

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 424–26.

<sup>9</sup> P. O'Leary and R. Cochrane, 'Notes on the Cistercian Abbey of Graignamanagh', *J. Royal Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 22 (1892), 237–42.

<sup>10</sup> G. Carville, *Norman Splendour, Duiske Abbey, Graignamanagh* (Belfast, 1979), 22, where 'Transept' should read 'Aisle'. For Cleeve see N. Pevsner, *South and West Somerset* (Harmondsworth, 1958), 126, but the feature had been properly identified by E. Buckle, 'The Buildings of Cleve [*sic*] Abbey', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. and Natur. Hist. Soc.*, 35 (1889), 100.

<sup>11</sup> D. M. Waterman, 'Somersetshire and other Foreign Building Stone in Medieval Ireland, c. 1175–1400', *Ulster J. Archaeol.*, 33 (1970), 63–75.

<sup>12</sup> O'Leary and Cochrane, *op. cit.* in note 9, 245, and Carville, *op. cit.* in note 10, 26–27.

<sup>13</sup> Gilyard-Beer, *op. cit.* in note 3, pl. 25; C. A. R. Radford, *Strata Florida Abbey, Cardiganshire* (H.M.S.O. London, 1949).

## A TECHNICAL NOTE ON SOME 13TH-CENTURY STEELYARD WEIGHTS

The study of 13th-century steelyard weights, having a 'latten' casing and with a lead interior, was pioneered by Drury who published a series of papers on the subject between 1926 and 1942.<sup>1</sup> He gave details of about sixty weights and these have been added to by others.<sup>2</sup>

The casings of the weights carry decoration consisting in most cases of armorial bearings on escutcheons, usually three or four in number. Drury classified the weights on the basis of the type of arms. Class I weights have recognizable arms, sometimes with a single form repeated, in other instances with a variety of bearings. Class II weights are of cruder form and have pseudo-armorial patterns on the escutcheons, usually consisting of various straight-line arrangements. These are in a minority in the surviving population.

A study of the alloys used in making the casings of these weights has shown that there is justification for dividing Class I weights on compositional grounds. Many of the copper alloys used contain small amounts of tin, modest or in some cases large amounts of lead but insignificant amounts of zinc and would, using modern terminology, be called leaded bronze. Others however contain less tin and lead but zinc in the range 10–12% and would today be called leaded brasses. It is proposed therefore that the latter 'brass'-type be referred to as Class Ia weights and the former 'bronze'-type as Class Ib weights. Such Class II weights as have been analysed are also leaded bronzes.

Full alloy analyses are not given at this stage nor is a comprehensive review of their significance in relation to Drury's comments on the weights attempted. It may however be of interest to remark on certain correlations between alloy composition and armorial bearings of Class I weights which have already emerged.

Of 27 weights so far analysed, seven are zinc-containing Class Ia weights and all have 'a lion rampant' and 'a double-headed eagle displayed' accounting for two of the escutcheons. Those with four escutcheons in total also have one with 'three leopards in pale' and one with 'a crowned lion rampant gules within a bordure bezanty'. Those with three in total carry *one or other* of the latter two, together with the lion and eagle arms. This is a remarkably constrained specification compared with Class Ib weights (of essentially zinc-free alloys) which bear assorted combinations of arms including lions and eagles of various types of generally inferior workmanship. This difference in specification of alloy and decoration for Class Ia and Ib weights may be significant in any consideration of the origins and development of these weights.

The authors would be interested to learn of any unpublished medieval steelyard weights, particularly those recently discovered or which have passed from private hands into museum collections since Drury's review so that they may be included in a more complete study which is continuing. The assistance of the following museum staff in furthering this study is gratefully acknowledged:

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National Museum of Wales; Arthur MacGregor, Ashmolcan Museum; Robert Moore, Northampton Museum; Miss S. J. Reed, Reading Museum; Robert Rutland, Leicester Museum; Mark Wingate, Winchester Museum.

R. BROWNSWORD and E. E. H. PITT

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> G. Dru Drury, *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.*, XLVII (1926), 1-24; *ibid.*, XLVIII (1927), 68-69; *ibid.*, LII (1930), 49-51; LVIII (1936), 3-42; LXIV (1942), 21-24.

<sup>2</sup> L. R. A. Grove, *ibid.*, LVIII (1936), 30-34; J. D. K. Lloyd, *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, 21 (1972), 70-73; F. W. Kuhlicke, *Bedfordshire Archaeol. J.*, v (1970), 115-17; H. Shortt, *Wiltshire Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Mag.*, 63 (1968), 66-71; D. F. Renn, *Proc. Dorset Natur. Hist. Archaeol. Soc.*, LXXXI (1959), 148-49; L. R. A. Grove, *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXIV (1959), 166-68; *ibid.*, LXXXVI (1961), 201-02.

## ROOF TILES FROM MANCETTER, WARWICKSHIRE (Fig. 8)

During restoration to outbuildings at Mancetter Farm (SP 320 965), ten roof tiles were found with central 'cart wheel' stamps (Fig. 8), probably impressed while the tiles were still in their moulds. Similar stamps have been found on late 14th-/early 15th-century pottery at the Nuneaton kiln complex, six miles away, but not on tiles. The Mancetter tiles are probably of similar date, reused on the outbuildings. The author would be grateful for information about comparable stamped tiles: address, 39 Nursery Road, Atherstone, CV9 1PN.

K. SCOTT

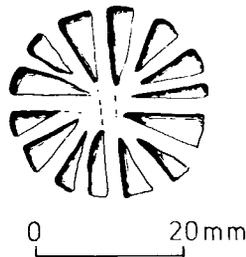


FIG. 8

MANCETTER FARM, WARWICKSHIRE. Tile stamp. Scale 1:1

## THE CARDIFF CONFERENCE 1983

The 26th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Cardiff from 8 to 11 April 1983 on the theme of 'The southern March and its castles'. The opening lecture on Friday, 8 April was given by David Walker on 'The early development of the March'. The excursion on Saturday visited Chepstow priory church and castle; Tintern Abbey; Trellech motte, church and deserted settlement; Raglan castle and Usk castle (by kind permission of the owners, Mr and Mrs R. Humphreys) under the guidance of John Kenyon, David Cathcart King, Jeremy Knight, and John Lewis. In the evening the Society was given a reception in the Great Hall of Caerphilly castle, hosted by the Wales Tourist Board, at which there was also an opportunity to explore the castle. The following lectures were held on Sunday: 'Earthwork castles and rural settlements' (John Spurgeon), 'Rumney castle excavations' (Ken Lightfoot), 'Stone castles' (Jeremy Knight), 'Laugharne castle excavations' (Richard Avent), 'Dryslwyn castle excavations' (Peter Webster), 'Ecclesiastical sites' (John Lewis), 'Towns' (David Robinson), and 'Changing patterns in the later medieval March' (Rees Davies). The conference dinner was held in the evening. A full-day excursion took place on Monday, 11 April to