

## Notes

### THE MEARE LAKE VILLAGE EXCAVATIONS, 1932

ON account of the flooded state of the land in 1931 no examination of the site was possible. In 1932 the excavations were reopened on August 26th and were continued until September 28th, the filling-in being done later.

It may be remembered that the Meare Lake dwellings consist of two distinct groups of mounds, known as the East and West Villages, and that each area is composed of about fifty dwelling-sites. The area of ground examined in 1932 was situated at the s.e. margin of the West Village, and included the examination of the following dwelling-sites,—Mounds XXXIX and XL, and parts of Mounds XXXIII, XXXV and XXXVI, together with the ground between and around them. With the exception of the ground on which the shed stands, the season's digging finished the examination of the second of the five fields over which the Western Village extends. As it will be necessary to move the shed so that the ground under may be excavated, the directors had to fix upon a suitable site to re-erect it in regard to future work.

The Eastern Village occupies parts of two fields, and the owner of the larger of these (Mr. William Wilcox) has repeatedly expressed his willingness for this ground to be examined, and has more recently emphasized this by giving the Somerset Archaeological Society the sole right to excavate. With these circumstances in view the directors considered it advisable to test Mr. Wilcox's ground by digging a section through one of the mounds, and this having proved satisfactory, it has been decided to move the shed into this field and begin the systematic examination of the site in 1933.

With reference to the mounds excavated this year, as they were situated near the s.e. border of the Village, it is probable

that they were among the last dwelling-sites constructed before the final evacuation of the village. Apparently this construction took place at a time when the surface of the peat was becoming consolidated, and hard enough to support a clay floor without a substructure of timber and brushwood. At several places along the margin considerable quantities of water-washed debris and silt were met with, together with mussel and other fresh-water shells.

Although the excavations revealed many points of interest including superimposed hearths and timberwork, no addition was made to our knowledge regarding the structural details of the dwellings.

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

*Antler*.—Two 'cheek-pieces' (for horse-bit), three weaving-combs, and several pieces of cut antler.

*Bone*.—A needle, two pins, three worked *scapulae*.

*Beads*.—Six of clear glass ornamented with yellow chevrons, and two small egg-shaped beads of clear glass, perforated on the long axis.

*Bronze*.—Long fibula of La Tène III type, harness ornament of 8-shaped design, heavy spiral finger-ring, several small-sized finger-rings, small terrets with iron foundations, several rivets including one attached to bronze plate.

*Lead*.—Some sheet lead, and small whorl or weight.

*Kimmeridge Shale*.—Greater part of two bracelets, and other pieces.

*Whorls*.—Several spindle-whorls, including one of baked clay, ornamented.

*Flint*.—Several scrapers, a saw, and a leaf-shaped arrowhead.

*Stone*.—Three saddle querns, slingstones, and pounders.

*Pottery*.—A good series of ornamented fragments; handle, cover and perforated base; pieces of graphite ware; large thick, plain pot, 11½ in. in height. Other plain pots have been partly restored.

*Human Remains*.—Human skull, much crushed, decayed, and incomplete.

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## UNRECORDED HOARD OF ROMAN COINS FROM HAM HILL

THE following is an extract taken from the *Journal of Roman Studies*, xxxi (1931), 241 :

An apparently unrecorded hoard of third-century bronze coins from Ham Hill has been rediscovered by Mr. J. N. L. Myres in Christ Church Library, Oxford. The coins, numbering at present 383, are still contained in the coarse grey cooking-pot in which they were found, together with a paper describing the find-spot as in 'the eastern extremity of the great Roman camp in the parish of Montacute in Somersetshire . . . by the pickaxe of a labourer working for limestone. It was given by Mr. Phelips of Montacute to Mr. Wood who deposited it here . . .' Some of the coins were, it seems, taken out and included in the Wake Collection: a *denarius* of Trajan and a coin of the Emperor Marius are specifically mentioned; but the bulk of the hoard was left in the pot. A rough classification of the coins at present in the pot gives: Gallienus 7, Postumus 6, Claudius Gothicus 11, Victorinus 93, Tetricus I 119, Tetricus II 41, third-century Radiates not yet identified, 106.

(Mr. Wood, referred to above, was Senior Proctor in 1800 and left Christ Church in 1814. Between 1802 and 1814 both John and Robert Phelips of Montacute were in residence at Christ Church, so that the discovery of the hoard and its deposit in the Library can be dated to these years with some certainty. Several hoards from Ham Hill are recorded by Professor Haverfield in *V.C.H. Somerset*, i, 297, but none there mentioned can be identified with this one.)

## A ROMAN RUBBISH PIT, CAMERTON

THE Roman settlement described by Skinner as having been discovered by him in a field at Camerton known as 'Eighteen Acres', is commented on by Haverfield in the *Somerset Victoria County History*, i, 290. A trial-excavation, lasting only a few days, was made on this site in October, and what proved to be a rubbish-pit was cleared out. It produced a quantity of pottery of Romano-British type, a good bronze fibula, a set of porcelain counters, the leg of a game-cock, showing a trimmed spur, several coins, etc. It is hoped to continue work on this site next year.

ETHELBERT HORNE.

## SAXON CEMETERY, CAMERTON

THE continuation of the excavation on this site began on August 2nd and ended on August 19th. By this latter date the western limit of the cemetery had been reached, and although two trenches were made immediately beyond the last burial discovered, and a third trench at some distance still further westwards, no other graves were found. It was noticeable that the last eight or nine graves opened were in a fairly even row, as if this was the actual beginning of the burial-ground. All subsequent graves were scattered about the site without any particular order, although they were evidently intended to lie east and west. The total number of graves in the cemetery was 109, but the record of bodies found exceeded this number by about six. A full report on this cemetery will appear in the *Proceedings* for next year.

ETHELBERT HORNE.

THE ARMS OF THOMAS LANGTON  
OVER THE INNER GATEWAY OF TAUNTON CASTLE

THOMAS LANGTON, belonging to a family which produced several bishops, and which is not yet extinct, has left traces in various buildings. He was a student at Oxford in the middle of the fifteenth century, but migrated to Cambridge, where he was Fellow of Pembroke Hall. Subsequently, after he had become Bishop of St. Davids and later of Salisbury, he was elected Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, in accordance with the practice which prevailed in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries of electing prelates as heads of houses in the universities, instead of mere scholars who would not have the influence to advance the interests of their foundations. He was a great benefactor to Queen's, and his name and obit are recorded in the College Kalendar. He was translated to Winchester in 1493, and in 1501 was elected Archbishop of Canterbury, but died of the plague before his consecration.

In 1497 Langton gave to Pembroke Hall a silver-gilt cup with the following inscription :

T. Langton Winton̄. eḡs aule penbrochie olim soci<sup>9</sup>  
dedit hāc tasseā cooptā eidē aule . 1 . 4 . 9 . 7 .

Probably the cup had been in his personal use since 1481 : it bears the **D** hall-mark for that year. The only older hall-mark is the **B** for 1479 on the chalice and paten at Nettlecombe. Above he added *qui alienaverit anathema sit. lxxij unc.* When the College sent its plate to the king in the Civil War, it retained this cup because of the anathema, but sent the cover.

As the weight of the cup is about 39 oz., the cover must have been an elaborate piece weighing about 28 oz. It is interesting to note that the Arabic figures on the cup are very similar to those on each side of the arms on the Castle gateway at Taunton. We find a similar display of his arms on the east wall of East Meon Church in Hampshire, which he probably restored, East Meon being an episcopal manor. The arms also occur in several places upon his chantry at the east end of the south choir aisle of Winchester Cathedral.

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