

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME XLVII

JANUARY 1953 TO DECEMBER 1953

CAMBRIDGE
BOWES AND BOWES

1954

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C. I. FELL, M.A.: An Early Iron Age Settlement at Linton, Cambridgeshire.

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OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY

1953-1954

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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS AND HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1952

Adopted by the Annual General Meeting on 23 February 1953.

AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO SOCIETIES. At the Annual General Meeting on 23 February 1952 a motion uniting the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society was carried unanimously, having previously been approved by the Councils of both Societies. At an Extraordinary General Meeting on 26 May 1952 the amendments to the Laws necessary to give effect on this union were passed unanimously. On 1 October 1952 the union took effect.

MEMBERSHIP. The Society gained fifteen new members and one associate during the year, but lost four members and one associate by death and fifteen members and three associates by resignation. After the union of the two societies the joint membership was raised by thirty-nine members. There are now 289 ordinary members and sixteen associates. There are twenty-five subscribing institutions.

MEETINGS. There were six council meetings and nine ordinary meetings, at which the following communications were made:

- J. W. CROWFOOT, C.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. *Early Churches in Palestine.* 28 January.
- SETON H. F. LLOYD, O.B.E., F.S.A., A.R.I.B.A. *Harran and Suliantepe.* 11 February.
- SIR CYRIL FOX, D.LITT., PH.D., F.B.A., F.S.A. *England to Wales and back.* 25 February.
- Capt. P. G. BALES, M.C., M.A., F.R.HIST.S. *Some Cambridgeshire Documents from the County Record Office.* 5 May.
- C. BEESON, C.I.E., D.SC. *Early Clockmakers and Cambridge.* 12 May.
- R. VAUGHAN, B.A. *Elections of the Abbots of St Albans in the Thirteenth Century.* 26 May.
- Mrs C. P. HALL, M.A. *An Introduction to the Archives of Cambridge University.* 20 October.
- Dr G. H. S. BUSHNELL, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A. *Peru before the Incas.* 3 November.
- Prof. M. D. KNOWLES, LITT.D., F.B.A. *The Development of the English Monastic Plan.* 24 November.

The average attendance at these meetings was sixty.

There was a visit to Pembroke College on 6 March, when the Master, our member Mr S. C. Roberts, kindly described the College and outlined its history. The thanks of the Society are due to the Master, to Sir Ellis Minns, who described the College plate, and to the Librarian, Mr M. J. C. Hodgart. The College kindly entertained the party to tea.

EXCURSIONS. There were two excursions. On 22 May a party of about seventy-five visited Bartlow, Great Sampford Church and Thaxted Church. On 15 July a party of about forty visited Wiggenhall St Mary, Tilney All Saints, Terrington St Clement and King's Lynn.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mr Haddon for again acting as Excursion Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS. Vol. XLV of the *Proceedings* has been published.

GRANT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY. The Society gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the sum of £50, granted by the Council for British Archaeology towards the cost of No. VI of the quarto series, *A Cemetery at Lackford, Suffolk*, by T. C. Lethbridge.

EXCAVATIONS. (a) A rich Belgic cremation burial was discovered during work on a new housing site in Snailwell. Through the kindness of the Newmarket Rural District Council it was possible to investigate this important discovery, which is the only one of its kind to have been found in the Cambridge region for many years. The grave-pit was of large size containing a cremation placed on a funerary couch and accompanied by three large amphorae, five wine jars and numerous imported vessels. A very fine bronze armlet and bowl were also recovered. The finds were subsequently presented to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology by the Newmarket Rural District Council.

(b) Work by the Archaeological Field Club was undertaken under the general supervision of the Society's Director of Excavations at the Saxon cemetery on a hill outside Melbourne, which was mentioned in last year's Report. Upwards of thirty graves of the Christian Saxon period were excavated and several important ornaments of Kentish type were found.

AIR-SURVEY. The air-survey towards which a small grant was made from the Excavation Fund was continued during 1952. The Secretary has been able to report finds from sixteen new sites during the year, one Neolithic and fifteen Romano-British.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1952

CURRENT ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To <i>Subscriptions:</i>							By <i>Subscriptions:</i>						
Ordinary Members	291	10	0				British Records Association	1	0	0			
Associate Members	9	4	0				British Archaeological Association	1	1	0			
				300	14	0	Folk Museum	2	2	0			
„ <i>Investment Interest:</i>							Council of British Archaeology	1	10	0			
British Transport Stock	11	7	5				Beds. Historical Records Society	1	1	0			
Defence Bonds	41	1	0								6	14	0
Australian Stock	3	13	6				„ Fire Insurance				1	0	0
Treasury Stock	4	14	4				„ Petty Cash				4	10	0
National Defence Loan	11	1	10				„ Custodian Cellarer's Chequer				2	0	0
Savings Bonds	3	0	4				„ Secretary				30	0	0
Conversion Stock	4	9	10				„ Bank charges					10	10
Sudan Government Stock	3	5	0				„ Brass Rubbing Collection				6	7	6
				82	13	3	„ Publications				619	12	6
„ Sale of Publications							„ Museum of Archaeology				20	0	0
„ Donation							„ Notices and Circulars				69	15	5
„ Refund Income Tax							„ Editor				40	0	0
„ Trustee Savings Bank							„ Lecture expenses				2	19	10
„ Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.							„ Grant for aerial survey				2	15	0
				19	4	2							
„ Income, 1952											806	5	1
„ Balance, 1951				811	17	9	„ Expenditure, 1952				98	17	0
							„ Balance, 1952						
				93	4	4					£905	2	1
											£905	2	1
				£905	2	1							

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1951	462	5	9
Grant from Council for British Archaeology	50	0	0
Interest	6	17	8
Withdrawn	519	3	5
	360	0	0
	£159	3	5

EXCAVATION FUND

<i>Current Account</i>			
	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1951	68	19	8
Subscriptions	7	7	0
	£76	6	8
<i>Deposit Account</i>			
Balance, 1951	73	3	8
Interest	1	5	11
	£74	9	7

The Capital of the Society consists of the following Securities:

£100 Sudan 3½% Guaranteed Stock 1954-59.
£497. 3s. 6d. British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978-88.

£200 Commonwealth of Australia 3½% Stock 1951-54.
£645 3% Defence Bonds.
£585 3½% Defence Bonds.
£157. 6s. 8d. 3% Treasury Stock.
£100. 12s. 10d. 3% Savings Bonds 1965-75.
£128. 10s. 5d. 3½% Conversion Stock.
£369. 15s. 0d. 3% National Defence Loan 1954-58.
Post Office Savings Bank Book, Balance £572. 12s. 2d.

The Bank Balances are as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Current Account	98	17	0
Excavation Fund Current Account	76	6	8
Excavation Fund Deposit Account	74	9	7
Trustee Savings Bank	159	3	5
	£408	16	8

R. B. WHITEHEAD, *Hon. Treasurer*

We have gone through the Bank accounts and the vouchers, and consider that the accounts are correctly drawn up to exhibit the financial position of the Society. We have checked the Society's investments.

E. A. G. CAWDRY
F. PURYER WHITE

26 January 1953

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

DATE OF
ELECTION

HONORARY MEMBERS

- 1923 CURLE, ALEXANDER O., C.V.O., F.S.A., F.S.A.SCOT. (*Trinity Hall*), Ormsacre, Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh
- 1937 FOX, Sir CYRIL, PH.D., F.B.A., F.S.A., 28 St Leonard's Road, Exeter
- 1937 SHETELIG, Dr HAAKON, HON. F.B.A., Professor of Archaeology, Bergens Museum, Bergen, Norway
- 1938 COCKERELL, Sir SYDNEY, 21 Kew Gardens Road, Kew, Surrey
- 1951 HUTTON, Prof. J. H., C.I.E., D.SC., The Old Rectory, New Radnor, Presteign, Radnorshire

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, JANUARY 1954

It is requested that notice of any errors in this list, of changes of address, or of death, and all other communications be addressed to the Secretary, 153 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. An asterisk against the date of election indicates a Life Member.

DATE OF
ELECTION

- 1948 ALLEN, J. E., M.A. (*Peterhouse*), 2 St Peter's Terrace
- ALLEN, M. J., The Home Close, Brampton, Hunts
- 1933 ARCHER, Lt.-Col. G. L., T.D., 49 Silver Street, Ely
- 1931 ATKINSON, B. F. C., PH.D. (*Magdalene*), 24 Newton Road
- 1947* BAGSHAW, T. W., F.S.A., The Old House, Apsley Guise, Bletchley, Bucks
- 1949 BAKER, Miss A., 52 Lensfield Road
- 1953 BALHAM, V. J., Redclyffe, Babraham Road, Cherryhinton
- 1951 BALLS, Miss E. H., 21 Orchard Street
- 1926 BANISTER, H., M.SC., PH.D. (*St John's*), Alfordesweye, Grantchester
- 1904* BARCLAY, J. GURNEY, M.A. (*Trinity*), Rosehill, Lord Street, Hoddesdon, Herts
- 1950 BARLOW, G., 55 Panton Street
- 1951 BASHFORD, H. J. C., M.A. (*Clare*), 10 Clement Place
- 1924 BATESON, G., M.A. (*St John's*), Medical School, Medical Centre, University of California, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
- 1952 BAYLEY, W. M., 22 Storey's Way
- 1928 BEATTIE, W. E., 3 Jesus Lane
- 1946 BECKETT, Lt.-Col. J. G. A., Nutholt House, Ely
- 1911* BENTON, Rev. G. M., M.A., F.S.A., Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex
- 1901* BERNAYS, A. E., M.A. (*Trinity*), Northumberland House, Richmond, Surrey
- 1947 BISHOP, T. A. M., M.A. (*St John's*), 6 Chaucer Road
- 1935 BLACKMAN, Mrs, Uppercross, 34 Storey's Way
- 1948 BLAIR, P. HUNTER, M.A., Emmanuel College
- 1950 BOND, P., Peartree Cottage, Barton Road, Haslingfield
- 1942 BORRER, Miss, 36 Causewayside, Fen Causeway
- 1943* BOSTON, Rev. EDWIN R., M.A. (*Jesus*), 5 Queen Edith's Way
- 1932 BOSTON, Rev. J. N. T., M.A. (*Jesus*), East Dereham Vicarage, Norfolk

LIST OF MEMBERS

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- 1953 BOTTOMLEY, Lady, 50 Lensfield Road
 1923 BOULTBEE, Capt. E. F., Water Meadows, Brundall, Norwich
 1951 BOURNE, C. J., A.R.I.B.A., Lincoln Cottage, Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck
 1950 BOX, G. DIXON, Stocking Toft, Balsham
 1924 BRIGGS, Prof. G. E., M.A., F.R.S. (*St John's*), 8 Luard Road
 1935 BRISCOE, Lady, M.B., B.S., J.P., F.S.A., Lakenheath Hall, Brandon, Suffolk
 1950 BRISCOE, Mrs J., 14 Chepstow Mansions, Chepstow Place, London, W. 2
 1947 BROGAN, Mrs, 5 Belvoir Terrace
 * BROMHEAD, Miss K., B.SC., Woodlands, Stanstead Road, Caterham, Surrey
 1934 BROMWICH, J. P.A., T.D., M.A. (*St John's*), 153 Huntingdon Road—(*Secretary*)
 1938 BRUDENELL, B., 4 Alberta Crescent, Huntingdon
 1950 BULLEN, Mrs J., The Old Surgery, Horseheath
 1919* BURKITT, M. C., M.A., F.S.A. (*Trinity*), Merton House, Grantchester
 1938 BURY, J. P. T., M.A., Corpus Christi College
 1922* BUSHNELL, G. H. S., M.A., PH.D., F.S.A. (*Downing*), 4 Wordsworth Grove
 1931 BYWATERS, Rev. Canon F. J., M.A. (*Fitzwilliam House*), The Rectory, Willingham
 1922 CAM, Prof. H. M., LITT.D., F.B.A., F.R.HIST.S. (*Girton*), Radcliffe College, Cambridge 38, Mass., U.S.A.
 1953 CARTER-JONAS, Mrs, Culdrein, Girton Road
 1939 CARTWRIGHT, Rev. S. H., M.A. (*Christ's*), Kegworth Rectory, Derby
 1923* CAWDOR, The Right Hon. the Earl (*Trinity Hall*), Cawdor Castle, Nairn, Scotland
 1950 CAWDRY, E. A. G., College House, 16 Grange Road—(*Auditor*)
 1943 CHADWICK, Miss D. V. M., 2 Blinco Grove, Hills Road
 1945 CHADWICK, Mrs N., M.A. (*Newnham*), 1 Adams Road
 1935 CHIVERS, J. S., J.P., Homefield, Histon
 1932 CLARK, Prof. J. G. D., SC.D., F.B.A., F.S.A. (*Peterhouse*), 19 Wilberforce Road
 1935 CLARK-KENNEDY, Mrs A. E., The Lodge, Great Abington
 1950 CLARKE, J. W., Ivy Farm, Swaffham Prior
 1922* CLARKE, L. C. G., M.A., F.S.A. (*Trinity Hall*), Leckhampton House, Grange Road
 1950 CLARKE, Miss O. D., B.A., 10 Princes Street, Huntingdon
 1935 COLE, Mrs LESLIE, 5 St Peter's Terrace
 1926 COLLINS, Miss D. G., Trebetherick, nr Wadebridge, Cornwall
 1941 CONYBEARE, Miss D. F., 14 Trumpington Street
 1909 COOKE, Mrs A., 10 Selwyn Gardens
 1930* COOTE, C. M. J., M.A., The Dingle, Houghton, Hunts
 1949 COPEMAN, Miss A., End House, Owlstone Road
 1950 CORY, R. H., Home Croft, Brinkley, Newmarket
 1938 COSTELLO, Miss K., Waterloo House, 65 Lensfield Road
 1952 CRAIG-JEFFREYS, Commander A. L. (R.N. ret'd.), 39 Milton Road
 1895* CRANAGE, The Very Rev. D. H. S., LITT.D., F.S.A. (*King's*), The Beam House, Winkfield Road, Windsor
 1931 CRAWLEY, C. W., M.A. (*Trinity Hall*), 1 Madingley Road
 1920 CROSS, F. V., Fore Hill, Ely
 1951 CUBITT, Mrs, The Lodge, Westminster College
 1945 CURTIS, Dame MYRA, M.A., Principal of Newnham College
 1938 DANIEL, G. E., M.A., PH.D., F.S.A., St John's College
 1943 DAVIS, Rev. G. E., M.A. (*Queens'*), Haslingfield Vicarage

LIST OF MEMBERS

- 1949 DAVY, Mrs, 1 Chaucer Road
 1929 DEARDS, A. W., Dial House, Heathfield, Royston, Herts
 1903 DENT, Prof. E. J., MUS.B. (*King's*), Emeritus Professor of Music, 17 Cromwell Place,
 London, S.W. 7
 1946 DEWHURST, P. C., Mayfield, Little Abingdon
 1947 DICKINS, Prof. B., M.A., Corpus Christi College—(*President*)
 1922 DIXON, M., PH.D. (*Emmanuel*), 27 Parkside
 1949 DODD, Mrs C. H., 3 Park Terrace
 1950 DORAN, W. E., Dial House, Buristead Road, Great Shelford
 1946* DORMAN, B. E., The Homestead, Little Melton, Norwich
 1949 DOYLE, A. I., M.A. (*Downing*), The University Library, Durham
 1909* DUCKWORTH, W. L. H., M.D., sc.D., Jesus College

 1918 EDLESTON, Miss A., Gainford, nr Darlington, and 57 Jesus Lane
 1928 ELLES, Miss G. L., sc.D. (*Newnham*), 21 Barton Road
 1946 ELLIOTT, Miss, The Old Rectory, Yelling, Hunts
 1923 ELLIS, Miss D., Bryntirion, Newmarket
 1952 ELLIS, Miss D. M., 87 Tenison Road
 ELY, The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of, D.D. (*Pembroke*), The Bishop's House, Ely
 1947 EVANS, Very Rev. S. J. A., M.A., F.S.A., The Deanery, Gloucester

 1934* FAIRHAVEN, The Rt Hon. Lord, M.A., F.S.A. (*Downing*), Anglesey Abbey
 1918 FEGAN, Miss E. S., M.A., Girton College
 1949 FELL, Miss C. I., M.A., F.S.A., Flan How, Ulverston, Lancs
 1940 FINDLAY, G. H., C.M.G., M.A., White Cottage, Stapleford
 1924* FITZGERALD, G. M., M.A. (*Trinity*), 28 Newton Road
 1939 FITZPATRICK, Mrs, 7 Madingley Road
 1933 FOSTER, Lt.-Col. O. B., M.C., Old Mill House, Hildersham
 1950 FOSTER, P., F.R.I.B.A., Harcourt, Hemingford Grey, Hunts
 1953 FREND, W. H. C., M.A., F.S.A., Gonville and Caius College
 1951 FULFORD, Mrs E., 30 Causewayside

 1940 GARDNER, Miss ELLA M., 19 Trumpington Street
 1939* GARROD, D. A. E., D.SC., F.S.A. (*Newnham*), Reid Hall, 4 Rue de Chevreuse, Paris, 6me
 1927* GARROD, J. R., M.D., D.P.H., F.S.A. (*St John's*), Alconbury Hill, Hunts
 1906 GASKELL, Miss C. J., Uplands, Great Shelford
 1949 GAUTREY, H. E., 227 High Street, Cottenham
 1933 GOODISON, J. W., M.A., F.S.A. (*King's*), Fitzwilliam Museum
 GOODLIFF, Miss P., 5 The Walks, Huntingdon
 1951 GORSE, Rev. H., M.A., Gorse Cottage, Little Eversden
 1923 GOURLAY, W. B., M.A. (*Trinity*), 7 Millington Road
 1932 GOW, A. S. F., M.A., F.B.A., Trinity College
 1938 GRAY, Sir J. M., M.A. (*King's*), Supreme Court, Zanzibar
 1949 GREAVES, Mrs D., 39 Barton Road
 1948 GREEN, M., 13 Parkside, St Ives, Hunts
 1950 GREEN, Miss T. A. E., Stocking Cottage, Balsham
 1925 GRIFFIN, Major J. McC., F.S.A., Bourn Hall
 1934 GUILLEBAUD, Mrs, Driftway House, Wilberforce Road
 1952 GULLAND, A. H., 194 Huntingdon Road

- 1931* HADDON, E. B., M.A. (*Christ's*), 28 Barton Road
 1953 HALL, Mrs C. P., M.A. (*Oxon*), 9 St John's Road
 1938 HAMBLIN-SMITH, Mrs M. I., 7 Botolph Lane
 1945 HARLEY, M. C., Paxton Hill, St Neot's, Hunts
 1952 HARRIES, R. S., 14 Emmanuel Road
 1947 HARRIS, L. E., 3 Cottenham Road, Histon
 1945 HART, Rev. H. P., M.A. (*Corpus Christi*), Stapleford Vicarage
 1911* HASLAM, Mrs J. H. F., 15 Cranmer Road
 1932 HAWKINS, G., O.B.E., M.A. (*Christ's*), 11 Chaucer Road
 1950 HAYLOCK, Mrs, Barton House, Barton
 1948 HEAD, F. J., F.S.A., c/o National Provincial Bank, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W. 3
 1935 HELEY, P. E., 40 Newton Road
 1954 HOLMES, Capt. H. E., 30 Romsey Road
 1947 HOPKIN, S. R., 31 Egremont Street, Ely
 1928 HOPKINS, Lady, Saxmeadham, 71 Grange Road
 1922* HOPKINSON, Capt. E. C., M.C., Vennwood, Merrion Avenue, Exmouth, Devon
 1947 HOWARD, M. F., M.B.E., M.A., 68 Grantchester Meadows—(*Hon. Asst. Librarian*)
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 1929 HUTCHINSON, R. W., M.A. (*St John's*), The Orchard, Harston
 1931 HUTTON, H. L., 5 Alleyn Road, Dulwich, London, S.E. 21
 1930* HUTTON, Mrs J. H., M.A. (*Girton*), The Old Rectory, New Radnor, Presteign, Co. Radnor
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- 1950 JOHNSON, O. E., Rippington Manor, Great Gransden, nr. Sandy, Beds
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 1941 TOYNBEE, Prof. J. M. C., M.A., D.PHIL., F.B.A., F.S.A., Newnham College
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 1939 TREVOR, J. C., PH.D., B.SC. (*Emmanuel College*), 8 Sherlock Road
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- 1953 VAN GRUTTEN, Mrs E., White House, Trumpington Road
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 1954 WARREN, N., Whinham's Farm, Walton Highway, Wisbech
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 1909 WEBBER, Mrs, Wimbish Manor, Shepreth
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 1953 WELLS, Rev. MORLEY, Stow Longa Vicarage, Hunts
 1922 WHITE, F. PURYER, M.A., 16 Madingley Road—(*Auditor*)
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DATE OF
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 1949 HOWELL, Lady, 5 Grange Road
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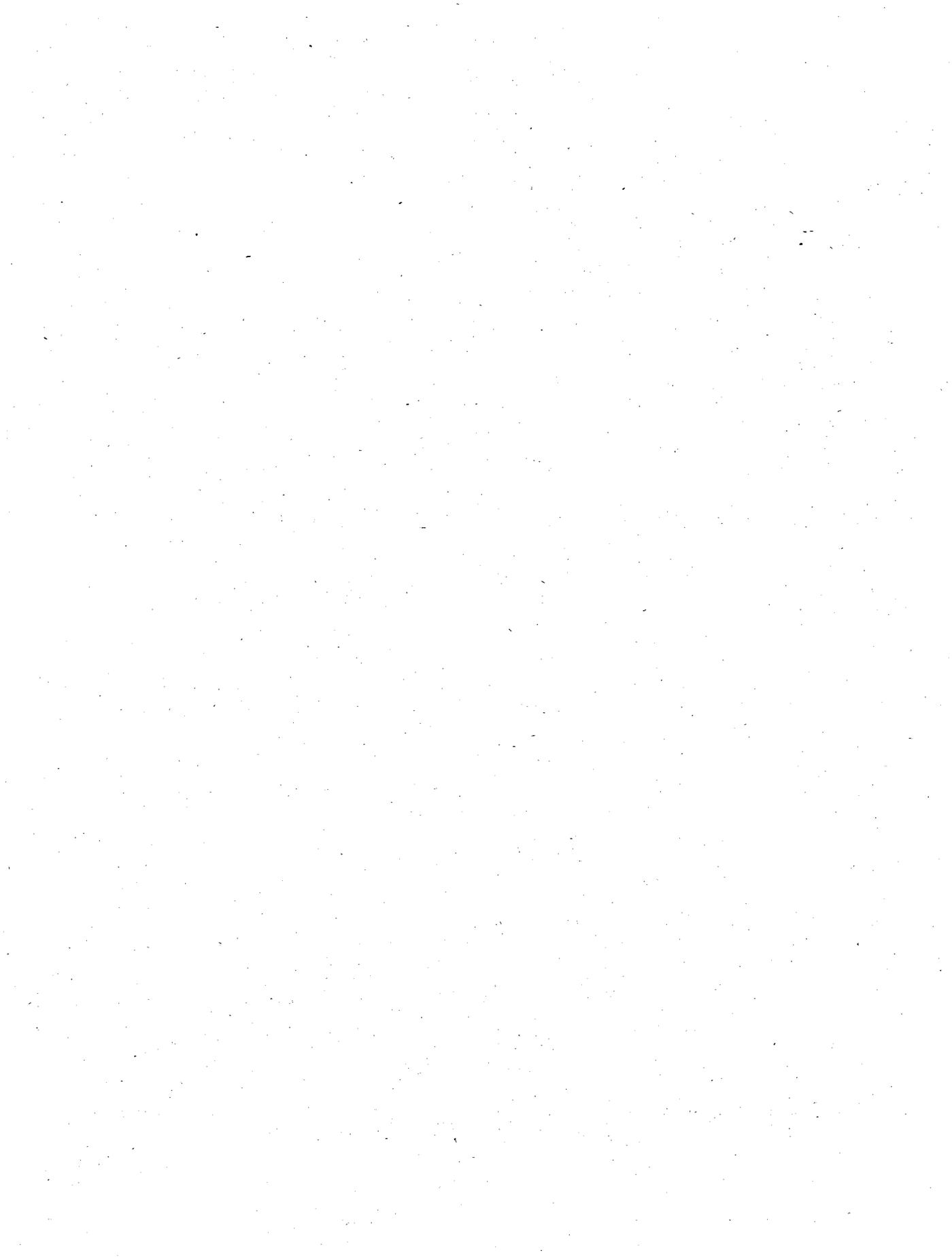
LIST OF MEMBERS

xvii

- 1949 MARKHAM, Mrs, 80 Barton Road, Ely
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 1909 SCRUBY, Miss F. M. K., M.A. (*Newnham*), 21 Newton Road
 1947 STRICKLAND, Mrs, Garden House Hotel
 1936 WINTER, Mrs, Manor House, Thriplow, Royston, Herts
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THE ELECTION OF ABBOTS AT ST ALBANS IN THE THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH CENTURIES¹

R. VAUGHAN

THE comparative absence of royal interference makes St Albans one of the most suitable houses for a study of the mechanics of abbatial election. More important, however, is its wealth of source material, and its long tradition of domestic writing. Adam the Cellarer, in the twelfth century, provides a detailed picture of life at St Albans in his time, and his account is surpassed by that of Matthew Paris in the thirteenth century. At the end of the fourteenth century Thomas Walsingham takes up the story with a full and lively account of the abbacy of Thomas de la Mare, which spanned almost the whole of the second half of the century, and his work was continued by an anonymous writer of considerable merit. But this mass of literary material is dwarfed by the documentary matter which still survives: We have a *Liber Memorandorum*,² which, though badly damaged in the Cottonian fire of 1731, is still mostly legible, and which covers the period under review; two fifteenth-century chartularies;³ a Formulary;⁴ and many other miscellaneous records. For information about the elections of abbots, apart from the accounts in the text of the *Gesta Abbatum*⁵ and the documents copied there, we have a collection of letters concerning the election of abbot John in 1235;⁶ a long letter to Pope Boniface VIII in the *Liber Memorandorum*,⁷ giving a detailed description of the election of John de Maryns in 1302; and a tract on the various methods of electing abbots which was probably written by Thomas Walsingham.⁸ There are some additional details about one or two of the abbatial elections in the Bute manuscript of the *Gesta Abbatum*, which was that lent by Sir Henry Spelman to Dr Wats for the latter's edition of Matthew Paris.⁹ Finally, it should be noted that dates and facts can often be checked, and

¹ This paper is a shortened version of that read to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society on 26 May 1952.

² B.M. Cotton MS. Tiberius E vi. Besides the memoranda, this book contains a great number of documents connected with the domestic history of the abbey.

³ B.M. Cotton MS. Otho D iii, and a manuscript at Chatsworth. These are 'sister' books, each containing an index of the other.

⁴ Cambridge University Library MS. E iv 20.

⁵ The whole of this has been printed in Riley, H. T., *Gesta Abbatum Monasterii S. Albani*, Rolls Series, 1867-9 (3 vols.), but for the earlier portion of it, the edition of Dr William Wats (London, 1639) has been used here.

⁶ Oxford, Bodleian Library, Digby MS. 20, fos. 105-9.

⁷ Fos. 160b-163b.

⁸ B.M. Cotton MS. Claudius E iv, fos. 359ff.

⁹ Bute MS. 3. I should like to thank Lord Bute for allowing me to have this MS. on loan for two months, and the University Librarian, Cambridge, for allowing it to be deposited, during that period, in the University Library.

new information occasionally found, in the Calendars of Patent Rolls and Papal Registers.

Before I go on to describe the thirteenth-century elections at St Albans, it will be as well, for a moment, to examine Walsingham's treatise on the different methods of election. The first of these is 'by inspiration' or, 'the way of the Holy Ghost', which Walsingham tells us is not really a form of election, but an exception to the various methods. It was very rare and rather dangerous, since it was hard to convince the pope that an election made in this way was really genuine and canonical. It occurs when all the brethren at once agree on a person nominated by 'him who has the first voice', usually the prior. After a short and slightly cynical chapter on this method, Walsingham considers the method of election 'by compromise', which was one of the most usual and popular. The prior and convent appoint nine compromissaries (*compromissores* or *compromissarii*), who are given power to choose the abbot, and sealed letters from the prior and convent agreeing to accept whoever they choose without demur. They elect either by means of unanimous agreement or by a simple majority (*major pars*), and appoint one of their number to publish the result of their deliberations in the Chapter House. Walsingham illustrates these different modes of election with specimen letters, many of which are taken from domestic sources and altered to suit his purpose; initials being substituted for the name of the abbot. The next method to be described is that by way of scrutiny, which, according to Walsingham, is the most dangerous of all, on account of the complicated form, attention to the smallest details of which is essential if the pope is not going to quash the election as uncanonical. Three monks, called *scrutatores*, are appointed to collect the votes of all the brethren, and these are then carefully scrutinized, and the election made. If there is no unanimous agreement in favour of one person, a *collatio triplex* has to be made: that is to say, every person who appears in any of the votes must be compared 'talent with talent, merit with merit, and zeal with zeal' with his fellows, and the election is then made on the basis of this comparison. It is interesting to note that this is exactly opposed to the practice in a papal election by scrutiny, where only a numerical comparison is made.

The method of election by compromise was invariably used at St Albans, and the simplest way of showing it at work will be to describe the four thirteenth-century elections. The first was that of William of Trumpington in 1213, and it is the earliest election at St Albans of which a description in any detail survives.¹ It is interesting in that twelve compromissaries were appointed by the prior and convent, and were apparently instructed how to vote by the rest of the convent. They actually made the election in the presence of the king, and, as it was known that the king wished William of Trumpington to be elected, the result was a foregone conclusion. It may well have been the unsatisfactory nature of this election which led the convent to revise the method when the abbacy again fell vacant in 1235. Matthew Paris attaches much importance to this election, for he gives a very detailed account of it,

¹ Wats, W., *Vitae... Viginti Trium Abbatum S. Albani* (London, 1639), pp. 112-14, henceforth quoted as 'Wats'.

and copies out many letters concerning it.¹ He also provides a minute description of the custom of electing an abbot at St Albans, as well as a chapter on 'How the elect ought to proceed'. Walsingham also used much of this material for his tract, while the author of the Bute manuscript of the *Gesta Abbatum*, who usually abridges his exemplar, copied out all the documents concerning the election word for word.² We can be sure, then, that the election of abbot John of Hertford in 1235 was used as a precedent for later elections and that the various customs of election at St Albans were laid down, so to speak, at this time. One important change was made, which is much praised by Matthew Paris: formerly the compromissaries had not been allowed to elect from their own number, a rule which meant in practice that none of the seniors would be among them. They were now allowed to choose the abbot from among themselves, and it is probable that this reform materially altered the composition of this 'college of electors'. Their number, however, was still twelve, although at the next election, in 1263, it was reduced to nine.³ In 1235 the twelve compromissaries were appointed by three or four *confessores*, presumably the oldest and wisest of the brethren. The twelve were given sealed letters from the prior and convent agreeing to accept whomsoever they might choose. They announced their decision through the mouth of one of their number, in the Chapter House, and the prior and subprior then led the elect into the abbey church while *Te Deum Laudamus* was sung. There the abbot elect prostrated himself before the High Altar to the sound of bells and trumpets, and, after some short prayers, removed to the prior's lodgings, where he remained until papal confirmation of his election had been obtained.⁴ It is interesting to note the time taken for all this: William died on 24 February 1235; he was buried on the 27th,⁵ and a *congé d'élire* obtained from the king on the 28th.⁶ The actual election took place on 27 March⁷ although the new abbot did not receive his examination by the bishop of Ely until 13 August. He was finally blessed on 9 September.⁸

We have no Matthew Paris, unfortunately, to describe for us the election of abbot Roger of Norton, and, consequently, our information is scanty. On the death of abbot John, on 19 April 1263, Ascillus the prior took charge of the proceedings, and despatched three brethren to the king for a *congé d'élire*.⁹ This was easily obtained, and the election fixed for 7 May.¹⁰ Ascillus then summoned all who ought and were able to be present and, on the appointed day, they agreed to proceed, as usual, *per viam compromissi*. Soon after his election Roger of Norton sought the king in person and obtained royal confirmation of his election, and, with some difficulty (which entailed letters of recommendation from the prior of St Albans, the bishop of Norwich, the bishop of Ely, and the abbots of St Augustine's, Canterbury, and the Holy Cross, Waltham), he obtained papal confirmation on 9 September, nearly five

¹ Wats, pp. 135-41.

³ Riley, H. T., *Gesta Abbatum*, I, p. 399.

⁵ Wats, p. 132.

⁷ Wats, p. 136.

⁹ Riley, I, pp. 398-400.

² Bute MS. 3, pp. 258-67.

⁴ Wats, p. 141.

⁶ *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1232-7, p. 95.

⁸ Wats, p. 140.

¹⁰ Bute MS. 3, p. 278.

months after the death of his predecessor. The abbey was finally restored by the king on 21 December.¹

The last thirteenth-century election at St Albans was that of John of Berkhamstead. Roger died on 3 November 1290, was buried on the 6th,² and a *congé d'élire* issued by the king at the request of the usual deputation of three, on 11 November.³ The business-like prior, John of Maryns, who was afterwards elected abbot, fixed the election for 9 December,⁴ and the usual method was agreed on. John of Berkhamstead was himself one of the compromissaries, and it is amusing to find it stated, in the papal confirmation of the election, that he was elected by himself and eight others,⁵ although in fact, as will be seen, he was absent when the choice was made. John of Berkhamstead was the first abbot of St Albans to go to Rome in person for his confirmation; he left St Albans on 2 January, and returned on 22 June, travelling with four monks of the house. The full record of his examination by a committee of cardinals is preserved in the *Gesta Abbatum*,⁶ and was also copied out by Walsingham in his tract on abbatial election. This document contains much useful information about the details of the election. The abbot, for instance, was asked why it was decided to proceed by way of compromise rather than by way of scrutiny; to which he replied that those expert in the law maintained that this method was easier than the other. The abbot had to assure his examiners that the compromissaries retired apart as soon as they had been given their commission, and that he himself was sent out when they began to discuss him. In reply to the question whether the elect agreed to his own election, the cautious abbot answered that, after much perseverance on the part of his electors, he at last consented. He was careful to deny that at the time of election he was excommunicate, interdicted or suspended, and that he gave anything to the compromissaries before the election; and he further assured his examiners that he was sufficiently learned, was circumspect in temporal matters, and was neither of servile status nor of illegitimate birth.

According to the tract on elections which we have attributed to Thomas Walsingham, the nine compromissaries should consist of seven monks of St Albans, and the priors of two of the dependent cells; while the priors of all seven cells should attend each election, together with a hundred monks of St Albans.⁷ It is probable that the latter figure is purely nominal, and that in fact all the monks of the house attended the election of an abbot. It is interesting to examine the compromissaries at various elections in order to ascertain what proportion of them were priors of cells. In 1290—the earliest election for which we have a list of the compromissaries—only the prior of Binham, one Robert, was of their number;⁸ but in 1302 the priors of Belvoir, Beaulieu and Binham were all compromissaries.⁹ In 1326 four priors of cells were among the chosen nine: those of Tynemouth, Wymondham, Wallingford, and Hertford,¹⁰ and in 1349 again there were four; this time those of Tynemouth,

¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1258–66, p. 304.

² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1281–92, p. 394.

³ *Calendar of Papal Registers*, I, pp. 531–2.

⁴ B.M. Cotton MS. Claudius E vi. fo. 363 a.

⁵ B.M. Cotton MS. Tiberius E vi. fo. 162 a.

² Riley, I, p. 485

⁴ Riley, II, p. 6.

⁶ Riley, II, pp. 9–12.

⁸ *Cal. Pap. Reg.* I, pp. 531–2.

¹⁰ Riley, II, p. 184.

Wymondham, Binham and Belvoir.¹ It may seem surprising that so distant a house as Tynemouth should have been a cell of St Albans, but it was conferred by Robert Mowbray in 1093. As things turned out, it proved of considerable value, at least to the abbots of St Albans, since it was used as a kind of penal settlement for intransigent monks, and the exile of a malefactor or two to Tynemouth was a favourite method of quelling disturbances. Besides the priors of cells, one or two other officials are usually to be found among the compromissaries; the archdeacon of St Albans was often among them, and it is probable that the prior of St Albans was normally chosen. Unfortunately the sources often give only the names, and this fact makes it hard to be sure of the composition of the group of compromissaries. It is safe to assume, however, that they were always senior and responsible monks.

The dangers and difficulties which beset the business of electing an abbot were considerable, and the expenses appear to have continually increased. At St Albans, as at other houses, both king and pope invariably claimed their pound of flesh. A vacant abbey automatically escheated to the king, and, in order to avoid the depredations of the royal escheators, the convent usually compounded with him for the return of it into their own hands. At the election of abbot John in 1235 a fine of 300 marks was paid,² and in 1263 this figure was doubled.³ In 1290 the convent for some reason failed to make fine with the king, and the abbey fell into the hands of an extortionate royal escheator, who confiscated the keys of all the obedientaries and substituted for most of the monastic officials creatures of his own. He even searched the rooms of the convent and wrote down everything he found in a schedule, and the indignant chronicler tells us that he wished to find many more things than he did, and that he claimed, on behalf of the king, that he had exactly the same powers over the convent as the abbot.⁴ No wonder the monks were shocked when he attempted to gain control over the property of the convent, for even the abbot had never succeeded in obtaining this. In the outcome, the escheator was bought off with a series of payments amounting to £150 and 170 marks. This disaster happily never occurred again, because the next abbot came to an arrangement with the king whereby the convent paid a thousand marks *per annum* during every vacancy.⁵ As in fact the abbey was never vacant for as long as a year, on no occasion was more than a thousand marks paid. It is hard to judge whether or not the convent gained by this arrangement; but great joy was evinced in 1301, when the sub-escheator's visit was shortened almost to the time it took the eager prior and cellarer to read the new privilege.⁶ In the time of Thomas de la Mare another arrangement was made, which was almost certainly advantageous to the convent: instead of paying a large sum every year during vacancies, a kind of insurance premium against vacancies was paid every year, whether the abbacy was vacant or not. This annual payment was fixed at fifty marks: a sum small enough to be scarcely noticed among the annual expenses of a great abbey.

Apart from those connected with vacancies, the king occasionally made other

¹ Riley, II, p. 382.

² Wats, p. 135.

³ Riley, I, p. 398.

⁴ Riley, II, pp. 3-4.

⁵ Riley, II, pp. 32-4.

⁶ Riley, II, p. 52.

demands during the election of a new abbot: in particular, it was always necessary to obtain his confirmation of the elect. There is, however, only one recorded case of difficulties of this kind at St Albans, and this concerned the royal acceptance of the papal confirmation, not the royal confirmation itself, which had already been given. When he returned from Rome, John of Berkhamstead went with his bull of confirmation to Norham, where the king then was.¹ He presented the bull to Edward I; but, to his dismay, neither the king nor his council would accept it, for want of a proper string attaching the seal to the parchment. The abbot expostulated, but no one would listen to him. Luckily, however, he remembered that he had a duplicate with his chamberlain at Redbourn, and this was accepted by the king eight days later.

The exertion of pressure on the convent by the king, in favour of some favourite of his, was very rare at St Albans, and the only example seems to be that of the election of William of Trumpington in 1213. The method used by the king was to make it known that he favoured William, and to make the compromissaries elect in his presence. Matthew Paris gives a good description of a conversation held after the election, which merits quotation:²

As soon as he had been made abbot, William, spurning his old comrades in the cloister, turned to seculars, and ate and talked with them; a fact which his electors, and the brethren, who thought they knew him well, refused to believe. There was much talk about this: Prior Reimund and Master Walter Remensis together with Fabianus the subprior (and several others)... complaining among themselves and saying that they deserved to suffer these things on account of the sins of their house, and lamenting that in the election they had dreaded *rex* rather than *lex*. When one of the electors, a certain John Scot, tried with various assertions to defend the election, Master Walter Remensis replied as follows: 'When the elect, Dom William of Trumpington, was presented to the king in London, he asked curtly "Who is your abbot-elect, and what is his name?" and the reply was made, "Dom William of Trumpington". "Aha!" said the king, "exactly the person I wanted. It was indeed prudent of you to elect him, for otherwise you might have been disappointed. He is a relative of the excellent knight Sir William of Trumpington, and I hope he will follow his good example." And once he knew who he was, the king joyfully embraced the elect.' Now from these words it is clear that it was not only the will of God which was at work.

So much for the part played by the king in the elections of abbots at St Albans: We must now turn to examine the various ways in which the pope added difficulties and expenses. It was not until the thirteenth century that the popes began to take an interest in the elections of abbots in exempt houses, and the important date is 1215, when Innocent III, at the Fourth Lateran Council, passed a decree ordering abbots of exempt houses to visit the pope in person in order to receive their confirmation. Abbot William had been elected before this decree, and he never travelled to Rome. In 1235, however, there was much discussion in the convent as to whether abbot John ought to go to Rome;³ but in fact he, and also his successor Roger, avoided this tedious journey by successfully tendering the excuse of old age. It was at this time,

¹ Riley, II, p. 18. This was in 1290.

² Wats, p. 114.

³ Wats, p. 133.

however, that the abbey first began to feel the effects of papal exactions: this is how Matthew Paris describes the journey of the proctors to Rome in 1235:¹

As soon as they (the proctors) arrived at the papal court, which was then at Perugia, they proffered a sum of money to the pope, in the hopes of obtaining his favour as quickly as possible. The pope immediately ordered his Treasurer and Chamberlain, a Friar Minor, to take the money to his treasury. Once the money was safely there... the friar refused to leave the chest; while the pope, who should have been polite and sociable, would not even invite the proctors to a snack (*prandiolum*). The proctors, therefore, retired for the night promising to return on the morrow as they had been instructed, having first tipped the papal servants and doorkeepers, who were standing about with mouths agape for presents. In the morning they were at last allowed to see the pope, and they produced the royal letters, as well as others which they had with them from friends of the king. On account of these letters, as well as because of their gifts, they at last obtained the favour of that venal court. The king's friends had taken good care (since letters alone are sterile and unfruitful, and would count for but little at the papal court) to enclose with their letters certain valuable gifts. Once the elect had been confirmed and the benediction received on his behalf, the proctors left with joyful hearts, and never again were they able to love, or even to have a good word for, the papal court.

We may perhaps excuse Matthew Paris his rather cynical speculations, at about this time, on the fact that the impression of the papal seal at the top of the tower of the abbey church had not prevented it from being destroyed by lightning.²

The cost of papal confirmation increased considerably during the thirteenth century. In 1263 the proctors had to raise a loan of £700 to pay their expenses at Rome,³ a sum which must have been a heavy burden to the convent for a number of years. The election of abbot John in 1290 was even more expensive, as he himself had to travel to Rome. The domestic chronicler estimates that the total cost was well over £1000,⁴ and this was perhaps the average cost of the journey to Rome and of papal confirmation during the fourteenth century. The pope, incidentally, was always very ready to provide facilities to the abbot of St Albans for raising loans to pay his expenses at Rome. Only in the case of the confirmation of abbot John of Maryns in 1302 has the detailed list of expenses at Rome survived, and some excerpts from this document give a clear idea of the way in which expenses mounted up through no fault of the abbot.⁵

To the Lord Pope, for his private visitation, 3000 florins; that is to say, 1250 marks. Item, for the public visitation, 1008 marks... in sum, 2258 marks to the Lord Pope and his cardinals. Item, to obtain a respite... 200 marks. Item, to the examiners... (two cardinals and a monk) a cup each. Item, to two other cardinals; the pope's nephew and the Referendary... a platter each. Item, to the advocates of the Lord Pope's doorkeeper... 34 *gros tournois*.⁶ (Presents to various other persons follow.) Item, by the hand of Corsini in the matter of obtaining the bulls and for writing them for the first time... 63 *gros tournois*; to Master Blondino, who corrected the annulled letters... 2 florins; to the scribe, for the second time... 60 *gros tournois*; to Master P.

¹ Wats, pp. 137-8.

³ *Cal. Pap. Reg.* I, p. 386.

⁵ Riley, II, pp. 56ff.

⁶ One *gros tournois* was equal to about fifty marks.

² Wats, p. 142.

⁴ Riley, II, p. 13.

that they might the sooner be enregistered... 4 *gros tournois*; for three supplicatory letters... 65 *gros tournois*; to the clerks who sealed the bulls... 12 florins and 2 *gros tournois*; for the Registrar... 60 *gros tournois*; for sealing his own supplicatory letters... 1 florin.

The total comes to 2,561 marks, which the late Dr Coulton, whose translation I used for the above extract, made about £34,000 of the money of his day.¹

The journey itself must also have been laborious and expensive. We have an interesting description of that of Thomas de la Mare in 1349.² The plague claimed two of his attendants on the way, and the state of war between France and England added further difficulties. At Calais the abbot and his attendants donned secular garb, and the party split up, each person making his own way to Avignon. This arrangement was repeated on the way home, one clerk only accompanying the abbot. A further difficulty was the necessity of ensuring that the election was fully canonical, for the pope might seize on any irregularity in the proceedings and quash the election. When this happened he might, as Professor Knowles puts it,³ either 'refer the elect back to England for another and better attempt, or graciously provide the pretender to his post'. In his description of abbot John's election in 1290, the chronicler explicitly states that the pope supplied the defects in the election out of the fullness of his power.⁴ A more serious case was that of Richard of Wallingford in 1326, when the election was actually found to be uncanonical, and Richard was forced to resign.⁵ The grounds of the illegality of this election were threefold: In the first place, certain instruments were lacking which should have been included in the report on the election sent to the pope. Secondly, in this same report, in the place where the various electors said 'I, so-and-so, consent and subscribe', all was found to be in the same handwriting. Thirdly, it was said that the proctors had not sufficient powers given to them. Abbot Richard, after some understandable hesitation, agreed to renounce his election, on condition that the pope should at once provide a good shepherd for the house, and that he, Richard, should be reinstated in the same status in the convent which he had before the election. The pope in fact provided Richard, and the chronicler describes how he rushed to thank the pope for this signal act of kindness as soon as he heard the good news; for otherwise he would have been compelled to give presents to each of the cardinals who announced it to him.⁶

A point of some importance in any discussion of abbatial elections is the question of eligibility: who was considered a suitable person to be elected abbot? Between 1200 and 1500 there were fifteen abbots of St Albans, and a glance at this list shows, in the first place, that a monk who held office of some kind was at a definite advantage: five of these fifteen abbots were ex-priors of St Albans, and three others had been priors of cells, while one, Hugh, was an ex-cellarer of St Albans. The remaining six abbots were probably all monks of St Albans, though this is not quite clear in the

¹ *Life in the Middle Ages*, vol. iv, p. 282.

² Riley, II, pp. 382-3.

³ *The Religious Orders in England*, p. 278.

⁴ Riley, II, pp. 8-9.

⁵ Riley, II, p. 189.

⁶ Riley, II, p. 190.

case of Ralph, who was elected in 1146. A further examination of this list shows that neither obscure birth, nor even scholarship, was a bar to the abbacy. Of three abbots it is definitely stated that they were of obscure birth; while, as regards learning, it looks very much as though, at least in the twelfth century, the monks of St Albans preferred to be ruled by a scholar. In the second half of the twelfth century they chose three learned men one after the other; Simon, Warin, and John of Wallingford. Of this last Matthew Paris records that he was a Priscian in Grammar, an Ovid in verse, and a Galen in medicine.¹ His time was so devoted to learning and meditation that the secular affairs of the house had to be managed entirely by the prior and cellarer. In the fourteenth century two of the abbots at least, Richard of Wallingford and Thomas de la Mare, were Oxford scholars of repute. Richard of Wallingford was undoubtedly one of the most interesting abbots of St Albans, and his antiquarian pursuits demand some mention of him in the present company.² Richard played a not unimportant part in his own election, for he was among the compromissaries, and he was devoutly convinced, while celebrating Mass before the election, that all would be well, and that the most fitting person would be elected. This message, so to speak, from the Holy Ghost, gave him not a little worry when he heard that his fellow electors had decided on himself; but his pious conviction overcame his modesty, and, spurred on also by a fear of offending the Holy Ghost, he accepted the abbacy.³ It was not until some time afterwards, says Walsingham, that he began to repent of his ready assumption of so arduous an office. Richard is an interesting example of an unpopular abbot, for, though the author or authors of this part of the *Gesta Abbatum* praise him warmly, they report several attempts to have him deposed, one of which was made on the grounds of infirmity, for, besides being nearly blind, the abbot suffered from leprosy. Richard's scholarly activities included a register of the more important events of his time; a compilation of various constitutions of Provincial Chapters; an excellent gloss on the Prologue to the Rule; and many works on Astronomy and Geometry.⁴ In this latter branch of knowledge abbot Richard excelled all his contemporaries, and the domestic chronicler several times mentions a magnificent astronomical instrument which was built by Richard, and which he named 'Albion'; a word which, we are told, means 'totum per unum'—all by one. He also constructed a very fine clock, which so surprised Edward III when he was visiting the house, that he remonstrated with the abbot for spending so much time and money on a mere clock, when the fabric of the church needed repair. To which Richard replied that any one of his successors could repair the fabric of the church, whereas only he was capable of providing it with a really good clock.⁵

Some idea of the type of person considered suitable for the office of abbot may be obtained by examining the recorded cases of opposition to the choice of the majority. There are only two such cases at St Albans during the period under review, and the

¹ Wats, p. 103.

² For the rule of Richard, see Riley, II, pp. 186-299.

³ Riley, II, pp. 183-5.

⁴ Riley, II, p. 207.

⁵ Riley, II, pp. 281-2.

earlier of these in fact belongs to the twelfth century. Matthew Paris gives the following description of the election of Warin in 1183:¹

On the death of abbot Symon of pious memory, and the consequent vacancy of the abbey, the business of providing another abbot had to be undertaken, and Warin, the prior, was duly elected. Everyone agreed to this except for William Martel, the Sacrist, who himself aspired to the dignity of abbot rather more than was seemly. He asserted that Warin (who in fact suffered only from a squint) was completely blind, and that he was born of a vulgar townee family who were interested only in financial gain. Indeed he went so far as to refer to the proposed abbot's family, in Chapter, by the opprobrious term 'salinarii' (salt merchants). His words were not in fact altogether mistaken, as subsequent events showed, for he pointed out that Warin, with the help of his brother Matthew, would crush the convent under foot and disperse any that muttered against them. The opinions of this one person, however, could not affect the fixed intention of the many, and so Warin was elected and created abbot. . . .

Again, during the election of John of Maryns in 1302, there was one person who could not brook the choice of his fellows; in this case it was Richard of Hatford, prior of the convent's 'rest house' at Redbourn. According to the domestic chronicler, Richard's efforts to hinder the election took the following form:²

On the day of the election he put off the hour for a long time by reading in Chapter some trifling compilation which he had fatuously composed, so that everyone in Chapter, overcome with boredom, quite lost interest in what he was saying. His tract was in fact on canonical elections, and it continued through the whole extent of a hungry day, until evening.

This device, however, failed to hinder the election of John of Maryns, and a letter of complaint which the misguided and jealous prior addressed soon afterwards to the archbishop of Canterbury, was no more successful. It is interesting to note that no mention of this incident is made in the report on the election sent to the pope, where the election is stated to have been unanimous.³

It is remarkable that these are the only recorded cases of differences of opinion at St Albans during the election of an abbot. It looks very much as if the choice was often an obvious one, and that opposition was usually due to jealousy. The election of abbot Hugh, in 1308, throws some light on the question of the qualifications of an abbot. The chronicler tells us that, although there was none better than him in English and French, he was not well versed in Latin. He is said to have spoken thus in Chapter soon after his election: 'I know, brethren, that you could easily have elected someone more learned and more subtle than myself, but you could hardly have chosen a better fellow (*socialem*).'⁴ The monks were evidently not worried about his lack of Latin, but Hugh himself dreaded the visit to the papal court, and he sent proctors to Rome for the express purpose of putting it off. Unfortunately he had armed the proctors with too many letters of recommendation: the pope insisted on seeing personally an abbot-elect who was recommended by so many prelates and magnates, not to mention the king and queen. He was forced, therefore, to travel to Rome, where he eventually managed to secure his confirmation, though at a greater

¹ Wats, p. 94.

³ M.B. Cotton MS. Tiberius E vi, fo. 162b.

² Riley, II, p. 54.

⁴ Riley, II, p. 113.

expense than usual. In connection with this election, it is to be noted that the abbot of a house like St Albans, one day's journey out of London and a favourite resort of kings and prelates, had to possess at least a modicum of social graces.

How desirable and popular was the post of abbot at St Albans? This is an extremely difficult question to answer, as the chroniclers seldom provide a balanced judgement on this point. We have seen that John of Berkhamstead told his examiners at Rome that he had hesitated before accepting the office,¹ and the same is reported of John of Maryns in the report of his election sent to the pope.² We have also had a glimpse at the thoughts of Richard of Wallingford on hearing of his election. The only recorded case of a refusal to be abbot is that of Henry of Stukely, prior of Wymondham, in 1349.³ According to Walsingham, Henry made up various excuses for his lack of enthusiasm for the office of abbot, and he compares him to John, surnamed Mark, who left Paul and his company in Pamphylia and returned to Jerusalem. It is possible, however, that Henry was more interested in the welfare of his own house, and wished to continue his period of office there.

It is impossible to tell whether, in view of the fact that the choice of abbot at St Albans appears usually to have been made without difficulty and without difference of opinion, it was ever decided beforehand. William Martel, the Sacrist, is the only person mentioned at any time as actually desirous of becoming abbot, and the only other evidence on this point is a story added by Walsingham to Matthew Paris's text of the *Gesta Abbatum*, concerning abbot John of Hertford, who was elected in 1235.⁴

It is said that when he (John of Hertford) was summoned to the election, he was derided by many of the inhabitants as he rode modestly along, as old men do. 'Just look at that old fellow', they called out, 'pretty well decrepit, and yet he thinks he's going to be abbot.' These words, though said in derision, had, in the event, a serious import. John had with him, in a fold of his cloak, a cup and twelve silver spoons, which he had brought to the election in order to present to the abbot-elect, and these he dropped by mistake, after his election, in front of all; thus proving that he neither knew he was going to be made abbot, nor even desired this honour.

We may sum up in a general way by saying that, in order to be chosen abbot of St Albans, one would have had to have been a monk there, or in one of the cells, and that it would have been a decided advantage to have held office of some kind. An abbot was also required to have a considerable knowledge of secular affairs, and a keen and successful litigator would always be looked on with favour. He had also to be a sociable person, capable of entertaining the king and others, and he needed the usual qualifications of piety and modesty, as well as those peculiar to the ruler of any community. St Albans seems on the whole to have been remarkably successful in its choice of abbots during the two centuries under review, and it seems reasonable, therefore, to conclude that the method of election was efficient, and that the best man was normally chosen. We may note in passing that the priors of the various cells were appointed by the abbot of St Albans, so that in this respect the merits of

¹ Above, p. 4.

² B.M. Cotton MS. Tiberius E vi, fos. 160b ff.

³ Riley, II, p. 382.

⁴ Riley, I, p. 312.

the abbot would have considerable repercussions. Abbot William of Trumpington, who had a certain reputation for ferocity, went so far as to depose the prior of St Albans as well as those of several of its cells.

A few words may perhaps be said, in conclusion, on those aspects of monastic elections which we would today call 'democratic'. Exactly how much say did the average monk at St Albans have in the election of an abbot? And can one assume that, because a certain person was elected, the majority of monks in the convent wished him to be their abbot? These questions are difficult to answer, because we have no clear idea of how the compromissaries were appointed, and by whom. They were probably chosen by all the monks in Chapter; the prior perhaps reading out a list of names which had been suggested to him by the *seniores*, and which normally included his own. It is certain that in theory the compromissaries were appointed by the prior and brethren, and it therefore seems probable that all the monks had some say in the election. It must be remembered that the medieval idea of a majority is not ours. Aristotle's theory of distributive justice was taken over by the medieval canonists and political thinkers; the general idea being that those who contributed most to the welfare of the community should have most say in the choice of its ruler; and we read therefore in medieval sources of a *sanior* or *valentior pars*, rather than of a *major pars*. A numerical majority, in fact, is not thought of, and it is probable that, in the case of an abbatial election, a younger monk was quite content to wait until he was *senior*, if not also *sanior*, before he could join in with much effect. It was probably due to this insistence that the choice of a ruler should lie with the better part, rather than the larger part, of the community, that the elections of abbots at St Albans resulted in so large a proportion of excellent choices. It is not, however, my intention to attempt to draw lessons from the study of medieval abbatial elections: it is one of the delights of antiquarianism that it does not ask us to find patterns or to draw parallels, but simply to enquire, to examine, both the curious and the interesting, and to be entertained by these things for their own sakes. It is for this reason that I omit to trace the connection between the elections of abbots at St Albans in the middle ages, and modern parliamentary democracy; even if this feat of historical gymnastics were possible.

A WINDMILL HILL SITE AT HURST FEN MILDENHALL

GRACE BRISCOE, M.B., B.S., F.S.A.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

IN May 1951, at an Historical Exhibition held at Mildenhall, Mr T. W. Morley of Holywell Row showed me a tinful of flint artifacts which he had dug from a site in Hurst Fen, close to the source of the Eriswell Lode. The majority were leaf-shaped arrowheads of light or honey-coloured flint, very thin, and beautifully worked. A few days later I went with Mr Morley and Dr Parsons, the Chairman of the Mildenhall Archaeological Society, to inspect the site.

Hurst Fen is not in the true fen but is situated in the marginal lands which lie between the black-soil fens and the East Anglian chalk ridge; the hump of Codson Hill rises a mile to the east. It is a swampy area, providing a gathering ground for the waters of the Eriswell Lode which flow through Lakenheath to the River Little Ouse (Fig. 1). The swamps are cloaked by a dense growth of rushes and reeds. Between the swamps there are islands of sand, rising two or three feet above the general level, on which gorse, heather and willowherb grow. Twenty years ago these islands were bare of grass and were swarming with rabbits. Now the rabbits have completely disappeared, nobody knows why, and the sandy expanses are covered with long tough grass.

On arrival at the site, which lies on O.S. 6 in. map Suffolk XXI N.W., National Grid Reference 52/726767, we found a bare sandy patch (approx. 12 sq. yd.) on a slightly rising slope surrounded by long grass. All the artifacts had been obtained from this area, the soil of which had been carefully sifted. There were a number of flint flakes, mostly honey-coloured, on the surface of this patch. In a heap at one corner were a number of sherds of Neolithic ware, very rough and gritty. These had been found during the search for 'leaves' and as no interest was taken in pottery they had been put on one side. There were several other small bare patches where digging had taken place, flint chips and small sherds giving evidence of former occupation. Local information suggested that the place had been a hunting ground for many years for those in search of attractive flints to sell. The long grass concealed many small holes, a foot or so deep, which may have been due to trial digging, though in some cases they were the remains of old rabbit-holes.

Subsequently Mr Morley lent me all the objects he had collected from the site. They included the flint arrowheads already mentioned, three javelin heads, the butt of a polished flint celt broken in antiquity, half a flint pick, 237 small narrow flakes,

216 large flakes, some with saw edges, and over 100 flint scrapers, many of these only slightly worked. The pottery found on the surface was much broken, many of the sherds having split longitudinally owing to exposure to sun and rain. There was however sufficient evidence to show that this pottery was of neolithic type, some of

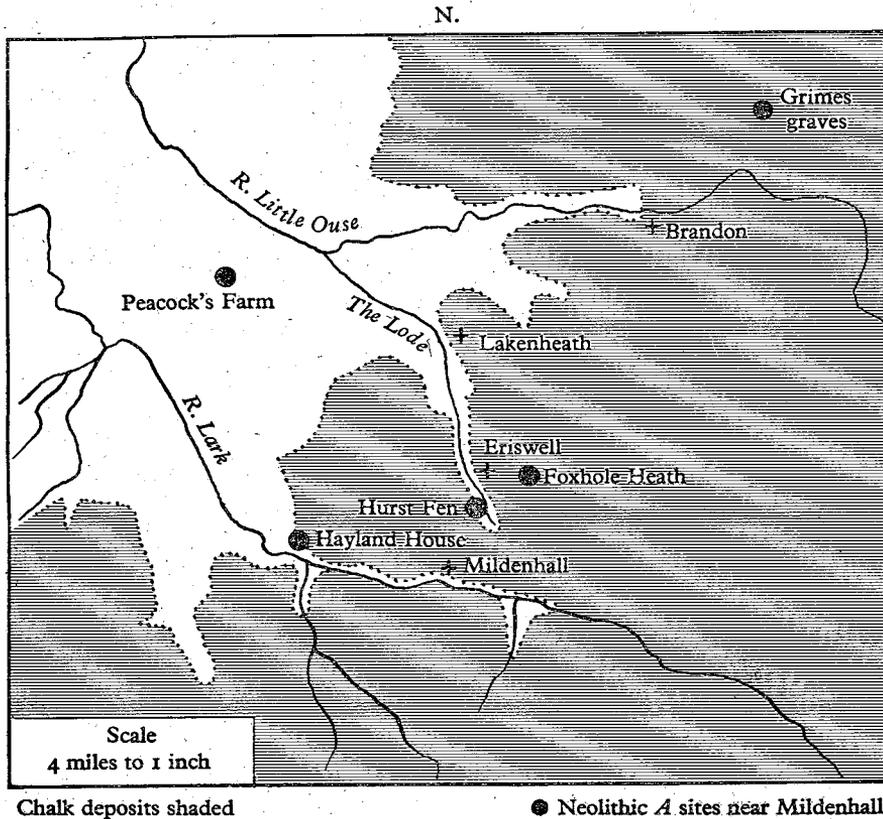


Fig. 1.

the rim sherds showing the characteristic decoration of the later 'Windmill Hill' or Neolithic A 2 wares. It was decided to make a preliminary investigation to determine as far as possible the extent of settlement.

THE TRIAL TRENCHES

A three-foot-wide trench was dug eastwards from the eastern border of the disturbed area (marked D.A. on Fig. 2) into undisturbed ground. The section shows that here as elsewhere the topsoil consists of a dark grey sandy loam to a depth of 9-12 in. Below that is a dark brown mottled layer, 4-6 in. thick, with lumps and streaks of sand stained with iron deposit, possibly an old land surface. The subsoil is yellow sand. The water table is variable and is met at a depth of 2½-3 ft. The soil profile is, therefore, quite different from that of the black-soil fen. Other trenches were dug,

radiating from the disturbed area, and also in the neighbourhood of the smaller bare patches where flakes and scraps of pottery were showing on the surface. A centre

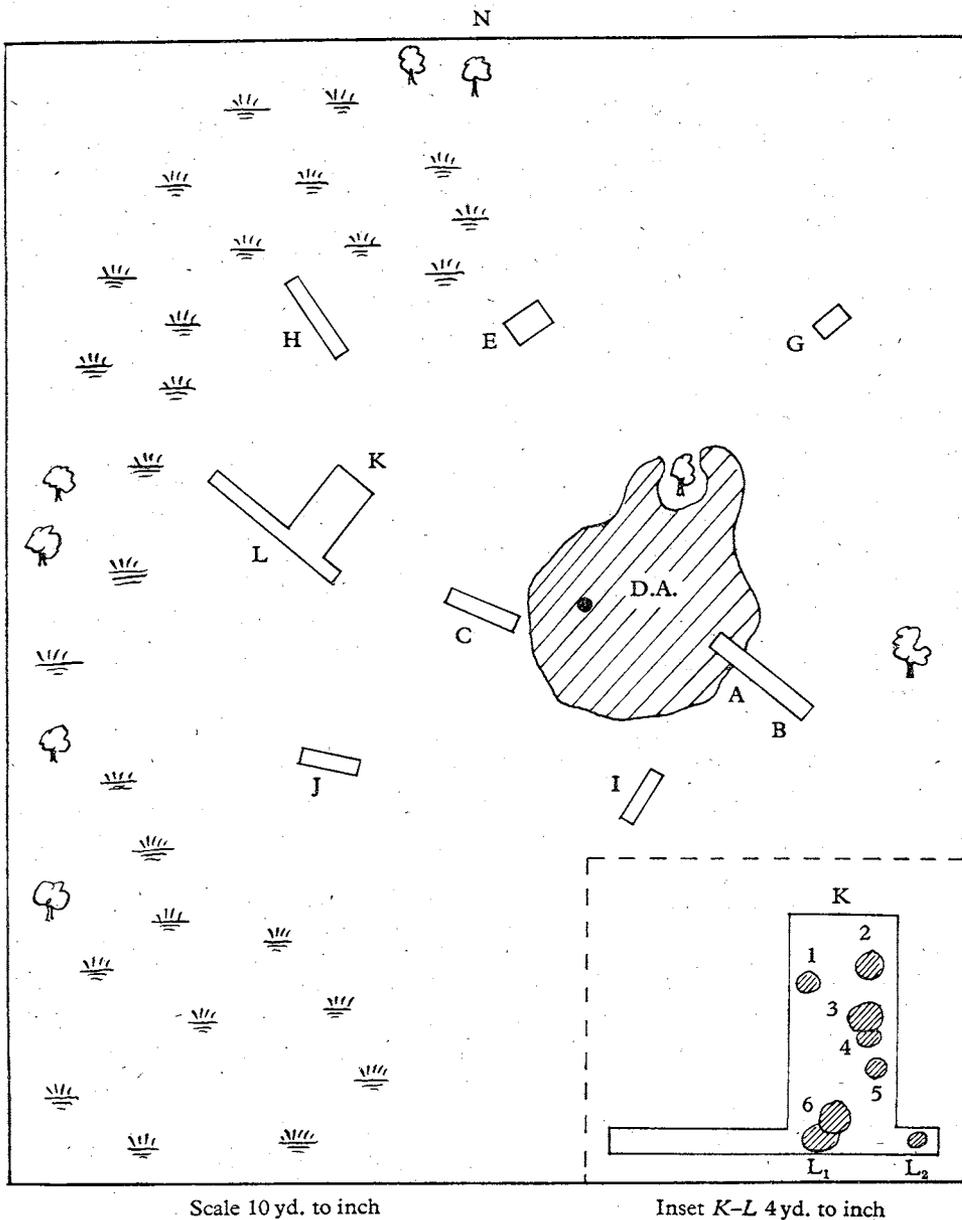


Fig. 2. Trial trenches around the central disturbed area D.A.

survey point was staked inside the disturbed area and traces of occupation were recorded on a large-scale plan. One group of sherds was found on an eroded patch 120 yards to the north of the centre point.

Trench AB (15 ft. by 3 ft.). The first part of this trench lay within the disturbed area and showed that this part had not been dug very deeply; only the two top dark layers had been dug, and the yellow sand looked undisturbed. In the remaining part of the trench there were two blackish patches A and B, each about 4 in. or 5 in. thick, at the base of the dark brown layer. They did not form pits or hearths, but here the sand was darker and more compact, and contained more objects than the surrounding lighter sand. A decorated rim (Fig. 3o) and a shoulder sherd (Fig. 6e) were found in A, and a black shoulder sherd with vertical grooves in B (Fig. 6k). Flint flakes were numerous.

Trench C (12 ft. by 2 ft.). This contained a group of sherds in a blackish patch at the dark brown level at a depth of one foot. No suggestion of a pit or floor.

Trench D. This trench was started in a small bare patch at the top of the little slope, two or three feet higher than *AB*. The soil here was drier. There was evidence of a small fire at a depth of two feet. Fired flints and stones and small pieces of charred wood were found in this intensely black spot as well as sherds. Three portions of a light grey polished celt came from this trench, two of them having been fractured by fire. The water table was not reached at a depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

Trench E. Near the swamp level. There were two dark patches which contained most of the sherds, each patch being about 18 in. in diameter and a few inches deep. Two cores, a piece of quern and two javelin heads were found.

Trench G. This small trench showed no dark patch, but yielded a leaf-shaped arrowhead of honey-coloured flint broken at the base (Fig. 8e), a scraper and a rubbing stone.

Trenches H and I showed no fresh features.

Trench J. Below the dark top soil, 1 ft. to 1 ft. 3 in. down, there was a layer of blackish compacted sand containing sherds and an abundance of flint flakes, the majority honey-coloured. Some of the chips were so small as to suggest the presence of a final pressure-flaking floor.

Trench K. This trench, near the swamp level, was started because there were signs of recent digging by persons unknown, black soil and sherds showing on the spoil heap. As this trench gave signs of two black spots an area measuring 13 ft. by 6 ft. was cleared by horizontal scraping disclosing six patches of black soil (Fig. 2 inset).

K 1 was shallow, from 1 ft. to 1 ft. 6 in. deep, about 1 ft. in diameter. It yielded six rim sherds.

K 2 was deeper; there was a layer of lightish sand between the dark brown old land surface and the top of the patch at 2 ft. It was difficult to see its exact depth as the discoloration went down below the water table at 3 ft. Diameter 18 in. approx. *K 2* produced over 100 sherds, which included seventeen rims, six shoulders, a base sherd, two small pieces of bone, and a large fragment of a saddle-quern.

K 3 was cone-shaped, extending from the base of the dark brown layer to a depth of 2 ft. 6 in. The sherds were mainly in the top 6 in. of the patch, which also contained a little bone. There were dozens of flint flakes in the dark sand, many of them honey-coloured, but none outside in yellow sand.

K 4 appeared at a depth of 1 ft. from the surface. At 1 ft. 3 in. it blended with *K 3* but was shallower, and at 1 ft. 9 in. it had disappeared. It contained lumps of soft yellow vacuolated clay, possibly imperfectly fired pottery.

K 5 was a shallow patch, only 3 in. deep. It contained a few small sherds. Below the patch, in clean sand, there was a rim sherd with slash-and-stab decoration (Fig. 4*a*) and two flakes. It was unusual to find a sherd in yellow sand.

K 6. This patch extended from a depth of 1-2 ft., with sherds at 1 ft. 3 in. Diameter about 18 in.

Trench L. A long narrow trench, 18 ft. by 2 ft., was dug on the south side of the *K* site. There were two black patches (Fig. 2, inset).

L 1 was a deep pit with a foot of lightish sand between it and the dark brown layer. It extended well below the water table and its contents had to be scooped out. It contained sherds of a large coarse pot, its surface spoilt by root growth (Fig. 5*a*), a decorated shoulder sherd (Fig. 6*b*) and the remains of animal teeth.

L 2 was a shallow patch containing sherds, including a shoulder with stab decoration (Fig. 6*a*), at a depth of 18 in.

THE POTTERY

Much of the pottery excavated was in a deplorable condition. In the drier portions of the site sand was cemented on to the surfaces, often mingled with remains of root growth encased in iron deposit. In the damper areas the sherds had the consistency of cheese and had to be removed in a lump of sand. After slow drying this sand was gently brushed away. If, after thorough drying, the sherds were still too friable to be handled they were immersed in a solution of polyvinyl acetate, kindly supplied to me by the Institute of Archaeology. This proved very effective in making the sherds reasonably tough.

Although hundreds of sherds have been found it has not been possible to obtain the complete form of a single pot. Fifty-seven vessels at least are represented by over eighty rim sherds, and fifteen of these rims are decorated. Shoulder sherds number twenty-one of which nine are decorated. There are also three body sherds with patterns. Perforations occur in four sherds, three made after, and one before, baking.

Ware. The most common ware is coarse, of loose texture, with abundant flint grits, a black or reddish core and an external surface varying from a light sandy colour through brown and red to black. Some sherds have a lumpy but smoothed-over exterior. Better, scarcer ware consists of a fine firm paste with hardly any grit and a burnished dark grey surface. All the sherds can be included in the varieties of Neolithic A ware described by Stuart Piggott,¹ except for several sherds of a nearly white ware packed with coarse flint grits, which stands out from the other pottery by being hard when excavated. The paste, the external and internal surfaces, are all of a whitish colour and both surfaces are smoothed. A single sherd closely resembling this group in paste and colour, except for a faint pinkish tinge on the

¹ Stuart Piggott, *Arch. J.* LXXX, viii, p. 67.

outer surface, is in Ipswich Museum. It was found in Bolton's brickfield under ten feet of hill-wash in association with Neolithic ware.

Forms. The forms vary from a tiny thin-walled cup (Fig. 3*a*) and small probably bagshaped pots (Fig. 3*b, c*) to large clumsy bowls with rim diameters of twelve to fifteen inches (Fig. 5*a*). The bowl with largest diameter (Fig. 5*b*) has comparatively thin walls (7 mm.). Base sherds suggest that the bowls were round-bottomed, and no sherd indicating a flat base has been found. Nine vessels show a definite carination with hollow neck above, the other shoulder sherds show rounded curves (Fig. 6*e*). The two most complete profiles demonstrate these forms (Figs. 5*a* and 6*l*). No lugs or handles have been found.

Rims. The commonest type of rim is slightly rolled and everted. Three rims are of the hammerhead type (Fig. 4*m, n, o*) resembling those found at Abingdon.¹ Straight rims appear to belong to the smaller pots, and three rims have internal bevels (Fig. 3*l, m*). The remainder have rounded tops with or without slight eversion (Fig. 5*c*).

Decoration. Decoration is seen on twenty-seven sherds taking the form of scored parallel lines, rows of round or oblong punches, stabs, and in one case a girth line of tiny arrowshaped impressions (Fig. 4*g*). The rims are usually adorned with shallow grooves, either diagonal or straight, and these are occasionally carried over to the inner side of the pot (Fig. 4*b*). In one case stabs are used to decorate the top and inner surface of the rim (Fig. 3*o*). An interesting combination of ornament appears on one sherd. It consists of vertical grooves above the carination and below four rows of punches (Fig. 6*b*). It bears a close resemblance to the ornament on the fine A 2 bowl from Hayland's House,² and also to that on a rim found in this neighbourhood on Foxhole Heath and hitherto unpublished (Fig. 4*c*); it is illustrated here by permission of the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology. In all three cases the paste is fine and hard, the colour is dark grey and the surface is slightly burnished. A fourth example in this region of this combination of ornament is in Ipswich Museum (unpublished). A large A 2 bowl found on the Neolithic floor at Kesteven Road, Ipswich, is decorated with vertical lines on the neck and four rows of punches below.

THE FLINT INDUSTRY

The flint implements include twenty arrowheads; of these twelve are made from a honey-coloured flint, three from a light grey and five from a dark grey or black flint (Fig. 7). All these are of the leaf-shaped variety except one (broken) which suggests the 'petit tranchet' derivative type (Fig. 8*f*). There are also five javelin heads and two others partly finished (Fig. 8*a-d*). Also the cutting edge of a polished axe (Fig. 8*j*), three fragments probably all of the same light grey polished axe, half a pick (Fig. 8*k*), numerous scrapers (Fig. 8*i, l*) and surprisingly few cores. In the abundance of flint flakes there are a few showing serrations on one or both edges (Fig. 8*g, h*).

¹ E. T. Leeds, *Antiq. J.* VIII, p. 472.

² C. S. Leaf, *Proceedings C.A.S.* xxxv, p. 106.

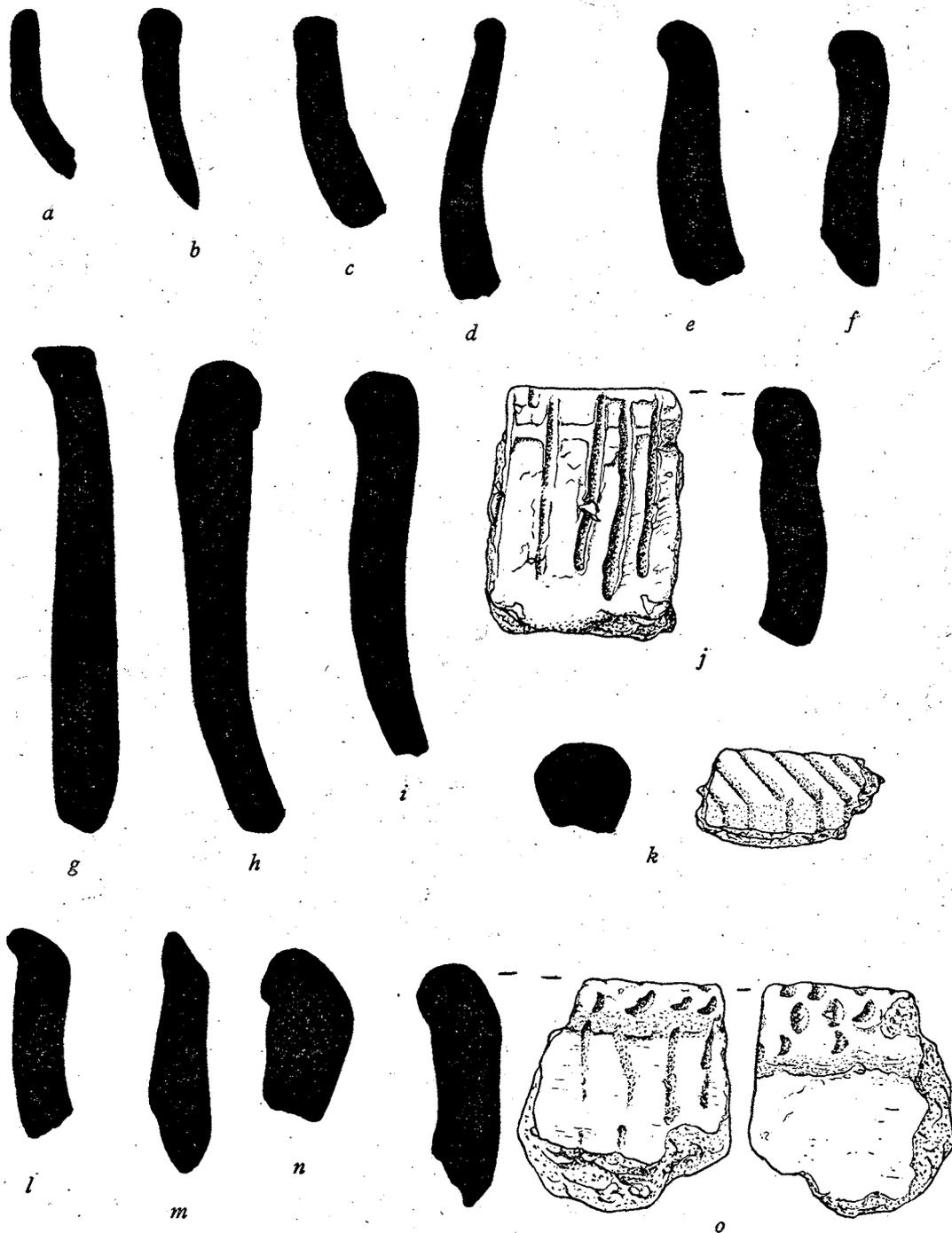


Fig. 3. Pottery from Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, natural size.
 (The drawings in this figure and in Figs. 4-6 are by Mrs M. E. Scott)

IMPLEMENTS OF STONE

The largest piece of stone, a 'quartzite pebble probably from the Bunter beds', weighs 13 lb. and is clearly the quarter of a saddle quern. It came from Pit K 2, which contained the largest assemblage of pottery. Other portions of querns are made from 'hornblende diorite probably out of the drift'.

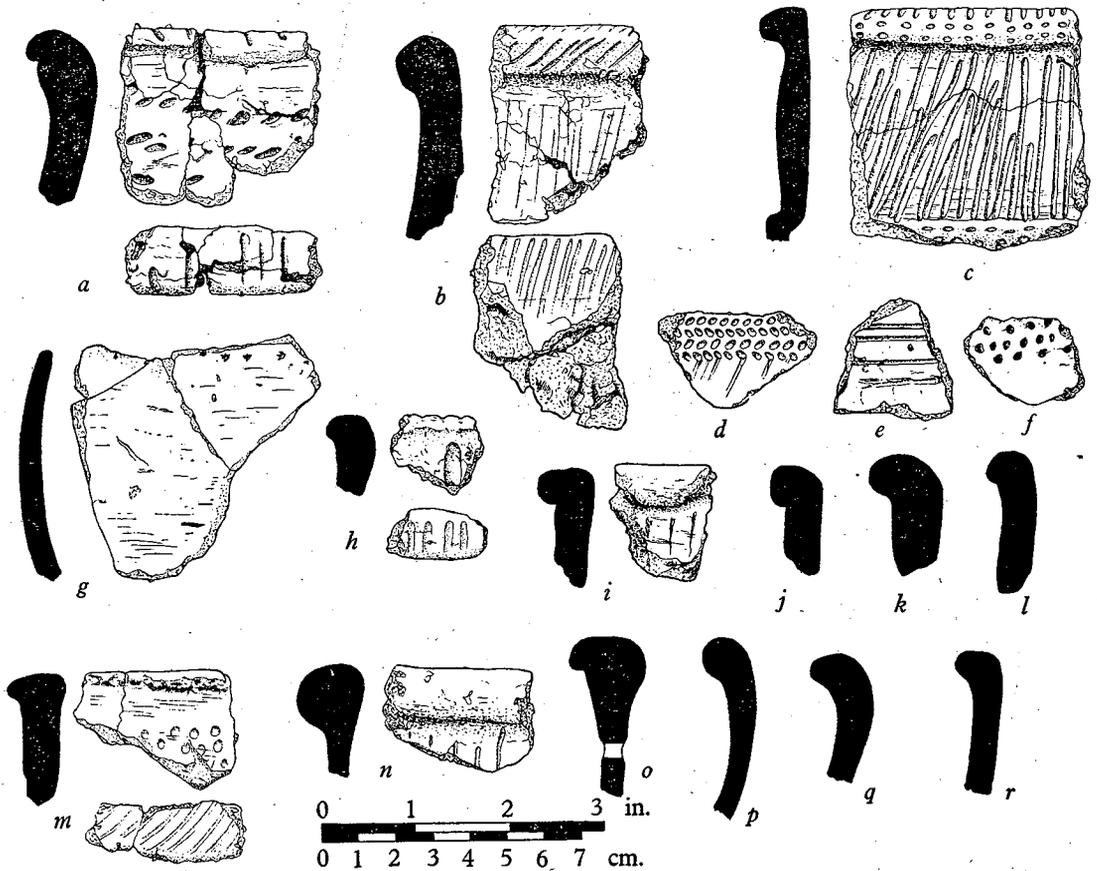


Fig. 4. Pottery from Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, one-half natural size.

Three small struck chips of a greenstone found on the surface have been examined by the Petrological Department of the Geological Survey (Enq. 1264). They come from a tuff comparable with Group VI (Great Langdale).

ORGANIC REMAINS

These were very scanty and consisted of small pieces of bone too fragmentary to be recognizable and portions of the teeth of ox and sheep.

Burnt wood was only present in small quantity. The largest piece was adherent to the inner surface of the decorated shoulder sherd (Fig. 6*b*), but was too crushed to permit identification.

SUMMARY

The discovery of the Hurst Fen site is of particular interest since it gives additional information about the Neolithic settlement on the eastern edge of the Fenland (Fig. 1). In 1934 Grahame Clark¹ discovered Neolithic A sherds at Peacock's Farm,

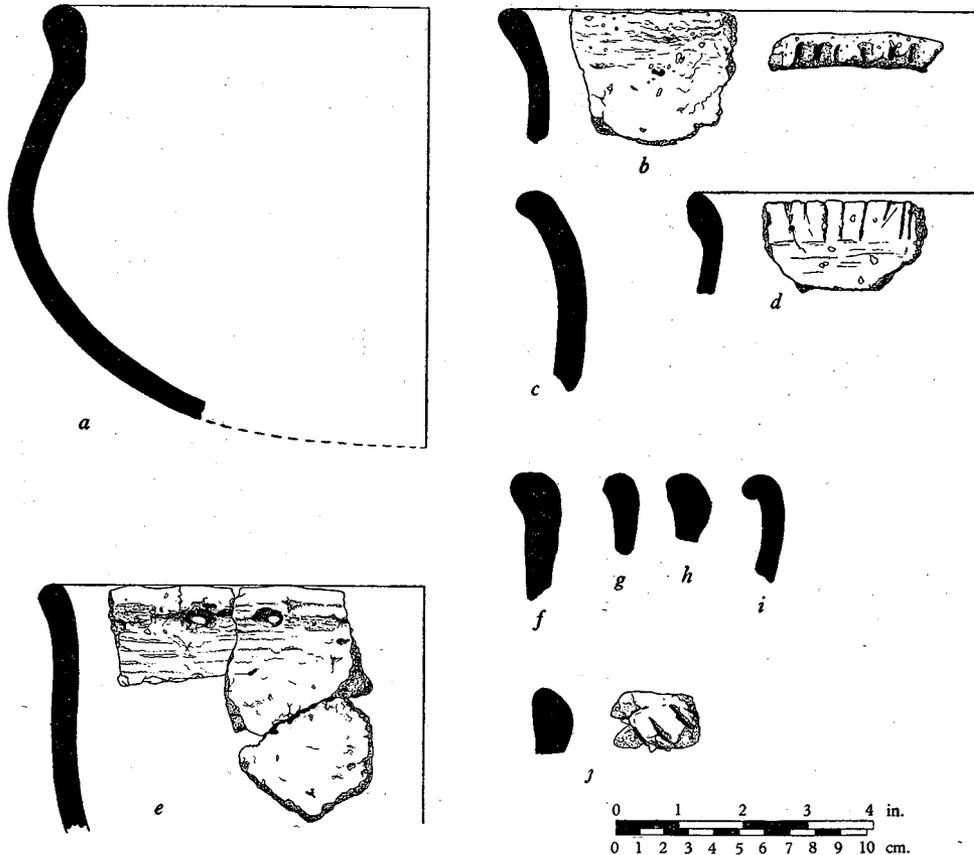


Fig. 5. Pottery from Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, one-third natural size.

Shippea Hill, near Littleport, close to the meeting point of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. In 1935 C. S. Leaf² found a large Neolithic A 2 bowl at Hayland's House in Mildenhall Fen. Neolithic A sherds have been found in Grimes Graves on the north bank of the Little Ouse valley while Foxhole Heath and the site just described lie on the south side of the valley. Hayland's House is 4 miles to the west of Hurst Fen, Peacock's Farm 7 miles to the north-west, Grimes Graves 10 miles to the north-east, Foxhole Heath less than a mile away. A circle of 7 miles radius would embrace all five sites.

¹ Grahame Clark, *Antiq. J.* xv, p. 284.

² *Proceedings C.A.S.* xxxv, p. 106.

Although the investigation at Hurst Fen has been only of a preliminary nature, it is safe to say that up to the present nothing has appeared to invalidate the identification of the site with a Neolithic A culture. A representative collection of sherds submitted to Professor Stuart Piggott were judged by him to be of pure 'Windmill

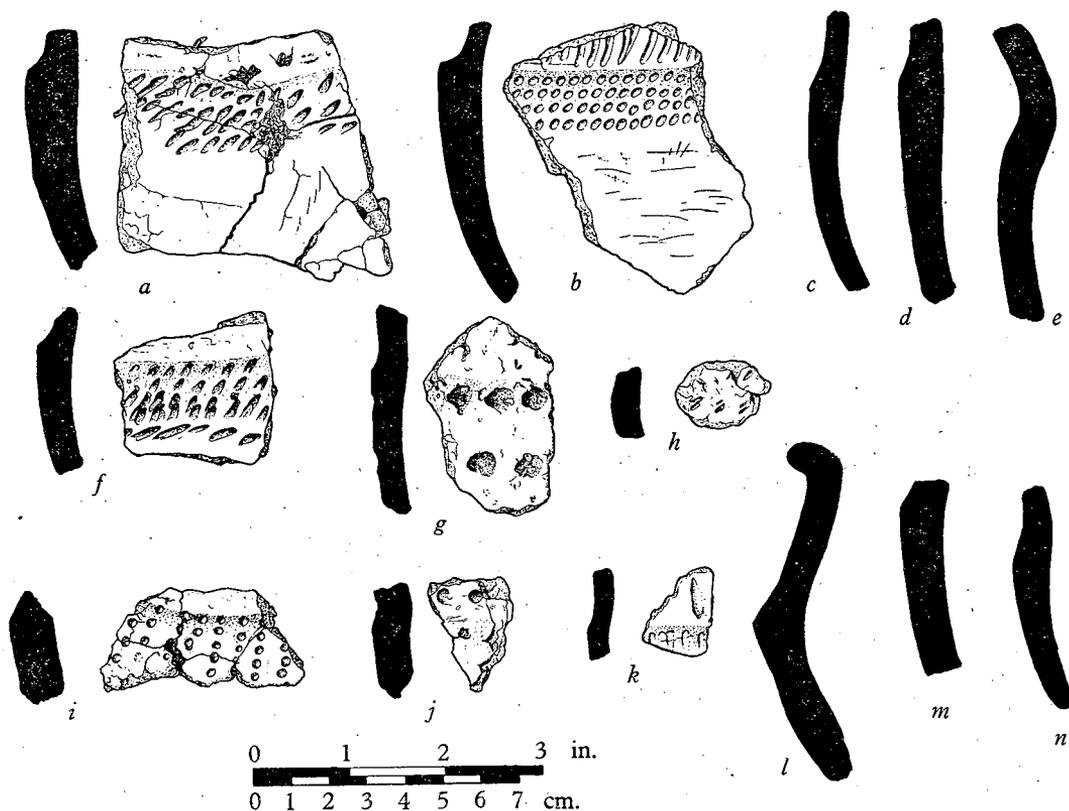


Fig. 6. Pottery from Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, one-half natural size.

Hill' type. The character of the flint artifacts confirms this conclusion. The site may be contrasted with its neighbour at Haylands House in that the latter showed a mixture of Neolithic and Beaker sherds on the same sand hillock.

The presence of undecorated, probably bag-shaped, pots with straight rims indicates that the site was occupied during the early part of the period, while the carinated vessels with hollow necks and decorated shoulders and rims show that the site was also used by later A 2 settlers. The abundance of flint flakes, many honey-coloured, discovered on the central area suggests that the leaf-shaped arrowheads were made on this spot.

No trace of huts has so far been found. The small patches of black sand noticed in the trenches are probably little more than discoloration around a group of sherds. Two of the patches may be described as pits; they are well below the old land surface

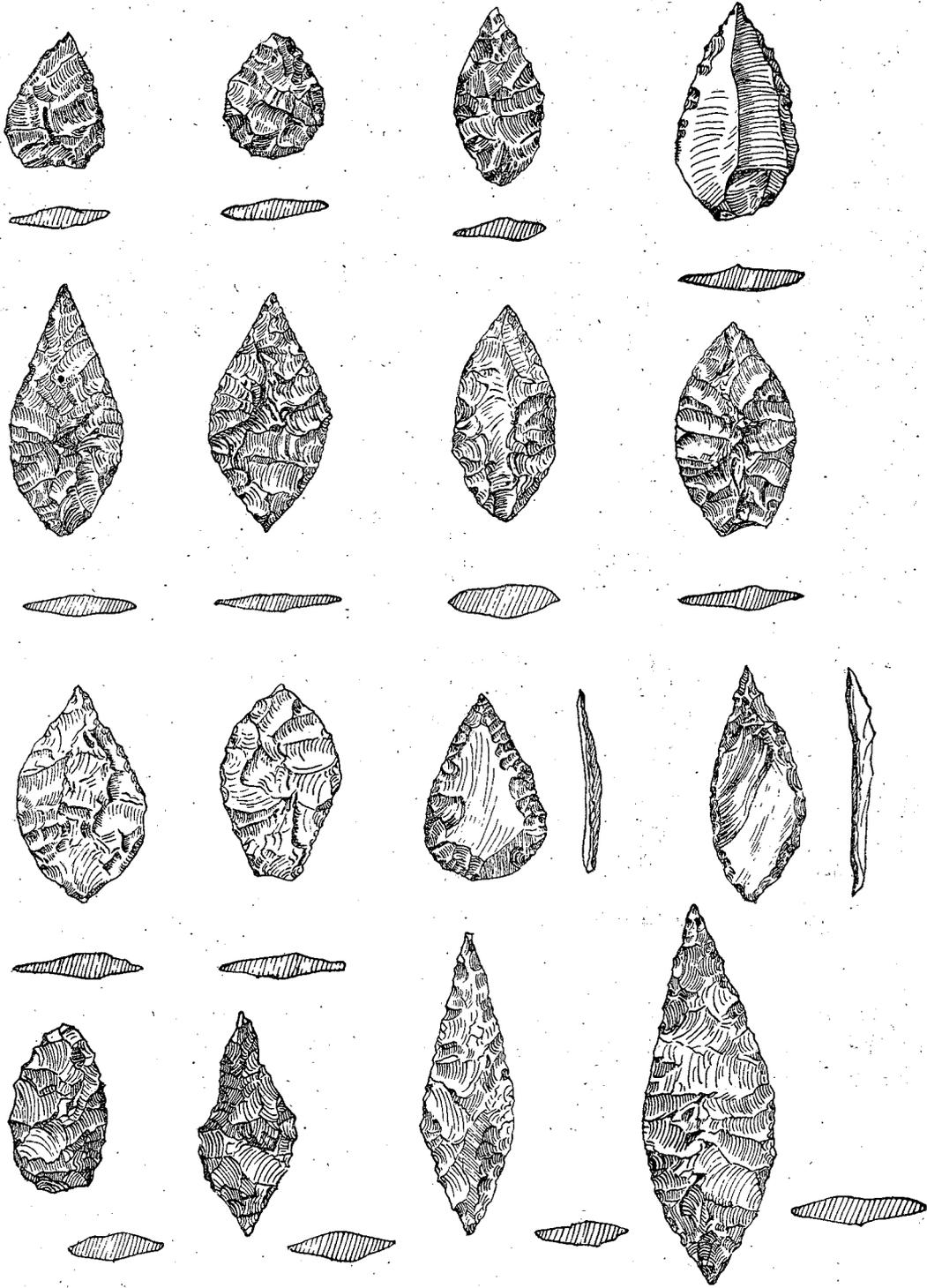


Fig. 7. Flint arrowheads from Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, natural size.
 (Drawn by Mrs R. K. Briscoe)

and each contained a large amount of pottery as well as traces of bone and teeth. The nearer the trenches were taken to the swamp area the more abundant were the signs of habitation, and it is hoped that a season's excavation extending in the direction of the swamp will disclose some definite indications of dwelling places.



Fig. 8. Flint implements from Hurst Fen, Mildenhall, one-half natural size.

(Drawn by Mrs R. K. Briscoe)

My thanks are due to members of the Mildenhall Archaeological Society who have done the hard work of the excavation. Also to Miss Clare Fell, F.S.A., for her advice in preparing this report.

BURIAL OF AN IRON AGE WARRIOR AT SNAILWELL

T. C. LETHBRIDGE, M.A., F.S.A.

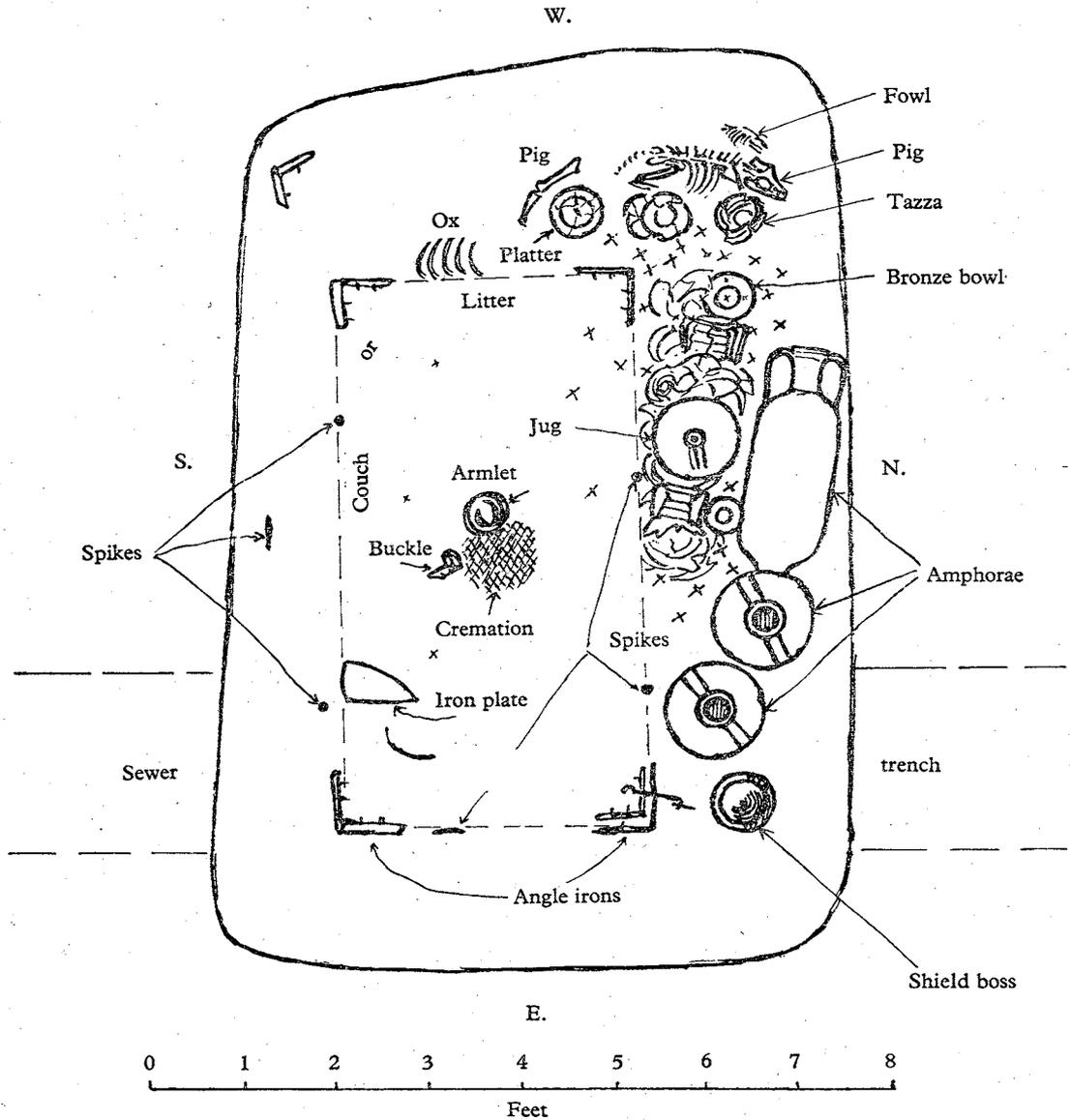
A CHANCE discovery, speedily reported, resulted in the examination of the most important Iron Age find to be made in the Cambridge area for many years. The trench for a pipe-line cut on the new housing estate at Snailwell (Map Ref. no. 52/645675) passed through one end of a large tomb and exposed an amphora still standing upright in the ground. Through the keenness of Mr W. H. Evans, Clerk of the Newmarket Rural District Council, and Mr J. Pammeter of Snailwell, this discovery was rapidly reported to us. Dr G. H. S. Bushnell and Miss Joan Liversidge went over immediately. They informed me that a cremation burial, probably of the Roman period, had been found, and asked me to deal with it as quickly as possible.

I went over the next morning (17 May 1952) and saw that the grave pit revealed at the side of the trench was not less than six feet wide and nearly four feet deep. Three amphorae and a black Belgic cup had already been removed from this pit and a large crowd had collected to watch the sport. It was soon clear that if I could not get the burial excavated in the one day, little would remain undamaged on the next. This dilemma was fortunately eliminated by Mr B. M. Bacon of Chippenham Hall, who indicated the presence of three expert tool-men in the crowd of onlookers. Miss Liversidge, the Hon. Robert Erskine, Mr Simon Young and my wife were already there to help. The day was remarkably hot, with a recorded temperature of eighty degrees in the shade!

It was evident that we were confronted, not with a second-century Roman burial, but with one of the rare Belgic tombs, of which those at Stanfordsbury in Bedfordshire, whose contents (preserved in the Cambridge Museum) are typical examples. Unlike Stanfordsbury, however, or the Chronicle Hills at Whittlesford, there was no evidence that this burial was enclosed in a vault of any kind, wooden or otherwise. The pit, which was almost rectangular, was rather more than 6 ft. 6 in. wide on an average by 9 ft. 6 in. in length, and it was nearly 4 ft. deep. The excavation of such a tomb, crowded as it was with pottery vessels and other objects, should never have been undertaken in a single day. However there was no choice. The contents would inevitably have been destroyed unless they had been removed at once. As it was, the examination was hurried; but there is no reason to suppose that much information was lost in the process (Fig. 1).

The main floor space of the tomb had been taken up by a wooden construction, which had lain approximately east and west along the major axis of the pit, and rather closer to the south side. This wooden construction was indicated by heavy

angle irons at its four corners and by iron spikes along its sides. It had been approximately 6 ft. 3 in. long by 3 ft. 8 in. wide. There were two angle irons at the north-east corner and there had been two at the south-west; but one of these had been dis-



x x = Fragment of Bronze Plate and Studs.

Fig. 1. Plan of Belgic Cremation Burial at Snailwell.

placed. The cremation lay right in the middle of this structure, on the very bottom of the grave, and the discoloration of the soil clearly showed that it had been put in while still very hot. A curious triangular plate of iron (Plate V, a), with three small bronze

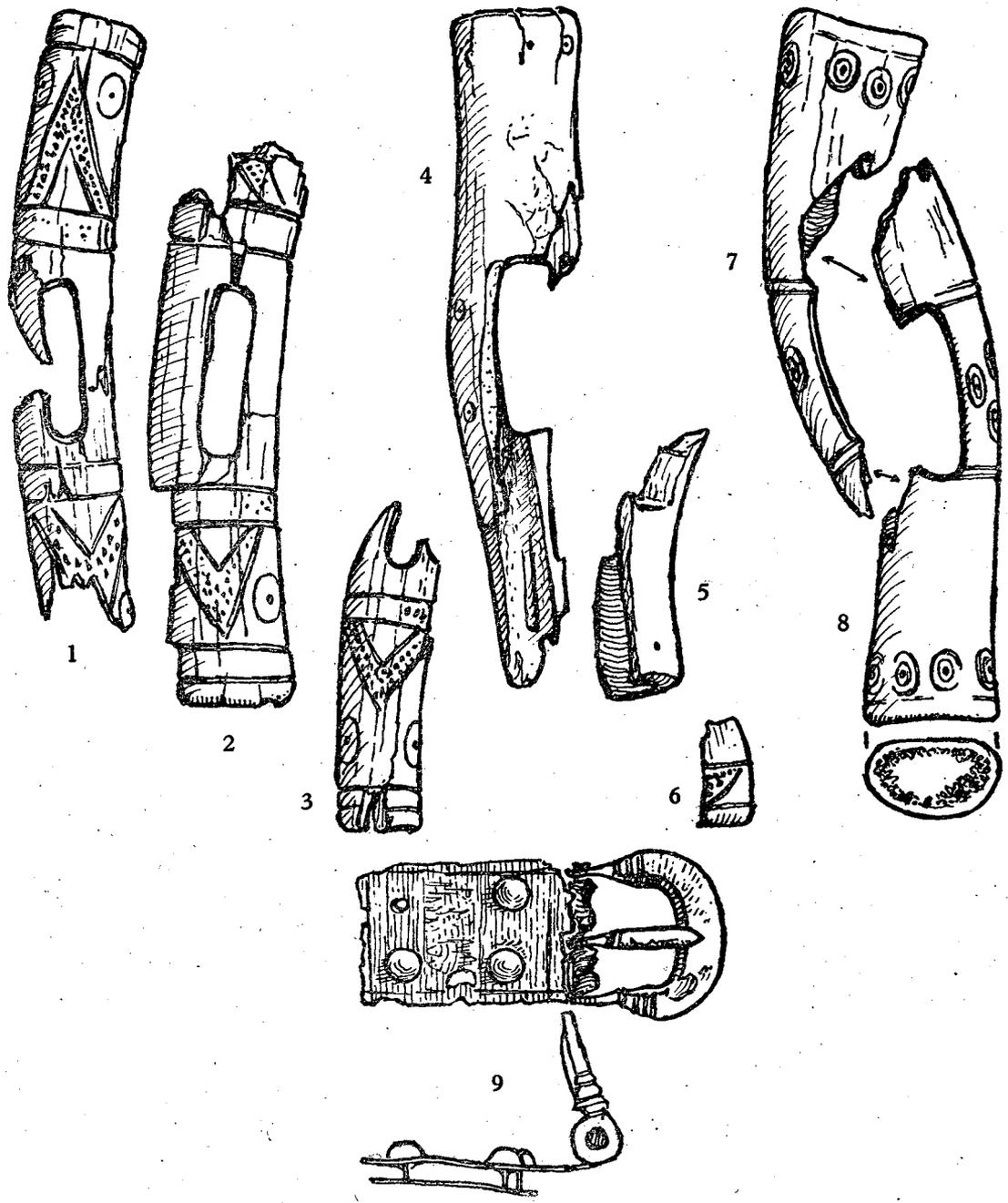
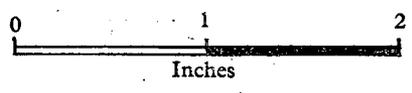


Fig. 2. Small objects from Belgic Grave at Snailwell (natural size).

Nos. 1-8, Burnt bone 'cheek-pieces' or 'toggles' (parts of five or six specimens). Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are parts of one pair. Nos. 7 and 8 are parts of a single object contorted by heat. No. 9, bronze buckle with domed copper studs.

rivets and traces of wood at its most acute angle, may possibly have been used to carry the cremation. A small bronze buckle (Fig. 2, no. 9) beside the cremated bones had perhaps belonged to a strap securing the mouth of a leather bag in which the bones had been collected. With the cremated bones lay some remarkable objects. There were the remains of at least five, and probably more, ornamented lengths of bone, with wide slots cut through the middle of their sides (Fig. 2). These objects, often described as cheek-pieces for bridles, are known from other Iron Age sites.¹ There was also a very fine spiral armband of bronze, ornamented at either end by beasts' heads with eyes of dark glass. This armband appears to be without a known counterpart.

Beside the north-east corner of the wooden construction lay an iron shield boss (Plate V, c) point upwards. This had no grip attached and we may conclude that the shield to which it belonged had been burnt on the funerary pyre. Although the three amphorae had been removed, the places where they had stood still showed in the ground. The most northerly had fallen on its side. About the middle of the side of the depression where the amphora had lain, a cream-coloured wine jug still stood intact outside the line of the wooden construction. To the south of it and still outside the line of the wood lay a confused heap of shattered vessels. Here and there among them lay fragments of thin, embossed, bronze plating. The same confusion of shattered vessels extended all round the south and west sides of the complete jug. The plan (Fig. 1) cannot of necessity show the exact position of each vessel. They consisted of four other jugs, one with a single handle like the first and three (known as Lagene) with two handles; a butt beaker of grey ware, an oval beaker of smoked red ware, resembling the wares of Castor on the Nene, but imported from Gaul; a *terra rubra* cup and a *terra nigra* bowl, already extricated before our arrival. Beneath all the other vessels to the west lay a bronze bowl (Plate VI, a), which had evidently served the purpose of a mixing bowl for wine.

Among the shattered pots, to the west of the complete jug, lay innumerable small fragments of bronze plate and flimsy bronze studs, like carpet nails, which had evidently been spiked on to wood. The confusion was increased by the inclusion of the complete skeleton of a young pig and that of a minute fowl of the size of a bantam. At the west end of the wooden construction were four shattered pots. These proved to be a *terra rubra* platter, a *terra nigra* bowl, a native bowl and a native tazza bowl. Further along the west face lay the bones of a surloin of beef and two ham bones. A report on these bones has kindly been made by Dr Wilfred Jackson and is printed below.

This in brief is a description of the contents of a tomb. Before discussing its contents in detail, it is interesting to try to estimate its implications. Evidently this was the burial of an important man. We should be justified in calling him a Belgic chieftain. His burial is only slightly less well-furnished than that of the great barrow at Lexden near Colchester, which some authorities have believed to be that of Cunobellin himself.² Furthermore it seems probable that he was a Catuvellaunian

¹ Bulleid and Gray, *The Glastonbury Lake Village*, II, pp. 440f.

² *Archaeologia*, LXXVI, pp. 241-54.

chieftain, and so one of the ruling caste. From a study of the pottery it is evident that he died within a year or two of the Claudian conquest. His burial is therefore an important piece of evidence for the customs prevailing immediately before the country came under Roman rule, or perhaps while this was actually taking place. It is here that the character of the wooden construction becomes important. This object may have been a coffin; but this is unlikely, for the cremation had burnt straight through its bottom and scorched the soil below. It is much more probable that it was a couch or litter. In that case we have all the features of a barbarized funeral banquet; the couch, the wine jars, the drinking cups, the mixing bowl, the pork, the chicken and the beef. This must surely be the correct explanation. It implies a confusion of religious ideas, for the man had been burnt to release his spirit, and could hardly have been present to enjoy the prepared feast. We find this same confusion of ideas persisting far into the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. It persists to this day in Celtic lands. Probably the fragments of ornamental bronze plating, some of which had fallen intact (Plate I) into the mixing bowl, were used in some way to decorate the funerary couch. They may have been part of some kind of head shield or canopy.

Our chieftain was a warrior, for he was buried with his shield, in itself a rarity in the archaeological record of the times. This shield does not appear to have been one of the long rectangular shields such as those from the Thames and Witham¹ or from other Iron Age sites,² but a round buckler like those of the Anglo-Saxons. It was perhaps the kind of shield described by Tacitus as being used by the Caledonii against Agricola. The only other possible Iron Age shield boss found within 40 miles of Cambridge is a bronze specimen, previously published as an elbow piece of armour, from the northern vault at Stanfordsbury,³ which belonged to a rectangular shield. This boss is not circular, but seems to be related to the earlier La Tène II bosses of the Marne.⁴

The Snailwell burial was not situated on a prominent hill top or covered by a great barrow. It was probably made in the paddock close to its owner's house on a terrace below the slope of a hill and close to the Snailwell Springs. In this it conforms to the local pattern, where vaults of a rather earlier time (the Chronicle Hills) were found near the Springs at Whittlesford;⁵ the house which evidently stood beside the brook at Lord's Bridge, Barton; or the later vaults which were constructed beneath great barrows beside the stream at Bartlow. The Belgic ruling families evidently liked to be buried near their valley homes.

The pottery found in this grave, besides being useful for comparative purposes, has implications of its own. Of sixteen vessels, two only are certainly of native manufacture; the rest are imports, mostly from Gaul. The three amphorae and five jugs were probably imported with the wine and oil in them; but household cups and

¹ *British Museum Iron Age Guide* (1925), Pl. I and fig. 113.

² C. Fox, *Arch. Cambrensis*, xcvi (1945), pp. 200-2.

³ *C.A.S. Quarto Publications*, I (1840-6), VIII, p. 16.

⁴ *British Museum Iron Age Guide* (1925), p. 77, fig. 68; *Arch. Cambrensis*, VIII (1928), pp. 253-84.

⁵ Fox, *Arch. Camb. Region*, pp. 77-9.

platters were brought in at the same time. Continental trade was considerable. It is said that a full wine jar was the value for a slave. The slave chain from Lord's Bridge in the Cambridge Museum appears to lend colour to this. The wealth of our Belgic chieftains may well have been due not only to their farming land but to their successful warfare with the midland Coritani. The value of several slaves was buried in this grave or drunk at the funeral.

One small fact points to a second conclusion. The partly burnt fragment of one of the two-handled wine jugs was found inside the complete one. The confusion of the broken pots may indicate a certain hilarity at the grave side. Just as there was no proper Highland funeral in the old days without a piper and a cask of whisky, so there may have been no proper Belgic one without a reasonable degree of music and intoxication. Why, for instance, was a musician's pipe included among the contents of one of the Stanfordbury vaults? On the other hand, the degree of smashing of many of the Snailwell pots may indicate that they had been deliberately 'killed' for the use of the chief in the next world, after the wine had been used to extinguish the flames of the pyre. The ceremonial smashing of the crockery of a dead person survives today in Romany ritual, and an interesting account of the ceremonies which took place at Garsington, Oxfordshire in connection with the death of a leading gypsy, Mrs Harriet Bowers, was published in *The Times* on 13 January 1953. Her caravan, containing all her possessions, including the harness of her horses, was burnt, the two horses were killed, and her crockery was smashed and then buried with the iron framework of her caravan. Romany folk-lore contains a considerable Celtic element.

Bronze armlet. No exact parallel is known at present to this fine ornament. Snake-headed bracelets are of course found in many ancient civilizations. However, this particular example is a Belgic variant. It is ornamented not only with Celtic animal heads of fine workmanship—they may possibly be intended to represent ducks—but it is also chased all down the median rib with a minute double wavy line in relief, which is found on the bows of Gaulish and British brooches in the first half of the first century after Christ¹ (Plate V, *b* and *d*, also Fig. 4).

The armlet was evidently cast as a straight rod of triangular section and was then worked up into an ornamental band $40\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. Eyes and nostrils were marked out with fixed compasses on each side of the heads at both ends; but only one eye in each head was completely ornamented and inset with glass. The finished bar was then coiled up. Owing to carelessness the coil was so made that the ornamental eyes came on the inside at each end. The coiling process compares most unfavourably with the great skill and delicacy exercised in the chasing of the design. It is possible that the ornament was at first intended as a torque or necklet, like the specimen found in the ditch of the early fort at Newstead.² This Newstead torque has some similarities to our Snailwell specimen, particularly in the wavy line in relief on its ridge.

This brings us to another important link provided by this ornament. In Scotland

¹ See *Proceedings C.A.S.* XLII, p. 120, figs. 1 and 2. This specimen is probably a few years later in date than our armlet.

² Curle, *Newstead*, Pl. xc.

several great spiral armlets have been found, one of which, recently reported in *The Illustrated London News* (11 April 1953), was found in a bog in Skye, while others, mostly from eastern Scotland, are figured in J. Anderson's *Scotland in Pagan Times*.¹ These armlets with beasts' heads at either end, although covered with more florid Celtic designs, are later variants of the Snailwell type. Further than this, small brooches and pins found at Newstead and Traprain Law clearly show degenerate versions of our Snailwell animals' heads on their terminals. It is reasonable to suppose that the idea was taken up into Scotland from Eastern England by fugitives from the Claudian invasion. The Scottish armlets and other similar ornaments are thus not independent inventions of the north as some scholars have thought, but have evolved naturally from southern types. A similar trend can be observed in other Scottish ornaments, notably in the brooches. Our armlet must have been nearly new when it was buried.

Bronze buckle. Had this object been found in different circumstances (for instance, in an unstratified context), it is probable that it would have been considered to be of medieval date. This also applies to a silver buckle and strap end found in one of the Stanfordbury vaults. The type is however known in various early finds and has not infrequently been discovered as far away as Gotland in the Baltic.² The thin bronze ornamental plates were only secured to the leather strap by minute pins and cannot be compared in strength to the thick rivets of Anglo-Saxon and later times. The security of the buckle itself depended on the leather strap and not on the bronze plates. The origin of the type appears to be Teutonic.

Bone toggles or cheek pieces. These bone objects were much distorted and broken as a result of being burnt on the funeral pyre with the warrior himself. They were found mixed up with his calcined bones. On Fig. 2, no. 3 is the back portion of the top of no. 1. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 therefore represent a pair of objects ornamented in the same manner. It is uncertain whether nos. 4 and 5 are parts of one object or of two. No. 6 is a small fragment showing another variation of the type of ornamentation found on the first pair. Nos. 7 and 8 are parts of one object which is almost complete, although much distorted. It is thus clear that we have the remains of at least five of these things. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 represent one pair; nos. 4 and 5 with 7 and 8 may represent either one ill-assorted pair, or two pairs; no. 6 must belong to yet another.

These objects are usually supposed to be the cheek pieces of snaffle-bits.³ If this is the correct interpretation, at least three bridles were burnt on this pyre. It is not very easy, however, to see how they could have performed their function in a satisfactory manner. Bronze specimens of similar form are found from time to time. The most notable collection of five enamelled examples was found together with fourteen complete snaffles in the Polden Hill hoard.⁴ We have in the Museum a specimen from Cambridge.⁵ It is significant that the Polden Hill snaffles do not have these

¹ 'The Iron Age', pp. 156-61.

² Almgren, *Die Ältere Eisenzeit Gotlands* (1914), Plates 15, 249, etc.

³ *The Glastonbury Lake Village*, II, pp. 440f.

⁴ *P.P.S.* v (1939), pp. 173f.; *Brit. Mus. Early Iron Age Guide* (1925), p. 143.

⁵ *V.C.H. Cambridgeshire*, I, p. 292, fig. 25, no. 8.

'cheek-pieces' in position, but instead are complete with rings for the reins and nothing else. If we assume that the actual bit was of leather, the purpose of the ornament is hard to understand, for it must have been partly obscured by the strap. Our local bronze specimen has a wide collar at each end which does not appear to be a very suitable arrangement.¹

Ivory cheek-pieces are mentioned as early as the time of the *Iliad*, for we are told in Book IV that when Menelaus was wounded by the iron arrow-head shot at him by Pandarus, the blood from the wound was like the purple dye with which some Carian or Maeonian woman stains ivory to make a cheek-piece for a horse. The rest of the passage shows that such ivory cheek-pieces were highly valued and perhaps suggests that such things were normally made of bone.

In our Snailwell case, it is perhaps surprising that more than two bridles should have been burnt. Two would have been the normal outfit for a chariot with its pair of ponies. A large number seems improbable, unless, as at the funeral of Patroclus, two pairs of horses were sacrificed. It is more likely that these objects were toggles for straps used in carrying something to the pyre, and were thrown or left on it when that purpose had been completed. This purpose might have been the transport of the dead man. They may have been some kind of harness fitting and yet not cheek-pieces for bridles. Nos. 4 and 5 have been much more used than any of the others.

The ornamentation of nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6 is of interest, for the system of engraved chevrons and pecked dots is also found on the pottery from All Canning's Cross (an example is shown in the B.M. guide, Fig. 86). It is interesting, too, to compare it with the ornament at the end of the so-called Ogham knife-handle from Wheeting in Norfolk, published not long ago by Mr R. Rainbird Clark.² I do not think that the marks cut on this knife-handle were intended as oghams. It now seems possible that this knife-handle is Belgic.

Iron shield boss. This boss had been detached from the shield before burial. There was no grip, nor any sign of the shield itself. Since these conical bosses were in use among the Germans before the Roman period, this specimen may perhaps be taken as a confirmation of Caesar's statement of the existence of a Germanic element among the Belgae. The shield to which it was originally fitted was probably very like those used by the later Anglo-Saxons. Round bronze bosses were found with the Polden Hill objects mentioned above, but were of altogether lighter construction.³ Round shields with domed bosses persist right through the Roman period in Britain. A good example is to be seen on a large statue found in York. The bosses do not, however, appear to have been conical. The type reappears at the end of the period, probably carried by Germanic auxiliaries.⁴ I do not know of any other Belgic example from Britain. The shield was probably small, convex and light.

¹ E.g. bone specimen, *Richborough*, IV, Pl. LIV, no. 227.

² *Antiquaries Journal*, XXXII, p. 71.

³ *Brit. Mus. Guide*, *ibid.*, fig. 164.

⁴ E.g., *Richborough*, IV, Pl. LXIII.

Bronze studs and plating. Fragments were found scattered over a wide area of the grave. Similar fragments are frequently found and are usually assumed to have been the fittings of boxes. In this particular case this does not appear to be the right explanation since no handles, hinges or other fittings were found. It seems more likely that they had ornamented some part of the funerary couch or litter. A portion of woodwork, with studs complete, had fallen into the bronze bowl (Plate VI, *a*). The pins which fixed these objects to the wood were attached to the ornaments with some kind of cement. The ornament was tawdry and shows no Celtic influence. The pins are too weak to have been hammered through the $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. wood and must have been set in slots already cut for them.

Bronze bowl. This object was evidently old at the time it was buried. A handle had once been fastened to it, but was no longer in position. One iron rivet still remained in place. Two empty holes, however, show that it had not even been the original handle. A single pelta-shaped object remained at the base of the bowl. There had originally been three. These objects are found detached on Roman sites.¹ Their purpose was to serve as feet to bowls and buckets.

The bowl was probably imported from Gaul and is of provincial Roman rather than Celtic type, although some authorities might see a degenerate attempt to represent a 'sun-disk' in the engraved ornamental design inside (Plate VII, *b*).

Pottery. From the point of view of the study of pottery, this Snailwell barrow is one of the most important local pieces of evidence yet obtained. It is a sealed deposit in which all the types recovered were in use at one time. There can be no question of heirlooms here. Pottery was made, had a relatively short life, was broken and was thrown away. It is remarkable therefore that, with two exceptions, all the vessels found in this grave were imported from Gaul. These Romano-Gaulish pots presumably found their way to Snailwell by the hands of the same traders who dealt with Colchester. All, or almost all, the forms here have been found in the pre-Conquest levels at that town.

DESCRIPTION OF POTTERY

'*Terra rubra*' plate (Fig. 3; Museum no. 53.17). Platter with profile rim, oblique side, and flat base on a low foot ring stamped in the centre with potter's name CARIIVIR=CARTIVIR (e.g. *Catalogue of Roman Pottery, Colchester*, by Thomas May: Pl. VI, no. 58 and *Camulodunum*, p. 210, Pl. XLVI, no. 68). Range of form apparently 11 B.C.—A.D. 48, but in *terra rubra* later than in *terra nigra*. Imported Gaulish.

'*Terra rubra*' pedestal cup (Fig. 3; Mus. no. 53.16). Tazza form, orange in colour, with groove below lip and cordon on concave wall. Hollow foot with outward splay. Resembles form 74 at Colchester. Range apparently A.D. 10–48. (*Cumulodunum*, Pl. LIV, no. 74 A; *Verulamium Report from Belgic Town, c. A.D. 10–35*, fig. 23, no. 3.) Imported Gaulish.

¹ E.g. *Camulodunum*, Pl. CIII, nos. 31 and 32, and *Richborough*, III, Pl. XII, fig. 1, no. 37.

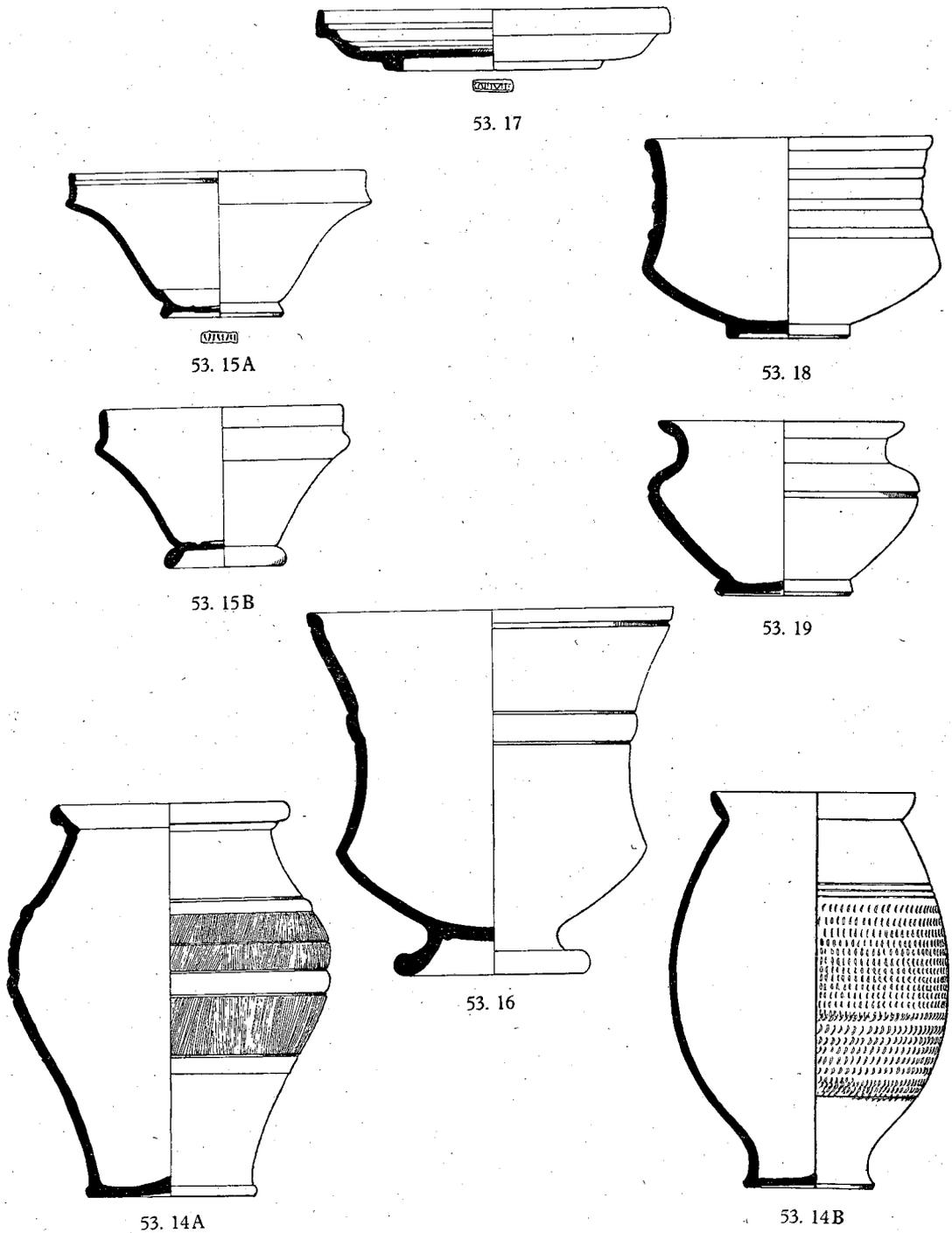


Fig. 3. Pottery vessels from Belgic Grave.
 (Scale about one-third natural size. No. 53. 16 is 6½ inches high)

'*Terra nigra*' bell-shaped cups (Fig. 3; Mus. nos. 53.15 A and B). Bell-shaped body with moulded foot-ring. Upright slightly concave rim. (*Colchester Catalogue*, Pl. v, no. 42; *Camulodunum*, Pl. LIII, no. 56 c.) Range apparently A.D. 10-65. Stamp on base of 53.15 A apparently IVLLIO=IULIOS. (*Camulodunum*, Pl. XLVI, no. 96.) Stamp on base of 53.15 B not a signature. Imported Gaulish.

Tazza bowl (Fig. 3; Mus. no. 53.18). Brown burnished ware. Club rim and three cordons on concave wall. Short ring foot. Type common in Cambridge area. Pre-Conquest at Colchester and Verulamium. Range c. A.D. 10-43. Native.

Grooved bowl (Fig. 3; Mus. no. 53.19). Ill-baked grey ware. Outcurved rim with ovoid lip. Moulded ring at foot. Groove on bulge. (*Colchester Catalogue*, Pl. III, no. 22.) Time range, c. A.D. 10-43. Native.

Butt beaker (Fig. 3; Mus. no. 53.14A). Grey ware. Moulded and cordoned lip. Cordons and rouletting in two zones on bulge. Flat base with outer beading. (See Sir Cyril Fox, 'Excavations at Foxton, Cambridgeshire', *Proc. C.A.S.*, xxv, p. 40, for notes on local finds of Butt Beakers. Also *Proc. C.A.S.*, xxix, p. 110, for find of cremation burial at Linton with Butt Beaker, white globular wine jar, similar to one from Snailwell, an amphora, *terra nigra* platters, bowl, bronze brooch, etc.) Type on Continent c. A.D. 14-43. Most of our local specimens appear to be pre-Conquest (see *British Museum Early Iron Age Guide*, 1925, fig. 142, no. 34, for Belgic specimen from Swarling, Kent). Somewhat similar type from Verulamium (see that report, p. 160, fig. 14, no. 31e); the only specimen found of this type in the Belgic town. Type at Colchester apparently A.D. 10-61. Probably imported Gaulish.

Butt beaker (Fig. 3; Mus. no. 53.14 B). Red ware. Ovoid with thin lenticular everted rim and outward curve at base. Base nearly flat. Central zone of ornament resembling finger nail impression, probably rouletted. Date and origin uncertain. Probably Gaulish and pre-Conquest.

Two-handled ewers: Lagene (Pl. II; Mus. nos. 53.12 A-C). Three of these vessels of white clay were found in a shattered condition. The type is known from Colchester (see *Catalogue*, Pl. XLVI, fig. 197), where they are dated from c. A.D. 10-61. Type found at Verulamium in Belgic town c. A.D. 10-35 (see *Report*, fig. 23, no. 1). For an early Claudian associated group found with ten brooches and other objects accompanying a cremation burial at St Clare Drive, Colchester, see *Antiquaries Journal*, xxii, 1942, pp. 59-65. Imported Gaulish.

Single-handled flagons (Pl. III; Mus. nos. 53.13 A-B). Also of white clay. Range at Colchester c. A.D. 10-61. Compare example from the Linton burial. Imported Gaulish.

Amphorae (Pl. IV, a and c; Mus. no. 53.11 B, C). Two radish-shaped. Usually Augustan. Range at Colchester A.D. 10-65. Imported.

Amphora (Pl. IV, b; Mus. no. 53.11 A). Sausage-shaped. Range at Colchester A.D. 10-68, but usually pre-Claudian. Imported.

It will be seen from this list that no single pot included in the find is of a type known to have originated later than the Roman conquest. Although in many cases the forms persisted for a few years into the Roman period; yet changes in form after

the conquest were so rapid that the absence of any of these new types is very significant. It seems reasonable to suppose that the burial was completed before such time as the new forms were in general circulation. Thus it can only be dated either to the period immediately before the Claudian invasion, or during the few succeeding years

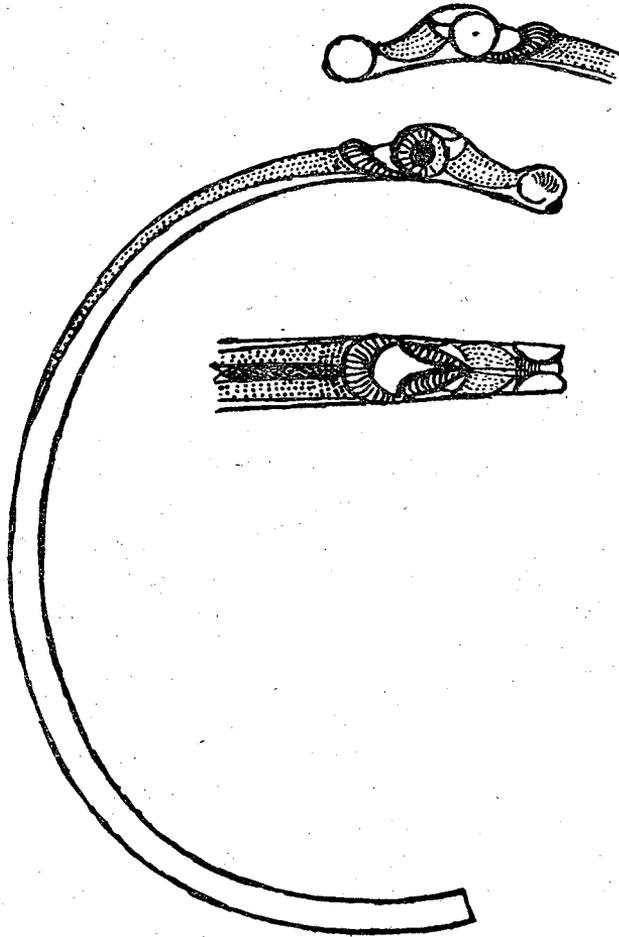
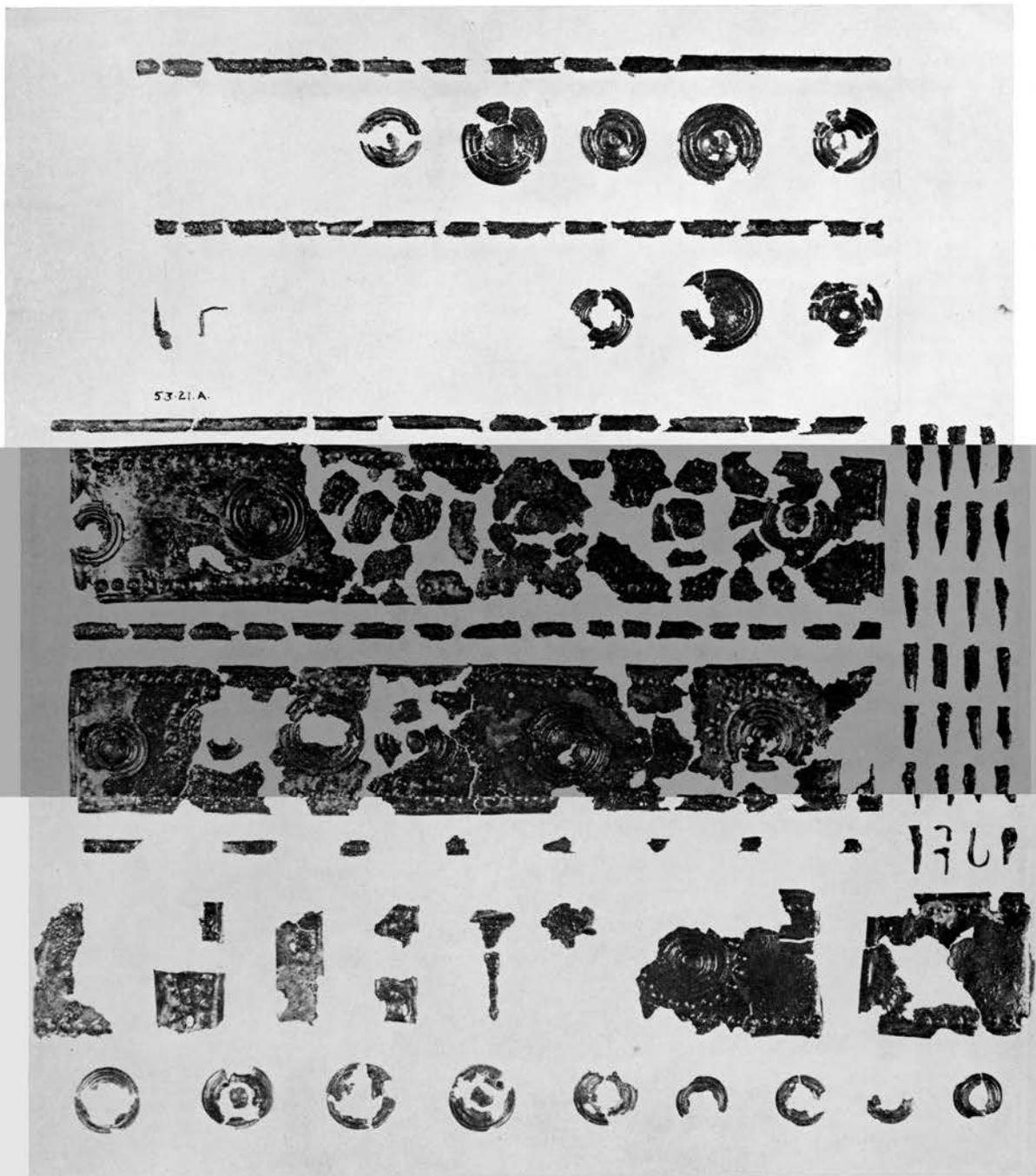


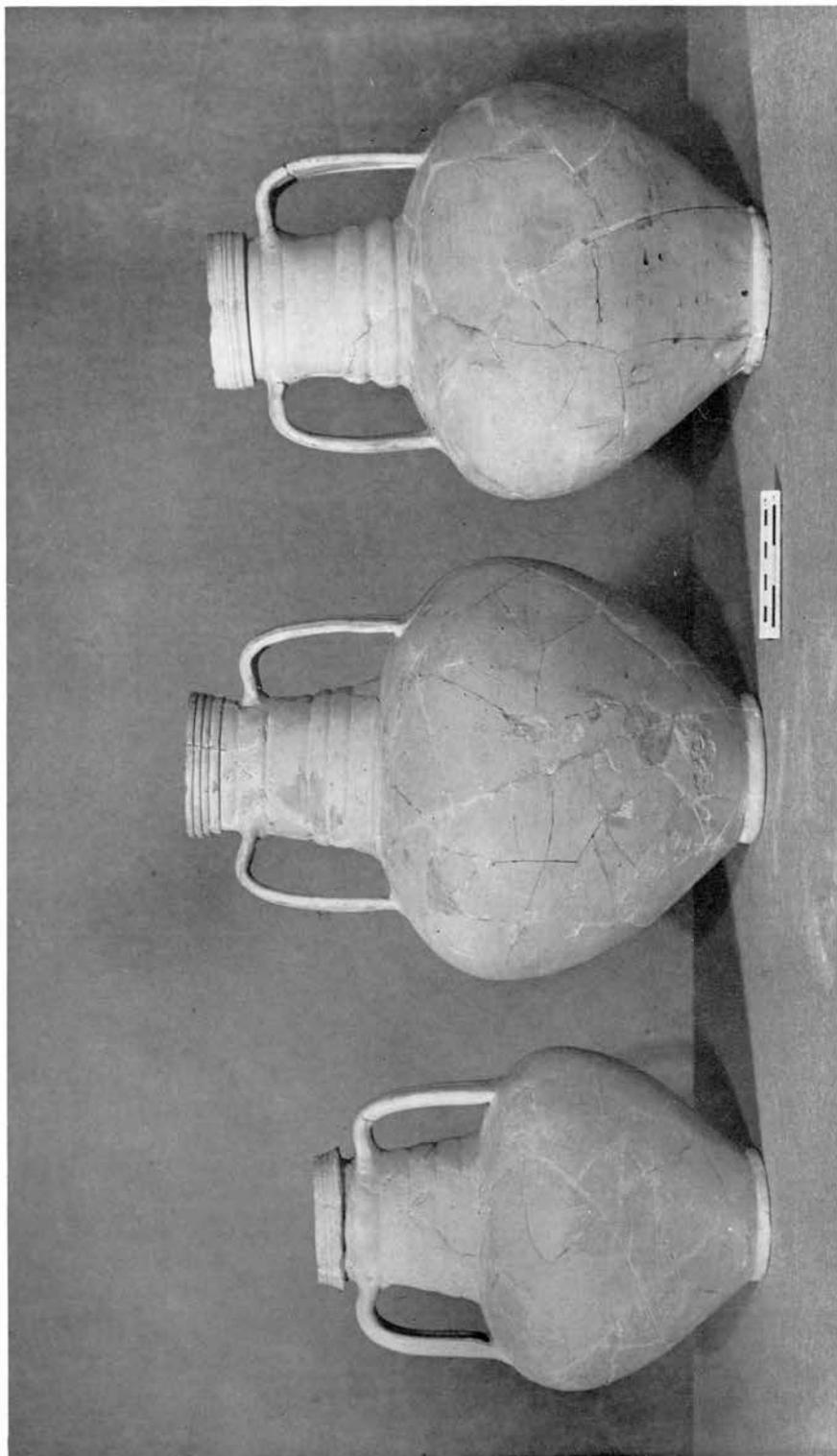
Fig. 4. Belgic burial. Bronze armlet (natural size).

when Eastern England had not quite settled down under the new regime. It may not be unduly fanciful to suppose that the Snailwell chieftain met his end as a result of his opposition to the Roman arms.

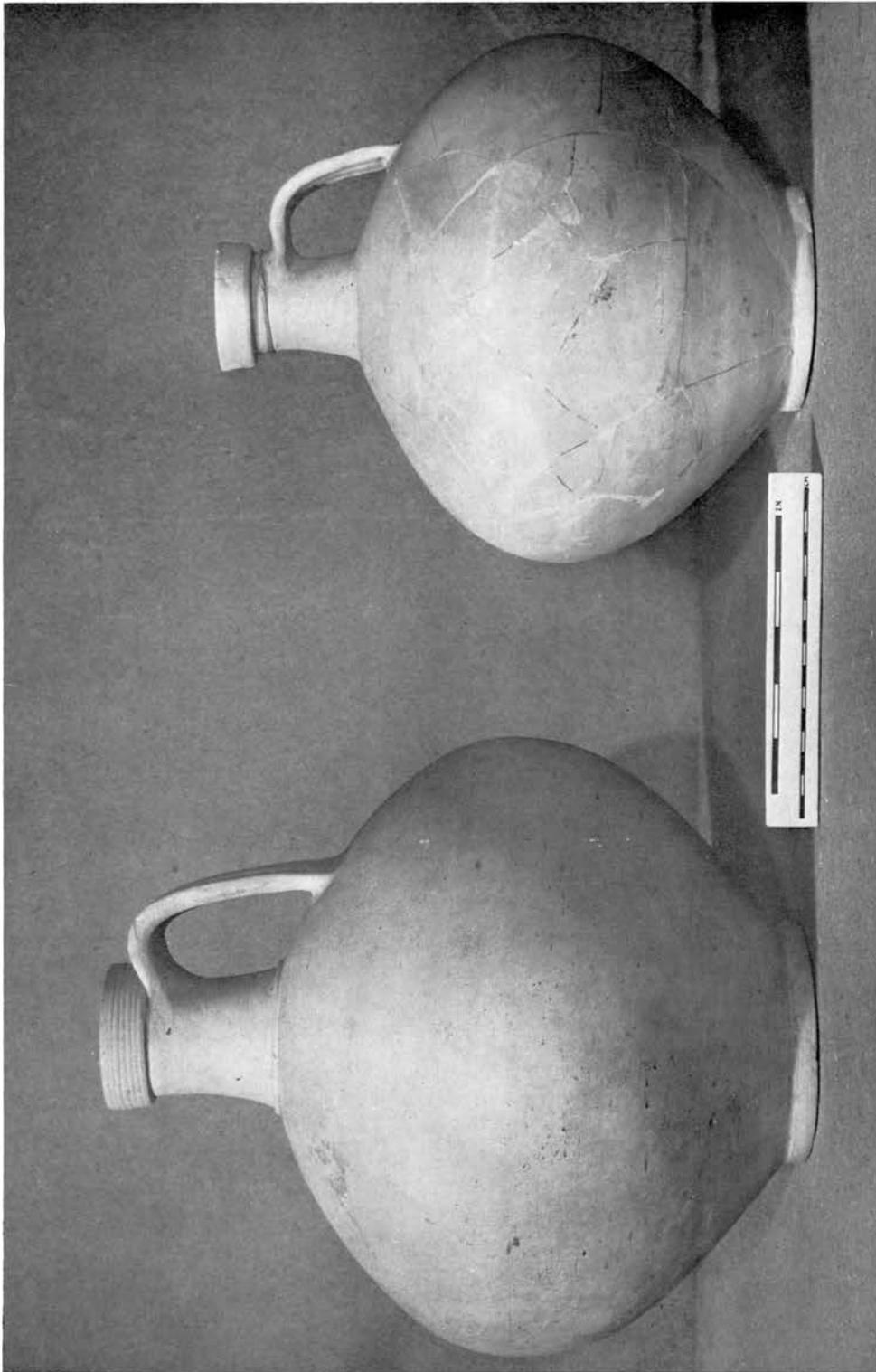
Miss Clare Fell and Miss Joan Liversidge assisted me greatly in searching for parallels in the published reports. Miss Fell and the Museum Staff are to be congratulated on the skill and care which enabled them to sort out and repair



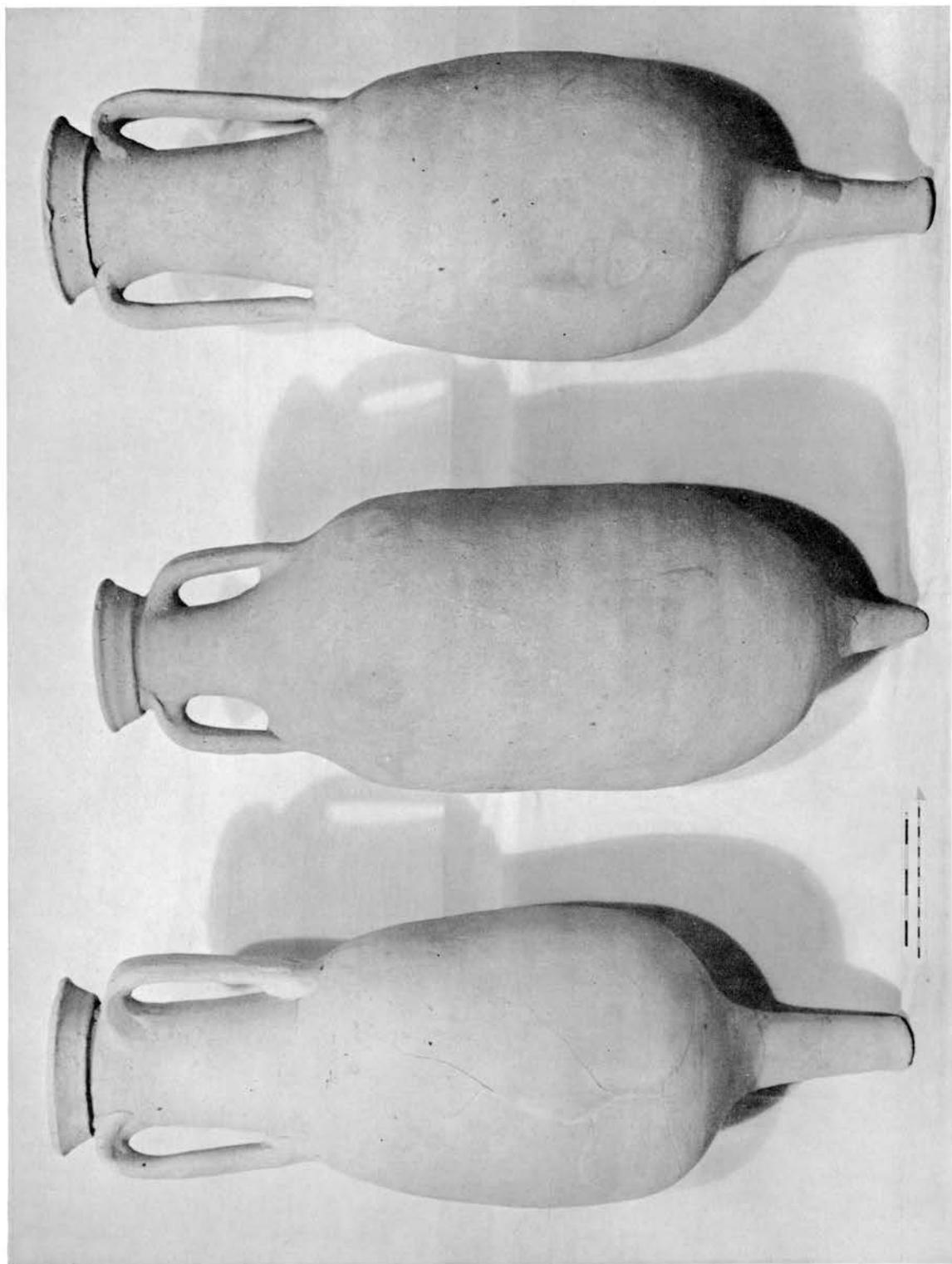
Thin bronze plating and studs. Snailwell burial
(Half natural size)



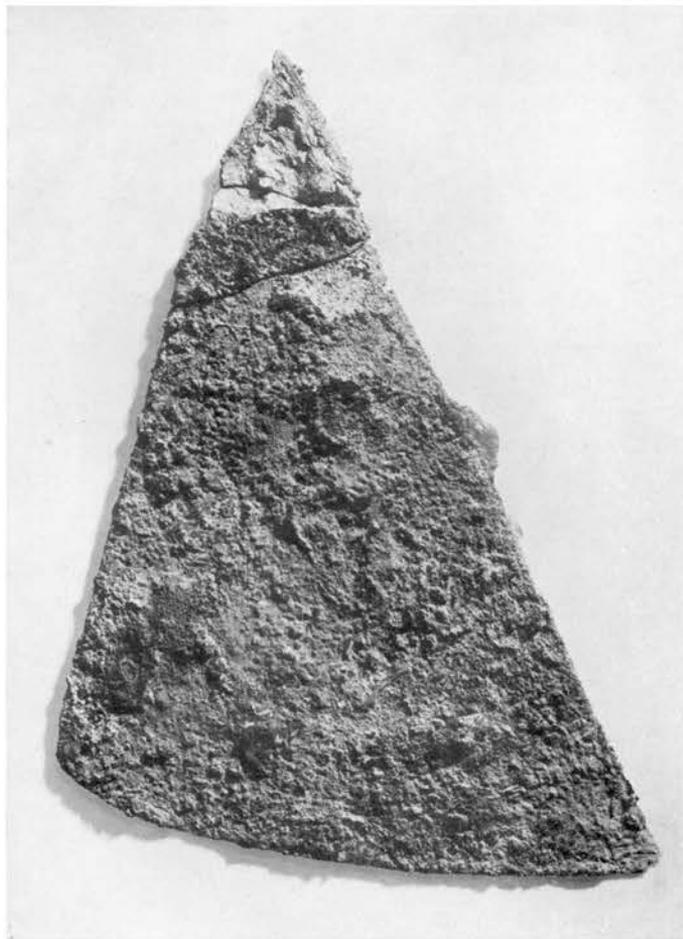
'Lagene,' Snailwell burial
(Scale shown in inches and centimetres)



Flagons or jugs. Snailwell burial
(Scale shown in inches and centimetres)



Amphorae. Snailwell burial
(Scale shown in inches and centimetres)



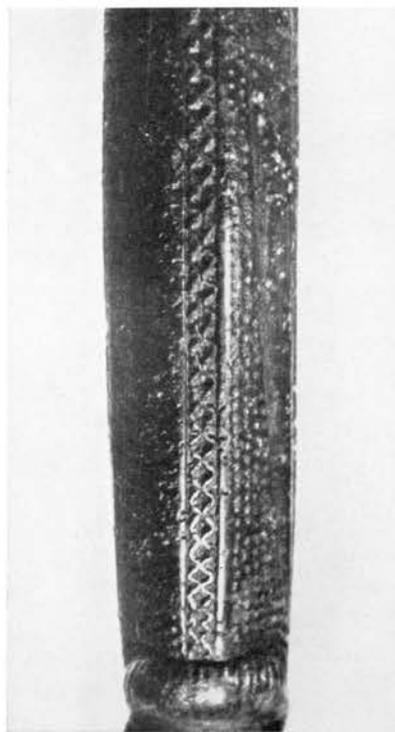
a. Iron object of unknown use
(One-half natural size)



b. Head of bronze armlet
(Twice natural size)



c. Iron shield boss
(One-half natural size)

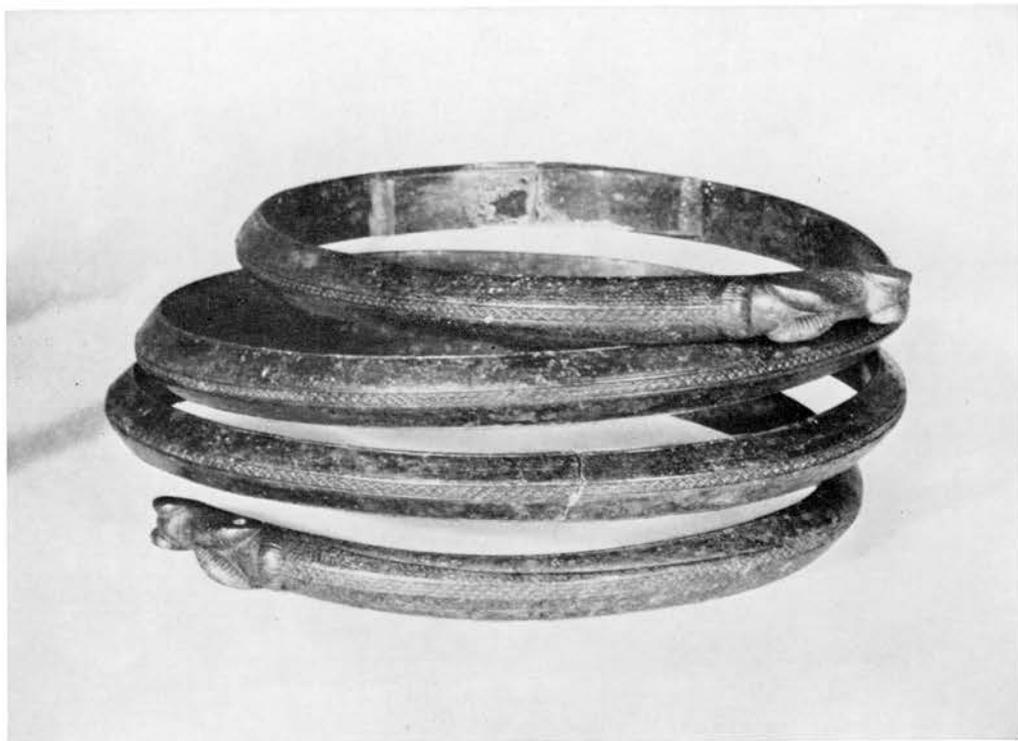


d. Ornamentation on back of armlet
(Twice natural size)

PLATE VI



a. Bronze bowl
(One-half natural size)



b. Bronze armlet
(Natural size)

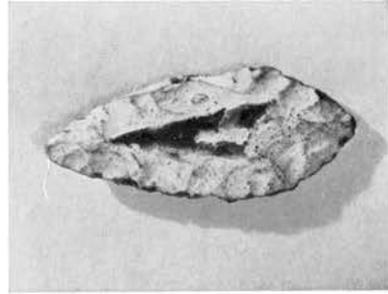
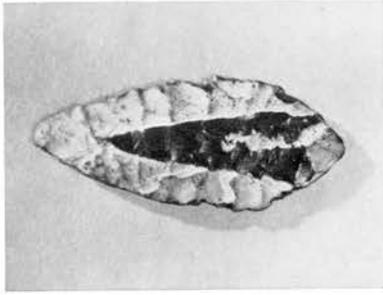


a. Foot of bronze bowl
(Natural size)

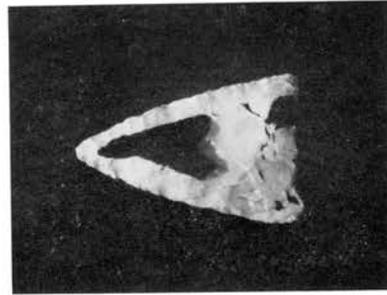


b. Design on inside of bronze bowl
(Natural size)

PLATE VIII



a



b



c

a and *b*: Two flint arrowheads (*natural size*). *c*: New Year Lamp from Ely (*natural size*)
(See *Archaeological Notes*, page 38)

an apparently hopeless mixture of fragments. Our thanks are also due to the Chairman (Mr D. Spooner) and members of the Newmarket Rural District Council for presenting the whole of the contents of this tomb to the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology where they are exhibited.

ANIMAL BONES FOUND WITH THE BELGIC BURIAL AT SNAILWELL

BY J. WILFRED JACKSON, D.SC., F.S.A.

THE following animal bones were recovered from the burial described above:

Small ox. A right femur with loose epiphysis (young animal): upper ends of radius and ulna (adult animal); many ribs.

Sheep. Solitary lower tooth.

Pig. Upper and lower jaws with teeth, parts of skull, and greater part of skeleton of a very young animal; also femur and tibia of an older animal (epiphysis loose).

Bird bones. Several bones of a species of fowl, but much smaller than that of today.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

C. I. FELL, M.A., AND JOAN LIVERSIDGE, M.LITT.

NOTE ON TWO FLINT ARROWHEADS

TWO interesting arrowheads in the collections of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology are perhaps worth illustrating since both retain evidence of the method of hafting.

The first (Plate VIII *a*) is a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead which came to the Museum with the collection of the late Mr John Hassall from Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex,¹ (Museum Registration no. 51.899). It is made of black flint and bears a heavy white patina except in a narrow, wedge-shaped area in the centre of the blade. This unpatinated area shows the position of the wooden shaft and it is probable that the birch pitch, or other adhesive material used to fix the head to the shaft, has prevented the patination of the flint with which it came in contact. The method of hafting leaf-shaped arrowheads has been known in this country since the discovery of a specimen, complete with shaft, in a peat bog at Blackhillock, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire.² The shaft has recently been examined by the Forestry Department of Aberdeen University and found to be made from a species of *Viburnum*.³ The specimen from Walton-on-the-Naze confirms that the tapered end of the shaft reached almost to the tip on either side of the flint head.

The second arrowhead (Plate VIII *b*) is from La Thièle, Lake of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and came to the Museum with the Walter Foster Bequest, 1892. It is of triangular form and of white or pale grey flint, and has a considerable amount of black material adhering to each surface. This is presumably birch pitch, by means of which the haft was fixed to the flint tip. The use of birch pitch for this purpose has been demonstrated by Professor E. Vogt,⁴ Dr V. von Gonzenbach⁵ and other writers describing the finds from the Swiss Lake Dwellings; it has recently been summarized by Professor J. G. D. Clark.⁶

C.I.F.

TWO STONE AXES FROM BANK FARM, WATERBEACH

Two stone axes were ploughed up at Bank Farm, Waterbeach, in 1951 and were presented to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, in 1952 by Mr T. Watson Reynolds through Mr W. E. Beattie. The approximate map refer-

¹ *P.P.S.*, II, pp. 178f.

² *P.S.A. Scot.*, XI (1875-6), p. 508.

³ Information from Dr Douglas Simpson, University Library, Aberdeen.

⁴ *Anzeiger für Schweizerische Alterthumskunde*, Zürich, no. 24 (1932), p. 116.

⁵ *Die Cortaillaudkultur in der Schweiz* (1949), pp. 48 and 54.

⁶ *Prehistoric Europe* (1952), pp. 208-9.

ence of the site is 52/513682; it is within a mile or two of Bottisham Lock, where the well-known cylindrical, handled beaker was dredged from the river with other pottery of the same period.

These axes seem to be of late Neolithic form. The longer is of flint and of thin-butted type, finely chipped, but not polished except at the cutting edge. Length $6\frac{1}{4}$ in.; width at the butt tapers to less than 1 inch; width of cutting edge $2\frac{3}{8}$ in.; weight 8 oz. The shorter is a polished axe of volcanic or igneous rock which Dr S. O. Agrell, of the Museum of Mineralogy and Petrology, describes as possibly being a hornstone from the Charnwood Forest area, or a fine-grained volcanic ash, or tuff. The butt is missing. Remaining length $4\frac{7}{8}$ in.; width of cutting edge $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight 13 oz. Museum Registration nos. 52.436 A, B. C.I.F.

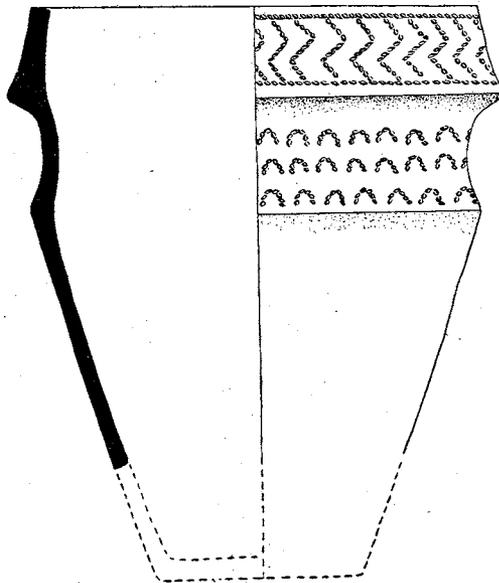


Fig. 1. Urn from Stansted, Essex.
One-quarter natural size.

MIDDLE BRONZE AGE URN

The Middle Bronze Age overhanging-rim urn illustrated here (Fig. 1) was found in 1950 by J. L. Glassock's Successors (Bishop's Stortford) Ltd, while bulldozing a new road near the station at Stansted, Essex, and was presented by them to the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, in November 1951 (Registration No. 52/5). The map reference of the site is 52/514248—a low-lying position.

It lay mouth downward in gravel soil at a depth of 18 in. to 2 ft. below the surface, and the base was struck and smashed by the bulldozer. There seems to have been no trace of a barrow covering the urn or of any other form of protection. The urn

contained calcined human bones which Dr J. C. Trevor examined and considered to be the remains of an adolescent, but could not determine the sex of the individual. The upper part of the urn is in good condition, red-brown in colour, the core showing black in the fracture. The rim measures $9\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter and the original height was probably about 12 in. The collar is decorated with zigzag impressions of twisted string between parallel horizontal lines of the same ornament. The neck is well defined and has three rows of hoops of twisted string. The conical body tapers from the well-marked shoulder. The top of the rim has a very slight internal bevel but is not decorated. Abercromby illustrates two urns from Dorset with similar decoration.¹ In form it is allied with the well-formed tripartite urns of a fairly early date in the Middle Bronze Age, such as the fine specimen found in Barrow II at Chippenham, Cambs.²

C.I.F.

A NEW-YEAR LAMP FROM ELY

Among the objects in the Cole Ambrose Collection in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology is an interesting Roman pottery lamp dating from the first century A.D., of the type with a rounded nozzle flanked by volutes.³ The discus depicts a winged Victory holding a palm branch in her left hand, and in her right a shield bearing the inscription ANNVM NOVVM FAVSTVM FELICEM MIHI (Plate VIIIc). Arranged round her are some blurred objects probably intended to represent sweets, nuts, cakes or loaves of bread; and three coins, showing a two-headed bearded Janus, two clasped hands, and a winged Eros. The inscription may be translated as '(I wish) myself a happy and prosperous New Year', and it shows that the lamp belongs to a well-known class bought at the New Year, either as gifts, or when, as in this case, the inscription is MIHI rather than TIBI, as bringers of good luck to the purchaser and his household. The coins and other things were also gifts exchanged at the New Year.

Many items in the Cole Ambrose Collection were found locally, and this lamp is believed to have been discovered near Ely, but unfortunately its exact provenance is uncertain. This is a pity, for while New Year lamps have been found in Italy and occasionally in other Roman provinces,⁴ this one may be the first example to be identified in Britain. The closest parallel to it in this country seems to be a lamp of similar type showing a winged Victory with the single word FILLICTII, presumably for Felicitas, inscribed upon her shield, but unaccompanied by coins or other objects. This lamp is now in the Guildhall Museum, and was most probably found in London, but here again the provenance is uncertain.⁵

J.L.

¹ Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, vol. II, Pl. LXII, 5d and Pl. LXIII, 20.

² *Proceedings C.A.S.*, xxxvi, p. 143, Pl. vi.

³ Museum No. 22.672d.

⁴ D. Ivanyi, 'Die Pannonische Lampen': *Diss. Pann.* II, 2 (1935), p. 111. H. B. Walters, *Catalogue of Greek and Roman Lamps in the British Museum* (1914), no. 780; *History of Ancient Pottery* (1905), II, pp. 298, 413, 420.

⁵ *Guildhall Museum Catalogue* (1908), p. 46, no. 26, Pl. ix, 3.

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