

NOTES

TWO MEDIÆVAL SITES NEAR GREAT MISSENDEN

A mediæval site, apparently hitherto unrecorded, has been located by Mr. H. D. Cockburn, in Brays Wood, Brays Green, N.E., of Little Missenden. An irregular bank and ditch some 400 yards long encloses an area, now greatly overgrown, which shows signs of habitation. Roofing tiles in some quantity are to be found all over the site on or just below the surface, together with fragments of pottery. Samples of these have been kindly examined by Mr. G. C. Dunning, who reports them to be portions of cooking pots of sandy ware with angular rims. In addition, pieces of thick green glaze ware have been found. These are from jugs of late 13th or early 14th Century date, and include a slashed handle. Other features of the site are several mounds or banks of flints and, roughly in the centre of the area, a small pit some 5 or 6 feet deep which seems originally to have been square shaped. Possibly the site consists of remains of farm buildings with cottages, perhaps to be related to the near-by "Castle Tower," which is described in the Royal Commission. It is hoped to examine the site in greater detail later.

"THE CASTLE"

At this site in Rook's Wood, S.E., of Great Missenden, which is described in the Royal Commission, pieces of cooking pots were found in and near a pit inside the earthwork, close to the S.E. entrance. Mr. G. C. Dunning has examined these also, and reports that they are of coarse gritty ware, and include some finger printed rims. Mr. Dunning dates them to the 12th century.

R. W. T. COCKBURN.

ROMAN REMAINS AT FINGEST

A discovery of some interest has been made at Fingest. Mr. H. Montefiore, who is building a house close to the site of the Bishop's Palace (or Manor House) kindly informed me of the unearthing of an urn during the levelling of ground to make a garden. Mr. Martyn and I inspected the find and its site, and were given every facility by Mr. Montefiore and Miss Burton, who owns the remains. She has kindly consented to place the whole find on loan at the Museum.

The find consisted of a large outer urn of extremely coarse ware, which was encountered in a shallow depression about eighteen inches or two feet from the surface, in chalk. The urn contained burnt human bones, fine earth, particles of charcoal and fragments of iron; and in the centre was a small black pot, of fine ware, in perfect condition. The outer urn was completely broken in extracting it, but is being repaired.

Mr. Reginald Smith and Mr. C. P. C. Hawkes, of the British Museum, inspected the find, and consider it of much interest. The pronounced overhanging rim of the small pot places its date as not earlier than about the middle of the 3rd century—some time after inhumation had become general rather for a cremation burial than cremation. This exceptionally late date, and the presence of iron hob-nails from sandals render the find unusual.

Dr. Cave, of the Royal College of Surgeons, examined the calcined bones and teeth, and is of opinion that they represent the remains of a single individual, probably a young adult female of delicate skeletal build.

A fuller report and illustrations will appear in another place in due course.

E. C. ROUSE.

UNRECORDED TRADE TOKENS

The two Trade Tokens illustrated below make an important addition to the list of those hitherto recorded, as issued by Buckinghamshire tradesmen during the 17th Century. The first, which reads:—

Obv-THOMAS SLAVTER=Cordwainers Arms,
Rev- IN CHESHAM 1669=HIS HALFE-PENY,
T.M.S., has been recently acquired by the Bucks
County Museum and is now on view in their collection.

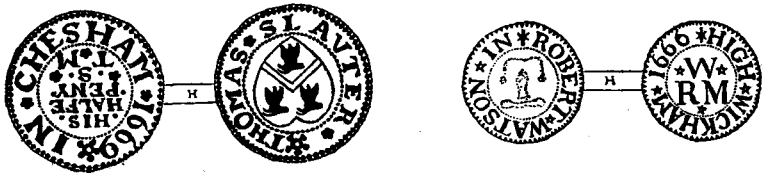
The Chesham register of this period shows no entries spelt SLAVTER, but there are a number spelt variously SLATER, SLAATOR and SCLATOR, and it is quite probable that the baptism of Thomas, son of Richard and Mary Slater, 12 May, 1625, may be that of the issuer.

The second, I am able to describe by the courtesy of Mr. L. J. Mayes, of Wycombe Museum, who kindly sent me rubbings of one dug up in Wycombe during the summer of 1936 and presented to their museum.

This reads:—

Obv- ROBERT WATSON IN=(a design too much defaced to be described), Rev - HIGH WICKHAM,
1666=R.M.W.

Wycombe Register shows the marriage of Robert Watson and Mary Joanes 25 Decr. 1661.



A third unpublished token is in possession of Mr. Francis Colmer, of High Wycombe, who has most kindly provided rubbings, from which the illustration is taken.

It reads as follows:—

* IOHN · FOSSCET -- = Lamb and Flag.

* IN · WINDOVER -- $\frac{F}{iM}$

Measurement 15 m.m.

As design on obverse is a lamb and flag it is fairly safe to assume that this was issued by the same IOHN FOSSCET who issued one at Beaconsfield and used the same device.



E. HOLLIS.