

**PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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(Affiliated to

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and

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society)

***The Pontefract  
Archaeological  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just what position I shall hold in the Society when this appears in the Journal, I do not know. At the time of writing I am very proud to be your President, and it is perhaps significant that I should hold this office into 1967, for this marks our tenth year as a society.

I remember well the early days of the Society, when, as a very inexperienced Secretary, I played a small part in its formation. Looking back on those days I often wonder how we managed to survive at all, starting as we did with four people sitting on a tombstone in All Saints' Churchyard one afternoon. We had no money, no members, no public support, and only a vague idea of what archaeology was about. We did, however, have lots of enthusiasm, and soon a flow of letters began to clutter up the desks of various offices of Pontefract Corporation, particularly that of the Town Clerk. What Mr. Rook thought of these badly-written letters I now shudder to think. However, with great patience he passed them on to the appropriate committees, and things began, very slowly, to move.

Now, in 1967, it is difficult to list the number of our achievements during the ten years that we have been in existence. In addition it is difficult to recall the various activities in which our members have taken part. Another impossible task is to acknowledge all the hard work and effort which various members have put into making the Society what it is today. It is a strong temptation to mention people by name and render praise where it is due, but this is a temptation which I must resist, as space will not allow it. May I therefore say one big "thank you" to everyone. May I also say to all members, "Best wishes for the next ten years."

Sincerely,

K. GARDINER.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1966

We started the year with a change in the appearance of our Annual Journal and Report. The front cover had remained the same from 1960 until 1965. As a result of a suggestion put forward at the A.G.M. in April 1966, we asked our printers to re-arrange the front cover of the Journal around the new title, "Pontefract Archaeological Journal." The result was first seen with the appearance of the 1966 Journal, and the

present one is the first incorporating increased material and the new look.

It is hoped that the livelier cover will increase sales to the public and help offset the cost. We have already had complimentary remarks about it and would like to thank Harris Bros., our printers, for the consistent high quality of their work.

As reported last year, the Society has instigated a photographic record of the town centre. At the time of writing this is well under way in the hands of Mr. Thorpe, Society Photographer, and other photographic members.

Anyone reading the Journal will notice an increase in the amount of material. This reflects the widening scope of the society as we move outwards from Pontefract. It is hoped that people who live outside the town will take note of this, and perhaps join the society. In the coming year I would like to stress the "and District" part of our name, and concentrate on the Castleford area in particular, as I know that many Castleford people are keenly interested.

We have indeed done some interesting work in the Castleford area already, following a report in the "Pontefract and Castleford Express" in August 1966. This drew attention to Manor Farm, Glasshoughton, and suggested an "archaeological once-over." The Secretary accepted this challenge, and in company with several other members visited Manor Farm several times. The results of our investigations are reported on more fully in the Journal, but here it is sufficient to mention that the Committee thought it necessary to organise an immediate test-dig to investigate the possibility of organising a full-scale excavation. This dig received some good coverage in the local paper, and we are indeed indebted to the staff of this newspaper for the factual and informative way in which they report our activities.

In December 1966, a Roman-style gypsum burial was found by builders on Holywell Wood Hill, Castleford. Although not directly concerned with the excavation and recording of this, some members of the society are keeping the site under observation in case further remains come to light.

Once again we have had an excellent series of lectures, and I would like to express the Society's thanks to the speakers who gave us their time, and to Mrs. D. Lodge (our Programme Secretary). I would also like to thank other members of the Committee for the excellent work which they have done this year, and express the hope that 1967 will be even more successful.

E. HOULDER.

# REPORT ON AN INVESTIGATION OF THE COURSE OF THE ROMAN ROAD BETWEEN FEATHERSTONE AND CASTLEFORD

(Grid Ref. S.E. 432221 to S.E. 431227)

by G. WARING, B. ARMSTRONG and H. DAVIES

This road (28b), was the main Roman highway between Doncaster and York, passing through Castleford. The course is well known, and marked from Doncaster as far as Pontefract, following modern roads, lanes, and Parish boundaries. In fact at Barnsdale Bar the agger is plainly visible beside the main road which it overshadows, being six feet above the level of the latter.

Its course is known until it reaches the Pontefract-Wakefield road  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile west of Pontefract Barracks, from which point its course into Castleford is a matter of conjecture. Ivan D. Margary\* states that its course can be followed along a lane by a golf course. This is incorrect, and as we shall show below, it follows a different line entirely.

We would like to thank Mr. Baines of Pontefract for kindly making available the information about the road recorded on an early edition of the O.S. map. In the investigations, the report on which follows, it was found that the line of the road as marked on the map is substantially correct. The line is, however incomplete, there being a gap from 432221 to 431227. It is our belief that the road follows a straight alignment between these two points, and our reasons for drawing this conclusion are given below.

The road is presumed to cross the site of the modern railway at 437213. It can then be seen between 435215 and 434217. In the hedge bottom between these points cobbles were found, and a farm worker stated that, a few years before, the remains of the road had been ploughed under. Cobbles were also found in the entrance of a field near the farm buildings. The road changes alignment near this farm (433218). The agger can here be seen clearly in the field behind the farm bungalows at 433219. Signs of it were again observed near where it would pass under Featherstone Lane. These were in the form of ruts seen crossing the later track and just 64 feet apart. The first one is 49 feet along the track from the main road.

The next evidence of the road was in the wood at 431223. A mound was observed and photographed; this is believed to be the remains of the agger.

Investigation ceased at this point, as the road shortly enters the industrial conurbation of Castleford.

\*Ivan D. Margary — "Roman Roads in Britain," vol. 2.

# REPORT OF AN EXCAVATION IN THE GROUNDS OF GILSTEAD, ILKLEY

(Grid reference S.E. 115484)

by E. HOULDER

This excavation was arranged on behalf of the Roman Antiquities Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, and directed by Mr. E. Houlder, Secretary of the Pontefract and District Archaeological Society. A shortened version of the report is published here because several members of the Pontefract Society took part in the dig, though this was its only connection with Pontefract.

The aim of the Excavation was to section part of the Roman road between Ilkley (OLICANA) and Aldborough (ISURIUM). It took place during weekends between September 10th and early November 1966. Gratitude is here expressed to Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Wade, who allowed us to excavate, and to Mr. and Mrs. K. Wilson for the loan of tools. I would also like to acknowledge the help given by the following people: Messrs. K. Clarke, F. Morris, G. Hallett and R. Green; and Mrs. K. Wilde and my wife. In addition, all the other workers who came at various times are thanked.

An area 58 feet long by 4 feet wide was opened at first, followed by two smaller areas to the south. Probing had given some indication where to look, but the land had been subjected to extensive horticultural activity over the last half-century, making probing difficult, and confusing the stratification of the site.

The main feature of the site was the natural clay layer, on top of which other clay had been deposited for reasons which will be discussed later.

No trace of the road was found, though a line of cobbles crossing the south-east corner of the excavation and embedded in the clay suggested a kerb. The cobbles resembled a wall-foundation, and had been deposited at the same time as the clay, which showed no strata or trace of foundation-trench.

The clay deposit, although trenched in places (probably for land drainage — recent pottery was found in some trenches), was largely unbroken. It contained rivers cobbles of average diameter 6". In addition, some sherds of Romano-British pot were found in the clay. All were quite small and widely spread, and no two appeared to be from the same vessel.

## Conclusion

The large area covered by clay and cobbles makes it appear unlikely that the excavation did in fact cut the Roman road originally sought.

The assumed wall-foundation was put in place at the same time as the clay in which it was deposited. As this sealed in several sherds of R.B. pot, it may be assumed that the stones were put in place not before the Roman period. The deposited clay is probably local, as it is indistinguishable from the material which it overlies.

#### Suggested sequence of events on the site

1. Removal of turf and topsoil from the site.
2. Deposition of clay and cobbles.
3. Possible erection of building(s); there is no evidence for this apart from the "foundation" discussed above, but robbing and subsequent flooding could have removed other evidence.
4. Cultivation of the site involving the removal of many stones and the digging of agricultural drains.

Shortage of time made further work on the site impossible. The land is soon to be used for building, and these conclusions may have to be amended in the light of any material discovered by the builders.

## EXCAVATION OF A ROMAN ROAD AT PINFOLD LANE, COOKRIDGE, LEEDS

by K. WILSON

A section was cut across the Roman road at Pinfold Lane, Cookridge (Grid Ref. W.R. CCII S.E. 256415), during the last week of May 1966. This is the road between Ilkley and Tadcaster. Several previous, and unrecorded, excavations had taken place in this area, and it had been well established, both by fieldwork and excavation, that the road runs slightly south of east from Wrinkle Hill Wood and across Pinfold Lane in Marshes Plantation. The object of the excavation was mainly to train keen and inexperienced members of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society (Roman Section) in the techniques of excavation, but some experienced members of the Pontefract Archaeological Society did participate.

A trench 62ft. long and 4ft. wide was opened at right angles across the agger. It was found that the road had been robbed considerably in antiquity, but enough remained to determine its composition. Sandstone cobbles had been rammed down into the clay forming the agger, and crushed sandstone had been rammed between these. Remains of the kerb, of millstone grit, were found about one foot below the modern surface. Although the few remaining stones of the kerb were only found on the North side, it was estimated that the road was about 24ft. wide.

There was a ditch running parallel to the road on the South side. This was flat-bottomed, 4ft. wide at the top, and tapering down to 2ft.

It showed traces of primary silting with a grey sandy silt, covered by a secondary silting of yellow sandy silt which had been washed from the road. There was no evidence of redigging or cleaning out.

No trace of a ditch was found on the North side. This side had been disturbed by drains and previous excavations, and it was at first thought that all signs of the ditch had been obliterated. To make certain of this another trench was opened 22ft. to the East and parallel with the North end of Trench 1, in an undisturbed area. This also revealed no signs of a ditch on the North side of the road. As the ground slopes away to the North it is possible that it was not considered necessary to have a ditch on this side in this particular place.

To the South of the road, and 10ft. South of the ditch, were found the remains of a wall running parallel with the road. No dating material was found, and there was no time for further investigation. It was not discovered whether this wall was contemporary with the road, or was a later construction.

## REPORT OF A TEST EXCAVATION AT MANOR FARM, GLASSHOUGHTON, CASTLEFORD

(Grid Ref. S.E. 438245)

by E. HOULDER

During August of 1966 a report appeared in a local newspaper intimating that an "archaeological once-over" of Manor Farm, Glasshoughton, would be profitable, as the buildings were shortly to be demolished.

Accompanied by various members, principally Messrs. T. Carney and H. Battye, the Secretary examined first the buildings, and then the environs of the farm. It was noticed that the small enclosure (referred to from now on as the Paddock) to the south-east of the farmhouse had a rectangular depression with a raised centre, giving the impression that it was some type of moated site.

Probing indicated the possibility of a settlement in the centre, and with the permission of Mr. Walshaw, the farmer, an immediate test excavation was arranged.

Twelve members took part in the dig, during weekends in November and December, the maximum number on the site in any one day being twelve.

Two trenches were inserted in the Paddock — one in the centre, and one half-way along the south-east side.

This latter revealed a scatter of stones probably tipped in the recent past along the bank which forms the south-east boundary of the field.

The stones were just below the turf-line at the south-east end of the trench, which was extended towards the centre of the field and into the depression. This revealed no sign at all of a moat.

The trench in the raised centre of the Paddock revealed the section appended.

#### Interpretation

This sequence of events is tentatively suggested for the Paddock :

1. Removal of turf and topsoil from the site.
2. Tipping of coal waste.
3. Replacement of original topsoil and/or other soil on the field.

This tipping must have taken place sometime in the fairly recent past, probably during the last century, as the field has remained untouched during the tenancy of the present farmer, who cannot recall any reference by the previous tenant, or workers, to the field's being disturbed.

During the closing stages of the dig, an accident provided a clue to the site of the original building. Whilst digging a hole to bury a cat, Mr. Walshaw discovered stone foundations a few feet from the front of his house. Probing around the present buildings revealed a rectangular structure slightly larger than the farmhouse and extending beyond the north-east and south-west walls of the latter. This is assumed to be the footings of the previous manor house of the manor of Houghton or Hoctun. The stones were massive, and the few revealed led to a tentative late medieval date being ascribed to them.

## THE SHILLITOS OF HOUGHTON MANOR

by H. BATTYE, N.D.D., A.T.C.

The family name of Shillito is obscure in origin, but it has been suggested that it is a corruption of de Sigillo (one of the signatories to the charter of Hugh de Laval to the monks of Pontefract in 1121). A more probable suggestion is the derivation from the Dutch Schilte. The family tradition asserts that Edward III invited Flemish merchants to England, and the Shillitos came over and settled in the West Riding. The earliest recording of the name so far discovered is that of William Shillito, dated trin term 48 Edw. III 1374, relating to lands in Pontefract. Four years later the name is to be found in Houghton and Whitwood.

Iberty de Lacy, born 1114, endowed the church of St. Clement's with the tithes of his demesne at Octon or Glass Houghton. 1424 — List of rents of the Bailiwick of Pontefract: "55 oxgangs in Madeley (Methley) with the work of the tenants 1s. 20 oxgangs in Hoghton . . . , and tennements of the master of the hospital of St. Nicholas in Madeley, Casterford and Hoghton, with their enclosure in the park of Pontefract released to them in the Alle xvi. xvs. 11d. (£15. 15. 2)."



Thomas Shillito of Whitwood, and afterwards of Castleford, flourished during the reign of Henry VIII. He was probably the son of Nicholas Shillito of Preston Jackling, whose will was proved in 1558. Thomas Shillito of Houghton, parish of Castleford — Abstract of his will dated 23rd October 1573 :

"To be buried in the Parish Church of Castlefurthe. To Henry Gilliam, Elizabeth Gilliam, Margaret Gilliam, and William Gilliam everie one of them Xs., and I will that Sir Richarde, my sone have the same until the aforesaid children come at lawfull aige to receyve yt themselves. To Elizabeth Shilleto, France Shilleto, and Alverey Shilleto, children of France Shillito of Houghton, everie of them one ewe and a lamb. To my brother Willm. my russet cote. To Margaret Shillito ljs. To Isabel Belhouse one ewe lame. Supervisor of this will my son Sir Richard Shillito. Rest to Elizabeth my wyfe, Roger and John my sons and Anne my daughter, whom I make my lawfull executors. Witnesses William Nelson and Thomas Bilcliffe wh. other moo." (proved 20th January, 1574).

Roger Shillito, one of his sons, held lands in Castleford, Whitwood and Houghton. He died in 1611, but Francis Shillito appears to be another brother, also living at Houghton. The will of a Thomas Shillito of Fryston was proved in 1606.

Records show that Thomas Shillito of Houghton was buried at Castleford in 1574, that his wife was Elizabeth, and that one son was Richard, who became Vicar of Ledsham. This office he resigned in 1570 and became vicar of Featherstone, where he died and was buried in 1604. Roger Shillito of Houghton died in 1595. John Shillito of Houghton, his brother, died in 1609. Their sister, Anne, was still living in 1574, the year after their father's death. It would appear that the other daughter, Elizabeth, married Robert Gilliam of Ledsham, and that it was to their children that Thomas Shillito left an annuity of xs.

1588 — Survey of Pontefract Park, 19th June, 1588 :

... "that the farmers of the capital messuage of Houghton, called Houghton Hall, had time out of man's mind, and also since thence the first year of her Majesty's reign, in the said Park common for 16 beasts, and 4 horses, from the feast of St. Ellen unto Michaelmas, yearly, and also hath one key of custom delivered unto him by the keeper of the said Park at the said feast of St. Ellen, until Michaelmas, yearly of one gate called Houghton Carr Gate, for the driving out of their cattle, paying yearly unto the said keeper at the delivery of the said key 4d. and in pannage time swine without number."

1609 — Domestic papers, James 1, Vol xlv, June 29th, 1609, Sheffield Lodge No. 153 :

"Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury, applied to the Earl of Salisbury as Lord High Treasurer of England, and alleged that Lady Arabella Stuart had

informed him that the City of London had wished to purchase Houghton, part of the Queen's jointure and within a mile of Pontefract Castle. This he protested against believing that it 'would be a great prejudice to that fair and stately Castle.'

There is a further reference to Houghton, Castleford and the monastery of St. Oswald, Nostell, June 1609, in item No. 154.

1602 — Francis Shilleto of Houghton, who had married Alice, daughter of William and Elizabeth Clarke, was a considerable landowner and coal owner in Castleford and had an interest in the manor of Houghton, and died in 1602. His will dated 15th November 1602 contains the following . . . "To be buried in the churchyard of Castleford. To Johan, my daughter one bedstead in the chamber . . . and £8 now in the hands of Francis Shillito of the Hall. To Matheas Shilleto my sonne £13. 6. 8. for his portion, in his brother Francis hands. To George Shilleto and Alice Shilleto my sonne Francis children, 6s. 8d. a piece. To Elizabeth my daughter the other of the bedsteads. To Mary my daughter 20s. To Matheas Shilleto, my sonne and Johan Shilleto my daughter the rest of the bedding with pewter and brass. To the poow of Houghton 3s. 4d. To my three sons and Johan my daughter everie of them a silver spoon. Rest of my goods I give to Alvery Shilleto my sonne whom I make executor. Witnesses Richard Shilleto, clerk, John Rawson, Alvery Fleming and John Shilleto proved 12th May, 1603."

The eldest son, Francis, of Houghton and Heath, married Elizabeth Dolyff of Heath, and had two children, George and Alice.

It would appear that Arms were granted to Francis Shilleto in the year of his death, as the following extract will signify :

1602 — Copy of the Arms to Francis Shilleto of Houghton in 1602 by Sir William Dethick, Garter :

"Whereas Francis Shilleto of Houghton in the Countie of Yorke, Gentleman, having married Alice daughter of William Clark and of Elizabeth, daughter of Jo Freston Esq., descended of the family of Shelleto of Medley being of ancient continuance and good reputation in the said county, and whereas the armes belonging to that Familie having been many yeares past registered and recorded, I have thought good to exemplifie the saide armes and thereunto to add and assigne a creast or cognizance, convenient, vidt: A greyhounds head party per fesse or and sables, charged with one cross, croselett counterchanged. All which I confirme to the saide Francis Shilleto with his dew difference and to his children, yssue and posterity with their due dfferences for ever (Surtees Soc. Vol. 41 p.xlv)." Dugdale states that the grant was in the custody of Edwarde Shelleto of the City of Yorke, the grandson of the grantee.

# TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF ROMAN PONTEFRACT

by C. J. BAINES

The recent discovery of a Roman burial on Holywell Hill\*, just outside the Pontefract boundary, makes one think of the amount of Roman material which might possibly be still hidden and awaiting discovery, not only on new building sites, but also by the observant amateur.

The new east-west motorway may cut through the line of the Roman road proceeding from Castleford just south of Glasshoughton colliery, and may possibly give us a section.

With the proximity of the Castleford fort, and the civil settlement which was undoubtedly situated on the southern side, there seems to be no reason why there should not be many evidences of the Roman occupation to be found within the present boundaries of Pontefract.

The object of this short paper is to enlist the full co-operation of all the members of this Society to report any such finds as may come to their notice to any member of the Committee — either notices in the press, knowledge of the possession of objects by any member of the public, or personal finds.

A few finds from within the area include: the hoard of coins found in 1859 near to where the Roman road crosses the present Park Lane; Roman pottery found in 1874 on the park hill when the reservoir was made; remains are supposed to have been found near St. Ives Well; a coin of Constantine I was found in 1939 in Mill Hill, and coins have also been found in Pontefract Park; a vase was found beside a skeleton in Tanshelf Drive; and in 1939 the base of a calcite gritted pot was found in the Mount.

All these finds show the possibilities of this area. Please help your Society to build up a valuable record map of the Pontefract area in Roman times.

\*The burial referred to was found at Grid ref. c.S.E.445245 on December 17th, 1966. It was excavated on the 19th by Mr. J. Radley of the R.C.H.M., from whose report the following details are abstracted. The coffin was made of coarse yellow sandstone, the lid of a light coloured grey-white sandstone of a type not found locally. It was half-full of gypsum which was approximately 6" thick. This had been broken by the coffin lid by falling on it, and no cast survived. The burial was that of an adult of advanced years, with a composite bone comb lying behind the skull. The comb is similar to others found in Anglo-Saxon contexts. The style of the burial indicates that it probably dates from the latter part of the Roman Occupation.

SOME OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE  
POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF A  
ROMAN ROAD BETWEEN  
DARRINGTON AND CASTLEFORD

(Grid ref. S.E. 479207 to 451248)

by E. HOULDER

A glance at the 2½" O.S. map of Castleford and Pontefract shows quite plainly the line of the Roman road heading north from Castleford. A closer examination, however, combined with some research into local historical writing, led to the development of the following theory, regarding a possible alternative route for the section of the road south of Castleford, or an entirely different road possibly joining the other near the fort in Castleford.

Between 479207 and 474216 is a section of modern road called Street Furlong Lane. The name in itself is an indication of possible Roman origins, but as is about to be shown, this is almost in line with another suspected stretch. This is Monkhill Lane with Spittal Hardwick Lane, between 461230 and 451248, which has always been called the Roman road by local people. In addition, to one side of this road, at 458237, is Saint Ive's Well, near to which Roman Remains have been found (See paper by C. J. Baines).

If a straight alignment is assumed between these two suspected stretches (i.e., from 474216 to 461230) it will be found to cross the junction of Box Lane with Bondgate. At this point a Roman Road was discovered in about 1857. Holmes says . . . " . . . and that in the Knottingley Road, at a point between Parsnep Garth, Coney Garth, and the Grange Field, there are remains of a Roman Road, six feet below the surface, and of course nearly as much below the present level of the bed of the northern stream. This was displayed during the recent drainage excavations, and it had been seen in the course of similar works about thirty years ago."\*

Another coincidence is the fact that from Toll Hill† on Spittal Hardwick Lane where the modern road turns, it is a straight line to the site of the ford in Castleford. The present road follows this with some deviations until it turns towards the modern bridge.

An attempt to locate signs of a causeway at 467222 and along the line towards the north-west by probing failed. This, however, does not

discount the theory, as the land has been farmed extensively, and in addition there has been a rise in ground level for various reasons, principally flooding, as shown by the depth of the road found in 1857. Shortage of time has prevented investigation of the line south of 479207, but it is hoped that other investigators will be encouraged to follow it up.

\*The Sieges of Pontefract Castle, Richard Holmes, Pontefract 1887, p.433.

†At this point the recently discovered gypsum burial on Holywell Hill is only c.700 yards from the "road"!

# REPORT ON THE 1966 EXCAVATIONS AT SAINT JOHN'S PRIORY, PONTEFRACT

by C. V. BELLAMY, B.Sc., M.I.Biol.

During recent years, excavations have been concentrated on the eastern arms of the Priory church, and on buildings to the southern end of the Dorter range and immediately east of these.

## THE SECOND EAST END

As the excavations to the east of the gable of the third church continued, we were able to look more closely at the foundations. The banked boulders (No. 11 in the Report) had earlier been seen to carry the southern wall of the third church, and we had not tried to remove them. We knew that in places they extended over the remains of wall 74, but once we were clear of the gable of the third church, the boulders were less of an obstruction and we were able to clear an area more fully. We now discovered that the banked boulders had not only partly covered wall 74, but had also completely covered another parallel wall lying about seven feet further south and of the same parallel construction as wall 74. This proved to be between nine and ten feet wide, mortared rubble foundations, encountered at the same depth as wall 74, and continuing down to undisturbed boulder clay or, in parts, to bed rock. The buttress on the south side of the south-east corner of the third church rested on this wall; so the sequence was not in doubt.

A further area was excavated and revealed that some thirty feet beyond the above buttress, this newly-found wall turned north.

This was sufficient to indicate that the structures referred to as walls 74 and 168 were, in fact, sleeper walls for the piers of the choir arcades, and that, after all, the second eastern arm was significantly larger than the third.

The foundations of the eastern gable were examined in 1966, by means of open excavation over the length of the assumed line. Thus it was established that the east front ran northwards from the south-east corner for twenty-five feet, then turned eastwards for eight feet, northwards for twenty-six feet (externally), then west and north again on the original line as far as the north-east corner. Internally this provides a central bay, recessed by eight feet, standing further east than the rest of the east front.

The arrangement was further complicated by two flanking walls running westwards from the gable for twelve feet six inches, and two further walls parallel to these giving further divisions of the easternmost bay. Thus, the last bay is divided into five chapels, with the central one eight feet deeper than the rest.

Near the western end of the wall which forms the northern side of the central chapel a substantial area of cobbling edged with flagstones created a platform about eight feet square at floor level. Remnants of mortared rubble core suggested it had carried a superstructure, possibly a tomb or shrine.

Before the close of the season, the position of the north-east corner of the east gable was ascertained, but there was not time to begin an examination of the north wall. It would now appear that the eastern arm of the second building was about sixty feet wide, and the distance from the chancel arch to the eastern wall of the central chapel was one hundred and forty feet, or slightly over eight thousand square feet. The choir aisles would be nine or ten feet wide, and the choir arcades about forty feet apart, between centres.

Inevitably the excavations towards the eastern end of the church uncovered numerous graves, and statistical data concerning these will be published in due course. The graves were at different levels, some not earlier than the demolition of the walls of the second church, but others at greater depth were inside those walls and would seem to be contemporary with the second building phase. A few grave slabs and coffins were very near present ground level and indicate that the ground outside the eastern gable of the third church was made up to approximately ground level.

A number of skeletons carried a pair of circular bronze buckles rather similar to those reported earlier. But whereas the earlier examples were located just above the knee, resting on the femurs, the ones seen this year were at pelvis level, some actually found within the basin of the pelvis, others outside on top of the finger bones.

One of the more superficial grave slabs — a coped coffin lid — bore a relief decoration of a salire within a circle, on the triangular face at the head end. Another rectangular grave slab, apparently related to a double grave, bore two crosses, in relief, set side by side and separated by a raised rib running down the centre line of the slab and connected with a similar band forming a border.

Within one of the "chapels" of the eastern bay, a very crude grave superstructure was found to lie over a disordered array of human bones representing parts of about thirteen skeletons — evidently a re-burial of material which had been disturbed in its original position, and many bones were missing.

There was very little evidence of carved stone in this part of the site, and it would seem that the debris from the second church was effectively cleared away when the third church was built. We have previously commented on the presence of carved mouldings in the

foundations of the later walls. Rather more surprisingly, there has been very little evidence of window glass in the current series of trenches. Probably there was no fitting of an expansive east window in this building, but one would have thought even lancets would have left some glass about.

Pottery was scarce, usually unstratified, and does not contribute anything to the dating evidence at present.

#### **SOUTH WALL OF SECOND EAST END**

The eastern end of this wall was found unexpectedly beyond the eastern gable of the third church, where the bank of boulders which carries the southern wall of the third church is no longer a hindrance to excavation. Clearly the more western parts of this wall must lie underneath the boulder bank, and hence had not been encountered in recognisable form earlier. We now decided to make an attempt to remove a sufficient portion of the boulder bank to trace the wall back to its origin behind the south transept chapel. Sufficient headway was made to establish that the wall did indeed originate from the outside face of the apsidal wall of the "D"-shaped chapel. Its foundations continue down to rock, and it survives to about the same height as the remnants of wall 74 in this region.

#### **AREA SOUTH OF THE RERE-DORTER**

None of the cross walls seen in the 1965 trenches could be regarded as ending the dorter range; so a further area south of the chute was opened in 1966. The site was fully opened across the full width of the range and covering another ten feet of its length.

These trenches uncovered what appears to be the terminal cross-wall of the main building (but see below), crossing the range about 120 feet from the south transept gable.

Just north of the south-west corner, a light superficial wall came in from the west and butted against the main wall, meeting it well above the chamfer course, and resting on fill. There was not time to pursue it back in a westerly direction, but this feature is south of the warming house, and may be another part of a light wall seen near the south-west corner of the Frater a few years ago.

From the south side of the corner, a less convincing line of cobbles ran into the southern baulk, but we are not yet certain that this is evidence of a further wall.

A wall-marked chamfer course was found on the western face of the main dorter wall, and this turns the corner and runs east across the range. At the corner of the building there was one course of masoned



stone above the chamfer. This, however, ended abruptly about five feet east of the outside angle, and appeared to have been deliberately cut. After a short length of foundation which did not rise above the chamfer course, another block of masonry remained in situ on the chamfer, again cut fairly squarely to leave a plinth about four feet by three. There apparently were two such blocks, which, together with the corner sections, evidently means that the end of the range was open to the south through three arcade arches. At the same time, the fact that the chamfer course continues across the range indicates that this was not an original arrangement.

The only other structural feature in this area was a late drain running southwards just outside the eastern wall of the building. It has a flag floor, roughly-shaped stones in the side walls, and flag capping. It is possibly related to a section of drain seen close to the eastern wall of this range on the other side of the modern sewer trench.

The excavation in this section gave a steady flow of pot-sherds, but as the excavation was cleared to the south of the open arcades, a considerable quantity of pot was encountered within a fairly small compass. Associated with this was also a large quantity of glass from vessels of curious shapes.

When it was later found possible to study this material more carefully, we discovered that in addition to fairly orthodox pottery vessels, and parts of several urinals, a range of less familiar shapes emerged. It was also possible to reconstruct some of the glass vessels, and we are indebted to Mr. J. G. Hurst for the recognition of parts of alembics and cucurbits, and other vessels associated with distilling apparatus. Some of the vessels contained residues, and we are awaiting reports on the analyses of these. Generally the alembics seem to have all been pottery, and the cucurbits glass, but some fragments of glass look to be parts of alembics.

It was apparent that this collection of material was not exhausted during the 1966 dig, and we hope for a further selection during 1967, when the area further south will be opened. We may then discover why there is this concentration of distilling equipment in this locality, and possibly the object of the process. The levels seem to be late 15th C.

Mr. W. E. Nicholson took charge of the excavations in this area, and has done most of the reconstructions of the apparatus. I am grateful to him for his continued application to this task.

I also record my thanks to the other helpers who have acted as supervisors in various parts of the site, and to all the volunteer helpers who have supported the dig so consistently.

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