#### **EXCURSIONS 1986**

Report and notes on some findings

19 April. Clive Paine and Philip Aitkens Risby

St Giles's Church was inspected by members following A.G.M. held there by kind permission of churchwardens, Messrs G. Parker and B. Abrey. Saxon round tower, with Norman nave and chancel originally within area of present nave. Early 13th-century paintings survive on N. nave wall (first published in these *Proceedings*, 1953). Paintings include St Thomas Becket, St Mary Magdalen, St Margaret of Antioch and a Nativity series. Late 13th-century lancet window in N. wall marked E. end of Norman nave, as vertical 'scar' on N. and S. walls confirms. Brass inscription in chancel marks grave of Edward Kirke, rector 1580–1613; friend of poet Spenser, he wrote Preface to his 'Shepheardes Calender', 1579. Kirke later married Helen Buckle, widow of tenant farmer at Charmans manor.

Map and survey, 1594. Risby's unique feature – the three manor houses, Risby Hall, Charmans and Queyes, all adjoin in an island site. Houses remain on site of Risby Hall and Charmans, but Queyes demolished and new house built c. 1530. Map shows three barns and dovehouse at Queyes; three later barns mark their position today. Outline of 'island site' and village green unchanged since 1594. Village pond shown on map and subsequently filled in, re-asserted itself for first time in living memory in 1970s, and is now a permanent feature. Members were able to visit Little Manor (not a manor house) and Lower Farmhouse, both shown on map.

Little Manor. A small 15th-century house which has seen many changes. Formerly – perhaps always – village blacksmith's house. Earliest phase of interest because very few medieval houses remain in rural area N.W. of Bury St Edmunds. Quite complete blackened roof of open hall, but crudely-cut crownpost now adorns Edwardian staircase.

Lower Farmhouse and barn. House improved by prosperous small farmer soon after 1600. Parlour block added to S. (still employing jettied upper floor in medieval manner). Service rooms added to N. using timbers from what he has demolished. Mid-16th-century hall left at centre, with cross-passage and fireplace. Porch added at back door to link with medieval wing which escaped destruction by being useful as service-room — possibly dairy. Lower Farmhouse appears on 1594 map with barn – but on wrong side. A good harvest may have occurred shortly after, and present sturdy aisled barn built on new site. But old barn lives on: many components medieval, some certainly from house, others more likely from barn. Aisled barns much more plentiful in N.W. Suffolk, main grain-producing area: this is a textbook example.

1 May. John Horsman and Gwen Dyke Cratfield, Linstead Magna and Laxfield

Cratfield. Coach paused for members to survey large open area of ancient settlement, the 'field' surviving fragmentarily in Bell Green's vestigial pasture strips; North Green, now largely arable but in 1842 divided between 72 commoners grazing 'one beast each of any age'; and Silverleys Green with Swan Green, where 24 commoners pastured one-year-old beasts or colts. Fine position and building of church and wealth of documentation noted.

Linstead Farm, Cratfield, is on boundary between deserted village centre of Linstead and prosperous Cratfield, which runs N.W. of medieval house (rebuilt in 16th century). Home of John Horsman, it won 1984 top award in Suffolk for conservation and good farming, and also prestigious 1985 Country Life National Award. Mr Horsman led tour of green lanes whose flourishing old hedges, well-managed ponds and plantations with rich flora and fauna were enjoyed and admired.

Linstead Magna. Miss Dyke outlined Linstead's rise and fall. Formerly five farmsteads centred on vanished St Peter's Church and village green. Park Lane and allied field names of Park Meadow, Ladies Green and Spring Field indicated launds and thickets of Hall's former hunting ground. Linstead Farm possibly original hunting lodge, part of Cistercian grange farm of Sibton where selective breeding is recorded in 14th century. One 1327 owner, Thomas Wyde Weeson or Wysson, left mark on fields still called Wessons. Freeman Uluric's flourishing Domesday holding (68 acres arable, wood for 30 hogs, 24 oxen, 4 cows, 1 horse, 20 swine, 30 sheep and 20 goats, worked by 6 villeins) was crossed by maze of lanes linking 16 households in 16th-century population peak, but was then already in decline. Four households left in 1881: population had moved to sheltered valleys of Cratfield and Linstead Parva. Five black patches in arable fields around church site produce many medieval potsherds, evidence of former houses. Church in use in 1881; part ruined 1908; part pulled down 1919–24; last part of ruined 1598 tower collapsed in 1965. Site and gravestones ploughed out c. 1982–83, apparently without local or ecclesiastical comment or opposition.

Laxfield. At lunch members enjoyed facilities of two ancient inns; later two parties alternately visited All Saints Church, where Canon B. Marchant welcomed members and drew attention to exterior flushwork, seven sacrament font, woodcarving of screen and bench ends, and banner-stave locker, while explaining background local history; and Guildhall Museum, where local exhibits and facsimile 19th-century cottage kitchen, village paper shop and shoemaker's shop were enjoyed. Walk down street showed evidence of former green, with earlier houses and sites behind boundary ditch and present infill of old inns, 16th- and 17th-century houses and 1808 Strict and Particular Baptist Chapel, memorial to noted Marian martyr John Noyes, burned to death here in 1556.

28 May. David Butcher Lowestoft

Morning spent in St Margaret's Church, by kind permission of Vicar and Churchwardens; as fine a specimen of East Anglian Perpendicular architecture as any in Suffolk. Hammerbeam roof (restored by Bodley in 1899) and chancel S.E. window of 1819 by Robert Allen the china-painter were admired, and devastation wrought, particularly on the brasses, by Dowsing's deputy Francis Jessup of Beccles on 12 June 1643 (as recorded by James Rowse, Vicar, in the register, vide Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol., VI, 243), was deplored. The unusually complete set of church registers here is of invaluable assistance to Lowestoft historians, of whom we were fortunate to have the most active and devoted as our lecturer and guide.

After lunch, first building visited was aisled timber-framed building of late 15th century purchased in 1720 by John Tanner, Vicar, as parish tithe barn. From there, party explored old part of town, much background information being given about each of some ten town houses examined. A particularly graphic account was given of Civil War confrontation between loyal Suffolk gentry and Cromwell's troops at head of Rant Score in 1644. It was

gratifying to note that only one of twelve original scores linking High Street and Denes had been lost despite massive modernisation of much of town. After descending southernmost score and walking northwards at lower level, viewing seaward sides of High Street houses and gardens and some old fishing-industrial buildings, excursion ended with visit to small but well-established Maritime Museum.

28 June. David Dymond and Sylvia Colman Euston

Members assembled in *Park* to look first at *St Genevieve's Church*, extensively remodelled on medieval foundations in 1676 at instigation of Lord Arlington and unique in Suffolk for style and quality of architecture and fittings, which reflect Classical and Baroque trends and were fortunately left almost unmolested by restrained Victorian restoration. Architect unknown; mystery surrounds question of how much of medieval fabric survives: old rubble flint walling of tower remains, heightened and encased in 17th-century brick and render; unexplained discrepancies in rest of structure. Work of remodelling certainly carried out far too rapidly to have been (as often claimed) complete rebuilding. Lord Arlington's monument dominates S. aisle; nave walls filled with memorial tablets and brasses to members of FitzRoy family, his descendants through marriage of his only daughter with 1st Duke of Grafton.

Euston Hall. Eleventh Duke of Grafton welcomed members and spoke of history of house, in particular of fine collection of family portraits. From late 15th century, estate belonged to Rokewood family, who probably rebuilt house in Elizabethan times; when Lord Arlington bought estate in 1660s he enlarged and lavishly remodelled old Hall. Again remodelled by Matthew Brettenham in 1750s on instructions of 2nd Duke; N. front in particular characteristic of his somewhat severe style. Serious fire destroyed more than half the house, 1902; hastily and shoddily rebuilt. Rebuilt range, apart from large dining room, demolished in early 1950s. After lunch, party re-assembled outside N. gate of park, where originally cross-roads had existed. In late 17th century, main road from Thetford to Ixworth diverted to other side of valley and original course became merely track across park towards church. Road converging on Euston bridge from Coney Weston also abandoned; line still marked by massive tree-belt forming N. boundary of park. Although Euston looks classic estate-village, it undoubtedly conceals buildings of several different dates, some going back at least to 16th century. Probably took on present external uniformity in 19th century. Attention was also drawn to wall bounding kitchen gardens of Hall: this contains many re-used and moulded stones, probably stripped from exterior of Lord Arlington's 'palace' when Matthew Brettenham 'georgianized' it in 1750s.

Watermill, which is unusual, is clearly of at least two periods. While it contains brickwork and some machinery which are probably late 17th-century, it was later remodelled to look like church – perhaps by Capability Brown.

Though archway commanding western skyline was proposed by William Kent, it was probably built decades later. Lies on axis of great avenue of trees laid out across park in 1670s by Lord Arlington in consultation with John Evelyn. From this vantage point, one can see relics of that avenue on opposite skyline, lining up with centre of Hall and King Charles's Gate.

Also visited were pleasure grounds on S. of Hall, where several of straight hedged walks created by Arlington and drawn by Henry Prideaux c. 1716 are still visible. Excursion concluded at handsome Temple or Banqueting House designed by Kent and dated 1746.

5–7 September. Hilary Feldman Canterbury Friday 5th

Lecture by Paul Bennett, Director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust. Mr Bennett supported his lecture by slides of finds and excavations; members were carried along by his enthusiasm and energy, and given a good grounding to explore city on following day.

#### Saturday 6th

Members were privileged to have as guide Mrs Margorie Lyle, education officer for Canterbury Archaeological Trust, whose wealth of knowledge and infectious enjoyment undoubtedly contributed to success of weekend.

St Augustine's Abbey. On this ruined site were seen remains of Saxon churches of St Pancras and St Mary, SS Peter and Paul, latter two largely rebuilt and incorporated into abbey church of St Augustine's. Remains of frater, infirmary and dorters could also be seen.

Cathedral and Precincts. Begun by Lanfranc 1070–76. Present nave aisles and transepts are his foundation. Crypt and choir of his successor Anselm remain. Monastic buildings to N. also belong to Lanfranc and Anselm. Murder of Beckett prompted fresh work including new choir-arcades, vaults, Trinity Chapel and Corona. Nave and aisles rebuilt 1378–1405, main transepts and their E. chapels during period up to 1468, S.W. tower rebuilt 1424–34 and central one begun 1496.

St Thomas's Hospital. Founded c. 1180 as refuge for sick pilgrims. Fine vaulted crypt and crown post roof in refectory.

Richborough Fort. Probable site of landing of Claudius's invasion, A.D. 43. Defensive ditches of this period have been found. A little later granaries and other wooden buildings built. Large marble clad monument erected c. A.D. 85; evidence for bronze statuary. In 2nd half of 3rd century, earth fort with triple ditches constructed. Slightly later, great stone walls of Saxon Shore Fort built and ditches filled in. These walls are most prominent feature of site, 25ft high in places. Later in 3rd century, smaller earth fort constructed within walls centred on great monument, which may have become signalling station.

Dover Castle commands harbour for shortest crossing to Continent and has been fortified in almost every period in English history. Earliest visible work that of Henry II in 1180s, including great tower keep, walls, towers and gateways of inner bailey, and section of outer curtain wall. Major work in Napoleonic period to adapt castle for guns somewhat changed its appearance and had unhappy results for medieval structure. Members viewed Roman lighthouse and church of St Mary in Castro, Saxon in date but much restored.

Barfreystone Church. Little Norman church of St Nicholas, one of most highly decorated of its size in Britain, was a delight for all. Elaborate series of carvings date to 1180–85. Famous S. door depicts God's dominion over all things. E. end also very ornate. In centre of pediment, circular window surrounded by sculptured animal heads, contending beasts and angels set amidst flowers and foliage. Niche to left of window shows St Martin of Tours on horseback sharing cloak with beggar of Amiens. Seventy-five grotesque corbels add to decoration. Inside equally splendid; richly moulded chancel arch. Church bell fixed at top of yew tree in churchyard.

After enjoyable meal at the Slatters Hotel, manager gave members unexpected bonus of seeing part of Roman wall surviving in cellar.

#### Sunday 7th

Brook Church. Norman with massive tower; remarkable for 13th-century wall paintings in nave. Of estimated 100 scenes, 60 still visible. Chancel shows Betrayal, Road to Calvary and Entombment. Medieval tiles, masons' marks and consecration crosses survive in sanctuary.

Chilham. Picturesque but touristy village on Pilgrims' Way to Canterbury. Square of half-timbered houses between church and gates of Chilham Castle. Late medieval houses, shops and inns, many refaced with brick in 18th century. Castle has Norman keep and Jacobean mansion built in 1616 for Sir Dudley Digges. Church has 15th-century tower with chequer work of flint and stone.

Wye Church. Thirteenth-century, restored in 15th by Archbishop Kempe. Tower fell in 1686, destroying chancel and transepts. A small chancel rebuilt in 18th-century style looks incongruous with mixture of neo-gothic and baroque. Monuments include splendid brass of Alice Palmer, her two husbands and eleven children.

Westgate examined on return to Canterbury: built in 1380 by Archbishop Sudbury to deter the French; the latest in military architecture, with impenetrable pair of towers, portcullis and drawbridge.

Lunch taken in the Weaver's House, 15th-century jettied building with access to river.

# 27 September. Amanda Arrowsmith, Edith Freeman and Peter Northeast Sudbury

'The Members of the Institute and their friends assembled at the Railway Station, Sudbury at 10 o'clock. Here they were met by. . Mr W. W. Hodson, who ably acted as local secretary and guide.' So began account of visit of S.I.A. to Sudbury on 5 Oct. 1886. Members visited churches of All Saints, St Gregory and St Peter; saw exhibition of borough records and geological specimens at Town Hall; and held A.G.M. at 'Rose and Crown'; all before lunch! One hundred years later, members met at Railway Station at 11 o'clock and proceeded to visit three churches and market area of town.

Members had copies of 1714 map of Sudbury and, following introductory talk by Edith Freeman, walked around centre of town. Site of *Butcher's Shambles*, *Butter Cross*, *Cage* and surviving buildings around *Market Hill* examined.

All Saints' Church. In medieval times there were chapels dedicated to Jesus, Our Lady and St Katherine. N. aisle was being rebuilt in 1645, its pews being then modelled on those in (earlier) S. aisle. Felton chantry chapel (on S.) present by 1487.

St Gregory's Church. Small chapel at E. end of N. aisle was noted – the addition of Simon of Sudbury (whose pickled head still supplements verger's income) in memory of his parents, though he is often, wrongly, credited with building most or all of church. Niche survives at W. end of S. aisle in which was famous statue, Our Lady of Sudbury (not, as suggested in Grimwood and Kaye, in Lady Chapel). Money left to building of tower, 1384 and towards painting of marvellous font cover, 1533.

#### EXCURSIONS

St Peter's Church. Lack of churchyard due to St Peter's for long being chapel to St Gregory's. Here was another chapel of Our Lady and altar where 'oure Lady shewde miracles' according to a will of 1497. Font new in 1456.

During day, reference made to image of St Christopher and possible gild of that name, so accounting for Christopher Inn and Lane. Sudbury gilds included those dedicated to St James, St Mary, St Gregory, St Michael, St Peter, St John and St George, but no mention of a gild of St Christopher has so far been found.

Clive Paine, Hon. Excursions Secretary

### **LECTURES**

January	18	At Ipswich: 'Searching for the Kingdom', by John Newman, B.A.	
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- March 1 At Bury St Edmunds: 'Pakenham: Roman Fort and Town', by Judith Plouviez, B.A..
- March 22 At Ipswich: 'The Anatomy of a Slum: the Rope Walk Area of Ipswich in the 1880s', by Frank Grace, M.A..
- October 11 At Bury St Edmunds: 'The Riches of British Archaeology', by Andrew Selkirk, M.A., F.C.A.
- November 8 At Ipswich: 'Epidemic Disease in Seventeenth-Century Suffolk', by John Dickson.
- December 6 At Bury St Edmunds: 'A Suffolk Historian's Debt to Domesday Book', by Norman Scarfe, M.A., F.S.A.

### MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 1986

During the year 30 members were elected and, after taking into account resignations, the membership now stands at 733, a net increase of 2.

Atienza, A.D., 35 Hospital Road, Bury St Edmunds.

Brett, Mr and Mrs S., Rise Holme, Cromford Lane, Snape.

Brown, Mrs S., 58 Sidegate Lane, Ipswich.

Burrow-Ellis, Mr and Mrs R., 25 Model Cottages, Bawdsey, Woodbridge.

Chaproniere, D. M., 7 The Maltings, Walsham-le-Willows, Bury St Edmunds.

De Rouche, Mrs C. D., 32 Warren Lane, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich.

Flemming, Mr and Mrs W., 7 Kettleburgh Road, Framlingham.

Hayward, J., 12 Preston Avenue, Highams Park, London.

Holmes, Mr and Mrs D., 5 Salters Lane, Walpole, Halesworth.

Holmes, Mr and Mrs F., 17 Orchard Close, Melton, Woodbridge.

Lloyd, Mrs V. E., Cross Green Cottage, Cross Green, Cockfield.

Manning, Mr and Mrs D. R., 32 Barons Close, Halesworth. Medway, Lord, Great Glemham House, Saxmundham.

Oakley, A., Clare Cottage, Shop Row, Chediston.

Perkins, Mr and Mrs N., Briar Banks, Church Lane, Westerfield, Ipswich.

Posner, K., 16 Mill View Close, Woodbridge.

Ryder-Richardson, Dr and Mrs J. P., Westhill, Saxmundham.

Smith, Mr and Mrs A., Denekamper Strasse 8, 4460 Nordhorn, West Germany.

Titchiner, M., The Duke, Chediston Green, Halesworth.

Welstand, Mr and Mrs P. F., 5 The Winthrops, Edwardstone.

#### N

## SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1986

			ILLIANT OF THE PER	NO MI SISI DEC	DIVIDER 1300		
1985							
Ĺ	Accumulated Fund	Ĺ	£	1985			
	Balance brought forward			Ĺ	Current Assets	£	£
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					'Dame Alice de Bryene' in sto	rck	
					valued at cost		
					£356.48 (£404.54 198	(5)	

1 have examined the books and accounts of the Institute and in my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Institute at 31st December 1986 and of the income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1986

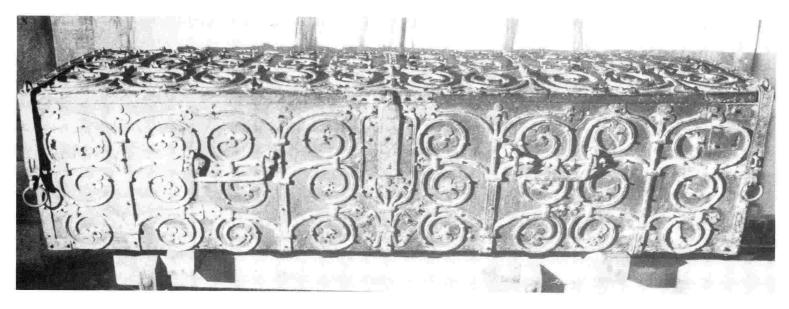
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6.30	Lectures (less receipts).		5.85		68.12			68.37
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The Chelsworth charter, A.D. 962 (B.L. Harley Charter 43 C 37).

By permission of the British Library C. HART and A. SYME

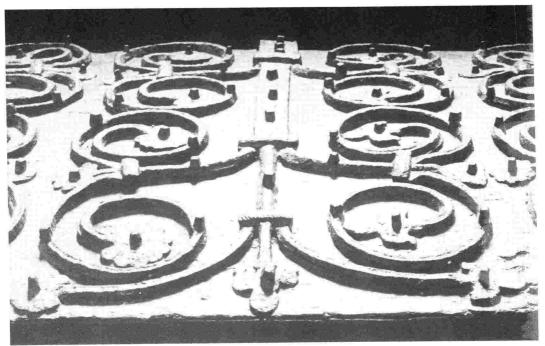
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The Icklingham chest, front (photo: Dr J. Agate).

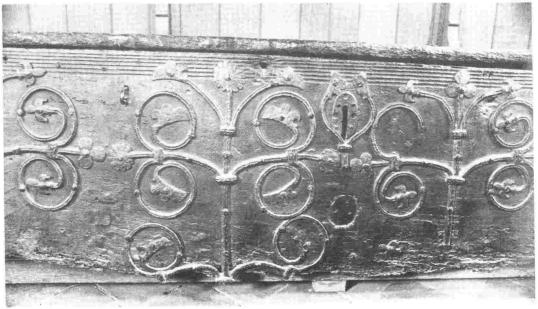
J. GEDDES AND D. SHERLOCK

### PLATE XIIa



The Icklingham chest: detail of lid.

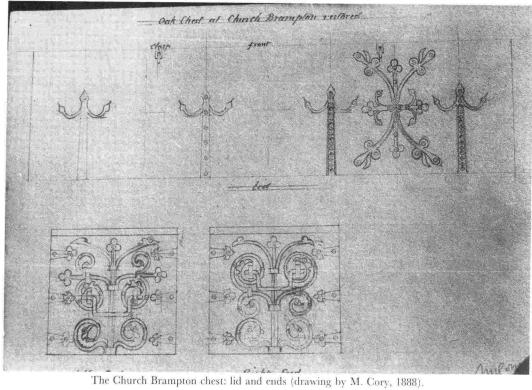
### PLATE XIIb



The Church Brampton chest: front.

J. GEDDES AND D. SHERLOCK

### PLATE XIIIa

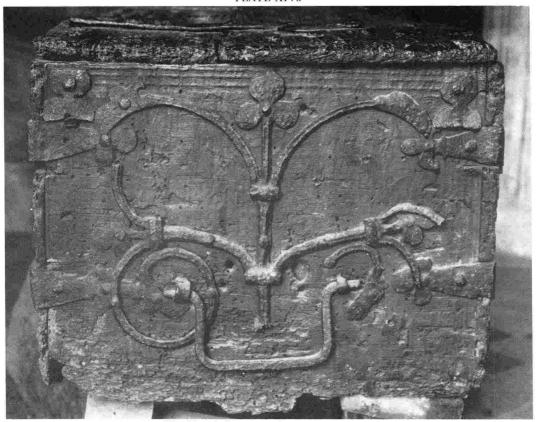


### PLATE XIIIb



J. GEDDES AND D. SHERLOCK

### PLATE XIVa



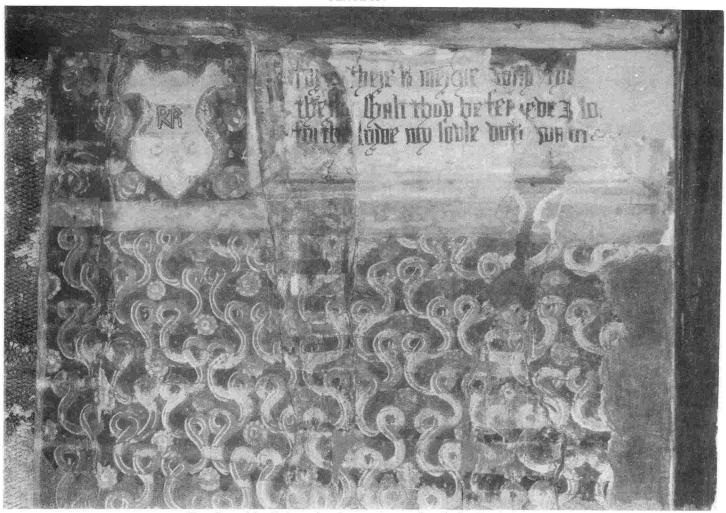
The Church Brampton chest: detail of end.

### PLATE XIVb

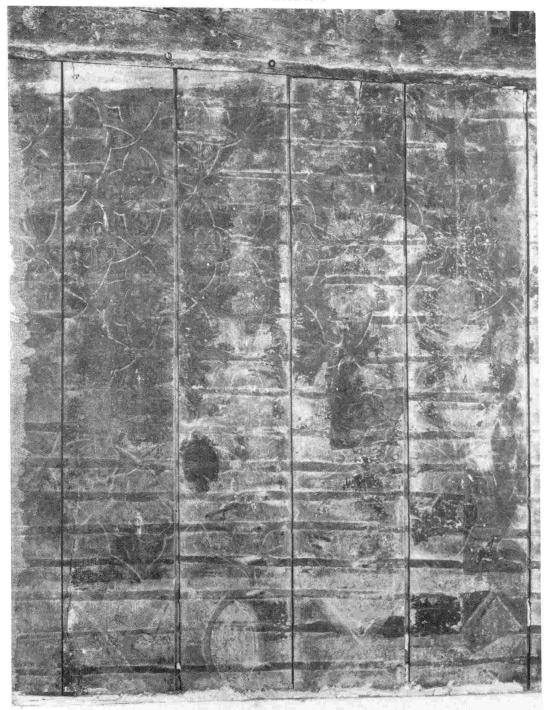


Terminals of the Icklingham, Church Brampton and Tythby chests compared.

J. GEDDES AND D. SHERLOCK



Elms Farm, Mendlesham: first floor, end room. Detail of wall painting.



Elms Farm, Mendlesham: first floor, centre room. Detail of wooden partition wall with traces of painted decoration.

By permission of the National Monuments Record J. MICHEL AND D. PARK

#### PLATE XVII



Elms Farm, Mendlesham: ground floor room. Stencilled decoration on north wall.

By permission of the National Monuments Record J. MICHEL AND D. PARK

#### PLATE XVIII



Elms Farm, Mendlesham: ground floor room. Stencilled designs above fireplace.

### SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

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The cover illustration of the great gold buckle from the Sutton Hoo ship burial was produced by Geoffrey Moss and is published by courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum.

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