

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

OCTOBER 28, 1889, TO MAY 19, 1890.

WITH

### Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXII.

BEING No. 2 OF THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

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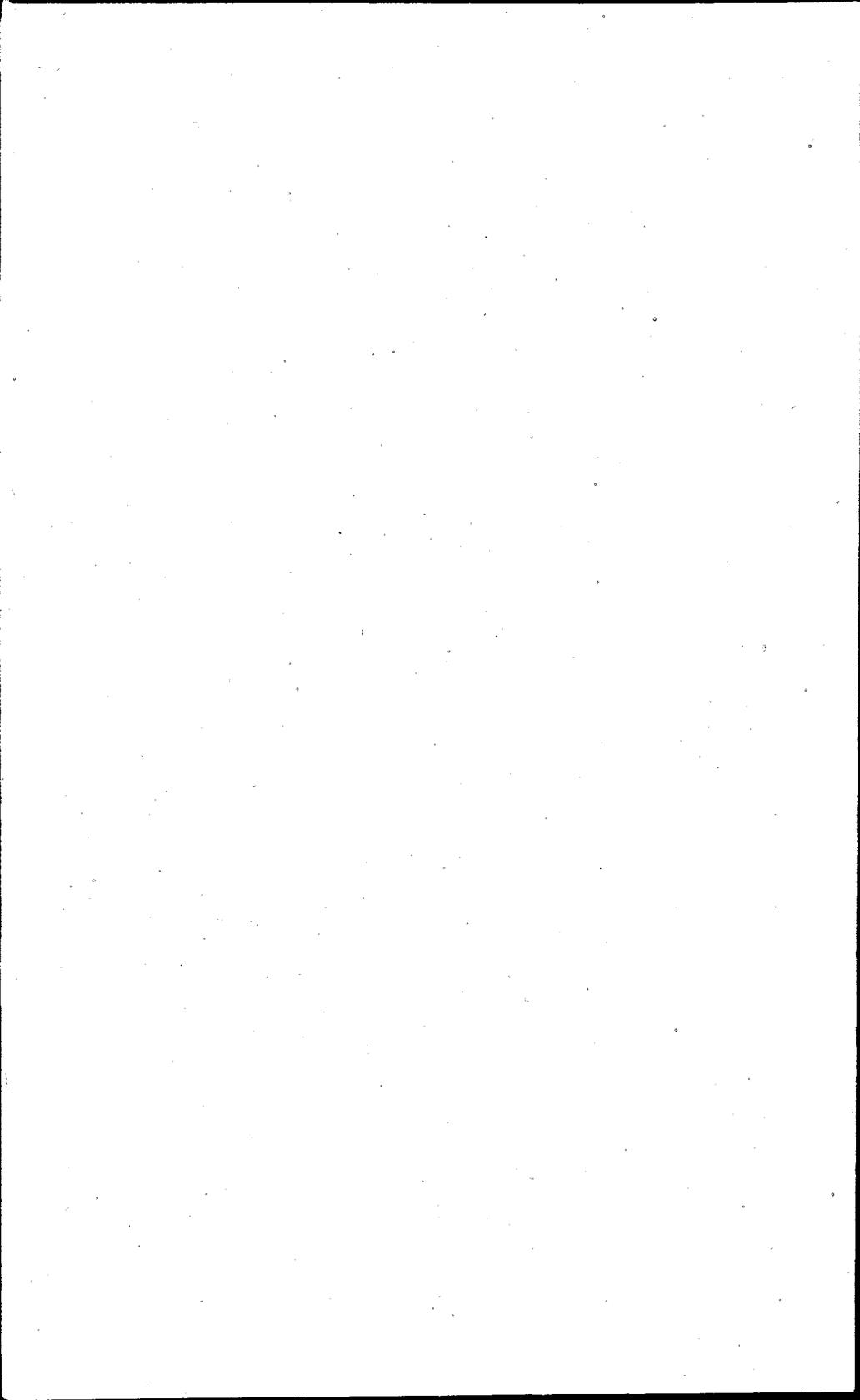
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MONDAY, *May 5*, 1890.

Professor Hughes, M.A., President, in the chair.

The following new members were elected :

Samuel Carrington Craxton, Esq., St John's College.

Rev. William Henry Shimield, Rector of Wendy.

Professor Henry Sidgwick, Litt.D., Trinity College.

Mr F. LATCHMORE, of Hitchin, exhibited a collection of British coins, found chiefly in this district and around Hitchin, upon which he commented as follows:

Professor Hughes, after seeing my collection of British Coins, most of which are local ones, suggested that the place of finding and a description of each would be interesting to your Cambridge Antiquarian Society, especially as this portion of North Herts. and Beds. borders on the county of Cambridge-shire. The metal of the coins is of gold, silver, copper, and tin. The localities where they have been discovered are near the following places:—Huntingdon, Hitchin, Holwell, Stondon, Leagrave, Shefford, Clifton, Arlesey, Langton, Girtford Bridge, Sandy, and Potton, in Beds., and Haslingfield, near Cambridge. I will commence with the inscribed gold coins, and the references I shall make will be to the valuable work by Dr Evans on 'Ancient British Coins.' I have had most of the plates copied by hand by my friend Mr Harold Gatward, and numbered for reference. Nos. 1 and 2 AV are from Leagrave, near Luton. The former has for obverse the legend TASICO RICON, on a tablet composed of corded lines, on reverse no legend, a horseman to left with sword and shield. No. 2 AV has for obverse an ornament composed of two crescents, back to back, and on the reverse a horse, to the right, trampling on a bough. Legend, ADDEDOMAROS. The coins of these two kings, Tasicovanus and Addedomaros, are frequently discovered together. With them was ploughed up in the same field a

specimen of the type figured as No. 5 AV, with a plain obverse, and on the reverse a rude, disjointed horse. No legend. No. 3 AV was found near Potton; and is a well-known type of Cunobeline, obverse an ear of barley or wheat with the legend, CAMV(*lodvvn*). Reverse, a horse galloping; legend below, CVN. No. 4 AV is uninscribed, and was found near Huntingdon. Obverse, rude, laureated bust; reverse, disjointed horse. This type is widely distributed through the southern counties, and presents as debased an imitation of the gold staters of Philip of Macedon as can be imagined. Dr Evans considers these rude types of gold and silver as amongst the latest in the British series. I have another which has not been published, and which was recently found at Shefford, Beds. On this specimen the wreath has almost the appearance of an ear of wheat. No. 6 AV is also uninscribed. A specimen resembling this was found at Sandy, and came into my hands. The obverse was not quite plain, but had the appearance, upon a raised band, of two letters. It was thought by the authorities of the British Museum to be a connecting link between the inscribed and the uninscribed series. Dr Evans, however, in whose possession it now is, writes me: 'There are no real letters on the coin, and I have not ventured to assign it to any British king.' On many of these coins there is on the obverse, in place of a raised band, a sunk tablet, on which part of the king's name appears. No. 7 AR is of silver, and belongs to the Iceni, whose coins are generally found in Norfolk and Suffolk, sometimes in Cambs. This was sent to me, from Hertford, and said to have been found at that place. It is uninscribed, and strongly resembles some Gaulish coins I have seen. Some of these silver coins are inscribed, and use has been made of the legs of the horse to form the letters in a sort of monogram. The inscribed British copper coinage is of excellent fabric, but the metal is frequently much corroded. The coins of Cunobelinus are not uncommon in this district.

No. 1 Æ has on the obverse head of Cunobeline, legend, 'Cunobelinus Rex.' Reverse, 'Tasciovanus F' and a centaur blowing on a horn. This specimen is from Sandy. I have had no less than three others from near here; from Baldock, Arlesey, and Langford, of this type. On the specimen from Baldock the head of Cunobeline strongly resembled an old head of Tiberius on a denarius of that Emperor. No. 2 Æ:—A specimen of this interesting coin was brought to me from Walsworth, near Hitchin, by a labourer, who found it in his garden adhering to a root of horseradish. Obverse, helmeted head; legend, CUNOBELINI. Reverse, a sow; legend, TASCIOVANII. A flat horse-shoe, of the type frequently found in Roman camps, was dug up at the same place. An old road joining the Icknield Road passes the spot. No. 3 Æ:—I have two specimens of this type, one from Sandy, in perfect state, the other from Clifton, Beds., much corroded. Obverse, a horse and rider, with spear and shield; legend, CVNOB. Reverse, a soldier standing with spear and buckler; legend, TASCIOVANTIS. I had another of the same type from Sandy. No. 4 Æ is also from that place. Obverse, VERLAMIO, in the angles of a star-shaped ornament; reverse, a bull. This is in a very poor state. The type has been described by Akerman and other writers, who consider it to have been struck at Verulam. This type and also many others of the series are no doubt derived from well-known reverses of the early Roman emperors. A bull was a favourite subject with the moneyers of Augustus. No. 5 Æ was found at Langford, near Biggleswade. Obverse, rude head; reverse, a hippocampus, beneath the letters 'VIIR.' Dr Evans considers this also to have been minted at Verulam. No. 6 Æ was found at Haslingfield, near Cambridge, last autumn. The bull butting on the reverse is done with spirit, and the general style of this type is equal, if not superior, to Roman imperial coins of the period. Obverse, head of Cunobeline; legend, 'Cunobelinus Rex.' Reverse, 'TAS,' a bull butting. No. 7 Æ is

also inscribed: but on the various specimens that have been examined the legend is not legible. This coin is much dished, and strongly resembles one of the small coins of Alexander the Great, with head-dress of lion-skin. On the reverse also the figure seated might pass for Jupiter, as on coins of that king. Nos. 8 and 9  $\text{\AA}$  on my card are of very similar type. I have had several specimens of each from Sandy. The one now in my collection is from Holwell, Beds., near Hitchin, and is No. 8. Dr Evans thinks that this and several more of the apparently un-inscribed series may, after all, turn out to have legends, as in many cases the die has been much too large for the metal of the coin. Scarcely two coins in this way are alike; devices appearing on one which are quite out of the field on the other. No. 9 is a coin of tin, or some metal in which tin predominates, and was found at Girtford Bridge, Sandy. This curious-looking coin resembles a button or ornament, and has been cast probably in a mould of wood. This is the rudest of the whole series, and has for obverse a helmeted head and an animal of some sort, which, if a horse at all, is most akin to that upon which clothes are hung. I had a precisely similar specimen from Sandy, and several others have been discovered near this place. What relation they bore to the coinage in the other metals is an interesting question. That they were in circulation at the same time, and also amongst the latest used before the Roman invasion, is equally certain. No. 10  $\text{\AA}$  is one of the commonest coins of Cunobeline. Obverse, Pegasus; legend, CVNO. Reverse, Victory slaying a bull; legend, TASC. This was found near Arlesey, Beds. No. 11  $\text{\AA}$  is also a well-known coin of Cunobeline. Obverse, head of Cunobeline; legend, CUNOBELINI. Reverse, a figure seated with a hammer at work on a vase; legend, TASCIO. This is in very fine condition, and the fabric is fine also. It was found near Biggleswade, and has been engraved and described by Camden and all the old writers. No. 12  $\text{\AA}$  was found at Stondon, near Shefford, and is not now

in my collection. The curious feature about this small coin is the clumsy proportions of the horse on the reverse. I must here mention a coin in gold, No. 7 AV, which I have omitted. The obverse is of a very uncommon kind in the British series,— a flower of four pointed leaves. The reverse has a horse prancing, but no legend. This was found at Girtford Bridge, Sandy, and is of very red gold, much dished and about twenty grains in weight. From numismatic evidence, Sandy must have been an important place in the Roman times, but not much evidence exists of an early occupation (Roman) of this British station. In the sand-pit at the Railway Station were discovered some years back a heap of round stones, which had been carefully selected and were of equal size. They are supposed to have been used as sling-stones. They were buried some feet below the surface. The greater number of Roman coins picked up at Sandy are from the reign of Valens to that of Arcadius, a great many of them in brass, but mostly in very poor condition, from the friction of the sandy soil. In conclusion, I may point out that, in nearly every instance, my coins have been found in the localities in which they previously circulated during the reigns of Cunobeline, Tasciovanus, and Addedomaros, whose subjects must have possessed a degree of civilization with which they certainly have not been credited by modern historians. The Britons, who used the coins we are constantly finding on their ancient stations, were not naked savages, and were at least as civilized as their neighbours, the Gauls. Since writing the above another British copper coin has come into my hands, which may be seen in Plate G, No. 9, 'Evans' British Coins.' I think that only one other specimen is known, and is in Dr Evans's collection. The head on the obverse is a singular one, and described as almost Peruvian in type. The reverse has an eagle devouring a serpent. It is uninscribed, and was found near Baldock.

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