

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

Bampton, Oxon. Sherds of 2nd century Romano-British coarse wares were found by Mr. and Mrs. Shergold on spoil-heaps of foundation-trenches for pylons south-east of Weald. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.67. National Grid : 42/314016.)

Dr. F. H. Hampton reported that sherds of 2nd-4th century Romano-British coarse wares were found in the spoil-heap of a drainage-trench running north and turning north-west across the Pieces. About 2 ft. of made-ground was reported as overlying loam. The loam represented the ancient top-soil ; in it were found the lower part of a human skeleton and a skull, possibly of a dog. Early Iron Age and Romano-British finds were made in the old gravel-pit north-east of the trench in 1893-4.¹ Dr. Hampton points out, for the guidance of future researchers, that a dancing bear was buried in this pit about 40 years ago. (National Grid : 42/319033.)

Cassington, Oxon. An Anglo-Saxon settlement was found in part of John H. Brown's gravel-pit at Purwell Farm by Mr. F. H. G. Montagu-Puckle late in 1956, and was explored by him and Mr. B. V. Arthur throughout 1957. The floors of six huts were excavated by Mr. Montagu-Puckle in part of the pit east of the farm-house and north of the track leading to it from the Cassington-Bladon road (National Grid : About 42/445121). Five floors and a kiln were excavated by Mr. Arthur about 300 yards to the north-east in the same gravel-pit (National Grid : About 42/447123), and five more were seen in the same immediate area. A single floor was excavated by Mr. E. M. Jope about 150 yards to the north-west of Mr. Arthur's site. Oval and circular huts were found, but a sub-rectangular form was typical of all the sites, the floor dug a foot or less into the gravel and extending about 9 by 6 ft. with a post-hole at either extremity for the ridge of the roof. These floors, which were not stratified, may be compared to those excavated by the late Mr. E. T. Leeds at Sutton Courtenay, Berks.² Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were discovered in the kiln and the floors. A bronze saucer-brooch and a disc-brooch were among other finds from the floors.

In part of the gravel-pit south of the farm-house, pits containing sherds of Early Iron Age and Romano-British coarse pottery were excavated by Mr. Montagu-Puckle and by Mr. T. H. Gee and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. (National Grid : About 42/443117.) An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered in this part of the gravel-pit south of the farm-house in 1941 and excavated by Mr. Leeds and Mrs. M. Riley.³ It may have been the cemetery of the settlement to the north-east.

Cumnor, Berks. A core of Mesolithic type and small blades were found south of Chilswell farm by Lt.-Col. R. H. Cunnington.⁴ (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.101. National Grid : 42/492032 or nearabouts.)

¹ *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, I (1939), 331.

² *Archaeologia*, LXXIII (1923), 147-92 ; *Ibid.*, LXXVI (1927), 59-80 ; *Ibid.*, XCII (1947), 79-93.

³ *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 62ff.

⁴ Other finds are reported in *Oxoniensia*, XVII-XVIII (1952-3), 12-13, 223.

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Dorchester, Oxon. Ditches with early and late Romano-British pottery were excavated by Miss M. A. Smith in Messrs. Amey's gravel-pit, in the neighbourhood of crop-marks noted by Major G. W. G. Allen in 1938.⁵ Nearby, four graves with skeletons were excavated by Mr. M. H. Wilmott and by Mr. N. P. Bayne and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. One grave contained two Anglo-Saxon iron knives. (Ashmolean Museum : 1958.9, 10. National Grid : 42/573945.)

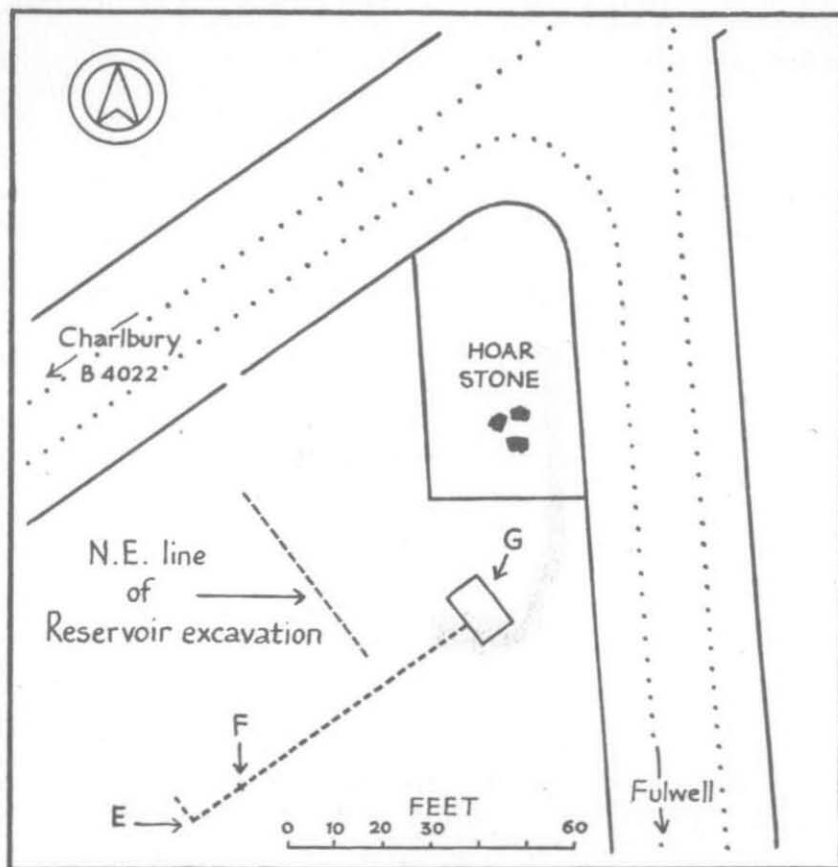


FIG. 38

Plan of the Hoar Stone burial chamber and adjacent excavations

Enstone Oxon. (1) A bifacially-worked flint implement, probably Neolithic, was found by Mr. J. Pearson when ploughing at Leys Farm. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.102. National Grid : 42/380260 or nearabouts.)

⁵ *Oxoniensia*, III (1938), fig. 20, f. p. 170. See also Crawford, *Antiquity*, I (1927), 471-4.

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(2) Excavations connected with a reservoir constructed near the Hoar Stone were completed by digging a soakaway and trench, 6 ft. 6 ins. and 2 ft. 6 ins. deep respectively (FIG. 38). At E a ditch 5 ft. 6 ins. wide and 2 ft. 3 ins. deep crossed the corner of the trench, and at F a ditch or pit 5 ft. wide and 2 ft. 6 ins. deep ran north-north-east. Conditions in the soakaway did not favour observations, but a ditch more than 10 ft. wide with sloping sides and about 3 ft. deep was seen at G running south-west.

The features at E and F may be recent plantation ditches like those reported in the previous Notes and News.⁶ The feature at G may conceivably have belonged to the Hoar Stone monument and been part of a quarry-ditch of a small Long Barrow running north-east to south-west. The burial chamber would then lie on its south-eastern flank towards its north-eastern end. But this interpretation is open to question since no parallel ditch north-west of the chamber was seen in section in the north-east face of the excavation for the reservoir.

In comparing FIG. 19 of the previous Notes and News with FIG. 38 of the present report, it should be noted that whereas FIG. 19 was taken from the Civil Engineer's plan, the soakaway is plotted on FIG. 38 from actual measurements. These showed that the south-east line of the excavation for the reservoir was some 6 to 8 ft. north-west of that shown on FIG. 19. This involves displacement of features C and D.

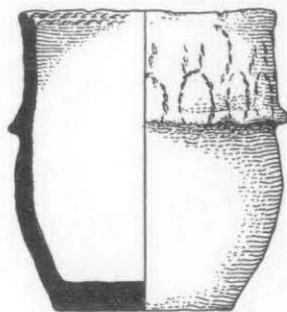


FIG. 39
Collared urn from Eynsham
Scale : $\frac{1}{2}$

Eynsham, Oxon. Two ring-ditches were discovered by Mr. A. G. Fenwick in John H. Brown's gravel-pit on City Farm. One was already half-destroyed and yielded no finds; the other to the north enclosed a Bronze Age cremation-cemetery which was excavated by Messrs. N. P. Bayne, H. J. Case, A. G. Fenwick and T. H. Gee. The burials were in shallow pits with charcoal and potsherds. Four restorable collared urns were found.⁷ One pit contained fragments of a stone axe with a shaft-hole. Samples of charcoal from a pit which contained the urn shown in FIG. 39 were submitted to Professor H. de Vries of Groningen University for age-determination by radioactive carbon (C14). Professor de Vries pronounced the

⁶ *Oxoniensia*, xxii (1957), 104-6.

⁷ *Report of the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum* (1957), pl. vi, a. Ashmolean Museum Accession nos., from left to right: 1957-55, 63, 56, 54.

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age to be $3,200 \pm 60$ years. A date in the 12th century B.C. or slightly after accords with expectations. (National Grid : 42/431115.)

Lechlade, Glos. The site of a Romano-British building was discovered in Messrs. Amey's gravel-pit near Little Lemhill farm. Pits and ditches were also found with finds including native Belgic wares of the Early Iron Age. The excavations were made by Mrs. M. U. Jones for the Ministry of Works. (National Grid : 42/217008.)

An iron trivet, $6\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high, was found in the same pit during gravel-digging (Ashmolean Museum : 1958.53). Mr. A. J. Baxter reported that it came from an area which yielded Romano-British sherds. (National Grid : 42/218008.)

Little Rollright, Oxon. A pounder of ironstone, $13\frac{3}{4}$ ins. long, was found by Mr. J. W. Lewis when ploughing north of the Little Compton-Rollright road. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.128. National Grid : 42/278307.)

Long Wittenham, Berks. A silver bracelet of Viking type (FIG. 40), 10th century A.D., formed of two twisted strands with soldered spherical terminals, was found by Miss Y. M. Ward in her garden between Lammas Eyot and the village street. Mr. E. M. Jope has kindly drawn attention to a parallel from Ballacamaish, Isle of Man.⁸ (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.61. National Grid : 41/544937.)



FIG. 40
Silver bracelet from Long Wittenham
Scale : $\frac{1}{4}$

Nettlebed, Oxon. Mrs. H. O. D. Cake reported many flint flakes, including blades, and cores of microlithic type from the Recreation Ground. Many Mesolithic flints were recovered from this area in the early years of the century by A. E. Peake.⁹ (National Grid : 41/702873.)

North Leigh, Oxon. (1) Early Iron Age sherds of Belgic ware were reported by the Witney Stone Co. Ltd., as found in a shallow pit in their quarry. The pit had already been quarried away and no further early features were to be seen. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.136. National Grid : 43/387142.)

(2) Traces of several periods of construction were discovered at the Roman villa at East End during excavations at part of the north wing carried out for the Ministry of Works by Mrs. H. O'Neil.¹⁰ The earliest occupation of the area was represented

⁸ Bjørn and Shetelig, *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland*, iv (1940), 53, fig. 23.

⁹ *Proc. Prehistoric Soc. East Anglia*, II (1914-18), 71-80; *Oxoniensia*, xvii-xviii (1952-3), 13; *Oxoniensia*, xx (1955), 91, for implement found elsewhere in Nettlebed.

¹⁰ *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, I (1939), 316-18; *Oxoniensia*, viii-ix (1943-4), 197-8.

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by post-holes associated with Early Iron Age sherds of Belgic ware. (National Grid : 42/397155.)

Oxford, Beaumont Street. Mr. D. Sturdy reported that a grave was found under the north side of the road immediately west of the Playhouse, during excavations in 1956 for Post Office telephones. Workmen reported that the grave contained a skeleton extended on its back with feet to the north-west. It probably formed part of the Carmelite cemetery previously discovered in 1938.¹¹

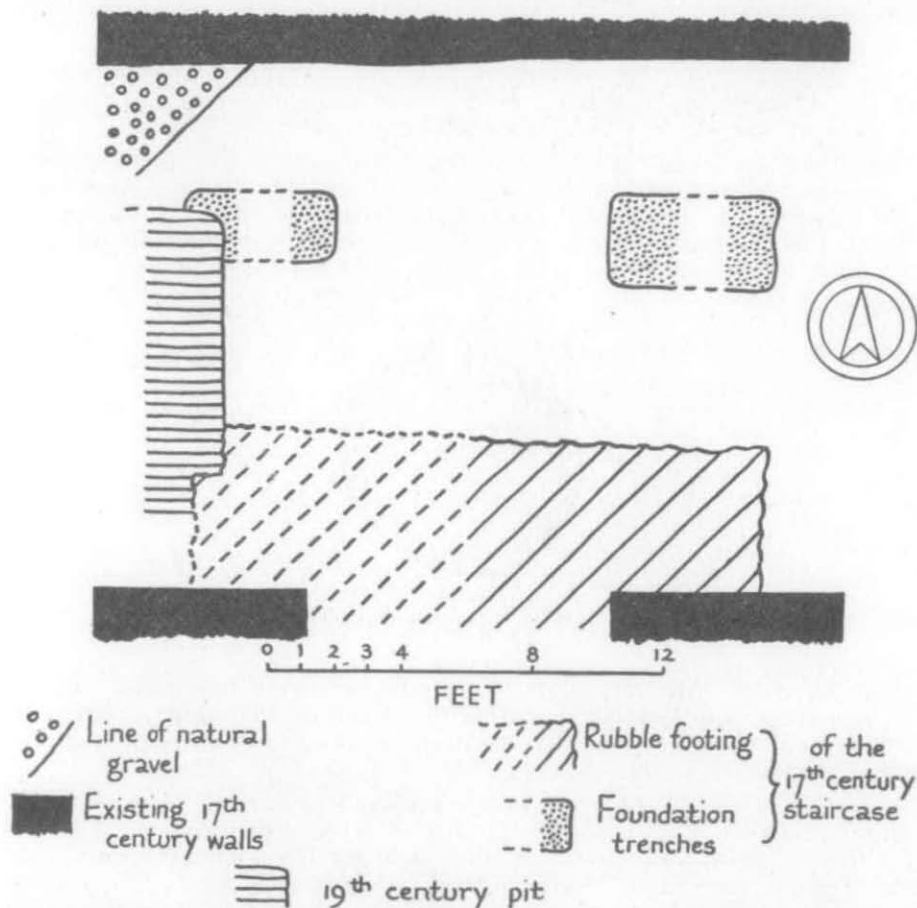


FIG. 41

Plan of features in the forecourt of the Old Ashmolean

Oxford, Broad Street. Mr. D. Sturdy reported that excavations for the new outside stairs of the Old Ashmolean showed the forecourt occupying the top of the

¹¹ *Oxoniensia*, III (1938), 173-5 ; Hurst, *Oxford Topography* (1899), xxxix, 101.

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filling of the city ditch (FIG. 41), with one edge of the ditch revealed by undisturbed gravel to the north-west.¹² In the filling of the ditch were revealed the foundations and trenches of the former stairs, and a rubbish pit containing fragments of rubber hose of a type used in chemical experiments. The pit presumably represented the activities of Professor Daubeny (Aldrichian Professor of Chemistry, 1822-1855), who extended the Laboratory in the basement into the forecourt with 'ugly projections . . . constructed at great expense . . .'.¹³

Mr. F. Maddison kindly comments that the former stairs were demolished in 1864.¹⁴ They consisted of a straight flight upwards from street-level to a platform in front of the main door¹⁵; two flights descended from street-level to the basement,¹⁶ but whether they were curved or angular is uncertain.¹⁷ As rebuilt in 1958 the stairs are angular.

Oxford, Christ Church. Medieval stratified deposits were found in 1956 by Messrs. N. P. Bayne and D. Sturdy and other members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society in a cutting to the west of Peckwater Quadrangle. Gravel floors dated by pottery of the 15th and 14th centuries were found between 7 and 8 ft. from the surface. Those overlay a 13th century pit which had been dug into some 4 ft. of 12th-11th century accumulation. Undisturbed gravel was found at about 12 ft. 6 ins. from the surface. The finds will be presented to the Ashmolean Museum.

Mr. D. Sturdy reports that the floors should be those of Eagle Hall near its street-front onto St. Edward or Vine Hall lane, which was the former continuation of Alfred Street southwards. The Hall was one of several in the area held by Oseney Abbey, the ground having been acquired around 1175.¹⁸ Between 1389 and 1417 Eagle Hall acquired Ape Hall, its southern neighbour.¹⁹ From the 1440s the Principals were mostly Welsh although the students are said to have been Irish lawyers.²⁰ The Hall was vacant between 1469 and 1479, and by 1498 was acquired by St. Edward Hall,²¹ its northern neighbour, a well-known haunt of Welsh lawyers.²²

Oxford, Cowley and Littlemore. Messrs. A. Millard and D. Sturdy reported that the sites of two Romano-British kilns were discovered during construction of the by-pass south and south-east of Oxford, the one north of Long Lane, the other west of the Henley road. Romano-British pottery, foundation trenches and patches of reddened clay were found. This area was a centre of pottery manufacture in Roman times.²³ See below, under *Stanford-in-the-Vale*. (National Grid: 42/547033, 42/535031.)

¹² A section of the ditch in the Clarendon Quadrangle is described in *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), 153ff.

¹³ Cox, *Recollections of Oxford* (1870), 85.

¹⁴ *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 15 October 1864; *Oxford Times*, 5 July 1881, letter from G. A. Rowell.

¹⁵ Early 18th century engraving by W. Williams, copy in Museum of the History of Science; vignette in Lhwyd, *Lithophylacii Britannici Ichonographica* (1760); plan, c. 1830, in Bodleian Library, G. A. Oxon. b. 111, fol. 236r.

¹⁶ Gunther, *Early Science in Oxford*, iii (1925), 310 and reference.

¹⁷ Letter by F. McClan to C. F. Bell, 11 March 1920, in Ashmolean Museum Library, AMS 1; 19th century survey of the University by J. King under the direction of H. Dicks, in Bodleian Library, MS. Top. Oxon. a 23 (12) R.

¹⁸ Salter, *Cartulary of Oseney Abbey*, i (1929), 333-41.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, iii (1931), 184, 213.

²⁰ Wood, *History of the City of Oxford*, i (ed. A. Clark, 1889), 591, 639.

²¹ *Loc cit.* in note 19, 259, 280.

²² *Loc cit.* in note 20, 161, 591.

²³ *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, i (1939), map of 'Romano-British remains . . .'; *Oxoniensia*, i (1936), 94ff; *Ibid.*, vi-vii (1941-2), 9ff.

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Oxford, High Street. Mr. D. Sturdy reported that three graves were found under the south part of the road south-south-west from Magdalen College lodge, during excavations for Post Office telephones. The workmen reported that the graves were dug '5 ft. into clay' under 6 ft. of made ground, and that each contained a skeleton extended on its back with its feet to the east. In the 13th century, this area was probably part of a Jewish cemetery,²⁴ but in 1293 it was included in the cemetery of the Hospital of St. John.²⁵ Skeletons have previously been found nearby.²⁶

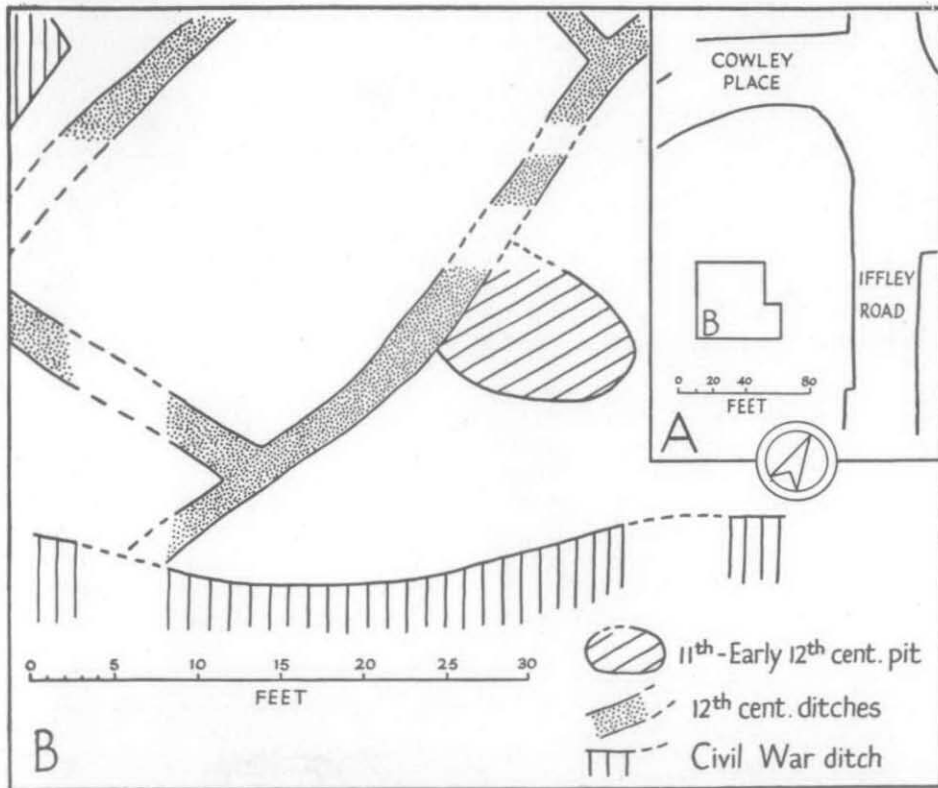


FIG. 42
Plan of features at Magdalen College School

Oxford, Magdalen College School. The building of the new Science Block gave the opportunity to members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society, under Messrs. P. J. Fowler and A. Millard, of examining an area at the junction of Cowley

²⁴ H. E. Salter, *A Cartulary of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist*, III (1917), xiv ; I (1924), 77.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, I, 37-8.

²⁶ Ingram, *Memorials of Oxford*, (1837): Magdalene College, 4.

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Place and Iffley road, where the fortifications dug to defend Magdalen Bridge during the Civil War survived as a low mound.²⁷ The mound was found to consist of tips of gravel, loam and Oxford clay. Ditches, presumably of the fortification, were discovered, a few Romano-British and late Saxon sherds were found in the mound, and medieval finds were made beneath it. The plan (FIG. 42) is by Mr. D. Sturdy. A pit dug 3 ft. into undisturbed gravel contained early 12th century pottery and was intersected by one of a grid of ditches, dug on an average 1 ft. 6 ins. into the gravel. These ditches contained later 12th century pottery and were probably boundaries conforming to the former building-line of St. Clement's about 250 ft. away.²⁸ These 12th century features were overlain by loam containing 14th century pottery. The finds will be preserved in the Ashmolean Museum.

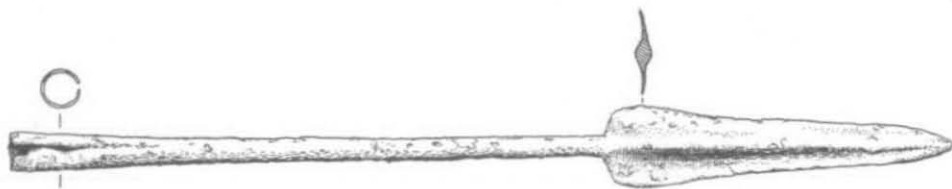


FIG. 43
Spear-head from Oxford
Scale : $\frac{1}{4}$

Oxford, near Marston Ferry road. An Anglo-Saxon spear-head (FIG. 43) was found by Master P. L. Bottom when collecting conkers from trees 200 yards north of the premises of the Oxford Bowls Club. All his missiles had lodged in the branches, when he saw the spear-head lying at the foot of the trees. It brought down a steady and satisfying rain of fruit before being sold to the Ashmolean Museum.

Mr. E. M. Jope kindly reports that this type of spear-head is termed an angon, and that the long iron shaft was intended to prevent cutting by a sword after penetration of the adversary's shield. He draws attention to Leeds's statement that angons are rare outside Kent, occurring only at Croydon, Surrey, Taplow, Bucks., and Abingdon, Berks.²⁹

Strictly defined, an angon should have a barbed head, as found in Continental Merovingian graves. But the unbarbed type also occurs.³⁰ (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.70. National Grid : 42/512090.)

Oxford, St. Michael's Street. A trench was dug by Mr. P. J. Fowler and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society into the floor of the warehouse on the north side of the street (nos. 10a-16), to the east of North Gate Hall. Excavation began at 7 ft. below the level of the pavement. Undisturbed gravel was struck immediately and no sign was seen of the city wall.

²⁷ *Oxoniensia*, I (1936), 170.

²⁸ H. E. Salter, *Cartulary of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist*, I (1914), 481 and plan 1.

²⁹ *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology* (1936), 46 ; Leeds and Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon* (1936), pl. XIX.

³⁰ Baudot, *Mémoires sur les sépultures des barbares . . . en Bourgogne* (1860), pls. II and III.

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Russell's Water, Oxon. Mrs. H. O. D. Cake reported a flint axe with transversely struck edge, small blades and cores of microlithic type scraped up by hens in her chicken-run at Long Mead. Mrs. Cake also has microliths from the same place and has previously reported microlithic cores.³² (National Grid : 41/706901.)

Sandford St. Martin, Oxon. Sherds of late 12th or early 13th century pottery were found by Mr. S. W. Allington east of the Manor House, when digging a septic tank. Other sherds and a coin were reported as having been seen. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.140. National Grid : 42/422263.)

Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berks. Sherds of a Romano-British beaker, with lattice-pattern in white barbotine, of 2nd century date and probably made at the Sandford potteries, or nearby,³² was found by Mr. A. G. Waygood when ditching on Eastfield Farm. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.18. National Grid : 41/361941 or nearabouts.)

Stanton Harcourt, Oxon. A Bronze Age collared urn³³ containing cremated bones was recovered by Mr. E. K. Florey from the face of the gravel-pit between the Old Vicarage and Beard Mill. Through the kindness of Ivor Partridge (Begbroke) Ltd., a small excavation was made by Messrs. H. J. Case and A. G. Fenwick. It was found that the urn had been buried upright near the bottom and at the side of an isolated cylindrical pit about 5 ft. 10 ins. in diameter and 3 ft. deep. Sherds of other pots, daub, animal bones and charcoal were found. (Ashmolean Museum : 1957.53. National Grid : 42/399056.)

Swalcliffe, Oxon. Cuttings were dug across the defences of Madmarston Camp³⁴ by Mr. P. J. Fowler and members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society. Romano-British pottery was discovered in the upper layers of the inner ditch. (National Grid : 42/387388.)

Swinbrook, Oxon. An Anglo-Saxon iron spear-head with diamond-shaped blade, 5½ ins. long, was reported by Mr. M. E. Mawby as found in Widley Copse. (National Grid : 42/274143 or nearabouts.)

Upton, Berks. An Anglo-Saxon grave was found when digging a trench in an orchard between the church and the Blewbury-West Hagbourne road (A417). Mrs. M. Chitty reported that the grave, dug in chalk under 4 ft. of made ground, contained an extended skeleton with head to the west and feet to the east, with an iron shield-boss (Ashmolean Museum : 1958.51) and a fragmentary iron knife (undergoing treatment in the Ashmolean Museum).

A break nearby in the section of the trench may have been part of another grave, destroyed before Mrs. Chitty was able to make records. (National Grid : 41/514866.)

Wallingford, Berks. A small cutting was dug by Major C. A. Pogson in the inner ditch to the north-west of Wallingford Castle. Iron-slag was found immediately below the surface and sherds of 12th century pottery at a depth of a few feet. The bottom of the ditch was not reached. (National Grid : 41/609898.)

HUMPHREY CASE.

³² *Oxoniensia*, XIX (1954), 118; *Ibid.*, XVII-XVIII (1952-3), 1ff for similar finds in the region.

³³ *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, I (1939), 303-6.

³⁴ *Report of the Visitors of the Ashmolean Museum* (1957), pl. III, b.

³⁴ *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, II (1907), 311-12.

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A LATE BELGIC BURIAL AT WATLINGTON, OXON.

An important grave of the first half of the first century A.D. containing Early Iron Age pottery of Belgic ware was discovered north of Pyrton Heath by Mr. S. Pepler, when widening a drainage channel. It lay about 3 ft. 6 ins. from the south bank of the channel, which at this point follows the course of a natural stream which joins another nearby, forming part of the watershed of the Thame.³⁵ The find was

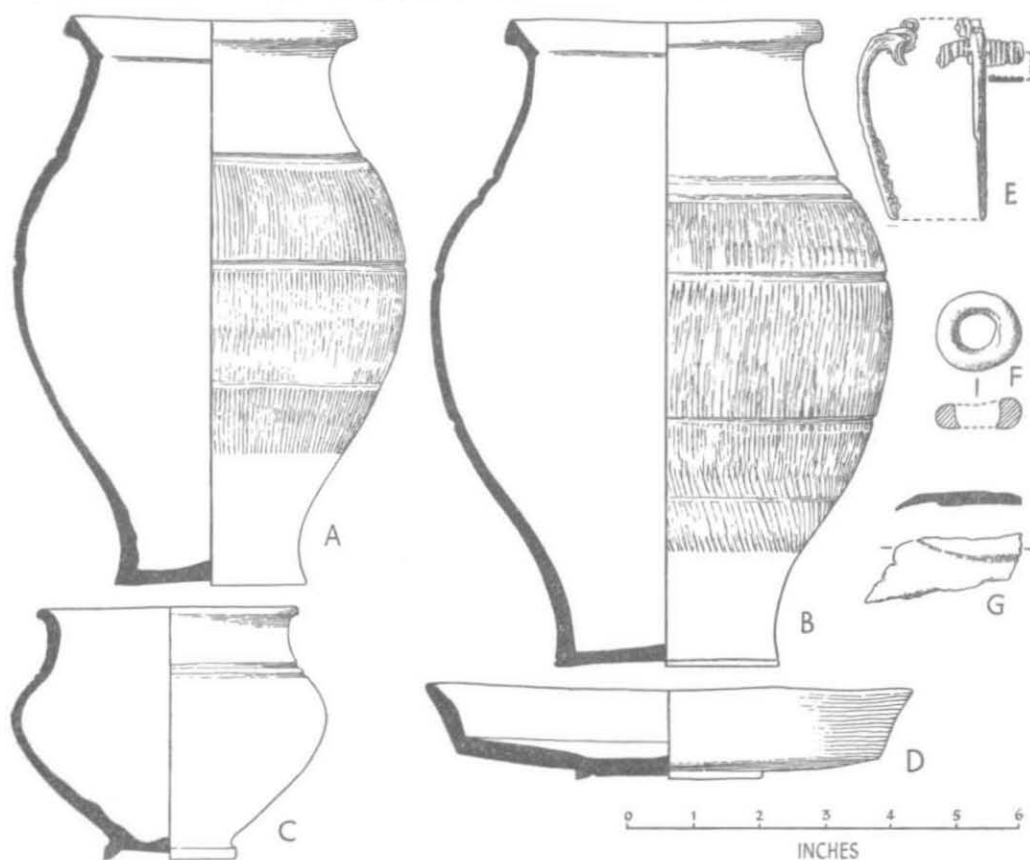


FIG. 44
Grave-group from Watlington
Scale : $\frac{1}{2}$

promptly visited by Mr. M. Hassall who made careful records. At his suggestion, Mr. Pepler gave the finds to the Ashmolean Museum, where they are exhibited.

The grave was roughly circular, about 2 ft. in diameter and dug irregularly

³⁵ National Grid : 41/675967.

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some 9 ins. into chalk. No traces of a barrow were seen. The grave contained, complete or as major fragments, four pottery vessels—two fine butt-beakers (FIG. 44, A and B. Ashmolean Museum: 1957.131 and 130), a bowl (FIG. 44, C. Ashmolean Museum: 1957.132), and a dish or platter (FIG. 44, D. Ashmolean Museum: 1957.133). The smaller of the two butt-beakers contained cremated human bones, a fragmentary bronze brooch (FIG. 44, E. Ashmolean Museum: 1957.135) and a flake from a potsherd distorted by burning (FIG. 44, G). The bowl contained a pebble (FIG. 44, F. Ashmolean Museum: 1957.134) and fragments of iron which unfortunately could not be preserved, but which Mr. Pepler suggested were the remains of a knife.

FIG. 44, A. *Butt-beaker*, complete except for insignificant fragments. Zones of so-called rouletted decoration defined by grooves. Hard, fine, sandy greyish-white ware with light greyish-pink surface-coating well preserved on the interior and partially on the exterior. Very well made, with only one small concavity on the belly. No doubt wheel-made, although striations are not obvious.

FIG. 44, B. *Butt-beaker*, with most of the rim and neck and part of the belly missing. The surface-coating is better preserved and browner than that of beaker A. It is darkened and pitted in places by burning after the pot has been fired. Burning may also have caused distortion. It is otherwise similar to A.

These two fine butt-beakers are directly comparable in both shape and ware to Camulodunum form 113, as defined by Hawkes and Hull. Some 3,000 similar pots were represented by sherds found at Camulodunum (Colchester, Essex). Hawkes and Hull considered that they were made nearby. They were in use between A.D. 10-61.³⁶ Intermediate between Colchester and the Oxford regions was pre-Roman Verulamium (Prae Wood, St. Albans, Herts.) where sherds occurred in a group dated by Dr. and Mrs. Wheeler between A.D. 5-35.³⁷ Further afield, at Leicester, Miss Kenyon dated pits which contained similar sherds and some Romano-British sherds to A.D. 35-50.³⁸

Form 113 has been reported from a cremation-burial at Burghfield, Berkshire, with other pots, including a dish of Gallo-Belgic *terra nigra*,³⁹ and has apparently been found at the recently excavated sites of Bagendon and Lechlade, Gloucestershire, both important centres.⁴⁰ In Oxfordshire, Belgic butt-beakers are otherwise made of inferior, probably local ware; some occur in groups which appear slightly romanized,⁴¹ but others have been found with a fair proportion of Romano-British sherds.⁴²

FIG. 44, C. *Bowl*, complete and unbroken. False cordon on neck and haphazard grooves on belly. Ware similar to that of A and B above, but pink and grittier, with traces of grey surface-coating. Wheel-made.

This is a generalized Belgic shape, variations on which are frequently found in

³⁶ *Camulodunum* (1947), 238-9, pl. LVI, no. 113; stratification summarized, 27-38.

³⁷ *Verulamium* (1936), 159, 175, pl. LV, no. 3.

³⁸ *Excavations at the Jewry Wall site, Leicester* (1948), 124-7.

³⁹ *Berks. Archaeological Journal*, LVI (1958), 3-4.

⁴⁰ Information kindly given by Professor C. F. C. Hawkes.

⁴¹ Grim's Dyke, north Oxon.; *Oxoniensia*, II (1937), fig. 21, no. 19. Callow Hill, Glympton and Stonesfield, Oxon.; *Ibid.*, XXII (1957), 34-5, but also at bottom of the villa ditch 'dug a little before A.D. 75' (*loc. cit.*, 29).

⁴² Mount Farm, Dorchester, Oxon.; *Ibid.*, II (1937), fig. 10, B. IV, 1. Linch Hill corner, Stanton Harcourt, Oxon.: *Ibid.*, VIII-IX (1943-4), fig. 24, no. 10.

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the Oxford region in soft dark wares, but here the rather stiff profile suggests Roman influence, as does the unusual form of the foot-ring, imitated from Roman fine wares.

FIG. 44, D. *Dish* or platter, broken but complete except for insignificant fragment. Soft soapy ware, self-coloured, blotchy blackish-brown. Shape irregular and sagging. Wheel-made.

Dishes of this kind are native imitations of imported Gallo-Belgic ware. At Camulodunum, their incidence was mainly post-Conquest, this example being a variation between form 21 (range A.D. 10-65) and form 31 (range A.D. 45-65).⁴³ They are rare in the Oxford region; a sherd was found at Callow Hill, Glympton and Stonesfield, Oxon., in a group of Belgic sherds including some romanized.⁴⁴

FIG. 44, E. Fragment of bronze bow and wings of *brooch* of developed La Tène III type. Corroded traces of iron spring. The wings are ribbed. This type occurred at Woodeaton, near Oxford,⁴⁵ and at the villa at Ditchley, Oxon.⁴⁶ It was typical at Camulodunum from A.D. 10 to 65.⁴⁷

FIG. 44, F. *Pebble*, possibly an amulet or charm. Mr. J. Edmonds of the University Museum kindly reported that it was essentially a rolled flint pebble, the perforation having been due to the inclusion of a fossil sponge in the parent nodule. Some artificial shaping may have been applied. It appears cracked and glazed by heat.

FIG. 44, G. *Pottery flake*, probably from a dish or platter, detached by burning. This fragment and those of the larger butt-beaker, together with the pebble, may have been part of the offerings on the pyre.

Cremated bones. Miss L. E. Hoyme kindly reported that fragments of a radius, tibia, vertebra and hand, and of a cranium, mandible and pelvis could be identified. None of the bones are definitely of animals and some are recognizably human, giving indications of an adult woman.

The lady buried on Pyrton heath, although treasuring a homely amulet, was obviously of importance, commanding a service of fine table-ware, far superior to the squat smoky vessels used in farms of the Oxford region. The family of a person thus in contact with the Catuvellaunian capital of Camulodunum may have acquired their lands across the Chiltern escarpment during the spread of Catuvellaunian influence eastwards in Cunobelin's reign (say A.D. 10-40).⁴⁸ On the other hand, the roughly dug grave and the fact that so many of its associations survived the Roman conquest, could suggest that she was here in flight after the defeat of Caratacus and Togodumnus in the east (A.D. 43); but as Miss M. V. Taylor has kindly pointed out, a refugee would scarcely trouble to take good table-ware with her. The balance of evidence favours a local person, living in the later years of Cunobelin and buried near the end of his reign—perhaps a member of an aristocratic set, hinted at by a few finds of ornamental metal-work around Oxford, perhaps, as Miss Taylor kindly suggested, the Catuvellaunian wife of a local squire.

HUMPHREY CASE.

⁴³ *Loc. cit.* in note 36, 221-3.

⁴⁴ *Loc. cit.* in note 41, 35.

⁴⁵ *Oxoniensia*, xiv (1949), pl. II, no. 1.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, I (1936), 56, pl. IX, no. 6.

⁴⁷ *Loc. cit.* in note 36, 309.

⁴⁸ *The Oxford Region* (ed. A. F. Martin and R. W. Steel, 1954), 83; *Archaeologia*, xc (1944), 21, Map V; *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, xx (1954), 6.

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A NON-EXISTENT LINK BETWEEN THE OXFORD AND CRICKLADE MINTS

In *Oxoniensia* for 1945 the late Dr. J. G. Milne published a Saxon penny in the Ashmolean Museum, attributed by him to Cnut, which he claimed to be from a reverse die which had been altered to read 'ox'—for Oxford—instead of 'CROC'—for Cricklade.⁴⁹ Four years later this interpretation was given wider currency in the course of a note by 'C.D.P.' a misprint for 'A.D.P.' (=A. D. Passmore) in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*.⁵⁰

At the present time much attention is being given by Anglo-Saxon numismatists to the use of the same obverse die at two different mints, and several authentic examples are quoted in recent numbers of the *British Numismatic Journal*.⁵¹ What is tantamount to a reverse die-link, however, would be something quite new and important, and it is disappointing to have to put on record the verdict of specialists in the field of late Saxon numismatics, which is that this Cricklade/Oxford link is non-existent. The coin in question is badly double-struck, but even from the block that accompanies Dr. Milne's note it is clear that the obverse legend begins at the top of the coin, as is normal at this period, and that it is not a coin of Cnut at all, but one of his son Harthacnut. The obverse is notable for a large and very distinctive die-flaw above the head, and a die-duplicate in the Stockholm Collection is in fact illustrated in Stainer's excellent little work *Oxford Silver pennies*.⁵² Any lingering doubts are removed by examination of yet another die-duplicate in the National Collection which is fully described though not illustrated in the 1893 *British Museum Catalogue*.⁵³

The critical link, then, exists, if it exists at all, not in Cnut's reign but in Harthacnut's, and recent work suggests that the type in question can be dated with some confidence to a period of less than two years running from the early autumn of 1040 to the summer of 1042.⁵⁴ It now remains to consider the problem of whether the die of the Ashmolean coin was altered at any stage in its production and/or working-life. As we have seen, the Oxford coin is badly double-struck, and certainly it is understandable how Dr. Milne came to be attracted towards the hypothesis that the letter 'ox' had been superimposed upon the 'ro' of 'CROC', though in point of fact it is not easy to explain why an engraver should have drawn attention to the alteration by omitting to stamp in an 'n' over the initial 'c'. At this period 'ONN' for 'ON' is quite normal, and especially where the first letter of the mint-signature is a vowel, so that a form 'ONN OXC' would not have aroused suspicion. What is a little surprising is that Dr. Milne does not appear to have compared his double-struck coin with the well struck duplicates in Stockholm, available at least in illustration, and in London, and especially as the existence of the latter coin might have been inferred from the very presence of the Oxford coin in the Evans Bequest of 1941.

The present writer has been fortunate enough to handle all three coins, and in his opinion there is no doubt whatever but that the engraver of the die cut from the very first the letters 'ON COXE'—incidentally the stop that ends the legend is a

⁴⁹ Vol. x, pp. 99-101.

⁵⁰ Vol. 52, pp. 393-4.

⁵¹ e.g. Vol. xxvii, pp. 372-3; xxviii, pp. 94-5, 103-4, etc.

⁵² *Op. cit.*, plate vii, Harthacnut 6, etc.

⁵³ *Op. cit.*, p. 327, no. 17.

⁵⁴ *B.N.J.*, xxviii, pp. 111-146, etc.

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diamond of pellets and not a trefoil. All this is clear even from the rather indifferent photograph in Stainer, and the British Museum specimen, which is a particularly choice hoard-coin from the Wedmore Find, is so well struck up that one could not have failed to detect the least trace of alteration upon the die. At first sight the 'metathesis' 'COXE' for 'OCXE'—the normal Oxford mint-signature at this period—may seem a little improbable, but reference to the standard work of reference, Bror Emil Hildebrand's *Anglosachsiska Mynt*, establishes that this was not the only occasion that the engraver made this particular error when cutting a signature that always seemed to have given him some trouble—it would be tedious to cite all the dittographies of 'N' and even 'ON' that occur. Strictly relevant to our present problem are the forms 'COXSC' and 'CAOXANA' which occur on coins of Harold I (Hild. 817) and Harthacnut (Hild. 159, cf. BMC 18) respectively. In both cases the names of the moneyers admittedly also are found on contemporary coins of Cricklade—though the names are so common that it would be dangerous to assume they are of the same men—but once again examination of the actual coins has established that there is no possibility whatever of an alteration on the die.⁵⁵ In these circumstances the numismatist can scarcely be blamed if he looks for a phonological explanation, though this is not to say that an *obverse* die-link between the two mints will not one day be found. In the interests of numismatic science, however, it is desirable that such a link should not be postulated except upon incontrovertible evidence, and regretfully we must exclude the testimony of the double-struck Evans coin in the Ashmolean Museum when the Stockholm and London specimens leave absolutely no room for doubt concerning the original state of the die.

R. H. M. DOLLEY.

THE THREE KINGS AND THE UNIVERSITY ARMS

In 1938⁵⁶ E. A. Greening Lamborn summarized the state of knowledge about the history of the Arms which the University of Oxford adopted about the beginning of the fifteenth century. The meaning of the open book was obvious but that of the Three Crowns was not. Whether or not they were taken from the Arms of the 9th Earl of Oxford and Duke of Ireland or from those of Thomas Cranley, Archbishop of Dublin and Chancellor in 1390, is uncertain; but it is clear that they were given to the Duke of Ireland as a special mark of favour by Richard II in 1396.

Greening Lamborn did not suggest any special significance which Richard II should have attached to the Three Crowns, other than the fact that they were the arms attributed to St. Edmund King of East Anglia, whose shrine Richard II visited in 1383. He admits, however, that the Three Crowns were the mythical arms assigned posthumously to many others including Our Lord Himself.

In fact Three Crowns had a very close personal association indeed for Richard II, for the Three Kings who brought royal gifts at Christ's nativity were his patrons. Froissart explains that his connection with the Three Kings seemed even closer than the coincidence of this royal nativity:

'I was in the city of Bordeaux, and sitting at the table, when King Richard was

⁵⁵ To the two examples cited from Hildebrand the British Museum's *Catalogue* adds a third (Harthacnut 19)—a particularly clear reading 'COXE' in this case on a coin of a moneyer unknown at Cricklade for the period in question.

⁵⁶ *Oxford*, vol. v, pp. 31-49.

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born, the which was on a Tuesday, about ten of the clock. The same time there came whereas I was, Sir Richard Punchardon, Marshal as then of Aquitaine, and he said to me, " Froissart, write and put in memory that as now my lady princess is brought abed with a fair Son on this Twelfth day, that is the day of the Three Kings, and he is son to a King's son and shall be a King." ⁵⁷

Richard venerated St. Edmund and Edward the Confessor and tried to get a third king, Edward II, canonized. He died himself a royal martyr.

W. O. HASSALL.

REWLEY ABBEY

Documentary evidence of the plan of the Cistercian Abbey of Rewley under the old L.M.S. coal depot, shows that the normal conventual plan was probably reversed. The reredorter stood, for no obvious reason, over the stream along the northern edge of the large moated site,⁵⁸ the church in the centre, and open ground for burials and gardens, occupied the southern half of the site.⁵⁹ The east range of the conventual buildings was demolished to ground level in the middle of the 16th century, together with the church,⁶⁰ all but its west end, which appears as the 'Chapter House' of 1720.⁶¹ The reredorter arches were destroyed in the 18th century⁶² and the north range, a reconstruction in the middle of the 16th century of the Frater as a dwelling house, was demolished about 1780.⁶³ The west range, more commodious offices, guest rooms, or Abbot's house, was pulled down in about 1855.⁶⁴

Unlike the greater Abbey of Osney, which was reduced to final ruin in the Civil War, the buildings at Rewley appear to have been little affected by their incorporation in the main line of defence, both of the 1642-3 works and the great outer line of 1644.⁶⁵

DAVID STURDY.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH

The 'remains of 12th century work', said to have been found and removed in the restoration of 1841-2,⁶⁶ were in fact of considerable importance. Early illustrations and descriptions⁶⁷ confirm the current Guide Book⁶⁸ which says 'it had a Norman Chancel arch and solid walls on either side where the Victorian oak screen now runs'. Examination of the eastern pair of pillars on each side of the Chancel with their 19th century tooling, also shows their recent date, despite the accurate copying of the design of the western pair.

DAVID STURDY.

⁵⁷ Berner's transl., CCXLV [CCLIX].

⁵⁸ D. Loggan, *Oxonia Depicta* (1675). Bird's-eye view from the north.

⁵⁹ H. E. Salter, *Cartulary of Osney*, II (1929), 625, plan of 1829.

⁶⁰ R. Agas, *Bird's-eye View of Oxford from the North* (1578-88), in *Old Plans of Oxford* (1899).

⁶¹ T. Hearne, *Textus Roffensis* (1720), 329, figure by M. Burghers.

⁶² J. Ingram, *Memorials of Oxford*, III (1837), St. Thomas's, 13.

⁶³ J. Skelton, *Oxonia Antiqua Depicta*, II (1823), 113.

⁶⁴ T. W. Squires, *In West Oxford* (1928), 112-19, lxxv-lxxii.

⁶⁵ *Oxoniensis*, I (1936), 161-72.

⁶⁶ *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, City of Oxford* (1939), p. 138.

⁶⁷ W. M. Wade, *Walks in Oxford*, II (1821), 293; J. Ingram, *Memorials of Oxford*, III (1837), St. Mary Magdalene, 1-9; *Proc. Oxf. Archit. and Hist. Soc.*, N.S. VI (1900), 183-8.

⁶⁸ *A Walk round St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford* (1952), 3-4.

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BAYWORTH-SUNNINGWELL-ABINGDON CANAL

The history of this unfinished canal is bound up with the larger project of making bricks, lime and manure at Pool Barn in the parish of Kennington. Both schemes seem futile as there is no trace of coal at Bayworth and little to encourage the making of bricks and lime at Kennington.

The two principal figures in the story are, first, Sir George Bowyer (1783-1860), of Radley Manor, a speculator with no business sense; and Sutton Wood, a dishonest engineer. There is no accurate evidence how the scheme started, but someone possibly Wood, seems to have persuaded Sir George that there was coal to be mined in Bayworth and that it could be carried to the Thames at Abingdon by canal. At various times between August 1812 and July 1814 we hear of claims by Wood for 'surveying coalworks at Bayworth, levelling . . .', and 'engineering coalworks'. His final claim was for £125 16s. 8d. for 2d. per yard. Assuming this yard to be a cubic yard and the depth dug to be six feet the length dug would be above seven-eighths of a mile. The actual sections dug are three: Bayworth Quarry to Manor Lodge, Sunningwell; Sunningwell Church southwards for about one-third of a mile; another one-third of a mile on Long Furlong Farm. These add up to about seven-eighths of a mile. It is hard to see how Wood proposed to join the first two sections: it would have been necessary to pull down Manor Lodge, dig up the road for some distance and, finally, carry the canal through the churchyard.

In 1814 Wood settled his feud with Sir George for £250, paid into court.

NIGEL H. GOOCH.

SOURCES

Stonhouse Papers (Radley College), iv, Wood v. Bowyer.

Preston MSS. (Berk. Record Office), D/EP 1 L3.

Tithe map of Sunningwell Parish, 1842 (Bodleian Library).

ARCHAEOLOGY OF HOLTON

The manuscript Diary History of Holton by Miss Frances Letitia Biscoe, who died aged eighty-eight in 1865, contains a few entries of interest for the archaeology of Holton supplementary to *Early Man in Oxfordshire*. The punctuation has been modernized.

February 1827. On digging for stone in the Racks, a field by the side of the road belonging to the Warren Farm, were discovered a Complete Cemetery—from twenty to thirty remains of bodies—Adult, Children, Chicken bones. And at that time Our Uncle having a natural antipathy to any[thing] of the kind it was little attended to and I had a difficulty in procuring any specimen of Pottery or Coins. [One] which was of the time of Constantine. One large earthen pot with the ashes and a smaller vessel, which within [was] supposed to have Enclosed the Heart, & a singular shaped smaller one, are in My Museum with Belamites I found there. I have had several Tokens & small pieces brought from Hatfield. Old Thomas Knight told that at the time of discovery several large gold rings had been thrown up & taken away by Old Elliot's son who had connexion with the Jew in London. [Perhaps only a part of brass harness.] On Joseph Chapman's Farm there was an Road formerly through a Field called Hampstead which came out into the Waterperry road near Mr. Henley's Farm House. Supposed to have been a Roman Road, coins of that time being found there. Likewise of a later Date [a] Tradesman's Token. And said to have been a Law suit about it between our Uncle & the late Lord Teynsham, then Mr. Curson [of Waterperry]. The present Bridge on ye road to Waterperry then built between the Property of Holton & Waterperry. 3 pieces of Plank formerly to pass over.

December 1835. . . . In Digging a drain in the Park at the bottom of the rise going from the House towards the Copse Head Pond found a Layer of Calcined Bones apparently of Horses covering a considerable surface of ground between the Turf & a stiff Clay. Likewise were found Horses shoes of a different Make from the those now in Use.

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Mr. R. H. S. Tyndale-Biscoe lent these papers to the Rector of Holton in August 1958. Writing about the Racks he said : ' Under the surface of that same field lies a Roman pavement, discovered and recovered a hundred years ago. On our Sunday evening walk Father often, spudding hoe in hand, took us there in hope of finding it again. He believed that the Roman altar from Holton in the Ashmolean was ploughed up in the Racks. If so, it might not have been used as an altar at Holton but might have been made at the stone pits for sale elsewhere, just as tombstones were made at Holton pits in comparatively recent times.'

M. W. C. HASSALL.

MICROFILM STRIPS

Reproduction of Oxfordshire views like the Buckler drawings have been made by the Printer to the University on 35 mm. microfilm strips. They can be used for study or as film strips or slides for projection on to a screen. One colour strip consists of 23 maps with selected details from the 17th century estate maps at Corpus. This has been published by kind permission of the College. It consists of 27 ' double frames ' and costs £2.

W. O. HASSALL,
Hon. Sec., Oxon. Record Soc.