

of rotten roots across the trench shewed that the old hedge had formerly followed the course of the road across the field. A sherd of medieval pottery recovered in the same stratum confirmed our dating of the hedge as over 4 centuries old. Beneath the remains of the hedge we found 7 hand-made nails, with square shanks. The nails had been clenched over in wood about 3cm thick. Near the nails were other fragments of iron. None of this material is dateable. A spread of flints lay under the nails. The flints were carefully laid, being closely packed and laid on their flat sides. They were graded into two sizes, the larger measuring *c.* 8cm by 4cm, with smaller flints, *c.* 4cm by 2cm, in the spaces. This flint surface was gently cambered, being 8cm lower at the sides. The cobbling, which was $4\frac{1}{2}$ m in width, was embedded in a layer of compacted clay and sand, orange in colour, and free of stones. These layers had been disturbed by mole and tile draining. Under this, complete across the section, was a thick layer of bright red gravelly sand, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m wide, and 30cm thick at the centre. It was slightly cambered, being 2cm lower at the edges. This foundation layer rested directly on the boulder clay subsoil, and was hardened on its surface with a capping of small stones. No trace of the original ground surface was seen under the road. Gravel of the kind used in this construction is not found in the immediate vicinity of the section, the nearest source probably being pits near Thurston station. 70cm beyond the red layer, on each side of the road was a well-defined drainage ditch. The ditches were of flattened V-section, 120cm wide and 40cm deep. Land snail shells were found in the bottom of the easterly ditch, 142cm below the present land surface. The boulder clay from the ditches had been piled on the sides of the road layers as retaining kerbs. 3 pieces of old iridescent glass, 3 flint flakes, and 6 fragments of medieval pottery were found in disturbed portions of the excavation.

It is interesting to note that the alignment of this road, if extended northwards, heads straight for the Roman villa site at Stanton Chare. Exploration and determination of this and the southward extension beyond the Bradfields awaits action.

The writers are indebted to Mr. Derek Meekings, Mr. Stanley West, and Mr. Norman Scarfe for their help and encouragement.

MAVIS BAKER AND GEOFFREY OXBORROW

An intaglio from Burgh Castle. Through the kindness of Mr. P. K. Brewer I have had occasion to examine an impression taken from a Roman intaglio gemstone which was discovered on 18 August 1938 near the walls of the Saxon Shore fort at Burgh Castle (Plate XXVII). The intaglio was evidently cut on a cornelian, ovoid in shape and with a slightly convex upper surface (dimensions, *c.* 15 x 10 x 3 mm). This yields an impression of the winged horse Pegasus,

flying towards the right.² Although Pegasus is commonly shown on gems, he generally has his hind legs bent under his body instead of, as here, stretched out behind.³ However, an almost exact parallel may be seen re-used in the *secretum* of a certain William de Bosco found in Bury St. Edmunds in 1856, with the setting perhaps dating to the early years of the 14th century.⁴ Another gem, in Copenhagen, depicts Pegasus with his hind-legs resting on a base-line; in other words, he is in the act of taking-off or even of running.⁵

Despite the fact that the intaglio was not found in a stratified context, its elongated shape and the somewhat feather-like rendering of the wing are suggestive of a 3rd-century date.⁶ In any case it was probably not lost until soon after A.D. 275 when the fort was constructed; and the fresh condition of the stone may imply that it was new at the time.⁷ The *Notitia* gives the name of the unit stationed in Gariannonum as the *Equites Stablesianorum*.⁸ Could a cavalryman have found a more appropriate device for his signet-ring than the immortal winged horse of mythology? Of course the owner might have ascribed a more complex escatological significance to the gem. In the 4th century Bellerophon seated on Pegasus and slaying the Chimaera was interpreted as a Christian allegory of the victory of good over evil.⁹ A paste intaglio with this device has, indeed, been

² G. M. A. Richter, *Catalogue of Engraved Gems, Greek, Etruscan and Roman in the Metropolitan Museum, New York* (Rome 1956), p. 89, no. 395, points out that the presence or absence of a base-line representing the ground is of crucial importance for deciding whether the creature is running or flying. There is no base-line in the present instance.

³ *Ibid.*; also cf. A. Furtwängler, *Beschreibung der Geschnittenen Steine im Antiquarium. Königliche Museen zu Berlin* (Berlin 1896), no. 2345; P. Fossing, *Antique Engraved Gems and Cameos in the Thorvaldsen Museum* (Copenhagen 1929), nos. 1568, 1570f, 1838; G. Sena Chiesa, *Gemme del Museo Nazionale di Aquileia* (Aquileia 1966), no. 1214f; E. Brandt, *Antike Gemmen in Deutschen Sammlungen i. Staatliche Münzsammlung München*, II (Munich 1970), no. 797, III (Munich 1972), no. 3226; R. Steiger, 'Gemmen und Kameen im Römermuseum Augst', *Antike Kunst*, IX (1966), p. 30, no. 1; A. Hamburger, 'Gems from Caesarea Maritima', *Atiqot*, VIII (1968), no. 146.

⁴ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, IV (1874), p. 336. C. Roach Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua VI* (privately printed, 1868), p. 200 fig. M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites II* (B.A.R., Oxford 1974), no. M 28.

⁵ Fossing, *op. cit.* no. 1839.

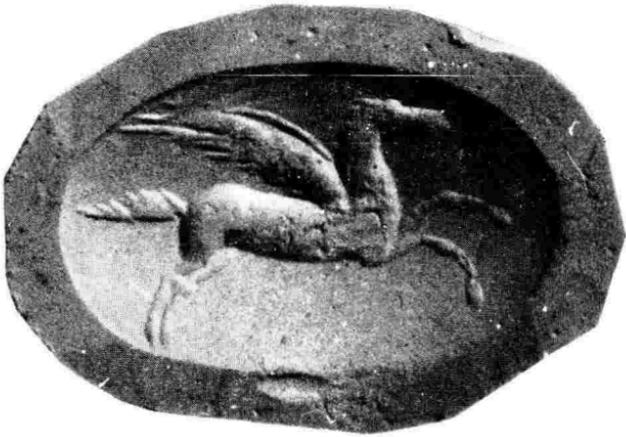
⁶ Cf. the Capricorn gem from York, Henig, *op. cit.*, no. 662.

⁷ Sheppard Frere, *Britannia. A History of Roman Britain* (2nd edn.), pp. 379f.

⁸ *Notitia Dignitatum* ed. O. Seeck (Berlin 1876), p. 181-0c.xxviii, 17. *Praepositus equitum stablesianorum Gariannonum, Gariannonor.*

⁹ J. M. C. Toynbee, 'Pagan Motifs and Practices in Christian Art and Ritual in Roman Britain' in M. W. Barley & R. P. C. Hanson (eds.) *Christianity in Britain 300-700* (Leicester 1968), pp. 177-192. The elongated shape of the Lullingstone Pegasus and the outstretched hind legs (mosaic, 4th century A.D.) is somewhat reminiscent of the animal on the Burgh Castle intaglio.

PLATE XXVII



Plaster impression of intaglio from Burgh Castle. Scale approx. x 4.

photo: courtesy Aslmolean Museum

found at Havering-atte-Bower, Essex.¹⁰ Such an explanation, however, seems to me less likely in the present instance than the alternative of a proud horse-owner honouring his mount. In this case the stone should be compared with another 3rd-century signet, from Dover, showing a racehorse called Heracleides.¹¹

MARTIN HENIG.

Medieval and later finds from near Bildeston Church. Early in 1974 the field previously known as Horse Meadow to the west of St. Mary Magdalene's Church was levelled and ploughed for the first time in living memory. It is noted as a meadow on the 1839 Tithe Map. During these operations various walls and foundations were noticed by the manager of Church Farm and after the winter harrowing the writer visited the site in December and collected some 100 sherds and clay pipe fragments from spreads of rubble and ashy deposits lying on the surface (finds since deposited in Ipswich Museum). Pieces of bone and shell were also noted but not kept. About 80% of this material seems to be medieval in date and the rest probably 16th and 17th century with two or three sherds, and a clay pipe, of 18th-century date. A selection is illustrated (Fig. 78) and described below. Much further pottery of similar type together with a silver inlaid bronze knife handle has subsequently been found by Mrs. S. Brown of Church Farm who lives in the new house built on the site. The site lies on the 200 ft. contour ridge about half a mile from Bildeston village and the Ordnance Survey marks it as the site of Bildeston Hall (TL 984492). An aerial photograph by Prof. St. Joseph (PQ9) shows various banks and ditches, but no readily discernible house platforms, with an impressive semi-circular moat feature. Most of the material came from the area of this feature which seems to correspond to the site marked as "Hall" on the map.

The Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery of East Anglia is well-known and defined but the later medieval fabrics are still imperfectly understood with few well-dated groups published from which parallels for this material may be drawn. J. G. Hurst in his Barn Road, Norwich report (*Nor. Arch.*, xxxiii, 1963) described two types—early medieval and medieval—and the moated site at Brome, a site some 20 miles to the north-east of Bildeston (S. E. West, *Jour. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, xxxiii, 1970), produced pottery from two successive periods which seemed to fit Hurst's two categories.

Of the material collected most seems to fit the 13th-century category, with sharply moulded, squared and flattened rims. Only

¹⁰ Henig, *op. cit.*, no. 362. pl. xxxv.

¹¹ *Arch. Jour.*, xxi (1864), pp. 263f. Henig, *op. cit.*, no. 585.