

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

Commonwealth Glass at West Worldham.

By THE REV. G. KNAPP.

IT is generally thought that there was very little church building and still less beautifying of churches during the Commonwealth, but some interesting observations have been made in the little church of St. Nicholas, West Worldham, which indicate that despite the stirring events going on in the country, village life in West Worldham went on much the same. Cromwell's Parliament prohibited the use of the Book of Common Prayer in 1645, and four years later Charles I was led to the scaffold. In 1653 the "Barebones Parliament" forbade all religious marriages in church, and yet we find in that year that Mr. Nicholas Mason, of West Worldham, who in 1650 had been fined £412 for his royalist convictions, in 1653 not only presented a new register to the Church, but embellished the first page with a coloured frontispiece of his coat of arms, and, as the first entries show, had members of his family baptised and married here. A letter from a member of the Mason family to Dr. Fell, a late Vicar of Worldham (1860-1897) enquiring about the West Worldham family of Masons is amongst papers in the church safe, and this letter suggests who might have been responsible for carrying on the services of the church in the Worldhams, defying Cromwell and his Parliament; for the letter states that in 1646 a Rev. Nicholas Mason, the Royalist Vicar of Irchester, in Northants, was ejected from his living, and went to reside with his kinsfolk in West Worldham.

In the west window of St. Nicholas Church there are a few fragments of fifteenth century glass. Amongst these fragments there is depicted a mermaid, a motto, "Conscientia mea mihi sufficit", with the date, 1653, and a small corner of coloured glass which, at first appearance, did not seem to have much significance. (There is a fourth piece of interesting glass, a coat of arms—gules, a bezant between three demi lions, argent, which the *Victoria History* of Hampshire suggests is the coat of the Bennet family, but no connection between this family and West Worldham has so far been traced.)

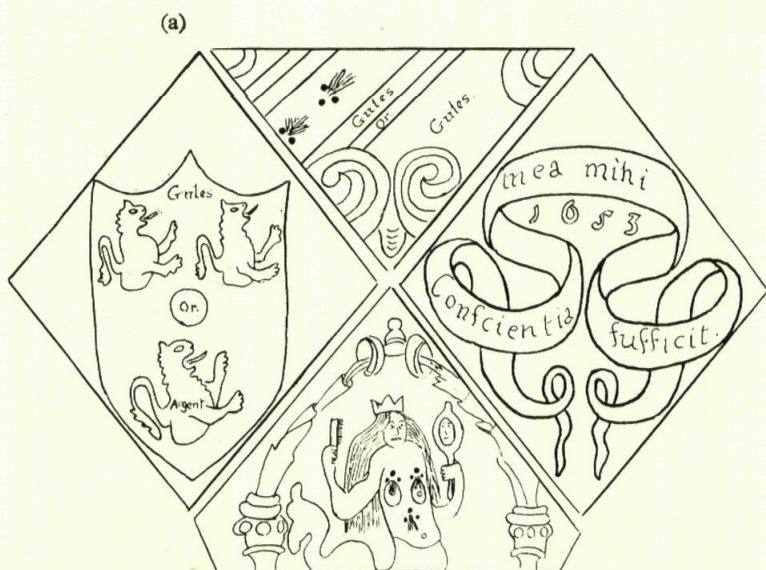
On examining the West Worldham register "The Guift of Mr. Nicholas Mason, 1653", the significance of these three fragments of glass becomes apparent, for here, in the arms of Mr. Nicholas Mason we find that the crest is the mermaid, the date of

PLATE VIII



Coloured frontispiece of W. Worldham Register, 1653.

PLATE IX



Fragments of 15th Century glass from West window of St. Nicholas Church, West Worldham (see p. 66).

(b)



Personal seal of c. 1200. (see p. 69).

the motto is 1653, the same year as the Register was given by Nicholas Mason, and, most interesting of all, the "nondiscript" piece of coloured glass can be identified as part of the top sinister quartering of the coat of arms—Gules, a bend ermine, cortised or—(or, in plain English, a red shield with a band of ermine across it between two narrow gold bands.) This quartering is of the Wyckes family. It is now obvious that these three small pieces of glass are all that now remains of a window which, at one time, contained the complete coat of arms of Nicholas Mason. The date is significant as showing that this fearless royalist not only defied the power of the Lord Protector as regards the continuation of the services in the church (possibly conducted by his ejected kinsman and namesake), but also went so far as to seek to beautify the church with stained glass in the windows. Perhaps, indeed, he went too far, and the destruction of the window by the authorities is the reason why we have now only these small fragments.

An expert in heraldry would, no doubt, point out that if these are the Mason arms, then the first quartering should be the Mason double-headed lion, and not "Wyckes". The researches of our local historian, Major Ferguson, into the history of the Mason family (as recorded in the *Hampshire Herald* of March 26, 1948) suggest an explanation for this. The arms, Major Ferguson states, derive from Sir John Mason, a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, and Dean (lay) of Winchester Cathedral. On the death of Sir John's son Thomas in 1559 at the age of 18 (see memorial with Latin epitaph in Winchester Cathedral), Sir John adopted his half-nephew Anthony Wyckes, who, presumably took the surname of Mason. There is so far no evidence as to when the Mason family came to West Worldham, but in 1626 Sackville Mason was buried in the "chauncell of East Wordelham" (in which parish the family also held property). Major Ferguson suggests that this Sackville Mason was the son of Anthony (Wyckes) Mason, and father of Nicholas of the register book. This Nicholas was alive in 1681, for there is record of his having sold some property in East Worldham in that year. But there is no record of his death in the West Worldham registers, and the East Worldham register does not commence until 1690, so it is probable that he was buried (with his parents and other members of his family) in the chancel of East Worldham Church between 1682 and 1690. It is much to be regretted that there is no record of any grave inscriptions there may have been in the chancel of East Worldham Church before it was repaved in 1865. There is no further mention of the Mason family in any of our parish records, so it is probable that the male line of this branch became extinct. It is perhaps worth noting, however, that the unusual Christian name "Sackville" appears again soon afterwards (although in a slightly different form), in the

records of another leading West Worldham family, the Hammonds ; in 1711 the son of John and Margaret Hammond was baptised "Richard Sacheverell"; and, again in 1762 a son of William and Honour Hammond was also baptised "Richard Sacheverell".

Excavations at Southampton 1946-53 ; a General Note.

By M. R. MAITLAND MULLER.

INITIATED by me in 1946 to take advantage of the availability of blitz sites, the excavations early received the wholehearted support of the Hampshire Field Club. In 1949 it was decided to concentrate on the Saxon period, that being the one both locally and generally in most need of investigation. This was substantiated by the formation of the Southampton Saxon Excavation Committee, a joint one with the Committee I had formed in 1947 and the Hampshire Field Club. I was then joined in the directorship by Mr. D. M. Waterman. The work was further aided by a grant from the Pilgrim Trust.

The digging was planned to try to solve several historical problems :—

- (1) when Saxon occupation, known from literary references and finds made during nineteenth century development, started on the St. Mary's site bordering the R. Itchen and when it ceased ;
- (2) the extent of the town and nature of its landward defences, if any ;
- (3) recover plans of individual houses and of the settlement as a whole ;
- (4) discover the date and area of first settlement on the medieval site ;
- (5) obtain stratified Anglo-Saxon archaeological material hitherto non-existent.

The excavations carried out on the Saxon town site proved occupation there from c. 650-900, though earlier and later evidences may lie in areas unexplored. No trace of any bank or ditch was found where the west, or landward, side of the town was located. It proved impossible to get plans of the houses and settlement as nineteenth century brickearth digging has destroyed the floors and post holes and we only have the storage pits left. About 100 pits have been dug and produced much pottery and glass and small finds, of the greatest importance to Anglo-Saxon archaeology, which indicate that Hamwih was participating in the North Sea—Irish Channel trade from the Rhineland. It was the port for luxury goods for the Royal Court of the West Saxons at Winchester.

There is, however, little obvious knowledge to be gained by continuing digging pits and adding in quantity to the substantial representative body of material collected. So in 1953 the excavations moved to the vicinity of the Castle on the medieval site west of the early Saxon town where there were indications that there might have been Saxon occupation. Some light was thrown incidentally on the medieval castle, but the only significant find for Saxon occupation was a sherd which, though it could be Norman, could date from the eighth century.

Work remaining to be done on the Southampton area in Saxon times is :—

- (1) further exploration of the Castle area this year (1954) ;
- (2) investigating the possibility that the medieval site was occupied in two stages : late Saxon and Norman, or early and late Norman ;
- (3) the exploration of the site of the Saxon Monastery at Nursling, if this proves to be " The Walls ", for comparative archaeological material. Though not a great deal remains to be done unfortunately work must be slow as I have only limited freedom for it now.

Provisional reports have appeared in the *Archaeological News Letter* after each excavation, two interim reports have been published in the *Proceedings* of the Hampshire Field Club and others await publication when relevant technical reports are ready. Technical reports on the glass and coins have reached an advanced stage.

A Personal Seal of c. 1200.

By A. T. MORLEY HEWITT, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.

IT was discovered when laying some drains in Church Square, Fordingbridge, at a depth of about 4ft. 6ins. I have submitted to the British Museum who inform me that it is a personal seal of c. 1200 and that the name was probably erased deliberately after the death of the owner. They have an example of similar date which was the seal of a " Baker ". It is not a heraldic seal the falcon displayed not being heraldically treated, but it may be a rebus of the name.

The following are the details :—

Grid ref. of find, 145138.

Depth 4ft. 6ins.

Metal—lead with strengthening rims and a single rib across reverse ending in loop or hinge.

Size 27 mm.

Condition—excellent, not oxidised only damaged where name should appear.

Superscription—SIGILLVM BENEDICTI (D) ? () ()
RV. () () SA ().

A Polished Axe found at Ibsley Aerodrome.

By A. T. MORLEY HEWITT, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.

THIS polished flint axe found by Mr. W. C. Sampson when ploughing the central area of the old Ibsley Aerodrome.
Details :—

Grid ref. 152086.

Depth 1ft. 3ins.

Flint highly polished especially at cutting edge, in wonderful condition.

Size 178 mm.

Excavations at Hook in Hampshire 1954.

AN INTERIM NOTE BY PAUL ASHBEER.

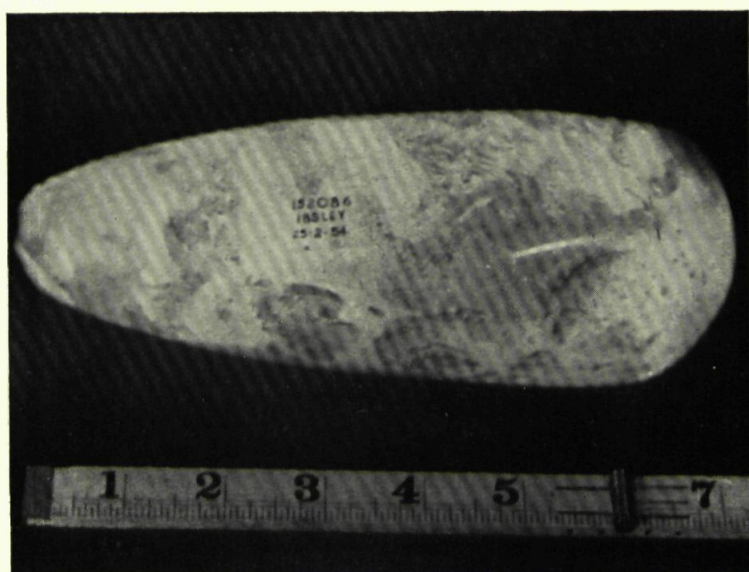
CONTINUOUS exploitation, for industrial purposes, of the Solent gravel terraces, in the vicinity of Warsash, has brought to light, bereft of context, a miscellany of relics.¹ Field work by Mr. W. Corney of Portsmouth Museum, during early 1954, the results of which he communicated to the Ministry of Works, demonstrated that excavation, in one specific area, between the hamlet of Hook and Abshot Manor, was necessary because of a gravel-pit extension. It can be said, therefore, that the results of excavations, lasting for five weeks, and undertaken with the kind permission of the site owner, Mr. F. Dyke, have thrown much light upon the nature of "Late Bronze Age", Belgic, Romano-British, and, indeed, Mediaeval, activities in the area.

The site investigated was a level gravel promontory, flanked by two streams and not far distant from an extensive earthwork of unknown date.² It had already been in great part removed by gravel digging. Surface indications were lacking but pit-face sections delimited an approximate area. Here was revealed a veritable palimpsest of channels and ditches. It was possible to explore economically, as not only was soil cover thin, but also quantities of surface soil had been removed around the site.

1. P., Hants F.C., XVI, 190-1.

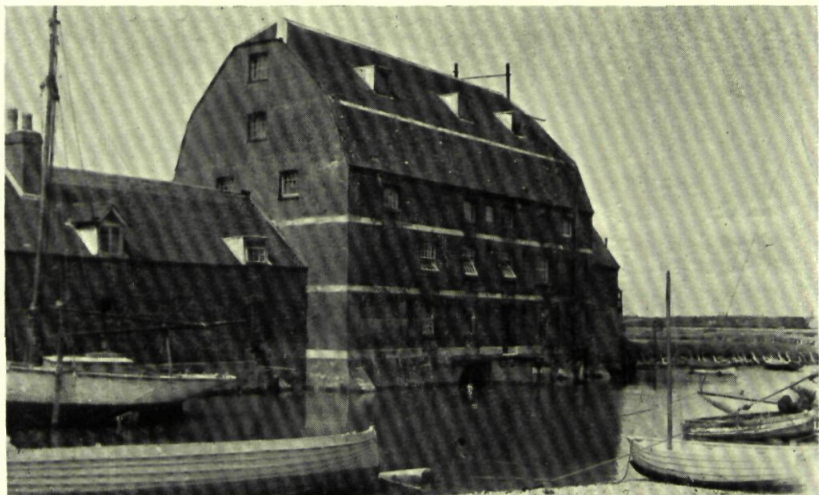
2. *op. cit.*, XIII, 262.

PLATE X



The Ibsley Polished Axe.

PLATE XI



FAWLEY MILL
(Visited by the Club in 1953).

The discovery of one complete side, with corners, and the evidence of adjacent pit faces, showed that the earliest activities there were represented by an approximately rectilinear, ditched, enclosure, one side of which, fortunately including an entrance flanked by great post-holes, was about 130 feet in length. The ditch of near "V" section, contained, in its coarse primary silting, two simple, squared, rim sherds, resembling those from similar enclosures.³

At a later date, the bank, which, to judge from the "run" of the coarse silting had been on the inside of the ditch, had been razed and tipped into the ditch. From the uppermost levels of this enclosure ditch came almost all of the considerable quantity of Belgic "bead-rim" pottery. Sherds representing a greater part of a "pointille" decorated bead-rim bowl⁴ were recovered from beneath the remains of the overthrown bank, where they were resting upon a loamy soil which had formed upon the silting of the enclosure ditch. It would seem that the destruction of this enclosure bank was a feature of a deliberate policy on the part of the Belgae.

A series of palisade channels of familiar form⁵ cut into the infillings of the rectilinear enclosure ditch. Running roughly parallel thereto, and yielding Belgic pottery, they had been cut through, in places, deposits containing such pottery. These inter-relationships of ditches and channels showed clearly and graphically, phases of activity on the part of the Belgae. In addition to the decorated pottery form noted above, another decorated pot, the precise counterpart of a Worthy Down form,⁶ had been found before the excavation began, by gravel diggers. In great part, the Belgic ceramic assemblage stands close to the Isle of Wight series.⁷

Just to the east of the Belgic channels and the early enclosure, were further channels, forming a rectangular enclosure some 80 feet in width, which were traced for just short of 340 feet when they, in part, disappeared below a modern highway. Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper silting, together with bead-rims. Broken tiles were in the topsoil, near the channel, at one point. This enclosure would appear to be a continuation, into Roman times, of the activities of which the Belgic channels were the result.

Upon the western limits of the site, and cutting across "Late Bronze Age" and Belgic phases, were two parallel ditches, some

3. P.P.S., VIII, 48; XVI, 193.

4. cf. Hengistbury Head, Class J. In this case the punctures were shallow and circular.

5. cf. Wheeler, Verulamium, Pl. XIV; Sumner, Rockbourne Down, opp. 25.

6. P., Hants F.C., X, 178-95, Pl. 3, 31, 38-40, 42, esp. 31.

7. Hawkes and Dunning Belgae, sites there cited. See also P., I.W.N.H.A.S., IV, Pt. VIII, 303-11.

15 feet apart, formed by a series of loosely connected scoops. At one point a number of post-holes ran practically parallel to the ditch. "This ditch had in it no gravelly primary silt, and filled as it was with stiff loam, it could not have been open long, or else weathering of the gravel, into which it had been dug, would have been more evident. At one point this loam filling contained, at all depths, quantities of oyster shells. Sherds of green and brown glazed wares from the base of this filling suggest a medieval date for these enigmatic channels.

All the material from Hook, now in Portsmouth Museum, has been made available for study by Mr. W. Corney, who, whenever his duties allowed him, worked on the site. It is undoubtedly due to his genial co-operation that so much has been done in the time available. It is hoped that exploration of this not inconsiderable site will continue before all is destroyed.