

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES (1st July—31st December 1956)

Abingdon, Berks. Various sherds, including Romano-British and 13th-14th century wares, were reported found by Mr. C. Daybell at Lacey's Court, during gardening. (National Grid : 41/496974.)

An extended skeleton of a young person was reported by Dr. G. F. O'Connor, as found in a grave 4 ft. 6 ins. from the surface, during the digging of a modern grave at the New Cemetery, Spring Gardens. A second partially overlying skeleton was found. The skulls were towards the north. (National Grid : 41/488974.)

Clanfield, Oxon. A flaked flint axe, of Neolithic type (Ashmolean Museum: 1956.973) was found by Mr. J. H. Blake 'about 2 feet deep in gravel', when digging a drainage trench. (National Grid : 42/270015.)

Dorchester, Oxon. Sherds of Iron Age AB ware (Ashmolean Museum: 1956.977) and animal bones were found by Mr. C. Weaver in a pit in the face of the disused gravel pit near the Mount Farm. (National Grid : 41/575963.)

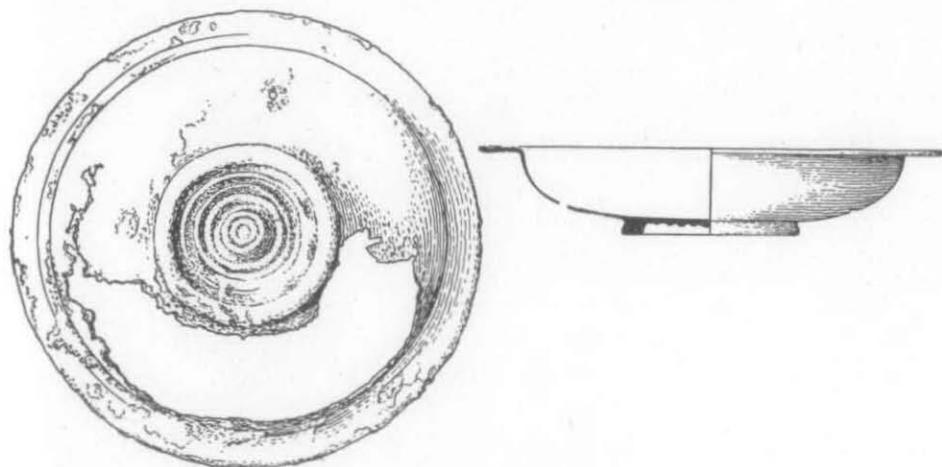


FIG. 18
FRAGMENTARY BRONZE BOWL FROM DORCHESTER.
Scale : $\frac{1}{4}$.

A fragmentary bronze bowl, perforated for suspension (Ashmolean Museum: 1956.979) Romano-British of 1st century date, was found, about 2 feet below the surface with sherds of coarse ware and oyster shells, by Mr. C. Cherril when gardening at Bridgend (FIG. 18). (National Grid : 41/578938.)

Enstone, Oxon. A reservoir and a trench for water-pipes were dug near the Hoar Stone (FIG. 19). The reservoir was dug 2 ft. 6 ins. to 3 ft. into the Great Oolite, and the trench 2 ft. 6 ins. (National Grid : 42/377236.) Thanks for advance

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information about these works and for other help are due to Mr. B. G. Faherty, Mr. R. T. Lattey and Mr. J. S. Sonley.

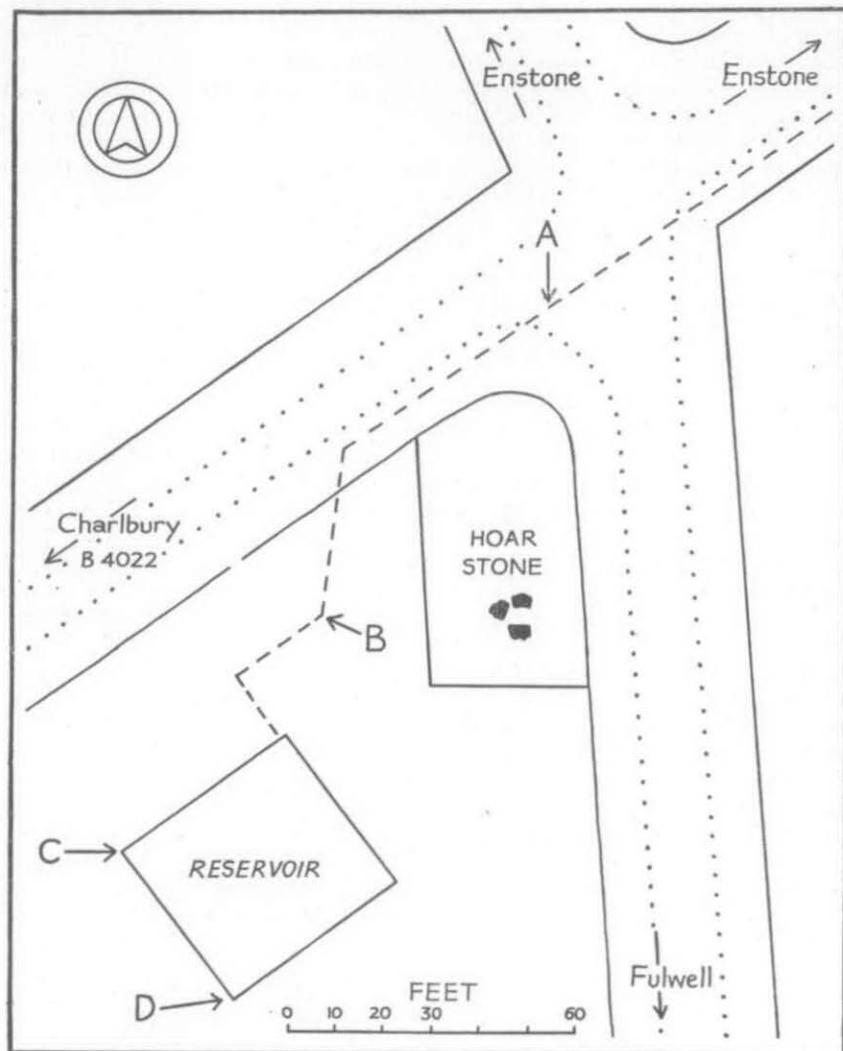


FIG. 19

Plan of the Hoar Stone burial chamber and adjacent excavations, after Crawford (*Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, p. 160) and a plan kindly lent by Mr. B. H. Faherty.

The sloping side of a ditch more than 2 ft. 6 ins. deep was seen in the section of the trench at A; it may have been a former drainage ditch. A pit 2 ft. deep with

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fairly vertical sides, possibly a plantation pit, was seen at B. A straight ditch, 2 ft. 6 ins. deep with fairly vertical sides, running north and south, was cut by the west corner of the reservoir (C). Another ditch with fairly vertical sides 3 ft. deep, running north-west then south-west possibly in a curve, was cut by the south corner of the reservoir (D). These were possibly recent plantation ditches.

None of these features is likely to have had any connection with the Hoar Stone burial chamber. The chamber may, however, have been set in a barrow (see Crawford, *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds* (1925), p. 160) which presupposes the existence of quarry ditches. If a long barrow is assumed, the position of the Charlbury and Fulwell roads and the negative evidence from the excavations suggest that its ditches ran approximately north and south, and that the chamber was set laterally near its north-east corner.

Ewelme, Oxon. A hand-axe of middle Acheulian type (Ashmolean Museum: 1956.972) was found by Mr. R. Cherry in Rumbold's pit (see *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX (1953-4) 1 ff. for other finds). (National Grid : 41/645927.)

Faringdon, Berks. Sherds of Romano-British coarse wares of 1st century date were reported found by Mr. E. H. Langham, adjacent to Fernham road. (National Grid : 41/283943.)

Waterperry, Oxon. Sherds of Romano-British coarse wares of 2nd-3rd century date (Ashmolean Museum: 1956.980) were found by Mr. A. D. Millar at Polecat End, Waterperry wood, during tree planting. (National Grid : 42/601090.)

Witney, Oxon. A bronze sword (Ashmolean Museum: 1957.63) of the Late Bronze Age, was reported by Mr. P. Godfrey as found at a depth of 9 feet in a connection trench immediately south of Corn Street and east of Emma's Dike. (National Grid : 42/349096.) (PL. VII, c.)

HUMPHREY CASE.

A FRAGMENT OF CHAIN-MAIL FROM THE ROMANO-BRITISH TEMPLE SITE AT WOODEATON

A mass of iron concretion (Ashmolean Museum: 1936.183) from the area of the Wood Eaton temple site,¹ hitherto taken to be iron slag, was seen to have two groups of bronze links embedded in it. On laboratory treatment it was found to be in fact a mass of iron links of chain-mail type. It consists of alternate sets of riveted links, 7 to 7.5 mm. in diameter, made from round-sectioned iron wire 0.8 mm. thick (with iron rivets), and rings 7 mm. across apparently punched from sheet iron about 1 mm. thick, giving a squarish section about 1 by 0.8 mm.² This is a standard manner and link-size for chain-mail fabric.³ The whole mass of iron has corroded

¹ *Oxoniensia*, XIX (1954), 15-37. This piece was found by Dr. W. H. C. Frend in 1936.

² The measurements are difficult to take with precision owing to corrosion, but are the result of a large number of observations with glass-worker's calipers graduated in tenths of a millimetre.

³ C. Englehardt, *Denmark in the Early Iron Age* (1866), p. 46, pl. 6 and 7. Englehardt and J. Curle (*Newstead* (1911), p. 161) describe the complete rings as welded, but as Mr. Burgess points out (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, LXXXVII (1953), 39-40) the square section indicates that they were punched out of sheet iron. On the chain-mail from the Belgic tumulus at Lexden, Colchester (2nd quarter of 1st century A.D.), the iron links seem not butted, contrary to the statement in *Archaeologia*, LXXVI (1927), 248. The mass is badly encrusted with corrosion, but it can be seen that alternate rows of iron links are riveted with iron pins, with the usual slight swelling at the junction. The intermediate rows of links are embedded in the hard black iron oxide matrix, but the occasional square section seen in fracture suggests the stamped rings seen in other chain-mail of the period. I am most grateful to Mr. M. R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A., for his kindness in sending me a piece of the Lexden mail for examination.

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to oxide and the links are very fragile : no orderly arrangement of the links into a piece of chain-mail fabric has yet been achieved, though sufficient can be seen to show that the riveted links alternate with the closed rings.

Such chain fabric has been found in pre-Roman and Roman contexts on the continent and in Britain.⁴ It is a remarkable technical achievement, especially the fine riveting.⁵ In some cases there is no doubt that it was chain-mail,⁶ and in most others it probably was.⁷ The bronze links in this Woodeaton piece are simple rings of thin bronze rod 1 to 1.1 mm. thick, bent round so that the ends are butted to form a circle 7.2 to 7.5 mm. across. As with the iron links, this again is a widely used standard ring size and rod gauge, within narrow limits.⁸ Similar bronze links have been found attached to iron chain fabric as bordering or for attachment of ornaments.⁹ Many of the objects from the temple area at Woodeaton were evidently votive offerings,¹⁰ and as pieces of chain-mail had been deposited in the bog at Thorsbjerg (Denmark), some carefully placed in pottery vessels,¹¹ this piece might similarly have been a votive offering at Woodeaton. However, parts of bronze chain regalia, made up of butted bronze links just like those attached to the Woodeaton piece, have been found at other Romano-Celtic temple sites,¹² and it is possible that this iron chain fabric decorated with bronze links might have been similarly used. Though it could have been merely lost, it is perhaps most likely that it was a votive offering.

E. M. JOPE.

A ROMANESQUE SEAL-MATRIX

The matrix for this impression (Fig. 20) was found by Allen Ryder when raking in the garden of Fernleigh, High Street, Wheatley (north side towards the western end of the street), in March 1951. The inscription 'SIGIL AILGNOTI' surrounds a squirrel eating a nut. Ailnott was a common christian name, represented by the modern surname ALLNUTT and the device is a punning allusion to its final syllable. An Aeglnoth was at Oxford mint in the reigns of William I and II and

⁴ References in *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, LXXXVII (1953), 39-40; to which add e.g. Strasbourg, *Gallia*, XI (1953), 236, fig. 9, no. 20; and another Scottish example recorded from Castlehaven Kirkcudbright, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, XLI (1907), 79.

⁵ *Antiq. J.*, XXXIII (1953), 48-55, 193-202.

⁶ E.g., Vimose, *Guide to Danish Colls* (Nat. Mus. Copenhagen, 1938), pp. 90-1; R. E. M. Wheeler, *Rome beyond the Imperial Frontiers* (1954), p. 59, pl. viii; C. Engelhardt, *Vimose Fundet* (1869).

⁷ J. Curle, *Newstead* (1911), p. 161.

⁸ *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, XX (1957), in press; see also note 12. Silver links of similar size are seen on the Aesica collar (*Archaeologia*, LV (1896), 179).

⁹ C. Engelhardt, *Denmark in the Early Iron Age*, p. 46; J. Curle, *Newstead*, p. 161.

¹⁰ *Oxoniensia*, XIV (1949), 1-45.

¹¹ C. Engelhardt, *Denmark in the Early Iron Age*, p. 46. Compare the chain mail found in a bronze vessel at Oeremölla, Sweden. H. Willers, *Neue Untersuchungen über die römische Bronzeindustrie* (1907), 49-50.

¹² R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Lydney* (1932), p. 91, pl. xxx; R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle* (1943), p. 284; note also the examples of regalia from Woodeaton. This Woodeaton piece has, of course, no stratified context, and is not necessarily of Roman or just pre-Roman age, though it probably is. Compare *Guildhall Mus. Cat.* (1908), 278, pl. lxxxvii, 10; a chain collar, probably medieval.

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an Ailnoth was at Thetford mint under Henry I. The letter punches used resemble those used for Henry II's first issue of coinage (1158-80).

W. O. HASSALL.



FIG. 20
ROMANESQUE SEAL-MATRIX FROM WHEATLEY.

Scale : $\frac{1}{4}$.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA TO *THE PLACE-NAMES OF OXFORDSHIRE* (ENGLISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY, xxiii, xxiv)

It will probably be some time before the English Place-Name Society can publish Addenda and Corrigenda to these volumes. A number of the points in these notes have been taken from reviews of the volumes, among which those by E. Ekwall in *Moderna Språk*, 1954, R. Forsberg in *Namn och Bygd*, 1956, and another in *Notes and Queries*, N.S., II (1955), 87-9, have been particularly helpful.

p. 7, *s.n.* Cuttle Brook. The first element is probably an unrecorded OE and ME **cutel*, 'an artificial water channel'.

p. 16. Delete *Brechesburne* among stream-names in Beckley and Stowood.

p. 17, lost stream-names in Ardley. *Cynewynne wylle* may be represented on the modern map by Kennel Copse (6 in.) on the west boundary of Ardley.

p. 32, Field-Names. The etymology given for *Hakelyngcroft* is very doubtful. Hackleton PN Nth 146-7 has similar early forms, and is considered to contain a personal name **Hæcel* and connective *-ing-*.

p. 52, *s.n.* Hart's Lock, etc. *Locstigle* etc. should not be connected with Hart's Lock, as the places referred to appear to have been in the north of the parish. This means that lock in these names is probably used in one of its other senses, not 'barrier on a river'.

p. 95, *s.n.* Couching St. The suggested etymology should be deleted. Confusion between *-k-* and *-ch-* is not likely.

p. 96, *s.n.* Watcombe. The forms are more consistent with derivation from OE *wāt*, 'wet', than *hwæt*, 'wheat'.

p. 141, *s.n.* *Sildenebrugg*. These are more likely to be further spellings for the 'guildsmen's bridge' in the adjacent parish of Benson (118), *S-* being a misreading for *G-*.

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p. 147, *s.n.* *Spire*. The quotation from *The Owl and The Nightingale* should read 'In ore vaste picke hegge'.

p. 150, *s.n.* *Culham*. BCS 366, from which two forms are quoted, is a spurious charter, and the date (821) should be in inverted commas.

p. 166, l. 6 from bottom. Before *Dycheshend* add '*Brecheshurne, Brechynhurne* (there is a discussion by C. T. Onions of this name, which throws light on l. 14 of *The Owl and The Nightingale*, in *A Grammatical Miscellany offered to Otto Jespersen*, London and Copenhagen 1930, pp. 105-8).'

p. 167, *s.n.* *Heath Bridge*. There is an important discussion of this name by R. Forsberg in *Namn och Bygd* 1956 (1-4), pp. 34-5. Dr. Forsberg cites other forms, probably referring to the same locality, including *hethenebergh* and *Hethenebouruwe*. He suggests that *Hethen(e)burnde*, given in the place-name volume, is a scribal error for **Hetheneburuwe*, and that the name probably means 'heathen barrows'.

p. 187, *Field-Names*. *Chestreweye* may be Blackberry Lane, the Roman road to Dorchester, which forms the east boundary of the parish. The first element of *Eyteakir* is more likely to be *eyt*, 'small island'.

p. 220, *s.n.* *Upper Heyford*. *Warin* is probably from Warin Fitz-Gerald, who appears to have inherited an estate here at the end of the twelfth century. See *English Historical Review*, LXX (1955), 139.

p. 222, *s.n.* *Collice*. For '*Cewaliz* c. 1289 Eynsh' read '*Cewaliz* c. 1298 Eynsh'.

p. 227, l. 7 from bottom. Delete *Emerhal*. The correct form is *Emenhul*, and there is probably no connection with *Elmindyngha*, which latter name may be identical with *Heilunidingho* on p. 228, and is possibly '*Æðelmund's* hill' containing *-ing-* and *hōh*.

p. 230, *s.n.* *Mixbury*. Add *Misseberie* 1086 DB.

pp. 249, 416. The final element of *Seuwellestlade* and *Ryschemereslade* is *slæa*, 'valley', not (*ge*)*lād*.

p. 268, *Field-Names*. Delete *will* from *wulfunes treow stealle will*, and *w(i)elle* from the etymological note. The charter reads *will. an suna*, which probably means '*Willa's* son', qualifying *Wulfhūn. treow-steall* probably means 'plantation'.

p. 286, *s.n.* *Weaveley Fm.* Delete '*Wideli* 1109 Eynsh, *Widel* 1159-62 Eynsh, c. 1160 RegAntiquiss, *Wyttleya* 1239 Eynsh'. These forms probably belong to *Woodleys* (294).

p. 288, *s.n.* *Tew*. Professor A. H. Smith (*English Place-Name Elements*, II, 179) suggests that the name is from a noun **tīwe*, a variant of *tīg*, 'meeting-place, court'.

p. 292, *Field-Names*. Delete '*Anestan* c. 1260 Os' in first paragraph: this is a form for *Enstone* (347).

p. 304, *s.n.* *Rushy Weir*. The charter form means 'brushwood island', with first element *hris*. If the identification with *Rushy* be correct, this element must have been confused with *risc*, 'rush'.

p. 322, *s.n.* *Poffley End*. *lē(a)h*, 'clearing', is perhaps more likely as second element than *w(i)elle*, 'spring, stream'.

p. 334, *Field-Names*. In *Chenest' apud Wodefordesmulle*, the first word may be Medieval Latin *chevescia*, 'headland'.

p. 337, *s.n.* *Treton*. *Draitone* 1086 DB probably belongs here, although the form is erratic. See *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 413, n. 3.

p. 341, *s.n.* *Chastleton*. For '*ceastel*, for which *v. Holthausen*' substitute '*ceastel*, for which *v. Bosworth Toller Supplement*'.

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pp. 347, 349, *s.nn.* Broadstone and Lidstone. The forms accord better with the suggestion in DEPN, that both names consist of Enstone with a distinguishing prefix, than with the etymologies given in the place-name volumes. Ekwall's etymologies should probably be substituted.

p. 373, Field-names. *Lodesled* should be *Lodersled*, first element probably *loddere*, 'beggar'.

p. 384, *s.n.* Faws Grove. For 'though it is not recorded in precisely that sense' substitute 'in which sense it probably occurs in l. 17 of *The Owl and The Nightingale*'.

p. 446, *s.n.* *fullock*. This field-name may be identical with the term *fulan æc* (dative) which occurs in the Abingdon bounds¹³ and appears to mean something like 'diseased oak'.

p. 491. Delete *geselda*, *hackling*, *lock*.

pp. 52, 118, *s.nn.* Gatehampton, Wygon Mill. Professor Ekwall considers that the *G-*, *-g-* of these names does not preclude derivation from *geat*, 'gate', and *wīðig*, 'willow'. If such a development were allowed to be possible, the names could be interpreted very satisfactorily as 'homestead by the gate' and 'mill by the willows'. On similar lines it might be possible to interpret Guildenford (311) as 'guildsmen's ford': alternatively, in this last name, standard English *guild* might well have been substituted for ME *yild*.

MARGARET GELLING.

LOCAL WILLS

The Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House has now transferred the Berkshire archdeaconry wills as well as the Oxfordshire consistory court and archdeaconry wills to the Bodleian Library. Many are accompanied by inventories. There are good alphabetical indexes of surnames which indicate the places of residence of testators, but there is no topographical index.

W. O. HASSALL.

GRAND COMPOUNDERS

It is a hundred years ago this year that grand-compounding was abolished.¹⁴ Between 1821, when H. N. Pearson was a Grand Compounder for the degree of D.D.¹⁵ and 1853, when Salisbury Baxendale (M.A., Balliol) insisted on his right to the full ceremonial since he had paid the fees, no one had proceeded to a degree in this way and it had lapsed, and no one during the four more years that the right to proceed as a Grand Compounder remained as a clause in the Statutes availed himself of the privilege.

One could be a Grand Compounder for any degree, greatly enlarged fees being paid for the right: for instance, a Grand Compounder paid £40 instead of £14 for the M.A. degree, and £30 instead of £7 for that of B.A.

It was in the seventeenth century that the practice became prominent, although it is known to have existed a century before.

The Grand Compounder wearing the scarlet Convocation 'habit' (*habitus coccineus*) with the gown and the hood of his new degree had his own procession, in which the Vice-Chancellor, the Proctors, and any member of his College who wished

¹³ See above, p. 61.

¹⁴ A. Clarke, *Reg. Univ. Oxon.* (O.H.S., 1887), II, pp. 64-5.

¹⁵ J. S. Reynolds, *Evangelicals at Oxford*, p. 179.

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joined. This procession went from his College to the Convocation House (or in later times to the Sheldonian), and back again after the ceremony in the same way, while the bells of St. Mary's rang. In earlier times a trumpeter walked in front blowing his instrument.¹⁶

The Grand Compounder was supposed ever after on full dress occasions to wear the Convocation 'habit' with the gown and hood of his degree even if not a Doctor, although this obligation was usually waived by dispensation in the case of non-Doctors after the actual ceremony.

W. N. HARGREAVES-MAWDSLEY.

THE COMMONER'S GOWN

Those of us who regard the Commoner's gown as a 'poor remnant' and would like to see it *talariis* as the Statutes still order it to be, should be reminded that in December 1857, one hundred years ago this year, an attempt was made, the only attempt ever made, to improve the Commoner's already scanty dress. The Proctors of the day, understanding that Commoners were dissatisfied with their humble gown, introduced to Convocation a proposal that they should in future wear the Scholar's gown, which still remained reasonably long, while Scholars should retain their gown with the addition of black velvet on the yoke and on the upper part of the facings in front. The proposal was, however, defeated, as George Valentine Cox, the last Esquire Bedel of the University, mentions in his *Recollections*.

The Commoner's gown was worn ankle-length until the 1830's when it became much shorter for the following reason. At this time among the smart set there began a craze for wearing deliberately torn and shortened gowns, as we see in the *Hints on Etiquette for the University of Oxford* (1838), a fashion soon followed by the majority of Commoners, until finally tailors began to make the gowns short, at the same time reducing the 'streamers' both in length and breadth. This was, of course, contrary to statute, but no official action was ever taken to prevent it.

The short gown was now so openly acknowledged that it appears on the marble monument (1838) of a Commoner in Brasenose Chapel, and although in Nathaniel Whittock's *Costume Plates* of 1840 the Commoner wears an ankle-length gown, this merely shows what, according to the Statutes, it should have been.

Later, as we see in the illustrations to *Mr. Verdant Green* (1853-6) and *Tom Brown at Oxford* (1861), the gown became shorter still, but it did not become as short as it is now until the last quarter of the century.

When in 1917 the status of Advanced Students was created it was ordered that their dress should be that of a Gentleman Commoner, which was a gown with winged sleeves, but owing to some misunderstanding nearly all tailors began instead to make for them the original long sleeveless gown with 'streamers' proper to Commoners.

W. N. HARGREAVES-MAWDSLEY.

REFACING OF HOUSES IN ST. MICHAEL'S STREET, OXFORD

During 1955 the Corporation, as owners of Vanburgh House (Nos. 20-22 St. Michael's Street), carried out the renovation and cleaning of the front of this well-known house. The defective ashlar was cut out and renewed in Clipsham stone, including the complete renewal of the hood which forms the central feature of the

¹⁶ Clarke, *loc. cit.*

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elevation on St. Michael's Street. The remaining work was pointed up and thoroughly washed.

The front elevation of No. 24 (St. Michael's Vicarage) was completely refaced in Clipsham stone (PL. VIII, B) during the first six months of 1956 by the Corporation. The existing stonework (PL. VIII, A) was found to be so eroded that it could not be satisfactorily repaired.

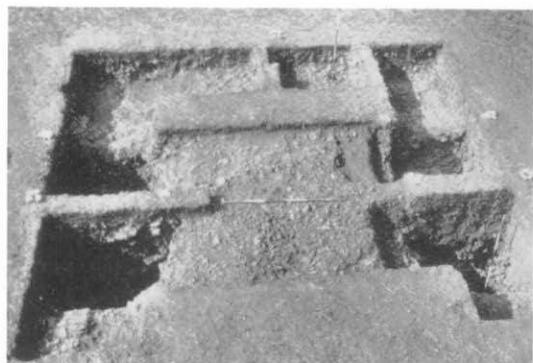
On 24 June 1956 an interesting ceremony took place at No. 24. In the presence of Colonel d'Arcy Dalton, lecturer in military history at Lincoln College (and a tenant of Vanburgh House), the Rev. 'Tubby' Clayton, founder of Toc H, the Rev. George Moore, curate of St. Michael at the North Gate, and two stone-masons engaged on the work, Mr. John Dorrill of 38 St. Nicholas Road, Littlemore, and Mr. Edward Armstrong, of 153 Iffley Road, Oxford, bottles were immured in the cross-wall in the basement of St. Michael's Vicarage (No. 24) some seven feet from the south front and some three feet above the level of the basement floor of the house. These bottles contain coins and stamps in plastic bags, a copy of *The Times*, and an address written in waterproof ink by Colonel d'Arcy Dalton. This document is addressed to 'The Reverend the Chancellor and Scholars of the University of Oxford and to the Right Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Burgesses of the City of Oxford' and contains a list of articles placed in the wall. Before the ceremony of blessing the bottles, prayers were led by the Reverend George Moore. Afterwards the assembled company partook of beer, bread, and cheese.

P. S. SPOKES.

REFACING OF NO. 41 ST. GILES', OXFORD

During 1956/57 the facade of No. 41 St. Giles', owned by the University and occupied by the Appointments Committee, was refaced in selected fine roach Portland stone (PL. IX, B). As will be seen from PL. IX, A, no alteration in the existing elevation was made, but the pedimented doorway was cleaned and received minor matching repairs.

P. S. SPOKES.



A



B



C



CALLOW HILL, OXON.

A. Villa entrance, looking west, showing road-metalling on causeway across ditch D ; distant ranging pole set in post-hole gate ; stone hole across roadway to left.

B. Section of palisade trench outside dyke B, looking north.

WITNEY, OXON.

C. Bronze Age bronze sword.

*Phh. : A, B, N. Thomas
C, Ashmolean Museum*



A

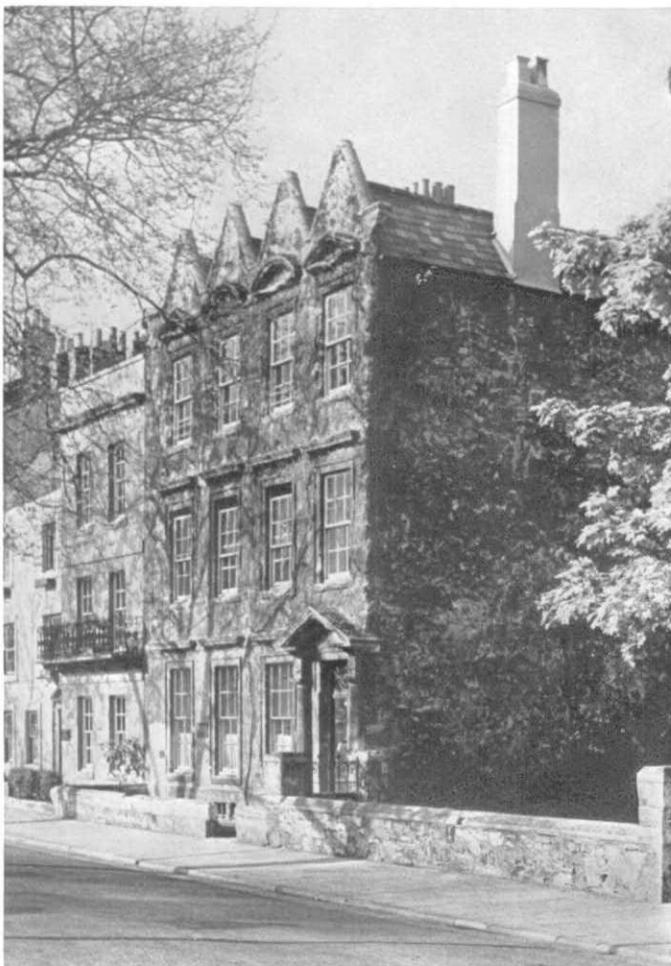
A. Before refacing.



B

B. After refacing.

NO. 24 ST. MICHAEL'S STREET, OXFORD.



A



B

NO. 41 ST. GILES', OXFORD.
A. Before refacing. B. After refacing.