[15] P. D. C. Brown and F. Schweizer, 'X-Ray Fluorescent Analysis of Anglo-Saxon Jewellery', *Archaeometry*, 15, 2 (1973), 175–92.
[16] J. P. C. Kent, 'Gold Standards of the Merovingian Coinage A.D. 580–700', 69–74 in E. T. Hall and D. M. Metcalf (eds.), *Methods of Chemical and Metallurgical Investigation of Ancient Coinage* (Royal Numismatic Society Special Publication, 1972).
[17] D. Brown, 'The Dating of the Sutton Hoo Coins', 71–86 in D. Brown, J. Campbell and S. C. Hawkes (eds.), *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History 2* (Brit. Archaeol. Repts., Brit. Ser., 92, Oxford, 1981).

SOME NEW AND NEGLECTED FINDS OF 9th-CENTURY ANGLO-SAXON ORNAMENTAL METALWORK (Figs. 2, 3, 4; Pl. IV, B)

The purpose of this note is to record six minor pieces of Anglo-Saxon ornamental metalwork that display various aspects of the 9th-century Trewhiddle style; these comprise four recent discoveries, and two relevant older and neglected finds. They are discussed only in such detail as is necessary to place them firmly within this rapidly growing corpus of material.

The objects include two silver hooked tags from Kent, one of which is an old find collected by John Brent, a 19th-century antiquarian in E. Kent, who bequeathed it to the Royal Museum, Canterbury, of which he was an honorary curator (Fig. 2, 1).[1] The second was excavated in 1980 on the Marlowe IV site in Canterbury, W. of St Mary Bredin Church (Fig. 2, 2; Pl. IV, B). It was found in a dark grey-brown clayey loam that formed an extensive 12th-century deposit, probably of soil, sealing the Anglo-Saxon horizons.[2]

The other four objects consist of strap-ends, of which two are also from Kent. The finest of these was acquired by the Royal Museum, Canterbury, from Mr E. Woodward who found it in 1980 on the beach at St Mildred's Bay, Thanet (Fig. 3, 1). The second example, also in the Royal Museum, Canterbury, once formed part of Brent's collection of E. Kentish antiquities (Fig. 3, 2); it is illustrated in the manuscript *Catalogue of Saxon Antiquities in the Possession of Cecil Brent, F.S.A.* (1884), pl. 17, 14, among objects from the cemeteries at Stowting and Faversham.[3] The other two strap-ends are both recent single-finds, one being from Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire, which is now in the Ashmolean Museum (Fig. 3, 4).[4] The second was found at Lode, on the Fen Edge near Cambridge, by Mr A. J. Rank of Bottisham who has retained it, after submitting it for examination to the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (Fig. 3, 3).[5]

Descriptions

Hooked tag of silver in poor condition (Fig. 2, 1), with a rounded plate which is part missing in two places, including one of its pair of projecting perforated lugs; the back is plain. The main body of the object is defined by beaded borders which are also used to divide its surface into three sub-triangular fields containing incised ornament, originally nielloed; the junction between the plate and the hook is marked by a pair of transverse lines. The two larger fields are filled with foliate or sub-foliate designs, that on the left consisting of a Z-scroll terminating in leaves with double-nicked contours, the other containing a figure-of-eight, with leaf-like protuberances within its ends and double-nicked contours, interlaced with a free ring. The small field is filled with an animal in profile; the contours of its body are double nicked. Length: 310 mm.
Royal Museum, Canterbury: 2430. From E. Kent (*ex* J. Brent coll.).

Hooked tag of silver (Fig. 2, 2; Pl. IV, B), with a circular plate now bent and with part of one of its pair of projecting perforated lugs missing; the back is plain. The main body of the object is defined by a plain border which is extended to divide its surface into three sub-triangular fields containing incised nielloed ornament.[6] The junction between the plate and the hook is marked by a stylized moulded animal-head seen from above, with a squared-off snout from which the hook emerges; the front of the head is lozenge-shaped, incised with a niello-inlaid line, above which is a pair of oval ears with lunate incisions.
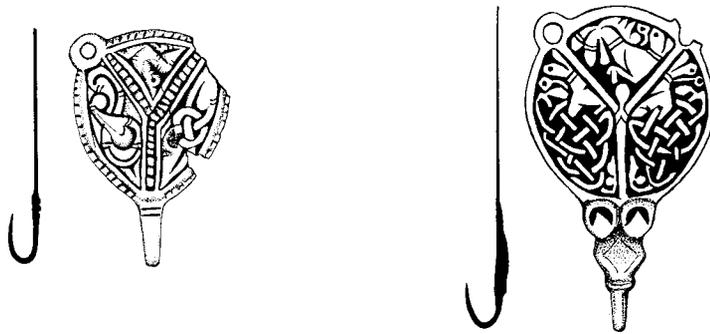
FIG. 2

SILVER HOOKED TAGS. 1, from E. Kent; 2, from Canterbury, Kent. Scale 1:1. Drawn by Mrs Eva Wilson

The two larger fields contain single animals in profile, with an open-jawed head in the upper angle having a drilled eye; behind the head is a club-like feature with a drilled terminal (to be interpreted as the ear). There is a double band across the neck, and the forequarters are indicated, but the body degenerates into interlace. This terminates in a bifurcated leaf and has a leaf-like off-shoot at the top of the field (on the left-hand animal this leaf is attached to a separate strand of interlace that intertwines with the body). The small field contains a single animal in profile with the same head and ear as the others, but its hindquarters degenerate into three lobes (two of which, like the body, have double bands across them) and a frond-like tail; a bud-like lobe springs from the angle at the centre of the tag. Length: 370 mm. (originally c. 430 mm).
Excavated by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1980 on the Marlowe IV site, Canterbury, Kent.

Strap-end of silver in excellent condition (Fig. 3, 1), terminating in an animal's head, seen in relief from above with prominent oval ears which have lunate incisions; the reverse is plain. The split-end has two rivet-holes with a fan-shaped field between them. There is a beaded border along either side of the main body of the strap-end which is divided into four sub-rectangular fields containing incised ornament that was presumably originally nielloed (the object was scrubbed by its finder). The upper left-hand field contains a single animal in profile with two-toed feet and an angular tail; its open-jawed head has a squared-off snout, a bulge over the eye and a club-like ear. The upper right-hand field contains a regular two-strand interlace, whereas the lower two fields each contain a single animal whose body degenerates into interlace. Length: 450 mm.
Royal Museum, Canterbury. Found in 1980 on the beach at St Mildred's Bay, Westgate-on-Sea, Thanet, Kent.

Strap-end of copper alloy (Fig. 3, 2), in poor condition with a pitted and corroded surface, broken across the split-end so that its rivet-holes are missing; the reverse is plain. The terminal retains traces of incised lines so as to suggest a highly stylized animal's head seen from above. The main body is divided into four sub-rectangular fields; each of the lower pair contains a backward-looking animal, with a squared-off snout, bump over the eye, nicked contours, well-formed hip, and two-toed feet. The upper pair each contains a single animal whose body degenerates into interlace, with a raised three-toed front leg; that on the left-hand animal is inserted into an indentation in its body. Length (damaged): 440 mm.
Royal Museum, Canterbury: 2182. From Stowting or Faversham, Kent (*ex* John Brent coll.).

Strap-end of silver in excellent condition (Fig. 3, 3), with traces of niello inlay, terminating in an incised animal's head seen from above with round eyes and comma-shaped ears, between which is a heart-shaped motif; the reverse is plain. Its butt-end is unusually deeply split (c. 150 mm long) with two rivet holes. The main body is divided by plain borders into six fields, the four largest of which form two pairs of irregular shape; there is a triangular field below the rivet-holes and another at the centre of the design. The four major fields contain foliate or sub-foliate interlacing motifs, with occasionally nicked contours. Length: 520 mm.
In private possession. Found in 1980 at Lode, Cambridgeshire.

Strap-end of copper alloy in worn condition (Fig. 3, 4), with traces of niello inlay, terminating in an incised animal's head seen from above with oval ears which have lunate incisions; the reverse is plain. The split-end has its pair of rivets in place. The body of the strap-end has plain borders and is divided into six main fields, including a fan-shaped one below the rivets which contains a small rivet-hole for a boss. The central field is in the form of a concave-sided lozenge with beaded borders at the centre of which is attached a low boss. The four surrounding fields contain foliate S- and Z-scrolls and interlacing motifs. Length: 470 mm.
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford: 1979.948. Found in 1979 at Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire.

The hooked tags

Hooked tags of pre-Conquest date (sometimes described as 'strap-hooks', 'garment-hooks', 'garter-hooks', 'lace-tags', and simply 'hooks' or 'tags') received little attention in print prior to Dr Tania Dickinson's discussion in 1973 of five small bronze examples of triangular shape found at Shakenoak, Oxfordshire, in which she cited a variety of published examples from Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Scandinavian and Scandinavian sites of 7th- to 10th-century date.[7] Three examples from Cirencester, Glos., were published by Mr David Brown in 1976[8] who introduced into the discussion some further published examples from a similar range of sites, confirming their 7th- to 10th-century date-range, as also accepted by Mr David Hinton in his 1976 publication of two examples from Portchester, Hants.[9] It should be noted, however, that some of those excavated in Winchester, Hants., have in a preliminary publication[10] been dated to the '10th and/or 11th-century' and it is reasonable to suppose that such fasteners were still in use towards the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, as is suggested by some of the hooked tags from Cheddar, Somerset.[11]

Although many of these examples are simple objects made from sheet metal, either plain or with lightly incised patterns, there were a few cast and elaborately ornamented hooked tags known by the mid 1970s, most notably a pair of triangular tags found beneath the knees of a skeleton on the Cathedral Green, Winchester.[12] Each has three perforated lobed extensions, and is divided by beaded lines into seven nielloed fields containing semi-foliate ornament allied to the 9th-century Trewhiddle style. The publication of these pieces overlooked the only silver hooked tag then known also to be ornamented in the Trewhiddle style — that found in a Viking-age grave at Birka, Sweden (Pl. IV, B).[13] This circular example has recently been republished,[14] but the opportunity is taken here to illustrate for the first time its ornament in an analytical drawing by Mrs Eva Wilson (Fig. 4) which distinguishes between the two intertwined and speckled elements that form the design — one zoomorphic (plain) and the other semi-foliate (tinted). The heavy speckling of the ornament and details of the animal's treatment, including its head (seen in profile, with a square snout, bump over the eye, and semi-foliate ear) and its well-formed forequarters and hip, relate this creature to the animal motifs employed in the Trewhiddle style, although it is quite exceptional in its elongated neck and looping, ribbon-shaped body. In this respect it comes a little closer to some of the ornament on the Abingdon, Oxon. sword[15] than to anything in the Trewhiddle hoard itself.[16] Panel 26 on the Abingdon sword contains a single animal with an elongated curving body which is caught up in a tendril. This tendril is, however, an off-shoot of the animal's tail and not an independent plant-motif as on the Birka hooked tag (cf. the simple 'potted plants' on such Trewhiddle-style objects as the Burghead, Morayshire, horn-mount,[17] or the much more elaborate fleuronné design on the reverse of the Alfred Jewel).[18] Although it is common in the Trewhiddle style for animals to have foliate extensions or to degenerate into vegetable interlace (cf. the Canterbury hooked tag), it is unusual to find such a composition consisting of an animal intertwining with a separate plant motif in the manner of some 8th-century ornament, although birds and branches are combined in roundels on the Fuller brooch[19] and in panel 5 on the Abingdon sword.

It is less surprising that the hooked tag from E. Kent (Fig. 2, 1) has been completely overlooked, for the quality of its mainstream Trewhiddle-style ornament has only recently been revealed by cleaning. Its rounded shape is something of a compromise between the

FIG. 3

STRAP-ENDS. 1, silver, from St Mildred's Bay, Thanet, Kent; 2, copper-alloy, from Stowting or Faversham, Kent; 3, silver, from Lode, Cambridgeshire; 4, copper-alloy, from Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire. Scale 1:1. 1–3 drawn by Mrs Eva Wilson, 4 by Mrs Pat Clarke
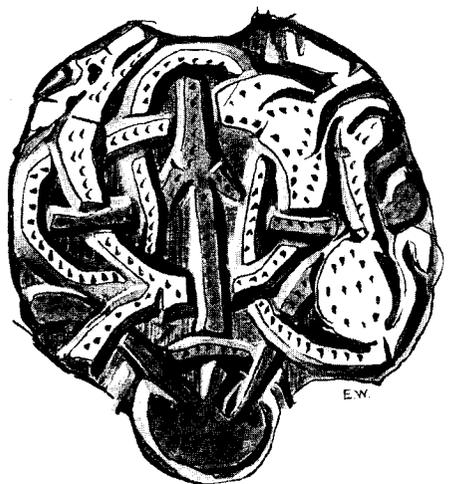
FIG. 4

Ornament on a hooked tag from Birka, Sweden (cf. Pl. IV, B). Drawn by Mrs Eva Wilson

triangular Winchester tags and the circular Birka tag. As on the Winchester tags (and as is common in the Trewhiddle style), its surface is divided into small fields by beaded lines. The semi-foliate and foliate motifs in the two large fields are present on other Trewhiddle-style pieces (the figure-of-eight with ring on the larger of the Beeston Tor disc brooches;[20] the foliate spiral on the Abingdon sword). The single animal in the small triangular field is of a well-known type within the Trewhiddle hoard itself (and on the Burghead horn-mount, etc.); the double nicks into the edges of its body are a standard feature that replaces the speckling on many Trewhiddle-style animals.

These two neglected 9th-century hooked tags are now joined by two new finds, that from Costessey, Norfolk recently published by Miss Barbara Green,[21] and that newly excavated in Canterbury (Fig. 2, 2). Both are circular with pairs of perforated lugs like that from Birka, and both are divided into three fields in the manner of that from E. Kent. The similarities between the Costessey and Canterbury tags extend to the choice and lay-out of the ornament filling these fields, with the two large fields each containing a single animal, head uppermost and turned outwards, degenerating into vegetable interlace, whereas the sub-triangular field contains a single animal of somewhat more conventional proportions with its head in the top right-hand corner. The most notable differences between the two pieces consist of the use of speckling and a beaded border on the Costessey tag, whilst the Canterbury one has plain borders and dividing lines, and plain animals (except for their double bands which can be paralleled on the Beeston Tor, Strickland and Fuller disc brooches,[22] as well as on Ethelwulf's ring[23] and that from the R. Reno, Bologna, Italy).[24] The Costessey tag is unusual in being further embellished by the addition of a central boss, whereas the Canterbury tag has a stylized animal's head forming the base of the hook (of a type discussed below, as it features on numerous 9th-century strap-ends). As noted by Miss Green, the Costessey tag presents 'a superb example' of classic Trewhiddle-style ornament and the Canterbury example is equally fine, although its incised ornament is better paralleled on the Bologna gold ring (or in the 9th-century Canterbury manuscript: British Library, Royal I.E.vi)[25] than in the Trewhiddle hoard itself, except for the club-like ears 'on strings'.

These four hooked tags, and the pair from Winchester, are elaborate examples of a type of late Anglo-Saxon artefact that is becoming increasingly familiar and that will become even better known in the near future with the publication of two major groups — a further twenty or so examples from the Winchester excavations,[26] and those found in York.[27] In the meantime, single-finds are continuously coming to light (e.g. that of copper alloy found in the pelvic area of a skeleton in the Anglo-Saxon cemetery by St Albans Abbey;[28] and another of silver with exceptionally fine Trewhiddle-style ornament recently submitted to the Winchester City Museum).[29]

Many of these hooked tags are so slight that they can only have been used on light fabrics, perhaps in the manner of the modern 'hook and eye'[30] although the more substantial examples could have taken some strain and it is reasonable to accept the suggestion that the Winchester pair, found beneath the knees of a skeleton, could have fastened garters. It is the uncertainty as to their exact use in most cases that argues for their being termed 'hooked tags' in future publications, rather than being labelled by any of the alternatives listed above.

The strap-ends

Compared to the essentially functional nature of the hooked tags, Anglo-Saxon strap-ends were largely ornamental although the smaller examples would have protected the ends of woven belts or ribbons from fraying whilst providing the weight to make them hang attractively. More substantial strap-ends were used on leather belts and straps (e.g. the 10th-century Anglo-Scandinavian Jellinge-style strap-end from Winchester)[31] and would have helped to prevent them from curling. Strap-ends represent the commonest form of surviving late Anglo-Saxon ornamental metalwork, being particularly abundant from the 9th century, ranging from superb examples in silver to crude and incoherent imitations in copper alloy.[32]

All four of the strap-ends published here belong to the stereotyped 9th-century group characterized by their elongated form, with a narrow opening at the split end pierced for a pair of rivets, with incised ornament on the obverse and a plain reverse, and with a terminal in the form of a stylized animal's head seen from above. In the case of the St Mildred's Bay and Long Wittenham examples (Figs. 3, 1 and 3, 4) the animal-head terminals may be clearly recognized, the top of the head being formed by a pair of oval ears with lunate incisions; the eyes are indicated by dots in oval fields, set well down on either side of the ornamented snout. Only the characteristic ears are clearly depicted on the Stowting/ Faversham strap-end (Fig. 3, 2). Numerous strap-ends in the British and Ashmolean Museums' collections have such ears on their animal-head terminals,[33] as also has the Canterbury hooked tag (Fig. 2, 2). The animal's head on the Lode strap-end (Fig. 3, 3) has comma-shaped ears which are another characteristic of 9th-century animal ornament; they are also found on many strap-ends,[34] and other metalwork such as two of the Trewhiddle horn mounts.[35]

Another feature shared by these four strap-ends, one which marks them out as particularly elaborate examples of the type, is the division of the main body into four or more fields (cf. the strap-end from the Cuerdale, Lancs., hoard deposited c. 903,[36] and that from Dymchurch, Kent),[37] in addition to the fan-shaped field that emerges from between the rivet-holes (damaged on that from Stowting/Faversham) which is a feature, usually containing leaves, occurring on well over half the recorded strap-ends of this type.[38]

The St Mildred's Bay strap-end (Fig. 3, 1) has the beaded borders so common on Trewhiddle-style metalwork of which it is a superb example. The lively animal in the upper left-hand field has a typically square snout and the characteristic bump over the eye, with its ear on a string (see the Canterbury tag above). It is balanced by, and constrasted with, a field of plain interlace (cf. those on the larger Beeston Tor disc brooch, and panel 19 on the Abingdon sword), as also with the animals in the lower fields which deteriorate into interlace, although even here variety is introduced by their being of slightly different size and inverted in relation to each other. Animals that deteriorate into interlace have been noted above as common in the Trewhiddle style and so it is not surprising that they occur also on both the other Kentish strap-ends mentioned here — that from Dymchurch, and the Stowting/Faversham example (Fig. 3, 2). On the Stowting/Faversham strap-end these animals occupy the upper fields and have raised forelegs, that of the left-hand animal being unusual in that it is clearly inserted into an indentation in the body, a feature discussed elsewhere in relation to the animals on an 8th-century ornament from Canterbury.[39]

The prevalence of animal ornament on these Kentish strap-ends is in marked contrast to the foliate designs encountered on the Lode and Long Wittenham examples (Figs. 3, 3 and 3, 4). It was noted above, however, that these form an important aspect of the range of Trewhiddle-style motifs, employed to varying degrees by different craftsmen. The semi-foliate interlace and foliate scrolls on the Long Wittenham strap-end are closely related to those on the hooked tag from E. Kent discussed above; the interlace on the Lode example is unusual both in its overall openness and in the eccentric details of its intertwining.

It only remains to comment on the use of ornamented bosses on the Long Wittenham strap-end which is unique on this type of Anglo-Saxon object, although their use on other objects from disc brooches to horn-mounts was noted long ago by Dr David Wilson as being a particular characteristic of 9th-century English metalwork.[40] In this context it is apposite to note the single boss (also unique in its place) attached to the centre of the Costessey hooked tag. The presence of such bosses on an Anglo-Saxon strap-end helps to support my suggestion that a small group of perforated strap-ends from 9th- to 10th-century contexts in western Britain and Ireland (in other respects clearly derived from the Anglo-Saxon series) may once have been ornamented with bosses and so were not necessarily book-clasps, as has been sometimes assumed.[41]

Conclusions

As a final observation, it may be noted that these half dozen examples of 9th-century Anglo-Saxon ornamental metalwork are but a few of the many such pieces that have accumulated from all over England (as well as from Scotland and Wales) since Wilson defined and discussed the Trewhiddle style in 1961 and 1964.[42] The newly discovered hoard of six silver disc brooches from Pentney, Norfolk, acquired in 1981 by the British Museum, throws much light on the emergence of this style and the time is now ripe for someone to undertake a reappraisal of the Trewhiddle style as a whole, for the wealth of new material will surely make it possible to recognize regional and chronological variations within the style first defined twenty years ago.

JAMES GRAHAM-CAMPBELL

NOTES

[1] I am grateful to Mr K. Reedie for the invitation to publish this hooked tag and the two strap-ends in the Royal Museum, Canterbury, and for furnishing me with information on their provenances and history; the drawings are by Mrs Eva Wilson.

[2] Mr T. Tatton-Brown, Director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, kindly invited me to publish this piece in advance of the Marlowe site-report and I am grateful to him and his staff for their assistance.

[3] This *Catalogue* is preserved in the Dept. of Medieval and Later Antiquities of the British Museum.

[4] I am grateful to Mr D. Brown and Mr A. MacGregor for their invitation to publish this strap-end and for providing the drawing.

[5] Miss M. Cra'ster kindly drew my attention to this strap-end and arranged for it to be drawn by Mrs Eva Wilson.

[6] The drawing (Fig. 2, 2) by Mrs Eva Wilson flattens the deformed edge of the tag and does not attempt to render the present state of the niello which obscures details of the designs (cf. Pl. IV, B).

[7] T. M. Dickinson, 'Bronze lace-tags from Site F', 116-17 in A. C. C. Brodribb, A. R. Hands and D. R. Walker, *Excavations at Shakenoak*, IV (Oxford, 1973).

[8] D. Brown, 'Archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period', 19-45 (see pp. 27-28) in A. McWhirr (ed.), *Archaeology and History of Cirencester* (Brit. Archaeol. Repts., Brit. ser., 30, Oxford, 1976).

[9] D. A. Hinton and M. Welch, 'The finds: iron and bronze', 195-219 (see pp. 214-16) in B. Cunliffe, *Excavations at Portchester Castle*, II (Soc. Antiq. London Research Repts., no. 33, London, 1976).

[10] M. Biddle and B. Kjølbye-Biddle, *Winchester Saxon and Norman Art: a revised exhibition* (Winchester, 1973), nos. 47-51.

[11] D. M. Wilson, 'Later and post-medieval objects: copper alloy', 274-87 (see pp. 278-79) in P. Rahtz, *The Saxon and Medieval Palaces at Cheddar* (Brit. Archaeol. Repts., Brit. ser., 65, Oxford, 1979).

[12] D. M. Wilson, 'Late Saxon metalwork from the Old Minster, 1964', *Antiq. J.*, XLV (1965), 262-64.

[13] Grave 348: H. Arbman, *Birka I: Die Gräber* (Stockholm/Uppsala, 1940-43), 99, fig. 52,1, pl. 99,4.

[14] J. Graham-Campbell, *Viking Artefacts* (London, 1980), no. 311.

[15] D. A. Hinton, *Catalogue of the Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork, 700-1100, in the Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum* (Oxford, 1974), no. 23.

[16] D. M. Wilson and C. E. Blunt, 'The Trewhiddle hoard', *Archaeologia*, XCVIII (1961), 75-122 (and op. cit. in note 19, nos. 90-103).

[17] J. Graham-Campbell, 'The 9th-century Anglo-Saxon horn-mount from Burghead, Morayshire, Scotland', *Medieval Archaeol.*, XVII (1973), 43-51.

[18] Op. cit. in note 15, no. 23.

[19] D. M. Wilson, *Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork, 700-1100, in the British Museum* (London, 1964), no. 153.

[20] Ibid., no. 3.

[21] B. Green, 'Two 9th-century silver objects from Costessey', *Norfolk Archaeol.*, XXXVII (1980), 351-53.

[22] Op. cit. in note 19, nos. 2, 152 and 153; see also R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, 'Late Saxon disc-brooches', 171-201 in D. B. Harden (ed.), *Dark Age Britain* (London, 1956).

[23] Op. cit. in note 19, no. 31.

[24] R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, op. cit. in note 22, pl. xxii, b-d.

[25] E.g. op. cit. in note 19, pl. V; I am grateful to Miss M. Budny for discussing these parallels with me.

[26] D. A. Hinton in M. Biddle (ed.), *Winchester Studies*, vol. 7, part ii, forthcoming.

[27] E.g. D. Tweddle in E. Roesdahl, J. Graham-Campbell, P. Connor and K. Pearson (eds.), *The Vikings in England* (London, 1981), nos. YD19-21.

[28] M. Biddle and B. Kjølbye-Biddle, 'England's premier abbey: the medieval chapter house of St Albans Abbey, and its excavation in 1978', *Hertfordshire's Past*, XI (1981), 3-27 (see p. 23 and fig. 18).

[29] I am grateful to Dr Sue Margeson for bringing this find to my attention and to Miss Elizabeth Lewis for permission to refer to it.

[30] For an 'eye' used in this manner, see op. cit. in note 27, no. YD22. The Tetney tags appear to have been used to fasten a purse (op. cit. in note 19, nos. 86 and 87).

[31] Loc. cit. in note 12; op. cit. in note 14, no. 188.

[32] Op. cit. in note 16, Appendix C; op. cit. in note 19, 62–63.

[33] Op. cit. in notes 15 and 19, *passim*; see also that from Walton, Bucks., perhaps of 8th-century date, published by Prof. Vera Evison in M. Farley, 'Saxon and Medieval Walton, Aylesbury: excavations 1973–74', *Records of Buckinghamshire*, xx (1976), 153–291.

[34] Ibid.

[35] Op. cit. in note 19, nos. 94 and 95.

[36] Ibid., no. 13.

[37] Ibid., fig. 1.

[38] Ibid., 28.

[39] M. Budny and J. Graham-Campbell, 'An 8th-century Anglo-Saxon ornament from Canterbury and related works', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, xcvii (1981), 7–25.

[40] Op. cit. in note 16, 105.

[41] J. Graham-Campbell, 'A fragmentary bronze strap-end of the Viking period from the Udal, North Uist, Inverness-shire', *Medieval Archaeol.*, xvii (1973), 128–31.

[42] Wilson in Wilson and Blunt, loc. cit. in note 16, and op. cit. in note 19, 21–35.

RECENT FINDS OF PENANNULAR BROOCHES FROM WALES (Pl. v)

The last two years have seen the discovery of four decorated penannular and pseudo-penannular brooches from the coastal areas of Wales, three from the north and one from the south. In February 1980 a pseudo-penannular brooch, lacking only its pin, and the terminal of another were found at about SH 919 766, just S. of *Llys Awel* farmstead, 0.5 km NE. of Pen-y-corddyn hill-fort, in the parish of Abergele, Clwyd (Pl. v. A and B). They were part of a larger find discovered by metal-detector operators in the same area, which included a quantity of Roman coins, as well as bronze figurines and other votive objects, now in the National Museum of Wales (acc. no. 81.35H/11 and 12). Later in the same year part of a penannular brooch of comparable type (Pl. v, c) was found at *Trearddur Bay* on the S. side of Holywell Island, Anglesey at about SH 256 790, in ground recently disturbed by the strengthening of the sea-wall. This also has been acquired by the National Museum of Wales (acc. no. 80.102H). In February 1982 the attention of the Museum was drawn to a complete penannular brooch (Pl. v, D), found on the beach NW. of *Llanmadog* on the tip of the Gower peninsular in West Glamorgan at about SS 433 942. This brooch also has been acquired by the National Museum (acc. no. 82.67H).

All three locations are interesting. In the case of the *Llys Awel* find, the proximity of Pen-y-Corddyn hill-fort, the Roman finds with their implication of a religious site somewhere in the vicinity, and the neighbouring farm name *Hen Blas* (Old Place), often indicating a settlement of ancient foundation, all point to the need for a careful appraisal of the area. The *Trearddur Bay* find is close to Towyn-y-Capel, the site of a chapel dedicated to St Bride, situated about 20 m above high water mark, where cist burials have been reported.[1] Dark Age activity in the neighbouring parishes of *Llanmadog* and Llangenydd at the NW. extremity of the Gower peninsula is amply attested by the ecclesiastical settlement on the offshore island of Burry Holms and the presence of four Early Christian monuments, as well as by a fragmentary thistle-brooch from Culver Hole cave (National Museum of Wales, acc. no. 31.118/2). Llanmadog Church, with an inscribed stone of the late 5th or early 6th century and two cross-incised pillar-stones of the 7th to 9th century seems to have been a site of some importance. It must be stressed, however, that the find spot of the Llanmadog brooch was about 1 km from the church, and a good deal further from any of these other sites or finds.

The Llys Awel brooch (Pl. v, a)

This is of bronze, the front retaining substantial signs of gilding. It measures 71 mm high by 74 mm wide; the hoop varies in width from 6 mm to 8 mm, the right arm being wider than the left: the triangular terminals expand to a width of 25 mm and are joined in the middle by a square bar. Opposite the terminals the hoop broadens into a round-ended panel with a central setting consisting of the remains of an amber bead. Each terminal has compartments for three settings, one at the neck, which is slightly larger, and two at the corners of the broad end. The outer two of the latter contain the remains