

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Excavation at Bourton on the Water

by H. E. Donovan
1933, Vol. 55, 377-377

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NOTES

(PLATES I-IV, *see* p. 384)

EXCAVATIONS AT BOURTON ON THE WATER

MISS H. E. DONOVAN writes :—

In consequence of finding the lead vessels described below I was able to carry out an excavation of the site.

In the limited space available, three walls of a paved courtyard, 18 feet wide, were uncovered, containing a well of dry stone walling, 8 feet deep. Nearby, a water gutter was found sunk in the paving, by means of which rain water from the roof percolated into the well through a deposit of gravel placed under the paving. (PLATE I).

Portions of the walls, the paving of the courtyard and the surround of the well had been badly robbed so that in some places only the lowest course of the foundations of the walls could be traced.

The courtyard was filled to a depth of 12 to 18 inches with débris of fallen masonry, roofing slates of Cotswold stone, broken pottery, animal bones, nails and coins. The pottery was largely of 4th century types.

Forty-five coins were found: excepting three of 3rd century all were 4th century date. This indicates a late occupation of the site.

It is hoped to publish a more complete report when the excavation of the site is completed.

LEAD VESSELS, BOURTON ON THE WATER

Miss Donovan kindly permits me to publish a report on the lead vessels (PLATES II-III) mentioned above.

On 9 February 1934, workmen cutting trenches for the drains of a new bungalow at Lansdown, Bourton on the Water, discovered two crumpled and flattened pieces of lead, on a building site, previously an orchard, belonging



GENERAL VIEW OF COURTYARD, LANSDOWN, BOURTON ON THE WATER, SHOWING WELL

The drain with covering stone is to the right of the survey-pole. (See p. 377)

ph. W. J. Butt