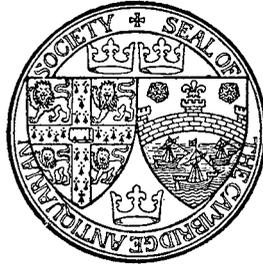


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

OCTOBER 1936-DECEMBER 1937



VOLUME XXXVIII



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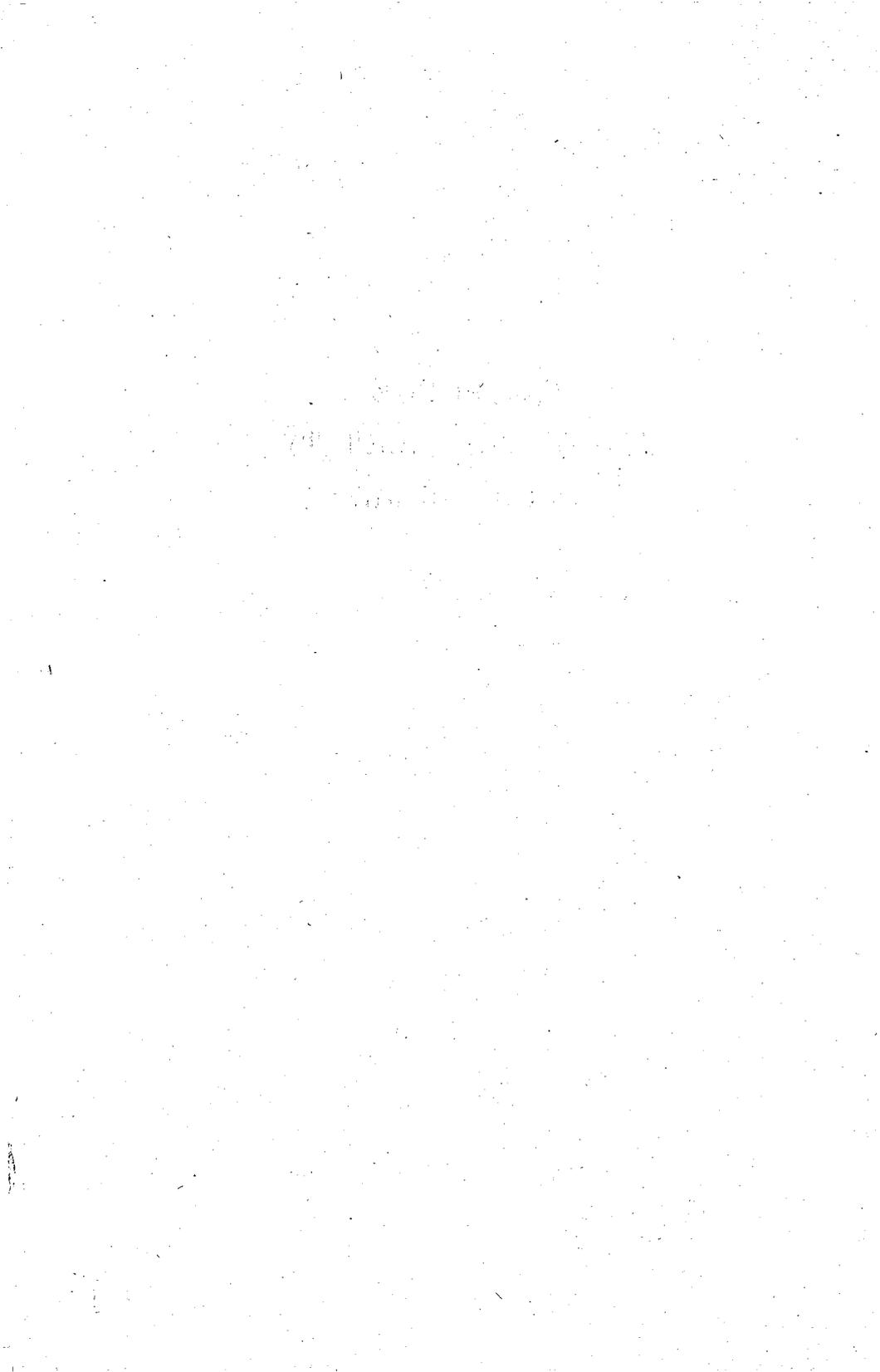
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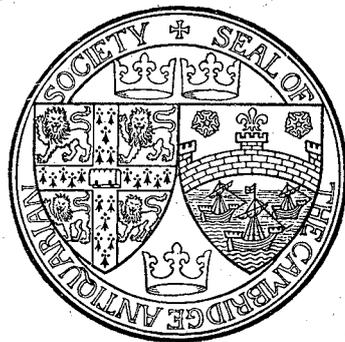
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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

BY T. C. LETHBRIDGE, M.A., F.S.A. AND  
M. O'REILLY, M.A.

MR IVAN THATCHER, who has already given the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology a number of Beakers and much interesting pottery of later periods from Runcton Holme, Norfolk, has now kindly added two more Beakers (Pl. I, figs. *a* and *b*) from the same site. The site was described and the greater part of the pottery illustrated by Dr J. G. D. Clark and Mr C. F. C. Hawkes in the paper on "Early Settlement at Runcton Holme" in vol. VII of the *Proc. Pre. Soc. of E. Anglia*, and it is therefore unnecessary to make any comment on it here, beyond recalling that there appear to have been two phases of occupation, one during the Beaker period and the other during the Early Iron Age and Romano-British period. The particular interest of the two new Beakers lies in their belonging to Abercromby's type B, of which the Museum has hitherto possessed only two complete local examples, one of which is also from Runcton Holme (*loc. cit.* Pl. XI, fig. 2), the other from Lakenheath (Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, Pl. I, fig. 3). Fig. *a* is a very characteristic example of the type, and it is perhaps of interest to note that the nearest analogies to it figured by Abercromby are also from the northern part of East Anglia, namely, his fig. 81, from Stalham, Norfolk, and fig. 93, from Mildenhall, Suffolk. The second Beaker, fig. *b*, is unusual in its proportions, if the restoration is correct, and we have not been able to find any close parallel to it. Both are of fairly fine and hard buff-coloured ware, gritted with particles of flint, and both have the simple zonal decoration characteristic of the type. In the first, fig. *a*, it consists of horizontal lines encircling the body, which are formed of a series of strokes about  $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length, made perhaps by a splinter of wood. The second Beaker, fig. *b*, has bands of herringbone pattern alternating with horizontal lines arranged in groups of three; as in fig. *a*, these are not continuous, but here they consist

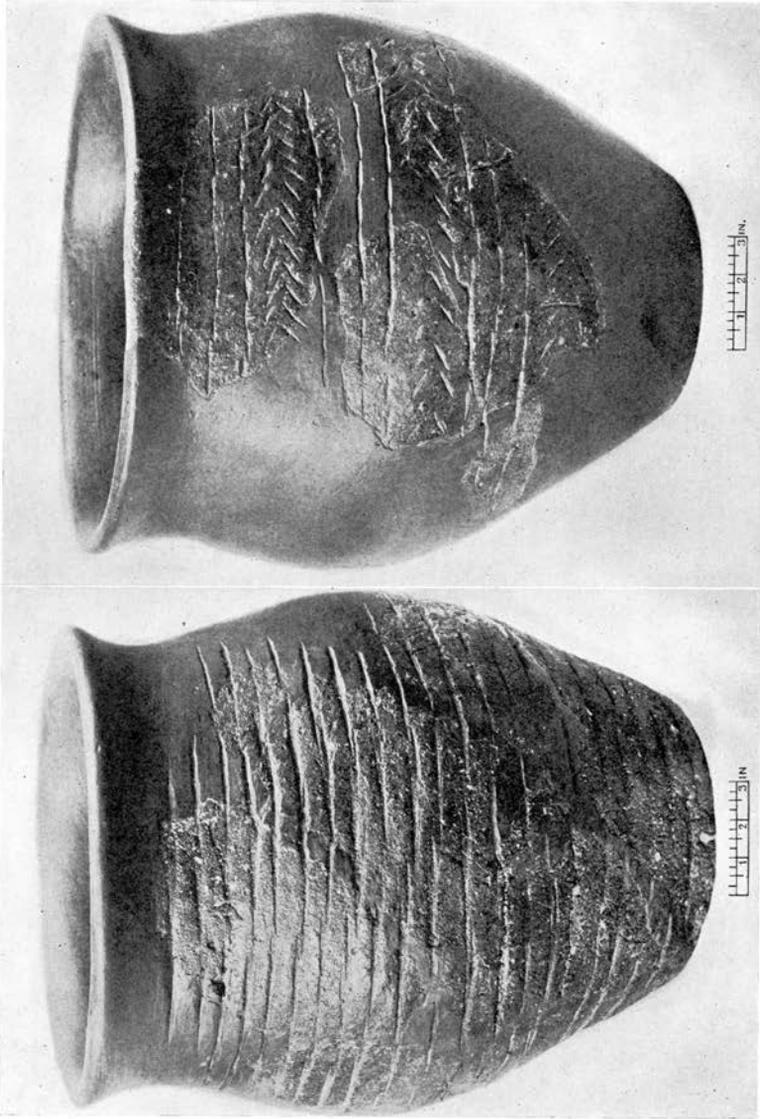


Fig. a

Fig. b

Beakers, Runceton Holme, Norfolk.

PLATE II

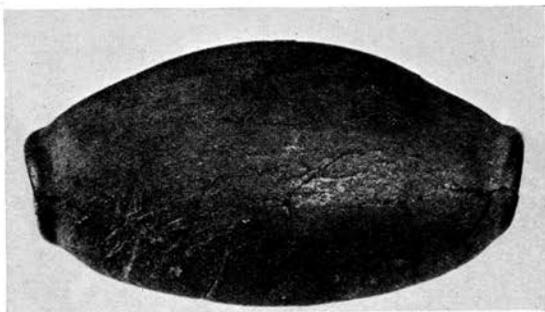


Fig. *a*

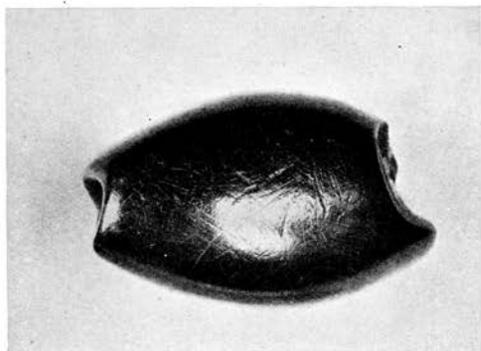


Fig. *b*



Fig. *c*



Fig. *d*



Fig. *e*

*a.* Lignite bead, Henbury, Glos.  
*b* and *c.* Jet bead and flint tool, Isleham Fen.  
*d* and *e.* Bronze seal, R. Cam.



Fig. *a*  
Socketed axe,  
Littleport.



Fig. *b*  
Mediaeval dagger,  
Much Hadham, Herts.

of a conjoined series of short impressions made by a slightly curved tool, perhaps a finger-nail, about  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. long; the impressions forming the herringbone are made by the same tool.

Mr Thatcher kindly presented at the same time three sherds of pottery of Windmill Hill A 1 type, which are of great use in filling a gap in the teaching series of the Museum, and a fine leaf-shaped arrowhead.

The fine jet bead figured on Pl. II, fig. *b* was found by a workman in Isleham Fen and has been kindly presented to the Museum by Mr C. S. Leaf. Like so many of these large lozenge-shaped or ellipsoidal beads, it appears not to have been associated with any datable object, though a number of small flint tools found at the same time, one of which is shown in fig. *c*, were probably from the same site; it may have been an occupied sandhill of the type described by Mr Leaf in *C.A.S. Proc.* vol. xxxv. Beads of this form, often with a moulded collar round the mouth of the perforation, are usually assigned to the Bronze Age (cf. J. G. Callendar, "Notes on Scottish prehistoric jet ornaments", *P.S.A.S.* vol. L, 1915-16), but the end of the perforation of this specimen, which is slightly concave and has no trace of moulding, shows some resemblance to those of the shale beads found in the long barrows at Eyford (O. G. S. Crawford, *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, p. 96) and Notgrove (E. M. Clifford, "Notgrove long barrow, Gloucestershire", *Archaeologia*, vol. LXXXVI, p. 146), and it may be an early variety of the Bronze Age type. We take this opportunity of illustrating a collared bead of lignite (Pl. II, fig. *a*) found in the soil overlying the quarry at Brentry Hill, Henbury, Glos, which was acquired by the Museum some years ago but has not hitherto been published. If the typology just suggested be correct, this bead would be decidedly later in date than the Isleham specimen.

Pl. III, fig. *a* shows a bronze socketed axe lately found during deep ploughing at Ape's Hall, Littleport, in the neighbourhood of the Old Croft River. It has the faceted body and collared neck characteristic of the Irish trumpet-shaped type (cf. two axes in the Green End Road hoard,

*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. xxxii, pp. 59-60), but instead of the round or oval mouth usually found in that type it has the normal square opening common in socketed axes in this as in many other parts of Britain. It may possibly be a local adaptation of an imported Irish form.

Two Early British coins have recently been added to the very small series in the Museum. A silver coin found at Stallode, or Stallard's, Drove, Lakenheath, is shown on Pl. IV, fig. *c*. This is of the type figured by Evans, *Ancient British Coins*, Pl. XVI, 8. The obverse shows a barbarous head in profile with hair standing up beyond the outline of the head; the reverse is a horse with corded mane, above it a hollow-sided triangle enclosed in a compartment formed by three corded curves, and below the remains of a hollow-sided lozenge. Mr H. Mattingly, who has kindly examined this coin, attributes it to the Icenii or the Brigantes, and mentions nine sites in East Anglia where coins of this type have been found. The gold coin in Pl. IV, fig. *b* was found at West Wratting, Cambs, and was secured for the Museum through the kind offices of Mr Walter Hayter. It is of the type figured by Evans, *op. cit.* Pl. B, 8; the obverse is blank and convex, the reverse is a disjointed tailless horse, with a crescent and pellet below and above two conventionalized arms which are the last vestiges of a figure of Victory; semicircles and pellets in the exergue.

Finds of Roman coins are so frequently made in this district that it would be impracticable to figure many of them, but the fine specimen shown in Pl. IV, fig. *a* has been thought worthy of illustration. It is a sestertius of Hadrian (A.D. 117-37), very well preserved, with light green patina. The obverse shows a bust of Hadrian, with drapery on the left shoulder; legend, IMP TRAIANUS HADRIANUS AUG; the reverse shows Jupiter, seated, with a spear in his left hand, his right arm extended with the hand supporting a small figure of Victory holding a wreath; legend, PONT MAX TR POT COS III; in exergue, S.C. (Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coins*, Hadrian, 561*b*; minted A.D. 119-21). The coin was found in Cambridge, during recent demolition work



Fig. a



Fig. b

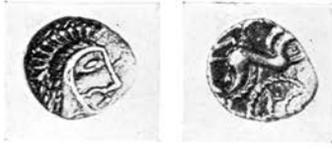


Fig. c

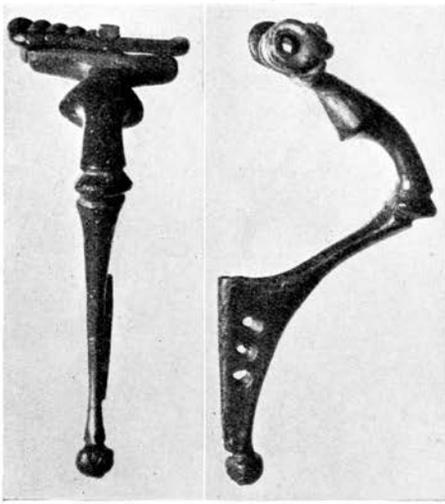


Fig. d

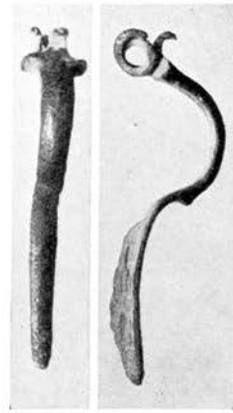
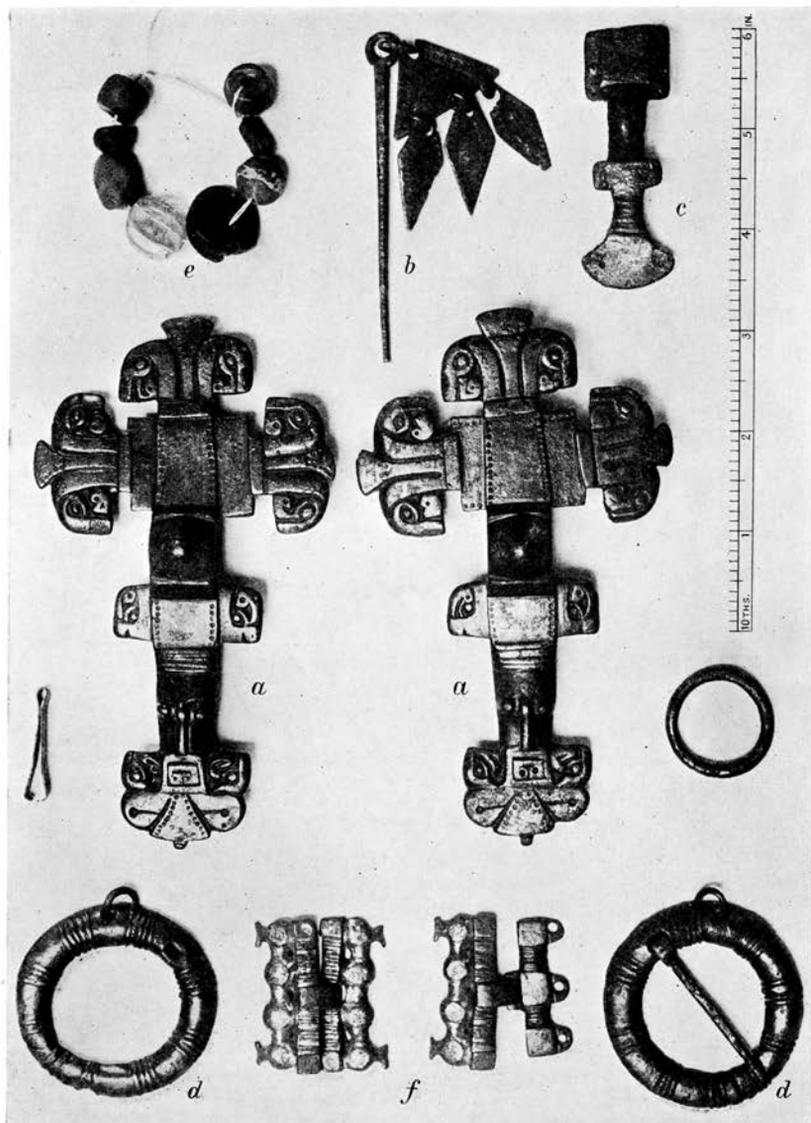


Fig. e

- a. First Brass of Hadrian, Cambridge.
- b. Early British gold coin, West Wratting.
- c. Early British silver coin, Lakenheath.
- d. Romano-British brooch, Wild Street, Mildenhall.
- e. Romano-British brooch, Gogmagog Hills.

PLATE V



Anglo-Saxon brooches, etc., Barton Road, Cambridge.

on the south side of the river, not within the area of the supposed Roman town.

Two Roman brooches, both of rather uncommon form, are shown on Pl. IV. The first, fig. *d*, was found on the surface of a field near Wild Street, Mildenhall, Suffolk, which has already yielded a considerable quantity of Romano-British potsherds. It appears to be a late variety of the trumpet-shaped type, yet retains early features in the perforation of the catch-plate and the use of a coiled spring instead of a hinge. The second, fig. *e*, though insignificant in appearance, is of particular interest because it seems to be approaching the stage of development at which Roman brooches had some influence on the early Teutonic cruciform brooch. This specimen was found in the garden of the house now called Middlefield, on the Fox Hill branch of the Gogmagog Hills.<sup>1</sup>

The objects on Pl. V were found in the garden of Croft Lodge, Newnham, about fifty years ago, and must therefore belong to the Newnham Croft cemetery described by Fox (*Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 244). Though we cannot be sure that they form a single grave-group, their intrinsic interest makes them a valuable addition to the collection. Pins with spangles (*Klapperschmuck*) like fig. *b* are rarely found in England (cf. *British Museum Anglo-Saxon Guide*, p. 75); one of the few examples known is from Lincolnshire (Searby, *loc. cit.*); and it may be perhaps of interest to note that the two large cruciform brooches (fig. *a*) are of a type usually considered characteristic of that area, though they are of course known in Cambridgeshire (Fox, *op. cit.* Pl. XXIX, fig. 1) and other districts. The animal heads (or Emperor heads: cf. Kendrick, *Anglo-Saxon Art*, p. 77) decorating the flattened projections of these brooches have a sophisticated simplicity which may indicate a late date (cf. Leeds, *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology*, p. 81). The annular brooches (fig. *d*), though simple, are of an unusual type, having been cast with a U-shaped section instead of flat; strings of beads were probably hung from the rings

<sup>1</sup> The coin of Hadrian and the two brooches were presented to the Museum by T. C. Lethbridge.

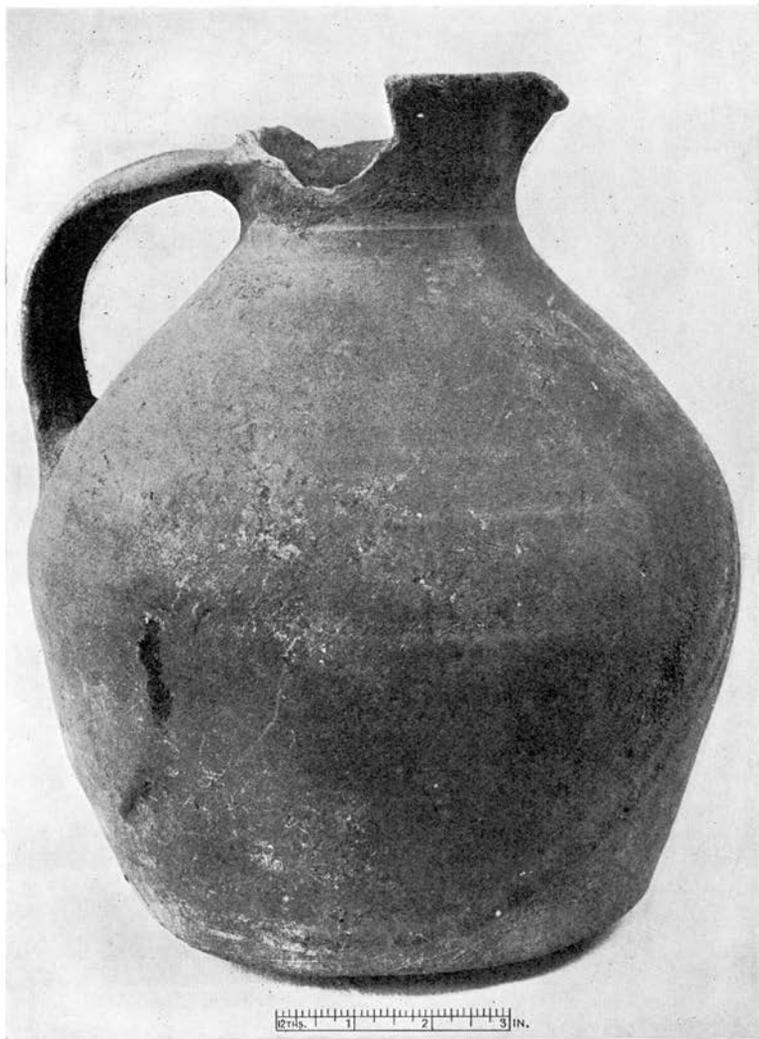
threaded through the perforations. The beads in fig. *e* may have belonged to such a string; the faceted and fluted beads are probably of Roman origin. The small square-headed brooch (fig. *c*) is apparently early, and it is possible that this brooch, together with the annular brooches, the pin, and the wrist-clasps, fig. *f*, excluding the odd piece, may have come from a single grave.

Pl. VI shows an Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn of reddish-black ware, elaborately decorated with a variety of bosses and a rope-like cordon round the neck. This fine urn was found more than two hundred years ago at Somersham, Hunts, and is probably, therefore, the earliest discovery of Anglo-Saxon remains in the Cambridge region. It has been preserved until recently in St John's College, but by the kindness of the Master and Fellows it has now been placed on loan in the Museum. The original label, pasted on the eighteenth century wooden case in which the urn was kept, reads as follows: "This Urn with the Bones, Annulets, Broken Comb, and Scissars contained in it was dug up in Hurst Field near Somersham in the year 1736 and was given to the College by Thos. Hammond Esq. of Somersham Place, as also were sixty-six ounces . . . pennyweights of Plate and the Supplement to Montfaucon's Antiquities, printed at Paris 1724 in five volumes fol. with some other books." There are other points of interest about this pot as well as the early date of its excavation. First there is the fact of its having been found at Somersham, since very few objects of the pagan Anglo-Saxon period have been found in this part of the Ouse valley (cf. Leeds, "The early Saxon penetration of the Upper Thames area", *Antiquaries Journal*, vol. XIII, p. 237). Secondly, the urn is one of the most handsome and well-preserved of its class, and is among the finest in the Museum's very large and representative collection; and, lastly, the variety and arrangement of the bosses, the absence of stamped ornament, and the form of the footstand all suggest a very early date, being much more akin than the majority of Anglo-Saxon urns to the later types of pots in the urn-fields of Schleswig and Hanover. We are indebted to Mr G. E. Daniel for his good offices in drawing our attention to this pot.



Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn, Somersham, Hunts.

PLATE VII



Mediaeval jug, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge.

The mediaeval iron dagger with gilt-bronze handle illustrated in Pl. III, fig. *b* was found by workmen making a ditch at the ford near Woodside Wood, Much Hadham, Herts (O.S. 6 in. map, Herts, XXII, S.E.). The blade is unfortunately much decayed, but enough remains to show that it was single-edged, with a very thick back and a blood-groove close to the back on either side. The whole hilt, including quillons and pommel, is cast in one piece; it is of a form to which we have not been able to find a parallel, but the debased animal head terminals of the quillons suggest a date early in the Middle Ages. The dagger appears to be earlier than any of those shown in the monumental brasses.

The mediaeval bronze seal shown in Pl. II, fig. *d* was dredged from the Cam at Reach. The device is a pelican in piety, and the legend reads SUM PELICAN DEI. Mr H. S. Kingsford, who has kindly examined an impression of this seal, makes the following comment on it: "It is one of those rather poor efforts which I think date somewhere about 1300, but which may well be later or even earlier. The legend seems to have got a bit bungled. The verse in the Vulgate (Psalm ci, verse 7) is 'Similis factus sum pelicano solitudinis'; on a seal you have in the Museum the last word is 'Dei'. Here the engraver, if I interpret the thing aright, has left out the first two words and the 'o' of 'pelicano' making pelican the nominative (pelicanus). In this way he has made sense of the abbreviated legend although he has gone some way from the original."

Mr Barrett has kindly allowed us to figure the mediaeval pitcher on Pl. VII, which was found during recent alterations to the back of his premises in St Andrew's Street, that is, a little to the east of the former line of the King's ditch. It is of hard grey ware, unglazed, with sagging base and slightly pinched lip. Unglazed mediaeval pottery is admittedly difficult to date, and the fourteenth or fifteenth century date which is usually given to jugs of this kind is a vague and quite probably inaccurate one.

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