

Roman Pavement uncovered at Colchester.—In 1906 a portion of a Roman mosaic pavement was uncovered in the garden of 18 North Hill, Colchester, and is now in the Castle Museum; another pavement was also revealed in the same garden, but this was allowed to remain *in situ* to await more favourable conditions for completely uncovering and removing it (*Trans. E.A.S.*, vol. x., **N.S.**, p. 84). These conditions presented themselves in July last, when Mr. Harrington Lazell, the then owner of the site, with commendable public spirit, offered the pavement to the Town Council for preservation in the museum, before disposing of the property. Mr. Lazell's offer having been gratefully accepted, the work of excavation was immediately entered upon under the supervision of Mr. P. G. Laver, F.S.A., and the pavement was entirely uncovered and has since been removed. On the whole it is in an excellent state of preservation; it was at a depth of from 2 feet to 4 feet below the surface, and measures about 12 feet square. The central panel encloses a circle containing four heart-shaped leaves. At three corners of the pavement is a four-petalled ornament within a lozenge; the device in the fourth corner is a lozenge containing four heart-shaped leaves; black, white, grey, red and yellow being the colours employed. A band of plain red tesserae borders the south side of the mosaic. To the east of the pavement, and at a depth of about 5 feet, there was a bed of charcoal. At the south-east corner, tile footings, forming a right angle on the east face, were visible; and directly behind, about 2 feet farther east, there was an interesting fragment of Roman walling (3 feet high, 6 feet wide, and 14 inches thick), consisting of double layers of septaria and pebbles, bonded at intervals of about 8 inches with two or three courses of tiles—a patch of original plaster still adhered to it. The north corner of this wall showed that it was returned towards the east, and a trench cut due east at this point brought to light, at a distance of about 18 feet from the mosaic, a small piece of red tessellated pavement.

Numerous fragments of wall-plaster painted with various designs were also found; these show that in some cases the walls had been painted two or three times, and at each re-painting a fresh coat of plaster about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick had been superimposed, small nicks being first cut in the wall to form a key.

Other finds comprised fragments of buff and red roofing tiles (*tegulae* and *imbrices*); potsherds, among which is the handle of an amphora of reddish-buff ware, first century, stamped with the name of the maker: CAT. QVI†; a small quantity of fragmentary glass, including a portion of the moulded rim of a large greenish-tinted bowl, and of an opaline bowl, cut with closely set rows of slightly concave ovals; a fragmentary bone comb, repaired with bronze plates and rivets; a mass of corroded iron nails, possibly from the sole of a boot; a brass coin much corroded, but perhaps of Tetricus; a bodkin, a needle, and a stylus of bronze, *etc.*

It is hoped that Mr. Laver, who has had a series of drawings made of the wall-plaster, will contribute a fuller account in the next part of these *Transactions*.

The photograph of the Roman pavement, which forms the frontispiece, is reproduced by kind permission of *The Times*.

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