

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

The following discoveries in the district were reported during 1945 :

1. *Blewbury, Berks.* In July the discovery of a burial on Blewburton Hill was reported to the Ashmolean Museum by Mrs. Mornington Higgs, who has retained the objects found. The skeleton lay in an extended position immediately beneath the turf, on the crest of the hill overlooking the village. The head was to the E., but the bones had been disturbed by rabbits, and many were missing. With the body, which was that of an adolescent girl of the Anglo-Saxon period, were two bronze 'small-long' brooches and nine glass beads.

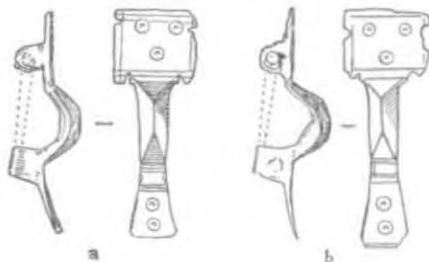


FIG. 13

TWO BRONZE BROOCHES OF THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD
FROM BLEWBURTON HILL, BLEWBURY, BERKS. Sc. $\frac{1}{2}$.

The brooches (FIG. 13) belong to Leeds's cross potent derivative group c;¹ in form they resemble closely examples from Long Wittenham (Berks.),² while the dot-and-circle ornament occurs on an example of the same group from Fairford (Glos.).³ The beads comprise four opaque yellow, one opaque green, one transparent green, one black with opaque white spiral, one opaque white with transparent blue bands enclosing opaque red dots, and one barrel of black glass with opaque red end-bands and red and white zigzags on the central section.

2. *Cassington, Oxon. (Smith's Pit II).* During the Easter Term a section across the great enclosure ditch, started during the excavation of the Cassington barrow in 1943,⁴ was widened and completed by members of the O.U. Archaeological Society. The ditch was found to be 33 ft. wide and 13 ft. deep. The silting and filling showed clearly that the bank had originally stood on the inner edge (thus confirming observations already made elsewhere by Miss J. M. Morris).⁵

¹ *Archaeologia*, xcii, 21.

² *Ibid.*, fig. 11, b.

³ *Ibid.*, fig. 11, c.

⁴ *Oxoniensia*, viii/ix, 195, and (for full report) xi, forthcoming.

⁵ *Oxoniensia*, vii, 106 n.

NOTES AND NEWS

The section was cut immediately to the N. of the barrow. The greater part of the ditch had been deliberately filled from the outer edge with soil and gravel containing Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon pottery, showing that at this point, at least, the ditch must have been open, or had been re-cut, in Saxon times. The evidence of this section will be discussed in detail in a future volume of *Oxoniensia*, together with the results of later excavations on the same site.

3. *East Ilsley, Berks.* During the Michaelmas Term members of the O.U. Archaeological Society assisted Miss C. N. S. Smith to cut a trial section on the edge of an oval barrow on Abingdon Lane Down, about half a mile N. of the village and 200 yards E. of the Oxford-Newbury road. For some months previously rabbits had brought to the surface at the east end of the mound fragments of partially cremated human bones, and Miss Smith's trench had been designed to locate the burial. The trench was extended sufficiently to show that the mound was composed of scraped-up surface soil, and that there was no apparent ditch encircling it, but was filled in before the burial was reached.

4. *Radley, Berks.* During June and July a party of volunteers under the direction of Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson undertook the excavation of barrow 7.⁶ The mound had been greatly denuded by cultivation, but sufficient remained to show that it had been of bowl form; it was encircled by a ditch 110 ft. in diameter. Close to the centre were found traces of a funeral pyre on the old ground surface, and a pit filled with ashes and a few minute fragments of cremated bone; extensive search failed to reveal the burial. A full report is in preparation.

During the Easter Vacation gravel-digging in the field immediately W. of Barrow Hills Field revealed an extensive Romano-British cemetery, of which 35 graves were excavated; several more were destroyed by the mechanical excavator before they could be examined. All the graves were orientated N.-S.; only two were accompanied by grave-goods. In one of these was a red colour-coated butt-beaker with barbotine decoration, of the 4th century A.D.; in the other were 9 coins of Constantine I and Crispus, sewn into a piece of linen. The finds (including the linen, which is remarkably well preserved) are in the Ashmolean Museum. A detailed report will appear in a future volume of *Oxoniensia*.

5. *Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.* During Michaelmas Term gravel-digging in the Vicarage Field, to the S. of the road leading to Beard Mill, uncovered half the circuit of a circular ditch, of approximately 105 ft. internal diameter, close to a similar circle already examined by Mr. D. N. Riley.⁷ The removal of top-soil had left exposed a diametric section of the circle (FIG. 14, A-F). Cuttings were made across the ditch at the ends of this diameter (FIG. 14, A-B, E-F); these suggested that the material from the ditch had originally been thrown up on its inner edge. There was no apparent mound within the ditch, but the whole site had been much disturbed by ploughing.

At the centre of the circle two pits appeared in the section, and excavation to the E. of them revealed a third. Pit I (FIG. 14, plan) contained an unaccompanied cremation; pits II and III, both about 18 ins. deep, contained gravelly soil only. No pottery or other dating evidence was found.

⁶ *Oxoniensia*, III, 32, fig. 7.

⁷ *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX, 200, fig. 49. The circle described above lies in the position indicated by the arrow in Mr. Riley's figure; Mr. Riley's circle is to the SW. of this, approximately in the position of the head of the arrow itself.

NOTES AND NEWS

6. *Sunningwell, Berks.* During Trinity Term the O.U. Archaeological Society made an exploratory excavation of the S. slope of Foxcombe Hill, about 100 yards E. of the reservoir, where the discovery of quantities of Roman pottery by Mr. O. Heaton had already suggested the presence of a kiln.⁸ The trial trenches revealed a rough-made kiln built into an earlier dump of waster-sherds; it was badly preserved, but clearly belonged to the oval, up-draught type common in the district, the floor of the pot-chamber being supported on a tongue projecting forward from the back wall of the furnace-chamber beneath. The latter was 4 ft. 10 ins. long

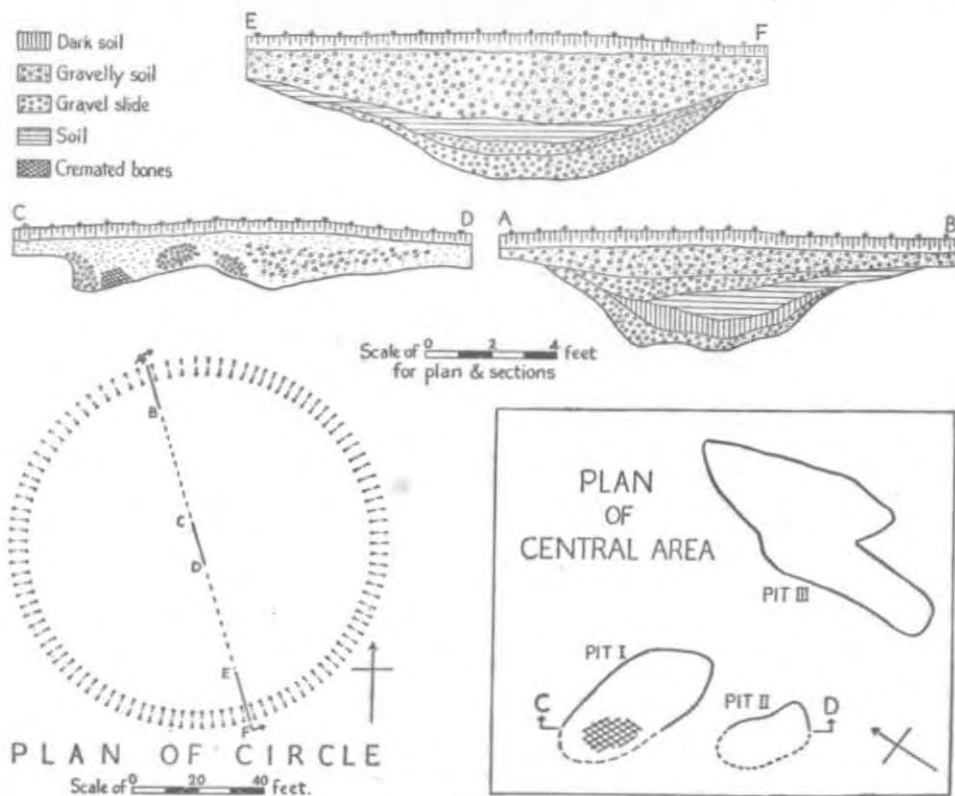


FIG. 14

PLAN AND SECTIONS OF A CIRCULAR RING-DITCH AT BEARD MILL,
STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

and 2 ft. wide at its broadest part. In the waster dump grey wares were predominant, red colour-coated and coarse black wares occurring only occasionally. A preliminary examination of the pottery (which is now in the Ashmolean Museum) suggests that the site was in production from the second to the fourth century A.D.

R. J. C. ATKINSON ; P. M. M. CROUCH.

⁸ *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX, 200.

NOTES AND NEWS

RECENT MEDIAEVAL FINDS IN THE OXFORD AREA

1. *Brill, Bucks.* During 1945 the area of Brill hill was examined to follow up the known documentary evidence of pottery manufacture here from the early 13th century throughout the Middle Ages and continuously until the last century (cp. *V.G.H. Bucks.*, II, 115). Much of the more recent extensive digging in the Kimmeridge clay for brick- and tile-making, especially to the north and west of the town, must have destroyed any evidence of earlier pottery-making in that area, but the fields to the east of the Brill-Ludgershall road are undisturbed by these 19th-century diggings and reveal extensive signs of mediaeval pottery making over an area of more than an acre on the western side of the gully. The soil is very black and ashy, and from every molehill come numerous sherds, many obvious wasters badly twisted by over-firing or with glaze spreading over cracked surfaces. The pottery from this area seems confined to the later 13th and 14th centuries, but there are still areas of Brill hill which require further examination and may reveal evidence of the earlier or later manufacture known from documents. 12th century sherds have been found at the bottom of Muswell Hill, but there was no evidence to suggest manufacture there.

The numerous fragments of jugs, pans and cooking-pots found on this site at Brill show a 14th-century severity of form. Decoration is confined to a few applied strips and slashed handles, and the profuse decoration typical of the 13th century is absent. Some unusual details are characteristic of Brill, particularly the sharply undercut cooking-pot rims (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 75, fig. 18, nos. 1-5) of which sixty have been found as compared with fifteen more usual 14th-century rims, and a tendency to make a prominent thumb and finger impression at the upper join of jug-handle and body (e.g. *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), pl. XIII, no. 1, which may well have been made at Brill). This feature is unusual on jugs of the Oxford region, though commoner elsewhere in the 14th century, especially in the North and in Scotland. Both bulbous and tall jugs were made at Brill, though there appear to be no true Oxford baluster jugs. Carinated jugs and very plain examples of the Oxford double-deckers (*Antiq. Journ.*, XVI (1936), 177, fig. 1a) were made here. All Brill jug bases are flat and very solid, thumb-pressed bases being absent: cooking-pot bases are slightly convex. Brill fabrics are all hard, either sandy, very hard grey and metallic, or fine buff, rather like that of the Oxford 15th-century pottery (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 76-9) though the debased mediaeval forms of the latter are absent from the Brill finds so far. The dating on stylistic grounds is confirmed by the similarity with much pottery from Seacourt, abandoned during the 14th century (*Oxoniensia*, V (1940), 31; VII (1942), 74) and by comparison with some recent Oxford groups (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 71-9; VIII/IX (1943-4), 102; *Oriel Record*, Jan., 1942, 175).

Pottery making at Brill by the 14th century was evidently on an extensive scale, and the hard outlines and graded standard sizes of the cooking-pots (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 74-5) suggest a certain degree of industrialization. Certainly a wide market was being served, and Brill forms have been found at Marsworth (Bucks.), Oxford, Gravenhill (near Bicester), Seacourt and Cumnor (Berks.), and (in 1947, as this volume goes to press) at Deddington (Oxon.), i.e. a circle of about 20 miles radius.

A fuller account of the archaeological and documentary evidence for pottery making at Brill will appear in a forthcoming volume of *Oxoniensia*.

NOTES AND NEWS

2. *Hinksey, Berks.* In 1945 a certain amount of mediaeval pottery was found at South Hinksey, on either side of the road just NE. of the church. This consists of typical Oxford pottery of the 12th to 14th centuries—dishes and cooking-pots with finger-tip decorated rims, and plain or clubbed rims, in both sandy and shelly fabrics: also green and yellow glazed sherds of sandy buff wares, some with rouletted applied strips (compare *Oxoniensia*, vii (1942), 72, fig. 17, nos. 1 and 3).

3. *Oxford City.* Two recent finds of mediaeval remains have so far not been noted. One was the pottery which came from digging the shelter on the Worcester College corner of what is now called Gloucester Green, anciently Brokenhays. This seems nearly all 12th and 13th centuries; the site is known to have been unoccupied by dwellings soon after that, and some evidence of its occupation in the 12th century may be gleaned from charters.

The other is from foundation-digging in York Place, Headington Road, and is so far the first find of mediaeval material recorded from the eastern suburb of Oxford across the Cherwell. The pottery appears to be of the 12th to 15th centuries and there was one jetton of the 15th century. Both these finds will be dealt with more fully in a paper now in preparation on the early mediaeval archaeology of Oxford.

4. *Yarnton, Oxon.* Amongst the group of pottery (mainly Iron Age) found by Rolleston in 1875 at Yarnton in the field between the manor and the railway (*Oxoniensia*, vii (1942), 56: group 3; A.M. 1886.1666) there are remains of several very interesting late Saxon and early mediaeval vessels. Recent field-work has yielded more similar pottery in this area and also from the small copse to the north of the farm road as it passes under the railway $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Yarnton church. This pottery is now all published together as one group.¹

These vessels are all, save a few glazed sherds, of a shelly fabric varying in hardness, and in colour from light red through purple-brown to black: they are usually finer ware than the Iron Age pottery, from which they may be readily distinguished by their shapes and the fact that they are wheel-turned (*Oxoniensia*, v (1940), 45). The late Saxon types are characteristic of the area between the Oxford basin and East Anglia, and correspond closely to the vessels found in pits with coins of the early 11th century sealed below the Mound of Northampton castle (*Assoc. Architect. Soc. Repts.*, xvi, 1) and to those from a similar pit sealed under the old turf line beneath the Mound at Hinton Waldrist, Berks. (*Berks. Arch. Journ.*, XLIV (1940), 49-60: material from this pit will be more fully published in *Berks. Arch. Journal*, I.).

That these types of vessel and their smooth shelly fabric, although of the late Saxon tradition, continued in use after the Norman conquest is suggested by numerous finds in 1947 (as this volume goes to press) at Deddington Castle (Oxon.), a Mound and Bailey originally constructed probably soon after the Conquest. These vessels (FIG. 15, nos. 1-7) at Yarnton, may therefore be considered as 11th century. FIG. 15, nos. 8 and 9 are typical of the early 12th century, and FIG. 15, no. 10, is a type common in the upper Thames and Cotswold area in the 12th century, probably with ancestors in the late Saxon tradition. These finds at Yarnton reproduce exactly the aspect of several finds in the Cambridge-Bedford-Northampton

¹ None of the other groups of pottery from Yarnton sites appears to contain any late Saxon or mediaeval pottery.

NOTES AND NEWS

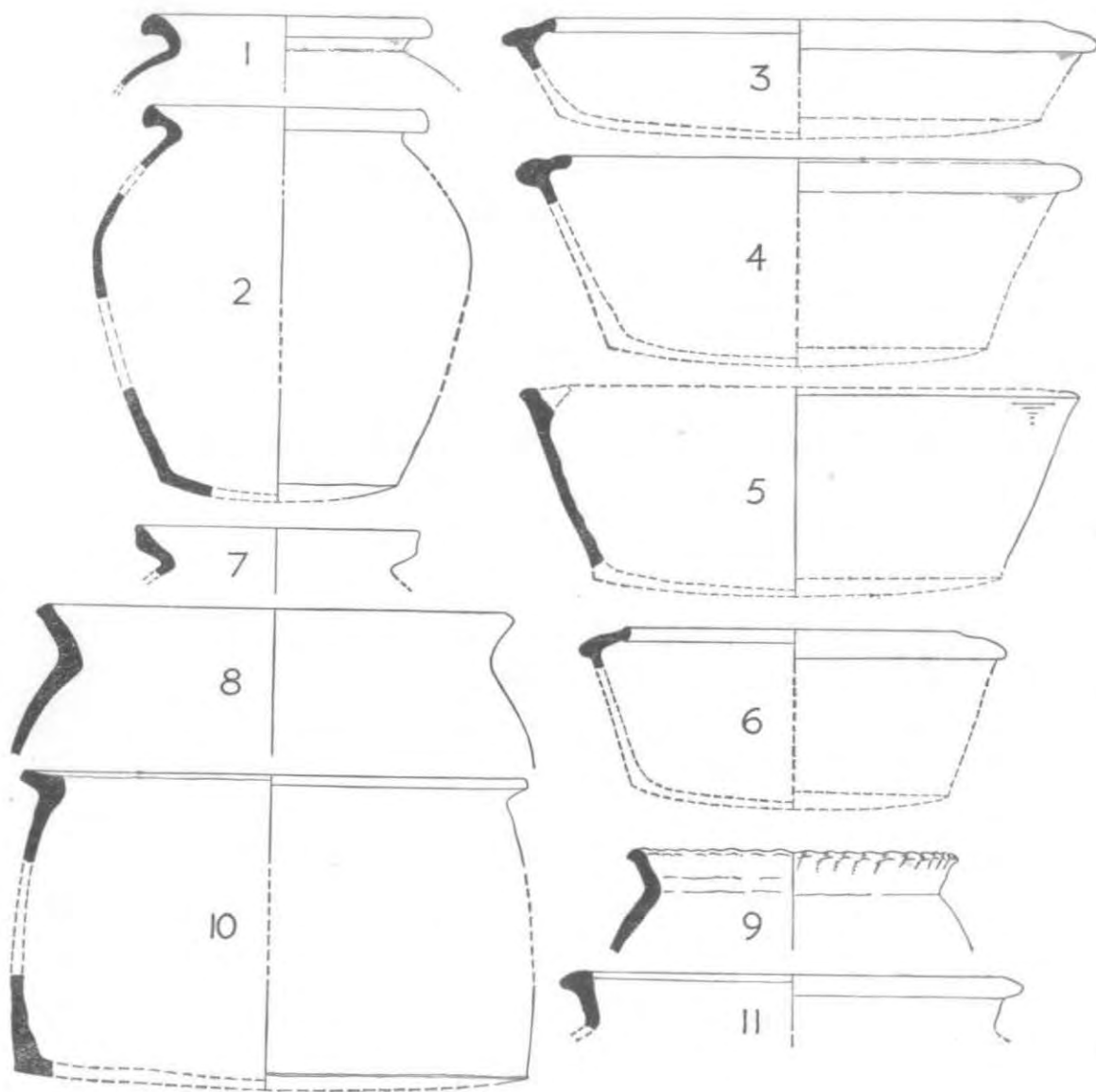


FIG. 15
MEDIÆVAL POTTERY FROM YARNTON, OXON. Sc. $\frac{1}{4}$

NOTES AND NEWS

area, such as Flambard's Manor, Meldreth, Cambs. (*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, xxxv (1935), 103), Southoe, Hunts. (*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, xxxviii (1939), 158), and Felmersham, Beds. (*Antiq. Journ.*, forthcoming), where these late Saxon types are found together with early mediaeval vessels.

It seems, therefore, that there was a settlement here $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west and south of Yarnton church during the 11th and early 12th centuries, and the presence of a few glazed sherds suggests its continuance into the 13th or 14th centuries; it was presumably an outlier of the Domesday *Hardintone* (= Yarnton), the entries for which (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 403, 405) suggest the possibility of several holdings.

These late 11th century vessels at Yarnton are of additional interest as they were in use only about 2 miles from the pottery kiln (*ollaria, potaria*) recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 under Bladon (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 405) as worth 10s. annually, the actual site of which has not yet been identified.

Yarnton lies on the western limits of the area in which vessels of this soapy surfaced late Saxon pottery with the characteristic inturned pan-rims and cooking-pot shapes are commonly found, and it is striking that some of them should be so exactly comparable with those from, for instance, Bedford and Cambridge: possibly they were imported thence, as the jugs found at the Angel Inn, Oxford, must have been, from Cambridge (*Oxoniensia*, v (1940), 42).

THE POTTERY (FIG. 15)

All the pottery comes from the field between the manor and the railway, except No. 7, which is from the copse $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Yarnton church.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Rim, body and base fragments of cooking-pots and large pans of soft shelly fabric with a smooth soapy surface varying in colour from light red through purple-brown to black, and with a black fracture. All have convex bases. For cooking-pots, compare St. Neots, Hunts. (*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, xxxiii, 133, pl. II, no. 2), Bedford (Bed. Mod. Sch. Mus.), and Hinton Waldrist, Berks. (*Berks. Arch. Journ.*, xlii (1940), 56). For pans, compare St. Neots (*op. cit.*, pl. II, 1), Northampton (*Assoc. Architect. Soc. Rep.*, xvi, 1), Bedford (Bed. Mod. Sch. Mus.).

No. 7 is of a slightly harder smooth shelly black ware, and is presumably a successor of Nos. 1 and 2.

No. 8 is of a coarser soft reddish shelly ware. This plain everted rim may be late 11th or early 12th century and may be derived ultimately from the Saxon cooking-pot (*Archaeologia*, lxxxix (1943), 77).

No. 9 is of red shelly ware, harder than No. 8, and with a little crushed flint. Finger-tip decoration on the rims became common in the first half of the 12th century.

No. 10 is of a hard black fairly fine shelly ware. It is a type characteristic of the upper Thames and Cotswold area in the 12th century, though it probably developed earlier.

No. 11 is of a hard dark grey shell-filled ware, a mid-12th century cooking-pot with slightly everted clubbed rim.

E. M. JOPE.

AN ANGLO-SAXON MONEYER

A silver penny of Cnut (FIG. 16) in the Evans bequest to the Ashmolean Museum (1941) provides some information about the organization of coinage in the Oxford district under the later Saxon kings. It is of the type numbered xvii in the usual classification of Cnut's issues—i.e. it belongs to the end of his reign (1016-1035)—and the moneyer's name on the reverse appears as *ÆGLPINE·ON·OX·*. The letters OX have, however, clearly been stamped on the die over a longer place-name of four letters, beginning and ending with C: there are also traces of R as the second letter of the four; and the name can be restored as CROC—the abbreviation for

NOTES AND NEWS

Cricklade (see sketch of inscription, FIG. 16). The die therefore seems to have been prepared for Aegelwine to be used for an issue of pennies at Cricklade, and subsequently altered for similar service at Oxford: a moneyer of this name was already known in this period at both places, and this coin shows that Aegelwine of Cricklade and Aegelwine of Oxford were the same man.



AEGELWINE ON · I · OX ·

AEGELWINE ON · I · OX ·

FIG. 16

SILVER PENNY OF CNUT MINTED AT OXFORD
WITH A CRICKLADE DIE, ALTERED

The position of moneyers in the later years of Saxon rule is not strictly defined in any recorded legislation. The ordinance of Aethelred issued at Greatley in 928 provided that every burh should have one moneyer, and some might have more: but there is no indication that every moneyer was obliged to strike coins whenever directions for a new issue were sent out from the central authority, and the lists of surviving pennies suggest that the smaller towns only acted spasmodically. This was natural enough: if there was enough coinage in circulation in a town to satisfy the needs of trade, it would have been just as useless for the local officials to strike fresh coins as it is to-day: the Royal Mint may suspend the coinage of pennies, or any other denomination, for a year or two, if the Bank of England reports that there is a sufficient supply.

As Sir Charles Oman pointed out (*The Coinage of England*, ch. ix), the Norman Conquest caused little change in the arrangements for mints and moneyers; and the evidence contained in Domesday Book may therefore be taken as generally applicable to the later years of the Saxon period. It appears that under William I the mint of a town might be farmed out to the burgesses, who presumably chose their moneyers, or directly to the moneyers: an annual sum might be paid in respect of the profits, which in the case of a large town could probably be fixed on an average output: in smaller places the payment might require revision from time to time. The one fixed charge seems to have been for new dies when the type was changed: the moneyers then were required to procure fresh dies from London.

The moneyer, it must be remembered, was not a mere operative: he was a merchant, who supplied an article which was required for trading purposes, and

NOTES AND NEWS

the scope of his activities would be determined by the demand for that article. The content and price of his article were fixed by Royal decree, and it was for him to produce that article under such conditions as to secure his profit: there is no indication that the price of silver as bullion was controlled, and it may be taken as certain that the silver penny did not contain a pennyworth of silver at metal value. In other terms, the moneyer held a Royal licence to make coins which could be put on the market and circulated at something more than their intrinsic value—at a value in specie as opposed to their value as bullion: the dies which he held were the evidence of his licence. If he could get his silver cheap, so much the better for him: if he could not get it at a price which would enable him to make a profit, he would presumably not strike any coins: nor would he strike any if there was no demand for them. It may be assumed that the coinage value of silver was determined at a rate which gave a sufficient margin over ordinary bullion values, just as was the case in England with gold during the 19th century, though there the actual relation was obscured by the artificially inflated values at the Bank of England. The moneyer then would normally be drawn from what Sir Charles Oman terms the wealthy citizen class—goldsmiths and the like; and it would not be necessary that a moneyer for a town should be a resident there: so long as he possessed trading connexions which would enable him to put his coins into circulation, it was quite open to him to obtain licences for as many towns as he could organize. It is not surprising therefore to find Aegelwine striking coins both for Oxford and for Cricklade: as he went on striking for Cricklade under Edward the Confessor, after he had had a Cricklade die altered for Oxford, it may be that he was an Oxford merchant who secured a licence also for Cricklade. That Cricklade may have had to look outside for its moneyers seems to be indicated by the fact that a moneyer for type viii of William I, Aelfwine, used the same obverse die there as he did for the same issue at Wilton (Wilts.): Wilton may have been his headquarters, since he struck there types v, vii, and viii of William I and types i and ii of William II. The interval between Aegelwine (of Oxford) and Aelfwine (of Wilton) at the Cricklade mint is filled by Leofred, who struck types ix, xi, xiv, and xv of Edward the Confessor, the one type of Harold II, and types ii, iv, and v of William I: his name does not occur elsewhere in the vicinity, so he may have been a citizen of Cricklade.

J. G. MILNE.

MINSTER LOVELL IN 1602

The historian of Oxfordshire finds much material waiting for him in the Bodleian, in the P.R.O. and in the estate offices of the county: but a less accessible store of material lies in distant muniment rooms. The name of Coke is indelibly associated with Norfolk, but the fact that the builder of Holkham was created lord Lovell, of Minster Lovell, in 1728, indicates that, when chief justice Coke was collecting estates more than a century before, some of his purchases were made in Oxfordshire. The chief justice had made a cartulary for his estates, now Holkham MS. 764 and at fol. 279 we find a transcript of an indenture, dated 1st August, 44 Elizabeth, between Edward, earl of Bedford and lady Lucy his countess, Sir John Harrington of Exton, knt., and dame Anne his wife and Thomas Stephens of the Middle Temple, esq., and Elizabeth his wife of the one party and Edward Coke, esq., her majesty's attorney general of the other. In consideration for £5,000 they have

NOTES AND NEWS

sold to him and his heirs the manor of Minster Lovell. No others had any right or interest in the manors except the persons named in a schedule which is transcribed on fol. 281. The earl of Leicester has kindly allowed me to reproduce this document, which gives a survey of the inhabitants in 1602.

* Freeholders being Tenants in fee simple rendering Cheiffe Rents.

Sr. Henry Lea knighte	ijs.		
Richard Osbaston gent	vjs.	viijd.	
Richard Newman gent	iijs.	iiijd.	
Nicholas Harrys	vijs.		
John Osbaston		ixd.	
Thomas Pridye	iijs.	vd.	
Richard Bockingham		xd.	
Thomas Tytmarshe	ijs.	xd.	
			xxvjs. xd.

Coppyholders being Tenants for one liffe or att the moste for one life and wt. possibility of Widdowes estate to growe by Custome.

William House a Tenem ^t and one yarde lande and a half	xiijs.	iiijd.	
Nicholas Harrys a Tenement and three quarters lande		xs.	
Baldwyne Thomas a Tenement and sixteen acres of lande		vijs.	
Widowe Buckingham a Tenement and a yarde lande		vijs.	
Henry Lyfolly a Tenement and a yarde Lande	xvijs.	vjd.	
	one capon		
Robt. Rushe a Tenement and one yarde lande and a halfe	xixs.		
	one capon		
Robt. Berrett a Tenement and one yarde lande and a halfe	xxiijs.		
	one capon		
Thomas Borton a Tenem ^t . and halfe one yarde lande		vijs.	
Arthure Brooke a Tenem ^t . and halfe a yarde lande		vijs.	viijd.
Richard Sundry a Tenem ^t . and a yarde Lande		iijs.	
Thomas Sheppard als. Saunders a Cottage and halfe yarde lande		vjs.	viijd.
Wyddowe House a Tenement and sixe yarde lande for her Widdowes estate onelye	iiijli.	ijs.	ixd.
		j capon	
Robt. Hyett a Tenement and one yarde lande and a halfe		xxxs.	
		j capon	
			xli. xs. xjd. [5 capons]

NOTES AND NEWS

Tenants att Will.

Richard James a Tenem ^t . and sixteene acres of lande	viijs.	
Wyddowe House for Gilberts Ham	vjs.	viijd.
John Fisher a Cottage	iijs.	viijd.
John Whyte a Cottage	vs.	
The same for Chauntery Close	ijs.	vjd.
Maryan Taylor a Cottage	iijs.	
Nicholas Smyth als. Taylor a Cottage	iijs.	
William Locke a Cottage	iijs.	
The same William Locke one other Cottage		xijd.
Richard Castle a Cottage	iijs.	} iiijli. xijs. xd. [1 capon]
Thomas Davyes a Cottage	iijs.	
Thinhabitaunts of Mynster for the Church Ham	iijs.	
Richard Weston or John Truman a Tene- ment and one yarde Lande and a halfe	xvijs. j capon	
Wyddowe Harper a Tenement and one yarde lande and a half with Smythes houlde	xxvijs.	

Seuerall estates alreadie compounded for w^{ch} are to be graunted by Mr. Attorney
after the mannor Conueyed to him.

Wyddowe Harpers Tenem ^t aforesaid to suche Three of John Trumans Chil- dren as hee shall name for three Lyves by Indenture vppon surrender of the former Lease made by Edward Erle of Bedford	xxvijs.	
Wyddowe Houses Tenem ^t . aforesaid the Rent beinge	iiijli. ijs. ix. j capon	
Robt. Hyetts Tenem ^t . aforesaid the Rent beinge	xxvs. j capon	
Are to be graunted to suche Three of John Trumans children for three lyves as hee shall name by Indenture uppon surrender [?] therof made by Edward Erle of Bedford		} vjli. xjs. ix. [3 capons]
Richard Westons Tenem ^t . aforesaid or John Trumans Rented att	xvijs. j capon	
ys to be graunted by Coppye to John Truman or suche one of his sonnes as hee shall name for one life according to the custome		

NOTES AND NEWS

Tennant^s by Indenture for yerres.

John Truman the Mill and Landes thereto
belonginge at xli. rent

the farme at xli. rent and Camdens at xljs.
viijd. rent in toto xxijli.

Wherin not to come aboue xiiij^{ten} yerres

Robt. Williamson Esquyer the Scite and
demeane landes for one and Twentye
yerres

js. viijd. ciiijxxijli. js. viijd.

clxli.

Twelve poundes yerely rent or payem^t. to be payed sixe poundes therof to the Provost and Colledge of Eaton and their Successors and other sixe poundes thereof to the Vycker of Mynster Lovell als. Mynster and his successors by and accordinge to an awarde thereof made and accordinge to a decree thervppon made in the honerable Court of Chauncery Termino Sancte Trinitatis Anno xxxj^{mo}. Regine Elizabeth.'

W. O. HASSALL.

OXFORDSHIRE TRADERS' TOKENS

Since the publication in 1935 of a list of Oxfordshire 17th century tokens,¹ two new varieties have been found by Mr. L. S. R. Jones, Headmaster of Burford Grammar School, which are described here by his consent. The first adds a name to the roll of local tokeners: it reads

(Obv.) EDWARD · SAVNDERS

Grocers' Arms

(Rev.) IN · BVRFORD · 1669

E S

[Edward Saunders is mentioned in Gretton, *Burford Records*, pp. 100, 357.]

The second is a variant of a published Witney token, the usual legend of which is

(Obv.) WILLIAM · FITCHETT

HIS · HALF · PENY

(Rev.) OF · WITNEY · ½ · 1671

W E F

but on Mr. Jones' coin a woolpack appears in the centre of the obverse instead of the legend HIS HALFPENY. The legend in the outer ring is from the same punches in both varieties, so that it seems probable that the centre of the original die got damaged in use and was repunched: it cannot be determined without comparison of a series of specimens which of the two varieties was the earlier. Such restorations of damaged dies are not infrequent in the traders' tokens of this period.

A third addition to the list is due to Mr. A. W. Launchbury, in whose collection is an unpublished Banbury token of which he has supplied particulars:

(Obv.) SAMVELL · TRVB Shaw

Unicorn standing.

(Rev.) OF · BANBARY · 1664.

HIS HALF PENY

The initial marks are mullets, the stops rosettes.

This opportunity may be taken to correct some errors in the description of R. Short's token no. 143 in the 1935 *Catalogue*: a better specimen than that illustrated

¹ *Catalogue of Oxfordshire seventeenth century tokens*, edited by J. G. Milne (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, printed for the Visitors and sold by Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, London, 1935).

NOTES AND NEWS

has been obtained, and it shows that the initial marks are, on the obverse a pierced mullet, on the reverse a rose : the stops are, a double point after the first R on the obverse, elsewhere crosses : the borders are Ce, not Be : the S before IN should be deleted in the legend.

Specimens of two varieties mentioned in the notes to the *Catalogue* as not represented in the Ashmolean collection have been obtained—one of the second die of Thomas Dekell of Banbury (no. 8), described from an example in the British Museum, presented by Mr. W. V. R. Baldwin ; and one of the third die of William Tripp of Thame (nos. 139 and 140), described from an example in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, presented by Mr. J. Howard Brown of Thame.

J. G. MILNE.

CHIPPING NORTON VICARAGE IN 1683

The letters of recommendation which clergymen obtained when they wished to be presented to livings in the gift of the Crown do not generally seem to have survived.¹ The following letter,² in which the dean and chapter of Gloucester asked the chancellor,³ Sir Francis North, to present Edward Redrobe to the vicarage of Chipping Norton is an interesting exception. The dean and chapter of Gloucester owned the advowson of Chipping Norton, but on this occasion they had lost their right of presentation by failing to exercise it within six months of a vacancy. North respected their wishes ; Edward Redrobe was presented to the vicarage by the Crown on 12 June,⁴ and instituted on 21 September, 1683.⁵

Right Honourable,

The Market Towne and Burrough of Chipping Norton in the County of Oxon. having relacon to our Society, as Patrons of the Vicarage there, hath for many Yeares been the Object of our just grieffe and Care, the provision formerly made for the supply of the Cure, being no way competent, or proportionable to the weight and burthen of so important A Charge. On this Account that Church hath for above twenty yeares been without any Legall incumbent or any other supply than the Charity and kindness of the honester sort of Inhabitants added to the former small allowance of the Church have procured for themselves. At length by the dropping of two Lives in the Lease of the Rectory granted above fourty yeares agon an Oppertunity seems now to offer itselſe of some better Advantages to the Incumbent ; and 'tis our Resolucion to Improve it so, as to put y^e Vicar in good measure into such a state of ffreedome, as will discharge him from too Servile A dependance upon the people for the future. The expectacion

¹ Registers of the presentations granted by Lord Ellesmere as chancellor from 1596 to 1616 (Bodleian : Tanner MS. 179) and by the Commissioners of the Great Seal from 1649 to 1654 (British Museum : Add. MS. 36, 792) show that at those dates someone recommended to the chancellor or commissioners every man presented.

² MS. Top. Oxon. c. 326, ff. 48-9. I am indebted to Mr. I. G. Philip for drawing my attention to this letter, which was given to the Bodleian Library in 1939 by Mr. John Daniell of Trinity College.

³ The sovereign presented in person to Crown livings valued at £20 or more in the King's Book while the chancellor presented to those of lesser value ; Richard Burn, *The Ecclesiastical Law* (ninth ed. 1842), i, 413.

⁴ Bodleian : MS. Oxf. Dioc. Papers c. 68, f. 123 (the presentation deed).

⁵ Oxford Diocesan Registers, vol. iv, f. 94.

NOTES AND NEWS

hereof encourageth this bearer to petition Your Lordship for his Majesties presentation, which we therefore hope he will obtain from Your Lordships favour, because he hath for many Years acquitted himselfe under that weighty Burthen with sobriety Industry and exemplary performances, much beyond the encouragements hee hitherto hath found. With all becoming deference and modest respect we therefore presume to wait upon your Honour in seconding his petition; desiring to give your Lordship this assurance, that the Character given this Bearer is so worthy and deserving, that we no way doubt but your Lordships favour to him will Contribute to the no lesse benefitt of that great parish, then it will be to the particular satisfaction (*sic*) and obligation of

Your Lordships humble and Devoted Servants

Tho. Marshall, Dean of Glouc'.

Tho : Washbourne sub Deane.

Ra : Cudworth D.D. Can. Gloc. Abra : Gregory : D.D. Canon : Glouc:

Geo. Bull Glou. eccles. Canonicius. Nath: Hodges ejusd: Eccl: Can:

Coll. Glouc. June the Eight 1683.

Address : To the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of England These Humbly Present

Endorsed : Dean & Prebends of Glouc. June 8th, 1683. Desiring Mr. Redrobe may be presented to Chippingnorton.

By revealing that the vicarage had been vacant for 'above twenty years' the letter accounts for a gap in the succession of vicars in Chipping Norton, hitherto unexplained. Probably no one was appointed to succeed John Norgrove who died as vicar in 1659;⁶ the living was certainly vacant by 1661.⁷ For part of this long vacancy the church was served by a Puritan curate of some eminence, Edmund Hall.⁸

Although by 1660 the vicarage was too poor to be worth the expenses of institution, it had been quite valuable in 1535; it was then worth £10. 6s. 8d.⁹ It consisted, however, not of the usual endowment of glebe and tithe, but of a stipend paid by the abbey of St. Peter's, Gloucester, to whom the tithes were appropriated. The dean and chapter, who succeeded to the appropriation, had not increased this stipend sufficiently to meet the rising cost of living of the 16th and early 17th centuries, and therefore the vicarage was 'no way competent' by 1683. In 1675 the stipend was £22 a year.¹⁰ By 1685, when a terrier of the vicarage was compiled, this had been increased in accordance with the intention expressed in the letter. Edward

⁶ The fullest list of incumbents (and the authority for Norgrove's death) is a printed 'List of rectors and vicars of Chipping Norton' in the Bodleian, given and presumably compiled by the Rev. G. A. Littledale, vicar of Chipping Norton. In Redrobe's presentation the living was said to have been vacated by the death of the last incumbent.

⁷ Public Record Office: Clerical Subsidy Roll of 1661 for Oxford diocese.

⁸ Hall was there by 1663 (Littledale, *op. cit.*, where he is in error listed with the vicars) and was still there on 29 November, 1675 (MS. Oxf. Archdeaconry Papers Oxon., c. 297); cf. Dictionary of National Biography, s.n.

⁹ Valor Ecclesiasticus (Record Commission Publication, 1810-1834), II, 180. More than half the livings of England and Wales were valued at less than £10 in 1535. Jeremy Collier, *An ecclesiastical history of Great Britain* (new ed. 1852), IX, 362-3.

¹⁰ MS. Oxf. Archdeaconry Papers Oxon., c. 297.

NOTES AND NEWS

Redrobe was discharged 'from too servile a dependence on the people' by a stipend of £42. 6s. 8d. a year; in addition he enjoyed a vicarage house and close valued at £5 a year and the Easter offerings of the town.¹¹

DOROTHY M. BARRATT.

OXONIENSIA: VOLUMES II-V

A limited number of surplus copies of volumes II, III, IV and V of *Oxoniensia* is available. The Committee of the Society has therefore decided to offer these at a special price of 7s. 6d. each, or £1 for the set of four. Up to June 30, 1948, preference will be given to orders placed by members of the Society. Applications should be addressed to the Secretary to the Editorial Committee at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

FORTHCOMING VOLUMES OF OXONIENSIA

It is regretted that owing to the difficulties of these post-war times this volume of *Oxoniensia*, which should have appeared before the end of 1945, has been so long delayed. Subscribers will be glad to know, however, that volumes XI (1946) and XII (1947), are already in page proof and will appear very shortly as a double volume, and that the Editorial Committee has also begun the preparation of volume XIII (1948).

¹¹ MS. Oxf. Archdeaconry Papers Oxon., c. 141, f. 521.