

## Notes and News

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES, 1952

#### A PREHISTORIC, ROMAN AND SAXON

*Adderbury, Oxon.* A bronze bodkin apparently Roman, three indeterminate Roman sherds, teeth of ox and sheep, and a few fragments of dressed stone were found when deep-ploughing a field for the first time at Grounds Farm (Nat. Grid 42/475337).

*Benson, Oxon.* An unpolished flint chisel, L. 17 cm., was reported, probably originally from the Thames hereabouts (Nat. Grid 41/6191).

*Chinnor, Oxon.* Dr. W. O. Hassall reported the discovery of Romano-British sherds and a *sestertius* of Hadrian in a field just west of the village (Nat. Grid 41/744015), where tesserae had been found in 1951. The field overlooks the Lower Icknield Way to the south-east.

*Dorchester, Oxon.* (Allen's Pit II). More Iron Age C sherds (A.M. 1952.109) were found while digging gravel around Nat. Grid 41/570947 (incorrectly given as '949' in *Oxon.*, xvi, 80). Rubbish pits and part of a ring-ditch were observed.

*Dorchester, Oxon.* (Amey's Pit). Excavations were continued in the spring and summer on Sites XIII (the Big Rings) and XIV, under the direction of Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson, Mr. N. Thomas and Mr. P. J. Parr.

At the southern entrance of *Site XIII* the bank between the two ditches consisted of a core of earth and turf capped by gravel. A 20-foot length of the south-western butt-end of the inner ditch was cleared and sections were cut across the butt-ends of both ditches on the south-eastern side. 'A'- and 'B'-beaker sherds were found in occupation debris in the lowest layer of silt, and, higher up, a Wessex-type arrowhead. No structure was found on the southern entrance comparable with the earth-filled slot cut across the northern entrance.

*Site XIV*, which lay within the southern entrance of the Big Rings, consisted of an approximately circular ditch, about 70 ft. in diameter, with an internal bank, enclosing four post-holes set at the corners of a 10 ft. square—presumably the remains of a ritual building or platform. Although more than half the ditch was stripped completely, no dating evidence was recovered, the only finds being a cremation, a stone axe of Cornish origin (Group I), and a handful of marine shells. It was possible to show, however, that *Site XIV* had been abandoned before the Big Rings were built, and is therefore likely to be pre-Beaker in date. A report will be published.

Mr. P. J. Parr reported three disturbed inhumation burials, probably Romano-British judging by sherds in the vicinity, found in a garden in Watling Lane (Nat. Grid 41/578941).

*Eynsham, Oxon.* At least four inhumation burials belonging to an Anglo-Saxon cemetery were discovered during digging operations on a housing estate (Nat. Grid 42/435098). Five sherds (A.M. 1952.1 and 401), an iron shield boss (1952.398), a spear-head (1952.399), and a knife with triangular section (1952.400) were recovered. One damaged burial of an adult man was observed (FIG. 40). The

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position of the knife in contact with the left tibia suggested that it may have been carried in a stocking or garter.

*Islip, Oxon.* (a) Mr. R. G. Goodchild and Miss J. R. Kirk carried out excavations for a fortnight in September on the 'Woodeaton' site in Middle Hill Field (Nat. Grid 42/535127).<sup>1</sup> The site proved to be, as was expected, a Romano-Celtic temple. Two periods of building were established. The earlier consisted of a small stone-built *cella* about 18 ft. square, with a simple clay floor, in the centre of which were three superimposed hearths, apparently for ritual fires. A coin of Claudius and pottery of the same period were found within the *cella* floor. In the second period, which perhaps was not much later, though dating evidence was scanty owing to the destruction of the upper levels, the *cella* walls were widened and a stone portico added. The precincts were surrounded by a wall enclosing an area 150 ft. square, with a large gateway on the east side. Finds included pottery, coins and small

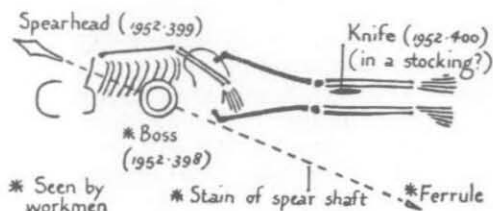


FIG. 40

EYNESHAM, OXON.

Sketch of burial of adult man, Saxon period, showing position of relics (p. 216)



FIG. 41

ISLIP, OXON.

Bronze brooch of 'Beckley' type from the Woodeaton site in Middle Hill Field (p. 217)

Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

bronzes, among which were letters of the alphabet designed to be nailed on to wood to form votive inscriptions. A report will be published in a future number of *Oxoniensia*.

(b) Mr. P. M. Finch reported further surface finds of coins and small objects from the same field. Among them are a bronze dolphin, probably a box-ornament; two bronze pins; a bronze ear-scoop; an iron ox-goad; two fragments of embossed bronze, one with a triangular pattern of dots, a branch and crescents, the other with a figure of a helmeted horseman; and a 'Beckley' type involuted brooch. The brooch (PL. XX, c, FIG. 41) is 3 cm. long, with a pear-shaped disc on the foot engraved with a double pelta pattern, in the lower half of which the centre of the pelta has been inverted, and a small crescent added. The design has similarities with that on the type-specimen from Beckley (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 260, fig. 17c). The pin opens and shuts by swinging on a ring and is in perfect working order. Another considerably smaller brooch with more stylized decoration is known from Woodeaton (*J. Roman Stud.*, VII (1917), 103, fig. 1; Wyndham Hughes collection, at present on

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Oxoniensia*, XIV, 1 ff.

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loan to the Ashmolean Museum). Other brooches of this type are known from Cold Kitchen Hill, Wilts. and Danes Graves, Kilham, Yorks. (*Archaeologia Cambrensis*, LXXXII (1927), 94 ff.), and (a pin only) from Frilford, Berks. (*Oxon.*, iv (1939), 13 and pl. v, B).

*Northmoor, Oxon.* Mr. S. Jarvis reported the discovery of considerable quantities of Romano-British pottery and a coin of Constantius in his garden at Rose Cottage, just west of the village (Nat. Grid 42/413028). No structures were visible in the area from which the pottery came. It included grey and orange wares, mostly of the late second century A.D. and later. The sherds are now in the Ashmolean Museum (1952.439).

*North Stoke, Oxon.* Mr. H. J. Case completed the excavation of those parts of the Cursus and U-ditch which were made inaccessible by floods in 1951 (*Oxon.*, xv, 107; xvi, 82).

*Oxford (Castle Mound).* Mr. E. M. Jope and Mr. P. J. Parr carried out an excavation at the foot of the Castle Mound in July (see above, pp. 77-111).

*Oxford (Wood Farm Estate).* An indeterminate Romano-British sherd was found during building (Nat. Grid 42/559059).

*Somerton, Oxon.* Eight extended inhumation burials were found during digging operations in the grounds of the Elementary School (Nat. Grid 42/497289). Five partially uncovered skeletons or damaged remains were seen in position; they were buried face upwards, and, where visible, the heads were untilted and to the west, feet to the east and arms by the side. The skulls were protected by undressed Lias slabs. There is a tradition that the school stands on the site of the inner court of a Castle (Blomfield, *Deanery of Bicester* pt. iv, 90, 93 and 152). Mr. D. F. Roberts, Anthropology Laboratory, Department of Human Anatomy, Oxford, reports on three of the burials:

(1) The skull appears to be that of a male adult of mature age. It is remarkable for the presence of a cut in the right temporal region, which is due apparently to a sharp weapon, and is neither recent nor inflicted before death.

(2) The skeleton is that of an elderly adult, probably a female. The teeth are unusual in that they exhibit a pronounced degree of occlusal attrition.

(3) The fragments are those of an elderly individual, sex doubtful.

*Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.* (Dix's Pit). Sherds of Iron Age A pottery (A.M. 1952.108: cf. Beard Mill, *Oxon.*, xvi, 16ff.; A.M. 1952.560-1) were found while digging gravel (around Nat. Grid 42/405055).

(Partridge's Pit.) The Oxford University Archaeological Society made rescue excavations around Nat. Grid 42/401057 in Vicarage (=Beard Mill) Field. Ring-ditches (*Oxon.*, xvi, pl. iv) were sectioned and searched internally but found to be sterile, except for indeterminate Romano-British sherds in the upper part of their filling; one yielded a decapitated human skull in this position. Enclosure-ditches and rubbish-pits contained unstratified Iron Age C and Romano-British sherds. The finds are in the Ashmolean Museum. Two Beaker-culture burials were also found here and will be reported in a forthcoming number of *Oxoniensia*. The foot of an Aucissa fibula (A.M. 1952.443) was found while digging gravel.

*Steventon, Berks.* Miss Keef found sherds of Samian, imitation Samian and Romano-British coarse wares in a field by Coldharbour Barn (Nat. Grid 41/455908).

HUMPHREY CASE: JOAN R. KIRK.

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### B. MEDIEVAL AND LATER

*Abingdon.* Dr. Dyson reported medieval pottery from his garden at no. 19 Broad Street. The pottery covers the period from the late eleventh or early twelfth century to the fourteenth century. The plain bowl illustrated (FIG. 42, no. 5) of fairly hard coarse blackish shelly ware, bears signs of hand working after removal from the wheel. It may be compared with one from Ascot D'Oilly castle (mid-twelfth century), but may be somewhat earlier. It is blackened on the outside and has evidently been used over a fire. Another twelfth century bowl in sandy ware with finger-tipped rim may be compared with one from Wallingford (*Berks. Archaeol. J.*, L (1947), 57, fig. 4, no. 6). Another small bowl with a lip is probably thirteenth century. There are several bases and a rim of cooking pots of shelly ware, two cooking pots of hard sandy ware (one with frilled rim and a fortuitous spot of glaze) a heavily clubbed cooking-pot rim in hard shelly ware, all late twelfth to thirteenth century. The jugs are normal plain glazed examples of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

*Duns Tew at the time of the Domesday Survey.* All the Oxfordshire Tews are entered in the Domesday Survey under variant spellings of the one name Tew, and these entries can only be differentiated through the known descents of the properties, as is done in the Victoria County History (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 373ff.). Thus Domesday gives no proof of the existence of actual settlements on the present sites of Great, Little and Duns Tew, but only at one of them, presumably Great Tew. In the preparation of Professor H. C. Darby's *Domesday Geography* (see vol. I, *The Domesday Geography of Eastern England* (1952)) Domesday evidence alone is being mapped, and entries under one name are being plotted as one place. This presents no difficulty in mapping with adjacent places such as Great and Little Tew. Places of the same name some distance apart in the county, are, however, sometimes entered under indistinguishable names in Domesday, and in the Oxfordshire folios of the Survey, where there is no Hundred rubrication, these can only be differentiated by recourse to the descent of the properties. Thus in these cases non-Domesday evidence *must* be used in the preparation of the maps. Duns Tew is a border-line case, for though it is only four miles from Great and Little Tews, it is separated from them by a strip of other Domesday manors. The church contains work of the twelfth century, and it seemed hardly likely that there was no separate settlement here in the later eleventh century.

In such a case archaeological material may help to expand and interpret the record of the Domesday Survey into a more precise picture of the Oxford region at this period. Accordingly, broken ground in Duns Tew was examined for pottery which might give evidence of a settlement here in the later eleventh century, and in the churchyard extension some was found (FIG. 42, nos. 6-9). More search and excavating in the village would no doubt reveal more. The sherds illustrated may be compared with material from levels of this date at Deddington Castle, three miles away, and from the pre-1071 pits sealed under Oxford Castle. No. 7 is of soft soapy-surfaced black ware speckled with white crushed shell, the fabric of 'St. Neot's' ware, and though the rim form has not quite the usual roll moulding, parallels occur at Deddington. No. 6 is the rim of a vertical-sided cooking pot of a type particularly common in this area (*Oxon.*, XIII, FIG. 15), and which was common in the second half of the eleventh century, but going out of use during the first half of the twelfth. Nos. 8 and 9 are shoulders of cooking pots of lumpy hand-worked shelly ware with light red

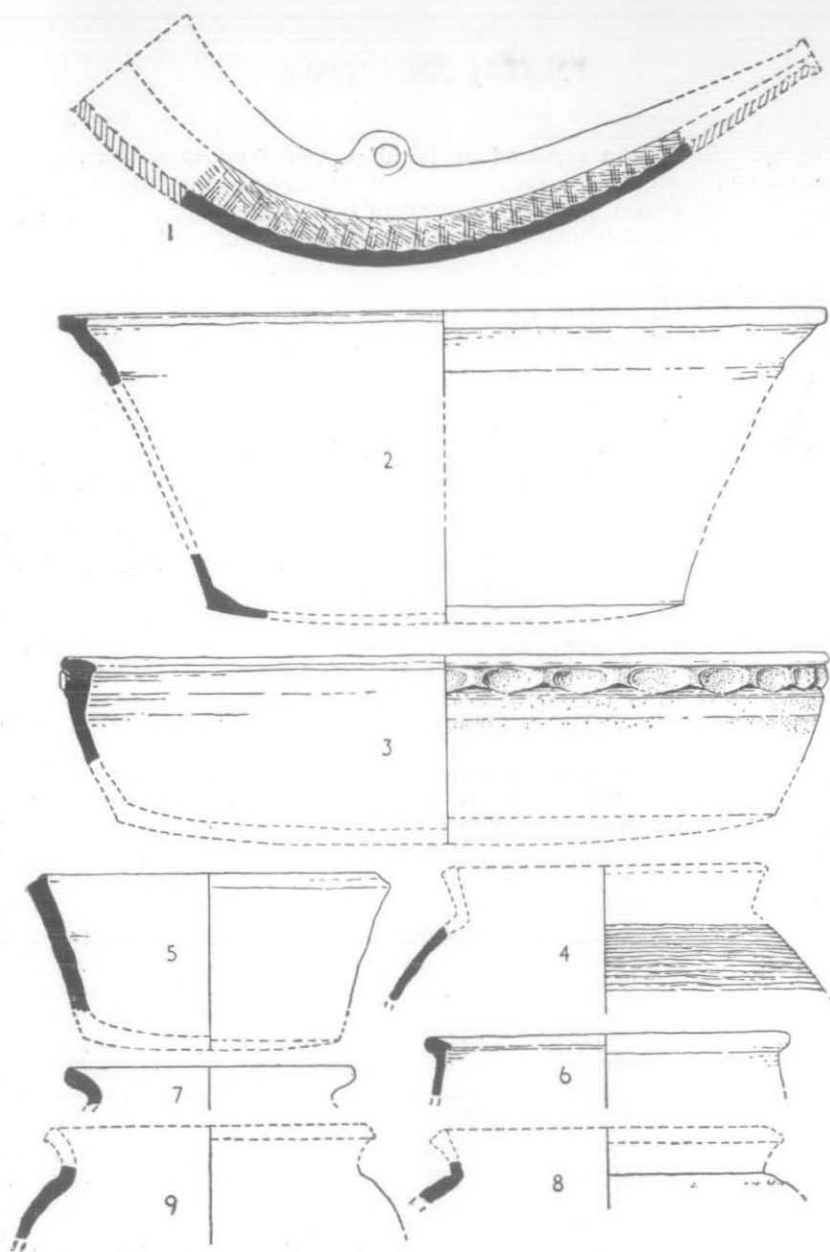


FIG. 42

LATE SAXON AND EARLY MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM THE OXFORD REGION

1. Horn from the river Thames at Godstow, Oxon., 13th century (p. 221).
- 2-4. Pishill, Oxon., late 11th to early 12th century (p. 221).
5. Abingdon, Berks., 12th century (p. 219).
- 6-9. Duns Tew, Oxon., late 11th to early 12th century (p. 219)

Scale :  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

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surface and grey core, of the usual medieval bulgy form with everted rim and convex base, which has now been shown to have already been in general use in the area in the eleventh century. A number of body and base fragments of similar pots were found, and the usual complement of later glazed ware. Some justification is therefore given for mapping Duns Tew as a separate place on the Domesday maps.

Such archaeological evidence would be of the greatest value from other villages, for of all the Oxfordshire place names which appear as double settlements by the twelfth century, or by the Hundred Roll Survey of 1279, only Great and Little Rollright are clearly enumerated separately in Domesday, and there seems to be no other evidence of these as double settlements before the twelfth century. Thus pottery collections from the Miltons, the Haseleys, and North, Middle and Steeple Aston, might help to expand the Domesday information to give a fuller picture of the settlement pattern of Oxfordshire in the later eleventh century.

*Godstow.* The pottery horn (FIG. 42, no. 1) was found in the bed of the River Thames at Godstow and presented to the Ashmolean Museum by Mr. H. Minn (A.M. 1915.113). It is of hard fine buff rather powdery ware, with a dark green glaze on the outer surface rubbed off in many places. On the inner surface there is rilling progressing spirally clockwise outwards from the mouthpiece and, superimposed on this are striations running slightly spirally lengthwise: it is difficult to deduce the exact process of making which has led to this appearance. The fabric does not look much like a local product. Other pottery horns so far known to me are from Bothwell Castle, Lanarkshire, Scotland (Ministry of Works). These are probably later medieval, have mouthpieces and are completely reconstructible. Even in its present broken form this Godstow example can be blown to give a resounding B below middle C, and when complete with shaped mouthpiece must have given a penetrating note somewhere about F below middle C. Horns of this shape, such as are often depicted as part of the kit of huntsmen, herdsman or soldiers in medieval manuscripts, were usually presumably of cow horn or metal, and these pottery horns are more likely to have been used for warning, summoning to meals, etc., round the buildings of abbey or castle.<sup>1</sup>

*Oxford (Pusey Lane).* Seventeenth and eighteenth century sherds and wine-bottles (A.M. 1952.492) were found in drainage and rubbish-pits when digging foundations in the garden of Blackfriars Priory (Nat. Grid 42/512066).

*Pishill, Oxon.* Finds of medieval pottery are scanty in the Chiltern area, and the pieces found by Mr. and Mrs. Cake in Pishill churchyard in 1952 are welcome. They are all of brown sandy ware with much grit protruding from the surface to give the feel of sandpaper, the late eleventh to twelfth century piece (FIG. 42, no. 4) being only slightly coarser and more lumpy than the twelfth and thirteenth century pans. This gritty fabric was very much used in the Chiltern area and persisted over a long period. The rilled shoulder on this fragment (which was thrown on a slow wheel) may be compared with that of a cooking pot from the pre-1071 pits under Oxford castle mound. The type is known also from Reading, and it probably lasted into the twelfth century. The shallow pan with applied finger-tipped strip (FIG. 42, no. 3)

<sup>1</sup> Since this note was written, fragments of such pottery horns, with the characteristic longitudinal rippling on the inner surface, have been found among the material from the late thirteenth to fourteenth century pottery-kilns at Brill, excavated in 1953. This suggests that the type was being made in the Oxford region, though the fabric is not identical with that of the Godstow horn. The Bothwell horn has been published in *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, LXXXVI (1951-2), no. 34, 155, 158.



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is a version of a general twelfth century form (cp. *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, L (1947), 57, fig. 4, no. 6). Most interesting of all is the deep pan (FIG. 42, no. 2), of a type introduced in the late twelfth century and lasting through much of the thirteenth (*Oxon.*, xv, 52-3). This type has not been recorded before east of Oxford: sufficient survives of the rim of this Pishill vessel to make reconstruction of the type fairly certain. West of Oxford these pans are almost always of hard shelly ware; this Pishill pan is of harsh gritty brown to grey ware, and the base, which seems to be part of the same vessel, has a brownish-yellow glaze on the inner surface, often to be found on vessels of the thirteenth century.

E. M. JOPE.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES, 1953

#### A. PREHISTORIC, ROMAN AND SAXON

*Barton, Oxford.* A schoolboy from Headington Secondary Modern School found three Romano-British pots in the bank of Bayswater Brook (Nat. Grid 42/557081).

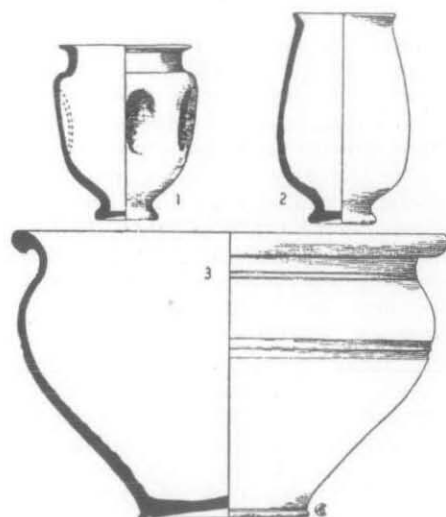


FIG. 43

HEADINGTON, OXON.

Three pots of late Romano-British ware found together and probably a burial-group, from the bank of Bayswater Brook (p. 222 f.).

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

They consist of (a) a wide-mouthed olla, H. 6 in. (FIG. 43, no. 3) of orange ware, with cordon round body and neck, possibly of Sandford make, third-fourth century A.D.; a smaller beaker, H.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in., orange ware, with thumb-indents round the body and a small, flat foot-ring (FIG. 43, no. 1), and another beaker, H. 4 in. (FIG. 43, no. 2)

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of orange ware, with plain, recurved rim, greatest girth near the base, and a small, flat foot-ring. The two small beakers were found inside the olla. Their shape and the small, flat foot suggest that they are more likely to be of foreign than of British manufacture (cf. E. Ettlinger, *Die Keramik der Augster Thermen* (1949), pl. 23, no. 8). The finder reported that there had also been some bones, but that these had been thrown away before they could be inspected. It seems probable that this was a burial, especially as the site is not far from that of the cremation-burial found in 1949 (*Oxon.*, xiv, 76, fig. 10).

The pots now belong to Headington Secondary Modern School.

*Beckley, Oxon.* Mr. A. G. Fenwick found indeterminate flint flakes and cores (more resembling those associated locally with Neolithic A than those with Grooved Ware) on Wadley Hill (Nat. Grid 42/557098). Others came from near Stow Wood (Nat. Grid 42/555106).

*Boar's Hill district, Berks.* Canon L. W. Grensted found a fragmentary right-hand obliquely trimmed microlith (A.M. 1953.47) and indeterminate flakes (1953.47 and 55) in fields on either side of the footpath from Chilswell House to Chilswell Farm, Cumnor (Nat. Grid 42/488035).

Canon Grensted also found a fragmentary left-hand obliquely trimmed microlith and indeterminate flakes (A.M. 1953.56) north-west of Jarn Mound, Wootton (Nat. Grid 42/484025).<sup>2</sup>

*Chimney, Oxon.* Mr. Vagn Christophers reported that he has been carrying out excavations on a cemetery at Chimney Farm (Nat. Grid 42/357008), apparently on the edge of a site already recorded as a possible Saxon cemetery (*Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. Arch. Journ.*, iv, 13). Both from his excavations and from reports of earlier finds during the erection of farm-buildings, it is clear that the cemetery was extensive and contained a large number of burials. Some of the bodies had been buried on top of others, but there was no sign of disorderly burial as in a plague-pit. Finds were almost entirely confined to small sherds of late Saxon or early medieval pottery; a few Roman sherds and a Saxon iron knife were also found.

*Cumnor, Berks.* Lt.-Col. R. H. Cunningham found a microlithic core (A.M. 1953.47) on Hurst Hill (Nat. Grid 42/478041).<sup>2</sup>

*Dorchester, Oxon.* (a) Allen's Pit II (South of Nat. Grid 41/570950). An antler of fallow(?) deer and other animal bones were dredged from the base of the gravel, lying on Oxford clay; the peat layer was not present at this point (*Oxon.*, xvi, 80). The finds were given to the Dept. of Geology, University Museum, Oxford.

Topsoil removal had revealed clearly in the gravel the ends of the trident-shaped ditches showing immediately west of Bishop's Court on Major Allen's plan in *Oxon.*, iii, fig. 20. The three narrow ditches uncovered contained (A.M. 1953.59) large quantities of early Romano-British black wares, a lower quernstone (not in the Ashmolean), and a fragment of a Samian bowl, Drag. 37, with a bear and horseman, late first to early second century A.D. Belgic pottery had previously been found about 50 yards north of this ditch-complex (*Oxon.*, xvi, 80; and see above, p. 216).

(b) Mr. K. Welch reported the discovery of bones and pottery during drainage operations in the garden of his bungalow at the end of Watling Lane (Nat. Grid 41/577941). A cesspit had cut through what appeared to be an oven or kiln, which showed as black charcoal in one section, and as burnt red material in the other. Immediately to the south of this was a thick layer of animal bones. The pottery, of

<sup>2</sup> These finds are additional to those listed on pp. 11-13, and plotted on figs. 1 and 7.



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which very little was found, included a few sherds of early Romano-British grey ware ; and three late Iron Age sherds (A.M. 1953.611, FIG. 44). These comprise (1) a small rim-sherd of pale orange ware ; (2) a fragment of a lid (reconstruction conjectural), black ware with tiny mica grits, highly burnished on the outside ; (3) a sherd of black burnished ware.

These sherds are the first Iron Age pottery recorded from the southern end of the modern village.

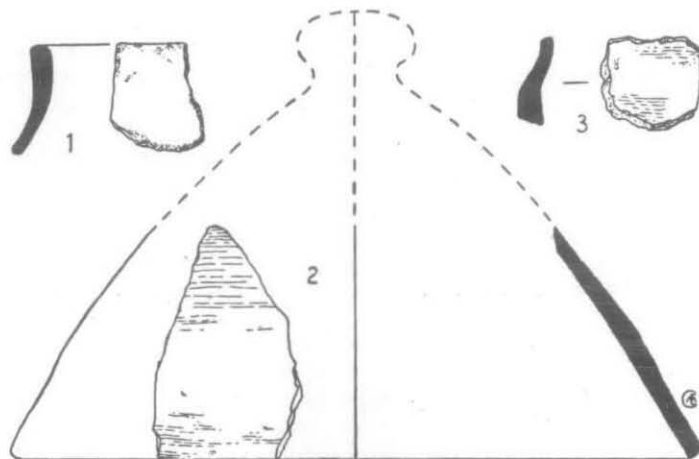


FIG. 44

DORCHESTER, OXON.

Pottery of late Iron Age type from a garden at the S. end of Watling Lane (p. 223 f.).

Scale :  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Eynsham, Oxon.* An Anglo-Saxon iron shield-boss (A.M. 1953.624) was found in the same area as the graves reported in 1952 (see p. 216).

*Headington, Oxon.* Finds of large quantities of Romano-British pottery were reported from the grounds of the Churchill Hospital and the Regional Blood Transfusion Unit (Nat. Grid 42/546057). Inspection showed that at least two kilns had existed here. One had been destroyed in digging foundations for a new building for the Blood Transfusion Unit, but the stoke-hole showed clearly in section and fragments of kiln material had been found. A second kiln, discovered about 100 yards away had been left intact and covered in again.

The pottery consisted of fragments of many mortaria of white, buff and pinkish wares, the majority of which appeared to be fairly late in date (FIG. 45). There were also several fragments of white slip bowls, with red-painted decoration, a type of pottery found on several sites in the neighbourhood and dated to the fourth century (FIG. 45, nos. 3, 5-7). Fragments of grey ware, some with comb decoration, and some pieces of orange ware were found ; and the pointed base of a small amphora (FIG. 45, no. 4), or possibly of a crucible like those found at the Roman villa at Wick Farm, Headington, excavated in 1851 (*J.B.A.A.*, vi (1851), 63).

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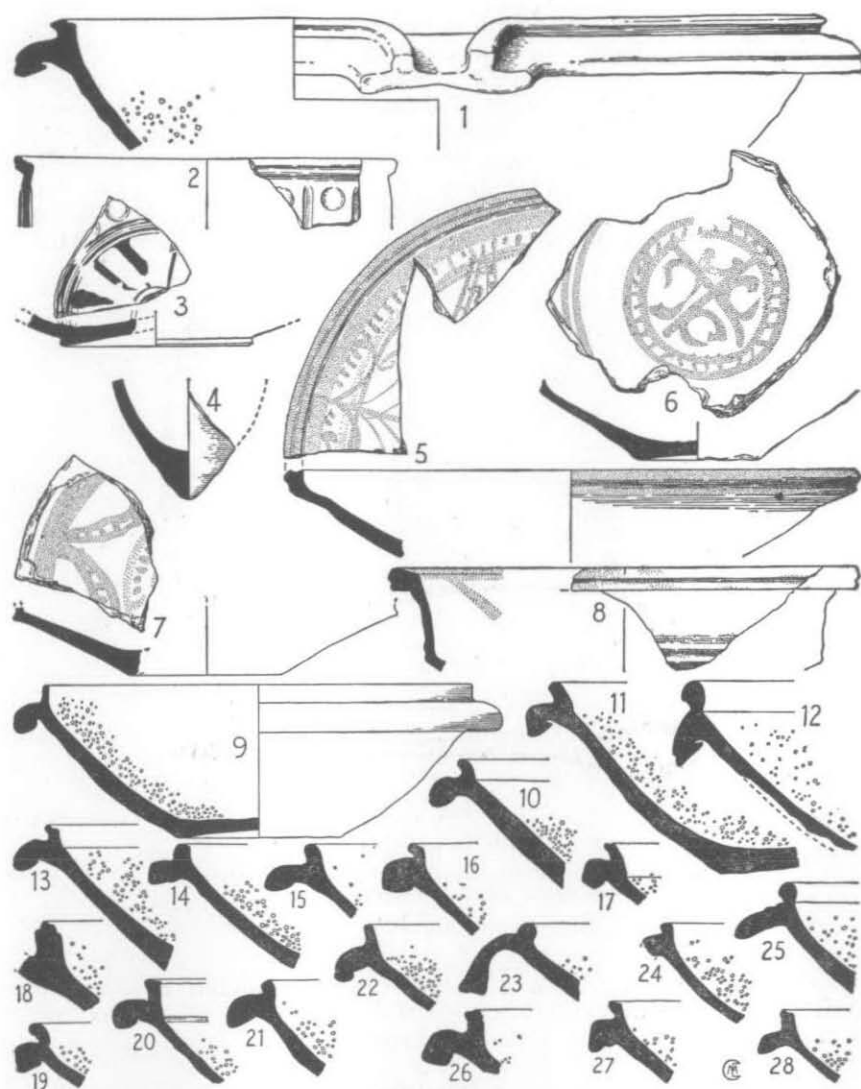


FIG. 45

HEADINGTON, OXON.

Romano-British mortaria and painted wares from the site of two pottery-kilns (p. 223 f.).

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

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The Churchill Hospital site lies only about a mile and a half south of that at Wick Farm, and the pottery from both is remarkably similar (*J.B.A.A.*, vi, 52ff. and figs.). No decisive evidence of a kiln was discovered at Wick Farm, though some of the remains pointed that way. The new finds suggest that possibly the villa-site was supplied by the kilns at the Churchill Hospital, or that both were part of one concern whose principle products were mortaria. A glance at the map of Roman Oxfordshire (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 267) will show that these new kilns lie well within the chief pottery-making area of the district.

*Holton, Oxon.* An iron winged axe, length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in., greatest width  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in. (FIG. 46), was found in the bank of the River Thame just below Holton Mill (Nat.

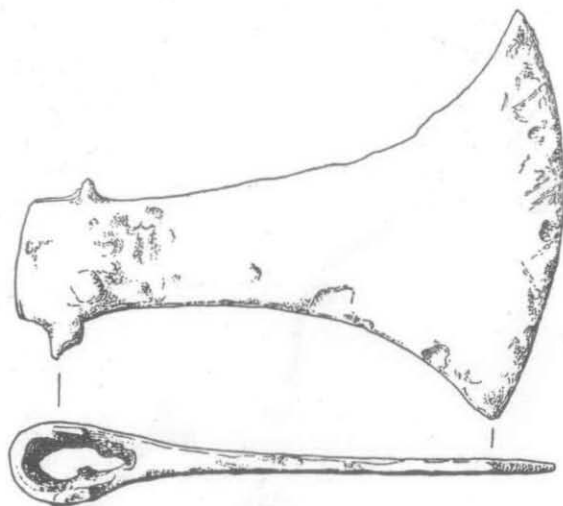


FIG. 46

HOLTON, OXON.

Iron axe-head from the river Thame below Holton Mill,  
late Saxon or early Norman (p. 226).

Scale :  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Grid 42/613055). The axe has a long slender blade expanding in a curve towards the cutting edge; it has wings on either side of the shaft-hole, which still retains some traces of wood. The axe is late Saxon or early Norman, late 11th to early 12th century.

*Islip, Oxon.* Mr. A. G. Fenwick found indeterminate flint flakes on the south-east side of Islip bridge (Nat. Grid 42/529138).

*Littlemore, Oxon.* Sherds of Romano-British white and grey wares, and part of the base of a small Roman green-glazed jar of reddish ware, were dug up by Mr. G. C. Goodey in his garden at Hillside, Heyford Hill (Nat. Grid 42/528026). They are now in the Ashmolean Museum (A.M. 1953.63).

*Otmoor district, Oxon.* Through Mr. A. G. Fenwick struck flints were reported

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from north-west of Murcott (around Nat. Grid 42/588160) and north-east of Charlton (around Nat. Grid 42/567164).

Mr. A. G. Saunders found a fragmentary hour-glass-perforated pebble of quartzite (A.M. 1953.57), from west of Studley (Nat. Grid 42/583124). It may have come from elsewhere with material to make up a gateway. Mr. Saunders also reported sherds (A.M. 1953.62) of Romano-British pottery, chiefly orange and white wares, probably of the third-fourth century A.D., found during ploughing. No sign of any building was observed.

*Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.* (a) Partridge's Pit (Nat. Grid 42/399057) has spread so that all but the two most westerly crop-marks known from Major Allen's photographs have been destroyed. A tooth of *Elephas sp.* was found in gravel at least 7 ft. below the ground surface, and was given to the Dept. of Geology, University Museum.

A circular crop-mark (marked 1½ in. from the top left-hand corner of *Oxon.*, VIII-IX, fig. 8) was found to represent a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow. The central burial was a cremation with a miniature Food Vessel. A rubbish spread with Iron Age A sherds was found in the latest silting of the ditch; the pottery was of the same type as that found at the nearby Beard Mill site (*Oxon.*, XVI, 16-21). The finds will be given to the Ashmolean Museum, and a report will be published.

(b) Linch Hill area. Very small abraded fragments of Neolithic B pottery (A.M. 1953.583) were found on topsoil heaps about ¾ mile north-west of Linch Hill corner (Nat. Grid 42/407050).

*Tackley, Oxon.* Romano-British sherds of grey ware, and of coarse, gritty wares (A.M. 1953.616) were dug up during drainage operations in Tackley village (Nat. Grid 42/482206). Other Roman sites are known nearby (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 343) but none has previously been reported from the village itself.

*Wendlebury, Oxon.* Mr. S. Snell reported the discovery of several Romano-British sherds (A.M. 1953.609) and a coin of Faustina, second century A.D., during building operations in Langford Lane, near Wendlebury (Nat. Grid 42/575204). The site is on the outskirts of the Roman town of Alchester.

### B. MEDIEVAL AND LATER

*Abingdon, Berks.* (a) A stoneware Bellarmine jug (PL. XX, B), H. 9½ in., complete and in excellent condition, which was found in 1936 at a depth of 12-14 ft. during the demolition of houses in Bridge Street, has been reported by Mrs. Liversidge. Mr. M. R. Holmes of the London Museum reports that its shape and decoration point to its being an English imitation of a Rhenish type, made in the second half of the seventeenth century. The pseudo-armorial medallion on the body is a familiar one, and occurs on several similar vessels in the London Museum, all of them late in date. The mask belongs to a type associated with the last stages in the history of these jugs, before it was abandoned as a piece of decoration and they came on the market plain, or adorned with a body medallion only.

(b) Dr Dyson reported the discovery of a wall in the garden of no. 19 Broad Street (see p. 219). Remains of bricks and burning suggested that the structure was that of an oven, of fairly recent date. There appeared to be a uniform layer of black earth over the whole area visible in the builders' trenches, and the workmen reported that there was made ground to a depth of about 7-8 ft., whereas the normal depth was 2-3 ft.

## NOTES AND NEWS

*Brill, Bucks.* Mr. E. M. Jope conducted excavations for three weeks during August on a medieval kiln site on the northern edge of Brill village (Nat. Grid 42/656143). Three superimposed kilns were discovered, of which the upper one was cleared completely. It proved to be double-ended, with a diamond-shaped platform in the centre and a flue-channel all round, except in the middle where the platform extended right across the kiln, thus forcing the flames upwards. Large quantities of medieval pottery were found in and around the kiln. A full report will be published.

*Oxford, Nuffield College.* Mr. P. J. Parr cut a section through the Castle ditch in the Nuffield College grounds (Canal Wharf site) during July and August. It was found to be 52 ft. wide and 12 ft. deep below the surface of the natural gravel, with a broad, flat bottom, and fairly steep sides. The section showed two main periods of infilling, separated by a well-marked vegetation line about 8 ft. above the bottom. The ditch had evidently been kept cleared out until at least the early sixteenth century, as plentiful pottery of this period was found in the layers below the vegetation line, while earlier sherds were rare. Immediately above the line pottery of the late eighteenth century was found, and the filling of the upper part of the ditch must, therefore, be associated with the construction of the canal wharf in the 1790's. A full report will be published.

HUMPHREY CASE ; JOAN R. KIRK.

### TWO LOWER PALAEOLITHIC FINDS

Lower Palaeolithic finds—never very frequent in the upper Thames valley—are rare nowadays when gravel is dug mechanically. The two specimens illustrated on FIG. 47 are therefore worth a mention.

No. 1 (A.M. 1953.584) is a pointed hand-axe of Early Acheulian type. It is made of flint with cherty inclusions, and is patinated cloudy white with prominent iron staining ; its edges, ridges, and cortex are bruised. It was found by Mr. H. O. King on the surface near Mount Farm, Dorchester, Oxon (Nat. Grid 41/578960), three-quarters of a mile from the nearest gravel-pit. The subsoil, from which it was probably derived, is the Summertown-Radley terrace of the Thames.

No. 2 (A.M. 1953.112) is a fragment, probably of an ovate hand-axe of Early Acheulian type. It is made of flint. The break is ancient, but postdates the original deposition of the implement. The patination of the original surface is cloudy white, stronger on one face, and has slight iron staining ; the weakly patinated face is lustrous and slightly frost-cracked. Edges and ridges including those of the break are slightly abraded. It was given to the writer by the foreman of Partridge's gravel pit, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon., who said it came from a pit near Beard Mill (around Nat. Grid 42/399057). Iron Age and Romano-British rubbish pits are frequent in the area ; natural solution pipes are comparatively rare. It was without much doubt deposited originally in the gravel, which belongs to the Summertown-Radley terrace of the Thames.

The association of altered Early Acheulian implements with the Summertown-Radley terrace is consistent with past discoveries (summarized by W. J. Arkell, *The Geology of Oxford* (1947), 220 f.).

HUMPHREY CASE.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY FROM SUNNINGWELL, BERKS., 1952

Richard and Michael Marson reported finds of Romano-British pottery in the garden of Overdale, Boar's Hill (Nat. Grid 41/495015). The pottery included one complete and several almost complete vessels; many of the pieces, including the complete pot, are clearly kiln-wasters.

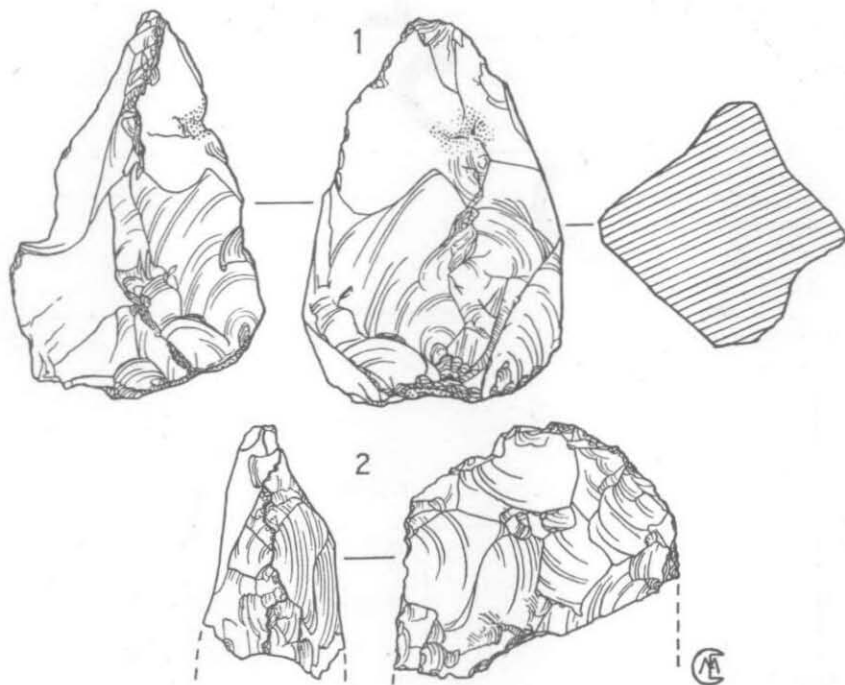


FIG. 47  
PALAEOOLITHS FROM MOUNT FARM, DORCHESTER  
(No. 1) AND BEARD MILL, STANTON HARCOURT (No. 2), p. 228.

Scale :  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The site lies only about a quarter of a mile north-west of the kiln on Foxcombe Hill excavated by the Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1945 (*Oxoniensia*, xiii, 32 ff.) and very near other known finds of Romano-British pottery and coins (*Archaeol. Journ.*, xxiii, 73; *V.C.H. Berks.*, i, 215; Peake, *Archaeology of Berkshire*, 107).

The pottery (FIG. 48) included :

1. Carinated beaker, grey ware, H. 17.3 cm., a waster, much misshapen, but complete. Two beakers (2, 3) of similar shape in the Ashmolean Museum (1896-1908. Pr. 379-80) are said to have been found in 1892 in a grave on the



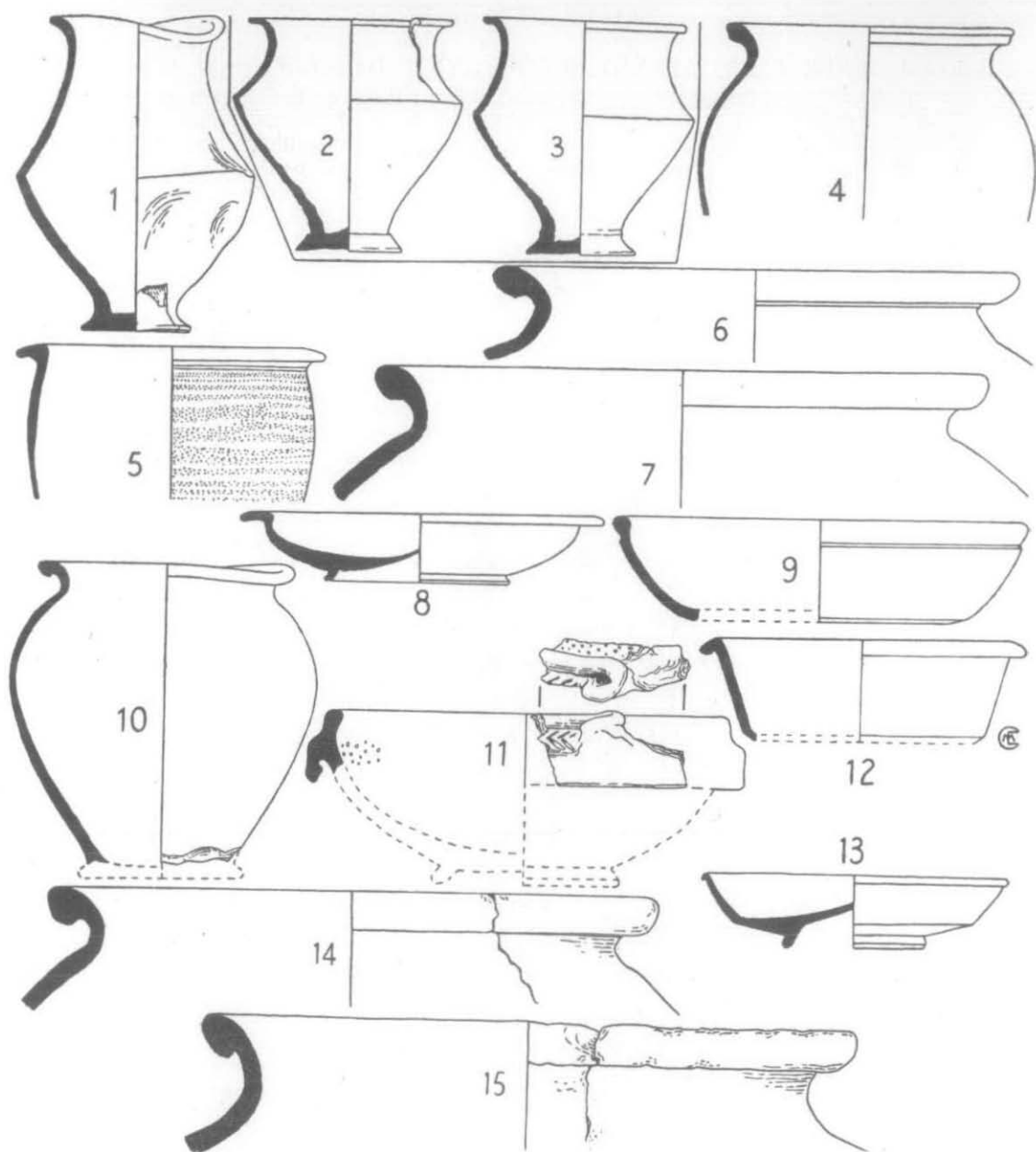


FIG. 48

SUNNINGWELL, BERKS.

Romano-British pottery from a kiln-site at Overdale, Boars Hill (pp. 229-31).

Scale :  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

## NOTES AND NEWS

Oxford side of and close to the present Boars Hill Hotel. This must have been very near to the present site. Both are 13.5 cm. high of light grey clay fired to a darker shade. Pr. 379 is a kiln waster with a crack in the rim. The shape is pre-Roman in origin, and the presence of these three examples suggests that the kilns on Foxcombe Hill were working very early in the Roman period. The shape reappears, however, in the second century, but with a wider mouth, thicker, less tapering body and larger base (cf. Collingwood, *Archaeology of Roman Britain*, figs. 58, 83).

4. Fragment of olla, grey ware, with oblique rim, flattened beneath. D. 15.9 cm. Probably late first to early second century A.D.
5. Fragment of jar, grey ware, with darker burnished slip. D. 15 cm. Second century A.D.
6. Rim-fragment of large storage jar. Gritty brown-orange ware, with thick everted rim, slightly undercut and fired black. D. 29 cm. First century A.D.
7. Rim-fragment, similar shape and ware to 6, but with buff slip. D. 35 cm.
8. Fragmentary plate, orange ware, imitating the Samian dish Drag. 36; meaningless stamp inside. D. 21 cm. Late second to third centuries A.D.
9. Fragmentary dish, grey ware, with curved side and bead-rim. D. 24.3 cm. Second century A.D. (cf. Collingwood, fig. 54, 46).
10. Olla, grey ware, fired red inside; complete except for base; everted rim, short neck and piriform body. H. 18 cm. First century A.D. This is also a waster; the rim, and in places, the body are out of shape.
11. Small fragment of mortarium rim, grey ware with darker slip; vertical-sided type, with rolled-back spout, and wreath decoration beside it. Late third to fourth centuries A.D. (cf. Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter* I (1912), fig. 20, 238).
12. Fragment of dish, grey ware, with darker slip; slightly curved side, flat pie-dish rim. D. 18.7 cm. Second century A.D. (cf. Collingwood, fig. 54, 44-5).
13. Half of Samian dish, Drag. 18/31, with end of stamp . . . ORF; late first to early second century A.D. D. 17.6 cm.
- 14, 15. Two rim-fragments of large storage-jars, similar to 6 and 7, but coarser, more gritty ware. D. 35 cm. and 37 cm. respectively.

Excavations undertaken by the Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1953 revealed 2 kilns about 50 yds. south of the finds reported here. As many of the first sherds found were of large storage-jars of a type not represented in the kilns, it is possible that they came from a settlement-site connected with the kilns. A full report on the kilns will be published in *Oxoniensia*.  
JOAN R. KIRK.

### A POTTERY MOULD FROM HORSEPATH, OXON.

Astride the boundary between Horsepath and the modern parish of 'Shotover with Forest Hill', east of Shotover plain and south of the old road from Oxford to London lies a field now known as Row Field.<sup>3</sup> On the Shotover side of the parish boundary, in the middle of this field, I have collected a large amount of Romano-

<sup>3</sup> Parcel no. 222 in Horsepath parish, O.S. map, 25 in., 1937; Nat. Grid 42/573058. In the 16th century the field was known as 'Redsharde', perhaps referring to the number of sherds found on the surface (Terrier of 1513, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, MS. 320, fol. 10 v). I am very grateful to Professor J. M. C. Toynbee for her kind assistance and encouragement in the preparation of this note.

## NOTES AND NEWS

British pottery and blackened wasters, besides part of a bronze bracelet, a stone loom-weight, one solitary specimen of medieval glazed ware, and fragments of modern china. Much pottery has also been found by Miss Callard of Horsepath who ploughed the field during the last war. Neither of us has found any coins in the field, although coins have come to light below the spring-line at Rectory Farm.

I hope eventually to draw and publish this pottery, but the discovery, in the early autumn of 1952, of one object of outstanding interest seems to deserve individual and immediate attention. This is a mould,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in.  $\times$   $1\frac{3}{4}$  in., for casting a face (PL. XXI, c) in a formal classical style. It is made of white clay, as is most of the pottery found within a few yards of it, and like it, superficially stained with ferruginous red soil.<sup>4</sup> A striking feature of this mould is the exterior, for, contrary to custom, this is itself worked into the form of a second face (PL. XXI, A-B). Here the chin and nose are carefully modelled, while the eyes are rendered merely by crude incisions. The general effect is comparable to that of the 'face-pots' and terracotta masks of Roman Germany and Gaul, although on those the eyes are differently treated.<sup>5</sup> On our head a retreating forehead terminates in hatched eyebrows between which projects a now broken nose. The latter would have served as a good handhold for anyone using the mould.

The outer head, crude as it is, appears to be the work of a person endowed with some feeling for the planes of the human face. The modelling of the average child or inexperienced person, of many a savage sculptor, for instance, shows the mouth and upper lip as a protuberance ending in a flat form shaped like a melon-slice; this work, on the other hand, suggests rather the hand of a talented and observant fellow who amused himself by producing a lively caricature of one of his mates.<sup>6</sup>

The photographs of the inner head (PL. XXI, D-E) are taken from a cast made from the mould by Mr. Rickard in the Ashmolean Museum. Professor J. M. C. Toynbee has pointed out to me that the chin projects further from the neck than might have been expected had clay casts from this mould been intended for ornamentation applied to the side of a pot. It is conceivable that impressions were made from it in pairs for use as lugs. But surviving examples of such lugs have not been noted; and in the case of lugs the chin would surely have projected downwards, not upwards, to prevent the fingers from slipping. Had casts from this mould been used to make a Janus-like perfume-pot, with two identical faces set back to back,<sup>7</sup> one would expect more of the neck and crown of the head, and half of the neck and mouth of the vessel, to have been rendered in the mould itself; and it is also likely that, in the case of the double-headed pots, the moulds would have contained both heads worked

<sup>4</sup> C. S. Read, 'On the Farming of Oxfordshire', *J. R. Agricult. Soc. Engl.*, xv (1854), 196, 200. The mould has been given by me to the Ashmolean Museum, where it now bears the accession no. 1954.14.

<sup>5</sup> For 'face-pots' with faces worked on the surface of the vessel in low relief see Lindenschmit, *Die Altertümer unserer heidnischen Vorzeit*, v (1911), pl. 59, esp. no. 1080 and p. 343; E. Gose, *Gefäßtypen der römischen Keramik im Rheinland* (1950), pls. 51-3, nos. 522-9. For pots with applied masks of a grotesque character see J. Déchelette, *Les vases céramiques ornés de la Gaule romaine*, II (1904), 185, fig. k; 227, figs. 121, 122; 228-9, figs. 124-30. A partly painted 'face-pot' from Colchester (Benham, *Colchester* (1948), 96), shows a treatment of the eyes similar to that of the Horsepath mould.

<sup>6</sup> For comparable caricatures on continental pots see the examples from Saalburg (L. Jacobi, *Das Römerkastell Saalburg* (1897), 423), from Weisenau near Mainz (*Mainzer Zeitschrift*, VII (1921), 46, pl. 6, nos. 1, 2; *Germania Romana* (2nd ed., 1924), v, pl. xxviii, nos. 2, 5), and from Magdalensberg (R. Egger, *Führer durch die Antikensammlung des Landesmuseums in Klagenfurt* (1921), 108, fig. 88; *Festschrift für Rudolf Egger*, II (1953), 217-8, fig. 2).

<sup>7</sup> Déchelette, *op. cit.*, pl. x, no. 2.

## NOTES AND NEWS

in profile, so that the line of junction between the two halves of the vessels cast from them would have bisected the faces, rather than one head worked full-face, so that the join between the two halves would have passed between the backs of the heads. It is much more probable that jugs with a single head applied in relief to one side of the neck provide an answer to our problem. In the Ashmolean Museum there are three examples, one from Cambridge (1927.3342; PL. XXI, G), one from Colchester (R. 265; PL. XXI, F), and a third from Haslingfield, Cambs. (1927.3343). Another, showing more refined features, which resemble those of the Horsepath face more closely, is in the Guildhall Museum (from the Walbrook, uncatalogued). Yet another, even nearer to it in style, was found recently by Major Brinson at Great Chesterford, Essex (unpublished; cf. also W. F. Grimes, *Holt, Denbighshire* (1930), 130, no. 1, fig. 57). Mr. Frank Jenkins, who has seen the Horsepath mould, is inclined to favour the view that the heads cast from it belonged to this class of object,<sup>8</sup> and he has kindly supplied a reference to two Rhineland types of such face-jugs.<sup>9</sup> It is, however, possible that casts taken from the Horsepath mould formed the front parts of the heads of votive figurines made in four portions (front and back of head, front and back of body) and perhaps dedicated in local domestic shrines. Such four-piece figurines have come to light on Romano-Gaulish sites; and the Horsepath mould is of suitable size. Mr. Jenkins has pointed out that there is no evidence that figurines of this particular type were made in Britain in Roman times. But the plastic modelling of the neck as shown in the cast made from the Horsepath mould supports the view that the heads produced from it were for figures in the round.

If the outer face had been found alone without the classical matrix, it might have been thought to be medieval. But Mr. E. M. Jope, who has been consulted, says that he knows nothing medieval at all like the inner head and can think of no use to which such a mould could have been put in medieval times. Local clay was employed by tobacco-pipe makers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries<sup>10</sup> and was considered suitable in the reign of Queen Anne for the production of 'gargils and antick models'.<sup>11</sup> This object might be said to combine the qualities of both on its obverse and reverse respectively. But it was found in close juxtaposition to so many fragments of Romano-British sherds, mostly mortaria with prominent bead-rims and

<sup>8</sup> In a letter date 25th February, 1953, Mr. Jenkins mentions a horned head (of Pan?) forming the lower attachment of the handle of a jug from Canterbury and suggests that heads from the Horsepath mould might alternatively, if less probably, have fulfilled that function (cf. Déchelette, *op. cit.* pl. viii, no. 1; Grimes, *op. cit.*, p. 130, no. 2, fig. 57). The clay head of Jupiter Ammon found at Canterbury (*Arch. Cant.*, liii (1940), 119, 132, 133, fig. 63, pl. i) was applied to the side of a bowl, just below the rim, and is much smaller and flatter than the Horsepath head, which can hardly have been used in this way. For a crudely modelled clay male bust attached to the wall of a vase see Grimes, *op. cit.*, p. 174, no. 239, fig. 75).

<sup>9</sup> Gose, *op. cit.*, p. xx, nos. 272-3. The same purpose may well have been served by a mould with a classical head found at Headington Wick, once in Llewellynn Jewitt's collection, but now impossible to trace (*Journal of the Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, vi (1851), 55). Again, the mask found at Pevensey (*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, n. ser. lii (1909), 93, pl. viii) might have been applied to the neck of a jug. The crude terracotta head found in the grounds of Cuddesdon Palace (Ash. Mus. 1930.6) is clearly the neck of a large jug (cf. Bushe Fox, *Richborough*, ii (Res. Rep. Soc. Ant., vii (1928)), pl. xxxiii, no. 184; Grimes, *op. cit.*, p. 130, no. 3, fig. 57; *Festschrift für Rudolf Egger*, ii (52) (1953), 213, fig. 1). The head of a child (?), worked in high relief in the centre of a grey clay disc, found at Sandford, Oxon., and now in the Ashmolean Museum (1886.1604a; *Archaeologia*, lxxii (1922), 231, fig. 3k), would seem to belong to a different category. It could have been a votive object.

<sup>10</sup> Plot wrongly thought that the industry was defunct; *Natural History of Oxfordshire* (1705), 255.

<sup>11</sup> T. Cox, *Magna Britannia* (1727), iv, 411.

## NOTES AND NEWS

flanges,<sup>12</sup> that it is improbable that its date is very far removed from the late third century.

The mould was evidently intended for local use, for the masses of pottery and kiln-material found, leave little doubt that it was a kiln-site. The object might have been imported from the continent for casting on this site. But the appearance of the clay at least suggests that a local potter was responsible for the mould, whether or not the inspiration for the interior head was derived from some more sophisticated centre, perhaps in Gaul.<sup>13</sup> At any rate the Horsepath find, as being a mould for 'face-jugs,' or figurines, with exterior head, would seem to be unique, so far as is known at present.<sup>14</sup>

The contrast between the two sides of the mould provides an almost symbolic reflection of the two sides of Romano-British life. On the one side is a conventional, competent, mass-produced memento of Mediterranean culture, and on the other what one might almost call a spontaneous caricature of a Dobunian's face.

MARK HASSALL.

### A THIRD CENTURY HOARD OF ROMAN COINS FROM EWELME

In January, 1953, during the planting of fruit trees, a pot containing a late third century hoard of 202 coins was discovered about 300 yards south of Ewelme House (Nat. Grid 41/674889). Through the cooperation of Col. W. D. Hall of Ewelme House the hoard was recovered substantially intact and has been generously presented by him to the Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum.

The hoard is of a well-known type which includes large numbers of the coins of Gallienus, Claudius II and the Gallic usurpers, but discriminates against the reformed coinages of Aurelian and his successors (cf. H. Mattingly, 'The Clash of the Coinages', in *Studies in Roman economic and social history in honour of A. C. Johnson*, 1951). An unusual feature, however is the low representation of Carausius compared with the substantial number of Allectus. Three apparently unpublished coins of the reign of Carausius are described below and illustrated on PL. XX, A. An imperfectly recorded hoard found near Ewelme in 1722 covers a very similar period except for the absence of Allectus (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 327).

The coins of Allectus have suffered little wear, which suggests that the date of burial was not far from A.D. 296 and that the occasion was connected with Diocletian's far-reaching reform of the imperial coinage in that year.

The base of a pot of grey ware which had contained the coins was recovered. The smoothness of the broken upper edges shows that the breaks are not recent. Fragments of a pot of thinner clay were also found, perhaps a covering sherd. No other traces of ancient occupation were observed in the excavation for neighbouring fruit trees.

In the following list references are to Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman imperial coinage*, v, pts. 1 and 2.

Roman  
Gallienus : 164  $\frac{1}{2}$  (1), 207  $\frac{1}{2}$  (1), 214  $\frac{XI}{2}$  (1), 256  $\frac{T}{2}$  (1), 283 (CONS)  $\frac{1}{A}$   
(Sole reign)  
(1), 284  $\frac{1}{2}$  (1), 287 (obv. GALLIENVS AVG)  $\frac{1}{E}$  (1).

7

<sup>12</sup> J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter*, I (Res. Rep. Soc. Ant. 1 (1913)), 80, fig. 20.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. the classical masks figured by Déchelette, *op. cit.*, pp. 224-7, figs. 101-3, 107, 108-20.

<sup>14</sup> Mr. Jenkins, who has made a special study of figurine-moulds, both in Britain and on the continent, can quote no parallel.

# NOTES AND NEWS

Claudius II:	18 $\frac{1}{1}$ (1), 40/41 mm. ? (1), 52 $\frac{1}{1}$ (1), 66 $\frac{1}{1}$ (1), 81 $\frac{H}{1}$ (1), 172 $\frac{1}{P}$ (1), 186 $\frac{1}{II}$ (1), 261 $\frac{1}{1}$ (2, one of rough fabric), 266 $\frac{1}{1}$ (1, rough fabric), barbarous imitation of 261 (1).	11
Tacitus :	30 $\frac{C}{1}$ (1).	1
Probus :	84 $\frac{1}{II}$ (1), 158 $\frac{1}{R \times Z}$ (1), cf. 178 $\frac{1}{R B}$ ? (obv. IMP C PROBVS P F AVG) (1).	3
Maximian :	399 $\frac{1}{A}$ (1).	1
<i>Gallic and British</i>		
Postumus :	56/57 (1), 58 (1), 295 (1), 316 $\frac{P}{1}$ (2), 318 $\frac{P}{1}$ (2), 328 (1).	8
Marius :	17 (1).	1
Victorinus :	59 (3), 61 PROVIDENTIA (1), 75 (1), 78 (9), 114 $\frac{1}{1}$ (1), 114 $\frac{*}{1}$ (5), 118 $\frac{1}{1}$ (2), 118 $\frac{V}{1}$ (9), 122 (4), uncertain (1).	36
Tetricus I :	49, stg. l, rev. legend ends—AVG N (1), 56 (6), 71 (3), 80 (10), 86/88 or 90 (6), 88 (3), 90 (4), 100 $\frac{1}{1}$ (4), 130/136 (4), 135 ESV (1), 136 (1), 141/142 (3), 148 (4), uncertain (7).	57
Tetricus II :	248 $\frac{1}{1}$ (3), 254/259 (5, two on thick flans), 260 (2), 270 (14), 272 (4), uncertain (4).	32
Carausius :	880 (1), not in <i>RIC</i> , obv. hd. r. rad., bust dr. cuir., IMP CAR [ ]; rev. Roma (?), helmeted, seated l. on round shield, holds rudder (?) in r. hand and cornucopiae in l., FELICIT [ ] $\frac{1}{1}$ (PL. XX A, 1).	2
Diocletian : (struck by Carausius)	not in <i>RIC</i> , obv. hd. r. rad., bust dr. cuir., IMP C DIOCLETIANVS P F AVG ; rev. Hilaritas stg. l. holding palm and cornucopiae, HILARITAS AVGGG $\frac{S}{MLXXI}$ (1) (PL. XX A, 2).	1
Maximian : (struck by Carausius)	not in <i>RIC</i> , obv. hd. r. rad., bust cuir., IMP C MAXIMIANVS P F AVG ; rev., Spes walking l, holding flower and raising robe, SPES AVGGG $\frac{S}{MLXXI}$ (1) (PL. XX A, 3).	1
Allectus :	33 $\frac{S}{ML}$ (3), 33 $\frac{S}{ML}$ (1), 55, galley l., with mast, (7), 55, galley r., no mast (1), 105 $\frac{S}{C}$ (1), 124, galley r. (2), 128, galley l. (4), 129, galley l. (1), 130, galley l. (1). Uncertain mints : LAETITIA AVG (1), VIRTUS AVG, galley l. (2), galley types (2), flan (23 mm.) deliberately rubbed almost smooth, visible only ]NT[ $\frac{1}{ML}$ , probably <i>RIC</i> 36 (1).	27
Uncertain and fragments (including one flan (23 mm.) deliberately rubbed smooth).		14

Total 202

C. M. KRAAY.



## NOTES AND NEWS

### A BRONZE STRAP-END OF c. A.D. 900 FROM SOULDERN, OXON.

The late Saxon bronze strap-end (PL. XX, D, FIG. 49), was turned up by the rector of Souldern, the Rev. H. G. Benson, in the rectory garden in 1949. It presents no special features. The date is c. A.D. 875-900. The strap-ends found with coins in the Cuerdale, Lancs., hoard (deposited probably in A.D. 911) the Trewhiddle Hoard (deposited c. A.D. 875) and the Sevington, Wilts. hoard (deposited A.D. 878-90) offer good general parallels. A closer parallel is the well-known strap-end from Talnotrie, Kirkcudbrightshire, figured in J. Brøndsted, *Early English Ornament* (1949), p. 131, fig. 108. This was also found with coins which date the deposition to c. A.D. 900. The strap-end has been lent by Mr. Benson to the Ashmolean Museum.

R. L. S. BRUCE-MITFORD.



FIG. 49

[SOULDERN, OXON.

Late Saxon strap-tag found in the rectory garden (p. 236).

Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ .



FIG. 50

CORNBURY PARK, OXON.

Neck of glass bottle late 17th to early 18th century, with wrythen grooves. (p. 236)

Scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

### A GLASS BOTTLE NECK FROM CORNBURY PARK

FIG. 50 illustrates a fragment of the neck of a glass bottle of olive-green tone with iridescent surface recently found in Cornbury Park by Mr. Charles Elton and given to the Ashmolean Museum by the owner of the Park, Mr. Oliver Watney, J.P. (A.M. 1953-54). The fragment comes from the neck of what would be a normal glass bottle of late seventeenth or early eighteenth century date, were it not for the existence of regular wrythen grooves upon it. Occasionally these, and later, bottles have one or more straight or wrythen grooves running from the lip down, which are clearly accidental hollows that occurred when the neck was being fashioned. The grooves on this example, however, seem too regular to be accidental, and we must assume that they were intentional, though still presumably made by twisting the neck while it was being fashioned. If so, it is a rare if not an unique feature. It is unfortunate that the lip, which might have provided evidence to solve the problem, is missing. I, therefore, publish this note in the hope that a more complete specimen exists elsewhere which will be brought forward for comparison. D. B. HARDEN.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### COLLEGE ARCHIVES

The late Dr. H. E. Salter estimated that there were some 50,000 medieval deeds in college muniment rooms. Many of these are catalogued, but the catalogues of only a few colleges are accessible outside the colleges. The Oxfordshire Committee of the National Archives Register would welcome any voluntary help from people who can type accurately, so that it can gradually make copies of catalogues available in the Bodleian Library, the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and in counties where colleges have property.

The secretary of the Oxfordshire committee is Miss Hutchinson, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, 35 Beaumont Street. On its inception it was the declared policy of *Oxoniensia* to render archives of the colleges more accessible. Members of the Society now have an opportunity to implement this policy if they should meet competent people, who can make any time available for useful voluntary work.

W. O. HASSALL.

### STOWOOD

Stowood lies at the junction of the Roman road from Dorchester to Alchester and the road from Wheatley Bridge to Islip, which was itself a Roman road according to the evidence of a Saxon charter about Cuddesdon. The boundaries of the charter were misinterpreted by Grundy but tally with the early nineteenth century parish boundaries of Cuddesdon and include three field names which are still current.

Royal Oak farm was a public house until the nineteenth century, and, under the *alias* of Stockherst was the point at which Anthony Wood caught a coach on more than one occasion. The whereabouts of Stockherst is indicated by Hearne. As a point where Roman roads crossed it is strange that the only Roman finds recorded here in the V.C.H. gazetteer of Roman remains in Oxfordshire are three coins noted by Wood (*V.C.H. Oxon.*, i, 337), for the cross-roads would have been more important before the decline of the road to Alchester. Actually an urn of coins was found in 1647 by one Marton of Odington, butcher, who 'sold them to a scholar of C.C.C. Mr. Samuel Lee and Mr. Charles Moorton of Wadham had most of them'. One may have been a coin of Constantine minted in 330 to judge from the fact that it was described as 'of Romulus and Remus'. These facts were recorded by Wood (*Life and Times*, i, 265-6), but as he described the site as 'in Stockherst wood near Stanton St. John's' the association of the hoard with Stowood has passed unremarked.

W. O. HASSALL.

### ST. PETER-IN-THE-EAST, OXFORD

In June, 1952, the church of St. Peter-in-the-East celebrated its eighth centenary of parochial life. The present church was built shortly after the Norman Conquest, probably on the site of an earlier church, and was certainly finished by 1152, the builder being Robert D'Oilly, governor of Oxford. From his heirs it passed to the Crown, and in 1266 Henry III presented it to Walter de Merton, founder of Merton College, which is still patron of the living.

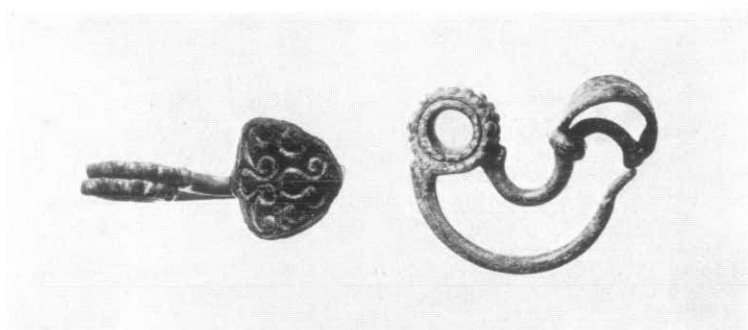
Part of the celebrations consisted of a four-day exhibition of some of the treasures of the church, including the church plate with the magnificent Elizabethan chalice. Other exhibits showed the development of the building, and the place which the church occupied in civic life. Church records extending back to 1559 were also on view.

JOAN R. KIRK.

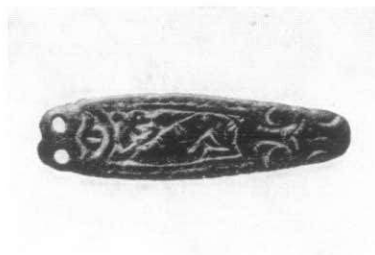
PLATE XX



B



C



D

- A. EWELME, OXON: three bronze coins of Carausius from a hoard of the late 3rd century A.D. (p. 235)  
 B. ABINGDON, BERKS: Bellarmine jug, 2nd half of 17th century, from Bridge Street (p. 227).  
 C. ISLIP, OXON.: Bronze brooch of Beckley type, Early Iron Age, from Middle Hill Field (p. 217).  
 D. SOULDERN, OXON.: bronze strap-tag, late Saxon (p. 236).

Scale: A, C, D,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; B,  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

Phk. : Ashmolean Museum  
 NOTES AND NEWS

PLATE XXI



A



B



C



D



E



F

G

A-C. HORSEPATH, OXON.: three views of white clay mould, Roman period (pp. 231 ff.).

D, E. HORSEPATH, OXON.: two views of plaster cast from the mould (pp. 231 ff.).

F. COLCHESTER, ESSEX: pottery head from the neck of a jug, Roman period (p. 233).

G. CAMBRIDGE (CASTLE HILL): top of jug, Roman period, showing moulded head in position (p. 233).

Scale:  $\frac{2}{3}$