

ART. IV. – *Roman Bronzes from Maryport in the Netherhall Collection.*

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Introduction

THE bronze objects which are the subject of the ensuing catalogue formed part of the collection of Roman antiquities made by the Senhouse family and housed at their seat at Netherhall, Maryport. They are the result of random collection over perhaps as much as three and a half centuries (Bailey 1915, 135). There can be no doubt that the overwhelming majority of the objects were recovered from the Roman fort at Maryport, or the surrounding area, though few of the objects have a specific provenance. Many of the items were illustrated and briefly discussed by Bailey in his 1915 *Catalogue of the Collection*, and some had already been illustrated by Hutchinson (vol. II, pp. 226-284, with pl. VI). The late military items were the subject of a chapter by David Brown in Michael Jarrett's 1976 publication on Maryport but at that stage it was thought that the objects were lost. Their rediscovery by Brian Ashmore led to their transport to Cardiff for conservation; while they were there Professor Jarrett kindly invited the author to prepare a catalogue of all the Netherhall bronze objects. I am grateful to Michael Jarrett for reading through the draft of this paper and making many valuable suggestions and emendations without which it would have been the poorer.

As stated above the collection is a miscellaneous assemblage, not only from the Roman fort but also from the surrounding fields, and scarcely any of the pieces has any sort of provenance. It is therefore worthy of note that the collection is uniformly military in its nature, with little that need be civilian in the assemblage; even such items as bronze vessels and furniture fittings would be appropriate as part of the trappings of a high-ranking officer. Although the items of horse-harness in the collection might be expected to be there, since cavalry are known to have been garrisoned at Maryport, (Jarrett 1976, 20 ff.), they do not form a significantly large part of the collection. A number of items are damaged and give the appearance of having been perhaps intended as scrap metal for re-working; items 43-45, 9 and 24, and possibly nos. 46-50 belonging to this category.

The date range of the material in the collection extends from the late 1st century to the mid 4th or thereabouts. The late 1st century brooch must (presumably) be a long-lived survival, and the significance of the late military metalwork has already been fully discussed (Brown in Jarrett 1976, 76 ff.).

There are two post-Roman objects in the collection, and it has seemed appropriate to include them in this catalogue. I am particularly grateful to Mr J. M. Lewis for contributing the account of the ewer spout, no. 53.

It is intended that the collection should be housed in the Senhouse Museum at Maryport.

Catalogue

Brooches

1 Hinged tapered bow brooch, Langton Down derivative. The metal at the head of the

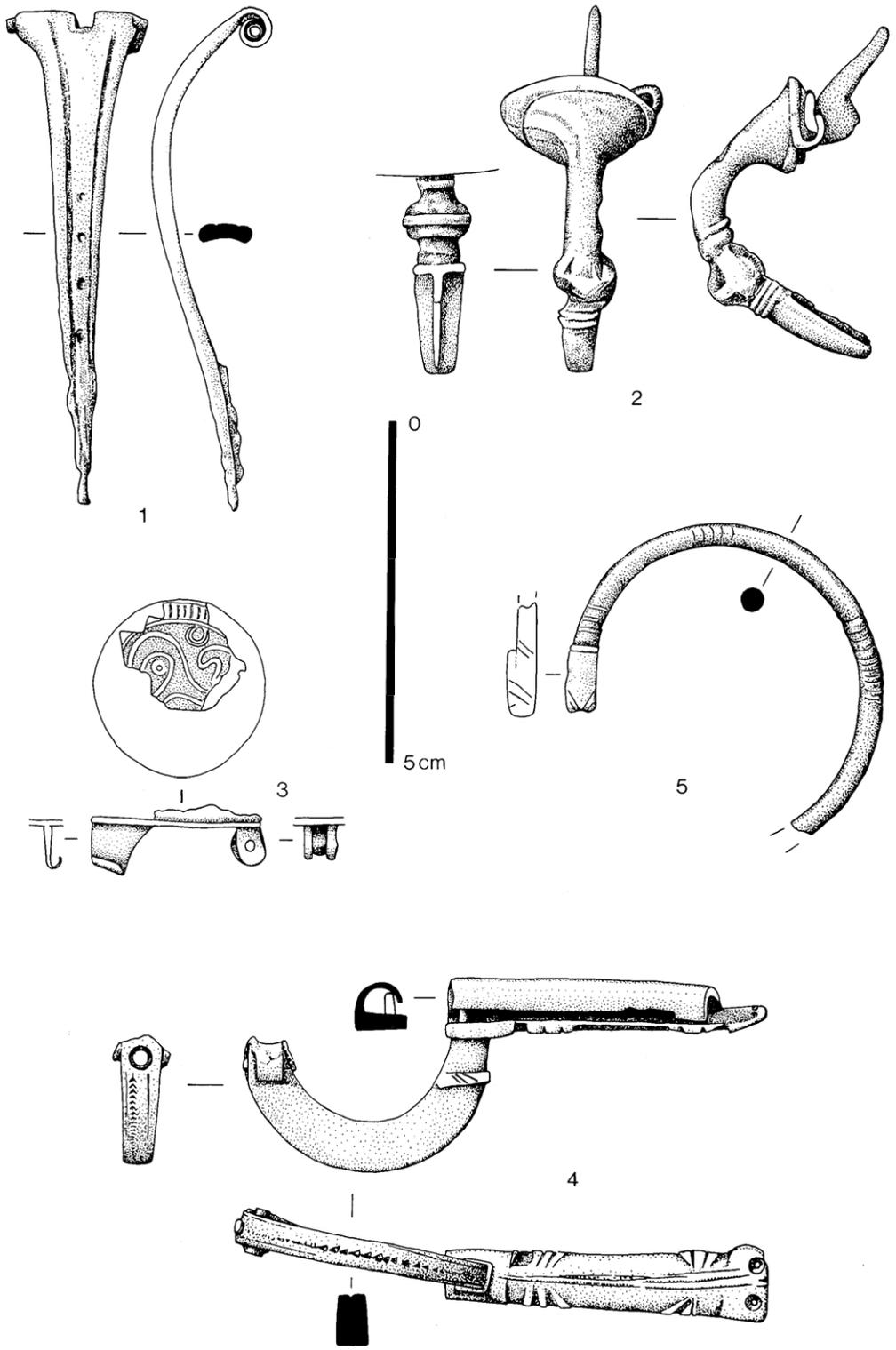


FIG 1.

brooch is rolled back to form a cylindrical housing for the pivot of the hinged pin and there is a substantial V-shaped cut-away at the head to accommodate the pin. There is some longitudinal grooving down the bow. (cf. Brailsford 1962, fig. 7, C 33, C 34, C 35). A first century date would be appropriate. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI. p); described by him as a hinge.

- 2 Trumpet brooch. Hinged, with the wire of the pivot originally taken up to the head of the brooch to form a head loop; the brooch is in poor condition but the waist button was originally flanked by acanthus and all the mouldings were carried round to the rear of the brooch. Recent discussions of trumpet brooches have suggested earlier and earlier dates for the fully evolved type (Boon & Savory 1975; Webster J forthcoming) but the brooch under discussion here is not likely to belong early in the series and a 2nd century AD date would be appropriate. Not in Bailey 1915.
- 3 Hinged disc brooch with applied plate bearing repoussé scroll decoration. The brooch is one of a series which all carry a closely similar design. The decoration consists of a triskele of trumpet scrolls with small crescents between, set within a circular framework, usually milled. Other examples of the type are known from Brough-under-Stainmore (3 examples), PSAL 2, 19, 1901-3, 130 and fig.; CW2 iii, 1903, 71 and fig.
Corbridge. AA3 5, 1909, 406, fig. 22.
Richborough. Bushe-Fox 1949, pl. XLV, no. 170, pp. 139-40.
Silchester. Leeds 1933, fig. 36a.
Settle. YAJ 42, 1971, 412, pl. 1a.
South Shields. (2 examples), Kilbride-Jones 1980a, 86.

In her discussion of the Richborough brooch Lady Aileen Fox cited the examples from Brough-under-Stainmore and suggested that the occurrence of three examples of the same, not common, type of brooch on a site thought to have been manufacturing bronze objects (including brooches) should indicate their manufacture on site, and, on analogy with other objects thought to have been produced there, suggests a 2nd century date. But the case for the manufacture of small bronzes at Brough-under-Stainmore is not proven. Birley (1958, 41-2) briefly lists what is generally taken to be the evidence for such manufacture, while Bateson (1981, 104) summarizes the evidence and notes the caveat of Boon and Savory (1975, 43, note 6).

Professor Toynbee (1964, 342-3), in her discussion of the wider grouping of circular disc brooches with designs in repoussé both abstract and representational, also suggests a similar date for their manufacture, since she groups brooches of the triskele repoussé motif with those of similar construction (from Verulamium, Kirkby Thore, Cold Kitchen Hill (3 examples) and Wiggonholt), thought to have been inspired by Hadrianic coin types (for a full discussion see Goodchild, *Ant. J.* 21, 1941, 1-8). Professor Toynbee further suggests that the triskele motif disc brooches and the coin motif disc brooches together with certain more or less representational disc brooches (from Wookey Hole, Chedworth and Kidlington) are all the product of the same manufacturing centre.

More recently however triskele motif disc brooches have been discussed by Kilbride-Jones (1980a, 85-6, and 22 fig. 4). He does not follow Toynbee in grouping them with the coin and representational types but notes the similarity of their repoussé decoration to that of the Aesica brooch and categorizes them as in the Aesica style.

He suggests a northern origin for these brooches despite the two southerly outliers and hints at Brough-under-Stainmore as a possible source. On grounds of style he suggests a late 1st century date (AD 70-100).

The present evidence from Maryport suggests that the brooch is unlikely to have arrived there before the Hadrianic period. Bailey (1915, 169 and pl. XIj) described this brooch as enamelled, with part of the enamel missing; it has not been enamelled, the red appearance noted by Bailey being a corrosion product.

- 4 Cross-bow brooch. The cross piece and knobs are lost. The mouldings to either side of the head are rectangular and suggest a cross piece of similar cross section. Moulded in with the top of the head and underneath the head is the skeuomorph of the shank of the central knob. The upper bow is of narrow oblong cross section and carries line ornament with a central line of impressed dots; the decoration terminates at the transverse rope-like moulding carried three-quarters of the way round the bow just above the waist. The foot is wide and longer than the upper bow; it carries line ornament down the centre and is slightly chamfered to either side; close to the waist and level with the bottom of the catchplate are pairs of opposed raised triangles of bronze notched to give a tripartite appearance; below the lower of these is a foot with pierced circle decoration.

The brooch belongs to Keller's Type 3 (Keller 1971, 34, Abb. 11 and p. 37 ff.) since the missing cross-piece seems likely to have been rectangular and the upper bow is of thin cross-section and is narrower and shorter than the foot; it cuts across Keller's A and B subdivisions since the foot carries both linear and circular ornament. Keller ascribes this type to the period 340-360.

The arrangement of the catchplate of the Maryport brooch is of interest. As is customary, it is curved round to form an almost complete cylinder with just enough of a gap to allow the pin to slide into place; but to hold the pin in position and prevent it slipping out sideways once in place there is a projecting stop moulded in behind the waist and extending right up to the inner edge of the open side of the catchplate. This stop closes the catchplate and would not only secure the pin from slipping out of place once in position, but would prevent it being inserted sideways into the catchplate, in the normal safety-pin fashion, in the first place. There must therefore have been a different method of inserting the pin in use here. It seems reasonable to suggest that the pin was dropped down through the top of the catchplate and that the actual fastening was at the rear of the head of the brooch at the point where the pin would normally pivot. That the pin was inserted into the catchplate from above, rather than from the side, was suspected in a cross-bow brooch from Portchester (Cunliffe 1975, 199, no. 4 and 200, fig. 109).

As a means of fastening it is tempting to suggest the use of a side knob with a screw-threaded shaft such as is evidenced from Richborough and Silchester (Cunliffe 1968, 91, nos. 82 and 83, where Hull lists four examples in all from Richborough and two from Silchester in the Reading Museum). The screw shaft was inserted through the cross piece and used to secure the pin. Hull suggests only that these screw-shafted knobs were used to provide a more secure method of fastening: he does not suggest an other than pivoted pin. Hattatt (1982, 124, no. 105) suggests that they were an unsuccessful attempt to facilitate the replacement of a lost or damaged pin. Certainly the risk of losing a heavy and presumably costly cross-bow brooch because

of damage to the relatively frail pin must have been considerable, and other methods of providing additional security for the pin are also evidenced. Brooches from Altenstadt and Buchendorf illustrated and discussed by Keller (1971, Taf. 35, nos. 2 & 3; Taf. 56, 1, p. 257 70a; and Taf. 36, no. 11, p. 258, 74) have an additional plate hinged inside the catchplate to serve as a safety catch for the pin.

Cross-bow brooches with stops to the catchplate, apparently similar to the Maryport example, also occur on the Continent. Such a brooch from Augsburg is illustrated and discussed by Keller (1971, Taf. 7, no. 6, p. 230 (7) f.); the stop is not commented upon in the text and the drawing alone is not sufficient to indicate whether it served as a total closure to the catchplate; nor is there any comment in the text or detail in the drawing to suggest that either of the extant side knobs may be detachable. A brooch from Enns (Jobst 1975, 190-1, Taf. 37, no. 261) has a similar stop and one arm of the cross piece and side knob are missing, but no suggestions are made in the text as to how the stop functioned. Neither of these brooches is likely to be other than a relatively local product.

Despite Giles Clark's recent evidence (1979, 262) that some British cross-bow brooches may have been made here the Maryport brooch is more likely to have been imported. The brooch was discussed by Brown (in Jarrett 1976, 80). Bailey (1915, pl. XIc and p. 169) noted its discovery in 1880; wrongly, since it was illustrated by Hutchinson (II, pl. VI, 1) in 1794.

- 5 Penannular brooch with one extant terminal, bent back at right angles to the plane of the ring. There is some "worming" on the hoop. The terminal is decorated with a simple stylised animal head with the squared-off snout lying scarcely tilted on the hoop. The brooch belongs to that category designated by Kilbride-Jones (1980a, 198-203; 1980b, 30-38) the Initial Form of Zoomorphic Penannular Brooch, the origins of which, he suggests, lie in the military zone of Roman Britain before the end of the 2nd century. The brooch should be compared with those from Caerwent, Canterbury, Holyhead and Ireland illustrated by Kilbride-Jones (1980b, 89, fig. 21, nos. 11, 13, 14; 90, fig. 22, no. 16), for which he suggests an Irish origin. Unfortunately the Maryport brooch was a casual find so that no evidence of date can be derived from its findspot. While it might seem more likely that the brooch is a north British product, an Irish origin cannot be ruled out in view of Maryport's naval associations. Similarly, in the absence of dating evidence the Maryport piece throws no further light on the vexed question of the date of emergence of the initial form (see Kilbride-Jones 1980b, 33; Savory, 1956, 45). Illustrated by Bailey (1915, pl. XI, bottom line, below p).
- 6 Penannular ring of bronze wire, originally "wormed" throughout. There are no terminals extant but the piece may have been a penannular brooch. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, penannular ring to right of q, bottom row).

Belt fittings

- 7 Hinge plate of curvilinear trumpet scroll design with openwork. One end of the plate terminates in a bar with two pierced lugs which secure the pivot, to which are still attached small fragments of bronze from the buckle which formed the second element of the piece. There are two deep rivet holes cast in the ornamentation close to the bar and these must have been used to secure the plate to the leather strap of a belt.

ROMAN BRONZES FROM MARYPORT

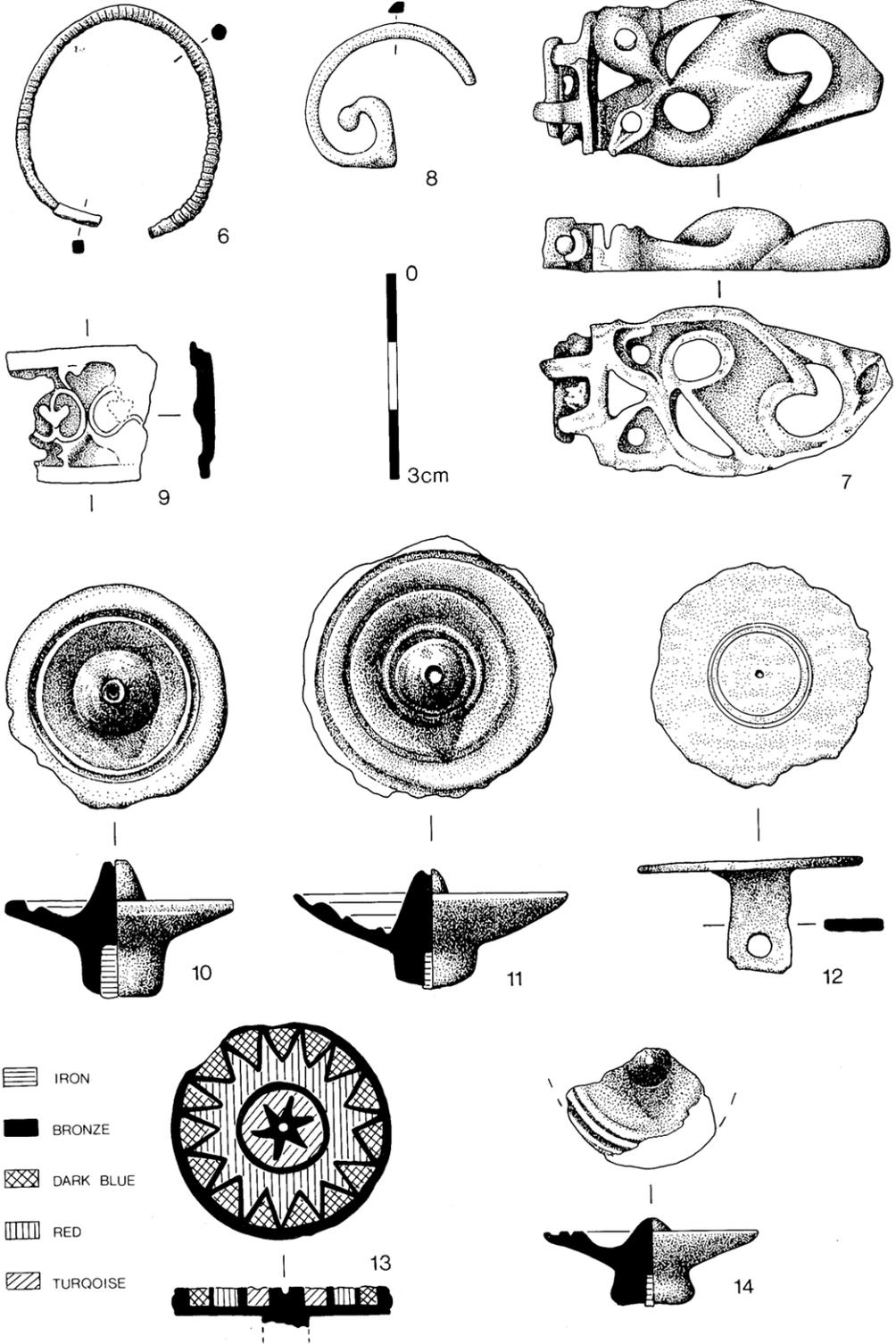


FIG. 2.

For a brief discussion of the popularity of the trumpet style ornament on military equipment in the Rhine-Danube area see Mitten and Doeringer 1967, 312 and Oldenstein 1976, 203-7, Taf. 69-70. The occurrence of this style of ornament on equipment on military sites in Britain is quite common, for instance examples from Caerleon, (*Arch. Camb.* 87, 1932, 83-5, fig. 33, nos. 30-1); Housesteads (Birley & Charlton 1934, pl. XXIX, c, 3 and pp. 199-200, where further parallels are cited); Kirkby Thore (Birley & Charlton 1934, pl. XXIX, e, 6). A close parallel from Newstead (Curle 1911, pl. LXXVI, no. 2, p. 304) has an Antonine or later date suggested for it. Bailey 1915, 169 and pl. XI r, calls it "dragon fibula".

- 8 Small military buckle with curvilinear returns. Illustrated by Bailey (1915, pl. XI, immediately below w). cf. Brailsford 1962, fig. 4, nos. A91, A93, A81, A78.
- 9 Fragment of a small rectangular bronze plate, originally with inlaid decoration, contained within bronze walls, forming floral scroll patterns. Possibly part of a belt plate, cf. Fox 1940, 131, fig. 6, no. 10.

Studs

- 10 Large stud, concave with a central cone, ornamented with concentric circle decoration. At the rear a small square-sectioned iron shaft extended from a short broad bronze stump. Probably for use with wood.
- 11 A similar stud, less heavy in appearance. Again with an iron shaft.
- 12 Bronze stud, plain save for some concentric line ornament. The shaft is broad and flat and is pierced with a hole which suggests that the stud was held in place by a pin at the back. cf. Fox 1940, 129, fig. 5, no. 4. Bailey 1915, pl. XI, n lower.
- 13 Heavy enamelled stud identified by Bailey (1915, 169 and pl. XI m) as a button or fibula. Bailey's description of the piece will serve, but the central star of the stud is of bronze with a tiny central setting, and it is set in a field of what is now at any rate turquoise enamel. Only the stump of the shaft remains at the centre of the back of the stud. There are traces on the back of "silvering" or tinning. Enamelled studs with a star motif occur at Newstead (Curle 1911, pl. LXXXIX, no. 10) and Housesteads (Birley & Charlton 1934, 203, f. no. 49, pl. XXIX e, no. 1) dated 120-196. Neither of these studs is identical to the Maryport piece. Bailey describes this piece as found "near the Temple in the second field from the camp in 1880".
- 14 Fragment of a stud originally concave with a central cone and with concentric band ornament round the outer rim. Perhaps once "silvered". At the rear a heavy short stump of bronze with the remains of an iron shaft, as in nos. 10 and 11 above.
- 15 Large, slightly domed, bronze washer with central rivet hole. (Hutchinson II, pl. VI no. 8).
- 16 Large slightly conical bronze stud.
- 17 Heavy bronze stud. The stud projected from the object to which it was attached, and was waisted in profile. From the front it had crudely moulded concentric circles in relief. Probably for use with wood, perhaps from a cart for example. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, w).
- 18 Bronze stud with a cavity at the back where the shaft was originally fixed. The shaft was presumably of iron. Again the stud projected from the object to which it was

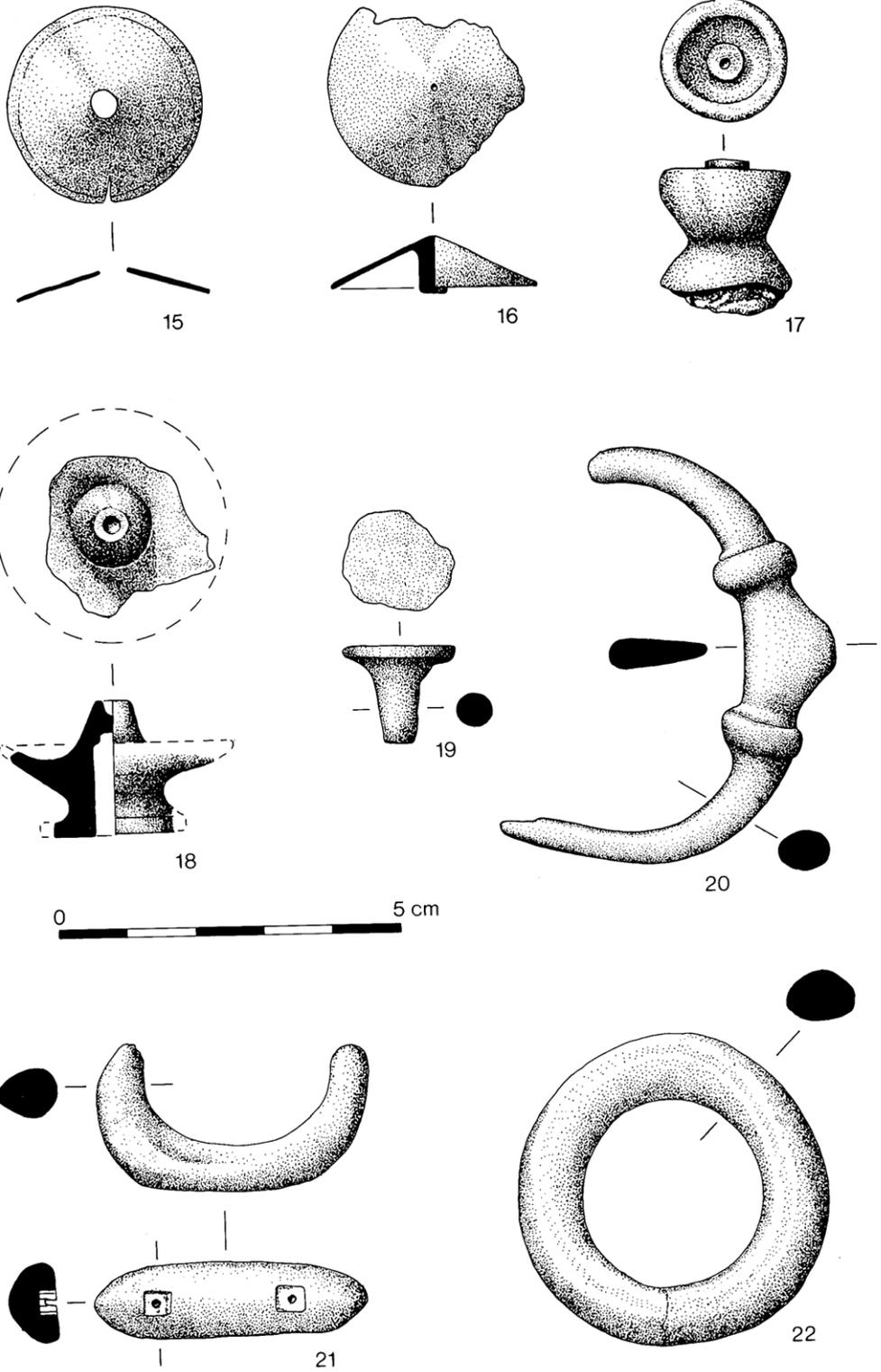


FIG. 3.

attached, and again it was waisted. From the front the stud was originally concave with a central cone. cf. Gloucester New Market Hall, (Hassall & Rhodes 1974, 69, fig. 27, no 66), and the discussion of such studs in Webster J, forthcoming.

19 Plain stud with heavy shaft. For use with wood.

Harness fittings

- 20 Bronze terret. Illustrated by Bailey and described by him as a fibula (1915, 169 and pl. XI, a).
- 21 Crescent shaped fragment of cast bronze with one flat outer face which shows evidence of attachment by means of two square-sectioned nails. The object was presumably originally a ring mounted on wood and probably served in connection with horse trappings on a cart as a rein or strap-guide (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, below s).
- 22 Heavy ring with a somewhat uneven circumference and a polygonal cross-section. Approximately 4.5 cm. overall diameter. Probably from harness (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, q top).
- 23 Heavy plain stud with a heavy bar across the back. Certainly for use with a leather strap, probably from horse harness. (Hutchinson II, pl. VI, 12; Bailey 1915, pl. XI, n central).
- 24 Much damaged decorative pendant, in the form of a stylised leaf. The whole of the top is missing. There are two pairs of irregularly cut oval holes to either side of the approximate middle of the object. The pendant was probably part of horse trappings, (cf. Webster G 1958, 77, fig. 4, no. 59, p. 76), from Colchester. The Maryport pendant is of cast bronze, cf. a smaller example from Richborough (Cunliffe 1968, pl. XXXIX, no. 147, p. 97).
- 25 Large functional ring. One face of the ring shows two deep wide grooves, opposite each other, caused by wear. On the outer edge of the ring, half way between these wear grooves, the side of the ring is worn flat. Probably a harness ring. Approximately 4 cm. diameter. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, q, bottom).
- 25a Small functional ring, approximately 2.1 cm. diameter. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, centre bottom row).
- 26 Ring approximately 4 cm. overall diameter of D-shaped cross-section with a flattened back, probably a harness ring. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, q, middle).
- 27 Broken ring in poor condition. The cross-section is sub-rectangular with broad front and back faces to the ring and a narrow edge. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, above w).

Domestic items

- 28 "Saucepan" handle. The handle is largely intact. The outer end is rounded and pierced with three separate circular holes. At the bowl end of the handle to one side, the rim of the vessel is broken off just above a rivet hole in the handle which retains its rivet intact; this suggests an ancient repair to the vessel: to the other side, a little more of the rim is intact and there is a rounded ornamental projection to break the line of the "junction" of the handle and bowl. None of the bowl remains. The handle is illustrated and discussed by Bailey (1915, 169 and pl. XI, h) who suggested it might be the handle of a mirror. In fact it is a standard "saucepan" handle shape, derived from Capuan prototypes, with only minor peculiarities of decoration to distinguish it as a provincial product. The more common form for the aperture at

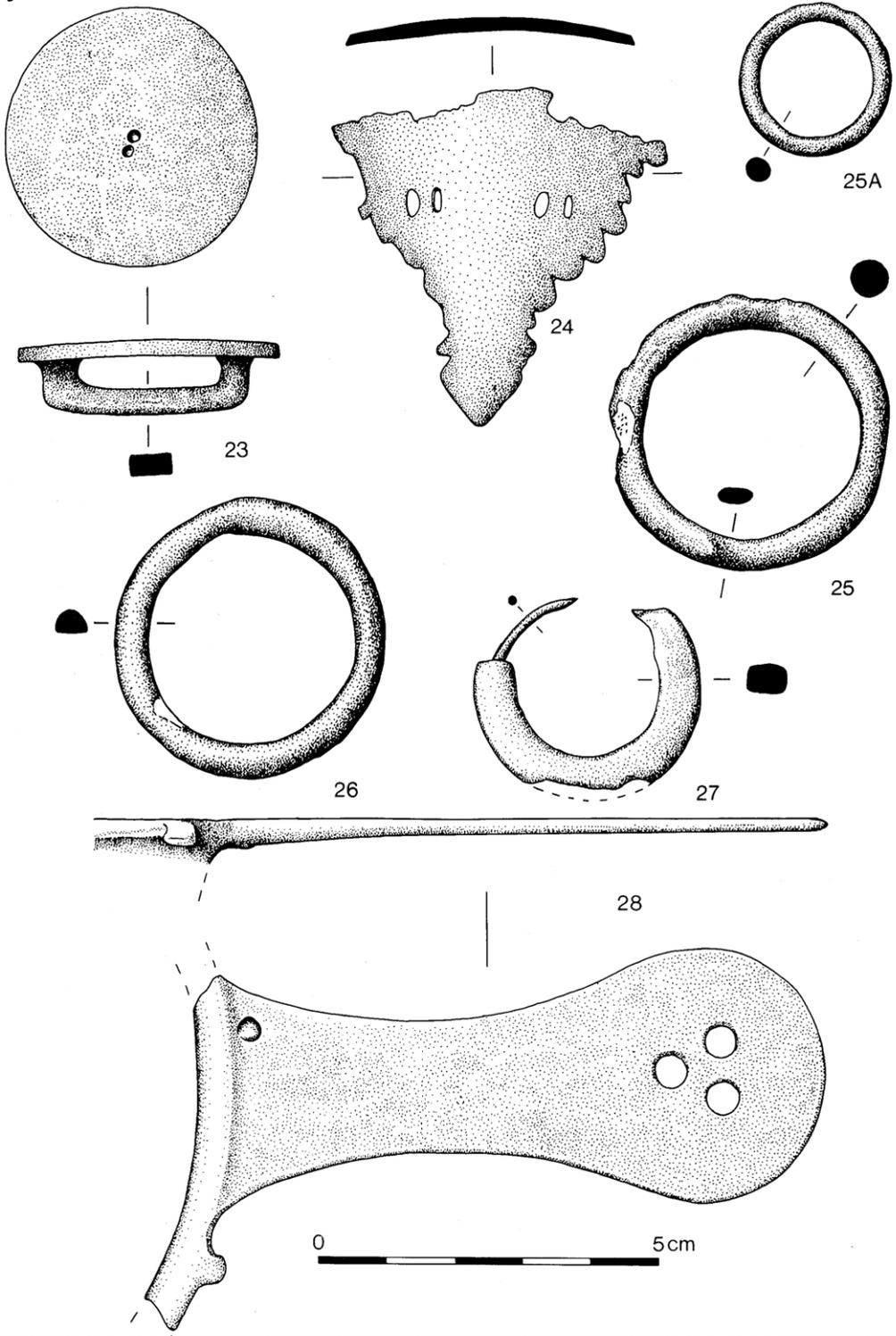


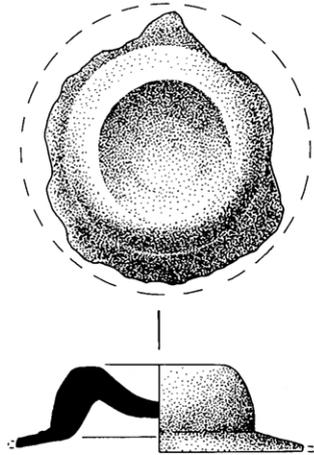
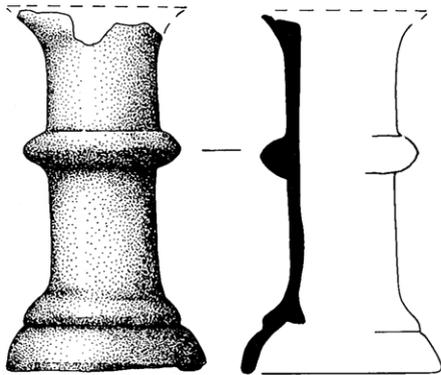
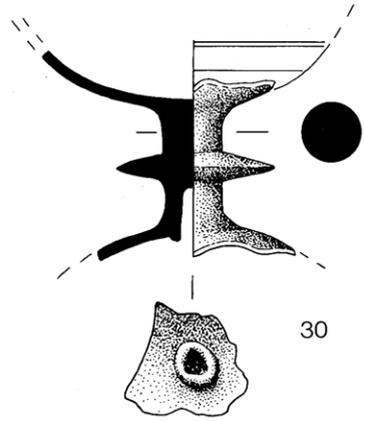
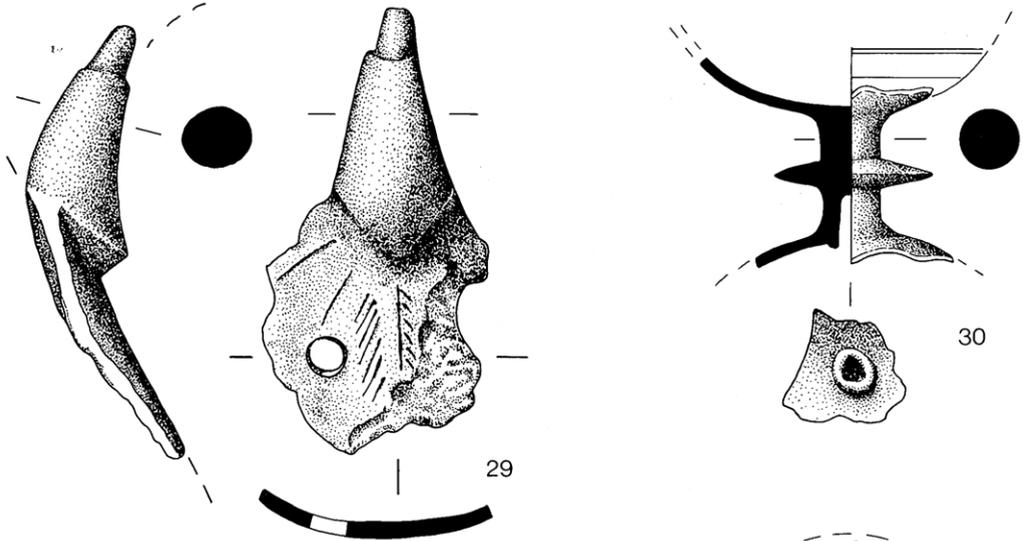
FIG. 4.

the end of the handle would be for the three holes to be run together to form a trefoil opening. "Saucepan" handles with fan-shaped terminals and trefoil holes are discussed by Radnóti (1938, pl. IV, no. 17 and pl. XXIII, nos. 4 and 6 from Pannonia) and Tassinari (1975, 32, and pl. VI, no. 19), from Musée des Antiquités Nationales, Paris), who usefully summarises other references and lists other unpublished examples from the area of the Bay of Naples to reinforce the evidence for date and centre of manufacture of these handles. Eggers, in his study of Roman bronze vessels from Britain, notes examples of this form from Housesteads (Eggers 1966, 120, Abb. 11, 60d; Bruce 1957, 118f.) Colchester (Eggers 1966, 152, Abb. 52, 37c) and Longfaugh (Eggers 1966, 161, Abb. 62, 78; PSAS 66, 1931-2, 352, no. 5 and fig. 40).

But the Maryport handle does not have a trefoil piercing. Den Boesterd discusses a similar shaped handle with a single small hole (den Boesterd 1956, pl. II, no. 32), for which she suggests a 1st century AD date. Radnóti illustrates two examples from the Pannonia area which have three separate holes as ours, but the handles are square-ended (Radnóti 1938, pl. IV, no. 20 and pl. XXIV, nos. 1 and 2). A vessel from the hoard discovered at Glyn Dyfrdwy, Denbs., is perhaps closer to the Maryport example (Eggers 1966, 126, Abb. 20, 19c; *Arch. Camb.* 82, 1927, 135-140, with fig. 8; *Arch. Camb.* 97, 1943, 64 ff.). The Glyn Dyfrdwy example has three separate piercings, the single one with a V-shaped extension pointing down the handle towards the bow. The vessel is illegibly stamped. Bosanquet, invited to comment on the hoard by Willoughby Gardner, noted the three (separately) holed handle as uncommon and suggested a date soon after the mid-first century for the manufacture of this hoard; the rediscovery of the fragmentary fourth vessel, a Godäker "saucepan" published by Willoughby Gardner some years later (*Arch. Camb.* 97, as above) pushes the date of deposition of the hoard at least into the late 1st century and probably into the 2nd. For Godäker saucepans see den Boesterd 1956, 10, nos. 25-29, discussion and references and pl. II; also Tassinari 1975, 18 and 29 ff., nos 13-18, pl. III-V. The V-shaped extension of the isolated piercing of the Glyn Dyfrdwy handle can be paralleled on a trefoil pierced handle illustrated by den Boesterd (1956, pl. II, nos. 34, 34a).

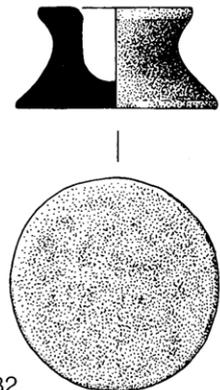
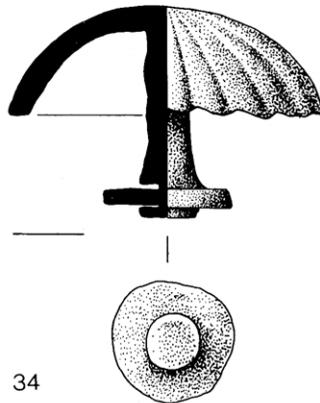
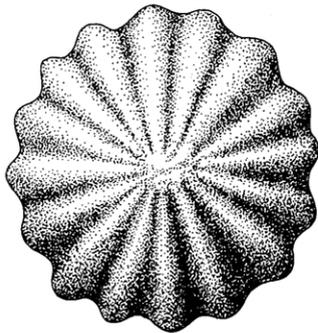
Two further features remain to be examined. The end of the Maryport handle is not truly fan shaped as in the Campanian examples with trefoil piercing, discussed above, but slightly more rounded. Further, as the one extant roundel shows, there were originally two roundels, one to either side of the handle on the lip of the vessel. Willers (1907, 80, Abb. 46) points out that roundels such as these are a feature not of the Campanian workshops, but indicate Gallic manufacture and probably a 2nd century date. The life of the piece may have been considerable, in view of the repair. It is not now possible to determine the shape of the bowl.

- 29 Fragment of a handle from a bronze jug, much damaged. The handle terminated in an escutcheon of which none of the original edges is now extant but which may have been leaf shaped since the outer surface, where it survives, carries leaf-vein-like striations. There is a large rivet hole on one side of the escutcheon, indicating that the vessel was repaired in antiquity. The use of the leaf shape for the base of the handle of a vessel is not uncommon, (cf. Tassinari 1975, 73-5, pl. XXXVIII, nos. 198 and 201; den Boesterd 1956, 71, pl. XI, no. 257; 84, pl. XII, no. 296. Bailey 1915, pl. XI, u.)



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FIG. 5.

- 30 Candlestick? The fragment consists of a shaft with a small cup emerging from each end and with an encircling flange in the middle. It may have been a double ended candlestick, cf. an example from Heddernheim (Fischer 1973, 107-8, Abb. 27, no. 1). There is no trace in either cup of an internal cylinder to form a candle holder but one cup has a small socket at the centre, pierced into the shaft and encircled at the surface by a rib of bronze, which may have served to secure a spike for insertion into a candle; there is a similarly placed circular recess in the other cup, now blocked up. The purpose of the double-ended candlestick remains obscure. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, v).
- 31 Candlestick? (Bailey 1915, 169, pl. XI, o-foot of casket or vessel).
- 32 Cast bronze item, with a circular flat face behind which the object narrows to a waist then widens out to form a small circle with a wide deep socket with traces of solder along the edge. Either a furniture stud, where the large circular flat face served as the decorative element, or an ornamental base or foot, where the large circular surface stood face down. cf. similar larger examples serving beneath decorative lion feet to provide a base for a table from Pompeii and one now in New York (Richter 1966, pls. 565, 566) or those from bronze vessels from Pompeii illustrated by Pernice (1925, 12, Abb. 14, Taf. II) and the base of candelabra (Pernice 1925, 43, Abb. 53; 53, Abb. 67-9; 54, Abb. 70). Not illustrated or discussed by Bailey.
- 33 Bronze boss. Perhaps from an item of furniture. The encircling flange is now lost and the means of attaching the object are no longer extant. The raised portion of the boss proper has a large circular recess apparently for a setting. Not illustrated or discussed by Bailey.
- 34 Large, heavy domed stud with rosette fluting; there is a heavy shank and the end has been hammered out over a heavy bronze washer. The stud served a probably wholly decorative use with wood, perhaps a cart or an item of furniture. cf. similar studs on the Bartlow stool (Liversidge 1955, 29, fig. a) for example. Described by Bailey as a horse trapping (Bailey 1915, 169, pl. XI, n; Hutchinson II, pl. VI, 4).

Functional Item

- 35 Spherical steelyard weight. The interior is lead-filled. The outer bronze sheathing has curvilinear scroll ornament. The band which encircled the weight and which presumably provided a means of suspension is now missing. (Bailey 1915, 169, pl. XI, k; Hutchinson II, pl. VI, no. 11). A slightly larger "bronze ball" is listed by Bailey in addition to the one under discussion here but it no longer seems to be included in the collection. Bailey noted its poor condition and did not illustrate it.

Personal items

- 36 Identified by Bailey (1915, 169, s, pl. XI) as a stylus but more likely a medical or cosmetic spoon, especially since the bend in the shaft seems to be original. For spoons of this type cf. Neal 1974, 142, fig. 63, nos. 200-209, p. 143. For a brief discussion of their use see Wheeler 1930, 82, para. iii, *ligulae*. For a medical spoon with a similarly angled shaft, cf. Wheeler 1930, 81 and pl. XXXVII, 9.
- 37 Ring key. Only the lower part of the key remains, but it is sufficient to show that it operated a lever lock by means of a rotary movement, much as a modern key. Ring keys, either in rotary form or as lift-keys, are common finds on Romano-British sites.

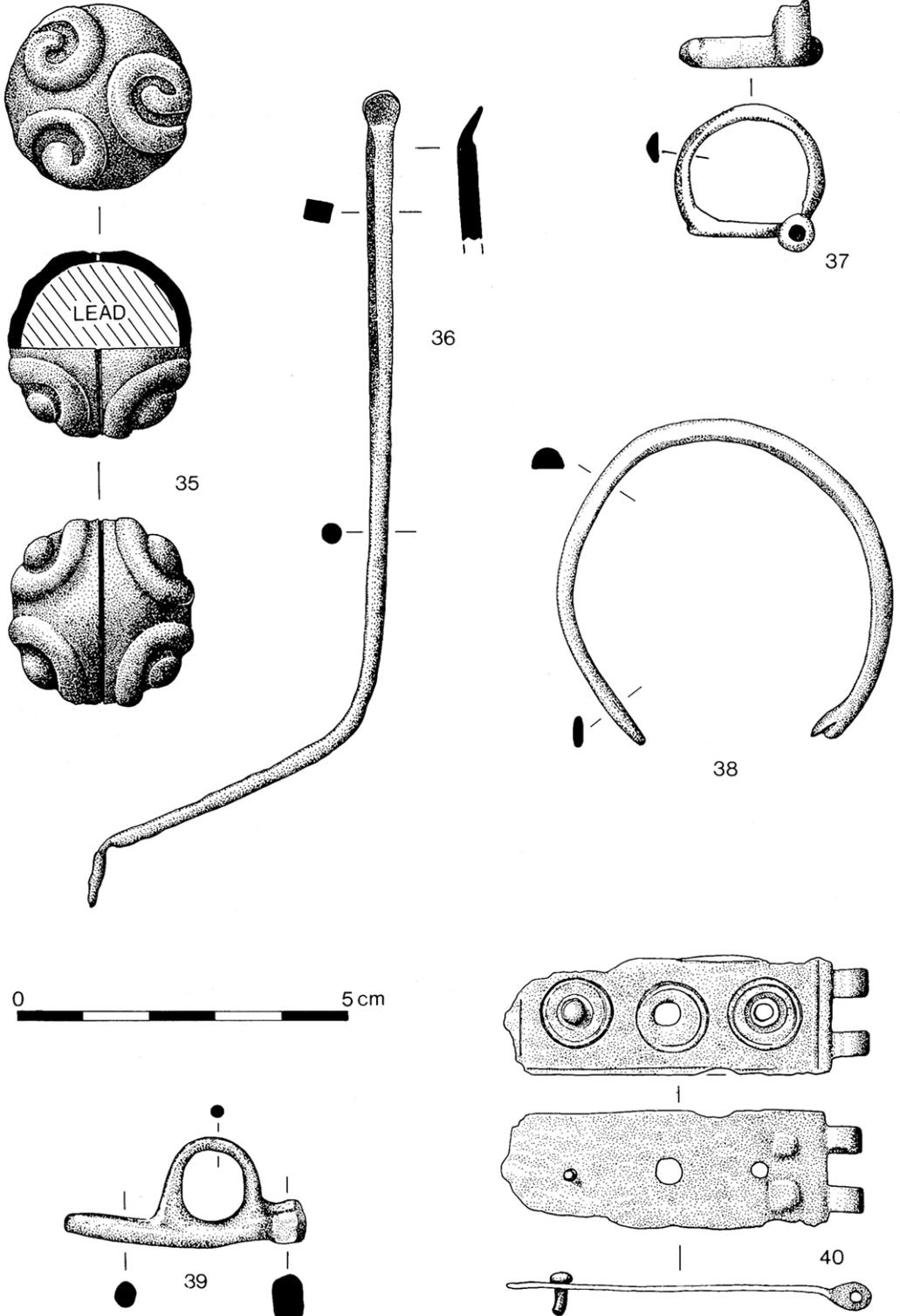


FIG. 6.

The security afforded by the ready availability of the key to the owner and the obviation of the danger of losing it must account for the popularity of the type. For a fuller discussion and parallels see my description of the ring key from Wolvesey Palace (find no. 4162) in *Winchester Studies*, forthcoming; (cf. also Wheeler 1930, pl. XXXI, no. 10. Bailey 1915, pl. XI, g).

- 38 Plain penannular bracelet, with tapered terminals, one of which is broken. Illustrated by Bailey (1915, pl. XI, q, centre bottom of the plate) and described as a ring. Despite the fact that it is broken it is clear that the bracelet was designed to fit a slender wrist, perhaps a child's. Compare a similar example from Usk which is dated by associated pottery to the 3rd century, (Webster J, forthcoming).

Miscellaneous

- 39 Phallic amulet. Illustrated somewhat unfortunately by Bailey (1915, pl. XI, f) but not described by him. Phallic amulets are common finds on Roman military sites though they may not have been as commonly published. Perhaps even more than in civilian life the motif found favour among the military as a symbol of fertility and a charm against evil spirits. (cf. Nissen *et al.* 1907, pl. XXXIV no. 49 and Oldenstein 1976, 158-160, Taf. 42, nos. 403-7. Hutchinson II, pl. VI, 16).
- 40 Hinge plate. Not of the type associated with *lorica segmentata*. The plate itself comprises a single thickness of bronze with two cast loops at one end. There are three rivet holes, each with incised circle decoration; one rivet remains in place. Bailey (1915, 169, pl. XI, p) refers to another larger similar plate, now missing.

Late Military Items

- 41 & 42 Four propeller shaped belt stiffeners and a rectangular buckle. These items have been identified by David Brown as belonging to a military belt, probably of the eastern, Danube/Dalmatia, group, dated to the second to third quarters of the fourth century (Jarrett 1976, 76f and fig. 21). Clarke, however, has questioned Brown's supposition that all the pieces belong to one belt and has pointed out that propeller stiffeners are normally associated with two-strap belts (Clarke 1979, p. 451-2, Addendum F. and p. 267). But the comments of both Brown and Clarke were made on the basis of somewhat inadequate illustrations since at the time that they were written the objects were mislaid. Some notes on the measurements and decorative detail are, therefore, now appropriate. As noted by Brown, the stiffeners fall into two categories: the plain pair are indeed without any decoration but have double or perhaps originally triple lobed projections on each corner; they are of unequal length, one being 4.4 cm. the other only 4 cm. in length. The decorated pair also had projecting knobs at each corner; as noted by Brown the spines carry punched ornament; the small lobes have an impressed dot in the centre; total lengths 4.6 and 4.5 cms. All the stiffeners were fixed by means of iron rivets. The question of whether the stiffeners were all in use on the same belt has already been discussed by Brown who cites other instances of belts with odd sets of stiffeners (Jarrett 1976, p. 78). There seems little reason to quarrel with his conclusion that they were from the same piece of equipment, the sizes of the items are similar and the styles are by no means incompatible. The buckle is 4.6 cms. long with an internal width of 3.8 cms. Despite the fact that there are no cast lugs extant on the rear arms of the buckle, it must have

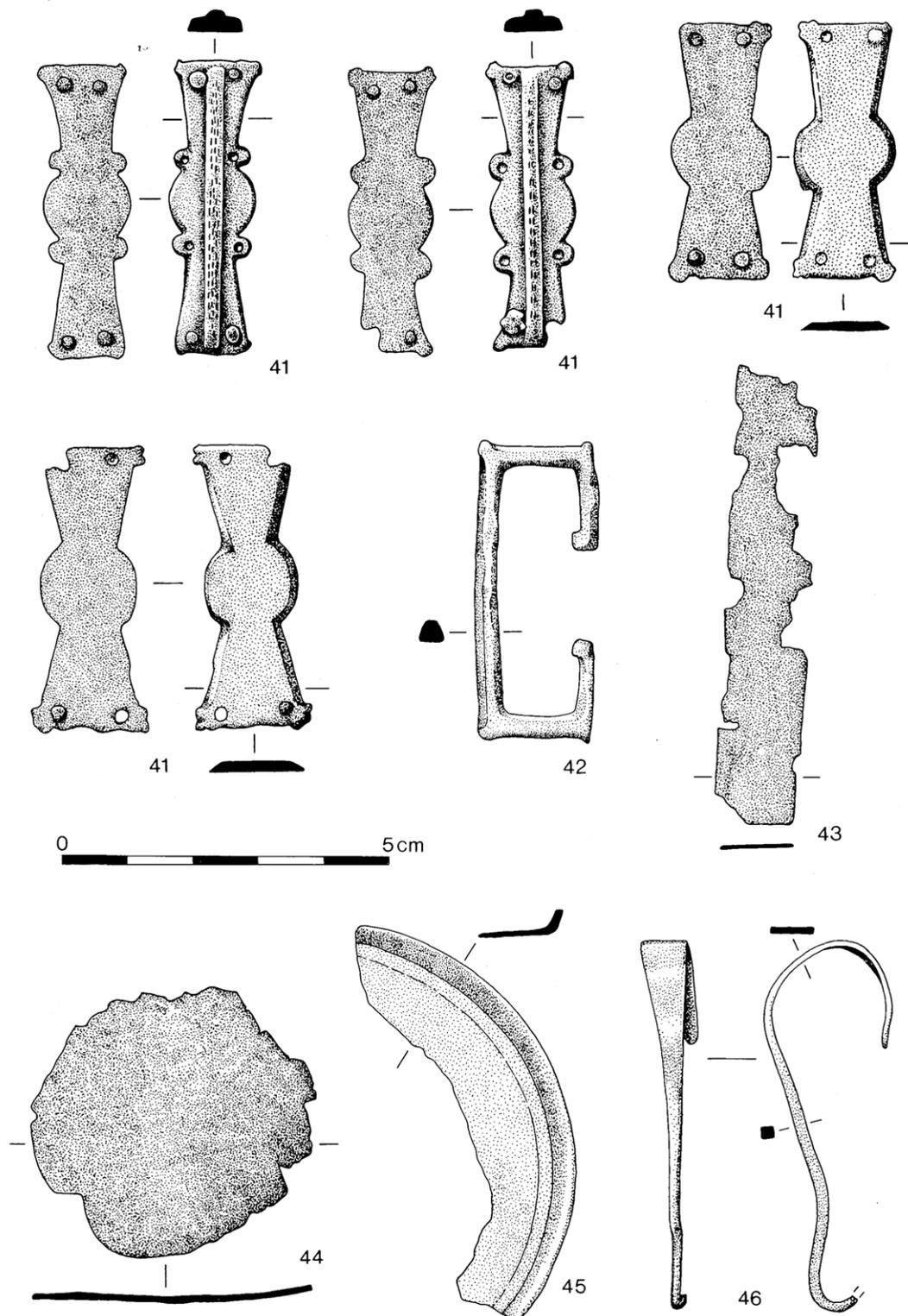


FIG. 7.

been attached to its belt-plate by means of a hinge, the pivot of which would also have accommodated the buckle tongue (cf. Bullinger 1969, Taf. XXVIII, nos. 1-3 for example). It cannot have belonged to Simpson's Group IV since those buckles described a complete rectangle so that the unbroken rear bar accommodated the buckle tongue (Britannia VII [1976] p. 197).

The stiffeners and the buckle both came from a belt or belts of the narrower earlier form of what was later to evolve as the wide two-strap belt. They are compatible in terms of size and style and, although it can by no means be proved, it would not be unreasonable to assume that they were from the same belt.

Whether the difference between the width of the belt as suggested by the size of the stiffeners and the width of the strap which can have been accommodated by the buckle is sufficient to justify the supposition that the belt must have been equipped with two straps is perhaps open to question. Clarke dismisses Bullinger's suggestion that propeller stiffeners and hinged buckles of this type may have occurred on single strap belts (Clarke 1979, p. 267, footnote 9, Bullinger 1969, Abb. 13, 14). But in several of the examples illustrated by Bullinger of rectangular buckles with hinged belt-plates, particularly those which incorporate a propeller stiffener in the belt-plate, the difference between the size of the main belt and the size of the strap as it passed through the buckle is so slight as to suggest that the single strap of the belt may have been merely tapered at the end opposite the buckle to allow it to pass through (Bullinger 1969, Taf. XXVIII, 3; Taf. XXIX, 2; also Taf. XXIX, 1, an oval buckle with a hinged belt-plate incorporating a propeller stiffener). A close fit would, after all, have been needed in order that the fastening should not come undone, especially as the free end of the belt was allowed to hang down rather than being caught up along the main strap by a belt carrier as in a modern belt. It seems possible, therefore, that some propeller stiffeners and hinged-plate buckles may have been attached to single strap belts with tapered ends and that these perhaps represent a phase in the evolution of the two-strap belt. (Bailey 1915, 169, pl. XI, d & e: "box fittings and strap buckle").

Other Bronze Items

- 43 Plain rectangular strip of sheet bronze, much damaged.
- 44 Roughly circular fragment of bronze.
- 45 Fragment of a small bronze plate or bowl.
- 46 Strip of thick bronze wire, hooked at each end, with the wire flattened out at one end to form a broad tapering hook.
- 47 Curved fragment of cast bronze of sub-circular cross-section, probably part of a handle.
- 48 Fragment of a handle.
- 49 Small rectangular plate of bronze with a tin wash on one face.
- 50 Small, originally rectangular, plate of sheet bronze secured by means of an iron rivet to an L-shaped bronze fitting with a semi-circular end.
- 51 Ornamental base?, much damaged. The object is hollow; around the outer edge was crude toothed decoration. Where the base rose to form a stem the object is broken. Perhaps not Roman.

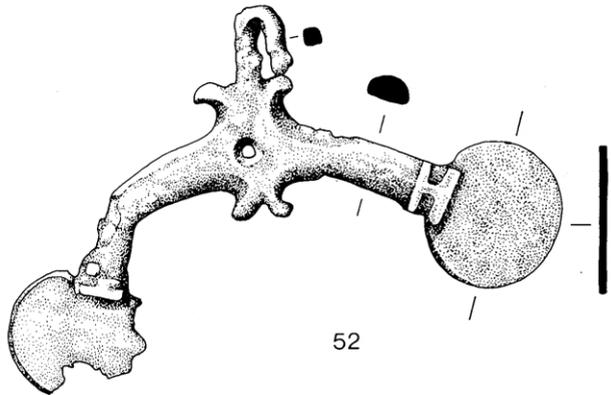
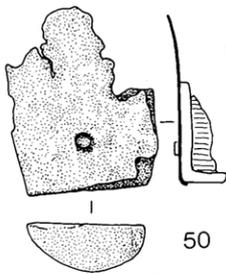
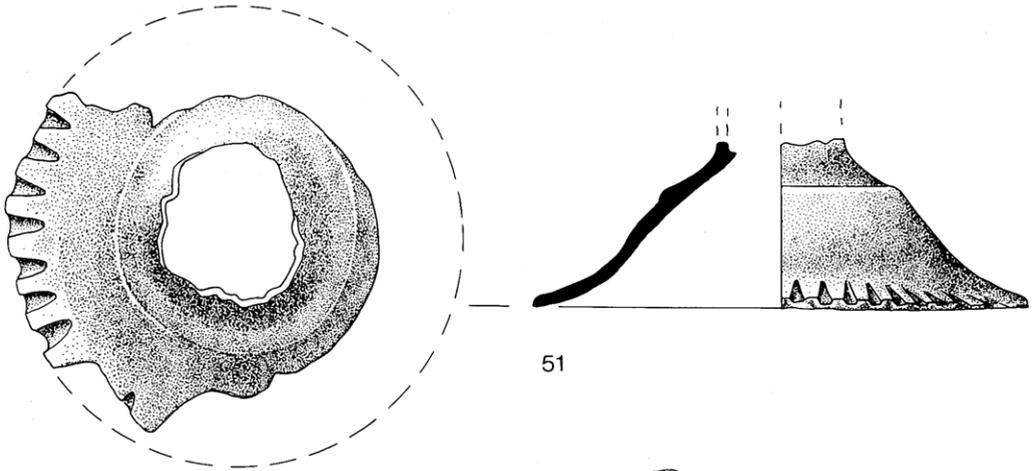
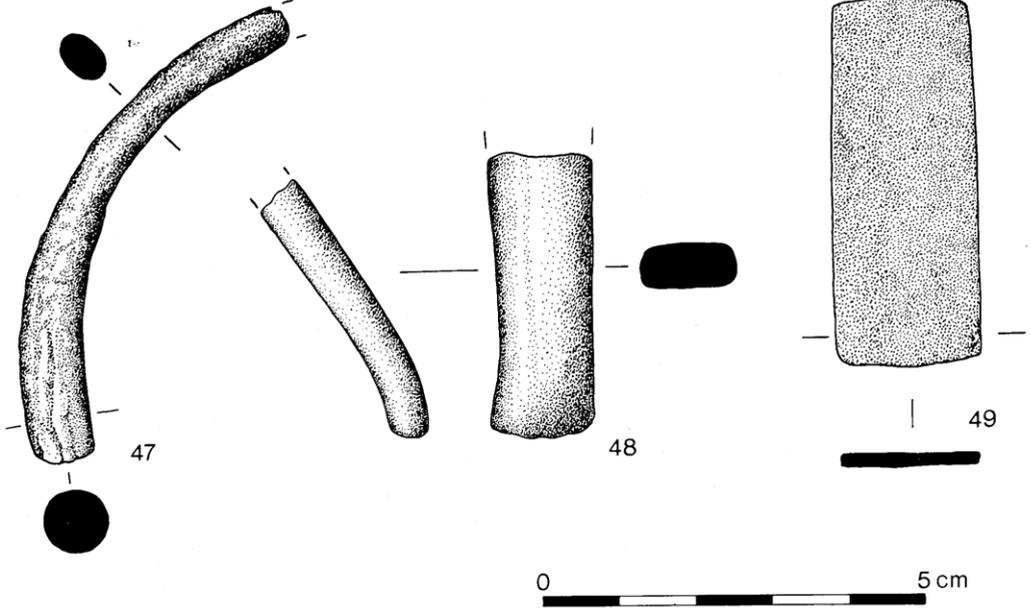


FIG. 8.

Lead Object

52 This item is made entirely of lead. It was published by David Brown along with the late military belt fittings and cross-bow brooch (Jarrett 1976, 80 ff.) but, like the other items, was not available to Brown for study. Unfortunately, in this case, the previous illustrations and descriptions proved misleading and gave rise to certain assumptions which the reappearance of the object itself has proved false. The object was published as a functional bronze spur with a lead repair. In fact the object was not made of bronze but entirely of lead. It was not three dimensional but is, and always has been, flat with the arms curved downwards, rather than backwards, from the central decorative expansion which held the prick. The assumption that Hutchinson's and Bailey's illustrations represented a three dimensional object led to the conclusion that the object was of functional size because of the foreshortening which would have occurred in illustrating a three dimensional spur with the arms curved backwards. Once it is appreciated that the object is only two dimensional it becomes apparent that it was far too small to have been functional. Yet the similarity of the item to functional bronze and iron rivet spurs with expanded disc terminals to the arms (cf. Shortt 1959, pl. XV, no 28, Woodeaton; pl. XV and fig. 2, nos. 3 & 4, Chedworth; fig. 3, nos. 7-10, Corbridge), even down to the decorative detail (*ibid.* nos. 4, 8 and 28) is striking, and there can be little doubt that the object is intended as a model of such a spur. Even as a model however, the item is unsatisfactory, for the downward two dimensional, rather than rearward three dimensional curvature of the arms, means that the prick projects at right angles to the arms, rather than forming their extension. It is the hook rather which forms the extension and this leads me to suggest that this object may have served as a model for a decorative pendant horse-trapping or similar ornament. The similarity of the overall form to crescentic harness trappings, often with phallic central "ornament", cannot be ignored. (cf. Brailsford 1962, 3, A45, fig. 3 (illustration inverted) and references). Brown's suggested dating remains valid, since the model must be copied from the type. (Bailey 1915, pl. XI, b; Hutchinson II, pl. VI, no. 2).

Medieval and Later Bronzes

53 Brass/bronze ewer spout ending in the form of a dog's head. Green patina largely worn (or deliberately scratched) away. Ht. approx. 6 cm., projection 5 cm.; the metal varies from 3 mm. to 5 mm. in thickness.

Animal-headed spouts, most frequently in the form of a dog's head with a tubular spout issuing from the mouth as in this example, are typical of a range of ewers of north European manufacture and 15th to 16th century in date. In one form a tubular spout issues from the belly of the vessel and curves back towards its neck, to which it is sometimes attached by a strut; the head is sometimes dragon-like with long ears. In the other principal form, represented here, the spout was set higher in the vessel against the inward curve of the neck: (cf. Theuerkauff-Liederwald 1975, 181, pl. 8). As separate castings the spouts were liable to break off, and they not infrequently survive as separate objects: there is a comparable object from the moat at Cardiff Castle, now in the National Museum of Wales (Acc. No. 17. 11/2), but this is only one of a number known. (Bailey 1915, 169, pl. XI, 1; Hutchinson II, pl. VI, no. 3).

54 Rectangular bronze buckle, its long axis curved. The (lost) central pivot for the

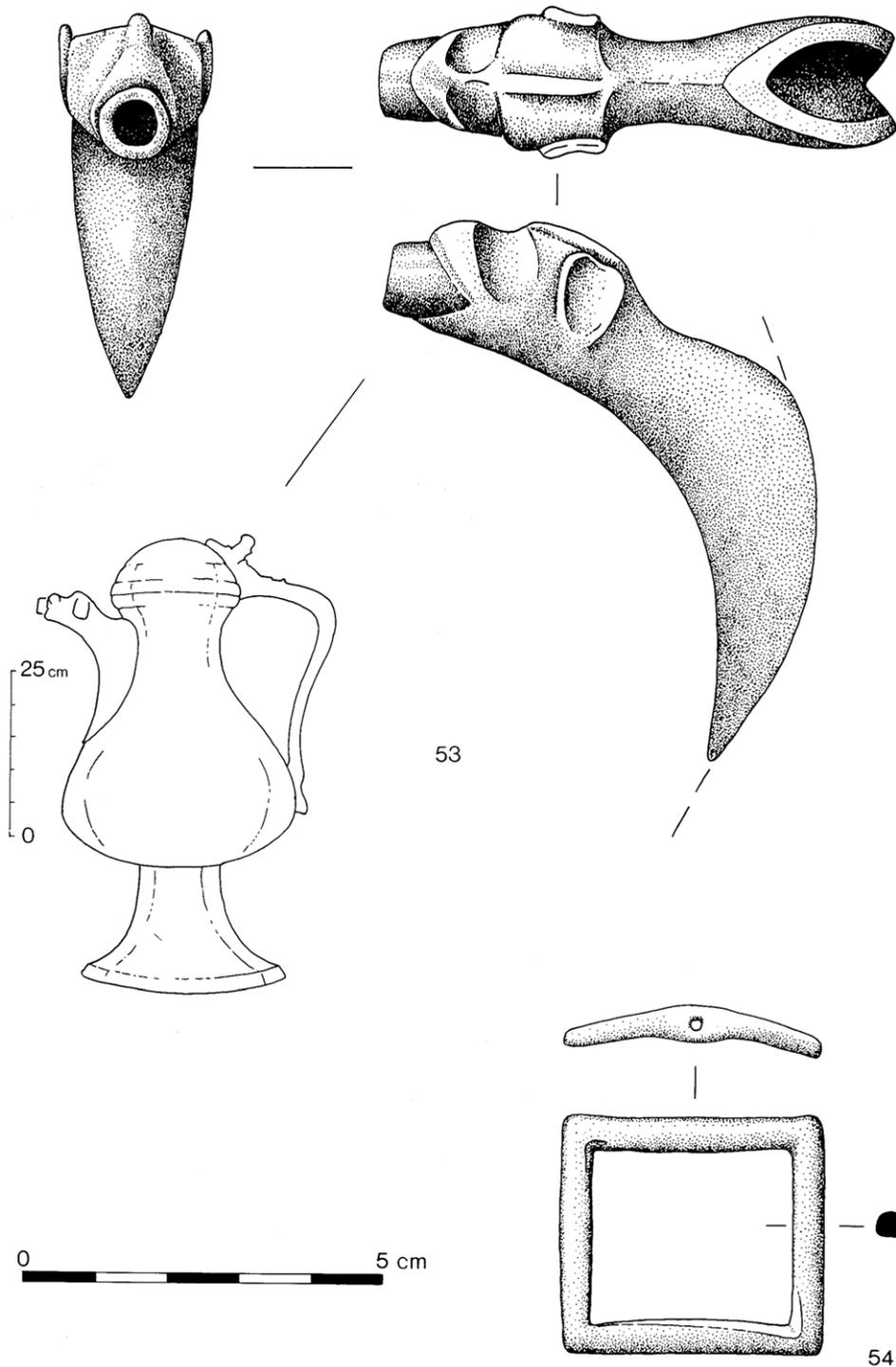


FIG. 9.

tongue was secured to the frame centrally through holes pierced in swellings at the top and bottom of the frame. The buckle belongs to the family of the post-medieval shoe buckle and its associated smaller relations, the stock, knee and hat buckles. (cf., for example, Hume 1969, 84-6 & fig. 20, no. 12. Bailey 1915, 169, pl. XI, e).

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