

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LIV

JANUARY 1960 TO DECEMBER 1960

CAMBRIDGE
DEIGHTON BELL

1961

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LIV

JANUARY 1960 TO DECEMBER 1960

CAMBRIDGE
DEIGHTON BELL

1961

*Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (incorporating the Cambs and Hunts
Archaeological Society) by Deighton Bell, 13 Trinity Street, Cambridge*

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

CONTENTS

<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1960-61</i>	page vi
<i>Report of the Council for the Year 1959</i>	vii
<i>Summary of Accounts for the Year 1959</i>	viii
Obituary Notes	I
By G. H. FINDLAY and G. H. S. BUSHNELL	
The Excavation of a <i>Bos primigenius</i> at Lowe's Farm, Littleport	3
By F. W. SHAWCROSS	
Neolithic Pottery from the Great Ouse Valley	17
By H. J. M. GREEN	
Bronze Age Cremation Urn at Rabbit Hill, Lakenheath	19
By GRACE BRISCOE, F.S.A.	
The Aldwick Iron Age Settlement, Barley, Hertfordshire	22
By M. D. CRA'STER	
Iron Age Weaving Combs from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	47
By NORMAN SMEDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.	
A Romano-British Site at Orton Longueville, Huntingdonshire	50
By G. F. DAKIN	
Roman Godmanchester, Part II: The Town Defences	68
By H. J. M. GREEN	
Roman Cremation Groups from Godmanchester	83
By C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A.	
An Early Twelfth-century Building at Eynesbury, Huntingdonshire	85
By C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A.	
Early Medieval Godmanchester	90
By H. J. M. GREEN	
A Thirteenth-century Architectural Sketch from the Hospital of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge	99
By MARTIN BIDDLE	
A Medieval Squabble	109
By J. F. WILLIAMS	
The Victoria County History of Cambridge	112
By JOHN ROACH	
Archaeological Notes	127
By M. D. CRA'STER and C. F. TEBBUTT	

IRON AGE WEAVING COMBS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND SUFFOLK

NORMAN SMEDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.

DURING the course of excavations for the foundations of the new building for Messrs Fisons Pension Trust in Princes Street, Ipswich (National Grid Ref. TM/1584 4408), a bed of peat was exposed at a depth of 8 ft., and a fine weaving comb of red-deer antler (Fig. 1, 7) was recovered by Mr William Chapman. It has now been presented by Fisons, Ltd to the Ipswich Museum (959-266).

A search for parallels revealed that the only specimens previously found in East Anglia came from Cambridgeshire, and, with one exception (that from Haslingfield, in the British Museum), were in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The writer is indebted to Dr Geoffrey Bushnell not only for permission to examine and draw those specimens which had not already been recorded, but for much helpful guidance, including the suggestion that a comparison with the wooden comb of the Pueblo of Zuni, New Mexico (Fig. 1, 8*a*, *b*) should not be overlooked, and that the views expressed by H. Ling Roth in his comprehensive 'Studies in Primitive Looms' (*Ling Roth*, pp. 124*f.*) should be re-examined.

All the combs listed below have been examined by the writer, with the exception of that from Haslingfield. They fall into two groups, type 2 and type 3, of the classification outlined by A. Bulleid and H. St George Gray (*Glastonbury*, pp. 266-9). These authors give an exhaustive account of the eighty-nine combs found on the site of the Lake Village, with references to other examples from this country and abroad.

Type 2. With an oval or rounded enlargement at the handle end. (Bulleid and Gray include under this head combs with a D-shaped handle; as so few of these are known, reference is made below to examples from other sites.)

HAUXTON: A peat-stained comb with nine teeth, worn smooth, was found with a bone needle (Fig. 1, 1).

GOG MAGOG HILLS: Three combs, one with seven smooth teeth, well-spaced (Fig. 1, 2); another specimen with fourteen sharply cut, tapering teeth (Fig. 1, 3); a third comb with perforated head, originally with nine well-spaced, smooth teeth (Fig. 1, 4).

WANDLEBURY: One unfinished specimen, which may have been 'pared down for use as a scoop', has a D-shaped head. Of two other fragments, one had approximately twenty teeth, another with thirteen teeth has incised decoration (*Wandlebury*, fig. 10, 2, 3, 4).

A comb with D-shaped head and zig-zag decoration was found by General Pitt-Rivers at Iwerne in 1897 (*Salisbury*, fig. 8, 2), and another at Maiden Castle has decoration of incised concentric circles (*Maiden Castle*, fig. 102, 10).

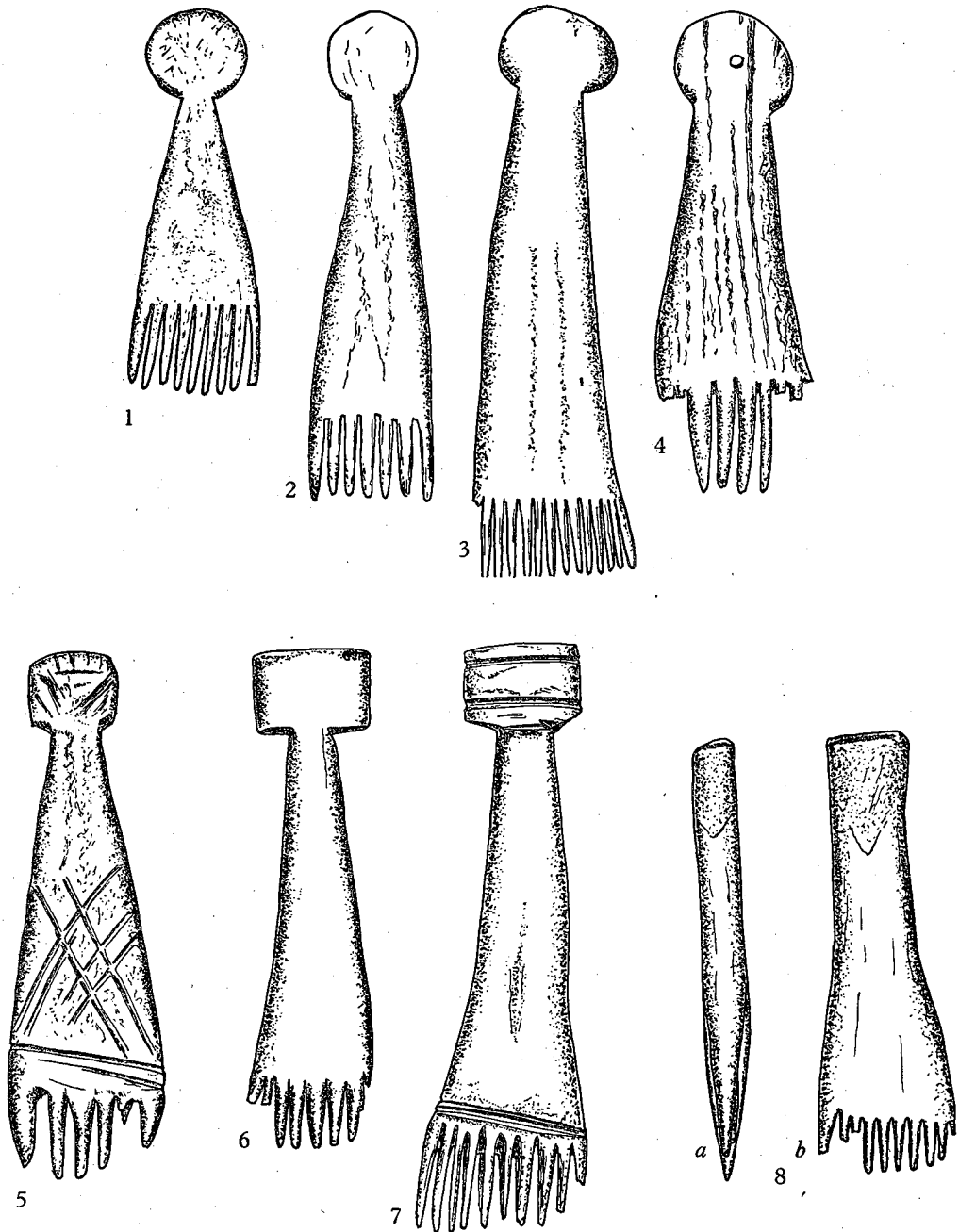


Fig. 1. Weaving combs: 1-6, Cambridgeshire; 7, Suffolk; 8, New Mexico. 1, Hauxton; 2-4, Gog Magog Hills; 5, Malton Farm, Barrington; 6, Linton; 7, Ipswich; 8, Pueblo of Zuni. Scale: 1:2.

HASLINGFIELD: A comb in the British Museum, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length, has a perforated head, eight to ten teeth and zig-zag decoration (British Museum, *Iron Age Guide*, 1925, fig. 181).

ABINGTON PIGOTTS: Fox figures two combs, one with D-shaped head, and incised

decoration on head and above teeth, of which there are sixteen, sharply cut, the other with six rounded well-spaced teeth, and handle of unusual waisted form (*Abington Pigotts*, fig. 1, A and B).

Type 3. With handle having a square or oblong enlargement at the end.

MALTON FARM, BARRINGTON: A comb with six rounded, well-spaced teeth has incised, criss-cross decoration (Fig. 1, 5).

LINTON: Linton is already known as an Iron Age settlement site (*Linton*) and is here represented by a comb with eight well-rounded teeth and no decoration (Fig. 1, 6), found with an Iron Age 'A' sherd.

IPSWICH: The circumstances of the discovery of this comb have already been set out; it has ten teeth, well-rounded, and decoration of incised lines on head and above teeth exactly as in two Glastonbury examples, H 101 and H 170, which however are perforated.

Ling Roth has thrown doubt on the use of these combs for 'beating in' the weft in weaving, basing his views on experiments carried out with a replica of the Mortlake specimen in the British Museum (*Ling Roth*, fig. 184). He considers that the natural curvature of the horn or bone would draw the warp out of position, but surely this would be as quickly corrected by the tension on a warp-weighted loom. The action would be a rapid beat, upwards, as he has noted (p. 129) and not downwards as in Bulleid and Gray's illustration (*Glastonbury*, fig. 57, reproduced by *Ling Roth*, fig. 183). The upward beat may also account for the 'usage marks on what is usually the upper surface of the comb' attributed by Bulleid and Gray to reversal of a comb with an inconveniently left-handed curve (*Glastonbury*, p. 272).

It is, however, difficult to believe that implements so closely resembling the weaving comb, known to have been used for that purpose by the Pueblo Indians of Zuni, New Mexico (Fig. 1, 8), are not closely related in function, even though the latter is employed with a down-beat.

A critical study of form and decoration might reveal cultural affinities, but the material and data at present available are insufficient for this task.

ABBREVIATIONS

- Abington Pigotts*: C. Fox, 'A Settlement of the Early Iron Age at Abington Pigotts, Cambs', *Proc. Prehistoric Soc. of East Anglia*, vol. IV.
Glastonbury: A. Bulleid and H. St George Gray, 'The Glastonbury Lake Village', *Glastonbury Ant. Soc.* vol. I (1911).
Ling Roth: H. Ling Roth, 'Studies in Primitive Looms, Part IV', *J. Royal Anthropological Inst.* vol. XLVIII (1918).
Linton: C. I. Fell, 'An Early Iron Age Settlement at Linton, Cambs', *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLVI.
Maiden Castle: R. E. M. Wheeler, 'Maiden Castle, Dorset', *Soc. of Antiquaries Research Report*, no. XII.
Salisbury: C. F. C. Hawkes, with collaboration by Stuart Piggott, and a note by H. St George Gray, 'Britons, Romans and Saxons round Salisbury and in Cranborne Chase, reviewing the excavations of General Pitt-Rivers, 1881-98', *Arch. J.* vol. CIV (1947).
Wandlebury: B. R. Hartley, 'The Wandlebury Iron Age Hill Fort', *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. L (1957).

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

VOLUME LIV
JANUARY 1960 TO DECEMBER 1960

20s. net.

CONTENTS

<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1960-61</i>	page vi
<i>Report of the Council for the Year 1959</i>	vii
<i>Summary of Accounts for the Year 1959</i>	viii
Obituary Notes	I
By G. H. FINDLAY and G. H. S. BUSHNELL	
The Excavation of a <i>Bos primigenius</i> at Lowe's Farm, Littleport	3
By F. W. SHAWCROSS	
Neolithic Pottery from the Great Ouse Valley	17
By H. J. M. GREEN	
Bronze Age Cremation Urn at Rabbit Hill, Lakenheath	19
By GRACE BRISCOE, F.S.A.	
The Aldwick Iron Age Settlement, Barley, Hertfordshire	22
By M. D. CRA'STER	
Iron Age Weaving Combs from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	47
By NORMAN SMEDLEY, M.A., F.S.A.	
A Romano-British Site at Orton Longueville, Huntingdonshire	50
By G. F. DAKIN	
Roman Godmanchester, Part II: The Town Defences	68
By H. J. M. GREEN	
Roman Cremation Groups from Godmanchester	83
By C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A.	
An Early Twelfth-century Building at Eynesbury, Huntingdonshire	85
By C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A.	
Early Medieval Godmanchester	90
By H. J. M. GREEN	
A Thirteenth-century Architectural Sketch from the Hospital of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge	99
By MARTIN BIDDLE	
A Medieval Squabble	109
By J. F. WILLIAMS	
The Victoria County History of Cambridge	112
By JOHN ROACH	
Archaeological Notes	127
By M. D. CRA'STER and C. F. TEBBUTT	