



Colchester Archaeological Group

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ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 11 1968

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

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PART ONE MARCH 1968

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1968.

- THURSDAY, 9th MAY An evening outing to Maldon; first to visit the Plume Library at 7 p.m. and afterwards the Moot Hall at 8 p.m. Meet at the Firs Car Park, Maldon Road, Colchester, at 6.20 p.m. for departure at 6.30 p.m. If you have a car please bring it so that lifts may be arranged for those who require them,
- MONDAY, 20th MAY Balcerne Lane, near the 'Hole in the Wall' at 6.30 p.m. In response to a request by Mr. D. T-D. Clarke, M.A., F.S.A., members of the Group will meet to clean up a small area under the Roman Wall near the Balcerne Gate.
- SATURDAY, 15th JUNE a day outing by coach to visit Reculver and Richborough in Kent. Meet at the Corporation 'Bus Park at 8.45 a.m. for departure at 9 a.m., sharp, Tickets £1.0.0d. each to include tolls, entrance fees & tea. Application to be made on the slip attached to the enclosed form before 25th May. Friends of members welcome.
- MONDAY, 1st JULY An evening outing; details of which to be arranged. These will be published in the June Bulletin.
- MONDAY, 29th JULY A Cheese and Wine Party to be held at Fen House, Mount Bures, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. McMaster. Details will be announced in the June Bulletin,

EXCAVATION of the second half of the Iron Age 'A' settlement site at Vincles Farm, Ardleigh, will begin on Saturday, 20th April at 2 p.m. Thereafter every Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday unless otherwise arranged.

GROUP LIBRARY - As there are no weekly meetings at the Castle during the summer arrangements to borrow or return books may be made by application to the Librarian, Mr. R. W. Palmer, 41, Gladwin Road, Colchester. Telephone No. 4399,

All other enquiries to the Hon Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone No. Layer de la Haye 274 (Evenings)

RING - DITCHES NEAR BURES ST. MARY.

by Ida McMaster.

I noted on the 1960 Ordnance Survey aerial photograph that there were three well-defined typical Bronze Age ring-ditches between Bures St. Mary and Wormingford on the Essex side of the Stour. The third one, close to the river and immediately north of the Mere at Wormingford, caused me to wonder whether this latter might be the mound reported in the Victoria County History from a note of the Rev, Henry Jenkins to the effect that it was levelled in 1836. Apparently many "hundreds" of urns, placed in parallel lines were found beneath it. No one had any idea of the position of the destroyed mound although the small history of Wormingford by Miss Beaumont conjectured its position on Lodge Hills.

I imagined a man of the Rev. Jenkins' calibre must have left a record somewhere, and a chance reference to Vol. 29 in Archaeologia showed an article by him with, surely enough, (bless him;) a map on which he marked the mound and which indeed was the exact position of the Ring by the Mere.

As this is recorded at the Museum, and to save some enthusiastic digger a fruitless excavation in the future, it is added that, in addition to its obliteration in 1836 (and since the 1960 aerial photograph) there now appeared no trace of it from the air this summer in wheat, but it may, of course, show up again in barley or oats.

ROMAN ROADS.

H. J. Edwards.

One of the aspects of local archaeology which always interests me is that of Roman roads. One which intrigues me is the one which leaves the A 12 at Feering and makes for Easthorpe. The O.S. map of Roman Britain takes it for a mile or two and then abandons it. Mill Christy in the E.A.S. Trans. Vol.XVI traces it to his satisfaction as far as the Drury Farm, Colchester, and has no doubt that it continues to the Balcerne Gate.

The modern Maldon-Colchester road (B 1022) from its junction with Warren Lane (just above Heckford Bridge) is on the line concerned. When it passes through the most westerly of the Dykes it takes a decided incline to the northeast, Miller Christy accepts this as Roman; I do not. If instead of inclining, it has carried on straight, it would have arrived at Cheshunt Field.

Hawkes and Hull in "Camulodunum" regard Cheshunt Field as the "original Camulodunum", established before the Sheepen site. The Trinovantes had their lines of communication, tracks of some sort through the surrounding forest, which the Romans adapted for their own use. I suggest that one of the tracks which the Romans made into a road left Cheshunt Field in a somewhat westerly direction and is the road which we are examining. After all, this was the nearest way to Londinium, not making a detour round Marks Tey. I suspect that the connection from Feering to Stane Street, at Marks Tey, came later.

I am not suggesting that the Trinovantes made trips to Londinium. Their track probably had a different destination. In fact, if you continue the line of our road more or less westward, your ruler will be at Wheathampstead.

THE DECORATED SAMIAN WARE FROM KELVEDON

F. H. Erith, F.S.A.

Some years ago the Group paid a Visit to Feering to see the collection of Roman and Belgic material belonging to Mr M.C. Campen. Most of this was obtained from his "dig" at Kelvedon, between the Street and the new by-pass, and among the pottery from that site there was a good collection of Samian ware.

As this has not been previously recorded, Mr. Campen has kindly allowed us to illustrate some of it here. Besides his interesting assembly of plain types with potters' stamps, Mr. Campen has examples from some seventeen bowls of decorated Samian, of which the majority is of the second-century Lezoux ware. From these we are here illustrating two bowls and one large fragment of a third. The remainder we hope to show in another issue of the Bulletin.

Although none of these pieces was signed or stamped with a recognisable name, one can, with the aid of "Central Gaulish Potters" by J. A. Starfield and Grace Simpson, attempt a deduction of the potters' name on stylistic grounds, by comparing the decoration with those on signed sherds illustrated in this book. Even so, this is not as good proof as might appear, for many potters shared one "figure-type", and few even of the minor "decorative details" appear to have been exclusive to one potter. One gathers that the most important clue is the "Ovolo", then the minor "decorative details", and finally the "figure types". The problem of assessing the style of the potter from the decoration he used is cut-out for a computer;

1. Nearly complete bowl of Form 30, in the style of DOECCUS I. His Ovolo. The shield (D.1105), a very rare ornament, has been found on a signed bowl by DOECCUS (C.G.P, page 239). The pentagon-shaped leaf in the medallion is also on a sherd in his style found at York. (C.G.P. Plate 151. No. 55). The curled leaf in the panel with the deer, used so prolifically by CASURIUS, was occasionally used by DOECCUS. The ornament in the vertical panel is made up of the trifid leaf at the top, over an arrow-like object, which is repeated. Both these are listed as "decorative details" of DOECCUS, as well as the eight-cogged wheel and the "four dots". Finally his borders are defined as "very large bead rows terminated by plain round bosses". The deer (0.1732a) and the dog (0.1985a) are not shown on any of the sherds attributable to DOECCUS.

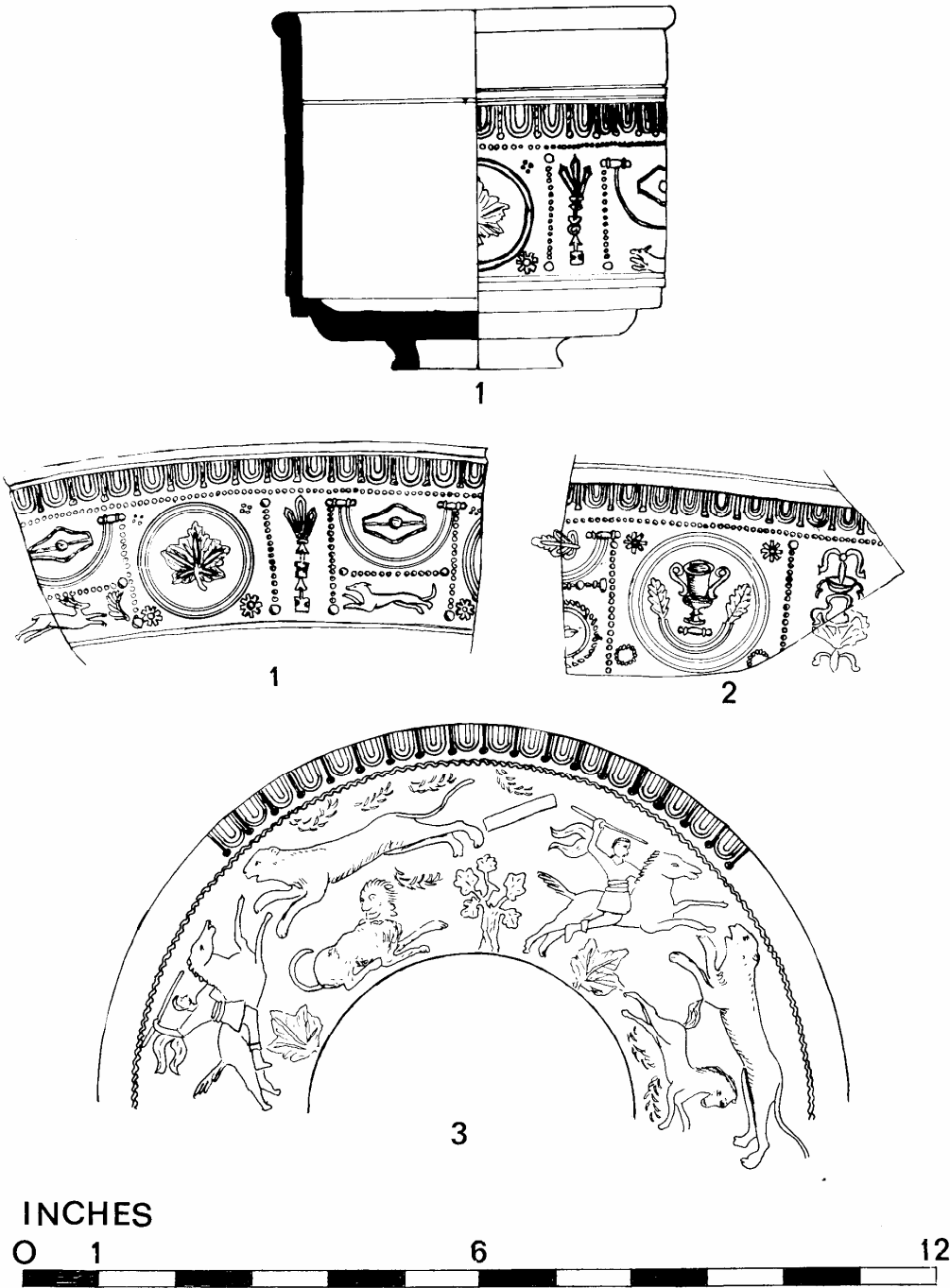
2. Fragment of another Form 30 bowl, also in the style of DOECCUS I. His similar Ovolo. Among his listed "decorative details" are the eight-cogged wheel, the beaded circle, the astragalus (like a dumb-bell), the two kinds of leaf and the Cup. The arrangement of the oak leaves terminating the festoon within the medallion is original. The right-hand ornament (D.1114) as well as the "Tier of cups" here used horizontally to divide the

left-hand festoon and medallion, are both among the listed details of DOECCUS. "C.G.P." stated that most of 'OECCUS' leaves are beautifully mode-lie'd and must have been copied from nature.

3. Bowl of hemispherical Form 37, decorated in free-style. In completing the circle each figure-type is repeated three times, except that the lion (0.1369) alternates with the wild pony (0.1894) so that these only appear twice each. Sprigs appear to have been put in haphazard to fill in blank spaces. The panther (0.1540), the lion and the horseman (0. 245) have been found in sherds attributable to JUSTUS on stylistic grounds. Fig tree (D.1141). The Ovolo with wavy line beneath is like that of ARCANUS but JUSTUS'S is rather similar. The name-stamp was evidently so worn that it appears as a blank. It would, however, suit a short name such as "NSTM", which was the usual signature of JUSTUS, better than a longer name.

Working life of Potters mentioned above, according to "C. G., P."

ARCANUS	120 – 140 A.D.	DOECCUS I	160 - 190 A.D.
CASURIUS	160 - 195 A.D.	JUSTUS	150 - 180 A.D.



PARGETTING AND COMBING.

by L. S. Harley F.S.A.

Before brickwork became more common at the end of the fifteenth century, most of the domestic structures of England were timber-framed, particularly in the south-east where stone was scarce. That is to say, a framework of stout timbers was constructed and the spaces between the studs were filled with willow withies woven around and between hazel rods sprung into grooves in the beams and sills. To complete the infilling of the walls, a rough mixture of clay, cow-dung and straw was pressed into the woven withies, producing the well-known "wattle-and-daub" walls of the later middle ages and of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The surface of the wattle-and-daub was rough and uneven so that a layer of tough plaster was spread over the daub to give a smooth, whitish finish. Indeed, in the East Anglian tradition, the timber and daub were covered externally with riven oak laths nailed across the studs and a well-tempered hair, tallow and sand mixture was flung at the rough wall surface the better to key-in this plaster. It seems that the work of plaster-finishing was done by a tradesman known as a "Pargetter" - hence the surname of PARGITER, not uncommon even today.

The etymology of PARGETTER (sometimes spelt with one T) is somewhat dubious: some have derived the Middle-English "spargettyn" from Lat. "paries", a wall, but a more likely origin, and in my view, a better etymology, is from Lat. "spargere", to scatter, or from "spargitere", to scatter or fling repeatedly, which exactly describes the work of a pargetter.

Ben Johnson in his "Silent Woman" says "She's above fifty and pargets", meaning, of course, that the lady lays on her cosmetic foundation as thickly as Plaster

As soon as plastered walls began to adorn our East Anglian and Essex villages, as they do to this day, the desire to embellish the large, plain surfaces led the pargetters to devise two forms of decoration, both of which have been called PARGETTING, although the simpler of the two is now called COMBING or COMB-WORK by such builders as remain cognisant of it at all.

The first, perhaps grander, art form which is the pinnacle of Pargetting, was the application of moulded decoration, itself made of hair-lime mortar, to the plaster while this was still wet from the trowel. Such decoration may consist of fleurs-de-lys, Tudor roses, vine tendrils in a running pattern or, in the seventeenth century, swags. There are notable examples of other, more elaborate, patterns at Saffron Walden and Wivenhoe, Essex and at Clare, Suffolk, to name only three of many. Usually, it was rich merchants or woolmen who commissioned these elaborate works for their houses, although the simpler and earlier fleur-de-lys, rose or crown may be found on the less grand houses of village yeomen.

The poor brother of moulded pargetting known as COMBING is to be seen on most old plastered cottages in East Anglia; on some new plaster there is often an attempt to perpetuate it, usually sadly lacking in imagination and boldness of execution.

In the art of Combing, special tools were used (see figs. 1 & 2 – p.5) whose shape and manner of handling explain the name "combing". On the still wet plaster, panels were marked out, either with a simple scribed line, or more elaborately, with a moulding-tool as shown in fig. 3, which illustrates also a small area of plaster on which I have used the moulding tool to form the left-hand margin.

Within these panels, usually rectangular, a pattern was produced by drawing or stabbing the plaster with the comb-like tools.

Comb-work patterns may be thus divided into two classes, depending on the action of the pargetter. The tool illustrated in fig. 1 has a flat handle bent in its own plane and was used for making the guilloche pattern shown to the right of fig. 3 by drawing the comb boldly in swirls across the plaster. It was used also for making other, non-interlacing, wavy patterns, and "shell" designs. The essence of success lies in the word "boldly" and a glance at guilloches produced in the eighteenth and even most of the nineteenth centuries shows how the masterly hand of the pargetter has lost its cunning in this century. I suppose a partial excuse may be found in the change from the leathery lime-tallow plaster of former days to the meaner cement-mortar of today. The difference between all modern plaster-combing (I dare to say all) and that of 100 to 150 years ago, the approximate date of the tools illustrated, is comparable with the difference between the signature of an illiterate and that of a skilled calligrapher.



fig. 1



fig. 2

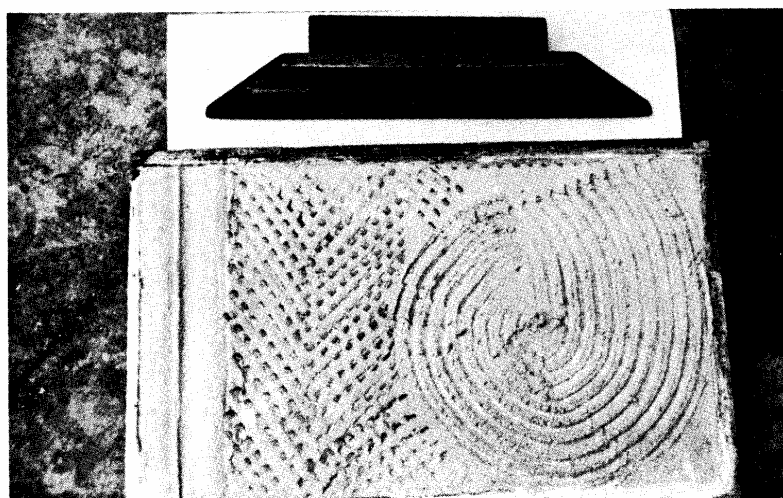


fig. 3

The tools illustrated in fig. 2 were used for making the other class of comb pater, which I call PRICK-PARGETTING, because the action is a repetitive stabbing of the plaster to produce either a V-shaped decoration, like a succession of chevrons on their sides, or a linear form, or a random overall dotting of the plaster surface within the borders of the panel. Usually, modern work of Prick-pargetting is not so obviously inferior to old work of this kind, although regularity is more difficult to achieve than might be supposed; the small area of plaster in fig. 3 between the moulded border and the guilloche is filled in with prick-pargetting of the chevron type, more usually found in true comb-work,

In Plaster-combing (including Prick-pargetting as one class) we thus have five main patterns, excluding such rare variants as "shell" designs. I have endeavoured to systematise the varieties of PARGETTING as a whole in fig. 4 (see p 6.)

An interesting piece of detective work, available to anyone with plenty of time and access, would be to measure the ridge-spacings, (or prick-dot spacings) in various examples in an attempt to discover a finger-print-like correspondence between, for instance, all the eighteenth century work in one village, suggesting, if found, that they all were of one skilled man, or of his family, employing the same tools. Such correspondence might be used also to date the plastered wall within the life-time of the tools, if another wall of well-attested date showed an identity of comb-ridge spacing and of ridge-shape.

It is my impression, which I should be most grateful to have verified or corrected, that the early patterns

(i.e. of the sixteenth century) were more usually guilloches and that the ridge-spacing in such early examples was larger than those of the last two centuries. Perhaps the early combs were all made of wood and the later ones of steel, which would lend itself to increasing delicacy and fineness of the teeth, with corresponding lack of boldness in the pattern. A local builder made a wooden comb when he re-combed some repaired plaster-work for me, and this tool had, of course, the wide tooth-spacing which I associate with early work: about half-inch spacing. The steel combs illustrated have tooth-spacing of nine thirty-seconds of an inch.

An old builder of Stoke-by-Nayland, Percy Anger, unfortunately now deceased, told me that the four main patterns of plaster-combing were given names of four nearby villages and were known by these names "in the trade", much as Kersey and Lindsey have given their names to woollen fabrics. He thought that the patterns had originated in the eponymous villages but had no proof of this: I do not find a marked predominance of any one pattern in any one of these named villages: indeed it is common to find prick-pargetting and guilloche combing in alternate panels on one wall. Moreover, since these four patterns are widespread throughout East Anglia, it seems hardly likely that the naming given is other than local usage. Nevertheless, I would like to record (see fig. 4) the names as associated by Anger with the patterns, in case at some future time, they may be found really to have originated during the later Middle Ages in the area between Hadleigh and the River Stour: This is not impossible.

PARGETTING

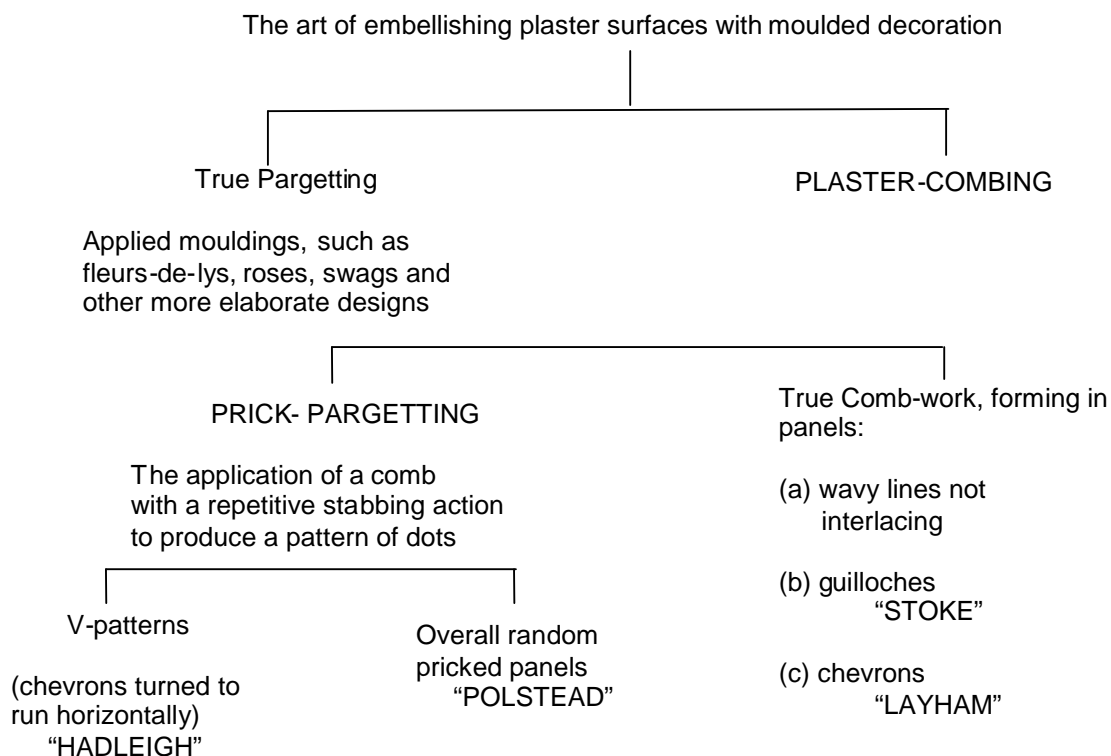


fig. 4

TWO GROUP MEMBERS HONOURED.

We record with pleasure that two of our members, Mr. Felix Erith and Mr. B. J. N. Edwards, have been elected to the Society of Antiquaries. A double event such as this must be very unusual for a small society.

Felix Erith was not only a founding member and Chairman of Colchester Archaeological Group, but has done more than anyone to set a high standard in the Group's work, of which so much has been done on his farm. It is given to few archaeologists to provide the site of an excavation, the mechanical work, and much of the physical labour of digging, and then to complete the work of classifying, drawing, and publishing. It may be said that Felix has done everything for the Ardleigh barrows except raise them in the first place!

Happily for us, his medium of publication has been the Bulletin, to which he has so far made 24 contributions. These are mainly on the Ardleigh ring ditches and recently on the occupation centre nearby, but also on a number of subjects including later pottery, especially Samian. He also, with Dr. Longworth, contributed an important paper to the Journal of the Prehistoric Society on the Ardleigh culture.

Members who were at the last meeting of the winter session will realise that Felix Erith has played an important part in another aspect of his subject. He has become a sort of unofficial liaison officer between archaeology and agriculture, having a foot firmly planted in each world. If the farmers of the Tendring Hundred and north Essex are becoming aware of the history that lies beneath their acres, we have him largely to thank for it.

Mr. Edwards, son of an early and well-known member, Mr. H. J. Edwards, may be said to have grown up with the Group, and although he is now in Lancashire, attached to the County Record Office, he will always remain a Colchester archaeologist. Backed by his father's exceptional knowledge of the town and its surroundings, he started his digging in the Grammar School under the late Mr. A.F. Hall. He read geography at Durham, where he was secretary of the archaeological group under the presidency of Professor Eric Birle, who is also a member of our group. He gained a research fellowship to Newcastle, after teaching in Colchester, and a year ago gave us a lively and interesting talk on his work as County Archaeologist. He has made half a dozen contributions to the Bulletin on a pleasing variety of subjects.

WINTER MEETINGS - 1968.

On January 8th, the Group started the second half of its winter series of lectures with a talk about Calendar Customs by Miss Christina Hole, the well-known authority on folk lore. Customs which are associated with certain times in the calendar, such as May Day, New Year or Halloween, often have a history which goes back through medieval times and early Christianity to the pagan era. Thus May Day was the start of the pagan summer and Halloween of the pagan winter. Customs discussed by Miss Hole included the Helston Furry Dance and Guy Fawkes Night which now bears a great resemblance to ancient Halloween ceremonies.

In many areas of Britain which previously lacked archaeological interest, recent discoveries have charged the picture completely. Mr. Jeffrey May, from Nottingham University, described several Iron Age sites excavated recently in the East Midlands, on January 15th, and showed how they contributed considerably to our knowledge of the period. The subject was of particular interest to the Group which will be continuing its excavation of an iron Age site at Ardleigh this summer. Among the finds exhibited by Mr. May was pottery which resembled some found at Ardleigh last summer.

Everyone has heard of Stonehenge but other Stone Age monuments in Britain are less well known. On January 22nd Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright, of the Ministry of Works, described his excavation of the very large henge monument of Durrington Walls in Wiltshire. Dating from about 2000 B.C. the site originally consisted of a complex of temples with posts of wood instead of stone, surrounded by an enormous ditch with an average diameter of 1500 feet. Much pottery of the period has been found and also antlers which were used as pick-axes to dig the ten foot deep holes for the posts in the chalk sub-soil. The size of the undertaking suggests the existence of a well-organised society in this period of early Britain.

Even before the Romans came, Britain had a coinage and one of the several mints in the country was at Colchester. Mr. Derek Allen, on January 29th, described the "Pre-Roman British Coinage" with illustrations of gold, silver and bronze coins, including some minted at Colchester. The inscriptions on the coins are the earliest examples of native British writing known and important clues to the pre-Roman history of the country.

The Group had an agricultural evening on February 5th when Miss E.N.C. Roper spoke on the "Art of Horse Ploughing in Essex - the End of a tradition". The heavy clay soils of the county require drainage in order to obtain good crops which would otherwise be diminished by too much water. A special technique of horse ploughing was developed to produce undulations for drainage known as "stetches". Miss Roper showed a film and slides of this method, with horse-drawn and tractor-drawn ploughs. A display of old and new drainage pipes and ditching tools was of great interest to members.

Last year's excavation of the Roman theatre site at Gosbecks has shown that two theatres were built there in the second century A.D. The first appears to have been made almost entirely of wood but it was replaced by a more substantial structure with tiered seating on a semi-circular earth bank faced on the outside with stone. Miss Rosalind Dunnett described the excavation, together with others which she carried

out for the Colchester Excavation Committee during the past year, to the Group on February 12th. She said that the site with its associated temple, baths and other buildings resembled others found on the continent. The area, being some distance outside the town, may have been for the use of the native population. It may have been deliberately demolished when free-born natives were granted Roman citizenship in A.D. 215 as they were then allowed to enjoy the facilities inside the town. Neither of the two buildings exhibits the splendour of some continental Roman theatre. Even in those days, it was difficult to get money for a theatre.

To protect the south-east coast the Romans built a chain of forts extending from the Wash to the Isle of Wight. One of them, Reculver in Kent, has been excavated extensively in recent years and Mr. B.J. Philp of the Kent Archaeological Research Groups Council described progress at the meeting on February 19th. The sea has washed away half of the fort with its surrounding stone walls but sufficient internal roads and buildings have now been uncovered to decide a large part of the ground plan. The buildings include a headquarters containing a cellar strong-room, a basilica and baths. In the middle of an adjoining modern caravan site the remains of a building with a unique system of hot air flues have been found, apparently designed according to principles used by present-day heating engineers. It may have been used for drying grain. The excavation will lead to a considerable revision of our knowledge of the system of forts and makes one wonder what remains to be found at the others, such as Bradwell.

Medieval tale and modern musical, the legend of King Arthur has stirred many imaginations. Did such a person exist and, if so, where was Camelot? On February 26th Mr. Leslie Alcock of the University of South Wales and Monmouthshire described the recent well-publicised excavations at South Cadbury an Somerset, long reputed to be the site of Arthur's castle, to a large audience from the Group, the Essex Archaeological Society, the Friends of the Museum and other societies. South Cadbury is a hill-top site which was occupied at various periods between 3000 B.C. and 1020 A.D. The evidence indicates that a Stone Age settlement was followed by Bronze and Iron Age buildings, with strong fortifications. The Romans appeared to have sacked the camp and built a temple there during their occupation. Further evidence suggests that Ethelred the Unready built a Saxon and mint there which his successor, Canute, soon abandoned. And Arthur? The excavations have revealed some sixth century fortifications and buildings. The presence of Eastern Mediterranean pottery suggests that a person of wealth and standing lived there at the time. Perhaps the further work planned by Mr. Alcock will tell us more about him and about the other people who have lived there throughout the centuries. (SEE NOTE BELOW)

Women's magazines today differ in layout from their predecessors of a hundred years ago but their contents are surprisingly similar. The serials, the romantic stories, the household hints and even the agony column were all read as avidly in the last century as they are today. On March 4th, one of our members, Major A.D. Mansfield, illustrated a talk on "Victorian Ladies Magazines" with slides which compared them with the journals of today. Modern printing with colour has made the pages more eye-catching. There are many more pages today but most of the space is taken by advertisements and illustrations so that the area of reading matter is about the same. Often the same types of articles are advertised, clothes obviously, but also gas cookers, sewing machines and mustard. Many of the firms which advertised in 1868 are still household names today.

For the last lecture on March 11th, two members of the Group, Mr. F.H. Erith F.S.A. and Mr. P.R. Holbert, described last summer's excavations at Vines Farm, Ardleigh. This summer the Group will excavate the remaining half of the site, which is that of an Iron Age settlement. As so often happens in archaeology nowadays, the site was discovered as a crop-mark on an aerial photograph. So far the photographic evidence of an inner and outer ditch has been confirmed. The inner ditch appears to have been a drain surrounding a circular hut while the outer one, deeper and more irregular in shape is thought to have marked the extent of the settlement, covering about one-sixth of an acre. From pottery fragments and loom weights, the site has been dated to about 500 B.C. This year the Group hope to complete the excavation of the hut circle and most of the outer enclosure, and find the entrance to the latter.

THE SOUTH CADBURY EXCAVATIONS - will begin in the middle of July and continue for some six weeks. The Camelot Research Committee will be pleased to welcome members to the site. Guides are available during working hours.

PART TWO JUNE 1968

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1968.

MONDAY 8th JULY:- An evening outing to visit Faulkbourne Hall, near Witham, by kind invitation of Mr. C. O. W. Parker, This impressive mansion dates originally from the 15th century with several later additions. There are many interesting features and we are fortunate to have this opportunity to see it.
Meet at the Firs Car Park, Maldon Road, Colchester at 6.20 p.m., for departure at 6.30 p.m. Lifts will be arranged for those without cars, NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - NOT 1st, JULY as stated in the March Bulletin,

MONDAY 29th JULY:- A CHEESE AND WINE PARTY for members and their friends will be held at Fen House, Mount Bures, at 7.30 p.m., by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. McMaster. Tickets 10/- 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 MRS. McMASTER, FEN HOUSE, MOUNT BURES, NEAR BURES, SUFFOLK before 22nd July stating how many tickets are required and enclosing payment. Geographical directions will be supplied with the tickets. When applying please state if you wish us to provide transport for you; if so we will get in touch with you personally to arrange this,

RECENT GROUP ACTIVITIES.

On May the 8th members of the Group visited Maldon. We first called at the Plume Library where the Librarian, Mr. Downes, gave an entertaining account of this old and unusual library. Members then started exploring the bookshelves and it was soon evident that our timetable was in danger. Members ensconced themselves in various interstices of the building, surrounded by seventeenth century tomes, and could happily have spent the rest of the evening browsing in the good Archdeacon's collection,

When the last member had been retrieved we walked up the High Street to the Moot Hall. Here the usual guide was not available, and we were met with apologies by the Macebearer. It was soon evident the apologies were quite unneeded - anyone more enthusiastic or better informed could not be wished for. We all enjoyed the splendid view across the town and the Blackwater from the tower, and the surprisingly happy adaptation of a Tudor building to Regency municipal purposes. The Civic regalia and other interesting objects were on view, and here, as at the Plume Library, it was pleasant to find how much of interest the little town has behind its facades.

On the evening of Monday, 20th May, in response to a request by Mr. David Clark, about a dozen members armed with a variety of implements, met in Balkerne Lane to clear a long-neglected piece of ground at the foot of the Roman wall to the north of the Balkerne Gate. After over two hours intensive labour an impressive stretch of the wall was exposed and an immense pile of rubbish awaited removal by the Corporation authorities. In the gathering dusk a somewhat grimy and dishevelled party gratefully accepted the kind invitation of mine host of the Hole in the Wall for some very welcome refreshment.

THE DECORATED SAMIAN WARE FROM KELVEDON, continued

by F.H. Erith F.S.A.

All references are to "Central Gaulish Potters" by J. A. Stanfield & Grace Simpson, except that "D" refers to Dechelette's catalogue, and '0' to Oswald's catalogue of samian figure-types. In the illustrations No. 1 is Form 30, but the rest are Form 37.

1. Form 30, Figures in high relief and well moulded. The ovolo is like one used by RANTO, and this potter also used the four-tailed dart ornament. The figure of Venus (D.175) is illustrated on a sherd of RANTO style (P1.30. No. 355) but it was also used by other potters. RANTO did not use bead rows however.

The rare quatrefoil ornament below Venus was used by AVITUS, and also appears on a signed sherd by EPPILLUS (Pl. 96. No.2). The Warrior (O.177 = D.103) here shown as the figure in the medallion is also partly on the same small fragment of EPPILLUS.

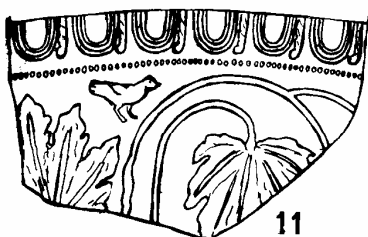
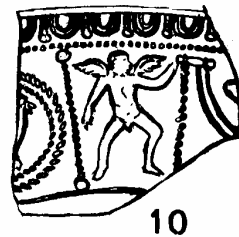
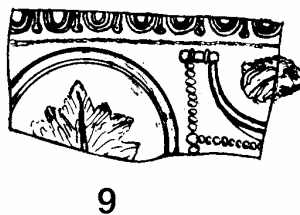
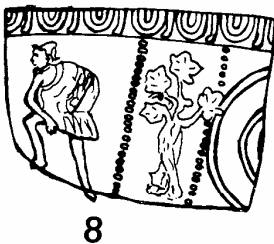
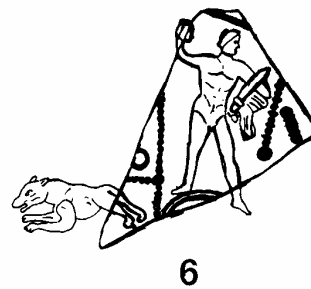
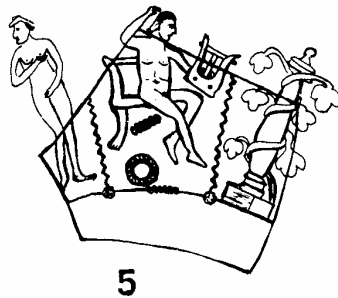
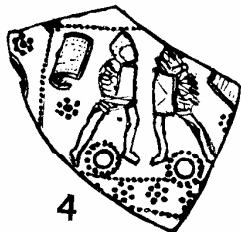
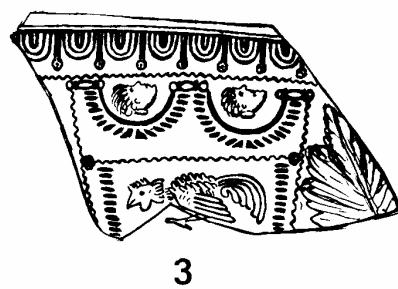
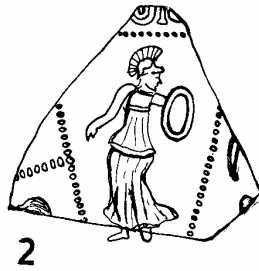
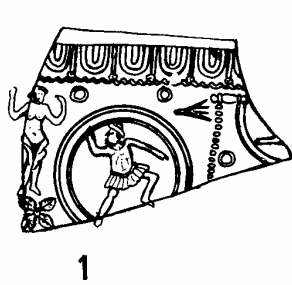
It is very unusual for an unframed figure to be portrayed outside a medallion, as Venus is here. The only similar example in C.G.P. is one by the ANCHOR Potter (Pl.11, 136). The rather conflicting evidence suggests a Trajanic potter rather than a later one

2. The ovolo and large beaded borders suggest CASURIAS. Minerva (O.126a, with oval shield) is illustrated in C.G.P. Pl.134, 29, with CASURIUS's special curled leaf.
3. Rounded large ovolo, and long tongues with large tassels and wavy line beneath, as used by RANTO. Heavy fringed festoons of which the lowest "leaves" are two backing right-angled triangles, as used by RANTO and Potter X5. The columns either side of the cock are as used by RANTO, but with the capitals missing. Cock to left (D.1025 = O.2361) used by RANTO and IOENALIS. Mask (D.698 = O.1338) used by LIBERTUS and BUTRIO. Leaf D.1168. See C.G.P. page 153, fig.19 No. 1: similar design except that cock is to the right (O.2348) and the ovolo is different, the tongue ends bending to the left.
4. The gladiators and shields, beaded circles and rosettes are all in the style of the ANCHOR Potter. Basal wreath of seven-beaded rosettes.
5. Style of ARCANUS: "Simple panels divided by bold wavy lines, with six-beaded rosettes at the junctions." Venus (D.176 = O.286) and Apollo (D.52 = O.85) are shown in adjoining panels on the signed sherd (Pl. 78 No.1). The quoit round a ring is one of ARCANUS's decorative details. A row of six beads (perhaps astragali) under the chair, and also on the baseline. Baluster D.1092.
6. Perseus (D.146 = O.234). Bear (D.820 – O.1627), Possibly style of CINNAMUS, as both these figure-types were used by him.
7. By the ANCHOR Potter. Possibly from the same mould as C.G.P. Pl.12, 144. His latticed column, astragalus astride a bead row, and Delphic tripod. Vulcan (with tongs) standing over an anvil.
8. CINNAMUS ovolo No. 3 with tongues turning to left at the bottom. Vulcan (D.39 = O.66) without tongs as used by CINNAMUS, Tree D. 1148.
9. The ovolo with blurred bead row beneath it suggests PUMUS, though the other features resemble CINNAMUS. These two potters are known to have been closely associated.
10. The ovolo cannot be exactly matched with the example in C.G.P.; however, the double-fringed medallion seems to be an exclusive feature of CINNAMUS. The figure of Eros (D.236 = O.401) is on signed examples of CINNAMUS.
11. The winding scroll is exactly as illustrated in C.G.P., Pl. 83, No. 8 and signed by SACER. However, our ovolo is the larger one of CINNAMUS. In SACER sherd the wings of the bird are outstretched (O.2315) while here they are folded (O.2239b). CINNAMUS used both varieties. C.G.P. states that SACER was one of the potters who influenced CINNAMUS.
12. The ovolo of this rather indistinct sherd is like PATERNUS No. 4. Bacchus (O.566). Victory (O.809),
13. The ovolo and the "crossed-over ornament" beneath the figure suggest DIVIXTUS, but the trefoil topping bead row was used by PATERNUS, who had a similar ovolo. Nude man (O.570).

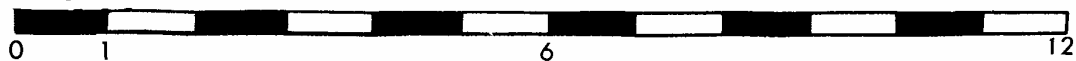
Working dated (A.D.) of the potters referred to above, according to C.G.P.

ANCHOR Potter (X3)	100-120
ARCANUS	120-140
AVITUS	120-150
BUTRIO	120-145
CASURIUS	160-195
CINNAMUS	150-195
DIVIXTUS	160-190

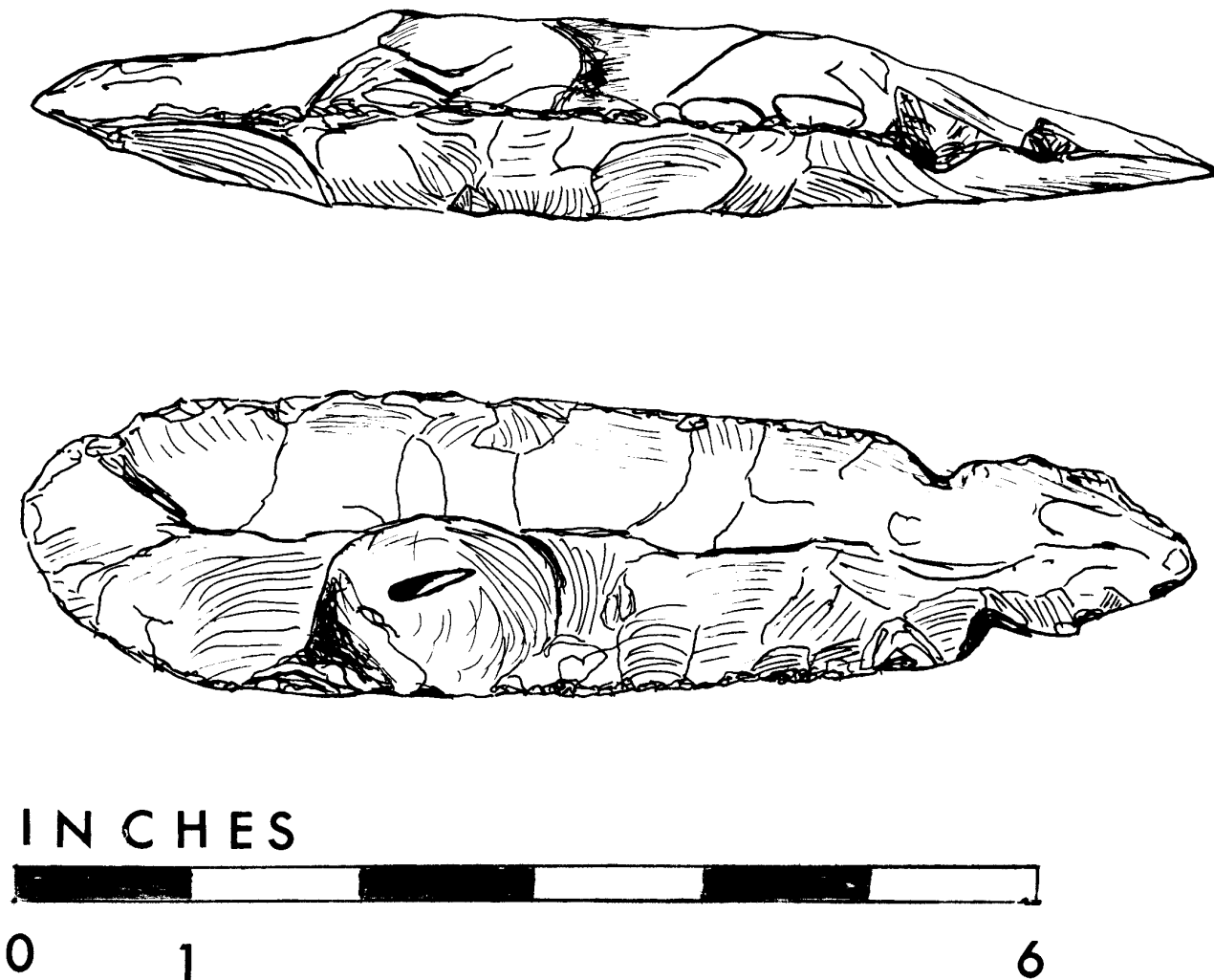
EPPILLUS	150+
IOENALIS	100-120
LIBERTUS	100-120
PATERNUS	154-190
PUGNUS	150-195
RANTO	100-125
SACER	125-150
X5	125-150



INCHES



A NEOLITHIC FLINT AXE FOUND AT LAWFORD



Mr. Marter, farm manager at Lawford Grange, while walking over a field of barley, found the flint axe illustrated above. The grid reference is 083299, about half a mile south-west of the Neolithic site in Tye Field which yielded the Rinyo-Clactonian pottery. It will be seen that the axe was notched near the pointed end as if for the better securing of a handle. We are obliged to Mr. Marter for allowing us to draw it.

F.H.E.

PRIEST HOLE IN COLCHESTER HOUSE?

by L. H. Gant.

During restoration of No. 21 West Stockwell Street, Colchester, by the Colchester Corporation direct labour force, under the Dutch Quarter Preservation Scheme, work men made a number of discoveries.

Reduction of a chimney stack revealed an arched cavity five feet deep by two feet six inches square at the ground level. Owing to alterations to the building in the course of centuries, no entrance to the chamber could be determined with accuracy. Small cavities in the wall of the chamber may have been made for footholds, and suggest that the entrance was from above.

The plastered walls showed no discolouration from smoke although many flues were found in the

chimney, which also served the adjoining house.

The chimney breast measured eight feet square at ground floor level and was constructed of timber, infilled with rubble and brick and faced with Tudor narrow red bricks. The rubble included pieces of building stone and fragments of Roman flue tiles bearing a comb design.

A silver florin of William III (1696) was found in the wall and clay pipes of that period were discovered lodged in flues or under the floorboards.

A broken teapot of plain yellow glazed 18th century ware and other fragments of glazed domestic ware were turned up or found in cavities.

The timber framework supporting the eastern bay is very notable and, according to Mr. Jack Prior, site foreman, is of an unusual type. The great cambered beams support upright posts which are bracketed to a central beam running the entire length of the bay parallel with the ridge of the tiled roof; this beam is itself supported by a series of horizontal beams set high in the roof framework.

The internal and external studwork, braces and brackets are of usual pattern but a contemporary battened door with original iron hinges in the north wall is worthy of note.

The original daub, consisting of a mixture of straw and clay was found in many places; the flues in the chimney were rendered with sand mortar and dung.

CIRCULAR CROP MARKS AT LAMARSH.

Ida McMaster.

Of the four adjacent ring-ditches discovered at Lamarsh Hall, (O.S. TL.8925/3590), the second largest was excavated during the Autumn of 1967. The four crop-marks lie close to an east-west sunken lane above which the neighbouring level field to the north lies some two feet higher than the field containing the ring-ditches; the River Stour is 600 yards to the east. The largest crop-mark shows as a ring only but there are signs of disturbance in the centre of the third largest; of the fourth only half is visible, the remainder being under a hedges.

Beneath an eight to ten inch top soil, which was mechanically stripped, lay twenty-four inches of gravel soil, mostly stones and impossible to remove without a pick. Beneath these layers was pure, almost stone-free sand.

The ditch was sectioned at the north, west and east and proved to be slightly over six feet wide and only three feet deep from crop level in the north and east sections, whilst that on the west was even narrower and barely two feet deep. The diameter of the ring measured forty to forty-four feet.

All three trenches sectioning the ditch were continued towards the centre at a depth of three feet, but the resulting central square proved to be sterile. Subsequently, further sections were cut into the quadrants and an area ten feet square exposed. This was examined to a depth of one foot into the sandy subsoil, again without result. The field having recently been sub-soiled, further investigation was deemed unlikely to produce anything.

Sub-soiling was carried out in one direction only to a depth of about eighteen to twenty inches with the rods four to five feet apart. It is impossible to say how much evidence this operation removed but only one small sherd was found. It should also be noted that this field has been subject to flooding for many years.

Acknowledgements:- Grateful thanks to Mr. Arthur Ingram for permission to excavate, for removing the top-soil and helping with the digging. Also to Mr. John Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. K. Gibson, Mr. R. Whyard and other Lamarsh friends who helped in the excavation.

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

PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1968

GROUP NOTICES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual General Meeting will be held in the Lecture Room at Colchester Castle on MONDAY OCTOBER 14th 1968 at 7.30 p.m.

Coffee & biscuits will be served at the end of the business meeting.

Please make every effort to attend - we want to hear your suggestions for the future - and criticisms of the past.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The present officers and committee are willing to stand for re-election.

Please send your nominations for officers and committee to the Hon. Secretary to reach her before October 7th, 1968.

The address is :- Mrs. K. de Brisay,
Corner Cottage,
Laver de la Haye,
Colchester, Essex.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual subscription falls due on 1st. October 1968. The rates are as follows:

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

Please send to the Hon. Treasurer:- Miss Dorothy Jones,
Farthing Garden,
Laver Breton Heath,
Colchester, Essex,

It will be greatly appreciated if these are paid promptly.

If a subscription is not paid by December membership will be taken to have lapsed.

PLEASE NOTE:- in the interests of economy NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT.

WINTER MEETINGS 1968/9.

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

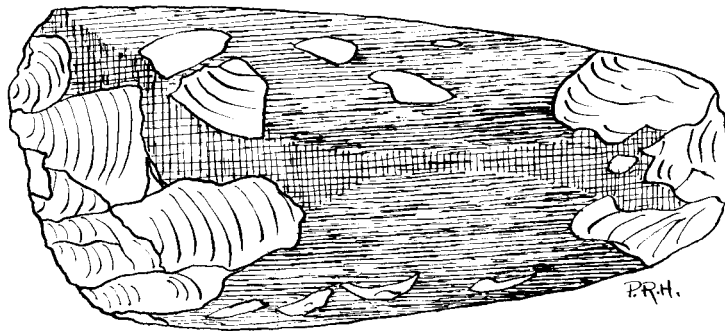
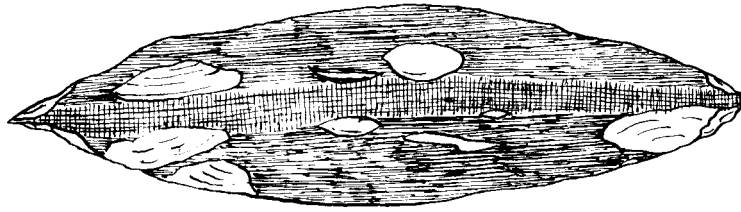
GUESTS ARE WELCOME BUT NON-MEMBERS ARE ASKED
TO CONTRIBUTE 2/6d. A VISIT TOWARDS EXPENSES

1968

- 14th October - Annual General Meeting: after which coffee & biscuits will be served.
- 21st October - Mrs. N. K. Chadwick O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A., S.B.A., D.Litt. LI.B. University of Cambridge - THE WESTERN SEAWAYS OF THE CELTS.
- 28th October - Brian Hobley, M.A., Keeper of Field Archaeology at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry: THE EXCAVATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF 'THE LUNT' NERONIAN-VESPASIANIC TIMBER FORT AT BAGINTON, Nr, COVENTRY.
- 4th November - Professor G. Zarnecki, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., Professor of the History of Art, University of London, Deputy Director of the Courtauld Institute: ROMANESQUE SCULPTURES.
- 11th November - D.T.-D. Clarke, M.A., F.M.A., F.S.A., Curator of the Colchester & Essex Museum: THE ROMAN WALLS OF COLCHESTER.
- 18th November - W. J. Rodwell, Director of Excavations: Wickford & District Archaeological Society: THE EXCAVATION OF THE IRON AGE FARMSTEAD & ROMAN VILLA AT WICKFORD.
- 25th November - J. J. Heath, Keeper of Natural History, Colchester & Essex Museum: THE GEOLOGY OF ESSEX.
- 2nd December - Dr. N. E. France: West Essex Archaeological Group: THE EXCAVATION OF THE ROMANO-CELTIC TEMPLE AT HARLOW.
- 9th December - RECENT GROUP EXCAVATIONS & FUTURE PLANS 16th December - CHRISTMAS SOCIAL & MUSICAL EVENING.
- 1969
- 3rd January - Dr. J. Alexander, M.A., F.S.A., University of London : THE BEGINNINGS OF CAMBRIDGE : EXCAVATIONS 1956 - 1969
- 20th January - H.M. Carter : BUILDING MATERIALS IN ESSEX
- 27th January - G. Ewart Evans, the well-known author : EAST ANGLIAN CUSTOMS & DIALECT.
- 3rd February - Miss Rosalind Dunnett, B.A., : RECENT WORK OF THE COLCHESTER EXCAVATION COMMITTEE.
- 10th February - A.P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., of the Eccles Excavation Committee : EXCAVATIONS AT THE ECCLES ROMAN VILLA, NEAR AYLESFORD, KENT.
- 17th February - Miss A.S. Mottram, M.A., A.M.A., Curator of the Kings Lynn Museum & Art Gallery SIX YEARS' WORK OF THE KING'S LYNN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY.
- 24th February - P. Ashbee, M.A., F.S.A., Co-director of Excavations, The British Museum, : THE EXCAVATION OF THE SUTTON HOO SHIP BARROW 1967/8.
- 3rd March - C.A. Hewett : THE TIMBER BUILDINGS OF ESSEX.
- 10th March - W.R. Powell, B.Litt., M.A., F.S.A. Editor of the Victoria History of the County of Essex : ESSEX DOMESDAY.
- 17th March - M. Avery, Department of Archaeology, The Queen's University of Belfast RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT THE LAKE VILLAGE AT MEARE, SOMERSET.

A NEOLITHIC POLISHED FLINT AXE FOUND NEAR FORDHAM HEATH

by P.R. Holbert



A particularly fine example found recently by Mr. W. King on his farm at Fordham Heath. It is of honey-coloured flint, nicely polished and had been given a fresh edge at either end by rough chipping.

The field in which the axe was found (Grid Ref: T.L.947262) has many flints of similar colouring and may well be the source of manufacture. Other flint axes have been found previously on this site and were presented by Mr. King to the Castle Museum.

THE HENGES MONUMENT AT LITTLE BROMLEY

by F.H. Erith, F.S.A.

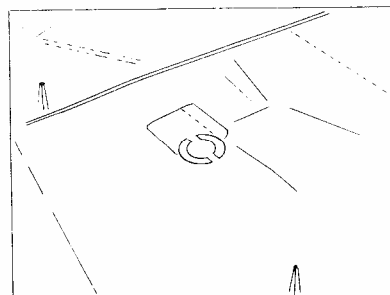
For some years now the Group has known that there was a Henge Monument in a field at Little Bromley, as it appeared distantly on air photographs of the Barrow Complex on Badley Hall Farm, Great Bromley.

However, it was not until this dismal summer that a really good picture of it was taken. Mrs. McMaster had obtained a lift with Mr. Berryman in his helicopter for the purpose of observing and photographing the Iron Age Farmstead excavation at Ardleigh, and on the same run the helicopter passed over the Bromley sites.

Even in a wet summer there is one particular time when this type of cropmark will show as a vivid colour contrast. This is in June when the corn has just turned from dark to pale green. Corn growing over the

ancient silted-up ditches, having more moisture in the root-system, will turn paler a week or ten days later, and any photograph taken during this interval should show up exceptionally well.

The picture above shows a Class 2 Henge with two opposite entrances; on its northern side is a rectangular enclosure, which presumably is contemporary with the Henge. If it were not, then its fourth side would surely be showing through the middle of the Henge circle.



Location and measurements:

The map reference is TM 02 274089, the site being on a line between Great Bromley Church and Little Bromley Church. The lane at the top of the picture leads eastwards (to the right) to Little Bromley Church. On the left is the brook which divides Little from Great Bromley parishes. There is a depression immediately south of the lane, at the stretch nearest the cropmark, which was once a small gravel-pit, but this evidently did not extend quite up to the enclosure. We estimate that the diameter of the Henge is about twenty-five yards, and the width of its ditch four yards. The width of the enclosure is about thirty yards, and the width of its ditch two or three feet only.

The only other Henge in the vicinity is at Stratford St. Mary, six miles to the north, which is also associated with a rectangular enclosure. Neither appears to be associated with a Cursus.

Acknowledgements: -

We should like to express our thanks to Mr. Berryman and also to Mr. Edgar Cooper, owner and farmer of the land, who allowed us to inspect the site from the ground.

References:

The Henge monument at Stratford St. Mary: C.A.G. Bulletin V 111-3.
Cropmarks at Great Bromley: C.A.G. Bulletin VII 37-8.
Possible Purpose of Henge Monuments: C.A.G. Bulletin X 31-2.

SHIP'S TIMBER IN A COLCHESTER COTTAGE.

by H. M. Carter.

To the north-east of North Bridge, facing the river, there are three timber framed cottages. On going over the middle of these recently I noticed that the principal joist across the ground floor' ceiling appeared to be the lower part of a ship's mast, which perhaps also runs through the next cottage eastward. The squared butt is reduced to a cylindrical shaft by a chamfer-stop which appears to be of a 16th century pattern. Mr. Gant tells me that there is also a mast on the old Essex County Standard building in the High Street, dateable by adjacent carved work to 1597. One is so often told of ships' timbers used in buildings, generally without any supporting evidence for what is perhaps a romantic idea, that it is interesting to meet an instance in which something of the sort is actually likely.

THATCHERS' DISTINCTIVE PATTERNS

by L. S. Harley, F.S.A.

Thatching, whether in straw or reed or some other materials, has been for many centuries the humblest, yet perhaps the most beautiful, covering for structures of all kinds. The Saxon hall, the medieval church, the farmhouse and cottage, even the rick were more often thatched than roofed in any other way.

With such a widely utilitarian purpose, it is to be expected that most thatched roofs should have been undecorated and this indeed was the case; however, the craftsman of former years could not always refrain from a decorative patterning of the ridge and even elaborate designs, such as a wagon and horses in bas-relief, have been worked into the reed-thatched roof of a great barn.

In passing, it may be said that the upswept ridge-ends commonly seen today are quite another matter, and seem to be a last relic of the antlers or other animal heads on the gables of Norse Halls, perhaps of magical significance.

Until the 1939 War, decorative patterns in thatching were unusual except on boat-houses, summerhouses and similar "pleasure buildings", but since, say, 1945, the beauty of thatched roofs has become more widely recognised and what at one time was a plebian utility has become a much sought-after, and rather expensive, luxury: a gastronomic parallel is the oyster, once associated by Dickens with poverty, and now beyond the means of many of us.

In the course of this elevation of the art of thatching from utility to luxury, the patterns which at one time were unusual have become general, and seldom is a roof thatched or re-thatched today without two forms of decoration; the patterned ridge and the use of brooches and rods to form simple configurations. It has become the practice among the Master Thatchers of Suffolk each to adopt a characteristic pattern, so that it is, in effect, his signature to his work, as the Masons' Mark was to medieval stonework.

It was to enable readers to identify the work of individual local thatchers by their proper patterns, and in the hope that some additional patterns may be recorded from a wider region, including Cambridge and Essex, that this brief note has been written and the sketches shown on page 19 prepared.

It is clear that the possible combinations of 'points' and 'scollops' (or half-circles) are not unlimited, although there are many more that might at first sight be supposed: the length of the 'straight' between each repetition of pattern can be made characteristically short or long, and large and small points in combination provide other alternatives.

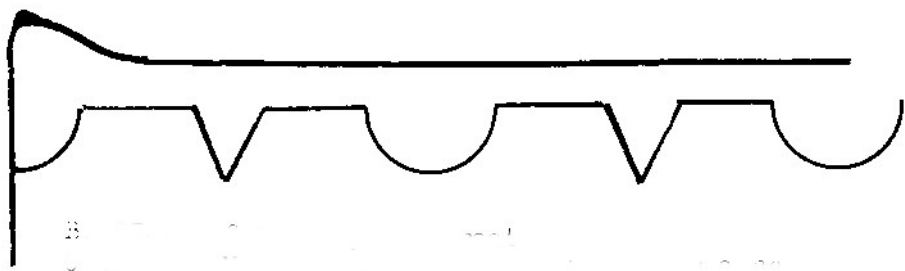
The patterns formed by rods and brooches (the latter are the V-shaped split hazel rods used like hairpins to secure the "bottles" of straw) can be divided into three -

- (i) straight rods and crosses between them.
- (ii) herringbone arrangements.
- (iii) diamond patterns of brooches at the ridge ("Dimenting")

No other decorative combination of rods and brooches is known to the writer, but again, any additional reports, especially from Essex regions, would be welcomed by him: particularly as to the consistent use of these rod and brooch patterns as characteristic proper indications of the individual thatchers.

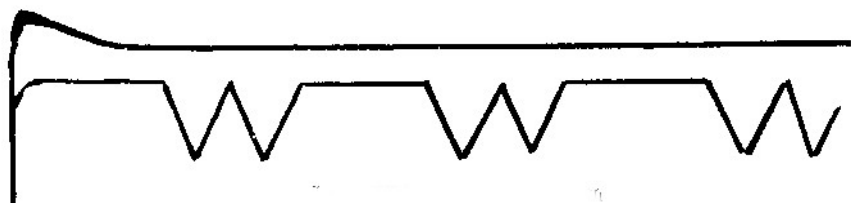
RIDGE PATTERN

RODS & BROOCHES



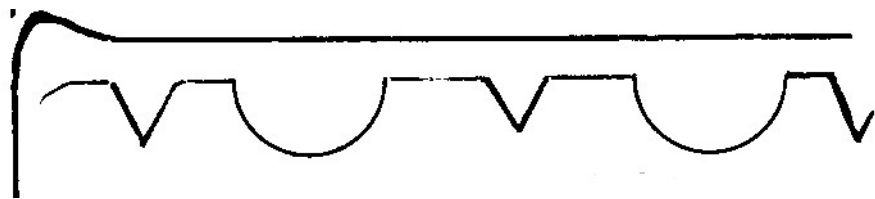
diamonds

B. DEATH of Thorrington Street
Chairman, Master Thatchers Association of Suffolk, to whom the writer
is indebted for confirmation of these patterns

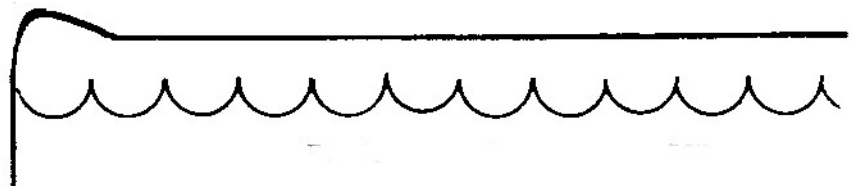


crosses

Joe STIFF of Layham

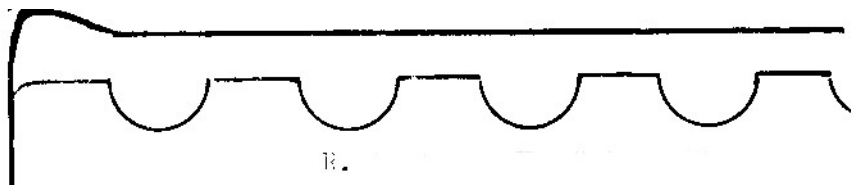


B. FLACK of Rattlesden

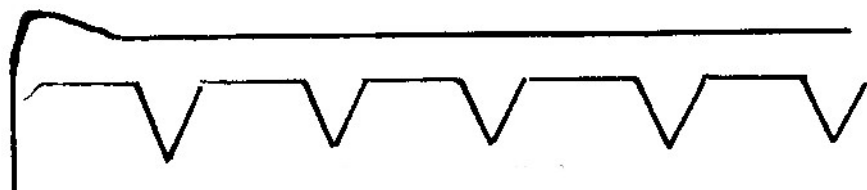


crosses

E.J. MORPHEW of Bildeston

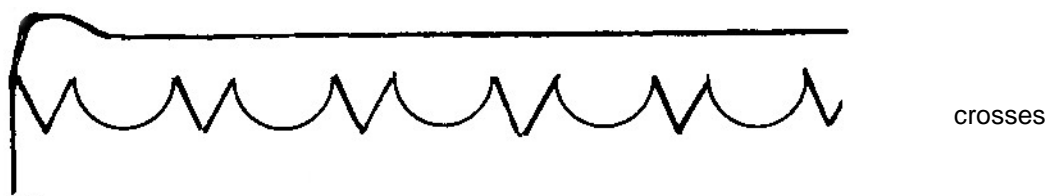


R. A. GRAINGER of Ipswich

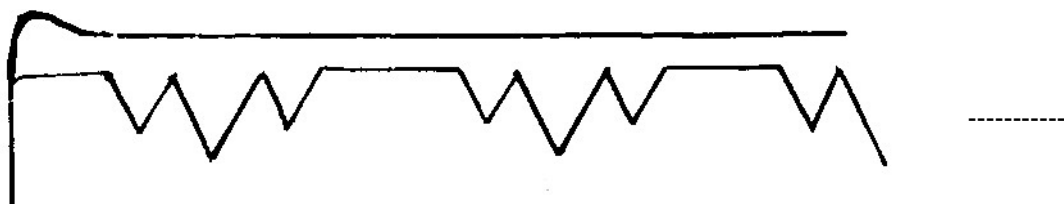


herringbone

LINNETT of Hawkdon



A.W. OSBORNE of Nayland



A Norfolk Pattern

NOTES & COMMENT.

A RING-DITCH AT TENDRING.

The weather this summer has hardly been suitable for discovering ring-ditches in crops but one was seen by Mr. Grayston of Tendring at Bretts Hall Farm.

The diameter was about twenty yards,

The farmer of the land has been deep cultivating this field at a depth of two feet, so it would be desirable that this site be excavated before any further disturbances are made.

ANOTHER FLINT AXE FROM LAWFORD.

Congratulations to Mr. Marter, farm manager of Lawford Grange Farms who has found a second neolithic flint axe this year on his land.

The second was found near Goldings Farm buildings, Lawford, and was polished, but slightly marred by a chip from a modern rotovator.

Map reference 088303.

A description of the other axehead was published in C. A. G. Bulletin 11 . 2. P. 17.

NOTE.- The editor is grateful to Mr. F. H. Erith, F.S.A., for supplying these notes but would like to stress the importance of such records, however small, and would be very glad to receive more of these from members.

GROUP ACTIVITIES.

OUTING TO RECVLVER AND RICHBOROUGH

At 9 a.m. on Saturday the 15th June a party consisting of forty-one members and two dogs left Colchester to visit Reculver and Richborough. Travelling luxuriously in one of Mr. Osborne's continental touring coaches by way of the Dartford Tunnel, Reculver was reached by noon and picnic lunch was taken, reinforced for some by a visit to the King Ethelbert Inn. The day, though warm and fine, was marred here to some extent by the intrusion of a sea mist but this also had the dramatic effect of isolating the Fort and blotting out the unfortunate encirclement of caravans and their accessories. It had not been possible to arrange an official guide but this allowed us the pleasure of listening to a masterly and most amusing

commentary by our Vice Chairman, Mr. Malcolm Carter. By means of a map showing the relative position of Reculver with the other forts of the Saxon Shore, he discussed the similarities in the circumstances which lead to their construction as governed by position and previous occupation; after which he conducted members round the site indicating the salient points.

The party left Reculver just before 2 p.m. and travelled north towards Sandwich across what used to be the Wantsum Channel. While passing through the outskirts of Ramsgate there was a fleeting glimpse of the replica of the Viking ship, which was rowed here from Denmark on the old invasion route.

Just before entering Sandwich a stop was made while Mr. Carter pointed out the Fort of Richborough standing on the edge of the old shore line. On arrival at the Fort members visited the excellent little museum on the site where many objects of interest were found. The official guide took over and explained the succeeding phases of occupation and pointed out the gateway leading to Watling Street, the cruciform foundations of the famous monument, the site of St. Augustine's chapel and many other features.

By this time everyone was very hot and thirsty and afternoon tea at the Sixteenth Century Tea Rooms in the delightful little town of Sandwich was more than welcome. A start for home was made at 5 o'clock and Colchester was reached three hours later after a very happy and enjoyable day.

EVENING OUTING TO FAULKBOURNE HALL.

On Monday the 8th July over forty members enjoyed an evening outing to Faulkbourne Hall, near Witham. The owner, Mr. C. W. O. Parker, not only made special arrangements for the Group's visit, but he personally showed the party round. The beautiful brick building with its battlements, spires and towers made an impressive picture set in smooth green lawns and with a moat to the north and east. The earliest building, which dates back to the 15th century, was timber framed, but this was soon encased in brick and other brick-built additions made; in the 17th century a complete new wing was added. Having admired the exterior, members climbed up to the roof of the main tower by way of a very fine spiral staircase with a rising tunnel vault and handrail all constructed of brick. From the top of the tower it was possible to study the intricate roof pattern below and to enjoy the vista of gardens and park land stretching out on every side. Down from the tower again Mr. Parker showed us the main oak staircase and several living rooms, some with oak panelling, and all beautifully proportioned with delightful views from the windows. The Vice Chairman, Mr. Malcolm Carter, expressed the appreciative thanks of all members to Mr. Parker before we left and, after a short visit to the little church of St. German's, we turned for home having enjoyed a very interesting evening.

CHEESE AND WINE PARTY AT MOUNT BURES.

A very successful cheese and wine party, organised by Mr. & Mrs. McMaster, was held on Monday the 29th July at Fen House, Mount Bures, when over sixty members and their friends enjoyed of varied entertainment and interest enhanced by delicious food prepared by Mrs. McMaster.

An exhibition of local historical and archaeological items was admirably mounted in a tent and attracted many comments on the interest of the exhibits. Air photographs of crop markings and of the locality showed the potential sites for investigation, and the heraldic record of glass in the parish, showing its connection with some famous families, added history to archaeology.

The collection of small items of diverse material and provenance demonstrated how much knowledge can be gained by patient collection, study and identification.

The provision and serving of food and wine was admirably done and the evening was rounded off by a short concert of folk and traditional songs. Miss Christine McMaster and Master Andrew Mason sang to the accompaniment of the mandolin a West Indian folk song and a charming Norfolk ballad; and Mrs. Joyce Gant sang two groups of traditional and popular songs, the Chairman again accompanying on the mandolin.

The thanks of the Group are due to Mr. & Mrs. McMaster and all who helped to make the occasion so enjoyable.

WINTER MEETINGS 1969

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle, at 7. 30 p. m.

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

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|---------------------------|---|
| 13 th January | - Dr. J. Alexander, M.A., F.S.A., University of London THE BEGINNINGS OF CAMBRIDGE : EXCAVATIONS 1956 - 1969. |
| 20 th January | - Miss Rosalind Dunnett, B.A., RECENT WORK OF THE COLCHESTER EXCAVATION COMMITTEE. |
| 27 th January | - G. Ewart Evans, the well-known author EAST ANGLIAN CUSTOMS AND DIALECT. |
| 3 rd February | - H. M. Carter : BUILDING MATERIALS IN ESSEX. |
| 10 th February | - A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A. of the Eccles Excavation Committee EXCAVATIONS AT THE ECCLES ROMAN VILLA, NEAT? AYLESFORD, KENT. |
| 17 th February | - Alan Carter of the King's Lynn Museum & Art Gallery SIX YEARS' WORK OF THE KING'S LYNN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY. |
| 24 th February | - P. Ashbee, M.A. F.S.A., Co-director of Excavations, The British Museum THE EXCAVATION OF THE SUTTON HOO SHIP BARROW 1967/8. |
| 3 rd March | - C. A. Hewett : THE TIMBER BUILDINGS OF ESSEX. |
| 10 th March | - W. R. Powell, B. Litt., M.A., F.S.A., Editor of the Victoria History of the County of Essex ESSEX DOMESDAY. |
| 17 th March | - M. Avery, Department of Archaeology, The Queen's University of Belfast RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT THE LAKE VILLAGE AT MEARE, SOMERSET. |

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PLEASE NOTE:- The meetings for 20th January and 3rd February have been inter-changed and are not as given in the previous Bulletin.

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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

A CAST IRON FIGURE FROM HOME COTTAGE, COUNTESS CROSS,
COLNE ENGAINE, ESSEX.

This cast iron figure was uncovered recently in the debris of an old outhouse which was demolished at O/S 866/310, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Partridge.

Unquestionably female, the crude stylised effigy weighed over 39 lbs. and if part of a larger complex, must have been extremely heavy originally. If too weighty to have adorned a building except as a necessary structural feature - a bracket perhaps - the only other popular suggestion for its use was that it had been severed from the square framework of a great iron fire-dog. In which case perhaps the pair to the figure is in someone else's outhouse.

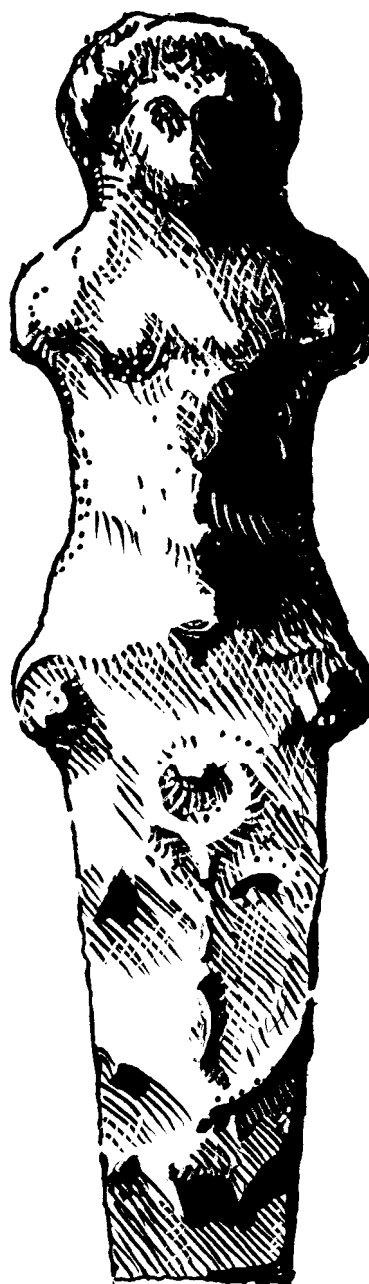
On the flat rear surface where it had lain uppermost in the cast, no apparent fittings or severance showed. The base of the underfoot could have been the sawing-off point. There was an uneven indentation on the top of the head.

Both sides of the woman were rounded from shoulders to hips, but from the hips to the base the two sides were completely straight and rectangular, suggesting that the 'Legs' portion had slotted into a three sided socket which had allowed the front of the decorated legs to be exhibited.

This fact and a faint anchor-like motif on the 'legs' suggested a much less probable solution - perhaps a figurehead from a barge or similar vessel.

Mrs. Partridge hoped that the effigy might be of witchcraft intent because their old cottage stands, according to the deeds, on "Idols Land"; it is at the junction of four roads and is traditionally referred to as "Black Cottage".

On Chapman & Andre Countess Cross is Counters Cross.



PEDESTAL URN WITH OMPHALOS BOWL

by F. H. Erith, F.S.A.

We cannot know exactly why particular kinds of vessels were used in Iron Age grave-groups. But where identical elaborate and unusual pottery types are found together on more than one site, we can infer that the cremated persons must have had some common factor to require such an unusual ritual.

The requirement of the Pedestal Urn with an Omphalos Bowl for Iron Age cremations was found necessary on at least three occasions in the Colchester district; two further cases, at some distance away may also represent this ritual, but although the pots were found on the same site, they were associated with much other pottery.

The pear-shaped Pedestal Urn is one of the characteristic features of Belgic sepulchral pottery and is too well known to require description here. The Omphalos Bowl is much rarer and must have been extremely difficult to make, as although it was turned on the wheel, it would have required manipulation by hand afterwards. It is a large globular pot with the centre of the base pushed up. This feature gives the vessel its name, as "omphalos" is the Greek word for "navel". The pot rather resembles a pumpkin with a small piece of the top shaved off. (See illustrations on page 25).

The Grave Groups.

The ARDLEIGH pair was discovered by deep ploughing in 1956. Its position was 200 yards south of the Belgic Settlement near Elm Park and over 200 yard east of the nearest of the seven other grave-groups on Vines Farm.

"Here was found a Grave-Group of the Belgic period in situ. Two vessels had been placed in the ground side by side, - the Pedestal Vase had tilted somewhat and lost its upper portion to earlier ploughing; the bowl had lost its upper part but one piece of rim was within it. The burnt bones were in the bowl.

"Pedestalled Urn of earthy brown-black clay, with light brown leathery surface, polished. The type is Cam. 202/3 with a quoit-shaped foot and narrow stem.

"Oblately spherical bowl without footring, the base having a deep, central dimple or omphalos pushed up from beneath, and surrounded on the under side by a neat, polished false cordon. The ware is like that of the Pedestal Urn, but darker." (From Mr. M. R. Hull's report on the Discoveries at Ardleigh 1955-7, unpublished.)

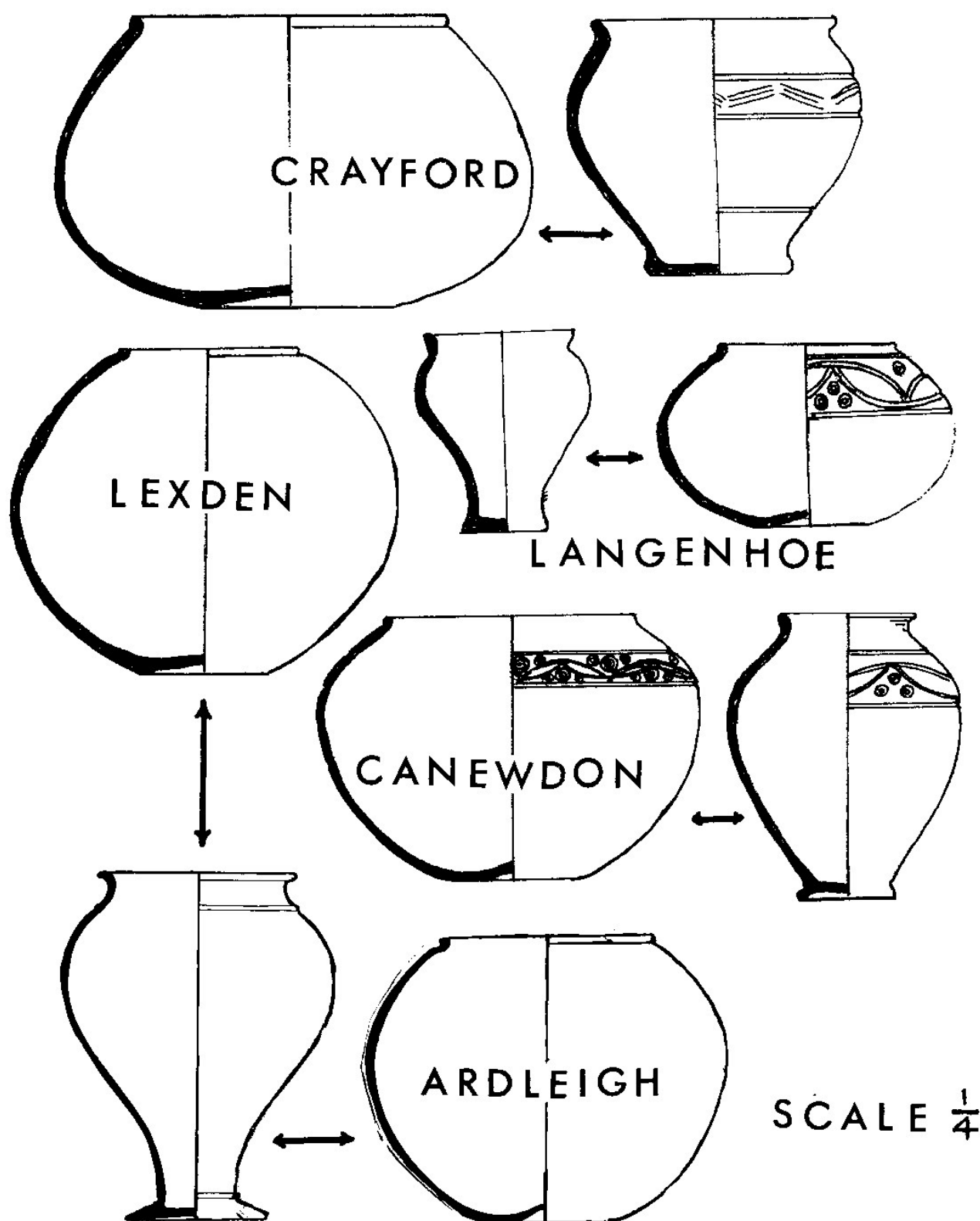
Pedestal Urns of form 202/3 are dated to the first Period of "Camulodunum" – A.D. 10-43.

Mr. Hull's Report continues:- "This Pedestal Urn is closely paralleled in the Colchester district by three examples from the Colchester cemetery, and one, found with a bowl like the Ardleigh bowl, from LEXDEN HILL (C.M. 1. 48). I am of the impression that this form does not appear anywhere else. If the type is so local it could scarcely have been introduced by the Catuvellauni."

The LANGENHOE pair was found 3 feet deep on a Red Hill, and with a heap of burnt bones. It is now in the Colchester Museum. Both pots are black; the Pedestal Urn looks very coarse and primitive, possibly the result of restoration. The Omphalos Bowl has a curvilinear decoration on the shoulder, somewhat resembling mistletoe. The curves appear very faintly, rather like the lattice decoration on some Roman pottery. The circles seem to have been punched in, and penetrate to 3 or 4 millimetres. Pottery with this curvilinear decoration belongs to the Iron Age Southern "B" culture.

The CANEWDON pair are now in the Southend Museum. In 1924 fourteen pots were found in a gravel pit. Besides those shown on page 25 there was another similar Omphalos Bowl, "the remainder being Belgic wares of first century A, D, type, the whole forming a small urnfield of the normal Belgic type". (J. B. Ward Perkins.)

In 1936, during the development of an Estate, much Iron Age pottery was discovered at CRAYFORD, Kent. It was found in pits and represented all periods, A, South-Eastern B, and Belgic. Among those of the South-Eastern B type were four or five "dumpy Pedestal Vessels" and a Globular vessel lacking the base. The omphalos base was reconstructed on the evidence of two other fragments. (An Early Iron Age Site at Crayford, Kent, by J. B. Ward Perkins : P. P. S. 1938, New Series, Vol. IV, Part I.)



Chronology

A case might be made out for some sort of date sequence on typological grounds. The Ardleigh/Lexden pedestal urn has the most sinuous curves, the narrowest stem and the most pronounced foot. The Langenhoe one has a shorter stem and plainer foot, while the Canewdon urn has virtually no stem. The Crayford urn's pedestal is little more than an everted footrim.

Similarly the Lexden omphalos bowl has the smallest opening at the rim, requiring the greater skill in potting), and the Ardleigh bowl the highest omphalos. The Canewdon and Langenhoe bowls are of intermediate type, while the Crayford one is so wide, that it must have been relatively easy to manufacture.

Pedestal Urns have been found predominantly in Essex, but also in Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Omphalos Bowls have mostly been found in Sussex and neighbouring counties. When the two have been found together there must have been some fusion of Cultures.

WROXETER COURSE 'A'. 1968.

by Peter B. Boyden.

For the past nine years, the University of Birmingham department of Extra-Mural Studies has been digging on the site of the Roman Public Baths at Wroxeter, four miles south of Shrewsbury. The work, under the direction of Graham Webster and Charles Daniels, is done by students on the department's archaeological courses; where the theory of Graham's "Practical Archaeology" is put into practice with very good results.

On July 27th, sixteen of us arrived from all over the country for what proved to be a very gruelling course, with every minute taken up by digging, lectures and demonstrations during the day; with individual work on a chosen subject in the evening. This entailed using an excellent library of offprints and reports "shipped out" in wooden boxes from Birmingham, and at the end of the course one gave a five minute talk to the assembled company on the results of one's researches.

The site at Wroxeter, under the care of the Ministry of Works, consists of the remains of the town baths, the largest known set in Britain. Under the later stone buildings are remains of an early military phase. This year a fair area of these was cleared and planned, the swimming pool of the baths cleaned up and the furnace investigated before "conservation"(?) by the Ministry, who usually make the "conserved" remains very different to its excavated appearance. The excavations were very successful, however, and I believe a report on the results so far is being prepared. It will be a long while, however, before the many and complex questions of Roman Wroxeter have been answered.

Students stay in a hostel belonging to the Field Studies Council about eight miles from the site, and go back and forth by bus. The hostel is right in the heart of the Shropshire countryside, and the Severn is a stone's throw away. Food was very good and the general atmosphere very pleasant.

On the middle Saturday an excursion was made to some of the historic sites in the Welsh marches. Forden Gaer, a Roman auxiliary fort, where the ramparts still stand to a fair height in a corn field, was the first stop, followed by Montgomery castle, perched on its sheer cliff, and its timber predecessor, the motte and bailey version at Hen Dolmen, where Philip Barker has been digging for several years. A brief stop was made to inspect a stretch of Offa's Dyke on the way to the last stop - Old Oswestry Hill Fort. This is a really impressive site, with huge ramparts and ditches and a very complex entrance. It dates from the first century B. C, and encloses an area of five acres.

When the time came to leave, after breakfast on August 10th, we departed for home in our various directions having learned a terrific amount about archaeology, and able to go and put it into practice, which I did during the next two weeks at Cirencester.

SUDBURY DISTRICT HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Roman Site at Long Melford.

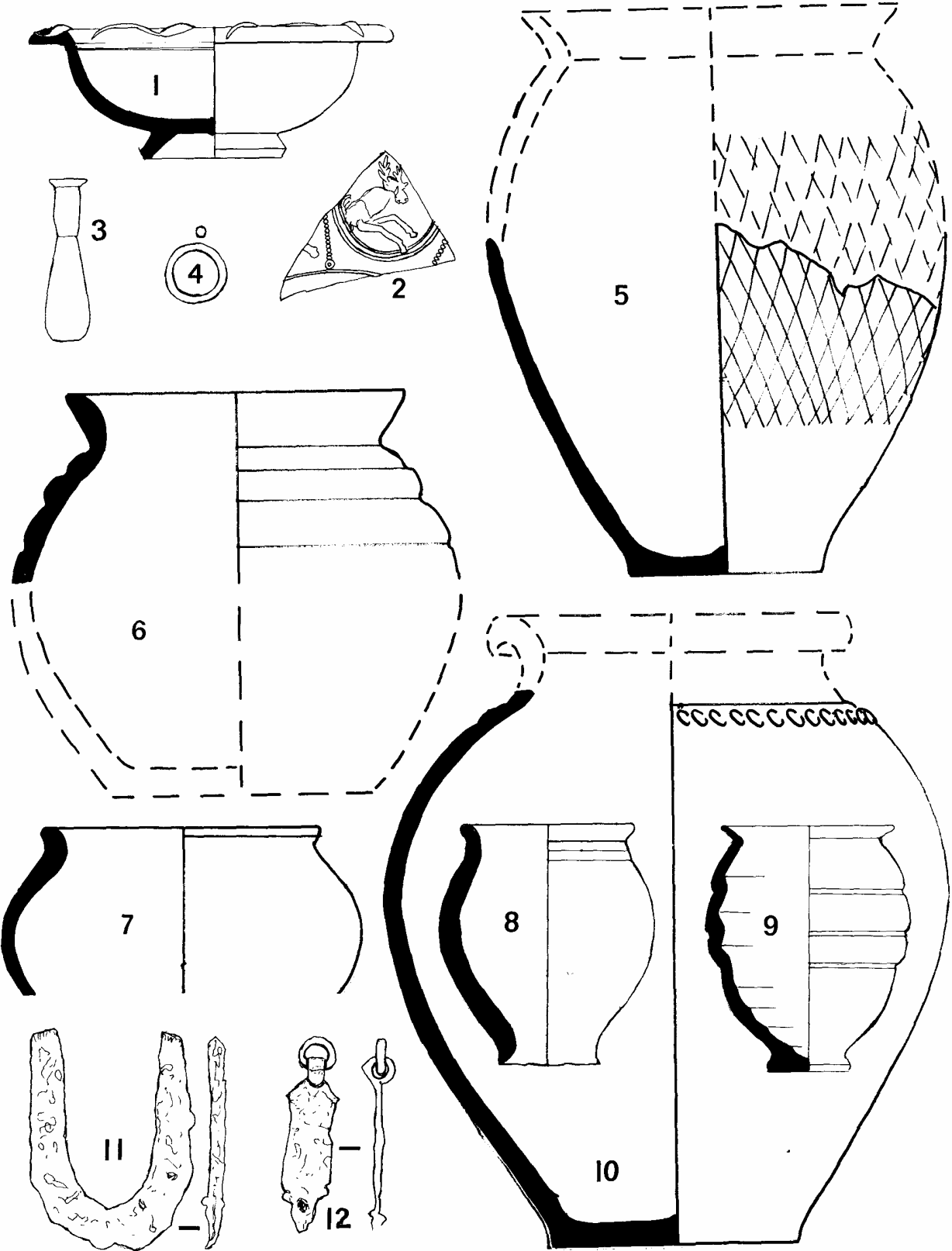
We are grateful to this newly formed Group for their permission to publish some of the finds from their recent exploratory excavation at a building site on the south-west side of the Long Melford Football Ground in a field known as Meeting Field. These came from the occupation levels at a depth of from six to twenty inches a notable feature of which was the great number of very large flints.

The Finds.

(Illustrated on page 28 : Scale 1/2.)

1. Samian bowl : Drag. form 35. Antonine period (A.D. 140-190)
2. Fragment of Drag, form 37 Samian. Demi-Stag (O. 1720) in a medallion. Large beadrow with the end-boss pierced. Both these features are on a signed bowl of CINNAMUS. See "Margidunum" Plate XLIV No. 1. Antonine period.
3. Unguentarium of bluish-green glass, as in "Camulodunum" Plate 88, No. 85, but smaller.
4. Ring of bronze, rather corroded.
5. Black jar with lattice decoration. Cam. form 278. In use during the whole of the Roman occupation.
6. Bowl in black ware with polished black coat. Shoulder rippled or corrugated. Cam. form 229. First century.
7. Plain rough pot in grey ware, badly fired and showing pale red in places.
8. Small beaker in grey-brown ware and black polished coat. 9. Small beaker in grey-mauve ware and black polished coat.
10. Cooking-pot, like Cam. form 268A, but with row of prodded holes at shoulder. See May "Colchester" Plate XCIII grave-group 21. Dated at 200-250 A.D.
11. Iron shoe for small horse or donkey.
12. Iron object terminating with loop which holds a ringle.

NOTE:- Nos. 8 and 9 are drawn inside No. 10 to save space and they have no particular connection with each other.



PUTTING BURES - OR MOUNT BURES SACKVILLE - ON THE MAP.

by Ida McMaster.

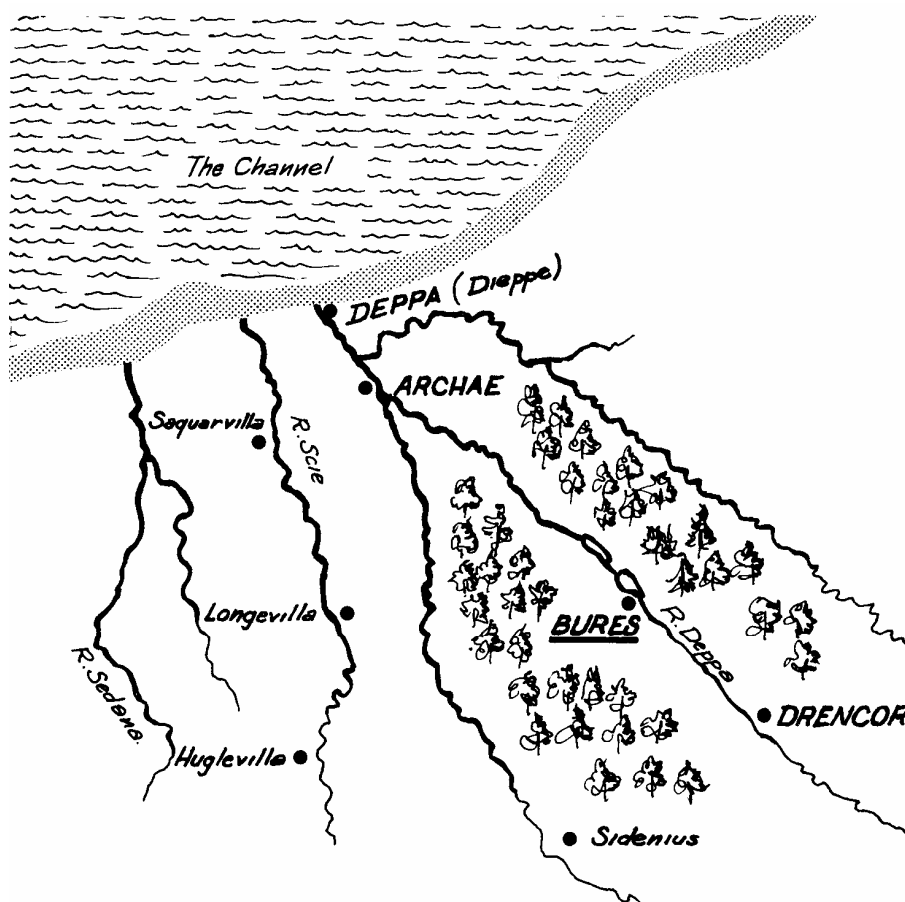
Most people are aware that the English village name of Bures has a namesake in France, but not until recently did I see how close is the connection.

J. H. Round in his "Essex Sackvilles" showed us plainly the origin of that famous family from Saquavilla in Normandy which came shortly after the Conquest and settled at Mount Bures, retaining this manor for almost five hundred years. He showed also their alliance with the Giffard family - connected with Longueville in France - and the ties by marriage which connected the third Norman village of Huglevilla with the Sackvilles. These three French villages, all close together on the River Scie are shown below on an enlargement from the Map (i) in Professor Powicke's "Loss of Normandy" (pub. 1913) at University Library, Cambridge. As will be seen on the map, a few miles east, is also the village of Bures, up river from Dieppe.

Bures St. Mary, Mount Bures and Bowers Giffard are all recorded in Domesday as Bura (Saxon). It seems these localities were specifically renamed shortly after, for even Bowers Giffard was Bures Giffard in early Feet of Fines. But, possibly because the Giffards were not holders there for so long a period, the name has become corrupted to Bowers. The Sackvilles must have seen to it that the spelling of their area remained pure, and it would be interesting to hear exactly how the Normandy villagers pronounce their Bures today. Eight miles or so east of Caen is another Bures.

One can easily picture those allied conquering lords, getting together, perhaps over a chalice of wine, when the suggestion arose for each of their holdings on this foreign soil to have the familiar local French name. Perhaps it gave them a much needed sense of security, apart from the necessity to impose their wills on the vanquished.

- (i) - Enlargement is shown in "History of the Sackvilles" by C. J. Phillips, but because Bures was not clear, it was verified on the original.



An Area of Normandy

WINTER MEETINGS 1968.

The Group began its winter series of meetings on the 21st of October with a lecture by Dr. N. K. Chadwick O.B.E. of Cambridge University on "The Western Seaways of the Celts". In Roman times and the following Dark Ages the seas surrounding Britain were an easy means of communication and the spread of Celtic cultures, religion and art can be traced along the west and east coasts. Mrs. Chadwick described some features of Scotland at the time of the Picts and gave evidence from literary and archaeological sources for the movement of settlers from Ireland across the Irish Sea. They used the islands as bases for the introduction of Christianity and its accompanying civilisation.

A Roman fort, currently being excavated near Coventry, has a link with Colchester for it was built after Boudicca's rebellion in A. D, 60. Its turf ramparts are being rebuilt and its ditches re-dug so that the twelve acre site will serve as a recreation area for the public and a research station for archaeologists. Mr. Brian Hobley M.A., Keeper of Field Archaeology at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, described the work on the 28th of October. Of particular interest was the reconstruction of the rampart from blocks of turf, the first time that such a rampart has been built since Roman times. The excavation has revealed the outlines of interior buildings and the wooden gateway which will be re-built next year. Finds include coins, brooches and a specimen of very fine chain mail.

Colchester's old Moot Hall, demolished in the last century, had a very finely-carved stone window, decorated in the Romanesque style of masons who carved a similar doorway for Rochester cathedral. Professor G. Zarnecki, Professor of the History of Art at the University of London, described both in his lecture on "Romanesque Sculptures" on the 4th of November. With many illustrations of medieval churches, Professor Zarnecki demonstrated that, whereas Continental Romanesque sculptures used figures to illustrate theology, corresponding English decoration was usually abstract in design. A strong English abstract tradition, dating back to Saxon times, may have been responsible for the native interpretation of certain sculptural features from France and Italy.

Most Colcestrians are aware of the old town wall but they pay little attention to it and some would even like to pull it down. Perhaps they would change their minds if they had been present at the lecture given by M. D. T-D Clarke, the Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museums, on the 11th of November. Mr. Clarke took his listeners on a descriptive tour of the circuit, discussing the structure and history of our ancient defences. His many illustrations showed details of the various gates and less obvious features such as the ditch in front, the rampart behind, the bastions, the destructions and the reconstructions. Recent excavations in St Mary's Rectory garden have shown the wall was built soon after 200 B. C, but only in a few isolated places does the original Roman facing still exist. What can be seen now is the rubble core, rebuilt with bastions in Medieval times and patched on numerous occasions ever since. Nevertheless it is a remarkable monument being the most substantial length of town wall still standing in Britain and Mr. Clarke, as its custodian, has also the care of the biggest and best preserved Roman gateway, the Balkearne Gate. Efforts are being made to display the Wall more effectively but is enough being spent on what could be our biggest tourist attraction?

On the 18th of November Mr. Warwick J. Rodwell described the rescue dig directed by him on behalf of the Ministry of Public Building and Works and the Wickford Archaeological Society on the site of a large Romano-British farmstead at Beauchamps Farm, Wickford. Traces of third and fourth century timber buildings were found and the translation of the intricacies of the post holes and timber slots into recognisable foundations was explained by the use of excellent colour slides. Sections of the carefully excavated pits and ditches revealed a clear picture of successive occupation from Iron Age A times to the late Roman period which was also shown by stone foundations. Together with these slides, those of some of the finds gave an impressive picture of the site and of excavation as it should be carried out.

Closely allied to archaeology but not always recognised as such, the lecture by Mr. J. J. Heath, Keeper of Natural History, Colchester and Essex Museums, on the 25th November, showed very clearly how Geology is the foundation on which excavation is based. Working as we do in the difficult gravel layers of north-east Essex, the colour and make-up of the natural levels are all important and Mr. Heath explained with great clarity how these layers were deposited. With the use of maps he demonstrated the formation of the gravels, clays and chalk of East Anglia and Essex from the early glaciations to recent times and also explained the changes in the coast line caused by erosion and accumulation and the shift in the river courses. This would also affect the settlements of prehistoric peoples from the Continent and explain why some sites were chosen in preference to others.

On the 2nd of December Dr. N. E. France of the West Essex Archaeological Group lectured on "The Excavation of the Romano-Celtic Temple at Harlow". Many such temples have been found in southern England including six in Colchester but the one at Harlow is of particular interest. The site shows evidence of occupation in the first century B. C, but the first stone buildings which can still be traced by their foundations have been dated to about 80 A. D, Over two hundred British and Roman coins, some of gold and silver, were found and the dating of these showed that building alterations continued until the third century A.D.

The Group enjoyed hearing about its own labours on the 9th of December when Mr. F. H. Erith F.S.A. and Mr. P. R. Holbert described the Iron Age settlement site at Vincles Farm, Ardleigh, which the Group has excavated during the past two years. The outline of the site in a field under cultivation was first photographed from the air in 1959. The Group excavated most of the system of ditches seen in the photograph and found that they consisted of a circular ditch in a larger enclosing ditch. The evidence is that the inner ditch surrounded a circular hut 56 feet in diameter and several holes inside it are thought to have been dug for the posts supporting the structure. Finds have included pottery which indicates occupation between approximately 450 and 200 B.C., loom weights and a bronze awl fragment. Some of the pottery is of a type which has not been previously recorded.

The last meeting of this section was the Christmas Social when members, enjoyed the singing of English traditional songs by Mrs. Mary Leyden, the playing of an Israeli lute by Mr. Said Shehadeh and the ringing of the Wormingford Hand Bell Ringers whose ancient craft brought a seasonal air to the evening. A well stocked table, coffee and wine were also much enjoyed.