

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

OCTOBER 1928—OCTOBER 1930

WITH
Communications
MADE TO THE SOCIETY

VOLUME XXXI

Edited by E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.



Cambridge :
Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society
By BOWES & BOWES.
1931

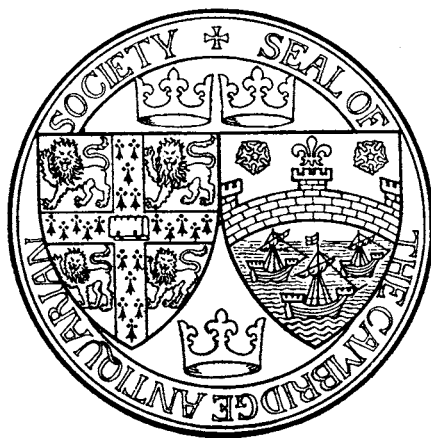
Price Twenty-five Shillings.

**CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

NOTE

The Volumes are now marked with the **earlier serial number** only. The “New Series” number and the “Communications” number are discontinued.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society
October 1928—October 1930
WITH
COMMUNICATIONS
MADE TO THE SOCIETY



VOL. XXXI

Edited by E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

CAMBRIDGE

PUBLISHED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

BY BOWES & BOWES

1931

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Report of the Council and Summary of Accounts for 1928 . . .	ix
Report of the Council and Summary of Accounts for 1929 . . .	xix
A Derelict Railway: Being the History of the Newmarket and Chesterford Railway. KENNETH BROWN	1
Windmills in Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. H. C. HUGHES, M.A., F.R.I.B.A.	17
The Benedictine Nunnery of Swaffham Bulbeck. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	30
Roman Pewter Bowl from the Isle of Ely. L. C. G. CLARKE, M.A., F.S.A.	66
Graffiti of Ships at Swaffham Bulbeck Nunnery. H. H. BRINDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.	76
The Massacre at the Bran Ditch, A.D. 1010. ARTHUR GRAY, M.A. .	77
John Rant, A College Lawyer of the 17th century. A. H. LLOYD, Ph.D., F.S.A.	88
A Romano-British Site in Horseheath. CATHERINE E. PARSONS .	99
The Parish Church of Madingley. A. H. LLOYD, Ph.D., F.S.A. .	105
Cambridge County Records. ETHEL M. HAMPSON, M.A., Ph.D. .	124
Mural Paintings in Kingston Church, Cambridgeshire. H. H. BRINDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.	146
Archaeological Notes. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A., and M. M. O'REILLY, M.A.	150
An Attempt to discover the site of the Battle of Aldreth. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A.	155
Index	157

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Newmarket and Chesterford Railway:

	PAGE
Sketch Plan	facing 1
Pampisford Road	,, 2
Balsham	,, 2
Bourn Bridge	,, 2
Abington Road Bridge	,, 2
Wilbraham Road Bridge	,, 2
Presentation Spade, Sept. 1846	,, 5
Cambridge Station in 1845	,, 12

Windmills in Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely:

Wooden Post Mill: Diagram	facing 21
Bourn	,, 23
Soham Mere	,, 23
Fulbourn	,, 26
Soham	,, 26
Burnham Overy Staithe	,, 28
Stretham	,, 28

Swaffham Bulbeck Nunnery:

From S.E.	facing 37
Undercroft	,, 37

Roman Pewter Bowl:

The Bowl and details	facing 66
Font in Chester Cathedral	,, 69
A Bestiary Peacock	,, 69
St Peter's, Cambridge: Details of font: Sirens	,, 70
The Menatee of Magalhaes	71
Inscription	74

Graffiti of Ships at Swaffham:

	PAGE
Plate I. Details	facing 76

John Rant, A College Lawyer:

Rant of Cambridge	facing 88
-----------------------------	-----------

Romano-British Site, Horseheath:

Plate I. Plan of Excavations	facing 100
Plates II-VI. Site, Excavations and Finds	facing 100, 101, 102, 104

Parish Church of Madingley:

Plate I. Plan	facing 105
Plate II. Church from S.E.	,, 107
Plate IIIA. South Door	,, 109
Plate IIIB. Chancel Monument	,, 110
Plate IIIC. Church from N.E.: Jane Cotton's Monument	,, 111
Plate IV. Church from N.	,, 114
Plate V. Church Interior, looking E.	,, 114
Plate VIA. Chancel Arch, North Respond	,, 117
Plate VIB. Font from S.E.	,, 117
Plate VII. Tower Respond: Wooden figures	,, 118
Plate VIII. S.W. Window of Chancel	,, 121
Plate IX. North Wall of Chancel	,, 122
Plate X. Details of Windows.	,, 122

Cambridge County Records:

Plate I. Alresford Fire Brief, 1691	facing 132
---	------------

Mural Paintings, Kingston Church, Cambridgeshire:

Plate I. Details	facing 146
----------------------------	------------

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

By T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A., and M. M. O'REILLY, M.A.

Stone Age. Two axes of yellow flint, chipped and ground, were found this year within a few feet of each other on Shelford allotments (Pl. I, figs. 1 and 2). As was recently noted (*Proc. C.A.S.* Vol. xxix, p. 105), flint tools have not been commonly found in the Shelford neighbourhood.

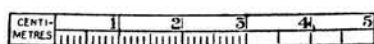
Among a number of objects kindly presented to the Museum recently by the Rev. E. Conybeare are the three following specimens:

1. A fine jadeite axe, thin, flat and highly polished, with sharply-pointed butt, similar to other local specimens in the Museum usually thought to be imported from Brittany and to be contemporary with the dolmens, was found some years ago on the border of the parishes of Foxton and Barrington (Pl. II, fig. 1). In support of the theory that these axes were never meant for practical use it may be remarked that the cutting edge of this specimen has been deliberately ground blunt.

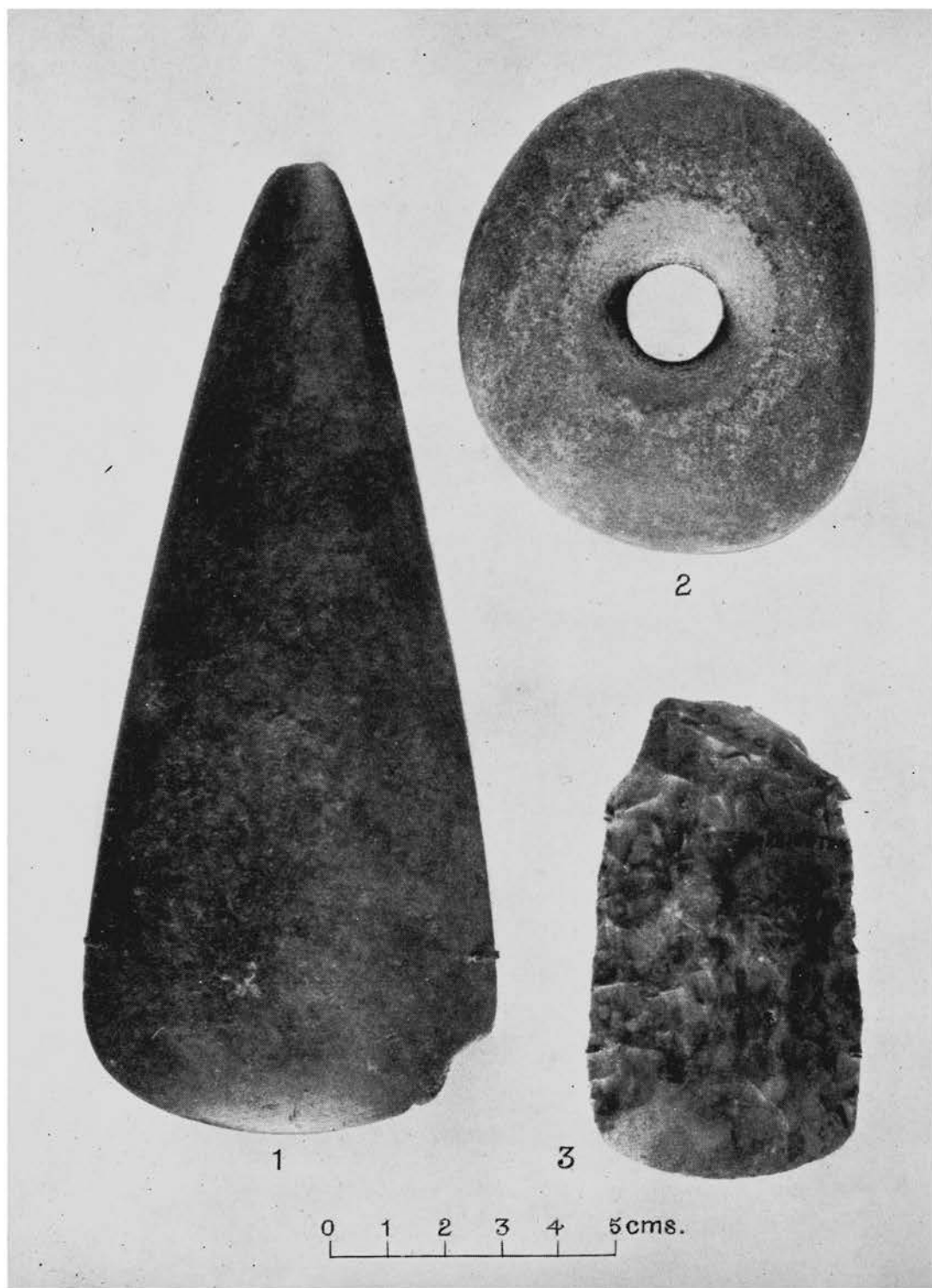
2. An axe of dark grey flint, chipped and partially ground, small but of fine workmanship (broken at the butt-end) is shown on Pl. II, fig 3.

3. The third specimen is an irregularly-shaped perforated pebble which belongs to a well-known class of objects usually known as mace-heads and at present undatable (Pl. II, fig. 2).

Bronze Age. The pot shown on Pl. IX was found some time ago in fragments on the mud of the river-bank a short distance below Bottisham Locks, a point in the river where the remains of innumerable trees dredged out from the river bed indicates former woodland conditions. It is a handled beaker of the earliest Bronze Age, made of grey pottery and richly ornamented over the whole body, handle and base with rouletted geometric patterns which retain some of the white material with which all such designs on beakers were, no doubt, originally inlaid. This is the fourth handled beaker found in this district and most



Figs. 1 and 2.



closely resembles one from Fordham (Pl. X, and in Dr Fox's *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, Pl. II, 1 and 1 A), the designs on the bases being remarkably similar. Dr Fox has dealt exhaustively with the whole question of handled beakers in this country in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. v, 7th series, p. 1, 1925. Personally we are not inclined to attach much significance to the fact of the occasional occurrence of handles on beakers, since as a reference to Dr Fox's paper will show they appear sporadically on almost every known type of British beaker; nor do we think it possible as yet to decide whether our straight-sided beakers should be placed early or late in the series.

Pl. III, fig. 3, shows a rapier of the Middle Bronze Age found many years ago in Croxton Park. The blade has a broad flat midrib; two notches in the butt provide the only means of securing the blade to the grip.

A fine and well-proportioned leaf-shaped sword, belonging to the Late Bronze Age (Pl. III, fig. 1), was dredged up some months ago from the Little Ouse about three miles from Wilton. This specimen closely resembles one from Aldreth High Bridge in the Museum collection (see Fox, *Arch. Camb. Reg.* Pl. IX, fig. 1), but lacks the pronounced midrib noticeable in the latter.

The existence of an ancient ford or crossing of the River Wissey above the present bridge at Stoke Ferry is suggested by the recent discovery of a number of weapons during dredging operations at that point. Of these, three bronze spearheads and an iron sword have been acquired by the Museum.

All three spearheads are of the type without loop and with rivet-holes in the socket usually assigned to the Late Bronze Age, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that they were all lost at the same time. The smallest one is in but indifferent condition; the second, which is hollow-cast throughout, is of a type represented in great numbers in the Wilburton hoard (*cf.* Fox, *Arch. Camb. Reg.* p. 61 and his Pl. X). The third, which is of the same type, is a remarkably fine weapon and is the largest and best of its kind in the Museum collection. An unusual feature of this specimen is its decoration (Plate IV, figs. 1 and 2), consisting

of an arrangement of punched dots and short cuts outlining the midrib and the base of the wings, and of a series of lightly incised chevrons round the base of the socket. The metal still retains its original golden colour. The remains of the ashwood shaft were still in the spearhead when it was found and have been preserved.

Iron Age. The iron sword (Pl. III, fig. 2) was dredged from the River Wissey at the same time as the three spearheads. The blade is 2 ft. long and was originally no more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ " across at the broadest part against the hilt. Swords with tapering blades and curved guards of this type are usually assigned to the early La Tène Period. (It would be more accurate to describe this specimen as a rapier than as a sword.) One is strongly tempted to see in the presence at the same spot of this sword and of the bronze spearheads evidence of a clash between the local, native, bronze-using population and invaders using iron weapons.

A penannular bronze bracelet, worked up from a cylindrical rod of bronze, with blunt expanded terminals, was found in Shepherd's Fen near Mildenhall (Pl. VI, Fig. 1). It is ornamented at either end with a highly conventionalised animal's head which recalls somewhat similar heads on pins and brooches from Traprain Law dating in the Roman Period.

Roman Period. Two pots (Pl. V, figs. 1 and 2) were found by the donor on the bank of the River Wissey about a mile above Stoke Ferry Bridge. They were lying within two feet of one another in the mud and must have been raised together from the river-bed in one grab of the dredger. As there was no other pottery on the river-bank for a considerable distance it is highly probable that they were already associated at the time when they were lost. The first is a pear-shaped bottle of hard grey ware with a slight cordon at the base of the neck; it was originally decorated with horizontal bands of greenish paint; it probably belongs to the earlier part of the Roman Period. The other is a bowl of coarse dark grey ware with flat base and slightly thickened rim; it is hand-made, undecorated and of very rough workmanship. The association of a pot of such primitive type with a bottle of well-known Roman form is perhaps unexpected; but it is reasonable to suppose that the custom would

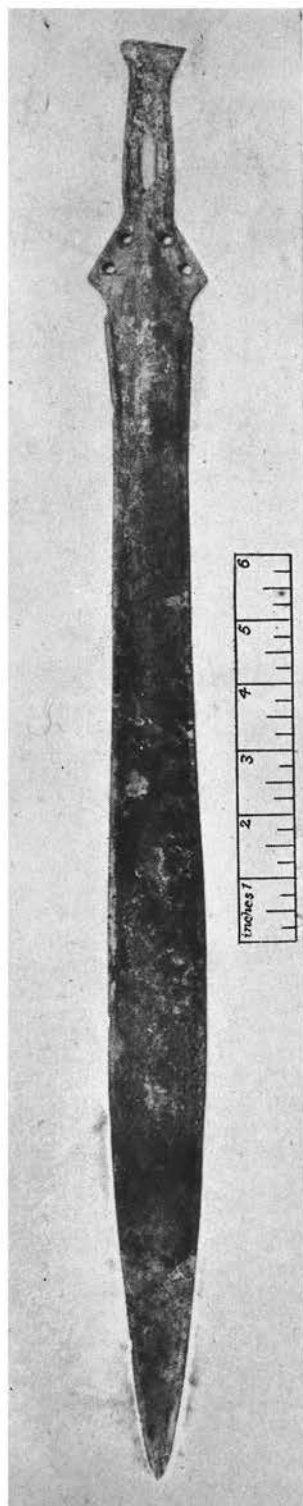


Fig. 1.

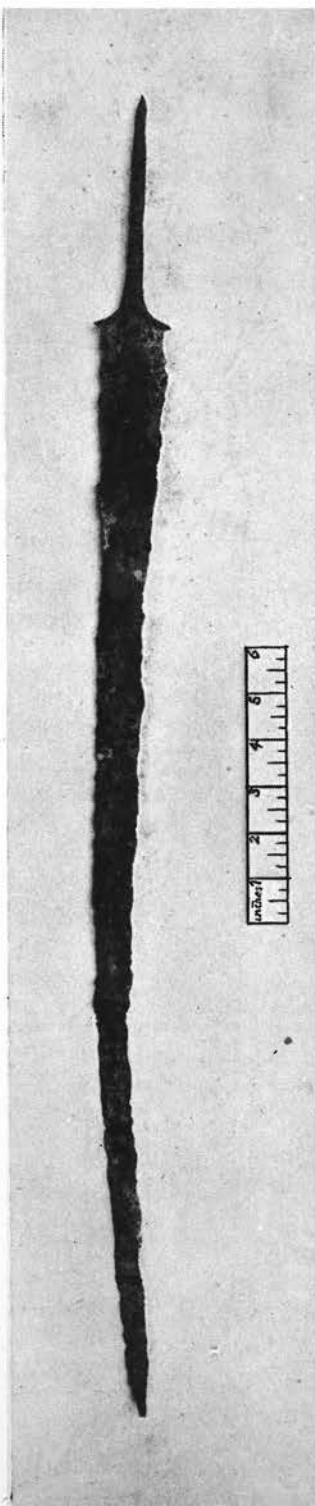
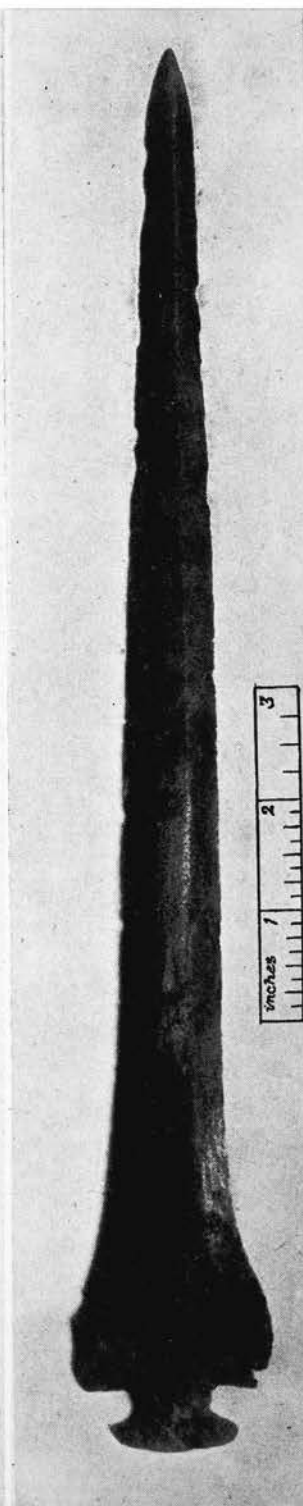
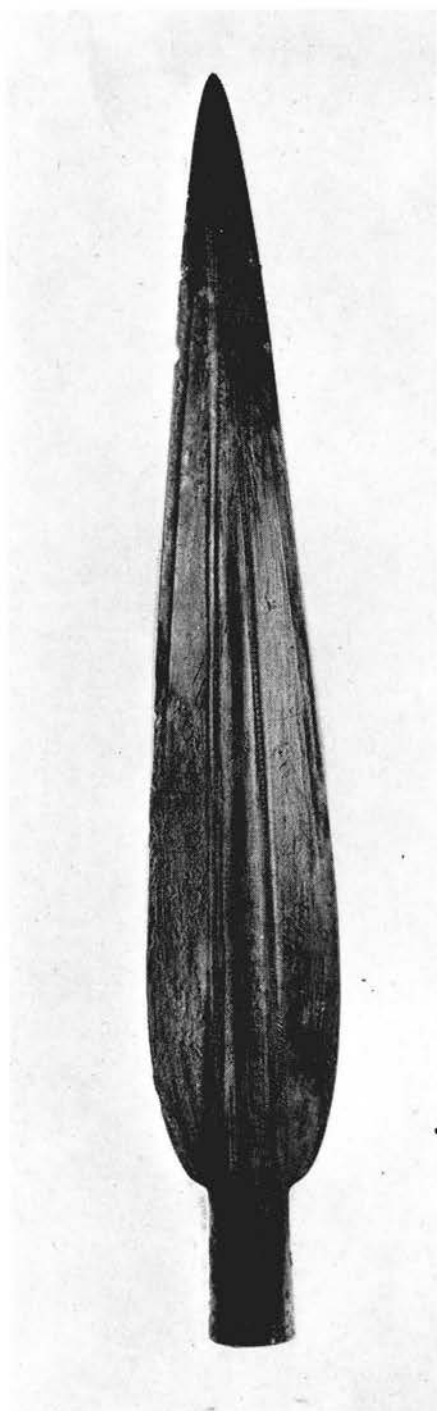


Fig. 2.





(Natural size.)



0 5 10
cms.

continue of making rough hand-made pots to be used along with the finer, wheel-made, Romano-British wares.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Periods. Two buckles were recovered from the River Cam during dredging operations near Magdalene Bridge. The first (Pl. VI, fig. 2), which is made of copper, bears a resemblance to the large buckles with triangular plate which are found in Kentish cemeteries of the 7th century, and occasionally occur as importations in local cemeteries; but these are usually more ornate, have more elaborate tongues, and are usually made of bronze and frequently gilded and set with glass and garnets. On some of these buckles the garnet cell-work is represented conventionally by incised lines, and it is possible that the apparently meaningless punch-marks on the bow of our specimen are derived from these. The punched ornament on the plate and the back of the bow is also common on such buckles. The tongue, which is made of brass, is doubtless a later addition and has replaced the original tongue with shield-shaped expansion at the base of the type usually found on these buckles. This specimen probably belongs to the later part of 7th century.

The second buckle, made of brass (imperfect), and having a movable loop attached for suspending some such object as a key or an ink-horn, is medieval and is precisely similar to several specimens in the Museum collection (Pl. IV, fig. 3). One of these was found on the body of an Augustinian friar when the cemetery of the Augustinian Friary which formerly stood in Bene't Street was discovered during the building of the Arts School in 1910 (*Proc. C.A.S.* Vol. xiv, p. 7). Other buckles of the same type from Grantchester and Mildenhall are in the Museum.

With the exception of the bronze leaf-shaped sword, all the specimens described above have been acquired by the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology; the bronze rapier and smaller spearhead and the iron sword were purchased out of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society's grant; the large bronze spearhead was presented by Mr H. F. Bird, the two pots by Mr T. C. Lethbridge and the two buckles by the Cam Conservancy Board through Mr G. P. Hawkins; the Museum is much indebted to

the kindness of all these donors. The leaf-shaped sword has been put on deposit in the Museum by the Ouse Drainage Board.

Viking Period. In *Egil's Saga*, Chapter 53, the following incident is described as having taken place at the Battle of Brunanburh (Vinheid): "Thorolf was thus armed—he had a shield of great width and thickness and a very strong helmet on his head; he was girt with the sword called "Lang," a big weapon and a good. He had a halberd in his hand of which the blade was two ells in length with a four-sided point hammered out. Further up the blade was broad and the socket both long and thick. The shaft was not so high that one's hand could not reach up to the socket and it was uncommonly thick. There was an iron prong in the socket and the shaft was all wound about with iron. That spear was called a 'mail-thwart.'... Then Thorolf became so mad-wroth that he slung his shield behind him and gripping his spear with both hands sprang forth and smote and thrust on either side. Then men fled away in both directions; but he slew many. So he cleared a way right up to Earl Hring's standard and was not resisted. He slew the standard-bearer and cut down the standard pole. Thereupon he thrust his spear at the Earl's breast and pierced his byrnie and his body so that the point came out at his shoulders. Then he hove him up on the spear point and stuck the end of the shaft on the ground and the Earl died there on his spear. All men saw it; both his own men and his enemies." (Extract translated in Bremner's *Norsemen in Alban.*)

The only kind of spearhead which could have been used in this way is the so-called Carolingian winged spearhead, of which a fine specimen, dredged from the River Ouse near Braham's Farm some time ago, is here shown on Pl. VII. This weapon, as may be seen on the plate, is in a remarkably good state of preservation; the blade is damascened and the socket richly ornamented with silver, copper and fragments of gold, the design being apparently a variation of the Ringerike style (Pl. VIII. Very few specimens of this type of spearhead have been found in this country (*cf.* Dr R. E. M. Wheeler, *London and the Vikings*, p. 28); it is commoner in Scandinavia, but so much more common on the continent that it is generally accepted as a

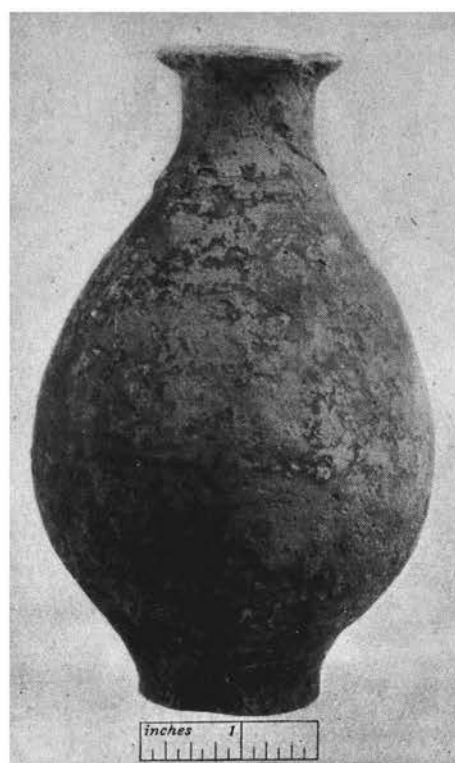


Fig. 1.

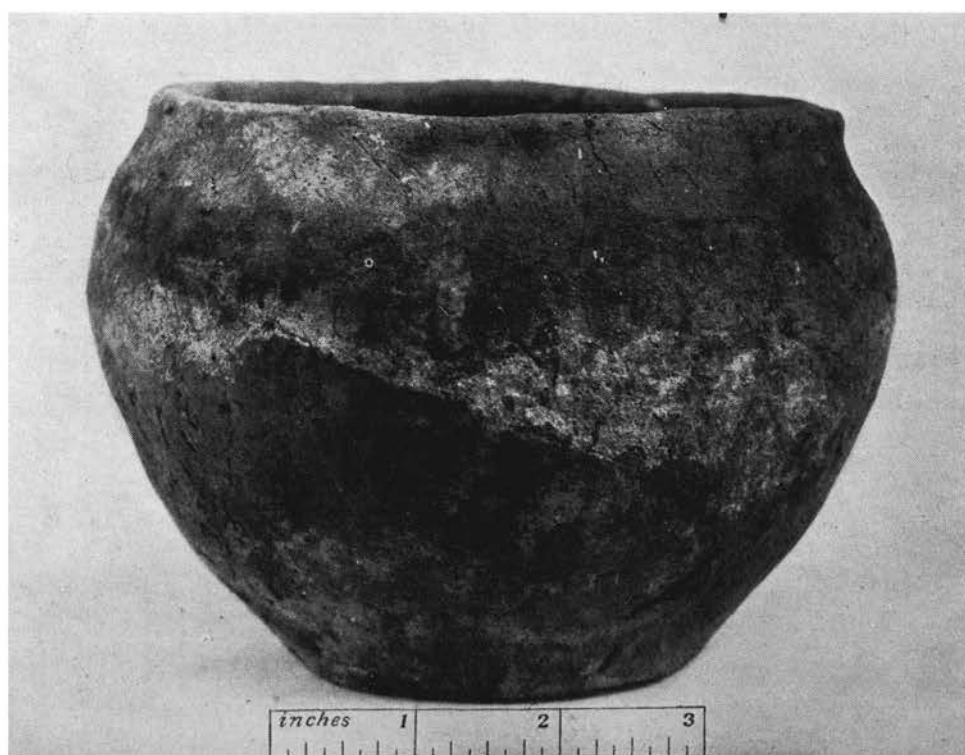


Fig. 2.



Fig. 1.

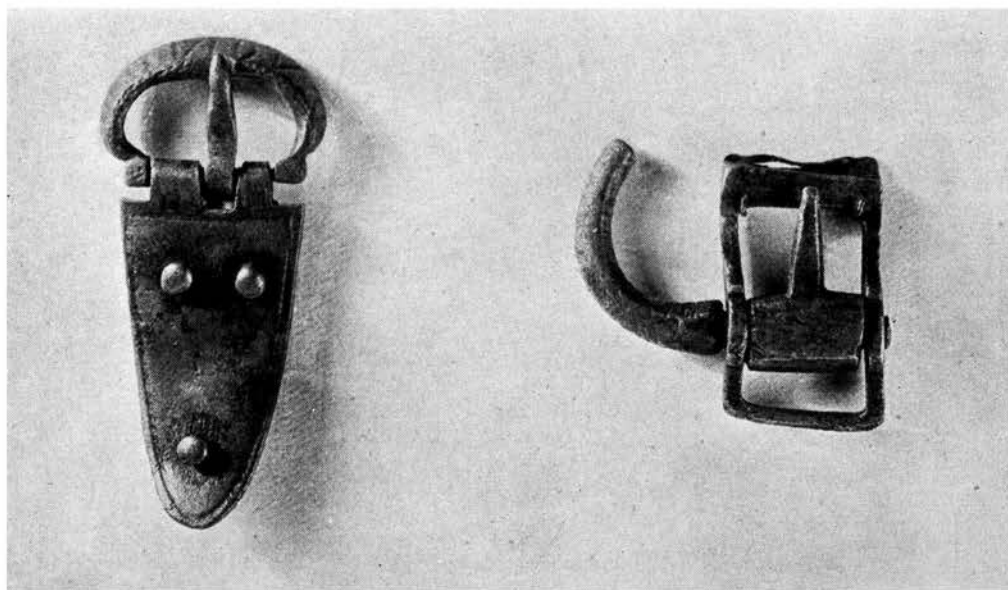
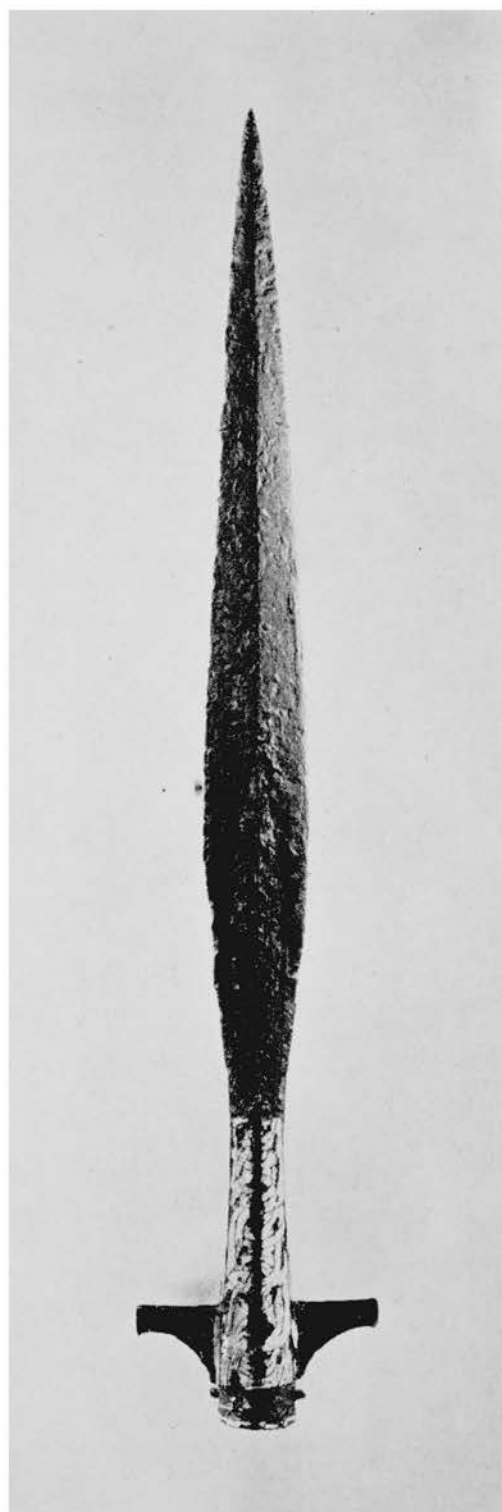


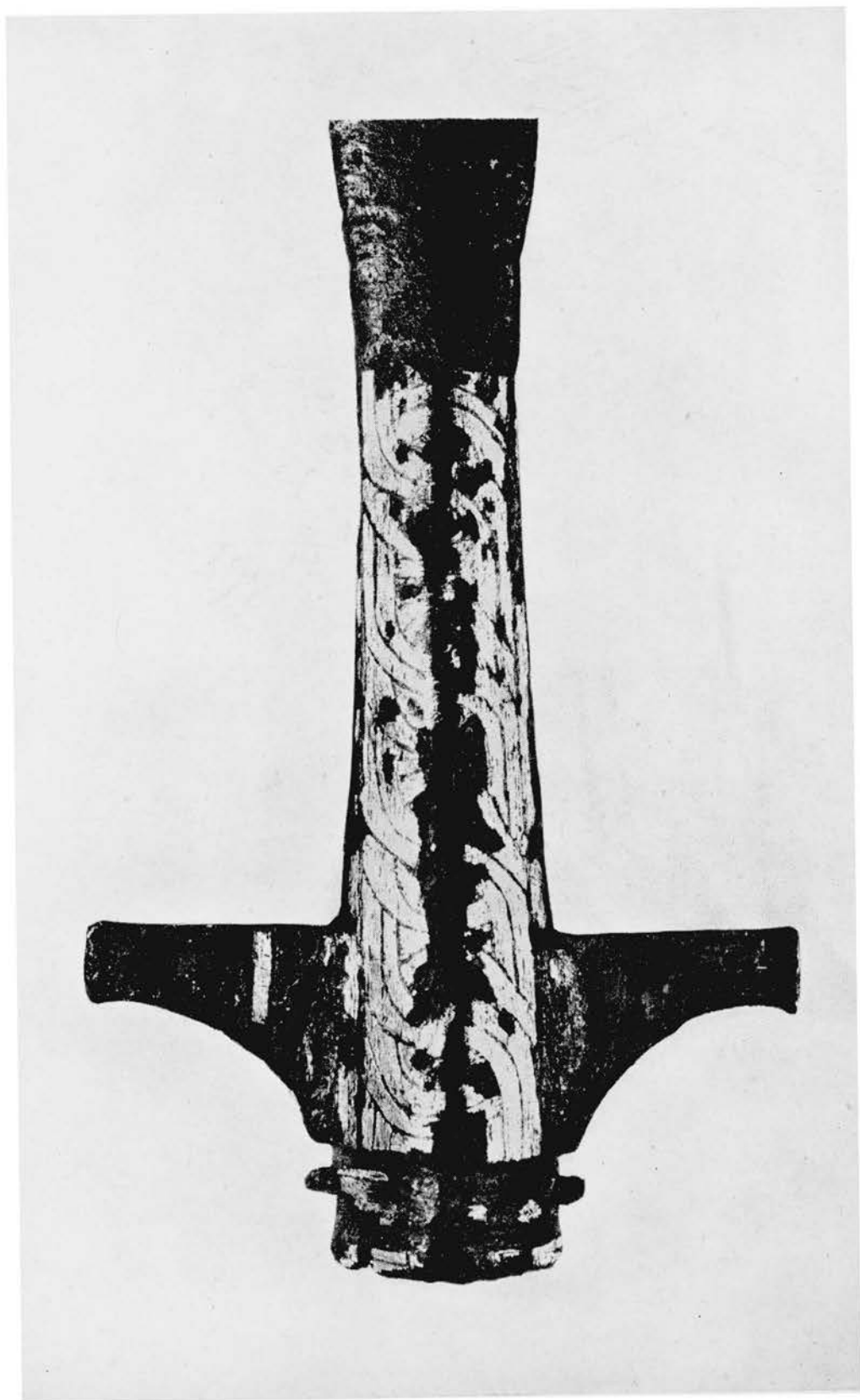
Fig. 2.

(Natural size.)

Fig. 3.



0 1 2 3 4 5
cm.



(Natural size.)



Fig. 1.

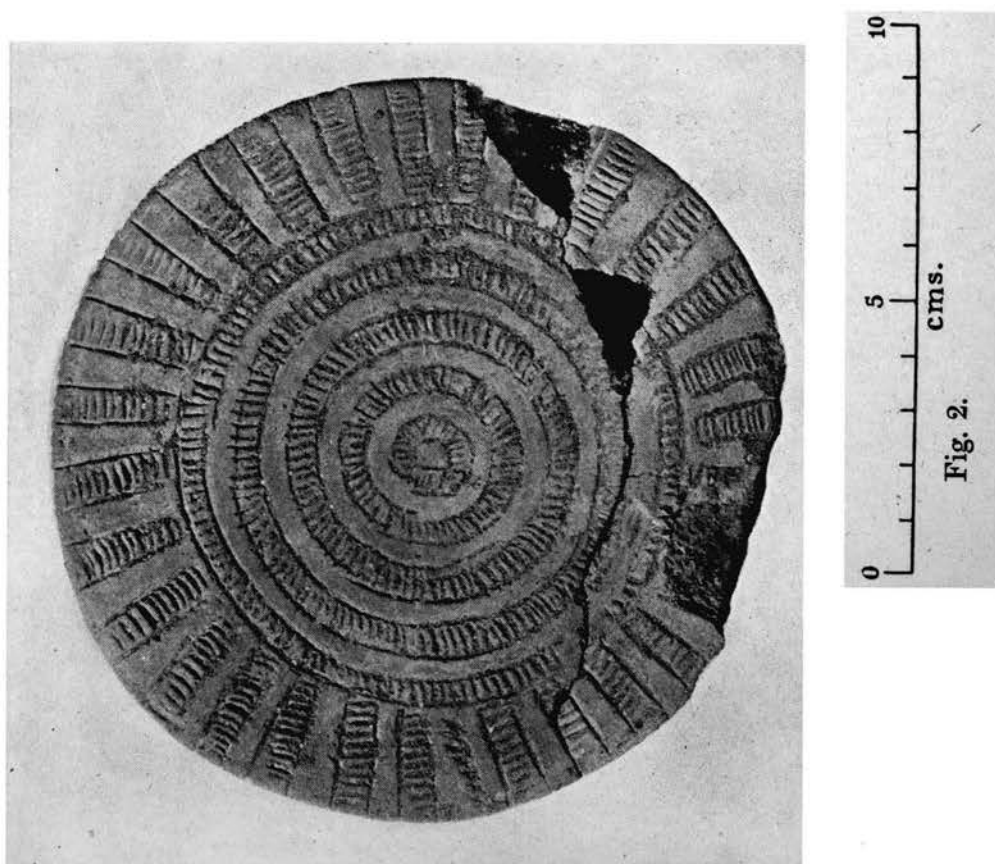


Fig. 2.

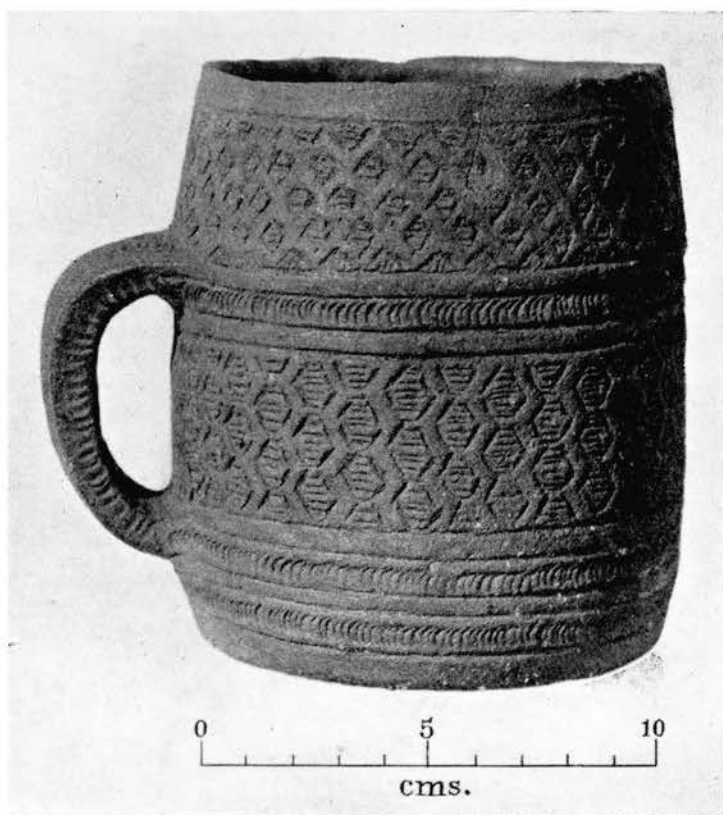


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

Carolingian type (cf. P. Reinecke, *Mittheilungen der Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien*, XXIX, 1899, p. 35). Photographs of the weapon have been sent to the Curator of the Mainz Museum and to Dr Jan Petersen of Stavanger, both of whom have kindly given their opinions of its date and origin. The former says: "The spearhead is, according to our finds, Carolingian and we should place it about 900 A.D. We have many such spearheads with side-wings, so-called *Knebellanzen*, but none of them has the plait ornament seen on yours." Dr Petersen says: "I don't doubt that the spearhead... is from the 10th century and preferably the first half of this century, the silver inlay seems to show that too. It is more difficult to decide the origin of this spearhead. It is a well-known type in Norway, but it may very well be made by the Northmen in England. It was very usual that the sword-hilts with entrelace ornament are made in the western countries, and that may be the fall here too."

The spearhead has been kindly presented to the Museum by Major Gordon Fowler, to whom it is much indebted, as also to Mr A. Rowden through whom the discovery was first brought to its notice.

AN ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER THE SITE OF THE BATTLE OF ALDRETH.

By T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A.

In August 1930 an effort was made to see whether the disaster to King William's troops which is so graphically described in *De Gestis Herwardi Saxonis* had really taken place at Aldreth High Bridge as is generally supposed. It was thought that if so it was almost certain that numerous objects would be found, for however keen the then local "scroungers" may have been to recover lost weapons and the like, it would have been exceedingly difficult to recover them from several feet of slime or peat bog. Trenches were cut all round the bridge and across the line along which the Causeway would have led, had it not swung a little to the present bridge site. Nothing whatever was found remotely suggesting that this was the battlefield. There was

CONTENTS

OF PROCEEDINGS,

VOL. XXXI, 1928-30.

	PAGE
Report of Council for 1928	ix
Summary of Accounts for 1928	xiv
New Officers for 1929-30	xvii
Complete List of Officers for 1929-30	xviii
Report of Council for 1929	xix
Summary of Accounts for 1929	xxvi
Annual General Meeting, 1930	xxix
Council and Officers, 1930-31	xxx

Printed Papers :

A Derelict Railway: being the history of the Newmarket and Chesterford Railway. KENNETH BROWN	1
Windmills in Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely. H. C. HUGHES, M.A., F.R.I.B.A.	17
The Benedictine Nunnery of Swaffham Bulbeck. W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.	30
Roman Pewter Bowl from the Isle of Ely. L. C. G. CLARKE, M.A., F.S.A.	66
Graffiti of Ships at Swaffham Bulbeck Nunnery. H. H. BRINDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.	76
Massacre at the Bran Ditch, A.D. 1010. ARTHUR GRAY, M.A.	77
John Rant, a College Lawyer of the 17th century. A. H. LLOYD, PH.D., F.S.A.	88
A Romano-British Site in Horseheath. CATHERINE E. PARSONS	99
The Parish Church of Madingley. A. H. LLOYD, PH.D., F.S.A.	105
Cambridge County Records. ETHEL M. HAMPSON, M.A., PH.D.	124
The Mural Paintings in Kingston Church, Cambridgeshire. H. H. BRINDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.	146
Archaeological Notes. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A., and M. M. O'REILLY, M.A.	150
An Attempt to discover the Site of the Battle of Aldreth. T. C. LETHBRIDGE, P.A., F.S.A.	155
Index	157