

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

4 JULY, 1901, TO 7 AUGUST, 1902,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XLIII.

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Roman settlement, as for example at Chesterford—but also to some extent scattered over the surface. The pottery is very mixed in character. There was much of the coarse ware such as we find at Horningsea, some of the hooped barrel type such as I have recently brought under your notice from Jesus Lane. But there is very little that is at all comparable to the finer class of ware which we are now digging up in the War Ditches. The scarcity of Samian may indicate the poverty of the inhabitants, or the late date of the settlement, or the absence of the more distinctively Roman element.

It was probably an agricultural village of Romanized Britons.

ON MODIFICATIONS OF DESIGN ON AN INDIAN CLOTH.

By Professor T. MCKENNY HUGHES.

The curious example of modifications of design which we find on British coins struck in imitation of Greek money has often been noticed. The head of Philip of Macedon degenerated into a ear of corn.

The quadriga or four-horse chariot became a sort of Medusa head.

It is interesting therefore to see the same sort of thing in the treatment of hunting scenes or fights between wild beasts in modern Asiatic designs.

The piece which I exhibit has a stag, with conventional antlers, walking out to feed; also a tiger or cheetah arriving upon the scene; the tiger seizes the stag. But now a change is seen, the stag's antlers become part of the floral decoration, though occasionally one of the designs which do duty for plants elsewhere remains attached to or near the stag's head.

In another place the antlers remain, but the row of tynes suggests the teeth of an animal turned back towards the attacking tiger. When this has been accepted, various parts of the rest of the animal are modified to suit the idea, and colour strengthens the illusion. Portions of the tiger develop into the serpent-like body and tail of the dragon on which the

paw of the tiger becomes a wing. Here however the changes come to an end and the red colour of the rest of the dragon does not appear in his wing.

Friday, February 28, 1902.

Mr GRAY, President, in the Chair.

Mr E. J. RAPSON, M.A., gave a lecture, illustrated by lantern slides,

ON THE RECENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS OF
DR M. A. STEIN IN CHINESE TURKESTAN.

He explained that it had long been known that the district to the north of Khotan, generally known as the Taklamakan Desert, was in ancient times the site of a civilization partly Indian in character. Bilingual coins having inscriptions both in ancient Chinese characters and in the ancient Indian alphabet, known as Kharoshthi, placed this fact beyond doubt, and in recent years the evidence of this ancient civilization in the shape of fragments of manuscripts, various works of art, etc., had become very numerous; but no systematic exploration of this region had been made until the Indian Government in 1900 entrusted the task to a well-known Sanskrit scholar and Indian archæologist, Dr M. A. Stein, of the Indian educational service. The lantern views exhibited by the lecturer consisted partly of places of geographical interest on the route followed by Dr Stein, and partly of the various ancient sites in the desert excavated and of the different classes of objects discovered by him. Archæological evidence shewed that the encroachment of the sand which eventually covered the whole of this region was gradual, leaving the inhabitants abundant time to remove everything of value. Almost all the objects found in the houses and temples excavated were such as might be left behind as not worth transport, or, like the numerous colossal statues discovered, too large to be carried away. The

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