

Notes

THE MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATIONS, 1933

THE excavations at the Meare Lake Village were re-opened on 25 August 1933, and were continued for four weeks. The Lake Village site consists of two distinct groups of mounds or villages, containing some sixty dwelling-sites in each.

The Western group extends over parts of five fields, the Eastern group being confined to two fields. Last year the examination of the dwelling-sites in the second field of the Western group having been completed with the exception of the ground under and immediately around the office-shed, it became necessary to move the house so that this area might be excavated.

Upon the kind invitation of Mr. William Willcox, the owner of the field containing the greater part of the Eastern group of mounds, it was decided to transfer the shed to his field, and begin work on a group of mounds lying on the west side of the Eastern group, and at the same time excavate the ground formerly covered by the shed. Digging was, therefore, taking place simultaneously at the two villages. In the Western village the south-western half of Mound XXII was examined, and proved a very productive site. In the Eastern village Mounds I and III were excavated and portions of Mounds IV and V.

Mound XXII, besides a large number of relics, produced two sets of five superimposed hearths, the remains of a furnace and a pavement of lias slabs resting on the timber substructure.

The mounds examined in the Eastern village were less interesting structurally, but the following facts were elucidated :

1. That these dwelling-sites were constructed late in the existence of the Village.
2. That sites I and III were inhabited for a time towards the end of the Roman occupation of Britain.
3. That water surrounded the dwellings sufficiently deep for the growth and existence of the fresh-water mussel.

Among the objects discovered, the following may be noticed :—

Amber.—A pendant.

Antler.—Three ‘cheek-pieces’ (for horse-bits), eighteen weaving-combs (some of new patterns), two ferrules, three knife-handles, and several pieces of cut antler.

Bone.—Two polishing-bones, three ‘skewers’, a long needle, a ‘toggle’, three cut and perforated tibiae (horse), and several worked shoulder-blades.

Beads, etc.—Six beads of clear glass ornamented with yellow chevrons or spirals; four yellow ring-beads; blue and yellow bead, and two of a dull pink shade; two tiny globular beads; and a perforated object of clear glass ornamented with yellow paste,—perhaps the head of a large pin.

Bronze.—Three penannular ring-brooches, tweezers, child’s bangle, three rivets, two spiral finger-rings, a perfect needle, thin *répoussé* ornament, and some bordering.

Iron.—A bill-hook, part of a socketed implement, socket for butt-end of a spear, ‘Late-Celtic’ pin, three clamps, and several small incomplete objects.

Lead.—Small flat ring, and eighteen net-sinkers.

Kimmeridge Shale.—Harness-ring, roughly-cut ring, and several parts of lathe-turned armlets.

Whorls.—Fourteen spindle-whorls of stone (one ornamented), one of bone, and three of pottery or baked clay.

Flint.—Nine scrapers, a knife, one leaf-shaped arrowhead and part of another.

Stone.—Twenty-one saddle-querns and parts; portions of two rotary querns; slingstones and hammerstones.

Pottery.—Part of a thick vessel with a red ‘slip’ on the outer surface; a good series of ornamented fragments; part of a handled pot. Other pots, some ornamented, have been partly restored. In the East village, associated with the Roman coins, several pieces of Romano-British pottery, also a fragment of red Samian pottery.

Roman Coins.—Twelve ‘third brass’ coins, mostly in a very poor state of preservation, found on the east side of Mounds I and III (chiefly the former) *just* below the flood-soil and the mussel-shell layer, associated with Romano-British pottery. The coins are of: Constantius II, A.D. 348 or later, one; Valentinian I, A.D. 364–375, one; Valentinian I or Valens, four; Valens, A.D. 364–378, three; and three uncertain or unidentifiable (but all apparently mid-fourth century or rather later).

Human Remains.—Infant’s skeleton, found in the black earth under the clay of Mound XXII (west village).

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ROMAN HOUSE, CAMERTON

THE site described in the last volume of *Proceedings*, being the one dealt with by Haverfield in the *Victoria County History, Somerset*, i, 290, was still further investigated during the month of May and the first week of June. The foundations of a Roman house, having a frontage of 80 ft., were all cleared, and a plan made of them. No tessellated floors were found, but the broken-up remains of them were evident in one or two of the rooms. The usual finds of fibulae, coins and broken shards in quantity, were made, but a detailed description of the house can only be given after a good deal more work has been done on the site.

ETHELBERT HORNE.

CORNISH CHURCH KALENDAR

BEING a Kalendar of Saints for the use of the Diocese of Truro . . . the Report of a Committee appointed by the Lord Bishop of Truro, as a result of a resolution passed at the Synod of the Clergy of the Diocese in 1927.

This is of great importance to the student of the early history of Christianity in the West of England generally, as well as in Cornwall. The Kalendar includes early saints in whose names certain Somerset churches are dedicated, *e.g.* SS. Brendon and Petroc, and gives the proper days of the Cornish saints. There is a list of all such saints with the places where they are or were formerly commemorated. There is also a list of Cornish saints the dates of whose festivals are at present unknown. The Committee has included in the report a useful summary by Mr. Atchley of the ancient sequence of liturgical colours according to the use of Exeter in which diocese Cornwall formerly was, being Bishop Grandison's colour rule as modified by actual practice in the cathedral as well as in other churches. The main part of the report is largely due to the learning of Canon Doble of Truro who has been carrying out an immense amount of original work on the hagiology of the West of England in recent years.

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