

## Notes on Recent Antiquarian Discoveries in Berkshire.

By F. M. UNDERHILL.

THE compilation of a continuous record of small finds in the County is long overdue, and the following brief notes are the commencement of a feature which I hope will be continued. The suggestion was first made to me by Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc., Curator of Reading Museum, who has most generously placed the whole of the Museum records at my disposal. Very valuable assistance has been rendered to me by Mr. E. Thurlow Leeds, M.A., F.S.A., the Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, also by Mr. D. B. Harden, M.A. Mr. W. E. Harris of the Newbury Museum has given me a large number of notes from the west Berkshire region, and I have also to thank the following correspondents for their co-operation: Mr. L. G. Cole, Miss M. Claydon, Dr. Girling, Messrs. L. V. Grinsell, L. R. A. Grove, B.A., W. H. Hallam, A. T. Heelas, E. Langford Jones, Price Jones, H. Peake, M.A., F.S.A., S. Piggott, F.S.A., Lt.-Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore, C. Scott, W. A. Seaby, G. W. Smith, D. L. Stevenson, Ll. Treacher, F.G.S., Dr. H. Watts, and Mr. R. W. Wells.

Where the specimens from the discoveries have been placed in a Museum, the accession number has been given, and the reference numbers of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Maps are quoted from the collection of maps in Reading Museum, on which the site of the find has been marked.

ABINGDON. Food-vessel from Bronze Age barrow, now in the Ashmolean Museum. Acc. 1934, 362 (see *Oxoniensia*, I, p. 18, pl. 2; also Leeds & Harden, *Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon*, p. 9, fig. 3).

Anglo-Saxon cemetery site (see Report by Messrs. Leeds & Harden as above). Large quantity of remains now in the Ashmolean Museum. Accessions: 1934, 203-245; 356-9; 375-1935. 46-62; 397-415; 582; 719-40.

ALDERMASTON. From gravel-pit on the Aldermaston road. Circular loom-weight of baked clay, possibly of Saxon date, excavated by dredger. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 48. 36. 6" O.S. Berks. 44 N.W.

ASTON TIRROLD. From gravel-pits north of church on road to South Moreton. Roman pottery found in large quantities, I.12.35 (observation by C. Scott and F. M. Underhill). Roman pottery previously observed here by Stuart Piggott, F.S.A., also silver coin of Tacitus (pottery in Reading Museum. Acc. 21. 35). Star bead (red, white and blue), possibly Roman, now in Ashmolean Museum. Acc. 1936. 112. 6" O.S. Berks. 16 S.W.

BEEDON. From the Brick-works. 15 fragments of pottery, ironstone and slag, roofing slab and tile, generally Roman. Now in Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.

BLEWBURY. On Blewburton Hill. Sherd of Iron Age pottery, (possibly A.2, B mixture) surface find by Mr. C. N. Harvey, now in Ashmolean Museum, Acc. 1935. 396.

From same site, sherds found recently by Mr. D. Grinling reported by Dr. H. Watts. Previous finds of pottery from this hill by Stuart Piggott, F.S.A., E. J. Rudsdale, and F. M. Underhill. (See *Antiquity*, II. 359).

3rd Brass of Crispus found in the village by E. Langford Jones. November, 1936.

BOAR'S HILL. Surface finds of Roman pottery, reported to the Ashmolean Museum from Tommy's Heath.

BRIGHTWELL. From the Slade End Gravel-pit. Lower molar of mammoth (*Elephas Primigenius*), now in possession of Dr. H. Watts.

Flint implement, pear-shaped Chelles type, from middle gravel of the Upper Thames Terrace, length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, a very fine example. (Dr. H. Watts Collection).

Bronze Age Beaker found by the head of 'crouched' burial, Dec. 1934. (See *Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 39, p. 99). Vessel presented to Reading Museum by Dr. Watts. Acc. 16. 35. 6" O.S. Berks. 16 N.W.

BRIMPTON. From the Lane End Gravel-pit. Pottery cup of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, Found in a pocket in the gravel, probably a pit-dwelling, some 4 feet deep. Now in Newbury Museum. Acc. March quarter, 1936.

BUCKLAND. Arrow-heads, scrapers, flakes etc. of flint, possible remains of Bronze Age habitation, found on surface, collected and given to the Ashmolean Museum by Mr. C. J. Farmer. Acc. 1935. 625-34.

CAVERSHAM. Gold coin of Tin Commius, now in the possession of Mr. G. W. Smith.

CHIEVELEY. From North Heath, Nuremburg counter found January, 1936, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. March quarter, 1936.

COLD ASH. From near the Castle Inn perforated hammer-stone of hard shale found, probably in 1928. Now in Newbury Museum. Acc. September quarter, 1936.

COOKHAM. Three flint "Thames picks" from the river Thames now in possession of Mr. Price Jones.

From the river on the site of the ancient ford south of Babham Ferry, Saxon spear-head of iron,  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, socket broken. Now in possession of Mr. Price Jones.

Human skeleton found during shifting of soil about 1931 on the 'island' north of Cookham Lock. 6" O.S. Berks. 24 N.E.

CROWTHORNE. In Caesar's Camp, Neolithic hammer-stone found by Miss Monckton-Jones. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 28. 36. 6" O.S. Berks. 47 N.W.

EASTBURY. ?  $\frac{1}{4}$  Follis of Constantius Maximus (Constantina, Arles Mint). Presented to Newbury Museum by Mr. G. F. Bayliss, June quarter, 1936.

ENBORNE. From the Enborne gravel-pits, flint-flake possibly Mesolithic, found by Dr. W. Hooper.

Near Cope Hall, five fragments of early mediæval pottery, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.

FARINGDON. Found during drainage excavations in the town, 1st. Roman Brass, too much corroded to identify. Information from Mr. W. H. Hallam, 1936.

Excavation of an adulterine Castle on Faringdon Clump, by E. Thurlow Leeds, M.A., F.S.A. Report in *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. 16. 1936.

From drainage excavations as above,  $\frac{1}{8}$  groat of Henry VIII, and two hammered sixpences of Elizabeth, London mint. Information from Mr. W. H. Hallam.

FERRY HINKSEY. From the Manor House garden, Neolithic flint scraper, now in the Ashmolean Museum. Acc. 1934. 361.

FINCHAMPSTEAD. From site at the brickworks, Hogwood Shaw. Pottery and loom-weights, late Belgic and early Roman, found November, 1934.

Roman vessel, fragment of wooden stake, piece of Samian ware and many fragments of coarse pottery and loom-weights, also large sandstone quern or rubbing-stone, found March, 1936. Information obtained from Mr. A. T. Heelas, who has lent the pottery, etc. to Reading Museum. 6" O.S. Berks. 46 N.W.

GARFORD. In field south of Garford Barrow, a rectangular crop-mark and two circles observed in air photograph taken by Major G. W. Allen. Side of the rectangle on line south of barrow; much lime, stone and flint with quantities of Roman pottery lying in upturned soil. Observation by L. V. Grinsell and F. M. Underhill 23.2.36. (*Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 40, p. 21). Mr. Ll. Treacher, F.G.S. reports traces of earthworks near the stream.

HURLEY. From excavations on site of priory at Ladye Place. 13th century doorway of Chapter House revealed, five stone column bases of Dormitory undercroft, near which is a hearth of stone, five inches thick. This may have been used for a forge. Numerous encaustic tiles of 12th and 13th centuries, some in position in Cloister and Chapter House floors. Information from Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore.

Norman pottery found see separate Report on p. 40 by Mr. L. R. A. Grove, B.A.

INKPEN. From sand-pits on east side of the Hungerford-Inkpen road. Bronze Age Beaker and four-legged bowl found, now in Newbury Museum. See *Antiquaries Journal*, Vol. 16, p. 97; *Transactions, Newbury District Field Club*, Vol. 7, p. 186.

KINGSTON LISLE. Found on the Ridgeway, 3rd Brass of Constantinus, London Mint, by Mr. H. Davies of Sparsholt.

KNOWL HILL. In pits in Warner's brick works, Neolithic (?) celt of flint, heavily patinated. Found in the brick-earth about 1½ feet below surface level about 1925, in possession of Mr. L. G. Cole.

LAMBOURN. Chambered Long Barrow discovered by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, N.W. of Seven Barrows Farm. See *Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 39, p. 191; and Vol. 40, pp. 59.62; also *Trans., Newbury District Field Club*, Vol. 7, p. 191.



ROMAN POT FROM HOGWOOD SHAW, FINCHAMPSTEAD (Scale  $\frac{3}{4}$ ).

*Photo : Reading Museum.*

**LITTLE WITTENHAM.** Near Hill Farm, on reputed site of Offa's fort, quantities of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman sherds found on surface of ground. A low bank remains in the field, suggestive of a rampart nearly ploughed out. Information from Dr. H. Watts, 1936.

Iron Age pottery and two fragments of Samian ware found in Castle Hill Camp and presented by Dr. H. Watts to Reading Museum. Acc. 61. 35. 6" O.S. Berks. 16 N.W.

**LONG WITTENHAM.** Fossil tine of reindeer found at Pearith's Farm, in possession of Dr. H. Watts. From Pearith's Farm, fragment of "B" Bronze Age beaker. Now in Ashmolean Museum. Acc. 1936, 330.

From Wigbald's, Iron Age A.I pots, spindle whorl, bronze pendant (axe-shaped) etc. probably late Celtic. Report shortly to be published in *Oxoniensia*. Now in Ashmolean Museum. 1934. Acc. 273-81; 370; 373-4.

**MAIDENHEAD.** From garden of No. 11, Malvern Road. Ground but unpolished celt found in gravel about three feet below surface, sometime during 1932. Implement now in possession of Mr. L. G. Cole.

From Thames opposite Taplow, Late Bronze Age Sword, dredged up by Thames Conservancy. See "*The Times*" 15.12.36.

From Tittle Row, 1st Brass of Vespasian found Dec. 1935.

From Altwood Bailey, during construction of a tennis court, remains of three human skeletons, found 16.3.36. 6" O.S. Berks. 31 N.W.

**NEWBURY.** Salcombe Road, bronze coin of Carausius found October, 1933, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. March quarter, 1936.

From the excavations made during the extension of the hospital, 14 fragments of Romano-British pottery. Now in Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.

**PEASEMORE.** Fragment of 15th century pottery found. Now in Newbury Museum. Acc. September quarter, 1936.

**RADLEY.** From Wick Farm site. Food-vessel from near centre of ring ditch in the Wick Farm group. (See *Oxoniensia*, 1, Pl. 1A for group and p. 201 for actual pot). Now in Ashmolean Museum. Acc. 1936. 224.

READING. Flint "Thames pick" found near the surface in the back yard of No. 371, London Road, 17.8.36. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 43. 36.

From Denton's gravel pit, coarse ware vessel of Early Iron Age type, now in Reading Museum. Acc. 24. 36. During the past four years pits and trenches containing remains of Early Iron Age date have been excavated from time to time by the staff of Reading Museum. Report on work shortly to be published. Berks. 6" O.S. 37 N.W.

From Southcote Lane, Saxon Urn containing ashes and bone fragments. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 6. 36. This urn was found in 1924. [*Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 28, p. 19].

From Broad Street, brass signet ring, with the device, a Lombardic I. See note on p. 40 by L. R. A. Grove, B.A.

SHEFFORD WOODLANDS. Fragment of early mediæval pottery, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.

SPARSHOLT. Disc Barrow, N.E. of Seven Barrows group, discovered by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, Sept., 1935 (see *Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 40, p. 29).

SPENCERS WOOD, SHINFIELD. From garden of "The Laurels," Clares Green Lane, flint implement of "Thames pick" type. ("*Evening Gazette*," 7.II.36), now in Reading Museum. Acc. 65. 36.

A polished Neolithic axe was found in a nearby garden in December, 1934.

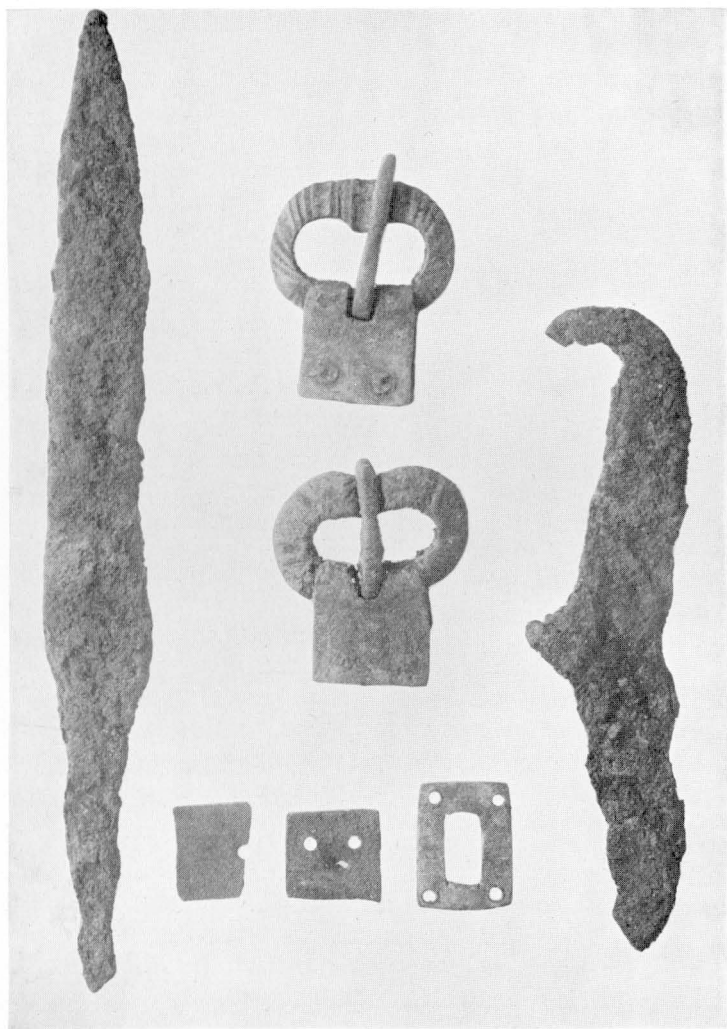
STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE. Further finds of Roman coins from Chinon Hill, mostly small bronze coins of the time of Constantine, also one silver coin of Faustina reported by Mr. D. L. Stevenson. (Many other records of Roman coins from this site, see *Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 9, p. 123, and Vol. 13, p. 60, etc.).

THATCHAM NEWTOWN. Red glazed Gallic cup by Regalis of Rheinzabern-on-Rhine, 2nd century A.D., found by Mr. W. E. Harris, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.

From same site, portion of stone column from the bottom of a Roman well, also two large fragments of wooden post, now in Newbury Museum. Acc. September quarter, 1936. (See note in "*The Times*" 1 August, 1936).

From near same site, groat of Edward III, London mint. Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.

From bed of river Enborne, on Berks-Hants border, fragment of green glaze pottery, possible 15th century. Newbury Museum. Acc. June quarter, 1936.



OBJECTS FOUND WITH SKELETON OF SAXON YOUTH AT  
WALLINGFORD (Scale  $\frac{1}{1}$ )

*Photo : Ashmolean Museum.*



**TILEHURST.** From Cockney Hill, large single flake of flint, with entire edge worked, now in Reading Museum. Acc. 72. 35. Berks 6" O.S. 37 N.W.

From St. Michael's churchyard, base of a Roman pot, of hardware, dark grey colour. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 35. 36.

From clay pit at the Prospect Park Brick works, further excavation of shallow holes containing much fragmentary Roman pottery. Information from Mr. R. W. Wells.

Saxon sword found in widening the Oxford Road, 800 yards east of Tilehurst Station, September, 1917. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 16. 36. See: Peake, *Archaeology of Berks*, p. 129, 235; and Wheeler, *London and the Vikings*, p. 33, 35.

Earthwork in form of a high bank, extending northwards to the Oxford Road from Beecham Hill. See note in "*Reading Mercury*," by Mr. E. W. Dormer, F.R.Hist.S., 4: 4: 1936.

Cockney Hill, brass signet ring found during the digging of a trench, 31 Aug., 1935, 3 feet down in the clay, see Report on p. 40 by L. R. A. Grove, B. A. Now in Reading Museum. Acc. 73. 35.

Unclassified earthwork in field north of the White Hart Inn, on the north side of the Bath Road at the entrance to Theale village, possibly remains of ancient flint or chalk diggings. Observation by Mr. Ll. Treacher, F.G.S., Feb., 1936.

**TUBNEY.** On surface of field west of former site of barrow (now demolished) in Tubney Wood, worked flints found, possible site of Mesolithic or Neolithic flint workings. Observation by L. V. Grinsell and F. M. Underhill 23.2.36. (See *Berks. Arch. Journal*, Vol. 40, p. 21).

**WALLINGFORD.** Human skeleton of Saxon date found in the gravel pit near Mr. Snow's pavilion. Report with illustration in "*Reading Mercury*," 28 Nov., 1936. Iron buckle and knife found nearby. Grave of newly born infant found in same pit; no grave furniture. Information from Dr. H. Watts.

Norman pottery found during excavations under the Market Place in July, 1935. Information from Mr. L. R. A. Grove, B.A., who is to publish a Report on the discovery in due course.

**WARFIELD.** Large earthwork of rectangular shape revealed by tree-felling in Big Wood, near Chavey Down. Observation made February, 1936. The ditch on the east side is carried on to form the boundary of Warfield Park. 6" O.S. Berks. 39 S.W.

**WICKHAM.** Three fragments of tile, and three fragments of Roman pottery found in the field opposite Wickham Church. Now in Newbury Museum. Dec., 1936.

## NOTES.

## NORMAN POTTERY FROM HURLEY.

During the latter part of 1936, some Norman potsherds came to light when Col. Rivers-Moore was excavating east of the Undercroft, Ladye Place, Hurley. They were submitted to Reading Museum for examination. The fragments included parts of a type of scratch-marked ware (*Antiq. Journ.* xv, 1935, p. 186), hand-made cooking pots with finger tip decoration on the lip of the everted rim (*cf. ibid.*, p. 187, fig. 4, No. 12), cooking pots with applied fluted strips [as at (1) Aylesbury—*Records of Bucks*, Vol. 9, 1907, pp. 282-96 and figs. 1 & 2—and (2) Clements Lane and Walthamstow, London Museum, Nos. A.24136 & 30. 21], and vessels having as decoration concentric semi-circular groovings on the neck (as at Rayleigh Castle, Essex—specimens in Southend Museum, described in *Trans. Essex. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. 12 N.S., pp. 147-185). All the associated bases were sagging and there was very little glazed ware, which confirms the Norman dating (*Archaeologia*, lxxxiii, p. 109). Some ware incorporated crushed shell fragments—a practice of the late Saxon period (*Antiq. Journ.*, xvi, 1936, p. 408). Bones found with the pottery were those of the pig (with teeth), geese, and possibly sheep.

## MEDIÆVAL SIGNET RINGS.

- (1) Brass signet ring found in Broad Street, Reading. Device : a Lombardic letter I. In the collection of Mr. G. W. Smith.
- (2) Brass signet ring found in digging a trench at Cockney Hill, Tilehurst, 31st August, 1935, 3 feet down, in clay. Device : a crowned Lombardic letter T. In the Reading Museum (Accession number 73.35).

The letters on this type of mediæval ring appear to have represented, in the first place, the initial letter of the user's Christian name (see *Goring Charters*, Nos. cclxiv and ccxcli, Oxfordshire Record Society). A study of similar rings in the Ashmolean, London, Victoria & Albert, Salisbury, Dorchester and Reading Museums shows that the main letters used were H, I, M, R, T, W.—possibly standing for the most common medieval names,



SKELETON OF SAXON YOUTH FOUND AT  
WALLINGFORD.

*Photo : C. Musgrave.*



MEDIÆVAL FINGER RING FOUND AT COCKNEY  
HILL, TILEHURST (Scale  $\frac{1}{1}$ )

*Photo : Reading Museum.*

Henricus, Iohannes, Maria, Robertus, Thomas and Willelmus. The reason for so many seal initials not tallying with the user's initial is because the rings were handed down from generation to generation, judging from the impressions made from worn matrices. The rings were not mass produced, there being minute arrows and lines placed round the main letter, as on the Tilehurst example, to produce the individual mark so necessary to the mediæval legal mind. For dating purposes, the sequence appears to be (a) Uncrowned letters—appearing in the second half of the 14th century (*Goring Charters*, ccxlv-1362, cclii, cclxiv, cclxxiii, etc.), (b) Crowned letters—first appearing in numbers at the beginning of the 15th century (*Goring Charters*, cclxxxviii). Both forms continued throughout the 15th century, the uncrowned form becoming scarcer much more quickly than the crowned. The crowned form survived into the 16th century—a manuscript with a crowned Lombardic R impression, time of Philip and Mary, is in the possession of Dr. Kirk, F.S.A., of Pickering.

L. R. A. GROVE, B.A.,

Curator,

9th Jan., 1937.

Castle Museum, York.