

**A General Meeting held at the Herts County Museum,  
on May 16th, 1902.**

Present—The Very Rev. the Dean, in the chair; also, Messrs. H. J. Toulmin, F. G. Kitton, A. E. Ekins, C. H. Ashdown, A. J. Rhodes, J. Henderson, Victor T. Hodgson, A. Montiville Evans, J. T. Knight, W. T. Hillier, H. Maurice, R. S. Fannin, J. Herbert Gordon, Mrs. Ekins, Miss Fearnley; Mr. R. J. Hillier and Mrs. Knight, Hon. Secretaries.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The following new members were elected unanimously:—Mr. G. E. Martin, Mr. G. Hansard, and Mr. Blundell.

Mr. Page then read two most interesting papers on—(1) "Further excavations on the site of Verulam." (2) "The Mediæval School of Mural Paintings at St. Albans."

The latter paper was illustrated by lantern slides and water-colour drawings.

Both papers were very interesting, and were greatly appreciated.

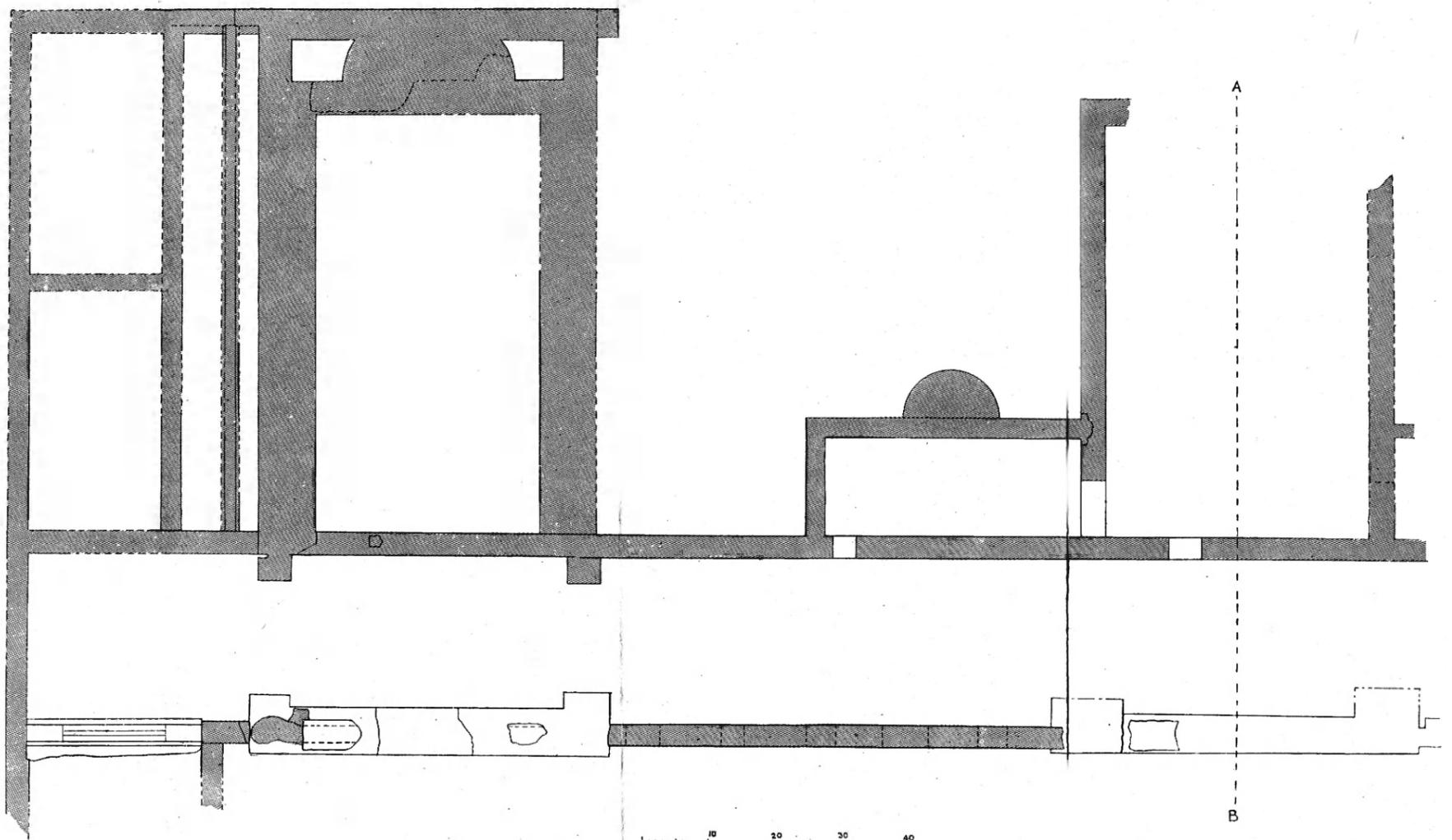
Afterwards a hearty vote of thanks was moved to Mr. Page on the motion of the Dean, and seconded by Mr. Toulmin, who also included Mr. Ashdown for his management of the lantern, and this was passed unanimously.

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**Excavations of Verulamium.**

BY WILLIAM PAGE, F.S.A.

For various reasons, I was unable to carry the excavations on the site of Verulamium this winter so far as I wished, but I think what has been disclosed this year will materially assist in deciding the nature of the building, the plan of which we are working out. I may perhaps repeat that I am obliged to make these excavations in the winter months, owing to the land being wanted for pasture and hay at other times of the year. Excavations were commenced in November by opening out the 3 ft. 6 in. sleeper wall, running east and west, and backing on the ambulatory wall, from the point at which we left off in the winter of 1898-9. For 32 feet westward of the western of the two great 8 ft. walls, which we suppose carried the barrel vault of the chamber excavated in 1898-9, we found this wall continued to have a smooth surface, acting apparently as a sleeper wall for a colonnade similar to what we found eastward of this point. On the north of this wall was the *opus signinum* floor of the ambulatory, and to the south was rammed gravel, over which was black mould to a depth



**Excavations at Verulamium.**

Note.—The dotted line from A to B indicates the centre line of Building.



of from 4 ft. to 5 ft., unmixed with building rubbish and fallen debris, indicating that the ground was open here. At 32 feet from the wall, carrying the barrel vault before referred to, the longitudinal wall rises, and a cross wall three feet in thickness runs southward forming the east side of a chamber 15 ft. 6 in. by 39 ft. This chamber has a floor of coarse red tesserae in good condition. The entrance to it was by a doorway about 3 ft. 8 in. in width at the east end of the north wall. At some date apparently after the completion of this room, a semi-circular apse 15 ft. in length was added on the south side, between which and the wall of the chamber there was sufficient space to allow of a knife being run. The apse is solid, and the existing surface stands five inches below the floor-level of the chamber. From the quantity of coloured wall-plaster which was found in the chamber, it is clear that the walls were decorated with the usual coloured designs.

Adjoining, on the west, is another very much larger chamber, 62 ft. 9 in. in length by 40 ft. in width. I was only able to open out a part of this latter chamber, the walls on the east, west, and south sides of which are 3 ft. 10 in. in thickness, and of well-built rubble with brick bonding courses. The floor is tessellated, but of what design, if any, I have not made any attempt to discover. The room was entered by a doorway in the north wall 5 ft. in width, and there was a doorway about 8 ft. 6 in. in width, with three steps 8 inches in height, indications of which remain, descending into the smaller chamber, the floor of which is 2 feet lower in level. On the west side of this chamber, there are indications of a similar small chamber to that found on the east side with a similar doorway into it.

The whole of the work opened out this winter was of the second or best period of the three periods of masonry, which we have found in this building. Besides the usual quantity of potsherds and a great deal of coloured wall-plaster, the only objects of special interest were two fragments of inscriptions on Purbeck marble.

I append a list of the coins found, which have been kindly identified by Mr. Grueber, F.S.A., of the British Museum. They range from the second brass of Nero

to a penny of Ethelred II. The only specimen to which Mr. Grueber calls special attention is a copper denarius of Allectus, with a ship on the reverse, struck at Colchester, which is somewhat rare.

“Second brass” of Nero, A.D. 54-68; two denarii (silver) of Septimus Severus, *circa* A.D. 200; base denarius of Postumus, A.D. 258-267; British imitation of a base denarius of Victorinus, A.D. 265-267; third brass or base denarius of Claudius II. (?), A.D. 268-270; copper denarius of Allectus, struck at Colchester (Camulodunum), a somewhat rare piece, having a ship on the reverse, A.D. 293-296; Constantine the Great (?), third brass, if so, *circa* A.D. 325; third brass of Constantine the Great, struck in London, *circa* A.D. 330; third brass of Constantine the Great, *circa* A.D. 333-335; third brass of Constans, A.D. 337-350; a Siliqua (silver) of Constans, A.D. 337-350; twelve British imitations of Roman base denarii of the third and fourth centuries; penny of Ethelred II., struck at Canterbury, “Boia Mo. Caent,” A.D. 978-1016.

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