

ADDRESS TO THE ANTIQUARIAN SECTION OF THE
MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE AT NORTHAMPTON, 1878.¹

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It is not the first time that the Royal Archæological Institute has held one of its annual meetings in this interesting county of Northampton, although on the occasion of its former visit, its headquarters were in the ecclesiastical capital of the county at Peterborough, and not in the ancient borough in which we are now assembled—the civil capital of the shire to which it gives its name. When I speak of Northampton as ancient, I am not unmindful of the fact that it has more than once been rebuilt, first under an Act of Parliament in the twenty-seventh year of Henry VIII., and again after the great fire of 1675, when it was almost entirely burnt down, and a sum of £25,000 was raised by brief and by the royal bounty, towards its rebuilding,

When Stukeley visited Northampton in 1721, he says that it had been wholly burnt down, but was rebuilt with great regularity and beauty, so as to be the most elegant town in England. The present Northampton, however, which now numbers some 50,000 inhabitants, can hardly boast this elegance. It has its fine market place and its handsome Billing Road studded with villas of well-to-do inhabitants; but the stately town mansions of the county gentry of a former time are either demolished or partly converted into shops. In Marefair, however, still stands the old town-house of the Hazleriggs (now of Leicestershire) dating from the time of Henry VII. Here lived during the present century, Baker the historian of the county, and subsequently, his sister and zealous helper, Miss Baker, the author of the *Glossary of Northamptonshire Words and Phrases*. In this same

¹ Delivered July 30th, 1878.

house also, died in 1839, William Smith the "Father of English Geology," a man whose name will ever be had in remembrance wherever the claims of genius are recognized.

I was, however, speaking of the former visit of the Institute to this county, and it is a subject which I cannot forget, for on that occasion, in 1861, the Rev. Thomas James delivered an introductory address on the Archæology of Northamptonshire, of so an exhaustive a character, that there would not be much left for anyone, however well acquainted with the county, to add to it on the present occasion, had he to enlarge upon the same theme. How little then can there be on which a comparative stranger to the county like myself can hope to say anything that shall either have an appearance of freshness, or be at all worthy of your attention.

I shall however venture in the first place to give you a short abstract of the topics enlarged on by Mr. James, and subsequently to seek whether there may not be one or two phases in the history and archæology of this town and county, on which I may say a few words without danger of repetition.

Mr. James has described the general shape of the county, with its central boss at Naseby, and the numerous Roman and British camps which can still be traced on so many eminences. He has mentioned the Watling Street, and the Ermine Street, and the quasi-basilican church of Brixworth, as evidences of the Roman occupation of this part of England. He has called attention to Earls Barton and Barnack churches as relics of Saxon times; while the foundation of the Castle, now unfortunately about to be demolished to make place for a railway station, and the great priory of St. Andrew's, of Northampton, by Simon de St. Liz, or Senlis, testified to the influence of the Norman Conquest upon the fortunes of this place. The round church of the Holy Sepulchre, the festivals of Henry I., the councils of Stephen, the summons of Thomas á Becket, the visits of King John, the memorials to Queen Eleanor, the battle of Northampton, the courtship of Edward IV. and Elizabeth Woodville, the two unfortunate queens of Fotheringhay, Catherine of Arragon and Mary of Scotland, the various

castles and seats of our ancient nobility, the field of Naseby, and all the many gifts of nature and art to this pure English-speaking county, have already been each and all duly heralded to this Institute seventeen years ago.

I feel myself, therefore, debarred from touching upon any of these very interesting subjects, and am driven to see whether there may not be some other topics, either of antiquities belonging to pre-Saxon times, or of other branches of archaeology not touched on by Mr. James, on which I may detain you a few minutes.

To begin with the beginning, that is to say, with the earliest traces of man as yet known in Britain, have we in this county any of those implements which are found in the old river-gravels, and which are so often associated with the remains of strange animals, such as the woolly-haired rhinoceros, the mammoth, the hippopotamus, and other beasts now either absolutely extinct, or no longer living in this country? I think that the answer must be in the affirmative. I possess a well-marked palæolithic implement which, though I found it in Hertfordshire, I have some reason for supposing to have been dug up in a ballast pit in the valley of the Nene, near Oundle. I believe also that I am right in stating that farther down the valley, at Little Orton, near Peterborough—a spot visited by Professor Prestwich and myself, in search of these instruments nineteen years ago—some of them have now been found which are in the collection of the Marchioness of Huntley. It is true that the gravel at that place is on the Huntingdonshire side of the river Nene, so that Northamptonshire cannot fairly claim them. I call attention, however, to the probability of the old gravels which fringe the valley of the Nene, though now far above the reach of its waters, containing these early relics of the human race, in the hope that such of my hearers as have the opportunity, may prosecute farther researches, which there is all reasonable probability will eventually be rewarded.

Of the Neolithic, or second Stone Period, many relics have been found in this county. Flint celts have been discovered at Northampton itself, at Guilsborough, Towcester, Finedon Hill, Houghton, and other places; and

arrow heads near Oundle. In this department many more discoveries would result from careful researches.

A beautifully worked arrow head of flint was found a few years ago in the baring of the Duston ironstone quarries, and is exhibited in the Museum with the Duston antiquities.

For the following notice of burials belonging to the Neolithic Period, I am indebted to Mr. Samuel Sharp, F.S.A., F.G.S.

In 1872, upon high ground at Houghton ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.E. of Northampton) was found, in the surface soil, a cist, having about the dimensions of three feet each way, which contained a skeleton in a squatting or contracted posture. No pottery or celts were found with this skeleton, which is now in the Museum at Oxford.

A later neolithic burial was discovered in 1862, in the grounds of the late Beriah Botfield, Esq., at Norton, near Daventry. In this case, the skeleton was in a recumbent or extended position. With the skeleton was an earthen vessel (which, as Mr. Botfield wrote to Mr. Sharp at the time, "was broken by the labourer, who thought it was a clod like himself"), and a beautiful spear head or dagger, of the thin type, like figure 264 in my "Ancient Stone Implements." This is in the Northampton Museum; the skeleton was scrupulously buried in the Norton churchyard.

An interesting case of early urn burial was discovered about forty years ago near Wansford Paper Mills. A cist of about the capacity of a bushel, and composed of four large unhewn fire-marked stones, with a rough slab at top, only a few inches below the surface, contained in its centre a partially burnt urn, surrounded to the depth of some inches with ashes and partially charred bones: the urn itself contained similar materials. Among the bones was a partially calcined *unworn* crown of a human molar tooth—a curious evidence of the youthfulness of the individual whose ashes were here deposited. The urn is in the Museum of the Stamford Institute. Photographs of the urn, and the tooth itself are in the Northampton Museum.

Of the Bronze Age, not very many discoveries are recorded in connection with this county, but I have heard

of a bronze sword found at Brixworth, and have notes of socketed celts found at Castor, Eye near Peterborough, and near Stamford. A large hoard was found a few years ago at Wymington, near Higham Ferrers, just outside the boundary of the county, in Bedfordshire.

Of megalithic monuments in this county, I cannot cite any examples, but a rivulet dividing Nether Heyford from Bugbroke is called the Hoar Stone Brook, and falls into the Nen at Lower Marstone or Hoar Stone meadow. It might be worth while to make some further investigation near the spot.

Of the numerous camps which exist in this county, one of which¹ we visited to-day, some mention has already been made. Many of them, no doubt, belong to pre-Roman as well as to Roman and possibly subsequent times, but researches in them, such as those carried on by General Lane Fox in some of the encampments in our southern counties, are necessary before any positive determination as to age can be arrived at, where there is no absolute guide in the form of the entrenchment. Roman urns, however, have been found in the camp at Borough Hill.

The important camps of Chesterton, Irchester, Towcester, and Borough Hill, together with many intermediate minor camps, all on the southern side of the Nene valley, are presumed to mark the frontier line of the Roman territory in Britain, as established by Ostorius Scapula in the reign of Claudius; and which, after traversing almost the whole length of Northamptonshire, passed westwards to the banks of the Severn.

At Irchester camp, exploring excavations are being carried on by a committee, under the direction of the Rev. R. S. Baker, for the purposes of this meeting—the expense being met by a subscription amounting to about £100.

I may add that eight perforated bronze vessels, discovered at Irchester in 1874, have been described by the Rev. R. S. Baker in vol. xiii. of *Reports and Papers of Associated Architectural Societies*, and in papers read before the Society of Antiquaries in 1876.

During the period of the Roman occupation of this country, one of the principal sites for the manufacture

¹ Danes Camp, Huntsbury Hill.

of pottery was situated in the valley of the Nene. All English antiquaries must of course be acquainted with the work of the late Mr. Artis on the *Durobrivæ of Antoninus*, and there are rarely excavations upon Roman sites carried on within fifty miles of Castor, without some fragments of pottery, such as may with some show of reason be referred to its kilns, being discovered. The spirited hunting scenes and the flowing designs in white slip speak well for the Northamptonshire potters of those early times. They were not, however, the sole producers of that kind of ware to which the name of Castor ware is so often applied, for in other potteries, as for instance at Colchester and Lincoln, in the New Forest, and in the valley of the Thames, pottery of much the same character was manufactured, though each locality seems to have had in addition its own distinctive products.

Upon the site of the present Wansford railway station at Sibson (merely an extension of the Castor area) was found in 1844 one of the most perfect Roman pottery ovens hitherto discovered; its description is quoted from Artis, and a drawing of it is given at page 215 of Wright's *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*. Upon the same site, in the following year, a group of statuary was discovered, consisting of a statue of Hercules, larger than human size, and others of Apollo and Minerva Custos upon a smaller scale. In the previous year, two mutilated figures, originally about three feet high, were found in the Duke of Bedford's "Purlieus," near Wansford, associated with Samian and Castor pottery. These statues were described by the late Rev. C. H. Hartshorne in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxii, 1847. They were carved in stone from the quarries at Barnack, near Stamford ("Barnack Rag"); of which stone, in medieval times, many cathedrals, churches, and other important buildings (including the famous Norman keep at Castle Hedingham, Essex) were built. These quarries were exhausted in the fifteenth century; but the rough ground of their site still yields many a Roman coin.

Much Roman walling remains at this time in the village of Castor.

A collection of Castor Roman antiquities (belonging to Mr. Sharp) is exhibited in the Northampton Museum.

The same gentleman, to whom I am indebted for many of the facts just mentioned, has in his account of the Roman remains found at Duston near this town recognized what may possibly be Upchurch, Lincoln, and Salopian ware, in addition to the Durobrivian or Castor ware, of which consisted by far the larger proportion of the relics found. The glazed "Samian ware" was not improbably imported from Gaul. To those who are interested in the Roman antiquities of this county I beg to commend Mr. Sharp's paper, which will be found in the 43rd Volume of the *Archæologia*. His collection of Roman remains, from Duston, may be seen in the Museum, together with a series of urns and other objects, the property of Earl Cowper, the owner of the site. Mr. Tite's collection from the Roman Camp at Towcester, and the collection of Northamptonshire antiquities of the British, Roman, and Saxon periods, chiefly formed by Baker, and now the property of Sir Henry Dryden, also deserve notice.

Of other Roman antiquities, the remains of a villa with tessellated pavements—one of them very fine, discovered near Apethorpe, in 1859, may be cited. They have been described in the Reports of Papers of the *Associated Architectural Societies*, volume v.

During the Roman period, iron-ore was dug in very numerous places all over Northern Northamptonshire; "slag," throughout that area being constantly found, associated with Roman pottery and coins. Among the chief places where these have been recognized, are:—King's Cliff, Oundle, Laxton, Rockingham, Kettering, and Irchester. Iron-smelting seems to have dwindled during Saxon and Norman ages, although Domesday Book mentions "ferraria," at Gretton and Corby, in Edward the Confessor's reign; and it is recorded that royal furnaces were in work at Geddington, from the time of Henry II. to that of Henry III. These last, however, may have been only manufacturing smithies. After this the practice of smelting ceased in the county. The very presence of iron ore, as such, although exposed upon the surface in innumerable places throughout the county, became unknown, and was not re-discovered until about thirty years ago. In this interval, it has

become one of the most valuable sources of production in the county, as is shown by a statement obtained from the Government Mining Record Office, that during 1874, the iron ore raised in Northamptonshire amounted to no less than 1,056,478 tons, of the value as ore of £189,156 14s. 0d., and yielding of metallic iron about 400,000 tons.

Of Saxon remains found in this county, I may mention, besides those in Sir H. Dryden's collection, the series of objects found in 1876, at Desborough. They consist of a necklace of gold beads, with numerous pendant discs and pendants set with garnets, and a small gold cross, together with two glass bowls, a spoon, and some other articles which are now preserved in the British Museum. Numerous brooches and other articles have also been discovered near Peterborough.

Saxon coins, including a sceatta from Chesterton, and an unique Offa from Newton Bromswold have also been found, and indeed some Saxon coins were struck in this county. The two coins mentioned are in the collection of Mr. S. Sharp.

This mention of coins suggests to me that some notice of the mint at Northampton and of the numismatic records of the county generally would not be out of place in the present address, and would have some advantage in respect of novelty.

Beginning with the coins of the ancient Britons which were in use before the Roman occupation, it is hard to say whether there are any of the uninscribed series which can be regarded as peculiar to this district. One of the debased imitations of the Philippus was found near Kettering, and I have met with a later imitation of that prototype such as would date from a period somewhat antecedent to Tasciovanus the father of Cunobeline, which was found at Farthinghoe, near Brackley. Another small uninscribed gold coin of much the same date was found near Earl's Barton. Coins of these types have also been found in Essex, Cambridge, Oxfordshire, and Leicestershire, so that all that can be said of them is that they belong to what I have termed the central district.

Of inscribed coins, one in gold of Antedrigus was

found at Brackley, but must be regarded as having strayed from its home further west. This part of Britain during the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius seems to have been under the rule of Tasciovanus, whose capital was at Verulam or St. Albans, and subsequently under Cunobeline his son, whose capital was at Camulodunum or Colchester.

Of Tasciovanus, gold coins have been found at Thrapstone and Oundle; silver coins at Gayton near Blisworth; and copper coins at Chipping Warden. Gold coins of Cunobeline have been found at Weston near Loys Weedon, and Oundle; and copper coins at Oundle, Duston, Chipping Warden, and Irchester.

A gold coin of Andocomius, who was probably a contemporary of Tasciovanus, was found at Ecton. As his coins have been found nowhere else than in the counties of Oxford, Beds, Bucks, and Northampton, it seems possible that a part of this county was comprised within his dominions.

Of the somewhat later silver coins struck by the Iceni, a specimen was found at Castor, but must be regarded as a stray visitant. A gold coin of Addedomaros, found at Great Houghton, and now in the cabinet of Mr. Samuel Sharp, comes under the same category. Such are the numismatic traces of the British occupation of this county. It seems, however, very doubtful whether there was any actual mint in this district.

Though no Roman mint is known to have existed in Northampton, yet the instruments of the forgers of Roman coins have been found here on more than one occasion. Artis has described some coin moulds of clay found at Castor, of about the time of Severus; and Mr. Sharp has published an account of some moulds of larger size for coins of Diocletian and his contemporaries.—*Numismatic Chronicle*, N.S., vol. xi., p. 28.

Roman coins have been found in abundance at Castor, and less frequently at Barnack, King's Cliff, Oundle, Rockingham, Weekley and Isham, near Kettering, Thrapstone and Irchester—all in the Northern Division. In the Southern: at Duston, Gayton, Towcester, Chipping Warden, Newbottle, and Daventry. A large hoard of about 3000 coins of the period of Diocletian was found

about twelve years ago at Eversley, near Brackley, and a hoard of the Constantine period at Wootton, near Northampton. I have a beautiful gold coin of Antonia, also found in this county.

Mr. Sharp described the coins found at Duston. His account is printed in the *Numismatic Chronicle*.¹

In Saxon times, the great mint for this part of England was at Stamford, and though the town itself was in Lincolnshire, the mint was in this county, being on the south side of the Welland, at Stamford Baron, or, as it is now called, Saint Martin's. It was established in the thirteenth year of Eadgar, 972, and seems to have ceased to exist early in the reign of Henry II. Mr. Sharp, who has formed an extensive series of the coins issued from this mint, has catalogued 600 varieties—all pennies, struck there during the reigns of thirteen monarchs. For details I must refer you to his papers.²

Since his monograph was published, he has catalogued eighty-six additional coins of the Stamford mint. These consist principally of fourteen coins (two of Ethelred II. and twelve of Cnut), from a find at Barrowby, near Grantham (about 1872), of some hundreds of Anglo-Saxon pennies (chiefly of Cnut's reign), enclosed in the shin-bone of an ox, and buried; and of sixty-two Anglo-Saxon pennies (one of Ethelred II., and sixty-one of Edward the Confessor), part of a great hoard of some 7,000 Anglo-Saxon coins (chiefly Edward the Confessor), found in 1872 in the City of London; 2,872 of these coins have been described by Mr. E. H. Willett, F.S.A., in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, 1876.

These 86 coins raise the total number of coins of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman mint of Stamford at present known to Mr. Sharp to 686, and present 56 additional varieties. They furnish 6 new names of moneymen of this mint, raising the number of these to 143; a strong evidence of the activity and importance of the Stamford mint in Anglo-Saxon times. The total number of coins known to have been struck there after the Conquest is only 58, and upon these the names of 24 moneymen only occur, an evidence of the decadence of this mint in Norman times.

The mint at Northampton was not constituted until

¹ Vol. ix, p. 167.

² Num. Chron. N.S., vol. ix., 327.

after the Norman conquest. Indeed the earliest coins ascribed to it are some of Henry I. The name of one of the moneyers under this king appears to have been WULNOD. Under Stephen also a few coins were minted, but the only one with which I am acquainted has been so badly struck by the moneyer that his name is utterly illegible. Under Henry II. this mint was more active. Among the 5700 coins of the early part of his reign which were found at Tealby in Lincolnshire, there were several struck at NORHA or NORAM, and four moneyers' names appear, of which only those of INGERAS and PIRES are legible. After the reformation of the coinage by Henry II. in 1180, Northampton became the principal mint for the county and neighbourhood, and that at Stamford was abolished. Four pairs of dies were allowed to be worked here, the names of the first moneyers being FILIP, HUGO, RAVL, and WALTER. The same moneyers with the exception of Philip continued striking under Richard I., SIMUN having taken Philip's place, and in the 10th year of Richard, Geoffry Fitz Walter accounted for forty shillings to the exchequer in respect of the mint. In the 7th year of King John, 1205, Peter de Stokes paid sixty marks for the liberty of working four stamps for the space of a year, and in 1208 the moneyers of Northampton were summoned to Westminster by King John, together with those from fifteen other towns to a "conference" on the coinage. On the coins subsequently struck we find the names of ROBERT T., ROBERD, and ADAM.

The author of the *Annals of Waverley* relates, that when John was at Northampton in 1212, a priest (among other culprits) was brought before him, convicted of forging the coin of the realm; and "him he ordered to be hanged forthwith;" but, for the sake of the demonstrative exercise of ecclesiastical authority, the papal Nuncio Pandulph interposed, and the rogue was saved. It is curious that about 1864, a Henry "short-cross" penny was found upon the site of Northampton Castle, which is of *iron, plated with silver*. This coin passed into the hands of the late Mr. Pretty, and is now in the Maidstone Museum.

During the early part of the reign of Henry III., the

mint appears to have been again silent, though in 1229, the townsmen accounted for sixty shillings arising out of the profits of the coinage, and for thirty-six pounds which had been unpaid for some years past. I may add that all these coins, whether of Henry II., Richard I., John or Henry III., have the same legend on the obverse, that of Henricus Rex, and that the circumstantial evidence on which coins bearing the name of Henry are nevertheless attributed to Richard and John, is in part derived from the Northampton mint.

After the introduction of what is known as the "long cross" type in 1247 or 1248, under Henry III., the Northampton mint was again set to work, and the names of THOMAS and WILLIAM appear as moneyers; but at the great re-coinage of 1279 under Edward I., Northampton does not appear as a mint, and would seem to have ceased its work before the close of the reign of Henry III. Not even in the troublous times of Charles I., when so many country mints were again called into existence, did it revive. And yet shortly after that time, when the country became more settled and the want of small change was universally felt, there were in this as in other counties numbers of those tradesmen's tokens issued which are often of so much interest to the local antiquary.

For particulars I must refer to the pages of Boyne, but I may mention that among the tokens issued in this town are those of more than one of the town bailiffs and mayors, including among them John Twisden who, in 1666, found himself in the custody of the serjeant at arms, charged with making a false return of members to serve in Parliament, his motto of *Crede sed cave* notwithstanding. The George Inn issued tokens as early as 1650.

Such are a few of the numismatic details connected with this county. On more general archæological subjects I have intentionally been silent, as I thought they would be rather out of place in a mere sectional address.

You will, during the course of this meeting, no doubt, have opportunities of visiting many of the objects of antiquarian interest in this county, and we may hope to hear more than one communication of importance relating to them.