

Notes and News

A NEOLITHIC VILLAGE NEAR COLOGNE

We print below a translation (by Dr Cecil Curwen) of the first report* on the excavation of a neolithic village in the outskirts of Cologne. It belongs to the band-keramik culture, and although so far no startling or unusual features have been observed, it is to be hoped that it may be possible to excavate it completely. The work is being carried out with the utmost care and thoroughness by the officers of the Roman department of the Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Cologne.

In the autumn of 1928 some dark occupation-sites containing shards of band-pottery were cut into during alterations in the district between Dürener Strasse, Militär-Ringstrasse and the Frechener Brook, west of Lindenthal, Cologne. The discovery appeared to be of such importance that I immediately raised a protest against the removal of the site of the discovery and the projected complete demolition of it for obtaining soil for the new Botanical Garden. However, after various difficulties it was possible to begin the scientific exploration of the site on 1 August 1930.

Expectations were not disappointed, but were even excelled. For it was a question of nothing less than a complete village with its numerous huts, the whole surrounded by a fortification. By far the commonest ground-plan is the so-called curve-complex of kidney-shape, with depressions of varying depth in the floor, and of varying circumference due partly to much later enlargements and additions to the buildings. While elsewhere only very few post-holes have been found in connexion with such ground-plans, here they are freely established. This much is certain, that we are dealing with actual hut-sites. Moreover, isolated rectangular buildings also occur, as for instance a magnificent building over 66 feet (20 m.) long with post-holes in the interior and beside both its longer sides ; this lies in the west part, immediately beside the ditch. In its interior, however, neither a hearth-place nor, in general, relics

* Published in *Germania*, Jahr xv, heft 1 (Jan. 1931), pp. 49, 50, by Fritz Fremersdorf. Plan of site so far as at present excavated.

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of occupation are forthcoming. So far it is already to be observed that the ditch respects this building. Round the whole lies a ditch about 17 feet wide (5 m.) and 7 feet deep (2 m.), behind which there follows at a greater distance a palisade which is recognized by narrow dark streaks with posts extending in front of them. In the filling of the ditch, and of course immediately above the bottom, shards of band-pottery have been found, so that the ditch may be considered to be contemporary with the settlement. For the hut-sides contained a mass of pottery, smooth or decorated in various ways with band-patterns; also flint implements, simple querns, animal bones, and isolated pieces of burnt daub. In more than one case cellars or rubbish-pits have been found.

What the plan also shows is its splendid state of preservation. It seems to be conditioned or at least favoured by a covering stratum about 20 inches (50 cm.) thick, which makes a definite contrast and lies above the occupation level and below the humus; possibly this is a deposit left by the neighbouring Frechener Brook. With regard to the technique of the excavation it may be said that we clear long strips, 23 feet (7 m.) wide down to the beginning of the occupation level, and then make a smooth surface with the help of specially prepared scrapers. The dark spots of changed colour then show up with very great distinctness, so that they can even be photographed. All hut-sites were completely shown up for establishing the nature of their pits, and therewith accurately explored for their contents. Post-holes were without exception opened up; once in order to determine them as such with certainty, and then also to determine whether the posts were arranged in pairs in an upright or oblique position; hitherto they have been found to be exclusively vertical.

The fact is important that hitherto only sporadic remains were found belonging to a later period, as for instance some rubbish-pits without post-holes with Hallstatt shards, also larger post-holes which are arranged in a rectangular plan; as the latter never contain any kind of relics of occupation they may well be looked upon as store-houses. If one takes into consideration that the contents of the huts in pottery is not very rich, the assumption is perhaps justified that this village was only occupied for a short time. Its extent from east to west amounts to 660 feet (200 m.); from north to south it can be provisionally estimated as amounting to at least 500 feet (150 m.). Up to the present about 4200 square metres of the area have been systematically explored.

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Here we have the very rare case that the entire plan can be recovered, as it lies in the open country, and the advantageous situation guarantees an uninterrupted acquisition of the ground-plan of the huts. Very gratifying is the extensive support hitherto received through Dr Adenauer, the chief burgomaster, who out of his management fund placed at our disposal the means of paying for scientific assistance in the continuous superintendence of the work. Further, thanks are due to Burgomaster Dr Schwering, the leader of the town's Welfare Committee, for the rapid progress of the work as a result of the grant of a greater number of free emergency workmen.

The object of this short report is before all to draw the attention of fellow-students in excavation, and to invite them to visit us. The large rectangular building by the western ditch will be kept open as a preliminary ; besides, in the next few months it will always be possible to see larger continuous areas, either after being uncovered and before being explored, or after the working out of the occupation level and thus after the completion of the exploration. In the office of the Roman section in the museum is a small selection of the finds forming a representative collection. As for the rest, Dr Werner Buttler, to whom the local charge of the excavation is assigned, will soon report on its progress here.

GOODWIN SANDS AGAIN

We are indebted to one of our readers, Miss ALICE D. GREENWOOD, for pointing out that the story of Goodwin Sands and Tenterden steeple originated in the middle of the 16th century. Latimer referred to it in his last sermon, preached before Edward VI in 1550, and there is a graphic record in the 'Workes' of Sir Thomas More, printed in 1557, which we give below.* We would point out that, although Tenterden has connexions with Thanet both by name and custom, the story rings true of the English rustic, and is probably the fountain-head. As our correspondent points out, Sir Thomas More most likely encountered and cross-examined the 'old father' as a witness before the commission appointed to enquire into the cause of the decay of Sandwich haven.

' And nowe where thei laie for a prooffe, that God were not contented wyth battayle made againste infidels, the losse and mynyschement

* From 'The workes of Sir Thomas Moore', 1557 [Bodl. reference, Douce M.M. 398]: book IV, chapter 14, p. 277.

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of Christendome synce that guyse beganne, they fare as dyd once an olde sage father fole [sic] in Kente at suche tyme as divers men of worshippe assembled olde folke of the countrey to commune and devyse aboute the amendemente of Sandewyche haven. At whiche tyme as they beganne fyrste to ensearche by reason and by the reporte of olde menne there about, what thing had bene the occasion that so good an haven was in so fewe yeares so sore decayed, and suche sandes rysen, and such shalowe flattes made therwith, that right small vessels had now muche worke to come in at dyvers tydes, where great shippes wer within fewe yeres passed accustomed to ryde without difficultie, and some laying the fault to Goodwyn sandes, some to the landes Inned by dyvers owners in the Isle of tenate out of the chanell, in which the sea was wont to compasse the Isle and bryng the vessels rounde about it, whose course at the ebbe was wont to scoure the haven, whiche nowe the Sea excluded thence, for lack of such course and scouryng is choked up with sande, as they thus alledged, divers men, divers causes. There starte up one good old father and said, ye masters say every man what he wil, cha marked this matter wel as som other. And by god I wote how it waxed nought well ynough. For I knewe it good, and have marked so chawe, whan it began to waxe worse. And what hath hurt it good father, quod the gentlemen? By my fayth maisters quod he, yonder same tenterden steple and nothyng els, that by the masse cholde twere a faire fish pole. Why hath the steple hurt the haven good father quod they? Nay byr Ladye maisters quod he, yche cannot tell you well why, but chote well it hath. For by God I knew it a good haven til that steple was bylded, And by the mary masse, cha marked it well, it never throve since. And thus wisely spake these holi Lutheranes, which sowyng scismes and sedycions among christen people, laye the losse thereof to the withstanding of the Turkes invasion, and the resistyng of his malice, where they should rather yf thei had any reason in theyr heades, lay it to the contrary'.

SIR AUREL STEIN'S DISCOVERIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

An exhibition has been held at India House, Aldwych, London, of a collection of textile remnants recovered from desert soil on his third Central-Asian journey in 1913-16 by Sir Aurel Stein, the famous explorer and archaeologist, and which belongs to the Government of India.

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Of the more important textile fragments from the expedition shown at the British Museum in 1925, some have already been returned to New Delhi. The recent exhibition comprised the residue of the tissues then shown, together with a further selection of fabrics which, owing to their perished and fragile condition, it has not yet been possible to display. All this material has now, by order of the Government of India, been as far as practicable restored and mounted and will also be returned to India very shortly.

The earlier group of exhibits, assigned by Sir Aurel Stein to a period extending from the middle of the 1st century B.C. to about the first third of the 2nd century A.D., *i.e.* to the period of the Han dynasty, was excavated from grave-pits in a ruined cemetery at a site of what was once the Lou-lan territory and is now part of the Lop desert. In his introduction to 'Ancient Chinese Figured Silks', a paper published in the *Burlington Magazine* in 1920, in which Mr F. H. Andrews, late principal of the Kashmir Technical Institute at Srinagar, discusses the materials, methods of weaving, and character of the designs of certain especially interesting silks found at this site, the explorer claims that these fabrics represent the oldest surviving examples so far known of the Chinese silk industry and textile art. Such abundance of textile remains, so Sir Aurel Stein tells us in his official report on his third Central-Asian journey (*Innermost Asia*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1928), we owe to the Chinese custom of bandaging the dead in closely wound rags of old clothing. These tattered remnants rarely give a clue to the character of the particular garment to which they belonged, but their technical and artistic interest is great and their state of preservation wonderful. Silks, patterned and plain, predominated, but fabrics of wool and cotton or hemp were also found. Particularly remarkable are a number of fragments of knotted pile carpet, worked in a variety of colours, and differing neither in appearance nor in weave from the carpet of today.

The second group, which dates from the seventh to about the fifteenth century A.D., consists mainly of silks from tombs of the Astana cemeteries in the Turfan district. These Astana silks, in contrast with the Lou-lan ones, so robust in colour and purely Chinese in conception, give evidence of contact with Western taste in design. Their range of colour is wider and their pattern inclines to repetition, both vertically and horizontally, of a relatively small unit of design. The damasks, striped and diapered silks, silk tapestry, and gauzes of this group, included some striking fragments from Khara-khoto, the famous Etzina of

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Marco Polo, as well as some remnants of printed silk produced by a similar process to the modern 'Batik' work. The work of restoring and mounting was entrusted by the Government of India to Miss Joan Joshua, who has, since 1924, assisted Sir Aurel Stein in various literary and artistic capacities.

PHOTOGRAPHING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Mr ERNEST MACKAY, of the India Archaeological Survey, sends the following note from Mohenjo-Daro, Sind :—

Most archaeologists, and especially those in the field abroad, soon realize that if shadows are to be obviated they must photograph their finds on glass from above. This method is also useful when the shapes of the objects to be photographed preclude their being supported in a vertical position.

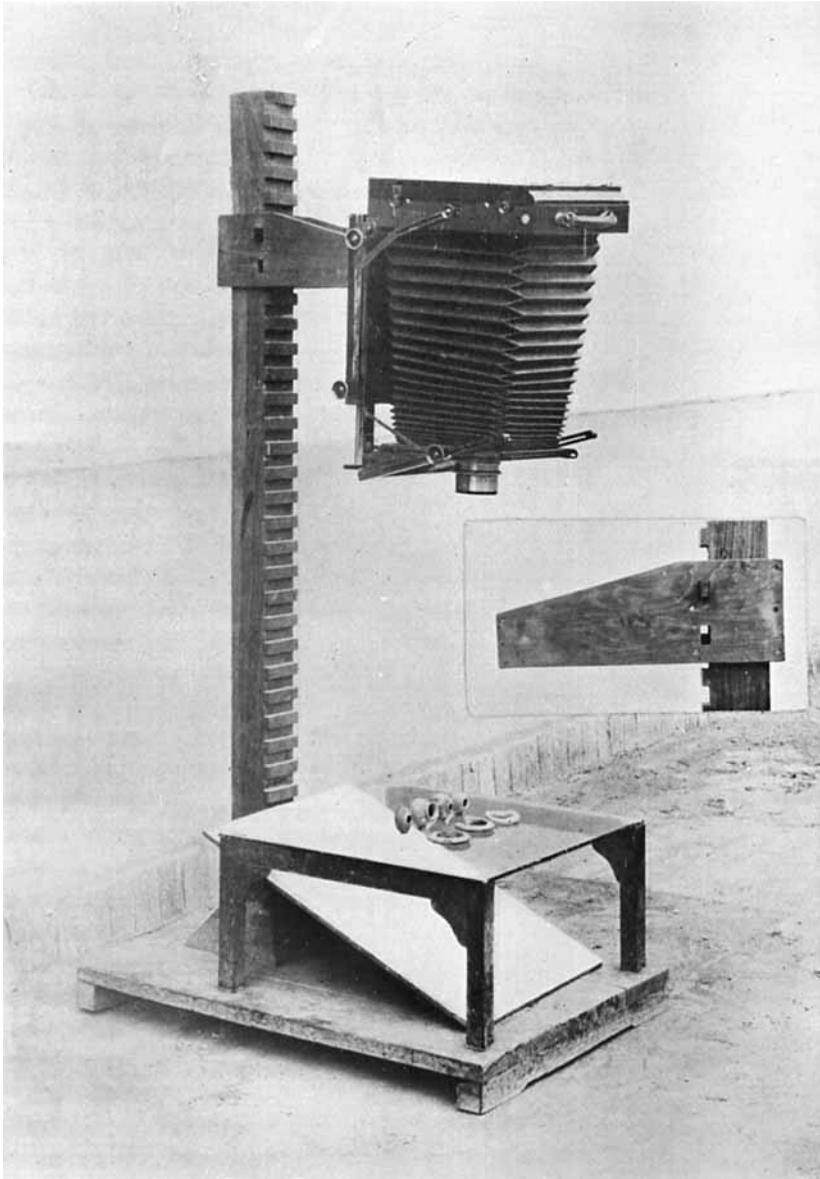
There are many pieces of apparatus on the market for this class of photography, but they are expensive and liable to get out of order at critical moments or far from any means of repair.

With these difficulties in mind, I have devised a simple stand that is capable of doing a great deal of useful work. The material of which it is made can be procured anywhere, and even a comparatively unskilled native carpenter can make it.

The photograph shows a post 6 ft. 2 ins. high fixed by an incut step to a base 3 ft. 4 ins. by 3 ft. 2 ins. in size. The post is 4 ins. square and can easily be removed from the base if desired. Here we have had the post to fit rather loosely in the stand so as to allow for expansion during the monsoon, but a wedge between the post and base makes it quite rigid.

Down the front of the post square-cut slots are made, at intervals of 1 in., each 1 in. high by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep. These slots are preferably cut in the post, but they can be made by fastening slips of wood 1 in. wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick to the post at the proper distance of 1 in. apart. I prefer the slots to be cut as being stronger, and also because they are less trouble to make in this way.

The open frame-like arrangement to which the camera is fastened in the usual way easily slides up and down the post. On each side of it holes are cut for the reception of a pin, each of which measures 1 in. high and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide to correspond with the slots on the post. If there is only one hole in each side of the frame, the operator can adjust his camera at intervals of one inch. But if two holes, one below the other,



APPARATUS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING ARCHÆOLOGICAL FINDS

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be cut at a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. or preferably for strength $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. apart, as shown in the photograph, the removal of the pin from the upper to the lower slot will bring down the range of the camera to within half an inch. By providing three or even more slots, the adjustment of the camera can be brought down to a quarter of an inch or even less. I find that with the modern lens it is only necessary to be able to move the camera by half inches and that a small stop will do the rest.

The rectangular pin by means of which the sliding frame is engaged with the slots in the posts measures a trifle less than 1 in. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. To allow of expansion in wet weather our frame also is slightly larger than it need be ; but a small easily removable wedge prevents shake. With this apparatus, it may be added, it is quite impossible for the box ever to become accidentally loose so that any damage to the camera, through slipping, is obviated.

The post can be marked so that the frame can at once be set to give the desired degree of enlargement or reduction. For convenience in transport, the supports upon which the plate glass rests can be removed, so that they can be packed conveniently together with post, stand, and sliding frame.

This simple piece of apparatus is in constant use in our excavation camp and elsewhere, and it has never let us or itself down.

NIEDERMENDIG LAVA ROCK NEAR AVEBURY

Mrs M. E. CUNNINGTON sends us the following note :—

It may be remembered that the Kennet avenue at Avebury, as described by Aubrey and Stukeley, ended at two rings of standing stones on Overton Hill. According to Stukeley the rings were known locally as 'the Sanctuary'; he records their final destruction in the year 1723. Since then even the exact site had been lost until it was re-discovered last summer (1930) and the site excavated.

The holes in which the two concentric circles of stones had stood were found, and quite unexpectedly six rings of holes, concentric with the stone holes, which once held timber posts.

The pottery found consists of fragments of West Kennet long-barrow type and of beakers. A beaker was found with the only burial on the site. There can be little doubt, therefore, that the circles were erected in the Early Bronze Age, apparently at the period of overlap of the cultures of the long barrow and beaker people.

The evidence suggests that the stone circles were not contemporary

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with, but rather later than those of timber. The plan of the timber construction apart from the stone circles has much in common with that of Woodhenge. Some of the post-holes are of great size and must have held large timbers. The use of timber at all in the centre of this sarsen country, where innumerable stones shaped and hewn by nature were lying close at hand, is remarkable, and shows that in prehistoric times timber was not only used as a substitute when stone was not available, but in this case at least was actually chosen in preference to stone.

The purpose of this note is to make known the discovery of pieces of lava rock from Niedermendig in the Eifel, Germany, in one of these post-holes. The rock has been identified by Dr H. H. Thomas, who says there can be no doubt about its place of origin. About twenty small, roundish, much weathered fragments, none showing signs of use, were found scattered through the lower half of a large, 5 ft. deep post-hole. Nothing later than beaker pottery was found in the holes, and there is no reason to think that this particular one was in any way disturbed at a later date. The fact, indeed, that in this hole a core was observed denoting the position and decay *in situ* of the timber upright, proves that it had remained undisturbed since the decay of the timber.

This being so it is hard to get away from the inference that the lava rock was brought to this country by beaker-using people coming from the Rhineland. It may have been brought as a mealing stone for rubbing or grinding corn. A corn grinder must have been a household necessity in daily use, and therefore an object likely to have been carried by an immigrating people. In the course of time the stone was broken, and fragments may have found their way into the filling of this hole, along with other rubbish from the surface such as potsherds, bones of animals, and so on.

Previous to this discovery at the Sanctuary there seems to be no record of this rock associated with pre-Roman remains in Britain, but in Roman and medieval times it was imported for mill stones.*

It was, however, worked and used for mealing and rubbing stones by people in a neolithic stage of culture in the Rhineland (Michelberger,

* In the German publication referred to below mention is made of the discovery of Niedermendig lava in a Pict's mound (Pictenwall) in Scotland, and Dr Brink in the *Mayener Geschichtsbuch*, is quoted as the authority for the statement. On enquiry at the National Museum of Scotland, Mr J. Graham Callander tells me that nothing is known there of this alleged discovery.

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Pfallbau). There is said to be no direct evidence of its use there between the Neolithic and the early Iron Age Hallstatt period, when it was much used and continued so through La Tène, Roman and later times. It can hardly be doubted, however, that this rock was used by beaker people in the Rhineland. The lack of evidence of its direct association with beakers is due probably to the fact that mealing stones are not usually found in graves, and that few of the living sites have been investigated. In the great earthwork of Urmitz (interrupted ditch type) between Coblenz and Cologne, built by Michelberger, and later occupied by beaker people, mealing stones, etc., of this rock are found.

The early mealing stones of this rock from the Rhineland are identical in shape with the so-called saddle querns with which we are familiar in England from Early Iron Age sites.

Perforated hammer or axe heads were occasionally made of this rock.

I am indebted to Herr Georg Kraft of the Freiburg Museum for information as to the use of lava rock in the Rhineland, and for reference to a paper on the subject entitled 'Die Basaltlava-Industrie bei Mayen (Rheinland) in vorromischer und romischer Zeit', *Mannus*, band VI. (*Zeitschrift für Vorgeschichte*, 1914). A full report of the excavations at the Sanctuary will appear in the June number of the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*.

HISTORICAL STUDY BY FLUORESCENCES

Mr L. V. DODDS writes :—

Further interesting work has recently been completed in the study of fluorescences emitted by the inks of manuscripts and the like when examined beneath ultra-violet rays.* It is by this method that many palimpsests have been deciphered and much information gained of value to historical study. So far not a great deal of work has been done at the British Museum, but the initial researches are of considerable interest.

The ink of papyri and the inks of later periods containing such reagents as gallic acid have so far proved inert to the rays, but there is considerable scope for further study and in Germany it has been found that some papyri can be examined successfully by this method.

* A note on deciphering palimpsests by Mr L. V. DODDS is printed in *ANTIQUITY*, 1929, III, 219-21.

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Some interesting results have been obtained by Professor Manly and Professor Rickert, who are investigating the names and markings scribbled on Chaucer MSS. The fluorescences excited by the rays enabled a number of these to be read which were immune to other methods, while other doubtful or illegible markings have been confirmed.

In this particular branch of study experience at the British Museum has shown that in some cases reasonably good results are obtained, while in others little more comes up than can be seen with the naked eye.

Dr Cellerier, of the Musée du Louvre, has obtained satisfactory results in the examination of paintings for signs of retouching, and some pictures, the origin of which was in doubt, have been identified as the work of a particular artist. All types of rays have been used by Dr Cellerier and his colleagues and it is stated that the great advantage of the ultra-violet group is that no damage is done to the painting during the examination. One interesting and not unhumorous result of this work is that one or two minor paintings in the Louvre which were believed to be original have now been found to be copies by a much less-known brush.

While this means of using ultra-violet rays is important, there is another application which may become of much greater value to the student. Dr Cellerier has shown that the actual method of working used by the artist can be studied by this means. The varying brush strokes are clearly seen, and it seems possible that some knowledge may be gained of the skilful technique by which some of the old masters achieved their effects. Special consideration is now being given to this most interesting problem.

KING ARTHUR'S LAST BATTLE

Neither the place nor date of any of King Arthur's twelve battles are known.* Doubt has even been cast upon his existence; and it has also been suggested that he may have been the same person as Aurelius Ambrosius. We do not however think that either of these opinions about him can be maintained. We believe that he was a historical person, distinct from Ambrosius and probably his successor as *Dux Bellorum* or *Wledig*.

The evidence of Gildas, who does not mention Arthur, suggests, if it does not prove, that Ambrosius preceded Arthur; but Gildas gives no

*An article on Arthur's battles by Mr W. G. COLLINGWOOD is printed in *ANTIQUITY*, 1929, III, 292-8.

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precise or intelligible chronological data. Such are provided by a passage in the 'Historia Britonum' of Nennius which has been strangely overlooked by historians.¹ The passage quoted evidently refers to a battle in a civil war between Britons and other Britons, not between Britons and Saxons. This is proved by the fact that Guitolinus, whoever he may have been, has a Roman name, and by the use of 'discordia' rather than 'bellum' to describe the battle. Its date is indicated by the statement that it occurred '12 years after the reign of Guorthigirn'. This evidently does not mean after his death but after the time when his effective leadership came to an end. No ancient author states in what year this happened, though 'Nennius' gives some rather difficult facts in his chronological table.² We can however infer it within certain limits. Vortigern was certainly reigning when Hengist and Horsa came to England and were peaceably received by him; he was certainly not reigning in 455 when Vortimer, as Dux Bellorum presumably, fought a battle recorded under this year in the 'Old English Chronicle'.³ Twelve years after this, when the Battle of Wallop occurred, would be 467. That gives us, within reasonable limits, a date for Aurelius Ambrosius, and this, so far as I am aware, has not hitherto been possible. It probably represents an early episode in his career, and may even mark his emergence as Dux Bellorum. The years preceding may have been spent in civil strife with other British leaders who desired this title; there is evidence for such strife in Gildas.

¹ 'Et a regno Guorthigirni usque ad discordiam Guitolini et Ambrosii anni sunt duodecim, quod est Guollopum, id est Catguoloph. *Chronica Minora*, ed. Th. Mommsen, vol. III, (Berlin, 1898), p. 209.

² An attempt to reduce these facts to order proved unsuccessful, for they are mutually irreconcilable.

³ The 'Irish Nennius' (Todd's edition, 1848, p. 99) says that Vortimer 'rose up against Hengist and Horsa' after Vortigern had retired (probably under pressure) to the west. Then follows an account of his four battles with them, culminating in a victory on the coast. We obtain the date of one of these battles, A.D. 455, from the O.E. Chronicle. The names differ in the two accounts, but the battles can be identified by the fact that in each is the statement that Horsa was killed at one of the battles. The Chronicle states that 'Wurtgern' was the British leader, but this may well be an error for Vortimer his son who is not mentioned in the Chronicle. I prefer to follow the comparatively full and here quite consistent stay of events given by 'Nennius'; but in any case, since this is the last mention of Vortigern in the Chronicle, the argument is not affected.

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A cross-bearing on this evidence is obtained from another statement of Nennius, that Pascent, third son of Vortigern ruled over Buelt (Builth) and 'Guorthegirniaun' by favour of Ambrosius (largiente Ambrosio illi) after the death of his (Pascent's) father. The date of Vortigern's death is not known; the date of 484 is given by the 'Annales Cambriae', but this, though possible, is inconsistent with other evidence.

Roger of Wendover's date for the 'accession' of Ambrosius, A.D. 465, agrees well with the evidence here cited but has no independent authority,⁴ being taken verbatim from Geoffrey of Monmouth.

With regard to the site of the battle, there can, I think, be little doubt that it was somewhere on the river Wallop in Hampshire.⁵ I see no reason why Amesbury should not contain the name of Ambrosius; and if one may trust the Welsh Triads, he was associated with Stonehenge before the days of Geoffrey of Monmouth. It is in just such a region as Central Wessex that one would naturally place his activities.

The bearing of all this on the date of the Battle of Mons Badonicus⁶ may now be considered. The whole theory depends upon the interpretation of the well-known 'difficult' passage in Gildas. Mr Nicholson suggested⁷ that Gildas's 44 years should be reckoned from the emergence of Ambrosius, counting forward. If we assume that his emergence is represented by his 'discordia' with Guitolinus at the battle of Wallop, we get the date 511 (467+44) for the battle of Mons Badonicus.

It is not however quite certain that this was his *first* appearance. The 'Irish Nennius' states that, when he retreated into the north, Vortigern 'left the fortress [which was *not* Caer Vortigern] to Ambrose, and also the government of all the west of Britain'.⁸ We have already suggested that this retreat marks the end of Vortigern's reign, and that it occurred in or shortly before 455. This would give (455+44=) 499 for Mons Badonicus. In either case we obtain a reasonable date. We get the period 455 to 467+ as the 'Floruit' of Aurelius

⁴ cf. W. H. Stevenson in *English Historical Review*, xvii, 631.

⁵ Can this be the 'fontem Galabes, in natione Gewisseorum' where according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, the messengers of Ambrosius found Merlin, before the building of Stonehenge? (ed. Giles, 1844, p. 140: book VIII, ch. 10).

⁶ There were two battles of Mons Badonicus. The first, which is the one here in question, is mentioned by Gildas, Bede, Nennius and the 'Annales Cambriae'; the second between Cenwalch and the Britons, by the 'Annales Cambriae' only (under the year 667, corrected date).

⁷ Quoted in Oman, *England before the Norman Conquest*, 1910, 201 (valuable notes summarizing current views on the problem).

⁸ Todd, p. 99.

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Ambrosius; and we must place King Arthur and his twelve battles within the period whose extreme limits may be given as 467–516. (This later date is that of Mons Badonicus, according to the 'Annales Cambriae': Arthur is said to have lived 21 years after this). A closer but of course still more conjectural dating would lie within the period 485–511. These dates agree quite well with what little we know of the general history of the period; and tested by allowing 30 years to a generation they are found to be quite consistent. The same calculation suggests a date of round about 410 for the birth of Vortigern.

COLCHESTER

MR CHRISTOPHER HAWKES, of the British Museum, sends us the following note on the present season's work at Colchester:—

The Colchester Excavation Committee's work of exploring the site of the Celtic city of King Cunobelin, which lies under the threat of road-building and 'development', fully justified last year the forecasts of its importance made in *ANTIQUITY* and elsewhere. The new By-Pass road had been planned to run right across the northern part of the Celtic site, as well as over certain Roman sites north of the Colne, and excavation had to be undertaken at very short notice.

The main site examined, on Sheepen Farm, had been intensively occupied during the half-century preceding A.D. 43, when the city was captured by the Roman Expeditionary Force, and its life was thus roughly contemporary with the reign of Cunobelin. The material culture of the inhabitants was revealed in striking detail: the structural remains comprised those of timber houses with earth and clay floors, open hearths, and drainage, rubbish, and palisade-trenches, interspersed with pits, some of great size, and wells, three of them with well-preserved timber linings of varying types. Pottery was found in very large quantities, and it is of the greatest interest, for along with native fabric of the 'Swarling-Aylesford' and also hand-made earlier types, there appear Roman provincial and Italian wares ranging in date from Augustus to Claudius, and proving importation of such products on a large scale from the Rhineland, Northern and Southern Gaul, and Italy, throughout the half-century preceding the Roman Conquest (see pls. 1–2). The brooches and other bronze objects, and the British, Gaulish, and early Roman coins also deserved close attention: in fact, the civilization of the Britons and its interaction with the growing influence of Rome could be studied in detail for the first time on the most valuable site for the purpose in the whole country.

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It was further expected that the site should reflect the events of the Roman military conquest, and the tentative examination was begun of a large ditch of military pattern, which can hardly be unconnected with the coming of the army of Claudius.

But the Committee's policy of examining everything on the line of the new road had also unexpectedly to be extended to include work on an adjoining field of ten acres, acquired by the Essex County Council for immediate conversion into playing fields; the discoveries here were no less important than those on Sheepen Farm. Digging had also to be undertaken on a Roman site across the Colne, and in the end much of the work on the line of the by-pass had to be held over for 1931.

The situation this spring has therefore been much more urgent in this regard than it was last year. By the time these words appear in print, the time-limit for excavation on the by-pass line will have expired.

The site of the Celtic city extends southwards from Sheepen Farm nearly to the Lexden Road, and on much of it building development is only a matter of time, now that the by-pass is under construction. Colchester, in fact, affords an extreme case of what has become a truism in the past ten years, that ancient sites on the outskirts of expanding modern towns cannot be considered safe until they are excavated. 'Development' is bound sooner or later to come, and the Committee cannot afford to wait until it becomes a matter of weeks.

A beginning must be made during the rest of this summer with further exploration, and it has been arranged that Mr Christopher Hawkes, of the British Museum, shall undertake this work, under Mr J. P. Bushe-Fox, F.S.A., as general Director.

The intensive and systematic work which is called for requires a full measure of financial support. The liberality in response to its appeal that has already been shown in many quarters is a great encouragement to the Committee, but it is bound still to ask for £1000 at least, if its programme is to be at all adequately carried out. Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Hon. Treasurers, Colchester Excavation Committee, Barclays Bank, High Street, Colchester.

Last year we printed (September 1930, p. 362) particulars of the work begun at Colchester, with a plan of the site, and again we cordially support the appeal for funds, the need of which is most urgent.—EDITOR.

PLATE I



FIG. 1. IMPORTED AND NATIVE POTTERY OF THE EARLY 1ST CENTURY A.D.
COLCHESTER BY-PASS SITE, 1930



FIG. 2. TWO CUPS OF ARRETINE WARE BY THE POTTERS ATEIUS AND XANTHUS
COLCHESTER BY-PASS SITE, 1930

facing p. 240

PLATE II

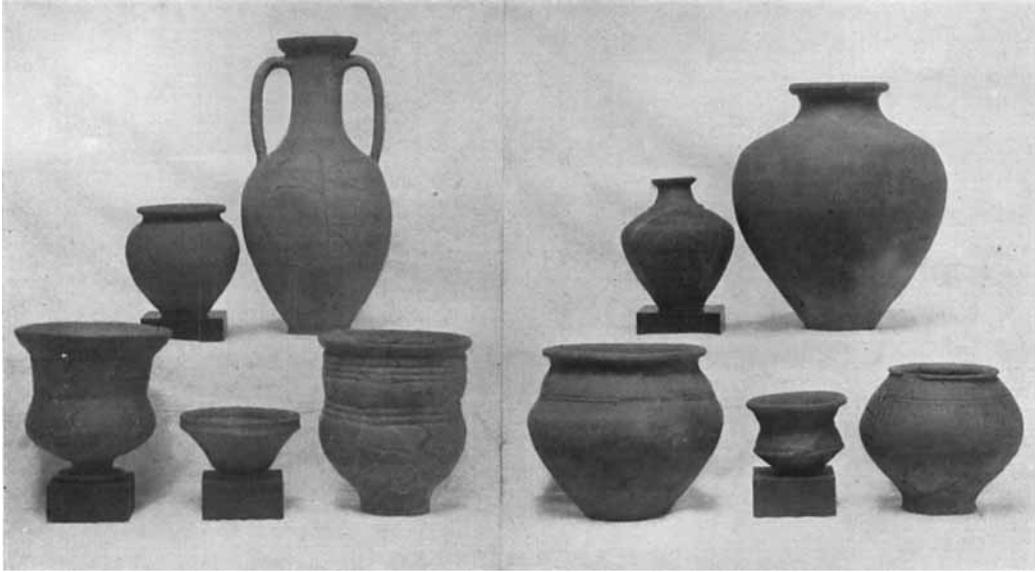


FIG. 1. GROUP OF NATIVE AND IMPORTED BELGIC POTTERY OF THE EARLY 1ST CENTURY A.D. COLCHESTER PLAYING-FIELD SITE, 1930



FIG. 2

FIG. 2
MOULDED GLASS CUP (RESTORED),
SHOWING FIGHTING GLADIATORS
IN RELIEF WITH THEIR NAMES IN-
SCRIBED ABOVE: PROBABLY GALLIC
WORK, LATER 1ST CENTURY A.D.



FIG. 3

FIG. 3
BRONZE TERRET OF LATE CELTIC TYPE

COLCHESTER PLAYING-FIELD SITE, 1930