

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

R E P O R T

PRESENTED TO THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

AT ITS FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

MAY 24, 1880.

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY
(INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT XL),
1879—1880.

ALSO

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXII.

BEING THE FOURTH AND CONCLUDING NUMBER
OF THE FOURTH VOLUME.

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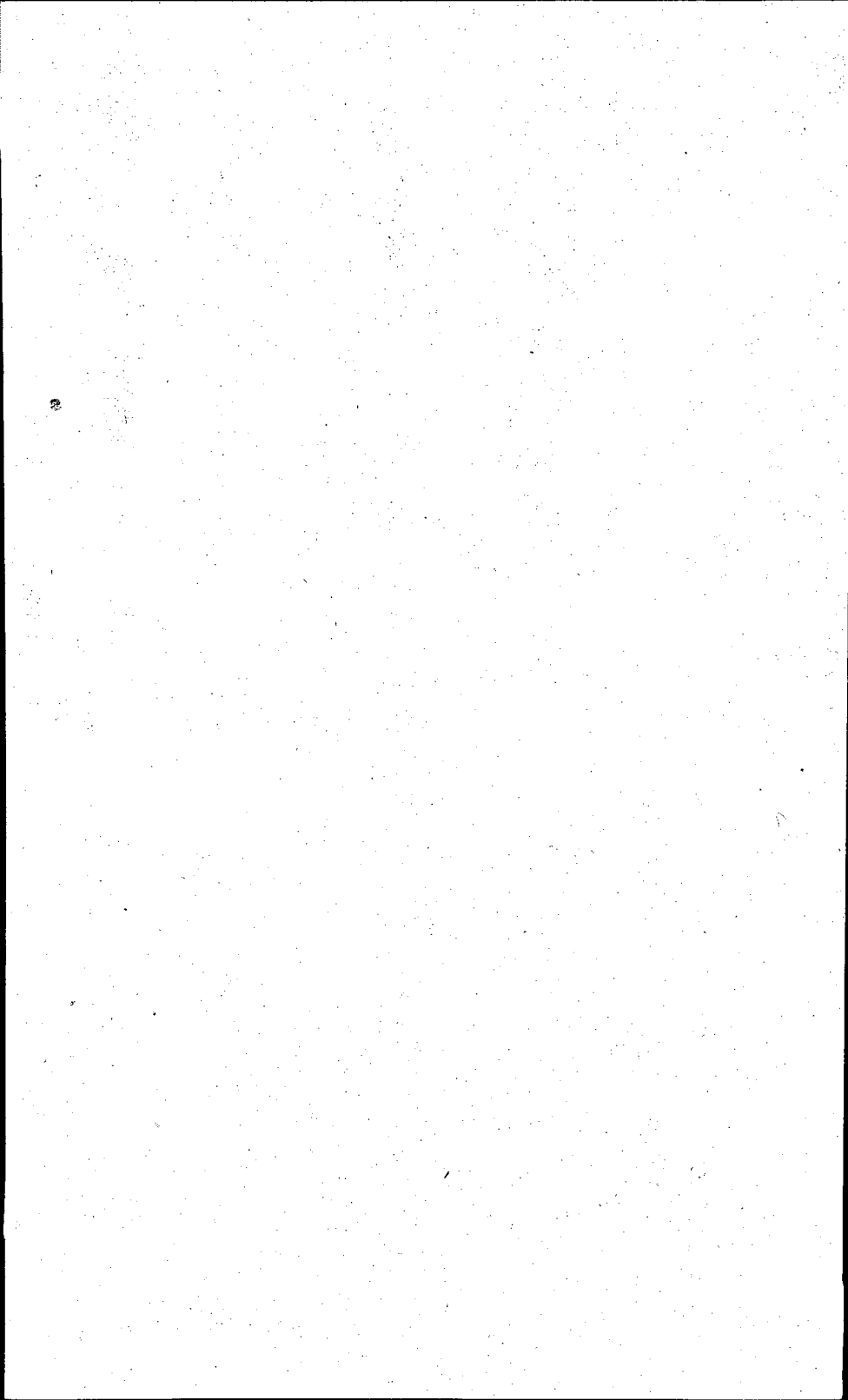


VTERE FELIX

Olla found at Guilder Morden, Cambs: in 1879.

drawn to the size of the original.

The legend underneath is half-size.



XXV. DESCRIPTION OF AN INSCRIBED VASE, LATELY
FOUND AT GULDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.
Communicated by the Rev. S. S. LEWIS, M.A.,
Corpus Christi College. (With one Plate.)

[November 17, 1879.]

THE terra-cotta vase, of which an engraving in chromo-lithograph to the original size is given on the opposite page, was found, together with much plain pottery, on the site of a Roman cemetery at Guilden Morden (near the source of the Cam) in this county early in October of the present year [1879]. It is particularly interesting on account of its ornament, which consists of wreaths of olive and laurel enclosing the inscription VTERE · FELIX painted around in white letters $\frac{7}{8}$ in. long.

It may be noted that the same legend, which may be compared with Macbeth's kindly aspiration,

"Now good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both,"

appears to be read on a pewter *lanx*¹ found at Welney in Norfolk, in 1864, which is still in the possession of the land-owner

¹ Described in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. xxvii.

Mr Albert Goodman of St Ives, Hunts, and also on a carnelian¹ intaglio seal found at Kilbride near Glasgow, on a silver spoon found at Augst (the ancient *Augusta Rauracorum*) near Basle, on a bronze patera figured by Buonarrotti, and on a silver votive dish found at Perugia, and in the form VTERE · FELEX (*sic*) it occurs on a bronze *fibula*² of fifth century style found in the bank of the Seine just below Asnières; but of its occurrence on pottery I have not succeeded in finding any previous example. The adverb FELICITER however has in western Europe been not seldom found on the red (generally called Samian) ware in conjunction with national Gallic names, such as GABALIBVS, REMIS, SEQVANIS³.

On a fragment of a similar vessel⁴ found at Orange in Provence is seen a hen with her three chickens; she carries in her beak a wheat-ear and one of her young on her back: above is a branch and the doubly significant legend MIHI · ET · M(eis) FELICITER. The same idea is delicately varied in FRVERE · ME, which is read on a Gallo-Roman ring lately discovered in Lower Normandy, and in the following inscription, engraved in six consecutive lines around a gold hair-pin⁵ of tenth-century Byzantine work, now in the Louvre Museum,

¹ Published by Alexander Gordon in the *Itinerarium Septentrionale* (page 118). In a more tender sense these words occur in the speech—*sit tibi imperium meum cum hac puella concessum, utere ea felix* (*Greg. Tur.* vi. 30)—with which the dying Tiberius II. made Mauricius at once his son-in-law and successor.

² Figured by de Caylus *Recueil d'Antiquités*, page 257, pl. xciv. 2: so also on a silver spoon quoted by Mommsen, *Inscr. Helv.* cccxliii. 2. For this and other valuable suggestions I am indebted to the kindness of MM. le Baron Pichon and Edm. Leblant.

³ See M. Anatole de Barthélemy's Remarks on *Vases Sigillés et Épigraphiques* in the *Gazette Archéologique* for 1877, pages 177—181.

⁴ Published by W. Fröhner, *Musées de France*, page 66, pl. xv. no. 4.

⁵ So I would venture to call it, but it has been figured and described as an ear-pick by M. E. Miller in the *Revue Archéologique* for July, 1879, pp. 39—45.

✱ Υ Γ Ι Ε Ν
 Ο Υ C Α Χ Ρ
 Ω Κ Υ Ρ Α Κ
 Α Λ Ω Ν Κ Ε
 Ρ Ω Ν Α Π Ο
 Α Α Υ C Η C

i.e. *ὕγιένουσα χρώ κύρα καλῶν καιρῶν ἀπολαύσης,*
salva utere, domina: bonis temporibus fruaris.

"Such vases," as we learn from Dr Birch¹, "were never made "from moulds, but by the process called *barbotine* by depositing "on the surface of the vase after it had left the lathe, from "a small vessel or tube, masses of semi-fluid clay, which were "slightly modelled with a tool into the required shape. The "glaze and colour are supposed to have been produced by "smothering the vases when in the furnace with the smoke of "the kiln, and depositing at the same time the carbon on the "surface of the heated vases, and thus giving them a black "glaze."

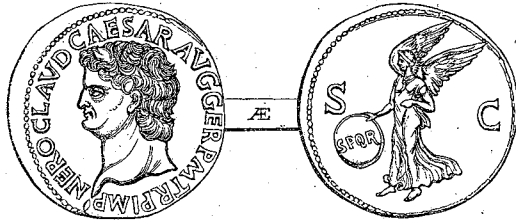
In the Museum at York three vases of this style are preserved: but careful study has as yet elicited no satisfactory meaning from their inscriptions.

Both from the form of the letters and the discovery of well-preserved coins of early Caesars in the immediate neighbourhood I feel disposed to assign the date of this particular vase to the first century of our era. It is now in the possession of Mr William Andrews of the neighbouring parish of Litlington, where excavations conducted by the late Dr Webb have in past years yielded a rich harvest of Roman remains to the collection of our Society.

The discovery last year [1878] in a cottager's garden at Litlington of the very well preserved "second brass" coin of

¹ *History of Ancient Pottery* (second edition), page 576.

Nero, which is figured below to the original size, enables us to approximate to a superior limit of date for the Roman occupation of this neighbourhood.



Obv. NERO · CLAVDIVS · CAESAR · AVG(ustus) GER(manicus) P(ontifex) M(aximus) TR(ibunitia) P(otestate) IMP(erator).

Rev. s(enatus) c(onsulto). Victory rising in the air, and holding a shield on which is inscribed SPQR.

Since making the above communication, the discovery at Litlington, in January, 1881, of a Roman mosaic pavement and hypocaust, in a garden next to the site of Dr Webb's excavations, has been announced by the Rev. T. J. Sanderson, Vicar of the parish, to whose kindness I am also indebted for the loan of the coin which is figured above; and I have had the pleasure of examining a thin piece of Roman bronze, bearing the inscription VTERE · FELIX in letters $\frac{1}{8}$ in. long, which



is figured below to the original size. It was discovered on the 2nd of April, 1880, by a boy while digging for bones just within the southern wall of the Roman Station on South Shields Law, and appears to have served as the handle of a *simpulum* or some similar vessel; it has happily passed into the valuable collection of Mr Robert Blair of South Shields.

I have also to thank Mr Thompson Watkin, of Liverpool, for the following note.

"On a walling stone found at the Roman Station at Norton near New Malton (Yorkshire) in 1814, and now preserved in the York Museum, is this inscription :

FELICITER SIT
 GENIO LO & C & I *sic*
 SERVLE · VTERE
 FELIX TABERN
 AM AVREFI
 CINAM

At Chesterton (Hunts), adjoining the Roman Station at Castor (Northants), there were found, about 1751, some slips of what Gough in Camden's *Britannia*, Vol. II, p. 257 (taken from "Minutes of the Society of Antiquaries"), describes as 'white wood, and very thin' (probably bone tesserae); one or more of them was inscribed,

AAWIFY VTERE TA ⊕ FELIX"

