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**Chedworth Roman Villa: an Exploratory Trench**

by E. Rutter
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Bi-gonial Breadth (GoGo) 84.7
Foram. Mentalia Br. (ZZ) 44.0
Sagittal Ht. Mandible (H') 31.7
Max. Proj. L. of Mandible (ML) 102.0
Condyle Length (CyL) 21.0
Proj. L. of Left Ramus (RL) 60.0
Ramus Breadth (least) (RB') 26.8
Mandibular Angle (ML) 125.5°

The following long bone measurements were taken:—

Maximum Length Right Femur = 408 mm.
Maximum Length Right Radius = 218 mm.
Maximum Length Right Tibia = 333 mm.

From these, the mean overall body height of 5 feet 2 ins. was calculated.

D. R. Brothwell

CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA: AN EXPLORATORY TRENCH

During September 1954 a short exploratory excavation at Chedworth Roman Villa undertaken by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, on behalf of the owners, the National Trust, under my direction, revealed that the mound lying between the south wing of the villa and the car park had not been fully excavated in the 1860's and that the south wing itself would repay further examination. A late Roman burial accidentally found in the mound in 1935 (see plan, FIG. 1) had suggested that the ground here had not been much disturbed and this, combined with the necessity for repair work on the restored walls, gave an opportunity for testing this point.

1 Extended excavations have since been undertaken by Prof. I. A. Richmond and I am extremely grateful for his kindness in explaining his results and for his advice on the correction and confirmation of some of the tentative conclusions suggested by this preliminary work in the light of his further research.
PLATE X  The 'Porter's Lodge', Chedworth, showing s.w. extreme corner of original building and the east and north walls of the original form of the 'Lodge'.

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PLATE XI The 'Porter's Lodge' Chedworth, showing original east wall of room with flat archway half blocked by later wall carrying latrine-channel and bounding the main sewer of the latrine (discovered later in 1957).
CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA
1954 EXCAVATION IN THE SOUTH WING

ARCHWAY WALL SEEN FROM WEST

KEY TO SECTIONS A-B, D-C
- Stones
- Mortar
- Wall
- Clayey earth
- Modern walls
- Earth with mortar & stones
- Undisturbed subsoil

KEY TO PLAN
- Modern walls
- Wall I
- Wall II
- Line of pitched stones
- Dressed stone drains below flooring
- Probable line of Roman walls
- Stone step

Fig. 1
Excavation began outside the east wall of the so-called 'Porter's Lodge' and the restored south wall of the South Wing. It was here that the child's burial had been found and the ground was therefore disturbed for a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Parallel to and, partly underneath, the restored south wall, Roman walling (Wall I) was found. This walling turned northwards at the western end of the trench suggesting that here there may originally have been an outside corner of the building: a suggestion proved true in 1957. Wall I stands to a height of approximately 6 feet for a distance of 11 feet from its western end after which it loses a few courses although still continuing eastwards beyond the area of the cutting. This drop in the height of the wall is reflected by a change of level both in the restored south wall of the South Wing and in the ground to the north of the wall. The cutting was full of loose building rubble including roofing tiles and plaster. Adjacent to the south wall of the South Wing was a layer of mortar with a few burnt patches in it, and it was from this mortar that the majority of the finds came, including a 4th-century silver bracelet and fragments of a Rhenish beaker, of colour-coated wares and of engraved glass. Owing to the loose and friable texture of the filling it was impossible to obtain a satisfactory section.

Just beneath ground level at the western end of the trench Roman walling (Wall III), running parallel to and close beside the east wall of the 'Porter's Lodge', was discovered. It was a later addition to Wall I running up to it but not bonded into it (Plate X): in 1957 it was proved to be the original east wall of the 'Lodge' bonding in with the south, west and north walls. In the middle of this Wall III was a flat arch rising approximately 3 feet from its foundations (Fig. 1, Section A-B). A westwards extension (Wall II) to the south wall (Wall I) was also found; constructed at the same time as Wall III it does not meet or touch it owing to the relation of both to the original extreme corner. (Plate X). This addition runs into the restored walling near the western end of the 'Lodge' and it was impossible in the time available to find out whether the restored wall was correctly aligned on the Roman one. Removal of the restored
east wall of the ‘Porter’s Lodge’ and the topsoil within it revealed a stone-flagged floor with drainage channels formed of lengths of cut stone set into it. From the lack of Roman potsherds in the topsoil and the presence of 19th-century fragments it would seem that the Roman floor of the ‘Lodge’ had been discovered in the 1864 exploration of the villa but, lacking the interest of having a tessellated pavement, had been subsequently filled in and forgotten. At the base of the restored east wall of the ‘Lodge’ and resting directly on the stone flooring, a line of pitched stones covered a layer of Roman mortar. The looseness of the mortar suggested some doubt at first as to whether the stones were really bonded into it or placed there in more recent times, but the 1957 excavation indicated that this walling may quite well represent later Roman work, the original room being given new east and south walls just inside the older ones.

A small trial trench, cut in the north-east corner of the ‘Lodge’ showed that the southern side of the arch continued southwards into the ‘Lodge’ beyond and underneath the east-west line of drainage channelling (Plate xi). The filling contained several very large lengths of disused drainage channelling and an almost complete flanged dish of the late-third or early 4th century suggesting that the channelled stone floor was of 3rd- or 4th-century date. The purpose of the channels was explained in 1957 by the discovery of the sewer into which they fed, sealed below the later south wall of the ‘Lodge’; this indicated them to be the normal drainage channels in front of latrine seats over the sewer in question, and the suggested dating was confirmed by the finding of early 4th-century pottery within this sealed sewer.

Among the unstratified small finds was a fragment of a flanged bowl (Collingwood type 32) with an alphabet in graffito on the inner face below the rim: ] \ A B C D E F G I[, the remainder perhaps of a whole alphabet though it was uncertain whether the graffito had been cut before or after breakage.¹

¹ R. P. Wright, J.R.S., xiv, 1955, 149, No. 27.
THE HORSEFAIR CEMETERY, BRISTOL

The site was originally an island site, bounded by the Horsefair, Bond Street, and the road known as St. James' Churchyard. The latter was closed when the site was merged with the adjoining land. A public fountain existed immediately within the southern boundary, and a public weigehbridge immediately outside its western end. The site had been surfaced with tarmacadum, with a downward slope from north to south, and had been used as an open space for many years. It was known to be an ancient burial ground and traditionally thought to have been the site of a burial pit of the victims of the 17th century Bristol plague.

In order to comply with the redevelopment plan for Bristol, the City Corporation proposed to prepare the site for a departmental store, and application was made for a Home Office order for authority to remove the human remains for reburial elsewhere. The order was granted and the City Corporation decided to begin work of removal at the beginning of March 1954. The City Corporation gave facilities to the Anatomy Department of the University of Bristol and the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology of Cambridge University, to carry out as complete an investigation of the site as possible in the limited time available. An excavation party, consisting of members of the Folk House Archaeological Club, was organized

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