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The Reverend F. G. WALKER, M.A., then read a paper illustrated with lantern-slides and original objects, on

GREEK COINS AND SYRIAN ARROWHEAD DUG UP IN  
A ROMAN CEMETERY AT GODMANCHESTER.

Godmanchester is an ancient borough of some 2100 inhabitants. The earliest of the many documents of bygone times preserved in its Court Hall is the original charter of the borough granted by King John. Its site was occupied in very early days by neolithic men, for in the town I have dug up, and on the rising ground to the east of it I have picked up, many flint implements and flakes, of which a few are on the table.

During the Roman occupation of Britain this must have been a place of considerable importance (Fig. 1). The modern roads mark fairly well the boundaries of the Roman town. This I have proved by careful digging where possible, and elsewhere by observing openings in the ground caused by building operations, or by the laying or repairing of drains, or holes made for gardening purposes.

Roughly speaking the limits of the Roman town are indicated by Post Street, the Causeway, and Silver Street on the west side; by London Street on the south, by Ermine Street on the east, and by East Street on the north.

Three Roman roads led to the town; the south-western one came from the camps at Sandy, the Ermine Street from London on the south, while from the south-east ran the so-called Via Devana from Colchester and Cambridge, known to us, here, as the Huntingdon Road. These three roads met at a point on the north of the town in order to make a single transit across the river Ouse near the present Huntingdon Bridge. The backwater leading to the right at the top of the map is of post-Roman date. There is a ford across the river a few yards to the north of where the dotted line shows the Roman road



Street and the Cambridge Road, bounded on the west by the Ouse, and on the north-east by the continuation of the "Via Devana," contains a quantity of Roman remains along the line of the roads, but scarcely any sherds or other indications of occupation occur outside the north-east boundary.

Godmanchester is an interesting little town, containing some good specimens of Elizabethan and Stuart architecture. The picture given is one of the Old Court Hall (Plate XXXII) erected in 1679 and destroyed rather unnecessarily about 1845.

The business of the freemen of the town was carried on, and the meetings of the mayor and corporation were held, in it. It is worthy of mention that in this town property is still held under the tenure of "Borough English."

To turn now to the immediate cause of this communication.

The Roman roads to the north of the town met on a spot which was occupied by my vegetable garden, while the small cemetery was found about 50 yards to the west of this junction, in my orchard. It was when digging a hole for gravel, I came upon this cemetery.

Notes and drawings were made at once of the site, and from these this ground-plan has been prepared (Fig. 2). All the urns and other vessels were standing upright in a space 6 feet in length, 4 feet in breadth, and 2 feet 3 inches in depth. The top of the highest urn was 3 feet 9 inches from the surface.

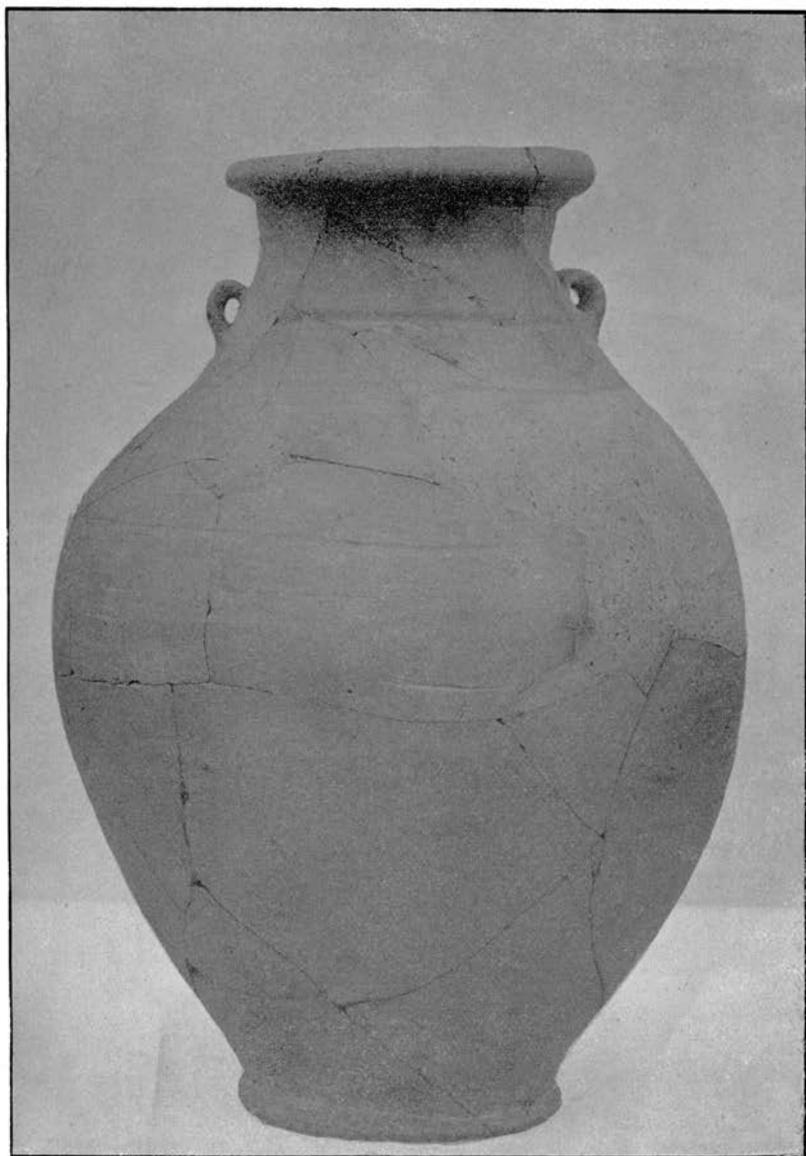
The illustration (Pl. XXX) gives the exact position in which they were found. They are all on loan in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology; some were quite whole, but a few have been mended by Mr S. Cowles with his accustomed skill.

The largest urn in each group contained burnt bones. The urn (Pl. XXXI) is a very finely shaped vase, with two small loops, hardly large enough to be called handles, at its neck. It is of dark yellow paste, with a smooth surface; the mouth has an indented rim as if for a lid.

It measures  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, 9 inches at the greatest diameter, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches across its mouth.

There is a cross on one side of it, roughly cut to a depth of  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch. One is unwilling to believe, as some antiquaries have suggested, that this cross is simply a potter's mark, or a





Urn, marked with a Cross, Roman Cemetery, Godmanchester.

sign of ownership. What object would be served by the maker cutting such a deep incision and thus spoiling a beautiful vessel?

One would like to believe it is a Christian symbol, though one must confess there is not the slightest proof of such being the case. The one circumstance, besides its being marked with a cross, which might point to its containing the bones of a

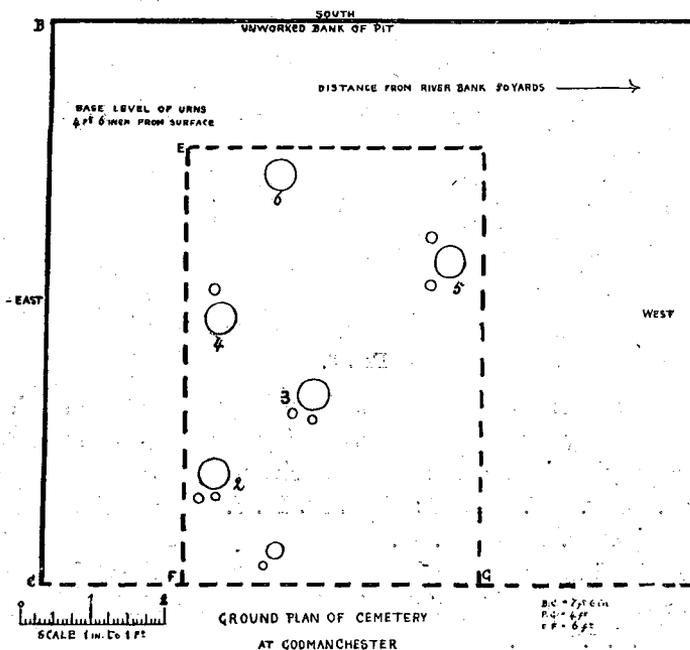


FIG. 2: Ground plan of Cemetery at Godmanchester.

Christian is this—it is the only urn in the group standing alone. The other urns, according to heathen custom, had attendant vessels which contained wine or food. This was apart, without such accompaniments.

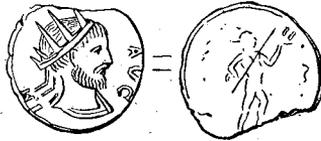
This cemetery, we can fairly suppose, was the private one of the villa, which judging by the remains I dug up, and from the number of Samian and other vessels found in my neighbour's garden, must have stood within 50 yards to the north of the spot I am describing.

There was no opportunity of excavating where I believe the

Villa to have stood, because the place is covered by a lawn and fruit trees.

None of the vessels had lids or coverings. On sifting the earth from the ashes contained in Urn No. 3 group, I found a coin bearing traces of fire (Fig. 3). It is a third brass of Aurelianus, A.D. 270-275. This was evidently, according to a

Æ AVRELIANVS.  
A.D. 270 - 275



FOUND AMONG BONES IN CINERARY URN.

GODMANCHESTER 1905.

FIG. 3.

not uncommon Roman custom, the coin put into the mouth of the dead body for the purpose of paying the ferry-man, Charon, for conveying its shade across the river Styx into the nether world. *Juv. Sat.* III. 267; *Prop.* IV. 11. 7. For Greek custom cf. *Strabo*, Bk. VIII. c. VI. 12.

In 1835 at Praeneste, in graves dating from the 3rd century B.C., coins were actually found in the mouths of skeletons. See also *C.I.L.* I. p. 28.

Such coins have been found in urns containing ashes of bones at Pompeii, and at various places in Britain.

The bones of five new-born babies were found near by the urns in the soil, just as they had been cast away. Many such small skeletons were found in the rubbish pits mentioned above. Regarding the right, among the Romans, of killing or exposing new-born children cf. *Cic. de Leg.* III. 8; *Liv.* XXVII. 37; *Sen. de Ira.* I. 18; *Dio Cassius.* XLV. 1; *Dionys.* IX. 22; *Ter. Heaut.* IV. 1. 37.

Plate XXXII shows various objects found near the urns: the small bronze ring, bearing traces of fire, was among the ashes in the urn of No. 2 group.



The Old Court Hall, Godmanchester.



Objects from Roman Cemetery, Godmanchester.

Other articles of bronze: two fibulae; a buckle, which most probably was enamelled on one side; two pins, one quite perfect; a shapely nail; a rivet; and a part of a double semi-circular ornament with sunken spaces once filled with enamel. There was also one leg of a pair of iron compasses; half of a blue opaque glass ring; part of a jet ring or bracelet, and a thin piece of bone, ornamented with a pattern of triple rings enclosing a dot; the two rivet holes show that this fragment was part of the outer covering of some other article.

The two Greek coins were lying some few feet to the north of the urns  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet below the surface.

The following description of the coins has been verified by Mr H. A. Grueber, F.S.A., keeper of coins and medals in the British Museum.

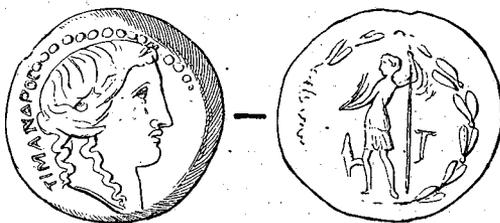


FIG. 4.

(Fig. 4.) LACONIA. First century A.D., AE<sup>2</sup>. 1.15.

Obv. ΤΙΜΑΝΔΡΟΣ. Head of Apollo. R. laur., hair rolled back.

Rev. ΑΑ. Artemis. L. leaning on spear, beside her a hound: between monograms effaced. All in wreath.

Cf. *B.M. catalogue*, Peloponnesus, p. 126, No. 56.

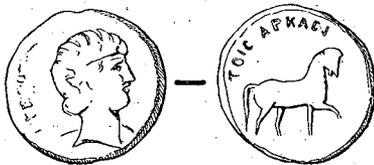


FIG. 5.

(Fig. 5.) The ARCADIA. Antinous d. c. A.D. 130. AE<sup>3</sup>. 75.

Obv. ΒΕΤΟΥ ΠΙΟΥ. Bust of Antinous. R.

Rev. ΤΟΙΣ ΑΡΚΑΔΙ. Horse trotting. R.

*B.M. catalogue*, Peloponnesus, p. 177, No. 89.

Two Roman coins were lying within a few inches of these Greek ones.

DOMITIAN. AE<sup>2</sup>, very much worn. Cos. V.=A.D. 76.

HADRIAN. AE<sup>1</sup>, good condition. Cos. III.=A.D. 119.

The close association of these four coins helps one to assign a fairly correct date—about A.D. 130—for their deposition. The occurrence of these two Greek coins in Britain is certainly strange. They were local token money of small value outside their own land, and therefore seldom carried to other countries. The probable explanation of their being in Britain is that some Roman gentleman, or official, perhaps a soldier, who had been living in Greece, came to Britain and when travelling through the country, may have stayed at the villa at Durolipons, before mentioned, and dropped, or threw away as useless, these coins near the bank of the river Ouse where the cemetery was discovered. (See Fig. 2.)<sup>1</sup>

A list of the other Roman coins found near by, within an area of five square yards, is here given:—

<sup>1</sup> No list of Greek coins found in Britain has been compiled, and on enquiry at the British Museum I find that no record has been kept of Greek coins found in Roman settlements in England, which have been brought there for identification, an imperfect list therefore of such coins is all that can be produced.

In 1859, a Greek coin, copper, of Antoninus Pius or Caracalla was found in Trinity Street, Cambridge, described by Professor Babington in a paper read before the Society in 1860 (*Comm.* No. x. Pt. 1).

A Greek coin, also of Caracalla's reign, struck at Nicaea, was found at Chester early in the last century.

A medallion of Pergamum, also struck in Caracalla's reign, found near Chesterford, is, I believe, at Audley End.

At Colchester, several have been discovered. Morant, *Hist. of Essex*, Vol. I., gives four such coins:—one of Antioch in Syria, two of Caesarea in Cappadocia, of Hadrian and Septimius Severus, respectively, and another of the latter Emperor.

Mr H. A. Grueber, of the B.M. tells me of one found at Croydon, Surrey, at the end of the last century: "a late coin of Corinth discovered in close association with an early Roman denarius."

Only well authenticated finds are mentioned.

Concerning the Exeter find of Greek coins—some 150 specimens—in 1810 to 1838 and in 1878, it is sufficient to say, for various but indisputable reasons, that the coins were not buried during the Roman age in Britain. The spot must have been either "salted" by a dealer, or some one there buried the refuse of his collection.

Gallienus	Billon	A.D. 253-268.
Victorinus	AE <sup>3</sup>	A.D. 265-267.
Tetricus Junior	AE <sup>3</sup>	A.D. 267-273.
Carausius	AE <sup>3</sup>	A.D. 287-293.
Constantine	AE <sup>3</sup>	A.D. 306-337.
Constantius II.	AE <sup>2</sup>	A.D. 337-361.
URBS. ROMA	AE <sup>3</sup> .	

This illustration gives two views of the iron arrowhead (Fig. 6) which was found about 2 feet to the north-east of the Greek coins mentioned above, at a depth of 3 feet 9 inches below the surface. On showing it to Professor Ridgeway he at once pronounced it to be of Asiatic origin. Now, so far as I can discover from my own researches, or from what Professor Haverfield has been kind enough to tell me, the only Asiatic archers of the Roman army in Britain during the 1st and 2nd centuries were a body of Syrian bowmen, the Hamii,



SIDE VIEW



IRON ARROW HEAD FROM GODMANCHESTER

FIG. 6.

stationed, some at Carvoran (Magna) on the wall of Hadrian, and some at Barr Hill Fort on the Antonine Wall. That there were Syrians and Hamii in Britain during the first two centuries what follows will show<sup>1</sup>.

In 1895 an altar to the god Silvanus was dug up at Barr Hill on the Antonine Wall, near Kilsyth, Stirlingshire. It is 3 feet high, nearly 1½ feet wide, and 10 inches thick, with six lines of 2 inch letters.

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Professor Haverfield for much of the information here given, both from letters in reply to my questions and also to what he has written. Cf. *Antonine Wall Report*, pp. 153-155.

The text of the inscription in full is:—

D[omi]no Silv[ano] C[ar]istan[us] I[ust]ianu[s] praef[ectus] coh[ortis] I. Hamior[um] v[otum] s[olvit] l[ibens] l[actus] m[erito].

“Erected to the god Silvanus by Caristianus Justianus, praefect of the First Cohort of Hamii, in willing payment of a vow.”

The altar seems to have belonged to a small shrine outside the Barr Hill Fort. The lesser Roman frontier forts, on the walls of Hadrian and Antonine and on the German Limes, had usually a small suburb outside the ramparts, and altars have been occasionally found among such buildings. At Castle Hill, also on the Antonine Wall, an altar, dedicated to the “*Campestres*,” was found outside that fort in 1826.

The First Cohort of Hamii is mentioned on a sepulchral slab found at Barr Hill in the 16th century, since lost: the inscription was as follows:—

D. M. C. IvLi. Marcellini praef. coh. I. Hamior.

Diis Manibus Caii Iulii Marcellini praefectus cohortis Primae Hamiorum.

“To the memory of Caius Julius Marcellinus, praefect of the First Cohort of Hamii.”

Several stones found at Carvoran, the site of the Roman station Magna, on Hadrian’s Wall, refer to the same cohort of Hamii. Two of these inscriptions are given.

Fortunae Aug. pro salute L. Aelii Caesaris, ex visu, T. Fla(vius) Secundus praef. coh. I. Hamiorum sagittar(iorum) v. s. l. m. *C.I.L.* vii. 748; *Lap. Septen.* p. 152<sup>1</sup>.

Fortunae Augustae pro salute Lucii Aelii Caesaris, ex visu Titus Flavius Secundus praefectus cohortis Primae Hamiorum Sagittariorum votum solvit libens merito.

“To the Imperial fortune and for the safety of Lucius Aelius, Caesar, warned by a vision Titus Flavius Secundus praefect of the First Cohort of the Hamian archers in willing payment of a vow.”

This Lucius Aelius was the adopted son of Hadrian.

Deae Suriae, sub Calpurnio Agricola leg. Aug. pr. pr. A. Licinius Clemens praef. Coh. I. Hamior. *C.I.L.* vii. 758<sup>2</sup>.

Deae Syriae sub Calpurnio Agricola legato Augusti propraetore Aulus Licinius Clemens praefectus Cohortis Primae Hamiorum.

“To the Syrian goddess, Aulus Licinius Clemens, praefect of the First Cohort of the Hamii under Calpurnius Agricola, the legate of the Emperor with pretorian powers.”

<sup>1</sup> This stone is now in the Museum at the Castle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

<sup>2</sup> This stone is at Trinity College, Cambridge.

The former of these inscriptions proves that the Cohort was a body of archers stationed at Magna in A.D. 135 or 136, while the second shows it was there about A.D. 162.

A diploma (the corroded remains of which are in the British Museum) ploughed up at Riveling near Ecclesfield in Yorkshire in 1761 proves that it was in Britain in A.D. 124. Grants of citizenship were given as a mark of honour and reward for faithful service to soldiers chiefly. During the 1st and 2nd centuries these grants of citizenship were duly registered at Rome on sheets of copper or bronze set up in some public place. Small copies of these grants appear to have been sent to the locality where these new citizens resided. The inscription was fortunately copied before it rusted away. (Gough's *Camden*, 1806, vol. III. p. 263.)

A "Numerus militum Syrorum sagittariorum" may perhaps be mentioned on an inscription of the 3rd century from Kirkby Shore, Cumberland (*Ephemeris Epigraphica*, VII. 957, p. 307).

The Notitia mentions some "Equites Syri" as belonging to the army in Britain in the 4th century. These Syrians were not likely to be the same corps as the Hamii, but probably the Cohort II. Delmatarum (or Dalmatarum) mentioned in the Notitia as being at Magna. The poet Juvenal probably served in the 1st Cohort of this corps. (See Juvenal, Teubner edition, 1897, Preface, pp. 7—8.) The Notitia also tells us that the Equites Dalmatarum were stationed at Brancaster in Norfolk.

There are various other proofs of Syrians living in Britain during the Roman rule. At Corbridge two altars have been found with Greek inscriptions, one dedicated to Hercules of Tyre (now in Brit. Mus.),

ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙ ΤΥΡΙΩ ΔΙΟΔΩΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΡΕΙΑ

"To Hercules the Tyrian, Diodora the archpriestess";

the other to Astarte, the goddess of the Sidonians (now at Netherby),

ΑΣΤ[ΑΡ]ΤΗΣ ΒΩΜΟΝ Μ' ΕΣΟΡΑΣ ΠΟΥΛΧΕΡ  
Μ' ΑΝΕΘΗΚΕΝ.

"You see me the altar of Astarte, Pulcher dedicated me."

.At Magna the worship of Astarte was evidently customary. In addition to the altar already mentioned there is a long inscription

on a stone (in the Castle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), also found at this station, which refers to "Dea Syria." *Lapid. Septen.* p. 156.

Last of all we have the celebrated stone in the Fitzwilliam Museum found at Brough, the site of the Roman station *Vértterrae*.

The inscription on it consists of five very fair Greek hexameters. It is to the memory of one Hermes of Commagene, a Syrian youth, who at the age of sixteen lost his life, or was taken prisoner, in an expedition against the Cimmerians. This expedition may very possibly be the Caledonian campaign of Septimus Severus in A.D. 209.

The facts given above point to considerable numbers of Syrians having lived in the north of Britain and make it not improbable that one of their arrowheads should have been dropped at Godmanchester (*Durolipons*) by an archer passing through the town on his way to or from the Wall. Possibly the same person dropped both Greek coins and the iron arrowhead.

The subject of the arrowheads used by the various peoples in classical times has not yet been properly worked out; perhaps at some future date one may be able to treat this matter as it deserves.

This kind of arrowhead (Fig. 6), though much less common than other types, has been found on Roman sites and under circumstances which show that it was used, at any rate, during the 1st and 2nd centuries. A specimen has been discovered (June, 1909) at Silchester<sup>1</sup>.

The facts established are that this type of arrowhead is of Asiatic origin and that it was used by the archers of the Roman army. The bowmen of Asiatic origin in Britain during the 1st and 2nd centuries were the 1st Cohort of the *Hamii* stationed on both the walls—Antonine and Hadrian—and consequently there is nothing improbable in the statement that this very specimen was accidentally dropped by one of these *Hamii* on his way to the walls, or, human nature being the same then as now, he may have shot his arrow at some bird or animal on the marshy ground along the banks of the Ouse, outside *Durolipons*.

<sup>1</sup> Since the above was in type, Professor Haverfield has told me that two more specimens have been found (Sept. 1909) at Corstopitum.

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