

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

14 OCTOBER, 1902, TO 18 MAY, 1903,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XLIV.

BEING No. 4 OF THE TENTH VOLUME.

(FOURTH VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)

Cambridge:

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS.

1904

Price Seven Shillings and Sixpence.

V a *sibilia* ... t | a The Sibyl's name is illegible.

V b (scroll) *Dealto* [b ?]e(n)i[t ?] ge[n ?].. | *nube tege[t(ur)]*
(et) *auro[ra...]*.... *There cometh from on high shall be covered with a cloud, and dawn*

The words *de alto venit* recall Botticelli's engraving of the Phrygian Sibyl inscribed, *Veniet de super filius etc.*, and the legend of Santa Maria Ara Coeli. Augustus sent for the Tiburtine Sibyl, who said to him, "*There shall come from heaven a king who shall live for ever.*" Heaven opened and Augustus saw the Virgin and Child standing on an altar. The vision happened on the site of the church of S. Maria in Capitolio (Piper, *Myth. u. Symb. d. Chr. Kunst*, I. p. 482).

Attention may be drawn to the illustrations of the Sibyls by B. Baldini issued by the International Chalcographical Society in 1886.

A SMALL BRONZE OBJECT FOUND NEAR GULDEN MORDEN.

BY HERBERT GEORGE FORDHAM.

The small bronze object now exhibited, having the form of a pig somewhat elongated and flattened, but sufficiently clearly indicated, and being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, was found, probably about 1864 or 1865, in the extensive workings for coprolites in the parishes of Gulden Morden and Steeple Morden carried on at that time by my father. It has been in his possession, or in mine since his death, ever since. I have always understood that it was found in the subsoil, or at no great depth, associated with some other objects, including (at all events) a small earthenware bead bearing incised pattern, the whole group occurring in what was, no doubt, a grave, and so placed with regard to remains of human bones as to suggest that the various objects were originally hung round the neck of the person buried.

No further information as to the date of the find, its site (even approximately), or the particular objects found, is now, unfortunately, available. The eye formed by the curled tail

of the pig was perfect at the time it came into my father's possession. It has been accidentally broken quite recently. The presence of this eye suggests that the pig was used as a pendent ornament, but from this point of view it is difficult to find any use for the two pins and sockets which replace the leg of the animal, and the existence of which would be consistent with its being mounted or fixed on some other object.

This latter suggestion is borne out by a "Bronze Plate, with figures of Northern Warriors" figured in Green's *Short History of the English People* at p. 84 of the Illustrated Edition of 1898 (London, Macmillan, 3 vols., large 8vo.). The illustration is taken from Montelius' *Civilization of Sweden*, and shows two figures wearing similar helmets or head-dresses, with, in each case, a figure of a pig forming a ridge or crown¹. These pigs are, so far as can be judged from the engraving, extremely like that now exhibited, and they appear as if they might be fixed to the helmets by two pins like the one still remaining in the Guilden Morden find. It would be interesting, and probably go far towards solving the problem of the use of the latter, if it could be compared with the original plates of which one is figured by Montelius.

For illustration see page 404.

Monday, 9 March 1903

Mr GRAY, President, in the Chair.

Dr C. S. MYERS made a Communication on some early Christian paintings at the Great Oâsis, illustrated by lantern slides².

BARON VON HÜGEL and Mr F. C. BURKITT contributed observations on the paper by Dr Myers.

¹ The note to this illustration in the *Short History* (p. xxxv) is:—"Four of these plates, with figures in relief, were found in 1870 in a cairn at "Björnhofda in Oland (Sweden); they furnish a curious illustration of a "Swedish warrior's accoutrements in the early Wiking days."

² These paintings have been described in W. de Bock's *Matériaux pour servir à l'Archéologie de l'Égypte Chrétienne*. St Petersburg. 1901.

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