



Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 9 1966

PART ONE

Forthcoming Events		1	(1)
Ardleigh Ring Four	F.H. Erith	1-4	(2-5)
Checking a Roman Road	H.J. Edwards	4-6	(6-8)
Three Fallacies	H.M. Carter	7	(9)
Winter Meetings		7-9	(9-12)

PART TWO

Current and Forthcoming Events		9	(13)
Preliminary Report on the Excavations in the Garden of St. Mary's Rectory, Colchester, 1965	P.R. Holbert	10-14	(14-24)
The Mound at Tendring	F.H. Erith	14	(26)
The May Outing		15	(26-27)
Notes		15	(27)

PART THREE

Winter Meeting 1966 – 1967		15-16	(28-29)
Notes and Comment		20	(29)
The Samian Pottery from St. Mary's Garden Rectory, Colchester	F.H. Erith	17-19	(30-33)
Our Mobile Headquarters		20	(35-36)
Bollards	H.J. Edwards	21	(36)
The Tendring Hundred Show		21	(37)
The Church of All Saints, Tolleshunt Knights	H.M. Carter	22-23	(38-39)
The Summer Outings		23-24	(41)
Group Notices		24	(42)

PART FOUR

Forthcoming Events		25-26	(43-44)
Report on the Excavations in St. Mary's Rectory Colchester (continued)	P.R. Holbert	26-28	(45-47)
The Coarse Pottery from St. Mary's Rectory	F.H. Erith	28-31	(47-51)
Two Mason's Marks and One Other	H.M. Carter	32	(52)
Observations in High Street, Colchester, 1966	L.H. Gant	32-33	(53-54)
Roman Road in Lord's Land, Colchester	H.J. Edwards	33	(54)
Winter Meetings 1966		34-35	(55-56)
Roman Pavement at West Mersea	Alan Mansfield	35	(56)

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

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

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

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

PART ONE MARCH 1966

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

EXCAVATIONS. Our first excavation this year will begin on Saturday, the 16th of April at 10 a.m. at 26, Lexden Road, Colchester, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Weiss. The house is on the southern corner of the junction of the Lexden Road with The Avenue. This will consist of an exploratory trench in the first instance but facilities are available for the washing of pottery on the site so that, later on, we should be able to provide something to occupy non-diggers. Work will continue on Saturdays and Sundays for as long as the site requires; we hope this will be several weeks as the area is full of possibilities. Cars may be parked in The Avenue.

In July we plan to continue with the Early Iron Age site at Vincennes Farm, Ardleigh, by kind invitation of Mr. F.H. Erith. We hope to be able to uncover a larger area than before.

The Secretary will send notices to those interested nearer the time in the case of the Ardleigh dig; for the Lexden Road site please take notice from the above.

OUTINGS. On Monday, the 9th of May. - an evening outing to Mount Bures and the Black Chapel. Meet at the Sheepen Road car park at 6.20 p.m. - leaving at 6.30 p.m.

On Saturday, the 18th of June - an all day outing to visit High Ongar, Chipping Ongar, Greenstead Church and Waltham Abbey.

Meet at Lexden Church at 9.45 a.m. ready to leave at 10 a.m. Please bring a packed lunch; arrangements are being made to have tea at some suitable place en route.

On Monday the 18th of July - an evening outing to Crossing Temple Barns and White Notley Church. Meet at the Sheepen Road car park, at 6.20 p.m. - leaving at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting places for these outings are on the Corporation 'bus routes so that lifts can be arranged for those who do not have cars.

NOTICE.

WANTED - a competent archaeologically-minded typist to assist the Editor with the preparation of the Bulletin. The work would entail about six hours typing four times a year; salary nil but a typewriter would be provided. Increasing commitments make this a necessity. Offers to the Secretary, together with any other enquiries and material for the Bulletin - Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone - Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

ARDLEIGH RING FOUR.

by F.H. Erith

This was originally discovered from the air in the drought of 1959. Its diameter was obtained by measurements taken in the standing corn and as 66 feet. The centre was recorded by measuring to certain electricity and telephone posts, but the electricity posts have since been re-aligned to avoid a new gravel pit, and the telephone post was removed when the wires were put under ground during a road-widening scheme.

The site was re-discovered as a very faint crop-mark in late May 1965 and a large piece of chalk was dropped in the presumed centre of a circle of slightly taller barley. The crop-mark was almost immediately obliterated by heavy falls of rain, which partially laid the crop.

In October 1965 the site was marked out for excavation, using the lump of chalk as the centre. Trenches were dug to 40 feet north, south, east and west to find out the position of the circular ditch in four places. These were easily found where stone-free soil had infilled into almost impenetrable gravel. The circular ditch was 4 feet deep and "V" shaped at each point. The true centre of the ring ditch was then worked out and was shown to be 3 feet south-east of the estimated centre.

An area seven paces square was investigated round the estimated centre in which four cremations were discovered. A large one at the true centre contained bones and much wood ash, and there were three smaller ones some 10 to 12 feet to the north. None was with an urn, but three sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (including the one illustrated on page 3) were found within three feet of the primary cremation, all at depth of 15 - 18 inches. A Late Bronze Age sherd was also found in the circular ditch due north.

The illustrated sherd is similar to Urn 26 from the adjoining ring ditch. Ardleigh Ring Three, except that the rim of the latter was finger tipped while this is plain. Both have the knob or boss at the shoulder and the series of perforations just below the rims. From this evidence we presume that this ring ditch is of the same culture and date in the Late Bronze Age as Ardleigh Ring Three, about 1000 B.C.

The relative shallowness of the primary cremation is also suggestive of a Late Bronze Age date. Of the six ring ditches in this area excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Group and reported in the Bulletin, none had the primary urn deep enough to escape being damaged by the plough. But the two ring ditches with Middle Bronze Age primaries (at Dedham and Great Bromley) had central pits deep enough for the urns to be untouched by deep ploughing.

A plan of this ring ditch appears on page 3 with a drawing of the pottery sherd, and a photograph of the centre of the excavation below. On page 4 appears a report on the cremations by Mr. H.E.P. Spencer.

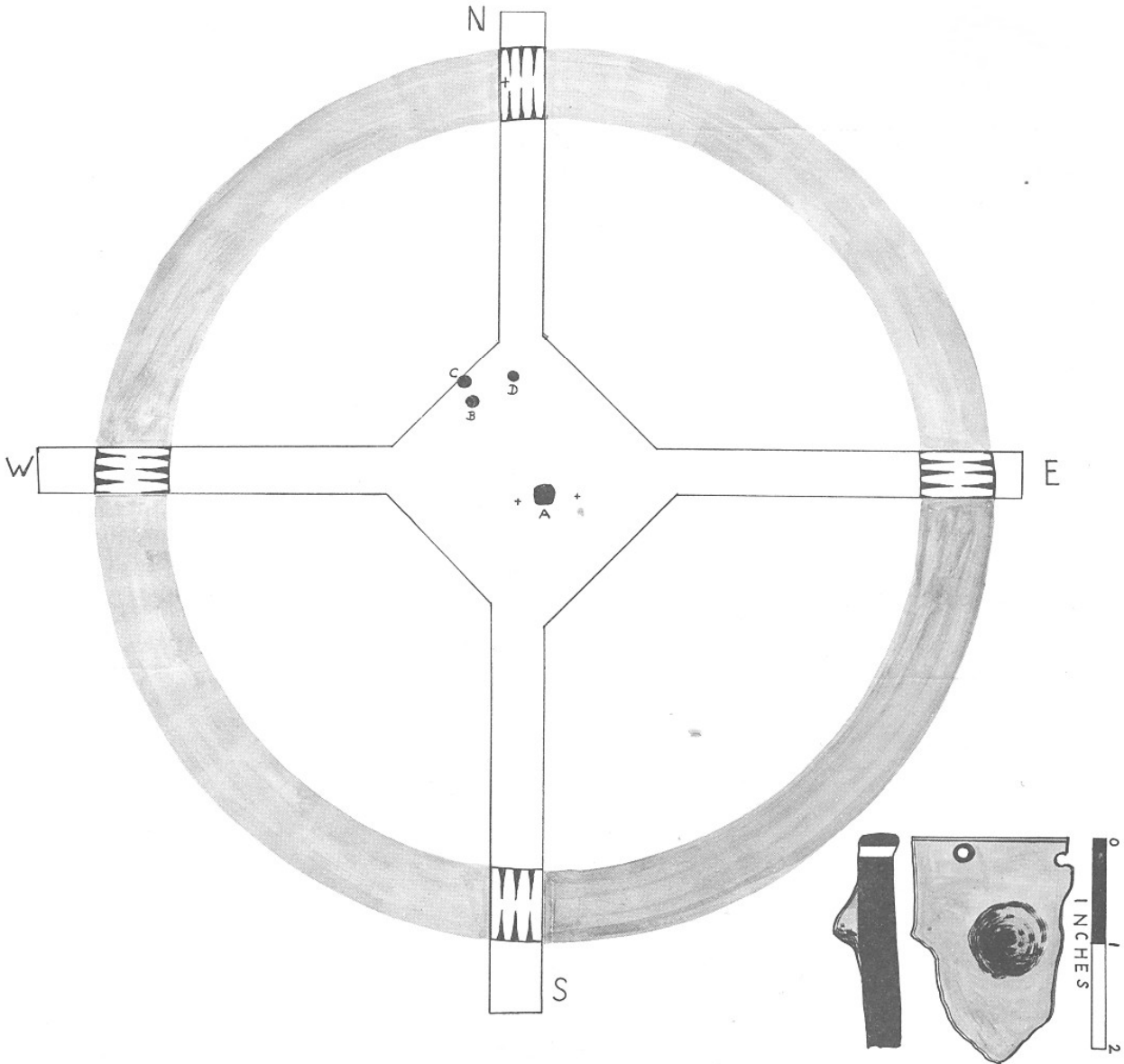
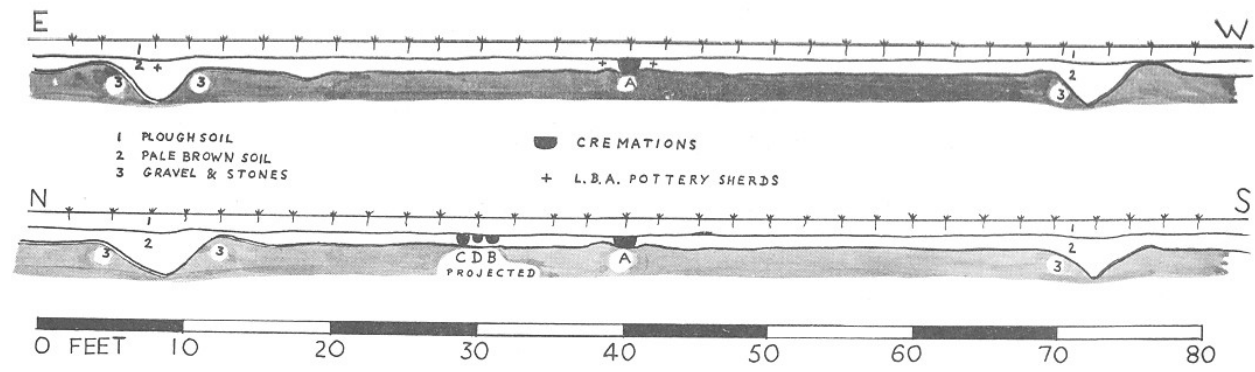


Photograph by Reg. Palmer.

A cremation with much wood-ash in the true centre is shown three feet south-east of the estimated centre. Three smaller cremations are visible ten of twelve feet north-west. The trench cut due north shows the intersection with the deeper circular ditch.

Acknowledgements.

I am much indebted to Mr. H.J. Edwards and Mr. Reg. Palmer, both of Colchester, who dug with much care and assiduity.



REPORT ON FOUR BRONZE AGE CREMATIONS UNENCLOSED
IN URNS - ARDLEIGH RING FOUR.

by Harold E. P. Spencer, F.C.S.

1. Centre Cremation "A". Fragments of bones are abundant and some of large size, amongst which is an unusually large portion of a female skull, adult. Some of the phalanges are partly preserved.

There are also remains of an infant, including part of a jaw bone with well preserved sockets of the incisors and an eyetooth. The child was about two years of age. Oak appears to have been used for the funeral pyre, some pieces of charcoal are included. Presumably not mother and child.

2. Cremation "C". The remains of a child, but no means of determining the age. There is nothing well enough preserved for comment.
3. Cremation "B". Remains indicate a child of about eight years of age. Only the root of an incisor tooth is well enough preserved for comment, it is not large enough to have belonged to an older individual.
4. Cremation "D". Only a very few pieces of bone preserved on which no comment is possible.

In response to a question from Mr. Erith the following observations are given:

In some instances the funeral pyre burned more thoroughly than others and the bone fragments, all too often, reduced beyond recognition. Other cremations were less thorough and the ends of the limb bones are some-times clearly recognisable. Long bones and ribs during burning tend to curl and develop transverse cracks which divide the bones into more or less short lengths which may again split longitudinally. The thickness of the wall of the shaft in these bones is an indication of maturity, or lack thereof, where no other indication is found, sometimes of sex. Slender bones, however, may be of an adolescent youth and not a female somewhat older, in which case other indications must be sought.

Remains of children, which are very frequent in Bronze Age cremations, are indicative of considerable infant mortality and are generally unmistakable. Fragments such as teeth, jaws or cranial bones are necessary for an estimate of age.

When an urn contains a quantity of bone fragments it is seldom possible to find enough limb terminations well enough preserved to determine the number of adults. Should more than one similar portion of mandible be preserved that would be simple, but jaw fragments are not so frequently found. When, however, there is a marked difference in the age of individuals, an opinion may be possible.

CHECKING A ROMAN ROAD

by H. J. Edwards

Olivers Lane is not so well-known to many members as it is to me. To simplify matters at the expense of exactitude, it is a turning running S.W. from Gosbecks Road, which itself runs N.W. - S.E. from Shrub End to Layer Road. The chief claim to fame of Olivers Lane is the fact that the noted Cheshunt Field with its Temple and Theatre lies on its N.W. flank. Hawkes and Hull in "Camulodunum" report that an air photograph shows a Roman Road coming from the Colchester direction, crossing the junction of Olivers Lane and Gosbecks Road, continuing into the field S.E. of Olivers Lane and after a stretch, crossing the Lane into Cheshunt Field. (The Lane does the bend to make this possible; the Roman Road, as ever, is fairly straight. In "Roman Colchester" Hull further reports that in 1938 a trench was dug across this Roman road near Rayner's Farm, which is some 900 yards back towards Colchester, with somewhat confusing results. The intervening country between Rayner's Farm and Gosbecks Road is now a housing estate. If you want to get this clearer on a map the Gosbecks Road - Olivers Lane junction is G.R. 974229.

The field on the Gosbecks Road - Olivers Lane S.E. corner has long been grass but last Autumn it was ploughed. I looked hard at the surface but was disappointed to see nothing of a road. Then on Sunday, 7th

March, I saw that some industrial work had been going on there. Investigation showed that a pipe was being laid parallel to Olivers Lane, just inside the field to the S.E. It consisted of a series of trenches about four yards long with four yard intervals, rather like a Morse letter 'O' prolonged - - -. The trenches, dug with some sort of a machine, were three feet deep and nine inches wide. Some were double that width but in neither case were they ideal for archaeological investigation. However, the upcast was there and I proceeded to walk the length of the two fields. The upcast of the open trenches was a coarse red gravel; so much so that when a change occurred it was startlingly evident. At about 350 yards from Gosbecks Road was a white upcast and 12 yards further on was another one. The soil was as white as cement and very soft and mealy to the hand. Fortunately the trenches here were eighteen inches wide and I was able to see the silt - as I am sure it was - about two feet down and continuing to the bottom. In this 12 yards was one more trench. The upcast was red gravel and I cannot honestly say that it looked any different from all the others. I tried to persuade myself that I could see a line at a depth of about two feet in the trench but it was probably wishful thinking. However, I think I can fairly claim that the two features I saw were the ditches of the Roman road.

The trenches carried on and after about another hundred yards the gravel subsoil ceased and a nice grey loam took its place. Beyond that the trenches nothing more until about 25 yards from the south end of the fields the gravel subsoil reappeared.

At about 500 yards from Gosbecks Road a scatter of broken tile, with a very occasional sherd of pottery appeared on the field surface and continued for about a hundred yards. I was fortunate enough to find several pottery sherds and a report from a more expert hand than mine follows this.

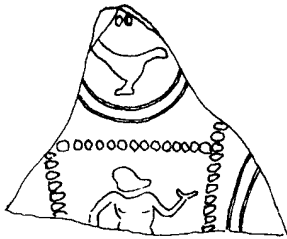
I should say that my 'yards' are all approximate. I had no measure and had to pace out distances. I had written all this when I realised that I had been reading my map all wrong. Some hedges which appear on the map but no longer exist misled me. I saw the ditches of a road crossing Olivers Lane about 350 yards from Gosbecks Road. According to the map in "Roman Colchester" the air photograph show the Roman road crossing the Lane about 700 yards from Gosbecks Road - I saw nothing there! Well, I can only report what was to be seen.

THE POTTERY.

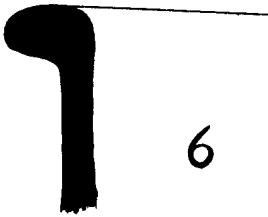
(illustrated on page.6)

1. A fragment of decorated samian from a vessel of form Drag. 37. Portions of two figure-types are visible: a bird to left, enclosed in a double circle, and the upper part of a dancing M figure. The latter is enclosed in a rectangular frame of beads and there are traces of a similar row of beads above the bird. At the right there is part of another larger double circle.
2. Part of the rim and upper part of a small grey ware jar with two grooves on the shoulder. Aper. diam. 44".
3. Part of the rim of a mortarium in red fabric retaining traces of cream slip. Interior grit pink. Aper. diam. 7".
4. Part of the rim of a shallow grey ware dish with a chamfer at the basal angle. No sign of decoration. Aper. diam. 8".
5. Part of the rim of a grey ware jar with a turned over rim. Aper. diam. 6".
6. Fragment of rim of a straight sided bowl.
7. (not illustrated) Portions of the rims of two cornice-rim beakers in colour coated ware. One is in buff fabric and the other in reddish fabric, both with black coating.
8. (not illustrated) Base of a samian vessel of Drag. form 33 bearing the stamp PATRICIVSF.

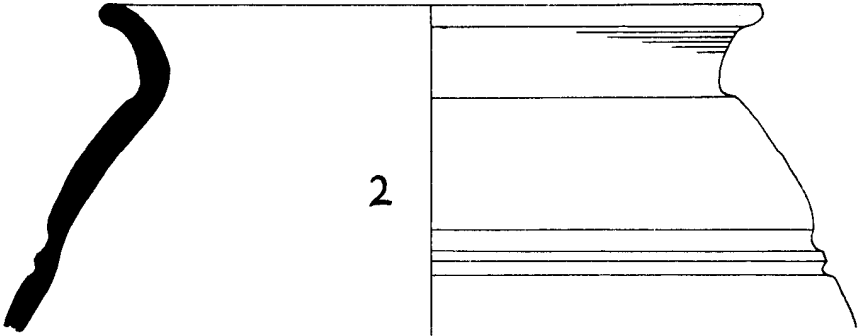
The group as a whole is suggestive of a date in the second half of the second or early in the third century.



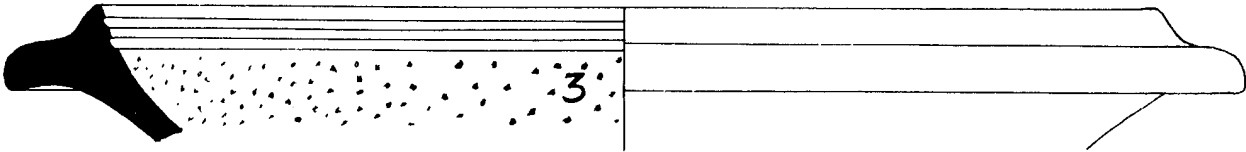
1



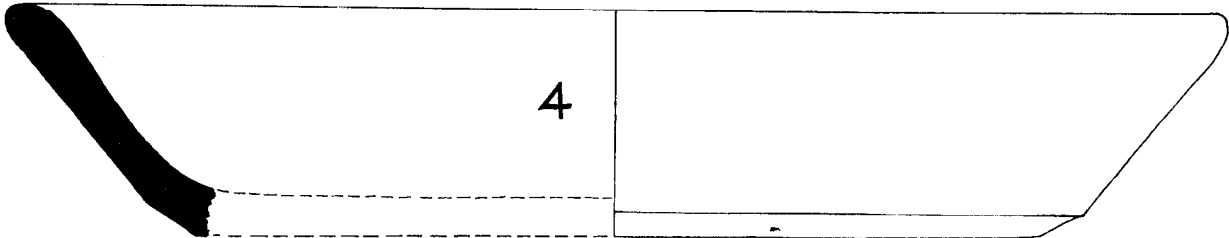
6



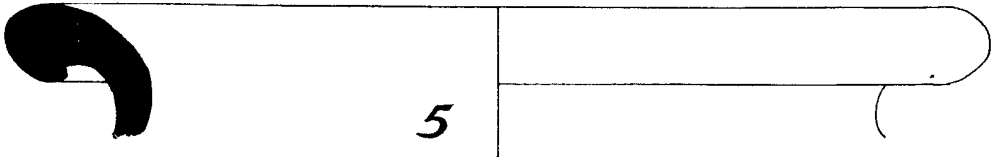
2



3



4



5

THREE FALLACIES.

by H.M. Carter.

1. THE REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.

The corn laws, which had been enacted to prevent seasonal slumps after good harvests, were repealed following much enthusiastic agitation and many warnings that farming would be ruined, in 1846. Punch published a cartoon showing a smiling artisan watching his family happily chewing away at great slices of bread and behind them a pyramid of loaves inscribed CHEAP BREAD, a monument to Peel, the Prime Minister of the day. The event has been generally hailed as a victory for cheap nutrition. But the average price of wheat per quarter (42 cwt.) for the ten years 1846-55 was in round figures 58/-, only two shillings a quarter less than the average for 1837-46.

2. CATHEDRAL GOTHIC.

The majority of the most highly developed Gothic buildings which have into our day - the cathedrals and greater abbeys - are vaulted in stone. The most scientific shape for these structures would have been the self supporting ellipse. For some reason the ellipse was foreign to the mediaeval mind and instead, the lateral thrust of the vaulting was accepted and then neutralised by a system of buttresses and flying buttresses, which are one of the principal features of the great churches of the 13th century onwards and which largely their structure and plan.

But the vault itself (or the dome), which in Byzantium had been actually the inside of the outside - the true roof with the tiles laid on it - was covered in the Gothic churches by an independent timber roof protecting it from the weather and had, in fact, no function.

3. THE GOTHIC REVIVAL.

The first practical steam engine worked under the last Stuart, but it was not until late in the century that the industrial revolution got under way. The first steamboat was launched in 1802 and the first public steam railway in 1825. The "Railway Age" really started in the forties. The psychological effect was, I think, enormous. For centuries education had been based on the Classics and it must have seemed that whatever one did the ancients had done better - until the advent of steam produced a burst of confidence in the present and the future.

Meanwhile, the Gothic Revival had been developing on a parallel but unrelated course and a peak of church building in backward-looking Gothic Revival nearly coincided with the most energetic period of railway construction - in an age of which the authentic architectural expression was the Crystal Palace.

WINTER MEETINGS

The first meeting in the new session of lectures was held in the castle on January 10th, when the speaker was the eminent archaeologist, Professor Sheppard Frere, professor of the archaeology of the Roman Provinces in the University of London. Professor Frere was director of the excavations at Verulamium (St. Albans) from 1955 - 61, and his talk covered his work there and was freely illustrated by plans and colour slides. Of particular interest were the mosaic floors and the painted wall plaster, which rank amongst the finest examples of late occupation art yet discovered in the country. The great contribution to our knowledge of early Roman buildings from the Verulamium excavations was evident in the many illustrations of wooden sleeper beams, with mortices for vertical studs and lathes. The painted plaster was shown in situ and as restored and exhibited, displaying leopards' heads and pheasants, fluted and capitalled columns and marble panels. By inference from all these evidences, a very accurate picture of municipal and domestic, commercial and military life in Roman times can be deduced, and all these are found at Verulamium.

The similarity of burials and funeral rites in ancient Greece to those recently discovered at Ardleigh was the subject of a well prepared lecture on 17th January, when Mr. Felix H. Erith, the Ardleigh farmer archaeologist expounded references from classical Grecian literature to burial of heroes and the ceremonies performed at their burial or cremation. It is significant, said Mr. Erith that the period of the middle bronze age in Britain corresponded in date with the Mycenaean period in Greece, when burial under an urn, under a barrow was the rule, after cremation. The wealth of grave goods found in Greece has not been found in Britain, but some notable bronze age burials have produced such treasures, amongst which the Rochford

burial, discovered by trench-digging soldiers during the first Great War, ranks high in national importance. The exhibit was kindly loaned by the Colchester & Essex Museum, where for half a century it has laid without attracting much attention.

The story of the development of artillery, and its use during the Civil War of 1648 was the title of a most interesting talk given by Major A.D. Mansfield on the 24th January. The speaker illustrated his talk with maps and sketches, and an array of cannon balls was displayed to add further interest to an original subject. Dealing with the Siege of Colchester, Major Mansfield quoted from contemporary leaflets and diaries, and in his own inimitable style, held a large audience, which, at the conclusion of the talk, entered into lively discussion and posed many questions to the speaker.

It is a long journey by land and sea to the Holy Land, but Mrs. Clarke transported her audience thither in a second by second description and by lantern slide on January 31st, when she addressed the group on the excavations at the old city of Jericho, in Palestine. The link with the ancient cultures of the neolithic and bronze ages was appreciated by many members who have dug locally on bronze age sites. Of particular interest were the graves which produced a variety of ornaments and other relics, from which, and from the excavation of the houses in the old city of Jericho, an accurate picture of domestic life could be built up,

The speaker at the meeting of the Colchester Archaeological Group on February 7th was Mr. Malcolm H. Carter, whose subject was the place of Mycenae in the Greek cultural sequence. The Greeks were a mixed race, and the Mycenaeans probably derived from northern invaders, who became integrated into the race and played their part in the consolidation of the kingdom and left a cultural heritage in buildings, sculpture and pottery and metal work. The talk was fully illustrated and was enjoyed by a large and enthusiastic audience.

Of all ancient documents perhaps the map is the most universally understood and interesting for the wealth of detail shown in pictorial or symbol form. The county of Essex is particularly fortunate in having had accurate map makers, and a county Record Office second to none in the country, which has an unrivalled collection of maps of all kinds, from the county maps of Norden, Speed and Saxton, to the delightful and intimate maps and plans of estates and properties drawn by the members of the Walker family, for owners and developers of houses and estates. Mr. K.E. Newton, of the Essex Record Office, an expert in this field, spoke to the group in the Castle on February 14th, on the art of the map maker in Essex, and illustrated his talk with excellent slides. Of particular interest was the earliest known map of Maldon, dated 1516, also the town map of Ingatestone and garden plans prepared by Walker for the famous architect Capability Brown. Mr. Newton concluded his talk by referring to the services of the county Record Office to assist students and to supply copies of documents.

A review of recent excavations, and of plans for the future, was given by Miss Rosalind Dunnett, archaeologist to the Colchester Excavation Committee, to an appreciative audience on February 21st. Foremost amongst the many sites excavated during the past two years is that of the North Hill car park, where a very large Roman house was found, and a number of mosaic and tessellated floors uncovered. The house, or, as it has been suggested, a military building, including store rooms, ranks amongst the largest yet discovered in Britain. The mosaics reveal attempts of the artist at experiment, and compare closely with those found at Verulamium (St. Albans). Portions of military equipment, including a dagger, with rivet patterned handle, suggest the military connection with the building, and the large number of identical pottery vessels found in the store rooms suggest the Roman counterpart of the quarter-master's stores. Miss Dunnett also described sites at Balcerne Gardens, where a large timber framed store house was indicated; Denmark Street, where excavation determined the proportions of a large apsidal ended building, and produced an outstanding enameled brooch; and East Stockwell Street, where the corner of a substantial Roman public building was seen.

It was indeed fortunate for us that Mr. Arthur Brown very kindly agreed to speak to us at short notice on the 28th of February, the original speaker having been unavoidably prevented from coming to Colchester. Mr. Brown used a series of beautiful slides to illustrate the archaeology and history of Attica and Athens. His fascinating discourse ranged over the city and its hinterland; showing the major buildings in the area from the heart of the Republic to the outlying forts and temples; some of which have been known for many years and some have only recently been discovered.

The Group was fortunate to have as its speaker on the 7th of March the well known expert on Industrial Archaeology, Mr. Rex Wailes. The various types of windmill were discussed and the ingenious mechanism employed to provide power for their many uses was illustrated by plans and pictures. Mr. Wailes dwelt on some of the Essex mills in detail and showed a series of beautiful pictures of these picturesque landmarks;

one was left with a feeling of regret that so many have now gone and a realisation of the importance of preserving the few that remain.

The speaker at the meeting held on March 14th, in the castle was the well known archaeologist and lecturer, Mr. John Wachter, who gave an illustrated account of the excavations of the Roman town at Cirencester, tracing its history from its beginning as a small fort to the final abandonment. Mr. Wachter described the development of the basilica, the growth of the shops and the industrial area, the settlement in the amphitheatre outside the town and discussed the mysterious catastrophe which must have lead to the end of the town with bodies lying unburied in the streets. A lively discussion followed the end of a very interesting and stimulating lecture.

PART TWO JUNE 1966

CURRENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

EXCAVATIONS.

Our excavation at 26, Lexden Road, Colchester, began a week later than arranged due to the very inclement weather. Work is still going on and is expected to continue for some weeks on Saturdays and Sundays as previously announced. It would appear that a find of some importance has been made, that is, unmistakable traces of a major Roman road. This is to be investigated further and a full report will appear in this Bulletin at a, later date. Meanwhile any members who would like to come and see what we have got so far will be welcome,

Due to the developments outlined above the exact date on which we shall begin the excavation of the Iron Age site at Vines Farm, Ardleigh has not yet been fixed but this is likely to be early in July. Diggers who wish to do so can just transfer from our present site to the new one. Anyone else interested should get in touch with the Secretary early in July.

MOBILE HEADQUARTERS.

It is with pride and pleasure that we announce our recent acquisition of a caravan to be used as our mobile Headquarters. This generous gift was made by Mr. R.W. Palmer; fully fitted out it can be towed to any site where it is wanted and will afford welcome shelter, hot meals and storage space for equipment.

OUTINGS.

On Saturday the 18th of June - an all day outing to visit High Ongar, Chipping Ongar, Greenstead Church and Waltham Abbey. Meet at Lexden Church at 9.45 am ready to leave at 10 am. Please bring a packed lunch; arrangements are being made to have tea at some suitable place en route.

On Monday, the 18th of July - an evening outing to Cressing Temple Barns and White Notley Church, Meet at the Sheepen road car park at 6.20 pm - leaving at 6.30 pm. The meeting places for these outings are on the Corporation 'bus routes so that lifts can be arranged for those who do not have cars.

HELP WANTED

The Secretary has received no replies whatever to her urgent request for offers of assistance in typing the Bulletin and the Editor is finding this increasingly difficult. Any suggestions will be welcome. All enquiries and material for inclusion in the Bulletin should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone - Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS
IN THE GARDEN OF ST. MARY'S RECTORY, COLCRESTER. 1965.

by P.R. Holbert.

INTRODUCTION.

The site lies to the north of and borders on to Church Street, which coincides roughly with the line of a Roman street east - west leading to the south-west Postern. There would appear to have been no previous investigation of this area except perhaps the reference in Hull - "Roman Colchester" p. 192 Insula 25 (91)(92)

At the time of these excavations the site was due to be developed and in the interest of finding out quickly the possibilities of the area, it was decided to sink a series of pits.

In all, ten pits 6 ft. x 6 ft. were sunk to varying depths. (In this report pits are numbered in order of digging. See plan on page 12) Numbers 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 were positioned at the southern end of the site. It was hoped that by digging here we might come upon possible buildings fronting on to the street. Pits numbered 3, 8 and 10 were positioned to find traces of a north -south street noticed by Mr. John Bligh while excavating recently on the southern side of Church Street. Pits numbered 4 and 7 were positioned in the hope of picking up any features in the general area between the aforementioned pits and the Balcerne Gate complex.

SUMMARY

On investigation, the cultural sequence of the site proved to be predominantly first and second century with traces of fourth century and medieval. In terms of structural remains the first and second centuries were represented by clay floors of hut type buildings.

The red tesserae floor (very much damaged) and wall foundations of a dwelling house appeared to be much later, probably fourth century.

Much evidence of a first century pottery kiln was found in pit No. 4, including "wasters" of mortaria bearing the stamp "SATURNINUS".

Dating evidence for the above features was obtained from the great number of sherds found in association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

I am much indebted to Mr. M.R. Hull for his invaluable help in dating the pottery and to Mr. F.H. Erith who is currently dealing with the smaller proportion of Samian sherds.

THE TRIAL PITS.

See plan of site and individual plans and sections.

The pits are divided into three groups. All measurements of stratigraphy are measured in inches from the modern surface level.

Group 1. Pits 1,5,6,9,2.

Pit No. 1.

At 30 inches in north-east corner, detached red tesserae on a layer of mortar, much broken up, adhering to a clay foundation. Beside this feature, robber trenches of two walls roughly at right angles, running north-south and east-west. Digging continued to clear these trenches and at 36 inches, in the south-east corner of the pit, in a pocket of softer earth, three fourth century coins. At 60 inches in this south-east corner, a thin layer of rubble and mortar, this being the base of a wall running east-west. The north-south robber trench

continued down to its limit at 71 inches where fragments of its lower course were evident. This work left exposed, in the north-east corner, the foundations of the tesserae floor mentioned above. After cleaning this was found to consist of alternate layers of gravel and clay.

Pit No. 5. (adjacent to I.)

At 32 inches red tesserae in position, covering appreciable area of pit. Some disturbances made by later pits down into clay foundation and robber trench of east-west wall continuing through from pit No. 1. A large black 'sagging bottomed' pot was found to be recessed and cemented into the floor beneath the baulk between pit 1 and pit 5. This baulk was removed. The floor at this point appeared to be a repair, made good with whitish cement.

Pit No. 6. (adjacent to 50)

Tesserae floor continues into this pit and against eastern baulk the lower courses of a masonry wall foundation running north-south. Finally the baulk dividing pits 5 and 6 was removed to expose more of the tesserae.

Pit No. 9.

This proved to be an abortive effort, only a few displaced tesserae, although some trace of the clay foundation was in evidence. The floor quite plainly extends in this direction but has been completely destroyed.

Pit No. 2.

At 46 inches a clayish layer across full area of pit, a later robber pit (17th century?) dug through this in south-west corner. Many sherds, some Samian, in and under this clay layer. At 66 inches a clay floor level 9 inches thick against the west wall, the edge of which runs north-south and extends an average of 12 inches into pit. (The later rubbish pit just penetrates through this floor and contains several clay pipes) Immediately below this floor a stony layer on top of another, thinner, (2 - 3 inches) clay level. The remainder of the pit area at this level presented a peculiar shapeless mass of hardened clay which could possibly be collapsed clay wall. Below this, down to 78 inches, dirty disturbed sand with some sherds, natural sand occurring at approximately 96 inches.

Group 2. Pits Nos. 3, 8, 10.

As this group as a whole proved fairly conclusively the presence of a north-south street, I propose to quote from notes made by Mr. E. May who was present at the final stages and very kindly made his own investigations.

Pit No. 3.

The chief feature appeared to be a ditch along the east side of the pit the bottom of which was of clay to the east, burned red in patches. On the west side of the ditch there were pieces of septaria in very soft yellow mortar on about seven inches of pebbles, possibly gravel or concrete, and the upper part of the septaria was plastered. A trial trench in the north-west area showed loose grey sandy mortar at a depth of 60 inches. In this material, at a depth of 64 inches, a small piece of concrete was found which appeared to be in place. A trial trench in the south-west area only showed the loose mortar at a depth of 71 inches,

Pit No. 8.

This had been excavated to depths shown on the drawing on page 22. The 52 inch area seemed to be dirty clay with a thin layer of stones on top and slight traces of gravel. The 54 inch area was much the same but without stones. A small trial pit to the south of the 52 inch area showed about 3 inches of dirty clay followed by 3 to 4 inches of the same mixed with white mortar. Below this was concrete 12 inches thick,

Pit No. 10.

Mainly a very hard surface of coarse gravel to a depth of 40 to 41 inches. The area north and south of the gravel was of dark made earth, suggesting pits, but were not excavated more than a few inches deeper than the gravel. A small trial pit to the north of the gravel showed a depth of gravel of 13 to 14 inches down

to a layer of whitish concrete which extended over the bottom of the trial pit. I cannot say whether the gravel was stratified in any way. The gravel sticking out of the west side of the main trench is a bit awkward to account for.

Group 3. Pits 4 and 7.

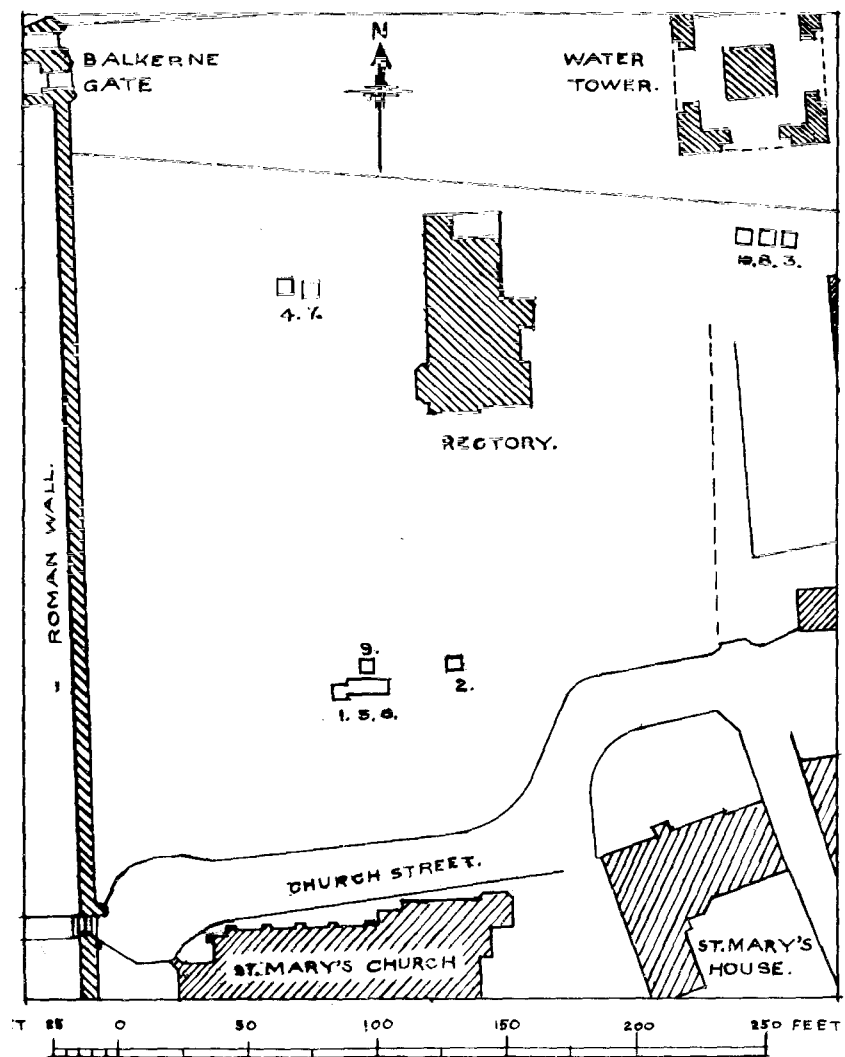
Pit No. 4.

A clay layer at 45 inches containing several flagon necks. At 48 inches a peculiar square patch of red burned clay in the south east corner; off this dark earth with patches of wood charcoal and numerous sherds. At 60 inches, in a strip running north-south across the centre of the pit, much evidence of a kiln, wasters, fused clay etc., and many sherds. Excavations continued down to 72 inches plus. There would appear to be three distinct occupation levels - at 48 inches, 60 inches and 72 inches approximately.

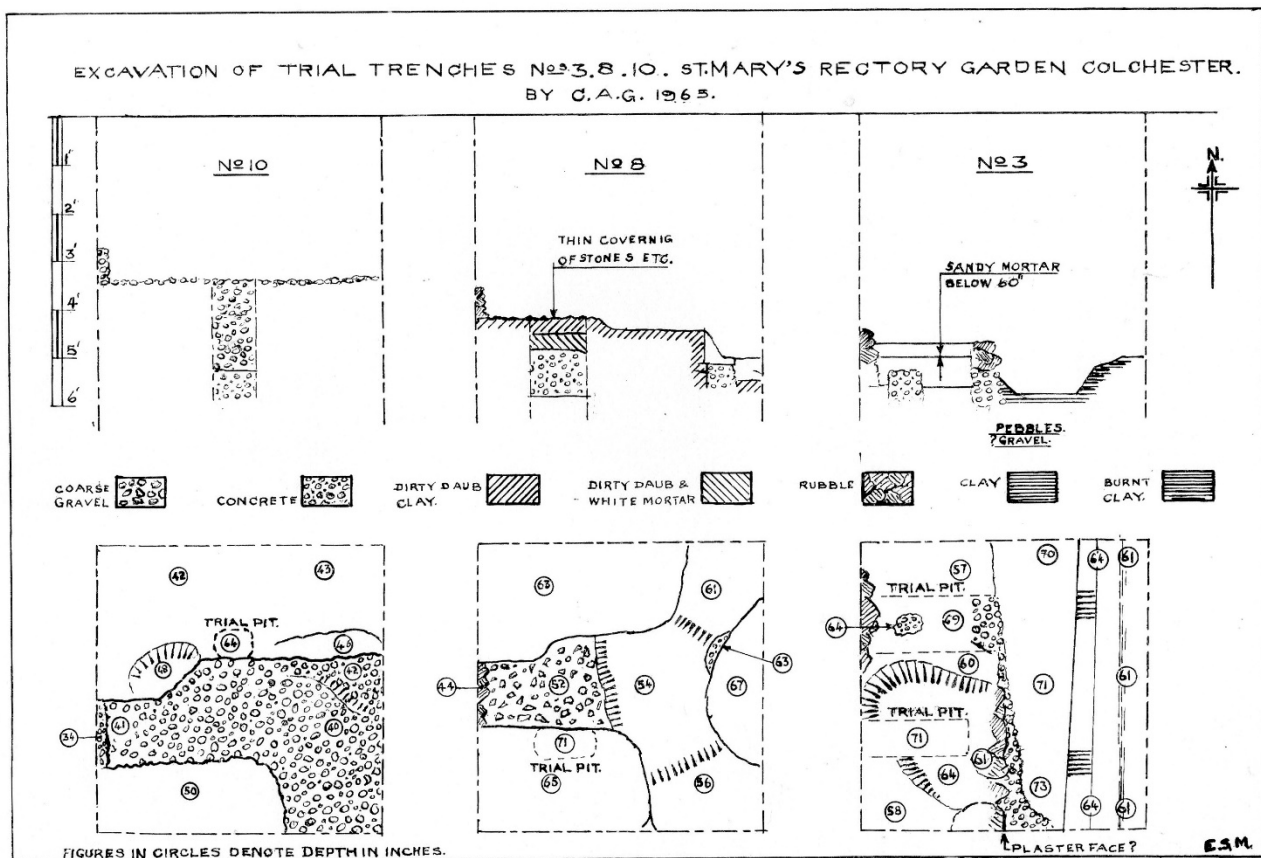
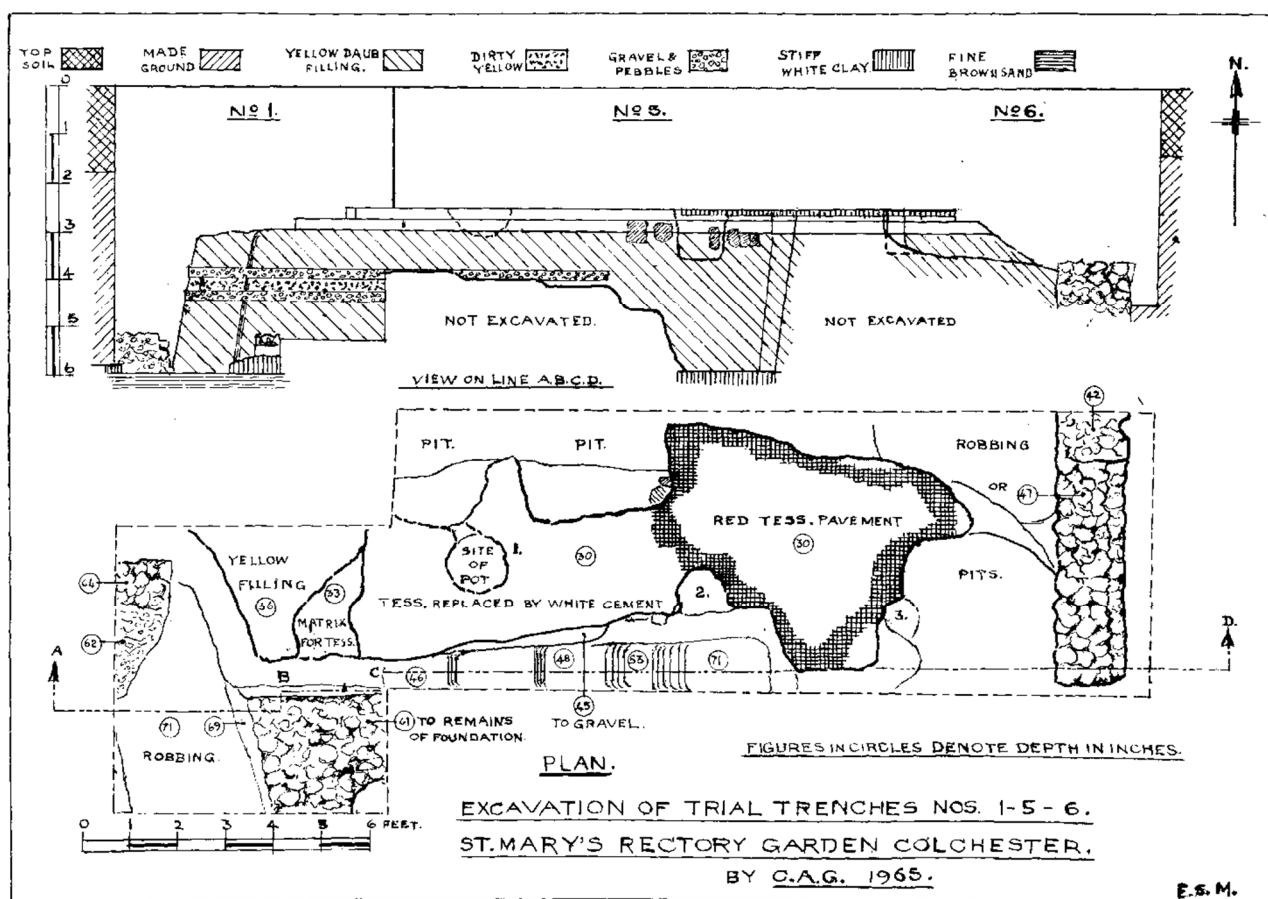
Pit No. 7.

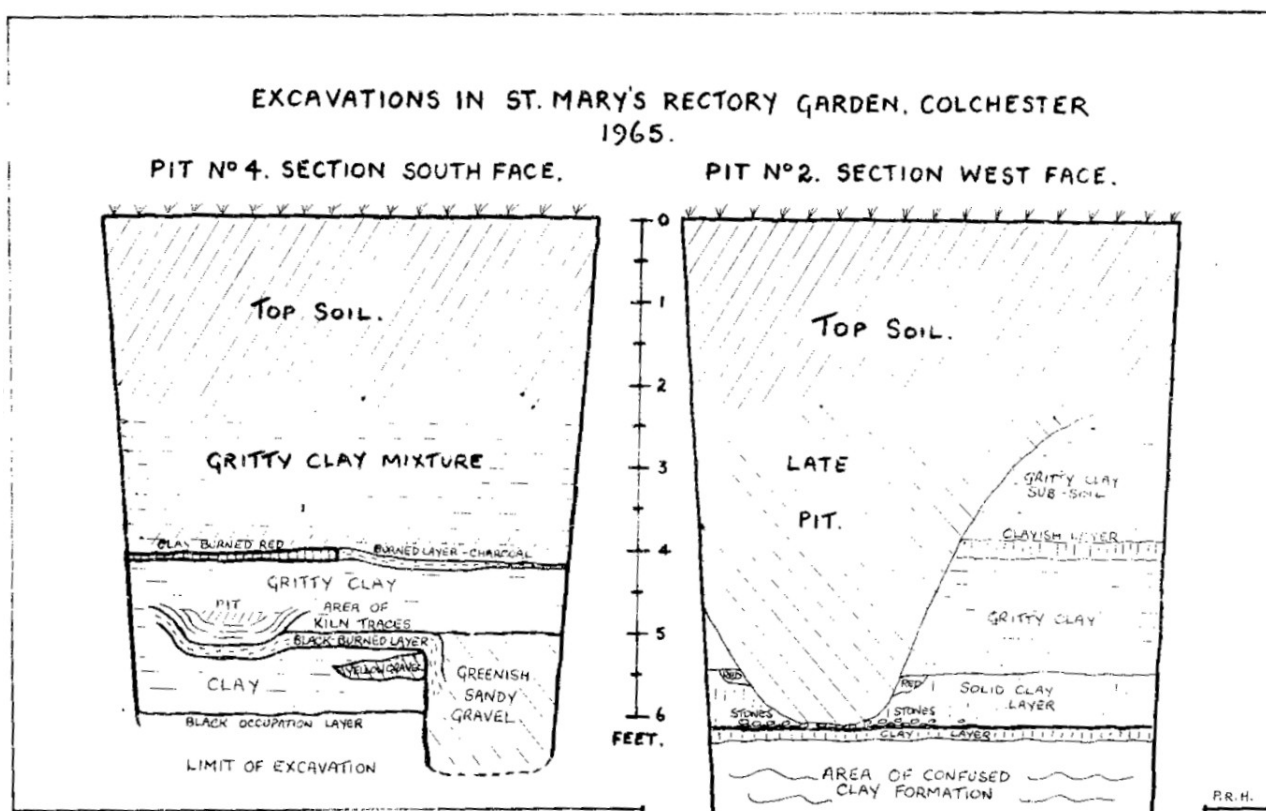
A clayish mortar debris layer at 42 inches; this continues down to 62 inches with some sherds. At 62 inches a clay level, possibly a floor, covers the eastern two-thirds of the pit, with a definite edge running north-south. Some sherds lying on this level and in it. A coin was sealed beneath at 73 inches. The excavation ceased at this point.

This concludes the preliminary report. A second and final report will be submitted at a later date. This will deal with the pottery and small finds generally, their significance and implications.



Sites of Trial Trenches, St. Mary's Rectory Garden, Colchester
Excavations by C.A.G. 1965 E.S.M.





THE MOUND AT TENDRING.

by F.H. Erith.

In the Bulletin for September 1965 (Vol. VIII No. 3) Mr. H.J. Edwards referred to a Tumulus that was marked on the 1904 O.S. map, but it was not marked on the 1922 or 1956 O.S. maps.

Mr. Edwards commented that "Miller Christy in 1922 related the "mound" to a possible Roman road, but is it not more probable that it was a Bronze Age barrow and it has been levelled within living memory. Can we find out anything more about it?"

This item was picked up by the Essex County Standard who put in a short paragraph about it on one of their remoter pages. Not so remote however that Mr. Quintin Clarke, a retired farmer, now living at Brightlingsea, failed to read it. Mr. Clarke told me that at the turn of the century his father rented Lodge Farm, Tendring, and in the winter of 1908 he had the mound levelled. Asked if they found anything Mr. Clarke said "Not a thing."

I agree with Mr. Edwards that it was very likely a Bronze Age barrow, in which case there was probably a circular ditch around it at one time. If this is so then it would probably show up as a crop mark in suitable conditions. If a crop mark is revealed, then there is the possibility that an urn lies buried some three feet below the exact centre of the levelled barrows. A member of the Ipswich Flying Club has been asked to photograph this site some time before harvest.

THE MAY OUTING.

The first excursion of the year was held on Monday, 9th May, when about thirty members assembled at the Sheepen Road car Fork and were distributed amongst members with private cars. The cavalcade, led by Mr. A.B. Doncaster, sped through country fresh with spring growth, to the secluded chapel of St. Stephen above Bures St. Mary (the "Burga" of the Saxons) which stands on or near the site of the Saxon chapel in which, in the year 855 the youthful Edmund was crowned King of the East Angles,

The story of that ceremony, performed in the presence of a few soldiers and attendants on Christmas Day, was read by one of the party, the typescript having been found in the vestry by another member. The great tombs of the de Veres, one of whom was one of the "Happy Band of Brothers" who fought with King Henry V at Agincourt, fill the western end of the small chapel. These were removed from Earls Colne Priory some years ago and form the chief visual interest in St. Stephen's Chapel. Fragments of stained glass, also brought from the demolished Priory, adorn the lancet windows, and in an adjoining barn further relics were found.

Returning to the village by the slow flowing Stour, a visit was made to the parish church of St. Mary, which has memorials to another great Essex family, the Waldegraves. The lovely floral displays were also much admired, and the moulded Tudor red brick of the south porch, contrasting with the wooden porch on the opposite side, are architectural treasures.

Remaining on the border of Suffolk and Essex, the party next made its way to the little Norman church of Wissington (locally called and signposted as "Wiston") which is full of treasures and interesting things. The rounded Norman arches of windows, door and chancel arch were connected by a series of wall paintings, much of which is still decipherable. Saints, angels and the Devil, in the shape of a great dragon, gaze down with dispassionate eyes on less ancient carved box pews, organ and choir loft and stone font, but the floral displays and the cleanness of the place reflect the passionate love and care for the lovely old church, which was pleasing to note. The wrought iron candle holders, which could be removed from the fixed iron stem, were, no doubt, carried in procession and were a good example of dual purpose fittings.

All agreed that the evening had been one of immense interest, and, despite the dull and showery weather, one felt the visits had been very rewarding.

THE TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW will be held this year on Saturday, 9th. July and, for the first time, we are to have a tent of our own. The theme of our display will be Country Crafts and we hope members will come and visit us.

NEW COVER FOR THE BULLETIN we think our new cover (just in time for the new volume), will be generally welcomed by members, and we offer the designer, Mr. Keith Mirams, our grateful thanks.

PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1966

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

WINTER MEETINGS 1966 - 1967.

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

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1966 - October 10 th | Annual General Meeting after which coffee and biscuits will be served. |
| October 17 th | A.L.F. Rivet. M.S., F.S.A., - Lecturer in Classics, University of Keele - THE GEOGRAPHY OF ROMAN BRITAIN. |

October 24 th	D.G. Davies, B.A., - Assistant Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museums - THE BRONZE AGE IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND,
October 31 st	A.F.J. Brown, B.A., - Head of the Classics Department, Colchester Royal Grammar School - THIRD & FOURTH CENTURY GREECE AND ITS EFFECT ON ROMAN CIVILISATION.
November 7 th	Miss Rosalind Dunnett. B.A., of the Colchester Excavation Committee reports on the present position in Colchester.
November 14 th	Mrs. M.H. Rule of the Chichester Excavation Committee. EXCAVATIONS AT FISHBOURNE: THE STORY OF SIX SEASONS ON THIS IMPORTANT SITE.
November 21 st	C.E. Stevens, M.A., B Litt., Fellow of Magdalen College. Oxford - THE STUDENT OF THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE LOOKS AT COLCHESTER.
November 28 th	Miss J. du Plat Taylor of the Committee for Nautical Archaeology - SOME ASPECTS OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY.
December 5 th	J.S. Wachter, F.S.A., - Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester - CATTERICK, A NINE MONTH EXCAVATION OF 3½ ACRES OF A ROMAN TOWN.
December 12 th	Film Show & Social - Bring and Buy Sale - Refreshments (EXPLORING THE UNWRITTEN PAST (PREHISTORIC MAN IN EUROPE. (THE EVERCHANGING SKY, JOHN CONSTABLE 1776-1837,
1967 - January 9 th	D.M. Archer, B.A. Oxon., - Assistant Keeper of the Department of Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum - ENGLISH DELFT WARE.
January 16 th	Graham Webster, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., A.M.A., - Staff Tutor in Archaeology, University of Birmingham THE REVOLT OF BOUDICCA.
January 23 rd	To be arranged
January 30 th	To be arranged
February 6 th	C.F. Wardale of the Archaeology Division, Ordnance Survey - AIR PHOTOGRAPHY WITHIN THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
February 13 th	To be arranged
February 20 th	To be arranged
February 27 th	G. de G. Sieveking, M.A., F.S.A., - Assistant Keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Activities, British Museum - EXCAVATIONS ON THE PLEISTOCENE LAKE-SIDE SETTLEMENT, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK.
March 6 th	Lady Cox, well-known as M.T. Anderson for her study of Iconography - SYMBOLISM IN THE ARCHITECTURE AND IMAGERY OF PARISH CHURCHES.
March 13 th	RECENT GROUP EXCAVATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS.

THE SAMIAN POTTERY FROM ST. MARY'S RECTORY GARDEN, COLCHESTER.by F.H. Erith.

The preliminary report of this excavation appeared in the June copy of this Bulletin together with site plans; the full report and a description of the coarse pottery will be published in a later issue. This is an account of just the Samian pottery from that site.

The assortment consists of a fairly general cross-section of the more common forms, ranging from the beginning of the Roman occupation until the fourth century, represented by two fragments of imitation ware. The most common form was Drag. 18, representing the earlier period of this site, but the Antonine period is also well represented.

<u>Plain forms.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Decorated Forms.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Drag. 18	Seventeen	Drag. 29	Three
27	Four	30	Two
31	Two	37	Six
33	One		
36	One		
38	Two		
Curle 11	Two		

Perhaps the most interesting piece is that illustrated in fig. 5, being a fragment of Form 30. This is executed in such high relief that one wonders how the vessel managed to come out of its mould. The features appear to be Trajanic, but the figure, which is in neither Dechelette or Oseald, has been used by Q.I. Balbinus, whose working life was from 150-190 A.D. (See C.G.P. Plate 124 No. 3.)

Datal references:-	Claudius	A.D.	41 - 54
	Vespasian		69 - 79
	FLAVIAN		69 - 98
	Trajan		98 - 117
	Hadrian		117 - 138
	ANTONINE		138 - 180

<u>Stratification reference.</u>	<u>Samian form.</u>	<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
<u>PIT TWO.</u>			
Confused clay floor	37	See fig. 2.	100-120
4 ft. 6 ins.	37	Ovolo only	150
4 ft. 10 ins - 5 ft. 6 ins.	27	See fig. 13	Trajanic
4 ft. 10 ins - 5 ft. 6 ins.	18	Stamped "LITTERA" (fig. 8)	Hadrianic
5 ft.	18	Fine thin foot-rim	1st. century
(A) in circle	18	Pointed foot-rim	Claudian
(A) in circle	18	1st. century	
Unstratified	31	Stamped "IMA". See fig. 14.	Antonine

PIT THREE

Unstratified	30	Base only	90
--------------	----	-----------	----

PIT FOUR

N.E. 6ft. 6 ins.	27	Beaked rim section etc. fig 10	Claudian
N.E. corner 6 ft. 6 ins.	18	Stamped "CANRVCATI". fig 9	Flavian
N.E. corner 6 ft. 6 ins.	18	1st. century	
N.E. 6ft. 6 ins - 7 ft.	18	Rounded underside of base	Flavian
Occupation level 6 ft.	18	1st. century	
N.E. 6 ft. 6 ins.	27	See fig. 12	Flavian
Kiln wall 6 ft.	27	50-100	

Kiln 5ft. 6 ins - 6 ft.	37	Ovolo only	Hadrianic
Kiln wall 6 ft.	27	50-100	
Occupation level 6 ft.	29	Rouletting just below rim	50-100
N.W. 7 ft.	Curle 11	Rim plus flange	Hadrianic
Clay floor 4 ft,	Curle 11	Rim plus flange	Hadrianic
- ditto -	18	Rounded underside of base	Flavian
- ditto -	37	Impression of two legs	Antonine
- ditto -	18		1 st . century
- ditto -	38	(variant) Flange only	100-130
E. side pit to clay floor	36	No name stamp. See fig 11,	100-130
5 ft. 3 ins - 5 ft. 9 ins			

PIT SIX

Robber Trench in	29	See fig I.	Flavian
tesselated floor	37	Ovolo O. & P.61. See fig 6.	Vespianic

PIT SEVEN

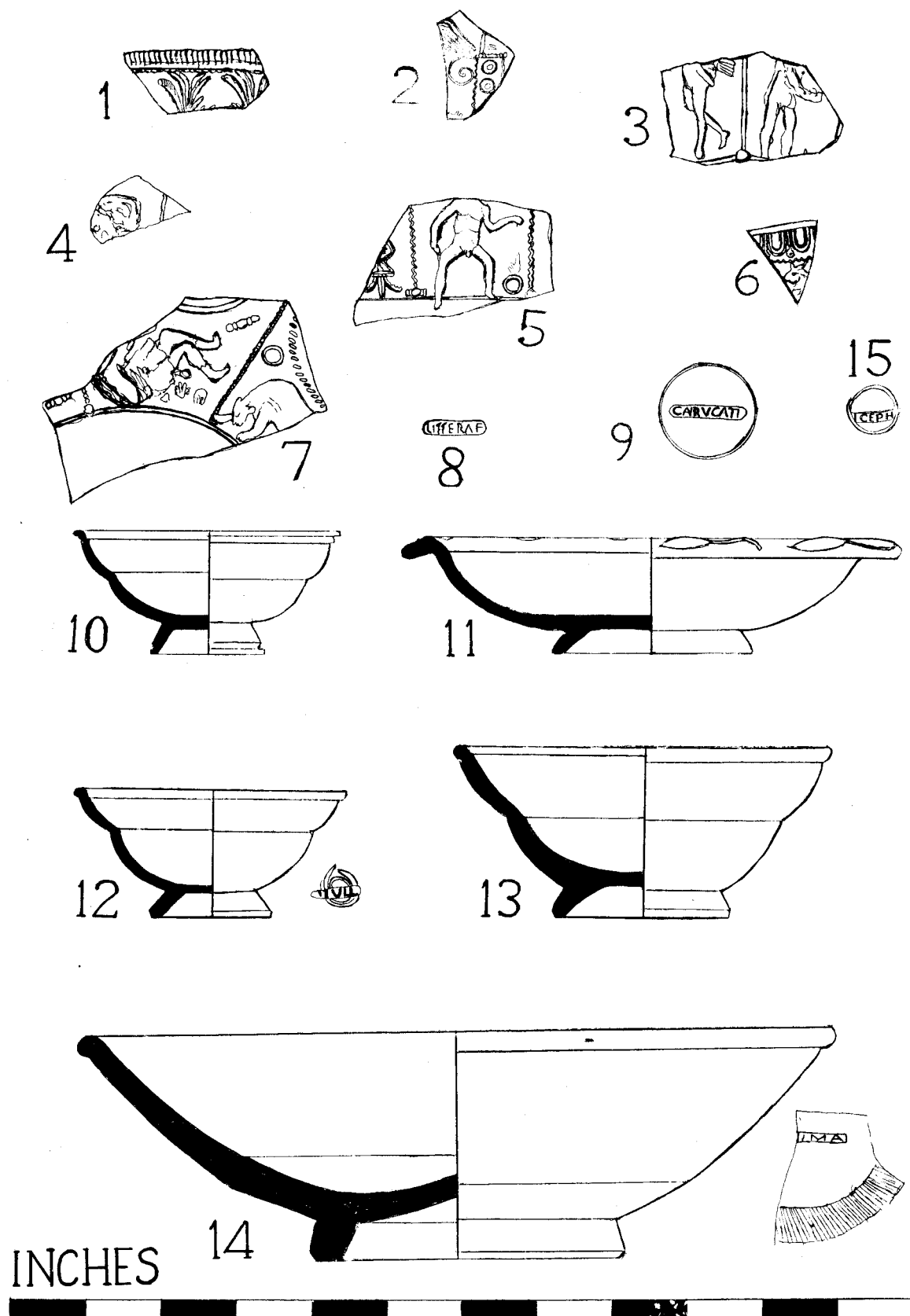
Floor level 6 ft. 4 ins.	18		1st. century
Under clay floor 6 ft.	29	Rouletting	50-100
S.E. corner pit 5 ft. 9 ins.	37	See fig 3.	Antonine
4 ft. 9 ins - 5 ft.	37	See fig 7.	Antonine
4 ft. 9 ins - 5 ft.	33	Stamped "ICEPH". See fig 15.	Hadrianic
4 ft. - 4 ft. 6 ins.	30	See fig. 5.	Trajanic
Mortar layer 4 ft.	31	Rouletting	150-200
Unstratified	38	No decoration on flange	Antonine
-ditto-	38	Imitation Samian, grey core.	4th. century
		Light red coat	
-ditto-	Cam. 339	As above. Boss.	4tho century,
5 ft. 6 ins. - 6 ft.	37	Head of lion. See fig 4.	Antonine.

ILLUSTRATIONSFig.

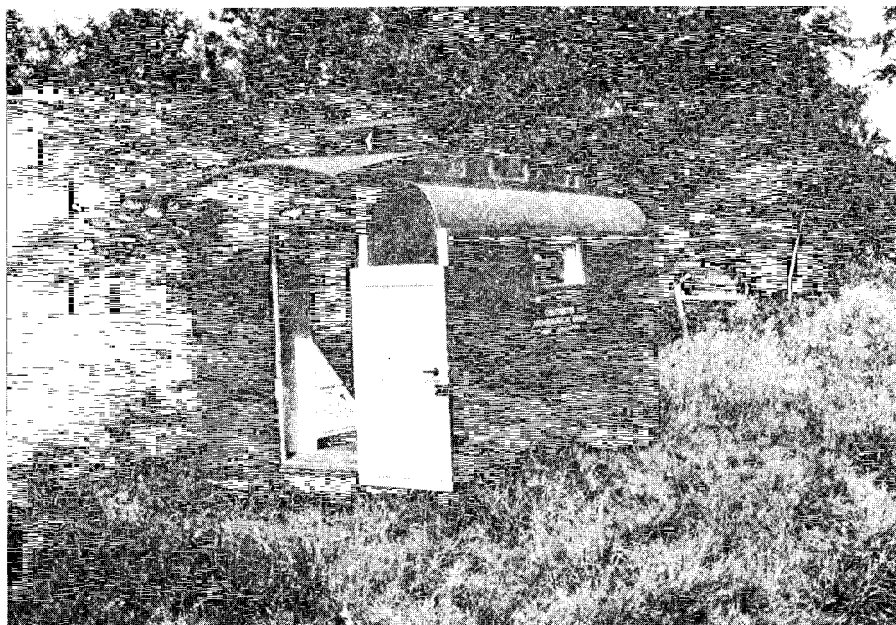
- Form 29. Palm design used by IVCVNDUS, 65-75; MEDDILLUS 60-80; VADARIO 65-80; OF COTOI 70-85; CRESTIO 70-90 and CRUCURO 70-85 A.D.
- Form 37. Wing of eagle.
- Form 37. Cupid (holding up satchel?).
- Form 37. Head of Lion.
- Form 30. Figure-types well made and in high relief. Design of naked man used by Q.I. Balbinus.
- Form 37. Wolf's head.
- Form 37. The complete picture is of a fallen warrior or gladiator with skull-cap and shield D. 207a. Bear D. 760.
- Form 18. The stamp "LITTERA F" is not to be confused with the Colchester potter of the same name; compare "Colchester Kilns" Fig. 48. No. 20,
- Form 18. Stamped CANRVCATI, surrounded by circle of rouletting over the foot-rim.
- Early type of Form 27, with grooves on the external side of rim. and also on foot-rim,
- Form 38. No stamp in middle of base.
- Later type of Form 27, without grooves. Stamp IULI (?) or possibly meaningless.
- Larger type of Form 27.

14. Form 31, so stamped ... I M A (by the hand ofus.?)

15. Base of Form 33. stamped ..ICEPH.. for Nicephor.



OUR MOBILE HEADQUARTERS.



For some time the Group Committee has felt the need for a temporary shelter of some kind on excavation sites and a place where tools and finds could be safely stored but the expense of such a facility seemed to be beyond our financial resources. Then there was an unexpected stroke of good fortune and we received the very generous gift of a caravan from one of our new members, Mr. R.W. Palmer, who said he had no further use for it and would like it to have a good home. It has already been in use on the dig at Lexden Road and has been very much appreciated.

As the photograph above shows, the van is simple in shape, without any fancy curves or trimmings, and it is strongly made of hardboard on an ash framing, mounted on an all steel chassis. The lantern roof clear standing height of 6 ft. 6 ins. and the caravan is 6 ins. long plus a porch over door. The inside is painted cream with a white ceiling, and the outside is holly green - a colour which does not offend in field or garden.

There is a surprising amount of space inside, in spite of the dominance of a large formica-topped table flanked by bench seats which can also be converted into beds. This seating provides space for eight people, but even more can be accommodated in limited comfort. The built-in facilities include gas cooking stove, sink and draining board, Elsan toilet (for use in a lean-to tent) and ample storage space in cupboards, drawers, bookshelves, etc., and recesses for clothes and tools. It is also wired for electricity from a battery.

The way in which so much has been packed into so small a space is probably due to the fact that Mr. Palmer designed and built it himself some twenty years ago, with many intermediate modifications and additions arising from practical use. He tells us that it had really evolved from a second-hand luggage trailer which he bought for £5 thirty years ago, though there is nothing left of the original except part of the ash cart-hoops and some of the floor boards. The final result is definitely a heavy vehicle by modern caravan standards though it has been towed in the Scottish highlands. However, the solid construction is an advantage for an archaeological base which may have to accommodate some heavy tools and an unspecified number of people, and it will not have to be towed over long distances.

Mrs. Joan Holbert has very kindly volunteered to look after the caravan and the commissariat. She keeps it spotless and copes most efficiently with welcome cups of tea no matter how many helpers are on the site. Anyone who has worked on an excavation and has tried to eat rain-sodden sandwiches under a dripping hedge will appreciate how very grateful we are to Mr. Palmer for his wonderful gift.

CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

Some sixty members attended a very successful Cheese and Wine party on the evening of Friday, the 22nd of July. This was organised by Mrs. Hugh-Parsons and Mrs. Eshelby and guests were asked to make a donation towards our fund for providing archaeological equipment and tools and a very satisfactory sum was raised. The party was held in the garden of Mrs. Hugh-Parsons in St. Clare close - a most attractive setting on a perfect summer's evening and a happy social occasion.

BOLLARDS.

by H. J. Edwards.

The word "bollard" is most often associated in peoples' minds – and indeed in dictionaries – with ships and quays. There are, of course, many other examples. It used to be the practice - and occasionally still is - to put a bollard on the corner of a property or gateway to protect it from the modern Jehu. Nowadays the bollard is generally a horrid lump of concrete but there are some older, more ornamental ones about Colchester. The ones which interest me most are in Butt Road at the gateway of the Le Gateau Barracks. Of course we old Colchester folk still call it the Artillery Barracks and the bollards there look to me to be barrels of old cannon. Indeed, I am assured that they are so and that at one time there were others in the Garrison. The Cavalry Barracks, further up the road, were not so honoured. Their bollards are very utilitarian. Incidentally the Artillery Barracks have just attained their centenary but I did not notice any celebrations.

THE TENDRING HUNDRED SHOW.

On July 9th the Group staged an exhibit on the Lawford Hall showground entitled "Old Country Crafts" This theme had been considered for last year and postponed in order that better justice should be done to it, with a longer period of preparation. This in the event was fortunate for in 1965 we were rather cramped for space and this year the Committee gave us a 30' x 40' marquee to ourselves. We found them so co-operative that we felt we ought to respond with the best exhibit we could provide.

We found that the material available, especially at Colchester Castle, was very large and the general goodwill no less remarkable. We were able to show several crafts actually in production, lacemaking and clay pipemaking by members who learned these skills for the occasion, corn-dolly making by the senior Agricultural Advisory Officer for the district, Miss Roper, with a superlative collection of straw confections from various sources and spinning by Mrs. Jill Goodwin, who is also an authority on dairying and other crafts. By special arrangement with the Show Committee, Mr. Bill Marno, an expert potter from Higham, was allowed to share our tent and was included in our general scheme.

To these five demonstrators the popularity of the stand was largely due. They had been placed so that they could converse with each other to pass the time, but they were scarcely visible all day, so many interested people were constantly crowding round them.

Besides the demonstrators we were able to get together interesting collections of implements and tools from farm and cottage, smithy, dairy, brickfield and wheelwright's shop. The smith's tools were grouped round a representation of a forge - anvil, giant bellows, hearth and so on.

The rarer exhibits included poacher's equipment ("the Craftiest of all Country Crafts"), 19th, century veterinary instruments, a perfect miniature horse-collar, and a bridal veil of Coggeshall lace.

The Group also exhibited a model of a duck decoy, subject of much discussion and diagrams, photographs and artifacts from recent excavations.

The centrepiece was a double-tom or Essex baulk plough, raised to shoulder height - a magnificent object in Guardsman scarlet, a loan from the Colchester Garrison Quartermaster's store.

We had a number of conversations with farmers about old implements in their possession, from which the Castle collections should ultimately benefit.

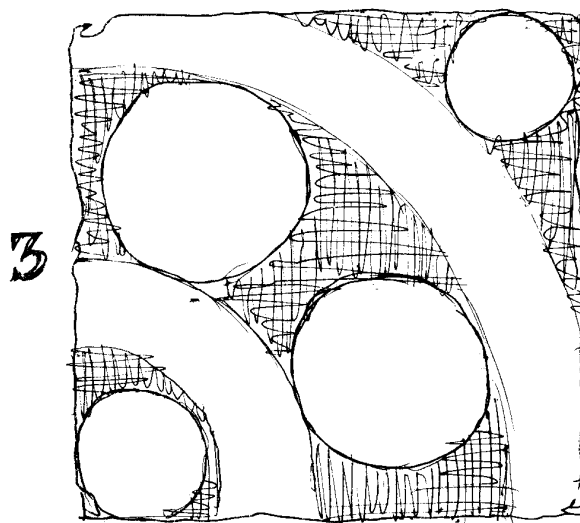
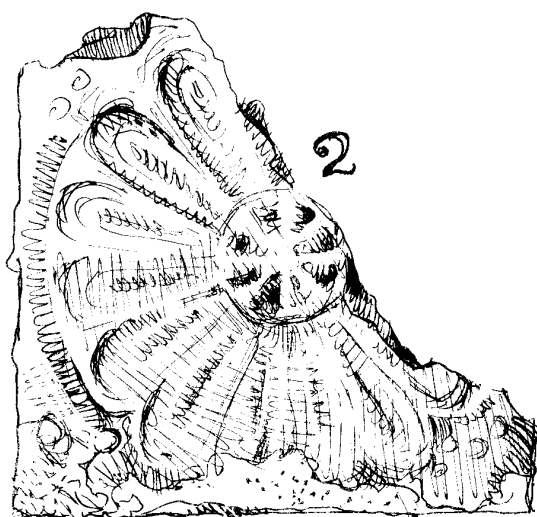
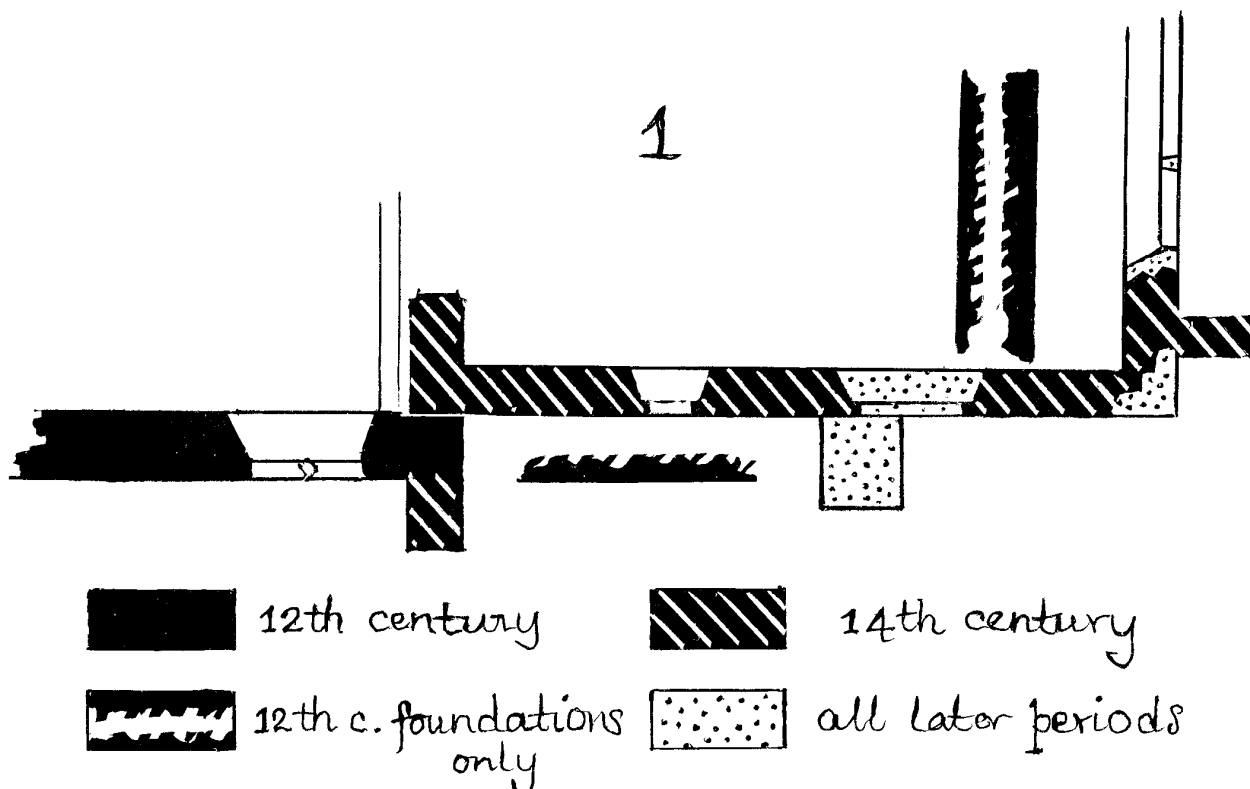
Altogether we were very well satisfied by the interest taken in our tent and the continuous crowd in it all day.

THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, TOLLESHUNT KNIGHTS.

by H.M. Carter.

The latest of several restorations to the church of All Saints Tolleshunt Knights was carried out early this year under the direction of Mr. Andrew Carden, A.R.I.B.A., The church is now used by the nearby Greek Orthodox Community after being out of regular use for about thirty years.

The building is ascribed by the R.C.A.M. to the 12th century although no detail had survived earlier than the 15th. Their dating was confirmed by the discovery of a 12th century roussoir, though the later work probably dates from the end of the 14th century, when the building was reconstructed and the chancel built, and the south doorway perhaps from a little earlier.



Renewal of exterior drainage laid bare a length of foundation south of the south wall of the chancel, in line with the south wall of the nave. It was already known that there are similar footings crossing the chancel north to south, six feet west of the east wall. It is clear (as will be seen from the sketch plan fig. 1) that the original church was a single chambered building with no structural division between nave and chancel. This is confirmed by the fact that the walling each side of the chancel-arch is not bonded into the nave walls but it evidently an insertion. For this reason, no doubt, a tie-beam was placed immediately west of the chancel-arch to take roof thrust which would normally be supported by the chancel-arch wall.

Behind the jamb of the easternmost window of the south wall of the nave a brick jamb was uncovered (now no longer visible). The present window was probably part of a Victorian restoration. A little further west traces of a black letter inscription appeared when the wall was cleaned. This was indecipherable without a long process of scraping for which no time was available, and it was covered with a coat of lime and water which will readily wash off when an opportunity to investigate further occurs.

A key of a pattern common in the 13th century was dug up in the church yard.

Several 14th century tiles came to light. One of these (fig. 2) is approximately $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches with a cream slip design on a brown background. Similar though not identical tiles have been found north of London and in Kent.

Fig. 2 represents a tile of which a more complete but much worn specimen was also found. It measures approximately $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches. It has a high olive green glaze on a stamped pattern. It may very probably have come from the tile works at Kings Lynn, though its dimensions differ slightly from those most usual from that source.

We have been fortunate in discussing these tiles with Mrs. Elizabeth Eames, M.A., F.S.A., of the British Museum.

THE SUMMER OUTINGS

On Saturday, June the 18th, members of the Group made an excursion to the south-west part of the county. Greenstead-juxta-Ongar was first visited, and the Saxon timber-work was discussed and examined in detail. The church was being prepared for a festival of flowers, the weather was bright, and the whole place made a very harmonious scene.

Lunch was taken in the vicarage garden at Waltham Abbey by kind permission of the vicar. He then put us in charge of Mr. Higgs, whose excavations east of the church suggest that the original building was much longer than is generally supposed. He proved a very popular and interesting guide.

The next place of interest was Ongar Castle, a motte and bailey castle comparable with Pleshey, yet strangely hidden away behind the High Street. We are grateful to Mr. Buxton, whose lawns, splendid trees and pea-chicks competed for our interest with the memory of the builder of the castle, Richard de Lucy, surnamed the Loyal.

Our evening outing on Monday, July the 18th, was lead by Mr. B.A. Bonner whom we met at his farm, Threshelfords, at Feering, where his fields ablaze with flowers were a joy to see.

Our first visit was to Cressing Temple by kind invitation of Mr. Frank Cullen. Said to be the earliest settlement of the knights Templars, the complex of Barns, Farmhouse, walled garden and moat made a beautiful picture in the evening sunlight. In the garden is a small Roman bath of marble which came originally from the nearby Roman site at Rivenhall.

The Wheat Barn is brick built and is thought to date back to 1520 and is a magnificent structure 140 feet long and 40 feet high. The Barley Barn is weather boarded and nearly a hundred years older and, though not quite so large, is very impressive and some experts have given both barns even earlier dates. Both barns are aisled and have magnificent tiled roofs. The intricate timber construction was much admired.

Finally we went into the Court Room where a collection of local Iron Age and Roman finds, together with ancient farm implements and equipment, local maps and paintings were on display.

Our last call was to the little church at White Notley where we were shown round by the Vicar. The fine chancel arch which dates back to the time of the Conquest is finished with Roman bricks and many more are used in the external construction. Two niches show traces of wall paintings as do the walls, and a re-set early window contains some 12th century glass. There is a very fine dug-out chest and the church register was begun in the time of Henry VIII.

GROUP NOTICES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, the 10th of October, 1966 in the Lecture Room at Colchester Castle. Please make every effort to attend; the Group is expanding steadily and we need your views and ideas. Coffee and biscuits will be served at the conclusion of the business meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

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

MINUTES.

A copy of the Minutes of the 1965 Annual General Meeting is also enclosed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual subscription of 10/- falls due on the 1st of October 1966. Please send to the Hon. Treasurer:

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

It will be greatly appreciated if these are paid promptly.

A reminder will be sent to those still outstanding with the December Bulletin, after which the membership will be taken to have lapsed.

GROUP LIBRARY.

In response to numerous requests we plan to institute a small library of archaeological books and the Museum authorities have very kindly set aside a bookcase for our use. Books will be available for loan at our winter meetings in the Castle and a small weekly fee will be charged. Some have already been offered and gratefully accepted but more are needed. If you have any surplus volumes on archaeological or kindred subjects, local history, transactions or excavation reports please send to the Secretary - a Librarian has yet to be appointed. All gifts will be gratefully acknowledged.

WINTER MEETING.

The programme of winter meetings is given below; these cover a wide field of subjects and we hope it will be found of interest. We should like to remind you that guests are always welcome - the charge is 2/6.

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

WINTER MEETINGS 1967

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

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

January	9 th	D.M. Archer, B.A. Oxon., - Assistant Keeper of the Department of Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum.- ENGLISH DELFT WARE.
January	16 th	Graham Webster, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., A.M.A., - Staff Tutor in Archaeology University of Birmingham - THE REVOLT OF BOUDICCA.,
January	23 rd	Mrs. M., U. Jones - THE MUCKING, ESSEX, CROP MARK SITES with colour slides by W.T. Jones Esq.
January	30 th	F. H. Erith - RECENTLY DISCOVERED LOCAL CROP MARKS.
February	6 th	C. F. Wardale of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey - AIR PHOTOGRAPHY WITHIN THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
February	13 th	B.J.N. Edwards, B.A., - A COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGIST AT WORK.
February	20 th	B. K. Davison - H. M. Inspector of Ancient Monuments –THETFORD - THE INVESTIGATION OF A SAXON TOWN.,
February	27 th	G.de G. Sieveking, M.A., F.S.A., - Assistant Keeper of the Department of British and Medieval Activities, British Museum EXCAVATIONS ON THE PLEISTOCENE LAKE-SIDE SETTLEMENT, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK.
March	6 th	Lady Cox, well-known as M. T. Anderson for her study of Iconography - SYMBOLISM IN THE ARCHITECTURE AND IMAGERY OF PARISH CHURCHES.
March.	13 th	RECENT GROUP EXCAVATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS.

GROUP NOTICES.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Colchester Archaeological Group held in Colchester Castle on the 10th of October 1966 the following Officers and Committee were elected and appointments made:-

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

A copy of the Minutes will be sent to members with the issue of the Bulletin in September 1967,

INDEX

A subject, author, place name and proper name index with cross references has been prepared covering the first eight volumes of the Bulletin.

This may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex - PRICE 3/- - plus postage 5d. extra.

GROUP LIBRARY.

As forecast briefly in the last Bulletin, we have now launched our Group Library, housed in a case that has been kindly put at our disposal by the Museum authorities. So far we have been able to spend only £5 from the Group's funds for new books, but the response from members has been such that we already have sixty nine volumes and about one hundred pamphlets. More are still wanted and if any member has surplus volumes of archaeological, historical or local interest, these will be gratefully accepted.

Whatever may have been the intention of the originators of the idea of a Group Library, it seems to be developing a character of its own, largely because it is being created by random gifts from the members themselves. Instead of being a library of standard works on Archaeology such as are available in the Public Library or in members' private collections, we seem to be accumulating a most interesting collection of "off-beat" books and pamphlets. A full classified index of the books will be published at a later stage. All library enquiries should be addressed to the Librarian, Mr. R.W. Palmer, 41 Gladwin Road, Colchester.

REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS IN THE GARDEN OF ST. MARY'S RECTORY, COLCHESTER. (continued)

by P.R. Holbert

The preliminary report on this site appeared in the C.A.G. Quarterly Bulletin IX.2, for June 1966, together with the plans and sections. The report on the Samian pottery was included in the C.A.G. Quarterly Bulletin IX.3.

The excavation began with a series of pits 6' x 6' intended only to define the most promising area in which subsequently to extend operations. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the work was terminated abruptly at this stage. Therefore a finished job was not possible and various important features were not investigated. However, a great quantity of sherds and small finds were obtained, enough to enable one to form some opinion of the date and probable function of this part of the early Roman town.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks are due firstly to the Revd. R. Stevens, Vicar of St. Mary's, for allowing us to dig on the site of his new vicarage and to Mr. H. Malcolm Carter for making all the arrangements; to Mr. David Clarke and Miss Rosalind Dunnett who visited the site several times; to Mr. M.R. Hull for his advice on the site and also for classifying and dating the coarse pottery; to Mr. F.H. Erith for classifying, dating and drawing the Samian ware and for drawing and describing the coarse ware; to Mr. E. S. May for his plans and sections and, finally, to all the Group members and University students who took part in the excavations.

The Structural Finds.

Pits 1,2,5,6 & 9 - Group -1

This group produced the red tesserae floor and wall foundations of what was probably the rear part of a dwelling house fronting on to the Roman street on the line of the modern Church Street. Dating for this feature is difficult; there was not time to take up the floor in search of dateable material and the find of fourth century coins at this level is, I feel, not valid, being too loosely "in association".

The whole area exposed seemed to be curiously disturbed as if in relatively recent times and appears to be the "Tessellated Pavement in the Cherry Garden" referred to by Morant; see Hull - Roman Colchester p192, ins. 25 (91).

The only clue as to dating is the closeness to the modern surface relative to the much lower early levels

examined at the other points on the site. This would put it fairly late for a possible "latest phase" of the house, although without further investigation it could not be ascertained whether there were, in fact, any earlier phases.

One very interesting find was a large black "sagging bottomed" pot, Saxo-Norman or maybe later, cemented firmly into a recess in the floor, presumably to stabilise it for storage purposes. This would tend to prove continued habitation of the site; of people "squatting" in the ruins of the Roman town.

Also noticed were some small pits suggestive of post holes, (numbers 2 and 3; see C.A.G. Bulletin IX., 2, p 20) perhaps a rough shack using the tesserae floor as a base.

Pit No. 2 of this group (see C.A.G. Bulletin IX., 2, p 24) some 25 feet to the east, showed nothing at this level, but down at the 4 foot level and below at 5' 6" and 6' 0" clay occupation layer many first and second century sherds were found in association.

One item of interest was a kiln waster, part of a triple vase, (see Hull - Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester fig. 107 p. 190, also fig. 72 No. 34 P 134). This was found below the 6' 0" level and is a tiny tulip shaped vase in buff clay, complete with the clear finger and thumb print of the potter.

Reasonably accurate dating of the above levels can be gauged by referring to Mr. Erith's Report on the Samian Pottery (see C.A.G. Bulletin. IX., 3., 31. Pit 2.)

Two fragments of base with foot rim of Form 18 (1st. century), stratification ref: (A) in circle, were found firmly sealed by the thick clay layer at 5' 6" to 6' 3" and lying on the thinner clay layer immediately below. The eastern edge of these clay floors projected about 1' 0" into the pit from the western side. Against and below these edges there appeared a peculiar mass of confused hard clay lumps which could only be construed as being the remains of a collapsed wall.

Pits 3,8 & 10 - Group 2,

These revealed what was most probably a "service road" running north-south and cutting the insula almost exactly in half.

Pits 4 & 7 - Group 3.,

These two pits appeared to indicate industry generally, kiln remains figuring largely amongst the finds, also two bronze needles and a pair of bronze tweezers (which disintegrated almost immediately) together with one bone spinning spindle and several bone pins. The coin (very badly corroded) from Pit 7 at 6' 1" proved to be of Trajan. The kiln, which was obviously in the near vicinity, is of "SATVRNINVS" and sherds of 1st century mortaria kiln wasters bearing this potter's stamp, together with kiln debris, were found in Pit 4. It is probable that a good percentage of sherds from this site can be attributed to this potter.

A report on the potter SATVRNINVS and the distribution pattern of his products is currently being prepared by Mrs. K. F. Hartley of Leeds University and will be published in this Bulletin when available.

Small Finds.

Coins - four only were found, description as follows:

TRAJAN - in a very corroded condition; 98 - 117 A.D.

VALENS - "SECVRITAS REI PVB" - in good condition; 364 - 378 A.D.

GRATIANVS - "GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI" - in good condition; 367 - 385 A.D.

GRATIANVS - "SECVRITAS REI PVBLICAE" - in good condition; 367 - 383 A.D.

Pins and Needles

One bone pin 3 inches long, sharply pointed at one end and with a double notch at the other. Also several pieces of others similar.

One bone needle 3 inches long with small round hole at one end.

One bone spindle 8 inches long. (used in the spinning of thread)

Two bronze sewing needles - parts of, only. Original length probably 4 inches and with an elongated eye.

One pair of small bronze tweezers in fragmentary condition.

The Coarse Pottery
by F.H. Erith.

The extent of St. Mary's Rectory garden is some 60 by 80 yards or 4800 square yards. The area excavated, ten random pits, each six feet square, was therefore 40 square yards, or less than one percent, The pottery from these pits was very abundant and would indicate the whole area as being highly productive, but one shudders to think of the work which would be needed to wash, sort, sift, draw and report on what might be found should the opportunity of a complete excavation occur,

In all, some 5,173 sherds were recovered, this total being broken down into types, produces the following analysis:

Black/Grey - 2,353 sherds.

Cream/Buff - 2,597 sherds.

Others (colour-coated etc.) - 131 sherds.

Samian (see report in C.A.G. Bulletin IX.,3., p. 30) - 92 sherds.

The pottery consisted of a representative cross-section of the whole period of the Roman occupation, besides a Saxon pot embedded in a Roman floor. Pottery found in the top three feet was classified as unstratified, but, on examination, proved to be fourth century; so these pieces may not really have been much disturbed from the time they were discarded.

Where pottery is of a form classified in Camulodunum we have given the reference as "Cam 108" etc., but Mr. Hull followed this sequence in Roman Colchester and in the Roman Potters' Kilns with a continuation of the CAM, numbers and it seems wrong to refer to the later purely Roman pottery (and not found in the Camulodunum area) with a "Cam" prefix. Probably it would be more correct to classify all Colchester forms with a "Hull" prefix.

Pottery Illustrations (see pp. 30-31)

References cited:-

Camulodunum, by C.F.C. Hawkes F.S.A. & M.R. Hull, F.S.A. 1947.

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

The Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester, by M.R. Hull, F.S.A., 1963.

Referred to as:-

"Cam."

"R. Col."

"C.K."

- 1 The common black cooking pot with latticed side. R.Col. fig. 120, 200-350 A.D. Form 279B.
2. Bowl in grey Roman ware; developed copy of native form 218., "Lattice on neck 70-140 A.D." From pit 4, S.W, at 7' depth, so presume 1st century,
3. Mortarium. A distorted waster with potter's stamp "SATVRA" (retrograde) which Mrs. Hartley has identified as "SATVRNINVS". Pit 4 at 5'. Also similar mortarium rim from the same area similarly stamped "SATVRA" (retrograde), This is the first evidence that this potter operated in the Colchester area.
- 3A. but compare with similar mortarium found at Lexden and stamped "SATVR" (retrograde) and illustrated in C.A.G. Bulletin I, p.17
4. Mortarium with rolled rim rising above the beading. Form 496, Antonine or later. Unstratified.
5. Grey bowl with flat reeded rim. Form 246. (Very common at Ardleigh; see C.A.G. Bulletin VIII 2.p 21, Nos. 1-7. From pit 7 under clay floor at 6', about 100 A.D.

6. Bowl in grey Roman ware, Form 228. Cam. Pl. LXXVI. Late 1st century. From pit 2, at 4' 10" to 6' depth.

FLAGONS - About sixty fragments of flagon necks and handles, ranging from "near surface" to 9' deep (in pit in sand in pit 2). All our illustrations are in buff-cream ware,

7. Three-stepped neck and three-ribbed handle, Cam. 155. From N.W. corner of pit 4 at 7' depth,
8. Four-stepped neck and four-ribbed handle. Cam 154. From occupation level 6' deep, in Pit 4,
9. Four-stepped rim and two-ribbed handle. Cam. 155. From pit 4 at 4' 6" to 5' 6" depth.
10. Form Cam. 155. From NW corner of pit 4 at 7' depth. 1st century.
11. Fragment of everted rim of an incense burner and terminating in a frill. Buff ware. Found in pit 4 at 4' 8" to 5' 4" depth.
12. From pit 4. Incense burner with pedestal missing. Two rows of frilling, but the top wall continues upwards. Possibly fig 11 fitted over the top but an exact join cannot be made. Buff ware. Examples of multi frilling are known. Compare with illustration in C.A.G. Bulletin I. p. 17, No. 2. where a three frilled example in red ware is shown from Lexden.
13. Grey bowl, polished and latticed, Mr. Hull's form 37. Rim triangular in section. R.Col. fig. 102. From pit 7 clay floor at depth 5' 3" to 5' 9" 70 - 170 A.D.

FLANGED BOWLS - three sherds from pit 5 and two sherds from pit 7 were marked as unstratified because they were found in the top 2 or .3 feet. These were all late 4th. century types, grey or black.

14. The sherd illustrated is brown-buff ware with black polished coating. This form is classified in C.K. as "Form 516, being a copy of Drag. form 38". In this case the flange is somewhat degenerate and over-supported.
15. Black polished cooking-pot ware. Straight flange. Form 305A. Usually scored as in No. 16, but no evidence of that in this fragment. Found in pit 7, too high up to be stratified. 4th century.
16. Polished black bowl with flange. Form 305B. Found in pit 7 too high up to be stratified. 4th century.
17. Bowl of grey ware with black rings. Variant of form 218, from pit 2 at depth of 4' 10" to 5' 6".

COLOUR COATED WARE - some forty fragments of colour-coated ware were present, the majority being red or black, with sandy rough-cast.

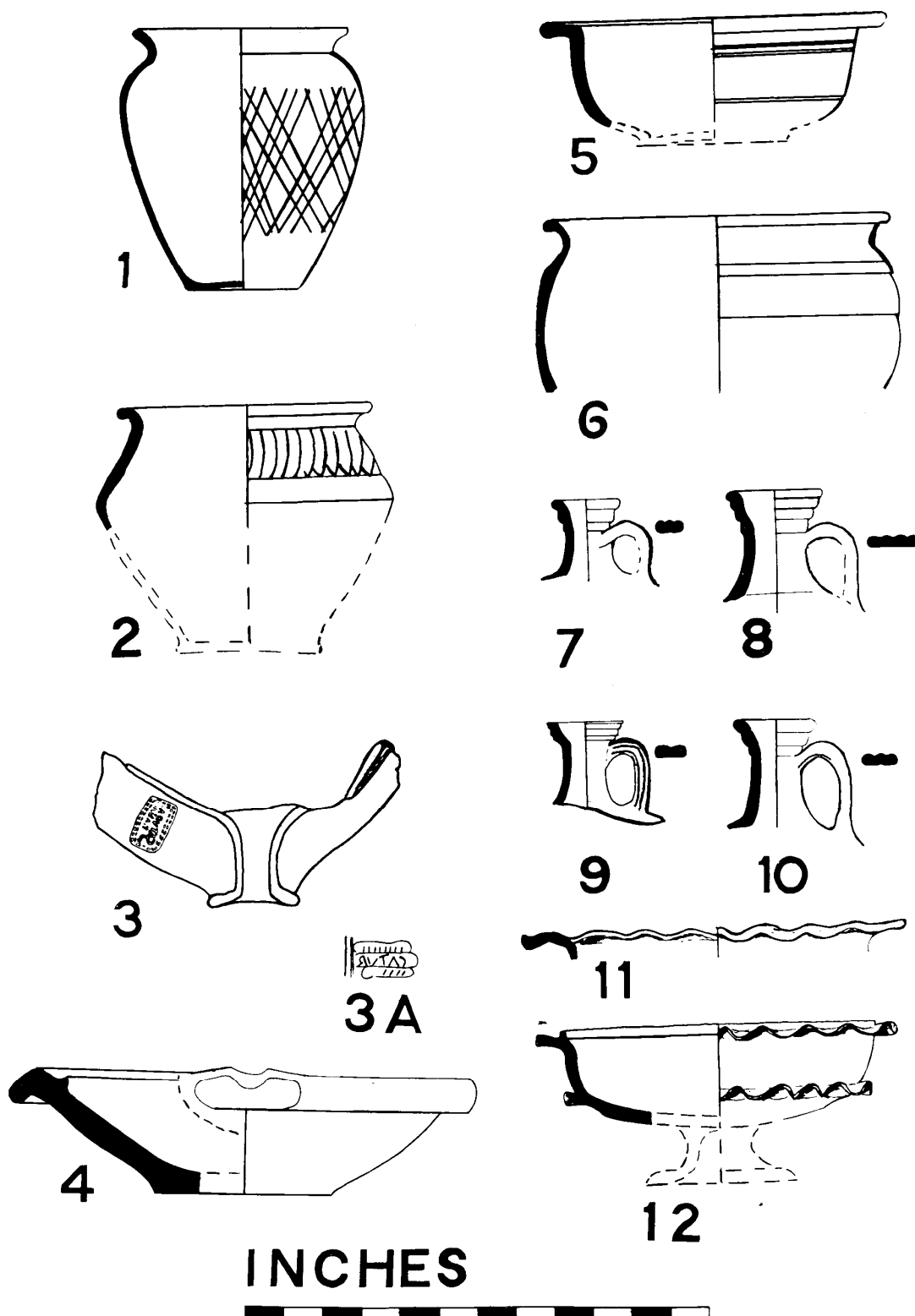
18. Part of a fluted ovoid beaker with black exterior and red interior. Form 407. The illustration shows a pattern of imbricated scales on the ridge of a fold of fluting. See C.K. fig. 96. No. 15, and on page 169. From pit 3, Unstratified. 3rd or 4th century.
19. One cup from a triple vase. Creamy ware. C.K. fig. 72, No. 34 and page 134. From pit 2 at 7' 7" to 8' 7" depth, so presumably 1st century.
20. Pink -buff clay with polished black surface. Part of a large vessel of ten to twelve inches diameter. Probably imitation Drag. 37 in West Stow ware. Decoration of incised parallel lines and concentric circles. From clay floor of Pit 7 at 5' 3" to 5' 9" depth. Early 2nd century,

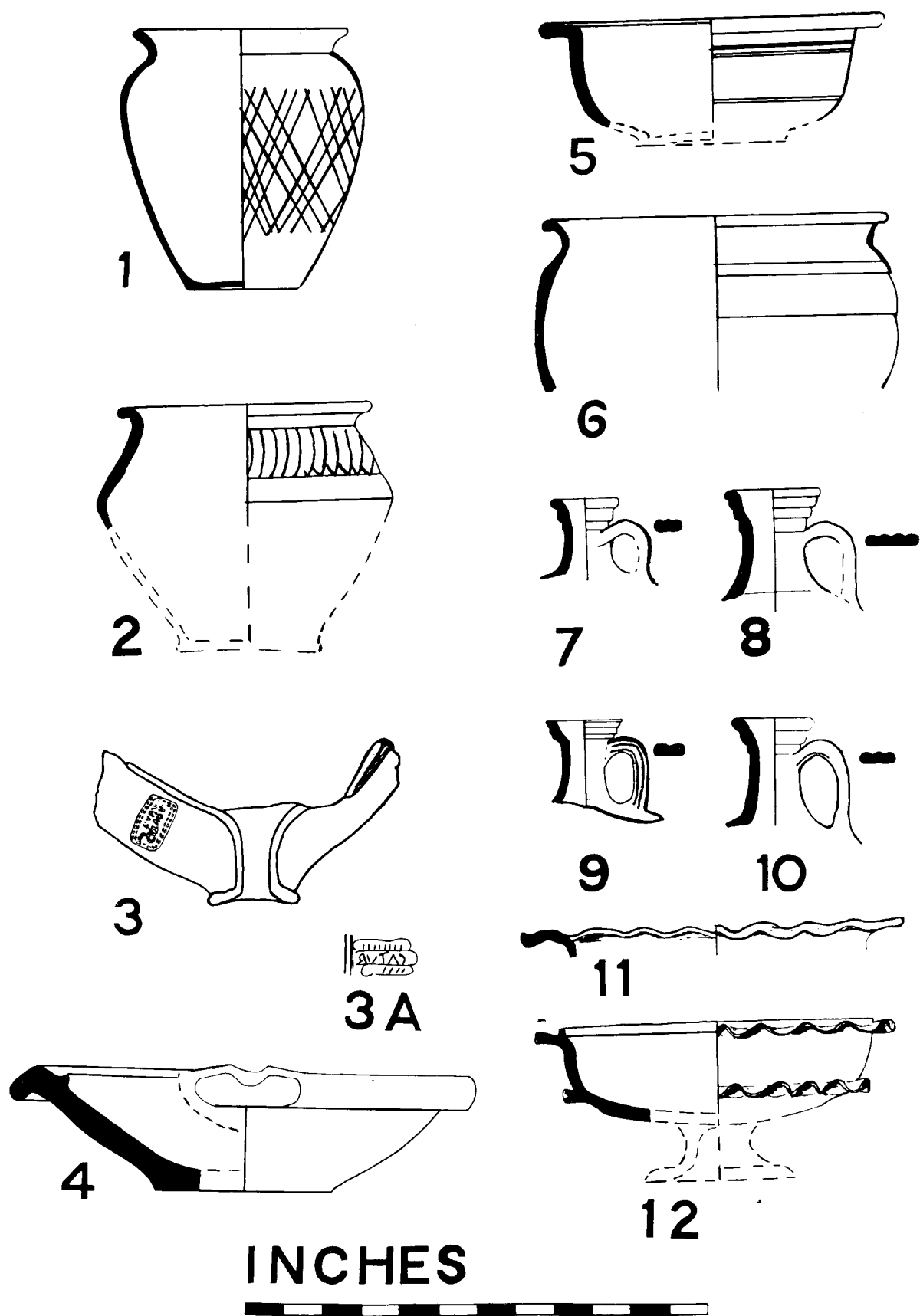
MICA-GILT WARES - vessels of buff-pink clay speckled with gold to imitate bronze, See C.K. p 101.

21. Small bowl with thick and flat everted rim, the Form not mentioned in C.K. From pit 2 at 5' depth.
22. Shallow bowl from the clay floor of pit 2. C.K. fig. 59, p 106, No. 27, shows the shape of the base and is described as Mica-gilt ware.
23. The well-known ovoid beaker form 108, Cam. P1. LV1. Not previously found in Mica-gilt ware. From Pit 4 at 4' 8" to 5' 0".

UNIDENTIFIED FORMS.

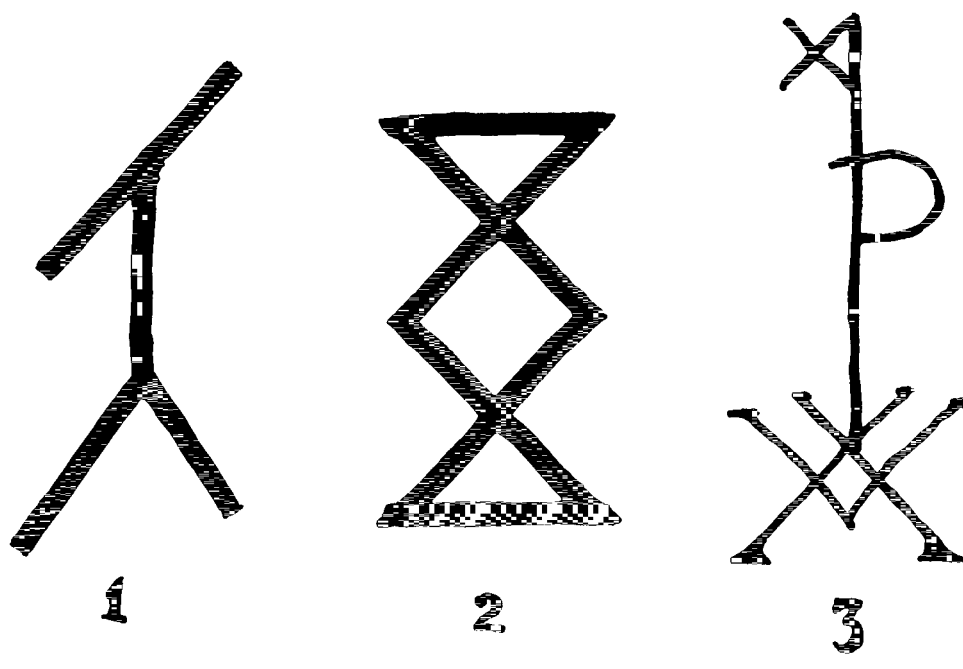
24. Small fragment in fine pink-buff ware, possibly Mica-gilt. From clay floor of pit 7 at 5' 0" to 5' 8" depth.
25. Pink-buff ware, smooth surface. From pit 2 at 5' 0" depth.
26. Saxon or later pot of coarse grey ware with sagging base. Found recessed into floor of Roman pavement in pit 5 at 3' 0" depth. See C.A.G. Bulletin IX,2, p.15.





TWO MASONS' MARKS AND ONE OTHER

by H. M. Carter.



During the course of the dig at 26 Lexden Road, two masons' marks, fig. 1 and fig. 2 in the sketch above, were noticed on stones in the rockery.

These stones were of uncertain period but appeared of much the same nineteenth century date as the house.

Craftmark fanciers may also be interested in fig. 3. It is woven in the selvage of a seventeenth century tapestry in Durham Castle.

OBSERVATIONS IN HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER, 1966.

By L.H. Gant.

The upheaval of the main streets of Colchester consequent upon building ducts and junction boxes for the future telephone system has given an opportunity to examine the road structures and to check the natural level.

It appears that the town is built upon compacted sand, which covers the hill top and the valley which runs outside the Roman walls roughly in the direction of St. John Street, Osborne Street and St. Botolph's.

This firm sand makes an admirable foundation for roads and buildings, and it is surprising how thin the foundation of the main street was; in places barely a foot thick. The foundation is a very hard gravel, with traces of ash, and the metalling is of stone and gravel.

The Roman street lies about 3 feet beneath present level, on natural sand.

In the North Hill section Roman and other pottery was found, but observation is difficult owing to the speed at which mechanical digging proceeds, and the swiftness of the erection of shuttering where necessary.

The area of St. Runwald's church, which formerly stood in the middle of High Street, provided much rough stone and the instability of the filling necessitated immediate shuttering of the trench. The brick foundations of the shops and houses which formed the old Middle Row, which ran eastward of St. Runwald's church as far as the Red Lion hotel, were, however, observed, near the present surface.

Enquiry of the workmen provided little information but at the western end of High Street a large well was found. This was of uncertain depth, for, by the time it could be inspected, a large quantity of rubble and earth had been back filled. It was seen that the rounded cap of brick had been built over the well, at no recent date, and it is surprising that the structure had withstood the weight and stress of the heavy traffic using this street.

There seems to be no doubt that this was the well which supplied "King Coel's Pump", which formerly stood on the site, and is pictured in an oil painting of St. Peter's church, now in the Minories Art Gallery, Colchester.

The old mile stone, which formerly stood in the middle of High Street, Opposite the Red Lion Hotel, was sold to Mr. William Wire, and energetic amateur archaeologist of last century, who re-erected it in the then new cemetery in Mersea Road over a family grave, where it can be seen today.

(What follows continues without break after the above. It is not clear, however, from the extant text, what the "silver replica" mentioned is of. It is possible that a heading has been omitted in the original publication.

Revision Editor)

Through the generosity of Mr. Bernard Mason, a silver replica, made by Mr. K. Chambers, of North Hill, Colchester, silversmith, is now in the Corporation plate, and exhibited in the special case in the Grand Jury Room of the Town Hall,

St. Runwald's church was demolished in 1878 and the material was sold to Mr. Jones, solicitor, who later built two houses in Maldon Road, which he appropriately called "St. Runwald's", and "The Cloister's." The chancel of St. Albright's church, Stanway, was rebuilt, using material from the old St. Runwald's. The font served as a garden ornament for many years before being rescued and put to better use.

Archaeologists are well aware of the movement of building material, from quarry to site, and from site to site. Re-used stone is common in most, if not all, ancient churches in Colchester, many of which contain Roman tile, and many cut stones from the Abbey of St. John, of which not a vestige remains above ground, can be found in the Abbeygate and in the perimeter wall. The most remarkable of these are two angel corbels now serving as caps to the rear entrance gates of Government House, on St. John's Green. Closer examination of the ancient stones forming an extensive rockery in the grounds adjoining the Abbeygate would, I feel sure, also be rewarding, and, together with the wall, would make an admirable project for the Group.

Roman Road in Lord's Land. When I told you that I had seen the Roman road in Papillon Road and Rawstorn Road I was not strictly accurate. You will know that, in the garden of 8, Crowhurst Road, we had a ditch, a piece of the road to the north of it and the corner of a pavement to the south of the ditch. The remainder of the pavement is under Papillon Road, about six feet down. This road was seen by Philip Laver, in the early nineteen-twenties, I think, and reported in the E.A.S.T. at the time. It was in 41 or 42 Crowhurst Road, I believe, I think I am right in saying that the road was also seen years ago in what is now Dr. Bradshaw's garden in Manor Road but I cannot give details of that without spending some time in the Holly Trees. My observations were made in 1957 when a new electricity cable was being laid in those roads. A trench was dug along the pavement on the south side of Papillon Road. Two feet to the west of the gateway of No. 6 was a hole two feet wide containing a hard mass of pink plaster and broken tile, together with a few tesserae. To my mind, undoubtedly a building and possibly the same one as seen in No. 8 Crowhurst Road. Then in Rawstorn Road, on the west side, four feet south of the gateway of No. 5, was a wall, two feet thick, not more than nine inches below the surface and continuing to the bottom of the trench, which was two feet deep, made of septaria. There was also tile and plaster about, again I say, a building. If you lay a ruler on a large scale map, you will see that all the sites I have mentioned are directly between Balcerne Gate and the Grammar School, I have no doubt that, before the wall was built, the Roman town extended outside the gate that was to be. Something had to be sacrificed to the demands of economy and symmetry. H. J. Edwards.

WINTER MEETINGS. 1966.

At the first meeting on the 10th of October the Group had the privilege of being addressed by Mr. A.L.F. Rivet, M.S., F.S.A., Lecturer in Classics at the University of Keele. Taking as his title "The Geography of Roman Britain", Mr. Rivet traced the development of the Roman colonisation of Britain and illustrated how the pattern of this was dictated by the geographical aspect of the country.

On the 24th of October Mr. D. G. Davies, B.A., Assistant Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museums, spoke on the Bronze Age in Southern England. Having shown the ways which the different cultures had reached this island, Mr. Davies illustrated the settlement of it by bronzes found in various parts of the country and the activities of the people.

Being "culture vultures" the Romans readily absorbed the ideas and achievements of Late Greek civilisation and adapted them to suit their own philosophy. Mr. A.F.J. Brown, B.A., Head of the Classics Department, Colchester Royal Grammar School, developed this theme in a talk to the Group on the 31st of October with the title "Third and Fourth Century Greece and its Effect on Roman Civilisation". With illustrations he showed how the transfer took place in architecture, sculpture, mosaics and literature.

On the 7th of November Miss Rosalind Dunnett B.A., of the Colchester Excavation Committee, gave a report on the present position in Colchester. Having described the dig on the premises of L.J. Watts, Stonemasons, in Queen Street, where the extreme depth in a restricted area made operations difficult, she went on to describe the excavations in West Stockwell Street where a quantity of Roman military equipment, including a legionary dagger, was found. Miss Dunnett, in a well thought out and logical exposition, gave her reasons for supposing that a Roman fort had once been sited at the western end of the centre of the present town.

The talk on November 14th was given by Mrs. M.H. Rule of the Chichester Excavation Committee. In a series of colourful slides she unfolded the story of six seasons excavation on this important Roman site at Fishbourne in Sussex. The beautiful mosaics, the impressive entrance, the audience chamber and formal garden all suggest a building complex of some importance possibly intended as a palace and Mrs Rule lead us through all the stages up to the final abandonment. Although a considerable part of this site is still uncovered there is already more than enough to present a vivid picture of life in early Roman Britain.

Was there a Roman Bishop of Colchester? If so, in the 4th century A.D. he may have been the equivalent to the present Archbishop of Canterbury. This was one of the interesting possibilities discussed by Mr. C.E. Stevens, M.A., B.Litt., Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, when he addressed the Group on the 21st of November with the theme "The Student of the Later Roman Empire looks at Colchester". Mr. Stevens said that in addition to the Bishop and the Governor of one of the Roman provinces, Colchester's illustrious citizens may have included the Count of the Saxon Shore, who was responsible for the defence of the southeast coast against Saxon raiders. Archaeological evidence of considerable destruction on the town suggested that some disaster occurred: in A.D. 367, possibly a successful raid by the Saxons, from which it never recovered. The military headquarters moved to Richborough and Colchester started to fall into the obscurity which lasted throughout the Dark Ages. This was shown by such evidence as the blocking of the Balcerne Gate on the road to London and the scarcity of late Roman coinage in the town.

What do archaeologists do when a 3500 year old ship, carrying bronze ingots is found ninety feet below the eastern Mediterranean? Why, excavate it, of course! On the 28th of November Miss J. de Plat Taylor of the Committee for Nautical Archaeology, University of London, described this and other similar operations to the Group and members of the Harwich Sub Aqua Club during an illustrated talk on "Some aspects of Underwater Archaeology". The development of the aqualung had allowed many of the techniques used on land, such as sectioning, drawing, photographing and measuring, to be carried out at depths down to 120 feet. Modern instruments such as echo-sounding apparatus and the proton magnetometer were employed for locating sunken objects. A recent innovation was the photographing of remains in shallow waters, such as old harbour installations, from the air. Sometimes the objects found were similar to those still in use. A steelyard from a Byzantine ship sunk in A.D. 641 was almost identical with one hanging in the office of a Mediterranean harbour-master today. Among the illustrations of finds was a very interesting series of stone anchors.

Mr. J.S. Wachter, F.S.A., made a welcome return visit on the 5th of December to tell us about a rescue dig at Catterick in Yorkshire. In a nine month excavation 3½ acres of a Roman town in the valley of the

Swale were uncovered and coloured slides illustrated the shops, houses and a very fine bath house; the final shot was of twentieth century bull-dozers obliterating the site and it now forms the hard core of a modern motorway.

On the 12th of December the Christmas Social was held; three films were shown - Exploring the Unwritten Past, Prehistoric Man in Europe and The Ever Changing Sky, the story of John Constable. There was a Bring and Buy stall, photographs and plans of recent excavations and refreshments were served. While the films were shown in the Lecture Room, the party took place in the main hall of the Castle, an innovation which was much appreciated.

Roman Pavement at West Mersea.

In December 1965 I was notified by Dr. and Mrs. Fox of Yew Tree House, West Mersea, that workmen of the Eastern Electricity Board had opened up the footpath in Coast Road near the front gate of Yew Tree House (GR. M 00851245). The hole that had been dug was about three feet square and six feet deep. In the NE corner at a depth of about four feet was evidence of a floor or pavement some four inches thick surfaced with red tesserae. The excavation was on an existing run of cable and the section had been previously disturbed when the original cable trench had been dug in the past. From its depth and position the pavement disclosed would appear to be a continuation of the pavement, a portion of which is to be seen in the garden of Yew Tree House, to the east, immediately inside the front gate. This portion of pavement, which will be remembered by those members of the Group who Visited Yew Tree House at the invitation of the late Alec Sheed in 1961, is about five feet from the piece dug into by the Electricity Board.

Alan Mansfield.