

Date

Fragments of wood which could not be positioned during re-assembly were left untreated and some of these were subsequently dated by the Harwell Carbon 14/Tritium Measurements Laboratory: HAR 2835: 960 BP \pm 70 = *c.* ad 990. It is unfortunate that samples with a known location in the log could not have been made available. Nevertheless it is likely that the samples provided were from near the outside of this logboat thus giving a *terminus post quem* for the felling of the tree and the building of the boat; an early 11th-century A.D. date seems likely.

Significance of the find

This medieval oak logboat is important not least because she is the earliest-known logboat from Britain with direct evidence for fitted ribs. Her useful beam, flared transverse section and (probable) stabilizers mean that she would have had good stability. This and the fact that she may have had thwarts would make her suitable for use as a passenger ferry, a role echoed in the site name.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Elizabeth Hartley, Keeper of Archacology at the Yorkshire Museum for facilities to examine this boat; to J. Atkinson for information about the conservation and re-assembly of the boat; to Eva Wilson who prepared Fig. 5 from my measured drawing; and to Mary McGrail and April Whincop who helped with the measurement.

SEÁN MCGRAIL

NOTES

¹ S. McGrail, *Logboats of England and Wales* (National Maritime Museum Archaeological Series, 2; B.A.R., 51, Oxford, 1978).

² *Ibid.*, no. 132.

³ *Ibid.*, 309.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 123-25.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 325-26, 350.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 59.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 40-41.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 132.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 31-32.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 42.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 314.

¹² *Ibid.*, 91.

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ON THE COMPOSITIONS OF SOME LEADED BRONZE OBJECTS OF THE 14th AND 15th CENTURIES

As part of a wider analytical study of the compositions of copper alloys of the medieval and post-medieval periods, certain objects of known date or period have received special attention. Some medieval cast objects of the 14th and 15th centuries, one dated precisely, the others carrying arms or inscriptions, have been analysed by X-ray fluorescent technique. The objects were the Towthorpe mortar (1308), Yorkshire Museum; an inscribed ewer (second half 14th century), Victoria and Albert Museum; weights (second half 14th century), Winchester Museum; Henry VII gallon and bushel measures (end of 15th century), Winchester, Salisbury and Victoria and Albert Museums. Analytical data on the Ashanti ewer (second half 14th century), British Museum, have been supplied for comparison through the courtesy of Dr Paul Craddock, British Museum Research Laboratories.

All the above objects have a basically similar alloy composition covered by the following (%): Copper 75–85, Zinc trace–1, Tin trace–4, Lead 9–22, Nickel 0.1–0.9, Iron 0.05–0.2, Antimony 0.5–3.5, Arsenic 0.4–1.5. The high level of lead, comparatively low level of tin and virtual absence of zinc are of note; the alloy should be referred to as a heavily leaded bronze and not 'bell-metal', the traditionally misused term. It appears that leaded bronze was used in the late medieval period for a range of objects from the simple to the elaborate and the humble to the important.

Research is continuing, and excavators and museum curators with objects of the period which might be suitable for analysis are asked to contact the author, at the Department of Materials and Energy Science, Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic, Priory Street, Coventry, CV1 5FB.

ROGER BROWNSWORD

THE CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE, 1981

The 24th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Cambridge from 10 to 13 April 1981. The theme was 'Medieval Archaeology — 25 years on', to mark the Society's Silver Jubilee. The opening lecture on 'New Approaches in medieval archaeology' was given by Professor Philip Rahtz and Dr Richard Hodges. On the morning of 11 April the following talks were given: 'English archaeology before the Conquest: the historian's view', by Professor Peter Sawyer; 'Anglo-Saxon archaeology', by Dr Tania Dickinson; 'Late Celtic archaeology: the historian's view', by Dr Wendy Davies; and 'Celtic archaeology: 5th–12th century', by Professor Leslie Alcock. In the afternoon there were visits to buildings and museums in Cambridge. In the evening Professor Paul Harvey lectured on 'English archaeology after the Conquest: the historian's view', and an after-dinner reception took place in the School of Pythagoras, St John's College, by invitation of Professor Glyn Daniel on behalf of the University of Cambridge. On 12 April the speakers were Mr John Schofield, for the C.B.A. Urban Research Committee; Professor Maurice Beresford, for the Medieval Village Research Group; Mr Alan Aberg, for the Moated Sites Research Group; Dr Lawrence Butler, for the C.B.A. Churches Committee; and Mr Stephen Moorhouse, for the Medieval Pottery Research Group. Mr Andrew Selkirk spoke on 'Archaeology — the next thirty years', and the President, Mr John Hurst, made a final summary. On 13 April there was an excursion to Clare, Long Melford and Lavenham. The Society thanks all those who contributed to the success of the Conference by acting as guides and in other capacities, and particularly to Dr Kate Pretty who was local secretary for the occasion.

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL