



## Notes on the Archaeology of Oxford and its Neighbourhood.

By Percy Manning, F.S.A.

(Continued from page 28.)

SOUTH LEIGH.

[XXXII. S.W.]

**A**BOUT 1865 a lead coffin was found during drainage work in a field called Spring Furlong on Tar Farm, South Leigh. About 1877 another leaden coffin was found, also during drainage in the same field. It contained bones and dust. Other skeletons were found with it. These coffins were, I believe, Roman. Leaden coffins of that period were found in the cemetery at Frilford, Berks, not many miles from this place.

[Information from South Leigh, 1895.]

STANLAKE.

[XXXVIII. N.W.]

A man digging gravel on Stanlake Down, in March, 1897, just E. of the site of the British cemetery [*Archæologia*, xxxvii., 363] found at a depth of about 3 feet, a skeleton lying at full length, with its head to the east. With it were the following articles, which are now in my possession :—

1. Saucer-shaped bronze fibula  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter. It is ornamented with an incised cross, enclosed in a circle; in each arm of the cross is an S-shaped ornament, and at the intersection two concentric circles. At the back are attachments for an iron pin, which has rusted away. The whole is of coarse workmanship.

2. A bronze disc-fibula,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter. One side is quite plain; on the other is a small incised circle in the centre, from which radiate eight arms to the circumference, composed of double rows of punctures. Round the circumference, joining the arms, is a similar double row of punctures.

3. A flat bronze ring-fibula,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter, and  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. across the opening. It is quite plain. On opposite edges of the opening are a small round hole, and a notch, the attachments for a pin.

4. A bone ring,  $2\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter,  $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick. At each of four equi-distant points on its upper surface are four dots disposed lozenge-wise.

5. Bronze needle,  $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. The part round the eye is flattened out in an oval form, and round the outer edge of this is a line of shallow notches, making a running chevron ornament.

6. Bronze pin,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. long. The head is flattened out in a circular shape, through which is pierced a hole.

7. Bronze needle,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long.

8. A necklace, consisting of 15 amber beads, and 11 beads of different coloured clays, some ornamented with patterns in blue, red, yellow and white.

9. Iron spear-head, with socket and long narrow blade. Down one side of the socket is a V-shaped slit. Length 11in.

10. Iron knife-blade, with thick back, one cutting edge, and pointed tang. Part of the point is lost. Length  $5\frac{1}{4}$ in., width  $\frac{5}{8}$ in.

11. Iron knife-blade of similar shape ; point and part of tang lost. Length 4in., width  $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

The above articles are of coarse Anglo-Saxon.

#### STOKENCHURCH.

[XLVIII. N.W.]

"I have observed in Mr. Mason's lands lying on the north side of the village, Two Barrows (or Burrows) . . . These Barrows give name to the fields adjoining, viz., Great and Little Burrow fields."

[Delafield's *MS. Hist. of Stokenchurch*, p. 204.]\*

[XLVIII. S.E.]

"On May 25th, 1738, some labourers (viz., Robert Stevens and John Fatt) digging the foundation of a dwelling-house, on the east side of the square plat that encompasses the windmill, there but a few years before erected, chanced upon several urns, some within about six inches of the surface of the ground, and some a small matter lower. There were about fourteen or fifteen in number, placed irregularly ; only two larger seemed to be set in the middle and the rest placed without order, at the distance of some feet round them. For want of some intelligent person to direct the labourers, they were all broken to pieces, so that upon a view I could not collect their exact form or size. But according to the account and description of them by the workmen, they were different sizes : with

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\* Gough MSS. Oxon. L 47 (Bodleian).

wide mouths with indented rims on the outside, with small globular bellies, round which went a rising fillet, and a bottom drawing in and flat and lesser than the mouth, as that was than the belly. Whether they were covered or not, for want of observation they could not inform me. But they had all in them black mould or ashes and several small bones, but nothing else that I ever heard of. They were of a coarse clay and a gritty sand, and of two colours : one redder and the other brown (of the colour of a brick dried but not burnt), and both with a white pebbly grit intermixed, and mostly black in the middle. The shards preserved shew them to have been very rotten, standing so long a time, and so near the surface of the ground.

"I have a few of the broken pieces by me, from one of which I can collect by geometrical rules, that it was exactly of 12 inches diameter, from outside to outside, the furthest extent of the rim. The lips of it are a small matter turning out, on which is an indenture and an indented (or notched) rising fillet about an 1½ in. below. Its belly was but a small matter extended beyond the width of the rim ; and its height, or the form of the bottom, I cannot so much as guess at. I have another with a double indenture under the mouth of about 2 in. distance one from another. A third hath a plain mouth, with the rim not at all bending out, and within less than 3 in., has a rising fillet indented going round its neck. A fourth sort, at about 1½ in., under a plain upright mouth, had a row of small knobs at some distance from each other going about. And one had a plain rising fillet only."

[Delafield's *MS. History of Stokenchurch*, p. 235.]\*

The windmill, if it be the same as that now standing, is on the S.W. side of the village, by the side of the road leading from Wood Farm to Wormsley Lodge.

The description of the urns sounds like that of a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age urn-field.

STONELANDS (Swinbrook). [xxxI. N.W.]

In a field adjoining Sturt Farm, near Stonelands, on the South-east side of the farm, twelve or thirteen human skeletons were found about nine months ago, and with them some coins. I have not seen any of the coins, but believe them to be Roman, as the men called them "bits," a generic name for Roman coins hereabouts. The field is bounded on its south side by Akeman Street,

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\* Gough MS. Oxon. 47 (Bodleian).

which here forms the boundary between the parishes of Swinbrook and Asthall.

[Information from William Bullinger, of Stonelands, September, 1894].

STUDLEY. [XXXIV. N.W.]

Roman coins have been found in the field immediately west of Studley Park, and also in the allotments at the east end of Studley Wood, between the brickfield and Danes' Brook; I have a fine silver denarius of Arcadius from here.

Other Roman remains were found in Studley Wood in 1851 [v. *Arch. Journal*, viii. 313].

WILCOTE. [XXVI. S.W.]

Roman coins are found on the surface in the fields to the north and west of the Manor House, close on the line of Akeman Street, which can here be seen as a broad ridge, running across the fields. I have coins of the following:—Republican silver of Livineius Regulus (1), silver Titus (1), 1st brass Hadrian (1), 1st brass Lucilla (1), silver Julian (1), sm. brasses of Postumus (1), Tetricus (4), Constantius (1), Constantine Jun. (2), illegible Constantine family (3).

WOLVERCOTE. [XXXIII. N.W.]

Pieces of Roman pottery, chiefly mortaria, and the usual coarse grey smother-kiln ware, have been found from time to time at a slight depth below the surface in the brick-field at Pear Tree Hill, adjoining the level crossing of the Woodstock Road over the L. & N.W. Railway.

[Personal knowledge.]

WOOD EATON. [XXXIII. N.E.]

About 40 years ago, in a stone quarry at Drun's Hill, on Forest Farm, near Elsfield, there were found a quantity of bones and ashes, and among them two "golden images," apparently small bronze busts, as far as I can make out. One came into the hands of the late Rev. R. Gordon, of Elsfield; the other went to London.

[Information from Elsfield, 1895.]

I am inclined to think that one of these busts may be that mentioned in *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* 1st ser. ii. 68, April 18, 1850, as a "small bronze bust of Antinous found near Oxford" exhibited by C. Roach Smith, Esq.

Mr. A. J. Evans has a small hoard of bronze coins of Magnentius and Decentius, said to have been found on the Roman site at Middle Hill, Wood Eaton, about 1874. It is alluded to erroneously under the name *Water Eaton* in the Proceedings of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (iii. 174, 223). Several bronze pins, with rings at the top and stems bent in a double right angle, have been found here lately; there is a similar pin in the Ashmolean Museum, and all of them are of Late Celtic form. Their exact date is uncertain, as they may represent earlier art-traditions lingering on into Roman times.

A quantity of Roman coins, objects of bronze, etc., have come into my hands from this place during the last four years. They may be worth describing on some future occasion.

Mr. C. J. Parker has in his possession a British coin found here which is somewhat worn, but is thought by Sir John Evans, who has kindly identified this and the following coin, to be the brass core of a gold-plated coin of Addedomaros, similar to that figured in *Ancient British Coins*, Pl. xiv. Nos. 5 and 6.

I have in my own collection a British coin of tin, of the type figured in Pl. H., No. 5, of the above-mentioned book.

These two coins assume additional interest, in view of the fact that two other British coins were found on the same site in 1676, one of Cunobeline, the other of the type of Pl. E., No. 11.\*

WOODPERRY.

[XXXIV. N.W.]

Roman coins have been found in digging stone at the point where the road from Woodperry to Beckley leaves the road from Studley to Oxford.

For an account of the Roman remains found about a quarter-mile to the east at Woodperry House, v. *Archæological Journal*, iii. 116.

WOOTTON.

[XXI. S.E.]

Roman coins are found in the field adjoining the fir plantation immediately E. of Milford Bridge at Wootton. I have the following:—Tetricus Sen. and Jun. (3), Constantine (1), illegible Constantine family (3).

BERKS.

APPLEFORD.

[XLV. S.E.]

On the land belonging to the Manor Farm, several circles and square enclosures have been noticed every year in the growing corn,

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\* v. Plot's *Natural History of Oxfordshire*, 1705, p. 315, Pl. xv. Nos. 19, 20.

marked by their extra luxuriance. They lie in the field immediately S. of the Church. There are two circles on the furlong known as "Church Piece," E. of the field road which runs S. from the Manor Farm. One circle, of about 90 feet in diameter, lies about 140 yards from the road which runs through the village from E. to W., and about 50 yards from the field road. The other circle, of about 45 feet in diameter, is intersected by the field road, about 180 yards from the road through the village. At a point about 550 yards from this last-mentioned road, is a rectangular enclosure, in the furlong known as Heron's Acre, and close to the field road on its E. side.

[Personal inspection, July, 1895.]

BRIGHTWELL.

[XLIX. N.W.]

"Samian" and other Roman pottery has been found in a gravel pit about 500 yards north of Lower Hill Farm, between the farm and the river Thames. Some of the pieces were in the possession of Mr. Davies of Wallingford.

[Information from Mr. H. Hewett, July, 1895.]

I have the following Roman coins, found in the garden of Slade End Farm at Brightwell:—Tetricus, Quintillus, Constantius Chlorus, Allectus, all small brass.

RADLEY.

[XXXIX. S.E.]

About 1888, some labourers digging gravel in a field called "Radley Plains," found two pots, which were pronounced by a gentleman who bought them to be Roman. The gravel-pit in which they were found is marked on the O.S., between the G.W. Railway and the road from Oxford to Radley, immediately south of the foot-path from Radley to Sandford Lock.

[Information from one Viliboise of Radley, 1897.]

SUNNINGWELL.

[XXXIX. S.W.]

At a spot on Foxcombe Hill, about 100 yards north-east of Rye Hill Barn, on the edge of the hill overlooking Bayworth, is a black patch in the soil, which shews plainly when freshly ploughed, in and about which lie quantities of broken pieces of Roman pottery; they are mostly the coarse grey "smother-kiln" ware, which may well have been made in the immediate neighbourhood.

[Personal inspection, 1894.]

LITTLE WITTENHAM.

[XLVI. S.W.]

A stone-paved way is said to run in a north-westerly direction from a point in the back-water about 130 yards below Little Witten-

ham Bridge, and then turns due west and falls into the road opposite the S.E. angle of the church-yard. Following the road, it passes under the farm-house which lies on the W. side of the church-yard.

Roman coins have been found in the garden of the Rectory.

[Information from Mr. H. Hewett, July, 1895.]

LONG WITTENHAM. [XLVIII. A.N.E.]

At a point about a quarter-of-a-mile E. of Pearith's Farm, and just in the angle where the road from Didcote Station joins the road from Wallingford, two "pit dwellings" have been found in digging gravel, on the E. side of the first-mentioned road. They were round pits sunk in the gravel, some 3 or 4 feet in diameter, and some 5 feet deep. They were full of bones and horns of (?) oxen, embedded in a dark mould, and also held many rats' teeth.

[Information from Mr. H. Hewett, July, 1895.]

The place is close to the site of the Romano-British Cemetery, described by Rev. J. C. Clutterbuck in *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* 2nd ser. II. 37-8.

In the possession of Sir H. Dryden, of Canon's Ashby, Northants, is a small Roman pot of pale grey (? Upchurch) ware, with wide mouth, 3 ins. high, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. in diameter. It is labelled "railway cutting in the parish of Long Wittenham, Berkshire, 1844, Newnham end of it," and was given to the owner by the Rev. J. C. Clutterbuck of Wittenham.

[Personal information, Jan. 1897.]

WOOTTON. [XXXIX. N.W.]

There seems to have been a flint factory on the high ridge between Wootton and North Hinksey. In a field N.E. of Pickett's Heath Farm, between "Powder Hill Copse" and "Birch's Copse," is a great quantity of flint flakes, chips, and cores, together with a few scrapers. They may belong to the Neolithic period, but I believe many of the worked flints found on the surface in this part of the country to be very late in date.

WYTHAM. [XXXIII. N.W.]

In the spring of 1894, I happened to visit the gravel-pit between Northfield Farm and Wytham village, at the point where the foot-path to Eynsham Bridge leaves the road. The digging had uncovered six shallow excavations in the gravel, each about 2 ft. in depth, and 3 ft. in diameter. They were filled with black mould, with which were mixed fragments of pottery, bones, and flint chips.

The pottery was mostly the thick black or red "pounded-shell

ware." I found parts of what was certainly a British cinerary urn of the common type. About an inch below the rim of the vertical lip ran a horizontal fillet in relief. From this, at intervals of 1 inch to 1½ inches, descended similar vertical ribs, which also appeared at the bottom of the urn. The angle below the lip was wanting. The corresponding angular part of another cinerary urn, bore a bold horizontal ridge, ornamented with wide vertical notches. Other pieces of plain pottery may have belonged to the "flower-pot" type of cinerary urn, such as were found at Stanlake in 1857, figured in *Archæologia*, xxxvii. 363. Some thinner and lighter fragments may have been parts of drinking vessels.

The bones were mostly those of the boar and horse.

The flints were mostly mere chips, but from one hole I got an unfinished scraper.

Lying close by on the surface, were some pieces of Romano-British ware; whether these had come out of similar excavations, there is nothing to shew, but they probably represent a much later period of occupation than the objects first described.

Numerous human burials were found at or close by this spot, between 1869 and 1878, notes of which will be found in Rolleston's *Scientific Papers and Addresses*, ii. 939. Most of them were apparently of pre-Roman date. It is probable then that these shallow excavations are the rubbish pits of the people who buried their dead hard by.

## BUCKS.

### OAKLEY.

[XXXIV. E.]

Roman pottery and coins are found in a field at Ixhill Farm, midway between Oakley and Worminghall. I have seen part of a flue-tile from here. About 1892, excavations were made in this field to remove some large stones that interfered with ploughing, and several cart-loads of stone were found and removed. It seems probable that there was some Roman building here.

[Information from Oakley, 1897.]

### *Table of Roman coins found in Oxfordshire.*

Small brass, unless otherwise stated.

Ar. = silver; 1 B = large brass; 2 B = 2nd brass.

Ar.	-	-	Livineius Regulus		1, 2, B.	-	Claudius	-	-	-	2
			(Republican)	-	1		1, 2, B.	-	Nero	-	2
2 B.	-	-	Augustus (consecrationary)	-	1		1, 2, B. Ar.	-	Vespasian	-	4
							2 B. Ar.	-	Titus	-	3



1 B.	-	Domitian	-	-	1	—	Carausius	-	-	4
1 B.	-	Nerva	-	-	2	—	Allectus	-	-	2
1, 2, B. Ar.	-	Trajan	-	-	4	—	Constantius			
1 B. Ar.	-	Hadrian	-	3	4	—	Chlorus	-	-	2
2 B.	-	Julia Sabina	1				Maximianus			
1 B.	-	Antoninus		2	3	—	Herculius	-	-	1
		Pius	-					Constantine		
Ar.	-	Faustina sen.	1			—	the Great	11		
1 B.	-	Marcus		2	7	—	Theodora	-	3	25
		Aurelius	2					Crispus	-	
2 B.	-	Faustina jun.	2			—	Urbs Roma	1		
1 B.	-	Lucius Verus	2	1		—	Constantino-			7
1 B.	-	Lucilla	-					polis	-	
2 B.	-	Commodus	-	-	1	—	Constantine II.	-	9	
Ar.	-	Caracalla	-	-	1	—	Constans	-	-	4
—		Gordian	-	-	1	—	Constantius II.	-	4	
—		Gallienus	-	1	28	—	Constantine			
—		Salonina	-	1			family	-	-	44
—		Tetricus	-	14	3	—	Magnentius	-	-	1
—		Postumus	-	1			Julian	-	-	-
—		Victorinus		3	8	—	Valentinian I.	-	5	
—		Tetricus					Valens	-	-	-
—		period	-	8	6	—	Gratian	-	-	1
—		Claudius		4			—	Theodosius I.	-	1
—		Gothicus	4			Arcadius	-	-	-	2
—		Quintillus	-	2						
—		Probus	-	-	1					

186

This list of 186 coins, collected from 18 different places in Oxfordshire, shews the following points:—

Claudius to Gordian, A.D. 41-244, 37 coins, mostly much worn large brasses, 20 per cent. of the total.

Gallienus to Quintillus, 260-270, 34 coins, mostly badly preserved small brasses, 18·25 per cent. of the total.

Constantine dynasty, 306-355, 86 coins, many well preserved, 46·25 per cent. of the whole.

Magnentius to Arcadius, 355-408, 19 coins, badly preserved, 10·25 per cent. of the whole.

These figures would tend to shew that the Roman occupation of Oxfordshire did not become effective till the end of the 3rd century. The only well preserved early coins are a first brass Nero and a silver Titus, from the bed of the Thames at Northmoor, which may be classed as pre-Roman in this part of the country.

I hope shortly to compile a more comprehensive list of coins, which I think will shew the same results.