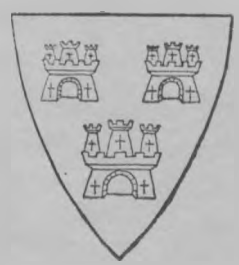


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THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

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Edited by CEFNI BARNETT

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VOLUME II, PART IV, 1968-1969

THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

VOL. II. PART IV.

1968-1969

EXCAVATIONS AT ABERGAVENNY 1962-1969

I. PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN FINDS

By L. A. PROBERT, J. L. DAVIES, H. N. SAVORY, G. C. BOON,
K. T. GREENE AND M. G. SPRATLING

with an

INTRODUCTION

By FABIAN RADCLIFFE, O.P.

This paper is a report on work carried out over the past few years mainly by the Abergavenny Archaeology Group. The material described came from both research and rescue excavations, and from road and engineering works within the town, mainly from the area north-west of the castle (fig. 1). There are also a few chance finds.

The excavation and rescue work was initiated by members of the Group; but neither it nor the report could have been completed without the assistance of many others. The whole ensemble of work here being brought to conclusion is in fact the co-operative effort of amateur and professional, of individuals and of private and public institutions; and this outcome would not have been achieved without the contribution of each.

Our grateful thanks are however especially due to the following: to the Board of Celtic Studies and the Cambrian Archaeological Association for grants which made possible the Flannel Street excavation in 1964; to the Ministry of Public Building and Works for its continuation of the Flannel-st. work under the supervision of Mr. J. L. Davies; to the Welsh Churches Fund for a grant towards the Tudor Street excavation in 1966; to Dr. H. N. Savory and Mr. G. C. Boon of the National Museum of Wales for their detailed reports on the finds printed below, and to Mr. Kevin Greene for his comparative remarks of the Abergavenny and Usk pottery. A study of the triskele bronze attachment from Flannel-st., by Mr. M. G. Spratling, is published at the end of the general schedule of Roman finds.

It was originally hoped to produce a monograph dealing with all the discoveries together, but practical considerations suggested a two-part publication in the *Antiquary*. This, the first part, deals with the prehistoric and Roman finds; the second part, dealing with the medieval and post-medieval material, is in preparation.

In the absence of any meaningful stratification, the prehistoric finds must stand, for the present at least, on their own merits. The same applies almost equally to the Roman material, so widely and deeply disturbed is the area of the fort. Even the Roman ditch under Flannel Street was traversed by a large modern sewer. Nevertheless, knowledge of *Gobannium* is now on an altogether more satisfactory footing, and its history has been traced back to the heroic period of Silurian resistance to Rome in the fifties and sixties of the first century.

All the finds are housed in the Abergavenny Museum.

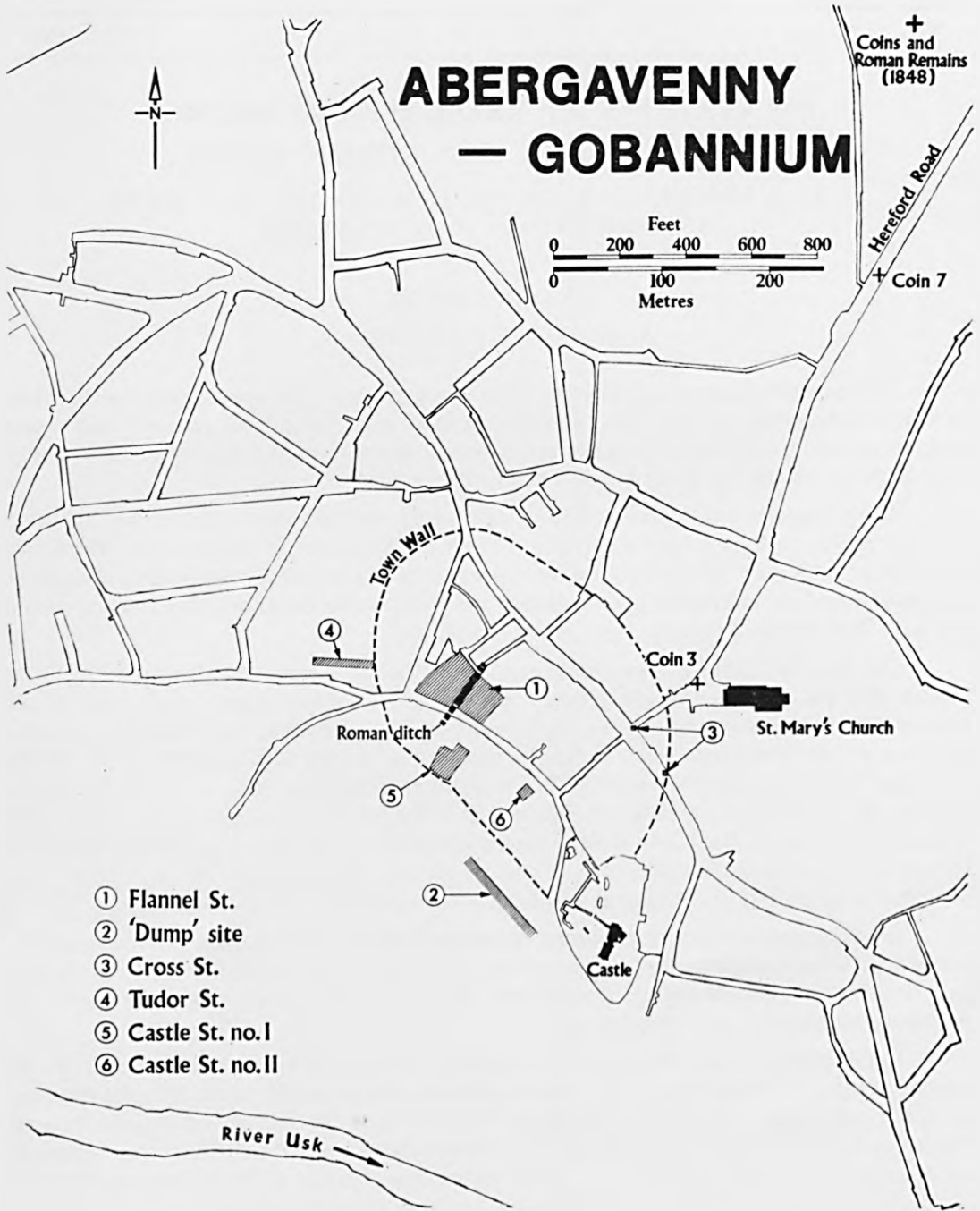


FIG. 1.



THE SITES

By L. A. PROBERT

The map (fig. 1) shows the position of the various sites, and some brief notes on these follow. We are grateful to the Borough Council, and to various private owners, for facilities to carry out the work

1. Flannel Street

This rescue excavation prior to the construction of the new Post Office was carried out in 1964-5 on a cleared site which had previously been one of the most intensively-occupied areas in the Borough. The excavation was directed by Fr. Fabian Radcliffe, assisted by Mr. E. J. Talbot; and the later stages were supervised by Mr. L. A. Probert. Although a fair sprinkling of Roman material was recovered from all the trenches, the main concentrations were found in trenches C and E (fig. 2); but in both cases much modern disturbance was met, and stratification was almost non-existent. In trench C, nevertheless, the rounded butt of a ditch was located and other trenches (C2-4) were cut across Flannel Street to produce further evidence of it. A later excavation conducted by Mr. J. L. Davies on behalf of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, and fully reported below, provides a section of considerable interest (fig. 3). In Trench E, stake-holes and collapsed stonework of apparently Roman date were found, but there was not sufficient evidence to postulate the nature of the structures.

2. Site R.D.

During the latter part of 1967 civil engineering work between the medieval town wall and the Castle meadows produced a shallow transverse section of the escarpment. Numerous shards of Roman pottery were found, and, at the south-eastern end of the disturbed ground, a layer of occupation-debris was visible for a distance of 230 ft. along the exposed face. It was possible to cut short trenches at right-angles above and below the engineering disturbance, and the following stratification was obtained: 14 in. of garden soil overlay approximately 4 ft. of brown sandy soil with charcoal lenses, sand and water-worn pebbles. The garden soil, as was to be expected, produced a few medieval and post-medieval shards, but the underlying soil produced occupation-material which, with the exception of unfeatured shards of Iron Age pottery, was all attributable to the Roman period. This material, with shards collected from the disturbed ground and a collection from the same site kindly presented to the Abergavenny Museum by Mr. J. G. Williams and Mr. W. A. Lewis, is listed under the heading of 'Dump' site.

It has been suggested that the deposit is the result of medieval or post-medieval clearance of the town, but the facts point to a rather different conclusion, since it is reasonable to assume that there would have been a greater admixture of post-Roman material if this had been the case. There can be little doubt but that the deposit was throughout the rubbish-dump of the Roman fort.

It is further to be noted that the lower end of the excavated trench abuts the flood-plain of the Usk, a river which is constantly traversing its flood-plain. It is feasible that the river skirted the bank in earlier times, and was the intended destination of the Roman rubbish.

3. Cross Street

Cable-laying work in Cross-st. was kept under observation by members of the Group and Roman material (shards marked AC1, AC2) was recovered from the upcast. The source appeared to be a level of occupation-material 4 ft. below the present pavement. The pottery ranges in date from the Claudian to the Antonine period.

4. Tudor Street

A mechanical excavation necessitated by the proposed construction of a new Magistrates' Court, on a cleared site at Tudor-st., was carried out by Mrs. R. M. White and others for the Group in 1966. Two trenches with an overall length of 190 ft. were cut in a westerly direction from the rear of the King's Arms Hotel. The area proved to contain many modern cellars and was much disturbed. Only one shard of Roman pottery was found, an early samian cup, Form 27 (see Mr. Boon's schedule, Group B, no. 29). In comparison with other excavated areas in the town, the paucity of Roman material is noteworthy, and lends support to the conclusion expressed below regarding the siting of the fort south-east of the Flannel-st. ditch.

5. Castle Street No. 1

An excavation carried out in 1962 by Fr. Fabian Radcliffe in a cleared garden abutting the medieval town wall produced various Roman relics, including samian and a coin of Vespasian, from medieval levelling or filling behind the wall. This material is noted in the schedule, to distinguish it from that found on the current Castle-st. excavation, as 'Radcliffe Collection.'

6. Castle Street No. 11

This excavation, carried out by Mr. K. A. Key and others for the Group, by permission of Mrs. Ewers, is still in progress on a cleared site. There is much Roman material, including early pottery and the interesting counterstamped Augustan coin, and some indication of Roman timber structures is currently emerging; they will be the subject of a later report. The material published includes all that is noteworthy, discovered up to April, 1969, and we are indebted to Mr. Key for his consent to its publication here. It is marked 'Key Collection' in the schedule.

EXCAVATIONS AT FLANNEL STREET

By J. L. DAVIES

In the early spring of 1964 excavations conducted by the Abergavenny Archaeological Group on the site of the New Post Office building located the butt-end of a ditch, apparently following the line of Flannel Street (fig. 2; p. 167). The filling of the ditch produced finds of Romano-British material ranging in date from the Claudian period to the mid-second century A.D. (pp. 176ff. *passim*), and it was reasonable to assume that this ditch formed part of the defences of the long-sought Roman fort (or forts) at Abergavenny. This in turn prompted the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works to arrange a series of mechanically-excavated trenches across the presumed line of this ditch in order to examine its character more fully, and the writer was invited to supervise the work. Three trenches were cut, X, Y and Z. In each case the work was severely hampered by modern disturbances.



FLANNEL STREET

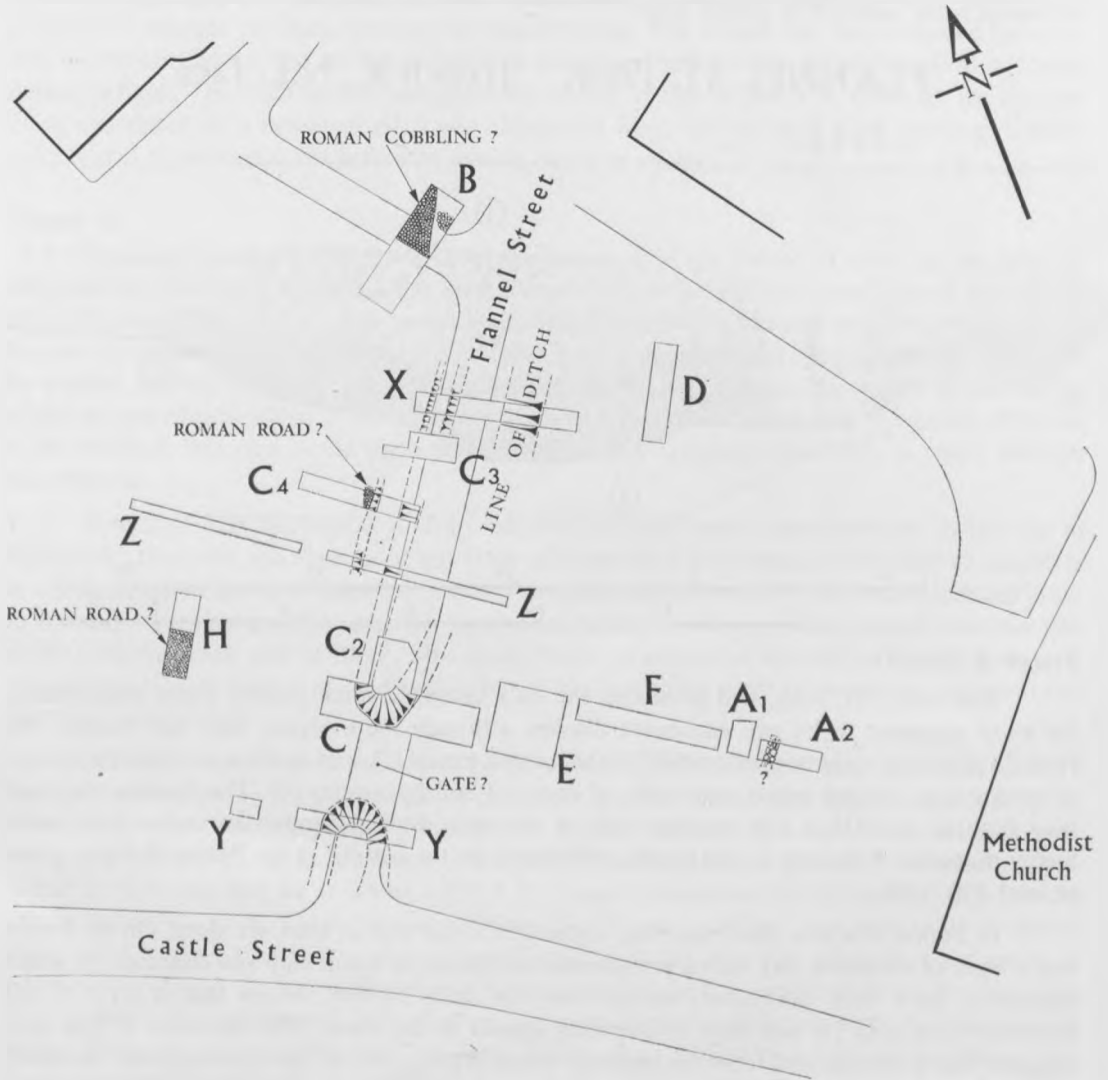
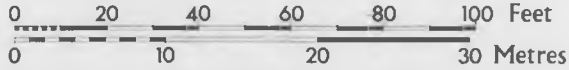


FIG. 2.

Before turning to the features exposed in these trenches, some other important observations need mention here. A series of cellars had bordered the N.W. edge of Flannel St. and may have obliterated any traces of a rampart (if any had existed) on this side of the ditch. There were no traces of a rampart S.E. of the ditch either, but in view of the very extensive disturbance of the area from the twelfth century onwards, we should have been extremely fortunate to have discovered any sign of it in position. Furthermore, no objects were found stratified in the trenches during the course of the excavation, although it appears that some Romano-British pottery was recovered from trench X at a later date¹.

FLANNEL ST. 1964. Trench X, N.E. face

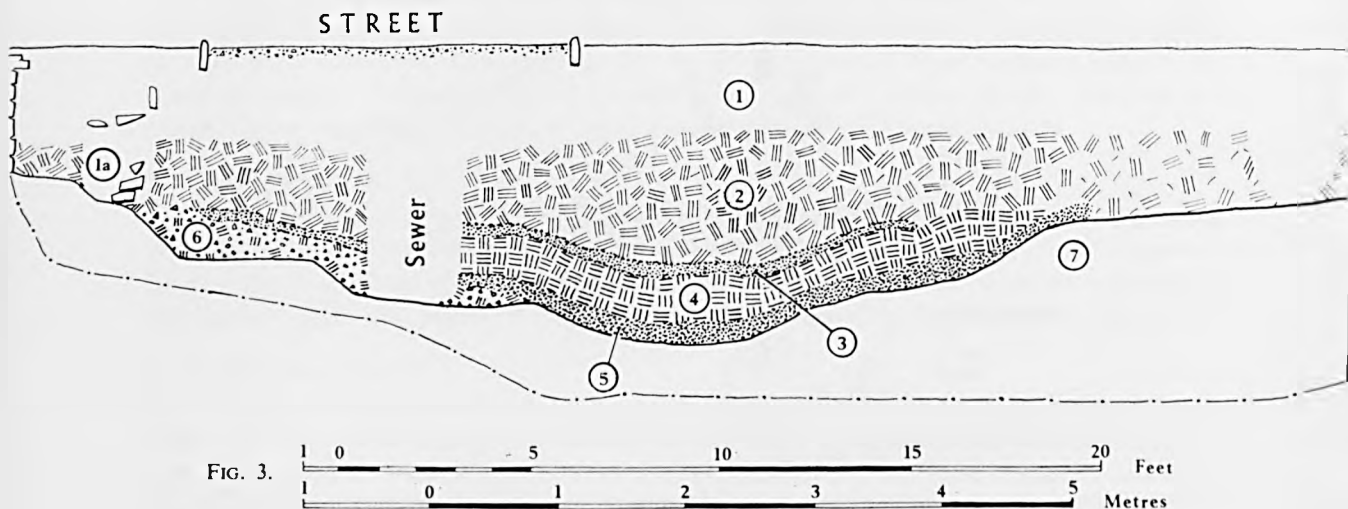


FIG. 3.

Trench X (Fig. 3)

This was 35ft. long, and produced the only complete ditch profile. There was evidence for what appeared to be two successive ditches, although the evidence was not precise. The Period I ditch was a shallow excavation in the natural gravel (7), and its fill consisted of a mixture of brown clay, natural gravel and flecks of charcoal and burnt clay (6). This feature may have been nothing more than one irregular side of the main ditch, although an earlier ditch seems highly probable. Although it was largely obliterated by the cutting of the Period II ditch, it was at least 10ft. wide.

In Period II a new ditch was dug, about 25ft. wide and at least 4ft. deep. On its bottom was a layer of brownish clay with a pronounced admixture of burnt clay and charcoal (5), which appears to have been deliberately spread over the ditch bottom. Above this, a layer of stiff brownish-fawn clay (4) had been deliberately spread in the ditch. The character of this layer suggests that it was derived from the rampart which is presumed to have accompanied the ditch. Apart from a thin layer of charcoal and burnt clay (3), the remainder of the ditch fill consisted of a deliberate filling or levelling of stony, clayey dark brown earth with charcoal and burnt clay flecks (2). Above this was a layer of rubble, (1), some 3ft. in thickness.

Two sewer trenches had been excavated from layer (1), and another intrusion from the same layer was filled with grey-brown stony earth and contained a deposit of human bone (1a). This feature was not examined, but was presumably a grave of medieval or later date.

Trench Z

The discovery of the wide but shallow ditch in trench X was somewhat unexpected, so another trench was cut across the line of Flannel St. some 30ft. to the south-west of trench X in order to examine the ditch sequence in greater detail. The trench was also extended for some 30ft. to the north-west, but ran into a series of cellars and failed to reveal any traces of a Roman defensive bank. The ditch section was generally similar to that in trench X, although the Period I ditch was absent: if it existed at all, it was obliterated when the Period II ditch was dug. Unfortunately this trench collapsed before its section could be drawn.

Trench Y

This was cut some 20ft. away from the butt-end of the Period II ditch, in the hope of locating the other ditch terminal. One side of a possible V-shaped ditch was located, the profile of which was further accentuated by a thin deposit of charcoal and burnt clay. The filling of this feature consisted of dark, stony earth. The other side of the ditch had been completely destroyed by a cellar. Indeed, it is an unlikely possibility that the 'ditch' may be due merely to the cutting of this post-medieval cellar. If we assume that it was a ditch, and that it was sectioned very close to its terminal, then this would leave enough room for a causeway some 20ft. in width through the defences.

It is clear that the Period II ditch followed a course which approximates to the line of Flannel St. However, the absence of any trace of a defensive bank makes it fruitless to speculate in which direction the ditch faced, at least on the basis of the results of the excavation. In order to try and solve this problem, another mechanically excavated trench was dug beyond the line of the medieval town wall in 1966². This again found no structural features of Roman date, and the proliferation of deep post-medieval cellars in this area may have removed any such features that may have existed.

Finally, a comment on the nature of the Period II ditch. This is very wide in relation to its depth, even allowing for a considerable post-Roman disturbance of its upper levels. Moreover, it is distinctly unmilitary in profile. Nevertheless, it was a defensive feature of sorts. Its deliberate filling at a date which, on the evidence of the pottery recovered, mainly from the manual excavation of its butt-end, may be as late as c.150 A.D., suggests some sort of tidying-up process on the site. Whether this marks the deliberate slighting of a Roman auxiliary fort prior to its abandonment, or to its reduction in size, it is impossible to say at the moment, although the scarcity of material dateable to the period after A.D. 150 suggests that the first explanation is to be favoured. This in turn agrees quite well with what we know of Roman military activity in south-eastern Wales. However, it is possible that the ditch is that of an annexe to a fort, or may even have formed part of the defences of a *vicus*.

¹ Information from Mr. A. Probert: an important shard which indicates the filling of the ditch (in its final form) is mentioned under no. 32 of Group E (p.192) below. This was recovered by Mr. Probert himself.

² *Archaeology in Wales* No. 6 (1966), 32.

THE PREHISTORIC MATERIAL

By H. N. SAVORY, D.Phil., F.S.A.

A. NEOLITHIC SHERD

The sherd (109) is from the rim and upper portion of the body of a hemispherical bowl of Peterborough (late Neolithic) type, approximately 11in. in diameter. The fabric is characteristically coarse, with an abundance of large quartz grits from 2mm. to 6mm. in diameter, and is grey in colour on the surface as well as at the centre. The surface has suffered badly from weathering, especially below the rim, and it is consequently difficult to be confident about the decoration that may formerly have been discernible in this area. The rim itself is heavy and flattened, so as to project a little internally as well as externally, and has been decorated, probably by means of a shell edge, with closely packed parallel, diagonal impressed wavy lines. The neck-hollow was probably also decorated, but the traces are now too ill-defined to be included in a drawing (fig. 4, 5).

Of the three phases of evolution which are now postulated for Peterborough ware (S. Piggott, *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles*, 308–10; V. G. Childe, *Dawn of European Civilization*, 6th Edn. (1957), 332; I. F. Smith, *Windmill Hill and Avebury*, 73–8) the Flannel Street fragment is clearly most closely related to the second, — that of Mortlake Ware. It cannot, however, be said to be a typical representative of this phase, as defined hitherto, since it appears to have no whipped (“maggot”) or twisted cord decoration, and the thickness of the rim departs from the norm for eastern England. It seems, in fact, likely that this sherd will ultimately have to be assigned to a distinct, South Wales group, already represented by the bowl from Daylight Rock, Caldey (Pemb.) (*Arch. Camb.*, 1961, 37f., fig. 5) and as yet unpublished material from Ogmere (Glam.) and a newly discovered cave on St. Gowan’s Head, Bosherton (Pemb.), in which corded decoration is largely replaced by other impressed decoration of various types —shell-edge, bird-bone, etc. and in which the rims tend to be massive. Until the material from the last two sites, however, has been made fully available, it seems advisable not to comment further on the Flannel St. fragment, beyond suggesting that it may be tentatively dated towards the end of the 3rd millennium B.C.

The sherd was found in the lowest level of Trench C, Flannel-st., east of the Roman ditch, in sandy gravel. There were, however, iron nails in the same deposit, which cannot therefore be related to an occupation of the period indicated.

B. FLINTS

The flint flakes and fragments are too few and, in general, uncharacteristic to permit much comment on their cultural affiliation, though there are some minute blades (154 (three) and F28 (one)) and some coarser blades (29, 200–202, 90 and 225—the last two with hinge fracture)—which, taken together with the small core (F129), (fig. 4, 1) the worn down remains of another (F229), and a worked flake of grey chert like that used by the microlith-makers at Craig-y-llyn (Rhondda), might support belief in the former presence at Flannel Street of a flint-chipping floor of microlithic tradition. The two coarse convex scrapers (CIV 12) (fig. 4, 2) and 199 (fig. 4, 3) could hardly, however, be earlier than the late Neolithic and may be later, like

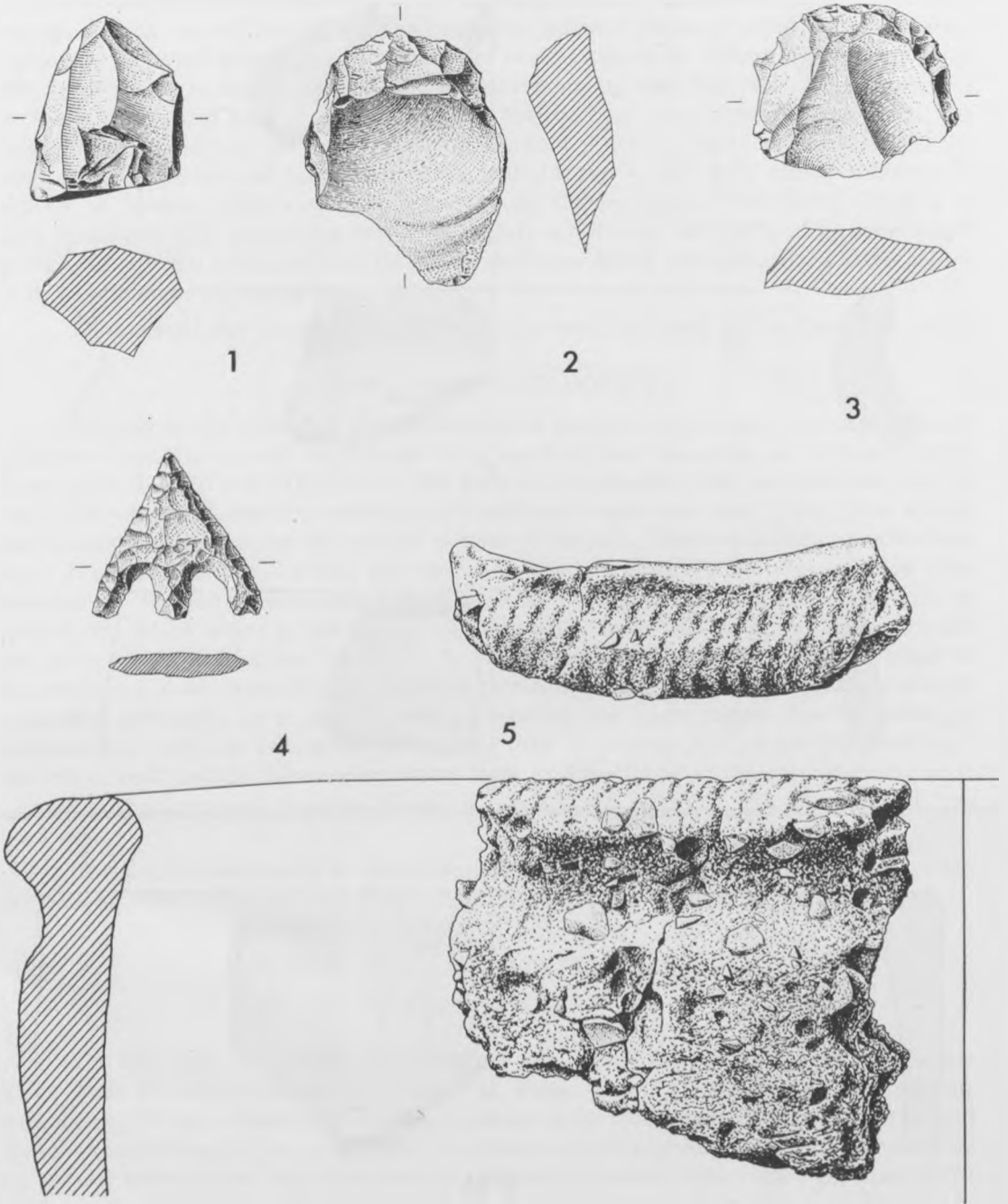
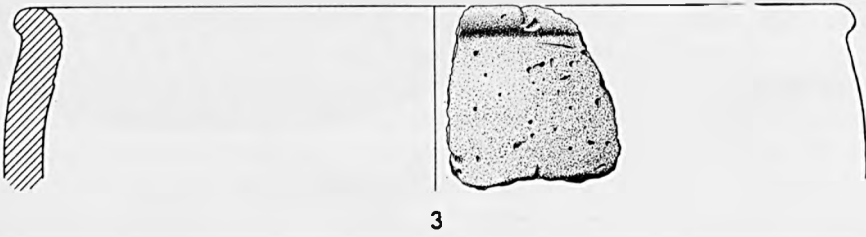
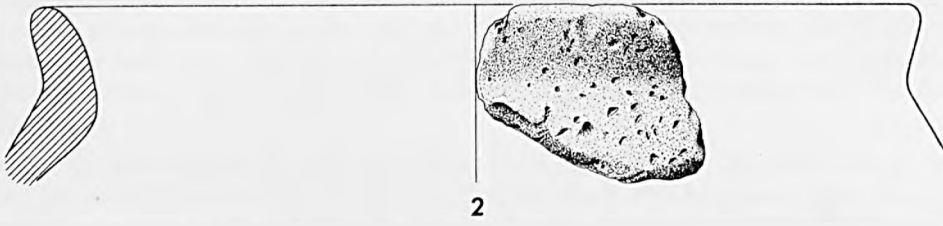


FIG. 4. FLINTS AND NEOLITHIC POTTERY SCALE 1/1



F36

FIG. 5. IRON AGE AND MALVERNIAN POTTERY SCALE 3/4

the arrowhead soon to be described. Seeing that these flints have been redeposited, it is likely enough that they are of different dates and related to different phases of occupation of the area; but it must be borne in mind that the practice of making microliths, though it originated in the Mesolithic period in Britain, seems to have survived among some late Neolithic communities in South Wales; and so it is possible that the Peterborough sherd from Flannel Street was originally connected with the microlithic chipping floor which we have just hinted at. On the other hand the barbed and tanged flint arrowhead (14) (fig. 4, 4) is fairly clearly indicative of activity, on however slight a scale, on the site in the Copper Age (c. 1900–1600 B.C.). It is of pale, translucent flint, unpatinated and of the slightly ogival form, with barbs of the same length as the tang, which is associated with the Beaker and immediately succeeding Food-vessel groups in Britain, and has an overall length of 24mm.

The material was found redeposited in Roman and later levels on the Flannel-st. site.

C. EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY

The pottery (fig. 5) all falls within the limits of the final stage of Early Iron Age ceramics in the southern Marches still best-defined by the material from Llanmelin and Sudbrook (*Arch. Camb.* 1933, 291–307 and 1939, 57–64). The ware is all hand-made and coarse by Iron Age 'B' standards, but is well-fired and smooth on the surface; in some cases (nos. 2 and 3) the surface has become vesicular through the solution of some of the grits. There is a tendency (particularly in no. 3) to the formation of a dark grey surface layer over a pinkish-buff body—a feature often found in the 'B' ware of Glamorgan and Monmouth. The type of jar present is ovoid, with an everted rim, which either projects some way diagonally (nos. 1–2) or is short and rounded (no. 3) in anticipation of the 'bead rim' form which became common in the later stages at Llanmelin and is well represented at Sudbrook (sometimes wheel-turned). In so far as it is at all possible to pronounce on so small a body of material, one might suggest that the pottery is comparatively early, i.e. 1st century B.C. rather than 1st century A.D., since the 'bead rim' element is weak and the forms approximate more to those found in the occupation layers at Llanmelin which preceded Annexes 'A' and 'B' (*Arch. Camb.* 1933, 292, 298–301) and lack true bead rims.

Nos. 1 and 3 were found at Flannel-st. in the filling of the Roman ditch; no. 2 was found at Castle-st. (Key Colln.) A shard from a rim similar to no. 1 occurred at the 'Dump' site.

THE ROMAN MATERIAL

By GEORGE C. BOON, F.S.A.

The little that was known of Gobannium until recent years is summarised in the late V. E. Nash-Williams's *The Roman Frontier in Wales* (1954), 77, 79–80. The Abergavenny Archaeology Group is therefore to be congratulated on the labours which have brought to light the substantial amount of new evidence which is described in the schedule below; and all the more so, because medieval and later occupation in the area north-west of the castle—the heart of the old borough—have proved to have left so far disappointingly little structural sign of the Roman occupation otherwise so abundantly illustrated, though the quantity of material presented here

shows the potential of the site, and excavations in areas such as Castle-st. seem full of promise for the future. The thanks of all those concerned with Roman Britain, and of those whose interests lie in the past history of Monmouthshire and of the town of Abergavenny, are particularly due to Mr. L. A. Probert, who so carefully prepared the finds for examination, and who has contributed a section to this report.

The most important information resulting from the Group's activities bears on the earliest phases of Roman occupation. Although its greatest incidence, as reflected in the finds considered as a whole, was clearly in the Flavian era—that of the definitive conquest of Wales and of the subsequent strict supervision of its two most turbulent tribes, the Silures and the Ordovices—there is every reason to be certain that Abergavenny had been founded long before Roman troops arrived in the borderland in 47, and in 49 'legions' were brought against the Silures, a tribe which *non atrocitate, non clementia mutabatur*: so much we glean from Tacitus (*Annales*, XII, 31–2). The recent excavations have presented us with evidence of two decorated samian bowls of the Claudian period, and eight plain vessels; and there are four decorated and a round two dozen plain forms of the Neronian period. None of the forts founded *c.* 74–8, nor the legionary base at Caerleon itself, could equal this total: it may be assumed, therefore, that a Roman post at Abergavenny existed at least as early as *c.* 60, the date to which the great fort currently being excavated at Usk appears to belong; and that may even have been established under Ostorius, the second governor of Britain (47–52) or under his successor, Didius Gallus (52–57) when a final attempt seems to have been made to seal off the troublesome tribe. The earliest fort at Usk, which has so far eluded the spade, must almost certainly antedate the Neronian camp, on the basis of the coins and pottery already published (*Monm. Antiq.* I, 28 ff., 11, 42 ff.); together with Abergavenny, it will have formed an element in the chain of posts designed to protect the borders of the Roman province, as it then extended (cf. S.S. Frere, *Britannia*, 1967, 83ff.). The Roman ditch running under Flannel-st., as elucidated by Mr. J. L. Davies (p. 168), was probably re-cut, and it is tempting (but speculative) to assign its earlier phase to a pre-Flavian occupation in the period of considerable military fluidity before 74. There are difficulties in the interpretation of the ditch, which does not properly correspond to normal V-shaped profile of a Roman military ditch in its later phase, but the profile of the earlier phase is acceptable.

Not the least valuable of the discoveries are the two broken bronze fastenings of the prevalent type of legionary cuirass, the *lorica segmentata*, familiar from the scenes on Trajan's Column and certainly introduced into the Roman army by the time of the invasion of Britain. One came from a short distance south-east—i.e. surely on the inside—of the Flannel-st. ditch, and the other from the Roman rubbish-dump site at the bottom of the escarpment followed by the medieval town wall (Schedule, Group F, nos. 3–4). In both cases, there was pre-Flavian pottery in unsealed association. Without pressing the formal legionary significance of two scraps of metal to absurdity, we recollect from Tacitus (*Annales*, XII, 38–40) that in addition to auxiliary units, legionary detachments were operating in Silurian territory, and were maintained in garrisons (*praesidia*) there, after as well as before the capture of Caratacus in 51.

The history of Gobannium after the Flavian-Trajanic period, when a normal auxiliary fort no doubt existed—one of some 34 in Wales and the border region—is difficult to judge,

partly because disturbances have removed a good deal of evidence relating to the later occupation. Late Antonine and later pieces in the schedule are few, and on a superficial view may be thought that the reconstruction in stone of Y Gaer, Brecon, about 140 or later (Grace Simpson, *Arch. Camb.* 1963, 36) meant that there was no longer a requirement for a fort at Abergavenny. Thus, the deliberate levelling of the Flannel-st. ditch, carried out about 150 on our pottery-evidence, would relate to the deliberate effacement of the fort (cf. Schedule, Group E, no. 21 and see under no. 32). On the showing of the finds, subsequent occupation was of the slightest. This picture seems reasonably clear until it is realised that a difficulty arises from the old record (Horsley, *Britannia Romana*, 1732, 319) of legionary stamped bricks [*LEG. II. AVG*] found 'about the site of the old castle', probably in the bath-house of the fort, since 'a *Roman balneum* or sudatory' seems to have been exposed thereabouts (though Horsley did not see it).

As far as is known, the practice of stamping bricks and tiles with the legionary name did not begin at Caerleon until the time of Hadrian—the alleged 1st century records are very few, and all are unreliable; there are no stamped examples in the first period of the fortress baths where much brickwork occurs. At present I think that the custom of stamping a proportion of the products began c.130 after the return of various elements of the legion from their part in the construction of Hadrian's Wall and its associated works. Thus the earliest possible date for the Abergavenny bath-house, if such it was, is curiously close to the date which our site-evidence suggests for the obliteration of the fort. The exact type of stamp represented is unknown. It would be rash to assume that the form in which the legend is recorded by Horsley is necessarily exact down to the existence of stops between the three elements—*LEG.II.AVG* rather than *LEG II AVG*—but on the other hand the only likely stamps are (a) the 'serif letter' type (Prysg no. 5-8, *Arch. Camb.* 1932 fig. 4 p. 54) and (b) the 'ansate border' type (Prysg no. 26-28) both of which happen to be represented at the Brecon Gaer (Wheeler, *Y Cynmwr.* 1926, fig. 52): together they form the two commonest substantive types, several different dies for each being recorded. Both were current in the middle and later part of the 2nd century, and it is not quite certain which preceded the other, although it is more likely than not that the 'ansate border' type was the first. At Caerleon, it is stratified with Hadrianic material; at Brecon, it appears on bricks of a hypocaust in the extramural building 'B' which is now dated after c.140. The 'serif letter' type was scarcely present (and is unpublished) at the Caerleon amphitheatre, where substantial repairs were effected at a date originally thought to be c.125 but probably somewhat later; it is stratified at the fortress baths in a layer of the later 2nd century, and at Brecon it appears in fair quantity in the structure of the bath-house inserted into the interior of the fort at an unknown date, thought to be subsequent to the erection of the primary stone buildings, and assigned by Dr. Simpson perhaps to the 3rd century (this is not probable).

The most that can be said, therefore, is that a new building was erected at Abergavenny at about the time when the Flannel-st. ditch was levelled, perhaps within 10 years either way. It is not impossible, of course, that this should have been so; there could have been a sudden change of plan, or a new fort could have been built—as earlier, at Gelligaer—on a different, but adjacent, site. Considerations of terrain on the whole, however, rule out this idea. In a modified form, nevertheless, it may apply until fresh evidence comes to light. Several forts in Wales are known to have continued with smaller garrisons than those for which they were

designed: Brecon and Segontium are good examples. Other forts were reduced in size during the 2nd and early 3rd centuries, the best-known instances being Castell Collen and Tomen-y-Mur. Abergavenny is another potential candidate: the excavations tell us only that the Flannel-st. side of the defences was levelled, not that the entire circuit was destroyed. A new reducing-rampart may well have run to the south-east of the area explored. It seems possible that the Januaris-II samian bowl (Schedule, Group B, no. 19) the developed cavetto jar (Group E, no. 22) and the bronze ewer (Group F, no. 6) could be related to a continuing occupation.

The changes to which allusion has been made reflect the careful balancing of two interacting forces. On the one hand, there was the need to supply troops for the forts of Hadrian's Wall, and then for stations in southern Scotland and along the Antonine Wall. On the other hand, there was the possibility of native rebellion, or at least of *maquis* activity, if the policing garrisons were reduced below a certain level. As Dr. Simpson has shown, and as the legionary fortress of Caerleon suggests, this danger was by no means imaginary (*Britons and the Roman Army* (1964), ch. 2; *Monm. Antiq.* I, 49 ff.). Legionary stamped bricks have been found at Usk, Abergavenny, Brecon Gaer and Llandovery (for the last see Fenton, *Tours in Wales*, ed. Fisher, 1917, 14 'a Brick inscribed with Leg. II Augusti' [sic]), and it is clear that the Usk-Towy route was one which was regarded as possessing a continuing crucial importance for the surveillance of the Silures during the reign of Antoninus Pius (138-161), when the Caerleon legion was deeply involved in the occupation of Lowland Scotland (M. G. Jarrett, *Arch. Camb.* 1964, 54f), despite the evidence for the romanisation of the southern seaboard of the tribal region in the form of the growth of Caerwent, the tribal capital, and of farms on the normal British provincial pattern.

SCHEDULE—

A: THE COINS

RIC: The Roman Imperial Coinage, ed. Mattingly, Sydenham *et al.* (1923—)

The twelve coins* listed are all that appear to have been recorded from the area of the town in recent years. Of older finds, besides the 'gold Otho' of A.D. 69 (type unknown) mentioned by Horsley (*Britannia Romana*, 1732, 319), the only coin specified is a *sestertius* of Claudius I, A.D. 41, recorded by A.D. Berrington in his diary and published by J. K. Knight in *Monm. Antiq.* I, 75; it is equivalent to *RIC* 60.

1. Augustus, 27 B.C.—A.D. 14. *As* of the 'first Altar' issue of Lugdunum (Lyon) struck about 10-3 B.C. Worn practically flat; *obv.* traces of head R. and legend CAESAR PONT MAX (see illustration, right). *Rev.* illegible. Over the neck-chin area is a circular counterstamp reading TFAV or FTAV ligatured. The meaning of this very rare stamp is unknown. It may be expanded to include the word *F(iscus)*, 'Treasury.' The T might stand for Tiberius, the AV thus for Au(gustus). No stress is laid on these possibilities. A similar type of stamp, FAV, occurs on *asses* of Lyon and Nimes and on a Roman moneyer's *as* of 6 B.C. (see M. Grant, *From Imperium to Auctoritas*, 1946, 95;



* Mr. Key has since found another coin in his excavation, together with bronze objects and samian and coarse ware which will form the subject of a note in a later number of the *Antiquary*. The coin, however, is an imitation of a *dupondius* of Claudius I, but of hybrid type, i.e. with *obv.* of Claudius and *rev.* proper to the 'Antonia' issue, showing Claudius standing veiled, togate, holding *simpulum* (sacrificial vessel). *Brit. Mus. Cat. Roman Empire* I, 189, no. 172 is another example, at 12.31 g. rather heavier, though this coin is worn (9.36 g.).

in the Brit. Mus. Cat. *Roman Empire* I, xxxiii, the mark is read FAN, but Grant's reading is certainly preferable).

Dr. C. M. Kraay of the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, mentions (*in litt.*) three other examples of the 'Abergavenny' stamp, all on similar Lyon *asses*, namely one from the legionary fortress of Vindonissa in Switzerland (Kraay, *Münzfunde von V.*, 1962, no. 2197) and two in the Cabinet des Médailles, Paris (nos. M.7668-9; no. 7668 also has the counterstamp AVG on the rev. side). All these coins were worn when the mark was applied, a fact which would support a Tiberian dating. More than one countermarking punch appears to have been used. I am indebted to Dr. Kraay for the loan of casts of the Paris coins which enabled the much more worn Abergavenny specimen to be properly identified. Castle-st. (Key colln).

In general, countermarks were applied in order to validate the circulation of certain coins in particular areas (see Kraay in *Essays . . . pres. to Harold Mattingly*, 1956, 113 ff.) or in order to modify or confirm the value of worn coins. Countermarks of the first kind are common under Augustus in the west, and are fairly common later, down to Nero; but countermarked coins are rather rare in Britain (e.g., two of Claudius and one earlier in the Silchester Collection; two in the series of 69 pre-Claudian coins published in *Camulodunum*, 1947, 144 ff.). I do not recollect another Welsh example.

2. Claudius I, A.D. 41-54 *Dupondius*, RIC 67 type. Slightly worn to worn. Pitted. Dump site.
3. Nero, 54-68 *As*, RIC 329. Fairly worn. Hereford-rd. gas main, about 1950.
4. Vespasian, 69-79 *Denarius*, RIC 77, A.D. 74. No detail of provenance, but the condition suggests a local origin; pres. R. C. Edmunds.
5. *Dupondius*, RIC 739, A.D. 72-3. Slightly worn to worn. Equivalent to Dump site.
6. *As*, RIC 486, A.D. 71. Worn. Castle-st. (Radcliffe Colln.)
7. *As*, RIC 482 ff. Worn. Prov. as no. 3.
8. Domitian, 81-96 *As*, RIC 353A, A.D. 88-9. Slightly worn. Dump site.
9. Antoninus Pius, 138-161 *Sestertius*, RIC 770, A.D. 145-61. Ty Gwyn Cottage, Mardy. (about 1 mi. N. of Abergavenny town). Plaster cast in Museum.
10. *Dupondius*, struck copy, 6.5 g. Slightly worn. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
11. Carausius, 286-93 *Antoninianus*, RIC 475 ff. Much worn. Pennypound-rd., about 1961 (shown at National Museum of Wales; private hands).
12. Constantine I, 306-337 *Follis reduced*. *Urbs Roma* type, A.D. 330-5. Much worn. Unorthodox? Park-ave., pres. Mrs. Addis.

There are a few other coins in the Abergavenny Museum. They include a *sestertius* of Gordian III and *antoniniani* of Gallienus (sole reign), Victorinus, and Tetricus (the last, an imitation). There are also a coin of Maximian and a Lyons *follis* of Constantine I. A very fine *sestertius* of L. Verus, RIC 1345, A.D. 162-3, is unquestionably a collector's piece, while Alexandrian tetradrachms of Probus and Maximian, and a *follis* of the Byzantine emperor Constantine VII, if local finds in any sense, must have been fairly recent losses. The coins mentioned in this paragraph are not to be reckoned among the remains of Roman *Gobannium*, at least until further information regarding the first group (Gordian III - Constantine I) is forthcoming.

B: THE SAMIAN WARE

All the decorated pieces described are illustrated. Plain ware entries are marked with an asterisk where there is an illustration.

Previous discoveries of samian at Abergavenny, insofar as they are published, seem to be limited to the vessels from burials found on the north side of the town, the site being marked on the Ordnance Survey 6in. sheet. As drawn in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* III (1848), 190, they comprise a Form 35/6 cup with ivy-leaf decoration *en barbotine* on the rim, probably south Gaulish, and a Lezoux 18/31 stamped IULLIN, Jullinus, of 2nd century date. Other vessels appear to have been found at the same place, but there is no record of them (see *ibid.* 172-3).

References

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Camulodunum</i> | C. F. C. Hawkes & M. R. Hull, <i>Camulodunum</i> (Res. rept. Soc. Antiq. Lond. XIV, 1947). |
| <i>Déch.</i> | J. Déchelette, <i>Les vases céramiques ornés de la Gaule romaine</i> (1904). |
| Hermet, <i>La Grauf.</i> | F. Hermet, <i>La Graufesenque</i> (1934). |
| Knorr 1919 | R. Knorr, <i>Töpfer und Fabriken verzierter Terra-Sigillata des ersten Jahrhunderts</i> (1919). |
| Knorr 1952 | R. Knorr, <i>Terra-Sigillata-Gefässe des ersten Jahrhunderts mit Töpfernamen</i> (1952). |
| <i>Newstead</i> | J. Curle, <i>a Roman Frontier Post and its People . . .</i> (1911). |
| <i>Oswald</i> | F. Oswald, <i>Index of Figure Types on Terra Sigillata</i> (1936-7). |
| <i>RCRF Acta</i> | Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautores, <i>Acta</i> . |
| Stanfield- | |
| Simpson, <i>CGP.</i> | J. Stanfield & Grace Simpson, <i>Central Gaulish Potters</i> (1958). |
- Other works are referred to in what is hoped is an understandable form in the text.

1: DECORATED (fig. 6)**Form 29 (carinated bowl)**

1. La Graufesenque. Fine hard pink ware with 'waxy' gloss. Upper zone with part of undulating scroll between large bead-rows of which the lower alone survives. The leaf is as *Knorr 1919*, Taf. 88K, Claudian; *Camulodunum*, pl. 25, 2, Claudian; *Richborough III*, pl. 26, 1 dated Nero-Vespasian but probably earlier, with bowl-maker's stamp OF CRESTIO. This example is certainly Claudian. Dump site.

2. La Graufesenque. Fairly high 'thin' gloss. Lower zone with part of undulating scroll with vertical plant motif in the lower spandrels. Trifid bud with diamond-shaped central leaflet, probably the same and in the same position, *Knorr 1952*, Taf. 42 AB with internal stamp OF MODESTI, Claudius-Nero. Central element could be the large leaf on *ibid.* 42C. Claudius-Nero or Nero. Dump site.

3. La Graufesenque. Thin, lip not greatly everted, dull. Upper zone with panel design, part of lower zone with gadroons. Criss-cross of wavy lines may be intended for a net into which hares are driven by the hound(s) on the left. Cf. *Camulodunum*, pl. 37, 10, Claudius-Nero/Nero. Net designs are common in the work of Germanus, Nero-Vespasian, e.g. *Hermet*, pl. 78, 17; *Knorr 1919*, Taf. 38Q; the doubling of the borderline is also a feature of his work. But the small

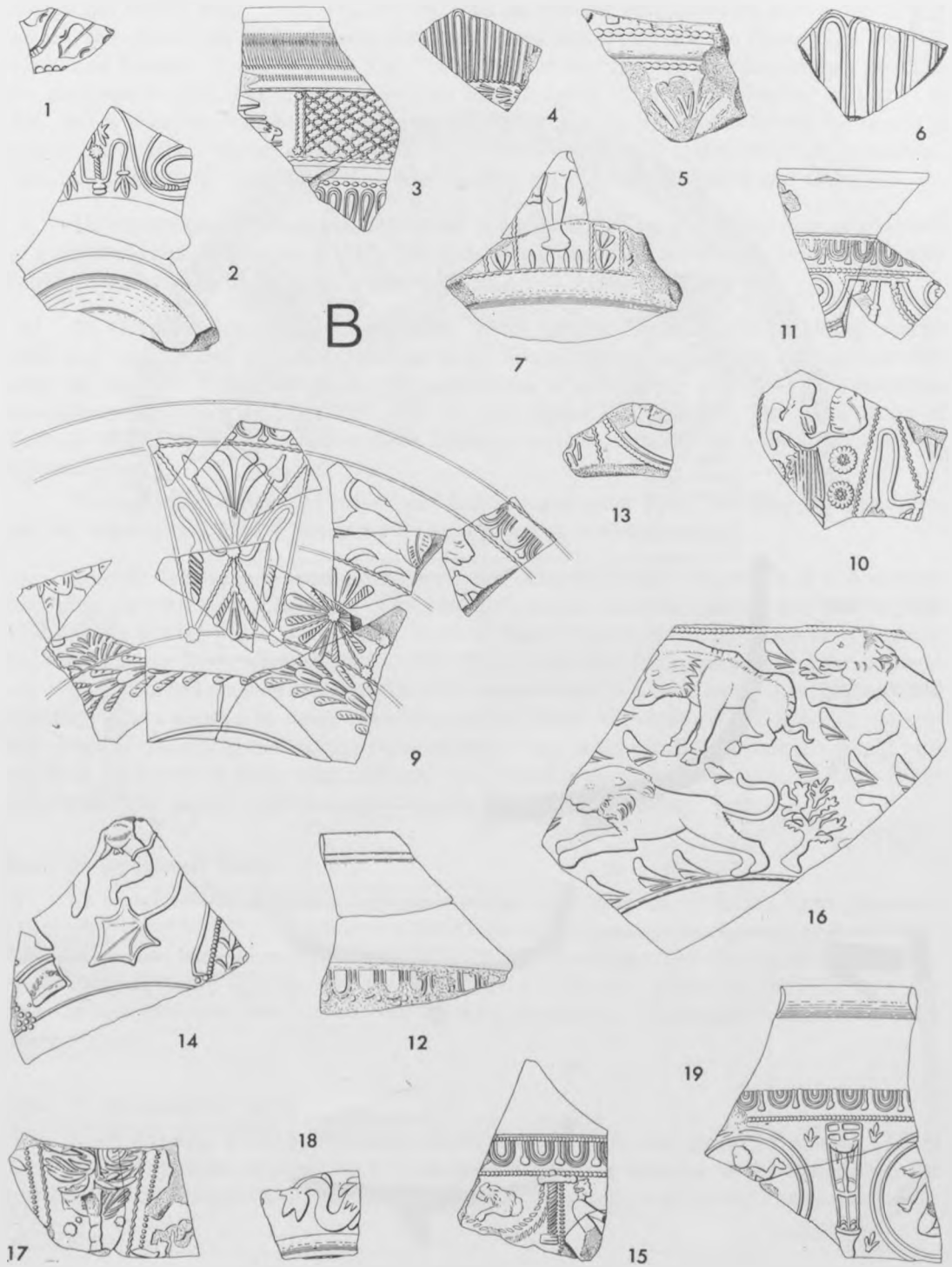


FIG. 6. SAMIAN WARE SCALE 1/2

B

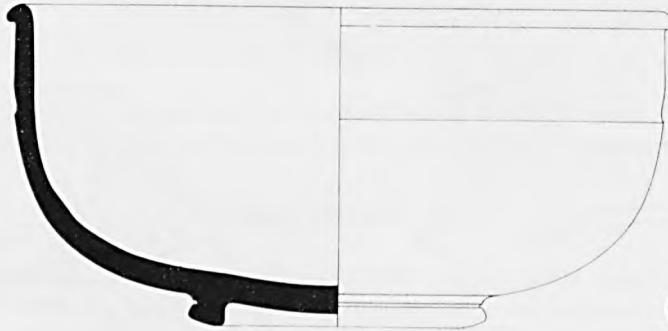


CEL 20

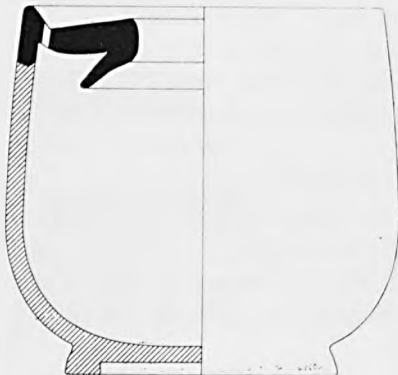
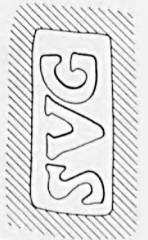
AGMIIA 25

CEVA 28

ANI 77



C16 →



75



42

CEMODEST



52

FALBIN

FIG. 7. SAMIAN WARE SCALE 1/2 STAMPS SCALE 1/1 C16: AMPHORA-STAMP SCALE 1/1

hare is not his (cf. *Knorr 1919*, Taf. 35, 35). Like the running hare of which only a part is preserved, this animal appears on bowls with the internal stamp of Felix, see *Knorr 1919*, Taf. 32, 11–12 and Textbild 19, *Knorr 1952*, Taf. 23A; note also *ibid.* 23B for doubling of lines and 23C for gadroons (wider). The animals may have been designed by or for Murranus, cf. *ibid.* Taf. 44C, but is unknown whether the signature MVRANI picked up by the bowl from the mould is that of the designer, written *ante cocturam*, or of Murranus as bowl-maker (mark of ownership). This bowl is not later than Nero, probably Claudius-Nero. Dump site (Williams Colln.).

4. La Graufesenque. Thin, with high gloss. Gadroons, half-length, terminating at a wreath of quadrifid leaves between wavy lines. The remaining space below would have been taken up by further wreaths or by festoons, cf. *Hermet*, pl. 60, row 3. Neronian. Cross-st.

5. La Graufesenque. Thick, coarse ware, burnt. Above the carination-moulding, rosette and tip of tassel. Below, part of a cruciform motif. Several potters had moulds with the four-fold spray, cf. *Knorr 1919*, Textbild 12, and the same is true of the tassel or pile (*ibid.*). The combination appears in *Knorr, Rottweil 1907*, Taf. 12, 1, a typical Flavian piece. The manufacture of Form 29 at la Graufesenque is commonly believed to have ceased about A.D. 80. Flannel-st., unstratified.

Several small shards and chips from half a dozen other Form 29s were submitted, but are not worth listing; all (?) Neronio-Flavian or Flavian, la Graufesenque.

6. Lezoux. Small shard about 5mm. thick, buff micaceous ware with traces of yellow-green lead-glaze on both sides. Gadroons of typical early central Gaulish (Lezoux and St-Rémy-en-Rollat) style. On the fabric, see my note in *Antiq. Journ.* XLVII 28f.; lead-glazed early Lezoux, H. Vertet, *Revue Archéologique* 1967-ii, 276. There is another lead-glazed early Lezoux piece, also with gadrooned decoration, from Silchester (unpublished). A note on the Abergavenny and Silchester pieces appears in *Revue Archéologique du Centre VII* (1968), 321ff. It is not unlikely that some of the lead-glazed pottery reported from time to time in British journals would turn out to be early Lezoux rather than St-Rémy ware, which is the usual description. St-Rémy is not micaceous. The present piece is unquestionably Claudian. Flannel-st., Trench E.

Form 30 (cylindrical bowl)

7. La Graufesenque. Abraded shard and another conjoining. Small female figure, standing in a narrow panel bordered by columns of trifid buds which appear to be the same as *Knorr 1952*, Taf. 48A, a bowl with the internal stamp OF PASSENI (Nero-Vespasian). The figure stands cross-legged and has the left arm extended (holding a mirror?); there is drapery on the right arm. The figure is thus otherwise close to, but smaller than, *Oswald* 313. Vespasianic? Flannel-st., ditch filling.

Form 37 (hemispherical bowl)

8. South Gaulish, possibly Banassac. About two-thirds (in one piece) of a bowl 17.6cm diam. (fig. 7). Particles of chalk up to 4 or 5mm. Thin gloss, lustrous at the top, dull at the bottom. Rather carelessly moulded panel decoration below an ovolo band. The tongue of the

ovolo is trifold, and of a pattern introduced to la Graufesenque and Banassac in Flavian times (Hermet, *La Grauf.* pl. 35bis, O; Hofmann, *RCRF Acta VIII*, 27 ff.) but it is not uniquely characteristic of a particular potter. The basal wreath of chevron leaves is also not diagnostic. The panels, repeated half for half, are in the following sequence: (a) cruciform motif; (b) panther attacking man (*Oswald* 1493) between fan-shaped and upright leaves ('bushes') over a lower compartment containing two swags with tendrills inside; (c) arches with Pan right (*Oswald* 722) and satyr left (*Oswald* 646)—a common pair; (d) stag right (*Oswald* 1737) between 'bushes' and over swags as before. The figure-types were used by various Flavian potters at both sites of manufacture mentioned, and it is impossible to choose between them. The same is true of the smaller decorative elements. Reasonably good matches can be found for the general style, e.g. Knorr, *Rottweil 1907*, Taf. 12, 1 for the cruciform motif, except for the leaflet top and bottom, there four-fold; *ibid.* 2 for arcades of comparable construction. The best parallel known to me for the use of fan-like leaves as 'bushes' comes from Banassac (Karnitsch, *Ovilava*, Taf. 26, 9–10) where the composite 'tree' would also be at home. The amount of chalk is unusual for la Graufesenque and I am inclined to believe that this is a Banassac vessel. About 85–100. Flannel-st., ditch filling.

9. La Graufesenque. Fourteen small fragments, some conjoining, some burnt, of a large bowl. One particle of chalk in the surface. Panel design bordered at the top by a trifold-tongue ovolo larger than that of no. 8 and comparing well with one used by Mercato (*Knorr 1919*, Taf. 57). The basal wreath also appears on some of these bowls and the component element is used in the cruciform motif. The latter is well matched by a Chester bowl having other affinities with ours (*Chester Archaeol. Journ.* XXXIII, pl. 22), and note also *Newstead*, 207, nos. 1, 3 and 4, as well as *Knorr 1919*, Taf. 57A. The panel to left of the cruciform has grass-tufts similar to those on bowls cited above, and there is a trace of the left foot of the gladiator-pair also partly preserved on the separate small fragment (*Oswald* 999, trace of 1000), again Mercato, *loc. cit.*, among other potters. To right of the cruciform there is a lion (*Oswald* 1400) and a *bestiarius* holding a spear (*Oswald* 1102), a common pair, cf. *Newstead, loc. cit.*, or *Holt*, fig. 39, 61. Here there is only the hand of the *bestiarius*, holding a spear, of which the point is missing because the mould was clogged. The pair is not known on the signed work of Mercato but occurs on the work of other potters of the same period, e.g. Biragillus (*Knorr, Canstatt*, Taf. 9, 1). What is possibly an important indication of style is the group of curving ground-lines incised on the mould below the lion. These are not known on the signed work of Mercato, but appear on that of a contemporary, Crucuro (Hermet, *La Grauf.*, pl. 84, 1–3). Under the lion, in a square panel, is a large rosette made of four of the trifold buds arranged about a cross. This motif appears on the Chester and Holt bowls cited; on *Knorr, Rottweil 1912*, Taf. 16, 2; and, slightly differently, on a Form 29 from Pompeii (Atkinson, *Journ. Rom. Stud.* IV, pl. 2, 3). Under the *bestiarius*, a small panel probably contained a dog, etc. as at *Newstead*. Lastly, above the lion there is a slight ridge which marks the stem of a curved tendril dependent from the upper border as frequently on the work of Mercato, etc.—Mercato or Crucuro, about A.D. 75–90. Flannel-st., ditch filling.

10. La Graufesenque. Thick, dark ware and gloss. Cruciform to right; on left, Minerva regarding helmet (*Oswald* 136A), not recorded on a signed bowl. The rosettes, with 16 petals and

8 stamens, may be as Hermet, *La Grauf.*, pl. 15, 81. Elaborate rosettes of this type do not belong to the last phases of la Graufesenque. Vespasianic. Cross-st.

11. La Graufesenque. Two shards, thin; high gloss; blurred ovolo; below, festoons (Hermet, *La Grauf.*, pl. 31, 14) containing scroll-tendrils; a somewhat ill-aligned tassel terminating in a bud between them. Cf. a la Graufesenque bowl published by Ludowici (*Rheinzabern* III, 135). Nero-Vespasianic or Vespasianic. Cross-st.

There is also an ovolo and rim of similar type but from a different vessel, Flannel-st.

12. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Abraded ovolo-shard on which detail survives to indicate Potter X-3 (Drusus I) (Stanfield-Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*, fig. 4, ovolo 1). About A.D. 100–120. Flannel-st., unstratified.

13. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Small abraded shard in slightly darker ware. To right of a wavy-line border, a large toothed medallion with plain inner border, as used in Stanfield's 'Style of Donnaucus' (*CGP*, pl. 14, no. 523). Within, traces consistent with the outline of the seated satyr (*Oswald* 622 or variant). A.D. 100–120. Flannel-st. Trench C, unstratified.

14. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Basal shard again in Stanfield's 'Style of Donnaucus': but used in the vertical border is *CGP*, fig. 15, detail 10; six-petal rosette, detail 15; leaf attached to border by a long, curving stem, *CGP*, pl. 48, no. 575; cf. smaller leaf, no. 566: ours is as the first of these. The man with serpents (*Oswald* 783) is also recorded for the style. The pedestal (with some uncertain figure-type above) is impressed upside-down; it appears on *CGP*, pl. 48, no. 568. A.D. 100–120. Dump site.

15. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Somewhat dull surface. Two circumferential grooves on the inside, probably caused by grit or dried clay particles. The ovolo, from a worn die, seems to be no. 2 of Stanfield's 'Style of Ioenalis' (*CGP*, fig. 10). The swag in which the chevron-leaves are laid to the centre, instead of away from the centre (the normal way) appears on the 'Donnaucus style' *CGP*, pl. 43, nos. 491, 494, 499, 500. It was also used by Sacer at a slightly later date, *ibid.* pl. 84, no. 14. The tassel may be compared with Terrisse, *Rev. arch. du Centre* II, 279, fig. 18 (Les Martres-de-Veyre, 'Donnaucus') The astragalus which joins swag and tassel is similar to one used by Attianus, *CGP*, fig. 23, no. 2. The lion protome resembles *CGP*, pl. 84, no. 18 (SACER F) but is a trifle smaller. I have been unable to discover the standing figure in Oswald; it is a small version of the draped Venus, much as *Oswald* 326. 'Donnaucus-Sacer style,' probably c. 120–130. Flannel-st., ditch filling (top).

16. Lezoux. Somewhat friable thin, red-brown gloss. Part of a freestyle hunting-scene. The seated boar is *Oswald* 1644 (Birrantus, Sacer); the large lion is *Oswald* 1450 (Sacer etc.); the smaller lion is possibly *Oswald* 1497K (?). The tree is *Déch.* 1140 (Igcatus, then Advocisus and other potters). The tufts in the field are part of a large palmate leaf and compare well with the lower left-hand part of *Déch.* 1168 (Paternus, Cinnamus, Paullus). It is used here to indicate bushy landscape; other leaves are similarly used. It appears, with the same large lion, on a fragment communicated by Mr. G. B. Rogers, which has the ovolo 3B used by Cinnamus and other potters (cf. *Gallia* XXVII, 3 ff.) including Sacer. Such freestyles are common in the work of Cinnamus, and the tree appears on a bowl in his early style from Littlechester (*Derbys. Arch.*

Journ. LXXXI, 96, fig. 7, 22) though it is not yet known on his signed work. Cinnamus-style, c. 150. Flannel-st., Trench E, collapsed stonework. I am grateful to Mr. Rogers for help with this piece.

17. Lezoux. Pale orange ware with dull orange-red gloss. Narrow panel between double borders of outer beaded and inner wavy lines. Subject, large leaf standing on a stem composed of two astragali. On either side of the leaf-stalk there are pointed leaves, and in the field, two rosettes. All the motifs are blurred and the identification of the shard is extremely difficult. Borders of the type shown are not given in *CGP*, but one wavy line between two beaded appears on the style of Casurius, *ibid.* pl. 135, no. 32, no. 35; and wavy lines accompany diagonal motifs in nos. 36, 38. The balancing of leaves on astragali occurs in the style of Doeccus, *CGP*, pl. 149, no. 31; and cf. pl. 150, no. 44, where a leaf with an unusual stem is balanced by the DD monogram in the same position as the rosettes on our shard. The small pointed leaf is almost certainly Doeccus, detail no. 26 (*CGP*, fig. 44). Not much else of value can be said. Possibly Doeccus, but perhaps from an imitative rustic atelier, of which there were many. About A.D. 140–50. Dump site.

18. Lezoux. Small abraded shard with a dolphin to right, larger than *Déch.* 1050. Antonine. Cross-st.

19. Lezoux. Fairly small bowl, in very hard ware; poor relief. Style of Januaris II, cf. *CGP*, pl. 119; and fig. 34, 2, 4 for the ovolo and trifid bud. The tripod appears on PATTERN FE bowls. In the medallions, the Cupid, *Oswald* 440. About A.D. 150–180. Cross-st.

Addendum

20. (fig. 7) La Graufesenque. Basal shard of Form 29, retaining none of the decoration; imperfect stamp CEL[———], almost certainly of the potter Celadus (see Oswald's *Potters'* *Stamps*, pp. 69, 370). Uncommon maker of this Form. Pre-Flavian. Castle-st. (Radcliffe Colln.)

Cups

2: PLAIN

Fig. 7

21. La Graufesenque. Ritterling Form 8. Claudian. Flannel-st. Trench E.

22. La Graufesenque. Ritterling Form 9. Claudian. Flannel-st. Trench C, east of ditch.

23–24. La Graufesenque. Form 24, small. Claudian or Claudio-Neronian. Dump site (one, Williams Colln.).

*25–27. La Graufesenque. Form 25. Including a *base in early ware, fine 'silky' gloss, with the stamp AQUITA[N], Aquitanus; from a die which, according to Mr. B. R. Hartley, is commonly used for Form 27. Claudian; the other pieces Claudio-Neronian. Flannel-st., as no. 22, Dump site, Cross-st.

*28. La Graufesenque. Form 27. Base, with the stamp SENI[], perhaps SENI·, less probably SENIS, Senis, pre-Flavian. Flannel-st., as no. 22.

29–39. La Graufesenque. Form 27. Various pieces, including two small early, probably Claudian examples; the others are probably Flavian or Neronio-Flavian, and include a squat example with the stamp L[———]. The first two, Tudor-st. and Flannel-st.; squat stamped, Flannel-st.

40. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Form 27. Early 2nd century. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
41. La Graufesenque. Form 33. Groove below lip, externally. Cf. Oswald & Pryce, *Introduction to Terra Sigillata*, pl. 51, 3. Pre-Flavian; the form is rare until the Flavian period. Dump site (Williams Colln.).

Dishes

- *42. La Graufesenque. Large part of a Form 15/17, about 18.2 cm. diam. High orange-red gloss; stamp OF MODESTI Modestus. Claudio-Neronian (Hartley). Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
- 43-51. La Graufesenque. Form 15/17. Nine shards apparently from as many vessels. Claudian (1), Cross-st.; rest, Claudio-Neronian, perhaps a few Neronian. Flannel-st. (2, one as no. 22. and Trench E). Dump site (5).
- *52. La Graufesenque. Form 18. Basal shards and one from the rim of an early dish, with offset ledge at wall/base external junction. Stamp, OF ALBIN, Albinus. Claudian. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
- 53-62. La Graufesenque. Form 18. Ten vessels represented, including three Claudian/Claudio-Neronian, one with the fragmentary stamp OF[——]: Dump site (2), the other Flannel st., Trench E; remainder, Neronian/Neronio-Flavian or Flavian. Dump site (5), Cross-st. (1), Flannel-st. (as no. 22).
63. La Graufesenque or Banassac. Form 18. Coarse. Late 1st or early 2nd century. Flannel-st., ditch filling, upper level.
64. La Graufesenque. Fragment of base. Form 18 or 15/17, tall footing of normal trapezoid section; early: Claudian. Dump site (Williams Colln.).
- Four other La Graufesenque basal shards of Form 18 occurred, representing three vessels, all from the Dump site. Possibly parts of nos. 53-62 above.
- 65-67. La Graufesenque. Three fragments of platter-bases, probably of the large Form 18 (*Camulodunum* Form S8B) which has the base-ring of squarish section here present, and light rouletted circle on the upper side. Another Form is possible. Claudio-Neronian. Dump site.
68. La Graufesenque? Form 18 variant; base-ring of thin rectangular section, light rouletting on the upper side; sagging profile. Probably pre-Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling (upper).
69. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Form 18. Early 2nd century. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
70. Les Martres-de-Veyre. Basal shard of Form 18. Early 2nd century. Cross-st.

Bowls

- 71-72. La Graufesenque. Ritterling Form 12, basal fr. and flange, the latter partly burnt. Two vessels, Claudio-Neronian. Dump site (one, Williams Colln.).
73. La Graufesenque. Curle Form 11. Small shard with trace of the usual barbotine ivy-leaf pattern on the flange. Flavian. Flannel-st., Trench H.
74. Lezoux. Form 31. Rim fragment. Hadrianic or Antonine. Flannel-st., ditch filling (upper).

Miscellaneous

- *75. La Graufesenque. Rim and mouth of a large inkwell, 9.5cm. diam., with one air-hole near the rim. The top, with its internal flange to stop spillage, was evidently separately made and

luted in, the surface being afterwards smoothed by template. Inkpots are often mentioned on the graffiti of accounts at la Graufesenque (Hermet, *La Grauf.*, 319, no. 2) under the name *atramentari(a)* and variants thereof. The diagnostic feature is the angle of the flange or collar (cf. Oswald & Pryce, *Introduction*, pl. 70). On Flavian examples it is more or less vertical (e.g. Oswald, *T.S. of Margidunum*, pl. 20, 6) but on earlier specimens it is swept back, as here (e.g. Oswald & Pryce, *op.cit.* pl. 70, 3, from Hofheim; Oswald, *Margidunum*, pl. 6, 22). This example is accordingly pre-Flavian and possibly Claudian. Dump site.

76. La Graufesenque. Rubbed basal fragment, with pronounced grooving on the interior. Part of another inkpot, cf. Oswald & Pryce, *op.cit.* pl. 70, 4 from Silchester. Flannel-st., ditch filling (lower).

Addendum

*77. Lezoux. Small scrap of flat base, most probably Form 33, with the rubbed traces of a stamp [———]IANI. There is a large selection of potters whose names ended so: see Chev. P. de Schaetzen, *Index des terminaisons des marques de potiers gallo-romains sur terra sigillata* (1956), 56f. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

C: MORTARIA AND AMPHORAE

A. Mortaria (* illustrated, fig. 8)

The 15 shards all apparently belong to different vessels. None is stamped. *Reference:* J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter Report I* (1912).

*1-5. Whitish ware, small quartz grits, often a few sprinkled over the rim. Typical south-east British production of the period generally given as c. 70-110 but possibly earlier. Rim-form, *Wrox.* 18. The example drawn (Castle-st., Key Colln.) is smaller than usual, and has the number VIII scratched retrograde below the flange. Castle-st. (two, Key Colln.); Flannel-st. (2, ditch filling and unstratified); Dump site (1).

6. Spout fragment in creamy ware containing a modicum of powdered burnt clay. 1st century. Dump site (Williams Colln.).

7. Flange-fragment in harsh white ware. Rim, *Wrox.* 34/38. Late 1st-early 2nd century. Verulamium region. Prov. not marked.

8-10. Hard pink ware and softer orange ware, all (?) with cream slip originally. Forms much as nos. 1-5 above. Flannel-st. (2 ditch filling) and unmarked.

*11-12. Orange ware, faintly micaceous, traces of cream slip. Form as no. 7. Dump site (one, Williams Colln., pierced for repair).

13. Similar to nos. 8-10 but in soft sandy buff ware with grey core. Dump site.

*14. Ware similar, but no grey core. Rim: *Wrox.* 26. End of the 1st century. Dump site.

Some of the orange ware specimens may be local or Severn valley products. The creamy slip may be intended to imitate the colour of the mortaria imported from south-east England.

*15. Orange ware, grey core; traces of cream slip; no grits show hard. Cf. *Richborough III* nos. 357-8 for form only. Later 1st century? Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

See also nos. 28-29.

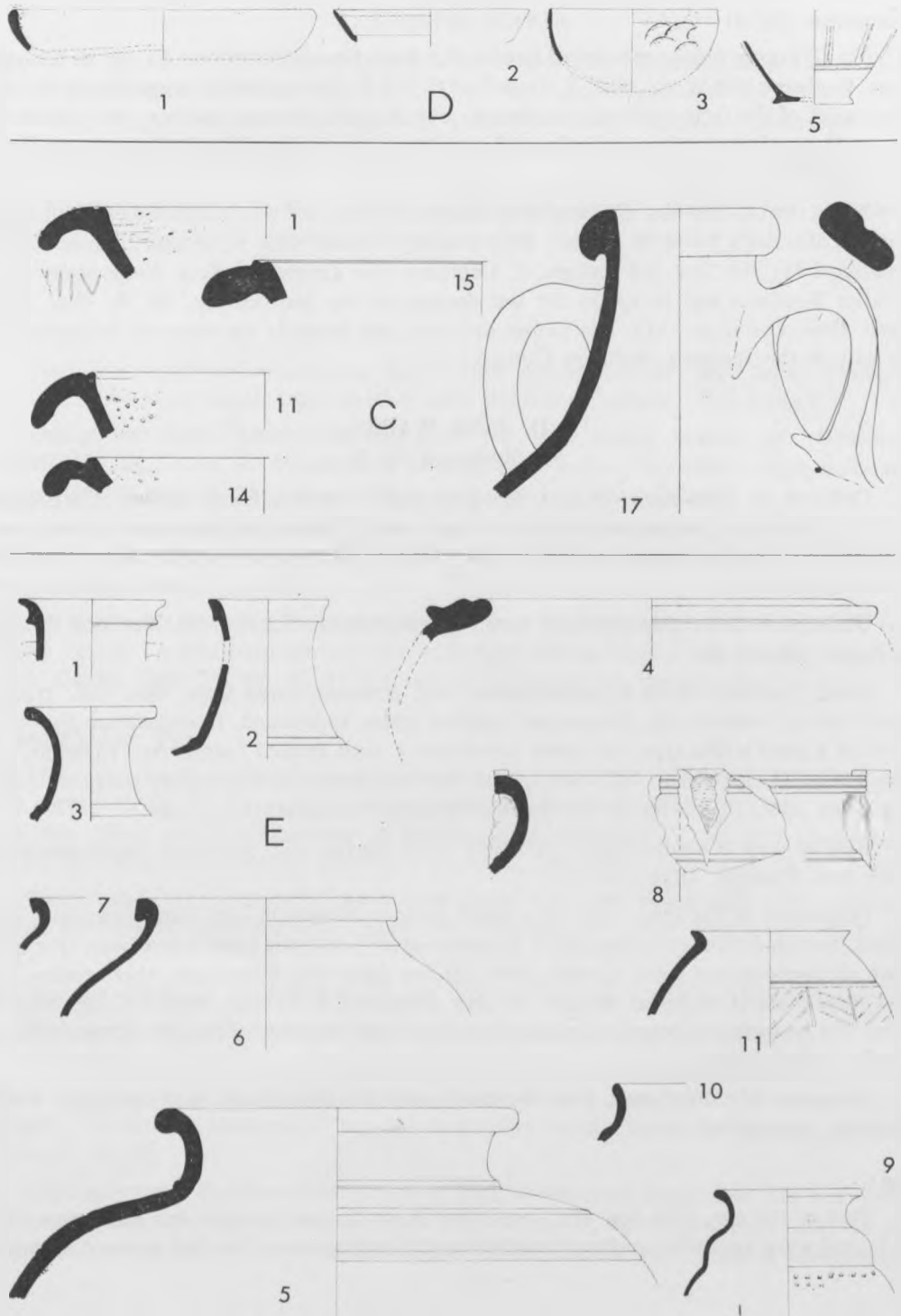


FIG. 8. FINE WARES, MORTARIA, AMPHORAE, COARSE WARES SCALE 1/4

B. Amphorae (fig. 8)

*16. (fig. 7) Stamp svG on the curved handle of a south Spanish amphora. Cf. M. H. Callender, *Roman Amphorae* (1965), no. 1685, *S. Venn P or R*, S.V.P. The last letter is regarded as the initial of the bailiff of the farm or amphora-pottery; our G could indicate another. 1st–2nd century. Cross-st. Parts of three other south Spanish amphorae are preserved, including part of a handle with the graffito IV (four).

*17. Neck, rim and handles of a small neat amphora in fine buff ware containing a small amount of mica. Callender's Form 10 (*op.cit.*, 18f.). Dating is rather wide at present: before A.D. 90, *Richborough IV*, 368; 2nd–3rd century, F. Oelmann, *Die Keramik d. Kast. Niederbieber* (1914), 64; 'after Boudicca and in use in the last decades of the 2nd century,' M. R. Hull, *Roman Potters' Kilns, Colchester*, 182. The Dump site prov. and possibly the ware are indicative of an early date in this instance (Williams Colln.).

D: FINE WARES

(* illustrated, fig. 8)

*1. Dish-rim in *terra-nigra* (Belgic), mid-grey paste, lustrous black surface. *Camulodunum* Form 16. Claudian. True *terra-nigra* is extremely rare in Wales, because it had passed out of production by the Flavian period when most of the military sites were founded. Flannel-st., ditch filling (lower).

*2. Dish-rim in thin red-brown hard ware, imitating samian Form 15/17. Not local. Probably pre-Flavian. Dump site.

*3. Small fragments from a hemispherical cup, cream-coloured ware, fine, soft; traces of blackish-brown lustrous slip. Decoration: applied scales, imbricated. *Camulodunum* Form 62A. In general a pre-Flavian type, but some varieties (e.g. with applied 'raspberry' roundels, *Arch. Camb.* 1932, 323, fig. 62, no. 432) overlap into the Flavian period; this variety rarely (cf. *Chester Arch. Journ.* LIV, 15, 17, fig. 3, 1). Claudio-Neronian. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

4. Base of wall of similar cup, or possibly small beaker, with roughcast (sand) decoration. Similar date. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

*5. Fragments of the lower part of a small piriform beaker in very hard grey ware, partly oxidised, having a thin lead-glaze (dark to yellow-green) on both sides. Local ware (for manufacture at Caerleon, see *Arch. Camb.* 1966, 53: but there may have been other centres—lead-glazed local ware is found at Brecon, Y Gaer (Wheeler, *Y Cymmr.* XXXVII, fig. 101). The vertical ribs *en barbotine* recur on coarse-ware jars of the 1st century (our E. 11 type). Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling.

6. Fragment of similar ware from the basal area of a large bowl, with base-ring. Flavian. Flannel-st., unstratified.

Lamp

7. Part of the rim, with lug, of a Loeschke IX or X type (*Lampen aus Vindonissa* (1919), Taf. 1); red ware, smoothed surface, possibly local (Caerleon) ware. 1st–2nd century. Dump site.

E: COARSE WARES

(* illustrated, figs. 8–9. N.B.: This section is selective and not comprehensive). *Camulodunum*: C. F. C. Hawkes & M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum* (Res. rept. Soc. Antiq. Lond. XIV, 1947). *Gillam*: J. P. Gillam, 'Types of Roman coarse pottery vessels in northern Britain,' *Archaeologia Aeliana* ser. 4, XXXV, 1957. *Richborough I – V*: J. P. Bushe-Fox (*et al.*), *First – Fifth Report(s) on the Excavations at Richborough* (Res. repts. Soc. Antiq. Lond. VI, VII, X, XVI and XXIII, 1926–1968). Attention is drawn to Mr. Greene's comparative remarks which follow my schedule Group F, and give valuable support to the early dating of some vessels.

Jugs

Fig. 8

- *1. Hard whitish ware. *Camulodunum* Form 140D. Almost certainly pre-Flavian. Dump site. There is a four-ribbed handle from another early jug from Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
- *2. Orange-buff ware. Three fragments from the same vessel. Flavian (cf. *Archaeologia* LXXVIII, 185, fig. 21 no. 49, Caerleon) or possibly pre-Flavian. The weak cordon at the neck/shoulder junction may be taken as an early feature. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
- *3. Mid grey ware with thin rough black slip, a ware found again in some of the jars and bowls, e.g. no. 30 below. Probably a jug; the offset neck is an early feature. Early Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling (base of).

Other jug fragments include part of the rim and part of the handle of two ring-neck types, probably Flavian. A small orange-ware rim with light frilling, from a two handled vessel such as *Arch. Cambr.* 1929, 287, fig. 30, 42–3, Caerleon — 1st century, perhaps 2nd.

Jars and Cooking Pots

- *4. Heavy flat rim from a large storage-jar, orange ware. A Belgic origin: Wheeler, *Verulamium* (1936), Group C, fig. 22, 3; taken up in the Rhineland at an early date: E. Gose, *Gefäßstypen* (1950), nos. 356–8, and fairly common in Britain: cf. *Richborough* IV, no. 485; *Arch. Cambr.* 1964, 31, fig. 10, no. 11, Caerleon. Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling (upper).
- *5. Large vessel, orange ware with grey core, vestigial cordons below neck and on shoulder. A Belgic ancestry, cf. *Camulodunum* Forms 231/2. Flavian or earlier. Flannel-st., ditch filling (upper).
- *6. Mid grey ware. Cf. *Richborough* III, no. 269 etc. Flavian. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).
- *7. Light grey ware with dark grey slip. Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling (upper).
- *8. Buff ware, grey core; burnt. These are very curious vessels since the applied cups, of which traces of one example exist here, do not communicate with the interior. Cf. *Gillam* no. 26 (from Newstead), Flavian. *Richborough* V, no. 574, is another variety, somewhat earlier. Flannel-st., as Group B, no. 22.
- *9. Light grey ware. Rusticated decoration of dots; no grouping discernible. The bold cordon is indicative of an early date: cf. *Archaeologia* CII, 64, no. 47, fig. 12, Silchester; and my commentary *ibid.* on no. 206. This is presumably pre-Flavian. Flannel-st. Trench B, unstratified.

*10. Soft grey ware with dark surface. Could be pre-Flavian; another in pale ware; Flannel-st., ditch filling (lower and upper).

Fig. 9

*11. Mid grey ware, smooth surface. A common 1st–2nd century type, with rusticated, rouletted, or scribed decoration; e.g. *Wroxeter Report* 1912, fig. 17, no. 26, etc. Flannel-st., Trench E.—Similar, plain, also Flannel-st., unstratified.

*12. Two-handled jar or beaker in fairly hard ware, buff-orange, partly burnt. The profile, cordoning, and hatched decoration suggest a variety of the Belgic butt-beaker as prototype, cf. T. May, *Silchester Pottery* (1916), pl. 70, nos. 151–2. The handles do not appear on the prototypes or on the common British copies; here they appear, probably, by conflation with the native mug-type (cf. *Arch. Camb.* 1955, 38f.). This interesting vessel has been restored at the National Museum of Wales for the Abergavenny Museum. It is probably pre-Flavian. Dump site.

*13. Orange ware, sandy; burnt. Cf. no. 11; Flavian-Trajanic. Flannel-st., ditch filling and unstratified.

*14. Orange-buff ware. Probably from a native copy of a butt-beaker, cf. *Richborough V*, no. 540, Claudian; and many other examples. Dump site.

*15–20. A selection of jar-rims, mainly Flavian, a few could be earlier. 15–16, orange-buff ware, Dump site. 17, grey-brown ware, Flannel-st., as Group B, no. 22. 18, brown ware, grey core, burnished lattice zone, Cross-st. 19, hard brown-grey, Dump site. 20, brownish-grey, Flannel-st., unstratified.

The above are illustrative of another dozen or so rims of the same date.

*21. Black fumed ware. Cf. *Gillam*, no. 122 etc.—early varieties of a ware which is not thought to have been made before about 120 or 125. Dump site (Williams Colln.).

There are two other jars of the early type from Flannel-st., Trench A2, ditch filling (lower), and another from the Dump site (also Williams Colln.), as well as a large body-shard from Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

*22. This small rim-fragment is the sole representative of the developed cavetto-rim jar of which the preceding is the start. It is probably 3rd century, and is the latest identifiable piece of pottery in the entire Abergavenny series. Dump site (Williams Colln.)—a stray, since nearly all the Dump material is early.

Dishes and Bowls

*23. Reddish-brown ware, grey core, rather coarse but surface smoothed. One of a large range of copies of the Loeschke 75 (Haltern) ‘Pompeian red’ ‘non-stick’ cooking-dish, of which an early Lezoux example was found at Caerleon (*Antiq. Journ.* XLVII, 40, fig. 3, no. 13). There is no internal coating on this example, as for instance on *Richborough II*, no. 161. Cf. also *Journ. Rom. Stud.* XXXIII, 21, fig. 4 no. 5 (Gloucester) or *Wroxeter Report* 1912, fig. 17 no. 23. Certainly 1st century; the ware is primitive, and the date may be pre-Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling (lower).

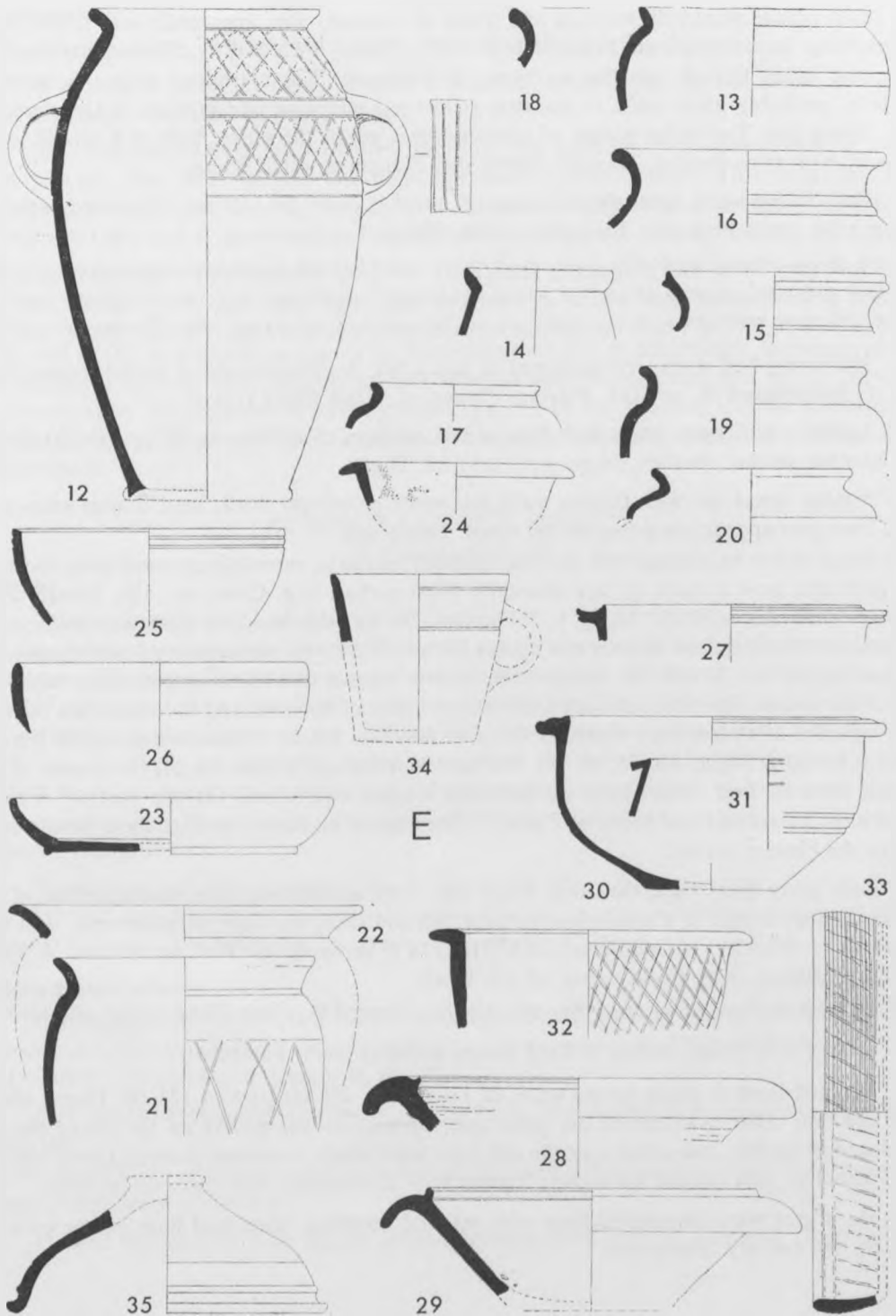


FIG. 9. COARSE WARES SCALE 1/4

*24. Soft orange ware with red core and traces of a creamy slip, apparently with friable dark-red marbling. Based on samian Form 35/6, cf. *Arch. Cambr.* 1932, 311, fig. 57, no. 130 (Caerleon, where the form, though not the marbling, is common). The marbling, known however at Caerleon, probably harks back to the true yellow-red marbling of Claudian la Graufesenque ware. Dump site. Two other scraps of samian copies are in the series, both of Curle II, one a flange fr. with mica-dusting. Flavian. Dump site, Flannel-st. ditch filling.

*25. Soft orange ware, hemispherical bowl, cf. *Arch. Cambr. loc. cit.* no. 117, dated early 2nd century; this could be earlier. Flannel-st., ditch filling.

*26. Soft grey ware, rim fragment; apparently the only Abergavenny representative of the common hemispherical bowl found at Caerleon and other sites, e.g. *Arch. Cambr. loc. cit.*, fig. 58, nos. 195–200, of which the earliest varieties have a kicked base. Flavian. Dump site.

*27. Hard grey-buff ware; rim hollowed to seat a lid. A development of *Camulodunum* Form 250; cf. *Richborough* II, no. 151. Flavian. Flannel-st., ditch filling (lower).

*28. Leathery buff ware; basin with flanged rim, perhaps cf. *Gillam* no. 292, c. 80–130. Dump site. Another similar, smaller, flange more hooked, Dump.

*29. Similar vessel but with thinner walls and more prominent bead; hard orange grey-cored ware. Two grits appear low down on the shard. Dump site.

These might better be classed with the true (gritted) mortaria, especially as some early mortaria lack grits and have a more or less internally rilled surface (e.g. Gose, no. 450; Margidunum (Oswald, *Antiq. Journ.* XXIV, 50, fig. 1, 1) Flavian). On the other hand, as commonly understood, mortaria are characterised by grits and except for no. 29 they do not appear on our vessels—the rilled surface of no. 28 and the analogue not drawn suggest that there were no grits below the limit of the shards. The rim-forms are analogous to those of mortaria and the vessels are possibly to be regarded as coarse-ware copies of Curle II (sigillata basin), which emerges in the Flavian period (Oswald & Pryce, *Introd.*, pl. 71). We have noted above (under no. 24) two copies of this sigillata form in finer ware: here we have the kitchen equivalent. On the basis of Flavian mortarium-rim profiles and those of Curle II there seems no reason to date these shards other than to the Flavian period.

*30. Soft gritty grey ware, dull thin black slip. This well-known type, characteristic of the Flavian period, begins as *Camulodunum* Form 246 and there are later developments: still best described by Wheeler, *Archaeologia* LXXVIII, 178 (Caerleon): cf. *ibid.* fig. 19, no. 4. Early Flavian. Castle-st. (Key Colln., most of the bowl).

There are two or three other examples very similar, Flannel-st., ditch filling (upper and lower).

*31. A very thin-walled variety in hard lumpy mid-grey ware, Flannel-st.

*32. Flanged bowl in black fumed ware, cf. *Gillam* no. 218 etc., about 125–60. Dump site. There are four other examples of the same type, i.e. without the groove on the top of the rim introduced in the late 2nd century, or the still later bead which developed from it: Dump site (1), rest, Flannel-st., one pierced for repair: Trench E, F unstratified, and lower fill of ditch.

*33. Hard grey ware; burnished lines over external combing, burnished lines on the interior. Probably 3rd century. Dump site.

Miscellaneous

- *34. Grey-ware mug, possibly 1st century. Flannel-st., ditch-filling (lower).
- *35. Brown-black ware lid. First century? Flannel-st., ditch-filling (lower). There are several other fragments of lids in the series studied.
- *36. (fig. 5) Hand-made jar in the native tradition; grit particles up to several mm. in length, often pinkish. The outer surface has faint burnished line-decoration. This vessel is of the 'Malvernian' series identified by Dr. D. P. S. Peacock (*Trans. Worcs. Archaeol. Soc.* ser. 3, 1 (1965-67) 15ff.) and is mentioned and illustrated in his paper (*op. cit.*, 28, no. 20; fig. 1, no. 6). The ware is distinguished by its tempering of crushed igneous and metamorphic rocks forming the narrow ridge of the Malvern Hills. Production began in the pre-Roman Iron Age and continued, with or without a break, to Antonine times, to which various examples certainly belong (*ibid.*, 16ff.). The distribution is mainly in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, thinning out into Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, and south-eastern Wales (*ibid.* and fig. 2), including the Brecon Gaer. Its presence on military sites suggested to Dr. Peacock that the Roman army may have ordered large quantities, and this seems quite probable. Flannel-st., filling of the Roman ditch.

F: MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS

(* illustrated fig. 10)

Brooches

- *1. Dolphin brooch with long knurled arm and slender bow. Spring missing: the hook which held the chord, at the top, has been filed flat, and the file also caught part of the semicylindrical spring-case. The loss of the spring-pin is therefore ancient, and the brooch was probably given a hinged pin instead. This type stands at the head of the 'dolphin' series so predominant in the west of Britain, and is known as the 'Polden Hill' type after Brit. Mus. Guide *Roman Britain* (1922), fig. 57. There are somewhat feeble brooches of the pattern at Sudbrook, *Arch. Camb.* 1939, 74, fig. 9, no. 6, and at Caerleon (two, extramural sites, unpublished) which may be Flavian. This, a good-quality brooch with clear traces of a pierced catchplate, must be earlier, perhaps Claudian. Dump site.
- *2. Trumpet-brooch of Collingwood's R-iii pattern (*The Archaeology of Roman Britain*, 1930, 253 and nos. 54-56), with a central button clasped between mouldings composed of two lenticular elements. Probably late 1st - early 2nd century. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

Various bronze objects

- *3. Part of a bronze buckle-plate from a *lorica segmentata*, showing hinged terminal and trace of buckle. Cf. M. von Groller, *Der römische Limes in Österreich* II (1901), Taf. 18, figs. 40-41. First century. Flannel-st., as Group B, no. 22.
- *4. Part of a rather rough thin bronze hinge, probably a replacement, from a *lorica segmentata*. Dump site.
Another small scrap of thin doubled bronze, with iron-rust adherent, may come from the bronze fittings of the *lorica*: Flannel-st.
- *5. Domed bronze rivet with square shank; perhaps from armour. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

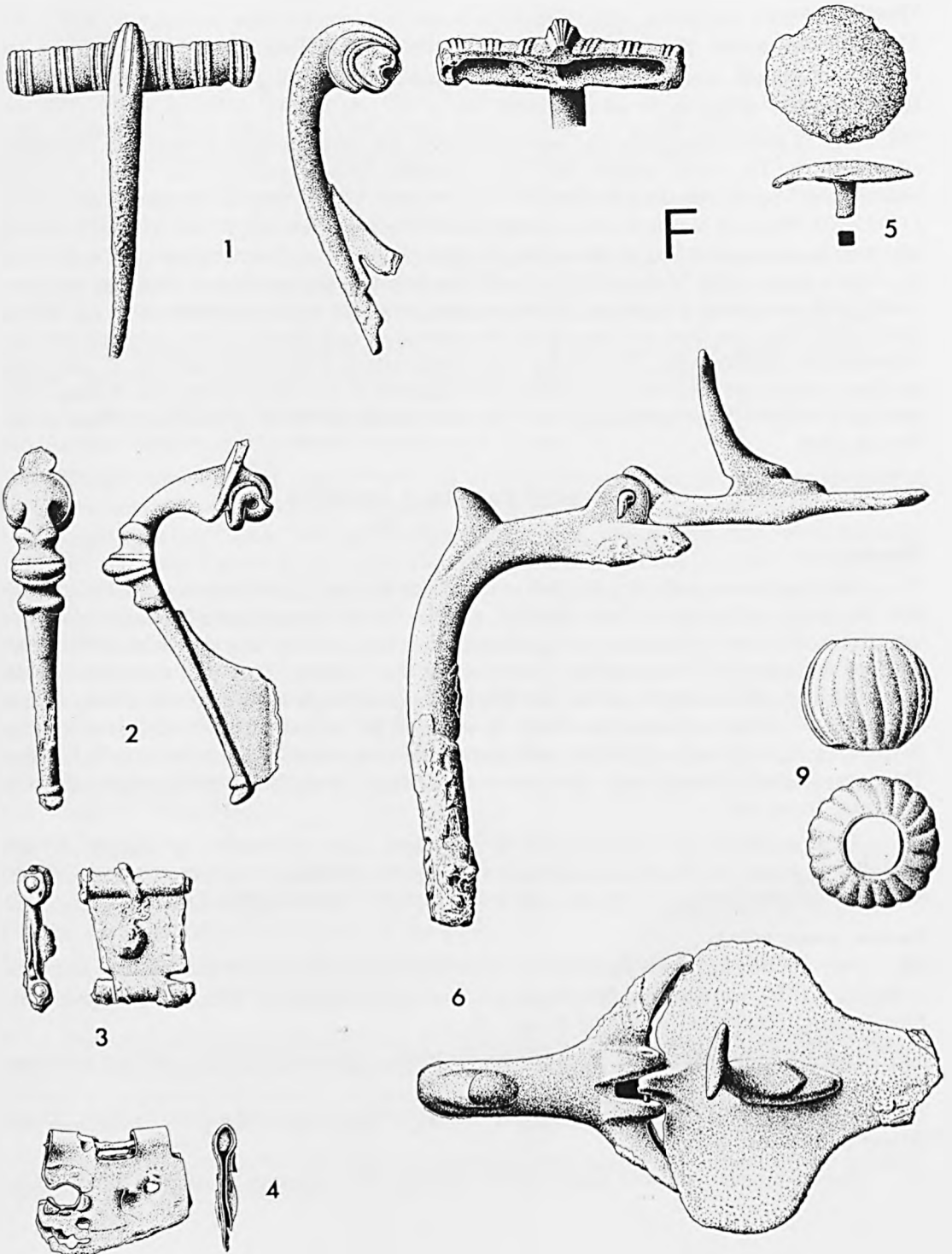


FIG. 10. SMALL FINDS SCALE 1/1

*6. Handle (with part of mouth) and hinged lid, with dolphin knob, of a common kind of small bronze ewer. Cf. Maria H. P. den Boesterd, *The Bronze Vessels in the Rijksmuseum Kam, Nijmegen* (1956), no. 257. Probably 3rd century; one was found at Colchester containing coins running down to Alexander (222–235); for a sketch, see *Arch. Cambr.* 1964, 26, fig. 6, no. 2. Parts of the handles, lids, and mouths are frequently found. Flannel-st., Trench E.

Glass

7. Part of the base of a mould-blown square bottle in blue-green glass, bearing two concentric circles; no corner motifs. 1st–2nd century. Flannel-st. ditch filling (lower) — There is part of the rim of another, Flannel-st., as Group B, no. 22.

8. Fairly large piece (14 by 8cm.) of a cast window-pane, decolorised—a faint purplish tinge in the centre shows an excess of manganese decolorant. Ground at the back. Impressions of a tool on the face, used to push the glass to the edges of the mould. See my article in *Journ. Glass Studies* VIII, 1966, 41ff. Probably 1st century. Castle-st. (Key Colln.).

*9. Typical melon bead of blue frit, turquoise glaze. 1st century. Castle-st. (Key Colln.). Half of another, smaller, Dump site.

10. White frit bun-shaped gaming counter, 15mm. 1st–2nd century. Dump site.

Metallurgical

11. Two fragments of crucibles; one heavily burnt, semi-vitrified; there is a small horizontal piercing which does not reach the inner surface (Flannel-st., as Group B, no. 22). The other shows part of the spout, and a heavy external coating of now-vitrified clay, with vitreous dross and green staining, on its surface (Dump site). Both crucibles were of the 'evaporating dish' pattern. The coated crucible is of a well-known type; the coating sealed the contents, when a lid had been fitted, to prevent the oxidation of the melt, which was probably composed of various snippets of bronze scrap. From Flannel-st. there are some small snippets of the kind alluded to.

ABERGAVENNY AND USK : A COMPARISON OF THE COARSE POTTERY

By KEVIN T. GREENE

The excavation of the Neronian fortress at Usk in 1965 and 1967–9 (by Dr. W. H. Manning, for the Ministry of Public Building and Works and University College, Cardiff) has produced—for the first time in Wales—a large amount of securely dated pre-Flavian material, with which the finds from Abergavenny (figs. 8, 9) may fruitfully be compared.

Of the fine wares, D1 occurs, together with coarse copies, in the Usk series. All the usual decorated variants of D3 also occur, and there are a few stratified examples of shards such as D5, from local rather than imported vessels. Some of the early mortaria at Usk are in the whitish fabric of C1, but the majority are in red or orange wares, often quite soft, some also possessing a thin white slip, as at Abergavenny. The wide, gently curving flanges of C1, C11 and E28–29, and the rather bulbous flange of C15 are similar to the range of early forms encountered at Usk.

The flagon E2 corresponds closely with those from Caerleon rather than Usk, where, although the rim-form is very common, the neck is always much straighter and more cylindrical

than here. E4 is found only occasionally. More frequent are Belgic derivatives similar to E5, in the same fabric. E6-7, however, are by far the commonest forms at Usk and are characteristic of the pre-Flavian deposits. Considering their abundance at Usk, and their apparent scarcity at Caerleon, I think that the type can confidently be claimed as pre-Flavian.

E20 can be paralleled in a Flavian ditch at Usk, but not in the earlier deposits. E21 is interesting in the light of the presence of a certain amount of black fumed ware (or its oxidised equivalent) amongst the usual soft grey or orange wares at Usk. The forms possibly indicate a source in south or south-west England, which may also account for the presence of tankards such as E34, which are quite common in the Roman pottery industry of the Severn valley, and occur in pre-Flavian contexts at Usk.

None of the bowls or dishes, E23-25, would be out of place in the early levels at Usk, though E24 is not there present in 'marbled' ware; E30 is exceedingly common (usually with a plainer rim).

The most important conclusion to be drawn from the comparisons is that unless we have sufficient associated dateable material (as we do at Usk), we cannot safely divide coarse pottery into 'Flavian' and 'Pre-Flavian' types. The lack of definite published Neronian material, comparable in quantity with that from Flavian sites such as Caerleon, has tended to obscure the fact that a number of 'classic' Flavian forms were already established in the Neronian period. The eventual publication of the Usk series in full will, it is to be hoped, remedy this deficiency.

A BRONZE LOOP-SHANKED TRISKELE PENDANT FROM FLANNEL STREET

By MANSEL G. SPRATLING

The bronze object described was found in the filling of the Roman ditch at Flannel-st. At the time of going to press (July 1969), the writer is engaged in a detailed study of all the British examples of this type for eventual publication elsewhere.

The pendant (fig. 11)¹ is in the form of a 4.2cm. long loop-shanked triskele of cast bronze which is presumably leaded, to judge from its weight. It has been very badly corroded, and two of the arms are broken at the perforations. The patina is turquoise green in colour. The triskele has a maximum measurement across of 4.8cm., and, although originally not more than 0.4cm. thick, now varies from 0.4 to 0.8cm. The three arms each had a circular perforation 0.5cm. in diameter, distorted by corrosion. The reverse is flat, whereas the obverse has a low ridge 0.3cm. wide and 0.1cm. high running round the edge. In the centre there is a hemispherical knob 0.6cm. high and about 0.7cm. across. Set into the centre of the reverse is the waisted shank, circular in cross section, and at the other end of which is a 1.9cm. diameter circular loop with a 0.7cm. diameter opening.

It is not now obvious how the pendant was made. Mr. H. W. M. Hodges, of the London University Institute of Archaeology, has kindly taken radiographs, but they were of no help in determining the method of manufacture. However, two methods would have been possible:

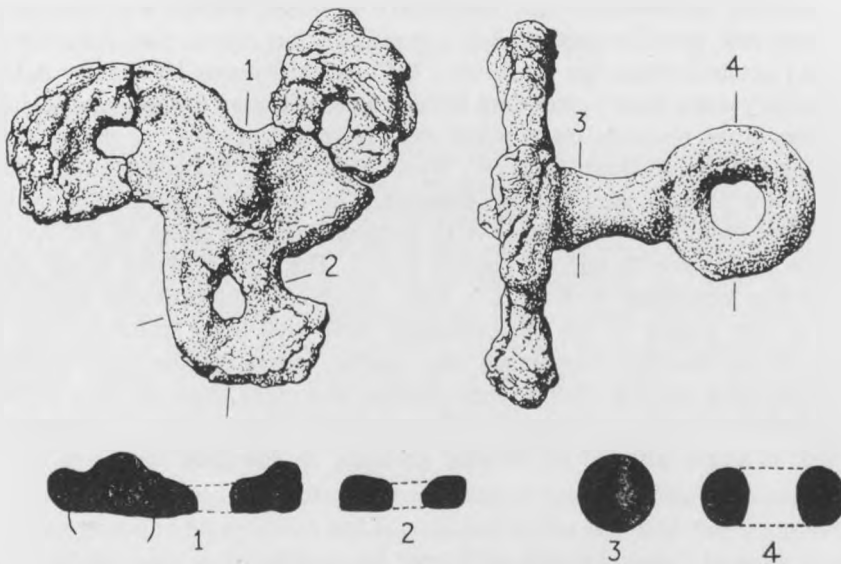


FIG. 11. BRONZE TRISKELE SCALE 1/1

either the pendant was cast in one piece by the *cire perdue* process, or the triskele and shank were separately cast and then fitted together. Several other examples of this type of object—each with a looped shank and triskele (—roundel)—have been found in Britain, however, and those which were of bronze were all cast in one piece.

The function of these objects is not immediately clear, although the provision of a circular loop at the end of the shank suggests that they were intended for suspension from a hook or ring. The ends of the loops of the Kingsholm (Glos.)², Thor's Cave (Staffs.)³ and Tre'r Ceiri (Caerns.)⁴ pendants each show pronounced signs of wear: the ends of the Kingsholm and Tre'r Ceiri loops are worn thin, whereas the inside of the Thor's Cave loop has a marked semicircular facet. In fact, one of the Hunsbury (Northants.)⁵ pendants has an iron ring threaded through the loop, while that from Kingsholm was found hooked on to a bronze tag from a leather strap. This Kingsholm evidence, in particular, does indeed suggest that the objects were used as decorative pendants, perhaps charms.

The form of the Abergavenny triskele is reduced to its bare essentials—that is, a three-armed or -legged figure, each arm or leg issuing from the corner of a triangle. This basic triskele was long a favourite of the Celts⁶, first used in the 5th century B.C. 'Early Style'⁷ and continuing, in Britain, well into the Roman period. Thus it is not a closely dateable design: it is, however, different in structure from another type of triskele, appearing only in the 1st century B.C., in which the three arms radiate from a central *point*⁸ as opposed to a central *triangle*. Clearly other evidence must be adduced if we are to determine the date of the Abergavenny pendant.

Only one other has a close context: that from Kingsholm, where it was found in a probably Claudian (at any rate, mid 1st century A.D.) burial. Of the others, that from Croft Ambrey hillfort (Herefs.) comes from a late 1st century B.C. or pre-Roman 1st century A.D. context⁹, two from Hunsbury come from somewhere within the pre-Roman hillfort, and to judge by the style of their decorative roundels are of either the late 1st century B.C. or the early 1st century A.D.¹⁰, while those from Ardleigh (Essex)¹¹, Owmbly (Lincs.)¹², Seamill (Ayr.)¹³, Thor's Cave and Tre'r Ceiri are from general Roman contexts. The triskele-roundel of a specimen from Verulamium, while found in a 4th century A.D. context¹⁴, is more likely on stylistic grounds to have been made in the early to mid 1st century A.D.¹⁵. The waisted shank of the Abergavenny pendant is likewise consistent with such a date. Doubled, and provided with intermediate mouldings, it is very similar to the mirror-handle (now lost) from Stamford Hill, Plymstock (Devon)¹⁶, or, merely doubled, very much like another mirror handle from Ingleton (W. R. Yorks.)¹⁷. It is probable that the Abergavenny pendant was made about the time of the Claudian invasion of southern Britain, and it may well belong to the early phase of occupation at Abergavenny, which is amply attested on ceramic grounds, as described elsewhere in the present report.

¹ I am very greatly indebted to Mrs. Judith Newcomer for her excellent drawing of the object.

² J. Douglas, *Nenia Britannica* (1793), 134, pl. 27, 1. 1.

³ *Trans. Midland Scient. Assn.* 1864-65, IV, 70, pl. 8: this, the finest of them all, is now lost. See also *The Reliquary* VI (1865-6), 201-12.

⁴ *Archaeol. Cambr.* 1904, 8, fig. 5.

⁵ *Archaeol. Journ.* XCIII (1936), 66 no. 14, 92, pl. 6B (right).

⁶ Cf. N. K. Sandars, *Prehist. Art in Europe* (1968), 275-84.

⁷ As at Schwarzenbach: P. Jacobsthal, *Early Celtic Art* (1944), pl.29, 6.

⁸ As on the Llyn Cerrig crescent and shield-boss: C. Fox, *Llyn Cerrig Bach* (1946), pls. 1, 32 and 36.

⁹ Personal communication from Mr. S. C. Stanford: the triskele itself is illustrated on the covers of the *Interim Reports* of the Croft Ambrey excavations.

¹⁰ *Loc. cit.* note 5.

¹¹ *Report Colchester and Essex Museum* 1956-62, 33, fig. 1, 1a; 34.

¹² *Lincs. Hist. and Archaeol.* I (1966), fig. 4b.

¹³ *Archaeol. and Hist. Colls. Ayr and Wigton* III (1882), 63, fig. 3.

¹⁴ R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium* (1936), 216-7, fig. 48.

¹⁵ Cf. C. I. Fell *Proc. Cambs. Antiq. Soc.* XLV (1951), 66.

¹⁶ C. Fox, *Pattern and Purpose* (1958), 95, fig. 60, pl. 56K.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 98, fig. 63 and cf. *ibid.* 98, fig. 64.

THE LAST ABBOTS OF DORE

By DAVID H. WILLIAMS

John Glyn: 1523 - 1528

John Glyn, the penultimate abbot of Dore, appears to have succeeded Thomas Clebery in this position by 1523, in which year he was summoned to Convocation, and in 1525 he was collector of a king's subsidy in the diocese of Hereford. But for some reason he was not episcopally blessed as abbot until March 22nd, 1526, the ceremony taking place in the bishop of Hereford's chapel at Whitbourne manor¹. Little is known of Glyn's abbacy, save that on February 11th, 1526, he granted a corrody in the monastery to his predecessor². His six years of rule do not however appear to have been a prosperous time at Dore, for towards their close the Reformer of the Cistercian Order in England, abbot Henry of St. Mary Graces, (a Cistercian house near the Tower of London), found it necessary to visit Dore, hold an inquiry, and set his seal to a document³ which made it clear that due to Glyn's negligence Abbey Dore was suffering greatly.

It was found that Glyn had "from the first day of his rule" dissipated the income of the house, giving some of it to his relations and friends, and it was also said that the abbot "everyday wanders uncertainly (*vadit incertus*) here and there from place to place." In order to stop matters from deteriorating any further, the Reformer sequestered the goods of the abbey, forbade the abbot to transact any business, inhibited the various officials of the abbey from making any payments to the abbot, released the monks from their obedience to him, and set up a small commission to handle the necessary affairs of the monastery for the time being. This consisted of Dore's sub-prior, Richard Kitterminster, two other monks of Dore (Thomas Dean and John Dydbroke), and a monk of the Reformer's own house—John Redborne. But this state of affairs was not to last for long; on March 24th following (1529) a new abbot was solemnly blessed (in Hereford Cathedral)⁴,—none other than John Redborne who had served on the Reformer's commission.

This however was not the end of abbot Glyn; for better or for worse he later became the last abbot of Cwmhir in Radnorshire. There is contemporaneous evidence of this when he is referred to as "John, late abbot of the late monastery of Cwmhir and before that abbot of the late monastery of Dore"⁵. Indeed, he appears to have tried to obtain the abbacy of Cwmhir in 1534, on Cromwell's nomination, and to have been successful; this despite the earl of Shrewsbury writing to Cromwell on June 10th of that year, telling the latter that "the monk in whose favour you write . . . has been the cause of the decay of two houses, for which he was expelled"⁶. The second house referred to here is, alas, unknown.

John Redborne: 1529 - 1536

Redborne first appears in known records, as we have seen, in 1528, becoming abbot of Dore in the following year. Again little is known of him during his abbacy. Thrice he was summoned to Convocation (in 1529, 1533, and 1536); in the period 1531–34 he was a collector of a king's subsidy in the archdeaconry of Hereford; at least once he co-assisted at a chapter held in Dore's daughter-house at Grace Dieu in Gwent, and at the dissolution of Dore (in September

1536) he received a pension of £13 p.a., of which he was still in receipt in 1553⁷. It may have been he who received a letter, which I have transcribed in an earlier issue of this *Antiquary*⁸, from one Thomas Havard, with the mysterious sentence, “ John Hyere, your bedeman is gone to London, and for them that cometh I beseech your lordship to haste them forth, as for why, they be well attest they cannot get owt.” Very little else is known of Redborne’s abbacy, save that in common with most other Welsh Cistercian houses, a considerable number of land leases were made⁹. The most interesting aspects of Redborne’s life come in fact sometime after he had ceased to be abbot of Dore.

In 1540/1 a certain Richard Thomas ap Richard of Dore alleged to the Court of Augmentations¹⁰, “ as it becometh his duty to do ”;—

(i) that abbot Redborne, collector of the king’s subsidy in the diocese of Hereford, a little before the suppression, and Thomas Baskerville of Morehampton, had still £160 remaining in their hands and belonging to the king.

(ii) that the abbot “ a little before the suppression of the monastery, conveyed and gave away to the parish church there a suit of vestments the which was surveyed by the king’s visitors, and he craftily after the surveying thereof gave them away and other certain things,—a cross of gold called a little relic crosse, and one gospel book plated with silver.”

(iii) that the abbot granted a lease to Thomas Baskerville and to one Philip Tewe (*or* True), his servant, a little before the suppression, which fell within the period disallowed by statute, and only for 33/4d. per year or more, whereas the lease was worth, and had been previously demised for £3–6–8 annually, “ whereby the king is defrauded and deceived of 33/4d. yearly and above.”

(iv) that the lessees were bound by the abbot that “ if the said late monastery should stand still (*i.e.*: *not be dissolved*), that then the said lease should be surrendered and yielded up again to the said house.”

An inquiry was held in Hereford on June 25th, 1541, relating to these allegations, (together with others primarily concerning Baskerville), before John Scudamore, Simon Hyett, and Richard Warnecombe.¹¹ The evidence of the late abbot is worth reciting in full:—

“ John Redborne, of the city of Hereford, clerk, late abbot of Dore, of the age of 61 years or there about, sworn and examined, deposeth and saith by the oath that he hath taken to the first article of the information of Richard ap Thomas ap Richard that he was collector of a certain due or subsidy about seven or eight years past, which was payable in two years, and as for the charge of the first year he hath truly paid the same and had acquittance thereof which he would not shewe us, and for the second year’s payment he made one William Jones, one of the informers, his under collector, of whom he received £200 or thereabouts and of the said £200 this said deponent payed to the said Thomas Baskerville an £80 parcel of the said £200 by his own hand which he had borrowed of the said Thomas Baskerville for the redeeming of a certain pension of 20 marks yearly out of the hand of John Glynn, late abbot, and his predecessor there. And further deposeth and saith that he had paid to Doctor Stockesley, late Bishop of London, by the hands of John ap Watkin—now deceased, whether it was £40 or £50 he perfectly knoweth not, and of the same sum he hath no acquittance.”

“ And also to the second article of the said information, the said John Redborne deposeth and saith that true it is, as in the said bill of information is alleged, that he had a pair of vestments and gospel book written in parchment with borders the one side covered with a thin plate of silver, estimated to value of five ounces or thereabout of silver, and also a little cross of wood containing in length eight inches and in breadth three-quarters of an inch covered with a thin plate of silver, and in that cross was a little bone of a saint which was reputed a relic and it was named a little relic cross, to the which he is and will be at all times ready to make answer for the same at such time and place as this honourable Court shall award him, and as for the lease of the tythe made by him and his late convent to Philip Tewe, specified in the third article, he saith the grant thereof was made to the said Philip before the statute made, but whether it was sealed before the statute made or after, he perfectly knoweth not, and further saith that he had leased the said tythe, before the said grant, to one John Butler for one year for the sum of 76/8d.”

Evidence on these allegations was also given by Philip Tewe of Dore Valley, the lessee primarily concerned, and he deposed that the lease was dated June 14th, 1533 (*i.e.* well outside the period nullified by the Act of Dissolution); he further said that the rent charged was 33/4d, and was for a definite term of 56 years. His evidence makes it clear that the lease was of “ the tithe of Dore, and the hay of the parish of Dore.” The further outcome of the matter is unknown.

But abbot Redborne lived for another sixteen years. His jealous care for the reliquary was probably an indication of his spiritual nature; at any rate he appears to have joined the re-constituted Benedictine community at Westminster Abbey in 1556¹², having with him there a Welsh servant surnamed ap Thomas. Redborne died at Westminster in September, 1557, then aged about 77 years.

MISCELLANEA

1. Dore's Monks in its Closing Years

Various references shew us that the community at Dore was, in its last few years, comprised of the following monks:—

John Redborne (1529–36, *abbot*); John Dydebroke (1528–36), Ralph Westbury *or* Westbye (1527–36), Richard Alberton (1484–1536), Richard Burford (1526–36), Richard Dean (1532–? 1536), Thomas Bristowe (1532), Thomas Cleubery (*abbot* from 1516–22, and now enjoying a corrody in the house), William Marbye *or* Merbury (1532–36). The dates in brackets are the years for which there is definite evidence of that monk's membership of Dore's community; it will be noticed that Richard Alberton (*or* Albrighton) was a monk there for over fifty years¹³.

2. PRO. MS. E.315/405

This manuscript, of nearly ninety pages, contains details of a considerable number of leases granted by the last abbots of Dore, but also makes mention of certain loans to one Harry Griffith:—

“ Item, for a great brasyn pott lente unto him by Richard Rochester, abbot (1441–71) —51/—.

“ Item, for a chalice lente unto him in the time of Richard Clifford, abbot (? 1435) by Dom William London (c. 1424).”

The manuscript also enables us to date more accurately than in the previously published list, the last abbots of Dore:—

1476–85	Philip de Llywelyn (<i>alias</i> Morgan)
1496–1500	Richard Dorston (<i>abbot of Grace Dieu</i> in 1486–88)
1500–16	John Longdone
1516–22	Thomas Cleubery
1523–28	John Glyn
1529–36	John Redborne (<i>last abbot</i>)

3. Wool Trade of Dore

Further to the description in a previous issue of this *Antiquary*, it is clear that the Italian wool trade extended well into the fourteenth century. In 1334 Dore sold to a merchant of Florence of the Society of Peruzzi, “ all its own store of wool,” namely—12 sacks and 4 weys of good wool, 9 sacks of medium wool and selected locks, 2 sacks (12 lbs. excepted) of lamb’s wool, and 4 weys of says.”¹⁴

REFERENCES

- 1 *Monmouthshire Antiquary*, 1966, p.86.
- 2 *ibid.* p.98.
- 3 PRO. E.315/51/53.
- 4 Hereford Bishops’ Registers (Canterbury and York Society), *Reg. C. Bothe*, p.208.
- 5 PRO. E.315/91 f.18.
- 6 Letters and Papers (Henry VIII) vii. 310, xiii. I. 577. See also PRO. E.315/91/18 and PRO. LR 6/152/1.
- 7 *Monmouthshire Antiquary*, op. cit. p.86.
- 8 *ibid.* p.91.
- 9 PRO. E.315/405.
- 10 PRO. E.321/32/84.
- 11 Mayor of Hereford in 1526.
- 12 H. Aveling in J. McCann and C. Cary-Elwes, *Ampeforth and its Origins* (1952) pp.60, 62, 273; C. Nash, *Fate of the English Cistercian Abbots in Citeaux* (1965), xvi 113.
- 13 D. H. Williams, *Fasti Cistercienses Cambrenses* (in preparation).
- 14 PRO. E.315/54/30.

NOTES AND NEWS

JOHN MITULTON, ABBOT OF GRACE DIEU

Abbot Mitulton¹ was one of several medieval Welsh Cistercian abbots who found the pressures either of internal disorders in the monastery, or of external forces, too much for them, and who sought peace by resigning office. Mitulton's worries seem to have come to a head in 1484; on August 31st of that year, Philip Morgan², abbot of Dore, and therefore visitor of its daughter-house at Grace Dieu, accepted Mitulton's resignation³. In so doing he brings to our attention something of the former abbot's character and desire to live a spiritual life.

Mitulton, Philip Morgan noted, was "a good man and of honest conversation, and of wholesome belief, and without any bonds of irregular birth or suspension." But not withstanding all this, he was frequently harassed without cause at Grace Dieu, by his enemies,—who they were is not noted; so that "he is not able there safely and peacefully to serve God." Mitulton not only submitted his resignation, but also requested that he might be allowed for the space of one year to choose another monastery where he could freely and peacefully "render to God his vow." Abbot Morgan agreed, and gave abbot John "our special licence for the space of one whole year inclusive" to dwell "in whatsoever place, regular or secular, as it pleases him." But he was within that year to return to Dore, once or twice, if told to do so by letters sent by abbot Morgan.

DAVID H. WILLIAMS

REFERENCE

PRO. E.315/36/228: where the catalogued entry is mis-leading, not least in describing Mitulton as having been abbot not of Grace Dieu, but of Dore itself. There is nothing in the document to suggest this.

¹ *Mitultone* fully transcribed; probably equivalent to *Middleton*.

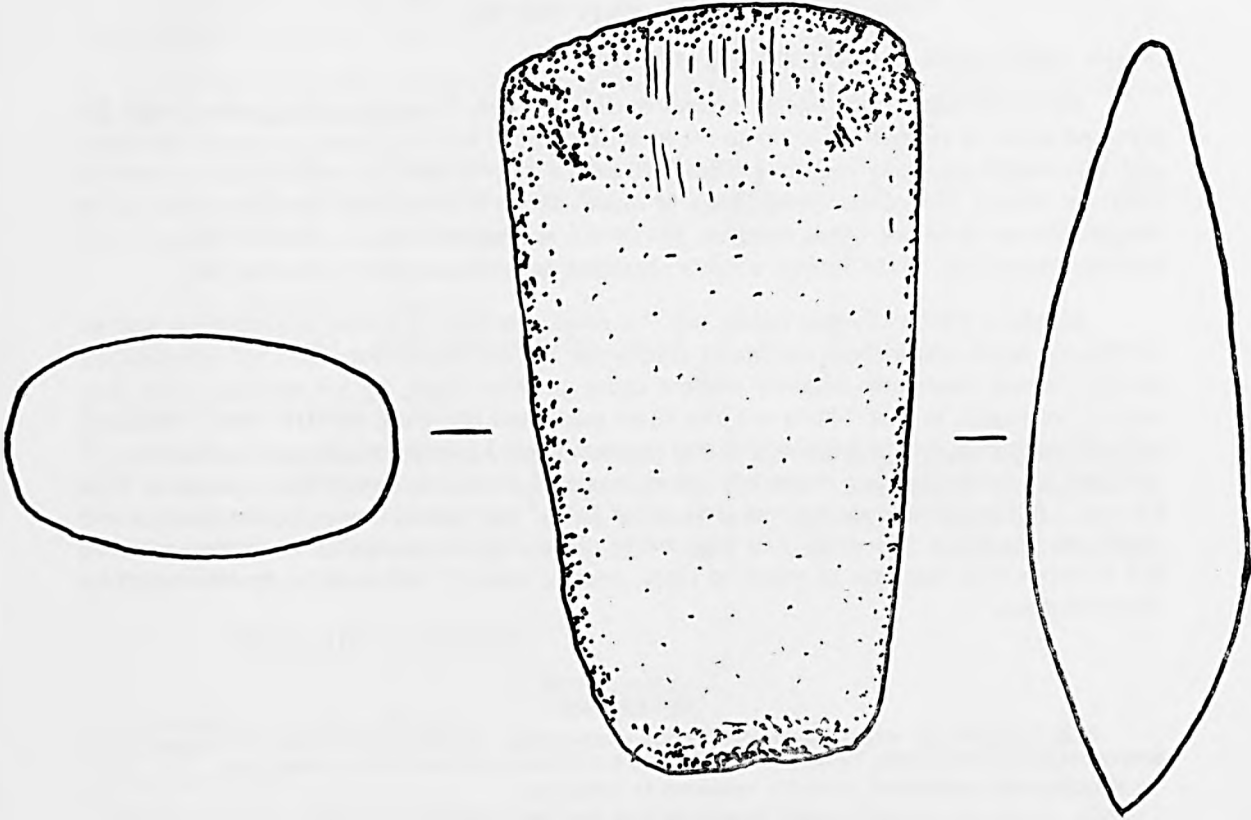
² *Philip Morgan* alias *de Llywelyn* was abbot of Dore in 1476-85.

³ For an earlier, but similar case at Grace Dieu, see *Monmouthshire Antiquary* for 1964, page 95.

A NEOLITHIC AXE FROM MONKSWOOD

Towards the end of August, 1968, Mr. W. G. Knight of Orchard House Nurseries, Monkswood, arranged to have a field south of the Beaufort Arms Hotel rotovated. The field had not been ploughed within living memory and in the course of the work the ploughman turned up a polished stone axe of Neolithic date. The National Grid Reference of the findspot, which lies 155 yards south of the Hotel, is SO/341025. The axe was taken to Canon E. T. Davies, of whose local history class Mrs. Knight is a member, and subsequently, through the good offices of Mr. H. G. Gumbleton, was brought to me. I am very grateful to Mrs. Knight for information about the finding of the axe. She has very generously agreed to present it to Newport Museum.

The axe is a smallish example of its type, 10 cms (4 inches) in length and of oval cross section (maximum 3 cms). It is of a rough textured greenish stone, identified by Professor F. W. Shotton of the University of Birmingham, after petrological examination, as Group I greenstone



MONKSWOOD NEOLITHIC AXE

from the Mousehole–Penzance area of Western Cornwall. Professor Shotton points out that the rough pitted surface of the axe is due to weathering in the soil and that it would originally have had a smooth polished surface. Some areas of smooth finish do in fact survive on the blade.

Finds of Neolithic date from the Monmouthshire section of the Usk Valley have been accumulating steadily in recent years. Where it is possible to attribute them to one or other of the groups that go to make up the British Neolithic, they seem to belong to “Secondary Neolithic” folk. Among recent finds one may mention the shard of a Peterborough ware bowl from Abergavenny¹ and the sickle flint from Usk, bearing the characteristic gloss of flint tools used for cutting corn, recently rediscovered and published by Dr. Savoury². The various finds add up to a fairly large population of Neolithic peasant farmers settled along the Valley of the Usk in the period 3000–1500 B.C. It is interesting to note that the Middle Bronze Age cremation burial from Tredunnoch³ consisted of a cremation accompanied by a bone pin—a characteristically

“secondary Neolithic” type of burial. It seems probable therefore that these “Secondary Neolithic” folk formed, as one might expect, the basis of the Bronze Age culture of the Usk Valley.

My grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Knight for allowing me to publish the axe, to Professor Shotton and to Dr. Savory for arranging for the axe to be examined by Professor Shotton.

J. K. KNIGHT

REFERENCES

- ¹ Found during excavations in Flannel Street in 1964. Publication forthcoming in this journal.
- ² *The Southern Marches of Wales in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in Culture and Environment* (edited Lloyd Foster and Alcock). Fig. 10, I and p.32.
- ³ Grimes *The Prehistory of Wales* p.199, No. 587.

EXCAVATIONS AT COED-Y-BWYNYDD, BETTWS NEWYDD: AN INTERIM REPORT

Excavations, promoted by the Archaeological Society of University College, Cardiff, were carried out at Easter, 1969 within this multivallate Iron Age hillfort (NGR SO 365068). This site was first surveyed using a Soil Anomaly Detector (equipment which detects features such as pits or walls buried beneath ground level) and the results seemed to show a rectilinear feature.

The excavation of an area 10 by 8 metres revealed part of a structure 4.5 metres wide and of undetermined length. No traces of occupation were seen in the interior and no finds were recovered. Roof support of this structure was represented by a large post hole 15 cms. wide but only 30 cms. deep; this had large stones used as packing. Situated at the eastern end of the structure, it apparently was the support post of a roof ridge pole. Several posts were also recognised in the wall of the structure. Associated with this main building were lengths of stone wall which may represent outbuildings of the settlement, but further work is needed to determine their exact relationship with the main building. The whole arrangement seems to point to a long house of mediaeval date, with associated buildings. This is the first of the type located in eastern Monmouthshire by excavation, and it will be interesting to see how it compares with others in South Wales when excavation is complete.

No Iron Age material was recovered from the site, a paucity not reflected in the only other excavated southern Monmouthshire hillforts of Llanmōlin and Sudbrook. This is curious, for if not associated with the other side of the Bristol Channel, as were these two sites, then Coed-y-Bwynydd should be associated with those of the Marches. There are in fact some similarities in hillfort architecture but the Marcher sites seem to have been heavily populated, whereas Coed-y-Bwynydd has so far yielded no signs of occupation. The relationship of the site to other local hillforts is not obvious at the moment and further work is needed to elucidate the problem.

ADRIAN BABBIDGE.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS AND FIELD DAYS

Annual General Meeting, 1968

The 121st Annual General Meeting was held on 10th February, 1968, at the Memorial Hall, Usk. Some seventy members were present. The President, Mr. E. I. P. Bowen, M.A., F.S.A., was in the Chair.

The Minutes of the 120th Annual General Meeting were read and adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the Association had a credit balance of £183 5 5d. Two grants had been received during the year towards the cost of printing the journal, one of £100 from Newport Corporation and another of £75 from Monmouthshire County Council through its Welsh Church Act Fund, but it was emphasised that grants from these sources were unlikely to continue indefinitely. The increase of the annual subscription to £1 had resulted in some resignations, but these were offset by the election of a satisfactory number of new members.

Provisional arrangements for Field Days for 1968 were approved, as follows: 20th April to Trevecca Fawr and a Breconshire Church; 20th September to the American Museum at Claverton Manor, Bath, and the Saxon Church at Bradford-on-Avon.

It was reported that the half-day excursions in 1967 proved extremely popular and it was agreed that two should be arranged for 1968, one to St. Briavel's Castle and Church, and another to Llangibby Castle and Church.

On completion of business, an illustrated lecture was given by Mr. W. H. Manning B.Sc., F.S.A., on "Roman Usk — Recent Excavations." Thanks were expressed to the speaker by the Chairman, Col. E. R. Hill, D.S.O., M.A.

Spring Field Day, 25th April, 1968

Favoured by a glorious day, members met at Trevecca Fawr and were welcomed by Mrs. Gwynne. It was found necessary to divide the party into two; one half toured the house while the other visited Trevecca College, Chapel and Museum where they were met by the Rev. J. Tudor, who described the work of the founder, Hywel Harris, the Welsh divine. In the afternoon a visit was paid to Llanfilo Church where members were met by the Vicar, the Rev. H. Jones, who indicated the features of the remarkably fine rood screen.

Half-day Excursion, 6th June

Members suffered two disappointments on this occasion: the weather was bad and on arrival at St. Briavel's Castle it was found that the promised speaker had not arrived. It was left to the unlucky Warden, who had only been in the Castle a week, to conduct members around. However, the Vicar, the Rev. F. H. Thomas, was waiting to receive members at St. Briavel's Church, a magnificent hilltop edifice, mainly of the 12th century but probably built on the site of a Saxon foundation.

Half-day Excursion, 15th August

The Rev. Canon E. T. Davies met members at Llangibby Church, the main feature of which is the unique wall-painting in the chancel, with its wealth of allegorical allusions. At Llangibby Castle Dr. M. Siddons read a paper on this history of this very large but little-used fortification.

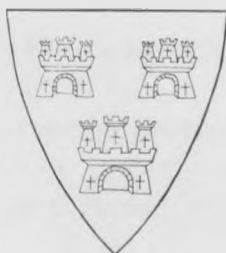
Autumn Field Day, 28th September

This was a warm and sunny day despite the lateness of the season and members were gratified to find that they virtually had the Claverton American Museum to themselves for this visit. The Museum's Director had kindly arranged the morning opening for the Association. Members then proceeded to Bradford-on-Avon, where they viewed the two churches and also the tithe barn, reputedly the largest in England, which is now being adapted for use as a Rural Museum.



THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

*PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MONMOUTHSHIRE & CAERLEON
ANTIQUARIAN ASSOCIATION*



Edited by CEFNI BARNETT

VOL. II (1965-1968)

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