

towns of the river Ouse in Medieval times.<sup>4</sup>

A number of other imported wares have been recognised from Bedford Museum's collections. These are better documented. They include stone-ware jugs originating in Raeren and Frenchen, from more than one site in Bedford. The widening of Bedford Bridge in 1939 produced much pottery including a fragmentary altar vase of south Netherland Maiolica,<sup>5</sup> and the museum collections include other imports including some from Italy. These are all however later than the suspected thirteenth century dating which has been given to the Malines type jugs. They do however confirm the presence of imported Medieval pottery at Bedford and suggest that the two Malines type jugs in Bedford Museum are local finds.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mr F. W. Kuhlicke for study facilities at Bedford Museum, and for permission to publish these two pots. I also wish to thank Mr Hurst for pointing these out to me and for parallels and information.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>They have no number; they are 20.5 cm. and 16.4 cm. high

<sup>2</sup>Information from Mr J. G. Hurst; see Hurst, J. G., Dunning, G. C., and Barton, K. J., 'List of Saxon and Medieval Imports into Britain', cyclostyled, January 1968.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>Carus-Wilson, E. 'The Medieval trade of the ports of the Wash', *Med.Arch.* 6-7, (1962-63), 182-202.

<sup>5</sup>To be published by Mr Hurst.

## Bedfordshire Archaeology, 1966-69

Compiled by DAVID H. KENNETT

THE SUMMARIES below are intended to serve as a guide to current fieldwork and excavations being conducted in Bedfordshire. Important isolated finds and museum acquisitions are also included. The compiler wishes to thank all those who have contributed notes for this section and hopes that future work and finds will be brought to his notice for subsequent issues of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.

### BEDFORD TO CAMPTON

A possible alignment of a Roman road between Campton, near Shefford, and Bedford, is being investigated by G. J. and M. E. Dring. This is an alternative route to that suggested by the Victories, *Roman Roads in the S.E. Midlands* (1963).

A section of the road, ditched on its west side, and with side-way, was observed during pipe-laying operations at Silver End near Haynes, Bedford (TL/102425). A terrace-way, on the alignment descends the hills to the south of Bedford (TL/094434). The route is well-marked near Cotton End, Bedford, by a low but defined 'agger' which passes through a wide scatter area of Romano-British pottery at TL/073458. (Dring—unpublished). This 'agger' probably marked the boundary between the Hundreds of Wixamtree and Redbournstoke in 1086 A.D. and later became the Parish boundary between the Parishes of Wilstead and Eastcotts and Elstow and Eastcotts.

Immediately south of Bedford a large 'agger',

sectioned at TL/061476 to reveal a well-defined metallated surface, passes the late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and pottery kiln site at TL/058476. The alignment enters Bedford at St. John's Street. Investigation continues.

### BEDFORD: various

D. H. Kennett catalogued St Neots ware found in the 1930s (*Beds.Arch.J.* 3 (1966) 19-21; above p 17-25). Much of the material had no identifiable provenance, but the following sites produced sherds:

#### High Street:

Barclays Bank  
Westminster Bank  
Leonards  
The Silver Grill  
Roses Extension, 1936  
Taylor Brawn Ltd.

#### Silver Street:

Meakers Cellar  
Old Jail site.

#### St Peter's Street:

The Old House  
Royal Insurance Company  
Rogers Porters shop  
Granada cinema.

#### Offa Road

Cauldwell Priory  
St Mary's Street.

Owing to limitations of space, the general conclusions arrived at from the study have not been included in this issue of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*. As these are to some extent out of date, being completed in April 1966, a typescript has been placed in Bedford Museum for general reference use (ed.).

#### BEDFORD: CAULDWELL AND ST. JOHN'S STREETS 1967. TL/051493

A rescue excavation for M.P.B.W. and the Bedford Archaeological Society was directed by David Baker in July 1967, with the kind permission and co-operation of Bedford Borough Council and Westminster Bank Ltd. Trial trenches at right angles to the two streets in the area between them were intended to sample occupation within the area of the late Saxon and medieval town, bounded by the Kingsditch to the south of the river. No medieval structures were positively identified fronting on to either main street due to extensive recent disturbances. A series of pits were excavated, some of them medieval, containing St Neots and Early Medieval wares. (*Beds.Arch.J.* forthcoming).

#### BEDFORD: CASTLE TL/052497

A small trial trench was supervised by David Baker at a point possibly just inside the north outer bailey wall, where a car park ramp was due to destroy the stratigraphy. Permission was kindly granted by Bedford Borough Council. An occupation layer was found at about 2 ft. 6 in. depth, containing St Neots ware, perhaps contemporary with the Castle, whose demolition was ordered by Henry III in 1224.<sup>1</sup> The trench was at 4 ft. 6 in. and still in archaeological layers when the available time ended. It is earnestly hoped that, as a result of this promising start, the archaeological investigation of this most important castle site can be integrated with redevelopment programmes.

<sup>1</sup>H. M. Colvin *et. al.*: *History of the King's Works*, ii 558-9.

#### BLETSOE. TL/020584

The North Bedfordshire Archaeological Society are conducting excavations on the Roman villa.

#### BOZEAT. SP/896600

D. N. Hall excavated a circular Roman building, diameter 50 ft., with stone footings and internal walls. Its pottery suggests a third century date, but the function of the building is uncertain. No votive objects were found, thus ruling out a shrine. Use as a tomb or a dovecote have been suggested. No animal droppings were found but there were parts of a cremation. (*Beds.Arch.J.* forthcoming).

#### CAMPTON. See Bedford

#### CHICKSANDS PRIORY. TL/122393

J. Dyer investigated an unstratified area on this Gilbertine Priory, producing fourteenth century pottery, when five skeletons were discovered.

#### DUNSTABLE

The Manshead Archaeological Society continued rescue investigation of sites in the Dunstable area and work on the Roman levels below the Dominican Priory of Dunstable. (*Manshead Magazine* 15-19, 1965-69). An important find at the latter is a swan jewel of the first half of the fifteenth century, of gold with white enamel. (*Report of the Trustees of the British Museum*, 1966, 31, pl 2; J. Cherry in *J.B.A.A.* 32 (1969)).

#### EATON SOCON. TL/170590

Two stone Roman coffins were discovered in 1966. One was retained by the farmer, the other is in Bedford Museum (*P.Camb.Ant.Soc.* 62 (1969)).

#### ELSTOW. TL/058476

Excavations by G. Dring at an Iron Age (Belgic) and Romano-British settlement near Elstow enter their third season. The following phases of occupation have been established:

- I. Iron Age C (Belgic) ciii. 1-43 A.D.
- II. Romano-Belgic. 43-c. 90 A.D.
- III. Romano-British (R-B). c. 90-c. 120 A.D.
- IV. R-B. c. 250-c. 300 A.D.

From ditches, gullies and pits of Phases I and II examples of butt and double-cordoned beakers and a fragment of painted ware (red pattern on a cream slip) are noteworthy.

Pottery kilns, located during proton magnetometer surveys by Dr M. J. Aitken, Research Laboratory for History of Art and Archaeology, Oxford, have been examined. The kilns are of up-draught construction and were active during Phases II/III and IV. Pottery from Phase II/III kilns (four kilns) embody vigorous cordons and pronounced girth grooves, features typical of late Belgic forms suggesting post-conquest Roman supervision or influence of indigenous potters. Pot types from a kiln of Phase IV are, in general, similar to those manufactured in the earlier kilns, but as a group are weaker in profile and, where present, grooves and cordons are devolved.

Whether there was continuity of occupation between Phases III and IV is not yet known. Excavation continues. (*Beds.Arch.J.* forthcoming).

#### ELSTOW: ABBEY

Excavations by D. Baker continue at the Benedictine Nunnery (see above p 27-41).

ICKWELL. TL/152455

The glass jug, like Isings type 55b, but with rounded profile and plain body (no corrugations) of deep purple colour, has been traced in Bedford Museum, with the two ungentaria and iron lamp stand from the Romano-British burial found in 1845.

KEMPSTON. TL/031474 and others

The watercolour notebook of T. G. Elger, now in Bedford Museum, was found to contain a sketch of a collared urn found at Kempston in 1888 and now lost. (*Beds.Arch.J.* forthcoming).

Pots of the 1913 Belgic grave circle have been located in Bedford Museum, together with other Belgic pottery, including types not hitherto recognised in Bedfordshire. (*Beds.Arch.J.* forthcoming).

D. H. Kennett in 1968 completed a survey of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery found in 1863-4. (Summary in *Bedfordshire Times* for 27 March, 4 April and 11 April 1969.)

LUTON

The British Museum in 1963 acquired a saucer brooch and a cremation urn, both finds from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery found in 1925 (*Ant.J.* 8 (1928) 177-192) which had remained in private possession.

M. Brown catalogued the brasses of Luton Parish Church, 1968-69.

MAULDEN: Ruxox Farm. TL/051363

The Ampthill Archaeological Society under K. Fadden are excavating at Ruxox Farm, Maulden, in an attempt to establish the extent and period of a Romano-British settlement in the area. A considerable scatter of second and fourth century pottery and coins have been turned up by the plough over 30 acres. Isolated finds of pipe clay figurines, bronze pins, fibulae, intaglios and wall plaster indicate a large and rich occupation, but to date excavations have only revealed cobbled floors, with some evidence of decayed sandstone walls. To assist digging a Resistivity Meter Survey has been taken over several acres.

RAVENS DEN. TL/078544

In February 1969 the nave and aisle floors of Ravensden Church were replaced, and this allowed a thorough investigation of the early building stages by D. N. Hall, G. Dring and J. B. Hutchings. The oldest feature was an elongated pit, predating the first building. It contained pottery of the twelfth or possibly eleventh centuries. Soon after this pit was filled the first church was built. It formed a rectangle 30 ft. by 15 ft., corresponding

approximately to the present nave. The door was 4.5 ft. wide, near the present south entrance. The long walls were 4.5 ft. thick and built entirely of flint and pebbles. The floor was earth covered with a thin layer of sand. According to the layer of burning, found in most parts and particularly in the south-west corner, the building suffered extensive fire damage before the floor level had built up very far. The south wall had to be rebuilt and still survives as the nave south wall. Immediately on the burned floor level, and therefore contemporary with the rebuilding, was a stonework base 4.5 ft. square. The position, at the centre of the west end makes it likely that it was the site of the later twelfth century font. Also on the same level at the north-east was a heap of subsoil approximately 2 ft. by 6 ft. aligned east-west. It is likely that this was the base of a stone tomb or monument.

In the thirteenth century the north aisle was added, and the nave north wall knocked down. The later floor layers of earth and sand spread over the footings of this wall. The tower and chancel may have been added at the same time. (*Beds.Arch.J.* forthcoming).

SANDY. TL/185480

J. Dyer with the Archaeological Group of the Putteridge Bury College of Education investigated a Mesolithic site at Sandy Warren (*Beds. and Hunts. Naturalist Trust Report*, 1968).

The group of Roman bronze bowls found in 1856 were found to be Gallo-Roman imports of the fourth century. (*Jb.R.G.Z. Mainz* forthcoming).

Finds from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery found in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries now known are 12 pots (4 British Museum; 5 Bedford Museum; 1 Mus.Arch.&Eth. Cambridge; 2 Ashmolean Museum, Oxford), bone pin and two knives (Bedford Museum) and silver armlet (Cambridge Museum).

SEWELL. SP/995229

The Manshead Archaeological Society of Dunstable under C. L. Matthews investigated a double beaker burial, with a beaker of Clarke's Wessex/Middle Rhine type, a bone toggle and a bronze pin with a double loop head. (*Manshead Magazine* 19, 1969, 3-8; *P.Prehist.Soc.* forthcoming).

SHEFFORD. TL/135388

The bronze vessel fragments from the burial discovered in 1826 were examined and found to be from a ram's head patera (base, sides, rim, and handle extant) and a trefoil-lipped jug (handle, some body pieces extant). (*Beds.Mag.* forthcoming).