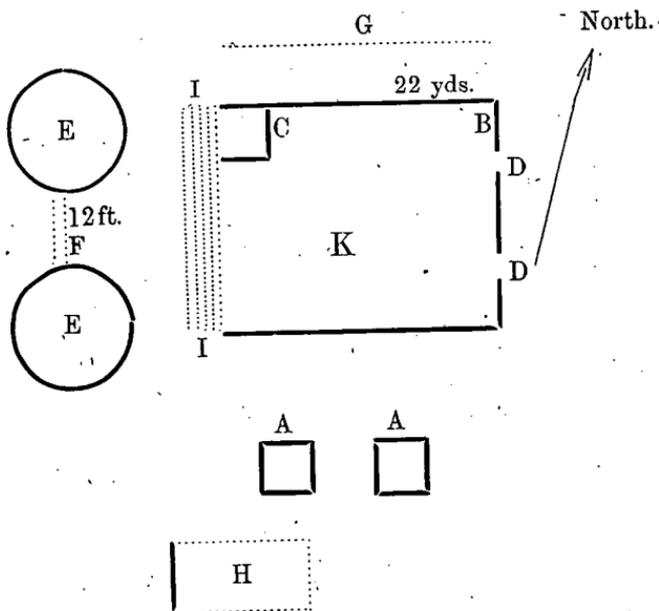


NOTES ON
RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT BUNGAY CASTLE.

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The river Waveney, which now divides Norfolk from Suffolk, turns from its eastward course just above the town of Bungay, and after flowing north, north-west, east, and south-east, enclosing a horse-shoe space, turns again eastward. About a mile below the town is the ancient ford, called Wanney-ford in old maps, now Wainford, the lowest fordable point on the river, and to my mind the crossing of the river in the IXth route of Antonine's Itinerary, on the road between *Venta Icenorum* (Norwich) and *Sitomagus* (Dunwich).



Shortly after this northward bend, an irregular line of earthworks appears on the east bank of the river, not at all required for protection against floods, while the west side is a wide marsh entirely unprotected.

Partly occupying the northern end of these earthworks, but passing considerably beyond their limits stands the well-known Bungay Castle, the home of Hugh Bigod.

Excavations recently made have brought to light certain details which appear to be of considerable importance, and are indicated by A A, C, and I I, in the rough plan above.

A A. Air-shafts communicating with a room about 14ft. square, about 14ft. in depth.

B. Remains of staircase.

C. The castle well, square, as in some other instances, and with the plaster but little injured. It was evidently continued upward to the floor of a large chamber, the height of which, some 12ft. from the ground as the place now is, is indicated by the projection of the walls.

The first digging was continued to the depth of 48ft. or so without finding water, which was evidently prevented from rising by the mass of stones thrown into the well. Subsequently the pump-trees were found and taken out, and the water reached.

D.D. Deeply splayed openings, about 2ft. wide at the outer surface.

E.E. Round towers.

F. Traces of curtain.

G. Traces of foundations to the north.

I I. Traces of foundations to the west, very large ashlar, beginning about 4ft. below the surface, and continuing staircase wise.

Mr. Philpot, landlord of the "King's Head" Hotel, says that the Courses are set back after they have oversailed.

N.B.—The west wall has fallen.

K. The Keep.

H. A large irregular mass of masonry.

In one of the shafts A A., a small hand-mill stone about 7in. diameter with a hole $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. in the middle—of some hard grit (? Yorkshire) was discovered.

There are apparently two foundations to the Keep, indicating that the present structure was erected on the site of one older.

CONVERSAZIONE AT BURY S. EDMUND'S, 1890.

On Monday Evening, February 17, 1890, a very large and successful meeting of this Institute was held at the Athenæum. The Committee formed for carrying out the arrangements, consisted of the Mayor (H. Lacy Scott, Esq.), Lord John Hervey, Major Gelston, Dr. Macnab, Algernon B. Bevan, Esq., R. Burrell, Esq., and Rev. T. Frodsham.

The Hall was fitted in the centre like a drawing-room, whilst a temporary museum had been arranged to occupy the sides of the building, the platform having been furnished to represent a mediæval apartment.

The temporary museum, which was contributed to by a large number of members of the Institute, was eminently attractive. The objects forwarded for exhibition comprised the following:—

Mr. Robert Burrell contributed an interesting collection of Neolithic Flint Implements found at Westley, and also an early British Cinerary Urn, containing human bones, the urn having been discovered in a shallow tumulus in Old Heath. There were also some spear heads, &c., found in brick earth in the valley of the Linnet, at Westley, and a Roman mortarium, &c., found on Messrs. Burrell and King's land at Pakenham, on the south-west side of Ixworth Bridge.

Mr. Walton Burrell exhibited a collection of spear heads, knives, &c., found at Fornham S. Martin in 1888-9, while digging for gravel, about 18 inches from the surface. Upon the site were also discovered many skeletons, the place being apparently an ancient burial ground. There were also found with the above, two shield bosses and a bronze pan or bowl, which was found resting on the leg bones of a skeleton.

There were also exhibited by Sir William Gilstrap, Bart., an ancient sword discovered when draining land near the River Lark. It is supposed to have been lost at the Battle of Fornham, *temp.* Henry II. The sword bears the inscription, "Homine Domine," in characters of gold.

Major Gelston sent a large and interesting exhibit, comprising a collection of Chinese Coins from 2254 B.C. to 960 A.D., also a set of Chinese Charms, numbering upwards of 140. There were also four icons from sarcophagi, found in the tomb of Kabit-el-Hawa, at Assouan, and a water bottle and stand from the same place. There were three old vases, the largest standing over 30 inches high, and was for holding corn, a smaller one being for the wine, and a much smaller one for the oil. There were also three pieces of sarcophagus from Egypt, and four specimens of carving from Aboo Simbel, Egypt, and one from the Temple of Denderah, also from the tombs of the Kings of Thebes, Luxor, and a portion of the Temple of Kom Ombo. An interesting feature was a Japanese Clock, of date 1640, and still in good working order. Other exhibits included a mummy bird from Thebes, a full-

length icon, and a Medjidie Star, supposed to have been made from bullets struck by General Gordon at Khartoum, and issued to his native troops at that place, as an earnest that when he came down he would further reward them.

The exhibits by the Mayor were of an interesting character. There was an old square piano, bearing the following inscription: "Johannes Zumpe et Bunlebart, Londini, fecerunt 1770; Princess Street, Hanover Square." Zumpe was the first maker of square pianos (in 1760), which soon gained an ascendancy over the grand. In the International Exhibition of 1862, a piano of this shape, dated 1772, was declared to be the oldest pianoforte in England, but the existence of the one above mentioned, with the authentic date 1770, proves it to be of earlier date. At the time of its manufacture the pianoforte was quite an innovation, for there is a "play bill" still in existence, from which the following extract is taken—"For the benefit of Miss Brickler, May 16th, 1767. At the end of the first act Miss Brickler will sing a favourite song from 'Judith,' accompanied by Mr. Dibdin, on a new instrument called the pianoforte." The Mayor also showed a collection of antique furniture, including Chippendale chairs, a Cromwell table, a clock, with inlaid marquetry representing birds and foliage, the latter in green ivory, a rare feature; and an ebony chair, &c., the furniture being arranged to represent an Early English room; other exhibits shown by the Mayor, included a portion of the original dinner set of the 1st West Suffolk Regiment; and an ivy-leaf brass fender; also a large collection of framed rare prints of Bury S. Edmund's.

Miss Raynbird sent an original spinning jenny, &c.

Mr. Spaniton furnished a number of prints and photographs of local interest, also Downing's and Warren's plans of Bury S. Edmund's (1740 and 1747).

Miss Lathbury exhibited a beautiful old filigree box worked by her grandmother while at school in 1740; and interesting specimens of the work of the early part of the 18th century, needle-work of Queen Elizabeth's reign, comprising specimens of christening shirts, &c.

Mr. H. R. Barker showed a collection of almanacks for the years 1688—1690.

Miss Smith a couple of candlesticks made of the Spanish cannon destroyed at Gibraltar, September 7th and 14th, 1781.

Mr. T. Waddelow an iron sword blade and a spear head dug up at Undley Fen, and a bronze bangle and a bronze bracelet from the arm and leg of a human skeleton at Eriswell, three red deer horns, a fallow deer horn, and a roebuck, horn, all from Undley Fen; there were also some foreign flint and stone arrow heads, &c.

Mr. J. R. Thompson showed an interesting collection of portraits and prints.

Mr. Norgate a collection of cases of birds and animals, cases of flint implements, entomological specimens, prints, &c.

Mr. G. J. Oliver forwarded a collection of old wine bottles, some of

date 1771; also a water coloured sketch of "the departure of Captain Poole, from St. Edm'ds Bury," in a balloon, 15th October, 1785.

Mr. Fenton, Bury, a portrait of Mr. Kynnesman, late head master of the Bury Grammar School.

Mr. Alfred Wainwright exhibited a map of the Great Level, and a book on drainage of Fens.

Mr. Charles Scott Kilner a Chinese implement for self-inflicted torture.

Miss Lathbury lent an old family box, bound in brass, and bearing the letters I.G.

Mr. Prigg exhibited a collection of articles illustrative of his paper, and several flint implements found in and about Bury S. Edmund's, from the valley deposit and high loam, &c., of the river Lark. Also a collection of flint arrow heads from West Stow and Icklingham.

Mr. J. S. Corder, of Ipswich, showed some admirable sketches executed by himself, of the old houses at Bury S. Edmund's, and some pen and ink sketches of Lavenham.

Mrs. Pead sent an ancient Atlas, entitled *The world described, or a new and correct sett of maps*, published by John Bowles, London, folio, n.d.

Mr. A. M. Clarke, 45, Crown Street, family wills, over 400 years old.

Mr. G. A. Partridge, original pardon of Col. Disbrowe and translation.

Mr. E. Sparke, Cornhill, old parchment of rates of S. James', Bury, 1706.

Mr. Smythe shewed Lord Byron's card case, and flask.

The Corporation plate was exhibited on a table placed in a conspicuous position. It included the Silver Punch-bowl, the Gold Maces (inscribed "1729 Wm. Allen Ald."), the sword and scabbard, the chain and badge, the latter bearing head of King George III., and the motto, "Quo fonte derivatus honor;" and the two silver loving cups.

The first paper read was that of Mr. H. Prigg, who gave an account of some excavations upon the site of a Roman Cemetery, at Icklingham.

Mr. Edward M. Beloe, of King's Lynn, contributed a few remarks upon

AN ABSOLUTION CROSS FOUND AT BURY S. EDMUND'S.

He illustrated his remarks by exhibiting the cross, which was, according to tradition, found at Bury S. Edmund's. He said that he found in the *Bury Post* newspaper of November 16th, 1791, mention of the discovery of two stone coffins in the *Cemeterium Fratrum* of the Abbey. It said "in each of them was found a leaden crucifix inscribed on one side, *Cruz xti triumphat*, and on the reverse, *Cruz xti pellit hostem*," this inscription being the same as that upon the cross referred to by the speaker, confirmed the tradition of its having been found at Bury. The crosses were found on the breasts of the deceased. The speaker was informed by Mr. St. John Hope that notices of similar crosses were to be found in the *Archæologia*, Vol. xxxv., p. 299,