

## Bibliographical Notes.

*Archaeologia*, XCII, 79-93, 1947. E. T. Leeds: *A Saxon Village at Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire*. In this third report description of a further 12 excavated houses brings the total explored in this extensive village to 33: many more were probably destroyed by the gravel digging. Mr. Leeds concludes that the occupation commenced about the close of the 5th cent. A.D. and that the site was abandoned, apparently hurriedly, after some two centuries. This remains the most extensive Pagan Saxon village so far explored in Britain. The houses were little more than hovels, hollows scooped out of the gravel, and a few remaining post holes indicate the system of roof support. In one a potter's clay-puddling hole was found, 7' 6" deep, with clay contained in a wattle basket below water level. The quantity of clay remaining was much greater than the personal requirements of one family, and probably satisfied at one time those of the whole village. No associated cemetery is yet known. Mr. Leeds concludes that this village represents the most S.W. advance of the earliest Saxon settlers in the upper Thames basin coming from East Anglia. Beyond this a hard native opposition was probably encountered, and to this he attributes the abandonment of the site.

*Ibid.* pp. 121-167. M. Aylwin Cotton: *Excavations at Silchester, 1938-9*. Work at Silchester was resumed after 18 years. The outer earthwork is now shown to be of early Roman date, but built in a Native rather than Roman tradition. Very little further evidence of Belgic Silchester was found, and the coins still remain the most striking testimony. The street plan of the early Roman town originally spread over the whole area of the great outer earthwork and antedated the inner defences: early streets were found in the area between the inner and outer defences. The inner defences consist of an earthen rampart and V-shaped ditch of c. 160-170 A.D., altered (temp. Severus, 193-211 A.D.) to a stone wall replacing the outer half of the rampart, and an outer ditch which was cut when the earlier ditch was filled in. It is curious that a rampart and ditch should have been thought desirable during the peaceful Antonine heyday, but a stone wall some 30 years later is more understandable.

*Antiquity*, XXII, 172-178, 1948. Aileen Fox: *The Early Plan and Town Houses of Silchester*. On a consideration of alignments of the early Bath building and what are probably the earlier houses, which differ from that of the rectangular street grid, an irregular street plan is suggested for the earliest Silchester. The Bath building is temp. Nero and the massive stonework of its portico is Bath oolite. The dating and development of plan of Roman House types in Britain is considered.

*Archaeological Journal*, C, 177-187, 1943 (published 1945). B. H. St. O'Neil & H. J. E. Peake: *A Linear Earthwork on Greenham Common, Berkshire*. Bury Bank, Greenham Common, is described, and also four (or five) earthworks on the adjacent Crookham Common, together with excavations (under the direction of Mr. W. E. Harris) to determine the date of the Greenham earthwork. The bank was of simple construction, clay in front with a back and capping of gravel, but all of one date, 28' wide and probably never of great height as there was no revetment. The ditch was 24'-30' wide and 5'-7' deep. The modern road appears to pass through the only ancient gap in the earthwork. Fragments of 2 pots, one late Roman and the other earlier, found in the low silt of the ditch, indicate that the earthwork was thrown up in late Roman times, or soon after. It is most reasonably assigned to the 5th or 6th centuries A.D. This paper continues

the regional study of the Silchester Region during this period of transition from Roman Britain to Saxon England. (*Berks. Arch. J.*, XLVIII, 53, 1944-5: *Antiquity*, XVIII, 113-122, 1944).

*Ibid.*, 224-231. Philip Corder: *Roman Spade-Irons from Verulamium*. This paper deals with Roman spade-irons in general: three examples are illustrated from Silchester (Fig. 3, Nos. 13 & 14 and Fig. 4, No. 25) as well as others from Westbury, Wilts, Bourton-on-the-Water and Chedworth, Gloucs., and Woodcuts, Dorset.

*Oxoniensia*, X, for 1945, published 1947, pp. 93-97; contains the following archaeological notes on Berkshire sites. *Blewbury*: Saxon burial of adolescent girl, with 2 "small-long" brooches and 9 glass beads. *East Ilsley*: excavation of a barrow by Miss C. N. S. Smith and the Oxford University Arch. Soc. showed it to have been constructed of scraped-up surface soil, with no ditch. The burial was not located. *Hinksey*: Mediaeval pottery found 1945. *Radley*: Barrow 7 was excavated by Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson. For excavation of Romano-British cemetery, see *J. Rom. Stud.*, XXXVI, 144, noted below. *Sunningwell*: Excavation of a 2nd-4th century A.D. R-B pottery kiln of oval up-draught type on the S. slope of Foxcombe hill, producing mostly grey wares.

*Ibid.*, pp. 1-15. W. J. Arkell: *Geology and Prehistory from the Train, Oxford to Paddington*, covers much Berkshire country. There are 4 useful maps, and plates of the fine view towards Basildon from Streatley Hill, by J. Farington, from Boydell's *History of the River Thames*, 1793; of the Maidenhead Bridges and of the Sonning Cutting, both about 1840.

*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, for 1946-7, published 1948. pp. 162-181 contains the following Berkshire archaeological notes: *Abingdon*: 2nd-3rd cent. A.D. burial opposite Fitzharris; skeletons, probably R-B. or mediaeval, Wootton Rd. *Bablock Hythe*: Roman altar of Forest Marble, dredged up 1932 (photograph, Fig. 25). *Kennington*: an R.B. potter's field. *Radley*: Barrow hills field; a pit in the ditch of Barrow 14 was of no archaeological interest beyond showing the extraordinary hardness of the gravel conglomerate through which the barrows were dug. *Sutton Courtenay*: construction of a pipe line showed nothing of archaeological interest. *Wittenham Clumps*: Mr. D. P. Rhodes excavated on the S. side of the Clumps an R.B. building, with an Iron Age "A" house beneath, separated by a 1' thick sterile layer. See also *J. Rom. Stud.*, XXXVIII, 94, 1948 "Roman Britain in 1947" where it is described as "a building of rubble with painted wall-plaster, tesserae, &c., on the western slope beneath the north-westerly of the two Wittenham clumps."

Dr. Arkell contributes a note on the Treacher collection of Palaeoliths from the Middle Thames, and on "More Palaeoliths from the Wallingford Fan Gravels."

*J. Rom. Stud.*, XXXVI, 144, 1946: "Roman Britain in 1945:" reports the excavation at *Radley* of an inhumation cemetery containing 40 graves, mostly of old people, all facing South: the heads of two had been cut off and placed between the legs. Pottery and coins suggested first half of 4th cent. A.D. Also reported here is the excavation by Mr. M. S. F. Hood and Mrs. Walker of a nearly square enclosure on Roden Downs, N. of Compton,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile W. of Lowbury Hill. Within it were two small contiguous rectangular enclosures, below which was a circular hut, probably early Roman. Eleven 4th century burials were found within these smaller enclosures. Plans and sections of ditches are given.

*Ibid.*, pp. 43-47, P. J. Riis : *A Bronze Statuette from Uffington, Berkshire*. This bronze, now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, was said to have been "found by a labourer near Uffington, Berks." and a water colour of it exists, by Jesse King of Appleford, a careful and reputable antiquary of the middle of the last century. It is an Etruscan piece, probably from Vulci, of the earlier 5th century B.C. Although the patina is unusual for a bronze which has been in British soil since antiquity, the author considers that the statuette probably did reach Britain in early times—Vulcian bronzes certainly were exported beyond the Alps—and cites other examples of Italian exports to England during the Early Iron Age.

*Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's, Windsor*, 1945, contains papers by Dr. Anthony Deane on "The West Window of St. George's Chapel"; by Mrs. Coombe Tennant, on John Davis's Clock in the Curfew Tower (1689), and a valuable Bibliography of Windsor History by M. F. Bond.

J. G. Milne : *The Early History of Corpus Christi College, Oxford* (Blackwell, 1946) : in Chap. V Dr. Milne adds considerably to his notes on the history of West Hendred and of Streatley in this Journal, XLVI, 35-6, 1942.

C. S. Emden : *Oriel Papers* (Clarendon Press, 1948) gives an account of Sir Henry Unton, born at Wadley, near Faringdon, in 1557, where his family had been tenants of Oriel College back to his great-grandfather's day.