



# Colchester Archaeological Group

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## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 6 1963

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PART ONE MARCH 1963

This issue contains an article by Mr. F.H. Erith on the Rochford gold beads, another by Mr. B.J.N. Edwards, B.A., on Roman hairpins and a note by Mr. Malcolm Carter on St. Nicholas in Essex together with the usual notes and comment and an account of the winter meetings. The annual clean-up of the Balcerne Gate will take place on May 6th, at 6.30 p.m. and three outings are being arranged. The first will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> - meet at the War Memorial at 7.00 p.m. - when we plan to visit one or two of the fine houses on East Hill, St. Botolph's Priory, the Abbey Gateway and finish up at the Officers' Club for coffee. The second will be on July 15<sup>th</sup> to take in some of the outer ramparts and other features; and a third is planned for September 15<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon, when it is hoped to visit Wolverstone Hall and other places of interest nearby. Details of the two latter outings will be given in our next Bulletin.

We are exhibiting as usual at the Tendring Hundred Show on July 13<sup>th</sup> and hope members will visit the stand. We are planning a display to cover a wide field with objects lent by members to illustrate our activities during our first five years. We hope to give plans for some excavating in our next issue; but this is not expected to be until after the harvest.

All enquiries and contributions to the Hon. Secretary., Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone: - Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings)

THE ROCHFORD GOLD NECKLACE & THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IN ESSEX

by F. H. Erith.

Members who were present at our last meeting may remember the Gold-plated Shale Cones and Amber beads from Rochford, produced as an item in the "Quiz". These were eventually identified as the grave-goods from a "Wessex" barrow of the Middle Bronze Age (1500-1200 B.C.).

So far as we know these objects have never been illustrated and as they have received very little publicity and are not mentioned at all in such books as "An Archaeology of South East England" (by G. J. Copley), or listed among the more interesting items in the Colchester Museum, we hope that the following notes will be of interest.

The entry in the Accessions Book.

The Museum Report for 1914 describes the accession as follows:

"Fusiform Bead of Shale, covered with two thin gold plates meeting in the centre, ornamented by five groups of engraved parallel lines, encircling the bead and acting as a key to the plates.

Small bead of the same type with portions of engraved gold covering remaining

Four gold plates from two similar beads about the same size as the perfect example.

Bead of Amber, disc-shaped, imperfect. Small bead of similar type.

Found with a burial under an inverted urn, which was too much broken to be preserved, near Rochford, Essex. Bronze Age, between 1500 & 1100 B.C.  
Purchased."

"Three fragments of the Cinerary Urn inverted over the Burial with Gold Beads: of coarse gritty paste with red-brown exterior and grey-black interior. Found near Rochford, Essex. Bronze Age. Purchased."

The discovery was made by soldiers digging trenches in the First World War, and the seller, Q-M-S. J.J. Gurnett, who received £2. for the lot. But in the Accessions Book of the Museum the Amber was added in a note, as if it had been brought in at a slightly later date.

These objects were duly mounted in a small wooden box with a glass top and are now low down in a show-case in the Prehistoric Room of the Castle. Just above the wooden box are nine additional Amber Beads, and the caption suggests that they belong to the same find. There is no separate accession number for these extra beads, and it may be that Q-M-S Gurnett ordered a further search and these beads were brought along to the Museum later when the original objects had already been mounted. If these extra beads do belong to the original discovery then the Grave-goods consist of four Gold-plated Cone-shaped Shale Beads and eleven Amber Beads. See illustration on Page 3.

The booklet "Southend before the Norman Conquest" gives the additional information that the Cinerary Urn was found inverted over funerary ashes. It is a pity that the Urn is not described, but the four fragments on show are about three-eighths of an inch thick and show a curve suggesting a diameter of ten or twelve inches. The ware is permeated with white grits, the largest grits being about the size of a grain of wheat. One assumes that it was the usual Middle Bronze Age overhanging rim or collared urn type.

#### Wessex Parallels.

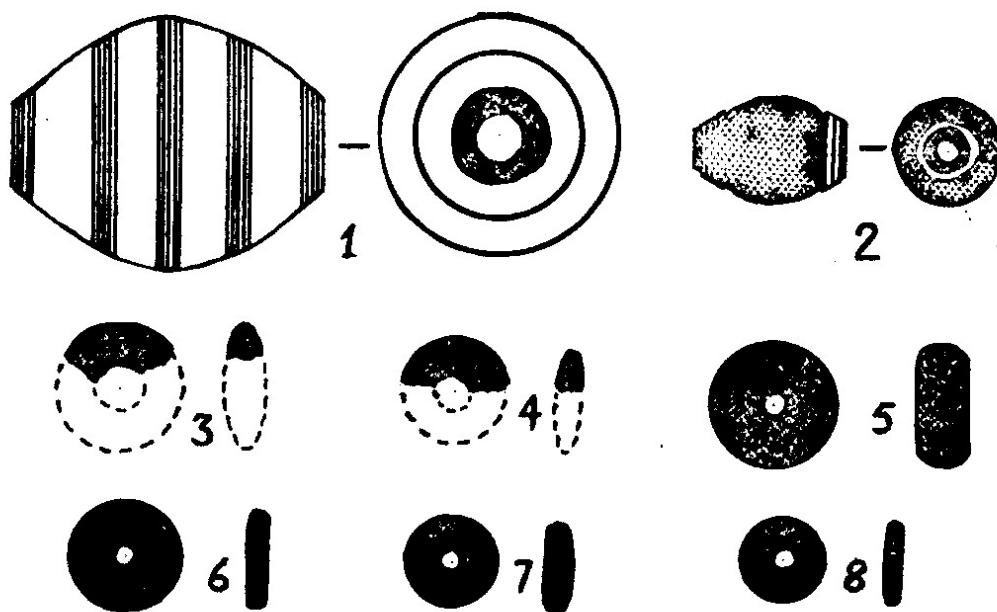
This association of Gold with Amber Beads and a Cinerary Urn is not unique, since it is a feature of the Wessex Culture. The definitive article on this subject was written in the "Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society" for 1938, entitled "The Early Bronze Age in Wessex" by Stuart Piggott.

Appendix VII of this article is a "Register of Grave-Groups of the Wessex Culture in the Wessex Area". Of the 99 Barrows listed, 48 contained Amber Beads, of which 9 also contained objects of gold; and of those 9, 5 contained gold cones similar to those at Rochford. These were at Piddletown, Dorset; Hengistbury Head, Hants; and at Normanton, Upton Lovell and Nanton, Wilts. The similarity of the Rochford beads to those from Wessex is such that they must belong to the same Culture.

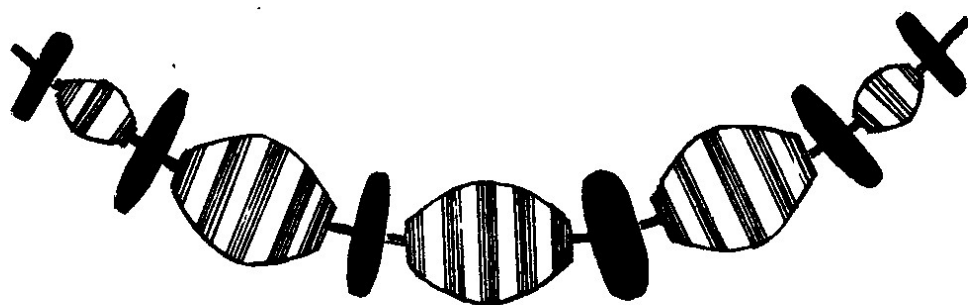
Professor Piggott also argued that the Wessex Culture must have had connections with Mycenae: "Gold-plated cones form a constant feature of Mycenaean grave-furniture, and that as regards Beads the most common form is the biconical ribbed type represented at Normanton and Manton, while the practice of capping a stone bead with gold (e.g. at Nanton and Rochford) is essentially Mycenaean."

#### Recent Discoveries of Bronze Age Barrows in Essex.

It is more than possible that the Rochford Urn was originally in a Barrow which has been levelled. The presence of ring-ditches (representing destroyed barrows) in Essex has recently been discovered from the air, and in the Colchester region alone, over sixty have been plotted by Lt. Cdr. Farrands and others. In particular the newly-discovered group at Dedham may well represent a barrow cemetery of the Middle Bronze Age. Three overhanging rim or collared urns have been found adjacent, two of which were from the ring-ditch excavated by Bryan Blake in 1959. The differential growth of corn in those ring-ditches during the summer of 1962 was very pronounced, the corn over the ring-ditches being more than a foot higher than the field. This suggests a very deep ditch, belonging to the Middle rather than the Late Bronze Age. A deep ditch also implies an efficiency and thoroughness, consistent perhaps with enacting the Ritual properly and supplying grave-goods with the burial!



1. Bead of Shale coated with two conical gold plates.  $\frac{2}{1}$
  2. Ditto, but most of the gold plate missing.  $\frac{2}{1}$
  3. and 4. Fragments of Amber beads (original accession)  
Actual size.
  5. - 8. Additional Amber Beads. Actual size.
- Below. An arrangement of the Necklace. Actual size.



### Middle Bronze Age Collared Urns in Essex.

There are three regions where collared Urns have been found in Essex:

1. Between the Thames and the Roach.
2. The Estuary of the Stour.
3. Alphamstone.

In Region 1 tripartite Urns have been found at Paglesham and Southend and are in the Southend Museum. Presumably the Rochford Urn was of this class.

In Region 2 are the three Dedham Urns and a bipartite Urn from Mistley. Many text-books refer to a cemetery at Manningtree, but this is incorrect; the cemetery is actually at Brantham on the Suffolk side of the Stour estuary, and the mistake was caused by Brantham having its postal address as "near Manningtree, Essex". Two of the Dedham Urns were found in the same ring-ditch and the tripartite one was secondary to the bipartite Primary. This upsets the accepted chronology.

Some half dozen Urns of the Alphamstone cemetery are in the Colchester Museum, a remarkable feature being the smallness of most of them.

### Conclusion.

Essex is remarkably well represented in finds of the Middle Bronze Age, as it is also with the late Bronze Age. The Prehistoric Collection in the Colchester Castle Museum is one of the finest in England. Little publicity has however been given to this, partly because many of the finds have been made too recently, and also because Colchester is too well known as a Roman town.

### NOTES AND COMMENT.

**ROMAN FINGERPRINTS:** - Mr. F.H. Erith writes: The Note published in our December Bulletin, quoting the suggestion put forward in the Bradford Bulletin by Dr. Crosfill, ought to arouse the interest of Samian pottery exports. Mr. B.J.N. Edwards has more than once pointed out to us the fingerprints found on Samian pottery, sometimes four or five on one bowl, and how the bowl must have been held; and in our Bulletin of March 1962 there is a description of a finger print on a Gallo-Belgic platter (Vol. V. No. 1. page 76) It is obvious that much could be learnt from a serious study of such fingerprints if enough could be found. For instance, if two bowls were found to have the same finger prints, and one of them was stamped with the potter's name, then it could be proved that the other was also made by the same potter. On the other hand if different fingerprints were found on two bowls signed by the same potter it would show that the potter was not a one-man firm. What Dr. Crosfill needs is a large collection to work on.

**THE BEWCASTLE BOWL.** Our December Bulletin included an article on this very interesting piece of Samian ware, the research for which was carried out by Mr. F. H. Erith. The immediate result of this was a letter to the Secretary from Professor Eric Birley asking to be put in touch with Dr. Penfold so that he could learn more about it. The upshot of this was that the bowl was carefully conveyed to Newcastle where the Professor is still studying it. Meanwhile he has written to Dr. Penfold as follows:

"It proves to be even more interesting than I had expected, as I have managed to decipher the traces of the mould-maker's signature as that of the little-known Lezoux potter Socundinus. That has started a chain-reaction, still in its early stages, and it is obviously going to take a little time before we can complete our investigation. But I can report already that it looks like proving as important a find as the other samian bowl from Bewcastle, which has been treasured in the little Post Office there for time out of mind, which gave the late J. A. Stanfield the initial clue for his study of the potter Casurius".

'We hope we will be able to give a further installment of this fascinating story at a later date.

Mr. H .J. Edwards writes:- When Mr. Doncaster spoke to the Group about Essex authors he mentioned "The Nursery" by Eden Philpotts which is set in Colchester and its neighbourhood. The book deals with the Oyster fishery - still with us - and a bulb growers business which has long since moved on but which was situated between Serpentine Walk and the River Colne. At the time of blooming the Gardens were open to the public on one Sunday. Two of the characters in the book were Emma Darcy and Billy Ambrose. These were based on two Colchester characters, Marmalade Emma and Grimes. These two were a familiar sight in the town in my schooldays, Emma generally hurrying along with a sack thrown over her shoulder (goodness knows what it contained!) and Grimes shuffling along a pace or two behind. Every now and then Emma would upbraid Grimes for his shortcomings and we boys delighted to add fuel to the fire with a few well chosen cat calls. Emma's remarks were expressive if not ladylike; but then Marmalade Emma was not ladylike for she smoked in public, a thing no lady did in those days, least of all a clay pipe as Emma did! Enma's origin and surname I never heard. Grimes we always understood, was a member of a family which had a building business in Colchester towards the end of the last century. Rumour also said that he had had a Grammar School education. Please excuse my reminiscing; as we read in Joel "Old men shall dream dreams"; all this happened fifty years or so ago and not many members of the Group are qualified by both age and residence to remember about Marmalade Emma and Grimes.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS:- Mr. A.B. Doncaster writes:- members may be interested to know that I can got for them aerial photographs of the county to a scale of 6" to the mile. Prints are about 9" x 9" and cover an area of approximately 12 miles square. I have a key marked out in squares and this can be seen at 37, North Hill (during working hours), The price to members is 4s. 0d. a print, postage extra. This is a special price for members of the Group, price to the general public is 6s. 0d.

ROMAN HAIRPINS .  
by B.J.N. Edwards, B.A.

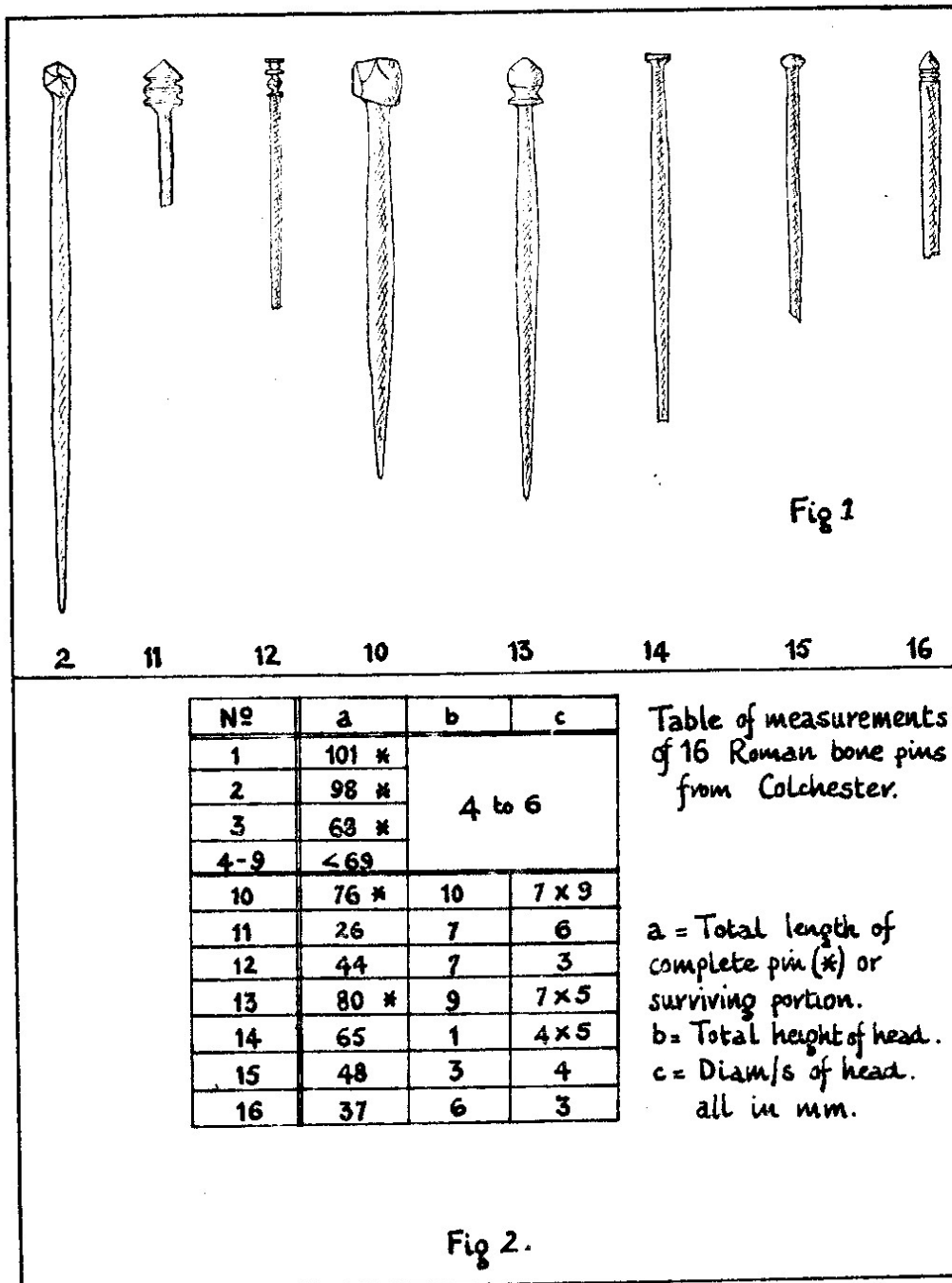
This is not an archaeological paper for a number of reasons, but merely an attempt to stimulate someone's interest sufficiently to persuade them to start on a minor but useful piece of research.

Many of the objects found in the excavation of a Roman site in this country are either the ancient representatives of objects still in use today, or had a special function now no longer required, but which is obvious from their nature. One small and frequent find, however, does not fall into either of these classes. Pins of a few inches in length are among the most regular finds of the careful excavator. They may be made of a number of materials - gold, silver, bronze, bone and jet are the best known. They may be plain or elaborate, roughly made or carefully finished, and are sometimes made of more than one of the materials mentioned above; e.g. - bone pins with jet heads. The characteristics they have in common are some form of head, which may be of the same diameter as the stem or much larger at one end, and a gentle taper to a fairly sharp point at the other. They are usually described in excavation reports as hair-pins and get themselves described in that much abused section of most reports "Miscellaneous Small Finds". Here they may be given a note of any stratification if the writer of the report is careful, and that is all the attention they normally receive, except that they make a useful small object in a museum display of everyday objects in Roman Britain.

Generally speaking, the one exception to the above remarks, to which any reader may know a particular honourable exception, is that the best and most elaborate of these pins are small works of art in themselves, particularly those in which the head is carved in the form of a human head or other carving in the round.

What I would like to suggest to any reader with a bent for careful recording and the use of a card index, is that there is no reason why fashions in these pins should not have changed gradually throughout the Roman period as did those of other small objects of personal adornment such as brooches, and as did indeed those of the hair styles of which they formed a part.

As a stimulus to this idea, from which it might be possible eventually to date these objects on their own without the use of associated material, are given in fig. 1 below, drawings of eight types of bone pin represented in one excavation in Colchester, and in fig. 2, below, a table of the measurements of the sixteen pins found on that occasion.



#### WINTER MEETINGS 1963.

At the first meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> the Speaker was Mr. Leonard Gant whose scholarly talk with its wealth of well marshalled detail was much enjoyed by all present. His subject was Norman Colchester and he traced the history of the Normans up to the invasion of England in 1066, and their conquest of this country, with particular reference to the history of Colchester. The building of the Castle, St. John's Abbey, St. Botolph's Priory, and many other buildings,

both secular and ecclesiastical were considered as well as the government and trade of the town.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of January the history and residents of All Saints parish during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the subject of an interesting and unusual address by Mr. John Bensusan-Butt. Mr. Butt built up a blackboard map of the parish, house by house, and gave a history of each, with its residents, many of whom were Town councillors or officials. Two noted aldermen, who, with successive Mayors, frequently figure in the Town records, were Mr. James Boggis, of The Minories, and Mr. King, miller, of Middle Mill. These two men gave much time and energy to the affairs of the Town and were very worthy citizens, Mr. Butt declared. Balliol College, the patrons of All Saints church, presented some outstanding rectors, and those of the period covered were no exceptions. Among the tradesmen were four members of the Hedge family, watch and clock makers, and, perhaps the most educated man of his day in the Town, Mr. Samuel Wegg, lived at East Hill House, where literary and musical gatherings were often held. The Boggis family was engaged in the bay making trade, and many associated craftsmen also lived in the parish, fullers, knappers, roughers and carders. Many respectable widows are also shown in the old Rate Books as residents, and more than one such lonely widow found comfort in a second marriage. Dr. S. Parr of the old Grammar School in Culver Street, the member of Parliament, Mr. Charles Gray, of the Holly Trees, and many others were vividly described by Mr. Butt, whose personal recollections of people and places in the parish were amusing and interesting. All Saints parish had many affluent residents, and the many fine houses standing today are a memorial of that time when life was more leisurely and more scholarly. A discussion of air photographs and Churchwardens accounts followed the talk.

Many of the historic properties owned by the London County Council are far from the City and others are on the outskirts, giving pleasing prospects of the distant City buildings. Mr. Peter Pratt, an architect to the L.C.C., gave an illustrated talk to the Group on some of those properties and monuments on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. He gave architectural descriptions of the York Gate, on the Victoria Embankment and a short account of excavations at Lesnes Abbey, but his main subjects were the restoration of Lauderdale House and the proposed restoration of a Deptford street, originally built between 1709 and 1715 and called Union Street. The architectural details of staircases, door hoods and brickwork gained new interest under Mr. Pratt's expert descriptions, and the restoration of Lauderdale House provided some excellent illustrations of Tudor brick and timber work. Kenwood House in Hampstead was illustrated, and the fine period House of Woolverstone Park, near Ipswich, was a surprising inclusion under L.C.C. properties. Decoration and furnishing in this place were shown and greatly admired. This historic house, like a number of others, is used as a school, and, as the speaker said, has to be lived with, rather than looked at by visitors. Following the talk, folios of photographs and published records were examined and discussed.

The meeting arranged for the 4<sup>th</sup> of February was cancelled - even our most stalwart supporters could not face the arctic conditions!

The following Monday Mr. Jack Warrell, the well-known Colchester business man and collector, spoke on old French glass mille fiore paper weights and other objects decorated in this medium. Choice examples from Mr. Warrell's notable collection were exhibited and examined with great interest. The initial idea appears to have come from Italy, but in the Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century three glass works in France became famous for the production of mille fiore paper weights, most of which were sold to tourists and visitors to Paris. Examples of the work of Baccarat, St. Louis and Clichy glass makers were shown, including paper weights, newel post heads, scent bottle and jug, and later British examples for comparison. The comparative scarcity of old French paper weights and the widening interest of collectors in them, has made the cost of collection excessive, and single examples have realised many hundreds of pounds, but when seen in proximity to later efforts, the beauty and excellence of workmanship of the old objects is apparent. The pair of newel post heads is unique, the globular head having wreaths of flowers inset in many layers.

The speaker on 18<sup>th</sup> of February was Mrs. Malcolm Carter on the subject of folklore. Mrs. Carter said man's basic needs were food and religion, and from the dawn of history his efforts



have been directed to secure his physical survival, with a deepening awareness of the physical and spiritual world around him, and his relation to it. Time is measured by cyclical or linear periods in nature - the cycle of day and night, the orbits of sun, moon and stars, or the beginning and end of seasons, and life itself. Man found his first expression of his beliefs in natural forms, and folklore grew up around everything he saw and used, by the passing down by word of mouth his experiences and beliefs. Folklore is, therefore, not only a thing concerning the past, but relates also to the present and the future. Man's dependence upon, and close association with nature was anciently expressed in many media, but chiefly by carved heads, from which stems, branches, loaves and flowers issued to encircle the head. The survival of a great number of foliate heads in minster and parish church suggests a universal understanding of the belief they represent. A rare example of a secular carving of a foliate head is preserved in the Colchester museum. The representation of "the wild man of the woods", or wodewose, was also described and illustrated by Mrs. Carter; who referred to a number of those figures in East Anglian churches. The full meaning of medieval symbolism is not known, but the study is both fascinating and full of surprising interest.

At one time nearly every tradesman displayed a sign outside his shop as a visual reminder and advertisement of the trade carried on within. Many of these have disappeared, but a few remain, and these were pictured by Mr. H.J. Edwards who addressed the Group on this subject on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The speaker has a unique collection of illustrations, covering the whole country, and countries in Europe, but the collection of old and now Colchester signs formed the basis of the evening's lecture. Mr. Edwards ranged over many trades and the excellence of his illustrations was matched by a carefully thought out sequence and commentary. Of the vanished signs of the town, perhaps the two most spectacular wore the "penny-farthing" bicycle which formerly hung on the fascia of a well-known cycle shop in Barrack Street, and the figure of a coachman, whip in hand, which caught the eye of all who passed along Magdalen Street. The large kettle which adorned the doorway of Joslins in the High Street is now restored to advertise a local cafe. Modern fascias employing trade signs did not pass un-noticed by Mr. Edwards, who projected some attractive examples of this type. Ipswich trade signs were also shown, and many from the city of Norwich, which has a wealth of them. Invariably these signs are hung on ornamental wrought iron brackets, and these are a study in themselves, the blacksmith's sign at Wakes Colne being a superb example of this work,

Addressing the Group on the 4<sup>th</sup> March Mr. A. B. Doncaster made mention of nearly a hundred authors who could pass as Essex folk, back from the living to the monastic chroniclers. Men of solid worth like Wells and Bennett, Morant and Defoe, Gilberd and Thomas Fuller were interspersed with some amusing eccentrics - Hickerlingill, the abusive rector of All Saints in the reign of William and Mary, and the Victorians, Hurnard of East Hill, who brewed better beer than verse, and Charles Clark, farmer and printer at Totham, who, disappointed in love, hailed every local birth of twins or triplets as disaster for the poor labourer whose bread and cheese they would have to share. Colchester has had some women authors too - Clara Reeve, the famous Taylors, and Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle, brought up in St. John's Abbey. Members listened enthralled and the talk was followed by many questions and animated discussion.

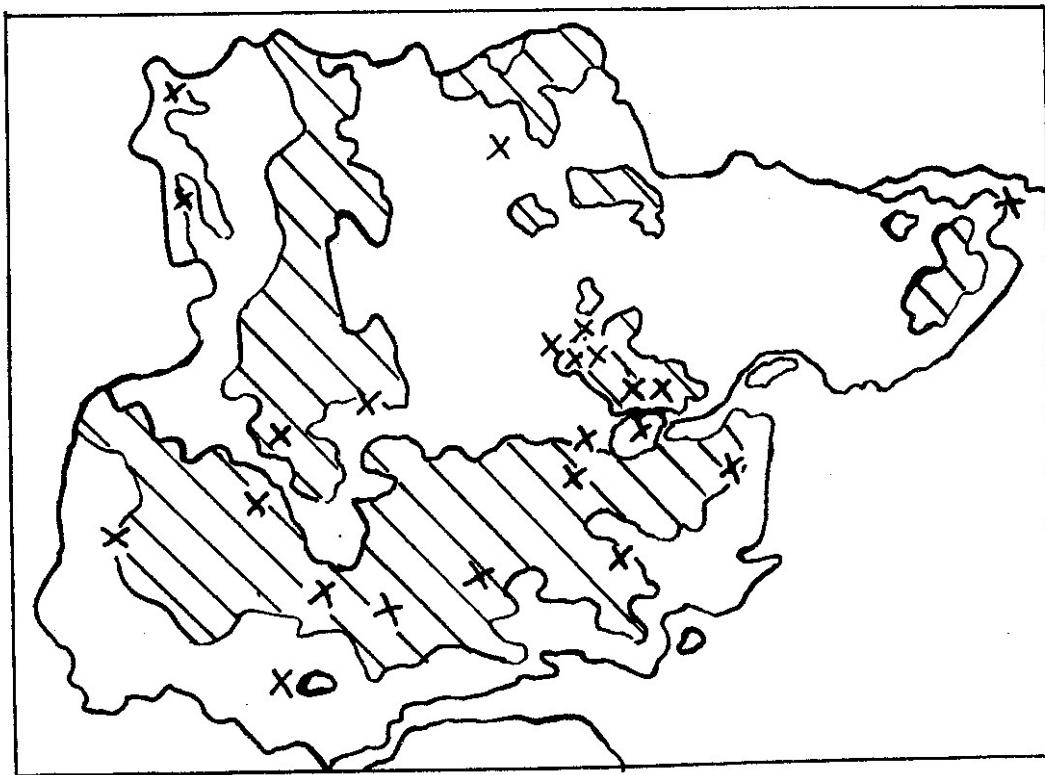
The fascination of antique jewellery held the members of the Group on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March when Mr. F.R. Cooper gave a talk and demonstration on the subject. Mr. Cooper's collection ranges from faience beads of ancient Egypt to Edwardian pieces of consummate skill and artistry. A Roman gold ring, found in Colchester and another in silver were much admired, as were all the exhibits. A group of Georgian pieces showed the goldsmith's art and the lapidary's skill in cutting, polishing and mounting precious stones. Cameos cut from shell and stone and exquisitely mounted were shown and described, and the culture of pearls was also shown, with natural pearls also for comparison. The old custom of giving mourning rings was mentioned by the speaker, who demonstrated many fine examples of these delicate rings. A gold ring of outstanding quality and appearance was a "Serjeant at Law" ring, found near Colchester, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A cluster of natural amethyst and a large nodule of amber were the largest exhibits, but the most valuable and interesting ring was a large emerald finely carved with the head of Seraphis, set in a heavy gold ring.

For the last meeting of the winter on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March a "Quiz" session was staged and much enjoyed by a large audience of members and their friends. Major A.D. Mansfield took the Chair with his usual aplomb and the Members of the panel were Mr. F.H. Erith, Mr. H.J. Edwards and Mr. L.H. Gant. Some twenty objects ranging from Bronze Age jewellery to Victoriana were submitted, and the panel acquitted themselves well, recognising many of the exhibits, which were lent by the Colchester Museum and by members. Perhaps the panel's greatest success came with the Roman antiquities, but a collection of fake Roman theatre passes completely baffled them and caused much amusement, as did also a bronze medieval bow string setting claw for crossbows. The thanks of the members to the panel and to Mrs. K. de Brisay, who arranged the session and to Mr. Bryan Blake for his assistance, were expressed by Major A.D. Mansfield.

ST. NICHOLAS IN ESSEX by Malcolm Carter.

On the map of Essex below I have marked the dedications of parish churches to St. Nicholas. I have also entered the areas of what the older generation off farmers calls 'three horse land' - London Clay and the heavier parts of the Boulder Clay. It may be supposed that the three seaports, Maldon, Colchester and Harwich, honoured Nicholas as patron saint of sailors. Apart from these it will be seen that nearly all his dedications are in clay parishes; the correspondence is so striking that it may be worth while considering a theory to account for it.

St. Nicholas is associated with the later stages of evangelisation in Europe. His popularity reached its zenith after the establishment of his cult at Bari in the 11th. century, and spread into the forested north-east of the continent into Germany and into Russia, where he became patron-saint of the country. He was given some of the attributes of pagan deities, and this helped to transfer loyalties from the old religion to the new. As the heavy clays were the most difficult to clear and break up and to drain, naturally the last remnants of paganism would be found on them, in the last expanses of dense forest.



PART TWO JUNE 1963

On pages 21 & 22 of this issue Mr. L.H. Gant gives an account of discoveries at the White Hart Inn site and on page 16 an article on 18<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper at No. 8 East Hill. We feel that these records of such changes in our Town are of great value and we are grateful to Mr. Gant for supplying them and hope that other members will let us know of similar occurrences however slight they may seem to be. On pages 17-20 Mr. J.P. Smallwood describes Roman sites west of Halstead and there are the usual Notes and Comments together with a description of the Group exhibition at the Tendring Hundred Show.

PLEASE NOTE this proposed Bronze Age excavation. A ring-ditch was discovered last year by Mr. F.H. Erith on land belonging to Martells Hall, Ardleigh. The crop-mark has surprisingly shown up this year, although there has been no lack of moisture in the soil. Indeed the markings are clearer this year than in last year's drought, for this year two patches are visible near the centre, besides the patch near the ring due east. As this ring-ditch is in a field in which gravel digging has recently been started, it is obvious that the site should be investigated fairly soon. Permission has been given for the Group to excavate after harvest both by the landlords and the tenant. Mr. Erith has marked the position of the ring by pieces of broken slate in the standing corn. MARKING OUT the site will be done on SUNDAY 15th. SEPTEMBER 2.30-3.30 pm, when all members will be welcome. Plans for the actual excavation will be made then, to follow immediately.

Enquiries to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Telephone Layer 274 (evenings).

18th. CENTURY WALLPAPER IN A COLCHESTER HOUSE.  
by Leonard H. Gant.

Although not mentioned in the Report of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, but included in the Supplementary List of historic and interesting houses, No. 8 East Hill, the home of Mr. Norman Warner, contains material re-used from a former building on the site.

Speed's map of Colchester (1610) shows houses to the east of Moor Lane (now called Priory Street), and it is certain that the present early 18<sup>th</sup>. century house followed other dwellings on that site. The house was formerly called Priory House, and is so styled in the Deeds of the property, which go back to 1713.

The present owner is tastefully restoring the proportions of the original rooms by removal of stud and plaster partitions erected at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> or beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and in stripping numerous layers of wallpaper., some notable 18<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper was revealed.

There are two designs, one pasted on the other, and the first firmly pasted to a smooth plaster, which originally was finished with a hard skin of a sealing material and painted pale green. Later distemper was of the familiar "Georgian Blue", and a piece of azure laid writing paper of this period was found used as a lining paper on a boarded section of the partition.

The earliest wallpaper is in terra cotta monochrome and shows an ornamental door head, brickwork, and a gothic window surrounded by elaborate moulding. Canopied by moulding, recesses with diaper pattern brickwork flank the window. The mid-18<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper is of the "grounded" type, having a uniform grey distemper background, with a geometric design block printed, 22 inches wide, in black and white. The design represents moulding, formed into polygons, rectangles and diamonds., with an intricate scroll work background. The diamond shapes are also filled with delicate scroll work, suggesting relief pargetting.

The dining room contains an early 19<sup>th</sup> century firebasket and mantelpiece, set in an earlier rounded fireplace. A similar fireplace, hidden by a modern brick wall has also been revealed, but, as the levels of the floors vary considerably, this appears high up on the south wall of the room. In the attic, sections of 17<sup>th</sup> century moulded wainscot are fitted to form a partition, and evidence of re-use of Tudor bricks suggest the earlier dwellings on the site. The staircase, moved from its original position from the ground floor to the first landing, is typical of the 18<sup>th</sup>

century, and has a nice carved motif on the rise ends. The ballusters are of square section and the hand rail is brought down in graceful curves.

A leaded light with the original quarries of glass lights a small room and cased beams adorn most rooms.

The cellars, which are extensive, were not examined, but the attics and the exposed roof timbers were interesting, for the roof is made of rough lengths of unplanned sapling, and the tie beam is 10 inches by 2 inches, roughly adzed. Oak battens hold the usual red tiles and the gulleys are leaded.

#### ROMAN SITES WEST OF HALSTEAD.

by J.P. Smallwood, M.A.

During the past few years a number of new Roman and Medieval sites have been located along the Colne valley in the area immediately to the West of Halstead. None of these sites is particularly important, or has yielded a substantial amount of evidence up to the present; however, taken as a whole, they do suggest an unusual amount of both Roman and Medieval activity occurring in an area of little more than a square mile, which of itself calls for explanation. The list of sites within the area involved is, to say the least of it, impressive.

SITE 1. In the summer of 1961, while a bungalow was being built to the North of the A604, foundation and drain trenches revealed several illegible bronze Roman coins, together with most of a grey, rimless dish of Colchester Form 39. Trial pits dug in the garden of the bungalow failed to produce evidence of Roman occupation levels but did produce a few sherds of pottery including the rim of a flanged dish Colchester Form 305. Such evidence as there is from this site would suggest a third or fourth century occupation.

SITE 2. Scatter of Roman pottery, brick and tile visible on surface of field after ploughing. Trial trenches dug in October 1959 at point indicated on plan on page 19. At one point vague traces of a Roman occupation level in the shape of a shallow pit were found. The material recovered from this trench included a fragment of a millstone, one unidentified piece of iron, probably furniture strapping, and a small fragment of a glass vessel of probable first century date. Amongst the sherds of pottery recovered was one fragment of a small bowl with a series of diagonal impressions made with a comb together with pieces of plain Samian ware. A first century date is probable for the pit while the material recovered from the field suggests an occupation range of something like A.D. 60-160. Unfortunately the subsoil of the field is of a light sandy gravel and it is unlikely that any structures or further occupation levels will have escaped destruction by the plough.

SITE 3. In 1960, drainage by the farmer of a piece of marshy ground revealed a substantial deposit of late thirteenth to fourteenth century pottery of a type produced in large quantities in kilns of that period found at Halstead, Gosfield and Sible Hedingham. There is no evidence in this case as to whether this new site should be regarded as domestic or industrial.

SITE 4. When a ditch running down to the brook was cleaned out in 1961 several sherds of Roman pottery were found. Amongst these was a fragment of a crude imitation of T.S. Form Drag. 38 (Colchester Form 316 B) This form is datable to the second half of the fourth century.

SITE 5. A grass field. During the summer of 1960 unusually dry conditions revealed traces of a crop-mark in the form of a streak of lush grass running in a North-East South-West alignment close to the assumed track of the Roman road from Braintree to Long Melford. It could conceivably indicate the presence of a road ditch. In the corner of the field close to the road junction, the rim of a dish Colchester Form 37, datable to between 70 and 150 A.D. was found. Finally, in 1961, a narrow strip was ploughed to grow kale for sheep. Here a scatter of sherds was found, some Roman, some Medieval, most difficult to identify.

SITE 6 and bank of River Colne. This site includes the area surrounding the former Domesday Manor of Hepworth Hall., which was as important as Stanstead Hall at the time of the Domesday Inquest. It is now a farmhouse. In 1911 the remains of a Roman vase were found somewhere to the North of the road leading up to the Hall, probably as a result of the opening of the sandpits. The neck of a flanged rim flagon of assumed late Roman date was found in 1921. Unfortunately neither vessel can be traced. More recently, dredging of the river has brought to light a number of flint scrapers of probable Bronze Age date, Roman-British pottery of all periods and Medieval pottery dating from the twelfth to-the fourteenth centuries. The quantity of Roman and Medieval material recovered from the area indicated on the plan (page 19) has been large and indicates heavy occupation in both periods. Furthermore what appears to be a rectangular building of modest dimensions lies buried close to the river to the South-West of Hepworth Hall. No attempt has been made to excavate this feature as yet, but its position on the edge flood plain of the river makes it possible that it may mark the site of one of the two mills mentioned in Domesday as belonging to the Manor of Hepworth Hall.

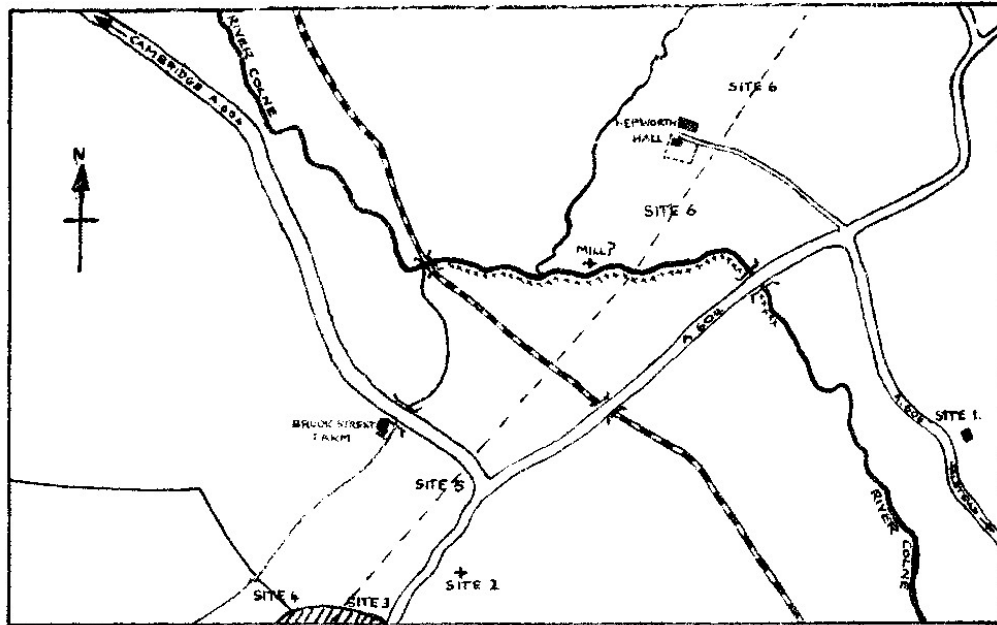
A series of trenches have, however, been dug in the meadow in an effort to determine the extent and nature of the settlement. The results have been disappointing. The soil is light and sandy and it seems from the way in which much of the evidence has been disturbed that the field was under the plough for a long period in its history. Everywhere Roman, Medieval and later fragments of tile and pottery are found churned up as a result of cultivation. In no place has more than a thin layer of Roman material been found undisturbed. The finds have, however, been extensive. Much Roman pottery date from the late first century to the end of the occupation. One trench produced a fragment of jet stamped with concentric impressions. Another produced three coins, one a small, heavily-corroded late fourth century bronze issue, the other two barbarous radiates. There is clearly much more to be learnt from this site.

So Much Roman material from so small an area clearly demands an explanation. A clue may be found in the fact that somewhere within it two important Roman roads must have crossed. Unfortunately, since no trace of either road has been located in any trench dug in the area, it is still necessary to guess as to the course these roads took. Acquaintance with the geography of the area suggests at once the probable course of the North-South road from Braintree to Long Melford. In order to avoid long traverses over marshy ground it must have kept directly clear of the brooks which run more or less directly along its shortest possible course. On both sides of the valley it must have taken advantage of higher and dryer ground. This means we must look for the road either to the East or to the West of the tributaries of the River Colne. The area to the West of these tributaries has produced no Roman material. That to the East has yielded much. It is virtually certain, therefore, that the North South road ran very close to the course predicted for it on the plan. (page 13)

The problem of the East-West road, the so-called Via Devana, is rather more difficult. Here the problem is to decide how far up the valley the road ran. The matter was discussed at length in Jack Lindsay's book 'The Discovery of Britain'. At the moment it is impossible to add anything to the views expressed there. The possibility of other roads meeting in the area must not, however, be ignored. A branch road from the Via Devana to Great Chesterford is not out of the question, nor is one through the recently discovered site near Pebmarsh to join the road running North from Colchester near Copdock.

It seems at least possible, therefore, that the area formed an important centre of communication. The settlements, as far as they can be judged at the moment, seem to be of native type. There are no signs of buildings of substantial construction such as exist on nearby villa sites. Nor at the moment is there any real clue to the economic significance of those settlements. As yet no signs of industrial activity have been detected. However, since the amount of excavation undertaken has been so limited, it is not unreasonable to expect that further work may yield the information necessary to make interpretation possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the farmers, Mr. Letham of Sloe Farm, and Mr. Anderson of Hepworth Hall, who kindly allowed me to conduct investigations; also to Mr. J. Lindsay and to Mr. Hull for their kind help and advice and to all those who have assisted in excavation.



Plan showing distribution of sites

#### KEY

Part of river producing heaviest concentration of finds during dredging. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Assumed line of North-South Roman road -----

#### NOTES AND COMMENT.

ANIMAL IMPRINTS IN ROMAN TILE. - Mr. L. H. Gant writes:- Following up a recent appeal in the Bulletin for specimens of human finger prints in Roman material, a piece of Roman building the bearing what was thought to be human finger prints was submitted to Dr. J.W.L. Crostill, who formerly worked in the forensic laboratories of Scotland Yard, and he very kindly made a positive cast in rubber of one set of prints. Those turned out to be of a large dog (Dr. Crostill says "the possibility of a wolf cannot be dismissed") and the rubber cast clearly shows two parts of the foot.

THE BALKERNE GATE - in our Bulletin Volume V, No. 2, various suggestions were made for the improvement of the surroundings of the Balcerne Gate and we are very pleased to note that the reservoir has now been filled in. Some members followed the work from day to day and several sherds of Roman pottery were found during the removal of the bank. When a drainage trench was dug just before completion a very dense concentration of oyster shell was seen in one place extending for two - three yards. We look forward to further developments.

WOLVERSTONE PARK - 15<sup>th</sup> September. In view of the excavation of the bronze Age ring-ditch now arranged for this date the outing planned to visit Wolverstone Park and other places of interest in the vicinity has had to be postponed and will now probably take place in October. Details will be given in our next Bulletin.

Winter Meetings. These will begin on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October with the Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk, and thereafter weekly up to and including the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. After Christmas meetings will begin again on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January up to and including the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1964. The programme is under preparation and will be published in our next Bulletin. As before, we shall meet at St. Runwald's School, Oxford Road, Colchester at 7.30 p.m.

THE WHITE HART INN, COLCHESTER  
by Leonard H. Gant.

James Boswell, in his "Life of Johnson" recorded under the date August 5<sup>th</sup> 1763 "at supper this night he talked of Good Feeding with uncommon satisfaction". This relates to no less a personality than the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson, and the occasion was his stay at the White Hart Inn, High Street, Colchester.

When it was learned that the site of this old coaching inn, which stood facing the High Street, and extended to Culver Street and beyond, was to be cleared for the erection of a modern outfitting shop and offices, hopes ran high for the discovery of clay tobacco pipes and other material. Part of the site of the old inn was cleared for the erection of Barclays Bank in the 1930's, when a general collection of pottery was found.

Modern mechanised excavation, however, gave little opportunity for detailed examination of the site and one had to rely upon co-operative workmen for the recovery of such material as was seen. With the incessant demands of a huge iron bucket, signalled by an electric bell, there was little time for careful excavation of the very few shards found, for the work was undertaken on a "bonus scheme" and the men were working against the clock.

A few sherds of Roman pottery and medieval glazed ware were found and a few clay tobacco pipes, ranging from 1600 to 1800. Among the former were pipes bearing twelve different stamps on the feet, including a "Gauntlett" pipe with the West Country line, leaning well forward from the stem. All these early pipes (Oswald type 4a - A.N.L., Vol. 7, No. 3, 1961) were found in a small pit, sealed by an old brick wall, and date from 1600 - 1640. Some were almost complete, but as there are no local records of pipe makers in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, one cannot claim that local makers are represented in the many different marks, which include a capital "P", "A.S." (parallel found at Battersea, London) (A.N.L. Vol. 7, No.8, 1962 page 183 - "Makers' Marks on Clay Tobacco Pipes found in London" by D.R. Atkinson), and many more, which wide enquiry has failed to identify, the marks apparently being the first recorded. It is interesting to note that the Gauntlett pipe bears the stamp of a gauntlett without the usual surrounding shield, but, as Laurence S. Harley says in his treatise on "The Clay Tobacco-pipe in Britain" - Essex Field Club Special Memoirs, Vol. VIII (1963), the "Gauntlett" pipe was very popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and many thousands were then made by three generations of the family. Atkinson asserts that many of the "Gauntlett" marks are not genuine, and he himself has identified some 22 types!

A number of "churchwarden" pipes of the 18<sup>th</sup> century were found, and one bearing the stamp of Stephen Chamberlain, who worked in Colchester during the latter half of that century, and two bore the initials "L.A.", whose kiln was situated in Maidenburgh Street, on the site of the Tesco Stores.

The natural soil is compacted sand, which was found at a depth of 11 feet. The one useful section revealed by spade trimming showed black filling to a depth of 10 feet, with a narrow strata of Roman tile and carbon overlying a 6 inch vein of gravel.

Through those layers, and penetrating 4 foot into the natural sand, was a massive wall, running east -west, built of septaria, Roman building tile, cobbles and shells, 24 inches thick, and built without splay or foundation on the "natural". The wall ran for some 20 feet, and the material was not coursed. The abutting wall., itself of no recent date, had preserved the south face of this ancient wall. The material was bonded by a sandy mortar, and, unfortunately, every vestige was removed.

OUTINGS.

The first of these was on the 17<sup>th</sup>, of June. Meeting at the War Memorial members visited historic buildings in the town under the guidance of Mr. John Bensusan-Butt, Mr. Leonard Gant and Major A. D. Mansfield. The party proceeded along High Street to Greyfriars and East Hill House, both of which houses, having notable architectural features, were visited. The latter was the residence of Mr. Samuel Wegg, a notable Colchester attorney and

philanthropist. The salon or music room ceiling, wainscote, fireplace and mantelpiece were much admired, and the staircase, rising in graceful curves from a paved hall, is a gem of its period. Greyfriars too, has a number of impressive door frames, windows and fireplaces, and the north facing windows command fine views of the Park and the High Woods beyond. Passing along Priory Street, where many small houses are being demolished, Mr. Gant described the Town wall and bastions and St. Botolph's Priory. The next visit was to the Lucas Chapel in St. Giles Church on the wall of which is the black marble slab commemorating Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle who were shot by order of Sir Thomas Fairfax on the 28th. August 1648 and we were reminded of the story how Charles II ordered the inscription to be cut deeper. Finally to St. John's Abbey gateway under the guidance of Major A.D. Mansfield where a short climb up a winding stair lead to the roof and a most impressive view of the Town. The party was then entertained to coffee in the Officers' Club, where the Chairman, Mr. Felix Erith, expressed thanks to the organisers and guides for a met enjoyable and interesting evening.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of July some of the ancient earthworks were visited under the direction of Mr. H. J. Edwards. The party travelled by private cars to various vantage points where W. Edwards gave short addresses on the features. Commencing Bakers Lane, Braiswick, the party examined the Lexden ramparts, visiting Moat Farm and Glen Avenue. A short diversion to inspect an earthwork at the Lexden end of the by-pass road, and the group viewed the Lexden Park ramparts and the triple dykes on the Lexden Straight Road, which Mr. Edwards said were unique in Britain, and were now thought to be connected with the first Roman camp in the area, dating from the first century. Grimes Dyke was the last earthwork to be described and visited, and the party made stops at Dugard Avenue, Stanway Hall Dairy and at Brickwall Farm where short descriptions and inspections were made. Although only a comparatively small part of this complex system could be covered in the time, members were much impressed by the magnitude of it and expressed their thanks to Mr. Edwards for his guidance.

#### TENDRING HUNDRED FARMERS' CLUB ANNUAL SHOW. 13<sup>th</sup> JULY.

Once again the Group was invited to exhibit at this Show. This year the stand displayed a variety of items each of which is the property of a member of the Group and loaned for the occasion to show the wide extent of our activities and to mark the first five years of our existence. Along a screen at the back were ranged a series of explanatory drawings by Major A.D. Mansfield, incorporating the exhibit and showing how it might have been used. A string lead from the picture to the object itself and we give a list of these below.

A piece of limestone containing fossils of the tertiary era. Found in a river bed near Kirkdale in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

A fossil oyster found in a disused gravel pit at Sibyl Hedingham,

The primary Bronze Age- burial Urn from Ardleigh Ring Three.

Iron Age 'C' grave group; one of three found at Vines Farm, Ardleigh, 1.1.1960.

Part of a briquetage vessel, fire-bars, wedges, pedestals etc. from a Red Hill.

A piece of Roman building tile showing the imprint of a dog's paw, Colchester.

A Roman brooch of silver with a red stone at the centre and the pin intact.

A folded beaker (3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century) and a Hunt cup (2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century) both found intact in a garden in Colchester.

A Roman lamp of earthenware. Found in Colchester.

Four examples of Samian ware potters' stamps. Excavated in Colchester.

Twelve Roman coins ranging from Trajan to Constantius II. These were excavated with several others from the same site in Colchester as the tile and Hunt cup and the folded beaker.

Two Tudor Bird calls. One was found in spoil from a workman's trench in Colchester and the other in a box of "Junk".

A pewter chamber-pot with the owner's name "John May" engraved on the side and the maker's initials "T.M" stamped on the base. Late 17<sup>th</sup>, or early 18<sup>th</sup>, century. Dredged from the River Colne at Colchester,

A flintlock holster pistol by Knubley of London. (1750--1799) Proof and view marks - Birmingham.



A cannon barrelled flintlock overcoat pocket pistol by Robt. Harvey of London (1690-1725).  
Proof and view marks – London.

A gargoyle. Believed to have come from St. Runwald's Church., Middle Row, Colchester.  
Found in a garden in Bray Road, Colchester.

Wagon plates and licensed carrier's plate of John Ballin of Chigwell,

A Bellarmine jar. Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621) was a theologian who wrote against the  
protestants. The Netherland Protestants made stoneware jars with a caricature of the  
Cardinal on the neck. The custom spread to England. This was a late example,  
probably 18<sup>th</sup>. century and was found in a farmhouse on the Suffolk-Norfolk border.

A Victorian stereoscope.

A Victorian musical box.

Many of the exhibits described above have been the subjects of articles in past numbers of  
the Bulletin and Copies of these are still available and may be obtained from the Secretary,  
price 1/-, postage 3d. Failing this the Secretary will be pleased to put anyone who is  
interested in touch with the owner of any particular object.

### PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1963

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1963 at 730 p.m. in  
St. Runwald's School, Oxford Road, Colchester. This will be followed by three short talks and  
will mark the beginning of our winter programme,

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The annual subscription falls due on the 1st October and members are  
asked to send 10/- to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss S. Mansfield, Clays, Churchfields, West  
Mersea. Reminders will be sent to those from whom this has not been received with our  
December Bulletin - after this the membership will be considered to have lapsed.

In this issue there is an article by Mrs. Mansfield on women pipe-smokers, a report on an  
important crop mark at Langham by Mr. F.H. Erith, a description of Monkwick Farmhouse at  
Berechurch by Mr. L.H. Gant and an appreciation of Mr. Hull's book on the Colchester Kilns,  
Details of the winter programme are given overleaf.

May we appeal again for more 'Notes and Comment'? Many members must come across  
small items which may not seem important at the time but the recording of these may prove  
invaluable at some later date. Please send these together with other contributions and  
enquiries to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Laver de la Haye,  
Colchester. Telephone - Laver de la Haye 274 (evenings).

### WINTER PROGRAMME 1963-4

14 <sup>th</sup>	October	- Annual General Meeting - followed by three short talks by MR. Carter, Mr. Edwards and Major Mansfield.
21 <sup>st</sup>	"	- The Excavations at Sutton H Mrs. Clarke (illustrated).
28 <sup>th</sup>	"	- The Archaeology of a Condemned Cottage - Mr. Malcolm Carter.
4 <sup>th</sup>	November	- Colchester Carpenters - Mr. John Bensusan Butt, B.A., R.B.A. ,
11 <sup>th</sup>	"	- Old Colchester - Mr. Bernard Mason, O.B.E. (illustrated).
18 <sup>th</sup>	"	- Members' Finds and Treasures,
25 <sup>th</sup>	"	- Essex Dialect - Mr. Harvey Benham.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	December	- Archaeology and the Amateur - Mr. David Clarke, M.A., F.S.A.
9 <sup>th</sup>	"	- A Hundred Years of Skirts - Major A.D. Mansfield, R.A., F.R.G.S.
16 <sup>th</sup>	"	- FILM SHOW & SOCIAL - Tickets 2/6 from members of the Committee.
13 <sup>th</sup>	January	- The Compostella Pilgrimage - Mrs. Glaister (illustrated).
20 <sup>th</sup>	"	- The Valley of the Stour - Mr. A.E. Horlock (illustrated),
27 <sup>th</sup>	"	- The Road to the Isles . Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C. (illustrated).
3 <sup>rd</sup>	February	- Roman Gestingthorpe - Mr. H.P. Cooper (illustrated).
10 <sup>th</sup>	"	- Samian Ware - Mr. F.H. Erith.
17 <sup>th</sup>	"	- Essex Church Woodwork - Mr. K.R. Mabbitt, F.S.A.
24 <sup>th</sup>	"	- The Arts of the Japanese Sword - Mr. R.J. Bradley.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	March	- Historical Musical Instruments - Canon Boston, M.A., F.S.A., R.D.
9 <sup>th</sup>	"	- The Coming of Iron to Europe - Dr. John Alexander, M.A.
16 <sup>th</sup>	"	- ANIMAL – VEGETABLE – MINERAL?

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

MONKWICK FARMHOUSE, BERECHURCH  
by Leonard H. Gant.

The demolition of Monkwick farmhouse, Berechurch, will remove an interesting link with the past, and a house of considerable charm and antiquity.

The farm, as the name implied, supplied the wants of the monks of St. John's Abbey, Colchester, and the manor of which it formed part, was granted to the Abbey by its founder, Eudo Dapifer, in the year 1100.

At the Dissolution of the monasteries, the manor was granted to John Stepnie, of Stratford, with reversion to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick and later Duke of Northumberland, who gave it to Sir Francis Jobson, tutor to his children, and to whom he was greatly indebted.

Of the early buildings on the site nothing is known, but tradition has it that there was a "watch tower" on the island in the fish pond, which was filled in some years ago. Sir Francis Jobson probably built, or re-built the house and resided there in the time of Queen Elizabeth I. He was the son of a wealthy merchant, whose family gave much public service to the town in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Sir Francis Jobson was educated to the Law by the monks of St. John's Abbey, and already a man of considerable means on his appointment to the household of John Dudley. About the year 1540 he married Elizabeth Plantaganet, third daughter and co-heir to Arthur, Viscount Lisle, the natural son of King Edward IV and Jane Shore, and thenceforth quartered the Arms of Plantaganet with his own.

The mansion suffered greatly during the Civil War of 1648 and, like nearby Berechurch Hall, was reduced to the status of a farmhouse. The moat which formerly gave the place much of its charm, was filled in and the stream which fed it has been led into underground piping, thus destroying the brook mentioned in ancient perambulations of the Borough.

Although the house was designated a "farmhouse", it was occupied by many notable people in the three centuries since the Civil War, and the lords of the manor have included members of the families of Barker, Ward and Tomlinson. The tenant farmers too, have been men of sterling worth and included Rams, Tettrells and Sages, whose memorials can be seen in more than one Colchester church.

The house was timber framed and the rooms were of ample proportions. During demolition, 17th century panelling was found in the bedroom at the head of the stairs, on the south side. The finely carved overmantel in the drawing room, noted in the Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, was removed, and is to be preserved. This probably dated from about 1650 when the house was re-built. The 18<sup>th</sup> century flock wallpaper found here has been noted in the Bulletin for June 1963. An Elizabethan gold coin, found when the fish pond was drained in 1920 passed into private hands, and nothing is now known of it.

I cannot resist recording the words of an old gentleman, who worked at Monkwick seventy years ago. After telling me that a monk lived in the tower on the island, he affirmed that a series of iron rings set in the roof timbers of the attic were used to "tie the monks up to". Public memory is long, but I doubt if there is any truth in the rustication of erring monks who were secured to these rings and did penance!

A CROPMARK OF AN "AGGRANDISED" BARROW AT LANGHAM  
by F.H. Erith.

I am obliged to Mr. Leonard Gant for bringing this to my notice; he writes: "Our Press Photographer, Laurie Honeyball, saw this crop marking in a field at Langham last week, and, knowing our interest in them, shot an exposure for me".

The site was in a field of barley east of Langham Valley House and. the following day, August 9<sup>th</sup>, having contacted the farmer, Mr. Halsall, Mr. Frank Girling and I inspected mark in the standing corn.

The soil was extremely light and the barley crop was little more than a foot high, but the corn showing as a cropmark was nearly two feet high. The cropmark was in the form of two concentric circles, the smaller one being 25 paces in diameter, and the larger one 35 paces, so that the distance between the two circles was 5 paces. The thickness of the two circumferences was about 3 feet. 75 yards to the west there was another single circle, about 25 yards in diameter, but not so pronounced. Mr. Halsall said he remembers that there was another double concentric circle in the adjoining field to the east, but as this was cropped with potatoes, it cannot be checked until next year when the crop will probably be wheat.

Another photograph was taken from the air a few days later, but from much higher up. The photographer, Mr. Tony Clover, of Dedham, said there were several other rings in another part of the same field; but at the time of writing (13.9.63) the photographs had not been developed.

This is the third double concentric circle to be discovered in Essex in the last few years, the other two being at East Tilbury on the Thames estuary, and at Jaywick, near Clacton.

The East Tilbury site was observed in 1959 and was "explored" by the Thurrock Historical Society "and found to be the remains of a Bronze Age Barrow. In the centre the interment was found in a beaker-shaped urn deposited inverted, and entirely surrounded by small stones, forming a small cairn" (Souvenir of the Centenary of the Colchester and Essex Museum, 1960). We understand the excavation in this case consisted of a short trench at the centre.

The Jaywick site consists of two adjoining fields of clover at Cross House Farm, where cropmarkings showed six or seven ring ditches (one of them being double-concentric) and a "square-ditch".

OTHER SITES

In "A Matter of Time" issued by the R.C.H.M. in 1960, on page 16 there is a summary of all the then-known "multiple circles" excavated. "The multiple circles so far excavated" it states "have been of varying dates in the Beaker period and the Bronze Age..... It seems probable that they are either the remains of barrows used in two periods with an additional mound and ditch added around the original one, or barrows with a slight inner burial enclosure".

From the references cited which could be checked in the Holly Trees Library, it appears that in no case has a double concentric ring-ditch been completely excavated, and, in many cases, all that could be done was to section the ditches in a few places. We hope that the excavations now being carried on in the Welland Valley will throw some further light on this interesting subject.



CROP MARKS AT LANGHAM



CROP MARKS AT ST. OSYTH

WOMEN CLAY PIPE SMOKERS  
by Valerie Mansfield

Most peoples' reaction these days to the subject of smoking is to think of the cigarette - puffed by male and female alike; when we add 'pipe', however our thoughts dwell on the manly male, full of stiff upper lip and wide open spaces. We forget that through the ages women, too, have puffed at pipes; or do we not forget, but ignore the fact? We women, because we obviously would not let our menfolk get away for centuries with an indulgence not also available to us; our menfolk because, perhaps, the fact tends to soften the upper lip and narrow the open spaces?

Smoking having been introduced into England during the First Elizabethan age makes us wonder if the Queen herself - not the most bashful of virgins - tried the "worthie plant"(i). There are versions of a story, much quoted, that she commanded Sir Walter Raleigh to show her and her ladies how to smoke a pipe; after a few puffs, the story goes, she was overcome with nausea and left the room; "but her Majesty, in a short while recovering, made the Countess of Nottingham and all her maids smoke a whole pipe out among them". No mention is made of the effect of this on the Countess and the maids.(ii).

Notes and Queries, Vol IV, 1851, has a reference to Elizabethan ladies smoking and goes on to say "it is with regret we add that their teeth were at this time generally black and rotten, a defect which foreigners attribute to their love of sugar, but which may perhaps be as reasonably ascribed to their frequent habit of taking the Nicotinian weed to excess".

Getting into the seventeenth century we leave the realm of legend and enter a period abounding with evidence of the popularity of the pipe among the fair sex, probably as much for its curative and cosmetic properties as for the pleasure it gave. It was said that tobacco was effectual against asthma, "phlegmatic matter", and the gout (iii), while in 1615 one playwright makes a character recommend it to the ladies as a herb that will do their complexions most good of anything known (iv). Whether this claim is borne out by Celia Fiennes description of the girls of St. Austell as "as comely sort of women as I have seen anywhere", or whether this was a coincidence, I know not. However, Celia had prefixed the above compliment by a grouse about the universal custom in Cornwall of the man, women and children sitting around and smoking (v).

All classes appear to have acquired the habit. In 1654 Sir Francis Throckmorton notes "my Lady smoking her pipe as she spun" - the Lady being his mother (vi). Earlier, in 1641/2, the private purse accounts of the Marquis of Hertford record the purchase of tobacco, pipes, and tobacco box for "my honorable Ladie" (vii). In 1674 the accounts of Sarah Fell, stepdaughter of Charles Fox, the Quaker, show a modest expenditure upon pipes for Mother, Father, and Sister Susannah (viii).

At the other end of the social scale, on the stage, we have Ben Jonson's Ursula the pig - woman who could "but hold life and soul together with a whiff of tobacco", and in real life there was Mary King, alias Moll Cutpurse. Mary, or Moll, part time prostitute, part time pick-pocket, died in 1659 when it was said "that she would probably have died sooner if she had not smoked tobacco, in the frequent use of which she had long indulged" (ix).

The dawn of the Eighteenth Century saw the smokers of both sexes hard at work. But change was in the offing. The use of snuff was increasing - stimulated by the Navy's capture of large quantities from the Spaniards. The threat of Walpole's Excise Bill and the fact of William Pitt's; the increase of sensitivity and the refinement of manners as the century progressed; all these and other factors contributed to a decline in smoking amongst the upper classes and those who aped them - although among the majority it was as popular as ever except insofar as increases in price dictated. Nevertheless, in 1718 it was said of a lady "she proves the worst woman that ever was known she will be drunk always and smokes tobacco" (x); and in 1736 a poet was writing:

'Ladies when pipes are brought affect to swoon,  
They love no smoke except to smoke of Town' (xi)

And in 1792 an English visitor to Switzerland could write "I am very much astonished to see Mrs. Renner this morning smoke ..... that disagreeable vice is so inveterate in this country that even women cannot help having it". (xii). Discounting the writer's evident dislike of smoking by anybody, the passage seems to show that the taking of a pipe by a woman was at this time an uncommon thing, at least in the circles in which he moved.

However, pipe smoking among the womenfolk lingered on and in the Nineteenth Century we see it again increasing among fashionable folk, especially on the Continent, though by now it was being overtaken by the cigar and the new-fangled toy, the cigarette. Who was the first female cigarette smoker? There was recently sold in London a French painting dated 1831 entitled *Les Femmes Librees* depicting a circle of female art students in a studio, all smoking cigarettes.(xiii) But to return to the pipe. In 1856 died Mrs. Jane Garbutt, of Yorkshire, at the age of 110, enjoying her pipe until the end.(xiv) As the century wore on the habit appears to have been confined to the poorer classes and later references and pictures seem to show that the clay was the smoke of the washerwoman and the Gipsy queen. The introduction of the briar pipe, altogether a heavier and clumsier production than the clay was not apparently popular among the weaker sex.

In our present century, the cigarette would appear to have won an overwhelming victory, although for the last forty or fifty years pipe makers have manufactured light briars for ladies, a certain impetus to their sale having been given in recent years by the lung cancer scare; and in 1957 an old lady in Wakes Come was smoking a man size one. The clay has lingered on - about ten years ago my husband saw an old countrywoman smoking one while waiting for a bus in the old Bus Park in Colchester - I, myself, have been known to put one of my collection to use in the absence of a cigarette - and on the Bicentenary of Samuel Johnson's birth, the Johnsonian Society held a dinner at the end of which the guests, ladies included, smoked the traditional 'yard of clay'. Did they remember, I wonder, the Sage's word of 1773 - "Smoking has gone out" ?

#### References

- (i) Sir John Beaumont. *The Metamorphosis of Tobacco*. 1602.
- (ii) Sir Compton Mackenzie. *Sublime Tobacco*. 1957. p 84.
- (iii) Edmund Gardiner. *The Trial of Tobacco*. 1610.
- (iv) Edward Sharpham. *The Fliere*. 1615.
- (v) *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes*. Ed Ch. Morris. The Cresset Press. 1949 p.257.  
From the context it would not appear that Celia smoked.
- (vi) *A Seventeenth Century Country Gentleman*. E.A. Barnard. Heffer 1944. p 21.
- (vii) *Antiquaries Journal* Jan/Apr-1945- pp 37,38,39.
- (viii) Quoted in Corti's *History of Smoking*.
- (ix) Granger, quoted by Fairholt in *Tobacco etc.* p 68.
- (x) *Account of the Families of Lennard and Barrett*. T.Barrett-Lannard.  
Privately printed 1908.
- (xi) *A Pipe of Tobacco*. I.H. Browne. Quoted by Mackenzie p 195.
- (xii) *The Wynne Diaries*. Vol 1.
- (xiii) BBC Broadcast 9 July 63. 'Robert Hawkings, Auctioneer'.
- (xiv) Mackenzie p 259.

Generally. Newspaper cuttings, notes etc in the possession of the Author.

AN APPRECIATION OF "THE ROMAN POTTERS' KILNS OF COLCHESTER"  
by M.R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A.

This is the third book by Mr. Hull to have been sponsored jointly by the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the Corporation of the Borough of Colchester. "Camulodunum" (written in collaboration with Professor Hawkes) appeared in 1947, and "Roman Colchester" was issued in 1958.

It might be said that the dominant subject of these three books is Pottery, and since pottery provides the main clues to almost every archaeological excavation, this Trilogy will become a necessity for anyone seriously interested in the subject of Roman Britain. Previously there had been no authoritative survey of the coarse domestic pottery of the Roman period. No one is more qualified to write on this subject than Mr. Hull since quite apart from his special qualifications, no one can have handled more pottery than he has. The excavations at Camulodunum produced Roman pottery literally by the ton, and countless samples must have been examined by him during his years as curator at the Castle.

### THE COLCHESTER KILNS

Altogether 33 Kilns have been found in Colchester. Of these 14 were chance finds prior to 1933. In that year, as part of the work of "Camulodunum", excavation of some kilns on Hilly Fields was undertaken. In 1959 they were further examined in the "dig" undertaken by the Museum, supervised by Bryan Blake, and under the general direction of Mr. Hull. A few other kilns were also recently discovered by chance in the Borough of Colchester. By various means some of the kilns have been able to be dated, thereby giving the pottery from them a reliable date.

Mr. Hull has, in the three publications, compiled a list of Pottery "Forms" found in the Colchester region, from Belgic times to the end of the occupation. Most of these "forms" are of domestic pottery and have not previously been classified. On page 177 of COLCHESTER KILNS he has worked out a chart of the kilns that have been able to be dated, and the pottery "Forms" from these kilns. Kilns 23 and 26 are dated circa A.D.60, while the others vary from c175 to 350 A.D. There is consequently a serious gap between the years A.D.60 and 175, although there is, of course, other evidence than kilns for dating pottery of this period.

This chart is followed by a revised table of Forms of pottery vessels, the illustrations of which may be found in any of the three books of the Trilogy. From these books it is now possible, but not easy, to identify domestic Roman pottery in the majority of its forms. (It would seem important that the publication of the vast amount of domestic pottery from Ardleigh, compiled by Mr. Hull, and dealing mainly with late first and early second century kilns should be undertaken in order to complete the sequence).

### THE SAMIAN KILN

In 1933 it was realised that one of the kilns of Hilly Field produced Samian ware, the only kiln in England ever to do so. The excavators have been able to produce not only pottery, but the moulds from which the decorated samian ware was cast, and also in two cases the stamps which were impressed into the moulds to make the figure-patterns. From Plain forms of samian the name-stamps of 14 Colchester potters have come to light, as also six possibly from Colchester. Of decorated samian pottery Mr. Hull has been able to identify, by differences of style, the work of three separate potters, although they were all using the same kiln. Their names were not known, but their workmanship suggests affinities with Rheinzabarn and other places in East Gaul. Mr. Hull illustrates 117 different figure-types from these three potters, some being copies of Continental wares, others being original. One of these (by Potter A) shows an unshaven human figure wearing only a loincloth; his arms are cut off at the elbows (or his hands might be tied behind his back). He is usually depicted as about to be devoured by some wild animal; the bear (figure type 40), the lion (type 30) or, in one case, by the lion and dog (type 47). Mr. Hull laconically describes him as "captive".

Each of the three potters has a most distinctive ovolo, by which alone their work could be instantly recognized. In general, however, their style was decadent and the execution poor; R.J. Charleston in "Roman Pottery" refers to them as "a Caliban of ceramic history". Poor as this samian ware may be it is still surprising that so little of it has been found elsewhere. There is no list of finds from other sites but a remark on page 78 implies that there were such finds: "stamps of CUNOPECTUS (i.e. plain ware) have been found at Kettering, which is farther afield than the decorated ware has yet been shown to have spread".

### BARBOTINE WARE

If our Colchester potters were unable to shine in the making of Samian ware, they certainly knew how to make Barbotined ware. Compare the gladiators (types 7 and 8, Fig. 39) and the dog (type 46) of the samian potters with the gladiators and dogs of the "Colchester Vase" and it will be seen that the former is a travesty of the latter. The "Colchester Vase", it appears, is contemporary with our kilns and is "pre-eminent among these vases with human figures, but our potters have been shown to be capable of such work.....the vessel could have been made in the Rheinland but equally well here".

### THE MORTARIA

"The remains of mortaria formed by far the largest bulk of pottery found". Mr. Hull devotes some ten per cent of his book to this rather commonplace subject. There are three pages of drawings of rim sections. Mortaria were, however, a very successful line and since they were stamped either with the potter's name or mark the places to which they were exported can be traced with certainty. Colchester mortaria have been found in many places in Eastern England and Scotland. A large proportion of all mortaria found in forts of the Antonine Wall came from Colchester, so much so that it is probable that for a short time we had the Army contract. This evidence confirms a date of 150-200 A.D.

### CONCLUSION

The book contains 22 photographic plates as well as 107 pages with line drawings, of which 22 are whole-page illustrations of Colchester samian. The index is unsatisfactory in that many names, particularly places, are omitted.

In a chance conversation with the writer of this appreciation, the President of the Society of Antiquaries mentioned how enlightened she thought the Corporation of Colchester was in sponsoring this book. The book is not, however, written in a manner likely to help the person interested in the local angle. There is no glossary of terms, or an introduction or a summing up. We are expected to know, for instance, that a mortarium is a thick bowl with a spout and used for grinding. The book is written primarily for experts in Roman Archaeology (who presumably know what an 'aedicula' is).

For a book so lavishly produced the price of 50/- is most reasonable.

### NOTES AND COMMENT

#### Mr. L.H. Gant writes:

Upon looking at the steel engraved illustrations in Benham's "Guide to Colchester" (1879) I studied the picture of the Saxon doorway to the Church of the Holy Trinity and noticed that the bricks set in the apex of the pointed arch formed a perfect cross.

I examined the actual fabric and found that the horizontal bar of the "cross" is a re-used Roman building tile (this material is freely used in the tower), and the vertical is formed by two narrow stones.



I think this may be an intentional representation of the Christian symbol, and if so, it must surely be the earliest known one in the town. The only other pre-conquest ecclesiastical building in Colchester is St. Helen's Chapel, in Maidenburgh Street, the lower courses of which may be of Roman date, but probably of Roman material re-used in Norman times.

MARTELL'S HALL - Ring Ditch No. 4 The marking out of this site was duly carried out on the 15th September. It is hoped to begin excavation during the weekend of 28th-29th September but, as it is not yet certain when the top-soil can be removed, it would be better to check first with the Secretary or Mr. Erith at Vincennes Farm, Ardleigh. (Telephone: Ardleigh 325)

Mr. H.W. Palmer writes:

I was recently permitted to enter the garden of "Chase House" (in the Chaseway leading north from East Bay) by courtesy of Mr. Bedwell. This is a Victorian house with a summer house (of the same period constructed of miscellaneous brick, clinker, flint and septaria). Built into the wall of this summer house is an iron-age quern, resembling the conglomerate querns in Colchester Castle. It is probably too late in the day now to discover where it came from.

HALSTEAD ROMAN SITE - by kind invitation of Mr. J.P. Smallwood a small party visited this site on the 11<sup>th</sup> September. Two kilns and a ditch section were open at the time and we were shown the position of other features now once again under the plough. It was a most interesting and enjoyable evening and we hope to take a more active part in future excavations.

PART FOUR DECEMBER 1963

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at St. Runwald's School on the 14th October 1963 and the following were elected:

Chairman .....	Major A.D. Mansfield, R.A., F.R.G.S.
Vice-Chairman .....	Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C.
Hon. Secretary & Editor .....	Mrs. K. de Brisay.
Hon. Treasurer .....	Miss Sarah Mansfield.
Committee .....	Mr. H.M. Carter, Mrs. Carter, Mr. A.B. Doncaster, Mr. F.H. Erith, Mr. A.J. Fawn, Mr. H. J. Edwards, Mr. H.W. Palmer.

An account of the excavation of Ardleigh Ring 10 together with a survey of ring ditches in this area by Mr. F.H. Erith appears on pages 26-29. An interesting letter on the determination of Blood Groups by Dr. John Grant is on page 25 and on page 30 is an article by I.J. Herring on an Archaeological Tour of Denmark. The winter programme is given below and an account of our Autumn meetings is given on pages 31-34. Notes and Comment are on page 31.

All enquiries and contributions may be sent to Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

WINTER PROGRAMME 1964

13 <sup>th</sup> January	- The Compo Stella Pilgrimage - Mrs. Glaister (illustrated)
20 <sup>th</sup> "	- The Valley of the Stour - Mr. A.E. Horlock (illustrated)
27 <sup>th</sup> "	- The Road to the Isles - Mr. L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C. (illustrated)
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	- Roman Gestingthorpe - Mr. H.P. Cooper (illustrated)
10 <sup>th</sup> "	- Ardleigh 1796, A Social Survey - Mr. F.H. Erith.
17 <sup>th</sup> "	- Essex Church Woodwork - Mr. K.R. Mabbitt, F.S.A.
24 <sup>th</sup> "	- The Arts of the Japanese Sword - Mr. R.J. Bradley.
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	- More Old Colchester - Mr. Bernard Mason, O.B.E. (illustrated.)
9 <sup>th</sup> "	- The Coming of Iron to Europe - Dr. John Alexander, M.A.
16 <sup>th</sup> "	- ANIMAL - VEGETABLE, - MINERAL ?

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

at 7.30 p.m.  
GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

#### BLOOD GROUPS ASCERTAINED FROM CREMATED BRONZE AGE BONES

We print below what we think is an entirely new approach to Archaeology. A year or two ago Dr. John Grant took samples of cremated bones from the urns of the Late Bronze Age cemetery and barrows on Vincles Farm, Ardleigh. He has now returned these with the following letter:

"I write to say that I am at long last returning your interesting selection of specimens. I am grateful for the opportunity of attempting to serotype them. In spite of the time I have had them in my possession I am not able to say that I have, as yet, got reproducible results experimentally. It may interest you to know some of the results I have obtained:

At first, within weeks of receiving the specimens, I completed a series of attempted blood groupings. The techniques are those, regarded as standard methods, well annotated in "Nature" and "The Lancet", as well as in various Pathology journals of this and other countries. I selected at random 20 small pieces (5 mgm) of clean bone fragments, and used them in an attempt to determine the placing of these fragments in one of the following groups; -A, -B, -AB. -O. (the Rhesus (D) (C) and (E) factors cannot yet to determined with any degree of reproducibility.

Less than 30% were constantly reproducible. (As there is no definite way of "judging" the results9 reproducibility at a variety of intervals made subsequently is the criterion of successful grouping). This was interpreted as a failure.

At a later date a colleague suggested that a type of cleaning (techniques irrelevant) followed by prolonged refrigeration for up to 9 months might give different results. This was done, but the time was cut down to 8 months as I have to go to Germany for 18 months,

The result of the first groupings of the latter selections were:

Four	"O"	Fourteen	"A"
One	"B"	One (doubtful)	"AB"

These were a little different from results in the former trials in which the "B" factor appeared regularly twice more out of the 20 tests. They were, for comparison:

Four	"O" (one gave "B" in 50 of trials)
Fourteen	"A" (ore doubtful "AB")
Two	"B"

On the whole, from the constantly high "A" factors in all trials, I would say that the soil contamination had been such as to cause the unreliability of repeated trials, at any rate by the techniques at present available,

It has been an extremely interesting series of observations. I am grateful for the opportunity you kindly gave me".

EXCAVATION OF A RING-DITCH AT MARTELLS HALL, ARDLEIGH (Ardleigh 10)  
by F.H. Erith

This was seen as a cropmark in barley in 1962, and in wheat in 1963. The field in which it was situated had been purchased for gravel-digging and already some 3 acres of gravel has been extracted. The gravel company had made a mound of topsoil 100 yards long and about 12 feet high (unintentionally resembling a long barrow) from the top of which a good view of the adjoining crops could be obtained. It was from here that the writer first saw this cropmark. Subsequent air photographs were not very successful, but they did find two more crop marks of ring ditches in the next field (Nos. 11 and 12 on the schedule).

Marking out began as planned on September 15th, a few days after the crop had been harvested. We were surprised to see a representative of the Press with a photographer turn up as well. They had tracked us down from the advance notice in the September Bulletin!

After the topsoil of the four quadrants had been removed, trenches were dug alongside the four baulks in order to locate the circular ditch. It was disappointing to find that the ditch was only 27 to 30 inches deep, since this implied the probability of a shallow central burial. The gravel layer varied from a depth of 15 to 20 inches from the surface, and it was not difficult to detect the circular ditch with its stone-free soil in the four quadrants. In the S.W. quadrant a dozen sherds of L.B.A. pottery were discovered at a depth of 15 inches. This pottery was 4/10ths of an inch thick, pale brown, and permeated with white grits, the curve suggesting a diameter of a foot or more.

The Central Features

Having dismantled the baulks and the topsoil from the central 4ft. square we found the remains of a Late Bronze Age Urn and about a teacupful of cremated bones. The urn had been buried 14 inches deep, but deep ploughing had removed all but the lowest two inches, which formed part of the base. The flat pottery of the base was half an inch thick, pale brown on the outside, black on the inside, and tempered with small white grits; but unlike the pottery found in the circular ditch, the grits from the central sherds did not show on the outside.

Some three feet either side of the centre were two pits of stone free soil, one due north and one due south, each about 4 ft. in diameter and 2½ ft. deep. A larger pit was found at the eastern circumference and touching the circular ditch. In none was anything found. These three pits correspond to the cropmark tufts mentioned in our last bulletin, and seem to represent exactly the barren pits found in Ardleigh Ring 6 at Vincles Farm.

One sherd of grey Roman pottery was found at plough depth on the inside edge of the circular ditch.

The bones were submitted to Mr. H.E.P. Spencer of the Ipswich Museum. He stated that none of the bones was recognisable, but from their thickness he surmised that they were from an adult.

This "dig" was very well supported by members of the Group and I am only sorry that there was comparatively little to show for it.

THE ARDLEIGH – BROMLEY BARROW COMPLEX

In the last five years about a score of ring-ditches have been discovered in this area, of which seven of the smaller ones have been excavated. Six of them have been shown to belong to the Late Bronze Age, and one (Bromley Hall) appears to be not later than the Middle Bronze Age. It is possible that most of the larger ones are also of the Middle Bronze Age.

Four of the seven that have been investigated have this feature of the barren pits, and plans of them are shown on the accompanying page. It seems that these holes were dug at the same time as the circular ditches surrounding them, possibly even before the death occurred.

If anything had been placed in these pits after they had partly silted up, then deep ploughing has probably destroyed all evidence of it.

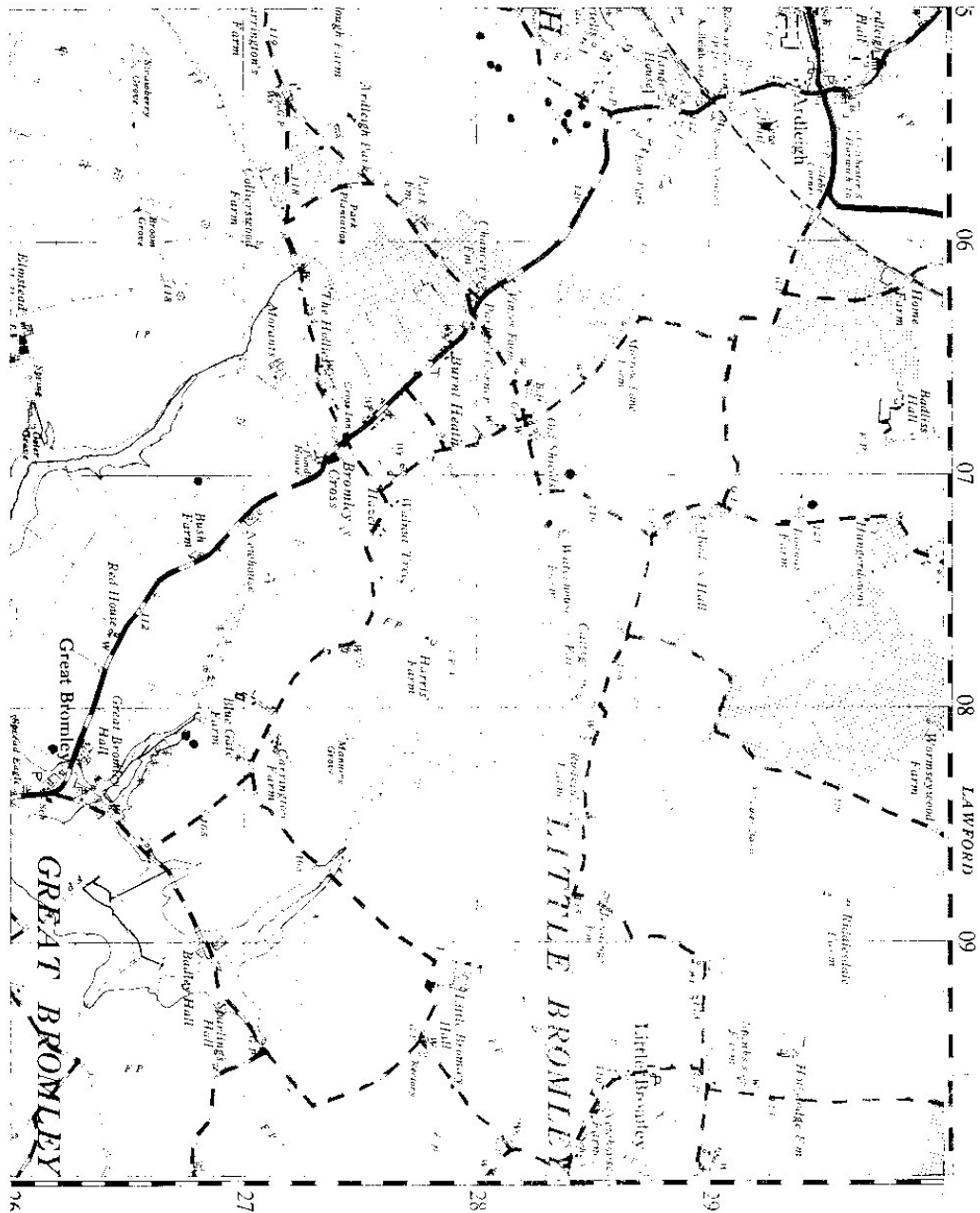
### SCHEDULE OF RING-DITCHES

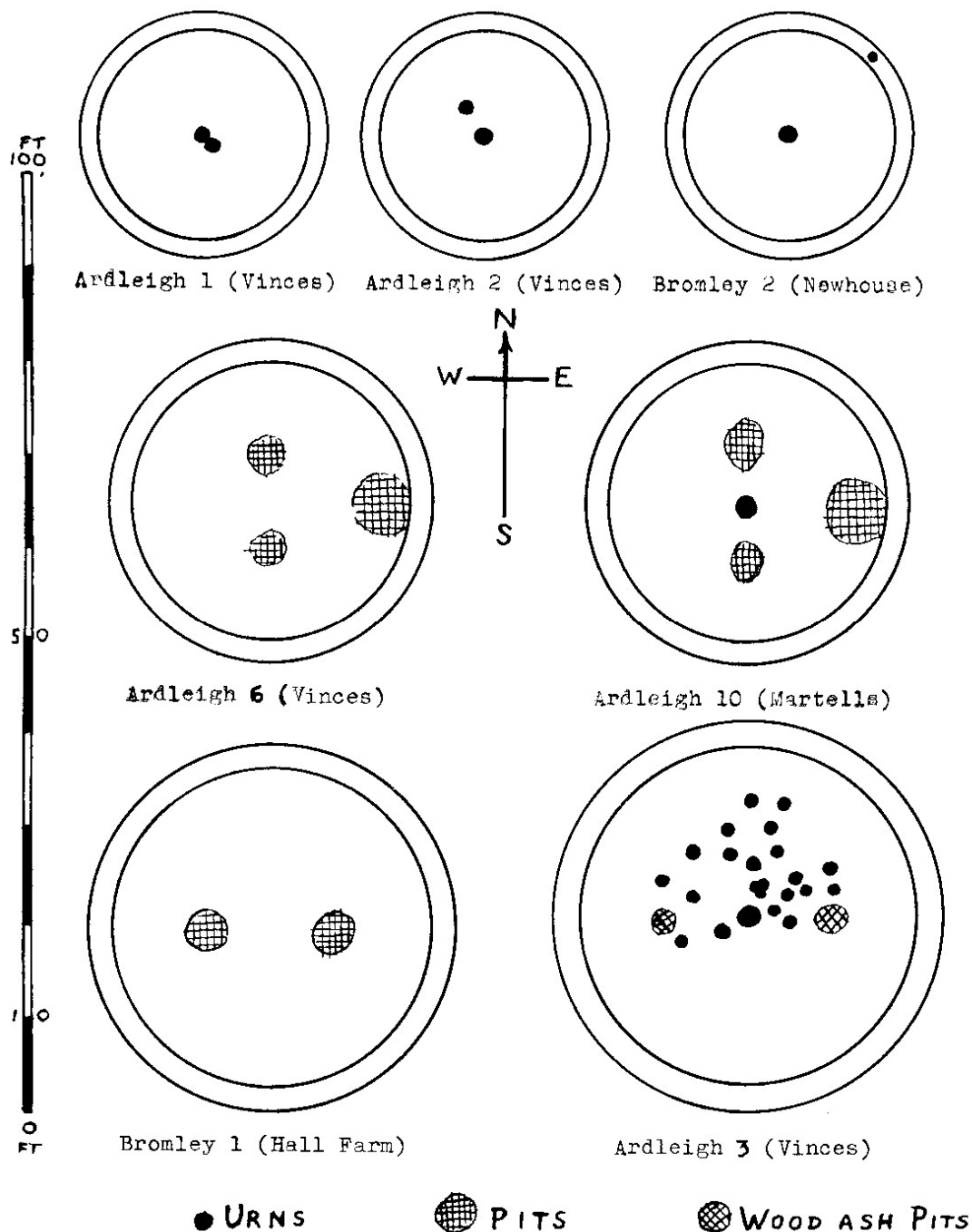
Below are a map (scale 2½" - 1 mile) and a list of ring ditches in the Ardleigh region. Where any of them have been excavated and reported in the Bulletin, the reference will be found in the right-hand column.

Ardleigh 1,3,4,5 and 13 were discovered by R.H. Farrands from the air. Ardleigh 2,6,7,8,9 and 10 and Gt. Bromley were observed by F.P.E. from the ground. Ardleigh 11 & 12 and Bromley 3 & 4 were discovered by air photographs, taken by Jim Newman, commissioned with map references by F.P.E. Bromley 2 was discovered by the farmer of the land, Mr. G. Kempster.

#### RING-DITCH IN THE ARDLEIGH REGION

<u>No.</u> <u>TM02</u> <u>Ardleigh</u>	<u>Farm</u> <u>feet</u>	<u>Nat.Grid.</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>C.A.G.</u> <u>Bulletin Ref.</u>
1	Vinces	055284	24	2 L.B.A. Urn Cremations in centre Vol. III,4
2	"	055284	25	2 L.B.A. Urn Cremations in centre III,2 & 3
3	"	055 284	38	L.B.A. Urn Cremation in centre, 27 other cremations in N. half, 2 pits of wood-ash. IV,3 & 4
4	"	054284	67	
5	"	055285	66	
6	"	054284	31	Frag. B.A. pottery and bone in centre V,3
7	"	056283	25	Excavated by F.H.E in 1960 L.B.A. sherds in circular ditch. Nothing in centre.
8	Martells Hall	054283	66	
9	"	055281	33	
10	"	051280	33	L.B.A. Urn Cremation in centre. V1, 4.
11	"	053281	60-70	
12	"	053281	60-70	
13	New Hall	055282	75	
14	O. Shields	070284		Mr.A. Marshall, farmer. states circular soil mark seen in ploughing. Field now orchard. Slight elevation. Mr. W.J. Hudson, farmer, claims to have seen circular cropmark..
15	Bounds	071294		
<u>Gt. Bromley</u>				
1	Hall Farm	082263	35	2 barren pits either side of centre. M.B.A. sherd in ditch. II,4
2	Newhouse Farm	071268	24	Traces of L.B.A. urn in centre. V,4
3	Bluegates	081268	36	
4	"	081268	51	
5	Bush Farm	072263 ?		Air photo taken by R.H. Farrands in 1962.
<u>Lt. Bromley</u>				
1	Cattsgreen	078284 ?		Undeveloped air photo as reported by Mr. Michael Glover





Mr. A.B. Doncaster writes:

Can anyone give any information about the engraved stone to be found on one of the cottages next to the disused tin chapel, now Markham's Tent Repository, on the east side of Harwich Road between East Street and St. Andrew's Avenue (the By-Pass). The wording on the stone set in the house reads:

Holy Well  
Re opened  
1844

Below the stone is a bricked-in space which looks as if at one time the entrance to a well might have been in this position.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR IN DENMARK  
by I.J. Herring.

One of my last functions in my final year on the Council of the Prehistoric Society was to vote for a Summer Conference in Denmark. So, naturally, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1963, I was one of the 87 members setting off for Esbjerg and Copenhagen. There followed a week's intensive tour of field sites on Zealand, Funen and throughout east Jutland, and equally enjoyable, though too highly concentrated, evening sessions in Denmark's museums. We ranged from Ertebølle kitchen middens, through megaliths (there are 3500 megalithic tombs in this country only twice the size of Wales), Bronze Age barrow groups, prehistoric field systems, Iron Age villages, trackways, monuments of what the Danes call the Roman Iron Age and the Germanic Iron Age, to epochs strictly outside the terms of reference of the Prehistoric Society.

We spent quite a time seeing Viking sites and a few of Denmark's 1600 Romanesque churches, so many of them as splendidly muralled as Copford.

It struck me at the time, remembering my membership of the Colchester Archaeological Group (though a Chingford member can never get to a Colchester meeting) that very little of Viking archaeology has been recovered from the soil of Essex, and yet the historical record suggests that our estuaries saw a great deal of the Danes, that we had semi-permanent camps beside the Thames and the Blackwater, and that the English fiddled with the waters of the Lea when the Danish ships were drawn up in encampment higher up. Perhaps it might be worth looking narrowly at our newly discovered crop markings in the estuary areas.

In Denmark we saw two of the four known Viking barrack forts, Trelleborg in S.W. Zealand and Fyrkat in E. Jutland, both associated with the final phase of the Danish conquest of our country. Both have the same basic design, Quadrangles of long elliptical barracks set in the four quadrants of a circle formed by two wood paved streets cutting the camp at exact right angles, the whole enclosed in a massive timber-held circular earthwork of turves and stone. The camps have the military precision of a Roman lay-out, and indeed the Roman linear measure was used. At Fyrkat excavation was in process. At Trelleborg, outside the camp and near the Viking cemetery, the authorities have built a full size replica of one of the barrack buildings.

At Ladby, N.E. Funen, we found a ship barrow had been turned into a museum in which, barrow-covered and behind glass, is the Viking ship, Sutton Hoo-like, a ghost ship with its details imprinted on the sand and still with the bones of the chief's favourite horses and hunting dogs. The actual burial had been desecrated, by early Christians it is believed. This was no sea-going vessel; it had a shallow section and must have been used only in local waters.

At Jelling, Jutland, we were in the sacred place of the 10<sup>th</sup> century Danes. Two vast tumuli stand beside the street, with the church between them. Beside the church are the two famous stones. The smaller one, 5ft high, has the Runic inscription "King Gorm raised this monument to the memory of his wife, Thyra, Denmark's guardian". The burials in a double chamber in the northern tumulus, on the top of which this stone seems to have stood, are taken to be the royal remains. The second stone which may have stood on the southern tumulus (it yielded nothing when excavated) is even more interesting. On one side it has in relief a crucifixion; on the other a contest between a lion (the Church ?) and a serpent (pagandom?) with the Runic inscription that Gorm's son, Harald Bluetooth, erected it in memory of his parents - Harald "who won for himself all Denmark and Norway, and made the Danes Christian". So its date must be circa 980, and the nature of the sculpture inspires the Danes to call it Denmark's Christening stone.

Later, in a northern suburb of Aalborg, N. Jutland, we were taken to a public park filled with megalithic graves. To us, great stone tombs suggest the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, but here at Lindholm is a cemetery of nearly 700 Viking graves of which some 80 are megalithic graves in the shape of ships, both small and big, 9ft to 75ft long. Here, too, are the remains of a town abandoned in the early 11th century, and also fossilised in the sward the furrows of the Viking fields. Most of the graves are cremations, and it is assumed that the 30 inhumations are late and under Christian influence (though still containing grave goods). A vivid reminder of the range of Viking wanderings and contacts was a 10th century coin in one of these late graves minted in Uzbekistan.

The purpose of this note is to inspire someone to search our museums and examine our field sites, evolving a corpus of information on the Danes in Essex.

### NOTES AND COMMENT

Mr. L.H. Gant writes:

The Witch, of St. Osyth.

The "Essex County Standard" of 15<sup>th</sup> November 1963, published the following:

"St. Osyth's famous witch is likely to be put on show in a museum, one of a number operated by Mr. Cecil Williamson, of Polperro, Cornwall.

Mr. Williamson, who is an authority on witchcraft, has this week been engaged on the task of removing the skeleton of the witch, who is thought to have been executed about 1582, from the grave in which it has been lying for nearly 400 years.

For some years after its discovery in 1921, the skeleton was on show and attracted many hundreds of visitors to the village. The destruction by fire in 1933 of the cottage built on the site of the burial was blamed by many villagers on the witch's curse.

Six years ago there was a proposal by Mr. John Scolding, of Clacton, to erect a new building on the site and to put the skeleton on display again, but the project was abandoned after a planning hitch and after local opposition had been aroused by the proposal. 'I suppose some people might be superstitious about having the skeleton moved', said Mrs. Scolding, whose father discovered the skeleton when he lived in the cottage in Mill Street, 'but I had a very happy childhood there, and am certainly not afraid of any curse'. "

The same newspaper carried a letter the following week from Mrs. B.J. Corbett of Coach Road, Alresford, who said she also lived in the house in Mill Street, St. Osyth, and that the skeleton was unearthed whilst her father was digging; also that another, in a sitting position, was also found in the garden.

The distinguishing mark of the burial was the stake driven through the heart of the supposed witch, but these severe measures were unable, apparently, to prevent the witch's curse from being effective.

There are many tales of Essex witches and their "familiars" - often in the form of goats or cats - and much has been written about them, for the belief in witchcraft was very real.

I disagree with the suggestion that the old lady of St. Osyth should remain in the village and again be put on show. The village has a much more commendable story, from which it derives its name, to perpetuate!

### WINTER MEETINGS\_1963

The first lecture was given on the Sutton Hoo Treasure on 21<sup>st</sup> October by Mrs. David Clarke, wife of the Curator of the Colchester Castle Museum, and an archaeologist in her own right, having been Assistant Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, before her marriage, and well known for her post Roman studies.

The talk was illustrated by colour slides and covered the ship burial and the many groups of objects discovered during excavation in 1939.

Owing to the outbreak of the War, the treasures were safely stored, and the full story of this most important discovery near Woodbridge, in Suffolk, was not known until a few years ago.

Mrs. Clarke described the wonderful cloisonne work of the maker, who was, it is thought, an East Anglian craftsman. The setting of worked garnets in gold mountings, underlaid with gold foil, patterned to reflect the light, and used on the sword pommel to great effect, as well as in smaller articles of jewellery represented the finest known work of this period.



What was remarkable about the many objects and goods which furnished this memorial, probably to an ancient East Anglian King, was the diversity of the origin of the objects, which pointed to an influential person, and revealed connections with Europe and the Near East not before suspected in Anglo-Saxon times.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> October, Mr. Malcolm Carter held members enthralled by his account of the recovered and restoration of a cottage condemned for demolition. He outlined the work step by step, illustrating this with working models and proving that any cottage which is structurally sound can be made not only habitable but a building of character and a comfortable home.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November the Group was entertained by a talk by Mr. John Bensusan-Butt on the building trade in Colchester in the early years of George III.

Mr. Bensusan-Butt stressed the amount of alteration then done, the fine door-cases and bay-and-bow-windows added to older structures and the beautiful staircases inserted. The great mansions like East Hill House, Griffin's or Grey Friars were only part of the picture. There was enough work in 1765 to keep 16 master carpenters on the go.

But which carpenter built which building was now very difficult to do more than guess at, he said. There were few documents to help. It was possible, however, to name the most prosperous men, like Ald. Henry Bevan, of Lexden Park, who perhaps built Martin's Bank; his pupil, Ald. Isaac Green, who owned Lexden House; Green's pupil William Phillips, first builder to be Mayor.

John Maples, who built the octagon chapel which preceded the present church in Lion Walk, was also a man who did well and ended as a timber merchant in Lambeth.

John Alefounder, who worked on East Hill in the early part of the century, had a son of the same name, a London surveyor who may well have designed the Minories. That house had a floorboard, inscribed "Stephen Kerridg and Sammuell Moor laid this Floor April ye 4 1776". Kerridge was a joiner who came from Ipswich in 1770.

Mr. Bensusan-Butt was anxious to hear from any other such inscriptions that had come to light elsewhere; very few, he said, had been seen by the builders of today whom he has been able to consult.

He ended with mention of the principal bricklayers, glaziers and plumbers, Merry, Gray and Unwin, and the prosperous-sounding upholsterers, Lodge, Barlow, Bunnell and Walford, most of whom filled the mayoral chair and were also auctioneers.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, Mr. Bernard Mason appealed to members to record any building which was to be demolished or altered, however commonplace the subject may appear to be, for the future generations will bless the action. Mr. Mason gave ample proof of this when he spoke on Old Colchester and illustrated his talk with many slides taken from photographs, drawings, pictures and engravings.

The greater part of his unique collection was inherited from his father, who was a notable archaeologist and historian, and a very competent photographer.

Mr. Mason planned his talk as an itinerary, first circling the town to view it from different points, then coming in to the river crossings, with the ancient bridges at North bridge and East bridge, and finally passing along the High Street, by way of the old North Gate and North Hill.

Of particular interest were the interior pictures of the old Moot Hall and the White Hart Hotel, and those of the last two windmills in Colchester.

Mr. Mason's characteristic cheerful and witty commentary added much to the enjoyment of the pictures, and his own infective enthusiasm came across to his audience.

The meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November provided an opportunity for members to bring their own finds and treasures and the response was excellent.

In turn the members displayed their objects and said a few words about them, after which the objects were examined and commented upon.

Family treasures such as a silver snuff box and a silver watch, or a treasured manual for 18th century young ladies, weapons from far-off Algeria or a metal cauldron from the Far East were produced, in addition to the more usual coins, pottery and glass found in excavations and in back gardens.

Of more recent date, but none the less interesting, was an early driving licence issued under the Motor Act 1903, with annual renewals for a period of many years, and instruction cards for evacuation in case of invasion during World War I. A British Gazette, the official newspaper issued during the General Strike of 1926 was presented, together with an admission ticket for the funeral of the poet Robert Browning, held in Westminster Abbey.

One of the rarest treasures was a gold Touch Piece - given by the King to sufferers from the disease the King's Evil, after laying his hands upon them. The example was of the time of Charles II, but the rite was practised by King James II and by the Young Pretender, who was probably the last to exercise it.

A pair of silver Georgian spectacles and case and an ornamental panel from a Colchester house were also shown; a fine early Victorian waistcoat and a charming inlaid box containing a set of Mah Jong tiles; tobacco pipes from Germany and Africa were shown and a toffee box from the time of the Boer War. A number of evasion halfpennies, one showing the head of William Shakespeare and another Wilkinson, the maker, showed the scarcity of official small change in the years following the Napoleonic Wars.

The fascination of Essex dialect held a large audience when Mr. Hervey Benham addressed the Group on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Many Essex dialect words and place names could be traced directly to Anglo-Saxon and Norse sources, and modern corruptions often veiled older meanings.

Mr. Benham quoted literary examples of dialect, from Shakespeare to Baring-Gould, whose novel "Mehalah" was still one of the finest pieces of descriptive writing, but the use of dialect was too respectable and stylised. Early in this century, however, S. L. Bensusan eclipsed all other dialect writers, and his work is undoubtedly the finest and most natural, preserving the native wit and acute observations, wisdom and comment.

To attempt to classify the many forms of dialect was a tremendous task, said Mr. Benham, but he delighted his audience by many examples of local speech, and declared that north east Essex had more of an affinity with Suffolk than with Essex dialect, just as it had in other ways. The line of demarcation appeared to be the River Blackwater, rather than the Stour.

The speaker had little praise for the dictionary compilers, whose work was boring in its detachment, but there was no doubt, judged by the audience reaction, about the interest in the spoken dialect.

A number of points were raised in discussion following the talk, in which many members took part.

There was never greater interest in archaeology than now, declared Colchester's outspoken museum curator, Mr. David. Clarke, when addressing the Group on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, on the subject of Archaeology and the Amateur. He had detected, however, an unfortunate disease which he called Romanitis, which is a condition of mind directed to an assessment of archaeological finds in their relation to that period only.

Archaeology is not a science, although science is the handmaiden of archaeologists; it is a very subjective art and a way of getting at history. There is no archaeological evidence, the

speaker said, for many of the most important events in history, and excavation should only be undertaken in the full knowledge and responsibility for the fact that in digging such evidence as exists is largely destroyed.

The amateur archaeologist can assist, however, in many ways, by observation and reasoning, by walking through fields, noting garden soil and considering the position of now remote village churches, which once were part of a medieval village.

Archaeology does not stop, said Mr. Clarke, it is a continuing process, and unless efforts are made now to preserve everyday things, from tools to jet engines, the future generations will lack knowledge of these things. In the Colchester area, Mr. Clarke said, there are vast fields for research into medieval remains, above and beneath the ground, the bays and says industry, and treasures of clothing and utensils hidden in attics and cellars.

Mr. Clarke concluded his lecture by projecting many colour slides showing archaeological treasures recovered and restored and many of the interesting exhibits in the Colchester museum.

The Group was addressed by their chairman, Major A.D. Mansfield, on 9<sup>th</sup> December, on the subject of skirts. The speaker, who specialises in the Victorian era, gave a most interesting and amusing lecture, profusely illustrated with drawings, photographs and contemporary fashion plates.

The development of the voluminous skirt, the crinoline, and the subsequent fashions of the bustle and the trailing skirt led up to the sporting clothes of the end of last century and the commencing years of the present one. The changing standards of what is thought to be the right dress for the right occasion were admirably portrayed by the speaker, whose commentary added to the amusement of the illustrations.

Great wars always had a great influence on women's fashions, and the return to femininity after years of repression and equalisation, clothes rationing and shortage of material was well demonstrated, also the re-introduction of old fashions. Examples of usurpation of men's fashions by women were shown, and the instability of the hem line throughout one hundred years.