

one was included, suggests that it is a Roman or Byzantine 'varied red-and-white opaque glass' bead of '?third-seventh century date', adding that had such beads been found in this country he would not have hesitated to call them Saxon of the sixth-seventh century; 'indeed', he suggested, 'some of the Saxon beads of the period may well have been imported from Egypt or the eastern Mediterranean'. Harden has seen my Dar es Salaam bead and agrees as to its Frankish and Anglo-Saxon affinities.

The bead from Kisiju, a long truncated convex bicone, is also wire wound. It is made of apparently black⁴ glass decorated like the previous example with trails of yellow and white opaque glass drawn on to the body and marvered in. There is a very similar Frankish bead, but with white trails only, preserved in the British Museum.

From the same site as the Kisiju bead came another which should also be mentioned here (see *Man*, Sept., 1960, No. 180). It is a very much weathered millefiori bead showing traces of its original colouring of blue, yellow and red. It is probably (in Basil Gray's view) of the eighth to the tenth century in date, being very similar to one of near-eastern origin found on the island of Birka in Björkö, Uppland, Sweden, and now preserved in the State Historical Museum of Stockholm.

The beads here dealt with seem to pin-point at least two of the earliest trading stations yet found on the Tanganyika coast, and also to indicate an earlier dating for some of the Indian trade beads than has hitherto been given to them in that area. Neither the Dar es Salaam nor the Kisiju site shows any evidence of former buildings in stone, though in both there are signs of once existing wattle-and-daub structures in the form of scattered lumps of hard, rather brick-like clay showing the impressions of branches and twigs, probably those of the mangrove trees in which both sites still abound. Though western beads such as these could have found their way to the east African coast direct from an eastern Mediterranean *entrepôt*, they could equally well have been re-exported from India, for it is known that European beads were reaching that country even before the time of Alexander. Beck found 'typical European beads' in settlements at Taxila dating back to the fifth century B.C. (see *Mem. Archaeol. Survey of India*, no. 65, 1941). Many more beads, however, of the kind I have described from Dar es Salaam and Kisiju will have to be found before they can be accepted as evidence of a trade in beads and not just as losses suffered by individual visitors.

JOAN R. HARDING

HANGING-BOWLS WITH PIERCED ESCUTCHEONS (PL. XXIV)

In his article on the fragments of a hanging-bowl from Bekesbourne, Kent (*Med. Archaeol.* II (1958), 75), Haseloff comments on the fact that the two escutcheons depart from the normal rule in that they do not form closed roundels but have central voids in which presumably other objects were fixed. He states that 'immediate parallels for this construction are not available but similar forms may be found', and adds that 'the Bekesbourne roundels are of a type that is not to be found among the hanging-bowls known to have come from Anglo-Saxon graves—with the probable exception of the escutcheon from Camerton. The conclusion to be drawn is that this group of escutcheons with open or inlaid central panels represents a later stage of development than do the hanging-bowls from Anglo-Saxon graves'.

In 1955 two complete hanging-bowls were recovered from the Anglian cemetery at Loveden Hill, Lincolnshire (*Med. Archaeol.* I (1957), 148). One of these had escutcheons of this type with a central void. Since the cemetery is big and excavation is still going on, it has not, as yet, been possible to publish the hanging-bowls in detail, but in view of Haseloff's article it may be advisable to draw attention to the escutcheons of this bowl although the bowl itself and its complicated group of associated finds including, amongst other things, a sword, a large and intricately-decorated bronze-bound wooden bucket and many other decorated bronze fragments, must await publication on another occasion.

⁴ Under the microscope a chip might show that like other apparently black glasses it is really brown.

The bowl is 24.6 cm. in diameter and 11 cm. deep. Its three escutcheons (PL. XXIV) are all identical, 5.2 cm. in diameter, and clearly belong to the group known as the developed trumpet-pattern series, being very closely paralleled for instance by the example from Hitchin in the Victoria & Albert Museum, except that the central spiral roundel is replaced by a void of the same diameter as the three surrounding spiral scrolls. The print from the inside of the bowl, however, retains the central pattern. The bowl contained a cremation and the remains of a glass palm-cup which had been partially burnt but of which sufficient survived to permit reconstruction (H. 3.2 cm., Max. D. 7.2 cm., D. rim 5.6 cm.). Two other detached escutcheons have been recovered from the cemetery both of which had apparently been burnt sufficiently to fuse the enamel on the decoration but these are of the more normal trumpet-pattern design with a solid scroll in the centre. The second Loveden Hill hanging-bowl (which also contained a cremation) is 29.8 cm. diameter and 12 cm. deep. Its escutcheons are 5 cm. diameter and have coarse linear decoration consisting of a large, flaccid, ill-drawn swastika, the ends of which are worked into a series of six spiral loops. The outside base print is of similar design, but with a milled raised rim.

Clearly, therefore, Haseloff's argument (*ibid.*, p. 76) needs modification, at least at one end of the time-scale, since hanging-bowls with escutcheons with open or inlaid central panels are to be found in the context of the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery and, what is more, they seem to be contemporary with the more usual developed trumpet-pattern series.

Hand washing seems to be a very prosaic use for such beautiful objects as these large hanging-bowls, particularly those with inner prints on which a good deal of craftsmanship has been lavished. The presence of a glass drinking-vessel⁵ in the Loveden Hill example seems to suggest a possible use for these vessels. Could they not have been containers for drink to grace the top table—a more elegant version, in fact, of the large wooden iron-and-bronze-bound mead bucket, an example of which is associated with the Loveden bowl?

K. R. FENNELL

EXCAVATION OF A HOUSE AND MALT KILN AT BARROW, RUTLAND (PL. XXV; FIG. 50)

Excavation of a mound in 1959 said to be the site of a post mill mentioned in a fourteenth-century document⁶ at Barrow (Rutland) revealed a rectangular stone structure 30 ft. long by 17 ft. wide externally (PL. XXV, A; FIG. 50). There was no indication of the original height of the rubble-filled walls, the mound itself being entirely formed of waste material. At the western end they were about 3 ft. thick, but the east boundary was merely a 'ghost' wall, almost all the facing stones having been removed. The interior of the walls was much more carefully faced than the exterior. There were obvious signs of repair or rebuilding, particularly on the north side, where a different type of limestone was used and pieces of flag-stone were inserted apparently to correct the level of the courses.

The construction-trenches for the walls provided very meagre dating evidence in the shape of a few early medieval sherds, among them fragments of St. Neots and Thetford ware. Other sherds showed typical early medieval sagging bases. There were no fragments of rim. These finds do no more than suggest a date between the tenth and the twelfth centuries for the building.

Its function must remain conjectural, for subsequent developments left no trace of an original floor level. Apart from fragments of stone flagging both in the walls them-

[⁵ Always assuming that these cones were drinking vessels. I have suggested (*Dark-age Britain: studies presented to E. T. Leeds* (1956), p. 157) that some of them at least may have been used as lamp-glasses. From this point of view the presence of a glass container in the Loveden Hill bowl might lead to a revival of the theory that the bowls themselves were used as lighting appliances. Ed.]

⁶ The original document dated 5 Jan. 1318, is one of a series dealing with sales or exchanges of land in Barrow (Rutland), B.R.A. 889; Cambridge County Record Office R 54.32.