



# Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 4 1961

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PART ONE MARCH 1961

The Annual General Meeting of the Colchester Archeological Group was held on Monday the 13th, of March 1961 at the Friends Meeting House, Colchester. The following officers and committee were elected:

President:	Mr. M. R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A.
Chairman :	Mr. F. H. Erith.
Secretary:	Mrs. K. de Brisay.
Treasurer:	Mr. H. W. Palmer.
Excavations Secretary:	Mr. A.B. Doncaster.
Public Relations Officer:	Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C.
Committee:	Mrs. Smith. Mr. B.J.N. Edwards. Major A.D. Mansfield. Mr. A.H. Sheed,

In the course of the meeting a serious discussion was hold on the financial position of the Group. It was agreed that the Bulletin be continued in its present form, but always with a view to improvement, though the expense of its production, particularly of the plans and drawings which are essential in such a publication, constitutes a major factor in our running costs. Another is the hiring of a room in which to hold our Winter meetings which are so much enjoyed by local members. In view of all this, together with the general rise in costs, it is unavoidable that the Group subscription be raised and it was accordingly agreed that this shall be 10/- per annum as from the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 1961.

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It is with very great regret that we report the sudden death of Mr. A.F. Hall. The Group was represented at the funeral by Mr. H. J. Edwards and Mr. B. J. N. Edwards. An appreciation appears on Page 13.

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THE ARDLEIGH URNFIELD We are pleased to see that the description of the Bronze Age Urnfield at Ardleigh has appeared in the current issue of the "Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society". Fifty-one of the one hundred and eight urns were illustrated there. We include in this issue illustrations of a further seventeen urns, which have many unique features. We would particularly draw your attention to Nos. 13 and 17. See pages 2-5

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We are very pleased to report that Mr. B. J. N. Edwards has been awarded a Sir James Knott Fellowship in Archaeology at Durham University. He will be undertaking research into medieval pottery in the north-east at King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Our best wishes go with him and we wish him every success.

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SUMMER PROGRAMME 1961 -

The excavation of the Bronze Age barrow at Ardleigh which we call Ardleigh Ring Three will begin at Easter and thereafter at weekends and possibly some evenings; progress and subsequent plans may be obtained from the Secretary.

It is planned to have another tour of the town on a Monday evening in June under the expert guidance of Aldermen L. E. Dansie. This was a great success last summer and thoroughly enjoyed by all who came.

Another return date is to clean up the Balkerne Gate, This was done last year after many years of neglect and we want to tidy it up before the tourist season begins.

Mr. A.H. Sheed of Yew Tree House, West Mersea, has invited members to meet at his house one Sunday afternoon; May 28th. Assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield he will show us interesting buildings and sites on the Island.

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On page 14 there is an article on a Tudor bird-call by Mr. B.J.N. Edwards. An account of our Winter meetings is on pages 7 and 8; an article on West Mersea by Mr. L.H. Sheed is on page 6; and there are the usual Notes and Comment - more of these are wanted please; particularly answers to queries. All contributions and enquiries may be sent to Mrs. K. de Brisay, 89 Maldon Road, Colchester; Telephone Colchester 6207 (evenings)

### THE ARDLEIGH URNFIELD

by F. H. Erith.

The 1960 Volume of the "Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society" contained an account of the Bronze Age Urnfield on Vincles Farm, Ardleigh. This showed illustrations of some fifty urns. Drawings of a further seventeen urns., which are not included in the article in the Proceedings, are shown in this bulletin on pages 4 and 5.

The urns were classified into two types. Bucket-shaped and Globular, with one hybrid. This hybrid had the bucket shape, but the fine paste and incised decoration of the globular urns, and it was suggested that it was meant to be an imitation of a leather bucket.

The distinctive features of the Bucket Urns are the rustication by all-over finger-tip decoration, and the applied cordon on the shoulder, with applied "horse-shoe" bands between the rim and the shoulder cordon.

This three-dimensional decoration suggests very strongly that the bucket urns were intended to be in imitation of wicker baskets, the "horse-shoe" bands representing handles. Indeed the bushel skep still used on most English farms is exactly the same size and shape as some of the larger urns in the Ardleigh group, the handles springing from the same position as the "horse-shoe" bands. The applied cordon could represent the "wale", or thicker strengthening layer, used in basket-making. If the hybrid urn can be accepted as an imitation leather bucket, it is surely no more difficult to accept these bucket urns as imitation wicker baskets.

The term "horse-shoe" band in this context is, in my opinion, unfortunate. If horses existed in the British Bronze Age, they certainly were not shod, since iron had not been discovered. Moreover, the true shape of a horse-shoe is not represented on any Bronze Age urn depicted in Abercromby, and the Ardleigh ones are even more widely spanned. Some such term as "imitation rope handles" would, in my view, more accurately describe them.

However, as Abercromby used the term "horse-shoe", it has been used ever since, and it is assumed that if anyone used a different term no one would understand what was being meant. (Abercromby's actual expression was "Imitation horse-shoe handles in relief", Page 39, Vol. 2.) The urns he mentions came from Wessex and were discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Details of the illustrations on pages 4 and 5 are:

1. A plain urn with the applied "horse-shoe" band not finger-tipped.
2. Finger-tipped cordon and "horse-shoe" band, with "pinched finger-tipping" to give the effect of sprigs.
- 3, 4, and 5. Urns with all-over finger-tipping, including cordons and four "horse-shoe" bands. (Illustrations in the F. P. S. article showed urns with three "horse-shoe" bands.)

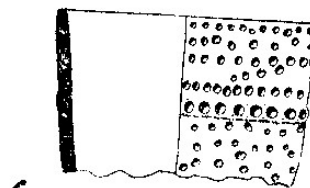
- 6, 7, and 8, Urns with all-over finger-tipping, including cordons, but without "horse-shoe" bands. No. 6 has a plain rim, No. 7 has a finger-tipped rim, and No. 8 has also a row of finger-tipping inside the rim.
9. Similar to No. 6, but with lighter and less frequent finger-tipping.
10. The finger-tipping here was carelessly done, the starting point of one band not being level with the finishing point.
11. An attempt at finger-tipped patterning below the cordon.
12. The cordon of this urn had been carelessly applied. The finger-tipping around the rim was applied with a lighter touch than that on the cordon.
13. The rustication on this urn was not done by finger-tipping, but had been worked up to give the appearance of "stone-dashing". There is a row of finger-tipping at the shoulder, below which the surface of the urn is "knobby".
14. The only urn from this urnfield where the cordon has not been decorated with finger-tipping.
15. The upper portion of this urn has been decorated by finger-tipping in such a way as to form panels. There are also some haphazard comb impressions.
16. Between the rim and the cordon there is an attempt at patterning with "pinched" finger-tipping. See No. 2.
17. Above the finger-tipped cordon there is haphazard "finger-tipping as well as other markings which may have had significance. Below the cordon the rustication appears to have been done by stroking the fingers of one hand, to give a crude "fluting" effect.

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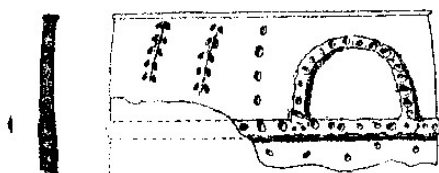
NOTE: The Hybrid "leather-bucket" urn was illustrated in the Colchester Archaeological Bulletin, Vol. I, No. 2.



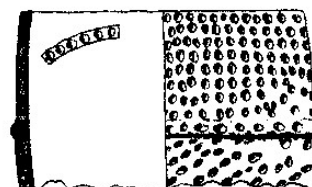
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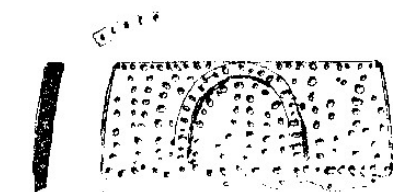
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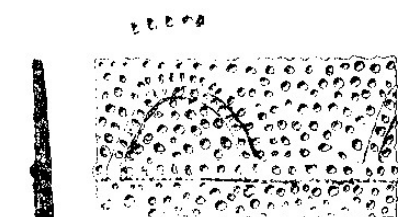
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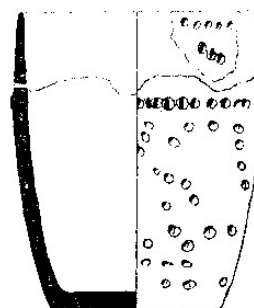
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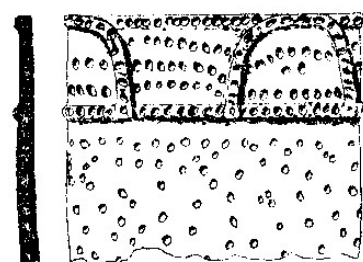
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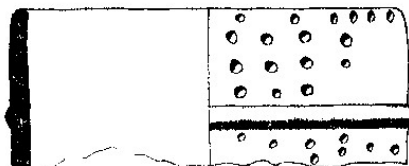


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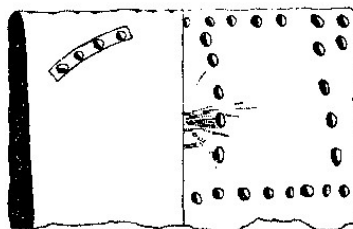
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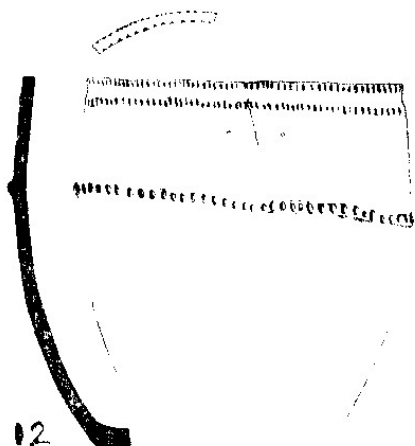
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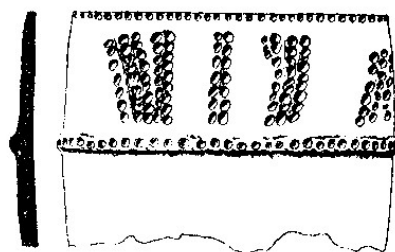
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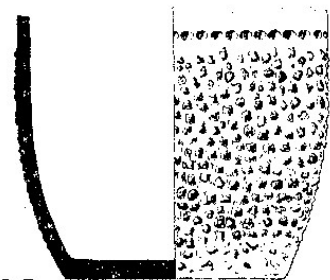
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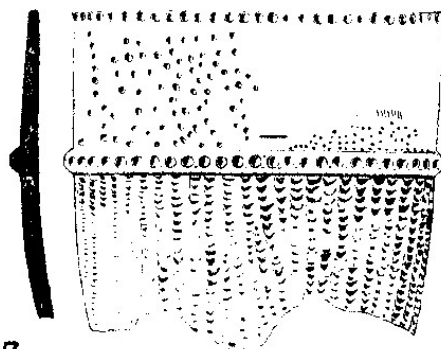
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16



13



17

Scale - one - sixth

WEST MERSEA  
by Mr. A.H. Sheed.

A Jew once called his house "The Cloisters" and gave as his reason that it was "clois" to the station, "clois" to the cinema and "clois" to the synagogue.

Those considerations did not apply in more primitive times and in seeking a reason why an old site was chosen, water is one of the most important.

In Roman times the area round West Mersea Church was occupied. A pavement was found east of the church and tesserae have been found in the roadway west of the church. At a distance of about 100 yards from the west pavement and about 15 feet lower another pavement has been found inside the wall of Yew Tree House. These scattered remains indicate a substantial settlement.

Shortly before the Norman Conquest the same site was chosen for a small priory. The exact site is not known but it is supposed to have been west of the church and in what at one time was part of the land attached to Yew Tree House.

In about 1728 Yew Tree House was built but there is now no trace of water. Shortly before his death Air Commodore Chick took a keen interest in the site and divined water flowing past the north-west corner of the building and another stream further west. Both of these emerge at beach level and flowed freely right through the recent very dry summer. Mersea Island consists of a mass of clay but in the area under discussion there is a cover of some eight feet of sand and gravel so the two streams could well be supposed to flow over the clay and under the gravel.

When Yew Tree House was built there was presumably access to the east water otherwise why not build the house further west near the other stream. None of the older residents can remember a pump or well but enquiries have led to an old lady whose family occupied the house for nearly a century and this is her account:

"I don't think there was ever a pump there, but there was a well many years ago before my grandfather's time. It was half way between the west kitchen door and the wash house - or back kitchen. It had been bricked over but is probably covered with grass now. Certainly over a hundred years ago the man at Yew Tree and the one at Orleans had a row and the Orleans man - for spite - sank a well in his garden in a line with ours and draw the water away from Yew Tree. He also built stables and loft opposite to cut off our view of the sea and planted a row of horse chestnuts. (The silly ass didn't realise that the trees would be lovely in bloom in Spring and would shelter us from the east winds) In our time Orleans had water in or near the house and my Father used to say there might be water in our well again, but it was never opened. If the spring does work it would probably be like St. Peter's well which is much better than the tap water which they have in Mersea now."

When Air Commodore Chick visited the site we were mainly concerned with locating water near the Roman building but in the area concerned he got rather a confused reading which would suggest that the well was slightly wide of the main run of the stream. If this was true it might explain why Orleans was able to take the water from a lower level. If the well had been correctly sited this could not have happened.

### WINTER MEETINGS 1961

The second part of the winter series opened on the 9th, of January when the Group was privileged to be shown the Harsnett Library by Mr. John Bensusan Butt. This unique collection was admirably presented by Mr. Butt who outlined the development of the printing and production of many of the volumes on view and members were able study them at the close of the talk.

The meeting on the sixteenth of January was hold in the Friends Meeting House and members were addressed by Major A. D. Mansfield on the subject of Maps and Map-makers. Major Mansfield, who is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, described and illustrated maps from ancient Egyptian times to the present day Ordnance Survey publications and said that Great Britain was better mapped than any other country. He also spoke of the many Essex map makers, whose work was much admired. Copies of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century maps by Norden, Saxton, Speed and Ogilby and Organ's later maps were studied and admired. The greatest of the older map makers of Essex were undoubtedly Chapman and Andrée, whose large scale maps of the county are of great historical and cartographical value.

Prehistoric cave paintings were the subject of Mrs. Mansfield's talk on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. of January. She described the wonders of the caves at Altamira and Lascaux and showed illustrations. There was much discussion on the aspects of prehistoric life which these pictures depict and the manner of the men who executed them and why. The types of weapons used were considered and Mr. Tucker added some interesting details on archery with particular reference to the arrows carried by the human figures in these paintings.

On the 30<sup>th</sup>. of January The Rev. A.H. Gosney gave a talk on Heraldry. In the short time at his disposal he took his fascinated listeners through the many aspects of this complicated subject. Mr. Gosney began by outlining the history of Heraldry from its beginnings in the 13th. Century; he explained the special language used, derived from a kind of Anglo-Saxon French, and went on to give the rules of blazoning and illustrated the terms used by coloured slides. After some animated discussion Mr. Erith thanked the speaker for a very enjoyable and instructive evening.

Mr. L. H. Gant addressed the Group on the 6th. of February. His subject was Clay Tobacco Pipes as Archaeological Cross References. He described the association of pottery, glassware, porcelain and other objects and clay tobacco pipes, and the work of cross reference to date the finds. Many objects discovered in recent excavations were demonstrated together with examples of related clay pipes. The sites covered included High Street, Wyre Street, Stockwell, St. Helen's Lane and North Hill. Mounted specimens of pipes found locally were displayed covering over three centuries.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>. of February Mr. B. J. N. Edwards gave a talk on medieval pottery. The period chosen covered post-Roman times to the Norman conquest embracing imported and native wares which led to the coarse Romano-Saxon pottery which was often round based and embellished with dents, bosses, stamps and rouletted design. Mr. Edwards illustrated his talk with drawings pictures and sherds from many sites in the Colchester area. It was resolved from the lively discussion which followed the talk that much remained to be discovered about this period and its fascinating but little known pottery.

An intriguing talk on the Lost Villages of Essex was given by Mr. A.B. Doncaster on the 20<sup>th</sup> February. A church standing alone in a field, a dried up pond, rectangular shadows in corn or grass, the echo of a name no longer used, or even local legends of haunted mounds or ghostly bells; all these could mean a village once stood here. The speaker discussed the causes to which such depopulation could be attributed, such as plague, enclosure or economic conditions and the shift of industry. Mr. Doncaster pointed out parallels in our own times and went on to say that, though the sites of many lost villages are known throughout the country, there are relatively few in Essex. Among those are Thunderley, Belchamp St. Ethelbert, Stanway Magna and Parva, Little Birch, Snorham and Little Wendens, all of which had lost their identity by inclusion in other parishes or by amalgamation under a new name. A



vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Mr. B.J.N. Edwards who said this subject was relatively little explored and offered great possibilities to the researcher and observer.

On the 27th, of February the Group met at the Public Library where they were fortunate to have as speaker a local archaeologist whom Mr. F. H. Erith introduced as a "good all-rounder". For over an hour Mr. Frank Girling held the interest of a large audience with a talk on merchant's marks, which he illustrated by photographs and sketches projected by epidiascope. Mr. Girling postulated the theory that many early merchants' marks were derived from runic characters. Further developments suggested the gable end of a house or the section of a masted ship with the pennant flying; while other marks or signs appeared to be derived from sacred symbols. The latter were probably used for their mystical strength in combating evil and prospering good. The speaker's survey and illustrations covered the whole country but emphasis was given to a number of local marks, such as the Beriffe mark of Brightlingsea, Paycocke of Coggeshall, Ward of Dedham, and many more which are found on churches and houses, tombs and carved panels. Few marks have survived connected with trade, but leaden seals of Colchester bay makers have been found in the mud of the Thames at Greenhithe and are now displayed in the Guildhall Museum, London, and at Colchester.

The guest speaker on the 6th, of March was the honorary secretary of the Essex Archaeological Society, Mr. John S. Appleby. Introducing the speaker, Mr. Leonard H. Gant said he was a man of many parts, with wide interests in archaeology, history, meteorology and many associated studies. Mr. Appleby chose for his subject "You, your history and the weather" and in the course of an absorbing talk dealt with the ice ages and atomic bombs. He described the glacial cycle which built up huge glaciers, which crept southwards and covered most of the northern hemisphere four times during the past million years, the two mile thick wall of ice grinding away natural features in its path, changing the primeval scene and by shifting the North Pole, creating cycles of changing weather. Scientific research in many branches had resulted in the development of radio-carbon dating, which had been applied to cores bored from the ocean bed and to fossilised forests with astounding results. The discovery of the remains of flint implements pointing to an Arctic race of men, and their migration southwards across land bridges revealed by the receding oceans, whose level fell as far as three hundred feet, gave us the first human witnesses to the ending of an Ice Age, but all observations and studies pointed to the progress of another Ice Age, fulfilling the glacial cycle. An indication of the kind of weather experienced in the past is found in the formation of rings in the wood of trees, and the science of dendro-chronology had achieved much success by this method of dating by counting the rings and by observation of their patterns. Of the effect of atomic or hydrogen bomb explosions on our weather, Mr. Appleby said that the full study had not revealed any imminent danger, but if such actions persisted in putting dirt into space, then it was not unreasonable to suggest that the light of the sun could be partially obscured by clouds of dust. The speaker concluded in lighter vein by suggesting on the spot observations which might determine the kind of weather to be expected by noting the formation of froth on a mug of beer, or the bubbles on a cup of tea or glass of "ginger beer". Mr. Felix Erith expressed a vote of thanks to Mr. Appleby at the conclusion of the talk.

#### NOTES AND COMMENT.

CHARM STONES & TALISMANS. – Mr. J.G. Dent, of Sunnyside Cottage, Halton East, Skipton-in-Craven, Yorks, writes:- " I am studying the distribution of customs, connected with the use of talismans both in England and abroad. Many similar beliefs occur in widely separated areas; others seem to be unique to one particular district. The talismans employed may vary widely, e.g., naturally holed stones, pieces of rock crystal, certain minerals in a natural state, and some of the smaller fossils for instance, have, in certain districts, specific virtues attributed to them; or perhaps I ought to say they had, since such beliefs are dying out rapidly. Do you know of any such survivals in Essex and adjacent counties? The use of naturally holed stones is very widespread and the same virtues, mainly protective, occur in many parts of the British isles and in the Scandinavian countries. Failing water-worn stones, naturally holed flint nodules were used in the same way; and the stone axe-hammers so common in museums have been employed as talismans against lightning in many places. My experience has been that members of Archaeology Groups invariably have a wide knowledge of general antiquarian matters, especially concerning their own district. They and the Folk

Museums are among my main sources of reliable local information. Anything connected with these or similar beliefs would be very useful and I should be most grateful for your help."

NOTE:- any comments on the above or notes on charms and talismans may be sent to the Secretary for inclusion in our next Bulletin but Mr. Dent will be pleased to receive letters on the subject at the above address.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING. - Major A. D. Mansfield writes:- "Plum pudding and why it has no plums in it is a hardy annual with the Press, and true to form the Colchester Gazette raised it at the end of December last as a question aimed at the Group. Whether or not any local receipts today include plums I cannot say. My Father tells me that in Surrey he knows of a family whose traditional pudding does contain prunes. I incline to believe it was not always a Christmas dish; "The Whole Duty of Man" published in 1675 by "Rabisha" is said to contain a pudding of this kind, but does not mention it in connection with Christmas. I have not checked this reference, "Madam Johnsons Present, or Every Young Woman's Companion", third edition, 1765, gives a "Plumb Pudding Boiled" of, inter alia, "sewet", raisins, currents, flour, spice and eggs, but again does not mention Christmas. At a later date Merle's "Domestic Dictionary" of 1842 gives two receipts for plum pudding, one including brandy, similar to the above. Again there is no mention of Christmas. I am of the opinion that its fixation as a Christmas dish came about by its substitution for the traditional Christmas Plum Porridge or Pottage, probably some time after the middle of the eighteenth century. Plum porridge goes back a considerable time. "Madam Johnsons Present:", referred to above, gives a receipt for it some pages after her plum pudding, where it is specifically headed "Plumb Pottage for Christmas". It consists of beef broth, in which is soaked bread and to which currents, raisins and prunes are added, together with spices, sack, claret and sugar. Foreigners are said to have spoken of it with horror (Bayne-Powell, "Housekeeping in the 18<sup>th</sup> century", 1956). With the advance of the eighteenth century this concoction of meat, fruit and spices, so reminiscent of medieval cookery, appears to have been ousted by the more civilised pudding. The last recorded eating of plum porridge appears to have been by Brand, the antiquarian, in London at Christmas 1801, although it may have lingered on much longer in country districts. The confusion or substitution of plums-prunes-raisins is also, of course, exemplified in "plum duff" and "plum cake",

A.F. HALL M.C., B.A.

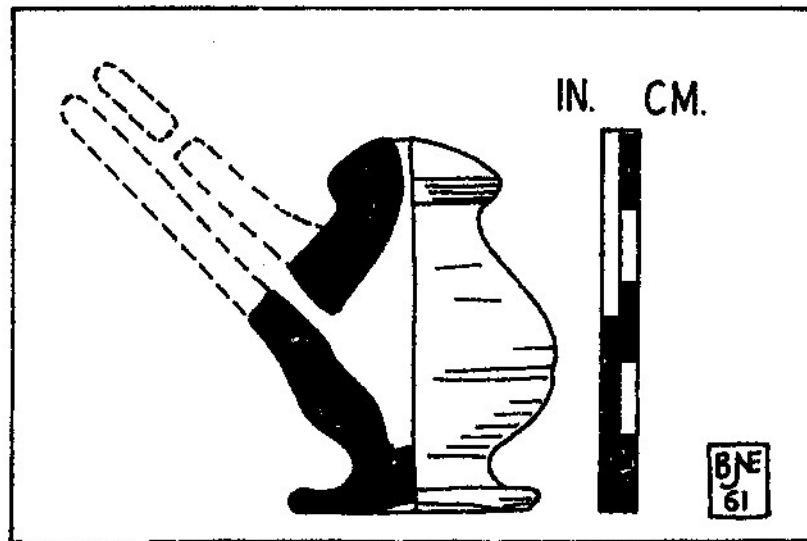
With the recent death of AFH (as he was known to so many people) the Group has lost one of its most distinguished members and its most original brains. He was distinguished in every sense of the word except in outward public recognition. From this his modesty, almost shyness, kept him. Distinguished he was physically - a tall man with black hair and a way of seeming to progress smoothly rather than walk. As an archaeologist (a term he disliked of himself, feeling it to be pompous) the esteem in which he was held by those whose names are better known to the public is proof of his quality. Of his originality, reference to his articles in this Bulletin ( Vol. I, pp. 39 - 42; Vol. II, pp. 13 - 16, Vol. III, pp. (9 - 12) will provide sufficient proof. He completed another article just before his death and this will appear in our next issue.

He was a schoolmaster, and as such it was his job to fire others with enthusiasm for his subject, a task which he performed both in and out of school without apparent effort, with meticulous accuracy and attention to detail. But at the same time it was unobtrusive. Rather than ask one to find out a particular piece of information, he would get one interested so that one wanted to know oneself.

Schoolmaster, historian and archaeologist, enthusiast for odd ideas (his car was fitted with an altimeter) there is one word which sums up AFH in everything he did - he was a gentleman.

B.J.N.E .

A TUDOR BIRD CALL  
by B.J.N. Edwards.



At the beginning of this year I noticed that a trench was being dug in front of the premises of Messrs. Wm. Rodgers, decorators, in St. John's Street, Colchester. In accordance with my usual custom I examined the spoil heaps, and found what appeared to be a very small pot with some kind of spout broken off. It was in cream fabric covered with clear glaze containing flecks of green, (See drawing above) (It was globular with a splayed foot and thickened rim, The whole vessel was only about 2 in. high) The nature and function of the vessel being unknown to me, I sent a drawing of it to Mr. B.W. Spencer of the London Museum, who replied that it was a bird - call, and originally had a tubular mouthpiece with a hole in the upper surface. He agreed with my ascription of a Tudor date, and said that most are 16th Century. I exhibited the vessel at a meeting of the Group, and the following week Major Mansfield showed a specimen, probably later in date and deficient of the rim but with the mouthpiece intact, which he had bought in Colchester during the week.

The same trench yielded a mortarium rim of Wroxeter form 18, bearing a stamp apparently reading DIA (retrograde), to which I have been unable to find a reference. This was submitted elsewhere for comment, but none has yet been forthcoming.

PART TWO JUNE 1961

In this issue we include an article on The Roman Way by Monkwick to West Mersea and the 1838 Ordnance Survey by the late Mr. A.F. Hall, B.A. Mr. Hall had been studying this absorbing subject for some time and he was particularly anxious that the results should be published in our Bulletin. There is also an account of two very interesting Roman necklaces each found by one of our members and drawn and described by Mr. F.H. Erith. Mr. L.H. Gant contributes one of his invaluable reports on a local building site; this time that at St. Peter's Vicarage on North Hill,

On the practical side the Group has been busy on a Bronze Age site at Ardleigh. This excavation has been very well supported by members and interest has been kept going from the first day until the final dramatic denouement when the primary burial urn was discovered, as expected, in the central four foot square. The enormous number of 24 secondary urns and other features made this an excavation of unusual interest and a full report will appear in our September Bulletin.

PLEASE NOTE:- Monday, 24th. July - 7.15 p.m. - outside the Friends Meeting House - TOUR OF THE TOWN under the expert guidance of Alderman L.E. Dansie - do not miss this.

Monday 4th. September - 7.30 p.m. - at the Friends Meeting House - Group Meeting to discuss and arrange the Winter Programme.

From 17<sup>th</sup>. July for 2-3 months - Excavations begin again on the Roman Temple sites, Bye-pass water meadows, every day including weekends and some evenings. Directed by Mr. B. Blake of the Colchester Museum. Volunteers welcome.

ST. PETER'S, COLCHESTER - NEW VICARAGE SITE  
by Leonard H. Gant.

The new vicarage of St. Peter's, Colchester, is being built immediately behind the present vicarage on North Hill, in what was the garden of the original house.

The garden site had yielded nothing of importance and an excavation in Canon Bertin's time revealed little beyond the usual refuse found in numerous pits.

My attention was drawn to the site again by the Colchester Corporation Building Inspector, Mr. Frank Smith, who kindly recovered and brought to me a number of clay tobacco pipes and some glassware, which had been found in the drainage trenches.

In company with Major J. G. S. Brinson, the President of the Essex Archaeological Society, who happened to be passing, I made a thorough examination of the long trenches, which reached a maximum depth of 5 feet and cut through a dozen or more rubbish pits.

Foundations and the lower courses of former outbuildings were also found. From the upcast of the trenches it was apparent that the deepest pits had cut through the Roman layer, for sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup> century buff mortaria and a quantity of *opus signinum* were seen, also later black ware and a fragment of rouletted Castor ware pot. Wall plaster, with base of shell gritted pink cement, and finished surface of lime, was coloured green and Pompeiian red. 4 large sherds of buff wine amphora was also found, with the handle springing from the shoulder of the jar.

The greater part of the pottery, however, and obviously, was of much later date, and included 18<sup>th</sup> century stoneware - a rim and shoulder of Doulton "Sport ware" with indented rim and the heads of relief figures, characteristic of this pottery, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century "Willow pattern" and a large dish fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century combed decoration Staffordshire ware,

A clay tobacco pipe of 1660 - 80 was found in association with heavy moulded glass flagons, with raised bases. Later glass flagons, with longer necks came up with a great number of clay

pipes marked "S. R." and "E. L." - Stephen Rand and Elizabeth Lowthrup, who both worked in the town about 1800 - 1840.

The pipes were all of the early types of both makers, having large initials on the feet, and plain bowls - the type which remained almost unchanged from 1740 to 1820. By a coincidence, Major Brinson gave me a fine specimen of Stephen Rand's later type, with smaller bowl, ornamented with oak leaf design down the mould mark and having small lettered initials on a slightly forward pointing foot, or spur. In one hour I had received three of the known four types of this Colchester maker!

THE "ROMAN WAY" BY MONWICK TO MERSEA & THE 1838 ORDNANCE SURVEY.  
by the late A. F. Hall, B.A.

(This article and the accompanying plan were already in the hands of the Editor, in three different forms of varying lengths, at the time of Mr. Hall's death. I have conflated the three drafts to form one article and re-drawn the plan. The words are entirely those of Mr. Hall. B.J.N.E.)

For more than 100 years, 1842-1949, Rampart Lane (1) was accepted as a Roman road, often with the dual character of being a rampart also. Because its records were bombed (Phillips, 1959) it must now be impossible to discover why the Ordnance Survey, in particular, endorsed the dual role, which is denied by both of the authorities quoted by Hull (1958, pp. 10-11) Lever (1889/B) claimed that it was not a rampart, but a road, and Round (1923) argued the reverse. Jenkins, (1842) who perhaps is responsible for the whole of the polemics, himself expressed no opinion, the route shown on what Laver (1906) calls his "fanciful plan" having been added to it by "Tayspill and Gilbert from their own observations", which are not described. (Laver 1906) The published history of the feature roads thus:

1777 (Chapman & Andre) Rampart.	1889,1906 (Laver) Roman road, not a rampart.
1805 (O.S.) Neither.	1918 (Codrington) Roman road.
1838 (O.S.) Rampart.	1923 (Round) Rampart. Not, a Roman road.
1842 (Tayspill & Gilbert) Rampart and Roman road	1895-1949 (O.S.) Rampart & Roman Road.
1888 (Cutts) Rampart & Roman road.	1955 (O.S.) "Berechurch Dyke"

Two of these routes are omitted from the plan to avoid confusion. That of 1842, perhaps diagrammatic only, runs 2c, 2, 1, on a curve only slightly east of a straight line. That of 1888 runs 2c, 11, then along a footpath shown at west of the hedge 2b, then along the drive-in and under the farmhouse to 4, 2, 1. There are thus five versions between 2c and 2, of which at least four must be wrong, but all except the 1838 route agree on Rampart Lane (1). Further obscurity arises from the reticence of authorities about their predecessors. Round confines himself to Laver. Laver ignores the 1842 route. Nobody mentions that of 1838.

Where a rampart is shown as also a road, we are presumably asked to believe that metalling was laid on its summit instead of on terra firma. (cf. Laver on Gryme's Dyke, 1889/A). But unless this practice could be shown to be proved for other roads perched on other ramparts, the title of Rampart Lane to this improbable dual status would seem to be precarious in the extreme. If this is accepted, Round's criticism (1923) recovers its full force - this is a rampart, and what is a rampart is not a road.

The 1838 O.S. Sheet 48 covers 560 sq. miles of Essex and Suffolk. The first edition (1805) did not show antiquities, (Phillips, 1959) but they are numerous on the 1838 edition, except, strangely, Roman items, indicated by block capitals, of which there are only nine. There are ROMAN REMAINS at Felixstowe, and the modern road to London is a ROMAN WAY. The other seven, be it noted, all lie on the Monkwick route to Mersea. They are: COLONIA: ROMAN WAY (2c-2b, 2a-2) : THE RAMPARTS (1) : INTRENCHMENTS to their east (TL 997202) : ANCIENT WAY at a bend on B1025 (TM 006162): BARROW at West Mersea (TM 023143): and the ROMAN REMAINS at West Mersea Church (described by Jenkins (1&2) as

"The Proprietor's House".) Thus of the six Roman roads shown on the Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain (1956) the 1838 map shows only that to London. Yet a secondary route, to Mersea, now dropped from the O.S., is represented by two stretches in the fields at Monkwick, and a bend on a modern minor road. Except for 300 yards at 2c, where the Way is shown as occupying a lane, it runs to 2 through an otherwise featureless space on the map, for the hedge with which it happens (?) to coincide at 2 is modern, having been planted since the revision of the O.S. in 1895 (During the 1914 -1918 War - information from our member Mr. L. H. Gant.)

The Peldon ANCIENT WAY is the bend north of the inn, and here it should be possible to draw on intimate knowledge of the locality. But what are the clues to look for, and what were they in 1838? Before the road was at all made up, however, any structural features, e.g. an embankment, would be noticeable, and doubtless explained as Roman. Was then the ANCIENT WAY (and the Monkwick WAY too?) accepted by the O.S. because of a tradition held to be too strong to ignore? Unless copied from earlier maps, as were some antiquities, (Phillips 1959) these entries must be based on local information, and on his own admission Jenkins had no say in this. Indeed, he seems not to have been consulted at all, or not believed, for none of his 'fancies' appear on the 1838 map, though some found a place later, notably the Roman road out of Balcerne Gate, sometimes attributed to Laver. Gilbert, if the map-maker of that name, would seem a likely candidate, yet must probably be excluded too, on account of the clear inference to be drawn from his treatment of the ANCIENT WAY at Peldon, which he is known to have copied on to the 1842 plan, but did not show in red, sure proof that he was not its sponsor. Whoever it was whose advice was here accepted by the O.S. seems to have been an enthusiast for Rome, for not only did he find a Roman road, but the only rampart and the only barrow shown anywhere on the map are Roman. But while it would be interesting to know his name, it would be more interesting to know on what evidence he worked.

Hull states (1958, p11) that Laver's bank north of Plum Hall was not a road, and that the Way was not seen in building operations to the south, i.e. near 2c. Between 7 & 6, and again at 2, the line of the Way has been sectioned by four large trenches dug across the south of the town, (see below) and near Roman River it was deliberately sectioned with the negative result recorded in C.A.G. Bull. 1960. There remains for mention a tank-trap (7 - 2) which, just north of 2, sectioned rampart and ditch at a fine angle (4 degrees). As seen from the road, the prospect was of some 40 yards of ditch exposure, with that much opportunity to find dating material, and in 1944 I undertook the necessary search. The effort, however, was fruitless, for, except near 2, the evidence had been obliterated by a pond. In reporting this unfortunate discovery I ventured to indicate a feature in the west wall of the trap which "should be considered as possibly a Roman road", here crossing the rampart from north-west to south-east, and was surprised to learn that this tallied in position with a faint mark on an air photograph thought perhaps to represent a Roman road. At that time I did not realise that it tallied also with a Roman Way shown on the 1838 O.S. map. The north edge of the pond was 125 ft. north of the north hedge of the road at 2, and from 125 ft. to 149 ft. the surface of the gravel, covered only by 18 ins. of topsoil humus (N.B.) was both level and stony, with a ditch at the north, cut 18 ins. into the gravel, and 8 ft. wide as here sectioned, the outer lip being a few inches lower than the inner. As the evidence did not appear in the east face of the trap, the inference was that the feature was running south-east into the pond, by which it had been destroyed. The west face of the trap was 4 ft. east of the hedge shown in the plan.

The four trenches mentioned above - a pre-war sewer, a tank-trap and two gas mains (1952 & 1955) - must have sectioned not only any road to Mersea, but all roads issuing from St. Botolph's, Scheregate, and Headgate, yet from none of them has news come, apparently, of any Roman road. This certainly has not been for want of looking, and it is thus beyond question that perhaps some half dozen Roman roads must have slipped through for some reason undetected. One type of road described by Laver, as alternative to his ridge-roads, would be especially elusive - metalling laid directly on the natural gravel after removal of the over-lying soils. As it is sometimes assumed that roads "ought" to show in section, this explanation may be questioned. But it also may be tested, for in its gravel pit on Dugard Avenue (TL 962239) the Corporation maintains a section across an undoubted Roman road

with full facilities for road-spotting (Hawkes & Hull, 1947, Frontispiece, and Hull 1958, p.12) Mr. Hull agrees with others that it is not noticeable.

If, as suggested, the difficulty arises from a similarity between metalling and a natural gravel bed, we should look for a road if possible where there is no natural gravel to confuse, as where the Way (1) runs on to alluvial soils at Roman River (see above). The three of our four trenches which pass between 7 & 6 are dug always in gravel, but the fourth runs into an area of 'glacial loam' (Geological map. V.C.H. 1903) west of 2, and here a remarkable layer of stones was exposed on the south verge of the road, 8 inches thick and evenly laid on the fine loamy sand. It extended from 340 ft. to 360 ft. west of the west hedge of Rampart Lane (1).

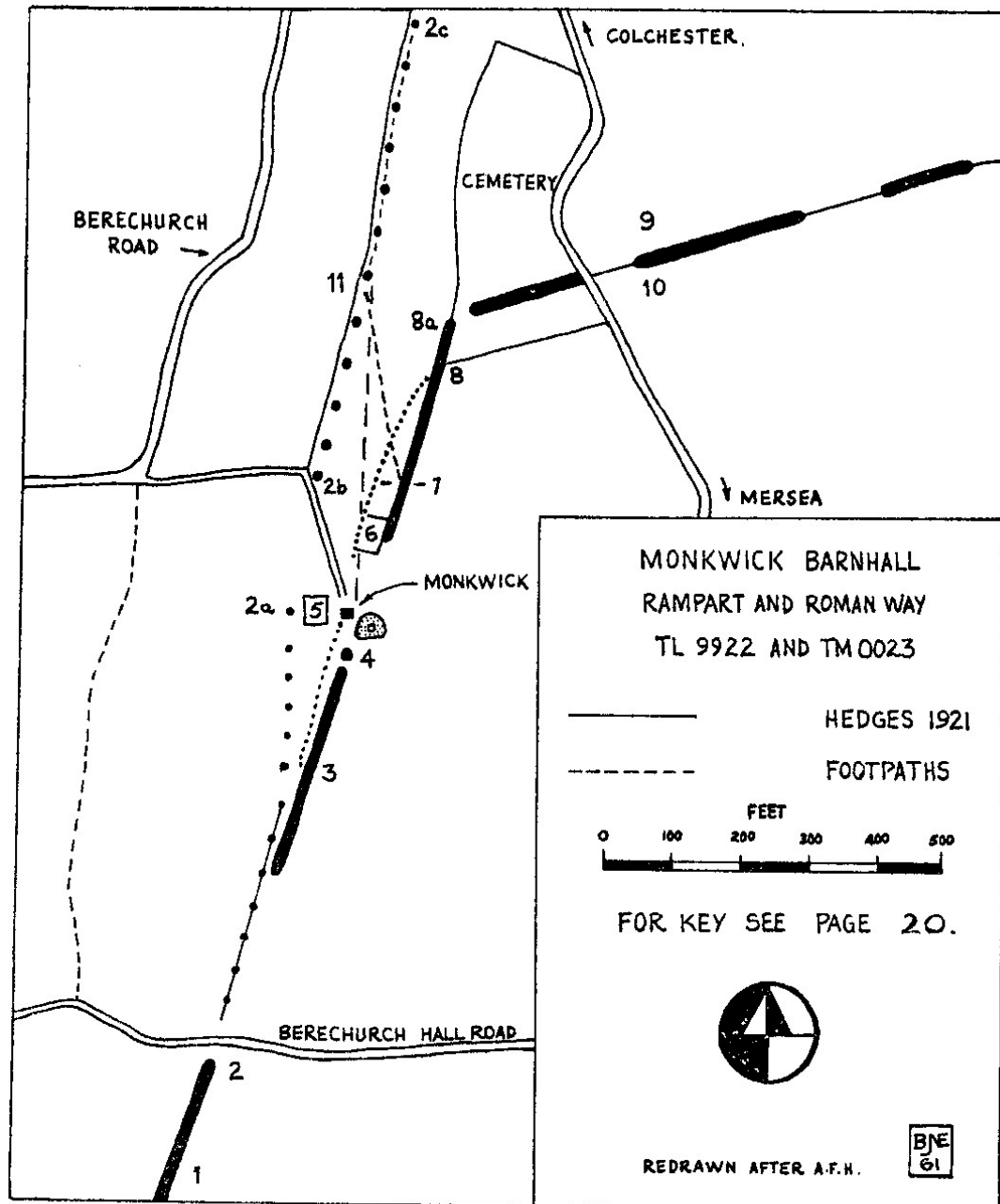
I know of only one other feature to be seen in these trenches that could conceivably indicate a Roman road. From 47 ft. to 65 ft. west of a manhole, 17 ft. north of the north-west corner of the stack-yard (6), the surface of the gravel is black instead of red. If this is due to weathering, where for some reason the gravel has been denuded of its natural covering, it could be that the gravel has been deliberately bared in the preparation of a road as described by Laver. Obviously, however, as "evidence" neither this nor either of the other two suspicious features described is of any real value without corroboration elsewhere "on-line" - without, that is, careful supporting investigation.

#### R E F E R E N C E S.

C.A. G Bull. (1960) Hall, A.F. The Monkwick - Barnhall Rampart, Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin, vol. III, p.9.

Codrington, T. (1918) Roman Roads in Britain. 3rd. edition. London.

Cutts, Rev. E. L. (1888) Colchester. London.

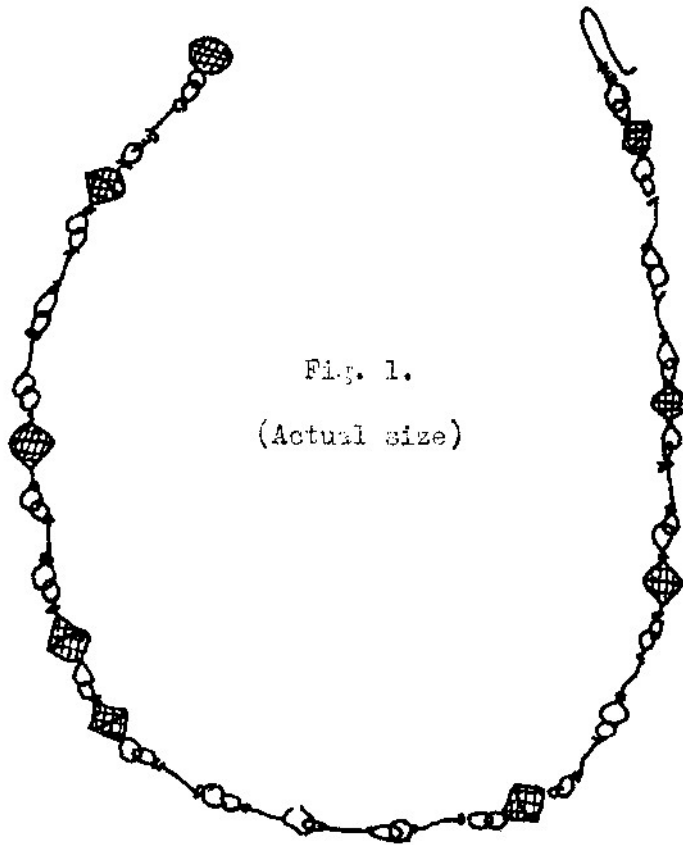


### TWO ROMAN NECKLACES.

Two of our subscribers have recently been lucky enough to discover a Roman necklace in the course of their excavations. As neither has so far found its way into print, we are grateful to Mr. Camden and Mr. Cooper for allowing us to draw and describe both their specimens.

The necklace shown in fig 1. (below) was discovered by Mr. M. C. Campen at his Kelvedon site, and associated finds suggest it is of a fairly early date (100 – 150 A.D.). The metal chain was made of silver and the beads are of chalk-blue glass. The beads are all the same biconical shape, but it appears that there are some missing.





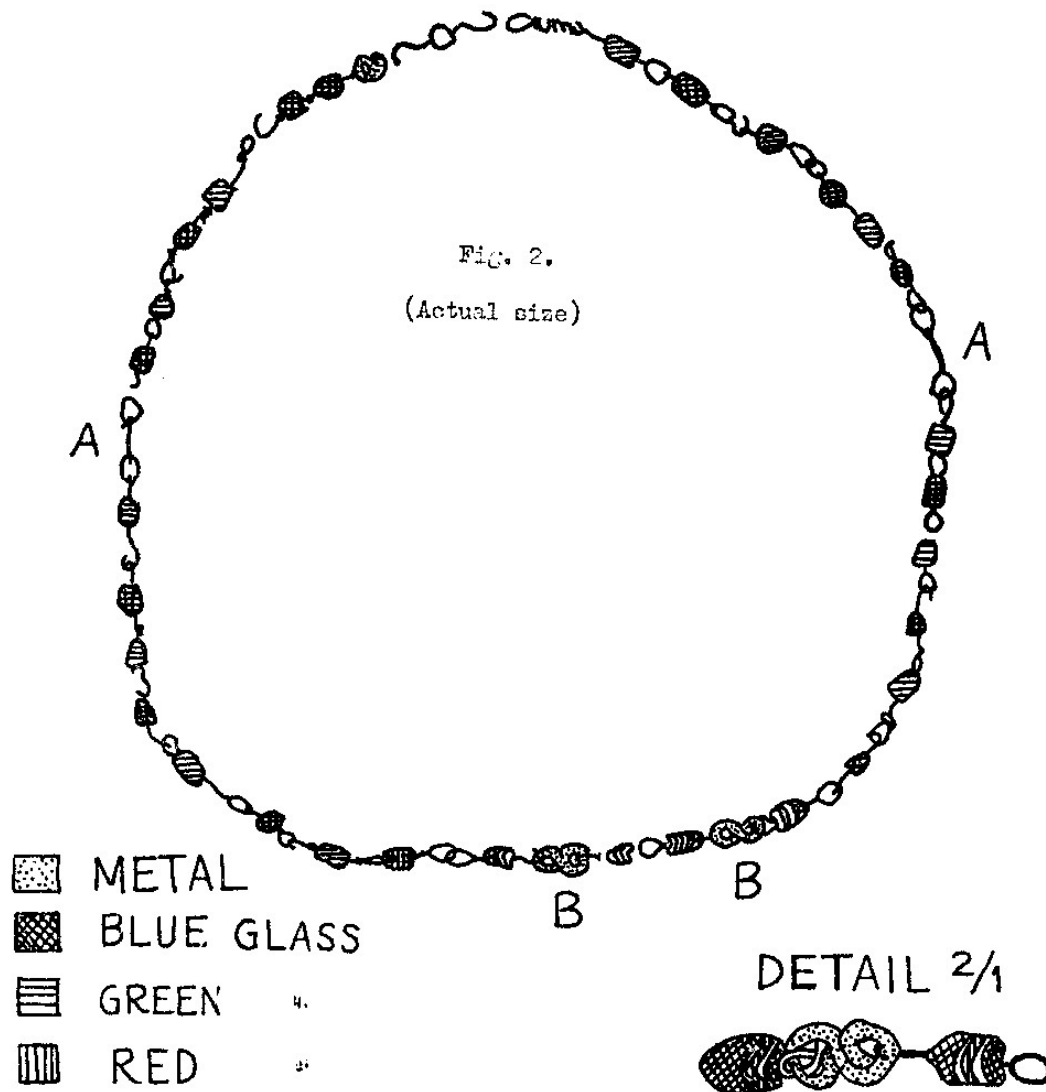
The second necklace is illustrated overleaf and the method of construction seems to be the same in both. A short length of wire was threaded through each bead and a loop was then made at each end to interlock with the loop for the adjoining bead. It thus made a continuous pattern of bead loop loop, bead loop loop, bead etc.

We have not been able to trace any report of a necklace of this type found in England from the Roman period. If any reader knows of one we should be most grateful if he would supply us with the appropriate reference.

The necklace illustrated in fig. 2 (below) was found by Mr. H. P. Cooper, of Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, who says it was discovered with late fourth century associations. (The Roman Estate at Hill Farm is particularly rich in finds, of the 4th. and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries and it is possible that the necklace was manufactured on the site.

This necklace consists of alternate green and blue glass except for five beads at the lower part which are blue with white-red-white chevron insets. Two beads appear to be missing at points A.A.

The metal consists of gilded bronze wire. At points B.B. thicker pieces were twisted into a figure of eight and hammered flat (see detail). Mr. Cooper suggests that these were made to take a pendant.



#### NOTES AND COMMENT.

A VISIT TO WEST MERSEA. In fulfilment of a promise made some time ago, when he entertained members of the Group in his beautiful Georgian house at West Mersea, Mr. A.H. Sheed again welcomed about 20 members on Sunday afternoon, 28th. May. A programme worthy of much greater support had been carefully arranged by our host, with Major A. D. Mansfield and Mr. J. B. Bennett, whose organisation and unrivalled local knowledge were soon evident. First honours, however, went to Mrs. Mansfield, Sally and Margaret, who produced tea, sandwiches and cakes with charm and quiet efficiency. The same team, presumably, coped with the washing up whilst the visitors examined sherds and other objects recently unearthed in the garden, and maps showing the sites of red hills and other historical monuments on the island.

The first visit was to the nearby church of Saints Peter and Paul. Saint Peter was a very powerful saint, for did he not hold the keys of Heaven? Mersea also recognised him as the patron saint of fisherman and dedicated not only the parish church to him but the priory which formerly stood nearby. Across the water the chapel at Bradwell also bears a dedication to him. It is to be expected, therefore, that fisherman should be remembered when visiting the church. In this connection it was interesting to see a perfect Roman amphora, very nicely mounted in a wooden frame, at the western end of the church. This came, it is thought, from a

sunken Roman ship and the jar, which bore no makers mark, was dredged up by fishermen and given to the church.

The unplastered wall of the south aisle was noted and the re-set piscina in the south wall. The abrupt end of this aisle is soon to be beautified by the erection of an altar. Our visit was curtailed by the arrival of a christening party, so, forming a convoy, the next place was visited.

The church of St. Edmund at East Mersea is, in many ways, more interesting than the sister church at West Mersea, and the recent renovations and decorations have made it more beautiful and lighter. Here Mrs. Bennett came into his own, for he has made a particular study of the history of the whole island, and under his expert guidance, many features of interest, which otherwise might have been missed, were studied. Among these were the lozenge-shaped masons' marks high up on the stonework of the north arcade, and the delightfully worded brass to Maudlin Owtred (1572) who "dyed in the winter colde". The Elizabethan silver chalice was displayed and greatly admired for the perfection of its design and splendid preservation. The pre-Reformation pulpit, with sounding board and hour-glass stand was noted and in the churchyard, by the N.E. angle of the chancel, an unusual grave of a young girl was seen. This is protected by a stout iron cage which was, it was explained, possibly a foil to the body snatchers of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Adjoining the churchyard at the eastern end stands the much restored East Hall, which seems to have been missed by the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments, despite the obvious antiquity of the material and the site. Again Mr. Bennett was guide and thanks were expressed to Mr. & Mrs. J. H. G. Sunnucks for their kindness in allowing us to wander through their home.

The final excursion led us to the coast, where a red hill, below Fen Farm, is being eroded by the tides. Mr. B. J. N. Edwards produced a trowel and was soon scraping away the red soil. Pieces of bricquetage, combed pottery, a good fragment of a "T" piece of pottery and other objects were found where the sea had laid bare the red soil and exposed a fine section.

Despite the threatening weather, and a cold nor-easter coming off the sea, the excursion was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and those responsible for the organisation and descriptions are to be congratulated.

COMMENT on PLUM PUDDING (see our March Bulletin) – Mr. H. J. Edwards writes:- Many, many years ago when I was a small boy, Christmas did not begin soon after August Bank Holiday and one of the first signs of its approach was when my Mother announced that she must make her puddings next week. I knew then that I should be permitted, persuaded or pressed to help. So one evening we were confronted with pounds and pounds and - well, at any rate, a lot of "plums". You would call them "raisins"; we called them "plums" and each one contained three or two seeds or "stones" such as you would find in a grape. (No one seems to have invented seedless raisins in those days) Each seed had to be removed and that is how we "stoned the plums."

I see that the O.E.D. gives one meaning of "Plum" - "A dried grape or raisin as used for puddings, cakes, etc.. This probably arose from the substitution of raisins for dried-plums or prunes as an ingredient for plum-broth, plum-porridge etc." Johnson in 1755 gives "Plum. (2) Raisin, grape, dried in the sun."

OVER FOUR SCORE YEARS ..... Mr. L. H. Gant writes:-

Many years ago, whilst collecting material for my "History of Berechurch", I interviewed a dear old lady, Mrs. Miller, whose family had been connected with the parish for many generations. After patiently guiding the conversation back to the parish church, the rebuilding of which she remembered (1872), she very solemnly declared that the 'old church' must have been very old, for it had stood there as long as she could remember!

CHARM STONES & TALISMANS -(see our March Bulletin)

Mr. H. J. Edwards writes:- Mr. Dent enquires about the use of, inter alia, holed stones. I am happy to report that the custom is not quite dead for I still use them to ward off evil spirits. I

have had good results with a playful poltergeist who caused me trouble at my daily work. Then, again, I grow house leeks (*Sempervivum tectorum*) on my roof to protect me from lightning with entirely satisfactory results. And, as you would expect, I have a variety of horse shoes - all the right way up - on my doors and gate.

Mr. H.W. Palmer writes:- Mr. Dent, of Skipton-in-Craven, Yorks, may like to know that it is well known among the small boys of Eight Ash Green village, near Colchester, that holed stones are lucky. One seeker after good fortune has ensured future success by collecting twenty-four already.

A TUDOR BIRD CALL. (see our March Bulletin) Mr. H.J. Edwards writes:

I see my namesake reports on an interesting find. It occurs to me to wonder who in Tudor times used a call to birds and why? No modern jokes please; I thought of that one before you did.

THE BALKERNE GATE - On the 15th, of May several members met by arrangement to carry out what appears to be becoming an annual chore - the cleaning up of the Balkerne Gate. Thanks to our efforts last year the task was not so arduous and short work was made of the nettles, thistles, rank grass, bottles and other rubbish. While we are glad to make this contribution to the amenities of the town we still feel that this historic site should be given more worthy surroundings and that better facilities should be provided for the sight see-er.

#### SEARCH FOR A LOST VILLAGE.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1961 a party led by Mr. A. B. Doncaster made a visit to the small village of Ovington in search of traces of the lost village of Belchamp St. Ethelbert. Mr. Anthony Pewsey, who farms land in the vicinity, had mentioned that the field opposite his house shows a series of "lumps and bumps" and this was where we first directed our attention.

In this field (TL 52/76426) we came upon a complex of long ridges, about two foot in height and some three - four feet wide which appeared to be in straight lines and rectangles. There were also some isolated 'hillocks' and in several places stones and large flints protruded through the grass and clumps of nettles. The extreme hardness of the ground and the inactivity of rabbits made the search for pottery sherds disappointing and only a few were found. It would be interesting to put a trench across one of these ridges when circumstances permit. On a tithe award map of 1839, now in the Essex Record Office (to whom we are indebted for their help in this matter) the name of this field is given as "Worlds and Hopfields."

A visit was then made to the tiny church surrounded by cornfields, where the list of rectors was given as follows:

1367 - 1452 Ovington,  
1473 - 1655 Cum Capella de Albright.  
1684 - 1943 Cum Tilbury juxta Clare.

Finally an attempt was made to trace some footpaths to the west of the site which appeared on the 6 inch map, to meet at a place for which there is apparently no reason. Unfortunately nearly all sign of these had disappeared. It was felt, however, that there should be further investigation under more favourable conditions, possibly in the Autumn,

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#### BRADFORD CITY ART GALLERY AND MUSEUMS ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP BULLETIN -

with their July issue, which is always so interesting and admirably produced, this Group enters its eighth year. Of the many subjects discussed, one in particular seems to strike a special note of interest for us. This is that of ships timbers used in the construction of roofs. To quote: - "Stories of farm building roof timbers made from the remains of ships are not uncommon, and, in some instances near the coast, are probably true. Commenting on this subject recently, Dr. Arthur Raistrick said that some of those stories probably originated from curved cruck beams having been re-used for roof timbers. Their shape, plus the mortises and halved joints in them, made them look like the curved ribs from ships. He added that it would

be worthwhile checking up on such stories and recording the facts". Perhaps some of our members would like to comment on this.

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All contributions and enquiries may be sent to Mrs. K. de Brisay, 89, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex. Telephone Colchester 6207 (evenings.)

### PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1961

It is with some pride that we publish in this Bulletin a comprehensive report of our recent excavation of a third Bronze Age barrow at Vines Farm, Ardleigh, which we call "Ardleigh Ring Three". This may be found on pages 21-25; a ground plan on page 26; the sections on page 27; drawings of some of the burial urns and accessory vessels on pages 28-31; and an interesting interpretation of the "rise and fall" of the barrow on pages 32 and 33. The only part of the report not included is that on the bones which is not yet complete and will be published in our next issue. There is no doubt "Springhead" field, Ardleigh still has many secrets to disclose; we look forward to next year and hope that we may be privileged to take part in another excavation on this site under Mr. Erith's capable and enthusiastic leadership.

Our weekly Winter meetings begin on Monday, the 9th, of October, and details of the programme for the first half are given below. We hope members will find such a varied range of subjects interesting and welcome suggestions and volunteer speakers for the second half.

Because of the length of the Ardleigh barrow report we have been unable to include any other articles in this issue, other than the usual Notes and Comments, but we shall be glad to receive contributions and these, together with any enquiries and comments may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, 89, Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex. Telephone:- Colchester 6207 (Evenings)

### WINTER MEETINGS 1961.

All meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House, Shewell Road, Colchester, at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated,

- 9th. October. - Excavation of the Third Bronze Age Barrow at Ardleigh, 1961. Mr. F. H. Erith.
- 16th. October. - Some early wall-papers. Mr. L. H. Gant, A.I.A.C.
- 23rd. October. - The Place Names of Colchester, Mr. H. J. Edwards.
- 30th. October. - The Development of Wearing Apparel. Major A.D. Mansfield R.A., F.R.G.S.
- 6th. November. - The Bow in Antiquity. Mr. Tucker, F.R.S.A.
- 13th. November. - Prehistoric Trade Routes. Mr. A. H. Sheed.
- 20th. November. - Members' Finds and Treasures. (Do not forget to bring yours.)
- 27th. November. - The Rise of Man (illustrated) at the Castle Museum, 7.30 p.m. Mr. J. S. Appleby, F.R.Met.S., A.R.Hist.S. (In conjunction with the Essex Archaeological Society.)
- 4th. December. - Foundation Sacrifices. Mr. Malcolm Carter,
- 11th, December. - FILM SHOW & SOCIAL at St. Peter's Parish Hall, North Hill, by kind permission of the Rev. J. E. Parsons.

### AN HOUR OF FILMS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

followed by REFRESHMENTS.

TICKETS 2/6 obtainable from the members of the Committee.

GUESTS WELCOME.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE SERIES OF MEETINGS AFTER CHRISTMAS

WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OUR NEXT BULLETIN.

ARDLEIGH RING THREE.

THE THIRD BRONZE AGE BARROW AT VINCES FARM, ARDLEIGH.

Excavated April - June 1961.

The existence and discovery of this site was reported in the Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin, Vol. II., No. 3., pp, 31-34, and in Vol. III, No. 1., p.15. It was a circular crop-mark first seen from the air during the drought of June 1959. Apart from the crop-mark there was no way of knowing that a barrow had existed there as the site was absolutely flat. (National Grid reference – TM.02/05512839).

The field is called "Springhead". At this site the gravel and stone level is two feet below the surface. Deep ploughing has now made the topsoil twelve inches deep, so that the sandy subsoil is a foot thick between the two. The field is part of the Tendring Hundred plateau and the ground level now is virtually the same as in the Bronze Age,

MARKING OUT & EXCAVATION.

The two adjoining but smaller barrows were excavated last year, and, the method of locating and marking out was the same as that described on page 22 of the Bulletin Vol. III, No. 2., except that, as a year had intervened, we had to rely on measurements to find the centre of the barrow.

Excavation was done on the quadrant method with baulks two feet wide. The topsoil of the N.E. and S.E. quadrants was first removed and then trenches were dug alongside the north baulk in the N.E quadrant and the east baulk in the S.E. quadrant, in order to locate the position of the circular ditch.

The trench in the N.E. quadrant revealed six burial urns (Nos. 1 - 6) and one free burial (No. 11). The quadrants were then taken down to natural gravel and, in the process a further four burial urns were encountered in the N.E. quadrant (Nos. 7 – 10). The S.E. quadrant was featureless.

At this level the curve of the ditch was very noticeable when drying out took place a few days later. The soil in the infilling of the ditch held more clay than that in the barrow, which was mostly sand; consequently the soil of the ditch was darker and held moisture longer.

The other two quadrants were then similarly excavated and five burial urns (Nos. 142 - 16) and a free burial (No. 24) were discovered in the N.W. quadrant and one burial urn (no. 17) right against the north side of the S.W. quadrant, Where the holes for these urns had been dug into the stony gravel layer we found upcast "dirty" gravel adjoining them.

Sections of the north-south and east-west diameters were drawn, after which the baulks were dismantled, revealing a further five burials urns (Nos. 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23), one free burial (No. 5) and two pits of wood ash nine feet equidistant from the centre. Finally the central square (4 ft. by 4 ft.) was taken down and a very large urn in the exact centre was revealed as the Primary burial. (No. 21).

Besides the burial urns, there were finds of over 140 sherds, mostly in the infilling of the ditch. One sherd was identified as Iron Age A, a dozen or so as Iron Age C, and about a score of the Roman period up to 100 A.D. The remainder were of the Bronze age and similar in texture to the majority of the urns in the barrow.

(The excavation is illustrated by a ground plan on page 39 and north-south east-west cross sections on page 41)

#### THE RING DITCH.

The crop-mark in the 1959 drought had informed us of the presence of the ring ditch, with a diameter of 38 foot. It also showed the ring as being four to five feet wide. Excavation revealed that the ditch was four feet deep and five feet wide at the gravel level. The width at plough depth (1 ft. below the surface) was seven feet. The width at surface level cannot be ascertained by detecting differentials in the trench sections because ploughing has, of course, moved the top foot of soil about and mixed it up.

For the same reason it is difficult to tell if the soil had been thrown inwards or outwards when the ditch was originally made. However, as the bottom two feet of the ditch had been dug from the gravelly stone layer, the position of any concentration of stones, either at the edge of the ditch or in the infilling should give some indication of this.

Stony soil was in fact found on the outside in places; especially on the north side and, to some extent, on the south-east. Stony soil was also found on the inside of the ditch in several places. These concentrations were not, however sufficient to account for even a tenth of what must have been originally dug out from the gravel layer in the bottom two feet of the ditch, and as the infilling of the ditch consisted of fairly stone-free soil, one must conclude that the stones were carried right away when the barrow was constructed.

The bottom 21 inches of the ditch appear to have silted up in the Bronze Age. At this depth and slightly above, sherds of Iron Age and Roman periods were found. Also at this depth and up to the bottom of the plough level some 100 sherds, some of them very large, of Bronze Age pottery similar to the burial urns in the harrow, were found, besides in one place in the N.E. quadrant, a concentration of cremated bones and ash. These can only be the remains of other secondary burials which had been shovelled into the ditch.

#### THE MOUND.

The fact that remains of Secondary burials were found in the infilling of the ditch shows that there must have been a mound to the barrow, and that urns had been placed in this mounded part. It must also show that the barrow was deliberately levelled. If it had not been deliberately levelled then the ditch would not have contained any urn fragments. Barrows that are more or less levelled by continuous ploughing would show some slight elevation and any sherds ploughed up would soon disintegrate from exposure and frost; no sherds would be in the ditch.

One suspects that the time when the barrow was deliberately levelled was about 100 A.D. as Roman sherds of this period are the latest found in the ditch. There was also much activity in the vicinity at about this Roman date in the working of pottery kilns and the nearby Bronze Age cemetery was cut into in two places for this purpose.

#### THE FIRE PITS.

("W.A." on Sections and Plan.)

While taking down the baulks, near the final stages of the excavation, two pits of wood ash, cutting a few inches into the gravel layer, were encountered. One, about a foot and a half in diameter, was nine feet due west of the primary urn; the other, about a foot in diameter, was nine feet due west of the primary. Each pit was consequently half way between the primary urn at the centre and the ditch at the circumference. In neither was any trace of bones.

The mathematical exactness of these positions suggests that these two pits were part of the original structure of the barrow, and that the fires burnt in them were part of the ritual connected with the Primary burial. The similarity to the ring ditch at Great Bromley suggests that the ring ditch and two fire pits here were dug before the Primary burial had been deposited. At Great Bromley the ring ditch and two pits, 5 ft. east and 5 ft. west of the centre, had been dug but apparently never used, for no ashes were in them and no Primary burial had been placed in the centre. Fragments of Bronze Age pottery were, however, found in the topsoil near the ditch. (Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin Vol. II, No. 4., pp 42, 43.)

#### THE PRIMARY URN.

This was a bucket urn, 15 - 16 inches in diameter. It had two "pie-crust" applied cordons, one at the shoulder, and the other, five inches lower, at the waist. The urn was inverted and the base had been damaged by ploughing, but part of it had caved in in antiquity and was found inside. The inside of the base was decorated with finger-tipped "pie-crust" strips in the form of a cross. It contained the cremated bones of a "teen-ager" and a child with milk teeth.

#### THE SECONDARIES.

We found twenty-one cremations in urns and three cremations not in urns as Secondaries in the barrow. In addition there were fragments of at least three other urns in the infilling of the ditch. One of these was adjacent to a heap of bones and ashes. These latter three urns must have been the remains of burial urns placed higher up in the barrow and pushed into the ditch at the time of levelling. The number of secondary burials must therefore be twenty-seven at the least.

The proportion of urns which were inverted seems to be half; twelve of each. Virtually all the urns were deposited in the northern half of the barrow. This seems to conflict with the general barrow custom of the Bronze Age of burying the secondaries in the southern half.

Urn No. 20, besides containing the cremated bones of a child, also contained a curved strip of bronze (part of a bracelet?), and a pendant made from the canine tooth of a young pig and pierced for suspension.

#### THE BONES.

These are being submitted to Mr. H. E. P. Spencer, of the Ipswich Museum. A detailed report will appear in our next Bulletin.

#### THE POTTERY.

The Bronze Age ware can be divided into three categories:

1. Smooth ware with no flint grits.
2. Fairly smooth ware with some small flint grits. Colour - chocolate to buff,
3. Coarse ware with a lot of flint grits, the larger grits being as large as peas. Colour - red-pink.

The characteristic feature of the burial urns in this barrow is the row of pierced holes about half an inch below the rim. These holes are from half an inch to an inch apart and go right through. They are mostly pierced from the outside inwards, but occasionally they are pierced from the inside outwards.

This pierced hole motif has not previously been encountered in the Ardleigh cemetery. There is one bucket urn in the Ipswich Museum from Creting St Mary in Suffolk with this feature. (Creting St. Mary is a site better known for its Rinyo-Clactonian associations). Of the eighteen cinerary urns where the rim survives, sixteen have this row of holes below the rim.



THE RIMS are mostly decorated with finger-tipping, but some are plain. One urn, No, 16, has cable decoration; one, No. 27, is notched; and one, No. 23, has slight indentations.

THE CORDON. There are three varieties of "pie-crust" cordon:- plain, finger-tipped and cable pattern. One urn, No. 26, from the ditch infilling, has a series of knobs or swellings instead of a cordon.

#### ACCESSORY VESSELS.

Urn No, 1 contained, besides the usual bones and ash, sherds of very thin pottery. Two sherds of this ware were also found outside the base of Urn No. 1. These pieces were put together by Mr. Blake of the Colchester Castle Museum. They formed a miniature bucket urn (No. 1a.) only 24 inches high, with a row of knobs or bosses at the shoulder.

Urn No, 15 contained three vessels, all inverted and nestling within each other. The smallest, (No. 16c.) had the rim raised in two places to take pierced holes.

Most of the urns and accessory vessels are illustrated on pp. 43, 45, 47 and 49. A detailed pottery schedule appears on p. 38.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The excavation was arranged and directed by Mr. F. H. Erith to whom our grateful thanks are due. The following members of the Group took part:

Mr. J. B. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Brazier, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Mr. A. B. Doncaster, Mr. B. J. N. Edwards, Mr. H. J. Edwards, Mr. L. H. Gant, Major and Mrs. Mansfield, Mr. H. W. Palmer, Mr. A. H. Sheed, Mr. C. Snow. In addition there were many friends of members who lent a hand from time to time and we are very grateful to them for their help and support. We also thank Mr. F. A. Girling, F.S.A., for taking so many photographs, Mr. M. R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A., and Mr. B. Blake of the Colchester Museum.

#### ARDLEIGH RING THREE. SCHEDULE OF URNS AND FREE BURIALS.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Deepest</u> <u>point.</u>	<u>Posit</u> <u>-ion.</u>	<u>Ware.</u>	<u>Diam</u> <u>-eter.</u>	<u>Height.</u>	<u>Rim.</u>	<u>Cordon.</u>	<u>Holes.</u>	<u>Decoration.</u>
<u>Remarks.</u>									
1.	31"	Up.	2	12"	11"	FT	Pl.	Yes	-
2.	29"	Up.	1	10"	12"	FT	FT	Yes	FT panels
3.	18"	Up.	3	12"	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Base 22"	Up.	3	13"	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Base 27"	Inv.	2	11"	10"	Pl.	FT	Yes	-
6.	- 20"	Up.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Base									
7.	28"	Up.	3	13"	12"	FT	Cable	Yes	-
8.	16"	Up ,	3	10"	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Base 17"	Up.	2	8"	8"	Pt.	No	Yes	-
10.	- 31"	Up.	2	11"	13"	Pl.	FT	No	-
11.	35"	FREE BURIAL .							
12.	19" Base	Up.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

13.	18"	Inv.	2	13½"	-	Pl.	FT	Yes	FT strips	
14.	19"	Inv.	3	10"	-	Pl.	No	Yes	-	
15.	20"	Inv.	2	13"	-	FT	FT	Yes	-	
16.	16"	Inv.	2	10"	-	Cable	Cable	No	-	
17.	19"	Inv.	2	9"	10½"	FT	FT	Yes	-	
18.	18"	Up.	2	14"	-	-	-	-	-	
19.	Base 16"	Inv.	2	1011	-	Fl.	No	Yes	-	
20.	24"	Inv.	3	7"	7½"	FT	No	Yes	-	
21.	28	Inv.	3	15½"-16"	-	Pl.	2/FT	Yes	FT overall	
22.	22"	Up.	2	11"	-	-	-	-	-	
23.	18"	Inv.	3	7"	-	Ind.	No	Yes	-	
24.	20"	FREE		BURIAL.						
25.	25"	FREE		BURIAL.						
26.	-	Inv.?	3	10"	.-	FT	Bosses	Yes	-	In
27.	-	Inv.?	3	11"	-	Nt.	-	Yes	-	In
28.	-	Inv.?	3	15"	-	Pl.	Pl.	Yes	-	In

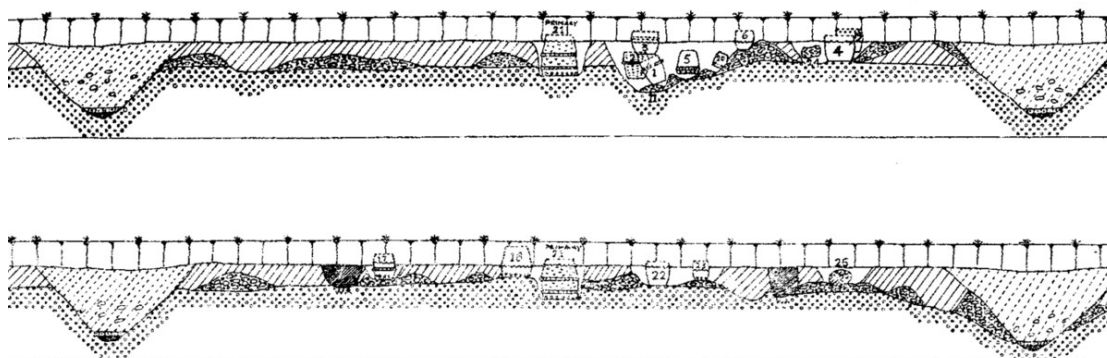
Abbreviations.

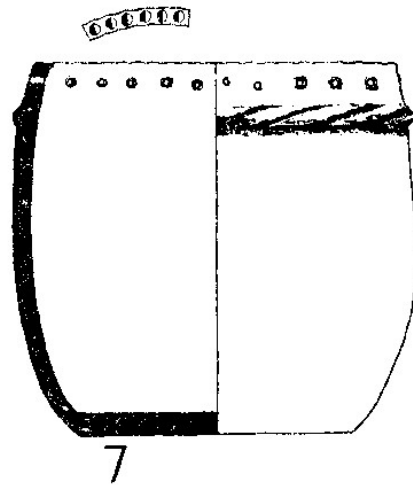
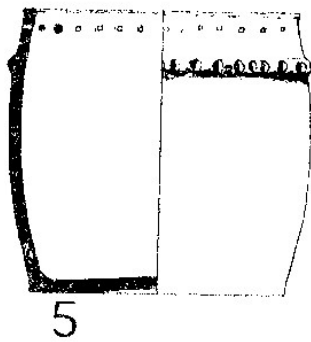
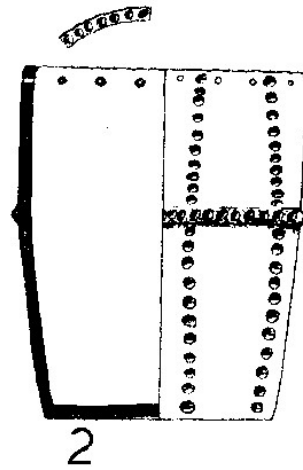
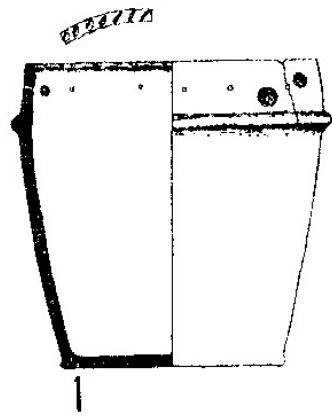
Up.	Upright,
Inv.	Inverted.
Ware 1)	
Ware 2)	See page 36.
Ware 3)	
FT	Finger-tipped.
Pl.	Plain.
Pt.	Pointed.
Nt.	Notched.
Ind.	Indented.
Base	Base only recovered.

ARDLEIGH RING THREE GROUND PLAN.

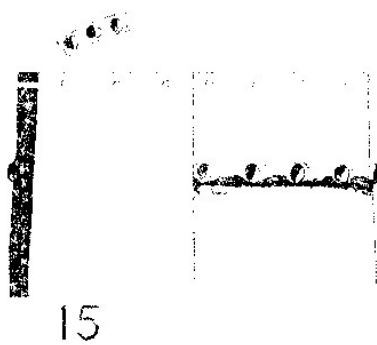
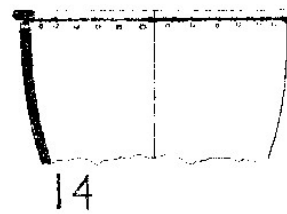
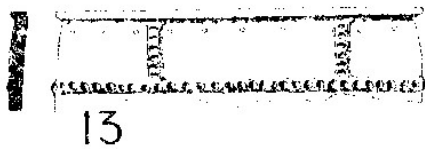
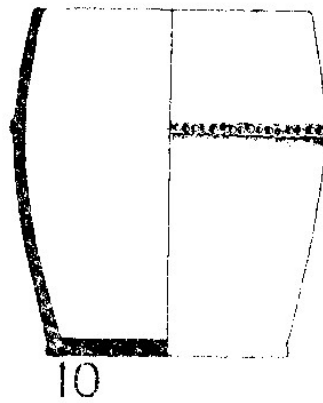
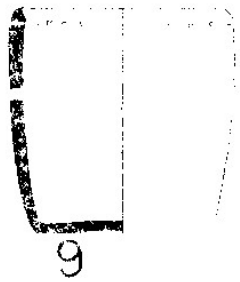


ARDLEIGH RING THREE SECTIONS  
URNS & FREE BURIALS PROJECTED AS NUMBERED

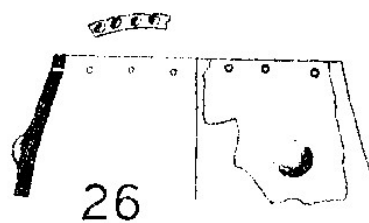
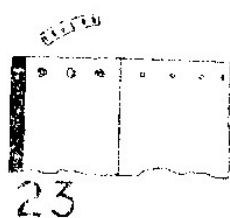
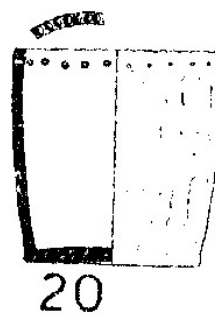
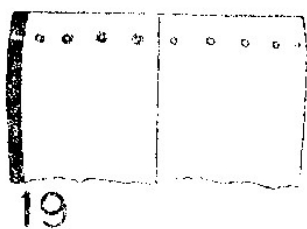
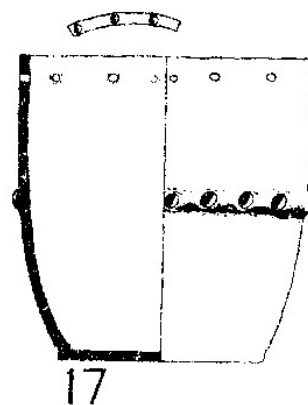
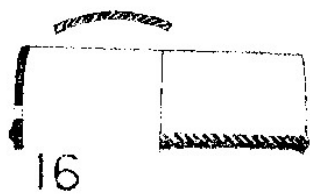




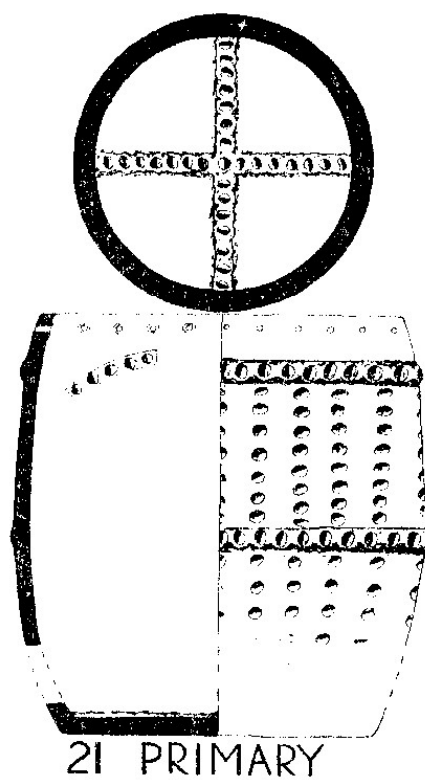
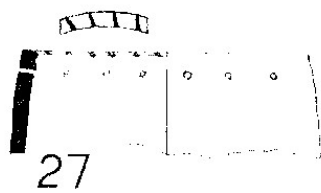
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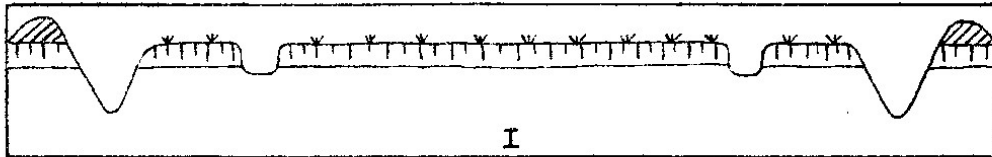
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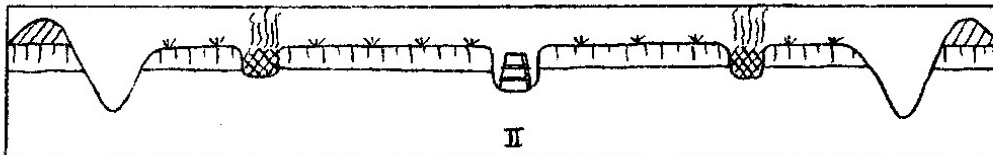
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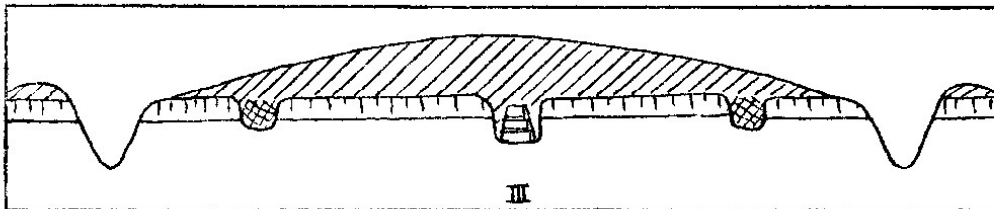




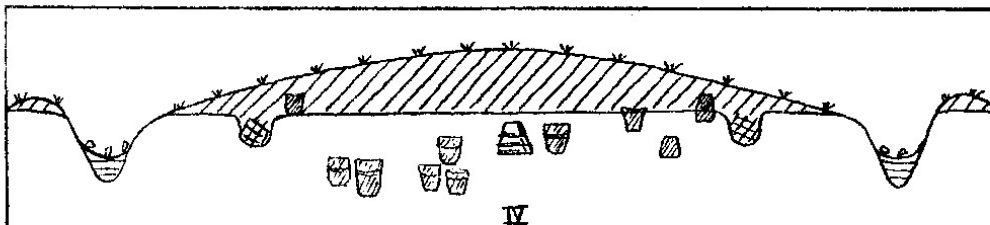
ABOUT 1000 BC A MEMBER OF A LOCAL CHIEFTAIN'S FAMILY DIES. PREPARATIONS ARE MADE FOR THE FUNERAL. A CIRCULAR DITCH FOUR FEET DEEP IS DUG AND THE SPOIL THROWN OUTWARDS. TWO SMALL PITS ARE DUG EAST AND WEST FROM THE CENTRE.



A FEW DAYS LATER THE BODY IS CREMATED AND THE BONES ARE PLACED IN A PIT AT THE CENTRE. AN URN IS PLACED OVER THE ASHES. RITUAL FIRES ARE BURNT IN THE OTHER TWO PITS.

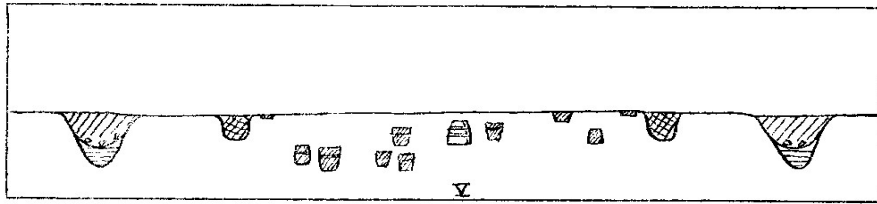


THE FOLLOWING DAYS. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PAYS ITS RESPECTS TO THE DEAD AND HUNDREDS OF BASKETFULS OF EARTH ARE PLACED OVER THE URN TO FORM A SMALL MOUND.

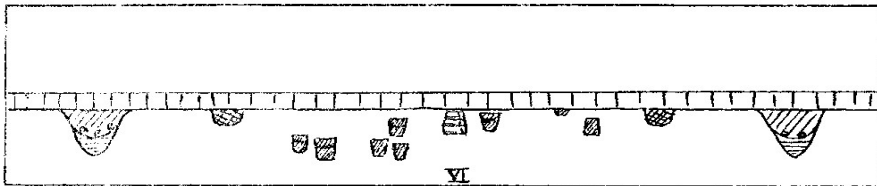


DURING THE NEXT FEW CENTURIES MANY OTHER FUNERALS OF THE CHIEFTAIN'S FAMILY TAKE PLACE, AND THE BARROW NOW CONTAINS OVER A SCORE OF URN BURIALS. THE DITCH HAS NOW SILTED UP CONSIDERABLY, AND IS NOW ONLY TWO FEET DEEP. BETWEEN THE YEARS 400 BC AND 100 AD THE BARROW IS UNDISTURBED. ROMAN AND IRON AGE POTTERY FRAGMENTS FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE DITCH.

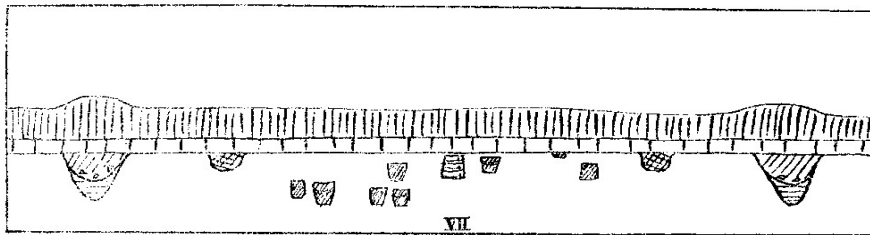
- 53 -



ABOUT 100 AD IT IS DECIDED TO LEVEL THE BARROW, PRESUMABLY FOR AGRICULTURE. THE MOUND IS SHOVELLED INTO THE DITCH, TOGETHER WITH ANY BROKEN PARTS OF THE LATER OR HIGHER URNS AND THUS WE FIND THE PARADOX OF BRONZE AGE POTTERY ABOVE IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY IN THE DITCH



PLOUGHING IN MODERN TIMES, AND ESPECIALLY THE DEEP PLOUGHING OF THE LAST FEW YEARS, HAS DESTROYED WHAT REMAINS OF THE BARROW TO A DEPTH OF TWELVE INCHES. (Only from below this can any information be obtained.)



JUNE, 1959. - AN EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT REVEALS THE PRESENCE OF THE BARROW. THE BARLEY WHICH HAPPENED TO BE ABOVE THE OLD DITCH GREW TALLER BECAUSE THERE WAS MORE MOISTURE UNDERNEATH. A CIRCLE OF CORN HIGHER THAN THE REST WAS VISIBLE FOR A FEW WEEKS. WHEN THE CORN WAS CUT, THIS DIFFERENCE WAS, OF COURSE, NO LONGER APPARENT.

#### NOTES AND COMMENT.

COMMENT . The publication of this Bulletin was delayed as long as possible in the hope that some members would send in comments on articles in previous issues or notes on some subjects or sites of interest which, in themselves, were not enough for a full length article but were worthy of record. We feel sure that many such exist and we appeal for more support in this.

#### THE TENDRING HUNDRED AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The Group was asked to arrange a display for this Show on Saturday, 8th. July, an invitation we were very pleased to accept. A substantial part of the "Cultural Tent" was allotted to us and we showed diagrams, plans and photographs of the three Ardleigh barrows; some of the actual urns and bones found were also on view. Considerable interest was caused among the farming community.

### TOUR OF THE TOWN.

A walk round our old town with one of its greatest champions, Alderman Leonard E. Dansie, J.P., F.S.A., has almost become an annual event in the Group's programme, and so popular is this tour that some 40 members and friends turned up on July 24th.

Starting at the Public Library, the party first visited the Culver Street Methodist church, where the pulpit used by the Rev. Charles Wesley is preserved. A short walk to Maidenburgh Street, noting the plaque commemorating the early Wesleyan church, brought us to the Dutch Quarter of the town, in the preservation and restoration of which Alderman Dansie has played so prominent a part. Mrs. Sutherland, Borough Welfare Officer, conducted parties over two selected houses, where the old woodwork and beams had been cleverly preserved in the rebuilt and restored houses. Then through the Castle Park - an area which enshrines more Colchester history in a few acres than most towns - and the party was before a fine old Georgian house, No. 71 Culver Streets the home of Mr. & Mrs. P. Marsh. This period house is threatened with demolition to improve the approach to High Street; its loss to the town would be irreparable - all admired the majestic architecture of the salon and the fine curving staircase with slender balustrading, so characteristic of the period, and so well restored. The contemporary furnishing of the first floor dining room, lit by long casement windows, served to show the adaptability of a fine house to every age and all agreed that the visit had been most interesting and delightful, not forgetting the valiant efforts of Mrs. Marsh to supply coffee and biscuits, which were very welcome.

### 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY WALL PAINTING IN COLCHESTER

by Leonard H. Gant.

The offices of the "Essex County Standard" at 24 High Street, Colchester, have produced many interesting objects in the course of alteration and re-building work, ranging from Roman pottery and walls to the leg of a rag doll.

The premises appear to have been shop property for centuries, with living accommodation above; the last family to live on the premises was that of the printer Totham, whose name board survived until a few years ago over the original doorway, which was moved to the inner offices about 1910, when Benham & Company was incorporated, and the present shop front fitted.

A description of the structure appears in the Report of the Historical Monuments Commission, Essex, Vol. III, page 55, but discoveries since that date have added much to the history of its occupation and date. Not the least of these discoveries was the finding of a splendid merchant's mark and date carved in relief on a beam now to be found at the back of the offices. This was identified by the late Sir Gurney Benham as the probable mark of Robert Bartrum, a wool merchant, who rebuilt the house in 1597. Contemporary oak panelling abounds on both ground and first floors and an over-mantel in oak, of three bays, separated by double pilasters, having mitred joints as opposed to the earlier butt joints, suggests that a Flemish merchant followed Bartrum in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

To this period belongs the earliest wall decoration found beneath layers of wall paper. The front stair well was pierced to provide light for a passage way and the construction was found to be stud work, infilled with brick and plaster. Across the studs rough laths had been nailed, and a thick plaster keyed to them. The surface of the plaster had been lime washed and scored at regular intervals vertically, corresponding with the timber studwork found through out the building. The scored lines thus provided guides for the painting in dark brown colour of studs at 14 inch intervals. The two wall decorations, one superimposed upon the other after a lime wash, are designed to run down the narrow panels between the imitated stud work.

It seems remarkable that, having covered the dark stud work with lath and plaster and provided a continuous and clear area of wall, tradition was so strong that the former stud work was repeated in colour.

The first design was carried out in shades of bluish green and was a simple flowing stem and leaf pattern, but the superimposed design was stencilled and consisted of a number of floral motifs painted in a light red colour.

The accumulation of wall paper, cylinder printed and block printed, which covered the earlier designs, was carefully examined and an attempt made at separation. This was not possible, but a general idea of Victorian tastes was obtained from the small areas examined. The paper was thin and of poor quality, but underlying these were more layers of a coarse brown paper, block printed in black and white on a grey distemper ground. The blocks appear to have been about 14 inches square - the measurements of the earlier panels between wooden studs. Although there was no variation of the colours used, the designs were very varied. One of the most striking was illustrated in the "Essex County Standard" and consisted of a shell or scale pattern in black, with a branching stem in white in the centre of each motif; other patterns were more geometric, based on rectangles and squares. A tax stamp of temp. George I was found on one piece, and a later sheet bore the name "Horwood, London" with an oval border. A further piece of block printed wall paper was found at the head of the cellar printed in black outline and the Jacobean strap design coloured by hand. This again was made to fit the space between the woodwork. Hand made, the paper appears to date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The cellar wall, upon which the timber framing of the house was laid, consists of stones and blocks of septaria - as one expert remarked, "Roman material re-set in medieval times"

#### PART FOUR DECEMBER 1961

This Bulletin marks the end of our fourth year. With a steadily increasing membership we look forward to 1962 and the digging season which lies ahead. Our last issue, with its full report on Ardleigh Ring Three, brought much comment and additional notes and drawings by Mr. F.H. Erith appear on pages 36-37 and 39 with a report on the bones by Mr. H.E.P. Spencer, of the Ipswich Museum, on page 38. Mr. B.J.N. Edwards, B.A., reports on two interesting finds on pages 39-41 and the usual Notes and Comment on pages 41-43.

The autumn session of meetings proved very popular and ended on December 11th, with a Film Show and Social attended by over fifty members and their friends. The programme for our Monday evening meetings for the New Year is given on page .

We feel that there should be more Notes and Comment and we appeal to members to help in this. The smallest item is of interest and, if not recorded in this Bulletin, may well be lost for ever.

Contributions and enquiries may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, 89, Maldon Road, Colchester. Telephone Colchester 6207 (evenings.)

#### WINTER MEETINGS 1962.

All meetings are held at the  
Friends Meeting House, Shewell Road, Colchester,  
at 7.30 p.m.

- |                            |                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15th. January              | - Military Colchester - Major A. D. Mansfield.                                                                                                               |
| 22nd. "                    | - Earthworks in and around Colchester – Mr. H. J. Edwards.                                                                                                   |
| 29th. "                    | - Church Bell Inscriptions - Mr. F.H. Erith.                                                                                                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> . February | - Members' Finds and Treasures.<br>A second session by popular request.<br>A chance to show items for which there was not enough time on the first occasion. |
| 12th. "                    | - Colchester Clock Makers – Mr. E. J. Buckingham.                                                                                                            |

- 19th. " - Church Carvings - Mr, Simpson.  
Illustrated by his own coloured slides.
- 26th. " - Another look at the Red Hills of Essex.  
Introduced by Mrs. K. de Brisay.  
Followed by discussion.
- 5th. March - Field Names - Mr. A. B.  
Doncaster, Field Boundaries – Mr. M. Carter.
- 12<sup>th</sup>. " - Epping Forest Earthworks – Mr. R. H. Bennett,
- 19th. " - Annual General Meeting,

Members are reminded that guests are always welcome at these meetings so if you have a friend who might be interested do bring them along.

### ARDLEIGH RING THREE

by F. H. Erith.

The publication of the Barrow in our last Bulletin has resulted in some very interesting comment from various Bronze Age specialists.

One observation concerned the "several centuries" during which the Secondary burials occurred. The pottery was of a homogeneous character, so surely the whole lot was buried within quite a short space of time. Our reason: for thinking the burials took place over "several centuries" was that the Primary Urn is similar in type to many urns on the adjoining cemetery, which is presumed to be about 1000 B.C. Urn 16, however, was of a thinner and more brittle textures similar to Iron Age A pottery, which would be about 400 B.C. Until the date of Urn 16 has been decided by some expert on this subject, this question cannot be decided.

Another observation concerns the use of the word "secondary" for burials other than the primary one. It was suggested that some of the nearest burials to the Primary Urn might have been deposited before the erection of the mound, especially as they were deeper than the Primary. In this case they should technically be called "Satellites", and only those deposited after the mound had been erected should be called "Secondaries". The action of the plough has, however, precluded the chance of ascertaining whether any of the urns were buried before the erection of the mound; although it is very possible that some of them were.

The Dating of the Barrow - it appears that no close dating of the urns from the Ardleigh Cemetery nor of those from this Barrow has been made. The reason is that nothing in the way of artifacts has been found in association with the pottery. But now at last we have two artifacts from Urn 20 in this Barrow; a pig's tooth with a hole bored in it for a pendant and a curved strip of bronze about an inch and a half long, which is presumably part of a bracelet. The chronology of most Bronze Age objects has been fairly satisfactorily worked out and an analysis of their metal content made. Objects containing an alloy of copper and tin only come from the Middle Bronze Age; and objects containing an addition of lead, as well as copper and tin, come from the Late Bronze Age. Professor Hawkes has undertaken to get our strip of bronze analysed for its metal content, and we hope the result when it is announced will help to date this whole Culture.

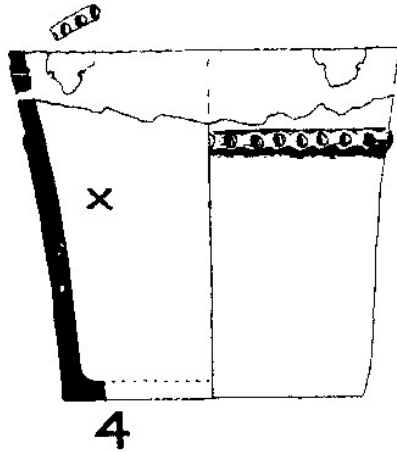
#### NOTES on additional pottery from this barrow (illustrated on page 61)

- No.4 - Upright, but with one piece of rim containing finger-tipping and two pierced holes. A sherd of grey Roman pottery (dated 100 A.D.) found inside this urn at "X", level with the top layer of bones. Whatever was originally placed over the top of this urn to prevent the earth from falling in, evidently held until Roman times when presumably this sherd fell in at the time of the levelling of the barrow. Colour of Urn: - purple,

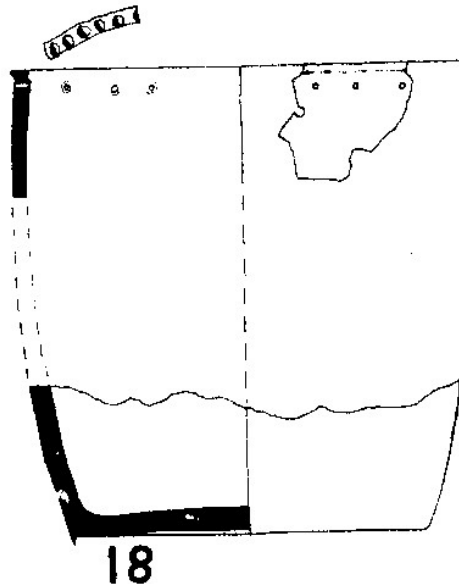
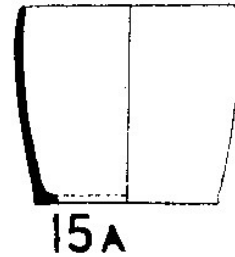
No.15A - The largest of the three accessory vessels inside Urn 15. Smooth ware with a few small grits. Colour:- Buff-pink.

No.18 - Base with a large shard of rim found inside. This sherd had finger-tipping on the rim and the usual series of pierced holes just below the rim.

No.20P - Found in Urn 20. The canine tooth of a young pig with a hole pierced in it for suspension. (Compare Tusk Pendant from Skara Brae, illustrated in "The Later Prehistoric Antiquities of the British Isles" facing page 13, fig.2 No. 6.)



Scale 1/6



20 P

Actual Size

ARDLEIGH RING THREE.

Report on the Bones. by Mr. H. E.P. Spencer, of the Ipswich Museum.  
Compare with Schedule on page 38, VOL IV. No. 3 September 1961.

- No. 1 - Bones much comminuted. Phalanges indicate adult and child; presumably mother and child. The only teeth were those of the child:- germs of two canines and pieces of pro-molars, part of an incisor. Pyre - thorny brushwood.
- No. 2 - Remains of a child.
- No. 3 - An exceptionally effective cremation, evidently of an adult, possibly female.
- No. 4 - Multiple cremation. Three fragments of an old adult, male. Fragments of skull of female. Fragments skull etc, of child. Vertebrae etc. of adult and juvenile.
- No. 5 - Remains of teeth of child; also finger bones (or toes). No determinable bones of any older person. Possibly more than one child; one an infant.
- No. 7 - Adult and juvenile bones (phalanges) indicate a possible mother and child cremation. Part of the child's maxillary is preserved.
- No. 8 - Bone fragments of young adult. Roots of incisors. Centre of vertebrae of infant. Mother and child burial ?
- No. 9 - Remains of child. No evidence of more than one individual.
- No. 10 - Remains of young infant only. Charcoal suggests brushwood pyre.
- No. 11 -(Free burial, not in urn) Another multiple cremation. Adult bones; vertebrae, limb bone and cranial. An unusual terminal phalange. Juvenile bones; maxillary, humerus, distal epiphysis, phalangeals. Skull and other fragments of child about six years, and of a baby. Right condyle and mandible of a female.
- No. 14 -Infant; roots of milk tooth recognisable.
- No. 15 -All the bones (of which few survived) are the remains of a child. Brushwood used for the pyre. (This urn contained three other pots, one within the other)
- No. 17 -Adult and child. Maxillary, part phalanges, skull fragment of adult. Part of bones of child.
- No. 18 -Pieces of cranium only; adult.
- No. 19 -Skull fragments of a juvenile. No fully mature bones.
- No. 20 -Cremated remains of a child aged about seven years. Many bones recognisable - top of femur, radius, ear bones, basioccipital etc. Teeth include a pro-molar with roots developed, germs of incisors and milk molars (5 represented) The child wore a pendant, a canine-tooth of a young pig, pierced for suspension. This urn also contained a curved strip of bronze about 12 inches long, possibly part of a bracelet.
- No. 21 - Primary cremation in a "Bucket" urn. No sign of bones of a fully adult individual. Tooth: incisors, canines and pre-molars. Parts of maxillary, and mandible of juvenile. Some very fragile fragments may represent a very young baby but no piece large enough to determine. Probably the remains of a "teenager" and a child with milk teeth.
- No, 22- One piece of cranium of an infant. Small bits of charcoal.

No. 23 - Charcoal and shall fragments. No bones at all.

No. 24 - (Free burial, not in an urn) Adult, probably male.

SUMMARY by F.H. Erith.

( M. - probably Male. F, - probably Female. X, - Sex not known)

No.	Position.	Child Infant.	Juvenile.	Teenager Young Adult.	Adult.
1	Up.	X			F
2	Up.	X			
3	Up.				F
4	Up.	X	X		F. & M.
5	Inv.	X	X		
7	Up.		X		F
8	Up.	X		X	
9	Up.	X			
10	Up.	X			
11	Free Burial	X	X		F
14	Inv.	X			
15	Inv.	X			
17	Inv.	X			F
18	Up.				X
19	Inv.		X		
20	Inv.	F			
21(primary)	Inv.	X		F	
22	Up,	X			
24	Free Burial.				M
Total		14	5	2	9

What deductions can be made from this schedule?

1. The fact of the urn being upright or inverted has nothing to do with sex or age.
2. Of the 19 cremations 8 were of more than one person; of these eight, one was of three persons and one of four. It would appear then, that an 'adult and child' can no longer be assumed to be 'Mother and child'. The implication is surely that if any two or more persons of the community died within a short time of each other, then they share a joint cremation.
3. Out of a total of 30 deaths 14 were of young children and 5 were of older children. Only one person in three reached maturity.

UNUSUAL OBJECTS FROM THE RIVER COLNE,  
by B.J.N. Edwards.

The two objects illustrated on pages 65 and 67 were found as a result of a search of the material deposited on the bank of the River Colne in Sheepen Meadows after dredging in the Spring of 1961. The search was initiated as a result of the finding by one of the men employed on the job of a coin of Constantius II. Later walking on the debris produced pre--Roman, Roman, mediaeval and modern pottery, clay pipes and various other material. The two objects with which we are concerned were the only two which presented any real problem in identification, and I am indebted to Mr. B. W. Spencer, Assistant Keeper of the London Museum, for his assistance.

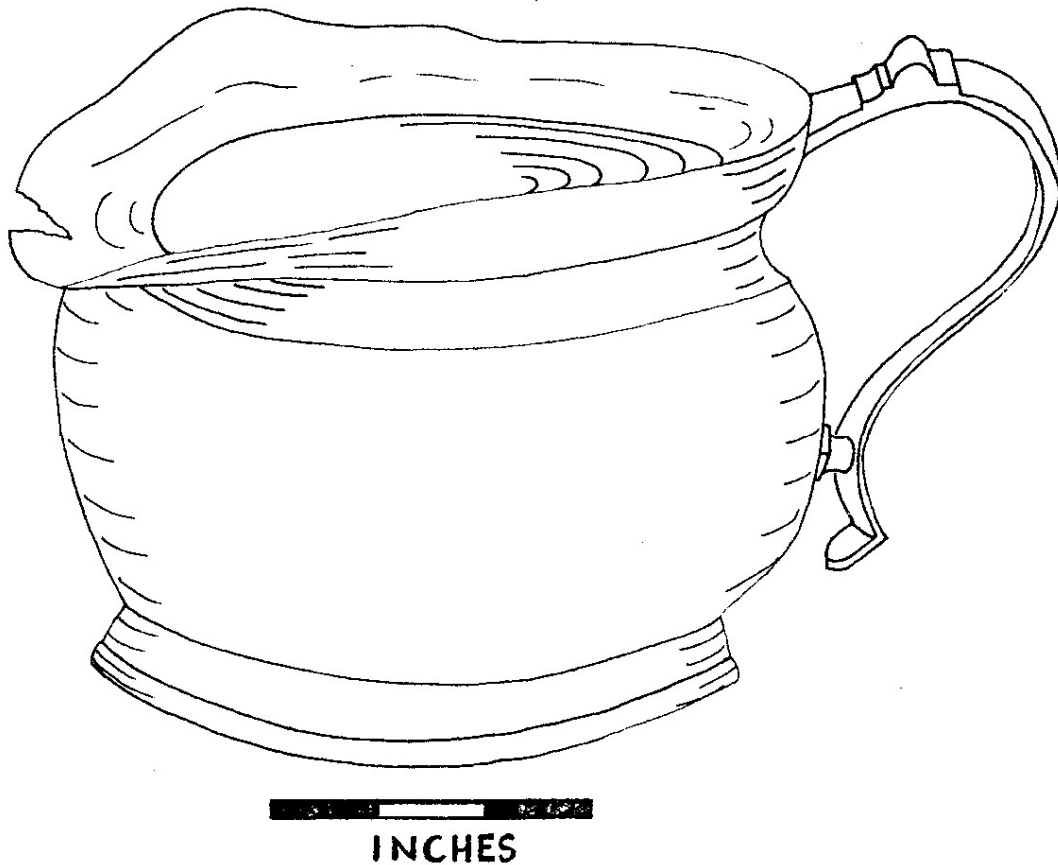
That shown on page 65 is a pewter vessel in very good condition except for the fact that the rim has been crushed, as shown in the drawing. It was originally circular, and had no spout. There is also a hole in the side of the vessel which has the appearance of having been covered with a patch at some time. On the side was an incised inscription reading (?) William

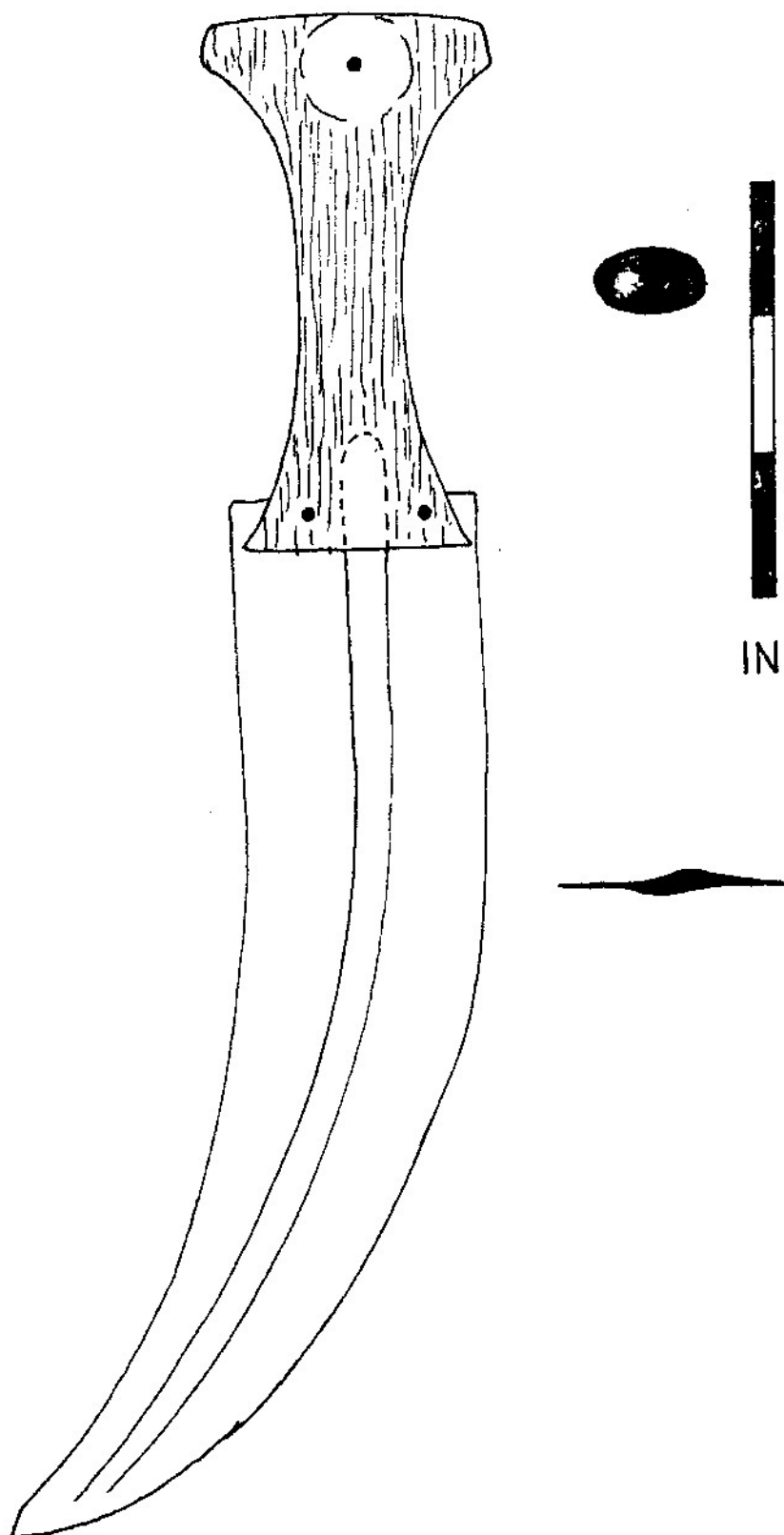


May followed by further lettering which is illegible except for the figure 2. On the underside of the base are stamped the letters TM, presumably those of the maker. The vessel is a chamber pot., and Mr. Spencer suggests, on the shape of the handle, that it belongs to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The drawing on page 67 shows the iron blade and wooden handle of a knife or dagger. When found the blade was enveloped in corrosion products, and the handle was turned round almost parallel to the blade. The handle was secured to the blade by two rivets, and at the top on one side only there were traces of a circular stud. The blade was thickened in the centre to form a rib on both sides, the two ribs being not quite opposite. Of this weapon Mr. Spencer says "There is no doubt, I think, that the knife is an Arabian weapon known as a jambiya. I understand that examples of these were being brought into this country as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the great majority came here soon after the defeat of the Mahdi's armies and of the Dervishes at Toski in 1889."

It would be interesting to speculate as to how those objects came to be in the River Colne.





NOTES & COMMENT.

Mr. H.J. Edwards writes:- Strictly speaking this is not an archaeological note; the excuse for recording it here is that it was noted on an archaeological expedition. Did I hear anybody whisper "Red Hills"? When cattle regularly pass through a gateway in wet weather the ground

soon becomes a churned up mass of mud. When however they all move in one direction as down a lane, the ground becomes ridged in a transverse direction. It has all the appearance of having been ploughed and water stands in each "furrow". I believe that when the dry weather comes the ridges remain in a hard state. Which reports the facts; will somebody now tell us how it happens?

Mrs K. de Brisay writes:- I was on some of the expeditions to which Mr. Edwards refers and was most interested to see this peculiar phenomenon; this was particularly striking over the Christmas holiday on a cattle track between a dyke and a sea wall when the ice in the furrows was shining in long parallel lines in the wintry sun.

Another object of interest noted on the "Red Hills" expeditions was a semicircular conglomerate stone imbedded in concrete beside the village pump at Goldhanger just where Fish Street leads down to the marshes. Could this have anything to do with ancient salt routes ?

#### NOTES ON THE AUTUMN WEEKLY MEETINGS.

The first meeting of the winter session was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October when the speaker was the chairman, Mr. F. H. Erith. Inevitably members insisted he should talk about the excavation of Ardleigh Ring Three. Specimens of the urns, bones and pottery fragments were exhibited; also the pig's tooth pendant (illustrated on page 61). Mr. Erith also showed us the miniature urn and the unique vessel with pierced lugs found inside urn No. 15. His reconstruction of the making of the barrow and analysis of the evidence gained from the excavation were intensely interesting and provoked lively discussion on this fascinating period.

Careful study and recovery enabled a small display of late 17<sup>th</sup>, and subsequent centuries wallpaper to be displayed by Mr. L. H. Gant who addressed the Group on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Wallpaper design is one of the most universal of the applied arts and has a long history, beginning in pre-historic times when man adorned his cave walls with scratched and coloured pictures of animals. Upon the manufacture of paper suitable for wall hangings, the great modern industry of wallpaper making was built. The earliest known specimens of English wallpaper date from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and papers of more than 100 years ago are rare. Among the exhibits were an 18<sup>th</sup> century maker's name imprint and a Tax stamp dating from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest example, from the offices of the "Essex County Standard" was block printed in two colours on a distempered ground and hand coloured.

The meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October was addressed by Tom, H. J. Edwards who spoke on the place names of Colchester. Beginning with the derivation of the name Camulodunum, the speaker led his hearers on an imaginary journey round the town, explaining the meaning of many well known places, such as Berechurch, Shrub End, Braiswick and many more. It was particularly interesting to learn that many old place names were being preserved in the naming of roads. Phonetic spelling and errors of transcription in ancient records often account for variation in names over the centuries and Mr. Edwards, in his quiet but knowledgeable way put over his own absorbing interest in the past history of the town.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October Major A.D. Mansfield gave a talk on the skirt and its development from Roman times to the present day. This unusual subject for archaeologists was well illustrated by lantern slides and pictures. Among a number of provocative statements the speaker declared that men's dress showed a progressive development, but that of women was repetitive of past fashions. In Roman times the formal dress of both sexes was almost identical so far as the skirt was concerned, and this garment survived as an article of men's dress until the middle ages, being worn both in civil and military attire. While women retained the skirt as an outer garment, men's dress evolved until the formed undergarments became the outer dress and women's visible undergarment, or shift became concealed.

Mr. Tucker was the guest speaker at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November and he declared that, by employing the latent spring in a piece of wood used as a bow to speed an arrow to its mark

more than 10,000 years ago, man made the first machine. The earliest known cave paintings in Africa show hunters using the bow, the general form and construction of which has changed little over the centuries. The Neolithic men of Europe used the bow and it was prominent in the ancient civilisations of Greece, Assyria and Egypt, where it was developed for war, sport and ceremonial; but it was during the Hundred Years War that the English long bow became the most dreaded weapon in Europe. In Tudor times the practice of archery was compulsory and the name "butts" is preserved in many places, including possibly, the local name of Butt Road,

On 13<sup>th</sup> November Mr. A. H. Sheed spoke on ancient British trackways; building up his theme from prehistoric times when routes were made to flint workings, to the coast for salt or between communities and mentioning how ancient mark stones are still preserved in Essex and on local farms. Apparently the Romans used the old ways where suitable but often they exist parallel to the Roman road. Place names such as "ley" terminals are frequently found in the Tendring hundred suggest ancient trackways. The speaker showed with marked maps how lines projected between known ancient monuments often pick up an old way; many of these lead through Colchester Castle once a prominent Celtic shrine and landmark. Necessity dictated the routes of ancient tracks for travellers had to eat and drink, and so they frequently follow rivers and belts of open heath from mark to mark.

Mr. John Appleby addressed a joint meeting with the E.A.S. on 27<sup>th</sup> November when he traced the rise of man from early time through the development of tools; from a life of hunting and roving to the life of a settled farmer and cultivator.

Mr. Malcolm Carter, on 4<sup>th</sup> December, unfolded the long story of world-wide foundation sacrifices made to secure guardian spirits for the building, to propitiate gods whose realm had been disturbed, or to secure a transference of life so that the spirit of the victim would inhabit the building. The practice of burying contemporary coins and articles in the foundations of buildings goes back to primitive times when man recognised many gods and practised animism. The foundation sacrifices, sometimes human, have involved kings, princes, adults and children, birds, animals and products of nature. Archaeology, history, mythology and folklore were all invoked by the speaker to illustrate customs which have come down from these obscure ceremonies though their original intent is now lost in antiquity.