(51) *Black Prince's Register*, IV., 83, 562: (years 1353 and 1365).
(52) KNOOP, D. and JONES, C. P., in *Econ. Hist. Rev.* (1938), 21: *Eng. Place Name Soc.* (Beds. and Hunts.), 140.
(53) DUNNING, G. C., in *Antiq. J.*, **24** (1944), 66–8.
(54) CAROE, W. D., *Wren and Tom Tower* (1923), 102.
(55) An entry in the Cardinal College Accts for 11th Feb., 1525, shows the importance of Abingdon in the masonry business in the early 16th century:

"Pay^{d} . . . . for the carydge of the masons stuffe from Abyndon to Oxforde by Mr Feres."

(*Oxoniensia*, **8–9** (1943–4), 139. It looks as though William Jonson had been working at Abingdon before he came to be resident Master Mason, with a hand in designing work under the great Master Henry Redman at Cardinal College (now Christchurch), Oxford, in 1525.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES

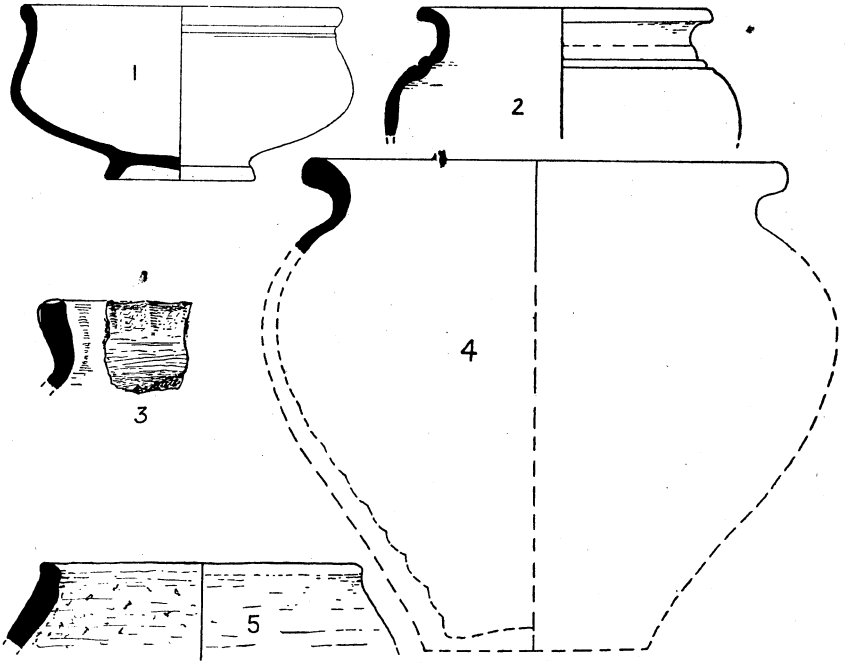


FIG. B.

Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Wallingford (1), Longworth (2, 3), and Furze Hill Camp, Little Coxwell (4, 5). Scale × ½.

Archæological Notes.

IRON AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH FINDS AT WALLINGFORD.

A trench for a new gas main was cut through the fields to the south of Wallingford, between the Wallingford branch of the railway and the Wallingford–Reading road in November 1948. Mr. E. Abery of Wallingford explored the trench for archæological material and found abundant potsherds and animal bones in the section of the trench 150–200 yds. south of Bradford's Brook. Most of the sherds which he submitted for examination were typical Iron Age "A" of the kind abundant on the valley sites such as Mount Farm, Dorchester, and Long Wittenham. No highly burnished or hæmatite-coated examples were noted, though one or two sherds of dark brownish and grey smoothed paste came from sharply carinated bowls. All these sherds were in sticky black humus filling of slight saucer shaped depressions and IV-sectioned ditches or pits. They were associated with ox and sheep bones and with concentrations of Bunter quartzite pebbles which had apparently served as hearths.

About 150 yds. south of Bradford's Brook, in the west side of the trench, sherds of a Romano-British bowl in red pottery were found by Mr. Abery (Fig. B, No. 1). Further investigation by the Reading Museum staff on November 10, discovered a further sherd of this bowl at a depth of about 1 ft., and several metatarsal bones adjacent to it. Hurried excavation revealed an extended inhumation burial, lying approximately N.W.–S.E., at a depth of 1 ft. 3 in. No other objects were associated with the bones. The skeleton lay on its back with its head turned and facing over its right shoulder.

The pot, which is 5 in. in diameter at the rim and $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, stands on a small pedestal foot. The ware is an unglazed homogeneous paste, similar to that of the rosette-stamped ware from Silchester (May, *The Pottery Found at Silchester*, pp. 129–132). The bowl is washed with a slightly darker red slip which has for the most part disappeared. It has now been restored and presented to Reading Museum, where it bears the Accession No. 135.48. Thanks are due to the Museum for facilities to publish this note.

A. E. P. COLLINS.

BRONZES AND POTTERY FROM WALLINGFORD.

Part of the Berkshire bank of the Thames almost opposite the end of Grim's Ditch, where it meets the river, at Mongewell Park, collapsed during the winter of 1948–9. The resulting freshly exposed section is of considerable archæological interest. Credit is due to Mr. Abery of Wallingford for noting the section and bringing his discoveries to the notice of Reading Museum.

At a depth of 2 ft. 6 in., beneath pale brown alluvial soil is a dark brown earthy deposit about 4–6 in. thick. This dark layer

contained many animal bones, two fragments of human skull, numerous Iron Age "A" type sherds and several bronzes. The sherds are mostly of hard baked thin ware, dark buff to black in colour, with a large amount of burnt flint gritting. One has diagonal slashings on the shoulder. Others show neat "piece-crusting" of the rim. One has a rounded everted rim typical of some of the local A2 wares. Another item of some interest is a pottery spindle-whorl exactly comparable in shape and decoration with the sherds. It approaches a biconical shape, 1½ in. in diameter with a 3/16 in. central hole; the "equator" is decorated with vertical slashings.

The bronzes comprise a complete tanged chisel, a broken socketed sickle, the tip end of a socketed spearhead and the socket end, perhaps of the same spear. The chisel, with a length of 4⅛ in., has a blade width of 1⅛ in. The socket end of the spear-head is of the pegged type with cast concentric ribbing round the mouth of the socket. The sickle is comparable with No. 8, from Taplow, in Sir Cyril Fox's "Thames" series (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, V, 1939, 236). It has been broken into three pieces, two of which (the socket and most of the blade) survive.

Several important problems are raised by this find. The association of pottery and bronzes in the same shallow deposit is undoubted. Whether this association is due to contemporaneity or to river action mingling objects of different date in the same deposit is a point to be decided. Professor C. F. C. Hawkes, who has seen the material, suggests that the worn and battered condition of the bronzes indicates that they are scrap metal, and therefore considerably earlier than the quite normal Iron Age pottery. He points to the use of Bronze Age scrap as the probable main source of supply of bronze in the Iron Age.

The potentialities of the site remain. Judging by the numerous Neolithic and Bronze Age finds from the bed of the river, it seems highly probable that a ford existed here. The Iron Age finds may be thus interpreted, but a riverside settlement, perhaps on piles, is a further possibility. It is hoped that excavation will be possible in the near future to try and settle some of these points. A more detailed report awaits such excavation. The objects have been deposited in Reading Museum, to which thanks are due for this opportunity to publish them.

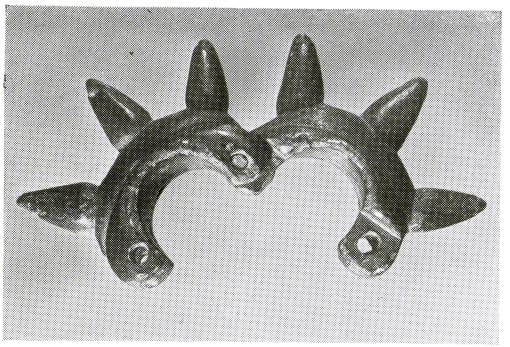
A. E. P. COLLINS.

AN UNUSUAL BRONZE FROM WANTAGE.

Plate F, G shows two views of a bronze object which was ploughed up in September 1948 at a point about 800 yds. south-east of White House Farm, on the Ridgeway south of Wantage (Nat. Grid. Ref. 41/401844). It consists of a hinged ring, retaining one hinge pin; the second pin which would have fastened

Plate F.

Plate G.



Bronze hinged ring from Wantage.

the other end is missing. Each half of the ring is also pierced with a radial hole; these two holes are not opposite each other and their purpose is unknown.

Both the period to which this object can be attributed and its function are entirely conjectural. The nearest clue to period is provided by the swelling eccentric curves of the moulding on the ring. These suggest La Tène art. The spikes are rather difficult to parallel. A bronze trumpet of the Irish Iron Age in the Ashmolean Museum has two collars equipped the one with four and the other with six similar spikes. Mr. E. M. Jope has called my attention to a bronze ring (not hinged) from an unknown Irish site, in the Belfast Museum; this is provided with spikes much longer and sharper than those on the Wantage specimen (but see Evans, *Ancient Bronze Implements*, 271–2). Despite Mr. E. T. Leeds' remarks on horse-trappings as "the last resource of the despairing archæologist" (*Celtic Ornament*, p. 113) it is difficult to suggest any other function. It is hoped that publication may bring other parallels to light.

The ring has been presented by Mr. Maslin of White House Farm to Reading Museum.

A. E. P. COLLINS.

LONGWORTH. (Nat. Grid. Ref. 41/370994). In 1948 Flints and pottery and other objects of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Mediæval date, were brought into the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, from Bow Barn and Drew's Nurseries, Longworth. Such a collection of chance finds from the cultivated surface soil of a present day settlement illustrates the long continued occupation of suitable sites in this area of North Berkshire. Longworth is one of a string of settlements, lying at about the 300 ft. contour, along the northern edge of the Corallian ridge, overlooking the Oxford Clay of the Upper Thames Valley (compare similar finds from Hinton Waldrist, *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, PP, 49–60, 1940). Fig. B, No. 3 is an Iron Age "A" type sherd with finger tip decorated rim, in rough brownish fabric. Fig. B, No. 2 is a vessel of fine smooth hard grey ware, the raised ribs suggesting a distinctly Belgic character, probably of mid 1st cent. A.D. (*Cp. Oxoniensia*, **7**, 107, Fig. 24, esp. No. 4, 1942). The grey micaceous schist hone (Fig. C, No. 2) and the decorated bone spindle-whorl (Fig. C, No. 4) are probably early mediæval. The mediæval pottery is briefly described in *Oxoniensia*, **13**, for 1948.

LITTLE COXWELL. Furze Hill Camp. (Nat. Grid. Ref. 41/289928). This camp was examined in 1948. It had been cleared of much undergrowth and showed as a well-marked single bank and ditch. Near the south end the bank had slid down the slope, and part of two pots, Fig.B, Nos. 4 and 5, were found

among the debris. No. 5 is of hard black gritty ware, and characteristic of the latest pre-Roman native ware in this region. No. 4, however, is a Roman olla of grey compact sandy ware, 3rd or 4th cent., and its presence in such a hill-fort warrants further investigation.

WITTENHAM CLUMPS (Nat. Grid. Ref. 41/568924). Iron Age pottery has been found on the S.W. side of the earthwork from rabbit holes on the outer face of the bank, and therefore probably derived from the structure of the bank. The sherds appear to be of Iron Age "A" character, including finger-pressed rims, and burnished wares as at Blewburton Hill, and part of a sharply carinated pot in brown highly burnished ware (*cp.* Long Wittenham, *Oxoniensia*, **2**, 5, Fig. 2, No. 6, 23, 1937). The structural implications may be compared with those at Blewburton (*Berks. Archaeol. J.*, **50**, (1947), 9, 26.

E. M. JOPE.

THREE LATE SAXON AND MEDIÆVAL SHARPENING-STONES FROM LONGWORTH, SUNNINGWELL AND WALLINGFORD.

The hone of grey micaceous schist from Longworth (Fig. C, No. 2) is of interest. It is additional to Mr. Dunning's most recent distribution map of hones of this material (Kenyon, *Jewry Wall, Leicester*, Soc. Antiq. Res. Rep. (1949) 231). The second sharpening stone, from Sunningwell (Fig. C, No. 3), was found with a group of 12th and 13th century pottery in 1938 (*Oxoniensia*, **3**, 168, 1938; *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, **50**, 72, 1947). This curious shaped sharpener was submitted to Dr. K. C. Dunham, Petrologist to the Geological Survey, and I am most grateful for his report, as follows:

> "*Sunningwell* (1011). A brown flaggy quartz-siltstone composed of angular quartz grains averaging 0·04 mm., with a small proportion of muscovite and with green tourmaline, rutile, zircon, leucoxene and magnetite as minor constituents. The rock is finely laminated and contains areas of brown limonite which provide a partial cement."

A normal shaped hone of pale buff fine grained sandstone from the 12th century floors at Deddington Castle, Oxon, was also examined by Dr. Dunham, and he concludes "Neither rock is a distinctive type, but it can be said definitely that neither have come from the local "solid" formations. The Estuarine series of the Northampton jurassic is a possible source, but the rocks might equally well have come from the Coal Measures farther north." Mr. Dunning found a hone of similar material at Alstoe Mount, Rutland (*Antiq. J.*, **16** (1936), 401). These sandstones of English origin are a newly recognised material in mediæval sharpening stones, which are more usually of micaceous schist,

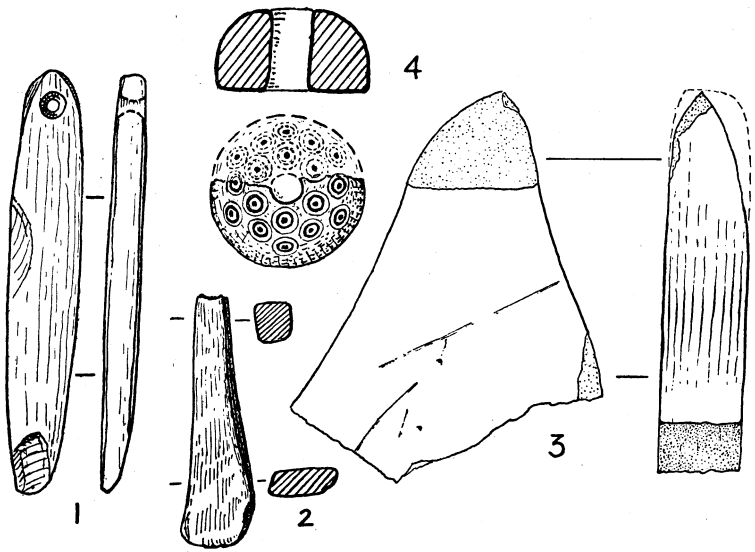


FIG. C.

Mediaeval sharpening stones and bone spindle whorl from Wallingford (1), Longworth (2, 4), and Sunningwell (3). Scale × ½

imported from Brittany or the Eifel (Rhineland), as is the Longworth example. In Devonshire, however, mediæval hones from the local culm measures are known.

The third hone (Fig. C, No. 1) is from Wallingford† and was found 4 ft. down, associated with a bone comb and a fine ivory seal of Earl Godwin, who married Canute's niece Gytha (*Brit. Mus. Anglo Saxon Guide* (1923), 111–2, Fig. 137 : T. D. Kendrick, *Late Saxon and Viking Art* (1949) Pl. XXXVIII, 2). This hone was at one time reported as being of the usual micaceous schist (*Oxoniensia*, **8-9** (1943–4), 106), but it has recently been examined in more detail, with a report from Dr. F. M. Bannister (Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist.) as follows : " Findings on a minute scraping of powder from the Anglo Saxon Whetstone : The keeper of minerals agrees with Dr. Dunham that we cannot identify a specimen of fine-grained rock like that submitted, without a thin section. An X-Ray examination of the powder, however, reveals the presence of quartz and a member of the mica family (Illite). These minerals are the two major constituents, and confirm Dr. Campbell Smith's microscopic examination. He states that the specimen appears to be a siltstone with quartz grains averaging somewhere near 0·025 mm., and also comments that the specimen has neither the composition nor the hardness to be expected for a modern whetstone." So here is yet another class of stone—siltstone—used for sharpeners at this period.

† I am most grateful to Mr. R. L. S. Bruce Mitford for sending me details of this hone, which is in the British Museum.