

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY



VOLUME XLV

JANUARY 1951 TO DECEMBER 1951

CAMBRIDGE
BOWES AND BOWES

1952

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 354

LECTURE 1

STATISTICAL MECHANICS

LECTURER: JOHN H. COOPER

DATE: 1998

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*Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society
by Bowes & Bowes Publishers Limited
Cambridge*

*Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge
(Brooke Crutchley, University Printer)*

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a. Early Bronze Age Food-Vessel
b. Open-work Bronze Disc from Haslingfield
c. Fourth Century Jar from Freckenham, Suffolk

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

C. I. FELL, M.A., F.S.A. AND GRACE BRISCOE, M.B., B.S., F.S.A.

AN EARLY BRONZE AGE FOOD-VESSEL FROM SHIPPEA HILL FARM

AT the end of 1941, or early in 1942, a small hand-made pot (Plate XIII *a*) was found while digging a drainage shaft at Shippea Hill Farm, near Littleport.¹ It is now in the possession of Mr R. Taylor of Bryn-y-Mor, Redcliffe Bay, Portishead, Somerset, who kindly sent it to the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for inspection in March 1951. Some years earlier he had shown it to Mr William Watson of the Department of British Antiquities, British Museum, who sent us his notes and the drawing here reproduced as Fig. 1. Mr Taylor says that the

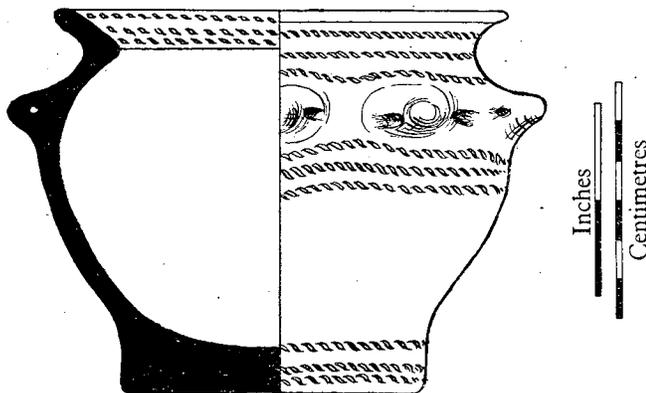


Fig. 1. Early Bronze Age Food-Vessel from Shippea Hill Farm.

pot was found lying on its side at a depth of about 9 ft. below the present ground level and that some bones were also found near it but were replaced when the drainage shaft was closed. It is therefore probable that the food-vessel accompanied a burial.

Apart from a little damage to the lip, the pot is intact. It is 5 in. high with a rim diameter of about $4\frac{4}{5}$ in. The rim has a broad internal bevel and is decorated with three rows of cord impression. The neck is concave; the high shoulder is decorated with eight prominent, horizontally pierced lugs; the body is contracted towards the flat base which is 3 in. in diameter. Three rows of cord impression decorate the neck, the shoulder just below the projecting lugs, and the foot just above the base. The ware is coarse, but does not appear to be heavily gritted. It is dark grey to brown in colour, the outer surface being well smoothed and having a whitish appearance in places resulting from contact with the deposit in which it lay.

¹ National Grid map reference 52/621844.

This pot belongs to the Early Bronze Age food-vessel series, though it is not typical of the form so well known from the excavations of Canon Greenwell and J. R. Mortimer in East Yorkshire. The perforated stops, or lugs, are set on the shoulder and not in a groove as is more usual, and their number is uncommon, though food-vessels with eight stops are known from Barrow 116, Aldro Group and Barrow 101, Garrowby Wold Group, and with eleven stops at Barrow c 35 at Garton Slack.¹ Dr J. G. D. Clark found sherds of food-vessel ware at Plantation Farm² and Peacock's Farm,³ Shippea Hill, and at the former site it was associated with Beaker pottery. Jet beads of various forms have been found in the Fen area and give an additional indication of trade or influence from East Yorkshire at this time,⁴ though jet necklaces with triangular spacing beads sometimes continued to be worn in the Middle, and even in the Late Bronze Age, perhaps as heirlooms as at Snailwell⁵ and at Soham Fen.⁶

The find is important as it emphasizes the fact, already known from the work of Dr Clark at the neighbouring sites of Plantation and Peacock's Farms, that the fen islands were occupied in the Early Bronze Age. It is a pity that the discovery of the food-vessel was not known to us at the time so that samples of the deposit in which it lay could have been taken for pollen analysis. C. I. F.

A BRONZE SPEAR-HEAD FROM BUCKDEN, NEAR HUNTINGDON

A small socketed bronze spearhead (Fig. 2) with leaf-shaped blade and lozenge-shaped loops on the socket (Greenwell and Brewis Class IV)⁷ was found in November 1949 alongside the railway in the Hundred Acre Field at Park Farm, Buckden, near Huntingdon, and was presented to the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology by Mr R. G. Smith through Miss M. Midgley (Museum No. 50.671). The spearhead was found on the surface of the ground after ploughing and is a stray find.

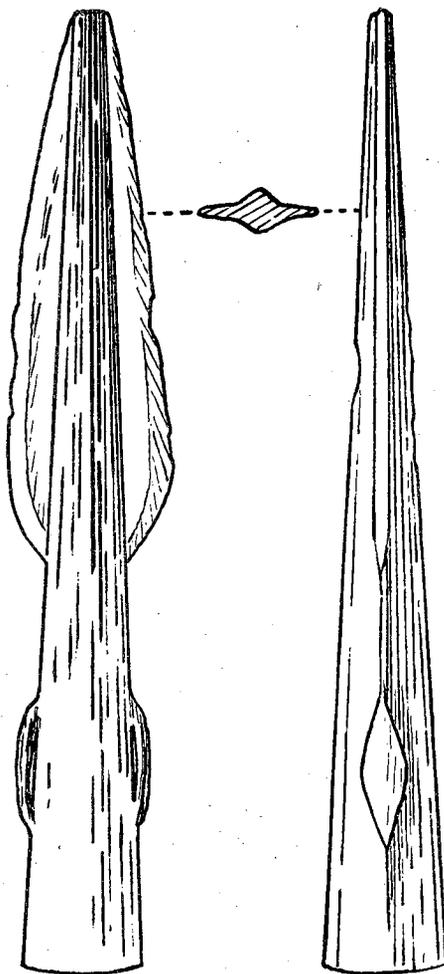


Fig. 2. Bronze Spear-Head from Buckden, near Huntingdon, natural size.

¹ J. R. Mortimer, *Forty Years' Researches in Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire*, figs. 105, 360 and 726 respectively.

² *Ant. Journ.* XIII (1933), pp. 269-70, pls. XLV-XLVI.

³ *Ant. Journ.* xv (1935), p. 298, fig. 9.

⁴ *Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire*, vol. I, p. 271.

⁵ *C.A.S. Proceedings*, vol. XLIII (1949), p. 35.

⁶ Sir Cyril Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 55.

⁷ *Archaeologia*, LXI, part 2, pp. 439 f.

The point of the weapon is broken and its present length is 5 in., the diameter of the socket being $\frac{3}{5}$ in. Professor C. F. C. Hawkes describes this type of spearhead as developing at the end of Middle Bronze Age II and in Late Bronze Age I as a result of the influence of the Continental leaf-shaped spearhead on the native forms with kite-shaped blades.¹

The site is on the northern edge of a low hill, lying to the west of the River Ouse and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west from Huntingdon.² Other spearheads of Class III and of Class IV have been found in Conington Fen and it is from the fen area that most bronze implements in Huntingdonshire have been recorded.³

C. I. F.

AN OPEN-WORK BRONZE DISC FROM HASLINGFIELD

An attractive open-work bronze disc was picked up some years ago by Mr E. Glasspool on the surface of a field known as Stone Hill at Haslingfield and is still in his possession (Plate XIII *b*). He kindly gave permission to illustrate and publish a short account of the find. National Grid map reference 52/417527 represents as closely as possible the place where the disc was found.

The disc, which measures 2 in. in diameter, is probably a mount from horse harness and can be compared with similar trappings from Stanwick, Yorkshire,⁴ and Dowalton Loch, Wigtownshire.⁵ Part of the centre has broken away. The design is in the Celtic tradition though formality and rigidity of expression place it late in time. Within the limits of a circle, a triquetra is centrally placed and a scroll is added to each of its holed arms (Fig. 3). The resulting fan-shaped voids form an integral part of the pattern, the whole effect comparing with the engraved roundels of the 'mirror style'⁶ and the enamelled harness mounts and linchpins characteristic of the last phase of the Early Iron Age in Britain.⁷ As Sir Cyril Fox has pointed out to me, the triquetra is the primary and the scrolls the secondary elements in the design which here reproduces the motif of the Llyn Cerrig shield boss⁸ though with stricter symmetry. This stricter use of symmetry has resulted in the loss of much of the movement expressed in the earlier pieces. The use of the triquetral motif combined with S-scrolls is also seen on the embossed plaque from



Fig. 3. Open-work Bronze Disc from Haslingfield, natural size.

¹ *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, VII (1941), pp. 128-31.

² National Grid map reference 52/185694.

³ *Trans. Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* vol. VII, part 1, p. 18 and plate.

⁴ *Archaeologia*, LX, p. 288 and *Proc. Arch. Inst.* (York, 1846), pp. 34-8.

⁵ *P.S.A. Scot.* vol. III (new series, 1880-1), pp. 154-5 (figured).

⁶ *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, xcVIII (1945), pp. 199f.

⁷ *Ant. Journ.* xx, p. 358, pl. LVI; E. T. Leeds, *Celtic Ornament*, pls. I and II.

⁸ Sir Cyril Fox, *Llyn Cerrig Bach Report*, p. 53, fig. 28.

Lambay Island,¹ which was found with a provincial Roman bronze brooch of thistle type—a pattern which went out of vogue about A.D. 50. Perhaps the closest comparison is with a bronze triskele found in the metalling of the latest road outside the north-west gate of Verulamium and associated with relics of the fourth century A.D.² However there seems to be some doubt in assigning the triskele to that period and I see no reason to date the Haslingfield disc so late in time. The design appears to be earlier than the Lambay plaque and it seems reasonable to suggest that the Haslingfield disc was made before A.D. 50.

It would be interesting to know whether the disc was found on a settlement site of the Early Iron Age, or whether it was lost one day by its owner in the Stone Hill field. A bronze ring-headed pin and a bronze disc-headed pin, types often associated with an earlier phase of the Iron Age cultures in this country, were found at Haslingfield³ and a bone 'weaving-comb', now in the British Museum,⁴ and a bone cheek-piece of a bridle bit in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology⁵ came from the same place. The exact find-spots of none of these objects is known. Early Iron Age A pottery was found at Grantchester, Trumpington and Hauxton, and Belgic wares are recorded from the same settlement sites.⁶ An early form of the Belgic tazza bowl, probably dating to the end of the first century B.C., was found at Haslingfield itself.⁷ All these finds suggest that people lived at Haslingfield at various times during the Early Iron Age, though their actual homesteads have not yet been identified.

C. I. F.

RECENTLY DISCOVERED ROMANO-BRITISH SITES
NEAR LAKENHEATH, SUFFOLK

The Roman site at the base of Maid's Cross Hill, Lakenheath, has long been known, and an outlying hoard of Samian and other ware, discovered by wartime trenching, was described in volume XLI of these *Proceedings*. The south portion of the main site is now in process of excavation.

Since the war other Romano-British sites have been discovered in the neighbourhood.

*The Hiss Farm Site*⁸

In 1948 Mr Smith of Hiss Farm, close to Lakenheath Station, reported that the plough had turned up many sherds of pottery on a field just north of the railway line. He stated that twenty to thirty coins, close together as though from a hoard, and beads had been found in the same field in 1932. The coins had been sent to the British Museum for examination. Both coins and report are now missing, but the dates were said to be between A.D. 200 and 300.

¹ E. T. Leeds, *Celtic Ornament*, p. 59, fig. 24a-b.

² Report no. XI of the Society of Antiquaries: *Verulamium* (1936), p. 216, fig. 48. Another bronze open-work disc of unknown provenance, but earlier in date than the Haslingfield specimen, was described by Sir Cyril Fox in *Ant. Journ.* xxvii (1947), pp. 1f. and pl. I.

³ Sir Cyril Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 76, and *Arch. Journ.* xci (1934), p. 289.

⁴ *B.M. Early Iron Age Guide* (1925), fig. 181.

⁵ Marked 1882. No registration number.

⁶ *Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire*, vol. 1, pp. 288, 296.

⁷ Sir Cyril Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 91, pl. XII, 1. ⁸ National Grid 52/733867.

On the surface of the field there were many domestic Romano-British sherds and also a spread of building material strongly suggesting a minor building. The farmer stated that a large piece of stone about 2 ft. across, requiring two men to handle it, had been removed from the field.

*The Fenhouse Farm Site*¹

While searching for the Hiss Farm site another larger and more important site was discovered in a field to the east, lying between the river and the railway line, close to Fenhouse Farm.

When first seen the field was dotted with heaps of Romano-British debris, tiles, building flint, bricks, pottery, etc., which had been collected for removal. At the side of the field there were similar heaps and the potholes in the lane leading to the field were also filled with debris.

The field was first ploughed in 1942 and the turning up and removal of building material had been a burden to the farmer each year. The scatters of brick, stone, tiles, flint and mortar indicated a group of smallish Roman buildings. Portions of stone (? Barnack) columns and capitals were recovered from one place, numerous red tesserae from another. Decorated Samian and Castor ware sherds and a small intact pot of whitish paste with brown wash were found on the surface. A large corroded mass of ironwork was ploughed out in 1948; it closely resembles part of the great chain with swivels and hooks from Great Chesterford now in the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. This and other finds are now in the Museum.

Dr St Joseph took air photographs of the area in the spring of 1949, but these showed disappointingly little. A few trial trenches also failed to strike any structure. The tentative conclusion has been reached that the plough has destroyed most of the foundations of the numerous buildings which must have existed during the Roman occupation.

*The Warren Site*²

At the end of 1948 sewerage works were being carried out for Lakenheath aerodrome on Caudle Common. The excavations disclosed a cemetery of skeletons enclosed in wooden coffins. These have not been preserved. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were found in the spoil of the trenches. The clerk of the works reported that in 1943 spindle whorls, Romano-British sherds, portions of millstones and traces of palisading were disclosed by building excavations. In the last year or two workmen have found numerous Romano-British sherds and old bones in this area, also a coin of Aurelian. (Reported by Mr Jack King of Mildenhall.)

*The Undley Common Site*³

In 1950 Mr F. Rutterford reported the ploughing up of old pottery. The site lies on a small rise in otherwise level ground and is marked by dark soil. Numerous sherds including Samian and colour-coated ware were found on the surface, also bones, teeth, oyster shells, pieces of brick and tile and a few nails.

The finds indicated third- and fourth-century occupation.

¹ National Grid 52/743868.

² National Grid 52/734808.

³ National Grid 52/699806.

*The Delph Site*¹

Three-quarters of a mile to the south in the Delph is another site where Romano-British pottery, building materials, oyster shells, etc., have been found after ploughing. An interesting find was a double snake-headed bracelet of bronze now in the possession of the writer.

It should be recorded that in 1948 Mr H. Bennett of Lakenheath found an intact dark grey first-century pot of 'poppy-head' shape in a dyke bank situated in New Fen (National Grid 52/707857). This pot is in the possession of the finder. G. B.

A FOURTH-CENTURY COIN HOARD FROM FRECKENHAM, SUFFOLK

A field belonging to Mr Sidney Jeffery of Freckenham was being deep-ploughed in 1948 when the plough struck and smashed a jar containing hundreds of Roman copper coins (National Grid 52/729668). The 595 coins were carefully collected, examined and classified by Mr P. A. Oldman, of Beck Row, who reports that they were issued between A.D. 306 and 361. A detailed report on them will appear in *The Numismatic Journal*.

The jar is of white paste coated with red, and is decorated with three groups of three vertical wavy stripes of white paint and has three horizontal grooves round the neck. The importance of the find lies in the definite evidence it gives of the fourth-century date of this type of painted pottery (Plate XIII c).

These objects were exhibited for a short time in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and are now in the possession of Mr Jeffery. G. B.

¹ National Grid 52/704795.

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