

## NOTES ON FIBULAE.

By F. HAVERFIELD, LL.D., F.S.A.

### (1) FURTHER EXAMPLES OF AUCISSA.

In the sixtieth volume of this *Journal* (pp. 236-246) I gave an account of a class of *fibulae* datable to the first half of the first century A.D., and sometimes bearing the maker's name AUCISSA. I was then able to quote twenty-one examples of this inscription. I can now make a substantial addition to this number.

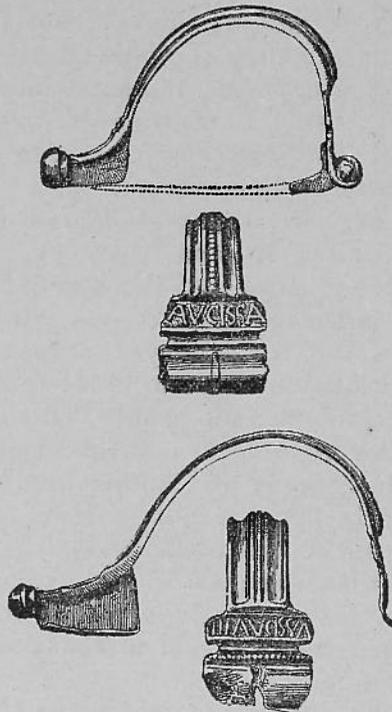
(22) Found at Cirencester (*Corinium Dobunorum*): now in the Bathurst Museum there (T. B. Bravender Collection, M. 488). Inscribed (broken at the beginning)  $\frac{1}{2}$  / CISSA. Unpublished: my copy. Not a few undescribed *fibulae* of the Aucissa type have been found in Cirencester, and many other objects referable to the first century. The coins include some British issues, some coins of the later republican age, of Augustus and of Tiberius, and a fair supply of Claudius and Nero; Samian pottery of an early type is not scarce; several *fibulae* besides the Aucissa specimens belong to the beginning of Roman rule in Britain or even to the period just before that. The site was evidently occupied in the earliest years of the Roman conquest and probably was previously a tribal capital or centre.

(23) Found at Cirencester: now in the Cripps Museum there. Inscribed (slightly broken) AVCISSA. Unpublished: my copy.

(24) Found presumably in a Roman cemetery at South Ferriby, in Lincolnshire, near the south bank of the Humber, two or three miles east of the point where Ermine Street crosses the water and barely a mile from the Horkstow villa. Bought with other objects from the same site for Hull Museum in 1905. Inscribed

III<sup>A</sup>VCISSA, like No. 13, which it closely resembles in all details. (Fig. 2.) The remains found at South Ferriby do not seem to include much that is of early date. But among them are some British coins, an uninscribed Aucissa *fibula* and some other *fibulae* which may belong to the first century.

(25) Found and preserved with No. 24. Inscribed AVCISSA. Unpublished: my copy. (Fig. 1.) I am indebted to Mr. T. Sheppard, curator of the Hull Museum, for information and facilities in respect of Nos. 24 and 25.



FIGS. 1 AND 2.—TWO EXAMPLES OF AUCISSA FIBULAE FROM FERRIBY.

(26) Found in the river Saône at Lyons, now in the British Museum from the Comarmond Collection. Inscribed AVCISSAIIi. Copied independently by Dr. O. Bohn and by myself. Mentioned by Walters, *British Museum Catalogue of Bronzes* (p. 301, No. 2118) but with the name misread "MICISSAIL or LVCISSAIL."

(27) Unknown provenance: now in the British Museum

from the Blacas Collection. Inscribed AVCISIA, but the C is very much like a G—as on some other specimens, such as Nos. 9 and 21. Copied by Dr. O. Bohn and myself. Mentioned by Walters (*ibid.* No. 2119), but with the name misread IVGISVA.

(28) Uncertain provenance: perhaps found in Paris. Inscribed +AVCISSA. Figured by Grivaud de la Vincelle *Arts et metiers des anciens* (Paris 1819), Plate XLI, top right hand corner. I owe the reference to Dr. O. Bohn.

## (2) SHIELD-SHAPED FIBULAE.

The *fibula* shown in Fig. 1 was found in 1899, in Thirst House Cave in Deepdale near Buxton. It is a circular bronze piece  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, with a raised central knob and six small projections on its circumference. Behind was the pin, worked on a hinge and not on a spring. A similar but slightly smaller fibula  $1\frac{3}{16}$  inches in diameter, was found among Roman remains just outside the cave in 1890.<sup>1</sup>

This type of *fibula* seems rare and little known. It may therefore be useful to note some other instances of its occurrence and to offer one or two remarks on it. The following provenances are known to me:—

- (1) Thirst House, as above: now in Mr. Salt's collection at Buxton. The Roman remains in and just outside this cave date from the late first, second and third centuries down to about A.D. 270.<sup>2</sup>
- (2) Poole's Hole on the outskirts of Buxton: found embedded in the stalagmite of the cave: now in the museum attached to the cave. The remains found in this cave agree in age with those of Thirst House with a slightly shorter range. They belong rather to the second and third centuries down to about A.D. 250.<sup>3</sup>
- (3) Cirencester: now in the Bathurst Museum there, in the T. B. Bravender collection (No. 135).

<sup>1</sup> J. C. Cox, *Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society*, xiii, 197, reprinted in *Ancient Remains near Buxton* by W. Turner (Buxton, 1899), p. 15, and Plate II; *Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist*, 1897, p. 94.

<sup>2</sup> See my account in the *Victoria History of Derbyshire*, i, 233.

<sup>3</sup> *Victoria History of Derbyshire*, i, 235.

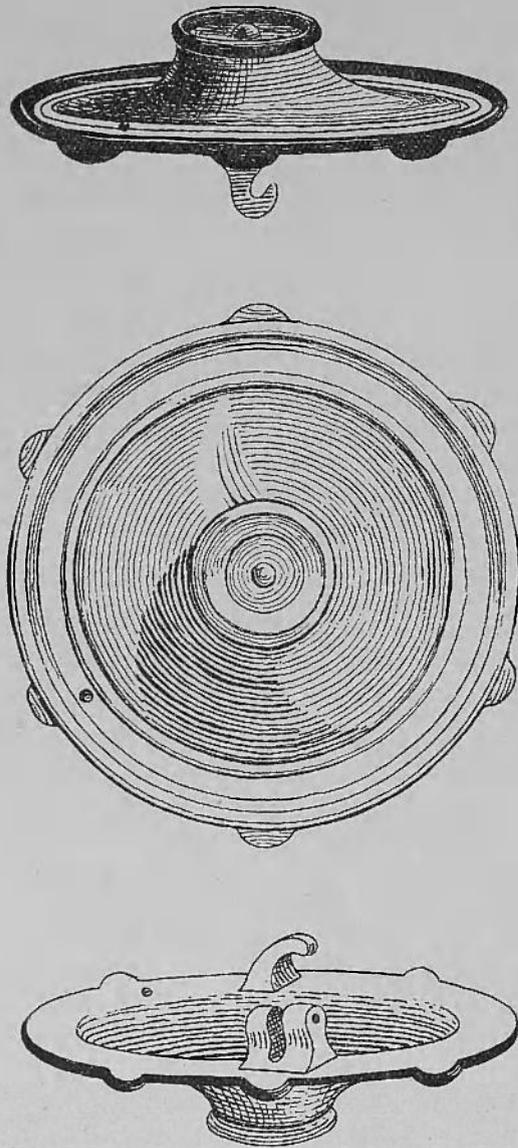


FIG. 3.—FIBULA FROM THIRST HOUSE CAVE.  
(Twice natural size.)

The Roman remains of Cirencester coincide with the whole of Roman rule in Britain.

- (4) Charterhouse on Mendip in Somerset: now in the Pass collection in Bristol Museum. The finds in the Mendip lead district belong to all parts of the Roman period till about A.D. 340, but especially to the two first centuries.
- (5) Castle Nick Milecastle on Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland: figured in J. C. Bruce's *Roman Wall* (third edition, 1867) p. 226. Finds on the Roman Wall might belong to the second, third or fourth century.
- (6) Woodeaton near Oxford: now in the Ashmolean. The site at Woodeaton has yielded objects of all four centuries of the Roman occupation, and much that is Late Celtic and perhaps in part pre-Roman.

All these *fibulae* are of nearly the same shape and size, an inch or a trifle more in diameter, and agree in showing no trace of enamel. They resemble, however, certain enamelled disk *fibulae* which have the same central boss and the same projections round the circumference and may perhaps be a variation of these. Their date is hard to fix from our present evidence. But we may provisionally suggest the second and early third centuries, which appear to form the one chronological element common to all the sites where these *fibulae* have been found. In origin, the design may be Celtic. The Ashmolean, for instance, possesses a very similar disk—not a *fibula*—which was bought at Uffington and is presumably of British fabric, and which certainly shows Late Celtic affinities.