

## Notes and News

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES, 1971-72

*Abingdon, Berks.* Mr. W. A. Skellington found sherds of beaker ware, Early Iron Age pottery, struck flints and animal bones, while grave digging in the Cemetery : Ash. Mus. acc. no. 1971.21-3 (SU/487975).

*Asthall, Oxon.* Struck flints including leaf-shaped and hollow-based arrowheads, a fabricator, polished-edge knife, thumbnail scrapers, saw- and bevelled-edge flakes and borers were found by Mr. A. J. Broome in ploughed ground between the village and the Windrush. (Around SP/285114.)

*Charlbury, Oxon.* While field-walking along the line of a future gas pipe-line from Charlbury to Arncliffe, Les Bishop and Frank Woodward have found worked flints at Bevis Farm. There were three arrowheads, one triangular, one leaf-shaped, and one barbed-and-tanged. (SP/372191.)

*Chilston, Oxon.* Traces of Roman buildings stretching over a wide area were observed by Mr. R. Wilkins. Surface finds included pottery and stone slates. (SP/315195.)

*Coleshill, Berks.* Mr. C. Fleming found struck flints, including microliths, microlith cores and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead in ploughed ground. (SU/238945.)

*Faringdon, Berks.* A barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead (FIG. 1, 1) was found by Mr. K. Laurie in ploughed ground on Wickleshamlodge Farm. (SU/289939.)

*Great Coxwell, Berks.* Small sherds of Neolithic pottery and struck flints including microliths and a microburin, a fragmentary polished flint axe, leaf-shaped arrowheads and ovates, scrapers, a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead and a plano-convex knife were found by Mr. C. Fleming in ploughed ground east of Badbury Camp. (SU/264947.)

*Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.* An iron sword in a decorated bronze scabbard was recovered from the Thames above Henley Bridge by Mr. F. R. Clark, who presented it to Reading Museum (acc. no. 245 : 71). It can be dated to the mid-1st century B.C. or a little later (see *Antiq. J.*, forthcoming). (SU/763825.)

*Hidcote Bartrim, Glos.* Mrs. J. Cadbury found struck flints including leaf-shaped arrowheads in a molehill above a quarry. (SP/183425.)

*Hinton Waldrist, Berks.* Sherds of a large unglazed cooking-pot were recovered by Miss M. Spreadbury, who gave them to the Ashmolean Museum (acc. no. 1971.216). The sherds comprise about one-third of the pot, which is 27 cm. in diameter, and about 27.5 cm. high. It is in a coarse fabric, filled with flint and limestone or chalk, much of which has 'leached out'. Horizontal bands on the surfaces show how it was built up from strips of clay. It is brown, with a smoke-blackened exterior around the base. The profile, the everted and thickened rim, and the impressed decoration on the shoulder, are almost identical to the pot from the 13th century Well I on the New Bodleian site, Oxford (R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), FIG. 23, I), and to those from the Clarendon Hotel and Queens' College (D. Sturdy, *ibid.*, XXIV (1959), FIG. 8, 2 and 3). Such large cauldrons are common in the 13th century, and may be evidence of a change in eating habits, perhaps even of communal living (P. A. Barker, *The Medieval Pottery of Shropshire* (1970), 44-5).

*Islip, Oxon.* Struck flints including microliths, microlithic cores and scrapers were found by Mr. M. Crum in ploughed ground (Ash. Mus. acc. no. 1970.237-59 ; 1971.1299-1336). (SP/520130.)

*Kidlington, Oxon.* A barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead (FIG. 1, 2) was found by Mr. H. Bailey in the garden of 14 Crown Road. (SP/490138.)

*Longworth, Berks.* Michael Hodgkins found a fragment of Medieval inlaid floor tile in a wood. The design was not identifiable as one of the Oxford series, and was probably a Wessex type, having scooped keys. A tracing is in the Ashmolean.

*Marston St. Lawrence, Northants.* A sherd of Peterborough ware and struck flints including scrapers were found by Mr. D. J. Barrett (around SP/532429), who also found other struck stone including a flint leaf-shaped arrowhead and fragments of polished axes of fine-grained rock and flint. (SP/535415.)

*Minster Lovell, Oxon.* Struck flints including small blade cores, saw-edged flakes and fabricators were found by Mr. A. J. Broome in ploughed ground. (Around SP/330117.)

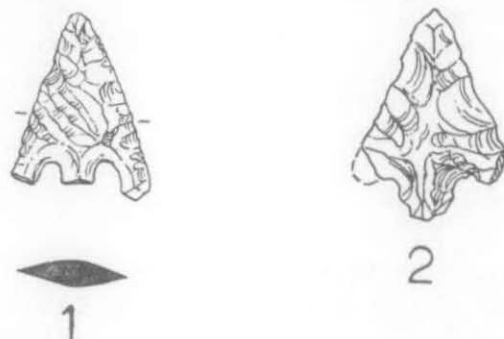


FIG. 1

Arrowheads from Faringdon (1), and Kidlington (2). (1/1)

*Oxford, Corpus Christi College.* Mr. C. R. J. Currie reports that the north range retains, on its south side, the original early 16th century roof. As in the west range, the first-floor chambers were originally open to the roof.

*Oxford, St. Ebbe's* Two Lower Palaeolithic hand-axes were found by Mr. P. Weston, one under the foundations of the west end of St. Ebbe's Church, and the other in gravel about 6 ins. below the surface in the garden of the Rectory (Ash. Mus. acc. nos. 1971.3-4).

*Oxford.* Observation on the following sites are reported by T. G. Hassall, J. T. Munby and D. A. M. Sturdy.

*Albion Place (1971)* : Trill Mill stream revealed immediately west of the site of the Preacher's Bridge. (SP/512059.)

*3 Alfred Street (1971)* : Rubbish pits ; no pottery groups recovered. (SP/516062.)

*Bodleian Library, Proscholium (1968)* : Porch foundations extending c. 50 cm. from the front wall of the Divinity School. Photograph, OCCM 6073. (SP/51540640.)

*8-10 Cambridge Terrace (1971)* : No disturbance of Blackfriars foundations. (SP/513058.)

*84 High Street (1971)* : No features. (SP/518062.)

*Keble College—Blackhall Road (1971)* : No features, negative evidence for Civil War defences. Romano-British sherds, OCCM 3863. (SP/51340685.)

*1 Keble Road (1967)* : East-west ditch on site of former 4-8 Banbury Road, perhaps part of Civil War outer earthworks. (SP/51220702.)

*Merton College (1971)* : Re-facing of 28 feet of City Wall revealed no further information. (SP/519061.)

*Mill Street, Osney (1971)* : Graves with skeletons ; report by R. J. G. Concannon in preparation. (SP/505060.)

*New Inn Hall Street (1968)* : Early Medieval sherds from trench in road, near St. Michael Street. (SP/511063.)

*Oxpens Road* (1971) : No evidence of Civil War defences.

*Park Town* (1970) : Feature, sterile. (SP/51110772.)

*Queens Lane* (1969) : Bone fragments, but no sherds or features, in road trench by St. Peter-in-the-East. (SP/51830637.)

*St. Peter-in-the-East Churchyard* (1969) : Post medieval sherds only from trench north of church tower. (SP/51840637.)

(1970) : Burials in trench 1 metre north of St. Edmund Hall. (SP/518063.)

*St. Peter's College* (1971) : Rubbish pits in front quadrangle ; no pottery recovered. (SP/511063.)

*84 Woodstock Road* (1971) : Features, sterile. One medieval sherd. (SP/50810790.)

*133/5 Woodstock Road* (1969) : Linear feature, c. 1 m. wide by 50 cm. deep. No finds. (SP/50780774.)

*Ramsden, Oxon.* Mr. R. J. Wilkins reported a surface scatter on ploughed land of Bronze Age flints and wasters, Roman grey and red coarse pottery, and Samian ware. There was no sign of building material. (SP/338152.)

### SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE MOTORWAY ROUTE

The Oxford City and County Museum and the Oxford University Department for External Studies organized fieldwork in 1971 on the line of the extension of the M.40 motorway from the Stokenchurch roundabout to the Waterstock cross-roads. A full report on the features observed and the objects discovered will be prepared. Records are being kept at the museum, and Newsletters giving interim reports are being issued.

Excavations in advance of construction took place at the following sites :

*Great Milton.* Camp Corner. See report below. (SP/645037.)

*Lewknor.* (1) Nethercote Lane, I. Post-Medieval. (SP/713986.)

(2) Nethercote Lane, II. Roman and Medieval pottery. (SP/706996.)

(3) Nethercote Lane, III. Negative. (SP/706996.)

*Tetsworth.* (1) Church Piece. 11th-14th centuries. (SP/686016.)

(2) Copt Hay. 12th-14th centuries. (SP/685015.)

### EXCAVATIONS AT CAMP CORNER, MILTON COMMON, 1971

As a result of field-walking and trial-trenching by the M.40 Archaeological Research Group, two areas on the line of the M.40 Motorway on Milton Common (SP/645037) were mechanically stripped ; these were areas which showed intensive crop-marks on aerial photographs of the plateau gravels.

*Site A* (Long Ground) proved to be negative apart from :

I. A possible road with flanking ditches, total width from outer edge of ditches—45 m.

II. A ditch containing late Romano-British sherds and building stone at the S.E. corner of the site.

III. Numerous stone-lined and ceramic land-drains of varying date.

The crop-marks in this field may be caused by differing geological conditions and the presence of the land-drains.

*Site B* (Stephens Heath). See plan, FIG. 2.

I. and II. Two large ? boundary ditches with 3rd-4th century sherds and building material in the top of the fillings.

III. and IV. Two ditches with clean, silty fillings and worn late R-B sherds, which may be post-Roman drainage ditches.

V. A further ditch, cutting through III and IV—undated.

VI. and VII. Two sub-rectangular features with flues made of re-used dressed stone, including saddle querns, leading to a central hearth ; there were many associated iron objects and coins of late 3rd century date. The structure of Hut VI was of wattle and daub, whereas Hut VII was of post-hole construction, the posts having been packed with clay. These may be forges rather than for iron-smelting.

VIII. Between the two huts was an area with many clay-packed post-holes and areas of trodden clay.

IX. Stained gravel in a regular oval shape—unknown purpose.

X. Two ditches at right angles to each other with late R/B sherds in the top of the fillings.

XI. A complex of iron-working features, which also extended north beyond the line of the Motorway, containing 3rd-4th century sherds and iron objects. None of these features could be stratigraphically dated owing to extensive flooding of the site shortly after total excavation had commenced ; however, cleaning of the site had shown pebble lines, and over-lapping features could also easily be discerned at this stage, and pottery from the tops of the features had been recorded. It would seem that the area under excavation was peripheral to a late Roman settlement further to the south-west, where iron-working had been a major concern. After its abandonment the fields may have come under cultivation ; hence the drainage ditches on land which may have at times been water-logged, but this cannot be established without total excavation.

There was no sign of a regular pattern of medieval furrow marks, although the adjoining fields show ridge and furrow clearly on aerial photographs, and the boundary between the two excavated sites is a deep ditch which forms the division between the parishes of Great Milton and Tiddington.

M. GRAY

(Editor's note : this site was destroyed in March 1972 before further work could be undertaken.)

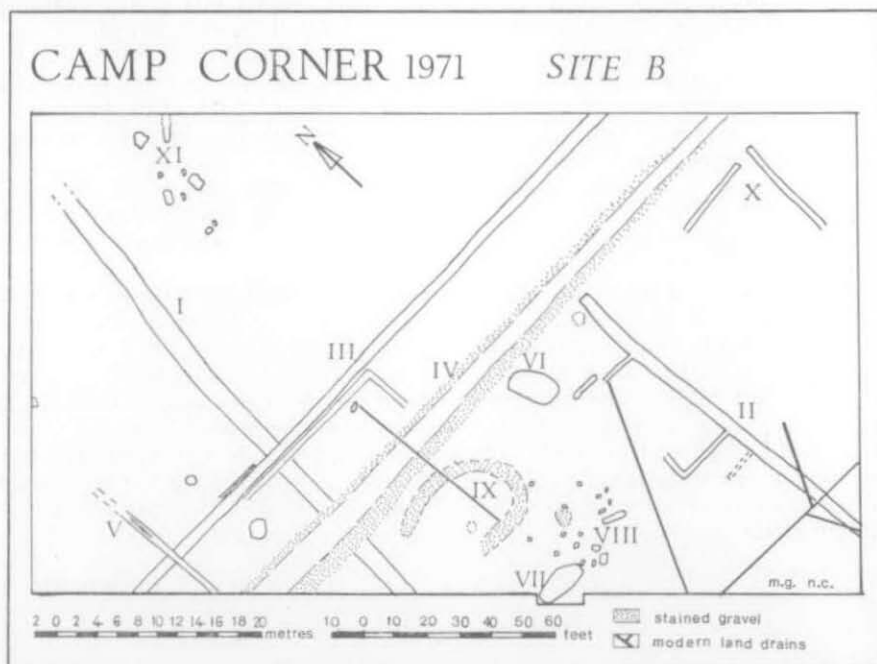


FIG. 2

## ROMAN FINDS AT GLYME FARM, CHIPPING NORTON

The site lies to the east of Chipping Norton in the region of SP/32166. Its exact extent has not been established but surface finds have been made over a wide area in two fields adjacent to this point. The distribution of these finds, however, has probably been affected by regular ploughing. No satisfactory air photographs have yet been obtained.

The earliest recorded finds near this site were some coins, possibly part of a hoard, discovered in the late 19th century.<sup>1</sup> Since 1967 a considerable quantity of pottery sherds has been collected from the surface. The vast majority of these are of coarse grey and red Oxford ware with a few pieces of Samian, and are thought to be mainly 3rd and 4th century. Four worn coins of the same period have also been found, and two fragments of circular bronze brooches. The finds are at Chipping Norton School.

The ground is under regular cultivation, and is stoney. Quite large stones are frequently thrown up by ploughing, but it is difficult to know whether this is because of the natural shallowness of the soil in some parts of the site. However, ploughing in 1970 produced a localized patch of light-coloured soil containing traces of mortar, and the foundations of a wall were uncovered at a depth of some seven or eight inches in another place. The farmer is in the habit of removing to the side of the field the larger stones which are ploughed up, and having done this in 1971, he discovered some six months later a weathered stone head among the stones so removed.

The head (PL. XXV, A) is cut in coarse, somewhat shelly, limestone. It is in poor condition, being either heavily chipped or worn. Of the upstanding parts, only the left eyebrow and cheek, perhaps the bridge of the nose, and the surround of the beard preserve the original finished surface. Only at the extreme left and right hand sides, on the edges, are the original surfaces of the hair preserved.

The appearance is of a man's face with an enormous mop of hair and a full thick curly beard rising up to meet the hair. There is no trace of the ears. The eyes are modelled realistically with hollowed out pupils, well shaped lids and a heavy brow. The lips, too, so far as they can be seen in the beard, are shown realistically with small hairless patches just below the lower lip.

The head is 10½ ins. (27 cm.) high, which is about life size. There is no evidence around the edges of the stone to suggest shaping towards the back of the head as would be required by sculpture in the round. Rather, all round the edges, the cutting is at right angles to the plane of the face and to the background, as would be expected on a low relief sculpture, or sculptured slab. The face suits this sort of carving, for it is relatively flat, being only 3½ ins. (9 cm.) from the back to the bridge of the nose. The background has split off, more or less flat, along the line at which the head projects from the slab.

A life size low relief figure would be most unusual. It is more likely that the head was alone, as a mask on a plaque or an antefix. A similar sort of mask-like head, though less obviously male, appears fronting a palmette on a limestone antefix at Gloucester.<sup>2</sup> The scale there is about life size and complete with palmette the antefix stands over 2 feet high. The hair on the head on the Gloucester antefix is spread out at the sides so that it has a similarly wide mop as on the head from Glyme Farm.

The head cannot be identified without some more specific attributes than the hair and beard, though these serve to date it. Masses of hair and full curly beards are characteristic of the second century, and the drilled pupils in the eyes place it in the second half of the 2nd century.

D. G. T. EDDERSHAW

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 334.

<sup>2</sup> J. F. Rhodes, *Catalogue of Romano-British Sculptures in Gloucester City Museum* (1964), no. 6.

## THE ASTON ROWANT TREASURE TROVE

In the summer of 1971, Messrs. J. Reeves and B. Thomson, during numerous visits to the site, recovered 175 silver coins of a treasure which had been somewhat scattered by natural agencies on the steep scarp of the Chilterns where it had originally been concealed (Nat. Grid SU/743983). No traces of a container nor other associated finds were reported though these were looked for. At an Inquest held at Henley-on-Thames on 8 November 1971, the find was declared Treasure Trove; it has been acquired *in toto* by the British Museum.

The find, made close to the intersection of Icknield Way and the London-Oxford road, constitutes by far the largest hoard of so-called *sceattas* ever to have been recorded from British soil. The sources and function of so considerable a sum of money are in themselves interesting questions, and the assemblage, normal enough in certain respects, contains elements difficult to explain by reference to currently received hypotheses.

The contents may be summarized as follows:

1. 'Primary' Sceattas			
1-3	(a) inscribed TIC. BMC. 2a, Rigold A2 (PL. XXVI, 1)	3	
	(b) 'Bird on Cross'. BMC. 27, Rigold B		
4-8	BIA 3, BIA var. 1, BIB (4 annulets) 1,	15	}
9-16	BII plain 1, cross 5 (PL. XXVI, 2), saltire 2,		
17-18	BIIIA cross and pellets/pellets 2.		
	(c) derivative of BMC. 27, with facing head, BMC. 29		
19	(PL. XXVI, 3)	1	
2. 'Runic' Sceattas			
20-24	(a) EPA. BMC., p. 5, Rigold RIx (PL. XXVI, 4)	5	
25-36	(b) APA. BMC., p. 5, Rigold RIy	9+3 copies	
	(c) Cross and pellets. BMC. 2c, Rigold R3		
	i. with cross above and circle below cross		
37-102	bust to r. (PL. XXVI, 8)	65	
102-111	bust to l.	10	
	ii. with 'legend' $\wedge \vee \wedge \vee \wedge \vee \wedge \vee$		
112-114	bust to r.	3	
115-117	bust to l. (PL. XXVI, 9)	3	
118-119	iii. miscellaneous	2	
120-123	3. 'Porcupine' types. BMC. 4, Metcalf D	4	
124-131	Metcalf G	7+1 copy	
132-143	BMC. 5, Metcalf VOIC		
	(PL. XXVI, 5)	12	
144	4. 'porcupine' derivatives. BMC. 36, no. 52	1	
145	BMC. 6, Metcalf J	1	
146	BMC. 11, var. (PL. XXVI, 6)	1	
147-155	5. 'Two Reverses' type. BMC. 8, Metcalf I	9	
156-170	6. 'Cross on steps' type. BMC. 24a & b (PL. XXVI, 7)	15	
	7. Merovingian		
171	IN PALACIO/NADREBERTO (PL. XXVI, 10)	1	
172	Devolved monogram	1	
173	Devolved <i>croix ancrée</i> /Cross and pellets	1	
174	'Porcupine'/' <i>Croix ancrée</i> & pendants	1	
175	Radiate 'head'/'Long Cross	1	

Group 1 is generally regarded as the earliest stage of this coinage; it is customarily dated to the years around A.D. 700 though it may be earlier; provenances suggest that both main types are Kentish. The Rune-inscribed coins of Groups 2a and 2b are most frequently found in East Anglia. 2c, the largest (and probably the latest) element in the hoard, has hitherto been found mainly on the continent, and Lafaurie has



tentatively claimed it for Poitou. It is, in fact, far from homogeneous in either style or weight. For the most part, coins in the hoard conform to an average weight of slightly over 1.20 g. Only a part of the 'Cross-and-pellets' issue is on this standard, the remainder seeming to fall around 0.85–0.90 g. Two of the five palpably continental pieces seem also to belong to this light standard. The standard itself is not easy to identify or to recognize in other coinages. Late sceattas and their Merovingian counterparts normally average slightly more than 1.0 gram in weight; a third continental piece, whose reverse type of *croix ancrée* with pendants recalls a design of Pepin the Short (752–68), does in fact attain 1.03 g. This very light standard seems not to be traceable in England or France, and we must therefore eschew the attractive hypothesis that the commonest type of the find is in fact Mercian, or indeed English at all. Preliminary results suggest that we should leave the Cross-and-pellets type to the Frisians, and regard its dominance in the hoard as evidence of import, substantial as regards this particular find, but untypical of the general availability of sceattas in England. We might then postulate that the depositor of the find had a close link with the Frisian trade, though it should be remarked that the numerous 'Porcupines' are of the characteristically English series, and not of those normally found in Frisia.

Other series well represented in the find are the Two Reverses type, which is known from Continental finds, and the enigmatic Cross-on-Steps type, of which virtually nothing is known. We can say almost nothing about the place of origin of either type; the effigy of the Cross-on-Steps type may be related to deniers of Central France, and so ultimately derived from the Bannassac and Rodez busts, but Paris seems to offer a more immediate source.

Some unusual pieces may be noted here. No. 19 is from the same dies as the very rare BMC. Type 29, and the unusual no. 144 is a die duplicate of BMC. 36, no. 52. No. 146 has the same obverse die as BMC. Type 11, but a totally different reverse die. BMC. Type 11 reads, AROALDO—presumably a moneyer's name—no. 146 reads, FIT/RV. This may be read alternatively as FITVR; in the latter case, the mint-name is not to be discerned, in the former, one might speculate about a mint at Richborough or Rochester. Of the continental coins, the most obviously interesting is no. 171, only the third recorded example of a palatine denier to bear a moneyer's name. Our specimen confirms the reading of the other pieces, and is from the same obverse die as that in the Plassac hoard.

These coins should no doubt properly be termed 'pennies'. They correspond to and are concurrent with Merovingian pieces, some of which bear the legend DENARIVS, and which form the natural precursors of the Carolingian *denarius novus* and the pence of Offa.

It is not easy to offer a precise date for an essentially undatable assemblage. There is no substantial evidence for the currency of *denarii* in France, let alone England, before the last quarter of the 7th century. Light pieces of the 1.05 g. standard were being struck in Provence well before 740, perhaps from the early years of the 8th century; we know as yet too little about the absolute dating of the Frankish coinage to say how generally or how quickly this standard spread. It had made virtually no impact on the hoards of Bais, St. Pierre-les-Etreux, though is perhaps discernable in Plassac and Nohanent and is manifest at Savonnières. The sceatta content of the first four of these is closely comparable to the ensemble of Aston Rowant, and the date of these hoards cannot be far apart. I suspect that they are earlier than has been hitherto supposed, and would tentatively propose a date c. 710–15 for the English find.

J. P. C. KENT

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 S. E. Rigold, 'The two primary series of Sceattas', *British Numismatic Journal* (1960), 6.  
 K. F. Morrison and Henry Grunthal, 'Carolingian Coinage', *Numismatic Notes & Monographs*, no. 158 (1967).

## EXCAVATION AT THE SAXON CHURCH AT WATERPERRY, OXON

In 1971 the work of restoration was completed at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Waterperry. During the restoration the pews on the north side of the nave were removed and at the request of the Rector of Holton and Vicar of Waterperry, the Rev. Russell Hawken, a small excavation was carried out in 1968 (SP/629063).

The object of the excavation was to attempt to expose the footings of the north wall of the supposed Saxon church which might have lain under the floor of the nave and whose chancel arch was discovered in 1939 by the Vicar, the Rev. J. Todd.<sup>1</sup> Todd subsequently carried out some excavations at the south-west corner of the chancel where he discovered the foundations of a small apsidal chancel. These discoveries, in conjunction with probing with a steel rod beneath the wooden floors of the pews in the nave, led Todd to the interpretation of an original nave about 22 ft. long internally by about 13 ft. wide.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately the recent excavations showed quite conclusively that Todd was mistaken with regard to the original north wall and west end of the church. Neither of these walls was visible in the excavation, either in the form of a surviving stone footing, as Todd had supposed, or as a robber trench.

This negative evidence does not detract from the interest of Waterperry, since it shows that the original church must in reality have been even larger than Todd had postulated. Indeed there seems no reason why the present north wall could not belong, in part at least, to the original structure.

Apart from human remains found in the excavations which were re-interred, the finds included: some bronze slag, presumably derived from bell casting; and a small handle from a vessel in fine shelly, Late Saxon 'St. Neot's' ware. This handle is like that on a small Late Saxon jug from Carfax, Oxford (A.M. 1913.150).

Single examples of the following inlaid and printed floor tiles were found, following the serial numbers in Loyd Haberly's *Medieval English Paving tiles* (Oxford, 1937): Inlaid, XXV and XXVI; Printed, CLXVIII, CCXIX, CCXXIII. Examples of CLXVIII and CCXIX can still be seen in the floor of the church. The floor tiles have been put in a display case in the church with the exception of CCXXIII which has been deposited with the other finds in the City and County Museum, Woodstock.

T. G. HASSALL

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

Excavations in 1968 prior to conversion into a library for St. Edmund Hall found that an area on the south side of the nave had been preserved from disturbance in the 17th and 18th centuries by the University Pew. Finds included (a) Neolithic flints, (b) an occupation level, presumably of early 10th century date, (c) footings and plaster floor-levels of a timber and stone church of the late 10th century, (d) similar footings of a stone church of the 11th century, (e) the west wall, wall benches, and plaster floor-levels of the early 12th century church which largely survives; a late 12th or early 13th century stone coffin with a burial in an intact shroud, with an inserted second burial, and (f) floor-tiles<sup>1</sup> and details of other medieval alterations.

D. A. M. STURDY

<sup>1</sup> J. Todd, *Waterperry Church*, 5-6. *V.C.H. Oxon.*, v (1957), 306-7.

<sup>2</sup> H. M. Taylor and J. Taylor, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, II (1965), 640-2. Plan and elevation. The elevation of the chancel arch, Fig. 327, is inaccurate with regard to the stones in the jambs and the individual voussoirs.

<sup>3</sup> A. B. Emden, 'Medieval Floor-Tiles in the Church of St. Peter in the East, Oxford', *Oxoniensis*, xxxiv (1969), 29-44.



## EXCAVATIONS AT EYNHAM ABBEY, 1971

Excavation on the site of the Benedictine Abbey was undertaken by M. Gray and N. Clayton on behalf of the Oxford City and County Museum owing to the threat of building in 'Nursery Field' (SP/434091).

Trench A, south-east of the parish church, cut through a cemetery of possible pre-Conquest date.

Trenches B and C, east of the churchyard wall, showed that the Abbey buildings extend into this field, with perimeter ditches on the north and south sides of two distinct ranges of buildings.

A high incidence of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon (grass-tempered) pottery in the excavation indicates that there may be even earlier occupation in the close vicinity.

M. GRAY

## THE TOPOGRAPHY OF SCHOOLS STREET, OXFORD

Schools Street was situated roughly parallel to Cattle Street on the west side of what is now Radcliffe Square. It was a street filled with small tenements inhabited by those involved in the book trade, and at the north end (now the Bodleian) used as schools.<sup>1</sup>

Salter in several of his plans of the Exeter College and Bodleian Library area<sup>2</sup> gives Schools Street a definite alignment to the east of what is now Bodley's Proscholium, so that the wall at the east end of Exeter Garden represents the west side of the road and the parish boundary between St. Mary the Virgin and St. Michael at the Northgate runs up the centre of the street. This alignment seems unlikely when the evidence is re-examined.

The most suspicious feature is the wall of Exeter garden, for if it represents the west side of the road there must have been a kink in the road as can be seen from a modern map. On the Map of Medieval Oxford this is compensated for by bringing forward the line of Brasenose College front to make the street appear straight. Doubts have been raised before about the Exeter garden wall; there was a dispute about it in the 1890s,<sup>3</sup> and in describing the growth of the Exeter site Boase actually states that 'a portion of Schools Street at the east of the present garden was obtained',<sup>4</sup> but states no evidence. What makes a definite answer difficult without excavation is that despite the good documentation of the Exeter insula and the Schools Street/Cattle Street insula, there are not enough east-west measurements to reconstruct the early topography.

On the east of the Street, the Osenev Schools (N.E. 106) which were rebuilt in 1557 as the Public Schools with Queen Mary's Benefaction,<sup>5</sup> although illustrated by Bereblock<sup>6</sup> and Agas, are nowhere described fully with measurements. The grant to the University in 1555 gives figures which have been taken as measurements of the buildings<sup>7</sup> but in fact only refer to the gardens 'ac etiam totum illud gardinam nostram . . . retro Scholas nostras . . . quod quidem gardinam continet (122 feet north to south,

<sup>1</sup> W. A. Pantin, 'The Halls and Schools of Medieval Oxford . . .', in *Oxford Studies presented to Callus*, O.H.S. NS 16 (1964).

<sup>2</sup> E.g. H. E. Salter, *Map of Medieval Oxford* (1934), Map 3, and *Balliol Deeds*, O.H.S., 64 (1913), p. 138.

<sup>3</sup> *Archaeologia Oxoniensis* (1892-5), 261.

<sup>4</sup> C. W. Boase, *Registrum Collegii Exoniensis*, O.H.S., 27 (1894), 362-3.

<sup>5</sup> I. W. Philip, 'Queen Mary Tudor's benefaction to the University', in *Bodleian Library Record*, v, No. 1 (1954), 35-6.

<sup>6</sup> *Old Plans of Oxford*, O.H.S., 38 (1899).

<sup>7</sup> By Salter in his rough draft for the survey, in Bod. Lib. MS. Top. Oxon. c. 425, fol. 195, and by Pantin in *Halls and Schools*, op. cit.

40 feet across at the south, 33 feet in the middle and 27 feet at the north)<sup>8</sup>. Photographs taken of excavations in Schools Quadrangle and Radcliffe Square are not informative.<sup>9</sup> Paske and Black Halls to the south are shown on an 18th century map<sup>10</sup> and the Ordnance 1 : 500 plan of 1878, and the latter indicates the parish boundary running north along its front and northwards through the two marker stones on either side of the Bodleian. This would suggest that the parish boundary ran along the east side of the street, though Salter shows it as up the middle.

On the west side there are many measurements in the Balliol lease to the University of St. Hugh's Hall in 1427<sup>11</sup> but the schools here can only be reconstructed in abstract, since the exact size of Exeter College at that time is not known.<sup>12</sup> When the defunct schools south of the Divinity School had been acquired by Exeter, and the Public Schools built opposite, on the Oseney site, the University obtained permission to close off the northern end of the Street in 1558<sup>13</sup> and then built gates at each end. The site is thus shown by Bereblock and Agas. Bodley's Proscholium was built in 1610-13 partly on Exeter land<sup>14</sup> and partly in the street—leaving a narrow space between it and the Public Schools, which apparently survived at least until November 1611 and until the grander scheme got under way.<sup>15</sup> With the building of the Schools Quadrangle between 1613 and 1624 the street was finally obliterated except for a portion at the south which, with its gate, was now used as the south entrance to the Library.<sup>16</sup> This passage is shown by Loggan in 1675<sup>17</sup> and on several plans drawn up for Hawksmoor in 1712-14,<sup>18</sup> and only on plans drawn after 1719 is the modern line shown.<sup>19</sup> Loggan's plans and some of Hawksmoor's imply that the gate and passage was to the west of the present line of the wall.

Therefore, although the houses on this site were not demolished until 1733 when they were finally bought,<sup>20</sup> the wall (which can be seen to have modern masonry) may well have been built between 1714 and 1719, with some addition of land to Exeter garden at the same time. In the 'Computus Rectoris', Vol. 1639-1734 in the Exeter Archives there are two entries under 'Soluta Varia' for 1721-2 :

'Pd. Mr. Haviland to discharge ye Expences in ye Garden £24 -- . . .

'Pd. Mr. Seale for ye Expences of ye garden £41 13s 3d.'

This is in marked contrast with the usual expenditure of £4, £5 or nothing at all on the garden, and may well refer to the construction of the bank against the rebuilt garden wall as part of the formal layout shown on later engravings of the garden.<sup>21</sup>

When the foundations of the porch of the Divinity School were uncovered recently<sup>22</sup> no attempt was made to trace the foundations east of the central heating pipe which

<sup>8</sup> University Archives WP o8, lines 11-14.

<sup>9</sup> Bod. Lib. Photos Box No. 1 (Q) Photo b. 395, Bod. Lib. G A Oxon. a. 44, f. 62 and G A Oxon, a. 46.

<sup>10</sup> Skelton, *Oxonia Antiqua Restaurata* (1823), pl. 141.

<sup>11</sup> *Balliol Deeds*, Nos. 233, 234, pp. 150-4.

<sup>12</sup> Bod. Lib. MS. Top. Oxon. c. 234 gives the argument behind Salter's plan in *Balliol Deeds*.

<sup>13</sup> *Oxford City Records*, ed. Turner (1880), 270.

<sup>14</sup> Bod. Lib. (Univ. Arch.) Twynne, vol. 6, 125.

<sup>15</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.*, III (1954).

<sup>16</sup> I. W. Philip, 'A forgotten gate to the School's Quadrangle', *Oxoniensia*, xvii/xviii (1952-3), 185-7 and pl. XIII.

<sup>17</sup> Also in *Old Plans of Oxford*.

<sup>18</sup> Gillam, *Building accounts of the Radcliffe Camera*, O.H.S. NS (1958), 150 ff. No. 3 (Philip, 1952-3, pl. xiii), No. 4 (MS. Top. Oxon. a. 24, f. 46, Brasenose plans No. 34), No. 8 (MS. Top. Oxon. a. 26) and No. 9 (*Brasenose Quatercentenary Monographs*, No. III, O.H.S., 52 (1909), pl. lxvi).

<sup>19</sup> Gillam, op. cit., No. 5 (Bod. Lib. MS. DD Radcl. c. 48, also MS. Top. Oxon. c. 16, fol. 1034, almost the same as Skelton, above).

<sup>20</sup> Gillam, op. cit., p. xi.

<sup>21</sup> W. Williams, *Oxonia Depicta*, 1733, in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, III (1954), 119. See also *Stapleton Magazine*, vi (June 1923), 47-9.

<sup>22</sup> J. N. L. Myres, 'Recent Discoveries in the Bodleian Library', *Archaeologia*, CI (1967), 159. See p. 239 of the present volume.

extends down the Proscholium. It would seem very likely that the west side of the street, on an alignment some feet to the west of Exeter garden wall would have then gone along the middle of what is now the Proscholium and just touched the porch of the Divinity School.

I am most grateful to the Librarians of Worcester, Brasenose and in the Bodleian Library, and others who have helped in the preparation of this note.

JULIAN MUNBY

### EYNHAM ARMORIAL

The corbels supporting the nave trusses in Standlake church bear coats of arms that have been provisionally identified as those of Eynsham Abbey, and of Miles Salley, abbot of Eynsham, 1500-1516.<sup>1</sup> Two further carvings, both recorded recently in Eynsham, tend to confirm this identification, at least for the Abbey.

One is on a cottage, no. 6 in the row on the west side of Mill Street (PL. XXV, B). This cottage is an insertion into the row, blocking the road that previously ran up to the Abbey gateway opposite. It may well have been built of material from the Lodge of this, which Wood records as destroyed soon after 1657,<sup>2</sup> its stones sold for houses. The coat of arms is 'per pale, dexter an hunting horn stringed sinister a lion rampant crowned'.

An identical coat of arms was found recently during the demolition of a barn in Back Lane, and this has now been set in the wall of the Bartholomew School, in the Square. The barn contained 13th century voussoirs, some with very fresh colour wash, and a stone from a Norman arcade. These presumably all came from the Abbey, the arms at least from the Lodge.

The lion on the coat refers to Ethelmar the Fat, Duke of Cornwall, and founder of the Abbey. The representation would have been taken from the 13th century coat of the dukedom, as borne by Richard, King of the Romans. At Standlake, the lion takes up more than his fair share of the shield, perhaps in allusion to the founder's soubriquet. The horn must be a canting symbol for Conubia, or ancient Cornwall, to differentiate it from the bordure of bezants borne by Richard.

No further examples of Abbot Salley's coat have come to light. Salley's tomb, in Bristol, has no armorials. The Standlake coat is 'sme of fleurs-de-lys on a fess two pairs of annulets interlaced'. The fleurs-de-lys have been called 'sallies', or willow-flowers; alternatively they might be teazles, used in weaving and also called 'sallies'. Even though no new Salley arms have been found, the supposed connection between Eynsham Abbey and the corbels at Standlake is considerably strengthened by the new discoveries in modern Eynsham.

(From material supplied by H. C. D. COOPER.)

### THE CARFAX CONDUIT

Since the ornaments of the Carfax Conduit have been restored by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, discussions have been taking place between the City and the University about bringing back the base from Nuneham Park to a suitable site in Oxford. Recent investigations have revealed, however, that the structure at Nuneham is not as ancient a monument as has hitherto been supposed.

*Jackson's Oxford Journal* of 7 May 1787 reported that in preparation for the removal

<sup>1</sup> E. A. Greening Lamborn, 'Some Mythical Monastic Arms', *Notes and Queries*, CLXXXVII (July 1944),

14.

<sup>2</sup> A. Clark (ed.), 'Wood's Life and Times', *Oxford Historical Society*, XIX (1891), 229.

of the Conduit from Carfax 'the ornaments and imagery from the upper part' were being taken down and that 'those ancient decorations are presented by the University to Earl Harcourt and we learn that his Lordship intends to preserve these venerable remains of antiquity by placing them on a structure to be erected for their reception at his elegant seat at Nuneham in this county'. It is this structure, a wallstone plinth designed by William Mason to represent Nicholson's tank-house, which still stands in its planned picturesque setting at Nuneham.

The Conduit itself, bereft of its ancient ornaments, continued to serve the citizens of Oxford. After the removal order, a piece of land 'as near the present spot as possible' was allocated to the University for its re-erection. This was on the north side of High Street, where several houses had already been demolished in the road widening improvements. A house, which became No. 1 High Street, was built on 'the overplus of land' beside the Conduit and above it, and this arrangement, whereby the City leased the upper storey and the University retained ownership of part of the ground floor for the Conduit, continued until 1869 when the City, who by then had an adequate water supply in the Lake Road reservoir, bought the entire University Waterworks at Hinksey and in Oxford. After the demolition of the Conduit a shop front was added to No. 1 High Street and the whole building finally became part of the improved Lloyds Bank corner. A plan in the Bank deeds shows the spot on which the Conduit had stood.

MAVIS BATEY

#### THE HERMITAGE ALIAS THE CHEQUERS AT STANDLAKE

The first mention of this old place occurs in Anthony à Wood's Diary for March 1659,<sup>1</sup> following his description of Newbridge 'on the road from London to Gloucester', and the responsibility for its repair:

'Whereupon one Thomas Briggs, that lived in an Hermitage at that end of the bridge next to Stanlake, obtained licence to require the good will and favour of passengers that came that way and of the neighbouring villages; so that the money being then collected, the bridge was repaired in good sort.

'This Hermitage was a little old stone building, but beyond the memorie of man it hath been an ale house or pettie-inne for travellers, called the Checquers. It belongs to Lyncolne College and Dod the tenant pays 3s. 4d per annum for it, by the name of "The Hermitage alias the Checquers Inn in the Parish of Stanlake".'

This 'Thomas Briggs' may be the 'Thomas ad Pontem' who appears as a Serf of Lady Isabella de Grey in the Standlake portion of the Bampton Hundred Rolls of 1279/80.<sup>2</sup>

Search through Lincoln College muniments showed that the conveyance to them of their Standlake estates in 1567, by Robert Radborne, Citizen and Stationer of London,<sup>3</sup> included 'the moietie and one half of the hermytage in tenure Robert Hunte in Bryckenton held by copy of Court Rolls for the rente of 3s. 4d.'. This estate had been part of the Standlake Manor, which had been included in the holdings of Anne of Cleves for her life.<sup>4</sup> The College records include leases to tenants for 'half a cottage and orchard called Hermitage' until 1816, the words 'or Checquers' being added from 1680. After 1816 Lincoln College Fellows Accounts show the rent as received from Magdalen College. The lease included one and a half beast commons, and was revalued from 3s. 4d. (half a mark) to £5 in 1860.

The Will of the tenant, Augustine Dod,<sup>5</sup> who was mentioned by Wood, is dated

<sup>1</sup> Anthony à Wood, *Life & Times*, Ed. Clark, I, 272/3.

<sup>2</sup> *O.R.S.*, XLVI (1968), 69.

<sup>3</sup> Lincoln College muniments; Indenture, 20 Dec. 10 Eliz.

<sup>4</sup> Printed Papers King Henry VIII, vol. xvi, 503.32 (page 242).

<sup>5</sup> Bodleian Library MSS. Wills Oxon., 124/4/14.

1679 and was proved in 1681. He bequeathed 'to my loving wife Malin Dod the house in which I now live which I hold from Magdalen Colledge and Lincolne Colledge for life ...'.

Documents in Magdalen College muniments<sup>6</sup> show that the father of the above Robert Radborne, himself Robert, Miller of Standlake, had split his holdings of Standlake property, and had included in a sale in 1556 to Magdalen College: 'lands and tenements in Stanlake held by the following persons ... 14. Robert Hunte the fourth part of a tenement called le Hermytage'. The Patent Rolls which cover these transactions<sup>7</sup> omit the detail of this particular property.

Magdalen College, who held the Lordship of the Manor of Standlake, treated their portion of the Hermitage as copyhold, and the changes of tenancy are recorded in the books of the Manor Courts from 1681 to about 1813, supplemented by rough notes on a Terrier of 1808 *et seq.*<sup>8</sup> Generally, the tenancy is the same as that in Lincoln College records, and the rent of this portion was 2s. 8d.

There is no record of tenancy from about 1818, by which time Magdalen College appear to have been in occupation of the whole property, but no link has been found with them of the Richard Curtis, Esq., of the University of Oxford who was Lincoln College's last recorded tenant in 1818. Rents of copyhold properties were collected by the Steward appointed by 'The Lord', i.e. Magdalen College, usually an Oxford Solicitor. The College only received an annual statement of gross rents collected, and of expenses. The Steward's own accounts are believed to have been handed to Salvage in 1914/1918.

In 1919, Magdalen College enquired from Lincoln College the location of the premises for which they had been paying £5 annually for some sixty years, but the answer could not be found. The Colleges then mutually employed Mr. Herbert Dulake, Surveyor, to identify the property.<sup>9</sup> He interrogated old inhabitants and referred to old maps, and concluded that the Hermitage had been on a plot of 1 acre, 1 rood, 29 poles, shown as parcel 45 on the 1865 Ordnance Survey Map.<sup>10</sup> This was now arable, as cottages, trees and orchard had long disappeared. His advice was accepted by both Colleges, and Magdalen College bought the plot in 1920 for £100.

However, a 1768 Terrier of Magdalen College Estates has now been found to include a sketch map, to scale, of their Standlake Enclosures. The text of the Terrier shows premises occupied by one George Grafton at 2s. 8d. p.a., which are described as 'a moiety of one messuage and two cottages, a barn, orchard and garden, with one cow common' which clearly seems to be The Chequers, of which Grafton was tenant at that time.<sup>11</sup> The map shows this at the junction of the village street with the Witney-Abingdon trunk road, which from here to Newbridge ran across the open common fields. This road, as at present, must have been raised above field level, for the fields still flood after heavy rain as in John Leland's description of conditions in 1535/43.<sup>12</sup>

'Rode ... to Newbridge on Isis. The ground ther all about lyethe in low medowes often overflowne by rage of rayne. There is a long cawsye of stone at eche end of the bridge ...'

These premises seem to have been demolished by Magdalen College about 1886 when they built a new farmhouse on the site, now named 'Manor Farm'. The licence for the ale house seems to have lapsed about 1791<sup>13</sup> while Gardner's 1852 Directory, having quoted the legends which follow, adds 'nor is it known in the neighbourhood that there ever was an inn here bearing the sign of the Chequers'.

<sup>6</sup> Magdalen College muniments Indentures, 2 Mar 1, 2 Phil Mry and 20 Nov 3, 4 Phil Mry.

<sup>7</sup> Patent Rolls, 27 Mar 1555 (2) and 18 Nov 1556.

<sup>8</sup> Magdalen College Bursary—Court Records, 1659 to 1882.

<sup>9</sup> MSS. in Lincoln College archives.

<sup>10</sup> 1865 Edition 1/2500 O.S. sheet XXXVIII. 6.

<sup>11</sup> Quarter Sessions Recognisances, Bampton Hundred, in Oxfordshire County Record Office.

<sup>12</sup> John Leland, *Itinerary*, Ed. L. T. Smith, v. 73.

However, its existence has been confirmed by one of Standlake's oldest inhabitants, Mrs. Fenimore, now aged 91, who remembers hearing her father mention the 'Chequers', 'down by Standlake Common'.

This 1972 solution to the problem reconciles information from the Tithe Award of 1843, based on the 1839 Poor Law Survey of the Parish, which shows the cottage in the 1768 map as belonging to Magdalen College, but no land in the vicinity belonging to Lincoln College. It also conforms to some small degree with the Enclosure Award of 1853, in which parcel 254, corresponding to Dulake's O.S. parcel 45, was awarded to Lincoln College 'in lieu of 9 cow commons', of which The Chequers 'Lincoln' share was  $1\frac{1}{2}$ !

It is not unexpected that the Hermitage has attracted legends, the first mention of which occurs in Dr. Plot's *Natural History* of 1677:<sup>13</sup>

'*Maundy Thursday Customs.* And now I have run myself into Divinity, I cannot but note an odd custom at Stanlake, where the Parson in a procession about holy Thursday, reads a gospel at a Barrel's Head in the Cellar of the Checquer Inn, where some say there was formerly a Hermitage; others, that there was anciently a Cross, at which they read a gospel in former times, over which the House, and more particularly the Cellar being built, they are forced to perform it in the same manner as above.'

Plot goes on to record a Pear Tree<sup>14</sup> known as the 'Hundred Pound Pear' which cropped twice in each year. (This was not caused by grafting but occurs naturally in the old variety 'Bon Chretien of Syon'.<sup>15</sup>)

The gist of these two legends is repeated by Rawlinson<sup>16</sup> c. 1718, who adds that 'the Chequers is situate on the road between Gloucestershire and London', and by Bishop White Kennet<sup>17</sup> who amends the timing to 'Rogation Week'.

The writer is greatly indebted to the Librarians and Bursars of Lincoln and Magdalen Colleges for their help, and for making their muniments so available to a stranger. The Bodleian Library have been always ready to produce sources, and the County Archivist has helped in many ways.

This article may perhaps be regarded as a sequel to Miss M. R. Toynbee's excellent article on Newbridge, published in 1949,<sup>18</sup> which prompted the writer to some fifteen years of peripatetic research.

BRIGADIER F. R. L. GOADBY

<sup>13</sup> Dr. Robert Plot's, *Natural History of Oxfordshire* (1677), 1st edition, Ch. 8.30.

<sup>14</sup> Plot Ch. 6.86.

<sup>15</sup> I am grateful to Mr. H. A. Baker, Fruit Officer at the R. H. S. Gardens, Wisley, for this comment.

<sup>16</sup> Rawlinson's *Diaries*, vol. B, 60/66.

<sup>17</sup> Bishop White Kennet, *Parochial Antiquities* (1818), 247.

<sup>18</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xiv (1949), 49/52.





A. Roman Head from Glyme Farm.

*Photo: Ashmolean Museum*



B. Coat of Arms from Eynsham Abbey.

*Photo: H. C. D. Cooper*

PLATE XXVI



Sceattas from Aston Rowant ; obverse (upper photo of each pair) and reverse of ten of the coins.

*Photo : British Museum*