

LIBRARY COPY.

The  
**BULLETIN**  
of the  
**LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY**



No. 6  
Autumn 1963

THE BULLETIN  
of the  
LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

No. 6. - Autumn 1963

EDITORIAL

Once again we have to record the sad news of the death of a former Chairman of the Society and, this time, one still in the prime of life. George Riley, Chairman from 1958-1961, was one of the foundation members of the Society and had always taken a leading part in its activities, especially in excavations. He died suddenly on Easter Monday. The sympathy of all members goes to Mrs. Riley who we are glad to say, is continuing to take part in the Society's activities.

----oOo----

Members may have noticed that the work of preserving the medieval part of the Old Rectory is now in hand. This is being supervised by the Ancient Monuments Section of the Ministry of Works. The preservation of the Old Rectory is almost entirely due to the efforts of this Society and is something for which we are sure future generations of Loughburians will be grateful. We hope to publish a full illustrated report on the Old Rectory in a few months' time.

----oOo----

The "Curse Tablet" recently discovered at Red Hill is one of the most important Roman discoveries in this area for many years and we are glad to be able to reproduce Professor Turner's authoritative report on it.

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

H.F.B.

|   | <u>Page</u>                    |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Demolitions in Loughborough & District              | by Geo.H.Green. 3              |
| A Roman Curse Tablet from Nottinghamshire           | by B.C.Williams. 12            |
|   | & Prof. E.G. Turner.           |
| Transcripts of Early Documents: A Garendon Corrody. | by Geo.H.Green. 19             |
| The Society's Library                               | by Mrs.H.Fisher. 22            |
| Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act 1962     | H.F. Bing. 23                  |
| Suggestions for Research                            | by "rank and file" Members. 24 |
| Book Reviews  | by Geo.H.Green. 29             |
| The Society's Activities 1962-1963                  | 34                             |



THE LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Officers and Committee 1963-64

President: H.F. Bing, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.,  
45 Rempstone Road,  
East Leake, Nr. Loughborough.

Chairman: Miss. A. McCann,  
50 The Lant,  
Shepshed.

Treasurer: D.C. Wostenholm, M.Sc.,  
118 Park Road,  
Loughborough.

Secretary: W.S. Moffat, M.Sc., F.G.S.,  
44 Colgrove Road,  
Loughborough. (Tel. Loughborough 2581)

Publicity  
Secretary: J.H. Whittington,  
75 Cossington Road,  
Sileby, Nr. Loughborough.

Librarian: Mrs. H. Fisher,  
11 Sparrow Hill,  
Loughborough.

Committee Members: G.H. Green  
J. Richards  
M. Murchison  
Co-opted to Committee: P.J. Greaves  
S.F. Keeping  
W. Davies

Excavations Adviser: B.C.J. Williams, A.T.D.,  
[TEXT REMOVED]  
Loughborough.

Full details of membership, current programme, and a copy  
of the Society's rules are obtainable from the Secretary.



DEMOLITIONS IN LOUGHBOROUGH & DISTRICT  
AND REPLACEMENT BUILDINGS.

The task of making some record of the removal of buildings in the area becomes increasingly difficult because of the scale of the planning schemes in the 1960's. Readers were warned in Bulletin No.5 that the record is of the chief items only and is not complete - the warning applies again this time. So swift are the modern processes of demolition that it gives a sense of shock to watch giant timbers and stone walls that have stood for anything up to seven centuries destroyed in as many seconds.

This account can begin with some further reference to items that occurred in last year's list. The same reference numbers are employed as in that list and then the totally fresh items follow in continued number sequence.

No.65. THE LIONS HAVE RE-APPEARED! This news will afford some gratification but they are no longer in Loughborough. These old terra-cotta animals now grace the forecourt of QUORN COURT on the main road in that village.

No.66 THE RED LION SITE, BIGGIN STREET. The last fragment of this was demolished on 10th and 11th June, 1963. Removal of plaster from the surviving fireplace revealed the interesting fact that the red brick arch voussoirs terminated with a few even earlier sandstone voussoirs. These in their turn rested upon stone pillars. The righthand one when facing the fireplace (that is the observer's right-hand side) was composed of an extremely heavy block of stone nearly 3 feet high and carved at the foot into a projecting base. One could but wonder if it was a portion of cross shaft. The wooden timbers included one which was carved to corbel out at the first ceiling level and again nearer the bedroom ceiling - a truly magnificent piece of carpentry in a single piece. In view of the ancient nature of the fireplace it may be asked whether this was the original building that gave the name to the street. "Le Byggninge" simply means "The Building" and the word still occurs almost unchanged in the Scandinavian languages.

No.67 CLARKE'S DYEWORKS, ETC., DEVONSHIRE SQUARE. The cleared site is now fully occupied by a modern Supermarket and other shops. The architecture is the flat and featureless modern style.

No.68 GEO.HILLS LTD., OLD CATTLE MARKET AREA. The same remarks apply as to No.67. In both cases old fragments of stone walling remain behind the new buildings. The rear elevations and end gables are almost windowless and most depressing. This generation has lost all sense of adding



art and beauty to utility. If this is what is meant by the current catchword "functional", may the nation be saved from it.

- No.71 G. STUBBS SHOP, ETC., DEVONSHIRE SQUARE. The replacement building on this site is a large dry-cleaning establishment of Sketchley Dyeworks (Hinckley) and a television sales shop. The result is rather more pleasing to the eye but the facing materials employed are not likely to have a long life.

-----oOo-----

The following are fresh cases which have arisen in later 1962 to the end of June, 1963.

- No.82 Bedford Square - Queen's Park Entrance and on to Forest Road near Emanuel Church. First a few small cottages have been demolished at the side of the Park entrance. A tree screen now improves this entrance. The buildings associated with the cottages were the former St. Mary's Day School of which no trace remains. It had been a printer's stores for a time. One much older cottage (long held by Newtons, the Chimney Sweeps) still remains but no doubt it also will follow the rest. At the Park Road junction a large detached residence, formerly occupied by A.E. Shepherd, the well-known builder and decorator, has been totally demolished to make room for a new Methodist Church. Its only note-worthy feature was the extremely vast cellar which at the time this note was made still gapes open to the sky, quite unprotected. Almost opposite, alongside Emmanuel Church, the neat and pleasant residence called "The Cottage", long occupied by Mr. Potter the saddler, has been similarly demolished to make room for some new houses. In both these cases the existing mature trees are to be left unfelled.

- No.83 This number is used merely to embrace a tremendous series of trenches and of street re-makings that took place in the central area of the town in October, 1962. Shakespeare Street, Salmon Street, Dead Lane, John Street, Fennel Street, the boulevard round the Parish Church, Rectory Road, Church Gate, Sparrow Hill and Pinfold Gate all suffered extensive disturbance. Very early sewers were broken into. Several ancient stonewall foundations were encountered especially in Fennel Street, at the Church Gates and on Sparrow Hill. Ox bones were found in Dead Lane, human bones near the School in Shakespeare Street, bricks nearly everywhere, pottery of many periods (one fire encrusted piece seemed to be Roman), two claypipe



factory sites yielded abundance of broken stems and bowls, and finally the entire area was strewn with multi-coloured sand from the stretch that runs right across this side of the town. Some pockets of sand were very deep; they end as abruptly as they are encountered, and present problems to builders. After the insertion of new drains and services, new roads appeared and an entire bus station with flagged platforms appeared quickly despite a long interruption by the intense frosts of winter 1962-63. No doubt the Bus Station will shortly come into use but at the moment there is no vestige of shelter anywhere on the several acres involved. At the end of the boulevard by the church, at its Church Gate junction, two great piles of stone were encountered and they appeared to be used for blocking up earlier sewers or tunnels. Amid this welter of change, it is occasion for surprise to recall that on the left hand of Fennel Street when entering from Church Gate the late C.S. Russell used to have a tree-surrounded tennis court, unusually pleasantly placed, and that it faced his sweet works and house which are at present totally occupied by a Club. Finally this omnibus entry should record that where Shakespeare Street merges into Salmon Street the excavators encountered and left exposed for some weeks the entire base of a vanished heavily timbered house. Almost certainly the cut off bases related to crucks long ago cut down.

- No.84 Two large blocks of flats for older people have now been erected at the Old Parsonage House site. A builder's employee reported to us that Concrete Tiles used on the first finished block weighed 17 tons.
- No.85 OLD PARSONAGE HOUSE, RECTORY ROAD, etc. In November, 1962 extensive demolitions occurred and the Victorian portion is now gone. Other outbuildings have also been pulled down. The semi-circular stone entrance porch, although reputed 19th century, included exceptionally good stone pillars of one piece while the circular stone roof was bolted together by blacksmith made continuous wrought iron strip. The stone built coalhouse which jutted out on the west front was demolished either in error or by hooligans. It proved to be very thick and was ashlar faced with rubble core being continuous with the main buildings. It could well be that this was the way into the vanished early cellars mentioned in the 1605 terrier. Supreme in interest were two points. (a) The three rows of stone base pillars beneath the south front lounge. When exposed these were seen to be parallel with each other but not with the outer walls. They ran somewhat on the slant in the direction of the side of the middle



kitchen. The contractor confirmed they long ante-dated the Victorian building. In the same position the large stone base of a former chimney breast was fully exposed standing well in front of the later fireplace. A continuation stone wall jutted out from the stone wall at the end of this lounge indicating that a building also encased these rows of pillars. The stone wall unfortunately soon succumbed to the excavator - it was exceptionally old, showed old doors and a window blocked up and much brick patching. (b) The other great point of interest was the slightly stilted round arch composed of stone voussoirs without keystone above the three arched screen. Hooligans intervened here and knocked out all its internal rubble filling. It then stood revealed as an imposing arch for a window or maybe doorway in some upstairs gallery. Its likeness to Saxon work is pronounced but this type of arch might get repeated at any time. One thing must certainly be disposed of. Many have said it was merely inserted to strengthen the wall but there was no major weight above it to carry or strengthen. That theory will not hold water.

In view of assertions that are directed at the supposed jerry-builders of the Victorian era, it may be mentioned that the cavity curve in the second main lounge (left of the entrance hall when coming under the pillared portico) proved to be very little cavity indeed backed by three feet of solid brickwork packing. A steel hawser attached to this and at the other end to a powerful tractor failed even to shake this wall but lifted the forewheels of the tractor from the ground. With workmen sitting on front to hold it down it fared no better at a second pull but reared up throwing off the workers. When the tractors pulled a piece out finally it fell without cracking a mortar joint. No jerry-building here! After much damage to the portions intended for preservation, the authorities barbed-wired it off - a case of locking the stable doors when the nag had fled!

No.86 Nos. 82 and 84 Nottingham Road. These were two simple little cottages next to the Clarence Inn. They were demolished 7th November, 1962. There was a step down on entering these cottages and it is remembered that forty years ago in a thunderstorm rainwater flowed full bore down the inner step and out at the back. All the cottages where Towle's Nottingham Road Factory now is were built in similar fashion. All were nineteenth century.



No.87 STONE YARD, CHURCH GATE. At the end of this yard as the Bus Station was being made the road firm encountered more than a dozen blocks of masoned granite. They were like doorstep slabs, 2'0" to 2'6" long x 12" wide x 8" deep. Surprising that so many occurred in a small area. Were they related anyway to the name of the yard across the end of which they were found - Stone Yard?

No.88 BIGGIN STREET-CHURCHGATE CORNER. This faces the old Red Lion Site. Two shops were pulled down here early in June 1963. Once again a great cellarage was opened up. A few timbers in the first were very old but they ran through from the old-established butcher's shop on the corner of Dead Lane and the complete block may have been an "L" shaped house originally. The foundations of all walls were stone, except on the many times altered shop front portion. The butcher's shop is also to go shortly. This butcher's shop is No.2 Church Gate. The two shops pulled down were not numbered but the next up the street are Nos. 6 and 6A. Numbering in Churchgate is "gappy" and some buildings at the rear may carry numbers in the sequence. There are many numbers with "A" affixed.

So then, nothing very startling emerges from this year's Loughborough demolitions although those cited contain evidence of the long continuity of the use of the sites. Many other small cottage properties about the central portions of the town have gone in the twelve months but no particular purpose is served by detailing all separately.

Turning now to the surrounding villages the items to record are varied and many. Only the more important are recorded below.

No.89 SUTTON BONINGTON. Between the Smithy and the village on the south side of the main street and facing St. Michael's Church three old cottages had long stood derelict. They were an intensely interesting group with features hidden beneath stucco. Long thought to be post-frame and one gable end away from the street very fine indeed, on detailed examination they appeared to embrace four pairs of crucks set on stone stilts some 2 feet above the ground. The remaining fragments were severely cut about. In every case the fireplaces were simple but on either side a very shallow cupboard was set divided by a wooden shelf. One kitchen floor was laid with large pebbles.



- No.89A. SUTTON BONINGTON. COTTAGES NEAR THE "KING'S HEAD INN" (At present called The Polka Dot). Just before reaching this inn when coming from Normanton direction were two cottages of differing periods but so arranged as to form an "L" shaped block. One cottage faced the street, the gable end of its companion fronted the street. The first mentioned was around 150 years old and came down in a day. The second proved to be tied into a further cottage and could not be pulled down without doing structural damage. This portion was much older - the builder considered over 300 years. The gaunt skeleton of this cottage, therefore, has stood open to the weather since October, 1962. It was post-frame type but what was the origin of a great free-standing timber (not tied to anything but just along the chimney flue?). It did not seem to serve any structural purpose in the present dwellings so may mark an even earlier building. It is a mercy in such a position that it has never caught on fire.
- No.90 THORPE ACRE. Page 14 of Bulletin No.5 refers to an old farmhouse and barns here on the main street with a small cottage which is still occupied. The barn can now be examined and it contains handsome pairs of crucks - crude, unpainted and more squarish in section than half round. This barn abuts the farmhouse. The space between the pairs is 21'0" and between each pair of forks 18'0" (foot-paced). Not quite the standard pattern this but one of the finest survivals in the county with all the other ancient associated roofs timberings and stone walls with some brickwork, also internal stone partitions of some thickness. The pair nearest the farmhouse seem to go direct into the ground. The pair furthest away has one fork standing on a single block of thin stone. Its companion fork unfortunately has been cut off at a cross principal around 6 feet up. The farmhouse has old work, some post-framing, and just a slight chance that a protuberance from the kitchen wall is a foot of a cruck. We could only view through the window. The occupied cottage in the end of the gable furthest from the road almost certainly has a cruck. There is much old stonework, much brick casing, some post-frame timbering, etc., in this cottage. Demolition of all is expected very soon.
- No.91 THORPE ACRE. OLD HOUSES NEAR PLOUGH INN. At the end of the main street alongside the Dishley footway's beginning is a quaint old farmhouse. Its gable end furthest from the inn shows beneath much tree growth a great curving timber that has too much curve to be part of post-frame construction. It must be guessed to be a portion of cruck.



Brick casing above may hide much. Below, inside the supposed cruck, the original mud-with-pebble wall remains. Other timbers show where the house faces down the main street. This, so far as can be ascertained, is in no immediate danger. Not so three cottages on the other side of the Plough Inn (i.e. going towards Knightthorpe Hall). One is empty - a horror smothered in corrugated iron sheets over windows and with the thatch nearly blown away. Through a gap in it can be seen a cruck in the party wall of the next cottage and maybe a further timber at the third one indicates a squaring out timber added to another pair of crucks. This group may be demolished any-time.

- No.92 KNIGHTHORPE LOST VILLAGE. This should not really figure in twentieth century demolition records but a new motor road widening has cut across the former house plots - houses themselves demolished maybe four centuries ago. The portions left include a good example of the old earthen banks which often were made to surround the built-up areas of early villages. The same road has affected Knightthorpe Pinfold.
- No.93 WHITE HORSE COTTAGE, SHEPshed. The Society was asked to look at this on the verge of White Horse Wood on the main road near Blackbrook Windmill. It has lost its roof tiles and all roof timbers together with all window frames. A strange mixture of stone walls and brick walls with sundry farm steadings behind, there is a slight chance that it may even yet be restored. The restored Blackbrook Mill inspires many imitators. We could not ascertain the age of this cottage and architecturally it did not merit much attention. All its rooms were very low. Our visit was made in June, 1963.
- No.94 STORDON GRANGE, OSGATHORPE. This is the county's finest monastic moated grange still retaining water in all ditches and a genuinely old building on the  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre platform inside them. Visiting here June 1963 revealed that one wing has already been demolished by a new occupier. He thinks the process may go no further. The house has many rooms, is obviously of many periods, includes a Tudor stone fireplace (beneath coats of paint) and a stone overmantel above another totally covered over fireplace. The floor levels upstairs are variable. Floors are three inch thick plaster and as many have only one main cross beam for support they spring when walked over. There are narrow servants' stairs and a quaint (but probably not old) main staircase where every stair tips towards the exterior wall and the stair rail and a 'cubby



hole" under the stairs are ornamented by what seem to be balusters upon first acquaintance but which on second look are merely flat  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick board cut out in shapes. There is a further usable area under the roof with plastered floors. One great roof beam (a main support) is cut through leaving half inch thickness merely to take another cross beam. It is a risky bit of carpentry. A giant stone chimney breast remains. The demolished portion had large stone quoined corners. One downstairs room is floored with unusual hexagonal tiles. A cute feature is oak hand-grips on the bedroom doors to assist in avoiding falls down sudden steps into the bedrooms. Most rooms are unduly small, and most are low but cupboards abound everywhere. Even on a second great stone chimney flue (very large and square) running centrally through the house, at its bend on an upper floor a shallow shelved cupboard with outer door has been cut at a sloping angle. There are great oak clothes pegs. Finally, the great discovery was the best set of carpenter's construction numbers on the beams of a bedroom. The Roman figures employed are "V" cut,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " high, and the cut in about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep. A piece of fallen plaster that had covered them retained the impression in raised form splendidly. We noted the down beam XXIIII keyed to its cross neighbour XXIIII, XX keyed to its down member XX at a lower level, and others. (Thanks are expressed to our members Messrs Richards and Danvers and to Mrs. Danvers for their uncomplaining sufferance of dust and muck on this occasion). For the interested, the measurements on outside banks of the moat were very approximately 254'0" x 228'0" but the internal platform after allowing for the extremely wide moat all round and 57'0" from bank to bank, was but 114'0" x 140'0". Very old culverting carries the moat water. The moat is bridged, with little brick parapets on the bridge. A small portion of moat against the bridge is partially filled in. It is hoped the demolition already recorded above is indeed to be the limit of it for this site is a county treasure and all too little known.

No.95 MEASHAM RECTORY ON MAIN ROAD, IN FRONT OF MEASHAM CHURCH. This is well out of our customary territory but may not get recorded elsewhere. A gaunt 18th century Rectory without rear ground and built of WILKES giant bricks known locally as "gobs". Its removal opens up the view of an interesting church. If any member of Loughborough Society motors by please bring home a "gob" for our local brick collection. The idea behind these huge bricks was to avoid tax which was per thousand bricks and not on area of buildings involved.



- No.95 LONG WHATTON. COTTAGES NEAR FALCON INN. Mr.B.C.J.Williams asks for a record to be included that last year these were pulled down and on demolition proved to be cruck construction.
- No.96 MOUNTSORREL. Cottages on Loughborough Road between St. Peter's church and The Green. The demolitions reported on p.14 of Bulletin No.5 have continued much further leaving great gaps between the Church and The Green. The ancient retaining wall is now seen to curve further and further round the base of the hill and though stone built still it becomes successively less impressive and is "gappy"; very different from the first revealed high, bold portion.

This concludes what some members may feel to be a rather tedious account of demolitions and replacement buildings. The researcher never knows what even scanty recording of this nature may become a valuable guidance on the object that is being examined. It may save in far distant future some wrong conclusions. It is obvious that a further twelve months may take the numbered items up to and beyond the "century".

GEO. H. GREEN.

—○○—

THE AMATEUR HISTORIAN is now published quarterly by the National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. at 15/- per annum (including postage). A single copy costs 3/6d. plus 4d. postage. This publication is an invaluable help to the local historian. Its articles deal, in the main, with methods of research, sources of historical information and provide background material for further study. Book reviews and notes on local publications are important features.



A ROMAN CURSE TABLET FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Early in 1961 Mr. Roger Wilson of Thrumpton entrusted me with a dirty little piece of brownish metal bearing faint and vague lines of inscription on either side. This he had discovered on Red Hill, the site of a Roman settlement, during one of his many research visits to the site<sup>1</sup>. I forwarded Roger's find to the British Museum which after a short time informed me that they had sent it to Durham University as it was beyond their powers to translate it. From Durham, with little more light shed on it, the mystery piece came south again to Professor E.G. Turner then Director of the Institute of Classical Studies at the University of London<sup>2</sup>. After months of study, enlarged photographs and additional examination by experts at Cambridge, Professor Turner has managed to decipher most of the inscription (examination continues for certain gaps remain). The article below written by Professor Turner as a result of this research (also being published in the Journal of Roman Studies), although perhaps a little deep in places for the layman, should be regarded as one of the major articles and finds our Bulletin has yet published.

Diagrams and photographs have been sent to me for publication but since the photographs would reveal on publication merely meaningless grey shapes the diagrams are used for convenience of seeing the inscriptions.

B.C.J. Williams.

1. See publications of his material in Bulletins No.4 and 5 and note on this tablet in Bulletin No.4, p.16.
2. Now Department of Greek, University College, London.

---oOo---

This tablet was found on 10th December, 1960, by Mr. Roger Wilson of Thrumpton, Notts., after ploughing had taken place on the surface of the lower slope of Red Hill in the parish of Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire. Roman pottery, bone counters and other objects have been found on Red Hill, which appears to be a Roman site. It is at the junction of the rivers Trent and Soar (where also Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire meet)<sup>1</sup>. The tablet was folded roughly into three when found. The material, discoloured<sup>2</sup> by corrosion and of a brownish copper colour, proved on analysis<sup>3</sup> to be essentially lead (in an impure state). Its max. measurements are 8.4 cm. in height, 5.7 cm. in width. Both sides



have been lightly incised, perhaps with a needle<sup>4</sup>, with Latin cursive writing. The hand is regularly formed and clear and shows skill on the part of the scribe. To judge from parallels from Egypt, it should be assigned to the end of the second or the early part of the third century after Christ. For the earlier limit of the receipt P.Lond. 730 (plate in Ecriture Latine 26) of A.D.167; and for the later, P.Oxy.VIII III4, a declaration of inheritance of A.D.237 (plate ibid. pl.7). Both of these, however, show a slope to the right, whereas in this tablet the slope is to the left in the older manner. Among texts found in Britain the hand is not unlike that of the Kelvedon tablet and the Chew Stoke tablet (JRS 46 (1956)pp.115 ff.) The letter g is made like a left-facing brace, terminal r is low in the line and sprawling, especially when ligatured with u; the horizontal bar of t tends to slope steeply up to the right, and in ligatures with e and i almost no part of the horizontal cross-bar precedes the vertical.

This tablet brings up to 4 the number of curse texts found in Roman Britain which invoke penalties against thieves of property. The others are:-

1. Bath, found in the hot springs AE VII p.278 No.827; Audollent, Defix.No.104.
2. Lydney Park, Gloucestershire, CIL VII 140 ILS 4730, Audollent No.106.
3. Kelvedon, Essex, JRS 48 (1958) p.150.

The formula involved in the present tablet is an uncommon one, not only in Roman Britain, but throughout the whole Roman world, as far as I can form an opinion. Cash (denarii) belonging to a named person (Bl, 2) has been stolen and the thief, whose name and sex are of course not known, is presented to Jupiter optimus maximus. The god is to work on parts of the thief's body (specified in a comprehensive catalogue), force him to repay, and is thereby to enjoy a tithe of the sum recovered. The curse is, therefore, in a sense a prayer for justice addressed to a deity whose task is to punish the offender and to restore his property to the petitioner. No.2 above was perhaps deposited in the shrine of Nodens, and it is just possible that our tablet was deposited in a shrine of Jupiter optimus maximus, which would then have to be sought at Red Hill. There is, however, no necessity for this hypothesis. The tablet could have been deposited elsewhere. The important part of the text was protected from prying eyes and counter-magic by folding on the inside the name of the deity and the operative part of the curse<sup>7</sup>, just as in No.1, protection was given by writing the words retrograde.



This curse is not strictly a defixio<sup>8</sup>, for the word defigo is not used, the object of it cannot be bound by his name and the deity is not obligated by the formula. Unique features in this text are the choice of the word done instead of defigo and its use in the passive instead of 1st person active indicative. Do, however, is found (following trado) in a series of defixiones from Rome<sup>9</sup>. Moreover, the deity invoked is not one of the inferi: curses on thieves are often addressed to non-underworld gods - witness the other three British examples<sup>10</sup>. The selection of Jupiter optimus maximus is, however, unique. Possibly it might suggest a Roman dedicator. But the addition of the word 'deo' is against this<sup>12</sup>.

-----oOo-----

1. Information from Mr. B.C.J. Williams (Excavations Adviser of the Loughborough and District Archaeological Society), who kindly gave permission for publication in the Journal.
2. Cleaning, undertaken several times (last of all through the kindness of Mr. H.H.W. Hodges of the Institute of Archaeology of London University), is not permanent in its effects. The plate was taken by Mr. Hitchcock of University College, London.
3. Thanks are due to Professor G.J. Hughes and Mr. Robin Clark of University College, London, for analysing a sample.
4. cf. A. Audollent, Mélanges Iorga (1933) p.31 ff.
5. The lead plate from the amphitheatre of Caerleon, interpreted by Collingwood (Archaeologia 78(1928) p.158 no.10), as perhaps a curse on a thief has been shown by R. Egger, Röm antike und frühes Christentum p.281 to be a normal curse against a competitor in the arena.

The essential bibliography is given in A. Audollent's great collection, Defixionum Tabellae (Paris 1904). Add:-  
M. Besnier, Rev.Phil. 1920, pp.5-30.  
K. Preisendanz, Archiv für Papyrusforschung 9 (1930) pp.119 ff.; 11 (1933) 153 ff.

Some isolated publications since then:-

W. Sherwood Fox, The Johns Hopkins's Tabellae: A. J. Phil. xxxiii (1912), supplement volume.

Various texts from Roman Germany are republished by R. Egger, Röm antike und frühes Christentum, esp. pp.79 ff., 272 ff.



cf. also J.M.R. Cormack, A Tabella Defixiones in the Museum of the University of Reading, England, HRR xliv (1951), pp.25 ff. Jürgen Trumpf, Fluchtafel und Rachepuppe Ath. Mitt. 73 (1958) pp. 94 ff.

6. Its whereabouts is now unknown, and this guess cannot now be substantiated by information derived from the tablet itself. No.1 was found in the Hot Springs of Aquae Sulis, and springs were a favourite place in which to deposit. Cf. F. Haverfield, VCH Somerset 1 p. 282,3.
7. The Kelvedon tablet is similar. But could it have had a more specific address on its other side?
8. See Audollent, Defixionum Tabellae p. xxxii, and esp. xxxvii.
9. W. Sherwood Fox, A.J. Phil. XXXIII Supplement 129 (1912), No.1, e.g. l. 9 (quare ha)nc victimam tibi trad(o; and l.17 and frequently, do tibi cap(ut) Ploti Anoniae. The use of do in the execration from Caerleon (above n.5) is different: a piece of the cursed person's clothing is being given to Nemesis.
10. No.1 presumably to Sulis Minerva; No.2 to Nodens, No. 3 to Mercurius and Virtus.
11. There is a very doubtful mention, not invocation of Zeus in Audollent No. 7,12.
12. For the addition of the prefix deo cf. No.2 devo Nodenti, where devo is no doubt rightly interpreted as for deivo or divo, not as devoveo.
13. I should like to thank I.A. Richmond, R.P. Wright and E.W.Handley for suggestions.



INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPT

A 1 donatur deo Ioui

2 optimo maximo ut

Fold 3 exigat per mentem per

4 memoriam per intus

5 per intestinum per cor

6 (p) er medullas per uenas

Fold 7 per ( . ) . ( . . . . . ) . . as (

8 ( . . ) l ( . ) l . . si mascel si

9 femina qui ad uis

B 1 incolauit rios Cani

2 Digni ut in corpore

3 suo in breui temp(or) e

4 pariat. Donatur

5 deo y decima pars

6 eius pecuniae quam

7 (so)luerit



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

לֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה  
וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּח אֶת הַיְּהוָה

A

3:2



1 וְהָיָה כִּי יִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ  
 2 וְיִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ  
 3 וְיִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ  
 4 וְיִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ  
 5 וְיִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ  
 6 וְיִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ  
 7 וְיִשְׁמַע ה' אֶת-קוֹלְךָ

B 3:2



- A2 ut : the upward rising oblique of u cuts across the vertical of t. et cannot be read.
- A3 exigat : top and foot only of g; next letter, if a, has an unusually long left hand oblique descender; the cross bar of t rises obliquely (but cf. t of inuolauit, B1). The readings given are no more than possible interpretations of the scratches.
- A4 The reading intus is certain.
- B1 Between Ca and i, probably, not certainly, a vertical, and a high shallow curve, i.e. Ca()i, Cani, or Caur are possible readings. But both these marks may be accidental.
- B5 ss with bar through, followed by two letters hesitantly read as yy i.e. = suprascripto.
- B7 (so)luerit, Otto Skutsch. A sloping right hand curve is taken to be left hand member of u, ligatured to the following e. Before that, low in the line, tip of a descender read as l.

-----oOo-----

MODERN TRANSLATION OF THE TABLET

' To the god Jupiter best and greatest there is given that he may bound... through his mind, through his memory, his inner parts (?), his intestines, his heart, his marrow, his veins... whoever it was, whether man or woman who stole away the denarius of Canius (?) Dignus that in his own person in a short time he may balance the account. There is given to the god above named a tenth part of the money when he has (repaid it?) '

-----oOo-----

- A4 Intus: used as a noun + uiscera? Hardly + int ellect us. For memoria in defixiones, cf. Audollent No.300 desumatur ut facias illum sine sensum (sic) sine memoria sine ritu sine medulla sit. (cf. Audollent index p.487). A lead plate found in Bregenz in 1930 requires: eripias salutem cor talos re(nos) anum genitalia, R. Egger, Rom antike und frühes Christentum, pp.285-6.
- A8 mascel: the same word is used in the Kelvedon tablet, cf. JRS 1958, p. 150 n.8.



- B1 inuclauit; the same verb in the tablet from Bath, in Audollent No. 122, 7. (from Spain) and in the Kelvedon tablet, 1.1. I have not found a parallel for the form of abbreviation of denarii, in which the normal sign is followed by part of the termination. If what follows rios is a name, it may be read as praenomen Cai; or Caii, or Cani, nomina (for Caii cf. CIL VII 1334, 21, London) with Digni (Canidieni cannot be read) as cognomen (for the latter cf. CIL VII 1241; JRS 1937 p.249): or as a simple cognomen, Canidigni.
- B3 in breui tempore: cf. Jerome letters 75.1 quem in breui tempore huc uenturum esse credebam.
- B4 pariat: perhaps read pariet, from parie, in technical sense, for which the only example is Dig. 40, 1, 4 (Ulpian) si ei nummos prorogauit emptor, cum ei pariauerit.
- B5 For a parallel for this form of abbreviation = s(upra)s (crip)to, Mr. E.W. Handley refers me to the Ravenna sale of A.D. 572 (B.M. add MSS.05412, Pal. Soc. 1 2).

Professor E.G.Turner,  
M.A., F.B.A.



TRANSCRIPTS OF EARLY DOCUMENTS

The last two issues of the Bulletin have given transcripts of early Loughborough documents. This year another type of document is presented. It is an agreement regarding a corrody for a Loughborough man and his wife. This type of document shows the Abbeys and Monastic institutions in one of their many roles - the role of welfare work for the aged. They only undertook the work at a price which no doubt was ultimately profitable to themselves. A corrody was a method whereby people (usually elderly) could buy for a fixed sum the use of accommodation at the institution together with regular fixed arrangements for the supply of food, drink and clothes. It may be presumed the corrody also covered the provision of care in time of illness. The royal family seems to have had the right to claim a corrody for its elderly servants and officials and in such cases the monastic institutions seem to have accepted the task without demur. The document which follows is a corrody arranged on a purely private and personal basis. It reveals that apparently this type of arrangement was a quite regular thing with Garendon Abbey. Further that a very famous man in Loughborough annals - the town's benefactor Ralph Lemyngton had previously occupied the accommodation provided by this corrody. It is likely that the abbot would be extremely pleased to take in a wealthy wool merchant of Lemyngton's standing.

The lump sum payment made when the agreement was signed by Mr. and Mrs. Crosby was, for those times, the very high amount of £40. They made further undertaking in regard to their goods and chattels (with some reservations) becoming the property of the abbey at death. The continuance of the full supply of small ale for the two even after the death of one of them hardly made for sobriety in the survivor! The document is not transcribed in its entirety - the Latin formal beginning and ending is omitted. The meat of the document is in its English portion.

The fate of the existing corrodiars at the time of the Suppression was unpleasant. They all thought they had bought peaceful security for their old age away from life's alarms and they found the very buildings even being demolished around them.

It is also rather saddening to record that in the particular case of a corrody given below the survivor had to take a case to the King's Courts against the last Abbott of Garendon (Thomas Syeston) for a breach of its conditions. Syeston often occurs in the surviving records of local litigation although it is not always certain the Abbott is involved as he also had a son of the same name who was a humble husbandman at Knightthorpe.  
Geo.H.Green.



This Indenture made the fyrst daye of Maye the yere of our lorde god a thousand fyve hundreth and three and twentye the yere of the reigne of our Sovraigne lorde Kyng Henry the eight after the conquest of England the fytene bytwixt Thomas Syeston Abbott of the Monasterye of our blessed lady of Garradon and the Covent of the same place of the one partie and John Crosbye late of Loughborrowe in the County of Leicester Mercer and Elizabeth his wyfe of the other ptie witnesseth that the sayde Abbott and Covent and by one hole assent and consent have gyven and graunted by these prsente for them and their successrs unto the sayde John and Elizabeth to have and rceyve one Corrodye or livinge of and in the sayde Manasterye for terme of their lyves and the longer lyver of them in manr and forme following that is to saye that the sayde John and Elizabeth shall have for their Mansion place and lodging the house chambers and ketchin that Mayster Raff lemyngton had by Indenture Also to have wekely durying theyre lyves seven caste of Covent breade and two cobbe loves otherwise called Browne loves to be delyvered at the bakehouse to the sayde John and Elizabeth or ther svante in their names And also to have Wekelye durying theyre sayde lyves seven galoms of Covent ale and twee gallons of smale ale delyverd at the bruehouse And over this the sayde Abbott and Covent graune by these prsente unto the sayde John and Elizabeth to have and pcercyve once on the Daye or twice the porcion and right of twee Monke in ffyshe and ffleshe accordyng as the tyme requreth And also to have yerly duryng their sayde lyves sixe loade of Wood fellyed and caried at the coste and charge of the sayde Abbott and Covent and their successours and foure pounce of Tallowe candelle as the Covent have And also the sayde Abbott and Covent have agreed and graunte by these prsente that the sayde John and Elizabeth shall have yerly durying their lyves thre kyne of their owne wyntered and somered in lyke manr as the kyne of the Monasterye bene And lykewyse to have one Swyne of one yere old of the sayde Abbott and Covent fedd and fatted as their slaughter swyne bene Also the sayde John and Elizabeth graunte and have agreed by these prsente for them their executrs assignes that all suche houshold stuff and cattalls as they bring or cause to be brought of their owne to the saide Monastrie to remayne to the use and p'fitt of the sayde Monasterye after the deceassis of the sayde John and Elizabeth. Pryvyded alway that the seide John and Elizabeth shalbe at their lybertie with their plate and coyne to dyspose yt at their pleasur. Also a bed and all things therto belongyng with a counter of Waynscott and a Cheste with all suche stuff as is lockt in the sayde chest and their apparell and Rayment be observd for their Childes pte as more appereth in a byll of Indenture betwixte the sayde pties.



Also the sayde John and Elizabeth bene agreed that when it shall please god eyther of them to disiease the survivr to have and pceave butt half the corrodie aforeseide in ffyshe ffleshe brede and ale and other the prmises before fraunted excepte the two brown loves and twoe gallons of small ale above rehersed whiche shall contynue to the longer lyver this indenture notwithstanding

For all whiche corrodie lyvyre graunte and agremente the sayde John and Elizabeth shall paye to the abovenaymed Abbott and Covent the daye of the Ensealing of these Indentures fourtie pounce of good and lawfull monye of England.

In wytnes whereof to the one ptye of this Indenture remaynyng with the sayde John Crosbye and Elizabeth the forseide Abbott and Covent have sette their comon seale

And to the other ptye of this Indenture remaynyng with the sayde Abbott and Covent the fornaymed John Crosbye and Elizabeth have sette their seales the daye and yere above wrytten.

-----oOo-----

NOTES: The original spelling has been followed except in a case or two where to retain it would cause difficulty for the modern reader. It will be noticed that often "e" is employed instead of "s" to indicate a plurel ending. Further, there is not much consistency in spelling in the Indenture as at times the same word gets spelt differently. Another common feature is the leaving out an obvious letter e.g. psente to represent "presents".

From other sources it is possible to add that the John Crosby of the indenture is the brother of Thomas Crosby, Rector of Loughborough. Thomas was witness to a Loughborough will in 1512. In 1521 he was the supervisor of the Will of Ralph Lemington and Ralph left him 20s.0d, a black gown and also 10 marks per year for him to sing obits to his memory. Thomas made his own will 31st May, 1523 just after John's corrodie had been settled. Thomas by his will gave legacies to Garendon Abbey as well as to Gracedieu, Langley and other religious houses so that masses might be said for his soul and for the souls of his relatives. He further made gifts to his Loughborough church and to two guilds. John Crosby, named in the corrodie, left a will which his wife proved at Leicester in 1536 (thereby giving us the date of John's death - he had 13 years use of his corrodie) Elizabeth lived on some years more and her will was proved at Leicester 16th January, 1543-4 by Sir William Fyshpulle who was a priest of Loughborough. By this time the Suppression had been operative for some years so we are left wondering how Elizabeth had fared in regard to her last few years when perhaps she needed the safeties of a Corrodie most. It can but be hoped all went well in her case.



THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

Members may be interested to hear something about the Society's Library, which, at the moment, comprises 35 publications, as follows:-

4 copies of "Transactions of the Thoroton Society" (1948-1951)  
This is a Nottingham publication.  
1 "Topographical Quarterly" (May 1939).  
The above were given by Mr. Bing.

A copy of the "Historical Loughborough" Supplement to the "Leicester Mercury" issued in 1958, given by Miss. P. Walsh of Stanford Hall.

15 Copies of "The Archaeological Journal" (1944-1957 & Supplements) and 15 copies of "The Journal of the British Archaeological Association", given by Mr. Nixon, formerly of "Redroofs", Nantpantan (1942-59). These are national publications, to which it is hoped to keep up the subscription, thereby building up a valuable Reference Library.

These volumes, which are excellently illustrated, cover a wide variety of subjects, and the book-case is open at every meeting, to give members the opportunity of looking at them.

Books are issued at the end of the evening, a record being kept of each book borrowed.

Mrs. H. Fisher.



LOCAL AUTHORITIES (HISTORIC BUILDINGS) ACT 1962.

The Loughborough & District Archaeological Society was one of a number of voluntary organisations in the County, with kindred interests, which together with the County Districts Councils (Urban, Rural and Borough) were represented at a meeting in Leicester called by the County Council Records Committee on 9th July 1963 to consider the implementation of the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act 1962.

This Act supplements the Ancient Monuments Act 1913 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, by giving to County and County District Councils the power to make grants or loans to owners of buildings of historic or architectural interest for the repair and maintenance of such buildings, including gardens attached thereto.

There already exists a short list of Ancient Monuments in the County under the 1913 Act and a longer list of buildings protected, absolutely or provisionally, under Section 30 of the Act of 1947. For the purpose of the present Act, it is desirable to compile a comprehensive list of all buildings worthy of preservation and the help of both voluntary and statutory bodies is sought in this task.

It was suggested that in the first place a list of 60 buildings of prior importance should be compiled i.e. 3 for each County District and 3 County Council properties. The Local Authorities were asked to send in suggestions for their own areas but voluntary bodies might include buildings or sites worthy of preservation anywhere in the County.

The County Council has allocated a sum of £2000 for work under the Act for the current year, but it was pointed out that this should be regarded as a token grant since no specific project had yet been put forward and it did not preclude larger grants in the future. District Authorities have quite independent powers of grant aid.

The listing of buildings does not necessarily involve any immediate action and certainly nothing will be done without consent of the owner, but owners will be informed of the availability of help in the preservation of their property. A prime aim would be to see that no listed building fell into disrepair or was demolished without the knowledge of the County Council. Financial aid would naturally involve periodic inspection and, if appropriate and desirable, limited public access. If consultation and an offer of contribution towards the cost of repairs



and maintenance did not produce the desired result, a Building Preservation Order and, if necessary, a Compulsory Purchase Order could be made by the County or District Council.

The new Act and the steps already being taken under it, therefore give promise of much more adequate preservation of buildings of historic and architectural interest than we have had in the past and should encourage local societies like our own in their vigilance.

H. F. BING.

-----oOo-----

SUGGESTIONS FOR USEFUL RESEARCH BY "RANK AND FILE"  
MEMBERS OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETIES.

"What could I do?" is the question most frequently heard from members of this and other local archaeological societies. The present issue of this Bulletin suggests several answers, as indeed each preceding issue also has done. The field of humdrum and yet extremely rewarding things that can be attempted by almost any serious-minded member is well-nigh inexhaustible. Some are most simple and all can be found in a few miles radius even of Loughborough. If every member concentrated on one subject only and recorded his results on index cards (6" x 4" size) for deposit in the Society's records, a vast bulk of useful data for the benefit of all would soon result. (Workers would, of course, naturally keep on extra copy of their records for their own use). Here then are a few suggestions.

External fittings of eighteenth and nineteenth century houses.

Fanlights over doorways: Photographs. Note number of residence, give the street name, and say which side of the street locating it by the point of entry i.e. "on the left when entering from the main Nottingham Road". If house is dated quote it.

Door surroundings including the steps. Same procedure as above.

Boot scrapers - rare items these today. - Ditto -

Letter boxes. - Ditto -

Knockers. - Ditto -

Old-fashioned external shutters to windows or any latch fittings remaining of same. Procedure as above.

(In all cases where various materials may be used, state the material - "stone", "cast iron", "Brass", etc.)



Traces of former Parish government.

Stocks - very rare now.

Village lock-ups - dwindling in number.

Pinfolds.

Windmills.

Dovecotes.

Court Houses - rarely found.

Lesser features of Parish Churches.

Carved faces on corbels and arch hood droppers, etc. These are often apparently portraits in stone; some carry faint traces of original colouring, some are grotesque (cartoon-like). Approximate date of architecture on which they occur should be recorded (remembering to note if face is in its original position or if it shows signs of having been moved). Photos are very necessary for all the lesser features - both this one and those that follow. For the faces tele-lens are often needed to get the picture as they can be placed high up the walls.

Tympanums (filling in block between porch arch and door head. Give descriptions of carvings - the stone used and any other noticeable feature.

Fonts - already have a large literature of their own but those for Leicestershire are not adequately recorded.

Piscinas (the drains used for sacramental purposes). Often of architectural worth - state the period of the architecture.

Aumbries - these are cupboards cut into the stonework of chancel and side chapels. May still have a shelf (sometimes wood but sometimes stone). Sometimes traces of former door fittings or even a modern door. These aumbries were also used for purposes of the sacramental observances.

Sedilia - the stone seats for the officiating priests. Usually in south wall of chancel. May be one, two or three or more. Again architectural period should be recorded.

Rood loft and rood loft stairs. This was the position between the nave and chancel where a crucifix was displayed. Often the stairs remain but cut off from floor level.

Hagioscopes (often called "Squints"). Short passage cut through chancel piers to afford view of the main altar from the pews in the side chapels or aisles. Again sometimes possible to give architectural period. Sometimes two found in same church.



Alabaster monuments. The inscriptions afford information and dates. Should be detailed in full. Size of monuments worth recording.

Incised slabs. A chief source of knowledge of period costumes. Again the inscription is the source for information.

Brasses - a further form of inscribed and dated memorial. Again there is a large literature but Leicestershire has not been fully detailed.

Encaustic tiles(monastic). Many churches have a few of these often brought in from suppressed monasteries. Rough sketches of pattern are useful. They have been elaborately catalogued for Leicestershire (Greenhill: Leicestershire Archaeological Society) but there are added finds to be made.

Wooden chests, collecting boxes, pulpits, church plate, bells are further examples of the diversity of possibilities for the amateur recording things in a small region.

(Throughout church recording wherever possible architectural period should be quoted: position in the building given - e.g. south/north porch, tower, nave, south aisle, north aisle, chapel in south/north aisle, chancel, north/south transept: condition of the item)

This church list is suggestive but not exhaustive.

#### Visible earthworks.

This is a more difficult field for the amateur but simple records are useful for it is the local worker living long in a region who observes these items under varied conditions of light and shade; who gets where the professional passing through may not think to penetrate; who hears the local traditions which afford a measure of guidance; who knows the old names of such features; and much more besides. The introduction of aerial photography has not rendered this local form of recording at ground level unnecessary - it will be many, many years before the entirety of the lands of Britain have been photographed from the air by the official bodies at each season and from every angle.

The local worker would need to consult the simple classification used in the Victoria County Histories and by the archaeological associations before embarking upon listing an area. A few forms of earthwork are suggested any one of which might be regarded as a separate subject.



Windmill mounds, watermill earthworks. (Often the mounds may have an earlier origin than their use for windmills. Position is often a guide for deciding what earthworks fall into these groups).

Moats - smallish square or oblong sets of ditches. Record whether at present with water or dry. Whether any obvious traces of buildings on platform in the centre. Contour they are placed on together with measurements, including depth of ditches.

Large ditched areas on hilltops (occasionally in other positions. Varying patterns - square, oval, circular, rounded corners but otherwise rectangular, sometimes more than one surround of ditches. Notes should be made of position of any earthworks outside the main ditched area. Such earthworks are relatable to many periods and purposes. Prehistoric to Civil War periods. Castle defences (in which case record any castle remains), prehistoric camps, Danish camps, animal pounds for nomadic journeying, etc.

Ridge and furrow fields. Relatable to the period of manorial agrarian working. So many that to list seems somewhat unnecessary but like so many features vanishing extremely rapidly. The finest specimens (with furlong of strips separated by droppings of soil in turning oxen ploughs on headlands) should be recorded in detail giving parish wherein placed, widths and lengths of a selection of the strips, sketch the section through several ridge and furrows measuring depth of furrow at its lowest point, state local soil type (clay, light etc), shape of strip (i.e. many are "S" shaped and not just straight lengths. Note should be made whether arable or pasture land still predominates in the parish. Size of field being recorded might be shown, where known. Leicestershire still has the finest examples and the time may come when a parish or even an area might be preserved in its entirety, the same way as ancient buildings are listed.

Tumuli. Grave mounds and sighting tumps. Not all these by any means have been mapped in Leicestershire. (When locating such mounds always discuss with local people to see if they are chance heaps of recent origin). Measure both for length, breadth and/or circumference. Give greatest height above surrounding ground. Also state contour and whether observable at a distance (i.e. on hill ridge).



Man-cut banks without ditches. These occur most frequently and often prove to be the visible ground evidence of the parish or county boundary. Give a beginning point and then state length and section of the bank.

Linear ditches. There are more of these than realised. Their origin may be obscure. Make a section of them in their present state. (Some are "V" shaped). They may, of course, be much deeper but silted up. This earthwork is not normally the customary fieldside ditch. They occur in fields, sometimes in parallel sets, etc. They may be fragments of former village banking surrounds (built-up area) usable with a stockade of posts against animal incursions.

This list should afford a field of interest for almost every type of member of an archaeological society. It is only a selection from amongst the many visible features of the countryside that remain available. Always obtain permission before going on private property. Learn early the simple system of giving 2½" to the mile Ordnance Survey Map grid references - the Ordnance Survey will apply a key card if requested. Too much detail is a good fault. Index cards are cheap so use them plentifully. In case of doubt why not submit the problem you have to the Loughborough Archaeological Society's Committee, not that it claims to have all the answers but it has access to many resources and experts.

Finally, however, remember that a record unfiled is a record lost, so please deposit one copy of your results after block lettering the following standard headings (always in same positions) on your cards:

(NAME OF VILLAGE)  
SOUTHTOWN.

(MAIN SUBJECT:)  
FONTS

GRID REFERENCE.

(Sub-division:)  
Norman period.

In making the cards omit the portions in brackets but giving the information indicated. Use a separate card for every item you record.

Well, good hunting as you get busy.



BOOK REVIEWS

West, John. Village Records. 1962. Macmillan. 208pp. 30s.0d.

There will be many members of the Loughborough Archaeological Society who would find this new book on an old theme not merely interesting but extremely useful. It is a reference book that should be kept handy. It covers with a fresh form of presentation the field previously best covered by W.E.Tate's "The Parish Chest". It deals with the documents of village history (the village used as the guinea pig is the Worcestershire village of Chaddesley Corbett) and it makes the subject "come alive" by giving reproductions of the type of document furnished by a village. The reproductions are fifteen in number ranging from Saxon Charter to Turnpike Trust records, and additionally a transcription is provided where deemed needful. The author has ranged even wider by incorporating what may be described as the seldom considered archaeological survivals of this village - effigies on the tombs, the sixteenth century houses and the monumental brasses.

He has extended the work of reference by showing in various lists where printed material of a similar range can be found elsewhere in England and Wales. It is indeed a guide on local survey work, a work of reference touching most counties, and a source of pleasure to the eye every time it is opened. For such a book the price is remarkably modest for the times in which we live. Even the professional historian and lecturer will find it helpful to themselves and their students.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN FACSIMILE.  
Edited by P. A. Kennedy, M.A. 1962. Nottinghamshire Local History Council, 30 High Pavement, Nottingham. 7/6d.  
(8s.8d. by post).

One of the most useful small publications that has been furnished for the local historian. Fifty reproductions of the varied types of local surviving documents are given - the photographic process employed has been most successful. Where they are in Latin the wording is extended from its abbreviated forms and additionally an English translation is given. Many quite experienced workers will find this foolscap sized booklet brings them into contact with much useful material. Needless to say, the facsimiles are all from the County of Nottingham. Perhaps a similar one may be issued sometime with examples from Leicestershire.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: A catalogue of the county library local history collection. 1961. County Library, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham. Pp.57. (Not priced).

A useful little catalogue by subjects and by places (with authors in alphabetical order inside each classified section). There can hardly be too many of this type of reference works for the local worker. Again the wish is expressed that shortly the Leicestershire worker may be similarly equipped in regard to collections in Leicestershire libraries. Such publications save the researcher from the disappointment of finding, after tremendous research and effort on a topic, that all was already written up in existing publications.

RICKMAN, T.H. "An Aisled Barn at Rempstone" Transactions of the THOROTON SOCIETY of Nottinghamshire. 1962. Vol.66. Page 6 et seq.

This is the article of particular local interest especially as members of the Loughborough Archaeological Society have taken a direct interest in this barn. The building was to be demolished and before that event the author has contrived to detail carefully this last surviving aisled barn in Nottinghamshire. A timber in it carried the date 1604. It was imposing, being 58 feet long, 28 feet wide and, with a modern roof, 28 feet high to the ridge peak. The same Thoroton Society volume contains other useful articles including a useful summary of "The Villagers Remember" by Arthur Cossons, being written contributions deposited in Nottinghamshire Records Office following a competition held in 1960 by the Nottinghamshire Local History Council. It is with regret that this review has to record the death of Mr. Cossons since his contribution was written. His work on Turnpike Roads will long serve successive generations of local historians who need guidance on that period.

CHEETHAM, Francis. W. "Medieval English Alabaster Carvings" 1962. City of Nottingham Art Galleries and Museums Committee, The Castle, Nottingham. 5s.0d. plus postage

This is a superlatively good brochure on an obscure subject. The alabasters referred to are in the Castle Museum and can be viewed there. Plates of many of them are provided. The source of alabaster is discussed and the use made of the carvings detailed. Much careful research by the author has revealed more than hitherto known, including facts on the craftsmen, the transport of the work, the home market and export trade in alabasters, and the rise and decline of this local industry. The source of



alabaster in England is chiefly Chellaston (Derbyshire) and Tutbury (Staffordshire) so it is of interest to several local societies. Had this book appeared half a century ago many other alabaster carvings might have been retained in the area that provided the basic material. As it is, one that formerly lay in a Memorial Sculptor's yard at Ashby-de-la-Zouch has been sold at Sotheby's and departed to an unknown destination.

SMITH, J.H. The Gordon's Mill Farming Club, 1758-1764, 1962. Aberdeen University Studies Number 145. per Oliver and Boyd. Ltd., Edinburgh. viii + 156. 30s.0d. nett.

This has a slight Loughborough interest in that the author was resident in the town for a number of years. The work is based on the Minute Book of a fairly early Agricultural Improvement Society which was founded when many new ideas were astir in farming circles. The book provides copious extracts from the Minutes. The text includes a description of the Scottish Infield and Outfield system and is useful for showing the resemblances to and differences from the Open Field systems of Midland England. It defines also a few terms peculiar to Scotland. Leicestershire had several of these early Agricultural Societies - in particular the Waltham-on-the-Wolds one and one in the Queniborough area which embarked on running an experimental farm around 1790 A.D. If their papers could be located it would be a rewarding field for some member of the Loughborough Archaeological Society (which includes history in its field) to engage upon. Anyway, the book under review is a definite contribution to agrarian history and as such of interest to the very district that was the home of Robert Bakewell who founded The Dishley Society for the more restricted agricultural aim of breed improvements.

Hatfield and its People. Part Nine. Farming Yesterday and Today. 1962. Published by Hatfield Branch of Workers' Educational Association c/o Mrs. Barbara Hutton, 2 Vigors Croft, Hatfield Herts. 49 pp. Maps and illustrations. 2s.9d. post free.

This pamphlet continues a long-sustained local history issued in serial parts. It is reviewed here on three accounts: (a) it is printed by the Loughborough printing house (Echo Press Ltd) which guarantees the printing layout leaves little to be desired; (b) it refers to new agricultural implements being bought from Loughborough early in the 19th century, and (c) it illustrates how the work of small local groups can be built up to aid the historian, geographer and archaeologist over wider



fields. This group is to be congratulated on a very solid and thorough accomplishment of its self-imposed task of studying the agrarian history of its parish. Account books, maps, inventories attached to wills, the local archives office, newspapers, local families - all these and many others have been laid under tribute. Field, farm and other place-names will enrich workers in that field and even assist the archaeologists in following waves of settlement. References are given to wages and prices and social conditions. The reviewer is left with the impression that space has contracted what could have been a much longer story of farming in one local area. For example, one would like to consider more fully the implications of 19th and 20th century migrations of farmers from Scotland to the English southlands. The pamphlet makes interesting references to this and it would be interesting to know how wide was the area thus affected.

LOYN, H.R. Anglo-Saxon England and the Norman Conquest. 1962. Longman, Green and Co.Ltd. xii+ 422 pp. 30s.0d. (First volume published in "A Social and Economic History of England" General Editor: Asa Briggs).

The name of the Editor of this series is, in itself, almost a guarantee of a high standard work, and the names associated with him in this enterprise are equally well known. This book can be whole-heartedly recommended to all students (from whatever angle) of the Saxon and Norman periods. The author has drawn together with great skill all available sources and then performed a miracle of compression in presenting a survey neatly tucked into compartments and yet revealing an understandable view of the whole. Dealing initially with the nature of the settlement of varied tribes in Britain, he expands the canvas to place such settlement in its European setting and then shows the forms of international trade at that early period. The internal trade inclusive of the coinage and the state of early Saxon boroughs form the subject of the next chapter. Chapter four handles agrarian history, the complex problems set up by the manorial system, early laws and the swiftly changing developments of the manor system prior to the Conquest. Three further chapters turn to questions of kingship and nobility; the church, literature and arts; and sociological aspects, looking especially in this at the nature of "The Community". Chapter eight shows the addition of the Norman element at the Conquest and a closing chapter, naturally, peers into an eleventh century England by way of the Domesday Book looking at both agrarian change and urban developments.



The astounding quality of this work is the balance it achieves - introducing all known ways of approach to the Saxon civilisation in England (this term is used very deliberately by this reviewer) and yet in no noticeable place allowing any aspect unduly to overweight the others. It will be long indeed even with this period on which so much current work is being done before this synthesis can be laid aside. Nor does the author refuse to challenge, suggest, develop lines of enquiry that appeal to his virile approach.

Inevitably Leicester City and the County of Leicestershire figure in many places. With two Mercian capitals near and a mint in the county there is much to comment upon but as with Roman times, so often with Saxon, the Midland shire does not always receive its due. Mr. Loyn has avoided similar treatment. He utilises Leicester in the Domesday Book as an example of 27 manors in the County having 134 city houses attached to them. He cites Leicestershire evidence of the Normans perpetuating a servile status to supply themselves with manorial officers. The many other references are found easily in the carefully constructed index with which this book is furnished. The only criticisms one may pass are: (a) in view of the way that life in the period revolved chiefly around agriculture the chapter on it might have been given pre-eminence as Chapter 2 instead of 4; (b) Here is no mention of Breedon although this may be due to the fact that Saxon Art is not brought to the fore except so far as it contributes to archaeological discoveries; and (c) a list of Saxon Kings and their dates would occasionally be useful. The maps supplied in this work are well chosen and not over-detailed.

The further volumes of this enterprise will now be most eagerly anticipated.

Geo. H. Green.



THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES 1962-63

- October 6th Archaeology of an Industry - The Stocking Trade. T.A. Walden, Director Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.
- November 3rd. The Kings and Queens of Wales. Lloyd Walters.
- November 17th. Half Day School in conjunction with the Historical Association. Industrial Archaeology. M.M. Rix, M.A. Tutor Birmingham University.
- December 1st. Dry Bones. S. Thomas, M.A., Lecturer, Leicester University.
- January 12th. Recent Acquisitions to the Leicester Museum. D.T.-D. Clarke, M.A., Keeper of Antiquities Leicester Museum.
- February 2nd. Roman Cirencester. J. Wachter, M.A., Lecturer, Leicester University.
- March 2nd. A Medieval Town. C. Skellern.
- April 6th. Annual General Meeting.
- May 8th. Visit to Asfordby, Kirby Bellars, Frisby-on-the Wreak. Led by B.C.J. Williams.
- June 1st. Excursion to Launde Abbey led by Miss McCann.
- July 10th. Excursion to Repton and Stanton by Bridge led by C.D. Wostenholm, M.Sc.
- September 14th. Excursion to Southwell and Laxton, led by G.H. Green and B.C.J. Williams.



Late Addition - Book Review

The Greater Anglo-Saxon Churches by E.A.Fisher, Faber & Faber Ltd., 8 gns. 1963

Mr.Fisher, who has already made a notably readable and very direct effort in the field of pre-conquest architecture with his excellent 'Anglo-Saxon Architecture and Sculpture, Faber 42/- 1959, has produced a much needed source of information. This work gathers together for the first time on a county by county comparative basis most of the notable known and little known churches of this period - a considerable and long needed achievement, since much of this information is otherwise only obtainable from scattered guides, translations and journals, many out of print and not easily accessible. This work begins with architectural outlines followed by detailed descriptions of the churches region by region and county by county. The work is too big for detailed description but one should point out that Mr.Fisher goes to great length to quote opinions and judgements on every building given by other experts both past and present. In this way we have in effect not a one man's opinion but information formed by many - not always in agreement. This would otherwise only be possible by reading all these experts' works separately. Distribution maps are also included.

Some criticism can be levelled but should not outweigh this book's worth. The price will make us hope the Public Library will get a copy. Some of the photo plates are poor for the price. In calling it "The Greater Anglo-Saxon Churches" Mr.Fisher has taken as his yardstick those churches having towers. Thus Bradford-on-Avon and several other churches get no mention in any detail.

Leicestershire is very much the church mouse in the book. Having no chapter of its own, only two churches are mentioned in the lists at the back. ie. Birstall and Leicester, St.Nicholas. They are disposed of with a sentence each. Breedon gets only a passing mention in the introduction since it has no tower now (of Saxon date). I have not room here for all the omissions but what about Tugby? The lower portion of the tower is Saxon.

Rutland gets a single mention - Market Overton which is dealt with well and at length. Nottinghamshire is listed with six - Carlton in Lindrick, East Bridgford, Everton, Plumtree, Sutton on Trent and Thoroton. Carlton in Lindrick receives detailed treatment; the rest a sentence each in the lists.

Derbyshire our rich neighbour of this period, has Repton alone dealt with in great detail. Ault Hucknell, Marston Montgomery and Stanton-by-Bridge get a sentence each.

The reader will learn much to his profit from this work. Personally I thank Mr.Fisher for leaving so much unsaid in the East Midlands since my own survey for this area in steady preparation has been left ample scope.

B.C.J.Williams.







