

## Bibliographical Notes.

The following publications have items of local interest.

*Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, VII (3rd. Ser.), 1942, pp. 31-40. Our member Miss E. Carleton Williams has contributed an informative article on "Mural Paintings of the Three Living and the Three Dead in England." A list of thirty representations of the legend is given with details. No example is known in Berkshire but the examples at North Stoke, Widford and Woodeaton, all in Oxfordshire, are discussed.

*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), pp. 1-23. W. J. Arkell contributes "Place-Names and Topography in the Upper Thames Country: a Regional Essay." He argues that if it be agreed that topography is the basis of place-name study, then the most satisfactory way to treat place-names is by natural geological or topographical districts. And this he proceeds to do by a description of the Otmoor and Shotover Forest region and that of the White Horse Vale, the Upper Thames and the Faringdon Ridge, basing his approach and treatment of the subject on facts acquired by walking the fields from Brill to Wootton Bassett with 6-inch ordnance maps over a period of years. Sections deal with place-names in connexion with rivers, marshes and swamps, former distribution of forest, moors and heaths, "fields" and early cultivation. Appendices give the ancient topographical words connected with these sections, a list of works referred to and the geological maps and descriptions of the region.

*Ib.*, pp. 71-79. E. M. Jope in "Some Recent Finds of Medieval Pottery" includes a description, with drawings, of vessels with an unusual, highly exaggerated, undercutting of the rim moulding found at Seacourt. They are of fine hard sandy buff fabric typical of the 13th century and later cooking-pots. Certain shallow bowls from the same site are probably late 14th-15th century. There is evidence for standardization in the sizes of the vessels both from here and from Brill in Bucks.

*Antiquity*, XVII (1943), pp. 188-195, contains "Grim's Bank, Padworth, Berkshire" by B. H. St. J. O'Neil. About a mile to the north and north-west of the Roman town of Silchester are clear indications of the line of two Roman roads, one from the west gate, W.N.W. to Speen and Cirencester, the other from the north gate to Dorchester. The author traces both these roads. Between these at from two to three miles N.W. or N. of Silchester runs the linear earthwork, Grim's Bank, the topographical relationship of which to the Roman roads is discussed; the earthwork at the N.E. end of the Bank near Ufton Park is

doubtless of pre-Roman date. The bank of the linear earthwork emerges at its north-eastern end near Ufton Park with a promontory fort of pre-Roman date; the former succeeding the latter probably after a considerable lapse of time. In this connexion the author says "This crossing of the two earthworks also clearly illustrates another aspect of linear earthworks, namely that they were not lines of defence but of demarcation. Had this earthwork been intended for defence, a portion at least of the bank of the promontory fort, which lay in front of it, would have been levelled. As at present preserved, however, this bank definitely blocks the view from the linear earthwork." This N.W. section of Grim's Bank was constructed as a frontier demarcation line after the Roman evacuation. Grim's Bank II stretches north-eastwards from Park Piece to Wise's Firs through which at its southernmost end passed the Roman road from Silchester to Dorchester. This dyke (Grim's Bank II) differs from Grim's Bank I in that it apparently refers back "not to Silchester itself but to some area east thereof." Two other dykes further south-west have an apparently similar function. The author considers that the area to the east of Silchester may be that now represented by four round-barrows near the hill-top at Mortimer Common which area was in late-Roman and early post-Roman times still of importance beside the Roman Silchester. With the article is an excellent map and a section of the Bank near Padworth.

*Antiquity*, XVIII (1944), pp. 88-94, contains "Some Berkshire Interlacings" by A. W. Seaby. The author prefaces his remarks by giving examples of interlacing (confined to a pattern of curved strands) in Sumerian clay votive tablets and in Assyrian and Greek designs. The Roman mosaic pavements from Silchester provide borders composed of three and four-cord plaits, the first instances of interlacing in Britain. Continuing down the corridor of time examples are shown of two Saxon brooches of the Kentish type found at Abingdon, of a thin gold cross found in the grave of a Lombard chieftain, of the Tara Brooch, found near Dublin and dated about A.D. 800, and of the Northumbrian and other crosses. Interlacing designs are also found in the Book of Kells and in the Lindisfarne Gospels and on worked bone, and on the Anglo-Saxon buckles and drinking horns from Taplow. A plea is entered for a restoration of the Wantage Cross, a fragment of which lies in the church porch there. The relationship of the design on the Alfred Jewel and on the fine sword-hilt from Wallingford with certain interlacings is discussed. Lastly are the interlacings on a few small remaining stone capitals from Reading Abbey, now in Reading Museum, and on the font of St. James' church. The article is illustrated with 16 excellently drawn figures.

*Ib.*, pp. 113-122, contains "The Silchester Region in the 5th and 6th centuries A.D." by B. H. St. J. O'Neil. The fact that life of some sort continued unbroken in certain towns of Roman Britain throughout the Dark Ages presents a complex problem. Silchester provides a site nowhere else as yet available in Britain on which a regional survey, essential to any historic appraisal of the problem, could be carried out. The evidence provided by Silchester depends on the objects recovered and it is a reflection that many of the finds still reposing in Reading Museum have been inadequately published or totally ignored with the exception of the pottery and coins; scientific treatment of the rest remains to be carried out. The author discusses the available material: the Ogam script on a stone, coins, pottery, disc-brooches and the church. From this evidence it is suggested that Silchester was occupied by a civilized society "during much, if not all, of the fifth century." Examination is made of the complementary evidence of the Saxon invaders and the effect thereof on Silchester and its region; earthworks in the vicinity are described from which data a case is made out for the continued existence of Silchester as a town strong enough to defy the Saxon invaders from the north and north-west. Note is also made of the linear earthworks on Greenham and Crookham Commons which face west and the implications are discussed. The conclusion is that "Silchester as a town appears to have been occupied until about the middle of the 5th century." After that there is no archaeological evidence of continuation but the presence of linear earthworks "argues the continuance in the same region of some measure of the old authority in a Romano-British enclave. . . ." An adequate map of the Region shows the dykes, Roman roads and trackways.

*The Connoisseur*, September 1942, contains an article by F. S. Eden on "Domestic stained glass of the 16th and 17th centuries in Berkshire" in which he describes, with illustrations, four Tudor panels, now in the Reading Museum, and two heraldic panels of Prince Charles and of Anne of Denmark, 1603-25, now at Bere Court, Pangbourne.

*The Journal of the British Society of Master Glass-Painters*, Vol. 8, No. 4, has an article by W. Drake on "The stained glass of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle."