

## Notes and News

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES, 1972-73

*Epwell, Oxon.* A scatter of flints was collected by Mr. A. J. Walker from SP 349408, and presented to the Ashmolean Museum (1973.319). The find-spot is to the south of the road to Winderton, opposite a spring. The flints include three small blade-cores, 3 cm. long, blades up to 6 cm. long, a small end-scraper and a series of waste flakes.

*Long Wittenham, Berks.* A round scraper of late Neolithic or Bronze Age type was found beside the footpath to Down Hill at SU 548922, and presented to the Ashmolean Museum. (1973.406.)

*Oxford.* In addition to the rescue and salvage excavations in Oxford described elsewhere in this volume the following finds were made in 1972.

*Wadham College, Austin Friars.* Observation during the construction of the first phase of the new library showed post-dissolution demolition material. Two burials were found by the contractors. (SP 517066.)

*126 High Street.* J. Munby observed above and below ground features during the demolition of the mid 16th century rear of the building. Some timber framing including a window was salvaged and painted wall plaster was recorded. The structure had a well-constructed stone garderobe shared with the next property to the east. The 16th century structure replaced an earlier building with a semi-basement and a partially tiled floor, possibly dating from the 14th century. There were several earlier rubbish pits. (SP 514062.)

*Marston Ferry Relief Road.* An iron fether was found during the works in fields to the east of the Cherwell. (SP 521088.)

*Magdalen College School.* J. Munby recorded features during new building works adjacent to the Iffley Road. The only pottery found was a sherd from the top of an unglazed pot with a handle, decorated with four parallel wavy lines. The sherd is difficult to parallel, but may be 13th century. (SP 523059.)

*Hill Top Road.* Mrs. Caroline Simpson reported a sherd of a small vessel possibly a crucible. (SP 538058.)

*Radley, Berks.* A quartzite maul (FIG. 1) was found in Radley near Thrupp gravel pits, on the river bank, by Mrs. Carne. (SU 525970.)

*Water Eaton, Oxon.* An iron spear-head was found on the bank of the River Cherwell by D. Belcher and A. Walton. The blade is pattern-welded, and there is a moulding at the base of the shaft, the rest of which is missing. The shape is similar to

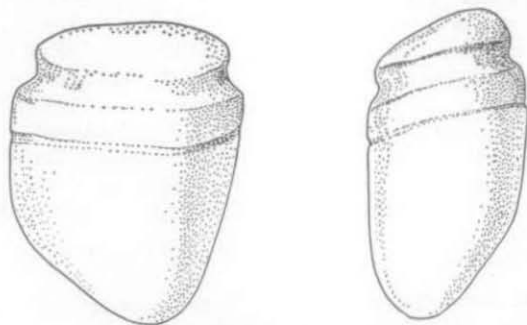


FIG. 1

Quartzite Maul from Radley. (†).

one from Magdalen Bridge at Oxford (*Oxoniensia*, xv (1950), Fig. 13D), and it is probably therefore late Saxon. It is now in the Ashmolean Museum (acc. no. 1972.164).

### NEW WINTLES, EYNESHAM, OXON.

Since 1968 four excavations have been carried out in the area of SP 430108, between Eynsham and Church Hanborough. The sites excavated lie in a group to the south of City Farm and west of New Wintles Farm; both names have been applied to the sites, giving rise to some confusion about their several identities, and some conflation with the area examined by H. J. Case and others between 1955 and 1964, which is generally associated with the name of City Farm<sup>1</sup>. The accompanying plan (Fig. 2) defines the excavations and displays the major features of all the sites with some neighbouring crop marks.

The areas that are the subject of this note lie in three adjacent fields, and each excavation revealed part of what appears to be an extensive settlement site of the 6th to 8th centuries A.D. To stress the close association of these sites, while distinguishing them from Mr. Case's City Farm site, the excavators have agreed to group them under the general title of *New Wintles*, and to identify the individual excavations by the letters A to D, as they are marked on the plan (Fig. 2). An interim report of the work at site A has been published,<sup>2</sup> and it is hoped that an omnibus report of all four excavations may be produced in 1974.

The following list identifies the areas illustrated in the plan:

Site	Grid. ref.	Area (ha.)	Excavators	Date
A	431109	1.87	S. C. Hawkes & I. M. Gray	1968
B	431108	0.20	I. M. Gray	1970
C	427109	1.20	N. B. Clayton	1971
D	429109	1.12	I. M. Gray	1972

The area of crop marks to the south, SP 430105, is included because they indicate the presence of more features of archaeological interest.<sup>3</sup> In particular, the subrectangular marks suggest that a southern limit of the Anglo-Saxon settlement has not yet been reached: it may extend as a belt of scattered dwellings as far as the northern edge of the modern village, SP 434099, where material of the period was found in the early 1950s.

The plan of New Wintles offered here is selective and schematic, as it was prepared to show the extent and relation of the sites. Natural features, mainly clay pockets and other periglacial deposits, are omitted; some features that were thought not to be natural but which did not identify themselves definitely as man-made, or of any specific

<sup>1</sup> H. Case *et al.*, 'Excavations at City Farm, Hanborough, Oxon.', *Oxoniensia*, xxix/xxx (1964-5), 1-98.

<sup>2</sup> S. C. Hawkes and M. Gray, 'Preliminary note on the early Anglo-Saxon settlement at New Wintles Farm, Eynsham', *Oxoniensia*, xxxiv (1969), 1-4, and Fig. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Plotted from aerial photographs in the Cambridge University Collection. The photographs were taken in 1959 and 1969.

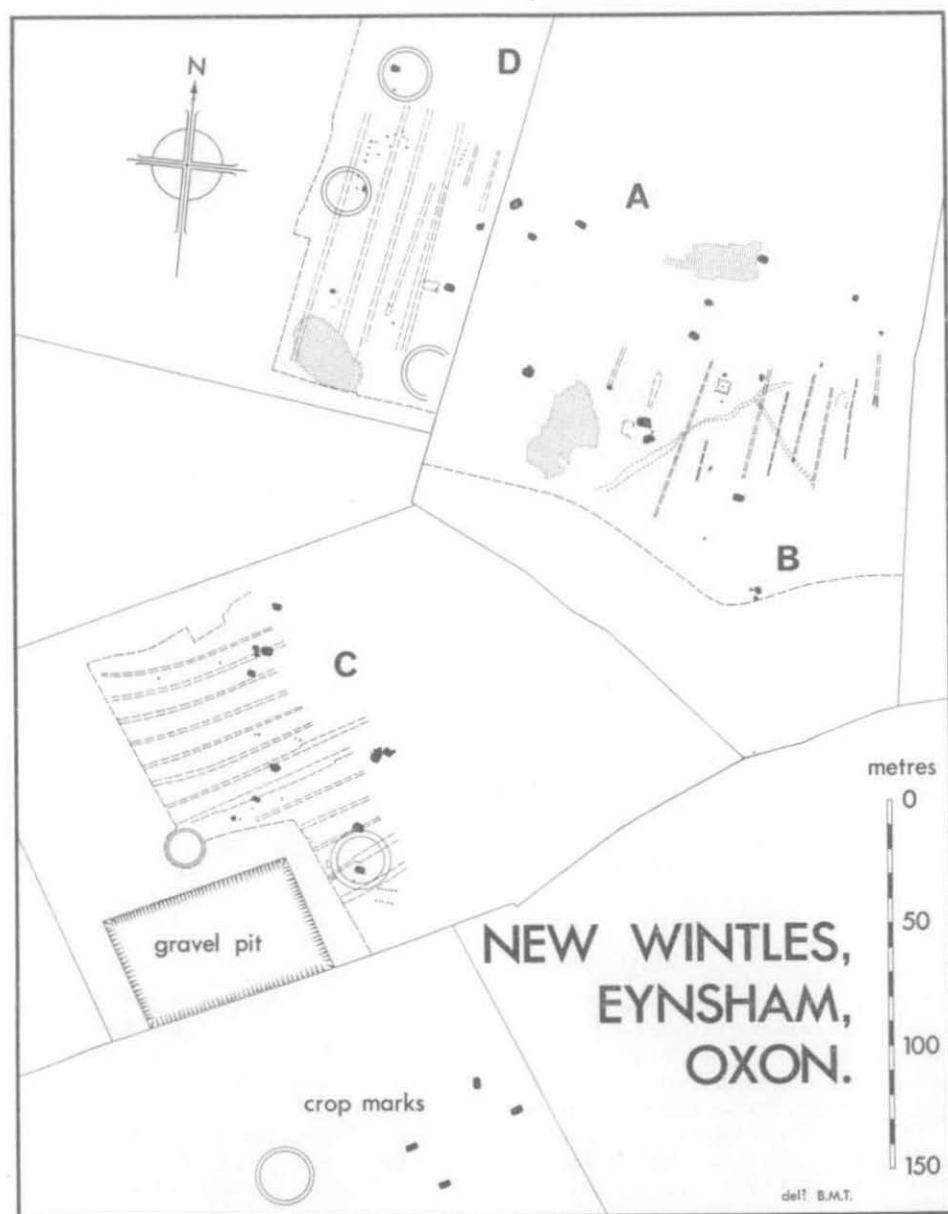


FIG. 2

General plan of the excavations at New Wintles, Eynsham, SP 430108.

period, and certain other features, such as post-medieval field-drains, have not been included. These features would, at this scale, serve only to confuse important detail.

The conventions employed in the plan require some explanation. The ring-ditches, whatever their actual irregularities, are shown compass-scribed, and from the small circle in site C a narrow causeway in the eastern side and a central burial have been omitted. Most of the ring-ditches were excavated completely, some in part only, but they are all drawn in open outline in contrast to all other excavated features, the better to illustrate the relations between them. Solid colour has been used for all other features; no convention has been used to distinguish between features of different date, mainly because it is not intended to discuss the sites in detail here, but also because most of the features are of Anglo-Saxon date. These are: four or five timber buildings, a well, scattered pits of various sizes, and twenty-one sunken huts of which the two that lie within ring-ditches (sites C and D) lacked post-holes. There were four burials of the period, one in the centre of the small circle in site C, and three in open ground in sites A and D. The post-built structure adjoining the ring-ditch in site C and the group of cremation pits between the two northerly ring-ditches in site D are not thought to be of the Anglo-Saxon period.

The areas shown as stipple are believed to be refilled gravel pits of unknown date. Pecked lines mark the limits of the excavations, and where no such edge is shown, the advancing face of the gravel working must be presumed. The pairs of pecked lines that cross the sites are the furrows of medieval ploughing that survived in the surface of the gravel below the modern ploughsoil, and were not so shallow as to have been removed during the mechanical stripping of the sites. The wandering pecked lines in site A describe a band of stained gravel that is believed to mark the course of a road or trackway.

Sites A and D lie on one ridge of gravel, and site C on another, separated from each other by a trough of clay which spreads over most of the area of site B. This clay lines a very shallow valley along which a stream, now canalized in field-ditches, runs eastwards to the river Evenlode. This clay land was not of interest to the gravel company and was, therefore, not exposed for archaeological investigation. The gravel pit in field C is of fairly recent date, surviving as a substantial tree-filled hollow in which natural vegetation has re-established itself. All the sites have now been completely destroyed and fields A and C are reinstated.

In conclusion it should be stressed that this note does not pretend to offer a final interpretation of the excavations; it is intended as a provisional guide.

N. B. CLAYTON.

#### A NEW BEAKER FROM RADLEY

In 1972 Mr. Bill Skellington of Abingdon discovered several sherds of Beaker pottery after topsoil had been stripped for gravel digging near Thrupp House Farm, Radley, Berks., to the south of the railway branch line (SU 521971). No other traces of occupation were found at the site, though the ground had been so disturbed by the stripping operation that this is not necessarily significant.

The sherds are now in the Ashmolean Museum (accession no. 1973.318). The vessel has been reconstructed in Fig. 3 by Mrs. Pat Clarke. The fabric is coarsely gritted with sand and averages one cm. in thickness, and the decoration is crudely incised. This is consistent with the large size of the vessel as reconstructed, with a rim-diameter of 20 cm. and a capacity of *circa* 7,500 c.c. The decoration consists of two zones of hatching bearing plain zigzag bands, the upper zone cross-hatched and the lower one filled by a single set of diagonal strokes. The fabric and decoration together suggest a context within Clarke's Late Southern British Beaker group (*cf.* D. L. Clarke, *Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*, corpus numbers 234, 278, 473, 424).

The coarseness and size of the vessel—over twice the capacity of the funerary

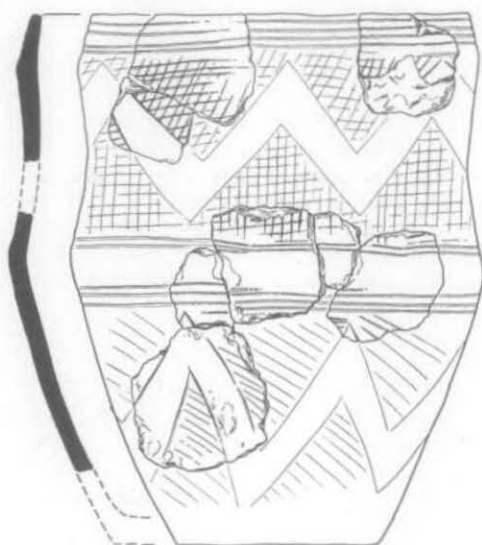


FIG. 3

A new Beaker from Radley. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

beaker (Berks. 12) from the Barrow Hills Cemetery barrow 4a, and five or six times that of Berks. 8 from a funerary context a quarter of a mile to the NE of this—suggest domestic rather than ritual use. The site of this new find is still on the Summertown-Radley gravel terrace, though closer to the floodplain than earlier finds of Beaker material. There are a number of indications from air photographs of possible ring-ditches in this area, and the area of Beaker settlement probably included all the land from Barrow Hills to the river.

A. G. SHERRATT.

#### A ROMANO-BRITISH FRAGMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM ALCHESTER

This fragment of bronze was picked up on the surface of a ploughed field to the south of the walled enclosure and near the Alchester-Dorchester road (SP 537195) and

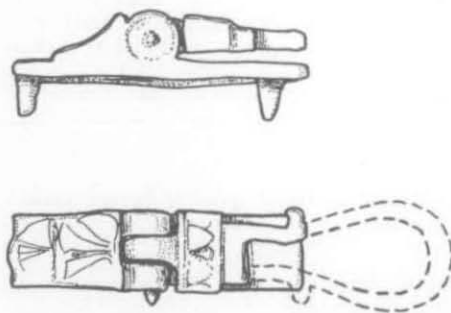


FIG. 4  
(Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ )

is now in the Ashmolean Museum (Acc. No. 1972. 2143). I am grateful to Mr. Christopher Young for drawing my attention to this early military object. It is from a baldric and consists of part of a keyhole-shaped eyelet through which a toggle would have been connected. The bronze surface would have been tinned and there are traces of niello leaves. The stubs of two projecting studs survive on the underside for fastening to a leather strap. There are two types of eyelet, one of which is solidly cast with the mount and the other, of which this is an example, where the eyelet is hinged. Two examples from Britain have been recently published, one from Kingscote, Glos., and the other from Nettleton Shrub, Wilts. The note by Vivien Swann gives a full list of parallels from Britain and the Rhineland (*Wilts. Archaeol. Mag.*, LXV (1970), 195-197). Another example is known from Waddon Hill, Dorset (forthcoming report).

G. WEBSTER.

### THREE BRONZE FIGURINES\*

Amongst the small bronzes in the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities at the British Museum, are three given by A. W. Franks in 1883 which are said to have been 'found near Oxford' (PL. XXX).

The first (83, 8-2, 11) is a fully classical piece, evidently derived from a Polykleitan statue. It portrays a nude male figure (height 9.1 cm.) whose beautiful, somewhat effeminate body and carefully waved hair bound at the back in a 'chignon' proclaim to be an Apollo.<sup>1</sup> The god is shown in a relaxed stance, with left leg flexed. He holds a *plectrum* (a short baton used for playing the lyre) in his right hand. Although this bronze has not been published, numerous examples of the type may be noted in catalogues.<sup>2</sup>

A second statuette (83, 8-2, 12) was described by Reinach as a 'Carnassier Androphage'.<sup>3</sup> Here we see a carnivorous male animal, probably a hound (height 6.8 cm.) squatting on its haunches and devouring a man; the creature may represent a Celtic wolf-god.<sup>4</sup> Details such as the great mane that runs down the monster's spine and terminates in a long tail which curves round onto itself, are exceptionally well done for a bronze of this size. The only really close parallel is a figurine from Fouqueure (Charente) in the museum at Angoulême.<sup>5</sup>

The third bronze (83, 8-2, 13) depicts a bird with curving beak and wings lying close to its sides. (height 6.3 cm.). Its body plumage is indicated by small 'c'-shaped incisions and the pinions are represented by six rows of 'striated bars'. A curious feature is the fan-like tail which projects from below the tips of the wings. The best parallel comes from Woodeaton, which has similar rounded eyes, curving beak and incised plumage. Joan Kirk described the bird as an eagle, but we are not certain of this identification.<sup>6</sup>

The provenance of the three figurines is very likely to have been Woodeaton, which is the only site near Oxford to have yielded a number of Romano-British bronzes. The close affinities between our bird and the one from Woodeaton are highly suggestive.<sup>7</sup>

\*We are very grateful to Miss Catherine Johns and Mr. Kenneth Painter for facilitating our work in the British Museum.

<sup>1</sup> It would be tempting to equate the figure with the Antinous, found near Oxford and exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries by Charles Roach Smith in 1850 (*PSA* first ser., II, 68), but this is clearly described as a bust.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. especially H. Rolland, *Bronzes Antiques de Haute Provence*, Paris 1965, 35, No. 17; H. Menzel, *Die Römischen Bronzen aus Deutschland 11 Trier, Mainz* 1966, 3-4, No. 7.

<sup>3</sup> S. Reinach, 'Les Carnassiers Androphages dans l'art Gallo-Romain', *Revue Celtique*, XXV (1904), 208-224.

<sup>4</sup> J. P. Alcock, 'Three Bronze Figurines in the British Museum', *Antiq. J.*, XLIII (1963), 121-122, for the most recent publication of this figurine.

<sup>5</sup> Reinach, *op. cit.*

<sup>6</sup> *Oxoniensis*, XIV (1949), 31, No. 3, Pl. V, E; also note No. 4 and Pl. V, D.

<sup>7</sup> We are very grateful to Mr. David Sturdy for pointing this out to us and for suggesting that we write this note.

Furthermore, all the British Museum bronzes have a similar blackish patina to those from the temple site.

The addition of two new deities to the list of those already attested there takes us no further in determining the dedication of the temple. As Richard Goodchild and Joan Kirk wrote, 'the syncretism of Romano-Celtic religion was highly complex, and one must be chary of interpreting too rigidly the stray objects found on temple sites'.<sup>8</sup>

MARTIN HENIG and JULIAN MUNBY.

#### ABINGDON ADDENDA

Two objects escaped inclusion in our account of 'Anglo-Saxon features at Abingdon' in the last volume of *Oxoniensia*.<sup>1</sup> They were being treated in the conservation laboratory of the Ashmolean Museum and were not remembered until it was too late. They are:

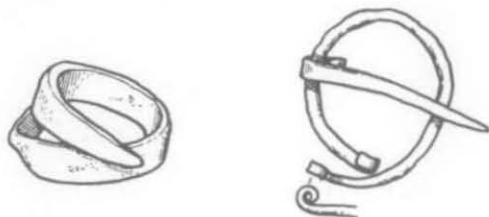


FIG. 5  
(Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ )

1. A spirally-coiled finger ring made of a flat strip of lead; the ends taper; no decoration is visible. Internal diameter 0.017 m. Rings like this are quite common in graves, but are usually of bronze or silver. We can offer no exact parallel to this piece. Lead and pewter were not normally used to make items of jewellery at this date, though there is a pair of lead disk brooches from Brighthampton, grave 45. Stratified, from the lowest grey ashy layer (layer 6 below layer 7) in A/S pit 1 (FIG. 5, left).

2. A bronze pennanular brooch with coiled terminals; both pin and ring have round cross-sections; the pin is flattened where it is folded round the ring. Overall diameter 0.026 m. This brooch belongs to Elizabeth Fowler's type C—a type current from the 1st century B.C. through to Anglo-Saxon graves.<sup>2</sup> These latter include examples in bronze and iron from nearby cemeteries at Abingdon, Long Wittenham and Brighthampton. Unstratified, from soil excavated by the bulldozer from trench B3 which included part of A/S pit 1 (FIG. 5, right).

Both objects could well be of 6th century date—the date implied for the filling of A/S pit 1.

MICHAEL AVERY and DAVID BROWN.

#### TWO MEDIEVAL ANTHROPOMORPHIC POTS

Although decorated Medieval pottery in the Oxford region is less elaborate than in some other areas, various zoomorphic and anthropomorphic forms occur. The latter include the small spout shaped like a man with outstretched arms, from St. Aldates,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xix (1954), 28.

<sup>1</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xxxvii (1972), 66–81.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 26 (1960), 175 and *Archaeol. J.*, 120 (1964), 147–8.

<sup>1</sup> 'Notes and News', *Oxoniensia*, iii (1938), 173 and Pl. xix, C; D. A. Hinton, *Medieval Pottery of the Oxford Region* (1973), Frontispiece.



face-mask beakers,<sup>2</sup> and the very common small stamped human masks on jug rims,<sup>3</sup> which may have been copied from jugs made in southern England at such kilns as Laverstock,<sup>4</sup> rather than directly from French imports.

Two recently found examples of anthropomorphic decoration are unlike any previously recorded in the region. By coincidence both use two different clays to achieve colour contrasts, and are the first from the area that are not monochrome.

The first (FIG. 6, no. 1), is a crudely modelled head, in almost full relief. It was



FIG. 6

Pottery head from Chawley (1), and spout from Sutton Courtenay (2). (½).

Drawings by Mrs. J. Croxall.

found at Chawley, Berks., and is now in the Ashmolean Museum (acc. no. 1968.1100). Two colours of clay are used, a white sandy fabric as the base, and red for some of the decoration. Although now much worn, the glaze was originally thick, as pools have collected in the hollows of the pattern. The glaze is yellow-olive on the white clay, red-brown on the red. The figure is almost free-standing, but was presumably attached at its base to a jug. Traces of glaze on parts of the back show that it projected forward from the side of the jug, but much of the surface is worn, and the exact fitting method is not clear. There is a buff patch on the back that may possibly have been where a strut from the jug gave extra support.

The face is triangular, with pinched-in cheeks. The eyes are two impressed dots, the mouth a horizontal cut, and the nose an applied pad of the white clay. The red clay forms a broad horizontal band over the forehead, with three rows of impressed dots. It projects forward at the top and sides, on which it is much worn. It goes right over the top of the head, where its glaze shows that it was not attached to the jug at that point. There is also red clay on the sides and front of the neck.

There is a head very like this one in the Jewry Wall Museum, Leicester (acc. no. 118.1951), from an unknown site.<sup>5</sup> It is in slightly better condition, and has applied pads on the band across the forehead. Assuming this to be the fillet of a woman's wimple, a date in the late 13th or early 14th century is probable.<sup>6</sup>

No. 2 is a bridge-spout formed by an applied human mask, of which unfortunately only the lower part remains. It was recovered from dredging in the River Thames

<sup>2</sup> E. M. Jope, H. M. Jope and S. E. Rigold, 'Pottery from a late 12th-Century Well-filling', *Oxoniensia*, xv (1950), 60-2.

<sup>3</sup> R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, 'The Archaeology of the Site of the Bodleian Extension', *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 105 and Fig. 24 K; Hinton, *op. cit.*, nos. 11, 12.

<sup>4</sup> J. Musty *et al.*, 'The Medieval Pottery Kilns at Laverstock', *Archaeologia*, CII (1969), 126-7, Fig. 19, nos. 149-50, and p. 146.

<sup>5</sup> I am very grateful to Miss E. Blank for bringing this head to my attention, and to Mr. K. J. Barton for his helpful comments.

<sup>6</sup> G. C. Dunning, in H. Parker, 'A Medieval Wharf in Thoresby College Courtyard, Kings Lynn', *Med. Arch.*, ix (1965), 101.



at Sutton Courtenay near Abingdon by Mr. D. Steptoe, who has kindly given it to the Ashmolean Museum (acc. no. 1973.839).

The fabric is a pinky-buff sandy ware, with grey core. A large red inclusion shows in the fracture; this looks like a sandstone but has not yet been analysed. There is also a piece of what looks like white grog. The exterior has a very even, dull green glaze, now much eroded. The lips are an applied oval pad of red clay, impressed horizontally to show the mouth. The chin juts forward slightly, and the cheeks are modelled. One ear remains, and a small part of the other. They are applied to the side of the jug, just behind the 'springing' of the spout. Inside there are traces of red clay on the surface, but not enough to appear intentional.

A very similar modelled head occurs as the spout of a jug from Aldgate, London, now in the British Museum (acc. no. B.118).<sup>7</sup> It is about the same size, and the only major difference is that it does not have red clay lips, although there is red clay decoration on the body. The series of face-on-front jugs from Surrey<sup>8</sup> have similar modelling, and a London basin source for the Sutton Courtenay spout is therefore probable. There is a Rouen-style jug from Abingdon now in the British Museum (acc. no. 1910, 5-5, 4). Such Rouen-style imports and copies are common in London, but are almost unknown in Oxford. Both the Sutton Courtenay spout and the Abingdon jug date from the second half of the 13th century or the first half of the 14th, and provide a hint that Abingdon, down river of Oxford, was opening up to London traders at an earlier date,<sup>9</sup> perhaps because of the cloth market provided by the Steventon area,<sup>10</sup> and before the construction of its bridge in 1415 provided a major road through-route.<sup>11</sup> It will be interesting to see if future excavations confirm this, or show that no weight should be placed on two chance finds.

DAVID A. HINTON.

#### THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF ARCHIVES

This committee has recently been dissolved like similar committees of other counties. The central National Register of Archives was first set up in 1945 as part of the Historical Manuscript Commission, and the Local History Committee of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council assumed the functions of a county National Register of Archives committee in 1948. Later it set up a sub-committee to devote the whole of its time to archive problems, and for some years now this sub-committee has been working as a county N.R.A. committee without reference to the original parent body. The committee had a devoted and energetic secretary in the person of Miss G. M. Hutchinson (a paid official of O.R.C.C.) from its beginnings until her sudden death in 1967.

Numerous lists of Oxfordshire material in private hands were prepared and sent to the N.R.A. for duplication. These lists, of which copies are available locally as well as centrally, include the papers of many Oxfordshire solicitors, some Oxford colleges, many private individuals and small institutions and the Oxfordshire parish chests. The committee was also often able to arrange for papers to be deposited either in the County Record Office or in the Bodleian Library. Since 1945, far more professional archive services concerned with this matter exist throughout the country, and in most counties the N.R.A. committee has long since disappeared, with the County Record Office usually maintaining any necessary links between local and national bodies. It seemed time for Oxfordshire to follow their example, although the committee is well aware that there will always be papers in private hands which should be examined

<sup>7</sup> R. L. Hobson, *Catalogue of English Pottery . . . in the British Museum* (1903), Fig. 62.

<sup>8</sup> J. G. Hurst in B. Rackham, *Medieval English Pottery* (1972), Plates 47-9.

<sup>9</sup> E. M. Jope, in A. F. Martin and R. W. Steel (eds.), *The Oxford Region* (1954), 112.

<sup>10</sup> R. A. Pelham, 'Fourteenth-century England', in H. C. Darby (ed.), *Historical Geography of England* (1936), 249-50, 254.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 341.

and listed as opportunity arises. In particular the committee has done little work on business records and there is further work to be done on college records. A complete catalogue of college estate maps is most desirable, and some colleges still have single copies of catalogues of deeds for their own use which the committee would like to see duplicated for wider circulation. The committee's last project was to make a survey of all nonconformist records in the county, but this has proved too difficult to complete. Anyone wishing for advice about papers in private hands or who would be willing to undertake or provide funds for projects still outstanding should now get in touch with the following repositories: The County Record Office (Oxford 49861), the Bodleian Library (Oxford 44675) or (especially if they concern the city) Oxford Central Library (Oxford 41717).

SHIRLEY BARNES.



PLATE XXX

Three bronze figurines, perhaps from Woodeaton.

Ph. : Julian Munby