

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following discoveries in the district have been reported since the last volume of *Oxoniana* was published :

1. *Alchester, Oxon.* During November, 1944, a stretch of Langford Lane abutting on the N. side of the Roman town was widened by the County Council. A quantity of loose stone debris and a scattering of coarse pottery was revealed, but no traces of definite masonry or other constructions were visible.

2. *Asthall, Oxon.* Mr. Samuel Walker reported that in ploughing up a grass field immediately opposite the Swincombe turn on the Asthall-Burford road, and on the south side of the road, and thus close to the line of Akeman Street, large slabs (since determined as natural) were exposed. Near them were found Roman coins and pottery.

Miss M. V. Taylor presented to the Ashmolean Museum an imperfect, decorated Samian bowl of Dragendorff form 37 (A.M. 1943.59).

3. *Benson, Oxon.* See under *Ewelme*.

4. *Bicester, Oxon.* Private H. N. Chittick has collected sherds of mediaeval and later pottery, some evidently of 17th century date, around the foot of Gravenhill.

5. *Brill, Bucks.* From Muswell Hill Private Chittick has collected Roman sherds, including pieces of tile with incised linear pattern.

6. *Brize Norton, Oxon.* Mr. G. E. S. Turner presented to the Ashmolean Museum an iron blade (A.M. 1943.74) found in extending the aerodrome. The blade is not unlike some Middle Bronze Age tangless daggers, but no traces of rivets can be detected. Its date is doubtful.

7. *Cassington, Oxon.* Numerous fresh finds have been made in the prolific Smith's Pit II, immediately south of the cross-road of the Oxford northern by-pass. They included a fragment of Neolithic B ware (A.M. 1943.20), another of a small Bronze Age decorated vase (A.M. 1943.11), a large Bronze Age A-beaker decorated with hexagonal, zig-zag and other linear designs (A.M. 1943.10), a nether millstone of limestone grit (A.M. 1943.24) and a Romano-British bronze brooch (A.M. 1943.46A), all given to the Ashmolean Museum by Captain J. S. P. Bradford. Miss M. V. Taylor contributes the following note on the Romano-British brooch :

'The bronze brooch (FIG. 46, a), found in April, 1943, in top soil, during gravel-digging in the field containing the large circular enclosure at Cassington is an interesting example of British workmanship and method of decoration. The pin, its spring and spring-cover, and its catch-plate are missing.'

'The type appears to be the so-called Celticised eye-brooch,¹ the eye-brooch being a form current in Central and N. Europe in the 1st century A.D.² An early and beautiful British example in silver with plastic ornament and decorated with

¹ See R. A. Smith, *Archaeologia*, LXI, 341 ff., and *B.M. Guide to Roman Britain*, p. 57; and cf. *Antiq. Journ.*, IV, 153.

² O. Almgren, *Studien über nordeuropäische Fibelformen* (1897), pp. 21 ff., and see R. G. Collingwood, *Archaeology of Roman Britain* (1930), p. 255, Group T.

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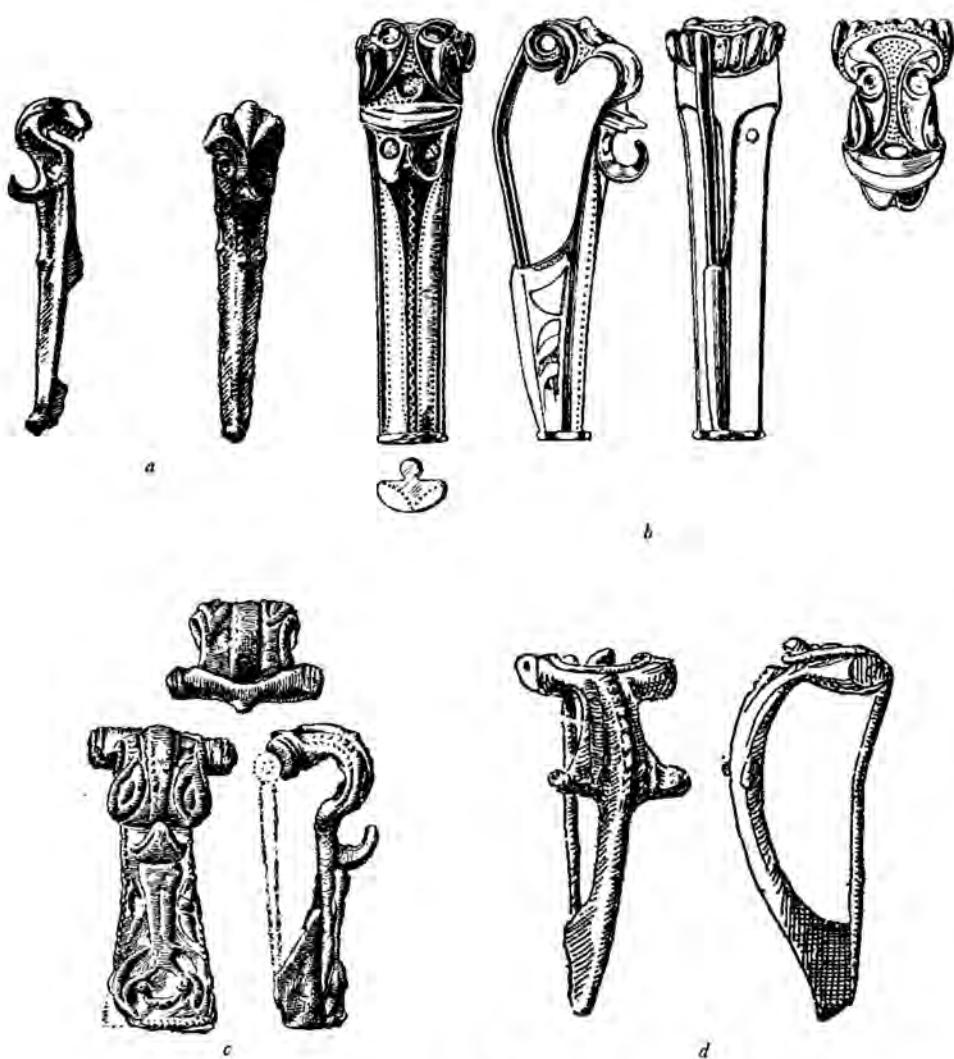


FIG. 46

ROMANO-BRITISH BROOCHES OF NATIVE (CELTIC OR CELTICIZING) TYPE

- a. Cassington, Oxon. (Ashmolean Museum); after *Journ. Rom. Studies*, xxxiv, fig. 9.
- b. Birdlip, Glos. (Gloucester Museum); after *Archaeologia*, LXI, 341, fig. 9.
- c. (?) Nr. Canterbury, Kent (in private possession); after *Antiq. Journ.*, IV, 153.
- d. Woodeaton, Oxon. (Ashmolean Museum); after *Journ. Rom. Studies*, VII, 107, no. 33.

a, b, d, ½ : c, ¾.

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red enamel was found at Birdlip (FIG. 46, b) with the famous mirror now in Gloucester Museum, which is variously dated.¹ Our Cassington brooch has lost some of the characteristics of its class—the two eyes on the head have disappeared and with them the red enamel, and there is no collar or raised moulding on the bow. Instead, a dot in a circle, in relief, indicates where the spring-cord was attached to the head, and, enclosing the circle, part of another circle is incised, with at least one small raised dot outside it in the centre and perhaps others at the sides; below, the ornament develops into characteristic British plastic-work, the surface being shaded with hatched lines, and it approaches in style the Aesica and allied brooches² rather than the Birdlip one. On the other hand the hook-like projection of the Birdlip brooch is present as well as the appearance of two rivets as if attaching it to the bow in the base of the curve above it and passing through to the back of the brooch as in the Birdlip example, the back also being treated as that brooch. The pseudo-rivets, however, in the Cassington brooch, are given the effect of eyes by incised lines above and below them and the drawing out of the projection to represent a snout gives the whole the appearance of a pig's face. Incised lines are also traceable down the bow below the snout to the centre and may, as in the Birdlip brooch, have continued to the foot, but the oxidization of the metal of the lower part makes this point uncertain. Unlike the Birdlip brooch, the bow tapers to the foot and seems to end in a small knob instead of being cut bluntly square, and was probably influenced by the British type of the so-called Pannonian brooch³ like that from Woodeaton (FIG. 46, d), a type⁴ which undoubtedly is allied to it but is without the pig's face effect.

In fact our brooch adds one more to the odd types of brooches found in the mid-Oxfordshire region, where the British bronze-smith both before and during the Roman occupation appears to have indulged his fancy and experimented to the utmost; but it is an unusually good piece, well-proportioned and, as Dr. Jacobsthal points out, displaying competent technique and craftsmanship, as indeed might be expected at Cassington, a long-occupied site. The date is difficult to fix from style alone, but probably it was made in the middle or latter half of the 1st century A.D.

Collections of Roman sherds, including the lower half of a large store-jar, were made by the O.U. Archaeological Society and by Mr. G. A. K. Missen.

The results of an examination of the largest Bronze Age barrow (*Oxoniensia*, vii, pl. ix, top, left) in this field, carried out on behalf of the Museum by Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson assisted by Miss J. Morris, Miss B. de Cardi and members of the O.U. Archaeological Society, will, it is hoped, be the subject of a full report in a later volume of *Oxoniensia*. The ditch was found to surround remains of a turf-barrow

¹ R. A. Smith, *op. cit.*, dated it to the middle of the 1st century A.D.; E. T. Leeds, *Celtic Ornament* (1933), pp. 29 f., 37, thought that it should be dated at least a century earlier in spite of the presence of the brooch; cf. C. Fox, *Antiq. Journ.*, xiv, 79. For the Birdlip brooch and its class, see also Collingwood, *Archaeologia*, lxxx, 46.

² Especially perhaps the Canterbury brooch (FIG. 45, c) (*Antiq. Journ.*, iv, 153), the upper part of which our brooch resembles, but the lower part is developing into the fan-tail of the Aesica brooch—see Collingwood, *Archaeologia*, lxxx, 38 ff.

³ *Journ. Rom. Studies*, viii, 110, no. 51, fig. 8; for the original Pannonian brooches see A. B. Meyer, *Gurina*, p. 25, pl. vi, 6, and for its influence on British types (Sir) A. J. Evans, *Archaeologia*, lv, 183. Collingwood, *Archaeologia*, lxxx, 46, gives the name of 'waist-hook' to the type.

⁴ E.g. Woodeaton: *V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, pl. xvi, b, xvii, c; Beckley: Leeds, *Celtic Ornament*, p. 50 f., fig. 19; *Archaeologia*, lxvi, 570; *Arch. Cambr.*, lxxxii (1927), 94; Hook Norton: *Archaeologia*, lxxx, 39, fig. 2a and *V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 338-9, fig. 42; *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, xxiii, 406.

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covering a double burial under a staked construction, as well as three cremation-pockets, one with a small vessel of overhanging-rim urn type (A.M. 1943.12).

The driver of the mechanical excavator in the pit reports that, when digging away the filling of the Great Ditch in the SE. quarter of the field in the summer of 1944, he discovered a causeway of solid gravel some 20 ft. wide, rising to within 3 ft. of the present surface. This causeway is obviously an original entrance to the enclosure, additional to that clearly visible from the air in the field adjoining to the south; its position can just be made out on the air-photograph (*Oxonienzia*, vii, pl. ix), 2½ ins. from the bottom and 2⅔ ins. from the right-hand side of the plate.

In November, 1944, further clearing of top-soil in the pit revealed six Anglo-Saxon burials in the centre part of the field, just to the S. of the Great Ditch. Three of these were excavated by members of the O.U. Archaeological Society; in one grave were two children unaccompanied by grave goods; in the second, a single unaccompanied adolescent; while the third contained a woman with two gilt-bronze saucer-brooches (one lost), five amber beads, and a small iron knife. Other unassociated finds included shield-grips and bosses, spearheads, and knives.

A polished neolithic flint chisel and an imperfect short bronze blade of 'rapier type' were obtained as casual finds on dumps of top-soil.

8. *Dorchester, Oxon.* Sergeant Warren G. Steel of the U.S. Army Air Force reported the presence of a skeleton detected in the side of a disused slit-trench near the western end of the northernmost of the two Dyke Hills still preserved. On excavation the burial proved to be that of a young woman lying supine with head to E., about 1 ft. beneath the top of the dyke. Nothing was found by which the burial could be dated, but its position at once recalls the two interments in a similar position at the top of one of the western dykes demolished in 1870, and a further interment found in the northern dyke in 1940 (*Oxonienzia*, v, 163). With the skeletons found in 1870 were associated the well-known group of very early Anglo-Saxon relics (Leeds, *Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements*, p. 55, fig. 8).

Two new gravel-pits have been opened immediately to the E. of the Dorchester-Burcot road; neither has so far been archaeologically productive. A number of sherds of the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. were picked up in the now disused gravel-pit immediately to the E. of Minchin Recreation Ground.

9. *Ewelme, Oxon.* From the solifluxion gravels at the base of the Chilterns exposed in Rumbold's Pit, as also from similar deposits at Gould's Grove, Benson and at Blenheim Farm, Newnham Murren, a number of fine flint hand-axes, mostly of Acheulian III types (A.M. 1943.27-35, 37, 48-50, 55-58) have through the generosity of Dr. W. J. Arkell, and by purchase, been added to the already important series from these sites acquired in former years for the Ashmolean Museum (see Dr. Arkell's full report, *supra*, pp. 1 ff.).

Mr. H. O. King reports the discovery of Anglo-Saxon burials in Rumbold's Pit, close to the Watlington road, but no detailed information could be obtained.

10. *Fyfield, Berks.* A hoard of over 2,050 coins has been discovered just within the boundary of this parish, and has been submitted to the Ashmolean Museum for examination. All the coins, with the exception of one worn specimen of Aurelian (A.D. 270-4), are *folles* (tin-coated copper coins of medium size) of the Tetrarchy from the time of Diocletian's monetary reform in A.D. 296 down to a date which can be fixed with some precision. The latest coins were

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struck by Maximinus and Constantine while still only ranking as Caesar, and among them are specimens which illustrate the gradual reduction of the standard of Diocletian's average weight of 9.75 grammes to figures varying from 8.50 to as low as 6.2 grammes. The coins are, as a whole, in excellent condition, though only faint traces remain of the tin coating produced by steeping the alloyed metal in acid.

The hoard must, in the main, have been collected before Constantine gained control of the mints after the death of his father, Constantius Chlorus, late in 306, but the reason for its deposition here between Fyfield and Kingston Bagpuize remains a problem. For, though Roman sherds were found on the site, no signs of buildings seem to have been observed. The nearest Roman site of any importance is the small villa at Frilford discovered in 1884.

The hoard presents many features of the greatest interest, and it is hoped to publish it in full detail shortly.

11. *Godstow, Oxon.* A stone coffin was discovered by children playing on the river bank in April, 1944. It lay in the W. bank of the new cutting between the wall of the Nunnery and the garden of the Trout Inn, about 240 ft. S. of the bridge, at a depth of 4 ft. below the present surface of the tow-path. The foot of the coffin pointed E. and had been exposed by the river for about 6 ins. When inspected, the filling and the lower half of the skeleton had been removed by the children but enough bones remained for them to be identified as those of an adult female; the rest of the coffin and its contents lay beneath the tow-path and could not be excavated. The main dimensions were : internal width at foot, 11 ins. ; at 4 ft. 6 ins. from foot, 1 ft. 6½ ins. ; depth, 11½ ins. ; thickness of walls, 2½ ins. ; the sides had a slight inward slope. There was no capstone, but there were signs that there had been an original covering of rough stone blocks. The bones were replaced in the coffin and the excavation filled in.

12. *Hatford, Berks.* With other Iron Age sherds Captain J. S. P. Bradford secured from the Iron Age settlement-site a sherd with AB swag design (A.M. 1943.7) similar to examples already known from Cassington and Frilford (Noah's Ark site).

13. *Milton, Berks.* The Commandant, A.O. Depot, Didcot, announced the discovery of skeletons at a depth of 3 ft. in a ballast-pit close to the Moor Ditch, and with one of them a small vase of light grey ware. Detailed exploration was impossible, but the Roman pot, and an imperfect iron spear (A.M. 1943.64) attest the existence of a Roman or Romano-British burial-ground, probably 3rd century or later.

14. *Newnham Murren, Oxon.* See under *Ewelme*.

15. *Northleigh, Oxon.* Flight-Lieutenant D. N. Riley observed and photographed from the air a SW. extension to the well-known Roman villa (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, 1, 316, no. 14). The plan of the newly-revealed portion (FIG. 47) was made by Flight-Lieutenant Riley for the *Journal of Roman Studies* (xxxiv, fig. 8), by whose permission it is here reproduced.

16. *Northmoor, Oxon.* Flight-Lieutenant D. N. Riley collected Roman sherds from a site south of the village.

17. *Port Meadow, Oxford.* Weather conditions during the spring and summer of 1944 have been ideal for the observation of archaeological sites on the Meadow, some of which have already been described (*Oxoniensia*, vii, 24). A number of new sites have been identified, including a large group close to the river which had

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already been observed and photographed from the air by D. N. Riley. It is hoped to publish a full account of these fresh discoveries in *Oxoniensia* at a later date.

18. *Radley, Berks.* (a) *Pumney Farm.* Mr. Roberts, of Radley College, reports the finding in the summer of 1944 of human and animal bones in a gravel-pit 200 yards N. of the farm, on the E. side of the approach-road. At the same point, on the W. of the road, two circles were observed in the crop ; these have not yet been recorded by air-photography.

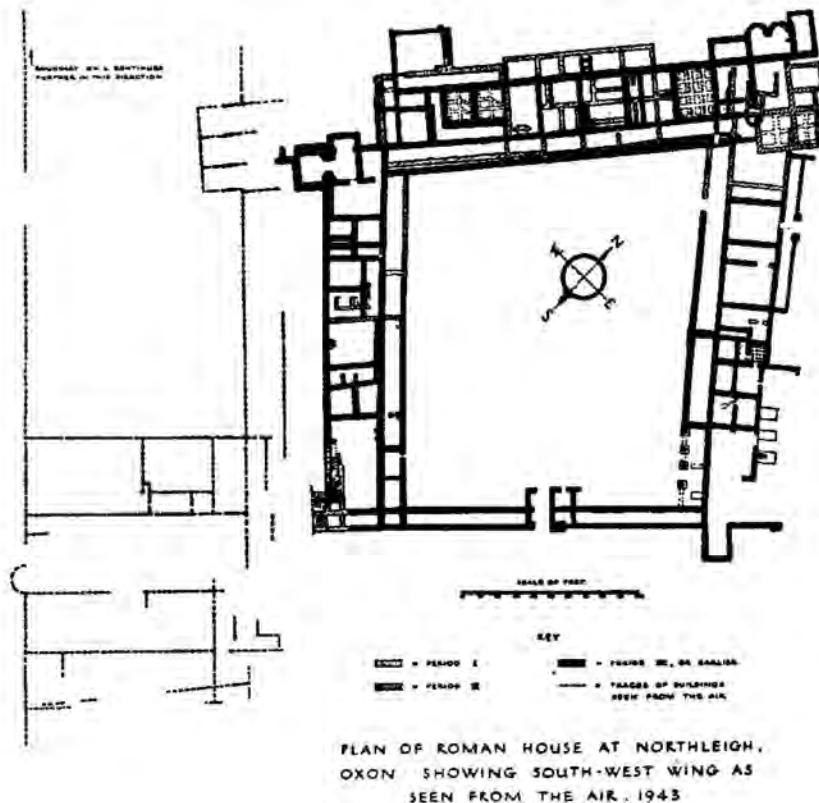


FIG. 47

(b) *Barrow Hills Field.* During the Michaelmas Term, 1944, barrows 2 and 3 (*Oxoniensia*, III, 32, fig. 7) were excavated by the O.U. Archaeological Society. Barrow 2 was shown to be a bell-barrow, with a central soil mound separated from the ditch by a berm 18 ft. wide ; the ditch was 88 ft. in diameter and 12 ft. wide. In the centre a narrow grave contained a cremated burial placed on a shallow wooden coffin ; the bones had been deposited in a bag fastened by a thin bronze awl, and among them were two objects of decorated gold foil, probably mounts

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for conical amber buttons. These finds must be associated with the Wessex Culture of 1600-1400 B.C.

Barrow 3 was surrounded by a ditch 92 ft. in diameter and 12 ft. wide; the N. and E. quadrants of the barrow had been destroyed by an old quarry, now filled up. In the centre was the skeleton of an adult in a shallow grave, lying on his back, with the legs slightly flexed and the arms bent up over the body; on the chest, apparently clasped in the right hand, was a flat bronze knife, 6 ins. long, with short triangular tang and five rivets. This burial, which must be dated to the Early Bronze Age, is probably the earliest found at this site.

A full report will be published in a later volume of *Oxonienia*.

19. *Standlake, Oxon.* Gravel-digging on Standlake Down has regrettably begun to encroach upon the classic Oxfordshire site for Bronze Age ring-ditches and Iron Age pits, described by Stone nearly 90 years ago (see *Antiq. Journ.*, xxii, 202 ff.). In advance of their inevitable disappearance Flight-Lieutenant D. N.

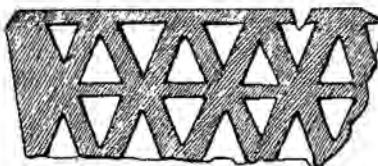


FIG. 48

PORITION OF BRONZE SHEATH-MOUTH SHOWING PATTERN OF CUT LEATHER COVER ON THE OXYDIZED SURFACE, FROM STANDLAKE, OXON. Sc. 1.

Riley and Mrs. Riley with assistance from the O.U. Archaeological Society have surveyed part of the area, taking sections of ditches and exploring a few sites. Flight-Lieutenant Riley sends in the following report :

'Pit D. Sections of at least 27 Iron Age ditches and pits were exposed in a short distance on one face of gravel south of Stone's Circle 12. In a Saxon grave—one of several destroyed by the workmen near Stone's Circles 12 and 13—a supine skeleton lying with head to E. had by the left femur remains of bronze, leather and wood from a sheath (A.M. 1944.5). The small fragments of leather cut with an openwork pattern of triangles, may be compared with similarly decorated leather, found in a like position in graves 30 and 38 at Bekesbourne, Kent, also diagnosed by Bryan Faussett as the coverings of a knife-sheath (C. Roach Smith, *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, p. 152 with fig. and p. 154; see also Bateman, 'Ten Years', etc., p. 69 with fig., from Brushfield, Derbyshire). On a portion of bronze from the mouth of the sheath the leather has left an impression of the pattern on the oxide (FIG. 48). Mr. P. Manning obtained Saxon relics from the field on the north side of the road at the point of the new discovery (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 362).

'Pit E. Three circles were exposed by the mechanical scraper before gravel-digging, two of them previously examined by Stone (his nos. 2 and 6). Four

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cremations were found in small pockets within his Circle 6, where the late Bronze Age urnfield was found in 1857; many signs of human bone and burning were observed in the upper layers of the ditch-filling. One cremation was found undisturbed within Circle 2; it contained cremated bones of an infant with an unburnt bone pin, 3 ins. long, with perforated head. Of two cremations in a third circle not found by Stone one was accompanied by broken remains of a Late Bronze Age urn. Northwest of this circle were at least 18 storage-pits with Iron Age pottery in the fillings; also four rings of post-holes, 24 ft. 8 ins. in diameter, possibly hut-circles, and seven pairs of post-holes, 5 ft. 8 ins. apart, probably corn-drying racks (cp. Little Woodbury, Hants., *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, vii, 96).

Captain J. S. P. Bradford recovered from a small pit a little vase, a rough miniature of an overhanging-rim urn (A.M. 1943.22). The increasing number of small Bronze Age vessels from the Oxford district that imitate various types of so-called urns serves well to illustrate the vase-forms which in course of time replaced the extinct beaker and supplanted the 'food vessel', so rarely found in this region.

20. *Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.* (a) *Black Ditch.* Within an area of some 40 by 20 yards 15 supine skeletons orientated with head to W. were exposed at a depth of 9 ins. below the turf. No relics of any kind were found. The skulls were all destroyed by the mechanical excavator, so that there was no means of determining the date of the burials.

Flight-Lieutenant D. N. Riley has sent the following report:

(b) *Vicarage Pit.* Large Early Iron Age AB sherds were found in sections of pits and ditches exposed on the gravel-face. This is the site revealed by one of Major Allen's photographs.

(c) *Beard Mill Pit.* In a large circle, 120 ft. in diameter, with V-shaped ditch, 11 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep, no central burial could be found, but a small pit, 2½ ft. in diameter and 1 ft. deep in the gravel, situated 30 ft. SW. of the centre, contained charcoal, several white patinated flint flakes, two flint scrapers and a bone-point. Nearby on the surface was found a sherd of Bronze Age fabric and pattern (FIG. 49; A.M. 1944.1-4).

(d) *Linch Hill Pit.* From a further northward extension of the gravel-pit (*Oxonienia*, i, 201, ii, 202 and vii, 104) numerous signs of Iron Age (A2) and Roman occupation (particularly the latter) have come to light. Within and from the ditch-fillings of large rectangular enclosures much Romano-British pottery (2nd-4th centuries), amongst it a rough olla (A.M. 1943.88), was obtained; a burial with a 2nd century grey bowl (1943.23) was found in one of the enclosures. From this area also came six small pieces of slender iron (imperfect) all shaped like an early La Tène fibula with recurved foot, though the absence of any sign of pin-catch or spring-coil precludes them from being regarded as fibulae (A.M. 1943.78).

21. *Sunningwell, Berks.* Mr. Oliver Heaton submitted for examination at the Ashmolean Museum a quantity of Romano-British sherds from a small excavation on the S. slope of Foxcombe Hill, some 100 yards NE. of the reservoir. The majority of the sherds were of hard grey ware, rough and sandy in texture, and included several uncommon forms. The site is probably that of a kiln, other examples of which are already known from this area; it is being examined by the O.U. Archaeological Society.

22. *Sutton Courtenay, Berks.* A small Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been revealed by a new gravel-pit opened by Messrs. Amey immediately to the N. of the Sutton

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Courtenay-Appleford road and E. of the side road to Culham Bridge. From one skeleton disturbed by the mechanical excavator workmen salvaged a gilt-bronze saucer-brooch with zoomorphic ornament and two amber beads; a second skeleton unaccompanied by grave goods was excavated by Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson in Septem-

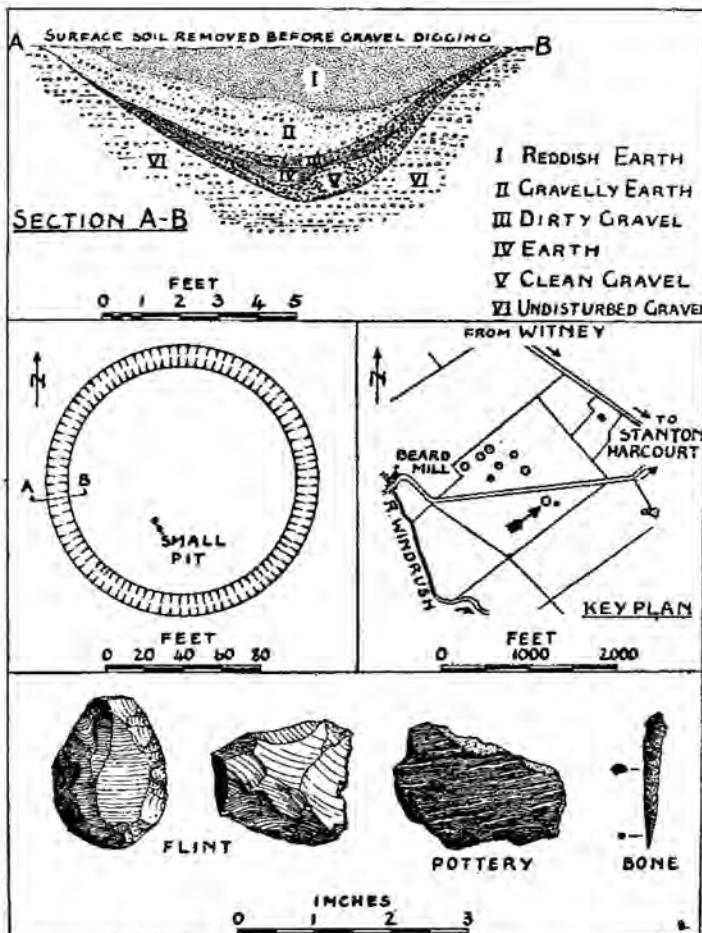


FIG. 49

PLAN AND SECTION OF DITCH OF BRONZE AGE CIRCLE,
AND OBJECTS FOUND DURING EXCAVATION, BEARD MILL,
STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

The key plan based on the 6 in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

ber, 1944, and remains of a third were reported in December by Flight-Lieutenant and Mrs. D. N. Riley, who also noted the presence of ditches with Romano-British pottery in the filling. Workmen at the pit report the discovery earlier in the year

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of 15 Romano-British pots in a straight line at intervals of about 18 ins., some apparently ollae of grey ware, others of red ware with lids; all, unfortunately, were destroyed.

23. *Uffington, Berks.* By bequest from the late Mrs. Arthur E. Preston, of Abingdon, the Ashmolean Museum received the fine bronze statuette of Turms, the Etruscan Hermes, which was deposited on loan to the Museum in 1923 for some years by the late Mr. A. E. Preston (1943.38; exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries, *Antiq. Journ.*, III, 97). Accompanying the statuette is some rather circumstantial documentary evidence alleging its discovery by ploughing in the parish. The condition and patina, however, are considered by experts to militate against the statuette ever having lain in English soil. A water-colour sketch made about 100 years ago by Jesse King, a well-known local antiquary is inscribed by him 'Found by a labourer near Uffington' and for that reason alone seems to call for record in these notes.

24. *Wilcote, Oxon.* Dr. W. J. Arkell observes that 'Old Quarry' marked on the old 6 in. O.S. map (Oxon. xxvi NW.) 200 yards NE. of the NE. corner of Wilcote House is not a quarry, but an earthwork situated only 200 ft. from the line of the Akeman Street. He suggests it might repay investigation. He adds that the other 'Old Quarry' marked on the map 250 yards NW. of this site is a pond.

25. *Woodeaton, Oxon.* (Oxon. 6 in. O.S. map, xxxii NE.). The excavation of a trench running northwards from the Woodeaton road across Middle Hill offered an opportunity for obtaining data in regard to the extent of this important late Iron Age and Roman site. Along a stretch of some 400 yards Roman pottery of various dates was recovered at several points in small quantities. In some cases signs of very rough stone walling could be detected, but as a whole it may be assumed that the line of the trench lay beyond the western limit of the main area of occupation.

26. *Wytham, Berks.* Mr. E. M. Jope collected some half-a-dozen fragments of Early Iron Age coarse pottery from the top of Beacon Hill, some 200 yards due W. of the centre of the reservoir.

E. T. LEEDS; R. J. C. ATKINSON.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN THE CITY OF OXFORD¹

In recent excavations for static-water tanks in Oxford finds of archaeological interest were made in the following instances apart from those already recorded in *Oxonienia*, vi, 89 f., from Oriel and All Souls :

- (a) *Ashmolean Museum.* In the forecourt a sealing layer of debris dating from the time of the building of the University Galleries was revealed, but no remains were found below it.
- (b) *Bodleian Quadrangle.* Pottery of mediaeval date, and extending to the date of building of the Bodleian in 1613 was discovered under a layer of builders' rubbish of that date. See also *Oxonienia*, vii, 76 ff.
- (c) *Lincoln College.* In the chapel quadrangle pottery of the 13th and 14th century was found.
- (d) *Pembroke College.* In the inner quadrangle pottery of the 13th-15th century

¹ The editors are indebted to Mr. E. M. Jope and others for the information upon which this note is based.

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was found (*Oxoniana*, vii, 77, fig. 20), as well as 17th century wares and the early 18th century glass bottle-stamp (*Oxoniana*, vi, 55, fig. 12).

(e) *Queen's College*. In the front quadrangle some paving-tiles from the old chapel were found, but they did not bear any new designs which can be added to the list in Haberly, *Mediaeval English Paving-tiles*.

(f) *St. John's College*. In the north quadrangle no mediaeval remains were discovered, but part of the section of a considerable ditch was revealed. The ditch ran approximately E.-W. and was about 10-12 ft. wide. The bottom was not reached, but the filling contained 18th century rubbish and a considerable quantity of Stonesfield slates. It might be suggested that they came off the roof of the chapel and hall at the time when the present slate roof was put on. The ditch itself, therefore, is likely to be 17th century or earlier, and may possibly have been a portion of the Civil War earthworks, though it does not appear to fit in with any known portion of the fortifications (see *Oxoniana*, i, 161 ff.; ii, 207 f.; iii, 176 f.).

Similar excavations occurred in other colleges, but no archaeological finds resulted, so far as can be ascertained.

THE EAST GATE OF OXFORD

Situated on the main road from Oxford to London the East Gate was always considered to be the chief gate of the city, but at the same time little is known about the gateway itself, and it has been the cause of some controversy and speculation on the part of Oxford historians and antiquarians.

Anthony Wood mentions that 'It had sometime two round towers on each side (though now lessened) to defend it, as also a paire of gates thwarted with a cheyn in King Edward III time and before; which, as I understand from an inquisition, were usually with the others kept shutt in the night-season; as also a cheine crossing the way leading from this gate to Holywell to secure the suburbs, being then in those tumultuous times of the Barons' Warrs'.

This gate disappeared, and in Agas's plan of Oxford, 1578, East Gate is shown as being in the form of a single square tower (FIG. 50) and it seems that it projected from the city wall towards Longwall Street. This is also the case in Hollar's plan of 1643.

Hurst in *Oxford Topography*, O.H.S. xxxix (1899), 210, states:

'It is much regretted that the excavations made last year in digging cellars for the new hotel there, did not clear up the question whether the early towers flanking the different gates of Oxford were circular or square in plan. The former seems the more probable, as they, like circular bastions, would not require so much skilled masonry in their construction, and when completed would not afford angles for the enemy's tools to operate upon.'

'Among the Gough Drawings is one supposed to be of East Gate before King James' time, i.e. before it was reconstructed.'

'It shows a round tower, in ruins, on both sides of the gateway; and a row of small trees, said to be those on the "Gravel-walk"¹ at Magdalen, can be seen through the pointed arch which spans the roadway. The North

¹ 'Gravel-walk' was done away with in 1880/4 when the St. Swithun's Buildings were erected.

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Gate in Agas has also two such round towers, and of the roundness of the one to the west we are certain. South gate and West gate appear in Agas to be too isolated to be accurate, and his East gate presents some difficulties.¹

The discovery at New College of a Terrier dated 1624/5 of 'A True Mapp and Boundarie of the land or peece of ground that William House holdeth of St. Mary Coll. of Winton in Oxon' with a coloured plan, gives an illustration of the gateway taken from the west (PL. XX) and shows the gateway to consist of a single square tower, with a vaulted arch in the centre spanning the road, which, like that of the North Gate, had no footway; on the wall over the archway appears a figure of what might be an ox.¹

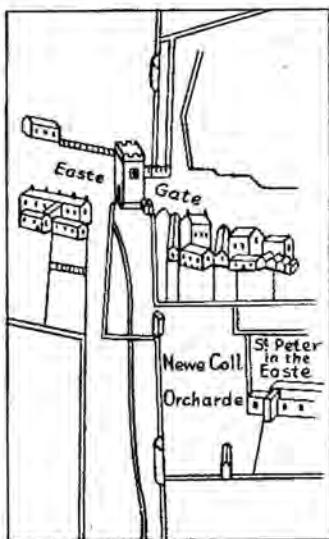


FIG. 50

EAST GATE, OXFORD
From a tracing of part of Agas's
plan of Oxford, 1578.

Considering the accuracy of the measurements given in this plan and the detail shown in placing the several buildings, it seems highly improbable that the compiler would go to the trouble of drawing the East Gate incorrectly, and this I think goes far to prove the accuracy of at least the style of gateway given in Agas's plan (FIG. 50).

Hurst states that the gateway was reconstructed in the reign of James I, which is rather overruled by the date 1624/5 of the New College Terrier, this being the last year of the reign of James; and the fact still remains of a square tower being

¹ As late as 1643, on the East and North Gates were seen escutcheons of a lion passant: *Harl. MSS.* by R. Simons (8vo.), no. 964.

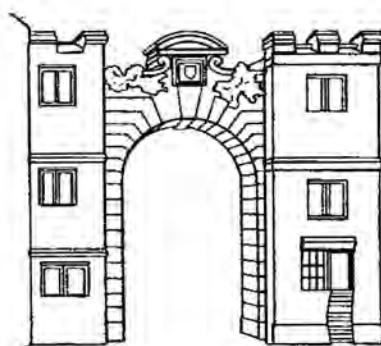


FIG. 51

**SKETCH OF EAST GATE,
OXFORD**

From a drawing published by
J. Skelton in *Oxoniana Antiqua Restaurata*.

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shown in Hollar's plan. Reconstruction must, however, have taken place before 1675, because in Loggan's plan of that year we find East Gate formed by two small square towers, joined together by a stone wall with a doorway in the centre, which is no doubt the same as the one demolished in 1771 (FIG. 51) under 'The Act for improving the ways and pavements of Oxford', and of that illustrated in the drawing by J. B. Malchair, 1 July, 1771 (Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Oxon.) and reproduced by Skelton in *Oxoniana Antiqua Restaurata*.

The following extracts from the Bursar's Rolls of 1606 are interesting, and it seems that New College was responsible for the road repairs at East Gate :

1606.	So: for pitchinge ye streete at Eastgate	4s. 8d.
	So: for five lode of gravell at ye pitchinge of ye streete at Eastgate	3s. 9d.
	So: to Stephano ffayreberde for stones to ye pitchinge of ye streete at Eastgate	3s. 4d.

R. L. RICKARD.

ROBERT STREATER AND ALL SOULS COLLEGE CHAPEL

A paper read on 9 December, 1943, by Professor Tancred Borenius before the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House on Robert Streeter (1624-1679), serjeant-painter to Charles II, aroused considerable interest, and led to a correspondence in *The Times* to which readers of *Oxoniana* may like to have their attention directed. Among the works of this notable but neglected artist two are of particular concern to Oxford, namely the ceiling of the Sheldonian Theatre and the one-time 'Last Judgment' 'painted on the surface prepared over the fragments of the reredos' (reconstructed 1872-9) in All Souls College chapel, c. 1663. It is this latter work which gave rise to the discussion in *The Times*. The report of Professor Borenius's paper (14 December, 1943) described the Last Judgment as having been 'deliberately destroyed in a misconceived enthusiasm for restoration about 1860'. Sir Charles Grant Robertson (18 December) denied that the fresco had been destroyed in 1860 and stated that 150 years earlier it had been 'replaced by another painting, by [Sir James] Thornhill, painted over that by Streeter'. I then (22 December) showed that it appeared uncertain whether repainting or over-painting had taken place by Thornhill in 1714 and that Evelyn, who records the picture in his Diary under date 24 October, 1664, ascribes it not to Streeter but to Isaac Fuller. I further asked whether, if accounts for the work executed in 1663 and 1714 existed among the All Souls archives, Sir Charles Grant Robertson would be kind enough to publish them in *The Times* and so possibly clear up these discrepancies. Professor Borenius (23 December) affirmed his belief that 'however drastic the repainting by Thornhill, he retained, at any rate, some of the salient features of his predecessor's work'. On 29 December Sir Charles reported that the All Souls archives were not at present available, but that when circumstances allowed, he hoped to reinvestigate the relevant points. Finally (4 January, 1944), Mr. Rohan Butler drew attention to the fact that considerable portions of the original composition by Thornhill are preserved in the library of All Souls and that his original sketch for his painting is in the collection of Captain Bruce Ingram (reproduced in *The Times*, 6 January, 1944). It is hoped that when the All Souls archives are again accessible a full treatment of the subject will appear in *Oxoniana*.

M. R. TOYNBEE.

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THE ORIEL COLLEGE LAWSUIT 1724-26

Since I published an account of this lawsuit in *Oxoniensis*, vi, 56 ff., some further information has been given me by Sir Edmund Craster, from a volume of manuscript law reports by John Craster of Grays Inn, an elder brother of the William Craster, one of the rejected Fellows interested in this suit. I have to thank him not only for the information, but for kindly furnishing me with a transcript from the manuscript, and my special thanks are due to Mr. J. M. Craster, the owner of the manuscript, for permission to publish the notes relating to this suit.

The notes relate to a hearing on interlocutory proceedings, and confirm what I had conjectured from a question left to the jury at the hearing of the case ; they also supply the names of counsel engaged on both sides.

Counsel for Edmunds at the outset had applied to the court *ex parte* for an Injunction or 'Prohibition' *pendente lite* against the Bishop and obtained a *Rule nisi*, and notice was duly served on the other side. On the appearance of counsel on both sides at this hearing the question before the court was whether this Rule should be made absolute or discharged.

[Easter Term George [I]]

Comyns Serjeant. It appearing upon the Charter of Foundation the College was founded by Edward II the King of right is Visitor. By 1st Charter of Statutes [*sic*] the Chancellor was to approve and did so, and New Statutes were to be approved by the Chancellor. Edward II ordered to be prayed for as Founder.

By the Charter of Confirmation by Bishop of Lincoln it's plain he only claimed power as Ordinary. By the Second Statutes it's ordered then the Provost be approved by the Bishop of Lincoln, and that new Statutes be approv'd by him, and that he should amend and alter what was amiss.

And no instances have been given where he exercis'd authority but either in election approbation or Amotion of Provost, or explaining doubtful Statutes.

The Visitatorial power of the Crown when the King is Visitor is not to be taken away by Implication, and the words *cui specialiter subjecti sunt import* no more than that the College being within his Diocese he had a superiority over 'em as Ordinary, and to give him a greater power by construction of those words is inconsistent with the Statutes and reason. In all subsequent acts of the Chancellor the College is said to be of royal patronage, and the Crown have always decided such disputes as are not particularly by Statute referr'd to the Bishop of Lincoln. Most of the instances by them produced shew he only acted by his power as Ordinary, and the Confirmation of some of his Acts by the Archbishop upon Appeal, which is the strongest argument for his acting so, for from the sentence of a Visitor no appeal lies. The Charter of Foundation of the Bishop of Oxon. gives him no power, but only leaves him what authority he had before therefore if he had none, it gives none.

And where he's call'd Diocesan and Visitator, one is since erection of the Bishopric of Oxon, and it's plain he was not then Diocesan therefore these are only words of course, and no weight to be laid upon it. King

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Charles II's letter can prove nothing, for if in a grant he had recited he was Visitor, if he was not so, that is void.

Skinner Serjeant. The Statute 21 Edward III declare(s) that the College is *specialiter de jure communi* and *praesentes ordinationes subjecti* to the Bishop but gives no power.

Whitaker Serjeant reply'd That it appears from a Record by them produced that 17 Edward II the College was founded by A. de Broome, and was a Corporation by name of Rector and Fellows; that 18 Edward II he surrendered it, but that is void, he having no power to do so. Therefore the College is not of royal foundation.

Darnel Serjeant urg'd the same argument, and tho' in the Statutes and donation of 19 Edward II it's said *pro primaria fundatione* yet the College was founded two years before by A. de Broome and then subsisted, and those very Houses given by the King were surrender'd to him by Adam de Broome. Therefore the estate moved in reality from him. By the Statute of Edward III the Visitatorial power is granted to the Bishop, if he had it not before, and they were then thought to be of common right subject to the Bishop of Lincoln, as an Ecclesiastical foundation tho' now taken to be Lay. Masses are to be said for the Bishops of Lincoln and their successors.

KING C. J.

If a person submits to a Jurisdiction that has no power, and decision is against him, it's no cause to object to his application for prohibition because all such Acts are Nullities. This is clear in our Law books. Visitor is no technical word, but if power is given him by words equipollent, that will make him Visitor. By the Second Statute great powers are given to the Bishop of Lincoln and those he must enjoy, but all are not given him, and these are the Statutes observed by the College. At the Foundation of the College, 19 Edward II it was taken to be a spiritual foundation, and it was looked upon the Provost was to come in by Institution and Induction, and the meaning of presenting to the Bishop was only that he might examine him as he does other clerks, if he was Criminous or Infamous. When the Election of a Provost is made he is to be presented to the Bishop of Lincoln, to whom the College is subject *de jure communi* and by the present constitutions. What means this? That it was thought he had then a power over 'em as being within his Diocese, and the authority he has by these constitutions is to interpret explain and supply the Statutes. But there are particular cases which are subject to a Visitor where he has nothing to do, and in them a negative is put upon his power. The ordinary power of the Bishop of Lincoln was gone by the erection of the Bishopric of Oxon, but what he had not as Ordinary are exempted out of the Charter of Foundation of the Bishopric of Oxon. All the Judges being of opinion that the College was of Royal Foundation, and no Visitor appointed by the Statutes, the Crown had the right of Visitation which it cou'd not lose by non-user or usurpation, and that the Judges were obliged by their oaths to take care of the rights of the Crown, and the Rule for a Prohibition was made absolute.

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These proceedings were evidently the cause of Provost Carter's agitated letter to the Archbishop. The court was not, of course, deciding anything more than the question before them, and John Craster's notes probably emphasize what was *obiter* in the order of the court : later correspondence seems to suggest that counsel for the Bishop at the actual hearing may have been more successful in 'shaking' the Lord Chief Justice ; but the hearing lasted nearly two years, and the composition of the court, as already noted, changed. The issues of the suit lay with a jury and, apart from Provost Carter's observations we are without information about the actual hearing of this prolonged case.

The following are the counsel referred to in the above manuscript :

Counsel for Edmunds

Serjeant John Comyns [1706] Baron of the Exchequer, 1726 ; Judge of the Common Pleas, 1736.

Serjeant Matthew Skinner [1724], Recorder of Oxford, 1721.

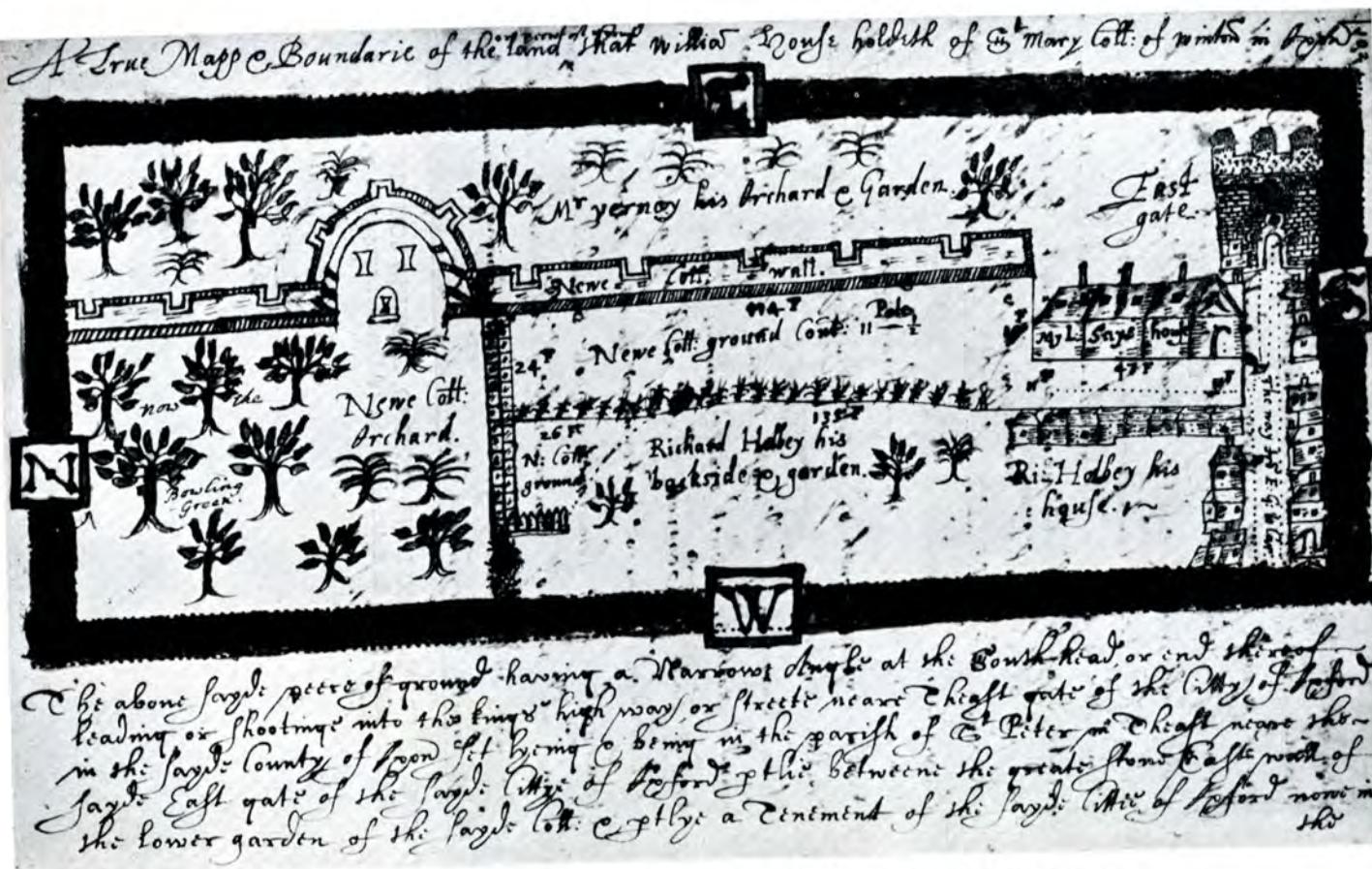
Counsel for the Bishop of Lincoln

Serjeant Charles Whitaker [1700].

Serjeant John Darnall [1714], Knighted 1724.

The dates in brackets [] are of admission to the Order of the Coif. Serjeants alone had right of audience in the Court of Common Pleas.

F. J. VARLEY.



THE EAST GATE, OXFORD, AND NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES IN 1624/5

From the New College Terrier Book, p. 102, by kind permission of the Warden and Fellows.