

ROMAN ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT ROUGHAM

in 1843 and 1844.

THE Roman antiquities discovered in the barrows at Rougham have been described by the late Rev. Professor Henslow, M.A., in two separate accounts, published in 1843 and 1844. The earlier memoir was in the form of a pamphlet, entitled *An Account of the Roman Antiquities found at Rougham, near Bury St. Edmund's, on the Fifteenth of September, 1843. Sold for the benefit of the Suffolk General Hospital, MDCCCXLIII.* It is dated Hitcham, October 2, 1843, and is printed by Gedge and Barker, 26, Hatter Street, Bury. The later account was originally inserted in the *Bury Post* as a letter to the editor, headed *Opening of the Tumulus at Rougham*, and was accompanied by three figures; it is dated Hitcham, July 12, 1844. This was also printed off separately, and entitled *The Roman Tumulus, Eastlow Hill, Rougham, opened on Thursday, the 4th of July, 1844.* The more important parts of these papers have been reprinted in the Rev. L. Jenyns' *Memoir of the Rev. Professor Henslow*, pp. 222—230. Lond. 1862.

It having been determined by the Committee of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History that these accounts should form part of the transactions of our Society, they were entrusted to my editorial care. Upon the whole, it seemed best to re-print the text as it stood, without omission or alteration, adding here and there a note where any qualification or additional information appeared to be required. My own notes are distinguished from those of the author by being enclosed in square brackets. There is little doubt that the lamented Professor would have re-cast or omitted some things, in his later memoir at any rate; but, as they occupy no great space, and as all abridgments by any other than the author's hand

are justly regarded with suspicion, I have preferred to allow them to remain in their original form. A few words may now be said by way of introduction respecting the present state of the barrows, and of the antiquities found therein.

On June 7, 1871, I visited the ground occupied by the four barrows mentioned in the following papers, and had some conversation with an old man, named Thomas Parish, whose house is close to the large barrow, at the opening of which he was present, when it was examined by Professor Henslow. This barrow, rather elliptical than circular, is about four times larger, to speak roughly, than the only one of the three smaller barrows now remaining. It rises about 17 feet above the surface of the ground, and is covered with various kinds of herbaceous and woody vegetation. The tunnels made in it in the summer of 1844 still remain open, and the interior is approached through a door, of which the key is kept at the house of Parish. The tiled building can be seen *in situ*, the roof still remaining in part covered, and in the interior the bones of the corpse are laid out; the skull, however, and the leaden coffin have been removed—the former to the Anatomical Museum, the latter to the Fitzwilliam Museum, at Cambridge.* A few broken tiles, with upturned edges (flange-tiles), are lying near the building on the ground. Two of them I measured, which gave about 14 in. for the length and $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. for the breadth of the perfect tile. Concentric circles are disposed irregularly on their surfaces. There are also fragments of hollow, nearly square-formed

* Leaden coffins have been found at Lincoln, London, and Colchester (Gough, *Sep. Mon.* i. p. xlv.). Thoresby has recorded the discovery of two at the beginning of last century, in the Roman burial-place near Bootham Bar; one, 7 ft. long, enclosed in planks of oak, fastened by large nails; the other unprotected by wood. Two lead coffins, recently discovered in excavating for the railway station (York), were without any remains of a wooden enclosure—one like a sheet of lead, wrapped round the body, 6 ft. 6 in.

in length; the other, a small, oblong chest, without a lid, 2 ft. 9 in. long, 12 in. wide, and 11 in. deep, the corners not soldered or in any way fastened together. Both are in the Collection of the Yorkshire Phil. Soc. (Wellbeloved's *Eburacum*, pp. 112-3. York, 1842. 8vo. Akerman's *Archæol. Index*, p. 65 pl. ix. Godwin's *Engl. Arch. Handbook*, p. 51. Oxford, 1867.) See also the Collection of Romano-British Antiquities in the British Museum.

flue-tiles, about 6 in. wide and 5 in. deep. The surface is incised with masses of parallel lines, inclined at various angles to each other. I did not observe any of the tiles, whether loose or *in situ*, to be inscribed. Parish informed me that some of these fragments were not found in the barrow itself, but in a garden near.

With regard to the three smaller barrows, the one nearest to the large one, mentioned by Professor Henslow as containing the square urn of green glass, has been carted away, and has left no mark behind to indicate its site. The urn was removed to Rougham Hall, where it still remains. It is a very large example of a common type. The iron lamp is likewise preserved at the Hall.

The barrow next to this, in which the tiled cubical chamber was found, whose description is given at length in Professor Henslow's earlier memoir, still remains, showing the trench cut through the middle of it, which is left open. The larger diameter of this slightly elliptical barrow is, according to my measurement, about 56 ft., and the present height something less than 5 ft. It is covered with turf. The antiquities found therein were presented by Mr. Bennet to the Bury Museum, and are placed in a model of the original chamber.

The third barrow, in which Professor Henslow found a few fragments of pottery, has left so little trace of its existence, that Parish said he knew nothing about it. I have no doubt that a slight elevation of surface, at a little distance below the second remaining barrow, still indicates its site, which was already much obliterated in 1843.

The most interesting of the smaller antiquities is the glass ossorium, found in the second of the smaller barrows. Professor Henslow observes that it is unlike any of the vessels figured in the papers to which he had referred. It is also unlike any glass amphora which I remember to have seen, or of which I have been able to discover a figure.*

* Mr. Akerman (*Archæological Index*, plates ix., x.) gives figures of many of the forms of Roman glass found in this country. Others will be found described

or figured in Mr. C. R. Smith's *Collectanea*, and *Illustrations of Roman London*; in Mr. Lee's *Isca Silurum*, Mr. Scarth's *Aque Solis*, Messrs. Buckman's and Newmarch's

Dr. Birch informs me that the British Museum does not contain any Roman glass amphora of a precisely similar form, though it possesses two or three which approach it in some respects.

Of the other forms of glass and pottery it is unnecessary to say much; Professor Henslow has generally referred to figures either identical or very similar. It may be added that the collection of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society comprises similar pieces among those which were found at Litlington, in Cambridgeshire, and Water-Newton, in Huntingdonshire. Several, if not all of them, are also found in the Colchester Museum. None appear to be rare.* Upon the dark red ware, commonly called Samian, but probably for the most part of Gaulish and German fabric, are potters' names, three of which can be distinctly read, besides one which is faint. The Rougham specimens possess the rare merit of not having been broken.

(1) ALBVCI. The name of this potter occurs on Samian ware found in Stoke Ashe, in this county, which was exhibited at the local museum, at Earl Stonham, at the excursion of the Suffolk Institute, July 11, 1871. Also in London (C. R. Smith, *Ill. Roman Lond.*, p. 102); at Caistor (Artis, *Durobrivæ*, t. 46); and at Chesterford, Essex (Hon. R. C. Neville, *List of Potters' Marks on Samian Ware in his Collection*, p. 1); likewise at Douai, in France (Smith, as before, p. 107); and elsewhere on the Continent (Froehner, *Inscr. terræ coctæ vas.* p. 3. Gotting., 1857).

(2) MICCIO F. Also on London Samian (Smith, as above, p. 105); and on the Continent (Froehner, p. 59).

(3) ILLIOMRIN. Ditto (Smith, p. 104).

The remaining name is difficult, not to say impossible, to be read. Professor Henslow thinks it may be BIFVSA or

Corinium, and in the catalogues of various local museums and transactions of learned societies. But a comprehensive account of Roman glass is yet to be written. A fine glass amphora, containing bones, was found at Geldestone, Norfolk, in 1848. It is figured in *Archæological Journal*, vol. vi. (1849),

p. 110, and Mr. Yate observes that the Rougham urn "presents much general resemblance" thereto; but has a much wider neck, and more massive handles.

* The blue-black vessels marked 4 and 5 on the plate are, I believe, examples of the Upchurch ware.

DIGVSA, or something else. The name most like it in Dr. Birch's Catalogue of Samian Potters is ATVSA (*Anc. Pott.*, vol. ii. p. 410); Mr. Wright mentions an ALBVSA, which is nearer still (*Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, p. 68). But the true reading of the Rougham patera probably remains to be discovered; the last three letters alone are certain.

In conclusion, it is to be observed that these discoveries are mentioned by Mr. Wright (*The Celt, the Roman, the Saxon*, p. 312; Lond., 1852), who calls the large barrow "a very remarkable one;" and after him by Mr. Godwin (*English Archæologist's Handbook*, pp. 49—52, Oxford and London, 1867), who speaks of the "most distinguished" Roman Barrows in Britain being those at Bartlow and Rougham, and of the Rougham sepulchral chamber in the large barrow as being "the most remarkable" example of a "very rare" class, of which other instances have occurred at "York * and at Colchester." † These barrows, it may be added, were visited on July 26, 1869, by the members of the Royal Archæological Institute, which assembled at Bury St. Edmund's in the summer of that year.

CHURCHILL BABINGTON.

Cockfield Rectory, Oct. 1, 1872.

* The only sepulchral chamber of this kind known to have been discovered was found by some workmen in 1807 near the mount without Micklegate Bar. It is a small room, or vault, about 5 ft. below the present surface, 8 ft. long, 5 ft. broad, and 6 ft. high, the roof being arched, and formed of Roman tiles, each about 1 ft. square and 2½ in. thick. Inside was found a sarcophagus of a single great stone, covered with a flag-stone (blue), containing a skeleton. On each side the skull was found a small glass lachrymatory. An aperture at N. end of vault is too small to have admitted the sarcophagus. The outer sides of the vault are not seen, except that by which visitors are now admitted, and where the workmen broke through. See Wellbeloved's *Ebur.*, p. 107.

The Rev. J. Raine tells me in a letter

—"The sepulchral chamber is, I believe, pretty much in the state described in Mr. Wellbeloved's work. This is the only sepulchral room that I have heard of in the North."

† No similar sepulchral chamber is known to the Rev. J. H. Pollexfen or to Mr. Joslin as now existing there. The former observes; "The nearest approach to a sepulchral chamber of which I know anything in Colchester was the tomb formed of Roman tiles, discovered when making Beverley-road, and filled with those beautiful glass vessels now in the Colchester Museum, of which there is a description in their Catalogue, pp. 21, 22." This is probably what is intended by Mr. Godwin; but his remarks are upon chambers in which the body is buried entire.

An Account of the Roman Antiquities found at Rougham, near Bury St. Edmund's, on the Fifteenth of September, 1843. By the REV. J. S. HENSLOW, M.A., Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge, and Rector of Hitcham, Suffolk. Printed by Gedge and Barker, 26, Hatter-street, Bury.

HAVING been requested to prepare a Description and Drawing for Lithograph of the Antiquities discovered on the Estate of PHILIP BENNET, Esq., at Rougham, which he has kindly allowed to be exhibited at the Bazaar for the benefit of the Hospital, I must plead the despatch which has been necessary for making the model of the Vault, restoring the two glass Urns, and cleaning the Pottery, in extenuation of the imperfect character of my report; and I hope the professed Antiquary will not be severe in criticising the remarks of one who has no right to trespass on his domain. I have had no opportunity of referring to any other accounts which might have directed or assisted my judgment, than the four papers in the *Archæologia*, by the late J. Gage Rokewode, Esq., on the Barrows at Bartlow, and the paper by A. J. Kempe, Esq., on the *Ustrinum* at Litlington.

Easlow, or Eastlow Hill, is the name given to a large Barrow in the Parish of Rougham. The Saxon word 'Low' signifies a Barrow. Three other Barrows of small dimensions range in a continuous line with the large one, trending from it in a S.W. direction. In July last, as some labourers were engaged in removing the earth which composed the most northerly of the three small Barrows, for agricultural purposes, they accidentally broke into a brick chamber, which appears to have been about two feet cubed. This chamber is stated to have been built with common Roman tiles and hollow flue-bricks; the latter being perforated either on one or two of the sides with a round hole. The roof is stated to have been composed of a single layer of large flat tiles. In this chamber were found a large iron

Lamp, with a short handle, and a very large and thick wide-mouthed square Jar or Urn of green glass, closely resembling the one figured by Mr. Rokewode in the *Archæologia*, vol. 1., pl. 32, fig. 1, and which was found in the largest of the Bartlow Barrows. The Rougham Urn was of still larger dimensions, being full eight inches square in the body, twelve inches to the shoulder, and sixteen inches high. The lip is five inches and a-half in diameter, with an opening or mouth of two inches and three-quarters in diameter. It contained a large quantity of burnt human bones. No other article is recorded as having been found in this instance, and the workmen positively assert there was nothing else.

The small Barrow next to this on the S.W. was opened on the 15th September, by digging a trench about four feet wide directly across the middle of it, and ranging nearly N.E. and S.W., or in the direction in which the Barrows themselves are arranged. Measuring through the trench to the extreme points where the earth begins to rise on either side, the diameter at the base is fifty-four* feet; and from the highest point down to the natural surface of the soil is nearly six feet. Immediately below the middle of the Barrow, and beneath the natural surface of the soil, was discovered a brick chamber or vault, which, from its containing burnt human bones, forms the description of tomb called *Bustum*. The floor, walls, and roof were formed of the same description of tiles, each of which, when perfect, was seventeen inches long, twelve broad, and two thick, and several of them were marked on one side and towards the edge with two slightly depressed intersecting circles, either stamped or traced out by a wooden or iron instrument. The floor on the inside was two feet two inches and a-half from S.W. to N.E., and exactly in the direction of the trench, and two feet one inch from S.E. to N.W. The walls contained five courses of tiles, set in thick layers of mortar. The roof was formed of five layers or courses of tiles laid horizontally, and so that each layer

* [So corrected in MS. ; the printed text has eighty-two.]

lapped over the one below it, advancing about one and a-half or two inches until the opening was nearly closed, when the vacancy was filled with two narrow strips of tile, at the height of two feet three inches above the floor. There was a sixth layer of four tiles placed over the roof, and then upon the whole was loosely piled a quantity of broken bricks and tiles of different thicknesses. A layer of loamy earth was now thrown over this mass, so as to give it a uniform surface, somewhat domed or rounded above the level of the soil, and then came a final coating of pounded brick and mortar, which formed a smooth case to the whole.

The following articles were discovered in the *Bustum* :—

1. A handsome Urn (the *Ossorium*), of pale, bluish green glass, with two broad reeded handles, and an eared mouth. This is unlike any of the vessels described in the papers to which I have referred. It stands eleven inches high, the neck is four inches, and the diameter of the eared mouth five inches, with the opening three inches in diameter; and it has a foot four inches in diameter, and an inch deep. The body is nearly spherical, more than nine inches in diameter. This Urn had fallen to pieces, and the fragments (thirty-four in number) lay in a confused heap with the bones in the N. corner of the chamber. Several of the fragments had entirely disappeared, and those which were found are in a more or less advanced state of disintegration. It is very singular that every fragment which was recovered admitted of being placed in position, not one of them belonging to any inner portion of the vacancies. I think that one or two pieces must have accidentally been lost, but the others which are missing would have filled spaces where the glass has become so exceedingly thin, that we may readily imagine they had entirely disappeared. The manner in which the glass disintegrates is by peeling off in small filmy scales, thinner than the finest gold leaf, or even than a soap bubble; and a puff of the breath scatters them through the air in innumerable spangles, glittering with the colors of the rainbow. As these scales fortunately peel off

parallel to the outer and inner surfaces only, and not along the fractured edges, each fragment retains its original outline, and merely diminishes in thickness—so that they could be restored with precision to their proper places, though it was a work of some little labour to fix them, since many were not thicker than the glass in a common Florence flask.* Before the Urn fell to pieces, its inside had become partially encrusted with carbonate of lime, which had crystallized in concretionary lumps, running into each other so as to present a mammillated surface internally, and a smooth shining surface where the concretions had been in contact with the glass. Little spherical concretionary masses of carbonate of lime were also intermixed with the bones and dust in the general heap.

2. A Lachrymatory, or vessel for perfume, composed of dull green glass. This was lying on the top of the mass of bones and fragments of the broken *Ossorium*. It closely resembles one described by Mr. Rokewode, in the *Archæologia*, vol. 26, pl. 33, fig. 5, as a vessel used for *Odores*, excepting that there the neck is longer and more tapering, and the ear narrower. The cavity below the neck (which may either be called a flattened body, or a hollow foot) contains a brown matter, probably the remains of some precious perfume. This vessel had evidently been dropped into the urn after the bones were placed there. That perfumes, scattered over the remains of the deceased, became mingled with the tears of weeping relatives, who were reclining over them, may readily be understood, without our supposing a lachrymal vessel to have been handed about to collect these tears, in order to mix them with the perfume. The inscription quoted by Mr. Rokewode, as recorded from the Tomb of Lælius, at Rhodes, merely states that his mother :

“ Eum lachrymis et opobal
samo udum,
Hoc sepulcro condidit.”

* [The fragments have been admirably . . . Museum, 1869.]
reunited by Mr. Ready, of the British

3. A Coin. This coin is in a state of complete corrosion, and, I believe, is now a compound of black oxide of copper, the grey sulphuret of copper, and the green carbonate of copper, with here and there a few minute atoms of metal. The black parts, which occupy the interior, are readily reducible under the blow-pipe to a globule of copper, and in a glass tube give off much water. It is about an inch in diameter, and appears consequently to have been of second brass, and probably not belonging to the coinage of the Lower Empire. This was found among the burnt bones; but whether it had been subjected to the action of fire or not, it is impossible to determine. Faraday did not consider that a coin of Hadrian, found in one of the urns at Bartlow, had been subjected to heat. This coin, like that, had become firmly cemented to a piece of bone. Had decomposition gone a little further, the whole would probably have fallen to a state of powder; and such may possibly have been the case in some of those instances where no coin has been found in cinerary urns.

4. A small, plain black Jar, three inches high and two inches in diameter, with a wide mouth of one inch and a-half in diameter. This is nearly cylindrical, but tapers a little at top and bottom, like a ninepin.

5. Another Jar of similar material, three inches and a-half high and three inches in diameter, with the mouth two inches in diameter. It is a facsimile of one described by Mr. Rokewode, in the *Archæologia*, vol. 29, pl. 1, fig. 4, and is marked with slightly depressed lines, forming a diamond pattern over the middle portions.

These two jars lay on their sides a little to the S.E. of the *Ossorium*, with their mouths directed towards the N., the smallest being the most northerly. This position seems to indicate their having contained the first offerings (or *munera*) deposited in the *Bustum*, and also that they had been emptied of their contents before they were placed on the floor, which it would have required a person to stoop low and perhaps to kneel down before he could conveniently reach it. These jars are of a gritty material, and have a

coarse appearance ; but upon applying diluted muriatic acid to remove a thin coating of carbonate of lime which had partially encrusted them, I have discovered minute, but perfectly distinct, traces of red paint and gilding on their surface, so that they once wore a gayer aspect than at present. May not the slightly depressed lines on one of them have been intended as a guide to the painting it was to receive : and may it not be worth the Antiquary's while to examine similar vessels of this black material, and see whether he cannot discover like traces of paint and gold upon them ?

6. A large spherical Pitcher, or Jug, of coarse yellow pottery, ten inches high and eight inches in diameter. It has a short narrow neck, swelling upwards into an opening about two inches and a-half in diameter, and is ornamented on the outside by a depressed line, which coils four times round it in a close spiral. The handle is very short. This nearly resembles one figured by Mr. Rokewode, in the *Archæologia*, vol. 25, pl. 2, fig. 3, only the handle is smaller. This vessel was not standing on its base, but rested in a slightly inclined position on its side, with the mouth towards the N., and the handle upwards. It was full of limpid, tasteless water, which had either dripped or been distilled into it, the narrowness of the neck preventing its becoming again evaporated. This was to the S. of No. 5.

7. Another Jug, very similar to the last, but much smaller, being only six inches high and five inches in diameter. It is more nearly spherical in the body, and the spiral line on the neck has only three coils. This was to the S.W. of the last, and was placed, resting on its mouth, in a completely inverted position. ✓

The materials of which these two jugs are composed contain carbonate of lime, and consequently they could not be cleaned of all incrustated matter so thoroughly as the other vessels, since it was not safe to apply an acid to them.

8. A *Patera* of dark red ware, placed to the W. of the last, and close to the walls in the S. corner. It is seven

inches in diameter, and shaped like the one figured in the *Archæologia*, vol. 25, pl. 2, fig. 5. The Potter's mark is not sufficiently impressed to be distinctly legible. A facsimile is given in the lithographic drawing, and may be BIFVSA or DIGVSA or something else. This was so much coated over with carbonate of lime, when I first examined it, that I read it in an inverted position as VVIII. In this *Patera* were a few fragments of rust, which had fallen from the rod to the iron lamp immediately over it, and which I at first mistook for pieces of carbon; there were also two fragments of burnt bone, which had formed part of a cylindrical body, ornamented by two circles cut round it. Five more fragments of the same bone were picked out from among the bones in the *Ossorium*, and the whole, when put together, have the appearance of having formed part of a knife handle.

9. A *Simpulum* of similar ware with the last, and very like one figured in the *Archæologia*, vol. 28, pl. 1, fig. 5. This is seven inches in diameter and two and a half inches deep. The Potter's mark is very distinct and well written, being ALBVCI, for *Albuci manu*, or *Officina Albuci*. This was resting on its side with the bottom against the S. W. wall, and to the W. of the last.

10. A *Patera* resembling No. 8, only a mere trifle smaller. The Potter's mark is very distinct in this also, but not quite so perfect as in the last. Before it was cleaned I read it as MICCIO. I. but it now appears to me to be MIGGIO. F. *i.e.*, *Miggio fecit*.* This vessel has a few dark stains upon it, and it contained four small fragments of *unburnt* bone. These appear to have been chopped pieces, I suspect of the neck of the ox. This was placed to the N. W. of the last.

11. A *Simpulum* resembling No. 9, inclined upon its side, with the bottom against the S. W. wall, and a little to the W. of the last. The Potter's mark reads tolerably plainly as ILLIOMRIA, there being some doubt about the R, whether it be not a P or something else.† I must hope

* [The true reading is MICCIO F.] † [The true reading is ILLIOMRIN.]

that a comparison of the facsimiles in the lithographic drawing, with previously recorded marks of this kind, will clear up any ambiguity about them.

12. An Iron Lamp suspended from the extremity of a twisted iron rod driven horizontally into the S. W. wall, between the two topmost courses, near the S. corner, and stretching towards the middle of the *Bustum*. The lamp is five inches long, shaped like the one figured in the *Archæologia*, vol. 28, pl. 1, fig. 3. To the handle is attached a short rod or long link of two inches, which hangs vertically, the upper end being rudely twisted through a ring at the end of the rod fastened into the wall. This latter is ten inches long, and has a hook near the end in the wall, by which it might have been hung up, if required, in a vertical position. The remains of the wick are distinctly marked by a carbonaceous lump near the lip of the lamp.

13. Two Iron Rods, three and a half inches long, slightly curved, and which had been ornamented by a ringed pattern. They were probably the handles of a small wooden chest which had gone to decay, but some traces of which were to be seen in the form of carbonaceous matter lying in the E. corner. This sort of chest appears very commonly to have formed one article among the furniture of a *Bustum*.

14. Refers to the *unburnt** Bones in the *Patera*, No. 10, and which are probably a portion of one of the sacrifices. These bones are coated on all sides with minute portions of gold, as though gold dust had been scattered upon the offering, or as though a piece of gold leaf had been laid over it after it had been placed in the *Patera*.

The last of the small Barrows was attacked on Sept. 22.

* These bones have been erroneously placed, in the drawing, in front of No. 7, whereas they should have been in the *Patera* No. 10. There were three or four pieces of *burnt* bones lying in the position at No. 14, but, owing to a misplacement of the memoranda, this error was not discovered in time, and, as I had

no opportunity of seeing a proof of the plate before it was struck off, I could not correct it afterwards. There are one or two trifling inadvertencies in the drawing, which must be excused on the same plea; but they are of no real importance. [It has been thought best to reproduce the plate without any attempt at correction.]

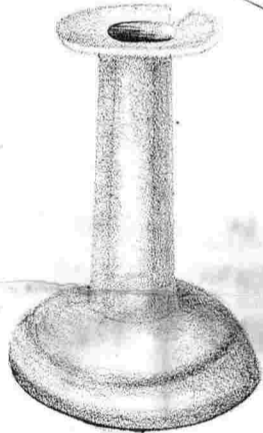
This having been much disturbed by the intersecting of a road and the removal of soil from the summit some time previous, it was difficult to determine where the centre lay. A trench was dug directly up to the point which appeared to be about the centre, and there were found two broken vases of imperfectly burnt dark earthenware, each containing a few bones in an advanced state of decay. These seemed to be placed on the natural surface of the soil, which was traced for some distance by a layer of carbonaceous matter, which had apparently resulted from the decay of the turf. A few other fragments of pottery were observed, two pieces of which were of the same red ware as the *Patera* and *Simpula* in the last Barrow. Excavations were made in different directions, but no signs of any chamber were discovered.

Many fragments of pottery and tile occur scattered over some fields a few hundred yards to the S. of these Barrows; and upon digging about a spade's depth in one of them, a considerable area appeared to have been floored with brick and mortar. This may possibly indicate the site of some Villa to which these Tumuli served as the last sojourn of its proprietors.

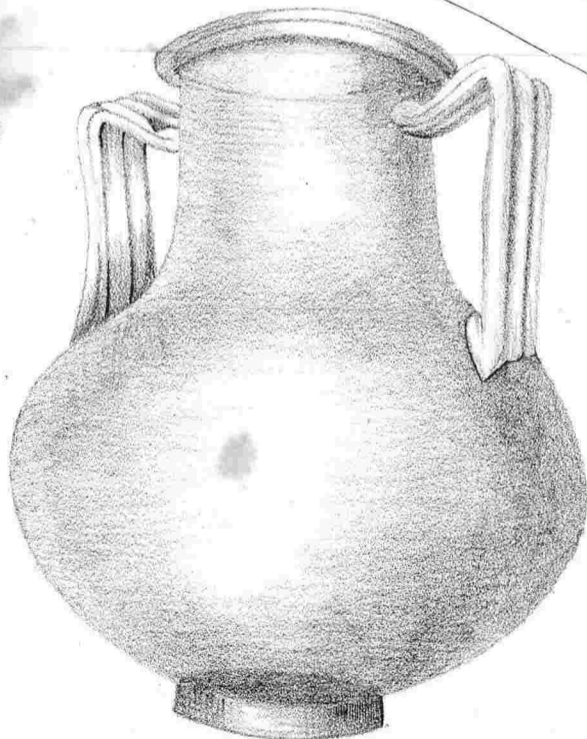
With respect to the date of these Barrows, nothing has yet been found sufficient to determine this question definitely. Still I consider the general character of the articles, and the brick *Bustum*, tally so exactly with those noticed by Mr. Rokewode, from the Barrows at Bartlow, that we cannot be far wrong in admitting them to be of nearly the same age; and this has been conjectured to be about the period of Hadrian. We may therefore presume the Barrows of Rougham to have been prepared between the first and second centuries of our era.

J. S. HENSLOW.

Hitcham, October 2, 1843.



LACHRYMATORY.
(3. inches)



OSSORIUM RESTORED.
(11. inches high)

1. Glass Ossorium in fragments
2. Glass Lachrymatory
3. Bronze Coin
4. Plain Vase
5. Ornamented Vase
6. Large Pitcher
7. Inverted Pitcher
8. Patera **DI VSA**
9. Simpulum **ALBVC**
10. Patera **M(CIO)**
11. Simpulum **LUOMRIN**
12. Iron Lamp
13. Fragments of Iron and Carbon
14. Fragments of Unburnt Bones.

CHAMBER IN ROMAN BARROW,

Opened at
ROUGHAM, SUFFOLK,
15th September, 1843.

*The Roman Tumulus, Eastlow Hill, Rougham. Opened
on Thursday, the 4th of July, 1844.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BURY POST."

SIR,—On Thursday morning, the 4th of July last, the workmen were sufficiently advanced, after more than four days' constant labour, in exploring the large Tumulus at Rougham, named Eastlow Hill, to raise our expectations that we should be able to expose an extensive deposit of Roman remains by the hour at which the public had been invited to attend. The discovery turned out to be something of a very different description from what I had anticipated. Instead of urns and vases, pateræ and simpula, lamps and lachrymatories, such as were found last year, the only contents of a large chamber of masonry, which I shall presently describe, proved to be a leaden coffin, enclosing a skeleton.

Perhaps it is my scanty experience in this sort of adventure that inclines me to fancy our Antiquaries will feel more interested at this result than if we had met with a repetition of what the Bartlow Hills, the smaller Tumuli at Rougham, and those of other places, have revealed to us concerning the more usual ceremonies adopted by the Romans in burying their dead. I am aware that Roman skeletons have been found before, in leaden coffins; but the circumstance is rare; and I have no opportunity here of consulting the *Archæologia*, or other standard works on Antiquities, to ascertain how far former discoveries may bear comparison with the present.

The object of peculiar interest to myself was the well-built chamber of masonry. My very slight acquaintance with Antiquities must be my excuse, if I wrongly suppose this chamber to afford us, in England, a solitary *existing* example of the manner in which the Romans tiled their houses. I recollect having seen a rather rude sketch (in the second volume of the *Archæologia**) of a tiled roof,

* [Pl. x. See also Akerman's *Arch. Index*, pl. viii. 6. Another similar tomb constructed of tiles was found at York; it contained charcoal and bones, but no urn. Goodwin's *Engl. Arch. Handbook*, p. 49.]

which, I believe, was of the same description as the one we have now found. It was discovered in a Tumulus near York; and if it has been preserved, it may be a second example of this sort. In that case, the chamber contained urns, and other articles of the ordinary funereal deposits. It is not at all likely that any Roman building should be standing above ground in this country, with a tiled roof laid over it 1500 years ago. Another feature in this chamber of peculiar interest to myself, was the arched vaulting, a mode of construction, of which, I believe, there are very few examples among us which can positively be assigned to the Romans—so few, indeed, that, at one time, it was imagined that they were not well acquainted with the principle of the arch.* I am not sure that in this case we can feel quite confident that they had placed absolute faith in that *principle*, for circumstances had required that the woodwork which formed the centering should not be removed.† It had been left, and had rotted, and the fragments had fallen upon the lid of the coffin.

Before I enter into further detail, I shall permit my pen to wander a little into the regions of imagination; and as I have not sufficient leisure at command for writing a *short* letter, you can divide my communication into two parts, if you find I am likely to occupy an undue proportion of your columns in a single Newspaper. I think it is impossible for any one not to lose a little of his propriety on such occasions as these. For 1500 years, or thereabouts, a narrow vault has been tenanted by the mouldering remains of we know not whom—only we feel confident that he

* [This sentence is not altogether easy to understand. There are, it is true, but few examples of Roman arches now existing in this country, of which the gateway at Lincoln is the finest; for others, see Godwin's *Engl. Arch. Handbook*, pp. 34, 37. But semicircular arches were extensively used in Roman architecture, as numerous remains, of bridges and aqueducts more especially, still remain to show. On the Roman manner of vaulting,

see Fosbrooke's *Encycl. Ant.*, p. 36.]

† It has been pointed out to me that Professor Henslow "seems to be unaware that the 'centering' is always left in a brick grave to this day. Its presence by no means implies 'distrust of the principle' of an arch, but is merely an additional precaution against crushing, as the superincumbent weight has to be immediately imposed before the brickwork has had proper time to set."

must have been a person who, in his brief day, had been eminent in some way or other—for his wealth or his rank, his valour or his position in the social system. No one of little estimation in the eyes of his fellow men would have been buried in the style of this Roman—in a leaden coffin—within a solidly built vault—and with a monumental mound of earth piled over it, which needed the united efforts of a numerous company for its erection. I think we shall not be wandering very far from the truth in supposing this person to have been Lord of that neighbouring villa, whose foundations we detected last year, in a field at a short distance from these Tumuli. He was possibly the very last who died in occupation of it, before the Roman legions were finally recalled from enervated Britain, in the year of our Lord 426. I argue this in favour of the late period at which this Tumulus was erected. The Romans in the earlier periods of the Empire burnt their dead, almost universally. The other Tumuli at Rougham afforded examples of this custom, with the usual accompaniments of those vessels in which the offerings to the manes of the deceased had been conveyed to the *bustum*,* and deposited with the burning lamp, to cheer them on their way “to that bourne from whence (as they supposed) no traveller was ever to return,” to the enjoyment of light and life, in a resurrection of the flesh. Some of the occupiers of this villa may have returned to Italy and died there—and perhaps a few only of the successive possessors of the property may have left their bones in this foreign land. This may account for their burial ground containing so few barrows, though the villa itself may have stood for many years. We have, however, ascertained that several interments had taken place in the southernmost of the four barrows, which was not well shaped, and might, probably, be the spot appropriated to inferior members in the family. Upon a small cinerary urn, restored from

* This term is to be restricted to spots where *burnt* bodies were deposited, and is not a general word for Tomb, as I see has been supposed by some one who sent an account of this Tumulus to the papers.

fragments found in this barrow, there have been rudely scratched a few letters, from which I can make out nothing satisfactory.* They may be intended for a name; but I sometimes fancy they read $\acute{\alpha}\epsilon\omicron\lambda \dots \lambda\alpha$ for $\acute{\alpha}\epsilon\iota \delta\lambda\omega\lambda\alpha$, "I am perished for ever," a sort of lament we can suppose a fond mother might have scrawled, whilst weeping over the urn which contained the bones of her departed child. No one, rejoicing in our happier prospect, can look upon those relics from the smaller barrows, preserved at the Hall at Rougham, without feeling them to be a record testifying to the general belief, of mankind in the immortality of the soul. But in the arrangements within this larger and later Tumulus, perhaps we have some trace of the already spreading influence of a still better creed. During the 400 years that the Romans held this country in subjection, the Gospel had been gradually leavening the corrupting mass of heathen superstition. Better conceptions of what is life, and what is death, were becoming interwoven with the current opinions of the world, and they were inspiring even heathens with a contempt for practices which could profit nothing to departed souls. The simpler mode of sepulture adopted for this Roman, may have had some connection with that mighty revolution which was then taking place in the world of mind. The Christians were everywhere abandoning the practice of burning the dead; and, though their faith may not have reached the heart of this Roman, yet his head may have assented to better notions than those which had persuaded his predecessors at Rougham to feed ghosts with oil and wine, milk and blood, and other substantial creations, suited only to the sustenance of a bodily existence. For where are those funeral rites which we found had been so carefully attended to in the other cases? The funeral pyre no longer blazes. The lamp is no longer considered of any importance. No offerings are placed within the vault. All that could be found within the tomb indicative of heathen superstition

* [I regret not to have seen this urn. searched for it at the Hall, but in vain.]
The Rev. Dr. Bennet has kindly

was the pass-money (an *obolus*) in the mouth of the entombed. Charon had been propitiated. I have not yet been able to distinguish any legend on this coin, which is nearly as much corroded as the one found last year. There was a little chamber outside the vault, in which glass vessels had been deposited, but unfortunately these had crumbled to powder, and there was no relic of any kind to show what they had contained. If that rusty obolus had been missing, we might have felt half persuaded to believe this Roman had embraced the cross. The superstitions of those days, and of later days, and alas, of these days also, are strange things to look upon. Indeed, we have no need to tax our imaginations for what the false fancies of ignorant and unenlightened minds may formerly have tempted men to put their trust in. I allude to none of the vanities of will-worship; but it seems that even the record in the Acts, concerning those dealers in curious arts who burnt their books and repented, is a lesson lost upon many of us now-a-days; and we still hear of hundreds consulting some "wise man" or "wise woman" (wise indeed in their generation) as confidently as this heathen ever trusted an Aruspex or an Augur. Truly a thousand years in these matters have passed but as one day.

But let me come to a detail of facts; and with the assistance of the woodcuts you have so liberally consented to introduce in illustration of my account, I shall hope to make the structure of the chamber we have discovered intelligible to all. I dare say that very few of the many hundreds who passed through the Tumulus were aware they had been peeping into a building of the form represented in fig. 1. More than half of the roof still remains covered over by the superincumbent earth; but we may see plainly from what has been exposed the real character of the whole.

The workmen approached this subterraneous building by driving a tunnel, at the level of the natural soil, and about six feet high, as directly towards the centre of the barrow as we could judge. At a distance of about fifty feet from the outermost edge of the base, they struck upon the middle

of the Western wall, running in a N.E. direction—rather more westerly than the direction of the tunnel. They had previously come upon the solid concrete foundation (A B C) upon which the tomb is built, and which projects on all sides round the walls. The walls of the tomb were exposed by tunnelling completely round it. The passage round the N. end of the tomb was driven easterly till an opening was effected in that direction through the tunnel, which was the nearest way out again—the tomb lying to the E. of the centre of the barrow. Notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather, many hundreds visited the spot, and the constant stream of wonderers passing through the tunnels was kept up for five or six hours without any intermission. It was very satisfactory to witness the good behaviour and good humour of the labouring classes, who appeared to be far more gratified than I could have expected, considering the absence of all those kinds of sepulchral furniture which were found in the adjoining Tumuli opened last year. The confidence with which Mr. Bennet had trusted them was in no instance abused, and we have this example, among many, that Englishmen are wonderfully improved since the times when they had a character (was it a just one?) of looking more through their fingers than with their eyes. Such a light-fingered faculty is now restricted to the practice of the *clairvoyant* Mesmeriser! There are, indeed, a light-fingered gentry of another class—pilferers of whatever may be transmutable into modern coin, whom we have not thought it advisable to trust over-confidently. Common prudence has dictated the propriety of removing the leaden coffin to a better secured locality; and Mr. Bennet having left it at my disposal, I have suggested its being transferred to the Fitzwilliam Museum, at Cambridge, the nearest public depository suited to its reception with which I am acquainted. It would certainly have been desirable to have left it with the skeleton in the tomb; but probably it would have gradually corroded away in that position. I intend to forward the skull to the Anatomical Museum

at Cambridge, where it will possess a scientific interest, among a rapidly increasing and skilfully arranged collection of objects of comparative anatomy. The rest of the bones will be left in the tomb, to undergo that speedy decay which the admitted influences of the weather will produce upon them. The skull has all its teeth in perfect preservation; but the sutures in it are partially obliterated. Perhaps we guess pretty correctly in believing the disinterred had, in his lifetime, seen about as many revolving suns as the disinterred, born in 1796. In stature, this Roman appears to have been rather more than six feet; but the bones had become so much detached from each other as to make the measurement a matter of uncertainty. There was a corrupted looking mass of carbonaceous matter, intermixed with hair, about the floor of the coffin and over the bones, which possibly had partly resulted from the decomposition of the hide of some animal in which the body had been wrapped. There were also root-like fibres projecting from the bones, of the legs more especially, which gave them a strange and shaggy appearance. This proves to be a mass of a peculiar kind of fungus, called *Rhizomorpha*, and serves to illustrate the fact, that all fungi are derived from the decomposing materials of some previously organized body, whether animal or vegetable. Here we have the substance of one of the nobles of antiquity converted into materials forming one of the very lowest of the fungi! The leaden chest or coffin was six feet nine inches in length, one foot five inches broad, and one foot four inches deep. It had been formed of a sheet, or sheets of lead, by turning up the sides and ends, after cutting out the piece at the corners, just as we make a pasteboard tray. The edges were soldered on the inside. The lid was a loose sheet, also turned in at the edges and ends in the same way, but without any soldering. The whole was superficially converted to the white oxide (the common white paint of the shops), so that this coffin may be said to have been self-painted. It was also much corroded in parts. A reference to the figures will assist us in better

appreciating the peculiarities of the tomb, and the measurement of its several parts.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view, as it would appear if perfectly cleared of the superincumbent earth.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal or ground plan of the tomb and foundation.

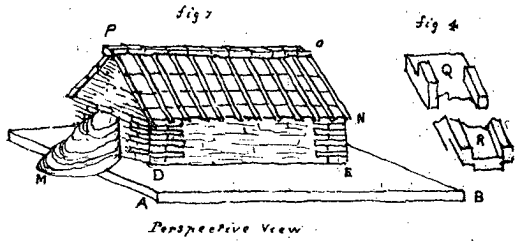
Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the middle and at right angles to the ridge.

The same letters are used to mark the same-parts in the different figures.

A B C, A concrete foundation of large flints and very hard mortar mixed with sand; 15 feet square. D E (12 feet); E F ($6\frac{1}{2}$ feet); the walls of the tomb, 2 feet thick; 2 feet high at the sides (E N); and the ends 5 feet to the top.

These walls are of flint and mortar, with rows of tile at intervals, as in the city walls of Verulam, Colchester, &c.

It was probably when the walls had been raised to the height of two feet that the coffin was laid in the chamber, and then an arch turned over the cavity GHI. This arch is a half cylinder of Roman tiles intermixed with much mortar. The two end walls were next built up to their full height, which served to close the tomb. The roofing above the arch was filled in with stone, brick, and mortar. A bed of mortar was spread uniformly over the whole, sloping on each side as much as in common roofs. The tiling consists of twelve rows, on each side, with four tiles in a row. Contiguous rows do not overlap at their edges; but the superior tiles in each row overlap those immediately below them. The contrivance by which this effect is secured may be understood by referring to fig. 4, where Q is the upper part, and R the lower, of the same tile. There is a square projecting ledge upon the upper surface of the tile next the edges, but which does not extend quite up to the uppermost end; so that a sort of notch is left there. On the under surface of the tile, and next the edges at the bottomest end, there are square depressions



Perspective View

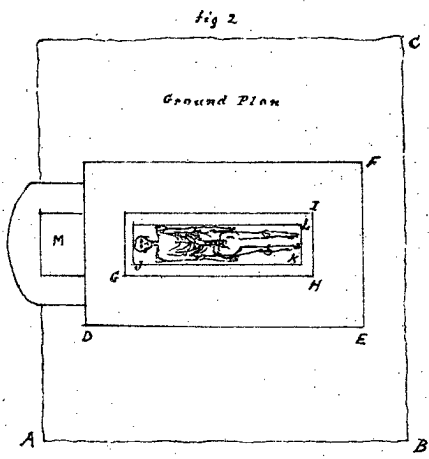
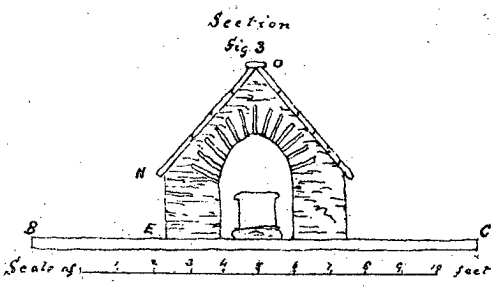


fig 2

Ground Plan

N.E. ←



Section
fig 3

Scale of 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 feet

of sufficient size to admit a portion of the projecting ledge of the tile next below it, so that the under part of one is, as it were, loosely dove-tailed with the upper portion of the next tile. A thick layer of mortar is laid over the junction lines of the contiguous rows, and completely embeds the elevated ledges along the sides of the tiles. Wherever this sort of tiling was exposed above ground, I presume the mortar over the contiguous edges was further protected by other curved tiles, similar to those we place on the ridges of our own roofs. Along the ridge, in this case, was laid a row of hollow flue-bricks, each of them 18 inches long, with a hole on one side. I presume these bricks had been prepared for a Hypocaust, or bath for hot vapour, in the villa; and that they happened to be lying about ready at hand for the workmen who were preparing the tomb. Several of the same description had been worked into the walls of the chamber in one of the Tumuli opened last year.

The N. end of the arched vault has been exposed, by removing a portion of the wall at that end; but the wall at the S. end has been left entire: so that no feature in the tomb has been destroyed which has not a duplicate left, for purposes of comparison or study. The weight and settlement of the superincumbent earth has cracked all the tiles; but, on putting one of them together, I find it measures $15\frac{1}{4}$ by $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick at the edges, and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick in the middle. The coffin appears to have rested upon woodwork, or perhaps had been completely encased; for we found a great many nails, of various sizes from 2 to 12 inches, lying by its side, and among a mass of decayed wood beneath it.

The addition of the little chamber (M) to the north end of the tomb appears to have been an after-thought, for it extends beyond the limits of the concrete foundation. When I first saw this chamber, I expected to find in it the sweepings of a funeral pyre, deposited in some coarse jar; as was the case in the largest of the Bartlow Barrows,

where Mr. Rokewode describes such an one to have been placed on the outside of the *Bustum*.

When I was at Cambridge this spring, delivering my annual course of lectures, I took every opportunity I could command of consulting some of the older standard works on Antiquities in the Public Library and Fitzwilliam Museum, expressly for the purpose of preparing myself for the task of opening this Tumulus, and for maturing my judgment with respect to whatever might be found in it. In the course of my researches, I have met with ample evidence that the conjecture was correct which I hazarded in my former account last year, respecting the real use of Lachrymatories. These were not Tear-vessels, as is almost universally believed—they were vessels for balms and balsams. The hypothesis of their being Tear-vessels originated in an unphilosophical view taken of the contents of one of them by an antiquarian who wrote early in the seventeenth century.* The imaginations of the antiquarians of that day needed a little ballasting with the facts elicited by more modern science, to check their over-exuberance. The dreams of this propounder of Tear-vessels were readily adopted by a crowd of half-observers, half-compilers; but were amply refuted by some of the more learned and careful antiquarians who succeeded them. It does, then, seem somewhat strange to a mere dabbler in this kind of research, that some modern antiquarians should persist in believing the Ancients practised any such custom as bottling up their tears, in order to lay them by the ashes of departed friends. There is no such word as *Lachrymatorium* in our Latin dictionaries.† Let us in future call these vessels *Vasa Unguentaria*. They may all be classed in the same category as that “Alabaster box of very precious ointment,” whose recording in the Gospel is one of

* [The allusion is to J. J. Chifflet, a French physician, whose view became popular. It was defended by Kirchmann, Kipping, and others; but opposed by Schoepflin and Paciaudi, and now generally exploded. See Millin, *Dicl. des*

Beaux Arts, s.v. *Lacrymatoire*.]

† [The word *Lachrymatorium* occurs in Johannes de Janua and elsewhere, but in the sense of *locus lachrymarum*. See Ducange, *Gloss.* s.v.]

the noblest memorials ever circulated to the honour of the faithful. These *Vasa Unguentaria* were often made of alabaster—I possess a very pretty one, said to have been taken from a tomb in Egypt. They were sometimes hermetically sealed, to prevent the escape of the subtle odour; and thus it became necessary to break off the neck to get at the precious contents. I have made some further memoranda on the subject of Urn Burial, which may possibly be interesting to other persons as ignorant as myself on subjects of antiquity. If I can find time to throw them into a presentable shape, I shall hope to offer them in the form of a Lecture to the inhabitants of a neighbourhood which takes so much interest in this sort of research; but when or where I may be able to do this I cannot at present say.

J. H. HENSLOW.

Hitcham, July 12th, 1844.