



Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 10 1967

PART ONE

Group Notices		1	(1)
Report of an Excavation in the Grounds of the Royal Grammar School, 1964	P.W. Crittenden	1-4	(2-6)
Second Thoughts on St. Peters-on-the-Wall Notes & Comment	H.M Carter	5-6 7	(8-10) (12)
The Clay Tobacco Pipes from St. Mary's Rectory, Colchester	Leonard H. Gant	8-9	(13-14)
Winter Meetings 1967		10-11	(16-17)

PART TWO

Group Notices		11-12	(18)
Bird Calls	P.B. Boyden	12	(19)
The May Outing		12	(19)
Report of the Excavation of a Roman Road in the Garden of 26 Lexden Road, Colchester	P.R. Holbert	13-16	(20-25)
The Oldest Leaf Tobacco in the World	Leonard H. Gant	16-17	(26-27)
The Dedham Barrow Complex	F.H. Erith	18-21	(28-32)
Observation of Post Office Excavations on North Hill, 1966	A.B. Doncaster	22-23	(33-34)

PART THREE

Group Notices		24	(35)
Winter Meetings 1967-1968		24-25	(36-37)
Archaeology Under Water		25	(38)
The Gaming Dial	Laurence S. Harley	26-28	(39-42)
Group Activities		29-30	(43-44)

PART FOUR

Winter Meetings 1968		30	(45)
A Bronze Age Barrow at Bakers Hall, Bures Hamlet	Ida McMaster	31-33	(46-49)
Prehistoric Sites in the Stour Valley	F.H. Erith	34-35	(50-52)
Tenth Anniversary Dinner		36	(53-54)
The Iron Age Farmstead at Ardleigh	F.H. Erith	37	(54)
Winter Meetings		37-38	(55-56)
Group Notices		38	(57)

This copy has been scanned from the original, which was first published in quarto size, and has been reformatted to A4 size. Page numbers in brackets refer to the original edition, and should correspond to pagination given in the Bulletin Index.

*No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted
without the prior permission of CAG.*

Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary at the following address:

*Honorary Secretary
Colchester Archaeological Group
c/o 27 Alexandra Road
Colchester
Essex C03 3DF*

GROUP NOTICES.

OUTINGS.

On MONDAY, 1st. MAY 1967 - meet at Lexden Church at 6.15 for 6.30 p.m. to visit Rivenhall Church, famous for the early stained glass; thence to Tolleshunt Knights Church which is being taken over for use by the Greek Orthodox after having been out of regular use since before the last war. Please bring your car so that lifts may be given to those requiring them,

On, SATURDAY, 3rd. JUNE 1967 - an all day outing to Lullingstone Roman villa at Eynsford in Kent. Depart by coach from Colchester Bus Park at 9.30 a.m. Full details are given, together with application form, on the leaflet which is enclosed herewith to local members.

On MONDAY, 3rd. JULY 1967 - an evening outing to be arranged for which plans will be announced in our June Bulletin.

EXCAVATION

The main digs undertaken by the Group for the last two years have been on Roman sites in Colchester. This year we are intending to excavate a country site.

This was discovered by R. H. Farrands when he flew over Ardleigh during the drought in the summer of 1959 and showed as an irregular cropmark in oats in a field at the back of Vinces Farm house.

The field is now in grass (grown for hay) and is absolutely flat. Deep ploughing for some years has of course made the top foot of soil sterile for archaeological purposes, but trial trenches dug by Mr. Bryan Blake in 1963 produced a fair amount of Iron Age 'A' pottery over the ditches, Some ten years ago deep ploughing brought to the surface some clay loom weights of the same period.

The excavation will be under the direction of Mr. F.H. Erith and Mr. P. R. Holbert. Marking out the first squares will take place on Good Friday morning at 10.30 a.m., when all interested will be welcome. We hope to have the topsoil removed mechanically soon afterwards and then we can work on the site from the 8th of April onwards at weekends and on Monday evenings (the latter by arrangement) and continue right through the summer.

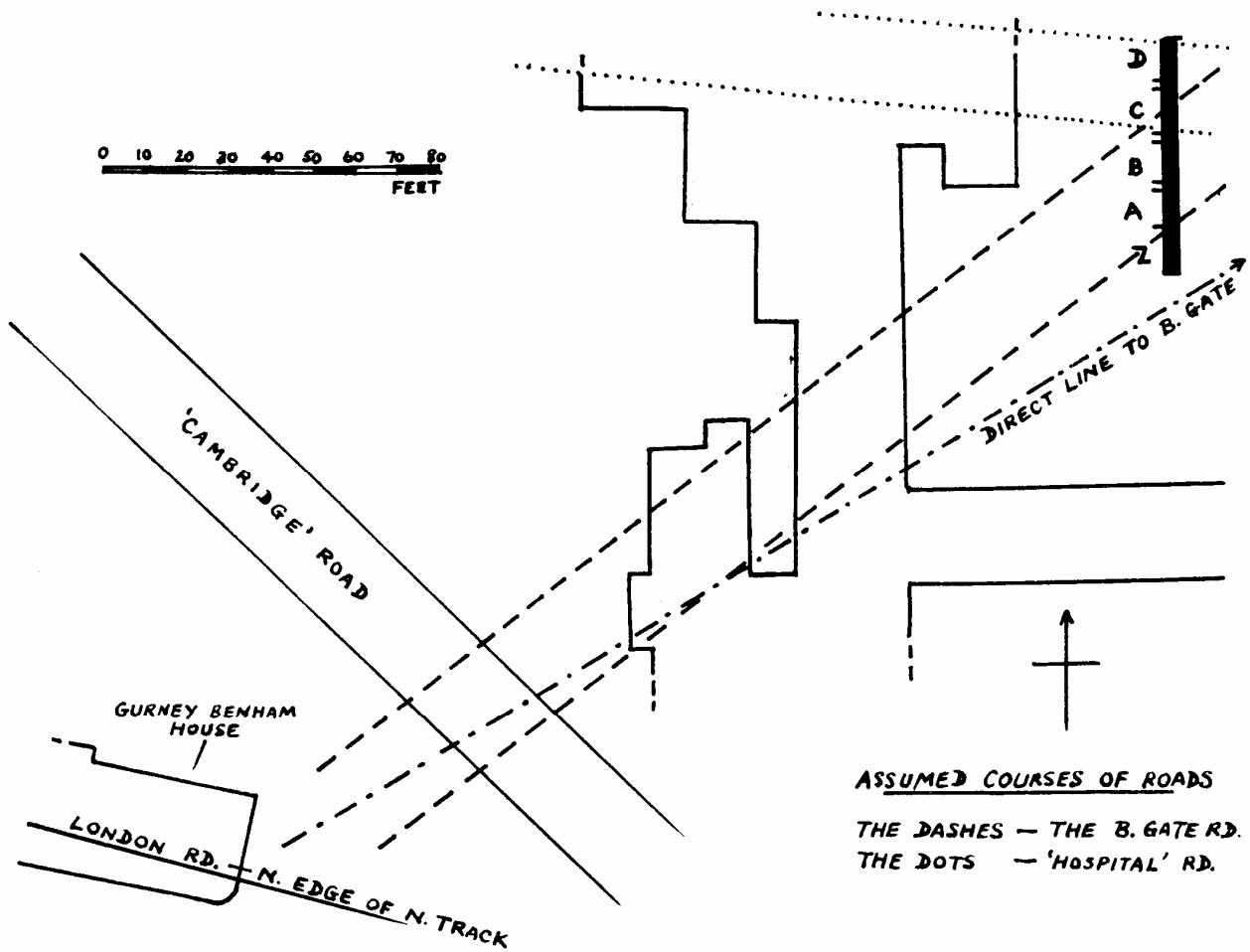
REPORT OF AN EXCAVATION IN THE GROUNDS OF
THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

by P.W. Crittenden.

INTRODUCTION

In the 1930s Mr. A.F. Hall. discovered two Roman roads in the school grounds - the single-tracked 'Cambridge' road and the three-tracked London road. The latter, which is now accepted as the main road, is orientated to pass south of the Colonia. It follows that there should be a link road to Balcerne Gate.

Evidence for the course of this link and for its point of junction with the main road is found in 'Roman Colchester' pp. 3-7. Our intention in 1961 was to test this course at a fresh point, and, incidentally, examine its possible junction with a road passing under the Hospital (R.C. pp. 8-9).



THE EXCAVATION

1) Burnt floor: This was found in all trenches at a constant depth. In 'A' the burnt deposit was thickest, including charcoal and animal bones. It continued under the irregularly shaped 'bank' which was constructed in layers and capped by a level stony surface overlaid in part with a scatter of sherds. At the south end of this trench was an area of much heavier burning associated with a layer of clay at floor level. The clay continued into 'Z' where a channel was cut both through and under it. The channel filling comprised lumps of clay, burnt earth, charcoal and several sherds dated to the second half of the 1st century (including a stamp on an amphora handle - fig 2). The channel seemed to drain into a flat bottomed ditch running across the corner of the trench. At the bottom of the ditch was a dense black burnt deposit including a lump of slag. The filling of the ditch was clean sandy gravel containing a little burnt clay and charcoal - with a provincial copy of a Claudian Minerva as (R.C. pl XIX) at the top.

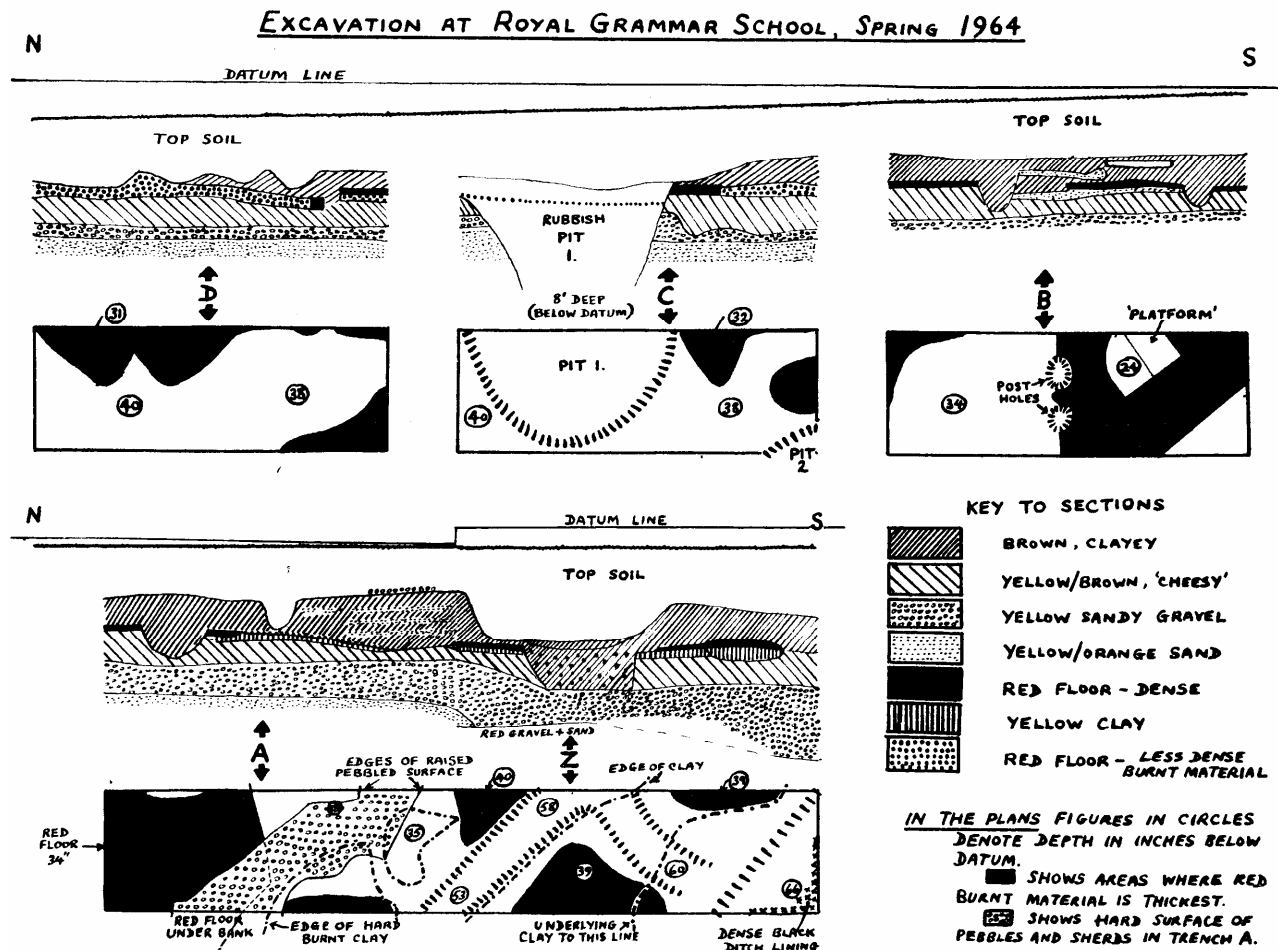
In 'B' a much burnt D-shaped brick was set on an earth platform on which was found a semis of Nero (c. 65/66 AD). Nearby were two postholes marking the line beyond which the red floor deposit was broken up into scattered mounds.

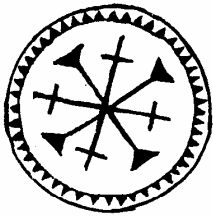
Items associated with the floor included several lumps of slag and ironstone as evidence of metal-working. Dating indicated the second half of the 1st century, Just above the floor in 'C' was found a dupondius of Vespasian (c. 77/78 AD).

2) Pits in 'C': Both appeared to have been dug at the same time (fragments of the same pot were found in both). Pit 1 contained charcoal, animal bones, fragments of brick, tile and coloured wall plaster. Finds included a pair of bronze tweezers, an iron stylus, an ox-goad and a pipe clay dove (fig 6). Pit 2 contained a mass of oyster shells and a pair of bronze studs inlaid with tin or silver (fig 1 and Cam. pl CII 30 & 31). Examples of pottery are illustrated (fig 4 from Pit 1; 3& 5 from Pit 2). Dating of the contents of both pits suggested late 1st to early 2nd century.

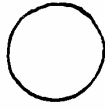
CONCLUSION No evidence was found to substantiate the idea that a link to the Balkerne Gate started from Gurney Benham House. The link from the three tracked road may, however, start from a point further west along that road and run close to Lexden Road before turning north to the Gate. There was no evidence for a continuation of the 'Hospital' road.

The work was done by a willing team of boys from the School under my supervision. We should like to thank the Castle Museum for the help given both during and after the excavation.





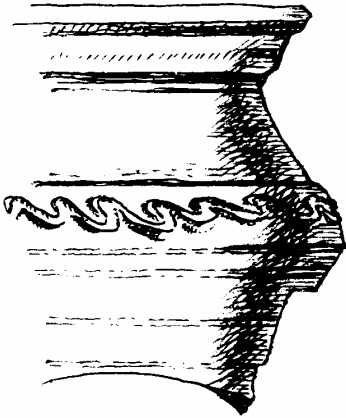
1a.



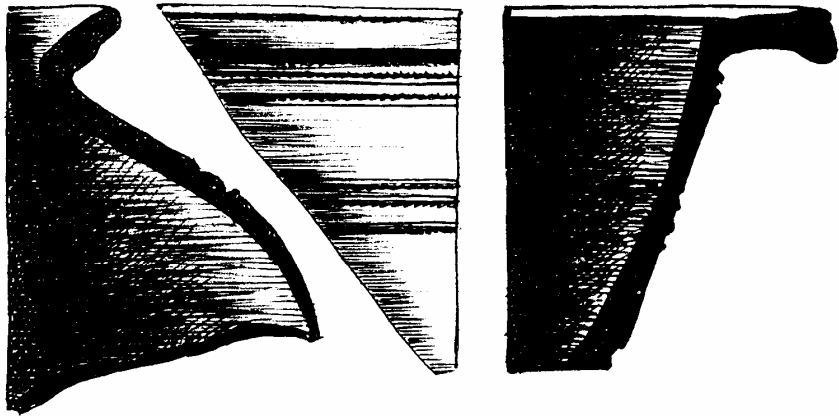
1b.



2.

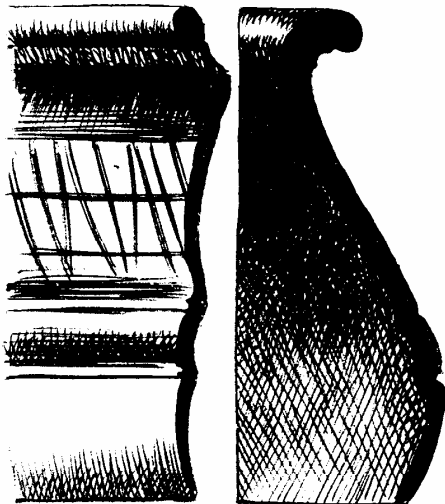


3.

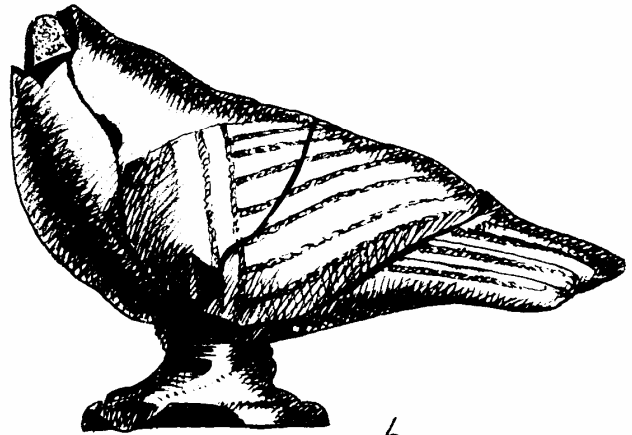


4.

Illustrations - full size - except No 1a (x2).



5.



6.

SECOND THOUGHTS ON ST. PETERS-ON-THE-WALL.

by H.M. Carter

Two years ago, (September 1964), I contributed an article to the Bulletin called "The Tripartite Arch", ("The Triple Chancel Arch" would have been a better title). I then argued that this feature had a Byzantine origin which initiated a tradition which continued right through the English middle ages, linking three Essex examples, Stebbing, Great Bardfield, and St. Peter's-on-the-Wall, Bradwell.

On looking at the article again, I think it seems reasonable enough, except in the case of St. Peter's, in which I see now that I was very much mistaken.

St. Peter's, though at first sight a simple barn-like structure, is in fact among the most interesting buildings in the country. It is, I think, the earliest post-Roman building in England north of the Thames, and it is the sole relic of the short-lived Anglo-Celtic church of Essex. Moreover, its position astride the western defenses of the Roman fort of Othona gives a special interest, historical as well as archaeological, to the site.

The documentation of the chapel is curiously sketchy, but it appears to have been in use, on and off, for a thousand years and to have been turned into a barn in the 17th century. The apse was then pulled down and the west end of the nave closed. As may be seen from figure 1, the arcade was not filled in but demolished, leaving only the outermost arch-springings. The gable above was rebuilt in brick at the same time. It is easy to distinguish between the two periods. The earlier masonry is much bonded with Roman tile, and the Saxon mortar is, as usual, hard, I think we must accept that every stone of the older work is in situ without significant shifting or settlement.

It is immediately obvious that these springings are of too small a radius for a single arch. It has been naturally assumed that there were three arches, on the analogy of Reculver and other Kentish churches of the same period, and also, no doubt, because a double chancel-arch is virtually unknown at any period.

This assumption is made by Clapham (English Romanesque Architecture before the Conquest), more recently by Taylor and Taylor (Anglo-Saxon Architecture), and also by Sir Charles Peers in the R.C.A.M., who, however, adds, "-but the existing remains of the curves of the two side arches hardly allow of a central arch of the same span".

After several examinations of the chapel, my wife and I both felt that here was a genuine problem, there ought not to have been two arches, and yet the springings looked wrong for three. I approached one of the leading authorities on these very early buildings, and he, kind man, assured me over tea and toast that he had satisfied himself that an optical illusion was involved and that three arches were indicated, and it was at this stage that I wrote the article for the bulletin. Nevertheless, I still felt a bit uneasy and my wife remained sceptical.

At this point I was asked to write a short guide to Othona and St. Peter's. This sounds just a nice piece of paste-and-scissor work, but in the event it proved otherwise, and when I found that the three most authoritative plans failed to tally with each other, I took a tape, with my brother-in-law at the other end of it, down to Bradwell, and we made a new plan which differed from them all. After this, the prospect of sheltering behind the Establishment at any point seemed unsafe, and I uneasily remembered Dr. Johnson's words, "Sir, he is no scholar, he merely perpetuates the errors of others".

In the end I rang up the Rector, who arranged for builder's ladders to be taken to the chapel. When we arrived, the builder's men put them in place and left us. My wife, who doesn't much like ladders, spread the floor beneath with hassocks and I ascended and did my drawing.

As one cannot easily measure from a ladder, I traced the arch-springing and spandrel brick by brick on large pieces of paper and made key measurements. I assembled the sheets on our dining-room floor, (which, members of the committee may remember, is covered in foot-square cork tiles), and then checked the general appearance from an enlarged photograph. The result is shown in figure 2. I found that the curve of the springing best fitted an arch of about 8 foot span, and in fact if there were two such, supported by a square pier as wide as the thickness of the wall, these arches would be just 8 feet 1 inch wide. I have added a line, (b) to indicate an arch of this span. Curve (a) is that of a single arch of 18 feet 6 inches span, and

curves (cc) are those required by three arches of 4 feet 8 inches. These hypothetical three arches could be a little wider, but not significantly so.

I think it is evident that we have at St. Peter's the remains of a double chancel-arch, unique, as far as I know, at any period in England or elsewhere.

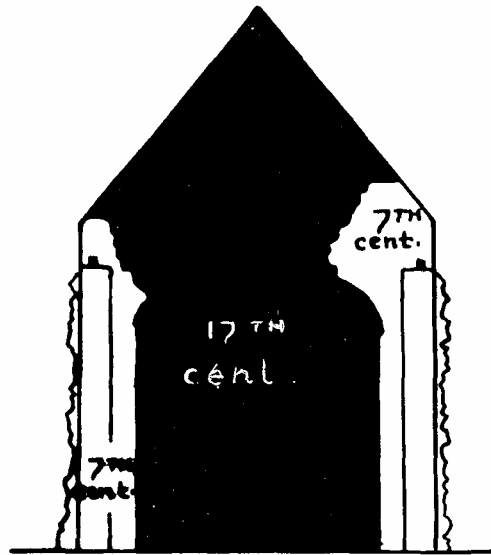


FIG.1 west end, exterior

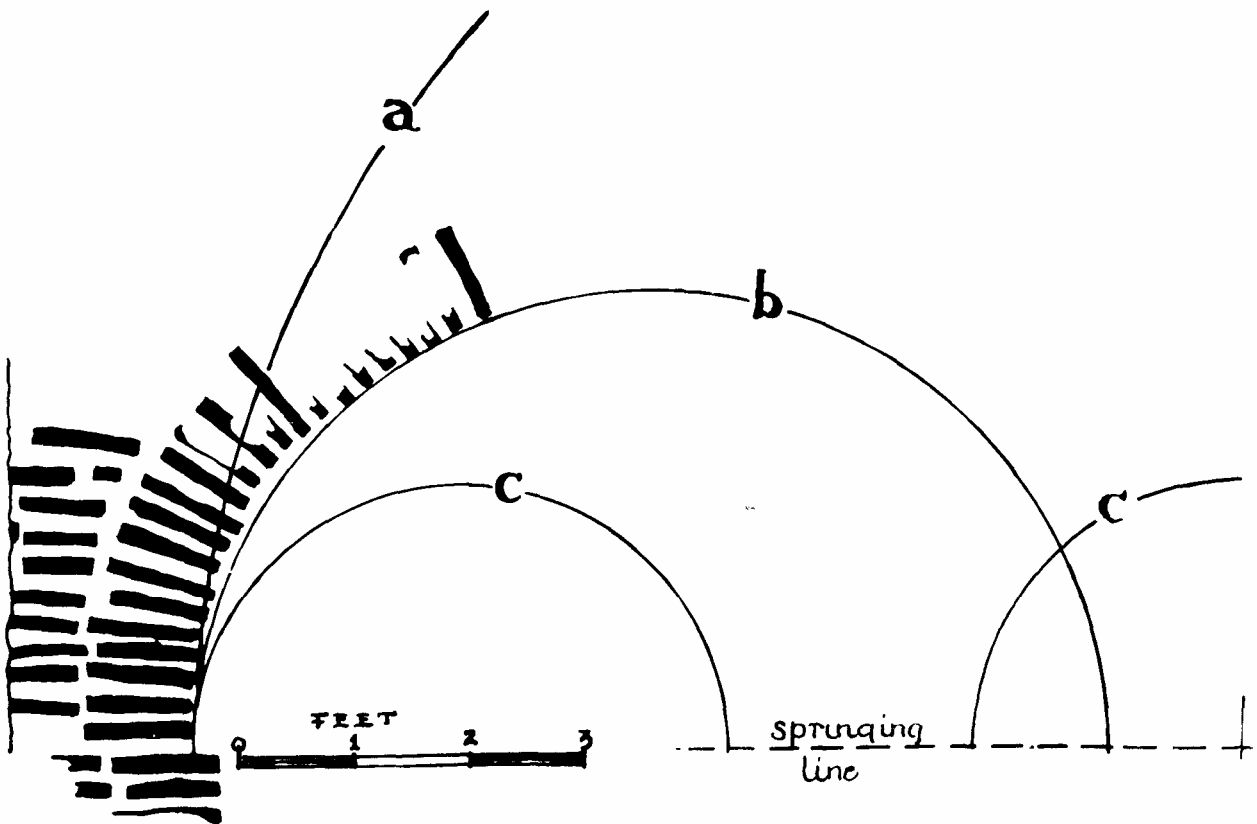


FIG.2. N-E arch-springing, interior.

NOTES & COMMENT.

Roman Suburbs

Following on Mr. H.J. Edwards' remarks in the December Bulletin I would like to comment upon the evidence for 'suburban' building found on the Grammar School site in recent years. Significant quantities of tile, mortar and wail plaster fragments have been found in a context that may safely be dated to the first century of occupation. As yet there has been no positive evidence of actual foundations. Such material, while so far removed from the town (and yet presumably not far from it's original location), is nevertheless near the road junction complex and the cemetery and may have some significance in the connection. The School site is indeed no further from the town than 'Camulodunum' and future work may substantiate the idea that early Roman settlement was scattered over a wide area.

P. W. Crittenden.

Living on a Red Hill

In our Bulletin for June 1962 (Vol. 5, No. 2) Mr. H.W. Palmer records a belief among marsh dwellers that to avoid the 'ague' a house should be built on a Red Hill. He further asks if anyone knows of such a case. In the current issue of the Essex Archaeological Society Transactions (Vol. II, part 1) Mr. Warwick J. Rodwell reports on a Red Hill excavation at Canvey Island. In addition to the usual bricquetage, he records a considerable amount of Roman pottery, a fair amount of 12th - 15th century pottery and a 'thin scatter' of 16th - 17th century pottery. There were also two medieval hearths, using Roman material. So the Romans lived there and someone else lived there in the 12th century. It seems a fair assumption that there was some continuity, however tenuous; and it went on possibly to the 17th century. From my small knowledge of the Essex marshes in winter I can quite believe that any hill, Red or otherwise, would be an improvement over the wet level for a house. What I cannot see is why, in those days of no 'mod. cons.' anybody did live on the marshes.

H. J. Edwards.

Applications for Back Numbers of the Bulletin.

The stock of back numbers of this Bulletin (and of the Index to the first eight volumes) are now kept in our Library at the Castle. During the winter season, they are obtainable on demand from the Librarian at any meeting of the Group there. During the summer, applications should be made to:

Mr. Reg. Palmer, Librarian C.A.G.
41, Gladwin Road, Colchester (T.N. Colchester 4399)

Unfortunately one issue is out of print, namely Vol. I., No. 2. If anyone has a spare copy of this issue to give us so that we can make up complete sets, this will be gratefully accepted. Otherwise Bulletins are sold at face value, 1/- or 1/6 each; Index 3/-. The cost of a complete set is £2. 9s. 6d. plus postage.

Group Library – any gifts of books or queries concerning the Library should be made to the Librarian at the address given above.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES FROM ST. MARY'S RECTORY, COLCHESTER.

Report by Leonard H. Gant.

The material from this excavation, carried out by the Group in 1965/6, under the direction of Mr. Peter Holbert, roughly covers the century 1630-1730.

The earliest bowls belong to a group which was common from 1620-1660 (Oswald type 4 (1), and include a number of variations, of which two West Country types are interesting. These are distinguished by the forward line of the bowl, which leans well forward of the round foot, making an "S" outline; one is well polished and the bowl is decorated with fine rouletting round the rim; the other has the shield-shaped foot favoured by Broseley (Shropshire) makers.

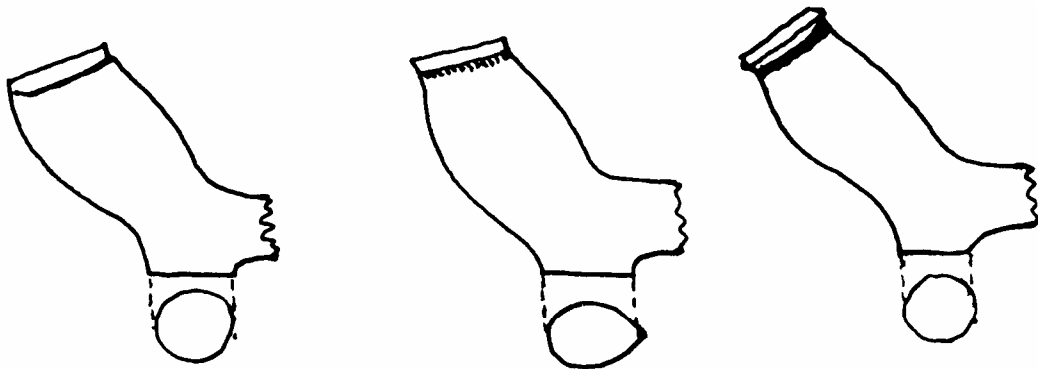
The feet of the remainder of the pipes in this early group vary from oval to round, and this, with the difference in texture and colour suggest that most of these pipes were brought into the town, possibly by travellers, traders or soldiers. Little is known of early 17th century pipe makers in Colchester, since few marked their productions, therefore none of the examples from this site can be definitely attributed to local makers.

Of great interest, however, is a bowl, dating from 1630-50, ascribed by Oswald (2) to an Ipswich maker of the first half of the 17th century. This is of characteristic elongated or "balluster" shape, with bold relief ornamentation of fleur-de-lis, suns and stars, which were cut into the mould (probably of wood), and is further decorated by rouletting round the rim. Only two designs are known in this Ipswich group, and this is the first fleur-de-lis to be found in Colchester. The contemporary "mulberry" pipe has a fairly wide distribution, and some examples have been found in Colchester (3).

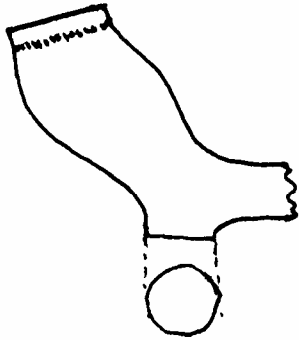
The greatest number of pipes found cover the period 1680 to 1730. It has been said that "When Dutch William sat on the throne of England, all men smoked in peace". The very large bowls and thick stems of this period are well represented in the St. Mary's Rectory material, and some are undoubtedly by local Dutch makers. Three pipes bear the distinguishing mark of the roulette wheel across the large rounded foot, at right angles to the stem, and three have a bar in a similar position cut with the cutting-off knife. This general type was evolved from the earlier "barrel bowls", and grew in size towards the end of the 17th century when tobacco became more plentiful and cheaper. The largest variation of this type, which I submitted to Mr. Adrian Oswald some time ago, appears to be of local manufacture, with a limited distribution.

A quantity of broken stems was also recovered, but only the texture of the clay, the straightness of the stems and the size of the bore suggest that they are related to the dated bowls; two pieces of polished stem could match the polished bowls. Curiously enough, there are no pipes later than 1730, with the possible exception of a thick stem with a small bore, and the material gives little indication of the great military activity in the immediate area during the Civil War (1648), when the nearby church and churchyard were focal points in the defence of the town, and, reversely, the church tower was from the start of hostilities, a mark for the attacking forces of the Parliament. No rounded bowls and spurred feet of the so-called "Cromwellian" pipes were found.

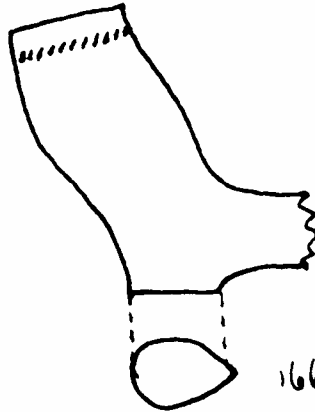
- (1) Arch. News Letter, "The Evolution & Chronology of English Clay Pipes" - Adrian Oswald, No. 59,
- (2) Journal of the Archaeological Association, third series, Vol. XXIII (1960) p. 50.
- (3) The Co-operative Society development in Long Wyre Street, 1960/4.



1620 - 1660 (BROSELEY)



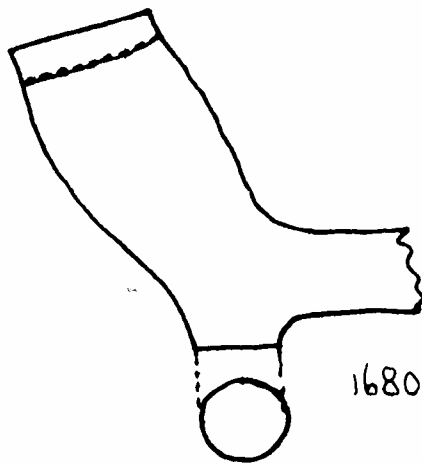
WEST COUNTRY



1660 - 1680



1630-50 (IPSWICH)



1680-1720

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES
From ST. MARY'S RECTORY, COLCHESTER.

SCALE 1/1 L.H.G.

WINTER MEETINGS 1967.

At the first meeting of the second half of the winter programme on January 9th, Mr. D.M. Archer of the Victoria & Albert Museum spoke on 'English Delft Ware'. The many illustrations showed the development of this type of pottery from its introduction into England in the middle of the 16th century to its decline at the end of the 18th century owing to the invention of the more robust cream ware. The main English factories in London, Bristol and Liverpool produced a wide range of utensils from jugs and dishes to drug-pots and candlesticks, usually with decoration painted on the white absorbent tin-enamel which was the distinguishing characteristic of the pottery.

Every schoolboy knows that Boudicca was the leader of a Celtic revolt against Roman rule and the layer of burnt material which lies beneath Colchester is a grim reminder that the town was sacked by her in A.D 60. But the Druids may have been the real organisers of the revolt, to divert the Roman army from its intention to destroy their headquarters at Anglesey. This theory was put forward by Dr. Graham Webster of Birmingham University on January 16th during his lecture on 'The Revolt of Boudicca'. The Roman general, Paulinus, refused to panic and, after dealing with the Druids, returned to defeat the rebels in a battle at an unidentified site in the Midlands. Dr. Webster said that Gosbecks may have been the Druids' centre before they moved to Anglesey and that the forthcoming excavation there may produce supporting evidence.

An air photograph showing the outline of rings, ditches and pits in a barley crop has resulted in the excavation of a remarkably complex archaeological site at Mucking, overlooking the Thames. Mrs. M.U. Jones, who has directed the excavation, described the work, which is still in progress, on January 23rd, with many slides taken at various stages. Evidence of several centuries of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon occupation is provided by pottery, jewellery and tools from the ditches outlining the buildings of successive settlements and from the graves of their inhabitants. The excavation continues as rapidly as possible as the site is being used for gravel working.

Modern deep ploughing and selective weed killers have led to the discovery of many archaeological sites on farm-land in north-east Essex by means of cropmarks. The ploughing encourages these differences in growth which show up ancient sub-soil disturbances such as ditches and pits and the weed killers prevent weeds from obscuring them. Even so, crop-marks are only visible in certain crops after suitable weather declared Mr. F.H. Erith while describing 'Recently Discovered Local Crop-marks' on January 30th. The many illustrations included aerial photographs of the Bronze Age burial sites on Mr. Erith's own farm at Ardleigh, which the Group have excavated in recent years. Appropriately enough, the audience was surrounded by burial urns from the excavations which are displayed in the Castle lecture room.

Archaeologists usually have their feet firmly on or under the ground but occasionally a study of their subject from a height of several thousand feet is equally rewarding. Many interesting sites which cannot be distinguished at ground level are easily visible in aerial photographs because soil and crop disturbances show as shadows or changes in colour. But keen archaeologists need not take flying lessons because the Ordnance Survey has a large library of photographs which can be consulted. At the Group meeting of February 6th Mr. C.F. Wardale of the Survey described its work and, with many illustrations, showed how the photographs are interpreted for map-making and archaeology. Computers take some of the labour out of map-making but the archaeologist just starts digging!

The appointment of County Archaeologist is unusual because there are only two, one in Staffordshire and one in Lancashire. Mr. B.J.N. Edwards, B.A., who holds the latter post, described 'A County Archaeologist at Work' to the Group on February 13th. Mr. Edwards, formerly a pupil at Colchester Royal Grammar School and a member of the Group, first gave his unique terms of reference and then illustrated with slides the wide variety of objects and sites which he had inspected and recorded as part of his work. These included Stone Age flint tools, Bronze Age barrows and ornaments, Roman inscribed altars and milestones, Viking jewellery, Saxon and medieval stone earrings and relics of the Industrial Revolution.

Those who are interested in the future of Colchester's centre may be surprised to learn that the Saxons also went in for town planning. This has been shown by recent extensive excavations at Thetford, which were described by Mr. B.K. Davison at a joint meeting of the Colchester Archaeological Group and the Essex Archaeological Society on February 20th. As in a modern town, the industrial area was separated from residential areas and the excavated remains of buildings suggest that some authority controlled their layout and construction. Whereas domestic rubbish accumulated in medieval towns, its absence in 10th and 11th century Thetford indicates that civic responsibility extended to refuse collection. Roads, too, seemed to be a municipal charge, showing signs of organised construction and repair. Mr. Davison remarked that the orientation of the modern housing estate now being built on the site was the same as that of the Saxon town

although evidence of the latter on the surface has long since disappeared. Like the modern planners, did the Saxons take care that the gables faced the north-east winds?

An archaeological site near Mildenhall, which has long been known for the quality of the flint Stone Age tools found on it, is now yielding important information about Man's activities 130,000 years ago. A large excavation directed by the British Museum has revealed a settlement several feet below the modern surface on the shore of a long-vanished lake. Mr. G. de G. Sieveking of the Museum described the excavation at the Group meeting on February 27th. With the aid of slides, he showed how the various levels of occupation were dated by scientific investigation of the pollen grains contained in the boulder clay layers found on the site.

Medieval churches often contain imagery which was used to illustrate aspects of Christianity for the benefit of an illiterate population but in many cases the original meaning is now not clear or is disputed. At the meeting on March 6th Lady Cox, better known as Miss M. T. Anderson, interpreted some of the "Symbolism in the Architecture and Imagery of Parish Churches". The talk was illustrated with slides showing the wide range of visual representation such as wall-paintings, carving in wood and stone and stained glass. The images were sometimes used allegorically and might, for example, be so employed during the course of a sermon.

At the last meeting on March 13th various committee members reported on recent Group excavations illustrated by maps, plans and slides. Plans for the forthcoming excavation of the Iron Age site at Vinces Farm, Ardleigh, were explained and the meeting ended with a general discussion.

All enquiries and articles for the Bulletin should be sent to the Secretary and Editor, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone:- Layer de la Haye 274.

PART TWO JUNE 1967

GROUP NOTICES.

CHANGE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATES & PRICE OF BULLETIN.

Since the beginning of the Group we have been proud of our low rate of subscription. Unfortunately, the ever-rising cost of living has made this increasingly difficult and now our expenses have become so great that we have no alternative but to make increases-as from the 1st, of October 1967. These will be as follows:

Single subscription	£1. 0, 0, per annum.
Second member of a family	10. 0. " "
Junior members 16 years & under	10. 0. " "
Bulletin only	10. 0. " "
Single copy of the Bulletin	2. 6. post free.
Visitors at meetings	2. 6. each.
Student & Junior Visitors at meetings	1. 0. each,

LIBRARY - the period of free loan for any book to be four weeks after which, if not renewed, there will be a fine of 6d. per volume per week. Any enquiries about the Library, applications for books during the summer months should be addressed to Mr. R.W. Palmer, 41 Gladwin Road, Colchester. Telephone Col. 4399.

OUTING - on Monday, July 3rd, to visit Beeleigh Abbey, near Maldon, by kind permission of Miss Christina Foyle, .Meet at The Firs car park, Maldon Road, Colchester at 6.30 p.m.

A CHEESE & WINE PARTY for members and their friends will be held on Monday, July 24th at Abberton Cottage, Layer de la Haye, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Doncaster. Tickets 7/6 each entitle the holder to one glass of wine and food; additional glasses of wine may be obtained at 2/6 each. Please apply to the Hon. Secretary before July 14th stating how many tickets are required and enclosing payment. Geographical directions will be supplied with tickets,

THE ARDLEIGH EXCAVATION- although members and friends, "diggers" or not, are always welcome on the site at weekends, a special MEMBERS' DAY will be held on Sunday, August 6th from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. when Mr. F.H. Erith and Mr. P. R. Holbert will be on hand to show people round the excavations. Vincens Farm lies on the north side of the road which runs from Ardleigh Railway Station (1 mile) to Great Bromley.

TENDRIING HUNDRED SHOW - will be held at Lawford on Saturday July 8th. We hope as many members as possible will come and see our display.

BIRD CALLS.

by P. B. Boyden.

Those members of the Group who remember reading Mr. Edward's article on the Tudor Bird Call he found in a spoil heap in St. John's Street, (C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. IV page 14) may be interested to know that a similar device was being played with by Bronze Age peasant children in India between two and three thousand B.C.

The Indian ones originated in South Baluchistan, between two and three thousand B.C. but later spread to Sind and the Punjab where they are fairly common on sites once occupied by the Harappa Culture. They are actually in the shape of birds with a hole in the 'tail' and being hollow, when you blow into them from a certain angle, they produce a loud hooting sound.

Although it probably did not make the same noise as the Tudor ones, they are obviously the same idea. It is interesting to note that you can buy plastic ones (shaped as a bird on a bough) in shops today. This surely goes to show that nothing now-a-days is new!

THE MAY OUTING.

On Mayday twenty-three members joined in an evening excursion to the churches of Tolleshunt Knights and Rivenhall. These two buildings, in quite different ways, are both exercises in off-beat gothic. Tolleshunt Knights, after being disused for a generation, is now cared for by the Eastern Orthodox Community nearby. It is restored to serve either Anglican or Orthodox worship, and we thought the blend of East and West harmonious and successful. The history of the building was admirably expounded by Mr. Malcolm Carter.

Rivenhall, on the other hand, though the foundations are mediaeval - perhaps much earlier - is a late essay in "Gothic". It was built in 1838-9 just before Victorian Gothic became scholarly and correct - and frequently pedantic and sterile. In this not undistinguished setting, the east window holds the finest and earliest glass in the county, including four splendid roundels circa 1200. The vicar, (the Revd. Nash) welcomed the Group and gave an interesting commentary on both church and glass, which he had illuminated for us.

ADVANCE NOTICE.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, on Thursday, November 2nd at 7 p.m., for 7.30. The guests of honour will be Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A., and Mrs. Sonia Hawkes, B.A., F.A.A.. Tickets 25/- each. Further details and application forms will be sent out to local members with the September issue of the Bulletin.

All enquiries and articles for the Bulletin should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Laver de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone - Laver de la Haye 274 (evenings.)

REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF A ROMAN ROAD
IN THE GARDEN OF 26 LEXDEN ROAD, COLCHESTER, 1966.

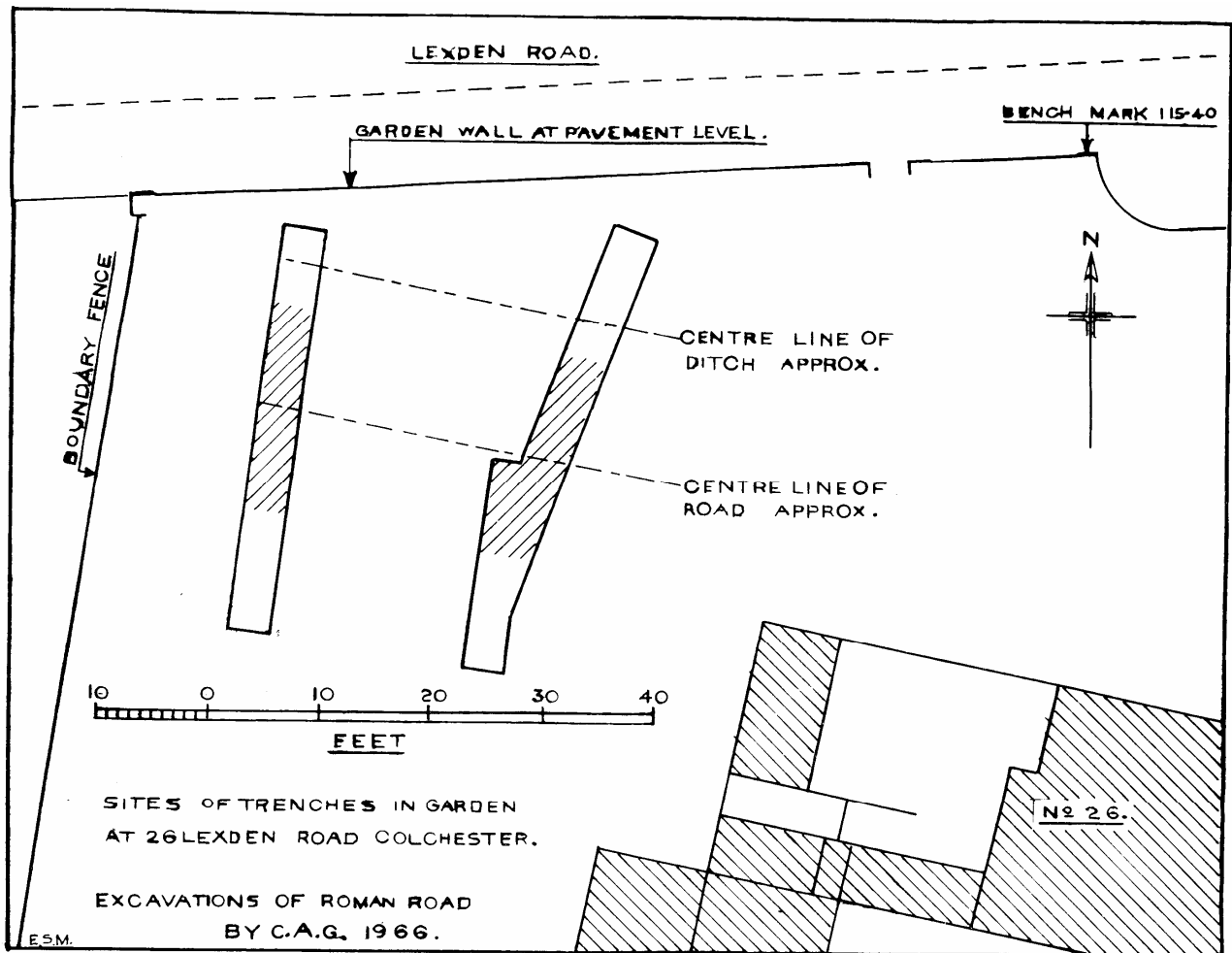
by P. R. Holbert.

Introduction:

The site lies in the western corner formed by the junction of The Avenue and Lexden Road, Colchester. This is to the west of the modern town centre, about a half mile out. Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Weiss, the owners, on recently moving into the house, and realising they were in an historically interesting area, asked through one of our members, that the Colchester Archaeological Group dig in the garden before various projected alterations were carried out.

Summary

After a thorough investigation of the available area (the lawn mainly) by trial trenching, down to natural gravel, trenches towards the northern end of the site only showed promise, traces of a hard stony surface at about 2 feet depth. On further investigation this proved to be a road, running in a roughly east west direction, consisting of a fairly substantial cambered surface of small stoned set in clay, possibly mixed with lime (as a hardening agent), some 20 feet in width with a ditch running along its northern edge.



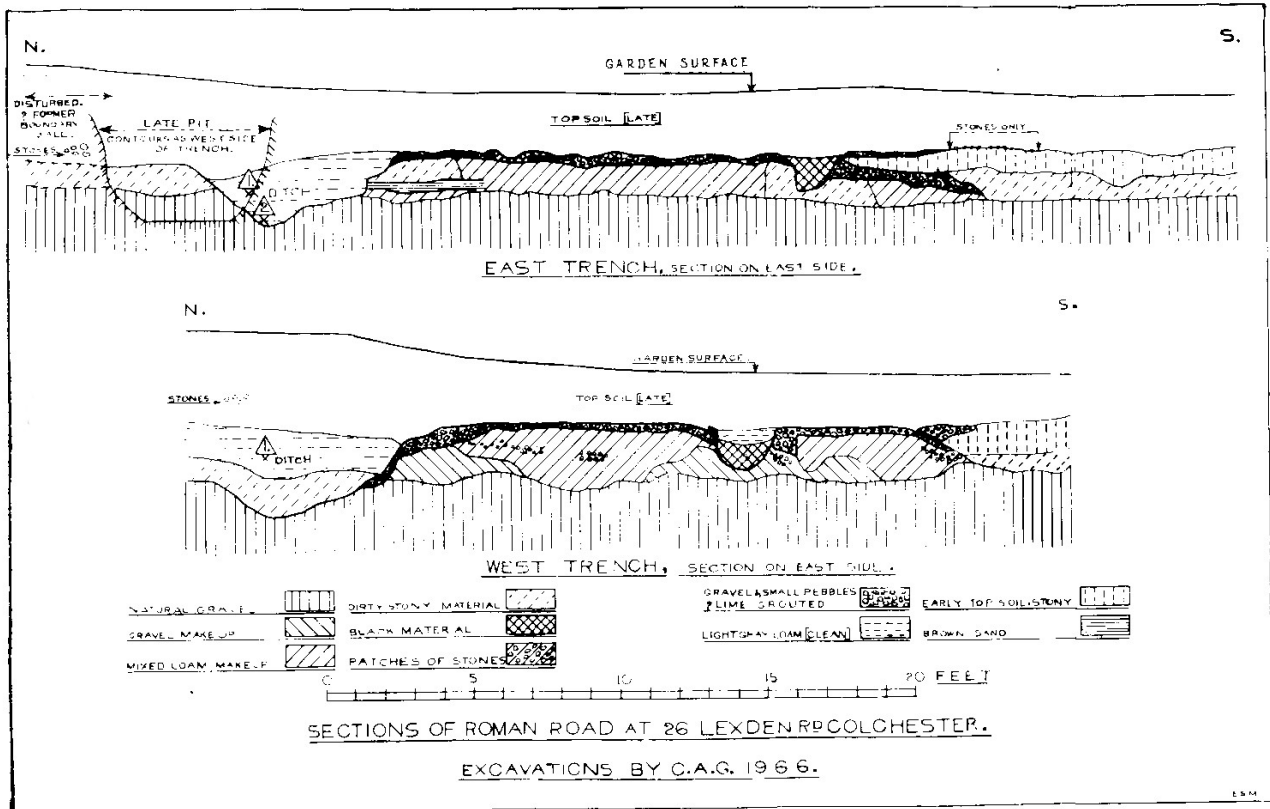
Description of Finds.

Structural

Subsequent to the original find of road surface, it was decided to aim at getting two good sections, one at the west and one at the eastern end of the site. All other exploratory trenches, on being proved sterile were quickly back-filled. Referring to Plan of Site (above) showing the two main section trenches, it will be seen that the road (hatched) is approximately 20 feet in width. The subsoil, as is usual in this area, is

mainly orange gravel with sand and traces of clay.

As will be seen from the east and west sections (below) it would appear that the early layer of topsoil was removed on the alignment of the road, then, a build-up of material consisting of gravel, sand and mixed loam was heaped in the channel so formed. This build-up of material varied in depth from one to two feet forming the elevation of the road above the surrounding surface. It was noticeable that this build-up appeared to have been shot in piecemeal, by the load, with no stratification, presumably all at one time. On top of this was placed the "crust", consisting of small stones laid in clay with possible admixture of lime. The average thickness of this surface layer was 3-4 inches and provided a very hard durable surface, especially when dried out.



The ditch, running alongside the northern edge of the road, was found to be some 5 feet in width and 2 feet 6 inches deep. The filling of this ditch was of a peculiarly even clean loam, light grey in colour and quite hard. This did not appear to be silting-up, but gave more the impression of a deliberate filling (as suggested by Mr. Hull, perhaps more of a "soakaway" than an open ditch.) There was no ditch along the southern edge of the road.

Another small ditch was found, cut into the actual road surface, (see sections above). As will be seen, this is almost in the centre in the west section but by the time it reaches the east section it has wandered off the line and appears almost on the south edge. This ditch was filled with a black material (rotted vegetable matter?), with some odd sherds of various dating, some tile and septaria. This feature is certainly late and would appear to have no useful purpose in connection with the road. The peculiar "tail" of road surface material seen projecting from the south edge of the road could well be "spoil" from this ditch laying on the then contemporary ground surface.

In the eastern section, two sets of wheel ruts were noticed, running parallel to the line of the road, overlapping and with a track of approx. 5 feet.

In a thorough search for datable material the entire area of road available in the trenches was dug up and put through sieves, this considerable labour unfortunately proved negative.

Small Finds

Pottery - odd sherds of 1st - 4th century were found unstratified in garden topsoil and therefore not valid for dating purposes. In the main ditch running alongside the north edge of the road, some sherds identified as latish 1st century were found at points marked 1. and 2. (in triangles) (See east and west sections page 14)

Coins - (bronze) representing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries were found at various points, some scattered in garden topsoil, others laying actually on the road surface. These are detailed below:

1. CLAVDIVS (Dupondius). O/ (TI CLAVDNS) CAESAR AVG PM TR P (IMP)
R/ (CERES) AVGVSTA (SC)
2. ANNA GALERIA FAVSTINA. R/ JUNO. (died - 175 or 176)
3. VICTORINVS. A.D. 268-270. (corroded)
4. VICTORINUS or TETRICVS ? SALVS REV ? 3rd quarter of 3rd century (corroded)
- 5< Barbarous radiate - late 3rd, century.
6. Probably GLORIA EXERCITVS - (type with two legionaries and two standards) 1st half of 4th, century.
7. GLORIA ROMANORVM. DN GRAT -- --., A.D. 367-383.

Also in topsoil, a bronze "strap-end", similar to that shown in Richborough IV, plate XXVI. Probably late Roman.

Conclusions

In our interpretation of the foregoing evidence and to put our find in perspective in relation to the Colonia and previous finds of Roman roads in the district, we must of necessity lean heavily upon Mr. Hull's "Roman Colchester" and the report by Mr. A.F. Hall "A Three Tracked Roman Road at Colchester" published in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 3rd series Vol. VII. 1942.

I think there can be no doubt that the Roman "London Road" ran past the southern side of the Colonia with a link road to the principal gate in the west wall, the Balkerne Gate. The Roman road coming in from the west seems to follow roughly the line of the modern Lexden Road until it reaches a point opposite Sussex Road (see Main Plan page 16) where there is a slight bend to the north to bring it (the modern road) along Crouch Street and into Headgate.

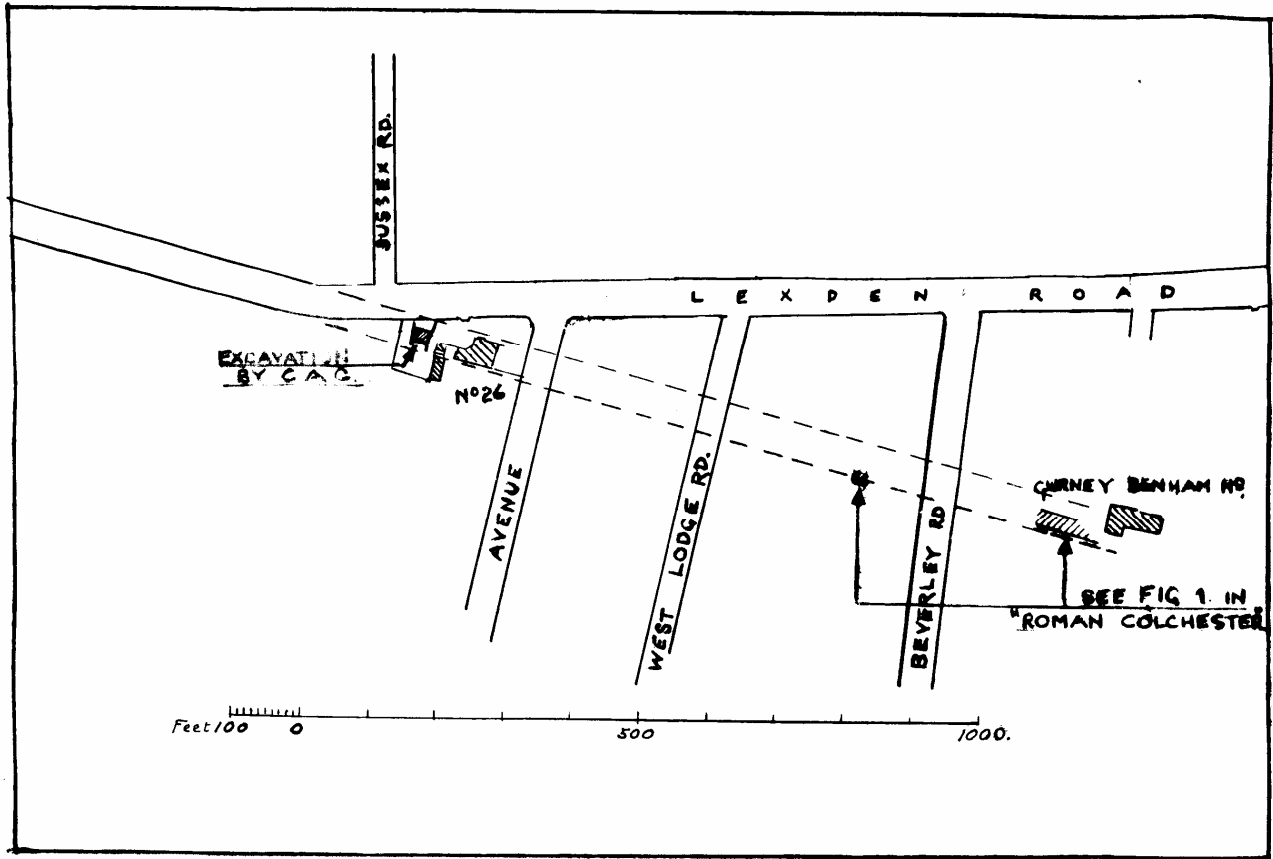
At the point of divergence (opposite Sussex Road) the Roman line carries straight on and is indicated by Mr. Hall's road mentioned above. From this point eastward we have as yet no trace of line or destination (perhaps the Hythe?) Our find in the garden of 26, Lexden Road seems, together with Mr. Hall's find, to prove this line, both almost certainly being sections of the same road.

When comparing our evidence with that of Mr. Hall, it will be seen that although there are differences of detail, there are also strong similarities. Although we did not find a three tracked road, (and the possibilities were thoroughly exhausted during the course of excavation) we did find something very similar to Mr. Hall's "north side track and north ditch".

The eastward projected line from our road and ditch lines up very nicely with Mr. Hall's equivalent (see Main Plan page 13). The dimensions are also fairly consistent. If our find is in fact a continuation of Mr. Hall's north side track, then why did we not find also his main central carriageway? It would appear from Mr. Hall's report that his central carriageway stands well above the level of the sidetracks, this would obviously make it vulnerable to gardening operations. As our road surface was no more than 2 feet below modern ground surface, his central road surface would be correspondingly higher and could well have been destroyed. The south track would lie under the adjoining property, it would be interesting to have the opportunity to prove or disprove its presence.

The other alternative can only be that the three tracked road was for some reason abandoned and never actually reached this far, degenerating into single track along the way, although it must be said that our road did not appear substantial enough to serve the purposes of a main load bearing highway,

In the absence of reliably stratified datable finds, we can give an early date to our road only by inference. Assuming that this is Mr. Hall's line at a more westerly point, then his 1st century dating would hold good. It is realised that this is little enough evidence upon which to base any assumption of dating, but in the absence of any thing more definite, is, unfortunately, all that can be offered.



Acknowledgements - our thanks are due firstly to Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Weiss for allowing us to dig up their garden, and for the interest that they showed in our operations; to Mr. David Clarke and Miss Rosalind Dunnett who visited the site several times; to Mr. M.R. Hull for his interest and advice; to Mr. E.S. May for his excellent plans and sections, and, finally to all the Group members who did the "hard graft" which makes these operations possible.

"THE OLDEST LEAF TOBACCO IN THE WORLD."

by Leonard H. Gant.

In the course of demolition of an old house at the foot of Hythe Hill, Colchester, in April 1967, workmen found the cavity wall dividing the house now demolished and that part which remains as the adjacent house filled with a quantity, estimated at between 30 and 40 lbs weight, of "hands" of tobacco leaves. Each hand consisted of about a dozen mature leaves, bound at the stalk ends by another leaf, which was tightly wrapped round the stems, and the leaf point threaded under the folds of the retaining leaf.

The discovery was made by Mr. T.F.C. Dimmick, who lives at Kirby-le-Soken and passes the site daily when travelling to his employment as archivist and curator to Messrs. Carreras Limited, the well-known cigarette manufacturers of Basildon. Mr. Dimmick, who is also a trained archaeologist, visited the site when the demolition was complete, and immediately recognised the "hands" of tobacco, many of which had already been destroyed and buried under rubble,

Several of the "hands" were taken to the Carreras Tobacco Research Division Unit and Laboratory at Basildon, where Drs. A.J. Lindsey and A.D.R. Harrison (Research Manager) took immediate steps to preserve and examine the tobacco. Tests were undertaken to determine the possible age of the material, and further supplies of the leaf were sent from the Colchester & Essex Museum, to whom the remaining

"hands" had been given.

Mr. Gareth Davies, assistant curator of the Castle Museum, was at the site within an hour of being informed by the writer, and he made a complete photographic record of everything of interest revealed by the demolition at that time, including a nicely moulded beam and a moulded and painted doorway.

On the following day, in company with Mr. T.F.C. Dimmick, Mr. Davies discovered a few sherds of 17th century and earlier pottery, and part of a glass bottle. A trade token found during the demolition was also recovered, and is now in the Museum collection. It appears that a pair of 17th century shoes were also found, and the foreman, who took them home, made a careful sketch, which has been handed to the museum. It is hoped that the original shoes will also be preserved.

Further coins have been found in the rubble, and it is hoped to recover more tobacco leaves. Two ancient wood chisels, one with a rough ash handle were recovered and an ancient semi-circular hearth, made by inserting tiles on edge into an earth floor came to light. This appears to have no connection with any chimneys, and may therefore be earlier than the timber framed house, parts of which have been dated to late 15th or early 16th century.

A preliminary report from the Carreras laboratory furnished the title of this short account, and this was confirmed by Mr. Gordon West, a member of the editorial staff of "Tobacco", the trade magazine, who said this discovery was the first tobacco leaf of great age to be found in this country. The variety of tobacco plant is "*nicotiana rustica*", which was known in eastern Europe and Asia Minor in the 16th century, and the "hands" were air cured, having no trace of preservative or fermenting agent,

Hands of tobacco are shown on ancient trade tokens and on clay pipe foot stamps of the 17th century, and many contemporary engravings show this form of leaf. Drying or air curing was the earliest form of preparation of the tobacco leaf, which was then rubbed in the palm of the hand before smoking. With the dried leaf, the tobacco smoked very hot, and lasted a very short time, burning very quickly. In fact a contemporary record says that with three draws the pipe was burned out. A method of curing the tobacco leaf and winding it on a machine rather like a spinning wheel was soon evolved, and the name "twist" is still found today for this rope-like production of tobacco, which is much favoured by clay pipe smokers.

If the laboratory tests date the tobacco to mid 17th century, and therefore tie up nicely with the evidence of the pottery, glass and trade token, it may be assumed that the tobacco was hidden during the Civil War (1648) to avoid capture, or to escape Custom Duty.

It is known that at that time the granaries and stores at the Hythe were singularly full of goods and stores, and the defending Royalists made good use of the material before the encircling Parliamentary forces discovered the source of supply, and took measures to stop the movement of grain, food and stores, which undoubtedly sustained the besieged townsfolk and Royalist army for some time.

Whatever might have been the circumstances of the hiding of the tobacco it seems certain that he never lived to recover it, and so carefully was it immured behind plaster that it has been preserved without great damage, for upwards of three centuries.

The trade token was a small copper coin inscribed with the name of Thomas Reynolds (Reynolds), Bay Maker of Colchester. The Reynolds family can be traced back to 1451, when Robert, William and John Reynolds swore fealty to the King.

The church registers of St. Nicholas and St. Runwald record many members of the family, who were woollen drapers in the reign of Elizabeth I; many members of the family served the town as Bailiff or Alderman. Thomas, who issued the token, was a common councillor in 1646-7 and an assistant in August 1848. There were two contemporaries bearing the same name, both members of the Corporation under the Commonwealth, one a bay maker and the other a draper.

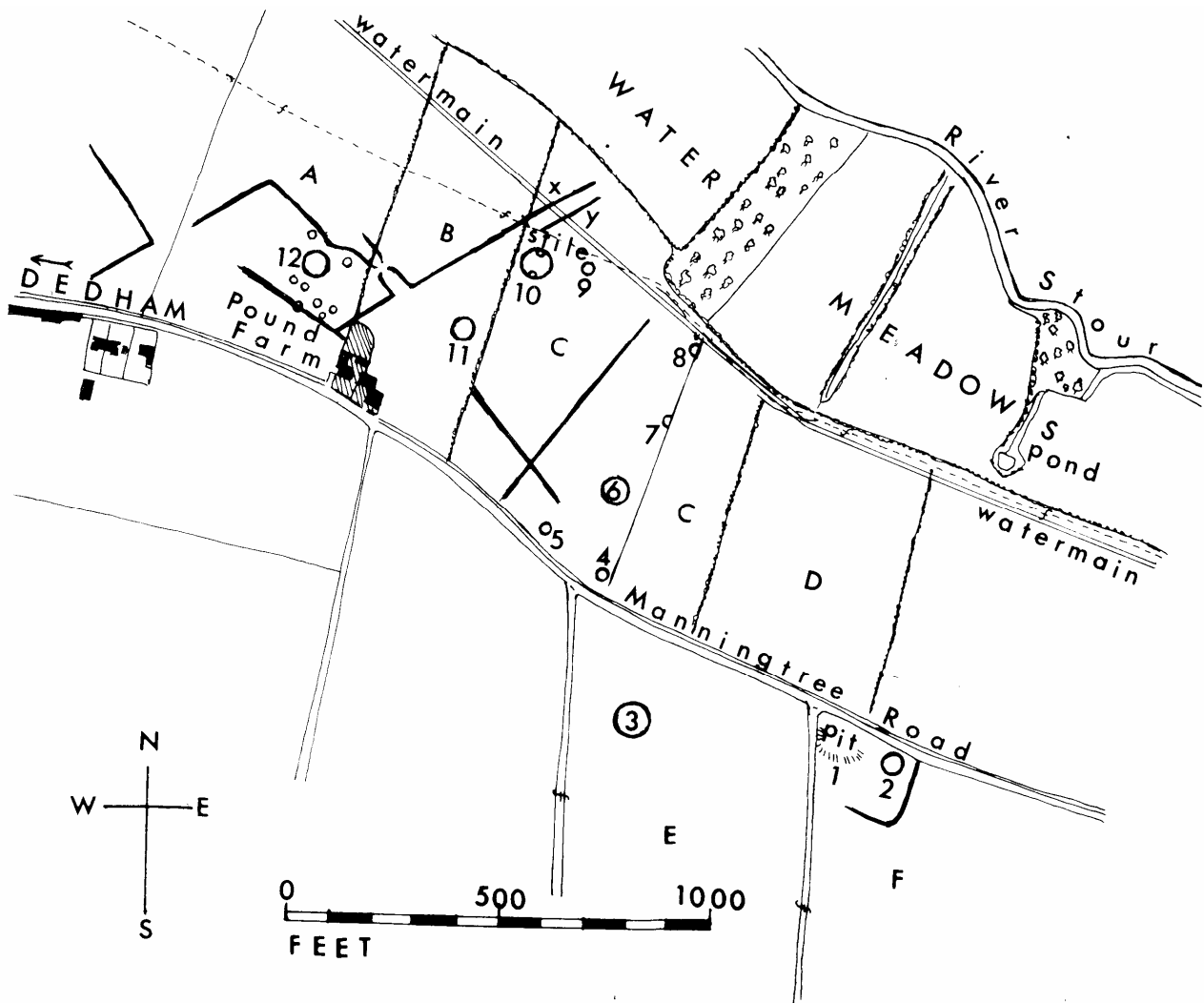
The family continued to flourish and one of the last references is to the son of Alderman Samuel Reynolds' daughter, the Rev. William Samuel Powell, who became Archdeacon of Colchester in 1768.

THE DEDHAM BARROW COMPLEX.

by F.H. Erith.

In the past eight years Air Photography has revealed Bronze Age settlement on the gravel soils bordering the River Stour which was previously unsuspected. "Settlement" is implied by the groups of ring-ditches or barrows which occur at two-mile intervals along the riverside.

At Pound Farm, Dedham, there is a group of some twenty barrows which seem to be connected with linear ditches passing between them. These appear as cropmarks, and were first photographed in 1963 by Mr. Jim Newman of Clacton, who was commissioned to photograph certain selected sites in the Tendring Hundred and "anything else he might see in passing". Circles were observed in two fields (marked A and C on the plan below) but the field in which the farm premises stand (field B) had just been ploughed and so showed no cropmark.



In subsequent years these fields were observed from the air by Mr. Michael Clover - sometimes cropmarks could be photographed in one field and sometimes in another - so that eventually a composite picture of the whole complex was plotted, Unfortunately field B has never had a crop really sensitive enough to be quite sure that all its marks are shown; tares-and-oats and rye being rather unresponsive in this respect.

The Layout and History of this Site. See plan, page 18)

The water-meadows south of the River Stour (old course) are bounded on their southern side by a steep slope up to the terrace of gravelly soil, consisting of fields A, B, C, and D of Pound Farm. Their southern boundary is the Manningtree Road. South of this road are extensive arable fields over gravel subsoil, which slope up to the clay of Dedham Heath,

In 1914 a small gravel-pit was dug in the north-west corner of field F, in the course of which a Bronze Age collared urn was discovered complete, as well as the remains of others. No. 1 on Plan. (T. Essex Arch. Soc. XXV, Part III, page 350, fig. 7).

In 1957 the late Mr. F.A. Girling F.S.A spotted a cropmark of a ring of darker sugar beets (in field F), which he photographed from the ground. There was a complete circle with a diameter of about 70 feet, and a horse-shoe-like feature in the centre. This site was later excavated by Mr. Bryan Blake for the Colchester Museum. It contained a Primary and a Secondary Bronze Age Collared Urn. (T. Essex Arch. Soc. XXV, Part III, page 344). No. 2 on Plan.

The Cropmarks.

The linear marks run obliquely to the modern field boundaries. The longest marking, starting just west of Pound Farm House in field A, stretches northeast through field B, passes the stile into field C, and terminates where the field drops sharply to the water meadow.

In February 1967 the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co. sunk a trench for a water main, which intersected this ditch at point X, and showed the ancient ditch to be 3 feet deep and six feet wide. Ten yards further east a second ditch was revealed at point Y, going parallel to the first one, also 3 feet deep, but for some reason this does not show on the air photographs.

Interpretation.

As the larger circles and the linear marks nowhere touch or intersect it is possible that they are contemporary. The circles are almost certainly the remains of Bronze Age barrows which have been deliberately levelled. The absolute flatness of them implies that they were either levelled by hand in antiquity as at Ardleigh (C.A.G. Bulletin, IV page 34-5), or by horse and cart in more recent times, as at Tendring (C.A.G. Bulletin IX, page 26).

The linear marks are probably the ditches formed to make small enclosures to protect the barrows from cattle etc. To the west of Pound Farm, in field A, Barrow 12 is protected by a more or less rectangular enclosure. It is also surrounded by a group of 'mini-barrows', which could well be of a later period, especially as one of them straddles the southern ditch of the enclosure.

Nos. 9, 10, and 11 appear to be in another enclosure, of which the southern boundary has not shown in field B.

Possibly Nos. 4 and 5 are in a separate enclosure from Nos. 6, 7, and 8, if the linear cropmark parallel to the modern road continued south-eastward. The eastern sides of Nos. 7 and 8 have not shown from the air as they lie in that part of field C which is cropped with asparagus. Asparagus is a perennial crop, too 'thin' to show from the air, and is not likely to be ploughed up for some years,

The Cursus.

If the parallel ditch (observed at point Y) continues towards Pound Farm House it could be interpreted as the second side of a very short cursus. A cursus consists of two parallel ditches (and their consequent banks), the ends being generally stopped up, or almost stopped up. They have been more precisely defined in the R.C.H. Monuments publication: "A Matter of Time, an Archaeological Survey" page 24:

"All the Cursuses to be certainly identified, apart from the two near Stonehenge, were dug in gravel soils Most of them run at right-angles to the nearby river and terminate near its banksSome appear to have entrances in their sides. Nearly all are surrounded by large or small groups of round barrows and four are associated with henge monuments."

The article concludes that the probable use of Cursuses was for Religious Processions to or from a sacred river at one end. and presumably to the associated Henge Monument at the other.

But there is one objection to this theory, and that is that the cursuses terminate near the river banks. If the River was the feature at which the Cursus was aimed, then why did the Cursus not go the whole way to it? Could it be that it was not the River that was aimed at, but the water meadows alongside the river? And if it were the water meadows then surely the reason for the Cursus was to act as a passageway to contain cattle going to and from these water meadows.

The Association of Cursus and Henge Monument.

That Cursuses are found in association with Henge Monuments is significant. The similarity of the smaller Henges to the present-day Cattle Market Sale-rings is most striking; both are circular, have one or two opposite entrances, and are banked up round the circumference for spectators to see what is going on in the middle. Moreover some Henges are surrounded by small enclosures which could be paralleled, with the market pens of the consignors of cattle. (The design of the modern Cattle Sale-ring is not based on any antiquity - presumably it evolved in Victorian times from reasons of function), A somewhat larger version is Tattersall's new sale-ring for horses at Newmarket, which has two opposite entrances. (See figs. 2 and 3 on page 21)

An example containing all the ancient features described above is shown in "A Matter of Time" fig. 6. This, is at Maxey, Northants, and a cursus is shown beginning one field away from the River Welland, and leads to a Henge about 600 yards away. The Henge appears to be surrounded by four or five small enclosures.

However, there is no Henge Monument at Dedham - the nearest is two miles away at Stratford St. Mary - and we tentatively assume that our Cursus (if it is a Cursus) was constructed to prevent cattle straying or damaging the near-by barrows.

Other Detail.

Just north of Pound Farm there is a junction with the presumed Cursus. The branch path appears to be constricted near where the modern hedge lies. This suggests that there might have been some system of gates at this point to direct stock or people to the different enclosures.

Several of these rings have been observed from the ground, and the height in which the corn over the rings exceeded the crop on the rest of the field gives some indication of the depth of the circular ditches. The higher the corn the deeper the ditch originally below it. No. 12 was seen in oats, and the ring corn towered 18 inches over the field corn, indicating a ditch at least four feet deep, No. 10 is very prominent every year, mostly standing a foot higher than the surrounding corn. One photograph showed two internal circles north and south. No. 3, in field E, although very large, has so far only been seen from the air.

Affinities

A rather similar site, where a cluster of "mini-barrows" is adjacent to one or two large barrows, is a few miles up-river at Stoke-by-Nayland. An illustration of this by Dr. St. Joseph was published in "Antiquity" 1965, No. 153, Plate XIVa. Further investigation of this site is very desirable.

"Mini-barrows", or ring-ditches of about 12 feet in diameter have been excavated at Ardleigh (C.A.G. Bulletin III, pages 22 and 51) and at Great Bromley (C.A.G. Bulletin V, page 120) and were found to be of the later Bronze Age, with bucket urns.

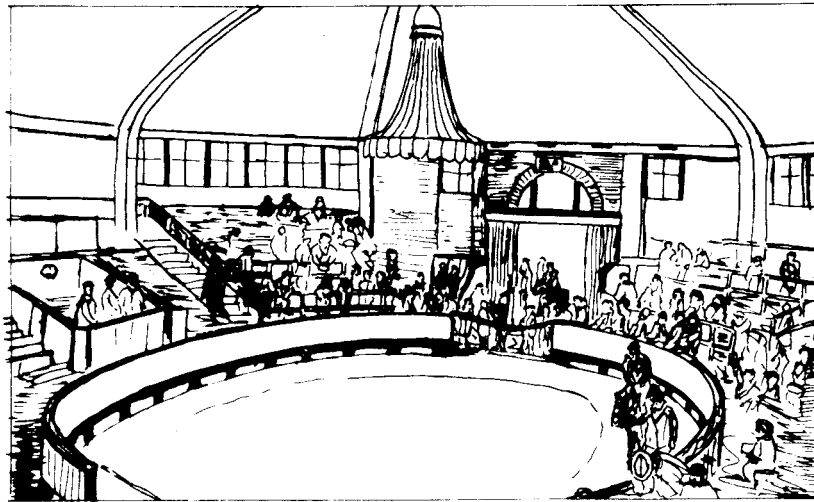


Fig.2. Tattersall's sale ring at Newmarket, erected in 1966, from a photograph in the Daily Telegraph. A horse is being led round the arena. There are two opposite entrances. The auctioneer's rostrum is on the left. The rest of the arena is surrounded by tiered stands for spectators.

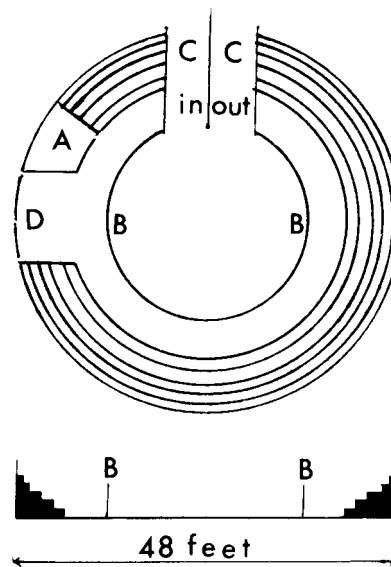


Fig. 3. Plan and section of the recently erected Cattle Sale-Ring at Stowmarket, Suffolk.
A. Auctioneer's Rostrum.
B. Barrier.
C. Entrance and Exit for Cattle. D. Door for public.

Many sale-rings have the exit opposite to the entrance.
The arena is surrounded by concrete tiers for the onlookers.

OBSERVATIONS ON POST OFFICE EXCAVATIONS ON NORTH HILL, 1966.

by A. B. Doncaster.

In the December, 1966, issue of this Bulletin, Mr. Leonard Gant made some observations on the deep Post Office telephone cable trench dug the full length of the High Street. Prior to this operation a similar trench had been dug on North Hill during the months of June to September.

Before the trenching machine began its work, various trial holes were made on the hill, one being on the site of the wall at the bottom of the hill. These holes were in the region of 6ft, deep, but as they were filled in immediately, little of interest could be observed. Part of the wall could be seen, but it was noted that another trench had already cut through the wall at this point where a service pipe had been laid.

The trenching started on the west side of North Hill, opposite the entrance to Crispin Court, where a large underground chamber was constructed for cables coming in an easterly direction from the Telephone Exchange, and then proceeded in a northerly direction down the hill, keeping to a line on the west side of the street. The whole operation was most difficult to assess from an archaeological point of view, for although the trench was 9 - 10 ft, deep, the sides were shored up with planking as the excavator progressed, so the observer has to be at the digging end to be able to see anything.

Some foundations were found opposite No. 51 (the Peverel Hotel) according to the workmen, but these were covered up before any inspection could be made. They were reported to be "fairly deep". There was no trace of a Roman road, but a spread of gravel silt was seen, which could have been a "sidewalk" for a road. A bronze stylus was found in this vicinity.

Opposite No. 41, a spring was encountered. The earth here was black and soggy, similar to the soil dredged from a river bed. (The presence of a spring is confirmed by observing the cellars of Nos. 44 and 39 are completely dry, whilst that of No. 37 further down the hill is continually running with water, winter and summer, and that a yard further down the hill is called Cistern Yard may have some bearing.) It was noted in this area that brushwood faggots 1 ft. 6 ins, in thickness had been laid in large numbers at depths of 4 to 7 ft. The faggots were mostly lying in a north/south direction.

Opposite No. 37, at a depth of 5-6 ft., a number of rough timbers were found, also lying in a north/south direction. These timbers were rough hewn, looking more like "off-cuts" than shaped pieces. They varied in length from 3 to 9 ft., were 1 to 2 inches thick and 3 to 4 inches broad. They appeared to be oak, and were sodden when taken out. Two pieces were kept as samples.

Opposite No. 36 and east/west foundation was seen 18 ins. down, consisting of septaria and grey mortar.

The trench opposite to the entrance between Nos. 36 and 35 was 8 ft. 8 ins. deep at this point; in the bottom 4 ft. only were scattered a number of stones. These were rounded and worn as if at one time they had been on the seashore or on a river bed. The largest were at the bottom, being approximately the size of a large tea-pot, graduating in size to smaller ones above, the size of a hen's egg. Amongst them were lumps of Kentish rag with remains of mortar attached. The whole extended to a length of 10 to 12 ft. and then petered out.

From a point opposite No. 35, a tunnel was made right across the bottom of Balkerne Lane junction, crossing the line of the Roman wall and surfacing at the south-east corner of the Cattle Market. Here it proved extremely difficult to see the foundation of the Roman wall for three reasons. Firstly, the timing of the visit had to be exactly right, as the tunnel was being shored up as the manual diggers worked their way along; secondly, an inspection could only be made whilst the workmen were having a tea or meal break; and thirdly, when the shift was finished (and at the time overtime was in force) and it would have been possible to have an undisturbed inspection, the pumps were switched off and the tunnel rapidly filled with water to a depth of 2 ft. or more. However, a visit was made and the width of the wall measured, which was 9 ft, at this point, but it was impossible to tell how near the base of the foundation this measurement was, nor could any great detail of the structure itself be observed.

Postscript:- since the above was written, Nos. 44 and 43 North Hill have been demolished. No. 44 was a late 18th century house with a charming bow window on the first floor (matching the one on the opposite side of the street at No. 17) and a carved doorway at the top of five stone steps, inside there was some excellent contemporary carpentry. The bow window was taken away intact, and it is understood that one of the

conditions of the demolition was that it should be incorporated in the new building. So it is hoped that the bow window will be replaced,

Before the demolition started in April this year, four trial holes were dug; one in the passage between Nos. 45 and 44; one in the main showroom floor of No. 43; and one in the rear yard behind No. 44 and the other in the basement of No. 44.

The first two realised nothing of interest, but the hole at the rear of No. 44, 3 ft. deep, exposed part of a red tessellated pavement. This was approximately 100 feet west of the existing street. (See item 134, Insula 9, in M.R. Hull's "Roman Colchester", page 97 - not shown on plan.)

The hole 2 feet deep, in the cellar of No. 44, the floor of which is 5 feet below the present street level, penetrated at once into the metalling of a Roman road, being 18 feet west of the edge of the existing street (excluding pavement).

Editor's Note: by a strange coincidence two articles in this issue describe finds which have come to light through activities which were not archaeological. This undoubtedly underlines the importance of noting and recording such discoveries and it is to be hoped that other members will follow this example.

PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1967

GROUP NOTICES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, the 9th, of October, 1967, in the Lecture Room at Colchester Castle; 7.30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend - your views and ideas are much appreciated - and your criticisms Coffee and biscuits will be served at the conclusion of the business meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

A nomination form for your use is enclosed with this Bulletin.

MINUTES.

A copy of the Minutes of the 1966 Annual General Meeting is also enclosed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual subscription falls due on the 1st October 1967. The new rates, as outlined in the June Bulletin, are given below:

Single subscription	£1. 0. 0. per annum.
Second member of a family	10. 0. " "
Junior members 16 years & under	10. 0. " "
Bulletin only	10. 0. " "

Please send to the Hon. Treasurer:

Miss Dorothy Jones,
Farthing Garden,
Laver Breton Heath,
Near Colchester, Essex.

It will be greatly appreciated if these are paid promptly. A reminder will be sent to those still outstanding with the December Bulletin, after which the membership will be taken to have lapsed.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, on Thursday, November 2nd 1967, at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. The guests of honour will be the Mayor & Mayoress of Colchester, Alderman E.P. Duffield, J.P., and Mrs. Duffield, Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A., and Mrs. Sonia Hawkes, B.A., F.S.A.. Tickets, 25/- each may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary and an application form is enclosed, It must, however, be emphasised that accommodation for this important occasion is limited so please apply early to avoid disappointment.

All enquires, together with articles and notes for the Bulletin, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone:- Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

WINTER MEETINGS 1967 - 1968.

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

GUESTS ARE WELCOME BUT NON-MEMBERS ARE ASKED
TO CONTRIBUTE 2/6 A VISIT TOWARDS EXPENSES.

1967

- October 9th - Annual General Meeting, after which coffee and biscuits will be served.
- October 16th - C.E. Stevens, M.A., B.Litt., Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford - CAESAR & CLAUDIUS.
- October 23rd - David Wilson, B.A., Department of English, University College, London - VIKING ART.
- October 30th - Peter Hunter Blair, M.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge - THE VENERABLE BEDE: A SURVEY OF RECENT WORK.
- November 2nd - TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester. 7 for 7.30 p.m. - Tickets 25/- each from the Hon. Secretary.
- November 6th - Miss S.R. Burstein, M.A., - BELDAMES & BROOMSTICKS.
- November 13th - I.A. Longworth, F.S.A., Ph.D., Assistant Keeper, Department of Pre-History & Roman Britain, British Museum - THE NEOLITHIC & BRONZE AGE IN EAST ANGLIA,
- November 20th - Miss H.R. Ellis Davidson, M.A., F.S.A., Ph.D., - THE TWO CULTURES OF ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND.
- November 27th - Miss E.C. Vollans, M.A., B.Litt., Lecturer in Geography, Bedford College, University of London - THE HISTORY OF THE SEAPORTS OF EAST ANGLIA & THE THAMES ESTUARY.
- December 4th - Ian Stead, M.A., F.S.A., Ph.D., Archaeologist to the Ministry of Works - A BELGIC CEMETERY AT VERULAMIUM.
- December 11th - CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT, SOCIAL, BRING & BUY.

1968.

- January 8th - Miss Christina Hole, Hon. Editor of "Folk Lore" - CALENDAR CUSTOMS.
- January 15th - Jeffrey May, M.A., Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Nottingham - DRAGONBY & ANCASTER: NEW LIGHT ON THE IRON AGE IN EASTERN ENGLAND.
- January 22nd - Geoffrey Wainwright, B.A., Ph.D., Archaeologist to the Ministry of Works - DURRINGTON WALLS: HENGE MONUMENT.
- January 29th - Derek Allen, C.B., F.S.A., - PRE ROMAN BRITISH COINAGE.

- February 5th - Miss E.M.C. Roper, M.B.E., Senior Advisory Officer, (Colchester Area), Ministry of Agriculture - THE ART OF HORSE PLOUGHING IN ESSEX: THE END OF A TRADITION.
- February 12th - Miss Rosalind Dunnett, B.A., Colchester Excavation Committee - RECENT EXCAVATIONS.
- February 19th - B.J. Philp, A.C.C.S., Archaeological Research Groups Council of Kent - EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROMAN FORT OF RECULVER.
- February 26th - Leslie Alcock, M.A., F.S.A., Lecturer in Archaeology, University College of South Wales & Monmouthshire - EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTH CADBURY: THE LEGENDARY CAMELOT.
- (This will be a joint lecture held in the main hall of the Castle in conjunction with the Essex Archaeological Society; the Friends of the Museum and other societies)
- March 4th - L.F. Roker, M.A., - THE DUTCH & FLEMISH COMMUNITY IN COLCHESTER IN THE 16th & 17th CENTURIES.
- March 11th - RECENT GROUP EXCAVATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS.

ARCHAEOLOGY UNDER WATER.

An unusual event took place on Sunday, 25th June, when members of the Group and the Harwich Branch of the British Sub Aqua Club met at Coggeshall Abbey Mill by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Ward.

The mill pool, which is more than fifteen feet deep in some places, was thoroughly searched by the divers and several interesting objects were brought to the surface; some underwater structures were also encountered. Among the finds was an ointment pot, almost complete, circa 1820. This was of white china with a rim round the open top; the height was 14 inches; the diameter at the top 14 inches and at the base 12 inches; on it was an inscription in blue as follows;

-- ed only by
- - th & Barnicott
- - essors to the Late
Dr. Roberts
Bridport.

Poor Mans Friend.

price 1/1½

Also found was the base of a wine bottle of the second half of the 17th century, various 19th century ceramic objects and some pieces of metal, much corroded, one of which was probably a plough share and the others pieces of mill machinery.

Before the systematic search began the owners asked the divers to look for an eel trap which had recently become detached from its moorings; when this was brought to the surface a good catch of eels was found inside.

The afternoon, which began in torrential rain and ended in brilliant sunshine, clearly illustrated the potential importance of such a joint operation and it is hoped to develop these possibilities more fully in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward kindly provided tea for the whole party and afterwards the divers described their equipment and demonstrated how it operated. Finally Mr. Ward described the workings of the mill; this fine old weather boarded building has been in use up to a few years ago.

Everyone agreed it had been an enjoyable and instructive occasion set in delightful surroundings.

THE GAMING DIAL.

by Laurence S. Harley, F.S.A.

The modern innkeeper, or publican, is hedged round with a multitude of regulations and prohibitions in an endeavour to make his customers righteous by law. To play games of chance, or to wager, even on the most innocent events, was anathema to the legislators of the last century and by the Licensing Act of 1872, all forms of wagering or betting were excluded from the public house on pain of heavy fine or licence-forfeiture.

Before that date, a device called a Gaming Dial was to be found in many country "pubs" and some remained thereafter, although legally required to be removed.

It was a simple thing, a circular disc of wood about half' to one inch thick and ten to eighteen inches in diameter. It was painted brown or black and its circumference was divided into twelve segments by radial lines drawn in black or white paint (which soon became yellow in the smoke-laden atmosphere). Each segment was numbered according to a system described later in this note.

The only "mechanical" part of the device was made by the local smith, in the shape of an iron arrow, pivoted at its point of balance on a stud; since the whole contraption was fixed upside-down, in effect, to the Low ceiling, a flat headed screw served to retain the arrow on its pivot and to act as a bearing surface. An illustration of one such Gaming Dial (from The Cock Inn, Polstead, West Suffolk) is shown at figs 1 and 2, while drawings of four different dials available to the author are given in fig 3.

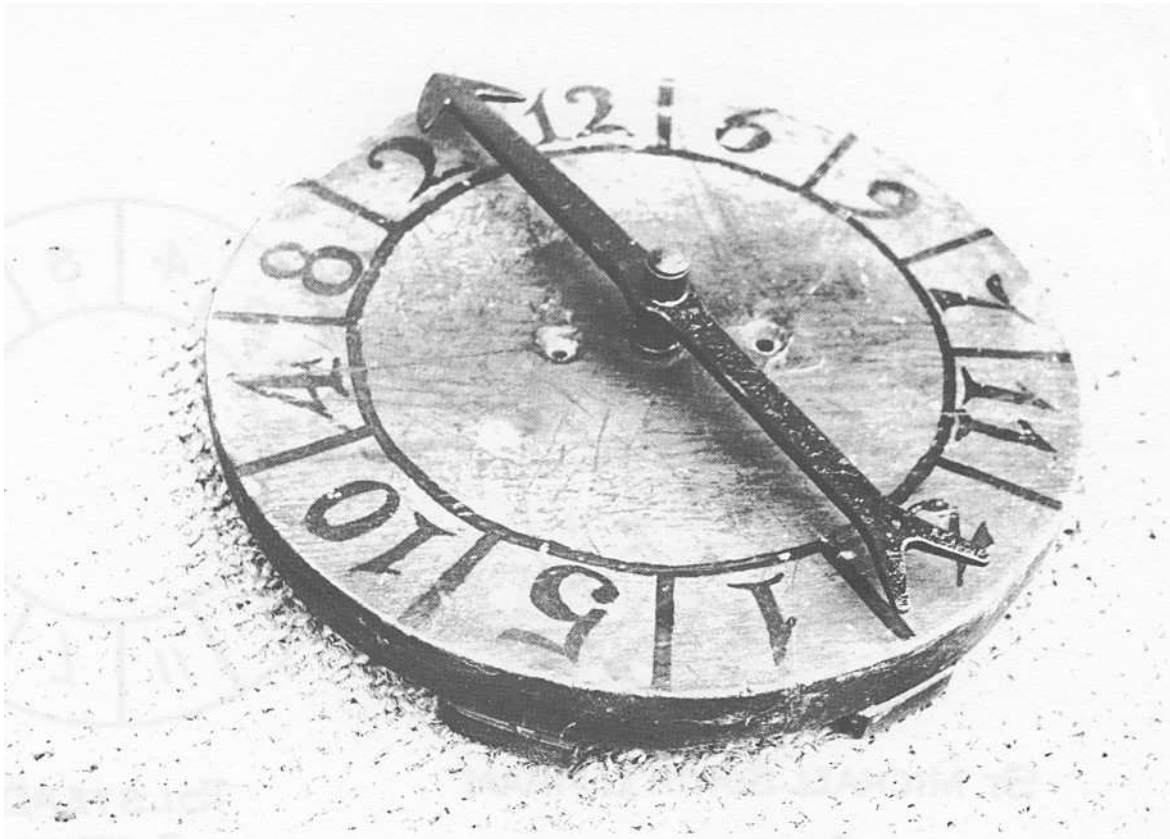


fig. 1

The numbering was intended to ensure that diametrically opposite pairs added up to 13, but considerable ingenuity was employed in some dials to avoid 6 being next to 12, or 1 next to 7, as a simple sequence of 1 - 12, 2 - 11, and so on, would involve. Sometimes, in an effort to introduce a subtle and random distribution, the arithmetic of the designer was not equal to the task, and the condition that each of the opposing pairs must add up to 13 could not be achieved, or else the maker fell back on the simple 1, 2, 3, 4, ... sequence (see fig. 3, Polstead and West Surrey).

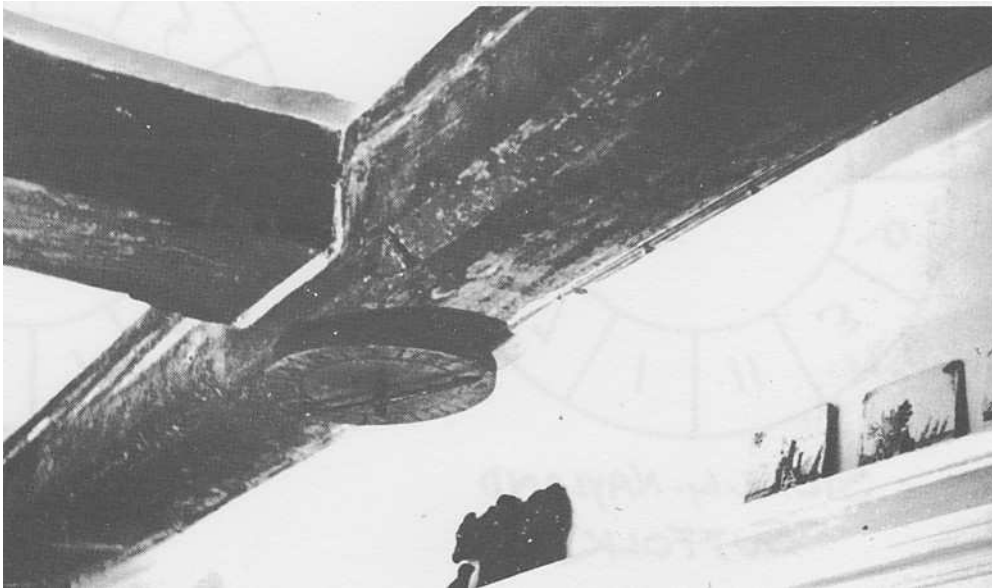


fig. 2

There are six pairs of positive integers whose sum is 13; since there are twelve segments, it is not possible to arrange that alternate numbers shall be odd and even without exception, since each pair must consist of an odd and an even number, and these must be diametrically opposite. Therefore, the simultaneous avoidance of a sequence of more than two odd numbers on one half of the dial, and even on the other, and of the juxtaposition of numbers differing only by unity from each other, called for a developed sense of numbers rarely found in a village over a century ago.

I know of no Gaming Dial now to be seen in its original place, nailed, or more rarely, screwed, to the underside of a substantial ceiling joist conveniently near to the bar, or settle, where it was often illuminated by the firelight.

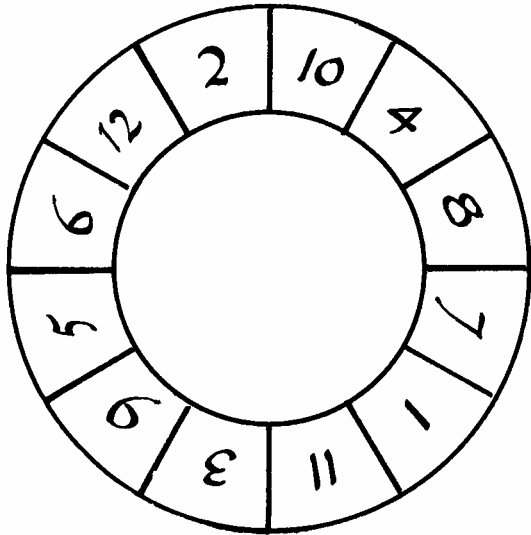
There are many ways of using a Gaming Dial, but often the play was to wager on, say, evens and then spin the arrow. If it came to rest with its tip on an odd number, the wagerer lost, of course, and paid for his mate's pint. More than two men could bet on specific numbers, or on the highest, or the lowest, the "winner" (if that is the word) standing drinks all round. Another variant was for a group to stand a drink for the "best of three" spins.

Rarely was the wager in terms of money; "pints" were the only units of currency in many little beer-houses, with either a periodical settlement in hard-earned cash, or even by payment in kind, where the host obtained most of his necessities of life from his neighbouring tradesmen (in the true sense of that word).

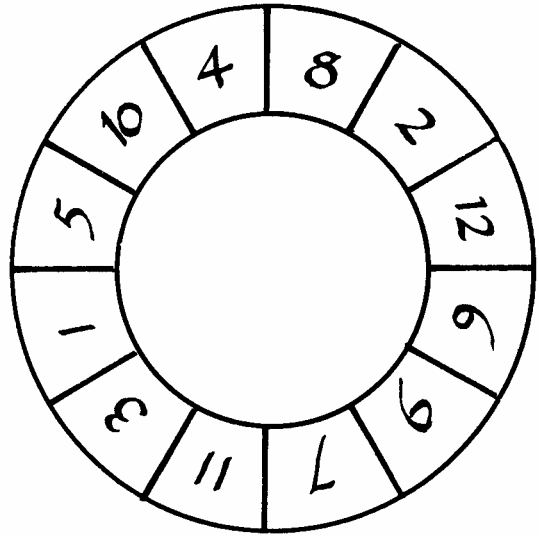
At the White Horse (a little beer-house once open in Stoke-by-Nayland) the Gaming Dial was, to my knowledge, in position in 1957. Mr. Chrisell, the last licensee of the White Horse, told me that they called it "The Spinner" and talked of "having a twist" on it. He did NOT use the name "Gaming Dial" which has been the term employed generally throughout these notes. According to another informant, late of hostess of the Black Horse in Stoke, there used to be a Christmas draw in which each of the company paid one shilling and was allowed one spin on the dial; the highest number was rewarded by winning a chicken. This delightfully illegal practice must have gone on until the last war, and perhaps afterwards.

My examples are drawn from Surrey (i) and Suffolk. I should be most grateful if any reader could tell me of existing Essex examples; I feel sure that I have seen some during my pre-war rambles in Essex, but that was before the Brewers got busy with their "improvements". It would be particularly interesting to learn of any with number sequences other than those illustrated; for example, with the following sequences: 1 6
3 8 2 9 12 7 10 5 11 4, or 1 10 5 2 9 6 12 3 8 11 4 7.
These seem to me the "best" sequences that can be devised within the limitations previously mentioned, although the standard sequence in East Anglia seems to have been; 1 11 3 9 5 6 12 2 10
4 8 7, which has all the "evens" on one side and all the "odds" on the other.

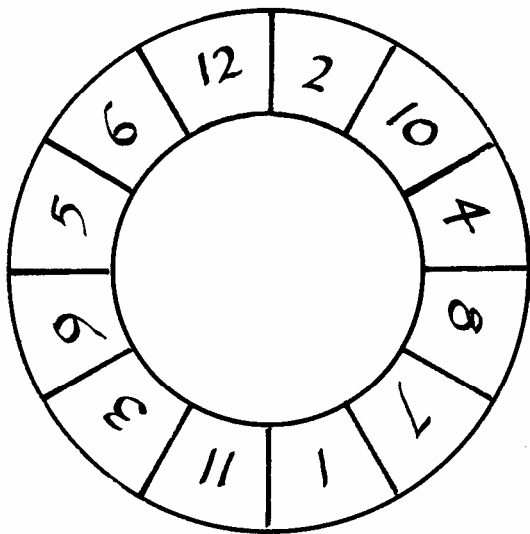
(i) "Old West Surrey", Miss Jekyll, p. 246.



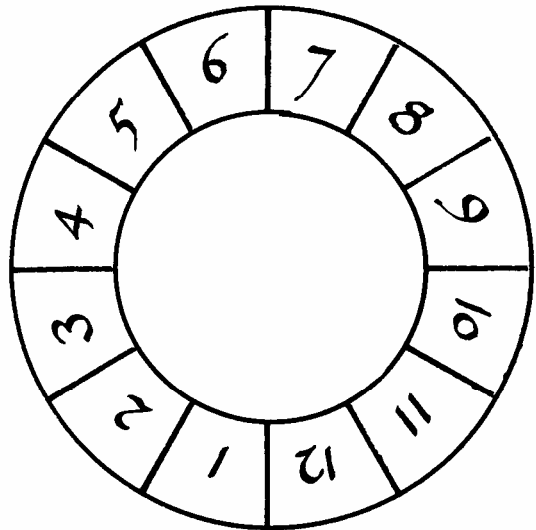
ST. MICHAEL SOUTH ELMHAM
SUFFOLK



POLSTEAD
SUFFOLK



STOKE-BY-NAYLAND
SUFFOLK



WEST SURREY

fig. 3

GROUP ACTIVITIES.

THE JUNE OUTING - The Group's visit to the Roman Villa at Lullingstone, Kent, on Saturday, 3rd June, was a complete success. After a comfortable and interesting drive, the village of Eynsford was reached about noon, and members were able to take lunch by the river and to look at the village and parish church before proceeding to Lullingstone. The party was met by Colonel G.W. Meates, F.S.A., director of the excavations for the Ministry of Public Building and Works, who conducted a tour of the site and gave a fine commentary. Of special interest was the painted mural of water sprites, above a well, and the Christian symbols on the later walls. The bath suite, chapel and mosaic floored dining room, with an apsidal end, pointed to occupation by an important Roman citizen. The marble portraits, thought to be likenesses of his ancestors and family, and the many objects displayed in a series of show cases demonstrated the infinite care taken in the excavation, which has proceeded over many years. The whole site is covered and the various rooms well numbered for reference to the admirable guide book. Closing reference must also be made to the excellent tea provided in the village of Eynsford and the pleasant ride home in the evening of a perfect day.

THE JULY OUTING - There was an evening outing on Monday, 3rd July, when members visited Beeleigh Abbey, near Maldon, by kind permission of Miss Christina Foyle. Founded in 1180, only the south western and western parts of the 13th century building remain. These consist of the Undercroft, the Dormitory and the Chapter House. Both the Undercroft and the Chapter House consist of eight bays with three central piers of Purbeck marble. The large fireplace in the former has an elaborate mantelpiece said to be made up of the fragments of a tomb. Many objects of interest including paintings, musical instruments and bygones were pointed out by our guide, Mr. W. Chappel. The Dormitory above the Undercroft has a fine wagon vault roof consisting of collar beams and arch braces and now contains the late Mr. Foyle's comprehensive library. A large and beautiful lawn stretches from the present house down to the banks of the River Chelmer and members enjoyed a stroll round the garden in the evening sunlight.

THE TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW - was held on Saturday, 8th July and much interest was shown in the display put on by the Group. This was entitled "Group Activities Past, Present and Future" and consisted of a trench eight by four feet at the entrance to the tent. This "excavation" was arranged in four descending steps to illustrate the modern, Medieval, Roman, Bronze Age and natural bedrock levels with "finds" inserted according to date. The "Roman wall foundations" and "mosaic" were realistic enough to persuade some viewers that they were looking at the real thing. Inside the tent, maps, plans, photographs and actual finds were displayed, whilst, at another table, the washing, joining, classifying and drawing of pottery finds was demonstrated. The Group's mobile caravan had been moved from the Iron Age site at present being excavated at Vinces Farm, Ardleigh, and was on show outside the tent; its usefulness as a mobile headquarters was very apparent, not only as a place for the drawing of plans, keeping records and the storing of finds, but also as a comfortable shelter and a place in which to make the tea. As usual, much useful information as to sites and cropmarks was obtained from some of the many people who visited the tent.

CHEESE AND WINE PARTY AT ABBERTON COTTAGE, LAYER DE LA HAYE.

The combination of a perfect, warm summer evening, a lovely country garden, and the informality of an outdoor party made the cheese and wine evening on 24th July an outstanding success. Over fifty members and their friends attended and our thanks are due to Mr, and Mrs. A.B. Doncaster, who welcomed the Group to their home, and to all who helped in the organisation of the evening.

As a social occasion it offered an opportunity to keep in touch with friends, to learn of the progress of the Ardleigh excavations, to discuss the splendid winter programmes of lectures, past and to come, holidays enjoyed and anticipated, and the next event, the Members' Open Day at Ardleigh.

The wine and particularly the wonderful assortment of food was most pleasing, and coffee served during the evening added to the pleasure of the refreshments.

Even the birds in this woody paradise sang the sun down and provided music for the occasion. It is a pity that so much washing-up had to be done, but even this was tackled by the ladies with good humour and energy.

MEMBERS' OPEN DAY at Vinces Farm, Ardleigh, where an extensive excavation of an early Iron Age site is in progress, was held on Sunday, 6th August, and we were very pleased to see those members and their friends who made a visit to the site.

An information centre was set up in the caravan headquarters, where pottery finds, drawings, plans and air photographs were on view. Slides of crop marks were also shown.

Aided by air photographs and the report of the earlier trial investigation by the Colchester Museum, the Groups' members have revealed circular ditches and post holes, and have recovered several sherds of Iron Age 'A' pottery. Similar complexes of ditches have been excavated in Norfolk and elsewhere.

Visitors were shown round by the joint directors, Mr. Felix H. Erith and Mr. Peter R. Holbert and the interest displayed and the many questions asked would seem to indicate that it was all worthwhile but we could have wished that more people had been able to come; however, the excavation will continue until early autumn so perhaps other members will manage to come and see it before it ends.

PART FOUR DECEMBER 1967

WINTER MEETINGS 1968

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

GUESTS ARE WELCOME BUT NON-MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE 2/6 A VISIT TOWARDS EXPENSES.

- January 8th - Miss Christina Hole, Hon. Editor of 'Folk Lore', - CALENDAR CUSTOMS.
- January 15th - Jeffrey May, M.A., Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Nottingham, - DRAGONBY AND ANCASTER NEW LIGHT ON THE IRON AGE IN EASTERN ENGLAND.
- January 22nd - Geoffrey Wainwright, B.A., Ph.D., Archaeologist to the Ministry of Works, - DURRINGTON WALLS : HENGE MONUMENT.
- January 29th - Derek Allen, C.B., F.S.A., - PRE-ROMAN BRITISH COINAGE.
- February 5th - Miss Roper, M.B.E., Senior Advisory Officer (Colchester Area) Ministry of Agriculture, - THE ART OF HORSE PLOUGHING IN ESSEX : THE END OF A TRADITION.
- February 12th - Miss Rosalind Dunnett, B.A., Colchester Excavation Committee, - RECENT EXCAVATIONS.
- February 19th - B.J. Philp, A.C.C.S., Archaeological Research Groups Council, Kent., - EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROMAN FORT OF RECULVER,
- February 26th - Leslie Alcock, M.A., F.S.A., Lecturer in Archaeology, University College of South Wales & Monmouthshire, - EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTH CADBURY: THE LEGENDARY CAMELOT. (This will be a joint lecture in conjunction with the Essex Archaeological Society, the Friends of the Museum and other societies and will be held in the main hall of the Castle.
- March 4th - L. F. Roker, M.A., - THE DUTCH AND FLEMISH COMMUNITY IN COLCHESTER IN THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES.
- March 11th - RECENT GROUP EXCAVATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS.

A BRONZE AGE BARROW AT BAKERS HALL, BURES HAMLET, ESSEX

by Ida McMaster.

This site was discovered by examining with a magnifying glass the 1960 Ordnance Survey photographs of Essex and, subsequently, confirmed by aerial survey. The barrow lies on a low plateau about twenty feet above and three hundred feet east of a bend in the River Stour in the parish of Bures Hamlet, and about half a mile south west of Bures St. Mary church. (Map ref: TL 90650/33460). There were no traces of it on the ground, but fortunately one marker flag (out of three in a line across the field) was seen to be astride the ditch when viewed from the plane.

The Ring Ditch.

The top ten inches of the field consists of ploughed soil, below which is a layer of sandy soil of eight inches; then a further ten to twelve inches of a coarse sandy gravel, still friable; finally, at twenty-eight to thirty inches depth, is the terrace of very stony hard reddish gravel.

Trenches A,B and C sectioned the circumferential ditch, which was found to be six feet deep and sixteen to eighteen feet wide, 'V' shaped, but with a gentler slope on the inside. The infill was of a loamy mixture with few stones, and with a dark greyish sand at the bottom.

From the three sections of the ditch, the centre was exactly calculated and the diameter of the barrow proved to be eighty-seven feet.

The Central Features.

Both on the photograph and from the air, there was a dark core to the barrow, calculated at approximately twenty-four feet diameter. This was completely excavated to a depth of two feet six inches, when undisturbed red gravel was encountered.

In the exact centre was a roughly four-sided enclosure immediately below the ploughed soil, with a remaining height of fifteen inches. The walls of this were made of a white clay mixture, one to two feet thick. In between, it was filled with soft sand, and at the base was hard undisturbed gravel.

To the west of this central feature was a similar enclosure of white clay, but in this case roughly circular. The walls were about the same height, and the interior was similarly filled with soft sand. Slight remains of a third clay mass were found to the east of the centre.

The whole dark area of a core consisted of soft sand and the friable coarse gravel layer, although the red gravel was higher in the ring around the central point by some eight to ten inches. There were no other visible features except a shaft of dark soil fifteen by twenty-two inches and reaching a depth of two feet eight inches, This is marked "Post Hole" on the plan (see page 33) and contained the top-soil type filling to the base. Also from the core was found a flint scraper and a tanged and barbed flint arrowhead, both at eighteen inches depth, shown on the plan and illustrated on page 32.

After photographing, the central clay mass was removed and an area six feet by five feet was excavated to a depth of four feet, but nothing further was revealed.

Conclusions

As the barrow was situated on a small natural knoll, and the central core consisted of mainly soft sand, it is possible that some erosion has occurred, in which case the present surface might be lower than the Bronze Age surface. This could account for the lack of remains in the centre; and modern ploughing eliminates anything deposited in the top twelve inches of the present level of the knoll.

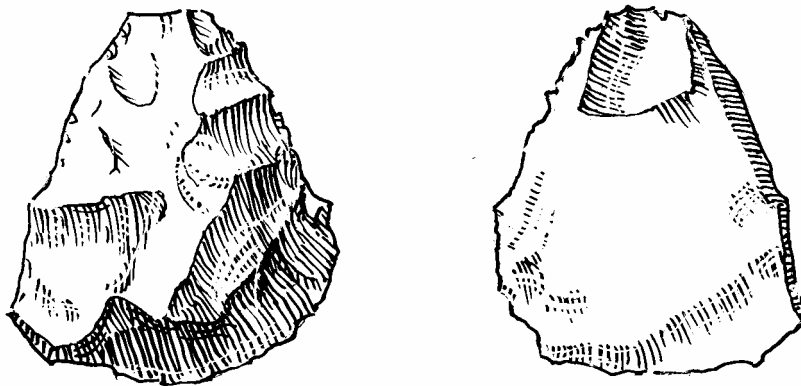
The appearance of the large dark crop mark at the core, probably denoting the remains of a foreign disturbed soil, partly precludes this supposition, although the identical appearance of another barrow on the same photograph which was destroyed and levelled in 1836, rather supports it. One is led to the belief that barrows with large dark cores were originally scooped out in the centre and, like their ditches, conserve more water - hence the difference in colour change in June - July; seen as a crop mark.

Alternatively, the clay enclosures might have surrounded inhumations which had perished, leaving no trace owing to the acidity of the local gravel soil. Or again possibly the clay was the remains of a capping, originally covering the mound.

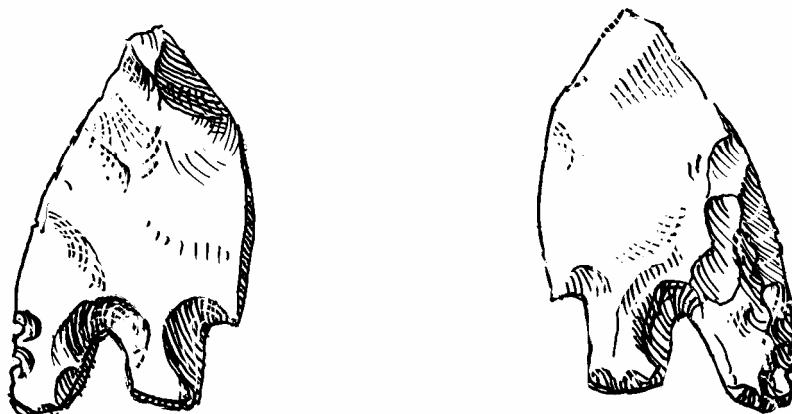
The barbed and tanged arrowhead confirms a date in the second millennium B.C, which is endorsed by the two sherds of Bronze Age pottery found. The large size of the barrow suggests an earlier date in the second millennium than the Collared Urn cremations in round barrows, and we tentatively suggest 1600 - 1500 B.C.

Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr, Gordon Webber for allowing us to excavate and to Mr. F.H. Erith for help and advice; also to Mr. D. T-D, Clarke, Mr. G. Davies and Mr. J. Heath of the Colchester & Essex Museums. The following members and friends of the Group took part, to whom many thanks also:- Mr. & Mrs. P. Leyden, Miss P. McMaster, Miss R. Ollis, Mrs. N. Roberts, Mr. I. Roberts, Mr. H. Roberts; for the photographs to Mr. W.W. McMaster, Mr. P. Langdon and Miss R. Ollis; to Mr. R. Neale and Mr. R.E. Davis for aerial assistance and to Mr. R. Whyard for helping in the excavation and for preparing the plan and section.

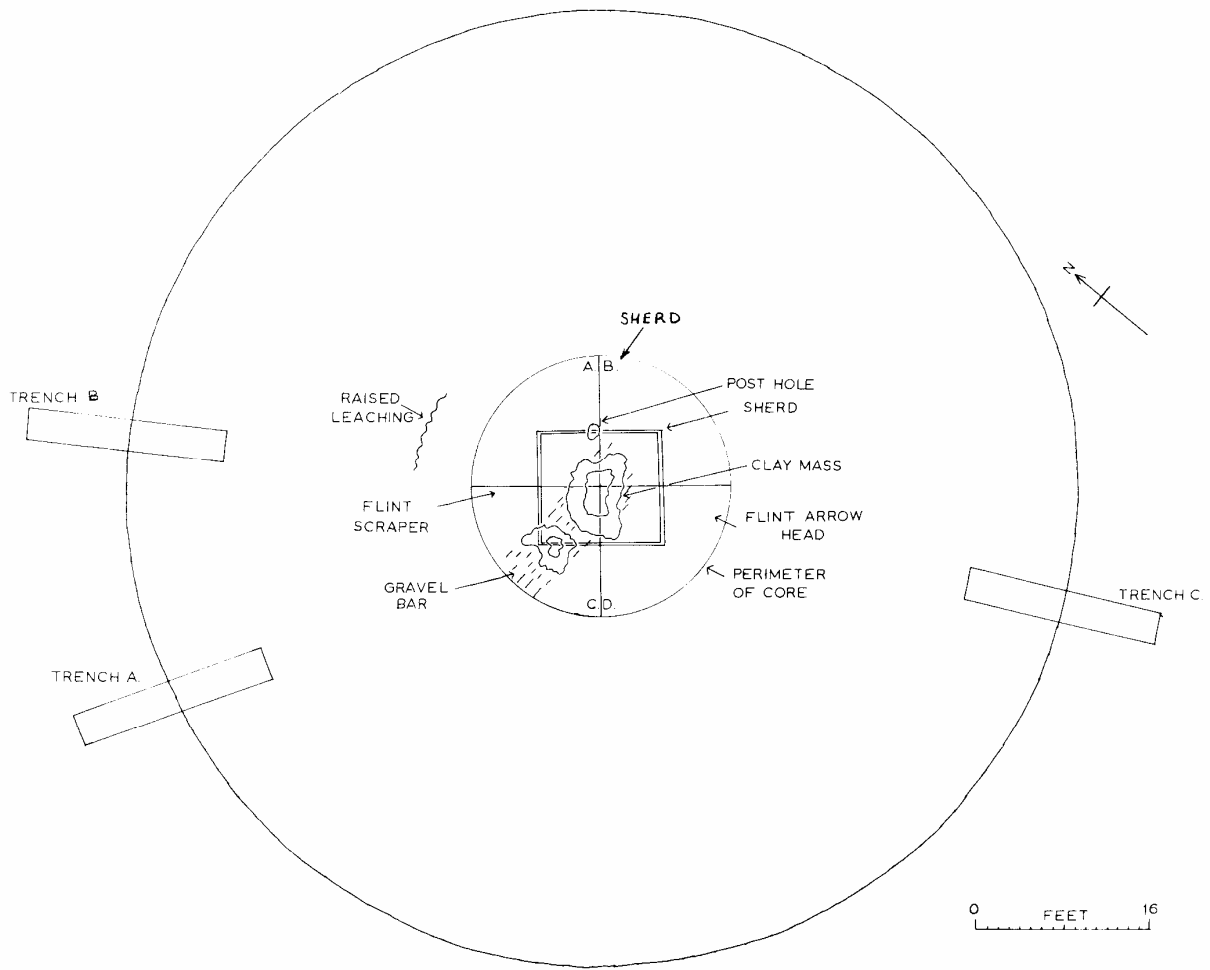


ONE INCH
—————

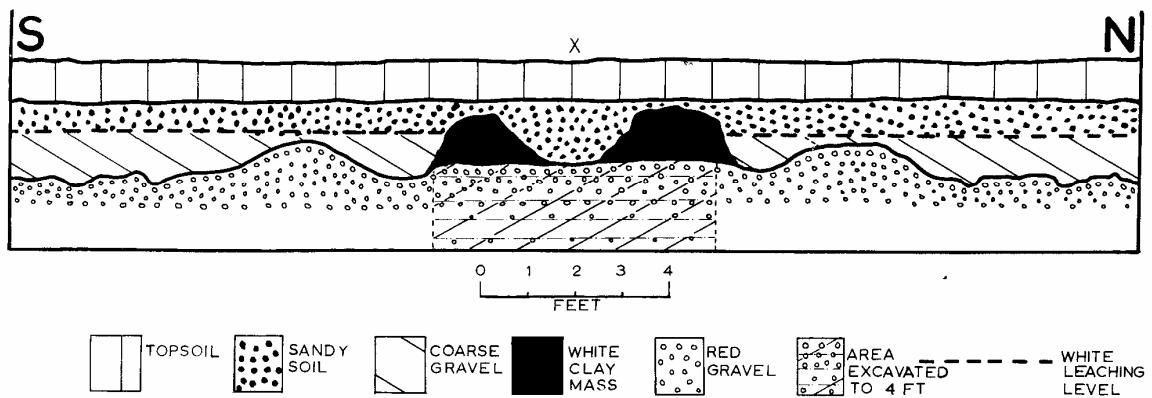


ONE INCH
—————

PLAN: BURES HAMLET, ESSEX.



SECTION: BURES HAMLET, ESSEX.



PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE STOUR VALLEY

by F. H. Erith.

The quantity of Bronze Age and other prehistoric sites recently discovered in the valley of the River Stour is sufficient to warrant some kind of Distribution Map. (see below)

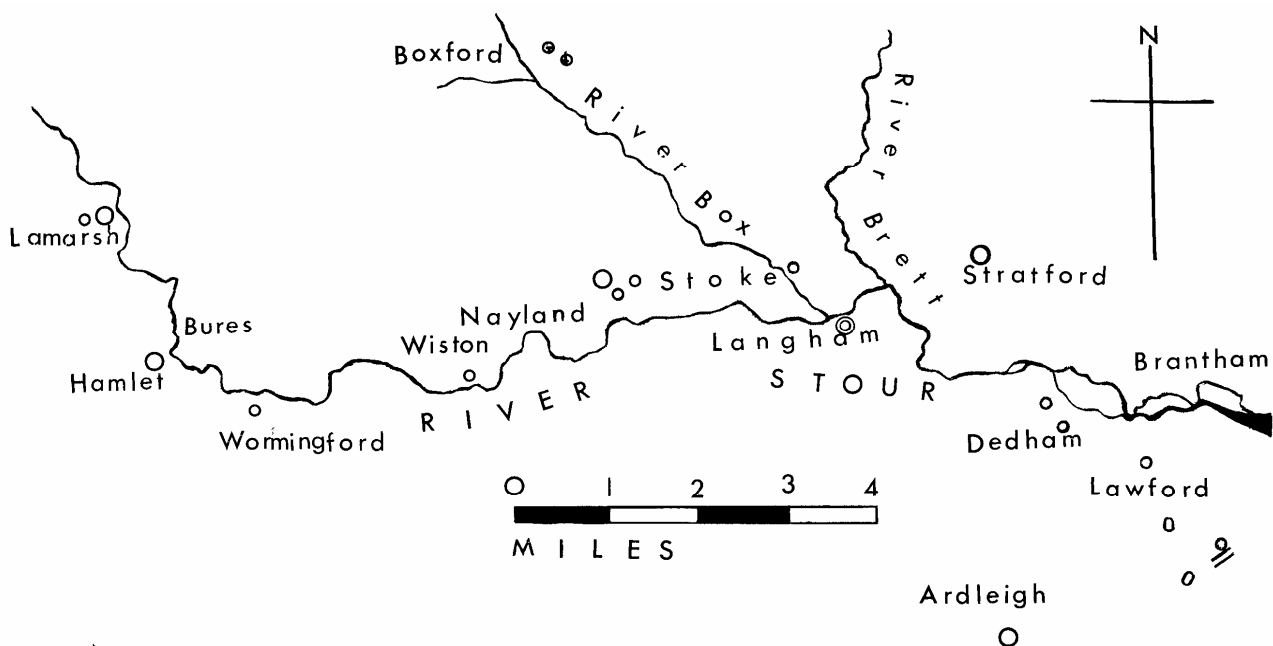
The area considered here consists of the villages between Manningtree at the head of the estuary, and Sudbury, the highest point where the river was formerly navigable. Villages bordering the estuary must be the subject of another summary.

New sites, particularly of ring ditches, are continually being found on the gravel terraces of English rivers; and it is a depressing thought that most of them will be destroyed by the more penetrating methods of agriculture now in vogue, before there is a chance to excavate them. The relative unprofitability of cattle as opposed to corn has meant that many more acres of grassland have come under the plough. This reveals the cropmarks, and all too often subsequent cultivations destroy them.

As regards archaeological sites on arable land nothing can now be regarded as safe, and probably the best course to pursue is to contact the landowners and farmers and plead with them to make only shallow cultivations. We understand that there is a superb collection at Cambridge of aerial cropmark photographs, but so far as is known no effort has been made to get in touch with the owners of the fields where these sites are.

In the summary set out overleaf it will be seen that the area is represented by most of the periods between the Neolithic and the Belgic. Bronze Age burial places appear at roughly two-mile intervals along the riverside, suggesting a fairly closely-settled population. The villages of Ardleigh and Great Bromley, although nearer the Stour than the Colne, both drain into the latter river, and so are not included here. These are summarised in C.A.G. Bulletin, Vol. VI pages 43-44.

Of the sites discovered from the air, the ones at Thorrington Street and Tendring Hall, Stoke, and Docuras Farm, Langham, were by Mr. M. Clover; and those from Lamarsh were found by Mrs. McMaster. The first cemetery at Boxford was discovered as the result of gravel-digging. Some of the pots are in the Ipswich Museum - others were offered for sale in America in the thirties. The second Boxford cemetery - 600 yards distant from the first - was discovered last winter when workmen were digging out the foundations for a new house.



SUMMARY OF SITES.Suffolk SideGrid.ref:

BRANTHAM

Hall Farm

120338

Beakers; also cremations in bucket urns. P.P.S. VI p. 356

STRATFORD ST. MARY

Stratford Hills Farm

053357

Henge Monument. C.A.G. V, p. 111.

BOXFORD

Whitestreet Green

976392

Belgic cemetery of grave groups. Arch. J. XCVI, plates X and XI

Whitestreet Green

976394

Belgic cemetery of grave groups. Ipswich Museum. Not yet published.

STOKE-BY-NAYLAND

Thorrington Street

018355

Seven ring ditches, the largest of them mounded. In a field bordering the River Box.

Tendring Hall Farm

993352

Two of three ring ditches

Shaddelows Farm

984350

Two large and a grid of twelve small ring ditches.

Antiquity XXXIX, Plate 14a.

WISSINGTON or WISTON 958333

Ringditches. Antiquity XXXIX, p. 63Essex Side

LAWFORD

Tye field

086308

Roughly circular enclosure with two entrances. Neolithic, with Rinyo-Clactonian pottery. Excavated by Bryan Blake but not yet published.

Grange Farm

090299

Large oval enclosure, 40 by 30 paces; slightly mounded.

Lawford House Farm

095303

Cursus and two ring ditches.

Hall Farm

082319

Tumulus, excavated c 1820. Two urns recovered. C.A.G. III, p 52.

DEDHAM

Jupes Hill Farm

073323

Cremation in Iron Age "A" urn, discovered by workmen laying a water main in 1967. Colchester Museum.

Pound Farm

064328

Complex of twenty ring ditches. One had cremations in Collared urns. T.E.A.S. XXV, 350 C.A.G. X, p 29

LANGHAM

Little Hall

027345

One double-concentric and one single ring ditch. C.A.G. VI, p 28.

Docuras Farm

033349

Half a ring ditch; the other half destroyed by waterworks reservoir.

WORMINGFORD

925327

Ring ditch near the Mere.

BURES HAMLET

906335

Large ring ditch, excavated by Mrs. McMaster. C.A.G. X, p 47-50.

LAMARSH

Hall Farm

893358

Three small ring ditches west of railway line.

Hall Farm

895359

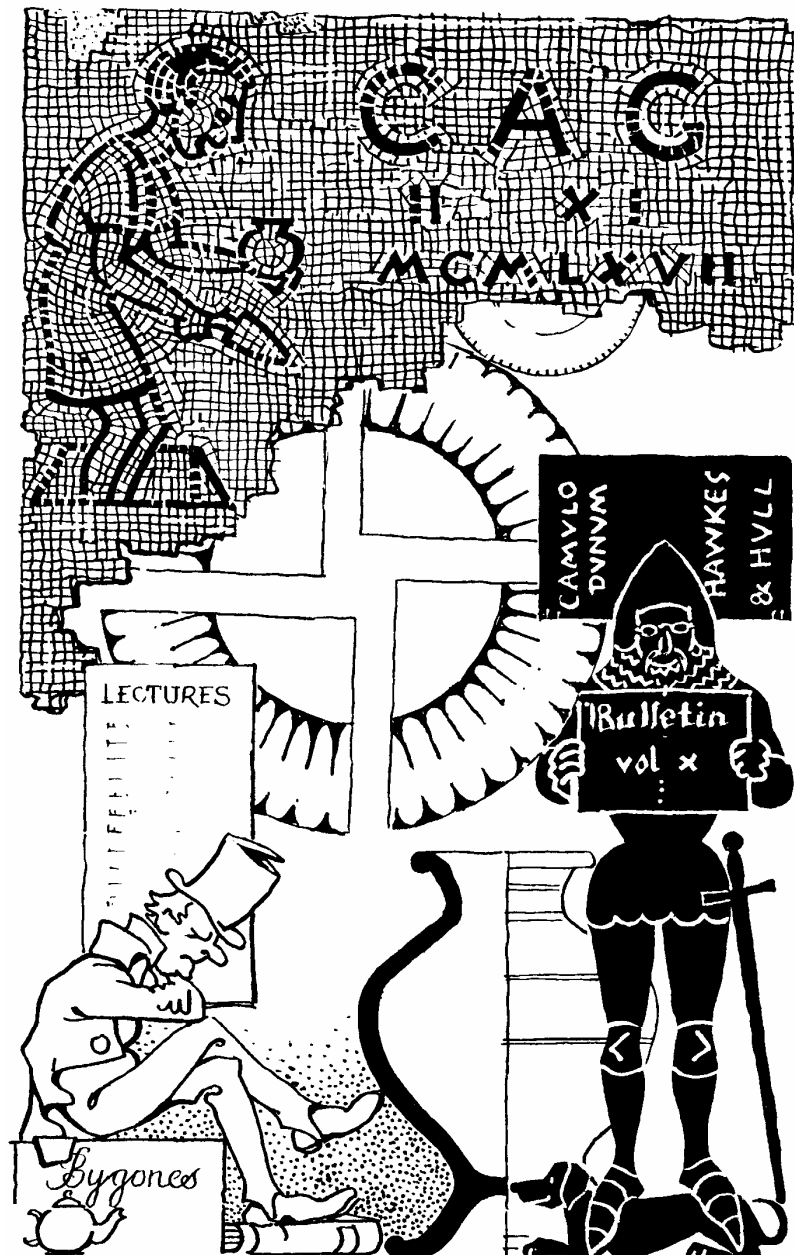
One and possibly three very large ring ditches with diameter of 200 feet, east of railway line.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Group a dinner was held on Thursday 2nd November in the Tudor Room at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester. The guests of honour were the Mayor of Colchester, Alderman E.P. Duffield, J.P., the Mayoress, Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A, and Mrs. Hawkes; fifty members were present. We were sorry so many others had to be disappointed due to lack of space.

A special souvenir menu card was designed by Mr. Malcolm Carter, a copy of which is reproduced below.

The Mayor proposed "The Colchester Archaeological Group" to which Professor Hawkes responded. In a colourful and witty speech he recalled his long association with Colchester - and with the Group from its early days and he maintained that nowhere else except in such a Group could be found such a successful cross-section of the community. On behalf of the Group, the Mayoress presented a slide projector and screen to Mrs. K. de Brisay who has been Hon. Secretary since its formation.



TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

THE IRON AGE "A" FARMSTEAD AT ARDLEIGH.

by F. H. Erith.

This excavation, which was under the joint direction of Mr. Peter Holbert and myself, was the subject of our field-work for 1967. It consisted of a circular hut within a rectangular enclosure. Guided by a cropmark photograph taken in 1959, we were able to plot our squares over the southern half of the site and excavate them. Next year we hope to complete the job and excavate the northern half.

This "dig" was not particularly well supported by members of the Group; deep ploughing had precluded us from finding anything in the top twelve inches. The work at times was tedious and finds relatively few - until the last weekend:

An Iron Age "A" settlement site in eastern England is, however, quite a rarity, and so far as we can gather none has previously been excavated completely. When the excavation is finished we trust that those taking part will have found it worthwhile.

WINTER MEETINGS 1967.

In some parts of their Empire the Romans laid out areas of land in a grid pattern for settled cultivation by the veterans of their army. The squares of the grids were defined by roads, in a system known as centuriation. At the first lecture of the winter session on October 9th, Mr. C. E. Stevens, of Oxford University, suggested that some modern roads in Essex and neighbouring counties followed a pattern indicative of centuriation. This alignment was the only evidence of the existence of the system in Roman England, which would obviously be associated with the colonia at Colchester.

On October 23rd the Group listened to a talk by Mr. David Wilson, of London University, on Viking Art. With the aid of slides Mr. Wilson described the development of six different styles of decoration which the Vikings applied to weapons, jewellery, crosses, boats and churches. Many fine examples dating from the ninth to twelfth centuries can be found in the British Isles, but not in Colchester, according to the lecturer, the Museum possesses only one Viking exhibit.

Mr. Hunter Blair of Cambridge University, lectured to the Group on October 30th on the eighth century writer of ecclesiastical history, the Venerable Bede. He described recent scholarship which had thrown light on Bede's work, a best seller since the days it was written. Sad to say, Bede's most famous story about St. Gregory's encounter with fair-haired English slaves in Rome - "angels, not Angles" - was probably a local Northumbrian tradition; and Bede, a careful historian, had indicated that it was so.

On November 6th the Group enjoyed a magical evening when members were spellbound by a talk on "Modern Practices of Witchcraft" given by Miss Anne Slowgrove. The earliest witches, men as well as women, were probably the wisest people in the community who amazed the remainder with the aid of their superior knowledge. Witchcraft has developed until, today, it embraces a number of skills from water divining to the brewing of potions containing herbal drugs which produce the desired effect. Asked whether she was a witch, Miss Slowgrove said that she successfully practised weather control by tying knots. No one could deny that the evening was the first dry one for days.

The period 3000 to 500 B.C, saw the cultural development of East Anglian settlers from primitive farmers to skilled metal-smiths producing intricate objects in bronze and gold. Dr. I. A. Longworth, from the British Museum, described this development in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages to the Group on November 13th. He referred to some unusual features of the Ardleigh Bronze Age burial urns which are displayed in the lecture room at the Castle.

The famous treasure found in the East Suffolk ship burial at Sutton Hoo, recently shown on television, is a magnificent example of Anglo-Saxon art which exhibits Christian and pagan symbols in close association. At the meeting on November 20th, Dr. Ellis Davidson described the treasure and other examples of art of the period, including the "Franks" casket, in her illustrated lecture on "The Two Cultures of Anglo-Saxon England". Decoration on armour, weapons, jewellery and manuscripts was often most elaborate and indicated considerable artistic and technical skill.

On November 27th, Miss E. C. Vollans, of London University talked to the Group on "The History of the Seaports of East Anglia and the Thames Estuary". With the aid of slides she described natural changes which have taken place in the coast-line and then showed how the changing pattern of trade from earliest

records to the present day has gradually developed some ports while causing others to decline. Of archaeological interest was the discovery of the medieval quayside in Kings Lynn, set some distance back from the present quayside.

St. Albans has long been recognised as one of the most important Roman towns. During the last year excavations have shown that its early history extends from the Iron Age to Saxon times since cemeteries covering the intervening period have been found. At the meeting on December 4th Dr. Ian Stead, of the Ministry of Works, described the excavations and showed several slides illustrating the site with the various types of burials found there. Of particular interest were some fine brooches which had formed part of the grave goods.

GROUP NOTICES.

Back Numbers of the Bulletin - Reprints Available.

With the reprinting of Vol. 1, No. 2, we are now able to supply copies of ALL back numbers. Subscribers wishing to complete their sets of the Bulletin should apply to the Librarian, Mr. R. W. Palmer, 41 Gladwin Road, Colchester.

The price of all back numbers is 2/6 each, postage free.

The Group Library

A Classified Index to our local library is now available from the Librarian on Monday evenings, at the Castle. After the end of the winter meetings please apply at his home address, as above.

This should make the Library much more useful, particularly to the new and younger members of the Group. We hope that it will also stimulate our friends to donate books to fill obvious gaps in our collection for loan to Group members without charge.

Personal Message from the Hon. Secretary.

I should like to express my warmest thanks for the presentation of a projector and screen made to me at the Tenth Anniversary Dinner on the 2nd of November. This magnificent gift is giving me great pleasure but it is quite undeserved as I could have achieved nothing without the help and encouragement of so many people. I shall always treasure it as a memento of the many happy occasions I have enjoyed with the Group during the past ten years.

Kay de Brisay.