NOTES ON TWO EXCAVATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE.
(Abridged from the full Reports.)

BY MISS DOROTHY M. LIDDELL, F.S.A. (Scot.).

CHILWORTH RING. 1928.

Map reference. O.S. 1". 132, B.2.

Some excavations in this attractive single-vallum earthwork, which is situated about one mile to the north of the Bassett outskirts of Southampton, and the position and construction of which have already been very adequately described by Dr. Williams-Freeman,¹ were conducted by me in the summer of 1928 on behalf of the Hampshire Field Club and of Southampton University, at the request of H.M. Office of Works, who insisted that some effort should be made to ascertain the date of the encampment before building operations, for which purpose this scheduled site had been sold, were commenced upon it.

Labour was supplied by the pupils of Taunton's School, whose interest seemed to remain undimmed by the ferocity of an August heat wave, the difficulties of the gravel soil, generously interspersed with bracken and tree-roots, and the purely negative results of the work.

The Camp is situated where the thin capping of the extreme edge of the plateau gravel gives place to the Bracklesham Beds of sand and clay—the north side of the Camp being on gravel and the south on clay. No less than seven different varieties of material appeared in the 40' cutting through the Vallum.

A cutting 62' long was made through the ditch and bank on the north side, and showed the ditch to be 5.4' below the original surface level. In it were found a rough chisel-shaped implement of chert and ten flakes, two rough cores, and one finely worked fragment of flint. The Vallum, which at this point stands 4.7' high, was seen to have been coated on its inner surface with clay, which probably was brought from the south side of the Ring for that purpose, and which would serve to hold up the bank and prevent the loose gravel from slipping.

Four other cuttings produced neither finds nor evidence of interest, and the density of the trees on the south side prevented a satisfactory exploration of the entrance.

The full report of the excavation, with plans, sections, photographs, etc., does not lend itself to abbreviation, but copies have been lodged with the Hampshire Field Club, the Principal of Southampton University, and Mr. G. W. Willis, Hon. Curator of the Basingstoke Museum, and can be seen on application to the latter or to myself.

¹ Field Archaeology Illustrated by Hampshire, pp. 259 and 368.
THE SITE FROM THE AIR

[From the First World War. Crown copyright reserved]
ROMAN HOUSE at LODGE FARM, NORTH WARNBOROUGH.  
1929—1930.

Map reference. O.S. 1". xi.13, J. 12.

To the owner of Lodge Farm, Mr. P. L. Parsons, is due the credit of the discovery of the remains of a Romano-British house or farmstead in one of the least likely-looking sites in Britain. The orchard, in which Mr. Parsons, while planting young fruit trees, turned up fragments of tile and pottery which he recognised as unusual, and referred to Mr. G. W. Willis, of Basingstoke, for confirmation of his surmise that they were Roman, is situated on the north bank of the River Whitewater, some three miles from its source, and its maximum height above the river-bank nowhere exceeds 1.84', the water level in March, 1929, being 0.7' below the bank.

No trace whatsoever of the remains is visible on the surface or from the air.

The site is at the junction of the alluvial gravel with a patch of valley gravel and sand, in a district of London clay, and the footings of the excavated walls are actually at, and not infrequently below, water level in the adjacent river.

Excavations have been carried out for two successive seasons under my direction, and it is expected to complete the work in the spring of 1931.

The site is not upon the direct line of any known Roman highway, but the whole length of the Harroway, which runs along the chalk uplands less than two miles to the south, is dotted with evidence of Roman habitations. The nearest points on the Silchester-Winchester and Silchester-Staines main roads are each seven miles away, and the great "Calleva Atrebatum" herself is 8½ miles distant as the crow flies.

The exact nature of the establishment so far uncovered is still a matter for some conjecture, but it seems most likely to have been the residence of a landowner or farmer employing a large staff.

The seven-roomed building excavated in 1929, probably originally a small dwelling, was later transformed into baths, the elaborate nature of which would presuppose an adjoining villa of some importance. The house discovered in 1930, though of considerable size, suggests by the chalk floors and wattle partitions of its latest phase, occupation by farm hands or domestic staff rather than by gentlefolk. Both buildings show evidence of at least two, and possibly three, periods of reconstruction, and the finds indicate the 4th century A.D. as the period of occupation.
This seven-roomed building, complete in itself, and covering an area of 66' x 27.6', is situated in the north corner of the orchard. The walls are 2' to 2.3' in thickness, solidly built of large untrimmed nodules of flint in regular courses (occasionally laid in "herring-bone" pattern) and fine yellow mortar. The quoins are of red brick, and there were probably also brick bonding-courses. The walls, which were reinforced by three heavy buttresses on the north-east side, stand now only 1.6' to 2.5' in height, so that the position of doors and windows can only be guessed at. The floors are interesting as illustrating the various phases of reconstruction, the earliest being of stamped clay and flint, while sometimes a second of chalk, and occasionally a third of plaster have been superimposed upon this.

The roof was chiefly of red, flat, flanged tiles, the joins of the flanges being covered by curved ridge-tiles or imbrices, and partly of small slates of Purbeck stone. Most of these stone fragments came from room E and the adjacent part of G.

The Hypocaust, and everything connected with the heating system, was of definitely later construction, the flues, piers, and partition walls being built in a ramshackle fashion of scraps of broken brick and tile, and butted against the older walls without any form of jointing. The building had windows of the usual greenish window glass, dull on one side, with moulded edges and rounded corners.

Details of the Rooms.

The Flue, A (Plate IV).—Commencing at the north-west end of the plan (Plate III), a long narrow flue will be seen projecting from the main building, obviously belonging to the later period, and composed of a conglomeration of brick, tile, flint, and imported limestone. The mass of masonry on to which this abuts is part of the original structure, probably a porch or entrance.

Room B (Plate IV).—Now degraded to the status of stoke-hole and fuel-store, was originally one large oblong hall, occupying the full width of the house, and measuring 21.8' x 8.3'. In a second phase the apse was formed and separated by a partition from the rest of the room. The addition of piers and the furnace (A) suggests that this may then have become a hypocaust with a bath in the apse, an unusually massive block of masonry to the south-east of the apse supporting a water-tank.

In its latest stage, when another furnace was built at C, that at A must have fallen into disuse, as there would be no access to the new furnace if B were still in use as a hypocaust.
PLATE III. THE BATHS, LOOKING SOUTH-EAST, THE FLUE, A, IN FOREGROUND
Plan of Roman Building at Lodge Farm.

Plate IV
PLATE V. LOOKING NORTH-EAST INTO THE APSE

[To face page 227]
Plate VI. The hypocaust (A) showing pillar and the well. Plunge bath (F) on right and tessellated pavement among tree roots at higher level.

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The room B has a good floor of rammed chalk, much burnt in parts by embers dropping from a brazier. The same floor continues under the partition into the apse, the walls of which were lined with pink plaster (Plate V).

The Furnace C was arched. The outer part of its walls is composed of all sorts of debris, with an inner layer of fire-bricks and a lining of white plaster, still charred and covered with soot. It leads to

Room D (Plate VI)—The hypocaust beneath the "cal-darium," or heated chamber of the baths. This is 14.8' x 10.7' with a well at its south-east end, and is separated from the room F beyond it (with which it was originally one) by a very inferior partition. These two rooms may once have been a kitchen, in which the well would not be out of place. Another small room, E, adjoins the hypocaust on the north-east side, and is separated from it only by a pier.

Piers for the support of the floor above project from the three solid walls of D, and a few pilae of fire-bricks, 0.7' square, remain in place in the centre of the floor, squares of mortar indicating the position of others. Box-tiles, by which the heated air was drawn up within the plaster walls, were still embedded in soot in the corners of the piers.

This room had an original floor of stamped clay and flint, upon which had been laid a second of chalk and subsequently a third of pink plaster. A small drain runs across the west corner and through the outer wall to carry away water used to swill the room above. The floor of this upper chamber had been of rough red tesserae, set in 1.5' of concrete, and its white plaster walls were gaily painted with bands of black and red, and a floral and scroll design in red, brown, yellow, and black. A good deal of this painted plaster was recovered. The well is not perfectly circular. It is about 5' in diameter, and has a steening of two courses of flint, below which it is lined with clay. It was entirely filled with the collapsed partition wall, which had actually traversed its south-east edge.

Room F appears to have been the plunge-bath. It is 11' square, and along the south-west wall are the massive foundations of a 3' wide platform. The floor is covered with extremely hard opus signinum, originally covered with thick red tiles. At the base of the walls the floor plaster is curved round and up the wall, rendering it completely water-tight. On the north-east side this is carried up 1' to a ledge running the full length of the room. The walls had been of dark rose-coloured plaster. The well in D may have served as a "soak-away" from this bath.
Room G, the "Lavatorium" or washing-room. The excavation of this room was impeded by a large tree-stump, whose roots had grown into and through the tessellated pavement which lay immediately beneath the turf (Plate VII). The tesserae are similar to those in room D, of coarse red tile, averaging 3 cm. square. This floor is of the later period, and its level (presumably the same as that of the upper floor in D) was attained by a filling 1' in depth of gravel pan laid upon the older floor of stamped clay. On top of this the tesserae are set in a bed of concrete 0.8' thick.

In the centre of the room the floor is cut away round a drain, which runs thence, at the level of the clay floor, out through the north-east wall. The drain starts from a concrete bed edged with flints, which may well have supported a trap or grating, or the stone "piscina" or washing-basin frequently set in the floor in these apartments (Plate VIII). The drain is 1' wide and lined with bright red tiles, and its exit through the wall is under two capstones, supported on strong tiles set on edge. The footing of the wall is cut away where it emerges, but there is no trace of any larger drain to receive its contents.

Rooms H and J, dressing-or service-rooms, are two straightforward apartments, measuring 10.6' x 11.2', and presenting no complications. They were never subjected to alterations, and are possibly of the latest period. The walls are very well built, and now stand six courses high. Room J has an uneven pink concrete floor, extending to 3' from the south-east wall. The concrete is again set on a filling of gravel pan, but there is no earlier floor beneath. Room H has no signs of a floor at all, not even a trampled surface on the undisturbed pan.

The Finds.

Pottery.—There is a large quantity of pottery, all very fragmentary. No vessel was found either complete or reconstructable. Almost every type of ware in the Silchester collection at Reading is represented at Lodge Farm, though only one or two fragments of each of the finer wares occur.

Belgic Terra Nigra is absent, as is decoration en barboine, and there are no examples of potter’s stamps.

The largest number of fragments are of coarse fumed grey or black clay ware, and of black slip-coated ware, frequently ornamented with scored or burnished latticed lines. Buff clay ware, plain and furrowed, is also well represented, and there are pieces of several large store-jars of coarse grey clay, ornamented with alternating bands of grey or white slip and black bituminous glaze, and with combed lines in herring-bone, wavy, or chevron patterns.
PLATE VII. TESSELLATED PAVEMENT IN ROOM G
PLATE VIII. EXIT OF DRAIN THROUGH WALL OF G

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Several examples of Mortaria are present and a sprinkling of British gritted ware. Small pieces of each of the following were found:—Terra Sigillata (or Samian ware) and imitations, pseudo-Samian, red slip-coated ware; New Forest, Castor, and Salopian painted wares; two fragments, one black and one red slip-coated, decorated with painting in slip; four examples of rims of red bowls coated with white wash-slip, and one fragment of coarse grey ware, with a thick opaque white egg-shell slip, unlike anything in the Silchester collection; also small pieces of lead-glazed and micaceous-glazed wares. There was one piece of perforated pottery colander, and the base of a fumed clay pot with a "Swastika" clearly incised on it (Plate XVI).

PLATE XVI.

Coins.—Four only were found, dating between A.D. 260 and 383.

Objects of Limestone.—Half a piriform loom-weight, weighing 10-oz., drilled with a smooth hole showing expansion at both ends from the friction of the cord (Plate XIII, 7).

Half a small disc, probably intended for a spindle-whorl, and split in an effort to perforate it (Plate XIII, 8).

A smooth ball, resembling a boy's marble.
Bone.—The remains of animal bones were negligible; kitchen refuse in bad condition. Only one article of worked bone was found, a disc or counter, 2 cm. in diameter, with the numerals IIII, VI, VIII cut into the margin (Plate XIII, 5).

Iron.—Forty-four nails of all sizes, two T-shaped cramps, horse-shoes (three complete and the heel of five others). A key of usual Roman type, the shaft bent to a ring, which has a loop of bronze wire through it. A band or collar, probably an axle-band, 11.5 cm. in diameter.

Tile.—A piece of flanged tile bearing an inscription of about a dozen letters, which has so far proved undecipherable (Plate XVII).

PLATE XVII.

1930. The House.

(Plate IX).—The excavation was resumed in March with an increased number of hands, thanks to the generosity of subscribers whose interest had been aroused by the previous season’s work, and resulted in the uncovering of a large house of the courtyard type to the south of the baths. The excavated part of building covers an area of 130' x 63', and again shows evidence of two periods of occupation with consequent structural alterations.

It is in poor preservation, the south and west corners being entirely demolished, and the outer wall on the south-east side
PLATE IX. LOOKING NORTH-EAST OVER THE HOUSE. ROOMS 1, 2, 3, 4 IN FOREGROUND

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PLATE X. HYPOCAUST K. (Solid filling of the left compartment has been removed)
Plate XI. Box Tile at Junction of Main and Diagonal Flues

[To face page 231]
reduced to its footing. Traces of an extensive conflagration are visible along this wall and in the rooms N and O, and also in the courtyard in the vicinity of the hypocaust, K.

The plan of the building bears a strong resemblance to that of the "Villa Rustica," at Mansfield Woodhouse, and like it would appear, from the inferiority of the construction of all except the outer wall and the hypocaust, to have been used in its latest phase as domestic quarters for servants or farm-hands.

The courtyard wall measures 105.7' x 55'. It is 2' wide, solidly built, and now stands at its best only three courses high. At this level was a bonding-course of tiles, above which the wall has uniformly collapsed. Its original height is estimated at 10'. As at Mansfield Woodhouse, no entrance to the courtyard is apparent (it is singularly unlucky if this chances to lie beneath the 16' of unexcavated ground left of necessity round a flourishing fruit-tree on the north-east side), and as there is no mention in the report of that excavation of the treatment of the centre of the courtyard, it is to be supposed that (if, indeed, that area was ever completely uncovered) it did not present the complications found in the villa at Lodge Farm.

Room K.—In the west corner of the courtyard are the foundations of a channelled hypocaust, K (Plate X), measuring 29.3' x 13.5', and composed of a main flue, of which the north-east end was built of fire-bricks and constituted the furnace, and six branch flues, four at right angles to the main one (though not opposite each other) and two running diagonally to the south and west corners. The channels are formed by the spaces left between more or less solid blocks of masonry, and are all floored with chalk. At the junction of the main and diagonal flues a box-tile, reeded on two sides and pierced on the other two by hour-glass shaped perforations, is placed on end to help support the roofing-tiles with which the main channel was partly covered in (Plate XI). From the wood-ash in the mouth of the furnace were recovered a vase of New Forest pottery, broken but complete, a small unbroken olla (Plate XV), half a mortarium, and an ornamented bronze bracelet in two pieces. The room above may have had a wooden floor, as many nails were found in the channels, and its walls were of white plaster, ornamented with a narrow red-painted line. Outside the main wall on the south-west are four rough rooms (L1, 2, 3, 4), which may have been byres or stables approached from outside.

The west corner of the building is here crossed by the boundary bank and hedge of the orchard, and is levelled to the footing, the flints having been taken from the walls to form a core to the comparatively modern bank. L1 and 2 have floors

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1 *Archaeologia*, viii, pp. 363-376.
of stamped earth; L3 and 4 are roughly cobbled with flint. The south corner is entirely demolished. Turning south-eastward there are two more small apartments M and N, which have had flint walls. The partition wall between them is of good masonry, and on each side of it is a small platform or step, in M of cobbles once tiled, and in N of well-worn terra sigillata; the remainder are shockingly built at a later period, and contain tiles and débris. An opening in the west corner of M, 3.1' wide, and another into N must have been doorways. The floors are of stamped earth.

Beyond these two rooms the inner walls of flint are discontinued, and give place to a different technique, namely, the division of one apartment from another by narrow channels, which, when excavated, contained plaster and charcoal, and were evidently the sockets for wattle-and-plaster partition walls. Almost the entire centre of the courtyard was, in its latest phase, floored with chalk, and thus divided into rooms. In one place, where the fallen wall had been burnt, a piece of the interlacing basket-work of wattle was recovered in the form of charcoal between two thicknesses of plaster. These partitions were 0.5' in thickness and 10' high.

Room O had a floor of pink plaster with a border and corners of chalk, and the walls were dark-rose colour. The floor of room P was of beaten chalk.

Q is a corridor 4' wide, in which was an immense amount of broken pottery and food refuse, charred bones and oyster shells, 62 lb. weight of the latter being removed from the space, 10' long, between S and M.

The centre of room S is burnt away, and is deep in wood-ash from a hearth against its north-east wall. In this room also food refuse and oyster shells abounded.

In room T is a large and definite post-hole, 3.5' in diameter at the top, narrowing to a socket, 1.4' wide, to receive the post. Another of similar dimensions is found on the east of this in U, and a small one, 1.3' in diameter, is nearer the north-east wall.

Beyond T the centre of the courtyard U is sadly mutilated and difficult to interpret. There are no more channels except one, which is the continuation of the north-west wall of O and P, and which borders a well-laid floor of chalk. North-west of this the chalk is laid on or around a foundation of a very rough conglomerate mixture of broken brick, tile, etc., and cement, which ceases in an irregular line about 13' from the north-west wall, leaving nothing but the untouched pan. In some places the chalk floor has been mended with plaster, or vice versa, and at the north-east end one chalk floor is superimposed upon another.
PLATE XIV. MOULD OF COARSE POTTERY

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Plate XII. Store Jar in X under treatment before removal
A passage way V of stamped earth, 5' in width, between two badly built loose flint walls, runs north-east from room P. It lies between a narrow chalk-floored passage on one side, and a waste space, 1.9' wide, on the other, and communicates with a small room, W, which has a hearth (only partially excavated, owing to occupation by a plum tree, which has been given notice to quit before next season), and which might have been a porter's room. At its north corner a large irregular-shaped block of sandstone is firmly wedged against the wall.

Beneath the plaster and chalk floors of U were found many pieces of painted wall-plaster, including fragments of scarlet and blue. Nothing similar occurred above the later floor-levels, and this points to an earlier stage of richer decoration, and possibly greater symmetry, when the house may have had a peristyle and columns around an open courtyard, later replaced by the present maze of chalk-floored cubicles. It is difficult to see how a roof was supported over this later arrangement. The post-holes are not in line, nor parallel to the outer walls, and two or three pillars would seem quite inadequate to bear the weight of even a light thatched roof. An enormous quantity of roof tiles were found in rooms L, and along the south-east edge of the cutting. The excavation of the rooms outside the courtyard on the north-east constitutes next season's programme. The walls so far located are better built and in better condition than those exposed in 1930, and may prove to be the apartments of the master of the house.

The Finds.

Space will not permit of much more than an enumeration of some of the finds, of which details must await the full report.

Pottery.—There is nothing to add to the general remarks on the pottery of 1929, which apply equally to this season. Although more examples of the finer wares were found, their proportion to the coarser stuff remains about the same. In addition to the two complete vessels noted on p. 231, a large store-jar of British gritted ware, measuring 1' across the mouth and 3.8' round the shoulder, was recovered from room Y. Though cracked in all directions, it was possible, by treating it in situ, to remove it intact (Plate XII). Near this, in X, was a very curious mould (?) of the same pottery (Plate XIV), ornamented with circles and lines. Its under surface is shaped to a wide foot, pierced in one place by the metal prong of a handle.
Another base of a pot, marked with a "Swastika," was found, and a vessel of grey-fumed clay, in fragments, has the name, "PERIGRINI," scratched on the shoulder (Plate XVII).

**PLATE XVII.**

**Coins.**—Seventy-one were found, of which Mr. John Eyton has very kindly written a detailed account, which will be published in full in the complete report.

In an appended note he says:—

"With four exceptions, which are negligible, all the coins fell within the Constantine and post-Constantine periods, or the dates A.D. 306 and 381. The actual figures are:—

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antonine period</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Empire</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constantine family</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Constantine</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentifiable (but certainly late)</td>
<td>6</td>
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"The Constantine coins, it will be noticed, represent 66% of the total. This is a considerably higher percentage than I found in examining 500 coins picked up on the Silchester site.

"The coins found at North Warnborough are mostly inferior in design, execution, and condition. Most of them are of crude provincial (possibly even local) mintage. They have been much used, and they represent the common currency, the 'small change' of the period.

"It may be noted that there is no coin later than Gratianus, whereas at Silchester coins of Theodosius, Arcadius, and Honorius are fairly common. It may fairly be concluded that this part of the site was first occupied during the Constantine period, and probably evacuated before A.D. 400."
PLATE XV. BARBED SPEAR HEAD, KEY AND PADLOCK, AND TWO VESSELS FOUND IN THE FURNACE OF K

[To face page 236]
Chalk.—A disc of chalk (Plate XIII, r) crudely decorated on one side with scratched lines radiating from the centre, where a few incisions may be imagined to represent a face (? the Sun). A hole for a stick is pierced in the margin at the "neck."

Shale.—Three spindle-whorls and a fragment of a plain bracelet of Kimmeridge shale were found.

Bone.—From room O came a comb (Plate XIII, g), which has a strengthening band rivetted down the centre with large teeth on one side and fine on the other, and ornamental ends. There were also two well-used bone shuttles (Plate XIII, z), a minute rondel perforated in the centre (Plate XIII, 6), a roughly-cut cylinder of bone (Plate XIII, 3), and a well-made point of antler, probably one end of a pair of compasses (Plate XIII, 4). Several bones among the kitchen refuse were scored with knife marks, and two horse’s shin-bones were neatly sawed across.

Bronze.—The bracelet found in the furnace, K, is a narrow band, fastening by a small hole at one end, overlapping a tiny boss on the other. It is ornamented with engraved circles and dots and groups of lines, and the edges are regularly notched. Other things included a fine spatula, pieces of two finger rings, half a buckle, fragments of a thin ornament once stitched on to leather, another small heavy ring (?part of a fastening or chatelaine) decorated with diagonal lines, two pins, part of a torque of thin bronze wire twisted spirally round a thicker core, one arm of a steelyard, and part of a horse’s bit.

Lead.—A small leaden bar, square in section, 6' long, and a small weight of lead came from room X.

Iron.—Finds were numerous, and include shoe studs, dozens of nails (36 from K and 34 from the excavated part of X alone), many pieces of horse-shoes and two punches for making the holes in them; three hunting spear-heads, barbed, one measuring 5' from point to tip of barb (? later date); (Plate XV) two typical Roman spear- or javelin-heads with raised centre ridge, one very large socketed spear-head, one socketed lance-head, a dagger point, seven knives, two spirally-twisted implements, probably styli, three keys, two padlocks, and an iron disc suspended by three chains (?part of a lamp).

There were also three honing stones and two green faience beads.

It is interesting to note that while the rooms O, P, S, T, and K are responsible for the comb, shuttles, spindle-whorls, and all
the other feminine appurtenances, most of the spear-heads, keys, padlocks, knives, and ironmongery in general came from the rooms L, the corridor Q, the courtyard outside, T, U, V, and W.

The site remains open at present, but the perishable chalk floors within the courtyard will probably be covered up next year.

This account is very much abridged from the full report, typewritten copies of which for 1929 are in the possession of Mr. P. L. Parsons, and of the Basingstoke Museum. It is hoped on the completion of the work to publish the entire report in book form.

(The air photograph is reproduced by permission of the Air Ministry, and Plate XIII by courtesy of Mr. Geoffrey E. Peachey.)