
Book Reviews:

The Horningsea Roman Pottery Industry in Context.

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The Horningsea Roman Pottery Industry in Context.
Jeremy Evans, Stephen Macaulay & Phillip Mills
East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 162, 2017.
Cambridge: Oxford Archaeology East, 172pp + CD, 55
figs, 29 tables & 5 plates. £25. ISBN-978 1 907588 09 9

This monograph provides a vital contribution not only for those with a specific interest in Roman pottery or kilns, but to the understanding of a major industry set in the economic heartland of Roman Britain on the southern edge of the fens, with water-borne transport links that extend towards every compass point in the province. The presence of the Horningsea industry was initially identified by Walker (1912) and published in *PCAS*, but the potential scale of the industry was first recognised (and championed) by Jeremy Evans, whose research on the industry, along with important fabric descriptions and illustrations, was published in the *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* (Evans 1991). The project to produce the definitive account of the industry has thus been long in gestation, but this analysis of archive material and assemblages recovered by more recent developer-funded archaeological investigations is a first-class example of synthetic research, and has resulted in an outstanding contribution to ceramic studies and multiple research themes on Roman Britain.

Chapter 1 provides a succinct and effective introduction to the setting of the Horningsea industry within Roman Cambridgeshire, particularly with reference to rivers, topography and geology, and neatly summarises a general understanding of the administrative and economic centres with the largest impact on the industry, though without getting bogged down into the debates that may surround them. The aims, objectives and methodology are also clearly laid out, directing readers into the realm of pottery studies with an easily accessible concordance of fabric and form types crucial to later chapters (and the

supplementary CD). Chapter 2 provides a gazetteer-like summary of the major sites and assemblages that contribute to this volume, which, while not flowing into the core results of the study, connects perfectly with the primary evidence that underpins subsequent discussion and provides a 'feel' for the nature of the evidence and the context of its recovery.

Chapter 3 constitutes the heart of this book. It combines the characterisation of the kiln technology, neatly illustrated with site plans and interpretative models, with the presentation of the fabric and form typology for the vessels produced by the Horningsea industry. Each entry in the extensively illustrated catalogue of form types comes complete with a summary of the evidence for its chronology and currency (and also with useful form codes that will allow for consistency and alignment over future reports, this being a much-pursued agenda within pottery studies). The typology fills a critical gap in our knowledge of the principal producer of a major artefact type in a region with a very high density of archaeological investigations. The chapter concludes with a discussion of the dating and distribution of Horningsea wares. This highlights the longevity of the industry, and also why it is difficult to compare it to apparent competitors (the industry is a quite uniquely defined coarse ware industry with some distinctive qualities, yet remains conservative in many aspects over much of the duration of the Roman period). Functional analysis based on vessel class (dish, jar etc.) is also presented, and raises the potential for analysis not undertaken by the analysis. For example, given such volume of data, it might have been interesting to analyse the size and volume of vessels and the extent to which these factors impact on our recognition of 'services', and how the pottery may relate to the transportation or storage of goods. However, this is a minor gap in what is otherwise an exceptionally high-quality typology and account of the Horningsea industry.

The in-depth consideration of the industry is continued in Chapter 4, which discusses the development of production at Horningsea in relation to the supply of pottery to sites within the Fenland and adjacent regions. While pottery specialists are likely to refer to the typology in the previous chapter most extensively in the databases of their own pottery assemblages, this chapter will arguably make a more important contribution to specialists' discussions and conclusions. The volume concludes with Chapter 5, which continues to place the Horningsea industry in context, but also looks beyond the industry's regional setting to take in discussion of wider pottery supply and factors such as environmental change. While this wide-ranging discussion appears in places to divert the focus of the volume from its primary objectives, it serves to highlight just how important an industry Horningsea is, with its impact stretching beyond its own region to the east coast and major urban and administrative centres. As a result of this volume, vessels from Horningsea are likely to be increasingly recognised beyond the core study area of Cambridgeshire and East Anglia, potentially allowing future researchers to build on this discussion of the industry in a regional context.

The authors are to be congratulated for providing a much-needed and well-structured pottery typology for the Horningsea industry and offering a model for the study of a regional pottery industry. In short, the volume makes a very important contribution to the study of pottery and East Anglia in the Roman period.

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References

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Walker, F G, 1912 'Roman pottery kilns at Horningsea', *PCAS XVI.2–3*, 115.

Jonas Moore's Mapp of the Great Levell of the Fenms, 1658.
With accompanying text by Frances Willmoth and Elizabeth Stazicker.
Cambridgeshire Record Society
ISBN: 978 0 904323 25 2

Jonas Moore's map, surveyed in 1658, is the most important cartographic evidence that we have for the landscape of the 'Great Level' or 'Bedford Level' – the extensive district of peat fens which extends through much of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Lincolnshire and Huntingdonshire – as it was immediately after the completion of the great drainage schemes, led by the Earl and Duke of Bedfordshire and largely directed by Cornelius Vermuyden, of the mid seventeenth century. This excellent new publication by the Cambridgeshire Records Society comprises a folder containing a full colour reproduction of the map, in sixteen sections; a CD with high defini-

tion PDFs of the same, together with images of subsequent editions of the map published in 1684 and 1706; and a small but highly informative book of 120 pages, written by Frances Willmoth and Elizabeth Stazicker.

The maps will prove an invaluable resource for historical geographers, economic historians, landscape historians and others, and this reviewer's only reservation here concerns the character of the images on the CD: it would have been better if these had been in the form of JPGS or TIFFS, as this would have made it much easier to 'stretch' them, and use them, with ArcGIS or other mapping software. The accompanying book is also extremely useful. Willmoth, in an extended and engagingly written essay, provides a succinct and up-to-date summary of the history of the draining of the 'Great Level'; a description of the career of Jonas Moore, the map's surveyor; as well as an account of the map itself, the context of its creation and its publication history. All this is followed by Elizabeth Staziker's scholarly analysis of the coats of arms which are arranged around the map's margins, with biographies of their owners – the principal officials of and investors in the Bedford Level Corporation. This last section of the book, which continues over some 85 pages and thus forms its largest section, is included 'as a reference source for local historians wishing to know more about particular landowners', although it is also intended for a wider audience wanting information about 'the drainage investors as a group: their social status, their political involvements, their other economic activities and the family and personal links that brought many of them into the project in the first place' (p. 39). Unlike Willmoth's essay, this section is not a light read, but then it is principally intended as a work of reference which will, indeed, prove very useful to scholars with a wide range of interests.

This is an excellent publication which will be a vital addition to the bookshelves of all those interested in the history of Cambridgeshire and, perhaps to a lesser extent, the neighbouring counties. Some minor criticisms might be made, in addition to those concerning the form of the CD images. In particular, very little is said in Willmoth's text about Moore's probable surveying methods, or about the practise of seventeenth-century surveying more generally. This is important because it affects our understanding of the accuracy of the map, a subject which is dealt with in a rather brief and cursory fashion, with the author simply encouraging local historians and others to test this by examining how their own particular areas are depicted. Overall, however, this is one of the most useful publications relating to the Cambridgeshire landscape to have appeared for many years. The price for those who are not members of the Cambridgeshire Record Society – £36 – may seem a little steep (members pay the more reasonable £21.50). But this is a purchase which nobody with a serious interest in Fenland history can possibly avoid making.

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Gonville & Caius College: The Statutes of the Founders, edited by Michael Pritchard

Woodbridge, The Boydell Press. 2017. 640pp, 15 black & white plates. Hardback £60. ISBN 978-1-78327-268-6

Michael Pritchard's monumental edition of the statutes successively provided to Gonville & Caius College by Edmund Gonville, William Bateman and John Caius is a fitting testimony to the college's uniqueness in having three founders and some of the lengthiest and most detailed college statutes ever written. As Pritchard explains in the Preface (p. xv) his original intention was to produce a translation of John Caius's statutes (first drafted in 1558) to mark the five hundredth anniversary of Caius's birth in 2010, but it became clear that publishing Caius's statutes without the earlier statutes of Gonville (1348) and Bateman (1353) would be an omission. The sheer detail of Caius's statutes (pp. 110–279), which remained in force until 1860, overshadows their sparse medieval antecedents. The explanation for this is that John Caius, uniquely among founders of colleges, had been a fellow of his own college (p. 3). Caius therefore poured all his personal experience of the workings of the college into an exhaustive set of statutes that proved a burden to subsequent generations who had to live with such excessive detail. Yet we ought to be grateful that Caius did so, since the statutes provide a valuable insight into the inner workings of a sixteenth-century Cambridge college.

After a detailed introduction with analysis of both the historical context of the statutes and the manuscripts, Pritchard's edition presents the statutes of Gonville, Bateman and Caius in the original Latin with a facing English translation. The second part of the volume, containing contributions from Christopher Brooke and Richard Duncan-Jones, provides more detailed historical discussion of the college's three founders and the nature of their foundations, along with coverage of some of the more controversial elements of the statutes. The volume's appendices are an especially valuable addition to the history of the college and the University of Cambridge, since they reproduce some key documents regarding complaints brought against Caius and his statutes (including the petitions brought against the more eccentric provisions of Dr Caius as late as the 1850s).

One of those eccentric provisions, and perhaps the best known, was the so-called 'Norfolk preference' (more accurately a 'Norfolk and Suffolk preference'). Both Edmund Gonville and John Caius were Norfolk men, while Bateman was the bishop of Norwich, and the 'preference' can be traced to a stipulation in Bateman's statutes that no member of the college should litigate against the diocese of Norwich and should promote the welfare of the diocese and cathedral (p. 69). A clause giving preference to individuals from the diocese of Norwich in obtaining fellowships was later inserted in the fifteenth century (p. 83). In Caius's statutes it became a requirement for fellows to have been born in Norfolk or Suffolk, the two coun-

ties under the jurisdiction of the diocese of Norwich (p. 399).

The contrasting character of the three sets of statutes is clearly apparent in this edition, with Edmund Gonville emerging as the more sensible of the three founders. Gonville's statutes are the briefest and most practical, since 'he accepted the impossibility of a founder's foreseeing every possibility' (p. 5). However, so swiftly did the statutes of William Bateman follow Gonville's that there is some doubt that Gonville's were ever put into practice. Yet Bateman's statutes are bedeviled by doubt concerning the extent to which they were really written for Trinity Hall rather than Gonville Hall, resulting in conflicting versions of Bateman's statutes (p. 9). Pritchard is acid in his assessment of Caius's statutes, observing that 'he appears to have sought no advice or assistance from others', and that Caius's moralising is 'more suited to a personal diary than to a set of statutes' (p. 9). The implication is clear – Caius was an arrogant founder who imagined himself in possession of a God-like capacity to anticipate any eventuality. Furthermore, Caius's statutes are liberally sprinkled with self-conscious learning in the form of quotations from Classical and contemporary authors. Caius's statutes are a remarkable document of English Renaissance humanism in their own right, quite apart from their significance to the college and to the history of Cambridge University, and Pritchard has done scholars a valuable service in making them available in translation. Similarly, scholars will have cause to thank Pritchard for his careful unravelling of the statutes' complex manuscript tradition (especially with regard to Bateman's statutes).

The standard of Pritchard's editing and translation is exemplary, as is the quality of the index, although the absence of a bibliography is regrettable (some works are cited that do not appear in the list of abbreviations at the front of the book). However, no more complete account of the legislative history of a Cambridge college could be imagined, and Gonville & Caius is fortunate indeed to be furnished with such a volume. Pritchard's book will be an enduring and important work of scholarship, of lasting value to scholars well beyond the field of educational history.

Francis Young

Durovigutum: Roman Godmanchester.

H J M Green (compiled, collated and edited by Tim Malim). Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 33 (2017) xxi, 460pp. Paperback £50. ISBN 978 78491 750 0.

Godmanchester, the Roman town of *Durovigutum*, sits at an important junction of Roman roads and the crossing of the river Ouse and forms one of a chain of 'small Roman towns' including Cambridge (perhaps called *Durolipons*) to the south and *Durobrivae* (Water Newton) to the north which straddle Ermine Street and the Roman road to Cambridge and Colchester.

Godmanchester's Roman archaeology owes almost its entire detail to the work of Michael Green who worked at numerous sites in and around the town from 1951 onwards. Michael trained as an architect but became an Inspector of Ancient Monuments so his work at Godmanchester was only a part time vocation. This architectural training is reflected in the detailed drawings, and meticulous maps and plans that were produced for the town's excavation sites. In the preface to the book Michael recalls first working with a Mr Honeybun who was digging a trench in Pinfold Lane within the Roman town walls... "when Mr Honeybun retired I picked up his shovel and carried on for almost 70 years digging trenches 3 feet x 6 feet". Michael also conveys in his preface how he was very conscious of telling the story, both for the academic audience and for the modern people of Godmanchester, of the lives of the people who had lived within the Roman town and this intimate link with the past is prevalent within his published works. Sadly, although Michael saw the proofs of the book and drafted his preface, he died in January 2018 – the book was published at around the time of his funeral.

The present volume is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the excavations at Godmanchester and sets out the number of sites that Michael Green excavated, some 25 in total. This part deals thematically with the early evidence for the Claudian fort, the town's later development with public buildings and then reviews its significance within the broader local economy. Then follows a section of the book devoted to specialist areas such as pottery and the excavation of local kilns, coins, faunal remains and the excavations of a hoard of jewellery. There then follows an exhaustive list of appendices, compiled largely from the interim reports which Michael wrote at the end of each seasons work.

The aim of the book is set out by Tim Malim who is credited with 'compiling, collating and editing' the present volume. Malim has attempted to draw together all of the published material from national and local journals and then link them with the unpublished site notebooks details, with the added task of locating precisely the former trenched areas and giving some modern precision to the actual Roman town layout. The text thus is largely Michael Green's work with some later specialist inputs and heavy editing and collating by Malim to provide some form of progression and order to the final work. Some of the illustrations are simply reproduced from already published accounts of the work while some are photocopied directly from Michael's site books and early drawings. This just about works but some of the photocopying has not reproduced very clearly in the presented illustrations; in addition in some there is a simple lack of Figure referencing and in some a lack of even a description as to what the Figure shows (see for example the section drawing on p. 335). There is also the curious use of the same coloured illustration on p. 126 (Figure 5.4) and p. 162 (Figure 7.4).

This overall approach to presenting the data from the various sites has worked – up to a point. Most

of what is published here has already been in print for some time, admittedly often in publications that are either obscure or no longer available to the general reader. This re-publication of early papers on the excavations in a single volume will be useful and certainly puts the detail regarding Godmanchester's Roman past back into the debate. The specialist inputs in part two of the volume also provide a useful review of the range of material that came from the excavations. However, this reviewer is unsure how detailed and 'up-dated' some of these sections are. For example the section on 'Samian, coarse pottery, kilns and catalogues' (Chapter 8), which runs to 80 pages is difficult to navigate, in that it is difficult to match individual vessels against excavation contexts. It is also odd that the terminology describing the published vessels has not been updated. For example vessels described as a 'milking pan with graffito' and a 'milk 'style-dish' process' (p. 225) are as Michael would have perhaps described them 30+ years ago and have little relevance in today's terminology. This reviewer would also have liked to have seen an attempt to bring the whole of what has been published about Godmanchester up to date and set within the framework of modern thinking on Romano-British small towns and the countryside in which those towns were set. Alas there is no attempt to up-date Michael's views of the Roman situation in the town – which is a pity.

What the book does highlight however, is the wealth of finds, their richness and variety, that come from Godmanchester. Small Roman towns were studied in detail in the 1970s and it was at this period that Michael contributed to two major publications (Rodwell and Rowley 1975, Todd 1978). Both are reproduced here. Now there is renewed interest again in dealing with the functions of small towns and their chronology. This book is thus timely, both as a fitting memorial to Michael Green and his work within Godmanchester, in many cases rescuing sites that would have otherwise been obliterated without any record, but also as a book providing a mine of data which hopefully can be woven into the renewed debate about Romano-British small towns.

Stephen Upex

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