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Communications

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FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

There was a layer of black carbonaceous earth at the base of the surface soil (see "Section C") and resting on the gravelly material of the vallum, and therefore of course much newer than the ancient surface soil above described. There was also at the bottom of the fosse the bed of black silt seen in Section (A), with white flint chips and some larger black flints.

In the surface soil here we found a fragment of a small bronze vessel, but we could not trace any connection between it and the earthworks.

Monday, 14 November, 1904.

A. C. HADDON, Sc.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Mr W. B. REDFERN, of Inveruglas House, Cambridge, made the following communication on

AN ELIZABETHAN BUSHEL MEASURE.

By the courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation of Cambridge permission has been obtained to photograph the very interesting bronze bushel measure which was recently brought to light in the old office of the Weights and Measures in the Guildhall, after having been hidden away among a quantity of lumber, and entirely forgotten, for some generations.

The vessel is of solid bronze, is tub-shaped, and stands on three ornamental feet. Its dimensions are as follow:—Diameter, 1 ft. $7\frac{1}{4}$ ins.; height, $10\frac{1}{2}$ ins.; depth, 8 ins. It is $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick, and its weight is $69\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. On a ribbon running about midway round the measure is this inscription, in bold, well-formed letters, as will be seen from the photographs (figs. 1, 2) which illustrate the measure from different points of view:

ELIZABETH, then a crowned Tudor rose; DEI . GRACIA ANGLIÆ, then a portcullis crowned; FRANCIÆ . ET, then a crowned fleur-de-lis; HIBERNIÆ . REGINA; and then a crowned *E . R.*, joined together by a love-knot; then comes the date: 1601. Between the ribbon and the lip of the vessel occur the letters *E . R* crowned, thrice repeated. On the edge of the

measure are four inspector's stamps, two of which may be described as "checker's" marks. The other two are the crowned initials, G . R IIII. (George IV.), which points to the probability that this was the last period when its accuracy, as a measure, was tested.

The town of Northampton has a similar bushel measure of the same date. The City of Winchester also possesses a bronze bushel measure of a like shape and character, but of an earlier date, and wanting the ribbon for its inscription. Another bell-metal measure is reported to have been unearthed at a farm at Kingsnorth, which was sold from there for a couple of pounds, but eventually came into the possession of an American collector for a sum exceeding £60. This measure, however, is comparatively modern, as its date is said to be of the reign of George III.

The Cambridge Corporation is rather rich in its collection of antiquarian relics, for, in addition to an extremely fine set of silver-gilt maces (which are illustrated by the writer in Llewellyn Jewitt's *Corporation Plate*), one, the largest, of the reign of Queen Anne, it has a small copper-gilt sergeant's mace of the time of Charles I., which, until seventeen years ago, was hidden away under heaps of dusty ancient documents in the old Muniment Room of the Guildhall, placed there probably during the Civil War. The Corporation also still retain their original Grant of Arms given in 1575, and in the Town Clerk's office stands an ancient oak coffer, several feet long and protected by numerous iron bands, known as St Andrew's Chest. There is, in addition, a good example of a bell-metal gallon measure $7\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high, with the Royal Arms on one side and the Borough Arms on the other, beautifully incised, together with the legend below:

The Standard of the Town of Cambridge, 1646.

Observations on this interesting measure were made by Mr DECK, and by J. W. CLARK, M.A., Registrary of the University, who exhibited a bushel measure preserved in the Registry. This closely resembles, in general design, the measure belonging to the Town; but it was made in the reign of Charles I.

On one side are the Arms of England, with the Stuart supporters, a lion and a unicorn, and opposite to them is the date, 1641. Several other measures and weights belonging to the University, now preserved in the Museum of General and Local Archæology, were exhibited by Baron A. VON HÜGEL, M.A., Curator.

The Registry also exhibited a curious instrument (here figured), which, until recently, was in the custody of the Proctors, but is now kept in the Registry. It used to be called a butter-measure, and was supposed to have tested the yards of butter sold in Cambridge market. After a lively discussion, in the course of which Professor HUGHES, Professor RIDGEWAY, and others showed that this view was untenable, and that it was probably a gauge for liquor, Mr REDFERN kindly undertook to figure and describe it.

DESCRIPTION OF "BUTTER MEASURE."

The curious object here illustrated has for many years been described as "the measure for regulating the yard of butter," and has been preserved as the instrument used by the University officials when testing yards of butter in the local market. That it could be used for such a purpose is practically impossible, on account of the metal divisions which are placed at irregular distances within the trough, and also from the fact that the trough is not cylindrical, and that the butter would be flattened on one side when the cover of thin iron was in position.

To accurately state for what purpose it was originally intended is very difficult, but it has the appearance of being an apparatus for measuring liquids contained in casks, the long handle, opening by a hinge from the end, would enable the operator to insert the measure into the bung-hole without the effort of stretching across the barrel. The measure, which is made of thin blackened iron, is in fair preservation, but the lower end of the sheath has rotted away and disappeared.

The sketches represent: No. 1. The remains of the sheath, of thin iron, being the receptacle for the measure when not in use. No. 2. A strip of iron for sliding into the upper side of

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