

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES, 1949

1. *Cothill, Berks.* A number of sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, including rusticated ware similar to that from Sutton Courtenay,¹ have been found during sand-digging at Amey's Pit (41/465996). The sherds were not seen *in situ*, but were said to have come from a pit about 5 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. deep, together with the bones of an animal, perhaps a horse.

2. *Brighthampton, Oxon.* Excavation for a drain within a barn at the south end of the village revealed the skeleton of a child at a depth of 5 ft. from the present floor. The body did not seem to be accompanied by any grave-goods; it may be an outlier of the Brighthampton Saxon cemetery² (42/384033).

3. *Dorchester, Oxon. (Allen's Pit).* Mr. A. J. Clarke reports the recovery from the gravel-washing plant of a Lower Palaeolithic hand-axe of Acheulean type, the first to be recorded from this locality (41/572950).

4. *Dorchester, Oxon. (Amey's Pit).* During the Easter Vacation site XI (41/571955) was excavated on behalf of the Ministry of Works by volunteers under the direction of R. J. C. Atkinson. The site consisted of four structural elements. At the centre was a ring of fourteen pits, varying in diameter from 2 ft. to 6 ft. and in depth from 6 in. to 30 in., forming a circle approximately 38 ft. in diameter, with an entrance-gap on the east side. Two pits contained fragments of cremated human bone in small quantities, and a third was accompanied by a complete cremation in a smaller pit beside it. It is quite certain that the pits did not serve as post-holes.

The pits were surrounded by a ditch (I), egg-shaped in plan, which appeared to have been filled deliberately. This in turn was enclosed within a second ditch (II), shallower than the first, which was irregularly sub-rectangular in plan, and also seemed to have been filled purposefully. The outermost ditch (III) was deeper than the others, and was fairly accurately set out in a circle (mean diameter 95 ft.). All three ditches were continuous.

It was established that ditch II, ditch I and the pits were constructed successively in that order, and that each was filled before the next was dug. The relation to them of ditch III could not be established. A single sherd of Abingdon Neolithic ware was found in one of the pits, and fragments of Ebbsfleet or Peterborough ware in the silting of ditch III. The west ditch of the Dorchester Cursus ended 2 ft. from the outer edge of ditch III, and was clearly dug later than the latter.

The site is obviously of ritual character and may be compared with the adjoining sites I and II.³

¹ *Archaeologia*, xcii (1947), 90 and pl. xxiii.

² *V.C.H. Oxon.*, i (1939), 360, 370 with references.

³ Atkinson, Piggott and Sandars, *Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon.*, i (Ashmolean Museum, 1951).

NOTES AND NEWS

5. *Frilford, Berks.* A number of pits dug for electric pylons in the vicinity of the Roman villa site⁴ (41/423975) revealed no signs of buildings or occupation.

6. *Kidlington, Oxon.* From October to December 1949, the O.U.A.S. excavated a habitation site at Campsfield, Kidlington, Oxon., on the west edge of the main Oxford-Woodstock road (O.S. Oxfordshire, Sheet XXVII, S.W. 6-inch, National Grid Reference 42/462154).

Post-holes of a wooden structure, and a storage-pit(?) and ditches of at least two distinct periods, were discovered; also a T-shaped flue(?), partly stone-built, partly cut in the natural oolite rock.

Datable finds ranged from 1st-century pottery of Belgicizing type to a bronze coin (*Æ* 3) of Valentinian I (364-75), and included a small group of bronze objects (amongst which were fourteen brooches, many of them enamelled and nearly all of unusual types) found within a few feet of one another near the flue. These finds are now in the Ashmolean Museum (1950.74-100).

A full account of the excavations is reserved for a future volume of *Oxoniensia*.

7. *Kidlington, Oxon.* An iron spearhead was found by a schoolboy, John Barrett, in the River Cherwell at Wight Bridge (42/499153). It is of Viking type (*cf.* J. Petersen, *De Norske Vikingesverd*, Kristiania, 1919, fig. 25, type M), and, when cleaned, proved to have fine pattern-welding on the blade and socket. Traces of the wooden shaft remain in the socket (PL. XII, A). It is now in the Ashmolean Museum (1949.928).

8. *Milton, Berks.* A skeleton was reported to have been found in new drainage trenches on the north-east side of the village (41/488925), accompanied by an iron object, perhaps a spearhead, which was not recovered. The burial may be an outlier of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery⁵ which lies immediately to the east.

9. *Oxford (Bayswater Hill).* A Romano-British cremation-burial was found during the cutting of sewer-trenches on the Barton no. 4 Estate (42/559077). The bones, free from ashes and representing about half the original volume of an adult skeleton, probably male, were contained in an urn of hard burnished grey ware (FIG. 10, no. 1), the mouth of which was covered with a dish of the same ware, bearing a nonsense-stamp on the inside of the base (FIG. 10, no. 2). By the side of the pot was a whetstone of local sandstone (FIG. 10, no. 3) (length 10½ in., diameter 4½ in.), showing signs of use, and the iron head of a small pick or hatchet, in the socket of which traces of the wooden haft survived (FIG. 10, no. 4). The pick-axe is, in fact, an exact miniature replica of the *dolabra*, or 'pioneer's axe'.⁶ The burial is presumably to be dated to the later 1st or early 2nd century A.D. The finds have been lent to the Ashmolean Museum by Oxford City Council.

10. *Oxford (South Parks Road).* In a trench dug in the roadway between the Physiology and Zoology Departments, Romano-British sherds of grey ware, and animal bones were discovered at a depth of 6 ft.

11. *Seacourt, Berks.* An iron penannular brooch, Roman, with recurved terminals was found in the bank of Seacourt Stream. The type is normal, but iron examples are much rarer than bronze.

⁴ Peake, *Archaeology of Berkshire* (1931), 196 with references.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 212 with references.

⁶ Curle, *Newstead* (1911), 278 and pl. lvii.

NOTES AND NEWS

12. *Standlake, Oxon.* A carved ivory ball came to light in a load of gravel which was brought to the Rose Revived Inn at Newbridge, and came originally from one of the Standlake gravel-pits. The ball is carved on the outside to represent a shell, and is hinged so as to open into two halves. The inner faces are flat, and are carved in relief with 17th-century scenes; on the left is Archbishop Laud blessing, through the prison window, Lord Strafford as the latter was taken from the Bloody Tower to his execution (1641); on the right is Laud going to his own execution (1645) attended probably by Richard Sterne (1596(?)–1683), who was Laud's chaplain, and was imprisoned with him, and allowed to be with him on the scaffold⁷ (PL. XII, B).

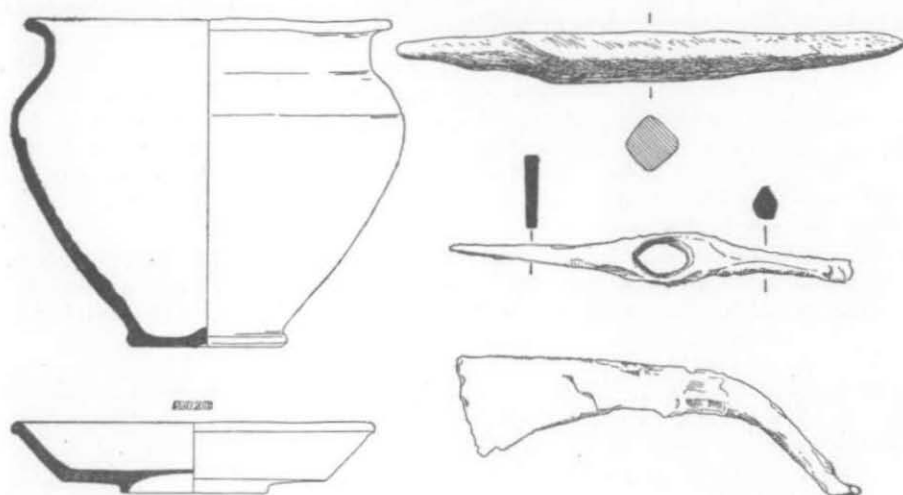


FIG. 10

BAYSWATER HILL, OXFORD

Grave-group from Barton no. 4 Estate; Roman, late 1st to early 2nd century A.D.

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$

13. *Woodeaton, Oxon. (Drums Hill).* Romano-British pottery and lumps of slag (type not yet determined)⁸ have been picked up from an area about 80 yds. square immediately to the north-east of the clump of trees on the summit of the hill (42/543115).

R. J. C. ATKINSON; JOAN R. KIRK.

⁷ We are much indebted to Miss M. R. Toynbee for identifying these two scenes.

⁸ For previous finds of slag here, see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, 1 (1939), 345.

NOTES AND NEWS

MEDIAEVAL NOTES

Mediaeval Pottery Lids and Pots with Lid-seating. Mediaeval pottery lids are not common but can nevertheless be recognized as a type, though wood or flat stones must frequently have been used to cover vessels. Pottery lids are known in this region from the late 12th or 13th centuries (*Oxoniensia*, XI/XII (1946-47), 169-70), and another group is found over the south of England in the later Middle Ages (e.g. Bodiam, Sussex, post 1385: *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, LXXVI (1935), 228; Cheam, Surrey: *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, XXXV (1926), 86). Two Oxford examples of this later group are figured here, FIG. 11, nos. 1, 7. FIG. 11, nos. 7 and 8, were found together at Lincoln Hall, Turl Street, and look very much as though they were a pot and lid used together.

There is also to be found among late mediaeval pottery a class of vessel with a conspicuous channel in the rim designed as a lid-seating; for instance, among the group of 15th-century pottery from All Souls and the Bodleian (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 77, nos. 4-7), and from the kilns at Cheam, Surrey (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, XXXV (1926), fig. 5). In 1949 excavation of the later 14th-15th-century kiln at Potterspury, Northants (*Archaeological News Letter*, II (March, 1950), 156-57) produced large numbers of exaggerated types of this rim with lid-seating (FIG. 11, nos. 2, 3, 4). Two close parallels to some of the Potterspury types both in form and fabric are known from Oxford and Marston, near Oxford (FIG. 11, nos. 5, 6), and it is just possible that some wares from Potterspury were reaching Oxford, 30 miles away, in the later Middle Ages. Only further research, however, can show the distribution area of the Potterspury kilns, but the form of these vessels is striking and individual. The 1948 excavations in Norwich (to be published in *Norfolk Archaeology*) also produced late mediaeval vessels of this general type, but quite distinct in detail.

The type of rim in FIG. 11, nos. 4, 5, 6, is probably a later development from that of FIG. 11, nos. 2 and 3 (in sandy buff brown ware), as it occurs in a fine hard grey ware with thin glaze (usually olive or yellowish) such as is occasionally found on lobated chafing dishes which were coming in towards the end of the 15th century (*Oxoniensia*, XIII (1948), 94), though the latter are usually of a fine white fabric with deep green glaze.

FIG. 11.

1. A.M. 1915.72. Finely-moulded pottery lid with frilled knob, complete, from Radcliffe Square, Oxford. Fairly hard fine gritty pale buff ware; most of top covered with pale green glaze speckled with dark green; traces of purplish bloom on surface of unglazed parts. Probably 15th century.
2. Large vessel with lid-seating, from Potterspury kiln, 1948. Sandy, rather friable orange-buff fabric, with some patchy thin orange glaze on exterior, and a few speckles of green. Probably late 14th or early 15th century. It has not so far been possible to reconstruct a complete section of one of these vessels, but probably they were fairly tall vessels with convex bases.
3. From Potterspury kiln. Fairly fine sandy hard ware, rather brittle, brown to black surface and black core. Good even olive glaze with some green speckles on exterior. Late 14th or 15th century.
4. From Potterspury kiln. Ware similar to no. 3, only glaze thinner, and fabric a little finer.

NOTES AND NEWS

5. From St. John's College, Oxford, site of new building 1947, surface find. Fine grey ware, hard but brittle, with patches of opaque whitish glaze on both exterior and interior. This type of rim must be designed to take a fairly deep lid (e.g. Bodiam: *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, LXXVI (1935), 228, fig. 5, P53).
6. From Marston, near Oxford; surface find from gardens near church. Fine hard brittle grey ware with black core in places. Thin coating of pale olive glaze inside and outside.

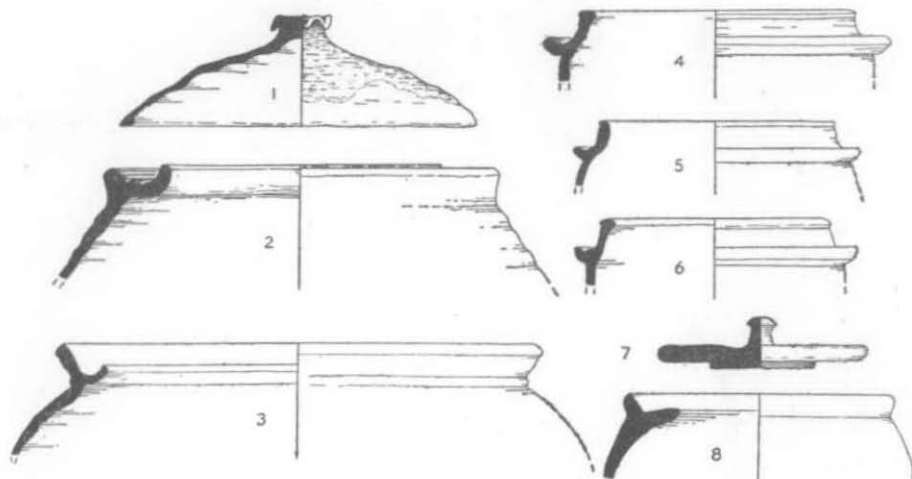


FIG. 11

LATER MEDIAEVAL POTTERY

1, 5, 7, 8, from Oxford; 6, from Marston, Oxon.; 2-4, from Potterspury, Northants.

Scale $\times \frac{1}{4}$

7 and 8. Lid and top of pot from foundation digging at Lincoln Hall, Turl Street, Oxford; found by Mr. E. M. Hawes, 1939. The lid is of rather sandy friable buff fabric, unglazed, and the pot is of hard buff shell-filled ware with grey core, also unglazed. These were found together and were presumably in use together, in spite of their very different fabrics. These shell-filled wares did not in general survive the 13th century in the Oxford region, though this lid and pot are probably of the 14th century.

Oxford City (Beaumont Street). Building operations on the site of the extension to the Randolph Hotel brought to light a quantity of 17th-18th-century sherds, and a 17th-century wine-bottle with the stamp of the Mermaid Tavern, which stood at the south-west corner of Carfax. When the site was visited no trace of any structures was found.

Oxford City (Blue Boar Street (formerly Lane)). Mr. J. N. L. Myres reports the finding of part of the rim of a large pan during road trenching opposite the entry

NOTES AND NEWS

leading down from Kemp Hall. This pan, FIG. 12, upper, is of hard sandy fabric, with a purple-brown surface and grey core, unglazed. A peculiar feature is the knife-trimming of the exterior, unusual on pans though occurring occasionally on cooking pots from late Saxon times onwards throughout the Middle Ages (e.g. *Oxoniensia*, v (1940), 48, fig. 8, no. 6; *ibid.*, vii (1942), 76-77). This pan is probably 13th century, and such are fairly common in Oxford (*Oxoniensia*, viii/ix (1943-44),

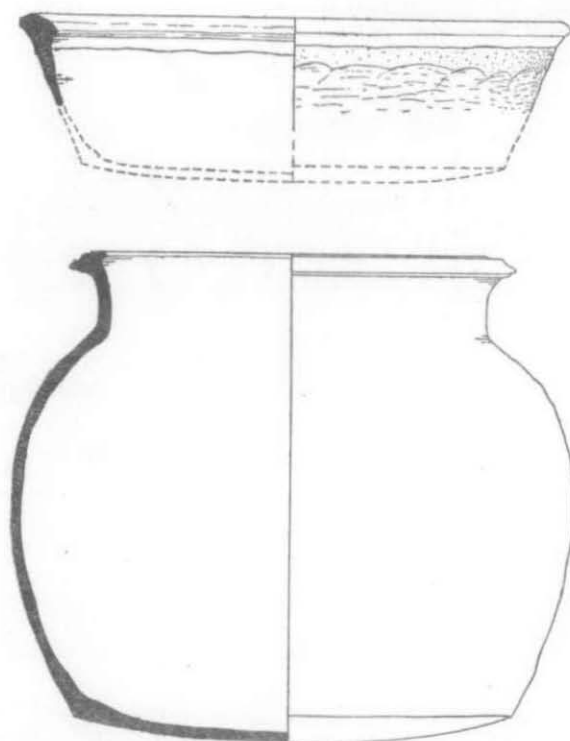


FIG. 12

THIRTEENTH-CENTURY POTTERY FROM OXFORD

Upper, from Blue Boar Street; lower, from pit at Carfax

Scale $\times \frac{1}{4}$

103, fig. 33); another good parallel, somewhat larger, comes from the village site of Woodperry, Oxon., deserted by the later Middle Ages.

Oxford City (Carfax). Examination of the notes kept by Mr. R. L. S. Bruce Mitford and myself during our joint watching of building operations here in 1938 shows that the fine complete cooking pot, FIG. 12, lower, should be added to the associated group of pottery of about mid-13th century already published from here

NOTES AND NEWS

(*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 71-74), as it came from the bottom of the same pit. It is of fairly hard sandy buff fabric, which was in use for cooking pottery in the Oxford region by the middle of the 12th century and continued throughout the 13th century. It is a very close parallel to the cooking pot found in association with a baluster jug in the grounds of Balliol in 1906, and by which association probably belonged to the second half of the 13th century.

Oxford City (New Road). Members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society continued their excavations on the site of Nuffield College during the year. Several mediaeval and later pits and occupation levels were discovered. A full report will be published later.

E. M. JOPE.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AT BINSEY AND PORT MEADOW, OXFORD

Some nineteen archaeological sites on Port Meadow, Oxford, first discovered and photographed by the late Major G. W. G. Allen were, in 1940, investigated on the ground by members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society under the direction of Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson and a full report was published in 1942.¹ Further notes have appeared in 1944² and 1946.³

Excellent vertical photographs of the area, taken in 1947 by the Royal Air Force, have since become available, which reveal a few new features on Port Meadow and a large number of hitherto unrecorded sites in the parish of Binsey on the opposite side of the river Thames. The photographs are at the large scale of 1 : 4,800 at present used by the R.A.F. only for the air survey of town and city areas.⁴ The plan (FIG. 13) which is a direct tracing from them, shows the Binsey sites in relation to those on Port Meadow. Modern boundaries are indicated by dotted lines.

The whole terrain is flat and only slightly above river level. It will be noticed that no sites occur on the south part of Port Meadow or on the low-lying meadows to the west of the Binsey sites. It may be significant that these areas are to-day the first to be covered by flood water in winter. If it may be inferred that the sites were deliberately placed on higher ground to avoid all but the worst of winter floods, two theories can be advanced. Firstly, that the course and behaviour of the river differed little at the time the sites were constructed from that of the present day, and secondly, that the sites or at least some of them, represent permanent settlements that were intended not merely for seasonal use.⁵ The elaborate appearance of the Binsey 'village' (E) and to a lesser extent the group of sites (F) on Port Meadow give much support to such a view. On the other hand the abruptly ending ditch systems to the south of Port Meadow may be held to suggest that the sites extended farther in this direction but have since disappeared, perhaps by the erosion due to repeated floods.

¹ *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 24 ff.

² *Ibid.*, VIII/IX (1943-44), 197.

³ *Ibid.*, XI/XII (1946-47), 163.

⁴ Air library reference: RAF/CPE/UK/2268; 1:4, 800; 29 Aug., '47; 5306-5310, 5322 and 5323.

⁵ But see *Oxoniensia*, XI/XII (1946-47), 163. Excavation showed Port Meadow site 7 to be an Iron Age habitation-site, although the absence of permanent hut structure suggested that it was seasonal in character.

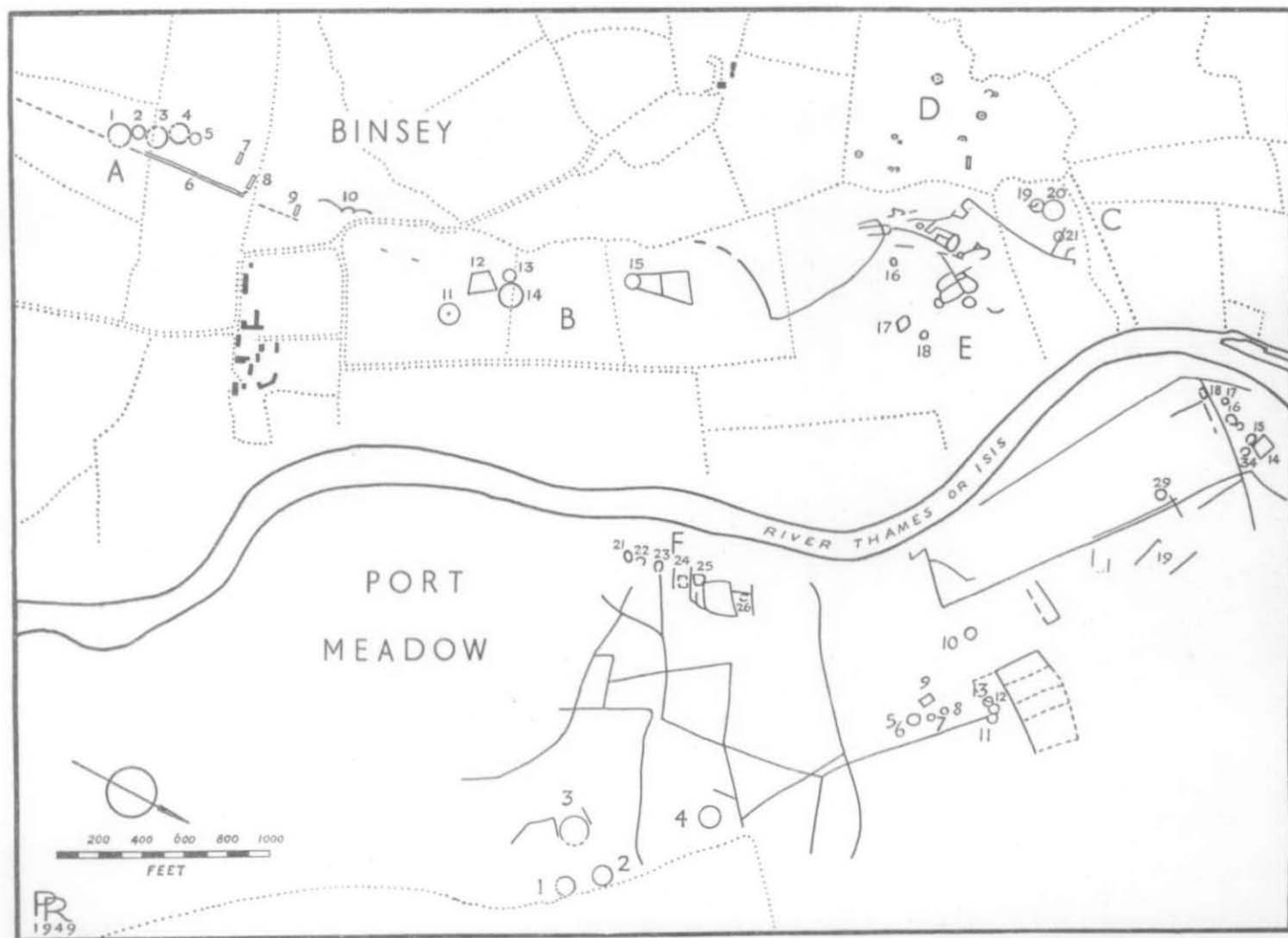


FIG. 13

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AT BINSEY, BERKS., AND PORT MEADOW, OXFORD, AS REVEALED
BY AIR-PHOTOGRAPHS

The dotted lines indicate the present-day field boundaries

NOTES AND NEWS

The Binsey Sites. These may be summarized as follows :

(i) Three detached groups of ring ditches⁶ of true circular form (A, B and C).
(ii) An 'avenue' formed by parallel ditches about 16 feet apart, connecting circle groups A and B. It is probably later than the circles of group A, over one of which it passes.

(iii) An extensive 'village' settlement (E) evidenced by a complicated and untidy system of small enclosures and ditches. *Cp.* 'Crop-marks at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham' (*Oxoniensia*, v (1940), 164), and 'Dyke Hills, Dorchester' (*Oxoniensia*, III (1938), 170).

(iv) A number of small circles in the low-lying field (D), many with a dark central spot. Without excavation it is not possible to be certain whether these are genuine crop-mark sites or merely due to fungus growth.

Unlike the sites on Port Meadow, nearly all of which can be located on the ground by differences in level, the Binsey sites are visible only from the air as crop-marks and present no structural features to a ground observer. It is noteworthy that the crop-marks were clearly visible so late in the year as the end of August, after an exceptionally hot and dry summer, on grass (group A), in roots (sites 11-14), and even in a stubble field. Sites 11, 14 and 15 had been photographed by Major Allen; the remainder are new discoveries.

The Port Meadow Sites. With the exception of site 19 all the previously recorded sites are visible on the present photographs and are indicated on the plan by the numbers originally allotted to them (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 25, fig. 3).

An interesting group of sites at F, nos. 21-26, was first observed and photographed by Mr. D. N. Riley.⁷ Here five small ditched enclosures of sub-circular or sub-rectangular shape combine with larger ditched enclosures to form a co-ordinated group. Site 23 has a well-marked gap or entrance facing east, and site 24, sub-rectangular in shape, appears to have opposite north and south entrances. The whole group is highly suggestive of the dwellings of a small community and their associated enclosures. The sites have not yet been identified on the ground.

In the 'oblique' view photograph, perspective causes considerable difficulty in the accurate plotting of sites in a horizontal plane. The present 'vertical' photographs therefore provide a check on the positions, shapes, and orientation of the original sites, and are particularly useful in the case of sites, such as 10, 19, and 29, which are known only from air-photographs and cannot be found and surveyed upon the ground. The R.A.F. photographs confirm most of the original interpretations, but present new detail in the case of each of the following sites :

Site 10. This was clearly visible on Major Allen's photograph (1933), but could not be found on the ground (1940-42) and was presumed to be a fungus ring which had died out. It appears again very clearly, however, on the present photographs (1947) and no fungus ring was visible when the site was visited by the writer in May this year (1949). It has already been mentioned that none of the Binsey 'circles' has so far been located on the ground and there now seems no reason to doubt the authenticity of this site.

⁶ The term 'ditch' is used here and throughout to describe sites which appear on air-photographs as crop-marks, and does not necessarily imply differences in surface relief.

⁷ *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX (1944-45), 197.

NOTES AND NEWS

- Site 13. Within this circular ditch is a smaller and narrower circle which appears to merge with site 13 on the west side.
- Site 15. Both this and site 16 were assumed to be circles seen in perspective, but the vertical photographs show them as distinctly oval in shape.
- Site 16. This is markedly oval in shape. A gap on the east side, previously suspected, is very clearly marked. A new circle appears on the north side of site 16. It is not visible in relief or as a fungus ring.
- Site 19. This large rectangular enclosure is only known from Major Allen's photograph and has not been found upon the ground. The R.A.F. photographs show two parallel lengths of ditch which are presumably the two longer sides of this enclosure, and the position and orientation of site 19 would thus appear to differ from that shown by broken line in *Oxoniensia*, VII, fig. 3.
- Site 29. A circle which, like site 10, appears very plainly on both Allen and R.A.F. photographs, but could not be found on the ground in 1940-42. No fungus ring was visible when the site was visited by the writer in May, 1949.
- Site 34. The new photographs show a rather faint circle here which may be due to a fungus ring. No fungus ring was visible in May, 1949.

Finally, the north part of Port Meadow is traversed by a number of linear ditches. Where these are clearly marked on the photographs they are shown (FIG. 13) by a continuous line, while a broken line is used for marks which probably, but less certainly, represent ditches. It will be seen that in no case does a linear ditch pass across one of the numbered sites, and that linear ditches actually form an integral part of sites 24-26. It seems probable, therefore, that at least some of the linear ditches and numbered sites are associated structures. With the help of a magnifying stereoscope a group of approximately rectangular enclosures can be seen north of sites 11-13, and the possibility that these represent the remains of ancient fields is put forward with reserve. No lynchets are visible to-day, but on Port Meadow, which is quite level, lynchets formed by ancient ploughing need not be expected to have grown originally to any great size, and may subsequently have been destroyed by erosion.

P. P. RHODES.

A HENGE MONUMENT AT WESTWELL, NEAR BURFORD, OXON.

The site described below was discovered by the late Major G. W. G. Allen, who took three photographs of it from the air, one of which is here reproduced as PLATE XII, C. The photographs show a broad dark annular band in the growing crops, obviously representing a silted-up ditch. Breaks in the band on opposite sides presumably mark the position of entrance-causeways.

The width and size of the ditch, and the character of the entrances, suggested to the writer that the site might be that of a henge monument similar in its general plan to the Devil's Quoits at Stanton Harcourt;¹ visits were accordingly made in 1944 and 1946 to see whether an outer bank, characteristic of this type of monument, was present. On both occasions growing crops prevented a detailed examination, but apparent traces of a bank, much denuded by cultivation, could be seen on the south side of the site. On it stood a tree, which the air-photographs showed as lying outside the ditch. A further visit in February 1949 confirmed these observations, and a contoured survey, on which the plan (FIG. 14) is based, was made with

¹ *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX (1943-44), 24 ff.

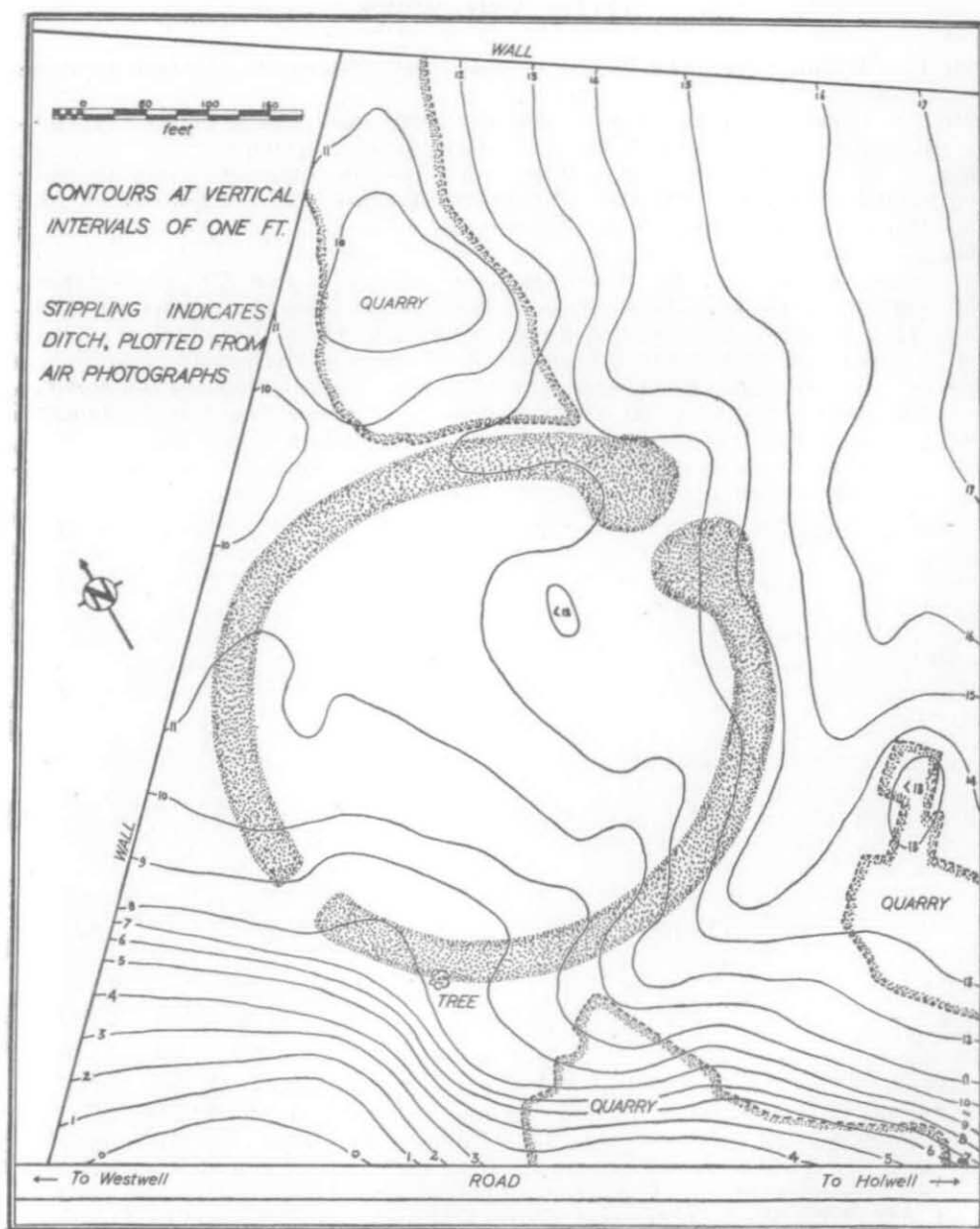


FIG. 14
 CONTOURED PLAN OF HENGE MONUMENT AT WESTWELL, OXON.
 The height of the zero contour is approximately 410 ft. O.D.

NOTES AND NEWS

the help of members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society in June of the same year.²

The contours have been interpolated from levels taken radially from the approximate centre of the site, at horizontal intervals of 20 feet. The line of the crop-mark representing the ditch has been plotted from the air-photographs; the accuracy of the plotting has been checked by probing in a number of places, but the hardness of the ground at the time of the survey made it impossible to trace the complete circuit of the ditch by this means.

The site lies on oolitic limestone at an average height of 420 feet O.D., immediately to the east of the village of Westwell, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles south-west of Burford, in a field adjoining the north side of the road from Westwell to Holwell (Nat. Grid Ref. 42/227100). The ground rises gently to the east, and immediately to the south of the site falls steeply to the bed of a stream in a narrow valley. Cultivation has destroyed almost all traces of the original earthworks, though the name of the field, Barrow Field, suggests that most of this destruction is fairly recent. The interpretation of the relief is further complicated by the presence of three disused quarries, whose outlines are plainly visible on the air-photographs. On the south and east sides, however, the bank can be traced eastwards from the tree for about 450 feet. Where it is best preserved it is from 50 feet to 75 feet in width and 2 feet in height; within it in the same sector, following its line, is a depression about 50 feet wide and 6 inches deep; this, however, does not accurately represent the position of the ditch, because of the inward spreading of the bank by cultivation.

The ditch proper is nearly circular, with a mean diameter of about 410 feet and an average width of 35 feet. The original diameter of the bank, measured from crest to crest, would thus have been about 500 feet. The two entrances are accurately placed opposite one another, the bearing of a line passing centrally through them being 74° . The west entrance is about 30 feet wide, and the adjacent butt ends of the ditch appear to have been squared off. The east entrance is narrower (about 15 feet), and the crop-mark of the ditch terminates in two circular 'knobs' about 80 feet in diameter; these do not seem to be the result of recent quarrying, and may well be original features of the monument. If so, they are without parallel among the known henge monuments.

There can be little doubt that the Westwell site is a henge monument of the double-entrance class, consisting of a circular ditch with external bank, pierced by two opposing entrances, and perhaps enclosing a ring of standing stones. No stones are now visible, nor is there any record of their presence in the past. It is worth noting, however, that there now stands in the garden of Westwell Manor a monolith some 10 feet in total length. This was only recently set up in its present position, and had formerly served as a gate-post. It is, however, much longer than the usual stone gate-post, and has clearly been trimmed and squared on two sides from a block of larger size. It is not impossible that it is the survivor of a circle of monoliths within the earthwork.

The problems of the henge monuments have been discussed by the present

² My thanks are due to Captain Holland, the owner of the site, for permission to carry out the survey, and for information about field names and the monolith at Westwell Manor; and to the members of the O.U. Archaeological Society who assisted in making the survey.

NOTES AND NEWS

writer elsewhere.³ The present example is the first henge monument of any type to be recorded in the Cotswold area, and it is to be hoped that at some future date trial excavations will be carried out to determine its date and the details of its plan and structure.

R. J. C. ATKINSON.

THE 'HOAR STONE' AT ENSTONE

An account of this is given by Crawford in *The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds* (p. 159). This is mainly a quotation from Sir H. Dryden (1899) supplemented by notes made by Crawford in 1922. At that time the dolmen was badly overgrown with ivy, etc., and careful observation was difficult. As it is now clean and tidy, it is evident that the older plan is in error in one respect. The recumbent stone which Dryden numbered 5 and which he says was 5 ft. 2 in. wide is really 8 ft. 7 in. long tapering from 3 ft. 9 in. at the end nearer to the chamber to 2 ft. at the other end. This far end lies just about the spot where Dryden says he dug and found Roman coins. This stone could conceivably have formed a fourth side to the chamber or it could have been the upper part of upright no. 2, though it is not easy to say how it got to its present position in this case.

R. T. LATTEY.

'THOR'S STONE' AT TASTON

The account of this given by Crawford (p. 215) is quoted from notes by E. T. Leeds, but is somewhat confused. (Leeds suggests that it has been 'edited'). This account appears to suggest that the stone is part of a mediaeval cross though its pointed top is hardly consistent with such a theory.

There are the remains of a cross a few yards away. There is also a smaller standing stone in a cowshed about 50 yds. to the south-west.

R. T. LATTEY.

GLASS BOTTLES OF THE CROWN TAVERN, OXFORD

Two new examples have recently come to light, each of which throws new light on the history of the Tavern and its lessees.

(1) In the survey of the Oxford taverns and their holders which formed the background for a typological study of 17th- and 18th-century wine bottles,¹ a gap occurred in the history of the Crown Tavern² between the death of Joan Turton in 1706 and the first appearance of Alexander Richmond by name in 1711, when on 20 July a licence to sell wine was granted to John Freeman, Culpepper Tomlinson and Alexander Richmond 'joyntly and not severally to have, keep, and occupy one of the sd three taverns so allowed according to the sd Statute'.³ Three variant stamps bearing a Crown and the initials A. K. R. (=Alexander and Katherine Richmond) were known, and these, though undated, could, from the form of the bottles to which they belonged, be assigned to a period between 1710 and 1720,⁴ but probably in no case before 1715.

³ Atkinson, Piggott, and Sandars, *Excavations at Dorchester, Oxon.*, 1 (Ashmolean Museum, 1951), 81-107.

¹ *Antiquary*, 1914, p. 285 ff.; *Oxoniensia*, vi, 44 ff.

² *Ibid.*, 48.

³ Oxford City Ledger-Book, 1696-1730, (D5/8) fol. 81b.

⁴ *Oxoniensia*, vi, pl. ix, 20-22, and fig. 4, nos. 20-22.

NOTES AND NEWS

The gap in the Tavern's history between 1706 and 1711 has now been filled. Mr. Gordon Drew has recently communicated a stamp (FIG. 15, no. 1) found at Longworth, Berks., and now in the Ashmolean Museum (1948. 137). It bears a crown, and left and right OX... On; below, the initials A K R, and, just visible below them, the date 1706. The crown is in the wide-cushioned style of the latest known stamp used under the long Morrell regime, dated 1701,⁵ and we can assume therefore that it was also used during the tenure of the tavern by Joan Turton, daughter-in-law and executrix of Anne Morrell (*ob.* 1696).

According to the register of St. Martin's, Oxford, Joan Turton, vintner, was buried on 15 April 1706, so it follows from the new evidence that Alexander Richmond must have succeeded Joan Turton immediately, and it may be assumed that



FIG. 15

GLASS BOTTLE-STAMPS OF THE CROWN TAVERN, OXFORD

1. Longworth, Berks., dated 1706.
2. Botley Stream, Oxford, dated 1707.
3. Section of bottle from Botley Stream.

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

he had been employed as Joan Turton's drawer and thus stood to her in the same relation as did George Brown to Elizabeth Pont at the Three Tuns,⁶ though she made no reference to him in her will.⁷

(2) The Ashmolean Museum reported the accession of a bottle of the Crown Tavern (1949. 141), a little damaged but sufficiently complete to allow a section to be drawn. An excellent stamp (FIG. 15, no. 2) bears a crown of the tall, arched form that appears on Richmond's later bottles; on either side is OX... On, and below, the date 1707. The exaggerated orb surmounting the body of the crown left no room for more lettering, but since we now possess a Richmond bottle-stamp of 1706 there can be no doubt that this uninitialled piece is his also. The section (FIG. 15, no. 3) accords remarkably closely with that of the King's Head

⁵ *Ibid.*, pl. ix, 19.

⁶ *Cur. Cant. Oxon.*, 49.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 21 June 1706.

NOTES AND NEWS

bottle of 1699,⁸ and indicates that this was the shape which was coming into use at the turn of the century and held its ground far into the second decade.

E. T. LEEDS.

PYRTON PAPERS AND SAXON WOODLANDS ON THE CHILTERN

In 1915 the Reverend Dr. H. E. Salter gave to the Bodleian Library a collection of transcripts about Pyrtton (MS. Top. Oxon. c. 207). These included Court rolls (1414-22, 1466, 1487-1509, 1567-1606, 1611-1768), a rental called that of Mary de Bohun, but actually of about 1438, and bailiffs' accounts (6-11 Hen. VII).

The Dean and Chapter of Windsor transferred the originals to the Ducat-Hamersleys as purchasers of the manor and Mrs. Ducat-Hamersley has now deposited them in the Bodleian. The deposit includes estate maps of c. 1730, 1792 and 1835. The maps indicate certain landmarks mentioned in the charter wherein Read Ora is given to the church of Worcester reputedly by Offa in 774 (Birch, Cart. 547). Grundy decided it was 'fairly certain' that this grant did not include Pyrtton (*Saxon Oxfordshire*, p. 48). A gloss in Hemming's cartulary 'id est Pirit' corrects this view and Mrs. Ducat-Hamersley's maps show that at any rate for one sector the boundaries have remained unchanged. The matter is of considerable importance, for Grundy's failure to identify the area with Pyrtton leads him to assume that 'the extensive woodland of the Chilterns of modern times has been to at least a large extent artificially created'.

W. O. HASSALL.

SEAL AND SIGNATURES OF OXFORD FRANCISCANS

All Franciscan seals are rare, and when Mr. H. S. Kingsford described the extant English examples in *Franciscan History and Legend in English Mediaeval Art* (1937) he only knew of one impression of the seal of the custos of Oxford Custody, which was attached to Lord Hampton's Aylesbury deed no. 23 (now in Birmingham Public Library, MS. 493161: see *Records of Bucks.*, xiv (1942), pt. ii, 83-84, 95). Miss C. Baker, archivist to the Bucks. County Museum, recently found another specimen attached to a deed of 1533 (Bucks. Archaeological Soc., 199/48), which is in rather better condition than that figured by Kingsford (ch. v, pl. 1) and *Records of Bucks.* The seal, which is probably 14th-century, shows an annunciation: Gabriel on left, with scroll inscribed 'Ave Maria', Our Lady on right. Between stands a lily pot. Below is an ox, which differs from other Oxford Oxen in having wings. The inscription can now be completely read: AVE : GRATIA : PLENA : DNS : TECVM SIGILL' CUSTODIS : OXONIE. A cast has been made for the Bodleian Library (Plaster cast 66).

A series of deeds relating to Paradise Street found in the bottling department of Hall's brewery by the National Archives Register county committee begins with a lease of Paradise from the Warden of the Grey Friars, 29 Hen. VIII. It is signed by fifteen Grey Friars: William Boghnell, Robert Newman, Thomas Cappes, Simon Ludforthe, William Coke, John Ollyffe, John Coke, Thomas Barly, Edward Baskewyle (Warden), Brian Sanden, James Smythe, Thomas Wyghtman, Thomas Phelip, Ralph Gryswell and William Browne.

These deeds are now deposited in the Bodleian Library.

W. O. HASSALL.

⁸ *Oxoniensis*, vi, 52, fig. 11, no. 39a.

PLATE XII



A



B



C

- A. Iron spearhead with pattern-welded blade from River Cherwell. Late Saxon (p. 76). Scale $\frac{1}{2}$
Ph.: Ashmolean Museum
- B. Hinged ivory ball, carved with scenes from the life of Archbishop Laud (p. 77). Scale $\frac{2}{3}$
Ph.: Ashmolean Museum
- C. Air-photograph of henge monument at Westwell, Oxon. (p. 84)

Ph.: the late Major G. W. G. Allen
 NOTES AND NEWS