THE USE OF BROOCHES AND OTHER JEWELLERY AS DIES ON PAGAN ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY (Figs. 1–3)

The use of brooches and brooch springs as ornamental motifs on early medieval pots has been recognized on the Continent from a number of sites in the Elbe-Weser and some other areas of Germany. As a result of the setting up of the Archive of Anglo-Saxon Pot stamps in 1980, a number of examples of this type of motif has appeared in England. The Archive, consisting of casts of stamps, has shown up details of the impressions which are not immediately noticeable on the pot itself.

In England three types of jewellery appear to have been used.
1. The feet and knobs of cruciform brooches
2. The springs from brooches
3. Pieces of jewellery, which may have been broken or discarded. These are difficult to identify positively.

As the stamps under discussion included a number not previously published, the Archive number is given for all as this constitutes an individual identification. A list at the end of this note gives the Myres Corpus number and museum number for each stamp. As many of the stamps come from unreconstructed pots, and small sherds, it is often not possible to give the pot description.

1. Cruciform Brooch Terminals: feet

These fall into my classification M 3ci. The general type of brooch used as a die is a medium-sized cruciform, but varying considerably in the foot type.

At present there are eight examples in the Archive (Fig. 1, 1–8):

Fig. 1: 1 Baston, Lincs. (BAS 8) from a bossed sherd.
The brooch foot appears to correspond with Åberg type Gp.IV.4

Fig. 1: 2 Earsham, Norfolk (NFK 8).
This stamp appears to have been made by the same type of brooch as the Baston example. The pot is biconical, and three other stamps are used, one of which is unusual and occurs elsewhere in Norfolk.

Fig. 1: 3 Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts. (NOT 5).
The stamp occurs on two of the six sherds, and is the only one used. It is more difficult to identify, but could have been produced by a foot of Åberg’s type Gp.IV.47.

Fig. 1: 4 Markshall, Norfolk (MAR 2) comes from a sherd of a bossed globular pot. It is the only stamp occurring and appears to be made by the foot of Åberg’s type Gp.III.6.

Fig. 1: 5 Loveden Hill, Lincs. (LOV 105).
This is a type which is at present not possible to identify. It would appear to be more likely made by a terminal than by anything else. It is associated with one other stamp. The pot consists of sherds and has an applied cordon.

Fig. 1: 6 Spong Hill, Norfolk (SPH 7).
The die for this stamp is the foot of the ‘horse’s head’ type. The pot is bossed biconical and four other stamps occur.
NOTES AND NEWS 137

POT STAMPS FROM JEWELLERY DIES


Fig. 1: 7 Loveden Hill, Lincs. (LOV 1) was made by using a foot of Aberg's type Gp.IV 50/58. This is a shouldered pot and one other stamp occurs.

Fig. 1: 8 Castle Acre, Norfolk (NFK 1). Spong Hill, Norfolk (Stamp Group 4). The brooch foot used on the two pots appears to be Aberg's type Gp.III.7 used to form a continuous ring round the neck of the Castle Acre and both Spong Hill pots. In the examples from Spong Hill one pot is globular and the other biconical, and the stamp is associated with a pseudo-runic motif in each case. The Castle Acre pot is biconical, and has 'wyrn type' drawn decoration on the shoulder. Two brooches of this rare type from Ixworth, Suffolk, now in the British Museum, are larger than the brooch used as the die.

Cruciform Brooch Terminals; knobs (Briscoe type M 3cii)

These are illustrated in Fig. 1, 9–17, and with two exceptions no attempt at positive identification has been made.

Fig. 1: 9 Thurcaston, Leics. (THU 31) would appear to have been made by a brooch finial of Aberg's type Gp.IV.18 and is on a biconical pot and associated with three other stamps.
POT STAMPS FROM JEWELLERY DIES


Fig. 1: 17. Sancton, N. Humberside (SAN 135) appears to combine both part of the spring and the knob of a larger than usual brooch.

The Archive references for the knobs illustrated on Fig. 1, 10-16 are as follows: 10. SAN 93, 11. SAN 261, 12. SAN 55, 13. SAN 54, 14. SAN 156, 15. SAN 47, 16. WST 3.

The high proportion of motifs of this type coming from Sancton is interesting and at least two other examples are known from this cemetery.

2. Brooch Springs (Briscoe types M 3bi and M 3bii)

As stated above, the use of brooch springs as dies occurs on the Continent. In this country, there would appear to be two confirmed instances showing the pin head:

Fig. 2: 1. Highdown, Sussex (SUX 23) for the recording of which I am indebted to Dr M. G. Welch.

This would seem to come from a very small brooch, and may belong to one of the early phases of this cemetery.

Fig. 2: 2. Sancton, N. Humberside (Myres Corpus no. 2582) (SAN 49).

It appears to show part of the spring on one side only of the pin, and it is associated with stamps of the M 3cii type discussed above.

Fig. 2: 3 and 6. Sancton, N. Humberside (SAN 45 and 53).

Fig. 2: 4 and 5. Baston, Lincs. (BAS 33 and 34).

It is presumed that these stamps represent the use of brooch springs, but in some cases these seem rather large, and may have been made by twisted wire with some other use.

3. Pieces of jewellery (Briscoe types M 3ai–iii)

Various (M 3aii)

Fig. 2: 7. This stamp is made by a piece of metal-work at present not identified. It is associated with the Cambridge and Lark Valley sites and examples come from Girton (GIR 370) and St John's, Cambridge.
NOTES AND NEWS

(SJO 156 and 316) and Lackford (LAC 19 and 379)\textsuperscript{11} and West Stow\textsuperscript{12} in Suffolk (WST 133). The Girton and Lackford stamps are associated by Myres as his Potter no. 53.

Fig. 2:8 This again is an East Anglian type, and comes from the Great and Little Wilbraham cemeteries (GWI 34 and LWI 58) and from Girton (GIR 371). It is part of the repertoire of stamps of the same potter (Myres 53).

Fig. 2:9 Sancton, N. Humberside (SAN 134).
This appears to be a wire finger-ring.

Buckles (M 3aiii)

Fig. 2:10 comes from Lackford, Suffolk (LAC 515) and comes from a bag of sherds representing about 20\% of the pot.

Fig. 2:11 comes from Kirton-in-Lindsey (MKL 49) and is on a shouldered pot associated with three other motifs (Myres Corpus no. 526). It appears to be the top of a very small buckle only.

Fig. 2:12 This odd stamp from St John's, Cambridge (SJO 272, 350 and 406) appears to have been made by an object with a curved beaded edge. It is not at present identifiable, but there are several examples of its use from this cemetery.

DISCUSSION

The map (Fig. 3) shows three main centres of distribution. Brooch foot impressions are found in Norfolk, Lincolnshire and the Trent Valley. The use of knobs is mainly in N. Humberside with an outlying example from West Stow, Suffolk. The use of pieces of jewellery appears centred in the Lark and Cam valleys. Distribution could have been by water using the rivers, but equally have been by travelling craftsmen using the old Roman roads.

Examples of the use of springs to make stamps on the Continent are known from Wehden,\textsuperscript{13} from Galgenberg and Perleberg, as well as from a number of sites in the Elbe-Weser area, where I am informed they are fairly common. Casts from a pot from Wijster show the use of a ‘cross-bow’ (Armbrustfibel) brooch, have been sent to me, where the spring inclusive of the pin and the spring alone have been used.\textsuperscript{14}

W. Hübener\textsuperscript{15} illustrates a pot from Goddelau, Kr. Gr. Gerau on Taf 140.4 with decoration which seems to have been made by a cloisonné cross, or a die cut to resemble one, associated with a bird, both suspended from a ‘beaded chain’. He suggests that these were drawn on the pot. Two other pots of the same type, both from Kelheim (Taf. 147.2 and 3), may have stamps made by a brooch foot while the pot from Nordendorf Kr. Donauworth (Taf. 151–3) appears to have a strap-end used as a die. Dies simulating goldfoil, but too large to have been made by the real thing, are known from Spong Hill.\textsuperscript{16} These continental examples are made by brooch types which are much earlier than the British examples. In this country all the brooch foot impressions come from cemeteries which date to the 5th and 6th centuries, and it is interesting that a practice such as this should reappear at the height of the fashion for stamped pottery.

Some of the impressions made are extremely shallow and flat. Experiments using a whole cruciform brooch show that the tendency is for the stamp to be deeper at the base, because of the angle at which the brooch is pressed on to the pot. It is suggested that some of the stamps may have been made by using a broken terminal from an old and discarded brooch, which would have enabled the potter to make flat impressions if the fastening loop was held in the hand.

It is hoped that when forthcoming research is done on the subject of the smaller cruciform brooches, these stamps may throw light on the dating of their pots. All brooches appear to fall into the medium size range, and so far no examples of any of the larger brooches, either cruciform or square-headed, have appeared. Neither do the small-long brooches appear to have found favour with the potters.
FIG. 3
POT STAMPS FROM JEWELLERY DIES
Main centres of distribution
I would like to thank the many people who have helped me with information and encouragement in the preparation of this note, and especially Mr Dafydd Kydd for introducing me to the continental examples.

Since this note was written a further example of a brooch foot has reached the Archive from the Loveden Hill cemetery, Lincs. It is on pot. no. 62/293 (Myres Corpus no. 1455 — Archive No. LOV 429).

**STAMP REFERENCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>BRISCOE TYPE</th>
<th>CORPUS NO.</th>
<th>MUSEUM REFERENCE</th>
<th>ARCHIVE NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baston, Lincs.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Lincoln. 38 143.70</td>
<td>BAS 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3bi</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Lincoln. Box 20</td>
<td>BAS 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3bi</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>BAS 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Acre, Nk.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>3395</td>
<td>Norwich 52</td>
<td>NFK 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earsham, Nk.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>2377</td>
<td>Norwich 37.944</td>
<td>NFK 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girton, Cambs.</td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. Z 19340</td>
<td>GIR 370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. Z 19340</td>
<td>GIR 371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gt. Wilbraham, Cambs.</td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. Z 17.164A</td>
<td>GWI 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Down, Sx.</td>
<td>M 3bi</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Worthing 1970-1170</td>
<td>SUX 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirton-in-Lindsey, S. Humber</td>
<td>M 3aii</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>Scunthorpe 302.15</td>
<td>MKL 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lackford, Sk.</td>
<td>M 3aii</td>
<td>3004</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. 50.98</td>
<td>LAC 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3aii</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. 50.153</td>
<td>LAC 379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3aii</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. 50.103B</td>
<td>LAC 515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Wilbraham, Cambs.</td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>2732</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. 48.1224</td>
<td>LWI 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Grantham AS 71</td>
<td>LOV 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>1455</td>
<td>Lincoln 62/293</td>
<td>LOV 429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markshall, Nk.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Norwich 5.1949</td>
<td>MAR 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Nottingham Univ.</td>
<td>NOT 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bag 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sancton, N. Humberside</td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>2571</td>
<td>Hull 1957.180</td>
<td>SAN 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3bi</td>
<td>2582</td>
<td>Hull 1958.41B</td>
<td>SAN 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3bi</td>
<td>2541</td>
<td>Hull 1956.47B</td>
<td>SAN 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3cii</td>
<td>2582</td>
<td>Hull 1956.41B</td>
<td>SAN 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>2541</td>
<td>Hull 1956.47B</td>
<td>SAN 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>2292</td>
<td>Hull 1956.98A</td>
<td>SAN 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>2571</td>
<td>Hull 1957.180</td>
<td>SAN 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Hull 1958.209</td>
<td>SAN 153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Hull 1958.209</td>
<td>SAN 156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>2041</td>
<td>Hull 1886.1309</td>
<td>SAN 261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John's, Cambs.</td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. J 282</td>
<td>SJO 272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. J 321</td>
<td>SJO 359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ai</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. J 60</td>
<td>SJO 406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3aii</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. J 329</td>
<td>SJO 156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3aii</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>C.M.A.A. J 528</td>
<td>SJO 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spong Hill, Nk.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Norwich 1601</td>
<td>SPH 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Norwich 1601</td>
<td>SPH 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurmaston, Leics.</td>
<td>M 3ci</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Leicester 580, 1954.20</td>
<td>THU 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTES AND NEWS

Suffolk Arch. Unit
W. Stow, Sk.

M3aii — Suffolk Arch. Unit
WS 585

M3cii — Suffolk Arch. Unit
WS 1666. WH4

*This Spong stamp has not yet been cast for the Archive. It is, however, readily identifiable.17

TERESA BRISCOE18

NOTES

6 K. Fennell and N. Kerr, Loueden Hill (forthcoming).
8 Ibid., pl. vi.
9 N. Reynolds (forthcoming).
12 S. E. West, publication forthcoming.
13 K. Waller, Die Urnenfriedhof in Wehden (Hildesheim, 1961).
14 I have to thank Herr Matthias Schön for sending me casts of the Wijster pot and for this information, prior to the publication of his own work on the cemeteries of the Elbe–Weser area.
15 W. Hübener, Absatzgebiete Frühgeschichtliche Topferien Nordlich der Alpen (Bonn, 1969).
16 Hills, op. cit. in note 7, Stamp Group 8 and pots 1174 and 1505, pl. vii; Briscoe, op. cit. in note 2, 21.
17 Hills, op. cit. in note 7, Stamp Group 4, pl. vi.
18 This note was produced as a result of an award from the Colt Fund of the Society for Medieval Archaeology, for which the writer is most grateful.

BUTTON BROOCHES, CLASP BUTTONS AND FACE MASKS (Fig. 4)

Detailed study of decorated metalwork still has an important role to play in the present and future interpretation of the migration to Britain made by Angles, Saxons and other Germanic peoples from Scandinavia, northern Germany and the Netherlands. The judgement as to whether any particular metal artefact represents an import worn or carried by a migrant, was the insular product of an immigrant smith, or an import reflecting trade contacts, can never be easy, but it should certainly be attempted.

This note is concerned with the button brooch, a miniature cast saucer brooch, usually though by no means always ornamented with a human mask design and found throughout much of southern England, with outliers in Frankish Gaul. It proposes that we can more satisfactorily explain the phenomenon of this brooch form if we view it as a contemporary regional response to the introduction of the clasp-wearing fashion from Scandinavia into eastern, central and north-eastern England. My debt to two recent publications, a corpus of 118 button brooches prepared by Dr R. Avent and Professor V. I. Evison1 and a survey of Scandinavian and Anglian metalwork by Dr J. Hines, including a detailed discussion of the clasps found both in Scandinavia and England, is happily acknowledged here. This note could not have been written without them, but the statement in the former of the two that the ‘full-face mask was sometimes used on a wrist-clasp stud in Norway and Sweden but no real button brooch has been found in southern Scandinavia’, in my view dismisses too easily the potential connection between these two artefact types.