

Notes

ROMAN REMAINS FOUND AT MIDDLE CHINNOCK

TOWARDS the end of December 1930 I received information that some remains had been found at Higher Farm, Middle Chinnock, and near the church.¹ The discovery was made by Mr. Edgar Valentine Clarke, brother of the owner and occupier of the farm, Mr. Walter Hill Clarke, who has given the specimens to the Somerset County Museum. The site, which is only about 5 yards from the N.W. corner of the house, was visited, at my suggestion, by Dr. S. L. Brimblecombe of Stoke-under-Ham, on 28 December, and he reported that a human skeleton (much weathered) had been found, together with part of a bronze fibula (broken in two), some shards of pottery and two flint flakes. These remains were found in a space roughly 3 ft. square and only 3 in. below the surface, in consequence of which the bones were considerably weathered. The head was to the N.E. and the long-bones (or such as remain of them) appeared to be in their correct relative position, but it is not known to what extent the body was contracted.

At the back of the house is a path, about 6 ft. wide, and a sloping bank beyond. Some steps were being made up this bank, and in cutting the lowest one the relics were discovered.

¹ Middle Chinnock is an ecclesiastical parish, but for civil purposes was amalgamated with West Chinnock in 1884. No Roman remains have previously been recorded from this place so far as I am aware; but Professor Haverfield in the *V.C.H. Som.* i, 360, quotes from the *Gentleman's Magazine* the record of a large hoard of coins found in 1805 in Barrow Field (probably part of Barrows Farm, 6-inch O.S. Som. LXXXIX, N.W.), halfway between Middle and East Chinnock. It lay under human bones and rude potsherds, and was contained in two small pots of rude black ware. The coins, about 4000, were apparently debased silver, *Antoniniani* and *Third Brass* of A.D. 253-282; only 300 were examined.

From digging which had taken place round about, the burial appeared to be an isolated one.

The specimens did not come into my hands until the middle of March, and some of the bones, owing to their interesting shape, were sent to Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., for examination.¹ The shards of pottery are thin and black and typically Romano-British. The brooch, which has its catch-plate and pin missing, is hinged, and has a slightly arched bow, tapering gradually from the head to the tail of the brooch. This south-western type is of the latter half of the first century A.D., and is common at Ham Hill, Kingsdown Camp (near Frome),² and in the Romano-British Villages excavated by the late General Pitt-Rivers. There are several specimens of the kind to be seen in the Somerset County Museum.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

THE SAXON CEMETERY, CAMERTON

THE excavation of the Camerton Saxon cemetery began again on 5 August 1930, and continued until the 25 August. Trenches were cut westwards, as before, trench XII, begun the previous year, being first finished off. Continuing the grave numbers, the first opened was 43. This proved to have been one that had been used for a previous burial, as the bones of the first body were gathered together and laid in a heap at the foot of the grave, the skull being placed on the right humerus of the second burial. Trenches XIII, XIV and XV were com-

¹ On 25 March Sir Arthur Keith wrote me a short report on the skull and such of the long-bones as we sent him. He describes the individual as a man of 5 ft. or 5 ft. 1 in. in stature, with curious curved thigh-bones with prominent ridges for muscular attachment. What remains of the skull shows it to be long, with a cephalic index of 70·8 (length about 192 mm., width 136 mm.); auricular height 104 mm., *very* low-headed. 'A British type in that it predominates in Western Celtic parts of Britain; it may be Roman.'

² *Archæologia*, lxxx (section on brooches).

pleted, and at the end of the work grave 59 had been reached. The sixteen graves contained seven male and two female skeletons, as far as it was possible to distinguish, also three so imperfect that it was difficult to say what they were, and four infants. Grave 47 was the deepest found, so far, being a little over 3 ft., and it had been more carefully dug than usual. Stones on edge seem to have been set up round the outline of the grave at the bottom. The shallowest burial was the last one found. The skeleton was only 11 in. under the turf, and before the field was pasture the plough had evidently been over the body, as the face of the skull was cut off cleanly. No attempt had been made to dig a grave, and the body from the position of the limbs had probably been found some time after death had taken place, and had been hurriedly laid just under the top soil. Grave 55, which was accurately dug, was filled with fine earth which must have been brought from a distance, instead of the stones and brash being returned, in the usual way.

The articles found with the various skeletons were few. Five iron knives, all of ordinary types, one of them (45) having remains of the original bone handle; two spindle-whorls, one being of lead of unusual pattern, the other nicely formed of Kimmeridge shale (found near the heel of the skeleton in grave 56); and a few beads in grave 57. All the bodies were lying approximately east and west, and eight out of the sixteen burials had a plentiful sprinkling of charcoal in fairly large grains, over the head and upper part of the body. The digging was most carefully carried out by Wm. Wedlake, assisted by two labourers, under the direction of the Very Rev. Father Horne, F.S.A. As far as can be ascertained, the cemetery still continues to extend indefinitely in a westerly direction, and it is proposed, if funds are forthcoming, to continue the work again in 1931.

PILTON MEDIEVAL EMBROIDERY

IN the *Proceedings* for 1926 (Vol. lxxii, 49) is an account of two pieces of medieval embroidery in the possession of the parish church at Pilton. After quoting the description, given in 1888 by the Rev. T. S. Holmes, of one of these pieces, the account goes on to say, 'It is much to be regretted that since [this] was written, the whole of the silk face of this piece has been eaten off by spiders, and now nothing remains but the flax foundation in the form of separate threads'.

Last year, through the help given by the *Mothers' Union Diocesan Fund*, and the excellent work done gratuitously by a lady, these threads, amounting to many hundreds, have been patiently sewn down on to a foundation, and the piece of work is restored in shape to what it once was. The embroidered designs, which were affixed to the ground work, remain in fairly good condition, as also does the interesting inscription, in black letter, saying that the cope, of which this is a fragment, was given to the church by Richard Pomeroy, a Vicar-Choral of Wells Cathedral, in 1492. The restored embroidery is enclosed under glass in a substantial case which is fixed against the north wall of the church.

ETHELBERT HORNE.

EARLY OWNERSHIP OF SEDGEMOOR

*Copy of Translated Extracts from Documents (A.D. 1279 to 1555),
concerning the Rights of the Abbot of Glastonbury*

[Date of Original, *circ.* 1650]

AN Extract¹ of y^e State of y^e Comon in Kingsadge more, In y^e year of Edward y^e I^s there was a Write directed to y^d Escheat^s against y^e Abbott of Glaston because he had inclosed places in y^e more called Sedgmore this inquisition is of Record in y^e Tower whare on an Inquisition was taken in these words. An Inquisition taken before y^e Efcheat^s of our Lord y^e King at Clutton in y^e w^{ch} year of E^d y^e Ist whether y^e mores of Sedgmore be y^e Soyl of y^e Kings or y^e Abbotts of Glastonbury w^{ch} Jury afores^d did say uppon there Oaths y^t y^e s^d more was y^e only Soyl of y^e Abbott afore S^d ² excepting certain Lands & mor's adjoining belonging to y^e Lord y^e King as unto his mañors of Sum^rton & Pittny y^e time whare of y^e memory of man is not to y^e contrary, but did belong to y^e Abbott of Glaston as unto his Man^{ors} ³ of Cussington Edington Cholton Catcott Shapwick Stowel (versus) Sutton Murlinch Grenton & Woolavington on y^e North Ashcott Pedwell Walton & Streat Butleigh and Compton dondon on y^e East Soway and Highham on y^e West and South w^{ch} S^d Man^{ors} y^e S^d Abbott did hold by divers ffeofments of divers Kings of this Realme, but they say y^t y^e Lord y^e King his Heirs of Som^eton and all y^e commonalty of y^e County afores^d of Right ought to have Common in Sedgmore. This Record is in y^e Tower) After this Inquisition taken divers others Inquisitions⁴ ware taken remaining of Record in y^e Tower (viz) y^t all such neighbours which drives to y^e s^d more of King Sedgmore have right of Comon wth all there Cattell at all times of y^e year — The 13th year of E^d y^e Ist uppon former Inquisitions taken y^e S^d King did by charter confirm y^e s^d more of Sedgmore to y^e Abbott of Glastonbury w^{ch} Ratification & Confirmation barreth date at York y^e 13th year of Edward y^e

The marginal notes in the document are here printed as footnotes, as follows :

¹ An Dō in y^e Tower 1279.

² (*Marginal note illegible*).

³ This is exemplified under Seall 1282.

⁴ E. 1st.

1st. This Record is in the Tower — Likewise there is Remaining in y^e Tower a Confirmation of y^e s^d more to y^e Abbott granted by Edward y^e III^d 1 Divers others Inquisitions taken in y^e time of Richard II^d & Henry y^e VIIIth which all testifie of such neighbours which have drifts to y^e same have right of Coimon with all manner of Cattell.

In another book in y^e time of Adam of Sodbury Abbot of Glastonbury w^{ch} is very antient it doth appear by Presentment y^t the Soyl of Sedgmore did belong to the Abbott as to his Mannors of Highham Sodway & Poldon always ready to be shewn in y^e time² of Henry y^e VIIIth by antient Records of Books in Parchment it doth appear y^t y^e Soyl of Sedgmore was y^e Abbotts In y^e time of Queen Mary³ y^e Mannor of Highham being in her hands it was found by Presentment uppon Oath & upon veiw of the Queens Officers that there did belong to y^e s^d Mannor of Highham & to y^e Mann^{rs} of Weston Middlezoy & Audrey Common of pasture in Sedgmore in which y^e Tennants might lawfully & of Right common with all there Cattell at all times of y^e yeare and at there own Will & Pleasure and to dig Turfs and cut Rushes for there own use. The like hath been and ever was in use. And the Lords of the several Mannors have Purchased these Mannors in as large and ample manner as the Abbott held, or as the King held them by the Dessolution of the Abby or any other way.

And there is none of those Mann^{rs} in the Kings Hands.

(This is printed from a Document in the possession of Mr. Herbert R. Moulton, with his permission.)

¹ Ed. III. | Rich II. | Hen. VIIIth.

² Hen. VIII.

³ Q. Mary 1555 in y^e King's Record in y^e Exch^r. & Court of Augmentation.

TREASURE TROVE. NEW REGULATIONS.

OBJECTS of gold or silver which have been hidden in the soil or in buildings, and of which the original owner cannot be traced, are Treasure Trove, and by law the property of the Crown. If, however, the finder of such objects reports the find promptly, and it is decided that it is Treasure Trove and therefore the property of the Crown, he will receive its full market value if it is retained for the Crown or a museum. If it is not retained, he will receive back the objects themselves, with full liberty to do what he likes with them ; or, if he wishes it, the British Museum will sell them at the best price obtainable. The only way in which a finder can comply with the law and also obtain these advantages is by reporting the find promptly to the proper authority.

The proper authority is the coroner for the district in which the find is made, for he is the authority who inquires 'of treasure that is found' and 'who were the finders' (Coroners' Act, 1887, section 36). Anyone, therefore, who finds such objects should report the find to the coroner, either direct, or through the local police, or by writing to the Director, British Museum, London, W.C. 1, who will communicate with the coroner.

Coins and other ancient objects of copper, bronze, or any metal other than gold or silver are not Treasure Trove and finds need not be reported to coroners.