

Vol 3 No 4

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P E N D R A G O N

Vol.3 No. 4.

May 1969.

All correspondence should be addressed to: Garden Flat,
22 Alma Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2BY. Letters addressed to
contributors will be passed on.

SEE YOU AT CADBURY

The dig will start this year on July 5th and will end on Aug. 23rd, seven momentous weeks later. We shall not, this year, be able to supply enough marquee helpers to sell pens, jewellery, etc. We shall be handling refreshments, post cards etc on behalf of the Camelot Research Committee only. Indeed, at the time of writing we require two more volunteers. Can any man or boy step in and help for the week July 19th - 26th, or the week July 26th--Aug. 2nd ? We have promised Mr. Alcock two helpers per week.

The West Gateway is to be given top priority. Last season's site L, near the marquee, is to be extended in the hope of finding further evidence that will clinch the discovery of the Big Hall. Sir Mortimer Wheeler is very anxious that we should learn more about the cruciform church/shape. Certain areas between the top of the lane and the summit, which have been covered by the "banjo" will be excavated if time allows. Mr. Alcock would also like to uncover another strip near the one-time entrance on the East side, which has also been geophysically tested. There will be plenty of work to keep everyone fully extended for the seven weeks. Let's hope we get the right sort of weather !

Diggers will not be housed at Chilton Cantelo this year, but in huts at the foot of the hill, specially erected. Food will be supplied by the "Red Lion". Pendragon marquee helpers will be staying in great comfort with Mrs. Bartlett at Manor Farm.

Many of the hard-working Bristol members have now departed to various Seats of Learning in other parts of the country and must now, perforce, spend their holidays in study, or earning money for an ensuing term. We are relying on recruits to take their places and they are rallying well.

Please take note of the outing on June 28th. If other members with transport, as well as our Hampshire members, can meet us at Rockbourne the outing will be doubly happy and profitable.

Response to the Celtic Fair idea is slow of coming but we are working on it.

We look forward to meeting all our friends at Cadbury.

EXCAVATIONS AT CATTLE HILL, YARLINGTON, SOMERSET

By Terry Staples.

Subsequent to a meeting with Mr. Paul Hobhouse last October, the Society was invited to take part in the excavation of a suspected Roman Villa on his land, under the direction of Mrs. C.M. Bennet.

The excavation was commenced in the summer of 1968 after the accidental discovery of a small area of mosaic floor the previous year. By the end of last summer a number of walls had been uncovered, together with part of the mosaic floor. It is thought that these form the outer limits of a Roman Villa, most of which has still to be excavated.

We quickly accepted the kind invitation and a group of 10 members spent 4 days at Easter working on the site. Most of this time was spent cleaning up the sides of the trenches which had fallen-in to some extent during the winter months.

The site has produced to date a considerable quantity of pottery, about 15 Roman coins, several nails and other metal objects, and a number of perforated roofing slates.

It is proposed to continue the excavation this year for two weeks from Saturday 19th July to Sunday 3rd. August when helpers and visitors will be very welcome. Accommodation can be arranged locally and we have been invited to "muck in" with the Cadbury diggers whenever possible ---. film shows, lectures, dances etc. Also a visit to Cadbury will be arranged once a week to view progress of the dig there.

Will anybody wishing to take part in this Yarlington excavation please contact Mrs. Foster as soon as possible.

In closing I would like to thank those people who worked so hard over Easter, Mr. Hobhouse and Mrs. Bennet for their help and hospitality, and also those who helped with the transport problems.

NOTICE

A VISIT TO THE EXCAVATIONS AT ROCKBOURNE, HANTS, HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR SATURDAY, 28th, JUNE, 1969.

THIS IS THE SITE OF AN EXTENSIVE ROMAN VILLA AND IT IS FELT THAT THOSE WHO ARE TAKING PART IN THE CATTLE HILL DIG WOULD BENEFIT FROM SEEING IT.

WE ARE HOPING TO RUN A MINI-BUS FROM BRISTOL AND THAT OUR HAMPSHIRE MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET US THERE.

NAMES OF THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO GO ON THIS OUTING SHOULD BE SENT TO MRS. FOSTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

DIGGING FOR ARTHUR

By F.S. Woodhead.

According to tradition, the grave of Arthur will never be found. As it is now some fourteen hundred years after the probable event, the prophecy seems likely to be fulfilled. But that need not deter us from trying in new and hitherto unsuspected places, and there is always the chance of finding other evidence which may throw light on the Dark Ages. Many members have now had the unique and satisfying experience of archaeological digging at Cadbury under the watchful and learned eye of Leslie Alcock.

It is believed that much is yet to be discovered at Cadbury. It is also coming to be realized that the work of inexperienced diggers, however enthusiastic, may be something of a liability. But how does one gain at least some experience in order to qualify for acceptance at a professional dig?

At least two sites offer an opportunity to gain some rudimentary knowledge; the excavation at Yarlington and one at Pendragon Castle in Westmorland. To those with a taste for "roughing it" Pendragon Castle is ideally situated. (See 'Pendragon' Vol. 3 No. 3.) The scenery is superb and many interesting places are within reasonable distance by car. With the possession of an "old banger" and a tent the freedom of the great hill country is yours. For the slightly more sophisticated a comfortable farmhouse is available. It is proposed to try and arrange a small camp of one week at the end of July or beginning of August. Facilities and arrangements for supervision will be organised by the writer who will supply all details to volunteers.

Please write direct to: Major Woodhead, 68 Bramley Way, Ashtead, Surrey.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY JOINED

Edna Woodbridge, 4 Parcwood, Atlantic College, Llantwit Major, Glam.

Nan Donne, Pitts Cottage, Stogumber, Nr. Taunton, Somerset.

Anne Latimer, 1 Spade Oak Meadows, Bourne End, Bucks.

Anne Crankshaw, 181 Earlstone Crescent, Cadbury Heath, Bristol.

Stephen Lunnon, 20 Court Road, Oldland Common, Bristol.

Nigel Tayler, 88 Bath Road, Longwell Green, Bristol.

Chris Balsdon, 86 Earlstone Crescent, Cadbury Heath, Bristol.

Elizabeth Carson, 23 Latchmoor Way, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

Noel Lomer, 9 Lambton Road, Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada.

Royston Love, 44 St. David's Avenue, Cadbury Heath, Bristol.

Edward Boss, 345 E. McMurray Rd. McMurray, P.A. 15317. U.S.A.

Douglas Rossman, 365 Centenary Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, U.S.A.

Ronald M. Bennett, 1321 David Drive, Metairie, Louisiana 70003. U.S.A.

Philip Rasch, 405 Clyde Dr., Jacksonville, N.C. 28540. U.S.A.

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FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS:--

From: Edward Boss, 345 E. McMurray Road, McMurray, Pa. 15317
U.S.A.

Dear Fellow Pendragons:

Mrs. Foster recently honored me by permitting me to join your (our) very worthwhile, "Live-Wire" (active) organization. Since it's doubtful that I'll ever meet many of you personally, I'd like to introduce myself to you via this letter.

As long as neither time nor money (the latter is the real problem !) permit me to come over there and help you in your valuable work, I must, of course, be an "armchair" archaeologist. Because I'm new to England's history and prehistory, I will probably need more help than I can give. Still, I hope to be of some service to my Fellow Pendragons. Perhaps the only meaningful way that I can contribute is by an exchange of ideas, either by direct correspondence with individual members or via our good newsletter. I welcome letters from any of you; replies are usually prompt. I'll be looking for other ways to help and will appreciate suggestions.

My lovely wife Evelyn, our little girl Ann Leslie and I have our own home here in rural Washington County in South Western Pennsylvania. Ann is seven, in the First Grade in school and has more "boyfriends" than her daddy can keep track-of ! I'm an employee of the Dravo Corp., supplying concrete in the Greater Pittsburgh area.

My archaeological experience is varied, though modest; most of it has been in surface surveys and excavations conducted by Allegheny Chapter #1, S.P.A. in association with the Sections of Man of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. As an amateur, I've had some experience in editing and publishing newsletters such as SPAAC SPEAKS, a Chapter publication in the P.I.A. NEWSLETTER. My "Bibliography of Archaeological Periodicals" (U.S., Canada and Mexico), published in 1964 is hopelessly out-of-date and fortunately, also out-of-print ! Since it is "one of a kind", I do supply Xerox copies at cost plus postage.

I'm particularly anxious to contact anyone with a good "working knowledge" of the Tidworth, Hants. area in helping me locate and identify "my" hillfort -- one that I saw while a guest in your beautiful country during the war. Sincerely,

Edward Boss.

From: Noel Lomer, 9 Lambton Road, Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada, to whom we sent some literature....

..... With this model in mind I hope to begin soon direct field observations of Indian Mounds in Canada. So far, Preliminary readings have shown a few startling observations. First, there are several thousand of these mounds across North America, and one study noted that a large majority of the mounds are magnet-

-ically oriented, and further, that several mounds, when excavated, disclosed Negro skeletons. This was for Indian mounds dating from approximately 300 A.D. Unfortunately, as is often the case, the people doing the excavations had very little idea of the implication of these mounds. Both facts I have just mentioned were simply noted in passing, and then ignored. These archaeologists (from the University of Washington at Seattle) were more interested in finding little bits of flint. Whatever significance these mounds may have had as markers has been obliterated because in the process of excavation all of the mounds investigated in this study were completely destroyed, levelled without a trace.

However, there are of course many mounds which are large earthworks whose size and shape would make anyone hesitate before rushing headlong to destroy them. In particular, there is a huge serpent mound near Rice Lake, in Southern Ontario. Other investigators have shown the existence of mounds like the Ohio Valley Serpent which resembles in some ways the shape of the original Avebury complex, as reproduced by Rev. Stukeley.

As you see, my studies are only beginning, and I will certainly keep you and other members of the Pendragon Society informed of any developments. Your Society is to me a model of ingenuity and perseverance and I would very much like to continue receiving your publication. Therefore, yes, I would like to become a "Pendragon".
..... Noel Lomer.

From: Dr. Douglas A. Rossman, 365 Centenary Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808, U.S.A.

.....I would have written sooner, but my university had five days vacation over Easter and I took my family (Wife, son 7½, and daughter 5) on a camping trip to some fairly wild country in the center of this state. We had a jolly time hiking and collecting crawly critters such as snakes, salamanders, centipedes, and even a tarantula -- such behavior on our part partially reflects my job, which is that of a professor of zoology at Louisiana State University.

I am impressed with the aims of the Pendragon Society and with "Pendragon"; I found the articles in the latter of considerable interest.....

Would it be possible to purchase one of the illustrated guides to Arthurian Britain which were sold at the 1967 Bath Festival ?.....My wife and I expect to visit England in the summer of 1970, and I am much looking forward to visiting Cadbury and other sites associated with the legend --and, hopefully, meeting some of the Pendragons.

Cordially, Doug Rossman.

Editor's note: We trust Dr. Rossman will not be carrying a few spare tarantulas in his pockets when he comes to Cadbury: we have our own problems ! Can any of our Bath members track down a

copy of the 1967 Arthurian Guide for Dr. Rossman ? Neither Bowes and Bowes, nor the Festival Committee can find one for us. Or is there a member somewhere who has a copy that he/she is now willing to pass on ?

From: Dierdre Concannon, 2 Vernon Gardens, Brighton, Sussex.

I don't think that I wrote to say how very good the latest "Pendragon" was....I thought that the section about St. Nectan's Glen and St. Piran's Well were particularly interesting. It only seems to show how confused folk memory can be sometimes, and how clear it can be at others. King Arthur, whatever he was historically, seems to be a mix up of all sorts of ideas.

Re the Phoenicians, Nectan and metal mining in Devon and Cornwall, and also the troy town maze, you may remember my talking about it to Mr. Russell last summer. I will re-quote what I said just in case some bits are interesting in connection with the Grail Legends or the Bronze Age, or what have you:-

I have an aunt who lives at Hartland Point which is known as the earliest named place in England. It was known as Hercules promontory to Ptolemy, and it is thought that since the Phoenicians called their god Baal by the name of Hercules at times, this could have been a Phoenician landing place, and possibly the local religion was similar to the Phoenician one.

In early times there was a series of beacons, Embury, Winbury and Hartland ending in vast earthworks known as Clovelly Dykes. Embury Beacon (which is on my uncle's land) is fast falling into the sea. Hartland was knocked down into the sea by the Victorians to build the lighthouse.....Not much is known about the Dykes. They used to be called "Roman" because they were big but they are now considered much earlier....Pamphlets I have read on the area are: "Farthest From the Railways", Pearse Chope, B.A. 1/3 or 1/6 by post.

"Hartland: Coast & Quay", (1/6 or 1/9 by post)

"The Life of St. Nectan" (translated from a manuscript in the Ducal Library at Gotha) Rev. G.H. Doble, D.D. They can all be obtained from The Rev. Andrew H. Jones, Hartland Vicarage, Devon.

The best book about Hartland is a unique work by R. Pearse Chope, B.A. which has great detail about the whole area. I don't think any area has ever been so well documented (or so they say). It is called "The Book of Hartland" and it used to be 6/6 (postage extra) from the same Vicar....

I can't remember if I said, last time I wrote, that Rod is at the moment working on the bones of 118 very early Saxons. They come from a site called Rookery Hill near Newhaven. Of course the dig hasn't got far enough yet for any real conclusions to be drawn, but the Saxons could well have been mercenaries called in by the Romans...All I can say is that the site is so windswept and cold that the Saxons must have been quite mad to live there.

ANYONE FOR KNITTING -- ?

In connection with our suggestion for a Celtic Fair we have sent out 100 circular letters. One reply has come from Art Needle-work Industries Ltd., Ship Street, Oxford. The director, Mr. Heinz E. Kiewe, has kindly sent us a beautifully produced book, profusely illustrated, which he has written. The price is £1.6.0. or \$3. 99. and its title is:

THE SACRED HISTORY OF KNITTING

This was reviewed in "Oxfordshire Life and Countryside" in Sept/Oct 1968 by Anne James who wrote:

Mr. Heinz Kiewe of Oxford, the needlework and embroidery expert of world-wide repute, has recently published a fascinating book entitled The Sacred History of Knitting which reveals that, contrary to the popular belief that knitting originated in the 14th century, it, in fact, went back to Coptic and probably biblical times.

Mr. Kiewe... shows in his book how the wheel has turned full circle and how to-day's knitted shift follows the design of the sack of penitence of biblical days. As the author is at pains to point out, the early history of Knitting was unknown because, unlike pottery which can be excavated in mint condition, wool deteriorates with great age..... Many fascinating snippets of information are revealed in this interesting book. For instance, the word 'knitting' derives from the old Saxon cnyttan and is itself derived from cnotta, the intertwining parts of one or more ropes forming a knot.....

Mr. Kiewe's researches began by his interest in sculptures in Norman churches. He had been excited by the gnome-like heads in Iffley Church, Oxford and in Reading Abbey -- apparently wearing knitted caps, and when at this point he was asked if he had seen the sculptures in the church at Kilpeck in Herefordshire in which the figures looked as if they were wearing Aran knitting, he went there post-haste and identified some of the figures on the south door as wearing hand-knitted sweaters in Chevron stitch rib..... After much research he felt that he might have discovered the knitted apparel used by the Celts of the Dark Ages for he came to the conclusion that the figures in the Norman sculptures were not Norman at all but were the work of Norman sculptors who also employed Welsh stonemasons and they had portrayed the people of Archenfield and what they wore in the 12th century and probably in the Dark Ages.

In his book Mr. Kiewe devotes a chapter to the Aran patterns of knitting and gives their names:

The Tree of Life.... The Ladder of Life (Jacob's Dream of the Ladder of Heaven.... The Trellis.... The Trinity Stitch.... The Lismore Cable (as on the famous Bishop's Crozier of Monastery of Lismore, Ireland.... The Missal Stitch.

He also gives a history of the Aran patterns as he traced them -- "To the Isle of Aran, we learn -- at the end of the 5th century --- the old sea-route to Western France and the Mediterranean the

route of the wine trade remained open in some degree in spite of the Barbarians and it seems most likely that there were direct contacts between Ireland and Egypt where the Copts, the Christian Jacobites of Egypt, wove their famous interlace tapestries in abstract design as the Holy Law of the Bible commanded. We then hear that "with the return of St. Enda from Candida Casa (Whithorn in Galloway, Scotland) where there was monasticism of the Egyptian type, there was founded a monastery on the Aran Isles where he and his companions followed a rule of great severity, and where a revolution in the character of the Irish Church began.

The beginning of civilization of craft on the islands was then in the hands of the monks who brought with them to the North, patterns of the Coptic designs, with which they created formal abstract interlace patterns in their illuminated Bibles, Missals, Crosses, Croziers (Bishops' staffs) and carved stone crosses....."

Mr. Kieve quotes another author, Gladys Thompson, who wrote in her own book about Guernsey and Jersey patterns, and says: "She was lucky and wise to visit the Isles of Aran in the fifties. I find one report very exciting where she gives an account of Aran weaving: 'The Island women spin their own wool; they also weave a type of bolt worn by the islanders and called a criss. It is woven over the foot, in very bright colours and most attractive pattern.'

Final quote from Mr. Kieve's book: "I give a glossary from the Gaelic English dictionary on the word CRIOS pronounced Kress... .girdle, belt, strap, the waist; gird belt.

Criesadiar...Belt-maker

Criosdachd, Christianity

Criosdail, Christian-like

Crios-muinel, necklace

Criosd, pron. kressed

Christ our Saviour.

Crioslach, gird, bind.

Crios Neimhe, the

zodiac.

If you are wearing an Aran sweater you will be interested to know the significance of the stitches and pattern Diamond. A single moss stitch reversed on alternate rows symbolic of wealth.

Zig-Zag. Knit stitches moved diagonally across a purl panel and to represent the twisting cliff paths along the shore.

Double Zig-Zag. Also known as Marriage Lines.

Cables. To represent fishermen's ropes.

Trees of Life. Signifies long life and strong sons to carry on.

The Ladder of Life. Man's earthly climb to eternal happiness.

The Trellis. An intricate pattern. If a fisherman was drowned he could be recognised by the individual pattern on his jersey

Honeycomb. Looks like its name. Hard work of a busy bee, and a just reward.

Spoon Stitch. Lover's Spoon -- Lover's Pattern ?

Trinity Stitch. Made by making "three from one and one from three" across the panel.

BOOKWORM'S PROGRESS No. 1

By Chris Turner.

In 1839, the Rev. W. Phelps caused to be published, apparently at his own expense, a large two-volume work whose full title runs to no less than forty two words in eight different type-faces, but is now conveniently known as "History and Antiquities of Somersetshire". It is well illustrated by many fine engravings, not only of general views but also of ground plans of cathedrals, Roman baths and villas, and several maps. The reporting is painstaking, but not tedious, and provides the student of pre-Victorian Somerset with a pleasing and detailed commentary, the section on archaeology and ancient history of the county being particularly illuminating as the author obviously had access to many antique documents which have since become almost irretrievably buried under many tons of paper in the course of the past hundred years or so.

The author mentions several points of particular interest to Pendragons, some of which are set out below in as full a fashion as space allows.

The only direct reference to Arthur is taken from the account of Speed (presumably John Speed, the Tudor historian and cartographer) and perhaps sheds some light on Malory's apparently ludicrous tale of an expedition against Rome.

"About the year 470, according to Speed, there was a provincial Synod held in Britain, for restoring the primitive worship, and repairing the dilapidated ecclesiastical buildings. This is supposed to have been held under the direction of Aurelius Ambrosius: upon whose death his brother Uther Pendragon succeeded.

Uther married Igerma, daughter of Glorios Duke of Cornwall, and had issue Arthur, who succeeded him A.D. 516. This prince was only fifteen years of age, when he received the crown from Dubritius Archbishop of Caerleon, who with his suffragans and nobles had elevated him to the throne. He was a friend to the Christians and rebuilt their churches. In 536, Arthur, wishing to extend his conquests into Gaul, embarked for that country, leaving his Queen and kingdom to the care of Mordred, his nephew. This relative, abusing the confidence thus reposed in him by his uncle, assumed the regal power, and even usurped the authority over the kingdom. Arthur, hearing of the perfidy of his relative, returned to Britain, and landed at Sandwich in Kent where he was opposed by Mordred. (Was Speed ignorant of the fact that this was Saxon territory ? C.T.) After several battles fought with this traitor, his rebel army was defeated at Camblan (supposed to be Camalet in Somersetshire (q.v. below. C.T.) where Arthur slew his perfidious nephew with his own sword. This victory was purchased with his life; for, having received a grievous wound during the conflict, he was immediately carried to Glastonbury, where he soon after died, and was buried in the Abbey church, (A.D. 541." (pp46/47)

The section on Cadbury starts off encouragingly with: "Cadbury Camp, anciently called Camalet, is an interesting vestige of antiquity..." but goes on to tell us no more than we already know about the size and general configuration of the hill. However, the first recorded mention of S. Cadbury as being Arthur's Camelot, in Leland's Itinerary, is given in full.

Those of us who hold the theory that the military centre of Camelot was but a corruption of the name of the Roman military centre of Camelodunum will be interested in the Rev. Phelp's notes on the name. He maintains that there were, in fact, two Camalodunums (as there were two Iscas and Ventas). The first one was at Camerton, recorded in the Domesday Book as Camerlatone, which was abandoned after the consolidation of the West and re-established at Colchester. His reasoning is based not only on the similarity of the names, but the implied geographical position. The breakdown of the name Camalodunum is shown quite satisfactorily to mean 'high enclosure surrounded by streams'. Such a descriptive title could be easily applied to any place fitting the bill, and the practice of using repetitive place names indicating the salient feature (s) of the area is clearly shown in the large number of Fords, Bartons, Bottoms etc that abound on any one-inch O.S. map. Could Leland's Camallate be therefore but a corruption of the local descriptive title of the hill, which in turn was filched at the time from the then more magnificent Camalodunum/Camerton ? The name would have been in use for more than 300 years before Arthur took Cadbury for his own, and there would have been no reason to change the name from the already established Camalod(unum).

A quote from Page 126 may interest the Pendragons who have seen the stone sarcophagus set in the churchyard wall at Yarlington. "Stone coffins were also used, generally hewn out of a single block, of a shape and size just to contain the body, with a space for the head. These were introduced during the thirteenth century, and were chiefly appropriated to contain the mortal remains of Bishops and other dignified ecclesiastics; they were generally seen in cathedrals, abbeys or religious houses. In the subsequent century, the fourteenth, coffins made of lead were used...."

Finally, just a note that this book was obtained from a local library; yet another reminder that the way is open for practical and fruitful research even in the dark, damp days of winter which preclude active field work.

By the Editor.

The Pendragon Society was founded in Winchester by Geoffroy Ashe and a group of adults interested in Dark Age research. The first Task Force, however, consisted chiefly of children and teenagers drawn from neighbouring villages. We roamed the South Downs hopefully in search of overgrown monuments, lost graves and forgotten battlefields. Sometimes we went on coach tours to places such as Glastonbury, and to visit museums where there were understanding archaeologists such as kind young Mr. Worsley at the Haslemere museum. Whenever we roamed abroad our party seemed to swell in numbers in a surprising way.

This was excellent, but we foresaw difficulties. We had a suspicion that not all our fellow-travellers would be welcomed by serious archaeologists if, and when, we ever succeeded in getting an important dig started -- as, for instance, at Cadbury.

It was agreed that we should acquire a badge for purposes of quick identification. We would hold ourselves responsible only for bona fide badge-wearing members who materialised unexpectedly on a site. Nowadays, of course, Pendragons who meet for the first time at Cadbury can introduce themselves quickly.

It was the young who wanted the badge to be a golden dragon on a blue background because the Society started at Winchester, and it was, according to legend, over Winchester that the "dragon" (comet?) appeared when Ambrosius lay dying. He had drunk water from a well that had been poisoned by a Saxon terrorist. The appearance of this dragon so terrified the citizens (who, at that time, were known as Dragons themselves) that they called on Merlin to explain its portent to them.

Merlin foretold that Ambrosius would die, that Uther would lead the army against the Saxons, and that one day Uther would have a very potent son who would rule over all those areas where the dragon had been seen. (Wales, the West Country, and Brittany.)

Ambrosius did die; Uther took command of the army and was given the title of Pendragon -- leader of the Dragons. He caused two golden dragons to be cast: one he took with him to the wars, the other he bequeathed to the citizens of Winchester. The badge chosen by the youngsters was supposed to represent the golden dragon in the blue sky.

It has now been suggested that we should have a distinctive tie -- presumably a blue one with a golden dragon in evidence. This would be admirable for men. Would anyone care to suggest what kind of headscarf or other useful accessory might be acceptable to the ladies? Comments, please.

NOTE. About 1960 some members were pursuing the notion that, just possibly, the Beowulf stories might, in fact, belong to the Lincoln or Winchester areas. A few miles from Winchester, years ago, the skeleton of a Saxon (Dane?) was dug up and a bowl was buried beside him. This bowl had some enamel bosses round it and is on view in Winchester museum. It is the only bit of real Celtic evidence anywhere around there. Was this Saxon/Dane plundering the Dragons' Treasure? Would anyone care to pick up this thread again and try to spin it?

HERE WE GO ROUND TO YARLINGTON, JERLINGTON, GERLINCTON.....

Now and then we have ideas for projects which, in spite of all efforts, refuse to take shape. Sometimes projects come to us quite unexpectedly that later prove to have brought us along the way we were meant to go. The Yarlington dig would appear to be one of the latter though at this early stage the road ahead has a big question-mark. We invite you all to consider this question mark with us and to cudgel your brains. Maybe there is something at Yarlington that has yet to be revealed.

In 'Pendragon' Vol. 2 No 3 Chris Turner wrote: "During the recent dig at Cadbury a few Pendragons found time to make a trip to Yarlington to investigate reports of a complex of strip-lynchets unmarked on the O.S. maps....The village sits astride the pre-historic ridgeway known as The Harrow Way or, at the western end, the Hard Way. This ridgeway runs east-west from the Vale of Avalon to Old Sarum, via Andover and the great crossroads to Stonehenge...Just outside the village we found a series of strip-lynchets marching boldly across four hillsides surrounding a ford. Some of the banks reached up twelve feet or more at very steep angles...One field to the east had six shallow ridges running parallel downhill, with a ridge at the top and bottom, while in the valley below us we saw a small spring protected by a dry-stone wall.

"To the north of the strip-lynchets we discovered a dry-stone wall of some age supporting, or perhaps now supported by, a bank. This was built in the unusual form, for Somerset, of large, flat flakes of stone laid in a horizontal herring-bone fashion. This type of wall has been variously dated as being anywhere between late Roman and Medieval times, but looks rather like the traditional type of drystone walling to be found even to-day in predominantly Celtic Cornwall."

Research in excellent local libraries round Bristol has failed to produce any early references to Yarlington except that it has been known by a variety of names. In a book called "History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset" dated MDCCXCI by the Rev. John Collinson, F.A.S. is the following:

"Yarlington in the Hundred of Brewton" (Now Bruton)
Yarlington is a parish situated in the southwest part of this hundred about four miles south from Brewton, and nearly the same distance west from Wincanton...in a pleasant vale surrounded by enclosures. Those hills, indeed, which lie to the east and south are lofty, and eastward from the church are the vestiges of an ancient encampment, consisting of a double vallum, from the summit of which there is an extensive prospect over all the central part of the county, bounded by the Dorsetshire hills on the south, and by the Quantock hills and those of Devon on the southwest...The manor of Yarlington called in Domesday Book Gerlincune, belonged in the Conqueror's time to the Earl of Morton....."

Another book, "The Place Names of Somerset" by James Hall, published in 1914 states: Yarlington is spelt in Domesday Book Gerlinton. The pronunciation of these two words is but little different. Some attractive fancy etymologies have been given. Jur or Yare as in the river is water. There is a remarkable stream here (it is said) that disappears for a while underground. The latest guides do not mention it. Yar or Lyn as in Lynccombe are the two component parts. In this case it is Celtic. Again Yarlington is of course the same as Jarl and is the old Scandinavian for a chieftain or earl...

The local Parish Magazine, "The Castle Cary Visitor", combed back to the late 1880's, gives us a certain amount of information inasmuch as it refers to the old-time Fair with performing animals and cudgel stick fights ~~was~~ discontinued in 1900: Jack White's Gibbet (still marked on O.S. maps) was destroyed and burnt in 1898 or maybe earlier; when George III passed through it was then on the direct route to Weymouth to which the monarch was travelling. In a volume of this Parish Magazine dated 1906-7 there are notes which would indicate Roman occupation all round the area:-

"It is a thousand pities that the active and successful researches of the late Col. Woodforde were never put on record in any systematic manner, for we think his discoveries were quite sufficient to show that the Romans were settled within a very short distance of our town. In a flat meadow called Laverns, on the north bank of the River Brue, he excavated a Roman villa about the year 1820... Besides intensive foundations many interesting coins and other objects were found, but nothing is now visible above ground. Among the coins found was one of Constantius II, several brass coins (including one or two of Tetricius) and some 'coal money'. Other objects found were a curious circular armlet of what appears to be coal, potsherds, tiles, and white and red tesserae of a mosaic.... Another discovery was made by Col. Woodforde near his residence at Galhampton. Here he found a Roman bulla of pure gold... 'Vast numbers' of coins of Antonius Pius are also reported as having been found at Cadbury Castle."

Another book about the history of the families at Yarlington states that there is an ancient stone called the Seemark Stone which can be seen in Seemark Wood. Prolonged search for this stone failed to reveal it, but Mrs. Harfield tells us that the reason is the stone now lies under a large felled beech tree. We shall have another hunt for this stone. Mrs. Harfield has seen it and says there is no writing now visible on it.

A local resident at Yarlington has suggested that the parallel ridges running downhill near the strip-lynchets may indicate the one-time presence of a vineyard: Romans often liked to make their own wine. We hope to investigate this suggestion also.

Mr. Hembouse, who owns Cattle Hill, reported to Mrs. Bonnet in 1968 that bits of pot and mosaic were being ploughed up accidentally. With the help of some local residents Mrs. Bonnet opened a number of trenches and found evidence of a Roman villa, including some mosaic

flooring. Pendragons contacted Mrs. Bennet this spring when they were carrying out investigations in the neighbourhood and offered to help her clear the site during the Easter holiday as it had lain open and exposed all winter. We are glad to say that this group worked so well that Mrs. Bennet invited them to carry on the dig during her absence in Jordan. Mr. Hobhouse has kindly provided a hut for tools etc and is making arrangements for accommodation. We are very grateful to both of them for their confidence in us and we shall do our best to carry on the dig in a responsible and intelligent manner.

Members who can't get to Somerset but have copies of the O.S. One Inch map, Sheet 166, FROME, may like to study this, consider its position in connection with Cadbury and other places, and send us ideas or theories. We must leave no stone unturned.....

THE CONTINUING MYTH OF MERLIN

By Roger Davie Webster.

I was interested to read recently a story concerning the final death of Merlin, many hundreds of years after his first death. (Is it not said that Magister Merlin only sleeps, to wake again when his power is needed?) This is a somewhat ignored part of the original myth concerning Merlin.

Dr. C. S. Lewis, the theologian, wrote a story containing a fair amount of the Ambrosius myth, plus a liberal lacing of imagination, in which the need for Merlin's power manifests itself and the master rises from his sleep.

The story takes the form of a battle between the powers of Science and the powers of Celtic mysticism, which comes to a head when Science tries to destroy the house of Logres (the Royal House of the Pendragons of Britain.) Science makes its headquarters on the old site of Camelot in order to plumb the depths of the Celtic myth and use its power to its own nefarious purpose -- or, if that proves impossible, to destroy it.

The house of Logres (consisting of the current Pendragon and three or four trusty lieutenants) sets itself up nearby. They must wait, for they have no power in themselves, but must hope to harness the power of Merlin when he wakes. It must be explained here that Ambrosius could fall under the influence of either Logres or Science. In the second case the cause of Logres would be as good as lost.

There is a second person who falls between the two stools: this is a visionary or seer who could also fall under the influence of Logres or Science and the first battle is for the seer's mind.

Here the myth would appear to end and Lewis finishes the story himself.

The Seer, who has fallen under the influence of Logres, has a dream in which she sees a man of enormous stature crawling up a tunnel underground and smashing his way to the surface. The Pen-

-dragon, recognising this as the awakening of Merlin, sends out search parties to bring back the Master at all costs. The other side does the same. Luckily for the house of Logres Ambrosius has his own ideas about whose side he is on and comes straight to the house of the Pendragon.

Merlin puts three questions to the Pendragon to test his authenticity. The Pendragon answers them correctly. Merlin now recognises him as his master and the two of them sit down to plot the overthrow of the powers of Science.

Meanwhile, the enemy have captured a tramp whom they believe to be Merlin, and as they only talk to him in Latin and Celtic he thinks they are mad and stays silent.

On the night preceding the great battle Merlinus and Pendragon sit alone in the house while Merlin is invested with the powers of his gods. Merlin then goes into the enemy camp disguised as a man, having knowledge of an obscure language supposedly to translate the words of the fake Ambrosius.

When all the enemy are assembled together for dinner Merlin causes them all to speak gibberish so that they cannot communicate to one another what is happening. He says, "I have put the curse of Babel into the mouths of the enemies of the house of Logres," and laughs horribly.

Then, in a scene of unparalleled horror everybody except Merlin is torn apart and trampled to death by all the animals of the earth.

The powers that awoke Merlin now let him go and he is allowed finally to die.

The Pendragon is transported from earth to sit with Uther Pendragon and Arthur Pendragon (King Arthur for those who are getting confused) on the great throne of Logres somewhere in the Celtic equivalent of heaven, and they all live happily etc....

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We have been promised an article on the origins of the name of "Arthur", and another about Excalibur.

We trust these will arrive in time for our next issue!

