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## The Faussett collection at Liverpool

PLATE XXXII

*The Faussett collection of Anglo-Saxon antiquities excavated in Kent between 1760 and 1773 is housed in the City of Liverpool Museums. Following a suggestion by Mrs Webster, of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum, Miss Dorothy Slow and Mrs Margaret Warhurst, Keeper and Assistant Keeper of Archaeology respectively in the City of Liverpool Museums, have sent us this note.*

In the spring of 1971, during a check on files of old correspondence, a letter was noticed from a descendant of the Reverend Bryan Faussett listing documents still retained by the family and mentioning portraits of Faussett and his wife by Thomas Hudson. The letter had been written fourteen years before and attempts to reach the address on it were unsuccessful, but with the help of the local police constable, we eventually traced the writer of the letter, who was most co-operative and promised to send us any documents he felt might be of interest, and to have the portraits cleaned and subsequently photographed for us. A suitcase of documents of varying importance as far as the Liverpool collection is concerned, but all of great interest, duly arrived together with excellent colour photographs of the portraits. The portraits of Bryan and Elizabeth

Faussett are the work of Thomas Hudson completed in 1758 at a cost of £30 15s 0d including frames and packing box. Black-and-white prints are reproduced (PL. XXXII).

The most important document is what may well be the earliest archaeological field notebook to survive. It records the excavations carried out in 1772 at Sibertswold, Barfriston, Kingston and Iffin Wood. The entries have been crossed out, presumably as Faussett entered each one in the six vellum-bound 'site-reports' which came with the finds, as part of the Faussett Collection, to the Museum in 1867. There are, however, a small number of sketches in the field notebook, which were not included in the bound volumes, and these may well prove to be important in re-attributing some of the ironwork which has survived without details of provenance and grave group.

On the inside back page of the field notebook Faussett noted the wages of some of the labourers he employed to excavate the cemeteries. These expenses are not entered in his daybooks which otherwise appear to contain meticulous records of all his income and expenditure. Unfortunately, no more field notebooks seem to have survived for the other years when Faussett was carrying out excavations in Kent.

## Estimating the duration of cultures

*The author of this note is Mrs Barbara Ottaway, a graduate in the Department of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, now engaged in research.* In a recent publication, the practice was recommended of grouping together all C14 dates published for a single culture, and

expressing their scatter in terms of the interquartile range (Ottaway, 1973). This avoids giving excessive weight to outlying dates, and a predicted advantage is that the median and the quartile dates should be little disturbed by the incorporation of new dates as they become