

A FACE-MOULD FROM THE ROMANO-BRITISH KILN SITE AT HOMERSFIELD

By NORMAN SMEDLEY, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A. and ELIZABETH OWLES, B.A.

During quarrying operations at Homersfield in 1963, a mould for the production of face-masks for the embellishment of pottery jugs was found by Mr. L. Burford. It was later presented, through the efforts of Rhys Edwards, a student at the Bungay Grammar School, to the Ipswich Museum (I.M. 963-74).

The mould (Plate XXX and Fig. 29) was found near the site of a kiln excavated in 1959,¹ the archaeological dating for which was 3rd—4th century A.D., although archaeomagnetic tests suggested an earlier date. The exterior measurements of the mould are:—

Length	3 inches
Greatest width	2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches

The average thickness of the clay is $\frac{1}{5}$ of an inch, giving a mask of approximately 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 1 $\frac{4}{5}$ inches.

The features are naturalistic, but the hair somewhat stylised. On either side of the throat is a spiral coil. The mould therefore falls into a category intermediate between the two types described by Professor J. M. C. Toynebee in her notes on the mask-mould found at Horspath, near Oxford.²

The back of the mould bears a strong, firmly applied handle, a bar nearly two inches in length, by $\frac{7}{10}$ of an inch in width and $\frac{2}{5}$ of an inch deep. In this it differs from both of the two other examples quoted here.

A number of jugs or fragments bearing masks are known, but the writers of this note have so far heard of only two other moulds. One is that from Horspath, to which reference has already been made. The other was found by Mr. E. A. H. Ward, about the year 1960, at Stibbington, near Castor, following excavations by Mr. Brian Hartley. It is now in the Peterborough Museum, and as an account of it will be included in Mr. Hartley's report on the excavations at Water Newton, it is not discussed in detail here, but a

¹ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxviii, part 2 (1959), pp. 168–184. The report that it was found in another kiln destroyed by workmen in 1963 (*Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxix, part 3 (1963)) proved to be inaccurate.

² *Art in Roman Britain* (1962), catalogue no. 163, Plates 166, 167, 168. See also *Oxoniensia* (1952–3), pp. 231–4, Plate 21, a–e.



FIG. 29.—Roman Face-Mould from Homersfield ($\frac{1}{2}$).

photograph of a cast made from the mould is reproduced for comparison (Plate XXXI, *a*). It is rather smaller (2 inches by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches) than either the Homersfield mould or that from Horspath ($2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length).

A jug from Colchester,³ in the Castle Museum, bears a mask somewhat resembling the Homersfield example as regards the face and hair.

The Ipswich Museum possesses a fragment (I.M. 958-158), from Grimstone End, Pakenham (TL/936693), comprising the neck of a jug complete with face, the features coarser than those of the Homersfield mould, the hair stylised, the hair and cheeks coloured with brown (perhaps originally red) paint, and a band of the same colour round the neck (Plate XXXI, *b*).

Another Suffolk example, this time a complete jug, was found in the enclosure of the Saxon Shore Fort at Burgh Castle;⁴ it is now in the Castle Museum, Norwich. In the account given by A. J. Morris it is described as 'Rhenish ware', but it is undoubtedly of local manufacture. The treatment of the hair and features bears a resemblance to that of the Homersfield mask, but like the Horspath example it is surmounted by a high triangular head-dress. As in the case of the jug from Colchester, the body is decorated with a design in red paint.

The discovery of the mould at Homersfield, in such close proximity to the kiln site, seems to make it certain that it was used in the decoration of pottery made in one or other of the kilns there, and it is therefore surprising that no sherds of these jugs were included in the considerable quantity of pottery recovered.

³ R. J. Charleston, *Roman Pottery* (1955), Plate 77.

⁴ A. J. Morris, *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxiv (1949), p. 116 and fig. 7, 1.

PLATE XXX



a, Roman Face-Mould from Homersfield ($\frac{1}{3}$).



b, Cast from the Homersfield mould ($\frac{1}{3}$).

PLATE XXXI



a, Cast from face-mould found at
Stibbington, Northants (†).



b, Neck of Jug from
Grimstone End, Pakenham (†).

**REPORT,
BALANCE SHEET, ETC.**

1965

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REPORT FOR 1965

During the year 19 Ordinary and 6 Associate members were elected. Resignations accounted for 36 Ordinary, 8 Associate and 1 Life members, resulting in a net decrease of 20.

Membership at the year's end was:

Ordinary members	452
Associate members	132
Life members	37
Honorary members	7
	628

Excursions.—The following excursions were held:—

May	29	St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft; Somerleyton Church; Haddiscoe Church; Worlingham Hall.
July	3	Barking Church; Timberleys, Barking Tye; Wetherden Church; Great Ashfield Church; Anglo-Saxon cross at Great Ashfield House.
July	29	Fornham Priory, Bury St. Edmunds; Icklingham All Saints Church; Mildenhall Church; Lakenheath Church.
Sept.	2	Otley Church, Hall and High House; Playford Hall.
Sept.	23	Levington Church; Landguard Fort, Felixstowe; Brightwell Church; Newbourne Hall and Old Rectory.

Lectures.—The following lectures were held jointly with the Ipswich Historical Society:—

Feb.	16	'Poor relief in Elizabethan Ipswich' by Mr. John Webb.
March	10	'Constable' by Dr. Mary Woodall.
April	13	'East Anglian Castles' (illustrated) by Dr. R. Allen Brown.
Sept.-Nov.		A course of 10 Cambridge University Extension Lectures on 'Ten Suffolk towns' by Mr. Norman Scarfe.

Members were also invited to attend lectures held by the Bury St. Edmunds Past and Present Society.

Finance.—Although our bank balance at the year's end was down by £200, a claim amounting to £209, for recovery of Income Tax on covenanted subscriptions for the two years, 1964 and 1965, had already been lodged but payment was received too late for inclusion in the accounts now presented. If this item is taken into account we are, in fact, better off by £9.

Our holding in 3% Funding Stock shows a profit of £110 on cost (in 1961).

Income for the year, on investments and bank interest, amounted to £144.

The sum of £50 has again been allocated to our Excavation Fund, which was established in 1962 to provide financial assistance towards archaeological excavations in the County.

The Council has agreed to make a further donation of £19 10s. 0d. in 1966, to the Basil Brown Fund, in order to enable the monthly payments to be extended until the end of 1966—the fifth year.

The Council has also approved a gift of £50 to the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds, restoration fund, and it is expected that this will be used for lighting fittings in the foyer.

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

				<i>Receipts</i>					
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bank Balances: 31 December 1964	...	...	...				619	5	9
Subscriptions:									
Ordinary members	...	...	...	468	15	6			
Life members	...	...	...	20	0	0			
							488	15	6
Donation	...	...	...				2	2	0
Dividends on Investments:									
Hunts. County Council Loan	...	...	...	76	15	8			
3% Funding Stock	...	...	...	30	0	0			
							106	15	8
Bank Interest:									
Lloyds Bank	...	...	...	5	9	5			
Trustee Savings Bank	...	...	...	32	10	6			
							37	19	11
Sale of Publications	...	...	...				32	12	0
Receipts from Excursions and Lectures	...	...	...				16	10	0
							£1,304 0 10		

				<i>Assets</i>					
				£	s.	d.			
£1,000 3% Funding Stock 1966/68: Cost	£802	17	6.						
Valuation 31/12/65	...	...	...	912	10	0			
£1,000 6½% Hunts. County Council Mortgage Loan	...	...	...	1,000	0	0			
Lloyds Bank and Trustee Savings Bank	...	...	...	422	15	1			
							£2,335 5 1		

OF ARCHÆOLOGY

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1965

	<i>Payments</i>			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Proceedings</i> : vol. xxx, pt. 1:									
Printing and Postage							722	5	0
General Printing and Stationery							16	16	7
Covenant Appeal: Circulars and Postages							5	13	8
Subscriptions to Kindred Societies							10	14	0
Excursions and Lectures Expenses							50	1	0
Excavation Fund							50	0	0
Library Insurance							1	5	6
Office expenses, postages, etc.:									
Honorary Editor				10	0	0			
Honorary General Secretary					10	0			
Honorary Financial Secretary				13	10	0			
Cheque Book					10	0			
				<hr/>					
Bank Balances: 31 December 1965							422	15	1
				<hr/>					
							£1,304	0	10
				<hr/>					

I have audited the books and accounts of the Society and, in my opinion, the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at 31 December 1965.

1 March 1966

JOHN STORER, *Honorary Auditor.*

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED DURING 1965

- Champion, Miss B. N., 37 Deben Road, Woodbridge.
Chipperfield, D. C., 9 Nacton Road, Ipswich.
Corke, Mr. & Mrs. M., Bradfield St. George, Bury St. Edmunds.
H Cullum Library, School of Art, Bury St. Edmunds.
Dymond, D. P., B.A., F.S.A., 79 Fornham Road, Bury St. Edmunds.
Felgate, T. M., 32 Foxgrove Lane, Felixstowe.
Gascoyne, Mrs. C. B., Park House, Combs, Stowmarket.
Gould, Mrs. B. H., Ford End, Long Melford.
Ipswich School Historical Society, Henley Road, Ipswich.
MacCulloch, D. N. J., Wetherden Rectory, Stowmarket.
MacCulloch, The Revd. & Mrs. N. J. H., Wetherden Rectory, Stowmarket.
Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.
Northeast, Mr. & Mrs. P., School House, Rattlesden, Bury St. Edmunds.
Norwich Museum, The Castle, Norwich, NOR 65 B.
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Roth, Air Commodore V. H. B., C.B., C.B.E., & Mrs. Roth, 1 Sharp's Green,
Horringer, Bury St. Edmunds.
Shannon, Miss A. S., Woolney Hall, Creeting St. Mary, Stowmarket.
University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Leeds 2.
University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Western Australia.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Keeper of the Library, London, S.W.7.
Ward, Dr. & Mrs. K. L., Peppard, Dickleburgh, Diss, Norfolk.

H—Honorary Member.