



Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 8 1965

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PART ONE MARCH 1965

The winter session of Monday evening meetings having ended on the 22nd of March we enter our eighth year with summer plans for outings and excavation. Details of the latter will be circulated to those who have put their names on the list. Plans for outings are given below and in each case the meeting place has been arranged near a corporation bus route so that those members who do not have cars may join the party and for whom lifts will be arranged.

Saturday 15th May - 2 p.m. at Lexden Church - to visit the Museum at Great Bardfield and the church at Stebbing.

Monday 14th June.- 6.30 p.m. at Colchester Public Library - tour of the town.

Monday 19th July - 6-30 p.m. at Colchester Public Library - to visit Dedham.

Monday 16th August - 6.30 p.m. at Berechurch Arms, Shrub End Road - to visit D'Arcy Hall, Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Tiptree Priory,

Wall Paintings - please send any notes on wall paintings in Essex, particularly those in private houses to Mr. W. Spyvee, 28 Cambridge Road, Colchester, who has kindly offered to collect and collate these.

On page 2 of this issue Mr. Erith gives a further instalment in the story of the Samian bowl from Bewcastle. An article by Mrs. Margaret Edwards on Washing Dollies appears below and notes on our winter meetings together with the usual Notes and Comment are also included. Although some material has had to be held over due to lack of space, further articles and more notes are wanted; these should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone Layer 274 (evenings).

A SAMIAN FRAGMENT FROM ELM PARK, ARDLEIGH.

by F.H. Erith.

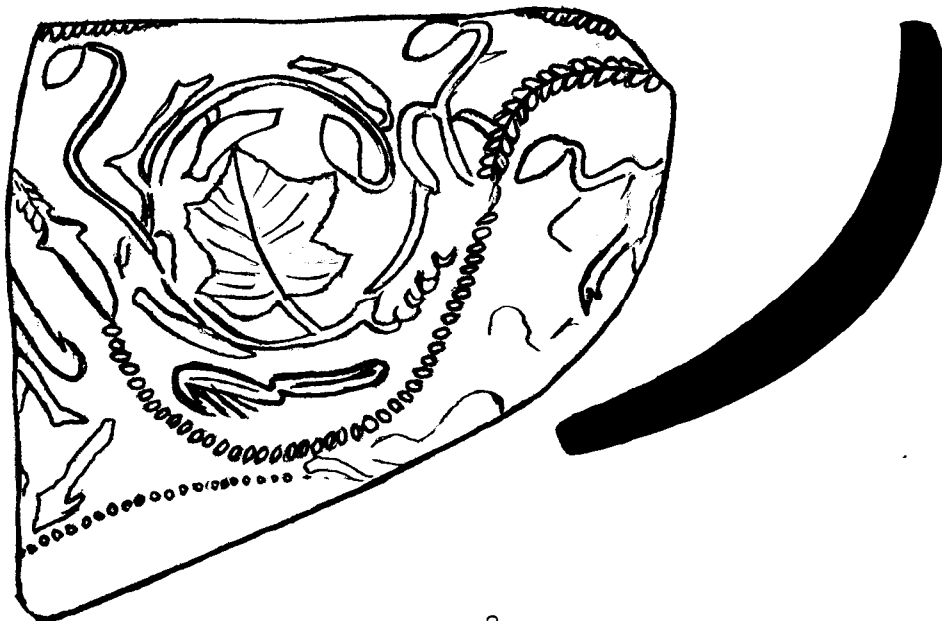
In our Bulletin for December 1962 (Vol. V. No. 2) there was an account of a Samian Bowl, which Dr. Penfold had produced at a Members Finds and Treasures night. Later, the bowl was sent to Professor Birley, who interpreted the faint scorings just above the foot rim to be the signature of a potter called SECUNDINUS.

In 1957, when ploughing up grassland in Elm Park, Ardleigh, a pit containing Roman pottery had been discovered, and among the pottery was one fragment of a Form. 37 Samian bowl. The decoration on this fragment consisted of a thick winding scroll with a motif of vine leaf, tendril and incipient grape bunches. A minute bird clings to a tendril. A feature like a prawn's foot lies between the vine and the scroll. Bead rows define the top and bottom of the decoration. (Illustrated below life-size).

A drawing of this was submitted to Dr. Grace Simpson, who at that time was not able to identify the potter who made this bowl. She has recently informed me, however, that a bowl with a similar decoration has been found elsewhere, and this bowl had the name SECVNDINI stamped on it.

It seems probable, though, that the potter who made Dr. Penfold's bowl and the potter who made the Elm Park bowl were two different persons bearing the same name. The two designs are quite dissimilar, and there is no feature in common.

The date of the domestic pottery found in association with the Elm Park fragment is, like all the Roman pottery so far found in Ardleigh, not later than the first quarter of the second century A.D.



WASHING DOLLIES

by Margaret Edwards B.A.

The washing dolly is an object which seems to have been ignored by those who have compiled books on folk objects. Even the extensive collection of Edward and Eva Pinto contains only two types. However, the information supplied by readers of "Country Life" and "The Field" reveals that different areas of the country had their own types.

The most common type seems to have been that consisting of a "milking stool" attached to a wooden shaft and handle. (Fig 1) The illustration was supplied by the Derbyshire Museum Service and is of a dolly which is three feet in height, has six "legs", and a handle the right side of which is a replacement of circa 1920. It is interesting to note the wear half way up the shaft where the dolly and tub came into contact.

The variants of this basic type have been classified as such mainly according to the number of their "legs". The classification is as follows:

1. East Anglia - three legs
2. South Lancashire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Herefordshire - four legs.
3. Lancashire, Derbyshire, Westmorland, - six legs.

In all these cases the dolly was made entirely of wood; however, one unusual example was described by a correspondent in Lancashire. It consisted of a wrought-iron frame fitted with wooden "legs" and handle. It was made by a blacksmith, probably in the Goosnargh district of Lancashire, and dates from before 1880. (Fig. 2.)

The second type was that which consisted of a block of wood, shaped like an inverted flower-pot, attached to a wooden shaft and handle. Sections of the base were cut away to leave arches through which the water passed when the dolly was in use. (Figs. 3, 4) Information received from London and Worcestershire suggested that the most common kind had four such arches in the base, but a correspondent from Herefordshire mentioned a dolly having only three. According to all the evidence available to the author, this type was known in Lancashire, Northumberland, Yorkshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

A correspondent from Worcestershire states that the first type was more commonly found in the counties to the north of Worcestershire. Another correspondent claimed first-hand knowledge of that type in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. Certainly no information was received concerning the use of either of those types in counties south of those just mentioned. Correspondents now living south of them all had close connections with northern and north midland counties.

After the period circa 1910 – 1920 a third type of dolly was in use, definitely in Sussex Scotland and Lancashire - a range which suggests use in most parts of Britain, excluding Northern Ireland, about which, in this respect, the author has discovered nothing. This dolly consisted of a lined copper bell attached to a wooden "Broomstick" shaft. There were variations of this type, too. Most common was the dolly which had holes in the inner copper face and slots at the base of the outer face. Another kind was that which had four small fins from the centre of the concave inner surface. The illustration (Fig. 5), of the former variant, is of the dolly shown to members of the Group at the March 1964 "Animal, Vegetable and Mineral" meeting.

"Dolly" was not the name by which all these instruments were known. The first type was known as a "dolly leg" in Westmorland, dolly peg" in Lancashire. The second type was known as a "posser" in Lancashire and Westmorland; as a "poss stick" in Northumberland; and as a "maiden" in Worcestershire. The third type seems to be quite commonly known a "posser".

It is difficult to place these types in sequence. A member of the staff of "The Field" stated the original type was this author's second type, and this is confirmed by the correspondent from Herefordshire, who describes one of this type, and then says: "A Later one had four ""legs"" but was not popular as it tore the garments". On the other hand a correspondent from Westmorland says "The dolly leg was in use in the early twentieth century. Then came the wooden posser". When the process of washing was mechanised, however, the earliest machines were based on the same principle as the author's first type, the use of which involved actions of thumping and swirling, while that of the second type involved merely the thumping. There is no doubt that the author's third type was the latest in use, and it can still be bought.

Some lively accounts of the dolly's use were received by the author; accounts of children in Derbyshire who used to delight in dressing up the dolly; of areas in which a dolly is passed round among friends for the washing of blankets; of a rule of counting twenty twists for a blanket; of a dolly passed down from generation to generation in a Sots family; of a row of cottages with separate wash-houses from which the noise of the dollies on Monday mornings was like that of tom-toms! One correspondent confessed that she preferred her dolly to her Hoovermatic but added ruefully that "one must move with the times".

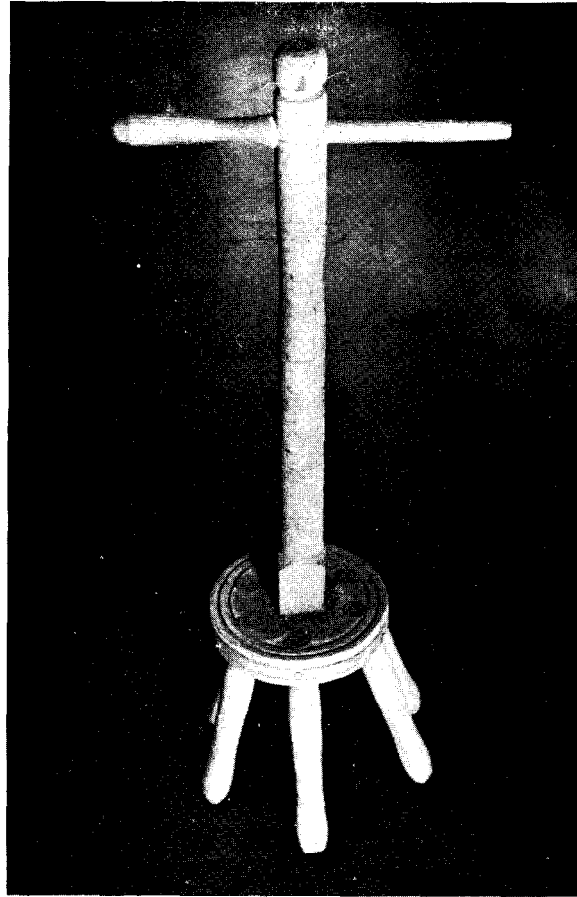


Fig. 1 Lancashire, c.1900. Height, 3ft.
Photo: Derbyshire Museum Service.

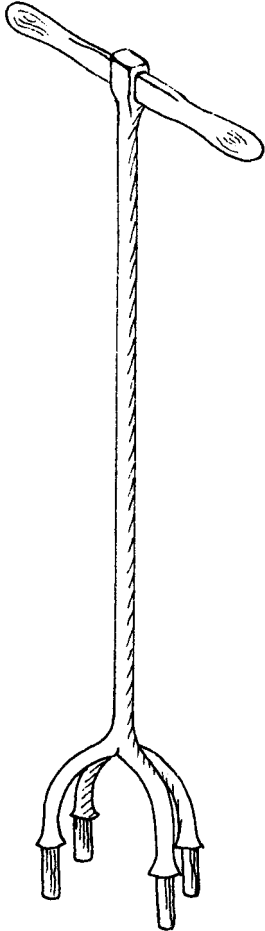


Fig. 2 Goanargh, Lancs, c.1850. Height 3ft. Round, wrought iron shaft, wooden handle and pegs.

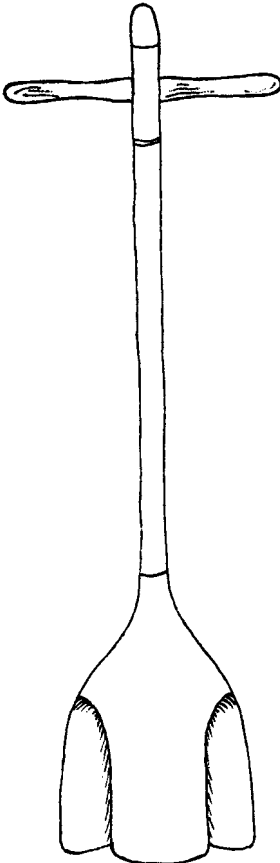


Fig. 3 Place unknown, c.1930. Height 3ft. All wood.

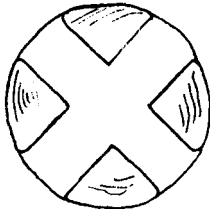


Fig. 4 Base of fig. 3 from below. Diameter - 8ins.

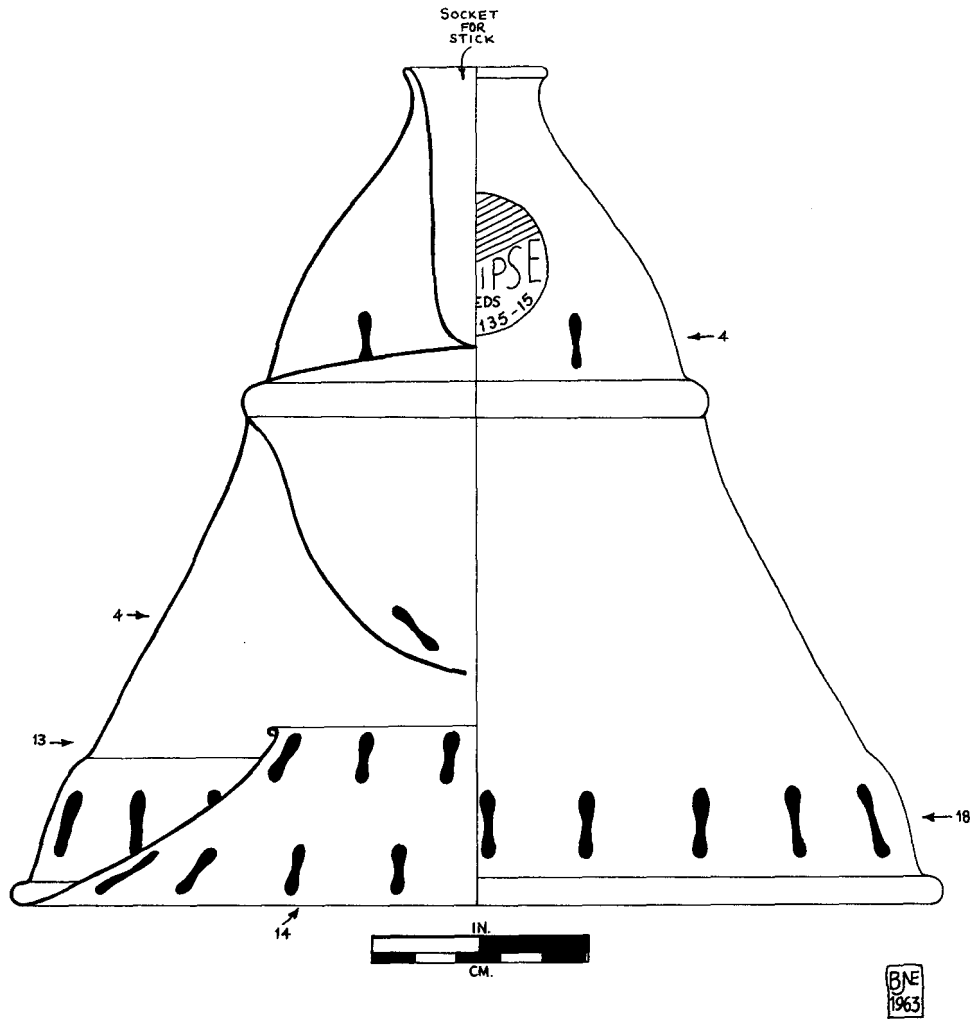


Fig. 5 Bought Colchester, 1962. New, c.1915. Copper.
 Figures indicate number of slots in each set.

NOTES & COMMENT

MR. B.J.N. EDWARDS. B.A. Writes:

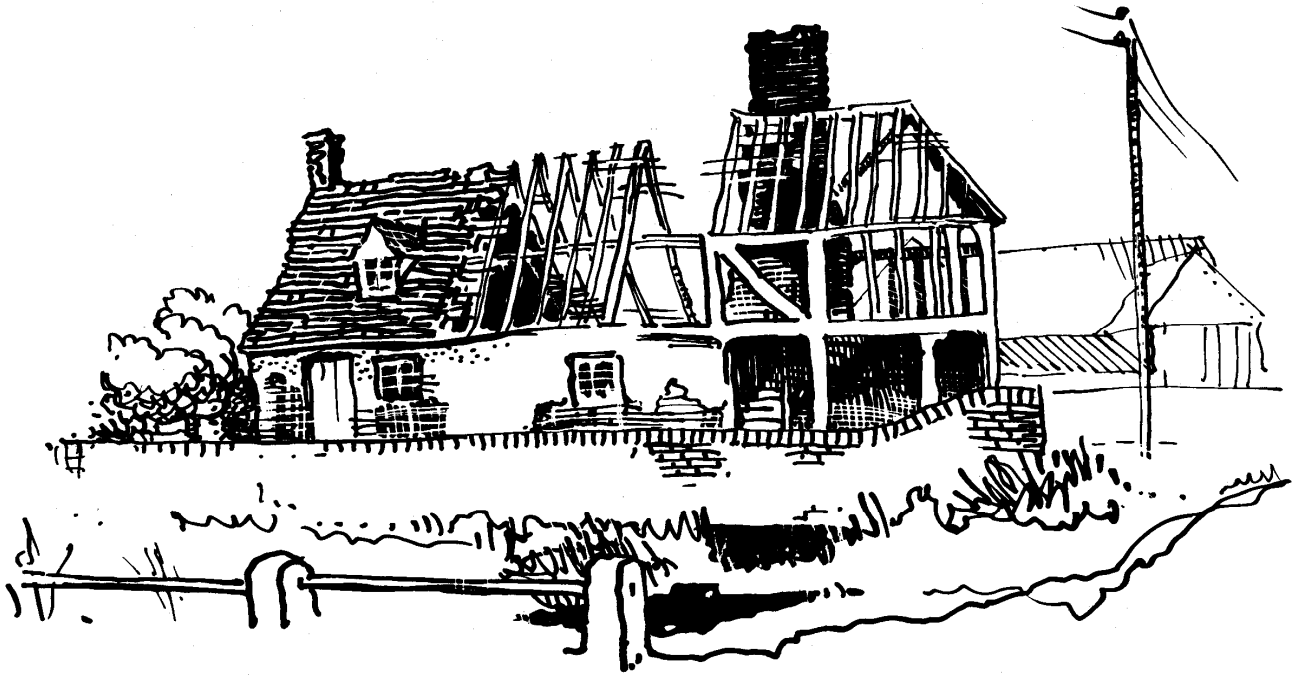
The first volume of the publications of the Chetham Society (1844) bears the following title:- "Travels in Holland, the United Provinces, England, Scotland and Ireland, 1634 & 1635, by Sir William Brereton, edited by Edward Hawkins". In the course of his travels Brereton stopped at Newcastle upon Tyne on 23rd June, 1635, and from there "visited 'Sheeldes' (South Shields), where in is more salt works and more salt made, than in any part of England that I know, and all the salt here is made of salt water". He then describes, in a passage more remarkable for the acuteness of its observation than for the clarity of its exposition, the making of 'lumps of hard and black salt'. 'These great lumps of hard black salt', he says, 'are sent to Colchester to make salt upon salt, which are sold for a greater price than the rest, because without these at Colchester they cannot make any salt'. I should be very interested to know more of this method of making salt, and why Brereton singles out Colchester, with which he had no connection as far as I know, for particular mention It may be relevant that on the map in the 1825 edition of Thomas Cromwell's History of Colchester (reproduced as the front end-paper in Dr. Geoffrey Martin's book The story of Colchester 1959) the words 'Salt Works' appear on the right bank of the Colne, just by the west end of Hythe Bridge.

Major A. D. Mansfield writes:- I am still researching into the history of the gas cooking stove and should much appreciate any information which members may have relating to the existence locally of any pre-1920 gas cookers.

Mr. Malcolm Carter writes:- following our custom (which might be more widely practised) of recording

demolitions of buildings of interest in north-east Essex, I would like to mention the following:

1. Rolfe's Farmhouse (or Pond Farm), Tolleshunt D'Arcy, was pulled down early in 1956 (see illustration below). It was an irregular plastered and tiled building which had long been divided into two cottages. It was evident during demolition that the central part had been the hall of an open hearth house, and that the southern end had been the solar. The latter was heavily timbered, and had a tie-beam with king post rocketed for four-way struts, and central purlin. A likely date would be the end of the 15th century. Probably this note and the illustration are its only memorials. This is Tolleshunt D'Arcy 6 in the R.C.A.M. and is dated by that body along with a number of other buildings, seventeenth century,



Rolfe's Farmhouse (or Pond Farm) Tolleshunt D'Arcy, pulled down in 1956.

2. Peake's Farmhouse., Tiptree. (2½" O.S. but not 1") A large high-roomed timber house in one span with later additions along the north side The floor above the principal room appeared to have been inserted after building: this was presumably a 10th century open-hearth house, heavily timbered. A stud in an inside wall was 14" wide. Demolished to make way for Greater Tiptree and unrecorded in R.C.A.M.

3. No. 121 High Street, Colchester - demolished 1964, This house had been refronted in a brisk Victorian renaissance manner: only the roof indicated any age externally: but during demolition of the next building about two or three years ago, the west wall was exposed showing continuous guilloche ornament on plaster and a sharp gable end. Unrecorded in R.C.A.M.

4. Birch Windmill - a post-mill, with the usual brick round house. It was demolished in the winter 1962-3 and the timber burnt on the site.

NOTES & COMMENT (CONTD)

"LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN"

When the Son of Sirach wrote those words many centuries ago he expressed a sentiment which is still strong in the human race. Now I have no doubt that Colchester's most famous man is Cunobelin. He was not born here - in fact he came rather as an uninvited guest- but, like so many more after him, he was charmed with what he saw and stayed. However more credit is due to him than his successors; they saw the actuality

while he saw the potentiality. He was the only Ruler who lived here; others have passed through, he belonged. He was a man of many parts. He was our first Town Planner and some of his plan exists to-day in our Western boundary. He was the first G.O.C. of Colchester Garrison. If the symbol of an ear of wheat on his coins means anything he was also President of the N.F.U. Indeed a Famous Man. And how does Colchester praise him? First we look at the Town Hall. At the top is St Helena. Well, we will pass that, though I doubt if even the Victorians who put her there really believed that pretty legend. Then there are some statues a little lower. Cunobelin? No! Boadicea if you fancy that though as far as I can see all she ever did for Colchester was to kill its inhabitants and burn it down. Let us have a look inside. We shall see various statues and busts; stained glass windows with representations of various people over 1900 years but not Cunobelin. But stay! One of the Moot Hall windows is surmounted by a Wheat-ear, Emblem of Cunobelin and Wheat-ears form a border round the window. But that is all. Nevertheless our City Fathers HAD heard of him! Rather sadly we turn away when an idea occurs. Colchester has named many of its roads after famous men and we hastily consult Blaxill's 'Street Names of Colchester'. Cunobelin is not there but we do find Cymbeline Way with the explanation "After Cunobelinus, Shakespeare's Cymbeline". I ask you! Cymbeline!! Cunobelin we know but Cymbeline! Why, the very play refutes the 'Oxford wrote Shakespeare' theory. No one could live at Castle Hedingham and write a play about Cunobelin without making Camulodunum a centre piece. And no Colcestrian has ever heard of Cymbeline Way. It's the By-Pass! Let us now praise famous men.

H.J. Edwards.

Miss Sarah Mansfield is now working in Munchen Gladbach, West Germany, and has joined the local Archaeological Society. She has sent us a copy of a very interesting paper describing a Roman fortification and moat which are reached by a causeway through a swamp. Such structures are mentioned by Livy and are thought to be of an early date. The paper is available on loan to anyone interested. A copy of our Bulletin has been presented to the German Society.

WINTER MEETINGS 1965

It is a far cry from the peaceful fields of Essex to the upper reaches of the river Nile in the Sudan, and from seed growing to archaeological excavation; but a member of the Colchester Archaeological Group made that journey, and was engaged for a period of two years on the excavation of some of the buildings of the early Coptic race which inhabited the upper regions of the river Nile, soon to be inundated by the Aswan dam scheme. Mr. B.A. Bonner, the well-known farmer of Feering, was the speaker at the meeting held on January 18th, when a good audience of members and friends enjoyed a remarkable account of the journey and of the excavations carried out, which was fully illustrated by colour slides. The outward journey also included visits to the Valley of Kings at Luxor, and the speaker's easy and humorous style made the talk not only a personal reminiscence, but a valuable and interesting lecture. Mr. Bonner acted as official photographer to the British team, and the excellence of the slides, despite considerable technical difficulties of light and shadow was remarkable.

On the 25th January, Mr. G.E. Fussell, the well-known author, gave an interesting account of the development of the plough from ancient times to the present day. His talk was illustrated by photographs and was followed by lively discussion among the member's.

The use of aerial surveys to aid archaeology was demonstrated on February 1st, by Mr. Felix H. Erith, the well known farmer archaeologist of Ardleigh, who kindly came to the rescue when the advertised speaker was unable to come through illness. His talk, fully illustrated by slides, covered much of the Tendring Hundred and the Stour Valley and many pre-historic sites, hitherto unsuspected, were shown and described. Crop marks showed a variety of sites, including Bronze Age burial barrows of three distinct groups with single ring marking, and others having two concentric circles, or smaller circles within a larger one. A probable cursus marking at Lawford marks the ancient track along which cattle were driven to the water meadows, and at Stratford St. Mary a distinct henge monument appears, having a central cross marking and a rectangular perimeter ditch. Other straight line markings denoting probable Iron Age settlements were shown at Ardleigh and Jaywick, and the important Rhyno-Clactonian area at Lawford was clearly indicated from the air. A number of single barrows have been excavated in Dedham, Lawford, Ardleigh and Bromley, but much remains to be done, particularly in areas of different types in proximity.

A feudal system which survived until the 19th century was the holding of manorial courts, the records of which were kept in rolls, or minute books. The court rolls of the manor of Bovills Hall, Ardleigh, have survived from the 15th century, and the contents of the rolls, and of the stewards' accounts associated with them made the subject of a fascinating Lecture by Mr. Felix H. Erith on February 8th. He briefly explained the manorial system and gave examples of the various kinds of business the manorial court dealt with, illustrating the talk with slides showing the original entries in the rolls and other records, and showing also the farmhouses mentioned. A late 18th century example of a deodand, by which a cart was impounded as it had caused the death of a man was given; also the gift of two horses by way of heriot, to secure two properties.

The fees or fines which came to the lord of the manor ranged from apprenticeship fees to a payment for digging brick clay from the earth. The fines made upon jurymen both for attendance, and for non-attendance, assured a steady income to the court and a detailed study both of the court rolls and of the stewards accounts would, no doubt, reveal many more interesting and important historical details concerning the parish, its manorial lords, and the inhabitants.

The members were addressed by Mr. Mark Hassall on February 15th on the subject of the excavations at Dorchester on Thames. The speaker, a young professional archaeologist, served under a famous master, Professor Frere, and his talk, illustrated by copious slides, though of necessity very technical, was all the more welcome and enjoyed by a good audience. The Roman town at Dorchester began as a supply base in support of the Fosse Way, and probably had a fort, but insufficient evidence has so far been revealed to substantiate all theories or prove records. The laborious work of excavation and the scientific reading of the resulting sections were well presented and explained and any questions were posed to the speaker on conclusion of his address,

The speaker at the meeting on February 22nd was Mr. B.K. Davison of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, who spoke on the excavations at Thetford. The speaker said that Thetford was, perhaps, the most important Saxon settlement site in Britain, and results during two years of excavation had supported this theory. The talk was fully illustrated by slides and an appreciative audience posed many interesting questions to the speaker. Although much of the matter was highly technical, Mr. Davison spoke with a fluent

and interesting style and explained the complex diagrams and made his subject live in the minds of his audience. Owing to limitations of time, the sites only were described, but a wealth of pottery and other material was also found.

An illustrated lecture on the Siege of Colchester was given to a combined audience of the Colchester Archaeological Group and the Friends of the Museums on March 1st in St. Runwald School by Mr. Leonard H. Gant. The speaker gave an account of events leading up to the siege and unfolded the story of the heroic sorties made by the besieged Royalists and of fierce engagements in the suburbs of the town. He told also of the tightening grip of the Parliamentary forces, who encircled the town with barricades, forts and earthworks and subjected it to daily bombardments. The plight of the Townspeople and the many appeals made to Fairfax, the General of the Parliamentary forces for leniency, all of which passed unheeded, led to the final surrender, and the harsh conditions imposed by Fairfax, including the shooting of Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle, were described by Mr. Gant, who concluded his talk by showing transparencies of many places in the town, associated with the siege.

The pre-history of Cambridge, and the story of subsequent occupations in Roman and Saxon times was the theme of a talk on March 8th, given by Dr. John Alexander, the eminent, archaeologist of Cambridge. The most ancient settlements are located on the north bank of the river Cam, and redevelopment of the Mount Pleasant district has offered opportunities for excavation, which, under Dr. Alexander's direction, have yielded much information of the early settlements. The lecture was freely illustrated by slides and drawings showing the indications of the various periods: and the great potential for future excavation along the road to the Fens.

Members were addressed on March 15th by Miss Dorothy Jones, whose subject was the Bourbonnais churches of central France. Fully illustrated by a fine series of colour slides, Miss Jones delighted a large audience with an historical account and pictures of this part of France, the history of which is at many points connected with England, and was the seat of the ancient dukedom of Bourbon. The long drawn out Hundred Years War also affected the province, and many ancient Chateaux bear the scars of battle and revolution. Scenes of the river valley, fertile and cultivated, the deep forests and mountains, medieval chateaux and quiet villages followed in quick succession, and the speaker held her audience with an interest and appreciation, born of her own deep love of the Bourbonnais.

The last meeting of the winter programme was held on the 22nd of March. This took the form of an historical and archaeological Quiz; with two teams of members vying with each other to answer questions, identify objects and recognise coloured slides which covered a wide range of time from Neolithic to Early Victorian. Coffee and biscuits were served at the end of the Quiz and everyone enjoyed a very pleasant and sociable evening.

PART TWO JUNE 1965

The following outings have been arranged:

Monday 14th June - 6.30 p.m. at Colchester Public Library - Tour of the town.

Monday 19th July - 6.30 p.m. at Colchester Public Library - to visit Dedham.

Monday 16th August - 6.30p.m. at the Berechurch Arms, Shrub End Road - to visit D'Arcy Hall, Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Tiptree Priory.

Lifts will be arranged for out of town trips for those members who do not have cars and the meeting places are readily accessible to Corporation buses.

The programme for next winter's meetings is given overleaf. In view of the increased membership these will now take place in the lecture room at the Castle Museum. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Macauley for allowing us to use the room at St Runwalds School and arrangements have been made to present her with a picture of the old St. Runwalds Church as a memento of our time there.

In this issue may be found an account of our excavation at Elm Park Ardleigh last autumn together with the usual Notes and Comment and an account of our outing to Stebbing and Great Bardfield on May 15th.

Contributions of articles, notes, drawings and photographs are welcomed and these, with any enquiries, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone 274 (evenings).

WINTER PROGRAMME, 1965 - 1966.

At 7.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle.

- 1965 Oct. 11th Annual General Meeting after which Coffee will be served and some slides of recent activities shown.
- Oct. 18th D.T.D.Clarke, M.A.,F.S.A.,F.M.A., - Some Suggestions of Weekend Archaeology.
- Oct. 25th I.J.Herring, M.A.Cantab., - Barbarians on Trajan's Column.
- Nov. 1st A.J.Fawn, B.Sc., - Science and Archaeology.
- Nov. 8th L.H.Gant, A.I.A.C., - The Rev. Edmund Hickeringill, Rector of All Saints.
- Nov. 15th Members Finds and Treasures.
- CAMULODUNUM - A Symposium on the Belgic Capital in three parts.
- Nov. 22nd (Miss Susan Nicholson - Events leading up to the formation of the town.
- Nov. 29th (M.R.Hull, M.A., F.S.A., - The Excavations at Camulodunum.
- Dec. 6th (Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A., - Outside the Belgic Capital and its transition (to Roman Colchester.
- Dec. 13th Film Show and Social.
- 1966 Jan. 10th Professor Sheppard S. Frere, M.A., F.S.A., - Excavations at Verulamium.
- Jan. 17th F.H. Erith - Samian Pottery.
- Jan. 24th Major A.D.Mansfield - 17th. century Artillery with reference to the Siege of Colchester
- Jan. 31st Mrs T.D. Clarke - Excavations at Jericho.
- Feb. 7th To be arranged.
- Feb. 14th K.E.Newton - The Art of the Mapmaker in Essex.
- Feb. 21st Miss Rosalind Dunnett - Recent Excavations and Future Plans.
- Feb. 28th J.S. Wachter, F.S.A. - Cirencester - The Roman Town.
- Mar. 7th Rex Wailes, F.S.A., M.I. Mech. E., - Windmills and Industrial Archaeology.
- Mar. 14th Archaeological Quiz.

THE ROMAN SITE AT ELM PARK, ARDLEIGH

Elm Park is a mansion now occupied as a Children's Home managed by the Essex County Council. It borders a field of Vincés Farm to the south and Abbott's Nurseries to the north. In the spring of 1964 the gardener, Mr. F.S. Barlow, was digging a trench double depth for sweet peas, when the spade brought up Roman pottery.

At the request of the Children's Committee and with the permission of the Essex County Council, the Group arranged to undertake an excavation. The dry autumn had made the Iron Age site at Vincés Farm too hard to dig, so the Group conveniently turned its attention to Elm Park, where the shade of some trees and the vegetative cover made the ground easier to work. The Group was there for several week-ends and a very enjoyable and pleasant time was had by all, partly owing to the almost unceasing supply of Roman pottery discovered. Mr. Erith kindly provided table tops and bales of straw to put them on and these, with a ready supply of water, made immediate pottery washing possible and gave occupation for those members not actively concerned in digging.

The site consisted of a ditch some three or four feet deep running obliquely across a corner of the kitchen garden, and was terminated by the modern wash-house one way and a row of lime trees the other. An extension in a straight line southwards would lead to the adjoining field at Vincés and link up with the prolific ditch of Roman pottery found there in 1956. The pottery found then was taken to the Colchester Museum but was never published, partly because its very vastness would have made the cost prohibitive! It was, however, appraised by Mr. Hull, and he deemed a large proportion of it to be Trajanic (99-110), and this assessment was supported by the finding of a samian Form 37 bowl made by the Anchor Potter, in the most prolific section of the ditch.

The amount of Roman pottery found at Elm Park was very large, perhaps over 2,000 sherds, but even that was less than ten percent of the quantity found at Vincés Farm. In addition to the pottery there was a lava quern, 18 inches in diameter and 2 inches thick; also a large quantity of oyster shell.

On the 22nd November, the dig having finished, Mr. Erith put one of his barns at our disposal and members spent a very happy and busy Sunday sorting checking and correlating the finds,

THE EXCAVATION OF THE SITE

by P.,R. Holbert.

Towards the end of September 1964 a preliminary examination was made of the site by members of the Group, This took the form of two trial trenches 10 ft. long by 3 ft. wide and 1 ft. apart at the spot where the original pottery finds were made. On reaching depth of about 18 inches, masses of Roman sherds were found in the baulk between the two trenches.

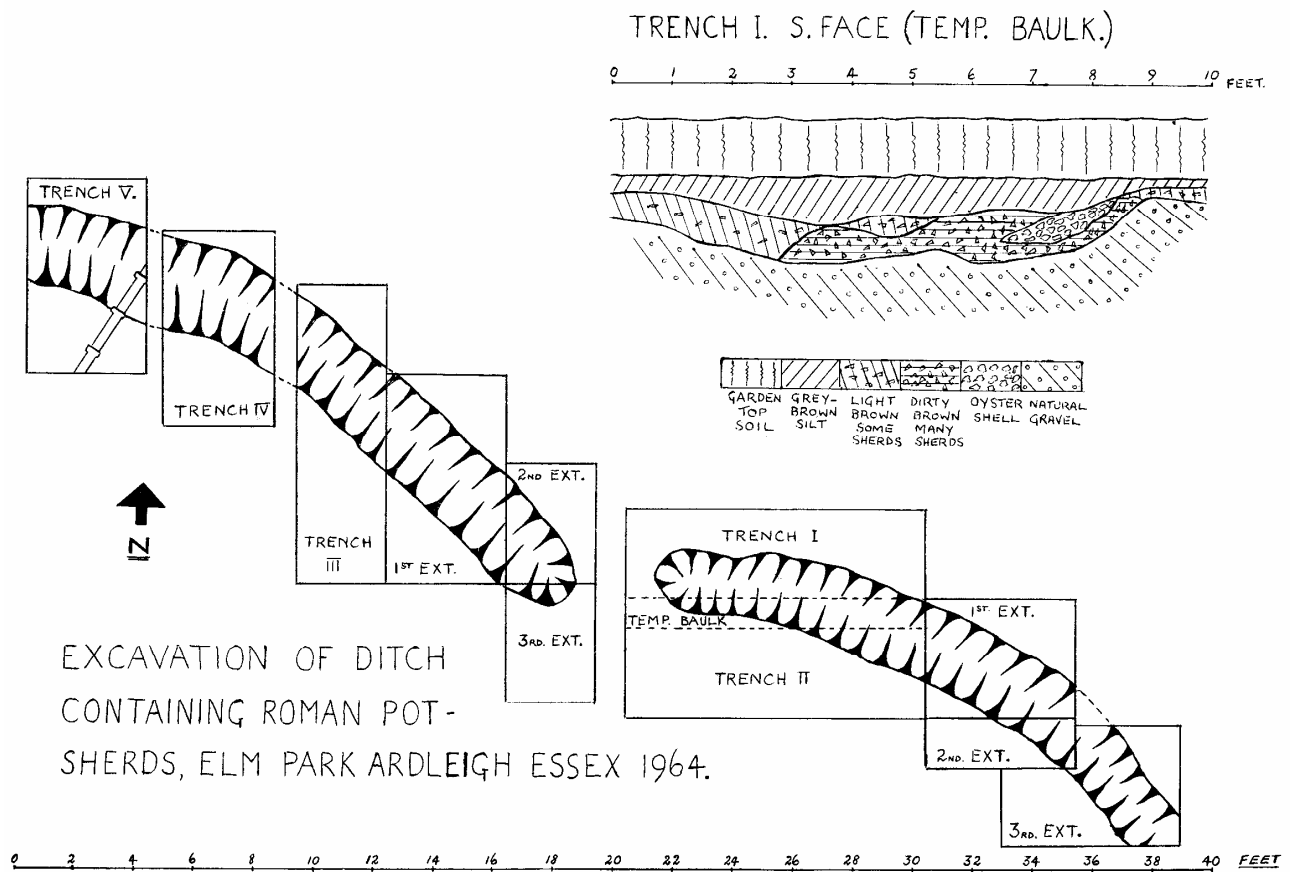
The baulk was subsequently removed disclosing a section of what appeared to be an ancient ditch literally filled with sherds and a quantity of oyster shell.

Work continued at weekends until about the middle of November; a succession of trenches was dug across the line of the ditch in an easterly and westerly direction from the original trial trench, As the work progressed, it became evident that the main concentration of sherds in the ditch was around the original find spot and petered out somewhat in either direction from this point.

The ditch was excavated and cleared down to natural subsoil for approximately 38 feet of its length and was quite irregular in shape, varying in depth from some 2 ft. 6 inches to 4 feet, A plan of the site appears below.

It would appear that the ditch was used continuously over a long period; this is borne out by the provisional dating of the pottery as from 40 AD to 110-120 A.D.

In conclusion, this find of Roman pottery is probably connected with reports in the past of kiln traces found in the area, the ditch presumably offering a convenient means of disposal of waste products and breakages.



THE POTTERY,

by F.H. Erith.

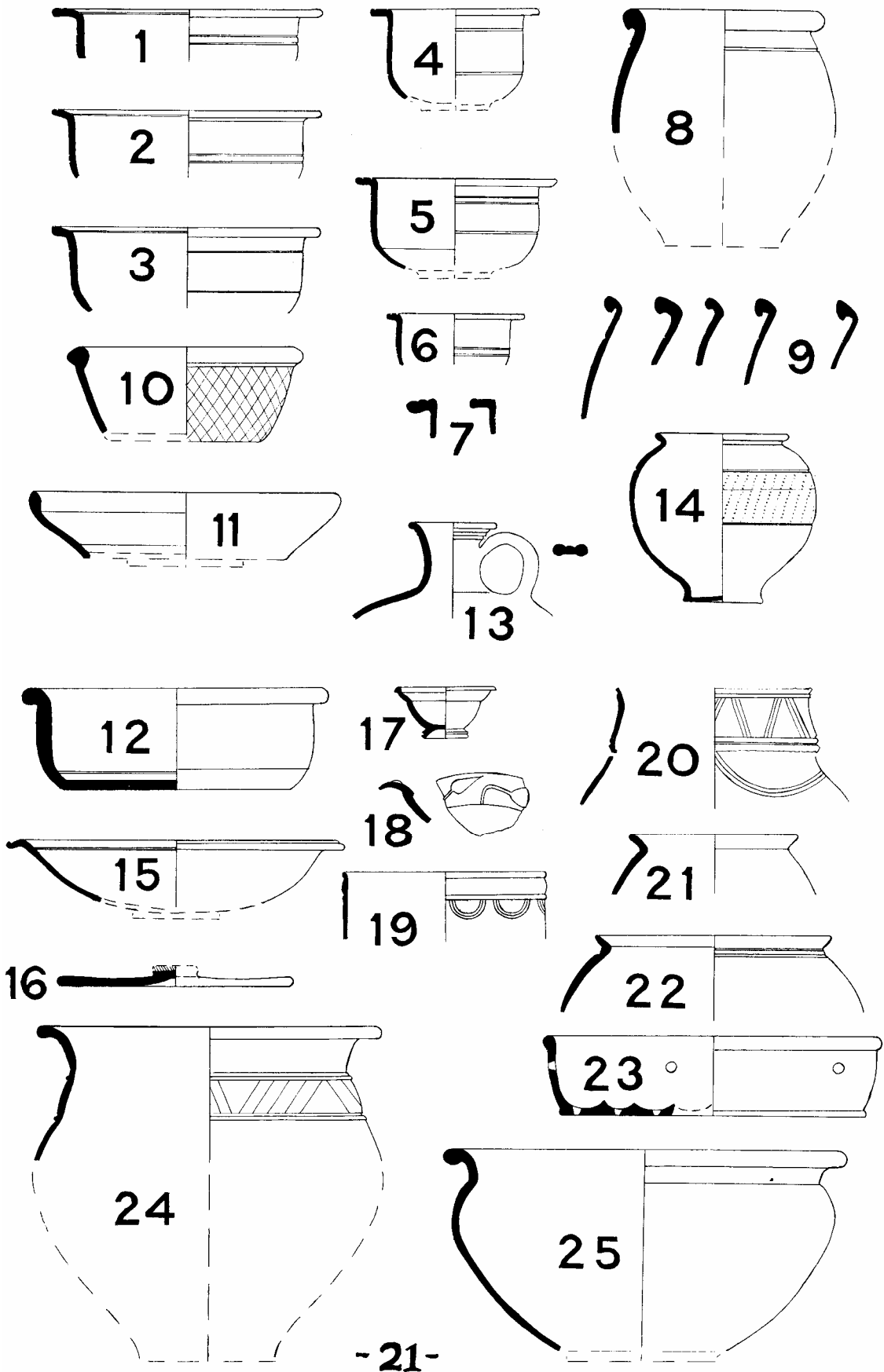
The pottery in the Elm Park kitchen garden would appear to be no later than Trajanic, but the little Samian Form 27 bowl (No. 17 of those illustrated below) is probably as early as the reign of Claudius (41 - 54 AD). Also the pottery of Gallo-Belgic ware (Nos. 10, 11, 14, & 23) is classified as first century; so it would be reasonable to assume that the pottery in the Elm Park site ranges from about 40 AD to 120 AD.

In appraising this pottery we are fortunate to be able to refer to "Camulodunum" by Hawkes and Hull, as most of our forms are classified there. In addition the book "Roman Pottery Kilns of Colchester" by Mr. Hull, contains a reconsidered Table of Forms of Pottery Vessels, in which mention is made of the Vinces Farm pottery where applicable.

My thanks are due to Mr. Hull for his help and advice but I must insist that any mistakes or inaccuracies in the assessment below are mine alone.

SCHEDULE OF POTTERY ILLUSTRATED ON PAGE 15

1. Bowl with everted reeded rim, in coarse dark grey ware.
Two grooves on the flat top of the rim, and two more at the shoulder.
Very common at Ardleigh.. AD 50-100, Cam. form 246.
2. As above, but grooves at waist instead of at shoulder,
3. As above, but one groove at shoulder and one at the waist.
4. Smaller version of above.
5. As above, but two grooves at shoulder and one at the waist.
6. Small version of the same, with two grooves at the waist.
7. Variations of rim sections of the above.
8. A neckless cooking-pot with thick round rim and groove at the shoulder.
Ware coarse grey. A cross between Camo forms 259 and 268a.
9. As above, but with variations of rim section.
10. Mr. Hull's Form 37. "Fine black or grey, highly polished and latticed. Rim triangular in section. Very common from about AD 70." (Colchester Kilns).
11. Gallo-Belgic platter in terra nigra ware, Cam. form 14.
12. Thick flat-bottomed bowl in rather coarse grey ware.
Internal groove near base, Not classified in Camulodunum or Colchester Kilns.
13. Neck of globular flagon, with three steps below rim.
Cam form 156, but here the ware is smooth and grey, instead of the usual white or buff.
14. Globular beaker with everted rim and band of comb-stabbed decoration. Cam. form 108. Pink-white paste and black coat of Gallo -Belgic ware.
15. Bowl with "flatly" curved rim, in rather rough grey ware: probably a native effort at copying Samian form 36.
16. Black-coated lid, flatter than example in Cam. Plate LXXXV No. 17.
17. Samian form 27, with unreadable name-stamp (except that the last letter is X, - probably "FELIX"),
The internal groove below the rim, and the groove round the footring are Claudian features,
18. Fragment of Samian form 36. Early second century?
19. Fine hard grey ware, Imitation of Samian Form 30. West Stow ware (Sometimes called London ware), See Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch. 1952, Vol XXV1 Part 1, page 36. Date 100 - 120 AD.
20. Soft buff ware, from the lowest level, These two sherds are too abraded to form a join.
21. and 22, Globular (?) pots in fairly fine grey ware with up-slanting rim and slight groove at the neck.
23. Cheese Press, Cam, form 199. Occasional perforations in furrows and in wall. Common at Vines.
This large example in ware with pink-white paste and black coating.
24. Cam. form 218: "Deep carinated bowl, with bulge between cordons and shoulder". Very common at Camulodunum. Here made in fine grey ware. First century.
25. Cam. form 230: "Simple wide-mouthed bowls, with or without cordoned shoulder". This example in rough grey ware, but another in black polished Gallo-Belgic First century.



NOTES & COMMENT.

Recent Find at Ardleigh. During workings in the gravel pit at Martels Hall, Ardleigh, just before Easter, a hollowed out tree trunk was discovered. In view of some rather wild statements in the press we propose to issue a full and factual account of what was really discovered in our next Bulletin which is due in September.

Mrs. Malcolm Carter writes I have read Mrs. Margaret Carter's article on Washing Dollies with great interest. My mother was a Devonshire woman, and we had both a wooden and a copper one at home when I was a child. The point I should like to make is this. The washing action of the two dollies was quite different. The wooden one was used by the operator firmly grasping the handles, and by bending and stretching each of her arms in turn, producing a reciprocating rotary motion, thus swirling the clothes about in the water; it was the clothes that moved, hence the necessity for the cross-bar on the handle to enable the "Peg" to be rotated in this manner. The copper posser had a stick handle, for it was moved only up and down, the holes in the copper bell, by a sort of sucking action, passing the suds through the clothes. It was the suds in this case, not the clothes, that swirled about in the tub.

The Balkerne Gate. On the 28th March several members met at the Balkerne Gate at the request of Mr. Clarke to clean the fabric. A mound of earth had been removed from the inner side and the soil had to be carefully scraped and brushed from the crevices in preparation for restoration. In the process some areas of the outing facing were discovered. Weeds growing in the wall were removed and the south Guardroom and Footway cleared of rubbish. A very worth while job and we were pleased to help in the preservation of this important monument.

The Tendring Hundred Show - once again the Group is putting on a display. In addition to the main exhibit some of our recent finds will be on show and we hope many members will make a point of visiting our stand. The date is Saturday July the 10th at Lawford.

Resistivity Apparatus. - this was demonstrated by Mr. A.J. Fawn on the evening of Monday the 26th. of April over the site of the Iron Age Settlement. Some satisfactory results were obtained but the cold, wet weather precluded a more prolonged session but we hope to use this method to carry out a survey of the whole site at a later date. Anyone who would like to help in this project please notify the Secretary and she will let you know when arrangements have been made.

Mrs. Linley (of Newcastle, Staffs) writes:

I entirely agree with Mr. B.J.N. Edwards (Notes and Comments Sept. 1964) that were it not for the continual hard work of a few able members there would be no bulletin. Nevertheless I think he realises that many of us have not the qualifications and literary ability, which are shown by him and his wife. However let us see what the "ordinary members" can do. He has stimulated me, and I hope others, to take up the challenge and describe something of archaeological interest seen during a fairly recent holiday. As the holiday in question was the annual seaside affair naturally the time spent in pursuing my archaeological interest was limited, but we visited several Iron Age cliff castles in North Cornwall and spent one day visiting a selection of prehistoric sites in the Lands End area.

Our selection was made chiefly from some excellent booklets published by the Cornwall Archaeological Society and obtainable from their treasurer P.A.S. Pool Esq. at 59B Causewayhead, Penzance. I would recommend them to anyone spending a holiday in Cornwall. They contain map references and brief notes on "the most typical and interesting monuments and sites." Here I propose quoting the name and map reference of each site followed by a few notes on points which interested us.

TREVELGUE HEAD. (SW/825630 An Iron Age Cliff castle.)

This was the most impressive so I shall confine my remarks to this example, The headland is defended by a system of large banks and ditches running across the neck of the promontory, thus making a formidable barrier to any approach from the landward side. The ditches are cut in solid rock, the outermost being about 12 feet deep and its bank is about 7 feet high. The cliffs at this point are very precipitous so that they in themselves would form adequate defence from the sea. Walking towards the headland a single bank and ditch is encountered first. A short distance further on are three deep ditches each with its own narrow steep sided bank. The remaining defences, further seaward again, consist of three banks and ditches, The sea has now broken through along the first of these thus forming an island, which is reached by a footbridge.

CHUN CASTLE (SW/405339) An Iron Age Hill fort)

This castle has a wonderful situation on rough moorland with a view of the sea both east and west. It is roughly circular in plan consisting of two concentric ramparts faced with dry-stone granite walls. The

entrance is defended by staggering the gaps through the two walls. The interior is rather overgrown but a well is just visible and there are traces of small enclosures against the walls,

LANYON QUOIT (SW/430337, - local pronunciation "Lanine" to rhyme with mine. A very large chambered tomb now owned by the National Trust.) The massive granite slab, forming the capstone, supported by three large upright slabs is very impressive, although the legend that a man on horseback could pass beneath it seems a little exaggerated. I had to find a slight depression in the ground underneath before I could stand upright, (5 feet 2 inches). Nevertheless its construction presupposes a knowledge of methods of raising large stones. The whole would originally be covered with a mound of earth of which we saw no trace.

CARN GLOOSE (SW/355312)

Nicholas Thomas in "A Guide to Prehistoric England" describes this site as "a composite burial mound"; The Cornwall Archaeological Society's booklet as "a remarkably complex structure" We certainly didn't manage to sort it out! There is an incomplete dome-like structure now about 7 feet high surrounded by a very narrow passage, the outer wall of which is a thick earthen bank faced on both sides with dry-stone walling.

Excavations have shown that the dome contained several burials of different periods. The only one now visible is a large deep T-shaped pit,

CHYSAUSTER (SW/473350 An Iron Age and Roman village maintained by the Ministry of Buildings and Public Works.)

This was, to me, the most interesting of the sites we visited. It consists of eight huts; four on each side of a street which is about 40-50 feet wide. No paving stones are visible. The Ministry have cleared and numbered five huts and the remains of the other three can be traced out, though much overgrown. The plan of each hut is roughly circular with four or five rooms round an open courtyard, which is about 20 feet across. The walls are dry-stone construction and mainly random stone is used but a few dressed stones are used at the main entrance, which leads directly to the courtyard and at the entrance to rooms. The present walls are still a reasonable height. In hut 4, in which the plan is clearly seen the wall is about 4 feet high at the entrance to the rooms and 5 feet high at the main entrance. In several rooms the paved floors are clearly visible. We noticed traces of a hearth in one hut and in others a hollow in one of the paving stones, which Thomas suggests were hand mills for grinding corn. We saw nothing to suggest the way in which the huts were roofed. An interesting comment on these buildings was made by a German visitor, who said that he had recently seen Romanian peasants living in holes in the ground - a far worse standard of housing than that afforded at Chysauster.

Mr. H.J. Edwards writes:

I have lately been patiently perusing with both profit and pleasure a manuscript book of Receipts which I believe is about 100 years old. Most of the Receipts are for cookery but there are occasionally such useful pieces of information as "To make Blacking" and "A cure for Jaundice". To my mind, however, the most useful one is "To roast a Pig". There is no telling when any one of us might be faced with that problem so here is the Receipt:- "The pig is to be lay'd down to the fire, and when it is dry'd have a tea kettle of Boiling water and keep pouring some on it till it is almost enough then baste it with some butter till it is quite so, then eat it as fast as you can.

GROUP OUTING.

On Saturday May 15th twenty-seven members assembled at Lexden Church and proceeded to Stebbing, where the church was inspected. This building is remarkable for having been built almost entirely in the 14th century, before the influence of the great wool churches became general, and for the triple chancel arch or screen, with elaborate cusping in the tracery. (This and others of the same series were the subject of a recent article in the Bulletin).

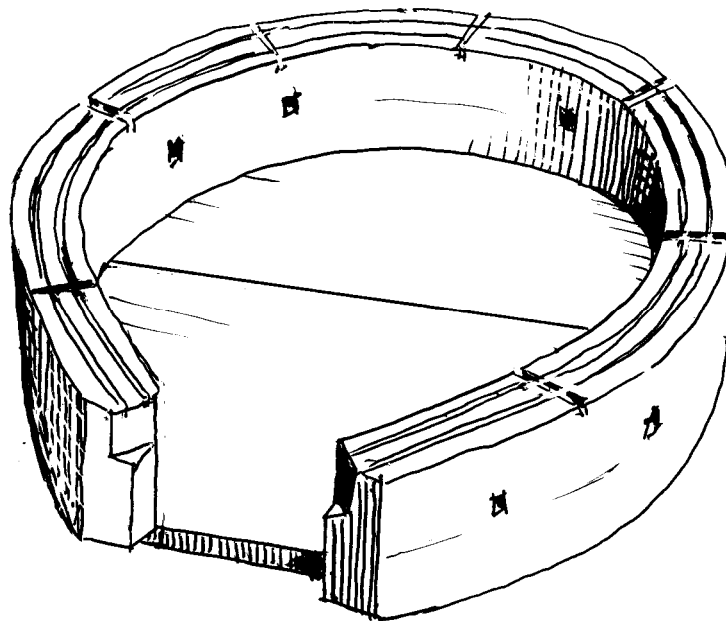
There were two roads signposted for our next objective, Great Bardfield. One goes there, the other does not. Those of the party who followed the Hon Secretary's lead down the latter were treated an involuntary Mystery Tour along lanes they had never seen before, but through the most rewardingly beautiful country. When the party reassembled at Great Bardfield, we were shown round the small but lively and interesting folk-museum (run by the Bardfield Society) by Mr. Couling, and the Town Crier Mr. Piper displayed his considerable vocal endowments. It is believed that Major Mansfield was deeply regretting the loss to the Square of a great Serjeant Major. An interesting demonstration of Corn-Dolly making, (Great Bardfield's staple industry) was laid on for us by Mrs. Piper and after tea we walked down to the church. Here Mr. Sorrell was our guide and pointed out the chancel arch, a later version of Stebbing's, and very fine.

Interesting as our avowed objectives were, the real hero of the occasion was the lush green landscape of mid-Essex on as splendid a day as late spring can provide.

WHAT IS THIS?

We illustrate below an object found by Mr. A.B. Doncaster in an attic on North Hill, Colchester. It measures about 15a x 154 x 4 inches and is carefully made of softwood. The curve is built up out of four pieces and has eight square holes in it. There are two square-cut grooves running round it intersected by seven radial grooves.

We should be interested to know the function of this somewhat peculiar artifact.



PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1985

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Monday, 11th October 1965 at 7.30 p.m. in the Lecture Room at Colchester Castle. Nominations for election for officers or Committee should reach the Secretary by 27th September. After the business meeting coffee will be served and slides of recent Group activities shown.

The full programme of winter meetings is given overleaf. The Castle is readily accessible to the Corporation bus service and there are car parks in the Bus Station at the top of East Hill and at the eastern end of Culver Street.

In the main, this issue is given over to a full and detailed report of the Tree trunk discovery at Ardleigh by Mr. F. H. Erith, in April. We shall be glad to hear of any similar features and suggestions as to its function and any other comments will also be welcome. The usual notes and accounts of our activities are also included. Reports of the summer's excavations will be included in later issues. In response to many requests, work has begun on the preparation of an index covering the first eight years of this Bulletin; this will be brought out as a separate publication.

We feel sure that members must have encountered some items of interest during the recent holiday season and any notes on these will be welcome; also anything which might have been discovered during the redevelopment of the town. Please send these together with any other enquiries to the Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone - Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP.

WINTER PROGRAMME 1965-66

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle at 7.30.p.m.

- 1965 Oct. 11th Annual General Meeting, after which coffee will be served and some slides of recent Group activities shown.
- Oct. 18th D.T.D. Clarke, M.A., F.S.A, F.M.A., - Some Suggestions for Weekend Archaeology.
- Oct. 25th I.J. Herring, M.A. Cantab., - Barbarians on Trajan's Column.
- Nov. 1st A.J. Fawn, B.Sc. - Science and Archaeology.
- Nov. 8th L.H. Gant, A.I.A.C. - The Rev. Edmund Hickeringill, Rector of All Saints.
- Nov. 15th Members' Finds and Treasures.
- CAMULODUNUM - A Symposium on the Belgic Capital in Three Parts.
- Nov. 22nd (Miss Susan Nicholson - Events leading up to the formation of the town.
- Nov. 29th (M.R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A. - The Excavations at Camulodunum.
- Dec. 6th (Professor C.F.C. Hawkes M.A., F.S.A. -Outside the Belgic Capital and its Transition to Roman Colchester.
- Dec. 13th Film Show and Social.
- 1966 Jan. 10th Professor Sheppard S. Frere M.A., F.S.A. - Excavations at Verulamium.
- Jan. 17th F.H. Erith - Middle Bronze Age Barrows and Homer.
- Jan. 24th Major Mansfield - 17th century Artillery with reference to the Seige of Colchester.
- Jan. 31st Mrs. Clarke, M.A., F.S.A. - Excavations at Jericho.
- Feb. 7th H.M. Carter - The Place of Mycenae in the Greek Cultural Sequence.
- Feb. 14th K.E. Newton - The Art of the Mapmaker in Essex.
- Feb. 21st Miss Rosalind Dunnett, B.A. - Recent Excavations and Future Plans.
- Feb. 28th J.S. Wachter, F.S.A. - Cirencester - the Roman Town.
- Mar. 7th Rex Wailes, F.S.A. M.I. Mech, E. - Windmills and Industrial Archaeology.
- Mar. 14th Archaeological Quiz.

Guests are welcome but a small contribution towards expense will be appreciated from non-members.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

FOSSIL FIND AT HOLLAND ON SEA. during recent months there has been considerable erosion by the sea of the beach to the north of Holland on Sea. One day in May 1965, when the tide was low, some large stones with strange markings on them were seen. These took the form of raised convolutions and look like tubular objects of varying size, some appear to taper at the end and small tendril-like appendages appear between them. They stand out darkly against a mud-coloured background and, where a section of a stone is visible, it can be seen that these form a solid mass throughout. The stones are very solid and heavy and are difficult to break, in fact if dropped on concrete it is the concrete that breaks! Some of the stones were shown to Mr. R.A.D. Markham of the Ipswich Museum who sent us this report;

"The stones show tubes of calcareous mudstone in a matrix of silty clay, itself often very hard; the stone also shows small patches of iron pyrites and (presumably) gypsum, The tubes are variable in size and structure, and are probably due to the burrowing activities of organisms (perhaps worms as they fed on the muddy sediment). It is likely that the specimens are of local origin, similar stone occurring in the London Clay"

It seems the age of these stones is approximately 50-55 million years, going back to the time when the whole of south-east England (The London Basin and the Hampshire Basin) were submerged beneath a tropical sea. From this layer have come fossil remains of turtles, shark's teeth and tropical vegetation.

Further investigation of the beach showed more of these rocks which appear to come from a level which is overlaid by heavy blue clay. This has also been exposed by the removal by the sea of the sand and shingle of the beach surface.

Mr. H.J. Edwards asks:- THE MOUND AT TENDRING - In the Essex Archaeological Society Transactions for 1921 (Vol. XV) J. Miller Christy has a paper entitled "Roman Roads in Essex". At the end he has a note on "Mounds beside Roman Roads in Essex". He notes "A mound at Tendring, about half a mile north from the road." He had not seen it but it was shown on the O.S. Map.

I looked at one of my old maps (1904) and it was there at about G.R. 154249. My newer map (1956) does not show it. Neither does the R.C.H.M. (1922). I have had a look round and as far as I can tell under crops there is no sign of a "mound".

Miller Christy in 1922 related the "mound" to a possible Roman Road (though I do not think that road has been generally accepted) but in view of what has been discovered in the Tendring Hundred since that date, is it not more probable that it was a Bronze Age Barrow? and it has been levelled within living memory. Can we find out anything more about it?

Major A.D. Mansfield (Clays, Churchfields, West Mersea) writes:- I am working with Dr. Phillis Cunnington on a book about Occupational Costume and we shall be most glad of any details or photographs of tradesmen's, farm-worker's. etc., working dress up to the Great War (1914-18) period. All kinds of distinctive occupational details will be of value; e.g. wearing of bell-bottom corduroy trousers, tradesmen's aprons, type of hat or cap worn in particular trades, etc. Any information will be most gratefully acknowledged and the greatest care taken of any documents or photographs lent.

THE DISCOVERY IN MARTELL'S GRAVEL PIT, ARDLEIGH.

by F.H. Erith.

The field on Martell's Hall Farm which the Gravel Company is now working is called "The Twenty-two Acres". It is near the edge of a plateau which is terminated half a mile north-east by the valley of the Salary Brook. It was in this field that the Group excavated a Bronze Age ring-ditch in 1963 (C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. VI, No. 4). In 1957, before the gravel pit started, deep ploughing revealed part of an amphora about 20 yards out from the lane, opposite "Coronation Cottages" (TM 02/049 280). In 1942, when the Company was working north of Slough Lane, a beaker was discovered (now in the Colchester Museum; but the whole area has yielded evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity.

The Discovery

The gravel at this pit is abstracted by a crane on caterpillar tracks. The operator casts his claw bucket into the gravel, which is scooped up by a drag-line. The jib is then revolved and the contents of the bucket are tipped into waiting "dumper" lorries, which convey the spoil to an elevator for grading. But it is important that only sand and stones should be sent to the elevator, as even a small amount of soil or clay mixed in a load would spoil the whole sample for concreting purposes. Consequently the top three feet of soil and gravel in the field is first removed by a scraping machine and dumped on one side. For the same reason the drag-line operator, Mr. Jack Cole, has to keep a constant watch to see that no clay is put into the dampers for transport to the elevator, Mr. Cole has usually encountered a small seam of clay at a depth of about 13 feet, but on April 15th, he dropped his bucket on some clay at a depth of only 7 feet. He said he was rather annoyed at discovering the seam so high, as this meant that more stuff would have to be discarded. But then he noticed a blackish object in the clay, and this on examination turned out to be a piece of timber. This was so surprising that he notified the Pit Manager, Mr. L.S. Trees, who very kindly called me in, in case it should prove to be of archaeological interest.

Excavation

Fortunately this more or less coincided with the Easter holidays enabling us to excavate while the Pit staff were not working, though when it appeared that we were on to something interesting, they allowed us further time to finish excavating.

It soon became apparent that this was not a natural seam of clay, but the timber was part of a hollowed-out oak tree-trunk 3 feet in diameter, which was surrounded by a coat of clay a foot thick. The inside of the tree-trunk was also packed with clay.

The method of excavation then decided upon was to remove the clay from the inside of the tree-trunk a few inches at a time. But the clay on the outside of the trunk was removed on one side only so that a couple of sections should show from top to bottom. On stripping the clay both outside many sherds of Roman pottery were found embedded in it. On the outside the clay was occasionally reinforced with pieces of ragstone (congealed gravel), and in one place there was a hole in the tree-trunk, this was plugged with more clay, and a tree root was wedged tight against it.

The bottom of the trunk was eventually discovered after four feet of clay had been stripped off one side; it was found to be eleven feet below ground level. The trunk was 40 inches high, with another 6 or 8 inches of solid clay above that.

The diameter at the bottom was 36 inches internal and 48 inches external. The bottom of the trunk was resting on 4 or 5 inches of clay, and this was above a natural seam of sand. (See photographs on page 23)

The Interior

It was at first thought that the clay in the interior of the trunk was caved in clay from higher up, but the absence of pieces of wood (to represent caved-in tree-trunk) proved an obstacle to this presumption. The internal clay seemed fairly clean and very tight, as if it had been rammed intentionally into position. For more than two feet down there was a solid mass of clay, mixed with occasional sherds of Roman pottery and perhaps half a dozen pulpy bits of matter.

Having cleared the two feet of clay, a layer of red-brown soil was revealed, in the top of which was the base of a Samian bowl. In this soil layer was a large quantity of animal bones and parts of antlers.(See notes below).

The soil layer continued down for 6 to 8 inches, below which clay was again encountered, but (except round the edge) not clean as previously, as it looked and felt more like slimy mud. In this slimy mud was the rim of a Roman jar or flask. (This was later found to fit together with a fragment of pottery found in the lining of clay, outside the tree-trunk). The bottom of the tree-trunk had been trimmed level all round, and the places where two roots had once protruded showed well trimmed flat to the side. The hollowing out of the interior appears to have been done with a curved chisel or gouge. It was mentioned in a Press account that the trunk showed signs of burning. This is incorrect; the blackish appearance was due to wetness and age, there was no sign of ash.

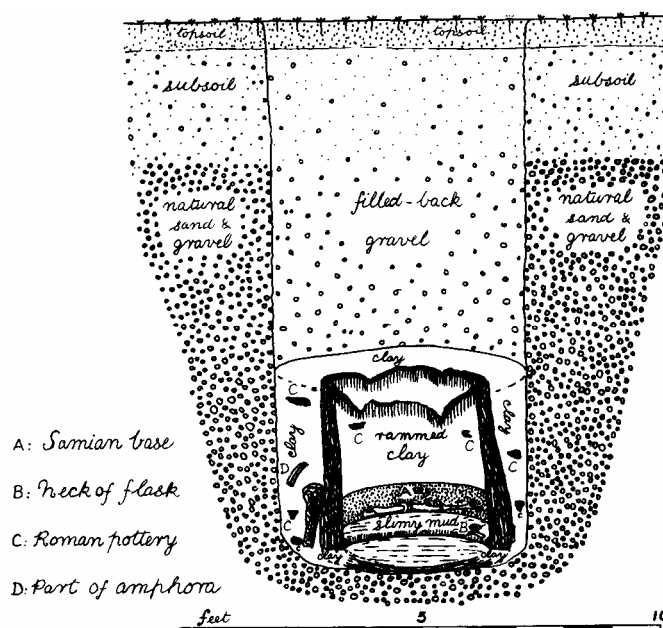
The stratification of the interior was plainly visible, (See photograph and diagram below), the white clay level ceasing abruptly above the soil level, which showed dark for six inches, below which the white clay was again apparent.

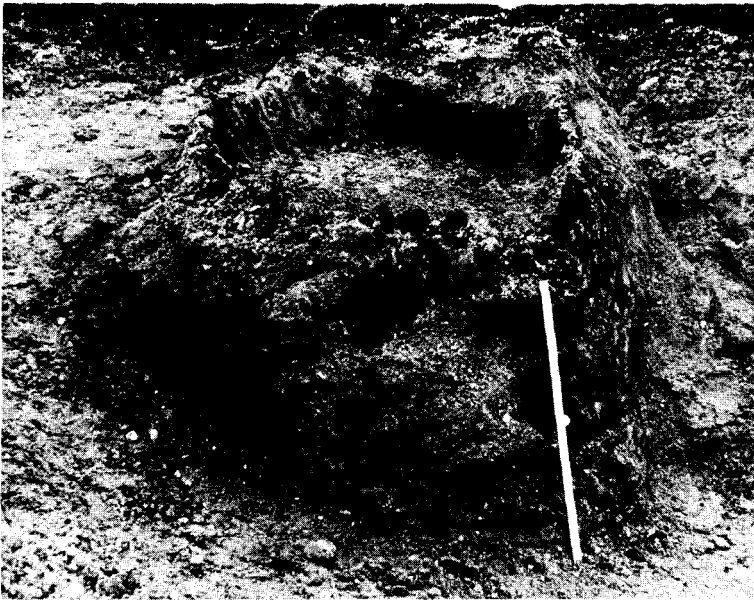
Finally, when all the clay had been removed, the trunk was loosened from its moorings, bound round with rope, and Mr. Cole lifted it out with his crane on to a waiting trailer. The hard gravel was examined below the place where the trunk stood, but nothing else was there.

The Shaft.

For the tree-trunk to have been deposited in a hole eleven feet below ground level, there should have been some evidence of the shaft which must have been dug to get it there. We have already stated that the top three feet of soil and gravel was removed by a scraping machine. There remains therefore the space between the top three feet and the depth when the discovery was first made at a depth of seven feet below ground. In this four feet layer the original gravel must have been removed by the persons making the pit. Here we must rely on the evidence of the drag-line operator, as we were not called in until the depth had reached seven feet. Mr. Cole, as we have implied, knew he must not send anything other than sand or gravel to be dumped at the elevator; he says he saw no difference in the gravel over the trunk from the surrounding gravel. He is an observant man and has been doing the same work in this pit for 25 years. We should believe him. It would appear that the infilling consisted of the same gravel that was taken out, with no soil or shafting in the form of a continuation of tree-trunk higher than that discovered,

We must conclude that a hole at least 5 feet in diameter and eleven feet deep was dug out, the tree-trunk lowered in, clay packed round the outside, the horse's head etc, put inside and covered up with more clay to the top of the tree-trunk (4 feet), Then the remaining part of the hole was filled back with the gravel that was taken out to make (*the hole*).





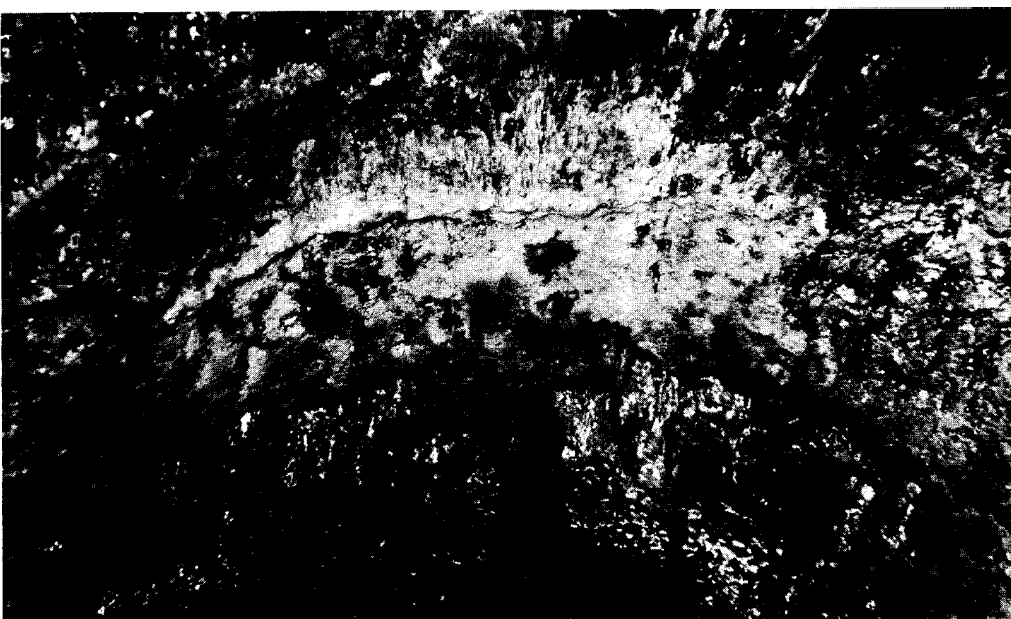
A

The tree-trunk at an early stage of the excavation, showing clay in the interior, and the clay lining partly stripped from the exterior (right).



B

The tree-trunk with all the clay removed from the inside, and from half of the outside. The bottom had been trimmed level before being deposited in the hole.



C

The interior wall of the tree-trunk showing stratification. The middle band marks the layer of red-brown soil in which the bones, etc., were deposited.

The Pottery.

References cited:

Roman Colchester, by K.R. Hull, F.S.A., 1958.

The Roman Potters Kilns of Colchester, by M.R.Hull, F.S.A., 1963 referred to as "Colchester Kilns".

Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain, by J.P. Gillam.

Romano British Pottery Kilns on West Stow Heath, by S.E. West, in Proc. Suffolk Inst. of Arch. 1952. Vol XXV1 Part 1.

Terra Sigillata, by F. Oswald & T.D. Pryce, 1920.

The pottery consisted of over 100 fragments, mostly embedded in the clay lining surrounding the tree-trunk. A few sherds were in the clay inside the tree trunk. The Samian fragment (No. 5) was at the top of the earth layer, that is, just overlying the bones. The neck of a jar (No. 7) was in the layer of slimy mud below the bones, but fitted with a fragment of rim found in the clay lining. In general., however, the fragments did not fit together and represented parts of several different vessels.

The pottery, which is illustrated on page 25, is divided into three types: coarse or unglazed domestic pots and bowls Nos. 1 - 4); exotic wares, such as Samian and its imitations (Nos. 5 and 6); and vessels made from a dark grey clay with a fine finish, and with zones of a silvery "graphite" polish (Nos. 7 - 11). The similarity of these with the pottery from the "Mithraeum" at Colchester is very marked. See "Roman Colchester", Insula 15, pages 136-42; also "Colchester kilns", fig 6, page 7; pottery from kilns 7 to 11, dated there 300 A.D.

The clay has preserved some of these sherds so well that there is a bright ness and lustre on them not usually found on domestic Roman pottery. In the drawings the polish is represented by horizontal hatchings.

Pottery Illustrations.

1. Bowl in off-white paste and dark grey matt coat, with two grooves below the rim. Form 307 as illustrated in Colchester Kilns, fig 105.
2. Wide bowl in off-white paste and dark grey matt coat. Band of roulette work at shoulder. Mr. Hull's Form 307.
3. Coarse grey pot, Form 268 B. See Roman Colchester fig. 119, page 285: "material rather coarse and gritty.....in general use 120-200 A.D." and also later - "These are beyond question the commonest vessels in Roman Colchester".
4. Cooking pot of cream-buff ware with rough grey coat, the upper half blackened. Variant of Cam. Form 264, but with distinct "hip" on shoulders Compare Gillam, No. 171 dated 170-220 AD.
5. Red Samian. Base of Drag. Form 46, with no name stamp. Oswald & Pryce illustrate the accentuated drop at the centre of the base on late examples of Form 46, but not on Form 33. Moreover on Form 46 "Potters" stamps are rare" - see O & P plate LV, No. 23, which is dated as Antonine.
6. Fragment in pink-buff ware, imitating drag. Form 37 bowl with incised stripes in the decoration zone. If this is West Stow ware (or London ware) then it is the earliest sherd on the site, since the West Stow kilns are presumed to have ended about 120 A.D. - (Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch. 1952, page 53) but compare Gillam 197, "Drag. 37, pinkish yellow fabric, A.D. 140-200 A.D."
7. Neck of flask in grey ware and slaty surface. Roman Colchester, figs. 63 or 68. (Pottery from the Mithraeum).
8. Polished bowl with hollowing on inside of the rim to take a lid. Mr. Hull's Form 307 as illustrated in Roman Colchester, page 138, fig 65 No. 65 - "must have been in use about 190, and certainly lasted into the 4th century.
9. Rim of Mr. Hull's Form 299. Fine grey clay, and polished grey coat. Roman Colchester, fig.66, No. 78.
10. Sherd showing band of rouletting above and below bands of silvery "graphite" polish. Grey clay and

surface. This sherd has to be tilted to an angle of about 45 degrees before the curves of the bands appear horizontal. To be part of a bowl the rouletting would have to be on the underside. Presume, therefore, that it is part of a flask, like Roman Colchester fig. 63, No. 54, page 136:- "Finely made of thin slate grey ware.... two rouletted bands, and two bold girth grooves."

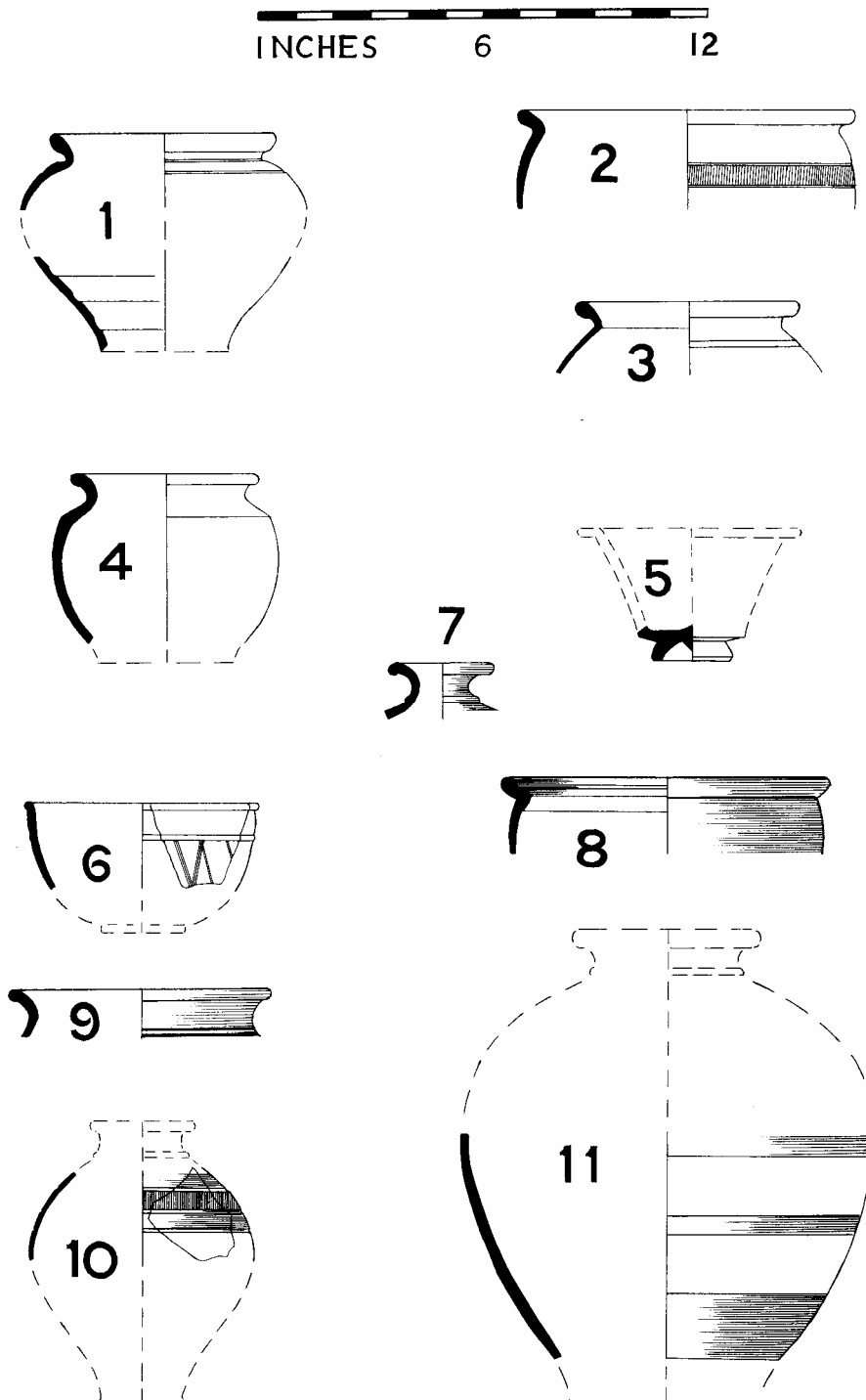
11. Fragment of large flask or jar, as illustrated in Roman Colchester, page 141, fig. 68, Nos. 107-110:- "These flasks of Form 281 may have been in use in the first century, but this is doubtful.... our present series appears in the third century, continuing into the fourth"

Among the sherds not illustrated are:

Fragment of an amphora, 6 inches by 5 inches, buff, three quarters of an inch thick.

Disc of grey pottery, 5 inches in diameter, made from the base of a pot.

Sherd of brick-red paste, glossy black coat, one tenth of an inch thick. (Colour-coated ware?).



Report on the Bones.

by Harold E.P. Spencer
of 43, Benacre Road, Ipswich.

1. The broken remains of one antler of a RED DEER Stag of small type. The pair would have had perhaps 14 points. No bones, other than the antler, of this deer were recognised.
2. Most of the bones belonged to a young HORSE, "equus caballus", not more than two years old. They included the fragmentary remains of the skull. Presumably the skull was entire but in such a decayed condition that it could only be extracted in pieces. Among these the pre-maxillary with incisors was recognisable; the upper pre-molars and molars; parts of the nasal bones and of the skull.

Of the skeleton of this animal only one limb bone, a metatarsal (a bone of a hind foot) was represented; and this crumbled when handled. One scapula (shoulder blade) was present and some half dozen vertebrae from the neck, thorax and lumbar regions.

At no time in over forty years experience have any bones in such a curiously decayed state come under my observation. They are so fragile that they will hardly bear being touched at all, and are more or less encrusted or impregnated with the mineral substance VIVIANITE (Hydrous ferrous phosphate). This mineral is often present where animal substances decay in the presence of iron.

It must be stated the condition of ancient bones varies with the nature of the soil, sand, clay etc., in which they have been buried. Therefore the condition of bones offers no criteria by which to judge their age.

With the bones was found pieces of calcareous tufa which could have been formed within hollows formed by the decay of tree roots, perhaps by calcareous algae. These organisms have frequently been the cause of calcareous concretions in fresh water clays. If the tufaceous concretions are due to the activities of lime-secreting algae it would seem the feature was indeed intended as a well. The possibility of the animal remains having been thrown in to foul the water and render it unusable should not be overlooked.

General Remarks.

The map reference to this site is TM 02.050279, some 200 yards S.W. from where parts of an amphora were found in 1959. The nearest evidence of third century occupation so far discovered would be at Colchester, three miles to the south-east. The Bronze Age and Belgic cemeteries and Trajanic pottery kilns at Vinces Farm are half a mile to the north-east, and the Belgic and first century Roman settlement sites are a quarter of a mile still further N.E. An Iron Age 'A' settlement site is a mile due east. A dozen ring-ditches, remains of Bronze Age barrows, are within half a mile north-east. It would appear then, that this region had a long Native tradition, if not a Celtic one.

We think the pottery must date this Tree-trunk feature to the end of the third century A.D., as the freshness and mint condition of the polished sherds suggest that they were contemporary when they were sealed into the clay.

It is difficult to find any satisfactory explanation for the presence of the pottery embedded in the clay lining. Maybe the sherds were thrown in "for luck" while the feature was being constructed.

The "home-spun" nature of the feature implies a Native or a Celtic origin - the whole thing looks most un-Roman.

It must be remembered that the original diggers would have been standing in water for the last two or three feet, as except in times of extreme drought the water-table hereabouts is some eight feet below the surface. The two nearest wells to this site are those at Coronation Cottages, (200 yards north), and Slough Farm, (a quarter mile south). Prior to the coming of the gravel pit both these wells were 12 feet deep, and had abundant water.

Interpretation

Two suggestions have been put forward to explain what this tree-trunk feature might be. One is that it was a well. The depth is certainly right for this, but no well of this construction has been found elsewhere,

and the absence of any upper shafting or lining does not help to support this view.

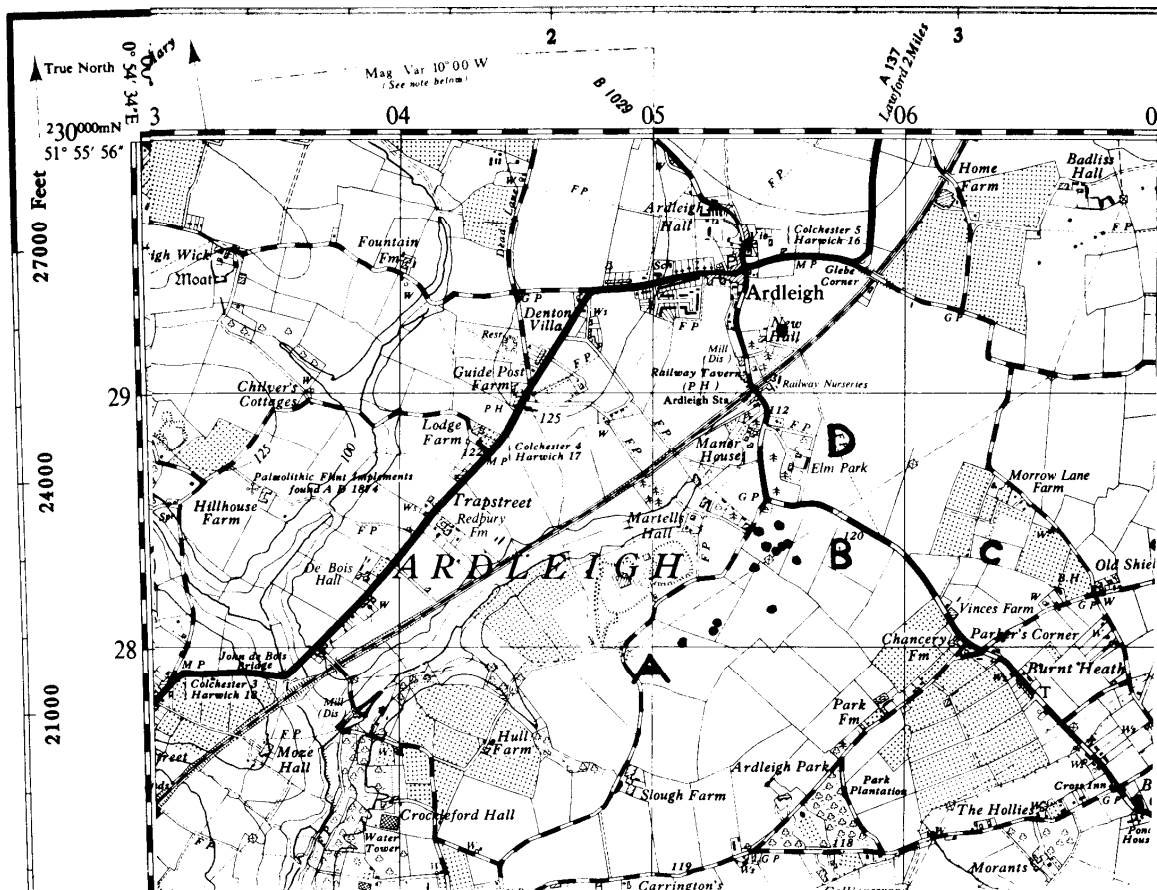
The other suggestion is that it was some form of Votive Pit. This seems the more likely but in the absence of any parallel we hesitate to be dogmatic about it.

However, there is a literary source to support this latter theory, if it is a case of sacrificing an animal to a stream of water:- Horace's Odes. Book III No. 13 - "O fons Bandusiae". We give Gilbert Highet's translation of the relative part (with acknowledgment to his book "Poets in a Landscape" published by Hamish Hamilton Ltd.)

"Hail, Bandusian spring, clearer than crystal pure
 fountain worthy of sweet wine and wreathes of flowers,
 take my gift of a young kid
 whose head, swelling with early horns,
 even now promises love, promises battles too -
 vain forecasts; for he shall, after tomorrow's dawn,
 dye your coolness with red blood,
 he, once gayest of all the herd."

Acknowledgements.

My thanks are due to the owner of the gravel-pit Mr. F.C. Bradley and the Pit Manager, Mr. L.S. Trew, for so readily bringing this discovery to our notice, and allowing us to investigate. To Mr. Jack Cole, the crane-driver, for his watchfulness and interest in making the discovery. To Mr. M.R. Hull, F.S.A., and to Mr. T.D. Clarke, F.S.A., curator of the Colchester and Essex Museum for help and advice. To Mr. H.E.P. Spencer, expert on animal bones. To Mr. F.A. Girling, F.S.A., for his wonderful photography. Also to Mr. H.J. Edwards, Mr. W.H. F. Spyvee, and Philip Erith, who took part in the excavation .



- A Tree-trunk site
- B Belgic cemetery
- C Iron Age "A" settlement
- D Belgic settlement
- Bronze Age ring-ditches

SCALE - 2½ inches = 1 mile.

The Tendring Hundred Show - Julv 10th.

The theme of our stand this year was "From Boney to Kaiser Bill". The centre piece was a female figure wearing a Victorian gown. The other exhibits included military uniforms of the Peninsula Campaign and the Great War; maps, diaries, a Queen's Commission and other military souvenirs. Among the various household goods was a collection of Victorian door furniture and other domestic metal work, an early sewing machine, an assortment of pestles and mortars and a washing dolly; the backing was draped with a beautiful paisley shawl and some delightful patchwork quilts. A penny-farthing bicycle and a man-trap caused a lot of interest as did a selection of mystery items. In addition to the main display was a section showing the various activities of the Group during the year, illustrated with drawings, pottery and other finds; the most striking of these was the actual Tree-trunk discovered at Ardleigh in April, with the antlers, bones and some of the pottery sherds - these occasioned a great deal of comment and speculation. The organisers of this magnificent effort were Mr. and Mrs Carter, aided by members of the Group. Our thanks are due to them and to all those including the Colchester Castle Museum, who kindly loaned us items and who helped to make the show such a success.

Outings.

On Monday, the 14th June a party toured part of the town under the expert guidance of Mr. L.H. Gant. By way of Trinity Street, pausing to admire the tower of Trinity Church, we made our way to the Abbey Gate. Thence to St. Botolph's Church and Priory, the red brick glowing in the evening sunlight. Then into Priory Street where all the derelict houses had been cleared to reveal an imposing expanse of Roman Wall and one of the Bastions recently restored. Up East Hill, with a fleeting visit to the churchyard of St. James Church, through the Holly Trees gateway into the Castle Park, round the Castle and into the Dutch Quarter where we looked at St. Helena's Chapel, flanked by the green oasis of the Quaker Burial ground. Then by way of West Stockwell Street back to our starting point after a very pleasant evening.

On the 19th July members met at the Public Library for an out of town outing to Dedham. Our Guide, Mr. F.H. Erith met us at Ardleigh Church and the first stop was at the top of Jupes Hill to observe the fine view, showing the village and Church tower nestling in the Vale. Mr. Erith had thoughtfully provided copies of a Manorial map with which members were issued. This showed which fields were common ploughland, common meadow, demesne ploughland, demesne pasture, woodland and marsh etc. which came to life as we watched from our vantage point. The next stop was at Pound Farm where the sites of the Bronze Age barrow clusters were pointed out. Owing to the wet summer these were not visible in this year's crops except that the barrow excavated in 1959 showed as a ring of laid corn! The Group then moved to Dedham Street, and we stood at the spot where an old print of 1839 had been drawn, and compared the Street as it was then with as it is now. The houses were all the same but full-grown chestnuts and limes obscured the modern view of the church, which were only saplings in the print. Pausing to inspect the initials carved on the walls of the old Grammar School we then walked over the tree-lined cricket ground to Southfields, an Elizabethan master-clothier's house with a central courtyard. This is now divided up into four private residences. After viewing the Georgian houses in the Street we went into the splendid church, and among other things paid a visit to the Muniment Room over the porch. Here the village documents are kept, and there is a small reference library. We next went to Bridges Farm, at the end of the Street and walked over the water-meadows to the temple-like boathouse to look at a reach of the river Stour, very familiar to John Constable. Eventually we repaired to Dalebrook House opposite the Old Grammar School in the Street, where refreshments were very kindly provided by Miss Erith and Miss Mallett. In all it was a very enjoyable evening and our warm thanks are due to Mr. Erith for his admirable organisation.

PART FOUR DECEMBER 1965

At the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, the 11th. of October 1965, the following Officers and Committee were elected:

Chairman	Major A.D. Mansfield.
Vice Chairman	Mr. L.H. Gant.
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. K. de Brisay.
Hon Treasurer	Miss D. Jones.
Public Relations	Mr. L.H. Gant.
Hon. Editor	Mrs. K. de Brisay
Committee	Mrs. Carter, Mr. H.M. Carter, Mr. F.H. Erith, Mr. A.J. Fawn, Mr. A.B. Doncaster, Mr. P.R. Holbert, Mr. H.W. Palmer.

In this issue Mr. P.R. Holbert reports on the excavations at Priory Street and there is a report from Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A. on the result of tests carried out on the Bronze fragment from Ardleigh Ring Three at the Oxford Research Laboratory. We also include a letter about the Ardleigh tree-trunk, some notes by Mr. L.H. Gant on Stanway Old Church and Hall together with notes on our weekly meetings last Autumn. We regret that space does not allow us to include all contributions and some have been held over till the March issue. Further articles and notes and all enquiries should be sent to Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

WINTER PROGRAMME 1966.

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle at 7.30 p.m.

- January 10th - Professor Sheppard S. Frere, M.A., F.S.A. Excavations at Verulamium.
- January 17th - F.H. Erith. Middle Bronze Age barrows and Homer.
- January 24th - Major A.D. Mansfield. 17th. century Artillery with reference to the Siege of Colchester,
- January 31st - Mrs. Clarke, M.A., F.S.A. Excavations at Jericho.
- February 7th - H.M. Carter. The Place of Mycenae in the Greek Cultural Sequence
- February 14th - K.E. Newton. The Art of the Mapmaker in Essex.
- February 21st - Miss Rosalind Dunnett, B.A. Recent Excavations and Future Plans.
- February 28th - J.S. Wachter, F.S.A. Cirencester - The Roman Town.
- March 7th - Rex Wailes, F.S.A., M.I. Mech. E. Windmills and Industrial Archeology.
- March 14th - Archaeological Quiz.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 1966.

OUTINGS. - plans are now being made for these and suggestions will be welcome. If you have any ideas please let the Secretary know.

EXCAVATIONS - in order that we may make best use of our opportunities it is essential to know the full extent of our volunteer force. If you can offer to help with digging, light work, pottery sorting and washing etc. please write to the Secretary giving details and also at what times you would be available - usually this would be at weekends and during the light evenings as required. Your assistance in this will be very much appreciated.

THE EXCAVATION OF A SECTION ACROSS THE TOWN DITCH, COLCHESTER,
& THE REDISCOVERY & EXCAVATION OF BASTION No. 3
by P.R. Holbert.

INTRODUCTION

The location of the site of the above excavations is in Priory Street Colchester, just outside and against the southern run of the town wall. The section through the ditch being approximately 225 feet westward of Bastion 2 (Hull - Roman Colchester – Town Walls).

At the time of the excavation, this site had been cleared of slum dwellings and was in the process of being surfaced as a car park.

A previous investigation of the town ditch had been carried out by Mr. Hull in 1937 but was inconclusive due to early gravel workings and water flooding the excavation.

The bastions on the town wall are very adequately dealt with in "Roman Colchester".

The current excavations were carried out by members of the Colchester Archaeological Group, under the auspices of the Colchester Excavation Committee. I am much indebted to Miss Dunnett who organized the primary mechanical excavation of the top soil, supplied tools etc, and generally gave her support at a time when she was extremely busy with her own excavations.

SUMMARY

The ditch was the primary object of the investigation, to get details of depth, width and form, and if possible to obtain some means of dating.

On completion of work on the inner lip of the ditch, it was noticed that a small section of masonry appeared in the north-west corner of the trench. On clearing away some earth it was soon realised that this was the "missing" Bastion No. 3. Work continued apace in the unfortunately short time available to expose and examine as much as possible of this very interesting find.

THE DITCH (see plan on page 32)

The mechanical excavation consisted of a trench approximately 40 feet long and 10 feet wide through the topsoil to an average depth of 3-4 feet, between the town wall and the street across the supposed line of the ditch.

The sides of the trench had badly fallen in due to the unstable nature of the soil which necessitated some shoring up. It was decided to mark out and dig a trench 4 feet wide at a distance of 2 feet from the western wall and along the full length of the larger trench.

The inner berm of the ditch was quickly found at a point about half way along the trench, showing as a patch of hard gravel. From this point digging continued in either direction. The form of the ditch was quite easily traced as it had been dug into the natural gravel, this line being followed down into the bottom of the ditch and to the extreme southern end of the trench. At this point, the line just began to rise again to continue under the street, At its lowest point the depth of the ditch is 12 feet from the present surface and some seven feet from the top of the inner berm.

It was soon realised that the filling of the ditch down to about 7 foot 6 inches from the present surface had been very much disturbed, quite modern bricks being found right down to this level, presumably the result of levelling operations when building commenced in this area, apparently in the late 17th or early 18th century. Previous to this date it appears that some vestige of the ditch would have been visible. The confirmation of this assumption, a thin layer of hard packed stones, was found at this level, extending into the extreme southern end of the trench, which looked very much like a track or footpath following the line of the ditch under the modern street (see plan on page 32) A few inches below this feature was found a sherd of very coarse brown pottery with heavy vertical bunts heavily finger decorated which has been provisionally identified as 12th century.

Unfortunately, on reaching the bottom of the ditch, water seeped in to a depth of one foot or so, making things generally very difficult. Although we searched diligently we were able to find no datable material of any kind, the only find being a mass of Roman bonding tile (broken) in the silt at the bottom.

Work continued in the northern end of the trench; immediately behind the berm and partly dug into it another much smaller ditch was found (see plan on page 32) some 2 feet 3 inches deep and 5 feet wide running parallel to the ditch proper: It is difficult to imagine what purpose such a ditch would serve, being so small it could surely not have had a defensive purpose?

North of this, the whole area was badly cut up by later rubbish pits intruding into the Roman levels. These pits produced some 17th century sherds and 17th century clay pipes. Some sherds of Roman coarse grey ware were found, but generally the later disturbances made any attempt at dating unreliable.

THE BASTION. (See plan on page 32)

This is semi-circular in form and complete to a height of some 4 feet (this consisting of the "batter" and fragments of the first course of the vertical surviving). The western end is badly broken down and here it is butted up to the core of the Roman town wall which appears to terminate abruptly at this point. At its eastern end, the Bastion is continued in a section of wall of identical build roughly on the line of the Roman wall to the west. The present town wall, which is a much later reconstruction at this point, being aligned slightly to the rear.

Realising that it would be impossible to excavate fully in the short time available, it was decided to compromise:- (a) By concentrating on the most important features of the eastern half and (b) the point where the western end joins the Roman wall.

Firstly, we concentrated on the frontal aspect of the Bastion and a short section of its contemporary wall, clearing down to the foundation layer of mortar on sand. This was followed by trenching front to rear on the centre line and trenching round the inside curve of the Bastion. Finally, another trench behind the short section of walling in the gap between this and the later wall at the rear.

These trenches, after the removal of topsoil, revealed a sloping bed of clean sand. This sloped from 1 foot below the present surface level at the rear (north) of the Bastion to some 4 feet at the extreme toe (south) and was found to underlie the entire structure. The sand appeared to be free of all foreign matter and was lying in strata of different shades and textures. This immediately raised the question, what had happened to the Roman wall at this point? No trace of foundation and the sand appearing to be a perfectly natural formation. Except at the extreme front (toe), where the structure rested on the surface of the sand, the foundation trench for the Bastion and wall was quite clearly defined, cut into the sand, the infilling being dark brown soil.

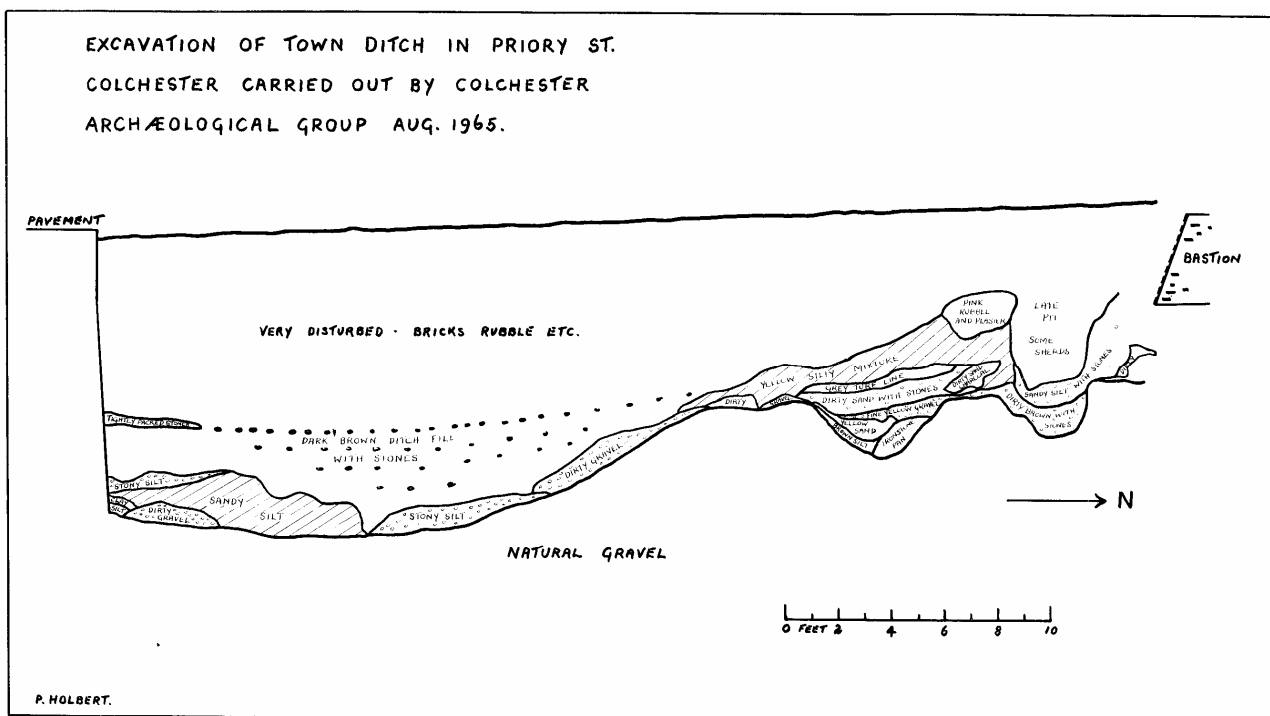
In our trench cut at the rear of the wall continuous with the Bastion (east) we found that the 3 inch thick layer of foundation mortar had covered the full width of the foundation trench, projecting rearward from the line of the wall some 1 foot 2 inches, presumably to enable the builders to walk in the trench while building the wall.

The make-up of the Bastion and wall consisted of a rubble core (with some re-used Roman material) faced inside and out with roughly trimmed rag-stone, the outside facing being of noticeably better quality than the inside, which was quite a rough job. At its western end the structure had been further lowered by the intrusion of a sewer pipe. This, and the last minute rush to beat the time limit, made things very difficult with regard to deciding how the Bastion was joined to the Roman wall.

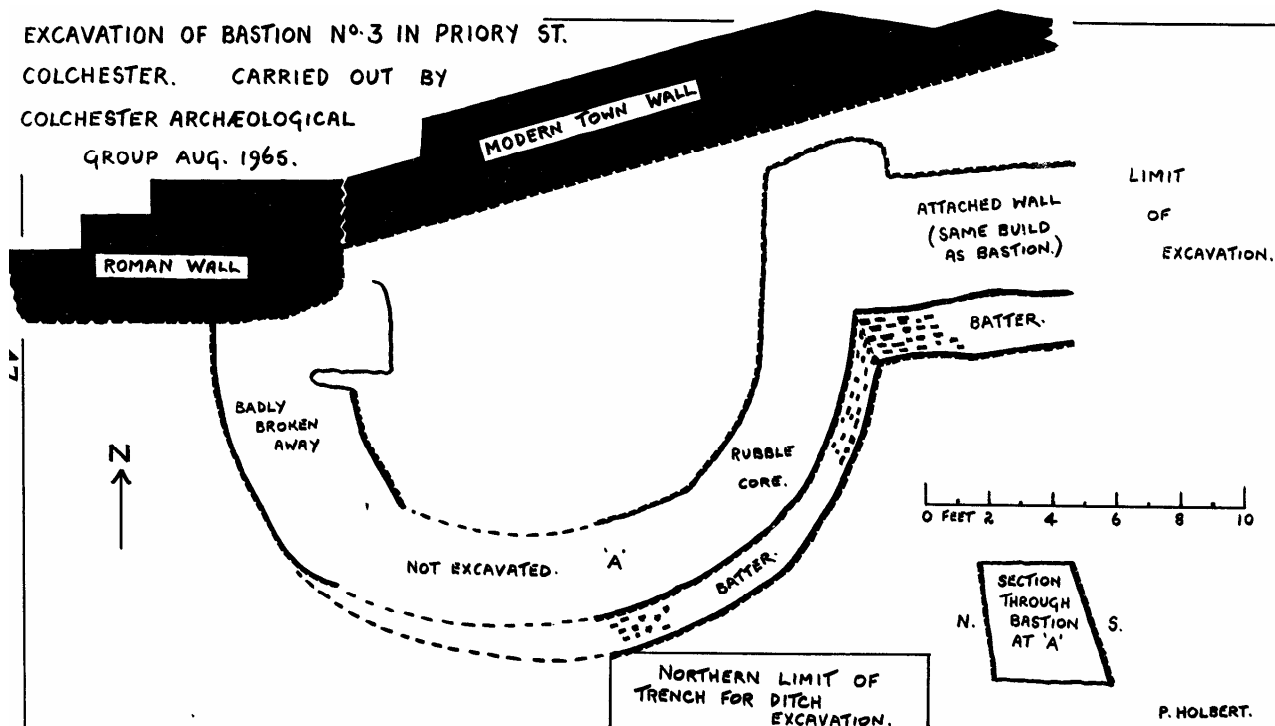
At the lowest point there appeared to be a wide shelf protruding from the Roman wall which the Bastion was built up to and over. Above this the join could be traced by odd pieces of facing stone attached to the core of the wall. Presumably the core of the Roman wall was exposed at the time of the building of the Bastion.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all those members of the Colchester Archaeological Group and others who gave most generously of their time and willing assistance without which an excavation such as this would be an impossibility.

EXCAVATION OF TOWN DITCH IN PRIORY ST.
COLCHESTER CARRIED OUT BY COLCHESTER
ARCHÆOLOGICAL GROUP AUG. 1965.



EXCAVATION OF BASTION N°3 IN PRIORY ST.
COLCHESTER. CARRIED OUT BY
COLCHESTER ARCHÆOLOGICAL
GROUP AUG. 1965.



<u>THE SMALL FINDS.</u>			
<u>Description</u>	<u>Find Spot.</u>	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
<u>Pottery - Ditch.</u>			
Sherd of large vessel with heavy vertical bands fingertip decoration.	In town ditch below level of supposed early street	Medieval	12th century
Two small sherds of buff-cream ware	In small ditch behind bean of main ditch 6" above bottom.	Roman	undated
Sherd of platter	In yellow silty mixture above small ditch	Gallo-Belgic	undated
2 Claudian (?) rim sherds	-- ditto -	Roman	1st century
8 small sherds	- ditto -	Medieval	undated
7 small sherds	- ditto -	Roman	undated
Many sherds of 3 or 4 large pots	In pits against wall of Bastion		17th or early 18th century.
Several small sherds	- ditto -	Medieval Roman (1 }	undated
<u>Pottery - Bastion</u>			
Large rim sherd (Mortaria?)	Built into west side of Bastion	Roman	Circa 100 A.D.
Sherd (handle)	ditto east side	Roman	undated
Sherd (handle) Red	Under toe of wall	Medieval	undated
Small sherd Black	east of Bastion		
Small sherd (base) Grey	Infill of foundation trench rear of east wall	Roman	undated
Rim sherd. Black.	In trench cut on centre line of Bastion. Under mortar level (possible) floor)	Roman	undated
Small Samian sherd form Drag. 27	Just on top of mortar level	Roman	Late 1st century
Small sherd. Black	- ditto -	Roman	undated
Clay tobacco pipes	in pits against Bastion		17th century

A small penannular brooch 12 inches in diameter was found in a late pit against the Bastion wall. This is similar to that found by Mr. Hull in Hollytrees Meadow (see Roman Colchester. page 1170 fig. 47 (S))

NOTE: all small finds from these excavations are at present in the hands of the Director, Mr. R. Holbert.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

A selection of 35 mm colour slides were taken of both Ditch and Bastion.

GENERAL MEASUREMENTS:

THE DITCH

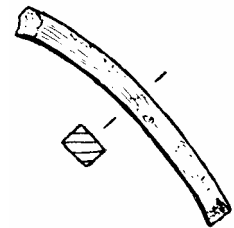
Probable width of ditch	36 feet
Depth of ditch, from berm	7 feet
Maximum depth of excavation, from modern surface	12 feet
Distance from town wall to inner berm of ditch	27 feet
Depth from modern surface to layer of tightly packed stones (early track?)	7 feet
Build-up of filling previous to levelling for building (early 18th century?),	4 feet

THE BASTION

Width (overall) west to east at base of batter	21 feet
Width (internal) west to east	12 feet 6 inches
Depth (overall) north to south at base of batter	11 feet
Depth (internal.) north to south	6 feet 6 inches
Average thickness of Bastion wall	3 feet
Average offset of batter	1 foot 3 inches
Maximum height of batte,	3 feet 9 inches
Thickness of attached wall to east of Bastion	4 feet
Distance to Bastion No. 2 (east) as measured centre to centre	229 feet 4 inches.
Distance to Bastion No. 5(west) as measured centre to centre	488 feet 6 inches

THE BRONZE FRAGMENT FROM ARDLEIGH RING THREE.

In the summer of 1961 the Colchester Archaeological Group excavated the Third Ring Ditch at Vinces Farm, Ardleigh. This was found to be a Late Bronze Age Barrow with a large primary urn in the middle, and twenty-seven Satellite or Secondary cremations in various parts of the northern sector, Urn No. 20 contained besides the cremated bones of a seven-year-old child, a pig's tooth with a hole pierced for suspension and a small strip of bronze (illustrated actual size – right). This piece of bronze was submitted to Professor Hawkes who was able to get it analysed at the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology. The Report of the Barrow and Urns appeared in our Bulletin Vol. 1V No. 3 for September 1961 and the Report of the bones and the pig's tooth illustration appeared in Bulletin Vol. IV No. 4 for December 1961.



THE REPORT ON THE BRONZE FRAGMENT.

by Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A.

The fragment is of corroded bronze rod, broken off at both ends to a length of some 36 mm, and slightly curved, as if part of a simple bracelet or bangle; its cross-section is rectangular, measuring 3 mm in the plane of the curve and 4 mm. at right angles to it. Plain bracelets were among the types of ornament introduced to southern Britain around 1200 B.C., in the course of the Middle Bronze Age, as was shown some years ago by Margaret Smith: *Proc. Prehist Soc.* xxv (1959) , 144-87; that their vogue lasted on, through the phase that she called the 'ornament horizon', at least till around 1000 if not later, is shown by a few finds only, but among them are a very few definitely found with cremations in cinerary urns (her pp. 156,159). We may therefore quite properly suppose the Ardleigh fragment to be really from a bracelet, worn in life by the person cremated in the urn. It is the only relic of a metal object found in this cemetery, or found anywhere at all in the eastern counties with an urn of the types here represented. The question of its date, accordingly, is of interest not merely for itself, but as bearing on the problem of the date of these urns themselves, Did their types become standardised in the Early, or in the Middle Bronze Age? And in either case, how long did they remain so? Till around 1000, for example, or till later, when a Late Bronze Age might be said to have begun? Comparison of the fragment's form will not assist us. But its composition might. For the same author, now Mrs. Margaret Brown, working with Mrs. Audrey Blin-Stoyle and others in the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology, showed also in 1959, through analysis by optical spectrometry, that between the Middle and Late Bronze Ages in Britain there was a sharp change in the composition of industrial bronze. The analysis was applied to some 470 specimens, and disclosed two quite distinct main groups, I and 11, divided at the transition between the periods: *Proc. Prehist, Soc.* xxv (1959) 188-208.

The chief pointer to the groups' distinctness is the percentage of lead in their alloy. In Group 1, almost

wholly of Middle Bronze date at latest, lead was present in such small proportion - mostly well under 0.5% - as to show it was only a trace-element, and not deliberately added to the main constituents of the bronze viz. copper and tin. The number of specimens with lead between 0.5% and 1% was small, but 1% was taken as the critical figure distinguishing the groups. In Group II, Late Bronze Age, lead had quite plainly been deliberately added: the figures ran up from near 1 to between 4 and 7% most frequently, and higher proportions rose sometimes to 15%. The Ardleigh bracelet fragment was therefore submitted to the Oxford Research Laboratory, and accepted there by Mrs. Anne Millett for examination with the optical spectrometer. Unhappily, however, she found no uncorroded metal remaining in it: the greenish substance composing it consists entirely of corrosion products. This being so, no accurate results were possible: all that could be attempted was a sampling, giving approximate figures that require to be expressed as parts per 100 parts of the main constituent, namely copper. The sampling gave tin as approximately 40 parts per 100 of copper, and lead as 1 part. Arsenic, antimony, nickel and zinc were not detected; bismuth was less than 0.01 part. The figure for iron, 1.1, may be related to corrosion in iron-bearing natural sand or gravel. That for silver, however, also exceeded that for lead: 1.5. If reduced theoretically, as a matter of mere arithmetic, to percentages of a bronze with copper about 70 and tin about 27.5, (such as the figures of 100:40 would suggest), the silver would be close to 1%, the lead about 0.7%. So high a figure for silver would be unusual, and here may have to be explained by the wide room for error inherent in any attempt at sampling from corrosion-products only. Nevertheless, the 1959 analyses showed silver in Group 1 low consistently, and variable only in Group 11: for what it may be worth, then, this figure could suggest some date within the Late Bronze range. Any such figure as 0.7 for lead, however, should point back towards the line between the groups, and properly even back into Group 1. The most that one can say, in fact, is that the fragment's composition may indicate a date when deliberate addition of lead was not yet so regular as it became in normal Late Bronze industries. A further series of analyses, carried out in the Laboratory by Mrs. Millett in 1965 for Mr. D. Britton and the writer but not yet fully studied for publication, shows that figures of this order for lead, above 0.5 though below 1% occur not only in a few late middle Bronze pieces, as in 1959, but also in the bronze of certain swords that may be dated early in the Late Bronze period. The swing from one period to the other is agreed to be datable between about 1000 and about 800. Somewhere in the 11th-10th-9th centuries B.C., then, we may cautiously guess that our bracelet was produced, and the Ardleigh cemetery therefore still in use. But any real certainty eludes us still.

NOTES & COMMENTS

The Ardleigh Tree-trunk Mystery

Extract from a letter from Miss Hole, Folk-Lore Society to Mrs. M. Carter, Colchester Archaeological Group, dated 9th December 1965,

.....I have had a letter from Miss Simpson, of 9 Christchurch Road, Worthing, Sussex, in which she gives the following information. She has asked me to send it on to you as she thinks it may be relevant to your tree-trunk query,

She writes:- "On page 155 of Shetelig and Folk Scandinavian Archaeology, there is mention of two Late Bronze Age wells in Denmark, at Budense on the island of Men, and on the island of Fyn. They were made of hollow tree-trunks at the bottom of shafts reaching to a water bearing stratum, and there were offerings in them - animal bones, two bronze hanging bowls, three arm rings, and one belt ornament at Budense; a sword, spearhead and chisel on Fyn. Similar finds in bronze swords and other bronze objects were found in a tree-trunk well at St. Maritz in Engadine.

There is a full account of the Budense find by C.A. Nordman in Aarbau for Nordiske Oldkyndighed - X.1920. 68-87. I see that he says that the tree-trunk was packed round with stones between it and the walls of the shaft that had been dug for it.

Does the geology of the Ardleigh area allow for the possibility that this was a well or does the layer of clay at the bottom preclude this and indicate rather that it was made watertight to retain water channeled into it from the surface? Perhaps it was sunk for some special occasion and then the offerings thrown in and the whole thing filled up again.

As for the incomplete state of the horse skeleton, I am reminded of an article which must, I think, have been in the 1964 volume of Antiquity about numerous finds from various places and periods in which only the head bones with neck vertebrae and the foot bones have been found- These are interpreted as sacrifices in which the animal (usually horse or ox) is flayed in such a way that only head and feet remain attached to

the hide; this is then hung up or otherwise disposed of, and the rest of the carcass eaten. I'm sorry that I can't remember the exact reference or give more details; the 1964 volume of Antiquity in the only library accessible to me has gone to the binders, so I can't check my rather vague memory.

I would be grateful if you would pass this information on to Mrs. Carter in case it is of use to her, though it is unfortunately more of a vague suggestion than a really conclusive parallel."

STANWAY OLD CHURCH AND HALL.
Some Notes by Leonard H. Gant

Although parishes were not made until Christian Saxon times, Stanway derives its name from the Roman road from Colchester to London which passed through it. The "stone way", along which the chariots and the heavy supply wagons travelled in Roman times has changed a great deal and is now hardly traceable, and all signs of the Saxon church, if one ever existed here, have gone.

The picturesque remains of the old parish church, dedicated like its modern successor at Shrub End, to All Saints, stand in the grounds close by Stanway Hall, now a Zoo. The Church was for centuries the parish church of Stanway Magna, the huge parish being split up into "great" and "small" in medieval times.

The oldest parts remaining date from the 14th century but the building appears to have fallen into disrepair after the Reformation, and extensive repairs and re-building were carried out by Sir John Swinerton, Lord of Stanway Manor in the 17th century. The north porch was added at this time, and the Arms of Swinerton, (now missing) carved on a square stone, were set above the door. The claim that the present ruins date from Norman times is quite wrong, but the preservation of the tower and walls as a show piece is commendable.

The restored church again became ruinous and by the early 19th century was beyond repair. The new church to serve the eastern part of the parish was built about 1840 at Shrub End.

The manor of Stanway was held by the Saxon Earl Harold, but following his death at the battle of Hastings in 1066, the lands passed to William the Conqueror and remained a royal manor until King Henry II granted it, in the early 13th century, to Hamo de St, Clare, whose only daughter married William de Lanvelei, a Warden of the Forest of Essex in the reign of King Richard I, ("The Lionheart").

William de Lanvalei was a notable and powerful man and was Governor of Colchester Castle during the reign of King John. Another great Norman family, the De Burghs, also held Stanway manor and later owners included members of the Belhous, Knivet and Doreward families, all of whom were great landowners.

Thomas Bonham succeeded to the manor in the early 16th century and resided at the Hall. This is the first mention of the Hall, which, after his death in 1532, passed through many hands until 1601, when John Swinerton, who was later knighted, purchased it. He was the son of a wealthy London merchant, and was himself a merchant tailor, a Sheriff of London in 1602 and Lord Mayor of London in 1612. John Swinerton travelled abroad in his youth, and served Queen Elizabeth with all her wines, and later controlled the Wine Licence Office a lucrative post which added considerably to his family fortune. It is recorded that his son, Henry, lived at the Hall, and died in 1617. Failure of the male line of this eminent member of the old family of Swinerton carried the Hall into the Dyer family, and in the 17th century it was purchased by a dissenting minister, John Hopwood, who married Lady Thomasina Dyer in 1683.

The Hall was probably built early in the reign of King Henry V111, and was rebuilt by Sir John Swinerton at the time of the restoration of the church.

WINTER MEETINGS 1965

The speaker at the first lecture on 18th October, held in the Castle, Colchester, was the Curator, Mr. David T-D. Clarke, who gave a comprehensive survey of the many ways in which amateur archaeologists and historians can help at weekends. Actual digging can be very frustrating, Mr., Clarke declared, and always the most important things are found at the last minute, when there is lack of time, but surface evidence can be sought and found by the youngest amateur, and many important finds have come in this way - the neolithic axe head picked up in a field or stone-age implements from gravel working sites. Not only very ancient things, but tools of forgotten or decaying trades, in workshops and sheds, and objects relegated to the attic and forgotten. Crop markings and features on the ground can be found. The speaker illustrated his talk with a fine selection of slides, and a lively discussion followed the talk,

The speaker at the meeting held on 25th October was Mr. I.L. Herring, headmaster of Chingford High School, and a founder member of the Group. The subject was one from classical history - the barbarians on Trajan's Column in Rome. The column is one of the sights of the eternal city and depicts scenes from the wars of the emperor Trajan, who is remembered as a soldier and administrator. Mr. Herring dealt with the Dacian wars in particular, and many scenes showing the progress of that campaign, up to the colonisation of the country, now Romania, by the Romans. The pictures show details of Roman and native dress, arms and armour and musical instruments, as well as depicting scenes of life in peace and war, the whole forming a marvelous historical record. Of the development of Europe Mr. Herring pointed out the many influences, from the east and west and from the Mediterranean, which had moulded tribes into nations and vast tracts of land into inhabited regions. The Celtic influence in southern Europe was shown, and the speaker said the numerous burial mounds in Romania, remained to this day unexplored and unknown.

The progress of science, particularly in the field of atomic science, has, in the last ten years provided new and exciting aids to many branches of learning. On 1st November Mr. James Fawn, a young scientist with a well known local company, addressed the Group on the subject of "Science and Archaeology". Taking the three headings of detection, dating and analysis, Mr. Faun explained in an interesting and lucid manner, with a number of practical demonstrations and experiments, the harnessing of the atom and the use of magnetism and radioactive material to the service of archaeology. Of particular interest was the detection of radio active carbon by geiger counter, and the display of resistivity apparatus, both of which have been recently demonstrated in the field locally. The field of scientific analysis employs "X" rays and one of the most successful means in this group is the back scattering of gamma rays from objects subjected to atomic bombardment. A lively discussion followed the address.

The life and work of an eccentric 17th century Rector of All Saints, Colchester, was the subject of the talk given on 8th, November by Mr. Leonard H. Gant. A short biographical account preceded many quotations from this remarkable man's published works, in which numerous references to Colchester, its citizens and clergy are found.

At a time when the Church was at a low ebb, half the town churches being unbenificed, Mr. Hickeringill, an outspoken and popular preacher, was filling his church. Many of his comments on local and national life ring true today, across the centuries, for human nature changes little. The story of his life is an absorbing one, for he was in turn Baptist, Quaker and ordained Minister of the Church of England. A scholar and traveller, serving in foreign countries, he makes many references to his varied life, and no subject was too trivial for his active pen.

The meeting held on November 15th in the Castle, attracted a good attendance, for it was the night when members displayed and briefly described their own finds and treasures. The objects presented covered a very wide range of archaeological and historical interest, ranging from an ancient Egyptian tomb figurine to General Strike editions of national and local newspapers. The younger members of the Group produced many coins, medals, pottery fragments and firearms, and other displays included a fine 18th century needlework sampler, a seed balance and calculator, a servant maid's box a Reform Act jug, coloured engravings of London scenes, an acoustic jar, a Victorian sunshade, tobacco pipes, Victorian hat pins, earrings, a Japanese ashtray and bronze mirror showing a scene from Aesop's fables, and a representative display of some of the finds made during recent excavations in Priory Street and the gardens of St. Mary's Rectory. Amongst the coins was a trade token of John Lawrence, a Colchester merchant, dated 1662, which was unearthed by a schoolboy. Few of these are known, although the Lawrence family was connected with the town for nearly two centuries. One of the early members was burned at the stake under the Maryian persecutions, for his Protestant faith, and the family later espoused the Puritan cause and fought against the King during the Civil War. The son of the token issuer was Mayor of the town on three occasions.

Encouraged by the success of a symposium of lectures on Roman Colchester held last year, the Group arranged a similar series of Lectures on the Belgic capital city of Camulodunum. The first talk was given at the Castle on November 22nd evening by Miss Susan Nicholson, of Saffron Walden Museum, who spoke of the events leading up to the formation of the town, deduced from ethnological and geological evidence. The geography of the region, with navigable rivers giving ready access to the North Sea, and so to Europe were the first routes of the adventurous tribes who came to Britain, was also important. The late bronze age and early iron age peoples were, however, mainly pasturers of cattle and nomadic, so that little domestic pottery has been discovered, or settlement sites where they lived. Evidence of beads and other personal ornaments point to a two-way trade with the continent from earliest times, and our lack of knowledge of settlement sites may well be because the evidence on the ground is so slight that they have not yet been discovered or excavated. Of the Celtic city of Camulodunum, built by the river Colne, much more is known, and following speakers will be Mr. M.R. Hull and Professor Christopher Hawkes who carried out large scale excavations on the site.

The keen eyes of two Royal Grammar School boys nearly forty years ago led to the discovery and excavation of the Celtic city of Cunobelin, which attracted world-wide interest thirty years ago. The pottery found by Messrs, Rudsdale and Palmer was recognised by Mr. M.H. Hull as being of a type rarely found in Britain, and the making of the by-pass road through the site, at Sheepen Farm, gave the opportunity for extensive excavation. The account of these important excavations was told by Mr. M.R. Hull, who was closely connected with the work, and whose published account of the discoveries, covering many years, has become a text book of the period. Mr. Hull, who is president of the Group, lectured to them in the Castle on November 29th, when there was a crowded audience. Quietly and methodically Mr. Hull unfolded the secrets of the Celtic city which lay unknown under the Hilly Fields and the Sheepen Farm, and dwelt at length on the many Roman kilns found. In this group the samian ware kiln was, perhaps the most important, and none can recount the tale of the exciting finds better than Mr. Hull, who was then curator of the Colchester and Essex Museum, and is one of the foremost experts in the Roman period.

An eminent professor of archaeology, whose connection with Colchester goes back nearly forty years, was the lecturer at a capacity meeting of the Group on December 6th. Professor Christopher F.C. Hawkes was the final speaker in a trio of experts who have traced the history of the Celtic city of Camulodunum up to its integration with the Roman hill city. Taking the nucleus of the Sheepen Hill site, Professor Hawkes traced the expansion of the area by the building of three separate systems of defensive earthworks by Cunobelinus, the British King, and the further fortification by the Romans, who threw up the triple dykes at Lexden. The work of many years of patient excavation and study was condensed into two hours, and the discussion and questions following the lecture ranged over the whole field of Romano-British and Roman occupation.

The final meeting of the autumn session was held on December 13th, and took the form of a social evening, with films, refreshments and a bring and buy sale. Films projected were "Capability Brown", "The Royal County" and "Coventry Cathedral".