

MEMORABILIA MCMXVI.

THE BULSTRODE HOLBEIN.

During the past year this county has become the poorer by the sale by Sir John Ramsden of this famous portrait, which hung at Bulstrode Park. *The Times* (Feb. 1, 1917) said that Mr. Henry Goldman, of New York, was the purchaser—at a very large sum—and gave the following account of it:—This interesting picture was, in 1911, the subject of an article in the *Burlington Magazine*, and the writer, Dr. Paul Ganz, believed that it was the one named in the inventory of the collection of Alethea Countess of Arundel in 1654 called “Ritratto d’un Musico.” He believed it represented Jean de Dinteville, seigneur of Polisy, one of the two Ambassadors in the famous Holbein in the National Gallery, but Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, writing two years later, pointed out that Dinteville’s visits to England were very brief, and it was not probable that he would want a second portrait of himself so shortly after the big one was finished. He discovered that in 1855 the picture was catalogued in the Ralph Bernal sale, and then called “Nicholas Lord Vaux.” Dr. Ganz was unable to determine the nature of a jewel which the unknown man wears, and which was, he thought, a tuning fork, but Mr. Sidney Churchill, the Consul-General at Naples, pointed out that Dr. Figdor, of Vienna, had an exactly similar object in his collection (Catalogue Fig. 97), and that it was a penknife, containing also tooth-picks, ear-spoons, and tweezers. A similar object appears in an engraving by Aldegrever dated 1539.

Holbein certainly painted a portrait of Nicholas Lord Vaux, and there are two drawings at Windsor Castle for it. The Ramsden picture bears a striking resemblance to one of them, and Lord Vaux is known to have played with skill upon the viola-da-gamba, a fine example of which instrument he is represented as holding in his hand.

Another serious loss to this country is announced in a Reuter telegram from New York reporting the sale to an American millionaire of the famous Bridge-water library, collected since the beginning of the 17th century, and comprising upwards of 4,400 printed books, 200 illuminated MSS., and about 10,000 documents, autograph letters, etc. The price is stated to be over £200,000.

ROMAN VILLA AT YEWDEN, HAMBLEDEN.

Mr. A. H. Cocks read his paper on the uncovering of the foundations of these extensive buildings at the Society of Antiquaries on the 22nd March, 1917.

The Society printed the following "Abstract" of the paper:—

The "villa" is in the parish of Hambleden, Bucks, and comprises three large and several smaller buildings, partly enclosed by a wall; outside which is a large yard, crowded with remains of various kinds, including remnants of former walls apparently pulled down during the Roman occupation for the sake of the building material.

A remarkable feature of this site is a series of furnaces, of different types and sizes, the larger of which Professor Gowland has suggested were used for drying corn.

The coins, numbering over 800, have been worked out by Mr. M. Stephenson, and (together with the pottery) seem to indicate that the site was occupied not long after the middle of the 1st century, A.D., and continued to be so until the early years of the 5th century. There is, however, a gap in the coins of about 50 years, between Septimius Severus (193—211) and Gallienus (253—268).

This paper will be printed in *Archæologia*.

THE JULIAN JAMES' COLLECTION OF SPURS.

By the death of the late Mr. Julian James, of Aylesbury, our Museum loses one of its most interesting exhibits, the remarkable collection of spurs

which for some years he had lent to us. The 133 examples ranged in date from Roman times to the 18th century. They were sold in July last at Christie's for 530 guineas to Mr. Whawell.

MR. HARCOURT'S GIFT TO ETON.

The *Eton College Chronicle* announced that Mr. Lewis Harcourt, M.P., etc., has given his remarkable collection of books, pamphlets, portraits, engravings, etc., to his old school, the books numbering upwards of 800.