

## SECTION II.—SAXON PERIOD.

(Pl. vii. and fig. 36).

Students of the Saxon occupation of Chester may be interested in the publication of three interesting finds which are characteristic of certain stages of the Saxon occupation of the City—LEGECEASTER. My notes on these finds are, however, very brief, for here I am on unfamiliar ground. But it is hoped that the sculptured relics and the hoard of silver coins herein described are sufficiently important to induce specialists in the subject to follow on with a much more careful analysis at some future date.

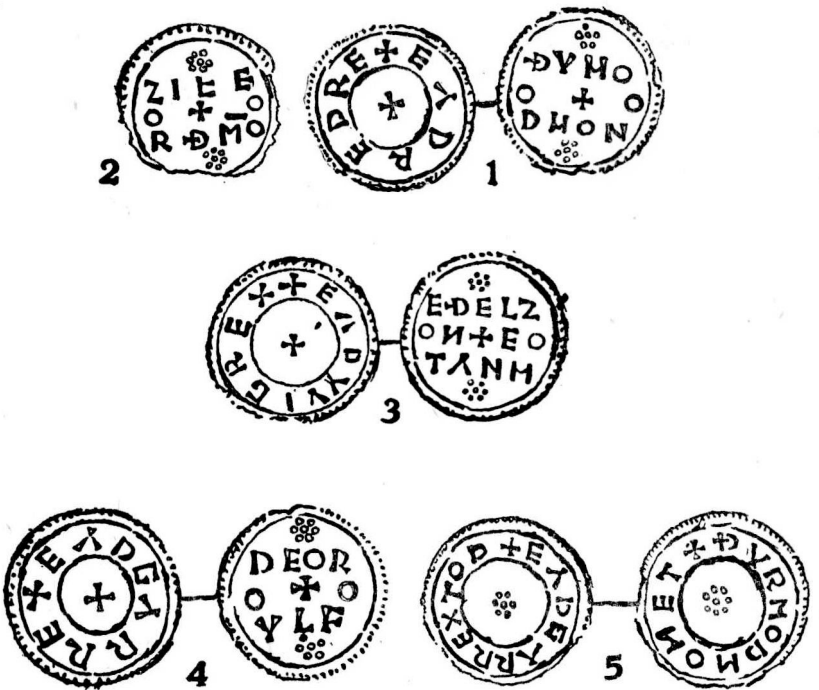


Fig. 36

Nos. 1 and 2. EADRED. No. 3. EADWIG. Nos. 4 and 5. EADGAR.

*Hoard of Silver Coins. Found 1857.*

This hoard of forty-three silver "pennies" was presented to the Grosvenor Museum by the Revd. F. A. Potts, 3rd April, 1941; per Mr. Henry Potts, Solicitor, Chester. A catalogue giving a full list of moneyers and data of the find, written apparently at the time of the discovery, also accompanied the coins. The data reads:—

"Saxon coins found in Chester, 5th June, 1857, in Eastgate Row—No. 97. Barbers premises—purchased from the workmen by H. J. B."

The coins with one exception (fig. 36, No. 5) have the legends on the reverse side arranged across the field. Of *Eadred* there were three examples; of *Eadwig* one and *Eadgar* thirty-nine. Seven of the moneyers seem to have had their mints at Chester; and eight of the moneyers elsewhere (see p. 156).

I prepared four complete catalogues of these coins; one was presented to the British Museum; one to the donor the Reverend F. A. Potts; one copy is in the possession of Mr. Willoughby Gardner; and the fourth has been filed with the coins at the Grosvenor Museum.

I have ventured to illustrate and describe five examples that are typical of the whole series.

*Eadred. A.D. 946—955.*

- No. 1. Type I. *British Mus. Catalogue*, p. 143; pl. xii, 2—4.

*Obv.* Small cross pattée, with inscription EADRED between two circles.

\**Rev.* Moneyer's name ( $\overline{\text{THYMOD. MO[NETA]}}$ ) in two lines across field; cross, pellets, etc., symmetrically arranged in field.

- No. 2. Type II. *British Mus. Catalogue*, p. 143.

\**Rev.* Moneyer's name ( $\text{ZIGE/R}\overline{\text{TH}}\overline{\text{M}}\overline{\text{O}}$ ) in two lines across field. Cross and pellets as in No. 1.

*Eadwig. A.D. 955—959.*

- No. 3. Type I. *British Mus. Catalogue II*, p. 69, No. 308.

*Obv.* Small cross pattée. Inscription EADYYIG RE+ between two circles.

*Rev.* Moneyer's name EDELZ/TAN M, etc., in two lines across field. Cross and pellets, etc., in field.

*Eadgar.* A.D. 959—975.

No. 4. Type I, var. d. *British Mus. Catalogue* II, p. 165; pl. xiv., 4.

*Obv.* Small cross patté. Inscription EADGAR RE+ between two circles.

\**Rev.* Moneyer's name DEOR/VLF in two lines across the field, with cross, pellets, etc.

No. 5. Type IV. *British Mus. Catalogue* II, p. 166; pl. xiii, 6.

*Obv.* Group of pellets. Inscription EADGAR RE+ TOD+ between two circles.

\**Rev.* Group of pellets. Moneyer's name DURMOD MONET+ between circles.

The moneyer's marked with an \* struck coins at Chester (see list below).

#### MONEYERS OF THE CHESTER MINTS.

(Under *Eadred*, A.D. 946—955).

<i>Moneyers</i>	<i>Number of Coins</i>
Siferth or Sigeferth (Fig. 36, No. 2)	1
Thurmod. (Fig. 36, No. 1)	2
( <i>Under Eadgar</i> , A.D. 959—975).	
Ælfsig or Æalfsig	3
Deorulf or Theorulf? (Fig. 36, No. 4)	2
Eoroth or Eroth	6
Freotheric	7
Gilus or Gillus	2
Mertin or Merton	2
Thurmod (Fig. 36, No. 5)	5
Total of Chester pieces	30

## MONEYERS OF OTHER MINTS.

*Under Eadwig, A.D. 955—999.*

Ethelstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
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*Under Eadgar, A.D. 959—975.*

Ælfred	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Alderwine or Athewine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Alhmynd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Eadmund or Edmund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Werstan?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Teothuc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Doubtful	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
										—
										13
										—

## SAXON CROSSES.

(Plate vii, figs. 1, 2).

Fig. 1. Fragment of the upper portion of a Saxon cross, found in the rubble core of the City Wall in 1937, by the S.E. angle of the Roman fortress (see p. 56).

Fig. 2. Upper portion of a Saxon cross found by workmen during the levelling of the ground, in 1936, on the site of the Roman Amphitheatre on that portion of the site which had originally been laid out as the new road leading to and from the new gateway.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. T. D. Kendrick of the British Museum for the photograph of this interesting relic and also for his note on the subject: "We are not in a position to say much about it yet; but it is clearly late, probably *c.* 1,000 A.D., and of the same school as the free-standing cross-heads at St. John's crypt. But slabs of your sort are rare. There's one with a wheel-cross in relief at West Kirby, but the type isn't quite the same."

**SECTION III.—  
MEDIAEVAL AND LATER PERIOD.**

(Fig. 37, Nos. 1 and 2).

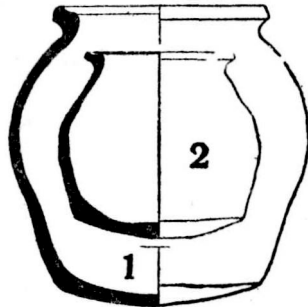


Fig. 37

No. 1. Cooking-pot of finely elutriated red clay, resembling that used in the manufacture of modern flower-pots. The exterior slightly smoked. No glaze. Base distinctly *sagged*. Rim slightly oblique and definitely *concave* on the upper surface. Height 6.1; rim 4.4; bulge 6.2; base 4.1 inches.

Find-spot. Queen's Head Hotel, Foregate Street, 1938.

Period: Late 13th to early 14th century.

Mr. Gerald C. Dunning, of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, who saw this interesting find in 1940, has kindly given some valuable data regarding the similarity of our vessel to those found in Scotland; and has also provided the illustration (Fig. 37, No. 2) for comparison. This is what he says:—

“Your cooking-pot from Foregate Street raises some pretty problems! On thinking it over, although the 12th century parallels in East Anglia are quite striking, the lack of any comparable pottery in the intervening mid-lands is a serious bar to any such connection. On the other hand your pot looks remarkably Scotch! At Edinburgh there are several pots of this shape and character—some with exactly the same rim, concave on the top, others

with rolled or beaded rim. I enclose a tracing (No. 2) of one dated by coins to *c.* 1300. There is a paper on these pots in *P.S.A. Scot.* lvi, with figures of several. Another is illustrated in *P.S.A. Scot.* lxxiii, 225, fig. 12.

“ So I regard your pot as showing strong Scottish influence and dating late 13th or early 14th century. It does not stand alone, for over at Harlech, Varley showed me his finds from Almondbury, the site of the De Lacey's Castle, near Huddersfield. This started life in the reign of Stephen and continued throughout the 13th century. Much of the pottery shows strong Scottish influence in rim-section and form. What the explanation of this may be, is not yet clear, but it certainly looks as though N.W. England formed a 'cultural province' with lowland Scotland in the 12th and 13th centuries.” 31st March, 1940.

(Plate viii)

The jug here illustrated was found on Wheelock Farm, near Sandbach, Cheshire, November, 1910. My friend, Mr. W. A. Griffith, of Highfield, Mouldsworth, Cheshire, purchased this fine relic and graciously presented it to the Grosvenor Museum. In his letter, dated 3rd May, 1934, he informs me that “ The jug was actually found by John Lowe (a distant relative of mine) in November, 1910, during ploughing operations, and the field has been under cultivation ever since, but no other pottery or other finds have come to light. Furthermore he also provided me with a plan of the site showing that the find-spot was close up to the line of an old drain in a thirteen acre field.” A description of the jug follows:—

Clay buff-pink and rather soft. Glaze dull greenish-yellow. Neck strongly and broadly “wreathed.” Spout bridged and of the “parrot-bill” form. Handle broad and narrowly ribbed at the sides; the space between the ribs broad and deeply pierced in a double line with a pointed stick or the like. The attachment of the lower end of the handle on the *inside* clearly indicates that the body-wall of the vessel was slit and that the clay “strap” was passed

through it and folded downwards, where it appears as a bifid tongue. Body under the spout decorated with three lines of crescent-shaped impressions, the lines converging at a point just below the collar of the vessel. Base thumbed down pie-crust fashion, each impression with a very fine median groove—a mere scratch in fact.

Dimensions: Height, 10.5; base, 4.5; bulge, 5.5 inches. Capacity c.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pints. Period: Late 13th century.

Mr. Gerald C. Dunning, who made a critical examination of this vessel in 1940, states: "The Wheelock Farm jug looks typical late 13th century: the nearest parallels for parrot-beak spout and ribbed neck are at Kidwelly Castle."

In May, 1934, Sir Cyril Fox very kindly presented me with an off-print of his "Kidwelly Castle, Carmarthen-shire;" including a "Survey of the Polychrome Pottery found there and elsewhere in Britain" (*Archæologia*, lxxxiii). In this I had already noted that our jug from Wheelock had close affinities with the parrot-beak forms therein recorded. Furthermore I had also noted that we had also discovered in Chester several rim-fragments evidently belonging to or closely related to the "Cardiff polychrome jug" illustrated (l.c.) on plate xxvi with pairs of masks under the rim. Unfortunately our material was stored away for safety during the war, and is still in hiding, so that I cannot give illustrations of these masterpieces of the fictile art in mediæval times. Let me add, however, that Sir Cyril's gift has proved of great service to me in my researches in Chester—it is, indeed, most informative and an inimitable work on this subject.

#### AXE-HEAD OF IRON.

(Fig. 38).

Axe-head of iron. Weight  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Blade expanding from 2.4 to 5.3 inches; edge curved and bevelled on both sides. Shaft-hole or socket rectangular, tapering from 1.7 to 1 inch at the top; its walls at the lower portion being relatively much thinner than those at the top, from which

a small piece at the back is missing. Furthermore, the socket is characterised by its great length, measuring 4.3 inches; and its projection of two inches below its juncture with the blade may serve as the most distinguishing feature of this implement.

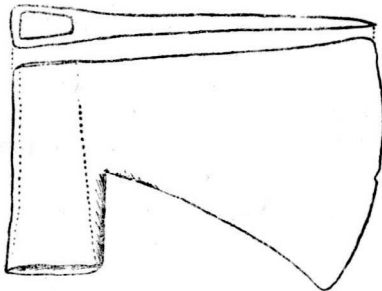


Fig. 38. Axe. Simpson's collection.

In his *Short History of the English People*, iii, 903) Green gives an illustration (*M.S. Roy*, 13, B viii) of two Irishmen in combat with battle-axes of the thirteenth century which are identical in form with our example—the long downwardly projecting socket being clearly depicted. For how long this type of axe was in use one cannot, at this juncture, determine. But the type seems to be an usual one; and the hafting arrangements too weak for general use in the felling of timber or the like.

Solomon Reinach (*Mus. des Antiquités Nationales*. Tome 1. Paris, 1926, fig. 273, No. 46365, p.262) figures a precisely similar axe, which he briefly describes as “Hache d'équarrissage, outil de carpentier. Dragages de la Seine. La Garenne.”

Found in the bed of the River Dee when preparing foundations for Hydro-electricity Station, 1913.

#### PAPAL BULLÆ OF THE 13th and 15th CENTURIES.

The papal bullæ or leaden seals herein recorded are of the usual form with a diameter of about 1.5 inches. On the obverse side is the name of the Pope, on the reverse the heads or busts of St. Peter and St. Paul, etc.



*Bulla of Pope Innocent III. A.D. 1243—1254.*

- 1.
- Obv.*
- INNO/CENTIVS/P P IIII.

*Rev.* SPASPE = *Sanctus Paulus. Sanctus Petrus.*

Busts of the saints in semi-profile: that on the left with a pointed beard; that on the right, with a short rounded beard. Each bust is enclosed in an oval framework of small pellets, joining those at the margin of the seal. A small cross is placed in the centre of the field between the two busts of the saints.

Found by Mr. James Shone, in a garden at Newton Rise, Newton, Chester, 6th August, 1946. Not obtained for the Museum.

*Bulla of Pope John XXIII. A.D. 1410—1415.*

- 2.
- Obv.*
- IOHAN/NES: P P :/XXIII.

*Rev.* SPASPE (as above).

Busts full-faced; that on left with long pointed beard; that on right with short rounded beard.

Found at Higher Tranmere, 1935. I am greatly indebted to Mr. A. C. Newitt, of New Ferry Council School, for the loan of this *bullæ* from which casts were made for the Grosvenor Museum.

## MEDIÆVAL BURIALS IN THE "NUNS GARDENS."

(Fig. 39).

A group of interments was discovered in the small plot of pasture land lying immediately south of the Militia Barracks, known generally as a portion of the "Nuns Gardens". The site lies immediately opposite the main entrance to Chester Castle. It is bounded on the east by Castle Esplanade, on the south by Grosvenor Road, and on the west by Nuns Road and the City Walls.

The burials were intersected in making an A.R.P. shelter, 21st November, 1939. Col. Hayes Newington, of the Cheshire Regiment, called my attention to the discovery, and instructed the contractor to delay the excavations until more careful examination of the two undisturbed graves (Nos. 3 and 5) had been carried out. Nos. 1 and 2 had been uncovered and the skeletal remains removed. Very little of Nos. 4, 6, 7 and 8 remain; and another series of interments immediately west of those shown on the plan had been completely destroyed. The periphery of each grave was formed of thin slabs of local sandstone (Bunter beds) placed on edge and completely covered with slabs of the same kind of rock (see plan and sections). The joints in the masonry had been set very sparingly in white, brittle mortar containing a few bits of charcoal, and a scanty admixture of sand. The tooling on many of the slabs was of herring-bone type characterised by long bilateral strokes.

In form the graves differed in their general outline—three types being represented.

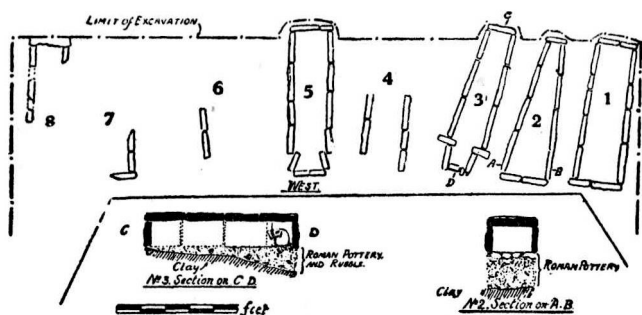


Fig. 39.

*Grave No. 1.*—This was rectangular, and slightly narrower at the east end—the foot presumably.

*Grave No. 2.*—Tapering from the head, 2ft. 9in. to 6in. at the foot. The skeletal remains had been removed by the workmen. The floor however, was intact and formed of small irregular bits of sandstone that rested upon a Roman

stratum, 18in. thick, containing sherds of Samian and coarse ware vessels chiefly of second century origin. The Samian ware included the following types :—

(a) Form 37, the decoration of which consisted of part of a large continuous scroll and a wavy line below the ovolo. Period : Probably early second century.

(b) Form 18/31, stamped ERICI.M *Erici m(anu)*. The stamp of the potter *Ericus* seems to be somewhat rare in Britain, but this is the third example recorded at Chester. Period : Domitian—Trajan.

(c) Twelve coarse ware vessels were also found in this stratum, including a *mortarium* or mixing bowl of late first—early second century form, and a cooking pot of Collingwood's form 65, commonly met with in late second century deposits at Chester.

*Grave No. 3.*—This had a contracted recess for the reception of the head resembling the mediæval coffins of stone or wood. Skeleton extended on back, head at west end. The skull was resting on the floor, and was protected only by the covering-stone, but the rest of the skeleton was completely covered with earth up to the level of the top of the slabs (fig. 2, Section C—D) in which were several intrusive Roman sherds. The stratum on which the remains were resting was obviously of Roman origin, containing a few meat bones, the tine of a red deer, shells of the oyster and edible mussel, and much broken pottery. The salient forms of the last named are described below :—

(a) Samian bowl, form 37. The decoration of this vessel is in two zones, divided by bead-rows; the upper zones with part of a small medallion enclosing a bird with wings displayed (Osw. 2317); the lower zone with part of a rabbit, and above it unilateral acanthus leaves. Period : probably early second century.

(b) Form 33, stamped REGIN . . . S, most probably part of the stamp of the potter *Reginus*, whose period of activity is given by Oswald (*Stamps*) as Trajan-Antonine.

(c) Form 18/31.—One example represented.

(d) Form 31.—Two examples. Period: Late second century.

(e) The coarse ware vessels represented included an early form of cooking pot (c. A.D. 80—110); two later cooking pots (Collingwood's No. 65), and two pie-dishes (Collingwood's No. 44). The last named common in Antonine deposits at Chester.

*Grave No. 4.*—Form probably rectangular; but almost completely destroyed by workmen.

*Grave No. 5.*—The plan of this grave was similar to that of No. 3, having a contracted recess for the head. Skeleton extended on back, the head at the west end. The skeletal remains were in a poor state of preservation; the long bones being reduced to long splinter-like pieces. The covering soil resembled that found in grave No. 3, and like it also in having a number of intrusive Roman sherds evidently taken from the stratum on which the skeleton rested.

*Graves Nos. 6, 7, and 8.*—These had been excavated in making the cut for the shelter and only traces of the graves remained.

The chronological evidence afforded by the pottery found in association with the skeletal remains seemed, at first, to point to the burials having taken place during the Roman occupation. But the formation of graves Nos 3 and 5 were clearly of mediæval origin, resembling the forms of interment of wood and stone so characteristic of the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries.

Our colleague, Mr. J. H. E. Bennett, informs me that: "The Benedictine Nunnery of St. Mary occupied the site of the present Rectory of St. Bridget's and adjacent ground, and their land extended as far as the Castle. This land was known as the Nuns Gardens and is so called, duly laid out as gardens in several 18th and early 19th century maps, and that the site where the interments have been found was probably a part of their cemetery".

What the Romans were doing on this site is not at all clear; but with a stratum so heavily charged with their

pottery, it may be taken as a fair inference, that part of the civil population may have settled here as on another extra mural site on the western side of the fortress, where traces of a Roman floor, composed of broken tiles and mortar (*opus signinum*), was discovered in January, 1914, over which some mediæval burials had been placed.

### 17TH CENTURY WINE-BOTTLES.

(Fig. 40).

Two wine-bottles of the Stuart period were found by a workman in making a cut in Vicars Lane for a water-pipe, on September 19th, 1945. The vessels are precisely similar in form, and of the same height.



Fig. 40

Wine-bottles of this kind are often found in this city, usually in a fragmentary condition, but there are several perfect examples preserved in the Grosvenor Museum. The example here described, however, is of exceptional interest as it bears the initial letters M B in two places along the line of the shoulder; they are in the form of a grafito, and appear to have been cut into the surface with a diamond. Owing to the erosive action of acid in the soil the surface was badly corroded and opaque, but on the removal of the outer crust the letters were revealed and the surface now present a beautiful azure iridescence due to diffraction of the fine superimposed layers caused by decay. The bottle

contained a quantity of water, a cherry-stone! a fine hard buff deposit; the last named, when crushed, presented a spicular form under the microscope.

Holding capacity 30 fluid ounces. Height 5.8 inches; maximum diameter 5.9 inches.

In his most informative paper<sup>1</sup>, Mr. E. Thurlow Leeds, has enabled the student of this group of vessels to give a much closer date to the various undated examples than had hitherto been possible. Our example agrees best with his form number 23, included in his group of examples dated 1693—1699.

#### STAMPS ON 16TH AND 18TH CENTURY BOTTLES.

(Fig. 41, Nos. 1—4).

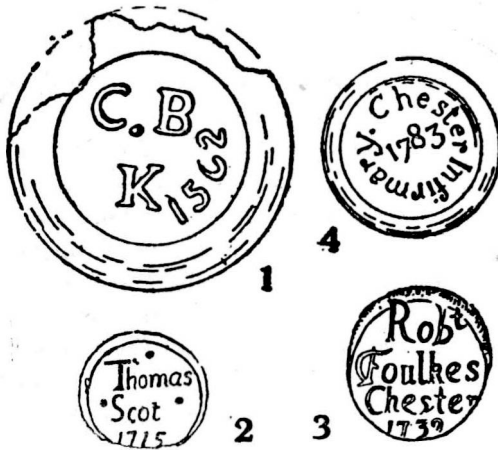


Fig. 41

No. 1.—This stamp, dated 1562, is affixed to the *base* of a wine-bottle of pale greenish glass, and therefore it differs from the circular stamps on wine-bottles that were in use from the middle of the 17th to the closing years of the 18th century. The initials C B K may be those of a

<sup>1</sup>—"Dating of Glass Wine-bottles of the Stuart Period", *Antiquary*, August, 1914.

private person, or those of a wine merchant or licensee who was entitled to sell wine by retail. Unfortunately one cannot say what the bottle was like in its completeness, as nothing remained of it but the base.

Found in the Princess Street clearance area, 1939.

No. 2.—“Thomas Scot, 1715”. This is a typical example of an early 18th century stamp, and is affixed to the side of a wine-bottle of smoky-green glass. Whether the owner of this stamp was a wine merchant at Chester I have not been able to trace.

Found near the Newgate, 1938, but see Bennett’s note below.

No. 3.—Robt. Foulkes, Chester, 1732. This is another stamp on a wine-bottle that is also typical of the early 18th century. It was found at Handbridge in 1939. Copies of this stamp and that also of No. 2 were sent to our colleague, Mr. J. H. E. Bennett, and he has kindly given the following information regarding them :—

“ I have been much interested in the stamps on wine bottles of which you enclosed drawings: thank you for allowing me to retain them. I do not think that either of the men whose names are stamped were wine merchants. It is true that there was a well-known firm of wine merchants in Chester in the 19th century that traded under the names of Hassall & Foulkes, but the Foulkes founder of this firm was an Owen Foulkes, who was admitted a freeman as a wine merchant in 1804, and was buried at St. Bridget’s in 1845, aged 67.

It was usual for the more substantial citizens when establishing and maintaining their private wine cellars to buy the wine in casks and to bottle it on their own premises. They purchased bottles in considerable numbers for the purpose, and I am inclined to think that many of these were stamped by the maker with the purchaser’s name.

Robert Foulkes, of Llechryd, co. Denbigh, esquire, was also possessed of Boughton Hall and had at least a house

in Castle Street, Chester. Through his mother he inherited half of Great Boughton and he purchased the other half. The house in Castle Street was at the corner of the way leading to St. Mary's Church. Robert's father and grandfather were deputy barons of the Exchequer of Chester. He was born about 1712, was admitted a freeman of Chester as esquire in 1733, and died in 1787. His daughter and co-heiress married Dr. William Currie, ancestor of Major Currie who died a few years ago.

Thomas Scot is more difficult to identify. In 1732 a Thomas Scott, of Bristol, cordwainer, son of Richard Scott, carpenter, was made a freeman. In 1697 a Thomas Scott married Mary Farington, of Trinity, at St. Oswald's. About the same period there was a Thomas Scott who was a schoolmaster of Holt, and there were one or two others of the same name in more distant parts of Cheshire and Lancashire. Possibly this bottle had got out of its circuit as milk bottles do to-day."

No. 4. "Chester Infirmary, 1783". This stamp is attached to a fragment of the side of an *angular* bottle of dull amber-green glass; and was used, in all probability, for the storage of drugs or the like. It is interesting to note however, that glass vessels bearing the name of the institution and the date were evidently in use twenty-eight years after its establishment in 1755. Furthermore this example is unparalleled and has been presented to its rightful owners.

It was found on the site of the Princess Street clearance area during our deliberate excavations in 1939.

#### SIGNET RING OF XVII or EARLY XVIII CENTURY.

(Fig. 42).

The signet ring described below was found near the Chester United Gas Company's Works on the north side of the Roodee, in the year 1944. It is composed of white metal, the patina closely resembling tarnished pewter, and



similar also in its degree of hardness. The hoop is thin with a faint central ridge on the exterior. Bezel shield-shaped (fig. 42); the intaglio design consists of two hearts superimposed with their apices pointing in opposite directions, the portions of the external lines of these *motifs* forming a large diamond in the centre of which is a small cross. A claviform handle is attached to the hoop bearing a remarkable resemblance to a microscopists' pipette fitted with a rubber teat. The handle is also finely pierced, longitudinally, at both ends, but a needle will not pass through it, owing to a septum or barrier due to corrosion near its central attachment to the hoop.

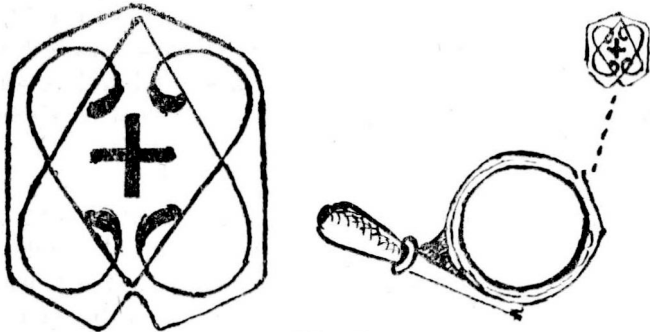


Fig. 42

The handle-attachment to the ring is puzzling, and apparently unique, but it affords a better grip when used as a seal. The hearts entwined suggest that it may have been used as a betrothal or love ring; on the other hand a cross with other intricate marks was generally used by merchants<sup>1</sup> during the mediæval and early English periods.

I have searched for an analogy to this ring but failed to find one. Miss M. V. Taylor, to whom we are greatly indebted, has also searched the literature for an analogy but could not find an example with a handle attachment.

<sup>1</sup> Cf *B.M. Cat. of Finger Rings* (early Christian, Mediæval and later).

## CHESTER HALL-MARK ON PEWTER.

(Fig. 43).

The original pewter "Gill" here illustrated, bears a shield-shaped stamp with a wheatsheaf between the letters C.C. This vessel was found in 1914 on the site of what is now known as Ebury Place, Handbridge. It was in a completely battered condition; but on cleaning and endeavouring to restore it one discovered that the handle, at its union with the rim, was stamped; and that the "Wheatsheaf" implied that it was the hall-mark for the City or County of Chester. Quite recently I ventured to send a sketch of

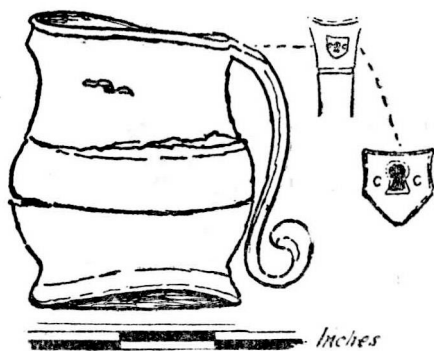


Fig. 43

the "hall-mark" to our esteemed colleague, Mr. J. H. E. Bennett, and he has replied as follows:—"The mark on the pewter gill, is that of a shield with a wheatsheaf between the letters C.C. Of course the regular Chester hall-mark consists of a sword between three sheaves, and I have not noticed any variants. I am not sure that the assay mark, generally used for gold and silver, extended to pewter. By the regulations of the Pewterers' Company each man was bound to have his own "touch" or mark stamped upon all the work he executed. This "touch" consisted of his initials and the pictorial representation of a wheatsheaf or some such object. It occurs to me that the

mark on your pewter may be the work of some man with the initials C. C., but I cannot find such an individual pewterer among the Chester freemen. On the other hand the initials may refer to the City or County of Chester, and it is noteworthy that the seal used by the present day sheriffs of the county consists of a simple sheaf on a shield". As no other mark or stamp appears on this vessel it may be assumed that it is the official stamp of Chester. But the date of its issue is uncertain.

Chester, October 22nd, 1946.

