

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES (1 January-30 June 1956)

A. PREHISTORIC, ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON

Compton Beauchamp, Berks. The Rev. Charles Overy reported sherds of 1st-2nd century Romano-British wares including some Samian found during ploughing in Compton Bottom. The finds covered an area of about 100 by 50 feet (about 41/288842).

Elsfield, Oxon. Mr. A. G. Fenwick reported indeterminate sherds of late Romano-British coarse wares from a field west of the church (42/539099), and other indeterminate sherds of coarse wares found 200 yards north-east of the church (42/542102).

Garsington, Oxon. Excavations for a sub-station of the Southern Electricity Board cut through a Romano-British kiln. It lay 20 yards east of the Roman road probably fronting on to it, and half a mile east of the site of the Sandford kiln (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 304 and references). The wares were comparable with those from Sandford and Cowley (*Oxoniensia*, VI, 9 ff.). A comprehensive selection of sherds is in the Ashmolean Museum (1956.316). Enclosure ditches containing a few early Romano-British sherds (Ashmolean Museum 1956.295) were observed by Mr. Nicholas Bayne and Mr. David Sturdy (41/561030).

Glympton, Oxon. A fragmentary hour-glass-perforated macehead of quartzite (Ashmolean Museum 1956.283) was reported by Mr. F. Watts as found at the south-east corner of Glympton Wood (42/418199).

Iffley, Oxon. A Romano-British beaker of 3rd-century type was reported to have been found in the river bank upstream from Iffley Lock (42/524044).

Islip, Oxon. A fragmentary macehead of igneous rock (Ashmolean Museum 1956.282) of cushion form with hour-glass perforation was found by Mr. P. M. Finch in Middle field to the north of Woodeaton (42/535127).

Kempsford, Glos. Mr. R. J. Tyrell reported finding an olla of 2nd-century type, of grey ware with burnished decoration (Ashmolean Museum, 1956.694), at Hannington bridge (41/174961).

Oxford. Sherds of Belgic ware (Ashmolean Museum 1956.286) were found with animal bones (probably from an ancient ditch or pit) 6 feet below the floor of the Clarendon Laboratory, Parks Road.

Sparsholt, Berks. Miss S. Turner reported finds from the following places in the village: struck flints from below Seven Acre Hill (41/349871); indeterminate sherds of Romano-British coarse wares, and struck flints, including a fragmentary polished flint axe (41/344874); indeterminate sherds of Romano-British coarse wares (41/353876).

Tubney, Berks. Mr. H. Astell reported two barbed and tanged arrowheads found in the field south-west of Tubney Farm (41/433985).

Woolstone, Berks. The Rev. Charles Overy reported sherds of indeterminate Iron Age type from a point 80 feet north-east of the area of the Roman villa (about 41/291877).

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B. MEDIEVAL

Oxford, Cornmarket St. Excavations continued under the direction of Mr. J. Alexander at the site of the new building for Messrs. F. W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd. Pits yielding 11th-century wares were explored and observations made of ground levels in Late Saxon times. A report will be published, and the finds deposited in the Ashmolean Museum.

Oxford, Nuffield College. Piles of possibly a late 16th- or 17th-century footbridge across the Castle Ditch were observed by Mr. A. T. Kennard during excavations for new buildings.

Sparsholt, Berks. Miss S. Turner reported 12th-13th century sherds from Westcot (41/340874) and from east of the church (41/347876).

Woodstock, Oxon. A shaft, probably a former cold storage, some 20 feet in diameter and reported as some 50 feet deep, was discovered during building alterations to the west frontage of 31 Manor Road, Old Woodstock. Part of its corbelled roof survived. The house lies adjacent to the wall of the Great Park.

HUMPHREY CASE.

AN EARLY SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY LINING PAPER

In recent years there have appeared three brief studies of the lining papers of seventeenth century charter-boxes.¹ Six examples of one particular type of design have already been found.² These are:

- (a) Court of Wards, Deed Box 146s; before 1645;
- (b) Hospital of the Holy Trinity, Guildford, box of foundation charter of 1622;
- (c) oak box *penes* H. C. Wolton of Bury Saint Edmunds: seventeenth century;
- (d) Maidstone Corporation archives, box of charter of 1604: certainly before 1619;
- (e) Corpus Christi College, Oxford, box of charter: possibly 1627;
- (f) box in Shadingfield church, Suffolk, firmly dated 1632.

Professor Wace regarded this pattern as probably belonging to the second quarter of the century, but Mr. Harden pointed out that the Maidstone example strongly suggests the first quarter.

In view of this conflict of opinion it is of some interest that the box of the foundation charter of Wadham College, of 1611, is of the same design. It even has the same defect in the block as is shown on the top left-hand flower of the Corpus Christi example (*Oxoniensia*, II, fig. 28). In view of the importance of the document to the College, it is extremely probable that the box to preserve it was made at the same time. If this is so, this new example confirms Mr. Harden's revised dating to the first and second decades of the century.

LAWRENCE STONE.

¹ H. Jenkinson, 'English Wall-Papers of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries', *Antiq. J.*, v (1925), 237-53; A. J. B. Wace, 'Lining Papers from Corpus Christi College', *Oxoniensia*, II (1937), 166-70; D. B. Harden and L. R. A. Grove, 'Seventeenth-century lining papers', *Antiq. J.*, xxxi, 204-6; also a note by Mrs. G. M. Crowfoot in *Antiq. J.*, xxxii, 74.

² Illustrated in *Antiq. J.*, v, p. 246, fig. 2; *Oxoniensia*, II, fig. 28; *Antiq. J.*, xxxi, 205.

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PAROCHIAL RECORDS

A survey of the historical documents contained in parish chests throughout the county has now been virtually completed under the auspices of the Oxfordshire Committee of the National Register of Archives. The completion of the work is largely due to the pertinacity of Mrs. Catherine Cole, Miss Mary Hutchinson and Miss Margaret Toynbee. The results are recorded by parishes.

The survey has yielded some surprises. Thus the parish church of Wheatley, which only dates from the formation of that parish a century ago, has been shown to contain a mass of civil records going back to before the Civil War. Some were damaged by damp and some of the records were loose papers of a nature which invited destruction by mice or any tidy vicar who might have an ill-developed historical conscience. It was made possible for the late Mr. E. E. Wilmot to restore and bind these.³ The document illustrated (PL. IV) shows that in 1771 the poorer income group in Wheatley was only able to produce two signatures compared with 15 marks, whereas members of the ratepaying class had mostly learnt to sign their names before the century was so far advanced. The witness to this document, Thomas Davis, was a schoolmaster, but he turned publican and his initials adorn a plaque on the 'King's Arms', strategically situated at the junction of the present Church Road with the New Turnpike which bypassed the village (along the line of A 40) a few years after the riot recorded in this document.

The Gomm, Munt and Wakelin families still flourish locally. It is interesting to see the name Juggins among the poor rioters, for members of the family were among the largest rate-payers and in 1809 Arthur Young admired the thrashing-machine at Juggin's Farm, which was the chief house in the village.

W. O. HASSALL.

FIELD-NAMES OF ENSTONE AND LITTLE TEW PARISHES, OXON.

In the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society's Report no. 88 (1950-53), published in *Oxoniensia*, xvii/xviii (1952-3), a note on field-names in Enstone and Little Tew parishes was printed, accompanied by a folding map, *ibid.*, p. 265 f., fig. 53). Owing to an error, unnoticed at the time, some of the names were unfortunately omitted, and the relevant portion of the map with the missing names added, is now republished here (FIG. 16).

The names Victory Ground, Armistice Acres and Peace Piece were invented by Mr. Nathaniel Parsons when he bought the land about 1920.

Since the map was compiled a good deal of information has become available in the Dillon Papers in the County Archives. Among this is a field in Ditchley south of Hopyard Close called Fenny Chapel Field. The first word is probably a corruption of Felley, the name of a family who owned land in this part in the thirteenth century. The perambulations of Wychwood of 1309 refer to Felleyeshegg and it is believed that they had a chapel dedicated to S. John Baptist near the field in question.

R. T. LATTEY.

³ Similar work with other accumulations elsewhere would be highly desirable, but funds are lacking.

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FIG. 16

FIELD-NAMES OF ENSTONE, OXON.

Map showing names additional to those in *Oxoniensia* xvii/xviii, fig. 53.
Based on the Ordnance Survey map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

June the 28th 1771.

We whose Names are hereunder subscribed do promise and agree
never to Interrupt nor disturb the Chapel Warden and Overseers
of Wheatley nor their Successors in attempting to mow
the Town Meadow for the time being nor assemble in
any other Riotous Manner, as we did on the 2^d Day of
this Instant June 1771 on the penalty of ten Pounds
each as Witness our hands

James Russell
The Mark — of
~~William Gomm~~
The Mark of
Thomas Sparrow
The Mark of
Thos. Juggins
The Mark of
Rich^d. Gomm

Witness
Thos. Davis

The Mark of
Will^m. Paston
The Mark of
Francis Munt
The Mark of
Will^m. Willings
The Mark of
Rich^d. Munt
The Mark of
Rich^d. Willers & Andrews
The Mark of
William Munt
The Mark of
Robert Holliman
The Mark of
John Munt
The Mark of
Isaac Munt
The Mark of
Christopher Wakelin
The Mark of
Will^m. King
at 2 o'clock noon

DOCUMENT FROM OVERSEERS' PAPERS FOUND IN WHEATLEY PARISH CHEST.
(Bodleian Library, MS. DD. Wheatley b. 16.)