Griffin and Stephenson's *Monumental Brasses in Kent* (Fig. 5).

L. R. A. GROVE.



INCHES

FIG. 5. Brass, possibly from Bayham Abbey, c. 1470.

Description:

The brass is the upper 9½ in. of an effigy of a priest which was originally about 15 in. high. The figure is in mass vestments—alb, amice, maniple, and chasuble. The only parts of the stole which might have been visible would have been on the lost lower portion.

The amice is apparelled by a simple cross-hatching, the sleeves of the alb with four-petalled flowers, and the maniple is embroidered with roundels. The chasuble is perfectly plain without border ornament. The wrists of a cassock are just visible. The date of the brass is probably during the second half of the fifteenth century.

Of the greatest interest is the tonsure which is quite unusual for a priest, but has many parallels on monastic brasses. The best known examples are Prior Nelond at Cowfold, Sussex, 1433,¹ and Richard Bewforest at Dorchester-on-Thames, c. 1510.²

When the place of finding is considered there is a strong possibility that this is the brass of one of the canons of Bayham Abbey, which was a house of Premonstratensian regular canons. It is known that inmates of the Abbey were also parish priests. The visitation of 1472 records that there were seven canons besides the abbot and one novice at Bayham and several were serving cures. Again in 1488 the number of canons in residence was too small and orders were given to recall those who were serving cures other than churches belonging to the Abbey.³

H. A. JAMES.

DITTON

An Anglo-Saxon spearhead was found in July, 1962, by Master D. Tamkin of Ditton and given by him to the Museum (Acc. No. 49.1962). It was found jammed into the side at the bottom of a cutting made through a natural hillock or knoll of sand on Messrs. Reed's playing fields (Cobdown) (Nat. grid. ref. 713588). The original cutting was made in the last century, when the fields were farmland, to provide a passage from the farm to the fields to the north, but it has since been widened. The knoll, at the point where the cutting was made, is some 30 ft. high and is now overgrown with trees and brushwood.

It is possible that the spearhead came from a grave on the top of the knoll which was destroyed in the making or widening of the cutting and that it fell to the bottom of the cutting and was pressed into the side by an excavating machine. The site would be suitable for Anglo-Saxon burials—cf., for instance, the Holborough cemetery—and the burials at Preston Hall, Aylesford, were only a short distance to the east.

¹ Victoria and Albert Museum ; *Catalogue*, pl. 59.

² *Ibid.*, pl. 56/5.

³ *V.C.H. Sussex*, II, p. 88.

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The spearhead is 9½ in. long (the point and part of the socket are missing) and has an angular blade and split socket.

D. B. KELLY.

LANGLEY

A hand-axe of Middle Acheulean type was found on a smallholding at the western end of King's Wood (Nat. grid ref. 816511). The implement was 5½ in. long, tongue-shaped with one corner of the butt removed, of blue-black flint with a heavy white patina and some cortex remaining. Its condition was fairly fresh with little sign of rolling.

It is of interest as an addition to the growing number of paleoliths recorded as coming not from river gravels but from high ground;¹ the find-spot is just below the 400 ft. contour. The hand-axe remains in the possession of Mrs. Hitchen, Pitt Road, Sutton Valence.

D. B. KELLY.

LYMINGE

A Romano-British inhumation was uncovered in October, 1961, during the making of a drive to a new bungalow (Nat. grid ref. 410159) and brought to the notice of the museum by P. C. Sadler. In cutting through the road bank the bulldozer had removed all the skeleton excepting the legs. The body was buried with the head to the north and the feet to the south. By the right foot was a two-handled flagon of pink ware with an orange-red slip and a long iron nail, possibly from a wooden coffin. By the left foot was a nodule of iron pyrites, which showed signs of burning, and there were many iron studs or hob-nails at the foot of the grave.

The practice of burying the dead wearing their boots or sandals was fairly common in Kent and Southern England. Seven graves at Ospringe contained these studs² and they were found in two graves at Chalk near Gravesend.³

The flagon is exactly paralled by Richborough No. 379 and Ospringe No. 263, dated between A.D. 190-260.

The finds were given to the Museum by the site owner, Mr. R. Shallcross (Acc. No. 70.1961).

D. B. KELLY.

MAIDSTONE

John Whichcord (1790-1860), Kent County Surveyor, was an architect of sufficient distinction to merit mention in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and to take up half a page in Colvin's *A Biographical Dictionary of English Architects, 1660-1840*. Although his

¹ E.g. *Arch. Cant.*, LXII (1949), p. 140.

² G. C. Dunning in M.O.W., *Guide to the Maison Dieu, Ospringe*, p. 14.

³ *Arch. Cant.*, LXVIII (1954), p. 148.

name may not be associated with them, several of his buildings are seen regularly by us in our travels round Kent. Such are Dunkirk Church (1840), Platt Church near Wrotham (1841-2), Kent County Prison at Canterbury, the Royal Insurance Offices at Maidstone (1827), Holy Trinity Church in Maidstone (1826-8), Tovil Church (1839-40), the West Kent Hospital (Infirmary, 1830), and Oakwood Hospital, Barming (1830).

Maidstone Museum possesses a plaster bust of Whichcord by E. W. Wyon but very little else concerning him or his work. It was therefore very gratifying for the Museum to be given by Messrs. Whitehead, Thomas and Urmston of Maidstone, in September, 1962, six of his original plans and elevations of the Corn Exchange at Maidstone, dated 1835.

L. R. A. GROVE.

ROCHESTER

Mr. F. C. Elliston Erwood, F.S.A., and I have now produced in *Archæologia Cantiana*¹ four notes on Jew's Harps and, as far as dating is concerned, have progressed very little. However, to reward our labours a bronze harp of distinctive type has at long last appeared in Kent, in a rubbish pit which is certainly post medieval and probably of seventeenth or eighteenth century date (Fig. 6).

Through the kindness of Mr. Peter Tester, F.S.A., I have been allowed to examine and clean (with sodium sesquicarbonate) this bronze Jew's Harp which was found during excavations at Rochester in May, 1961. I can do no better than quote his own words about the find and its dating. "It came from domestic rubbish in a group of pits against the outside of the city wall between the Corn Exchange and Corporation Street. We were mainly intent on uncovering the medieval and Roman levels and the later pits did not receive the attention they no doubt deserved. In any case, as the pits cut into each other it was difficult to be quite certain of the context of any particular object. I collected a representative assemblage of tobacco pipes, glassware and pottery, from which one can say that none of the pits was earlier than the seventeenth century nor much later than c. 1850, and that the finds cover the whole period, c. 1620 to 1850. All the pipes can be dated between 1620 and 1730 by Adrian Oswald's London series and the bulk of the pottery could well go into the same period."

Description:

Metal	Yellowish bronze, cast, finished off by file. Remains of iron rust covered the reed-attachment before cleaning.
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¹ *Arch. Cant.*, LVI, pp. 34-40; LX, pp. 107-08; LXIX, pp. 210-12; LXX, pp. 269-70.

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Total length 2½ in.
 Greatest width of bow . . . 1 in.
 Greatest height of bow . . . 1 in.

One criterion for dating seems to emerge—that post-medieval Jew's Harps have a bow which has a flattened section.¹

It is interesting to note that Jew's Harps and tobacco pipes have had in the past a close connection for in 1677 one hundred and twenty pipes and one hundred Jew's Harps were given for a strip of country near Timber Creek in New Jersey.²

L. R. A. GROVE.

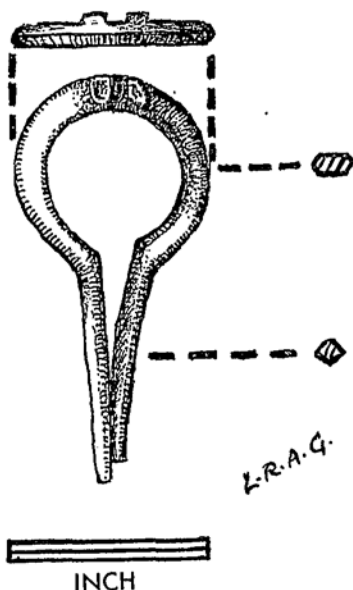


FIG. 6. Rochester, Jew's Harp.

STROOD

A leaf-shaped sword of the late Bronze Age, found in the River Medway in 1910, has been given to the Museum by Mr. Beckford Ball (Acc. No. 88.1961). It is short for a true sword—the blade is only 14 in. long—and Mr. J. D. Cowen would regard it rather as a dirk.

¹ The London Museum possesses two post-medieval items which are described respectively as (a) A 397, Jew's Harp from Bishopgate Street, sixteenth century, (b) A 22843, Jew's Harp from Fenchurch Street, seventeenth century. The former is made of wrought iron and the latter of bronze. Mr. Brian Spencer, F.S.A., Assistant Keeper at the London Museum, has kindly examined the Fenchurch Street example for me and has approved it as a Jew's Harp. It bears some resemblance to the forked inner portion of a strap-end buckle.

² *The Reliquary*, XIII (N.S.), 1907, pp. 106-07.

Unlike most leaf-shaped swords our example has no rivet holes through the shoulders for the attachment of the hilt, but only on the tang, and there is no ricasso at the top of the blade (Fig. 7).

Parallel examples which, unlike ours, have the tang preserved complete, show two pairs of rivet holes on the tang, set on either side of a central ridge, and have neither side flanges nor pommel. This method of securing the hilt is like that on the rapiers of the Middle Bronze Age, but is quite unsuited to a heavy slashing weapon, and in his discussion of the type Mr. H. W. M. Hodges¹ would regard our sword as the product of bronze-smiths attempting to produce a leaf-shaped sword without fully understanding the methods required and still using a Middle Bronze Age technique.

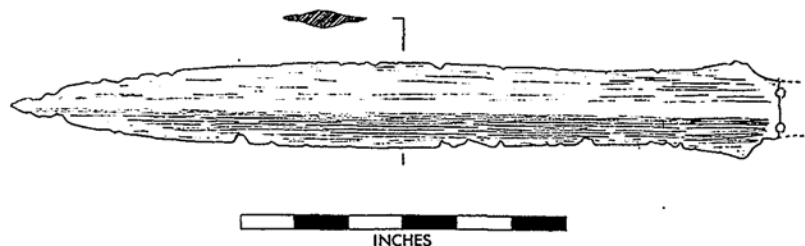


FIG. 7. Strood, late Bronze Age Sword.

This type of sword is common in Ireland and is known as the Ballintober type. Apart from two near the Severn Estuary they only occur in England in the area of the Thames Estuary, where an example from Southchurch, Southend-on-Sea, was found with a single-looped palstave—a Middle Bronze Age type—suggesting that they were in use very early in the Late Bronze Age.² Parker Brewis³ illustrates an example from Colchester.

D. B. KELLY.

TENTERDEN, ST. MICHAELS

In September, 1959, the road at Fat Ox Corner was widened and during this widening Mr. Frank Reader of 26 Silverhill examined the roadworks opposite his house and unearthed a silver coin of denier size attributed to Guy (Guido) de Dampierre, 1251-1305, Count of Flanders and Marquis of Namur. The inscription is :

+ MARCHIO NAMVR C
G COMES FLA(N)DRE

¹ *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 19 (1956), pp. 35-7.

² *Loc. cit.*, p. 37.

³ *Arch.*, 73, Pl. XXXVIII, No. 16.

Mrs. Joan Martin of the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, has kindly supplied me with a reference to *Chautard*, plate ii, no. 1. The coin is retained by the finder.

L. R. A. GROVE.

WROTHAM

About 1900 a drainage trench was made by a certain Mr. Gage across the site of the old Wrotham potworks (to the north of the British Railways station of Wrotham and Borough Green), which at that time belonged to Messrs. Joseph Walls and Company, brick-makers, of Borough Green.¹ Two complete pottery wasters, a three-legged pipkin and a one-handled cup,² were excavated from the trench. These are so unlike the popular conception of seventeenth and eighteenth-century Wrotham pottery with its ornate slip decoration that they are well worthy of description and comment.

Mr. A. J. B. Kiddell of Ivy Hatch, our foremost living authority on Wrotham ware, has written³ that "The Potworks attached to the Brickyard supplied the wants for everyday use and Mr. Rackham has described it as a 'hard fired dark red body with purplish dark brown glaze, recalling that of Cistercian ware and unlike the glaze on the inscribed specimens of Wrotham ware'." He goes on to say that "fragments and wasters that have been found do not contain many examples with applied slip decoration or pads with decorative motifs. There are obvious reasons for this as these ornately decorated pieces are not the ordinary output of a potworks, but special pieces made for special occasions by potters who signed their efforts, if only with initials . . . It is unlikely that there would be many wasters among such elaborately decorated pieces on which such care had been lavished." Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher⁴ also comments on the difference between the commissioned slipware and the everyday pottery :

"Excavations which were made for me produced a considerable number of fragments and wasters, mostly pieces over-fired or otherwise damaged in the kiln. I found fragments of several posset-pots with their applied ornaments . . . There were many one-handled cups covered with a very dark almost black glaze."

These latter cups presumably went with the rest of Dr. Glaisher's collection of Wrotham ware to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Description of the Maidstone Museum wasters :

(1) Three-legged pipkin with short, solid, S-shaped handle. Hard

¹ Kelly's *Directory of Kent* for 1895 and 1899.

² Maidstone Museum accession No. 11.1962. A gift from Mrs. M. A. Mayo-Turner, daughter of the finder.

³ *English Ceramic Circle Transactions*, III, pt. 2 (1954), pp. 105-6.

⁴ Appendix to Rackham and Read, *English Pottery* (1924), p. 135.

dark-red body. Purplish dark-brown glaze inside and in patches on the exterior shoulder.

Rim (distorted) greatest diameter	..	..	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.
Rim (distorted) shortest diameter	..	..	2 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.
Height	..	..	3 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.
Diameter of base	..	..	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

(2) One-handled cup.¹ A dark, purplish-brown glaze which covers all the interior and all of the exterior save for the base.

Rim (distorted) greatest diameter	..	..	3 in.
Rim (distorted) shortest diameter	..	..	2 in.
Base (circular and not distorted) diameter	..	..	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.
Height	..	..	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

L. R. A. GROVE.

EXCAVATIONS AT ECCLES

A first season of excavation was completed in early October 1962, at the site of a large Romano-British building at Rowe Place Farm, Eccles (TQ 722605).² The work was undertaken by kind permission of the landowners, Messrs. A. P. C. M. Ltd. and the Reed Paper Group, and with the fullest possible co-operation of Messrs. A. and A. C. Southwell, who farm the land; it was financed by generous grants from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Kent Archaeological Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, and by public contributions. The work was undertaken by the Lower Medway Research Group who provided the main body of volunteer helpers, supplemented by a large number of other helpers from Kent and the London area.

This season's work was concentrated on excavating the bath-house unit of the building. A preliminary examination of the evidence suggests at least four main structural periods on this part of the site, each one of them containing sub-divisions during which the bath-house was being constantly altered and added to. The first period apparently dates from the years immediately following the Roman conquest of Britain when a building, under the present bath-house, was first constructed and of which only vestigial traces remain where not completely covered by the concrete floors of the bath-house. The second period, beginning during the last quarter of the first century A.D., is that of the building of the first bath-house on the site. It had walls 2 feet 6 inches in thickness, of ragstone set in yellow mortar with an occasional course of bonding-tiles, and contained a small plunge-bath approached through a long corridor, a suite of three heated rooms, with concrete floors

¹ An example similar to this but *not* a waster was found on the site by Mr. A. J. B. Kiddell and is now in Maidstone Museum.

² Cf. *Archæologia Cantiana*, LXXVI (1961), lxxi-lxxii.

suspended over a hypocaust supplied by a large furnace, a hot plunge-bath served by a separate stoke-hole and various other rooms. In the third period, beginning during the first decades of the second century A.D., this first bath-house was much enlarged by the addition of a new range of rooms, which consisted of an unusually large (44 ft. by 11 ft.) cold plunge-bath, with a 12-inch thick *opus signinum* floor, superseding the earlier plunge-bath, as well as at least four more heated rooms supplied by the original furnace. The walls of this plunge-bath, as well as those of a 7-foot-wide corridor surrounding it on three sides, were very solid structures, 3 feet in width, built of ragstone set in yellow mortar. The corridor was internally faced with painted wall-plaster. The partition walls of the heated rooms were some 2 feet wide, of bonding-tiles faced with a thick coating of yellow mortar and pierced at regular intervals by arched flues, built mostly of tufa voussoirs for maximum heat convection. An alteration of the original bath-house, very likely to be contemporary with the building of the extensions, was the insertion of an apsidal bath with walls constructed of chalk blocks, probably faced with mortar. During the fourth period, which took place in the second half of the second century A.D., the bath-house was practically completely abandoned as such, suggesting the likelihood of yet another bath-house still to be found, was in places systematically demolished and robbed, and used for the deposition of surplus building materials, domestic refuse or even for interments. It is quite clear, however, that this was a gradual process in the course of which parts of this large bath-house became redundant, whilst others continued in some use until a concerted effort seems to have been made to level and seal the whole area, although some of the external walls of the bath-house were incorporated into later structures.

A. P. DETSIOAS.