



Colchester Archaeological Group

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ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 5 1962

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PART ONE MARCH 1962

The Annual General Meeting of the Colchester Archaeological Group was held on Monday the 19th of March, 1962, 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,
Vice Chairman:	Major A.D. Mansfield, R.A.,
F.R.G.S.	
Hon, Secretary:	Mrs. K. de Brisay.
Excavations Secretary:	Mr. A.B. Doncaster,
Hon, Treasurer: ,	Mr. A.H. Sheed
Public Relations Officer:	Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C.
Committee: Mrs. Carter, Mr. M, Carter, Mr. H.J. Edwards, Mr. A.J. Fawn,	
Mr. H.W. Palmer.	

It was agreed that the financial Year of the Group shall run from 1st. October to 30th September and that subscriptions shall be brought into line with this and become payable on 1st October each year. Those due after 1st April will be rated at 5/- (half year)

On pages 3-5 of this issue is an article by Mr. F.H. Erith describing an important find by Mr. Campen and also some Iron Age ware from his own farm. Mr. H. J. Edwards contributes some remarks on Red Hills on pages 7 and 8. Mr. L.H. Gant writes on the Proclamation of King William and Queen Mary 1688, on pages 8 and 9. A report on our winter meetings appears on pages 10 and 11 and our summer programme is below.

All contributions and enquiries may be sent to the Hon. Secretary - Mrs. K, de Brisay, 89 Maldon Road, Colchester, Essex. (Telephone 6207 .- evenings). Subscriptions should now be sent to the Hon. Treasurer - A. H. Sheed Esq., Yew Tree House, Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex.

OUTINGS.

The group is proposing to arrange three outings during the summer months. The Committee would like to know which days are most generally suitable to members for any future trips but in the mean time they have arranged the following:

THURSDAY, MAY 3rd. - AFTERNOON - to Little Vonham Hall., Tithe Barn and Church. Hadleigh.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24th. - ALL DAY - Grimes Graves.
Castle Acre Priory and Castle.

SATURDAY, JULY 21st. - AFTERNOON - Bradwell Chapel and Bradwell Lodge.

It is hoped to make those trips in members' cars. The price quoted for each trip will include meals, admission and transport. Members bringing cars will receive a petrol allowance for each passenger.

If you are interested please fill in the enclosed form and return it as soon as possible. Details of each trip will be sent out to those interested shortly before the date arranged.

EXCAVATIONS.

By kind invitation of Mr. F.H. Erith a fourth ring-ditch will be excavated this summer in Spring Head Meadow, Vincas Farm, Ardleigh, It has been arranged to meet on the site at 2.15 p.m.

on Sunday 1st of April, to mark out the sections, after which Mr. Erith will arrange for the top soil to be removed mechanically as in previous years and digging will begin soon afterwards. Further details of this may be obtained from Mr. Erith, Mrs. de Brisay or from members of the Committee. As there is only a limited time for this excavation, probably about two months, we need all the help members and their friends can manage and we hope the results will be as interesting as last year.

In the late summer it is planned to put down an exploratory trench across one of the Red Hills on the marshes. Details of this will be published in our June Bulletin.

THE BALKERNE GATE.

The Group has undertaken to tidy this up as in previous years. We like to feel that this important site should be presented in the best possible light to our summer visitors and we are glad to make this small service to the town. Meet at the Gate on Monday, the 14th of May at 6.30 p.m. wearing old clothes! Please bring some suitable tools.

TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW. 14th. JULY

The Group will be putting on a display illustrating the importance of agriculture and the farmer in recording interesting sites and finds.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Mr. Malcolm Carter writes. - in reply to Mr. Edward's request for someone to tell him how the cows produce the ridges he noticed on his Red Hill expeditions; if all the herd tend to follow in accustomed footprints, their stride, say three foot, is habitually the same. If they enter a muddy patch in the footprints of the leader, and then diverge laterally, keeping the same strides they automatically make depressions three foot apart; but if they are much out of step, they will tread on the flat ground between the depressions, making a fresh intermediate series; the final pattern being troughs eighteen inches apart. Cows are in general conventional animals with habits of great regularity.

The Goldhanger Stone - see our note in the last Bulletin. We have been told on good authority that this stone was imported from the West country as part of a press for making cider.

A change of name:- Mr. H.J. Edwards writes:- it may be a matter of more than passing interest to some archaeologists that the public house built on the Roman Wall and Gate at the top of Balcerne Hill, officially the "King's Head" and always known locally as the "Hole in the Wall", has now had the latter name adopted by Messrs. Ind Coope.

Mr. Buckingham, antiquarian horologist:- during his talk on 12th February, keen interest was aroused by the display of a unique collection of watch labels, many bearing well-known names, sometimes of the maker or otherwise the name of the shop. These were inserted inside the double case watches which were discontinued about 1852 and when new sold for something less than £5. It is hoped that some record of those with full descriptions will be published some day; and also a complete and detailed history of Colchester clock and watch makers so that the result of Mr. Buckingham's years of patient research may be preserved for posterity.

Demolition and Rebuilding. This seems to be taking place all over the town and, to some extent, in the country and we remind members that it is of great importance to make a note of anything of interest which these activities may reveal and to send in a report to this Bulletin however short this may be, so that the facts are on record; if this is not done they may well be lost for ever.

A ROMAN FLASK OF ST. REMY WARE FOUND AT LEXDEN.

by F. H. Erith.

The subject of our meeting on February 5th last was "Members' Finds and Treasures". Among the exhibits was a very interesting collection of Roman objects from Mr. Campen, of Feering. Included in this were two pieces of pottery of the yellow-glazed St. Remy ware, which he had found on a site, now built over, near Sussex Road, Lexden.

One shard was part of a beaker with an olive-yellow glaze, decorated with a panel of applied white dots. (Sherds from a similar pot are illustrated in "Roman Colchester" Page 156, fig. 78, No. 49 and Plate XXII B)

The second piece consisted of the upper portion of a small Flask. This had a white-buff paste, coated with salmon-buff coloured glaze. The shape is Dechelette Type 63. (See our illustration Fig. 5 on page 5.)

It appears that two casts were taken from the same saucer-shaped mould. These were joined together at the seams, after which the spout and the two handles were added. Each side was decorated with an identical leaf-scroll pattern between two concentric circles. All the leaves in the scroll point in a clockwise direction. The scroll design is similar to, but not quite identical with many of the samian scrolls illustrated in Knorr's "Topfer etc, first century Terra Sigillata",

ST. REMY WARE.

St. Remy-en-Rollat is about 5 miles from Vichy, 40 from Lezoux and 140 from La Graufesenque. According to Dechelette St. Remy pottery had its origins in the region of Lake Maggiore in North Italy. Besides pottery vessels white clay figurines were made, commencing early in the first century and continuing until about 100 A.D. The pottery has a white or yellowish paste, and a yellow, pale green, or occasionally a pinkish glaze.

Dechelette states that the St. Remy pottery consisted of seven forms (of terra sigillata):

- Form 57 - small bucket-shaped goblet.
- 58 - tall vase with narrow neck and pedestal base (amphora without handles)
- 59 - two-handled "krater",
- 60 - long-necked flagon with one handle.
- 61 - a variation of Form 60,
- 62 - "pyriform" flagon with one handle.
- 29 - the well-known type of bowl usually associated with samian ware from la Graufesenque,

Examples of St. Remy ware are very rare in England; there are probably more in the Colchester Museum than anywhere else. One showcase is entirely devoted to the remarkable grave-group found in Mr. Joslin's garden in Beverley Road in 1866. This consists mostly of white figurines, but there are two white flagons of Form 60 and one of Form 62.

In a show-case of samian pottery there is a large sherd of Form 29 with a pale green glaze. This has the usual two zones of decoration, the theme in the upper zone is a leaf-scroll not unlike that of Mr. Campen's flask.

In a showcase containing Grave Group No. 77, there is a small flagon (with the neck missing) with a pale green glaze, decorated with panels of applied white dots, similar to those of Mr. Campen's other sherd.

Dechelette describes St. Remy pottery as elegant, but of mediocre execution and monotonous decoration. The usual type of decoration consists of a series of arcs with florets at the extremities of the arcs "assez maladroitement traces".

FORM 63.

Dechelette gives only two examples of this Form in samian ware (and none in St. Remy ware). Both are fragmentary. One was a shard from Lezoux showing part of the potter's stamp "OFIC(ina) ME..." but without the neck or handles. The other consisted only of the neck and handles and came from Montans. At the end of Vol. I of this "Vases etc." he illustrates the various forms, and he shows Form 63 with neck and two handles, and a small base. Oswald and Price repeat Dechelette's Form 63 (with base) without comment. Hermet, in "La Graufesenque" illustrates about ten sherds of Form 63, including a complete Flask made up from a mould, and proves that this Form never had a base. This did not tell him, however, if the flask was decorated on both sides. R. J. Charleston, in "Roman Pottery" illustrates a red samian flask from La Graufesenque as a plain Form, (non-sigillata).

Knorr, in "Topfer etc. 1st Century T.S." illustrates a variation of Form 63, the section being angular rather than curving to the sides.

J. A. Stansfield, in "Unusual Forms of Terra Sigillata" (Archaeological Journal LXXXVI, page 135) gives an even more bulgy variety, the flask being almost globular.

Mr. Campen's flask in St. Remy ware is much smaller than those made in red samian, just as the St. Remy flagons are much smaller than the wonderful Form 62 flagons made in samian by the potter Sabinus. (J.R.S. Vol. 27. Part 2, page 168). Our Flask also shows that there was decoration on both sides, and that the decoration was identical.

CONCLUSIONS.

Although some samian Forms require the impressions of two different moulds for their construction, in particular the Form 62 flagons mentioned above, this Flask demonstrates that Form 63 is the only samian shape that requires two impressions of the same mould.

Form 63 must now be added to Dechelette's list of types of St. Remy pottery. The fact that Dechelette gave this Form the number immediately following a sequence of St. Remy Forms (57-62) suggests that he may have had a reason for thinking that this Form was in fact made at St. Remy.

A GALLO BELGIC PLATTER FOUND AT WHITE NOTLEY

by F. H. Erith.

This platter, also from Mr. Campen's collection, was found at White Notley last December, and is illustrated on page 6, fig 4. The interior of this pottery is white, but the exterior is a matt grey. The potter's name stamp reads "ILIXI" ("of Ilixus"), and his fingerprint is visible on the underside, the result of his finger being placed to resist the pressure of the stamp.

"Camulodunum" produced a cup by this potter but "no other certain record".
Date A.D. 1-48. See Camulodunum Plate XLVI and page 210.

IRON AGE "A" POTTERY FOUND AT ARDLEIGH

by F. H. Erith.

Essex has not produced much evidence of pre-Belgic Iron Age Settlement; fragments of pottery from Danbury, Great Bromley and Colchester had until recently been all that had been found.

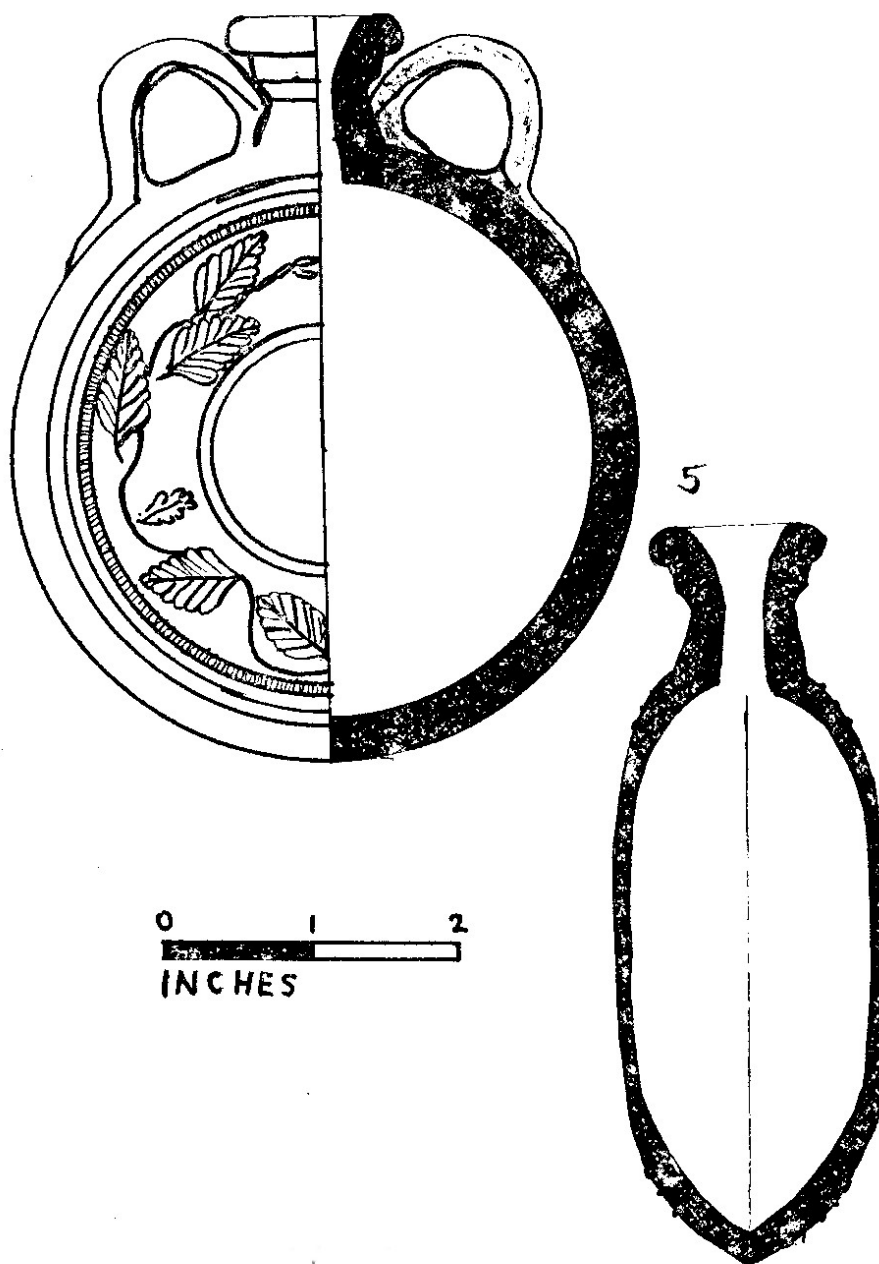
No concentration of Iron Age "A" finds has been discovered at Ardleigh, but loom weights in one site, a spindle-whorl at another and single sherds at other spots showed that there must have been a scattered settlement here. Air photographs at the loom weight site suggest an enclosure of an area of about 15 by 20 yards.

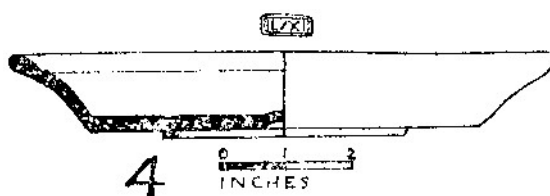
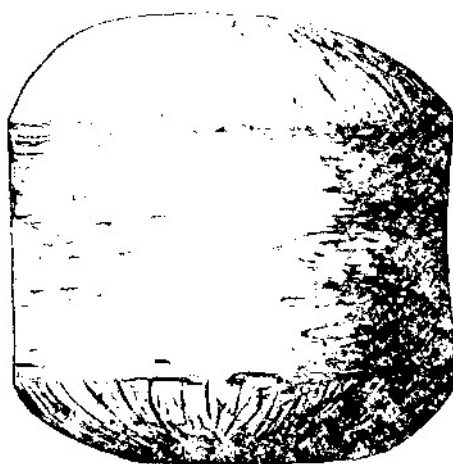
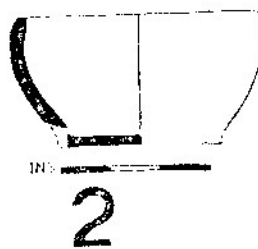
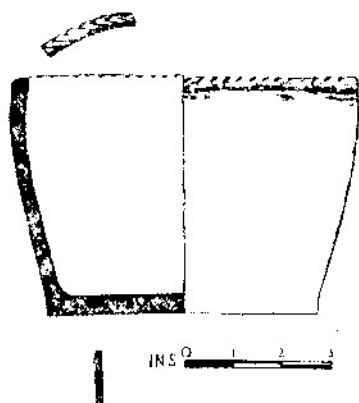
In December 1960 some extra deep ploughing brought up pottery at two new sites, so that there is now evidence of Iron Age "A" at eight isolated spots on Vinces Farm, The fragments from one of those latter two sites are sufficiently recognisable to be worth illustrating. (See page 79.)

Fig. 1. - Pot with chevron pattern incised on rim. The colour is red-brown on the outside, black on the inside and coke-grey between; the whole permeated with white grits, the largest grits being the size of a grain of wheat, The red-brown exterior sometimes has quite a shine on it. Height of pot uncertain, but not less than shown.

Fig. 2. - Small plain pot, with similar colouring and texture.

Fig. 3. - Pestle of fine-grained sand-stone ploughed out with the pottery described above. (The "mass" of this rock is in Yorkshire, but one or two "erratics" have been found in East Anglia.)





REFLECTIONS AND RUMINATIONS REGARDING RED HILLS

by H. J. Edwards.

First let me make it clear that this is all my own work. Some members will know that the Secretary and I have been looking at Red Hills lately but this piece is my sole responsibility. Secretaries in general have enough trouble on their hands without being held responsible for members fads and foibles.

The problem of the Red Hills has been with us a long time. The Group has had two meetings on the subject (31.10.1960 and 26.2.1962) and the problem still remains. Much has been written on the subject and those who want a complete picture should read the Reports of the Red Hills Exploration Committee (P.S.A.L. vols. XXII & XXIII). As the Poet nearly said:- "Myself when young did eagerly frequent Meetings and Talks, and heard great argument about it and about; but evermore came out by the same door as in I went."

Briefly, Red Hills are large mounds of red earth, generally thought to be burnt, with a large admixture of red pottery, usually in a very fragmentary condition and some black ash. Less often are pieces of better class pottery which from their shapes and conjectured uses, are known as pedestals, wedges and firebars.

The questions remain, who made the Red Hills and why? There have been quite a number of theories put forward:- (a) They were pottery kilns. (b) They were dumps of waste material from potteries, brought as ballast by boats which came to fetch clay. (c) They were manufactories to make kelp for use in glass or soap making by burning marine vegetation. (d) They were sites where salt was made by evaporation of sea water. (e) They were places for smoking and drying fish. (f) They were simply burnt earth to be used as fertiliser. (g) They were Mediaeval pottery kilns. The last two I have not come across in print but only by word of mouth.

Now for the objections. (a) Pottery kilns seem ruled out by an entire absence of 'wasters', those deformed and mis-shapen vessels always found in the vicinity of ancient kilns (I believe they are not unknown among amateur potters today!) (b) Seems to be disqualified also by this lack of 'wasters'. (c) Man at this stage knew of glass but it is doubtful if he had enough use for it to account for such large mounds and in any case it is believed that the particular type of seaweed necessary for glass-making has never been abundant on these coasts. (d) A better bet and the most generally accepted theory. To my mind it may explain the pedestals etc., but it does not explain the vast amount of burnt earth. Miller Christy in the "Essex Naturalist" vol. XIV gives the parishes for many Mediaeval Salt Pans. Some of these coincide with the Red Hill parishes but some do not (e.g. Lawford and Wrabness) and in the latter case no Red Hill has been noted. Red Hills do not seem to be a necessary adjunct of ancient salt working. Neither can I go all the way with the accepted theory of the use of pedestals, firebars etc.. Splashing water on bars over a fire seems a hazardous and complicated way of doing the job which would be better done in a trough or other receptacle. Surely anyone who could work out the former method would see that the other was easier. My Celtic forbears may have been backward but they were not as unintelligent as all that. (e) If salt was made, fish curing seems a reasonable adjunct. I believe salt still plays an important part in making a herring into a bloater. (f) Burnt earth is undoubtedly good for growing crops (One farmer told the Secretary that he wished his farm was all Red Hill.) But these Hills apparently were not used as fertilizer in antiquity. That did not happen until a century or so ago when the farmers seem to have spotted this free supply; and in any case it does not explain any of the pottery. (g) Sorry, but I cannot understand this theory myself. The only Mediaeval pottery found seem to be casual pieces such as turn up in many fields and are no more indicative than the fragment of clay pipe or beer bottle which occasionally come to light. That seems to knock down all the ninepins; what goes up? Well it seems there are no angels walking around so I will have a go.

First, I think we make a mistake in looking for only one use for the Red Hill sites. They were evidently the "industrial area" in the planning of that time and may well have changed their industry in the course of centuries. I know that the tempo has speeded up but in my lifetime I have seen sites in Colchester used in three or four different ways.

I suggest that the "briquetage" was the first production on Red Hill sites. It was a rough kind of pottery made of clay and straw. We know that the Israelites were doing that in Egypt somewhere about B.C. 1400 (See Exodus V. 7-19). Allowing for the slow spread of cultures it still gives the possibility of a fairly early date for the work in Essex. What was being made? Bricks or tiles seem the most obvious answer. This also gives the reason for the lack of "Wasters". The ware was very indifferently fired, possibly in a bonfire type of thing or more likely a "burn-bake". Our Bulletin for June 1959 (Vol. II. No. 2.) contained an article by A. F. Hall postulating a theory that the Romans used a "burn-bake" or closed pyre for cremations. I will go a step further and suggest that the Romans adapted the idea from the primitive kiln, if it can be so called. This kiln would be very inefficient and the pottery produced would be poorly fired and soft. It would, therefore, break up very easily and all the small fragments we find now are in fact "wasters". The use of this type of kiln would also account for the enormous amount of burnt earth found in Red Hills.

One other objection to the pottery theory is that the products are never found elsewhere. Well, remember the point about the softness and the fact that probably the great majority of excavators would not recognise it as anything special if they saw it. But is it never found elsewhere? On page 48 of "Camulodunum" by Hawkes & Hull is recorded "finds of its characteristic soft clay briquetage in the riverside quarter of the site itself" (i.e. Sheepen). On page 347 we read "its location here would seem to indicate that in the 1st Century the Colne was brackish and therefore tidal as far up its course as the Sheepen". The authors suggest that this is evidence of salt working on the Sheepen site. Now, greatly daring and with all possible respect I am going to differ from their conclusion. G. K. Chesterton says somewhere "There's a disadvantage in a stick pointing straight. What is it? Why, the other end of the stick always points the opposite way. It depends whether you get hold of the stick by the right end. The stick pointing one way says that the presence of briquetage suggests salt workings, which itself suggests that the river was tidal so far in those days. Now hold the stick by the other end and what do we see? The river at this point is not tidal now and we have no other reason to think that it ever was. Even if it had been so, surely the water would have been less saline and the point is always made in considering the locality of Red Hills that the water is more salt in the creeks. Moreover there is no suggestion of a Red Hill being present on the Sheepen site. So I think we have here the first authenticated case of Red Hill briquetage being found on a site where it was used as opposed to where it was made.

I am quite willing to admit that the foregoing does not account for the pedestals etc.. I submit that they came in with a change of industry. Salt making and fish drying. Possibly, and even if I am not quite convinced I am quite willing to be convinced. And then what were the Romans doing there? They certainly occupied some Hills, as evinced by quite an amount of 1st century pottery found on some of them. I myself recently found a piece of Castor ware which I suppose is later still. Did the Romans make salt there or was there another change of industry?

Now I think that is quite enough "as the soldier said when they ordered him three hundred and fifty lashes". If you think I have been writing a lot of nonsense write to the Secretary and say so. I am sure she will be very pleased to put your contribution on the subject in the next issue of the Bulletin.

PROCLAMATION OF KING WILLIAM & QUEEN MARY 1688.

by Leonard H. Gant.

The oldest British newspaper still appearing regularly is the "London Gazette". Founded by Royal command of King Charles II in 1660, and one of the oldest provincial newspapers, it was a broadsheet printed and published in Colchester during the Siege of 1648 entitled "Colchester's Teares". Copies of the latter are very rare indeed but early copies of the London Gazette are preserved in the British Museum and turn up from time to time in private collections. From such a copy, dated February, 1688, the following is quoted.

"Colchester, Febr. 20. This day, at the Moot-Hall, the Mayor, being attended by several Gentlemen, Aldermen and Common Council Men, Proclaimed their Majesties KING WILLIAM and QUEEN MARY, with great Solemnity, and Cheerful Acclamations, by the greatest numbers of People that ever was seen here:

From thence they went, with the Town musick playing before them, to the Dutch Bay Hall, where the KING and QUEEN were again Proclaimed, with loud and repeated Acclamations, the Governors and their Officers stood ready to receive the Mayor, and all the Gentlemen, and after the solemnity was over, invited them to a Collation, the Rooms and Gallery being hung with white Bayes, and Wine running from several places for an hour together. After this the Mayor invited the Gentlemen, and the Dutch Governors to a handsom Entertainment at the Moot-Hall. And the day was concluded with great demonstrations of Joy, in firing of the great Guns in several Volleys of Small Shot, Ringing of Bells, and Bonfires."

Many interesting historical facts emerge from careful reading of this contemporary report; firstly one wonders why in the whole of England, the proclamation at Colchester was reported, together with those in only six other cities or boroughs. Could it be that the loyal defence of the town against the Parliamentarians was still remembered forty years after the event? I think not, for the town resisted only by compulsion of the Royalist soldiers who, fleeing from the pursuing Roundheads, sought asylum within the walled town, and then turned it into a citadel, although, it is recorded, the people had most sympathy with the cause of the Parliament.

I think the clue comes in the reference to the Governors and Officers of the Dutch Bay-Hall. The Dutch settlers had recovered from the crippling fines levied on the Town by General Fairfax in 1648 of which they paid one third, and the trade of Bay-making was the source of the prosperity of the town.

The social distinctions should also be noted; the borough Mayor and Officers, the Gentlemen, the Dutch community, and the populace, whose only contribution to the jollifications seems to have been the loyal acclamations and the bonfires! Of great interest also are the musicians and the bell-ringers, not forgetting the gunners, whose great guns were, no doubt, drawn up near the Castle, since the soldiers were billeted on the townsfolk, and their parade ground was before the Castle.

The Town Musick probably had to rely on the military pipers and drummers, and one imagines that among the Gentlemen mentioned there would be the Commanding Officers of the Regiments then quartered in the town, also that some troops would take part in the ceremonies.

The description of the reception of the Mayoral party by the Dutchmen at their Bay-Hall and of their lavish entertainment shows how great was their joy to have a Dutchman on the English throne. There is no mention of tobacco smoking, but no doubt the drinking of wines, on tap from several casks, was accompanied by smoking of locally made clay pipes, for it is to be recorded that "when a Dutchman sat on the throne of England, all men smoked in peace", and several dutch pipe makers were then working in Colchester.

The form of the Bay-Hall is given as a building having rooms and a gallery; the meal was served in the great hall, hung with undyed bays, a symbol of the trade, for had the material been hung for decoration, surely it would have been dyed and printed.

Having dined well at the Dutch Bay-Hall the company processed back to the old Town Hall and apparently repeated the feast!

A ball of grape shot, found recently on Mercer's Farm allotments, to the north of the Castle Park, and thought to date from the Siege could well be a relic of the volleys of small shot, which would be fired in that direction, on this historic occasion.

NOTES ON THE WINTER SESSION OF WEEKLY MEETINGS.

The opening talk of the Winter session was given by Mr. H. J. Edwards, his subject being "Earthworks in and around Colchester". The purpose and date of the many earthworks in the vicinity have yet to be proved, but a report of 30 years work on this subject by Professor Christopher Hawkes is, it is understood, nearing completion and will be published. Mr. Edwards said that a rough generalisation could be made assigning the curving banks and ditches to the Belgic pre-Roman times, and the straight dykes, often linking up with the earlier earthworks, to the first decades of the first century A.D. - the time of Cunobelinus, who made Camulodunum his provincial capital. There was a possibility that further and later banks were raised by the Romans to protect important stores or sites. Mr. Edwards described Berechurch Rampart, Grimes Dyke (Stanway), the Lexden dyke, the Triple dyke (Chitts Hill) and those which curve round Blue Bottle Grove and the site of the ancient temple near Brickwall Farm, Stanway. He also called attention to a system of earthworks at Birch old rectory and mentioned banks and ditches yet visible in the Lexden area. The talk was illustrated with photographs and maps.

On 21st. January Major A.D. Mansfield spoke on Military Colchester and the close liaison between the Army and the Town for nearly three hundred years. In the 17th. century soldiers were billeted upon the civilian population, chiefly in inns and ale houses. The first unit mentioned is the 4th Regiment of Horse (3rd Dragoons) in about 1685. The soldier of the day was poorly paid and equipped and, once enlisted, he was engaged for life. In 1704 Queen Anne's Horse were in the town and about this time the 34th foot (Border Regt.) and the 11th Dragoons were raised, the latter commanded by Colonel Honeywood of Coggeshall in 1715. For many years there was a camp on Lexden Heath. In 1741 this contained seven full regiments of foot and an Artillery Train; also Dutch troops who helped fight the Jacobites and in 1753 there was a review by King George II. In 1793 the Eastern Military District was formed and the first barracks begun in Barrack Street. In 1854 new buildings were built and first occupied by the Essex Rifles and the German Legion, and the prefabricated Garrison Church was raised. Many more buildings were completed before 1870, notably a Soldiers' Home in Queen Street. The talk was illustrated by maps and pictures,

The following week Mr. F.H. Erith spoke on Church Bell Inscriptions. He gave an historical sketch of the use and inscription of bells; the marks, stamps or patents used for identification and the various types of inscription and lettering which help to date bells accurately. Bell inscriptions were cast on the cope or shoulder of the bell and pre-Reformation Latin inscriptions were often in the form of rhyming couplets; later archaic and unstable English were used but Latin epigrams and invocational inscriptions are widely found. Mr. Erith listed many bell founders of whom there are but two working in England at the present time. The greatest founders of old time were the Gray family, whose foundry was on the site of the Colchester Playhouse. The tenor bell at Lavenham, in Suffolk, made by Miles Gray in the 17th. century was reckoned to be the finest bell in the world. Certainly this family who cast bells for three generations left a great memorial to their superb craft and many of these survive today.

On 5th February there was another Members' Finds and Treasures evening. This ever popular occasion produced a varied collection ranging from pottery and coins, ancient horse-shoes and tobacco pipes, a Victorian bead purse and an 1840 edition of Bradshaw's Railway Guide, a fossilised oyster shell and Babylonian votive figures. There is not space to do justice to them all here and we hope they will become the subjects of future articles in the Bulletin.

A weak later guest speaker Mr. Buckingham gave a talk on Colchester clock and watch makers illustrated with unique examples of watches and watch labels from his collection and his own drawings. The speaker took us back to 1482 the date of the earliest record of a clock maker in Colchester; the earliest clock known in England, in 1350, was the work of a Colchester maker. One of the best known was John Smorthwaite; he was in business from 1675-1699, taking over from Joseph Spurgin, who had held the business since 1666. A plaque commemorating these two men hangs in what was their shop, now Shepherds, in the High Street. Other well-known Colchester clockmakers were Thomas and Edward Thorp, Francis Scarf, William Cooper and the numerous Hedge family, whose clock-making began in 1740, before which they were weavers, Other names were James Thorn, Robert Hughes and

Barnaby Demant, the last named being a maker of beautifully delicate watches. A clockmaker known to have had his shop in Middle Row was William Duval, The last known was Joseph Bannister, who died at the age of 97; one of his clocks still smiles down on the High Street from the pediment of the Fire Office.

The glory of ancient wood carving Suffolk parish churches was vividly portrayed on 19th February when another guest, Mr. Donald Simpson addressed the Group. With colour transparencies he presented some of the many hundreds of beasts, birds, figures and patterns to be found in Suffolk. By comparison Essex has few examples of mediaeval wood carving. Mythical unicorns were shown, docile lions and a tiger regarding his own reflection in a frying-pan mirror! Dogs were favourite subjects of the ancient wood carvers, and some recognisable breeds, such as the heraldic talbot and the fierce hunting dog are found, together with other sophisticated and dressed-up animals wearing headgear and wraps, which are characteristic of the Mendlesham district. Devout and serene maidens at their faldstools, apes dressed as monks, Satan, a bagpipe player, a hen wrapped in a blanket and the martyrdom of St. Edmund show the diversity of subjects. The Tudor "beasties" are well represented, amphisbaena, lions, griffins, bulls and horses; but Mr. Simpson with infinite patience and perception has recorded in colour many lesser known gems of Mediaeval Church carving on bench ends, misericords and panels, also many fine and lofty hammer beam roofs. A few slides were also shown of ancient stained glass in Essex and Suffolk including the earliest known glass, dating back to 1250, at White Notley church. It was a unique record, probably unsurpassed in Britain.

The Red Hills of Essex have long engaged the attention of archaeologists, but by reason of their remoteness which accounts largely for their remoteness (sic), these marshland hills or mounds have not been fully investigated for some fifty years. On 25th February Mrs. K. de Brisay reported on further examination of many of these sites and on material recovered from them. Apart from the usual "briquettage" the pottery from the Red Hill sites covers many centuries and it appears that they were in use for well over 1000 years, whether as salt pans or for some other purpose; the sherds representing Iron Age, Roman and Mediaeval periods. The immense quantities of red earth remain a mystery and although those Hills which are on agricultural land have been ploughed probably for centuries, the freshly turned earth still shows the strikingly red colour which has persisted for over 2000 years.

On 5th March two speakers addressed the Group, Mr. Malcolm Carter opened with a concise and witty account of field enclosure and said that ditches were, perhaps, the earliest man-made works, and certainly many field hedges were planted before the Norman conquest. Under the Saxon three field system of winter corn, spring corn and fallow, hedges or fences would be necessary to contain the grazing cattle. Marsh boundaries were marked by early hedges; the land of the lord of the manor and the smaller plots of the crofters. The enclosure of land was made direct from the primaeval forest and Mr. Carter demonstrated this by an ancient tithe map of 1625 showing the development of arable and grazing land from former forest in the Thurstable Hundred. Mr. A.B. Doncaster spoke on the origin and meaning of field names such as gores, hoppets, innums, hutchings, aldecars and pikes. The most popular field name in Essex appears to be Millfield, followed by hoppets, hop gardens and kitchen fields. Some names preserve local history and family names or record poor or stony land; there are also big and great fields and great gains.

At the last meeting Mr. R.B. Bennett spoke on the Epping Forest earthworks. He illustrated his talk with drawings, maps and plans and with finds from Amesbury banks, Loughton camp and other Iron Age sites in the Forest, The Forest of Essex, of which Epping Forest is the largest existing remnant, once embraced most of the County, including the Colchester district and possibly parts of the Tendring Hundred.

PART TWO JUNE 1962

An editorial concerning the Balcerne Gate will be found on pages 13 and 14 of this Bulletin. In May of this year the Group carried out its third annual "spring-clean" of this important site and we feel that the time has come for us to state our feelings on this subject and to make some suggestions.

On pages 14 - 20 we are pleased to publish a preliminary report on the Halstead Roman villa site by Mr. J.P. Smallwood B.A., and on page 21 is an illustrated account of the finding of part of an Attic lethykos at Tollesbury by Mr. Malcolm Carter. Notes and Comment appear on pages 21 and 22.

Members may like to be reminded that the all-day Group outing to Grimes Graves and Castle Acre is planned for Sunday June 24th., and the afternoon outing to Bradwell for Saturday July 21st. Those who would like to go and have not notified Mr. Sheed should let him know at Yew Tree House, Coast Road, West Mersea, and details will be sent to them in due course.

The excavation of the Bronze Age ring Ditch (Ring 6) at Ardleigh is proceeding according to plan under the direction of Mr. F. H. Erith. Members have been digging at weekends since the site was marked out on Sunday, 1st of April. The ditch has been found where it was shown by the crop mark of 1959. Several finds of interesting pottery sherds have been made but, so far, no actual burial urns. One section of the ditch, the baulks and the centre still remain and it is hoped these may produce more definite evidence. A full account will be published in our September Bulletin.

On Thursday, 7th June, a small party enjoyed an afternoon outing in perfect weather. The main visit was to Little Wenham Hall in Suffolk. This is a cherished and well-preserved example of a knight's fortified house, one of the few remaining in the country and, indeed, it is said to be the earliest existing brick building in England and dates from about 1260. It is built like a miniature castle, its war-like aspect belied by the pointed and traceried windows. A plaque on the wall records the name of Brewes, the earliest owner. Today entrance is made to the lower floor which was the store room where the vaulted roof was much admired. Leading out of this in a sort of guard room from whence a circular staircase ascends to the chapel. From this one enters into the great hall. An immense fire place, an imposing roof of Austrian oak and a floor of square red tiles on which still lingers some traces of glazing most of which was erased during the time the room was used as a grain store. Among the interesting items on show is a rack for church-warden pipes, a lace-makers table with its glass bulbs which held water to reflect the candle's light, an early spit in the shape of a dog and a candle holder on an expanding arm. The original doorway leads into this hall. The winding stair leads up to the bedroom of the knight and his lady and up again to the flat roof from which there is an excellent view of the fine old tithe barn and the moat on two sides. After thanking Major Binny for personally conducting our tour, the party left for Hadleigh where a bumper tea awaited them at the White Lion. After tea a visit was made to the fine old church and thence by way of Kersey to look at the minute Lindsay Chapel.

It is still hoped to arrange to put down some trial trenches across one of the many Red Hills but this must fit in with the harvest arrangements. Meanwhile it has been discovered that one of the best examples is about to be attacked by modern development. This is at Osea Road where sewage works are said to be planned to include a pumping station, outlets to the Blackwater and drain trenches which will run right through the Red Hill. Such an opportunity to observe the section of the Hill must not be missed and the situation is being closely watched.

The programme of our Winter meetings will be published in our September Bulletin and a Group meeting will be held on Monday, the 3rd of September in The Castle Bookshop, 37 North Hill, at 7.30 p.m. to arrange this. It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

EDITORIAL
The Balcerne Gate.

For some time now the Colchester Archaeological Group has been concerned with the state of the BALKERNE GATE, one of the show-pieces of the town, and for the last three years members have devoted a May evening to tidying it up.

In view of the rumoured impending developments we think that now is the time to express our feelings on the matter; to state what we think is wrong with the Monument, and to suggest practical ways of improving its appearance.

The History of the Monument

In Roman times the Balcerne Gate was the chief entrance to the town of Colchester. This statement is supported both by the grandiose design of the Gate, and by its position; for the continuation of the High Street would strike the Roman Wall where it now stands.

But some time prior to A.D. 1280 (the earliest Town records) the chief entrance to the town had been diverted to the Head Gate, the High Street ending where it met Head Street on its left and North Hill on its right. The way towards the Balcerne Gate had been built over and the Gate itself was scarcely used. It is suggested that the name was given to the Gate because it was "blocked" or "balked".

It is probably owing to this chance diversion that what remains of the Balcerne Gate has been preserved for us, since the requirements of traffic in mediaeval and later times would inevitably have led to its demolition, a fate which all the other Gates have suffered.

According to "Roman Colchester", the Balcerne Gate was the largest Roman gateway in Britain and its remains are the best preserved of any Roman gateway in the country. Sir Mortimer Wheeler excavated the northern side of the Gate when he was stationed with his battery in Colchester in 1917.

The Present Position

The Balcerne Gate now stands in a rather dismal backwater, hemmed in by a row of mean Victorian dwellings on the side beyond the Roman Wall, and by an unsavoury nettle-surrounded and usually empty reservoir on the side within the Wall.

The northern half of the Gate is also obscured by having a not unpleasing public-house perched on top of it. Below, it is protected by a brick arcade of modern date, which, one fears, many mistake for the original Roman structure, or a modern facsimile of it. Thick iron railings abound, reminiscent of a 19th century institution.

It is reported that an official of the Russian Embassy was so shocked at the Town's neglect that he said-"If this had been in Russia then those responsible would have been sent to Siberia".

The whole place certainly has an air of squalor and neglect; but a closer look makes one realise that there are distinct possibilities.

Facing the Gate, to the left the Roman Wall descends its long stretch down Balcerne Hill; and on the right of the Gate, and for a hundred yards to St. Mary's steps, the Wall is 18 foot high. This magnificent stretch of the Wall is practically hidden by the Victorian property, sub-standard by modern regulations, which surely soon should be due for demolition.

Suggested Improvements

"Improvements" to an Ancient Monument can be of two kinds. One is by way of alterations or additions to the Monument itself, which is perhaps a matter for experts. The other kind of

improvement is in making a better setting for it: a Precinct. It is here that so much could be done.

We suggest that the derelict reservoir be demolished and its artificial banks removed. (We cannot understand why the Health Authorities have allowed such a mosquito-breeding ground to exist). If this space were levelled then the Balcerne Gate could be properly appraised from within the Walls, and incidentally it could provide a space for the parking of 30 cars within 200 yards of the centre of the town.

We also suggest that the brick wall flanking Balcerne Hill to the north of the Gate be taken down or lowered, so that the Roman Wall which stands a few yards behind it can be more easily seen, and the bank between these two turfed or planted with flowers. As many iron railings as possible in the vicinity of the Gate should be scrapped.

If any compulsory purchase is to be made of St. Mary's Rectory garden, let us hope that part of it will become a Public Garden, with seats under the trees and a "walk" made along the top of the Wall.

But the greatest improvement can only be undertaken when, in due course, the Victorian property which now obscures the 100 yards of Roman Wall and St. Mary's Steps is demolished. The space thus won could either be grassed or made into a car-park for 40 cars.

The prospect would be even more imposing if the old property facing the Balcerne Gate in Popes Lane could eventually be acquired by the Corporation and demolished. What a magnificent spectacle the Balcerne Gate would then be if one could observe it from thirty yards back, flanked on either side by 100 yards of Roman Wall, with the fine trees behind it.

General Policy

It is appreciated that one cannot arbitrarily demolish other people's property; at the same time it should be prudent for a wide-awake and enlightened Town Council to have a long-term policy with regard to property in the shadow of the Roman Walls. Planning permission should not be granted to enable new buildings to be put on these sites. When old buildings become redundant they should be acquired by the Corporation and pulled down. This would serve the dual purpose of exposing the Wall to view, and providing additional space for car-parking.

Other towns, like York and Chichester, for example, make better use of their antiquities, displaying them to advantage with neat notices pointing them out. So we make an appeal to Colchester to "develop" the Balcerne Gate area, and make a "Precinct" worthy of this great Monument.

THE ROMAN VILLA SITE AT HALSTEAD

by J. P. Smallwood, B.A.

In 1958, in his book "The Discovery of Britain", Mr. Jack Lindsay drew attention to the existence of a Roman villa site, of some importance, one mile to the south-east of Halstead. Since then a considerable amount of fresh evidence has come to light, regarding both the extent and intensity of the Roman settlement in the Halstead area in general and the villa site in particular. Although the investigation is still in its early stages, I feel that the time has now come for the publication of a preliminary report.

The Halstead villa site lies on the south slope of the Colne valley. Here the River Colne has cut through the boulder clay to expose a strip of gravel, the natural drainage and lighter tree cover of which made it attractive to early settlers. With the exception of the vague traces of a building on the silt of the valley floor in Field 2 (see fig. 1.) the entire settlement is located on this gravel. To the north-west of the villa, despite the effects of land drainage, there persist distinct signs of a spring from which, it may be assumed, a water supply was obtained.

In 1928 Mr. F. Pudney and Mr. J. Pudney of Halstead discovered a partially destroyed Romano-British kiln (kiln 24) in a gravel pit on the edge of the field in which the main building

area was later discovered. The kiln and the area immediately surrounding it produced considerable amounts of broken pottery and wasters. Coarse grey-ware storage jars, cooking pots and flanged dishes (Colchester form 305 A.) appear to have made up the bulk of its products. The heavy nature of the rims of the flanged dishes suggest that they are more likely to belong to the second rather than to the first half of the fourth century.

After the war Mr. J. Pudney investigated the fields adjacent to the kiln. In both Field 1 and Field 2 he discovered surface traces of a Roman building. Unfortunately, apart from the discovery of most of a pot of second century date, and the location of an area of plough-broken Roman mortar (hatched fig. 1.), Field 2 has failed to produce further definite evidence of Roman habitation.

The investigations in Field 1 have proved far more rewarding. Before he emigrated to New Zealand in 1956 Mr. Pudney had already located the hypocaust, Pit 1 with its adjacent crude floor of pounded brick (see fig. 2), and, to the west of this structure, traces of Belgic occupation. Since his departure the area of the hypocaust explored has been considerably extended, and the remainder of the features marked in fig. 2, together with an ill defined occupation level containing hand made pottery, (to the north of Kiln 24, see fig. 1) has been located. The amount of building debris brought to the surface by each year's ploughing makes it almost certain that there remain several structures yet to be discovered.

With the possible exception of the hut floor discovered last autumn near Kiln 24, the earliest traces of occupation on the site may be assigned to the Belgic period. At two points (fig. 2.) considerable quantities of Belgic pottery have been recovered. The pottery from Area 1. (A.I.) consists of the following forms:-

1. Rim fragment. Sub-Belgic native form 24a.
2. Body sherd. Showing oblique shallowly scored lines traversed by a horizontal groove. Dark grey ware somewhat native in appearance, The nearest parallel appears to be form 68, which is derived from Sigillata form Drag. 29. Apparently this form first appears in the earliest Claudian levels at Camulodunum.
3. Rim fragment of carinated bowl form 218 in native ware.
4. Rim fragment, probably squat carinated bowl of la Tene type, form 209 in soapy native ware. If it is of this form it is almost certainly pre-Claudian.
5. Two rim fragments of cooking pots of form 268 (see Camulodunum fig. 56 - Nos. 1 & 4). Both are very crude with pitted surfaces rather corky in the break.

(For forms see Hawkes & Hull - Camulodunum)

This pottery was recovered from a shallow occupation level almost destroyed by the plough. In assessing the significance of this pottery with regard to dating the Belgic occupation, it is essential to note that it contained no fragments of distinctly Roman fabric. Although native forms persist into the Roman period, the complete absence here of any intruding Roman material suggests that the level may be regarded as pre-Claudian, probably contemporary with the settlement at Camulodunum.

At present our knowledge of the early Roman occupation of the site is somewhat fragmentary. Pit 19 excavated in 1954, was found to contain much early material. This apart, all that indicates that the site was occupied during the first and second centuries is a liberal scatter of sherds of this period frequently exposed by the plough. Although early pottery has been surface-found at several points in association with building debris, so far trial trenches in those areas have failed to locate any structures. A possible explanation of this may lie in the copious evidence of the re-use of rubble in later walls. Perhaps the earlier buildings were systematically taken down and the material thus obtained re-used.

The third century is somewhat better represented. In the spring of 1961 a trench was dug in an area of the field where surface indications suggested that a building might have stood, A rubbish pit (Pit 2.) was located and found to contain substantial amounts of broken pottery including several mortaria, mica-dusted flagons of red ware, together with cooking pots. This pottery may be dated from parallels at Colchester to between 190 and 210 A.D. Furthermore,

there was a rim fragment of a vessel of greenish glass. This deposit represented either a kitchen midden or, it has been suggested, may afford evidence of another kiln. Other traces of third century occupation had previously been found in a trial trench dug to the south of the hypocaust in an effort to fix the extent of this building. Here an occupation layer produced fragments of third century pottery.

By far the best represented phase of occupation on the site belongs to the fourth century. This is largely due to the fact that the only substantial building so far located, the hypocaust (fig. 3.), may be assigned to this century. This part of the villa was investigated in the autumn of 1958 when, although time did not permit as extensive an excavation as would have been required for all the problems relating to this building to have been solved, enough work was done to reveal something of the development of this building. The first trench revealed clear evidence that the hypocaust had been divided into at least two compartments. The walls, which were constructed of rubble and irregularly cut lumps of gravel conglomerate, were in a very bad condition having been almost completely obliterated in the northern part of the trench. The floor consisted of opus signinum, a mixture of mortar and pounded brick, which was laid on the undisturbed gravel to a depth of three inches. The base bricks of several of the pillars were discovered in situ.

A second trench dug some 20 foot to the south produced the third century pottery referred to above, but no sign of the building, apart from a vague area of rubble, possibly the result of the collapse of the south wall.

The southern limit of the hypocaust was eventually fixed in trench three. Here its position in relation to the slope of the field had enabled it to be better preserved (see N/S section – fig. 4.) It seems to have represented a later stage in the development of the building. The wall alignments of the previous trench had been discarded. On the east side of the floor a wall 2 ft. 6 ins in width, that is one foot wider than the walls discovered in the first trench, had been aligned on the inside of the wall previously discovered. At some later date in the Roman period this wall had been almost completely robbed down to its foundation bricks. To the south and the west walls of width 1 ft. 6 ins. had been left intact, while a hypocaust pillar had been erected on the top of the almost obliterated west wall. Almost certainly the structure at the south of the hypocaust represents a stoke hole. A tile had collapsed into the gap (fig. 3.3.), the soil beneath the tile showing copious traces of burnt material. The floor appeared to have been extended in a westerly direction. Unfortunately plough damage makes it unlikely that the full extent of this part of the building will ever be known. The two inch change in floor level, both on the line of the wall discovered in trench 1, and at the northern end of the stoke hole, may be taken as evidence that this was indeed an extension and not part of the original building.

The hypocaust, in as much as it has been so far excavated, has not produced a great deal of evidence by which the length of its use may be fixed. Numerous small fragments of painted wall plaster were found in the course of digging. That this plaster showed no signs of having been restored, perhaps indicates that this part of the building was not inhabited for a long period. Apart from several segments of a necklace of cylindrical jet beads, the small finds were confined to pottery. This consisted almost entirely of fragments of coarse ware cooking pots and flanged dishes of the types produced in Kiln 24. There were, however, a few sherds of very coarse cooking pots, ill-fired and rather soapy in surface texture, which can be paralleled by similar finds in late fourth and fifth century levels at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe,

Apart from the hypocaust, two other areas on the site have yielded evidence of fourth century occupation. In the autumn of 1956 a wall which was probably part of the main building was found to the west of the hypocaust. Associated with this wall were considerable quantities of fourth century pottery. To the east of the hypocaust a trial trench yielded similar pottery in a level extending down to a depth of three feet.

With the fourth century finds the immediately assessable evidence provided by the villa is exhausted. There remain, however, two further finds of which note must be taken, but the significance of which is not fully understood.

The first of these perplexing finds was made to the north of Pit 1, where a trench extension revealed a dry wall of rubble bounding a rough floor of earth and pounded brick. No finds whatsoever were made in association with this structure, which was not further excavated, and one can only suggest at present that it may represent a sub or post Roman phase of occupation.

A second find, which defies interpretation, was made close to the field boundary to the north-east of Kiln 24. Here trenches were dug in the autumn of 1961 and produced signs of a hut site. Ploughing had removed all traces of any structure which might have stood there, but in the disturbed occupation layer, considerable quantities of pottery, together with some daub, was found. Much of the pottery was Roman and had clearly intruded from the adjacent kiln. Of the rest, some seemed to be Belgic in character, but the remainder consisted of hand made sherds.

The fabric and appearance of this hand-made pottery is utterly unlike any of the material from Camulodunum, or from the other Belgic levels on the site. If it is, as the experts seem to think, pre-Roman, it cannot be Belgic. It must belong to an earlier phase of the Iron Age in Essex, but the only pottery found locally which it resembles at all closely is the Anglo-Saxon pottery from Bulmer Tye. This resembles very closely in both fabric and form. Unfortunately no distinctive decoration has been found on any of the fragments from this level.

At this stage in the excavation of the Halstead villa site it is impossible to draw any firm conclusions. The site certainly extended over an area of several acres and contains a scattered collection of buildings of different periods. Nothing which resembles a co-ordinated building plan has emerged as yet.

The haphazard nature of the settlement raises the question as to whether it is correct to assume that it is a villa. The acid nature of the soil has contributed to the complete decay of animal bones except where the presence of lime in the soil near the buildings has enabled them to be preserved. The few pieces of iron which have been found are too corroded to permit them to be identified as implements of any specific type. Only the location of the settlement lying close to the probable course of the road from Colchester to Cambridge suggests its probable economic role as a food producer for the inhabitants of the Colonia.

The site has certainly not produced evidence of industrial activity as has the settlement at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. One established pottery kiln and the possibility of another do not permit the identification of the site as a production centre for pottery. Much of the late coarse ware found in association with rural sites may well have been produced on the spot by itinerant potters. The very length of occupation points to the gradual Romanisation of what had begun as a Belgic farm; for although dating has been rendered difficult by the complete absence of coins, the pottery indicates continuous occupation from the period of Cunobelin to the late fourth century. Unfortunately it is not yet possible to be certain of either a pre-Belgic or post-Roman occupation. The rarity of hand-made pottery of the type found near Kiln 24 lends particular interest to this discovery. Whether pre or post Roman it means that the site was occupied for an unusually long period. If and when the problem of the dating of this pottery is solved, either the gap normal on Essex sites in Iron Age B material, or that between Roman and Dark Age will here at least have been bridged.

My debt to Mr. F. Pudney and Mr. J. Pudney, the original discoverers of the site, is evident from a reading of the text. I should also like to express my thanks to Mr. M. R. Hull and Mr. B. Blake of the Colchester Castle Museum for their help and advice at all stages in the excavation. Also Professor J. N. L. Myers, Mr. Jack Lindsay, and Mr. H. Cooper, all of whom have assisted me in dating the material. Finally I must express my appreciation of the kindness of Mr. R. C. Butler, who farms the site, and who has allowed us to dig between croppings, and gratefully acknowledge the assistance of all those who have given up their leisure hours to assist in the excavation.

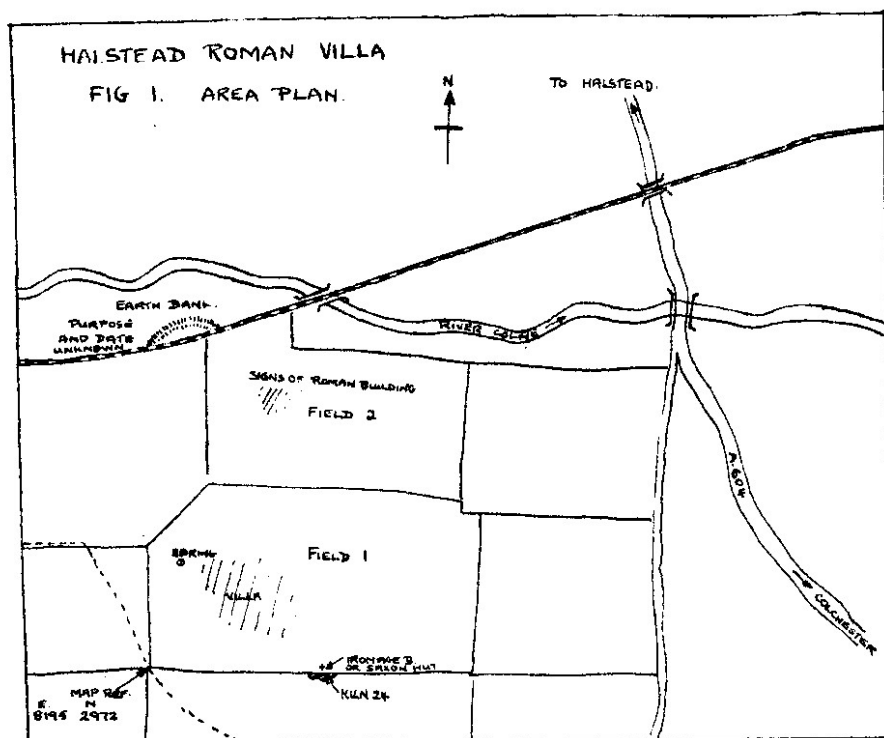
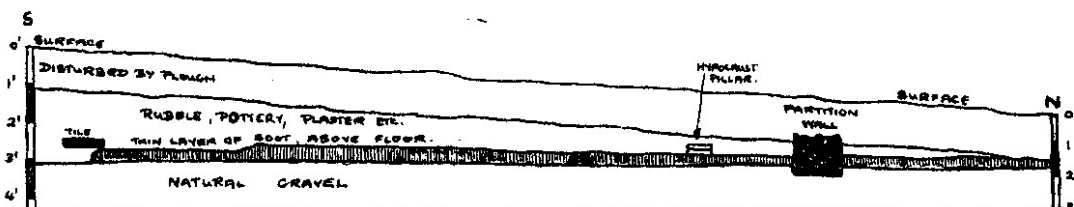
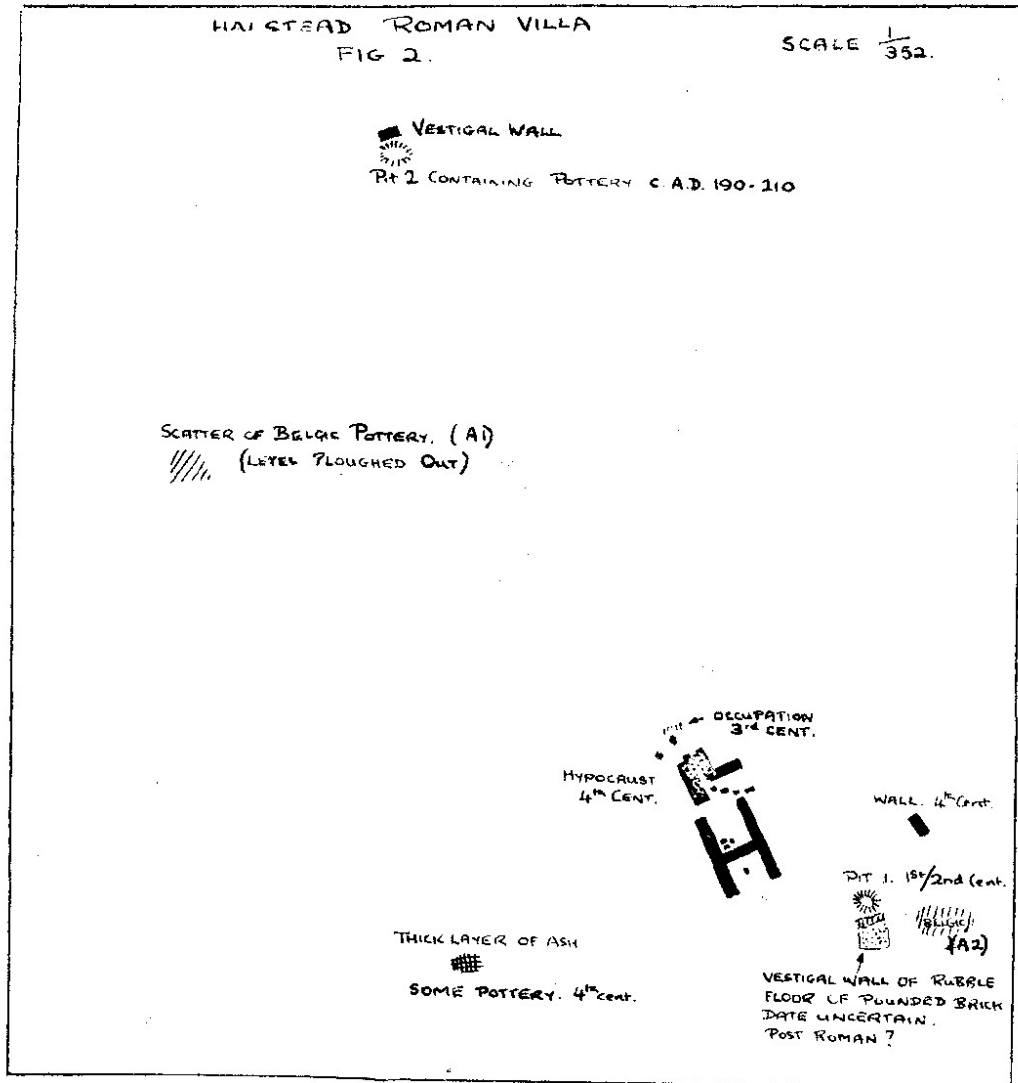
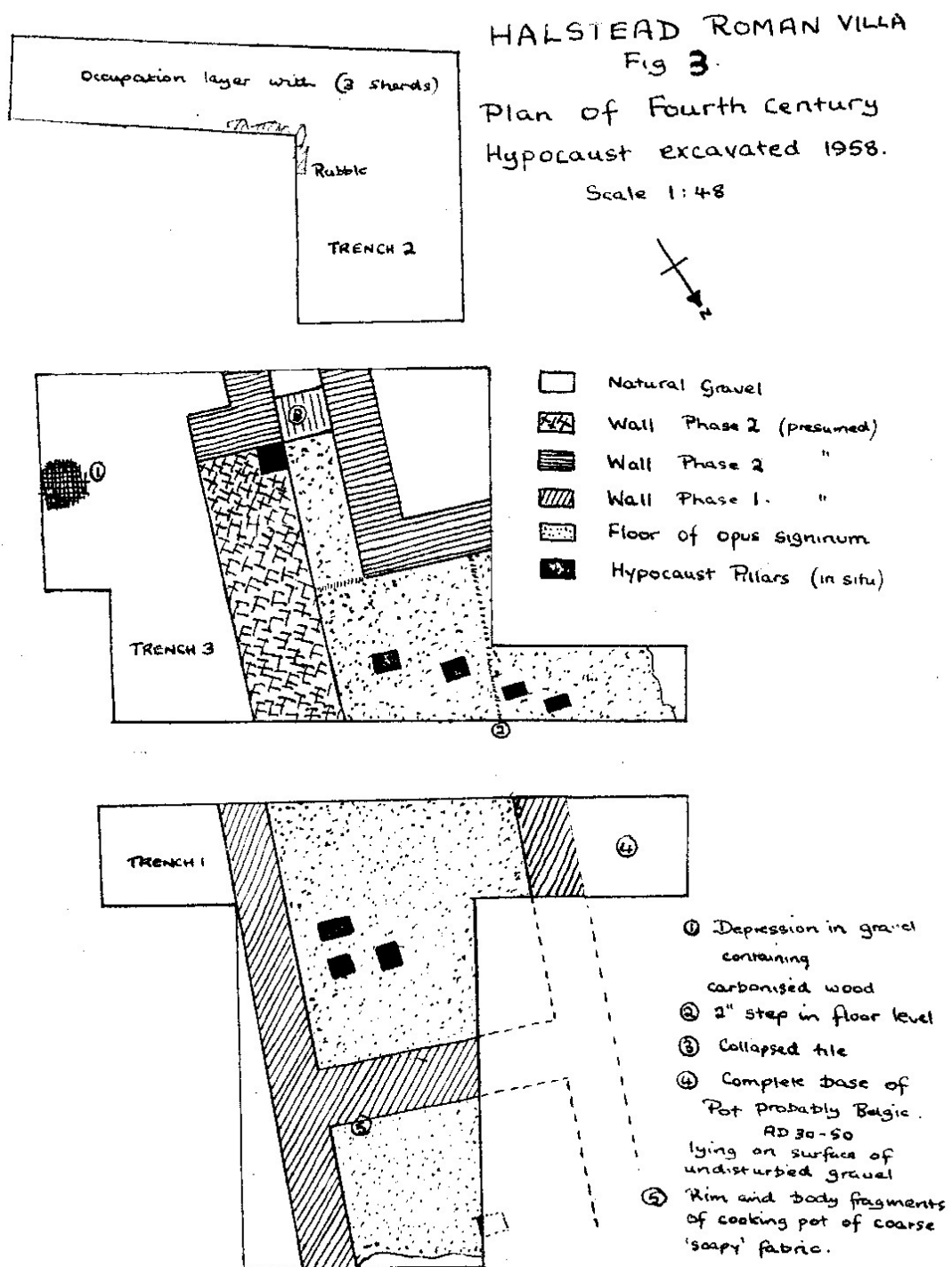


FIG 4.
SOUTH — NORTH SECTION OF HYPOCAUST SCALE $\frac{1}{48}$



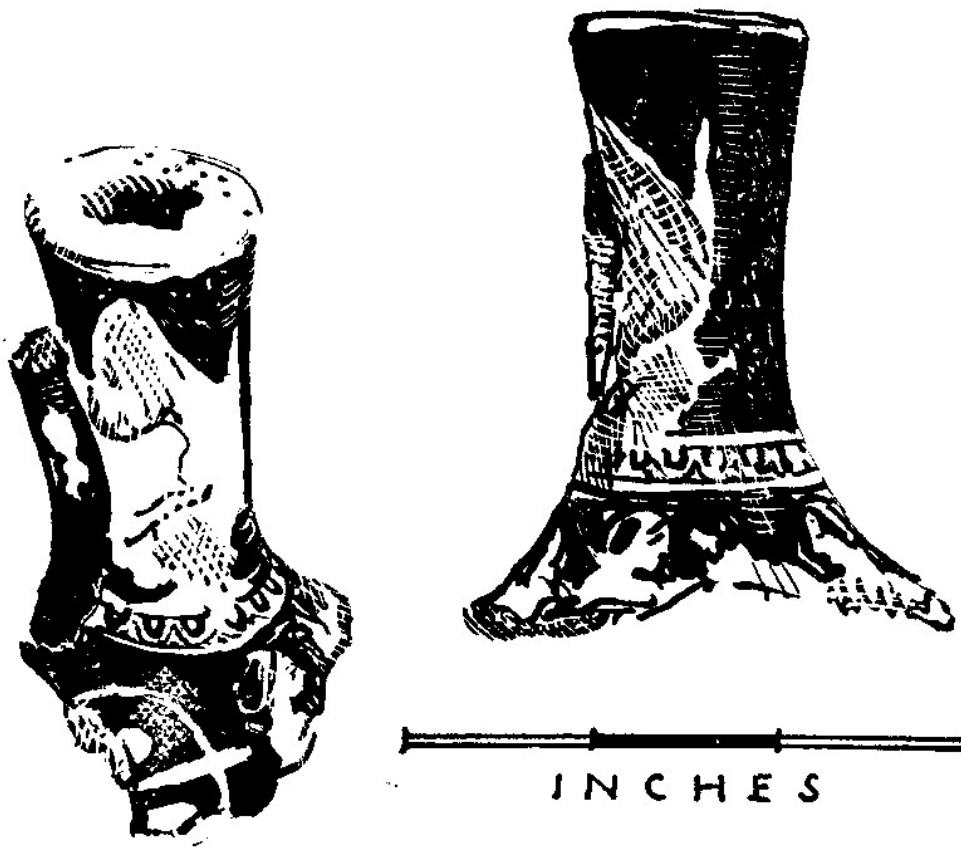




A FRAGMENT OF ATTIC POTTERY.
by Malcolm Carter.

The pottery fragment illustrated below is the neck of an Attic lethykos, c. 425 - 450 B.C., The mouth of the jar is missing and in view of the clean break was probably made separately and attached before firing. The colour is the customary black on light terra-cotta.

The piece was found by Mr. R. P. Golding of Gorwell Hall, Tollesbury, while ploughing a field of the Virley glebe, (O.S. TL.91/149948). The work was probably carried to a greater depth than any earlier ploughing. There were a number of other shards at the same point which were unfortunately turned in by a second plough which was following Mr. Golding. No authentic find of classic Greek pottery has hitherto been made in England, and no satisfactory explanation of the presence of this piece has been advanced.



NOTES AND COMMENT.

A NOTE from Mr. Brian Page, who is the Secretary of the Wanstead Local History Society, Wanstead House, The Green, Wanstead, E. 11.

Your members may like to know that we shall be at Bradwell Lodge, Southminster, on Sunday, 24th. June, to discuss our forthcoming excavation of what is thought to be an 18th, century Ice House in the grounds by kind invitation of Mr. Tom Driberg M.P.. The Society having excavated a similar building in Wanstead Mr. Driberg asked us if we would like to investigate. Any of you will be welcome but please get in touch with me first and I shall be glad to give you details and times of digging. I hope to publish our findings in a later issue of your Bulletin.

Mr. H. J. EDWARDS writes:- The sign of the "Three Cups" is well known in Colchester High Street and the "cups" displayed are generally considered to represent the "covered sprinkling salts" of the Salters Arms. It is further suggested that this sign occurs where there was

anciently some salt-making carried on. There are - or were - four, if not five, such signs in Essex and I imagine one at Springfield rather upsets that theory. But there are exceptions to all rules and I am willing to make a plausible story to account for this variation! However, it would be interesting to know if the sign of the Three Cups is found in other parts of the country and, if it is, whether there is a possibility of a salt-making connection. What about it, you much travelled members?

Mr. H. W. PALMER .Writes:- A friend of mine who lives at Wigborough, tells me that it is an accepted fact amongst the marsh-dwellers that the only way to avoid the "ague" is to build your house on a Red Hill.

This raises many interesting speculations and one is reminded that living on gravel rather than clay is said to be beneficial for those suffering from rheumatism - on the other hand one cannot imagine that a Red Hill would make a good solid foundation on which to build - does anyone know of such a case?

Mr. J. GEOFFREY DENT of Sunnyside Cottage, Halton East, Skipton, Yorks, writes:

I wonder if I might trespass on your space with yet another query? This is a small matter, but one which I think has never been fully worked out.

I think the standard size of stacks does vary from one district to another, on a regional basis. In all probability both size and shape were fixed before modern farming techniques overcame many of the regional differences of weather and terrain. It would be interesting to know if there is any confirmation of this, and whether traditions remain concerning the correct shape and dimensions for a particular district. My correspondent who asked me to collect this information frequently flies the length of the country, from Thursoe to Dorset, on business and has noticed this difference, varying from district to district. I must confess that this had not struck me, but thinking of it now, I believe he is right. At any rate I should be grateful for any information your members can supply.

J. Elsdon Tuffs, A.R.Hist.S., Chairman of the recently formed Wanstead Local History Society, has contributed an article on recent archaeological discoveries in Wanstead but unfortunately space does not permit its inclusion in this issue and we have had to hold it over to our next Bulletin,

We hope members will send in their comments on the above and also some notes and articles-of their own; please send these to the Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, 89, Maldon Road, Colchester. Telephone 6207 (evenings)

PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1962

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - as announced in our March Bulletin the new year begins on October the 1st.. The first of the winter meetings will be on Monday October 15th, and this will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting at 7.30 p.m.. The full programme of our winter meetings will be found on page 23 and members are reminded that this year they will be held at St. Runwalds School., Oxford Road, Colchester, by kind permission of Mrs. Macauley. There is ample space for the parking of cars and the school can also be reached by Corporation 'bus routes No. 5 to the Essex County Hospital and Nos. 1 & 6 to Salisbury Road from both of which it is but a short walk. An account of the Ardleigh Ring Six excavation appears on pp. 24 - 26 and an article by Mr. F.H. Erith on Henge monuments on pp.26 - 28.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - all annual subscriptions (10/-) become due on October 1st and should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, A.H. Sheed Esq., Yew Tree House, Coast Road, West Mersea. It will be very helpful if members will please pay these promptly.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, has left 89 Maldon Road and her new address is:- Corner Cottage, Lower End, Laver de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. The Telephone number is Laver de la Haye 274. (evenings)

WINTER PROGRAMME 1962-1963.

- 15th October - Annual General Meeting., followed by a talk on Prehistoric Food -
Mr. A. H. Sheed,
- 22nd " - The Economic History of Colchester 1700 - 1960. Mr. A .F.J. Brown M.A.
- 29th " - An Introduction to Trade Signs - Mr. H.J. Edwards.
- 5th. November - Orthona and St. Peter's on the Wall - Mr. M. Carter.
- 12th, " - Members' Finds and Treasures.
- 19th, " - The History of Bank Notes – Mr. Colin Narbeth.
- 26th. " - The Englishman's Food through the Ages, - Major A.D, Mansfield R.A.,
F.R.G.S.
- 3rd December - The Architecture of Colchester (Illustrated) – Mr. A. E. Horlock.
- 10th " - Newly Discovered Local Prehistoric Sites - Mr. F. H. Erith.
- 17th " - FILM SHOW AND SOCIAL - Tickets 2/6 from members of the Committee.
- 14th January - Norman Colchester - Mr. L.H, Gant, A.I.A.C.
- 21st " - All Saints Parish, Colchester, and its Residents, 1760 – 1800 –
Mr. J. Bensusan Butt.
- 28th " - Historic L.C.C. Properties - Mr. Peter Pratt.
- 4th February - Trade Signs (Illustrated) – Mr. H. J, Edwards.
- 11th " - Old French Glass Mille Flore Paper Weights and Other Objects
Mr. John Warrell.
- 18th " - Some Aspects of British Folklore – Mrs. Malcolm Carter.
- 25th " - Essex Church Woodwork –Mr. K.R. Mabbitt, F.S.A.
- 4th March - Essex Authors – Mr. A. B. Doncaster.
- 11th " - Antique Jewellery - Mr. Garth Cooper,
- 18th " - ANIMAL - VEGETABLE, - MINERAL ?

Theses meetings will be held at ST. RUNWALD'S SCHOOL., OXFORD ROAD,
COLCHESTER, by kind permission of Mrs. Macauley.

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOIVE

ARDLEIGH RING SIX.

The fourth Bronze Age Barrow to be excavated at Vincles Farm was marked out on the quadrant method at Easter. This ring-ditch, first observed as a crop-mark in barley during the drought of July, 1959, is the most distant from the Bronze Age Cemetery and isolated from the other five ring-ditches in the same field.

EXCAVATION

The method of marking out, and the process of excavation was similar to that of the first three ring-ditches, excavated in 1960 and 1961. The topsoil of the four quadrants having been removed, trenches were dug alongside each baulk in order to locate the position of the circular ditch. The exact position of the circular ditch was also revealed for a few days while the quadrants were drying out, and while they could be seen the inner and outer curves were marked.

Hard gravel was encountered at depths varying from 15 to 18 inches except at the position of the circular ditch, the infilling of which consisted of stone-free soil to a depth of 36 inches.

The ditch was completely excavated in all four quadrants, when measuring showed that the true centre of the barrow was 15 inches to the south of our estimated centre.

After the sections had been drawn the baulks were dismantled; but two opposite quarters of the central 4 ft. by 4 ft. square were left till last. In the topsoil of this central square a sherd of Bronze Age ware of the thinner type was found three inches from the centre. We also encountered two holes (with infilling of pure soil) each about 2 feet from the true centre. A third, much larger, hole had been made almost at the circumference due east. The depth of the two central holes was 26 and 27 inches, and of the eastern one 33 inches.

POTTERY FINDS

The infilling of the ditch contained over a hundred sherds of pottery of which six were the thick (over 2 inch) Bronze Age Ware, Several more were of Iron Age "A", exactly similar in colour and texture to the Iron Age ware described in our June Bulletin: about ¼ inch thick, olive-brown on the outside, black on the inside, the whole permeated with white grits. They formed part of a flat-bottomed porringer or bowl. The remaining pottery consisted of grey Roman ware, the rim sections suggesting a date of about 100 A.D. The exact position of all these sherds were recorded three - dimensionally. One Bronze Age sherd was encountered at a depth of 3" inches and was presumably deposited at the time of the destruction of the barrow. The remaining sherds were at varying depths between 28 and 12 inches from the surface, many of the lowest ones being Roman. One can assume from this that the ditch had not silted up very much by the -time of the first century A.D.

INTERPRETATION

The evidence obtained from the excavation of this and the three previous ring-ditches as well as the one at Great Bromley, suggest that these Bronze Age people erected their barrows some months before a death occurred. If they did not actually raise the mound, at least they seem to have dug the circular ditch and a central hole or two holes. Possibly the eastern hole (perhaps for some ritual purpose) was also prepared.

In summer the gravel becomes so hard that it requires an iron pick to make any impression in the conglomeration of stones, and this the Bronze Age people did not have. In winter, however, the gravel is quite friable. It would be prudent for those people to construct their barrows when the weather was suitable, rather than when necessity demanded.

The defect of this system seems to have been that if no cremation had taken place for a considerable time, the central holes got partially filled in from natural causes, and the burials when they eventually took place, were nothing like as deep as were originally intended.

On page 26 a series of diagrams show the probable course of events.

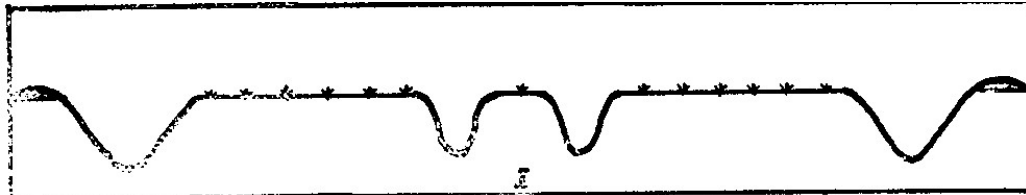
Our account of Ardleigh Ring One (Vol. III. No. 4. Page 51) describes just such a case. The hole for the primary burials was 27 inches deep) but 9 inches of soil had seeped back when the twin primary urns were deposited. These urns were so high up that the plough had destroyed all but the lower 5 inches of them.

Two alternatives suggest themselves to explain the barren pits of the present Barrows Ring Six. Either that the pits were dug ready for an internment which never took place at all; or they were dug ready for an internment which did take place, but so much soil had seeped back into them that the internments were deposited higher than the recent ploughing depth (12 inches). The finding of a fragment of Bronze Age pottery in the topsoil right in the centre suggests the latter.

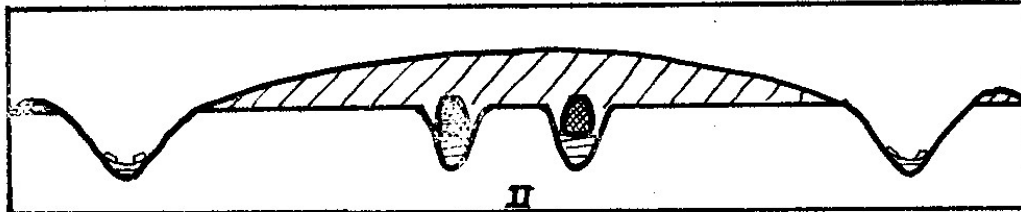
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The excavation took place at weekends during May and June, and was well supported by members, under the direction of Mr. F.H. Erith. Those taking part included:- Mr, and Mrs. Malcolm Carter, Mr. C. Chipperfield, Mr. S.D. Collins, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Mr. A. J, Fawn, Mr. H.J. Edwards,

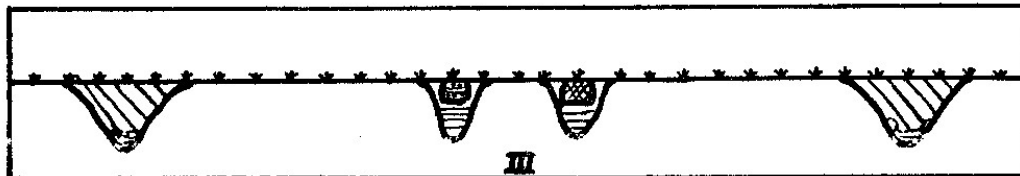
Mr. A .B. Doncaster, Mr. L. H. Gant, and Mr. K.F. Sharpe. Mr. F.A. Girling, F.S.A. was again our official photographer. Our thanks are due to Mr. M.R. Hull and Mr. Bryan Blake of the Colchester Museum, who inspected the site and appraised the pottery.



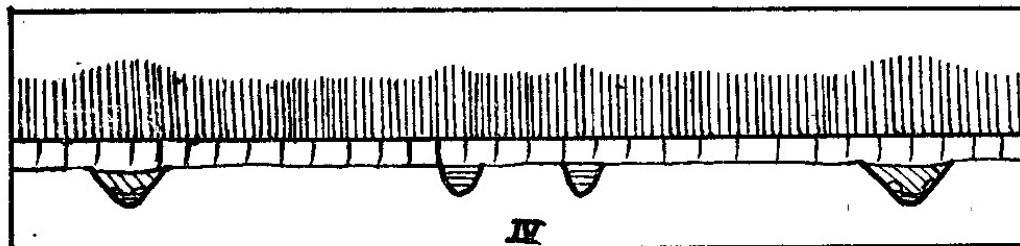
A BRONZE AGE FAMILY DECIDES TO PREPARE A BARROW TO RECEIVE ITS DEAD. A CIRCULAR DITCH 33 FEET IN DIAMETER AND 3 FEET DEEP WAS DUG OUT AND TWO HOLES NEAR THE CENTRE WERE DUG READY TO TAKE THE FIRST TWO CREMATIONS.



HOWEVER, A CONSIDERABLE TIME ELAPSED BEFORE THE FIRST DEATH OCCURRED IN THE FAMILY AND BY THEN MUCH EARTH HAD SILTED BACK INTO THE HOLES. AFTER AN URN HAD BEEN PLACED IN ONE OR BOTH OF THE HOLES, THE BARROW WAS PROBABLY MOUNDED UP. LATER, IRON AGE "A" POTTERY FINDS ITS WAY INTO THE DITCH.



BY 100 A.D. MANY FRAGMENTS OF GREY ROMAN POTTERY HAVE ALSO FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE DITCH. IT IS DECIDED TO LEVEL THE BARROW AND THE MOUND IS PUSHED INTO THE DITCH AND PROBABLY THE TOP PORTION OF THE URN OR URNS IS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS.



DEEP FLOUGHING IN MODERN TIMES DESTROYS THE REMAINING PARTS OF THE URNS. IN THE SUMMER OF 1959, DURING THE GREAT DROUGHT, THE POSITION OF THE RING-DITCH IS REVEALED BY THE BARLEY GROWING TALLER. THERE IS 3 FEET OF SOIL AND BACK-SILT OVER THE RING-DITCH BUT ONLY 18 INCHES OVER THE NATURAL GRAVEL.

THE HENGES MONUMENT AT STRATFORD ST. MARY.

by F.H. Erith.

One of the most dramatic events of British Archaeology was the discovery by Wing-Commander Insall V.C. in December 1925, of Woodhenge from the air. In 1929 the same airmen discovered Arminghall, near Norwich, and in the 1936 proceedings of the Pre-Historic Society Professor Grahame Clark wrote the report on 'The Timber Monument at Arminghall and its Affinities', in which he presented all the then-known evidence on Henge Monuments. At that time he listed nineteen probable Henges, including Stonehenge, Woodhenge, Avebury, Arbor Law and Arminghall. Since 1936 many other sites have been claimed.

Although Henge monuments vary enormously in size, from 300 to 30 yards in diameter, they have certain features in common:

1. They are circular in structure, but with one, or sometimes two opposite gaps in the circle as entrances or causeways. Sometimes the circle is defined by standing stones, as at Stonehenge; sometimes by upright timber columns as at Woodhenge,
2. Where the circle is defined by a ditch and a bank, the bank is on the outside; presumably to act as a grandstand. The ditch is usually very wide, but shallow.
3. The purpose for which those Monuments were made is religious.
4. They belong to the Neolithic period, 2000 B.C. or older. Sometimes there is a central feature, as at Stonehenge, and at Arminghall there were eight very large post-holes arranged in a horse-shoe.

It is not generally known that there is a Henge Monument only eight miles from Colchester, at Stratford St. Mary. The site is at Stratford Hills Farm some 400 yards west of the A12. It was discovered by John Bradford from the air in the summer of 1947, and showed up as a crop-mark in wheat. Mr. Bradford published a photograph of it in his book "Ancient Landscapes, Studies in Field Archaeology". A brief reference to this discovery was made in Mr. Rainbird Clark's book "East Anglia" but without illustration.

The drought of June this year was so acute that it occurred to me that this site might again become visible as a crop mark if a suitable crop had been sown in the field. When Mr. Jim Newman of the Clacton airstrip offered to photograph crop-marks for me, I gave him four map references, of which this was one. The results were startling indeed; two Neolithic Causeway Camps at Lawford, a barrow complex at Ardleigh, another at Dedham, and several pictures of the Henge at Stratford.

THE CENTRAL FEATURE

After Mr. A. Newman had made this flight he rang me up to say that the Stratford site was particularly interesting and it had a cross in the middle. When the photographs were developed, all five clearly showed this cross in the centre of the circle, one arm of which pointed towards the causeway. Obviously this could not be some flaw in the photography if it appeared on every picture and was also seen by the naked eye.

It could of course possibly be caused by some freak of cropping or manuring, and this could be checked by referring to the 1947 photograph. If on the 1947 photograph there was any slight trace of a cross in the middle, then the cross must be a genuine crop-mark and part of the original structure. It could hardly appear on two crop fifteen years apart accidentally. On referring to Mr. Bradford's photograph in "Ancient Landscapes" the cross was visible, though not as clearly as in the 1962 photographs. The rectangular enclosure is also partially visible in the 1947 picture, but not nearly so clearly as in this year's photographs. (A drawing of those two photographs in juxtaposition appears on page 28.)

EXAMINATION IN THE FIELD.

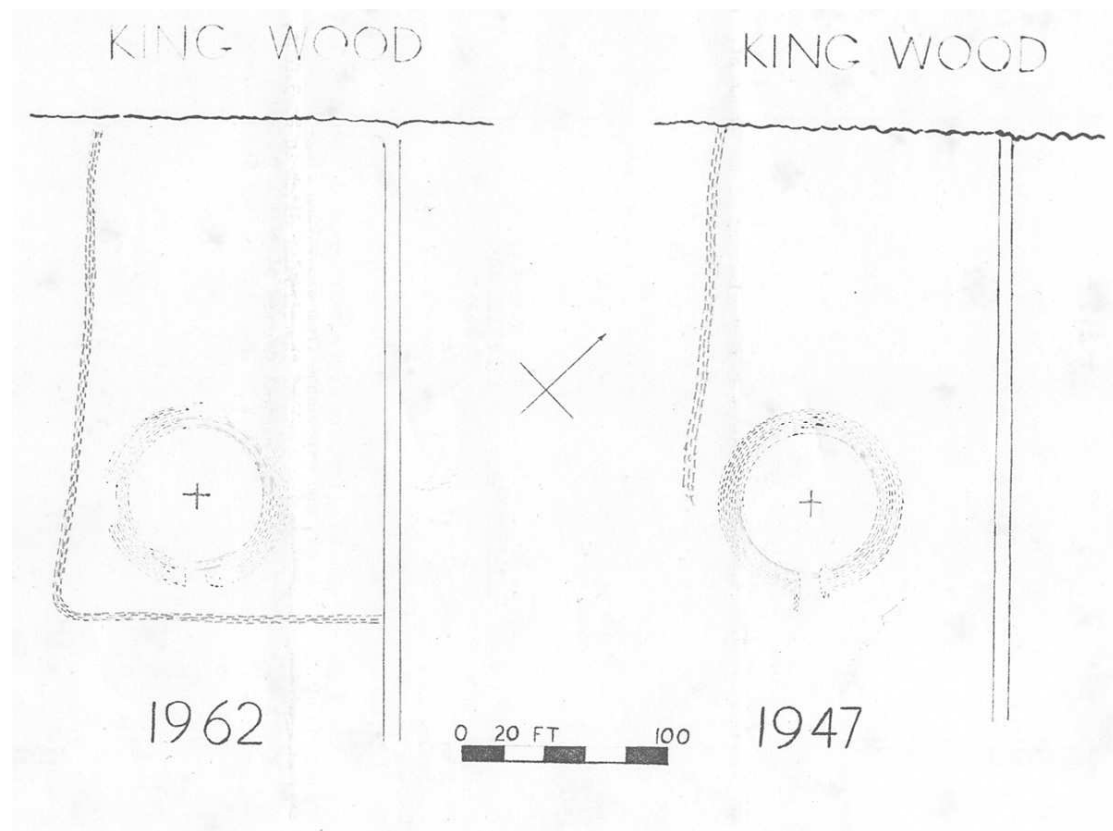
The writer then made two expeditions to the site when the crop-mark was visible from the ground. One was with the owner of the farm, Mr. G. V. Lockett, who, until that time, had not been aware of the existence of the monument, a few days later I was accompanied by Mr. F.A. Girling, when various measurements and photographs were taken. The crop was barley, grown on gravel soil in a field bordering a wood, and a cart path took us to within 20 yards of the site. The differential growth was clearly visible with regard to the circular ditch and rectangular enclosure. The central feature was marked by taller corn, but not sufficiently distinct to discern the shape of a cross. Measurements were taken in the standing corn, and it is interesting to compare these with those which N7. Bradford had estimated from his air photograph of 1947:

	Mr. Bradford's 1947 estimate	1962 actual measurements.
Entrance width	20 foot	9 feet
Ditch width	20 "	12 "
Internal diameter	75 "	65 "
Overall diameter	115 "	89 "

The distance from the centre of the Monument to the edge of King Wood was 61 paces.

The Depth can also be calculated with a fair amount of accuracy, by the luxuriance of the crop-mark, and experience from excavating ring-ditches on gravel soil at Ardleigh, I estimate the depth of the circular ditch to be 3 foot, the enclosure 4 feet, and the cross or central feature 22 feet. The entrance or causeway faces south-east towards the Vale of Dedham and the Stour estuary, but the Monument was not sited for the view, which 400 yards further east would have been magnificent. Bones are often associated with a barrow complex, or with a "cursus" leading to one. No barrows or ring-ditches in the vicinity show on the photographs, (but the crop on the other side of the cart-path was roots in both years and so would not show crop-marks). The nearest barrow complex would be the newly y discovered one at Dedham, two miles away. The rectangular enclosure may not have anything to do with the original layout. It blocks the entrance way, and if originally a bank was outside the circular ditch it would have sealed off the entrance entirely.

CONCLUSION:- Here is a site which in many ways is ideal for excavation: it is easily accessible yet quite private; it is in a corner of a field and so would interfere as little as possible with cropping; it has not been interfered with, and the area is sufficiently compact to enable complete excavation. The site is not threatened in any way & considered safe so it will be a very long time, if ever, before this Monument will be further investigated.



NOTES & COMMENT

THE BALKERNE GATE

The Editorial in our June Bulletin concerning this important site has aroused considerable interest and many letters have been received in support of our suggestions including one from Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

Mr. Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, M.A., Secretary of the Ancient Monuments Society made arrangements for Lt. Col. B.C.G. Shore, F.A.M.S., Hon.F.I.Q.S., L.R.I.B.I., to visit the site. This he did on the 2nd, of July and was met by Mr. F.H. Erith, Mrs. K. de Brisay and Mr. A. B. Doncaster (representing the Group) and Mr. John Bensusan Butt (representing the Colchester Preservation Society). Colonel Shore took many excellent photographs for the Society and we are much encouraged by this interest.

THE TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW

This was held on the 14th of July and the Group display stand, manned by Mr. F.H. Erith, Mr. H.J. Edwards and Mrs. K. de Brisay. The display consisted of an exhibit illustrating Red Hills with descriptive maps and diagrams and examples of bricquetage and pottery. In addition there was an exhibition of aerial photographs of the district arranged by Mr. Erith which could not have been more topical as they had been taken on the previous day and some included the show ground itself. The interest shown was most gratifying and a great deal of useful information was forthcoming as to sites of hitherto unknown Red Hills and about the fields showing crop-marks in the photographs.

AN ATTIC LETHYKOS.

Referring to the illustrated article by Mr. Malcolm Carter in our June Bulletin, Mr. H. E. P. Spencer of the Ipswich Museum writes:

"In my opinion the probability that this is part of a vessel broken in some domestic accident which was carted on to a field with other rubbish in "muck" must be considered. In my younger days household refuse was thrown on the muck heap and this accounts for the quantity of willow-pattern and other crockery fragments often found in fields not far from any habitation.

During forty years of museum experience the remarkable collection of exotic and other oddities which have come to my notice - from field drains, ditch cleaning or merely ploughed up - is extraordinary. Included is a human skull brought home as a souvenir from one of those parts of the world where skulls of ancestors are preserved, complete vessels of porous ware for cooling from the middle east a china head of a doll (early Victorian), an 18th Century sword, part of a stone tablet with a Chinese inscription, African spear-heads, a Congo native knife, a lump of bronze from the bottom of a mould of modern type found far from any foundry, some stereo type printing plates at Dallinghoe (at least four miles from the nearest printing establishment), In a Suffolk wood was found - on the surface - a fossil cycad (a primitive plant) at least 150 miles from any place where it would occur naturally. In my opinion relics brought home by mariners, retired soldiers or other travellers abroad, were quite often thrown out when the old man passed away."

THE SIZE OF STACKS was queried by Mr. Dent in our June Bulletin. Mr. Malcolm Carter writes:

"I think the variation in the size and shape of stacks may be attributed to four causes:- climatic, economic, geological and architectural. Climatic - small stacks are safer from heating due to water content of the carbohydrates and are therefore more suited to cool wet districts. In dry districts much larger stacks can be built with impunity. Economic - the large farmer with large fields -and staff, will naturally think in terms of large stacks. Stacks frequently represent the whole cut from a single field, that they are closely related to creages.

Geological - difficulty of communication in wet weather will bring stock and fodder to a central point for the winter and some of the smaller fields may be stacked together. Architectural – until modern times most country buildings were thatched and the thatcher would roof stacks, barns and houses in much the same style, and it would seem natural to build them the same shape. When I was farming in East Sussex we always put a hipped roof on our stacks similar to the houses: in Essex both have sharp triangular gables. Similarly in the Hebrides, the little round stacks recall the ancient stone bothies. It would be interesting to know how far those four factors are of universal application, and whether there are others now that the stack of bales is taking the place of the haystack proper - this is well worth considering before it is too late".

THE THREE CUPS - with reference to the enquiry in the June Bulletin about the whereabouts of Cups Hotels, there is, according to the Classified Telephone Directory, an Inn of that name in Bramford Road, Ipswich. Hardly another part of the country but one which had not been noted before. But was salt ever made in Ipswich?

BRADWELL ON SEA - some dozen members enjoyed an outing here on July 21st when Mr. Malcolm Carter conducted them round St. Peter's Chapel and the site of Orthona. After tea in the village the party visited the house of Mr. Tom Driburgh M.P.

Mr. H. J. Edwards contributes the following on the Balcerne Gate:

AS OTHERS SEE US?

A party of schoolchildren from a distant part of Essex visited Colchester and in a subsequent essay one of them wrote:- "The Balcerne Gate is made of iron and surrounded by stones and woods." !!!

PART FOUR DECEMBER 1962

It is with sincere regret we announce the sudden death in October of Mr. A.H. Sheed, our Hon Treasurer. His friendly interest and enthusiastic rapport will be sadly missed,

At the annual General Meeting held on 15th October Miss S. Mansfield was elected Hon. Treasurer and all subscriptions should be sent to her at Clays, Churchfields, West Mersea.

This Bulletin includes an account of the excavation of a ring-ditch at Great Bromley, the description of a Samian bowl and an account of the 1962 session of Winter meetings; also some Notes and Comment, though these are not as numerous as they could be and we appeal once again to members to send us a note of even the smallest item of interest.

Our Summer programme is not yet finally settled except for the date of our annual "Spring Clean" of the Balcerne Gate which we hope to carry out on 6th May. We also plan another tour of the town to take in, the Abbey Gate, St. Botolph's Priory and other places of interest. No excavations are scheduled as yet but Members will be notified as and when those are arranged.

All enquiries may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Laver de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone: Laver de la Haye 274 (evenings.)

WINTER PROGRAMME 1963.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 14 th January | - Norman Colchester – Mr. L.H. Gant |
| 21 st " | - All Saints Parish, Colchester, and its Residents, 1760 - 1800.
Mr. J. Bensusan Butt, B.A., R.B.A. |
| 28 th " | - Historic L.C.C. Properties - Mr. Peter Pratt. |
| 4 th February | - Trade Signs (Illustrated) - Mr. H.J. Edwards. |
| 11 th " | - Old French Glass Mille Fiore Paper Weights and other Objects
- Mr. John Warrell. |
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| 25 th " | - Essex Church Woodwork - Mr. K.R. Mabbitt, F.S.A. |
| 4 th March | - Essex Authors – Mr. A.B. Doncaster, |
| 11 th " | - Antique Jewellery - Mr. Garth Cooper. |
| 18 th " | - ANIMAL - VEGETABLE - MINERAL ? |

Can you confound our team of experts ?

These meetings will be held at 7.30 p.m. at

ST. RUNWALL'S SCHOOL, OXFORD ROAD, COLCHESTER,
by kind permission of Mrs. Macauley

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Mr. Malcolm Carter writes:-

Spencer's suggestion, in the September Bulletin, that my Attic pottery fragment came from some local refuse tipped on the land is a very feasible one. Even more likely is the suggestion - Mr. Hull's I think - that it may have arrived in one of the barge loads of rubbish formerly used to lighten heavy land along the coast; a suggestion which may account for some of Mr. Spencer's curiosities. Nevertheless, if, as I supposed, the sherd came from a lower level than had ever been turned up by the plough before, a certain difficulty remains.

Mr. H.J. Edwards asks:-

As some members will be aware, I have an interest in trade signs and wherever possible I take a photograph of any example I come across. I should be very grateful if members would tell me of any sign they already know of or come across in other parts of the country. I shall then go prepared to add to my collection as and when opportunity arises. Particularly I want to find a Barber's pole with a dish hanging therefrom. Can any one oblige?

From the Bradford Group Bulletin - ROMAN FINGERPRINTS - Help required.

A most interesting suggestion has been put forward by Dr. J.W.L. Croft, "Littleholme", Barrow Green Road, Oxted, Surrey, who was formerly on the staff of Scotland Yard, and who thinks that something may be learnt from fingerprints left on their products by Roman potters and tile makers. He says:

"My personal and, later, professional interests were and are in criminal medicine and forensic science. In the course of such work I became familiar with the technique of fingerprints and their classification. Having seen deliberate imprints, and an inscribed name, on a piece of Roman tiling it occurred to me that it might be of interest to record and classify all such

fingerprints, much the same as police bureaux do all over the world. In this way not only would the commercial spread of makers of tiles be plotted, but various other associated problems could be elucidated should such information be centrally filed."

The Cartwright Hall Museum has no material of this nature. Can any of our members help?

A BRONZE AGE BARROW AT NEWHOUSE FARM, GREAT BROMLEY.
by F.H. Erith.

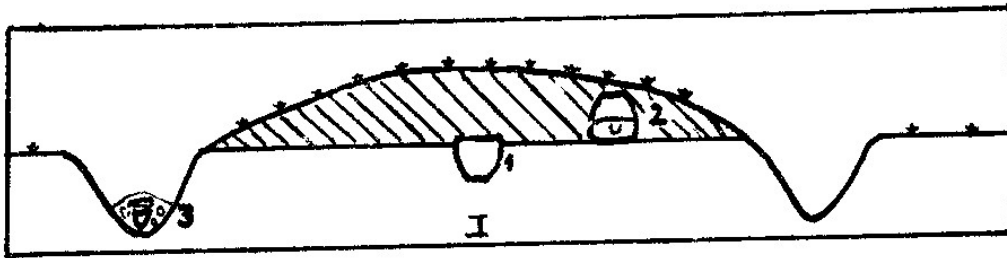
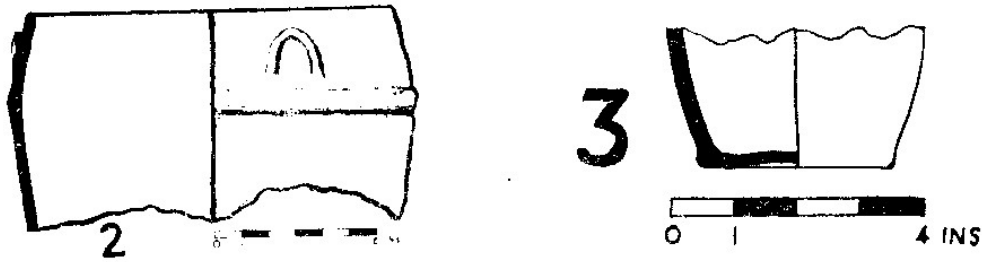
Last July, the Colchester Archaeological Group staged an exhibition of photographs of prehistoric cropmarks at the Tendring Hundred Show at Lawford.

Mr. George Kempster, who farms at Newhouse Farm, Great Bromley, after examining these photographs, informed me that he had a ring in his barley crop similar to those shown in the illustrations. A few days later I visited his site, which evidently was a very small ring-ditch, the diameter being only 24 feet.

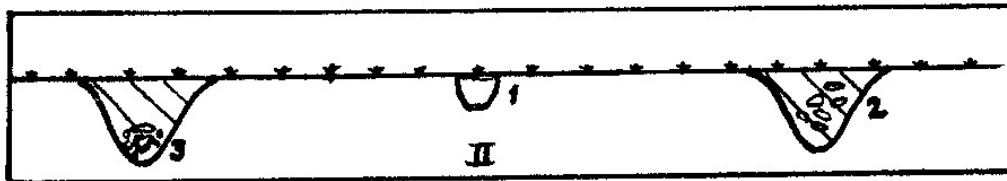
In all, five new ring-ditches were discovered in Great Bromley in 1962, besides four in Ardleigh, two in Lawford and several in Dedham. The decision to excavate this particular ring-ditch was taken because it was only a mile from Vinces Farm and was exceptionally small requiring little labour. It was also of great interest to find out if the culture at Great Bromley was the same as that at Ardleigh.

After the harvest the site was marked out on the quadrant method and excavated in the usual way, by cutting trenches alongside the baulks to locate the circular ditch. Hard gravel was encountered at 11 to 12 inches depth, except in the area of the circular ditch which consisted of pure stone-free soil to a depth of 2½ feet. The circular ditch was completely excavated. In the S.W. sector were found many sherds of a L.B.A. Urn, which, when put together, formed part of a pot some 15 inches in diameter at the shoulder rib. Between the rim and the shoulder was a small "horse-shoe" handle (Fig.2). Ware: pale brown, no grits. In the northern sector of the circular ditch was much ash and over-fired pottery of Iron Age and Roman periods. In the circular ditch due N.E. at a depth of 24 inches was a small Bronze Age Urn containing ashes and a few bones. The urn was roughly encircled with about a dozen smallish flints and capped with a piece of rag-stone (Fig.3). Ware: grey - brown, no grits. In the centre of the barrow, just below plough-depth was a patch of black ash and bone fragments, with two small abraded sherds of Bronze Age ware, red-brown and permeated with white grits.

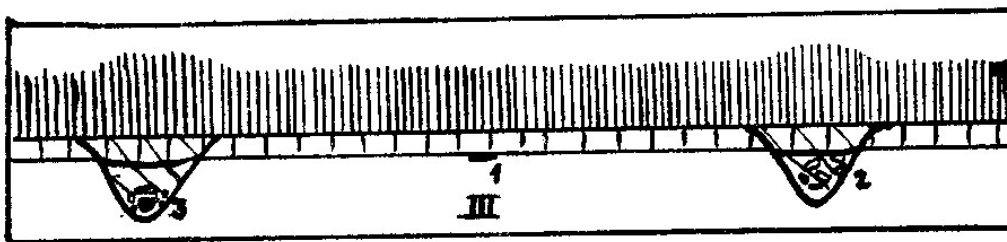
The primary Urn had been almost completely ploughed away. The red-brown ware with white grits is similar to two of the primary Urns found in the Ardleigh barrows. The secondary Urn, found in the ditch, had evidently been shovelled into the ditch when the barrow had been levelled in antiquity, and had once been in the elevated part of the barrow. The horse-shoe handle, too small for the size of the urn, suggests a decadent imitation of the Ardleigh horse-shoe handled urns, implying a date near the end of the Bronze Age (say 500 B.C.) The intrusive urn, found in its original position in the ditch, appears likewise to be of the Late Bronze Age. It resembles one of the accessory vessels found in Ardleigh Ring 3. The bones from the intrusive Urn (no. 3) were submitted to Mr. H.E. Spencer, of the Ipswich Museum. He declared them to be the remains of an infant aged about six months. Both ear bones are recognisable.



I. A DEATH HAS OCCURRED IN THE BRONZE AGE. THE BODY WAS CREMATED AND THE ASHES WERE PLACED WITH AN URN IN A PIT ONLY A FOOT DEEP. A CIRCULAR DITCH 24 FEET IN DIAMETER IS DUG ROUND THIS URN (1) AND THE AREA WITHIN THE CIRCLE IS MOUNDED UP TO MAKE A BARROW. LATER, A SECONDARY URN (2) IS PLACED IN THE MOUNDED PART. LATER STILL THE CREMATED REMAINS OF AN INFANT ARE PUT IN AN URN (3) IN THE BOTTOM OF THE DITCH.



II. AT SOME TIME IN ANTIQUITY THE BARROW WAS DELIBERATELY LEVELLED. THE SOIL FROM THE MOUND WAS SHOVELLED INTO THE CIRCULAR DITCH AND WITH IT WENT THE SECONDARY URN (2). THE INTRUSIVE URN (3), ALTHOUGH PROTECTED BY STONES, WAS CRUSHED IN THE PROCESS.



III. THE DROUGHT OF 1962 STUNTS THE BARLEY CROP EXCEPT WHERE IT WAS GROWING OVER THE CIRCULAR DITCH. EXCAVATION REVEALS A FEW ASHES AND POTTERY SHERDS IN THE CENTRE (1), AND MANY FRAGMENTS OF THE SECONDARY URN (2). THE INTRUSIVE BURIAL IS FOUND IN ITS ORIGINAL POSITION

A SAMIAN BOWL.

On our last Members' Finds night a Samian Bowl was produced by Dr. Penfold. Although it was discovered in 1892 (as graphically described below) it has never been published or examined critically. We therefore take the opportunity to mention it now.

Dr. Penfold describes the finding of the bowl as follows:

To the north of the Roman Wall in Cumberland there is wild moorland country. The most northerly and the most remote of the hamlets in this area is Bewcastle, bleak, lonely, but with an austere grandeur of its own. The Church is the centre of this scattered community and in the little churchyard stands one of the finest of the Celtic crosses, Bewcastle Cross.

One winter's day in 1892, near nightfall, my father, Henry Penfold, was at Bewcastle with his horse and trap. Watching the grave-diggers at work, he realised he must hurry to reach home at Brampton, twelve miles to the south, before darkness came, it being very dangerous to be lost in the fells at night. The grave was about three feet deep when my father noticed pieces of Samian ware were being thrown out on the spade. He collected what he could to be pieced together later, but in his hurry to Dave he failed to collect all the necessary portions that would have made a very fine complete Samian bowl.

Description of the Samian bowl.

The shape is the well known hemispherical Form 379 the colour being orange-red. Diameter 5.9 inches at the rim. Height 22 inches. The bowl is about 80% complete.

The ornament consists of an OVULO (O. and P. No.30) below which there is a single zone for decoration, divided up irregularly by vertical bead-rows. At two opposite places there is a triple bead-row. Between these two triple bead-rows various figure-types are shown in relief, arranged free-style in an apparently aimless manner. The arrangement is, however, exactly repeated on the other side. At the bottom of the bowl, just above the foot-ring, there are some faint scorings. These probably were the signature of the bowl-maker or the bowl-finisher.

The lack of clarity in the relief of most of the figure types suggests that the stamps were much worn, and that, therefore, the bowl was made at a somewhat late date. The haphazard arrangement of the figures suggests a decadence which implies a later rather than an earlier date than other evidence would support.

Most of the figure-types used on this bowl have also been found on signed bowls made by various Lezoux potters. The dates when some of these potters were working has been ascertained from archaeological evidence, as explained in "Central Gaulish Potters" by J.L.Stanfield and Grace Simpson.

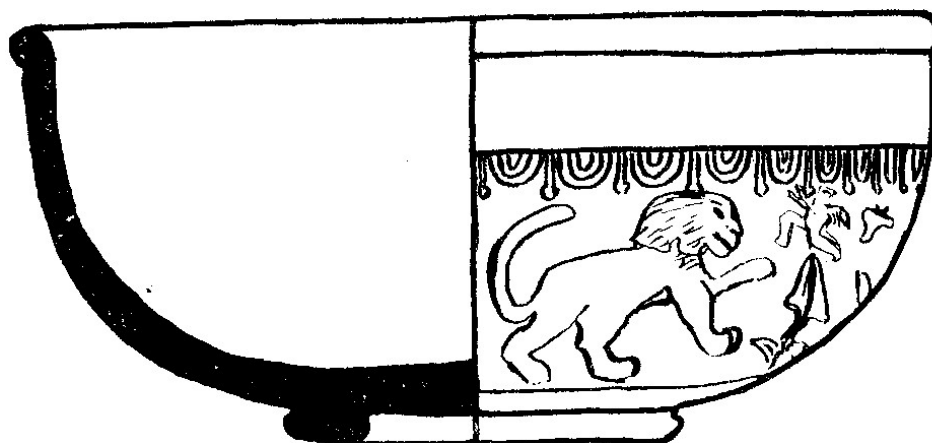
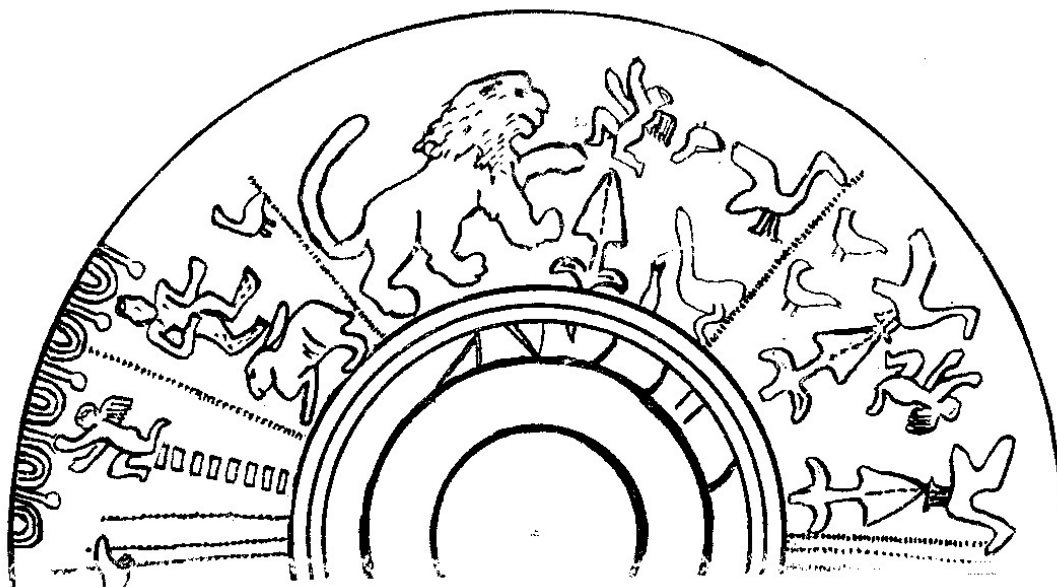
We give below a table of Lezoux potters who used the stamps which are found on this bowl, together with the Dechelette or Oswald reference numbers.

<u>Potter</u>	<u>Working Arum date A.D.</u>	<u>Lion</u>	<u>Hare</u>	<u>Pan</u>	<u>Cupid</u>	<u>Ibis</u>
		D.736 0.1378	D.95Oa 0.2118	D.424	D.255	
Cinnamus	150-190	x	x			
Hutrio	120-145	x				
Sacri	160-190	x	x			
Doeccus			x			x
Quintilianus	125-150		x			
Libertus	100-120			x		
G.I.Vibius	120-140					x
Drusus	125-150				x	
Laxtucissa	150-180			x		x

This list is not exhaustive, as other potters have used these stamps, especially that of the Hare; but no potter not mentioned here appears to have used more than one of these figure-types. Many early potters used the Ibis, but in their stamps the neck of the bird was crested. The lack of the crest in our case and that of G.I. Vibius suggests either a worn stamp or an inferior copy, and thus a late date.

The fern-like plant, perhaps an arum lily, (as suggested by Mr. Hull) is not portrayed either by Oswald or Dechelette. This was used by Laxtucissa (150-180) and Doeccus, whose date we do not know. We have not been able to trace any parallel to the triple bead-row and the thinness of all the bead-rows is unusual, but such markings are a feature of the Potter Drusus (125-150). Neither the Lion nor the Hare are much use to us in determining the date as the former was used by potters working from 120 to 190 A.D. and the latter from 125-190. The stylised column supporting the left-hand Cupid is more decadent than any similar effort of other Lezoux potters, the worst of which have a wider base and top and slanting divisions.

From the evidence presented we would suggest a date of about 150 A.D. for this bowl, but there seems to be no characteristic feature or group of features by which the name of the potter can be reliably inferred.



WINTER MEETINGS 1962.

The first of these was held on 15th October and began with the Annual General Meeting. Afterwards Mrs. K. de Brisay gave an interesting talk on duck decoys in Essex and this was followed by a light-hearted exposition on heraldry, amply illustrated by coloured drawings, by - Major A.D. Mansfield.

On 22nd October Mr. Arthur Brown addressed the Group on "The Economic History of Colchester, 1700 - 1900". He said the lost industries of the town - the woollen trade and shoemaking - posed unanswerable questions as to why they declined and eventually ceased when apparently all the amenities of supply, labour and transport by road and sea existed to ensure their success. The woollen industry dominated the first half of the 18th century in Colchester, but had almost ceased to exist by its close, and the number of weavers declined from 1500 in 1700 to 150 at the time of the Napoleonic War. The basic industry of agriculture sustained a growing population, with the addition of industries serving farming, and Essex was second only to Norfolk in agricultural progress, employing one man to every 25 acres. Trades were carried on in small units, the most important man in the community being the artisan, closely followed by the shoemaker. Shoemaking and tanning were carried out on a large scale in the town, but the trade suddenly declined after a very prosperous period during the 19th century. Mr. Brown traced the growth of shops and social life and added the professions of banking, insurance and law and the services which go to make up a balanced society. The brewing, malting and milling industries grew whilst cloth working declined, and agricultural engineering developed into general engineering, and the small units of production became factories, employing large numbers of workers. The tailoring industry, which began with Hyam, a local pawnbroker taking in bales of cloth and then making up the material to realise his outlay, has grown into one of the town's major industries, and forms a link with the historic past, when Colchester cloths were exported to Europe and was second to none.

The following week Mr. H.J. Edwards spoke on the subject of trade signs., this being an introduction to a later illustrated talk on the same subject. Trade signs had come down from antiquity and were recorded in the history of Egypt, Greece and Roman times, when they took the form of carved plaques and were fixed to doorways. The trade sign or symbol was easily recognised and almost every trade had its own sign in bygone times. In England in the 14th century it was a punishable offence for a trader not to exhibit his trade sign. The painting of signs was often crude, and in the 16th and 17th centuries the display of signs across the narrow streets from pent-houses and overhanging premises so darkened the streets that laws were passed forbidding this and providing for the Signs to be fixed to balconies and fronts of houses. The London signs of the 18th century were often works of art, and Hogarth painted at least one inn sign for "The Load of Mischief" which is still preserved. Mr. Edwards expounded the meaning of the barber's pole and the origin of the pawn-broker's sign and many more.

Mr. Malcolm Carter's talk on 5th November was on the Chapel of St. Peter-on-the-Wall and the Roman fort of Orthona at Bradwell-on-Sea. The site has a double interest, for the chapel and fort stand on either side of the Dark Ages, the one an early symbol of Christianity in Essex and the other the symbol of Roman authority and defence of the Saxon shore. Although excavated in 1864, comparatively little is known of the chapel site and the fort enclosure, a large part of which has been destroyed by the sea. The chapel appears to have been built across the wall of the fort, or possibly across the main gateway into the fort. The building consisted of a nave, with western porch, apsidal east end chapel, and smaller buildings on the north and south side of the nave which were used as sacristy and treasury. The original roof was probably timber framed and thatched but the style of architecture has a distinct Byzantine influence and links Britain with the near East. Built in the 7th century, the chapel has a meagre history, chiefly drawn from the Venerable Bede's ecclesiastical history, and its founder, St. Cedd, remained unhonoured for centuries, and the chapel fell into disuse in Tudor times and was subsequently used as a barn until modern times. The Roman fort of Orthona persisted as a settlement for a long time, but a record says that a great storm in 1099 destroyed the greater part of it, although St. Cedd's chapel remained firm on its Roman foundations. Mr. Carter displayed a fine scale model of the chapel which we much admired.

Members' Finds and Treasures night is always popular and that held on the 12th November was no exception. A fine Roman Samian bowl (the subject of an article on pages 123-5), a coin of Vespasian and a Belgic pot were presented by Dr. J. B. Penfold, also a wooden tuning pipe. Tudor pottery and ironwork found on the site of Taylor Court was shown by Mr. L.H. Gant and Mr. H. J. Edwards displayed mineral water bottles and a wooden opener and also a case of Roman pins. Exquisite embroidery and needlework were shown by Miss Edwards and Mrs. K. de Brisay, whose Chinese Mandarin's coat was of great interest. Mrs. Malcolm Carter chose a Victorian muff chain, delicately made of tiny beads, and other Victoriana was shown by Major A.D. Mansfield (mother of pearl work), Mrs. Mansfield (tobacco pipes) and Miss S. Mansfield (harness ornament and badge). Photostats of the marriage entry of John Constable and Mary Bicknell and photographs of David and Dora Livingstone were shown by Miss Mallett also printed forms of prayer for use in church in 1847. Mr. Malcolm Carter produced a note book of the late 18th century, beautifully illustrated with drawings of ordnance and military equipment, which belonged to a young Scot who became an officer in the French army and fought at Quebec. Of the same date was a silver Maria Theresa coin shown by the Chairman, Mr. Felix Erith, and gold sovereign and half-sovereign pieces were presented by Miss Erith. From much further afield came a piece of fossilised wood, shown by Mrs. Skoumal and found in Germany.

On 19th November the Group was fortunate in having as its guest speaker the well-known numismatist Mr. Colin Narbeth of Walton-on-Naze. Although the history of banking goes back to the times of the Babylonian and Egyptian empires, the first recorded banknotes date from about the year 650 A.D., and were issued in China. Mr. Narbeth dealt in detail with far eastern banknotes, which are his particular study. From his large collection he selected banknotes issued in emergencies, and described and displayed notes of the Spanish and American civil wars, the French Revolution, and notes of both World wars, and modern Chinese and Red China currency notes. The oldest exhibit was a large Chinese note dating from the 14th century, which depicted bags of gold and stated that it was current for ever.

The Englishman and his Food was the subject of Major A.D. Mansfield's talk on 26th November. He said that the basic foods had changed very little since the Middle Ages, when meat, game, fish and vegetables were recorded. The meat was not of good quality and the only methods of preservation were by pickling or dry salting and a narrow range of vegetables was available. The first mention of the spice trade occurs in Norman times, and this became a very important trade by Tudor times. In the 15th century the pepperers were granted the sole right of the use of the large beam scales for checking cargoes of spices. The apparatus was called the "pesso grosso" and from this the word "grocer" was probably derived.

Bread ranged from dark rye to white wheat, and fruits such as apples, plums and strawberries added variety to the basic foods. The observation of Saints' and Feast days provided opportunities for a fish diet, and manorial moats and monastic fish ponds were a feature of the Middle Ages. From the 14th century controls were exercised on the price and quality of meat and severe penalties were laid on transgressors. From the 16th century more records are found giving information relating to food and drink, and from this time the potato, introduced from America, figures in recipes and records. The speaker read many amusing recipes for curious dishes enjoyed by our forefathers, in which spices and herbs figured largely. The development of the large estates, the expansion of trade and commerce, and the improvements in agriculture all affected the English food, the fall in the relatively high price of sugar, making sweets and puddings popular, and the import of tea, coffee and cocoa completely altered the drinking habits of the 18th and 19th centuries. Major Mansfield dealt at some length with the food of the 19th century, which is his particular study, and said that the English habit of drinking tea after dinner is mentioned in the 18th century and was firmly established in the 19th century, which he described as a period of incredible energy and drive and industrial and commercial development. The progress of scientific knowledge is reflected in the preservation and marketing of food and the pioneers of food hygiene, though ridiculed and opposed, won through and established a high standard which is still being improved. It came as a surprise to his audience to learn that evaporated milk was known in 1847, canned meat in 1860, and cargoes of fresh meat carried in refrigerated ships in 1880.

There are many well known buildings in Colchester of historic and architectural interest which are familiar to both citizens and tourist, but a study of the complete architecture of the town reveals an amazing continuity of styles, and a surprising number of 'gems' which are not so well known, yet complete a pattern of sacred and secular building unrivalled in the county. To demonstrate this, Mr. L. E. Horlock, in a talk on 3rd December, projected a series of over one hundred coloured photographs to an appreciative audience. Grouping his illustrations into historical and architectural periods, Mr. Horlock covered a thousand years of architecture and clearly showed its close associations with history and social life. Of particular interest were pictures of the Dutch Quarter restored houses, and many west end residences which showed the European influence on the Victorian designs.

The value of aerial photography in archaeological surveys has long been established, but until now no complete examination and record of north east Essex has been attempted. On 10th December, Mr. Felix Erith presented the first collection of these aerial photographs to illustrate a talk on newly discovered local prehistoric sites. The collection represented the work and observation of many people, to whom Mr. Erith paid tribute, but the highest praise is due to the speaker himself for his field work on such prehistoric sites found by crop-marks on his farm at Ardleigh. The story of the excavation of late Bronze Age urnfields and burial mound sites at Ardleigh, where Roman and Iron Age settlements have also been found was fascinating, for many members had worked on one or more of the sites. The Speaker modestly described the observation of crop marks, marking, excavation and recovery of material and paid high tribute to the staff of the Colchester Museum for their help in hardening and rebuilding the many urns and vessels found. The county has not previously ranked high in prehistoric sites, but record of nearly one hundred "ring ditches" and other crop markings must elevate Essex, as the discovery of a new form of burial urn, classified as the "Ardleigh type" has done. It is hoped that a record of this composite survey will be published.