

41. This term covers single-edged blades which are too long to be knives, and too short to fall under Böhner's definition of a 'narrow seax' (with a blade length of 220 mm or more); cf. K. Böhner, *Die fränkischen Altortümer des Trierer Landes* (Berlin, Germanische Denkmäler der Völkerwanderungszeit B1, 1958), 135-45. Hawkes and Dickinson grouped English short seaxes with narrow seaxes, differentiating them on the basis of blade shapes into seaxes with triangular blades, and small narrow seaxes: cf. S. C. Hawkes, in B. Philp, *Excavations in West Kent 1960-1970* (Dover, Res. Rep. Kent Ser. 2, 1973), 189; and T. Dickinson, 'The Anglo-Saxon burial sites of the Upper Thames region, and their bearing on the history of Wessex, circa A.D. 400-700' (Oxford, D.Phil. thesis 1976), 269-70.

⁴ The term 'scramasax' has been used by Hawkes for knives of Groups 2 and 3: S. E. Chadwick, 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Finglesham, Kent: a reconsideration', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 2 (1958), 25; and A. L. Meaney and S. C. Hawkes, *Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Winnall, Winchester, Hampshire* (London, Soc. Medieval Archaeol. mono. 4, 1970), 43. The term 'knife' has been applied by Evison to a short seax: A. Corney, P. Ashbee, V. I. Evison and D. Brothwell, 'A prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon burial ground, Ports Down, Portsmouth', *Proc. Hampshire Field Club Archaeol. Soc.*, 24 (1967), 33-34.

⁵ The clearest borderline case is the blade from Charlton Plantation (Wilts.) grave 76/burial 90, with a blade length of 182 mm and a width of 24 mm: S. M. Davies, 'The excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery (and some prehistoric pits) at Charlton Plantation, near Downton', *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.*, 79 (1984), 113.

⁶ The earliest case of a large knife in Table 2 is from grave 6 at Berinsfield (unpublished, cf. note 1). This grave had a broken belt stiffener from a Dorchester-type belt set in its backfill. But its true date is indicated by a shield-boss of Dickinson's Group 1.1 (op. cit. in note 3) which is mostly of late 5th-/early 6th-century date, although individual cases may be as late as the middle or later 6th century. I am grateful to Dr A. MacGregor (Oxford) for taking the exact measurements of a knife in the Ashmolean Museum, which eliminated a possible, second case of a large knife of equally early date. It should be noted that the knives in the present sample were not dated on the basis of their blade shapes, but by context and associated finds.

⁷ The longest knife blades from female adult burials are between 124 and 128 mm long. The cases in the sample are: Droxford (Hants.) grave 8 (possibly female; measurement taken from the published drawing because the knife length given in the cemetery catalogue is patently wrong, and the knife could not be located in the Hampshire Museums Services during my visit there: F. R. Aldsworth, 'The Droxford Anglo-Saxon cemetery, Soberton, Hampshire', *Proc. Hampshire Field Club Archaeol. Soc.*, 35 (1978), 114-16); Finglesham grave 205 (robbed and badly disturbed, female and male skeletal remains in backfill; unpublished, cf. note 1); Swaffham (Norfolk) grave 9 (C. Hills and P. Wade-Martins, 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at The Paddocks, Swaffham', *East Anglian Archaeol.*, 2 (1976), 5-6); and Wakerley I grave 74 (unpublished, cf. note 1). In the recently published cemetery of Dover-Buckland (Kent; not included in the analysed sample), the longest knife blade from a female adult burial (grave 133) has an extant length of 122 mm, but was originally about 128 mm long: V. I. Evison, *Dover: The Buckland Anglo-Saxon cemetery* (London, Hist. Build. Monum. Comm. Engl. Rep. 3, 1987), 326, fig. 55 no. 133:4.

⁸ The youngest male individuals buried with large knives had an anthropologically determined age of about 18 to 20 years: Finglesham burial 62A (age c. 18) and Worthy Park grave 84 (age c. 18-20; unpublished, cf. note 1).

⁹ W. Reb, 'Messer vom Polarkreis', *Deutsches Waffen-Journal*, 2/87 (1987), 125.

¹⁰ Correlation between blade shapes of knives, and sex of individuals at Dover: Evison, op. cit. in note 7, 114, 116 table XVIII; negative result for Sewerby, cf. S. M. Hirst, *An Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery at Sewerby, East Yorkshire* (York Univ. Archaeol. Pub. 4, 1985), 89. Locations and positions of knives in graves: cursory analysis of the incomplete Holywell Row evidence in E. J. Pader, *Symbolism, social relations and the interpretation of mortuary remains* (Oxford, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. Internat. Ser., 130, 1982), 114-22 passim; a very detailed study of knife positions in the Finglesham burials has been done by G. Grainger (Oxford) for the final publication of this cemetery.

¹¹ H. F. Bidder and J. Morris, 'The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Mitcham', *Surrey Archaeol. Coll.*, 56 (1959), 126.

¹² Böhner, op. cit. in note 3, 214-15.

¹³ Evison, op. cit. in note 7, 113.

¹⁴ M. J. Swanton, *The spearheads of the Anglo-Saxon settlements* (London, Roy. Archaeol. Inst. 1973).

AN ANGLO-SAXON SUPPORTING-ARM BROOCH FROM EASTRY, KENT (Fig. 3; Pl. IX, A-C)

In 1987 a substantial fragment of a gilt-silver supporting-arm brooch was brought by a collector to the British Museum for opinion. It was reported to have been found on the E. (or possibly NE.) side of Eastry, Kent, on the opposite side of the road from unspecified excavations. The collector had obtained the brooch from another source and was unable to give any more precise details about provenance.

Description

The fragment is 38 mm long, with a maximum width of 26 mm and thickness (of bow) of 3.5 mm. It consists chiefly of the bow of the brooch with a stub of the head-plate surviving, in the centre of the back

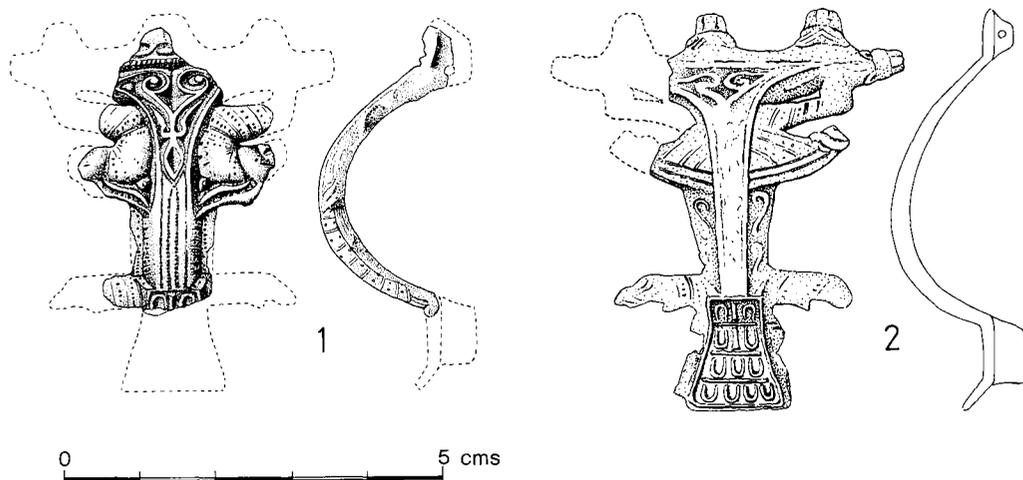


FIG. 3

1, Brooch from Eastry, Kent. 2, Brooch from Riensförde, W. Germany. Scale 1:1

of which is one of originally three lugs for hinging the spring of the pin. The pin is missing and the lug is broken short across the middle of the hole for the spring rod. Small lumps of green corrosion on the back of the bow at this end suggest that the pin was of copper alloy.

The decoration of the front is sharply chip-carved and symmetrical. At the head-plate end of the bow is a pair of back-to-back scrolls, from the tops of which two ribs converge to form a plant-like motif with a pair of drooping 'leaves' on either side of the stem and with a hollow, lozenge-shaped head pointing to the centre-line of the bow. The motif is closely flanked by two inwards-curving ribs which continue along the upper sides of the bow, while a tooled, transverse rib divides the bases of the scrolls from what remains of the head-plate. By comparison with a close parallel to the Eastry brooch from Riensförde, Lower Saxony (see discussion below), this plate would have consisted of a narrow, cross-wise bar with three projecting animal-head knobs along the top edge and one at either end of it (indicated by the dotted outline in Fig. 3, 1). Below the plate, two damaged zoomorphic lappets jut from both sides of the end of the bow, the broken-off bodies of which would have formed two loops supporting the head-plate. The lappets are decorated with alternating grooves and lines of punched dots running across the bodies and necks of the animals, which have long, crest-like ears with dotted median grooves. The sloping sides of the bow are similarly decorated with alternating transverse lines and rows of dots, while three close, parallel ribs separated by dotted grooves run along the flat top between the flanking ribs already mentioned.

At the other end of the bow is part of a framed panel containing the tops of a pair of arches with an intervening vertical rib. These form the uppermost of possibly four superimposed rows of egg-and-tongue ornament that would have covered the original, wedge-shaped foot-plate. To the left of the top of this panel is the stub of one of a pair of animals that would have projected sideways at the junction of bow and foot-plate, again with transverse line-and-dot decoration.

The peaks of the chip-carved ridges have all been worn flat, except at the ends of the brooch, and the top of the bow is almost smooth. The gilding has also been rubbed away on the raised areas of the lappets. This all shows that the brooch had been in use for some while before being either lost or else buried in a female grave now ploughed out.

Discussion

There is only one close parallel for the form of the Eastry brooch, from Riensförde, in the region of Stade, Lower Saxony, Germany (Fig. 3, 2),¹ but the decoration shows differences of detail. This German brooch, also of silver, was probably found in an early inhumation grave in 1881 together with an equal-arm brooch of Böhme's Nesse type. The supporting-arm brooch appears to be related in form to a fragmentary brooch with similar egg-and-tongue

decoration on a trapezoidal foot-plate and lateral animal heads from Granstedt.² The heads of the Riensförde brooch call to mind the rudimentary lappets on a pair of plain copper-alloy brooches of related but earlier form from Gudendorf.³

The Eastry, Riensförde and Granstedt brooches would seem to represent an elaborate and later form of Böhme's Mahndorf type supporting-arm brooch with wedge-shaped foot which was produced in the Elbe-Weser region into the first half of the 5th century⁴ and was worn mostly in pairs on female costume. But they could also be worn paired with a different type of brooch (as was usual with such brooches imported into England),⁵ presumably by female immigrants among the early Anglo-Saxon settlers in the east and south.

The Eastry brooch appears to belong to a late stage in the period of experimental brooch forms during which Saxon craftsmen developed the equal-arm brooch from the supporting-arm type with trapezoid foot. This process of change is further exemplified by a recently discovered hybrid equal-arm/supporting-arm brooch of the earlier 5th century from Keymer, Sussex.⁶ Typologically at the end of the supporting-arm series, the Eastry piece shows close connections in decoration with that employed on equal-arm brooches of the mid and later 5th century. Its sharp, well-executed chip-carving, long-eared animal lappets (sea-lions in origin) and the egg-and-tongue panel at the opposite end of the bow can be compared with similar details appearing on equal-arm brooches of Dösemoor type.⁷ The line-and-dot decoration of the Eastry animal bodies is a feature that is shared with both early and later types of equal-arm brooch, e.g. on the earlier 5th-century Wehden type brooch from Daudieck, Germany,⁸ on English examples of the Dösemoor type from Haslingfield, Cambs., and Empingham, Leics., grave 4,⁹ probably of the mid and into the second half of the century,¹⁰ and on the Nesse type brooch from Zweeloo, Holland, of the later 5th century.¹¹ The animals themselves, the chip-carved scrolls and the egg-and-tongue ornament are all late provincial Roman in origin¹² and pre-date the emergence of Salin's Style I in c. 475.¹³ The parallel ribs and dots along the bow of the Eastry brooch hark back, however, to the linear decoration on this part of the earlier forms of supporting-arm brooch, e.g. from Oldendorf-Weissenmoor and Westerwanna, Germany, Pakenham, Suffolk, and Linton Heath, Cambs., grave 49.¹⁴

Taking into account the typologically late form of the Eastry brooch in the supporting-arm series, the closeness of its pre-Style I decoration to that of intermediate forms of 5th-century equal-arm brooches while still retaining earlier elements, and the possible grave association of its Riensförde parallel with a later 5th-century Nesse type brooch (which is probably the later of the latter two¹⁵), its manufacture can reasonably be ascribed to around the middle or in the third quarter of the 5th century. The brooch would have been made in the Elbe-Weser region of NW. Germany and seems likely to have been worn by a female immigrant to Kent either during that period or later in the century.

This new find suggests that Eastry, whose name shows that the place became one of the early Kentish district capitals in the Anglo-Saxon period, was probably established during the course of the 5th century, when 5th-century graves in the vicinity are also taken into account; although at what stage the settlement assumed such importance remains uncertain.¹⁶ It is therefore all the more regrettable that the exact provenance of the brooch is unrecorded. But, leaving aside the question of attribution of the Quoit Brooch Style,¹⁷ the Eastry brooch ranks amongst the earliest Anglo-Saxon material from Kent. This includes an early 5th-century *Armbrustfibel* from Ozingell,¹⁸ the Nydam style brooch from near Canterbury, datable between the early 5th and c. 475 when that style ended,¹⁹ many of the two dozen Kentish cruciform brooches, e.g. the new find from Lyminge,²⁰ and the recently discovered fragment of an earlier 5th-century supporting-arm brooch of Perlberg type from Orpington.²¹ Together with the latter, the Eastry find provides important evidence that Germanic settlers in Kent came not only from Jutland and Frisia, as demonstrated by Mrs Hawkes,²² but now, if only to a very much more limited extent, almost certainly from Lower Saxony too.²³

NOTES

¹ H. W. Böhme, *Germanische Grabfunde des 4. bis 5. Jahrhunderts zwischen unterer Elbe und Loire* (Munich, 1974), 247–48, Taf. 34, 10; F. Roeder, 'Typologisch-Chronologische Studien zu Metallsachen der Völkerwanderungszeit', *Jahrbuch des Provinzial-Museums Hannover*, N. F. 5 (1930), Textabb. 24, Taf. 5, 7a–b.

² *Ibid.*, Textabb. 23, Taf. 6a–b.

³ *Ibid.*, Taf. 4, 4a–c.

⁴ Böhme, op. cit. in note 1, 13–14; H. W. Böhme, 'Das Ende der Römerherrschaft in Britannien und die angelsächsische Besiedlung Englands im 5. Jahrhundert', *Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums*, 33 (1986), 469–574, at 530–31.

⁵ V. I. Evison, 'Supporting-arm brooches and equal-arm brooches in England', *Studien zur Sachsenforschung*, 1 (1977), 127–47, at 129.

⁶ M. Welch, 'A Saxon equal-arm brooch from Keymer, Sussex', *Antiq. J.*, LXVII (1987), 364–65.

⁷ Cf. Böhme, op. cit. in note 1, Taf. 17, 12; Evison, op. cit. in note 5, fig. 4a.

⁸ Böhme, op. cit. in note 1, Taf. 17, 6.

⁹ Evison, op. cit. in note 5, fig. 2c and e.

¹⁰ Böhme, op. cit. in note 4 (2).

¹¹ G. Haseloff, 'Römische Elemente in sächsischem Schmuck (am Beispiel der gleicharmigen Fibeln)', 153–61 in C. Ahrens (ed.), *Sachsen und Angelsachsen* (Helms Museum, Hamburg, 1978), Abb. 8.

¹² *Ibid.*; Böhme, op. cit. in note 1, 18.

¹³ For this dating, see G. Haseloff, *Die germanische Tierornamentik der Völkerwanderungszeit* (Vorgesch. Forsch. 17, Berlin, 1981), 17 and 'Bild und Motiv im Nydam-Stil und Stil I', 67–110 in H. Roth (ed.), *Zum Problem der Deutung frühmittelalterlicher Bildinhalte* (Akten des 1. Internationalen Kolloquiums in Marburg a. d. Lahn, 15. bis 19. Feb. 1983, Sigmaringen, 1986), 68.

¹⁴ Roeder, op. cit. in note 1, Taf. 5, 2 and 3a; Evison, op. cit. in note 5, fig. 1a and g.

¹⁵ Roeder, op. cit. in note 1, 56.

¹⁶ See S. C. Hawkes, 'Eastry in Anglo-Saxon Kent: its importance, and a newly-found grave', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History*, 1 (1979), 81–113 and 'Anglo-Saxon Kent c. 425–725', 64–78 in P. E. Leach (ed.), *Archaeology in Kent to AD 1500* (Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 48, 1982), 75.

¹⁷ The writer's arguments for an Anglo-Saxon origin with Continental late provincial Roman influence and for dating the style to the middle quarters of the 5th century are given in B. M. Ager, 'The smaller variants of the Anglo-Saxon quoit brooch', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History*, 4 (1985), 1–58.

¹⁸ J. Werner, 'Bügel-fibeln des 6. Jahrhunderts aus Domburg, Zeeland', *Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek*, 6 (1955), 75–77, Abb. 1, 1.

¹⁹ E. Bakka, 'On the beginning of Salin's Style I in England', *Universitetet i Bergen Årbok (Hist-Antik. rekke)*, 3 (1958), 1–83, fig. 2; Haseloff, op. cit. in note 13 (2), 68.

²⁰ B. M. Ager, 'An Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch from Lyminge', *Archaeol. Cantiana*, 99 (1983), 59–65.

²¹ S. Palmer, *Excavation of the Roman and Saxon Site at Orpington* (London Borough of Bromley, Libraries Dept., 1984), fig. 7, B74.

²² S. C. Hawkes and M. Pollard, 'The gold bracteates from sixth-century Anglo-Saxon graves in Kent, in the light of a new find from Finglesham', *Frühmittelalterliche Studien*, 15 (1981), 316–70; Hawkes, op. cit. in note 16 (2), 70.

²³ The writer would like to thank Leslie Webster for the invitation to publish this piece, Catherine Haith for communicating information about provenance from the finder, Karen Hughes for the drawings and Dr Martin Welch for discussion of the dating, for generously providing photographs of the Riensförde brooches and for a preview of his paper on the Keymer brooch in advance of publication. Dr G. Mettjes of the Schwedenspeicher-Museum, Stade, also very kindly supplied photographs and details of the Riensförde parallel. Any errors are the responsibility of the writer.

A RING-BROOCH AND PENANNULAR BROOCH PIN FROM KELVEDON, ESSEX (Pl. IX, D)

Unfortunate delays in the publication of the full excavation report have made it desirable to present this interesting cast copper-alloy ring-brooch and an associated barrel-form pin (Pl. IX, D) in the form of a note and the author is grateful for permission to publish it here.¹ They were excavated from the upper fill of a ditch within the small Roman town at Kelvedon in Essex. Third-century Roman pottery lower down in the ditch fill provides an initial *terminus post quem*.

The patina of brooch and pin are visually quite different and clearly the two objects were made separately, though equally it seems that the pin had been fitted at the time of its deposition in the ditch. Approximately half the brooch hoop is missing, but there are three short broken-off hoop sections to add to it. Analysis kindly provided by the Research