

to an expert on mediæval ships, the late Mr. Brindley, of St. John's College, Cambridge. Mr. Brindley, being on holiday at the time made only a cursory examination of the rubbing and dated the graffito at c. 1400 ; mentioning that it was rather like a graffito of a ship in the crypt of Doncaster Church. But this date would be earlier than that of the tower of Newbourne Church.

Further rubbings have now been taken, as illustrated at A, and the National Maritime Museum has been approached for an opinion as to date. Mr. Naish, Assistant Director writes, on the 9th April, 1949 ; " As the ship is a three-master, we can say that the date is about 1450 or later. I don't think it is much later and would myself say that between 1450 and 1500 is the closest approximation that we can give to the date of the ship in this interesting scratch drawing."

The view is of the starboard side of the ship from a little forward of the bows ; this is shown clearly in B, where all the irrelevant marks in A have been blacked out. She appears as a sea-going ship of deep draught, with a large forecastle running forward as a beak-head, and an after-stage, and the bulwarks are carefully shown. The upper line of the double lines of the keel is probably a mistake, the lower line being the artists' correction.

She has a short foremast with shrouds, forestay, and lowered yard. A main mast with large topcastle amidships, with shrouds and ratlines, and yard hoisted ; with a topmast and its shrouds, and topsail yard lowered. And a small mizzen mast with a lateen yard. This rig would indicate a date between 1450 and 1500, possibly during the latter half of that period.

Newbourne is situated about five miles from the mouth of the River Deben (now Felixstowe Ferry) and what was, in the 15th and 16th centuries, the busy Port of Gosford. Although quite unsupported by evidence it is permissible to imagine that the drawer of the graffito was a sailor, a Newbourne man, home from a voyage in this his ship, then lying at anchor in the Port.

A. WELFORD.

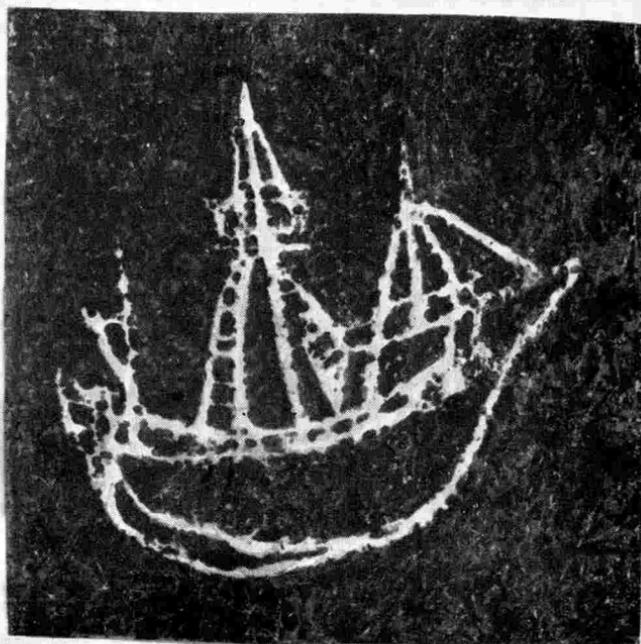
Excavations of the Abbey Ruins, Bury St. Edmunds.—Investigations which have recently been carried out in the vicinity of the Chancel of the main Abbey Church, Bury St. Edmunds, under the direction of Mr. Norman C. Goldsmith, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and Mr. H. J.-M. Maltby, Curator of Moyses's Hall, have revealed some interesting discoveries. These investigations were commenced on the 13th December, 1948 and were continued for several weeks.

The excavators were fortunate in selecting the position of the first trench, as a masonry wall covered with mediæval plaster was discovered almost immediately. This wall has been traced almost to its foundations, about 14 feet below the ground level, and is without doubt the main west wall of the original crypt. The plaster-work is in excellent condition, and there are faint indications of the original *tempera* paintings. One of the main central piers complete with the springing of the original vault was also found. This early Norman vaulting is probably a semi-circular barrel vault with the piers spaced at regular intervals. Unfortunately the

A



B



Graffito of Ship at Newbourne Church.

vaulting has gone, but this was only to be expected, and the crypt now full of rubble and other debris needs to be carefully removed. Endeavours have been made to find the original steps leading to the crypt, but so far without success. In this connection, the top of a wall running diagonally across the trench has been exposed. As this wall does not conform to the usual Norman plan it may well be a portion of the original Saxon Church.

Attempts were made to locate one of the main crypt pillars at the commencement of the apse. This apse, in common with the majority of the large Norman churches of its day, such as Canterbury and Norwich is of a semi-circular form, with an ambulatory, connecting the north and south chancel aisles. The remains of a pier have probably been found complete with the vault springing.

This preliminary work has established the existence of the original crypt, and though the vaulting has disappeared a great amount of useful information would be obtained if the whole of the crypt were cleared and properly excavated.

During the work a number of pieces of moulded masonry, glazed tiles, fragments of mediæval pottery, and a small piece of stained glass were found. It is hoped that further work will be carried out in the future under the supervision of the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Ministry of Works.

H.J.M.M.

Finds.—The following finds in West Suffolk, during 1947, are now in Moyses's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.

1. Roman Amphora, First Century A.D., of course, gritty buff-ware, Height 2 feet 10½ ins. Found at Kedington during the preparation of foundations of a house. The vessel lacks a small portion of the spike, but apart from a fracture at the base of the neck, since repaired, it is otherwise perfect.

2. Two very fine neolithic flint celts, one from Thelnetham, presented by Mr. R. Payne, and the other from Hengrave, found and presented by Mr. David Hewitt, of Bury St. Edmunds.

H.J.M.M.