

Excavations on the City Defences in New College, Oxford, 1949

By A. G. HUNTER and E. M. JOPE

IN Hilary Term, 1949, the Oxford University Archaeological Society began investigation of some problems connected with the Oxford city wall, under the general direction of one of us (E.M.J.). At Canal Wharf, on the site of the new Nuffield College, no trace of a town wall could be found continuing up to the castle, and there were pits, probably filled in during the later 11th century at various points along this line:¹ it seems that the wall probably never did extend across to the castle here. Little, however, was known about the nature of the city wall footings, and three sections were accordingly cut against its outer face in New College garden, by kind permission of the Warden and Fellows.² The preservation of this fine stretch of wall with something like its original appearance we owe to the conditions made when William of Wykeham's acquisition of the properties forming the site of his future College was confirmed by Royal Patent in 1379,³ and their careful observance ever since. Such excellent maintenance has, however, rendered structural analysis of the wall itself in most places impossible.

These sections cut in New College garden were most valuable; not only did they reveal that the wall had been built directly on the natural gravel, but excavation under the footings yielded several sherds of pottery, wedged in a thin layer of compacted clay, sufficient evidence to show that this city wall as it stands, at least in this north-east sector, must have been built after about 1200. This conclusion was reinforced by a bulk of similar pottery from deposits which seemed contemporary with the wall construction. Murage grants at Oxford are first recorded in 1226,⁴ and it seems most likely, therefore, that at least this part of the existing stone wall is to be connected with these grants, and was constructed in stone for the first time during the second quarter

¹ *Archaeol. News Letter*, II, no. 11 (April, 1950), 178-180; *Oxoniensia*, XIII (1948), 70-2 and XVII (1952), forthcoming.

² Thanks are due to all those members of the Society who have contributed to this work, particularly to Mr. Leslie Alcock, Mr. M. R. Apter, Miss E. A. Blair, Miss D. Charlesworth, Miss D. M. Hunter and Mr. Ian Macdonald, and to Mr. D. Roberts, who identified the animal bones. The Ashmolean Museum provided tools and equipment and numerous facilities throughout this work.

³ *Statutes of the Colleges of Oxford*, I (1853), *New College*, pp. vi, 102-3. We are most grateful to the Warden of New College, Mr. A. H. Smith, for these references. See also Wood, *City of Oxford* (Oxford Historical Society, xv (1889)), 260, no. 6.

⁴ Salter, H. E., 'Lecture on the Walls of Oxford', in *Records of Medieval Oxford* (Oxford Chronicle Co., 1912), 76 ff.

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of the 13th century. This date is in keeping with the style of its half-round bastions, though some of these seem to have been built after 1257.⁵ Excavations similar to those in New College are now needed at a number of other points along the whole line of the Oxford city wall, for the various sectors of the wall may have attained their final state of construction in stone at very different dates, as can be shown at, for instance, Southampton.⁶ The evidence from the cutting of the Bodleian tunnel suggests that a pit containing later twelfth-century pottery may have pre-dated the wall here.⁷ No proper records seem

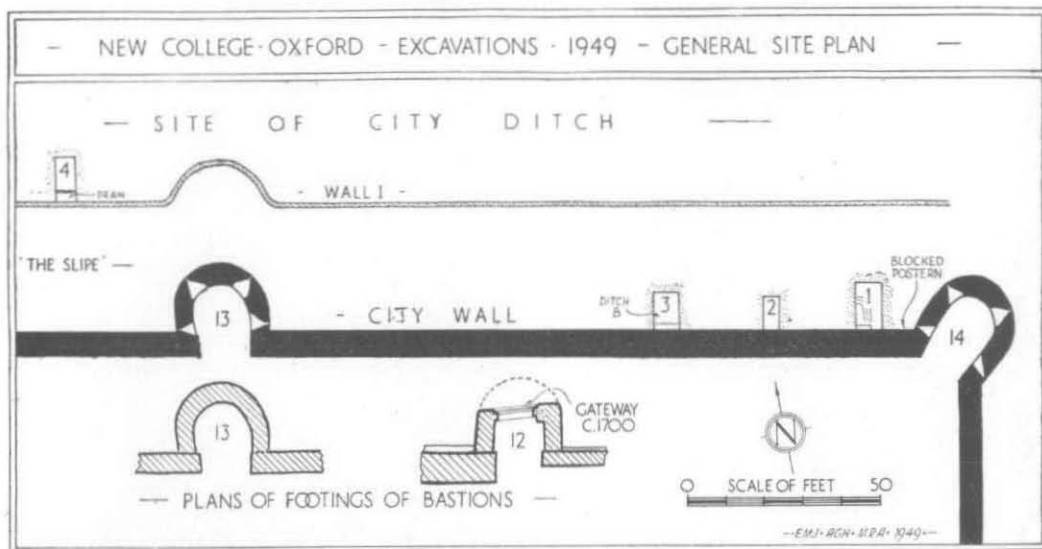


FIG. 12

PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS AGAINST THE CITY WALL IN NEW COLLEGE, 1949, AND PLANS OF THE FOOTINGS OF TWO BASTIONS

(The bastion numbering follows that of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Inventory for Oxford City)

⁵ O. Ogle, *Royal Letters Addressed to Oxford* (1892), 8. Mr. J. N. L. Myres and Professor Hawkes kindly tell us that in excavations carried out by them in 1928 they found that the wall structure continued on for a little way across the back of bastion 16, but stopped clearly after about one foot on each side, and never continued right across. The bastion structure is straight-jointed on the wall, as may be seen in the lower courses of bastions 12 and 13 (see FIG. 12). This, however, probably represents nothing more than the successive stages in the construction of wall and bastion, and cannot be taken to mean that these bastions are later additions to the wall. The abrupt changes in wall thickness across the bastions (FIG. 12) also indicate that the wall was never continuous across them. If this wall runs with the bastions, it can hardly be earlier than 13th century. The numbering of the bastions follows *Roy. Comm. Hist. Mons. Oxford City* (1939), plan opp. p. 136.

⁶ B. H. St. J. O'Neil, 'Southampton Town Wall', in *Aspects of Archaeology* (Essays presented to O. G. S. Crawford, 1951).

⁷ *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), 153-9.

to have been preserved of observations made during building operations at other points along the line of the wall.⁸

It is difficult to say what the earlier defences of Oxford were like. The Domesday Survey (1086) speaks of the *mur*, but this may be little more than a legal term for a boundary with some measure of fortification: *mur* did not necessarily mean a stone wall in classical Latin, and both Maitland⁹ and Parker¹⁰ agreed that the term in medieval Latin could refer to a ditch and bank. The line of the present wall may be regarded as following in general that of the Domesday *mur*; yet, although a pre-wall gully was found in trench 1, no traces of ditches or remains of banks were found in these New College excavations which could be interpreted as part of an earlier defensive system. It is possible, of course, that the earlier defences were completely removed and the original ditch widened out when the wall was built in the second quarter of the 13th century. The long strips some thirty to forty feet broad along the inside of the town wall¹¹ (and traceable in many places along the outside, as at the 'slipe' in New College¹²), which belonged to the city in the 13th century, suggest the space left after the removal of an earthen bank.¹³ The present wall, with its built-in wall-walk, would have had no need of an earthen rampart against its inner face.¹⁴ These strips had indeed ceased to have any special significance by about the middle of the 13th century, as part of that on the south side of the city passed to Merton College by Letters Patent giving licence to enclose its site in 1266,¹⁵ and the strips round most of the wall circuit had passed from the city to other owners by the early 14th century.¹⁶ These strips, suggesting an earlier earthen bank, evidently, however, had some significance in the later 11th and early 12th centuries, after the building of the castle in 1070, for at the western end of the city they followed the re-entrant curve of Bulwarks Lane, thus reflecting the line of the castle bailey.¹⁷ Hence we are not seeing merely the ghost of a late Saxon defensive bank, and it appears that Oxford, like Southampton,¹⁸ Norwich,¹⁷ Wareham¹⁸ (Dorset), and

⁸ The structure has, nevertheless, often been revealed, and it is most unfortunate that no proper records or drawings have been preserved: see reference 4 above, and J. H. Parker, *Early Hist. Oxford* (Oxford Historical Society, III (1885)), 237, etc.

⁹ F. W. Maitland, *Township and Borough* (1898), 54.

¹⁰ J. H. Parker, *Early History of Oxford* (Oxford Historical Society, III (1885)), 236.

¹¹ H. E. Salter, *Map of Medieval Oxford* (1934), *passim*.

¹² H. E. Salter, *Oxford City Properties* (Oxford Historical Society, LXXXIII (1926)), 325-6.

¹³ H. E. Salter, 'Lecture on the Walls of Oxford', 78.

¹⁴ There is, nevertheless, said to have been a bank piled against the inner face of the wall in the Exeter College sector.

¹⁵ *Merton Muniments* (ed. P. S. Allen, and H. W. Garrod, 1928), 18, IIIb.

¹⁶ H. E. Salter, *Mun. Civ. Oxon.* (Oxford Historical Society, LXXI (1917)), 19-20, 26-8.

¹⁷ Report on Excavations in 1948, *Norfolk Archaeology*, in press.

¹⁸ *Proc. Dorset N.H.A.S.*, LII (1930), lxxvii; Professor Stuart Piggott has shown us pottery he found sealed under the bank at Wareham, which appears to be of late Saxon character, and may be compared with that from Selsey, Sussex (*Antiq. J.*, xiv (1934), 398) and Pevensey Castle (unpublished).

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probably Wallingford,¹⁹ was defended by an earthen bank during the 12th century. Presumably this carried a timber palisade along the crest, and it might have had a stone front facing, though no evidence of this can now be found. Oxford may also have had, by the 12th century, stone gatehouses set in the line of this earthen bank, as can be demonstrated at Southampton⁶ and Norwich:¹⁷ the great round arch of the North Gate²⁰ (Bocardo) hints at this, for it was largely a medieval structure of various dates which survived here until 1772.

There are, however, certain features disturbing to this simple concept of a broad earthen bank at Oxford in the later 11th and 12th centuries, such as the pit containing 12th- and 13th-century pottery, cut into the natural gravel, revealed in the New Bodleian tunnel cutting⁷ (certainly under the line of such a bank, if not actually under the wall itself), and the pre-wall gullies containing pottery of c. 1200 in the area immediately outside the wall, revealed in trench 1 at New College. It is imperative that much further careful excavating be done at many points along the line of the Oxford wall if the development of the town defences is to be clarified beyond our present knowledge. It is at present impossible to quote *any* example whatever of town defences in England which can be demonstrated archaeologically as late Saxon; many of those recorded in the written sources must have been fairly slender, timber palisading on a low bank, with shallow boundary ditches. But even so these should at least occasionally be traceable by excavation, and this subject remains one of the outstanding problems of late Saxon archaeology.

This eastern part of the walled area at Oxford, with the strange kink in the wall line at Smith Gate, has been considered by some as an addition to the original town,²¹ but Dr. Salter's explanation that the site of the town consisted of two adjacent roughly rectangular fields, taken out of the manors of Holywell and Headington respectively, in late Saxon times,²² is much more probable. In any case, this eastern part must have existed as part of the walled city in 1066, as it contained *mansiones murales* in the Domesday Survey (which are recorded as part of a system of Edward the Confessor's time) just as much as the western part.²³ Both areas also produce finds of late Saxon types of pottery, and the church of St. Peter-in-the-East appears in Domesday. But once again we cannot carry the picture back very far beyond the Conquest, and Saxon Oxford still remains shadowy.

¹⁹ The earthen town bank approaches the castle earthworks very much as though it had been added thereto.

²⁰ F. Madan, *Oxford outside the Guide-books* (1925), pl. 3, opp. p. 54.

²¹ H. E. Salter, *Medieval Oxford* (Oxford Historical Society, c. (1936)), 10-12.

²² H. E. Salter, *Cart. Hosp. St. John*, 1 (Oxford Historical Society, LXIV (1914)), 489.

²³ *Ibid.*, 490; 'Lecture on the Walls of Oxford', 77.

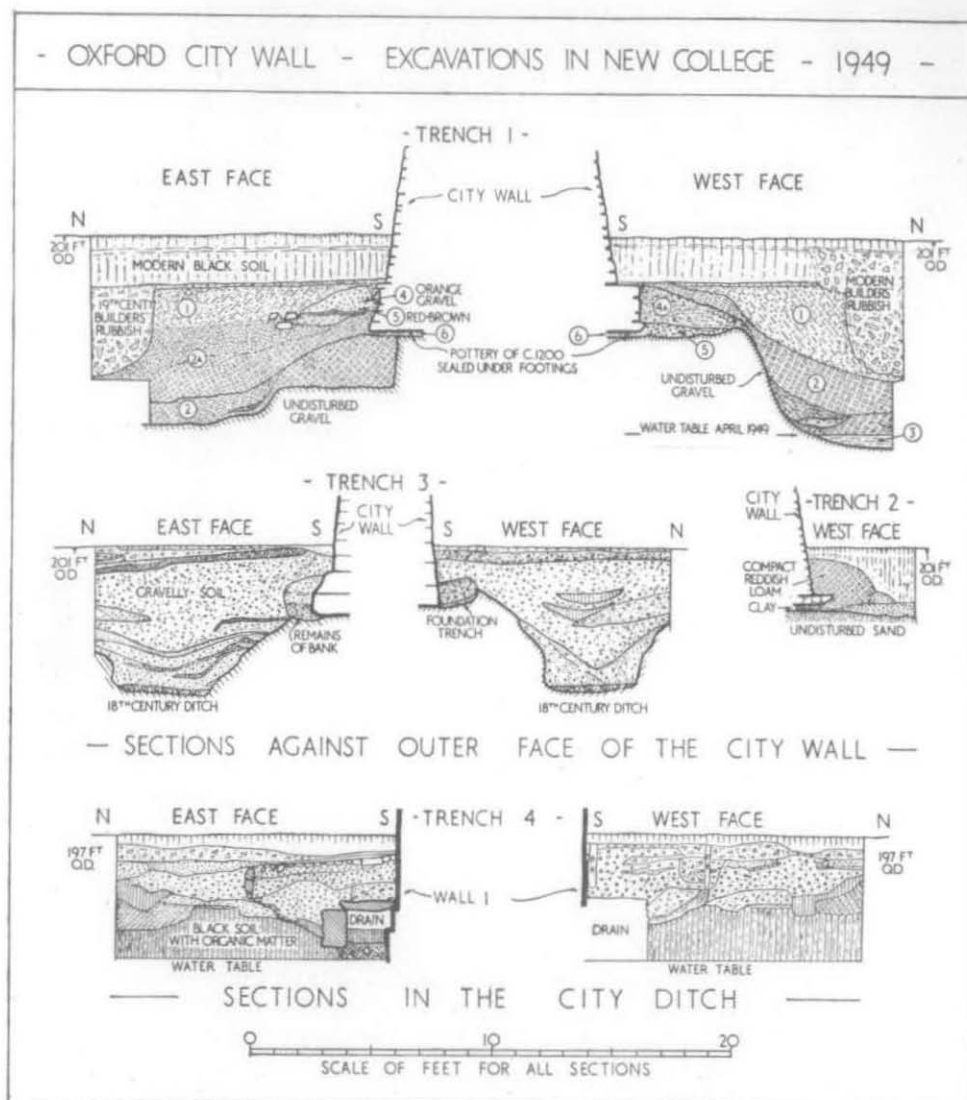


FIG. 13
SECTIONS CUT AGAINST THE CITY WALL IN NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD, 1949

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THE EXCAVATIONS, 1949

(FIGS. 12 AND 13)

Trenches 1, 2 and 3. These were cut against the outer face of the wall near the north-east corner bastion (site plan, FIG. 12), and were most rewarding in yielding information about the city wall. Work carried out by the Society 20 years previously under the direction of Mr. J. N. L. Myres, inside the first bastion down the east side of the wall from this corner, showed that the ground was disturbed inside the bastion down to well below the footings, hence in 1949 no trenches were attempted inside the bastions. They may not all, however, be so disturbed inside. Mr. Myres showed that the bastion footings, like those of the wall itself, were founded on the natural gravel surface.⁵ Work on trenches 1, 2 and 3 in 1949 was directed at different stages by Mr. Leslie Alcock, and A.G.H. and E.M.J.

The City Wall. The footings are of unworked corallian blocks, somewhat larger than those contained in the corallian random rubble to be seen above ground (W. J. Arkell, *Oxford Stone* (1947), 9). They are bonded with lime mortar. Along most of this north-east sector the lower courses (about 2 feet) are offset about 6 inches to 1 foot, forming a plinth, though in a few places (trench 1, east face; trench 2, west face) the wall is continued flush right down to the base. The wall seems to have been built directly on the natural gravel, surface soil having presumably been cleared first, though in trenches 1 and 2 excavation under the wall itself revealed a thin layer (about 1 inch) of compact grey clay, perhaps placed deliberately for bedding. This thin clay layer in trench 1 contained the six sherds of pottery so valuable for dating the wall. In general, no foundation trench had been dug, though one appeared locally in the east side of trench 3, probably necessitated by keeping the wall base level through a local rise in natural gravel surface.

Date of construction of the City Wall. Six sherds were found in the 1-inch layer ⑥ sealed beneath the footings of the wall in trench 1. Two were of green glazed tripod-pitchers datable to the end of the 12th century, and a similar fragment came from the wall foundation trench appearing locally in the west face of trench 3. It appears, therefore, that the stone city wall as it stands in this north-east sector must have been built after about 1200, a view strengthened by the bulk of the pottery (FIGS. 14 and 15) from the bank piled against the wall and from the lower silt of the gully in trench 1, deposits dating almost certainly from the construction of the wall. This whole assemblage from under the wall, from the foundation trench, the bank, and the gully silt, is closely comparable with the group from a well-filling at St. John's College, associated with a much worn coin of Henry II, and probably deposited about

1200 (*Oxoniensia*, xv (1950), 44-62). The upper parts of the wall have, of course, often been extensively repaired, but there could be no suggestion that the footings had been disturbed.

Ditches and gullies: trenches 1, 2 and 3. Trench 1 revealed a deep gully running parallel to the wall, which turned towards it and ran in underneath it for 15 inches then stopping abruptly, as seen in the east half of the trench. This gully appears to be a pre-wall feature, for although the medieval level sealing it right across is in many places obscure (between layers ① and ②a), it is sealed on the wall side by the bank piled against the wall, as seen in the east face of trench 1; and moreover no sherds later than c. 1200 were found in the filling layer ② or in the silt below it. This gully must have been at least partly filled in (up to the top layer ②) when the wall was built. The real city ditch in this sector is about 33 feet out from the wall face, its inner edge being dug into trench 4. The small ditch found in trench 3, running parallel to the wall, was dug apparently in the 18th century, probably for drainage, and silted and was filled in quickly, as a sherd from 2 feet 3 inches deep fitted one from 5 feet 9 inches.

The Bank piled against the Wall. Trenches 1 and 2 showed that a small gravel bank had been piled against the footings of the city wall, reaching up to the offset. In trench 3 the bank appears in the east side, but on the west of the trench the level of the natural gravel surface rises locally, and a foundation trench had been dug to keep the wall base level. The bank profile is here formed partly from natural gravel and partly from the red clay and gravel filling of the foundation trench. In the east side of trench 1 the bank consists of orange gravel, layer ④ (a little disturbed where it makes contact with the wall), piled over a layer of red-brown gravel, layer ⑤, the orange gravel gradually becoming more loamy and browner towards the west side of the trench, layer ④a, here piled closely against the wall footings. From these layers of the bank came a fair amount of pottery, some sherds from the upper fitting others from the lower, and also fitting others from the gravel and black slime lower silting of the gully, layer ③. It seems, therefore, that the bank was being made with the same material as was being used for the partial filling of the gully, presumably when the wall was built.²⁴ Quite apart from the stratigraphic evidence, the pottery contained in it shows that this bank cannot be the last remains of late Saxon or early 12th-century town defences.

Post-Medieval: Trench 4. This was cut for two purposes. First, to see if

²⁴ It is, of course just possible that the gullies could have been dug in later times, say in the 18th century, and that some bank material had slipped into them, thereby explaining the fitting sherds of pottery from bank and gully. But there was 17th- and 18th-century pottery from the upper layers of the gully filling, and it seems unlikely that none would have got into the lower filling: nor did the section give the impression of a later date for the gully.

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there were any traces of an earlier (medieval) wall below wall 1, which seems to have been built between 1643 and 1673;²⁵ no remains of an earlier wall could be found. Secondly, to trace the inner lip of the city ditch; this was obscured by the building of a later drain, but it must here have been about 33 feet from the wall. In the top filling of the ditch finds included bones of ox, sheep and pig, leather, clay pipes, oyster shells, wood, bark and limestone. Ground water lay at 5 feet down and prevented proper examination of the foundations of wall 1; probing, however, showed that the wall went down more than 1 foot at least below water level. The drain was built of roughly dressed uncoursed limestone, bonded with lime mortar, with capstones undressed except where they formed a straight edge in contact with the wall face. The bottom of the drain was not waterproof, but was merely of natural gravel into which some stones had been pushed at random. W. H. White (*The Main Drainage of Oxford* (1887), 5, and pl. v, fig. 15) records and depicts the discovery in Longwall Street of an old sewer running within the city ditch. This looks very like the drain in New College, and both may perhaps be identified with the drain whose building is projected in Wood's *Life and Times* (1692) II, 216-7, under 21 February, 1670-1, the purpose of which was to drain the city ditch.

The foundation trench of the drain immediately overlay what seems to have been a 17th-century garden path; among the foundation stones of the latter were two limestone roof slates of medieval type, hammer split and with bored holes. About 1 foot below modern ground level there was a 19th-century cobbled garden pathway, which had been broken through at some time to inspect the drain, and not replaced. The ground had been made up with rubble for the garden, probably just after 1872-6 when the New Buildings were built.

FINDS

MEDIEVAL POTTERY (FIGS. 14 AND 15)

Late Saxon. FIG. 14, no. 8, shoulder of cooking pot of smooth shelly ('St. Neot's') ware, with black core flecked with white crushed shell, and purplish brown surface (cp. *Oxoniensia*, v (1940), 48, fig. 8, no. 6; *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, I (1947), 53, fig. 2, nos. 1-3). From trench 1, layer (5). Only two other fragments of this ware were found during the whole New College work of 1949.

Pottery from deposits associated with the construction of the Wall. General. The pottery from trench 1, layers (3), (4), (5) and (6), layers associated with the building of the

²⁵ Mr. Nicholas Thomas observes that that wall is not drawn in Hollar's 'Bird's Eye View of Oxford' (1643), but is shown in 1673 by Loggan. The differences between these two maps suggest that in this part of Holywell a fair amount of building and garden development took place during the third quarter of the 17th century (cp. *Oxoniensia*, ix (1939), 159-61).

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wall, is comparable as a group with that excavated from a well filling at St. John's College in 1947 (*Oxoniensia*, xv (1950), 47-55), associated with a much worn coin of Henry II, a deposit probably of about 1200. This may be taken as a reasonable date for the latest material in these New College deposits pre-dating the city wall. Among the glazed jugs the wares are comparable with Group A of the

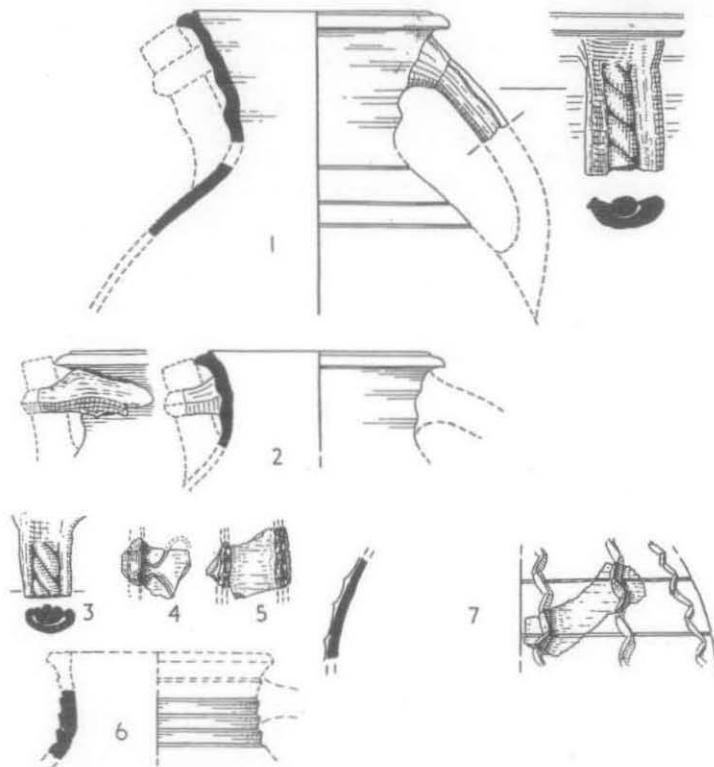


FIG. 14

LATE 12TH TO EARLY 13TH-CENTURY GLAZED JUGS
FROM THE NEW COLLEGE EXCAVATIONS, 1949

No. 7 is from the layer sealed under the city wall. Scale : $\frac{1}{2}$

New Bodleian Wells series (*Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 117-8) for which Mr. Bruce Mitford argues a date in the late 12th-early 13th centuries. There are no sherds of finer wares, such as New Bodleian Group C, or thumb-pressed bases, which are usual in full 13th-century deposits. On the other hand, most of the glazed pitchers represented here at New College could not reasonably be put back before about 1170 at the earliest.

Pottery from compact clay layer ⑥ sealed under the city wall. FIG. 14, no. 7, body of

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a tripod pitcher of olive-green-glazed fairly hard sandy grey ware, decorated with wavy vertical applied clay strips (*cp.* St. John's well, *Oxoniensia*, xv (1950), fig. 16, no. 1); another from Radcliffe Square is exhibited in the Ashmolean Museum (A.M. 1915.70). The general type of glazed tripod pitcher with tubular spout and strap handle was in fashion during the second half of the 12th century, extending a little into the 13th. The wavy applied strip is not common, and might eventually provide a closer criterion of date.

From this deposit also came (not illustrated) another green glazed sherd with traces of combed lines, perhaps from the same pitcher as FIG. 14, no. 7; one piece of hard shelly ware, and two pieces of harsh sandy cooking-pot with buff core, light grey interior, and buff-brown exterior surface worked over with a tool (*cp.* FIG. 15, no. 6). These harsh sandy wares were introduced on cooking-pottery in Oxford by the second half of the 11th century (*Oxoniensia*, xi-xii (1946-7), 171; xvii (1952), in press). The glazed pottery here gives the main dating evidence of c. 1200.

Pottery from the bank piled against the wall. (a) Trench 1, layer ⑤. Coarse pottery. FIG. 15, nos. 3-7, 9, 17. 3-6 are of fairly hard sandy wares in common use in Oxford in the early 12th century. All represent cooking-pots except 7.

3. Buff all through, but with brighter surface layer 1 mm. thick.

4. Dark grey core and light grey to buff surfaces; rim frilled with finger impressions; a 12th-century type.

5. Buff all through.

6. Dark core; grey interior and lighter exterior surface, the latter having a purplish tinge: knife trimmed below shoulder. These characteristics are typical of a class of Oxford cooking- and other coarse pottery of the later 12th and early 13th centuries, though they are found on earlier pottery.

7. A bowl in hard shelly ware with a little crushed flint and quartzite: dark grey core, light red interior and purple-black exterior surfaces. A fairly common 12th-century type in the region.

9. Fairly hard shell-filled ware with grey core and light red clayey surfaces: faintly incised diagonal lines under rim.

17. Base of a large pan or cooking-pot, in fairly hard sandy grey ware.

Glazed pottery. FIG. 14, no. 2, neck of jug, grey to buff sandy ware with patchy olive-green glaze (New Bodleian fabric A, *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 116-17): part of a tripod pitcher, the strap clutching the tubular spout surviving.

FIG. 14, no. 3, parts of handle of smaller jug, decorated with twisted rope inset let in to the channel down the back: of sandy buff friable ware with thin uneven yellowish poorly-fired glaze (*cp.* New Bodleian group A).

Also in this layer were parts of the shoulder and rim of the jug from the lower silt layer ③, FIG. 14, no. 1.

(b) *Trench 1, layers ④, ④a: Coarse pottery.* FIG. 15, no. 1, moderately hard shell-filled ware, greyish core, with reddish surface blackened in places.

FIG. 15, no. 2, hard slightly coarse sandy grey ware.

Glazed pottery. FIG. 14, no. 4, body fragment of tripod pitcher with applied finger-tipped strip over incised wavy lines; even green glaze over brown sandy fabric.

FIG. 14, no. 5, body fragment of tripod pitcher with closely finger-tipped applied strips; uneven light brown glaze over buff sandy fabric.

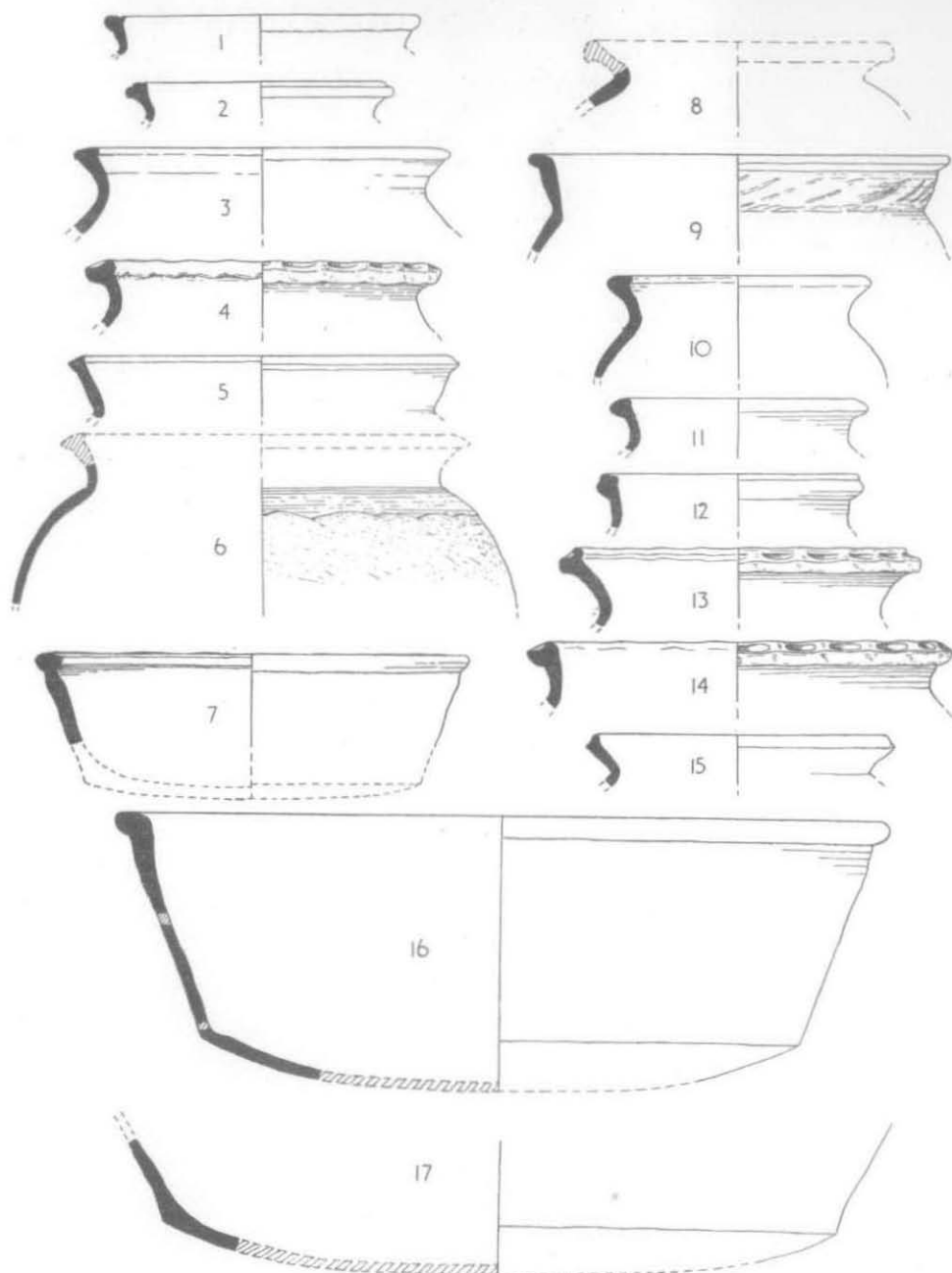


FIG. 15
12TH-AND EARLY 13TH-CENTURY COARSE POTTERY FROM THE EXCAVATIONS IN
NEW COLLEGE, 1949
Scale : $\frac{1}{4}$

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FIG. 14, no. 6, part of neck of jug in hard grey sandy fabric with green glaze on both surfaces.

Also from this layer are a number of other similar glazed sherds, including one of creamy closer textured fabric with pale orange-yellow clear even glaze (*cf.* sub-group of New Bodleian A; *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), bottom p. 116).

Pottery from lower silt of gully, trench 1 layer ③. Coarse pottery. Cooking-pots and pan, FIG. 15, nos. 10-15, 16.

10. Fairly friable sandy buff fabric.

11. Fairly fine sandy ware with light grey core, and grey or black to buff surfaces.

12. Hard fine sandy ware with light grey core and dark purple-grey surfaces; this improved fabric was probably a development of the later 12th and early 13th centuries in and around Oxford.

13. Hard fine sandy ware with pale grey core, black interior and dark grey interior surfaces; rim moulded with thumb or finger tip, using nail to form a hard line below top.

14. Hard fairly coarse sandy grey ware, rim moulded with finger tips.

15. Hard smooth shell-filled ware, with dark core flecked with white crushed shell; like the late Saxon fabric, but a 12th-century form.

16. Large pan of fairly hard shell-filled ware with grey core and reddish surfaces. These large pans have usually been dated to the earlier 13th century (*Oxoniensia*, VIII-IX (1943-4), 102-4), but two of this class were found in the tower at Ascot D'Oilly, Oxfordshire (datable *c.* 1130's to 1170's), *Oxoniensia*, XI-XII (1946-7), 165-7), and another came from the well filling at St. John's College with a silver penny of Henry II (*Oxoniensia*, xv (1950), fig. 18, no. 11).

Glazed pottery. FIG. 14, no. 1, neck and part of handle and body of tripod jug, with twisted rope in channel down the back of the handle; sandy friable buff fabric with olive green glaze on exterior. Also from this layer came a number of other fragments of similar glazed pottery.

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY (FIG. 16)

Trench 4, which cut through structures and fillings largely of the 17th and 18th centuries, yielded much pottery of the period. Such material from excavations usually receives far less attention archaeologically than it deserves, and a considerable chronology for coarse wares of this period could be built up through careful study of stratified deposits. Apart from this, such material reveals the continued importation of continental wares, the first appearance of oriental wares in any quantity in this country, the development of marketing of well-known wares from such great pottery making areas as Staffordshire, and will also show up the local industries producing country pottery for local needs, such as that continuing from the 13th to the 20th century at Brill, a matter of some interest to the local economic historian. A selection of later wares from the New College excavations is included here, but it is hoped that much more attention will be given soon to the many boxes of pottery and other finds already in the Ashmolean Museum from later deposits in Oxford.

*Chinese Porcelain.*²⁶ Some was found in each of the three trenches 1, 3 and 4. From the top silting of the 18th century ditch B in trench 2 came a shallow bowl of

²⁶ We are indebted to Mr. E. A. Lane, Victoria and Albert Museum, for identifying these.

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the Emperor K'ang Hsi (1662-1722), with the date mark of the Great Ming dynasty (Ch'eng Hua) ; date *c.* A.D. 1700. From the same layer came a Chinese cup of *c.*

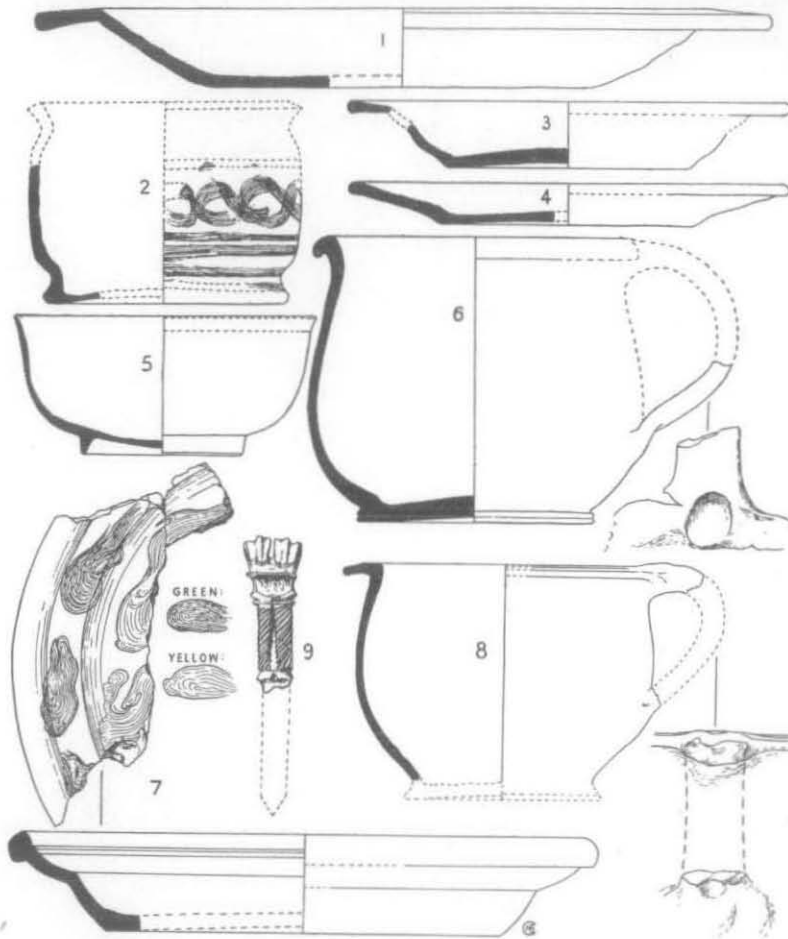


FIG. 16
POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM THE EXCAVATIONS IN NEW
COLLEGE, 1949
Scale : $\frac{1}{4}$

1750. Chinese porcelain was imported into Europe sporadically in the 16th century, and increasingly in the 17th. Successful imitation here, however, kept the trade comparatively small.

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English Pottery. FIG. 16 (by Miss E. A. BLAIR (Mrs. L. ALCOCK))

1. Dish, white, well-baked fabric; heavy uneven greenish lead glaze inside and out; no slip; thumb impressions on base; two incised grooves on upper surface of rim flange, which is slightly thickened at edge. Probably 16th century. *Cp.* A.M. 1938.404. Trench 4, unstratified (N.C. 1.56).

2. Drug jar of Italian 'albarello' form; Lambeth Delft ware, date 1660-1710. Soft yellow finely levigated paste; embedded in it a quartzite pebble almost as thick as the fabric; white tin glaze inside and out, except underneath; creamy slip; blue painted cable and girth bands on exterior, with clearly visible brushwork. *Cp.* A.M. 1915.25. Trench 4, unstratified (N.C. 1.63).

3. Form and fabric as 1; fairly even abraded green lead glaze on inside only; no slip under glaze, but on outside a cream slip; two incised rings on inside of base. Probably 16th-century. Trench 4 unstratified (N.C. 3.58).

4. Plate, Lambeth Delft ware. Hard pinkish fabric with impurities in clay; yellow slip, well-baked; thick white tin glaze; fragment undecorated. Date c. 1660 (*cp.* Garner, F. H., *English Delftware* (1948), 38, profile A). Trench 4, top filling of city ditch (N.C. 19.5).

5. Bowl, fine hard white Staffordshire stoneware. Salt glaze both inside and out, polished on outside; inside base are scorings made before clay had hardened; lightly incised groove round outside of rim; no other decoration. For form only, *cp.* Rackham, B., and Read, H., *English Pottery* (1924), pl. xxxix, fig. 67; c. 1733. Date 1720-40. Trench 4, unstratified (N.C. 2.4).

6. Pot, coarse bricky well-fired paste, darker red slip on outside; brown lead glaze, much scored, possibly by stirring, on outside; turned over rim; handle unglazed, 18th century. For form only, *cp.* A.M. 1931.524. Trench 4, unstratified (N.C. 2).

7. Dish, Staffordshire slipware. Coarse hard red bricky paste, poorly baked, with darker red slip; knife mark made during turning is visible; brown lead glaze on inside only; decorative band of leaves in greenish slip round upper side of rim, and indeterminable yellow slip decoration inside base. Late 17th-18th century. *Cp.* A.M. 1915.58. Trench 3, filling of ditch B, contiguous fragments from 2 feet 3 inches and 5 feet 9 inches (N.C. 8.3).

8. Handled pot, hard red bricky paste, mostly fired grey, though red in parts, sand backing to clay, uneven surface; heavy black lead glaze inside and out; ending irregularly about a quarter of the way up from the base outside; flange rim. Probably about 1660. *Cp.* A.M. 1915.56 and for fabric and glaze, Cistercian ware. Trench 4, drain foundation trench (N.C. 14.209).

Stone. From trench 3, 3 feet deep in the filling of ditch B, came three large pieces of corallian limestone, parts of gatepost finials, carved originally in the form of pineapples. One is possibly a mason's reject. These were thrown away in the latter half of the 18th century when this ditch was filled, and may be compared with those on All Souls' Cloister Quadrangle gateway (1734).

Bone. FIG. 16, no. 9, is an apple-corer of the first half of the 18th century. These corers, carved in wood or from a sheep's fibula, were often made by a man for his fiancée. Wooden ones sometimes have small balls carved out of the solid, representing the number of children the man expected his future wife to give him²⁷ (N.C. 7.3).

²⁷ We are indebted to Mr. J. H. Scholes for this information.