

NOTES

ON A TRANCHET FROM GERRARD'S CROSS

STUDY of Miss Louise Millard's abundantly illustrated article in the *Records of Bucks*¹ on a flint flake-and-blade industry of Mesolithic facies from Bolter End has led me to consider if the relics reported by her can be linked culturally and otherwise with the yield of a working-floor at Kimble Farm, near Fawley, 4½ miles to the south-west, recorded by the late Dr. A. J. E. Peake.² That the two can be identified seems more than likely, since both have been found in conditions that point to geological similarity at well above the 500-ft. contour. Typologically the principal constituents of these industries are alike and more advanced than resemblant forms comprised in the rich clutches of Maglemosean aspect found lying under peat of Late Boreal age on top of the flood-plain gravel in the Colne valley in Iver and Denham parishes.³

Both the Bolter End and Kimble Farm series, as do so many comparable assemblages garnered on high ground at no really great distance from the Thames and its main tributaries, indicate the migratory trend by small bands of food-collectors to push towards the uplands from the riverine fens. Such movements of people living in a Mesolithic economy were numerous from quite early during the Atlantic climatic phase, say after 5000 B.C.

Recent researches and discoveries amply support the view expressed above. The evidence is particularly strong on both sides of the Thames, the area conveniently designated Greater London providing quite a large contribution.⁴ The south-eastern borderlands of our county and sites upstream along the main river and minor streams, in Berkshire and even Wiltshire, add their quota to testify to this spread of Mesolithic strains.⁵

Owing to Miss Millard's communication and to light also shed on the subject by other papers lately published, a stone implement from Gerrard's Cross, and long in my keeping, becomes significant and can, I think, now be placed as the register of a sojourn by some exponents of just one more such late Mesolithic industry. It is a fine *tranchet* of grey flint (Fig. 1), lightly patinated and bearing the characteristic basal scar that distinguishes the cutting-edge of this kind of axe or adze made by flaking in the Maglemosean style. The tool, 11 cm. by 4 cm. by 3.5 cm., was found by the late J. G. Marsden at the elevation of 275 ft. on the heathy ground (about TQ 001881) just north of the Oxford Road (A40), not far from the now signalled crossing with the A332 road to Slough. Hereabouts a few odd flint artifacts were

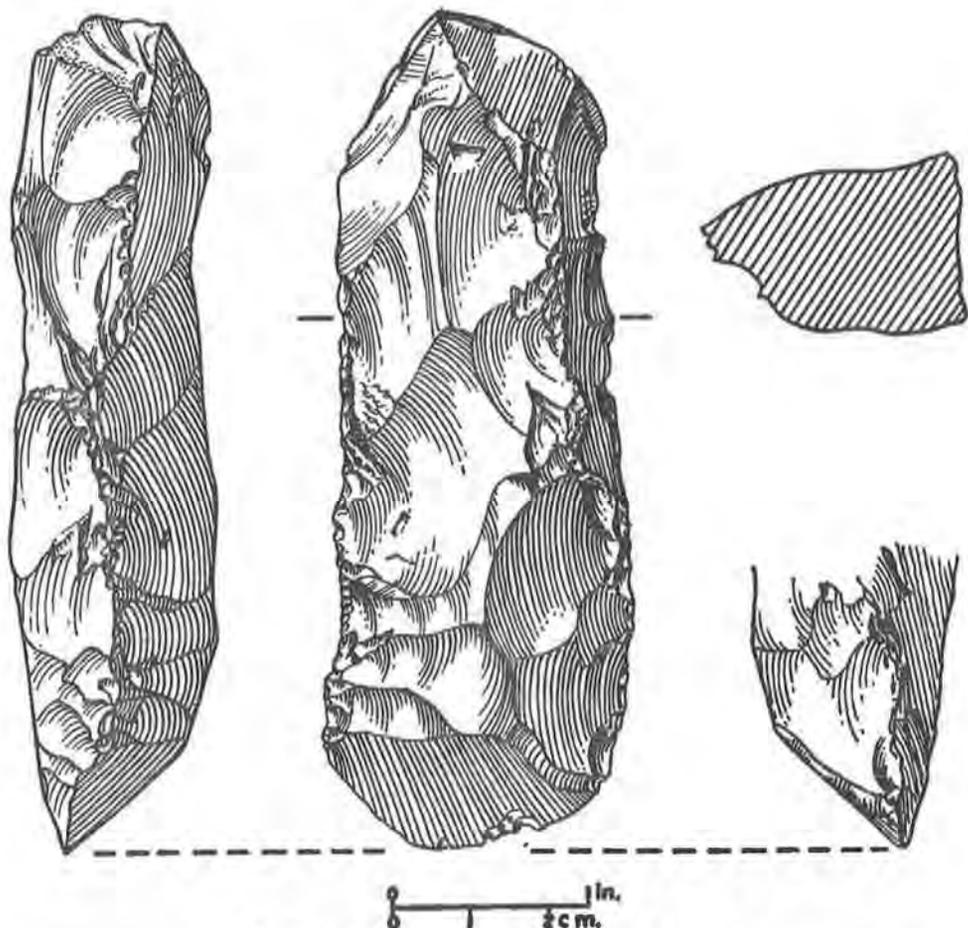


FIG. 1. Flint tranche from Gerrards Cross.

also collected. Atypical, like most of the specimens figured by Miss Millard, they seemed to the finder and me, when Mr. Marsden and I discussed them many years ago, to be industrially associable with the *tranche*.⁶ This is therefore illustrated as probably betokening the spread away from a riparian environment—perhaps on the Misbourne, little more than half-a-mile distant—on to higher ground with a hunting and working kit based on a fundamentally Maglemosean equipment.

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¹ Louise Millard, "A Mesolithic Industry from Bolter End", in *Records of Bucks*, vol. xvii, pt. 5, 1965, pp. 343-9.

² A. J. E. Peake, "A Prehistoric Site at Kimble, S. Bucks.", in *Proc. Prehist. Soc. East Anglia*, vol. ii, pt. ii, 1914-18, pp. 437-58.

³ A. D. Lacaille, "Mesolithic Industries beside Colne Waters in Iver and Denham, Buckinghamshire", in *Records of Bucks*, vol. xvii, pt. 3, 1963, pp. 143-81.

⁴ *Idem*, "Mesolithic Facies in Middlesex and London", in *Trans. Lond. and Middx. Archaeol. Soc.*, vol. xx, pt. iii, 1961, pp. 101-50 *passim*; "Mesolithic Facies in the Transpontine Fringes", in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, vol. lxxiii, 1966, *passim*, pp. 1-43.

⁵ *Idem*, 1963, p. 177 and bibliography.

⁶ Two coarsely flaked axe-like tools of flint from the same locality have been illustrated by Mr. J. F. Head in his *Early Man in South Buckinghamshire*, Bristol, 1955, Fig. 7, p. 46. They would, I believe, be referable to an industry much later than Mesolithic, though made in its tradition.

THE FORMER VICARAGE OF CHALFONT ST. PETER

UNFORTUNATELY, this year (1966), which witnessed the opening of Chalfont St. Peter's restored parish church, saw also the destruction of some of the village's most interesting buildings. One of the casualties was the former vicarage, which stood a few yards distant from the church.

It is plain that the earlier church stood on or near the present site, and there is no reason to doubt that the vicarage was close at hand, although the earliest mention of Vicarage Lane (the modern Church Lane) occurs only in 1562, in a copy of court roll. Fortunately, the residence of the vicar was usually included with the Church properties listed in the glebe terriers, and so it is the best-recorded of all buildings in the parish.

The "mansion house" of 1601 was described six years later as follows. It consisted of "five bays built of timber and covered with tiles, disposed into eight rooms, a hall, a kitchen, a parlour, two chambers, which three rooms last mentioned are lofted over, and are three several chambers above". In addition, there was "a long low house joining to the dwelling house consisting of three small bays covered with tiles; a barn of three bays covered with tiles; a house of three bays, stable, cowhouse and hayloft, covered with thatch". These details are repeated, almost *verbatim*, in the terrier of 1634.

At some time between 1634 and 1694, it would appear that the timber house was taken down, because the terrier of the latter date describes a vicarage built of brick, and this was the building that survived till this year. By combining the details of 1694, 1703, 1724 and 1822, it is possible to build up a reasonable description, as will be seen.

The vicarage itself comprised a house of six bays, built of brick with tiled roof. The breadth was 49 feet, or 34 feet "between the walls". In 1694, the (south) front was said to be of three storeys, although in 1703 "the new-built part is three storeys". On the ground floor were a hall, a parlour (floored with deal), and a kitchen (paved with bricks); the first floor contained three lodging chambers (floored with deal); and above were three garrets (floored with oak and elm). Out from the hall led a "great hall", with a kitchen for washing and brewing, and a cellar, all built and paved in brick. Outbuildings included a tiled tithe barn of three bays, a thatched barn of four bays, a cowshed, a pigsty and a woodhouse. The whole, which formed a right angle on the side and end of the farmyard, was 158 feet long. The largest barn was 16 feet wide.

The name of John Sanderson, the architect, is associated with this house, in connection with some eighteenth-century building works. It is true that Sanderson, "ye Surveyor of the Buildings at Chalfont", received two sums of £200 each from St. John's College, Oxford (one in 1780, and the other at some earlier date), but this can hardly have been the whole cost of erecting the building, which, in any case, was in existence at least as early as 1694. Clearly, the "new-built part" of 1703—and 1694?—was refronted subsequently. Furthermore, there was a distinctive line in the brickwork, indicative of the raising of the (south) façade; the earlier, hipped, roof was thereupon largely concealed behind a parapet, surmounted by a stone-lined pediment. (These features are plainly visible in photographs.) Presumably, it was with this later work that Sanderson was concerned.

An interesting question relates to the matter of access. The articles of enquiry exhibited at the episcopal visitation of 1784 mention that, although a fence was needed for part of the churchyard, it was impossible to replace this because an application had been made for a new way into the vicarage. From this, we may understand that hitherto access had been gained only via Vicarage Lane, whilst, presumably, the

church was approached only from the High Street: this would explain why the former thoroughfare was so called, as opposed to its modern cognomen of Church Lane.

At times, the vicar must have wished that a smaller dwelling had come his way. For example, in 1841, the Rev. George Glead's bachelor household comprised only three servants, to manage his sixteen rooms arranged on three floors. The entire establishment must have been rather larger, however, since the successive incumbents owned a farm adjoining: it may be remembered that some of the glebe terriers, from 1607 onwards, gave details of the layout of the latter, and James Edwards was being rated for the Vicarage Farm at least as late as 1866.

In 1915, the old vicarage was sold out of the Church, the vicar living in The Bay House, North Park, until the early 1920s, when the present parsonage-house was purchased. The former building was used as a private dwelling thereafter and the last resident gave the name Ellwood House to this property, with reference to the sojourn of Thomas Ellwood in the village (although this was at The Grange, not here). Subsequently, the site was required for a new car-park, and on a single day early this year (11th February) the charming old building was razed to the ground.

JOHN E. G. BENNELL

Sources:

Chalfont St. Peter Manor records (CSP 28).

Chalfont St. Peter glebe terriers:

Lincs. Record Office: 1601, 1634, 1703, 1724, 1822.

Bucks. Record Office: 1607, 1694.

Howard M. Colvin, *Biographical Dict. of British Architects*, sub Sanderson.

Articles of enquiry prepared for the episcopal visitation of 1784 (Lincs. Record Office).

Census enumerators' returns, 1841 (P.R.O.).

Parish highways-rate book.

Personal knowledge.

Muniments of St. John's College, Oxford: XLI, 17.

CHESHAM: *Excavations at Latimer Villa*, 1966. Dr. Keith Branigan sends the following:

The third season of excavations at Latimer villa took place in April and July, under the direction of Dr. K. Branigan. A Ministry "rescue" grant enabled a large area of garden-orchard to be dug, and a limited amount of work was also possible in the main wing of the building.

The area dug in the garden, 60 ft. × 70 ft., was bisected by the eastern wall of the villa courtyard. Inside this wall there were a few scraps of evidence which suggested that timber sheds might once have been built along it, facing on to the courtyard. Outside the courtyard, traces of a timber-framed building 12 ft. wide and at least 19 ft. long may date to the villa period, but could be contemporary with another long, narrow timber building. This was erected on sleeper beams, and had a cruck roof supported on at least five, probably six pairs of posts. It was only 11 ft. wide but 50 ft. long. Architectural debris found in the fill of the post-holes and trenches indicated that this building was erected after the villa had fallen into disuse.

This structure was partially overlain by a rubble platform, 27 ft. × 8 ft. It was rectangular, with two small projecting wings, one at either end. Running parallel to it, and only 10 ft. away, was another rubble platform 30 ft. × 6 ft. Despite its proportions, this seems to have been the floor base of a building, for a threshold was found on one of its long sides. The two platforms would seem to represent floor bases of buildings erected some time after the villa had gone out of use. Two coins found in the rubble material, both very badly worn, are provisionally dated mid fourth century A.D., and c. A.D. 400, respectively.

The excavations will continue next year.

BURNHAM: Mr. A. H. Packe writes:

With reference to the review of Mr. T. W. E. Roche's booklet, "The Precious Blood: a History of Burnham Abbey", in *Records of Bucks*, vol. XVII, Part, 5, 1965, the following information on the Arms of Burnham Abbey may be of interest.

The late W. H. Williams in his book *Burnham, Bucks. A Historical Sketch*, published by Dent in 1925, says that the Rev. William Cole recorded the fact that the Arms of the Abbey were to be seen in 1759 in a window of the North Aisle of Burnham Church and were *Gules on a Chief Argent 3 lozenges of the first*, but that on a second visit in 1762 they had disappeared. Mr. Williams then quotes the Rev. Mr. Cole as follows

My indignation was not small to find that an ignorant glazier, one Day of this Parish, in order to make all the windows alike, in repairing them had taken this venerable coat (of arms) away, and though it was done not above a month or six weeks ago and I was with Mr. Abthorpe (then Vicar of Burnham) at the glazier's to make search for it, yet it was fruitless and no arms to be found

Mr. Cole was the well-known antiquary whose MSS are in the British Museum, and who succeeded Mr. Abthorpe as Vicar in 1774.

It is sad that this evidence was destroyed, for stained glass of its very nature cannot be falsified, whereas painted Armorial, whether on monuments or in MSS, can be mis-read because of fading colours, a bad light or because they have been inaccurately restored. The Arms of the Abbey are now represented on a modern screen in the South aisle of Burnham Church but the chief is shown Or instead of Argent. It is hoped to correct this so that the Arms will be as recorded by Mr. Cole.

DEMOLITIONS. The destruction of old properties in towns and villages proceeds at an alarming pace. And as yet no adequate system of prior inspection or advice by specialists qualified to judge the value or age of such premises seems to operate in Buckinghamshire. The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments Inventory for the County, published in 1912 and 1913, while forming a useful nucleus of information, is at the same time notoriously incomplete and often inaccurate and only extends to 1700. As this all too often forms the basis of the lists prepared for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and as the Investigators have no statutory right of entry for inspection, the most blatant omissions and inaccuracies are continually occurring and it makes almost nonsense of the whole system. If a building does not appear on someone's list, no one goes to look at it, and that is the end of the matter, and down it comes. It is still left to the enterprise and initiative (and cost, it may be added) of the private individual to identify such buildings of architectural or historical interest or potential interest, and take steps for their possible preservation, and full and accurate recording, which is the next best thing.

Over the past few years it has been the melancholy duty of one of the Editors to publish the major losses, and where possible to give some record of properties not adequately listed elsewhere. Mr. C. F. Stell's account of Hill Farm, Chalfont St. Peter (whose fate awaits the outcome of an Inquiry), published in this issue, is a case in point of a house that escaped everyone's notice. Mr. Packe's and Mr. Broadbent's admirable survey of two properties in Burnham (*Records*, Vol. XVII, part 3, 1963, 197-201) is another case of what a full and proper record should be.

A few of the more notable recent casualties may be given below.

HIGH WYCOMBE. Almost every old property in the town has now gone. The worst losses are the Vicarage in Castle Street, Nos. 16 and 17, The Two Brewers and Nos. 81 and 83 Easton Street; virtually the whole of St. Mary Street and White Hart Street, and most of the older property in Oxford Street. The house on the north side

of Easton Street was a most important one and occupies two columns in the Royal Commission's Survey (pp. 199-200).

BUCKINGHAM. A large part of the north side of Castle Hill has gone. And No. 1 on the south side, known to contain wall paintings, is now being demolished. Much of St. Rumbolds Lane is down.

AYLESBURY. The devastation here continues. The two fine eighteenth and early nineteenth-century houses on the south-west side of Walton Street have gone to make way for the new Council Offices. The Enquiry went against the preservation of the old houses in Market Street; and the Dark Lantern passage, the last medieval alleyway in the county, will go.

CHALFONT ST. PETER. Probably the worst devastation of all has occurred here, where virtually the whole of the north-east side of the High Street has been demolished for "re-development" and a new by-pass road. The Barrack Yard was demolished in 1938 (see *Records*, Vol. XV, 1947-52, pp. 87-91). The Bakers' Arms soon followed. Only one cottage was listed in the whole of the rest of the street; yet investigation showed most of the properties to be of great age and interest. One was a hall house with flanking wings having crown post roof trusses and a magnificent stone fireplace of fifteenth and sixteenth century date. Mr. C. F. Stell and colleagues from the Ministry and Royal Commission made a most thorough survey and record of all these properties under very difficult conditions; and it is hoped to publish their results in the next issue of the *Records*. The Vicarage, also demolished in 1966, is the subject of another Note by Mr. J. G. Bennell. Many moulded timbers, one crown post, and what was left of the fireplace were rescued and presented to the Aylesbury Museum.

Insidious demolitions of individually unimportant properties often leave gaps in good streets and thus ruin the whole, so that up-grading or group-listing should often be pressed for. This has happened in MARLOW, OLNEY, WENDOVER, STONY STRATFORD, NEWPORT PAGNELL, and many other places. The impact of the New City of a quarter of a million people in North Bucks. upon a dozen villages and hamlets does not bear contemplation.

LITTLE HAMPDEN. Some work has been done on the de-waxing, cleaning and consolidation of the wall paintings in the Church, which were in an advanced state of decay. The south wall has been dealt with, and the centre and south side of the chancel arch. The accuracy of C. E. Keyser's account of the paintings which was written in 1908 or 1909 and appears in the *Records*, Vol. IX, 415-424, is borne out by the results of the recent work. The only additional points of interest to be noted are:

(1) The fact that there are no fewer than four representations of St. Christopher in the church, three on the north wall (two superimposed), thirteenth to fifteenth century, and one, fourteenth century, beneath a fifteenth-century painting of the Doom, on the south wall.

(2) A confused subject has been exposed at the extreme east end of the south wall, probably connected with the Doom.

(3) In the Weighing of Souls farther west on the same wall, the most interesting point has emerged that the Virgin is protecting a large number of souls under the folds of her cloak as well as touching the end of the beam of the balance. This treatment of the *Vièrge de Miséricord* or the *Vièrge au Manteau Protecteur* is not very common in England, and there is only one other recorded example of it in Buckinghamshire, namely at Broughton, over the north door.

(4) Over the apex of the chancel arch a head, with raised hands and crudely drawn features, has been exposed. It is difficult to date this or to reconcile it with the architectural features. The chancel arch has been enlarged and has cut into the early paintings:



PLATE XIV. CHALFONT ST. PETER CHURCH. During and after restoration.
(See Note, p.97.)

even so, if this head were that of Christ in a central majesty, it would hardly fit in above the trefoil arches containing bishops with scroll above.

PENN. Very extensive works are being carried out at Holy Trinity Church, Penn, not all of which seem necessary or desirable. Opportunity was taken to examine the walls for any further traces of mural painting. Only fragments of post-reformation texts were found. The organ is to be placed on the west wall, masking the whole west end. Both font and pulpit are to be moved; and the Doom painting is to be replaced in the east bay of the roof, it is said as a precaution against possible vandalism, where the details will be quite invisible. Various wall tablets and ledger stones have been moved, and a false arch inserted under the eighteenth-century chancel arch. A large vault has been found beneath the Penn ledger stone in the nave. E.C.R.

CHALFONT ST. PETER CHURCH. Discoveries made during the extensive restoration work were referred to in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XVII, 416, 417. It is satisfactory to be able to record the completion of the work, the Church being re-dedicated by the Bishop of Oxford, assisted by the Bishop of Buckingham, in October 1966.

No further discoveries of note were made. It is hoped to fit up a former frontal chest to display some of the medieval moulded stone fragments, some roof timbers, coffin plates, etc. The nave has been restored to some extent to its eighteenth-century appearance, with a decorated plaster ceiling, and by the opening up of one of the blocked eighteenth-century circular windows. The Whappelode brasses have been re-set in their original matrix, and the rest cleaned and re-annointed. George Street's stone reredos proved to be of good and simple design of *circa* 1853, and this has been cleaned, coloured and gilded and left exposed. The seven hatchments are now hung on the west and south walls, and a handsome carved Royal Arms of Elizabeth II, the work of Dr. Colin Smithells is a splendid addition. Photographs of the church before and after restoration are given in Plate XIV. E.C.R.

REVIEWS

CHEQUERS: A HISTORY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOME, by J. Gilbert Jenkins, F.S.A. 9 in × 6 in., xiii + 171 pp. 48 plates, figures, maps and pedigrees. Pergamon Press, 1967. 42s. net.

In the latter half of the reign of Henry II, Elias, the usher of the exchequer, who controlled the going out and the coming in of those that had business there, acquired a small estate in Ellesborough, which he rounded off by subsequent purchases. This estate, probably still further extended by his son, who also discharged important offices, comprised a large hamlet, in which there lived a number of tenants farming in its common fields, and a few outlying farms. There was doubtless a house there to which Elias could come when he had the time, but it would have formed no very important part of the estate. By the early sixteenth century, perhaps earlier, the hamlet had been extinguished, and only the house remained, with its home farm.

Mr. Jenkins skilfully traces the subsequent owners of this property, making full use of all the sources available. Even he is somewhat baffled by the complexities of the early mediaeval scene, but when he comes to the middle of the thirteenth century, his narrative begins to flow freely and continuously. The Chequers family failed of male heirs and issued in two daughters, one of whom, evading the celibate life to which she had been consigned, married William Hawtrey, whose origin is unknown,

and the Ellesborough lands fell to her share. The Hawtreys possessed them for more than three centuries. Then again they devolved upon two ladies, one of whom brought them in marriage to the Crokes, with whose features all those who care for church monuments are familiar. Eventually they came to the Russells, and the story of Chequers in our own time need not be referred to here.

The history of the house cannot conveniently be interwoven with that of its owners, and Mr. Jenkins treats it separately. It has long been a matter of contention whether the house contains mediaeval work, or whether William Hawtrey rebuilt it from the ground up. Mr. Jenkins has little doubt that the latter is the better founded opinion. He traces the additions and alterations made by the Crokes and the Russells, and finally and most interesting of all, the remodelling and embellishment that Sir Arthur Lee deemed necessary to fit it for the great purpose for which he destined it. Of all the copious, though not sumptuous, illustrations with which this book is furnished, the most interesting are those that show the hall and other rooms before and after treatment by Sir Arthur.

Room by room we are now led through the house and its contents are displayed to us. Buckinghamshire readers will regret that only a passing mention is made of one of its finest treasures—the lovely estate map that Henry Lily made for Lady Mary Wolley in 1629, so revealing of the nature and origin of the estate.

Lastly, having traversed its long history and set it before us as it is today, Mr. Jenkins gives a delightful account of the impact it has made on each of the Prime Ministers who has possessed it.

It is surprising that this should be the first book to be written about Chequers, but very fortunate that it should have been undertaken by an accomplished Buckinghamshire historian. When another edition is prepared, which it assuredly will be, some expansion of the historical chapters might well be considered.

GERALD R. ELVEY

THE MIDDLE THAMES IN ANTIQUITY. Edited by R. F. Denington and S. Morgan in collaboration with the W.E.A. tutor in Archæology, H. W. Catling. 10 × 8. Pp. 60 + 1 + 6 maps. Published for the Slough and Eton Branch of the Workers' Educational Association. Printed by C. Luff & Co., Ltd., Slough, and distributed by Carter & Wheeler Ltd., Slough. 1966. 15s. net.

At the outset let it be said that this is an admirable survey and gazetteer. In its preparation the committee of contributors were faced with the initial difficulty of deciding what geographically constitutes the Middle Thames Valley. Having settled this within confines suggested by National Grid lines, and approximately by the Chilterns and the North Downs to the north and south respectively and by the Hambleton Roman Villa on the west and the Colne valley on the east, they have meticulously restricted their review to relics of antiquity within the limits traced.

As Dr. H. W. Catling puts it in the preface, the work "is the result of a fruitful collaboration". So successfully has the task been accomplished by a well-directed team that it is hoped other groups may be inspired to follow the example set by the Slough and Eton researchers. Their gazetteer succinctly includes all the important finding-places and sites ranging over the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages to the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval Periods. With summaries of the antiquities there appear: the National Grid co-ordinates; notes on the places where the materials are preserved; a fair bibliography.

Ingenious symbols indicate the character of the vestiges spotted on contoured and identically scaled outline distribution maps. Beginning with one showing the parish churches, the maps relate to the Stone Age in its various aspects, the Bronze and Iron

Ages, the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval Periods. Accompanying each map is an able description, the compiling and presentation of which in simple and readable form speak for the amount of patient inquiry put in by the writers. In fact, the essays must serve, together with the illustrations and gazetteer, as most useful guides to museum curators and as foundations upon which archæologists and historians can build. The well-written textual contents tell how intensive has been the occupation of the Middle Thames Valley by our forerunners and the animals around them. Herein, as demonstrated, man and his thoughts and culture have developed over hundreds of thousands of years, and are expressed by artifacts and works, domestic, agricultural, and defensive.

Where there is so much to praise, it is a pity to notice some mis-spellings and other inaccuracies—no doubt, oversights in proof-reading. Excuses may be made for the different renderings of Cobbett's description of the clay lands, but not for the repeated, erroneous naming of the Society of Antiquaries in the bibliography, or of the incorrect spelling of Lipscomb, the Buckinghamshire historian. The careful authors ought to know that the term 'Chellian' or 'Chellean' was long ago and for good reasons replaced by 'Abbevillian', and they ignore the Clactonian and Levalloisian. Save for a few items, the vast Treacher Collection is proudly housed in the University Museum, Oxford, and not in Reading. Again, the citing of Vulliamy's reference in the Palæolithic list to a chipping-floor at Uxbridge only perpetuates the wrongful ascription of a Mesolithic site actually in Denham parish. The close attention paid to all that concerns the later periods makes up for small deficiencies in Stone Age matters. These, however, can be remedied in the future and amplified edition for which a demand may be confidently predicted. Let us hope, too, that this will be bound inside a more substantial cover than is the present modestly priced volume which will be constantly consulted as a standard. All concerned with its promotion and production earn our congratulations.

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