

## NOTES

HADDENHAM: Following the customary Victorian 'restoration' of 1863, the monumental brasses were removed from their slabs—of which there is now no trace—and fixed by nails to the wall in the North (Lady) Chapel.<sup>1</sup> M.S. I, unknown priest *c.* 1420, had the inscription of M.S. II, THOMAS NASSH, Vicar, 1428, underneath it, whilst M.S. III inscription to GILES WODBRYGGE and wife ELIZABETH, 1539, had been placed beneath the demi-figure of M.S. II.

It was known that the brasses were in a bad state of corrosion, apart from being worn, besides the inscriptions being muddled, and following up a note made back in 1911 by Mr. A. B. Connor, F.S.A., that the inscription (M.S. III) might be palimpsest, the writer visited the church on 19th March, 1949. With the assistance of our member, Mr. Walter Rose, of Haddenham, and by the consent of the churchwardens, he carried out an investigation which revealed the inscription (17 inches  $\times$  2.5 inches) to be a most interesting reversed plate,<sup>2</sup> inscribed:

'HIC JACET DNS ADAM WERGRAVE, PRIOR, QUINTUS HUIUS  
LOCI CUIUS AIE PPICIETUR TRINTAS UNUS DEUS: AMEN'

Lipscomb (1847), Vol. II, p. 216, gives details of the brasses, though inaccurately, stating that the half-effigy of the priest was on the Chancel floor, and that the inscription to 'GYLL WODBRYGGE' was in the nave under the figure of an ecclesiastic. He specifically mentions this inscription as 'probably inverted' and that it apparently belonged to another sepulchral slab with 'marks of two small effigies'. From the reference to 'inverted' (presumably the source of Mr. Connor's query) it would seem that the engraving on the reverse was noticed when the plate was fixed under the 'ecclesiastic'.

The brasses (M.S. I and M.S. II), after cleaning by the writer and repair of a crack in the inscription to Thomas Nassh, have been most skilfully fixed on elm mounts to the wall in the chancel, and the palimpsest inscription set in a frame which is hinged and secured by

<sup>1</sup> M.S. Mill Stephenson, *A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles*, 1926.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibited at the Annual Meeting of the Monumental Brass Society, 30th April, 1949.

a neat brass padlock. This was done by, and at the cost of, Mr. Walter Rose, referred to previously. Mr. Rose has also cut a faithful reproduction of the reverse of the inscription on the mount. The two priests are attached to the North wall, and the palimpsest inscription on the opposite side.

Miss Cicely Baker, M.A., F.S.A., the Society's Archivist, successfully identified DOM ADAM WERGRAVE as 5th Prior of the House of Austin Canons at Bisham (anciently BUSTLESHAM), Berks, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The inscription recording the laying of the foundation-stone by King Edward III 'on the Eve of St. Margaret'<sup>3</sup> 1333, at the request of William de Montague, is providentially preserved as the palimpsest reverse to the inscription of WILLIAM HYDE and wife MARGERY, 1562, at Denchworth, Berks.<sup>4</sup>

Dom Adam Wergrave was elected Prior, 17 Kal.Feb. 1398 (ref: *Cal. Papal Letters*, V, 357), and deceased about 1420. His inscription, which is in 'mint' condition, was apparently 'reaved' and disposed of at the sale of bells, ornaments, and other effects, which is on record, following the Surrender, 19th June, 1538.

H. F. OWEN EVANS, M.B.E., F.S.A.

ROMANO-BRITISH SITE NEAR PRINCES RISBOROUGH: As a result of finds of pottery worn out of the bank of Pyrtle Spring on Culverton Farm in lat. 51° 42' 53" N., long. 0° 40' 36" W., two trial trenches were dug in a northerly direction from the spring in 1932 under the direction of Mr. F. N. Pryce, F.S.A. The finds were deposited in the Aylesbury Museum, but Mr. Pryce's report on them was not published and should be placed on record.

LINDSAY SCOTT.

*Report on Finds:* (1) *Structural:* Fragments of roof tiles (flat and rounded), floor tiles, and scored flue tiles; iron spikes (longest 5 inches).

(2) *Pottery:* Several hundred fragments, nearly all very small.

*Samian:* 1 decorated fragment (form 37, animal to r. and bead row, good glaze, early second century); plain: 3 fragments of form 31, 1 of form 38.

*Imitation Samian:* 2 fragments, 1 of form 45.

*Castor ware:* several fragments, 3 with barbotine decoration.

*New Forest brown ware:* 1 fragment.

*White wares:* fragments of 3 bowls with painted patterns.

*Marne ware:* several fragments.

*Mortaria:* 6 fragments; 1 a hammer-head, 2 others probably also late Empire.

*Brown or buff ware:* jug of fine fabric and bowl with wide flat rim, probably pre-Antonine; a frilled rim and bowl imitating form Drag. 38, Antonine; jug-mouth of late type.

*Black or grey ware:* pre-Antonine are: sherds from jars with cordon pattern, 1 cooking-pot with base rim, and from 2 pie-dishes with wide-grooved rims. The remaining fragments seem mainly to belong to dishes and pots of Antonine (third-century) date.

(3) *Miscellaneous:* Slag; fragmentary iron pin or stylus; 2 iron lumps; ox and swine bones.

Most of the finds occurred immediately above the water; farther from the bank they thinned out rapidly, and although the trenches were prolonged up the slope until sterile ground was encountered, no trace of a building was found. There should, however, be a permanent building in the vicinity, and the pottery indicates an occupation lasting from the early second to the fourth century.

<sup>3</sup> 19th July.

<sup>4</sup> See illustration, page 102, *Monumental Brasses of Berkshire*, H. T. Morley, 1924.

TAPLOW: Mr. A. C. Hills, a member of the staff of High Wycombe Grammar School, has drawn attention to the occurrence of Roman potsherds and other material in the walled kitchen-garden of Sheepcote House, in the civil parish of Taplow, and ecclesiastical parish of Hitcham. The actual map reference is: Ordnance Survey 6-inch Series, Buckinghamshire. Sheet XLVII, S.E. 51° 34' 36" N., 0° 39' 45" W.

A boy at the school brought the sherds to Mr. Hills, after a talk on local history and Roman remains, thus showing the value of teaching and training in the appreciation of such things.

Two members of this Society visited the site with Mr. Hills, and made a thorough inspection of it and the surrounding land. Very little suggestion of any indications beyond the limits of the walled garden was found; though in the garden itself a large quantity of sherds and vitrified clay, etc., was collected. Photographic cover was examined (Sortie CPE/UK/2483 of the 10th March, 1948, covers the site on photos 3351 and 3352 at a scale of 1/16,600), but revealed nothing of significance.

The sherds and other material were submitted to Mr. Philip Corder and Mr. M. R. Hull, F.S.A., who kindly examined them and observed that they certainly indicated Roman occupation of the area, with the suggestion of industrial activity, and that one or two sherds appeared to come from bead-rim pots of an early date. It is tempting to see, in this site, yet another of the early pottery kilns which have been discovered in the area (see *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XIII, p. 252; Vol. XIV, pp. 67 and 153). A glance at the contour map of the district discloses the site to be, in fact, almost at the head of one of the branches of the dry valley which ultimately becomes the Alderbourne Valley, on the sides of other branches of which the other three sites of Wapsey's Wood (Hedgerley), Duke's Wood (Fulmer), and Bulstrode Park (Gerrard's Cross) are actually situated. The latter site, a few hundred yards from the SSW. corner of Bulstrode Camp, on land attached to the house called 'Polkerris,' Camp Road, has not been investigated and is only conjectural. But considerable quantities of coarse pottery fragments resembling the wares of Hedgerley and Fulmer have been found on this spot. It is hoped to cut some trial trenches at Sheepcote; but the site being under cultivation in a private garden, full investigation may be difficult.

GERRARD'S CROSS: At a parish meeting on 22nd January, 1951, summoned by the Gerrard's Cross Parish Council, a resolution was unanimously adopted authorizing the Parish Council to proceed with the purchase of the remaining area (some 26-38 acres, including three points of access) of the Iron Age Camp in Bulstrode Park, as a public open space. The purchase is subject to approval by various ministries. The sale to private owners of parts of the earthwork, with resultant damage, had been reported to this Society; and two members of our Council have pressed for the preservation and safeguarding of the remainder. It is most satisfactory that this now seems in a fair way to being realized.

E. C. R.

#### ERRATUM

Vol. XV, part 3, page 168, lines 27 and 29, for '1494' read '1434'.

Note: According to Leland's *Itinerary*, vol. II, p. 6, quoting the epitaph on Thomas Chaucer's tomb, the date of his death was 18th November, 1434. A recent inspection of the tomb failed to find the epitaph.

A. M. D.