

Richard Rawlinson (editor)
Miscellanies on several curious subjects
London
1714

MISCELLANIES

On Several

Curious Subjects:

Now first Publish'd from their

RESPECTIVE ORIGINALS.

<vignette - portrait of Anthony Wood>

LONDON: Printed for E. CURLL,
at the Dial and Bible over-against St.
Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet. 1714.

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A Copy of a Letter from Robert Plott,
L. L. D. Keeper of the Ashmolean
Musæum in the University of Oxford;
design'd to be sent to the Royal Soci=
ety in London.

GENTLEMEN,

On Monday last I went to Chilham, to
view the Tumulus of Quintus Durus
Laberius, which is not in the Form of any
Roman Barrow I ever saw, being more like
one of our present Graves; I pac'd it, and
found it to be seventy of my Paces in
Length, and twenty in Breadth. This La=
berius was a Tribune, slain in one of Cæsar's
Engagements with the Britains; the Country-
People, to this Day, call it Julaberries Grave.
About half a Mile from hence is a handsom
Seat of Mr. Diggs's, built within the Trenches
of Chilham Castle, the Keep of which is yet
standing, and made Use of for a Brewing-House.

<28 Aug 1693>

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On Tuesday I went back again to Richborow,
to make a more strict Enquiry after some Par=
ticulars of Antiquity; the one was whether
it was possible that Richborow could ever
have been Part of the Isle of Thanet, as some
Authors affirm. I found that the Lands at
Gossehall and Fleet, which lye on the West
Side of Richborow, are situated lower than the
Lands which the Stower passeth by, and while
we were here, I met with several Sea-Shells
in the Meadows. On Wednesday I luckily
hit on a double Intrenchment in a Wood,
within three Miles of the antient City of
Canterbury, a City honour'd with the English
Primacy; the inward Trench contains an
Acre and half, the outward one about four
Times as much: It is very probable that
this was the Place where Cæsar met with the
Britains in his second Expedition; for he
says, that after he had left Quintus Atrius to
defend his Ships, at that Time lying above a
Mile and half wide off the Town of Sandwich,
he march'd twelve Miles up into the Coun=

try, where he met with the Britains near a River, and forced them first of all to retire into one of their Fortifications, and afterwards, forcing their Lines, beat them from thence: Camden contends this Battle to have been at Chilham, though the Distance does not agree, neither are there any Ruins of a Fortification to countenance his Assertion. On

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Thursday I walk'd to Hyth, along a Roman Causeway raised high, and paved with Flint. This is one of the Cinque-Ports, and formerly contain'd six Parishes, that of St. Nicholas only now remains, the Chancel is rais'd extremely on grey Marble Pillars. In the Chancel-House are great Numbers of Bones, and some of them very large; the Inhabitants have several Traditions of these Bones, which, as fictitious, I shall omit; they are white and thin; I took the Dimensions of some of the largest. Two Miles from hence are the Ruins of Saltwood Castle, formerly belonging to the See of Canterbury; it seems to have been a stately Structure, is of an oval Form, and twenty five Rods in Length. Within two Miles of Folkstone is a Fortification of Earth called Castle, which has one Trench towards the Sea, and sometimes one, at other times two Trenches towards the Continent, according as the Nature of the Hill requires. On Saturday I visited Stutfall Castle, a Roman Station; this was the Portus Limenus, whose Ruins include eight Acres of Land, and are in Form of an oblong Square; the Walls are composed of a rocky Stone, and a Mortar made of the Sea-Sand and small Pebbles; at two Yards Distance run double Rows of Roman Brick 14 or 15 Inches long. Within a Quarter of a Mile from Lymne Church is Shipway-Court,

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a Field where the Lord-Warden of the Cinque-Ports are sworn, and Causes concerning the Ports try'd. From hence I walked on the Beach to Romney, and this Morning from thence hither, passing most of the Way through the old Chanel of the Rother. These are all the Observations I have made in my Journey through this Part of the truly loyal County of Kent, which will no ways recompence the Time lost in the Perusal of this from,

GENTLEMEN,

Your Humble Servant,

R. PLOTT.

Apledore Sep.

3. 1693.

<This letter was reprinted by John Nichols in 1783, to fill up some empty space at the back of 'Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica', No. VI, part II, pp. 62–4. – C.F. May 2010, revised July 2013.>