

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

25 APRIL—23 MAY 1910.

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY

EASTER TERM 1910.

No. LVII.

BEING No. 3 OF THE FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

(EIGHTH VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)



Cambridge:

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; BOWES & BOWES.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS, LTD.

1910

Price 5s. net.

NOTES ON TWO BRONZE PINS RECENTLY FOUND IN
AND NEAR CAMBRIDGE.

By the Rev. F. G. WALKER, M.A.

It has been thought worth while, on account of their being such fine specimens, to figure and describe the two pins illustrated below.



FIG. 1.

This fine bronze pin was found in a field near Comberton, a few miles west of Cambridge, with a quantity of fragments of Roman pottery and other remains of the Roman period.

It is undoubtedly of the late Celtic period and is of unusual beauty owing to the simplicity and gracefulness of its design and workmanship.

Its measurements are as follows :

Length, 10·5 centimetres.

Width across coils, 17 millimetres.

Diameter of shaft, 3 millimetres.

The pin is made of one thin piece of bronze 8 millimetres wide. A slit was cut in one end of the metal, dividing it exactly in half, thus :

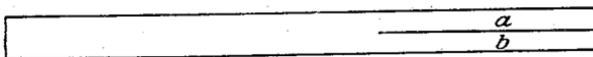


Fig. 2.

The metal was then rolled together in order to form the round shaft; this action brought the two narrow strips, made by the slit, into this position :

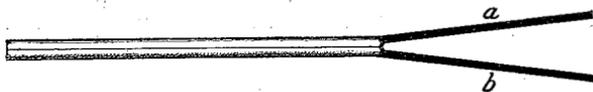


Fig. 3.

The strips *a* and *b* were then bent outwards from the shaft, and rolled into the two coils which touch each other.

The point was then sharpened and the whole pin trimmed by filing.

The single joint which runs down the shaft can be seen in the figure.

The shaft is hollow.



FIG. 4.

The bronze pin in the shape of a crozier or shepherd's crook was found near the Grange Road, almost on the line of the Roman Road, which runs across the Grange Road from Castle Hill towards Barton.

Its dimensions are :

Length, 11·7 centimetres.

Width across crook, 9 millimetres.

Diameter of shaft, 2·5 millimetres.

It is of late Celtic workmanship of a very rare design, and is formed of one solid length of metal, bent and filed to shape.

Lying with it, about 2½ feet below the surface of the ground,

were the two Roman vessels and the metal cylinder which is probably a knife handle.

The jug, made of white ware, is exactly 6 inches in height, while the vase, of typical Durobrivian bronze coloured ware, measures $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches, and is very slightly taller than the pin is long.

The metal cylinder, shown in the figure under the pin is of bronze with usual Celtic markings. A quantity of fragments of Roman vessels were associated with these articles.

I have in my possession some bronze things which were found in a Saxon site some thirty or forty yards distant from the spot where these Roman or late Celtic articles were discovered. They are as follows:

Two ring brooches; a part of the square head of a late fifth century Scandinavian brooch of a rather rare type; a pin having a flattened head with a ring through it—the ring most probably had spangles attached to it. One like this was found at Brighthampton, Oxon. (*Archaeologia*, Vol. XXXVIII., p. 97, fig. 1), and at Leagrave, Beds. (*Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, Vol. XXI., p. 60); two buckles and an amber head.

Professor Hughes tells me that in this locality the line of demarcation between the Roman and Saxon sites is very clear—only Roman or Celtic things being found on one side of it, and only Saxon on the other.

This crook pin, which was at first thought to be of Saxon date, must be of the Roman or late Celtic period, judging by the things associated with it and the position in which it was found.

There is in the Musée d'Antiquités at Rouen a pin of almost the same shape and size as the one described above. The Rouen specimen, which has the final coil of the crook broken off, was dug up with many other Roman remains from a purely Roman site.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,
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VOL. XIV.



NEW SERIES.

VOL. VIII.

1909—1910.

CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SOLD BY DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; AND BOWES & BOWES.
LONDON, GEORGE BELL AND SONS.

1910.

Cambridge:

PRINTED BY JOHN CLAY, M.A.

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

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