

provided information about the Whitby finds. Dr G. D. Gaunt kindly commented on the lithology of the Cottam weight.

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NOTES

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² J. R. C. Hamilton, *Excavations at Jarlshof, Shetland* (Edinburgh, 1956), 114, 121, Pl. XXI; J. Graham-Campbell, *Viking Artefacts* (London, 1980), 79, Pl. 280.

³ J. Graham-Campbell, op. cit. in note 2, 79, Pl. 281.

⁴ F. Rieck and O. Crumlin-Pedersen, *Både fra Danmarks Oldtid* (Roskilde, 1988), 129; E. le Bon, 'Images out of water: interpreting the Karlby Stone', *World Archaeology*, 25 (1994), 391-96; N. A. Boas, 'Mere søfar' *Skalk*, 4 (1994), 13-14.

⁵ A. W. Farrell, 'The boat motif on the Tintagel slate fragment: its implications', *Mariner's Mirror*, 70 (1984), 267-74.

⁶ U. O'Meadhra, 'Viking-age sketches and motif-pieces from the northern Earldoms', in C. Batey *et al.* (eds.), *The Viking Age in Caithness, Orkney and the North Atlantic* (Edinburgh, 1994), 423-40.

⁷ A.-E. Christensen 'Ship Graffiti and Models', in *Medieval Dublin Excavations 1962-81 Ser.B. vol. 2 fascicule 3* (Dublin, 1988), 13-26.

⁸ M. Blindheim, *Graffiti in Norwegian stave churches, c. 1150-c. 1350* (Oslo, 1985).

⁹ S. M. Youngs (ed.), *'The Work of Angels': Masterpieces of Celtic Metalwork, 6th-9th Centuries A.D.* (London, 1989), cat. no. 131.

¹⁰ U. O'Meadhra, op. cit. in note 6.

¹¹ J. D. Richards, 'Cottam Evaluation', *Yorkshire Archaeol. J.*, 66 (1994), 57-58.

¹² N. S. H. Rogers, *Anglian and Other Finds from Fishergate*. The Archaeology of York 17/9 (London, 1993), 1321.

¹³ R. Thomas, 'Stone weights from the Thames', *Oxoniensia* 46 (1981), 129-32.

¹⁴ R. Daniels, 'The Anglo-Saxon Monastery at Church Close, Hartlepool, Cleveland', *Archaeol. J.*, 145 (1988), 158-210.

¹⁵ R. A. Hall, *The Viking Kingdom of York* (York, 1976), 24; J. Graham-Campbell, op. cit. in note 2, 13, Pl. 20; D. Waterman, 'Late Saxon, Viking and early medieval finds from York', *Archaeologia*, 97 (1959), 59-106.

¹⁶ J. Buglass, pers. comm. The finds are of various dates, although at least one could be as early as Viking Age, according to the National Maritime Museum.

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A LATE ANGLO-SAXON DISC BROOCH FROM STEYNING, WEST SUSSEX (Fig. 2, Pl. XIII, B)

In September 1989, in the town of Steyning, W. Sussex, a late Anglo-Saxon disc brooch was recovered from a rubbish pit in a context dated to the late 13th or early 14th century.¹ Though from a residual context, the brooch is important in that it shows features of both bossed and flat disc brooches.

The brooch is made of pewter, and was cast in one piece.² The object is 28 mm in diameter with an average thickness of 1 mm. The raised central panel is 13 mm in diameter and 3 mm in height. The top is decorated with billeted bands which radiate out from a central annulet which is 2.5 mm in diameter and 0.5 mm high. The central panel is surrounded by three concentric rings in low relief which are separated by hatching. The border of the brooch is decorated with each individual bead being 1.5 mm in diameter. The catch was of the simple hooked type, although the pin is missing. The pin fittings on the back of the brooch appear to be cast into the original design. The catch plate itself appears to have been cast as a small lug and subsequently opened out to hold the pin.

The brooch belongs to the broad classification of late Anglo-Saxon disc brooches.

The form and decoration of the Steyning brooch can each be readily paralleled by a number of other examples, although there is no published piece which fulfils both criteria. The raised central panel is an uncommon feature, but four other published examples have been located. Two are believed to have been found in London, at Bird-in-Hand Court,

Cheapside in 1844 and at the Steelyard in 1864,³ a third was found to the E. of York⁴ and the fourth was recovered during the excavations at Winetavern Street in Dublin.⁵ The Cheapside and York examples bear the closest resemblance to the form of the Steyning brooch with the latter being identical in dimensions. All five brooches have beaded borders, a feature shared with many of the flat disc brooches of the period.⁶

The decoration within and around the central panel is comparable with that on the reverse of a flat (10th-century) disc brooch from the Steelyard,⁷ although this example lacks a beaded border. The ladder-like motifs, central annulet, hatching and concentric rings are common features to brooches of this period⁸ and the importance of the Steyning brooch lies in that it shows for the first time a close relationship between the flat and bossed examples.

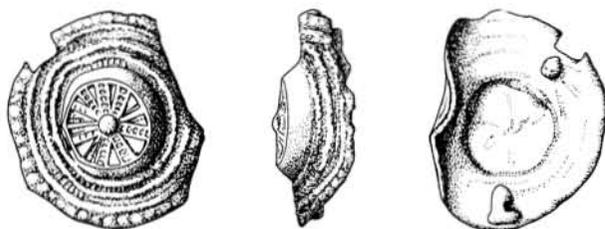


FIG. 2

Disc brooch from Steyning. Scale 1:1

Wilson considered the lead-alloy brooches of late Anglo-Saxon period to be of insular manufacture and placed them chronologically between the 9th and 10th centuries.⁹ The dating of these objects rests partly on designs imitative of 10th-century Anglo-Saxon coins that occur on a number of brooches.¹⁰ There are examples that may imitate English coins of an earlier date¹¹ and there is a flat disc brooch from Cloak Lane, London, that resembles Middle Eastern coins dated to the middle of the 8th century.¹² Islamic coins were certainly available in England in the final years of the 8th century as the gold imitation dinars minted by King Offa of Mercia clearly illustrate.¹³ The imitative coin brooches are among the few examples which can be dated with some confidence and although the majority of the series as a whole appears to be 10th or 11th century in date it is a distinct possibility that they appear earlier, perhaps by the early 9th century. J. Brøndsted considered the Cheapside brooch to be early 9th century and saw the backward-looking animal and beaded border as imitative of 8th-century sceattas,¹⁴ although the use of lead alloy for this purpose is unlikely at such an early date.

The majority of lead-alloy brooches have been found in large urban centres. Although this is partly a reflection of the concentration of archaeological activity in major towns, it would appear that cheaper dress accessories were produced particularly for sale in the large trading centres of the period. Evidence for the manufacture of discoidal ornaments has been recovered in the form of antler brooch moulds, one from Southampton and three from Ipswich, which display, in negative, the characteristic concentric rings of beads and central annulets.¹⁵ A chalk mould fragment, believed to be 9th-century, has been found in Lincoln and represents further evidence for the manufacture of such objects in urban places.¹⁶ The curious double-sided decoration exhibited by certain brooches may be explained as a method by which the metalworker could produce two different designs in one casting. Catch fittings could then be applied to whichever side the purchaser chose.¹⁷ Base metal disc brooches are, however, notably absent from many of the published urban excavations including those at Exeter, Northampton, Hereford and Gloucester, among others. In view of this the discovery of the Steyning brooch is of significant interest, occurring as it does in one of the smaller towns of later Anglo-Saxon England.

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NOTES

- ¹ A. J. Reynolds, 'Excavations at Steyning New Museum, Church Street, Steyning 1989', *Sussex Archaeol. Coll.*, 130 (1992), 60–68.
- ² X-ray fluorescence semi-quantitative analysis of the surface indicated 75–80% tin and 20–25% lead.
- ³ D. M. Wilson, *Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork, 700–1100, in the British Museum* (London, 1964), figs. 20 and 23.
- ⁴ R. Hattatt, *Ancient Brooches and Other Artefacts* (Oxford, 1989), fig. 105, no. 1697.
- ⁵ B. Ó Riordáin, 'The High Street Excavations', *Proc. Seventh Viking Congress*, eds. B. Almqvist and D. Greene (Dublin, 1976), 135–40, pl. 19.
- ⁶ Wilson, op. cit. in note 3, pl. xlii, cat. nos 134 and 142.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, pl. xxvi, cat. no. 52 right hand.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, pl. xvii, 11 and Hattatt, op. cit. in note 4, fig. 105, cat. no. 1698.
- ⁹ Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, 35–36.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 35.
- ¹¹ Compare the concentric beaded decoration of the Cheapside and Cloak Lane brooches with the styca shown in Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, pl. iv, (c), top right.
- ¹² Dr Walker in Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, 148.
- ¹³ I. Stewart, 'Anglo-Saxon gold coins', *Scripta Numaria Romana, Essays Presented to Humphrey Sutherland*, eds. R. A. G. Carson and C. M. Kraay (London, 1978), 143–172, A.120 and A.121.
- ¹⁴ J. Brøndsted, *Early English Ornament* (London, 1924), 145–46.
- ¹⁵ A. MacGregor, 'A Pre-Conquest Mould of Antler from Medieval Southampton', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 24 (1980), 203–05; C. J. Newman, 'Three Antler Moulds From Ipswich', forthcoming, *Finds Research Group Datasheet 17*.
- ¹⁶ K. Leahy and C. M. Coutts, *The Lost Kingdom: the search for Anglo-Saxon Lindsey*, Scunthorpe Museum and Art Gallery (1987), 14, fig. 1. For a recent review of the evidence, see: J. Bayley 'Anglo-Saxon non-ferrous metalworking: a survey', *World Archaeol.*, 23:1 (1991), 115–30.
- ¹⁷ I am grateful to Maureen Bennell for this suggestion.

TWO COPPER ALLOY CROSS-STAFF HEADS FROM WARWICKSHIRE (Fig. 3, Pl. xiv, A, B)

Two copper alloy objects, both consisting of collars with open-work bodies are in the collections of the Warwickshire Museum. The first of the objects was recovered from in the bed of an ornamental lake in the grounds of Walton Hall, Wellesbourne. The second object was discovered in the parish of Wixford, adjacent to Wixford church.

*The Walton cross-staff*¹

This object was first recorded by J. Burgess in 1876. It had been discovered adjacent to some flint objects found while excavating the bed of some ornamental water at Walton. Burgess wrote that 'the boss is cast with a cone' and 'the curious reticulation and the fact of its having been cast in a peculiar manner, gives it an interest apart from its presumed antiquity'.² He assumed it to be a probable dagger handle, but was almost certainly wrong in his interpretation. Sword and dagger pommels are normally affixed by the tang of the blade, peened over at the end. The Walton object has no provision for such a method of fixing. Also, the collar is too wide to fit tightly around the sword tang.

The Walton object, cast in copper alloy, consists of a latticed sphere surmounting a cylindrical collar. It weighs 29 g, and its overall height is 47 mm, and the sphere is 34 mm in diameter. The lattice decoration consists of roughly executed lozenge-shaped holes which radiate from a boss or knob 7 mm in diameter. The holes alternate with small protruberances, 1–2 mm in relief of the surface. These appear to be slightly more abraded toward the