



### **Queens' College Plates at Brook Farm, Haslingfield**

In 1994 CAFG fieldwalked fields at Brook Farm, Haslingfield and among the finds were some pieces of plates with the name Queens' College on them. Recently the opportunity has arisen to have them inspected by Craig Cessford of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. While acknowledging that further research might produce more detail, he has sent the following brief explanatory note.

#### **Note by Craig Cessford regarding the Brook Farm, Haslingfield pottery**

At least four vessels that can be linked to Queens' College, Cambridge, were recovered during field walking by the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group in 1994 near Brook Farm, to the north of the village of Haslingfield, located some 4.8 miles to the southwest of the college. Queens' College acquired land in Haslingfield from the Prisot family (1475) and the Sterne family (1495). These two farms, which the college leased out to tenants, covered c.320 acres and at inclosure Queens' was allotted 385 acres. The college sold the farms between c.1945-50. It is likely that the presence of the pottery is somehow linked to this land ownership. The four vessels represent three different patterns. This suggests that they may represent some form of general replacement of old pottery by the college when a new service was introduced.

Two of the vessels are plates with a green transfer-printed design of a view of the college from the river Cam (Vessel 1) and a floral border with the college motto FLOREAT DOMUS (Latin: May this House Flourish) at the bottom (Vessel 2). Examples of such plates are known with the names G GERMANY and M PAGE at the top (Stovin 1999, 56, fig. 8); unfortunately this upper portion is missing in both of the current examples. These two people were Queens' College porters (George Germany 1825-46; Martin Page 1846-71) and Queens' is unusual in that it was the only Cambridge college where the porter, rather than the cook, had charge of the crockery.



*Figure 1. Vessel 1 showing the college viewed from the River Cam*



*Figure 2. Rim of vessel 2 showing the college motto "FLOREAT DOMUS"*

One of the plates has the text QUEEN'S COLLE[GE] on the rear. As far as I am aware this is not present on the other examples, indicating that this was not a plate linked to the college porters and that it may be linked to either the college itself or to the college cook. The incorrect punctuation is also noteworthy, as colleges were usually quite punctilious about this.

There is also a vessel with different green transfer printed design with floral elements and name QUEE (Vessel 3) and a blue transfer printed design with name J K TAYLO[R] / QUEENS C[OLLEGE] and a floral pattern (Vessel 4). Jasper King Taylor was born on the 11th February 1806 and baptised at Saint Andrew, Holborn, London on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1806.

In the 1851 census Jasper K Taylor was a cook aged 45 living on Silver Street, who had been born in London. There is also a will of Jasper King Taylor, Cook of Queens' College in the University of Cambridge, dated 14th June 1855 (TNA Prob 11/2215). The exact forms of the two latter vessels are unclear, but neither appears to be a 'standard' circular plate.



Figure 3. Wrong punctuation on the plate



Figure 4. Partial word QUEE on vessel 3



Figure 5. Partial words for J K TAYLO[R] and QUEENS C[OLLEGE] on vessel 4.

The use of the colour green on many of these vessels would have been relatively unusual, as the vast majority of transfer prints of the period (typically >90%) were blue.

Version 1.0

MAT