

sufficient to dispel any surprise at the occurrence of a late cruciform brooch at Todington; their historical significance is a subject for discussion beyond the scope of this note.

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EARLY ANGLO-SAXON GOLD BRAIDS: ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA (FIG. 62)

Since the publication of 'Early Anglo-Saxon gold braids' by E. Crowfoot and S. C. Hawkes in *Med. Archaeol.*, xi (1967), 42-86, three other examples of gold braids, all in the British Museum, have been brought to the authors' notice.

The provenience of two of these, both consisting of a number of fine and fairly well preserved fragments of gold strip, is uncertain. That catalogued under A 1 (FIG. 62), apparently acquired by the Museum in the middle of the 19th century, had been kept with grave-goods from Kempston (Beds.), but from the records of this excavation Mr. David H. Kennett, who is reassessing the finds from that cemetery, considers it most unlikely that the ascription is correct. The suggestion that this might be from Faversham (cf. Crowfoot and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, p. 69, nos. 8-12), where one recorded braid seems to be missing, is regarded by Mrs. Leslie Webster as equally unlikely. The Faversham material did not reach the Museum till 1895, and a descriptive label apparently in Sir Wollaston Franks's handwriting in the box with A 1 indicates that this was probably acquired in the late 1850s or the 1860s. The brocading, though very narrow, is in the same style as that of the braids from the Taplow barrow. I am grateful to Miss Vera I. Evison for drawing my attention to this braid.

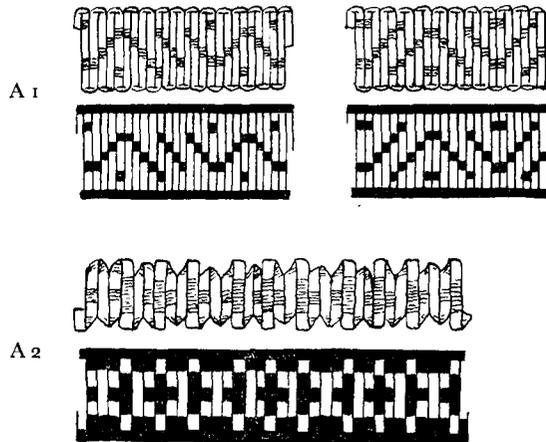


FIG. 62

PATTERNS FROM ANGLO-SAXON GOLD BRAIDS (p. 209 f.). Sc. $\frac{2}{1}$

A 1 and 2, provenience unknown, in British Museum

The second example, A 2 (FIG. 62), is unregistered. The gold fragments were transferred in 1965 from the Natural History Museum in a small box containing also a fine gold bracteate; they are unnumbered and there is no indication of how they came to be in that museum. The style is very similar to that of the braids from Bifrons.

The third addition, A 3, comes from Faversham. Recent X-ray examination of the early 6th-century ring-sword (no. 951.70) by the British Museum Laboratory revealed

a tiny scrap of gold embedded in the combined products of corrosion and 19th-century restoration on the blade. Its position at one edge, about 19 cm. above the tip of the sword, suggests that the braid from which it came decorated the sleeve or hem of a garment rather than a belt. From the quality of the gold A 3 could have been a fragment of one of the Faversham braids already catalogued. These, however, were described by William Gibbs as fillets for decorating a lady's headdress (cf. Crowfoot and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, p. 69), and A 3 is, apart from those from the Taplow barrow, the only example among these early gold braids certainly to have come from the grave of a man.

ADDENDA TO CATALOGUE

- A 1. PROVENIENCE UNKNOWN BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON
 No museum number. No textile preserved. 6 long fragments, 20 half-pieces and many small scraps, bright gold strip, partly unravelled. W. of strips regular, 0.5 mm.; W. of brocading 5 mm.; L. of best pieces 1.4 cm.; total L. represented c. 20 cm. Pattern on 8 warps. Design of zigzags and diagonals, variable (FIG. 62).
- A 2. PROVENIENCE UNKNOWN BRITISH MUSEUM, transferred from
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON
 No museum number. No textile. 3 long fragments, 14 half- and smaller lengths, bright gold strip, partly folded, partly unravelled. W. of strip variable, from 1.0-0.5 mm.; W. of brocading 4.5 mm.; L. of best piece 2.6 cm. Pattern on 5 warps. Design of crosses and half-crosses (FIG. 62).
Associated find (?). Gold bracteate.
- A 3. FAVERSHAM, KENT BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON
No. 951.70. Ring-sword. Male burial. Fragment of gold strip folded as in braid, embedded in corrosion c. 19 cm. from tip of blade. Measurements taken on X-ray photograph, L. 1.8 cm.; W. of brocading 4 mm., but this may not be the full width. Broken on removal from sword. Bright yellow gold strip, W. variable, 0.75-0.5 mm. No pattern decipherable. The appearance of the strip is very similar to that of Faversham, item iii (Crowfoot and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, p. 69).

CORRIGENDA

Dr. Agnes Geijer has kindly pointed out that the statement (Crowfoot and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, p. 43, note 4) that the patterns on certain of the tablet-woven braids from Snartemo and Ebebø are embroidered is not correct. 'Embroidery' implies that the weaving of the braid was completed before the pattern was inserted by needle. Hans Dedekam was indeed of this opinion with regard to the Ebebø brocaded bands.²⁶ Björn Hougen, however, makes it clear in his study of the Snartemo find that he considers that the patterns on the braids from both sites must have been inserted during the weaving, and not after.²⁷ This being so, whatever implement was used to pass the pattern weft, this work should be called brocading, i.e. it is a weaving procedure and not embroidery. Dr. Marta Hoffmann kindly translated the relevant passages.

The identification of the wool from the Taplow barrow wide braid (Crowfoot and Hawkes, *op. cit.*, catalogue no. 1, i, pp. 44, 66) was made for Mrs. G. M. Crowfoot by the Wool Industries Research Association, Leeds, to whom we offer belated thanks.

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²⁶ H. Dedekam, 'To Tekstilfund fra folkevandringstiden', *Bergens Museum Årbok*, 1924-5, p. 23.

²⁷ B. Hougen, *Snartemofunnene* (Norske Oldfunn, VII, Oslo, 1935), p. 73.