

# Notes and News

## ANIMAL STAMPS AND ANIMAL FIGURES ON ANGLO-SAXON AND ANGLIAN POTTERY (Fig. 1)

In recent years it has been possible, by comparing the decoration on the pottery from newly excavated urnfields, to point to almost identical ceramics from the migration period in England and in Lower Saxony.<sup>1</sup> Now a further part in the mosaic of archaeological evidence for the great migration can be shown.

A recent article on stamped pottery from Spong Hill and its neighbourhood includes in its range of stamps a number of different small animals.<sup>2</sup> These extend the corpus of stamped and freehand animals first assembled by Dr J. N. L. Myres.<sup>3</sup> The stamped animals are less naturalistic than those drawn freehand: some of the quadrupeds may be identified as horses, some of the birds as ducks, but most are unrecognizable. They are not arranged in scenes, but as single figures one beside another, usually round the shoulder of the pots and without any link between them. Their particular interest derives from identification of the same dies on different vessels, perhaps leading to identification of various workshops.<sup>4</sup> The animal-stamped pottery in East Anglia is dated to between the mid 5th and mid 6th centuries.<sup>5</sup>

Comparable animals and birds have now been found for the first time on the Continent on vessels at an urnfield in Süderbrarup,<sup>6</sup> in the very centre of Angeln, the continental home of the Angles. This pottery is dated to the late 4th and early 5th centuries,<sup>7</sup> a generation or so earlier than the East Anglian examples. The animals were not stamped directly into the clay, but were formed in moulds and fixed as relief figures onto the shoulders of the pots. The same motifs occur on several different pots. As with the English stamps, the animals' heads are always seen in profile and are sometimes very large and back-turned; the animals also often have arched backs. They are never arranged in scenes. This means that important details are more or less in keeping with the stamped English pottery.

The designs of the animal figures in East Anglia cannot be directly paralleled in metalwork, though there are some likenesses to the Quoit-Brooch style creatures. Near Süderbrarup very close parallels exist on two early 5th-century gold horns from Gallehus which have applied animals.<sup>8</sup> These are also seen on contemporary Danish brooches.<sup>9</sup> So this part of the Continent had an ornamental tradition that could readily be used on the pottery.

Although not as clear-cut a link as the human faces on pots from Wehden and Markshall<sup>10</sup> provide for a connection between Lower Saxony and Norfolk, the animals are further evidence for the Angeln/East Anglia association, the relief decoration on the Süderbrarup pots being demonstrably the predecessors of the stamps from Spong Hill.

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### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> C. M. Hills, 'Sächsische und Angelsächsische Keramik', 135-42 in C. Ahrens (ed.), *Sachsen und Angelsachsen* (Hamburg, 1978), with further references.

<sup>2</sup> C. M. Hills, 'Animal stamps on Anglo-Saxon pottery in East Anglia', *Studien zur Sachsenforschung*, 4 (1983), 93-110. Full details will appear in 'The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham', Part 4, East Anglian Archaeology mono., forthcoming.

<sup>3</sup> J. N. L. Myres, *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Pottery of the Pagan Period* (Oxford, 1977), 62 seq.

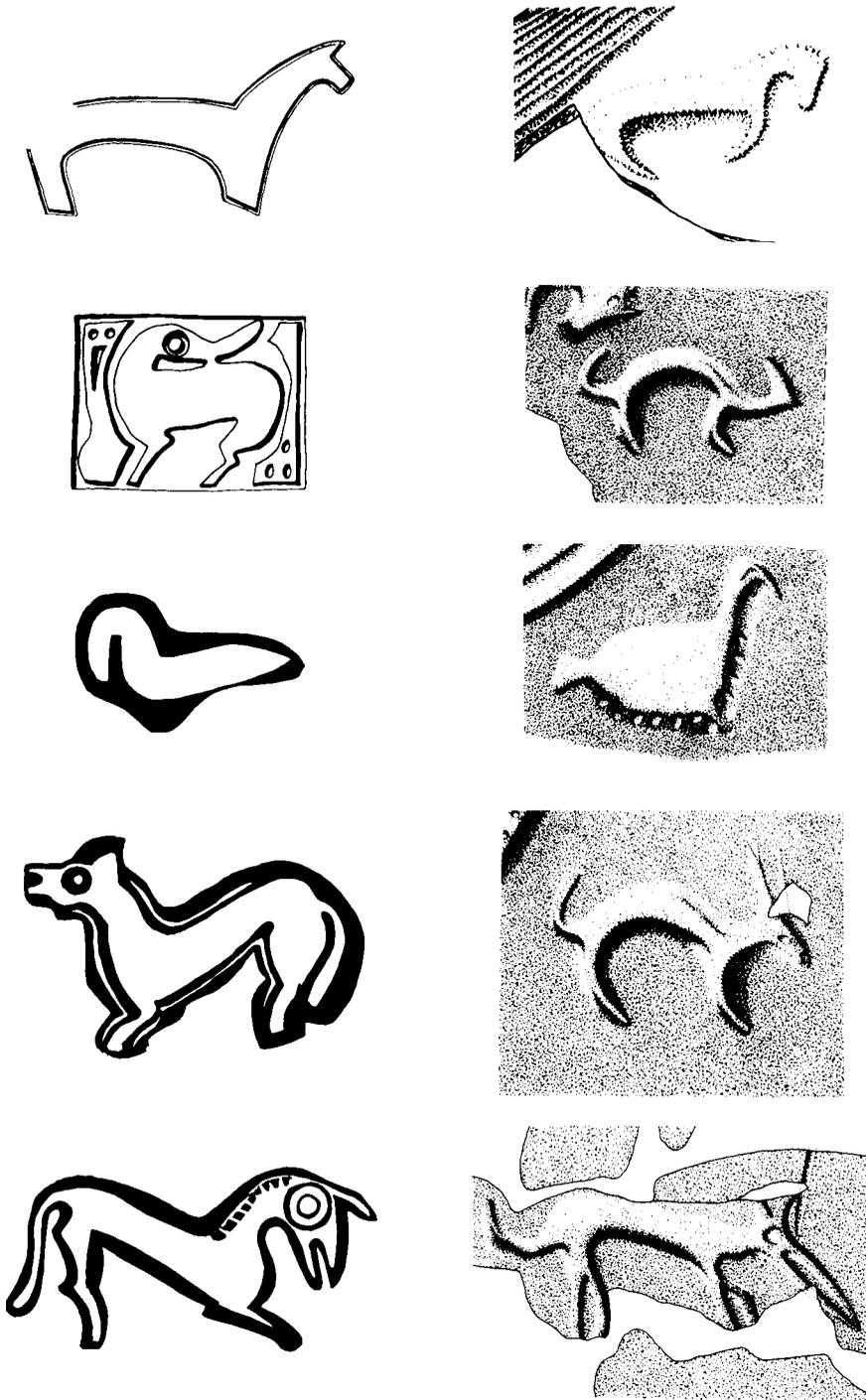


FIG. 1

ANIMAL STAMPS

Left: East Anglia. Right; Süderbrarup, Angeln (after Myres, Hills and Bantelmann)

<sup>4</sup> B. Green, W. F. Milligan and S. E. West, 'The Illington/Lackford workshop', 187–226 in V. I. Evison (ed.), *Angles, Saxons and Jutes — Essays presented to J. N. L. Myres* (Oxford, 1981); C. M. Hills, 143–52 in C. Ahrens (ed.), *Sachsen und Angelsachsen* (Hamburg, 1978).

<sup>5</sup> Hills, op. cit. in note 2, 105.

<sup>6</sup> N. Bantelmann, 'Figural verzierte Gefäße aus Süderbrarup, Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg', *Offa*, 38 (1981), 219–29.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 227.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 229; J. Brøndsted, *Guldhornene* (Copenhagen, 1954).

<sup>9</sup> E. Graf Oxenstierna, *Die Nordgermanen* (Stuttgart, 1957), Tab. 47.

<sup>10</sup> J. Campbell, E. John and P. Wormald, *The Anglo-Saxons* (Oxford, 1982), figs. 27–28.

## TWO DOCUMENTED PRE-CONQUEST CHRISTIAN SITES LOCATED UPON PARISH BOUNDARIES: 'Cada's minster', Willersey, Gloucs., and 'the holy place', Fawler in Kingston Lisle, Oxon. (Figs. 2 and 3)

There are many references to burial tumuli in the boundary clauses of pre-Conquest charters and these have long attracted comment.<sup>1</sup> Many of the tumuli noted must have been seen by the Anglo-Saxons as little more than convenient boundary markers but those which had been used for pagan Anglo-Saxon burial, together with *byrgels*, 'burial-site', must surely have conveyed a sense of ritual to the late Anglo-Saxon occupants of the estates upon which they lay. Other sites which may have been associated with pagan ritual also existed, such as *tyes mere*, 'the mere of Tíw', on the boundary of an estate at *Coftune* in N. Worcestershire.<sup>2</sup> Associated with the Anglo-Saxon god, Tíw, this pool may have lain near the source of the R. Arrow on the Lickey Hills, but no archaeological evidence has yet been forthcoming. It lay near the northern boundary of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of the Hwicce and it may be significant that a second site associated with the god, the so-called 'Red Horse of Tysoe', lay on the southern boundary.<sup>3</sup>

Few Christian sites are noted in the charters. Although numerous churches were being established in this period, these normally stood well within the estates in association with settlement nuclei and, consequently, were rarely described in boundary perambulations. Some are, however, mentioned in the boundary clauses and several of those mentioned in West Midland clauses can be identified as known churches. The church of St Peter at Worcester is included in a lease of the estates of Perry and Battenhall near Worcester by Bishop Oswald to his clerk, Wulfgar, in A.D. 969.<sup>4</sup> This does not, however, occur as a boundary landmark, unlike the church of St Martin, located in the extreme north-east of the burh, which appears as *baere cyrcan* in an early 11th-century boundary clause of the Perry estate.<sup>5</sup> There are other references, however, which do not refer to known churches, or even known Christian sites, where the archaeological implications of the site are of particular interest.

### 'CADA'S MINSTER'

The first site to be discussed is 'Cada's minster', a landmark upon the boundary which divided the parishes of Broadway, Worcestershire, and Willersey, Gloucestershire. The earliest reference to the site is contained in a boundary clause of Broadway, an estate allegedly restored to the abbey of Pershore in 972.<sup>6</sup> The authenticity of this charter has been questioned by some authorities but a copy survives in a 10th-century manuscript.<sup>7</sup> The minster site is referred to again in two later boundary clauses compiled by the church of Evesham. Many of the clauses emanating from this source are spurious in some way and several appear to have been compiled at a later date than that claimed. S. 1599, K. 1368 again refers to *Cadanmynster* upon the Willersey/Broadway boundary. This undated boundary clause seems to have been compiled in the 11th century.<sup>8</sup> Another Evesham charter<sup>9</sup> claims