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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE
MUSEUM

AYLESFORD

In 1965, S.E. Rigold published a paper, 'Two Kentish Carmelite Houses – Aylesford and Sandwich'.¹⁷ His plan of Aylesford Friary was based on his survey of the footings of the quire and eastern part of the nave of the medieval church and the east range of the cloister, revealed when the area was mechanically stripped for the construction of the present church in 1959, as well as the existing buildings. It incorporated the survey made by Mr A.G. Scott, which substantially agreed with Rigold's.¹⁸ For the western part of the nave Rigold relied on the plan made by H. Braun,¹⁹ which he showed by dotted lines. He showed two phases for the church, the first built in the late 1240s, the second between about 1380 and 1410. The quire of the earlier church is overlapped by the later quire, which was shifted about 3 m. to the north, and has narrower footings than its successor. The north wall of the north cloister range, which presumably was also the south wall of the nave, had these narrow footings, which also appeared in the east cloister range and are assigned to the mid-thirteenth-century buildings.

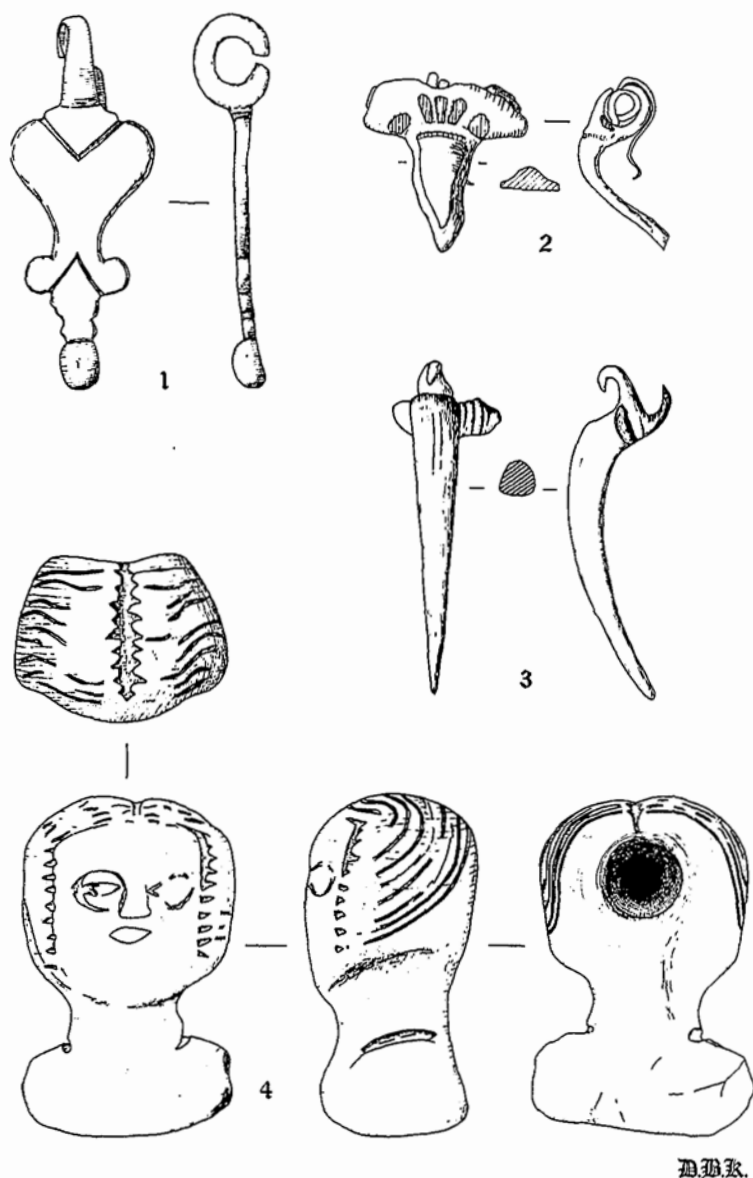
In November 1985, through the good offices of Br. Michael, some newly dug gas-pipe trenches at the Friary were inspected. One narrow trench, 0.90 m. deep and only about 30–40 cm. wide had been cut across the western half of the medieval nave (i.e. outside the present open nave and the area observed by Rigold) and across the cloister garth, running from north to south. It was 3.40 m. east of the east wall of the post-Dissolution building at the north-west corner of the cloisters, reaching the south cloister arcade in the centre of the second arch from the west.²⁰ At the time of the inspection the gas-pipe had already been laid, but the lowermost parts of the footings of three walls were visible, surviving to about 30 cm. in height and all at the same level. They were of ragstone rubble, packed with clay, but the disturbance caused by the digger made only an approximate measurement of their width possible. Taking the southernmost first and measuring from the face of the south cloister

¹⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 1–28.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 8.

¹⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, lxiii (1950), 50–7, Fig. 3.

²⁰ *Vd. plan in Rigold, op. cit.*, note 1, Fig. 1.



DBR.

ig. 5. Romano-British: 1. Linton: Pendant; 2. Lynsted: Brooch; 3. Yalding: Brooch; 4. Yalding: Medieval Bronze Handle-mount. All actual size.

arcade to the south face of the wall footings they were: A. at 20.50 m., about 1.30 m. wide (the width is doubtful here since the wall only showed on the east face of the trench, the opposite face showing post-medieval brickwork); B. at 29.60 m., about 1.50 m. wide; C. at 33m., about 2.10 m. wide.

Measured on Rigold's plan A falls on the projected line of the south nave/north cloister wall of phase I and C on the line of the north nave wall of phase II. B, over 3 m. south of C, does not appear on the plan, but, given its narrower width, may well be the north wall of the first nave. Alternatively, it could represent the footings of the arcade of a phase I north aisle posited by Rigold in his suggested explanation of the western divergence of the walls of the phase II nave.²¹ This involves the retention of the phase I north nave wall in phase II, and it might be objected that its substantially greater width makes it likely that it was built in phase II rather than in phase I.

CLIFFE

1. Two *AE* Celtic coins were found within one hundred yards of each other in 1985 by B.S. Ashby: N.G.R. TQ 743763.

(a) Tasciovanus. *Obv.* (convex): eight-pointed star formed by two interlocking squares with concave sides, the points terminating in annulets; central ring and dot. *Rev.* (concave): a chimaera, ring and dot above. Diameter (irregular) 14 mm. Mack 173. Museum accession number 31 – 1985/1.

(b) Eppillus. *Obv.*: bull right, head turned to right; above, *EPPIL*. *Rev.*: eagle left, head turned to right, wings outspread; ring and dot on left and right. Diameter 15 mm. Evans IV, 5.²² A coin of this type was recently found at Boxley.²³ Museum acc. no. 31–1985/2.

2. Six medieval seal-dies were found during 1980–86 by B.S. Ashby in the fields lying to the south-east of the village. Five are circular or vesica-shaped lead dies of the late twelfth or thirteenth century, the other a small brass die with an hexagonal handle. Two dies (a and b) bear a similar pattern on the reverse and are likely to be the work of the same die-maker. The older Kent historians, Lambarde and Kilburn, both refer to Cliffe as a large town, despite the ravages of a fire in 1520, and it is likely that in the medieval period Cliffe was a more substantial settlement than in recent times.

(a) Lead, vesica-shaped, length 37 mm. (Fig. 6, 1); N.G.R. TQ

²¹ *Op. cit.*, note 1, 10.

²² J. Evans, *The Coins of the Ancient Britons* (London, 1864).

²³ *Arch. Cant.*, ci (1984), 370 (Boxley k).

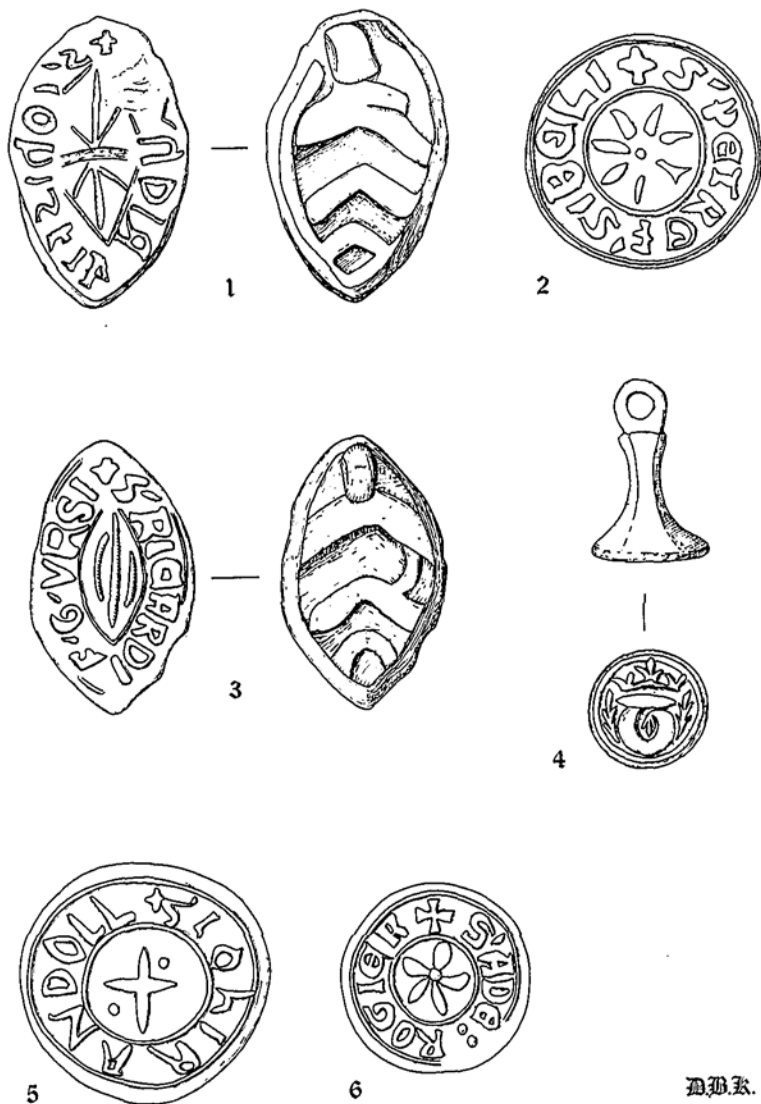


Fig. 6. Medieval Seal-dies and Impressions: 1-4, 6 Cliffe; 5. Walderslade. All actual size.

739763. Legend: + S' IOHIS FIL RICA. . . (Seal of John, son of Richard) surrounding an eight-point star within a lozenge. The reverse has a crude design of three chevronels below the solid, semi-circular handle at the top. Museum acc. no. 31/1985/4.

(b) Lead, vesica-shaped, length 35 mm. (Fig. 2, 3); N.G.R. TQ 740760. Legend between two vesicas: + S' RICARDI F' G' VRSI (Seal of Richard, son of G. Urse) surrounding a design of three sprigs or branches. The reverse has the same design as (a), three chevronels, and the same semi-circular, solid lug. Museum acc. no. 31/1985/5.

(c) Lead, circular, diam. 30 mm. (Fig. 5, 2); N.G.R. TQ 737763. Legend between two circles, surrounding a seven-petal design: + S' PETRE F' SIBELI (Seal of Peter, son of Sibley). Reverse plain with small, oval lug near top. Museum acc. no. 31/1985/3.

(d) About one third of a circular lead seal-die, diam. c. 30 mm.; N.G.R. TQ 748762. Legend between two circles, surrounding (?) six-petal design (two petals remaining): . . . EGLOVCE. . . Reverse plain. Gift of B.S. Ashby. Museum acc. no. 32/1985/1.

(e) Lead, circular, diam. 25 mm. (Fig. 6, 6); N.G.R. TQ 742754. Legend between two circles, surrounding five-petal design: + S' ADE : ROGIER (Seal of Adam, son of Rogier). Reverse plain with small semi-circular lug at top. Museum acc. no. 61/1986.

(f) Brass seal-die with hexagonal, conical handle terminating in a ring, height 24 mm., diam. 15 mm. (Fig. 6, 4); N.G.R. TQ 739763. A crowned 'T' between sprigs. In his note on a signet ring, L.R.A. Grove²⁴ shows that, while uncrowned letters appear in the fourteenth century, crowned letters do not appear frequently until the fifteenth century. Museum acc. no. 31/1985/6.

3. A bronze harness pendant of Ward Perkins type 1 (Fig. 7, 3) was found in October 1985, by J. Ashby; N.G.R. TQ 742764. It measures 43 × 27 mm. Or, a lion rampant azure. Much of the blue enamel remains and traces of gilt. Fourteenth century. Museum acc. no. 30-1985.

FRINDSBURY

A *denarius* of Elagabalus, R.I.C. 88, was found at Wainscott in September, 1985. N.G.R. TQ 741719.

²⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, lxvi (1953), 154.

GILLINGHAM

A *sestertius* of Faustina I, R.I.C. 1102a, was found by D. Prentice in 1980 at Darland; approx. N.G.R. TQ 785658.

HARTLIP

A bronze medieval armorial harness pendant (Fig. 7, 2) of Ward-Perkins type IV was found by D. Prentice in 1980 in Queen Down Warren; approx. N.G.R. TQ 823629. —, three chevrons or. Traces of gilt remain on the chevrons, but no enamel remains. Diam. 25 mm. Fourteenth century.

LINTON

1. A Roman bronze pendant (Fig. 5, 1) was found on Loddington Farm by D.R. Butcher; N.G.R. TQ 762505. It measures 48 × 18 mm. and the attachment ring is broken. These pendants occur on several military sites in this country and Europe²⁵ and may be either from horse harness or one of the pendants hanging from the bottom of the apron suspended from the waist-belt and protecting the lower abdomen of the Roman soldier.²⁶ The type seems to be long-lived, occurring in Cirencester in the first century²⁷ and Caerleon in the later second century.²⁸

2. A bronze medieval key (Fig. 7, 6) was found by D.R. Butcher on Loddington Farm; N.G.R. TQ 762505. The type is Ward-Perkins III, the bit welded onto the hollow shank. Length 88 mm.; top of circular bow missing. Thirteenth or fourteenth century.

LYNSTED

1. An incomplete Roman bronze brooch (Fig. 5, 2) was found by D.R. Butcher; N.G.R. TQ 939615. The length of the fragment is 22 mm. and even with the missing foot restored it would be a very small

²⁵ e.g. L. Allason-Jones and R. Miket, *The Catalogue of small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1984), no. 3.660 and refs. therein.

²⁶ Shown, for instance, in the reconstruction of the *lorica segmentata* from Corbridge in H. Russell Robinson, *The Armour of Imperial Rome* (London, 1975), Pl. 489.

²⁷ *Arch. Journ.*, cxv (1958), 74 and Fig. 3, 31.

²⁸ *Archaeologia*, lxxviii (1928), 169 and Pl. xxxiii, 7 and 8.

brooch. The bow is humped, with low flanking bevels and there are traces of a transverse red enamel band at its head. The spring is held by a cylindrical cover and has an internal chord, the pin passing through a hole in the cover (width 21 mm.), though this has been broken away. Traces of red enamel decoration survive on top of the spring cover.

This type is Langton Down C.²⁹ In his report on the brooches of this class from Bagendon,³⁰ M.R. Hull pointed out that they are quite different from the true Langton Down type and should have a name of their own, a point he re-affirmed in his note on the example from Richborough.³¹ The date at Camulodunum was A.D. 49–61, at Bagendon just pre-Conquest to about A.D. 60.

2. A medieval bronze armorial harness pendant of Ward-Perkins type IV (Fig. 3, 1) was found by D.R. Butcher; N.G.R. TQ 939615; diam. 30 mm.: or, on a cross gules five lioncels rampant of the first. Traces of gilt and red enamel remain. In Papworth,³² the arms are attributed to Reade.

MAIDSTONE

A tanged and barbed arrowhead of pale grey, translucent flint was found in his garden by M.J. Eames in August 1985; N.G.R. TQ 739566. It is 24 mm. long and 21 mm. at the barbs. Green's³³ Sutton 'b' type, Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

MARDEN

A bronze medieval ring brooch (Fig. 7, 5) was brought to the museum by our member Mrs. A. Thompson. It was found in a box in the farmhouse of Stonepit Farm and was probably found on the farm (N.G.R. TQ 7544) by the late owner, Mr Holliday. The ring is circular in section and 41 mm. in diameter. The pin, of squarish section with rounded upper side, is blunt, has a ridge near the top and is fastened to the ring by bending the head over into an almost complete circle. Thirteenth or fourteenth century.³⁴

²⁹ *Camulodunum* (Oxford, 1947), 317–9.

³⁰ E.M. Clifford, *Bagendon: a Belgic Oppidum* (Cambridge, 1961), 175–6.

³¹ *Richborough V* (Oxford, 1968), 84.

³² J.W. Papworth, *Ordinary of British Armorial* (London, 1857), 650.

³³ H.S. Green, *The Flint Arrowheads of the British Isles* (BAR 75, 1980), 117 ff.

³⁴ *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940), 275 and Pl. lxxvii, 1 and 2.

OTHAM

A medieval floor-tile (Fig. 7, 7) was found by D. Marchant while digging to erect a new fence on the north side of Wardes (N.G.R. TQ 797537). It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. (115 mm.) square and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. (32 mm.) thick. The decoration is line-impressed: a double quatrefoil enclosing an eight-petal flower surrounded by an octagon with concave sides and alternate angles decorated with an oak leaf. The fabric is bright red with small black grits and grog and the decorated surface is covered with a rich brown glaze, the result of applying a lead glaze to red clay. The pattern, but without the central flower, occurs on a line-impressed tile from Beauchief Abbey, Derbyshire.³⁵

It is surprising to find a line-impressed tile in Kent, since these occur generally only in north-west England, the north-west Midlands and East Anglia. It is possible that the tile, of fourteenth-century date, is associated with Wardes, where the north part is fourteenth century, but much more likely that it arrived in Otham in modern times, either with a collector or at the time of the 1912 restoration.

UPPER HALLING

A lead ampulla or pilgrim flask (Fig. 7, 4) was found by R. Homewood; N.G.R. TQ 690645. The neck has been bent over and flattened against the body, but the approximate measurements are 50×37 mm. There appear to have been no handles. One side bears the design of a double-headed eagle, the other a quatrefoil. Mr Brian Spencer, of the Museum of London, has kindly provided the following note:

'The ampulla is most probably English and fifteenth century in date. It could once have contained a dose of miracle-working water and would have been worn, kept or used by a pilgrim for prophylactic reasons. Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the shrine from which the ampulla originated.

The quatrefoil depicted on one face of the ampulla and the double-headed or imperial eagle on the other are perhaps no more than stock decorative motifs of the mould-maker's craft. The compass-drawn flower is another example of a stock device that recurs very frequently on ampullae of this form.³⁶ The quatrefoil, however, is less common, one sort (examples of which have been found at Ipswich and Langley Burrell, Wilts.) having the complementary motif of a large crown, while another (represented, for example, by finds from manor sites at Billericay, Essex,

³⁵ E.S. Eames, *Medieval Tiles: a Handbook* (B.M., 1968), Pl. 1, 4. I have not seen the full British Museum catalogue.

³⁶ B.W. Spencer, 'A Scallop-shell Ampulla from Caistor and comparable Pilgrim's Souvenirs' in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, i, no. 6 (1971), Fig. xxii, a-c.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

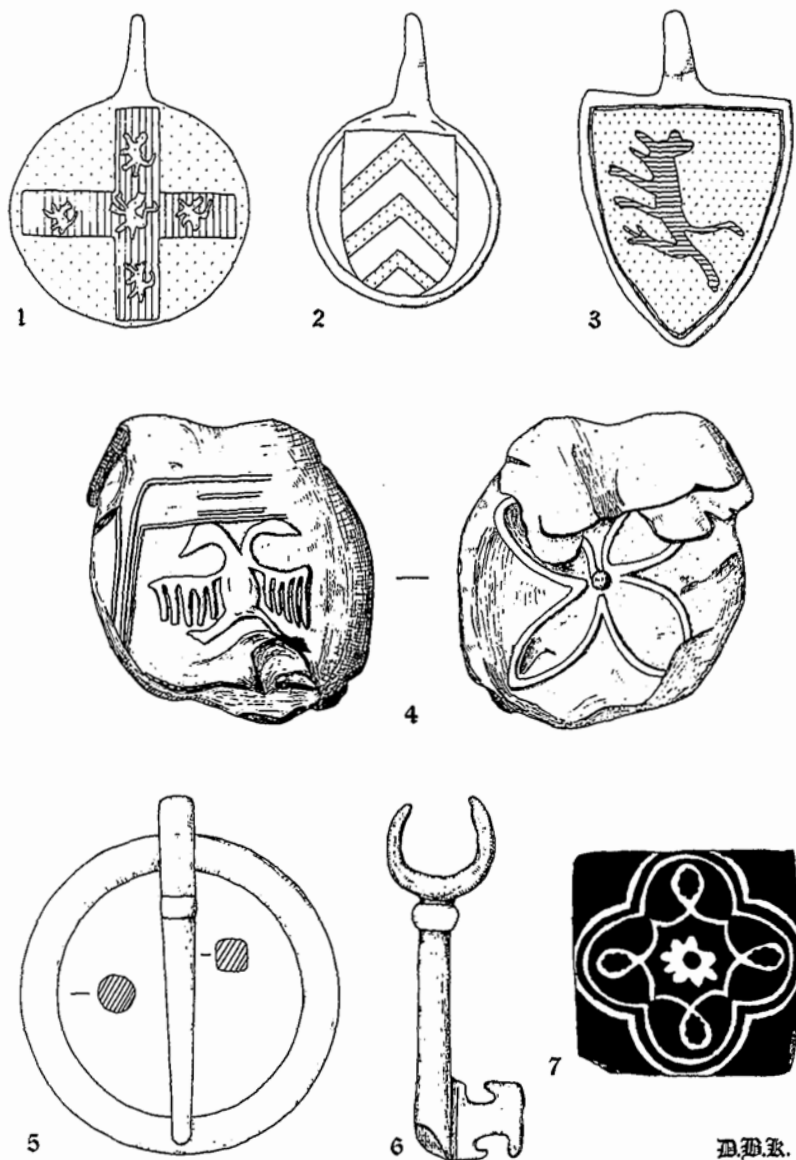


Fig. 7. Medieval: 1-3. Harness Pendants from Lynsted, Hartlip, Cliffe; 4. Upper Halling: Ampulla; 5. Marden: Ring-brooch; 6. Linton: Key; 7. Otham: Tile. All actual size, except 7 ($\frac{1}{4}$).

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

and Devizes, Wilts.) is accompanied by a crowned S.³⁷ The double-headed eagle of the Upper Halling specimen has not previously been encountered on any ampulla, though its use fits in well with the simple heraldic shields and devices that feature on so many ampullae of comparable size and shape. A few pewter badges of the imperial eagle have been found at London, but these are assumed to be secular in significance, possibly linked to a visit to England by the Holy Roman Emperor, such as that of the Emperor Sigismund in 1416. But it should also be borne in mind that the imperial eagle is used in a purely decorative way on various sorts of everyday objects, such as floor-tiles or pewter feeding-troughs made for fifteenth century birdcages.³⁸

WALDESLADE

A circular lead seal-die (Fig. 6, 5) was found by R. Gunner; N.G.R. TQ 763627. It was identified by the curator of Dartford Museum, who kindly suggested that the finder should bring it to Maidstone Museum for recording as a local find. The diameter is 30 mm., the reverse plain with a semi-circular lug at the top. Legend within two circles surrounding a four-point star with a dot in two opposite quarters: + S' IOHI RANDOLL (Seal of John Randall). Thirteenth century.

YALDING

1. A bronze Romano-British brooch (Fig. 5, 3) was found by K. Parker; N.G.R. TQ 707507; length 42 mm. The catch-plate, spring and pin are missing. Colchester type, about A.D. 10–60.

2. A bronze female head (Fig. 5, 4) was found by E.A. Robinson in May 1986; N.G.R. TQ 689499; height 44 mm., width (head) 27 mm., depth (head) 22 mm. At the back of the head is a large hole 12 mm. in diameter and 14 mm. deep. The weight is 110 g. The eyes are delineated by a series of short strokes and, although the nose and mouth are almost worn away, they appear to have been represented by simple incised lines and not by modelling later broken and worn. The hair is swept downwards and forwards from a prominent central parting to form a straight line on each side of the face. These lines are formed by vertical rows of triangular punch-marks, the parting by a double row, back to back, and the tresses by incised lines. The base is semi-circular, rounded at the front, roughly flattened behind. The two cuts at the base of the neck were perhaps made to secure the head after it had become loose.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, Fig. xxii, d–f.

³⁸ *Antiq. Journ.*, lxx (1986), 452, Fig. 4d.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

Two similar heads, but in a much better state of preservation and with the features and hair well modelled, serve as handle-mounts on a fine bronze hanging laver with four long animal head spouts, displayed in the Medieval Room at the British Museum (M. & L.A. 1956, 7-2, 1). The laver is described as English or Flemish and dated to the fifteenth century. Another head, which has lost its base, was found at the site of the Roman villa, Bedwyn Brail Wood, Great Bedwyn, Wilts.,³⁹ where its appearance must be accidental.

D.B. KELLY

³⁹ *Catalogue of Antiquities in the Museum. . . at Devizes* (Devizes, 1934), 196-7 and Pl. lxx, 1.