

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BULLETIN: AFTER A LAPSE OF SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME THE SOCIETY BULLETIN MAKES ITS REAPPEARANCE, AND THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO KEEP IT A QUARTERLY ISSUE IN THE FUTURE. FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT SEEN A COPY BEFORE, THE IDEA OF THE BULLETIN IS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES, AND ALSO UP-TO-DATE WITH NEWS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST, PARTICULARLY OF THIS LOCALITY. THE COMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME ARTICLES (LONG OR SHORT) FROM MEMBERS. WE SHOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER MEMBERS.

A SHORT HISTORY OF ELSYNGE HALL, AND AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION CARRIED OUT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1963: ENFIELD WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RULING HOUSE LONG BEFORE THE TUDOR PERIOD, A MANOR OF ENFIELD BEING GIVEN BY WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR TO ONE OF HIS SAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS, GEOFFREY DE MANDERVILLE. HOWEVER, WITH THE ACCESSION OF HENRY TUDOR CAME A MORE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENFIELD AND THE ROYAL FAMILY, LARGELY DUE TO THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN HENRY VII AND SIR THOMAS LOVELL, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND LORD OF THE MANOR OF WORCESTERS IN ENFIELD.

SIR THOMAS' CAPITAL MANSION WAS ELSYNGE HALL, A MANOR HOUSE PROBABLY ORIGINALLY BUILT BY THE ANCIENT ELSYNGE FAMILY, BUT REBUILT OR ENLARGED BY THE EARL OF WORCESTER IN THE 15TH CENTURY. SIR THOMAS LOVELL HELD THE ESTATE FROM 1508 UNTIL HIS DEATH AT ELSYNGE HALL IN 1524. THE ESTATE THEN PASSED TO LORD ROOS, EARL OF RUTLAND, AND IN 1540 HE CONVEYED THE ESTATE, INCLUDING ELSYNGE HALL, TO HENRY VIII. KING HENRY ENLARGED THE HOUSE TO ACCOMMODATE HIS CHILDREN, PRINCESS ELIZABETH AND PRINCE EDWARD, AND THERE THEY LIVED FOR SOME TIME, WHILE THEIR TUTOR, WILLIAM GRINDAL, LIVED IN ANOTHER HOUSE, THE TRADITIONAL SITE OF WHICH IS NOW OCCUPIED BY ELSYNGE COTTAGE.

WHEN HENRY VIII DIED THE YOUNG KING EDWARD WAS BROUGHT TO ELSYNGE HALL TO HEAR OF HIS ACCESSION IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS HALF-SISTER, THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH. THIS WAS ON THE 28TH JANUARY, 1547. LATER, WHEN ELIZABETH BECAME QUEEN SHE VISITED ELSYNGE HALL SEVERAL TIMES, ONE RECORDED VISIT BEING IN 1568, AND IN THAT SAME YEAR REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT, THE DETAILS BEING PRESERVED IN A PAY BOOK NOW IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY. REFERENCE IS MADE TO:- "COST OF GLAZING THE LIBRARY, GALLERY, GREAT CHAMBER AND OTHER ROOMS; TOTAL COST, £169.12.3½."

AFTER THE DEATH OF ELIZABETH THE GLORY OF ELSYNGE BEGINS TO FADE. JAMES I GAVE ITS CUSTODY TO PHILIP HERBERT, EARL OF MONTGOMERY (AFTERWARDS EARL OF PEMBROKE) IN 1624, AND THE NEXT MONARCH, THE ILL-FATED CHARLES I, SOLD THE HALL TO THE EARL FOR £5,300. IN 1650 THE EARL DIED. IN 1656 A STATE SURVEY SHOWS ELSYNGE HALL, "A VERY ANTIENT HOUSE" (AT THAT TIME CALLED ENFIELD HOUSE) "WITH COURTYARD(S), GARDENS, ORCHARDS, ETC. ADJOINING", AS BELONGING TO SIR NICHOLAS RAYNTON, WHO ALSO OWNED FORTY HALL "NEW BUILT". BY THIS TIME THE OLD HALL WAS IN DISREPAIR, AND BEFORE LONG SIR NICHOLAS DEMOLISHED IT.

SO PASSED A GREAT HOUSE, IN WHICH HISTORY HAD BEEN MADE, AND SO COMPLETE WAS ITS DESTRUCTION THAT SOON EVEN THE SITE WAS FORGOTTEN. LOCAL HISTORIANS WROTE THAT IT "PROBABLY STOOD ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE FROM FORTY HALL, NEAR THE MAIDENS BROOK", AND "THE SITE MAY BE TRACED IN THE BROKEN GROUND."

THIS YEAR THE SOCIETY SOUGHT PERMISSION FROM THE PARKS DEPT. OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL TO TEST THE "BROKEN GROUND". PERMISSION WAS GIVEN, AND A TRIAL TRENCH WAS OPENED IN A DIRECTION ROUGHLY EAST TO WEST ACROSS WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SUNKEN PATH (OR PERHAPS A DITCH) RUNNING BETWEEN TWO BUMPS IN THE GROUND. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE ENTRANCE TO A COURTYARD. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WE FOUND BUILDING DEBRIS COMPRISING BRICKS, TILES, PIECES OF SLATE, WINDOW GLASS, LEAD CALMES, IN WHICH WINDOW PANES WERE SET, AND POTTERY DATING FROM ROUGHLY 1500 TO 1600. LYING OBLIQUELY ACROSS THE TRENCH WAS AN ACCUMULATION OF BRICKS FROM A WALL TUMBLE. ANOTHER TRENCH WAS THEREFORE OPENED AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE FIRST, AND IN THIS WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO DISCOVER THE CORNER OF A ROBBED WALL, BARELY SIX INCHES BELOW THE PRESENT GROUND SURFACE. THIS WAS, OF COURSE, EXACTLY WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR, AND WE SOON UNEARTHED A REMARKABLY WELL-PRESERVED AND VERY WELL BUILT PLINTH OF TUDOR BRICK, SIX FEET DEEP, WITH MOULDED BRICK FACING.

SO FAR AS CAN BE JUDGED AT PRESENT, IT SEEMS THAT THIS STRUCTURE MAY BE ONE HALF OF A VERY IMPOSING GATEHOUSE. WELL BEHIND THE PLINTH FACADE IS APPARENTLY THE BRICK BASE OF A COLUMN, PROBABLY ONE OF A PAIR SUPPORTING THE ENTRANCE ARCH. OTHER CONTEMPORANEOUS WALLS WERE FOUND, AND A LATER WALL, NOT BONDED IN; ALSO A VERY INTERESTING PIECE OF VAULTING. THIS MAY BE A BRICKED IN CULVERT, I.E. A LARGE SEWER OR DRAIN RUNNING DOWN TO MAIDENS BROOK, OR, POSSIBLY, THE ROOF OF A CELLAR. THIS IS A PROBLEM WE HOPE TO SOLVE NEXT YEAR WHEN WE RESUME EXCAVATION.

THE POTTERY FALLS MAINLY INTO TWO GROUPS - HOME-PRODUCED AND IMPORTED. THE LATTER IS MOSTLY A FINE GREY STONWARE MADE IN THE LOW COUNTRIES. MOST OF THE HOME-PRODUCED IS SOFT,

FRIABLE AND RED IN COLOUR; IT IS THOUGHT BY EXPERTS WHO HAVE EXAMINED IT TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN A LOCAL KILN.

MANY MOULDED BRICKS WERE FOUND, SOME OF WHICH ARE EVIDENTLY FROM WINDOW MULLIONS, THERE ARE ROOFING TILES AND FLOOR TILES, INCLUDING EXAMPLES OF EARLY TUDOR GLAZE, AND IMPORTED ONES OF A LATER DATE WITH A DECORATIVE BLUE, GREEN AND YELLOW DESIGN.

IN A SMALL AREA PARTITIONED OFF BY WALLS ONLY ONE BRICK THICK WERE FOUND DOZENS OF SHELLS, MUCH SMASHED WINDOW AND VESSEL GLASS, THE NECK OF A BOTTLE, A BONE COMB IN TWO PIECE MANY ANIMAL BONES, INCLUDING MOST OF THE SKELETON OF A DOG AND THE ARTICULATED VERTEBRAE OF ANOTHER, LARGER, ANIMAL. THIS LITTLE ROOM, PROBABLY ORIGINALLY A GARDEROBE, HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN USED AS A RUBBISH DUMP. OUT OF THE DEBRIS IN FRONT OF THE "GATEHOUSE" CAME A TAILOR'S THIMBLE. ANOTHER VERY INTERESTING FIND WAS A "JETON" - A COIN TOKEN USED ON AN ABACUS BOARD IN TRADE TRANSACTIONS, AND PERHAPS ALSO AS SMALL CHANGE; THIS WAS MADE IN NUREMBERG IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 16TH CENTURY. WE HAVE NUMEROUS NAILS AND PIECES OF IRON (SOME OF WHICH WERE POSSIBLY WINDOW CATCHES), AN IRON KNIFE, A LOCK AND A BRONZE PIN.

SOME TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY TOOK PART IN THE EXCAVATION, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MISS DRAYTON. THERE WERE MANY VISITORS, ESPECIALLY AFTER OUR EXHIBIT AT THE ENFIELD SHOW. THE TOTAL EXCAVATION OF ELSYNGE HALL WILL PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL SEASONS, SUBJECT TO THE COUNCIL'S PERMISSION. NEXT SUMMER WE SHALL BE WORKING AT WEEKENDS AGAIN, BUT IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO DO A FORTNIGHT'S INTENSIVE DIGGING DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

N.B. ELSYNGE HALL MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE MANOR OF ELSYNGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE EIGHT OLD MANORS OF ENFIELD, AND WAS PROBABLY IN EXISTENCE BEFORE 1290. IT WAS SITUATED AT SOME DISTANCE FROM ELSYNGE HALL, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER STORY.

PRACTICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES: SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED A WISH TO HAVE TUITION AND EXPERIENCE IN MARKING, STICKING AND DRAWING POTTERY, ETC., AND GENERALLY WORKING ON FINDS. WITH THIS IN MIND WE HAVE ASKED THE COUNCIL FOR THE USE OF A ROOM IN FORTY HALL AS A LABORATORY AND WORKROOM. IF AND WHEN WE ARE GRANTED THIS FACILITY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PUT IN HAND IMMEDIATELY FOR COACHING SESSIONS AND LECTURES BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND OTHERS. MEMBERS WILL BE KEPT INFORMED. IN ADDITION, OUR SURVEYOR, MR. PEIRCE, HAS KINDLY OFFERED TO GIVE TUITION IN SURVEYING TECHNIQUES, AND THIS WILL BE ARRANGED.

APPEAL FROM DR. CELORIA: WOULD ANY MEMBER LIKE TO WORK AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM FOR HALF DAYS ON SATURDAYS, STUDYING MAPS IN A SURVEY OF KILN SITES? IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED, WILL THEY PLEASE CONTACT DR. CELORIA AT THE LONDON MUSEUM, KENSINGTON PALACE, S.W.7.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: THIS WILL BE HELD IN THE GAS BOARD SHOWROOMS ON 20TH MARCH, 1964. FOLLOWING THE GENERAL BUSINESS OF THE SOCIETY THERE WILL BE A SHORT REPORT ON THE FIELD WORK ETC. CARRIED OUT BY THE SOCIETY DURING THE 1963 SEASON.

MEETING ON 10TH JANUARY, 1964: "BOUDICCA", BY GRAHAM WEBSTER, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A., F.M.A.

THE SUBJECT OF THIS LECTURE IS BETTER KNOWN AS BOADICEA, QUEEN OF THE ICENI, AND WAS THE LEADER OF A SERIOUS REVOLT AGAINST ROMAN RULE IN 61 A.D.

DR. WEBSTER IS STAFF TUTOR IN ARCHAEOLOGY FOR THE EXTRA-MURAL DEPT. OF BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY. HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS WORK ON THE EARLY PERIOD OF ROMAN BRITAIN, AND HE HAS EXCAVATED MANY MILITARY SITES OF THIS PERIOD, INCLUDING THE CLAUDIAN FORT ON WADDON HILL IN DORSET, WHERE SOME MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ASSISTED.

DR. WEBSTER IS CO-AUTHOR OF A BOOK ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS TALK, AND A FURTHER WORK ENTITLED "PRACTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY", TO BE PUBLISHED SOON, SHOULD PROVE OF GREAT VALUE TO ALL AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

THE WELL-PROVED AND POPULAR COURSES ON EXCAVATION TECHNIQUES CONDUCTED UNDER DR. WEBSTER'S DIRECTION AT VIROCONIUM (WROXETER), NEAR SHREWSBURY, ARE SOME OF THE BEST OF THEIR KIND IN THE COUNTRY. DETAILS OF THE COURSES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.