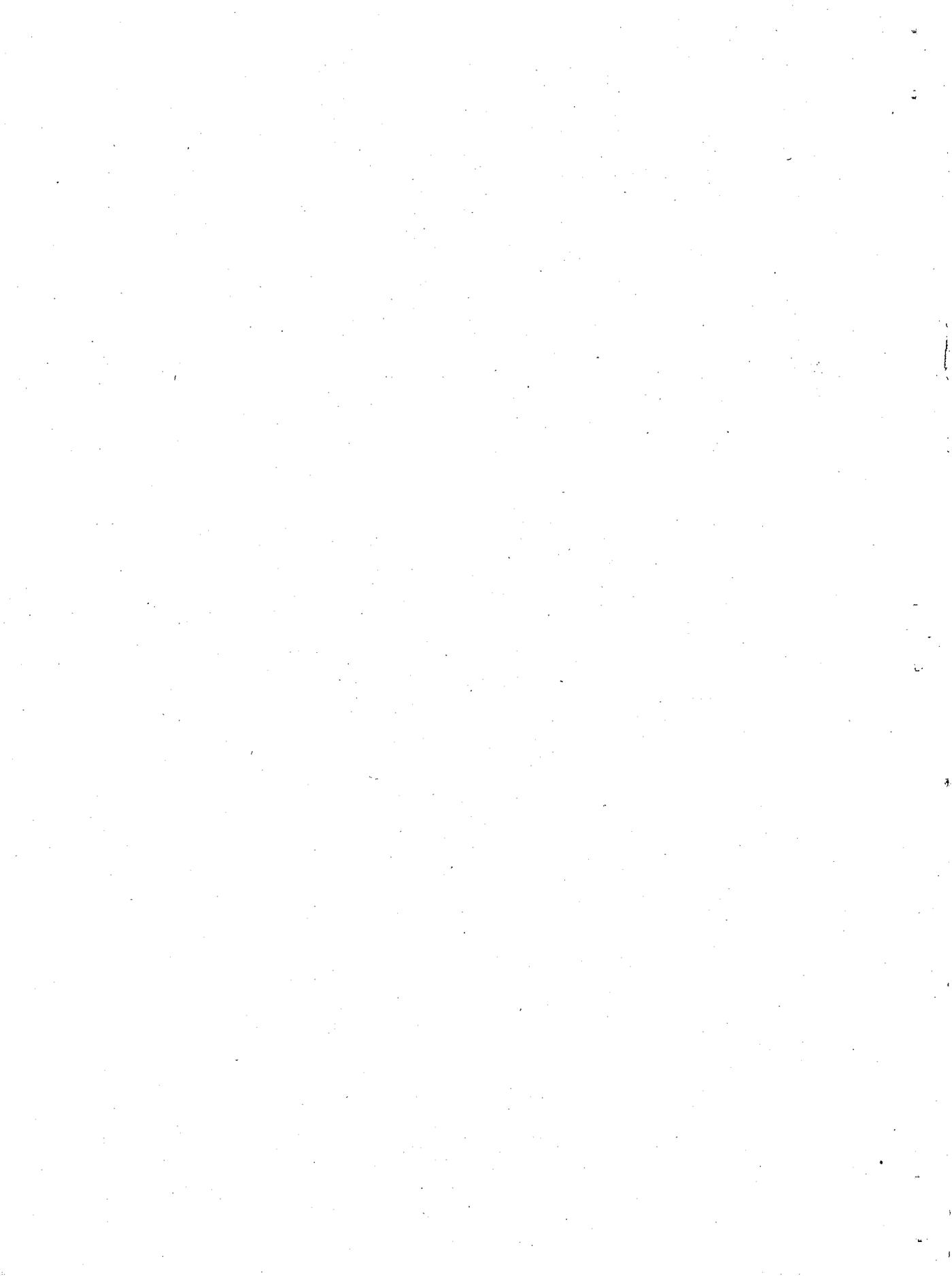


Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

Vol. XLIX (1956)

Complete, except for title pages. (Unbound).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

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A HOARD OF ROMANO-BRITISH IRONWORK FROM WORLINGTON

THE Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology has recently acquired a new hoard of Romano-British ironwork found during ploughing in 1954 in a field on Rectory Farm, Worlington, Suffolk, and presented to the Museum by Mr E. M. Waller. In many ways this hoard with its axes, hammers, chisels, and sickles can be compared with similar discoveries from the Roman sites at Great Chesterford, Silchester, or Newstead, but it also comprises some more unusual finds including three curved objects with points and long tangs (Pl. VII *a*) which appear to be unique. The fact that the outer sides of the curved tips show signs of wear suggests that they may have formed the prongs of an agricultural implement, but they hardly seem strong enough to withstand such rough usage. On the other hand, if they are turned round so that the curved ends are uppermost, it is possible that they were purely decorative in character and were used on the harness of horses or of oxen. Support is given to this suggestion by the curved horns of very similar type which embellish the collars of two horses shown drawing an elaborate carriage on a Romano-Gaulish relief found at Vaison in Provence.¹

It is easier to hazard a guess as to the purpose of the two large combs (Pl. VII *b*). They were probably provided with wooden handles and used to comb out wool before spinning² and they also have no known parallels, unless one small piece of iron in the Newstead Collection in the National Museum of the Antiquities of Scotland in Edinburgh is the sole remaining tooth of a comb of this type.

Lastly, mention must be made of a small bronze head found with this hoard (Pl. VII *c*). Of fine workmanship, it presumably depicts a god or person of importance wearing a torque round his neck and with elaborately curled hair and beard. Most of the hair is covered by a cap or an animal skin and traces of iron rivets suggest that some object was fastened to the top of the head, perhaps something in the nature of the horns worn by the god Cernunnos. Holes round the base and at the back of the neck show that it was attached to a base or support which has perished or been lost, possibly a wooden body or some form of ceremonial sceptre.

A fuller account of these discoveries will be published in due course. J. L.

¹ Espérandieu, *Bas-Reliefs de la Gaule Romaine*, vol. I (1907), no. 293.

² Thanks are due to Mr Patterson, B.Sc., Curator of the Castle Museum, York, for his assistance in identifying these combs.

FENLAND WATERWAYS, PAST AND PRESENT

Under the above title, a paper read by Major Gordon Fowler in 1932 was printed in vol. xxxiii of the *Proceedings of the C.A.S.*

It stated 'it is noticeable that . . . neither Wilburton nor Haddenham whose southern boundaries are now on the Old West river, are rated for any fishing in the year 1086. This raises the question whether the Old West river in its present form existed at that time' (p. 123).

The fact is that Haddenham *was* rated for fishing in 1086, and the question of the existence of the Old West river does not arise.

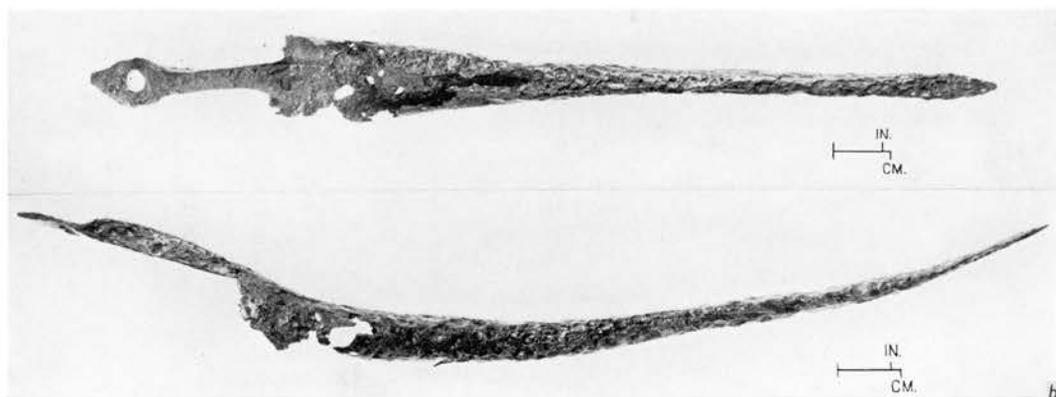
Fowler, as he admitted in a letter, followed Evelyn-White's edition of Domesday Book, and although in the introduction (p. xxxvii) the editor wrote 'the villages of Helle and Lindon in the Isle of Ely have disappeared by synoecism with Haddenham, though Lindon was apparently once the principal of the three villages', yet in the text Lindone is identified as Linton, and Helle is not identified. As Lindone was in the hundred of Ely, and Linton in the hundred of Chilford, the mistake should not have arisen.

In the Appendix (IV, on p. 128) Linton is credited with a fishery to provide 3333 eels and 4s. as tribute, suggesting that a river of considerable size existed there at that time. Ely, by comparison, was rated at 3750 eels.

It was Haddenham (sub. Lindone) which was rated at 3333 eels, so we may conclude that the Old West river was there, and of considerable size.

The errors in identification are corrected in the first volume of the *V.C.H. of Cambs*, but one wonders how many students of the history and economics of the Fens have been misled.

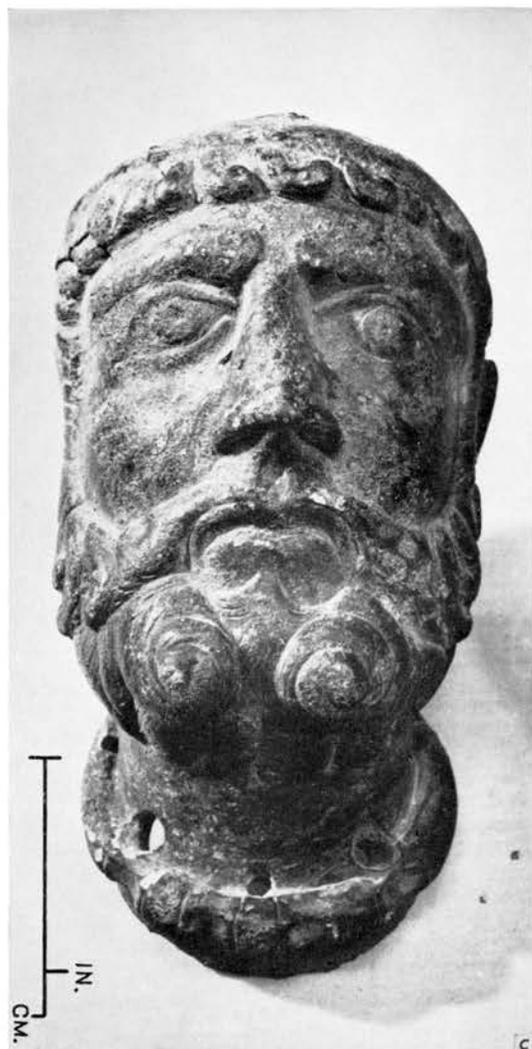
F. J. B.



a. Curved object from Worlington hoard of Romano-British ironwork.



b. Iron comb from Worlington.



c. Bronze head from Worlington.