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PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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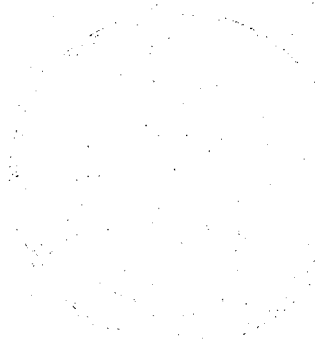
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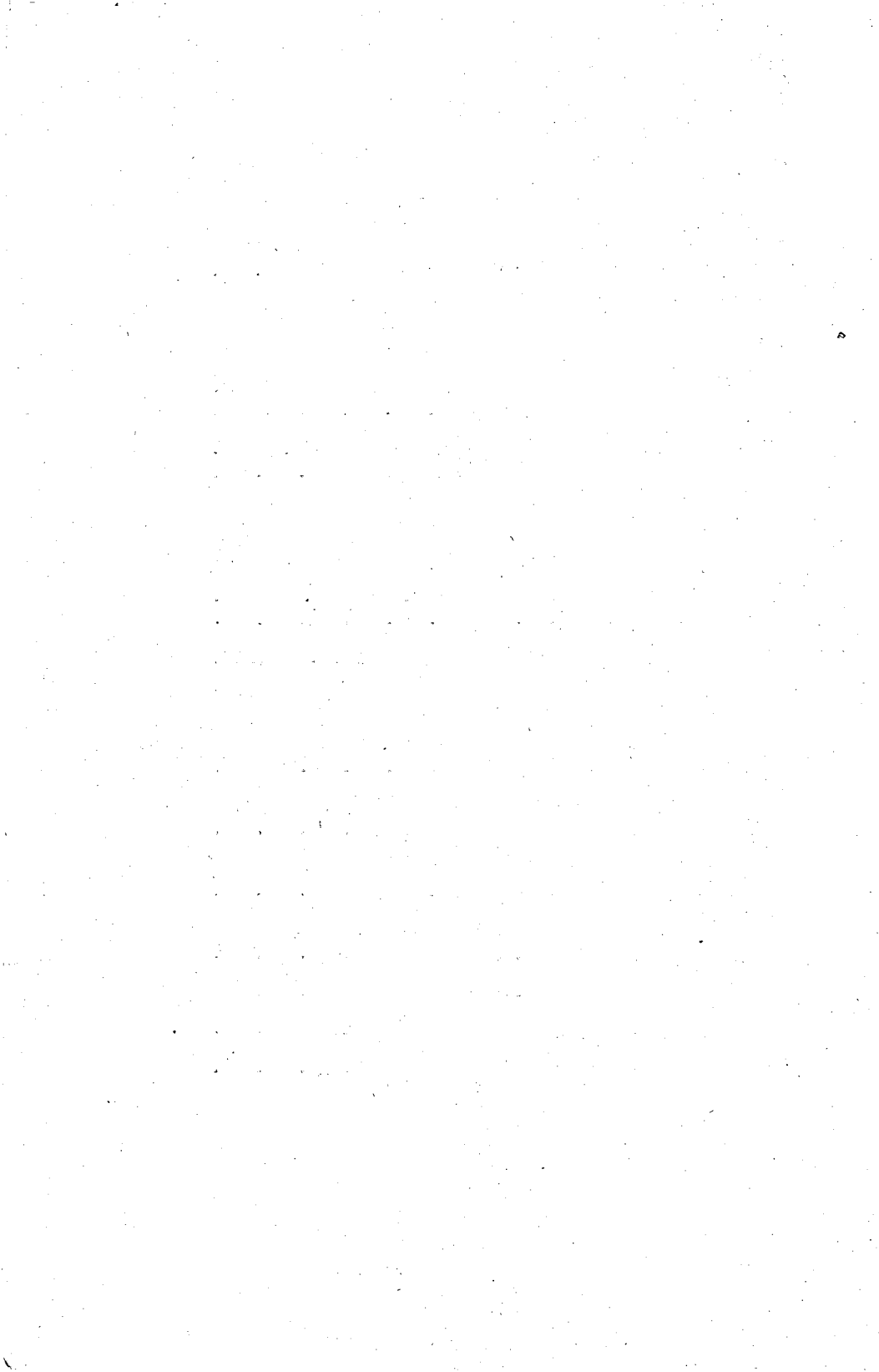
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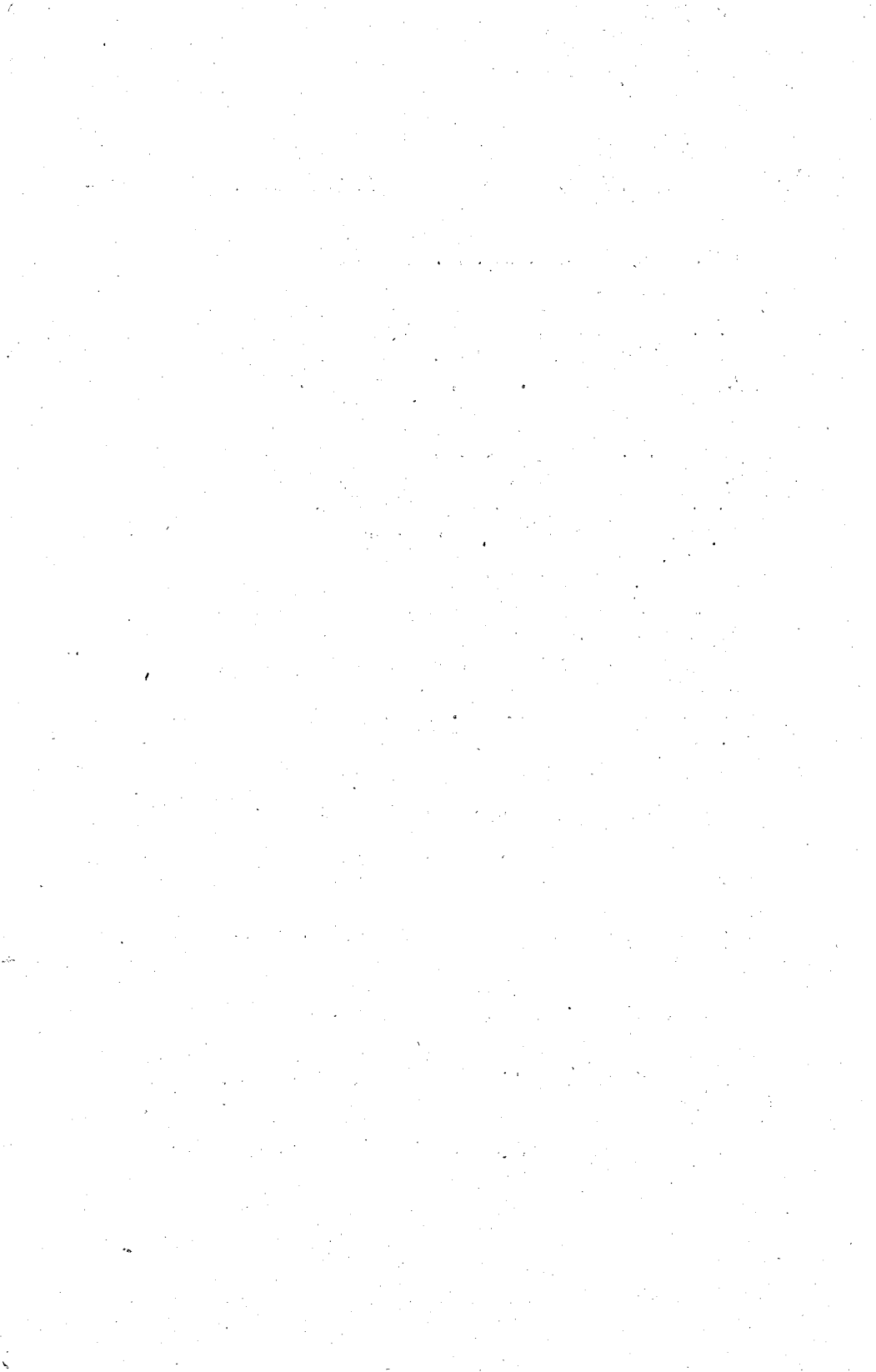
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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

By T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A. and

M. M. O'REILLY, B.A.

*The Westley Collection.*

The objects shown in Pls. I–XIV formed part of the collection of the late Mr James Bland Westley, of Soham, Cambridge-shire, and, together with other objects not illustrated here, have been presented to the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology by Miss E. E. Westley, in memory of her brother. The exact provenance of most of them is unknown, but it is probably safe to say that they all come either from the parish of Soham itself or from the neighbouring parishes of Burwell, Wicken, Isleham, and Fordham.

A number of fine stone implements of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages are figured on Pls. I–VI, and Mr M. C. Burkitt has kindly given us the following note on them: "The stone implements include several long picks showing the characteristic cross-blow method of sharpening the working edge (Pl. I, figs. *a–c*). Culturally speaking these tools date to a late period of the Northern Forest folk penetrating into England in late 'Atlantic' times. Pl. II is a magnificent chipped celt, and the others (Pls. III, figs. *a–c* and IV, figs. *a, b* and *d*) form a nice series, Early Metal Age in date. Pl. IV, fig. *c*, is a particularly beautiful example of a 'waisted' chisel type. Pl. V, fig. *c*, is a good specimen of a 'pestle' mace, while Pl. V, fig. *d*, is an interesting hammer-stone with finger-grips. There are also a number of tanged and of winged and tanged arrowheads (Pl. VI), which also can be dated to a fairly early period in the Bronze Age."

The bronze socketed axes and palstave shown in Pl. VII, figs. *a–d*, and Pl. VIII, fig. *c*, are all of well-known types, frequently found in this district, and do not call for much comment. But the palstave in Pl. IX has a most unusual ornament; the surface on both faces of the blade is hammered into a series of ripples concentric with the curve of the cutting-edge, and horizontal ripples appear on both sides down nearly

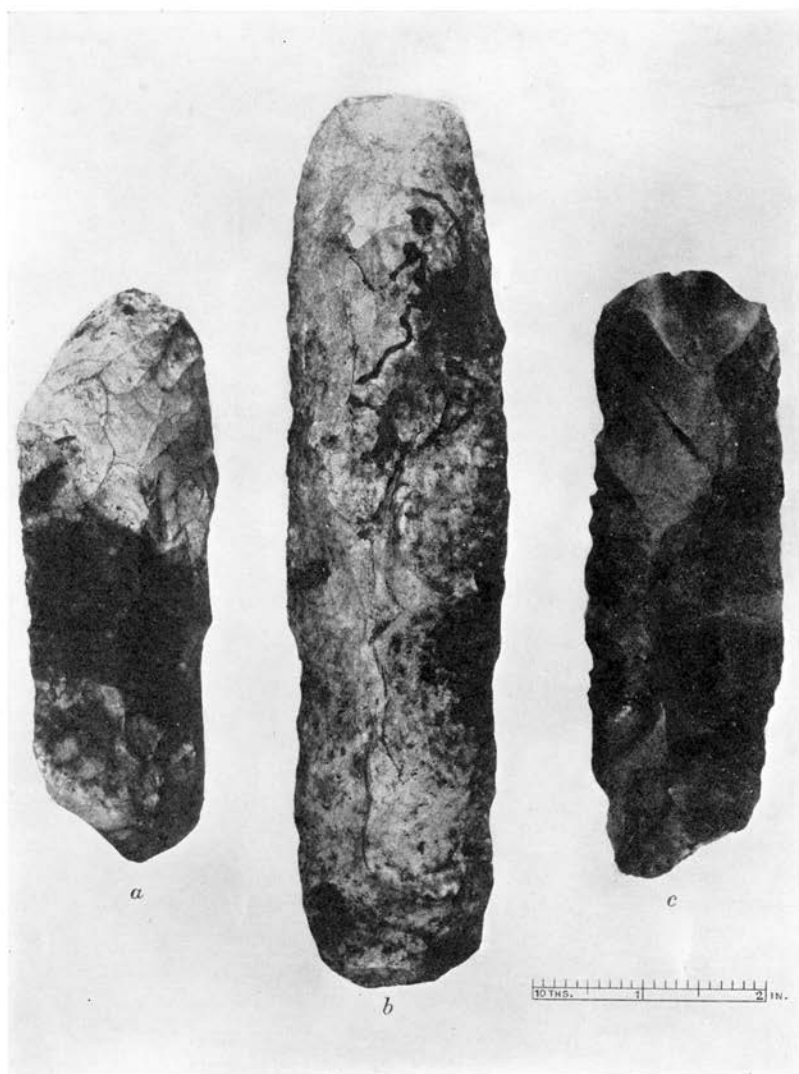


PLATE II

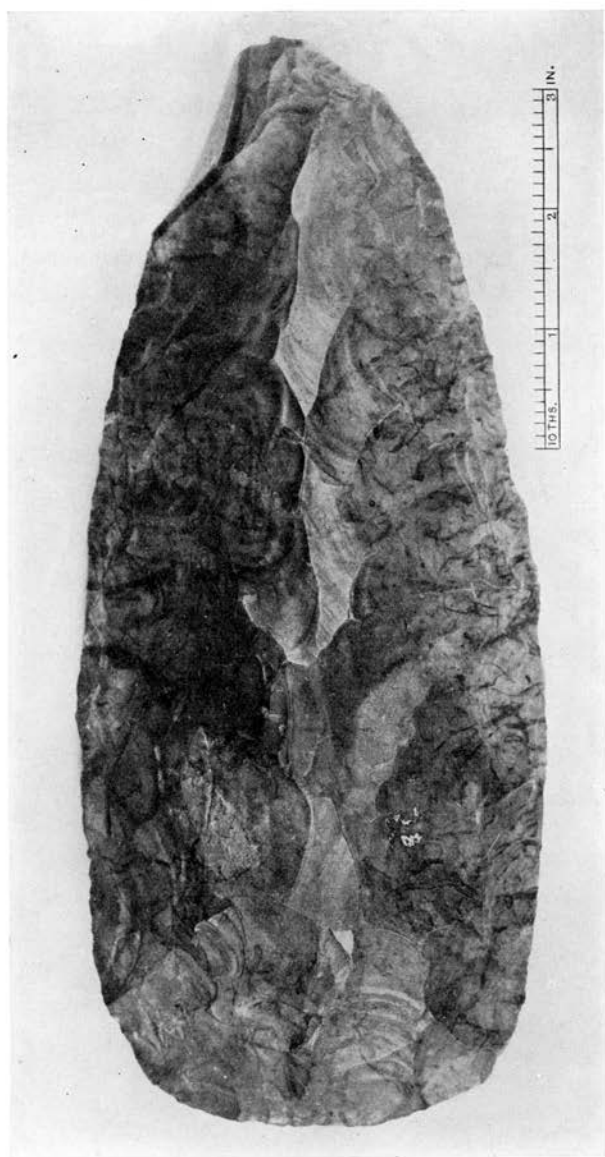
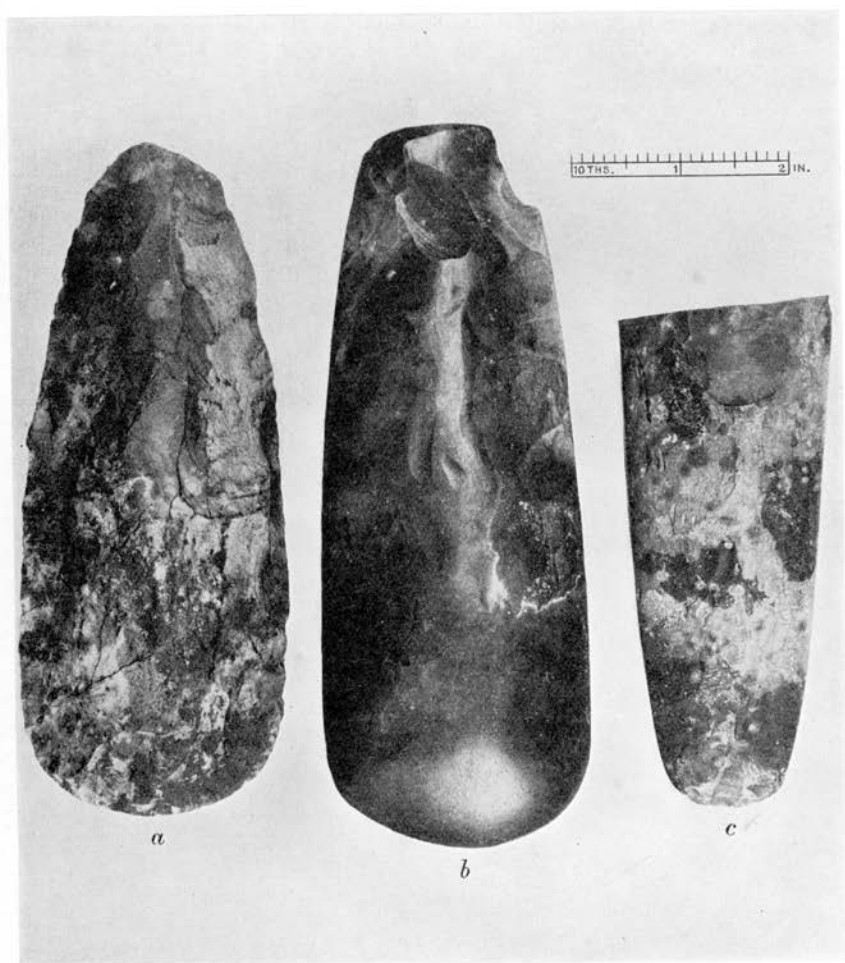


PLATE III



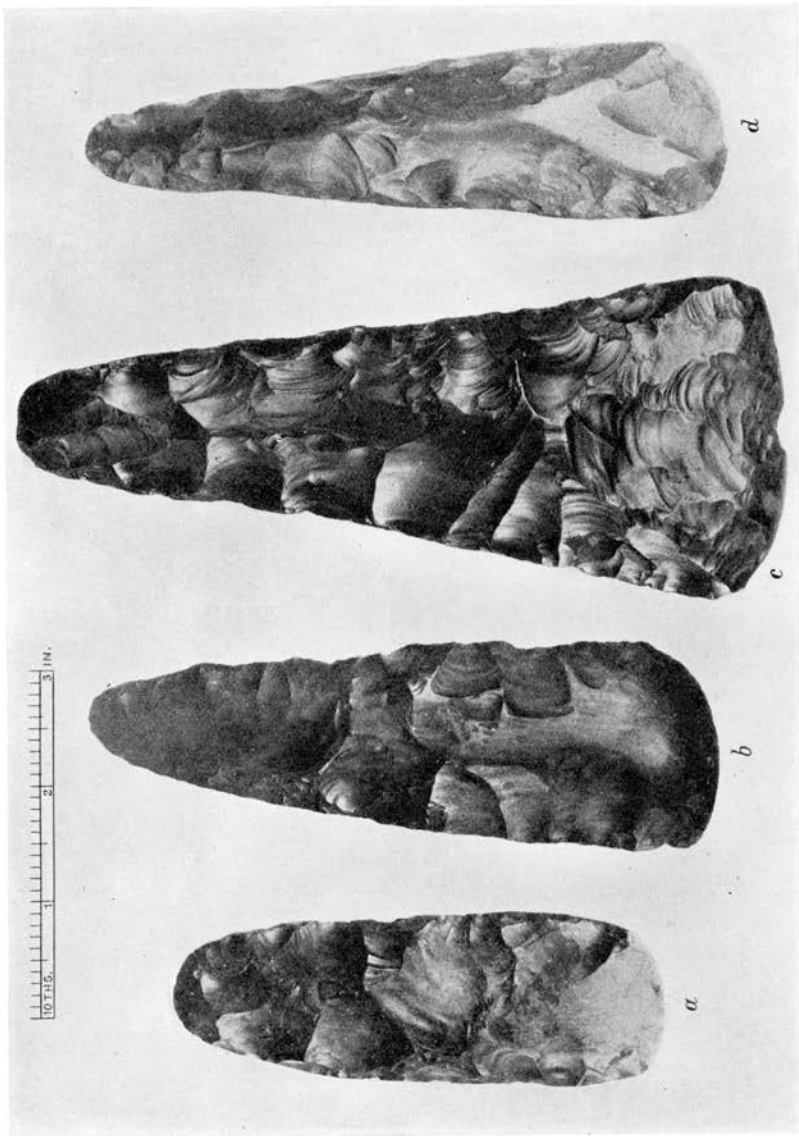
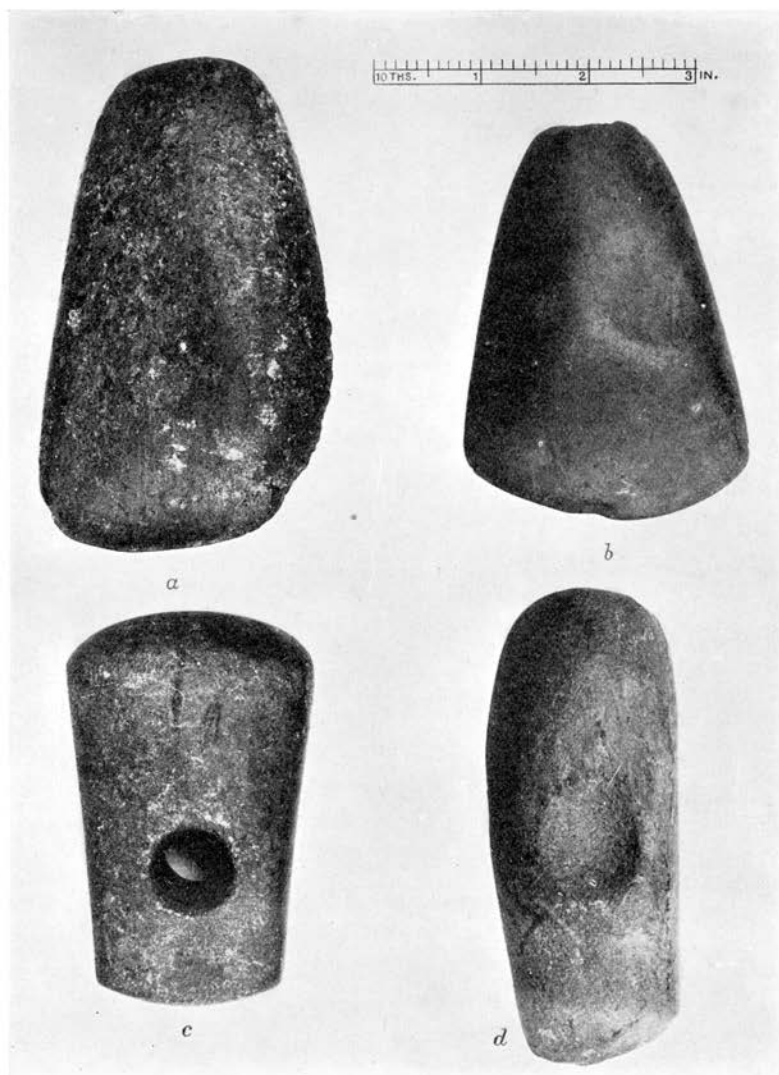


PLATE V





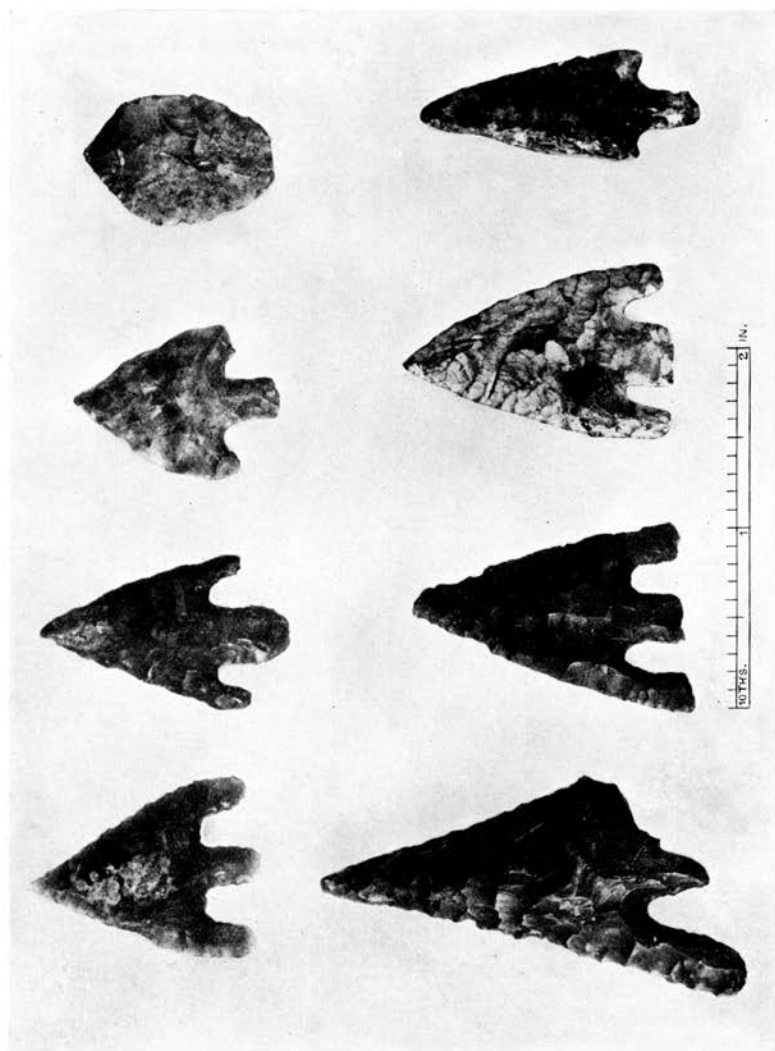


PLATE VII





Fig. c.



Fig. b.



Fig. a.

PLATE IX



PLATE X

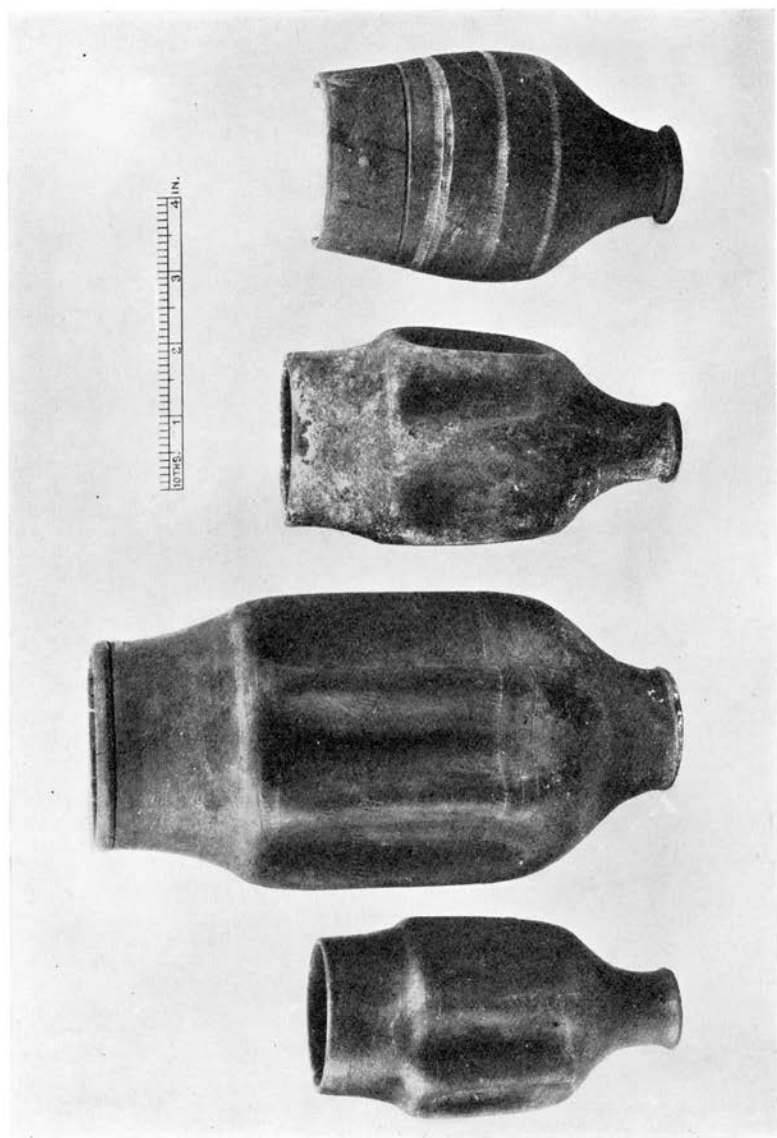
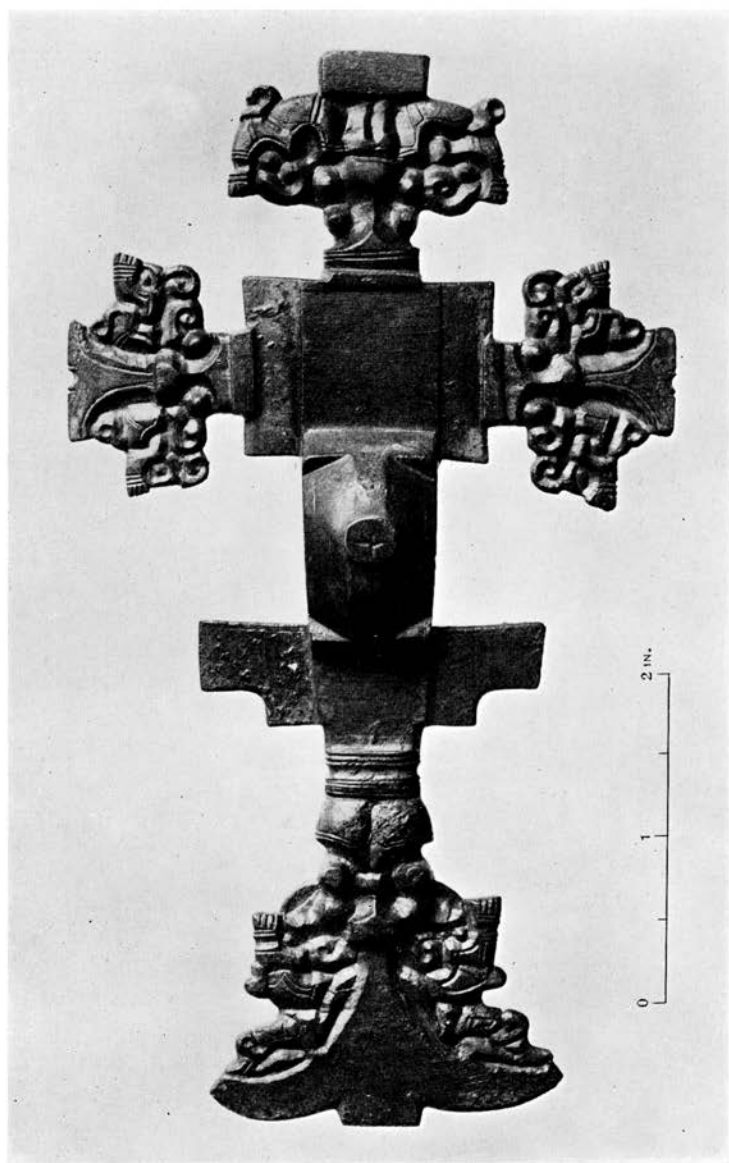


PLATE XI



their whole length. We have not been able to find any close parallel to this specimen; Evans figures a palstave from Balcary, Wigtonshire, ornamented with ripple marking on the upper part of the sides, but not on the blade (Evans, *Bronze Implements*, Fig. 91), and a flanged axe from Ireland with ripples on the blade (*Bronze Implements*, Fig. 37); ripple markings, usually diagonal, are of course common on the sides of flanged axes (not palstaves). Pl. VIII, figs. *a* and *b*, shows a small palstave with transverse edge, which was probably hafted as a chisel; the type is fairly common (cf. Evans, *Bronze Implements*, Figs. 101, 102), though probably commoner in Ireland than in this country.

The Romano-British Castor ware vases shown in Pl. X are discussed in a note following by T. C. Lethbridge on "Pottery of the Roman Period from Isleham Fen."

One of the most interesting objects in the Westley collection is the bronze cruciform brooch figured in Pl. XI, which came from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery near the present churchyard at Soham. It may be noted here that there are at least three Pagan Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in Soham parish; one in the present churchyard, one in the modern cemetery, and a third, which was excavated in 1931 (see *C.A.S. Proc.* xxxiii, 152), beside the water-tower on the Soham-Fordham road. Typologically this brooch would be considered a very late specimen, representing almost the last stage in the development of these forms; but the animal ornament, in Salin's Style I, is clear-cut and coherent, and the whole design and workmanship of the brooch are very good indeed. This raises once more the question whether Style I is as early in this country as has generally been believed, especially when we find extensive cemeteries, such as Girton and St John's, where there are cruciform brooches of every type except the very latest, but animal ornament is extremely scarce. According to Dr Shetelig's dating of these brooches, which there is as yet no reason to dispute, this specimen would certainly not be earlier than A.D. 550 and might well be much later; but the animals are among the least disintegrated of any from this part of the country, those on the foot, for instance, seeming not very far removed from the crouching

animals seen on late Roman Provincial work and on the equal-armed brooches.

Pl. XII, figs. *a-d*, and Pl. XIV show a number of iron spearheads and an axe-head belonging to the Late Saxon Period. It is possible that the spearheads come from the same place as the very fine spearhead described in vol. xxxi, p. 154, Pl. VII. This was dredged from the river at Braham Dock in 1924. Workmen who had been employed in spreading the mud at this time report to Major Fowler that several "old daggers and bones" were found at the same time. Miss Westley tells us that the spearheads in her brother's collection were brought to him about ten years ago. They all show traces of river mud and fresh-water shells still sticking to their surfaces. It seems possible that these are the "old daggers" found at Braham Dock.

At first sight Braham Dock seems a most unlikely place for warlike happenings in the eleventh century, for this is the date to which spears of the form of Pl. XII are tentatively ascribed. If, however, the position of the little mediaeval earthwork at Braham farm is taken into consideration and the curious course of the parish boundaries noted (6-inch Ordnance Survey Map, Cambridge [Isle of Ely], XXX, N.W.), the position becomes a little less vague. If the parish boundary is followed on foot from the L.N.E.R. cutting on the Stuntney highland towards Braham Dock, it will be seen that a low ridge of clay extends to within a furlong of the present river course where the spears were found. The distance on the Braham side is about the same. In fact here we have a place where in the days before the drainage the distance between the two areas of highland was only two furlongs of peat and river. This is not to say that the boulder clay ridge probably presented a pleasant line of approach, but it was a possible one and presumably accounts for the line taken by the parish boundary. And here the point should be stressed that the discovery of weapons in a river can hardly ever be accounted for by assuming accidents in ancient times. One has only to put the thing on a modern footing to see this. We have only once heard of a shotgun being dropped from a boat in still water. This was thrown overboard in a fit of spleen by its owner. We





can be quite confident that when weapons are found like this at a possible crossing place it means that there was fighting here. If it should prove possible to fix the date of this fighting, then we have a fixed point in the dating of weapons which is of the greatest value. We hope before long to publish a fuller account of the campaigns in the Fens. But we may note here that spears with knobs on the socket like Pl. XII, fig. *a*, are of great rarity in England except round Cambridge and Ely, where every third specimen recovered from the river is of this form (e.g. *C.A.S. Proc.* xxix, 114, Fig. 4 B). They are regarded as of the eleventh century on the Continent. One at least has so wide a socket that it is evidently a horseman's lance head and not an infantryman's weapon; like all the spearheads of this period found locally it has damascening on the blade. It is hard to resist the conclusion that they are Norman. It is also in the highest degree probable that the groups of weapons from Dimock's Cote, Wicken, Quaveney, and Braham Dock all belong to the same campaign, namely, William's siege of Ely. Some of the weapons may have been old at the time they were lost, but a spearhead was practically indestructible and a good one would last many generations. Those who are taking an interest in our investigation of these old wars might amuse themselves with comparing the names about Braham Dock, such as Alderbrook, with those mentioned in the "*De Gestis Herwardi Saxonis*" (in *Fenland Notes and Queries*). The distances are also suggestive. We do not wish to claim this definitely as the site of William's main attack, but it is a possible one: "And on the eighth day, all advanced to attack the Isle with their whole strength; and they put that witch before mentioned on an elevated spot in their midst, so that she, being sufficiently protected on all sides, might have free room for the exercise of her skill. . . . And when she had gone through this disgusting ceremony three times, as she had proposed, behold, the men who were hidden all around in the swamp, on the right and left, among the reeds and rough briars of the swamp, set the reeds on fire, and by the help of the wind the smoke and flame spread up against their camp. Extending some two furlongs the fire rushing hither and thither among them formed a horrible spectacle in the marsh, and the

roar of the flames, with the crackling twigs of the brushwood and willows, made a terrible noise. Stupified and excessively alarmed, they took to flight...." (From Rev. W. D. Sweeting's translation.)

It is possible that the axe shown on Pl. XIV is the so-called Viking axe, said to have been found in the dredgings at the junction of the modern river and Major Fowler's Ely Lode, just below Ely.

Pl. XIII, figs. *a* and *b*, shows two iron spearheads; *a* has a closed socket and a more or less leaf-shaped blade, and might belong possibly either to the Early Iron Age or to the Roman Period, though weapons of both periods are extremely uncommon in this district; *b* is of a type commonly found in Pagan Anglo-Saxon graves.

It is hoped to illustrate further specimens from this collection in the next number of the *Proceedings*. The Museum is deeply indebted to Miss Westley for her generous gift.

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Pl. XV, fig. *a*, shows a bone tool found on the surface of the ground on the site of a Romano-British cemetery at Cassington, Oxfordshire, and kindly presented to the Museum by Mr J. S. Todd. It is difficult to date, as we have not been able to find any exact parallel. A bone tool of the same shape was found associated with a stone axe-hammer in an inhumation grave at Springhead Lane, Ely, which probably belonged to the Early Bronze Age (see *C.A.S. Proc.* xxix, p. 106), and the incised ornament on the Cassington specimen might well be found at that period; but numerous tools of similar shape have been found by Mr E. T. Leeds in the Saxon village at Sutton Courtenay (cf. *Archaeologia*, lxxiii, Pl. XXVIII), and a similar tool ornamented with an incised pattern which includes chevrons not unlike those on our specimen was found in the Jutish cemetery at King's Field, Faversham. So simple a tool might of course be in use at any period.

The palstave figured on Pl. XV, fig. *b*, was found at Rectory Farm, Little Shelford, and has been kindly presented to the



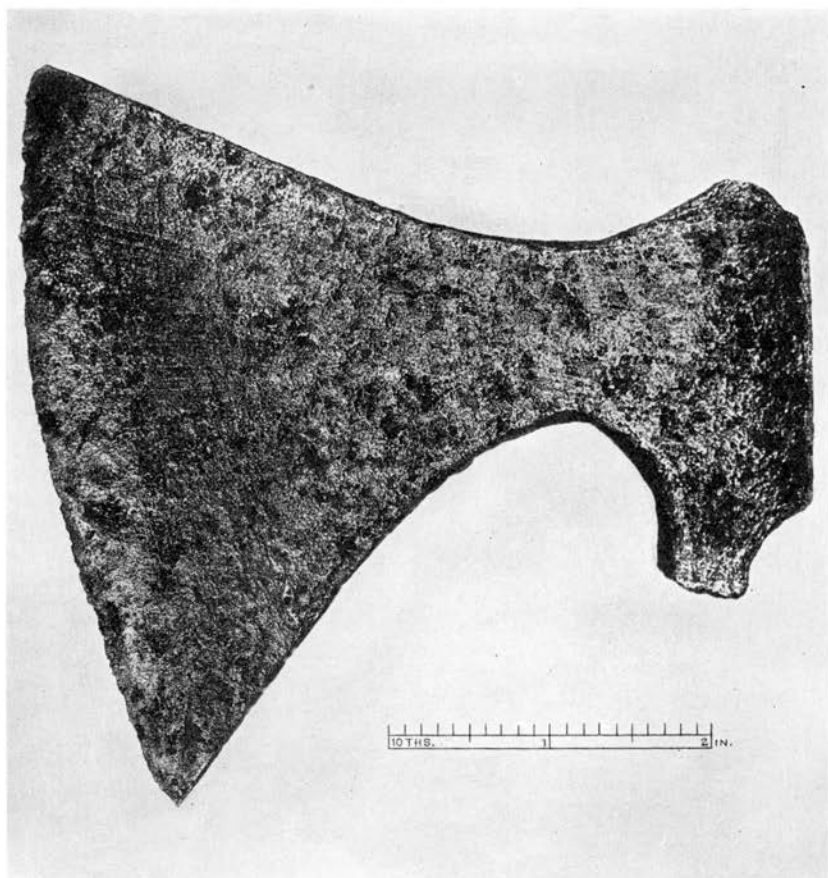




Fig. a.



Fig. b.

Museum by Mr W. A. Meadows. It is of an uncommon type, for although the flanges are high, as in the fully developed palstave, the horizontal stop-ridge is barely perceptible; the ends of the flanges are produced on to the blade and are joined to form a deep semicircular moulding.

## POTTERY OF THE ROMAN PERIOD FROM ISLEHAM FEN.

By T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A.

One dismal winter's day three years ago, I was rung up by Major Fowler at lunch time and asked to meet him in Soham in half an hour's time. When we met he said, "It will be all-right if the droves have been harrowed." After some time I found out that he had discovered the site where the pewter hoard in the Cambridge Museum had been found (*C.A.S. Proc.* xxxiii, 166). The droves had not been harrowed and I knocked off the exhaust of my car on them, but that has little to do with the account and is the usual comic relief for fen antiquaries. The site of the old river bed which we went to see was, however, full of broken examples of the indented beakers which are represented by three examples from the Westley collection shown on Pl. X. It seems that the "Old Slade" in Isleham Fen is full of these Romano-British beakers and other pots. Whether they represent a capsized barge cargo or a place where barges commonly anchored will probably never be known. We can only note that the Old Slade at Elderberry Farm is full of them and leave it at that. If we were keen typologists we would probably date them in the third century. After all there is really nothing to connect them with the pewter hoard which is almost certainly later. Let us be quite clear, however, that we do not believe that the people of Roman Britain were in the habit of throwing numerous complete pots into their waterways in a lighthearted manner. The explanation must be more reasonable than that. Conceivably some votive business accounts for both pewter and pottery alike.

## FENLAND SURVEY EXHIBITION.

An exhibition of early maps and air photographs, organized by the Fenland Research Committee, was held in Heffer's Art Gallery, Cambridge, from 29 January until 12 February, 1934. The exhibition was satisfactorily attended, and it is felt that something has been done to stimulate interest in the Fenland.

The exhibits consisted of a number of pre-Ordnance Survey maps, both manuscript (mainly in reproduction) and printed, of Fen interest; and also of a set of enlarged air photographs selected from among those being taken by the Royal Air Force in conjunction with the Committee, with a view to illustrating the extent of Romano-British occupation.

The Committee is hoping to publish a map of the Fenland as it was in A.D. 1600, and is particularly anxious to learn of any maps, other than those exhibited, dating back to this period. Information as to any other pre-Ordnance maps of the area and their whereabouts will also be extremely welcome. There must be many maps of which we have no knowledge and which ought to be placed on record. Any information about early maps may be sent to Dr H. C. Darby, of King's College, or to the Hon. Secretary at Peterhouse.

The air survey of the Fenland now being carried out by the Committee is revealing an unexpected extent of Romano-British agriculture and settlement, which entirely alters our views as to the significance of the region in this period. Moreover the air photographs reveal the extinct watercourses, the operation of which enabled agriculture to be carried on successfully. The survey is thus of exceptional interest from many points of view. A necessary pre-requisite for it is a base map of suitable scale. The area is to be covered in 20 sheets, 4 of which have already been made. For the printing of these two-inch-to-the-mile maps the sum of £500 is required, and it is hoped that those who have the furtherance of research at heart will contribute generously towards this object. The Committee will be particularly gratified if Cambridge people will support this work, which is centring so much interest on the home area.



Catalogues containing a considerable amount of information were printed for the exhibition and a certain number are left over. The Hon. Secretary, Dr J. G. D. Clark, will be very glad to supply copies to those who apply.

### JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, IN 1688.

The Master of Jesus College (Mr Arthur Gray) contributes the following note:

Mr F. J. Sebley has recently lent me an interesting book entitled:

*The Sentiments of the most Excellent Painters Concerning the Practice of Painting Collected and Composed in Tables of Precepts by Henry Testling Painter to the King of France Professor and Secretary to the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture.....London Printed for and Sold by Samuel Smith at the Princes Arms in St Paul's Churchyard, and by Edward Hall Bookseller in Cambridge 1688.*

In illustration of the writer's Seventh Table about Perspective the writer gives an Ichnography of Jesus College, with a scale of feet and a perspective view of the College. The view is practically identical with Loggan's but taken from a different plate which omits all but buildings and is more roughly executed. Loggan's book was published in 1690 but, as J. W. Clark shows, the designs are of different dates, some as early as 1675. The College shield differs in Testling from Loggan's.

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