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23 OCTOBER, 1893 TO 16 MAY, 1894,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

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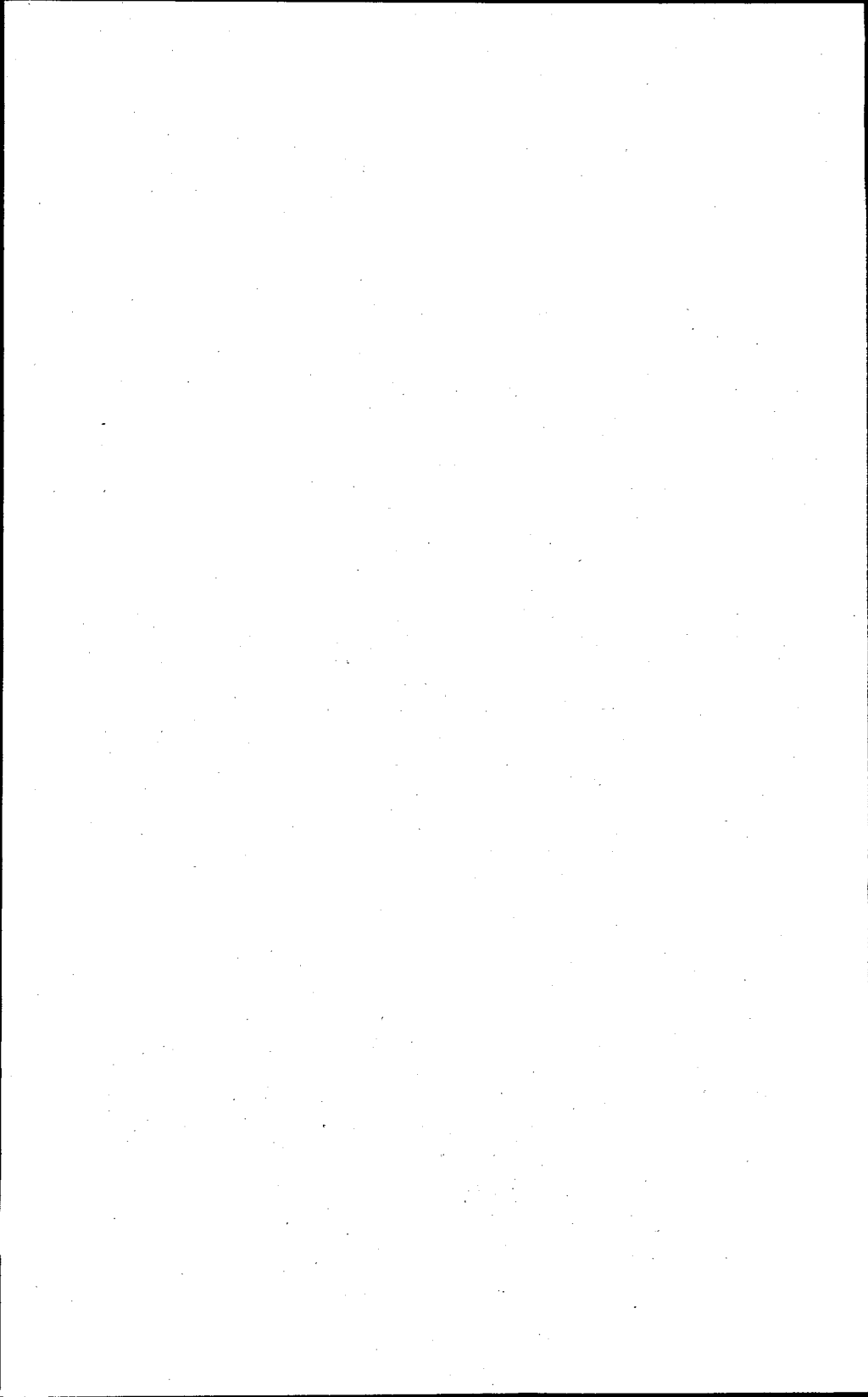
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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,
WITH
COMMUNICATIONS
MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

VOL. VIII.



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Mr WILLIAM WHITE, Sub-Librarian of Trinity College, made the following communication :

ON OBJECTS OF ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST DUG UP IN
TRINITY COLLEGE.

The objects which I have the pleasure of bringing before the Society this afternoon have all been found within the precincts of Trinity College, principally in the course of digging the foundations for an annexe to the Library; but, before attempting a description of the objects themselves, it will be best to give some account of the spot where they were found.

It is well known that the ground on which Trinity College Library stands was originally an island called Garret Hostel Green. This island is shewn in Lyne's plan of Cambridge dated 1574, part of which is here reproduced (fig. 1), and in the plan by George Braun published in 1575 or soon afterwards. This second plan was copied from the former with some clever alterations, so as to give it, at first sight, the appearance of an original work¹. Professor Willis, in his account of Michael House, has traced the history of the island from the 14th century, when the eastern boundary-ditch, called "King's Ditch" or "Common Ditch," was navigable; and has shewn that it had ceased to be navigable by 1423, when Michael House obtained leave from the Corporation of the Town to dig another ditch 12 feet wide extending from the common ditch at the end of their garden (the boundary-ditch of the Green) to the river, to enable them to bring fuel and other goods by water to their House².

The original boundary-ditch of Garret Hostel Green ran from the east end of Garret Hostel Bridge along the edge of Garret Hostel Lane to the point where there is a sharp bend; thence it crossed what is now the New Court or King's Court, curving slightly towards the east. After it

¹ These two plans are fully described in Willis and Clark, *Architectural History*, i. xcvi.—ci.

² *Ibid.* ii. 405—414.

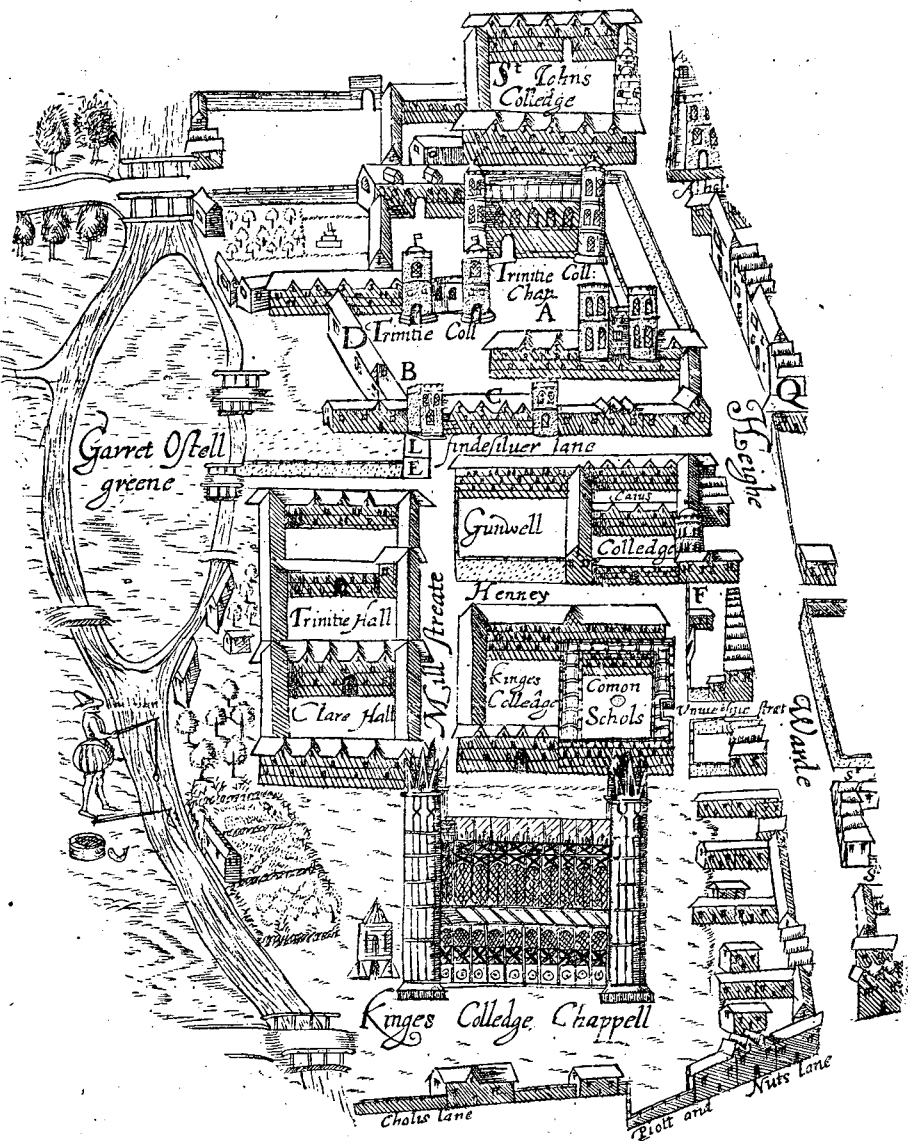


FIG. 1. Trinity College, from Lyne's plan of Cambridge, 1574. A. Kings Hall. B. Michael House. C. Physwicke Ostell. D. Gregorye Ostell. E. Garrett Ostell. L. Ouins Inn.

had entered Nevile's Court its course was nearly due north till it entered the river at a point between the Master's coach-house and the wall of his garden. The greatest width of the Green, measured from the bridge over the river through the gate of the New Court, was about 270 feet. The second ditch, made 1423, curved westwards from the point at which it left the grounds of Michael House, and entered the river opposite to the ditch which separates the walks of Trinity College from those of S. John's College.

The narrow slip of ground selected for the site of the building which is to supplement the Library is situated immediately behind the north cloister of Nevile's Court, and extends nearly its whole length, but it does not quite reach its eastern limit. As the excavation proceeded I was able to watch the soil with some attention. At the western end the workmen reached a broad band of river silt, which showed a depth of 22 feet. There can be no doubt that this must be identified with the original boundary-ditch on the east side of Garret Hostel Green. When the workmen were digging a hole in the Court directly opposite to the first staircase from the Library on the north side, to search for the water-pipe which supplies the conduit, they came upon the original bed of this arm of the river. The lower part was black silt, whilst all the upper part was made earth. From this I obtained a large quantity of Cullen (Cologne) ware, a few tobacco-pipes of early manufacture; and many bones. This stream ran obliquely across the strip of land with which we are now concerned. Not far from the rooms once in the occupation of the Rev. E. W. Blore (in the middle staircase on the north side), there was found a wooden platform laid upon piles, one of which is now in the College Library. We may perhaps be safe in assuming that an old landing stage belonging to one of the hythes has here been unearthed. Only a few yards from this spot a flight of stone steps was discovered, and at a short distance still further to the east, the foundation of a room paved with red bricks. This was reached at a depth of twelve feet from the surface, and may indicate the site of some early mansion pur-

chased to increase the site of Michael House¹. Whatever it may have been, it is certainly of an earlier date than the building of Neville's Court.

A still more interesting fact remains to be stated. In the work of preparing the ground for the foundation of the piers necessary to carry the weight of the new building on its north side, the excavation showed plainly enough that a ditch had at some time or other extended from the river in an easterly direction to the farthest point of the excavation. May I be allowed to hazard the opinion that we have here a portion of the boundary line of King's Hall, which probably extended itself in an easterly direction across the Great Court to the ground excavated for an enlargement of the buildings of the College Office, where relics were found which I shall describe hereafter? That such a ditch existed, and extended as far as the Master's Lodge, cannot I think be questioned. Should that portion of the Great Court at any time be excavated, it would be desirable and interesting to search for the extension of such a boundary line.

I will now ask you to turn your attention to the debris which these excavations have brought to light.

The oldest pottery is probably the black ware turned so as to form flat or round-rimmed globular cooking-vessels. I cannot assign any date to these. The next is a red ware jug with a pinched stand base; also a broad based vessel of similar ware with occasionally three or four finger-marks together at the base. A large, nearly perfect, unglazed jug with a roundish base may with some probability be referred to the 14th century. Its round base does not appear to be the result of constructional intention, but is due to sagging during the making. There are several large fragments of cruses or jugs with a dark green

¹ [See the plan of the site of Trinity College in the *Architectural History*. If the determination of the ditch given in the text be accurate, the arm of the river there shown as the original boundary of Garret Hostel Green should be placed further to the east. It is however possible that the ditch discovered may be that "common ditch" which bounded "Crouched Hall" and part of the site of King's Hall on the west, and was crossed by the lane leading to Dame Nicol's Hythe (*Arch. Hist.* ii. 396, 422). Ed.]

glaze irregularly run on to the upper part of the vessel; also a coarse flat handle ornamented with cuts and indents along its length. This we may assign to the 14th and 15th centuries. To a somewhat later date must be assigned the fragments of a large vessel in red ware, ornamented with figures of whales or monster fish rudely incised, so as to show the red ware through a creamy green glaze. It is evident that the vessel has been fired a second time in order to cover the whole with a blotched green glaze of a darker shade. It shows marks of the lathe, has a well turned flat rim, and a zigzag ornament running round the neck.

In addition to these more important objects will be found:

A small globular earthen bottle, with bright green glaze; two or three fragments of the later Cullen and other glazed ware of the 17th or 18th centuries; the base of a glass bottle, and a glass stopper which scarcely deserves notice, for it is certainly modern, but the workmen assured me that they saw it thrown up from a depth of 13ft. 6in. How it found its way there, unless it had rolled down from the top-soil, cannot be explained. Tobacco-pipes were scattered at all depths throughout the ground excavated, but the smallest and best were found at about 10ft. below the surface. The majority of them may be assigned to the last quarter of the 17th century, but two elfin pipes are probably of a much earlier date. At about 11ft. down, a number of metal fragments were found. Among them may be mentioned a curious padlock of spherical form, and a knife, also two Nuremberg tokens. Close to the staircase of the Master's Lodge a few ancient keys were also discovered. From all parts of the excavations, and from various depths, principally however at about 12ft., a collection of bones has been accumulated. These may be thus enumerated: (1) Horse. (2) Ox. These specimens indicate for the most part a short-horned breed; but one horn has the larger flat core. (3) Pig. The bones belong to the unimproved breed with a long narrow snout and flat forehead, like those found in the Fens. (4) Sheep, represented by a species having a re-curved flat-fronted horn-core. (5) Dog. We have two skulls which appear to have belonged

to a large wolf-like animal. (6) The goose and the cock are the only birds of which traces remain. Of the first we have a leg-bone; while the latter is easily recognised by the spur which is still attached. It may be seen that some of the bones are splintered, and show teeth-marks like bones gnawed by large carnivora. These were found in the lowest peaty silt.

Having thus brought to your notice the chief objects found in the Library excavations, I will now direct your attention to some more specimens of a similar kind to those already described, while in their company will be observed others of greater intrinsic value. All however have been found within the boundaries of Trinity College, and some have been on exhibition in the Library.

During the past year an extension of the buildings connected with the College Office between the Great Gate and the Chapel was undertaken. In preparing the foundations numerous fragments of pottery were unearthed, consisting, for the most part, of handles and other portions of jugs, such as have generally been supposed to date from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century. There is, however, one notable exception, which may be described as a long shallow vessel of unglazed red ware with a lip at one end and a foot to steady or to lift one side. The part remaining is 15 inches long by nine inches in breadth and two inches in height. This unique specimen may have been a dish for mixing or for cooking food, or for milk. It will no doubt be remembered that the ground in which these last named objects were found formed part of the site of King's Hall.

In 1892 a subway was made close under the windows of the Combination Room. From the soil which was thrown out, a considerable number of curling pins, made of pipeclay, were picked out. These date from the time when wigs were in fashion with all English gentlemen. The curls with which the wigs were adorned were produced by twisting the hair tightly round a number of these pins. In order to obtain a crisp and tidy appearance the wig thus prepared was placed for a time in a slow oven and carefully baked. It may not be generally

known that Trinity College retained a special barber on the premises for its own private needs. A matter of such importance required the attention of one skilled in the art. It is within my own recollection that the quarters assigned to that individual were situated exactly on the spot where are the rooms at present occupied by Mr Dew Smith, adjoining Bishop's Hostel.

Perhaps I may here be allowed to relate an anecdote, which I had many years ago from the lips of the late Mr Charles Claydon, the respected butler of Trinity College, since it is *à propos* of the tonsor and his curling-pins. He said that in his early days it was the custom of the College tonsor to make his rounds about nine o'clock every evening, in order to collect the dishevelled head-gear of the various resident Fellows. After dressing the wigs in the manner already described, it was his duty to return each one to its proper owner in time for early chapel in the morning. On one particular occasion, however, he was unable to do so, for some wag had during the night entered the tonsor's shop, and cleared off all the curled wigs and peruked coverings of the grave and reverend seniors. The following morning service was attended by an unusually large concourse of undergraduates, eagerly watching for the advent of the learned heads of the Society—but never a don appeared. It is uncertain whether the wigs were ever recovered; and who can say that the curling-pins now found were not buried with the lost wigs?

When a drain was being laid from the North Paddock into the ditch dividing the grounds of Trinity from those of S. John's, a large number of old-fashioned tobacco-pipes were found in the soil, under the chestnut trees. Others have been brought to light when digging under the oriel of the Hall in Nevile's Court. Some of them are probably of the time of William III., others somewhat earlier. A Bellarmine was found whilst laying a drain in the Lecture Room yard in 1868. A pilgrim's bottle, a silver penny of Edward I., and a Lancastrian badge of the date of about 1399—1405 were found in the Chapel while digging for the foundation of the organ-screen in 1870; and a

globular glass bottle, at a depth of 6 feet, near to the Library door.

When the houses, shops, and other buildings were removed about 1857, to make way for Dr Whewell's Courts, a considerable number of objects of archæological interest were discovered; but owing to the absence of any steady attention on the part of those conversant with their value, they were for the most part sold or re-buried by the workmen. A few things, however, were secured for the Library. Among the pieces of pottery may be mentioned: two jugs, with thumb-pinched bases, one with a handle and lip, the other without either; a drinking cup, ornamented by the pressure of the full length of the thumb; an ornamental square floor tile; a plate showing the earliest stage of Italian ware, very rudely painted. Upon the site of the gateway facing Jesus Lane, a beautiful fibula, studded with rubies, and of Saxon workmanship, was unearthed—whether found in a grave, or in company with other treasures, cannot now be ascertained; for, after passing into private hands, it was presented to the College Library by the late Mr Alderman Elliot Smith. The last, and perhaps the most valuable find on this ground, was a very interesting set of five gold rings, each set with a precious stone. These also were given by Mr Smith. These rings were found upon the right hand of a skeleton, one upon each finger. It would be extremely interesting to identify the individual who wore them, if that were possible. The presence of a thumb ring, set with a large blue sapphire, may perhaps help to give a clue as to his rank.

We know that it was customary for a Bishop to be buried with the pontifical ring which had been placed on his right hand at his consecration. In 1194, a decree of Pope Innocent III. required that this ring should be of solid gold, and set with a plain precious stone. A sapphire was frequently chosen for this purpose. Instances of such rings being discovered in episcopal tombs, may be cited as follows: At Durham (within the Chapterhouse) three were found in 1874:

1. In the tomb of Ralph Flambard, Bishop from 1099 to 1128.

2. In the tomb of Geoffrey Rufus, Bishop from 1133 to 1140.

3. In the tomb of William de S. Barbe, Bishop from 1143 to 1153.

These are now deposited in the Chapter Library at Durham.

There is also a large sapphire ring among the treasures of the Roman Catholic College at Ushaw, which is said to have been found in the tomb of S. Cuthbert in 1537. Although certified by numerous parchments as a genuine relic of the Saint, it is generally believed to be of a much later date. As his body was carried from place to place, it is possible that it might have been placed on his hand at a late interment.

At Chichester there are two similar specimens—one found in a tomb supposed to be that of S. Hilary, Bishop of that See from 1146 to 1169; but there appears to be considerable doubt as to its belonging to that Bishop, as the ring is thought to be of a later date. The other was found in the tomb of a Bishop unknown.

At Winchester the ring of William of Wykeham, Bishop from 1367 to 1404, and another of an earlier date, are preserved.

At Hereford is to be found another example, which was taken from the tomb of John Stanbery, Bishop from 1453 to 1474.

Perhaps from these premises we may conclude that the individual unknown, who found burial on the aforementioned spot, belonged to the episcopal order, or occupied the position of a mitred Abbot.

The paper was illustrated by a large exhibition of objects, and was followed by a short discussion, in which the Chairman, Baron A. von Hügel, Professor Hughes, and Mr Searle took part.

Professor HUGHES exhibited a small square piece of wood, coated with carbonate of lime, found in a cavity in a large stone in the ruins of Castell-y-Mynach in Glamorganshire. This, he said, had been given to him as a sample of the *Dimai Bren*, or wooden halfpenny, which survived only in such expressions as "It's not worth a *Dimai Bren*," just as the English say "It's not

worth a brass farthing." The *Dimai Bren* might be an entirely imaginary thing, or the expression might refer to some debased coinage, which had become proverbial for worthlessness. If the wooden halfpenny had ever had a material existence, he submitted that this might be a solitary example, which owed its preservation to the custom of putting coins into a hollow formed in the foundation-stone of a building. He had heard that the mould for coins was sometimes made of hard wood, and suggested the possibility of these being the concealed appliances of a forger. In the specimen exhibited it required some imagination to detect any marks at all resembling the stamp on a coin, but he was drawing partly on the information he received from Mr William Thomas, mason, of Llantrisant, Glamorgan, from whom he had procured it.

Mr SEARLE said that Wales had never had a coinage of its own.

MONDAY, *November 27th*, 1893.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

F. J. H. JENKINSON, M.A., President, in the chair.

The Laws of the Society, as revised by the Council, were proposed and carried, as follows:

I. This Society shall be called THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

II. The object of the Society shall be, to encourage the study of History, Architecture, and Antiquities, especially in connection with the University, Town, and County of Cambridge; to meet for the discussion of these subjects; to print information relating to them; and to collect antiquities or promote their preservation *in situ*.

III. The subscription of each member of the Society shall be One Guinea annually, which shall be due on the first day of January in each year; payment of this sum shall entitle a member to all the publications of the Society issued during that year. A member elected before the first day of July in any year shall be liable to pay the subscription for that year.

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