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NOTE ON EXCAVATIONS AT RICHBOROUGH.

BY C. ROACH SMITH, F.S.A.

IT is very remarkable that no lapidary inscription has hitherto been discovered at Richborough. From the importance of the place, during the entire tenure of Britain by the Romans, such records might have been expected. Even now they are to be looked for; especially on the site of the main cemetery, which, there is reason to expect, was at some little distance from the *Castrum*, on both sides of the chief road leading to it.

In the spring of the present year (1888) I commenced cataloguing a collection of coins from Richborough, in the possession of Mr. Gent of Sandwich. Among them is an *aureus* of Gratianus A.D. 375-383, as fresh as if just issued from the Mint. It was found in an urn on the right-hand side of the road, opposite Mr. Solly's house. There, from records preserved by Mr. Boys, I have ever considered was one of the Rutupian burial-places, probably the chief. This discovery goes far to confirm my opinion; for there can be no doubt that this valuable coin, buried in an urn, formed part of the funereal deposit of a person of consequence, at a late period of the Roman occupation.

When I have completed my examination of Mr. Gent's coins, I shall present the list to the Kent Archæological Society, together with a notice of a coin found at Richborough long since, which Mr. Arthur Evans, F.S.A., in *The Numismatic Chronicle*, attributes to a second Carausius.

C. ROACH SMITH.

Strood, July 9th, 1888.