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INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

I. REPORTS ON EXCAVATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIETY

Interim Report by Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., on the Society's Excavation on the Site of the Augustinian Priory of St. Mary and St. Nicholas at Leeds, near Maidstone.

Nothing at present remains above ground of this once wealthy and important monastic establishment, and indeed its exact location was uncertain until the K.A.S. carried out exploratory excavation in April, 1973, permission having been given by the landowners, Leeds Castle Agricultural Estate. As a result of a programme of selective excavation during the spring and summer, it has been established that the centre of the cloister garth was at N.G.R. TQ 8235152999. Already the outlines of the south, east and west claustral ranges have been planned and also the west end of the church. Digging has been hampered by the fact that the area is partly covered by overgrown ruins of stone and brick farm buildings while the site of the church lies inside a thick conifer plantation.

All that is at present known about the church is that Philipot described it in the seventeenth century as having been 'a goodly church parallel to many cathedrals'. Its apse with a crypt were uncovered in 1846, as recorded in *J.B.A.A.*, ii (1847), but a plan of these features made at the time is now lost, although about fifty years ago it is remembered to have been in the K.A.S. library. What we have so far revealed suggests that the nave was in the Decorated style of c. 1300, according to evidence of mouldings recovered from the débris. On the other hand, the chapter-house entrance recently uncovered had remarkable twelfth-century decoration on the lower portions of the jambs, and fallen voussoirs indicate that its arch included chevron and billet ornament.

Traces of a Bethersden marble bench exist in the north cloister alley against the south side of the nave, and in the same situation were many fragments of richly moulded cusped arches—probably fallen from a wall arcade. The cusps have the peculiar 'split' terminations characteristic of Kentish work of the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, as seen in the chancel windows of Chartham church, c. 1294.

Amongst the destruction débris was found a small mutilated ivory carving, tentatively identified as representing the Virgin and Child enthroned, flanked by angels, with standing figures of saints in the foreground. On the back are three seated figures—probably the three

cardinal virtues. This identification has been supplied by Mr. J. G. Beckwith, F.S.A., Deputy Keeper of the Department of Architecture and Sculpture of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The date is likely to be thirteenth century.

More work will be undertaken in 1974, and offers of help with the digging or financial assistance will be most welcome. Details of the periods of excavation will be announced in the Society's quarterly Calendar of Events. Our thanks are expressed to those Members who have already rendered much practical assistance in the excavation.

Interim Report by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., on the Excavations at the Eccles Site

The twelfth season of excavations was undertaken by the Eccles Excavation Committee at the site of the Roman villa and its immediate vicinity at Eccles, in the parish of Aylesford; the work, begun in March and concluded at the end of October, was carried out at weekends and for a continuous fortnight in August.

Financial support for this excavation was again granted by the Kent Archaeological Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the British Academy, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Haverfield Bequest of the University of Oxford and private donors to all of whom grateful acknowledgement is here made. The season's programme of work was concentrated on the area to east and south-east of the main house, on parts of the south-west wing, and at another site close to the villa. The following is a preliminary summary of the results obtained:

(i) Work continued in the area of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and 69 complete burials were recorded; the total number of burials recovered is, however, certain to be much higher when account is taken of many skeletal remains so badly disturbed by subsequent inhumations that they could not be isolated. With one or two exceptions, these burials were aligned approximately east-west, and some of even these had grave goods with them which emphasizes that the cemetery dates from the closing years of the pagan Anglo-Saxon period. The full extent of this cemetery is not yet established. I am grateful to Mrs. S. C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A., for arranging for the conservation of the grave goods in the laboratory at the Oxford Institute of Archaeology and for reporting on them.

(ii) Further sections were cut, at various points, across the line of Ditch X (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvii (1972), 102), and several other ditches and gullies present in the area of the cemetery.

(iii) Mechanical stripping of the topsoil and trenching beyond the south-east wing resulted in the discovery of a medieval site. The evidence so far recovered consists of a short length of foundations, a

cobbled area and, behind it, two shallow gullies and three contiguous cess-pits. Preliminary examination of the medieval pottery recovered in this area suggests occupation during the thirteenth century which accords with the evidence found in large-scale excavations in the middle of the courtyard of the Romano-British house.

(iv) Mechanical trenching and partial exploration of the area to the south-east of the baths wing has brought to light an area laid with a slight mortar floor which may prove to belong to a timbered structure, and evidence for industrial activity after the destruction of the bath building; more work will be undertaken in this area in 1974 to establish the nature and sequence of the occupation at this part of the site.

(v) Re-examination was undertaken of the area occupied by the hypocausted rooms of the second and third baths (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1963), 129-40; lxxix (1964), 128-9; lxxx (1965), 85-8); the *opus signinum* hypocaust underfloors were removed to allow for the examination of features first discovered in 1964 (Rooms 53 and 54; *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 71, and Fig. 1). As a result, several new features were recorded, including a probable timber granary, which will need to be added to their structural sequence. For the general supervision of the work in this area, I am greatly indebted to Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A.

(vi) Work at the start of the season was carried out for several weekends at the site (N.G.R. TQ 718605), near the Roman house, where some evidence for a kiln and large quantities of waste pottery had been found towards the end of the 1972 work at the main site. It was established that a medieval tile-kiln had been constructed there, though no evidence was secured to date it conclusively. However, this tiliary had been cut into the slope of the ground in an area which had been used to deposit the waste products of Romano-British pottery manufacture; the kilns belonging to this activity have not been located but study of the waste materials found, which include several types of early coarse pottery hitherto considered as imports only from Continental potteries, shows conclusively that a pottery industry was centred near this area in pre-Flavian times.

Training Course

The sixth Training Course in Romano-British archaeology was based on the site between 28th July and 11th August, 1973; it was once more jointly sponsored by the Kent Archaeological Society and the Eccles Excavation Committee and directed by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., with the assistance of Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., and Miss R. C. Symes. As in previous years, this course was recognized, for grant purposes, by the Kent Education Committee for the training of its teachers.

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Thirty-four students were accepted and accommodated this year, from this country and abroad, and training was given in excavation techniques, field survey and recording, as well as background talks, mid-day seminars and evening lectures on a variety of archaeological topics; conducted tours were also organized of Richborough Roman Fort, the Roman light-house at Dover, the city of Rochester and the Lullingstone Roman villa.

Both the organizing bodies and the honorary director are very indebted to all concerned with the general conduct of this training course and, in particular, to Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., and Miss R. C. Symes, whose willingness to shoulder a large proportion of the supervision necessary ensured its unqualified success; also, to the visiting lecturers, Mr. J. E. L. Caiger, Mr. R. G. Foord, Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., Mr. R. Merrifield, B.A., F.S.A., the late Professor D. E. Strong, M.A., D.Phil., F.S.A., Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., and Mr. F. H. Thompson, M.C., M.A., F.M.A.

It is hoped to offer a seventh Training Course in 1974.

Interim Report by Miss Louise Millard, B.A., on the Excavation of Greyfriars, Canterbury

Work by the Canterbury Archaeological Society in conjunction with the King's School continued on the domestic buildings of the Friary. The excavation of the sixteenth-century oven in the main building (I), discovered in 1972, was completed. The supposed porch at the north-west corner of this building proved to be a west wing (II); it had an external staircase at the south-west corner and, like I, had been divided into small rooms in the sixteenth century. The north wall of I had been destroyed when II was added. A further substantial building (III) was discovered to the north of I; this was on a different alignment (north—west to south—east) and had been partially rebuilt during the Middle Ages. Another, later medieval, building (IV) connected I and III. It is now clear that these are the main domestic buildings of the Friary and that they were not planned round a regular cloister. Extensive stripping will be necessary to recover the plans of buildings III and IV in 1974. A trial trench across the site of the new Methodist School, to the north of this area, has revealed a building which may be a bell tower; a further building, with extensive mortar floors and probable timber walls, was also discovered.

Interim Report by Miss E. M. Mynott on the West Kent Training School, 1973

In 1972 the CIB Archaeological Rescue Corps watched the construction of the Dartford to Farningham sewer and eleven sites were

recorded (*K.A.R.*, no. 29 (1972), 281, and *K.A.R.*, no. 30 (1972-73), 301). Of these sites the previously unknown Roman site at Horton Kirby and the castle and manor site at Farningham were particularly interesting and required further work. As rescue archaeology expands more trained archaeologists are needed and so the West Kent Training School was set up and training excavations undertaken on these two sites during July 1973. Invitations were sent to sixth formers in various Kent schools and the response was overwhelming. The main emphasis was given to excavation techniques and the processing of finds. Two field visits were made. Grants towards the cost of the training excavations were made by the Council for Kentish Archaeology, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Kent Archaeological Society and the Kent County Council. All these bodies are thanked for their support.

Horton Kirby

This site lies within the Westminster playing fields at Horton Kirby on the east bank of the River Darent. Excavation was undertaken on the north and east sides of the large Roman granary discovered in 1972. The building, more than 100 by 60 ft., consisted of a central block with narrow transverse sleeper-walls to support the granary floor and accommodation rooms on all four sides of this central block. The walls were constructed of mortared flints and the floors were of clay or tessellated. Part of the tessellated floor in the north-east room was found *in situ* and a number of different coloured cubes hint at a mosaic. Another room on the east side had a quarter-round moulding, and several hearths were recorded. Domestic rubbish included a bronze pin, a large millstone and coarse pottery of the second to third centuries.

A trial excavation to the south-east of the granary revealed Roman masonry and a disturbed tessellated floor at a shallow depth. This probably represents the dwelling-house.

Medieval Site at Farningham

This site lies close to the centre of the village and by the river Darent. In 1972 the sewer-pipe line cut through the north side of a mound and revealed not only the presumed medieval and post-medieval manor houses but also the curtain wall and moat relating to the hitherto unknown Farningham Castle.

The 1973 training excavation was directed at the south-west corner of the mound. Two long trenches located the west side of the castle as well as the moat, filled with mud silt. The curtain wall, 5 ft. thick and still standing to a height of 7 ft., was constructed of flints and chalk blocks resting on massive sandstone boulders. It probably dates to the thirteenth or fourteenth century. In the sixteenth century a brick

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manor house had been constructed on top of the curtain wall and later boundary walls been added.

II. REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

Ashford Area. Mr. J. Bradshaw reports:

FOLKESTONE

At a point situated at the top centre of the large chalk quarry visible on the left side of the A28 trunk road approaching Folkestone from London (N.G.R. TR 18923812), Mr. R. Cross reported the finding of coarse flint-gritted sherds in the 'overlay' of the quarry which had been pushed down by bulldozing from the top, and a search of the summit showed the same types stratified *in situ*. Permission has been obtained from the owner of the quarry and the farmer, whose land adjoins the area at the top, to carry out any work necessary to establish the nature of the site by the little which remains.

Neither the Ordnance Survey nor the National Monuments Record can find evidence of a ditch or ditches on their aerial photographs which might indicate the remains of a promontory camp; but the pottery is similar in forms and texture to the Early Iron Age sites at Broadstairs and Dumpton Gap in Kent, and the Trundle and Butser in Sussex.

CHARTHAM

At the request of Miss L. Millard, of the Royal Museum, Canterbury, the area (N.G.R. TR 11005530) lying between the A28 Canterbury to Maidstone road and the lake to the south was examined for possible Romano-British remains as reported by Mr. J. Chapman, of 25 Stour Road, Chartham.

Stratified material of this period was found in the section of quarrying cut to the edge of the railway fence at a depth of 1.6 metres, consisting of bonding- and roofing-tile fragments, with coarse ware potsherds. The material was found over a length of seventy metres and was centred on a narrow track made of flints and rammed chalk. As the ground sloped steeply to the north, two trenches were cut on the other side of the railway for indications of a building. None was found; but the dark cultivated soil containing potsherds and one Constantinian commemorative coin (*Urbs Roma*) extended to a depth of two metres. As no evidence of walls was found on either side of the railway, it is unlikely that anything but a small building may have been situated underneath. More probably the vestiges remaining are from a building destroyed by the quarrying.

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LYMINGE

Evidence of Romano-British occupation along Stone Street being rare, the finding of a *denarius* of Trajan, minted c. A.D. 110, in the garden of Long Acre Farm, by Mr. H. Everist (N.G.R. TR 13504556), is of interest. No signs of occupation were to be seen during the summer of 1973, but a search of the area is to be carried out after the autumn ploughing.

HAWKINGE

Two large bowl barrows in a wood belonging to the Ministry of Defence (N.G.R. TR 213410):

- (a) Diameter 37.0 metres. Height 2.0 metres. No trace of ditch.
- (b) Diameter 30.0 metres. Height 1.8 metres. No trace of ditch.

The pair of barrows were examined by Mr. D. Sherlock, of the Department of the Environment, who recommended scheduling.

HASTINGLEIGH

Ploughing by Messrs. Powell, of Kingsmill Down Farm, Hastings-leigh, at N.G.R. TR 10704414, discloses a dark patch of soil containing Belgic and Romano-British coarse pottery. The area is only five metres in diameter and augering indicates a pit with outward sloping sides containing pottery and charcoal to a depth of 1.2 metres.

CHALLOCK

Mr. L. Foster, 5 Forest House, Challock, found several worked flints, including a Thames pick with transept cutting edge, in a field after ploughing (N.G.R. TR 01825105). A further search in the vicinity of a concentration of flakes yielded a small narrow chisel of white-patinated flint, 10.5 cm. in length, with an expanded cutting edge of 3 cm.

STOURMOUTH

In the *Newsletter*, number two, of the C.K.A. for April, 1965, Mr. J. Coy, of Margate, briefly reported the finding of a small hoard of bronze implements by workmen digging a drainage trench (N.G.R. TR 264625). The finds have now been placed in the hands of the writer for attention and consist of forty-nine objects, all of Late Bronze Age date, including axes, socketed chisels, bracelets, broken swords, etc. Unfortunately, many are in poor condition due to 'bronze disease', but are being recorded and drawn by Mr. D. Coombes, of the University of Manchester, in conjunction with his work on the recently found hoard at Hoo.

STOWTING

On the top of a chalk spur (N.G.R. TR 11304220) running south-east from the road between Brabourne and Stowting Common, Mr. J. Hammon, of St. Quentin's, Stowting, reported patches of dark soil, which revealed coarse black and red potsherds. A trench was cut through the largest of these areas and a pit revealed containing a miscellany of pottery of Early Iron Age types, including an almost complete urn in the bottom layer.

On the enlargement of the excavated area, a deep pit was found, elliptical in shape, partially floored with flints from the layer immediately beneath the turf. The northern and western sides had been surrounded by a bank of soil and flints which had collapsed. A trench, one metre east of the site, cut through a shallower pit containing large numbers of Romano-British coarse ware sherds.

WYE

Just inside the western edge of Town Wood (N.G.R. TR 08704821) are several mounds of flints, believed by local people to be burial mounds. These mounds vary in size and shape from predominantly rectangular to elliptical and circular, the common features being that they are loosely packed without soil growth on top and are near to a road. From this it appears that in recent times flints have been collected for road-making, or as building material, and not used; flint collecting and breaking was a task given to persons on poor relief, within living memory.

BETHERSDEN

From the spoil taken out of the river Beult during cleaning (N.G.R. TR 94653901), Mr. Burch, of Furner Farm, Bethersden, picked out a trimmed flint flake and the cutting end of a broken polished axe of flint. Although slightly chipped, the axe had originally been the shape of an expanding wedge, the top and bottom being ground flat in what seems an obvious attempt to imitate the earliest cast bronze axes. Length of fragment: 7.5 cm.; width 5.7 cm. and 2.5 cm. thick; the flake is retained by the finder.

Dover. Mr. T. D. Crellin reports:

In a survey of the Thanet Water Board's pipeline from Poison Cross to Mongeham (N.G.R. TR 335526 to TR 308558) the Dover Archaeological Group recorded the following features:

- (1) Near Broad Lane, Betteshanger, a shallow ditch containing medieval sherds;

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- (2) A little further on a shallow pit containing a child's skull of unknown date;
- (3) The road near Marley Lane, Finglesham, shown as Saxon on the O.S. map. Its dimensions were recorded;
- (4) Between the Betteshanger/Ham and Ham/Eastry roads, three U-shaped ditches from which medieval sherds were recovered. A probable Iron Age sherd was recovered from the easternmost ditch.

With the kind permission of Dover Corporation two adjacent trenches were dug on the site of the proposed Sports Centre off Town-wall Street, Dover. The excavation reached a maximum depth of 20 feet below the modern surface without reaching 'natural' at which point it was considered prudent to backfill it. The earliest finds recorded were fourteenth-century sherds. A massive wall 4 ft. 6 in. wide, constructed of chalk blocks, flints and a few blocks of re-used Caen stone ran in a roughly north-south direction from 5 and 14 feet below the modern surface. The wall is believed to be of fifteenth-century, or possibly earlier, construction.

Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group. Mr. R. A. C. Cockett reports:

The Group has been engaged in several excavations during the year as well as undertaking field surveys over the proposed M20 route in early spring.

WEST KINGSDOWN

A late Mesolithic transept axe was found on a clay ground surface at N.G.R. TQ 58596095; it was 125 mm. long and made of iron-stained yellow flint. The site is near Terry's Lodge Farm at a height of 240 m.

FAWKHAM

Several pottery sherds of Romano-British date were found in plough soil at N.G.R. TQ 577653.

HORTON KIRBY

Trial trenching at N.G.R. TQ 56686636 in fields above Mussenden Farm yielded numerous sherds of medieval pottery.

FARNINGHAM

A field survey at N.G.R. TQ 554670, west of Eglantine Farm, produced a small quantity of medieval sherds.

ASH

Excavations in the Manor Forstal neighbourhood of New Ash Green at N.G.R. TQ 608651 were continued for several months over the winter of 1972/73. A rectangular ditched enclosure measuring 35 m. by 55 m. was found; extensions of the ditching ran east and west. The V-shaped ditches were up to 1.5 m. wide and in places were filled with heavy flints. Quantities of late first-century pottery were obtained from the ditches. Shallow overlying pits contained third-century pottery and also a 'pudding' of crudely smelted iron.

A scatter of Romano-British tile and Patch Grove ware sherds was found after tree felling at White Ash Wood at N.G.R. TQ 610648. Roman material has thus now been found over an area a kilometer wide in Ash parish.

An intensive resistivity survey was carried out over a Romano-British site found in 1971 at N.G.R. TQ 60186473 near Ash Church; trial excavations were subsequently made. The results were disappointing as only the continuation of the Romano-British ditch was located.

The late-sixteenth century aisled barn at Corner Farm (N.G.R. TQ 60006542), West Yoke, has now been demolished and the timbers dispersed. Measurements and photographs of the building were taken as demolition proceeded.

A small single-ended flint axe was found in a garden in the Punch Croft neighbourhood, New Ash Green, at N.G.R. TQ 604649; it appears to be of Mesolithic date.

A bound volume of hand-drawn maps of the parish has been lent to the Group by the Vicar of Ash. These were the work of T. Fulljames, of Orpington, and are dated 1792.

HARTLEY

Excavations at the medieval settlement of Scotsgrove (N.G.R. TQ 602664) have continued since the summer. Wall foundations of a structure adjoining the west wall of the undercroft have been revealed, and the remains of a tiled hearth.

A small quantity of saggy-based medieval pottery has been obtained from the original ground surface under wall débris. A large iron implement from an adjacent humus layer was identified by the British Museum as a coulter from a medieval plough.

DARTFORD

As a result of the training scheme in archæology held in Dartford last year and with the encouragement of Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., Mr. J. Ritson and Mr. R. Walsh, the Dartford and Darent Valley

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Archæological Group has been formed. Already this Group have excavated a complex of thirteenth- and fourteenth-century buildings in advance of soil moving near Littlebrook Power Station, Dartford. A small Roman stone coffin was also discovered during watch of a gas pipe trench on East Hill at N.G.R. TQ 547738; unfortunately, this had been reburied in modern times and was empty except for the remains of an iron gin-trap.

Folkestone. The Rev. A. H. Gibson, M.B.E., B.D., reports:

About fifty flint flakes in the Neolithic tradition were found in loam excavated in widening the Alkham Valley road between Lower Standen and the pumping station 500 yds. to the north-east. Flakes and cores have also been collected from the shore margin beneath the subsiding cliff northward from Copt Point (N.G.R. TR 243365). The high proportion of cores and differing patination suggest a date ranging from Mesolithic to Neolithic.

Bone fragments and a few potsherds were found by Mr. P. Keller in a probable pre-medieval rubbish pit above the shore line at N.G.R. TR 243369. Mr. R. Cross made a test excavation on an allotment site on East Cliff (N.G.R. TR 239371); some Neolithic flakes and pottery ranging from Iron Age to Romano-British times were found. A bronze coin of Eppilus and Roman coins, ranging from the first to the fourth centuries, were found on Sugarloaf Hill (N.G.R. TR 223379).

The writer undertook research on finds recorded on Castle Hill and a file is now available for reference at the Folkestone Public Library. Some sherds were found in an exposed section on the south-west side of the hill, below the rampart; they seem to correspond to some of the 'coarse British' sherds found in 1878 by Pitt-Rivers.

Hundred of Hoo. Mrs. P. Day reports:

In February 1973, a hoard of bronze implements was disturbed by workmen at Roper's Farm, Hoo St. Werburgh. The finds were taken to the Eastgate House Museum, Rochester, and the site was inspected by museum staff. The hoard had been deposited at a depth of 2 ft. and consisted of 161 items, including ore from a crucible, buckle ends and old and damaged items, presumably intended for smelting, as well as axe-heads and swords which predominate. The date range of this hoard is c. 1000-500 B.C. Two similar hoards were found at Homewood Farm, Allhallows, in 1873, and Little Combe, St. Mary's Hoo in 1875.

Work has been completed at the Cooling Romano-British site. Pottery was noted during drainage work at Nord Farm, on the Allhallows-Stoke Marshes.

Isle of Thanet. Mr. D. G. Scurrall sends the following report from Mr. J. E. Eley:

A series of trial trenches was cut at Northdown County Primary School, Margate (N.G.R. TR 373701), north-east of the school buildings, in an attempt to determine the extent and date of a site being disturbed by development.

A shallow gully, containing pottery, was found; it was associated with an area of burnt flint close to a broken grindstone, with some unconfirmed evidence of a hearth. A loom-weight, kidney-shaped and weighing 50 kg., was recovered from this area. The pottery was of various types and wares, and a preliminary examination suggests that its range may be from the Late Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

London Borough of Bexley. Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., reports:

A Romano-British cremation burial was discovered by Mr. C. J. Reed in his garden at 28 Iris Avenue, Bexley (N.G.R. TQ 48417444). The human remains were in a glass vessel placed inside an amphora. The grave goods included a samian vessel of Form 18, a flagon, a crudely made dish, two enamelled zoomorphic plate brooches, a 'trumpet' brooch and a wooden comb. There were also fragments of a pot with two small handles, which seem to have been introduced accidentally. The discovery was investigated by the Bexley Libraries and Museums Department to whom the material is on loan. It was observed that the objects were all from one burial; there were no indications of other associated graves.

'Tudor Cottages' Foots Cray

This building, which is basically a late-medieval timber hall-house, has been illustrated and briefly described by Mr. E. R. Swain in *Medieval Archaeology*, xii (1968), 141, and Pl. XXI B. At present (1973) it is undergoing extensive repair and adaptation to form an annexe to an architect's office being built at the rear. The stripping of the frame has revealed that apart from the north wall facing the High Street very little of the original house has survived a previous restoration at the end of the last century. The roof and both chimneys are modern; the west bay is a comparatively recent addition, and the back wall shows little or no signs of old work.

It is possible on the latest evidence to confirm in general Mr. Swain's interpretation, but unfortunately, one cannot provide much additional information. As he observed, only the doorway on the left is original, the others being modern and introduced when the house was extended and divided into four cottages. In the present conversion the old doorway is being retained and the others removed. This will restore the façade to something like its former character. Lath and

plaster between the timbers are being replaced with rendered breeze-blocks.

The primary structure consisted of a familiar type of four-bay hall-house with recessed hall and jettied upper floors in both end bays. The entrance was 'undershot'; there are mortices in a surviving ceiling beam to indicate the partition between the entry passage and the service rooms at the east end. On the north side, the wall-post of the open truss across the hall remains but the tie-beam has long since been removed. When the hall was floored over, most likely in the late-sixteenth or seventeenth century, the joists were carried forward to form a jetty matching those of the end bays. This did not, however, extend all the way, but stopped a few feet from the corner of the service-end jetty. Mr. Swain considered that this was evidence of there having been a smoke-bay in that position and nothing has since been found to discount this possibility. An alternative explanation is, however, that this gap in the jetty was due to the insertion of a large brick fireplace and chimney at the same time that the upper floor was introduced into the hall. No actual trace of such a fireplace was noted during the recent clearance of the interior but the two joists in this position were seen to be modern, in contrast to the rest. This implies that some feature passed through the first floor at that point until the nineteenth century, and, on grounds of general probability, it is thought more likely to have been a chimney than a primitive smoke-bay surviving to such a late period.

London Borough of Bromley. Mrs. Susann Palmer, M.Phil., reports:
ORPINGTON (Fordercroft)

The excavations on behalf of Bromley Borough Council this year revealed the ground-plan of two complete rooms, part of a corridor and part of a small apsidal room, probably a bathroom. It now seems likely that the building is of the winged corridor type. The small room was heated by a hypocaust system, and next year's work will concentrate on excavating more of this room. On the north-west side of one of the rooms is the beginning of what may be a paved courtyard, which could link up with the outbuilding previously reported (*Arch. Cant.*, xxxv (1971), 239).

In one of the rooms four complete loom-weights and pieces of four others, made of sandstone, were found indicating that the room was a domestic work-room. A quantity of slag from various parts of the site also indicates some industrial activity.

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

A large quantity of Victoriana has been given to the Museum during the year. These items include clothing, trade tokens and

bric à brac. A small collection of Victorian chemists' jars, bottles and mortars with pestles was purchased from a local firm. The large stone mill-wheel from Hodsoll's Dairy, previously situated near Carlton Parade, was found during recent commercial excavations in the area and given to the museum; it is known that local farmers even at the beginning of the present century still took their corn to this mill to be ground.

ITALIAN LITHOGRAPHS FROM PENGE

Four coloured lithographs by Tito Chelazzi were obtained for the Museum from a house, now demolished, at 11 Beverley Road, Penge. The lithographs, showing still-lives of fruit and flowers, were on the door-panels of the ground-floor flat at this address, belonging to Miss M. P. Dabner. Chelazzi was born in San Casciano (Val di Pesa) in 1835 and was a student of Marini at the Academy of Florence and later of Ussi. He painted for Italian royalty, the royalty of Würtemberg and of Russia.

Decorative ceiling panels and a figure of a cherub above the door of the same room have also been acquired, but it is unfortunately not known who painted these works or whether perhaps Chelazzi had any connections with these, too. It is not known how the lithographs came to be in Penge. Work by this artist appears to be very rare in England and the examples from Penge may, in fact, be the only known as there are no examples by him in the Victoria and Albert Museum nor in the British Museum, Prints Department.

London Borough of Greenwich. Mr. D. E. Wickham, M.A., reports:

A second and final season's excavations at the Royal Dockyard, Woolwich, was completed during 1973. The director, Mr. T. Courtney, and his team were supported by the Department of the Environment, the Greenwich Borough Council and other interested bodies, and investigated a dockyard in continuous use from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries. The main objectives were to fill gaps in the dockyard's history left by an absence of written records, to establish the date of the surface levelling on the site and to examine various structures. The findings are to be published in *Post-Medieval Archaeology* in late 1974, but an introduction and summary report of the 1972 work appear in vol. 34 of the *Proceedings of the Woolwich and District Antiquarian Society*, which also contains photographs of the mica window from the dockyard, which was probably part of a ship's lantern and is now in the Borough Museum at Plumstead, as well as notes on Dartford Bridewell and on the rescue excavation round the medieval predecessor of St. Mary's Church, Woolwich.

Attempts are being made within the London Borough of Greenwich

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

at liaison between the several antiquarian or amenity societies and the Borough Council, and lists are being prepared of archaeological finds, features or areas of potential archaeological interest within the borough; these will be plotted on a 'town map' which should be complete by late 1974. Special watch is to be kept, with the support of the Borough Planning Department, on development sites.

Mr. A. R. Martin, F.S.A., has presented his local history collection to the Greenwich Local History Centre. The new edition of W. T. Vincent's *Records of the Woolwich District* is being prepared.

The Erith and Belvedere Local History Society and the Plumstead Society have recently been founded.

Maidstone Area Archaeological Group. Mr. P. E. Oldham, B.A., reports:

The Group's regional survey scheme continues, under the direction of Mr. M. A. Ocock, with projects in Boxley, Hermitage Farm, Aylesford, Offham, Teston, and a joint project with Oldborough Manor School at Brishing. The aerial survey section, founded by Mr. D. T. Jackson, maintains a regular cover of the area.

Where possible, investigation of areas threatened by development has been organized. Trial trenching has been conducted in Romney Place, by permission of Lenworth Investments Ltd., and Church Street, by permission of Marks and Spencer Ltd. Under the direction of Mr. D. B. Kelly, B.A., A.M.A., the Group conducted a six-week excavation, on behalf of the Department of the Environment, of part of a Romano-British building at The Mount, threatened by the inner ring road scheme. The co-operation of the Army authorities is gratefully acknowledged.

Mr. J. L. Short organized the removal of a mounting block from a building site in Loose, and the building section has participated in attempts to protect 2 Bedford Place, Farm Cottages, Shepway, Buston Manor Barn, Hunton, Grove House, Week Street and The Three Lanterns Restaurant in Fairmeadow. Mr. B. Cooker has recorded buildings demolished on the King Street Development site, and the industrial archaeology section recorded the former Lower Brewery of Isherwood, Foster and Stacey, since demolished and has gathered further material on the history of brewing in Maidstone.

The Group now occupies part of a fifteenth-century hall house in Larkfield as its headquarters. It houses equipment, maps, a library and finds and members meet there every Friday evening to work on the finds.

Springhead. Mr. S. R. Harker reports:

During the 1973 season, effort was again concentrated mainly on the temple area south of road R.1 (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 107-17),

where Temple VII was completely excavated and its relationship to the adjacent roads examined.

The road to the north of the temple (R.1), the main road through the settlement, was built shortly after the conquest but before the end of the first century its level had been raised by the addition of two gravel layers with a total thickness of 6 m. In the same period there was a build-up of the area to the south of the road with layers of packed chalk and a slight topping of pebbles, sealing coins of Claudius and Nero. Temple VII was built on this surface; the make-up layers below its floor yielded coins of Vespasian and Nerva. After the abandonment of the temple, the level of the area was again raised and the surface of the road to the west of the temple built up to a total thickness of at least 1.3 m.; its width was reduced by the provision of drains in the second and third centuries. The width of this road could not be defined and the road deteriorated to a very rough cobbled surface continuing to the west; however, its final surface was continuous with that of road R.1.

Elsewhere on the site, examination was undertaken of a large ditch (at least 3 m. wide) in an area of subsidence, which may be connected with the earthwork (F28) noted on a similar alignment some 190 m. to south-east.