BRONZE CORDONED BUCKET, OF HALLSTATT PERIOD, FOUND AT WEYBRIDGE, SURREY.

(British Museum.)
ONE of the most important prehistoric discoveries ever recorded in England took place early in April, 1907, at Weybridge, and Surrey may boast of having yielded an archaeological treasure unique for this country. The bronze bucket, represented on the adjoining plate, was found during the construction of the Brooklands motor-track near the Weybridge railway station, and has been generously presented by Mr. William Dale, F.S.A., to the British Museum, where another gift of his is exhibited in the Anglo-Saxon room. The lucky workman, who has been in the habit of sending his finds to Mr. Dale for some years, states that the bucket came up in sinking a shaft for one of the piers of a bridge, the section being 5 ft. of clay, 7 ft. of sand, and 4 ft. of gravel, in which it lay, therefore, at a depth of about 14 ft. from the surface. Mr. Dale remarked on the peculiarity of such a deposit of gravel below clay and sand, but was unable to see the section himself, and considered that extensive changes may have taken place in this part of the Wey valley during the long interval that separates us from the date of deposit. The bucket, though of great antiquity, is not quaternary as the gravel apparently is, and

1 Kindly lent by the Council of the Society of Antiquaries: the following account is mainly derived from a paper by Mr. Dale and the present writer in that Society's Proceedings, Vol. XXI, 464–9.
was in all probability intentionally buried where it was found, before the Bronze Age had come to a close in Britain.

Its undoubted discovery on such a site, at such a depth, and in such perfect condition, is little short of incredible, and opens up a new chapter in British archaeology. The type is, however, well known on the Continent, and has been well treated by Dr. Carlo de Marchesetti and other archaeologists of repute.\(^1\) A brief description of it, assisted by the photographic illustrations, will show that it corresponds in every detail with specimens found in various parts of Europe, and made for export in Northern Italy more than twenty-five centuries ago. The larger figure is approximately one-third of the actual size of the bucket, which is 7.1 inches high and 7.9 inches in diameter, the pair of arched handles being movable and resting in the horizontal position on the rim of the vessel. The cordoned or corrugated bronze forming the body is sheet metal obtained by repeated hammering and firing, the ridges being produced in \textit{repoussé} fashion with wonderful skill and precision. The original plate, measuring 24\(\frac{1}{2}\) in. in length and furnished with nine ribs of semicircular section to strengthen it, was bent into shape over a drum, and the ends fastened together by nine flat-headed rivets in a vertical line between the ribs. The top rim is turned over to form a tube-moulding, and constitutes an additional rib on the outside. A half-rib is formed by the lower edge being bent back at a sharp angle to clasp the edge of the bottom, which consists of a separate bronze plate, embossed with a broad band in relief \textit{(see the smaller figure)}, and having indented concentric rings at the centre.\(^2\) Below the rim double loops in one

\(^1\) Correspondenz-blatt der deutschen Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, etc., Sept., 1894, 103; Pauly-Wissowa, Reallexicon, III, 2604; A. Bertrand, \textit{Revue Archéologique}, XXV (1873), 361, pls. xii, xiii; Corot, \textit{Bulletin Monumental}, LXV (1901), 541.

\(^2\) A precisely similar base is seen on one of the series of these buckets found at Kurd, Tolna, Hungary, and figured by Hampel, \textit{Alterthümer der Bronzezeit in Ungarn}, pl. civ.
piece are attached each by three rivets on opposite sides, the middle rivet of one of the pair being in the same vertical line as the rivets of the body. To the double loops are attached handles also of bronze, returned and tapering at the ends, and twisted into a spiral in the same manner as torcs or collars of the late Bronze Age, e.g., those from Tarrant Monkton, Dorset, in the British Museum. It may be added that the whole vessel is in perfect condition, as though it had never been used. The surface is of a dull gold colour, and on the more protected parts of the base are the marks of small leaves, which have been in contact with it during its long burial at Weybridge.

Perhaps the most useful parallel to cite is one of several found in the famous cemetery at Hallstatt in the Salzkammergut, Upper Austria, and figured by Baron von Sacken. From additional information kindly supplied by Dr. Moritz Hoernes of Vienna, who is editing von Sacken's journals, it is possible to fix the particular period of these buckets, the cemetery itself extending over several centuries. Thus in one grave a bucket of this kind was found with a long iron sword with ivory pommel, characteristic of the middle Hallstatt period, when cremation (which was in the main the earlier rite of burial in this cemetery) was still in practice. Further, it was observed that such buckets occurred regularly in cremated burials, and the conclusion is that they belonged, not to the latest Hallstatt phase when inhumation was in vogue, but exclusively to the middle period, which is dated by Dr. Hoernes eighth century B.C. The Certosa period (fifth century, B.C.) is represented to a small extent at Hallstatt, but at Certosa itself (= Charterhouse, the site of a cemetery outside Bologna) buckets of this kind are wanting, specimens there being provided with fixed handles at the sides. Several examples of the type, agreeing closely in all

---

1 Grabfeld von Hallstatt, pl. xxii, fig. 1, pp. 97, 145; reproduced in Early Iron Age Guide (British Museum), p. 37, fig. 30.
2 Archiv für Anthropologie, XXXI (1905), 281.
3 Zannoni, Gli Scavi della Certosa di Bologna, passim.
essential points with that from Weybridge, have been found in north-eastern France, in Belgium, Germany and Hungary, where as many as fourteen were found together in 1884.\(^1\) This last discovery suggests that they were made wholesale and exported over a great part of Europe; and statistics show that the manufacture centred in north-east Italy (Venetia). In the British Museum is a specimen from the Isle of Elba, but in Italy itself the bucket with fixed handles was more generally used, and the other type is rarely found south of the Alps. Specimens found on Italian soil should be the best for dating purposes, but authorities are by no means agreed as to the chronology of the best-known interments furnished with them. One of the Weybridge pattern was found containing cremated human remains at Casteletto, Ticino, but five more came from unburnt interments, of four warriors and one woman, at Novilara, south of Pesaro, in a part of the cemetery considered not later than the eighth century, B.C. A date two centuries later was assigned by the late Professor Furtwängler\(^2\) to the sumptuous burial at Monteleone di Spoleto, south-west of Norcia, that contained, besides a cordoned bucket, a complete bronze chariot, now in the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

That these buckets are not of Greek or even Etruscan origin is clear from their peculiar technique. Dr. Willers,\(^3\) in discussing Roman buckets of the imperial period, has occasion to refer to the earlier specimens; and remarks that, during the period in question, it is unlikely that any Greek workshop would have produced vessels of bronze plate, especially as such were intended, not for local use, but for a wholesale export trade. Such workmen would have cast or wrought the bronze. In the best period of Etruscan bronze-work a very subordinate position was occupied by bronze-plate, and casting was

\(^1\) At Kurd, Tolna; seven are figured by Hampel, *op. cit.*, plates cix—cxi.

\(^2\) *Denkmäler griech. und röm. Sculptur*, plates 586, 587; fig. 3 in text.

\(^3\) *Die römischen Bronze-eimer von Hemmoor*, pp. 98—101.
almost universal; but conditions were different north of the Apennines, in the lower Po valley, and in Venetia.

Though in one or two instances the narrow-cordoned bucket is referred to the sixth or even the fifth century, B.C., the fresh evidence from Hallstatt itself may reasonably be held to establish an earlier date; and the Weybridge specimen may therefore be traced with some degree of confidence to a Venetian workshop of the seventh century before our era, when Britain was yet in the Bronze Age and Southern Europe had known the use of iron for some hundreds of years. It is on this account rather difficult to classify, but its welcome appearance gives promise of further discoveries which may one day justify a Hallstatt period for Britain, during which the use of bronze for weapons and utensils was gradually discontinued in favour of iron; the latter metal not gaining much ground in our islands till the fifth or fourth century, B.C. A number of Italian brooches are preserved in various public and private collections in this country, and are supposed to have been found in our soil. The evidence is provokingly inadequate in most cases, but some instances are undoubtedly authentic, and it now seems possible to trace a connection between Britain and North Italy still further back than Dr. Arthur Evans has gone in his well-known paper on the Late Celtic cemetery at Aylesford, Kent. 1 Surrey, especially in the neighbourhood of the Thames, is by no means an unlikely district for further discoveries that may throw yet more light on this prehistoric traffic with the Continent.