

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUMES LVI & LVII

JANUARY 1962 TO DECEMBER 1963

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

GRACE BRISCOE, TIMOTHY POTTER,
PATRICIA HUTCHINSON, MARTIN BIDDLE,
AND G. H. FINDLAY AND HOWARD HART

ICENIAN COIN FINDS IN LAKENHEATH, SUFFOLK

Two finds of Icenian coins have been made in recent years in Lakenheath. As the circumstances were different, it seems advisable to describe them before detailed publication takes place. Lakenheath parish is lozenge-shaped, 9 miles wide, and the eastern third lies in the Breckland, with sandy soil on chalk, the western third is in the Fen with black peaty soil. The centre holds the village and the cultivated land.

The first discovery, in November 1959, was in the 'Roman Field' on the outskirts of a fourth-century settlement, a mile to the east of the village, on the edge of the Breckland (TL 728833). A deeper ploughing than usual brought up a butt beaker with hundreds of coins, 67 Roman silver denarii and 415 ancient British coins, including three gold staters, one of great rarity. This is the largest hoard of Icenian coins found hitherto in this country.

The hoard was subject to Coroner's Inquest, declared Treasure Trove, and acquired by the Fitzwilliam Museum.

A Foreword has been published in the *British Numismatic Journal*.¹ Mr Derek Allen has undertaken the detailed description.

The second discovery was made in April 1960 (see p. 1). It was reported to me that pottery sherds and worked flints had been picked up, after deeper ploughing, in Joist Fen, a mile to the west of the village, on a string of small sand islands surrounded by black peat (TL 693855). A few days later a workman picked up three coins, two Icenian and one Republican. It then transpired that workmen had been finding stray coins on the islands for the past two years or so, after ploughing. Inquiries among these men produced a number of coins, but clearly all could not be traced, as some had been given away or sold. The total number traced and acquired in 1960 was 55—Icenian 32 and Roman 23. They were sent to Mr Graham Pollard at the Fitzwilliam Museum for identification.

In 1961 an effort was made to trace further coins on the same site by a mine-detector. A ploughman indicated a spot where he had found several coins. Mr Graham Connor and Mr David Clarke examined this area and found nine more coins. Subsequent searches by Mr Connor produced four more, bringing the total to 68: Icenian 33, and Early Roman 35.

¹ G. Briscoe, R. A. G. Carson and R. H. M. Dolley, *British Numismatic Journ.* xxix, p. 215.

This Joist Fen collection is important because it includes three coins of a unique type, with legends SVBIDASTO on obverse and ESICO on reverse. Mr Derek Allen is dealing with the implications of these new coins in his detailed report. The Icenian coins from both sites have been listed by Mr Allen in *Problems of the Iron Age in South Britain*.

It is not improbable that most of these coins were deposited together in a hoard, but there is no evidence that they were. It is not even certain that all the coins have been found on the same island. The plough had turned up the bones of a human skeleton in the black peat a few yards to the west of the island. Mr D. R. Brothwell considered they represented a single male about twenty-five years of age. The coins may have been in his possession when he was drowned or killed.

In 1960 after a number of coins had been traced I reported the finds to the Coroner and, with his approval, arranged to describe them as a 'collection of strays'.

In comparing the two collections it will be noted that they cover, approximately, the same historical period, but the proportion of Icenian coins to Roman is different. In the 'Roman Field' the site was examined within an hour of its discovery and many coins were still in the base of the pot. All the coins recovered were within a yard of the hiding place, a hole in the chalk. In Joist Fen the coins were scattered and the smaller discoloured Icenian coins were difficult to find. The mine detector only secured a single one and that was stuck to a Roman coin of larger weight.

There are indications that an Iron Age C type of people made their habitation at Lakenheath. Albinia Gell¹ reported on a site close to the 'Roman Field', where black pits yielded pottery showing Belgic influence. The well-known Lakenheath dragonesque brooch in the Ashmolean Museum was found 300 yards to the south of the hoard site in the 'Roman Field'. It is illustrated by Rainbird Clarke in *The Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk* (fig. 10), with two other brooches from Undley, an outlying hamlet of Lakenheath (*ibid.* fig. 11). The excavation of a mixed settlement, Early Iron Age and Romano-British, at Wangford, 2 miles to the east of the 'Roman Field', gave one pit with rim sherds of four vessels of Belgic type.² G. B.

A THIRD-CENTURY COIN HOARD FROM COLDHAM, MARCH

Dragline operations in November 1962 on the Co-operative Wholesale Society farm at Coldham, near March, brought to light a small pot containing coins. The find was reported to the writer by the foreman of the farm, Mr Ling. Unfortunately, the exact point where the find was made could not be located (approximate National Grid Ref. TL 452022), but the general area was covered with traces of salterns,³ presumably associated with the large Romano-British settlement in an adjoining field.

The pot, which was found intact, is made of a hard, dark grey fabric. It is 2½ in.

¹ A. S. R. Gell, *Proc. C.A.S.* XLII, p. 112.

² G. Briscoe, *Proc. C.A.S.* LI, p. 19, fig. 3.

³ Salt-works, for the extraction of salt by evaporation.

in height, but the rim appears to have been broken off and the rough edge partly smoothed down, possibly to widen the aperture. A small hole has also been drilled through the side of the pot, just below the rim. Inside the pot were eight coins, and underneath these some leaves, still in a good state of preservation; these were probably the remains of some purse or wrapping.

The coins, which have been very kindly cleaned by Mr Rayner and identified by Mr Pollard, of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, date the concealment of the hoard to the late third century.

1. Tetricus I; rev.: HILARITAS AVGG; as M. & S.,¹ p. 408, no. 79; wt. 4.082 g.
2. Tetricus I; rev.: PAX AVG; as M. & S., p. 409, nos. 100-2; wt. 1.409 g.
3. Tetricus I; wt. 2.495 g.
4. Tetricus I; wt. 2.105 g.
5. ? Tetricus I; wt. 2.966 g.
6. ? Tetricus I or Postumus; rev.: SOL INVICTUS; wt. 2.221 g.
7. Victorinus; rev.: female figure standing left: ? PIETAS AVG; as M. & S., p. 392, no. 57; wt. 2.793 g.
8. Claudius II; Rev.: SPES PUBLICA; wt. 2.808 g.; there is a high lead content in this coin. The reverse of this piece was the only silvered surface in the whole group of *antoniniani*.

The coins and pot have been returned to the manager of the farm.

T. P.

FINDS FROM THE FLEAM DYKE, FEN DITTON

In 1957 a group of skeletons with Anglo-Saxon grave goods was discovered on the Fleam Dyke at the junction of the Fen Ditton and Newmarket roads, where improvements were being carried out (Grid Ref. TL 505595). Some of these objects, which are in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, have already been discussed by Mr Lethbridge in these *Proceedings*.² Two more spearheads and a bronze cruciform brooch have come into the possession of Mr J. W. Clarke of Burwell.

Both spearheads have the split socket typical of the Anglo-Saxon period, the smaller one still containing the end of the wooden shaft (Fig. 1).

The cruciform brooch exhibits several features showing it to be an advanced example of its type (Pl. VII *b*). The hollow knobs of the head-plate have stamped excrescences, the lappets below the bow are in the shape of animals' heads and the animal's head which forms the foot has a cleft forehead, scroll nostrils and a flat, triangular snout. On the back, the hinge-plate is broken and the catch-plate surrounded by stains from the missing iron pin. Stylistically the brooch belongs to Åberg's Group IV,³ which developed during the sixth century and whose centre of distribution seems to have been the Cambridge region.⁴

A further find was made on the Dyke in the same place in 1963 by Miss M. D.

¹ M. & S.: Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, vol. v, part II (by P. H. Webb).

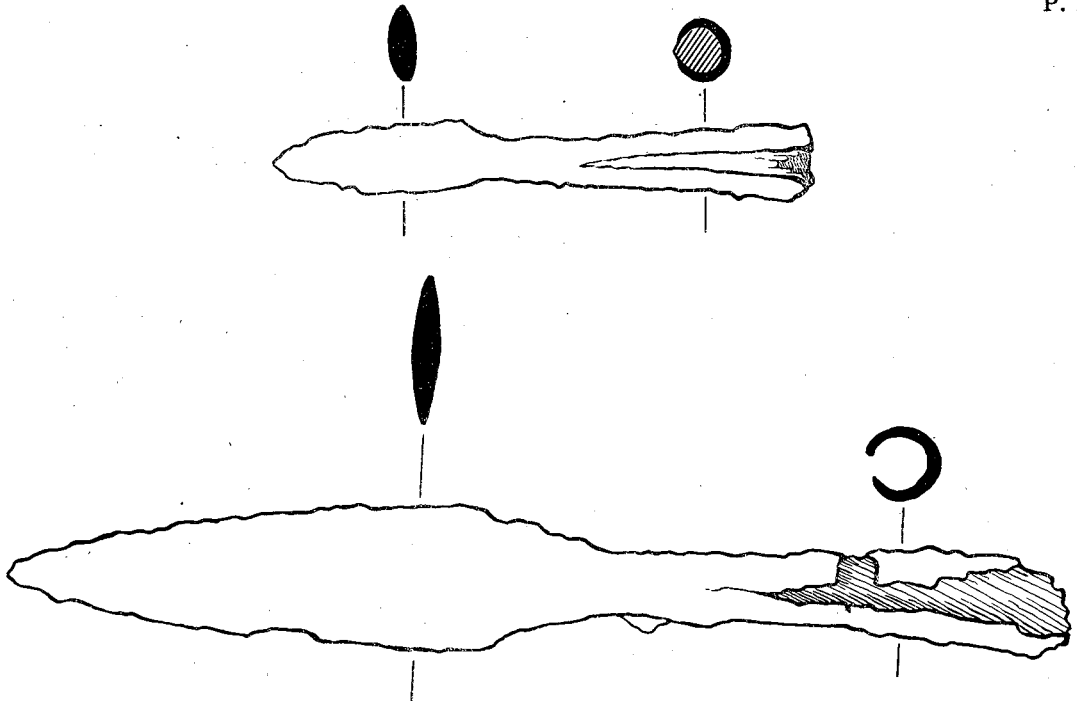
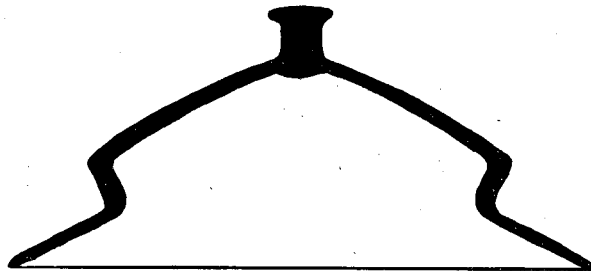
² T. C. Lethbridge, 'The Riddle of the Dykes', *Proc. C.A.S.* LI (1957), p. 2, pls. I and II.

³ Nils Åberg, *The Anglo-Saxons in England* (Uppsala, 1926), p. 47, especially figs. 77, 78, 79.

⁴ *Op. cit.* p. 188, table I, Group IV.

Cra'ster in a ditch about 2 ft. deep which was being dug by a mechanical excavator (Fig. 2). This is a shield-boss of the low, slightly convex cone type, carinated, with a crowning stud now almost disintegrated and the remains of disc studs around the rim.¹

P. H.

Fig. 1. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.Fig. 2. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

A BOY BISHOP TOKEN FROM BURY ST EDMUNDS ABBEY

In November 1962 the construction of a new sewer west of the River Lark cut across the site of Bradfield Hall, the easternmost of the buildings attached to Bury St Edmunds Abbey and probably the Infirmarer's lodging.² The outline plan of the Hall had been recorded in 1849, but an excavation undertaken by the Ministry of

¹ See the recent article by Vera Evison, 'Sugar Loaf Shield Bosses', *Ant. J.* XLIII (1963), p. 35.

² A. B. Whittingham, 'Bury St Edmunds Abbey', *Arch. J.* CVIII (1951), p. 182.

Public Building and Works before the completion of the new sewer added further details of the plan and sequence of construction.¹ During the course of this work a medieval lead token was found in the rubble from the final demolition of the Hall, presumably at the time of the Dissolution.

The token (Pl. VII *a*) may be described as follows:

Obverse: Mitre, legend around ·S ANCTV. HICOLA

Reverse: Cross and pellets .A VE: | :R EX | :G EII: | :T IS:

Weight: 1.77 g.

Tokens of this type are known as Boy Bishop tokens, and were probably issued in connection with ceremonies during the annual term of office of the Boy Bishop from 6 to 28 December. Only those bishops and abbots who had the right to operate a mint seem to have issued them, and with one exception² they appear to have been found in England only at Bury St Edmunds, whose abbot exercised this privilege until the middle of the fourteenth century. A hundred Boy Bishop tokens were found at Bury in 1838³ and these formed the basis for Caldecott's study of the class.⁴ The earliest seem by their lettering to be of the reign of Henry VI, and their issue, imitating both pennies and groats, probably continued with gradual deterioration up to the time of the Dissolution.

The present token is of Caldecott's Series III, which are of small size and struck in imitation of pennies, and it can be closely compared with no. 12 in his list.⁵

M. B.

INDEX OF ROOD SCREENS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

*Compiled by the Reverend Howard Hart, and presented by him to the
C.A.S. Library in June, 1963*

I

Mr Hart has compiled a descriptive index of the rood screens to be found in the churches of England and Wales.

This work is the outcome of his labours over many years, from the time of his first curacy at Exmouth until his recent retirement from the vicarage of Stapleford in Cambridgeshire.

The index, so far as is possible, is complete for the screens in the English churches, but in regard to the Welsh screens there are, he says, gaps which he hopes to fill in presently.

Mr Hart has himself visited all the screen churches in Devonshire, most of those

¹ Full records with the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, by whose permission this note is published. Brief report in 'Medieval Britain in 1962-63' in *Med. Arch.* vii/viii (1963-64), forthcoming.

² From St Neots: C. F. Tebbutt, *Folklore*, LXXI (June 1960), pp. 104-5, with further references to the literature on Boy Bishop ceremonies.

³ *Num. Chron.* vi (1843-4), pp. 82ff.

⁴ *Trans. Intern. Num. Congress*, 1936, pp. 366-71.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 371. I am most grateful to Mr R. H. M. Dolley for providing these references and for help with this note.

in the West country and East Anglia, and all in the Northern counties. His knowledge of them comes from personal inspection and observation.

The introductory note which he has written includes a comprehensive bibliography, and the index itself will be a valuable guide to the study of rood screens, both for their craft and ornamentation and also because of their close connection with the liturgy and with the development of ecclesiastical architecture.

Mr Hart has presented this index to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, of which he has long been a member, in the hope, as he says, that it will be available generally to all who may be interested in the subject. The Society is most grateful for this gift, which is now accessible in the C.A.S. room at the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

G. H. F.

II

My interest in rood screens was first aroused years ago during visits to and, for a time, residence in Devonshire.

Those who are familiar with the churches of that county will know that the chief feature in most Devonshire churches is the screen between the nave and the chancel. In most churches elsewhere there is a marked division between the two. In Devon churches for the most part, there is no architectural division. In a minority of these churches, unfortunately, the screen has been removed.

Aymer Vallance in his book *English Church Screens* points out that the construction of the typical Devon screens is inferior to that of East Anglian screens. He is an expert, and no doubt he is correct in his view. I am not an expert and cannot dispute his contentions.

I think that the screens of the West Country, that is, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, are magnificent examples of sixteenth-century woodwork, as this was a period when working in wood was at a very high level, especially in the West and East of England.

'At Midsummer, 1559, a visitation of the whole country was decreed. The visitors were armed with Injunctions which rendered the rood with its attendant images illegal, ordered them to be removed from the churches, and to be defaced or destroyed.' This order was carried out only too thoroughly. In some churches the rood has been restored in modern times. The figures were those of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the beloved disciple, St John, in accordance with the Holy Scripture. Many of the rood lofts were destroyed at the same time.

During the eighteenth century, when churches were often neglected, and the early part of the nineteenth century, screens were taken, or fell down, and were used for firewood.

Even in modern times screens were destroyed. There was a certain archdeacon—he was also a suffragan bishop—who in my lifetime ordered the destruction of several screens. An archdeacon's duty is to preserve, not to destroy.

We must be thankful for what has been preserved, and also for the beautiful screens which have been erected within recent years.

H. H.

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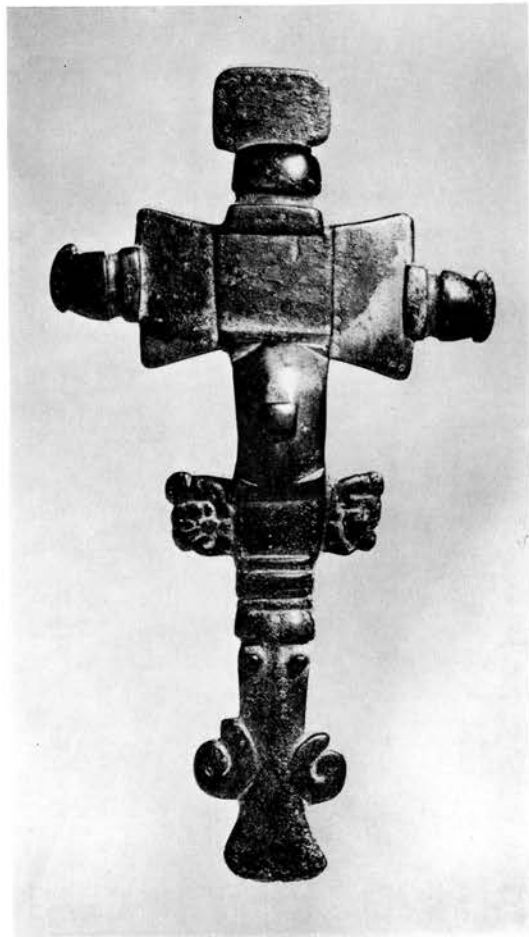
For Welsh screens

- CROSBY, F. H., F.S.A., and RIDGEWAY, REVEREND MAURICE, *Archaeologia Cambrensis, Journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association*, reprints from screens, lofts, and stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire (not yet complete).

NOTE. The further north the fewer the screens. But Astbury in Cheshire, Aysgarth in the North Riding, Hamborough in the East Riding and Hubberholm, West Division of West Riding, are all fine screens, to mention but a few; also St John's, Leeds.



(a) Boy Bishop token, Bury St Edmunds. Scale $\frac{3}{4}$.



(b) Cruciform brooch, Fleam Dyke. Scale $\frac{7}{8}$.

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