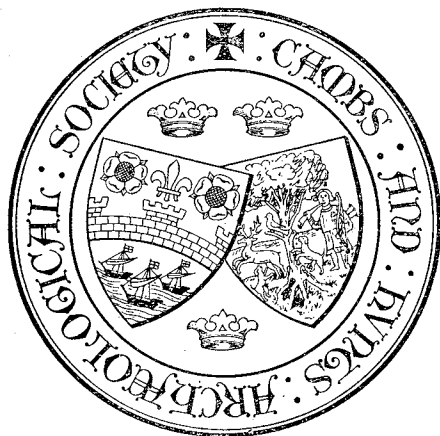


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RECTOR OF ABBOTS RIPTON WITH LITTLE STUKELEY, HUNTS.

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ROMANO-BRITISH CREMATION FROM BLUNTISHAM, HUNTS.

In the past Roman coins have been found at Bluntisham, Hunts. on that part of the pre-enclosure Gull Field now known as Barley Croft Farm (6 inch Ordnance Map Hunts. sheet XIX. S.E. 1902) and are recorded in the Victoria History vol. I. This farm is on an isolated patch of gravel that overlooks Bluntisham Fen, and forms a natural causeway to the river Ouse across the floodable land on each side.

The farmstead has a gravel pit immediately to the N.W. This is usually ploughed over but is occasionally reopened to repair farm roads. When recently in use several small ditches could be seen in section and yielded Romano-British sherds. When the pit was again ploughed down in 1933 the two vessels illustrated (see Plate) were turned out together, practically whole. The larger contained burnt bones. They were found approximately 147 feet N.W. of the farm buildings, and 178 feet W. of the centre of the road leading to the farm.

The large pot is a dull yellow colour and the rim has a groove inside to receive a lid or cover. The small pot, though of Belgic "tazza" type, is well made with a fine black metallic finish. A similar pot from Runcton Holme is described and figured by C. Hawkes, F.S.A., in *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia, Vol. VII. Part II., 1933.*, and dated by him to about 50 A.D. Much evidence has now accumulated to show extensive occupation of the Southern Fens by the Belgic invaders. The sites have nearly always been previously occupied by a flint chipping people, are on gravel but on lower ground nearer the Fen than the modern village, and are characterised by a maze of small irregular ditches.

I am grateful to Dr. Garood for repairing and photographing the pots which will be placed in the St. Ives Museum.

C.F.T.



VESSELS FOUND AT BLUNTISHAM, HUNTS.