

THE SOMERSET RECORD OFFICE
I. MAIN MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS
JULY 1964 — JUNE 1965

FAMILY AND ESTATE:

RECORDS OF THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS This large holding consists of the estate management and manorial records of properties which had formerly belonged to eight ecclesiastical corporations in the diocese of Bath and Wells. These records were centralized in London about 100 years ago when the Ecclesiastical Commissioners took over the responsibility for the management of such estates and they have now been returned to the county as part of the general policy of the Commissioners. At the same time, the medieval manorial records which had been transferred to the Public Record Office have now been (or are to be) reunited with the collection. The records of the eight bodies involved have been listed below in descending order of size and, of these, the records of the Chapter and the Bishop, roughly equal in size, account for over 95% of the whole.

The confiscation of ecclesiastical estates after the Civil War and perhaps the spoliation¹ of the record repositories themselves at the same time have produced a general absence of pre-Restoration records, apart from the important Parliamentary surveys taken in 1649 and 1650. The Chapter alone provides any medieval content, the records of which include some 150 deeds dating from the 12th century and many manorial court and compotus rolls from 1277. There are also some 70 maps in the collection, dating from 1759 to c. 1850.

Dean and Chapter: deeds, leases, etc., with some estate accounts and correspondence, etc., for the manors of Bicknoller, Biddisham, Bishops Lydeard, Burnham, Chapel Allerton, Congresbury, East Curry (Stoke St. Gregory), North Curry (including Wrantage, Knap Fee and Newport), West Hatch (including West Mear), East Lambrook in Kingsbury Episcopi, Pucklechurch (co. Glos.), Shipham, Stogumber, Wells (Canons Grange) and Whitchurch Canonicorum (co. Dorset), with smaller groups of records for South Barrow, Buckland Newton (co. Dorset), Cheddar, Dulverton, Long Sutton, Lovington, Mudford and Wiveliscombe, c. 1575-1900; manorial records (court rolls, presentments, rentals, accounts, etc.) for all main manors, 1582-1866, with compotus rolls for Winscombe, 1277-1545, Burnham, 1352-1538, and in smaller quantities for the majority of the main manors, plus Cheddar, 1307-1539, and court rolls for Winscombe, 1311-1483, and for most of the main manors, 1405-1558; custumal (defective, first part missing), probably for North Curry and members, c. 1314; surveys, rentals, etc., generally

¹ The journal of Edward Curle, Parliamentary agent in the county, has for its cover an account of fines paid for estates in the Chapter's manor of East Curry, c. 1620 (S.R.O. ref DD/WH 136).

1649-1866, with occasional earlier rentals from 1527 and books of grants from 1576; accounts of the keepers of the goods of North Curry church, 1445-1447; approx. 150 deeds, 12th-15th cents., of which at least eight may be dated before 1200 by internal evidence; maps of Bicknoller, Stogumber and Stogursey, Biddisham, Bishops Lydeard, Chapel Allerton, Congresbury and Wick St. Lawrence, North Curry, West Hatch, East Lambrook, Pucklechurch, Stoke St. Gregory, Canons Grange in Wells, Whitchurch Canonicorum, Winscombe and Shipham, and Wiveliscombe, 1787-c.1825 (one or two *per* parish).

Bishop: deeds, leases, etc., for the manors of Banwell (including Churchill and Worle), West Buckland, Huish Episcopi, Wells and Westbury, 1662-1904; manorial records (court rolls, papers and presentments) for Banwell, 1710-1855, Huish Episcopi, 1710-1841, Wells (including presentments etc., for the hundred and city), 1691-1843; ministers' accounts for all manors, etc., belonging to the bishopric, 1563-1578 (for other records from the same series, 1510-11, see MISCELLANEOUS ESTATE DEPOSITS below, and for 1504-1541, see DD/SAS C/795²); for a court roll of many bishopric manors and hundreds, including Wells, Wellington, Huish Episcopi, Wiveliscombe, Kingsbury Episcopi, Chard, Banwell, Cheddar, 1351-1352, see DD/SAS C/795²); surveys, valuations, etc., 1634-1854; maps of Wells, *ante* 1795 and 1827, Westbury, 1759 and 1814, and Banwell, 1828; deeds, etc., of the Cary Fitzpaine estate in Charlton Adam and Charlton Mackrell, 1701-1864, with map, 1826; deeds, etc., of Yeovilton, 1700-1852, with valuations, 1827-1851.

Dean: deeds, leases, etc., for the manors of Combe St. Nicholas and Winsham, 1710-1896, with smaller groups of similar records for the Dean's manors in Chard and Wellington and West Buckland, 1680-1894; manorial records (court rolls, presentments, etc.), for all manors, 1610-1868 (few entries for Chard and Wellington and West Buckland after 1671); rentals for Combe St. Nicholas, 1663, 1814-1828, and for Winsham, 1700-1783; surveys, books of reference, etc., 1649-1845; map of Combe St. Nicholas, ?1813.

Vicars Choral: leases, etc., for Cheddar, 1601-1866, North Petherton (in the manor of Newton Placey), 1661-1864, and Wells, 1585-1864, and small numbers for Croscombe, Dinder, Kingstone, Martock, West Pennard, Rodney Stoke and Weare, 1618-1865; Parliamentary surveys for the four manors of Cheddar, Newton Placey, Wells, Wellesley and Dulcote in Wells, and Fenns and Heythorne in Martock, 1649 or 1650 and *c.* 1755; occasional, isolated compotus rolls for the above manors, *c.* 1350-1547, a court roll for the manor of Newton Chantry, 1491-1498, and court rolls for all four manors, 1689-1865; rentals, presentments, etc., for the manor of Newton Placey, 1794-1864.

² S.R.O. reference.

Archdeacon of Wells: leases, etc., for South Brent or Brent Knoll (with Berrow and East Brent), 1676-1866, and Huish Episcopi, 1776-1903; Parliamentary surveys of the rectories of Berrow and Huish Episcopi and of the rectory and manor of the rectory of South Brent, 1650; surveys, rentals, etc., for South Brent and Berrow, 1632-1866; maps of Berrow, 1773, 1831, and South Brent, 1811.

Precentor: leases, etc., for Wells, including a few for the manor of the rectory of Pilton with North Wootton, 1717-1845; Parliamentary surveys of the same, 1649 (Wells) and 1650 (Pilton); particulars and valuations for Pilton, c. 1807-1831, with map of the manor of the rectory of Pilton, 1831, and copy glebe terrier, 1673; volume of maps of properties in Wells, 1828.

Sub Chantry: Parliamentary and other surveys and rental relating to estates in Wells, North Wootton, Standerwick, Berkley and Laverton, 1650-1784; general leases of Sub Chantry estates, 1592-1833, with correspondence about the latest renewal and fine.

Treasurer: leases, etc., for Martock Parsonage, 1789-1869; court book for the manor of the rectory of Martock, 1741-1883.

PITT OF CRICKET MALHERBIE: deeds, etc., of the manor of Cricket Malherbie and the Cricket estate, 1686-1837; Pitt family settlements, probates, etc., 1746-1817; deeds, etc., of estates in Essex, Westminster and Yorkshire, 1548-1823.

MISCELLANEOUS ESTATE DEPOSITS: deeds of Chard, 1715-1914, and Shepton Mallet (workhouse), 1581-1803; ministers' accounts for bishopric manors, 1510-1511; farm accounts for the parsonage of Weston Zoyland, 1691-2, 1697-8 and 1762-3, and tithe accounts for Weston Zoyland, Middlezoy and Othery, 1691-2; map of High Littleton, 1793.

PARISH: Broomfield: registers, 1630-1870 (banns to 1899), churchwardens' accounts and rates, 1750-1921, overseers' accounts, 1636-1639, and papers, from 1642, school log book, 1875-1913. North Cheriton: registers, 1666-1728, 1783-1836. Chewton Mendip: registers, 1554-1812. Emborough: registers, 1569-1812. Kingston St. Mary: registers, 1677-1926, churchwardens' accounts, 1622-1961, with rates, 1726-1858, vestry minutes, 1782-1941, overseers' accounts, 1671-1702, 1734-1869, with rates, 1671-1701, 1734-1815, survey and valuations, 1833-1839, surveyors' accounts, 1818-1846, with rates, 1819-1833, school committee minutes, 1871-1904, and accounts, 1905-1942, perambulation of Kingston and Cothelstone, 1790, papers concerning vicarages, 1797-1930, and poor houses, 1757-1877, glebe terriers, 1620, 1634, and tithe map and award, 1838. Penselwood: churchwardens' accounts, 1791-1907, rates, 1856-1868, vestry minutes, 1837-1894, overseers' accounts, 1798-1835, rates, 1838-1867,

surveyors' rates, 1839-1853. Thurloxton: registers, 1558-1837, churchwardens' accounts, 1766-1867, with rates, 1770-1864, vestry minutes, 1835-1914.

DIOCESAN: a further transfer of records, including marriage bonds, 1681-1690, administrators' accounts, arranged alphabetically by names of deceased, late 16th-18th cents., inventories, *c.*1725-*c.*1745, benefice returns and answers to articles of enquiry, early 19th cent., and presentations, arranged alphabetically by parishes, 16th and 17th cents.

OFFICIAL: log books, etc., of schools (now closed) in Batcombe, East Chinnock, Corton Denham and Wanstrow, from 1876; further copy wills from the Estate Duty Office in the Public Record Office, 1823-1830.

MISCELLANEOUS: lawyer's formulary (Crewkerne area), *c.* 1700; three orders issued to constables in Whitley hundred, June/July 1685; Thorpe's map of Bath and the country within a radius of five miles, 1742; Victorian scrapbook kept by Martha Coates of Stanton Drew; Roynon genealogical notes; ?Chairman's notebook (Quarter Sessions), 1824-5.

NOTES

A GOLD STATER FROM PENSFORD, SOMERSET

(PLATE VIII)

At the end of June 1964, Mr. C. Hudson found the coin here described while engaged on the foundations of a house near Pensford Garage (ST62036357). Nothing else was associated. It was submitted to Bristol City Museum on 8th July and identified by the writer. The Coroner for North Somerset (Mr. H. A. Horner) was duly informed and ruled that, as it was most likely an accidental loss in antiquity, it was not Treasure Trove. The landowner (Mr. H. A. Batton) having very kindly waived his claim, the coin was purchased from the finder by Bristol City Museum.

The coin is of type B5 of Evans' *Coins of the Ancient Britons* (1864), type 32 of R. P. Mack's *The Coinage of Ancient Britain* (2nd edn., 1964), and British B of Mr. Derek Allen's recent classification (*Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*, edited by S. S. Frere, 1961, pp. 105 and 176-7). In other words, it is an uninscribed stater of the first British type in gold, struck from about 90 B.C. onwards, and is of the Chute type, so-called from a hoard of 65 of them in a hollow flint nodule, found at Chute in Wiltshire (near the border with Hampshire and Berkshire) in 1927. The special characteristic of the Chute type is the crab-shaped ornament between the forelegs and the hind-legs of the horse on the reverse. Their general distribution is in western Wessex, especially Hampshire and Dorset. The only example previously recorded from Somerset was found at East Harptree sometime before 1940. The only example from Gloucestershire was found at Tetbury before 1890.

Mr. Derek F. Allen, to whom casts were supplied, states that the obverse comes from the same die as the silver coin of Chute type found in the Le Catillon (Jersey) hoard of 1957-9, buried between 56 and 51 B.C., but the Pensford coin shows this die in a later state. The weight (91.1 grains) is less than the average for this type of coin (93-96 grains). The specific gravity is 12.65, well below that of pure gold (19.3).

L. V. GRINSELL.

THE FLINTS FROM THE STAR ROMAN VILLA

Mr. C. M. Sykes has submitted the following comments:

The report on Star Roman Villa states that the site was first used by man in the Mesolithic period and illustrates eight of the thirty pieces of flint found,¹ which are compared with specimens illustrated by G. J. Wainwright.²

¹ *Proc. S.A.S.* 108 (1964), 48 and 70, with fig. 6.

² *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, n.s. 26 (1960), 193-201, "Three microlithic industries from South-West England and their affinities".

No. 1 from Star Villa, a narrow blade triangular in section, is compared with two implements illustrated by Wainwright; these are not blades, but thick flakes which have been carefully trimmed into graters.

No. 2 described as "Possibly a diamond shaped arrowhead", is said to have the "angular form" of blades illustrated by Wainwright; unlike these, it is not a neatly blunted microlith and the comparison is therefore without significance.

Nos. 3 and 5 are scrapers compared respectively with six and one specimens illustrated by Wainwright; comparison on any scale is useless as such scrapers cannot be assigned to any particular period.

In Wainwright's paper there is only one drawing — out of ninety — showing a microlith with a small worked notch; this drawing is used for comparison with notched flakes — No. 4 — from Star Villa. Since notched flakes are found in cultures both earlier and later than the Mesolithic, the chronological conclusion is not valid. The serrated blade — No. 6 — might also belong to any of several periods.

The remaining specimen — No. 7, a core — could be of Mesolithic type, but the drawing does not make this clear.

To sum up: the identification of Nos. 1 and 2 cannot be sustained; the five others illustrated cannot be closely determined. There is a possibility — no more — that the whole collection is Mesolithic, but it is, in my opinion, more likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Mr. K. J. Barton writes:

The flints in question were found buried under a brown loam varying from 18 to 24 ins. in depth, with Iron Age deposits only in the top 2 ins. (Report p. 48) and this would require a considerable time to deposit. I discussed this point with geologists, who agreed that the length of time would be considerable and that it would be more likely to be 10,000 years than 3,000, especially as the overlying soil was without any organic substance; it would require a long time for a deposit to be leached clean.

I would agree that certain features are common to all these periods, but I think that it is reasonable to say that the group, as a whole, has characteristics which are more strongly attributed to the Mesolithic period.

BOOK NOTICE

Robin Atthill, *Old Mendip* (David and Charles, Dawlish; Macdonald, London, 1964) 204 pp., 40 half-tone and 7 line illustrations, 7 maps. Price 40/-.

It has not been necessary for Mr. Atthill to cast around in search of something to write a book about. He has lived with his subject all

his life and in this book he has put down on paper the results of years of exploration, observation, enquiry and thought. But he has not allowed his enthusiasm to run away with him. A mass of material has been distilled in Mr. Atthill's mind into a well-written, well-ordered and very readable book, without frills and without padding. One feels that, if he had failed to write this book, much of the recent history of Mendip which it records would have been lost for ever. This is an area upon which the industrial revolution made a considerable impact; yet it is one which has retained its rural charm and individuality. Mr. Atthill's book makes one realise that the paper mills, the Fussell iron-works, the coal-mines, the turnpike roads, the canals and the railways were not just interlopers come to destroy the peace and charm of north Somerset; they were, and in some cases still are, an important part of the life-pattern which has gone to the making of this remarkable and attractive region.

I.I.J.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

The following articles or short reports dealing with archaeological or historical work in Somerset have appeared in *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, Vol. XXVIII, parts 281 and 282.

1. Berrow Boundaries.
2. Interim report on the excavations at Glastonbury Tor, 1964.
3. Telecommunications in the West of England.
4. An Underground passage at Charlton Horethorne.
5. Penn Feast. Copy of a broadsheet of 1798.
6. Glastonbury Abbey excavations, 1963-4.
7. Document relating to Poundisford and Corfe — 1452-3.
8. Sedgemoor memorial stone.
9. Site at Godney — timber structure, probably medieval.
10. Rokespulle, the modern Rooksbridge, near East Brent.
11. Diocesan Note of 1603.