

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

### *Two Medieval Pitchers from Cowley, Oxford* (PL. IX, A, B)

The two pitchers (PL. IX, A, B) were found in what appeared to have been a well in the grounds of the Church Army printing works, Temple Road, Cowley. They are complete vessels of very similar fine uniform orange fabric, the smaller a little more clayey than the larger. They bear a patchy glaze, the smaller olive-green, the larger orange, both with dark-green speckles, produced by sprinkling on copper or bronze filings with the lead before the firing. The glaze of the smaller one tails off at the edges of the patch into small spots, a characteristic more common on Nottingham pottery. Both have strap-handles, dowelled on at the top, and are of common medieval shapes.

The fabric may be compared with that of a group of fifteenth-century pottery recognized now in and around Oxford (*Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 76-9), though these Cowley jugs are not fired quite so hard. Taking the forms, fabric and glaze together, a date in the later fourteenth to early fifteenth centuries would seem most reasonable for these two apparently associated jugs.

No exactly comparable fabric has been found in the Brill kilns, but the latest so far excavated (*Rec. Bucks.*, XVI (1954), 39 ff.) is probably as much as half a century earlier than these pots.

The pitchers are now in the Ashmolean Museum (1954.665-6).

E. M. JOPE.

### *An Eighteenth-century Drain at Woodstock* (PL. IX, C)

During excavations for the foundations of houses on the Cadogan Park estate just outside Woodstock workmen came across a stone-built vaulted drain. The drain, which is very well built of well-dressed blocks of local stone, is 2 ft. wide and 4 ft. high to the top of the vault. It has been found at several points on the estate, and also in the grounds of Hensington House, and beside a pond to the south of the estate. It appears to have run from the house to the pond, a distance of about 350 yards, and has not so far been picked up south of the pond. This type of vaulted drain was in use at Blenheim Palace, on a very much larger scale, and need not be earlier than the eighteenth century.

JOAN R. KIRK.

### *The Old Manor House, Eynsham, Oxon.* (PL. X, FIG. 16)

This building, which occupied the south-east corner of Carfax at Eynsham, was demolished in December 1954. It was only after demolition had started and when the central chimney had been taken down to first floor level that I obtained permission to examine the building, but the owner's architect, Mr. O. H. Nuttall, very kindly allowed me to have a copy of his original survey (FIG. 16).

The building was L-shaped. One block, 46 ft. by 17 ft., ran from south to north, and had at its northern end another block, 19 ft. by 40 ft., which faced the

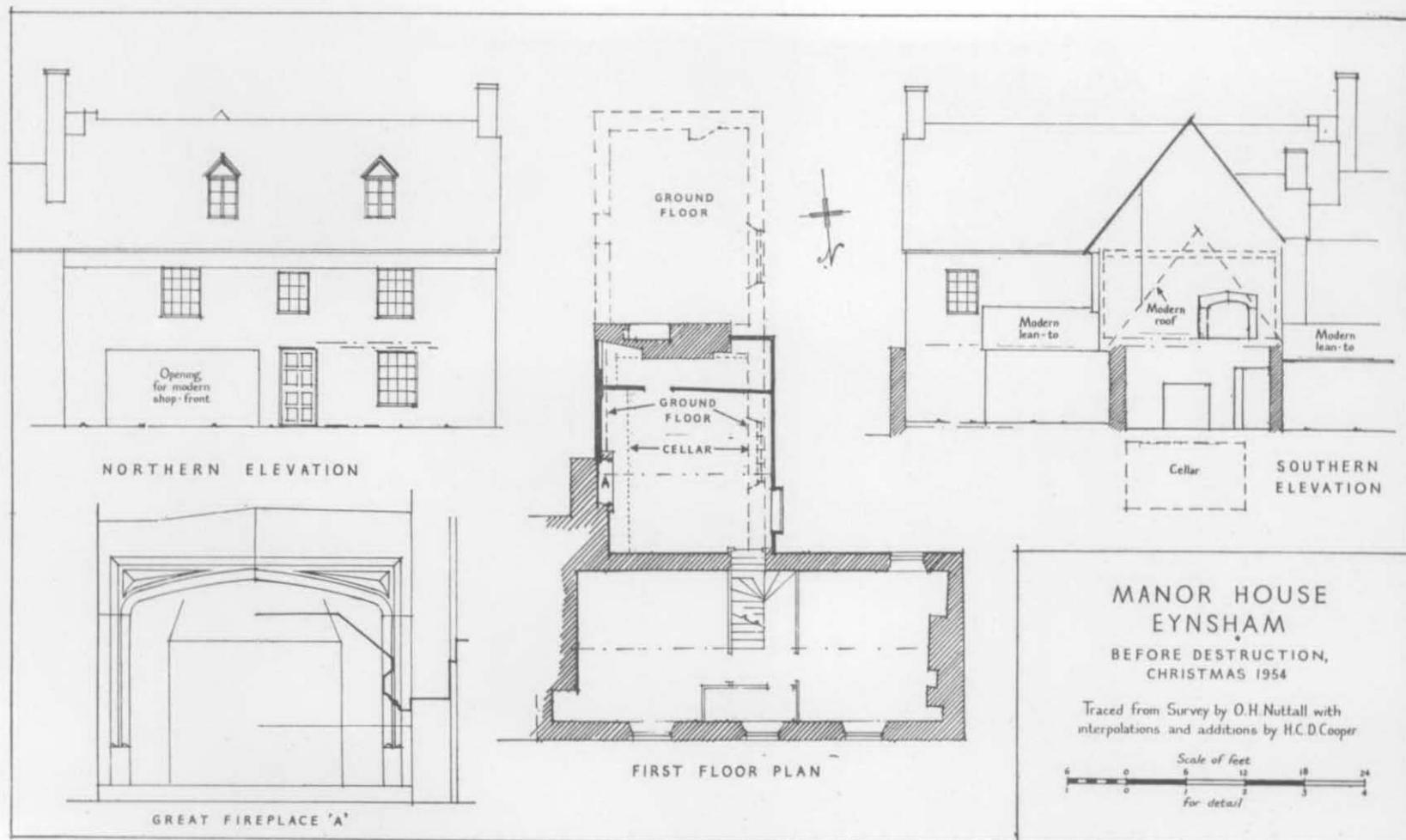


FIG. 16  
(pp. 146 ff.)

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

prolongation of Acre End Street, and formed one corner of Carfax. Judging from the character of the work, and a fair quoin at its north-west corner, the former is the earlier. A shilling of Queen Elizabeth and several carved stones evidently from the abbey, which were found in this part, would suggest that its erection took place immediately after the Reformation.

According to nineteenth-century deeds the building was known as Shepherds Close, and this suggests that it occupied the site of the medieval Sheep Market. There is, however, a popular tradition that it was the Manor House, and further research may confirm this. The fact that the southern wing was in alignment with the eastern side of Mill Street suggests that in the days of the abbey that street ran in full width up to the abbey gateway, which would have made it a truly noble way instead of the mean lane now perpetuated by the encroachment of the later northern block of the house.

The southern block was divided by a central chimney stack, having on the ground floor a great fireplace with traces of a projecting hood and on the first floor a stone fireplace with moulded arch and ambry in reveal of the late 15th or 16th century, facing S. (PL. X, E). The upper floor had long been removed from the southern half of this block, so that it is impossible to guess its character. The northern half was formed of stuccoed stud walls overhanging on the western side with a further projecting oak-moulded oriel window of Jacobean character. On its E. side was another four-centred moulded-arch fireplace of the late 15th or 16th century (PL. X, A). The whole was roofed with Stonesfield slates and at least one arched braced truss, concealed by a horizontal plaster ceiling. The character of the fireplaces suggests that they may have come from the abbot's lodging or guest-house. On the ground floor there was at least one, if not two, square-headed, mullioned and transomed windows of stone. These were moulded in two orders and were probably coeval with the building (PL. X, C).

The date of the building of the northern block is quite uncertain, but it was evidently remodelled in the eighteenth century, when it was given formal double-hung windows, dormers with good mouldings, and a deep plaster coved cornice. Latterly the front was marred by the insertion of a projecting modern shop-window (PL. X, B). Internally all the doors had bevelled panels.

The only wall of the original structure that remained was the western gable of the northern block (PL. X, D).

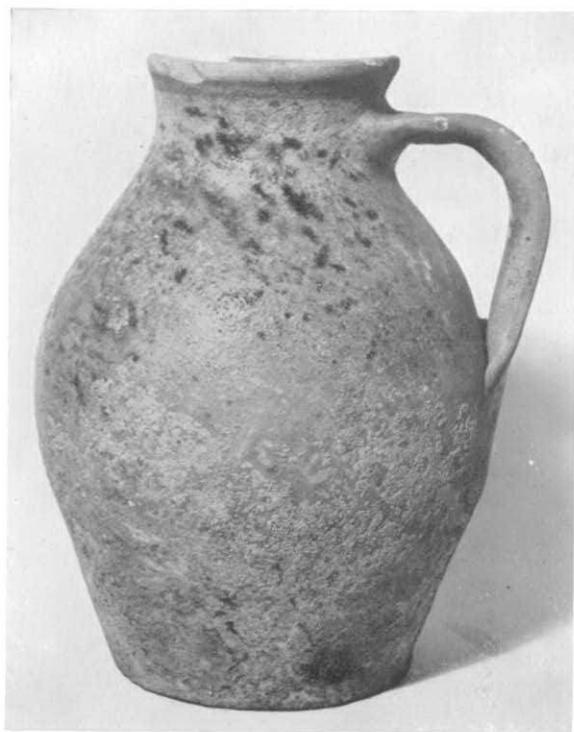
Of the carved stones found a fifteenth-century door moulding, a vault-springer of the same date of very light form and perhaps from an oriel or cloister, and a column drum, have been deposited in the church. The most interesting fragment, a very late Norman zig-zag voussoir, has disappeared; its character was most unusual as a link with the thirteenth-century manner, somewhat reminiscent of work at Glastonbury.

H. C. D. COOPER.

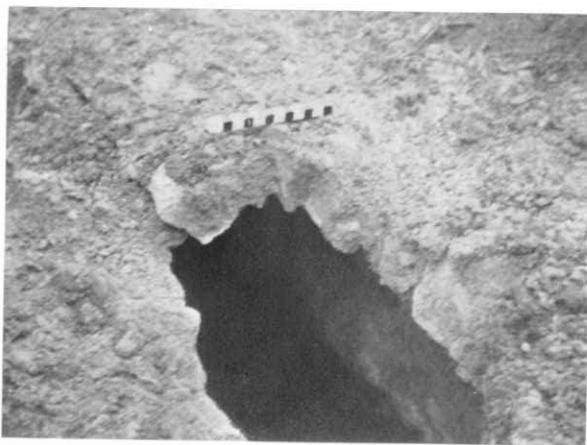
PLATE IX



A



B



C

A, B. COWLEY, OXFORD  
14th-15th-century pitchers (p. 146). Scale:  $\frac{1}{3}$   
C. WOODSTOCK, OXON.  
18th-century drain (p. 146)

*Phh.: A, B, Ashmolean Museum  
C, J. R. Kirk*



A



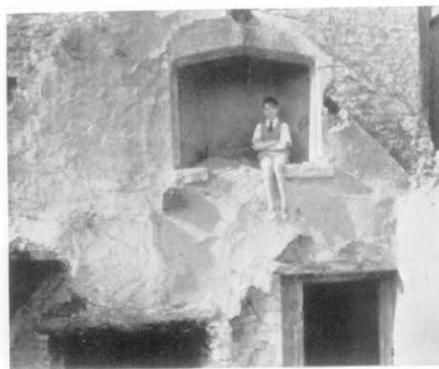
B



C



D



E

THE OLD MANOR HOUSE, EYNHAM, OXON.

- A. Late 15th- or 16th-century fireplace, N. block (p. 148).
- B. The street front, N. block, before demolition (p. 148).
- C. Stone mullioned window, N. block (p. 148).
- D. Original west gable wall, N. block (p. 148).
- E. Late 15th- or 16th-century fireplaces, S. block (p. 148).

*Phh.: A-D, P. S. Spokes  
E, Mr. Fowler*