

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY



VOLUME XLV

JANUARY 1951 TO DECEMBER 1951

CAMBRIDGE
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1952

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CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 354

LECTURE 1

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1.2. QUANTUM MECHANICS

1.3. THE SCHRÖDINGER EQUATION

1.4. THE HEISENBERG PICTURE

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ROMAN FINDS AT ARRINGTON BRIDGE¹

T. C. LETHBRIDGE, M.A., F.S.A.

MR F. W. MURFIT of Guilden Morden kindly drew my attention to the construction of a new bridge on the supposed line of the Ermine Street and informed me that wooden piles were being discovered beneath the modern roadway during the demolition of the existing bridge. Arrington Bridge is on the presumed site of the Armingaford, which has always interested the students of place-names. The ford, the village of Arrington and Ermine Street all derive their names from the Earningas, who owned the land through which the road passes (see Reaney, *Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely*, p. 23).

I went out to look at the excavations for the foundations of the new bridge and examined some of the piles *in situ*. These were of much the same size as an ordinary telephone pole and presumably supported a wooden bridge, but it is unlikely that this was of any great antiquity. It had the appearance of having been the bridge in use at the time the recently demolished brick bridge was built and may well have been less than three hundred years old.

Beneath the bridge and roadway ramps, however, was a gravel ford and it appears that it was from the surface of this ford that various objects of the Roman period were subsequently recovered. The more important of these consist of an iron spear-head, two 'hippo-sandals', a brass coin of Antoninus Pius and the neck of a pale buff-ware jug. The spearhead (Plate XII, *a* and *d*) has a leaf-shaped blade characteristic of those in use in the Roman army in Britain in the earlier part of the period of occupation.² It is the only weapon of its kind so far recovered in this neighbourhood.

The two hippo-sandals (one of which is illustrated in Plate XII, *b* and *c*) are in far better condition than is commonly the case and their construction can be well seen. One at any rate is far too small to have been used as a shoe for any pony. A recent comparison has been made between these hippo-sandals and the irons strapped beneath men's boots when digging in order to prevent the chafe from the spade on the sole of the boot. This might have been a reasonable suggestion if men dug with the toe of their boot pressing on the spade, but of course a digging iron goes under the instep. It is impossible to see how these sandals could be used in such a manner. We are forced back once more to Pitt Rivers's suggestion³ that hippo-sandals were used as shields for the bottom ends of sledge-poles drawn on either side of a pony; shoes for poles and not for men or horses. It is most reasonable to expect such objects to become detached when crossing a ford. One specimen is, in fact, actually broken.

¹ Map reference Nat. Grid. 52/334486.

² Cf. Curle, *Newstead, a Roman Frontier Post and its People*, pl. XXXVII.

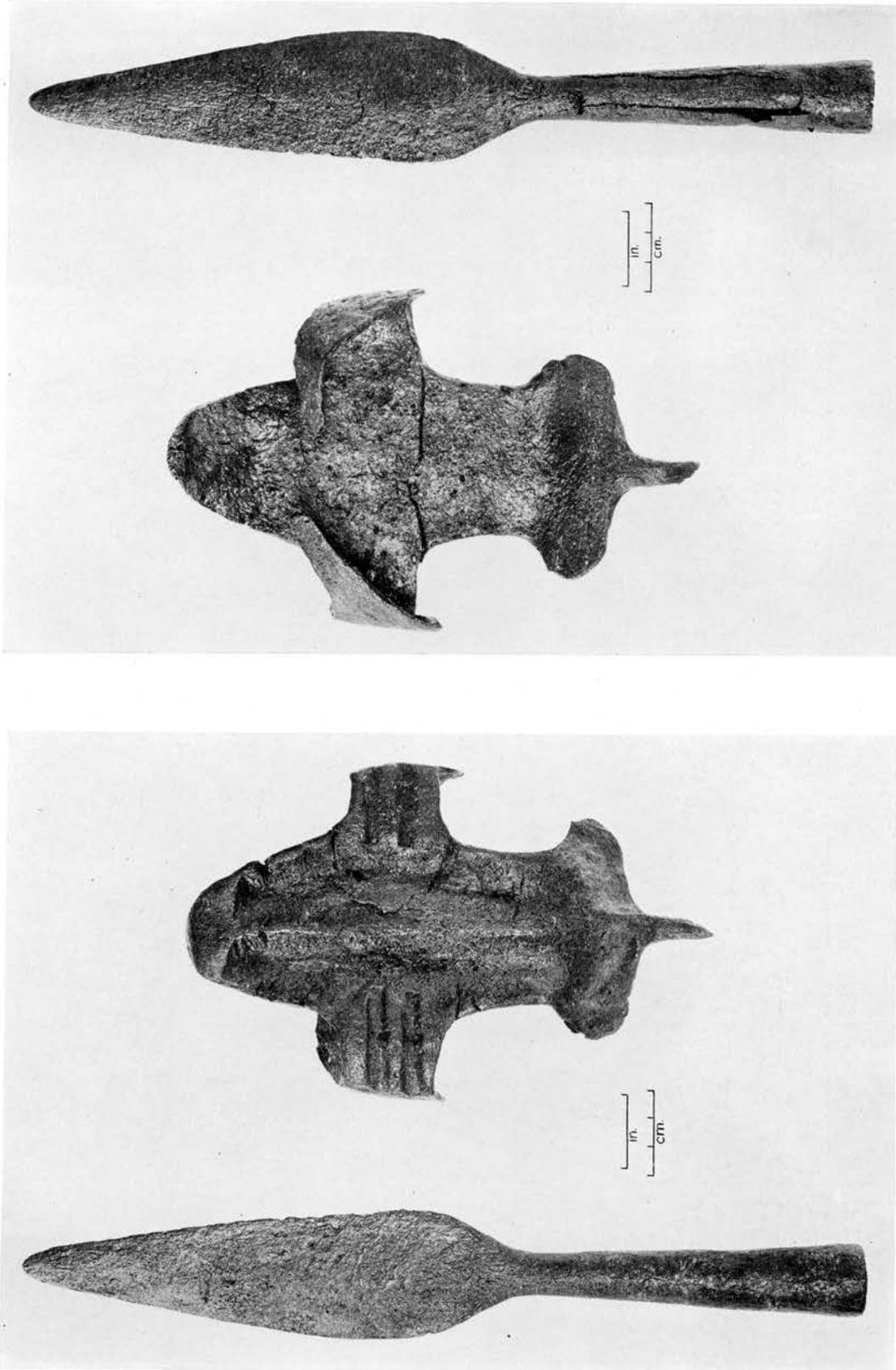
³ *Excavations in Cranbourne Chase*, vol. 1, p. 78.

The trefoil-lipped buff-ware jug neck is probably datable to the second century of our era. The coin of Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-61) in good condition may have been dropped at much the same time.

The only other objects of interest recovered from this site are a square-ended knife in a bone handle and an ox-goad. The knife has a projecting guard at the end away from the haft and was perhaps used for cutting leather straps. It may not be altogether fanciful to see it as having been used in connexion with the attachment of hippo-sandals. I do not, however, know an exact parallel and it may be of more recent date.

It will be seen from the above note that the ford was certainly in use in the first half of the Roman period and appears to have carried considerable traffic. It may, however, be of importance to observe that no objects of Saxon or mediaeval date have as yet been recovered from it. This may not be the Armingaford, although it was clearly the crossing of the Cam by the Ermine Street.

The damaged hippo-sandal is in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and the remainder of the finds are in the possession of the County Surveyor's Office, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge.



(d)

(c)

(b)

(a)

Iron Spear-head and 'Hippo-sandal' from Arrington Bridge

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