



## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 37 1994

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### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Once again we must thank Pat Brown and her helpers for an excellent list of speakers, everyone who helped with the projector and Harry Palmer for his weekly lecture summaries. I must also thank Andy Roper for producing the final layout.

### **Walk along the Colchester Dykes**

Monday 9th May

Mark Davies led an evening walk along the dykes starting from Dugard Avenue. A pleasant sunny walk starting in the town and proceeding out into the countryside. An active gravel quarry could be seen beside one stretch of the dykes. Mark Davies gave an interesting commentary and explained how Colchester Borough Council were protecting and conserving the dykes.

### **Visit to archaeological dig at Elms Farm, Heybridge**

Monday 13th June

About twenty members went by car to Heybridge. After assembling in the car park at Tesco's the party crossed Maldon bypass and entered the site. The director of the dig Mark Atkinson first took us into a portacabin where there was a display explaining the site. Some of the finds were also on show. After a brief talk Mark Atkinson showed us round the site. A large area had been opened up. The best preserved feature was a large circular temple with nearby, a small square building with flint foundations, which was jokingly referred to as the temple souvenir shop. In one area large Roman bricks had been laid flat in discrete groups. These were part of the foundations of timber buildings. Cutting across these buildings was a line of large post holes, each hole about a foot across, this was said to be a Saxon fence line. One striking thing about the site was how close to the surface the archaeological levels were. The Roman levels appeared to start immediately below the turf. The director explained how each archaeological worker had to record the area he or she was digging. This sounded a daunting task if one wanted to join the dig as a volunteer. It was a very instructive visit and it was good to see English Heritage spending money on a large open area excavation.

### **Day out to Syon Park, Brentford**

Saturday 25th June

A coach full of CAG members and friends set off from Sheepen Road car park. The first stop was The Thames Barrage. It was well organised for visitors with car parks, visitor centre and a restaurant. The barrage itself was a very impressive piece of engineering looking almost like a piece of sculpture with its curving shields to protect the machinery.

We then went on to Syon Park, the home of the Duke of Northumberland. On arriving in the car park the first thing we noticed was all the people lugging trolley loads of plants from the garden centre to their cars. Syon House renovated by Adam was magnificent. The great hall with its antique marble statues was a marvelous set piece and well cared for. The grand en suite rooms had plenty of interest in them. After touring the house we explored the greenhouses and gardens which contained many exotic species. We then went on to the garden centre, part of which is in a stone barn, the only surviving part of a monastery which was once on this site. Following the garden centre we had tea in the open air restaurant. The tea and buns were good but slightly marred by the roar of jet planes, which flew over at one minute intervals, on their way to Heathrow Airport. On the way home we drove round Docklands to look at Canary Wharf, 'yuppie' housing and the Dockland Light Railway.

### **Summer Party**

Monday 11th July

The summer party was at Earls Colne at the home of Jean and Tony Bonner. The usual good food was organised by Hazel West and Jean Bonner. There was a raffle with prizes provided by members.

## The Wreck House, Brightlingsea

*by Claude Dove*

No one would describe the Wreck House at the start of Brightlingsea Causeway as a beautiful Georgian building, but it does seem likely that it is a unique survival.

From the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century to the early 19<sup>th</sup>, Brightlingsea lay outside the administrative County of Essex, being the only part of Cinque Port Confederation north of the Thames. It had the status of a 'limb' of the Cinque Port of Sandwich, and was a useful half-way house en route to Yarmouth where, for 40 days annually, the Cinque Ports had the right to control the international Herring Fair. In the 1660's Yarmouth managed to rid itself of this humiliating intrusion, but Brightlingsea oysters ensured a continuance of the Lord Warden's benevolent interest, very valuable to Brightlingsea as a means of resisting Colchester's attempts to extend its chartered Fishery in the Colne into Brightlingsea Creek. For the Lord Warden it provided further grounds for extending his admiralty jurisdiction from Sussex and Kent across the whole width of the Thames estuary.

The Lord Warden's office and his admiralty jurisdiction pre-dated those of the Lord High Admiral and his successors. Long after he had shed any fighting role, he administered maritime law in the approaches to the biggest port in the kingdom, and the profits of the Courts centered on Dover constituted a large part of his emoluments. No less valued were the Lord Warden's rights of wreck. A book would be needed - and has yet to be written - to sort out the particulars and the history of the law of wreck and salvage, with its refinements of wreck of sea, flotsam, jetsam, and salvage. Suffice it to say that after a process that might involve the safe-keeping of disputed goods and articles (e.g. anchors, spars) for a year and a day, the Lord Warden was generally entitled to one third of any financial awards and rewards. This was not a popular arrangement with the hard-bitten seafaring population of south eastern England.

A statute of 1808 enjoined the provision of proper depots for the storage of wreck and salvage within the jurisdiction, and later six ports were specified for these. The only one of these purpose built structures to survive seems to be the Wreck House at Brightlingsea, and an austere structure it is. The design has the style of something off an admiralty drawing-board at a date not long before or after 1800: shallow blind arcading on all sides, good red brick for pilasters and elliptical arches, miscellaneous polychrome brick infill. Walls can be as much as 21 inches thick, and 14 inches seems to be the standard. Most openings of any size seem to have been knocked through during the building's later career as block works and shipyard paint store. Originally it would have been eminently well- designed for the function of keeping out the stalwart men of Brightlingsea.

The likelihood is that the building dates from the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when gun- brigs and sloops were under construction for the Admiralty on the nearby Hard, and in 1808 Martello Tower no 1 was rising the other side of the Creek. Indeed, the polychrome brick is identical with that used for the inner revetment of the moat at Aldeburgh Martello Tower, three or four years later.

Ironically, an Act of 1811 severed Brightlingsea's effective connections with the cinque ports, though the Wreck House retained its function, under the Board of Trade, into the 1870's. After 1939 it disappeared behind the corrugated-iron perimeter of James and Stone's Shipyard, and when it re-emerged, like many another specimen of Georgian architecture, it did not draw attention to itself. At present its fate is tied up with attempts to dispose of a derelict shipyard, and a unique survival - Brightlingsea's only tangible monument to the peculiarity of its history - is an open invitation for vandalism and arson.

## A gaming dial at The Froize Inn, Chillesford, Suffolk

by James Fawn

Two previous Bulletins have contained articles on gaming dials in pubs (Harley, 1967; Fawn, 1982). The first gave a full description and discussion of examples of these rarely seen devices in Surrey and Suffolk; the second recorded another *in situ* at The Compasses Inn at Stone Street near Boxford, Suffolk. The Compasses is now a private house and the fate of its dial is unknown although it is believed to still exist.

A gaming dial is in size and form not unlike a wooden dart board with numbered sectors painted on its face. It is usually secured face downwards to a ceiling joist, close to the bar and fire, with a centrally pivoted metal arrow like a balanced single clock hand beneath it.

In play a light tap of the finger causes the arrow to spin until it comes to rest on a chance number. Mr Harley described some of the games or wagers commonly played and they are easily made up; first to reach a score of 100, odd numbers only count, for example.

Within the last year or so, another dial has appeared on the ceiling of the bar at The Froize Inn, Chillesford (NGR TM 390522). Enquiries failed to reveal its provenance, but it seems to be of fairly recent construction. Mr Harley pointed out that dials appeared to be of local manufacture, with the arrow being made by the blacksmith. It is pleasing to note that someone may still be making them.

The face is simpler than that of the Compasses dial, with fewer sectors in one colour, black, outlined and numbered in white. The drawing (above right) illustrates the outlining and numbering, but is not to scale. Whereas the Compasses dial had sixteen numbers, this one has twelve and in this respect is similar to Mr Hurley's examples. He suggested that their makers attempted three aims in their numbering, which were, in fact, not mutually attainable.

- 1) Opposing numbers should add up to 13
- 2) Numbers should be alternatively even and odd.
- 3) There should be no juxtaposition of numbers differing by unity.

The dial from "The Froize" achieves the first and third only of these impossible aims. The number' sequence is 1, 8, 11, 7, 9, 3, 12, 5, 2, 6, 4, 10. which differs from previously recorded examples. Perhaps the ideal numbering would alternate high numbers with low as far as possible, in order to increase the frisson of the gambler - will the slowing pointer make the 12 or fall miserably on the 1? This dial does not give such a peak of excitement, but the sequence is a reasonable compromise of high and low numbers.

Mr Harley's dials were recorded in Surrey and Suffolk. He asked his readers whether they knew of any Essex dials and I repeated the request in my 1982 note, but we both received no response. Does the next generation of readers know of any, or is the dial confined to Surrey and Suffolk? Surely Essex lads and girls gamble as well as imbibe!

Fawn A J  
Harley L S

*A Gaming Dial at Stone Street, Suffolk*, CAG Annual Bulletin **25** (1982), 28-29.  
*The Gaming Dial*, CAG Annual Bulletin **10**, Pt3 (Sept 1967), 39-42.

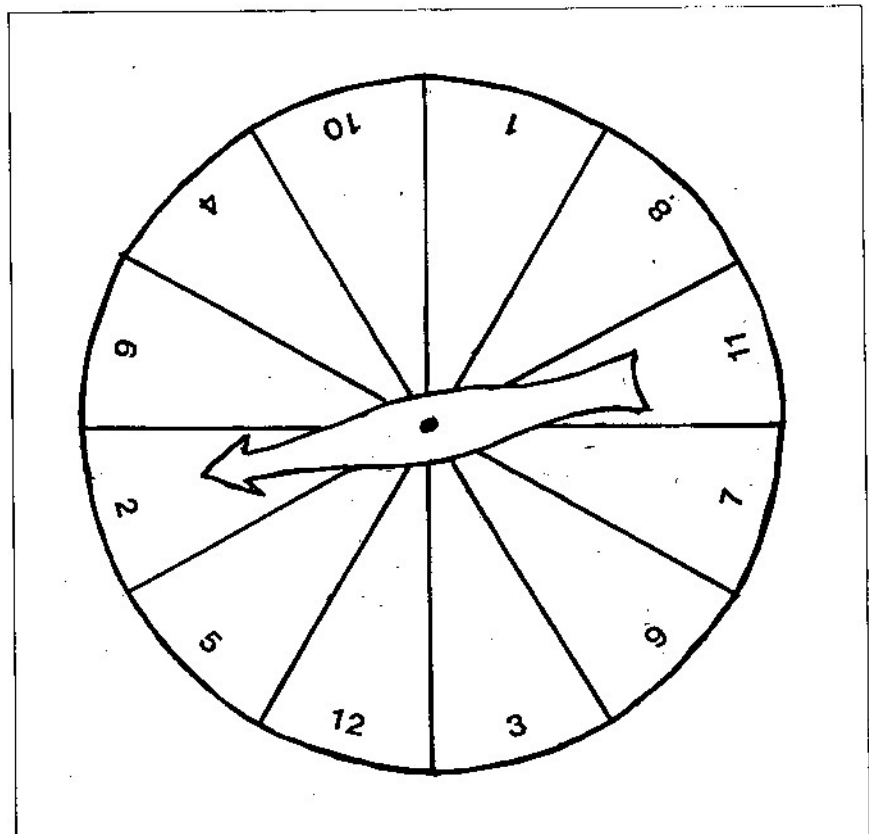


Figure 1. Gaming Dial, The Froize Inn, Chillingford, Suffolk  
(Black face, white lines & numbers)

## Red Hills Miscellany

by James Fawn

### More and more

The gazetteer in *The Red Hills of Essex*, published in 1990, contains more than 300 red hill sites. In 1996 the number in the Essex County SMR has risen to more than 400, many of the additions having been located by aerial photography.

### Inland Briquetage

Much evidence has been found to indicate that salt made at the inland Worcestershire and Cheshire salt springs was delivered some distance to the user in the conical fired clay vessels in which it was produced. The occasional finding of vessel briquetage fragments at inland archaeological sites in Essex and surrounding counties has led to the suggestion, among others, that salt from red hills was similarly transported in its manufacturing vessels (Barford 1990). However, much of the red hill briquetage is so substantial that the complete vessels would have formed a significant proportion of the weight of the delivery and thus reduced the load of saleable salt that could be carried by a beast of burden.

The receipt of a commercial pack of modern French sea-salt, produced in Brittany, in a polythene bag has suggested an alternative reason for the occurrence of inland briquetage. An accompanying leaflet extols the virtues of sea-salt and advises "Do not keep this natural salt for too long in the plastic bag. Store it in a clay or wood container that enables the salt to breathe (sic)". Salt which contains some of the deliquescent impurities present in sea-water would tend to become damp in a closed bag; hence the recommendation to transfer it to what is effectively an old fashioned salt-box usually kept close to the kitchen fire.

Perhaps households in the time of the red hills had permanent briquetage salt-boxes which the travelling salt merchant filled from a lighter and more transportable container such as a leather pannier bag. Such a box may have been a one-off delivery from the coast; or, perhaps more likely, made locally. Normally a household would require only one salt-box, which would account for the relative scarcity of briquetage from the coast. Also, a locally made salt-box need not have been similar in colour and fabric to coastal briquetage and so its recovered fragments may not be recognised as having an association with salt. Thus the familiar but uncommon red sherds may represent an occasional "Present from Peldon" rather than indicate a steady trade in vessels from the coast.

They need not always have held salt. What about other dry goods, flour for example?

### Briquetage Temper

A recent review of the incidence of chaff tempered pottery of various periods points out that it is now widely accepted that so-called chaff impressions result from the incorporation in the original clay of animal dung, probably of donkeys or horses (Hamerow *et al* 1994). Experiments in the 1970's confirmed that 'chaff tempering' improved resistance to thermal shock and the workability and plasticity of some clays (Brown 1972).

Much red hill Briquetage, particularly from vessels, contains impressions from vegetable temper. Evidence presented in *The Red Hills of Essex* suggested that it usually contained at least a proportion of London clay which would be available on site. This clay is not too easy to work and fire by itself. Dung may well have been one of the added tempers added which would leave behind impressions and voids after firing. The introduction of 'chaff' in this form may have produced a good dispersion in the clay in less time than a direct addition, apart from any beneficial change in the consistency of the clay.

### Briquetage Coatings

Briquetage often has a grey-white surface which has been attributed to the deposition of the more insoluble substances from the evaporated sea-water or to partial over-firing of the clay.

Some flat vessel fragments from one red hill (CAG no 168) exhibit two such surfaces on one side, one being deposited on the other. The undersurface, bonded to the red briquetage, is off white to grey in colour and has sufficient thickness to be described as a layer, about 0.5mm thick. It may be due to the usual deposition or overfiring. The top surface is a definite layer of about the same thickness and colour in shades which distinguish it from the undersurface. It may be

detached readily from the undersurface in flakes and exhibits what appears to be wipe marks. Its appearance therefore suggests that it is a deliberate policy.

This top layer may have been a clay wash applied to give the briquetage fabric some protection from the corrosive effects of the fire used to evaporate the sea-water in the vessel. Such a wash is sometimes applied to the inside of the walls of a kiln, for example the brick kiln at Olivers, Stairway, which the Group excavated in 1984-85. If the top layer was indeed a protective wash, the underlayer may also have been one so that the coating would have been a double one. Whether both coats were applied before firing of the briquetage or whether the second was applied after the firing of the first remains to be elucidated.

### The First Record of Red Hills

Henry Stopes was the first investigator of red hills to record his excavations, carried out in May 1879 (Stopes 1879). However, an earlier account of the numerous and strange mounds on the Essex coast exists, for he described them briefly at a meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute at Colchester three years previously (Essex Standard 1876). In his address he declared "no mention of them occurred in any publication, either of the society, or otherwise, as far as he could ascertain". This 1876 report therefore appears to be the earliest published recognition of the mounds. He does not refer to them as red hills and so the name appears in print for the first time in his 1879 article. In the latter he indicates the local inhabitants had long used the name and among them must have been the Reverend S Baring-Gould who described the red or burnt hills and set a scene on one of them in his novel, *Mehalah*; published in 1880. It seems likely that the Stopes' records were a source of his information if not his inspiration.

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| Hamerow H,<br>Hollevoet Y,                     | <i>Migration period settlements and Anglo-Saxon Pottery from Flanders</i> ,<br>Medieval Archaeology <b>38</b> , 12-18 Vince A, 1994                                     |
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## Colchester Follies

by Sally Heffer

When asked by a friend to draw a map showing the area between St John's Green School and Butt Road, I checked in the Little Oxford dictionary for the correct spelling of "folley" as in Artillery Barracks Folley. When I couldn't find it, I went to the Concise Oxford, it wasn't there and so on to *Rogets Thesaurus*, no trace. Having exhausted the dictionaries at home I went on to the library. The twelve volumes of the *Oxford English Dictionary* didn't contain the word "folley".

There was      **folly:**    a foolish act; a useless and usually expensive structure; and  
                 **folies:**    a musical revue with glamorous female performers; both taken from the French *folie* meaning mad or fool.

None of these definitions indicate a link with back passageways. So where does the word come from? Perhaps a misspelling that has come down to us through the ages. Is "folley" derived from local slang? If so, it isn't in The Essex Dialect Dictionary by E Gepp. There are other "follies" in Colchester; Camp Folley North, lying between Mersea Road and Military Road and Camp Folley South, leading from Mersea Road to lisle Road. Is, then, "folley" particular to the military?

The Ordnance Survey map of 1882 clearly shows Artillery Barracks Folley, Camp Folley North and Camp Folley South but does not name them. Also, Kendall Road Folley with no obvious military link (then called Back Folly - without the "e") is listed. Later in 1897, all four follies are shown and listed with the current spelling, the "e" firmly in place.

Closer, in this century, Alderman E Alex Blaxill's *The Street Names of Colchester* was published by Benhams in 1936. Blaxill includes the "e" in the folley spelling when he reveals that Camp Folley North was formerly Mill Alley, and Camp Folley South was Drummers Lane. Kendall Road Folley he gives as previously Back Folley (with the "e"). Also of interest is his description of the passage known as Cambridge Walk (between Inglis Road and Cambridge Road); he calls it a "folley" although records don't mention it as such. Earlier names were Cambridge Lane and Donkey Lane or Alley.

It is enigmatic that the word "folley" with the "e" has wiggled its way into everyday language in Colchester considering that there are far more "alleys" and "walks".

Investigations continue; readers comments welcome.



## More Interesting Finds from the Essex/Suffolk Border

by M J Matthews

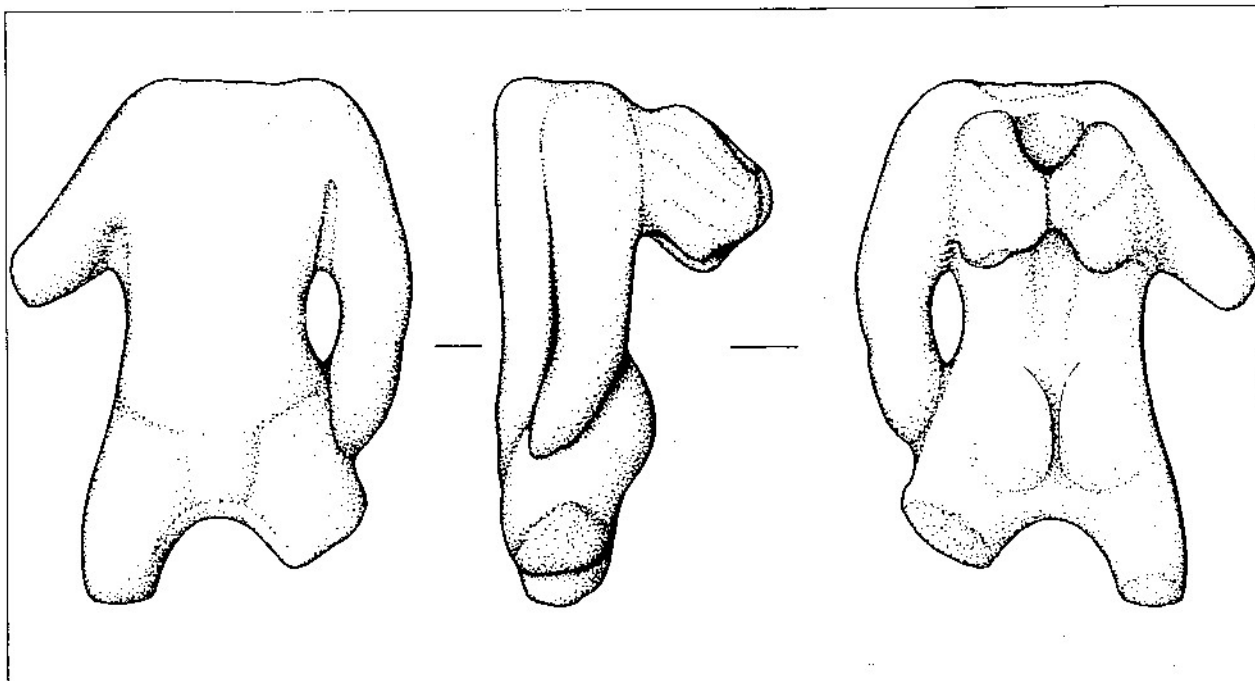


Figure 1. A Bronze Naked Winged Figurine

For several years I have been carrying out field surveys on a Romano-British site overlooking the Stour valley. I have selected a few metallic finds that illustrate evidence of religion, the written word, continuity of occupation and fashion over several centuries of Roman influence or occupation.

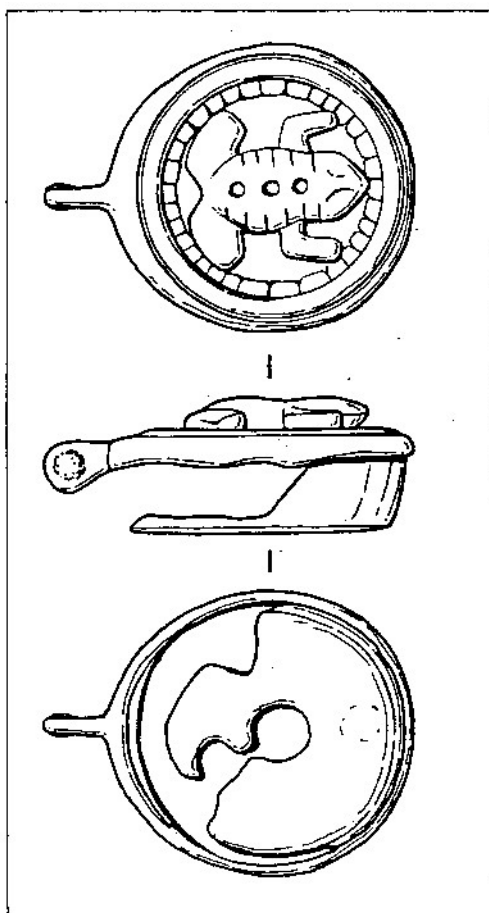


Figure 2. A Bronze frog seal box

### Bronze Naked Winged Figurine

The Romans worshipped many Gods and kept images of them as good luck charms. I was very pleased to find a small bronze of Cupid, the God of Love (fig 1). It is not complete, having the head and all other extremities broken off, whether accidentally or on purpose is an intriguing question to mull over. The Cupid nonetheless gives an insight into beliefs and arts of the time. He is a prominent figure on mosaics and on the front cover of Barry Cunliffe's *Fishbourne: a Roman Palace and its garden* (Thames & Hudson, 1971) where he takes centre stage riding a dolphin. I have recently found another example of Cupid on an intaglio set in the remaining fragment of an iron finger ring of possibly second or third century date.

I thought from the shape of his remaining legs that he was an equestrian. The Suffolk Archaeological Unit sent a drawing to Martin Henig who agreed with them that naked winged figures are usually Cupids. He also said that they rode land animals and sea creatures. It would be interesting to find his mount, perhaps a dolphin, goat or lion, to name a few of his associates. There will be more on this figure next year.

### Bronze Frog Seal Box

This object gives us some associated evidence of the use of the written word on the site during the period of Roman influence. The side of the box had holes through which cords attached to a parcel or writing

tablets were passed and sealed with wax. The base had holes allowing the box to be fixed to the package. The frog on the lid may have been the design of a personal seal. There is at least one other example known but whether from the same person or whether frog seal boxes were standard items is a question still to be answered. Other boxes had an eagle or crouching animal, perhaps a cat. (Hattat, R. *Ancient brooches and other artefacts*, p461-469).

It was fortunate that nearly all of the seal box has been found as it was in two parts lying two metres apart, both on top of the plough soil. The missing parts were obviously broken off or corroded away in antiquity. I have also found what could possibly be the lid of another seal box. This is teardrop shaped with signs of tinning but no decoration.

The frog has three punched dots on its back which could have contained enamel, but they may be too small for that. Boxes that were enamelled are assumed to be second and third century. Seal boxes may have gone out of production in the late third century.

### Bronze Head Stud Brooch

In last years bulletin, I showed an example of a first century Bow brooch, I have found several other fragments of brooches of different styles and dates. One of these has survived the passage of time well; it is of native British workmanship and is in the style of a Bronze Head Stud Brooch. This style was popular for 150 years from the mid-first century to the late second century.

The brooch was cast in one apart from the solid cast pin, which included a solid chain loop and head stud. Originally the Head stud was used as a rivet to help hold the spring. The brooch would have been heavily enamelled suggesting a second century date. The most common colours used on Head stud Brooches were blue and red (J D Bateson, BAR British Series 93 1981). These brooches would have been worn in pairs joined by chain fixed to the chain loop (fig 3).

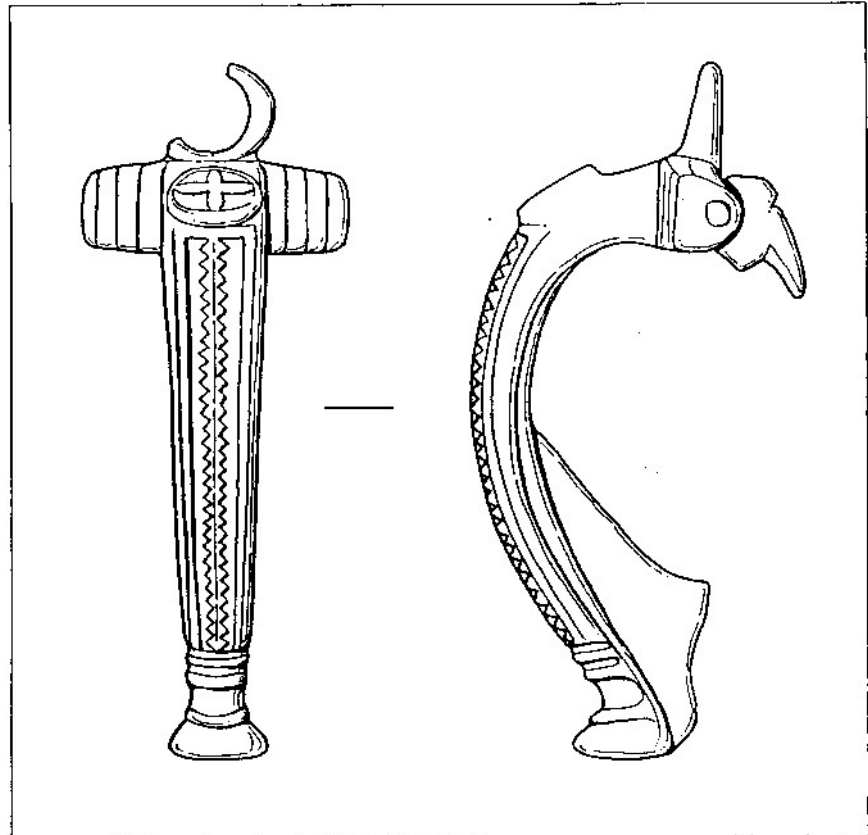


Figure 3. A Bronze Head stud brooch

Other brooch fragments include a Polden Hill type probably of the first century, Colchester types of late Iron Age/Early Roman, Rosette type of the mid first century and an example of the first century thistle type. We have here evidence of change in style and fashion over a period of up to two hundred years. The excellent drawings are courtesy of the Suffolk Archaeology Unit.

### Sale catalogue of silk mill, Colchester (Figures 4 & 5)

Through the good offices of Martin Evans, I was able to obtain a photocopy of a sale catalogue of several former silk mills in 1886 (fig 4). The sale concerned mills in Colchester, Coggeshall, Tiptree and Nayland but I was particularly interested in the Colchester mill as it has a detailed plan attached (fig 5). If you look at the plan you will see lots of interesting features. It shows the cottages in detail with fireplaces and staircases shown. The cottages even have cottage gardens attached. The stables, coach house and harness room are shown. All the main industrial rooms are named, main mill, winding shop, bobbin room, spindle cleaning shop, reel room etc. If we look in the north east corner of the site we see the boiler house, stoke house and chimney but this is later arrangement we can see the original chimney in the middle marked old chimney or shaft. The carpenters shop was probably the original boiler house and the mechanics shop was probably the original stoke house. The retort house smithy and tool shed and old gasometer suggest that formerly coal was turned into coke and coal gas. Near the entrance you can see the counting house where the book keeping and accounts would have been done. After 1886 the building had a variety of uses and was eventually demolished in the 1960's.

By Order of the Executors of the late RICHARD DURANT, Esq., deceased.

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London, E.C.; at the Place of Sale; and of the AUCTIONEERS, 10, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

VACMAN & BOND, Printers, 25, Parliament Street, and 67, Millbank Street, Westminster.

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Figure 4. Front cover of catalogue for sale of Silk Mills in NE Essex and Suffolk

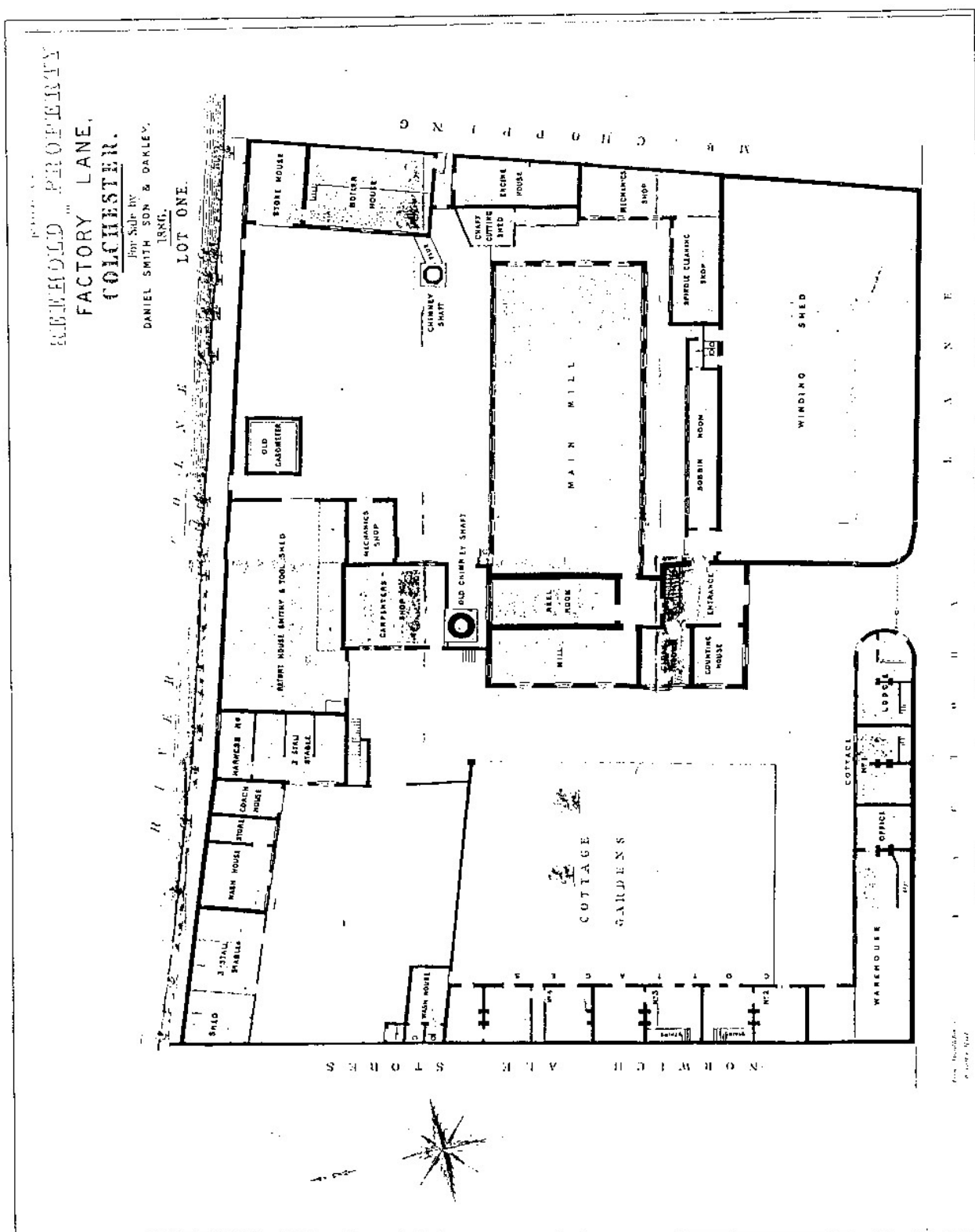


Figure 5. Plan of Colchester Silk Mill from the sale catalogue

## Field trip to Mount Bures - Sunday the 11th September 1994

*by Leigh Rankin (Colchester Young Archaeologist Club)*

The trip to Mount Bures was arranged by Colchester Archaeological Group. They invited our Young Archaeologist Club to come to Mount Bures as part of National Archaeology Day. During the day there were several things to do like climbing the Mount or looking at the exhibition. Mrs Pat Brown and another person arranged a field walking survey just outside the church not far from the mount.

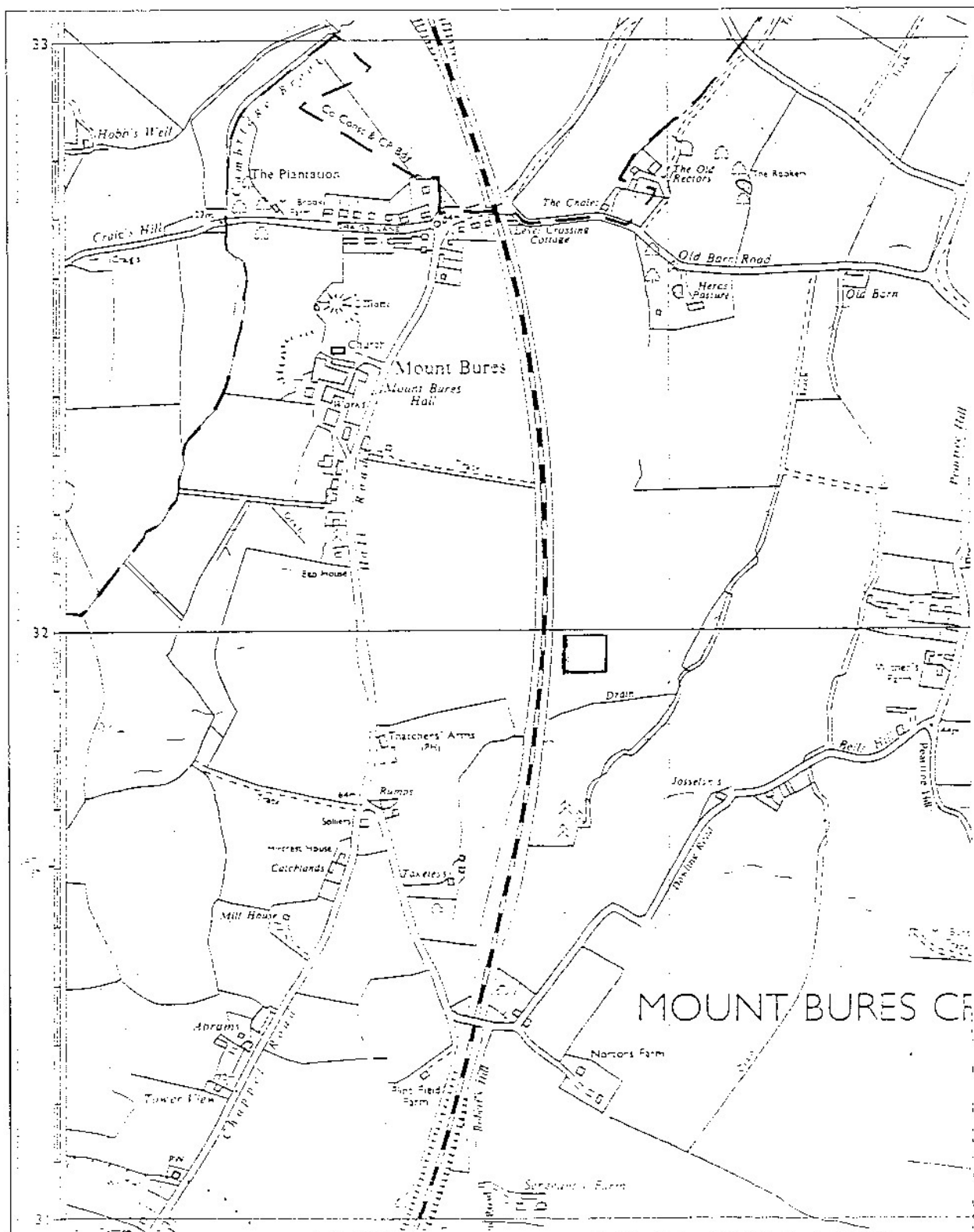


Figure 1. Map showing position of field-walking grid

We followed some red and white markers from the barn, which was just over the road from the church, down the field under a rail bridge past an old war shelter. We continued down the path until we came to the field where the field walking grid had been laid out (fig 1). It was a rectangular grid with poles on two sides, on the poles were letters and numbers. Along the path side the poles were lettered A to M and across the field the poles were numbered 1 to 8.

Each person or group searched a square in the rectangle for Roman tiles, flints or other man-made items that had been worked on. Any pieces collected were put into a plastic folder. When the square was finished they went to Mrs Brown or the man helping to find out if the pieces were what they wanted. During the afternoon many more people came and more markers had to be put out to give them sections to search. Most people found some pieces of Roman tile and some pieces of pottery.

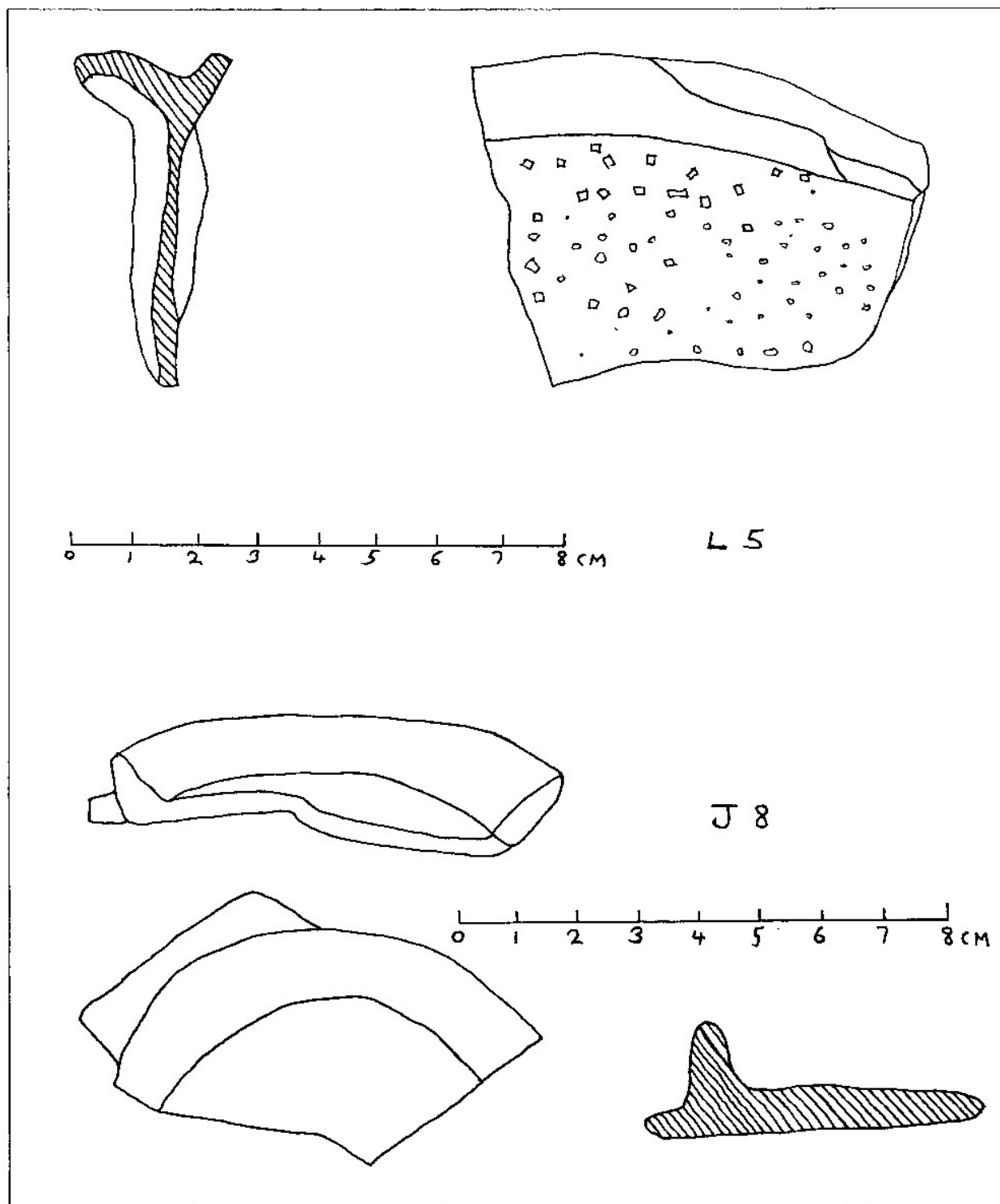


Figure 2. (top) Piece of mortarium drawn by J Fitt  
(Bottom) Base of pot (red) drawn by C White

Several weeks later members of Colchester Young Archaeologists Club met at Colchester Castle to draw the more interesting finds. Figures 2 to 4 show some of these finds. For each object there is the name of the finder, a written description, a drawing, a scale and the number of the square it was found in, e.g. E8. Figure 5 shows the grid with all the pottery and tiles marked.

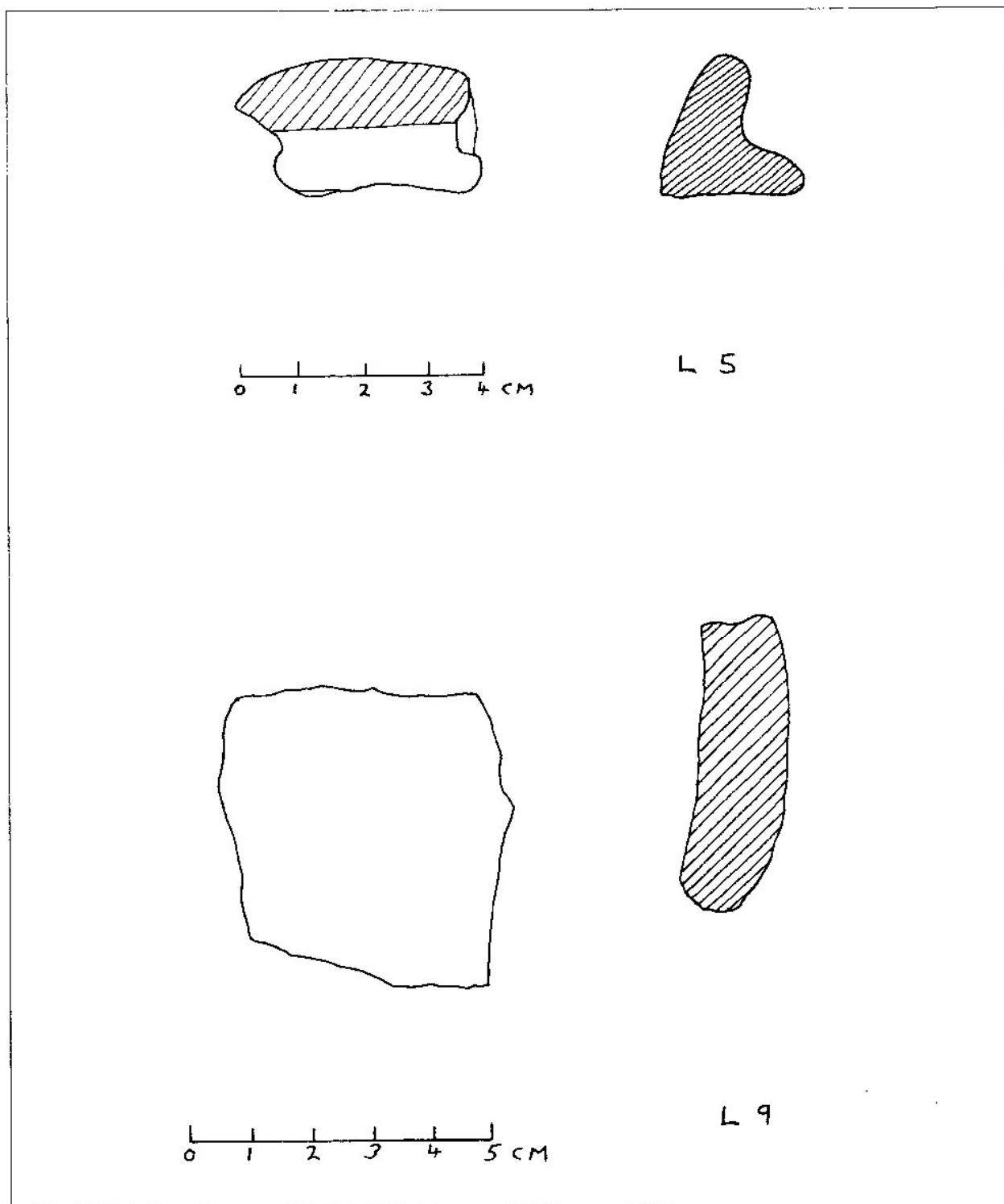


Figure 3. (top) Piece of grey ware drawn by O Fitt  
(Bottom) Piece of coarse red ware drawn by T Mallinson

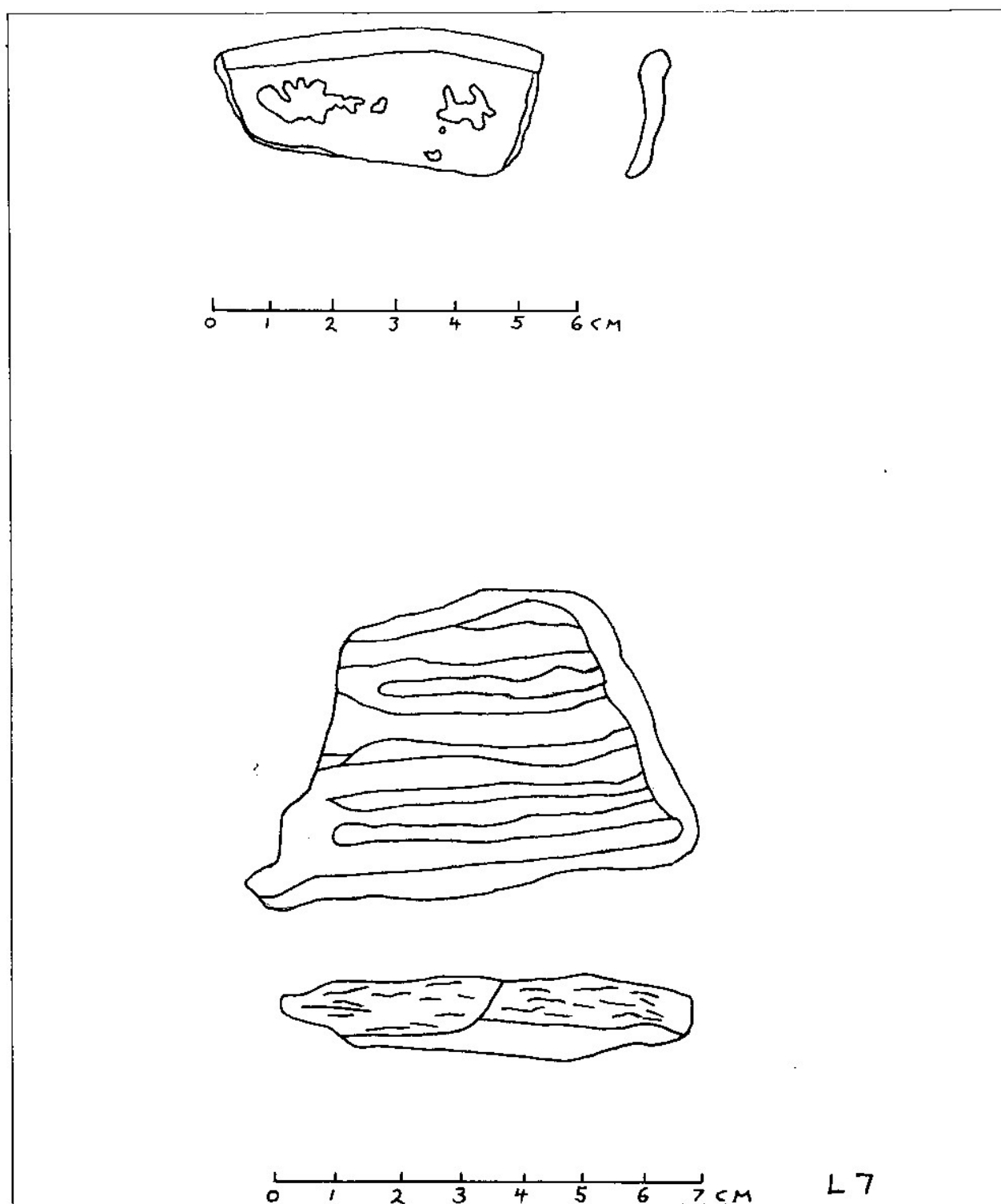


Figure 4. (top) Piece of samian drawn by J Weedon  
(Bottom) Box flue tile drawn by J Barton



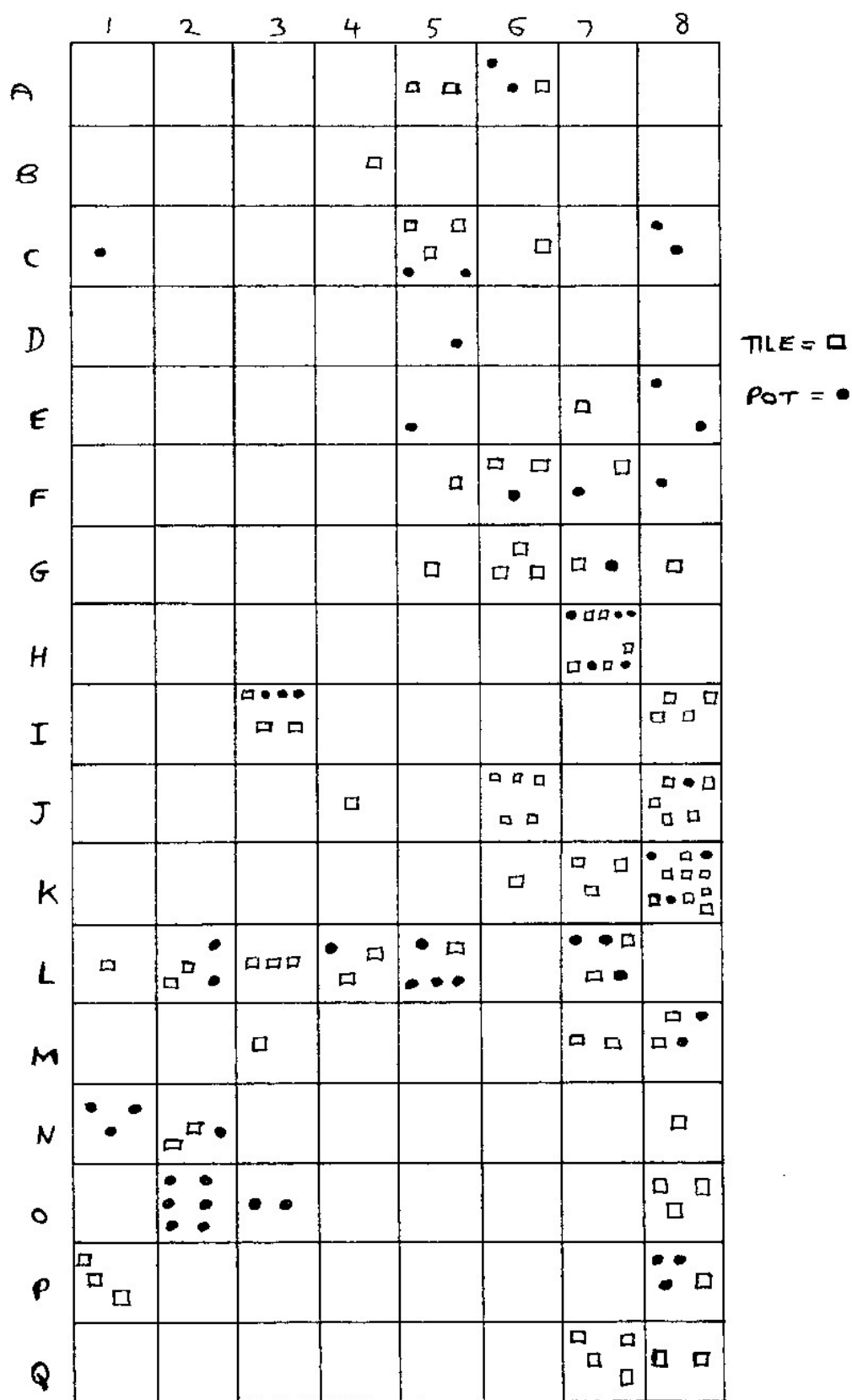
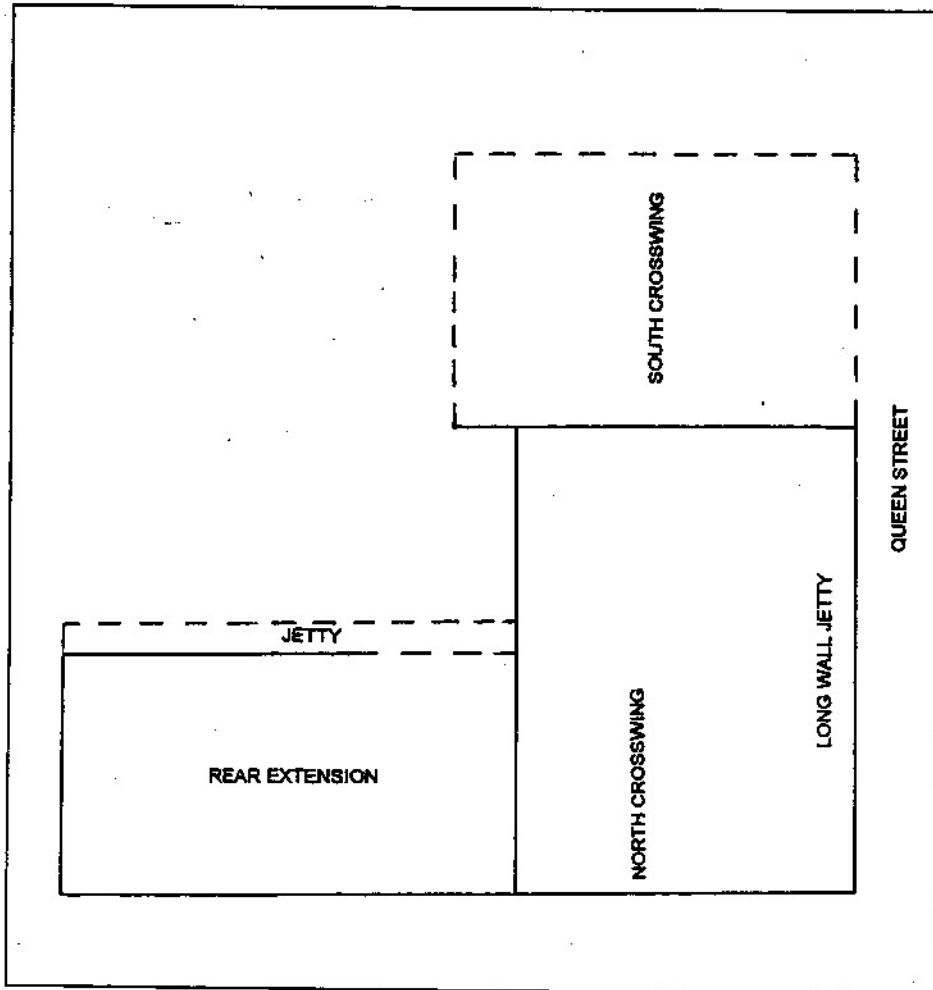


Figure 5. Grid showing all pottery and tile finds

## A timber framed building in Queen Street, Colchester

by Richard Shackle

Numbers 39-41 Queen Street, Colchester has a brick Georgian front but behind this is a complex of sixteenth century framed timber buildings. The building was renovated in 1994 and I was able to record it.



*Figure 1. Site plan*

It consists of four parts (fig 1):

- 1) A southern crossing, which formerly stood on the site next door.
- 2) A northern crossing
- 3) A long wall jetty
- 4) A jettied rear extension behind the northern crossing

### 1) The southern crossing

This crossing was part of the building next door on the site of the bus garage. All that survives is the flank wall (fig 2) trapped in the thickness of the wall. During the renovations this wall was exposed and I was able to record it. It is jettied to the front where it faces Queen Street. At the rear are two diamond mullion windows, one on each floor. There are braces on both floors, on the upper floor they are external, on the ground, the front brace is external and the rear internal. This mixture suggests a sixteenth century date. On the top-plate there is a dovetail joint for the tiebeam. On the side of the central post you can see pegs for a brace going from the post to the tiebeam; this tells us that this upper floor was all one room.

On the ground floor where the studs were used as the end wall of the building at 40 Queen Street, some of the studs were uneven. To improve the appearance, where the studs had waney edges, the plaster was painted with grey blue, to make the studs look more even. The mullion windows at the rear show that the former building at 40 Queen Street was narrower or it would have covered these windows.

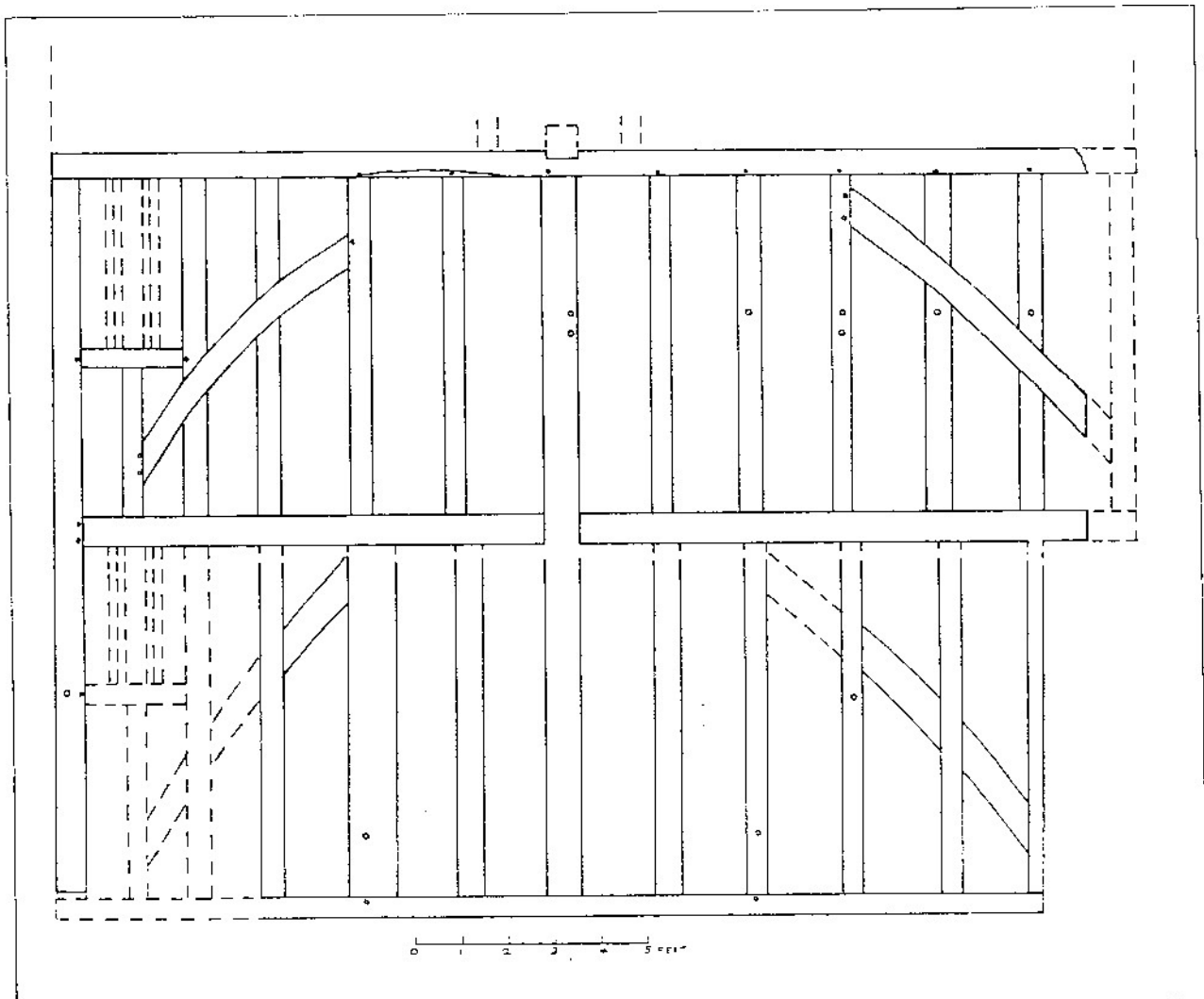


Figure 2. Flank wall of south crosswing

## 2) The northern crosswing

This crosswing formerly covered the northern part of the site; but most of it was demolished when the long wall jetty building was built. Now only one wall survives on the upper floor (fig 3, front half). At the front is part of a window which used to look up Queen Street. Note the shutter runner on the underside of the top-plate. On the top plate is the dove-tail joint for the tiebeam. You can also see the mortice for the brace from the tiebeam to the post.

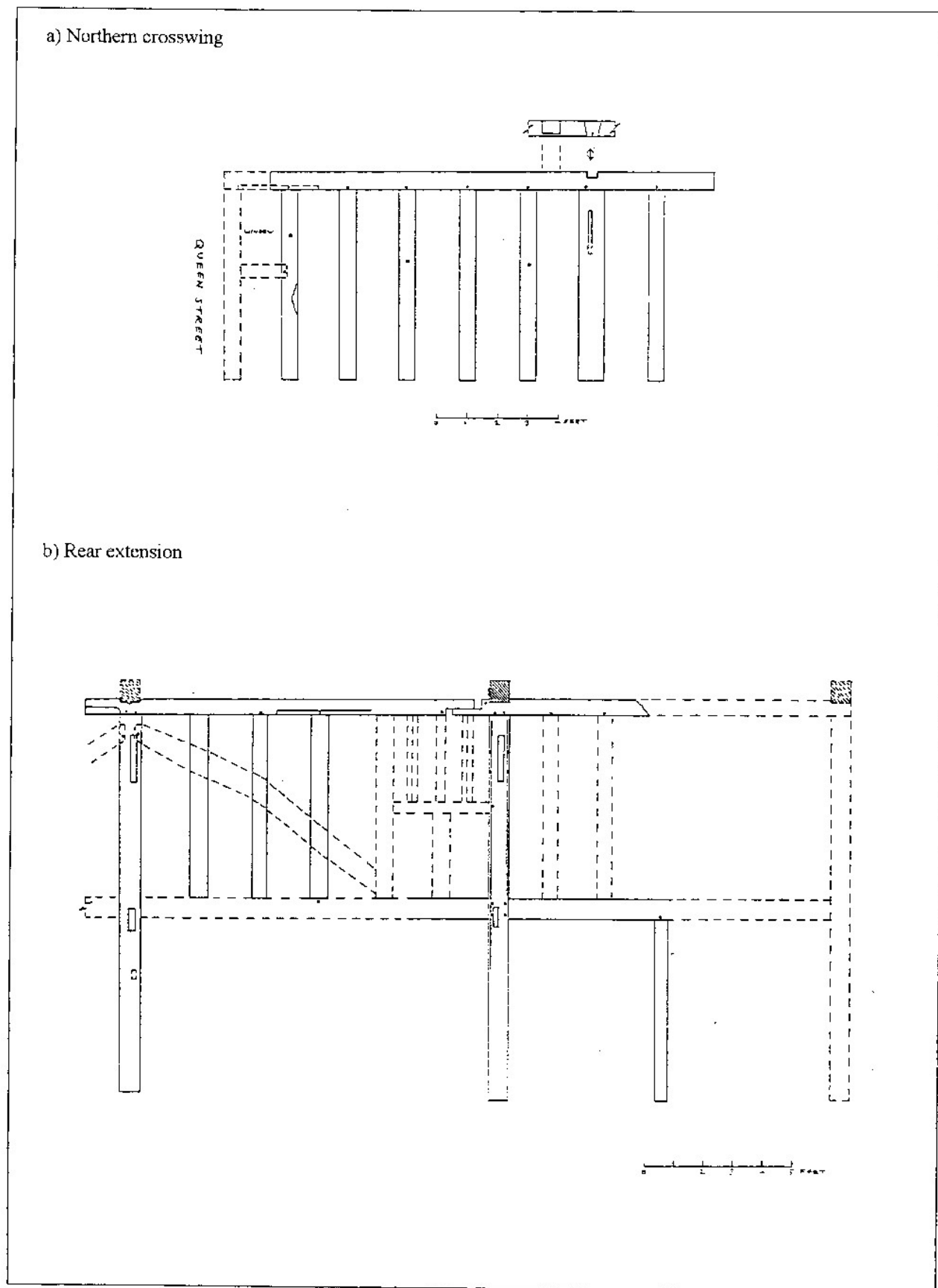
## 3) Long wall jetty

At some stage the southern crosswing and the other building the street frontage were demolished and a long wall building was constructed (fig 4). On the ground floor it was divided into a wide and a narrow bay; the narrow bay perhaps reflecting the former crosswing. The stud with mortices on its underside for the partition is marked with an "x". On the upper floor it was divided into two equal bays. The partition having a central doorway.

## 4) The rear extension

This jettied rear extension was probably part of the northern crosswing. There is now a gap between the two structures but a brace formerly projected back from the extension towards the northern crosswing (fig 3). The rear wall also had a window on the upper floor with a shutter runner groove. The jellied elevation facing the yard (fig 5) has two

windows on the upper floor with diamond mullion bars. The central truss (*fig 6*) has two braces to the tiebeam. The end wall (*fig 7*) was probably the end of the building as it had a brace across the upper floor; now only visible as a brace trench on the outer side.



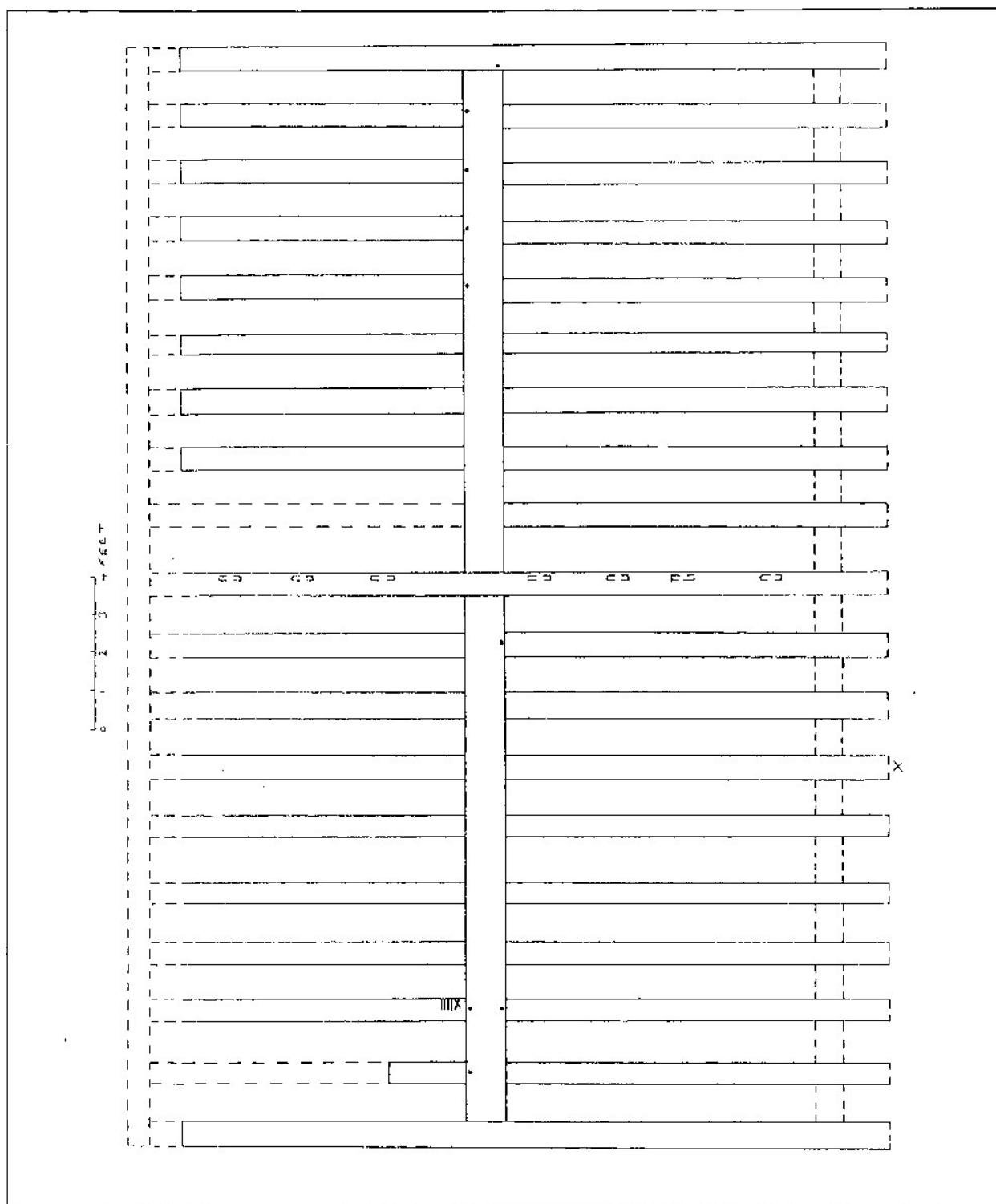


Figure 4. Long wall jetty, joist plan

## DATING

This timber framed complex is probably sixteenth century in date, but in the medieval tradition with large studs, external bracing and a halved and bridled scarf joint.

## Eighteenth century

In the eighteenth century the building was extensively rebuilt. The upper floor was raised in height by several feet to give rooms with a larger ceiling height. A brick front was added hiding the jetty. On the upper floor of this front wall, elegant sash windows survive complete with folding shutters and window seats. In the rear extension, on the upper

floor, an inserted floor was put in to give a usable attic. This inserted floor, which is made of pine, has large spine beams and small joists. The spine beam can be seen in section in fig 6.

I asked John Bensusan-Butt if he knew anything of the eighteenth century history of the house.. He said that when he visited the house on 12 August 1988, he was particularly impressed by the late eighteenth century circular stairs leading up to the first floor, which he thought were very elegant and unspoilt. The staircase is still there.

He gave me the following biographical information. The 1789 map of the Cole mansion next door, gives Mrs Bumpstead as a neighbour. The All Saints parish ratebook for May 1793 lists Mrs Bumpstead as occupier, rated 18. In Holy Trinity church is a memorial to Mrs Ann Bumpstead, widow, who died 23 September 1793. She may be related to Thomas Bumpstead, a surgeon from Boxford, Suffolk who had two daughters, one called Ann.

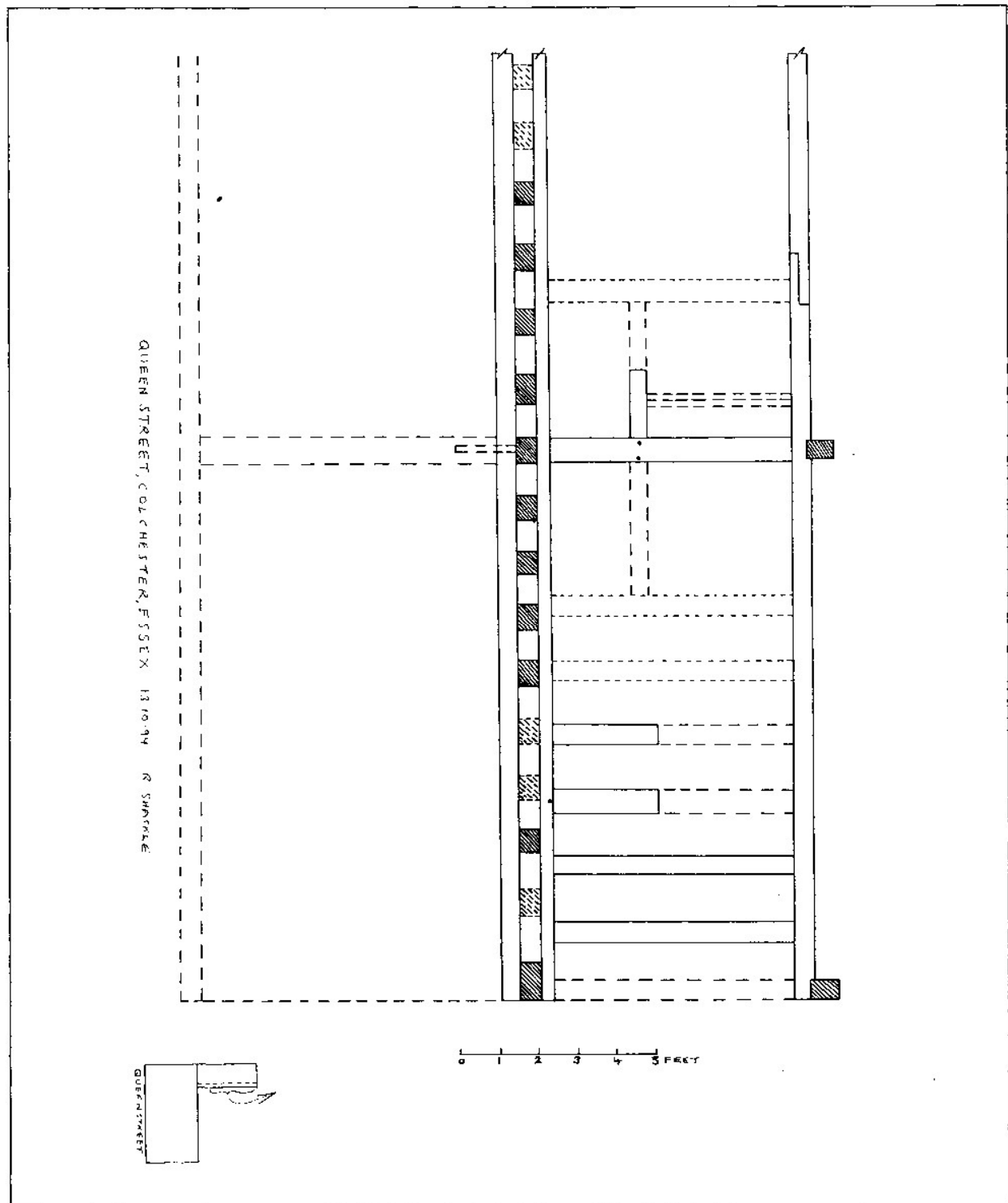
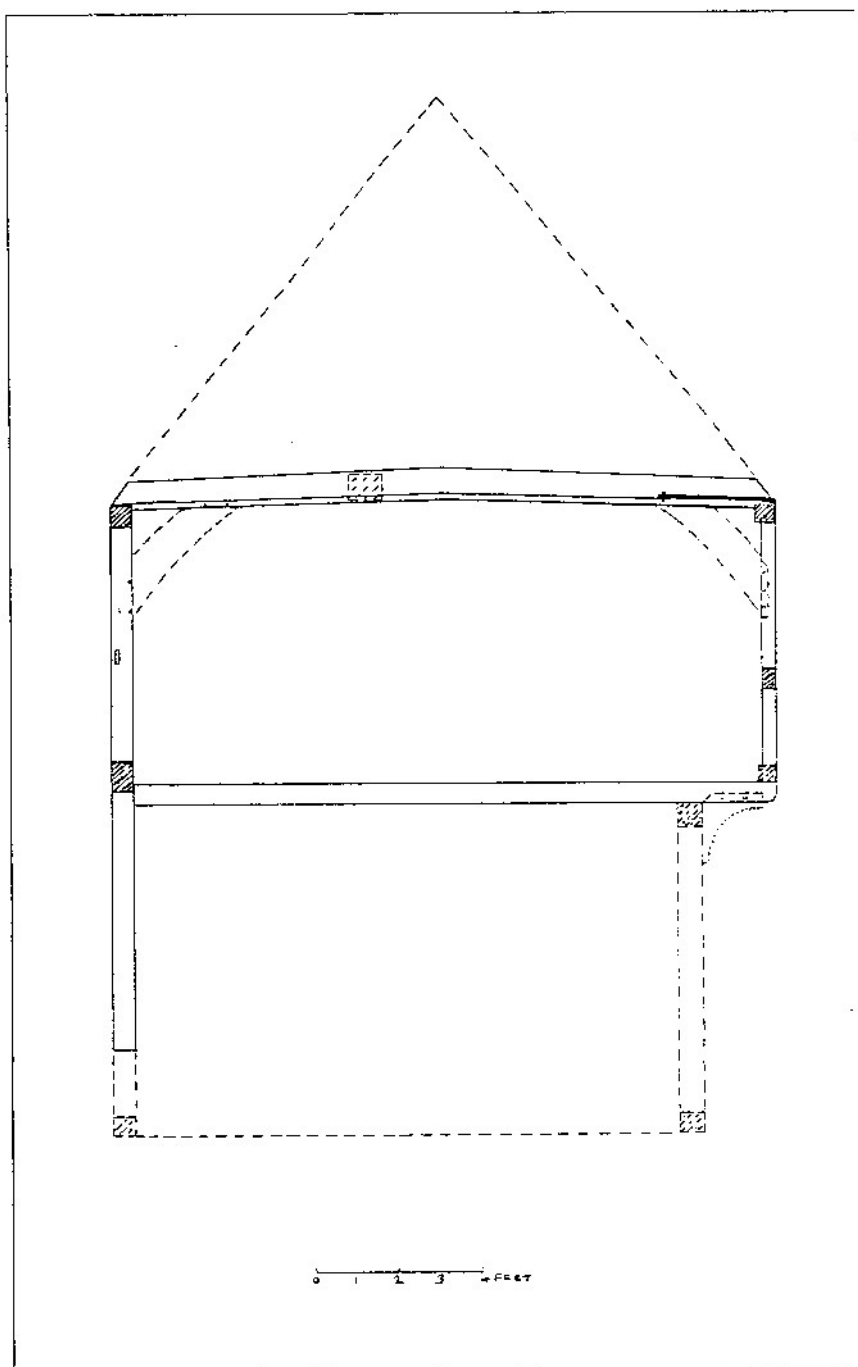


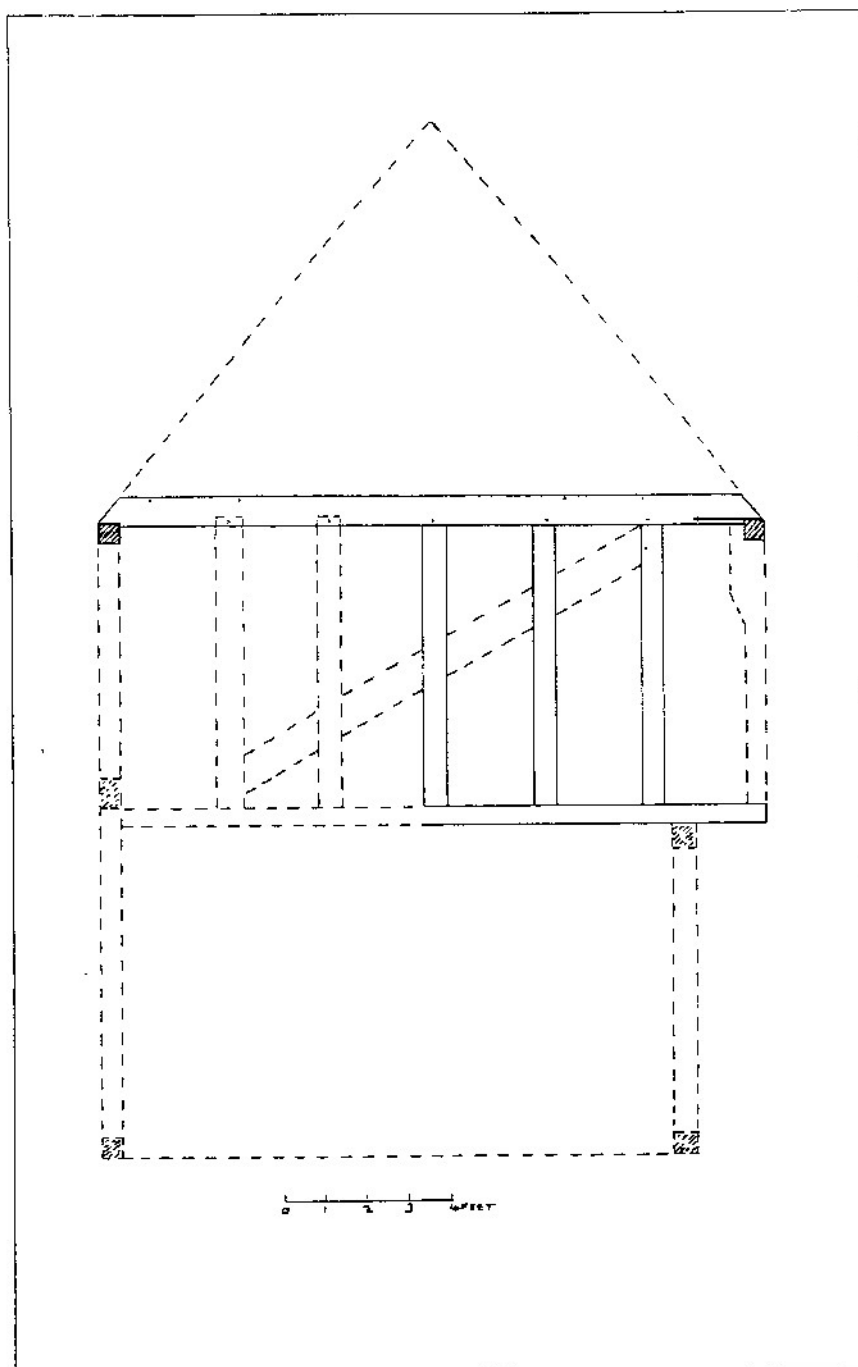
Figure 5. Rear extension, jettied elevation facing yard

### Later Alterations

Later alterations include a brick cellar. In the 1930's, Crittal windows were put in the rear elevation facing the yard. After the war the ground floor Georgian windows facing the street were replaced by a huge plate glass windows. In recent years the building has been used by a bank and a building society.



*Figure 6. Rear extension, central truss*



*Figure 7. Rear extension, end wall (from inside)*

## CONCLUSION

This complex gives us a glimpse of what Queen Street may have been like in the sixteenth century. The Georgian front probably representing a Georgian merchant modernising and improving his town house, giving him larger ceiling heights and more room. I should like to thank the consulting engineer for his help.



## Some Pargetting in Colchester

*by Richard Shackle*

In November 1995 the staff of the Castle Museum were doing some work on the Lucas vault when they discovered a large hole under the floor. This hole was about ten foot square and ten feet deep. It had straight masonry sides and no sign of any staircase. The museum current theory is that this may have been the castle's oubliette built by the Normans.

Inside the hole was stacked a heap of moulded plasterwork on laths. There were three plaster artefacts present.

- 1) An oval plaque with the date 1702 on it.
- 2) A plaster ceiling about eight foot square cut up into pieces two foot square.
- 3) Fragments of pargetting with a floral pattern.

There was also a small wooden door with the words Mr Rogers Cistern Yard North Hill written on it. 1) The plaster Plaque dated 1702 (COLEM: 219.1933)

This is mentioned in the Report of the Museum and muniment committee for the two years ending 31 March 1935. It says under the heading Architectural Remains: "Plaster plaque, bearing date 1702, taken from a house in Cistern Yard, North Hill, demolished in 1932 given by Mr E Rogers." This is obviously what the writing on the small door is referring to. The museum has a photograph showing this plaque in situ in the house in Cistern Yard (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Photograph of Cistern Yard Colchester 1932 showing plaque of 1702  
(Photograph from the Laver Collection)

### 2) The plaster ceiling (COLEM: 431.1930).

This had been cut up into several pieces and carefully stacked, but some of the lower layers had rotted away to dust since the 1930's. There was enough left to make a reconstruction of the ceiling. Figure 2 shows the fragments found. Figure 3 shows my reconstruction of what the ceiling might have looked like. The moulding projects about two inches from the surface of the plaster. Stylised floral motifs (fig 4) and tudor rose bosses are joined together by ribs. It is difficult to date the ceiling, it could date anywhere from 1500 to 1800 AD but probably dates from about 1600 AD. It could have come from a ceiling

eight foot square or perhaps more likely from a ceiling divided into four by two large ceiling beams. In which case it could have come from a ceiling seventeen foot square. This ceiling is probably the one referred to in the Castle Museum's Annual Report 1930-31. On page 49 it says "plaster ceiling and wall ornaments from 10 Maidenburgh Street, c1600, divided into panels intersecting ribs with foliated bosses and terminals".

The closest parallel I have found to this ceiling is at St Michael's Manor in St Albans which incorporates a plaque dated 1586 (Puloy, M. 1982).

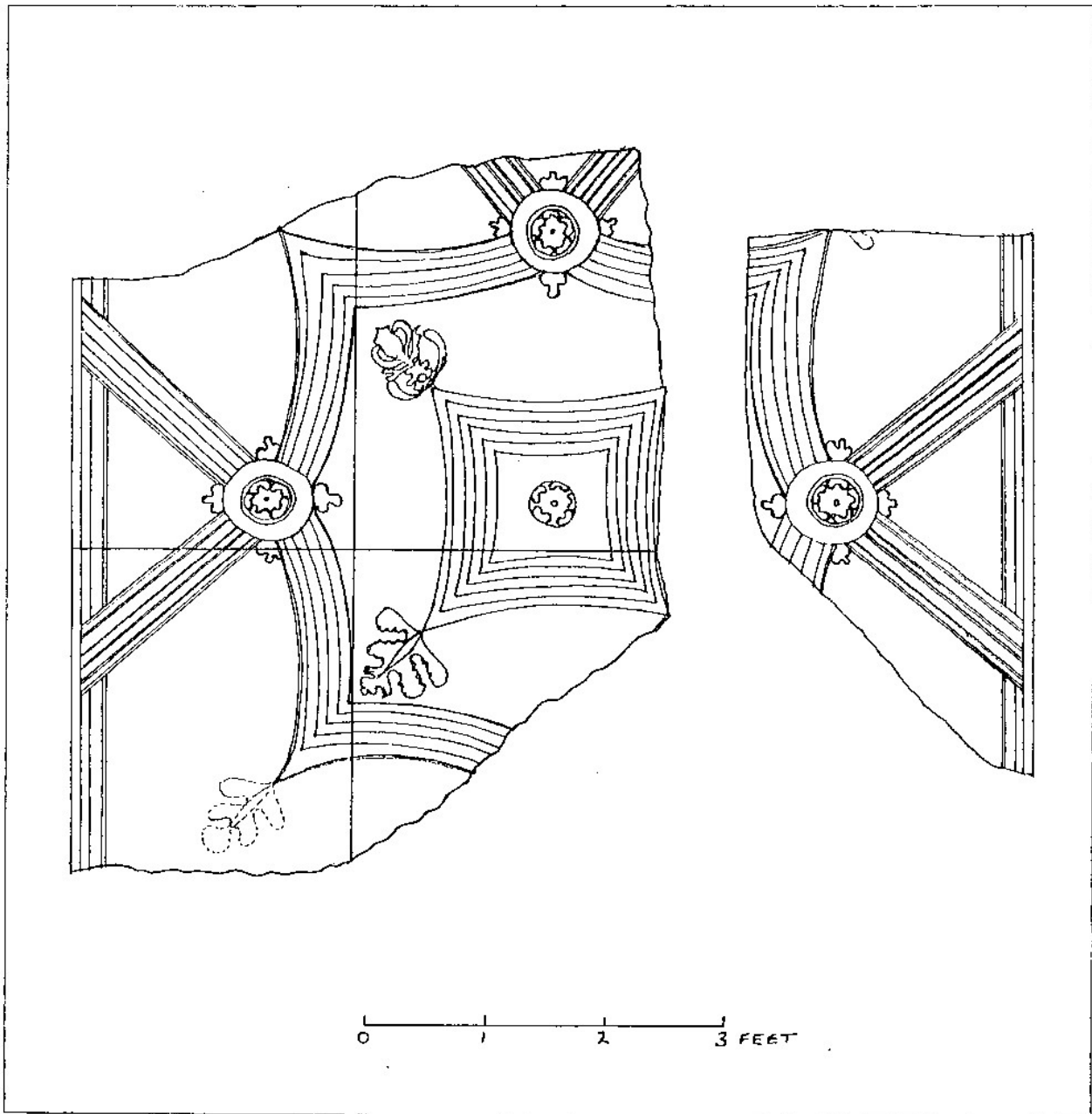


Figure 2. Fragments of a plaster ceiling

### 3) Fragments of pargetting (COLEM: 757.1930).

There are several fragments of strapwork (Figures 5 and 6), including one piece which may be the letter "C". This could be the item referred to in the Museum Annual Report 1930-31, p50, "38-39 High Street, in projecting back wing, pargetting c1650 AD, floral scrolls and initials R C D". This discovery is mentioned in The Essex County Standard of 29 November 1930 in an article on the demolition of 38-39 High Street. It says the pargetting was on the east face of the crosswing and that an endeavour was made to remove the pargetting intact but this proved impracticable, however it was hoped that portions would be preserved in The Colchester and East Essex Museum. There was also a photograph of the pargetting but it was too dark for any detail to be made out.

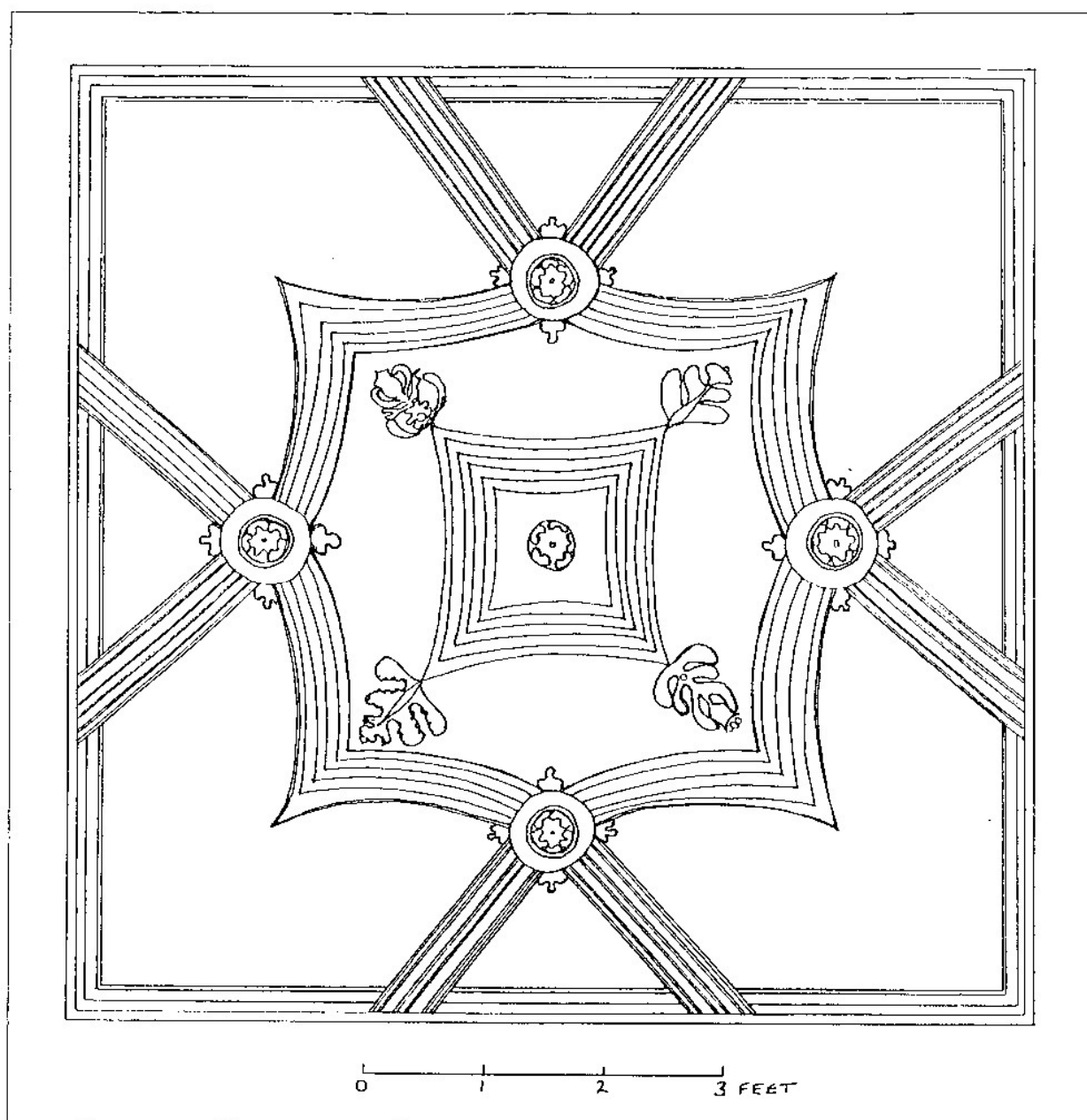
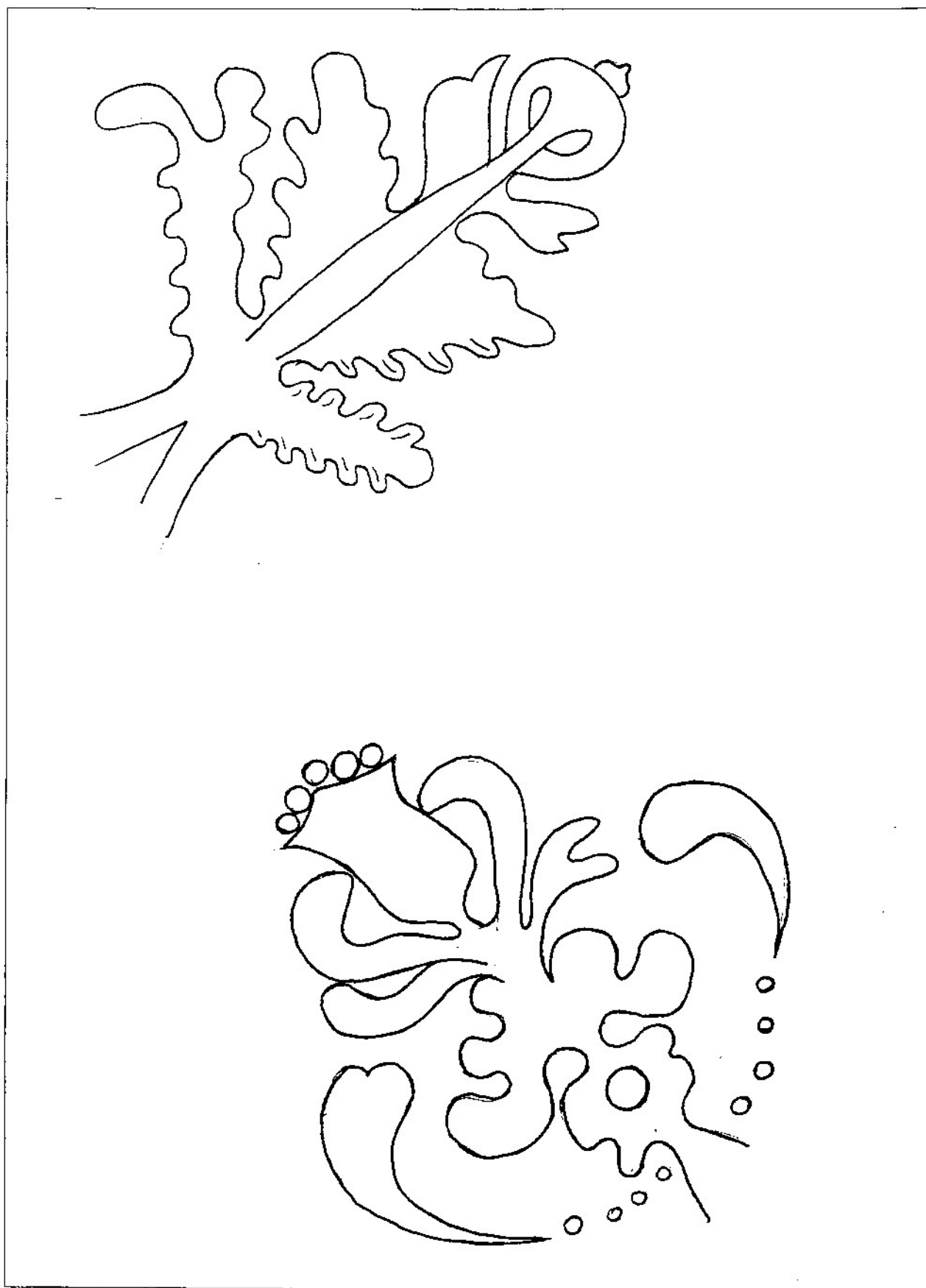


Figure 3. Reconstruction of a plaster ceiling

## REFERENCES

- Puloy, M                      *Decorative plasterwork in Hertfordshire*, Hertfordshire Archaeology, **8**, 1980-82, p 144-199.
- ...                              Essex County Standard, 29 November 1930.



*Figure 4. Floral motifs from plaster ceiling*

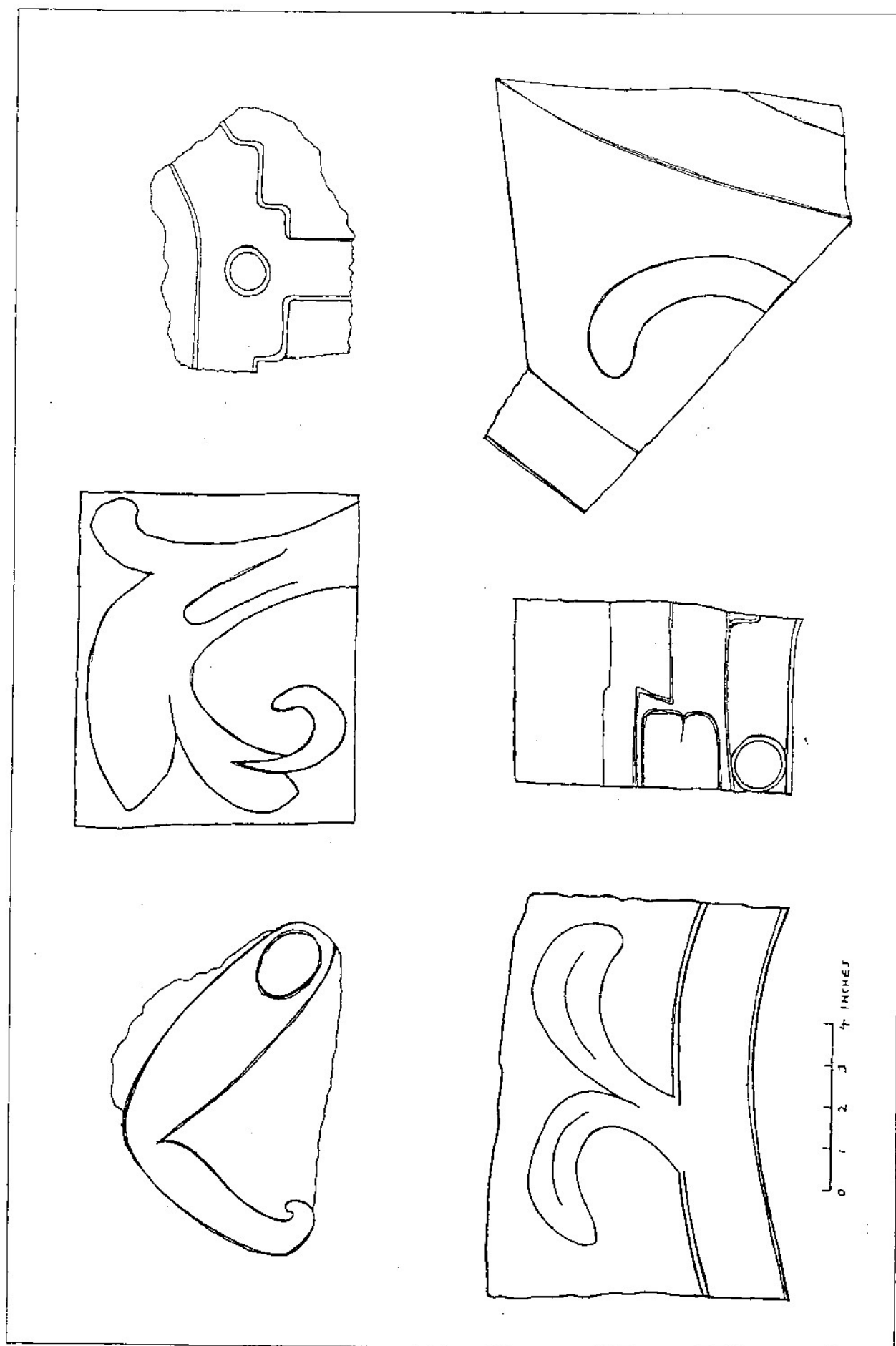


Figure 5. Fragments of strapwork (A)

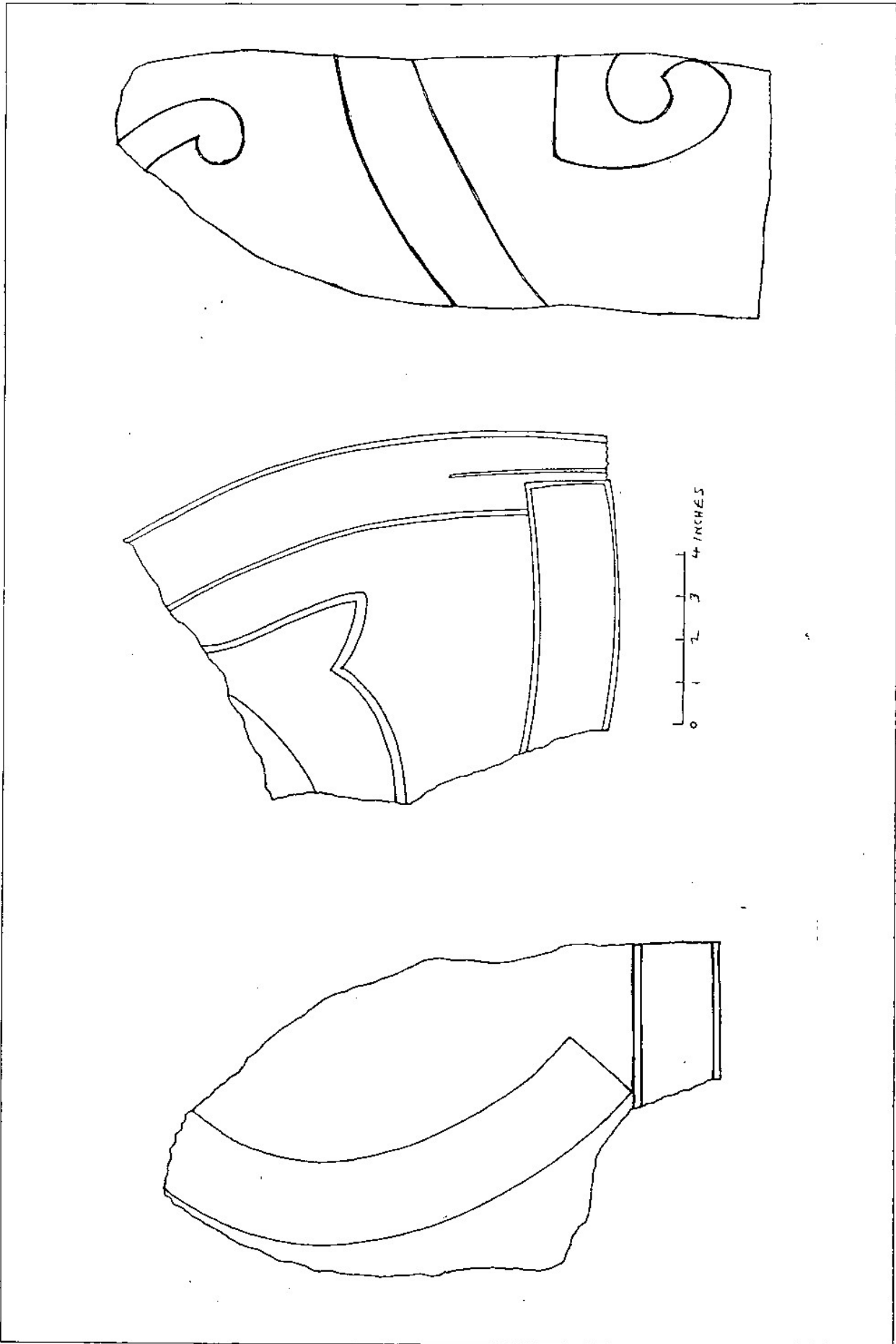


Figure 6. Fragments of strapwork (B)

## SHORT NOTES

### Seal Matrix from St Mary Magdalen Colchester

During the demolition of St Mary Magdalen in April 1995 Mr Norman Bone found a bronze seal matrix. It is 23mm high and 14mm across. The design appears to be of the letter B. There being two letter Bs back to back. It is probably medieval in date. The drawing (fig 1, right) is by Richard Shackle.

### Pilgrim's badge from Colchester

A lead pilgrims badge was found in February 1995 by Mr Norman Bone in the river Colne at the Hythe Colchester.

It was found in river deposits disturbed by the constructing of piers of the new road bridge for the Hythe bypass. It is 32mm high and 18mm wide. On the back you can see the remains of a catch for attaching it to a hat or clothing. Pilgrims badges were often thrown into rivers after a safe return from a pilgrimage; many have been found in the Thames. Depositing badges in rivers may be a custom left over from the pagan idea of making offerings to the river gods. This badge is probably from the shrine of Saint Thomas a Becket at Canterbury. There are many different patterns of badges for Thomas a Becket; and his are the most commonly found pilgrim badges. The drawing (fig 2, below) is by Richard Shackle.

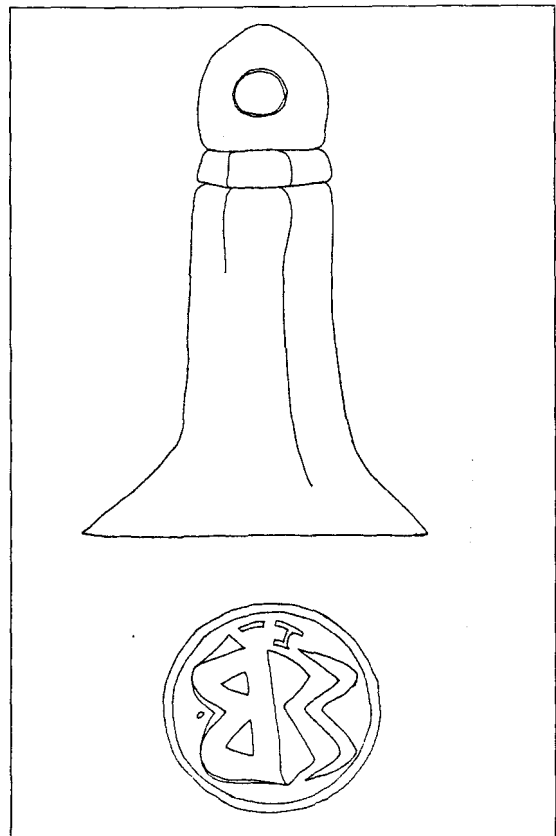


Figure 1. Seal matrix from St Mary Magdalen Colchester

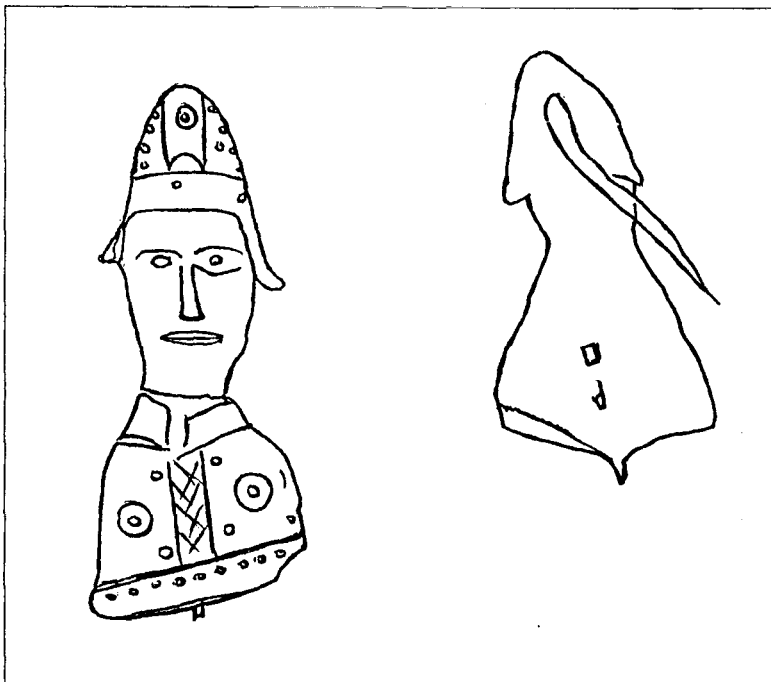


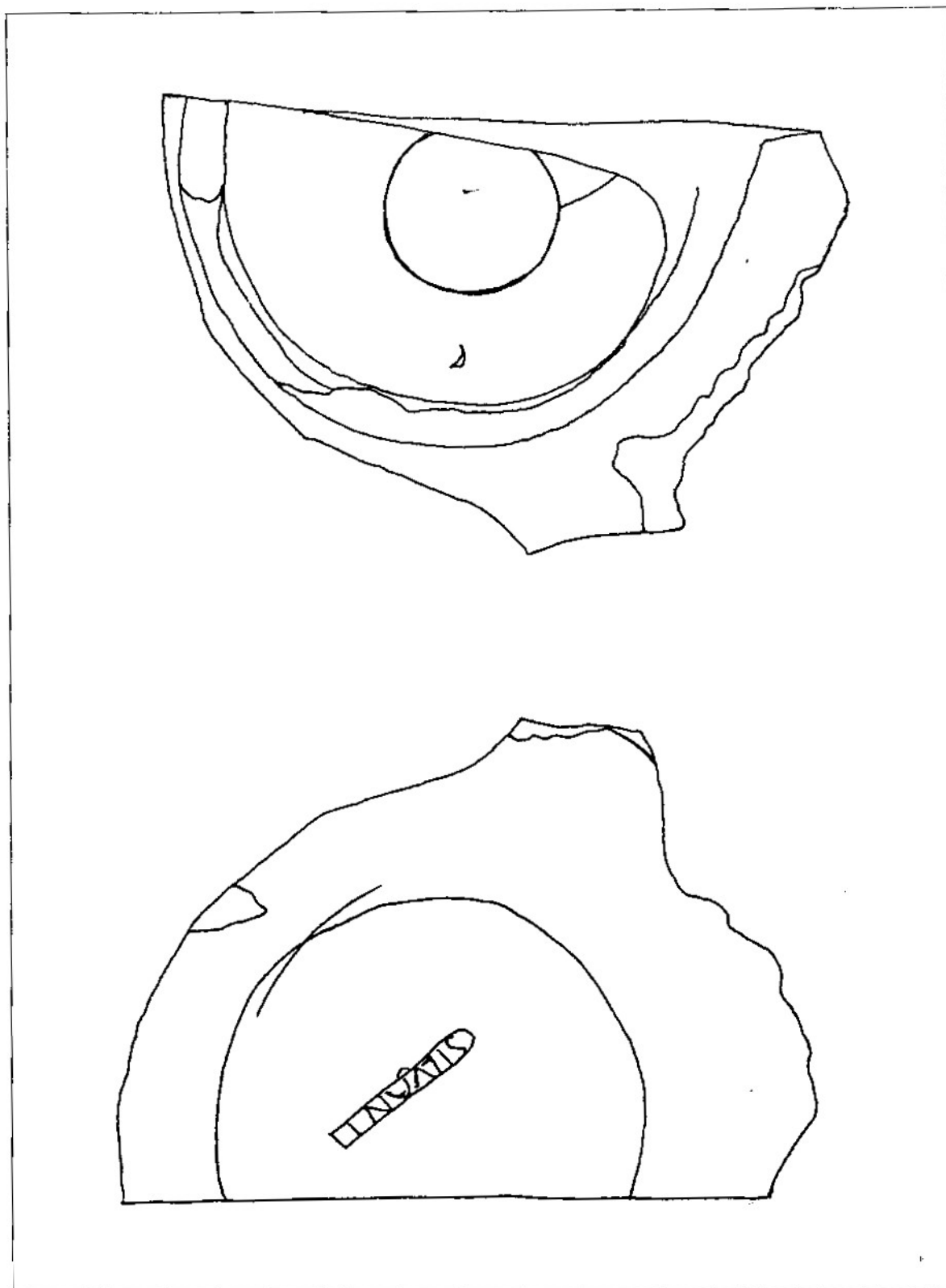
Figure 2. Pilgrim's badge from River Colne at Colchester

### Saurian platter with graffiti

A saurian platter with a potters stamp on its base and a graffiti of the letter Q on the underside of the base. The letter Q was put on after firing and is probably an owners mark. The platter was found in Colchester by Mr Norman Bone. (fig 3)

### Roman intaglio from Colchester

A small Roman intaglio was found by Mr Norman Bone near St Mary's Hospital in Colchester. It is made of red cornelian or agate. It is 6.5mm high x 5mm wide x 2mm thick. There is a small chip in the front but it has not damaged the design. Its small size means it came from a finger ring. The design is difficult to interpret but probably represents a seahorse. The drawing (fig 4) is by Richard Shackle.



*Figure 3. Samian platter with graffiti from Colchester*



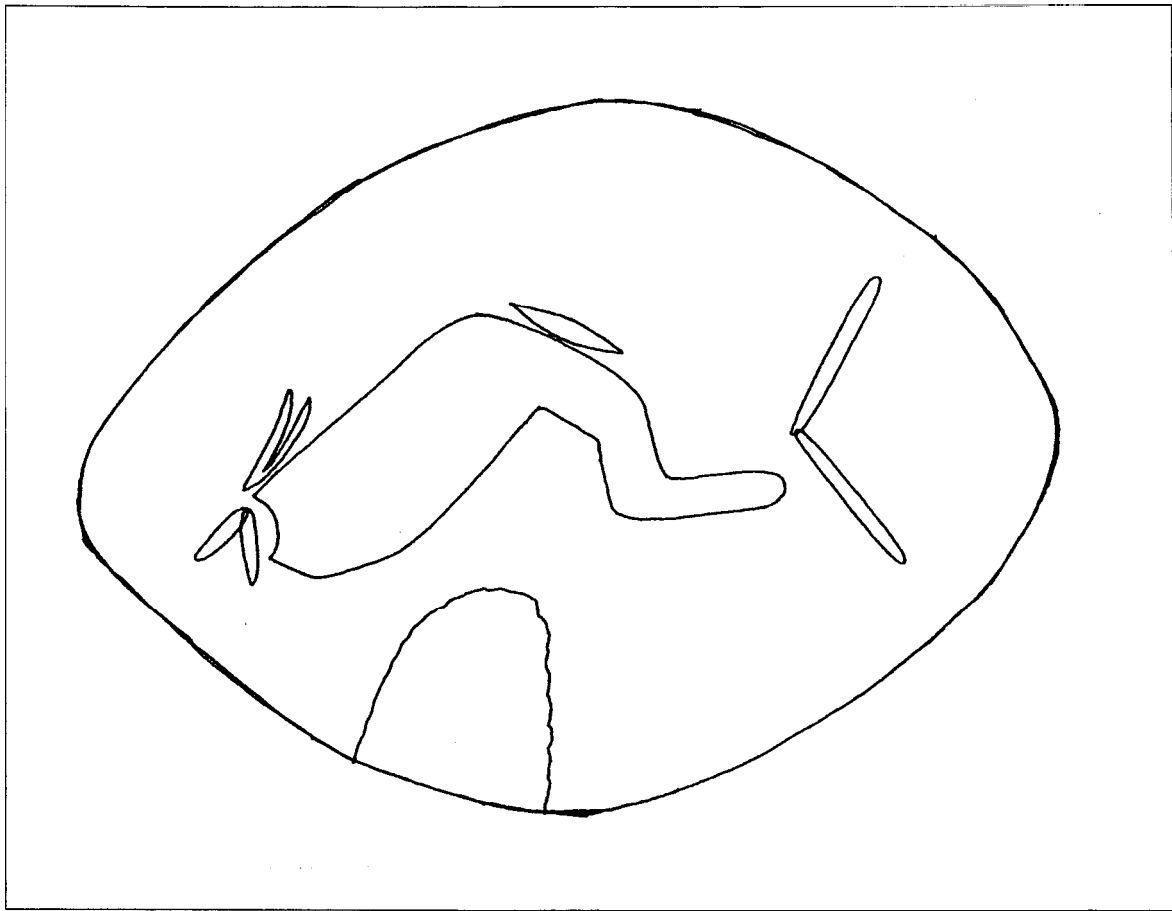


Figure 4. Roman intaglio from St Mary's Hospital, Colchester

## Obituary

### Tony Doncaster

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1995 the Group lost, with the death of Tony Doncaster in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year, one of its original founder members. Tony was a constant supporter of the Group's activities in many kind and personal ways, as well as having served as a Committee member and in higher office. It was entirely appropriate that, during the second year of his triennium as chairman (1985-1988), the Group celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its formation - a fairly short evolutionary process which, he would recount in his own engaging style, had owed a certain stimulus to differing viewpoints on the Suez crisis of 1956.

Tony was well known, not only in Colchester, Essex and throughout the eastern counties, but much further afield to bibliophiles with an interest in antiquarian books, for which his Castle Bookshop was synonymously renowned. No visiting archaeologist to the Castle Museum could return to North Station at the end of the day without having stepped aside on North Hill to search for, and usually obtain, some long hoped for volume. Local history was also a particular speciality, and as a respected member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association, Tony became President of its Eastern Branch. But not all the books and printed matter that he obtained (usually as purchased collections) were destined to pass automatically across the counter. Being an ardent supporter of Essex archaeology and history, Tony made sure that items of special importance found their way to the appropriate public collections or individuals. He was a long-serving committee member of the friends of Colchester Museums and had also been a member of the Friends of Historic Essex.

For many years he enjoyed participating, as the Group's representative, in meetings held in different parts of the county by the Essex Archaeological Congress; and in turn he represented that body on the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Latterly he had been cataloguing the significant library reserves of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History - or the EAS, as it ever was to him. Across the county boundary, he attended outings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and with his wife, Mary, annually visited the King's Lynn Festival in her native Norfolk.

Anthony Barber Doncaster (born 22nd December 1913) hailed from Sheffield, the eldest of four children of a cutler; he was educated at Bedales and at Bembridge School on the Isle of Wight, then worked in publishing in London, first with the Hogarth Press and in due course at Centaur Press in Camden Street. It was here that he met Mary, who brought in work for the Mayor Gallery. They married in 1943.

Although from a Quaker background, Tony had determinedly joined the RNVR at the outbreak of war, and was sunk in the Mediterranean while serving on the lower deck of a destroyer. Later, on his way to India, he thought to visit the farmer in Malta who had housed him during his recovery from such a grim ordeal, bringing along (in inimitable fashion) the special present of a scythe. It had occurred to him that nobody on George Cross Island would possess such an implement or had seen such a thing! During the Normandy invasion he commanded a tank landing craft with able seamanship: his bright and breezy, unflappable, all-weather demeanour was maintained throughout life. This, even after major surgery in 1990 and the tragic loss of an only son, Daniel, borne with such fortitude by both parents, reflects a rare inner strength of character and gentleness which he and Mary shared.

After the war a career in bookselling was decided upon, which he learnt first at Foyles and then in Hampstead. In 1948 the Doncasters moved to Colchester, where the Castle Bookshop was opened first in George Street. For some 20 years it occupied premises in Museum Street before moving, in 1960, to its present location on the lower west side of North Hill. When No 37 had to undergo extensive renovations in the mid-1980's, Tony oversaw the work with characteristic zeal and interest. Close examination showed this timber framed building to have been the surviving service bay of a large medieval house in whose south wall a fine moulded window-frame was discovered at the upper level. In the gable end above, although now hidden again by the north wall of No 38, is pargetting with figures, symbols and the date of 1666, which probably represents the earliest example of pargetting extant in Essex. Tony concealed his obvious delight in this, not least in being able to enlarge on the Royal Commission's passing reference of 1921, by contributing a modest note in the Group's Annual Bulletin, Volume 29 (1987).

Whether in the company of perfect strangers or of his friends, Tony was always himself. No conversation, however short (and they never were very short!), could be allowed to pass without his recalling a number of amusing anecdotes. They were drawn from that endless store of incidents that he amassed about all sorts of people, whose names he invariably remembered. Each tale was told with a subtle significance that no-one else had thought of, about a seemingly unusual occurrence, or in relation to some humorous event that had befallen its subject unexpectedly, and often with reference to a likeness drawn from a book or some curiosity of life that he had come across. Many of Tony's anecdotes might have seemed slightly scurrilous, if recounted by a less skilful raconteur or by someone not so sympathetic to the foibles of human nature. But invariably no offence was intended, no censure implied, unless some patent arrogance or humbug, which he could not abide, were seen to have met its just deserts.

Tony was greatly respected for his honest and ever-cheerful individuality, and many have cause to be grateful for his considerate acts of personal kindness. He will be greatly missed both for himself and as a notable member of the Group, but the memories will remain fresh and will continue to bring a smile to the faces of those who knew him. Our condolences go especially to his widow, Mary, and to Susan, their daughter.

*Mark Davies*

## WINTER LECTURES 1993-94

### Round Towers

18 October 1993, *Mr W J Goode, President of the Round Tower Churches Society*

Mr Goode began by giving a quotation from a 19<sup>th</sup> century writer on East Anglian churches that "Our ancestors lived in hovels but worshipped in palaces - now the reverse is the case" (or words to that effect). This attitude was very noticeable in the lack of interest in the approximately 200 churches in East Anglia with Round Towers, but gradually they were studied by Samuel Woodward (1829), John Gage (1829), Charles Cox, Munro Cautley and Pevsner.

H M and Joan Taylor laid down strict guide criteria to determine which early churches were Saxon, while Charles Cox's *Country Churches - Norfolk* gives a good catalogue of them. There is no doubt that the absence of good building stone in East Anglia caused the proliferation of round towers, to be built mainly of flint.

The speaker had visited, climbed and measured all these towers, where it was safe to do so. Nearly all are in small communities and many in bad condition. He set about forming a society of "Friends" of these buildings, which has succeeded in raising interest in them and causing many to be repaired.

Many of the churches attached to these towers are of Norman style, the original naves and chancels having been replaced, but the building resources of the country after 1066 were occupied in projects desired by the conquerors – i.e. castles, fortified houses, etc. and the church building had to wait for some time, and even today some Saxon naves survive. The roofing was of thatch (and still is, in some cases).

A large number of slides illustrated the speaker's remarks on many of the towers. His 'favourite' example is Hales on the Suffolk-Norfolk border, close to Heckingham. Hales has many interesting features, e.g. it can be seen how the round double-splay windows were constructed round conical baskets, probably the only example extant. Both churches have a Saxon apsidal chancel and are thatched. They have splendid Norman doorways.

A curiosity was provided by a cliff-fall at Pakefield, Suffolk which left standing on the beach a brick-lined well which closely resembled a round tower.

There are six round towers in Essex - Bardfield Saling (the oldest), Broomfield, Lamarsh, Great Leighs, Ockendon and Pentlow. Cambridgeshire has two - Bartlow and Snailwell.

Mr W J Goode's booklet gives an introduction to the subject and a fuller account will be found in his book on the subject, to be re-published shortly.

A late-comer to the list of East Anglian round towers was Higham (near Bury St Edmunds), built by Gilbert Scott in 1861.

### Archaeological Prospecting in the 1990's

25 October 1993, *Tony Clark, specialist in archaeological dating and prospecting*

Modern scientific methods of investigating sites for archaeological reasons have rapidly improved of recent years, though such methods, much less effective, began nearly half a century ago. Now, not only early resistivity methods but also more sophisticated Magnetometer and Magnetic Susceptibility investigations are employed.

Generally, dry summer weather is best for resistivity tests and those based on magnetometers and give high results on kiln sites or hearths because magnetite was formed there.

The speaker showed slides of magnetometer apparatus in use on a Roman site in Wiltshire. Alternating current (AC) is used. Systems can be used with all the gear conveniently on a table - the only drawback is that it is heavy to move. Geo-Scan Research of Bradford produce various up to date magnetometer outfits.

Results can be fed into a computer. The resulting map is often not very easy to read as the dot density diagram is coarse. However irrelevant dots can be "filtered out" so bringing the significant features into view. In this way the various stages of a Roman house became evident.

As the heat of a kiln dies down the magnetic field changes direction in accordance with the direction of the magnetic poles at that time. Delicate instruments can then show how the poles were situated and the angle between them and their present situation helps to date the kiln. This principle was used at the Gilbert School kiln.

Magnetic Susceptibility meters and Magnetic Conductivity meters are useful for finding surface occupational features, as in the areas round Stonehenge, where the site of the proposed Visitors Centre must avoid doing any archaeological damage. At Maiden Castle a vast number of refuse pits have been located, but with few on the Neolithic ridge - perhaps because it was used as a roadway or respected by later Iron Age inhabitants.

Briefly the speaker spoke of the last developments such as Radar (works quite well on dry urban sites), Ultra-Sound and Thermal sensing. The last being a very slow process.

This is only a brief account of Mr Clark's address which gave a fascinating account of the application of modern science to learning about the ancient world.

### **Danebury and the Museum of the Iron Age**

1 November 1993, *David Allen, Keeper of Archaeology, Hampshire County Council Museums Service*

Previous Hill Fort excavations in the county had been at Beacon Hill (Lord Caernarvon), Hawkes at St Catherine's Hill, Wainwright (at Andover and Basingstoke). In the 1960s the practice developed of clearing the topsoil by machinery to expose the chalk surface of a great area, but the Barry Cunliffe dig at Danebury involved digging rectangular areas of comparatively small size at the 13 acre fort. The excavation was necessary because the tall beech trees were aged and as they fell their roots broke up the site below.

Originally planned for 10 years, the dig continued for twenty years and even then only half had been dug. Work began by sectioning the rampart, showing an original work of c550 BC, when the bank was timber revetted. Later the bank was raised, the revetting abandoned to leave a steep glacis, and one of the two entrances was closed.

The remaining gateway showed nine major phases and a total of 27 phases. The effect was an angle in the entrance - a danger for attackers.

The gates had been burnt down on three occasions. c20 BC there had been much tribal warfare and a vast number of sling stones had been found in heaps. Late in the sequence was a charred site just inside the gate, containing remains of men killed in battle.

Quarry ditches inside the rampart resulting from bank raising work were used as sites for round houses continuously. As the house decayed a fresh one was built just off the exact site of the predecessor.

Four, six or nine- poster sites were found along the main roadway, and later ones along the feeder trackways - suggesting a development into early streets. Some buildings seem to have had raised floors for grain storage. Many bottle shaped storage pits for seed corn were found. They would have been sealed with clay, but had comparatively short lives as the shape deteriorated with use. Then they became refuse pits - there are vast numbers of these.

A round shaped site which appears to have been a religious centre was found, also pits with skeletons of people or animals were found, but these only accounted for a few of the human deaths. Probably the corpses were usually exposed to the elements as the bones are found on casual sites.

The site was not a rich one, but 2,500 boxes of pottery, metal oddments, bone combs etc - and a few glass beads were found. The only coins were two forgeries of contemporary ones.

The number of grain stores showed that grain was stored from sources beyond the fort and aerial photos show a vast number of celtic strips in the surrounding district. It appears that the hill fort was a late feature in the early landscapes. A population of c300 is estimated. With the advent of Rome the site was abandoned and not re-occupied in Saxon times as some hill forts were.

A splendid Iron Age museum at Andover gives an idea of what Iron Age life at Danebury was like and displays some of the finds.

Barry Cunliffe has more recently conducted excavations at Bury Hill and Woolbury in Hampshire - other Iron Age forts.

### **Submerged Wooden Structures, Collins Creek, River Blackwater**

8 November 1993, *Ron Hall, a Maldon shipwright and waterman*

Mr Hall, to work on the hull of his ship, grounded her on a beach bank up the Blackwater, near Goldhanger. His attention was attracted by structures of long standing rows of timbers in the adjacent mud flats which led him to making researches into their use and origin.

These rows of posts were not all of one kind. Some appeared to be fish traps leading to V-shaped junctions with each other, but others, though V-shaped in layout would have been quite ineffective for that purpose.

The County Archaeologists took great interest in Mr Hall's observations and arranged for a survey to be made by the Highways Department. As the features were only visible at low tide this was not easy, and air photography could only show the general layout and no great detail. Accordingly, the Global Positioning System using USA Defence system of radio signals accurately timed from satellites was resorted to, by calling in aid from East London University Land Surveying Department.

Some of the posts were quite large and seem to have had shoring supports. They go at least a metre into the mud. It was thought they might be remains of coastal defences for former low lying estuarial islands but this interpretation was not supported by augering which showed the alluvial mud was at least 4 metres deep. This augering however was done on a restricted area and different results might have been obtained elsewhere.

The great majority of the posts were of oak and seem to be of Anglo-Saxon date in the case of the large ones. Some had been squared up before use, others still had bark on them.

The smaller posts appeared to be medieval. The remains of wattle panels are found and one row, at least, of posts seem to have been erected through panels. Altogether many hundreds of thousands of posts survive and pose many questions - where could they have come from? The adjacent shores are not "oak forest" country. The smaller posts are round and suggest an origin from coppicing, not a previously suspected activity in Saxon times. If only some of the systems were fish traps there would have been a very large 'take' of fish - what would have been done with them? Perhaps smoked and traded elsewhere?

Parallel lines of piles about 11 inches apart and 1½ miles long have been noticed at low water mark. Their purpose only one of many questions that are raised.

Finally, Mr Hall, on an entertaining note, showed slides of a seal which had leapt into his dinghy.

The meeting concluded by congratulating Mr Hall on receiving BP's British Archaeological Award for his enterprising and original work on these difficult muddy sites.

### **The Colchester Volume of the Victoria County History of Essex**

15 November 1993, *Dr Janet Cooper, Editor of the Victoria County History of Essex*

The 400 page *History of Colchester* (£70 - OUP) is to be published next year and will eventually be followed by a volume on the surrounding parishes. The project of a county history of all the English counties was first brought forward in 1897 - the Jubilee year - and one of its first proponents was J H Round. Originally each county would be covered by four volumes, except Yorkshire, which would have six. This provision proved to be vastly underestimated as the work proceeded.

Earlier county histories were "written by gentlemen for gentlemen" and largely covered the descent of the manors - e.g. Morant. Large towns did not fit easily into this scheme and it was some time before the first two "urban" volumes - on Oxford and Cambridge - appeared and they were largely concerned with the two Universities. The York volume was the next urban volume. This had a general narration followed by accounts of county institutions, etc. - a model used for the Essex volumes.

References in early documents, written or printed, such as Pipe Rolls, Domesday, terriers of parishes made for incoming incumbents, county and other archives, charters, maps and (later) town directories such as Kelly's provide information about the gentry and tradesmen in the borough. Legal records not only inform us about crimes but also about land holdings and show how much of the area in the walled part of the town was still agricultural up to the early 19th century - though the 419 houses recorded in Domesday even then included some outside the town wall. In 1310 AD Borough Court Rolls begin and in the 16th Century many more sources of information start to appear.

Chapman and Andre's map (1777) shows the town and outlying parishes, the later Tithe maps show all the fields numbered and the awards accompanying enclosures tell who received them. Surviving old drawings, (especially of the many demolished buildings) are very informative, though not very helpful in the case of the Castle, e.g. Speed's map shows a purported drawing of the castle which is obviously very inaccurate. However, Dr Cooper has carefully examined a number of early surviving drawings and concludes that the original appearance of the castle was rather squat and never had more than two storeys. In any case, it covers such a large area that no more storeys would have been needed.

The speaker concluded by telling how the "King Coel and his daughter St Helena" legend began. There were apparently more than one saints of that name - one in Welsh legend. It is just possible she might have been the source of the tale. There appears to have been two St Helena's chapels in the town, and it is just possible that the remains just in front of the castle may be the site of the missing one. In any case the myth seems to have been fully developed by the 14<sup>th</sup> century, though the town never exploited it to make it a pilgrimage centre and, of course, the Reformation finished it off, though the well in the High Street still, in 1662, was surmounted by an alleged bust of King Coel - with coats of arms!

### **Dark Age Coinage in the Light of Recent Finds**

22 November 1993, *Mr Michael Bonser, Former President of the Cambridgeshire Numismatic Society.*

For the purpose of this lecture Mr Bonser took the Dark Ages to be the period from the end of the Roman one to Henry II, when coinage really 'took off' again in Britain. The written history of this period is very scanty and can be supplemented by the study of Saxon coins, especially if their find spots are recorded. The names of previous unknown kings have been established from coins found.

The use for casual coin finds is very limited, but in recent years a large number have been found with metal detectors and their find spots recorded.

No coins were minted in Britain for two hundred years after the Roman period but coins from the continent, mainly Merovingian are found, generally gold ones, and often turned into pendants for personal adornment. For use in trade, sometimes cut into halves or quarters. A fake coin made of lead with a gold cover has been found.

Few early Saxon gold coins have been found but a considerable number of silver *sceattas*. The earlier ones were made of silver but gradually the currency was more and more debased.

By far the most productive sites are rural ones which rarely have any signs of structures. The speaker has little doubt that these were the sites of fairs, of which there were a great number, some lasting a long time each year. Few are found on village sites, where the economy did not demand the use of coins. The coins often show designs of Merovingian and Roman origin and a standing figure holding a cross and a falcon. Few Merovingian ones are found at this period in spite of their being about 1,000 mints in the Merovingian empire. Probably such coins as came here in the course of trade were melted down and recycled into Saxon coins.

One remarkable coin has been found with a King's head on one side and his Queen's on the other. Another oddity is a coin with  $\frac{1}{3}$  clipped off (the missing  $\frac{1}{3}$  being recovered a year later by being recognised from a photo in a coin publication).

Generally, Saxon fairs seem to have been abandoned in the face of increasing Viking raids as they were such easy prey. Trading now seemed to be concentrated in towns - often walled - and better defended. Most of the fairs began in the very early 8th century. Coddanham was exceptionally early, dating from the 7th century. A late development was the minting of half pennies.

English coinage was controlled from the eighth - fourteenth century by kings, and although there were very many mints their products retained confidence because of their good quality up to the 14th century.

One mint not far from Colchester was at Sudbury. It had a short life, probably because it was one of the many mints which had to make coins in Ethelred's time to pay Danegeld. English coins of the period are very rare in this country but relatively common in Scandinavian collections in museums there.

The Vikings were slave dealers in a large way and the speaker concluded by showing how the distribution of West European and other coins reflects this trade right across the Continent.

### **Recent Discoveries at Hoxne**

29 November 1993, *Judith Plouviez, Archaeology Section, Suffolk County Council*

Recently Eric Laws discovered an extraordinary treasure at Hoxne, (not very far from Scole where a Roman settlement is being excavated). In a small hole he found Roman coins, spoons, a 'body chain' with fasteners, etc. In the none too distant past a scatter of coins has been found in the top soil. He reported his discovery and the Suffolk Archaeology Unit mounted an excavation, which had to work swiftly as the site soon became an attraction to thieves.

It was found that Mr Laws' find was part of a valuable gold and silver hoard which had been carefully packed in a box and buried in the ground. It dated from the late Roman occupation of Britain.

The speaker showed slides of the articles unearthed. These covered 14,600 silver coins and 19 gold bracelets, two sets of 5 long handled silver spoons (altogether 100 spoons), 'toothpicks' (perhaps for eating snails and shellfish), silver-gilt pepper pots, etc. The treasure has been sent to the British Museum for conservation, and the BM would like the articles to be kept together as an entity.

Perhaps the bracelets are the articles of most interest. They are of very rare 'open work' ornamented with hunting scenes. Some have worked in them the owner's name, i.e. "Donna Juliana". It is noticeable that Villa Juliana is the Roman name for the Scole site, but too much can be inferred from this as Juliana is a fairly common Roman name.

In contrast with other districts in East Anglia the Roman sites mapped about Hoxne are very few. This is probably due to lack of investigation and it is very desirable that search should be carried out to see if other Roman sites are to be found. It is just possible that they would throw light on the rich Hoxne discovery.

The speaker said that this hoard impels comparison with a hoard found at Thetford, though the Hoxne one has no inscriptions of a religious nature while the Thetford articles bore dedications to Faunus.

The BM hopes that enough money can be found to keep the Hoxne hoard intact in the main as so many earlier ones have been dispersed.

Possibly the treasure reflects the existence of a prosperous Villa site in the vicinity which later became the centre for a bishopric and so account for the association thereabouts with religious ideas in mediaeval times - further research is needed to see if this speculation has any support.

### **Recent Excavations in Sparta**

6 December 1993, *Prof. John Wilkes - Institute of Archaeology, University of London.*

In the 5th century BC Sparta was a greater city than Athens. Its situation on the genial Eurotas plain and a strong military caste made it the leading military state in Greece and as the chief element in the victory of the Greeks over the Persians at Plataea their confidence in themselves was further established. Later, in the Peloponnesian War their victory over Athens confirmed this hegemony which lasted until 371 BC when Sparta was crushingly defeated by Thebes.

In Roman times Sparta (at Actium) backed the winning side and the city continued - now as a place venerated by the Romans on account of its record of heroes and a place to be visited by travellers. A practice followed by British tourists in the 18th and 19th centuries. As a market town, the modern city dates from the 1840s but the heart of the ancient city with its remains of Greek and Roman buildings was largely undisturbed. Early in the present century excavations began by foreign archaeologists in various allotted areas and the British began work on the Acropolis hill, but attention was soon diverted by chance finds of many votive lead figures dedicated to Artemis in a former bank of the River Eurotes. However the layout of the city could be best established by finding the site of the Agora as that was the centre point of the city in Pansconia's 'Guide' and present research has concentrated on finding this. The Stoa with massive Roman brickwork up to 8 metres high and 24 rooms 5 metres square - at one time covered with marble, were exposed. (In 970 AD a monastery was established on part of the site).

Wall painting fragments seem to be of church origin, and bones had been re-interred in apses of the stoa rooms. Among the small finds were two Nine Men's Morris carved in stone.

The "Round Building", - a natural mound in the heart of the city has been adapted - possibly to be the shrine of a hero - it was surrounded by great stones. This was in the area for American excavation.

At the north end of the stoa a considerable part, including the stage buildings, has been excavated and the Greek government is keen to see further work and restoration to be carried on here so that it can again be used.

The 'urban anatomy' of Sparta is mainly of the Roman period as Classical Sparta was more like a collection of villages than like a Greek city. They built no city wall as no other city state would dare attack them but later ages built very lengthy walls.

A huge amount of mediaeval building remains to be excavated - much under the modern town. At present this is only known from trenches for pipe laying, etc. No good map is available to make sure deductions of what such chance discoveries imply.

### **Medieval Gardens**

24 January 1994, Mr Christopher Thacker, writer and garden historian

The rectangular shape of medieval gardens continued a tradition going back to ancient Egypt. In Roman times colonnaded and such gardens are depicted at Pompeii and good examples have been excavated in Portugal and in Britain (Fishbourne) and elsewhere. Greek knowledge of Hydraulics was often used to provide jets of water - a craft lost in the Middle Ages, when cloistered gardens (with no outlooks) were common in ecclesiastical buildings, the Paradiso at Amalfi cathedral is still a good example. There are many others.

These enclosed gardens were normally divided into four square plots, later becoming raised beds. All the plants and trees were grown for useful purposes - as food or medicine. The St Gallen garden of c820 AD is well documented with a list of 23 shrubs, fruit trees, herbs, etc. which should be grown.

Garden tools were much the same as those used today. Wattle fences were used and trellis work. Adam is depicted at Canterbury digging with an iron-shod spade - anachronistically!

The newly discovered lands in the 15th century brought fresh plants to European gardens. The concept shown in a picture of the early 1400's of St Christopher carrying the Christ child with a globe naming three continents was a thing of the past.

Lawns - In 1260 Alberto Magnus wrote of how to make lawns by using turves and turf seats came into fashion, a practice which continued a long time, the last reference being in Moore's *Utopia* (1516). Lawns were frequently kept short by grazing and as there were no weed killers many references are found to "flowery meads" and "flowery lawns".

A picture of 1499 shows two people looking at classical remains. The rediscovery of classical authors accounts for a revival of topiary art, which is described in Pliny's *Natural History*.

Mazes were cut in the grass, regarded as 'pathways to heaven' and moving on one's knees round one was a penance until the Reformation (when Shakespeare in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* mentions the overgrown condition of them). Perhaps the Breamore Maze in Hampshire goes back to Saxon times, but remaining mazes are difficult to date.

Very many pictures of later Medieval gardens appear in illustrations to the *Roman de la Rose* of the 13th century, translated into English by Chaucer. Successive editions have garden scenes with more and more information of contemporary gardens. The same is true of other "Gardens of Love" manuscripts and books.

### **Serendipity in Local History**

1 February 1994, Dr John Blatchley - President of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

The speaker said it was not altogether luck that he had found several references to the subject of his talk, but also a matter of keeping a 'look out' in antiquarian bookshops and elsewhere - lately he had come across papers connected with Stukeley and others, re Leatheringham church, and in a Holt bookshop a copy of *Journal of Suffolk Excursions*. When the school library at Ipswich School was moved to larger premises, unexpectedly he was offered the 1000 books of the Town Library (1400-1761) to fill the shelves of the old library.

An instance of considerable interest was a brass sheet with a shallow engraving of a king in bed with a bag of money and a devil taking his soul - this had received various interpretations. On the back it recorded a Bury St Edmunds origin. Serious consideration showed it really referred to the alleged saving of the town by St. Edmund from the Danish King and was part of the cover of St Edmund's shrine; made c 1400 after fire damage.



Elaborate lettering on monuments of "R S" (Barsham, Mendlesham, Dorchester-on-Thame) really should read as "I H S" - not someone's initials, as previously thought.

Ipswich formerly had a number of grand houses and the occupiers had book-plates, often showing the house and perhaps views of the town, or town plans - as do some church memorials - e.g. William Smart's memorial in St Mary-le-Tower (1599) has a view of the town. St Stephen has Robert Leman (1637), whose uncle was Lord Mayor of London. Robert and his wife both died the same day. He had been a member of the Fishmonger's Company which still maintains the monument. The latter was made by Christmas Brothers and the speaker, with the aid of Mormon genealogical records has made a survey of the members of this family and their inter-relationships.

In rearranging the Town Library books, a boy assisting Dr Blatchley (then Head at the school) noticed marks on the fore edges of the books at different heights which make a diagonal line when the books were arranged in sets - e.g. all the Calvin ones. This showed at a glance if one was missing. The books had coded prices showing how the books had been acquired at discounts - the library being a good customer. This discount was 12 1/2%.

The speaker had been shown a volume of cut-out Valentines by a bookseller who wished to know its provenance. By chance Dr. Blatchley noticed one showed the Ipswich Market cross (the figure from the top is still in the Town Hall). he found the verses had been published - this identified the Valentines as the work of Elizabeth Cobbold. She and her husband lived in a large but not very grand house in the shadow of their brewery. They had grand St Valentine's Day Balls there, or in the Assembly Rooms, 1804-25. Elizabeth made the cut-outs in duplicate for her children to have one - the other being given to guests at the ball. The guests included officers from the garrison; the Cobbolds had several daughters to find husbands for!

An interesting sidelight on early 19th century life - the railway from London ran only to Colchester and the news that it brought down was type-set on the stage coach to Ipswich.

The speaker had a great store of items of interest, (including trade plates), which cannot by reason of space be recorded here.

### **The Work of the RCHME's Archaeological Field Section in the Eastern Counties**

7 February 1994, *Peter Topping - Head of the RCHME Cambridge Field Office*

The RCHME was originally established to produce an inventory of archaeological and historic sites and it was thought that this would be a five year task, to be completed in 1913. This turned out to be quite impractical and has since been abandoned. Now the large amount of development in SE England has caused the opening of a RCHME office in Cambridge and work is concentrated on two 'theme' programmes: (1) The recording of Neolithic sites in this area, and (2) The recording of coastal sites where they are being lost by erosion or development. The branch also conducts surveys for public or semi-public organisations - e.g. The National Trust.

Recent and current work the speaker spoke of:-

- 1) Brighton Racecourse: A causeway camp, well known but ill recorded, with five perimeter ditches of various dates. Substantial parts remain, but generally in poor state. A geophysical exploration was made but this proved difficult because of the electric 'grid' nearby and strong metal fencing along the gallops where part of the camp is under the gallops.
- 2) Clare: Very substantial earthworks - well developed prehistoric ramparts, partly lost in 13<sup>th</sup> century manor area. The manor buildings, etc. eventually abandoned and the site became overgrown. On the NW side a series of parallel ditches forming enclosures, apparently of Tudor date and forming pens for sheep to rest in when moving along the trackways to market. Some conflict of interest as the scrub forms a good bird sanctuary.
- 3) Hatfield Forest (at the request of the National Trust): The warren site, overgrown, in a circular setting has a number of low probable pillow mounds. The warren was abandoned in 1675 and would need excavation to produce further knowledge.
- 4) Royal Parks in London: A Royal Parks Review Body has been set up to consider the advisability of some restoration of gardens to earlier types, and a survey was asked for. At Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens some relics of layout in the early 18th century can be traced: e.g. 'bastions' on the outside of hedged in parts. Remains of mediaeval field systems and allotment plots of WWII can be traced.

Greenwich Park has Anglo-Saxon barrows. The survey discovered that 35 can now be identified. Elements of Le Notre's work in the 1660s were observed - as well as foundations of WWII barrack blocks!

- 5) Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Works site: This extensive site is in part badly polluted awkward to clear up. There is a canal system, used for safety in moving dangerous materials. Some mooring posts are gun barrels dating from the Napoleonic wars, large bunkers with reinforced concrete roofs on pillars (so they would collapse if there was a fire). There is a large heronry here the birds can feed from the River Lea.
- 6) Sheerness fortifications, the ravelin: The site is now a car park for Tesco's store. The survey was at the request of English Heritage. It was a strongly armed site and used as an AA post in WWI. A prominent feature - the 18th century musketry wall. Butlins Holiday camp used the site for a time and used some of the bunkers as lion dens!

Finally the speaker discussed the unstoppable erosion of the coast at Dunwich - formerly an important town with nine churches, now all swept away. The survey is intended to record what remains of the site before it too is lost.

### **Archaeology and Education at Hartsfield School, Baldock**

14 February 1994, *Gil Burleigh, Keeper of Field Archaeology, North Herts. District Council.*

Hartsfield Primary School was built in the 1980's but has since had a series of extensions in this century. It is now known to be on part of a site which had a settlement on it from the late Bronze Age (LBA) including a small part with a Roman settlement having a grid pattern, but mostly a scattered LBA and Iron Age occupation of farmsteads. The Icknield Way goes through Baldock and there are a large number of trackways leading thereto. A feature is a long series of prehistoric pits aligned towards some springs. This feature is crossed by a Roman road which had been worn down to a hollow way with rough and ready filling of the worst parts. Many crop marks are visible in drought periods. Nine cemeteries are known at Baldock, some have been partially excavated and one completely. In 1968 a chiefly Iron Age grave was discovered.

In the Middle Ages part of the site was disturbed by Manorial buildings and other parts by more recent ploughing, but about 2/3 of the original settlement is now on the plan. The playground is, however, part of an undisturbed area and recent excavations there are prior to the latest school extension building works.

The school and excavation workers work in close co-operation and the children (aged 5-11) encouraged to take an active interest in what is going on. They have riddled some of the mechanically removed top soil and made a large number of small finds.

Finds are washed, classified, drawn in quite a professional way; using a computer to help in the recording. Some of the children trowel part of the site - copying the work of the excavators.

The education work in school takes advantage in using an unprecedented opportunity to use the excavation in history, craft, art, etc. work. A prehistoric type hut has been built and weaving practised. Pottery has been made in Iron Age ways, plans drawn and basket making practised.

Parents take a great interest in what their children are doing and in the excavation in general. The speaker showed videos made by TV news programmes and of features in local newspapers. Some children have got quite practised in responding to interviewers from such organisations. Joint "open days" by the school and the excavation draw a large number of visitors. It is believed that this close co-operation is unique in this country.

### **Magical Protection of Buildings**

21 February 1994, *Timothy Easton -Artist and Architectural Historian.*

The burial of articles in buildings to defeat evil influences affecting the house or barn - a practice of long standing, which the speaker illustrated by a picture of a scent pot now in Bury St Edmunds Museum (found in a 14<sup>th</sup> century house in Suffolk). It can be divided into deposits made by occupiers and those made by the builders. Shoes were most commonly deposited and have been found all over Europe but all sorts of tools and domestic articles are also found. Generally the deposits are worn out or damaged, and shoes are not usually found in pairs. Frequently they were deposited not only at the time of building the house but also when alterations were carried out, and many when a chimney was built necessitating the building of an interior wall parallel to an existing wall, thus leaving a cavity into which articles could be dropped from an upper floor or loft - or by making a hole in the new inner wall which would then be sealed up again.

Mr Easton has observed these deposits at many old Suffolk houses, especially around Debenham where at Barley House Farm two kittens and a rat, spurs, clothing, 20 shoes, "Runic almanacs" etc. had, at various times, been hidden away. Full grown cats were mostly deposited upstairs, young ones at ground level. Cats were associated with witches, and James I wrote a diatribe about witchcraft which encouraged witch-hunts - an evil effect which showed itself as late as 1825 when Isaac Stebbing was 'swum' to see if he was a witch at Laxfield.

Near Harleston a house had the remains of 7 cats and other articles, and at an early 17<sup>th</sup> century house at Framsdon a large collection of clay pipes was found. Near Bacton (Suffolk) upstairs, besides very many shoes an enormous number of gloves were found.

As late as 1950 knotted string was deposited and another house (1920-1930) shoes, etc. thrown into a roof void. This seems to indicate a desire to leave part of one's personality there. A house of a well-off brewer had a 'spiritual midden' dropped from a loft or attic in the 19<sup>th</sup> century - bibles, prayer books, 32 pairs of shoes, etc. into the wall space. This was at Earl Soham.

Similarly, many old doors have "W's and "M R" scratched on them - (Mary the Virgin and Mary Queen) (c.f. the "M"s and "M R"s on church buildings). Copies of consecration crosses are found on secular buildings especially on repairs - also on blocked church windows or church repairs.

The speaker described a vast number of this kind of "magic-making" to save houses, barns etc. from evil and the foregoing is a small part of his specimens.

### **Metal Detecting - An Archaeologist's View.**

28 February 1994, *David Gurney - Principal Landscape Archaeologist, Norfolk Museums Service.*

Metal detectors were first made in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first patent relating to them was issued in 1937. Their original use was for detecting mines. In the seventies Detector Clubs grew up and there are now 400-500 detector enthusiasts in Norfolk alone. The purchase of Metal Detectors is not regulated and the only law concerning their use is the 1979 Act which requires the land owner's consent for their use, although the National Council of Metal Detector Clubs has issued a Code of Conduct.

Though their illegal use can cause damage to, and loss of information about, archaeological sites, used properly they can be of great use, and in the past twenty years the proportion of finds brought to Norfolk Museums found in this way has gone up amazingly.

Generally speaking, metal detectors are effective for only 6-9 inches in the soil. Exceptionally, heavy deposits at greater depth can be identified. So many irrelevant scraps of iron usually lie in fields that some Metal Detectors have Discrimination Knobs which can cause old nails, etc. to be disregarded. One useful application of these instruments is in the checking of spoil heaps. Some users may develop a very good eye for landscape enabling them to identify likely habitation sites and Metal Detector magazines frequently carry well researched articles from such sources.

The speaker referred to numerous important finds made in this way such as a late Roman coin hoard found near the Saxon Shore Fort at Burgh Castle, Late Iron Age hoards at Snettisham - five hoards found on unexpected sites. Also a very rare Late Iron Age ANTEDI coin. Nearly all the 43 hoards discovered in the past six years in Norfolk have been found in this way.

Much has been learnt, too, about some of the 14 'small Roman Towns' in that county e.g. - a number of military artefacts found in one shows its function. Few of these sites are likely to be excavated but considerable light can be thrown on them by such finds. A special case is Caister St Edmunds, now seen as a much more important place than it previously was considered to be.

The Norfolk Museum Service organises Detector Rallies - one such rally resulted in 583 coins being found. The service co-operates with Detector Clubs and they are often asked to provide a survey of reported possible archaeological sites.

Finally the speaker spoke about the legal position of finds and the law relating to Treasure Trove, illustrating the subject by describing the events leading up to a recent court case which resulted in the conviction of 'night hawks' (illegal users of metal detectors).

### **West Stow - An Early Anglo-Saxon Village: Past and Present.**

7 March 1994, *Dr Stanley West -former Suffolk County Archaeologist.*

West Stow lies near the place where the Icknield Way crosses the river Lark. It is approximately 5 acres in extent, part under a former Council Tip, and is now a low sandy hill; below the sand plough lines a ridge and furrow mediaeval land surface has been revealed (dated approx. 1300 AD.) Excavation started in 1965 with a view to learn about the early Anglo-Saxon (AS) village and in the course of this work material dating back to the mesolithic period came to light, and considerable artefacts of later prehistoric age. The Iron Age discoveries alone were a great contribution to Suffolk Archaeology. The numerous Roman objects were brought in from Ipswich or Icklingham - there was no Roman settlement here.

Some of the AS buildings were 'grubenhausen' (among the earliest AS buildings on the site). The study of these seems to show that it was improbable that these could have been 'pit dwellings' - a finding confirmed by constructing one with a pitched tent like thatched roof over it and a step ladder to the pit. The Saxons came to Britain from an area where quite ambitious wooden buildings were commonly erected and Dr West's excavators have built similar ones, using tools available to that period and the post holes etc. existing on the site as guides.

Other AS buildings had also been on the site together with a large Hall. Copies of these have also been erected, and the Hall building which required tie beams, must have entailed support for these as the timber available would have been very awkward to handle and shorter ones would have needed joints in the centre. The roof timbers would also have needed supports so King posts would have been used. These features are all found in Saxon homelands in northern Europe.

Kilns found here produced very considerable amounts of pottery - some Roman. Later Saxon pottery, of good quality, with faceted decoration and stamped, seems to have derived these features from Roman ones. The best specimens come from cemetery sites. Production comes to an end in the early 7<sup>th</sup> century, evidently killed by an inflow of cheap wheel made Ipswich ware of inferior quality. A great number of composite bone combs of good workmanship have been found, and weaving was carried on.

The various houses, in no formal arrangement, comprised a rather scattered village. They were thatched (shown by remains of fires) and were of all-timber build - no daub and wattle was used. Tree trunks were split to form quite thin planks and trimmed with an adze - this was repeated after excavation and shown to be quite possible, using tools available to the Saxons. At the late stages post and trench methods were used, as at Brandon.

The Borough Council has been very supportive, and now the numerous copies of the AS buildings with free range chickens, pigs, etc. give a vivid picture of what the place must have been like. It is much used for educational purposes - some parties come from a considerable distance. There is also considerable interest from a large number of adult visitors.

[More details can be found in *Current Archaeology*, no 40 (September 1973). This, of course, is far from covering the long period of work at the site.]

### **ACTIVITIES OF GROUP MEMBERS**

14 March 1994

Two talks on contrasting subjects were given on this date:

#### **A) Hole Farm, Bures St Mary by Mr Leigh Alston**

This building, partly of pre- 16<sup>th</sup> century date has been much altered by having later additions. Its most notable feature is a brick archway with a similar one not far behind it. The outside one had been covered with red mortar, smoothed, ready to take paint. Mr Alston had investigated the surrounding area and found that this part of the building had been a water mill with two mills almost adjacent to each other driven by separate water supplies, each driving a pair of millstones. At that period every pair of stones had to have their own mill wheels. The two supplies came from one source - a drainage channel from higher ground behind the house, this feature still remains.

These early mills were apt to have a fairly limited life because of damage by vibration, and about 1600 the building was converted to being a house. Excavations found massive foundations but no pottery, showing the building had originally been purely industrial. An interesting parallel is Abbotsbury water mill in Dorset.

Other sites the speaker had investigated:

- 1) Parsonage Hall, Bures Hamlet: a manor house of Stoke by Clare Priory - a huge amount of 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery had been found here by chance, also stone work from an earlier building. Mr Alston made further excavations and found more carved stone work used in foundations. This most probably came from the manor's chapel, destroyed at the Reformation.
- 2) Lamarsh Park: Substantial part of bank and ditch (now with hornbeam coppice on it). Doubtless typical deer-park boundary.

**B) Modern Resistivity Methods in Archaeology, by Mr Peter Cott**

Mr Cott came to archaeology with a professional background of science and engineering. With a good resistivity meter, up to a depth of a metre, higher readings located indicated drier areas caused by foundations etc may be found, and these, taken at regular distances and laid out on a plan will show where structures lie. (Some sites – e.g. kilns - do not respond to this, and then magnetometry must be resorted to).

Mr Cott was invited to test out his resistivity methods at the Roman town site Venta Icenorum (Caistor, Norfolk) where the street pattern was observed on RAF photos of 1928. Professor Atkinson began excavations at the Forum and Baths areas in 1929 but his records were never published fully - only a summary. He had worked there six years. Subsequently Professor Frere published Atkinson's notes on the bath and forum.

Mr Cott confirmed all that was previously known of Atkinson's work. The site was a good one to work on, as it had not been occupied since Roman times. It occupied 34 acres with another 100 acres outside the wall, which is still standing to a noticeable height. Atkinson had measured the distance across the site twice - but had a discrepancy between the two lengths. Mr Cott found that Atkinson's first result was accurate.

The Forum Area had a basilica with adjacent rectangular buildings. It is likely that to the south is the amphitheatre site. Altogether Mr Cott's survey, besides locating other buildings, had proved the efficiency of his methods - now all that is needed is proper excavation.

Mr Cott, with aid from James Fawn and Dennis Tripp has conducted similar research at Gosbecks - another ideal open site. Reverend Henry Jenkins conducted digs here in 1892, but his records are incomplete. M R Hull also dug a trench but he found little. But Crummy (1987) found the ditches (which had been completely robbed out). Within the rectangular ditches the temple site has been exactly located. Mr Cott has located many structures here and the area between the ditches and Oliver's lane appears to be especially worthy of excavation.