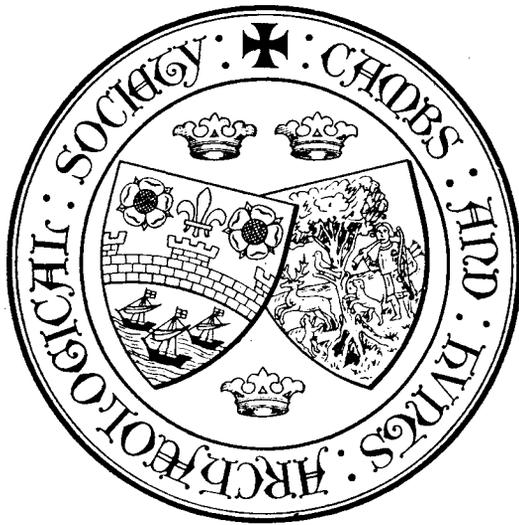




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VOLUME V. PART II.

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PLATE I.

A ROMANO-BRITISH VILLAGE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

BY J. R. GARROOD, M.D.

The field in which excavation has been going on for over three years is called Stocking Close. It is of an irregular rhomboidal shape and stands at an elevation of about 150 ft. forming part of the South Watershed of the Nene System. It lies at the extreme South-East corner of Sawtry Judith Parish; and is almost surrounded by Monks' Wood. Ord. Survey 25" sheet 230 XIII., 1901.

Mawer¹ states that "stocking" means in middle English "clearing of stocks" (logs) and later "piece cleared of stocks".

No buildings except a modern bungalow have been known to exist on the site.

The soil is blackish and contrasts with the neighbouring fields which are of yellow boulder clay with chalk and flints.

The discovery was made by Mr. A. Banks, the son of the owner, who noticed that some pottery which turned up when putting in a deep drain was similar to a Romano-British urn he had seen.

A number of trial holes were made, and it was found that the area where remains were most numerous was roughly oval and just on the North slope of the field near the centre. Over most of this area yellow clay was reached at about 1 ft. 6 ins. and the humus was about 9 ins. thick, leaving about 9 ins. of occupational remains; but in various places a greater depth was reached, viz. 2 ft. 6 ins. to 4 ft. These deeper parts appear to be trenches, one of which is now being excavated; this has been further explored by means of a hand borer. It appears to run roughly E. and W. and straight for about 200 ft., then turns at either end towards the lower ground. It is probably a drain, as a small tributary was found.

In section the trench is 7 ft. across, tapering to a foot or less at about 4 ft. below the present level.

1. The chief elements used in English Place Names, p. 57.

A certain amount of clay has slipped in from the South, and for the rest it appears to have been filled gradually, partly by rainwash, and partly as a rubbish dump and kitchen midden.

Small groups of stones, often burnt, occur at various levels accompanied by fragments of bone, pottery and charcoal, but without much burnt clay. In the floor of the trench are small depressions filled with ashy soil, bones and charcoal.

There is a rough pavement to the South of the ditch, about 3 ft. wide, which is bounded on the further side by a low bank of fine gravel and chalk. The soil below the paving is dark and ashy, while beyond the bank it is burnt red. The pottery found on and between the stones is 2nd and 3rd Century. It appears that this was a kitchen, and that ashes and rubbish were thrown into the ditch; though cooking took place in it from time to time.

A number of hearths have been excavated; and a typical specimen has an area of about 6 square ft.: it consists of alternating layers of ash and charcoal, burnt clay, and yellow clay.

In addition to the above, small, and probably temporary, hearths occur. They are scattered all over the ground excavated.

No post holes or any other evidence of huts have been found yet, but fragments of the ordinary flanged roofing tiles occur from time to time; also small pieces of burnt daub.

The charcoal has been examined by Mr. Tom Harris, of the Botany School, Cambridge, and he provisionally identifies Salix, Alder, Buckthorn, Ash, and possibly Hornbeam.

Miss Bromhead has identified the following in Monks' Wood:—Hazel, Maple, Oak, Ash, Privet, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Rose, Willow (various), Poplar, Crab, Elm, Silver-birch, and Dogwood.

A rough system of the stratification of the site appears clear:—

- (i.) A *superficial layer* which is nearly black.
- (ii.) A *deep layer* of grayish colour with some admixture of clay, often in bands.
- (iii.) *Boulder clay*.

There is no evidence that anything has been disturbed since the Britons left, nor that anyone has lived on the site since.

Pottery is most common in the upper layers; the bottom layer contains more bones than pottery.

THE FINDS.

STONE. A flint scraper 1·5 ins. by 2·0 ins. was found at a depth of 1 ft. 6 ins.; a small thumb scraper 0·7 ins. diameter from the 'clay', and half a dozen other flakes showing human workmanship; a fragment of a narrow rubstone from the deep layer.

IRON. Between three and four hundred nails have been found in and near the ditch; they are two to three inches long, with a few up to five inches; the heads are flat and about half an inch across, most are bent and usually associated with charcoal, burnt stones, etc.

There is no evidence that they formed part of any structure *in situ* and are probably the result of using old building material as fuel; usually they come from the superficial layer and are associated in some cases with Samian pottery.

A slightly curved knife (No. 21) with broken tang is 6·5 ins. long and 0·9 ins. broad; it came from the superficial layer lying horizontally amongst ash and bones, the heel slopes forward and the tang is in line with the back, which is concave.

A portion of a similar knife, and possibly a razor: it is curved the opposite way and "hollow ground". An ox goad (No. 22), and a socketed point (No. 23) 3·1 ins. long. Similar to those described by General Pitt Rivers from Woodcuts and Rotherley. Also from the superficial layer.

Iron slag is found at all levels.

BRONZE. A hairpin with the point broken, 3·5 ins. long, has a spiral groove just below the head, where its diameter is 0·1 ins. Similar grooves cover the ovoid head which is 0·2 ins. in diameter. It comes from the superficial layer, 1 ft. from the surface.

A bronze button with hollowed top, just over 0·5 ins. diameter, having a shank 0·3 ins. long with an oblong perforation, and two other small fragments of bronze were found; all were from the superficial layer. No coins have yet been found.

BONE. A hammer made from the lower part of a red deer's antler, has an oblong perforation 1·5 ins. by 0·7 ins. This appears to have been cut with a narrow metal gouge. It was partly burnt and shows considerable signs of use. It came from a depth of 2 ft resting on the clay. (Pl. II.).

The scapula of a small horse shows wear on the spine; it was probably used as a shovel.

A pin or borer formed from the splint bone of a horse came from the 'deep' layer of the trench. It is in its natural state, but no other horse bones were found near.

Two small fragments of bone pins 0·15 ins. in diameter; both from the trench.

The Metacarpal of an ox which has been cut square at one end, all faces being trimmed except the posterior.

ANIMAL REMAINS.

MAN. A fragment of a right frontal bone was found in a depression in the original surface just North of the trench, and another which fits it, from the trench. The skeleton of a new born baby was found just north of the trench.

Bones of food animals are very numerous: they are largely those of young animals, and are found at all levels. They are generally broken.

OXEN. These are usually of the size of *Bos longifrons*, and a large number of the bones are those of young animals. Metacarpals are about 165 mm. long, and 85 to 92 mm. circumference.

Metatarsals 195 mm. long, and 81 to 95 mm. circumference.

These measurements are about the same as those from Glastonbury.

A Tibia is 300 mm. long, and a Radius 277 mm.

Horn cores are not numerous; they vary in diameter from 50 to 30 mm. and are similar to those of *Bos longifrons*.

Lower Jaw bones. Three have five and two have six cheek teeth. One of the former came from the clay.

The third lobe of the last molar, where erupted, is much the same size as that of a modern six toothed ox. It differs in this respect from the five toothed ox of Glastonbury. (*Bos Sylvestris*). At All Cannings, all lower jaws had six teeth.

No skulls were got out complete; the horns appear to have been removed as they are by butchers to-day.

Thus we have both of the known varieties of domestic Cattle; and it is to be presumed that most of the young animals were killed off before winter.

SHEEP. These are numerous. Lower jaws are about 155 mms. long. Metacarpals are 127 mms. long and Metatarsals 117 mms.—similar to those from Glastonbury.

The length of the tooth row is 70 to 75 mms., which is rather longer than those at All Cannings. The remains occur at all levels.

PIG is frequent: it has not yet been found on the clay layer. The jaws are rather small, about half the size of a big "Gloucester Spot" boar.

HORSE. A few teeth, small leg bones and scapula were found. They correspond in size to the celtic pony.

RED DEER. A portion of feet and antler were found; they came from all levels.

ROE DEER. One phalanx.

DOG. One nearly complete skeleton from the deep layer of the trench, and portions of the skull of another were found. The basal length of the skull is 165 mm and breadth 90 mm.; the lower jaw 130 mm.; femur 147 mm. and tibia 150 mm. The animal was a little larger than a big fox terrier.

These measurements agree fairly well with those from Glastonbury and All Cannings.

SHELL FISH, ETC. Over 60 oyster shells have been recovered; some were quite immature, and one has not been opened. They come from the superficial and deep layers only.

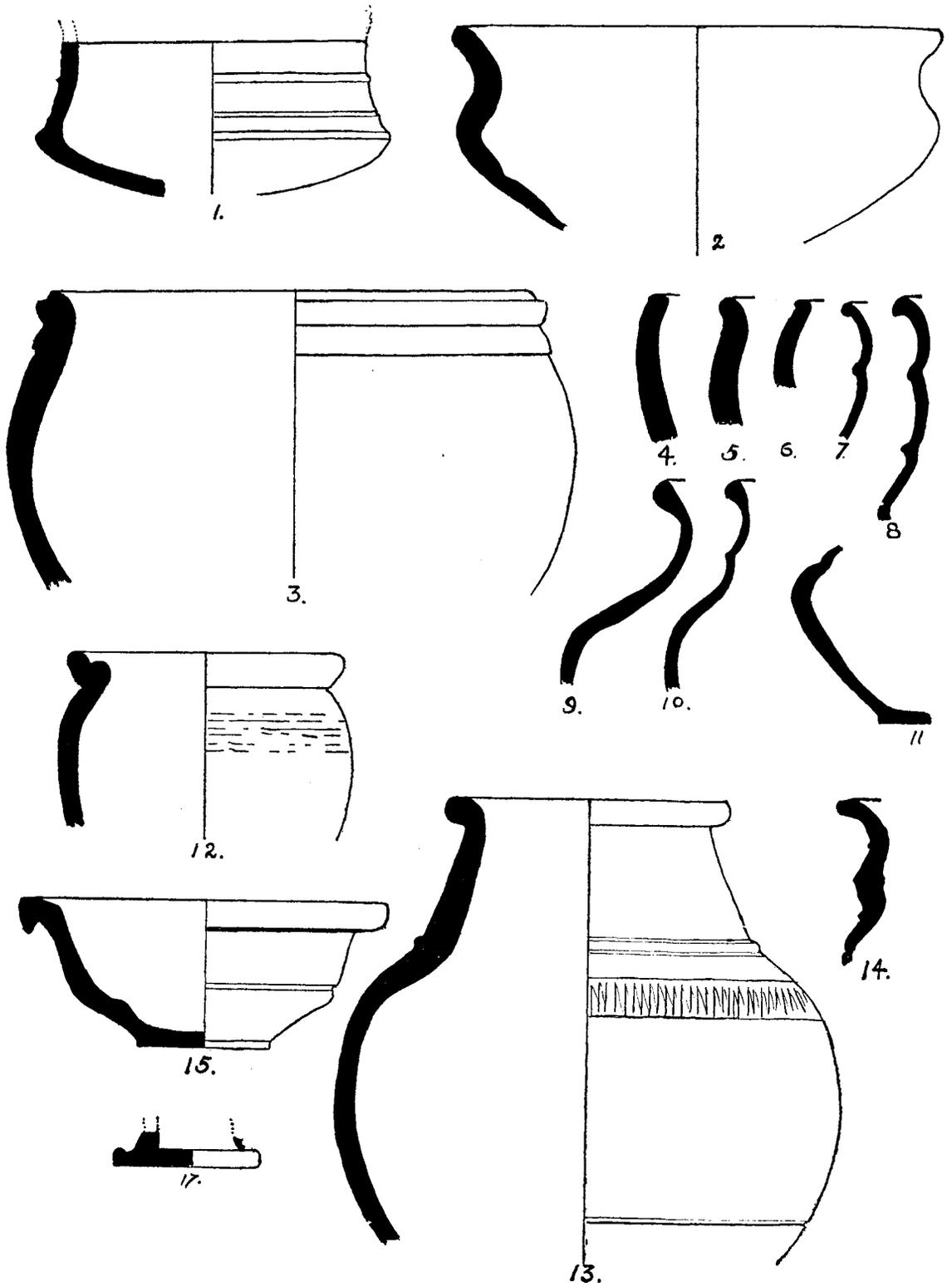
Two shells of the salt water mussel and two fish vertebrae, 10 mm. diameter and 9 mm. in length occurred.

Fossil shells of *Gryphaea recurvata* are very numerous, they may have been collected for some purpose; a small quantity of egg shell was found at a depth of 2 ft. 2 ins., just below the ashy layer of the trench.

POTTERY is plentiful, but there are no complete vessels. Generally speaking, the deeper the sherds lie the more akin they are to La Tène types.

An analysis of 3,411 pieces gives Iron Age Types 3·4 % Iron Age Type but with evidence of Roman influence in the method of manufacture 11·4 %; fine, thin Castor Ware 5·6 %, Samian 1·7 %, and gritted ware 18·4 %. Much of the remainder is well made, and may have come from Castor, while a considerable quantity is rough, poor stuff which was probably made locally.

1. Part of a wheel-made carinated vessel of grey paste, with smooth, dark brown slip; there is one small cordon and one girth groove above the carina; diameter 6 ins. The upper part appears to have been broken away and levelled at a girth groove; the centre of the base is missing. Found lying on the clay, similar to specimens from Welwyn, Colchester, etc.



2. Part of a wheel-made bowl of similar pottery to No. 1, 7.5 ins. diameter; 3 ins. high. The base is destroyed and the lower part bears evidence of injury by fire. The rim is out-bent; shoulder sharply curved and the two form an "S" curve. Evidently the base was fairly small. (Pl. I.).

3. Fragment of globular vessel—grey to brown gritted ware, with a fairly smooth black outer coat. The straight, slightly bevelled rim has a cordon immediately below; beneath this is an inverted ledge. (Pl. II.).

4. Fragment of globular hand made vessel, of coarse, very dark grey pottery, with numerous large fragments of chalk. The surface is smooth; the rim is a little thickened on the inside and slightly inbent. Diameter 5 ins. From the deep layer of trench.

5. A similar specimen but with the rim slightly bent out. Diameter 6 ins. (Pl. II.).

Four other fragments of hand-made dark khaki pots, lighter inside, with slightly thickened rims. The general shape of these vessels was a truncated ovoid.

6. Fragments of a hand-made, sandy, ovoid pot, grey outside, light buff within; slightly beaded rim, beneath which is a flattened band. Diameter 5 ins. at the rim. From the clay layer.

7—10. Fragments of vessels resembling Swarling 22 to 27, but of soft light red ware. Generally sandy, but sometimes soapy, with a grey core. There is not much grit in the paste. (Pl. II.).

The rims are out-bent and vary in thickness.

Six have one or two bold cordons on the neck, and one has rather faint cross hatching on the band below the second cordon. One has a pre-firing perforation beneath the rim, a little over 0.1 ins. in diameter. Diameters: 4 ins. to 7 ins. at rims.

11. The one base of this group is flat, 2.4 ins. in diameter.

There are fragments of five similar vessels, but with brown, soapy surface. One is 4 ins. diameter at rim and 8.4 at shoulder. Nearly all of these came from the deep and clay levels.

A fragment, possibly of a Butt beaker, similar to Swarling 34, is covered with bands of rouletting, some of which overlap. It is of hard buff clay, with a grey core, but has evidently been in the fire. It was in the boulder clay.

24. A light red cup with much chalk in the paste, 3.5 ins. diameter, 3.3 ins. at the rim and 2 ins. high, small out-bent rim, bulging body and hollowed base, recessed internally; though of crude material it is of delicate and attractive design. It came from a depth of 4 ft. in the trench. (Pl. I.).

The next group consists of rims of six vessels of light red to black, soapy gritted ware, moulded with an inner flange as for a cover. One is a bead rim; three show definite undercutting, and one traces of it. Three show five horizontal striations below the shoulder; covers for similar pots in India are of wood.

12. The most complete specimen has a diameter of 4.3 ins. at the rim, and 4.8 in. at the shoulder. The width of the flange is 0.4 ins.—others are narrower. (Pl. I.).

No. 12 was lying on the clay; other specimens came from the deep layer.

The type resembles one from Abington Pigotts: Fox, *Proc. Pre. hist. Soc. E. Ang.* IV. Part 2. Fig. 2. E. and All Cannings, Plate 36. 1 a. A similar type of soft creamy clay has a slight groove on the upper surface of the out-bent rim. It came from the deep layer of the trench.

13. A vessel of hard grey paste and surface with rather thick out-bent rim; a globose body and inward sloping straight neck. Diameter at rim 4.5 ins. and 7.6 ins. at the middle of the body. A low cordon, bounded by girth grooves, lies at the junction of the neck and shoulder, which has a continuous "N" band rather roughly executed. There is another girth groove at the lower part of the body. Probably Claudian.

14. Fragments of rim and neck of a vessel 6 ins. in diameter at the lip, of very hard grey pottery. The neck is ornamented with two cordons bounded by girth grooves, there being a large angular corrugation between the two; its upper part has a row of faint diagonal scratches.

15. A small bowl, roughly wheel-made, of hard grey sandy paste and surface, has a flat, moulded, undercut rim of 5.6 ins. diameter. There is a sharp angle where the nearly vertical side slopes to the base which is 2.3 ins. diameter. It bears a well defined "pull off" mark. There is a girth groove just above the angle, and two faint ones beneath the rim. From the deep layer of the trench.

A similar bowl but with reeded rim and less marked angle; comes from a depth of 2 ft. which is about the point of junction of superficial and deep layers.

CASTOR WARE. A portion of a hunt cup, of cream paste and brown-black surface; has a moulded rim and hollow base, 1.8 ins. in diameter. The body, which is decorated with a device of greyhounds chasing a deer, has a maximum diameter of 5 ins. The ornamented portion is bordered and divided by rows of dots. This came from the superficial layer, depth 1 ft. 9 ins., and probably dates from the second half of the second century.

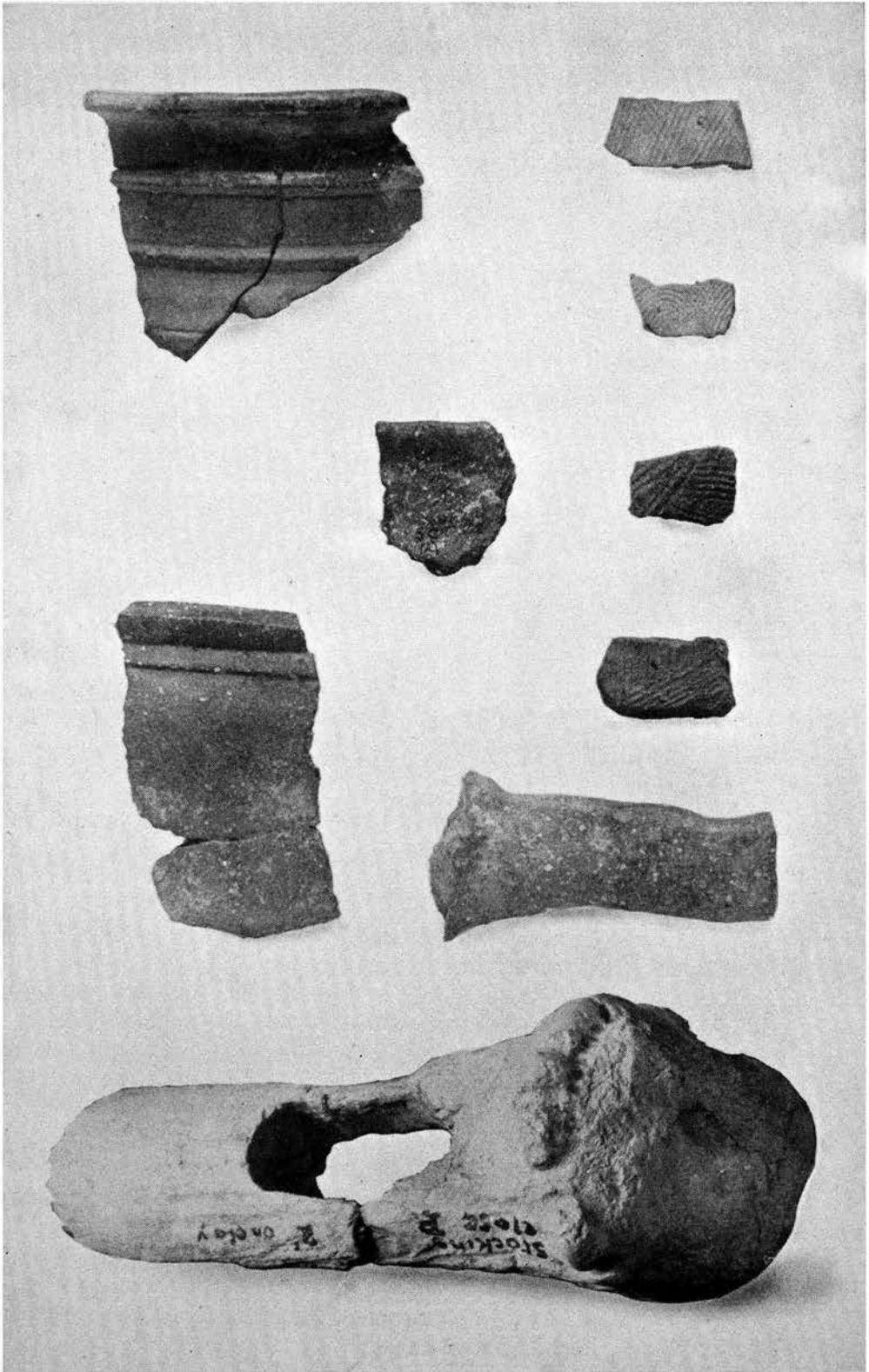


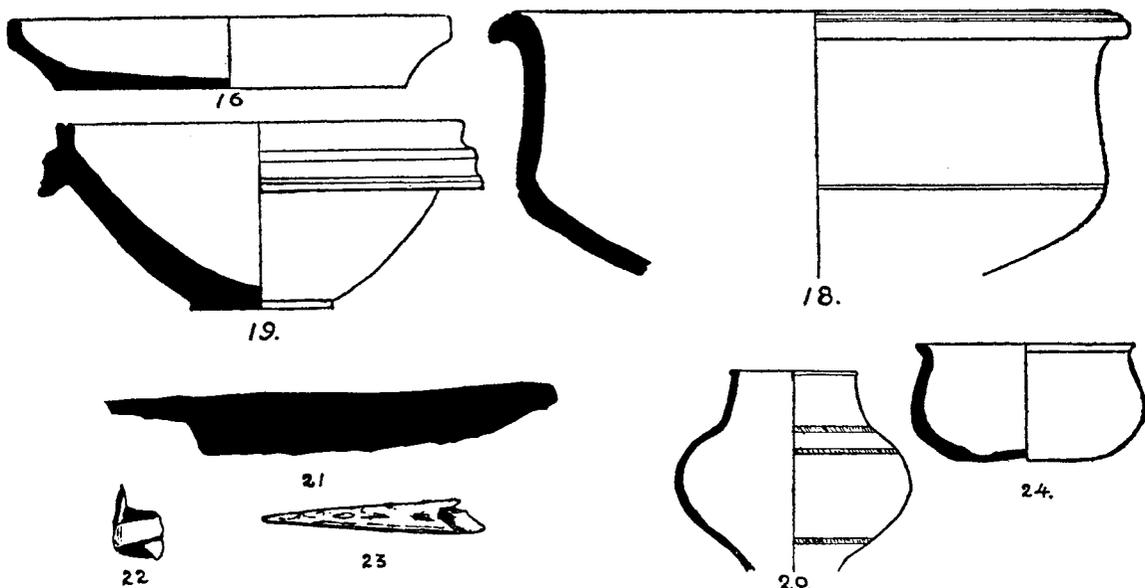
PLATE II.

Fragments of a similar vessel with plain rim show an ornament of barbotine lattice work painted light red on a brown-black surface.

Other forms of ornament found are:—Rouletting in various forms; scale ornament; radiating lines of barbotine, painted cream; and fine roughcast.

Only one cornice rim was found, the rest being moulded or plain.

These are usually later than the second century.



INDENTED BEAKERS. Two have been restored and are of white paste, with a grey surface. One is smooth with nearly vertical sides; it has six indentations with grooves at the shoulder and body, and overhanging moulded rim. Measurements:—Height 5·5 ins.; diameter at rim 4 ins.; maximum diameter of body 4·5 ins.

The other specimen has a hard sandy surface with a similar rim, but a high shoulder and tapering body. There are five indentations; the foot is splayed, hollow, and has three concentric grooves. Height 6·5 ins.; diameter at rim 4 ins.; maximum diameter of body 5 ins.; diameter of base 2 ins., 1 ft. 9 ins.

20. A small, black, thin, globular vessel with gently curving neck, has light red paste, and a highly polished surface. There is a tiny bead rim, and rows of fine rouletting on the body. Maximum diameter, about 3·5 ins., and 2 ins. at the rim. From the superficial layer, probably imported.

16. From the *deep* layer comes a plate of light red sandy ware, the same colour throughout. It is 1.1 ins high, and 6.7 ins. diameter at the rim, and 5.3 ins. at the base.

The side is set at an angle to the base, and the plain vertical rim has a rounded lip. Externally the base shows concentric grooves, and internally it is bounded by a slight ledge. There are a few fragments of red stone in the paste, but they are present both in and outside. This is the most complete specimen found; consisting of twenty-one fragments; only one small piece is missing.

SAMIAN WARE. This was small in quantity and fragments, and was confined to the superficial layer.

The following were found:—

Form 36 D. burnt to chocolate colour, 10 ins. diameter.

Form 38 D. in the same condition.

Form 33 D. the same.

Form 31 D. and several small moulded rims.

The following Potter's marks occur:—

A T V S M at a depth of 8 inches, possibly

C I N T U S. M. Lezoux late II. and early III. cent.

T A . . . from a depth of 2 ft.

P R I S C . . . from a depth of 2 ft. 10 ins., perhaps

P R I S C V S. Lezoux II. cent.

17. A grey pedestal base with a flat foot which came from the superficial layer, above the stone pavement; diameter 2 ins.

Hard grey pottery with rouletted and other simple ornament is common in the two upper layers.

MORTARIA. One rim of hard, sandy, cream pottery, from the superficial layer, is of first century type, but without abrasive particles in the rim.

Another, a hammer head of cream paste and pink surface, with black particles, is probably 3rd or 4th century.

A specimen which appears similar to 166 Wroxeter has pale pink surface and black particles. (3rd to 4th century). A number of similar fragments have been found.

18. A bowl with reeded flange 9 ins. in diameter; of hard, buff, sandy paste. The bluntly carinated side bears a shallow groove at the angle, and the lower portion is blackened.

This class of bowl is early 2nd century at Caerleon.

STORE JARS. Most of these are made of very coarse, gritted pottery, red or yellowish red; one rim is pale pink.

The majority are hand made, though two are well turned; some have combing.

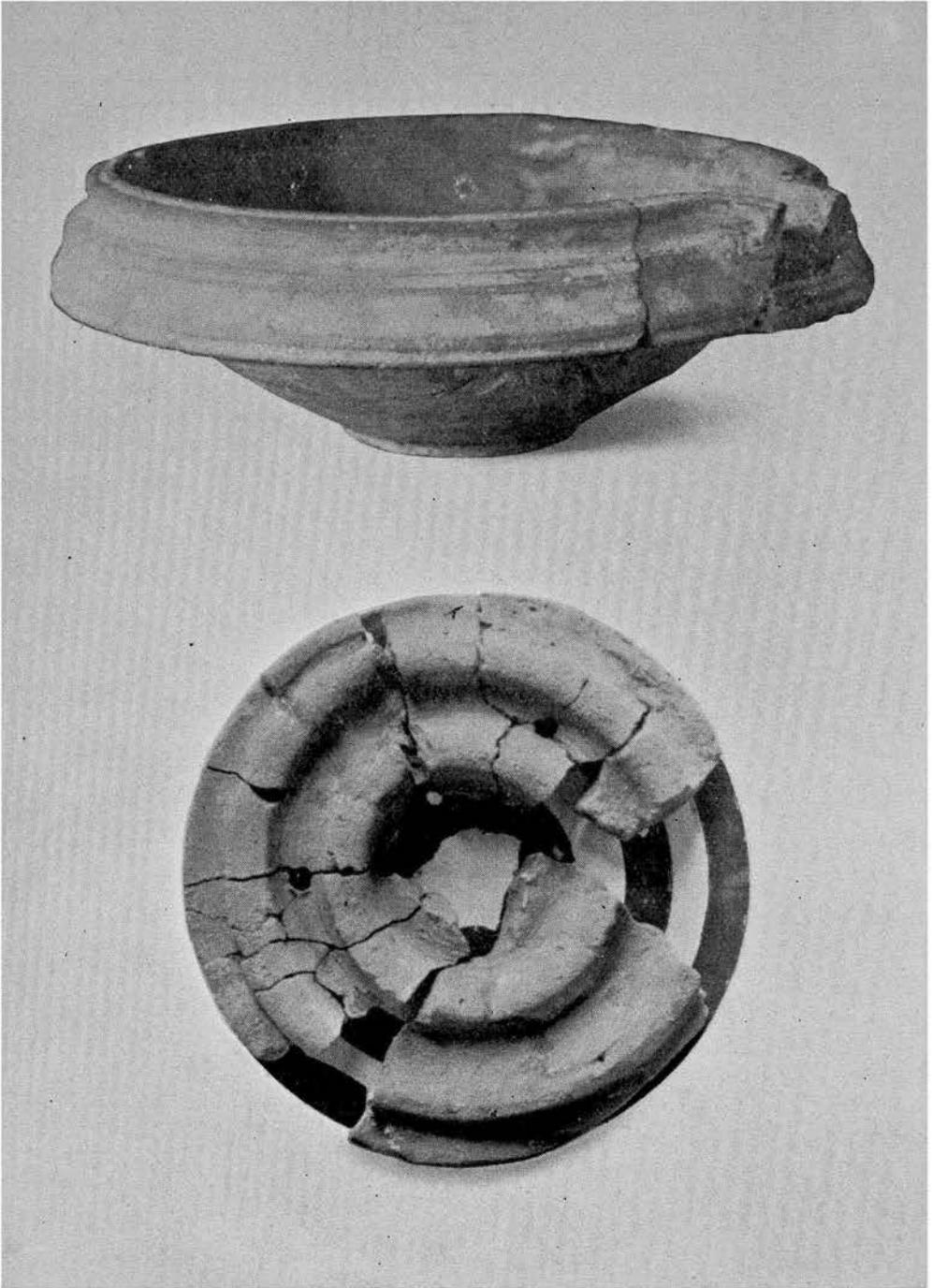


PLATE III.

Two have square sections, thickened rims; varying in diameter from 12 ins. to 16 ins.

The bases are plain and appear to be from 4·5 ins. to 6 ins. in diameter.

One fairly complete is wheel made, of cream paste, and smooth grey surface. It has a slightly everted moulded rim, and a short neck running into a well rounded body. Diameter at rim, 10 ins., and at the shoulder over 12 ins.

There are 3 poorly executed girth grooves on the shoulder, double in places. Came from the deep layer of the trench.

COOKING POTS. Of soft brown to black gritted ware with thickened, outbent rims are found at all levels above the clay; typical measurements are:—rim 7 ins.; shoulder 7·8 ins.; base 4 ins.; height 8·5 ins.

19. A flanged, mortar-like bowl of pink paste with cream slip—7 ins. in diameter; 2·5 ins. in height.

The vertical rim is grooved on the upper surface and the flange bears two corrugations, the lower of which is grooved. The mouth is plain; it probably belongs to the end of the 4th century. (Pl. III.).

FLAGONS. Portions of seventeen were found. Three specimens are probably first century.

The handles have one, two, and four reeds.

The rims bear three or four corrugations, or are perfectly plain; one is undercut.

Two come from the deep layer—the rest from the superficial layer: One of the former is of typical first century type.

Fragments of a clay disc, 6·3 ins. diameter, 1 in. thick, is of hard clay, light red to grey outside.

It has two concentric corrugations on one face; and the centre, which is missing, was probably also raised.

There are perforations in the grooves between the ridges; the lower surface is flat.

The whole has evidently been in the fire, and is much fragmented. It was found in the ditch, 1 ft. 6 ins. from the surface, the level of Castor and late pottery.

It is probably a cheese strainer; 38 Wroxeter is a dish with a base somewhat similar, as is 152 Richborough, 2nd Report. (268—270 A.D.). (Pl. III.).

A cylindrical wood vessel with concentric grooves in the base and perforations in the grooves has been presented to the museum of the Huntingdon Institution by Mrs. Yeatherd; it is a "cheese vat" used to-day in the making of cheese, obviously it is of the same type as the above, though the grooves are shallower.

An object of light red, gritted ware, shaped like the grip of an automatic pistol, is probably the handle of a large jar. Length 4.5 ins.; from a depth of 2 ft. 3 ins. in the trench. Probably fairly early. (Pl. II.).

ROOFING TILES. Over a dozen fragments of these have been found. They all come from the upper layer. Grooved tiles and stone slabs also occur.

ORNAMENT. Combing occurs frequently at all levels on both hand and wheel made pottery; much is rough and apparently not primarily ornamental, but there are some neat lattice patterns. Most of it is regular and in wide strips, some is probably made with a comb; others with a metacarpal, or metatarsal of sheep. Rouletting is rather common. (Pl. II.).

Girth grooves on fragments are found at all levels; they are often multiple. Similarly low cordons occur. In one case the raised cordon has been noticed.

PAINT. One fragment of grey pottery is painted brownish red inside; outside it is the same colour below, and blue above.

One fragment of a small vessel with a foot ring shows radiating lines of cream coloured paint on a light red surface.

Another a cream flanged bowl has red tangential lines on the flange; both are from the superficial layer and late.

GLAZE. A small fragment of light red pottery with dirty green glaze comes from the superficial layer of the trench, at about 1 ft. 2 ins.

GLASS. A fragment of the rim of a pale yellow green bowl or dish about 3 ins. diameter; a reeded handle of a small jug; a flat reeded fragment; and six flat pieces of blue green glass are all that have been found.

JET. A small piece of a bracelet, $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter. Evidently turned on a lathe.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

The pottery seems to be divided into three principal groups, which quite roughly correspond to the layers I have described.

At the lowest level we get types which both in form and material, appear to belong to La Tène times. Examples are 1 to 12 and 24.

In the intermediate layer we get types, some of which show La Tène form and Roman manufacture, e.g. Nos. 13, 14 and 15.

In the upper layer occurs typical Romano-British Pottery. Soft, coarse, gritted pottery is found right up to the surface.

So far the early specimens are chiefly of the Swarling Aylesford type, but 3, 4, 5, 6 and 12 may have other affinities. The latest type we have is No. 19, which appears to be 4th century.

The pottery from Earith, in the Wisbech Museum resembles this both early and late, as does some from Colne, and it seems probable that there was a chain of hamlets on the edge of the Huntingdonshire fens, from Peterborough to Earith, occupied by people who arrived via the rivers of the Wash

As I have suggested in these Transactions, Vol. IV. p. 289, this settlement took place shortly before the Roman Conquest.

Evidently the people kept plenty of stock; they probably ploughed the land, and hunted and fished in the woods and fens, but they were poor and rather uncivilized in their ways of cooking. They do not appear to have left any money about.

Stone implements are scarce, although they may have been used.

The period of greatest prosperity, judging by the quantity of pottery was during the second and third centuries A.D.

Some of the pottery shows mica particles in the paste; this is a Saxon characteristic, but so far I have found nothing to indicate occupation after the fourth century. It is probable that the Saxon conquerors removed the inhabitants to the neighbouring villages in the valleys, unless they removed themselves.

I am much indebted to Mr. Louis Clarke and Miss O'Reilly, of the Museum of Archæology; to Mr. Foster Cooper and Mr. Lane of the Zoological Museum, and numerous friends and relations who have helped in the digging and in the preparation of this paper, and to Mr. Banks for allowing me to occupy part of one of his best fields.