

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

A. PREHISTORIC, ROMAN, AND ANGLO-SAXON

Abingdon, Berks. An outer ditch of the Neolithic causewayed camp (see *Ant. J.*, VII, 438-64, VIII, 461-77) was discovered by Mr. H. J. Case in St. Helen's Estate, Radley Road (41/511984), and, with the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, a section was excavated. The results help to clarify the sequence of occupation, and will be published.

Asthall, Oxon. Mr. Bob Arnold reported the discovery of a bronze pin with decorated head in the field where the O.U.A.S. carried out excavations in 1947 (42/285112) (*Oxon.*, XI/XII, p. 163). The pin is now in the Ashmolean Museum (1954.16).

A large bronze stud decorated with millefiori enamel was found in a field north-east of Akeman Street. It is also in the Ashmolean Museum (1954.46).

Bloxham, Oxon. Drifts and tunnels of nineteenth-century ironstone mines were found while digging drainage connections, north-west of the minor cross-roads at 42/427356.

Chadlington, Oxon. A microlithic core (Ashmolean Museum, 1954.532) was reported by Mr. F. W. Watts as found south-west of the cross-roads to the north of the village (42/315248).

Charlbury, Oxon. Three skeletons, described as huddled together, were reported found during road-widening adjoining the vicarage orchard north of the churchyard (42/355195).

Dorchester, Oxon. Three skeletons—one extended and two contracted—were reported found during alterations at Brown Bros. Garage, across the main road from and south-west of the Abbey (41/578942).

Mr. K. Welch reported further finds of Roman, and two Iron Age, sherds in his garden in Watling Lane (see *Oxon.*, XVII/XVIII, 223 f.).

Elsfield, Oxon. A large collection of flints was made by Mr. A. G. Fenwick from Wadley Hill (42/555097), including a microlith and microlithic cores (Ashmolean Museum, 1954.531).

Eynsham, Oxon. A collared urn sherd (Ashmolean Museum, 1954.530), medieval sherds, pack-horse shoes, stone net or fish-trap sinkers, and scraps of bone and iron were found in dredging the channel south-east of Pinkhill Farm (42/438070). Between the channel and farmhouse, medieval sherds have been found by Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Churchill in mounds, probably representing dredged material from this and other disused channels.

Faringdon, Berks. Mr. A. D. Passmore has kindly pointed out the semi-circle of marks which appear on PL. VII, B in about the middle of the field next to allotments between Faringdon Clump and the road (41/297956).

Horton-cum-Studley, Oxon. A fragment of a saddle-quern was found by Mr. R. W. Saunders at Ventfield Farm (around 42/583124).

Little Kimble, Bucks. Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. H. de B.

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Saunders in a field opposite Little Kimble Station (42/822067), near, but not on, the site of the Roman villa (*V.C.H. Bucks.*, II, 8).

Littlemore, Oxon. Building operations on an extension to the Littlemore Hospital, on the south-west side of the Oxford-Henley road, revealed quantities of Romano-British pottery (42/533024). Inspection of the site showed that one of the builders' trenches had cut through a pottery kiln, traces of which, and of the stokehole, showed in the sides of the trench. Most of the pottery recovered consisted of necks of screw-neck flagons, of the late 1st-early 2nd century A.D. There were also fragments of mortaria, some with meaningless stamps on the rims.

The kiln fits in well with the group which includes the kilns at Rose Hill, Cowley, Sandford and Dorchester, and those which were found at the Churchill Hospital in 1953 (*Oxon.*, XVII/XVIII, pp. 224 ff.), and adds one more piece of evidence to the picture of a flourishing Roman pottery industry.

The pottery has been given to the Ashmolean Museum, through the kindness of Dr. Armstrong, the Superintendent of Littlemore Hospital.

Long Wittenham, Berks. An early Iron Age bone weaving-comb, with incised decoration, was found during gravel-digging on land belonging to St. John's College.

North Stoke, Oxon. A small barrow with a contracted inhumation burial with an 'A' Beaker, immediately north-west of the south end of the Cursus (41/608858), was excavated in advance of gravel-digging by Mr. H. W. Catling, with the kind permission of North Stoke Farms Ltd. A report will be published.

Oxford (Botanical Gardens). A well, probably early seventeenth-century or a little before was discovered immediately adjacent to the central intersection of paths.

Oxford (Churchill Hospital). A complete mortarium, red ware, 3rd-4th century A.D., was found on the kiln-site reported in *Oxon.* XVII/XVIII, 224 ff.

Oxford, Cornmarket Street. Various trenches were dug the length of this street, the deepest being east of its centre between Ship Street and Carfax, to re-lay drainage connections. The necessary timbering hindered observations, but it was noticed that at least 60 feet of the former excavation northwards from Carfax had been a continuous trench; from its filling came two small late Anglo-Saxon scramasax-type knives (Ashmolean Museum 1954.19-20), and the medieval finds described below. These and the other finds mentioned were mostly made by Mr. E. Paintin. From a point at least 60 feet south of Market Street northwards, it was reported that the former excavation had been a series of pits, the lengths of piping having been pushed through undisturbed gravel from one pit to the next. An antler pick (Ashmolean Museum 1954.1) was reported as found in one of these baulks of undisturbed gravel, about 50 feet south of the Market Street junction, where it had probably lain in an ancient pit. Only about 9 inches of modern road-metal was seen overlying the baulks, which suggested, together with the unweathered appearance of the gravel, that the street had been relevelled comparatively recently, when all traces of old surfaces had been removed.

Rotherfield Peppard, Oxon. Further Acheulian hand-axes and a Clactonian flake were found in ballast dug from the pit at Highlands Farm (41/742813), and will be the subject of a report in a forthcoming volume. (See *Oxon.* xv, 107, under *Henley-on-Thames*).

Russell's Water, nr. Nettlebed, Oxon. Flints were found by Mr. and Mrs. Cake, including microlithic cores from Fair Mead (41/895709), and the tip of a flint dagger

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of Beaker Culture type from the Inn garden (41/890711)—an important find from an area where Beaker Culture finds are likely but rare.

Standlake, Oxon. A group of five ring-ditch sites at 42/386045 were excavated by Mr. H. W. Catling in advance of gravel-digging; one was found to be surrounded by a circle of 20 post-holes—the first discovery of such a site in the Upper Thames valley. Primary finds were lacking, but Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age sherds were found in secondary positions in the fillings of the ditches. Four Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials were found to the south of the group. A report will be published.

Sunningwell, Berks. Animal bones, struck flints and Iron Age A sherds (Ashmolean Museum 1954.3) were found in a pit 2½ feet deep by 4 feet wide by more than 4 feet long, excavated by Mr. Porter in the garden at Ridgeway, Lincombe Lane, Boar's Hill (42/492009).

Woodstock, Oxon. A section of Akeman Street was seen at 42/436186 at the south-east corner of the junction of roads A34 and B4027, in a trench 3 feet in depth for water connections. The road metal was fine cornbrash rubble resting on the surface of the undisturbed cornbrash; its width was 15 feet and it was cambered to a height of 6 inches. About 10 feet from its southern edge was a trench parallel to the road, about 6 feet wide and more than 3 feet deep.

HUMPHREY CASE; JOAN R. KIRK.

B. MEDIEVAL NOTES

Cumnor, Berks. Dr. J. E. French reported the discovery of a green-glazed pitcher, probably late 14th-15th century, in his garden at 43 Leys Road.

Gosford, Oxon. An iron axe-head, of woodman's type with long narrow blade, and heel beneath the socket (cf. London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, FIG. 11, no. 1) possibly 13th-century in date, was dug up in the garden of Gosford House, and has been given to the Ashmolean Museum by Major A. Bramley (1953.780).

Sandford, Oxon. A bronze seal, pointed oval in shape, was dug up near Sandford. It bore the head of a monk to r., with, above, a hand with three fingers outstretched; legend, ✠ S. EADMVNDI ORINGSTED (1954.15).

Oxford, Cornmarket Street. Some medieval material was recovered from the filling of the former drainage trench near Carfax (see above). Of particular interest were a hone, and a spiked hanging lamp of pottery (Ashmolean Museum 1954.2b): there were also parts of an orange-yellow glazed tripod jug with strap handle inlaid with a twisted rope of clay (Ashmolean Museum 1954.2a,6a) probably late 12th or early 13th century (cp. *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1953), 36, FIG. 14, no. 1), and of a 12th century cooking pot (Ashmolean Museum 1954.23) of hard sandy grey fabric with thumb-impressed rim (cp. *Oxoniensia*, xvi (1953), 38, FIG. 15, no. 14). No true association of these objects was recorded, but the lamp and the hone still retain traces of a similar rather ochrous clayey soil whereas the other sherds retain traces of a much lighter gravelly soil of very general occurrence. There is thus some slight suggestion that the hone and lamp may have been associated in the same deposit.

The hone is of the blue-grey micaceous schist widely used for sharpening-stones in the Middle Ages (G. C. Dunning, in K. M. Kenyon, 'Jewry Wall Site, Leicester' (*Soc. Antiq. Res. Rep.*, xv, 230 f.)). There now seems to be some doubt as to the sources of this material, Professor K. C. Dunham and Mrs. J. E. Morey having recently suggested Anglesey or Scotland as at least as likely as the Rhineland or

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Brittany, hitherto assumed. But these hones have certainly been imported into the Oxford region from a considerable distance. This hone remains perfect, and was evidently hung from the belt by a thong through the hole, and used by holding the free end. The shape of the break at this end is due to a vein of quartzite crossing the schist diagonally.

The spiked lamp is of friable sandy fabric, gutted with many waterworn quartzite particles most 0.1 to 0.5 mm. across. The pale grey exterior surface has a harsh feel but the brown to black interior is much smoother. Similar fabric is to be found among the pottery from under the Oxford Castle Mound, and this lamp might well be 11th century. It is a useful addition to the Oxford series of pottery lamps, the only other spiked lamp recorded being of a harder sandy fabric (*Oxoniensia*, xv (1952), 59, FIG. 21, no. 1).
E. M. JOPE.

A ROMAN LEAD-GLAZED VESSEL FROM LITTLEMORE, OXFORDSHIRE

Among the material from Littlemore recovered in 1953 came the base of an olla of fine but rather harsh-surfaced fabric, on fracture the exterior half of the wall being reddish and the interior grey. The exterior surface bears a light rouletted all-over decoration and over it an olive-green cracked lead glaze (demonstrated spectrographically).

There can be no doubt from its form, decoration and fabric that this is a vessel of Roman date. The character of the lead glaze is no obstacle to such a date, as several groups of lead-glazed wares are now recognizable in Roman Britain (*Archaeological News Letter*, 2 (May 1950), 199). First there are the imported fine wares demonstrably of South Gaulish origin (St. Remy-en-Rollat); or the fine deep green-glazed two-handled jar of very Rhenish character from Corinium; these have been comparatively little studied but are at least not usually overlooked. At the other end of the scale there are lead-glazed wares of undoubted British manufacture, such as those being made at Holt, Denbighshire (W. F. Grimes, in *Y Cymmrodor*, xli (1930)), and the flagons recently described as apparently being glazed at Verulamium (*Trans. St. Albans Archit. and Archaeol. Soc.*, 1953, 84-6). Then there are local groups of glazed wares, such as those from the Hambleden Villa near Marlow (*Archaeologia*, lxxi (1920-1), 177), the two beakers and other vessels from Caerwent, Monmouthshire, or the vessels of various types but all bearing a similar brown treacly glaze from Knowle Bawdrip, Somerset. The brown lead-glazed butt-beakers and bowls imitating form 27 from Chichester (sealed in a late 1st century A.D. context) and Clausentum may, on the other hand, be imports (presumably from North Gaul), as such Sigillata forms were not apparently being much imitated in Britain at that date. It is very likely that the dark green lead-glazed wares from Margidunum and Brough were being made somewhere in the north Midlands. Some of the interesting types of lead-glazed vessels found on sites in East Anglia and at Richborough may have been imported from the Rhineland, though here again local manufacture in Britain is not to be ruled out, as some of them come from sites where the Rhenish pottery trade is very little in evidence as compared with the South Gaulish.

In the face of this accumulating evidence, it is unlikely that a vessel of such utility fabric as this from Littlemore was other than a British product, and presumably fairly local. Fragments of ollae bearing similar rouletted decoration and olive lead-

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glaze are to be found among the material from Silchester, and bowls bearing a very thin wash of olive glaze may be found on a number of sites in the south, from Chichester and Silchester and Rotherley (where General Pitt-Rivers recognized them as Romano-British—*Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, II, 160, PL. CXIV) to Somerset and South Wales.

Lead-glazed wares are a phenomenon of the earlier Roman period in Britain, and most examples are datable within the first 100 years or so of the occupation. Such a date would be in keeping with the Littlemore vessel. Fragments of this curious pottery, especially if small, are still treated with the utmost suspicion by excavators, and often relegated to dark corners. But rather coarse locally-produced brown or green lead-glazed wares are not in the least out of place in the earlier levels of Romano-British sites. They have an undoubted authenticity, and this material requires much further study before we can fully understand the pottery industry in Roman Britain. It may be found in the end that lead-glazed pottery was being locally produced in a small way in many different places. The glazing of vessels being a secondary and small-scale process, actual evidence of manufacture may often be inconspicuous, as it was at Verulamium.¹

E. M. JOPE.

THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BIX BRAND

The three photographs published as PL. VIII tell their own sad story. They all show the disused church of St. James, Bix Brand, near Henley-on-Thames. The first two were taken in 1905 and 1936, and were published, together with a photograph showing the church in 1875 by E. A. Greening Lamborn, in *Oxoniensia*, I, pl. XVIII. The third photograph, PL. VIII, c, was taken by Mr. C. B. Willcocks on 4 August 1954, and shows the rapid disappearance of the building under masses of vegetation. The church, a Norman one, which was unroofed and abandoned in 1875, is now almost invisible from the outside.

The Rector of Bix has formed a small Committee to investigate the possibility of clearing the church of some of the overgrowth, repairing the walls, and tidying the churchyard. It is to be hoped that his efforts may meet with more success than previous attempts, which have come to nothing. The church has also now been scheduled as an ancient monument.

JOAN R. KIRK.

'OLD WHEATLEY'

Cuddesdon and Garsington stand on a plateau below which lie Horspath and Wheatley. But on the plateau above Horspath and Wheatley are spots which early maps describe as Old Horspath and Old Wheatley. The former name is remembered locally and the latter is forgotten.

Olde Whateley is marked on a map of Wheatley in four sheets at All Souls of which the date is 1593 (FIG. 14). It stands half-way between *Coombe Woode* and *The waye from London to Oxenforde*, now in part called Wheatley High Street. The site is at the top of Ladder Hill but lies further east towards the Thame, due north of the centre of Coombe Wood.² In 1566 Miles Windsor,³ the antiquary fellow of Corpus,

¹ Further study on the sherds from Verulamium has shown that some of the hard resinous material on the outside contains lead oxide finely dispersed through it. It therefore seems most probable that the lead oxide for forming the glaze was being applied to the surface of the pots suspended in a gum, which was burnt away during firing in the glazing kiln.

² The village may have been the lost village of Coombe, which is mentioned in documents in association with Chilworth, in Great Milton parish, on the opposite side of the river Thame.

³ In his *Collectiones Variæ de Academia Oxon.*, MS. C.C.C. 266, fol. 127.

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noted that Old Wheatley was the site of considerable ruins. Nearby are some small early enclosures such as those which generally occur round a village and it may be remarked that the boundaries of these (as of the wood) have in many cases survived to this day. Further east, beyond *A way leading from Whateley Bridge towards Shottover*, an almost rectangular patch is conspicuous for remaining uncultivated among the arable strips at the junction of *Middle Fielde* and *Upper Fielde*. If, as may be supposed, this marks the site of the Wheatley Roman villa, the reason for its location is indicated on the map by the presence of a water supply to feed the bath.⁴ This water rises in *The hedge dividing the fieldes called Radcombe Hede*. Whether or not the proximity to the Roman house of an early Saxon cemetery (containing bones of mixed races and Roman objects) is significant of possible racial survivals, a landmark in 1211 in *Middelfurlang* was called the 'Old Monastery';⁵ and the ruins may also have suggested the nineteenth-century name 'Castle Hill' for the area now called 'Jacky's Hill' and the nineteenth-century belief that here stood not a fictitious old monastery but a perhaps equally imaginary adulterine castle of the reign of Stephen.

W. O. HASSALL.

RECORD OF A B.A. EXAMINATION

In the Emeris deposit in the Lincolnshire Record Office there is an Oxford University printed class-list for Easter Term 1813 which has written on the dorse a personal account of his examination by one of the successful candidates. He was Thomas Grantham, and, in company with J. G. Lockhart and Henry H. Milman, he gained a first-class in *Literae Humaniores*. Grantham was son of the Reverend John Grantham, incumbent of Ashby-cum-Fenby and Cadney, Co. Lincoln, was fellow of Magdalen College 1813-31, bursar 1822, tutor 1827, dean of divinity 1828 and rector of Bramber-cum-Botolph's, Sussex, 1831-64.⁶ Grantham's sister Elizabeth married the Reverend John Emeris, incumbent of Staughton Parva, Co. Bedford and of Alvingham and Cockerington, Co. Lincoln (ob. 1831) from whose family this deposit came.

The account runs thus :

'An Account of Thomas Grantham's last Examination for his Batchelor's Degree May the 20th 1813 seven Days after he had completed his nineteenth year ; when he obtained a place in the first Class of University Honours in Oxford.....

Ethics Nichomachian and Rhetoric of Aristotle as Sciences.

Books *Greek and Latin*

A Book & a half of the Hellenics of Xenophon Livy
Thucydides Tacitus.
Sophocles Virgil
Pindar Delphin orations of Cicero
Aeschylus
Homer's Odessey (sic).
Greek Testament.

⁴ Plan in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 322.

⁵ H. E. Salter, *The Feet of Fines for Oxfordshire, 1195-1291*, p. 46. The same document mentions *le Ho*, though the earliest date noted for *The Howe* is 1871 in M. Gelling, *The Place-Names of Oxfordshire*, I, 194. For a facsimile see *The Gardeners' Chronicle*, no. 3555 (26 Feb. 1955), 83.

⁶ J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*, 2nd series, II, 551.



FIG. 14

WHEATLEY, OXON.

Part of a map dated 1593, showing the eastern half.

By courtesy of All Souls College

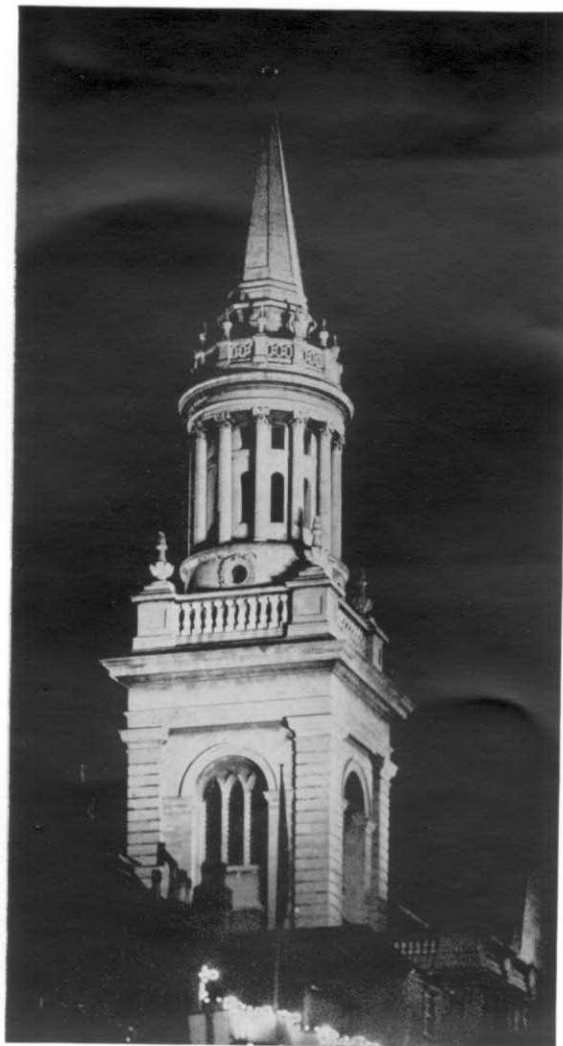
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THE PROCESS OF THE EXAMINATION

On my going into the Schools, (as my viva voce or public Examination did not come on untill the fourth person) A part in the Spectator was given me to translate into Latin & when that was finish'd, some Questions in Logic were likewise answer'd on paper, about one o'Clock it became my turn to answer openly : Then I was first given a Part in the Greek Testament to construe, after having been asked to explain the Parable of sending Labourers into the Vineyard & other Questions arising immediately from the Verses construed a transition was made to other principal points in Divinity & these required to be proved by Texts. after satisfying the Examiners in this Part the Ethics of Aristotle were given me to construe and I was afterwards examined as to the System as likewise of the Rhetoric : different Questions arising from these employ'd the time till three o'clock when the first Days Examination closed

At ten the next Morning parts from the different Classics above mention'd were selected for me to construe and from the Books that admitted it historical & geographical Questions were put. On this Day the examination was public altogether except having a part in Sophocles to translate in order to gain time for others to be examined. The whole was finally closed at two o'clock when I was allowed to leave the Schools

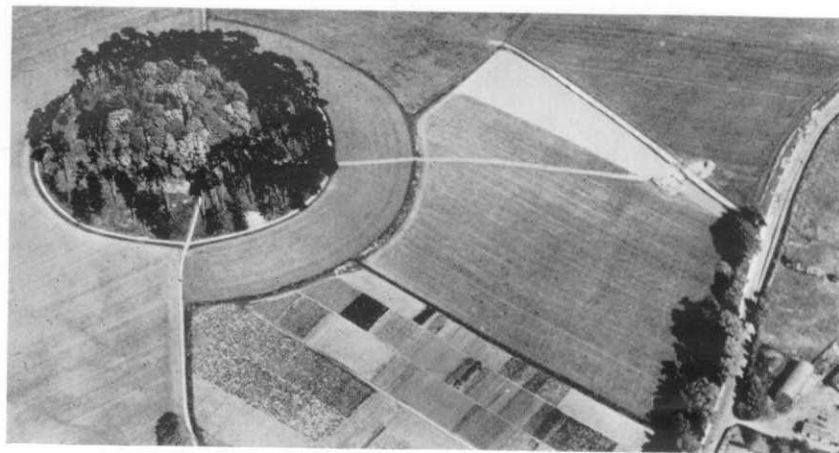
THOS GRANTHAM.
D. M. WILLIAMSON.



A

A. ALL SAINTS CHURCH, OXFORD:
THE STEEPLE AS COMPLETED IN 1720

OXONIENSIA, VOL. XIX (1954)



B

B. FARINGDON, BERKS.

Air-photograph showing semi-circle of marks in field between Faringdon Clump and the road (p. 117)

Ph.: the late G. W. G. Allen

PLATE VII

Plate VIIA: COLVIN, ARCHITECTS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, OXFORD
Plate VIIB: NOTES AND NEWS

PLATE VIII



A



B



C

THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BIX BRAND

A. In 1905.

B. In 1936.
(p. 121)

C. In 1954

Phh.: A, Rev. T. O. Floyd
B, Mr. P. S. Spokes
C, Mr. C. B. Willcocks
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