

SOME RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN NORFOLK

This second annual article again draws on the reports of finds made to staff of the Archaeology Department at the Norwich Castle Museum or of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit. These finds and many others, together with information about sites both visible and those known only from scatters of material or aerial photographs, are recorded in the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Index. This index was begun by R. Rainbird Clarke about 1930 in response to a request from O. G. S. Crawford of the Ordnance Survey for information for a map of Roman Britain. Sites and finds of all periods, including buildings of historic interest, are now included. Despite the increase in the number of professional archaeologists now working in the county, the majority of reports come from enthusiastic amateur archaeologists and from members of the public with a casual interest. Without their help, our knowledge of the archaeology of the county would be much poorer. But the reporting of finds is often selective. An Iron Age terret, such as those described on p. 218, is obviously curious and of potential interest. Suggested identifications by finders have ranged from drawer handles to, on one occasion, a Bronze Age knuckle duster. Other finds are less obviously of interest and their apparent rarity may be due to a failure to keep and report such discoveries. An example is the 17th-century hawk identification tag described on p. 229, and the pipe-clay figurine described in last year's article.¹

The extent and detail of the Sites and Monuments Index has increased over the years, partly reflecting the changing scope of archaeology. A note on p. 229 describes the latest line of expansion, the setting up of a Decorative Arts Index covering the period A.D. 800-1600. To aid the compilation of this index, information about particular pieces and monuments would be very welcome. Please contact Dr. Margeson or any member of the Archaeology Department at the Castle Museum.

Barbara Green

¹B. Green et al, 'Some Recent Archaeological Finds from Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeology* XXXVII, 1, 1978, 129-136.

A BONE POINT FROM HOCKWOLD-CUM-WILTON (fig. 1)

The object was found 'some years ago' on the ploughed surface of a field called the 'Long Ground' by Mr. S. Curtis. The site lies immediately north of Whitedyke Drive, Hockwold-cum-Wilton (Co. No. 15087; NGR c: TL685892) on the eastern edge of the fens.

The object, 15.5 cm long, 2.6 cm maximum width, and at present weighing 62.2 gm, has been made from a long bone, probably a horse metapodial. A point has been formed by chamfering from one side, which has exposed the natural cavity within the bone. The cavity was probably used as a socket to haft the point but, although the cancellous tissue of the core has been removed, there is no sign of wear. The surface is polished, though now dull and split due to exposure. Two countersunk lateral loops have been carved near the base, but

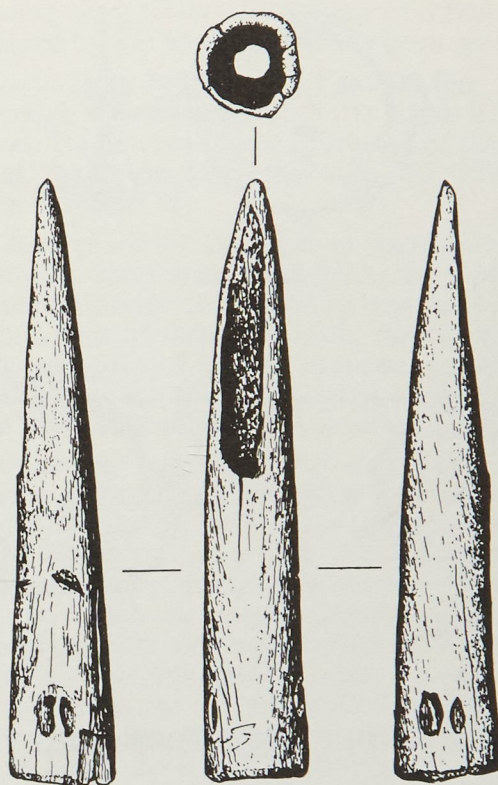


Fig 1 : Scale ½

only one is completed with a perforation; these were presumably originally intended to hold the binding that secured the point to its haft.

Exact parallels for this object have not been found. However, a similar, undated, object lacking the carved lateral loops was found in the bed of a stream at Ballintleva, Co. Galway (*J. Roy. Soc. Antiq. Ireland*, 100, (1970), fig. 2b). The Hockwold object may have been a spearhead with loops for attachment similar to those of bronze side- or end-looped spearheads of the Early and Middle Bronze Age, although more mundane uses could easily be suggested. Finds of this period are common on the eastern fen-skirt, although not in close proximity to the 'Long Ground', only a flint plano-convex knife (Co. No. 5237) having been previously recorded here. However, the excavation of a rich Bronze Age domestic site at Mildenhall Fen, 12 kms to the south, produced numerous awls and bodkins of bone and also a socketted bone point. This find, (Clark, J. G. D. 1936, 'Report on a late Bronze Age Site in Mildenhall Fen, West Suffolk', *Antiq. J.* 16, 29-50, fig. 12.1) has two holes at the base as if for securing rivets. The point from the 'Long Ground' is exceptional as bone objects are not usually found with surface collections. The peaty fen soil is however conducive to the preservation of bone and it is only from such favourable conditions that organic finds will broaden our knowledge of the total range of prehistoric tools that might perish elsewhere. In conclusion, this rare find, though lacking well dated parallels is best placed in the earlier Bronze Age and dated to the second millenium B.C.
(Private Possession)

Andrew J. Lawson

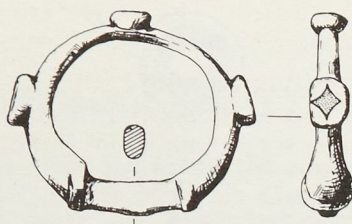


Fig. 2a : Scale ½

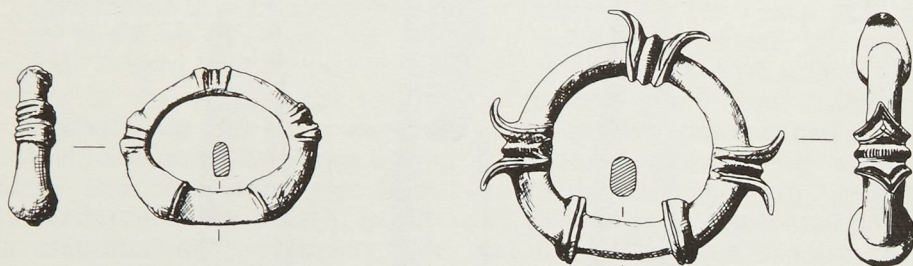


Fig. 2b : Scale ½

Fig. 2c : Scale ½

THREE IRON AGE TERRET RINGS FROM NORFOLK (fig. 2a-c)

Terret rings are accepted as having been rein guides which were attached in an upright position on the yoke directly over the withers of the draught animal.¹ The reins led from the side rings of the bit through the terrets on the yoke, and were probably all collected in a large terret situated on the pole.² According to their positioning they were subject to differing amounts of wear which is frequently evident on the terrets themselves. It is the inner sides of the ring, constantly rubbed by the leather reins, which were most severely worn. The attachment bar at the base of the terrets was also subjected to a certain amount of strain as the reins tugged the ring away from its lashing on the yoke.

To the unusually large quantity of Iron Age terret rings known from East Anglia may now be added three further examples, all chance finds without a direct archaeological context, two of which, however, come from the line of the east-west Roman road close to the Brampton Romano-British site.

One of these was a bronze terret found in 1976 on the surface of a ploughed field on the line of the east-west road to the east of the defended area of the Romano-British site of Brampton in the parish of Buxton-with-Lammas (TG 2265 2350; Co. No. 7614; Norwich Castle Museum L. 1975.17).

The terret (fig. 2a) belongs to Leeds' class 5 and Morna Macgregor's 'platform' series³, having three flat-topped, protruding knobs spaced more or less equidistantly around the ring. Each of these displays decoration in the form of a lozenge with incurving sides filled with blue enamel. The terret was attached by means of a simple strap-bar terminating at either end in a large, rounded collar. The bar is worn smooth and the inner side of one of the collars is worn almost level with the ring (maximum width: 6.35 cm; maximum height: 5.2 cm). This example bears great similarity to another terret ring from Brampton,⁴ although

the form of the enamel inlay differs. The suggestion that this 'platform' variety was particularly favoured by the Iceni has already been made.⁵

Another bronze terret from Buxton-with-Lammas (fig. 2b) was found in 1978 on the coulter of a plough after a north-south run across a field which also crossed the line of the east-west Roman road some 300m east of the main area of Romano-British occupation at Brampton (approximately TG 229 243; Co. no. 13226; *Norwich Castle Museum* 148.1978).

The terret is both smaller and less ornate than the other two examples described here. It displays a similar simple strap bar at the base and the ring is decorated with three equally spaced groups of protruding transverse ribs. Each group of ribs comprises two distinct rings of three ribs each, the central one being the widest in each case (maximum width: 5.15 cm; maximum height: 4.1 cm). The relatively simple form would make the terret attributable to Leeds' class 1, and to the group which Miss Macgregor called 'ribbed terrets'.

Finally an unusual bronze terret (fig. 2c) was found several years ago in the general area of Badley Moor, East Dereham (*private possession*). The terret comprises an irregular ovoid ring with a strap-bar for attachment at the base. The bar terminates at either end in a high, slightly splayed and moulded collar which shows very minimal wear. The ring is decorated with three sets of double lipping, the side sets of which are roughly equidistant from the bar collars, and the top set positioned slightly off-centre. Presumably the counterpart to this terret was decorated in matching fashion, and the top set of lipping tending outwards. The lips themselves are unusual in that they are drawn out to a sharp point and bent outwards at the tip to form a leaf-shape. Each pair of leaves is separated by a milled band. Both sets of side lips have been worn almost flush with the ring itself on the inner side. (Maximum width: 7.5 cm; maximum height: 6.5 cm).

The closest parallel is to be found in an example from Newstead in Scotland.⁶ This came from a flavian context (c. AD 80-100) and shows similar, though considerably shorter, pairs of pointed lips which are also separated by a milled band.

Both of these terrets belong to a group which is obviously derived from the more common lipped terrets in the typical La Tène plastic style (Leeds' class 3), although Morna Macgregor placed the Newstead example with other 'ribbed', rather than 'lipped' examples.

The three terrets, whilst they cannot be closely dated, probably span the entire first century AD. The earliest of them is likely to be the small, simple ribbed terret which was possibly manufactured during the first half of the first century AD. The 'platform' terrets are generally dated to the mid first century AD, whilst the unusual form with exaggerated lips may safely be seen as one of the later forms of ring terret and, on analogy with the parallel from Newstead, was in use during the last decades of the first century.

A. K. Taylor

¹ M. Macgregor, *Early Celtic Art in North Britain*, I, (1976), 39. Sir C. Fox, *Pattern and Purpose, A Survey of Early Celtic Art in Britain*, (1958), p. 58, fig. 40.

² M. Macgregor, *The Early Iron Age Metalwork Hoard from Stanwick, N. R. Yorks.*, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* XXVIII, (1962), 31.

³ E. T. Leeds, *Celtic Ornament in the British Isles down to AD 700*, 1933, 125 and fig. 33.

⁴ B. Green, *Antiq. J.* LIII, part 2, 1972, 346, fig. 2, 2.

⁵M. Macgregor (1976), *ibid.* note 1, 45 '... platform terrets appear to be an Icenian invention and a more northerly adoption.'

⁶J. Curle, *A Roman Frontier Post and its People* (1911), 302, pl. LXXV, 2.

⁷M. Macgregor (1976), *ibid.* note 1, Vol. II, no. 63.

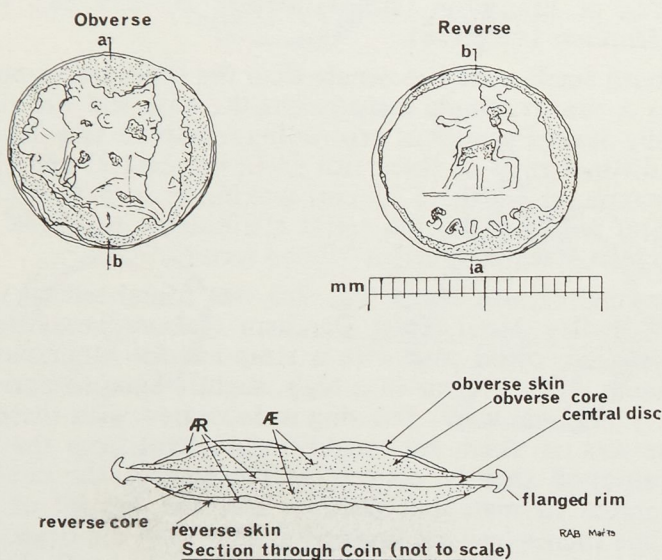


Fig. 3

AN UNUSUAL COUNTERFEIT COIN OF NERO FROM SAHAM TONEY (fig. 3)

An unusual counterfeit denarius of the reign of Nero was found by a field-walker in Saham Toney. Instead of the normal bronze core within the silver 'envelope', this coin was made with an additional central silver disc. A section through this coin would therefore show the obverse silver core, central silver disc, reverse bronze core and reverse silver skin. The central silver disc is flanged round the circumference, presumably to hold the obverse and reverse silver skins in place. An X-ray photograph of the coin taken by the Castle Museum shows that the central silver disc is not drilled through the middle as was thought possible in order to secure the bronze more firmly. The obverse and reverse silver skins have deteriorated around the circumference thereby revealing the two bronze cores and central silver disc. The purpose of this somewhat elaborate forgery appears to be to prevent detection by the 'rim nicking' method. The weight of the counterfeit in its present condition is 2.33 grams compared with 3.40 grams for the genuine coin. The coin is identified as a copy of RIC 52 with the obverse legend NERO CAESAR AVGVSTVS and the reverse SALVS in the exergue. Modelling of the head and reverse figure seem good and die axes are correct.

(Private possession)

R. A. Brown

ROMAN COIN HOARD FROM THETFORD

On December 27 1978 Mr. D. Perkins found, with a metal detector, a hoard of 47 Roman silver coins on Gallows Hill, Thetford (TL 8642 8463; Co. no. 14825). The coins were found in a compact mass in a single spade-full of soil; there was no sign of a container. At a Coroner's Inquest held at Thetford on March 6 1979 the hoard was found to be Treasure Trove and seized on behalf of the Crown by the Coroner. At the time of writing the future of the hoard has not been settled but it is hoped to acquire it for the Norfolk Museums Service.

THE COINS

The coins are all silver *siliquae*. The majority are in excellent condition but are slightly worn, indicating that they were in circulation for only a short period of time. The earliest coins were minted between AD 355 and 361 (nine of Constantius II and one of Julian as Caesar), while the latest were minted between 383 and 388 (one of Valentinian I, one of Theodosius I and four of Magnus Maximus). The maximum period covered by this hoard is thus 32 years. The emperors represented are Constantius II (nine coins), Julian (one as Caesar, eighteen as Augustus), Valens (nine coins), Gratian (three coins), Valentinian I, (one coin), Theodosius I (two coins) and Magnus Maximus (two coins). Only four mints are represented and these are all in the Western Empire. They are Rome, Lyon and Arles in France and Trier in Germany.

DISCUSSION

There can be no doubt that these 47 silver coins were deliberately concealed. The find-spot was just south of one of the barrows on Gallows Hill (TL 8636 8470; Co. no. 5744) which was excavated by Andrew Lawson of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1978 and 1979. Evidence from these excavations shows that the Roman land-surface was higher than the present surface in the area¹ so that the hoard was probably hidden at a depth of perhaps a foot, close to a prominent land-mark. The coins were found as a compact mass, and had almost certainly been buried in a container of organic material, such as wood or leather, which, because of soil conditions, has failed to survive. The coins themselves were clearly carefully selected but it is not possible to determine if the collection was gradually accumulated over a period of about thirty years or over a much shorter period. This careful selection of coins is a common feature of many hoards.²

The majority of coin hoards can be shown to have been concealed at times of civil unrest or military threat. During the 4th century the northern frontier of the Roman empire along the Rhine and Danube was under frequent attack by Germanic and other tribes. The east coast of Britain was subjected to raids by Saxon pirates from northern Europe. In 367 a concerted attack on the north and west of Britain by Picts and Scots and on the east and south coasts by Saxon pirates led to disaster. Two of the senior Roman generals in Britain were killed, and the barbarians swept across the country-side burning and looting. The general Theodosius, father of the emperor Theodosius I, was sent from Germany to Britain to reconstruct the defences and to drive out the invaders. In 383, the armies in Britain proclaimed one of their generals, Magnus Maximus, emperor. He immediately invaded Gaul, taking with him troops from Britain, and again weakening the defences here. Although the histories of the period do not specifically state it, there is little reason to doubt that Saxon attacks on the east and south coasts had not ceased since 368. Indeed in the knowledge that the number of troops guarding the country was reduced in 383, the barbarians may well have stepped up their attacks. Naval ships based probably at Brancaster and Burgh Castle would have

tried to prevent the pirates' long-boats landing on the Norfolk beaches or penetrating up the rivers. Even if they were successful in this, the threat remained.

Against such a background, one can understand people living in Norfolk collecting together their valuables and hiding them at some spot away from their houses which were so vulnerable to attack. It is understandable too, that many of these hoards were never recovered, either because the owner died or because he was killed before he deemed it safe to recover.

The evidence of the coins, the find-spot and our knowledge of the history of the period all indicate that this group of 47 silver coins was deliberately concealed at some time not long after 383-388 with the intention of recovering them.

Barbara Green

LIST³

All coins are *siliquae*; condition slightly worn.

	Issuer	Reverse inscription	RIC Reference	Date
<u>Trier</u>				
1-2	<u>Julian</u>	VOTIS V MVLTVS X	viii: 365	360-61
3-5	<u>Valens</u>	VRBS ROMA	ix: 27b	367-375
6-10	Valens	VRBS ROMA	27e	367-375
11-13	<u>Gratian</u>	VRBS ROMA	27f	367-375
14	<u>Theodosius</u>	CONCORDIA AVGGG	55a	378-383
15	Theodosius	VIRTVS ROMANORVM	58b or 84a	383-388
16-19	<u>Maximus</u>	VIRTVS ROMANORVM	84b	383-388
<u>Lyons</u>				
20-1	<u>Constantius II</u>	VICTORIA DD NN AVG	viii: 210	355-361
22	Constantius II	VICTORIA DD NN AVG	211	355-361
23-5	<u>Julian</u>	VICTORIA DD NG AVG	212	360-363
26	Julian	VICTORIA DD NN AVG	215 Var(D3)	360-363
27-8	Constantius II	VOTIS XXX MVLTVS XXXX	216	355-361
29-30	Julian	VOTIS V MVLTVS X	218	360-361
31	Julian	VOTIS V MVLTVS X	219	360-361
32	Julian	VOTIS X MVLTVS X	227	360-361
33-34	Julian	VOT X MVLTVS XX	234	360-363
<u>Arles</u>				
35-36	<u>Constantius II</u>	VOTIS XXX MVLTVS XXXX	viii: 261=291	355-361
37-38	Constantius II	VOTIS XXX MVLTVS XXXX	261	355-361
39	Julian (Caesar)	VOTIS V MVLTVS X	264	355-360
40-1	Julian	VOTIS V MVLTVS X	295	360-361
42	Julian	VOTIS V MVLTVS X	296	360-361
43-5	Julian	VOT X MVLTVS XX	309	360-361
<u>Rome</u>				
46	<u>Valentinian I</u>	VRBS ROMA	ix: 11a	383-388
47	<u>Valens</u>	VRBS ROMA	11b	364-367

¹ The problem of the earlier land-surfaces will be discussed in the excavation report to be published in a forthcoming volume of *East Anglian Archaeology*.

² A. S. Robertson 'Romano-British Coin Hoards: their Numismatic, Archaeological and Historical Significance' in J. Casey and R. Reece *Coins and the Archaeologist* (British Archaeological Reports 4), (1974), 35.

³This list is based on that supplied by Mr. A. M. Burnett of the Department of Coins & Medals, British Museum, to whom my thanks. All references are to *Roman Imperial Coinage*, the standard work by various authors issued over a number of years since 1923. Mr. Burnett has given references to volume VIII which is not yet published at the time of writing.

A ROMANO-BRITISH BRONZE-BOUND BUCKET FROM BURGH CASTLE (fig. 4)

In 1978 the remains of the bronze bindings of a bucket were found within the Saxon Shore Fort at Burgh Castle, apparently having been found with the aid of a metal-detector, dug up and discarded. The remains were handed over to Mr. Paul Durbidge for the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society who passed them on to the present writer for identification and publication. The final home of the objects is still to be decided.

Because of the circumstances of the discovery it is impossible to relate this find to the history of the site; two sherds of pottery were discovered in the soil disturbed by the treasure-hunter, namely a sherd of a bead-and-flange bowl and a sherd of a red-slipped beaker, both probably of 4th century date, but they cannot be said to have been associated with the bucket remains. The Saxon Shore Fort itself was probably built in the middle of the third century and presumably abandoned at the end of the Roman period, only to be re-occupied by the monastery of St. Fursa in 630 and then used for the site of a Norman motte.¹

DESCRIPTION

The remains of the bucket consist of seven objects of a copper alloy which has not been analysed and is here referred to for convenience as "bronze". The seven objects are as follows:

Handle:

A cast bronze handle almost semi-circular in shape and of crescentic section; towards the ends the upper edges are decorated with cast notches and beyond these the section gradually becomes square and the ends of the handle take on a pronounced S-curve terminating in crudely-modelled animal heads. There is, surprisingly, no trace of wear at all on the handle; the marked thinning of the metal on the middle portion of the S-curve is not the result of wear but a deliberate feature of the casting.

Handle attachments:

One complete handle attachment and the end of one arm of a second survive. The complete example is cruciform, of hexagonal section with faceted arms. One, the upper, arm ends in a loop with considerable wear on the inside of its upper edge. The other three arms end in flat discs with notched edges; in the centre of each disc is a hole containing the remains of an iron pin with a slightly domed head. The back of the object shows marks of filing. The second, incomplete, handle attachment seems likely to have been identical to the first.

It is odd that the loop of the handle attachment shows wear while the handle itself shows none. This may be the result of a harder alloy being used for the handle, but in the absence of analysis this is purely hypothetical. Alternatively the handle may be a replacement, and thus was in use for a shorter time than the handle attachment.

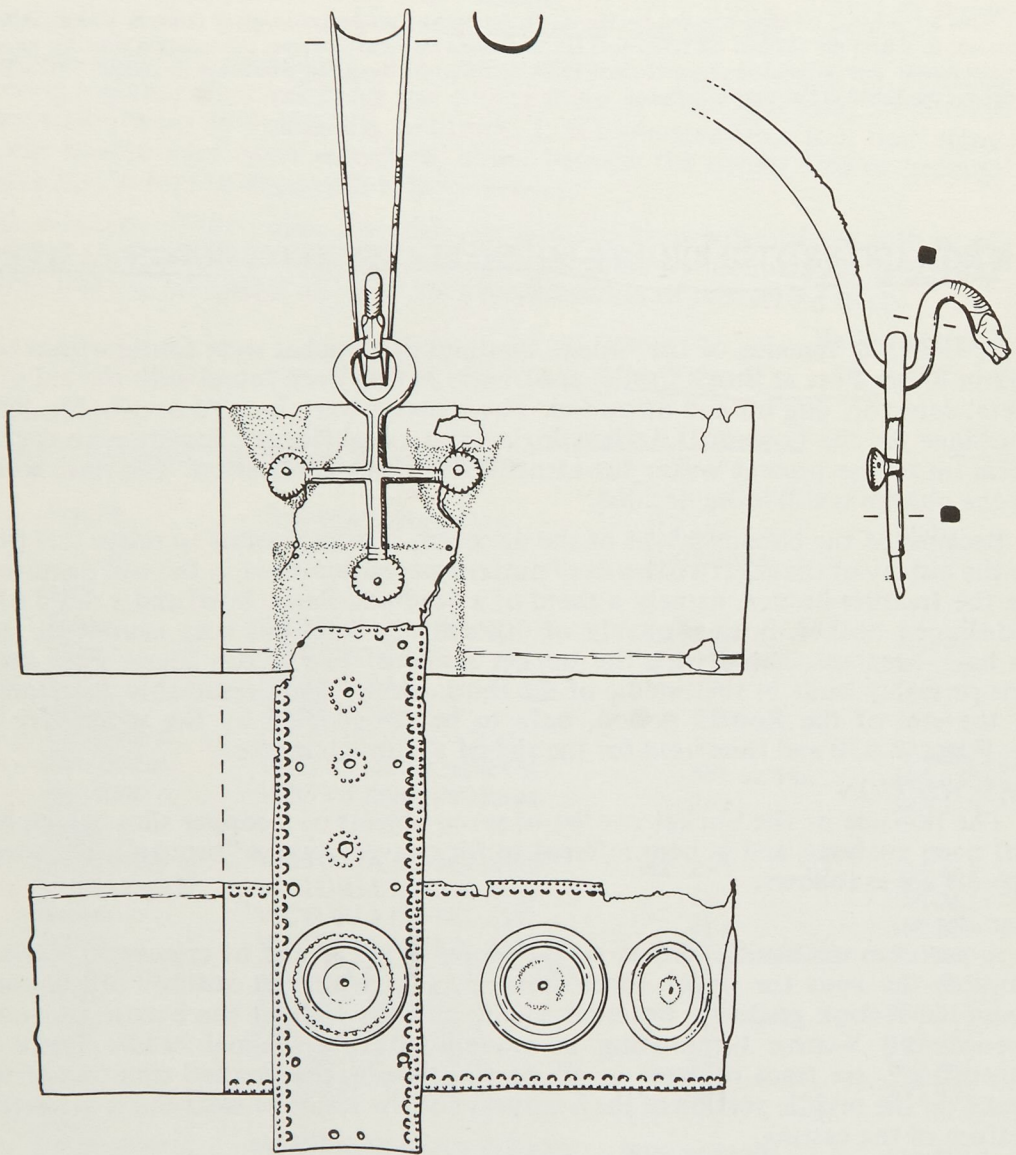


Fig. 4

Suggested reconstruction of bronze-bound bucket from Burgh Castle, Norfolk: Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

Plain band:

A band of plain bronze sheet, 0.5mm thick, although now broken into two, was clearly originally a single band around the bucket, the two free ends overlapping. Apart from the splits and holes caused by accidental damage, the band exhibits several features relating to the structure of the bucket. There are two opposed areas of pin-holes and solder stains, each consisting of three pin-holes, some containing the remains of iron pins at precisely the same spacing as the pins at the end of the arms of the handle attachment. The upper two holes are set at the lower apices of inverted triangles of lumpy corrosion which seems to represent the remains of solder. Below and between these the third hole is set in

a circular patch of solder. The latter lies at the top of a rectangular area defined on three sides by a narrow band of solder; in the upper corners of the rectangle are pin-holes, one in each corner on one side of the bucket and two on the other. One of these holes contains a pin of rolled bronze sheet, in contrast to the iron pins used to secure the handle attachment, and indeed none of this group of holes show any trace of iron corrosion. Along the lower edge of each rectangle are three pin holes, and one of the six contains a pin of rolled bronze sheet, flush with the front of the band, but protruding behind it. A narrow band of fine scoring on the outer face just above the lower edge suggests that another component had been soldered on, the scoring acting as a key for the solder. The scoring is absent from the rectangles previously described. One small area of the back of the band retains traces of the wood of the bucket; the traces are not sufficient for identification, but the grain appears to be running vertically up the bucket.

Decorated horizontal bands:

A pair of bronze bands with repoussé decoration of bosses and arcs along the long edge are of a slightly smaller diameter than the plain band; each band also bears five repoussé circles around central holes, one of which still contains part of a pin of rolled sheet bronze, and narrow strips of solder describe small circles around the central holes. At each end of both bands is a vertical strip where the surface still bears tool marks and has not been finished as has the rest of the surface. These strips are defined by faint vertical striations, and within the strips the surface bears the remains of solder. At the corner of each band, within the strips, are circular holes, varying in number from one to four in each corner.

Decorated vertical band:

A single band with a slight curvature across its transverse section was obviously positioned vertically on the bucket; it is decorated with repoussé bosses and arcs similar to those on the horizontal bands. Eight circular holes of various sizes have been punched neatly through from the front close to the long edges and a similar pair along the undecorated edge. Three circular holes have been punched through from the back in a line down the centre of the band and surrounded by circles of bosses, while a fourth hole has been punched through from the front in the centre of a repoussé circle, the crest of which is surmounted by bosses. The centre of this circle shows very faint circular marks of the same size as the solder circles on the horizontal decorated bands, but intensive cleaning of the surface before the objects reached the writer has almost obliterated them.

INTERPRETATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

Detailed examination of the pieces, by measurement of diameters and by comparing configurations of holes and solder marks, has allowed the reassembly of the bronze components of the bucket (fig. 4). This reconstruction is the only one whereby the writer could bring all pieces into a convincing relationship. The upper part of the bucket, handle, handle attachments and the plain band are simple to reassemble; the triangular patches of solder probably secured metal plates through which iron pins of the handle attachments passed; these plates are now missing. The rectangular areas defined by strips of solder are the remains of vertical bands of the same width as the plain horizontal band; these were presumably held in place by pins of rolled bronze sheet which passed through holes in both the vertical and plain horizontal band. These broad vertical bands were replaced on both sides of the bucket by narrower bands, one of which

now survives. Although one of the pin holes for the earlier vertical band still contains a pin the band itself must have been removed since the lower disc of the handle attachments were secured by circles of solder which would have been inaccessible had the earlier vertical band still been in place.

A band or pair of bands, now vanished, was soldered to the lower edge of the plain horizontal band and overlapped it; this hypothetical component was similarly soldered to and overlapped by the horizontal decorated bands. The distance between the plain and decorated horizontal bands is known because the vertical decorated band can be located by pin holes and solder marks on both surviving horizontal components, thus allowing the reconstruction suggested in Fig. 4. The bands were secured to the wood of the bucket by bronze and iron pins; those pins which pass through the repoussé circles presumably also secured circular metal plates which, like their triangular hypothetical counterparts at the bucket rim, have disappeared.

It is probable that the bucket was repaired or reassembled at least once; the possibility of the present handle being a replacement has already been mentioned, as has the existence of an earlier vertical band. There are also several pin holes which have no function in the suggested reconstruction, and it is suggested that these were employed in an earlier version of the bucket, possibly the same version as included the earlier vertical band. This version was probably substantially similar to the later one suggested here.

DATINGS AND AFFINITIES

Several bronze-bound wooden buckets are known from Britain, of Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon dates; Hawkes² showed that they were the products of an industry which changed little during those three periods, responding to the art-styles current at any one time but varying its technology little. Individual elements of the Burgh Castle piece can be compared with various other finds: the use of decorated plates projecting vertically from the lowest band in one of the buckets from the La Tene III burial, from Baldock³ compares well with similar bands on the Burgh Castle bucket, and the Early Roman metal-work hoard from Carlingwark Loch⁴ contains both a cruciform handle attachment, though admittedly of rather different form to the Burgh Castle examples, and a fragment of bronze sheet which, although published as a casket mount is very similar to the lower horizontal band of this bucket, lacking only the arc and boss decoration.

The Burgh Castle bucket as a whole, however finds comparison only with the Mountsorrel, Leics., bucket, and even here the comparison is not particularly close: the resemblances are simply the similarity between the animal heads used as handle terminals, the use of triangular plates in connection with attaching the handles, and the use of repoussé circles and arcs in the decoration. The resemblances are certainly not close enough to suggest that the two buckets are any more than roughly contemporary, and in view of the long tradition discussed by Hawkes it would be most unwise to suggest any closer date for this object than Roman.

Tony Gregory

¹S. Johnson *The Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore* (1976), 40, 96-7, 152.

²C. F. C. Hawkes, 'Bronze-workers, Cauldrons and Bucket-animals in Iron Age and Roman Britain', in W. F. Grimes (ed.), *Aspects of Archaeology in Britain and Beyond* (1951), 172-199.

³I. M. Stead, 'The Reconstruction of Iron Age buckets from Aylesford and Baldock', in *Brit. Mus. Quart.* xxxv (1971), Fig. 12.

⁴S. Piggott, 'Three Metal-work Hoards of the Roman Period from Southern Scotland', in *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* LXXXVII (1953), Fig. 8, C11 and C19.

MEDIEVAL HORSE-HARNESS FITTINGS FROM NORFOLK

In 1978 the Norwich Castle Museum acquired six pendants to add to its already fine collection of heraldic and non-heraldic horse-harness pendants. These are normally of bronze, sometimes gilded and enamelled, and are decorated with the armorial bearings of the owner or with non-heraldic motifs. Pendants would have hung from the junction of straps, from the breast-strap (peytrel) and also from the brow-band, as we know from contemporary illustrations such as the Luttrell Psalter.

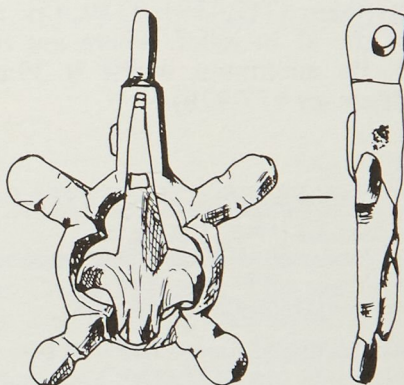


Fig. 5 : Scale 1/1

One of those acquired in 1978 is of an unusual form (fig. 5). It was found with a metal detector at a depth of 8 in. in the south-west corner of the field to the south of Hethel Hall in the parish of Bracon Ash (TG 1626 0092, Co. no. 14409). It is a bronze-gilt pendant with a swinging fleur-de-lys within a quadrilobate frame. Its maximum width is 35mm and its maximum height 49mm. It is probably 14th century. (*Norwich Castle Museum* 83.979)

The only English parallel I know was found at St. Albans,¹ but this is now apparently lost. Parallels exist in the Cluny Museum in Paris.²

A gilt-bronze ovoid pendant was found with a metal detector in the eastern part of a field at Costessey (TG 1840 0900, Co. no. 9308). The pendant is decorated with a quadruped in profile, its body punched to represent scales. There is a suspension loop at right angles. It is 35mm in length, and is of 15th-century date. Compare an earlier example from Southampton.³ (*Norwich Castle Museum* 84.979)

A bronze octagonal pendant with incurving sides was found at West Dereham Abbey, though the exact find-spot is uncertain (TF 662 005, Co. no. 4396). In the centre of the field there is a stag's head *cabossed, or in gules*. The azure border has reserved bronze rosettes (not, I think, charges). There is a hinged attachment. It is 49mm in overall length, and 32mm in width. It is probably 14th century. (*Norwich Castle Museum* 476.978)

A bronze shield-shaped plate was found at Fordham, but the exact find-spot is unknown (approximately TL 618 995, Co. no. 13929). The plate is slightly concave and decorated with a lion rampant, *gules in or*. There is a pierced hole at the base for attachment. It is 73mm in length and 56mm in maximum width, and is 15th century. (*Norwich Castle Museum* 342.978)

A bronze rectangular plate was found on the surface of a field while cultivating roses at Horsford (TG 2089 1511, Co. no. 13852). Both faces are decorated with a chevron between three lions rampant, *gules*. There is a vertical socket down one side, with traces of an iron pin. It is 44mm in length and 28mm in width. It dates to the 15th century. This must have been intended to project from a fitting; compare a projecting roundel in the London Museum, and a fitting in the Salisbury Museum for four pendants which projected upwards probably from the horse's head.⁴ (*Norwich Castle Museum* 346.978)

A bronze octagonal pendant with incurving sides was found on the surface of a ploughed field at Reedham (TG 4191 0339, Co. no. 14100). The pendant is decorated with a lombardic M in relief. There are traces of gilding. The suspension loop is damaged. Its maximum width is 39mm. It is probably 15th century. (*Norwich Castle Museum* 477.978)

Sue Margeson

¹ Illustrated in *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, 2nd series, xxii (1908), 455

² Cf. London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue* (1940), 119, fig. 39.

³ C. Platt and R. Coleman-Smith *Excavations in Medieval Southampton 1953-1969*, ii, (1975) no. 1708 (with bibliography).

⁴ London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue* (1940), 118, fig. 40, no. 2.

HUNDRED SEAL-RING FROM BRETtenham

In 1977 a copper-alloy seal ring was found on the north bank of the river Little Ouse under Rushford Bridge in Brettenham parish (TL 9251 8122; Co. no. 13426). It was covered with a deposit 'like barnacles', but this was removed before the ring was brought to the Norwich Castle Museum for identification. In 1978 this ring was sold to the Museum by a London dealer who had purchased it in the United States of America.

This thumb-ring is cast, with plain shoulders and a circular bezel 22mm in diameter. The device is a crowned Tudor rose with, surrounding it, the legend '+ DEPWADE.IN.NORFOLKE'. The style of the device is very close to that on the gold crown of the double-rose, a new coin introduced as a result of Wolsey's monetary reform late in 1526. This coin, and the similarly decorated halfcrown of the double rose, were no longer produced after 1544, when a new, debased, coinage was introduced. The form of the lettering in the legend, however, suggests a late 16th or 17th century date. The use on seals of the device of a Tudor rose surmounted by a crown is attested at least as late as 1660 on the seal of the County of Cornwall.¹

The engraving of both the device and the lettering is of good quality and there seems little reason to doubt that this seal was an official seal of the Depwade Hundred. (*Norwich Castle Museum* 89.979).

Barbara Green

¹ No. 171 in Tonnochy, A. B., *Catalogue of British Seal-dies in the British Museum*, (1952), p. 27.

HAWK IDENTIFICATION TAG FROM HARLING

In 1978 a silver hawk's identification tag was found with a metal detector in a field to the west of All Saint's Church, Harling (TL 9726 8514; Co. no. 13425). It was identified at the British Museum by John Cherry of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, who dated it to the 17th century.

The tag is circular, flat and of rectangular section. It is 1 mm thick. The diameter of the ring is 15 mm and that of the hole is 6 mm. On one side is engraved '+ Garboldishm Norff'; the other side is plain. These tags were presumably attached to the jesses of the hawk. (Norwich Castle Museum 422.978)

Barbara Green

DECORATIVE ARTS INDEX AD 800-1600

An Index of Decorative Arts for Norfolk in the late Saxon and medieval periods is being established at the Castle Museum. This will be an extension of the Sites and Monuments Record for Norfolk. All sites, including isolated finds, and monuments are recorded and marked up on Ordnance Survey six-inch maps in the Archaeology Department at the Castle Museum and in the Norfolk Archaeological Unit at Gressenhall. Detailed drawings and photographs, particularly of objects in private possession, are an essential part of this Index. The Decorative Arts Index will be of value because much medieval material, unlike that of other periods, is still *in situ* and can thus throw light on isolated finds. Furthermore, there is a wealth of background material in the medieval period: documents and manuscripts can help in dating and current fashions in costumes and weapons can be traced from wood-carvings and brasses. The Index will cover decorative arts in both religious and secular contexts, excluding architectural details unless decorated with figurative scenes. This comprehensive treatment is all the more valuable since these subjects are usually considered separately.

The material will be subdivided according to categories such as *church-furnishings*: e.g. bench-ends, door-decoration, fonts, screens, tombs; churchyard crosses and fragments of stone carving; *house-decoration*: e.g. brackets, dragon-posts, spandrels; *miscellaneous small objects*: such as bone and metal plaques and parts of caskets, belt-hooks and scabbard mounts. Monumental brasses and stained glass will be omitted at present since they are being worked on or have been adequately covered.

One of the intentions behind this important project is to provide a reference collection of comparative material available to students and scholars for research. It is also hoped that the Index will provide a record of decorative material in case of theft, damage or restoration. To this end, as churches are visited, photos will be taken of all moveable items dating from this period. These photos will be stored in files containing documentary and historical information which will accompany the main Index. The Index itself will be compiled on large cards with photos, a brief description and a bibliography.

Sue Margeson

Acknowledgement: Figures 2 and 5 are by W. F. Milligan.