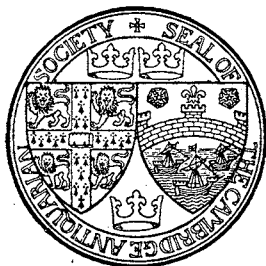


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

OCTOBER 1933—OCTOBER 1934



VOLUME XXXV

Edited by E. A. B. BARNARD, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY T. C. LETHBRIDGE, B.A., F.S.A., M. O'REILLY, B.A.,
and C. S. LEAF, B.A., F.S.A.

The Griffith Collection.

Plates I-VIII show part of an archaeological collection bequeathed to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology by the late Mr A. F. Griffith, who was a member of the Society from 1878 until his death in 1933. The collection includes a number of objects from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Hooper's Field, Barrington, Cambridgeshire (Barrington B; cf. Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 250), which was excavated in 1880 by Mr W. K. Foster, Mr Griffith, and others. An account of the excavations was published by Mr Foster in *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. v, and the greater part of the material was bequeathed by him to the Museum in 1892. It will be remembered that the cemetery was discovered during coprolite digging, and according to their labels most of the objects in Mr Griffith's collection were found during 1879 and the early months of 1880, before the official excavations began, having no doubt been obtained by him from the workmen. Some of them have already been published in the paper referred to, but it is convenient to illustrate them here again.

One of the most interesting objects is the electrum pendant, ornamented on the face by applied plaitwork of silver wire, which is illustrated on Pl. I, fig. *b*; the central boss, made of the white material usually described as shell or meerscham, has obviously had a setting of garnet or coloured glass. This belongs to a well-known class of pendants of "Kentish" workmanship, but it is difficult to find an exact parallel for it, and we are inclined to think that it should be placed late in the series.

The little silver finger-ring, Pl. I, fig. *a*, has a debased animal-head terminal, and belongs to the type called in Scandinavia "ormring". These spiral finger-rings have a long history going back to Roman times; it is of interest that a

spiral silver ring with expanded terminals, belonging to the Roman Period, is also included in the collection (Pl. I, fig. *d*).

The saucer brooches found with a string of glass and amber beads (Pl. II, figs. *a* and *b*) are unusual, having had a setting of red enamel in the centre, traces of which remain. The ornament consists of a single animal (or, as Mr Kendrick would say, one or more debased Emperors) in each of the four panels into which the face is divided, but the design is so incoherent as to be almost unrecognizable. This need not necessarily mean that the brooches are late, but may be due to clumsy craftsmanship. If there is anything in the theory that necklaces composed mainly of glass beads are on the whole earlier than those of amber (see *C.A.S. 4th Publications*, N.S., No. III, p. 75), we should imagine this group not to be of very late date; on the other hand, many of the carefully selected beads forming the string would not be out of place at Burwell.

The large ivory ring (Pl. III, fig. *b*) is another example of the rings described in *C.A.S. 4th Publications*, N.S., No. III, pp. 25 and 86. These rings are made from very large tusks, and were evidently cut from near the base of the tusk, so that owing to the pulp cavity the section would provide a naturally-formed ring, and little further hollowing would be necessary. They seem to be associated with iron or bronze girdle-hangers (e.g. Soham, Grave 7, *Proc. C.A.S.* XXXIII, 158; Holywell Row, Grave 43). It is impossible at present to date them. This specimen may perhaps have been associated with one of the two pairs of girdle-hangers in the collection, which are shown on Pl. IV. The smaller pair, fig. *a*, with unusually short wards, is very neatly made, with animal-head terminals resembling the horse's head found on cruciform brooches. A pair of girdle-hangers from Little Wilbraham has very similar terminals (see Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, Pl. XXXIII). It seems remotely possible that the ivory ring had some connection with a bronze ring of almost exactly the same size, ornamented with a punched pattern which was apparently never completed, illustrated on Pl. III, fig. *a*, and Pl. XI, fig. *a*.

A number of small-long brooches is included in the col-

lection, several of which are shown on Pls. V and VI. Pl. V, figs. *a*, *b*, and *e*, and Pl. VI, fig. *b*, are each one of a pair. Very little is known so far about the typology of this class of brooches. Their origin is continental, and their derivation is obviously connected in some way with that of the cruciform brooch, but the relationship is not yet fully understood (cf. Shetelig, *The Cruciform Brooches of Norway*, p. 91). Plettke, following Salin, considers a type with head of Maltese cross shape, like Pl. VI, fig. *f*, to be earlier than the type having a square headplate with two or more holes, those with an unperforated square headplate being, presumably, later still; but it seems equally possible that the cross-shaped head may have been derived from the perforated square headplate, by the wearing through of the corners; or its shape may have been due to a transference of ideas in the mind of a craftsman acquainted with the three-knobbed headplate of the cruciform brooch. The addition of side-wings below the bow, as in Pl. V, fig. *a*, is no doubt a late feature due to the influence of the later cruciform brooches. Pl. V, figs. *c-e*, are forms common in this neighbourhood and widely distributed in England. Pl. VI, fig. *e*, which has remains of silver plating, is a form found more commonly in the Thames valley than in this region. Since anything bearing on the distribution of these brooches may be of importance, it may be mentioned that the only parallels in the Museum collection to the elaborate pair shown on Pl. V, fig. *b*, are two pairs from the cemetery at Girton; neither was associated with any datable objects. The brooches with B-shaped Maltese cross headplates, Pl. V, fig. *a*, have more relatives in this area, several being known with the same form of headplate though with varying forms of foot; another pair from the Barrington B cemetery is in the Museum collection, a pair was found in the cemetery at the other end of the same parish (Edix Hill Hole, Barrington A), a single one is included in the group from Newnham Croft (Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, Pl. XXXIV), a pair was found at Holywell Row associated with a string of glass beads (*C.A.S. 4th Publications*, N.S., No. III, fig. 17), and a pair was found at Little Wilbraham by Neville (*Saxon Obsequies*, Pl. IX). (Pl. I, fig. *c*, shows a brooch of this

type from Little Downham, near Ely; this does not belong to the Griffith collection, but is illustrated here for comparison, and because it is one of the two objects preserved, so far as we know, from a cemetery which undoubtedly existed there.) It is interesting to notice how much worn some of these brooches are, especially the small square-headed one on Pl. V, fig. c, and the very unusual specimen on Pl. VI, fig. a.

The collection includes the bronze binding of two wooden buckets; one set is shown on Pl. VII, fig. b, along with a bucket from the same cemetery (Foster Bequest, Pl. VII, fig. a) which is the only complete specimen, with its original wood, in the Museum collection.

The small pot figured on Pl. VIII is one of the best made and most attractive Anglo-Saxon pots that we know of. It is made of fairly hard black ware with very smooth surface, and is decorated with grooved lines and pits filled with some kind of white inlay; the rows of pits radiating from base to shoulder are rather unusual, and suggest a possible relationship with pots which have long bosses or ribs arranged in the same way, such as the window-urn from Kempston, Bedfordshire (*Victoria County History of Bedfordshire*, p. 183). Pots of this type, if type it can be called, may be early; they bear a resemblance to a small class described by Plettke (*Ursprung und Ausbreitung der Angeln und Sachsen*, p. 48) which he thinks originated in Suabia and spread thence to other areas. According to Plettke's dating this specimen would belong to the fifth century. One or two other pots in the Museum seem to belong to the same class, including a pair from Barrington A and a very small bowl, or cup, from Grave 71 at Girton.

It is very satisfactory that through this generous bequest nearly the whole of the material from Barrington B is now collected together in the Museum. These objects form a part only of the bequest; it is hoped to publish at another time some of the rest of the collection, which includes, among other things, an Anglo-Saxon crystal ball from Dam Hill, Trumpington, a hoard of bronze palstaves from the Isle of Wight, and a number of local finds of Roman pottery.

Two interesting associated finds of Bronze Age date have been made recently in the neighbourhood. The first of these,

a Beaker group found with a skeleton in a sand pit at Little Downham, near Ely, is described below; the second, which consists of a perforated stone axe-hammer and an ogival bronze dagger found with a skeleton in a barrow at Chippenham, Cambridgeshire, has been published by its finder, Mr C. S. Leaf, in vol. xv of the *Antiquaries Journal*.

The beaker group (Pls. IX and X), consisting of a Beaker, a flint dagger and scraper, and a button and ring made of Kimmeridge shale, is of particular interest for two reasons, first that although many beakers have been found in the Cambridge region they have very rarely had any object associated with them, and secondly that two of the objects are of well-known Bronze Age types which have hitherto been unrepresented here. The beaker is a good specimen of Abercromby's type A; its ornament, consisting of deep plain chevrons on a background of "rouletted" hatching, recalls that of the recently discovered beaker from Knipton, Leicestershire, published in vol. xv of the *Antiquaries Journal*. The flint dagger belongs to a class of which many examples have been found locally, but it is an unusually fine specimen; it is, perhaps, a pity that the term dagger has been generally accepted for these objects, since it is very inappropriate to their shape. The button with V-shaped perforation at the back and the ring ornamented with radiating lines are the first of their kind to be discovered in this region, though they are well-known in many other parts of Britain. Jet is the material of which the buttons are most commonly made in this country, but specimens of amber, bone, and shale are recorded. This one is a little unusual in having two pairs of convergent borings instead of one. Dr Grahame Clark has pointed out that these buttons with V-shaped borings, like the flint daggers, are often associated with beakers of type A; but it may be noted that the distribution of the buttons in the British Isles is much wider than that of the beakers; a number have been found in Ireland, and they have been found in association with food-vessels, in inhumation graves without pottery, and occasionally with cremation burials, as well as with beakers; and six were found in a hoard at Migdale, Sutherlandshire, which included two flat bronze axes. It is

interesting that this method of perforation was in use at so early a date, and the fact that they are often found singly or in small numbers suggests that they really were used, sometimes at any rate, as buttons and not beads.¹

Both the Bronze Age groups just described are preserved in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology; the dagger and axe-hammer were kindly presented by Mrs Tharp.

T. C. L.

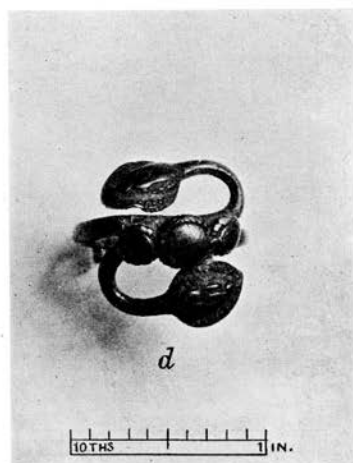
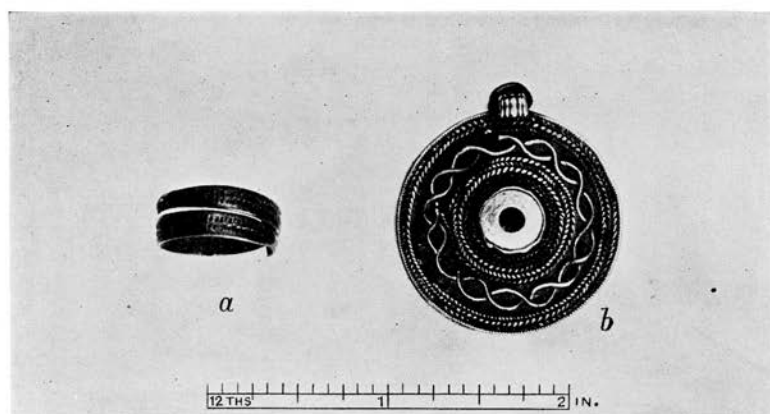
M. O'R.

The bronze spear-ferrule (Pl. XI, fig. *b*) was found by the writer in the dredgings of the Little Ouse river 200 yards above Wilton Bridge, on the Norfolk bank, and is now in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. It is of a very rare type, only one example being mentioned by Evans (*Bronze Implements*, p. 341, fig. 426). The latter specimen was found at Fulbourn, associated with leaf-shaped swords. In this new specimen it is interesting to note the enlargement of one rivet-hole, evidently due to a loose-fitting rivet and shrinkage of the wooden shaft, allowing vertical movement in the ferrule. Although no spearhead was found at the time, Mr Morley shortly afterwards brought one into the Museum which was said to be of the same provenance.

C. S. L.

¹ A paper on jet buttons, with a list of all the specimens known to him, was published by Robert Munro in *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, xxxvi, 464; a discussion of their distribution, etc. on the continent is included in a paper by Hr. Olshausen in *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, xxii, 287.

PLATE I

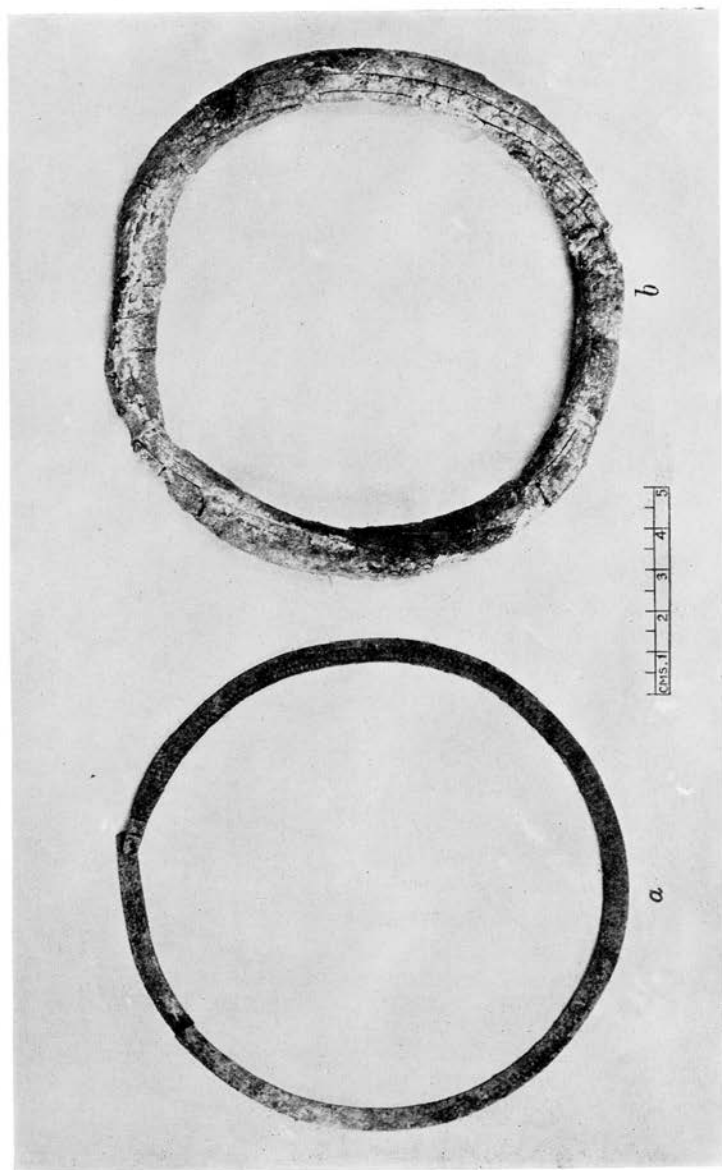


Brooch, rings and pendant: Griffith collection.

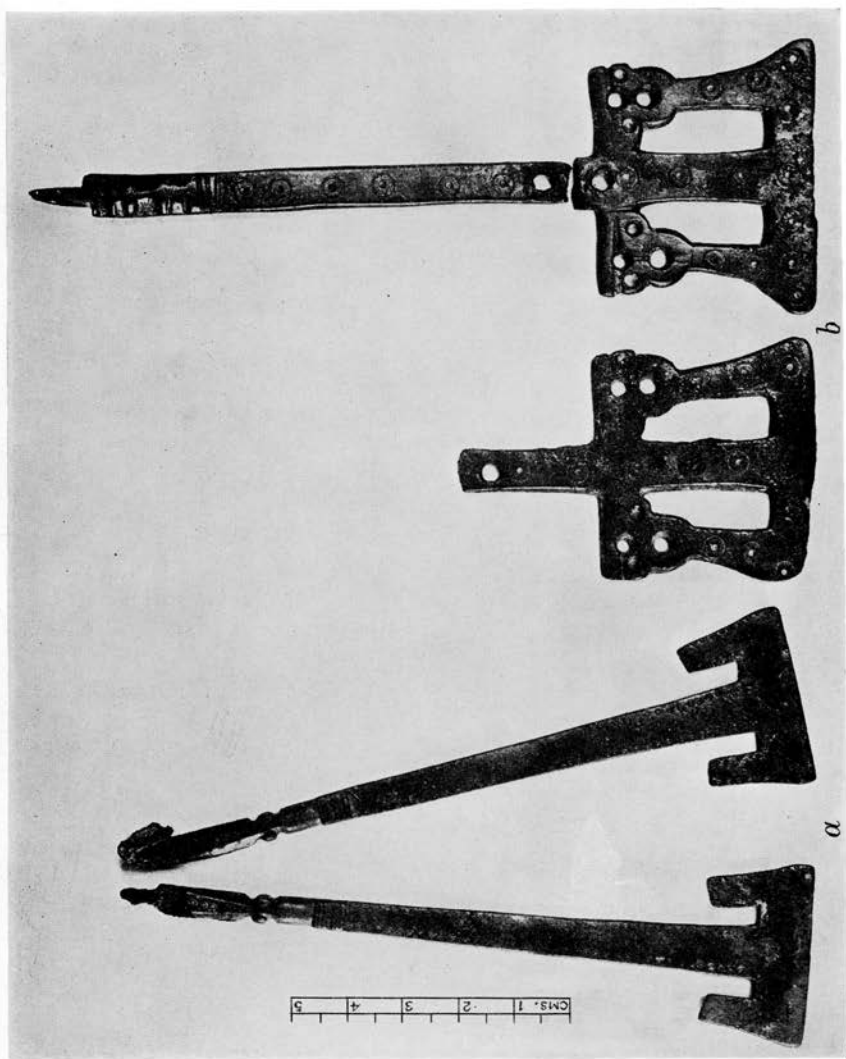


Associated brooches and beads: Griffith collection.

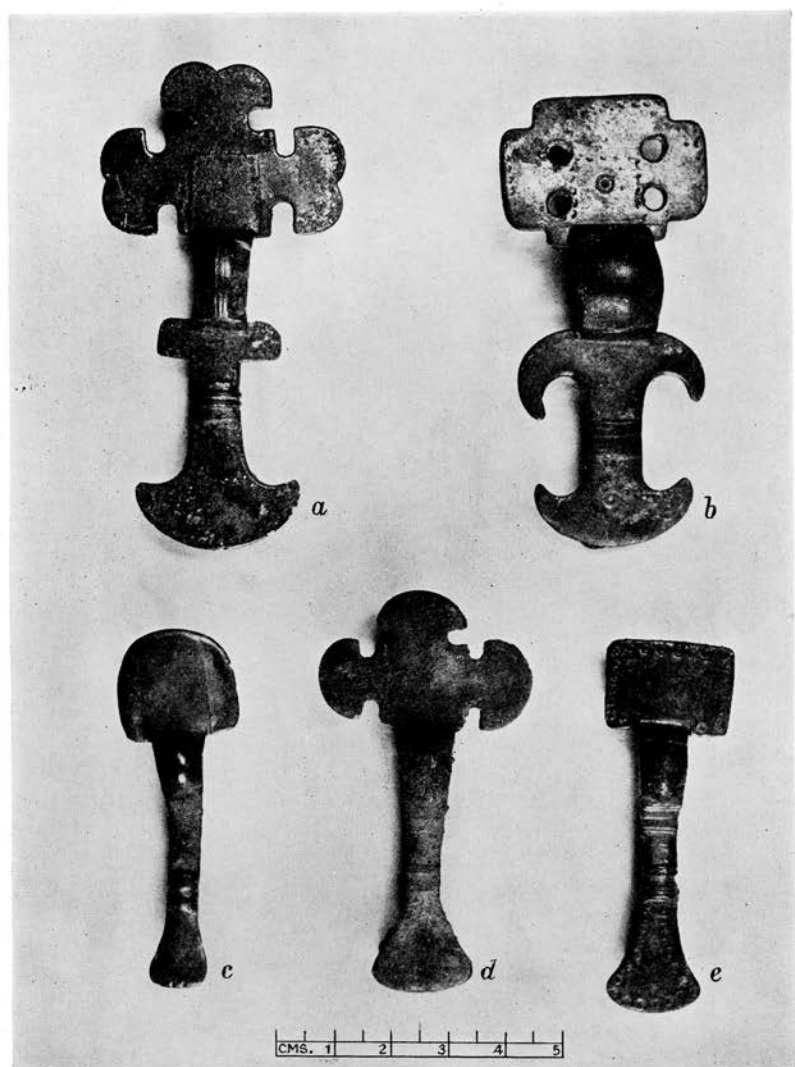
PLATE III



Ivory and bronze rings: Griffith collection.



Bronze girdle-hangers: Griffith collection.



Bronze small-long brooches: Griffith collection.

PLATE VI



Bronze small-long brooches: Griffith collection.

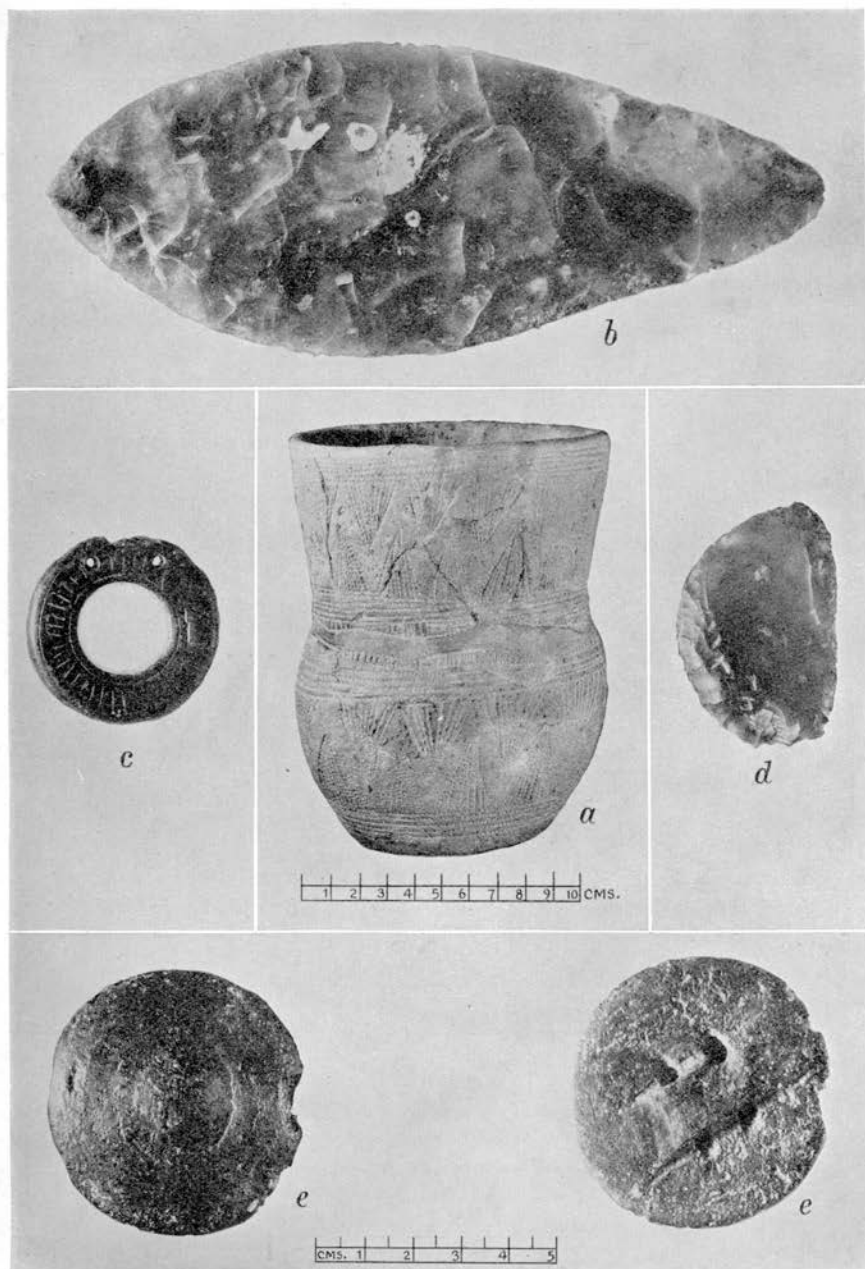


Bronze-bound buckets: Griffith collection.

PLATE VIII



Pottery bowl: Griffith collection.

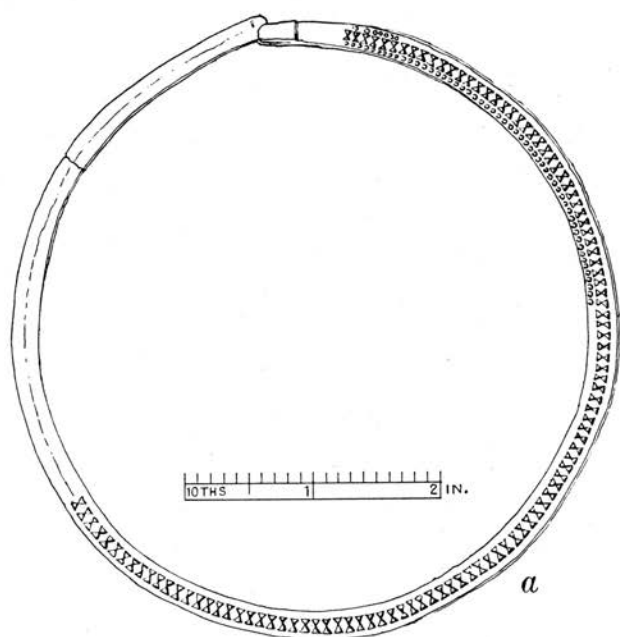


(This scale applies to all the objects except the beaker.)

Beaker and associated objects: Little Downham.



Beaker: Little Downham.



a. Bronze ring: Griffith collection; b. Bronze spear-ferule: Little Ouse.

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